

GAELIC ECHO

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Anti-Irishism

English Paper Retracts

By EAMONN LEAHY

THE "East-London Advertiser" retracted its remarks about G.A.A. games which we reported in the last issue of the GAELIC ECHO.

An article by the same columnist the following week had the caption "Irish Rebellion" and the following:

"My Irish friends (if I have any left after this particular piece of blasphemy) point out in no uncertain terms that my appeal for recruits to form a Gaelic Football Club was both ungallant and unsporting."

He then referred to a letter which he received and continues: "Hurling, which, to my untutored mind is a style of hockey, is indulged in by the Gaelic section of the community. Gaelic football, I have since learned, is a robust, exciting affair requiring a good deal of skill."

Ras Gaillimhe

L AUGHT (Co. Galway) Cycling Club are making plans for "Ras Gaillimhe," a hundred miles cycle road race which will be held on April 29.

Already many of Ireland's leading wheelmen have promised to take part and the race promises plenty of thrills as the first man home will be eligible to compete in the eight-day Ras Tailteann in August.

Big Entry

Eighty-five teams have entered for the North Tipperary G.A.A. Championships this year. Ten have entered for the S.H.C.; seven in Intermediate; twenty-eight in Junior hurling; 13 Minor hurling; eleven in Junior football and six in Juvenile hurling.

Willie Mahon of Athy

WILLIE MAHON of Athy, who died recently was a member of Athy's Championship winning team in the first decade of the century.

He was one of the three Co. Board trustees and on a number of occasions represented Kildare on the Leinster Council and at the All-Ireland Congress.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

NORTHERN STANDARD

MONAGHAN

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EXILE TEAMS TO TOUR

TWO English football teams—Wolf Tones (Lancashire) and St. Vincent's (London)—will visit Ireland during the Summer for challenge games.

St. Vincent's are anxious to play a Longford selection early in August, and also hope to play Athlone, the Westmeath, Leitrim and Longford senior champions.

Wolfe Tones have planned a tour of Longford, Louth, Carlow, Kildare, Cavan, Leitrim and Kilkenny.

Good Wishes from Cardinal D'Alton

Dear Mr. Farrell,

I wish the GAELIC ECHO every success in its new venture, and I pray that God may bless it with abundant fruit. Your plan to bring out a special London edition of the paper is in every way praiseworthy. This will be an inspiration to our emigrants, and will help to foster in an alien atmosphere their devotion to the homeland and to our national culture and ideals. Your paper will ensure that the ties which bind them to their native land are not broken. Your inclusion in the GAELIC ECHO of an 'Agricultural and Industrial Review' should serve to make better known what is being done at home to build up a happy and prosperous Ireland.

Beannacht De ar an obair.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
* John Cardinal D'Alton.
Ara Coeli, Armagh.
12th March, 1956.



Members of the Anti-Partition of Ireland League who took part in the National Festival parade through Whitehall on Sunday, March 11.

No Medals for Factory League

GALWAY Co. Board have certainly put a damper on this year's inter-factory hurling league by refusing to present medals to last year's winners—McDonaghs. To add spice to the competition—started two years ago—the Co. Board were asked to present a set of medals.

Apparently the Board officers are under the impression that foreign games players are taking part in the League!

It would be a pity to deprive the City of this league which has provided such thrills in the past.

Handball too

Galway's Inter-factory Hurling League Committee have decided to sponsor an Inter-Factory Handball League as well.

Revival

MAYO N.C.A. Board are making an all-out effort to establish athletics in all colleges and schools in the county this year.

Last year Mayo had only five registered clubs and forty-six registered athletes!

So at the annual convention recently Hon. Sec., Johnny Walsh appealed to all teachers to cooperate in the revival movement.

Re-Play

Wexford and Tipperary Hurlers will stage a re-play of the National Hurling League final when they travel to London to play for the Monaghan Cup at Whitsuntide.

Fund Appeal

N.C.A. Team for Olympics

Football Film Stars

KERRY, Dublin, Cavan and Mayo footballers who played in last year's All-Ireland semi-finals and final were on the screen in Italy last month.

A film of both semi-finals and the final was shown at the 17th International Competition of sports films, and it was awarded a prize.

A film on Hurling was also shown, but did not receive a prize.

Sean Retires

SEAN FLANAGAN, Mayo's footballing T.D., has decided to call it a day. For the past thirteen years he has been one of the county's stalwarts and holds two All-Ireland medals. Strange as it may seem, Sean has not won a Mayo S.F. medal. His club was Ballaghaderreen.

THE NEWS THAT THE N.C.A. ARE TO SEND A TEAM TO MELBOURNE TO COMPETE IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES IS A JOYOUS ONE INDEED TO ALL WHO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE POSITION OF OUR ATHLETICS.

A nation-wide appeal for funds is to be launched and the team will be selected after a number of trials.

TIME FOR ACTION

The time has come for the N.C.A. and the N.A.C.A. as well to wake up and defy the ban which deprives Irishmen of the right to compete internationally as a nation.

Thanks to Seosamh Mac Críostail of Dublin the N.C.A. have already taken the initiative.

It was he who proposed the recent dramatic motion and was also responsible for the sending of the team for the World Championships last September in Rome.

It is to be hoped that the N.A.C.A. will follow suit, as only by coming out into the open and claiming our lawful rights of competition and recognition will the athletes of the world know of our grievance.

ANOTHER MILESTONE

By BAIRTHEOIR

THIS issue marks another important milestone in the expansion and progress of the GAELIC ECHO. For this month we issue a special London Edition of our paper—an event surely epoch-making in the realm of Irish Sports' journalism.

It is, therefore, in order to say a congratulatory "Well done!" to the men of vision and courage who initiated such a kindly gesture towards our Irish exiles abroad. They deserve the thanks and support of all Gaels, at home and abroad.

And if we appreciate aright the stuff of which they are made, we know that the London Edition does not mark the end of the road for the Directors, or Manager. Ere long we may be happy to congratulate them on a New York Edition!

YOUR FORUM

And now to our exiles an appeal and an invitation. This paper is your forum. Account to us for your successes in which we shall rejoice. Tell us of your difficulties and failures, with which we shall sympathise. More, we shall use our best endeavours to provide aid and succour, for we realise that your efforts are worthy of our whole-hearted support.

U.C.G. on the Warpath

By "SIDELINE"

WITH hurleys for tomahawks the girls from the West are in quest of scalps—scalps in the shape of camogie medals—the U.C.G. camogie players mean business.

I firmly believe that the leap year has gone to their heads, as having spreadeagled all opposition in the Ashbourne competition, they affiliated for the County Championship and have ensconced themselves in the final—and firm favourites to win.

On March 11 they put paid to Tuam's hopes with a 4-0 to 0-2 win in the semi-final and await the victors of the Oranmore-Girls' Club match for their final opponents.

I have delved feverishly into files and records and discovered to my dismay that there is no other competition in the county to appease their appetites.

Where, then, shall they turn for further victims to conquer? My fellow-students and I have—considering this leap year threat—decided to pursue our studies in the solitude of the mountains and the tree tops as these girls just don't know where to stop.

People have been complaining that the Galway hurling team is deprived of match practice for the All-Ireland series.

I say give them a few games

with U.C.G., we could get the girls to promise not to be too hard on them.

Actors' Help

FERRILL (Co. Laois) Hurling Club annual meeting voted thanks with the local dramatic class for their contribution of £40 to the club funds.

Officers: Rev. S. Collier, C.C.; Chairman, John Gorman; vice-do., Ml. Mockler; Treasurer, T. Dowling; Secretary, Wm. Delaney; Asst.-Sec., Thomas Grace.

Committee: P. Keyes, F. Campion and T. Butler. Senior Capt., J. Murray; Vice-Capt., Liam Gorman; Junior Capt., T. Keane; Vice-Capt., John Keyes.

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ENQUIRIES INVITED

The Mitcham Stadium Ghost

THE NAME MITCHAM WILL ALWAYS MEAN THE SKIRL OF THE PIPE AND THE CLASH OF THE ASH, BUT, ALAS! THE STADIUM IS NOW A GHOST, REARING SKELETON LIMBS TO THE SKIES.

The stands which once seated the best elements of Gaeldom are being dismembered piece-meal and the turf is upturned by mechanical means. This final refuge of the Irish in London may soon be the address of hundreds of families, some of whom may indeed be Irish.

AWKWARD

To Woolwich, therefore, we will go, knowing that it will not quite dispense the comforts of Mitcham, either mentally or physically.

There is probably a very good reason why the bigger matches must be played in those suburbs which are most awkward of approach. The thought, however, has occurred to many that there must be stadia nearer the heart of London, and more easily accessible.

True, the cost might be greater, but surely this would be compensated for by bigger crowds and greater advertisement for Irish games in Britain.

It is a long time since hurlers met the shinty players of Scotland and probably there are many who do not know that such a game as shinty exists, and if they do, think of it as a poor relation of "gowf."

In fact it is. The still alive and kicking Scottish variation of hurling played with the three-cornered

stick strikes terror into the heart of the bravest opponent.

In a certain corner of North-West Ireland a team which uses the shinty stick and methods still plays in the county hurling championships.

A Scottish national shinty team playing the pick of London's hurlers would be an event to attract the crowds.

Might one suggest that the registered governing body of the shinty world be approached. The resultant publicity could only do good to both forms of the same game. Incidentally, which stick has the better right to be called the "camann"?

Footnote: The last occasion that the hurlers of Ireland played the Scottish shinty players was at the Tallteann Games at Croke Park in 1932.



The Wexfordmen's Association, London, pose for a picture prior to taking part in the Annual Procession on Sunday, March 11.

THE LONDON G.A.A. DRAWS

Tipperary Cup.—(A) Tara v. St. Vincents; (B) Shamrocks v. Naomh Mhuire; (C) St. Joseph's v. St. Patrick's; (D) Galtymore v. Garryowen; (E) N. Micheal v. G. Roosters; (F) St. Monica's v. St. Mel's; (G) Cú Chulainn v. St. Senan's; (H) Round Towers.

Quarter Finals.—(I) A. v. H.; (J) B. v. C.; (K) D. v. E.; (L) F. v. G.

Semi-Finals.—I. v. J.; K. v. L.

S.F.C.—(A) Garryowen v. St. Vincent's; (B) R. Towers v. Shamrocks; (C) Tara v. St. Senan's; (D) St. Joseph's v. G. Roosters; (E) Galtymore v. Cú Chulainn; (F) St. Mel's v. St. Patrick's; (G) Naomh Mhuire v. Naomh Micheal; (H) St. Monica's.

Quarter Finals.—(I) A. v. H.; (J) B. v. C.; (K) D. v. E.; (L) F. v. G.

Semi-Finals.—I. v. J.; K. v. L.

S.F.L.—Group A.: Galtymore, G. Roosters, N. Micheal, St. Monica's, St. Senan's. Group B.: St. Mel's, Shamrocks, St. Patrick's, Tara, St. Vincent's. Group C.: Garryowen, St. Joseph's, Naomh Mhuire, Cú Chulainn, R. Towers.

Intermediate F.C.—(A) G. Roosters v. N. Mhuire; (B) F. Provinces v. St. Monica's; (C) St. Vincent's v. Glen Rovers; (D) S. Rangers.

Semi-Finals.—A. v. D.; B. v. C. **J.F.C.**—(A) St. Colmcille's v. R. Towers; (B) St. Mel's v. St. Thomas; (C) Shamrocks v. B. Pearse; (D) Parnell's v. G. Rovers; (E) Seán McDermott's v. St. George's (1); (F) St. Senan's v. Garryowen; (G) S. Rangers v. Sarsfields.

Second Round.—(H) St. Brendan's v. T. McCurtain; (I) St. George's (2) v. Emerald; (J) C. v. E.; (K) B. Boru's v. F.; (L) A. v. D.; (M) Y. Ireland's v. St. Finbarr's; (N) G. v. S. McDermott's (3); (O) S. McDermott's (1) v. B.

Quarter Finals.—(P) H. v. I.; (Q) J. v. K.; (R) L. v. M.; (S) N. v. O.

Semi-Finals.—P. v. Q.; R. v. S.

S.H.C.—Y. Ireland's v. Naomh Mhuire; (B) Galtymore v. Tara; (C) A. v. St. Mel's; (D) Cú Chulainn v. T. McCurtain's; (E) B. Boru's v. B. Pearse.

Semi-Finals.—B. v. C.; D. v. E. **J.H.C.**—(A) St. Finbarr's; (B) St. Mel's v. B. Boru's; (C) St. Thomas v. St. Colmcille's; (D) M. Doheny's v. St. Martin's; (E) St. Monica's v. St. Brendan's; (F) T. McCurtain's v. R. Emmet's; (G) Sarsfield's v. Emerald; (H) Y. Ireland's v. S. McDermott's.

Quarter Finals.—(I) A. v. C.; (J) B. v. D.; (K) E. v. F.; (L) G. v. H.

Semi-Finals.—I. v. J.; K. v. L.

J.H.L.—Group A.: T. McCurtain's, St. Thomas, R. Emmet's, Y. Ireland's, B. Boru's, St. Monica's, St. Martin's.

Group B.: St. Colmcille's, St. Brendan's, St. Mel's, Emerald, Sarsfield's, M. Doheny's, S. McDermott's, St. Finbarr's.

L.H.C.—(A) Brian Boru's v. G. Rovers; (B) Cú Chulainn v. B. Pearse; (C) Sarsfields v. R. Emmet's; (D) Tara v. N. Mhuire.

Semi-Finals.—A. v. B.; C. v. D.

The London-Irish Pass By

By EAMONN LEAHY

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE IN LONDON WAS ONE OF THE MOST COLOURFUL I HAVE EVER SEEN.

Led by a pipers band, followed by the Gaelic League, the G.A.A., Schools of Irish Dancing and many county associations, the parade made its way from Horse Guard Parade to Westminster Cathedral.

Buses, cars and all modes of transport came to a standstill to let the Irish pass by.

Hundreds on the sidewalks boasted a tri-colour on their coats.

On arrival at Westminster Cathedral, all entered for the Rosary in Irish. His Eminence Cardinal Griffin officiated at Benediction and the congregation sang "Faith of Our Fathers" and "A Pádraig, do Céad Las."

An occasion long to be remembered by Irishmen in London. Great credit is due to the organisers.

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The G.A.A.'s Debt to the Dr.

Should Handball be Played on Wet Courts?

By J. CLARKE

THE playing of Championship games and other important contests on wet courts is a subject that has been engaging the attention of not a few of our leading players of late.

Personally, I have always been opposed to the use of other than bone-dry alleys and have invariably refused to participate in any major contest where court conditions failed to measure up to this requirement.

REFEREE DECIDES

As the Rule stands at present, the referee is charged with the responsibility of deciding whether the court is playable or not.

Which is ample protection for the players, you will say, but it does not always work out that way.

Take a case where several hundred spectators have arrived to see an important contest; rain falls as the players are due to take the court.

Calling off the game would necessitate the refunding of all admission dues and sending the players back to their own county—possibly a hundred miles away. Is that not placing too much responsibility on the shoulders of one man?

A better arrangement, in my opinion, would be to leave the decision to the discretion of the players, with the proviso—that if any one of them considered the surface dangerous, then the match was off.

The only real abuse which such an arrangement might lend itself to would be that of an "off form" player attempting to force a temporary postponement in a border line case. But as such is unlikely, the probability could be ignored.

ADVANTAGES

On the other hand, the advantages that would accrue—especially to competitors—if such an agreement were agreed to, would be many.

(1) It would relieve players of the ever-present fear of accident. Rubber-soled shoes on a wet surface are dangerous.

(2) It would restore balance between contestants by cancelling out the obvious advantage in "skid serve" and play enjoyed by the heavier and stronger players.

(3) It would result in more scientific and spectacular play—handball being essentially a game of ball control which is impossible on a wet surface.

(4) It would remove any suggestion of a player being unable to do himself justice, through nervousness.

(5) The inevitable ball deterioration, through dampness, would be prevented, with consequent advantage to the game.

Burning petrol and strewing with sawdust, are the usual methods adopted for drying courts, but the only real solution, of course, despite occasional condensation, is the covering in of the venue.

And who can say but that the adoption of the "anti-wet court" rule advocated here might even result in the roofing of many of our open alleys, especially in major centres.

Taking it all in all, I think it will be agreed that the case for the abolition of wet court play is a strong one. For in providing the best possible playing conditions for competitors, a greater service is being done the game.

Handball Spotlight

Fred Meggs, Man of Promise

By J. CLARKE

WHEN the delegates to this year's annual Convention of the Dublin City and County Handball Committee elected Fred Meggs (Metropolitan) as County Honorary Secretary for the 1956-57 season they paid singular tribute to a young pleyer who has not only gained rapid promotion from Novice to Senior Grade, but is certain to make a name for himself in the game in the not-too-distant future.

Fred hails from Kildare, where he took up the game at the Curragh when about 14 years of age. His first success came in 1952 when he won the Kildare Minor Championship—Army Section—and was chosen subsequently to represent the County in the Leinster series.

FOUR TITLES

Coming to Dublin, he joined the Metropolitan Club with whom he gained the County Novice H.B.S. title in 1953. The following year saw him take all four County Junior titles, a feat equalled only once before in the history of the event. Last year he won three of the four County Intermediate Championships, going under in the S.B. Singers to everybody's amazement.

Before the close of the season he teamed up successfully with his club-mate, National Senior H.B.S. title holder Austin Clarke, to take the County Senior H.B.D. title.

This year he has won the Crumlin section of the All-Ireland Gael Linn Cup Competition, beating the renowned L. Roe in one of the earlier rounds.

Fred has thus won nine County Dublin Championships, hard and soft ball, singles and doubles, in four grades, Novice to Senior, in the short period of three years—a fine achievement for a 21-year-old youth.

