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Munster Edition

Gaelic

# echo

# HALPIN'S TEA

is rich in the  
cup

VOL. 6. No. 4.

APRIL, 1957.

PRICE 4d.

# Cork Are Confident For 1957

DOWN IN CORK THERE IS A FEELING THAT 1957 WILL PROVE VERY SUCCESSFUL. THIS CONFIDENCE IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT CORK CAN BOAST OF TWO VERY FINE TEAMS, BOTH CAPABLE OF REPEATING LAST YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENT OF REACHING BOTH ALL-IRELAND FINALS AND PERHAPS GOING ONE BETTER THIS TIME AND WINNING THE TITLES.

Let's have a look at those teams. Will each player be as good as last year and have we the necessary replacements for those who have lost form or retired?

Mick Cashman should once again hold his place between the posts, even though many would prefer him as a centre back. Brohan, Lyons and O'Shaughnessy are most likely to form the full-back line, and who could wish for a better trio.

## STEADY LINE

Solid rather than brilliant, they will prove a problem for most forwards. They showed fine form in the recent Railway Cup series, particularly in the replay match against Connacht when hard pressed at the opening.

The half-back line, however, must be judged the weakest section of the team; here Philpott is the sole certainty. Vince Twomey and Matty Fuohy seem to have gone past their prime.

I would like to see the young Barrsman, Willie Walsh, given a chance here to show his worth; he's a fine young hurler with plenty of dash and spirit.

He's already played a few matches for the county but mostly at centre-field. This is not his best position and a switch to right half-back should benefit the line considerably.

Now for the centre-field pair. Gerald Murphy, out of favour with

the selectors in last year's series, has been showing good form for his club lately. A continuation of this should give Gerry his place once again.

## HARD WORKERS

Goulding seems likely to hold his place. He's a hard worker, equally at home in either hurling or football.

The Cork forwards are good combination. In Barry and Ring they have two of the most dangerous forwards in the game, and partnered with Kelly, O'Shea, O'Regan and Healy, would prove a handful for any back-line.

Ring at the moment is in top form; the recent injury does not seem to have effected him in the least, and I imagine all thoughts of his retiring can be forgotten for quite a while.

Taken all in all, this team, with a few changes, under the expert guidance of Jim Barry, should form into a very forceful combination, capable of capturing the honours which so narrowly eluded them in 1956.

## FOOTBALLERS

What of the footballers of many faults, but full of the will to win? Liam Power from Mitchelstown has not up to yet been properly tested. As a junior he was most impressive. He is likely to be fronted by Paddy O'Driscoll, one of the best defenders in the game; Denis Bernard and Dermot O'Sullivan.

The placing of Bernard in the full-back position has considerably strengthened the line, which was suspect since last year's final against Galway.

Fitzgerald should take over the



IRELAND ATTACKS—D. Ferguson (No. 2) jumps high and reaches up with his hurley in an effort to thwart Christy Ring, who prepares to receive a lobbing ball near The Rest's goal. J. Walsh (No. 3) wards off another danger-man, N. Rackard, who comes charging in on the right.

vacant centre-back position; he has already distinguished himself there with his club. Gould and Dan Murray complete a line which would compare with the best in the country.

At centre-field I would like to see Sean Moore and Paddy Harrington together. In a short time Moore has turned into a really top-class footballer. This is all the more surprising when it is realised that he has very little experience of senior football.

Sean's club, Glenview, have no senior team, being soely a junior club.

## THOSE FORWARDS

Now to the oft criticised forwards. At last they seem to have conquered their faulty shooting. Here I would like to see Pat Woods introduced. He is a very clever player, possessing a fine pair of hands and shooting boots.

He seems ideally equipped for the centre-half forward position vacated by Fitzgerald.

Flanked by Eric Ryan and Murphy, they should prove a thorn for many a half-back line. Last year's trio, Goulding, Duggan and "Toots" Kelleher, complete the team.

In form, I fancy this team to tear through all opposition and won't be surprised if they join with their hurlers in competing for All-Ireland honours next September.

## Clare Exiles To Tour Home

THE first week in August will be a pleasant one for Clare footballers, for it will mean the renewing of many old playing friendships when the St. Senan's Football Club, London—an all-Clare team—will tour their home county and play five games, meeting Cooraclare, Lisdoonvarna, Kilrush, Ennis and Doonbeg.

Acting as liaison between between Clare Gaels abroad and at home is County Vice-Chairman, Paddy Hennessy, and in charge of the London team will be James Long, former Clare inter-county net-minder.

