



A History of Tempo Maguires



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Dedicated to those who devoted
their time, energy and talent
to the birth and growth of the G.A.A. tradition
in the Parish of Pobal

"For The Honour Of The Little Parish"

Editor : **Damian Mac Cathmhaoil**

Foreword

This history is dedicated to all those, who from the earliest days have devoted their time and effort to the growth and well being of Tempo Maguires.

In writing this history I was aware that a tremendous amount of work has been done by so many unsung people throughout the decades. Their efforts seldom achieved publicity.

Because of that, the policy has been, in the main, to concentrate on the club's development in overall, general terms, and to avoid isolating individual contributions, regardless of how crucial or long serving they have been.

Yet hopefully it will not be taken amiss, if some names from the past, and indeed the present, are specifically mentioned in this foreword.

People such as Arthur Fee and James Murphy in the opening decade of the century who sowed the initial seeds.

Men such as Frank Rice in the late 1920's, Paddy McCarey, Eddie Kelly, Tom Campbell, Tom Fee, Fr. Bannon among others in the 1930's. Paddy McCarey, the Monaghan born schoolteacher in fact had a lengthy association with the club that continued through the 1940's and 1950's.

Tommy McNally was another who gave long standing and stalwart service both as a player and administrator

as did Tommy Doherty and Jim Breen. In truth the list of names could extend on and on.

As indeed could the list of families who have featured prominently in the growth of the Maguires. Families such as the Cassidys, Breens, McGrenaghans, Campbells, Dohertys, McNallys and McCaffreys, among so many others.

Just a few of the many and this history could not have been written but for the labour of everyone associated with the club.

The work has taken longer than anticipated, the delay being entirely the fault of the compiler himself. There have been too many promises made the the clubs Annual General Meetings. This year's simply had to be kept.

I take this opportunity to thank the club for their patience. To thank Michael Breslin of the Fermanagh Herald for his unfailing courtesy and assistance, the Herald group itself for access to their files, the source of a vast amount of essential material.

Special thanks to all those individuals who assisted in anyway, with personal memories, supply of photographs etc.

I have enjoyed the research and the subsequent writing. I hope you have equal enjoyment in your reading.

Is Mise
Damian Mac Cathmhaoil

JAMES MURPHY

James' home in Bigh was renowned throughout the countryside in the earlier half of this century as a place where "the crack" was mighty.

It was also a place where Gaelic culture was held in the highest regard and Murphy's "Hurling Field" was the first home of Gaelic sport in the parish.



McGrenaghans Hill : home of the Maguires on and off through the 1920's to 1940's

Club Chairman - Hugh Foy

For the last three years I have been honoured with the chairmanship of Tempo Maguires G.F.C. As an added bonus during that period a lot of research has been done into club activities over the last forty plus years, as the book will clearly illustrate in more detail. The club like many others has had its days of glory also other days when hopes were dashed. Through to the spirit of the Gaelic Athletic Association as a new year dawned with hopes to rectify previous mistakes with a whole hearted display on the playing field.

To those players who gave such sterling service and are gone to their eternal reward we cherish their memory. To those who are still with us who have in previous years served as officers of the club we say "well done". through your untiring efforts Tempo Maguires are still a stronghold of the G.A.A. in Fermanagh. The club at the moment are represented at all grades from under 12 to Senior level which looks good for the future.

Success on the playing field came with the winning of the Junior Championship in 1949 and a further Junior success in 1957 and a Senior League in 1961.

In 1970 years of frustration were broken when the Maguires won their first Senior Championship with further successes in 1972 and 1973 and also three Senior League Titles, along with numerous tournaments in Fermanagh and Tyrone.

The present playing field at Edenmore was officially opened in 1957. Since then a number of major improvements have been carried out including resurfacing, drainage and fencing of the playing area. The latest addition being the erection of a pavilion with modern facilities. These improvements bring our grounds into line with present standards in the county. Previous to this, games were played at Brackens Holm in Coolcran, and at McGrenaghan's and McCaffrey's field in Tattenweir.

Finally my own personal message to your youth, today's facilities to players of a few decades ago were only a dream thankfully that dream is now a reality. You have inherited a rich legacy, do not waste it.

Play the game for the love of it, winning trophies is very pleasing but in later life they may be destined to some obscure place in the household. friendship made in a fair and sporting combat will last throughout life.

The Early Days

The early years of the new century saw Association Football still holding a leading place in the sporting life of the Tempo area and a fairly well organised soccer team was in existence, competing on a regular basis in a league competition that attracted participants from a number of neighbouring counties. Parish Sports days were an important feature of the annual social calendar and these comprised of a variety of athletic and equine events, plus football. Tempo Sports held in April 1904 had a match between Ballyconnell Hibernians and Tempo All Stars which the latter won 1.0. The Tempo All Star lineout was : J. Donnelly, W. Moore, F. Murphy, P. Donnolly, W. McMullan, S. W. Reid, W. Little, P. Murphy, R. Howe, F. Drumm and P. Jackson.

A Tempo United team was also in action, in all probability, some of the above players appeared for them also.

On the Gaelic front however the first stirrings were being made. After an initial flurry in the previous century, activity in the county had died down and no Fermanagh clubs were affiliated from the early 1890's to the turn of the century. But then, as Gabriel Brock in his excellent history of the G.A.A. in Fermanagh notes, "the Gaelic revival spread through the county and caught the imagination of the native Irish, who responded to the call of various bodies set up to foster a distinctive Irish way of life".

In 1902, as Mr Brock reports, the St. Molaise Juvenile Branch of the I.N.F. decided to form a G.A.A. hurling club and in 1903 Enniskillen O'Neills was formed. The process speeded up the following year with Ashwoods Maguires making their first appearance on the hurling field followed by Coa O'Dwyers.

The name of Arthur Fee is mentioned in newspaper reports in connection with the formation of Ashwoods Maguires and Arthur was to play an increasingly important role in the early development of the G.A.A. in the county and in Tempo



Arthur Fee : Helped to begin it all in the opening years of the Century. A visionary for the G.A.A. not only in Tempo, but also in Fermanagh

By the month of July 1904, the level of activity was picking up increasing momentum. A County Committee was formed at a meeting held in Enniskillen and again quoting Mr Brock, "this formation of the new board gave added impetus to Gaelic Games. For the first time, competitions on an organised basis were held in the county".

There was a claim in fact in the G.A.A. notes in the Herald that Tempo was already in the fray. A trifle premature perhaps, for a short period later a Fermanagh letter writer living in Scotland appealed through the Herald columns, "To Mr D. Flanagan and Mr M. McNeeley to call a meeting of the young men around Tempo. There was a time when Tempo would, "have been first in the field", when anything of the kind be required, regarding old Irish games and customs. I trust that the old spirit is not dead but only slumbering and it only requires a little spark to kindle it into flame once more".

Soccer still held sway however, at least for the moment, with the Freebooters competing in the league. They were having indifferent success however and had their share of controversy. One such incident being in February 1905 when they played Enniskillen Celtic. They were losing this game, six goals to one, and walked off the field in protest at the sixth goal being allowed to stand.

By 1906 the G.A.A. moved onto a stronger footing and the Convention in April of that year saw a number of new clubs registered of which Tempo Eire Ogs were one. Club representatives were listed as J. J. Kiernan and A. Fee.

In an effort to publicise the game a Committee was set up to organise exhibition matches in areas of the county which had not teams as yet and to this end a hurling festival was organised for Tempo on June 14th. The County Board was optimistic of a break-through reporting that a "hurling team has been started in Tempo. Officers and energetic committee have been appointed and I have no doubt that the undertaking will be a splendid success. I am informed that they have entered for the 1906 competitions and are in strong hopes of coming out well. That you may be successful boys!".

Thursday June 14th was the feast of Corpus Christi and a memorable day it turned out to be. The Herald reported that the streets of the village were densely packed for the forenoon. Hurlers were marshalled at the Gaelic League rooms and the parade was led by St. Patricks Brass Band, Irvinestown. The hurlers marched with their camans over their shoulders as the parade moved to the ground, owned by John Murphy of Beagh.

Players from several neighbouring areas took part, St. Molaise Irvinestown, Tummery, Coa, Ashwoods and O'Neills playing under the banners of Irvinestown and Enniskillen, the former winning the game by 24 points to 12 points.

Local organisers of the day were Messrs Keenan and Kerrin, among others of course, and at the end of it all it was claimed that the club now had a membership of 50 strong.



Author standing in Murphys Field, Beigh. Known as "the Hurling field", this was the venue for the 1907 Fermanagh Hurling Championship Final played on Sunday January 26th. The field is essentially unchanged since those far off days when Tempo Eire Ogs were founded.

James Murphy of Beagh deserves a mention at this stage for he provided invaluable assistance in these early years, his premises were regularly used for ceillis and concerts, one of his fields providing the first playing arena and overall he was a stalwart workman steeped in the ideals of the nation.

Following hard on this June 14th success came an Irish Ireland Day on June 28th. This concentrated mostly on singing, music, and dancing, a lengthy three hour programme on a stage erected behind the town school. But hurling also had its part to play with a friendly game being played early in the day and on this occasion players from Tempo took part.

Activity slackened off for the remainder of the summer but the arrival of autumn renewed enterprise. A concerted Irish Ireland movement was in full swing, leading local figures being Fathers Maguires and Connolly and it was reported that a hurling and a football team were in operation. Enniskillen O'Neills travelled to Tempo in September for a game held in Murphys field. There was great encouragement from the display the Tempo team put in, "for despite being a new team, the Tempo boys showed up very well. Of course Keenan is no novice at the game, neither is Fee, but the others also did really well".

O'Neills did not have their full complement of players and they had to bow the knee on a score of 2.3 to 1.4. A football match followed, mostly the same players and this ended in a draw at six points each.

Enthusiasm was now blossoming and a meeting held later in the month decided to affiliate the club and to compete in the football competition to be held in the upcoming winter.

According to Mr Brock, among the founding members of the club were : F. Kiernan, P. Murphy, J. Bannon, P. Gallagher, M. McCarney, A. Fee, J. Slevin and J. Grey. Arthur Fee was at this stage also involved in refereeing taking charge of the semi-final of the hurling championship at Killymore.

In November, Red Hands (Lisbellaw) played Tempo at Beagh winning on a scoreline of 8 points to 7 points and among the players noted for Tempo were, Keenan, Doogan, Maguire and Murphy. Unfortunately the reports of this era were skimpy and a wealth of detail, which would be of great history today is omitted.

At the December County Board meeting, the club was represented by Arthur Fee and Jas Murphy and the former took pleasure in informing the Board that the young ladies of the area had decided to present a cup for competition among local clubs. The Board readily granted permission for a competition to be organised and this was to be on a league basis.

The New Year was to see a special milestone in the history of the fledging club as their ground at Beagh was selected as the venue for the Hurling championship final on January 26th, 1907. Arthur Fee was referee for the premier occasion and the match saw O'Neills emerge comfortable winners over Irvinestown by 16 points to 3 points.

A meeting of the County Board was held after the match in Beagh House and this was followed by a ceili hosted by the Eire Og club in Murphys Hall. Highlight of the evening was a new poem written by Mr Joe Murphy. This was entitled "What should they get in return?" in which Mr Murphy set forth the claims the Tempo Lady Gaels had on the hurlers, after purchasing such a handsome and valuable cup.

Peak Period

Fermanagh hurling was now reaching its peak period, an era unfortunately that was not to last for very long. The 1907 March Convention saw 13 clubs present, A. Fee and J. J. Doogan representing Tempo. Mr Fee was elected secretary of the North Fermanagh Board while Mr Keenan joined the refereeing ranks, one of the games he took charge of being an East versus West challenge game, on St. Patricks Day.

Eire Ogs were still operating on two fronts, hurling and football, but the strain was beginning to tell on their limited resources. The football team did play Red Hands in the Maguire football league but this was probably their last appearance.

A general meeting of the club was held in Murphys in May with J. J. Keenan in the chair. He pointed out the impossibility of fielding in both codes and eventually it was voted to concentrate on hurling. The chairman also pointed out to the players the necessity of attending

regularly at practice, so it seems that the more things change, the more they remain the same!

Other business conducted at the meetings saw J. J. Doogan elected captain of the club, replacing A. Fee who retired because of business pressure. James Murphy (Beagh) was re-elected treasurer, P. J. Halpin vice-captain and Joseph Murphy (Kilnambraher) secretary.

That the club was in fairly good shape is evidenced by the fact that over, "50 strapping youth wielded their home manufactured camans on the field in Beagh". Throughout the summer of 1907 the club played a number of competitive games though they did not enjoy a great deal of success despite the high optimism they had begun with. Perhaps the players neglect of training had a part to play in that!

The Tempo Cup was run on a fairly regular schedule with the team playing, Enniskillen O'Neills, Ashwoods Maguires, Coa O'Dwyers and large crowds attended including, it was alleged, all the Tempo lady Gaels. Coa eventually won the trophy.

For whatever reason the spurt on hurling in the county began to subside. The number of clubs plummeted to four, O'Neills, O'Dwyers, Maguires and Eire Ogs and Eire Ogs were soon to fold also.

The club was represented at the 1908 Convention early in that year but they did not appear for the May County Board meeting, had still not affiliated by July and though Tempo Cup and Hurling championship fixtures were made, there was no Eire Og presence.

In fact the G.A.A. throughout the county had practically gone into stagnation and was to remain in that trough for over a decade. Hurling had more or less disappeared on an organised basis and the G.A.A. was in poor enough shape all round, at club, county and indeed at provincial level.

There was to be no sign of improvement in the situation in the years immediately following the disbandment of the club in early 1908. The appearance of C. Devaney and E. O'Kiernan as club representatives at the December 1907 County Committee was to be the last mention of Tempo as a G.A.A. unit in the local newspaper columns for several years. Right through to 1914 the name of Eire Ogs was unheard of in the limited activity of the G.A.A. inside the county and the onset of the Great War in early autumn of that year turned the attention even more so.

War Years

There is no mention of Tempo Gaelic football in the columns of the local press in the early years of the First World War. Indeed there is practically no G.A.A. material for the county as a whole and other sports codes appeared to be faring little better, at least as far as press publicity was concerned.

The 1916 Rising brought a renewal of nationalist fervour and in response to this the G.A.A. once again to organise on a formal and informal basis.

By the early months of 1917 clubs were on a fairly firm footing in neighbouring Fintona and Trillick and by the

summer of that year a Tempo club had once more got off the ground. A Mid Ulster league had been formed and at a meeting held in the regular venue of Irvinestown on Wednesday August 29th affiliations were handed in by Tempo George Irvines and Devenish.

Other teams competing in this league were ; Omagh O'Neills, Irvinestown St. Molaise, Coa Casements, Kilskeerry McDonaghs, Fintona Pearses, Arney Raparees among others.

The name George Irvines may have had a rather unlikely ring to it in the company of Pearses, McDonaghs, O'Rahillys, Casements etc. George Irvine however had an impeccable nationalist pedigree. Born in Enniskillen, his great grand uncle had been president of the Volunteers who had met in Dungannon in the 1780's to demand an independent Irish Parliament. Irvine had been imbued with that spirit and had been held prisoner after the 1916 Rising. He had addressed a major Sinn Fein meeting and Feis in Tempo that summer the chair being occupied by Thos. McCaffrey, Toneyglaskin.

The lifespan of Tempo Irvines however was to be of comparatively short duration, activity being more or less confined to the months that stretched through the autumn of 1917 into the early days of 1918. Newspaper coverage of Mid Ulster league activities was rather sketchy but Tempo certainly played some games. One of these saw the visit of Omagh O'Neills to Tempo. A brief match report said that a fair attendance was present that October day with Tempo getting an early point from Cassidy only to lose eventually 1.4 to 0.1.

From the viewpoint of the present day the more unfortunate aspect of it is that the Omagh lineout is given while no Tempo members are named with the exception of scorer Cassidy.

Omagh had apparently the best team in the competition, they went on to win the section and to then beat Section A winners Enniskillen McDermotts in the final at Enniskillen on January 6th.

The Mid Ulster league held its Annual General Meeting in May 1918 and Fr. Cullinane C.C. Tempo is named as a trustee but the name Tempo Irvines doesn't surface again.

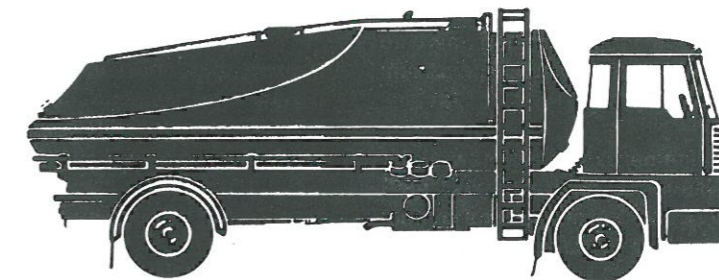
The Great War finally drew to an exhausted close in November 1918 and in 1919 the G.A.A. in the county took tentative steps to establish a firmer footing. A lot of the activity was still on a rather casual basis, most of the games being played in the form of friendly fixture at parish sports meetings.

Quoting Gabriel Brocks county history, Tempo played at Fintona sports against the home parish in mid 1919 the team including, "Peter Bogue Capt., J. Garvin, T. McPhillips, Pat O'Connor (goals), Pat Melarkey, N. Coyle, J. J. Lynch, Pat McManus, Phil Murphy, Arthur Breen, John Carroll and John Green".

The club however was still not on a fully fledged footing for though eight teams took part in the 1919 championship, Tempo were not one of them. There was still a long road to travel before the modern day Maguires would finally emerge.

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20's and 30's

The 1920's was to bring only minimal progress towards the establishment of the club, the idea taking a long time to take root. There were of course a variety of reasons for this, the exceptionally troubled situation throughout Ireland from 1919 through to the mid 1920's having a major influence in restricting the growth of the G.A.A. not only at club level but also at county level.

At one stage the Fermanagh County Board actually ceased to function indicating that the level of activity was at an exceptionally low level. The tension of the Treaty and its subsequent aftermath ensured that the routine of a normal society was disrupted and sporting activity inevitably tended to take a back seat.

By the middle of the decade the nation was beginning to settle down after the turbulent events since the War of Independence and the Nationalist community in the Six Counties was facing into the long winter of Unionist, sectarian Government. The Fermanagh G.A.A. was taking firmer foothold and clubs were springing up. Eleven clubs in 1924 were to be increased to twenty six by 1930.

Of course, like the parable of the sower and the seed, some of the seed fell on poor soil and clubs had a rather tenuous existence.

Tempo still remained a G.A.A. backwater and indeed were to remain so for some years yet, but there was a latent sense of nationalism in the people and gradually this began to blossom forth. In 1925 for example the parish sports on May 17th had a lengthy programme part of which featured a football match which Killyrover won.

It was obviously going to be a long drawn out process to get a club underway but gradually the pieces were coming together and the momentum was picking up pace as the 1920's drew to a close.

1928

Late in this year a major G.A.A. seven a side tournament was held on Sunday October 7th, the event being hyped as having nine of the leading teams in Fermanagh and Tyrone competing for a set of gold medals. The eventual contests were hardly that,

Round One :	Eskra No. 1	v	Mullaghfad
	Tempo	v	Fintona No 1
	Fintona No 2	v	Eskra No 2
	Drumsna	v	Tullyrain

Tempo were beaten in the opening match and Mullaghfad went on to beat Eskra No 2 in the final.

It was still all a rather low key affair, the Concert and Ceili which followed in the new hall received greater press coverage than the football did. In fact a lengthy list, itemising the concert artistes contrasted starkly with the complete absence of names from the football report. All monies from the days activities went to parochial funds.

In the December of that year the Gaelhad columnist in the Herald wrote optimistically that, "I hope to see a batch of new clubs. There is an area along the Northern border of the county, from Irvinestown to Roslea, which is completely unorganised at the moment. I am sure that there could be clubs established in Tempo, Brookeboro or Coonian and Roslea. Now that there is a junior league in the county there is no need for beginners to be frightened".

1929

Gaelhad returned to the theme the following year, in the month of June. The fact that this was in mid-summer should not be considered unusual. Competitions were often running late, it was a regular enough occurrence to be months behind schedule, and new junior affiliations came around this stage of the year.

In any case Gaelhad struck a positive note by writing confidently that, "a team from Tempo is about to be affiliated", and there was speculation that the club might compete in the section of the Junior Championship that included Aghalurcher, Killyrover, Coonian and Lisnaskea. Neighbouring Coa also had a team entered that would play in the Northern Division.

A meeting of the Eastern Division, duly arranged the following fixtures for the Junior Championship.

Sunday August 25th	Coonain	v	Tempo
Referee	F Cassidy		
Sunday September 1st	Tempo	v	Aghalurcher
Referee	F McAdam		

There is however no record of these games having been played. There is however a possibility that they were, for the absence of a press report is by no means a conclusive indicator that they weren't. Very many games went unreported.

A better indicator is that at a further meeting of the Eastern division in early September, further fixtures for Tempo were made. In the following months there was again no press reports of Tempo matches but it must be assumed that some kind of participation was being made.

A Fixture for December 1st against Lisnaskea was published though the columnist added ominously that, "it is probable that the games will be postponed".

Also in December, Rev. Fr. McHugh C.C. and Paddy McCarey represented Tempo at an Eastern Division meeting in Maguiresbridge and a fixture for the Fr. Trainor Cup was drawn up for January and February of 1930.

All seemed to be coming together, the club about to get off the ground and play its role in the development of the G.A.A. inside the county.

It proved to be a false dawn, for in the years 1930 to 1931 there was no mention of club activity in the columns of the

Herald. Neighbouring Coonian, Cavanacross and Coa all competed and presumably Tempo domiciled enthusiasts turned out for these clubs.

1932

In 1932 Cavanacross was going as a team and a team was also going in Coonian. In late September of that Tempo was affiliated for junior competition. The team was to compete in the Eastern Division for the Fr. Trainor Competition. The club was represented at a meeting of the Eastern Division in the new hall Lisnaskea on Thursday November 10th, 1932 and the clubs present were, Aghalurcher, Tempo, Killyrover, Newtownbutler and Cavanacross. Rev. Fr. Burns C.C. was chairman. Fixtures were arranged as follows :

November 27th	Cavanacross	v	Tempo
December 4th	Tempo	v	Newtownbutler
December 11th	Tempo	v	Killyrover
December 18th	Aghalurcher	v	Tempo

Because of the death of Fr. Courtney P.P. the game scheduled against Cavanacross was not mentioned in the Herald.

The December 10th issue of the Herald featured a few lines on the visit of Newtownbutler : "Newtownbutler crossed the county to play Tempo in the Fr. Trainor Cup on Sunday last. A good game was witnessed. It was a game with scarcely a foul. The first half was evenly contested, neither team being seen to advantage. After the turnover Tempo took charge and soon it was evident they had the game in hand. They ran out winners by a comfortable margin".

1933-34

1933 saw perhaps the highest level of consistent competition undertaken by the club beginning with a January Fr. Trainor Cup match against Cavanacross. This was the first competitive meeting of the two and first blood went to Cavanacross who won by 3.4 to 0.0. The match report attempted to ease Tempo's disappointment by saying that, "Tempo were unlucky in the scoring area and failed to make anything of their chances."

Activity slackened off until May when an Eastern Division meeting met to organise the league and Tempo were represented by Dennis Bannon and Frank Rice and it is at this stage that the name Tempo Maguires appears in print for the first time.

In mid May a friendly game witnessed by a large crowd saw the Maguires beat Ederney a scoreline of 1.4 to 1.3. "Rough play being noticeably absent".

The team was, Brennan (goals), F. Rice; McGerry; J. Brennan; P. Droogan; E. Jackson; T. L. Campbell; L. King; E. Doherty; D. Doherty; D. Bannon; T. Fee. It should be pointed out to readers at this stage, that newspaper team lists, from which the above team is taken should not be regarded as being inevitably accu-

rate. They are generally correct but not invariably so. Activity continued throughout the summer with games against Aghalurcher and Newtownbutler with a certain degree of success. Camogie also got underway briefly at this stage, games being played against Cavanacross and Aghalurcher.

The semi-final of the Fr. Trainor Cup was reached as the season drew to a close but Irvinestown emerged as winners the only strong points on the Tempo team apparently being "their backs and goalie".

On then to 1934 and the club was represented by Frank Rice at an Eastern Division meeting held in Killyrover Hall in which fixtures for the year were made. The team also appeared in a Trillick tournament in May but press coverage ceases after that, though the club was clearly functioning in some form or other for William Rooney and T. Fee represented them at an Eastern Division meeting later in the year.

1935

At the Fermanagh Adjourned Convention with Rev. Fr. Lappin in the chair there was provisional agreement to divide the county into two sections for the purpose of better arrangement and carrying out of competition. There were twelve teams in all and Tempo were in the section that included Belnaleck, Enniskillen Gaels, Mullleck, Ederney and Irvinestown.

A decision was also taken at this March meeting to play a special competition in aid of county funds, the Fr. Trainor Cup, to be the trophy for the winning team.

Tempo played Irvinestown in this competition on St. Patrick's Day and the Herald reported as follows, "A procession headed by the Irvinestown troop of the C.B.S. and accompanied by the local brass and reed band, followed by the Irvinestown camogie team, the St. Molaise senior and minor teams and the Tempo senior and minor teams marched through the town to the football field".

Reporting on what, it called the senior event, the Herald said that "Tempo came away with the throw-in but although their forwards were well supplied they did not register".

A complaint that has persevered it seems down through the subsequent decades.

The Herald continued, "Magee for Irvinestown got a major and McCutcheon added a minor. Tempo then brightened up but they finished badly. Long, dangerous shots by McCarey and Connors were allowed to go wide. Then came a Tempo score, Connors was fouled well out and he converted the award, Curly had Irvinestown wides before Tempo worked back and Rice pointed a free".

The report concluded with the remark that Lynch for Tempo often relieved pressure and McCarey also featured and that, "Tempo in spite of the adverse scoreline

were still dangerous. Lightning raids might often have been more fruitful, if the visiting forwards had shown more determination. One of these raids saw McCarney in possession on the wing. A beautiful well placed ball into the centre gave a Tempo forward his chance and he netted".

Final Score : Irvinestown 2.10 Tempo 1.3

The minors unfortunately also lost their game by 1.8 to 0.1 and the short comments noted that, "Bogue was at times brilliant, and McGranaghan in goal behaved well under trying conditions".

Late April saw the team compete in the Northern Division Football championship, the opposition being Belnaleck but the McMurroughs came out on top.

A tournament was organised in early June, one of the forerunners of the later events that has become an established feature of the Maguires calendar, teams competing included Belnaleck, Lisnaskea and Irvinestown.

Matches on the whole however tended to be few and far between and an added problem for the researcher is that, quite often no newspaper report of games that were played, was ever published.

One match report that was carried was a league tie in June against Ederney. This game was played in ideal weather and had a sizable attendance and players who were singled out for special mention were Connors, McCarney, Lynch, Jackson and Rice.

However the club was still on rather shaky foundations and the season finished on rather an ominous note with "Mulleek travelling to Tempo only to find the home team unable to field. This was extraordinary as Tempo had travelled to Mulleek a fortnight previously".

The club then more or less folded. The fledging unit had found the initial struggle an overpowering one. It was in one sense a pessimistic period and those who were particularly keen to play had to find an outlet elsewhere with neighbouring units.

Yet progress, albeit a hesitant, cautious one had been made. A club, structure had been established and had been in operation. The basic seeds had been sown and when the time came to make a further attempt to get a viable club off the ground a crucial piece of the ground-work had already been done. A second attempt would be got underway; keenly aware of the errors and deficiencies of the past and with a renewed zeal and determination to succeed.

1936-37

In the meantime matters lapsed. 1936 saw no mention of the Maguires in the Herald and 1937 brought chastisement. In the "With the Gael" column of July 24th the following piece was penned, "I am told that an effort was once made in Tempo to start a G.A.A. club and that it fell through. Last Sunday I was in that town. a couple of

dozen of young fellows were moving listlessly about the streets. Would they not have been happier if that effort had succeeded and they were not playing a ball through a field. They would be healthier and fitter anyhow - and I think happier too. What about it Tempo?".

The columnist under the nom de plume "TOE THE LINE", returned to the subject shortly afterwards noting "that Tempo's young men will still stand on the street despite my invitation".

1938 and 1939

These years brought no response and it was the Cavanacross club that carried the flag in the district though they too were having their problems with the County Board. They had been refused affiliation and in 1938 had played in an independent league called "The Erne League". They eventually returned to the official fold at the 1939 Convention and a number of players transferred to them including John Cassidy from Enniskillen and Tom Fee from Irvinestown.

The absence of a club from Tempo was however becoming an irritant to the County Board and the query was asked, "Whether Tempo could not be provoked into forming a football team".

Meanwhile in the absence of such a unit, players such as Tom McGranaghan, Eddie, Willie and Tommy Doherty and Jack Cassidy plied their trade with a Cavanacross team that had a fairly steady run in the Junior League North, winning five of their eleven game and finishing third in the table.

1940

That Cavanacross team went on to enjoy an even more successful season in 1940 and match reports regularly featured glowing accounts of the exploits of Tommy Doherty, Willie Doherty, Tom McGrenaghan, John Cassidy, Eddie Doherty and Seamus Kelly. By September the team had won ten of their eleven games in the Southern section and were declared winners.

In October of that year in a field kindly lent by Mr McGranaghan in Tattenweir, the team played Dromore in a challenge game that attracted a large crowd. Referee for the game was Dan McSorley of Trillick and the final scoreline red Cavanacross 2.11, Dromore 4.2.

The team later contested the junior final with Irvinestown in Belnaleck losing on a scoreline of 1.6 to 2.2. The team was : E. Connors (capt.); J. McCaffrey; E. Doherty; J. Breen; P. Moohan; J. Cleary; T. McGranaghan; J. Cassidy; T. Doherty; J. Cassidy; K. Bannon; O. Kelly; M. Trainor; V. Connors and J. Kelly.

In the championship semi-final the team beat Ederney by a point and in the divisional final clash with Irvinestown December 15th a premature end was brought to the season when the only ball available burst midway through the second half. Irvinestown eventually won the title.



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Tom Fee



Tom Fee : G.A.A. man to the core.
Actively involved in the 1930's with Tempo

When I began attending St. Michaels in the late 1920's there was no regular football being played in Tempo or in St. Michaels either. In 1929 / 30 Bro. Bede started rugby in St. Michaels and then we turned to Gaelic. Dinny Bannon was a guiding force in the club, founding a club in 1931 and there were a few practice game in late 1931.

In 1932 we were going all year as a club but we were not affiliated. Tom Campbell came to Tempo to open his chemist shop. Fr. Courtney was P.P. and Fr. Burns C.C. Young lads involved included Jim Bogue. The first game was a challenge against Coonien and Fr. Burns was at corner forward. I think he scored 15 or 16 points. We beat them well.

There was also a challenge against Ederney. We went to that on a bus. The bus was full and to us all it seemed like a big adventure. The ladies accompanied us.

The team was : Dinny Bannon, Eddie Jackson, Frank Lynch (Drumderg), Willie Rooney (Shillanmore), Tommy McCarney, Frank Rice (in his twilight years then).

Tom Campbell was our first goalkeeper and though there was no committee as such, meetings were held in his house.

Other players who played their part around this time were Harry Brennan, he played goal after Tom Campbell. John Brennan also played a few games. Pat Doyle was the best full back we had before the team actually affiliated. James Doyle played around the years 1933 - 34 and Paddy Droogan was an ever present. Paddy McCarey transferred to the club in 1933 but he never played regularly.

Other of that era were Micky Slevin, Tommy Durnion,

Charlie McCusker (Liffer), Willie Doherty and Packie Slevin, the latter really a 1940's man.

In 1932 we all paid 1/= each for the purchase of a football and this collection would occur a couple of times per year. The jersey we had was green with a white sash or band. We also had games against St. Michaels and the captain was Dinny Bannon, vice-captain Tom Fee. The team won these games.

In 1933 the first game was against Aghalurcher. In those days there were very few one parish teams. There could well have been a (makeshift) team at every crossroads. This Aghalurcher game was a Traynor Cup match on a terribly wet day.

The next match was a home game, opposition unremembered and again a victory was gained. The third match was one blazing hot day in June in Donagh. Half-time had them ahead but full time saw them in arrears. Some of the team went to a well at half-time for a drink and didn't come back until the second half was well underway.

In 1934 we reached a final against Irvinestown on St. Patricks Day but we were well beaten. The Traynor Cup in those days had a variety of formats.

The County Convention of 1933 was held in January in the A.O.H. hall Derrylin and the Tempo delegates were Mr Devannee and Paddy McCarey. The adjourned Convention was on March 5th and the delegates then were Frank Rice, Willie Rooney, Willie Doherty and Tom Fee.