He possesses an ideal temperament for the game, and is blessed with a natural underhand stroke of great power.

His left hand, as yet, is a little weak, but with due attention should measure up to the near-perfection of the right.

All it needs is strengthening, which can best be achieved, in his case, by a complete disregard of the right in special practice games.

REVIVAL CAMPAIGN

Lena to Retire

Miss Lena Lennon, star Westport and Mayo midfielder, has announced her retirement from competitive camogie.

Lena played a prominent part in Mayo's Connacht Championship win and her retirement will be a big blow to the county and St. Mary's Club.

Harty Cup

By J. T. MacNAMARA

WHEN I was a young, impressionable schoolboy one of my greatest joys was to go to the Limerick Market Field, or, better still, by train to Thurles Sportsfield, and cheer with all the help of my pals the Limerick C.B.S. in their endeavours to annex the coveted trophy of Munster schools—the Dr. Harty Cup.

In those far-off days the G.A.A., the Ban, or anything of kindred nature mattered little to us. Our ambition was the winning of the Harty Cup.

OUR MEAT

Our good teachers kindled our enthusiasm for the native games and the thrill of the downfall of such worthy opponents as Rockwell, St. Munchins, or North Mon.

was just meat to our table.

This month I renewed my boyish interest in the Harty Cup—North Mon. were plying Ennis C.B.S. in the semi-final at Limerick.

There it was again—boyish glee, cheers and counter cheers, flags waving, scarfs blowing in the March breeze. The Cork boys won but only just—and while Ennis C.B.S. bit the dust in their first effort they went

down fighting, and will live to win again.

As I sat at home to write on the match, the thought struck me—what does the G.A.A. owe to the Dr. Harty Cup Competition?

Well, to my mind, something that it will never be able to repay, because it is non-purchasable—the fostering of the schoolboy's love of his native national game. This is an attachment which is seldom lost in afterlife, as is proved by the many stars in the G.A.A. sky, who learned to love the caman and slother in the thrilling games of the Harty Cup.

Since the beloved Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr. Harty (Patron of the G.A.A.) presented the Cup in 1918, look at the list of the winners, and imagine for yourself the hurlers who were produced by it to become household words in the lore of G.A.A. history.

WINNERS

1918, Rockwell; 1919, C.B.S. North Mon.; 1920, C.B.S. Limerick; 1922, St. Munchins, Limerick; 1923-24, Rockwell College; 1925-26, Limerick C.B.S.; 1928-29, North Mon.; 1930-31, Rockwell; 1932, C.B.S. Limerick; 1933, C.B.S. Thurles; 1934-37, North Mon.; 1938-39, Thurles C.B.S.; 1940-43, North Mon. C.B.S.; 1944-47, St. Flannans College, Ennis; 1948-49, St. Colmans College; 1950-51, C.B.S. Thurles; 1952, St. Flannans; 1953, Mount Sion C.B.S.; 1954, St. Flannans; 1955, North Mon.

Think of all the young minds matured in Gaelic love, and who proved this by their attachment to hurling in later years.

Check on the number of highest wins by any School or College, and famed North Mon. C.B.S. heads the list. Its contribution to the success of the great Cork hurling teams since 1918, needs no elaboration from me.

Cork's place in the hurling arena is such that it's star continues to shine brilliantly in the years when they lose the All-Ireland Championship as when they win it. There is no need for me to mention names of North Mon. boys who have led the Rebel County, nor the famous Limerick hurlers who first wore the white jersey of C.B.S. Sexton St., in the Harty Cup.

Same story applies to St. Flannans of Ennis, Thurles C.B.S. and all the other nurseries of Munster Hurling.

BULWARK

Dr. Harty was certainly one of the bulwarks of the G.A.A. in days when it was dangerous—when to carry a hurley was as illegal as to carry a gun.

But whatever else the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly did to assist the G.A.A. in his time, his everlasting contribution to its success was the presentation of the Harty Cup.

Camogie Convention

CALL FOR CITY CLUBS

By J. T. MacNAMARA

EVERY GAEL WILL ADMIT THAT THE NECESSITY OF A SUCCESSFUL CAMOGIE ORGANISATION IS EVER SO NECESSARY TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE G.A.A. BECAUSE AFTER ALL CAMOGIE IS THE NATIONAL GAME FOR GIRLS, AND ITS DETERIORATION IN A GENERAL WAY WOULD ISOLATE THE FAIR SEX INTO THE REALMS OF FOREIGN GAMES.

Its position in such a strong hurling county as Limerick bears interesting investigation, and while one side of the picture is good, the other side is very bad.

The good side is the country area, where nine clubs are affiliated—Stonehall Street, Senan's, Askeaton, Patrickswell, Adare, Croom, Efin, Banogue and Croagh.

THE BAD

By the bad area I mean the City, where not one Camogie Club exists.

With the latter a shocking indictment on the Gaels of Limerick still the Limerick County Camogie Board reported a very successful year at their recent meeting.

Listen to what Chairman Miss Chris O'Connell says: "We feel justly proud of last year. The game has been definitely accepted in the county, and the standard of play has reached a high mark. It is flourishing particularly in the West, where the Western G.A.A. Board have given us every encouragement."

Listen to what she has to say to her native city: "Here in Limerick City it is sad to state we have no camogie team. It is the only city in Ireland that this is so.

Even in Belfast, beyond the Border, camogie is flourishing

"Maybe if we here in the South had to work hard to achieve anything Gaelic like our sisters in the North, we might appreciate it more. Not even one school in Limerick is playing the game, and this is why it is so hard to get the game going."

Well said, Miss O'Connell!

It is hoped that her words will not fall on deaf ears, and that the county and city that produced such sterling Gaels as Sean O'Carroll (R.I.P.), Tyler Mackey, Dinny Lanigan, Jackie O'Connell, Mick Mackey and Paddy Clohesy will not let camogie die for want of support from the parent body.

Miss O'Connell and her helpers are doing their limited best and with much success in the county, but what about the lapse in the populous City of Limerick? Its remedy is called for and should be answered immediately!

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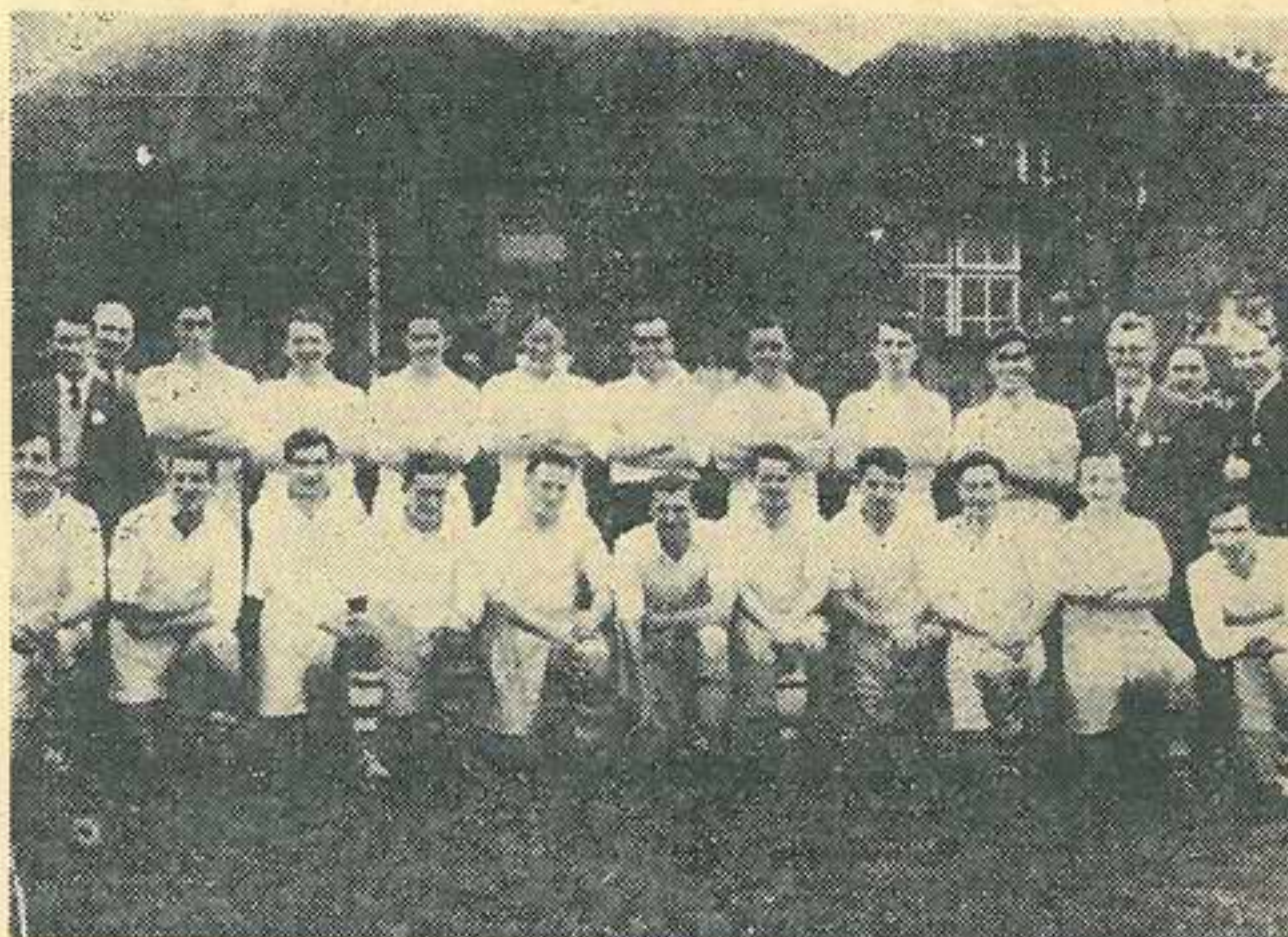
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Warwick's team which was defeated by Cork in the All-Ireland Junior Football Final at Glebe Farm, Birmingham, October, 1955. Front row (left to right): Bill Mannion (Galway), Mick Flaherty (Offaly), Jim Jately (Roscommon), Joe Johnson (Wicklow), Tony O'Neill (Donegal), Jim Wynne, Captain (Offaly), Pat Burke (Donegal), Paddy Halton (Cavan), Bill Maxwell (Donegal), Tom Quinn (Mayo), Mick Wynne (Offaly). Back row (left to right): Gerry Flanagan, Co. Secretary (Roscommon), Pat Tierney (Tyrone), Selector; Paddy Duggan (Antrim), J. Fitzpatrick (Monaghan), Charlie Deeney (Galway), Paddy Murphy (Roscommon), Dan McMahon (Limerick), Joe Turner (Mayo), Bob Malone (Kerry), Paddy Flynn (Armagh), Martin Langdon, Trainer (Galway), Chris. Holden, Board Chairman.



Warwickshire Senior Hurling Champions, St. Finbarr's of Coventry.

St. Catherine's G.F.C., Sheffield

By SEAN RYAN

ST. CATHERINE'S G.F.C., Sheffield, may well feel proud of their achievements, considering that they were only established in 1953.

During that year and the following season, 1954, they captured both the Yorkshire Championship and the League and are still going strong.

They hold a rather unique record, as during that period they were undefeated.

At their recent annual general meeting Very Rev. Fr. Kierns, P.P. (Wyborn), was unanimously elected as President of the Club. Father Kierns is a native of Kilkenny.

CLAREMAN

Chairman of the Club is Mr. John Ryan, a native of Clare, who is also Vice-Chairman of the Yorkshire Co. Board.

The Club Secretary is Mr. Michael Connolly, a native of Ballinasloe and one of the team's stalwarts, while the Treasurer is another Ballinasloe man, Tomas Kitt, who guards the net for the team as well.

Ably assisting the foregoing

Irish Bishop for Dinner

MOST REV. DR. MACNEELY, Bishop of Raphoe, will attend the Donegalmen's Association second annual dinner in London on April 26.

Mr. Eunan O'Donnell, the Association's Chairman, who is a native of Burtonport, hopes that the Minister for Local Government Mr. P. O'Donnell, will also attend.

The Association now has over 200 members in London.

officers are Messrs. Martin Coleman (Vice-Chairman) and Sean Ryan, two earnest workers.

We look forward to hearing from Sheffield in due course, and no doubt with their present array of talent, another title may be in the offing for St. Catherine's.

Learner!

AT a cilli recently in London a young man was seen wearing an "L" plate on his jacket. He was a beginner and decided to wear the "L" plate to let people know he was eager to learn.

Easter Game

TUAM STARS senior footballers will spend their Easter weekend in London. They line out at New Eltham on Easter Sunday at 2.15 p.m. against London Sean McDermotts for the second year in succession.

It looks as if this fixture is becoming an annual affair and we would like to see more clubs following the Tuam boys' example.

ORGANISERS

Men behind the scenes at the London end are: Jim Mullarky (Sligo), Joe Clarke (Tuam) and Jim Kearney (Meath).

The London boys will have the services of Christie Gannon, G. Shiel, P. Devine P. J. O'Reilly, J. Lyons, S. O'Brien and M. Hanly.

Tuam will include Sean Purcell, Frank Stockwell, John Lowry, M. McDonagh and John Nallen.

Warwickshire G.A.A. is Twenty-one

By G. O'F.

THE G.A.A. celebrated its "coming of age" last year. It will probably come as a surprise to most people to learn that the Warwickshire Board has been in existence for 21 years. For perhaps ten of these 21 years, however, the Association merely existed and it was not until after the war that the labours of the earlier members bore fruit.

The large influx of immigrants to the industrial Midlands during and since the war years has swollen the membership of the Association to proportions comparable to many of the counties at home.

FORTY CLUBS

It is expected that 40 clubs will be affiliated to the Board this year, the City of Birmingham having approximately 20 of these; Coventry are next with 8; Leamington, Leicester and Nottingham each with 2, and Wolverhampton one.

Nine competitions are run each year, Championship and League in senior and junior hurling and football, and a hurling competition open to both grades, so that all clubs are well occupied throughout the season.

The Headquarters of the Association are at 39 John Bright St., in the heart of Birmingham, and here every fortnight the Board holds its meetings.

Chairman of this progressive Board is Chris Holden, a native of Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny. Chris has been Chairman for the past four years and in that time he has earned the respect and admiration of the Gaels of Warwick.

The wisdom and great leadership he has shown since his appointment to the Chairmanship have contributed largely to the present happy state of the affairs of the Association in the Midlands.

CLERICAL SUPPORT

The Board is fortunate too in having the support and guidance of two fine Irish Priests, Father Maguire, Hon. President, who comes from Leitrim, and Father Ford of Mayo who is Vice-Chairman.

Secretary is Roscommon-man Gerry Flanagan, a comparative new-comer to the Board. This is his second year as Secretary.

The finances of the Board are in the safe and efficient hands of Derry-born Basil Guidera, formerly a member of the Ulster Council. Assistant Secretary, Pat Garvey, hails from Limerick, and Assistant Treasurer, Jimmy Fallon (Galway), keeps a watchful eye on finance in the outside districts.

Sean Cassidy (Mayo), Provincial Council of Britain Treasurer; Sean Higgins (Roscommon), former President of Provincial Council, and Bob Cunningham (Clare) are also prominent and experienced officers of the Board.

The greatest handicap to the progress of the Association in Warwickshire is the absence of an enclosed ground. The only playing pitches available at present are on Public Parks, and the Board is dependent on the generosity of the public for funds.

In the coming season a tremendous effort will be made to acquire an enclosed ground.

CHAMPIONS

Present senior football champions are Tara's of Birmingham. A team which always serves up football of a very high standard. They contested the final on three consecutive years and were finally rewarded last year when they defeated a fancied Emmets' side.

Emmets had previously dethroned the great Shannon Rangers of Coventry, who had reigned supreme for the three years 1952, '53 and '54.

No doubt, Shannon Rangers will be all out to recapture the title, but I am told that Tara's will have an even stronger team this year. A force that must be reckoned

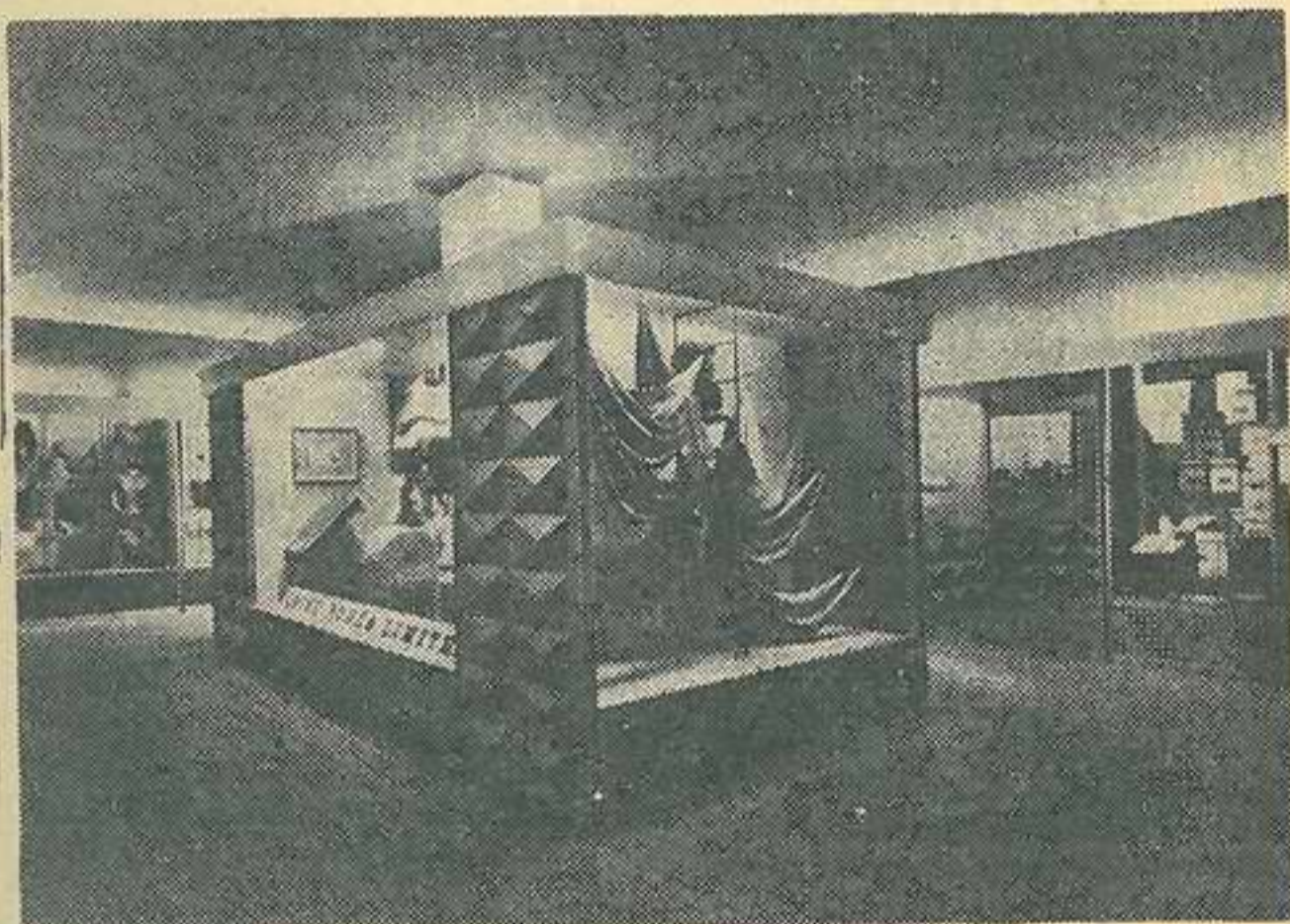
duce the form they showed last year, I am of the opinion that one of them can bring the title back to the city.

