

GAELIC ECHO

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NOW A FACTORY ATHLETIC LEAGUE

By JOHN COMYN

THE footballers and hurlers of Leinster's factories are catered for by the Inter-Factory G.A.A. League, but so far the other athletic-minded employees could only stand on the sideline and cheer on their fellow-workers.

This season this state of affairs will be remedied when an inter-factory athletic league—sponsored by Drogheda Athletic Club—will be held.

Last month arrangements were made for this League by the Club's energetic Chairman and Secretary, Rev. K. Connolly, C.C., and Mr. C. Hurley, respectively.

League events decided upon were: Tug-o-War, 100 Yards, 1 Mile, Obstacle Race for competitors over 40, Relay Race, High Jump, Long Jump, and Weight Throwing.

SPECIAL AWARD

Points will be awarded for each event, and the individual gaining the most points during the League will be awarded a special prize.

Venue

Ballinasloe is the venue for this year's All-Ireland Schools' and Colleges' Athletic Championships to be held on May 31.

The Mighty Fallen

EMIGRATION has taken its toll of the famed Stradbally (Co. Laois) Football Club; the Club which produced the famous Delaney family of 1936. Recently at a Laois Football Board meeting the Club's application for regrading to Junior status was granted.

It came as a shock to the Gaelic world, which re-called the famous All-Ireland Football Final of 1936 when six of the Stradbally Delaney family figured on the Laois team.

Uncle Tom, Young Tom, John, Chris, Bill and Mick were the backbone of the O'Moore County side on that occasion, and few, if any, families can boast of such a record.

"We regret having to take this step," Jack Delaney, Senr., told the Football Board members, "but due to emigration we find we are unable to continue in Senior ranks."

We re-echo the words of Graiguecullen delegate, Seán Callanan, who said: "The Senior Championship

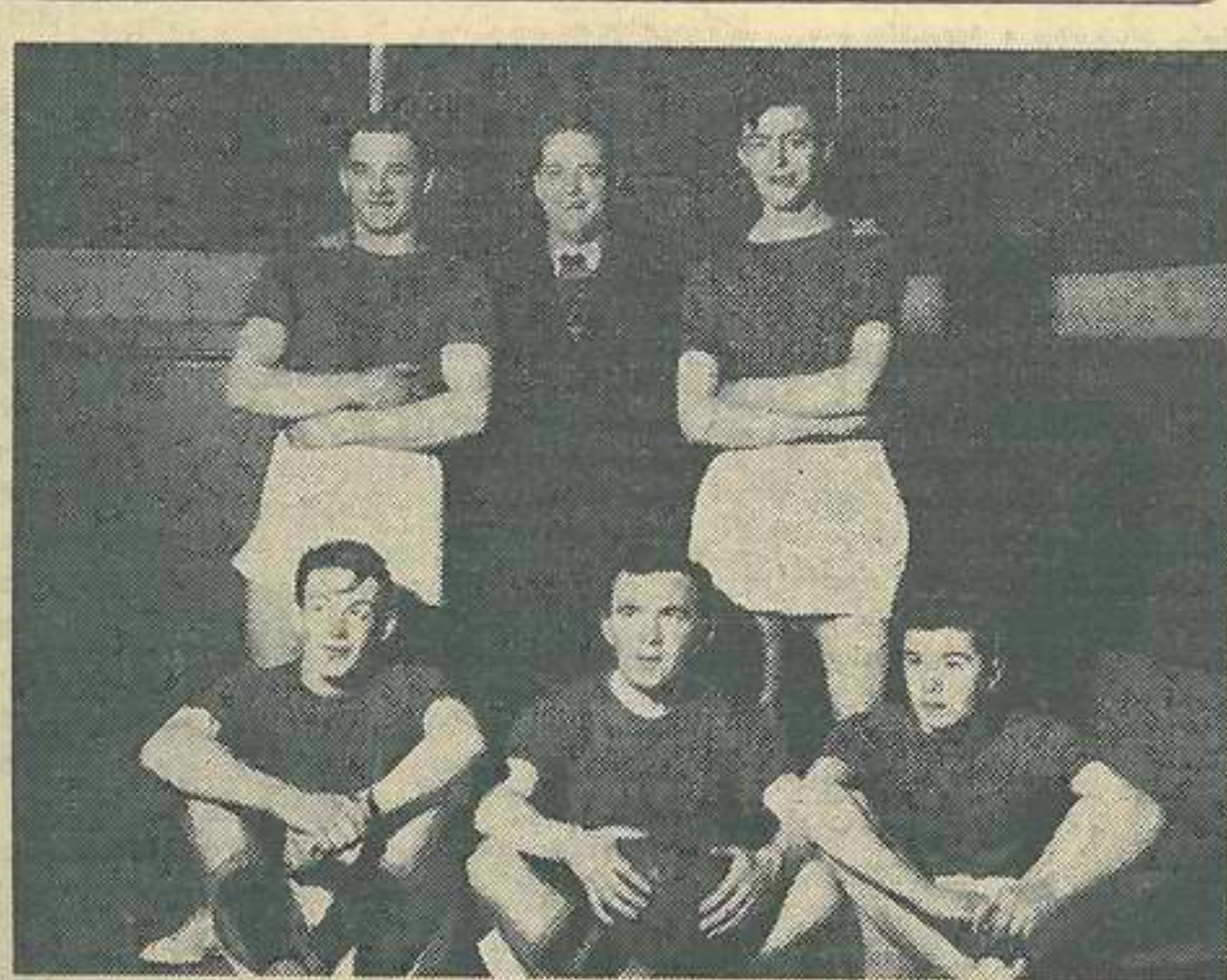
Crossmaglen G.F.C.

CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS have elected former footballer and county selector, Hugh Casey, as their 1956 Chairman. County player, Patsy Kiernans, is team manager.

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ENQUIRIES INVITED



Five Killarney P.O. footballers who play Basketball in Winter to keep fit are (back): P. Brick, T. Moriarty (Selector and Trainer), Bob Tangney. (Front): M. Kiely, T. Brosnan and Denny Mannix.

Friendly Outlook

IT is very important that we have a friendly outlook towards others. We are here to play Gaelic games; we cannot play other games. The ban is there for that, and if we are sincere we will observe the ban.

"But there should be no antagonism towards others not playing Gaelic games; that day is gone, and if we are to entice others to play our games and enter our camp we must be friendly.

"I think we would do far more good by developing that spirit and by forgetting the idea that he who is not with me is against me."

Rev. John Power, C.C., President of the Cahir Slashers, made this statement at the annual meeting of the Club.

It was the 14th annual meeting of this famous Club, and one of the most successful years ever reviewed.

DR. KINANE'S GOOD WISHES

VERY REV. P. CANON FOGARTY, P.P., V.F., Chairman, Tipperary County Board, read the following letter from his Grace Most Rev. Dr. Kinane, Archbishop of Cashel, to the recent County Convention:

The Palace,
Thurles.

Mr. Dear Canon—I thank you for having sent me a copy of the programme of this year's Co. Tipperary general convention of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

I notice that the Secretary, Mr. Purcell, in his report has a reference to myself and an expression of congratulation on my recovery from my recent illness. Will you be so good as to assure him of my deep

thanks for his kindness.

Be so good also as to tell the delegates how much I appreciated the many sympathetic messages in connection with my illness which I received from officials and members of the Association in the county.

I ask you as well to convey to the Convention my good wishes for the success of its deliberations and my ardent wish and firm hope that the enactments will lead to a wider diffusion and a fuller realisation of Gaelic athletic ideals during the present year.

I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
* J. KINANE,
Archbishop of Cashel.

Minors' 13 Medals Each

TWO young Muinebeag (County Carlow) sportsmen have set up a record—in fact, two records. They are Joe Hughes and Willie Hogan who, in 1955, won medals with each of the town's five Carlow Championship winning teams.

Last month they received Carlow Senior Football Tournament, Minor Football Championship, Junior Hurling Tournament, Minor Hurling Championship and Tournament medals from Rev. T. McDonald, C.C., at a presentation ceremony.

Rev. Bro. Dermot, De La Salle School, said that both of the boys had been "the backbone" of the schools' teams some years ago, and he looked forward to the time

when they would bring greater glory to the town and county. The second record? Both of these seventeen-year-olds now hold thirteen Carlow Co. Championship medals!

Two other Muinebeag minors—John Rea and Frank Purcell—received four medals each at the same presentation.

Wicklow's New Secretary

HARPS FOR TUAM?

IF arrangements go according to plan, Armagh county champions will play Galway champions, Tuam Stars, at Tuam on Easter Sunday. The Armagh club are hoping to spend the week-end in Galway

G.A.A. followers in Wicklow were surprised when outgoing Co. Secretary, Bill Lawless, decided to call it a day.

He was first elected in the early forties and since then has done more than a man's share for the games in the county.

New County Secretary is Mr. George Nichols, St. Patrick's.

MORE "ANTI-IRISHISM"

This Time in London "Free as Well"

By EAMONN LEAHY

LAST December the "Gaelic Echo" published an account of a Gaelic football game as written by an anti-Irish Canadian. Nearer home recently we have another case of "anti-Irishism"—this time in London.

Let me begin by giving the facts. A group of Irishmen here in London—myself included—desired to form a G.A.A. Club and thought it would be a good idea if we sought the assistance of the local press, thinking their sense of sportsmanship would make them happy to help.

"HELP"

We thought they would not begrudge us a club fostering the games of the Gael, but how wrong we were!

Here's the result published in the "East London Advertiser" of January 27:

Under the heading "Local Sport" we had a caption of generous dimensions. "Irish Sportsmen to form Gaelic Club."

I quote: "It's a great day for the Irish—or it may be quite soon."

"I hear this week that Stepney and Bow have few if any facilities for the sportsmen of the Emerald Isle to play their National Games, and for this reason a small group of keen Irishmen have come together with the intention of putting things right. BE-GORRAH!

"Idea is to form a Gaelic Athletic Club to cater solely for the kind of games indigenous to Ireland—games like hurling which I understand is Irish-style hockey.

"JUST SOCCER"

"Football, too, is on the list of what-we-miss recreations, although it is difficult to decide whether this means Gaelic football (a rugged rough-and-tumble kind of game) or just soccer with purely Irish teams."

This is the "assistance" we got from an English paper, and yet we exiles have to pick up our weekly Irish paper and gaze on two or three pages of reports on such insignificant games as soccer, rugby and cricket.

How, in the name of goodness, can these games remind us of home! True, they will remind us of "tommies" in our occupied North-Eastern counties playing their games on Irish soil with the support of our national newspapers.

No comment is needed on this "help" given us by a "just and learned" English pressman.

But my blood boils when I hear people criticise the G.A.A. and its rules. They turn their blind eyes to the games of the plunderer.

"We hear quite a lot about games that are 'banned,'

Jolly good games they are to the knaves of England."

GENE WINS NEW CUP

By "DIXIE"

FIRST winner of the cup presented to Kerry Co. Board, N.A.C.A., for presentation yearly to the best all-round athlete is 19-

"THERE IS A GREATER NEED TO-DAY TO BEAR IN MIND THAT THE G.A.A. WAS FOUNDED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF PROMOTING OUR IRISH GAMES AND INCULCATING A GAELIC AND NATIONAL OUTLOOK IN THE MINDS OF OUR MEMBERS," SAID C.A.A. PRESIDENT SEAMUS MCFERRAN AT THE ANTRIM COUNTY BOARD CONVENTION.

"Through our organisation we can foster a love of Ireland and its culture to achieve in our time what Padraig Pearse envisaged—an Ireland not merely free but Gaelic as well."

OFFICERS

Officers elected: Chairman, Harry Sheehan; Vice-Chairman, G. McCann; Secretary, Seán Stinson; Asst. Secretary, A. McMurray; Treasurer, T. Crummy; Registrar, S. Gormley.

U.S. Trip Off

ALL-IRELAND 1955 FINALISTS Dublin and Kerry, will not be going to America in July.

Central Council Chairman Seamus McFerran ruled that permission could not be granted to the teams due to "previous agreements and decisions and the date mentioned."

Dublin had already accepted the invitation by the New York G.A.A., subject to sanction of the Central Council.

Cross-word competitions suspended for this issue but will be resumed in later editions. Results of last competition will be published in the daily press.

TONY RETIRES

SERGEANT TONY FLANNERY of the 1st Battalion Renmore has retired after 24 years service. A well known athlete, he has won Junior and Senior County Hurling medals.

He also won four all-Army hurling medals. For the past two years he has been in charge of training the 1st Battalion hurling team for the all-Army championship which they won on each occasion.

He also represented the Army on the Co. Committee of the Handball Association. He is now devoting all his energies to the Sports Branch of Guth na Nog of which he is chairman.

For Kilkenny

LUKE MORRISSEY, of St. Mullins, Co. Carlow, will help Paulstown in this year's Co. Kilkenny Championship. Luke is a brother of Wexford's All-Ireland hurler, Mick Morrissey.

NORTHERN STANDARD MONAGHAN

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LONDON CALLING

By EAMONN LEAHY

LONDON COUNTY BOARD, G.A.A., has as its new Chairman Rev. Fr. McNamara of Cork. The annual general meeting, which was held in Westminster Cathedral Hall, was attended by a large and representative crowd.

Greatest surprise of the elections was the defeat of Mr. Mullarkey, who for many years has been Treasurer. New Treasurer, J. Moriarty, will have his hands full in keeping pace with Mr. Mullarkey's great work.

NO IRISH!

I did note however, that little, if any, Irish was spoken at the meeting.

Good luck and beannact De on the incoming committee.

Chairman, Rev. Fr. McNamara (Cork); Vice Chairman, J. McCarthy; Secretary, S. Dunne; Treasurer, J. Moriarty.

AN CUMANN GAEDHEALACH

At the annual meeting of An Cumann Gaedhealach in the Servite Hall, Fulham, on the last Sunday of January the following Committee was elected: Chairman, Liam Wallace; Leas-Cathaoirleach Seosamh Mag Uidir (President of the London Gaelic League); Rúnaí, Jeanette Brooker; Leas-Rúnaí, Cifin Keogh; Cisteóir, Máiréad Regan; Cláríteóir, N. Caniffe.

Committee. Tony Rowland (Kerry); C. Furlong (Wexford); L. Sullivan (Cork); M. Caniffe (Cork); M. Broderick (Kerry);

Outgoing Treasurer, Miceál O Briain did not seek re-election.

A glowing tribute was paid to Bill Wallace on his re-election as Chairman by Seosamh Maguire, President of the Gaelic League.

The tribute, as all present proved by their applause, was most deserving. His re-election as Chairman leaves nothing to be desired.

Liam is also a member of the Céilí band. He is a very fine musician and a thorough Irish gentleman—even though London claims him.

Jim Conway of London

(BY MICEAL O BRIAIN)

THERE is one association in London with which the name of Jim Conway is intimately connected. It is: "The Gaelic Athletic Association."

Since Jim emigrated from Virginia, Co. Cavan, in 1935 he has been found in the advance-guard of all National activities here in London.

Although he did not seek re-election as Chairman of the London County Board, a position which he held from 1948 to 1955, he is still Chairman of the Provincial Council of Great Britain.

At the Annual Convention of the London County Board recently, Jim said he was glad he had achieved one special aim:—Clearing the debt on the New Eltham Grounds which is the number one playing pitch in London.

Apart from the Chairmanship of the London County Board, Jim was Treasurer from 1944 to 1948. He was a regular playing member of the Tara's football club from 1935 to 1950, and captain of the Provincial football team from 1943 to 1945.

In this short sketch I cannot say all I would like to in praise of Jim Conway who has done so much to put the G.A.A. in the high position it now holds in Britain.

Still I offer that this brief note on Jim as I know him, is a small tribute to his work for the Irish exiles of London.

RAYMOND Writes of Cork's Dr. Jim Young, the Man BORN TO BE A SUPER-ATHLETE

THE long whistle sounded and the mighty Hurling Final of 1947 ended. The scoreboard read: Kilkenny, 0-14; Cork, 2-7. That point did not alone mean the defeat of a team: it meant the disintegration of one of the greatest hurling fifteens in the history of Gaeldom.

Cork's greatest hurling team which had won the All-Ireland crown on the four previous occasions surrendered it that day to Kilkenny, and so ended a golden era in the Rebel County's history.

Cork's left half-back that day was Dr. Jim Young and that whistle also sounded the end of his All-Ireland career, one that can have few equals in hurling history. Jim started his career in his native Dunmanway and later perfected his hurling technique in Farranferris College.

Like his brother Eamon, he won his place on more than one Cork Minor team and by 1939 had become an automatic choice for the Senior fifteen.

FIRST ALL-IRELAND

His first All-Ireland fling was in 1939 when Cork went out to Kilkenny by one point and in that final one of the direst duels of a hard day was between Langton and Young, both of whom were making their first appearances for their counties.

Cork were back in Croke Park in 1941 when they overwhelmed Dublin and Jim Young won the first of his five gold medals. Three others came his way in '42, '43 and '44 but the sequence was broken in 1945 (Tipperary's year).

Forty-six saw old rivals Cork

and Kilkenny at it again and this time Cork had little trouble and so Jim gained his fifth and last medal.

Between 1939 and 1947 Jim helped Cork to seven Munster victories—1939, '41, '42, '43, '44, '46 and '47 and from 1943 to 1947 was an automatic selection for the Munster team, which won the Cup on four successive years—1943-1946.

From the early 1930's Jim was one of the stalwarts of the famed Glen Rovers and up to the late '40's he won a jugful of Cork Senior medals. I have last track of the actual number.

As a footballer he also made his mark and in 1937 won a S.F.C. medal with Carbery. He represented the County in Senior Football on many occasions, and I am convinced that had he decided to specialise in football he would have

been one of the best forwards of his day.

FOUR GOALS

I saw him score four goals for his native Dunmanway against a useful Skibbereen team at Drimoleague in 1942, and I also saw him break even with the famed Tadgo Crowley at Enniskeane in 1943 when the great Clon. player was at the peak of his form.

