

Arravale win County Senior Football title in their Centenary Year

By: SEAMUS J. KING



ARRAVALE ROVERS won the county senior football title of 1985 when they defeated Loughmore-Castleiney in a replayed final at Leahy Park, Cashel on November 17th. In doing so they bridged a forty-four year gap and celebrated their centenary year in the best possible way.

There wasn't much promise of future glory in the team's performances in the O'Donoghue Cup early in the year. In four games they lost three and won one, conceding 3-32 while scoring 2-16. The selectors, Seamus O'Donoghue, Dan Sheridan, Sean Moore and Jimmy O'Connell, were so con-

cerned that they organised a series of challenge games in preparation for the championship clash with Emly.

While Arravale's performance was an improvement on the team's display against the same opposition in the O'Donoghue Cup, they still lost to Emly by 0-10 to 1-4 in the first round game. The championship had eight teams and it was run on a knockout and losers group basis that turned out to be most unsatisfactory. It took from May 5th to August 2nd to complete the first round game between Lattin-Cullen and Cashel. Then because of the unavailability of Cappawhite and Galtee Rovers to play the West final in time to meet county deadlines, the board nominated Galtee Rovers and Arravale Rovers to play in the county quarter-finals.

PLAYER PROFILES

1. **TOM TWOMEY** (Capt)

Very Agile with a long kick out. He was an outstanding captain. Tommy served with the club for many years as a player and coach/manager before becoming a Senior Football Selector with Tipperary.

2. **JOE BROWNE**

Mayo man known for his high fielding and tenacious tackling. His positional play and reading of the game were outstanding traits in one of the most popular men ever to wear the number two jersey for Arravale.

3. **PAT MCCORMACK**

Pat also fondly known as the Bomber gave sterling service to Arravale for a long number of years. He was renowned for his

high fielding and all round toughness in the edge of the square. Represented his county at Senior level for many years.

4. **DAVID WALSH**

Youngest member of the backline known for his football prowess and ball handling skills. David was outstanding throughout the campaign. Corner back in the 1984 Minor All Ireland final and also played U21 for his native county.

5. **WILLIE MADDEN**

From Liscarroll in the County Cork Willie was known for his fielding, positional play and wonderful distribution. Played with both codes with equal excellence until work commitments took him from us

after a short number of years.

6. **TOM RICHARDSON**

One of the team leaders on the field Tom was slight of frame but more than made up for that with his excellent ball skills and all round football sense. He went on to give wonderful years as club chairman, team coach, fundraiser etc until his untimely early passing. He is sadly missed to this day.

7. **DENIS KENNEALLY**

Flamboyant wing back with great speed, known for his attacking play from wing back and urging of team mates when heads would be down. Denis was also not slow to make his feelings known when he did not agree with some on field



ARRA VALE ROVERS – County Champions 1985. Back row (l.-r.): Richard Crowe, Pat McCormack, Billy Cronin, Joe Browne, Paul Landers, Willie Gilsean, Tony Meagher, James 'Jayo' O'Donoghue (RIP), Brendan Fogarty, Willie Crowe, Pat Kelly, Willie Madden, Martin Lowry, Karl Lowry. Front row (l.-r.): Jimmy Lowry, Arthur Ryan, Johnny Lowry, Denis Kenneally, Tommy Toomey, Tom Richardson (RIP), Davy Walsh, Damien Quinlan, Barry Walsh, John Conroy (RIP), Michael McCarthy, John Crowe and Willie Dillon.

The West final was eventually played on December 1st and Galtee Rovers won their 13th title.

In the meantime the losers group was played and Arravale Rovers showed a marked improvement on earlier performances. They defeated Golden-Kilfeacle by 3-7 to 0-5 on July 13th and Lattin-Cullen by 1-5 to 0-0 on August 11th. Arravale had, therefore, to play

the runners-up in the West final for the right to go forward to the county quarter-finals as the division's second team but, as we saw above, the West final didn't take place and Cappawhite sportingly agreed to Arravale accompanying Galtee into the quarter-finals. The play-off game between Arravale and Cappawhite was never played as it had lost all relevance by December.

decisions. Very popular with his team mates.

8. WILLIE CROWE

One of the great high fielders of a football this was never more evident than in the second half of the replay when he won ball after ball to get his forwards moving. Tipperary Footballer of the year in 1985 - a richly deserved honour. Played Junior and Senior Football with his County for a number of years. Starred with the club for years at both hurling and football.

9. PAUL LANDERS

Paul was a wonderful skilful footballer blessed with speed skill and all round natural football ability. With his midfield partner he was responsible for

many a score in the drawn game and reply. Also a terrific Irish dancer it was easy to see where he got his great footballing feet from. Played minor Football and Hurling for Tipperary.

