



Web Archive Document

Victory Ceili & Presentation

[WWW.KILLOEGAA.IE](http://WWW.KILLOEGAA.IE)

**The following is a report on the Killoe victory ceili and presentation held in Esker Hall on 29th December 1960, which appeared on the front page of the Longford Leader the following week.**

Killoes hour of Glory

The sixty stirring minutes when, after more than forty years of striving, the parish fifteen won the senior championship was marked by a victory ceili and presentation of the premier award - The Sean Connolly Cup and medals in Esker Hall on Thursday the 27th of December 1960.

Guests of honour at the function, which drew a capacity attendance, were of course the men who had succeeded where other Killoe teams failed. This was the parish's first senior title since 1915.

Other guests included Rev. M. Egan, C.C., President of the club; Mr. L. O h-Oistin, Chairman of the Longford County Board, Mr. M. Fox, County Board Secretary, and Mr. James McGuire, Vice- Chairman of the County Board and Killoe native.

It is fitting that the first name being inscribed on the magnificent new trophy should be that of Killoe Emmets, as Sean Connolly was born and learned to love things Irish not far from the parish of Killoe. Matt Fox told the gathering of another coincidence. Of all the athletes that graced the playing fields in the early part of the century, the one most admired by Sean Connolly was the inimitable Rabbit Morgan, father of Billy Morgan who led the present Killoe team to this momentous victory.

Rev. M. Egan, C.C., who presented the trophy and medals made the following speech...

*Chairde Gaedhil - Ni feidir bheith nios glegeal brodach na ataimidne anseo anocht. Agus cad chuige nach mbeimid? Agus craobh pheile sinsear ar gContae fein sa mhala againn! Le leaththead bliain anuas d'fhear peileadoiri an pharoiste seo catha glana cothroma chun an duais seo, na bonnai seo, a bhuachan, ach go dti seo nior thig leo. De bhri sin is milse go mor duinne bheith anseo anocht le haghaidh an nidh a sciobadh as ar ngreim aris is aris. Gabhaim fionn chomhghairdeachas leis an gcaptaen (Liam O'Morgain), an fhoireann a stiuir se agus le cach a chabhraigh linn bheith anseo anocht le glionndar croi orainn*

Ladies and those who came with you... A year ago I said, from this stage that I was glad for the honour of our club that we had won the Leader Cup of 1959 and how pleasurable was my task of then distributing the medals to the victors. Much greater, indeed, is the honour and pleasure which is ours tonight, and after 45 years the mantle of county honour has again fallen on the broad and manly shoulders of the footballers of Killoe. And how appropriate it is that the immortal name of one of our patriots should be inscribed on this trophy, which we, next-door neighbours of the valiant Sean Connolly, have annexed for the first time.

May God reward the men of the Sean Connolly stamp who made possible competitions such as the one we have just won. Let us never forget the supreme sacrifice made by those of our race who were determined that freedom should not vanish from this earth.

Our club has had a good year and we all have enjoyed it. Games such as the ones we won and lost bring out all the manliest qualities: pluck, endurance, patience, steadiness and obedience are all required when men are honoured among their parish or county fifteen. If obedience is the first duty of the soldier, it is not less a very important duty of the members of a Gaelic football team, Selfishness must be entirely set-aside in football. The Captain is responsible and until he be declared unfitted he should be obeyed by all playing members and respected by all spectators.

There is no fear that our captain shall not be obeyed and respected for if ever natures gentleman were wrapped up in a glorious footballer, a true sport, an eminent leader and an inspiring example to old and young, then that beloved person is Billy Morgan. This harmonious working is the secret of success and be a steady continuance in such a course with plenty of practice and goodwill, no team, however raw at first, need despair of winning its way.

I am glad to see that our manly national game still keeps its hold upon the country. I don not think that Gaelic football was ever more popular and it is gratifying for me to be able to tell you that our kindred beyond the seas have such a relish for the old Irish sport and are keen that matches between Ireland and her exiled sons should continue and prosper.

One item among many, might with profit, bear stressing on an important occasion like this; it is: Especially must men learn to take defeat in as sportsmanlike a spirit as victory, for both are equal tests of character and to adopt a rational, a charitable, attitude towards that much maligned mass of martyrs who as voluntary experts, control our games as referees. Surely any civilized community should respect those men and stern action should be taken against any intimidation or interference by anyone on these dedicated officials.

Finally I thank Captain, team and supporters for making this night possible for us. Without loyal supporters a team cannot go far. A mans pocket is often the measure of his true devotion to a cause: talk is cheap! I shall therefore remember my own advice as well as that of the Japanese philosopher who said: If you want to be seen stand up, if you want to be heard speak up, if you want to be appreciated shut up.

Mr. O hOistin congratulated Killoe on their fine win and said their football sportsmanship and obvious physical fitness were an example to the rest of the county. Father Egan an Offalyman, probably hoped that Offaly would win the Leinster Championship in the coming year. I hope that Billy Morgan will lead Longford to that championship title he said. Mr. Matt Fox also spoke. Billy

Morgan, Captain of the team, replying thanked the officials of the county board who had attended the function. He paid tribute to their loyal followers who had supported them in every way down through the years. He complimented the teams beaten by Killoe during the championship campaign and said he hoped that they too would one day have their names inscribed on the magnificent trophy. In closing he wished all present a Happy New Year. Mr. Tom McGoldrick, Chairman of the Club, presided and introduced the speakers.

The following received Senior Championship medals:

B. Morgan, M. Bracken, G. Doherty, S. McGoey, J. Toher, L. Quinn, J. Hagan, J. Bracken, V. Duignan, S. Igoe, S. McGoldrick, T. McGoldrick, S. McGuire, D. Sheeran, J. Quinn, J. Columb, M. Hehir, G. Kiernan, J. Clarke, B. OHara, J. OHara, T. OLeary, E. Quinn, T. Bracken, J. Mahon.