At Tennis, too, Jim was in near-champion class, and still is, and a competent critic of golf assures me that he may easily become as widely known in that game as he has formerly been known as a hurler.

And there are few better game shots in Munster than Jim. On grouse or pheasant or snipe, or on the trickiest game-bird of them all, the good old woodcock, he is masterly, with the same coolness and steadiness that made him masterly in so many other spheres of sport.

As a final analysis one must conclude that Jim Young was born to be a super athlete, for he has never yet failed to excel in any branch of athletics which attracted him. He is the most enviable of men, the all-round athlete who can master any game and who can achieve champion status in any sport!

Dublin Win Game —Lose Friends

By D. J. KELLY

I WAS in Tullamore a few Sundays ago to see the Offaly v. Dublin National Football League game. The fare was reasonably good; in fact, amazingly good for so early in the year, but I left the Offaly venue with a sour taste in my mouth.

No, it was not anything I had eaten . . . but the sight of a group of Dublin supporters who had seen their team triumph by nine points (nine points, mark you!) attempting to attack the referee at the end of the match.

IN A FEW MINUTES, DUBLIN WHO HAD WON THE GAME, BESMIRCHED THEIR GOOD NAME FOR SPORTSMANSHIP.

What sort of men, if I might mis-use the term, are those who would take unto themselves the right to act as judge, juror and executioner to an official whose only "crime" was that he had performed a task—a most unenviable one! to the best of his ability and according to his own convictions?

GENTLEMEN

They failed in their bid to harm the man but it was through no fault of theirs. No, it was thanks to Dublin skipper, Denis Mahony and team-mate Nicky Maher, gentlemen both on and off the field, who thrust themselves between the mob and the unfortunate official.

What a disgraceful affair! I will admit that there were some decisions with which I was not in complete agreement but I made allowances . . . not for the referee, but for myself.

I realised that the referee was nearer to the infringements than I could ever be and that he could easily have seen something which I did not, or could not see. No, I am not setting myself up

as a paragon of virtue. It is merely that I consider myself a human being and I like to behave like one.

Besides, what if the official did error? Are we faultless? Are we not capable of error, liable to mis-judge? Have you never backed a "sure-thing" with a pound-note you could ill-afford and found out that the "sure-thing" was a fugitive from a merry-go-round?

NASTY HABIT

This nasty habit of attacking a referee, however, is not just something to which Dubliners alone are addicted. I saw Galwaymen do likewise at Croke Park a few months back. You will see it everywhere. But why?

Will the antics of these mobsters change a result? Will they add to their county's prestige? Will they make, or keep, friends? Will they, in short, achieve anything? No, a thousand times NO!

By all means, let us retain our loyalty to our club, and our county but let not that loyalty make animals out of us. Let not that loyalty so warp our judgement that only our view, only our decision, is right.

Finally, let us remember that a referee has a thankless task. He has to tog out on a wet, windy, bitterly cold or stifling hot day to perform a duty that none of us really envies him.

NOBODY'S HERO

And when the game is won; when the visitors are being toasted and banqueted; when the vanquished are being consoled and comforted; when we, the spectators, retire to the local to play the game all over again, the referee is the forgotten man.

He is nobody's hero, somebody's enemy but he just goes back to his home, quietly, unnoticed, to carry on with a job he was dragged away from to perform a task which we, would not be able to do.

'Leesider' Looks Back

Cork's Exciting '47 Final

THERE may have been many exciting County Finals played at the Cork Athletic Grounds, but never were so many thrills packed into the last ten minutes of a game as was the case on Sunday, October 19, 1947. St. Finbarrs defeated Sarsfields and retained their title, but victory came only in the last few minutes when the 'Barrs scored a sensational goal.

St. Finbarrs with all their glorious years of achievement were firm favourites, but Sarsfields, conquerors of mighty Glen Rovers in the quarter final, were expected to put up a mighty challenge and they certainly did not disappoint.

GRAND HURLING

In that last ten minutes the huge crowd (23,493) saw hurling which would have done credit to Croke Park, Thurles or Limerick. Midway through the second half Sarsfields equalised after herculean efforts by their forwards and then excitement really began as both teams played as if inspired.

When in the closing minutes Sars went ahead with a point by Pat O'Leary it looked as if the long uphill struggle of the famous Riverstown side would meet its reward.

Quick as lightning, however, the lough side fought back and just on time were awarded a "70" which was hotly disputed. Mick Lynch sent the ball to the square and it was flicked to the net by Jim Sargent to give his side victory.

THE PICK

For St. Finbarrs the Galway players B. Hanniffy and G. Gallagher were outstanding and Harry

Goldsborough of Tipperary, Sean Condon, Joe Kenny and Seamus O'Callaghan merited special mention.

On the Sars side Dick Dunicliffe between the post gave an excellent exhibition of goalkeeping. Micka Brennan scored two goals the likes of which he never scored in his heyday of All-Ireland or Railway Cup games.

SCORES AND SCORERS

J. Gallagher opened the scoring for the Lough side when he pointed. Jim Goulding increased the lead with a goal and M. Brennan replied with a similar score before P. O'Leary had an extraordinary goal from a free to reduce the arrears.

Gallagher had three points in succession for the Barrs and from a free Condon added another minor. Just before half time Gallagher had his fifth point and score now stood 'Barrs 1-6, Sars, 2-0.

SECOND HALF

'Barrs were first into their stride after resuming and Billy Beckett sent to the Sars net. P. O'Leary and Con Murphy reduced the arrears with points but the Lough side went further ahead when Sargent sent to the net.

A goal and four points down,

the East Cork side fought back and won the plaudits of the crowd. Alan Lotty sent a 21 yards free to the net; Con Murphy pointed and when Brennan from a pass by Mossie Dwyer goaled the sides were level, 'Barrs 3-6, Sars 4-3.

Amid silence O'Leary came up to take a Sars free and to the jubilation of the Riverstown supporters, sent over the bar to give his side the lead for the first time.

From end to end went the ball but no further score came until the goal by Lynch and Sargent, and now it was the Lough men's time to exult—the game was won and lost.

THE TEAMS

St. Finbarrs: T. Mulcahy (goal); M. Lynch, T. O'Halloran, S. O'Callaghan; B. Hanniffy, J. Kenny, J. O'Sullivan; S. Condon (Capt.), H. Goldsboro; J. Goulding "J. Gallagher" J. Sargent; W. Beckett, B. Murphy and D. McCarthy.

Sarsfields: R. Dunicliffe (goal); S. O'Neill, J. Barry, C. Twohig; T. Bowman, A. Lotty (Capt.), P. J. O'Riordan; P. O'Leary, J. Coleman; J. O'Neill, D. Barry, C. Murphy; P. Barry, M. Brennan and M. Dwyer.

Referee was Mr. Con. Murphy. (Next month, "The Thunder Final of 1939.")

Everybody is drinking

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OUR REFEREES

G.A.A. referees are a much maligned lot of men. Criticism—verbal or written—of their actions is never lacking, and on occasions we are treated to the spectacle of "sportsmen" attempting to attack a referee because their team lost a game.

Constructive criticism is always healthy, but the majority of referee criticism—indeed, we might say all of it—is anything but constructive.

It is usually the weapon of blindly partisan supporters, who know little or nothing of the rules of the G.A.A., seeking an excuse for the defeat of their favourites.

Have you ever noticed how a competent player will take a referee's decision without question, while the "sportsmen" on the side-line howl abuse at the official?

A thing we must never forget is the fact that without these voluntary officials we would not have the games at all.

They have the moral courage to get out on the pitch, knowing that no matter how well or conscientiously they do their job there will be complaints.

Our armchair referees are full of verbosity and courage when snugly seated on their seats, but if they were offered the whistle and asked to take charge of the game, how many would accept?

A referee's job is not an easy one—keeping an eye to the activities of thirty players is a tough task, and the man who takes on the job is to be admired.

Then there is the question of schooling referees.

This is quite unnecessary. The rule-book is there, and any man called upon to adjudicate on a game should acquaint himself fully with the rules if he desires to do a fair job.

As Leinster Council Secretary Martin O'Neill summed it up in a nutshell in his report to the Leinster Convention in February:

"Let us quit moaning and be satisfied that it is the game, and not the result, that counts."

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Gaelic Games Men No. 2

MEATH'S PADDY O'BRIEN

By Sean O'Neill

OVER the past six or seven years the hands of the mighty Paddy O'Brien of Meath have been one of the most prominent features of Gaelic football. The ball dropping into the square; the jump for possession; one pair of hands going high above all the rest firmly grasping the ball and the clearance to midfield by the Meathman was a familiar sight to most.

His mighty catch must, with the wrist-work of Christy Ring, be classed as the two main characteristics of Gaelic games today.

Born in Skryne thirty years ago, Paddy first donned the Meath jersey at the age of fourteen to play in a juvenile game against Dublin. At sixteen he

was playing senior for his home club and in 1943 at the age of eighteen he was selected for the Meath Senior team.

Those powerful hands of his are always associated with the full-back position but for the first few years of his career as a county senior Paddy played at midfield.

In 1946 he was the star of the Meath team which won the National League but final success did not come easy to O'Brien and his Meathmen.

It was inevitable and in 1949 Meath captured the All-Ireland crown. Since then they have remained in the forefront.

O'Brien's feats of high fetching during those years are well

known to all, to try and beat him in the square was ruled out by all full-forwards and so he stood master of the square.

When O'Brien and the men of Meath seemed finished early in 1934 they confounded the critics and came back with a bang to trounce a much fancied Kerry fifteen and capture the All-Ireland title once more.

Paddy has now retired but the memory of his mighty hands, courage and sportsmanship will remain with us.

And to the roll of all-time-great full-backs, together with the names of Eddie Boyle, Joe Keohane and Mick Connaire, must be added the name of Paddy O'Brien of Skryne.

Danger Signals in Connacht

Kerry, Too, May be on the Way Out

WHO WILL BE THE ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS OF 1956? THAT IS A QUESTION WHICH IS OCCUPYING THE MINDS OF THOUSANDS OF ENTHUSIASTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

Will Kerry retain the title? Is this Dublin's year? Have Meath got what it takes? But wait, let us have a look through the provinces.

MUNSTER

First, let's have a look at Munster.

Kerry might well bid farewell to their hopes of retaining the Sam Maguire trophy before ever reaching Croke Park for Cork are again a force—a force that might well be the rock on which Kerry's hopes perish.

Down Kerry way, there are many who will laugh at the suggestion. But, are they ignoring the warning signals?

Have they forgotten what happened on the rain-soaked Cork Athletic Grounds last November? Do they not remember what nearly happened at the Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney, last July?

But no, there are men in Kerry—shrewd men—who realise the danger from the Rebel County, men who still stand by the old adage: "If we win in Munster, we'll win the All-Ireland."

LEADING MIDFIELDERS
Cork's Sean Moore and Eric

Ryan are regarded by many as the country's leading midfielders. Tall, well-built, they have all the attributes which go to make men "natural" for that vital position. The two, on their day, are regarded as a more potent force than,

By TONY O'HAGEN

say a John Dowling-Denis O'Shea set-up, or even a Dowling-Tom Moriarty partnership.

But Cork's is not a two-man challenge for from goalkeeper Paddy Tyers out, they are a strong tackling, high fielding, lengthy kicking and clever fifteen whose only failing is their lamentable marksmanship.

Remedy that one defect and it is generally believed that Cork will succeed Kerry as Munster's representatives in the penultimate stages of the championship. That is a view to which I subscribe.

LOOKING WEST

Across the Shannon, Mayo's Connacht crown might well be wrested from them, not only by Galway and Roscommon—traditional challengers, but also by their conquerors of a few weeks back—resurgent Sligo. Mayo have a weakness, or to be more correct, they still have the same old weakness, in that left corner, Jimmy Curran apart, they do not possess a forward worthy of the name.

To be fair to their mentors, this is a fault they have tried to eradicate. Sean Mulderrig, Dan O'Neill, Mickey Stewart are but three who have been recalled to the attack but the experiments have failed.

Galway, on the other hand, are a sound all-round combination. In Jack Mangan, Gerry Daly, Jack Mahon, Frank Eivers, Joe Young, Billy O'Neill, Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell, they have players who would find a ready berth on any team.

And here is the rub: Galway have some players who are not just right for the positions they hold but... each and everyone of the above-mentioned has proven his amazing versatility so that a switch here, or there, could easily mould them into an all-conquering fifteen.

PROBLEMS

Roscommon have their problems and it will take a year or two to iron them out. Batt Lynch, Aiden Brady, Paddy English, Frank Kelly, Gerry O'Malley and Eamonn Donohoe are men of rare ability but the side, as a whole, carries too many passengers.

And what of Sligo? It is many years... 1928 if my memory serves me right, since Sligo was in the football limelight, but there are signs that this condition of affairs is about to be remedied.

Nace O'Dowd, the Gaffneys, Frankie White... grand footballers all, but is the time ripe? Is their long stay in the western wilderness to end in 1956?

Reluctantly, I am forced to admit, no. Galway are my fancy for the Connacht championship.

Galway and Cork! Two new provincial title-holders already! Well, I certainly stuck my neck out. In next month's issue, I will deal with Leinster and Ulster and let me warn you, I am going to stick my neck out even further.

P.S.—Any similarity between me and a giraffe, is purely coincidental.

Louth Leaders

LOUTH'S 1956 Co. Board officers
L are: Chairman: J. J. Matthews; Hon. Presidents: T. Burke, Rev. P. McDonnell, P.P. and P. Duffy; Vice-Chairman (South Louth): P. Mulroy; do. (North Louth): Rev. E. Feran, C.C.; Secretary: P. Kearney; Asst.-Secretary: J. Dixon; Leinster Council Delegates: J. Mullen and S. Flood; Central Council Delegate: S. Flood.

P. D. MEHIGAN WRITES ABOUT THE FIRST EUROPEAN

TO the Gaelic Athletic Association and to 2RN (as Radio Eireann was then called) belongs the honour of giving the first open-air games' broadcast to Europe and the Eastern World! An outdoor boxing championship had been put on the air by an American service in the summer of 1926, and it was the late Mr. P. S. O'Hegarty, then Secretary to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, who conceived the idea of broadcasting a hurling match on the Air Service under his control.

Mr. O'Hegarty, a native of Cork City, was a hurling lover from his youth and played for a time with London Hibernians. He had some journalistic and other associations with me, and he asked me in August, 1926, to call on him at the G.P.O., Dublin.

Broadcasting was in the swaddling clothes then; the crude cat's whiskers as reception medium, the high poles and aerials over many gardens, crystal sets and earphones were in many homes.

I was surprised when "P.S." (as we called the G.P.O. chief) broached the subject of broadcasting a hurling match from Croke Park. In his blunt, direct way he slung the question at me: "Mehigan, will you help us by giving a running commentary—describe the match as you see it from the Hogan Stand?"

THE POSSIBILITIES

He was full of the possibilities of the project. He had examined the technical difficulties with his engineers. The thing could be done; they would make all arrangements. The G.A.A. had given them permission. "P.S." decided that I was the fitting commentator for the pioneer effort. He knew I had considerable inter-county hurling experience; I had been writing descriptions of matches in the papers and magazines for years.

Its novelty and the prospect of being "first in the air" appealed to me. Almost without thinking I said: "I'll try it, anyhow."

DOUBTS

It was only when I had time to think over the matter that I realised how important to the success of the pioneer venture was my share of the work. I was doubtful of my ability to keep up the necessarily fluent commentary for an hour or

more. Never venture, never win, indeed.

My meeting with "P.S." was in mid-August, 1926, and though I broadcast hundreds of matches from 1926 to 1932, I suspect that the original game was the Kilkenny-Galway All-Ireland semi-final of 1926.

I was at Croke Park half-an-hour before the match when the day came. I was introduced to the engineer-in-chief; I inspected all the contraptions and wires and earphones in the office underneath the Hogan Stand.

A cable led up to a corner of the press stand. There a big square mahogany box with wires and screws and gadgets galore was set and, when the time came, I was asked to sit beside the box. A leather contraption was put around my neck with a yellow brass tube in front into which I was told to speak. It was all new to me; I had no voice-test whatever. I had just my teams on a slip of paper in my hand.

ON THE AIR

The mysterious signal came that "I was on the air," and the engineer nodded to me to "fire away."

Without more ado I fired away and found I could spout freely enough, particularly as soon as the game with which I was so familiar, started. At half-time I had to do a commentary on the first half and so on to the end.

I was very tired at the finish; they were beaming in the engineers' room below and clapped me on the back. They told me I had done fine; I didn't believe them.

But I knew that I was only

SPORTS

BROADCAST

a raw recruit and had a lot to learn. Yet I got a great kick out of it all, and was glad to help to spread the light about the loved game of my boyhood.

I remember very little about the first game, but the records say that Kilkenny won by 6 goals 2 points to 5 goals 1 point.

Not everyone was happy about the new departure. Of course, it would never do to keep that mahogany box on the press seats of the Hogan Stand. My constant shouting greatly upset my press colleagues trying to take their notes beside me.

That knowledge was upsetting to me right through the game. I was determined that I should shift the contraption to the sideline or elsewhere. My recommendation was carried out.

"TAKE IT AWAY"

Then there was that very earnest G.A.A. man, a fine Gaelic footballer in his time, who loudly declared to all around him: "If they don't take that bl—dy box out of Croke Park they might as well close the gates."

And the councils of the G.A.A. were doubtful—"would broadcasting reduce attendances?" they asked. Some officials looked on me with

cold if not unfriendly eyes. Yet the far-seeing ones saw the light. Said G.A.A. President William Clifford of Limerick to me when he met me: "These broadcasts of yours, P.D., are worth a thousand pounds a year to the G.A.A. as publicity."

And so it proved. The fame of the games spread; the newspapers doubled and quadrupled

for broadcasting work now and all is smooth, but I have happy memories of these difficult pioneer days, before my voice failed.

