

Irish Hockey – International Play Bio

Name:	Harry Cahill
International No:	276
Position:	Goalkeeper
Club(s):	Pembroke Wanderers, Belfast YMCA, Coventry, North Warwick, Tamworth
Irish Caps:	74
GB caps:	35
Goals:	0
Debut:	Match No 139 – 14 Mar 53 v Wales (Belfast) - W 4-0
Age on debut:	22 years and 278 days
Last match:	Match No 236 - 07 Apr 73 v Rhodesia (Sailsbury) - W 1-0
Age on last match:	42 years and 299 days
Hall of Fame	2006 Inductee



Player Bio

Harry Cahill was described as “superb” and at the time considered the best goalkeeper of all time. Every such accolade was earned by his performances featuring brilliant saves made possible by uncanny anticipation, remarkable agility, and great personal bravery.

He played for Great Britain in three Olympic games (Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964 & Mexico 1968, in Ireland’s outstanding performances in the first European Cup 1970, in the Santander tournament win in 1971, and the tour to South Africa.

He was immensely popular and maintained a high level of personal fitness and involvement in the game. He continued to be involved in playing club hockey after his international career ended at the age of 42.

He was one of the first players to be inducted into the newly created Irish Hockey Hall of Fame in 2006 and Harry’s sister Irene Cahill (Johnston) was also inaugurated into the Hall of Fame herself after a distinguished club and international career.

Early career

Harry was born in Drumcondra, Dublin in 1930 and he and his siblings excelled in sport with his brother Cecil an association football goalkeeper with Shelbourne, Bohemians and Ireland, his sister Irene went onto captain the Ireland womens hockey team.

Educated at Mountjoy school where he finished runner up in the Leinster senior schools final in 1947 against The Kings Hospital.

