

# Cumann Iomanaíochta Liam Uí Mhaoiliosa, Gaillimh

LIAM MELLOWS JUVENILE CLUB

## HISTORY

1980 TO MAY 2005



*Main Photo Back Row; Dick Marnell, Audrey Reilly and John Hynes  
Main Photo Front Row; John O'Brien, Jimmy Duggan and Paddy Kerans.  
Insert; Christina Forde, Paddy Glynn and the late Johnny Buckley*

## Chairmen and Secretaries of the Club

When the juvenile club was formed in 1980 the men involved had no hesitation in nominating Johnny Buckley (RIP) as their first chairman. A Mayo man, Johnny was a committed GAA man and was an excellent leader. Johnny worked in Telecom with another of our stalwarts Dick Marnell who had four sons playing for the club at different stages. Three of them are still playing. Johnny Buckley's son Sean won an under 16 County Championship with Mellows in 1984. Johnny has since passed away, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

John O'Brien was our secretary and treasurer in the early years and was responsible for bringing a huge influx of youngsters into the club. From a hurling background, his father Michael (still alive and well) is President of the club. John's father played originally for Ballindooley and later for Mellows, winning County Championships with them in the 1930's and 1940's, along with his uncle Stephen (R.I.P.) John was instrumental in organising the famous Christmas raffle every year which brought badly needed finance into the club.

When John resigned due to pressure of work he was replaced by John Hynes, whose two sons Shane and Ciaran had joined the club in John O'Brien's time. A native of Foster Street, John put a huge amount of work into the club during his time in office and now has a big involvement with the Hurling Board.

Paddy Glynn had replaced Johnny Buckley as chairman. Paddy was another man involved in GAA affairs from his youth. He had a particular involvement in the Inter-Firm competitions in the 1950's and 1960's. He was a proud man when the club won the under 16 County Championship in 1993 and the Minor title in 1994. He was also a well-know referee and an official of the old West Board.

The present chairman of the club is Paddy Kerans, originally from Gort. He won two County Championships with Mellows in 1955 and 1970. Paddy is the heart and soul of Liam Mellows Juvenile Club; people come and people go but Paddy is the link that holds it all together.

Paddy's co-pilot for the last number of years was Christina Forde. Christina is a native of the County Clare and was an excellent secretary. The work she has put into the club would be hard to quantify and we are very appreciative of her dedication to all aspects of the running of the club. She has two sons Micheal and Declan playing at under age level, and her husband Michael has helped out with practically all the teams from under 6's to under 16's for the past number of years. Michael's uncles John and Matt from Ballindooley won many County Championships with Mellows in the 1940's.

Our present Secretary is Audrey Reilly, formerly of Renmore and now living in Menlo. She has two sons Kieran and Cathal involved at under age level, while her husband John also helps out with the teams. Audrey is only a few months in the job and already has made her mark as an efficient official.

There are many more behind the scenes too numerous to mention like, the Elwoods, Hughes', names synonymous with the club over the years who are following up the good work in the earlier years of Jimmy Duggan, Nevin Breen, Paddy Murphy, Eddie Walsh, Brian & Eugene Keville, Niall McInerney (RIP), Diarmuid Collins and Tony Callanan. Jimmy Duggan trained the players in the earlier years while later on many of the teams were trained by Diarmuid Collins and Paddy Kerans.

## Juvenile Titles:

1983: Under 16C County Championship Finalists Lost to Kilnadeema in the Final

1984: Under 16C County Champions Defeated Beagh in the Final

1985: Under 16C County Championship Finalists Lost to Ballinasloe

1989: Under 12B County Champions Defeated Pearses in the Final

1990: Under 12B City League Winners Defeated Spiddal in the Final

1990: Minor City League Winners Defeated Sylane in the Final

1990: Under 14C County Championship Finalists Lost to Beagh in the Final

1991: Under 12A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final

1991: Under 12B County Champions Defeated Pearses in the Final

1991: Under 14C County Champions Defeated Ahascragh in the Final

1991: Under 15 Féile na Coiribe Winners Defeated Pearses in the Final

1992: Under 12B City League Winners

1993: Under 16B County Champions Defeated Sarsfields in the Final

1994: Minor B County Champions Defeated Killimor in the Final

1995: Under 12B County Champions Defeated Ballinderreen in the Final

1995: Under 15 Féile na Coiribe Finalists Lost to St James in the Final

1997: Under 14B County Champions Defeated Carnmore in the Final

1997: Minor City League Finalists Lost to Ragoon/Newcastle in the Final

1998: Under 16C County Champions Defeated Mountbellew-Moylough in the Final

1998: Under 12C County Championship Finalists Lost to Mullagh in the Final

1998: Under 12A City League Finalists Lost to Castlegar in the Final

1999: Under 13A County Championship Finalists Lost to Ardrahan in the Final

1999: Under 13A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final

2000: Under 15A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final

2001: Under 15A City League Finalists Lost to Annaghdown

2002: Under 16A County Championship Finalists Lost to Kiltormer

2003: Minor A County Champions Defeated Sarsfields in the Final

2003: Minor A City League Winners Defeated Ardrahan in the Final

2003: Under 13B City League Winners Defeated Micheal Breathnachs in the Final

2003: Under 14B County Shield Champions Defeated Moycullen in the Final

2004: Under 12A County Championship Finalists Lost to Ahascragh/Fohenagh

2004: Under 15B City League Finalists Lost to Micheal Breathnachs in the Final

2004: Minor A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final

2005: Under 12C City League Finalists to be Played v Sylane

## Club History:

The Liam Mellows Juvenile Hurling Club was formed in 1980. The formation of the Club was the brainchild of Jimmy Duggan and, with the help of Dick Marnell and Paddy Kerans, many youngsters from Galway City were introduced to training at the "Plots", Woodquay. The juvenile club's first chairman was Johnny Buckley, while John O'Brien filled the dual role of secretary and treasurer.

After losing the Under 16C County Final in **1983** to Kilnadeema, the Club won its first Co. Championship in **1984**, when defeating Beagh in the Under-16C Final. They reached the Co. Final again in **1985** before losing narrowly to Ballinasloe, after a replay. Eugene Keville was captain of the first Liam Mellows juvenile team to win a county championship.



### ***1984: Under 16C County Champions Defeated Beagh in the Final***

**Back Row (L to R):** Des Casey, Fergus Keane, Jimmy Ward, Jimmy Tonery, Nigel Casey, Frank Quinn, David Murphy & Pierce Duggan.

**Front Row (L to R):** Seamus Duggan, John Hughes, Sean Buckley, Eugene Keville (Captain), Damien Brennan, Tom Fahy & Cathal Kearns.

Towards the end of the eighties, there began a period of outstanding achievement. In **1989**, the club captured the Co. Under-12 'B' Championship, defeating Pearses in the final by 4-2 to 0-2. Mellows gave a great display of ground hurling and opened the scoring with a point from Shane Hynes followed by a goal from Brian Marnell. Pearses were kept at bay by the brilliant play of Jonathan Corbett and Alan Daly in goal. Mellows lifted the siege, following great work by Jeffrey Lynskey, John O'Connor (Captain), Fergal Grace and Fergal Costello. Victory was assured following two goals from Brian Marnell and one from Mark Marnell.



***1989 LIAM MELLOWS UNDER-12 (B) CHAMPIONS***

**Front Row (L to R.):** Paddy Kerans (P.R.O.), Caoimhin Concannon, Austin Crowe, Declan O'Brien, Brian Keville, Conor Hynes (Mascot), John O'Connor (Capt.), Shane FLaherty, Donal Kerans, Alan Daly, Kieran Hynes, John Hynes (Selector).

**Middle Row:** Alan Holland, David Howard, Johnathon Corbett, Derek Croke, Fergal Grace, Geoffrey Lynskey, Fergal Costello, Mark Marnell, Brian Marnell, William Corless, Shane Hynes.

**Back Row:** Tony O'Connor (Selector), John O'Brien (Juvenile Selector), Nevin Breen, John Buckley (Chairman), Jimmy Duggan (Trainer).



***1989 Under 12 Players Celebrate after the County Champions Win***

**Front Row:** Aofie Kerans, Paddy Kearns, Ciarán Hynes, Alan Daly, Donal Kerans, Shane Faherty, John O'Connor, Brian Keville, Declan O'Brien, Austin Crowe, Caomhín Concannon, John O'Brien.