SURPRISE?

Here again, John Mitchel's, champions of former years, may be a surprise packet.

Warwickshire Gaels can certainly look forward to some thrilling epics in the coming season and there is every reason to expect that the Warwickshire Board will have an even more successful year than last, which was regarded as the most outstanding in its history.

THE IRISH EXPORTS CENTRE



This general view of the Exhibition at the Irish Exports Centre, Regent House, 235-41 Regent Street, London, W.1, shows some of the representative displays provided by Irish manufacturers and exporters. The centre also carries a wide range of samples from many other Irish firms.

Exiled Irish Watch the Export Drive

By J. CARR

STILL the meeting place of the caravan-ways from all points of the compass, London was the obvious place in which to open an Irish Export Centre. To it come the buyers and sellers from all over the world, and through it goes much of the commerce of the world.

It had become increasingly difficult to attract buyers to Ireland and if Irish commodities were to take any place in world markets Mahomet must go to the mountain.

EXPORT CENTRE

On July 21, 1955, with a suitable flourish of trumpets, the Irish Export Centre came into being, with headquarters at 235-241 Regent Street. Its joint sponsors were Coras Trachtala Teoranta, and a number of the more enterprising of Irish firms.

The object of the undertaking as set down by the Chairman at the opening were as follows:

1. The display of merchandise (Irish) to buyers.
2. The collection of information on markets.
3. The establishment of trade contracts.
4. The promotion of Irish exports.

Looking back over the year one can see that these objects have been strictly adhered to. The Centre, under the management of Mr. Sutton, who is also Foreign Trade Advisor, has concentrated on the establishment and promotion of sales in areas outside the British Isles and, in fact, outside Europe.

MADE IN IRELAND

Typical of the success attending their efforts is the fact that if a West African buys a radio, a cotton dress, a tin of meat, or a cake there is a good chance that which ever one it is will have been manu-

factured in Ireland. The same applies to many other overseas territories as far away as Siam.

One of the main aims of the Centre is the promotion of sales of hand-knit wear using the traditional Irish stitch, and in this there has been exceptional success with markets spanning the earth.

Considering the fact that the Irish Export Centre really only got under way in the autumn, very considerable success has attended all its efforts and it is really heartening to know that the Turks delight in Irish confectionery.

Lest I be accused of ending on a pun, it is indeed a fact that Irish sweets are being eaten in considerable quantities throughout the Middle East.

HEARTENING

To men and women who have left their native land through lack of work there, it is heartening to see that at last people of courage and foresight have banded together to put the name Ireland on the commercial map.

Hitherto it appeared to them as if Ireland was so ashamed of her products that she could only speak of them in a whisper.

Any attempt to rectify such a situation must only have the effect of creating employment so that there is little wonder that the Irish Export Centre will be watched with approval from the areas where the Irish reside in exile in Britain.



The Rackards
of Rathnure

MOST of the credit of Wexford's perseverance and final success in winning the All-Ireland Hurling Title must surely lie with these great hurling brothers—Nicky, Bobby and Willie Rackard.

For the past seven years the three of them have been the back-bone of every Wexford team—each as excellent as the other.

Nick's seven goals and seven points in the 1954 All-Ireland semi-final was an all-time record. Bobby's display in the 1954 final was one of the greatest ever seen and in the 1955 final Willie's display made him the outstanding hurler of the year.

Nicky, the eldest of the three, has the edge over the others in being longer in the limelight. Now thirty-three he has been playing for Wexford for a decade and for Leinster for almost the same length.

He has proved himself the greatest full-forward the game has seen in a generation. His bullet-like goals from frees and from play are the dread of all defenders.

Since the inauguration of the Ireland v. Combined Universities he was a regular selection of the Universities while a student, and of Ireland since. In his earlier years he was also an outstanding footballer and in 1950 held the distinction of representing his province in both codes.

Bobby will always be remembered for his display in the 1954 final when he moved into the full-back position to replace the injured Nick O'Donnell.

His fearless courage in snapping the sliotar from the air and his long clearances make him spectacular on all occasions. As a centre-half back he has no equal.

For the past five years he has been a regular selection both for Ireland and the Leinster Railway Cup team.

Willie proved himself as capable if not as spectacular a centre-half-back as Bobby in last year's final.

Twenty-eight—2 years younger than Bobby—he has been a member of the Wexford team for six years and has taken his place with his brothers on the Leinster and Ireland selections.

Also a capable footballer he has played for Wexford on many occasions.

After years of perseverance the Rackards have won their elusive All-Ireland medals. Each of them has proven himself a giant of the game and a sportsman on all occasions. To them must be allotted a special chapter in the annals of our native games.

Abbeyfeale

Abbeyfeale, County Limerick G.A.A. officers: Chairman, Rev. J. Liston, C.C.; Vice-do., Mr. J. Collins, T.D., M.C.C.; Sec., Mr. Thomas Mann; Treasurer, Mr. D. O'Mahony. Committee: Messrs. O'Kelly, Cotter, O'Connell, Tuohy and McCarthy.

PONTIFF'S ALLOCUTION
ON SPORT

HIS HOLINESS, Pope Pius XII, in his address on Sunday, October 9, 1955, to 50,000 representatives of all sports, gathered in St. Peter's Square to celebrate the anniversary of the formation in 1945 of the Sports Centre, the branch of Italian Catholic Action catering for physical recreation, directed attention to the basic aims and principles which should be borne in mind. His words bear close analysis by sportsmen the world over.

The Pontiff said sport was "one of the typical phenomena of modern society," and showed the same deep understanding of and sympathy with this subject as he has shown on many occasions in discourses to other specialist groups.

He classified three main types of activity: Gymnastics—which is the ordinary physical culture; Athletics—entailing the aim of a higher degree of proficiency; and Competition, which calls for training hard enough to achieve one's utmost. He stressed the necessity for obtaining a doctor's advice before tackling the more strenuous branches.

BENEFITS TO ALL

The Holy Father spoke of the duty of organisers to give the benefits of sport to all youth, including those who find participation difficult because of poverty. Might not we in Ireland realise then the importance of reaching all youth in the formative years through physical training in the schools?

His Holiness said that officials should have as well as a spiritual background and outlook, a training in technique which he deemed very necessary because of the modern organisation of sport. Good indeed, then, is the movement for more coaching of up-to-date methods.

The Pontiff cautioned, however, that though technique was something to be attained, there were higher and prior attributes: intuition, will, sensitive awareness, courage and tenacity.

In practical phrases he declared the importance of a sporting education in the development of a youth's intelligence and in the training of one's will-power.

VIRTUES

"Everything can contribute to this education: the consciousness of duty, the lawful desire for victory, small sacrifices gladly accepted, a proper sense of honour.

"The presence of a will prepared to engage in competition is revealed in careful and methodical

By
Donal A. Murphy

training, in perseverance following failure to win, in resistance to stronger competitors, in bearing discomfort, in courage and self-mastery.

"Education in sport aims also at developing in the young, the virtues proper to their activity. These are, among others, loyalty that excludes taking refuge in subterfuge, docility and obedience to the wise commands of the director charged with the training of the team, the spirit of self-denial when one has to fade into the background in order that the interests of the team may be furthered, fidelity to obligations assumed, modesty in victory, calm in adverse fortune, patience with spectators who are not always moderate, justice of the competitive sport is involved with financial interests resultant from free agreements, and in general chastity and temperance already recommended by the ancients themselves."

No place in this doctrine for the athlete "fixing" his handicap, sulking after a defeat or relying on his natural

genius alone to win. Nor for the hurrier refusing to abstain from late nights, liquor and smoking, confining his "training" to a few evenings pucking around for a fortnight before the match.

Nor for the footballer tripping, punching, kicking an opponent to his own dishonour and the risk of his team's fortunes.

PRAYER

The virtues enumerated. His Holiness states, cannot be attained or retained "without a deep religious spirit and, we would add, without frequent recourse to prayer."

The Christian and the sportsman, ...he asserted should not be separate personalities. Physical culture is not to be regarded as a distinct activity but rather as ammunition in the battle for Heaven.

It should be a relaxation helping one to do one's work, not interfering with the duties of one's state in life, with one's responsibilities to God and the family coming uppermost.

The Holy Father condemned methods of extreme training and the use of strong stimulants.

Obviously the lengthy training sessions of athletes in other countries, to the facility of which they are allowed special "jobs," and the grinding, body-tearing repetition of a harsh form of training cannot be reconciled with this teaching.

RESPONSIBILITY

His Holiness also noted the responsibility of spectators, organisers and journalists to discourage these and other abuses.

His Holiness looked forward to the Olympic Games, fixed for Rome in 1960, and to the meeting there of all nations "so that love and brotherhood may result from their mutual acquaintance."

Please God, our athletic brethren in time the justice of Ireland's claim to be represented as a unit in those Games, and we might pray too that Irish administrators will find the will and the way towards, first unity of intention and then, actual unity.

COLLECTIVE TRAINING: SECOND THOUGHTS

ABOUT THIS TIME RULES COME UNDER DISCUSSION, AND THE MOST HEATED POINT FOR TALK THIS YEAR, AND FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS, SEEMS TO BE THE COLLECTIVE TRAINING BAN.

We all know the arguments against collective training, the arguments that prompted the enforcement of the ban in the first place—"it is unnecessary," "it smacks too much of professionalism," etc., etc.

But, although these are fine in the cold impersonal light of logical discussion, they are not nearly so powerful in fact.

Kerry had always been a fierce protagonist of collective training;

Kerry people, of course, are labouring under a grievance; they still maintain that they were robbed of the 1954 All-Ireland by the collective training ban, because they had not then evolved a plan to overcome its disabling limitations.

Of course, one can hear the shouts of protest from the men of Meath who were certainly the better side on the day. But, even they will admit that they were

not so hard-hit as Kerry whose players were scattered to the four winds.

Meath's players centred in Dublin and Meath were in easy contact with a centre, and they were geared into top fitness, top form, and, most important of all in these big games, top teamwork.

There are, of course, other counties besides. Kerry up in arms about this ban, notably Roscommon, another county that favoured this method of training for big games, and throve on it.

And, among those counties who have no particular "goose to pluck" by holding one view or other, the general opinion seems to be that the ban should be abolished.

They seem to think that it is a matter for each county, and each case should be judged on its merits; if a county wishes to train its team by the centralised or collective method then let them and good luck to them!

But, then of course, there recurs the old and thorny question of remuneration for a week or fortnight absent from a job; how can this be justified?

In my opinion, it just can't! It amounts to nothing but payment for playing football, and such a dangerous element can mean nothing but bad for the game.

The step is a short one to demands by players for higher sums, under-the-table payments, or refusals, and who knows how soon we might see the headline—"Lightning Strike of Half-Forwards—All-Ireland Off."

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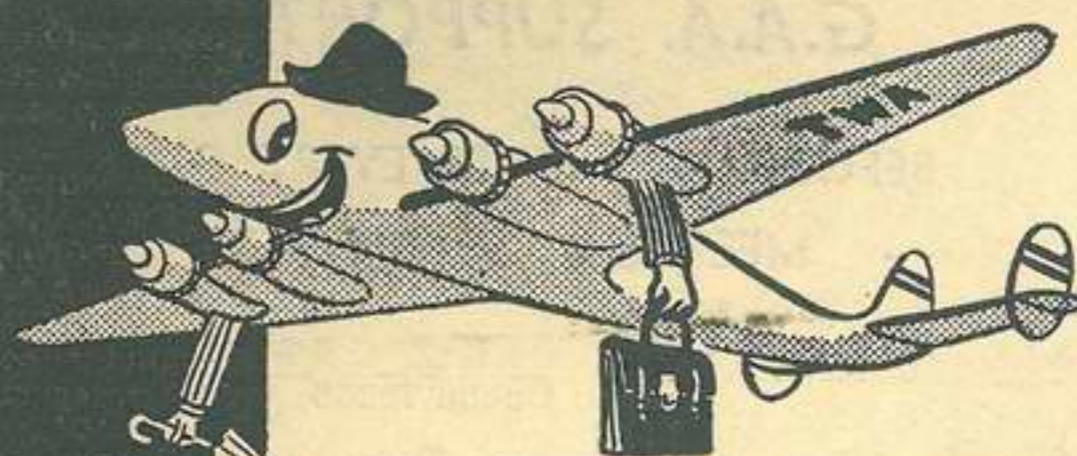
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National League Semi-Final

I TAKE CORK TO WIN

By LEESIDER

GREAT interest has been aroused at the meeting of Cork and Dublin in the National Football League semi-final on April 15. The most recent meetings of these teams in the League were in 1951-52, when Cork won a thrilling final and last year when the Metropolitans came out on top.

Dublin collected full points from their engagements in Division 3, beating Laois, Wicklow, Roscommon, Galway, Offaly and Louth. The Corkmen defeated Kildare, Carlow, Kerry and Wexford to win Section A of Division 4. They then went on to score an easy win over Tipperary, winners of Section B, in the Division Final.

THRILLER

All remember the thrilling and dramatic finish to the Home Final of 1951-52 when a point scored by Tom Moriarty (now with Kerry) in the fourth minute of lost time gave Cork victory.

Few will forget as well the free awarded to Dublin in the last seconds of the game. As time was out referee Dan Ryan of Kerry told the taker, Kevin Heffernan, that it was necessary to score direct and amid tense silence the corner forward sent towards the Cork posts.

Unfortunately for Dublin, the ball struck the upright and rebounded into the arms of Ollie Freney. Dublin had lost their last chance of equalising.

Of the thirty players on duty that day only eleven are likely to participate in the game on April 15. Dublin will have Moylan,

Lavin, Crowley, Whelan, O'Leary, Freney, Ferguson and Heffernan, while only O'Driscoll, Bernard and Duggan remain on the Cork side.

It is interesting to note that "Weeshie" Murphy who played full-back for the Southerners is now Chairman of the County Board, while the present Cork trainer, Capt. Eamonn Young, played left half-forward.

MISFORTUNE

In the semi-final of last year's competition Dublin emerged victorious by a narrow margin. Many Corkmen still maintain that victory would have been theirs had they not the misfortune to lose midfielder Sean Moore early in the game.

Dublin have a well balanced side. Goal-keeper Paddy O'Flaherty is one of the best in the game and the full line of Dan O'Mahony, Jim Lavin and Mick Moylan have also proved themselves to be in the top class.

I can't see the Cork corner forwards, Furlong and O'Donovan, getting the better of their opposite numbers though full-forward Niall Duggan may give Lavin some anxious moments.

WEAKNESS

The Metropolitans' half-back

line—likely to be Whelan, Tony Gillen and Nick Maher—may not measure up to Cork's "Toots" Kelleher, Neilly Duggan and Paddy Murphy.

At centre-field the likely Dublin pair, Jim Crowley and Marcus Wilson, should have some thrilling duels with "Eric" Ryan and Sean Moore. Honours may be even around here.

Sean O'Boyle, Ollie Freney and Cathal O'Leary can be most dangerous when in form but they will meet strong opponents in Paddy Harrington, Denis Bernard and Dan Murray.

Des Ferguson, Kevin Heffernan and Paddy Brennan are expected to give Der O'Sullivan, Donal O'Sullivan and near-veteran Paddy O'Driscoll some anxious moments, though if the latter can hold Heffernan it will greatly help Cork.

Paddy Tyres in the Cork goal has improved out of measure and is now in the top flight.

CORK TO WIN

To sum up I take Cork to win. As already stated there was very little between the sides when they last met and I consider this Cork team is better than the 1955 line-out.

Much will depend on their forwards and if Duggan, Fitzgerald and company are in scoring mood we may well see the downfall of the holders. Lately the Cork backs have been playing very well and in the recent Railway Cup semi-final the Rebel County representatives held their Leinster and Dublin opponents scoreless from play.

The advantage of the home venue for Cork with a strong local following could play a big part in the result.

Average age of the team members was 22 years and an interesting feature was that fourteen were total abstainers and eight non-smokers.

