

Fans snap up 'returned' All-Ireland tickets

By Eamon Donoghue

THEY'RE normally as rare as hen's teeth but last night unwanted All-Ireland hurling final tickets were put up for sale by the GAA.

The association announced yesterday evening that 'a limited number of stand tickets have been returned by the competing counties in Sunday's All-Ireland hurling finals. These tickets have been placed on sale at gaa.ie.'

Despite both the Tipperary and Kilkenny county boards claiming that there would be very little demand for these less-desirable tickets, some of which are for seats with restricted views of the action, fans have questioned the decision to put allocated tickets

'I'd stand on my head to watch the match'

on sale outside of their counties.

A Tipperary board official last night told the Irish Daily Mail that 'these are isolated tickets in the back rows, and some are restricted viewing where very few would go.'

'I suppose they would probably sell a lot quicker online rather than hold on to them and we wouldn't be in a position to sell them on tomorrow,' he said.

When asked if it felt it was fair to put tickets allocated for Tipperary fans on general sale, the board said that 'a lot of people won't pay €80 to be up in row Z and against the back wall.'

Tipperary supporter Ed Leamy only managed to get a ticket for the final yesterday, and he told the Mail that he'd 'sit on the roof for whatever price - I'd stand on my head to watch the match'.

'It will sell out - there's no doubt about that and there's a huge demand around the county and in Dublin,' he added.

'But maybe people got their tickets outside of the county, which the Tipperary County Board mightn't have foreseen.'

The Mail can reveal that last night there were terrace, Upper Hogan and Cusack Stand tickets on sale,



Rivals: Kilkenny Rose Vera McGrath, Miss Tipperary Linda Creedon and Miss Kilkenny Sarah Jane Dunne battle for the Liam MacCarthy Cup at Kilkenny Castle

some of which had a restricted view and thus were available at the reduced price of €40.

However, a number of full-priced €80 stand tickets were also on sale.

A spokesman for Kilkenny told the Mail that he was initially surprised by the news as there were a number of people still looking for stand tickets, although he said the GAA's statement did not represent the situation in the county accurately.

However, he did reveal that the board had returned a number of Nally terrace tickets, along with two

restricted viewing stand tickets.

'Nally terrace tickets are allocated to the clubs and there wasn't the demand for them and they were finding it difficult to sell them.'

The Nally terrace tickets were sold within 'minutes'.

Kilkenny GAA also insisted that the decision to return the tickets to HQ for online purchase was 'nothing to do' with it. 'It was all a GAA decision,' the spokesman said.

Last night the GAA was unavailable for comment.

reporter@daily mail.ie



Solo: Lone Tipp fan Róisín Fogarty (13) in Loreto School in Kilkenny

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