SCOOP

The greatest thrill I got was out of a scoop made by me when broadcasting the Boxing Championships of the 1928 Tailteann Games at Croke Park. I was doing pretty well and was in good mood when I saw a distinguished group being ushered in to the ringside seats at a lull between events. They were four in number and I recognised them. A blanket would cover the four great men—John Count McCormack, Eugene Tunney, Col. Fitzmaurice and our own General Eoin O'Duffy,

then Garda and N.A.C.A. Chief.

Eugene Tunney had just won the world's heavyweight championship from Jack Dempsey. Here he was to see our Tailteann Boxing Championships!

A thought flashed through my mind—"What a scoop if I could get Tunney to the phone!" I got my friend Eoin O'Duffy to introduce me in a flash. I had a word with Tunney. Would he do it? No. He pouted his lips. I persuaded; no good!

"Who are you hooked up to?" he asked at last, curtly. 'Twas the first time I heard "hooped up." I tumbled.

MAYO AND CORK

"We're hooked up to all Europe." No good. His face was still stoic. "We're hooked up to all America," I urged. No cord touched! Another brain-wave came. I knew Tunney came specially to see his blood relations in Mayo and Cork. I spoke my tenderest:

"We're hooked up," I said, "to every homestead in Mayo and every village in Co. Cork!"

His fine eyes softened. Meekly, silently, he walked to the microphone. I introduced him in forty words, and he was on the air!

CLUB SPIRIT

BY J. T. MacNAMARA

NEVER was loyalty to team, county and province more a necessity in the G.A.A. than nowadays. Apart altogether from the internal aspect of the matter in the organisation, any breach of the rules particularly in public, is liable to bring disgrace on the national games.

If a player is a good clubman in his private dealings with his own team, he will be equally good representing the team in public. Occasionally a Club with a proud record is brought into disrepute by

the actions of a "hot-head," who has not even learned the elementary rules of good club spirit.

A prominent Munster Club has issued the following circular to club members:—

"Comply with the following points and your enthusiasm will leave nothing to be desired.

1. Don't make it necessary for officials to coax you to assist the team in its outings.
2. Let punctuality be your keynote, and ensure to be at the point of assembly at the appointed time.
3. Always have your complete requirements—boots, togs, two hurleys and socks, and accept responsibility for these articles.
4. If selected as a substitute carry out your duty towards the team without question, and as enthusiastically as if you were playing. It is no shame to be associated with our national pastimes even in an indirect manner.
5. Practice regularly so that you will acquire the ability and fitness which inspires confidence in yourself and the members of the selection committee, that your selection was justified." This is a step in the right direction.

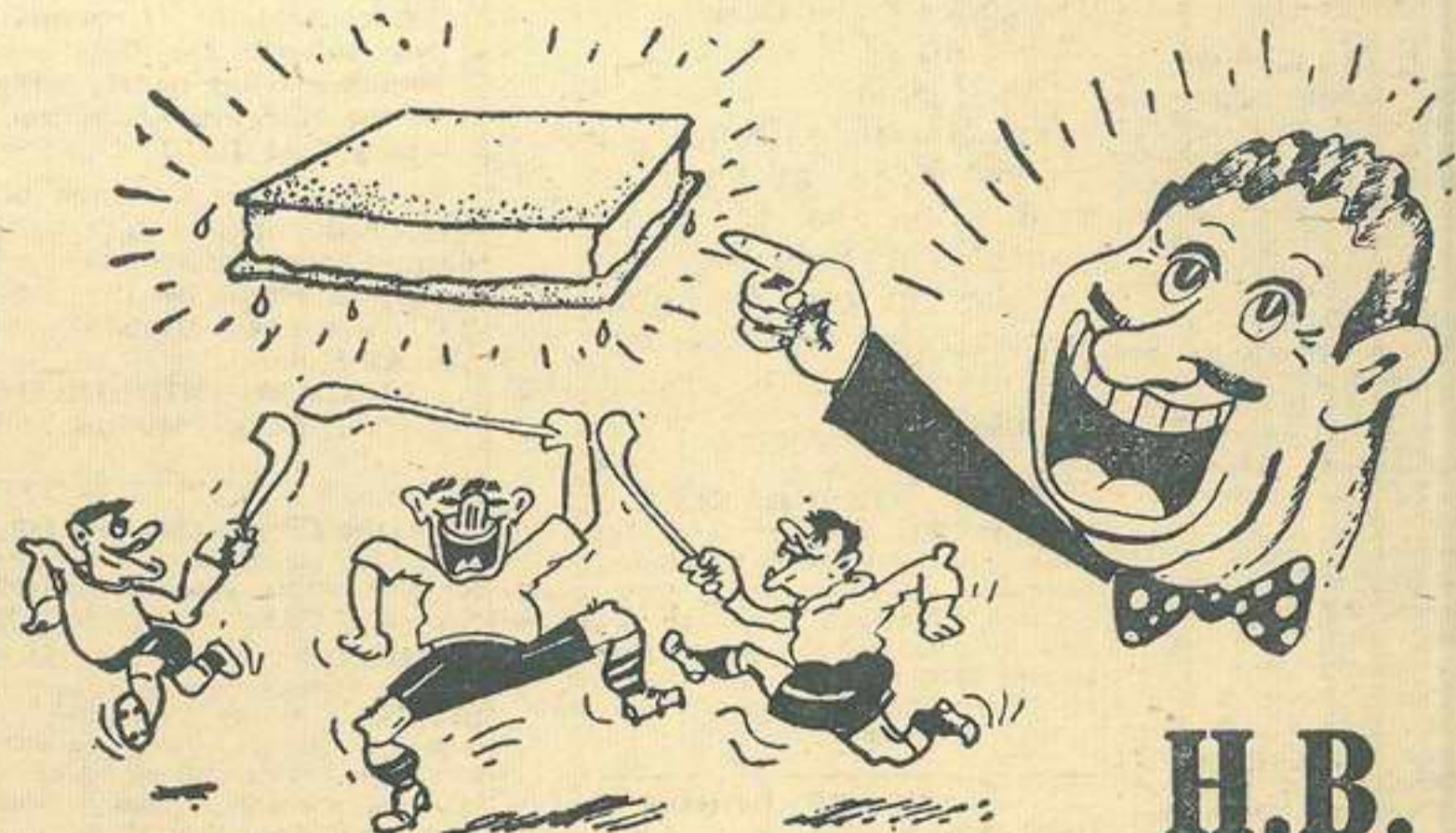
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Tipperary Town's G.A.A. Times

"THE Capital of Arravale has produced two of the greatest football combinations ever to appear on a Gaelic field," said Very Rev. P. Canon Fogarty, P.P., V.F., Tipperary County Board Chairman, when he followed his usual custom of referring to same aspect of the county's G.A.A. history at the Annual Convention.

"With pride and pleasure the people of Tipperary town can look back on a historic past," he added. Canon Fogarty said that Tipperary town was called the cradleland of football at the start of the G.A.A. A big tournament, the largest in Ireland, was held in the town on May 1, 1887, in two fields belonging to Mr. James Ryan, Bohercrowe.

ELEVEN GAMES

There were eleven games, ten in football and one in hurling. The tournament was organised by Messrs. James Wyse, Dr. Conway, Pat McGrath, Jack Quane, Phil Fitzgerald, Paul Flynn, Mike Dwyer, Dan Kelly, John Burke, Mike Hickey, Dick Ronan, James Darcy, Ned Carey, Michael Dalton, James O'Brien, William Murphy, Tom Crowe, and Willie McCurtin.

Five teams from the town took part in the tournament, Rosanna, captained by Jack Quane; Bohercrowe; Arravale Rovers; Commercial's, captained by Pat McGrath and Shamrocks, captained by Terry McInerney.

The first three of those teams participated in the county championships of 1887; the last to go down being Bohercrowe, who were defeated by Fethard in the semi-final.

REPLAY

In 1881, Bohercrowe won the semi-final from Grangemockler, after an unique and heroic struggle in a replay, by three points to nil; and beat Fethard in the final, also on a replay, by four points to one.

In inter-county matches, Bohercrowe beat the Cork Lees and Killrossanty (Waterford) in Clonmel.

Limerick Commercial's gave the Tipp's a walk-over in the Munster final. Unfortunately, owing to the "American Invasion" no other

games were played.

COUNTY WIN

The Smith-Barry trouble was at its height in Tipperary town in 1889, and with evictions to be obstructed and resisted, the local teams were disorganised. Bohercrowe, however, kept together and won the county championship on the way, defeating Knockavilla, Grangemockler and Carrick.

The Tipperary champions got a walk-over from Clare and beat Middleton (Cork). Laois, represented by Maryborough, went down to the Tipp's in the All-Ireland, played at Inchicore, by 3-6 to nil.

RECORD

The team's record: Founded in 1886, Bohercrowe team practised in Mr. J. J. Ryan's field, and up to the All-Ireland of 1889, had played thirty-six matches of every description and lost only one to Fethard in the County Championship of 1887. Were it not for Smith-Barry, and the Parnell split later, it is impossible to say when the team's career of conquest would have ended.

The Tipperary town teams were reorganised in 1893 by Willie Ryan, Jack Quane, Joe Ryan and John Burke. Three of them—Rovers, Commercial's and Shamrocks—contested in the county championships of 1894.

Rovers and Shamrocks contested the final which the former won by 1-2 to nil. The winners lost the Munster title to the Cork Nills by 2-4 to 2 pts.

WILLIE RYAN

In 1895, Arravale Rovers again won the county championship—their outstanding players being Willie Ryan, the Bohercrowe veteran, and Bob Quane. The score in the final was: Rovers, 4-6; Loughmore, 1 point.

Limerick Commercial's—a great combination—were the popular fancy for the championship of

Munster, but the Rovers faced the peril with a determination that was irresistible and won by five points to two.

This was followed by a double All-Ireland title for the county—Tubberadora win-

ning the hurling, and Arravale Rovers the football, from the Navan O'Mahonys, representing Meath.

Both games were played on the same day at Jones's Road grounds, the present Croke Park.

Mayo Camogie Girls on the March

By JIMMY LAVELLE

MANULLA, neat little village in County Mayo, had its name written on the pages of sporting history in 1955 when the local Camogie team—only one year old—won two County League titles and a County Championship.

The Camogie Club was launched in 1954 when Maureen McDonnell, Margaret Clarke, Bill Ralph and Paddy Keher got together to discuss the idea.

Later at a representative meeting the following officers were elected: Chairman, Bill Ralph; Vice-Chairman, Paddy Keher; Hon. Sec., Maureen McDonnell; Hon. Treas., Margaret Clarke; Captain, Vera McDonnell.

RUNNERS-UP

A team was entered in the championship and gave a very good display being runners-up to St. Aodhan's Islandeady.

Two of the team's players Josie Ruane and Vera McDonnell were selected for the Mayo team which won the Connacht Championship the same year.

Last year their efforts were crowned with success. They beat Westport in the final of the Winter League to take the "Mayo News" Cup.

In the championship final they had a facile win over the St. Aodhan's girls—the reigning champions.

On the county team which again collected provincial honours they had five players, Margaret McDonnell, Josie Ruane, Eileen Clarke, Vera McDonnell and Therese McDonnell.

WON ALL GAMES

The Manulla camogie wielders then continued on their successful march by winning the County League without losing a single match!

The elusive Manulla forward, created a record by scoring a total of 69 goals 4 points in the season and only one point was scored against them! Full forward Therese McDonnell

netted 35 goals in the season's play and this must definitely be a scoring record for any camogie player.

1955 was a glorious year for the Manulla Club and we eagerly look forward to their achievements in the future.

Schools Games

LACK of playing pitches in Galway City continues to be a headache for the G.A.A. sponors but the possibility of the Pearse Stadium, Salthill, being ready this year opens up hope for a new era.

The schools continue to pay their part however. The Patrian Juvenile League is a step in the right direction and is certain to produce the talent for future county teams.

This League was started some months ago and has aroused great interest. The boys of St. Patrick's School who hail from all parts of Galway and surrounding districts have served up first class hurling in the games played and all are eager to be the first holders of the coveted Pierce Cup and Medals.

The Cup, a magnificent trophy, was kindly presented by Mr. Bobbie Pierce for competition among the Juveniles of St. Patrick's. Teams taking part in the competition are: Wood Quay (present League leaders); Bohermore, Shantalla, Castlegar, St. Nicholas.

Cork Gael Weds in London

THE marriage took place recently in St. Anne's Church, Totenham Court Road of Mr. Jeremiah (Jerry) Hayes, well-known secretary of the Cú-Culainn Football Club, and Miss Margaret Kehoe, a very popular ceili violinist.

Among the guests at the reception afterwards were Mr. Joseph Maguire (President of the Gaelic League) and Mrs. Maguire; Miss P. King, Secretary of the Gaelic League; B. Rawlinson, Chairman of An Cumann Gaelach; Dan Purcell and P. Kenny, Cú-Culainn.

Best man was Leo Sullivan of Bere Island, and bridesmaids were the Misses Eileen and Una Keogh (sisters of the bride), Pauline O'Hehir (cousin of the bride), Anne and Joan Hennessy and Sally Herlihy.

Rev. Fr. Vincent officiated at the ceremony and the acolyte was Kevin O'Hannigan (cousin of the bride).

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Snr., travelled from Clonakilty for their son's wedding. They were accompanied by Miss Bridgid Hayes (sister of the groom).

The young couple are very popular in London Gaelic circles and they have the good wishes of all for their future happiness.

Dunmore Officials

M. O'SULLIVAN Dunmore McHale's one of Galway's oldest football clubs has elected:—President: Michael Hallidan; Chairman: Frank Kilgarriff; Vice-Chairman: Pat Toher; Hon. Secretary: Bertie Coleman; Captain (Senior): Jack Mahon.

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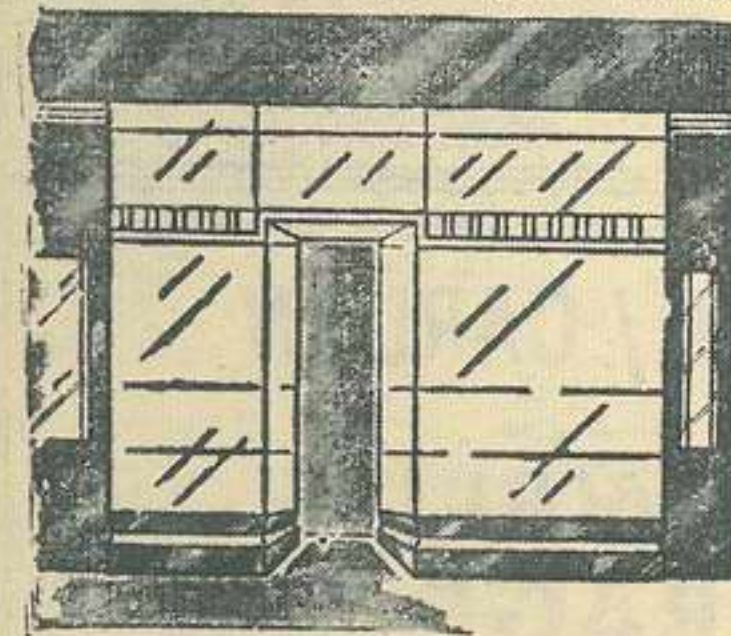
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Longford's Future Looks Bright

By "LITTLE SPORT"

LONGFORD may not make the headlines on the Inter-County field very often, but within the county, games are reaching a high standard, and to judge by the displays of Minors and Juveniles, the future looks bright.

The County Board caters for the Junior and Senior grades, while the Minor Board are responsible for minor, juvenile and schools competitions.

REVIVAL

The Minor Board was formed in 1949, and that year saw the revival of the Minor Championship (League System) after a long lapse. In the two years following the same competition was held with a certain amount of success, and in 1952 it was decided to run

a Schools' League Competition, as well as the Minor Championship. In 1954 it was agreed to run the Minor Championship knock-out system and to hold a Minor League as well.

In the same year a Juvenile Championship (League System), for boys under sixteen years, was organised, bringing the total number of competitions to four. Last year the Board advanced a step further when they organised

a 9-a-side minor league, which excludes College boys, and also a Schools' Championship. The programme last year was completed in early September and well over 100 matches were played.

PARISH TEAMS

Inter-county schools' challenge games were arranged by the Board last year when Longford played Leitrim twice. These games proved very successful and they are a "must" for the future.

The Minor Board's aim is to establish a school team in every parish. To date fourteen parishes are competing and there are only about five outstanding.

The Board's officers for 1956 are: President, Rev. S. Manning, C.C.; Chairman, J. Flynn; Vice-Chairman, Rev. P. McGee; Secretary, T. O'Brien; Registrar, J. Lyons. Selection Committee: Rev. S. Manning, Rev. P. McGee, Messrs. J. Flynn, J. Macken, J. Lyons and A. Allen.

Report from Leinster

Athy Looks Ahead

Athy G.A.A. Club is looking forward to a good 1956 season. The town's second team—Starlights—have now joined with the club to the satisfaction of G.A.A. followers.

Officers for the coming season:—President, Rev. Canon McDonnell; Vice-President, Rev. Fr. O'Quigley, O.P.; Chairman, Capt. Jim Doherty; Vice-Chairman, Rev. Fr. Randles; Treasurer, Mr. A. Smith; Secretary, Mr. T. O'Sullivan. Co. Board delegates: Mr. J. Gibbons and J. Dwyer.

Caragh Officers

Caragh (Co. Kildare) newly-formed hurling club has elected the following officers:—President, Very Rev. G. Bennett, P.P.; Chairman, J. Sharpe; Vice-Chairman, D. Doregty; Secretary, J. Kennedy; Treasurer-Manager, T. Johnson. Committee: J. Ryan, J. Donnelly and M. Martin.

Radio sets for Footballers!

RHODE, traditional home of football in the midlands, will be the scene of great activity and controversy during the next few months. Reason: the G.A.A. club and Parochial committee have joined forces, under the guidance of Fr. Dowling, P.P., in what will probably be the biggest 7 a side tournament ever staged in Ireland.