BROTHERS

Also on the team were three sets of brothers, the Wallaces, Billy ("Gay"), Tommy, Peter and Christy; the Fitzgeralds, Jim and John, and the Costigans, Ben and Jack.

Only link with the 1937 team was goalkeeper Tom Wallace who played as corner forward on that occasion.

Your Players in Dublin

By PEADAR BYRNE

WHEN a well-known provincial player comes to Dublin the folks back home are usually kept well informed as to his progress. Not so with his lesser known brother, who usually slogs through his playing career without ever receiving mention in the Press. We propose to rectify this position and, starting this month, we will bring you up-to-date reports on how your players are faring in Dublin.

And how fitting it is that the first man under review should hail from the home of football, Kerry.

DAN O'CONNOR

He is twenty-seven-year-old Dan O'Connor who learned his football in Killarney and who was a member of the Currow team that was narrowly beaten in the final of the East Kerry League in 1950.

When he came to the Metropolis five years ago, Dan decided to team up with St. Enda's in junior ranks and stayed with that club until it went out of existence eighteen months ago.

Then he joined the Cuchulain Club. Dan took a long time to find his feet in football here for, as he says himself, "Dublin junior football is tougher than the senior stuff back home."

However he has really hit form in the last few months, and speeding up his football considerably, he has infused great fire into his teammates—so much so, in fact, that Cuchulains are being freely tipped for Dublin junior honours in the not-too-distant future.

Another Kerryman who seems certain to hit the headlines in the near future is Cadet Tony O'Grady who hails from the Listowel district.

At twenty years of age, Tony has more football trophies than most men twice his age and given any luck, many more should come his way before he hangs up his boots.

INJURED

Coming to Dublin at an early age, Tony won innumerable schools' and juvenile trophies with Sgoil Ul Conail and was a mem-

ber of the Dublin minor football teams in 1953 and 1954 but in the latter year he suffered his greatest disappointment when injury robbed him of an All-Ireland medal with the Metropolitans.

Now he is off to the Curragh to assist the Military College in the Kildare Senior Championship and who knows—maybe there is another medal in the offing.

A Sligoman who is beginning to make his name in Dublin football circles is twenty-one-year-old John Cryan of Keash. Since coming to Dublin two years ago, John has been playing sterling football with the junior club Muiris O'Neills, and his high fielding, lengthy kicking football has been the instigation of many important successes by the South County Dublin club.

ATHLETE

Incidentally, John's sporting interests are not confined to the football fields as he is a very prominent member of Metropolitan Harriers N.A.C.A. Club and last year helped them to finish second in the Co. Dublin Novice Championship.

Finally we met a sturdily-built young Corkman who is a teammate of Dan O'Connor's on the Cuchulain team. His name is Edmund O'Flynn and he won a Cork Novice Championship medal with his native Kilsharrig in 1953.

Now playing at mid-field for his team, he has been turning in great displays in recent games and on the last day on which we saw him, he was easily the best of the mid-fielders on view. Should he speed up his game, he could become a force on the Cork county team in the years to come.

Ballypickas Champions After 18 Years

By CHRISTY PHELAN

WHEN Ballypickas Social Club sponsored a function recently at Abbeylax Town Hall they had as guests of honour Ballypickas junior hurling team who won the Laois Championship in 1955 after 18 years.

Co. Board Secretary, Patrick Lalor, presented the medals and said he had followed the fortunes of the present team with great interest.

DETERMINATION

They had been beaten in the final in 1953 and '54 and through their full-blooded determination had come back in '55 to prove themselves supreme.

By so doing they had shown themselves to have the stuff of which great champions were made.

He recalled that Cullohill had won the junior title in '53, the intermediate title in '54, and the senior in '55.

Having seen Ballypickas perform he was confident they were capable of the same achievement.

If the team stayed together he had no doubt that they were on the threshold of a golden era in the club's history.

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AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL REVIEW



FERTILISERS AND CEREALS

By "AGRICOLA"

THE results of experiments carried out in recent years indicates that by placing fertilisers near the seed of a cereal crop it will give a higher yield than by broadcasting the same quantity of fertiliser.

Evidence shows that placement of fertiliser will give up to 15 per cent. increase in yield in cereal crops while cutting down the amount of fertiliser, thus saving labour costs as well as ensuring that the crop receives maximum benefit from the manures applied.

SEED DRILLS

In nearly all manufacturers' catalogues of farming implements one will find combined seed drills listed usually at a price within the reach of any farmer.

These implements drill the seed and fertiliser ensuring that the fertiliser is placed in close proximity to the seed giving maximum efficiency.

Superphosphate can be drilled most effectively and economically at whatever rate the farmer requires it. A dressing of 1½ cwts. per acre when drilled is more effective

than 3 cwts. broadcast. This can be explained by the fact that the fertiliser is more readily available to the young seedling during the early stage of growth.

Experiments have been carried out with muriate of potash and at present there is no evidence to show that placement is more effective than broadcasting.

BETTER RESULTS

Nitrogenous fertilisers usually give better results if spread on a cereal crop at a rate of about 1 cwt. per acre just before the grain is formed. This tends to produce

Meat Exports Down

ARGENTINE'S exports of chilled beef and lamb to Britain has been reduced. The reductions are by 3,000 tons in beef and 2,500 in lamb

It is believed that this reduction—due to the Australian dockers' strike—will be reflected in increased demand for Irish meat.



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ROAD MAP

PRICE SIXPENCE

a larger ear but, nevertheless, 1 cwt. of sulphate of Amonia may be drilled separately without having an adverse effect on the yield of the crop. It is not desirable to drill heavier dressings.

Oat yields have shown a more spectacular rise than any other cereal. The drilling of 4 cwts. of compound fertiliser, of the ratio, one cwt. Sulphate of Amonia, two cwts. of Superphosphate and one cwt. of Muriate of Potash is likely to give a higher yield than a similar quantity of compound which has been broadcast.

Games and Sport in the Army

By CAOIMHGHIN O DUBHGHAILL

YOU are in the Army now! We mean, of course, that our purpose here is to spotlight for you one aspect of Irish Army life. The focus is on our Army sport: their games, engagements, and achievements on Gaelic Athletic Fields; their athletic prowess on sports fields or across country.

It is no part of our function to laud the admirable inducements provided by our Army Authorities for the promotion of games and sports activities among rank and file. We should prefer that they speak for themselves.

APPEAL

We hope to perpetuate this feature as a monthly column to focus the exploits of Army players and athletes. But even if we were equipped with the latest Fairey Delta Droptop Snoot Jet (which so recently not only broke, but shocked the air-speed record to the tune of 1132 m.p.h.) we could not cover everything.

You'll appreciate that when you begin to figure out distances from McKee to Renmore; from Ballincollig to Ceant, and from Columb Barracks to Dunriogh.

Thus our appeal for info. We shall be exceedingly grateful for a monthly memo from each Divisional Officer L/C Recreation and Training.

In that memo just this: their list of fixtures—games and athletic—if possible a brief write-up of engagements, and whatever else they should desire to publicise of their recreational life.

For all of which we say an anticipatory: Go rabh mile maith agaibh.

AN ARMY TEAM?

Very many of you experienced that rather excruciating debacle now recorded in G.A.A. history as the Guards v. St. Vincent's 1955 Dublin Football Final. That many Army men were disappointed by the poor showing of the former, was evident from the numbers of Army uniforms winding their way towards the Croke Park exits, soon after half-time.

We all tried to spur the overwhelmed Guards' team that day to greater endeavour. We even shouted: "Up Guards and at them!"

That of course had a dangerous military reminder for Army men. It was natural that it should turn our thoughts to great Dublin Army Hurling sides of recent years.

The sequel to which was inevitable. When shall we revel again in a top class Army Hurling side in the Dublin Championship series?

And now, Mick Daniels and other Army hurling stalwarts of

SPRING being with us again, Ireland's farmers are busy sowing crops. Many of them are wondering if 1956 will be a good year, but I wonder how many will take the trouble to ensure that their crops will be good?

By this I mean how many will take the trouble of testing their seeds for purity and germination.

TESTING

In weighing up the qualities of seed, such factors as weight, size and colour are poor indications. The only sure way to assess a seeds quality is by testing for purity and germination.

A good sample should contain the biggest possible quantity of seed, free from admixture with seeds of undesirable plants and noxious weeds.

Purity is very important. If in a sample of wheat seeds, there is also oat and barley seeds, the value

of the crop produced is reduced considerably.

A seed said to have a high percentage germination, may be described as having a character that, when sown under favourable conditions, it will be capable of producing a vigorous, uniform and healthy crop. Seed absolutely free from impurities is a rarity, but now, due to modern machinery there is no difficulty in procuring seeds which, to all practical purposes is pure.

SAME COSTLESS RETURN

Farmers in general, are hard to convince that inferior seeds, which appear to be cheaper, are, in reality, dearer in the end.

The cost of preparing is just the same when an inferior seed is used, while experience has shown that the returns diminish.

Agricultural Instructors are very keen to see the farmers in their areas testing seeds and will be only too glad to advise on sampling, etc.

erate all alibis for failures to field Army teams.

JOE HUGHES

It so happened that we contacted recently, one of our recruits of this year: Joseph Hughes (aged 18) of Muinebeag, Co. Carlow.

Congratulations, Joe on your manly and national aspirations which prompted you to serve your country by joining her Army.

Joe holds thirteen Co. Carlow Championship medals and his challenge is this. Is there in Ireland, a youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who can emulate his unique record.

Joe's list of Championship medals is: 1951, Co. Carlow under-14 football and hurling; 1952, under-14 football and hurling and under-16 hurling; 1953, under 16 football; 1954, under-16 hurling and M.H.T. and 1955, M.H.T., M.H.C., M.F.C., J.H.T. and S.F.L.

He has also won the Fianna Cup for the Curragh Command Novice Boxing Championship.

So, to our Army sports mentors we say: "With men like Joe Hughes in your ranks, up Army and at them."

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Emigration Hits Club

BECAUSE there is no work in the districts around Oughterard, Co Galway, up to 25 young men had to emigrate to England.

Mr. Seamus O Máille, secretary of the local G.A.A. club, said that they had lost a big number of footballers, and if more young men left the club would be unable to field a team in the championships.

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

THE BAN MUST GO!

A Chara—At the risk of causing displeasure and in the hope of rousing healthy controversy between Gaels old and new, I am raising this provocative subject, "The ban on foreign games." I must begin by saying I have been a player and follower of Gaelic games all my life and have never played or attended one of the recognised foreign field games—soccer, rugby or cricket. Yet I venture to think that it is about time that the ban should go.

I have been thinking this way for some time but was prompted to write a letter on the subject to your very interesting and valuable paper, GAELIC ECHO, as a result of listening to a most interesting and instructive lecture. This lecture was given by no less a Gaelic personality than Mr. Jim Hurley, M.A., B.Comm., Secretary and Bursar of U.C.C. Cork, the well-known All Ireland hurler (mid-field) and inter-county footballer with Cork.

The lecture was given before the Cork Historic and Archeological Society and was a study on the life and activities of the great Dr. Thomas W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and first Patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association. It dealt with Dr. Croke's famous letter accepting the Office of Patron. This letter was put on the Articles and Rule Book of the Association.

It has been recognised as **The Charter of the Association**. An eminent journalist of the period (1884) Mr. John Augustus O'Shea, said of the letter "It is as open as an Irish smile and as stirring as brass music." This letter denounced the neglect of Gaelic games and sports and the adoption of imported games. Printed prominently in the "Daily Freeman" the letter aroused much controversy.

In a later letter, quoted by Mr. Hurley, Dr. Croke, great patriot and champion of the Irish people's cause, showed that he was not in favour of any "ban." His second letter included the following:—

"Some bitterness has arisen between the new G.A.A. and the older athletic associations. I want to avoid any misunderstanding of my letter to the G.A.A. I want to explain that all I wanted and aimed at was to encourage national sports and thus revive them. But it did not strike me at all, at the time, nor does it strike me now, or form any part of my design, absolutely to discourage or even denounce, all sports and pastimes that are not national."

Mr. Hurley explained that Dr. Croke gave his reason for writing because he was "a lover of fair play all round, and the enemy of needless strife and estrangement between our people."

The ban was not introduced until after the death of Dr. Croke in 1902. I have no doubt that in the new resurgence of national thought which came into being with the new century, did most effective work for the new National Movement. Shoneenism was rife at the time.

The ban, left optional with each County Board at first was soon made compulsory. British military then stationed throughout Ireland for more than one reason, were not fit as the playing

companions in soccer for young Irishmen, particularly youths of tender age.

In all other ways of life, the ban did yoman service as a nationalising influence. But as the G.A.A. strengthened, and as the bulk of Ireland secured freedom, the necessity for the ban grew less and less. I am in favour of its removal now.

At a time when more than ever we wanted all Irishmen to be united, this ban on foreign games, is creating bitterness and division. Many of the men who play soccer and rugby to-day are as good Irishmen as the G.A.A. men. In the past soccer and rugby players died for their country.

By removing the ban, the G.A.A. would win countless friends and hundreds of prominent rugby and soccer players would flock to the G.A.A. banner. Such a sportlike attitude by the G.A.A. would even serve to ease the political situation in the Six Counties. In general it would help to bring all Irishmen into the one National Camp, both North and South of the Border.

But though I am strongly and conscientiously advocating the ending of the ban, I feel certain that at the moment, the vast majority of the officials in control of the G.A.A. will not allow such a thing to happen. The Ban Rules may only be discussed on one year in every five. The strongest argument against any change is "The Border."

"While we have British Occupation Troops on any sod of Irish soil, the ban on foreign games must remain."

There is some reason in such argument. But isn't it about time that a powerful organisation like the G.A.A. of growing National influence, should declare its policy.

It is known that many players are in favour of the open door. Why not then, pass a motion somewhat like this:—

"That this Congress of the G.A.A. hereby declare that the ban on foreign games must remain so long as Partition exists."

This would be a definite declaration of policy. It would help the popularity of the G.A.A. and it would help to bring the inequitous, British-imposed law of Partition into wide publicity.

If we do not remove the ban now, why not declare that it will end with Partition.

Yours truly,

"University Graduate."

Cork,
March 17.

A New Series

A Chara,—I would like to suggest a series which I think would be very popular. But first I would like to say that I have not missed an issue of the GAELIC ECHO for some time back and I think it is by far the best newspaper in Ireland for G.A.A. results.

My suggestion is that a Personality Parade for star hurlers should be started and the present series by Sean O'Neill should be confined to footballers.

I am sure this series would

make your paper even more popular.

Here are some of the men you could include: Mick Mackey, Nickey Rackard, Jim Langton, Pat Stakelum, Seanie Duggan, Tommy Doyle, Tony Reddan and Sean Clohessy.

Mise le meas,
WEXFORD GAEL.

Hurlers—Too?

Dear Sir,—I would like to suggest a series of articles on famous hurlers—on the lines of your present series on footballers by Sean O'Neill.

I would also suggest that you include autographed pictures of the personalities as it would prove very popular with the younger generation.

Thanking you in anticipation of reading an enjoyable series.

Yours hopefully,
"ARDENT ADMIRER."

Wexford.

February 24, 1956.

As both our readers will see, Sean O'Neill is not confining his series to footballers. This month he deals with the Rackard brothers, which should be particularly interesting to our two correspondents.—Editor.

Laois Has Three Titles

A Chara,—I think there was some mistake in "Eire Og's" article last month. He credits Kilkenny with three Leinster Championship football titles, while doesn't mention Laois at all.

Laois won three titles in 1889, 1936 and 1943.

Mise le meas,
V. HOGAN.

Ballyán, Laois.

Golden Era

In reply to Mr. Denis McCarthy of Hammersmith, London, W.C., re "Raymond's" article on Dr. Jim Young of Cork in March issue. The golden era referred to Cork's All-Ireland triumphs which were as follows: 1941, Cork, 5-11; Dublin, 0-6. 1942, Cork, 2-14; Dublin, 3-4. 1943, Cork, 5-16; Antrim, 0-4. 1944, Cork, 2-13; Dublin, 1-2. 1945, Tipperary, 5-6; Kilkenny, 3-6. 1946, Cork, 7-5; Kilkenny, 3-8. 1947, Kilkenny, 0-14; Cork, 2-7.

Informative

A Chara—I wish to express my thanks to Sean O'Neill for his very informative series, "Gaelic Games men."

I enjoyed reading about Padraic Carney and Paddy O'Brien and look forward to many more interesting pen pictures.

Don't forget Christy Ring, as in my opinion he is Ireland's greatest-ever hurler.

Wishing your paper every success.

CORKONIAN.

Bandon,

Sean O'Callaghan

Looking Back the League

THE first quarter of 1956 has produced its crop of surprises both in the National Leagues and the Inter-Provincial Championships. The Leagues have run their course and the final stages are within reach.

Tipperary's victory over Clare in the last game of the Group proved decisive, and their two points win puts them into the Hurling Final against Wexford, listed for May 6.

Looking over the table of "A" section of the hurling league the first thing that strikes the eye is the fact that Kilkenny are at the bottom of the table and are in the line of relegation.

HOW?

Recalling the occasion of the Leinster Championship last year, when they held Wexford to level scoring—how, one may ask, did Kilkenny slip so badly since then? In all of their championship games they shaped well. Their only point of the league was in another draw against Wexford. Then they lost their last remaining game at home, and face relegation.

Only consolation they have that their opponents in distress are Limerick, Munster champions, who failed to gain even one point from their list of games, and failed against Westmeath in the final round.

These two counties now meet in a play-off and while the winners retain their position in the league proper, the losers drop into Division II.

The secondary winners Antrim and Kerry decide between them who will replace Kilkenny or Limerick.

FOOTBALL

The football league rests, as many expected, between Armagh, Meath, Dublin and Cork.