10. CARL LOWRY

Was introduced off the bench in the drawn game, starting the replay his work rate ball carrying and all-round skill helped to steady the ship when the going got tough. Played for his county on numerous occasions.

11. BRENDAN FOGARTY

Another of the younger players who had made his breakthrough to Seniors early in his career. Big strong bustling centre forward whom centre backs found hard to manage, Brendan was a

maker and scorer of many scores. He played a vital role in the goal which was to ultimately decide the game.

12. TONY MEAGHER

From a proud Arravale family Tony was blessed with great feet, football intelligence and great free taking ability. He left a major imprint on both games with his will to win and many scores. Played under age and Senior for his County.

13. BARRY WALSH

Small in size but full of skill, high work rate and all round football ability his contribution to the cause that November day was immense.

14. WILLIAM (BILL) CRONIN

Known affectionately as "Big Bill"

QUARTER-FINAL

In this manner Arravale found themselves competing for county honours when they played county champions, Fethard, in the quarter-final at Cahir on September 15th. It wasn't the best opposition for a team that had struggled to get through the West division. However, the introduction of some young blood from the minor team strengthened the Arravale side and one of these Johnny Lowry, made a major contribution to an unexpected victory. The game was only

five minutes old when Lowry rocked the champions with a goal. Fethard gradually got a grip on things and led by 1-5 to 1-2 at the interval. However, Arravale re-started in a whirlwind fashion and Lowry scored his second goal within five minutes following a pass from Billy Cronin. The game had still to be won and this happened through the speed of the younger Arravale forwards, ably assisted by their more experienced

Path to Final

- WEST:**
26/05/1985 – Clonoulty:
Emly 0-10, Arravale Rovers 1-4
- LOSERS GROUP:**
13/07/1985 – Bansha:
Arravale Rovers 3-7, Golden-Kilfeacle 0-5
- 11/08/1985 Emly:
Arravale Rovers 1-5, Lattin-Cullen 0-0
- PLAY-OFF:**
Arravale Rovers v Cappawhite (not played)
- COUNTY:**
- QUARTER-FINAL:**
15/09/1985 – Cahir:
Arravale Rovers 2-7 Fethard 1-7
- SEMI-FINAL:**
27/10/1985 – Holycross:
Arravale Rovers 4-10 Templemore 1-2
- FINAL:**
03/11/1985 – Cashel:
Arravale Rovers 1-5 Loughmore-Castleiney 0-8
- REPLAY:**
17/11/1985 – Cashel:
Arravale Rovers 1-5 Loughmore-Castleiney 1-3

he was the target man of the forward line and unselfishness led to many a score. Looked after the younger players in both finals like a father. When the need arose late in the game he travelled outfield to win many a tough aerial ball to calm the game. His contribution to Arravale over the years could never be questioned.

15. **JIMMY LOWRY**
Another man following in a great family GAA tradition he was one of the younger team members. He was inspirational at corner forward and scored the goal that was to have a decisive say in the outcome of the game. Enjoyed a long and distinguished career with

Arravale at both hurling and football.

16. **PAT KELLY**
Introduced in the closing stages this veteran of many a battle, he showed his worth with many a great tackle and ball carrier. His County medal was a well deserved honour for his many years of service. He was also physical trainer to the team.

17. **JAMES (JAYO) O'DONOGHUE**
Played in the drawn final and made a huge contribution. He was one of the babies of the team and enjoyed a fine career both as a players and coach in his teaching days. Jayo's departing of this life at a young age devastated the entire

county GAA community.

18. **JOHNNY LOWRY**
Another from a great GAA tradition he was also was one of the babies of the team who will ever forget his two goals and a point in the county quarter final v Fethard and his contribution in the semi final victory. He played at all levels of football for his county until his career was cut short by injury.

19. **ARTHUR RYAN**
Another who played in the 85 championship and made a major contribution in getting the team to the final. Loyal member of the panel and very popular with his team mates.

20. **MICHAEL MCCARTHY**
Michael was a veteran of the

comrades and in the end they scored a sensational victory by 2-7 to 1-7 over most people's favourites.

SEMI-FINAL

Arravale's opponents in the semi-final were Templemore and they beat them impressively at Holycross on October 27th. Arravale were on top from the word go but not until close to halftime did they put themselves in a comfortable position when they led by 2-6 to nil. The trend continued in the second half and Arravale were never threatened and well-deserved their facile victory of 4-10 to 1-2.

FINAL

The county final was played at Cashel on November 3, with Loughmore-Castleiney the opposition.