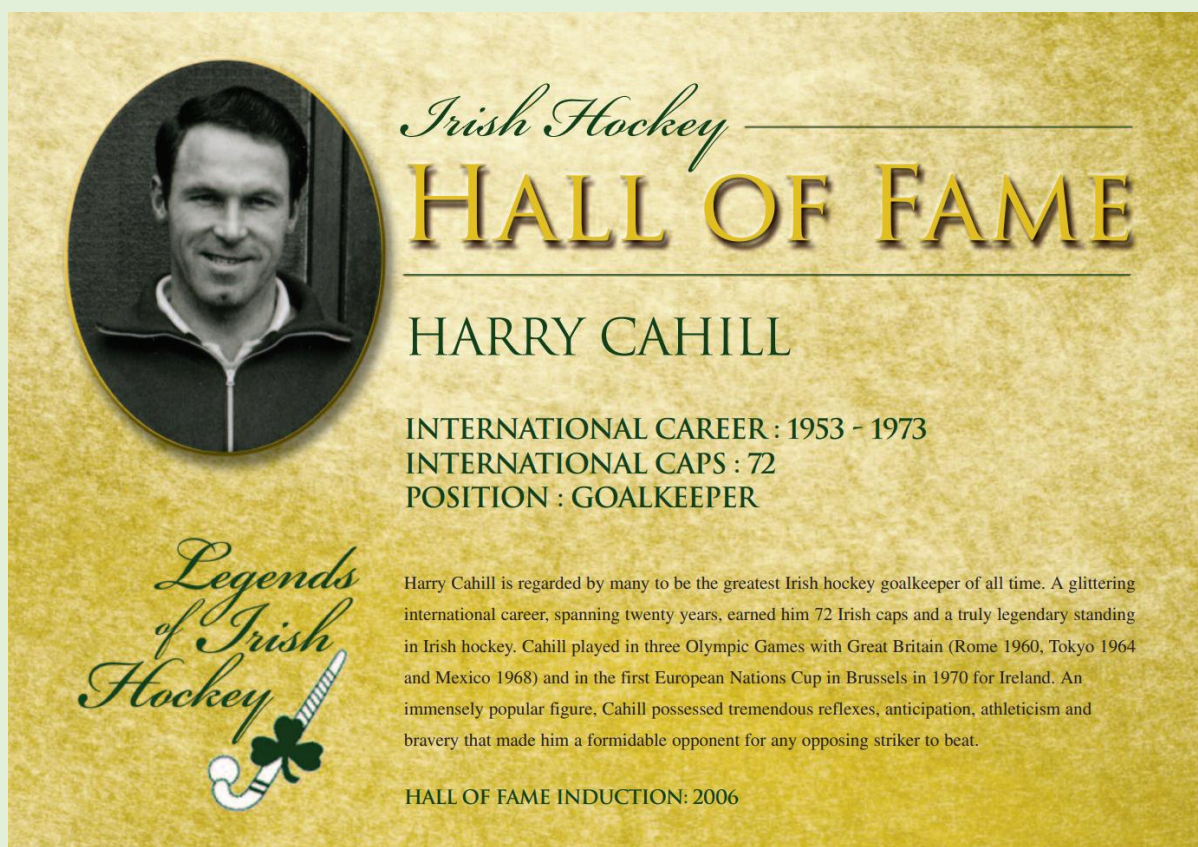
Club career

In 1951 he joined Pembroke Wanderers hockey club initially as a left half back but soon after he used his football goalkeeping experience to play in goals on a hockey pitch for Pembroke 2nds. Promotion to the 1st XI followed soon after along with recognition at Leinster and Irish level.

Whilst working in the insurance industry he was transferred to Belfast and was a more than useful addition to the Belfast YMCA hockey team where he helped them lift the Irish Senior cup in 1961, by at which stage he had already represented GB including at the Rome Olympics 1960.

His working life took him to England where he played for the Coventry & North Warwickshire Hockey Club in the 1960s whilst still continuing his Irish career before retiring in 1973 as the most capped Irish goalkeeper and second most capped player of all time just 8 caps behind the Irish great David Judge.

His stellar club career continued into his fifties albeit playing outfield and helped Worthing win the Sussex cup in 1981 at the age of 51.



The image shows a commemorative plaque for Harry Cahill, an Irish hockey goalkeeper. On the left is a circular black and white portrait of Cahill. To the right, the text reads "Irish Hockey HALL OF FAME" in a stylized font, followed by "HARRY CAHILL" in a bold, serif font. Below this, it lists his "INTERNATIONAL CAREER : 1953 - 1973", "INTERNATIONAL CAPS : 72", and "POSITION : GOALKEEPER". A paragraph of text describes his career, mentioning his participation in the 1960 Rome Olympics, 1964 Tokyo Olympics, 1968 Mexico Olympics, and the 1970 European Nations Cup. At the bottom, it states "HALL OF FAME INDUCTION: 2006". In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for "Legends of Irish Hockey" featuring a hockey stick and a shamrock.

Irish Hockey
HALL OF FAME

HARRY CAHILL

INTERNATIONAL CAREER : 1953 - 1973
INTERNATIONAL CAPS : 72
POSITION : GOALKEEPER

Legends of Irish Hockey

Harry Cahill is regarded by many to be the greatest Irish hockey goalkeeper of all time. A glittering international career, spanning twenty years, earned him 72 Irish caps and a truly legendary standing in Irish hockey. Cahill played in three Olympic Games with Great Britain (Rome 1960, Tokyo 1964 and Mexico 1968) and in the first European Nations Cup in Brussels in 1970 for Ireland. An immensely popular figure, Cahill possessed tremendous reflexes, anticipation, athleticism and bravery that made him a formidable opponent for any opposing striker to beat.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION: 2006

Additional reference sources used:

90 years of the Irish Hockey Union (Compiled by Tom Wynne, edited by Chris Glennon)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Cahill

Links to Irish Hockey Archies Facebook page:

[1963 In action on Indian tour with GB](#)

[1953 Irish team to play in Dublin](#)

Items to cover:

Early days in hockey

Club career

International debut & career

Other sporting successes

Professional & personal bio

Other family international hockey / sportspersons