The date fixed for the semi-finals April 15th, will see Armagh and Meath in action at Casement Park, and Dublin and Cork will be at the Athletic Grounds.

Thirty-one counties participated in the league, and the only county who failed to line-up was Antrim.

For some reason best known to themselves they did not like the grouping in which they were placed.

As well as I can remember the Antrim delegate to the Council stated his facts, but the plan of campaign was ready to be launched, and no place could then be found for Antrim except in Division I.

Possibly when the next season starts Antrim will have made up their minds to participate.

IN FOR "KILL"

It is my opinion if Antrim had been included in section "A" they would have been in for "the kill."

Credit must go to Tyrone for their battles in section "B." I think it was desperately hard luck to have been "robbed" of that goal against Armagh in the Dr. Lagan Cup final.

The Railway Cup Games

FATE was unkind to the Railway Cup holders in 1956.

First came the defeat of Leinster footballers by Munster in the semi-final, 3-4 to 0-9, and by this reverse Leinster suffered their first set-back since 1951.

The Leinster defeat sent many tongues wagging, and while one set of critics blamed the defenders, another set found fault with the forwards.

AMENDS

Leinster however made amends in the hurling sphere. After beating Connacht at Ballinasloe 5-7 to 2-9, they re-organised their forces and triumphed over the holders, Munster, to the tune of 5-11 to 1-7.

No matter how one views the aftermath of this great struggle, it will be found, that the backbone of the team was formed by the solid Wexford men, helped by the Kilkenny pair, Clohessy and Walsh, not forgetting that solid Dubliner Des. Ferguson who held Christy Ring in a vice like grip.

This cup victory may yet prove the forerunner of further successes in the coming year.

Ulster were given practically no chance whatever by their supporters when the Railway Cup team was first announced.

Following their victory over Connacht at Casement Park 3-8 to 1-4, opinion swung around and it was then thought that with a few

changes they might have a chance.

PROOF

Results speak for themselves. Ulster beat Munster 0-12 to 0-4, which gave them their first title.

Ireland footballers reversed last year's result over Combined Universities, 2-14 to 3-10. The losers held a two goals lead five minutes from full time, and two quick goals, one by the Munster full-forward Mick Murphy and the other by the Ulster star Jim McKeever, put the sides level at 2-8 each.

Extra time was necessary to decide the issue, and a last minute point from a free by Tadgh Lyne won the game for Ireland.

A draw would have satisfied everyone.

The Ireland hurlers carried too many big guns for the Combined Universities and the Rest, and won a rather one-sided victory 4-12 to 3-6.

REVENGE

This was revenge for last year, when the Universities triumphed in both games.

This was largely a battle between the Brothers Rackard, Bobbie and Willie on one side and Nicky on the other.

JOHN COBURN OF ANTRIM

ON my last visit to Casement Park (Belfast) for the Ulster v. Connacht Railway Cup semi-final I met a very old friend, John Coburn, who captained the Antrim team in the All-Ireland final against Cork in 1911 and again in

1912 against Louth.

JOHAN, who is Louth-born, spent all his life in Belfast where he was engaged in the licensed trade, and, as he said, he sold plenty, but never tasted a drop.

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Man's Gaelic Sports Review

Tables at

THE TABLES

Football

DIVISION 1
Won by Armagh

Section A

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Armagh	2	1	0	12
Derry	2	1	0	12
Down	2	1	0	12

In play-off Derry beat Down and then to Armagh.

Section B

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Donegal	3	3	0	06
Monaghan	3	2	0	14
Meath	3	1	0	22
Wexford	3	0	0	30

DIVISION 2
Won by Meath

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Meath	6	5	0	110
Down	6	4	0	28
Wexford	6	4	0	28
Tipperary	6	3	0	36
Galway	6	2	0	44
Limerick	6	2	0	44
Clare	6	1	0	52

DIVISION 3
Won by Dublin

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Dublin	6	6	0	12
Wexford	6	4	0	28
Galway	6	4	0	28
Tipperary	6	2	1	35
Wexford	5	2	0	34
Clare	5	1	0	42
Meath	6	0	1	51

DIVISION 4
Won by Cork

Section A

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Cork	4	4	0	08
Wexford	4	3	0	16
Down	4	2	0	24
Laois	4	1	0	32
Carlow	4	0	0	40

Section B

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Tipperary	4	4	0	08
Wexford	4	3	0	16
Limerick	4	2	0	24
Down	4	1	0	32
Clare	4	0	0	40

Group B
Won by Tipperary

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Tipperary	4	4	0	08
Wexford	4	3	0	16
Limerick	4	2	0	24
Down	4	1	0	32
Clare	4	0	0	40

DIVISION 2
Group A
Won by Antrim

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Antrim	3	3	0	06
Down	3	2	0	14
Wexford	2	0	0	20
Clare	2	0	0	20

Group B
Won by Kerry

P.	W.	D.	P.	Pts.
Kerry	3	3	0	06
Down	3	2	0	14
Wexford	3	1	0	23
Clare	3	0	0	30

SCOREBOARD

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE
Div. I—Group A.
Wexford, 1-14; Cork, 1-8.
Dublin, 5-6; Kilkenny, 4-4.
Div. I—Group B.
Tipperary, 7-5; Westmeath, 1-5.
Galway, 3-7; Clare, 1-7.
Div. II—Group A.
Antrim, 3-8; Down, 2-3.
Meath, 9-9; Wicklow, 6-4.
Div. II—Group B.
Laoighis, 4-7; Offaly, 1-4.
Kerry, 7-10; Roscommon, 2-1.

BYRNE CUP (S.F.)
Meath, 1-6; Louth, 0-4.

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE
Division I—Section A.
Waterford, 3-3; Kilkenny, 0-11.
Cork, 4-6; Dublin, 3-4.
Section B.
Westmeath, 5-8; Limerick, 3-10.
Tipperary, 2-5; Clare, 2-3.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Division III.
Galway, 2-12; Wicklow, 0-6.
Division 2—Section A.
Antrim, 3-5; Meath, 1-5.
Section B.
Kerry, 2-11; Offaly, 3-5.
Laois, 9-3; Roscommon, 1-4.

COLLEGES' GAMES
Connacht.—S.F. (Div. B. Final) at Ballinrobe: Ballinrobe C.B.S., 3-7; Tuam C.B.S., 1-3.
Munster.—S.F. Final, at Limerick: Limerick C.B.S., 3-5; Tralee C.B.S., 2-3.
Ulster.—S.F. Final, at Omagh: St. Macarten's (Monaghan), 2-7; St. Joseph's C.B.S., Marino (Dublin), 1-8; St. Mel's College (Longford) 2-3.

Eunan's (Letterkenny), 2-6.
Leinster.—J.H. (Semi-final) at Trim; Franciscan College (Multyfarnham), 5-5; Syngue Street, 4-4.

RAILWAY CUP FINALS
Hurling
Leinster, 5-11; Munster (holders) 1-7.
Football
Ulster, 0-12; Munster, 0-

REPRESENTATIVE GAMES
Hurling
Ireland, 4-12; Combined Universities and the Rest), 3-6.

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE
Division II.
Wicklow, 4-6; Down, 4-3.
S.F. Challenge
Galway, 1-5; Carlow, 1-3.
Dublin S.F. Championship:
Parnell's, 3-7; C. J. Kickham's, 1-1.
Air Corps, 2-7; Erin's Isle, 1-6.
Civil Service, 1-6; Erin's Hope, 2-3.
Co. Limerick S.F. Championship:
Rathkeale, 3-3; Geraldines, 3-2.
Co. Cork S.F. Championship:
Nemo Rangers, 7-6; U.C.C., 1-1.
Senior Hurling Tournament:
Sarsfields, 5-5; St. Finbarr's, 3-8.
Blackrock, 7-6; Glen Rovers, 3-7.
Co. Limerick S.H. Tournament:
Treaty Sarsfields, 3-10; Newmarket-on-Fergus, 2-1.
Co. Antrim S.F. Championship:
O'Donnell's, 0-13; St. Gall's, 1-4.
Ardoyne, 2-9; Clonard, 3-1.
Leinster Colleges S.F. Final:
St. Joseph's C.B.S., Marino (Dublin), 1-8; St. Mel's College (Longford) 2-3.

Connacht Commentary



From Longford

MISS ROSE McGRATH, B.A., B.Comm., who led University College, Galway camogie team to victory in the Ashbourne Cup, is a native of Abbeyshrule, Co. Longford.

Miss McGrath was selected on the Combined Universities team which played Cork (Munster Champions) in the annual Cronin Cup game on March 18.

Paddy Retires

Mr. Paddy Joyce, well-known C.I.E. official, Secretary of Belcarra (Co. Mayo) G.A.A. for the past five years, resigned at the Club's recent convention.

His decision to retire was received with regret and deserving tributes were paid to the good work he had done.

He is replaced by Michael Fadden, who should prove a worthy successor.

New Look for Champions

MAYO'S senior football championship will have a new look this year. Five club teams and seven amalgamated teams will compete.

The amalgamation plan was hit upon by the Co. Board to promote a greater interest in the competition.

Manulla Footballers

"If Manulla are as successful in football as in camogie they will be a force to be reckoned with," said West Board Chairman, P. Golden, N.T., when he welcomed the delegates from the newly-formed Manulla football club at a recent meeting.

The club has entered a team for the coming season's West Junior Championship.

FAIR-PLAY FOR GALWAY

HOW ABOUT AN OPEN HURLING DRAW

By FLACCUS

YEAR AFTER YEAR THE PROBLEM RECURS OF GALWAY'S LOT IN FACING AN ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL OR FINAL WITH AN UNTRIED TEAM. IT IS, OF COURSE, QUITE IMPOSSIBLE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES NOT TO FEEL THE GREATEST ADMIRATION FOR GALWAY'S GREAT EFFORTS AGAINST THE ODDS IN THESE CONTESTS. FOR THE SCALES ARE HEAVILY LADEN AGAINST THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES, AND THEY HAVE BEEN DEFEATED EVERY YEAR.

But the closeness of the struggles has shown the class of these Galwaymen, and has hinted that had they even one pipe-opening championship game they would have triumphed many a day.

The emphasis is on the word "championship" for no matter how many challenge games are played, it is not the same as a championship struggle for hardening and moulding a team into a compact unit.

AN OPEN DRAW?

The open draw has been mooted for years as the remedy for Galway's ills, and for the lop-sided state of the hurling map. Various objections have been put forward, but the faults picked in the system cannot compare with the immense advantages of the open draw.

The question of travel is one of the main planks on which the opposition bases its objection.

Of the senior hurling counties, the farthest apart are, perhaps, Cork and Westmeath, Galway and Wexford or Dublin and Clare. Most are within reasonable distance of all the others.

Now, let us suppose the worst came to the worst—usually an unnecessary supposition and an untrue one—and all these teams were drawn to meet in the first round.

Cork and Westmeath is a "natural" for Thurles. This would mean exactly the same amount of travelling for Cork supporters as last year's Munster Championship first round when they played Clare in Thurles; and for Westmeath fans no longer a trip than last year's journey to Croke Park to see their favourites beaten.

The situation would be the same if Galway drew Wexford; a Croke Park rendezvous would be called for, and this would be nothing new to the supporters of either team.

What then of Dublin and Clare? Should the venue be Tullamore or Portlaoise? Both are familiar to Dublin players and supporters in

Leinster championship games; and they are not much more out of the way for Clare folk than a trip to Thurles, and not nearly so far as Cork.

NO PROBLEM

Therefore, our investigation proves that travelling provides us with no problem; the cases we have considered were the most extreme possible, yet even they were not inconvenient.

In fact, of course, the draw for the first round might just as well read Clare v. Galway, Kilkenny v. Waterford, Tipperary v. Laoighis, . . .

The second big objection raised is the loss of the provincial championships, and the objectors lay particular stress on the disappearance from the fixture list of the Munster Final.

They wax quite lyrical about the atmosphere, the glory, the brilliance of Munster Finals.

MORE BAD ONES

But, take it from me, there have been more bad Munster finals than good ones, more bad temper than good hurling, and the classics provided three times in recent years by Cork and Tipperary were riotous blooms in a very ordinary garden.

In fact, there is more atmosphere than anything else about the day of a Munster final.

You would then have three games or more with the appeal of a Munster final or a Leinster final, and who knows if the draw so decrees it we might have the All-Ireland Final between, for instance, Cork and Tipperary.

How much better this than a mere Munster final? Munster hurling followers tend to lose interest as soon as the Munster final is decided. They have come in the course of time to consider the All-Ireland a foregone conclusion for the Munster champions; and statistics seem to bear them out for Munster teams have won all but two All-Ireland's since 1940.

To my mind the advantages of (TURN TO PAGE 12)

Sports Chat

THE first clash between Ulster and Munster in the Railway Cup football final took place in 1941, and ended in a draw. The game was played on Sunday, March 16, not on St. Patrick's Day.

MUNSTER won the replay on Easter Monday, April 14, 2-6 to 1-6 and in the same year Leinster won the hurling final, beating Munster 2-5 to 2-4.

ONE of the stars in Leinster's hurling victory was Frank White (Westmeath) then playing for Young Ireland's in Dublin.

DUBLIN'S representatives on that occasion were Harry Grey, Ned Wade, Mossy McDonnell, Paddy McSweeney and Mick Butler. There were nine Kilkenny men on the side, including Jim Langton, Paddy Grace and Paddy Phelan, and none from Wexford or Laois.

TO show the change in the course of time, Wexford players now dominate the Leinster team. Nick O'Donnell, the present Wexford captain, is the first representative to lead the province in a Rallyway Cup final.

ULSTER footballers won their first Railway Cup victory in 1942 when they defeated Munster 1-10 to 2-6. In the semi-final at Longford they beat Connacht 3-7 to 2-6.

THE late Comdt. J. J. O'Reilly was then captain of Ulster, and another member of the side, Vincent Duffy (Monaghan), has since passed to his reward.

ULSTER won the Cup again the following year with the greatest line of forwards to represent a province—Kevin Armstrong, Alfie Murray and "Sticky" McGuire. The latter, from Co. Derry, was also in the 1944 side that lost to Leinster.

PADDY DUFFY, well known as Louth Co. Secretary, who retired at the last County Convention, was one of three Leinster county delegates who were honoured by the Council with long service plaques. The others were Mr. Paddy Breen (Wexford), and Mr. Joe Curran (Meath).

I TRAVEL quite a lot during the year and recently I had the very great pleasure of running into Rev. Father Hillary of St. Paul's Retreat, Mount Argus, Harold's Cross, who was returning from Cork where he had given a mission to the troops.

FATHER HILLARY knows as much about the "ins" and "outs" of hurling as any man in this country. Don't be a bit surprised, but he has a hand in shaping the destinies of the Tipperary team in the coming year.

RULED OUT OF ORDER

A MOTION congratulating the I.R.A. on their successful attack on Arborfield Barracks in England and protesting against the sentences imposed on the three young men captured "in an act of war," was ruled out of order by Rev. J. Corry, C.C., President, at the annual Convention of the Clare National Athletic and Cycling Association. Father Corry said that the motion had to be ruled out of order "on information from headquarters that it was not to be discussed," but refused to elaborate on this to the Convention. Before this motion came up another motion, proposed by Ennis Shamrocks A.C., "that all discussions of a political nature be debarré at all N.A.C.A. meetings," was adopted.

Limerick Club's Leaders

KILDIMO-PALLASKENRY (Co. Limerick) officers for 1956 are:

President, Very Rev. D. Fitzgerald, P.P.; Vice-President, John Stokes; Chairman, J. F. Sheehy; Vice-Chairmen, D. O'Sullivan and M. Dillon; Hon. Secretaries, J. Barry and P. J. Guinane; Hon. Treasurers, J. O'Shaughnessy and P. O'Sullivan. Committee: S. O'Shaughnessy, J. Barry (senr.),

M. Battles, B. Neville, W. Harte, M. Broderick, E. Madigan, D. Neville, J. Nealon, M. Barry, C. Ward, D. O'Sullivan.

Banned

Ballynacargy (Co. Westmeath) G.F.C. have been expelled from the G.A.A. by Co. Board, Chairman, C. Fagan.

Report from Leinster



Arklow Alley Project

Arklow's newly-formed handball club is to build a much-needed ally by voluntary labour. Estimated cost is about £400. Club officers: Chairman, Noel O'Brien; Sec., John O'Brien and Treasurer, Michael Bornes.

New Pitch

THE people of Athlone are facing a big job. Recently a thirteen acre field was purchased by contributions from Westmeath County Board, the Leinster Council and the Central Council, G.A.A. It cost about £3,000. A representative committee has now been formed whose job it is to raise funds for the development of the pitch.

Handball Come-Back

"I have great pleasure in reporting that handball is coming back in the county," said Sligo Handball Secretary, Mr. M. Hanon, in his report to the annual convention.

1955 title winners were: Senior, Collooney; Junior Doubles, Ballyrush; Junior Singles, Carrigans, and Minor, Kilmactigue.

Dressing-Rooms

NEW dressing-rooms, incorporating all modern requirements and showers for G.A.A. players, are being built in St. Brendan's Park, Birr, at a cost of almost £3,000.

TULLAMORE PRESENTATION

Mr. Edward Quinlan, one of the oldest members of Tullamore's St. Columban Athletic Club was a guest of honour at a dinner in Bolger's hotel, Tullamore, recently. He was presented with an electric clock by Club Secretary, Sean Bracken as a token of appreciation for his services.

Mr. Quinlan recently retired from the Garda Síochána, and is leaving the town.

Mr. Bracken said the club had paid Mr. Quinlan the highest tribute they could possibly pay by returning him as Chairman year after year.

WELCOME

He would be remembered by them all and would be very welcome on any occasion he returned.

Mr. Quinlan said he had not known he had so many friends in Tullamore in all his years there. He wished the club continued success and said he would be always available to



give any assistance he could. Another club member, Mr. Oliver Byrne, who was Hon. Sec. of the club and who is leaving for England was also presented with a clock.