Arravale led by 1-1 to 0-3 after a tense, unspectacular first half. They seemed to get a grip on proceedings in the early part of the second-half but they couldn't shake off Loughmore and a point by Pat McGrath



Tommy Toomey, Arravale Rovers Captain, receives the O'Dwyer Cup from Football Board Chairman Hugh Kennedy after the replay in Cashel.

brought the sides level and back to Cashel for the replay two weeks later.

The Arravale team was as follows: T. Toomey (Capt.), J. Browne, P. McCormack, D. Walsh, W. Madden, T. Richardson, D. Kenneally, P. Landers (0-1), W. Crowe, T. Meagher (0-2), B. Fogarty, J. O'Donoghue, Jimmy Lowry, Billy Cronin (1-0), Johnny Lowry. Subs: C. Lowry, B. Walsh, P. Kelly.

Referee: Tommy Lonergan (Kilsheelan).

REPLAY

The replay was at Cashel on November 17th and both sides showed improvement

panel who has played in and lost a previous county final. Another great clubman whose many talents as a person were used by the selectors as an example to all.

21. DAMIEN QUINLAN

Another young player whose loyalty to the club knew no bounds. Great footballer and hurler who won All Ireland Junior Hurling honours with his county.

22. MARTIN LOWRY

A young man and elder brother of Jimmy and Johnny, Martin gave his all to the cause when his many talents were needed. He was a highly respected member of the panel. Again like others his death at a young age

was a major blow to the club. His son Tommy is here today to represent his late father.

23. WILLIE GILSENAN

In any other club he would have been first choice goalie but for the excellence of Tommy. Willie gave long years of dedicated service to Arravale and was much admired. He went to also win a County Junior Football medal.

24. JOHN CROWE

Stalwart of many a battle John was also a loyal and hardworking clubman who gave years of dedicated playing service to the cause.

25. JOHN CONROY

John came to us from the North

of the County, but through his work and many years off playing hurling and football he was admired by all. Again his departure from this life at a relatively young age caused great sorrow to all in the club who got to know his many wonderful talents.

26. RICHARD CROWE

One of the three Crowe brothers on the panel Richard was always available when needed and played many a great game for the club.

27. WILLIE DILLON

A young man who played all grades of football for the club. Willie could always be relied upon to at all times give his best in all games.

on the drawn game. Arravale were probably that bit better in the first half but only showed a lead of 0-4 to 0-2 at the interval. Loughmore dominated the third quarter and drew level. A great performance by Willie Crowe prevented them getting in front and with fourteen minutes to go Arravale went ahead with a goal by Johnny Lowry. The closing quarter was hectic during which Arravale pulled out all the stops to hold on and win by 1-5 to 1-3.

It was a happy Hugh Kennedy, chairman of the football board and loyal Arravale Rovers supporter, who presented the O'Dwyer Cup to winning captain, Tommy Toomey.

Arravale Rovers: Tommy Toomey (Capt.), Joe

Browne, Pat McCormack, Davy Walsh, Willie Mad-den, Tommy Richardson, Denis Kenneally, Willie Crowe, Paul Landers, Carl Lowry, Tony Meagher (0-3), Brendan Fogarty (0-1), Barry Walsh (0-1), Billy Cronin, Jimmy Lowry (1-0). *Sub:* Paddy Kelly for Jimmy Lowry.

Referee: Tommy Lonergan (Kilsheelan).

MUNSTER

Arravale Rovers had to lineout a week later in the Munster Club championship. The venue was Páirc Uí Chaoimh and their opponents were the Cork champions, St. Finbarr's. They were no match for their opponents. The Cork champions led by 2-6 to nil at half-time and were in front by 2-11 to 0-3 at the final whistle.

A Banana Republic!

ONE OF sideshows to the controversy about the nomination of two teams from the West division for the county quarter-finals was a well-publicised clash between the division and the county chairman, Michael Lowry. After the West nominated its two teams following pressure from the county board, the latter decided to postpone a football quarter-final between Kilruane MacDonaghs and Templemore because of a junior hurling match involving Kilruane. If quarter-finals could be put back why had the West division to nominate? In response the West secretary, Jerry Ring, criticised the county board and the county chairman and suggested that perhaps the division would be better off doing its own business and ignoring deadlines. The county chairman reacted by reading a prepared statement at a county board meeting castigating Jerry Ring and stating there would be no Banana Republics in Tipperary while he was in his position!

In response the West board wrote to the County board giving full backing to Jerry Ring. The letter also condemned the statement made by the county chairman and sought an apology. No such apology was made and the controversy rumbled on for some months.



Photographed are the Arravale Management at the match in Cork against St Finbarr's (l.-r.): Seamus O'Donoghue (Selector), Paddy Kelly (Coach), Dan Sheridan (RIP, Selector), Jimmy O'Connell (Selector) and Sean Moore (Selector).