When the committee decided on giving nine new portable radio sets as their prize, they naturally expected a fine entry.

But as can be seen from the list of entries it exceeded all expectations.

Teams entered:—Offaly: Tullamore, Clara, St. Brigid's, D.E.W. Sports Club, Daingean, Rhode and Edenderry.

Kildare: Kilcock, Maynooth, Carbury, Round Towers, Athy, Clane and Rathangan.

Westmeath: Rochfordbridge, Athlone, Rosemound and Kirneggad.

Meath: Navan O'Mahony's, Congwood and Ballinabrackey. Roscommon: Elphin and Kiltoom.

Longford: Drumlish and Longford Slashers.

Lois: O'Dempseys. This entry assures visitors to famous Offaly venue of first class football.

Some of the most colourful figures in present day football will be in action there.

To name a few: Gerry O'Malley, Aidan Brady, Peadar Kearns, Paddy Gibbons, Larry McCormack, Dave Dalton, Mick and Paddy Casey, Paddy Fenlon, Sean Foran, Christy Carroll, Paddy Dunne, Jim and Jack Lyster and Johnny Healy.

Starting date for the competition is April 22 and next month we will give you the draw and dates. Look out for it.

WICKLOW'S 1955 REVIEW

By "DIXIE"

WICKLOW GAELS can look back on 1955 as a very successful year. The Senior Football team won the O'Byrne Cup for the first time, and this was no mean achievement, with Meath, Dublin, Kildare, Westmeath, Louth and Carlow in the running.

Early in 1955 the Garden County men gave some great displays in the National League and it looked as if they were going to be a force in the Leinster Championships.

SURPRISE

They did not live up to expectations however, and their surprise defeat at the hands of Westmeath may be credited to over-confidence, although the Midlanders proved later against Meath that their victory was no "flash-in-the-pan."

The Minor footballers showed great form when defeating Westmeath 1-10 to 1-4 in the opening

round of the Leinster Championship but they went under to Meath in the Semi-Final.

They are a promising lot and more should be heard of youths like Ken Browne, Deering and Brian Murray.

Hurling is at a low ebb at the moment. In 1954 the Co. Juniors won well in Leinster but failed to another "cinderella." Antrim, at Croke Park in the All Ireland Semi-Final.

EFFORT NEEDED

The 1955 form in all three grades was poor and a great effort is

needed to place Wicklow well up in the hurling world.

One thing is certain they must start with the schoolboys if they ever intend to reach the top of the ladder.

Barnadarrig once more emerged victors in the premier hurling championship. Avondale were again a force and their under-age team took two championships to the parish.

Balinglass took the Minor hurling championship to West Wicklow with a good win over Rathnew in the County Final.

RAILWAY CUP

Four Wicklow men figured on the victorious Leinster Railway Cup team. Garda Jim Rodgers was one of the outstanding players on the team and Gerry O'Reilly, Timmons and Fitzpatrick are the backbone of the Wicklow county team.

Wicklow will by no means start favourites for the 1956 Leinster championship, but they are capable of giving a good account of themselves.

They meet Carlow in the opening round and if they can add a little bit of punch to the attack in the meantime they should qualify to meet Dublin in the second round.

Wicklow beat Carlow 1-3 to 0-4

and 1-9 to 1-2 in the two meetings last year.

The Garden County men have always given of their best when pitted against the Metropolitan and should the pair meet during the 1956 campaign we can look forward to a rousing struggle.

Hurler and Boxer

By "DIXIE"

ARKLOW Geraldine's Hurling and Football Club recently congratulated one of their members, Mick Quinn, on his selection as a heavyweight on the Irish boxing team.

A native of Enniscorthy, Mick is very prominent in sporting circles. He is also a keen swimmer and last season won quite a few prizes with the Muinebeag (Co. Carlow) Club.

He has also given some fine performances as a cyclist.

In his first fight with the Irish team he defeated the Scottish representative at Mullingar, and on the trip to Germany he gave a good account of himself.

Mick's brother is a popular member of the Enniscorthy hurling team.

Handball Men

Munster Handball Council Officers for 1956 are:—Chairman, Very Rev. Canon O'Connell, P.P., V.F.; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Roche; Treasurer, Mr. J. F. Kilackey; Secretary, Mr. T. C. O'Conneide; Representative to Irish and Munster Councils, Mr. O'Conneide.

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Dutch Expert's Irish Visit

By P. A. O'NEILL

IRISH AGRICULTURE in general received a very definite impetus from the visit of one of Holland's chief agricultural experts, Dr. Haxmsen, Lecturer in Plant Breeding at Wageningen University, which is confined completely to agricultural students.

Dr. Haxmsen laid particular stress on the attitude of the Dutch farmer, which is one of complete co-operation with his agricultural instructor, who advises him on any questions which he is not clear on.

This situation is certainly reflected in the yields of Dutch crops which, on an average, are higher than ours. Oats and barley yield about 30 cwts. per acre and wheat shows a yield of about 40 cwts. to the acre.

HIGH YIELDS

These figures are the rough statistical average for the entire country and on fertile land an increase of about 10 cwts. per acre for these crops can be expected.

Holland has about 5,000,000 acres of arable land, which includes that which has been reclaimed from the Zyder Zee (incidentally this land is very fertile at the moment).

Included in this acreage are roughly 3,000,000 acres of pasture land and the remaining 2,000,000 acres are devoted to tillage.

The pasture-land is used for the upkeep of dairy herds and the rearing of young cattle.

The Dutch devote most of their time to dairying and do not concern themselves with beef production to the same extent as we in Ireland.

Chief products of the tillage farmers are wheat, oats, barley, maize, potatoes and vegetables.

Barley, oats and maize are grown mainly for breeding but the Dutch also take a great interest in growing these cereals for seed.

ECONOMICALLY SOUND

Economically, Dutch agriculture is in a sound position. Their main markets are the industrial nations such as Belgium and Germany to which they export vegetables and cereals, which are used for seed, and dairy produce, e.g., cheese.

Gael Linn Competition

BY J. CLARKE

THE Gael Linn Cup Competition (Softball Singles) has now reached the venue final stages.

It attracted an entry of some 200 of our leading players from more than 20 centres throughout the country.

SURPRISE

Major surprise to-date was the defeat of the great Larry Roe by the youthful Fred Meggs at Crumlin, Dublin.

D. Dillon, holder of the trophy, looks as though he will have his work cut out to retain the cup, judging by the host of talent heading for the final stages.

Survivors include:—A. Clarke (Dublin) and J. Ryan of Wexford (holders of the National Senior H.B. and S.B. Senior Championships respectively), and C. Delaney (Kilkenny), holder of the Smithwick Cup.

butter and eggs. Mechanisation is the keynote of this great agricultural country where about twenty per cent. of the population work on the land, earning a wage of about £6 a week.

All heavy machinery is bought through co-operatives, each of which consists of about 10 farmers. The machinery is cared for and attended by the co-operative chief, who makes all arrangements for its use.

This co-operative scheme has been in operation for many years and has proved one hundred per cent. successful.

SEEDS FOR IRELAND

Holland is particularly interested in exporting seed wheat, oats and barley to Ireland, and this is the purpose of Dr. Haxmsen's visit here.

He is trying to organise the setting up of experimental plots which will give his government the information they need to produce cereals which are suitable to our climate and which will give higher yields than we get at present.

Dr. Haxmsen is certainly a good ambassador for his country and we hope he will receive the full co-operation of all in Ireland.

Co-op. Mart

Roscrea Bacon Factory, which reported a £69,000 profit for 1955, is to start a co-operative livestock auction mart. Estimated cost of the mart is about £15,000.

Minister's Rabbit Order

The Department of Agriculture aims to keep the country free of rabbits following the myxomatosis plague. The Minister has made an order making it an offence to release rabbits from captivity, to acquire or keep wild rabbits or to sell or give away the animals.

Under the order a licence will be necessary to keep wild rabbits. Each case will be dealt with individually and will be investigated by the Guards or Department officials.

Galway's Officers

GALWAY'S 1956 football officers are: President, J. J. Nester (Dunmore); Chairman, Rev. Fr. Mahon (St. Jarlath's); Vice-Chairman, John Cotter (Connemara); Secretary, John Dunne (Ballinasloe); Treasurer, M. B. Farrell (Tuam).

Denis O'Mahony

By SEAN O NEILL

I AGREE entirely with Mac Lughadha on his selection of Dublin's Denis O'Mahony, in last month's GAELIC ECHO, as the outstanding football sportsman of the year.

Denis is a credit to his county and to the game. His drive and enthusiasm merits a fair share of the credit of Dublin's magnificent year of football.

In every game he played a hero's part and inspired confidence in his team, driving them to greater efforts.

SPORTSMAN

His conduct and sportsmanship both on and off the field has won him the admiration of all, in victory he led his men like a true captain but in defeat he led them like a prince.

It may surprise many to read that Denis was born in Cork. His stay in the rebel county was a short one though and it was in Dublin that he grew up and learned his football.

With O'Connell Schools he had a brilliant college football record, in 1942—not yet fourteen—he won a Leinster senior colleges medal. Three years later he was chosen on the Dublin minor team and won an All-Ireland medal in 1945.

1946 was a great year for Denis. First of all he won a Leinster colleges senior hurling medal with O'Connell Schools, then he was picked for the Leinster colleges interprovincial football team which won the competition. Then with the Dublin minor footballers he won his second Leinster medal.

ST. VINCENT'S

After leaving school Denis became an outstanding member of the St. Vincent's team and he shared in all their major honours. At nineteen he was selected for the

Dublin senior team and has been a regular member since.

Denis has had a long and very successful football career, but like the rest of the Dublin team, his main ambition has yet to be achieved.

In 1955 it was a close thing, but Captain Denis offers no alibi. "There is always next year," he says.

Wicklow Juveniles

South Wicklow Gaels deserve the highest credit for their very successful juvenile competitions. Sixteen championship games were played and Shillelagh had a good win over the holders, Arklow Geraldines in the district final of the under-fourteen hurling championship.

It was only after a very close game that they gave way to Avondale in the County Final.

GERALDINES

The Arklow Geraldines took the Football Cup for the second year in succession.

The decider ended in a draw after a thrill-packed game. The replay provided another exhibition of scintillating football and many consider Arklow lucky to have weathered off a series of Wicklow raids.

Annacurra won the South Minor Football Championship, but failed to Baltinglass in the County Final.

Congrats. Paddy!

By "DIXIE"

HEARTIEST congratulations to the former Limerick and Munster hurling star, Paddy Clohessy of Fedamore, on his election as Chairman of the East Limerick G.A.A. Board.

A bye-law of the Board says that a Chairman must resign having completed a three year term in office. Therefore this year the outgoing Chairman, Rev. Fr. Gilmartin, Murroe, could not seek re-election, but where could one find a better substitute than Paddy Clohessy?

As a player he has won every honour in the game, while he has been an official of the County and Eastern Boards for some time.

Let us hope that during his reign we will have an increased number of teams entering in all grades in the division.

Other officers are Sean Cunningham, Secretary; F. Moore, M. Croker and T. Rainsford.

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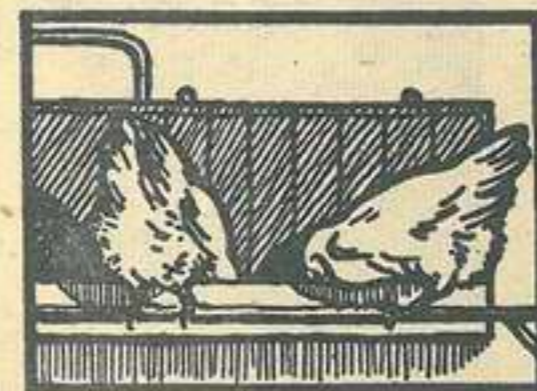
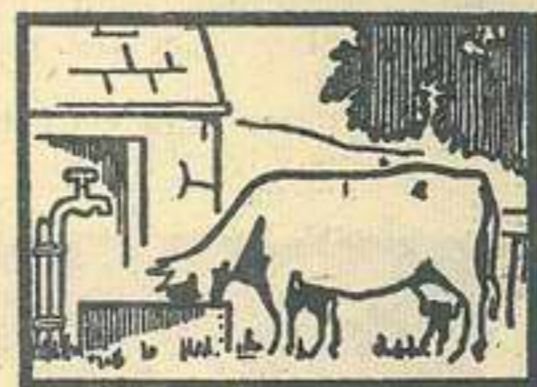
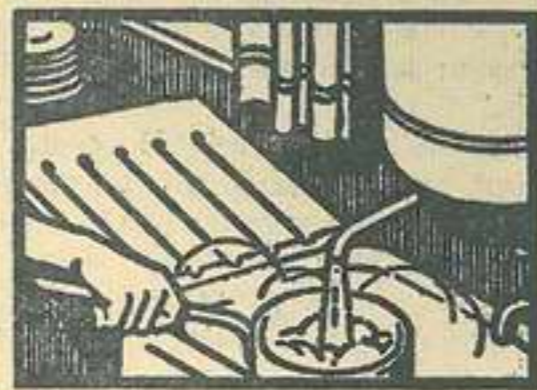
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Ulster Shock Win

BY "SHOT OUT"

THE defeat of Cork idol Mick Barry by Ulster and Armagh champion Joe McVeigh was one of the biggest surprises of the New Year.

Not alone did McVeigh break the record for the Cork course but though Barry conceded a shot, the Armagh man's margin of victory was nearly three. It was readily conceded by all that McVeigh could have—on his form—defeated the Cork Champion at level.

FIRST TIME

It was the first time that an Armagh Champion had travelled to Cork to meet a local title holder and the contest brought well merited victory and ended the long run of Cork successes.

The North representative never before showed such magnificent form. He showed rare judgment throughout never wasting a bowl.

The lion-hearted Barry tried all he knew, but had to bend the knee to a worthy victor.

McVeigh's remarkable victory has strengthened the interest in the forthcoming Armagh and District Championship Bullet contest.

New clubs are to be formed thus following the example set by our friends down South.



Ulster Goalkeeper Dorain in a tight spot against Munster at Casement Park on February 19.

FAYTHE HARRIERS CELEBRATE

By EDDIE O'KEEFFE

A CLUB which has made hurling history in Wexford county, and its capital town especially, is The Faythe Harriers, who hail from a district which fifty and sixty odd years ago produced such fine football stalwarts as the late Paddy, Joe and Jack Murphy, Mike Condon, Jem Doyle, John Rooney and a host of others who also have long since played their last big game.

In the late 20's and early 30's this district also put into the football arena brilliant players like John Lawlor, now serving with Irish Lights, and who was as nippy a forward as one could find; Willie Furlong, sterling back; John, Peter and Nicky O'Brien, the late Sonny Connolly, Sonny Murphy, Paddy Lawlor, Mat Busher and the Leary Brothers.

YOUNG CLUB

'Tis only within the past six or seven years that the hurling club was formed—spurred on, of course, by the persevering efforts of the Wexford hurlers—but in that short space of time, the Faythe Harriers have captured the Wexford County juvenile and minor championships

for the past five years, from 1951 to 1955 inclusive, as well as collecting a couple of junior titles. Not bad going at all!

The week before Lent the club held a re-union in the Talbot Hotel, Wexford, when the medals for the 1954 championships were presented.

Occupying the chair was club President, Jem Sinnott, a keen Gaelic enthusiast who over the past quarter century has done great work for Wexford both on the Co. Council and Corporation.

Attendance also included Rev. Thomas Murphy, R.C.A., Patron of the Club; Rev. Bro. McDunphy, Superior, C.B.S., Mount St. Joseph; Rev. Bro. Meers, C.B.S., Messrs.

John (Dough) Murphy, Club Chairman; Paddy Cullen, Club Sec.; Liam Murphy, Sec., County Board, G.A.A., and Ned Wheeler and Tim Flood of the Wexford All Ireland hurling team.

Tributes were paid to the club for its great work for the youth of the town.

MEDAL WINNERS

Rev. T. Murphy, R.C.A., presented medals to the members of the following teams:—

1955 medal tournament winners: S. Howlin, M. Murphy, E. Malone, M. Howlin, B. Cullimore, B. O'Leary, M. Bergin, D. Murphy, L. Kehoe, O. McGrath, G. Furlong, J. Hore, O. McGrath, G. Furlong, J. Hore, D. Saddler, S. Scallan, L. Murphy, Anthony Murphy, Jas. Whelan, L. Meyler, S. Kinsella, D. Saddler.

1954 minor hurling county championship: Paul Grant, Joe Bradley, Nick Lawlor, J. Srallan, S. Howlin, B. Cullimore, E. Malone, M. Murphy, B. O'Leary, M. Bergin, D. Murphy, Liam Kehoe, Ollie McGrath, G. Furlong, S. Howlin, Liam Walsh, Terry Connolly, M. Horgan, J. Hore, L. Meyler.

1955 co. minor championship: Paddy Duggan, M. Howlin, B. Cullimore, Jas. Whelan, Matt. Murphy, Eric Malone, Anthony Murphy, Bobby O'Leary, Martin Bergin, O. McGrath, G. Furlong, Dick Murphy, J. McEvoy, S. Howlin, Lar Murphy, S. Scallan, Eddie O'Connor, M. Horgan, J. Hore, L. Kehoe, S. White, Sean Kinsella and D. Saddler.

1955 juvenile championship: Stephen Scallan, Des. Whitty, T. Murphy, Frank Furlong, Jim Marlowe, Liam Whelan, Rory Kelly, B. O'Leary, Tommy Bergin, M. Murray, Tom O'Connor, M. Considine, Wally Lawlor, L. Murphy, John Dodd, Tony O'Leary, Bill Quirke, Brendan Kirwan, Brendan Millar, Denis O'Brien, Pat Roche, Martin Buggy, Sean Keating and H. Hore.

Special presentations were made to Tim Flood and Ned Wheeler.

The Hon. Sec. and Chairman, were also honoured with presentations from the ladies committee, club members and supporters.