Draw For "Radio Tournament"

The Co. Offaly town of Rhode will be the venue of many football fans within the next few months. Thirty-two clubs from Offaly, Roscommon, Westmeath, Kildare, Meath and Longford have entered teams for the 7-a-side football tournament being sponsored there by the local G.F.C. and Parochial committee.

The draws for the competition, the winners of which get nine portable radio sets, are:—

Section A—Kiltoom v. Navan; O'Dempseys v. Maynooth; Daingean v. Carbury; St. Brigids v. Ballinabrackey.

Section B—Kilcock v. Kinnefad, Tullamore v. Athlone; Round Towers v. The Downes; Moate v. St. Patricks.

Section C—Clane v. Clara; Athy v. Rhode; Drumlish v. Rathangan; Rosemount v. Longwood.

Section D—Elphin v. Rochford-bridge; Longford Slashers v. Daingean "B"; D.E.W. Sports Club v. Ferbane; Edenderry v. Naas.

Semi-finals: Winner A v. Winner B and Winner C v. Winner D.

Louth Committee

Arrangements for the testimonial to be made to Louth's ex-Co. Secretary, Paddy Duffy are going ahead. At a recent meeting the following officers were appointed: Chairman, Rev. Fr. O'Byrne, C.C.; Collon; Secretary, Patsy Mulroy, Dunleer; Treas., James Gallagher, Collon. Committee: P. Faulkner, N.T., T. Powderly and T. Murray, Philipstown; J. Flynn and J. Byrne, Togher; M. Reynolds, G. Nixon, Stabannon; S. O'Neill, Annagassan; P. Tuite, A. Clarke, Castlebellingham; and J. Sharkey, N.T., R. Gaffney and J. Hoey, Dunleer.

Paulstown Hurling Club

Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny Hurling Club officers for 1956 are: President, Rev. Fr. Foyne, C.C.; Chairman, William Hennessey; Treasurer, James Mullins; Joint Secretaries, S. O'Brien, N.T. and M. Medlar.

Committee: J. McDonald, J. Somers, Ed. Morrissey, Wm. Doherty, M. Curran. Selection Committee: S. O'Brien, Jas. Mullins, W. Doherty, Wm. Hennessey; Captain, Luke Morrissey; Vice-Capt., Jim Hennessey.

Minor Team, Now

The well-known Dublin club, Banba, is going from strength to strength. This year they are entering a minor football team.

The team consists of young apprentices in the licensed trade from every part of the country, includes some promising youths including: Barney Leahy (Mayo), A. Brady (Cavan), H. Gallagher (Roscommon) and the Lyons brothers of Tipperary.

LEINSTER ROUND-UP

Getting a Line on the Counties

By TONY O'HAGEN

TIPPING teams for provincial honours at this stage of the season is an intriguing pastime, but also, alas, an extremely hazardous one. You may remember that last month I "plumped" for Galway as Connacht champions of 1956, and went even further in writing off Kerry in favour of Cork.

As if to shatter further my ideas, I have since seen a match which forced me to temper my views about the prospects of two counties.

I found that my coverage of eleven Leinster counties has used up all my space for this month so, regrettably, I must leave Ulster in abeyance.

MAY START

The Leinster championship gets under way on May 6 when Wicklow play Carlow, Laois meet Longford and Kildare and Louth both travel to Navan in furtherance of their title ambitions.

A little over a year ago, Wicklow were going great guns. Remember their memorable battle with the then holders, Meath, at Croke Park in which the Royal Countymen scored the winning point in the ninth minute of "lost" time?

Subsequent displays however indicated that the Wicklow side only flattered to deceive. Their inconsistency since then has tended to make confusion more confusing and to date there is little knowledge as to the real strength of the Garden County fifteen.

Carlow are yet another enigmatic side in that they showed up very well for periods of their games against both Kerry and Cork, but their inability to rise to the occasion against lesser opposition has their shrewd and enthusiastic mentors worried more than somewhat.

Wicklow can point with pride to such warriors as Jim Rogers, Gerry O'Reilly, Joe Timmins, Joe Fitzpatrick and Pascal Deering and say that they could hold their own in any company.

CARLOW STALWARTS

Then too, Carlow have in Andy Murphy, Pakes Connolly, Eamonn Kehoe, Johnny Brophy and Ned Doogue—men who could find a ready berth on any fifteen.

But, let's face it, neither county is, at the moment at least, a serious championship contender and for all their endeavours

neither can Longford or Laois rate as such.

It is a sad fact, but unfortunately a true one that Jim Harold, Peter Dunne and Brendan McWee apart, neither side can boast of any "real" stars.

Kildare and Louth are presently of a different calibre. Each is well "staffed" but, to date, have not found the right blend to be really effective as a challenging prospect.

The Wee County's signing of Dan O'Neill, the former Mayo star was a shrewd one and one which might well reap rich dividends.

But this player's undoubted ability, augmented by that of Jim McArdle, Jim Conlon, Stephen White, Peadar Smith and Paddy Markey must be moulded into a hard-hitting unit before success is achieved.

Kildare too can count on Larry McCormack, the Harrisons, Mick Byrne, Paddy Dooley, Ray Swan and Frank Marron, but other players will need to step up considerably on previous form if the Lilywhites are to recapture their former glory.

CHAMPIONS

The champions, Dublin, make their debut on June 3 when they play the winners of the Wicklow v. Carlow at Enniscorthy or Athy. Mention of the grounds, however, is of less consequence than of previous years for the Dublinmen have proved on their visits to Tuam, Tullamore and far-off Killarney that "away" venues no longer hold any terrors for them.

The Leinster champions, however, are still not satisfied about a few positions and it is no secret that unless Ollie Freaney and Mossie Whelan quickly recapture their former prowess, they must give way to others.

Meath open their account on May 27 when they travel to Newbridge to try conclusions with Oaly. This is indeed a real baptism of fire for the young Royal County representatives.

CHANGE

I mentioned at the start that the result of one match has made me reconsider my opinions about two teams and they are Meath and Cavan for the Breffinmen's success over their old rivals may have widespread repercussions.

As I see it, this defeat is bound to effect the Meathmen's confidence for Cavan, showing much of their old form in that encounter at Breffni Park, well and truly beat their neighbours.

I would say that if Meath can forget this set-back, they will prove more than a match for Offaly but, before passing judgement, we shall have to await the result of their National Football League semi-final tie with Ar-magh.

Offaly, on the other hand, promise much but accomplish little and despite the great work of Paddy and Mick Casey, Kevin Scally, Peter Nolan and young Kevin Blake, they just do not seem to be able to sustain their efforts.

Because of that, I write them off as a championship prospect. To make their task more difficult, they have a number of positions—both in defence and attack—which need better men than the players now filling them.

Somehow, when I think of Westmeath, I can only picture their grand midfielder, Art Thornberry. They should prevail against Wexford, whose swing to hurling favour has taken much of the gilt of their footballers, but I consider that they have still a long way to go.

Thus, I am left with Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Louth. Meath's defeat by Cavan has undermined my confidence in them to a degree but such was the quality of their performances before that slip—remember they had already won Divisional honours—that I am inclined to place them before either Louth or Kildare.

So now I am left with Dublin and Meath. Were they to meet in Navan, I would favour the Royal Countymen but since they will meet at Croke Park (assuming, of course, that they will), I think that Dublin's greater experience, plus the fact that they will be playing on their "home" ground, will see them through.

Cork, Galway, Dublin and... The blank space will be filled in next month. Good-bye now.

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After Forty-Five Years

By JOHN LILLIS

FORTY-FIVE years of hard try-
 ing and ill-luck came to an end
 at Croke Park on Sunday, Septem-
 ber 4, 1955, when fifteen men in the
 blue and amber of Wexford were
 chaired off the green sward of
 G.A.A. Headquarters having beaten
 a very game Galway team to
 win their first All-Ireland hurling
 title since 1910.

It was the Wexfordmen's third
 appearance in the final in three years
 and in 1954 they were very unlucky
 not to take the honours when they
 gave Cork a close run before a
 crowd of 84,856—a record for a
 hurling game.

The Model County supporters
 went wild with delight, and it was
 weeks afterwards before normal
 business was resumed in the county.
 The hurling heroes were feted every-
 where they went.

1910

Wexford's first hurling win was
 on November 11, 1910, at Jones's
 Road, Dublin, when they beat
 Limerick (Castleconnell) by 7-0 to
 6-2. A remarkable feature of the
 game was that the winners did not
 score a point—a thing that never
 happened before or since.

Nine of that team are still
 living: Michael Parker, Jim
 Mythen, Andy Kehoe, Jim
 Donohoe, Pat Roche, Dave
 Kavanagh, Jim Fortune, Pat
 Corcoran and Michael Neville.
 The others have since passed to
 their eternal reward.

Wexford teams—we mustn't forget
 that up to a few years ago it was
 a stronghold of football—have made
 nineteen All-Ireland appearances in
 all. On seven occasions they were
 victorious, and in 1890 and 1918
 the county's teams figured in both
 the senior hurling and football
 finals.

FOUR IN A ROW

They were beaten in both in 1890
 and lost the hurling in 1918.

Their football victory on that
 occasion gave them their fourth All-
 Ireland football title in a row, to
 set up a record. (Kerry equalled
 this when they won four from 1929
 to 1932).

And now for some facts about
 the 1955 All-Ireland victory.

All the team's forwards and both
 mid-fielders had a hand in the
 scoring on All-Ireland day.

Nickey Rackard scored 1-3;
 Ned Wheeler and Tim Flood
 had a goal and two points each;
 Paddy Kehoe hit two points,
 and Podge Kehoe, Tom Ryan,
 Seamus Hearne and Jim Morrissey
 added a point each.

When the three Rackard brothers
 (Nickey, Bobby and Willie) collected
 their All-Ireland medals they joined
 a select band of three brothers who
 have won All-Ireland medals on the
 same team.

In addition to the All-Ireland title,
 Wexford also won the Oireachtas
 Cup last year, and at the present
 time are "hot" favourites for the
 1955-56 National Hurling League
 title.

Here's wishing them the best of
 luck!

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DERRY ON THE MARCH

By O. D.

IS this Derry's year to go into the All-Ireland Senior Football Final? Will we do it this year? These are the questions that are being asked by the Gaelic followers in Derry, and not without just cause, for Derry had a very successful year in 1955.

Derry Juniors won the Ulster Junior Championship, and after defeating Mayo in the semi-final were narrowly beaten by Cavan in the final of the Ulster Championship, and they also fell to Cavan in the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup.

Thus Derry had the unique experience of figuring in the finals of three Ulster competitions and one All-Ireland final.

Will we do it this year? As the question is asked, everyone is looking to the Selection Committee to provide the answer, and the new Selection Committee which consists of Chairman John MacLaughlin, Secretary A. Deane, Rev. Fr. MacNally, John L. Fay, Patrick Larkin, Gerald Mullan, George Peoples and Thomas A. Mellon, will do all they can to bring the All-Ireland Trophy to Derry this year.

ENCOURAGING

The prospects are encouraging for the great display given by the Captain of the Derry team, Jim McKeever, and his team-mate, Roddy Gribbon, in the Railway Cup Final at Croke Park gives great hope that this is the year for Derry to triumph.

The competitions in all three areas of the G.A.A. Divisional Boards started at the beginning of March.

In the South Derry area all

the teams that took part in last year's competition are again competing, with the exception of Greenlough, and there are hopes that they will shortly enter the competitions.

In North Derry there are two new teams taking part in this year's competitions—Coleraine and Magilligan. Faughanvale, this year, will play in the City area.

In the City area one of last year's teams, Eire Og, will be missing, but two new teams, Colmcille's and Tara Monarchs, have entered the competitions, making a total of six teams this year against five teams last year. These six teams, together with the North Derry team, Faughanvale should make the competitions more attractive.

DONEGAL TEAM

Other attractive competitions in the Derry City area this year will be those in which the Inishowen, Cr. Donegal, clubs will take part. At the request of clubs in Inishowen application was made to and granted by the Ulster Council giving permission to clubs in Inishowen to take part in competitions under the Derry City Board.

The City Board have approved the entry of Inishowen clubs into the Seamus O'Doherty Cup competition, which is run on a one round League basis, matches home and

away, and the Joseph McGinley Cup, which is a knock-out competition.

Also approved is the Joseph Mahon Cup, but this competition, which is on a knock-out system, will include not only teams from Derry City and Inishowen, but will include teams from North and South Derry, Tyrone and Donegal.

There was no change in the officials elected to the Derry County Board at this year's Convention. John MacLaughlin became Chairman for the fourteenth successive year; John L. Fay is Vice-Chairman for the fourth year; A. Deane, Secretary for fifth year; W. J. Halferty, Treasurer for the fifth year, and Joseph Coyle Registrar for the third year.

Delegates to Ulster Council, Rev. Fr. MacNally and Thomas A. Mellon, and Central Council delegate Patrick Larkin.

Death of Derry Gael

THERE was deep regret in Derry, especially in the South Derry area, at the death of Mr. Seán MacDiarmada, Ballinascreen, who was an outstanding figure in the National life of the area.

Deceased was a noted Gaelic scholar and was for some years Secretary of the South Derry Feis and a member of Comhaltas Uladh until forced by ill-health to resign.

A founder-member of the G.A.A. in Ballinascreen, he was for some time Chairman of the Co. Board.

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OLYMPIC

Ins na blianta ina dhiaidh sin lean O'Riain da chuid gaisge agus sa bhliain 1920 bhuaidh se an chraobh Olympic gan duine ngoireacht troighthe dho. Annsan d'eirig se as agus d'fhill abhaile.

Indiu, le modhanna nua treanala agus cleachta teicniciuil speisialta ta dul ar aghaidh mor deanta i ngach sort cleasa luieth, ta craobh an domhain i gcaitheamh an chasuir ag an Ruiseach Krivosov le faid dha cead is aon troigh deagh.

Dathadh blian o shoin bhí fear Luimni inan breis is dha cead troigh a chur dhe gan treanail ar bith, da mbeadh se ann indiu agus e faoi stiur oilte ni fios ca mbeadh an marc, ni sa Ruis a bheadh an chraobh pe sgeal e.

Fair Play for Galway

(FROM PAGE 9)

the open draw are innumerable and weigh down the scale heavily in its favour. It would, for instance:—

- (a) Give Galway a fair chance.
- (b) Give many other weaker counties a chance. Many such as Clare and Waterford would have gained a far larger share of honours if it were not for the fact that year after year they have to go like lambs to be swallowed by the all-devouring powers such as Cork and Tipperary.
- (c) Give us more attractive games.
- (d) Give us unusual and crowd-drawing pairings, and end those eternal arguments as to whether Meath would beat Waterford, &c.
- (e) Give us bigger crowds and bigger gates.
- (f) End the boredom of seeing the same teams meet year after year, with the same result usually and little hope of any other.
- (g) Give the Davids of hurling

a better chance against the Goliaths. Meeting an unfamiliar team can be very unsettling; but in the present scheme each Goliath knows his David too well to be caught bending by him.

(h) Give an element of uncertainty and thrill to the championship, now so stereotyped and dull, by the new draw for each round, and the hope for a nice draw for one's favourites.

(i) Give us a championship that would catch the public interest and imagination from the first puck and hold it to the end; not as, at present, where interest is like Finnegan—"off again, on again, gone again."

What have you Gaelic legislators to say? The advantages of the open-draw must be obvious to you as to all the ordinary fans. Let us have it, if only on trial, and if it is not a roaring success, I shall willingly eat my hat!



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Gan amhras be Padruig O'Riain o Chonndae Luimni an fear meachaine a bfearr a bhi sa tir seo riamh, agus ta daoine ann a raghadh nios sia fos agus a dearfadh gur bh e O'Riain an fear a bfearr a bhi ar domhan agus is fíor dheacair a chruthu nach bfuil an ceart aca.

NIOR CHLEACTAIGH SE

An mhlí seo calte dubhras gur bhuaidh Padruig craobh Olympic na bliana 1920 in Antwerp ach ni raibh sa mheid sin ach rud beag i saoghal luith-cleas an fhir seo. Niorbh luith-cleasaí O'Riain mar O'Flannagain agus Bac Craith; fir a bheadh iad siud a chleactuigh caitheamh an casuir a dhein stuid-eas cruinn beacht ar gach a bhain leis agus a chleactuigh arís go dtí go raibh gach feith is cuisle da gcolainn i ngach casadh den iarsinn.

A mhalairt ar fad de dhuine a bheadh O'Riain. Fear a bheadh e ar bhac riamh le cleacta no beanail ach a chuaidh amach ar maiche an chomortals agus a thog an casur agus a chaith uaidh e gan stros no stro direach murab ann ach rud gan tabhact a chaith e a chur as an tsli.

FEAR GROI LAIDIE

Bioghanach an fear deagh-umtha e; se troighthe tri-oirach in aoidre ann, a chorp leathan guaiach teagartha agus eumsearach cos aig. Is deach-air meid a chuid nirt a shamlu ach nuair a chuimhnigheann tu gur le neart agus near amhain in camuis stial faoi leith no treanail a dhein se gach gaisge beidh tuiscint eigit agat ar a chuid nirt.

TOSAC MAITH...

Thosnuig Padruig go luath ina shaoghal le cleasa luith. Idir na blianta 1902 agus 1909 bhuaidh se craobh na h-Eireann go mion mionic annsan sa bhliain 1910 chluaidh se go Meircea agus niorbh bhfada ann dho go raibh clu agus call air.

I Samhradh na bliana 1913 bhuaidh se craobh na Stait n-Aontuighthe le faid cead is a seactmhadh seact troighthe agus ar an gcead la de Mhean Fochmhair na bliana ceadhain le faid cead octmhadh naoi troighthe.