**2nd Row:** Shane Hynes, William Corless, Brian Marnell, Mark Marnell, Fergal Costello, Jeffrey Lynskey, Fergal Grace, Derek Croke, Jonathon Corbett, David Howard, Alan Holland.

**Back Row:** Nevin Breen, Jimmy Duggan, John Hynes, Johnny Buckley (R.I.P), Paddy Glynn, Tony O'Connor: Conor Hynes (Mascot)

**1990:** saw the Under-12 team win the City League, becoming the first holders of the Richard Quinn Cup, defeating Spiddal by 6-0 to 2-1 at the Pearse Stadium. Mellows dominated the first half and had scores from Brian Marnell (1-0), Shane Hynes (2-0), and Thomas Breen (1-0).

In the second half, Mellows had further goals from Brian Crowe and Matthias O'Malley while all Spiddal's scores (2-1) came from their outstanding player, Micheál Ó Callaráin.

Mellows had great displays from Caoimhín Concannon, David Howard, Jonathan Corbett, Brian Keville, Shane and Ciarán Hynes, Kenneth Murphy, Brian Marnell and Thomas Breen. Richard Quinn presented the cup to winning captain, Shane Hynes and the Galway Hurling Supporters Club presented both teams with plaques.



***1990: Under 12B City League Winners Defeated Spiddal in the Final***

**Back L to R:** Stephen Hughes: Brian Crowe: Matthias O'Malley: Shane Hynes: Brian Keville: Simon Kelly: David Howard: Caoimhín Concannon and Ciaran Hynes.

**Front L to R:** Thomas Breen: Jonathan Corbett: Nicholas O'Keefe: Brian Marnell: Eamon Breen: Paddy Forde: Kenneth Murphy: John Cameron.

At Back Richard Quinn (Sponsor) and Club Chairman Dermot MacSweeney.

**1990:** also saw the Minor team win the City League, with a hard fought win over Sylane in the Final.

### **Minor Final Match Report**

**Mellows 0-11**

**Sylane 1-05**

A superb second half performance was the key to this success for Liam Mellows when winning this keenly contested City and West Minor hurling final (1990), 11-a-side. With a strong breeze in their favour in the first half Sylane opened up a 1-04 to 0-02 lead thanks mainly to Brian Loughlins sharpshooting, he scored 1-02, but Seanie O'Brien, the Mellows midfielder more than equalled that when he had the assistance of the wind in the second half.

Mellows took the lead with 13 minutes to go and though Sylane fought tremendously hard they could only get one more point. John Higgins had a half chance near the end but he placed wide.

S. O'Brien, P. Mulrooney, D. McPhilbin and B. Marnell were among the winners heroes, while Tommy Higgins, Frances Murphy and B. Loughlin were best for the runners-up.

Stephen Francis (Chairman City League) presented the Galway Hurling Supporters Club sponsored medals.



***Liam Mellows, Winners of the 1990 'B' City Hurling League.***

**Back Row L to R:** Kevin Greally, Brendan Delargy, Richard Marnell, Robert Giblin, Noel Murray, Peter Mulrooney, David McPhilbin.

**Front Row L to R:** Barry Marnell, Gabriel Corless, Seanie O'Brien (capt), Eddie Walsh.

***In 1990;*** the Under 14 team reached the County Championship 'C' final where they lost out to Beagh. On their way to the final they had good wins over Rahoon/Newcastle 3-03 to 1-00, over Menlo/Emmetts 8-05 to 1-04, they got a walkover from Salthill, over Fohenagh 4-06 to 0-05, and over Mountbellew by 7-02 to 4-02



***1990 Under 14C County Championship Finalists Lost to Beagh in the Final***

**Back Row:** Fergal Grace, Mark Marnell, Seamus Hughes, Jeffrey Lynskey, John O'Connor, Nigel McDonagh, Seamus O'Brien.

**Front Row:** Geroid O'Brien, Declan O'Brien, Brian Marnell, Alan Daly, Donal Kearns, Shane Hynes.

***In 1991;*** the Under 14 team won the C County Championship when they Defeated Ahascragh in the Final. Big wins over Salthill and Renmore, a walk-over from Spiddal saw them into the quarter-final where they faced Cappataggle. Late goals by Simon Kelly and Jeffrey Lynskey giving them a five point victory. The semi-final in Athenry brought them into contention with Mervue. This was a great game with John O'Connor at full-back for Mellows having a blinder. Mellows got on top in the second half and a great goal by Brian Marnell and points by Jeffrey Lynskey and Fergal Grace saw Mellows into the final on a score of 2-06 to 0-01.

Ahascragh provided the opposition in the final and after a thriller, Mellows emerged narrow winners on the score 1-03 to 0-04. An early goal by Colin Wyer gave Mellows the narrow lead they never lost. Goalie Alan Daly, John O'Connor, Jeffrey Lynskey, Shane Hynes, Mickie Grealish, Simon Kelly, Brian Marnell and Donal Kerans starred in this great win.



***1991: Under 14B County Champions Defeated Ahascragh in the Final***

**Back Row L to R:** Derek Croke, Brian Keville, Declan O'Brien, Mickie Grealish, William Corless, David Howard, Fergal Grace, Jeffrey Lynskey, Colin Wyer, Mark Marnell, Austin Sammon, Donal Kearns.

**Front Row L to R:** Sheamie Rabbitte, Shane Hynes, Paul Barrett, Thomas Breen, Caomhín Concannon, Brian Kerrigan, Shane Faherty, John O'Connor, Ciarán Hynes, Brian Sammon, Simon Kelly, Brian Marnell.

***In 1991:*** Mellows repeated their heroics of 1990, winning the U-12A City League and the U-12 'B' championship.

***In the Co. U-12 'B' Championship,*** Pearses were again the victims with Mellows winning their 13th game in a row by 3-2 to 2-1.

The under 12's beat Ragoon, Beagh and St.Thomas' in the early rounds. A win over Tynagh saw Mellows into the semi-final against Kilbeacanty. This game was played in Oranmore and Mellows won it by five points after Kilbeacanty had put up a great show. Brian Marnell, Austin Sammon, Brian Kerrigan, Kenneth Murphy, Caoimhin Concannon and Paddy Forde were Mellows heroes. A Mellows v Pearses final was the outcome and after a great game in Ballinderreen, Mellows won their second under-age title for 1991.

Mellows opened the scoring with a great goal by Thomas Breen. Pearses took the lead with a goal and a point, but Thomas Breen restored Mellows lead with his second goal. Mellows opened the second half with Austin Sammon scoring 1-1.

Tremendous pressure by Pearses was limited to a goal by the great defensive work of Brian Kerrigan (goal), Padraic Madden and David Howard. Brian Marnell scored the insurance point for another great Mellows victory. Outstanding, in a great team effort were Ciarán Hynes, Paddy Forde, Caoimhín Concannon, Simon Kelly and Seamie Rabbitte.



***1991: Under 12B County Champions Defeated Pearses in the Final***

**Back Row L to R:** Thomas Breen, Simon Kelly, Brian Keville, Caomhín Concannon, Brian Kerrigan, Kenneth Murphy, Nicholas O'Keefe, Anthony o'Brien.

**Front Row L to R:** James Walsh, Nicolas Lawless, Paul Barrett, Thomas Kelly, Brian Marnell, Sheamie Rabbitte, Brian Sammon, Seamus Kerrigan, Eamon Breen, Paddy Forde (Front Conor Hynes)

***12A City League;*** This Under 12 team, which played 13 games without defeat were yet to scale greater heights when winning the under 12A City League title. Early wins over Oranmore, Castlegar, Mervue and a draw with Rahoon/Newcastle, put Mellows into the semi-final. This time they easily disposed of Rahoon/Newcastle with a power house display and qualified for a showdown with Castlegar whom they had beaten by a point in the earlier round. Played in the Stadium before a huge crowd the game ended in a draw 0-02 each.

The replay was a thriller and saw the teams locked together at 2-02 each at the end of normal time. Extra time was played and after great defensive work by Mellows, their captain Brian Marnell crashed home a great goal (the only score in the extra time period) to give Mellows a brilliant victory. Thomas Breen, Thomas Kelly, David Howard, Kenneth Murphy, Paraic Madden, Brian Kerrigan, Ciaran Hynes, Caoimhin Concannon, Austin Sammon, Paddy Forde, Brian Marnell, Seamus Rabbitte and Simon Kelly were all heroes in this great victory.