In his address Fr. Murphy hinted that the club also try to organise a camogie team since their President was President of the County Camoguidheacht Board.

Tributes were also paid to the County Board officials for their great work in helping to bring all Ireland hurling honours to Wexford last year, and to Willie Goodison for the distinction which was conferred on him by being appointed to referee the 1955 All-Ireland Football Final.

HANDBALL

America's 40 Compo

By J. CLARKE

A VERY popular duo, Alex. Boisseree and Joe Shane, have won the Masters' Handball Championship of America, which attracted an entry of 32 pairs, drawn from many parts of the States, and was played on the indoor, wooden-floored 20 by 40 ft. courts of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, California.

A rule of this competition is that one competitor must be over 40 years of age, and his partner past the 45 mark, an innovation which helps to keep older players interested in the game as well as fit.

HONG KONG

Boisseree was born in Hong Kong 40 years ago, and learned his handball in the Orient. He is reported to be a former champion of Shanghai and the Philippines, and was imprisoned for 3½ years by the Japanese in Manila.

His partner Shane, is seven years his senior, and for a man of his years deserves full marks for "slamming it out" so successfully from such an entry.

Jeanne Hoffman, noted woman sports writer, in a clever and humorous account of the event in the "Los Angeles Times" after mentioning that the winners were the only moustached pair in the competition, remarked: "But the moustache—it's an entirely new weapon in handball equipment."

REACTIONS

Here is her description of Shane's reaction to the victory: "He lay on the floor and kicked his heels; picked Boisseree off his feet and kissed him."

"I was accustomed to being kissed by my wife and kiddies," muttered Alex, still dazed. "But a moustache is something new, and if we remain partners I'm gonna make him trim it."

And what had Shane to say —"Hearing that I had won, people called me up and demanded, 'Are you crazy? still playing handball at your age?'"

But he does not mind, for he says "I've played steady for 20 years; have kept in top condition, and I think that keeping on my toes in the handball court has kept me mentally alert and helped set my opponents back on their heels in the law-court, too."

SOME HERE?

We could do with a competition of this nature here, when we would have an opportunity of seeing great players of the past in action again.

We could learn much by study-

THE

THE Min Welfare Corish, T.D., P. Corish, M are jointly t for a Foot

LEINSTER DA AND REFERI

DR. JOE STUART (Dublin) was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Leinster Council at the Provincial Convention in Dublin.

Dr. Stuart said 1955 would go down in the history of the province as a wonderful year of sportsmanship. So exemplary was the behaviour of the players that they were a credit to their counties and the province.

"It was a vintage year" he said, "and we can look forward with confidence to the coming year."

The other officers were also returned to office unopposed: Sean Robbins (Offaly) as treasurer, and Hugh Byrne (Wicklow) as Vice-Chairman.

Ruled out of order was a motion from Offaly seeking permission to play their second best players in the Leinster Junior championships.

FOR CONGRESS

Wexford asked that the present grant of £50 to club grounds be increased and this motion, which will also be before Congress, was passed and will be dealt with after Congress.

Referred to the Leinster Colleges' Council was the Kildare motion asking that an approach be made to non-Gaelic playing colleges in the province to compete in the colleges competition.

BIG DATES

Fixtures and referees for the Leinster Championships are:

PIONEER worker in the G.A.A., Mr. John Harney of Clonmel died recently, and Gaels attended the funeral from all parts to pay tribute to his memory. Mr. Harney had been Assistant Secretary of South Tipperary Board since the early twenties.

Junior Hur

April 8—Rou Kilkenny at V for both g (Wicklow); C at Aughrim. and J. Rochfo dare v. Westm —J. Doyle, R. Laois v. Offaly J. Langton an kenny); Meath Uaimh. Refs.—J. Mullen (Lo —Longford v. Gillick (Westm Round two: —Qualifying Kildare v. Carl 8—Wicklow v.

Senior Hu

Laois v. Offa Ref.—J. Mul April 29—Wes at Tullamore. (Offaly); May kenny v. Westm ref. to be appo Semi-Finals—ford v. Laois kenny; June kenny, Westm Dublin v. Kilk (other venues

July 8—Final

Senior Footb low v. Carlow, Goodison (We Longford at T Connell (Offa dare v. Louth —P. McDermot June 3—If at Enniscorthy; low, at Athy. meath v. We Ref.—E. Mould 27—Meath v. head Nua. Jun Kildare at A Louth at Croke ford v. Kildare Longford v. Lo Semi-Finals— Final—July 2

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'CORISH' CUP

By EDDIE O'KEEFFE

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or of Wexford,
present a Cup
Tournament

between the Secondary schools of Co. Wexford. This announcement was made by the Mayor at the annual re-union of the Wexford Sarsfields held in the Talbot Hotel.

The Mayor said both he and Mr. Corish were anxious to see a revival of football amongst the youth of the county, and he admitted that he had a great liking for the big ball game.

Presiding was another staunch Gaelic games enthusiast, Mr. Fintan Morris, a one-time player, and also amongst the gathering was veteran Jack Crowley, of the famous four-in-a-row All Ireland winning Wexford team of 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, and Davy Morris who was star forward for the county senior team when hardly out of his teens.

Medals were presented to the Sarsfields Minor team winners of the 1955 county football crown.

On behalf of his team mates Jim Crowley, son of Jack's, also received the magnificent Sean O'Kennedy Memorial Cup, which goes to the winners of this particular grade.

The trophy in memory of one of Ireland's most outstanding players was presented by the Cullen Brothers, Martin and Tom, New York, formerly of Glynn, Co. Wexford.

Recipients of medals: Jim Crowley (Capt.); Michael Browne, Brendan Cullimore, Seumas Howlin, Fergus Hall, James Roche, Thomas Walsh, Liam O'Connor, Pascal Cullen, Peter Crowley, John Furlong, Brian Morris, Thos. Dempsey, George Edmonds, Harry Hore, Fintan Traynor, John Dodd, James Furlong, M. McNicholas and J. Davidson.

U.S.A. GAELS

THE twenty-second annual banquet of New York Gaelic Athletic Association took place at the Hotel Statler. Exiled Gaels from all over U.S.A. and Canada assembled for the event. Each year an outstanding member is elected guest of honour. This year this coveted and deserved honour went to one of the greatest Gaels in exile, famed Jack Ahern, Kilbrittain, Co. Cork.

Munster Tit-Bits

GENUINE regret is felt amongst ardent fans of Limerick and Clare that both teams have to meet in Thurles for the first round of the Munster Hurling Championship. Clare wanted Ennis, and Limerick asked for the Gaelic Grounds of their city, so the Munster Council decided on Thurles. A toss of a coin would at least have given a more satisfactory result to the followers and teams as well, as it would be either Limerick or Ennis.

AS an encouragement to the members of Millesians Hurling team of Kilrush, Co. Clare, after winning the West Clare League (which was initiated last year), a set of hurleys was presented to them by supporters to stimulate further the game locally.

PARTEEN, Co. Clare, Hurling Club at its annual general meeting, at which medals were presented to Junior A and Juvenile teams, elected Mr. M. Woods again as Chairman. Mr. Woods has spent much time in doing good work for the Club in the last twelve months, sometimes at personal expense.

GOOD progress was reported at the general meeting of St. John's Hurling Club, Ennis, by Mr. P. McInerney, outgoing Chairman, the highlight of which was the winning of the Minor A and Juvenile B Championships.

THE Killaloe Hurling Club have elected Rev. J. Creed, C.C., Hon. President, and Mr. M. Daly, Chairman. It was decided to affiliate Senior, Junior (B), Minor (A) and Juvenile (A), as well as a Junior Football team.

IT is not the men who merely appear at the annual Convention that make it a success, but those who turn up at Board meetings, said Rev. P. M. Lee, Knocklong, outgoing Chairman of the Mid-Tipperary G.A.A. Board, at its Convention at Thurles. "A good many of the officials," he said, "were county players who carried the county colours in the past, and proof of their further loyalty to the G.A.A. was their continued association with it."

WELCOMING Rev. Bro. Norbert from Scoil Criost Ri, Cork, to Kinsale, Mr. Neil O'Regan, outgoing Chairman of Kinsale Hurling and Football Club, at the general meeting, said that he hoped Bro. Norbert would pass on the technique to their players which he had given so wonderfully to the school teams in Cork, where the G.A.A. games reigned supreme against foreign influence.

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Paddy Duffy to be Feted

By JOHN COMYN
PADDY DUFFY, former Louth County Secretary, is to be presented with a testimonial by Louth Gaels, it was announced at February's County Board meeting.

It is expected that not only those actively associated with the game in Louth but also those from other counties will contribute to the presentation, which, it was stated, will be "something worth-while."

A committee consisting of Chairman J. J. Matthews, Secretary P. Kearney and T. Burke was appointed to deal with the presentation, and they appeal to Gaels everywhere to make the occasion worthy of the man.

16-Year-Old Secretary

By "DIXIE"

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD Dermot O'Donnell was elected Secretary at the annual meeting of Newcastlewest H. and F. club recently.

This is a case of "like father, like son" as his dad was one of the most energetic members of the Newcastle West committee for many years.

Now his three sons are playing great stuff in the Black and White jersey's. These lads learned their hurling back in Killoughteen, a townland that has given great hurlers to the Newcastle West club.

Judging by the fine displays they have given in recent outings, the O'Donnell brothers seem destined for a bright future in G.A.A.

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Schools' League on Medals

By JOHN COMYN

DO MEDALS GIVE SCHOOL-BOYS SWELLED HEADS? THIS IS A QUESTION WHICH IS BOTHERING SOME COMMITTEEMEN OF THE LOUTH SCHOOLS' LEAGUE.

At the annual meeting in Dundalk some members seemed to think that boys on winning teams were getting too many; that they were getting swelled heads as a result and consequently little good was being done for juvenile football.

Other members—a number of them teachers—opposed this idea and one delegate replied that this frame of mind could be a direct result of the boys' training.

We know that there is a great deal of character training to be achieved on the fields but is not the primary object of these games to get the children out in the air,

exercising themselves?

And what lad won't go out and fight for his team if there is the prospect of bringing home a medal or some reward to show his father and mother? If a lad does win a half-dozen medals, is he not entitled to some pride?

Clare Gaels in London

CLARE Gaels in London elected the following officers at the annual meeting of St. Senan's Club: President, Rev. Brendan Cleary, Miltown-Malbay; Vice-Chairman, Wm. Maloney, Kiltenera; Honorary Treasurer, Michael McMahon, Kiltush; Hon. Secretary, Ml. O'Halloran, Caherkeenick.

THE THREE M SWEEPSTAKES

Held on the Grand National, Derby, and Cambridgeshire in aid of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

THE NEXT SWEEP WILL BE ON THE GRAND NATIONAL

PRIZES

1st HORSE £150; 2nd HORSE £75; 3rd HORSE £25
Drawers of Unplaced Starters divide £50.
Sellers of Winning Tickets (First Three Horses) £5 each.
Each book will contain: 12 tickets priced at 1/- each.
10/- is to be sent back with each block, thus leaving 2 free tickets in each book or 2/- discount for those who sell the 12 tickets. Each promoter will receive a receipt for all tickets.

Closing date for returning counterfoils, March 19th
Draw on Wednesday, 21st March, 1956, at Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

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Dear Mother Mary—I would like to become one of the Three M Sweepstake Promoters. Please send me books of tickets.

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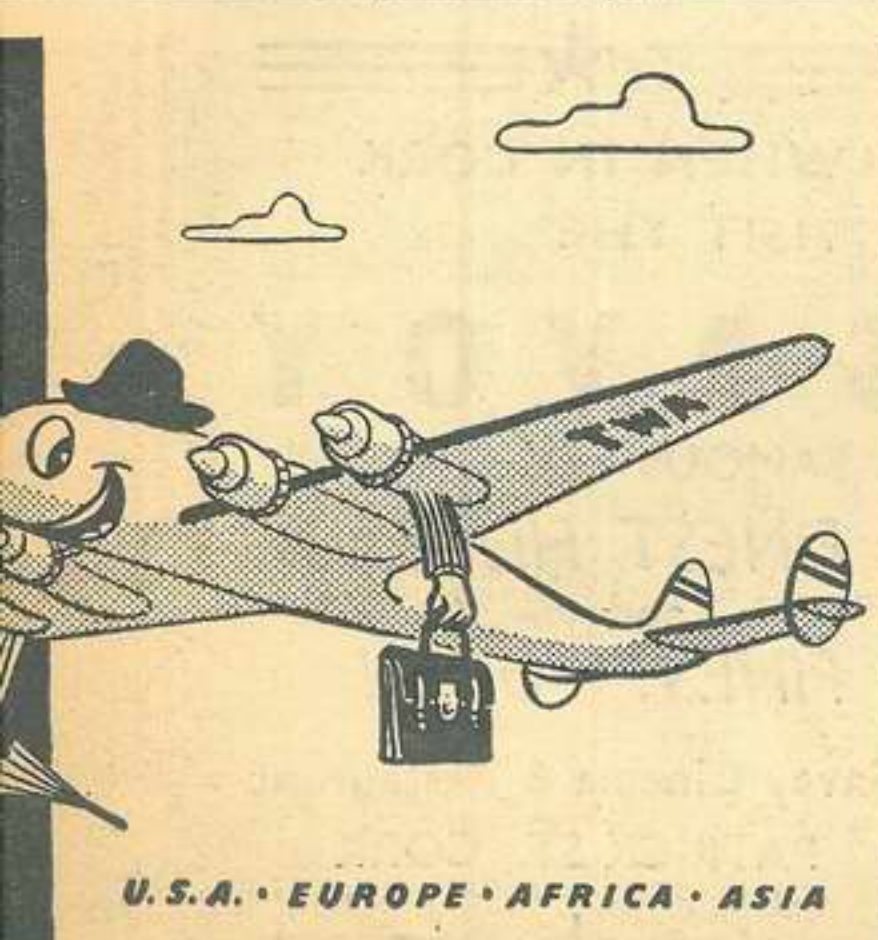
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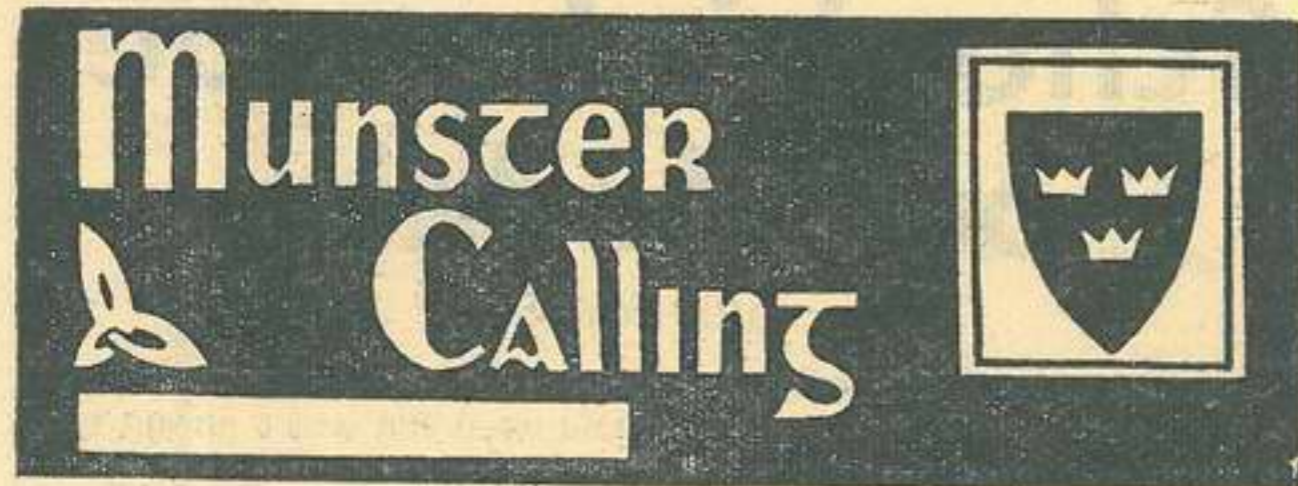
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Waterford Needs New Pitches

By FLACCUS

THERE can be no doubt that the team of the year in Waterford has been Fourmilewater! Junior Hurling County Champions after several years of hard-hitting and near-missing, and now, in the unfashionable time of the year, they have established themselves with a splendid victory over a strong, though not full-strength, Cappoquin team. This was their first venture into Senior ranks, and the result is a feeling of great things to come for the North Waterford men.

Last year these men were the fittest bunch of athletes to take part in the Junior championship for quite some time, and their splendid physique, speed and stamina will tell its tale in senior ranks.

GOOD SIGN

It is good to see a country team coming to the fore again in Waterford; strong country teams, have, in the past, indicated a prosperous period and on this alone, many wise Gaels are hoping the Four-milewater men will keep to the winning way when they play their first championship game in a couple of months' time.

There is in the county, a very good system by which the senior clubs play during the close season for two cups—the Sargent Cup (hurling) and the Phelan Cup (football). The football competition is new this year, for a cup presented by that famous international figure in Gaelic affairs—Mr. Jack Phelan.

It is fervently hoped that this competition will give an interest, out of season, for players and spectators, as well as preparing the way for better championship games later on, with fitter players already into the swing of things.

As the new year's campaign takes over from the old, the most pressing problem in the county, and one everyone is discussing is the lack of adequate playing pitches.

SAD FALL

A game originally fixed for Dungan two years ago between Kerry and Waterford, had to be changed to Waterford because Dungan was inadequate for the game. This is a sad fall for the once-legendary Fraher Field; the finest pitch in the country when All-Ireland games were played there, its condition is gradually becoming worse. The stand has fallen down and has not been replaced, the railings have become gapped and even the lovely surface of the park is beginning to suffer. Waterford Sportsfield is only a moderately sized enclosure and because of its distinct slope it suffers greatly from a playing point of view. At Cappoquin the neat pitch is a credit to the progressive club, but, unfortunately, it is too small for the big games and big attendances.