Transfers from Cavanacross to Tempo were Tom Fee, Tommy McCarney, Dinny Bannon, Paddy Droogan, Frank Rice and Paddy McCarey.

The team played in the Eastern Division of the J.F.L. In 1934 Dinny Bannon left to study for the priesthood and a social function was held in the hall to give him a send off.

The side was playing in the Northern Division and the competing teams were Irvinestown, Ederney, Mulleek, Enniskillen, Belnaleck and Tempo.

The first field was McGranaghans, (the hill head). In 1935 transfer to Tempo from Cavanacross included Frank Lynch, Eddie Connors and Tommy McCarney and in 1936, Frank Lynch and Willie Doherty transferred to Belnaleck.

There was no football really in Tempo in the 1920's.

FIRST DINNER DANCE

The club held its first ever dinner dance in Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown on February 16th, 1968. Tickets cost 25/-
Presentations were made :
Player of the year - Eamon Doherty
Clubman of the year -
Tommy McNally and Dennis McElroy

Packie McGranaghan

In the early 1920's there was a club. I remember around 1922 / 23 in the Lair field, originally McGranaghans, behind the bungalow crowds of men playing. I also remember two strange men there, a sergeant and a constable, obviously there as observers.

There was really no knowledge of Gaelic or Soccer. Just many a gathering of men over the next six or seven years.

A venue that was used was McCusker's Holm in Imeroo with an improvised side from Tempo playing Toneyglaskin. Anyone beyond Imeroo was classified as a Barr fellow and probably Barr fellows were on the Toneyglaskin team. Frank Rice was probably over the Tempo team.

There was also the mix of older people who mentioned hurling being played in Murphy's of Bigh. A round piece of wood was turned in Tempo mill for a ball. I remember old people using the word "caman".

Frank Lynch, Frank Rice, Dinny and Paddy Rooney would all have been involved in some way or other. Frank Lynch had been in the Free State Army and it was there that he learned the game.

Others to be involved were Jim Doogan and Joe Beatty. Frank Rice was the architect of football in Tempo. He was always trying to get games organised. Once he got McGranaghans field for a game against Clogher but they didn't come. Frustrating days indeed for an enthusiastic devotee of the game, as he tried to get it off the ground.

There was a kind of a parade led by a one man band, that one man band being Tommy McPhillips.

Sports Days in the parish were common in the 1920's and at them there would be badly organised football matches.

The club was know as Tempo Maguires right from the start.

In 1936 the team folded basically through bad organisation and lack of adequate interest on a wider basis. The efforts of the few couldn't for the moment at least overcome the apathy of the many.

From around 1931 - 35 the field that was used as a pitch was the field down to McCollums.

Jack Cassidy was a player in the era as also was Johnny Curran of Cavanacross, and a schoolmaster from Fivemiletown called McDonagh, and also the McGurns from Tresna direction.

In the 1930's there were Irish language classes in the hall with a teacher called Maurice McMulkin.

Camogie too was played to on an irregular basis, ladies involved in that being Annie and Mary Ellen McKeagney, Aggie McPhillips and Nora King.

The ground used in those early days included McGranaghans Field and Brackens Holm. The rent for the latter was three days cutting in the bog and this was a long standing arrangement that lasted for many years into the 1950's.

The current ground in Edenmore was used just on sports days.

Willie Doherty

My earliest memories would have been of soccer, gaelic and sportdays played in places such as Elliotts bottom at Tattenweir Bridge and in McGranaghans Field. Brackens Holm was another venue, three days cutting of turf in the bog being the rent.

Quite a number of men were regular players though there was no regular competition.

Names that I can recall are; John and Vincent Bogue, Tommy Durnien, Micky and Packie Slevin, Willie McCollum, Tom McGranaghan, Dinny and Kevin Bannon, Tom Fee plus Cavanacross boys such as Vincent and Eddie Connors, Johnny McCaffrey.

The Jersey of my earliest memory was white with a green stripe though not everyone had a jersey. A collection to buy a ball was organised, each player contributing a couple of shillings.

But you could say that the gear we had wasn't too good.

The Rebirth

The autumn and winter of 1940 and 1941 witnessed a growing momentum as discussions on a formal and informal basis took place among a sizable group of men, the aim being to relaunch a club in Tempo Parish.

Among those who played a role in the debates that stretched into the lengthening winter evenings were Arthur Fee (almost four decades on, and still promoting the G.A.A. cause), Eddie Kelly, Billy Doherty, Dinny Rooney, James Murphy (another tried and trusted steward from the Eire Og era of the opening years of the century), Frank Rice, Packie Donnelly, Eddie Jackson, Tom Campbell and Paddy McCarey.

An informant from that era believes that the chief officers of the first committee were ; Chairman - Eddie Kelly, Secretary - Paddy McCarey, Treasurer - Packie Donnelly.

There was obviously a dedicated group of committee men giving sterling support to the new clubs cause and preparations were soon underway to field a team.

The debut game of the newly reformed club was to be played on Sunday February 23rd with Derrygonnelly Harps travelling by Erne Bus to provide the opposition.

The posts for the field were appropriately enough obtained from the redoubtable James Murphy and they had to be physically carried in from Beagh.

The venue was the famous McGranaghan's Hill.

The match attracted, "A very big crowd and young and old went home pleased with the thrills and spills intermingled with beautiful and spectacular handpassing and truly good football. Derrygonnelly got a standing ovation of their arrival in Tempo and were entertained to tea after the match".

The day was a fine and summerlike one and the teams served up a well balanced contest that resulted in an honourable draw on a scoreline of
Tempo.....0 - 7 Derrygonnelly1 - 4

The panels according to the Herald report of that historic occasion were :

Tempo : Tommy Durnien, Eddie Jackson, John Bogue, Barney McCaughey, Frank Fee, Artie Fee, Stephen Cassidy, Mick Slevin, Neil McCaughey, Phil McDonagh, John Cassidy, Dennis Bannon, Paddy McDonagh, Packie Slevin, Johnny McNally, Dan McGurn, Frank Rice, Jack Cassidy, Anthony McPhillips.

On the opposing Harps team was none other than a Tempo man Tom Fee who had the temerity to score a point, a mighty kick out that eventually saw the ball hop over the Maguires crossbar.

The Harps team was : P. Meehan, A. Rasdale, J. Maguire, T. McCauley, T. Fee, P. Flanagan, P. McManus,

F. McConnell, J. McCaffery, P. Maguire, T. McTaggart, P. McCaffery, G. Ferguson.

In their first competitive year back in Fermanagh club football the team played in the North-East Section of the junior league with the other clubs in the section being Cavanacross, Derrygonnelly and Enniskillen.

The opening league game was on March 23rd when the team met Derrygonnelly. No doubt optimism must have been high following the good showing in February but league fare is different to challenge football and the team was well beaten by four goals and two points to four points.

But a start had be made and there was a much improved performance in the next match, the clubs first away fixture, a tie at Gaelic Park Enniskillen

Admission was the princely sum of 6d and the team went down by a slender two points. Tommy Durnien pulled off several fine saves in goals while up front Kevin Bannon with two points and Frank Rice with a goal, kept the team in contention right to the end.

The third game of the league campaign brought the club its first league point when they drew with Cavanacross and this was soon followed by a draw in a high scoring return game with Enniskillen on May 1st. Three goals by Rice, plus two by Packie Slevin were the highlights of an entertaining match.

These successes paved the way for the first league victory which occurred on June 1st at the home ground when Cavanacross were beaten by three goals and four points to one goal and three points. The basis of that success was laid at midfield where Tempo held the upperhand and goals by J. Cassidy and N. McCaughey sent them on their way to an historic triumph.

At the end of the season the team had finished third in the four club section, an honourable achievement indeed.

In the championship it was Derrygonnelly again who provided the opposition. Derrygonnelly had a strong team, they went on to reach the championship final and won the county league title, so Tempo could feel a sense of achievement when they went down by just two points to the talented Harps.

Other football activity that year included an appearance at Fintona Sports in late August when after extra time Irvinestown won by two points, while a local tournament was organised in mid-September. Five clubs contested, Trillick, Cavanacross, Fintona, Irvinestown and Tempo.

Tempo went out in the first round, being beaten by Cavanacross with Fintona emerging as the final winners. That Tempo tournament was the forerunner of an event that some thirty years later was to become one of the highspots on the local football calendar.

The new clubs first A.G.M. was held in the local hall on Wednesday 28th January 1942 and those present in-

cluded : A. Fee, P. Gallagher, T. Campbell, P. Slevin, T. Durnien, E. Kelly, F. Fee, J. Cassidy and P. McCarney.

Among the matters discussed were;

1. The financial statement which showed a considerable credit balance which reflected great credit on the energetic committee of the new formed club
2. Social functions for the coming year
3. The playing pitch and team for the coming year.

It was also decided to foster in every way, in spite of obstacles, Gaelic ideals in the area.

The team was to compete in the Central Junior Section in company with Ederney, Irvinestown, Enniskillen and Cavanacross.

The season got off to a good start with a ten point away victory over Cavanacross and among the players named in the Herald match report were John and Stephen Cassidy, J. Bogue, Jack Cassidy, Kevin Bannon and Mick Slevin.

Easter Sunday was the scheduled date for the next league tie against Irvinestown but this was banned by the Six County Administration. In response to this the club forwarded the following resolution to the Minister of Home Affairs.

"In regard to the prohibition of our football match with Irvinestown on Easter Sunday we wish to state that you should be well aware that the G.A.A. is a strictly non political body; therefore we strongly protest against the prohibition of our fixture".

Signed *Patrick McCarey - Chairman*
Frank Fee - Secretary.

When the football action was eventually resumed the team hit a disastrous patch that saw them slump to a series of defeats.

Irvinestown scored a four point victory, Ederney had six points to spare while two late Enniskillen goals sent the team tumbling to their third successive defeat.

Ederney in fact were to be the biggest stumbling block for the new Tempo tam as they handed out a heavy four goal defeat in the return league game at Tempo and also beat them in the championship.

The dismal tale continued in tournament football, being beaten at Irvinestown Feis by Trillick and in the home tournament the team were dismissed by Dromore.

All in all not the happiest of seasons but things could only get better and the 1943 season was to bear that out.

The team was now placed in a new senior section along with Derrygonnelly, Belnaleck, Enniskillen and Irvinestown and the arrival of Tommy Doherty from Cavanacross gave the team fresh impetus. There were initial setbacks however with opening defeats against Derrygonnelly and Irvinestown but the corner was at last turned with a splendid ten point victory over Belnaleck.

goals being scored by Willie Doherty and Packie Slevin

Boosted by this the team beat Enniskillen by two point in an evenly balanced tie with leading performance coming from centre half Billy Halton plus full back MacCarney, Cassidy and MacCahey. Other players i the team at this period were Kevin Bannon, Johnn Cleary and young newcomer Tommy McNally.

By mid June the side was joint top of the table and when they handed out a heavy defeat to Derrygonnelly they went into undisputed leadership with Tommy McNally getting two goals.

The team eventually qualified for the divisional fina against Belnaleck at Enniskillen only to slump to a heavy defeat that was partly explained by the fact that owing to lack of transport a number of players had to walk close on five miles to the game. Tired legs made for tired team but the following Sunday, again at Enniskillen and again facing the MacMurroughs, Tempo scored an amazing victory in the championship.

It was by all accounts a sensational triumph for within five minutes of the restart Tempo had two players sidelined but the remaining players rose their game to epic levels and two goals from Billy Halton inspired them to a seven point victory. The Herald match report referred to this, "phenomenal victory and greatest credit must go to their rock like defence in which fullback J. Breen had one of the most outstanding games".

Among the players who did Tempo proud on that historic day were wing fullbacks Barney McCahey and J. McCarney with Jim Moohan and Kevin Bannon at half back.

Yet that was to be the high point of the year for in the divisional final on October 17th Irvinestown with a first-half Mahon goal won their way through to the county final.

Still it had been an eventful season that had also included an enormously successful Sports Day in August that attracted an attendance of 1,000 people and the club was now on firm footing.



Fr. Denis Bannon, a pioneer of the 1930's

The club held its A.G.M. in December and the chairman in his review said that, "against their will they had been moved into senior ranks. Yet we finished third in the county both in league and championship and furthermore all fixtures had been fulfilled".

Officers elected were: Chairman - John Cassidy, Secretary - Paddy McCarey, Treasurer - Tom Campbell.

The next five years were to be a period during which the club firmly established itself as a solid unit within the county. It was a period when no county title was won but the groundwork was being laid. The essential spadework that has to be undergone before the rewards can be achieved.

By this stage too the new unit was beginning to make its contribution to the administration of the Association within the county.

At the 1944 County Convention the club proposed, through their delegate Paddy McCarey that, "in order to obviate the necessity of convening County Board meetings to transport routine business, a special emergency committee be appointed to deal with referees reports, take decisions of such committees to be submitted to the County Board for ratification".

The club indicated that unless the motion went through unanimously it would be withdrawn. This unanimity failed to materialise but the germ of an idea had been planted and in future years a County Executive, on the lines suggested was to be introduced.

Back on the playing fields the team enjoyed little success in the three team Northern division losing their opening games against Irvinestown and Enniskillen but there was better fortune in the special divisional championship.

Combined with Enniskillen and Monea, the team opened the campaign with a comprehensive thirteen point victory over Irvinestown-Ederney and in the next round beat Devenish-Holywell by four points. That brought them to the final played at Lisnaskea where Newtownbutler-Dresteruan formed the opposition. Victory was not to be however as they went down by a 1.6 to 0.4. Failure to win was pinned on the total failure of the attack, evidence of their ineptitude being the fact that centre half back Tommy Doherty scored all four points from frees. The other stalwarts on the day were J. Breen at fullback and J. Cleary at wing half back.

Tommy Doherty's consistent play had earned him recognition at county level and he played on the junior team that beat Tyrone in the Ulster championship before being heavily beaten by Cavan in Belturbet in the semi-final.

The Tempo-Enniskillen-Monea team was: J. Maguire (Enniskillen), B. McGahey (Tempo), Jim Breen (Tempo), J. McShea (Monea), J. Cleary, Tommy Doherty and Kevin Bannon (all Tempo), M. O'Grady

(Monea), J. Cassidy (Tempo), F. Sheridan (Enniskillen) J. McShea (Monea), J. Gray (Enniskillen) J. Gallagher (Enniskillen), T. McGurn (Monea) and J. Rooney (Enniskillen).

In late August the county championship got underway. Enniskillen defeated Irvinestown in the preliminary round paving the way for the divisional final at the Gaelic Field on September 3rd.

Tempo had much the better of the play up to the three quarter stage boosted by a T. McGrenaghan goal from a 14 yd free. Leading by four points the team looked to be coasting to victory but Enniskillen pulled back in an exciting last quarter to level before an S. Kelly pointput them through to the county semi-final against Derrygonnelly.

The semi-final again at the Gaelic field, was to be a two match affair. A most thrilling and exciting first game saw Tempo put the game to a replay with a late equalising point having trailed by four points at the interval. One feature of the game was another spectacular Tempo goal from a 14 yard free, this one scored by Breen. Goals from 14 year frees seemed to be a Tempo speciality in those days.

The replay attracted over 500 spectators. Tempo had the advantage of the wind in the first half and goals from F. Carson and J. Breen put the team comfortably ahead at the interval. The effort faltered however in the second half and Derrygonnelly went through by four points.

The club A.G.M. was held on December 17th and the officers elected were: Chairman - Jack Cassidy, Vice-Chairman - Tom McGrenaghan, Secretary - Paddy McCarey, Treasurer - Tom Campbell, Assistant Secretary - Packie Donnelly.

Among those who attended were; Tommy Doherty, Tommy McNally, Packie Slevin, Paddy Bannon, Paddy Rooney, Eddie Kelly, Rev. Dinny Bannon and Seamus Kelly then secretary of the County Board.

From 1945 to 1948 the club competed in a variety of Fermanagh league formats, as each county convention shuffled the county's clubs into different formations. For the G.A.A. historian this era provides a problem as the main source of material, the football columns of the Fermanagh Herald are unfortunately sparse. However there is enough information provided through those columns to give a broad outline of the teams performance.

As I have said the team competed in a number of league sections. In 1945 the Maguires were in the Eastern Division in company with Lisnaskea, Newtownbutler, Aughadrumsee plus the newly formed Knocks club.

In 1946 the team was in the Northern Section with Belnaleck, Enniskillen, Derrygonnelly, Irvinestown and Mulleek while in 1947 having successfully asked to be relegated junior it was league football in the company of Roslea, Aughadrumsee and Lisnaskea II's.

1948 brought yet another grouping this time in an expanded section that included Newtownbutler, Maguires-bridge, Devenish, Enniskillen, Irvinestown and Holywell.

At the end of each season however the end result was unfortunately the same. Limited progress, the occasional good run that ignited belief that a county title was in the offing, only to finish as one of the also rans. Yet if victory on the playing field still eluded us this was still an important era for the Maguires as each passing year saw the club dig its roots deeper. There were no prospects now of the fate that had befallen the fledgling unit in the mid 1930's

Those years too of course had their memorable moments. On St. Patricks Day 1945 a major sports day was organised. An occasion that heralded the appearance of St. Marys Silver Band under their new conductor Mr. Toland. A band of much longer standing, Coa Warpiper also featured in the parade through the village and up the then cramped Edenmore lane to the pitch. Two games were played that day with the minors beating Cavanaugh and the seniors defeating Fintona by three points.

The early part of the Fermanagh season was involved in the divisional championship with Enniskillen-Tempo reaching the final only to go down to Lisnaskea-Knocks on a 2.10 to 4.3 scoreline. The winners scoring a late goal by Curran. Onto the league itself and after an opening defeat by Lisnaskea the team had the honour of being the opposition to the Knocks in that clubs first league home tie. There was no sentiment however as Tempo handed out a six point defeat and repeated the dose in the return a few weeks later.

Visions of a championship triumph were successive wins over Irvinestown and Enniskillen. Against Irvinestown the team staged a dramatic recovery having trailed by seven points at the interval. A Willie Doherty goal in the opening half had kept the team in touch and backed by a strong breeze in the second half they went through with five points to spare. The following round brought another five point victory over Enniskillen, at Tempo, but that was to be the end of the road as Belnaleck proved to be too strong in the semi-final in the Gaelic Field.

The end of the road in the league came in the divisional final against Lisnaskea and for players such as J. McCahey, Jim Moohan, Frank Carson, Johnny Cleary, Joe Murphy, John and Stephen Cassidy it was a case of looking ahead to the future (or in some cases a time for hanging up the boots).

That the clubs playing numbers were increasing was evident by the A.G.M. discussion that Winter on the possibility that senior, junior and minor teams be entered for the 1946 season. Eventually only a senior team was played and the year turned out to be a big disappointment. There were only occasional wins in the league, a 6.4 to 0.2 thrashing suffered at the hands of the Gaels, indicated the plight and in the championship, Belnaleck knocked us out.

1947 followed a similar pattern despite the fact that the

team was now in junior ranks. By this stage however there was a significant changeover in personnel with players such as Johnny McNally, Jim McKeane, Phil McCarron, Tom McNally, J. Bogue all beginning to make their mark. In the championship the team beat Killesher in the first round but succumbed to Roslea by 2.12 to 1.4 in the next round.

1948 was to bring better fortune with the team enjoying an encouraging league campaign and encouragement came right at the beginning when Newtownbutler were beaten, 8.4 to 3.9. It produced the greatest individual scoring performance ever achieved by a Tempo player in adult competition.

John Cassidy, the giant from Glengesh, operating as the spearhead of the attack, took the Newtownbutler defence apart as he collected an incredible seven goals. A point from a free was mere afterthought. It was a stupendous effort from a player who is regarded as one of the legendary heroes of the club of that era.

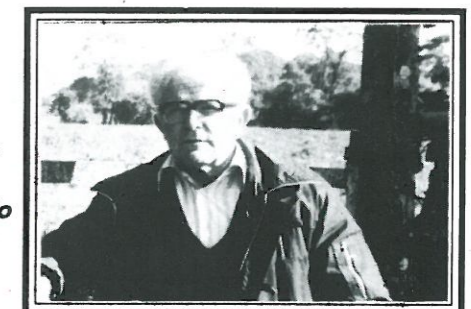
Incredibly, or perhaps not so, for football fortune is fickle, Newtownbutler beat Tempo the following Sunday by two points. A reversal indeed but the team had potential and they totted up three successive victories over Devenish, Enniskillen and Holywell to establish themselves a league frontrunners. Those three games netted twelve goals and sixteen points so the attack was certainly proving its worth. A mini-slump followed before they bounced back to form with a big victory over Maguires-bridge scoring seven goals in the process and by mid July the team were topping the table with eight wins from eleven games.

Things were obviously going well and this was emphasised in the championship when Irvinestown were beaten by two points. It was a close call however for it took a late goal by Jim McKeane and a point from a '50' by Tom McGrenaghan to send the team through. One of the highlights of the game was the personal duel between two St. Macartens Monaghan stars, Tom Breen and Malachy Mahon.

The season fell apart after that with Holywell beating us in the next round and the same club went on to win the league title. Yet there were brighter days on the horizon with the year ending with wins over Irvinestown and Ederney in a new Winter minor league and among the names mentioned in match reports were McCarron McCusker, McNally, Maguire and McCaffrey brothers.

Tempo were about to come in from the cold.

Club member Tommy McCusker at the entrance to Bracken's Holm



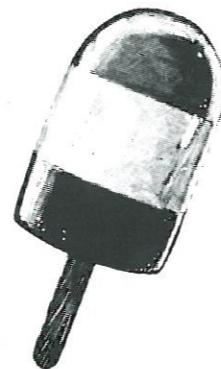
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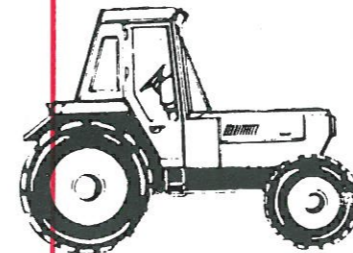


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1949 Junior Champions

Back Row : L to R : Stephen Cassidy, Tommy McGrenaghan, Leo McCaffrey, Jim Breen, Benny Owens, Barney McCaughey, Frank Carson, Jim McKeaney
Front Row : L to R : Gerry McNally, Tom McCusker, Packie Slevin, Hugh McCaffrey, Tommy Doherty, Francie Warnock, Eddie Maguire, Phil McCarron, Johnny McNally

The 1949 season that was to bring the club its first county title started off on a most unpromising note with the team losing its opening games, both at the hands of Newtownbutler. Thereafter the league cause was in shreds and Newtown in fact went on to take the league title, being unbeaten in the process.

Hopes then could not have been all that high for the championship but this season was to be different. The opening round opponents were Belnaleck and they were to provide stiff opposition before they were beaten by a late goal on a scoreline of 2.5 to 1.5.

Tempo led at half-time by two points, the scorers being Gerry McNally 1.3 and Frank Carson 0.1. Frank Carson also had a point in the second half but Belnaleck came back doggedly to level the match before Tempo hit a late winning goal.

The Junior championship final was played at Lisnaskea on October 2nd with Newtownbutler being the opposition. It was to be an historic day.

Score:
 Tempo.....1.4 Newtownbutler0.2

Newtownbutler came into the game as clear favourites, their two league victories over Tempo earlier in the year ensured that, but this was not to be a third success.

Both sets of defences held the upperhand in the first half with Barney McGahey outstanding for Tempo at corner back and Johnny McNally being dependable in goal. Tom McGranaghan and Gerry McNally had a point each

with Willie Reilly replying with a similar score for Newtownbutler to leave a single score between the teams at the interval.

A packed bus of Tempo supporters had travelled to the game so there were many anxious hearts during the interval but shortly after the restart they had every reason to cheer as Packie Slevin fisted home what was to be the decisive goal. A pointed free from Tommy Doherty and an overhead kick from Gerry McNally for a further point put Tempo well ahead and at the finish they were richly deserving victors.

It was in every way a memorable occasion and the team that brought the first ever county title to the village was:

Johnny McNally, Barney McGahey, Stephen Cassidy, Eddie Maguire, Jim McKeaney, Tommy Doherty, Phil McCarron, Jim McCaffrey, Frank Carson, Frank Warnock, Packie Slevin, Tom McGranaghan and Gerry McNally

Substitutes : Hugh McCaffrey, Jim Breen, Benny Owens, Tommy McCusker

Other members of the panel that year were Tommy McNally who had recently gone to England and Leo McCaffrey who was in hospital, both of whom unfortunately missed out on that hour of triumph.

Some weeks later a victory celebration ceili was held in the Parochial Hall where the official presentations were made by county secretary Seamus Kelly, a former Tempo stalwart himself.

Having had the initial taste of success the club was to savour that heady feeling again the following year, this time in a rather unexpected competition, the minor championship.

If Tempo had been classed as underdogs in the 1949 junior championship, they were rated as absolute no-hopers in the minor campaign of 1950. Getting an underage team going had been proving to be a most difficult task, so much so that there was little enthusiasm shown in the minor league.

When the minor championship came around in mid-summer there was no inkling of what lay ahead. The opening round had them paired with Enniskillen but the latter despite the fact that they had home advantage failed to field and Tempo were into the next round. Not a satisfactory way to progress but the team couldn't be faulted for the state of affairs.

The second round brought a home tie against Irvinestown and in a game played in heavy wet conditions a fine effort yielded passage to the semi-finals on a scoreline of three goals to one point.

Even the victory failed to instill belief that the title could be clinched and there was little optimism, and even less support, as the team travelled to Irvinestown to face a highly fancied Devenish team in the semi-final. Devenish had been beaten league finalists so they obviously had a useful side and they looked runaway winners when they eased into a seven point lead in the third quarter. It was then Tempo staged a remarkable revival with 'Wee' Phil Breen hitting a goal and at the final whistle the seven point deficit had been turned into a one point lead.

If Devenish had had the appearance of favourites then our final opponents, Newtownbutler, had the aura of cast iron certainties for the Fermanagh Herald Cup. On their route to the decider they had knocked out Kinawley, Lisnaskea and Roslea, the latter being the league champions. So there was little wonder then that the headline of the match report ran "Tempo created a minor sensation".

Tempo.....3.6 Newtownbutler2.4

One of the unusual things about this final was that it was played across the Lisnaskea pitch. The modern day banking and fencing of Emmet Park was not there so presumably part of the playing surface used was the current car park. Why the decision was made to play across the field is now forgotten though the fact that it was a biting cold day and a frozen pitch could be the explanation.

Newtown set off a lively pace getting early points from Mullaly before Tempo gave the first indication that an upset was in the offing when they had a goal from a Leo

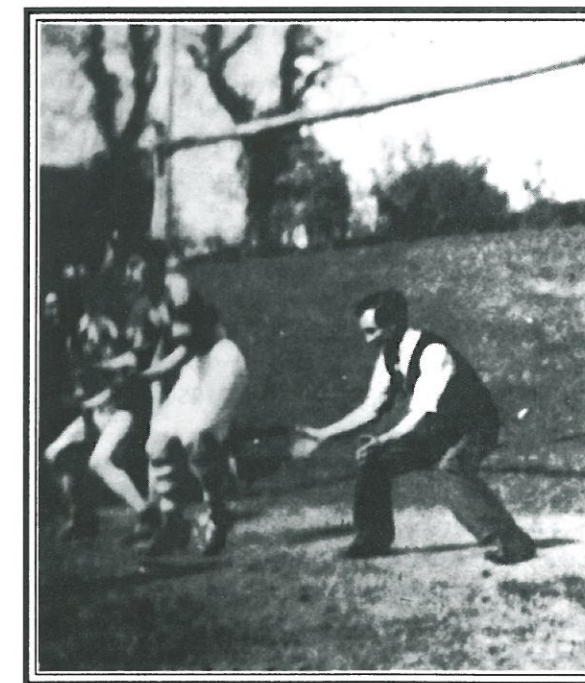
McCaffrey free. The favourites bounced back from this setback to score a goal and a point but Tempo's youngsters were in tremendous spirit and in the run up to half time they closed the gap with points from Brendan Durnien and B. Donohoe.

All to play for then as the play resumed in the second half. A passage of even play continued with the sides exchanging the lead before a dramatic two goal burst from Alfie McCaffrey and Brendan Durnien turned the contest firmly in Tempo's favour. Newtown tried hard to salvage the day but they could only manage a late consolation goal from Shannon and Tempo had scored another memorable victory thanks to a brand of fast, spirited football that had seen them emerge from nowhere as far as the other minor teams in the county were concerned.

The team was : Fergus Cleary, Barney Carters, Jim Breen, Hugh McCaffrey, Jack McCusker, Gerry McNally, Barney Breen, Leo McCaffrey, Alfie McCaffrey, John McAloon, Brendan Durnien, B. Donohoe and Phil Breen.

While the minors were achieving glory, it was a less happy story in the adult front with the team failing to live up to the expectation that had been generated by the 1949 championship. A mixed bag of results, after two opening league wins over neighbouring Maguiresbridge, finally saw them bow out of the championship at an early stage and exit from the league followed in the divisional final.

Indeed the matter that captured most attention was a wrangle with Newtownbutler over a game at Wattlebridge. The failure of the appointed referee to appear resulted in a long running dispute as to whether the game played was a league fixture or merely a challenge.



Grab That Ball! Plain Clothes Tommy McNally

Consolidation - The Early 1950's

The following three years of the new decade found the club struggling on the playing field with very little prospect of a further break-through being made. Yet this was also the period when the club succeeded in making one of the most important steps any club was capable of taking, namely the acquisition of its own playing ground.

Certainly secretary Hugh McCaffrey in his annual report in early 1954 had no doubts about the matter.

"During the year," he wrote "we have made good progress by obtaining the lease on a field convenient to the village from Rev. P. McCluskey P.P. on behalf of St. Macartens Diocesan Trust. This is in my opinion the greatest achievement accomplished by the club in recent years".

Acquiring these grounds set in motion what seems to be a never ending plan of improvement that continues right up to the present day, the latest stage of modernisation being the construction of top quality dressing rooms.

Back to the early years of the 1950's however with the team playing its last season in Brackens Holm in 1951 before moving the following year to a field kindly lent by Mr Pat McCaffrey of Tattenweir and then in 1953 to the current home in the townland of Edenmore where the first home league games played on April 18th had Roslea as visitors. The result however didn't match the auspicious occasion as the team were beaten by five points.

That defeat was more or less a repetition of what had been the fate of the team in the period 1951-1953. A request in 1951 to be regraded junior was granted but eventually the team competed at senior level. They opened with a good home victory over Belleek but that was to be the lone league success. In the championship there was a two point win over Roslea but Belleek ended the run in the semi-final.

1952 had a new captain, Tommy Doherty, a new ground at Tattenweir and new hope in the words of the secretary Hugh McCaffrey that, "The year for reaching the top of the table was certainly drawing near with seven members of the team having been in the 1950 minor championship winning team".

The team was placed in the Western Division along with Belleek, Irvinestown and Ederney. An early defeat was handed out by Irvinestown but a ray of hope came with a two point win over visiting Belleek and the Herald match report noted that, "almost 200 spectators were at the new football grounds to witness a rugged game. The pitch was entirely new to both teams but Tempo seemed to know they were at home. John Cassidy was the man

of the match playing at centre forward and he made no mistake when he got the ball. Jim McKeane and Jim Breen at midfield are playing better football than most of our county men". An encouraging result with some equally encouraging individual displays but with the exception of another home win, this time against Ederney, the league effort failed to materialise further. The championship also brought no joy being beaten by Irvinestown by two points, after which incidentally members of the team travelled to Clones for the Ulster senior semi-final between Cavan and Antrim.

Not surprisingly, following two lacklustre seasons there was yet another request, this time at the March County Board meeting, for the team to be graded junior. Injuries, retirements and transfers were all listed as reasons for the teams poor standing. And indeed this was true for those who had gone from the club in the recent past included Frank Carson and Stephen Cassidy, the later emigrating to Australia and the former transferring to Cavanacross.

The request was refused and the team promptly fell to two very heavy defeats at the hands of Roslea and Lisnaskea while Newtownbutler added a third though by a lesser margin. By early May they were bottom of the table though they went on to create a sensation by beating Lisnaskea who the previous Sunday had beaten Cavan champions Bailieborough. This was an indication that there was potential in the team and they went on to win three local tourneys, a first time ever achievement.

Incidentally one of the unusual aspects of the clubs history at this period was the rapid change of club chairman. The roll call of this office reads :

1951	Eddie Connors
1952	Patrick McGranaghan
1953	Johnny McNally
1954	Frank Lynch
1955	Phillip Breen

1954 brought yet another request for junior status and this time it was agreed to at the County Adjourned Convention with the team taking the place of promoted Belnaleck who had won the junior championship of 1953. The team was placed in the Western sector and a number of new opponents made their appearance notably Belcoo and Cashel plus old foes Cavanacross.