The John Connolly Cup was presented to captain Brian Marnell by the Castlegar legend.



***The 1991 Liam Mellows Under-12 hurling team, winners of the Under 12A City League.***

In the background is John Connolly who presented his cup to Mellows captain Brian Marnell.

**Back row, left to right:** Caoimhghin Concannon, Thomas Breen Ciaran Hynes, David Howard, Brian Marnell (Captain), Brian Kerrigan, Kenneth Murphy, Austin Sammon.

**Front row, left to right:** Paraic Madden Seamus Rabbitte, Thomas Kelly, Paddy Forde, Simon Kelly.

Another trophy went to the city club in **1991**, when the U-15 team won their group in Féile na Coiribe. In the first round, Kilnadeema led by 1-5 to 0-1 at half-time, but Mellows, assisted by the wind, came back to win 3-5 to 1-5.

Mellows scores came from Fergal Grace 1-1, Jeffrey Lynskey 1-1; John O'Connor 0-2, Nigel McDonagh 0-1, and Donal Kerans 1-0. Outstanding for Mellows were defenders Paul Sherlock, Mark Marnell and Gerard O'Brien and forwards Colin Wyer, Seamus O'Brien, Greg Quinn and Shane Hynes. In the final, Pearses were once again losers, Mellows scoring a 3-6 to 0-3 win.

Points from Nigel McDonagh and Jeffrey Lynskey, and goals from Colin Wyer and Donal Kerans left Mellows 2-2 to 0-3 ahead at half time. Paul Sherlock was Mellows best defender, with good support from Jeffrey Lynskey, John O'Connor, Declan O'Brien, Gerard O'Brien and Alan Daly (goal).

Mickie Grealish had a great game at centre-field, well supported by Greg Quinn, while in attack, the stars were Donal Kerans, Shane Flaherty, Fergal Grace and subs Damien Trehy and Trent Colohan. Dermot MacSweeney, Chairman of the City League, presented the cup to winning captain, Nigel McDonagh.

Liam Mellows, good fortune in the U-12 City League continued in **1992** when the club captured the trophy for the third time in four years.



***1992: Under 12B City League Winners***

***The Liam Mellows Panel which captured the 1992 U-12 City League was:***

Seamus Rabbitte; Brian Sammon; Gavin Mannion; Derek Merrigan; Padraic Madden; Kenneth Murphy; Niall Diviney; John Connaughton; Ciarán Hynes; Mike Merrigan; Peter Daly; Christy Fawl; Nicholas O'Keefe; Anthony O'Brien; James Walsh; Thomas Kelly; Nicholas Lawless; Seamus Kerrigan; Eamon Breen; Paddy Forde; John Cameron; Damien O'Brien.

***Selectors:*** Jimmy Duggan; Paddy Murphy; Dick Marnell; Paddy Kerans; John Hynes.

***In 1993:*** Many of the same 1992 players graduated to the next under-age teams and in 1993, Mellows won the county U-16 'B' title, defeating Sarsfield in the final by 3-6 to 2-6. Powered by county stalwarts, Jeffrey Lynskey and John O'Connor, Mellows started in whirlwind fashion with points from Jeffrey Lynskey (0-2), John O'Connor (0-1), bustling full forward Eoghan Ryan (0-2) and a glorious point from Mickie Grealish who has having a great game at centre-field.

Mellows led by 1-6 to 0-3 at half-time, the goal coming from Jeffrey Lynskey, but a great second half fight back by Sarsfield reduced the deficit to one point but they were denied the equaliser by the great work of Mellows full-back line, Greg Quinn, Colin Wyer and Mark Marnell. Eventually Mellows surged forward with two goals by Eoghan Ryan and Alan Daly and a last minute goal by Sarsfields merely reduced the winning margin. Outstanding for Mellows were Fergal Grace and Mickie Grealish at centre-field, Jeffrey Lynskey and Eoghan Ryan in attack, and Austin Sammon, Brian Marnell, Donal Kerans and Paul Concannon. This was practically the same team who were county champions in U-12 in 1989, U-14 in 1991 and U-16 in 1993, with John O'Connor being captain on all three occasions.



***Liam Mellows - County Under 16 "B" Champions - 1993.***

**Back L to R:** Greg Quinn; Colin Wyer; Fergal Grace; Jeffrey Lynskey; Mark Marnell; Michael Madden; Brian Marnell; Trevor Farragher; Austin Sammon; Alan Daly; Caoimhín Concannon; Shane Faherty; Thomas Breen; Ciarán Hynes;

**Front L to R:** Brian Keville; John O'Connor (Captain); Mickie Grealish; Eoghan Ryan; Simon Kelly; Brian Kerrigan; Donal Kerans; Shane Hynes; Paul Concannon.

Great credit is due to Paddy Kerans, Dick Marnell, John Hynes and Jimmy Duggan for keeping this panel together over the years. The juvenile committee is grateful to Michael Burke of Buck Rogers (Prospect Hill) who provided meals for the team before and after the final and to great Mellows supporter, Joe Geoghegan (R.I.P.) of the Central Bar, Woodquay, who also provided refreshments. Joe was the grandfather of Shane and Ciaran Hynes.



***The Players Celebrate in the Dressing Room after the County Champions Win***

***In 1994;*** Mellows bridged a 47 year gap since 1947 by winning the County Minor 'B' Final, defeating Killimor by 4-3 to 2-6 in an exciting hard-fought decider. Killimor had the better of a see-saw first half and led at half-time by 2-6 to 3-0, Mellows goals coming from Ger Glennon, Liam Scully and Jeffrey Lynskey.

The switch of Jeffrey Lynskey to centre field at half-time transformed the game to such an extent that Killimor failed to score in the second half during which Mellows had points from Lynskey, Ryan and Nigel McDonagh and a great goal from Michael McCormack to secure their first minor title since the great double of 1947.



***1994: Minor B County Champions Defeated Killimor in the Final***

**Back row:** Brian Marnell, Fergal Grace, Mike McCormack, Jeffrey Lynskey, Sean O'Donovan, Mark Marnell, Ger Glennon.

**Front row:** Donal Kerans, Shane Flaherty, Eoghan Ryan, John O'Connor, Padraic Ryan (captain), Seamus O'Brien, Paddy Diviney, Liam Scully.

**Liam Mellows - Minor "B" County Champions 1994. Panel of Players;**

Nigel McDonagh; Greg Quinn; Seamus Gannon; Michael Flaherty; Damien Trehy; Brian Marnell; Colin Wyr; Fergal Grace; Michael McCormack; Jeffrey Lynskey; Seán O'Donovan; Mark Marnell; Seamus Hughes; Ger Glennon; Séamus McGowan; Malcolm O'Shaughnessy; Mickie Grealish; Donal Kerans; Shane Faherty; Eoghan Ryan; John O'Connor; Paraic Ryan (Captain); Séamus O'Brien; Paddy Diviney; Liam Scully; Paddy Gannon.

## 1994 Minor Final Match Report

LIAM MELLOWS     4-3  
KILLIMOR           2-6

### *Mellows bridge 47 year gap with minor success*

LIAM MELLOWS ended a forty-seven year drought by securing their first minor hurling title since 1947 when they got on top in the second half to convincingly dispose of the challenge of Killimor at sun-drenched Ballinderreen on Sunday in the County Final of the 'B' championship after an exciting, hard-fought encounter that provided plenty of entertainment for the crowd of about two thousand.

Most of the scoring was done in the first half with the losers amassing all their total in that hectic opening period and their opponents getting all but 1-3 of theirs as the initiative see-sawed wildly in a frantic first twenty minutes before Killimor assumed control from there to the break.

The city lads looked anything but a safe bet at half-time as they trailed by three points to an impressive Killimor side that appeared to be the sharper of the two as they ran up a 2-6 scoreline. However, Mellows, despite having less opportunities, clung on tenaciously and although they failed to put the sliotar over the bar they managed to get it into the net on three occasions.

They did it for the first time after five minutes when a first-time pull by their inspirational captain Padraic Ryan reached corner forward Ger Glennon who swept it in with another ground stroke.