Co-maith le sin bhuaidh se

Can Tipperary "Top" the Champions?

Asks D. J. KELLY

BY their victory over old rivals, Clare, at Ennis, the Men of Tipperary have qualified for the final of the National Hurling League. They meet All-Ireland champions, Wexford, at Croke Park on May 6.

WHAT A BATTLE OF THE GIANTS? THIS IS A GAME WHICH MOST HURLING FANS WILL MARK WITH RED INK IN THEIR DIARIES FOR I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE INTERESTING PAIRING.

Many still contend that had the Model Countymen met Tipperary, rather than Limerick, in the semi-final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship, they would have had to wait a little longer for the title which had eluded them since 1910.

TOUGHER

That, however, is a view to which I do not subscribe, but I will go along with the viewpoint that the Leinster side would have had a more difficult passage.

Limerick folk, no doubt, will consider that a disparaging remark but I think they will agree that their county-men form on that and subsequent outings has tempered views on their true capabilities.

If anything, Wexford have grown in stature since their All-Ireland success and now play with a confidence, that is the true stamp of champions.

Under pressure, they do not panic and while they sometimes are lethargic in their approach they always seem to have sufficient in reserve to get on top before the end.

GREAT SIDE

That fact was particularly demonstrated in their two games against Dublin—one in the League and the other in a challenge at Ferns.

Down Tipperary way, they are already talking of another All-Ireland success in 1956. That is as it should be for confidence is half the battle. Still, there are many who will await the outcome of the League final before passing judgement on the present fifteen.

The Southerners have their problems, especially in attack, for despite the wonderful play of Liam Devaney and the somewhat inconsistent Liam Skelly, they feel that the "scores for" column does scant justice to their fine outfield play.

Of course, a forward line which would include the two above-named with Seamus Bannon and the former Dublin star, Mick Ryan, would be an imposing one but Billie Quinn and Larry Keane will have to be more effective if they hope to triumph over the strong Wexford defence.

Then again, there will be mixed

feelings about the Premier County's midfield for while the "old" firm of Theo English and John Hough has seldom been found wanting, a newcomer, Sean O'Meara has established a claim for a permanent position following his wonderful second half display against Clare.

In defence, the Southerners will likely leave well enough alone for Tony Reddan is still out on his own and the full-back line of Mickey Byrne, Michael Maher and John Doyle, could hardly be improved upon.

Some may level criticism against the half-line of Jimmy Finn, Pat Stakelum and Tony Wall, but it must be remembered that these players are bound to feel the effects of the long lay-off and will be infinitely fitter by League Final day.

Despite the fine displays of Martin Codd, Oliver Gough and Hubert O'Connor, I shall be greatly surprised if Wexford rely on any others than those who brought them major honours in 1955.

ART FOLEY

I cannot see any custodian on the horizon who could displace the tried and true Art Foley and if there is a better back line than

Bobbie Rackard, Nick O'Donnell and Mick Hanlon, yours truly would certainly like to see it.

At half-back, the champions have the services of Jim English (is there a greater wing half-back in hurling to-day?) Willie Rackard, about whom you could safely say the same thing, and Mick Morrissey, who really came into his own in last year's championship.

Midfielders Seamus Hearne and Jim Morrissey have their legion of admirers but one feels that only their best will be good enough to even break even with whatever partnership the Southerners decide upon.

In Tim Flood, Wexford have one of the greatest craftsmen of the game and remember that a fit Ned Wheeler will be there to add extra punch to the Claghawn man's promptings.

Then we have the Kehoes, Paddy and Podge, and whichever one fills the left half-forward post you can count on him making things "hot" for immediate rivals.

That leaves one of the Kehoes free to man the front line of the attack with Nick Rackard and Tom Ryan.

Nick, as we all know, has no peer as leader of the attack and believe me, I have every sympathy for the full-back who thinks he can keep him out.

HARD FIGHT

The sextette may possibly be changed around—the Wexford mentors are among the most shrewd in the country—but whatever the eventual line-out, Tipperary will have to fight desperately hard if they hope to retain their title.

"Leesider" Looks Back

The Thunder Final of 1939

THE first round of the 1939 Munster Championship saw Cork beat the holders, Waterford, after a splendid game on a very fast Fermoy pitch. The issue was in doubt up to the last quarter, but here Cork took command, led by "Micka" Brennan of Sarsfields, who played what was probably one of the greatest games of his career.

LIMERICK WON THE OTHER SEMI-FINAL FROM CLARE BY 5-5 TO 1-1 AND AGAIN WE HAD A LIMERICK-CORK FINAL.

Forty thousand spectators, a new provincial record, filled Thurles Sportsfield on "Final Day" and they saw a thrilling struggle between these old rivals. Eight minutes to go and Limerick were a point ahead but just on time a Brennan-Ted Sullivan movement gave Cork a goal and a hard-earned two points win (4-3 to 3-4).

THE SETTING

In Leinster Kilkenny took the title and went on to conquer Galway at Roscrea in the All-Ireland semi-final by 1-16 to 3-1.

The final between Cork and Kilkenny brought 40,000 spectators to Croke Park on Sunday, September 3.

Torrential rain fell, thunder boomed, and lightning flashed, but did not deter the thirty players from giving a remarkable performance.

Kilkenny built up a formidable lead early and throughout Cork were fighting to get on terms.

They succeeded in doing so in the dying moments of the game and when the rain-drenched spec-

tators were prepared to see the game ending in a draw, Jimmy Kelly, from a Paddy Phelan free, gave Kilkenny a point lead and afterwards the McCarthy Cup.

MEMORABLE

This was a game that will ever be remembered by those who saw it. Brilliant displays were given by Kilkenny backs Grace, Blanchfield and Phelan, and Langton, Leahy and Mulcahy proved a thorn in the Cork defence.

Of the Cork defence that day Billy Murray, Billy Campbell and Alan Lotty were outstanding, while Jack Lynch, "Micka" Brennan, Ryng and Tabb gave their very best. The final score was: Kilkenny, 2-7; Cork, 3-3.

THE TEAMS

KILKENNY: J. O'Connell; P. Grace, P. Larkin, P. Blanchfield; R. Hinks, W. Burke, P. Phelan; J. Walsh (capt), J. Kelly; J. Langton, T. Leahy, J. Gargan; J. Mulcahy, J. O'Brien and J. Phelan.

CORK: J. Buttimer; W. Murphy, B. Thornhill, A. Lotty; W. Campbell, J. Quirke, J. Young; C. Buckley, J. Barrett; J. Lynch, R. Dineen, W. Tabb; J. Ryng, T. Sullivan and M. Brennan.

(Next month: "Waterford's first All-Ireland.")



Souvenir Brochure

Killarney Dr. Croke G.A.A. Club, has decided as part of the celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the Club, to issue a brochure giving the history of the club from the first meeting until the present day.

KERRY HURLERS

Officers elected at the North Kerry Hurling Board meeting: President, M. Fitzgerald; Vice do., Paddy "Carr" Carroll; Chairman, John Costello; Vice do., J. J. O'Sullivan and M. Higgins; Joint Treasurers, N. Scollard and James Hogan; Joint Secs., M. Fuller and T. Ryall.

DOONBEG WIN

Doonbeg, Co. Clare, Football Club, at its annual general meeting rejoiced the Club's victory in the Exile's Cup competition, as the Club won the football championship for the first time in the history of the Club. Chairman Fr. McNamara, P.P., congratulated the players.

NEW ALLEY

Ballina, Co. Clare, Handball Club has been revived, and with the new handball alley erected, past glories should be regained, according to the local enthusiasm behind the venture.

WHIT GAME

Sanction has been given for another Residents v. Non Residents senior football challenge at Miltown-Malbay, Co. Clare, on Whit Monday. The non-residents will be Co. Clare men living in Dublin, and some twenty two of these, organised by Mr. Eddie Lynch will travel at Whit to M-Malbay to challenge the residents.

NO FOREIGN GAMES

Speaking at Co. Board Football Convention held in Kilkee, the Chairman, Rev. Fr. Corry, C.C., said Kilkee was one place, where no foreign games were played.

LATE JOAN POWER

The death of Miss Joan Power of Killorglin, Co. Kerry, caused particular sorrow amongst G.A.A. supporters, as Joan was a Munster champion camogie player, and former captain of the Killorglin ladies team.

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DAY COURSES: Enrolment Mon., September 3, 1956.
EVENING COURSES: Session opens on Mon. Sept. 17, '56

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CHAMPIONS



Senior Football Champions, Tara's (Birmingham). Captain Joe Johnson, former Wicklow Minor, holding Croagh Patrick Cup after presentation by Co. Secretary G. Flanagan at the Harp Club, Birmingham.

Gloucestershire G.A.A.

By LIAM O GRIOBTHA

THE revival and restoration of the G.A.A. movement in Gloucestershire is something which most of us still marvel at, especially those who were present and aware of the dying struggles of the old 1950 County Board.

Thanks for this revival is due in great part to that noble priest-Chairman of the County Board, Rev. Fr. P. F. Cronin (Castlemaine, Kerry), and to the loyal and willing support of all the exiled Gaels in the west country.

DREAMS REALISED

Thanks to him and his supporters the dreams and efforts of Gaels in the West have been realised, and Gloucester Gaels are once again seeking fame and glory in Gaelic style in pursuit of their own national games and pastimes.

Affiliated last year were St. Patrick's, Gloucester; St. Joseph's Cheltenham; St. Kieran's, Bristol; Shamrocks, Swindon, and St. Bridget's, Shorehampton.

This year it is hoped that Newport and Bridgewater will both affiliate teams, as they are at the moment establishing clubs.

HURLING THIS YEAR

Up to now activities in the county have been exclusively confined to football. This year, however, thanks to Rev. Fr. Gerald Rodgers (Scariff, Co. Clare) it is hoped to run a hurling championship.

St. Patrick's, St. Joseph's and St. Kieran's already have hurling teams, and ambitions towards this end are held by several other clubs.

Fr. Rodgers (who is Curate at St. Peter's, Gloucester, and Chairman of St. Patrick's Club), though fully aware of the difficulties involved, is nevertheless determined that this venture will succeed, and he is ably assisted in all his efforts by B. Davitt (Belfast), Secretary of St. Patrick's; Jim Ryan (Tipperary), Secretary of St. Joseph's, and Bill Barrett (Roscommon), Secretary of St. Kieran's.

Anti-Border Rally

MR. EDDIE McATEER, M.P.; Mr. P. Lindsay, T.D., and Mr. Tom Mullins, General Secretary, Flanna Fail, will be among the speakers to address the mass rally of the Anti-Partition League in Trafalgar Square, London, on Easter Sunday.

This is the first step of a new campaign by the League to bring the partition of Ireland before the British public.

Every area in the country will be represented at the meeting and a special appeal for funds to finance the publicity drive will be made.

With officials such as these, and having at all times the influence and support of Very Rev. Canon Roche, P.P., V.F. (Wexford), St. Peter's, Gloucester and President of the County Board, it is difficult to visualise Gloucestershire ever again falling into the category of the "has beens."

All of us feel confident of the future and we pray that our priests and officials will for many years to come give us the good service which we now know is synonymous of their characters.

London's Irish

Tom Ryan of Tipperary

By MICEAL O'BRIAIN

TOM RYAN was born in the parish of Clonoulty fifty-six years ago. Sixteen years later he graced the hurling fields of Tipp. with the famed Clonoulty team, and is still a force in London's G.A.A. world.

He took his place in the ranks of the volunteers in their struggle to free Ireland and was taken prisoner, following which he went on hunger strike.

Back to civilian life on his release, Tom put his heart into the activities of the G.A.A. and 1924 saw him figuring prominently on the Dungarvan junior team.

He later moved to Dublin where he took up the camán with the famous Young Ireland's team.

"ELECTRIC HARE"

He gained such prominence with Young Ireland's that he was nicknamed the "Electric Hare" due to his fleetness of foot and also the introduction of the electric hare to the dog tracks about this time.

1930 saw Tom return to his native Tipp., this time he threw in his lot with Cashel.

As well as being an accomplished hurler, Tom was also a leading marathon runner and won many trophies in Ireland during the 1930s.

It was in Birmingham in 1942 that I first met Tom. He was doing great pioneer work for the G.A.A. in Britain and played on the Grauniale team from 1942 to 1944.

SOME of my acquaintances inform me they could recognise an Irish man or woman anywhere. I, unfortunately, am not gifted with such a talent. As a matter of fact, the only way I would recognise a Gael is by the "pin."

The "pin" in question is the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association badge. You seem to think you are in Dublin, you meet so many with the Pioneer pin in their coats. I refer to Dublin for the simple reason that if you stand at O'Connell Bridge for five minutes, the amount of Pioneers you see is something amazing. In my estimation I would say London is second to Dublin for those people!

HOLYROOD CENTRE

Recently I had the pleasure of being in a crowded hall with such people. The occasion, the quarterly meeting of the Holyrood Centre, P.T.A.A., Camden Town.

The meeting was addressed by Rev. Leonard Shiel, S.J., who, at the time was giving a Retreat for Irishmen at Stamford Hill.

A very enjoyable social evening was held after the meeting.

Music was supplied by Seamus Cussen (Limerick) and John O'Shea (Kerry).

We had several displays of step-dancing by the pupils of Mrs. Ryan's School of Dancing, with Mrs. Ryan at the piano.

TOMMY RYAN

Our host was Tommy Ryan of Cashel, Co. Tipperary, a well-known figure in athletic circles throughout Ireland and London.

The hall was kindly let for the occasion by the Belgian Fathers attached to the Church of Our Lady of Hal.

We had songs in Irish and English by the Foley sisters of Kerry.

Brian O'Boyle, a son of Dr. O'Boyle of Sligo and Camden Town, entertained the guests with Irish tunes on the pipes.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GAME

I recall with satisfaction how on St. Patrick's Day, 1944, he organised a provincial tournament between the exiles in the Midlands in Coventry which attracted a crowd of many thousands.

Tom helped form G.A.A. clubs in Nottingham, Ipswich and Bristol, together with camogie clubs and also served the G.A.A. as Secretary of the Provincial Council of Great Britain for three years.

1945 saw Tom's arrival in London where he joined Brian Borus and helped them to capture both league and championship honours in 1946-'47.

An employee of British Railways, he has won the trophy for the veterans' race in the annual sports for three years and I understand he is competing again this year.

Tom's motto for keeping fit is—plenty of ceilí dancing. When I met Tom at the Cumann Gaedhealach Ceilí recently I asked him to name the best hurler of all time.

MICK MACKAY

Tom replied: "We had great hurlers in Tipperary, but I think there was no one to equal the brilliance of Mick Mackey of Limerick."

Like all our exiles, Tom hopes eventually to return to the Ireland that is so dear to him, and I feel confident that when he does there will be a lead mile failte awaiting him from all his old friends and admirers.

By EAMONN LEAHY

London Calling

McGowan (Donegal), Clare Flanagan (Dublin), Helen Leask (Dundee, Scotland), Mary Rollason (Birmingham), and Eileen Corbett (Kerry).

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

THE United Gaelic Societies of London put up an attractive bill of festivity for the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. At the concert in Westminster Owen Brannigan (of Sadler's Wells), Richard Cooper, Maureen Hurley (Harpist), Valentine Sams (Traditional Violinist), Bill Rollinson (piano), and compere Eamonn De Barra all contributed to the patrons' enjoyment.

A Ceilí Mór was held in St. Pancras Town Hall on St. Patrick's Night.

FOOTBALL

GAELS of London are looking forward to the visit of Kerry and Dublin football teams on Easter Monday. Record crowds are expected in Woolwich Stadium.

The news has spread rapidly and a recent issue of a London evening paper, giving details of the game and the G.A.A., go further into details by explaining that "vigilance committees" see that the ban is enforced in Ireland, but not in London.

Without casting aspersions on the London G.A.A. members, I wonder are they all, like myself, non-dancers. At any rate they don't form the bulk of the crowd at the Ceilíe.

ERRATA

In my last month's column, the Chairman of Cumann na nGael was given as Bill Wallace, which should have read Bill Rollinson. I also referred to a committee member, Tony Rowland, as hailing from Kerry. Tony hails from Mayo and is also a member of the London Gaelic League Central Council.

Well, that's the lot for the present, Bail ó Dhia oraibh go leir!

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CLUB EANNA

Members Are Writing

Dear Sir—I would like to become a member of Club Eanna. I only got a copy of the "Gaelic Echo" this month. Our team nearly won the Offaly Championship last year, but they were beaten by Rhode who have a very good team. Edenderry may soon have a new recruit in C. Timmons, the Ardee footballer. My favourite hurlers are the whole Wexford team and of course my favourite football team is Offaly.—Yours sincerely,

CIARAN EARLY
(age 11).

35 Gilroy Ave.
Edenderry, Offaly.

Only Two Entries

Only two clubs, Knockane and South Liberties have entered for the 1956 East Limerick Juvenile Football Championship.

To make any progress in the football field we must look to youth and surely great strongholds like Ahane, Oola and Pallasgreen could gather fifteen youths together.

What about it lads?

JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE

SPOTLIGHTING COLLEGES' SEMI-FINALS

By M. O DUBHGHAILL

EVERYTHING worldly and worthwhile must come to an end. Na neithe saolta is thaitheamhai a bhíonn ann, ní bhíonn ionnta ach seal beag gearr.

And so the Senior Colleges games, in all provinces, progress through the quarter and semi-finals, clarifying very much the teams, which look likely to emerge as title holders in 1956.

NOT SO EXHILIRATING

True enough the over-all impression, in one mind anyway, of Colleges' games to date is that those of the 1955-'56 season, could in no way measure up as high-class fare to those of the previous 1954-'55 season.

Exceptions there have been of course, but a mention of some of these anon.

In all fairness the college players of this past season have their entirely legitimate alibis—the weather!