So, Lismore remains as the only pitch of worth in the county, and even the enthusiastic group who voluntarily developed their ground would admit that it falls well below the standard of a good inter-county ground.

This problem is a pressing one in Waterford, as you can readily see. We notice with pleasure the purchase of ground in Waterford for a playing-field to be used by the De La Salle Club; but this is the only step forward in what is otherwise a regression.

It hardly needs stressing that suitable and numerous playing-pitches are an absolute necessity in any county; and it may be significant that the standards of the games in the county more or

less vary in direct proportion to the disimprovement of the grounds.

We hope, therefore, that the Waterford Co. Board will make point number one in their programme for 1956 "We must and shall have bigger and smoother and better playing-fields". After all, first things first !!!



University College, Cork, Hurling team which defeated Queen's University, Belfast, in the Fitzgibbon Cup semi-final at Belfield on Saturday, 18th February.

A LOOK AT CORK'S HURLING DRAWS

By E. V. MURPHY

THIS year's draw for the Cork County Hurling Championship shows that the 1956 Champions will have a tough task. The first round looks the most open ever, and naming the second round eight can provide plenty of fun for the Spring evenings.

First out of the hat were U.C.C. and Newtown-Shandrum. The students are usually bothered by exams and such when big business begins but, otherwise are generally fit and enthusiastic. Newtown have been making their mark in North Cork for some years past and are on the upgrade. Naming the winners here is a toss-up.

AVONDHU v. ROVERS

Next out were Avondhu, the shock team a couple of seasons ago and by no means a lost cause yet. And who came out with them?—Glen Rovers, no less. What price a first-round record here?

Rovers bit the dust last year, and many blame the decline of Cork in the Munster Championship on that fact.

Will the Blackpool men get back on the winning trail again, or are they in eclipse? The North Cork division side will give them a searching test so Rovers must get about that task of team building quickly.

Even more intriguing is the next pairing of Carrigtwohill and champions, St. Finbarrs. Some experts think this could be Carrigtwohill's year. They haven't been blessed with luck for the past couple of seasons.

The Barrs have beaten the pick of the rest of the county—it took two games. This match is one for the book.

The South-East Cork divisional side, Carrighoun, will face promoted intermediate champions, Youghal. This is another wide open game and then we have two of the most noted names in hurling history.

NOT TO BE MISSED

A game between Sars and Rockles with nothing at stake will bring the crowd flocking to see experts with the caman show what sheer artistry can do. Do you think anyone will miss this county treat?

Nemo Rangers, who keep plugging away quietly, meet Middleton, who decided to remain in senior grade this season and not seek lower status.

Midleton's fortunes have been see-sawing for years. Perhaps the spirit which refused to lower the club's grading will see them go far this year.

Duhallow, the North-West area where hurling is so strong, meet the South-West side, Carberry, and the City Board's fifteen, Seandun, face Muskerry, the Mid-Cork side, in the remaining games.

That's enough to go on for now—there are one or two obvious things about the draw. It can't be a Barrs and Glen final this year, but what are the odds on Sars meeting either of them early next October?

A brief comment on the football championship.

We have seven matches in the first round with nine byes to make it even for the rest of the campaign.

Carberry and Glanmire will be one of these to note as will Delaney Rovers and Canovee, but all the big noises are safe until the second round, and more about them later.

There are six games in the first round of the intermediate hurling championships.

THE DRAWS

Senior Hurling—U.C.C. v. Newtownshandrum; Avondhu v. Glen Rovers; Carrigtwohill v. St. Finbarrs; Carrighoun v. Youghal; Sarsfields v. Blackrock; Nemo Rangers v. Middleton; Duhallow v. Carberry; Seandun v. Muskerry.

Senior Football—St. Finbarrs v. Glanvorth; Carberry v. Glanmire; Garda v. Bandon; Avondhu v. Collins; Seandun v. Darrara; Carrighoun v. Clonakilty; Delaney Rovers v. Canovee.

Byes—Imokilly, Beara, Millstreet, Duhallow, St. Nicks, U.C.C., Lees, Macroom, St. Vincents.

Intermediate Hurling—Bandon v. Passage; Mallov v. Rathluire; Castlemaenner v. Glen Rovers; Na Pairsaig v. Ballymartle; Carrigaline v. St. Vincents; Ballyhea v. Shanballymore.

Old Hurler Passes Away

BY M. O'SULLIVAN

ONE of the few remaining links with the first years of the G.A.A. in Galway passed to his eternal reward last month. He was Mr. John Coy of Moneen, Ardahan, one of the most popular and respected men in the area.

Coming from a famous hurling stronghold which supplied 17 members of the Ardahan team which won the County Championship three times in the last years of the 19th century, he and his two brothers were responsible in no small way for accomplishing such a feat.

With brothers Tom and Willie the late John Coy was on the Ardahan-Craughwell selection which was beaten narrowly by North Tipperary on Easter Sunday of 1887.

A fine clean wielder of the caman he was the essence of sportsmanship on and off the hurling field.

Marking Your Calendar

THE big games to note in Cork for April and May are:— (Venues in parenthesis):—

March 4th—U.C.C. v. St. Nick's (U.C.C. Grounds); Collins v. St. Vincents (U.C.C. Grounds); Macroom v. Millstreet; (Macroom)—(Kelleher Shield fixtures).

St. Finbarr's v. Sarsfields (Cork Athletic Grounds); Newtownshandrum v. Middleton (Newtownshandrum)—(Beamish Shield fixtures).

March 11th—Millstreet v. Canovee (Millstreet) Macroom v. Bandon (Macroom); Lees v. Collins (U.C.C. Grounds)—(all Kelleher Shield fixtures).

March 18th—Nemo Rangers v. U.C.C. (U.C.C. Grounds); Youghal v. Carrigtwohill (Youghal);—(Beamish Shield fixtures).

March 25th—Cork Under-Fifteen Board's Tournament.

April 1st—Cork Churches Tournament.

April 8th—S.F.C., Garda v. Bandon (Innishannon); S.F.C., Avondhu v. Collins (Fermoy); S.F.C., Duhallow v. Carberry (Macroom).

April 15th—S.H.C., Seandun v. Muskerry (Coachford); S.F.C., St. Finbarr's v. Glanvorth (Fermoy); S.H.C., Carrighoun v. Youghal (Cork Athletic Grounds).

April 22nd—S.H.C., Seandun v. Darrara (Kinsale); S.F.C., Delaney Rovers v. Canovee (Macroom); S.F.C., Carberry v. Glanmire (Bandon); S.H., Dublin v. Cork (Mallov).

April 29th—S.H.C., U.C.C. v. Newtownshandrum (Buttevant); S.H.C. Nemo Rangers v. Middleton (Riv-

erstown); S.F.C., Carrighoun v. Clonakilty (Kinsale); I.H.C., Mallov v. Rathluire (Buttevant).

May 6—Cork v. Clare (Mallov); S.F.C., Lees v. U.C.C. (Cork Athletic Grounds); S.F.C., Macroom v. St. Vincents (Coachford); I.H.C.,

BY E. V. MURPHY

Bandon v. Passage (Ballinhassig).

May 13th—S.H.C., Sarsfields v. Blackrock (Cork Ath. Grounds); S.H.C., Avondhu v. Glen Rovers

(Mallov); S.F.C., Tinokilly v. Canovee or Delaney Rovers (Cork Ath. Grounds); I.H.C., Na Pearsaig v. Ballymartle (Carrigaline).

May 20th (Whitsun)—Thomond Feis Games, Limerick; S.H.C., Carrigtwohill v. St. Finbarrs (Rivers-town); S.F.C., Beara v. Millstreet (Bantry); I.H.C., Ballyhea v. Shanballymore (Doneraile); I.H.C., St. Vincents v. Carrigaline (Cork Ath. Grounds).

May 27th—Gaelic Week Tournament.

June 3rd—Cork v. Kerry (Drom-tarriffe).

One Thousand Played!

DUHALLOW, famed as the home of great athletes and great Gaels, and territorially tiny as G.A.A. divisions go, had in 1955 a total registration of 1,500 Gaelic players!

Acre for acre, this could easily be a record for a rural division, and while the Gaels of Duhallow won no trophies or titles in 1955, they achieved something of far more enduring.

They saw to it that almost every young man in their division took an active part in either hurling or football, or both.

What the late Count de Cour-

bertin, founder of the modern Olympics, said about participation in the games: "It is not the winning that matters so much as the taking part," is equally true of all competitions, and it is especially true of the ideals behind our Gaelic games.

They were primarily intended to give clean amusement to the many rather than glory to the few.

Fortunately, there are many places in Ireland, Duhallow among them, where, apparently, our native games are still played more for the glory of the games themselves than for the honour which victory and the winning of championships can bestow!

★

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Connacht Commentaru



The Ashbourne Cup Goes West

By "SIDELINE"

CONGRATULATIONS GALWAY ON REGAINING THE ASHBOURNE CUP AFTER A LAPSE OF NINE YEARS! YOU WERE MADE FIGHT EVERY INCH OF THE WAY BY THREE MAGNIFICENT TEAMS, BUT YOU SWEEP ASIDE ALL OPPOSITION AND EMERGED DESERVING AND POPULAR WINNERS.

This Ashbourne competition must go down in the annals of camogie as "The Ashbourne of the shocks."

First of all, Queen's—hitherto looked upon as the "soft" team, held a star-studded Galway twelve to a four-points win.

FAVOURITES OUT

In the second match Cork had a comparatively easy win over the holders—and favourites—U.C.D.

On Saturday, Galway surprised us all with a well-merited 3-0 win over Cork—favourites now—then to put the "tin-hat" on it, Queen's showing vast improvement from their previous day's performance beat U.C.D. by 2 pts.

These results left the positions as such on the League table, Galway 4 pts., U.C.C. and Q.U.B. 2 pts. each.

The final day saw Queen's continue their winning way with a seven-points victory over U.C.C.

This left Galway with the option of a clear victory against U.C.D. or, alternately, scoring 6 goals against them and beating Queen's on scores.

The Ashbourne is decided on scores in the event of a tie in the number of matches won.

COME-BACK

This was a fitting background for the match of the series, when Galway making up in courage and determination what they lacked in hurling skill, whittled down Dublin's one-time eight points lead to emerge deserving victors by one point.

Individual star and top scorer of the series was Belfast's Maeve Gilroy, a stylish,

Indefatigable player. She led a very welcome Northern resurgence which all but carried Lord Ashbourne's Cup to Queen's for the first time.

Next year, I believe the venue for the competition is Belfast, so, watch out, Galway, or you'll leave the cup behind you!

My final impressions of the Ashbourne was that it was the Galway team-work and combination that carried the day.

HIGH STANDARD

They excelled in first-time ground pulling and utilised the open spaces of the wing with almost monotonous regularity.

The standard of camogie was high, the tackling was keen, the teamwork, magnificent, the individuals brilliant, the players sporting in victory and defeat. All of which contributed to the most enjoyable and hard-fought Ashbourne competition to date.

GALWAY ATHLETICS

By M. O'SULLIVAN

Tommy Madden, Derrydonnell, an ex-cycling champion, made a welcome come-back to cross-country ranks when he won the Senior Cross-Country Championship at Athenry recently.

Only three teams competed in the senior event: Derrydonnell, Eire Og and Tuam, while Ballinasloe were represented by Bernie Goode and Laugh by J. Donnellan. Team placings: 1, Derrydonnell (27 pts.); 2, Eire Og (42 pts.); 3, Tuam (63 pts.)

The youths' race was won by M. McDonagh (Eire Og), the National Youths' Champion of 1955, in very convincing style.

Team placings: 1, Eire Og (36 pts.); 2, Derrydonnell (44 pts.); 3, Ballinasloe (63 pts.)

Hurling Review

By M. O'SULLIVAN

AFTER a lapse of over seventy years an effort is being made to revive hurling in Clifden, Co. Galway.

Chief architect in the revival is the former Galway hurling goalie, Sean Duggan, who was domiciled in the area for some time.

Sean devoted all his spare time teaching the youth of his adopted parish how to play and it was indeed a fitting tribute to his lab-

ours that he should be an honoured spectator at the first game played in Renvyle recently.

After a ding-dong struggle St. Flanagan's, Clifden, defeated neighbours Renvyle by 3-10 to 3-6.

After the match I spoke to 90-year-old Mr. Patrick Salmon, Renvyle, a keen hurler in his day.

He said: "The West is definitely awake again. I was a young lad when the last hurling match was played in Renvyle, but now that the ice has been broken, I hope to see more contests here."

With men like Bro. Fabian, Dick Power, P. Kerrigan, Paid Kennelly and Tom Connolly at the helm prospects are high that Patrick's wish will come true.

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SHIRTS, PYJAMAS OVERALLS SPORTING TOGS

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Mike Regan Passes

By MORGAN MORRIS

The death took place recently, of Mr. Mike Regan of Charlestown, Co. Mayo, a noted Gael of older days.

A brilliant footballer he starred with Charlestown Sarsfields who dominated Mayo football from 1890 to 1905.

He was a member of the Mayo side which lost to Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1904.

His three sons, Tommy ("Danno"), Willie and Pete were all stars of the Gaelic pitch. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

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London's Gaelic Circle

By MICEAL O'BRIAIN

ONE of London's best-known Gaelic Clubs is "Gasra na nGael," which has its headquarters at St. Michael's Hall, Victoria. Founded in 1952, the objects are to promote Gaelic culture, and on the social side to organise Summer outings, concerts and various other functions.

Great progress has been made and one of the Circle's most popular groups is the Gaelic drama section, which emphasises the importance attached to speaking of the Irish language. This group participated in last year's "London Feis."

The Gaelic Circle hold their ceilis every fortnight and every ceilis sees an increased attendance.

JOE KELLY

No mention could be made of this club without mentioning the name of Joe Kelly, whose ceaseless work and unbounded enthusiasm are mainly responsible for the present successful state of the club.

As a tribute to his work the office of President was created which he will be the first to fill.

Officers elected at the Annual General Meeting were: Chairman, Mr. T. McGinn; Secretary, Miss E. McCreehan; Treasurer, Miss B. McCrory.

London Prepares

London's Irishmen will mark St. Patrick's Day in a big way this year.

Arrangements are well under way for concerts, ceilithe, parades and many other functions to mark the feast day of Ireland's National Apostle.

The number of functions is expected to create a new record.

'We Are All Irish'

"We are all Irish no matter what part we come from" said Fr. Finnian, O.P., at the Cumann Gaelach Ceili on Saturday, Feb. 18. He was warmly received by the large crowd.

Fr. Finnian spoke of the Missions at present being held for the Irish in England.

Coláirte Náisiúla Naomhtha Beataí a' Dóirín Co. Roscomáin

Ní imrítear ac cluicí Saedeaíca annreo Peil Saedeaíca, Liaitroir Láime, Iománaídeáct

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Rhode Glamour, Team of Offaly

SIXTY YEARS ago a well-beloved Parish Priest, visiting Dublin, bought three footballs which he took home to Rhode and distributed to three areas in his parish—thus sowing the seed that was to bear such fruit and give Offaly and Gaeldom a succession of its most colourful county players; and a team that, of all others, brings the most glamour to an Offaly football final.

As the new century dawned Rhode won its first senior title, and from then on a succession of family names have had constant association with the teams down the years—the Quinns, the Kilmurrays, the McGlynns and the Murphys, to mention but a few.

Later on came a succession of Dunnes—Jim and Maurice, followed by Big John and his smaller brother, Jim. Later still there were Tom and Mick Dunne; and in the twenties who can forget the Callans—Bill, Dan and Paddy—and those two great kickers, Dick and Joe Connors.

BROTHERS

Came the thirties with its galaxy of brother players—the Glennons, Paddy and Jack; the Leonards, Billy ("Spot") and Joe; the Murphys, Mick and Jim; the McGlynns, Dan and Seamus, while Dick "Boiler" Conroy was without equal at this time.

The next decade was to introduce still further sets of brothers—The Caseys, Mick and Paddy; the Kerrigans, Billy, Paddy and Mickey; the Eustaces, Fay and Christy; and, occasionally, the third brother, Ned.

In addition to these family names that year the brothers Christopher and Peter Jones; Tom and Joe

Murphy, not to mention Brendan Hoey and Eamon Lenihan, harken back to memory the names of those who won that first title in 1900.

And, lastly, mention must be made of the two great stalwarts who so often appeared for their county and club, veterans Peter Leavy and Johnnie Owens.

PROUD TRADITION

Behind the formidable list of families stands a proud tradition that will not easily admit defeat. With the grand total of 13 titles to their name, Rhode are confident of bringing home another title this year.

Under the patronage of Very Rev. Fr. W. Dowling, P.P., Rev. J. Griffin, C.C., and the Chairmanship of Peter Leavy, the Rhode Club to-day is guided by a committee of young enthusiasts and wise veterans.

Vice-Chairmen are L. Murphy and P. Stevenson, while Peter Leavy and M. J. Ennis hold the money box.

In their Hon. Secretary, Gregory Ennis, they have a hard working young man who has a keen interest in the Club and the games; while on the Selection Committee sits a group of young and not so young men who select what they think is the team fit to take home the honours.

RECORD OF OFFALY SENIOR TITLES

HURLING:
1896—Killoughey. 1897—Kinnitty. 1898—Coolderry. 1899—Fortal. 1900—Cadamstown. 1901—Coolderry. 1907—Killoughey. 1908—Drumcullen. 1909—Tullamore. 1910—11—Coolderry. 1912—13—Birr. 1914—Coolderry. 1915—Birr. 1916—17—Coolderry. 1918—19—Drumcullen. 1920—Kinnitty. 1923—Kinnitty. 1924—25—Drumcullen. 1926—Coolderry. 1927—29—Drumcullen. 1930—Kinnitty. 1931—Coolderry. 1932—Tullamore. 1933—Drumcullen. 1934—37—Tullamore. 1938—Birr. 1939—Coolderry. 1940—Birr. 1941—Drumcullen. 1942—Coolderry. 1943—44—Birr. 1945—Coolderry. 1946—Birr. 1947—Coolderry. 1948—Birr. 1949—Coolderry. 1950—52—Drumcullen.