The year got off to a tremendous start with a string of victories that put the side in command of the table right from the outset and it was not until mid-summer that they went down to their second league defeat, being scuttled by Derrygonnelly.

That was the first hint of clouds ahead for though Cavanacross were easily disposed of in the championship,

exit came in the second round at the hands of Belcoo. Belcoo had already handed out a defeat earlier in the year so they were obviously worthy opponents and they had Tempo under pressure within the first quarter opening out a four point lead. Tempo revived with a Gerry McNally penalty goal and took the lead with only eight minutes remaining only to be dismissed by a late Brady goal.

Revenge for that defeat came quickly however for Belcoo formed the opposition in the divisional play-off. This went to a replay at Teemore where the game was the curtain raiser to a senior championship tie between Enniskillen and Lisnaskea and two goals by Gerry McNally plus solid support from Hugh McCaffrey who had journeyed from Dublin for the game sent Tempo through to the decider against Roslea. Teemore was again the venue as Tempo sought their first adult county title in five years. It was an uphill task from the second minute onwards after Packie Murray had rammed in a Roslea goal. Tempo had the better of the exchanges in the half but a wasteful attack squandered a host of chances and as they turned to face the breeze and slope after the interval their cause was forlorn. A McDermott goal for Roslea wrapped it all up and the final scoreline read 2.5 to 0.4.

In his report to the A.G.M. of the club the outgoing secretary Alphonsus McCaffrey commented that "at the

beginning of the year it was necessary to have our team regraded junior due to a number of our veteran players retiring and also because of emigration. We made an early exit from the championship when Belcoo beat us in the second round.

In the league we beat Belcoo in the divisional final in a replay at Teemore but were beaten by Roslea in the final owing to lack of training on our part and to a few rather queer decisions of the referee".

The secretary further reported that the club had entered a juvenile team for Fermanagh competition, that dressing rooms had been erected and that overall good progress had been made.

He also reported that the club during the year had, "lost our efficient secretary Hugh McCaffrey and a young, promising player John McAloon".

For the County Convention the club forwarded two motions :

1. In that the goalkeeper be allowed to handle the ball on the ground. This motion was passed for it subsequently was discussed at Congress.
2. That a referee who is unable to attend a match shall notify the County Secretary who alone shall be responsible for appointing a substitute. This motion appears to have been withdrawn.

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Every Success to the Club and their book

The club officers for the year were :

Chairman	Phil Breen
Vice Chairman	Tommy Doherty
Secretary	Alphonsus McCaffrey
Assistant Secretary	Tommy McNally
Treasurer	Jim Breen
Committee	J. McNally
	J. McNally
	P. McCarey
	P. McDonagh
	Joe McKenna
	J. Murphy
	M. McCaffrey.

In the Winter league which got off to a bad start because of the snow, Tempo had an encouraging start with wins over Maguiresbridge and Cavanacross and by this stage the club had moved to new grounds at Durnien's as levelling operations were commenced on the site at Edenmore.

In the league the team was operating in the Western Division in company with Belcoo, Cavanacross, Cashel, Devenish, Ederney, Derrygonnelly and Irvinestown but there was only moderate fortune and in mid-summer defeat on successive Sundays by Ederney, both by a single point put them out of the running. By this stage tournaments were beginning to play an increasingly large role.

Having been beaten by Ederney in a league tie the team with the assistance of Ederney stalwart Claude Maguire beat Irvinestown that same evening in the Trillick tourney only to lose out to Dromore in the final.

The championship however was to bring out the best in the team and they had a cracking start in the first round, beating Irvinestown by 4.5 to 0.4, and that brought them to Enniskillen for a semi-final joust with Belcoo. This turned out to be an exceptionally close contest with the tams level at half-time. Belcoo edged ahead but Tempo, with points from Gerry McNally plus a late goal from Jim McKeaney levelled and then had a late point to win by the slimmest of margins.

The final was played at Lisnaskea on October 2nd with Aughadrumsee, a club with whom Tempo were to run up against increasingly in the next few years, as the opposition.

But this was not to be the happiest of finals for the Maguires as they slumped to a particularly heavy defeat on a scoreline of 1.9 to 0.1. Very little went right for the team from the beginning, missing easy chances in the early stages and when Aughadrumsee scrambled home a goal to boost themselves into an eight point lead at the interval the team were obviously in dire trouble. Tempo gave themselves a quick glimmer of hope with the opening point of the second half but Aughadrumsee

regained control and three points from Jimmy Quinn and Hugh Carey sank Tempo without trace.

The members of the Tempo team were : T. Doherty, J. Breen, P. Breen, J. McKeaney, B. Carters, B. Owens, Rev. G. McSorley, T. McCusker, T. McNally, A. McCaffrey, M. McCaffrey, P. Breen, G. McNally and P. McCarron.

The year 1956 was to be a relatively quiet one for the club with most of the energies being concentrated on the opening of the new ground which was now provisionally set for early summer 1957. Once again in the league it was some new company in the Northern Section with Coa, Cavanacross, Brookeboro, Ederney and Maguiresbridge. Brookeboro were a new club and Tempo had the privilege of playing them in their first league game. Not that many favours were given as Tempo handed out a defeat. There were two wins over Cavanacross but problems appeared with setbacks against Coa and Maguiresbridge to more or less end league interest.

In the championship there was a pick up of interest with a big win over Brookeboro in the first round followed by a nine point triumph over Maguiresbridge.

The semi-final was at Lisnaskea with Belnaleck the opposition. The first half was keenly fought on a sodden ground. Tempo had a first quarter blow when left half Maguire retired injured and they fell behind when Frank McBrien hit a Belnaleck goal. Trailing by that goal Tempo came back after the interval with a Breen goal but Belnaleck were too strong on the day eventually winning by 2.7 to 1.3 and then winning the final itself by beating the Knocks.

But it was in 1957 that most interest was increasingly being centred. A year in advance, Tyrone and Cavan had been invited to open the ground. There was excellent news when it was revealed that the local council had taken over Edenmore Lane and were preparing to construct a tarmaced new road that obviously would enhance the entrance to the ground.

As for the big day itself, this had been set for May 12th.

Erins Isle

A novel event was the two tier challenge with Dublin City club Erins Isle. Hugh McCaffrey was associated with the Finglas club who travelled to Tempo in 1968 only to lose by six points. The following year Tempo made the trip to Dublin for the return tie. They lost this by three points which ensured they won the medals on aggregate.

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Hugh McCaffrey Recalls

Grounds

Tempo Maguires was a junior team in 1946 with its home ground set in the valley beside Tempo River at Brackens Holm which was rented from Armstrong of Coocran. The pitch was small with sandy soil which left it suitable for football all year round. Rent for the field was paid by the barter system which was by cutting turf each year of the use of the field. There were no dressing rooms in those days so the hedges provided little shelter from the elements and the necessary cover for the players was non-existent. The River was always a useful amenity for the shower after the games when all and sundry enjoyed a plunge in the clear unpolluted water. Prior to playing at Bracken's home the club used McGranaghans hill in front of Pat McCaffrey's and it was to this field that the aspiring youth recall attending their first game. The only means of transport was either walking or cycling and for the very young it was certainly by "Shanks Mare". The club's colours were red jerseys with black nicks which were later changed to green and white band jerseys with white nicks. Admission to games was 6d (2 new pence) but it was always a blessing to see John or Stephen Cassidy or Tommie Doherty on the gate as that meant no charge to any young boy with an interest in the game. The club moved from Brackens Holm to Pat McCaffrey's field on the hill behind the shop which was really much too small but Pat was the type of man who would never stop progress and so his permission was given to level a ditch to make a much longer pitch. All the club members gave their services free and set to work with spades, shovels, horses and carts. Deep gratitude is due to the McCaffrey and McGranaghan families for the use of their land which was free of charge. Pats field was not really satisfactory since it meant trespassing on his private property so the committee decided after very long discussions to seek other accommodation.

Present Grounds

The club secretary at that time was Hugh McCaffrey who proposed that the club approach Canon Peter McCluskey P.P. for the field behind his house. It was felt by many of the committee members that we would not get the field but the secretary and Phil McCarron left the meeting and called to Canon McCluskey. After explaining the club's dilemma Canon McCluskey agreed to lease the grounds. A lease was obtained for 99 years and the secretary instructed P. J. Flanagan & Co. Solicitors through Seamus Kelly to draw up the Lease. The yearly rent was agreed at £12 10s 0d per annum plus two All Ireland tickets yearly for the Parish Priest. A good nights work had been done for the club and since the two delegates impressed on the Parish that it was the club members who always helped in parish work the Canon was then in favour of throwing his weight behind the club. Underneath the surface it was discovered that it would not be possible for the voluntary workers to continue due to rock substance. Quotations were then requested from contractors for levelling the ground and

it was finally agreed that the club hire a digger or earth mover from J. J. Scallon & Sons Ltd. Irvinestown on an hourly basis. The job was done to suit the clubs finances and the club was one of the first in the county to have its own grounds. It was far from being the perfect ground but at least it belonged to the club and the foundation was laid. The grounds were competed in 1956 which will be referred to in a later chapter.

First Championship Success

The funds were not existent in late 1948 when it appeared as if the club was about to abandon but then Hugh McCaffrey was appointed secretary and in 1949 the first championship trophy was won by the junior team when they defeated Newtownbutler after a rousing and spirited game. Hero of the hour was Tommie Doherty who was the idol of all the younger players and he was ably assisted by the burly Barney McCaughey at full back who gave a display reminiscent of the Gunner Brady of Cavan. It is difficult to know who imitated who but the style was much the same and Bent Murray knew at the end of the game that he was up against a stone wall. Each of the players played their part and there was not even a weak link on the team. Big John Cassidy and his brother Stephen together with Tom McGranaghan were a match for any opposition as far as physical strength was concerned and the direct style of Eddie Maguire was surely to be feared. The finer touches were added by the McNally brothers John, Tommie, and Gerry together with Francie Warnock, Leo McCaffrey, Jim McKeane, Patrick Slevin, Frank Carson and the outstanding left full back Phil McCarron. Gerry McNally contributed an enormous amount to the game and his points from frees were invaluable to the team.

The championship trophy was followed up by the minors in 1950 when it was least expected. The driving force was now evident in the club and the word defeat could not be entertained so with only thirteen players and not even one substitute the boys in green were on the march. It is safe now to record that two of the players were over age but since they were part of the thirteen it would have been a travesty if they were not allowed to participate. Devenish were the opposition in the semi-final played in Irvinestown and the half time score was Devenish 8 points and Tempo had a solitary point but the second half was revelation and ended with Tempo winning by a single point with the score Tempo 9 points and Devenish 8 points.

Newtownbutler were the opposition in the final and with the McCormacks and McQuillans in opposition it was considered that Tempo had no chance but the boys from Dooneen proved that they were capable of bringing the first minor championship to the club and this they did with a convincing win. The only players outside Dooneen school were Gerry McNally, Leo McCaffrey and Fergus Cleary and were it not for their assistance the championship would have rested elsewhere. Gerry and Leo were great players and added the finesse to the team. The team were comprised of the following players John McAloon, Bernard Breen, Jim Breen, Fergus Cleary, Leo

McCaffrey, Hugh McCaffrey, Bernard Carters, Alphonus McCaffrey, Gerry McNally, Jack McCusker, Bernard Durnian and Phil Breen. This team was then the backbone of the club for many years and subsequently won many trophies. The junior team was promoted to the senior grade and one of the first teams to fall was the mighty Lisnaskea on our home ground. Carrickmore were the Tyrone senior champions and they were also defeated by Tempo in a friendly game which proved that the team was on the right course. The standard of club football at this stage was very high and Lisnaskea Emmets and Belleek were a match for any team in the county.

Irish Dancing

Irish dance classes were started in St. Marys Hall each Monday night under the guidance of a Mr McKenna from Belfast and they were an outstanding success. Young and old and not so old engaged in the lessons given by a superb dancer and teacher and Tempo was on the map as far as Irish dancing was concerned. The ceili dances were the main source of revenue for the club for many years and Tempo Hall was packed to capacity to the music of "The McCusker Brothers", "Eugene Leddy", "Pride of Erin", "Assaroe" and "Jackie Hurst]" ceili bands. For good measure "The Clipper Carltons" the first show-band in Ireland were obtained by the club and their success was so good that they reached great heights and were in popular demand in all the top ballrooms in the country. It is a great tribute to the members of this band they are still in demand after so many years and in the opinion of many they were the best dance band in our time.

Horse Racing

A unique event which brought crowds from near and far was the race held on Pat McCaffrey's land between a number of local horses. Unfortunately the minutes and records have been mislaid covering this period but the winner was ridden by Tom Bogue who was then an aspiring young jockey who rode like a demon. Rumours circulated afterwards that a stewards enquiry should have been held because Tom and his four legged friend took the wrong course. Bets were placed here and there on all the horses as the form was non-existent but the men "in the know" knew what the winner was going to be as Tom had been seen to ride the horse at night through Langhams demesne to get the horse and jockey fit and some hefty wagers were laid. It was also rumoured that some of the bookies could not pay out after the race and they got a dip in Tattenweir river. Some of the locals were afraid to discuss Tom's secret ride out as they were not to sure whether it was Tom or the other rider who has been seen on many occasions even without a head riding as fast as a swallow and the noise of the horses hoofs could be heard as the back of Brougher mountain. Great interest was taken in the event for months before and after the event and it was the subject of many a discussion at the firesides and in the locals not only in Tempo but all the surrounding parishes. Even old Lord Brookborough intimated that he would have entered for

the race but was prevented from doing so because he would have to ride a protestant horse and a G.A.A. club would not allow the entry but sure enough the club would not have prevented him and in fact would have welcomed his entry but the truth was the Lord would not allow his horse to run on the Lord's day. Some people maintain that the very valuable prize for the winner should be given back to the club as Tom was not qualified to ride since he did not renew his licence and therefore he was a disqualified person but others maintain that he earned his prize because he was in full control of his horse throughout the race and even though the poor animal had been nobbled by a well known punter from Irvinestown it had still enough in hand to win comfortably and therefore the prize should rest where it belongs. Incidentally Tommie McNally was the judge on the day and the white flag was raised by a well known horseman from Trillick called McCaughey.

Players

The team members during the period 1948 to 1954 were as follows:

The McNally brothers - John, Tommie and Gerry, Tommie Doherty, Barney McCaughey, Stephen and John Cassidy, Jim Breen, Big Phil Breen, Patrick Slevin, Francie Warnock, Jim McKeane, Phil McCarron, Frank Carson, Fr. Tom Breen, Bennie Owens, John McAloon, Eddie John Maguire, Woe Phil Breen, Tom McGranaghan, Jack McCusker, Tommie McCusker, Paddy McDonagh, Alphonus McCaffrey and Hugh McCaffrey. The latter left Tempo on 8th June 1954 (after a presentation by Patrick McCarey on behalf of the club) to pursue his studies in Dublin but continued to play for the club for a further year. The hours of travel to and from Dublin were long as it meant leaving Dublin at 2 p.m. on a Saturday evening and arriving home on the late bus from Enniskillen at 11 p.m. and returning on Monday at 7 a.m. and arriving in Dublin at 3.30 p.m. The money for fares was scarce which meant that the player was denied other essentials. All the players of this era were men and boys of an outstanding calibre who were very dedicated to their club and it was a tremendous pleasure to be part of the club which gave unstinted support to an outstanding parish which was blessed in many ways by the spirituality of its people who supported the club at a time when money was scarce but a little went a long way. Co-operation between the club and the parishioners was at an all time high as could be seen from the support which the club enjoyed. This was due in a way to the players who were all popular due to their good conduct and good example. Practically all the players were non drinkers and non smokers and as a result stamina was at a premium. It is fair to say that all games did not end as one would hope and occasionally the rivalry would go beyond the limits and one such occasion took place in "Holywell" beside Belcoo when Tempo were very much at the receiving end until big John Cassidy lifted the main culprit (who appeared to be comparable in size) and shook him to such an extent that fear was put into the opposition. Discipline in the club was on a par with the best in the country and seldom were any of the players ever suspended.

Tournaments

During the years 1948 to 1954 Tempo were involved in many tournaments and they invariably brought out the best in the team as there was always great rivalry with the local teams especially Trillick, Fintona and Dromore. Many of the players took part in other activities such as tug o war, cycling and athletics and many trophies were won by the participants.

County Secretary

County Board meetings were held in Enniskillen and Seamus Kelly was County Secretary. After Seamus retired as secretary it was Tommie Fee who took over the job and seldom, if ever has there been such a dedicated officer. His enthusiasm for the job was astounding and his general approach and courtesy was of the highest calibre. His efforts deserved higher rewards on this earth but no doubt the light will shine on an extremely efficient Secretary who did not spare himself in the interest of others. It is a pity that some of the delegates to the County Board at that time were not made of the same qualities as it would have saved many a wasted night. Tommie was a native of Tempo and was a very talented player in the thirties and forties.

Finances

In 1948 the funds were non existent and in fact there were a few accounts outstanding and no money to meet them but with the efforts of an outstanding committee which consisted mainly of players, the situation changed and by 1954 the club had over £600 in credit. The funds were raised mainly from gate receipts, dances and sports which were all supported extremely well and enjoyed immensely by all concerned.

A Guiding Hand

Patrick McCarey was Principal of Dooneen school and it was mainly his influence that inspired the children under his care. Money was very scarce and therefore a real football was a novelty for a primary school but somehow one was purchased and Master McCarey motivated his pupils to such a degree that he put confidence into them and they became aware of the fact that they could hold their own in any company. Deep gratitude is due to this outstanding teacher and may our memories of him be never forgotten. Tribute also must be paid to Canon McCluskey P.P. for his help and courtesy to the club and indeed both of them played their part and let us hope and pray that they are now enjoying everlasting happiness.

The Fermanagh Herald

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A Year to Remember

1957 was to be a year that was to go down as one of the most significant in the life of what was by now a sturdy branch of the G.A.A. in County Fermanagh. The opening half of the year saw the club concentrate all its energies on preparation for the ground opening and what an historic achievement that was to be.

With that memorable day triumphantly over, the ground rapidly became one of the most popular in the county being the venue for many important games while to round off a simply superb year the club captured the junior championship title.

The club committee which oversaw all this hectic activity was :

Chairman	Paddy McCarey
Vice Chairman	Phil Breen
Secretary	Tom McNally
Assistant Secretary	Jim McKeaney
Treasurer	Jim Breen
Committee	Tommy Doherty
	Paddy McDonagh
	Phil McCarron
	Michael McCaffrey
	Eddie Maguire
	Pat McAloon
	Johnny McNally
	Gerry McNally
	Packie McGranaghan
	Barney Carters
	Benny Owens
	Philip Breen

In the opening weeks of the season the omens were indeed promising as the team rattled off four league victories over Lack, Belcoo, Brookeboro and Coa before early May brought the day so much work and sacrifice had now made possible.

The Games Commentary column in the Fermanagh Herald opened its account as follows : "There were many anxious hearts and worried faces in Tempo last Sunday when the bright skies of morning were slowly but steadily blotted out by masses of threatening grey clouds as noon approached. A little after twelve the first drops of rain began to fall and there seemed every likelihood of the long awaited opening of the new Tempo pitch being washed out by the dreaded deluge. But the light showers failed to thicken as expected, instead they began to die out and by 2.00 when the early arrivals were approaching the ticket sellers, it was fairly obvious that the greatest danger was past. And so it proved. It was never a pleasantly warm day but fortunately for all concerned the hills of Edenmore sheltered players and spectators from the cool breezes".

Almost four thousand spectators attended the grand challenge game between Tyrone and Cavan. Ulster champions Tyrone were on the crest of a wave at this time and to add extra spice to the occasion, the previous Sunday in a Dr. McKenna Cup tie they had beaten Cavan by ten points.

The blessing and opening of the ground was performed by Most Rev. Dr. Eugene O'Callaghan, Bishop of Clogher and he was assisted by Very Rev. P. McCluskey, P.P. Tempo and Very Rev. B. Hackett, P.P. Garrison.



1957 Club Committee

Back Row : L to R : Johnny McNally, Tommy McCusker, Jim Hughes, Micky McCaffrey, Barney Carters, Phil Breen, Benny Owens, Jim McKeaney, Eddie Maguire, Packie McGranaghan, Paddy McDonagh
From Row : L to R : Gerry McNally, Tommy Doherty, Phil Breen, Jim Breen, Paddy McCarey, Tommy McNally, Jim Callaghan, Alphie McCaffrey, Pat McAloon



His Lordship Bishop O'Callaghan at the opening of the New Park

Left : Fr. Donnelly C.C., Fr. McCluskey P.P., Bishop O'Callaghan, Paddy McCarey Club Chairman, Tom Fee Co. Secretary

On arrival at the ground the clergy were received by Paddy McCarey, chairman of the club, J. J. McElholm and Tom Fee, plus Fermanagh County Board officials. Indeed for Tempo born Fee it must have been an especially proud occasion.

Tempo Silver Band played "Faith of Our Fathers". on his Lordships arrival and in his speech the bishop warmly congratulated the club on their splendid achievement. "They, the club members, have given freely of their services to produce this splendid park and I have no doubt but that they will inspire other districts in Fermanagh and in all parts of Ireland by what they have done".



Tom Fee speaking at the opening of the New Park in 1957 with Tempo Silver Band in the background.

He continued, "We must learn in the first place to love our own home, to love our own district, our parish, our county, our province and our nation. Our young people must be taught to love their native land above all other countries. This is the order of nature, the order of charity".

His Lordship went on to hope, "that the Gaelic Games would be played in the fine old Gaelic spirit, the spirit of love and a healthy rivalry and spirit of friendship".

The Big Match



Cavan (near) and Tyrone parade before challenge game on Official Opening Day

Cavan2.8 Tyrone.....2.7

The exchanges in this game were considerably keener than in most challenge games and the crowd got full value for their money. They also witnessed two wonderful displays at full back by Victor Sherlock of Cavan and Jim Devlin of Tyrone plus a number of magnificent solo runs.

Both sides were a little understrength with 'Gunner' Brady and Jim McDonnell the most notable absentee for Cavan and Jody O'Neill and John Joe O'Hagan missing for Tyrone.

The first half was especially closely fought with Keyes at midfield pulling off some tremendous fetches for Cavan and Jones proving to be a will o the wisp for Tyrone in attack. At the break the teams were level on four points each. Cavan had the boost of an early second half goal from Boyle but two Jones points brought Tyrone right back.

From there to the finish it was extremely close, Boyle getting a second goal and Tyrone getting similar scores from Donnelly and Jones.

Teams

Cavan : S. Morris, B. O'Reilly, V. Sherlock, P. Fitzsimmons, M. Shiels, T. Maguire, N. O'Reilly, G. Keyes, J. Brady, C. Smith, M. Lynch, C. Gallagher, J. Sheridan, H. D. Boyle and B. Deignan

Tyrone : T. Turbett, S. McBrearty, J. Devlin, S. O'Neill, E. McElroy, P. Corey, P. Donaghy, M. Kenny, F. Higgins, I. Jones, J. Taggart, F. Donnelly, D. Donnelly, F. Higgins and F. Fee

Referee : Paddy Maguire, Derrylin O'Connells

There was a curtain raiser game to the big match and this featured a Belleek Selection against a Lisnaskea Selection which the former won by a scoreline of 2.5 to 1.3. Belleek who were best served by J. J. Treacy and Jim McGrath led by four points at the interval and despite the

best efforts of Owen Clerkin, Jim Collins and Jim Cassidy for the Lisnaskea Selection, the side from the Western end of the county won through.

Referee was Billy Charlton of Irvinestown.

At the conclusion of both games the club chairman Paddy McCarey thanked the Cavan and Tyrone boards for their co-operation, the teams for giving a first class exhibition and all those who had contributed in any way to the occasion.

And indeed it had been an occasion with the attendance of 4,000 a good return for the clubs enterprise. An attendance incidentally that came from every corner of Fermanagh and from much of Tyrone while there was also an almost 100% turn out of past members of the club.

First League Game

Exactly a week later the club played its first adult game on the ground though in the previous mid week a large crowd had viewed a minor game between Enniskillen and Tempo/Cavanacross. The Sunday game had Lack as visitors but it turned out to be a one sided affair as Tempo romped to a runaway victory the bulk of the scores coming from Michael McCaffrey (2.2) Gerry McNally (1.4) Eddie Maguire (1.2) and Jim Hughes (0.3). Willie Maguire had the distinction of scoring the lone Lack point in reply and thus became the first adult opposition player to score at Tempo's new pitch.

The season was now moving into mid-summer and the championship loomed with an opening round tie against Brookeboro at Brookeboro which was won by a comfortable margin, Gerry McNally being the chief marksman. Things had also been going well in the league and

emerging as winners of their section they gained entry to the league final.

Derrylin1.7 Tempo.....1.3

Lisnaskea was the venue for this decider but it was not to be the happiest of days for Tempo and although there were good defensive displays from Jim and Phil Breen at full back and centre half respectively plus a sound performance for Jim Hughes the team was always struggling to contain the lighter Derrylin team.

The O'Connells had a goal from Cassidy in the first half to go into a goal lead at the interval. Tempo had a goal in reply after half-time and they then found themselves facing a depleted opposition after Derrylin's Tom Gilleece had been sent off by Roslea referee Tom Murray. But as has happened so often the team with the extra player couldn't drive home their advantage and Derrylin ensured their triumph with a couple of late points towards the end.

For the O'Connells the outstanding contributions came from such stalwarts as Paddy Maguire, Luke McGovern, Paddy Drumm and Sonny Gunn.

After the league exit, hope was renewed in the championship and there was instant encouragement with a 1.7 to 0.5 victory over Belcoo in the semi-final played at Enniskillen. There was considerable delay before the final itself took place but finally it did as the darkening days of winter rolled in on November 24th.

Tempo1.3 Kinawley1.2

Teemore was the venue and Malachy Mahon the referee as the teams lined out in dry conditions for a game that was to have a dramatic finish. The opening half however



1957 Junior Champions

Back Row : L to R : Jim McKeaney, Benny Owens, Gerry McNally, Eddie Maguire, Tommy McCusker, Tommy Doherty, Barney Cartes, Phil Breen

Front Row : L to R : Jim Hughes, Alphie McCaffrey, "Wee" Phil Breen, Jim Breen, Michael McCaffrey, Tommy McNally, Pat McAloon

gave little indication of that rousing climax as play was sluggish and indifferent with both sets of defences thoroughly on top. By half-time the attendance had little to enthuse about with each team managing to score just a single point.

After the changeover however matters took a turn for the better and the spectators were treated to some good passages of dashing fast football. McDonnell had a point for Kinawley with Tempo getting similar scores from M. McCaffrey and J. Breen. Kinawley then scored a goal in a breakaway raid. a hard shot was partially stopped by goalkeeper Tommy McCusker and the waiting Aiden Leonard swept the ball home to put Kinawley 1.2 to 0.3 ahead.

All through the second half Tempo had created numerous scoring opportunities but too many of these had been fluffed and it seemed as if a heavy price was going to be paid for this squandermania. Then came a sensational finish that will be long remembered by those present. Let the Games Commentary columnist take up the story, "Tempo earned a free around midfield and the ball was sent into the Kinawley goalmouth where more than half the two teams clustered. The clearance came to Alfie McCaffrey almost thirty yards out and his sizzling ground shot somehow or other found a clear path to the net. It was a great shot admittedly but how it escaped being blocked in the crowded goalmouth must always remain a mystery. The kick out was quickly followed by the full time whistle and the cup was Tempo's before many of their supporters had realised what was happening.

For Tempo the big men in their victory were Jim and Phil Breen, Gerry McNally, Jim McKeane and Michael

McCaffrey. Full marks too to Tommy Doherty who emerged from retirement once more to come on as a sub near the end. His appearance coincided with his teams recovery from the shock of Kinawleys goal. Tempo's youngest player J. Hughes seems likely to figure prominently in Tempo teams of the future".

To complete a never to be forgotten year for the Maguires it should also be recorded that a considerable number of county finals were played on their ground. The juvenile and minor championship finals were among the key underage games while at senior level the club hosted the league final between Aghadrumsee and Belnaleck plus the replay of the championship final between Roslea and Derrygonnelly. The latter game being described as being, "one of the most fiercely contested games ever seen in the county".

Indeed one of the major reasons why this replay was at Tempo was because the original game had been unfinished and the County Board choose Tempo as the replay venue because "it is certain that spectators won't play as big a part in the proceedings this time. They were fenced out from the playing pitch at Tempo".

Roslea won the final by 2.10 to 0.9 and Cavan man J. P. O'Reilly was in charge.

All in all an historic year but football ambition never stands still and despite all that had been achieved there were a lot more mountains to climb. The club had yet to win a county senior title in either league or championship.

The winning of that was the next pre-occupation of the Maguires.

Having to Wait

The years 1958 to 1960 saw the club now operating as senior unit in the county leagues and though there was to be no title won in that period, firmer foundations were all the time being laid for the successful challenge that would inevitably come.

The secretary Tommy McNally's report for the previous year had declared 1957 as "being a memorable year for Tempo. We suffered only one defeat in the season and along with the championship we also won three sets of medals and a cup in various tournaments. Furthermore with the exception of the J.F.C. and J.F.L. finals all other Fermanagh finals were played in our park".

As the 1958 season beckoned there was a considerable changeover in player personnel. Some players left the parish but to compensate for that, the disbandment of the Cavanacross club raised hope of having an influx of new players on transfer. This proved to be happily the case and an association that had been in existence over twenty years before was revived.

There were initial hopes that the club would now be in a position to field a senior and junior team but this doesn't appear to have got off the ground.

There was now a new division senior league with Tempo joined with Irvinestown, Enniskillen and Lisnaskea. However Tempo never really made any impression in the league despite the fact that the Cavanacross new boys were soon making a bit impression. A good victory over Enniskillen Gaels was the only significant feature of the league before the team astonished Fermanagh and themselves, by putting all that poor form behind them to put together a tremendous championship run.

The championship opening pairing brought the team up against Teemore Shamrocks, a club who were to figure prominently in Tempo's thoughts a little over a decade later. The game was playing at Belnaleck and with excellent performances from the Currans and the Coxes they moved on the next round with five points to spare. The second round was against Belnaleck at Lisnaskea and Tempo's improvement continued as they went through on a tight scoreline of 1.6 to 0.8. It was a close match as that narrow winning margin would suggest. Belnaleck led by five points to two at the interval but in the second half Tempo became much stronger. A good goal from Jim Curran, points from the returned Gerry McNally, and Jim Hughes plus a sound midfield effort from Tom Curran and Phil Breen formed the backbone of Tempo's work though man of the match was long serving corner back Barney Carters "who had the best game of his career so far in a Tempo jersey".

That brought the team to the semi-final and just a step away from an historic "first". The opposition was Irvinestown and this was to be the third meeting of the season. The record between the sides was a strange one with Tempo having beat Irvinestown in Irvinestown and the reverse occurring in the return league tie.

This semi-final at Belnaleck was the rubber tie and it all went right for Tempo as they went through on a scoreline of 2.10 to 1.9. A fifth minute goal from Curran settled the team at once and when Michael McCaffrey had a second goal before the break Tempo were well in command.

A quick Tempo point after the restart further strengthened the position before Irvinestown succeeded in mounting a rally. Inspired by Don Charlton and Malachy Mahon they clipped the deficit to two points but Tempo finished on a strong note and with a final four points to spare they reached their first ever senior championship final. A great achievement but could they go the vital one step further?

Roslea Too Experienced

Roslea2.6 Tempo1.2

Unfortunately for the Maguires they faced formidable opposition in the final in the shape of a Roslea team bidding to capture its fourth successive title. That Roslea side was one of the finest the border club ever produced, their team being laced with such famous names as Joe Pat Prunty, Malachy O'Rourke, Owenie Callaghan, Owen Clerkin and Des O'Rourke among others.

The Games Commentary column declared that, "the scoreline at the finish did scant justice to the Tempo effort. Early chances were missed and the team underwent a bad third quarter. The midfield pairing of Tom Curran and Phil Breen who had been doing splendidly in the first half faded somewhat and it looked as if there could be a Roslea rout. A Micky McCaffrey goal at the start of the 1st quarter saw Tempo begin to launch attack after attack but Joe Pat Prunty's hands were almost always in the right place to grab the high ball.

At the finish Roslea fully deserved their victory. As for Tempo their catch and kick style played into the hands of county full back Prunty. The Tempo defence was generally good enough though the two goals they conceded were softish enough. But it was really in attack that Tempo lost the day".

