

Key Moments in the History of Faughs GAA

by Sadhbh Dunne

1884 – GAA is founded, otherwise known as ‘an Cumann Luthcleas Gael’.

1885 – Faughs is founded with the help of Michael Cusack, an active member of the Gaelic Revival and co-founder of the GAA. →

1911 – Tommy Moore joins Faughs and goes on to become one of the most prominent members within the club. →

1914 – Boland transfers to Faughs GAA from Rathmines and wins the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

1917-1922 – The All-Ireland Championships was suspended. All games during this period were Challenge matches held to raise funds.

1918 – Boland, the ‘on the run’, togged out for Faughs in Luke O’Toole’s house, adjacent to the pitch. Camouflaged by a heavy coat, he was smuggled into Croke Park to play for Faughs.



Timeline of Harry Boland’s Involvement with Faughs and the GAA:

Member of Faughs Team from **1914 – 1922**.

Member of Dublin Team from **1912 – 1922**.

Chairman of Dublin Country Board from **1913 – 1915**.

Member of Faughs Committee from **1918 – 1922**.

Overview of Harry Boland’s involvement with Faughs and the GAA:

1895 – Harry Boland’s father becomes the Chairman of the Dublin Board.

1909 – Boland is a part of the Dublin Junior squad who wins the All Ireland final.

1911 – Wins Dublin Junior Hurling Championship & Elected Chairman of Dublin Board, following in his father’s footsteps. He would maintain this position until 1918.

1914 – Boland transfers to Faughs GAA from Rathmines and wins the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.

1914 – Boland referees the All-Ireland Football Championship.

1916 – Involved in the Easter Rising, court-martialled and sentenced to 10 years penal servitude.

1917 – A benefit hurling match was organised in Croke Park and the proceeds helped to set up his own tailoring business.

1918 – Boland, the ‘on the run’, togged out for Faughs in Luke O’Toole’s house, adjacent to the pitch. Camouflaged by a heavy coat, he was smuggled into Croke Park to play for Faughs.

1919 – Involved in rescue of de Valera from Lincoln Gaol in February. Sent to USA as a ‘special envoy’ to secure money and arms.

1920 – Acted as private secretary to de Valera.

Mon 11th July 1921 – Truce called between Sinn Féin and British Forces.

21st August 1921 – Harry Boland returns from the Unites States.

Sun 4th September 1921 – Harry Boland & Michael Collins go to Armagh.

21st September 1921 – Dublin vs Kilkenny (SH Final 1920), Dublin won the game {All games were suspended after Bloody Sunday due to their being targets for Black & Tans and Auxiliaries}.

2nd October 1921 – Harry Boland returns to US as Irish envoy.

Tue 11th October 1921 – Michael Collins goes to London as plenipotentiary to negotiate Treaty.

6th December 1921 – Treaty is signed in London, Michael Collins makes his first appearance at a public/social function since the Truce, at the Leinster Hurling Final alongside Boland. →



29th June 1922 – Irish Civil War begins.

30th July 1922 – Harry Boland is shot and wounded in Skerries, Co. Dublin.

1nd August 1922 – Harry Boland dies in St. Vincent's hospital.

“A visit to Croke Park for a game of Hurling or Football was a regular occurrence for such men as Arthur Griffith, Eamonn de Valera, Lord Mayor Laurence O’Neill and Michael Collins. This group was at a Tipperary vs Dublin game in aid of the Republicans Prisoners’ Dependents Fund. I recall Eamonn de Valera telling me, when his sight has all but gone, how much he missed being able to see the excitement of a good hurling contest.”



Faughs maintained their Winning ways for the foreseeable future.