However, Killimor, who shot four wides in the opening seven minutes, soon took up the running through a Liam Finnegan point and a well taken David Hanrahan goal. Shane Lawless then added a point but a Liam Scully goal at the other end put Mellows ahead at the start of the second quarter. But Killimor quickly attacked and, although Lawless had a great drive brilliantly stopped by Brian Marnell, Ian Rocks was on hand to smash home the rebound. Amazingly, the pendulum immediately swung the other way when Killimor goalie Colm D'Meara was blinded by the sun as Jeffrey Lynskey's 55 metre free went all the way to the net to make it 3-0 to 2.2 for Liam Mellows.

That made it three goals in as many minutes as fortunes swayed constantly in an incident-packed spell. The crossfield breeze made shooting difficult for both teams but Killimor struck a purple patch that yielded points from Liam Finnegan, Tristan Hoary and Damien Gibbons (2 frees) and they were by no means flattered by their 2-6 to 3-0 interval lead although they were blissfully unaware that they would not score again.

That, however, was what transpired. Meanwhile Mellows, following a halftime shake-up, came out with renewed vigour and with Jeffrey Lynskey moving to midfield in a direct swap with Michael McCormack and Padraic Ryan now in a much deeper role. The transformation was startling as the Lynskey-Fergal Grace partnership completely eclipsed the hitherto dominant duo of Damien Gibbons and Shane McClearn. Lynskey drove over a first minute '65' to kickstart the resurgence and substitute Nigel McDonagh and Ryan sent back to back scores sailing between the posts to tie the match after eight minutes at 3-3 to 2-6.

The breakthrough Mellows needed came after 18 minutes. Midfielder Grace floated a sideline cut across the goalmouth where McCormack, with delightful skill, doubled on the sliotar in mid-air and crashed it to the net to make it 4-3 to 2-6.

Surprisingly, it was the last score of the game. Killimor staged a spirited late rally but they never looked like breaching a strong Mellows rearguard in which the Marnells, Brian and Mark, John

O'Connor and Sean O'Donovan were outstanding as were Fergal Grace, Jeffrey Lynskey, Michael McCormack and Padraic Ryan.

Killimor were best served by Alan McClearn and Ollie Keane who shone all through while Damien McGann, Damien Gibbons, Ian Rocks, Tristan Hoary and Shane Lawless did well in the first half.

**Liam Mellows:** B. Marnell, S. O'Brien, J. O'Connor, M. Marnell, S. O'Donovan, E. Ryan, S. Flaherty, F. Grace, M McCormack (1-0), D. Kearns, J. Lynskey (1-01), L. Scully (1-0), G. Glennon (1-0) P. Ryan (capt.) (0-1), P. Diviney. Subs. M. McDonagh. (0-01) for Diviney (inj.), C Wyer for Flaherty, M. Grealish for Kerans

**Killimor:** C. O'Meara, F. Treacy, C. Kelly, M. Lyons, A. McClearn, (capt.), D. McGann, O. Keane, D. Gibbons (0-2), S. McClearn, L. Gordon, L. Finnegan (0-2), I. Rocks (1-0), T. Hoary (0-1), D. Hanrahan (0-0), S. Lawless (0-1). Sub. E. Treacy for Gordon.

**Referee:** Michael Dolan.

### **Woodquay and Bohermore Notes after Minor Win**

IT was a day of triumph on Sunday last when Liam Mellows Hurling Club won the County Minor Championship B final. It was a long wait since Mellows won their first minor title in 1947. Included on that history making team of 1947 were Dan and Tom Lenihan, Fred Crean, Paddy Daly (R.I.P.), Joe O'Connor, T. Casserley, all of Bohermore, Jimmy O'Leary (R.I.P.) of Forster Street and Jimmy Duggan (captain), College Road. They defeated Cappataggle in the final.

Last Sunday's winning team who defeated Killimor 4-3 to 2-06; did not contain any players from Bohermore but two of their stars have Bohermore connections. Jeffrey Lynskey is a grandson of Ned Lynskey, who was a member of the first Mellows team to win the County Senior Championship in 1935, while John O'Connor is a grandson of Paddy O'Connor, a founder member of the club. John's uncle, Joe, was a member of the 1947 minor team while his father, Tony, was goalkeeper on the Mellows team which won the County Senior Championship in 1968.

Also a member of the winning team last Sunday was Mickey Grealish whose father, Michael of O.L.B.C. rugby fame is from Waterlane. A cavalcade of cars accompanied the team on Sunday evening as they drove through Bohermore, College Road and Woodquay. The last city team to win the County minor title was St.: Augustines in 1962 and it is a great tribute to Liam Mellows to bring a title to the city where hurling gets little encouragement from the G.A.A. with major games being rarely played in the capital city.

**In 1995:** Each year seemed to bring success for the Club's young hurlers and it was in 1995 that they won the Co. Under-12 'B' championship, when they overpowered Ballindereen in the final on a score of 1-7 to 0-1.

The team, which was managed by Diarmuid Collins, had stars in Jonathan Madden, Gary Walsh, John Mulhern, captain David Collins, Paul Giblin, Paul Flaherty, Richard Connaughton, David Kelly, Aonghus Callanan and goalscorer Ciarán Moloney.



***1995: Under 12B County Champions Defeated Ballinderreen in the Final***

**Back L to R:** Donal Rabbitte; Jason Curley; Alan Fallon; Jonathon Madden; Paul Giblin; Barry O'Brien; Shane Sheridan; Richard Connaughton; John Mulhern; Daniel O'Brien & Peter Lyons.

**Front L to R:** Conor Hynes; Gary Walsh; Aonghus Callanan; David Collins (Captain); Kieran Maloney; Paul Flaherty; David Fahy and David Kelly.

**Selectors:** John Walsh; Dermot Flaherty; Tony Callanan; Paul Mulhern; Diarmuid Collins; John Hynes.

*In 1996*, the club's U-10 team finished runners-up in the Nesson Tournament held in Limerick, which included teams from Offaly, Clare, Limerick and Waterford.



***Under 10 Panel that took part in the 1996 Nesson Tournament***

*In 1997*, Liam Mellows U-14's followed up their winning of the 1995 U-12 Co. Championship by annexing the Under 14 "B" Championship in decisive fashion this year. Right from the first game in which they defeated Rahoon/Newcastle to the Co. Final day in Ballinasloe, the full panel with the back up team of Manager, Dermot Collins, Tony Callanan, Paul Mulhern and Dermot Flaherty, spared no effort in fielding one of the best U-14 teams to represent the club over the years.

The campaign started with a fine win over Rahoon/Newcastle. This was a closely fought game with Rahoon/Newcastle leading 0-2 to 0-0 at half time but a magnificent second-half display brushed Rahoon aside with Mellows going on to win by 1-7 to 0-2 with David Collins, David Fahy, Eoin Burke and Richard Connaughton the main architects of Mellows win.

Ahascragh were Mellows next opponents and the city lads with Gary Walsh, Paul Flaherty and John Mulhern in top form continued their winning trail. The third game in the series brought them into opposition with Ballinderreen. A brilliant display of point scoring by Aonghus Callanan with great back-up from David Kelly, Paul Giblin, Barry O'Brien, Kieran Maloney, Peter Lyons, Jonathan Madden and goalie, Donal Rabbitte put paid to Ballinderreen's hopes of qualifying.

Mellows were now at quarter-final stage against neighbours Moycullen and after a great game with the lead changing hands on a few occasions, Mellows came up trumps with a two point winning margin. Played in wet and windy conditions, Mellows playing with the wind opened with a shock goal by Peter Lyons, but some wayward shooting from frees and play saw no change in the score for fifteen minutes.

Two pointed frees by Moycullen left Mellows only leading by one point at the break and facing the wind on the resumption. Some heroic defending from David Collins, Eoin Burke and Gary Walsh kept Moycullen at bay for 10 minutes before they eventually broke through for a goal to put them two points ahead.

Mellows reply was swift with Alan Fallon, who had just come on as a sub, latching on to a long clearance from David Collins and crashing a great shot to the back of the Moycullen net. Moycullen rallied however and looked winners when they poached another goal in a goalmouth melee but Mellows fighting spirit did not let them down and in a fine last few minutes, despite a great save by the Moycullen goalie, Kieran Maloney came thundering in to crash home the rebound. Moycullen forced two late 65's but goalie, Donal Rabbitte, and his backs were equal to the occasion and Mellows survived to win by two points.

Cappataggle provided the opposition in the semi-final and after an excellent game of hurling, Mellows pulled off another victory with a 3-7 to 1-6 win.