The Play

The match was played in excellent sunshine with Tempo soon off the mark with a Michael McCaffrey point. Roslea had a Hugh Murray point in reply and then they struck a heavy blow when in a counter move they broke through for a goal. John Cox was playing stirring game for Tempo at centre-half and with the defence as a whole generally solid Roslea only managed an O'Rourke pointed free before the half-time break. Tempo had had their spells of pressure but the forward line never really looked like making a breakthrough.

Roslea began the second half at a blistering pace and when Owen Clerkin soloed through to get his teams second goal, followed by points from Mohan and Brady Tempo's hopes slumped. They showed a never say die spirit nevertheless and after a couple of close shaves

*Best wishes to Tempo Maguires
from*

Mary Campbell

• **DRAPER** •

Main Street - Tempo

they had a fine point from Jim Hughes plus that Michael McCaffrey goal. But Roslea never really looked like being overhauled and it was they who concluded the scoring with a late point from Mohan.

So ended for the time being the Tempo dream of the senior championship but a magnificent step forward had been taken.

Team : Tommy McCusker, Benny Owens, Jim Breen, Barney Carters, Pat Cox, John Cox, Jim Cox, Tom Curran and Phil Breen, Jim Hughes, Alfie McCaffrey, Gerry McNally, Jim Curran, Phil Breen and Michael McCaffrey.

Referee : Percy McCooley, Donaghmoynne, County Monaghan

1959 and 1960

The following two seasons turned out to be rather undistinguished ones on the playing field with the team failing to build on the progress that had been made in 1958.

1959 opened with the County Convention being held in the local hall and Alfie McCaffrey was elected to the County Board as Treasurer. The club did however take a giant step forward with the decision to field a junior team, the first time there was sufficient playing strength to field two adult teams.

The seniors were to compete in the Western Division along with Derrygonnelly, Belleek, Devenish, Belnaleck, Enniskillen and Irvinestown with the juniors competing with Lack, Coa and Belcoo. The season got underway with the Divisional League being resurrected with Tempo in the Northern team that reached the final before being beaten by an Eastern selection.

In both senior and junior leagues there was only rather moderate fortune though on the junior team names such as Artie Breen and Patsy Breen were being noted as recruits for the future. The local Gaelic Week tournament brought encouragement with wins over Derrygonnelly, Aghadrumsee and Trillick in the final itself but overall the team was not playing all that well and confidence was not that high for the championship tie against Newtownbutler at Lisnaskea.

This was to be a rather controversial affair with Newtownbutler winning by 0.9 to 2.1 but a protest was successfully lodged and the game was replayed. There was little joy in the replayed game however as Newtown also won that on a scoreline of 1.7 to 0.8. The juniors also fell by the wayside losing to Lack by 3.6 to 0.3, the latter going on to reach the final played at Tempo where they lost to Teemore.

The minors had a reasonable run in their championship when in combination with Lisbellaw they beat Enniskillen and then Ederney only to finally go out at the hands of Derrygonnelly.

This was also the era of the wristlet watch tourney, a prize much sought after but in the Irvinestown tournament Tempo lost to Dromore and presumably had to purchase their own watches if they wanted one.

1960 was in many respects similar to the preceding season with the club again fielding two teams. The juniors continued to find it hard going losing the opening games to Lack and Coa but the seniors were to show signs that a breakthrough was in the offing. The trouble was that it was difficult to get consistency into their games. Early wins over Irvinestown and Kinawley were soon followed by draws with Enniskillen and Derrygonnelly, in the Enniskillen game having led by seven points at one stage. But mid summer the team was however well enough placed and a one point victory over Enniskillen kept them to the forefront.

A major blow followed then by a five point defeat in the championship at the hand of Aghadrumsee in Lisnaskea. Tempo had the benefit of the wind in the first half and led by 1.4 to no score at the interval. The second half saw a total reverse with Aghadrumsee shooting 1.9 without a Tempo reply. The juniors lost to the Knocks in their championship tie and the teams then spent some-time watching others play, notably in the Tempo ground where a couple of championship games were played plus a long delayed 1959 Senior League Final.

This featured Derrygonnelly against Aghadrumsee and gave Derrygonnelly their only senior title in their history.

As the year moved into its final stages the team again had mixed fortune in the league losing to the newly crowned 1959 champions but beating Kinawley easily.

Tourney Venus

At the height of the tournament era in the late 1960's and early 1970's, Tempo were regularly competing in a lengthy list of tournaments. Among the venues that cropped up every year were:

Augher, Ballygawley, Beragh, Donaghmore, Trillick, Ederney, Dromore.

Other Places saw the Maguires in action on a more occasional basis were Roslea, Omagh, Maguiresbridge, Irvinestown, Lisnaskea and Brookeboro.

Since tournaments were so popular teams regularly faced opposition from some distances and among the teams that Tempo clashed with during this period were Donegal Town, Ballybofey, Sligo, Clontibret, Castleblayney, Scotstown, Ballinamore plus a plentiful supply of top Tyrone teams, of whom Carrickmore always proved the toughest side to overcome. Indeed if memory serves correct, a Tempo win was never gained over them.

The First Senior Title - Breakthrough

The club has now been in existence for twenty years and was clearly well established. The ground was one of the best in the county at that time and in competition they had won a number of county titles. These successes however had been at junior and underage level.

Senior triumph still eluded us but 1961 was to change that as the breakthrough, at least as far as the league was concerned, was to occur in this season. The coveted championship was almost a decade away though in late November of 1961, few would have imagined that it would take so long to finally capture the trophy that clubs seek above all others.

The year began gloomily enough with the transfer of a number of players to the new junior team that was affiliated from Cavanacross. Eight players in all moved, Hugh Conners, Paul Love, Joseph Tierney, Seamus Martin, Seamus O'Connor, Patrick McCaffrey, Eugene Slevin and John Murphy.

Irvinestown, Enniskillen Gaels, Derrygonnelly, Belcoo and Devenish were our colleagues in the Western section of the senior league, with a draw with Enniskillen in the opening game being an unlikely hint of what lay ahead.

Irvinestown were easily beaten in the next game while Belcoo failed to field in the third fixture before Derrygonnelly handed out the first defeat. Tempo led the Harps five points to nil at half time but failed to score in the second half and eventually lost by two points. A victory over Devenish and a draw with Enniskillen in the Gaelic

field put the team in a sound position at the top of the table before the league campaign gave way to the championship.

The team was obviously going well, further evidence of this being a success in the Derrylin sports when Belturbet were beaten in that tourneys final. On then to the championship and a comprehensive eighteen point victory over Irvinestown in the opening round at Enniskillen but optimism that this was to be the championship year was buried at Lisnaskea in the next round when Newtownbutler won by a point in a tough game.

Nothing left then but the league and thankfully the thread was taken up again with a win over Devenish, though it was left very late, since the Garrison side led by four points with just five minutes remaining.

This victory ensured a divisional play off with Enniskillen at Irvinestown and a nerve wracking tussle it turned out to be. Tempo opened out into a six point lead yet could only be on level scores at the break. The tension continued in the second half as Enniskillen fluffed a penalty. Gerry McNally missed from a similar situation, the kick was retaken and this time put over the bar.

In the end a point separated the teams and Tempo were through to the county final and what a memorable occasion that was to be. Lisnaskea was the venue, Aghadrumsee the opposition, November 19th the date

Tempo 3.4 Aghadrumsee 2.3

This was a magnificent game. It had inspired football from thirty dedicated men. It had thrills and spills galore.



League Champions - 1961

Back Row - L to R : Willie Creddin; Pat Cox; Willie Carters (R.I.P.); Patsy Breen; Artie Breen; Jim Breen; Barney Carters; Gerry McNally; Jim McKeane; Tommy McNally.
Front Row - L to R : Pat Mcaloon; Tom Curran; Phil Breen; Micky McCaffrey; John McElroy; 'Wee' Phil Breen (R.I.P.); Alphie McCaffrey; Francie McCaffrey; Jim Curran.

Scores came just when they should have come and wides were few.

There was dare devil attacking movements and dour defensive play - a "do or die" spirit in which two teams and two big men clashed in which knocks were sportingly given and taken and in which the better team emerged as glory covered victors over a gallant fifteen losers. It was a game of games.

From Tempo it was glorious hour and a fruition of many hours of practice and many seasons of effort. For Aughadrumsee it was a good hour for they gained for themselves, even in defeat, a mantle of glory often denied the victors of many games. Two better teams have seldom contested a Fermanagh senior league final; it may never be so well won again and it will certainly never be better lost. Aughadrumsee fought to the final whistle in great spirit and then were the first to congratulate the Tempo men on their great win.

The sixty minutes were loaded with tension as first the one side and then the other gained the upperhand. Football was robust and fast and of a high quality and up to the last four minutes the scores and play was so close that the Canon Maguire Cup was balanced on a razor edge and a slip of the hand or a blink of the eye could have toppled it into either set of grasping hands.

To come down to the business of singling our individuals for special mention is difficult. so well did every man play his part. Yet the duel between the aforementioned "two big men" deserves such mention.

Big Phil Breen and burly Enda Crudden watched each other like hawks for the duration of the hour. When they rose for the ball together it was like the upheaval of the little mountain and when their shoulders clashed both of them went off in different directions. Phil was the main-spring of the Tempo machine and Enda the backbone of the Aughadrumsee team and upon this duel the match rested in many respects. Honours were about even for two thirds of the way but then Tempo began to benefit more than their opponents from the balls that broke between the pair and Enda was also shaken by a knock that he got at this stage.

The defences on both sides gave very little away although the Tempo sextet were somewhat shaky in the opening periods. Both sets of forwards were always dangerous on the move and if anything Tempo were a shade faster. Pick of the line of attack was Arty Breen whose foraging was ceaseless, his runs fast and furious and the results generally lucrative, either realising a score or placing a partner for one. Jim Curran was also elusive and dangerous once he gained possession, and the two McCaffrey on the wings tackled hard and gave nothing away. J. McKeane who came on as a sub for F. McCaffrey will long be remembered by the Tempo men for his dazzling fisted goal which came shortly after he entered the field and just when Tempo were in most need of it.

Gerry McNally efficiently partnered Phil Breen at midfield and did some excellent work both in defence and attack. He missed three close in frees but it is possible he was trying to connect the ball with a fast incoming winger, especially in the first half when the winger did come flying in but the leather was to high.

Pat Cox, Alfie McCaffrey and Pat McAloon were sturdy and reliable half backs who tackled first and asked questions afterwards and Tom Curran and Jim Breen were stalwart back liners with Barney Carters bringing off some very good fielding and intelligent covering. McElroy in goals was safe and sure on the times that he got "stoppable" shots.

For Aughadrumsee, Enda Crudden as already mentioned was engaged all the hour with Phil Breen and could almost say that one neutralised the efforts of the others. Liam McMahon also at midfield was his usual dashing self and unbeatable to a loose ball and though he ran out of puff in the last five minutes he was directly responsible for most of his teams scores.

In defence Ben Cleary and Jimmy McCaffrey were outstanding with H. Maguire, P. McCaffrey and Beggan also sound. Goalkeeper Jim Quinn and corner back Manley were sound in the first half but in the third quarter the entire defence tired under the ceaseless Tempo offensive.

Both attacks were capable of opening large gaps in the respective defences, especially the Aughadrumsee line of attack in the first quarter, but due to inspired and sometimes daring tackling on both sides only the most intelligent moves brought scores.

As already stated the football was exceptionally hard yet not one incident marred the greatness of the game. Every player conducted himself in the best traditions of the game and it was a wonderful treat to watch and report. Referee Percy McCooey from Monaghan handled the game in his customary firm and efficient manner.

The Play

Tempo were first away but Jimmy McCaffrey set the tone of the hour by clearing in lengthy manner. Aughadrumsee gained possession soon after and from Ben Quinn the ball was switched smartly across to Hughie Kelly, to Eamon Maguire on the turn behind the backline. Maguire made the angle and beat McElroy with a rising shot to the net in the fifth minute. Tempo fought back in great style. Tom Curran cleared a ball down field. Gerry McNally crossed accurately to Arty Breen and Arty was away on the run with the Tempo forwards in formation round the goalmouth. His shot came across the goal from the wing and big brother Phil got his fist to it and it was in the net for evens. That was in the tenth minute and Tempo were now playing the better football. M. McCaffrey was fouled down the wing and Gerry McNally chipped over a nice point. Football at this stage was of the highest standard and both teams were playing their hearts out. Tempo were attacking more but Aughadrumsee efforts

looked more penetrating. John McElroy was good in saving a pointblank shot from Eamon Maguire and Tom Curran was coming out time and again with the ball. After the sides had a couple of wides Liam McMahon in the 28th minute gained a loose ball from a corner backs unwise clearance and pointed to make it evens again. With the half almost over there came a shock for Tempo when Maguire was again beautifully placed for a smashing goal by elusive Ben Quinn, for McMahon again.

Halt-time

Aughadrumsee 2.1 Tempo 1.1

On the resumption Tempo were back into the attack again with no less vigour and when Phil Breen was fouled, Michael McCaffrey pointed the sideline ball in concise fashion. But they were still trailing and it was as strong Aughadrumsee who swept upfield to land the next score when marksman in chief Eamon Maguire again pointed.

Still back came Tempo, three points behind now. They fought their way upfield and Arty Breen was the man who dropped the ball into the ruck some 14 yards on the left side of the lower goals where Jim McKeane got a well directed fist to it to rocket it to the back of the net to leave the sides level again. This seemed to put new heart into Tempo as well as heart into their supporters.

Aughadrumsee came back strongly but were repulsed and gradually Tempo got the extra pull. Pat Cox's long clearance found McNally who intelligently sent to Arty Breen on the run in with the defence beaten and he cracked the ball to the net. the game was still there for Aughadrumsee but they appeared to be tired. However they came upfield for a point from McMahon but that proved to be their last effort. Tempo continued to press until the end and the final say came from McNally who pointed a close in free.

The County Chairman J. J. McElholm presented the cup to Phil Breen and added that it had been a long time since he had seen such and excellent game in the county.

Teams :

Aughadrumsee

J. Quinn; H. Maguire; Ben Carey; T. Manley; P. McCaffrey; J. McCaffrey; T. Beggan; Enda Crudden; Liam McMahon; J. Mohan; Ben Quinn; John Quinn; J. J. Maguire; F. Maguire and H. Kelly.

Tempo

John McElroy; Tom Curran; Jim Breen; Barney Carters; Pat Cox; Alfie McCaffrey; Pat McAloon; Phil Breen; Gerry McNally; Arty Breen; Jim Curran; Michael McCaffrey; Patsy Breen; Frank McCaffrey; Subs - Jim McKeane for F. McCaffrey.

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The 60's Two Steps Forward - One back

The next eight years of what has since been labelled the swinging 60's turned out to be years of frustration for the club as they strove to win the premier award, the senior championship, the New York Gold Cup. Defeat came in two league finals plus a championship final all at the hands of the then all conquering Devenish team who were dominating Fermanagh football at the time. Those three finals came in the opening half of the decade but then as the years moved inexorably to the 1970's there came growing change in the team personnel.

In the latter half of the 60's the club began to enjoy success at juvenile, minor and junior level and gradually these players worked their way through to the senior team. So much so that the 1961 team bore little resemblance indeed to the team that finally climbed the club Everest in 1970.

The 60's was also a period when tournament football was at its peak and the Maguires played in a tremendous number of tournaments each summer. Tournaments such as those at Augher, Ballygawley, Beragh, Ederney, Donaghmore, Dromore, Trillick, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and Irvinestown all featured on the summer evening fixtures list over the years. And at those tournaments the opposition ranged from close at hand to faraway.

Tempo had tussles with Castleblayney, a night never to be forgotten in Maguiresbridge, against Sligo and Omagh at a jampacked Ederney, Scotstown in Roslea, Donegal Town, Ballinamore, Ballybofey normally in Dromore, earnest tussles with Tyrone's, Trillick, Carrickmore, Ardboe and Dromore plus Monaghan's Clontibret at Augher.

Indeed there were some members of the club who held the strong opinion that we played too many tournaments to the detriment of our chances in the Fermanagh Championship and League Competitions. What was the point of winning tournaments if we couldn't lift the trophies that counted? That was the heartfelt cry of many as the years of the 60's slipped away. But for those who played regularly in that decade, those who were coming to the end of their playing careers and those who were starting out on theirs, that decade, while it obviously had its sore disappointments also had its magical moments.

1962

For the 1962 league campaign there was an all county league system played on a single round basis and clearly Tempo were among those favoured to do well. As indeed they did, beginning with a draw against Lisnaskea, a nine point win over Devenish and further wins over Enniskillen Gaels and Aughadrumsee. The first hint of problems came in the fifth game when Roslea came out on top by six points and that was followed by a championship defeat by Devenish, the side what was to haunt Tempo in the years ahead.

There was another controversy over a tie with Newtownbutler but Tempo eventually got the points and that put them into their second successive league final.

Tempo had the breeze in the opening half but despite this advantage they only made token use of it and it was Devenish who looked the more positive team in the early stages. They had two quick points from the maestro P. T. Treacy plus a third from Benny Carty before Tempo replied with points from Artie Breen and Gerry McNally.

But Devenish continued to impress and they had four further points, P. T. again among the marksmen before Tempo's hopes revived with a punched Patsy Breen goal to leave a half-time scoreline of 0.7 to 1.2.

Those hopes blossomed even more in the minutes after half-time when Tempo had a punched goal to take the lead. P. T. Treacy levelled with a point but Tempo edged ahead with a Gerry McNally point. The game remained delicately poised with Devenish getting a Benny Carty goal and Tempo keeping abreast with a number of points. A few minutes however came the decisive score when Devenish collected a second goal by Peter Maguire and the Maguires had practically no time to save their crown.

Team: Willie Carters, Barney Carters, Jim Breen, Pat McAloon, John McElroy, Alfie McCaffrey, Denis McElroy, Gerry McNally and Phil Breen, Tony Green, Artie Breen, Phil Breen, Michael McCaffrey, Patsy Breen, Frank McCaffrey
Subs: Tom McCusker, Benny Owens and Jim McKeaneey.

1963

This year was little short of calamitous for the team and they finished the year without having gained a single league point. Perhaps the failure to retain the league title the previous November had its bearing on the matter with another factor was probably the introduction on a regular basis of a few raw young players. Injuries to older hands such as Alfie McCaffrey and Phil Breen also had an effect in what was to be a catastrophic league campaign.

The lowest point of all came when Roslea as visitors, won on a 0.7 to 0.0 scoreline. Not that Tempo were all that outclassed, merely that the attack missed not just of the proverbial bagful but rather a dozen bagfuls.

Roslea provided the championship opposition and won 0.6 to 0.4. Once again Tempo's attack had to bear the brunt of the blame. The Herald match report commented that, "it is no exaggeration to say that Tempo pressed for 25 of the 30 minutes in the second half but only could add two points to their half-time scoreline".

With a couple of minutes left the teams were level on four points each despite the efforts of John McElroy and Phil Breen, but Roslea snatched a fortunate win with late points from Goodwin and Callaghan.

Incidentally in this year, Teemore won the Intermediate final played at Tempo and press reports mentioned players such as Sean Reilly, Pat Fitzpatrick, Brian McCaffrey as having starred for the Shamrocks. This was played at Irvinestown on November 4th with Billy Charlton as referee.

Having gone through a dismal season there were few in Tempo who could have envisioned that these names would become all too familiar in a short period hence, as they battled with a resurgent Tempo for the highest honours of club football.

Devenish2.11 Tempo2.8

1964

1964 was to be a better season though again there was to be disappointment at the end of it in the shape of another league final defeat at the hands of Devenish. The Garrison side in fact were to beat Tempo three times in all during the course of the year, the first occasion being a decisive 3.10 to 0.4 drubbing in the second league game.

The second tussle was at Irvinestown in the championship and this was a much closer affair but unfortunately the end result was the same as we bowed out on a 0.8 to 0.4 scoreline, a feature of the game being that all scores came from play.

By September the team was lying third in the league table with games in hand and after more than a few anxious moments qualification was earned for a third league final in the space of four years.

Would there be a triumph to celebrate this time over the famed Blues?

Venue: Irvinestown **Date:** October 25th

Devenish3.7 Tempo1.2

The scoreline more or less tells its own tale though the press report commented that, "the Tempo attack made little headway despite the fact that much of the play was based in Devenish territory".

Devenish got a tonic of a start when they had a third minute goal from Benny Carty. Tempo came back well and a Patsy Breen goal in reply and really should have added a second shortly afterwards. A let off for Devenish but good team that they were they made the opposition pay dearly and late in the half they had a Gerry Treacy goal to lead 2.3 to 1.1 at the interval.

The second half saw the attack have practically no joy, their only reward being a pointed Gerry McNally free in the 50th minute. Devenish by that stage were well in control having had a 47th minute goal from Peter Ferguson and they reached the half-way stage in what was eventually to be a marvellous six in a row.

Tempo: John Owens, Michael Breen, Jim Breen, Pat McAloon, Damian Campbell, Alfie McCaffrey, Eamon Doherty, Phil Breen and Gerry McNally, Frank McCaffrey, John McElroy, Eugene Tunney, Michael McCaffrey, Artie Breen and Patsy Breen

Subs: Dennis McElroy and Barney Carters both used.

Devenish: Jim Carty, J. J. Treacy, Gerry Regan, Gerry Feely, Gerry Flanagan, Michael Treacy, Patsy McGurn, Tommy Gallagher and Kevin O'Shea, Sean Doherty, P. J. Treacy, Gerry Treacy, Sean Loughlin, Peter Ferguson, Benny Carty.

Naturally there was extreme disappointment indeed on the packed bus home from Irvinestown but unknown to, I suppose everybody, the tide was turning with the grand performance of the clubs juvenile team who reached the final of their league earlier in the year.

1965

The early stage of the 1965 campaign held out little promise with an opening draw with Enniskillen and then a defeat at the hands of Irvinestown. This particular game was a rather ill assorted affair with Irvinestown getting three first half goals to put them eight points clear. It was all Tempo in the second half but the 1.5 they scored wasn't enough.

A good victory over Roslea followed however the game featuring the return of Tom Curran after an absence of several years and then loomed the championship with an opening round game against Derrygonnelly at Enniskillen. This was comfortably won and the passage booked for a semi-final joust with Irvinestown. The clubs agreed to toss a coin for choice of venue. Tempo won and obviously needed that home advantage to give them the vital extra edge as the scraped through by 0.7 to 0.6.

On then to Irvinestown with Devenish of course the opposition.

Devenish2.5 Tempo0.5

It was to be once again a day of football despair for the Maguires as they failed to deliver on the occasion that counted. The Herald had little doubt as to where the fault lay, remarking, "that never before did a Tempo team waste so many easy scoring chances".

Despite an early P. T. Treacy point, Tempo were to look the sharper side in the first half as the appeared determined to put an end to a long litany of Devenish defeats.

Eamon Doherty had the teams level in the fifth minute but then the old malaise of missed chances made its appearance and despite plenty of Tempo pressure it was Devenish's Kevin O'Shea who had the next score. Tempo regained the lead with three points from Phil Breen, John McElroy and Seamus McCusker with Devenish closing the gap to a single point with a score from Peter Ferguson just before the interval.

The third quarter saw the game remain delicately poised with Devenish getting two points from Michael Treacy and McShea to creep in front again. There was more hopeless shooting from the Tempo forward line and inevitably the roof finally fell in when Devenish rapped in two goals from Michael and P. T. Treacy. Eamon Doherty had Tempo's only score of the half, a point four minutes from the end but by that stage the two goal Devenish blitz had ensure that the dream of the New York Gold Cup coming to the little village would have to be postponed for another year at least.

Team : John Owens, Michael Breen, Jim Breen, Tom Curran, Damian Campbell, Phil Breen, Pat McCaffrey, Hugh Connors and John McElroy, Eamon Doherty, Artie Breen, Eugene Tunney, Seamus McCusker, Patsy Breen and Alfie McCaffrey.

1966

1966 brought in the introduction of a ten team all county league following a heated debate at the Adjourned County Convention. At the Convention, the club had quite a number of players regraded junior, as the transition of the team began to gather pace. Long serving and loyal players such as Phil Breen, Michael McCaffrey, Gerry McNally and Alfie McCaffrey were among those who took the step but in the opening two game of the league there was a less than satisfactory response from the new look side losing a couple of their early games. Matters began to pick up a little after that with a youthful Adrian Campbell making an impression. The championship however proved to be as far away as ever with Teemore handing out an 0.7 to 0.1 defeat in the opening round at Lisnaskea. That single point scoreline spoke for itself as to the basic problem handicapping the team.

Surprisingly after that quick championship exit the form of the team took a dramatic turn for the better winning the Beragh and Irvinestown tournaments. The team reached the Augher semi-final before losing to Scotstown, and advanced to the Maguiresbridge final where they were to have battle with Castleblaney sometime hence.

Tournament form was repeated in the league and at least the scores began to flow, scoring for example 1.13 against Enniskillen and then came a league victory that went a long way to suggest that the breakthrough could not be all that far away.

Tempo.....0.13 Devenish0.4

Devenish travelled to Tempo on a fine sunny Sunday just a week after they had retained the senior championship title with a thrilling victory over Newtownbutler. Tempo made a shaky start, trailing by 0.3 to 0.2 at the end of the first quarter but by half-time they had gone two points ahead. Before a large appreciative attendance Tempo took control of the second half. Full forward Gerry McNally finished with eight points and at the end there were tremendous elation in the Tempo hearts. This was one of their finest performances of the year,

inflicting on Devenish their first and only defeat of the year inside the county.

Two further league wins followed but the poor start to the year had ruined their chances of qualifying for the league final. The Games Commentary column remarked, "that Tempo are in great form at the moment and are almost every day finding new cause to rue their disastrous opening to the season when they lost a couple of games. They have won all the others".

In some ways then a frustrating finish to the year but there was an aura of tremendous optimism that great things were in the offing.

1967

For the 1967 the main officers of the club were : Chairman - Tommy Doherty, Vice-Chairman - Alfie McCaffrey, Secretary - Tommy McNally, Treasurer - Jim Breen and the club embarked on a season that many felt was surely going to be an historic one. Success however did not come in the area where it has been fervently hoped, namely the senior competitions, but in the long term view it came in crucial areas, at juvenile, minor and junior level.

The senior league got underway in early April with an away game against Newtownbutler and the side couldn't have had a more encouraging start. six goals, three from John Owens, two from Artie Breen and one from Frank McCaffrey saw the team power to a fine success. The juniors also showed good form. Backboned by the experience of Jim Breen and Michael McCaffrey, younger players such as Jamsey Breen and Ciaran Campbell were beginning to attract press notice.

Then followed a tremendous game on the Mountain Road where Teemore losing by 0.8 to 0.1 came back to win 2.5 to 0.10. A defeat, but one which indicated that Tempo were improving as a force.

The early summer saw the team record one of its most famous victories when they won the Laugher tournament beating St. Josephs Training College Belfast in the final. Not so happy an occasion came shortly afterwards when the Maguiresbridge final with Castleblaney was abandoned at half-time by referee Joe O'Loughlin.

Back then to the league but a hint of inconsistency had by now crept into the team as they lost their second league game and that inconsistency was to come to the fore in the championship tie with Newtownbutler. A simply terrible start saw the team trail by no less than ten points at one stage of the first half and though there was a recovery after that the deficit was far too much to overcome. The final score was 1.9 to 1.4

Worse was to follow at Ederney handed out a league defeat that more or less killed off the challenge for that title. The juniors went out of their championship and the season that had promised so much looked to be in tatters.

And yet there was to be a bright finish to the year notably provided by the underage teams. The juvenile team had been performing well and in the league semi-final they had a fine win over Irvinestown while in the final they scored an impressive win over Ederney on a scoreline of 1.12 to 0.1.

The team panel was : Michael Farry, Eddie Greer, Ciaran Campbell, Aiden McCarron, Patsy Flynn, Adrian Campbell, Pat Kelly, Jim McPhillips, Brendan McCusker, Liam Keenan, Tom Campbell, Joe Mohan, Brendan McCaffrey, Thomas Doherty.

At minor level things were humming also when in combination with neighbours Brookeboro the team reached the championship final where they played the Roslea/Aughadrumsee/Newtownbutler amalgamation at Teemore. The team got off to a dismal start and at one stage they went a massive nine points in arrears, the opposition notching a quick two goals and four points but by half-time there had been a good recovery to close the gap to a more reasonable four points.

In the second half with Brookeboro's Sammy Nelson in sparkling form and a solid contribution coming from Des and Adrian Campbell and Michael Jackson the side won by a richly deserved five points.

Hard on the heels of these underage triumphs came further progress from the juniors. The championship apart they had been moving smoothly in the league and with a nine point victory over Newtownbutler they earned their league final place against the new champions Derrylin. The final was postponed to the following March.

The junior panel in the Autumn of this year was : Denis McElroy, Tony Green, Michael McCaffrey, Jamsey Breen, John Owens, Tony Breenan, Gabriel Tunney, Alfie McCaffrey, Hugh Foy, Michael McCarney, Ciaran Campbell, Eugene Tunney and Brendan McCusker.

To round off the year the club also won the Fr. O'Dowd cup for sportsmanship.

1968

The 1968 season was to a great extent dominated by the junior team who featured in the two league finals played in that year. The 1967 final was played at Teemore on February 25th but there was to be no joy at the Mountain Road on this occasion.

Derrylin O'Connells2.7 Tempo1.8

The game was played in good conditions and proved to be a fine even match. Derrylin had claimed the championship the previous autumn and were obviously keen to do the double. Tempo however were a solid team and they were well equipped to handle the Derrylin challenge and in the first half especially they had the look of

winners. Jamsey Breen was playing extremely well at centrehalf and a goal from Brendan McCusker put Tempo into an interval lead.

Derrylin gained the initiative with an early goal and point in the second half and when they had a goal some ten minutes from the end it was enough to clinch them the prized double.

Tempo scorers were : Ciaran Campbell 0.5, Brendan McCusker 1.0, Michael McCaffrey 0.2 and Alfie McCaffrey 0.1.

Team : Tony Green, Hugh Foy, Jim Breen, Pat McCaffrey, Michael McCarney, Jamsey Breen, Alfie McCaffrey, Tony Brennan, John Owens, Ciaran Campbell, J. J. Campbell, Michael McCaffrey (capt) and Brendan McCusker.

The juniors put this setback out of their minds when the 1968 league began and they opened in convincing fashion with a string of good victories. The seniors on the other hand found that little could go right for them. An encouraging first day victory over Roslea was soon followed by a string of defeats that anchored them in the lower reaches of the table.

There could have been little surprise then, despite the fact that good runs had as usual been produced in local tournaments, that a quick championship exit was on the cards. And that's the way it turned out to be as Newtownbutler put us out of the running for the second year in succession winning by 0.12 to 0.4 at Teemore. The hopes of the season sank even lower when the juniors lost their first game of the year being hustled out of the championship by Enniskillen.

Teemore continued our downward trend with a heavy defeat and it was not until the final of the Roslea tournament arrived that the first bright spot appeared with a 2.8 to 0.9 triumph over Scotstown.

But generally the senior season was in shreds and it was not until the latter stages of the season that the gloom was lifted with the success of the juniors. They had been full of promise all year, a promise that unfortunately had not been fulfilled in the championship, but in the league all was to come right.

Newtownbutler was the opposition in the semi-finals and a welcome measure of revenge for the earlier dismissal of the seniors was achieved with a nine point win. That brought the team to the final against Maguiresbridge at Irvinestown on October 5th.

It was to be an emotional occasion as the game was to be the final appearance of Fr. Pat McCaffrey in the old maroon jersey before he headed to Africa mission fields later that week.



Fr. Pat's Last Game Leading His Team To The 1968 Junior Title
Back Row : L to R : Michael McCaffrey, Hugh Foy, Jim Breen, John Owens, Patsy Breen, Willie Greddin, Denis McElroy
Front Row : L to R : Pat Kelly, Brendan McCusker, Tony Brennan, Fr. Pat McCaffrey, Alphie McCaffrey, Liam Keenan, Karl Donnelly, Tom Campbell

Tempo.....3.6 Maguiresbridge0.3

There was to be little doubt about the result at the end though Maguiresbridge were unfortunate to be so heavily in arrears at the end.

"Indeed", reported the Fermanagh Herald, "there were times when Fr. Pat had to lead his side determinedly to withstand the challenge of the young Maguiresbridge tea. but the power play of Fr. Pat, of Michael McCaffrey and Brendan McCusker in the forwards aided and abetted by Denis McElroy and Tom Campbell carried too much weight for the Maguiresbridge defenders".

Two first half goals from Patsy Breen and Brendan McCusker put Tempo comfortably ahead at the interval and a Liam Keenan goal early in the second half put the issue beyond all doubt.