FOOTBALL:
1896—99—Tullamore. 1900—Rhode. 1901—Quarrymount. 1902—Geashill. 1903—Cloghan. 1904—7—Geashill. 1908—Tullamore. 1909—Dainegan. 1910—Banagher. 1911—13—Tullamore. 1914—16—Killeigh. 1917—Tullamore. 1918—19—Rhode. 1923—Rhode. 1924—26—Tullamore. 1927—29—Rhode. 1930—Tullamore. 1931—Rhode. 1932—Tullamore. 1933—34—Walsh Island. 1935—Tullamore. 1936—Edenderry. 1937—38—Walsh Island. 1939—40—Rhode. 1941—Tullamore. 1942—Walsh Island. 1943—Tullamore. 1944—Rhode. 1945—Cloghan beat Rhode. 1946—Tullamore beat Rhode. 1947—St. Mary's (Geashill) beat Rhode. 1948—Tullamore beat Rhode. 1949—Rhode. 1950—Geashill beat Rhode. 1951—Edenderry. 1952—Dunrow. 1953—Edenderry beat Rhode. 1954—Tullamore beat Rhode. 1955—Rhode beat Dainegan.

Sligo's G.A.A. Activities

By PATRICK HICKEY

HEARTENED by their recent win over a strong Mayo team, G.A.A. followers in Sligo are asking themselves: "Will 1956 be Sligo's year in Connacht?"

Indeed, it could very well happen that next July will see the men in black and white come out on top in the provincial final.

At present they have the nucleus of a really powerful fifteen. In White, Tully, Scannell and O'Dowd they have defenders of the highest calibre and at centre-field Gaffney and Kearins will not easily yield.

PROBLEM

But the selectors have a forward problem which must be solved. Scoring forwards are scarce at present. Christie, McDonnell and H. O'Dowd are all dangerous, but support must be got for this trio before the championship starts.

Within the county the game continues to flourish. The senior league commences on March 4th.

Tubbercurry must once again be considered favourites to retain the League title, but their near neighbours Tourlestrane are also a force with which to be reckoned.

In the North Craobh Rua are emerging from the doldrums. A newcomer to the town's playing strength is J. McCabe, the well-known Cavan defender. Reports from the Craobh Rua camp indicate an accent definitely on youth.

TWO GOOD PITCHES

Big event in G.A.A. circles in Sligo last year was the opening of the new G.A.A. stadium—Coun-

less Markievicz Park in the county capital.

This leaves the G.A.A. in Sligo equipped with two parks equal to the best in Connacht.

Sligo's National League campaign does not make very pleasant reading. In their opening game against Cavan they surprised even their most ardent followers and won well.

FANCIED

Within the county they were quietly fancied to account for Westmeath in Mullingar, but forward failings left them with only a three-point lead at the interval, and two tragic errors in defence ten minutes after the restart caused a brace of goals, and from that Sligo were never in the picture.

They ran Meath to a point in Ballymote, but went down dismally to Longford. Then came their first outing of 1956 and it brought the unexpected but highly merited win over Mayo.

No account of football in Sligo would be complete without reference to St. Mary's College, Summerhill.

Connaught senior hurling champions for the last two seasons they are still very much in the picture in this year's championship.

JUVENILES

Juvenile football is also well catered for within the county, which has its own Juvenile Board. Last season's juvenile championship was not completed, but the Juvenile Board hopes to settle this

in the very near future. Present champions in the Sligo juvenile world are Riverstown.

St. John's School, run by the Marist Brothers, in the town itself, are triple holders of the juvenile crown but relinquished the title to the Riverstown boys this year.

Sligo town sponsors an inter-School League each year. The games are played on the St. John's school pitch and miniature cups are presented to the victorious team.

HURLING WEAK

The hurling position in Sligo is weak. Only two clubs compete, Craobh Rua and Ballymote. Present hurling champions are Craobh Rua, but something will have to be done if the game is to continue.

The game has not caught the fancy of the Sligo public, but last year's Galway v. Cork match did help a great deal.

Perhaps if more such ties could be arranged then might the youth of Sligo be inspired to follow in the footsteps of Ring, Daly, Hartnett, Duggan, O'Neill and Sammon.

Last year Craobh Rua held a competition confined to the five county champions of Connaught Tuam Stars had the honour of becoming first bearers of the proud title "Connaught Club Champions."

Plans for this year's tournament are well under way and a great hosting of Gaelic followers is expected in Sligo on April 22 when the senior club champions of each of Connaught's five counties do battle to earn a place in the final the following Sunday.

1955 TITLE HOLDERS

Senior football, Tubbercurry; junior football, Curry; Minor F.C., Tubbercurry; Juvenile, not finished; Senior League, Tubbercurry; senior hurling, Craobh Rua.

SOME NEW IDEAS

By FLACCUS

JUST about this time of the year things begin to lag in Gaelic affairs, and interest becomes merely academic. Many of the League matches played over this period draw such small crowds that they scarcely pay the expenses for staging the game.

It is, in general, a season of Board meetings and Annual General Meetings; and the "fans" sit at home by the fire telling old tales of last year's championship, or looking forward longingly to the Railway Cup games and the new campaign.

SHOT IN THE ARM

This is the time of the year which needs a shot in the arm, and

the injection of an idea or two to brighten up the whole scene.

My suggestion is that one or two novel games should be played, to capture the waning interest; after the St. Brendan Cup games most Gaelic fans forget about the inter-county scene.

Yet there remains plenty of good weather in October and November and again when the days grow longer in the end of January and in February.

What about an under 25 v. over 25 contest, to settle for ever the question of youth and experience, and the question of whether the "good old 'un" would beat the "good young 'un"?

What a job there is in that for you amateur selectors? What would your teams be, and who would win?

BEST CLUB TEAM

And what about a County Champions Championship, to decide Ireland's greatest club team. That is, surely one of the most vexed questions wherever Gaels meet to reminisce.

The claims of St. Vincent's, Glen Rovers, Mount Sion, Eire Og (Kilkenny), Thurles Sarsfield, and many others have been propounded in recent years as the unofficial All-Ireland club champions.

And just now, in Cork, they are saying just the same about Mossy Finn and his merry men of the 'barrs.

And do you remember those stirring games for the All-Ireland colleges individual championship. They produced some of the finest games of any year; hurling and football at its best, and as it should be played, cleanly and hard.

Those games had everything—let's have them back!

"My Ireland Teams"

A Chara—Here are the teams I would like to see represent Ireland and The Rest in hurling:—

(Ireland): A. Redden (Tipp.), M. Byrne (Tipp.), N. O'Donnell (Wexford), A. O'Shaughnessy (Cork), J. English (Wexford), P. Stakelum (Tipp.), V. Towmey (Cork), J. Salmon (Galway), J. O'Connor (Waterford), S. Clohessy (Kilkenny), D. Kelly (Limerick), J. Smith (Clare), T. Flood (Wexford), J. Greene (Clare), C. Ring (Cork).

The Rest: F. Boland (Galway), Bob Rackard (Wexford), D. McInerney (Clare), J. Doyle (Tipp.), J. Finn (Tipp.), W. Rackard (Wexford), L. Shalloe (Waterford), J. Morrissey (Wexford), D. Sheedy (Clare), J. Carney (Clare), Podge Kehoe (Wexford), J. Duggan (Galway), J. Clifford (Cork), N. Rackard (Wexford), V. Cobbe (Limerick).

Mise le meas,

JOHN COLLINS

Kilmark, Danaoh, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Coláise Cnoc

A'Samhraidh

Sligeac

Cluicí Gaelacha

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Their Victory in the 1955 County S.F.C. Set PRESSBOX Tracing:-

(This is the First of Two Instalments)

A LINK with 1896 was forged last year when South Kerry battled their way to the final of the Kerry Senior Football Championship and overcame the might of the North in a replay. We all know the tremendous amount of interest the match aroused and that it drew a record crowd to Tralee's Austin Stack Park. But for South Kerry folk it was a flashback to the "great hours of glory" even before the clarion call was issued by Cusack, Davin and the great Archbishop Croke in 1884. Let's take a look briefly at the history of football in Iveragh.

South

In the "old days" there were matches almost every Sunday on the Island. When the young Islanders were not on the football field they were gathered either at the cross-roads, behind the Watch-house or in the slate-yard. At the first-named place there were contests in "casting," long jumping and rounders. In the two latter places hand-ball enthusiasts would be butting away from last Mass to dark.

Hence it was that the lads were always fit and ready for a match. They were never lacking in support from the people of the Island. But their greatest admirer and helper was Father John Casey (later Archdeacon of Castleisland) their beloved parish priest, who threw himself into the forefront of the small band of workers that started the G.A.A. on a firm footing in Iveragh.

The Gaels of that time idolised their parish priest, and when a warrant was issued for his arrest, under the Balfour Coercion Act, they formed bodyguards, and never left Father Casey unprotected night or day until the Land League War was finished.

TWENTY YEARS

Though the Association was not properly launched until 1884, Valentia had football matches twenty years previous, as can be seen by the following report of a match, played against a team from HMS Racoon, taken from the "Tralee Chronicle" of June, 1866:-

"John O'Driscoll, Esq., sent a challenge to the Captain of the man-of-war, HMS Racoon which

was at anchor in the harbour, to bring ashore his football team for a match with the Islanders. The crew lowered their boats, and gallantly to land they came equipped for action and admirably suited for manly exercise—free, supple, buoyant and cheerful.

"Some of the Island boys were at their ploughs and some dredging for seaweed since day-break, and few if any had dined when the summons went around to come to the field of play. They quickly doffed their wet clothes and donned the best they could afford, and the prospect of a contested field brought a current into their veins that soon dispelled hunger, thirst and toil.

"The Valentia men were:—Michael Lynch, John Shanahan, Thomas Young, "Tos" O'Sullivan, John Donoghue, John O'Sullivan, John Lynch, Pat Driscoll, Jim Harrington, Charles Murphy, Frank Donoghue, John Bourke, Pat Sullivan, Tim Driscoll and Pat Kelly. The umpires were John O'Driscoll, Wm. Burke, Rd. McGinn and Wm. Brown.

NO WEAK SPOTS

"The goals were set at 180 yards apart. The Valentia men wore white and the Racoon men blue and white. The ball was thrown in at three o'clock and soon were the colours mingled, and soon did the chosen ones on each side cast searching glances for the weak points on the opposition, but no

slackness there was found.

"First on the grass rolled a white jersey. This was the work of an officer, who seemed to have studied the Ulysian art of tripping. The tumult thickened, the ball was buffeted to and fro and could not get along."

"Down you go Patlander" shouted an officer at the poles. "A guinea on you" shouted an old chap near him. "O'Sullivan and Ballyhearney for ever," cried a gruff voice in a northern accent, and ere the words had died out the man-of-war's man lay full length on the ground.

"It was soon found that the Island boys could each and every one of them throw an officer with ease, but the best of it was that all was taken as part of the game in the best of tempers.

"The first goal was scored at the end of half an hour by Valentia, and though the game went on for another four hours no further score was made.

"The Racoon men showed not

the matches often ended in free fights, as the spirit of factionism was still rife in the land.

However, when the rules of the G.A.A. were established, there was a marked improvement in the demeanour of both players and followers, and the style of play was much improved. Credit for this must be given to virile young teachers home from St. Patrick's Training College, Dublin.

These men were the star players of the Erin's Hopes, who were then Ireland's best team:—James Fenton, N.T., Waterville; John Dillon, N.T., Spunkane; Dan Sullivan, N.T., Valentia; Ml. Devane, N.T., Portmagee; John T. Clifford, N.T., Foilmore; J. J. O'Connell, N.T., Ballycarbery and Johnny Hussey, Portmagee, who was home from Rockwell College.

These great pioneers started parish against parish matches, and thereby laid the foundations of the G.A.A. in Iveragh.

THREE TIMES

The first game under the rules was played in what was known as Shanahan's Field, Valentia, between Waterville and the Islanders. There were 21 men on each team and they played an hour a side. A return match was played in Waterville a fortnight later. Phil Sul-

the Dinglemen in Dingle in aid of the O'Connell Memorial Church.

The challenge was accepted, and the steamer "Tartar," which was in Valentia Harbour was chartered to carry the team and its followers, the latter coming from all parts of Iveragh. There were about 900 on board the ship.

This was an historic excursion, inasmuch as it started a friendship between the peoples of Iveragh and Cork—a guiney, which exists to this day. The Iveragh team got a rousing reception in Dingle and the match was played in Condon's field to the west of Dingle town.

TWO HOURS

It was a hard match, lasting two hours. The only score got was by Johnny Jones. This was disputed. The ball was kicked out by the goalie; Phil Sullivan drove hard at the flying ball and burst it. Thus ended a great game.

The Iveragh team: Mick Shanahan (capt.), "Farmer" Driscoll, Ml. Lynch (Cool), Thade Riordan, John and David Jones, Phil Sullivan, Dan Morley, Pat Driscoll, Ml. Murphy ("Fine Man") (Valentia), Dan Shea (Coonana), Jas. Fenton, Dan Sullivan Post (Waterville), Eugene McGillicuddy (Renard), Ml. J. Healy, Jim Sugrue, Pat Sugrue, Pat Thade Sugrue (Caherciveen), Dan Sullivan, N.T., Pats Falvey (Valentia).

The following year Iveragh having properly organised teams, entered the County Championship. Until the railway was extended to Caherciveen they had to travel by side-car and "jingle" to Killarney and then en-train for Killarney or

Kerry's

Football

History

only good mettle but good temper. They took their falls in jolly mood and paid them back in the same way. The dusk drawing on, Lieut. Poore called on his men to stop and expressed his high opinion of the Valentia boys—he candidly admitted that his party got the worst of it, as they had little expected."

RUGBY BALL!

Ten years after the above match Robert Fitzgerald of Glanleam, took an Island team to Tralee to play North Kerry. The match was played with, believe it or not, a Rugby ball! It was a hard-fought game with victory going to the Islanders. The outstanding event in the match was the driving of the ball from goal to goal by "The Prussian"—Pats Phil Murphy. In those days a kick of this kind was as good as a victory.

About this time teams were springing up all around Iveragh, Foilmore, Caherdaniel, Ballinskellings, Coonana, Caherciveen and Portmagee had clubs.

Their rules were mainly the old "troidirin," which meant you could catch, trip or shoulder your opponent whether he was actually playing the ball or not. Consequently

livan and Dan "The Post" had some hard encounters in this game. About a month later these teams met again and the outstanding feature was the splendid exhibition of football given by James Fenton, N.T., Waterville's captain.

Foilmore at this time had a great team, in which there were some first class players such as Patie "Liss" Sullivan, his brother Eugene (later Fr. Eugene), Owen Gow O'Sullivan and Mike Foley.

In 1888 Valentia and Caherciveen had progressed so far that they had to establish junior teams. The former was captained by "Scelig" and the latter by Thady Murphy. There was an age limit of 17 years, and these teams used meet in home and home matches.

In 1889 Fr. Casey sent a challenge to a young priest in Dingle who was the guiding light of the "gascons" of those days to play

Tralee to meet opposing teams.

About this time the Association got a very severe set-back by the death of James Fenton, N.T., Waterville. He had been trojan work organising the whole of South Kerry. He had a first-class record with the "Erin's Hopes" (Dublin), of which Pat McGillicuddy was captain.

The latter was now working early and late to make the Caherciveen team the best in Kerry. He brought in players from outlying districts notably Paddy Donoghue, of Ohermang (afterwards Dublin's star forward), Eugene McGillicuddy, Renard, Mike Devane, Portmagee, John Sugrue, Kilcoman, and some others.

Including these with the town lads, he soon had a first-class combination, whose outstanding merit was speed. (To be concluded next month).

A GLANCE AT N.L. HISTORY

By "EIRE OG."

THE G.A.A.'s main purpose of establishing the National Leagues—Hurling and Football—was to keep the counties actively engaged when the Championship season had concluded.

The leagues were started away back in 1925-'26 but the methods of conducting the competitions have been changed considerably, with the passing of time.

One fundamental aspect however, has not altered in the least, the county or counties who took a keen interest, and planned accordingly, have reaped a rich reward.

PREPARATION

There is no better medium of preparing a team for the championship, than a full round of the National League competition, and the fact that the counties concerned in the semi-finals and finals are richly rewarded by a division of the proceeds.

In glancing over the winning list of counties, in both hurling and football, it is remarkable how often the same county crops up.

Tipperary hold an unique record in hurling. In fact of all the counties who have won the competition, Tipperary are the most consistent. Other counties have had a run

of success like Limerick, who were practically unbeatable in the glorious days of the Mackeys and Ryans.

Dublin and Cork were always consistent, and Galway up to a point made their pressure felt. The records show both Kilkenny and Clare in rather unfavourable light.

Kilkenny have not won the trophy since Eddie Doyle captained the team against Limerick away back in 1932/3.

WEXFORD-TIPP. FINAL

The present campaign is now approaching the concluding stages and one would not necessarily have to be an expert to name Wexford and Tipperary as the likely finalists for 1955/6.

So far as football is concerned Kerry dominated the scene in the early days. Then came Mayo's long run of victories which gave them the title of "the League experts."

In the past few years Meath took League and Championships in their stride. Cork's lone victory

was accomplished in 1952 and one title is credited to New York that of 1949-50.

FORMULA

The cardinal factors in securing success in the Leagues are the same as in the Championships. Fielding fully fit teams, and as near as possible to full strength.

Cases in point how Wexford in hurling and Dublin in football.

Counties who reach the concluding rounds of the League, need not worry about finding funds to train teams for the major competition.

Here is a list of League winners since their commencement.