The team who were now blending well together were ready for yet another Co. Final in the juvenile grade. In the final Mellows played their best hurling of the season, defeating Carnmore by a decisive 1-7 to 0-2. Mellows, who were a credit to team manager, Diarmuid Collins and selectors Tony Callanan, Paul Mulhern and Dermot Flaherty, played their best hurling of the season.

It was a great team effort with especially great displays from David Fahy, Gary Walsh, David Collins and Richard Connaughton. Scorers for Mellows were Paul Flaherty 0-3, Aonghus Callanan 0-2, Peter Lyons 1-0, David Kelly 0-1 and Richard Connaughton 0-1.



***1997: Under 14B County Champions Defeated Carnmore in the Final***

**Back Row, Left to Right:** Tony Callanan; Diarmuid Collins; Jonathan Madden; John Mulhern; Paul Giblin; Gary Walsh; Richard Connaughton; David Fahy; Barry O'Brien; Donal Rabbitte; Dermot Flaherty; Paul Mulhern.

**Front Row, Left to Right:** Owen Burke; Peter Lyons; Paul Flaherty; Kieren Maloney; David Collins; David Kelly

***Also in 1997;*** the Minor team got to the City League Final where they lost out to a fine Ragoon /Newcastle team.

Most of the 1997 Under 14 team followed up this success in **1998** by winning the U-16 Co. title, defeating Mountbellew-Moylough by a single point, 2-6 to 1-8. The club's eighth Co. Juvenile title featured a great display by goalie Donal Rabbitte and a brilliant half-back line of David Fahy, David Collins and John Mulhern. The team, who were presented with kit-bags by Pat Hughes of Hughes Bar, Woodquay, were under the supervision of Diarmuid Collins, Tony Callanan, Dermot Flaherty and Paul Mulhern.

They went on to represent Galway in the Connacht Championship, getting to the final which was played in Athleague against the local Roscommon side Athleague/Tremane. The concession of two early goals by the Roscommon side was too much for Mellows to haul back and despite putting in a great second half display, Athleague stayed ahead for a deserving win.



***1998: Under 16C County Champions Defeated Mountbellew-Moylough in the Final***

*Back L to R; Declan Mitchell; Paul Giblin; Kieren Hughes; Barry O'Brien; John Glennon; John Mulhern; Donal Rabbitt; Richard Connaughton; Brian Manton; David Fahy; Leo Stewart;*  
*Front L to R; Peter Lyons; Paul Mitchell; Alan Fallon; David Collins; Aonghus Callanan; Gary Walsh; Keith Grealish (Captain); Paul Flaherty; Paul Campbell; David Kelly; Kieran Maloney; Eoin Burke.*

### **County Under 16 C Championship Final Match Report**

**Liam Mellows                    4-04**  
**Mountbellew/Moylough      2-04**

#### **Mellows Capture U-16 Crown In Thrilling Final**

Liam Mellows U-16s reversed a previous defeat by Mountbellew/Moylough in a group game when defeating the same opposition in the Co. final in a thriller played at Turloughmoe on Saturday. A great display by goalie Donal Rabbitt and a brilliant half back line of David Fahy, David Collins and John Mulhern was the launching pad for a great victory which brings the club's county juvenile final victories to eight since it was founded in 1980.

Mellows got off to a great start when David Collins drove a great long distance free into the Mountbellew square which took a deflection into the net. Both defences were on top and scores were hard to come by. Two good points by the North Galway side were answered by a great point from the wing by Aengus Callanan and a free by the same player. Mellows led by a goal a half time. An early pointed free in the second half and a goal five minutes later put Mountbellew a point ahead. A great point from their midfielder put them two points clear and looking good. Mellows then got their lucky break when Paul Flaherty's free from way out on the wing went all the way to the net. A further point by David Kelly put Mellows two points clear.

With ten minutes left everything was still to play for, and Mountbellew threw everything at Mellows but Gary Walsh, Barry O'Brien and John Glennon in particular dug deep and a super save by Donal Rabbitt with five minutes to go denied Mounellow/Moylough and their only reward was a point, leaving Mellows one point winners at 2-6 to 1-8.

Also in **1998** Mellows Under 12 team reached the Rionn 4 13-A-Side county final where they lost out to a good Mullagh team, see report below.

They also got to the Under 12A City League Final where they lost out to Castlegar.



***1998 Under 12C County Championship Finalists Lost to Mullagh***

**Back Row L to R:** Brian Leen, Conor Hynes, Paul Duffy, Michael Hughes, John Hughes, Andrew Kinsella, John Lee, Michael Costello, Martin Fahy, Brian Howley & Kenneth Walsh.

**Front Row:** Fiachra Callanan, James Campbell, Brian Gilmore, Enda Sammon, Brian Lee Fergal Murphy, Conor Feeny & Kevin Duhan.

**Connaught Tribune Report on U12 Hurling Final 1998, Rionn 4 (13-a-side)**

**Mullagh 3-2**

**Liam Mellows 1-1**

Ray Duane has established himself as one of the premier juvenile coaches in Galway and his efforts have helped Mullagh to another underage title in what is a purple period for the East Galway's juvenile club. Mullagh despite their earlier loss to the pride of the city Liam Mellows were able to turn the tables on Saturday to record their second U12 victory in a row. Mullagh led by 2-2 to 0-1 at half time with Alan Whyte scoring 1-1, the point from a free, with Michael Ryan and Fintan Coone the other Mullagh scorers, Conor Hynes being Mellows only scorer of the half. Mellows fought back bravely in the second half and despite an early goal from Shane Downey for Mullagh they had the lion's share of possession but Mullagh held firm with Mellows' only score a Conor Hynes goal mid way through the half. Best for Mullagh were Alan Whyte 1-1, Michael Ryan 1-0, Shane Downey 1-0, Anthony Kelly, Daniel Whyte, Dermot Clarke and Fintan Coone 0-1 while Mellows players to make an impact were Michael Costello, Conor Hynes 1-1 and best player John Lee.

Referee : Michael Brennan (Ardrahan)

**In 1999;** The U-13 team won the 'A' City League Final with a fine 3-5 to 1-2 victory over Castlegar, and they also got to County Final where they lost out to Ardrahan by 5-02 to 2-02.



***1999: Under 13A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final***

Eoin Concannon; Martin Sweeney; Michael Costello; Shane Kelly; Brían Gilmore; Martin Fahy; Andrew Kinsella; Paul Duffy; Colm Power; Daniel Gallagher; John Hughes; John Lee; Conor Hynes; Michael Hughes (Captain); Brian Leen; Brian Howley; Kevin Feeney; Kenneth Walsh; John Hynes; Brian Lee; Fergal Murphy; James Campbell; Fiachra Callanan; Eric Langan; Daragh Hastings.

The Mellows U-15 City League Winners, **2000**, after defeating Castlegar in the final, 1-4 to 1-2.



***2000: Under 15A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final***

**Back Row L to R:** Diarmuid Collins Emlyn Coyne; Daragh Lundy; Shane Vaughan; John Lee; Michael Acton; Michael Hughes; John Hughes; Kenneth Walsh; Robert Corcoran; Brían Gilmore; Tony Callanan.  
**Front Row L to R:** Ronan Walsh; Fiachra Callanan; Brian Leen; Fergal Murphy; Aonghus Callanan; Brian Howley; Conor Hynes; Michael Costello; Martin Fahy.

*In 2001*; Mellows U-15 team was back in the A City League final again but this time they lost out to a fine Annaghdown team by 2 points with many stars of the future on both sides. Having beaten Castlegar in the semi-final by 4-11 to 0-2, the Mellows team entered the final possibly over confident, and this was displayed in their performance. A first half goal by Annaghdown and some expert free-taking gave them a deserved victory. Best for Mellows on a day of missed opportunities were Paul Duffy, Brian Howley and Brian Leen.

The under-age set up in the club really began to bear fruit *In 2002* when the under 16 team reached the A final but lost out to Kiltormer after a closely fought game.



***2002: Under 16A County Championship Finalists Lost to Kiltormer***

**Back L to R:** Keith Conlon; Andrew Kinsella; Conor Arrigan; Jamie Downes; Mike Hughes; John Hughes; Paul Duffy; Kenneth Walsh; Brian Howley; John Lee; Brian Gilmore.

**Front L to R:** Martin Fahy; Fiachra Callanan; Fergal Murphy; Brian Leen; Brian Lee; James Campbell; Conor Hynes; Michael Costello.