Team : Willie Credden, John Owens, Jim Breen, Hugh Foy, Tony Brennan, Fr. Pat McCaffrey, Brendan McCusker, Michael McCaffrey, Liam Keenan, Tom Campbell, Patsy Breen, Denis McElroy.

Substitute Pat Kelly for M. McCaffrey (injured).

Former Tempoman Tom Fee presented the trophy and the team itself made history by being the first of the club's second string to take a junior title.

That was to be the last success of the year as the club failed to repeat its underage triumphs of the previous season losing the minor semi-final to Enniskillen and the juvenile championship final to Irvinestown.

1969

Though it couldn't be known at the time the 1969 season was to deliver one last championship heartache to the Maguires before their day of glory dawned. By this stage the senior team was taking shape with a number of young players from the previously successful juvenile and minor teams now establishing regular first team position.

It was also clear that the poor league campaigns of previous years was now a thing of the past and in the course of the opening months of the year victories were chalked up over Newtownbutler, Irvinestown, Lisnaskea and Brookeboro.

In that period of the late 1960's the Augher tournament was perhaps the teams most popular tournament. Certainly the side enjoyed a fair degree of success in it and this year was to be no exception. Wins over Ardboe, Clontibret and then Coalisland, that plus the good league run put everybody in good heart. A Dromore tournament victory over Ballybofey fuelled hope higher.

Along at last came the championship and the first signs of indecision appeared. A preliminary round tie against

the Knocks should have been a relatively easy passage but by the three quarter stage Knocks held the lead and it took a fisted goal by Ciaran Campbell to get the team out of a hole.

On then to Teemore with Newtown the opposition. Would the bogey be laid to rest at last? For a long time it seemed as if it would as Tempo led by 1.4 to 0.3 at the break and with time almost up they still held the advantage by 1.5 to 0.7.

Then disaster struck, a never to be forgotten moment, certainly not in the footballing life of this chronicler, as a right wing centre came into the Tempo goalmouth, a rebound off the crossbar and O'Keefe was on the edge of the square to fist home a last gasp winning goal past the despairing fingers of at least three defenders.

It was perhaps the hardest defeat of all to take and in the days following, a senior championship title never looked further away than it did then. The heart had gone out of the season and Ederney applied the finishing touch when they more or less killed off the league chances with an 0.12 to 4.8 win at Tempo in early September. They waltzed to a seven point lead within minutes, Tony and Joe Maguire the main scorers and all of Tempo's high expectation for 1969 had been shattered.

It was to be the darkest hour before the dawn.

COUNTY PLAYERS

The club have provided many players over the years to Fermanagh teams in all grades of inter-county competition, too many to mention in detail.

In the isolated Fermanagh triumphs at national and provincial level, Tempo players have contributed their part with Philip Breen a member of the Fermanagh All-Ireland junior championship winning side in 1959 while in the two year reign Fermanagh enjoyed as Ulster U-21 champions in 1970 and 1971, Ciaran Campbell (*fullback*) Des Campbell (*midfield*) and Adrian Campbell (*half forward*) all featured. That team reached two All-Ireland finals only to lose decisively to Cork on both occasions.

Ciaran Campbell went on to gain provincial recognition with Ulster in the Railway Cup Competition playing at fullback.

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The Crowning Glory

The club was now on the threshold of an era of unparalleled success. There had been a long hard road travelled from the initial efforts of Frank Lynch and Frank Rice in the 1920's who planted the seeds in those far off days.

The dreams of the men who sat under McGrenaghan's sycamore tree, the dreams of the men who met in Tom Campbells house and the dreams of the men who played on the playing fields, administered in the club committee through the succeeding decades were now on the verge of being fulfilled.

Throughout those decades there had been tremendous progress. The club had won a number of county titles. They had been in the forefront of park development. Club members had contributed to the G.A.A. in the county both in a playing and in an administrative capacity.

But the ultimate prize, the All-Ireland Sam Maguire of club football, that prize of the county senior championship still eluded the Maguires.

1970 was to be the year of crowning glory and to make that achievement, that will be cherished for as long as there is a Tempo Maguire club, it was made by a team that live equally as long in the memory of Fermanagh football.

The Tempo team of the early 1970's can justly be labelled as one of the greats of Fermanagh. It was a team that produced some of the best club football ever seen in this county and their five year battle with Teemore Shamrocks will never be forgotten.

The epic duel with the famed Shamrocks meant that Tempo did not capture as many titles in that five year period, as their unquestioned ability, had it been another era, would surely have done.

But that is taking a narrow, parochial attitude.

Tempo and Teemore clubs have richer memories because of those five historic years and football in the county gained in full measure also.

The season began with yet another new league system and the team competed in league section A with Irvinestown, Belcoo, Ederney, Enniskillen and Devenish. The presence of recent championship winners Ederney and Devenish obviously made for a strong section but Tempo got off to a flying start notching up four victories in quick succession to establish themselves as a team to be reckoned with.

The fifth league game brought them against Irvinestown a side who were also going well. Tempo won through by a hefty eight point margin on the St. Molaise ground and one comment in the subsequent match report read, "This was the best football I have ever seen a Tempo

team play and on this form major honours cannot be denied them much longer".

A heartening comment indeed but the following two game brought everyone back to reality. Against Devenish it took a last second goal from Des Campbell to make it a sixth successive league win while the next game brought defeat in the Gaelic field, Enniskillen winning by a point.

Anxious thoughts then beginning to surface as the side headed once again to the Gaelic Field on June 14th to play the senior championship holders in the opening round of the 1970 New York Gold Cup campaign.

The Tempo - Teemore saga was about to be unleashed.

Tempo0.12 Teemore1.8

Teemore were of course one of the most renowned clubs in the county. They had been in at the birth of the Association in Fermanagh and in the early decades they had dominated. Lean times had then befallen them and they went for decades in the wilderness before the mid-1960's saw a rebirth that culminated with a senior championship title in 1969.

Teemore had a team that was good enough to establish another triumphant era in the history of the Shamrocks but just as they were to destroy Tempo's hope of an epoch era, so Tempo were to do likewise to them.

As for the game itself, it was Tempo who made most of the first half running with Ciaran and Adrian Campbell and Artie Breen all particularly impressive and a healthy nine points to three lead was gained. But Teemore were not going to be dismissed so easily and before the interval they roared back into the game with a tremendous goal from Brian McCaffrey and as the contest resumed in the second half, there was everything to play for.

Tempo made a quick bid to undermine Teemore's spirit by getting three early points to go six points clear again but Teemore were to put in an heroic effort to save their crown. Brian McCaffrey at midfield began to exert his influence, Sean Quinn and Pat Fitzpatrick threatened in the attack and five points in succession were rattled over. As the match went into the closing minutes the excitement reached feverpitch as Teemore sought the equalizer and Tempo surged in breakaway raids to force two saves from Teemore goalkeeper Jim Cassidy and a goal line clearance from Sean Reilly.

At Joe O'Loughlins final whistle the champions were still a point adrift and round one of the saga had gone to Tempo.

Further Progress

The quarter final was played in Irvinestown with Enniskillen Gaels the opponents and this was in some ways an anti-climax in that the standard of play was poor. Two

minutes before the break Tempo led by 1.7 to 0.1 before Enniskillen gave themselves a ray of hope with a goal. By the three quarter mark Tempo had restored command to go ten points clear before Enniskillen hit two late goals to close the gap. A rather indifferent Tempo effort and there was no reason to be over confident that this year was the year.

Before the semi-final with Irvinestown was played the league knock-out stage took the limelight and Tempo beat Knocks by a big score in the quarter-final but had to put in a tremendous last quarter effort to spin Enniskillen out, again by a four point margin and again at Irvinestown.

Safely into one final then but the championship was the greatest prize and 1969 beaten finalists Irvinestown would be hard to overcome. They had already run Tempo to a single point in a league game at Tempo and in their quarter-final championship tie they had beaten the 1969 league championship Ederney.

The Gaelic Field in Enniskillen was the venue for the game which was to be the third match in a triple decker programme. The lowlying Gaelic Field was by no means the driest of sods and when Tempo and Irvinestown lined out for their contest, the going was difficult indeed.

A large crowd was in attendance and they were treated to a fairly close first half. Adrian Campbell had an early point with Irvinestown taking the lead for what was to be

the only time in the game with points from Martin Cassidy and Anthony Maguire. At the interval Tempo led by 0.5 to 0.3 and with the Irvinestown forward line wasting a number of openings Tempo remained ahead all through the second half. A late fisted goal by Tom McPhillips put the matter beyond all doubt on a scoreline of 1.8 to 0.4. Into the final then for the first time since 1965 but Tempo had faltered at the last hurdle on numerous occasions in the past and that was the nightmare the team of 1970 had to overcome.

Semi-final team : John Owens, Mickey Breen, Ciaran Campbell, John McElroy, Jamsey Breen, Eamon Doherty, Mick McCarney, Des Campbell and Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Eugene Tunney, Brendan McCusker, Artie Breen and Tom McPhillips. Subs : Pat Kelly, Karl Donnelly, Tony Brennan, Gerry McNally and Jim McPhillips.

Triumph at Last

Tempo2.15 Belcoo0.4

October 11th in St. Molaise Park Irvinestown has now gone down in the football memory vault of every Tempo person who was privileged to be there, and indeed in the memory vault of many neutrals.

Winning the first big one has a special magic all its own and this first senior championship triumph swept away all the memories of past frustrations and defeats. Indeed it



The Team That Beat Irvinestown In The 1970 S.F.C. Semi-Final

Back Row : L to R : Ciaran Campbell, Artie Breen, Seamus McCusker, John Owens, Des Campbell, Michael McCarney, Gerry McNally, James Breen, Brendan McCusker, Pat Kelly, Karl Donnelly.
Front Row : L to R : Adrian Campbell, Damien Campbell, Michael Breen, Eamon Doherty, John McElroy, Eugene Tunney, Tony Brennan

could be said that those setbacks of the past made the triumph, when it did come, all the sweeter. To have sweated and toiled and finally to have achieved, is ecstasy of a special kind.

The final scoreline would indicate that this final was a one horse race, making it an anti-climax. But that was most certainly not the case, at least not until some five to ten minutes after half-time. Belcoo, who has beaten Roslea and Newtownbutler on their path to the final, their first appearance in the decider incidentally, were in the game with every prospect of success until the three quarter stage.

The Herald match report commented, "Belcoo, fresh and vigorous and with everything to gain by a spectacular victory looked a formidable team, physique wise. And they started off with such zest and understanding, teamwork and powerpunch midfield, as gave not only the impression of a team scenting victory but a team fully capable of achieving it. Powered by their star county player Eamon McPartland in midfield they went to work right away and played some splendid football".

It was McPartland in fact who opened the scoring with a pointed free but Tempo came back to get three points in succession from Seamus McCusker, Des Campbell and Adrian Campbell. Two McPartland frees levelled the teams before a pointed Seamus McCusker free edged Tempo a single point ahead at the interval.

A tight situation then and anxious debate during the interval break. But Tempo had too many championship failures since their first final senior appearance in 1958 and there was a rock solid determination that this day was to see no repeat.

Tempo then emerged for a second half in which they were to produce the electric brand of fluent football that was to earn them a unique place in Fermanagh football history. A point from Brendan McCusker, a goal from Tom McPhillips and Belcoo were on the way out. McPartland pointed a free for what was to be there sole second half score and when he was injured the floodgates simply opened. A string of points, and a 55th minute rocket goal from Adrian Campbell produced a devastating triumph.

Newspaper reports on the game remarked on the quite outstanding efforts of "Adrian Campbell, while big Artie Breen had one of his best days ever. but the whole team worked like a magic machine when it got into gear and there was little that it could do wrong".

The Gaelic games columnist noted that the "result did little justice to the struggle put up by Belcoo for forty minutes during which, although Tempo always looked like winning, a Belcoo goal could have had a very different effect on the game. Indeed it was a Tempo goal from Tom McPhillips, a score hotly disputed by the Belcoo defence which eventually put the seal on the underdogs. Had it not come and had Eamon McPartland not been injured at a vital stage of the game I have no

doubt but the Tempo's winning margin would have been narrower.

But this should not detract from Tempo's victory in anyway for in the last quarter Tempo gave a truly memorable display of classic football the likes of which we have rarely seen in Fermanagh club games and which even the best teams of the past would have found great difficulty in withstanding".

Belcoo Team Maurice Ferguson, Tom Leonard, Pat McGowan, John McGinley, Pat Joe McGinley, Gerry Timoney, John McPartland, John McGowan, Eamon McPartland, Frank Timoney, Luke McGinley, Barney McGovern, Frank Melanophy, Joe Doherty and Owen Kerrigan.

Tempo Team John Owens, Michael Breen, Ciaran Campbell, John McElroy, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Michael McCarney, Des Campbell and Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Eugene Tunney, Brendan McCusker, Artie Breen, Tom McPhillips

Subs : Pat Kelly, Karl Donnelly, Tony Brennan, Gerry McNally, Jim McPhillips.

Scorers : S. McCusker 0.4 - Des Campbell 0.4 - T. McPhillips 1.1 - A. Campbell 1.1 - E. Tunney 0.3 - A. Breen 0.2.

A Hectic Autumn

The following weeks of the autumn saw the clubs plunge into a hectic series of pressure games at club and county level. The following Sunday the Tempo/Brookeboro minor combination won the minor championship when they had a big victory over Kinawley/Belnaleck at Irvinestown.

The following Sunday October 25th brought the team to Breiffni Park to play Cavan champions Crosserlough in the first round of the Ulster club championship. Crosserlough at this period were the masters of Cavan football, in fact they were in the middle of an astonishing run of seven championship titles in succession. It was then almost as astonishing for them to find themselves bundled out of the provincial competition by a team of rank novices.

The final scoreline read 1.9 to 1.6 in Tempo's favour and Crosserlough had no answer to Tempo's combined play. Des Campbell and Seamus McCusker gave Tempo a pull at midfield throughout, the other foundations were laid by Brendan McCusker who in a great spell towards the end of the first half picked off three points. Tempo led by three points at the interval and ten minutes from the end they had stretched this to six, thanks to a goal from Adrian Campbell. However it would be unfair as the Anglo-Celt reported, "to single out any of the Tempo players as every one of them gave a masterly display".

The pace continued the following Sunday with the juniors travelling to Teemore to play unbeaten Lisnaskea in the junior league final. No success this day however as the Emmets won a ding dong battle by 2.5 to 1.5 to collect the junior double.

Tempo's team on duty was : Michael McCaffrey, Hugh Foy, Jim Breen, Tony Murphy, Pat Kelly, Phil Breen, Alfie McCaffrey, Paul Campbell, Gerry McNally, Liam Keenan, Dominic Campbell, Patsy Breen and Frankie McPhillips.
Subs : Dinny McElroy for Patsy Breen.

League Final Saga

On then to Irvinestown on November 8th for the league final against Teemore. The Shamrocks had been waiting since mid-summer to put a halt to Tempo's gallop and there was an attendance of over 2,000, either to see them do it or to see Tempo put the question beyond all doubt, that it was they who were the top team in the county.

Tempo.....1.5 Teemore1.5

The Herald report in the opening paragraphs wrote that, "while the first half provided bags of good football it was the second half which brought the thrills of which there were enough to warm the coldest hearts of the 2,000 plus attendance on a chill November day to witness this hectic struggle between the kings of Fermanagh football. One can only say "thank you" for the magnificent fare served up".

Teemore were determination personified as they strode into the fray right from the outset. Three points from Sean and Peter Quinn and Paddy Reilly had Teemore in the driving seat as Tempo strove to stem the tide. Adrian Campbell had a point but it was Teemore who were forcing the pace and before half-time a Gerry O'Reilly goal and Peter Quinn point had them a deserved six points ahead. Revenge for that championship exit looked to be at hand.

Tempo were given a right old talking too at the break and any sense of complacency was by now rooted out. They showed more urgency as the second half got underway but they were served a bodyblow that was to test their courage and character to the limit. Awarded a penalty, the shot was driven wide by Ciaran Campbell. To make matters worse Teemore gleefully responded to this let off by racing upfield for a point.

Tempo were now faced with a test of massive proportions but with the instinctive will to win that all great teams possess, whatever level they operate at, they clawed their way back.

A switch that brought Artie Breen to midfield saw the control of this sector swing to Tempo and then a typical combination move sent Adrian Campbell through for a goal that set the match at boiling point temperature. The revival was now in full flood, the reverse roles now of the

championship tie in the Gaelic Field, and points from Eugene Tunney, Adrian Campbell and Artie Breen left just a single point between the teams with a little over ten minutes left.

Let the Herald match reporter describe a never to be forgotten finish. "There was a glorious period of ten minutes of spectacular football as the balance of power hung on a razor edge. Then Tempo were awarded a free which must surely go down in the annals of Fermanagh sports history. The ball was placed about 35 yards out on the sideline. I measured the distance afterwards and found it to be fully 52 yards to the posts. What thoughts went through Ciaran Campbells head. He had missed a penalty earlier but this shot sailed straight as a die over the bar".

A sensational finish that earned a second chance and everyone knew just how important this league was. Even though the championship title had been won there was the lingering fear that they would not be recognized as real champions if they did not clinch the league title as well.

Quite amazing really how footballing attitudes can so rapidly change. Twelve months earlier a championship title would have been considered by Tempo as the supreme award. Now the winning of the championship was not enough. The league title had to go with it. The higher you go, the standard and ambition is raised.

Tempo.....0.9 Teemore0.2

There was little doubt about who were the top team of 1970 after this replay on November 22nd as Tempo with a second half display of football teamwork, "rarely seen in Fermanagh in recent years and in the second thirty minutes they proved they are Fermanagh's best".

Teemore worked extremely hard in the first half but they could never really capture the form they had shown a few weeks earlier. A long range point from Sean Quinn opened their scoring in the tenth minute and it was further ten minutes before Tempo levelled with a point from Damian Campbell. Midfielders Des Campbell and Seamus McCusker had two further points before the interval. Goalkeeper John Owens had two early second half saves to deny Teemore a breakthrough and then Tempo stepped up a gear, even on the heavy ground. The half back line of Jamsey Breen, Eamon Doherty and Mick McCarney all excelled and the scores flowed to give the team a comprehensive victory.

Despite the lateness of the year the season was still not finished but unfortunately it was not to conclude on a winning note.

December 12th brought the team to Dungannon for the semi-final of the Ulster club championship against Derry champions Newbridge. There was a great deal of controversy before the game concerning the transfer of county star Tom McGuinness to Newbridge a short period prior to the game.



**1970 Captain Eamon Doherty
receives League Cup
from Co. Chairman,
John McElholm**

Tempo had a poor start which was eventually to be their downfall. Tom Murphy had a Newbridge goal followed by points from Liam Gribben and Tom McGuinness to put the Derry side well ahead. Tempo eventually settled down and by half-time the deficit had been reduced to 1.3 to 0.4.

An all out attack after the resumption brought two points to level the game, Newbridge responded with three good scores and Tempo kept in touch with points but Newbridge always looked to have that extra edge as they earned their place in the final on a scoreline of 1.8 to 0.9.

A disappointing end then to what had been a truly memorable year. Yet if those involved could have seen into the future at that moment, the disappointment would have been even more acute, for though the team was to win two more Fermanagh championships to gain entry to the Ulster club competition, they were never to come as close to reaching the final as they were that day in O'Neill Park Dungannon.

But of course no-one could foresee what lay ahead and when disappointment eased there was the hope rekindled that next year would bring further advance. Indeed the Herald G.A.A. correspondent had his hope, "After the game there were many who condemned Tempo's over inclination to pass the ball rather than shoot. Perhaps coming from a county whose only attacking gambit in my memory has been to lob the ball into the square they have gone to the other extreme. But Fermanagh teams have got nowhere with this technique in fifty years and Tempo must be given time to perfect their revolutionary approach to the game. Certainly they displayed a wonderful flair for the open spaces".



**1970 Celebration Group in Parochial Hall. Can you name them all?
Trophies on Display are Senior and Minor Championship**



Will We See Their Like Again?

Back Row : L to R : Jim Breen (Club Chairman, Gerry McNally, Pat Kelly, John McElroy, Artie Breen, Ciaran Campbell, John Owens, James Breen, Des Campbell, Michael Breen, Tommy McNally (Club Secretary).

Middle Row : L to R : Karl Donnelly, Dominic Campbell, Michael McCarney, Tom McPhillips, Eamon Doherty, Adrian Campbell, Jim McPhillips, Brendan McCusker, Hugh Foy.

Front Row : Damian Campbell and Frank McPhillips

Missing : Seamus McCusker, Paul Campbell, Eugene Tunney, Robert Slevin, Tony Brennan.

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1971 - Down With a Bump

After the glorious triumphs of the previous year, 1971 was to bring the club back to earth with a shuddering thud, at least at senior level as the old enemy Teemore rebounded with a fierce determination to reclaim both championship and league, to stake their claim as being the top team in Lakeland.

Right from the beginning of the year things didn't have the fluency and commitment that had been so evident such a short time previously. Getting to the top had been a long and arduous process. Falling from the pinnacle took little trouble at all.

The team was in the league section that comprised Erne Gaels, Derrygonnelly, Ederney, Devenish, Belcoo and Irvinestown. The opening tie was an away fixture against Erne Gaels and it took a late Des Campbell point to see the side scrape through by 2.6 to 0.13, Erne Gaels getting the goals. There was no reprieve in the second game as Devenish slipped through on a 1.8 to 1.7 scoreline, Eugene Treacy clinically finishing us off with a goal five minutes from the end.

The erratic form was to continue into the early summer, a home win over Derrygonnelly being followed by an away defeat at Ederney, but then as the days grew to their greatest length, flashes of the old magic resurfaced as the side scored three straight victories over Derrygonnelly, Ederney and Belcoo, the latter with substantial scorelines as the attack reproduced its devastating top form. In fact the latter two games saw a combined total of seven goals and twenty four points being clocked up.

The side was also heavily involved in tournament foot-

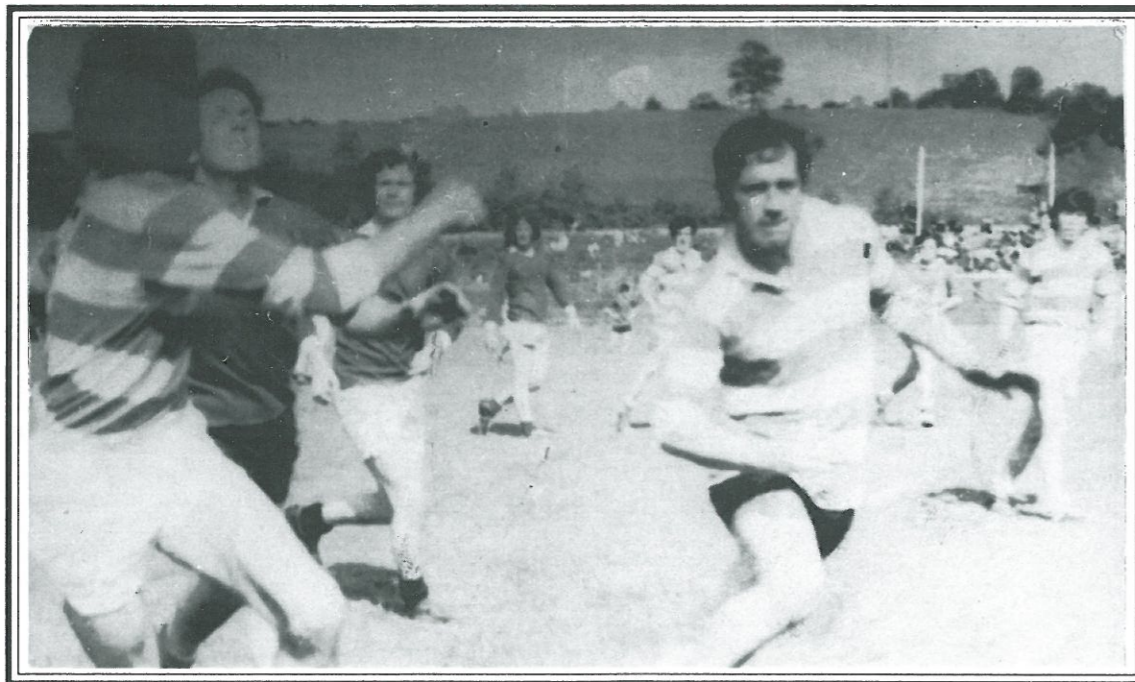
ball reaching the Augher final only to lose to Scotstown, beating Donegal Town in Dromore and progressing at neighbouring Trillick. No shortage of match practice in those busy days.

The championship first round brought an encounter with Ederney, the title winners of 1968. No mean side with the McGraths forming their powerhouse and their gritty resolution ensured a hard fought sixty minutes. A Frankie McPhillips goal in the 25th minute however was to be decisive and the opening defence of the New York Gold Cup was safely negotiated on a scoreline of 1.8 to 0.5.

That gained entry to the quarter-final with Teemore lying in wait. They had been champing at the bit since their eclipse the previous year. They had a score to settle and the rest of the county knew it, for the largest crowd ever to attend a championship quarter-final turned up at Lisnaskea to watch the next chapter of the absorbing saga.

They weren't to be disappointed as the fortunes of the game ebbed and flowed all the way through a titanic contest. Teemore set the first half pace to go in at the interval leading by 0.5 to 0.3. Tempo blitzed their way into the lead shortly after the changeover when Henry Flynn, a former Down underage player now resident in the locality, set Adrian Campbell through for a superb goal.

From there to the finish it was enthralling stuff as the lead switched hands on a number of occasions before Teemore had a late pointed free to send the affair to a replay. That replay was to be somewhat delayed owing to Fermanaghs involvement in the Ulster U-21 championship, they beat Tyrone in the final at Clones on August 1st, Ciaran Campbell full back on the side.



Action from a Tempo v Teemore clash at Lisnaskea

Tempo players are (l to r) Artie Breen, Brendan McCusker, Des Campbell, Teemore players Petie Fitzpatrick (centre), James Owens (extreme right)

And Tempo had clearly lost their form. A draw was struggled against Devenish and then came a nightmare against the Shamrocks. It was, to use the euphemism, "a tough match" but at the end of it Tempo could have no complaint as they were routed on a scoreline of 4.5 to 0.2. Matters had been even up to the break, Teemore in front by 1.1 to 0.2, but in the second half as matters hotted up the men from the far side of the lake romped through for goals from Sean Quinn and Brendan Reilly to score their first success in five meetings with the Maguires.

Once again the happy progress of the splendid county U-21 side, they went on to reach the All-Ireland final only to lose out to Cork, interrupted to club programme and it was not until October that the league resumed in earnest.

Incidentally Ciaran Campbell and Adrian Campbell both featured on that Fermanagh team playing at full back and centre half forward respectively.

While the club senior team were having a breather the spotlight was taken over by the juniors. They had been making good progress in the league and they duly reached the final, their semi-final victims being Devenish. That put them into the decider against Slack & Parr, the team that had bundled them out of the championship early in the summer.

The final was played at Lisnaskea and if this ground was not a happy hunting ground for the seniors, this was not the case for the juniors.

Tempo.....2.3 Slack & Parr0.2

The Enniskillen based team had been making a name for themselves in junior circles and they had proved their worth by winning the junior championship. So they were all keyed up to do the double and since they had already beaten Tempo earlier in the year they had no reason to not fancy their chances.

On the day however, little went right for them. They were in arrears from an early stage, Liam Keenan getting a Tempo point and Dinny McElroy fisted goal, put them under further pressure. Keenan had further points to put Tempo 1.3 to 0.0 ahead at the interval.

After the restart Slack & Parr made a determined effort to get back into the contest and they pressed hard. The Tempo defence, choc a bloc with experienced stalwarts, Gerry McNally in goal, Jim Breen and Alfie McCaffrey in the backlines gave very little away and when Paul Campbell snatched a breakaway second goal for Tempo the matter was all wrapped up. Others to shine for the team that day were Jim Durnion and Barry McCusker and overall, it was a most satisfying success, one that went some way to ease the disappointment experienced at senior level.

As the autumn arrived the scene switched back to the senior league. A quarter-final tie with Lisnaskea at Irvinestown on October 24 was the opening instalment for the run-in to the decider. Tempo eventually got

through on a scoreline of 1.9 to 1.5 but again they had not played particularly well. They led by five points to three at the interval and improved the position substantially after the break with a Brendan McCusker goal. Still the team could not establish firm control and a Lisnaskea goal five minutes from the end left things in the melting pot until late points from Adrian Campbell and Artie Breen gave a degree of comfort.

That ensured passage through to the semi-final where neighbours Brookeboro lay in wait at Lisnaskea. Brookeboro had emerged as a solid force that summer having reached the senior championship final and they had now put in a lively league run. They had a lot of determination and with Tempo still struggling to find their form the game ended in a draw at 0.5 each. In the replay Tempo were able to exert greater command and they were never to be in any real difficulty. Leading by 0.6 to 0.2 at the interval they held control in the second half, without ever scaling the heights and they finished 1.9 to 0.4 ahead, Artie Breen getting a goal late on in the game.

S.F.L. Division I Final
at Lisnaskea December 26th

Teemore 3.6 Tempo.....0.7

This was the concluding chapter of what had been a lengthy and tiring season but despite the festivity of the season there was to be no Christmas joy for Tempo. Teemore emerged as clearcut and triumphant winners to claim the double and to put beyond any shadow of doubt, the fact that they were the best team in Fermanagh in 1971.

Tempo began briskly enough with an early Frankie McPhillips point but then the team was stunned by a Teemore whiplash that saw the Shamrocks steal two goals and the half-time score read 2.3 to 0.4. Tempo rallied strongly in the third quarter getting two points to close the gap to three but Teemore had a defence that was in determined mood and they kept Tempo scores to a minimum.

Late in the game Teemore gave the devastating response with a John McCaffrey goal to seal a splendid triumph for them and they went off to begin delayed celebrations that had an extra bonus attached to them. For Tempo it was a dismal, dark evening, the memories of 1970 now a distant glow.

Tempo: Jonn McElroy, Michael Breen, Ciaran Campbell, Paul Campbell, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Michael McCarney, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Eugene Tunney, Frank McPhillips, Artie Breen, Brendan McCusker.

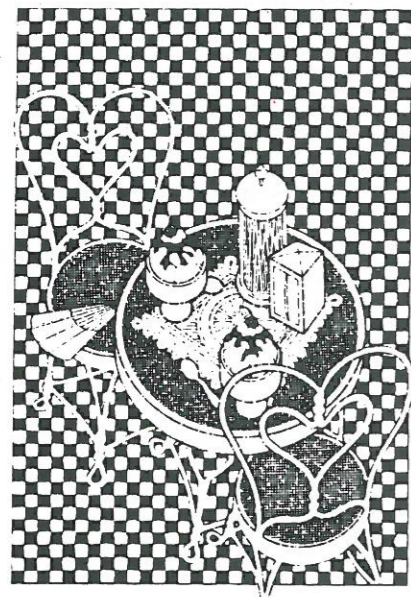
Subs: Carl Donnelly for A. Breen, Hugh Foy for E. Doherty.

Teemore: Jim Cassidy, Pete Fitzpatrick, Sean Reilly, Anthony Burke, Jim Owens, Benny Fitzpatrick, Gus Fitzpatrick, Brendan and Paddy Reilly, Peter Quinn, Joe Cox, Pat Fitzpatrick, Johnny McCaffrey, Sean Quinn and Aiden Curry.

Referee: Johnny Cunningham.

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1972 - Back At The Top

After the disappointment of 1971 there was a renewed spirit of determination in the club that the new season would see the team reassert itself at the top of the Fermanagh club leader. The strength of the club as a whole was reflected in the fact that permission had been refused for the junior team to remain in that grade and they now had to compete in Intermediate football in the company of Derrylin, Kinawley, Newtownbutler, Boho among others. The senior team was to operate in the section that comprised Roslea, Lisnaskea, Brookeboro, Teemore, St. Patricks and Enniskillen.

Things never went too well for the Intermediate team. Right from the beginning they were facing an uphill struggle and the opening three league games were all lost before a first victory was achieved a 1.9 to 0.7 success over Derrylin. But generally it was a case of losing out to stronger, more experienced teams despite the determined efforts of up and coming players such as Frank McPhillips, Jim Durnion, Paul Campbell and Gerry Murphy. Best performance of the year from the team was probably their exciting league tie with Newtownbutler which they lost by a point.

At senior level however things were much more cheerful as the team embarked on its mission of recapturing both senior crowns and in the process wresting from Teemore the title of undisputed kings of Fermanagh. The

year opened well with three straight wins over Lisnaskea, Enniskillen and Brookeboro. then came a fortunate late draw with the Emmets before the upward spiral continued with wins over Brookeboro, St. Pats and Roslea.