HURLING

1925-26 Div. I Cork; Div. II Clare; 1927-28, Tipperary; 1928-29, Dublin; 1930, Cork; 1931-32, Galway; 1932-33, Kilkenny; 1933-34, Limerick; 1934-35, Limerick; 1935-36, Limerick; 1936-37, Limerick; 1937-38, Limerick; 1938-39, Dublin; 1939-40, Cork; 1940-41, Cork; 1941 and 1942, Leagues suspended; 1943-44, Tipperary (won a four county competition; 1945, Tipperary (won four county division, South-East); Clare won South-West); 1945-46, Clare; 1946-47, Limerick; 1948-49, Tipperary; 1949-50, Tipperary; 1950-51, Galway; 1951-52, Tipperary; 1952-53, Cork; 1953-54, Tipperary; 1954-55, Tipperary.

FOOTBALL

1925-26, Laois; 1927-28, Kerry;

1929-30, Kerry; 1930-31, Kerry; 1931-32, Kerry; 1932-33, Meath; 1933-34, Mayo; 1934-35, Mayo; 1935-36, Mayo (Div. I); Offaly (Div. II); 1936-37, Mayo (Div. I), Longford (Div. II); 1937-38, Mayo (Div. I), Tipperary (Div. II); 1938-39, Galway; 1939-40, Mayo; 1941 to 1944, Abandoned; 1945-46, Meath; 1946-47, Derry; 1947-48, Cavan; 1948-49, Mayo; 1949-50, New York; 1950-51, Meath; 1951-52, Cork; 1952-53, Dublin; 1953-54, Mayo; 1954-55, Dublin.

ST. BRENDAN CUP

1954, New York beat Mayo; 1955, Dublin beat New York.

And to conclude, a list of Leinster Champions:-

Senior Hurling: Kilkenny (32); Dublin (21); Wexford (9); Laois (3).

Senior Football: Dublin (22); Kildare and Wexford (10 each); Meath and Louth (8 each); Kilkenny (3); Carlow (1).

Junior Hurling: Kilkenny (12);

Offaly (5); Dublin, Westmeath and Kildare (3 each); Laois, Wexford and Meath (2 each); Carlow and Wicklow (1 each).

Junior Football: Dublin (9); Louth (7); Wicklow and Kildare (5 each); Westmeath (4); Carlow, Meath and Longford (2); Offaly, Laois and Wexford (1 each).

Minor Hurling: Kilkenny (13); Dublin (8); Laois (2); Meath (1).

Minor Football: Dublin (8); Louth (7); Wexford and Longford (2 each); Offaly, Laois and Westmeath (1 each).

Leirim Leaders

Leirim's 1956 G.A.A. officers are: Chairman: Rev. S. Manning; Vice-Chairman: Rev. Fr. Duffy; Secretary: Mr. Thomas Riordan; Assistant Sec.: Mr. Charles O'Neill; Treasurer: Mr. J. McNally.

Everybody is drinking

SMITHWICK'S ALE

Focus on Ulster



"T.P." AT THE HELM

By JOE GILMARTIN

FOOTBALL in Cavan is at a low ebb, but if anyone can restore the county to its former glory, T. P. O'Reilly, the newly-elected youthful Chairman of the County Committee, is the man to do it.

The Breffni county hit the "big" time in Gaelic football in 1928 when a little fancied side put up a great struggle against Kildare in the All-Ireland final.

Since then the county has garnered five All-Ireland titles, one National League title and one "Home" National League success. Five major titles in 28 years is a good achievement but, unless new talent is discovered soon, there seems little likelihood of a sixth in 1956.

NO HIGGINS OR TIGHE

Some maintain that the side lacks a "personality"—a Mick Higgins or Tony Tighe—who can inspire the team when things are not going well. Others contend that the fault lies within the county; that the local championships lack colour or that too many of the stars live outside the county.

Shrewd judges, however, give as their opinion that Paddy Carolan is such a "personality" and that the Mullagh man has no peers as a centre forward.

I agree, but it is unfortunately true that Paddy is highly inconsistent and when he strikes an "off-day" there is no other "personality" to provide the necessary drive.

New talent has been discovered in the persons of U.C.D. man Jim McDonnell and College of Pharmacy player, Hubert Gaffney. McDonnell is capable of great things. He has football sense, "magnetic" hands and the "heart" but, like Carolan, can be inconsistent.

Gaffney has the same attributes but lacks that bit of robustness, that drive, so necessary in a successful inter-county footballer. If Gaffney could speed up his tackle and use his weight more he would rank as one of the greatest wing halves in the country.

PROMISING

Cootehill's Charlie Gallagher is another promising recruit. Brother of the better-known Brian, Charlie has much of his brother's craft and skill but has more heart for the game than Brian and with experience should be a great success.

The local championships, undoubtedly, could be brighter. When one remembers the pre-split Slashers and their memorable clashes with the then king-pins of football, Cornafean, of the famed O'Reillys—"Big Tom," the late John Joe and Father Brian—Mick Denny, Patsy Phair, Packey Joe Masterson, and Willie Young... it is easy to become saddened by the change.

And what of the great Mulla-

horan teams of the O'Reillys—yes, the "other" Big Tom, the Bradys—forebears of the renowned "Gunner," and the Wilsons?

What has happened? Well, emigration—that cursed disease—is one cause. The flight from the land to our cities is another.

But, one feels, there is yet another reason. Lack of incentive? Has the youth of the county lost interest?

These are questions which "T.P." will put to his new committee and I, for one, feel that he will grapple with the situation with all the zeal and enthusiasm which characterised his play on the field.

Thus reassured, I hesitate to cross off Cavan as an All-Ireland winning prospect for 1956.

Trial Games Please?

SAYS CHARLES E. O'NEILL

ARMAGH County Footballers who are to contest the semi-final stage of the National Football League haven't had a game since December, when they met Tyrone in the final of the Dr. Lagan Cup.

Now we are into March and as yet there is no word of challenge matches to get the lads from the North in fit condition for the serious test ahead.

COME ON NOW ARMAGH CO. BOARD, LET'S HAVE SOME MATCHES. TIME IS MARCHING ON.

What about inviting the great Lily Whites of Kildare?

Their last appearance in the Primatial City was away back in 1925/26 when the famous Paul Doyle (R.I.P.), Joe Loughran and Matt Goff showed us how the game should be played.

REPEAT

How about a game with Louth? Or better still—Kerry—our great friends whom we almost defeated in the 1953 All-Ireland?

Armagh folk would dearly love to see a repeat of that memorable final.

Get the Armagh team fit and this time it may be third time lucky.

DERRY'S LOSS

FOOTBALL in Derry City which has been on the upgrade for the past few years, has suffered a severe setback by the announcement that Eire Og will no longer take part in competitive football.

This decision has been forced on the management due to financial difficulties and the inability to field a team.

One of the oldest clubs in the City, Eire Og won the County Senior Championship three years ago, defeating Desertmartin, a star-studded side, in the final. Their Minors figured in the county final this year.

There should be keen competition for the services of the "Og" men and I hear that Sarsfields have fixed-up four of them. Their assistance should prove invaluable to the boys from Rosemount as they are at present leading the Streets League.

Although one's loss is another's gain we all wish Eire Og a speedy return to the game.

L. McG.



Ulster Senior Football Selection which defeated Connacht in the Railway Cup Semi-final at Casement Park, Belfast on Sunday, 19th February

Questions That Must Be Answered

By BREANDAN MacLUGHADHA

THOSE three topical questions have arisen again: (a) What should be done about the isolation of the Galway hurlers? (b) The Ireland v. Combined Universities games, and what changes are necessary? and (c) Should we have an All-Ireland Club Championship? They are questions which have been brought up annually and need an amount of careful consideration before any definite steps can be taken.

The problem of the isolation of the Galway hurlers is a very old one, and the proposed remedies are varied and all worthy of some consideration.

That any county should reach an All-Ireland final without competition is farcical, and should not be allowed happen.

FIVE ANSWERS

Five different solutions are offered.

- (1) Let Galway into the Munster Championships;
- (2) let Galway into the Munster and Leinster championships on alternate years;
- (3) have a fixed semi-final draw with Galway meeting the Munster and Leinster champions on alternate years;
- (4) have an open draw;
- (5) include Clare in Connacht.

To include Galway in either the Munster or Leinster championship would leave Connacht unrepresented and would not help in any way to the growth of hurling in the West, therefore I would rule out suggestions one and two. Suggestion three offers little change from what was done

up to recently. Four, having an open draw, would I feel be unpractical, so I am left with the suggestion of including the Clare hurlers in Connacht.

History tells us that the old provincial boundary for Connacht was the Shannon, but what really influences me is the keen rivalry that has existed and still exists to-day—between the hurlers of both counties.

In the last five years both teams have met eight times in either National League or some other major games, and if my memory serves me right, the results were two Galway victories, one Clare victory and five draws.

ALL-IRELAND STANDARD

Clare's absence from the Munster championship would not to any great extent take from it and on the other hand it would give Clare the scope it needs. For a number of years now they have had teams capable of winning the All-Ireland, but for one reason or another after a hectic beginning

they slipped up.

To have to deal only with Galway before reaching the All-Ireland semi-final would surely suit the Banner County men. For Galway it would mean an acid test each year before they reached Croke Park.

The keen competition would ensure careful training and a striving for top class fitness by both teams, it could also mean an awakening of interest in the Caman in the other Western counties.

In the Railway Cup competition, a Clare-Galway selection would be a big power and would be a fair match for either Leinster or Munster.

APPEAL LOST

The Ireland against the Combined Universities series, most people agree, has lost its appeal. In hurling it has proved a failure, and to have the pick of Ireland's footballers beaten by the students some of whom are not of even inter-county grade, seems to point that something is wrong.

So instead of the present arrangements I would suggest that two teams be chosen from the pick of the country in both football and hurling, a Probables v. Possibles selection.

A panel of five Central Council members and five Press men could decide who in both codes should get an Irish jersey, and a gold medal.

The Irish jersey would no longer be something to be given out in the dressing room before the game. It would be the highest honour which any player could gain, and it would surely be striven for and cherished by the winners.

In the February issue "Dixie" suggested that it was time an All-Ireland Club Championship was revived. At first glance the idea appealed to me, but when I delved further into the matter another picture presented itself.

As most of us know, the club championship existed way back at the end of the last century. There was no county competition, but actually these clubs did not confine themselves to their own members and in many cases they were almost full county selections.

The dangers of such a series today are that first of all they would interfere with and take away from the inter-county competition.

The honour of the "little village" would be placed before that of the county and it would surely mean a lowering of the standard of county teams.

Secondly there would be the danger of one club in each county growing powerful.

Players who have no definite ties to any club would join it and this would, of course, be the ruination of county championships. There would also be the danger of a club "drafting" players from other clubs.

These are just a few of the dangers I can see in an inter-club competition. Of course they might never occur but at least these possibilities exist.

HISTORY REPEAT?

(BY "DIXIE")

LAST season Ballyduff won the Kerry Senior hurling championship for the first time since 1890. Kerry folk now hope that history will repeat itself this year and the boys of Ballyduff will lead Kerry to an All-Ireland hurling victory as they did in 1891.

Hurling has made remarkable progress in the county during the past twelve months. Early last summer the Kerry Juniors met a strong West Limerick selection—including many of the Limerick County team that accounted for Clare in the Munster Senior hurling

final—and after a draw beat them in the replay.

CONFIDENT

Encouraged by their success in these friendly games and by a good win over Waterford they were confident when taking on Cork at Tralee in the Munster semi-final.

But the Rebel County's experience and craft proved too much in the closing quarter.

In the National League Kerry have accounted for Laois and Roscommon and judging by these game displays they should be a force in the 1956 Munster Championship.

Coláiste Searóto

Naofa

Caisteán an

Úarraig

Cluicí Saetaáa ar

Fáo

LEITRIM FOOTBALL

INDIFFERENCE IS THE TROUBLE

By CRIADOIR

SINCE 1927, when defeated by Kerry in the All-Ireland Senior semi-final, Leitrim has only won one match in the Connaught Senior Championship! This must be a record. Many factors are held responsible for this dreary history—hard luck and emigration among them.

But emigration is not a valid excuse. What about Cavan, Kerry and Roscommon in that regard? Compared with Cavan, there is very little football played in Leitrim. There were 75 matches played in the Junior Championship in Cavan last year! Were there 15 matches played in Leitrim?

WRONG NOTION

There is a notion prevalent in Leitrim that a small number of good clubs is better than a large number of mediocre ones. Thus we have the spectacle of one minor team catering for three parishes, one of them an urban parish. This theory reduces the

number of clubs and consequently the number of youths participating in inter-club football.

That many officials are unacquainted with the capabilities of players was proved in the National League. Three vital matches were played and lost before a team to do justice to the county was hit upon.

Two or three trial matches earlier on would have averted all this trouble.

The prospects of the county junior team were excellent as last year's championship opened. Yet some players refused to turn up and others went astray on the

road to Castlereagh where Leitrim and Galway were to have played. This occurrence was taken by everyone with great calmness. Defeatism and indifference by some players, officials and supporters have done far more harm to football in Leitrim than emigration.

Loss to Wicklow

By "DIXIE"

BIG loss to Wicklow county minor football team this year will be Brian Murray who emigrated to England late last season.

The Arklow boy gave some fine displays for his county in the full-back line in the 1955 championships and was eligible for two more years.

Brian comes from a great football stock; his father was a fine exponent of the code in his heyday.

Brian had his first major success when he captained the Arklow under-16 team which won the Dublin-Wicklowmen's Cup in 1954.

In 1955 he played juvenile, minor and senior with the club.

Coming Ref.

By "DIXIE"

MOST popular referee in Wicklow for the past two years has been "Fitz" Moulis of Annacurra.

The man from the mountain parish is not only popular with the whistle but is also a fine footballer and last year gave a fine display for Annacurra in the county final.

Rumour has it that he will figure on the 1956 selection committee.

KILKENNY CONVENTION

"The Home of Handball"

"I BELIEVE 1956 will see us consolidate our position as 'the home of handball,'" said Mr. J. Gilmartin, Secretary, at the Annual Convention of the Kilkenny Handball Board in the City Hall. "We owe it to ourselves and our county to be perfectly fit for the All-Ireland campaigns."

Handball honours were not easily won, he said, and when the county championship started in March, a player was engaged almost every Sunday until the end of September. It was a long time in which to keep in condition, but the sacrifices were worth while if National honours were gained.

Mr. J. O'Brien (Talbot's, Inch) Chairman, congratulated the Ullard partnership of T. Ryan and S. Lanon on their wonderful victory in winning the All-Ireland junior softball doubles title.

TRIBUTE

He thought it only fitting that after a long number of years in the forefront of county handball activities, they should make their presence felt in no uncertain manner in All-Ireland championships.

He also paid tribute to Joe Mahon (Goresbridge) for the part he played in the winning of the title. The Senior S.B. doubles title had been relinquished to a very sporting Kerry pair.

Referring to the Minor H.B. Doubles final, he said that in his opinion, the referee's interpretation of the rules might possibly have lost a National title for Kilkenny.

He complimented M. Sullivan (Clogh) on the great fight he put up to retain the title which he jointly held with M. Hayes (Talbot's Inch).

Secretary Gilmartin said that as usual they found difficulty in finishing the Co. Championships, but those that were finished were fairly equally divided.

WINNERS
Talbot's Inch won minor hard and softball singles and junior softball singles, Clogh won minor softball doubles and junior softball doubles; Kilfane won intermediate softball singles; Ullard won intermediate softball doubles.

They cancelled all hardball championships, but the minor hardball singles. The team of six rests between Clogh and Ullard, who are in the final.

"Our finances," he continued, "are no different than in past years. We can just make do. Were it not for the G.A.A. grant we would undoubtedly be in debt, and for this grant we are very grateful."

INDEPENDENCE

"However, we should strive to be independent. I would like to stress the 'collect all gates, no matter how small' policy. Gates will probably improve in 1956 with the advent of contests in the senior grade after almost 20 years."

Officers: Chairman, J. O'Brien (Talbot's Inch); Vice-Chairman, F. McCarthy (Clogh) and Sean Monahan (Talbot's Inch); Sec.-Treas., J. Gilmartin (Talbot's Inch); Leinster and All-Ireland Congress delegates, J. O'Brien and J. Gilmartin.

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Handball on the Road Back

BY J. T. MacNAMARA

THE Munster Handball Convention was held in Limerick recently, and it was fitting that the Convention should be held in this city where handball has risen phoenix-like from the ashes of past glories to be a living sport again.

With the closing down of the famous Rutland St. ball-court in the thirties, the game lapsed into near decay, and the venue which saw the glory of J. J. Bowles and his associates was no more.

However, thanks to the enthusiasm of long-serving lovers of the game, and practical assistance from public men, handball has come back into its own in the Treaty City.

CROWDS

Outstanding matches and competitions have been played at Killeely and St. Mary's Park Handball Courts, and the crowds are flocking back again.

Seven clubs were active during the past season, and officials look forward optimistically. Limerick Corporation, too, has helped in a very practical way in the revival by expending £3,500 for the improvements to the courts.

Very Rev. Canon O'Carroll, Ald. Steve Coughlan, Ald. J. Carew, and, of course, the Mayor Ald. G. E. Russell have all put up trophies for the game, and have shown what public representatives can do for our national pastimes. Highlight of Limerick's come-

back in Handball, has been the meteoric rise of eighteen-year-old St. Munchin's player Tom McGarry, who has won two All-Ireland titles this year, minor singles and with Martin Mullins, the minor doubles.

McGarry has the honour of never conceding a rubber in any game he played for Club or County this year—some record!

Handball is on the way back in Munster—and in Limerick it has come to stay

My Ireland Team

A Chara—Here is my Ireland Football Team: S. Morris (Cavan), J. O'Shea (Kerry), P. Prendergast (Mayo), M. Moylan (Dublin), S. Murphy (Kerry), T. Maguire (Cavan), J. McDonnell (Cavan), J. Dowling (Kerry), J. Nallen (Mayo), C. O'Leary (Dublin), M. McDonnell (Meath), T. Lyne (Kerry), O. Freaney (Dublin), P. Donoghue (Cavan), J. Culloty (Kerry).

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD MCGEE
Corlough, Co. Cavan.

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