**16A County Final Report**

**Kiltormer            1-10**

**Liam Mellows       1-06**

This eagerly awaited Under-16 'A1' hurling final was played at Clarenbridge on Saturday last and despite the heavy rain all week, the pitch held up well. Liam Mellows had easily beaten Kiltormer in their group game and also overcame a good Killimor team in the semi-final. Kiltormer had a much tougher battle in their semi-final win over Andrahan.

Kiltormer played the first half with quite a strong breeze and yet only led at half-time by 1-03 to 0-03, Emmet Goode having scored the goal in the first quarter. Liam Mellows seemed poised to win their first juvenile 'A' title when their skilful full forward Kenneth Walsh scored a goal shortly after the restart. But from then on Kiltormer were in the driving seat due in no small part to the excellent free taking of their corner forward Conor Dolan. Despite having Martin Staunton's goal disallowed they never allowed Mellows back into the game. Unfortunately for the City side they didn't play up to form on the day even though they had a great year in this grade. Their best players were John Lee, Kenneth Walsh, Fiachra Callanan, Conor Arrigan and Brian Howley. Kiltormer had heroes all over the field but especially Brendan Kenny, Keith Kilkenny, Shane Finnerty, Patrick Cormican, Emmet Goode and Mother Hubbard's Man of the Match, Conor Dolan who scored eight points of his side's total.

However, that team really came good *In 2003* when they won the minor A final with a great win over Sarsfields. They also won the Minor City League in 2003 with a big win over Ardrahan.



***Liam Mellows 2003 Galway County Minor 'A' and City League Hurling Champions***

**Back:** Michael Costello; Dara Lundy; Mike Hughes; Kenneth Walsh; John Lee;  
Martin Fahy; Brian Howley;

**Front:** Fiachra Callanan; Conor Hynes; Shane Vaughan; Brian Leen; Keith Conlon;  
John Hughes; Aonghus Callanan; Emelyn Coyne.

### **Minor 'A' Championship Final Report**

**Liam Mellows** 2-09

**Sarsfields** 1-07

The last time Liam Mellows won the County Minor A Hurling Championship was back in 1947 when the great Jimmy Duggan captained the side. Last Saturday in Athenry a new generation of heroes bridged a fifty-six year gap with a superb display, characterised by a level of passion and panache that Sarsfields simply couldn't match. Some famous names have worn the Liam Mellows jersey down through the years including the Duggan brother, Sean, Jimmy and Paddy "Mogan" Duggan, "Inky" Flaherty, Niall McInerney and Conor O'Donovan but this minor team has carved out their own special place in the history of the Ballyloughane club. The introduction of a fixtures calendar next year will hopefully ensure that this is the last time that a minor final will have to be played two days before the start of December. Conditions in Athenry were far from perfect but there is no doubt that the heavy underfoot conditions suited Mellows more than Sarsfields, with the city team enjoying a physical advantage in almost every position.

While Mellows brawn and bravery were two important assets, Seanie O'Brien's charges also played the game at a fierce pace and displayed impressive skill levels and a great willingness to work for each other. Sarsfields had caused one of the biggest shocks of the championship in recent years when they knocked out a strong Craughwell side in the semi final but despite a promising start to this game, they rarely matched Mellows hunger and sheer will to win. Nevertheless, it was an absorbing contest with some intriguing individual battles. Kerril Wade scored 3-6 of Sarsfields' total against Craughwell

but he was well contained in the first-half by Mellows' outstanding right-half back John Hughes and was forced to switch into full-forward where he got little change out of Shane Vaughan.

Mellow's captain Aonghus Callanan was a little quieter than usual but that was largely down to a great display by Sarsfields' full-back Kevin Hynes. In the end though Mellows had more quality from one to fifteen with Brian Leen, John Lee, Brian Howley, Emelyn Coyne, Martin Fahy, Kenneth Walsh and Michael Costello also making huge contributions to the cause. Mellows started the game nervously and Sarsfields took advantage to race into a two point lead within the opening minute. Kerril Wade pointed a free with less than 30 seconds gone and Sean Kelly fired over a fine point from play following good work by Noel Kelly. Mellows needed a score to settle them down and Conor Hynes provided it when he was set up by Kenneth Walsh. Mellows slowly started to get on top with the half-back line and John Hughes, in particular, outstanding and Michael Costello and Kenneth Walsh picking up a lot of breaks around the middle of the field. Dara Lundy might have given Mellows an early goal but his first time effort was cleared for a '65. The resultant '65 by Hughes was cleared out to the wing and Emelyn Coyne was quickest to react and he fired over a great point from a difficult angle.

A well-struck free from the sideline by Kerril Wade edged Sarsfields back in front with 12 minutes gone by they didn't score again until the 29th minute as Mellows took complete control. Their period of dominance was sparked off by the opening goal of the game when Aonghus Callanan dropped a free in front of the goal and Kenneth Walsh connected perfectly with an overhead pull to rattle that back of the net. Callanan showed his class when he escaped the clutches of two Sarsfields' defenders near the endline before he was dragged down for a free, which he converted himself. Mellows' second goal came on 23 minutes and it was a memorable move started in their own half by some great defending by John Hughes. Hughes transferred to Keith Conlon who played a good ball into Conor Hynes and his quick hand pass into Martin Fahy gave the half-forward the space to bear down on goal before unleashing an unstoppable shot from just outside the 20 metre line.

Callanan added another free before Kerril Wade wrapped up the first-half with a pointed free following good work in the corner by Sarsfields' liveliest forward, Brian Quinn, to leave Mellows leading by 2-4 to 0-4. Sarsfields needed some early scores to get back into the game but despite putting the Mellows' full-back line under some serious pressure, their only reward was a good effort from play by Sean Kelly. Callanan responded for Mellows with a fine score from the left wing before John Hughes struck over the point of the game from just outside the '65, a point worthy of winning any game. Sarsfields kept plugging away but Mellow' defence held firm until midway through the second half when Wade beat two men with a Broderick style flick and when he was dragged down in front of the goal, he fired the resultant free to the back to the net.

Substitute Ian Skehill showed great persistence to kick over a point from 20 metres out but it was too little, too late for "Hopper" McGrath's side and three Callanan frees in the closing ten minutes sealed a memorable victory for Mellows. Of Mellows' starting fifteen only Shane Vaughan, Aonghus Callanan and Dara Lundy are ineligible for minor next year and although Galway hurling is well used to underage potential going unfulfilled, if this side can stay together there could be a lot more silverware to come.

**Liam Mellows:** M. Hughes; F. Callanan; S. Vaughan; B. Leen; J. Hughes (0-1); J. Lee; B. Howley; E. Coyne (0-1); K. Conlon; M. Fahy (1-0); K. Walsh (1-0); M. Costello; C. Hynes (0-1); A. Callanan (0-6, 0-5 frees); D. Lundy.

**Subs:** P. Duffy for Lundy (36 mins), C. Arrigan for Conlon (50 mins).

**Sarsfields:** F. Hynes; K. Ward; k. Hynes; T. Murray; T. Earls; D. Earls; E. Cleary; K. Dolan; M. Scully; S. Kelly (0-2); C. Kelly, K. Wade (1-4, all frees); B. Quinn; S. Spellman; N. Kelly.

**Subs:** I. Skehill (0-1) for Quinn (40 mins).

**Referee:** Sean Moran (Abbey)

Also in **2003** Mellows under 13 team powered their way to the final of the B City League with some great displays. In the group games they had wins over Micheal Breathnachs, Rahoon/Newcastle, Oranmore/Maree and Moycullen to top the group and book a place in the final against Micheal Breathnachs.



***2003: Under 13B City League Winners Defeated Micheal Breathnachs in the Final***

**Back Row, L to R:** Paul Mitchell, Conor Conway, Theo McCoy, John Flaherty, Daryl Hanley, Shane Minton, Kevin Coen, Brian Shields, Robert Heaney, David Badger, Michael Elwood, Sean Gilchrist & David Collins.

**Front Row, L to R:** John Murray, Declan Forde, Gerry Cleary, P.J. Coen, Niall Donoghue, David O'Connor, Alan Clancy, Rian Mangan, Kevin Sinnott, Colin Morley, Darragh Kerrigan & Micheal Forde.

## **Match Report**

**Liam Mellows: 3-11**

**Micheal Breathnachs: 0-0**

The final played in Moycullen on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> on September was a rather one-sided affair with Micheal Breathnachs starting well but unable to break down a well organised defence. Gradually Mellows began to get going and with the forwards finding the target on a regular basis the game was all but over at half time with Mellows leading by **3-6 to 0-0**.