Incidentally this was still very much the era of tournament football with big attendances at most games attracted by the opportunity of watching teams from distant parts and the Tempo tournament of this year featured Scotstown, Ballinamore, Donegal Town, Carrickmore, Trillick, Irvinestown, Brookeboro and Coa in the line-up.

But by now mid-summer had arrived and the major business of the year was in the offing, namely the senior championship and this got underway with an opening tie with Devenish at Irvinestown. Devenish were by now of course a pale reflection of the side that had caused the Maguires such heartache in the 1960's and a fairly easy passage was made to the next round on a scoreline of 2.9 to 0.9. Two first half goals, an early one from Damian Campbell and a second shortly before the break by Brendan McCusker put Tempo four points ahead at the interval. Devenish came back somewhat in the third quarter but Tempo were to finish the stronger team and they were on top at the finish.

Teemore meanwhile were beginning their defence with a comprehensive 2.10 to 0.5 victory over Enniskillen and in their subsequent passage to the decider they polished off Brookeboro and Coa by big margins.

The first meeting with the Shamrocks however were to be in the league and first blood went to Teemore who won by 0.9 to 0.6 on the Mountain Road and repeated the dose a few weeks later at Tempo by 1.12 to 1.5. Tempo at this stage were going through a hesitant spell, further underlined by the fact that they were held to a draw by St. Patricks in the league and that poor form was carried into the championship semi-final against Lisnaskea at Irvinestown.

It was a nerve wracking occasion for the Tempo support and in fact some of them didn't see the sensational finish as the team snatched an incredible victory from the very jaws of defeat. A spirited Lisnaskea team certainly put it up to Tempo and with bare seconds remaining they appeared to be headed for a three point victory. Heading out through the gate were some dejected Tempo supporters who consequently missed a fine Brendan McCusker equalising goal that was promptly followed by a sensational winning point by Tom McPhillips. It was a stunning finish and Lisnaskea could in all justice claim that they were robbed, but Tempo had had their share of hard luck championship stories and such is all part of the game.

The final was set for September 17th at Irvinestown much to the pleasure of Tempo, less so to Teemore who would much have preferred Lisnaskea.

Triumph Again

It was a final that was clearly the one that the rest of the clubs, once their own particular ambitions had fallen by the wayside, had hoped would materialise and a record crowd turned up in sunny conditions to witness what was to be an excellent decider that gave full entertainment.

Tempo: Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Michael McCarney, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Dominic Campbell, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Paul Campbell, Tom McPhillips, Brendan McCusker and Jim McPhillips

Teemore: Jim Cassidy, Petie Fitzpatrick, Sean Reilly, Anthony Burke, James Owens, Benny Fitzpatrick, Gus Fitzpatrick, Brian McCaffrey, Paddy Reilly, Gerry Reilly, Joe Cox, Brendan Reilly, Peter Quinn, Sean Quinn, Pat Fitzpatrick.

Referee: Tommy Johnson (Lisnaskea)

Tempo 1.8 Teemore 1.6

The match reporter in his summing up of the encounter stated that Tempo's form had been a revelation. Going into the final they had been given the label of underdogs and given their recent erratic form plus the fact that Teemore had already beaten them twice in the league, there was every justification for that state of affairs.

But as the match reporter continued, "from the opening minutes it was the Tempo men who dictated the pattern though Teemores crown never really seemed lost until the final whistle. It was as turbulent and as tense a final that there has been. Seldom have two better matched teams fought out a Fermanagh senior championship final, than Tempo and Teemore who played their hearts out in a thrill packed game, to the great delight and entertainment of a record crowd. And at the end it was a case of sweet revenge for the Maguires who had six Campbell brothers in their lineup.

As for the play itself Tempo had a point in the first minute from Jim McPhillips and two minutes later had a goal disallowed because of a square ball infringement. For some ten minutes after that scores proved to be hard to come by as both sets of tenacious defences got on top. Teemore finally levelled with a Peter Quinn point in the 14th minute and Tempo goalkeeper Robert Slevin had to be at his best to deny Pat Fitzpatrick and Gerry Reilly getting goals. Tempo, relieved by that, managed at last to step up the pace as they swept in for a goal and three points, the points being supplied by Des Campbell, Jim McPhillips and Tom McPhillips with the latter getting the goal that was carved out by an incisive right wing movement. Teemore however responded to this in characteristic style with a Gerry Reilly fisted goal and a Peter Quinn point in the run up to half-time that left the interval scoreline 1.4 to 1.2.

Teemore who had been having their problems at midfield switched Sean Quinn to this sector for the second half and there was an improvement in their play. Peter Quinn had a 37th minute point for them but Tempo replied promptly with a fine individual score from Adrian Campbell. Spurred on by this Tempo kept up the pressure only to see Teemore have a couple of narrow escapes before a Tom McPhillips point from play opened up a three point lead.



Co. Chairman John McElholm presents the New York Gold Cup to 1972 Captain Michael McCarney

Again Teemore came fighting back with two pointed frees from Peter Quinn and with just thirteen minutes remaining there was still everything to play for as the two teams battled for supremacy. Yet Tempo had the more likely look of winners about them and again they eased three points ahead with a point each from Damian Campbell and Tom McPhillips. It was to prove to be sufficient for though Teemore pressed gamely to the last all they could manage was a pointed free from Brian McCaffrey with a shot that sailed over a packed goal-mouth.

It was a famous victory, in its own way every bit as sweet as the first championship triumph two years previously and team captain Mick McCarney received the New York Gold Cup from county chairman John McElholm amid scenes of utter delight

Double Completed

Two weeks later the teams clashed again at Irvinestown in the semi-final of the league, Tempo having won a quarter-final tie some weeks previously against Derrygonnelly, a game incidentally in which they had to come from behind in the second half, further fuelling expectation they had little chance in the champions;hip decider.

Tempo..... 1.6 Teemore 1.4

Once again there was a huge crowd present at St. Molaise Park to witness this battle of the giants. Tempo opened on a sparkling note as if they were going to totally crush the Shamrocks. A Jimmy McPhillips point in the fourth minute opened the scoring followed by three more from Brendan McCusker, Jimmy McPhillips and Adrian Campbell before the latter crashed in a great goal. The arrival once again of Sean Quinn to midfield was significant and a pointed sideline free by Sean Reilly opened Teemore's account.

Trailing by 1.5 to 0.1 at the interval Teemore clearly faced a massive uphill task if they were to get back into the match and for some ten minutes after the restart they gave no real sign of doing so as the teams exchanged points. But then in the last quarter Tempo began to falter and Teemore surged forward with greater purpose. A fine Sean Quinn goal gave them enormous heart and they had two further points to leave just two between the teams. But a solid Tempo defence of which the half-back line of James Breen, Eamon Doherty and Dominic Campbell played exceptionally well absorbed the pressure and the double was again in the offing.

It had been a tough encounter. Teemore in their prime were an especially hard team to beat and two major tussles with them in the space of a fortnight inevitably took its toll. The price was paid the following week when an out of sorts team lost heavily to Cavan's Crosserlough in Breiffni Park in the opening round of the Ulster club championship. Though of course another equally crucial factor was the fact that the Cavanmen were out to

avenge their defeat of 1970.

So the bid for provincial honours was halted at the first hurdle and that left the team with just one game remaining to finish off their 1972 season and this was the league final on November 5th again on the favoured Irvinestown pitch, this time the opposition being Lisnaskea Emmets. Lisnaskea had come into this final under less than perfect circumstances for they had been out of competitive action for quite sometime while Tempo on the other hand had been relatively busy.

Both teams however had no shortage of ambition. For Tempo a failure to take the league crown would have taken some gloss off the triumphs of the championship. The double was needed to put the final seal on a year of glory while for Lisnaskea there now arose the opportunity to gain some measure of revenge for their heartrending championship exit.

At the end of the contest the honours lay decisively with Tempo on a scoreline of 1.12 to 1.4 and the Maguires did so according to the Herald report, "with a display of power packed football that seemed almost impossible to withstand as they collected their fourth senior title in three years. Playing football of a high standard throughout Tempo used the ball to perfection and it was in changing from defence to attack that Tempo invariably excelled. Making good use of the open spaces the ball was fed out to the wings and the eager beaver forwards and midfielders turned up in all sorts of unexpected places".

Lisnaskea did make a promising start with an early lobbed point from Des McKenna but then they fell away and by half-time they trailed 0.8 to 0.1. Tempo scoring rate slumped after the break but they were never in any danger of being overhauled and the games two goals came late on, the scorers begin Artie Breen for Tempo and Artie Dundas for Lisnaskea leaving a scoreline of 1.12 to 1.4.

So ended a remarkable year for the club at senior level with the double again achieved but no-one could have forecast that the team were not to reach that plateau again.

TOURNAMENT TRAVELS

The Agher tournament, which was a hugely successful event held each May, way a happy hunting ground for Tempo beating Ardboe, Clontibret and Coalisland.

That same year they had two memorable contests with top Donegal team, Ballybofey. The Mac Cumhalls won at Irvinestown but Tempo later turned the tables in a hectic tie at Dromore, winning by a single point.

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Prop : Des and
Joan Campbell

1973 - Third Championship

The 1973 season was to be one of mixed fortune with the championship again claimed for the third time in four years, unprecedented success by any standards, but this triumph was to be followed by failure to retain the league title and more disappointingly first round exit in the Ulster club championship.

All that however lay in the immediate future as the team got their pre-season preparations underway and in the opening months of the new campaign the team raced to six successive victories. It had to a certain extent been marred by a controversial league tie at the Mountain Road which Tempo won by three points with the after match incidents resulting in a special meeting of the Executive. Clearly the highly competitive Teemore-Tempo saga was moving to boiling point but ironically after Teemore had avenged that defeat in the return tie at Tempo in the early summer the clubs were not to meet again until 1974. The reason for this lay in the fact that both the Maguires and the Shamrocks were to suffer unexpected defeats later in the year, Tempo in the quarter-final against Derrygonnelly and Teemore in the semi-final of the championship against Lisnaskea.

In the championship Tempo were drawn against neighbours Brookeboro in the opening round and after an unhappy sequence of events the matter was eventually resolved at the County Board, Tempo successfully claiming the match. Not the most pleasing of ways of advancing, but circumstances had dictated that no other course could have been taken and the side went into the semi-final against Irvinestown.

This game was played at Lisnaskea and the foundation of the eventual five points victory were laid in the opening twenty minutes when, "using the swift combination that has become characteristic of them during the past number of years Tempo went into a 1.7 to 0.0 lead".

Irvinestown rallied in the lead up to half-time to close the gap to six points and they more than held their own in the second half to give a Tempo defence that had James Breen in inspiring form plenty of problems.

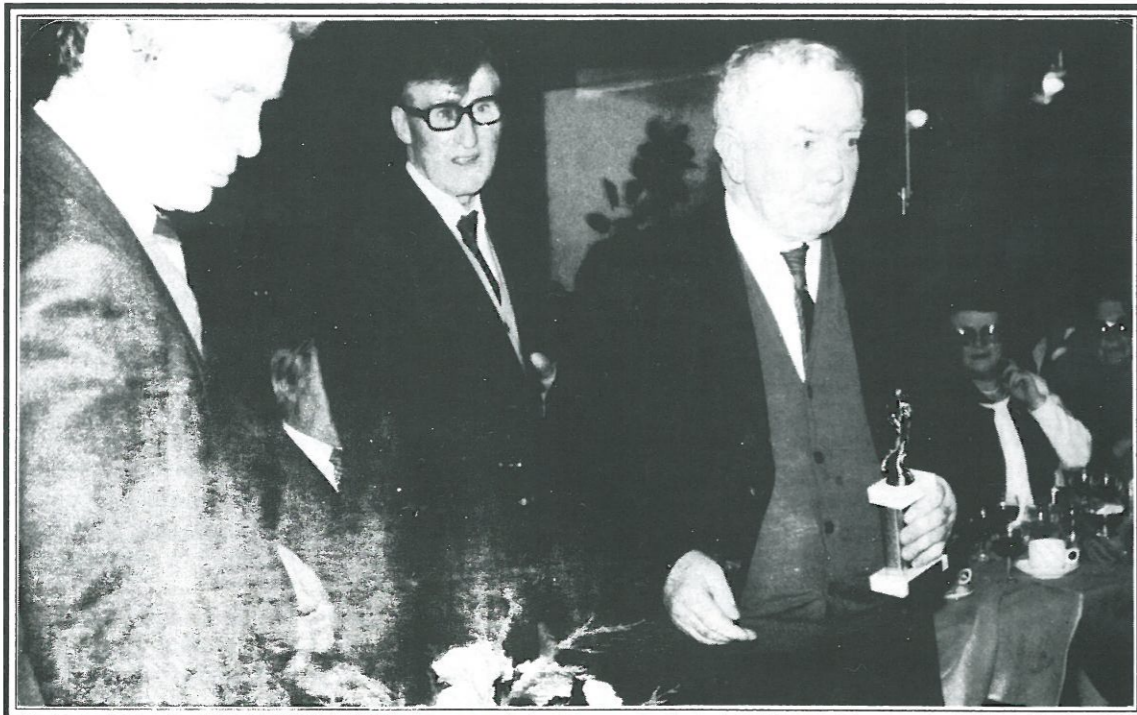
Still Tempo were comfortably enough in front at the finish. Not so comfortable Teemore, who surprisingly lost by 3.4 to 0.9 at Irvinestown to a spirited Lisnaskea team so the clash of the top two was not to occur.

If Lisnaskea provided somewhat unexpected opposition they were unfortunate to meet Tempo in a league tie at Tempo three weeks before the final and more unfortunate to win by six points. No doubt the victory gave Lisnaskea enormous belief in their ability to topple the reigning champions, but that was more than offset by the fact that any such sense of complacency was rooted out of Tempo's system.

"That defeat did us more good than harm", was the comment of one shrewd Tempo supporter and so it turned out to be as the team headed for what was to be their last championship final on Sunday September 15th.

Tempo 1.12 Lisnaskea 1.5

St. Molaise Park was again the happy venue and the Herald match reporter was loud in his praise of the Tempo triumph.



At the special Dinner Dance to pay tribute to club players of former years

Left : Jim Breen - long serving club stalwart both as player and chairman

Centre : Tommy Doherty - A lifetime with the Maguires

Right : Michael Slevin - A founding father

"They are now in my book one of the best teams to emerge from Fermanagh in years. There was no answer to the physical strength and perfect understanding of Tempo in full cry".

A match report in another paper was in part as follows. "Once again Irvinestown's spacious pitch proved to be Tempo's happy hunting ground and they showed that in the art of making full use of the spaces they had little to learn. The game was won at centre-field were Des Campbell and Seamus McCusker after a hesitant start gained full supremacy and they gave a swift moving attack a good supply of well placed balls that had the Lisnaskea defence in trouble".

Stars of the Tempo forward line were Adrian Campbell at centre half forward who led the attack with great drive. His goal was extremely well taken and he had a similar effort slip by the upright in the second half. At full forward Brendan McCusker roamed intelligently and he was amply rewarded for his wanderings by some neat distribution from his fellow forwards. In defence Tempo had the star player afield in right half back James Breen who turned himself into the rock on which most of Lisnaskea's hopes perished. Eamon Doherty at centre half was again a very solid defender and found time to move upfield for a long range point.

Tempo were quickly off the mark with a passing movement paving the way for a Brendan McCusker point. Lisnaskea levelled, fell behind to another Tempo point, levelled again but then had the heart ripped out of them by a Tempo goal. Des Campbell got the ball in midfield and his through pass went to Frank McPhillips who in turn sent to Brendan McCusker and the full forward quickly fed the completely clear Adrian Campbell who waited until goalkeeper Willie Moan advanced and then fisted over his head. Lisnaskea worked hard to keep in touch and at the break trailed by just 1.5 to 0.5.

The second half well and truly belonged to Tempo and they had a series of points before Lisnaskea had a consolation goal from Jerry McElroy with almost the last kick of the game.

Tempo: Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Michael McCarney, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Damian Campbell (capt), Des Campbell and Seamus McCusker, Frank McPhillips, Adrian Campbell, Jim McPhillips, Dominic Campbell, Brendan McCusker and Tom McPhillips.

Subs: Paul Campbell for M. McCarney (injured)

Lisnaskea: Willie Moan, Noel Ward, Eamon Courtney, Francey Smith, Paddy McCaffrey, George Neeson, John Neeson, Des McKenna, Des Ward, Brian McCaffrey, Kevin McElroy, Gerry McElroy, Willie Fawcett, Oliver Courtney and Brian Ingram

Subs: Frank Frizelle for W. Fawcett

Artie Dundas for B. Ingram.

Referee: Packie Watterson (Derrylin)

A fully merited win then for Tempo and the vista of a successful autumn seemed the appetising prospect but within three weeks football fortune had taken a plunge

for the worse. The first reversal came a fortnight later when the team lost to Derrygonnelly in the league quarter-final. The side got off to an horrendous start going eight points to nil down by the end of the first quarter, Derrygonnelly getting a dream start with a Frank Cassidy goal in the second minute.

By half-time the hottest of favourites going into the game were a bedraggled bunch that trailed by 1.8 to 0.1. Honour demanded that at least respectability be put on the scoreline and the final scoreline read 1.11 to 1.7 but the Harps had scented a sensational upset and there was no way that they were going to be completely overhauled. Incidentally they went on to beat St. Pats in the semi-final but lost out in the final to Teemore by two points.

A disappointment then but thoughts moved on the more glamorous test that was scheduled for the following Sunday, the opening round of the Ulster club championship against a star studded St. Josephs of Bundoran/Ballyshannon.

St. Josephs 1.11 Tempo 1.8

Another disappointment then for the Maguires to put an anti-climax on what had at one time looked to be a year of exceptional potential. Strange that this should be so, for after all the championship had been won, and that a few short years ago, would have been considered a pinnacle of triumph. But targets are always being raised higher, the higher you go in football or indeed in any sport.

A cold and grey day then at Irvinestown with the teams going in at the interval level at six points each. The five minutes after the interval proved to be decisive with St. Josephs getting two points followed by a fortunate goal from long range. Tempo had hopes of a revival when Paul Campbell lobbed a goal in reply. But St. Josephs who had players such as Pauric McShea, Brian McEniff, Seamus Granaghan and Declan Carroll in their ranks finished in command and were well worth their victory.

The Herald report commented that, "it was a most sporting game with many of the finer points of the game displayed to perfection. For much of the first half Tempo had looked like winners. Then after fading somewhat in the second half they came back in the last quarter to almost snatch the game but over the hour St. Josephs deserved to win".

That St. Josephs were an excellent team indicated by the fact that they eventually won the Ulster club title the following year. A consolation then in the knowledge that a splendid side had beaten us and a small consolation that the late Robert Slevin produced the highlight of the match with "a superb save from Paul McLoone and made a split second recovery to save again for one of the finest saves seen in Irvinestown for many a day".

And yet the irony of those last two games was that the happy hunting ground of Irvinestown's St. Molaise Park had turned out to be a less than happy one. Next season was to be equally frustrating.

1974 - Swansong

1974 was the bring to a close the era of Tempo's remarkable run of success with the team winning their last senior title and appropriately it was a swansong that had Teemore as the opposition in the league decider in mid November.

The year had begun as usual with the County Convention and here the club was successful in pushing through a motion that dramatically altered the league structure inside the county. Because of the limited number of clubs, Fermanagh had always had problems in devising a satisfactory system that would cater best for the standards prevailing. There has therefore been a history of change and for some years prior to 1974 Tempo had been patiently advocating a new format that had a restricted eight first division membership. Despite several rejections the club persisted and eventually 1974 convention gave the nod of approval. There had been accusations that Tempo were merely looking to establish an elite but such was clearly not the case and inside two years the Maguires were to be relegated from the top division they had done so much to create for the simple reason that they were not good enough to hold their place.

Prospects for the year were again very bright with a new face on the team, former Enniskillen player Tony Henderson who arrived from the Lamh Derg club in Belfast. The opening games of the league saw the team however put in patchy displays and they lost two games to Devenish

and Lisnaskea the latter by quite a big margin. Along came the championship and the opening game was against a determined St. Patricks team at Lisnaskea but Tempo easily mastered the challenge getting six goals, three scored by Jim McPhillips, before complacency set in and St. Patricks hit four goals in the last quarter to leave eight points between the teams at the finish.

Belcoo were the opponents in the quarter-final and they were dismissed on a scoreline to 4.13 to 1.4. Tempo had a whirlwind start to lead 3.3 to 0.0 by the end of the first quarter and the contest was over. It was an impressive performance and the day was rounded off in fine style by beating an up and coming Trillick team in the Dromore tournament, a Trillick team that went on later in the year to contest the Ulster club final.

Into the semi-final then where a totally unfancied second division Erne Gaels lined out against a Tempo team that looked a surefire certainty for the final. But football fortune can be dramatically reversed and the unrated Belleek team created a sensation by knocking out the champions on a scoreline of 4.5 to 1.9. Erne Gaels had the tonic of an early Willie Rogers goal but still trailed by two points at the break. By the three quarters stage a Tempo team that simply couldn't get their game going had managed to struggle five points ahead but the roof fell in when Erne Gaels got late goals to snatch a most unexpected win but let it be said that on the day, a win that they thoroughly deserved.

The disappointment was intense and with Teemore coasting to a facile victory in the final itself there was a



1974 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS : THE SWAN SONG

Back Row : L to R : Seamus McCusker, Dominic Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Gerard Doherty, Ciaran Campbell, Robert Slevin (R.I.P.), Brendan McCusker, Martin McPhillips, Des Campbell.
Front Row : L to R : Paul Campbell, Gerry Murphy, Tony Henderson, Jim Durnion, Eamon Doherty, Frank McPhillips, Damian Campbell, Jimmy McPhillips.

sense of frustration in the club. That mood didn't last for long though. Something could still be salvaged from the season, there was the tasty prospect of denying Teemore the double.

The league had been building up to an exciting climax and the team had had to win their last two games to guarantee a final place. This they did in devastating style spurred by a determination to reach the decider that brooked no failure. Derrygonnelly who had knocked the team out the previous year were no match this time losing 4.10 to 2.2 on their own pitch, newcomer Martin McPhillips getting two goals and Paul Campbell getting the other two. Irvinstown were next on the list and they were beaten by 4.9 to 1.8 thus paving the way for what the Herald match preview headlined, "**Last Great Confrontation Between Tempo and Teemore**".

The build up and the background to this particular final was as intense as anything that had gone before in the meetings of the two clubs. Clashing at the highest level for the past five seasons the two had captured all ten major titles on offer. Teemore had won the championship in 1971 and 1974 and the league in 1971 and 1973. Tempo had the championship in 1970, 1972 and 1973 and the league in 1970 and 1972. Inevitably their regular confrontations had led to a significant step up in commitment and both were now charged with resolution that this was one game they were going to win.

If extra incentive was needed there was a rather messy affair in the late summer concerning a league tie that eventually saw Tempo lose an appeal to the Ulster Council.

For Teemore a victory in this league final would beyond doubt establish them as the team of 1974. For Tempo, keenly aware that the coming winter months would see the break-up of their team as emigration and injury took its toll, this league final was the last episode of an historic saga. The champions were determined to go out in a blaze of glory by winning what they saw as the last great battle in the Fermanagh power struggle.

Tempo.....1.7 Teemore0.5

"The rain sodden St. Molaise Park was no place for weaklings" declared the match report. And indeed it was no place for the less than fully committed as both teams gave everything they had to their respective causes. Tempo's form and enthusiasm was a revelation in the first half and with the wind behind them they laid the foundation of victory. They looked sharp right from the outset and after recording two wides they opened the scoring with an Adrian Campbell point in the fourth minute. Pat Fitzpatrick levelled the teams a minute later but then Tempo had a scoring blitz that yielded three points from Brendan McCusker, Adrian Campbell and Frank McPhillips before a poor Teemore clearance gave Brendan McCusker the opening for a goal.

Teemore eventually responded with a Sean Reilly point and followed with a similar score from Pat Fitzpatrick

before Tempo had the final point of the half from Brendan McCusker to leave an interval scoreline of 1.5 to 0.3.

Teemore were not going down without a fight and they forced the pace in the third quarter but with things going all their way they failed to translate their superiority into scores. Six wides in swift succession they hit with the most crucial failure being that of Pat Fitzpatrick shooting direct at the isolated Robert Slevin in goals. Teemore did eventually get a point from Sean McBrien but the thrust of their attack was losing its momentum and Tempo rallied at midfield, steadied in defence and a rather dull last ten minutes saw each team get a point from Brendan Reilly and Frank McPhillips respectively. Not that everything was dull in those closing moments for as the gloom thickened a brief flare-up erupted in centrefield but it was of little consequence.

Tempo: Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Gerry Murphy, Damian Campbell, Eamon Doherty, Dominic Campbell, Des Campbell, Tony Henderson, Jim McPhillips, Adrian Campbell, Frank McPhillips, Martin McPhillips, Brendan McCusker and Seamus McCusker.

Sub: Paul Campbell for Jim Durnion.

Teemore: Peter Quinn, John Lunny, Brian McCaffrey, Jim Owens, Gerry Reilly, Paddy Reilly, Gus Fitzpatrick, Benny Fitzpatrick, Sean Reilly, Sean McBrien, Sean Quinn, Brendan Reilly, John McCaffrey, Pat Fitzpatrick and Joe Cox.

Se ended a saga that had gone down as on one of the most vividly remembered in the annals of Fermanagh club football. It was half a decade of memorable magic shared by two sides, whose members still take the trip to nostalgia whenever they meet. Teemore continued still to be a formidable force for several years but for Tempo the decline was rapid. Several players were suddenly unavailable, and the bright polish and combination that had been the hallmark of their play was irretrievably lost.

It had been an era when so much had been achieved and there was the deepest of pleasure that it had been achieved in such stylish fashion. Three championships and three leagues inside five seasons was stirring stuff by any standard, all the more merited since Teemore had provided such resolute opposition.

The Quinns, Reillys, Fitzpatricks, McCaffreys have become, in their own way, as much part of Tempo folklore as the early 1970's Maguires themselves.

Never to be forgotten games such as the opening round championship tie in the Gaelic Field, Enniskillen in the summer of 1970, the league final drawn tie the following autumn, the double head to head in 1972 and the finale in the damp November of 1974.

And yet, for nothing is ever perfect, there is still the underlying feeling that the full potential wasn't realised.

Was the team good enough to win the Ulster club championship?

"Great Memories" - Peter Quinn

"We're producing a short history of the Tempo Club and we'd like a few words from the perspective of our most honoured opponents. Would you oblige?". Your editor's innocently phrased request brought back floods of memories - too many for a short article!

When I remember Tempo, I remember GREAT GAMES over a six-year period 1970 - 75; I remember GREAT RIVALRY between the two outstanding teams of that decade in Fermanagh Football; and I remember GREAT FRIENDSHIPS which transcended all rivalry and which survive yet.

I remember 1969, and a young Tempo team backboned by members of the previous year's county minor team. We went to Tempo full of confidence, but a half-time we were behind. And I still remember your editor as he soloed out of defence in the second half, and how I got lucky and managed to flick the ball away as it fell into "the no-man's-land" between hand and toe; to be more precise I remember his expletive - " ? you, Quinn", he said and I kicked the ball wide as I laughed to myself. But 1969 was a good year, and we won!

I remember 1970 and how Seamus McCusker out-caught me at midfield in the league game in Teemore, until I switched to full-forward. And I remember punching a late equaliser with John McElroy testing the quality of my jersey.

But I also remember Ciaran Campbell playing right half-forward in the Championship game in Enniskillen and scoring a couple of fantastic long-range points. I remember slipping as I took a short free which came back of the upright and how Dessie Campbell blocked my kick after I caught the rebound. And I recall vividly Brian McCaffrey's fisted effort in the last minute which rebounded from the cross-bar out beyond the twenty-one, and how Peter Hegarty's effort in injury time flashed outside the post. And we were out of the championship - beaten by two points.

It was Ciaran Campbell again who pointed a last-minute free from the sideline to give Tempo a replay in the league final in Irvinestown, after we had led by seven points five minutes into the second half. I remember that not a single Teemore man believed it was a foul - and we lost the replay.

But then, I also remember 1971 - more pleasant memories those! A last minute free from a foul on Brendan Reilly gave us an equaliser which touched both the crossbar and the upright as it scraped over, and not a single Tempo man anywhere thought it was a foul - nor, to be honest, did I, but I was happy to take the free anyway. A nineteen point win in the replay ended any controversy and set us on target for the "double" on St. Stephen's Day. To paraphrase Ronnie Drew, "will I ever forget" the satisfaction of connecting with Paddy Reilly's long kick into the "square" and looking up from the tangle

of bodies, through the net, to see umpire J. J. Treacy, waving the green flag? It was a great year, 1971!

And I remember 1972 in Irvinestown and Adrian Campbell running hard at our defence and splitting them to set up a goal for Tom McPhillips one day and to score one himself the other day; and how Tempo did the "double" at our expense.

A year later, he did it again setting up Frankie McPhillips for another goal. Yes, even today, I can recall how Teemore's goalkeeper felt as he went to his right while McPhillips' boot sent the ball to the left.

I remember Artie Breen, effective if not exactly polished, but much more mobile than many gave him credit for - one of the game's gentlemen who was always first with the handshake when the game was over; his brother Mickey supporting Ciaran Campbell in defence and a great half-back line of Jamsie Breen, Eamon Doherty and either Damien Campbell or Mickey McCarney; and big Dessie and Seamus McCusker at midfield; and later, Tony Henderson - a much travelled "play-anywhere" bundle of energy. I remember we never won in Irvinestown and Tempo never won in Lisnaskea.

We had Jim Owens and Paddy Reilly in defence with two Fitzpatricks in the half-back line and Sean Reilly and Brian McCaffrey at midfield; and I remember how Joe Cox, Sean Quinn, Pat Fitzpatrick, John McCaffrey and Brendan Reilly earned the frees for me to take.

But most of all I remember the FRIENDLY RIVALRY; I remember the "slagging", before and after every game, between Tommy Callaghan and John Mulligan (both now gone to their eternal reward). And I wish it was not a memory - that I was twenty years younger and it was happening all over again; for it was a great period in our football careers and a great epoch for both clubs. Ah, yes! I remember it well, and with great pleasure. As the music-hall song title says "Thanks for the memory".

FOOTBALLING FAMILIES

All six Campbell brothers featured on the senior championship winning teams of 1972 and 1973.

In the 1972 victory over Teemore the Campbell lineout was :
Ciaran (*fullback*) - Domnic (*wing half back*)
Des (*midfield*)
Damian, Adrian and Paul
(*half forward line en bloc*)

In the 1961 league final triumph over Aughadrumsee three Breen brothers starred on the historic breakthrough side :
Jim (*fullback*) - Philip (*midfield*)
Artie (*centre half forward*)
Michael (*corner back*)
later made it a quartet in the mid 1960's

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Back to Basics

There was a certain air of pessimism as the club prepared for the 1975 season. The departure and intended departure of a number of players through emigration and injury, had injected a sense of forboding that things were not going to be quite the same again. That in fact is what turned out to be the case, though for the opening months of the season it seemed that the team could overcome the handicaps that had beset it and maintain their place at the top.

The early pessimism seemed to be justified as the team lost heavily in early season challenges and then went down by five points to Derrygonnelly in the opening league game. But then came a run that boosted everyone's hope as four straight wins over Erne Gaels, Devenish, Lisnaskea and St. Patricks placed the team at the top of the league table by the start of the summer months. It was however false promise, and the next three games yielded just a single point, gained, when the team staged a dramatic recovery at Belleek to come back from an eight points deficit.

Matters temporarily improved when a late Michael McCarney goal earned a victory over Newtownbutler in a high scoring match yet few could have thought that this in fact was to be the last league points earned. Tempo had taken eleven points from nine games. Clearly not title winning form but still reasonable enough to ensure survival one could have thought.

The championship then intervened with an ambitious Enniskillen Gaels team providing the opposition at Irvinestown. It turned out to be an excellent duel between the experienced and the newcomers. A fine sunny day, an absorbing contest and the teams settled for a draw at the first attempt. Second divisions Enniskillen had certainly served notice that they were a team with a future, they were to win the championship in 1976 and 1978, but their arrival to the forefront was to be delayed for twelve months as they lost the replay on a scoreline of 2.6 to 0.7. The Gaels had opened smartly and stretched into a four point lead but by half-time the teams were level at five points each and the inherent confidence of Tempo shone through in the second half when they had a goal from Adrian Campbell and Brendan McCusker to be well ahead at the end. The team on duty that day was : James Breen, Malachy McNally, Ciaran Campbell, Michael McCarney, Damian Campbell, Eamon Doherty, Paul Campbell, Seamus McCusker and Dominic Campbell, Jim McPhillips, Adrian Campbell, Frank McPhillips, Martin McPhillips, Brendan McCusker, Gerry Murphy.