For all that, even the atrocious weather could never explain away some of the very mediocre displays, served up by Colleges, which are reputed to be the traditional nurseries of all that is best in Gaelic football and hurling.

What's wrong anyway, when the victor semi-finalists rout the vanquished to the tune of 7-2 to 3-3; or 5-5 to 1-4. What is wrong—indifference on the part of responsible college officials; a senile or juvenile lack of virility among the players; or just one of the seven lean years following the years of plenty?

Not wishing to draw a nornet's nest of controversy to hover between my pen and the ink bottle, I refrain from mentioning specific names; but "cap-fit cap wear."

An te go bhfeileann an caipín dó, caitheadh sé é.

THE LOSERS

Not that we did not sympathise with some very worthy losers. What with football games being played in a howling gale; or hurlers slithering and slithering trying to retrieve the sliotar out of snowy slush, it was inevitable that Lady Luck should often be the arbiter of results.

Accordingly it is in order, that in the true spirit of Gaelic games, we should say a word of encouragement and hope to those who suffered defeat by such freakish condition.

After all there is always next year. Agus dá réir, go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís, nuair a bhéas na fóirní atá leagtha anois, páirteach, le cuidiú Dé ins na cluichí craoibhe.

Serving in this case the good wine first, rarely have we witnessed an encounter in any grade, senior or otherwise, to thrill and excite a neutral as did the St. Mel's-Knockbeg encounter, i gclutche leath-chraoibhe peil na Sinn-sear Laighnibh.

To say it was a game admirable in all respects is, we feel, being rather modest in its praises.

To begin with here were two fifteens in the best to date of this year's football displays; using all the traditional craft of their great nurseries to overcome appalling conditions—a mucky mire underfoot, and above a howling gale.

For adapting themselves better to these conditions, the major credit must go to the losers, Knockbeg College.

A DELIGHT

Their quick-on-the-uptake resort to the quick pass off the ground, to the short low punt, or

fisted transfer to the player lying loose was a delight to experience. Not that the winners left much to be desired in tactical positioning or strategic switching.

That Mel's, rather than Knockbeg, emerged victorious was undoubtedly a sheer stroke of fate—kindly for the winners but rather callous for the losers.

Both teams should have lived to fight another day—a draw would have been a perfectly equitable result.

You have heard of a "Nicky Rackard special" in hurling or of a "Tom Langan pilt driver breast high" to the net in football.

"MAHER SPECIAL"

The kick which signed the exit pass for Knockbeg was a "Niall Maher special"—a free, head high from thirty five yards out, in the 28th minute of the second half when scores were level, which shook not only the Knockbeg net,

but we believe the town of Tullamore, and far distant Knockbeg College as well.

We are sorry but there was little else to enthuse about in the other Leinster semi-finals. If you witnessed any or all of them, with that you'll agree; unless you happen to be a rabid fan in one of the winner's camps; and revel not in a victory, manly and razor edge fine, but in a rout.

CURADH-MHIR NA MIOSA

Sul má théimid ag cunntas imtheachtai in na cúigi eile, níor mhiste curadh-mhir na míosa seo a bhronnadh. Do Niall O Meachair an granam sin an mhi seo.

Agus is ró-mhaith a thuill an t-imirtheoir cumasach lár-pháirce do Mhél's, an onóir sin. Tuigfidh tú sin ó na bhfuil thuas againn.

More power to your powerful drives Niall. At the moment you certainly impress as a-wearer-of-an-Ireland-jersey-to-be; and perhaps the future hero, of a long cherished hope of your native county—the winning of an All Ireland. Shall we make it a date, Niall!

What say you to Croke Park, third Sunday in September 1961?

NA CÚIGI EILE

Before dealing with the games activities in other provinces I must re-iterate a complaint I have already registered elsewhere. Why are players in Munster, Ulster and Connacht so news shy.

At the risk of having to quote myself, why are the administrators and mentors in these colleges so niggardly and neglectful of their news releases.

Is it that the secretaries of these Colleges' Councils are lazy, indifferent, or just plain ignorant of the value of games' publicity in these late 1950s?

And in this matter a particularly vicious swipe at Connacht officials. If you ever want an unequivocal justification of their theme song: "The West's Asleep" just try to secure from them raw material for a write-up on their games, or athletic activities.

So please! Secretary-scribes of Munster, Ulster and Connacht Colleges, please do make amends the next and following months for past neglects and lacuno. Scriobhaigi!

CONTINUING SOUTH KERRY'S G.A.A. HISTORY

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, writes "Pressbox," who is tracing the South's football history down through the years.

(This is the second of two instalments).

IN 1896 Caherciveen played Ballymacelligott in the county final but lost by one point. At the time there was great dissatisfaction amongst the followers of the South Kerry team due to a foul score which was allowed to their opponents by the referee.

The result was that the great J. P. O'Sullivan put up a Silver Cup and set of medals to settle the question of which was the better team. The match came off in Tralee a fortnight later and Caherciveen won easily. Pat McGillicuddy, captain of the team, now knew he had his men in right shape and accepted challenges from all quarters.

BIG CHALLENGE

A big challenge was issued by the western teams—Killorglin, Caherciveen and Valentia—to the three leading Eastern teams—Tralee, Ballymacelligott and Killarney. They met in Caherciveen in aid of Church funds. Caherciveen beat Tralee, Valentia beat Killarney and Killorglin beat Ballymac.

The result of these games was that considerable interest was taken in the following year's (1896) Championship.

Valentia having beaten Irremore, met Ballymac, whom they beat in Tralee. But the Islanders were disqualified as Thady Cahill had played a few Sundays previously for Caherciveen against Laune Rangers. Caherciveen beat all opposition and met Tralee in the final. This match is counted by old Gaels as the beginning of fast football and the end of the rough and tumble style.

In picking his team for this game, "Mack" proved himself an able general. His back-line was

composed of strong agile men, who were able to meet balls at all angles with right and left. His midfield were flyers who could field balls high over their opponents' heads.

THE FIRST TITLE

His forward division was picked from men who were athletes. These latter nonplussed the opposing backs and succeeded in notching the scores which gave them South Kerry's first county championship.

The Caher men were:—Pat McGillicuddy (Captain), Eugene McGillicuddy, Jack O'Connor, Donal Connor, John Healy, Dan Doyle, Pat Sullivan (Kit), Pat Coffey, T. Coffey, M. Devane, Jack Shea, Wm. Kelly, Jas. J. O'Shea, Des. Sheehan, John Sugrue, D. Devane, Paddy Donoghue.

This team was looked upon as Kerry's best for years and was invited all over the county for games and always drew bumper "gates." Their matches in the South Kerry Championship with Valentia were always hard-fought and fast.

Emigration was rife at this time and crowds of young men were leaving for America every week. This had a bad effect on the teams which had, consequently, to be re-formed.

Valentia lost a whole team. Thirteen of them went to America. "Seeig" left for the Metropolis where he started the Keating Branch of the Gaelic League, Football, Hurling and Camogie Clubs. The latter was actually the pioneer camogie club of the G.A.A.

DETERIORATION

Football deteriorated for a few years until Iveragh was re-organised under a South Kerry Board and then there were teams in every village.

After the drawn game against Kildare, the Kerry Selection Committee came to Caherciveen to see the Iveragh players in action against Killarney and Tralee. They were looking for men to strengthen the county team and were unanimous in selecting Ned Neill and Denis Daly but as the latter had just been called up for the Civil Service, he did not don the Green and Gold jersey.

The Young Islanders reformed their club in 1903, with P. J. O'Dris-

coll as President and the result was that they became one of Kerry's best combinations.

Though they never won the county championship, they knocked at the door twice, being stopped the first time by the famous "Gascons" and on the second occasion by the Mitchels. The club did more than any other to keep the game alive in South Kerry.

Their greatest match was, possibly, against Listowel at Tralee in the 1906 championship. Listowel then had the pick of North Kerry and included in its ranks such well-known players as Landers, Kenneally, Mullane, Carroll and Matt Wrenn of Tarbert.

They were confidently expected to win and led comfortably by ten points to two at the interval. Condon, the Young Islanders captain, made some changes and told his lads to knock down the lead by points first and then go for goals.

His orders were executed in the next 15 minutes and then depending on footwork and passing movements the Valentia front line completely outwitted the northern defence and won by two clear goals.

SELECTED

On their displays that day John Casey, Jack McCarthy, Con Darby, Patie Murphy, Ned Condon and Con Sullivan were picked for the County team.

For a few years before 1911 the Caherciveen team had gone back a lot in form but in that year they reformed their ranks with Stephen Cryan as Secretary and Mick Griffin as Captain.

The latter subsequently wore Kerry's colours. Before the year was out they had a first class combination and in the following seasons championship met Tralee in the final, being beaten by a bare point.

Jack Walsh, who was still in his teens, was picked for the Kerry team as a result of his display. Pat Murphy and Danny Mort O'Connell were also chosen but they declined the honour.

This great team held together till the first Great War started and after the subsequent troubled times nearly all the players retired. A new club was formed under

the South Kerry Board in 1925 but it lacked the fire and enthusiasm of its predecessors.

And for many years, as the large area split up, individual clubs in small districts endeavoured to tame the might of more substantial opponents.

Slowly but surely the old enthusiasm crept back. Teams were repeatedly beaten and appeared to have no chance in the county championship but the local South Kerry Championship began to capture an interest all of its own, particularly in the last twenty years.

SIGNS

South Kerry kept plodding away and signs of arevival were the selection of men from the area for the county team.

Promising minors blossomed out into staunch seniors and led the way for even more enthusiastic young lads to give the standard of the game in the Barony another push up the ladder of fame.

In recent years the South Kerry men made no secret of the fact that they were hot on the trail of the championship once more.

In 1954 they held high hopes of sweeping the decks but that was not to be. However, their defeat did not result in a sudden slump but in greater effort and they approached the 1955 Championship determined to make amends.

It must be admitted that the rest of the county did not treat them with that measure of caution until it was too late and they had qualified for the final with North Kerry and went wild in their triumphal return with their second county championship title.

THANKS

For all the information on the "old" days, I must say that I am deeply indebted to a man who, up to last year was South Kerry's very capable diplomat at County Board meetings.

Yes, you may have guessed that my most willing collaborator was the one and only Eugene Ring.

Thanks, seems a miserable word to express my appreciation of all the trouble you went to Eugene in order to forge the link between South Kerry's two great county championship victories.

WEST GALWAY GAMES

THE West Galway Board G.A.A. has made the following draws for the 1956 Championship:—
Senior Hurling—Castlegar v. Liam Mellows; Army v. Carnmore; Maree a bye.
Junior (A) Hurling—Oranmore v. Fr. Tom Burke's; B.S.L. v. Castlegar; Claregalway v. Moycullen.
Junior (B) Hurling (Group I)—Cois Fhairrige v. Rahoon; Moycullen v. Knocknacarra; St. Flannans v. Glann.
Junior (B) Hurling (Group II)—Carnmore v. Fr. Burke's; Corrib Gaels v. Liam Mellows; St. Dominick's v. Oranmore.
Senior Football—Fr. Griffins v. Naomh Ciaran; Army v. Naomh Padraig.
Junior Football (Group I)—Moycullen v. Naomh Einde; Micheal Breatnach's v. Clonbur;

Clifden v. Seamus O'Malley.
Junior Football (Group II)—Guth na nOg v. Corrib Gaels; Maree v. Fr. Burke's; St. Dominick's a bye.
Junior Football (Group III)—Castlegar v. B.S.L.; Rahoon v. Naomh Ciaran; St. Dominick's a bye.
 Minor Hurling and Football draws will be made at the next meeting.

U.C.C.'s Loss

U.C.C. will sorely miss the services of Pat Ozieh, their Science graduate and N.A.C.A. javelin champion, in this year's Inter-Varsity tests.

In 1955 he took Javelin, High Jump and Hurdles titles and was placed second in the Long Jump and third in the 100.

Attending Oxford at the moment, the lithe Nigerian will probably represent that University in the annual match with Cambridge in javelin, 220 low hurdles and long jump.

U.C.C. may, however, break the U.C.D. stranglehold on the sprints. To assist Donan Dempsey they have the services of Charlie Vaughan and Pat Hennessy, who are now evening students.

Other assets will be Pat Leonard, former St. Colman's half-miler, and Larry O'Donnell, all-rounder, who is especially proficient at long jump and javelin.

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TWO SECRETARIES WITH SAME IDEAS

By DONAL A. MURPHY

I HAVE recently been given copies of the weighty Annual Reports of two Hon. Secretaries who are pillars of the Irish Athletic world: Jim Vallely (Ulster) and Daniel J. Murphy (Cork). Both are chronicles of the initiative of their respective bodies and bear examination.

The Ulster Council promote a huge list of fixtures: Boys (14-16) 1 mile, Youths 2 miles, Novice 4 miles, Junior 6 miles, Intermediate 7 miles and Senior 9 miles cross-country championships, all inter-club and individual, and in addition an Inter-County Championship and Road Race.

NOTABLE

They hold Junior as well as Senior Track, Field and Cycling Championships, and it is notable that the flat and cycling events are contested over metric distances. There is a pentathlon as well as a decathlon title.

And now the Council has recommended to Co. Boards to hold "open" championships in addition to the "closed ones ordinarily promoted.

The Council is aided in the running of this huge list by the appointment of a special Secretary for cross-country, Mr. A. McKeown.

They publish a magazine "Ulster Athlete," under the Editorship of Mr. Dick Edwards.

COACHING SCHOOL?

This year's Convention appointed a committee to deal with Ulster records and instructed the Council to explore the possibilities of conducting its own Coaching School at Belfast this Summer.

The fact that the Cork Report was distributed in printed form speaks sufficiently for the healthy state of that county's affairs, brought about by enthusiastic work of officials and the receptive interest of the people.

One finds the same outlook of development and innovation at Mizen Head as at Fair Head. 1955 saw the inauguration of a Decathlon championship, with ten competing, and the County Championships at Clonakilty featured a popular outside event—a lofting of the bowl championship.

ALL DISTANCES

The Board farms out County Novice championships for every conceivable event (900 metres, 2,000 metres, etc.) and I notice this has the effect of bringing many cross-country runners into track competition, whereas only the top stars compete in many other counties.

Cork led the country in the number of Meets held—over 160—and continued a brilliant idea—the award of the Cade Cup to the Club scoring most points from the year's competitions, 3, 2, 1 returns from every event. Well-known sprinter, Peter Carrigy, works as Records Secretary in this regard.

Mr. Murphy has his vision fixed correctly in calling for more Inter-Club competitions. At present there is a Quadrangular Contest, concerning Knocknacarra, Rising Sun, Old Abbey and Tracton, and a match between St. Finbarr's and U.C.C.

He asks for the provision of more sports grounds and again states "I think the physical training of our youth should be the first consideration of the Government who, should make athletic training art of the school curriculum."

ATHLETIC BROTHERS

THREE Limerick cross-country trophies rest on the one side-board this season. The O'Sullivan brothers of the Limerick A.C. have won between them the County Novice, Junior and Youths' titles. The road is straight ahead for the Mungret brothers and they should be capable of capturing many further honours on the athletic fields during the coming months.

Kenmare Stop

"It is a great honour to the club and the people of Kenmare that the promoters of An Ras Tailteann have decided to stop in the town overnight during their eight day cycle race in 1956," stated Secretary Mr. M. Crowley, in his report at the annual general meeting of Kenmare Athletic Club. The Chairman, Rev. Fr. O'Neill, was congratulated on his re-election as Vice-N.A.C.A.

Tipp. Title

Although Tipperary retained the Munster Cross-Country Championship at Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare, recently, they had not a runner in the first three. The event was won by Ted Geary (Cork), with B. O'Sullivan (Limerick) second, and S. Mathews (Waterford) third. Fifty-six runners faced the starter, and Tipperary had six men home in the first twelve.

LEITRIM SELECTORS

LEITRIM Co. Board's new selection committee: Chairman, Rev. S. Manning, Rev. J. Young, T. O'Riordain, E. Delahoyde, H. Doherty, M. Fox and H. Doherty.

COME-BACK

U.C.G. girls, fresh from their Ashbourne Cup victory, have come back with a bang to the Galway Co. Championship Camogie. They beat Tuam in the first semi-final last month and are hot favourites for the title.

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Focus on
Ulster



Emigration

Greenlough G.F.C. have been forced to withdraw from all competitive football in South Derry due to emigration of players. They were once one of the best teams in the area.

Joe Feted

ARMAGH bowls player, Joe McVeigh who recently beat the Cork champion, Mick Barry, was honoured by his supporters and admirers at a very pleasant function. Present to make the presentation to Joe was Cork-born Brother O'Sullivan of Armagh C.B.S., representing the Cork bowls followers.

Semi-Final Ref.

Referee for the Armagh-Meath National Football League semi-final at Casement Park, Belfast, on April 15 will be Brian O'Riordan of Dublin. Mr. O'Riordan did a good job when he refereed the Ulster-Connacht Railway Cup semi-final at the same venue on February 19.

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WELL DONE

ULSTER footballers' great victory over Munster in the Railway Cup final won the admiration of fans all over the province. The Ulster boys beat first of all the "hot" favourites from the West and then in the final made light work of Munster's challenge. Well done, boys!

Ulster Riders Are Good

ULSTER riders had shown in the Ras Tailteann that they could hold their own with Ireland's best, said Mr. J. McGreevy, Road Secretary, at the N.C.A. Congress in St. Patrick's Hall, Portadown.

Officers elected: President, C. McGreevy (Newry); Vice-Presidents, J. O'Neill (Cookstown), J. Skinnader (Emyvale), D. McGurk (Belfast), M. Sands (Dublin), J. Hackett (Armagh), P. Hughes (Coalisland); General Secretary, P. J. Logan (Dungannon); Road Secretary, J. McGreevy (Newry); Treasurer, Joe McIvor (Dungannon).

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