Mellows played some good hurling in the second half and with most of the subs getting a run the game finished on a score line of **3-11 to 0-0**. Afterwards Brid Noone presented the cup to Shane Minton the Mellows captain.

In **2003** also the Under 14 team got a bye into the Semi-Finals of the Shield Competition, where they met Abbeyknockmoy in Carnmore. In what turned out to be a hard physical battle, Mellows were lucky to emerge with a win on a score line of 1-05 to 0-03. A goal by Caomhain Folan in the last few minutes of the first half and late points from Mike Elwood & Ronan O'Halloran sealed a deserved victory to book a place in the final against Moycullen.



***Liam Mellows 2003 Under 14 Panel Celebrate their Victory in the Shield Final.***

**Back Row, L to R:** Conor Stitt, Robert Heaney, John Flaherty, Martin Larkin, Kevin Coen, Rory Riddell, Daryl Hanley, Brian Shields, Rian Mangan, Gregory Martin, Aron Noone, Robbie Curley, Caomhain Folan, Michael Elwood, P.J. Coen, Ronan O'Hallaran.

**Front Row, L to R:** Sean Gilchrist, Kevin Sinnott, Declan Forde, Darragh Kerrigan, Micheal Forde, Shane Minton, Kevin Glynn, Niall Kerrigan Captain, John Murray, Alan Clancy & David Badger. Not in Photo Theo McCoy

**Shield Final Match Report**

**Liam Mellows 4-04**  
**Moycullen 2-04**

The final played out in Moycullen on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October was an excellent game played in perfect conditions for the time of year.

The victory was hard earned, as despite a whirlwind start by Mellows, during which they scored three goals, they had to withstand a great Moycullen rally in the second half. Kevin Glynn was sound in goal for Mellows, fronted by a solid full back line of Martin Larkin, Daryl Hanley and the ever-improving David Badger. Robbie Curley had a stormer at centre-back flanked by two fine wingbacks in Sean Gilchrist and Robert Heaney. Midfielders Niall Kerrigan and Brian Shields gave a great supply of ball to a rampant forward line where Gregory Martin, Michael Elwood and Shane Minton did some great grafting.

The inside line of Caomhain Folan, P.J. Coen and Daragh Kerrigan, who set up his brother Niall for the clincher, were also in fine form. Mellows subs Ronan O'Halloran and Rian Mangan also played their part in a fine victory. Well done also to co-trainers Paul Mitchell and David Collins who turned out a fine squad on the day and to Jim Bishop who refereed the game in an excellent manner.

The under 10 team were very unlucky to lose out to Ragoon/Newcastle in the final of the Barna/Furbo under 10 tournament, after some great displays on their way to the final.

*In 2004*, Mellows U-12 team was unlucky not to bring further glory to the club when they lost out to Ahascragh/Fohenagh in the A championship final after a replay by 1-04 to 2-03. Mellows were in control of the replay leading by 4 points early in the second but Ahascragh/Fohenagh finished the stronger to take the trophy.



*The Liam Mellows Under 12 Panel that lost the County Championship Final.....Replay*

**Back, L to R:** Luke Williams, Iarla Burke, Colm Leen, David Gardiner, Michael Williams, Danny Breen, Ricky Elwood, Barry Murphy, Aodán Glynn, Harry Goulding, Óisín Tierney, Seán Sylver, John Elwood, Shane Elwood, Killian Browne, Evan Tierney.

**Front Row, L to R:** Kieran Reilly, Dean Bruen, David Heaney, Adrian Morrissey, Brian O'Reilly, Arron McGinty, Sean Morrissey, Declan Forde, John O'Halloran, Andrew Foy, Thomas Mitchell, Conor Tierney, Colm Minton, James Fahy.

## **2004 Under 12A Championship Final**

Played at Loughrea on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Mellows 0-07**

**Ahascragh/Fohenagh 1-04**

Liam Mellows Under 12's lived to fight another day when they held out for a draw in this exciting Under-12 Final. The city side started well and went three points up in the first ten minutes. In one of their rare attacks, Ahascragh/Fohenagh pulled back a point but a quick reply by Mellows saw them lead by 0-5 to 0-1. The East Board side was still dangerous when they got the ball into their full forward who brought them back into the game with an excellent goal shortly before half-time. The sides were level at half-time. Mellows 0-5, Ahascragh 1-2.

The second half was fought at a furious pace with both sets of defenders on top and scores very hard to come by. Two points half-way through the second period edged Mellows in front, but a pointed free for Ahascragh left only the minimum between the two sides. Two close in frees gave the

East Board side a chance to win the game but they failed to score from either. However, with only a few minutes to go, they shot the equaliser from a free. Just on full time, Mellows had a chance to snatch victory when a great shot from their corner forward was excellently saved by the Ahascragh goalie. The final whistle sounded with both teams locked together, with a draw being a fair result, as neither side deserved to lose such a close game.

Well done to all our players who hopefully will up the tempo for the replay and bring the trophy to the city. A word of thanks to the trainers and mentors who have given so much of their time to prepare this team, Jimmy and Niall Elwood, Mike Forde and Martin Tierney.

## **2004 Under 12A Championship Final....Replay**

**Mellows 1-04**

**Ahascragh/Fohenagh 2-03**

Ahascragh/Fohenagh came out on top in this replayed Final played in Kilconeiron on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> of August. The East Board side were stronger than Mellows and put in a great finish to forge ahead in the last ten minutes. There has to be a doubt, however, about their second goal which could easily have been disallowed as a square ball, but neither the referee nor the umpires took any notice, with the score standing, and Mellows' hopes dashed.

Having said that, however, on the overall play, Ahascragh/Fohenagh deserved their win. The East Board side was first to score but Aron McGinty, with a lovely point for Mellows, brought the sides level. A pointed free for Ahascragh/Fohenagh was cancelled out when Declan Forde pointed a free for Mellows. Five minutes later came the best score of the game, when Oisín Tierney first-timed a bullet to the roof of the net to put Mellows in front. A point for the East Board side, also from a free, left Mellows ahead by two points at half-time.

Mellows had a great start to the second half with two points, one from Declan Forde and another from star midfielder, Danny Breen, giving them a four-point lead. Ahascragh/Fohenagh began to get back on top at this stage, but a series of top-drawer saves by stand-in goalie, Barry Murphy (deputising for the injured Ricky Elwood), kept Mellows in the game. He was eventually beaten by a kicked goal by the Ahascragh full-forward, to leave only a point between them, and a few minutes later, came the dodgy goal that gave Ahascragh/Fohenagh the two-point lead which they held to the finish, despite huge pressure by Mellows with two goal attempts from frees proving fruitless.

Brian O'Reilly, gave great assistance to Danny Breen at midfield. Seán Morrissey at centre-back was excellent, with his wing men, David Heaney and the brilliant John O'Halloran, clearing a huge amount of ball under intense pressure. The full-back line of Tom Mitchell, Seán Sylver and Andrew Foy, played their hearts out. The forward line, who lacked a bit of pace, never gave up, with David Gardiner, Luke Williams and Oisín Tierney in the thick of the fray, and the inside line of Aron McGinty, Declan Forde and Dean Bruen, also doing their stuff.

The second under 12 team were beaten by Sylane in the semi-final of that under 12 competition.

Also in **2004** a fine under 15 team was narrowly defeated by Micheál Breathnachs in the City League final. Mellows made a slow start to the game and were three goals behind before they began to play like they can. They produced a great second half but time ran out on them leaving Breathnachs the victors by two points.



***The Under 15 Team that Played Carnmore in the 2004 City League Semi-Final.***

**Back Row, L to R:** Paul Mitchell, Conor Stitt, Martin Larkin, Daryl Hanley, Shane Minton, Michael Elwood, Gregory Martin (Capt.), Robert Heaney, Bernard Fahy, Niall Kerrigan

**Front Row, L to R:** Ronan O'Hallaran, Darragh Kerrigan, Sean Gilchrist, Gerry Cleary, Micheal Forde, Theo McCoy, Brian Shields, David Badger, Kevin Glynn, Rian Mangan.

The under 10 team was again unlucky to lose out to Turloughmore in the final of the Barna/Furbo tournament for the second year in a row after a great contest where they had most of the play but failed to convert it into scores.