It was then back to the league where a heavy defeat was suffered at the hands of Newtownbutler, losing by 3.5 to 0.5. Not a happy omen for the second round championship tie with Teemore at Lisnaskea. And that was indeed the case as the team lost on a scoreline of 1.13 to 0.9. "Not that this was a bad display from Tempo", according to the match report, "it was just that the final polish was not there this time. How often would Adrian Campbell

miss a goal like the one that was laid on early in the second half just when Tempo were really getting into the game? As it was, fine individual scores from Sean Quinn and Brendan Reilly and a second half Sean McBrien goal put Teemore through. Yet there is a lingering doubt about Teemore. could it be that they can only give of their best against the ancient foe?"

Be that as it may, Teemore in fact went on to win the title, and the defeat signalled the collapse of the Tempo season. Totally disorganised the following Sunday they travelled to Lisnaskea and were routed 3.8 to 1.3 by the Emmets in the league. Teemore won a league tussle on the Mountain Road as the disarray grew in pace and further heavy defeats followed against St. Patricks and Teemore again. By mid September the Maguires were in the unhappy position of depending on the results of other games to earn them a first division reprieve. Those results didn't come and for the first time in almost two decades the club was out of the first rank of league football. It had been a dramatic slide from the role of champions just twelve months previously and from that of league leaders in late May. The air of pessimism of pre-season had been all too correct.

1976

Well as the old saying goes, "every dog has its day", and having had their share of the good times the club had now to start rebuilding for the future. the departure of Seamus McCusker to Irvinestown created yet another hole that would take difficulty filling while there were greivous doubts about the return of Jamsey Breen who was suffering from a serious leg injury. The latter in fact was elected manager of a team that was to compete in the league with Lisnaskea, Brookeboro, Irvinestown, Derrylin, Enniskillen Gales B and Kinawley.

It was not to be a particularly successful year and though the team enjoyed a good enough start to the campaign the momentum was not kept going. Pre-season challenges brought good results and the opening league game against Ederney brought a 4.4 to 1.6 victory, the veteran Artie Breen getting three of the goals. This was followed up by a home draw against Lisnaskea, the Emmets getting a late equalising point. By late April with wins over Enniskillen B and Irvinestown the team were second in the table. But there were flickers of inconsistency. The side lost to Brookeboro by a point and late scores were needed to beat Derrylin. And then came a crucial defeat by Irvinestown which put promotion in doubt.

In the championship the team was paired against Newtownbutler and something of the late 1960's flavour re-emerged as the men in red spun us out by 2.9 to 0.8. A brisk Tempo start was soon dampened by a Jimmy Connolly volleyed goal and Newtown led by four points at the break, a Vinny Connolly goal in the second half wrapping it up. It was to be something of a red letter day in Fermanagh football that particular Sunday for on that same day Teemore lost their championship tie against Enniskillen and so for the first time since 1968, a club

other than Teemore or Tempo, would claim the New York Gold Cup.

The more mundane league claimed the attention again and with the team in third place promotion was still a possibility. That possibility was shattered by two bad results that saw the team collapse in the second half against Ederney and then, despite an heroic effort in the, final quarter against Lisnaskea lose by 2.11 to 3.6. The Emmets and Irvinestown went up and Tempo finished fourth in the table, a draw in the last game against Brookeboro denying the latter a play-off with Irvinestown.

In the junior championship the club had an encouraging opening round win over Kinawley, players such as Michael Tierney and Stephen Cassidy beginning to play significant roles but in the quarter-final Irvinestown proved too strong.

This ended what turned out to be a low key season but with the news that at last one old face would be returning in 1977 there was renewed spirit that things would improve.

1977

It was indeed to be a better year with Des Campbell back from his Australian sojourn and a successful promotion bid was launched. Right from the beginning of the year there was a more positive air of purpose and a string of victories kept the team right at the top of the table. Not that all of the victories were easily achieved. A late goal by Martin McPhillips helped to give a rather flattering victory over Belcoo in the opening match and an equally late burst of four points was needed to draw clear of Roslea. A solid start, but then came a sticky patch that saw a draw against Brookeboro and a defeat against Roslea.

So there was no room for complacency and the decline in the overall ability of the team inside the previous few years was evidenced by the fact that in the championship, the team was well beaten by Lisnaskea at Brookeboro by 2.12 to 1.7. Tempo had had a good opening quarter but by half-time the Emmett had pulled away and a splendid individual performance of Brian Ingram who scored 2.5 in all had Tempo well adrift. The championship exit had the effect of concentrating attention on the league and the challenge for promotion was resumed with greater urgency.

Unbeaten Devenish who had won all of their seven league ties were the next opposition. They crashed to a heavy twelve point defeat and boosted by that, Tempo went on to record big victories over Aughadrumsee, Brookeboro and Belcoo, the latter triumph ensuring promotion on July 17th.

Having achieved their aim the team inevitably relaxed and there was little surprise when they put in an indifferent performance against second place Devenish. The Garrison team who needed the points from this game to earn their promotion place played with greater vigour

and enthusiasm though they had to survive a second half Tempo revival before gaining a four point win. That paved the way for the second division final.

Tempo 1.8 Devenish 0.1

The old favoured St. Molaise Park was the venue on September 18th and as the scoreline suggest this turned out to be a very one sided affair. Play in the early stages was evenly enough balanced but by half-time Tempo had gone into a four point to one point lead and indeed but for poor shooting the margin would have been much greater. In the second half the pattern remained the same and a Tempo goal midway through put the result beyond all doubt. Devenish did have a late rally in which they tried hard to put respectability on the scoreline but it was to no avail as Tempo's defence extremely well marshalled by Ciaran Campbell at fullback and James Breen at centre half coped capably with all that they could muster. Other good performances on the day came from Gerry Murphy at midfield and Frank McPhillips and Brendan McCusker in the forward line.

1978

Back then into the first division after an absence of two years and everyone was aware that a stiff challenge lay ahead if the team was to survive. That was underlined in the early games of the new season as the side lost a quarter-final Winter league game to Erne Gaels by 2.7 to 1.6, the Belleek team getting both their goals in the second half, and in the first round of the league itself Derrygonnelly handed out another four point defeat.

Then came two morale boosting wins, the first against Enniskillen and the second against the ancient foes, Teemore Shamrocks. This tie was played at Tempo on an April Sunday evening and that the Fermanagh football public had not forgotten the titanic struggles of the early 70's between these two, was evidenced by the enormous crowd that attended what was, after all, a run of the mill league match.

Routine it may have been on paper but the public knew better and they got a full blooded sixty minutes that showed that none of the sting had gone out of this particular pairing yet. And in what was to be a most disappointing season for the Maguires this game was to be one of the isolated highlights as they matched Teemore every inch for determination to come out winners by 2.6 to 0.8.

The basis of the triumph was laid in the first half with a goal each from Martin and Jim McPhillips plus two long range points from Gerry Murphy to go in at the interval 2.4 to 0.2 ahead. A testy second half saw Teemore stage a rally but this was one tie that Tempo were not going to lose and full time saw them winners in every sense of the word.

Enormous encouragement had been derived from that victory and all were convinced that a substantial league challenge could be built on that. But the commitment and nerve that had been shown on that April evening was

never to be reached again for the remainder of the year and though there were occasional flickers of spirit, a decline set in that eventually saw the team relegated once again.

Yet in that league campaign Tempo did produce exhilarating fare on occasion. One such occasion was a home tie with St. Patricks. A few weeks previously the Donagh team had handed out a merciless drubbing on their famed "Calvary", thrashing the totally disorganised Maguires by a massive 3.21 to 1.4. Honour demanded that something, if at all possible be done about that in the return tie, and something was indeed done. For a long time it seemed that St. Patricks were waltzing to another big win and with ten minutes left they led by a secure looking nine points.

Then Tempo mounted a most astonishing recovery and goals by Frank McPhillips and Martin McPhillips plus four points earned a memorable 3.12 to 3.11 triumph. Another remarkable comeback was against Newtownbutler who had built up a big lead only to see Tempo score nine points to a solitary point in the second half and emerge leaders by 0.15 to 1.10. These wins plus another over Devenish kept the team still in with a chance of escaping relegation but the momentum faltered in the closing matches despite the sturdy work of Tony Henderson among others and defeats in the final three games against Erne Gaels, Teemore and Enniskillen sent the team back down to the second division in company with Devenish.

On the championship front it was a case of first round exit, this time losing to Roslea by 1.7 to 1.6. A late point earned Roslea their passage through but there could be no complaint for the resurgent Shamrocks who were still in the second division, were well worth their win, and were already showing signs of the power and talent that was to see them emerge as the Fermanagh club of the 1980's.

1979

Having plunged to the second division again the morale of the team had clearly taken quite a severe mauling and the mid winter emigration of Jim and Tom McPhillips added to the woe. There was however to be a reasonably encouraging start to the year and there was a further boost with the arrival back of Ciaran Campbell after a nine month stint in America, but as the season progressed a decline set in and in the end there was an anxious struggle to avoid relegation to the third division.

The season opened with two victories over Derrylin and Kinawley though the latter triumph was more than a shade fortunate as Kinawley dominated the final quarter only to lose by a point. The third game brought reality as the side slumped to a very heavy defeat at the hands of Irvinestown losing by 0.2 to 3.8. There was somewhat better form shown in the Canon Maguire Cup which was running parallel to the league and there were wins over Irvinestown (rather surprisingly) and over Ederney. But in the league it was a far less happier story. A late

goal was needed to beat Maguiresbridge and then came three successive defeats against Belcoo, Derrylin and Irvinestown which more or less wrecked any promotion hopes.

By now the season had reached the mid summer stage and the relentless decline continued. A Canon Maguire Cup exit at the hands of Devenish, a shattering championship opening round thrashing by Roslea on a scoreline of 4.8 to 0.2, culminating in a humiliating 1.7 to 2.5 defeat by Maguiresbridge. Things by this stage were looking extremely grim indeed and relegation was most definitely in the air when the side lost another league tie to Devenish. By this stage eight games in all had been lost and it eventually came down to a play-off with Derrylin, the losers to join already relegated Maguiresbridge.

There was considerably delay before the game was finally played, October 14th in fact at Lisnaskea, but happily for the Maguires the year was to end of a brighter note as they escaped the drop on a scoreline of 1.9 to 0.5. Derrylin had begun well but in the second quarter Tempo came back to hold a one point interval lead. Tempo looked the more constructive team in the second half though Derrylin kept snapping at their heels until six minutes from the end, Frank McPhillips broke through, sent on to Kevin Bogue and his shot wrapped up the matter.

1980

The teams contesting the second division in this season were Ederney, Devenish, Aughadrumsee, Lisnaskea, Newtownbutler, Kinawley and Tempo and for the Maguires there was a distinct improvement in their league challenge as they made a realistic bid for promotion only to falter in the dying stage of the competition.

The league itself got underway quite late this season, the Sunday after Easter, April 13th. Easter Sunday itself had been the final of the 1979 local tournament, which Fintona won by beating Trillick 0.9 to 1.5 before a big attendance that was enticed out on a fine sunny day. The winners received a set of track suits in their club colours.

The team got a marvellous start to the league campaign winning their five opening games that laid the foundation for their promotion bid. A Liam Doherty goal paved the way for a 2.10 to 2.4 opening day victory over Ederney, Aughadrumsee were disposed of by 5 points while two second half goals by Martin Breen were the cornerstone of a three point win over Devenish though the team had to withstand a massive Devenish revival that saw an eleven point lead severely eroded.

The fourth win was an exhilarating triumph over visiting Newtownbutler. A bit like old times this as a three goal and three point blitz in the last quarter evoked memories of the forward magic that had been seen in the early 1970's. The goal scorers were Dominic Campbell in the first half and Cairan, Damian and Adrian Campbell in the last quarter. Things continued to improve with a solid win over Kinawley. Martin Breen again contributing two

goals and with the half-way mark almost reached in the campaign the team shared joint top spot with Lisnaskea, four points ahead of third placed Newtownbutler.

Ironically in the Canon Maguire Cup there had been no success at all, losing three games in a row and unfortunately this form carried over to the league itself. The crunch game arrived with the tussle with Lisnaskea. The winners of this would obviously stake a firm claim on one of the promotion places and it was the Emmets who came out on top. Gerry McElroy was the scourge hitting eleven points in a scoreline of 1.13 to 0.10. Lisnaskea led practically all the way though Tempo showed plenty of character in a second half rally that yielded five points without reply.

Then came a more heartbreaking defeat. Since 1976 the team had failed to win a single championship fixture and that miserable run was keenly felt. Having drawn Derrygonnelly in the first round there was genuine hope, especially since league form had been so promising, that at last the tale of woe would be stopped. Not to be however as the team conceded a gift goal, a Patsy Burns lob bouncing over our goalkeeper in the final minute and on the stroke of time were denied a second chance when a Gerry Murphy long range free clipped the wrong side of the upright and went wide. The scoreline read:
Derrygonnelly 1.6 Tempo 0.8

The remainder of the season, at least at senior level, failed to maintain the momentum that had been established at the beginning. Ederney, despite playing with fourteen players for three quarters of the game, edged home to a one point win. Lisnaskea had a six point win to secure their promotion place and though there was a two point success over Kinawley the last two games of the campaign proved decisive. Joint second with a much improved Newtownbutler the Reds gained revenge for the early season setback by winning by six points and that left Tempo needing to beat Devenish in their final game to hopefully force a play-off.

That game was played on a Saturday evening, one of the few Fermanagh league games to be played on that day of the week. Devenish were also in the chase and they were the better team on the evening to emerge winners by 1.8 to 0.5 their goal coming from a Fr. McElvanney penalty.

Newtownbutler went on to beat Devenish by a point in the final game to claim the second promotion place.

A disappointing finish the n but in the realm of underage football there was plenty to enthuse about as the Young Maguires U-16 team captured the championship the first title ever for the Tempo/Brookeboro/Maguiresbridge amalgamated team. In their passage to the final they had beaten St. Oliver Plunkett in the quarter-final, St. Colmcilles by a point in the semi-final and in a remarkable final they beat Enniskillen Gaels by 2.2 to 0.6. Failing to score in the first half, they trailed by five points at the interval and in the second half they poached breakaway scores to steal a win from a highly fancied opposition.

1981

1981 turned out to be an undistinguished year at adult level with the exception of one bright spot, namely a victory in a senior championship game. Our colleagues in the second division were Derrygonnelly, Brookeboro, Ederney, Derrylin, Devenish and Irvinestown and the year got off to a lively enough start with a 0.13 to 1.4 win over Derrylin and this was followed up by a three point victory over Ederney. But after this the slide started and the team lost by five points to Devenish before suffering a heavy mauling at the hands of Irvinestown.

To make matters worse the strength of the side was further eroded by the late spring emigration of Adrian and Dominic Campbell to America. A point dropped to Derrylin and the defeat by Brookeboro, Arthur Mulligan giving our neighbours the tonic of a first minute goal, and the team was more or less out of the running, six points behind the league pacemakers Irvinestown.

A ray of summer sunshine did finally break through with a championship win over Ederney at Irvinestown on a scoreline of 1.8 to 1.6 though for most of the hour it had looked very much like another championship disappointment. Ederney at one stage led by five points in the second half but Tempo hauled their way diligently back and a 58th minute goal from Frank McPhillips sent the team thought to a quarter-final tie with Erne Gaels.

Before the game was played the team struck mixed form in two league games. Encouragement was drawn from inflicting the first defeat of the year on Devenish but gloom returned with a six point reversal against Derrygonnelly.

On the n to the championship and the realisation that the team were undisputed underdogs as they trotted out to face Erne Gaels who had captured the senior double in 1979 and were obviously still a formidable force. It was in fact a lopsided match as the Belleek team led by 2.5 to 0.0 at half-time, 3.7 to 0.0 at the forty minute mark and finished the hour 4.8 to 0.3 winners.

Erne Gaels went on to win the championship while Tempo were left to struggle against relegation.

There was a narrow squeak against Brookeboro at the Maguiresbridge ground winning by a point but then came two defeats against Derrygonnelly and Ederney to leave relegation a serious possibility but the subsequent Irvinestown victory over Brookeboro left the Maguires safe. Dependent on the results from other games to survive in the second division was indication enough of how low fortunes had slumped.

In the midst of all that there was something to cheer about with the success of the Young Maguires U-16 team retaining their championship. They beat Erne Gaels and St. Aidens in the early rounds and then had a fine 4.6 to 1.6 win in the decider over Clan na nOg. The team was : Sean Bannon, Pat Harkin, Martin Breslin, Seamus Wray, Adrian Bogue, Brian Bannon, Shane Breen, Brian McGrath and Vincent McCaffrey, Noel Duffy, John Connolly, Billy Maye, Denis McCaffrey, Jim Flynn and Cairan Carey. Full forward Jim Flynn had an excellent hour finishing with a personal tally of 2.1.

Recent Past

1982

1982 opened with the follow through of the Canon Maguire Cup from the previous season and Tempo began the competitive year with a good victory over Kinawley in the semi-final at Lisnaskea, goals from a Frank McPhillips penalty in the first half and another goal from Kevin Bogue in the second half laying the foundations. The final turned out to be a disappointment as the side lost by five points to Irvinestown in a mediocre game played at Coa.

The first fifteen nominated for the club for the season were : Cairan Campbell, Malachy McNally, Paul Campbell, Brendan McCusker, Liam Connolly, Kevin Bogue, Jim Durnion, Michael McGrade, Tom McPhillips, Michael Tierney, Frank McPhillips, Martin Breen, Barry McCusker, Stephen Bogue and Dermot Kennedy.

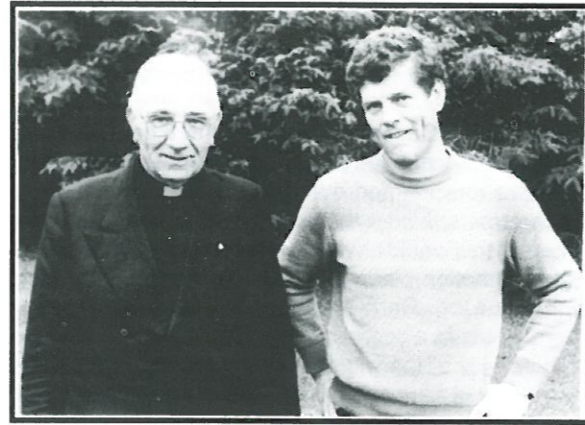
The club were still on their travels as far as home ground was concerned for the pitch re-surfacing was not complete and this was to have a bearing on the poor performance that was eventually turned in. The signs were ominous right from the beginning as it took a resurgent second half performance in which three goals were scored to beat Coa in the opening game and the first defeat arrived in the next game when Derrylin won a poor quality match by 0.6 to 0.2.

The decline continued in the following two games with defeats against Kinawley, the South Fermanagh team getting late scores to win by a point and a single point was the deficit against Enniskillen Gaels B. This particular setback was a crushing one and it could be said that the team never fully recovered from it.

Matter did improve in the short term however with a reshuffled lineout that brought Cairan Campbell to centre half forward and in the following four games, seven points were collected against Brookeboro, Ederney, Aghadrumsee and Maguiresbridge. Best performance of that quarter was against Ederney when the team won 0.14 to 1.7 with all but one point coming from play.

The good run was to continue in mid season with three further league wins over Coa, Brookeboro and Derrylin the result of all that bringing the team into second place in the table. The position however was a shade false for the team had played more games and the victories had been over opposition that was not the strongest in the division. Still there was no reason to be despondent and in the senior championship preliminary round against the amalgamated Ederney/Coa, a solid 2.14 to 0.2 win was chalked up.

After that however the season began to fall apart. Fermanagh's defeat in the Ulster final saw the annual departure of Cairan Campbell and a further blow was sustained when defender Malachy McNally broke a Leg.



Two Sterling Fermanagh Full Backs Fr. Carty (his last photograph) poses with Cairan Campbell in the week prior to the 1982 Ulster Senior Final - Fermanagh v Armagh

The League challenge itself evaporated in the course of one weekend when three points were dropped in two games. Ederney with a late point from a Cormac McManus free earned a draw and then league leaders Derrygonnelly had two goals in the second half to win 2.8 to 1.5. The championship exit inevitably followed when first division Lisnaskea won easily at Enniskillen. Tempo had a sprightly enough opening quarter and created a couple of definite goal chances. But there were not taken and by half time the Emmets had eased five points clear. Gerry McElroy's arrival in the second half further strengthened Lisnaskea and they coasted through on a big score line.



Tempo's John McElroy in his role as County Team Manager telling Donal Fee, Brendan Reilly, Johnny Leonard and company what's what!

The season had now moved into mid August and it turned out to be a lacklustre closing part to the year as the team slumped to three further "home" defeats (the games in fact were played at Maguiresbridge, Coa and Brookeboro). By seasons end the side had slipped to sixth place in the table and that meant that for the first time ever in the clubs history the club would compete in the Intermediate championship.

It had been a year that everyone was more or less glad to see the back of but hope was already rising within a few weeks of the seasons finish that 1983 would bring better

things. The home ground was likely to be available again and this would go a long way to boost training and performance at all levels and the Intermediate championship offered a realistic possibility of capturing a trophy that would give morale an upsurge. Things had looked black but the future beacons.

1983

There was an improved performance in this 1983 season but not substantial enough to get the team promoted or to capture the Intermediate championship title. The promotion race for the first division prize was fought out right through the season by Teemore, Belcoo and Tempo and it was not until the final round of fixture that the matter was finally resolved and unfortunately it was the Maguires who lost out to old foes Teemore in the decisive last match of the programme.

Right from the outset the team adopted a positive and determined approach, somewhat removed from the lacklustre attitude of the previous year. The home ground was still unavailable and this caused inevitable problems but by and large these were overcome essentially because the team were very much in contention for honours.

Encouragement came early with four straight victories. It began with a landslide win over Coa though it was not until the second half that superiority was firmly established. In the second game, this against Enniskillen Gaels B, superiority was a long time in coming, but it eventually did and that was followed by a 3.8 to 2.5 win over Aghadrumsee in Derrylin. A quick return to the same venue yielded a solid ten point triumph over the O'Connells but then came the first ominous sign with a defeat at the hand of Belcoo.

Still this was looked upon as a temporary reversal and the side bounced back to beat Maguiresbridge and Brookeboro. A good showing was also made in the Trillick tournament where a fine performance brought the dismissal of Omagh and a semi-final replay saw Fintona defeated. The final itself proved to be a bitter anti-climax as the team failed to maintain their good form and they were totally outclassed by a rampant Dromore team.

It was then back to the league and a big win over Ederney ensured that mid-season saw the side firmly challenging at the top of the table but the opposition was tight, Teemore still unbeaten and Belcoo just two points behind Tempo.

The Intermediate championship then loomed up and here was the opportunity to clinch a piece of silverware that surely would go a long way to keep the league momentum going. The opening tie was against Maguiresbridge and surprisingly the side had to work extremely hard to eventually scrape through by 1.8 to 2.3. The best of starts had been gained through a sixth minute Malachy McNally goal and at the end of the first quarter the lead had been stretched to five points but

complacency set in and by half-time the situation was a great deal more precarious. Maguiresbridge continued to press hard in the second half and a late Davy Trotter goal ensured an anxious closing spell for Tempo.

The semi-final was scheduled for Irvinestown with Enniskillen Gaels B the opponents. A short period previously the sides had met in the league, Tempo winning by a more than comfortable margin and the ease of victory inevitably had an influence on the championship performance.

A Martin Breen fisted goal gave a quick boost and the team led by four points at the break. At the finish this advantage had been increased to six to make it a secure enough passage through but by no means a spectacular one, Jim Durnion and Michael Tierney being among the few who played steadily.

The malaise that had crept into the side seeped even deeper in the following three weeks when two successive defeats more or less ripped the heart out of the season. The first of this was a critical defeat at the hands of promotion rivals Belcoo. A victory in this game could more or less have guaranteed promotion and indeed a lively start was made with quick points. But Belcoo came back well to regain the lead and a late Tempo goal gave the losers a rather flattering scoreline of 0.10 to 1.5. Promotion was going to be a tough achievement.

Intermediate Final

Brookeboro 1.9 Tempo..... 0.7

Two weeks later came the Intermediate final on August 7th at Emmet Park, Lisnaskea against holders Brookeboro. This was a competition which had been viewed all along as one that could and indeed should be won. In the end it turned out to be something of a disaster for Tempo. Whatever the reason the team simply failed to live up to expectation and this was especially so in the opening half. That first period produced mediocre fare and anything of quality that did come, came exclusively from Brookeboro.

A lethargic Tempo could have no complaints going in at the interval trailing by six points to one, Arthur Mulligan kicking three of Brookeboro's scores. Tempo had a point from Frank McPhillips a minute after the restart but the flame of revival was promptly doused when Brookeboro captain Thomas Eddie Boyle poached what was to be the only goal of the hour.

That put Brookeboro seven points ahead and though Tempo did manage to exert stronger pressure thereafter it never looked threatening enough to whittle down the deficit and in the final minutes it was Brookeboro again who were on the attack.

A dismal display and the aftermath was to be clearly seen in the next league game.

Unbeaten Teemore were the next league task and they

handed out a comprehensive defeat to the hapless Maguires on a scoreline of 4.7 to 0.2 and that left the team in joint second place with Belcoo, though the latter had the easier run in. Still the team was not out of the running and they kept their hopes alive with wins over Brookeboro and Derrylin. In the meantime Belcoo had rounded off in fine style to claim their promotion place thanks to a win over Teemore and when Teemore lost most unexpectedly to Enniskillen Gaels B an intriguing situation was set up.

Tempo and Teemore had still to play each other and their respective totals meant that Tempo needed a win to force a play-off with the Shamrocks while a draw was adequate for Teemore's promotion.

By that stage Teemore had been crowned county senior champions, toppling Roslea in mid September, and with this league tie being played on the Mountain Road they had everything going for them. Benefiting from the breeze in the first half they had the tonic of a Sean McBrien goal and with Brendan Reilly at his effervescent best they controlled the game all through to win by 1.10 to 0.6.

The end of the road for Tempo, yet though it was again an empty sideboard, there had been a lot to enthuse about and major improvement had been gained inside the preceding twelve months.

1984

1984 was the Centenary Year of the G.A.A., a year in which every club throughout the nation was expected to make an extra effort to celebrate the uniqueness of the occasion. It was also a year in which every club was especially keen to win something, to build something on their grounds, in fact to do anything that would mark the commemoration year.

Tempo managed admirably to do just that for the high-water marks of the season where the re-opening of the pitch and the promotion back to the first division, a promotion that was allied to the winning of the division two league title. Thus the progress that had been got underway in 1983 was now successfully followed up.

The league season began in late February and there was immediate encouragement with a two point victory over Irvinestown, an important victory for Irvinestown would have been looked upon as one of the stronger teams in the division. There was then a less than inspiring victory over Enniskillen Gaels B but better form returned with a big win over Ederney and then came a vital success over previously unbeaten Derrygonnelly Harps. A splendid start in everything and with the junior team also enjoying a fine run, three wins and two draws in their opening five game games, all seemed set for an eventful and successful season.

Further activity on the club front was the preparation for the annual tournament after an absence of three years caused by the resurfacing of the pitch. Eight teams

participated, Roslea, Dromore, Scotstown, St. Patricks, Brookeboro, Fintona, Trillick an Lisnaskea. Old hand Jackie Martin refereed and Scotstown claimed the trophies, beating Trillick in the final.

The club participated itself in the Trillick tournament, reaching the final for the second successive season, only to lose again this time after a replay to Fintona.

Back on the league front the first point of the year was dropped. Aghadrumsee were the team to dent the 100% record and indeed Tempo needed to stage a late comeback to avoid defeat. An even later rally was needed in the next game, Brendan McCusker scoring a goal in the dying moments to earn an ill deserved one point victory over Maguiresbridge.

It was to be a temporary decline in form. In the following four game thee were victories over Derrylin, Maguiresbridge, Irvinestown and Enniskillen Gaels B leaving the team in a four point lead at the head of the division, Derrylin and Derrygonnelly the chasing duo, and obviously promotion was assured, barring an inexplicable collapse. The junior side too, with new faces Adrian Bogue, Donal McShea, Gerald Cassidy and David Flynn among others was also shaping up well and by mid-season they too remained unbeaten.

Mid-summer brought the championship and a first round meeting with Derrylin at Brewster Park. The O'Connells had already lost to Tempo in the league but they were still enjoying a great league run and they were a trifle unlucky not to send the Maguires spinning out of the competition. With ten minutes to go Derrylin led by three points, goals from Tommy Fee and Malachy O'Rourke boosting them. Three late Frankie McPhillips frees salvaged the draw on a scoreline of 2.9 each, the Tempo goals coming from Seamus Breen and Michael McGrade. Derrylin had more success at junior level inflicting the first league defeat.

Derrylin in fact were more or less constant opposition during the next couple of weeks. They came to Tempo for a league tie which they lost heavily and in the championship replay they lost again, leaving Tempo to move on to the quarter-finals where they were due to meet first division Devenish.

Before that game was played the special Centenary Cup intervened, Tempo winning their opening round game against Kinawley only to go out at the next stage. A disappointment that but easily over-shadowed by a crushing league victory over Ederney that assured the team of promotion.

And yet football is full of highs and lows and the lows quickly followed with departure from both the senior and junior championships. The senior quarter-final was played at Enniskillen, Devenish going through by 0.9 to 0.4.

Ever improving Tempo gave the first division squad a hard run for it though the Garrison team always had the

cushion of an early lead that had yielded three points in four minutes. Tempo fought back to level at the end of the first quarter but Devenish pulled away again to be four ahead at the break and though Tempo had a lot of second half pressure the attack could make little headway against a stout Devenish rearguard.

The juniors also bowed out, Coa being their conquerors with two goals in the last five minutes, and so the league remained at the sole targets for Centenary Year honours.



Centenary Day Parade (1984) In Enniskillen

One of the special events of Centenary Year was the La Na gClub and this was held on Sunday July 29th, 1984. An 11.30 a.m. mass was said for past members and supporters. In the afternoon there was a parade from the hall led by St. Mary's Band, through the village an then to the field with footballers and camogie players togged in the club colours. Games in the field included a special challenge game between the 1970 and older sides and the current senior team in which the veterans showed they could still teach the youngsters a thing or two, winning by three points.

Team : John Owens; John McElroy; Jim Breen; Hugh Foy; James Breen; Eamon Doherty; Michael McCarney; Seamus McCusker and Des Campbell; Gerry Murphy; Artie Breen; Gerry McNally; Tony Brennan; Paul Campbell and Tony Henderson.

After those festivities the following two months saw little action as the various Fermanagh championships were run off and it was not until September 30th at Brewster Park that the final of the division two league was played.

Tempo.....3.5 Derrygonnelly1.4

The winning of this title was the first trophy in eight years and it was a deserved one for the team had dominated this league right from the beginning. There had of course been occasions when the team that had finished second in the table had gone on to win the league crown but that was not to be this year. The opening half was a scrappy affair especially in the first twenty minutes. Matters improved somewhat in the lead up to half-time and at the break the scoreline stood at three points to one in Tempo's favour.

Derrygonnelly upped the pace after the restart and a Tony Gallagher penalty goal gave them the lead for the

first time but Tempo's reply was prompt and decisive, a good movement downfield ending with a Seamus Breen flicked goal. Brendan McCusker quickly added another to kill off Derrygonnelly's hope and Seamus Breen tied it all up with his second goal late in the game.

Overall then a satisfactory finish to the league campaign and the team could look back on a job well done.

Team : Dermot Kennedy; Paul McNally; Cairan Campbell; Pat Cox; Paul Campell; Michael Tierney (capt.); Jim Flynn; Kevin Bogue and Gerry Murphy; Frankie McPhillips; Seamus Breen; Stephen Bogue; Michael McGrade; Brendan McCusker and Donal McShea

Subs : Martin Breen fro Michael McGrade; Peter Bogue for Donal McShea

Referee : John Rooney (Brookeboro).

The season was now drawing to a close, the sole remaining business being the concluding stages of the division two junior league. A play-off was necessary, needless to say Derrylin being the opposition, to gain entry to a decider against Derrygonnelly. This play off took place on Sunday October 7th at Brookeboro and a most exciting game it turned out to be.

Derrylin began well and had a goal in the 15th minute but Tempo with points from Adrian Bogue and Michael McGrade had closed the gap to a point at the interval. There were growing signs after the interval that Tempo were going to finish the stronger team and they had excellent points from Malachy Graham, Gerard Cassidy and Barry McCusker to take the lead. It was still not won however though a fine penalty save by goalkeeper Paul Colgan eased a lot of concern and the team went through on an 0.11 to 1.5 scoreline.