***2004 Under 10 Team that Lost to Turloughmore in the Barna/Furbo Tournament Final.***

**Back row: L-R:** Audrey Reilly, Alan Fallon, Gary Walsh.

**Middle Row L-R:** Seosamh Fallon, Daniel Kerr, Donna Crean, Stephen Collins, Harry Goulding, Jack Hastings, Kevin Lee, Arron Kennedy, Thomas Ward, Robert Gardiner, Adrian Morrissey, Colin McDonagh, Adrian Hardiman, Stephen Collins, Conor McDonnell, Eoghan Croker.

**Front row L-R:** Michael Conneely, Darren Crean, Ronan Elwood, Enda Fallon, Cathal Reilly, David Doyle, Kevin McDonnell, Jake Gallagher, Mark Slattery, Rebecca Palmer, Garron Byrnes, Sean Doyle.

Those defeats were some of the many finals that the Juvenile Club lost in 2004. But in the second last Sunday of the year the Minor team captured the 'A' City League Trophy for the second year in a row when they beat Castlegar by 10 points at Ballyloughane.



***2004: Minor A City League Winners Defeated Castlegar in the Final***

**Back Row L to R:** *Kevin Lee, Pat Hughes, Jeff Lynskey, John Hughes, Bernard Fahy, Emilyn Coyne, Brian Howley, Martin Fahy, Terence Grogan ACC Bank, John Lee, James Campbell, Conor Hynes, Brian Lee, Tom Curran CITY LEAGUE, Paddy Diviney.*

**Front Row L to R:** *Barry Kerrigan, Seanie O'Brien, Michael Costello, Paul Duffy, Eanna Mannion, Keith Conlon, Mike Hughes, Kenneth Walsh, Brian Leen, Fiachra Callanan, Dara Frain.*

**Minor Final Match Report**

Played at Ballyloughane on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2004

**Mellows 1-16**  
**Castlegar 2-04**

Mellows, having lost out to Castlegar earlier in the year in the championship turned in a powerful performance to see off the stiff challenge of their City rivals in what was a great game of hurling for late December. There were fine performances all over the field for Mellows, from Mike Hughes in goal to Bernard Fahy the Mellows goal scorer at corner forward, but man-of-the-match went to Brian Howley who turned in a great display at wing back.

Afterwards Tom Curran Chairman of the City League and Terence Grogan ACC Bank presented the trophy to John Lee the outstanding Mellows Captain.

*In 2005*, our under 14 team lost to Oranmore/Maree in the semi-final of the A competition in a low-scoring game of 2-2 to 1-1 while our under 12 A team were beaten by Clarenbridge in the City League semi-final.

Our under 12 second string after a series of wins have reached the Final of the 'C' City League. They played and won five games to get to the semi-final stage beating Ragoon/Newcastle, Spiddal, Renmore, Oranmore/Maree and Clarenbridge. They clashed with Spiddal again in the semi-final and after a thrilling game, which went to extra-time, a last-minute goal for Mellows gave them a great victory and a place in the final against Sylane



***2005: Under 12C City League Finalists to be Played v Sylane***

**Back Row, L to R:** Colin McDonagh, Shane Elwood, Adrian Morrissey (Capt), Kevin Lee, Michael Conneely, Ronan Elwood, Seosamh Fallon, Conor McDonnell, Nigel Sheilds, Michael Williams.

**Front Row, L to R:** Daniel Kerr, Eoghan Croker, Gareth Hughes, Enda Fallon, Cathal Reilly, Jack Hastings, Kevin McDonnell, Gareth Byrnes, Keith Fallon.

**Managers:** Audrey Reilly, Gary Walsh, Dave Hughes.

The club's activities were not confined to County Galway. In 1991 Mellows was invited to Cork by Brian Dillons club to take part in a four team u14 tournament which included two Cork teams and Eire Óg (Ennis) and this Sonny Donovan trophy is held every year since in alternating venues - Cork, Clare and Galway. Mellow has won the trophy on three occasions since it commenced. Brian Dillons are the present holders, having beaten Mellows in last year's final played in Mellows' pitch.

Also in 1991 an under 10 Blitz was held in Pearse Stadium with all the city winners of their group with the following panel:- Sean McDonagh, Simon Langan, Seamus Kerrigan, Ciaran Hynes, Seamus Rabbitte, Shane Rafferty, Brian Sammon, Nicholas Lawless, Quentin Tierney, John Cameron, Peter Daly, Johnathon Kelly, Eamon Breen and Declan O'Brien.



***1991 Under 10's Blitz Winners City League***

**Back Row L to R:** Pat O'Brien, Seán McDonagh, Simon Langan, Seamus Kerrigan, Ciarán Hynes, Séamie Rabbitte, Shane Rafferty, Brian Sammon, Magdalen Breen.

**Front Row L to R:** Nicholas Lawless, Quentin Tierney, Seán Cameron, Peter Daly, Jonathon Kelly, Éamon Breen, Damien, O'Brien.



***The 1991 Under 14 Panel that Played in the Brian Dillon's Tournament in Cork***



*The 2004 Under 14 Panel that Lost the Final to Brian Dillon's in the Brian Dillon's Tournament. The Final was Played in Ballyloughane.*

**Back Row, L to R:** Darragh Kerrigan, Michael Elwood, Daryl Hanley, Brian Shields, Micheal Forde, Robert Heaney, David Badger, Theo McCoy, Conor Stitt, Conor Conway, Shane Minton,  
**Front Row, L to R:** John Murray, Sean Gilchrist, Alan Clancy, Declan Forde, Sean Morrissey, Danny Breen, Rian Mangan, Niall Donoghue, Gerry Cleary, Kevin Glynn, Brian O'Reilly.

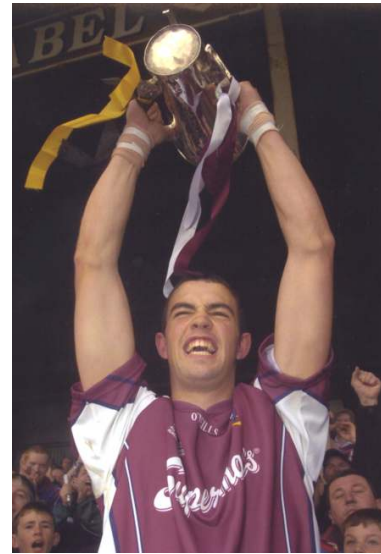
The U 10 team has also taken part in outside competitions, most notably the Nesson Tournament in Limerick and was narrowly defeated in a great final against Abbeyside of Waterford in 1996 when over 40 teams competed.

The U-14 team competed in two Féile na nGael competitions in 1992 and 1993 when they hosted Michael Dwyers of Wicklow in 1992 and Portumna in 1993.



*1992 Féile na nGael in Athenry; Mellows Under 14 Players & Officials with the Team they hosted Michael Dwyers of Wicklow*

## All-Ireland Winning Captains



*The club has had the privilege of providing two All-Ireland winning captains.*

**Conor O'Donovan** was first when he laid Galway to victory over Waterford in the 1992 Minor Final. Conor lined out at Centre Half-Back and had an outstanding game. *"Everything seemed to go right for me and the rest of the lads on the day. When you are playing at No 6 and you have wing backs as good as Nigel Shaughnessy, Michael Donoghue, as well as Shane Walsh and Frank Forde in midfield, it makes your game easier."*

**John Lee** also played at Centre Half-Back on the 2004 Minor Team that had a trilling 0-16 to 1-12 victory over Kilkenny in the Re-Play at Tullamore, after the first game had finished level at Croke Park on a score line of Galway 3-12 to 1-18 for Kilkenny. Irish Examiner *"Galway won because they displayed the greater desire, had a couple of outstanding players and a first-class free-taker in Kerril Wade, who finished the match with seven points, six of them from frees. Once again Galway owed much to their outstanding defence, in which full-back Gerard Mahon, centre-back and captain John Lee and wing-back John Hughes were absolutely superb."*

### Camogie Club

The club is now in the early stages of forming a Camogie Club and a group of ladies have come together to put the wheels in motion. They hope to have an under 10 and an under 12 team entered for the competitions in 2006.

### Sponsors

Finally, we are grateful to our sponsors during the years, particularly John Hardiman of United Beverages, Mike Burke of Burkeway Construction and Felim McDonnell and Margaret Cox of I.C.E. for their contributions to the club. It is much appreciated.