Derrygonnelly2.3 Tempo1.3

Back then to Brewster Park on October 14th for the final but it was not to be a double triumph over the Harps. The team had plenty of pressure in the first half but found it hard to pierce a good Derrygonnelly defence. The Harps had been restricted to isolated raids but they made use of them getting a goal and two points with Tempo managing just a point from Michael McGrade before the interval.

There was lots of excitement after the interval, goalie Paul Colgan saving a penalty for the second week running and making another good stop. However he was beaten by a close range shot from Dundas and a late goal in reply from Gerard Cassidy couldn't save the day.

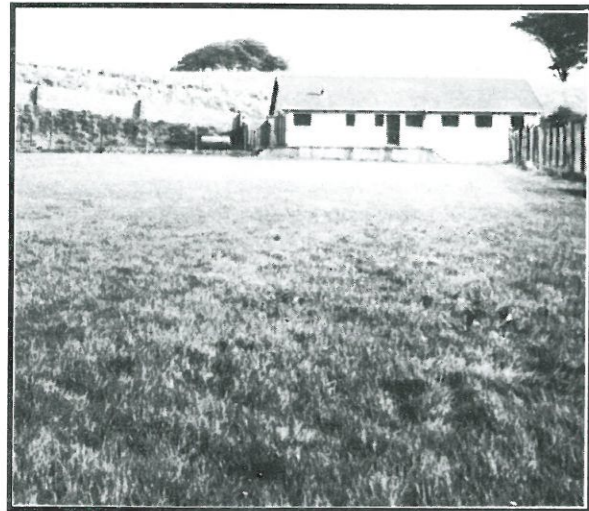
The year finished off with the hosting of the County Ceili in the St Mary's Hal and it was an outstanding success principally because of the high standard of ceili dancing, the quality and variety of which drew warm praise from the County Board Officers.

1985

Facing the first year back in the top division the club realised that they had a difficult task ahead of them if they

were to retain their newfound status and that was the pattern that emerged.

The year had begun on a nostalgic note with a dinner dance held in the Ortime Hotel at which the honoured guests were the surviving earliest playing members of the club, Tom Fee, Mick Slevin and Tom McCarney plus the members of the 1949 junior championship winning side. Unable to be present for the historic occasion, at which suitable presentation were made were Tommy Durnion, Willie Doherty and Charlie McCusker.



**Present Day Park and Dressing Rooms
in Edenmore**

The senior league itself did not get underway until mid-April because of the county's good run in the Open Draw competition and the opening fixture was eventually played on April 21st. It was not to be an encouraging start as Kinawley, who it was anticipated would be one of the weaker teams, edged home on a scoreline of 1.7 to 2.3, their winning point coming late in the game. It had been a deserved win for them nevertheless for they had led for most of the game.



Commerative Dinner in Lisnaskea

Back Row : L to R : Phil Breen, Patsy Breen, Barney Carters, Mick McCaffrey, Artie Breen, Jim Breen, Jim McKeane, John McElroy
Front Row : L to R : Gerry McNally, Jim Curran, Tommy McNally, Tom Fee, Willie Creddin, Pat Cox, Alphonie McCaffrey

The second game brought Teemore back into the Tempo viewfinder, though by now almost all trace of the old rivalry had disappeared. New faces laced each side and

game was a routine league contest with Teemore eventually scraping home by 1.5 to 1.4, Tempo staging a late rally to cut back a five point deficit that had developed shortly after the interval.

It has been a disappointing start to the year all the more so since both game had been lost by the minimum margin and the four league points that had been dropped were to put the team under enormous pressure for the remainder of the campaign. In fact those two narrow defeats effectively sealed their fate at the end of the season.

There was a brief spark of hope when the team chalked up their first win, a three goal burst from Seamus Breen sending Derrygonnelly tumbling to defeat. But the team was simply not strong enough to cope with the top teams in the division and there then followed defeats at the hand of Newtown, Devenish and Lisnaskea. The latter in fact handed out an especially crushing mauling, to hit a scoreline of 6.10, conceding just four points in reply. It had been nothing short of ignominy as the Emmets coasted to the most facile of wins.

Yet that was to be the lowest point. Thereafter, while victories still proved hard to come by, the team played with a greater belief and pride. Devenish had only three points to spare in the next game and then came three straight wins that brought smiles back to everyone.

A five point away win over Derrygonnelly gave grounds for hope that all was not lost. This was followed by a most encouraging one point victory over Teemore, the first the Maguires had gained over the Shamrocks for many seasons. A Paul Campbell point in the early stages was a good omen and the team led by five points to two at half-time. Teemore made a strong rally in the second half, Gerry Reilly and John Gunn much to the forefront but a stout Tempo defence played well and two Gerry Murphy points saw the team through. The third success came with a fine away victory over Newtownbutler, Dermot Kennedy playing a crucial part by saving a penalty five minutes from the end.

Four wins from eleven games was the record at this stage, not spectacular by any means, but still a modest return and one which gave reasonable expectation given the poor showing of the other two clubs, Kinawley and Derrygonnelly, who were also struggling.

The winning vein came to an abrupt end with defeats at the hands of Devenish and St. Patricks, the latter being caused by St. Patricks hitting a two goal burst late in the game.

The championship then interrupted the league campaign with second division Erne Gaels the opposition at Lisnaskea. An exciting game it turned out to be ending on a scoreline of 1.5 each. Tempo held the lead for long periods yet they were to depend on a pointed free two minutes from the end to earn a replay. Early scores came from Gerry Murphy, Kevin Bogue and Frank McPhillips but Erne Gaels came back in the second half with a fisted goal from Liam McCauley. Seamus Breen replied in

similar fashion five minutes from the end leaving the side still a point adrift and Frank McPhillips popped over the equaliser.

The replay at Irvinestown also had lots of excitement and a stirring final quarter. Erne Gaels held a two point interval lead and after the sides had equally shared four points after the interval, the drama stepped up as the last ten minutes were reached. Brendan McCusker had a goal to nose Tempo ahead, only for the joy to be shortlived as Erne Gaels immediately swept downfield and Liam Kelm found the net. Erne Gaels had another point to go three ahead but Tempo fought stubbornly back. Frank McPhillips and Cairan Campbell both pointed to close the gap to the slimmest and more pressure yielded a late free, but this was struck too low and the team were out of the premier competition on a shoreline of 1.9 to 1.8

With the championship gone for another year the attention again centred on the league and a bleak picture it presented with a record being

P	W	D	L	PTS
13	4	0	9	8

The team were lying second bottom and it was going to take a remarkable finishing flourish if they were to avoid relegation and a thoroughly spirited finish was indeed put in, a finish that did not earn the reward it deserved.

It began dismally enough with a six point home defeat at the hands of Enniskillen Gaels but in the trying conditions Tempo had given signs that they were not going to relinquish their first division place without a gallant battle.

A vital win was then gained over fellow stragglers Kinawley the basis being laid in the first half to be five ahead. Kinawley were all too aware of the importance of the match and they came stubbornly back in the second half only to have their resilience killed off by a Michael McGrade goal.

Pressure was now mounting, all the more so since the County Board deadline for the completion for the league programme was fast approaching. A Thursday evening brought league champions Roslea as visitors. Once again the Shamrocks were going powerfully, bidding for a sixth successive league title. They still needed a point to guarantee their entry to the decider so they came with purpose and determination.

That purpose and determination was totally matched by Tempo who produced perhaps their best display of the year. It turned out to be a fine, hard fought and splendidly competitive game that ended in a draw at 0.7 each.

Thoroughly encouraged by this Tempo then beat St. Patricks by two points and they journeyed to Roslea for the final fixture knowing that a win would clinch survival. The side had an horrendous start, conceding two goals in the opening half and at one stage trailed by nine points. The position was well impossible but a memorable second half rally that brought goals from Cormac

Rice and Frankie McPhillips (from a penalty) incredibly gave realistic hopes that the evening could be salvaged. Not to be as Roslea held on to win by a point.

It had been an inspiring closing run by Tempo, especially the fact that they had run the team of the 1980's so close in two games. Their disappointment was all the more bitter when an unplayed fixture between two other clubs, ensured their relegation. A club member broached the matter at the next County Board meeting commenting that, "in the end Tempo went down in far from satisfactory circumstances and the credibility of the league has suffered because of that."

1986

The new year brought a reprieve, at least a temporary one from relegation, for the Convention held in January opted for a radical proposal initiated by Teemore that suggested a twelve club first division. The opening games of the year also saw the introduction of new subsidiary competitions, something which Fermanagh have been tinkering with for years in the attempt to extend the football programme for the clubs beyond the rather limited league and championship base.

Tempo were placed in a relatively low key section that included Ederney, Irvinestown, Coa and Maguiresbridge and not unexpectedly the team enjoyed a successful run though it was not without its anxious moments. Most entertaining game of this Spring section was the contest with Irvinestown that finished in a n eight point each draw.

The league itself got underway in mid-April and though there was a degree of breathing peace because of the twelve team membership there was no illusions that matters were going to be any easier. Tempo were by no means a team of the first rank and if they were to survive there were a couple of key matches that they had to win.

The signs were not good from the outset and the team was quickly plunged into relegation speculation. Kinawley were the opposition for the first game and they came away with a point. Tempo led by three points with less than ten minutes left but couldn't hold on to the advantage, Paul McKenna levelling the teams late on. Worse was to follow in the second game against Teemore. They failed to score at all in the first half and eventually went down by 1.4 to 1.2 as a series of scoring chances were frittered away in a second half that saw them dominate for long periods.

The decline gathered momentum as reigning county champions Devenish handed out a 3.10 to 0.8 defeat and this was followed by further setbacks at the hands of St. Patricks and Lisnaskea. The poor run showed no sign of easing when the team struggled to beat junior team Coa in the neighbouring Trillick tournament and another league defeat inevitable followed, Roslea cruising through by 1.11 to 2.2.

By this stage the team was firmly anchored in the relegation, five straight defeats had seen to that. The only bright spot was the relatively good showing of the

minor team who were enjoying a successful campaign in the early sections of the league with players such as Anthony McCaffrey, Leo Monaghan, Declan Breen and Eamon McCusker all showing potential for the future.

Back to the senior front a ray of hope appeared with a fine 3.12 to 2.5 victory over Derrygonnelly. Playing their best football of the year Tempo had sterling individual contributions from new faces Adrian Bogue, Kevin Higgins and Brendan Fee and the win lifted them to within a point of Derrygonnelly who were third bottom in the table.

The respite however was temporary for two further league defeats were to follow, Belcoo and Enniskillen the conquerors. Sandwiched between these two games was the championship first round against Brookeboro at Lisnaseka. It was to be a performance typical of the season as a whole. Little short of a struggle with the team building up a six point to nothing lead by the 22nd minute and failing to score after that. Indeed there was a degree of good fortune in the second half as Brookeboro missed two goals, one a bizarre mistake from full forward James Flynn who punched the ball home with only the goalkeeper to beat. The Brookeboro man had forgotten the recent change in rule that outlawed such scores.

The championship win did instill a sense of encouragement and belief and one of the better league performances was served up in the next game against equally troubled Irvinestown.

This was a crucial match which Tempo had to win to ensure at least a play-off. The best they could manage was a draw, a determined start sending them into a four

point interval lead. Irvinestown of course had everything to play for and they staged an exciting rally that saw them pull level by the 56th minute. The draw left them a point ahead in the table and relegation now hinged on the final game.

Tempo opted to play their fixture on Thursday evening against Newtownbutler and produced good form to win by 3.8 to 0.5 that kept the pressure on Irvinestown who were to play St. Patricks the following evening. The St. Molaise squad responded well to the test and they romped to a huge win that left them secure and Tempo doomed.

The season was now moving into the final stages at least for Tempo. They were spun out of the senior championship in the quarter-final by Roslea at Lisnaskea. The scoreline tells its own story, a margin of 1.10 to 1.2, Seamus Breen getting the Tempo goal late on and Roslea were on their way to another New York Gold Cup triumph.

In the junior championship, a very young team beat Irvinestown to reach the quarter-finals but lost at that stage and in late September the concluding stages of what had been a gloom year were played out.

The subsidiary league resumed with the team winning a mediocre game at Derrylin but then bowing out to Roslea in the next stage.

The year had ended and the team and club were left to reflect on another dismal league performance that had generated just the occasional glimmer of brightness and hope.



Senior Team of Mid 1980's

Back Row : L to R : Martin Breen, Gerry Murphy, Adrian Bogue, Kevin Bogue, Donal McShea, Dermot Kennedy, Jim Flynn, Pst Cox, Paul Colgan and Cairan Campbell

Front Row : L to R : Paul McNally, Michael McGrade, gerald Cassidy, Micky Tierney, Frank McPhillips, Paul Campbell, Stephen Bogue, seamus Breen, brenda McCusker

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60's Memories - 1966

Sunday May 29th - 1966

S.F.L. at Tempo

Tempo.....0.12 Derrygonnelly.....1.4

Team : Michael McCarney, Michael Breen, Jim Breen, Tom Curran, Adrian Campbell, Phil Breen, Damian Campbell, John McElroy, Artie Breen, Michael Jackson, Eamon Doherty, Jim Curran, Frank McCaffrey, Seamus McCusker, Michael McCaffrey.

Championship - June 19th at Lisnaskea

Tempo.....0.1 Teemore.....0.7

Team : Michael McCarney, Pat McCaffrey, Jim Breen, Tom Curran, Adrian Campbell, Damian Campbell, Eamon Doherty, John McElroy, Phil Breen, Michael Jackson, Artie Breen, Jim Curran, Michael McCaffrey, Seamus McCusker and Frank McCaffrey. Scorer (E. Doherty 0.1)

1966 Beragh Tournament

June 28th Tempo 2.6 Ballygawley 0.8

July 8th Tempo 1.10 Donaghmore 0.8

July 10th Tempo 2.8 Beragh 1.2

That same July of 1966 saw the team play the following programme:

July 17th **Irvinestown Tournament Semi-Final**
Tempo 3.6 Aghayaran 3.4

July 24th **Irvinestown Final**
Tempo 2.6 Irvinestown 0.4

July 24th **League Tie at Tempo**
Tempo 1.3 Teemore 0.10

July 25th **Dromore Tournament**
Tempo 1.8 Trillick 1.3

July 29th **Dromore Tournament**
Ballybofey 3.8 Tempo 0.7

The following week the team beat Ballybay, 3.3 to 3.2 in the opening round of the Maguiresbridge Tournament. That kind of packed programme was by no means unusual for the Maguires in the tournament heyday. A wide variety of opponents and sizeable crowds everywhere.

Junior Championship Team - 1966

Sunday August 21st - Semi-Final at Enniskillen

Belnaleck.....3.4 Tempo.....2.1

Team : Brian McCaffrey, Frank Howe, John Owens, Hugh Foy, Tony Murphy, 'Wee' Phil Breen, James Breen, Tony Green, Gerry McNally, Des Campbell, Gabriel Tunney, Patsy Breen, Denis McElroy.

Minor League Semi-Final

Monday July 11th

Irvinestown.....1.9 Tempo.....0.2

Team : Thomas Doherty, Frank Howe, Patsy Flynn, Adrian Campbell, Michael Jackson, Ciaran Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Des Campbell, Frank Murphy, Oliver Murphy, Brendan McCusker. Sub - Robert Slevin.

Others on the minor panel were J. J. Campbell and Jim McPhillips

For the 1966 season the senior team played twenty seven games in all, league, tournament, championship, challenge and commemoration cup.

AUGHER TRIUMPH

One of the more memorable tournament successes achieved by the Maguires was in the 1967 Augher tourney. Beating Ballygawley in the first round and Dromore in the semi-final the team then played a starstudded St. Joseph's Training College, Belfast in the final

The lineouts were :

St. Joseph's - Roddy Tierney, Jim Graham, Gerry Regan, Ray McConville, Malachy McAfee, John Donnelly, P. J. Diamond, Peter Stevenson, Brian Lavery, Gerry Sweeney, Pat King, Sean Mulrine, Eugene McIvor, Brian Trainor.

Tempo - Brian McCaffrey, Tom Curran, Jim Breen, Michael Breen, Damian Campbell, Eamon Doherty, Adrian Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Phil Breen, Des Campbell, Artie Breen, Frank McCaffrey, John Owens, Gerry McNally, James Breen.

Tempo won the final by five points to four and in fact took the trophy with an astonishingly meagre tally of approximately fifteen points in the three games

St. Joseph's were managed by Jim McKeever, the Derry maestro

Money Matters

Running a club has always been a strain especially in the never ending pursuit of funds and in recent years the pressure has become more intense.

Below are some of the financial figures of a bygone era

Expenditure for 1955:
Receipts : £33-11-8
Referees 10/- + Club Insurance £1.10.0
Income from gates : £19.4.9
Raffle for £5 : £35.2.3

At this period the club were in the process of their first major pitch development.

The secretary's report for that year noted, "that if 1955 did not produce cups and medals for the Tempo club, still it will go down as one of the years that has contributed much to the history of the club. The past year has seen the reconstruction of Gaelic Park so well advanced that it gives good hopes of our opening date".

The club ran a Gaelic Week in 1958 the profit from which totalled the princely sum of £72.15.5. And if the value of money is taken into consideration that represented a

much healthier gate entry receipts than the returns for the tournament of the 1980's.

The official opening of the park in 1957 was a splendid success and the club enjoyed an excellent financial return that put them in a fairly solid footing.

Incidentally the official name of the ground is St. Patricks Park. Three names were proposed; St. Bridgets and Blessed Oliver Plunkett being the two unsuccessful proposition. St. Patricks Park, was proposed by Tommy Doherty and seconded by Phil McCarron. The matter went to a vote.

Some bills from 1969

Ballroom Powder	£ 0.12.0
Affiliation and Insurance	£ 8.17.0
Flag Sticks	£ 0.15.0
Two Balls	£10. 0.0
Rent of Hall	£ 6. 0.0

At one stage it had been club practice to go the length of 25/- in the purchase of boots for players. In the mid 1950's there was a move to do away with this and the opening change was to reduce the subsidy to 10/-.

In the modern era there is no subsidy.

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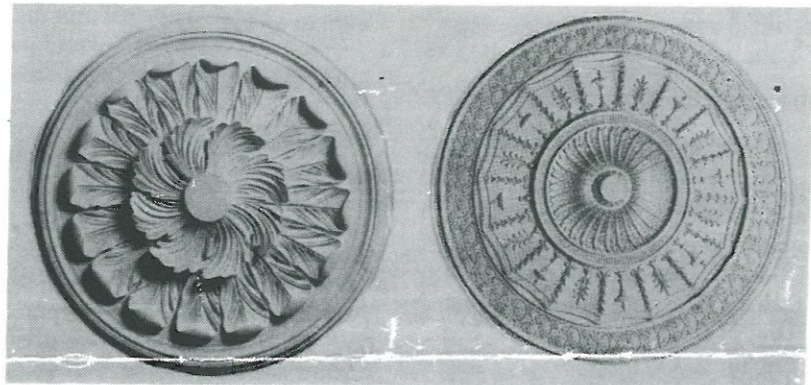
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County Finals - The Maguires Record

N.B. Unfortunately not all team lists are available.

1949

Junior Championship at Lisnaskea : October 2nd

Tempo 1.4 Newtownbutler 0.2

Team: Johnny McNally, Barney McGahey, Stephen Cassidy, Eddie Maguire, Jim McKeane, Tommy Doherty, Phil McCarron, Leo McCaffrey, Frank Carson, Frank Warnock, Packie Slevin, Tom McGrenaghan, Gerry McNally

Subs : Hugh McCaffrey, Jim Breen, Benny Owens, Tommy McCusker.

Other panel member unavailable that day included Tommy McNally

1950 : Minor Championship at Lisnaskea

Tempo 3.6 Newtownbutler 2.4

Team: Fergus Cleary, Barney Carters, Jim Breen, Hugh McCaffrey, Jack McCusker, Gerry McNally, Barney Breen, Leo McCaffrey, Alfie McCaffrey, John McAloon, Phil Breen.

1954 : Junlor League at Teemore

Roslea 2.5 Tempo 0.4

1955

Junior Championship at Lisnaskea : October 2nd

Aughadrumsee 1.9 Tempo 0.1

Team: Frank Lynch, Tommy Doherty, Jim Breen, Phil Breen, Jim McKeane, Barney Carters, Benny Owens, Rev Gerard McSorley, Tom McNally, Tom McCusker, Alfie McCaffrey, Michael McCaffrey, Phil Breen, Gerry McNally, Phil McCarron.

1957 : Junlor League at Lisnaskea

Derrylin 1.7 Tempo 1.3

1957

Junior Championship at Teemore : November 12th

Tempo 1.3 Kinawley 1.2

1958 : Senior Championship at Lisnaskea

Roslea 2.6 Tempo 1.2

Team: Tommy McCusker, Benny Owens, Jim Breen, Barney Carters, Pat Cox, John Cox, Tom Curran, Phil Breen, Jim Hughes, Alfie McCaffrey, Gerry McNally, Jim Curran, Phil Breen, Michael McCaffrey.

1961 : Senior League at Lisnaskea

Tempo 3.4 Aughadrumsee 2.3

Tempo: John McElroy, Tom Curran, Jim Breen, Barney Carters, Pat Cox, Alfie McCaffrey, Pat McAloon, Phil Breen, Gerry McNally, Phil Breen, Artie Breen, Jim Curran, Michael McCaffrey, Patsy Breen, Frank McCaffrey.

Sub: Jim McKeane for Frank McCaffrey

Aughadrumsee: J. Quinn, H. Maguire, B. Cleary, T. Manley, P. McCaffrey, J. McCaffrey, T. Began, E. Crudden, L. McMahon, J. Mohan, B. Quinn, J. Quinn, J. J. Maguire, E. Maguire, H. Kelly.

1962

Senior League at Irvinestown : November 4th

Devenish 2.11 Tempo 2.8

Team: Willie Carters, Barney Carters, Jim Breen, Pat McAloon, John McElroy, Alfie McCaffrey, Denis McElroy, Gerry McNally, Phil Breen, Tony Green, Artie Breen, Phil Breen, Michael McCaffrey, Patsy Breen, Frank McCaffrey.

Subs : Tom McCusker, Benny Owens, Jim McKeane.

1964

Senior League at Irvinestown : October 25th

Devenish 3.7 Tempo 1.2

Team: John Owens, Michael Breen, Jim Breen, Pat McAloon, Damian Campbell, Alfie McCaffrey, Eamon Doherty, Phil Breen, Gerry McNally, Frank McCaffrey, John McElroy, Eugene Tunney, Michael McCaffrey, Artie Breen, Patsy Breen.

Subs : Denis McElroy, Barney Carters (both used).

1965 : Senior Championship at Irvinestown

Devenish 2.5 Tempo 0.5

Team: John Owens, Michael Breen, Jim Breen, Tom Curran, Damian Campbell, Phil Breen, Pat McCaffrey, Hugh Connors, John McElroy, Eamon Doherty, Artie Breen, Eugene Tunney, Seamus McCusker, Patsy Breen, Alfie McCaffrey.

Sub : Frank McCaffrey

1967 : Juvenile League at Irvinestown

Tempo 1.12 Ederney 0.1

Team: Michael Farry, Eddie Greer, Ciaran Campbell, Aiden McCarron, Patsy Flynn, Adrian Campbell, Pat Kelly, Jim McPhillips, Brendan McCusker, Liam Keenan, Tom Campbell, Joe Mohan, Brendan McCaffrey, Thomas Doherty.

1967 : Minor Championship at Teemore

Tempo/Brookeboro2.12 Roslea /Aughadrumsee /Netownbutler2.7

Team: Robert Slevin, Patsy Flynn, Ciaran Campbell, John Rooney, J. J. Campbell, Michael Jackson, E. Maguire, Adrian Campbell, Sammy Nelson, Brendan McCusker, Dominic Campbell, Damian Smyth, Jim McPhillips, Joe Mohan, Tom Donnelly.

1967 : Junior League at Teemore (played February 25th 1968)

Derrylin2.7 Tempo1.8

Team: Tony Green, Hugh Foy, Jim Breen, Pat McCaffrey, Michael McCarney, James Breen, Alfie McCaffrey, Tony Brennan, John Owens, Ciaran Campbell, J. J. Campbell, Michael McCaffrey, Brendan McCusker.

1968

Junior League at Irvinestown : October 5th

Tempo3.6 Maguiresbridge0.3

Team: Willie Crudden, John Owens, Jim Breen, Hugh Foy, Tony Brennan, Alfie McCaffrey, Fr. Pat McCaffrey, Brendan McCusker, Michael McCaffrey, Liam Keenan, Tom Campbell, Patsy Breen, Denis McElroy.
Subs: Pat Kelly, Karl Donnelly.

1970

Senior Championship at Irvinestown : October 11th

Tempo2.15 Belcoo0.4

Tempo : J. Owens, Michael Breen, Ciaran Campbell, John McElroy, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Michael McCarney, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Eugene Tunney, Brendan McCusker, Artie Breen, Tom McPhillips.
Subs : Pat Kelly, Karl Donnelly, Tony Green, Gerry McNally, Jim McPhillips.

Belcoo : Maurice Ferguson, Tom Leonard, Pat McGowan, John McGinley, Pat Joe McGinley, Gerry Timoney, John McPartland, John McGowan, Eamon McPartland, Frank Timoney, Luke McGinley, Barney McGovern, Frank Melanophy, Joe Doherty and Owen Kerrigan.

Referee: Johnny Cunningham (Erne Gaels)

1970

Senior League at Irvinestown : November 8th

Tempo1.5 Teemore1.5

Replay same venue

Tempo0.9 Teemore0.2

1970

Junior League at Teemore : November 1st

Lisnaskea2.5 Tempo1.5

Team: Michael McCaffrey, Hugh Foy, Jim Breen, Tony Murphy, Pat Kelly, Phil Breen, Alfie McCaffrey, Paul Campbell, Gerry McNally, Liam Keenan, Dominic Campbell, Patsy Breen, Frankie McPhillips.

Sub : Denis McElroy.

1971

Senior League at Lisnaskea : December 26th

Teemore3.6 Tempo0.7

Team: John McElroy, Michael Breen, Ciaran Campbell, Paul Campbell, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Michael McCarney, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Eugene Tunney, Frankie McPhillips, Artie Breen, Brendan McCusker.

Subs : Karl Donnelly, Hugh Foy.

1971 : Junior League at Lisnaskea

Tempo2.3 Slack & Par0.2

1972

Senior Championship at Irvinestown : September 17th

Tempo1.8 Teemore1.6

Tempo : Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Michael McCarney, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Dominic Campbell, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Damian Campbell, Adrian Campbell, Paul Campbell, Tom McPhillips, Brendan McCusker, Jim McPhillips.

Teemore : Jim Cassidy, Petie Fitzpatrick, Sean Reilly, Anthony Burke, James Owens, Benny Fitzpatrick, Gus Fitzpatrick, Brian McCaffrey, Paddy Reilly, Gerry Reilly, Joe Cox, Brendan Reilly, Peter Quinn, Sean Quinn, Pat Fitzpatrick.

1972

Senior League at Irvinestown : November 5th

Tempo1.12 Lisnaskea1.4

Tempo : Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Michael McCarney, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Damian Campbell, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Frank McPhillips, Adrian Campbell, Jim McPhillips, Dominic Campbell, Brendan McCusker, Tom McPhillips.

Subs : Paul Campbell for M. McCarney.

Lisnaskea : Willie Moan, N. Ward, E. Courtney, F. Smith, P. McCaffrey, G. Neeson, J. Neeson, D. McKenna, D. Ward, B. McCaffrey, K. McElroy, J. McElroy, W. Fawcett, O. Courtney, B. Ingram.

Subs : F. Frizelle for Fawcett, A. Dundas for Ingram

Referee : Packie Watterson.

1973 : Senior Championship at Irvinestown

Tempo1.12 Lisnaskea1.5

Team: Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Michael McCarney, James Breen, Eamon Doherty, Damian Campbell, Des Campbell, Seamus McCusker, Frank McPhillips, Adrian Campbell, Jim McPhillips, Dominic Campbell, Brendan McCusker, Tom McPhillips.

Subs : Paul Campbell.

1974 : Senior League at Irvinestown : November

Tempo1.7 Teemore0.5

Team: Robert Slevin, Jim Durnion, Ciaran Campbell, Gerry Murphy, Damian Campbell, Eamon

TEAM JERSIES

According to an informant involved in the early years of the club, "the first set of really good jersies that were got were purchased in North Earl Street, Dublin. Many of the club members had travelled to the All-Ireland final and to avoid customs restrictions, each man wore two jersies home. The colours were green and gold and the train came into Enniskillen station around midnight. It was then home on bicycles and the jersies were needed on the way home in the frost of that 1944 autumn. The jersies beforethat were blue with a yellow horizontal bar. These had been used in the early 1930's and I believe that some of them were still around in the early 1940's"

Doherty, Dominic Campbell, Des Campbell, Tony Henderson, Jim McPhillips, Adrian Campbell, Frank McPhillips, Martin McPhillips, Brendan McCusker, Seamus McCusker.

Sub : Paul Campbell.

1977 : Division II Final at Irvinestown

Tempo1.8 Devenish0.1

1980 : Juvenile Championship at Irvinestown

Young Maguires4.6 Clan na nOg1.6

1983 : Intermediate Championship at Lisnaskea

Brookeboro1.9 Tempo0.7

1984

Division II League at Enniskillen : September 30th

Tempo3.5 Derrygonnelly1.4

Team: Dermot Kennedy, Paul McNally, Ciaran Campbell, Pat Cox, Paul Campbell, Michael Tierney, Jim Flynn, Kevin Bogue, Gerry Murphy, Frank McPhillips, Seamus Breen, Stephen Bogue, Michael McGrade, Brendan McCusker, Donal McShea.

Subs : Martin Breen, Peter Bogue

1984

Division II Junior League Final at Enniskillen October 14th

Derrygonnelly2.3 Tempo1.3



The Latest Generation of Maguires

Back Row : L to R : Vernon Murphy, Patrick Moran, Paddy Connolly, Stephen Owens, Martin Flynn

Front Row : L to R : Thomas McCusker, Brian Jackson, Thomas Breen, Antony Brennan

Football Crazy

Oh we're football crazy,
we're football mad
We're the greatest set of hallions
that Tempo ever had.

Tom McNally is our trainer
he trains us with a whip
and he's under the illusion
we'll win league and championship
Tommy Doherty agrees with him
but he says, "for goodness sake
if you want to win the championship
DON'T EAT THAT OULD SLAB CAKE!"

Mick McCarney is our keeper
he minds the nets for us
But he started playing soccer
and created quite a fuss
Our corner backs are not so bad
there's Tom Curran and Mick Breen
but they give precious little help to
the man who's in between
For at full back we have our captain
He's McElroy from Creagh
and instead of trying to save the goals
he'd be better saving hay

Our half back line is not so good
we know the reason why
for two are almost married
and the other is too shy
Now Eamon and big Phil
have got to realise
that football's more important
than the marriage ties
I've tried to argue with them
but they just laugh at me
even though I often say
"look what happened to J.B.."

At midfield we have this partnership
that's known through near and far
and many people seem to think
that Art and Cusc are stars

If I only had me glasses
when I'm out playing there
I'd be able to catch a few high balls
instead of catching air

Our forwards are all alike
There's Campbells, Curran and Tunney
and the attempts they make at scoring points
My God they're oh so funny

For they're football crazy
they're football mad
They're the greatest set of hallions
that Tempo ever had!



Penalty Ref!! Action from U-12 Tournament 1989



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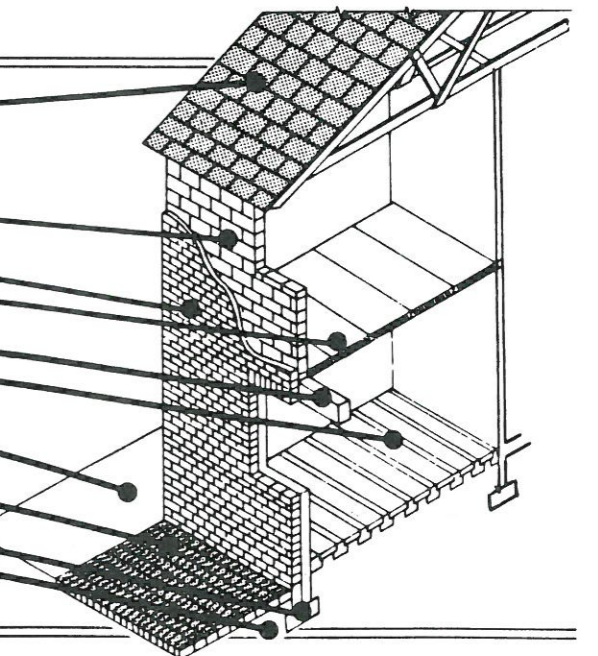
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