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diachta, ar an Liotúir, ar na Scrioptúir, ar Mhuire, ar bheathai  
na naomh, no are fheadhbanna nua-aimseartha ar muintire. Is  
eachtach an meid foilsitheoireachta ata le deanamh fos.

Is mithid tabhairt faoin fhoilsitheoireacht sin agus lion na  
gneithe agsula den bheatha spioradálta a mheadu—ní o am  
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### NA SCRIBHNOIRI

Ta leabhair leis na scríbhnoirí seo  
leanas roghnaithe do 1957. Donn  
Piatt, An t-Athair Donnchadh O  
Floinn, An t-Athair Padraig  
O Fiannachta, An Canonach Mac  
Giolla Cheara (nach maireann)  
agus Niall O Domhnaill.

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tius saoil.

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chuig: F.A.S., 28 Sr. Seartha Uacht,  
Ath Cliath.

## OUT OF ACTION

ROBBY NOLAN, who has  
played many outstanding  
games for his club, St. Mullins,  
and for the Carlow junior hurl-  
ing team, has injured a ligament  
in his knee and will be out of the  
game, as far as inter-county hurl-  
ing is concerned, for some time.

An automatic choice on the  
county team for some years now, he  
told me that after the trial game  
on Sunday, March 10, he advised  
the selectors not to consider him  
for this year's team.

Robby captained St. Mullins  
junior hurlers last year, when they  
won the league competition. He  
also won a junior football medal  
with Ballymurphy in last year's  
championship. May we join with  
the many who wish for the speedy  
return of this fine player to the  
playing fields.

## CONNOLLY THIS TIME

THE Gael-Linn handball  
competition settled one  
question in Mayo handball  
circles—which of the two  
junior All-Ireland winners,  
Eamon Connolly, of Newport,  
or Seamus Fleming, of Char-  
lestown, is the better hand-  
baller, writes Fear Siuil.

They met in the final of the  
Division and Connolly won a  
thrilling contest, which showed  
both players to have retained  
all the skill and sparkle that  
proved them "tops" in 1956.

## Mallow Meeting

An extraordinary General Meet-  
ing was held in G.A.A. Clubrooms,  
Town Hall, Mallow, recently. Gen-  
eral improvements in the Social  
Club were discussed.

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## CAVAN VETERAN

A GAEL with a life-time of ser-  
vice to the Association is Mr.  
Patrick O'Reilly, the present trea-  
surer of the Cavan Co. Committee.  
The Official Guide of 1904 shows  
that he was then a member of the  
Central Council.

He was also present at the forma-  
tion of the Ulster Council in the  
early years of the present century  
and for the past fifty years he has  
been an official of the Cavan Co.  
Committee.

Mr. O'Reilly still has in his posses-  
sion a copy of the official guide pub-  
lished in 1902.

Renowned throughout Cavan for  
his efficiency and service to the  
association, Mr. O'Reilly thinks the  
present Cavan team is on the way  
back.

On the only occasion when I met  
him—at last year's Ulster Con-  
vention in Ballybofey, he demonstrated  
his continuing agility of mind and  
enthusiasm. Go raibh saoghal fada  
agus go foill a Phadraig.

## Island's Own 'All-Ireland'

APPROXIMATELY 3,000  
spectators watched last  
year's drawn decider and  
thrilling replay in Achill  
Island's own miniature All-  
Ireland—the Scanlan  
Memorial Cup competition.

Already the semi-finalists  
are known in this year's con-  
test: Ballycroy, Tiernaur, St.  
Patrick's (Keel) and Gaelic-  
speaking defeated finalists of  
1956, Kildonnet, who hope to  
go one better on Easter  
Sunday and bring the Cup to  
Derreens. Asleam Kildonnet,  
and Cloch Mhor.

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## 1959 A SPECIAL YEAR

MR. Padraig O Caoimh, General  
Secretary of the G.A.A.  
speaking at a recent Cork County  
Board function, revealed that it  
was his intention to ask Congress  
to make 1959 a special year for the  
of the extended Croke Park  
G.A.A., co-inciding with re-opening  
Stadium, writes Rover.

Gaels from all parts of the  
globe will be invited to take part  
in the ceremonies and offered a  
chance of seeing the All-Ireland  
finals of that year.

The first Sunday in September  
would bring together the greatest  
hosting of Irish people ever to  
assemble in historic Croke Park.

The day should prove a worthy  
successor to the old Tailteann  
Games organised by the late J. J.  
Walsh back in 1924.

## Oireachtas 1957

Beidh Oireachtas 1957 ar siúl an  
19 go dtí 27 Deireadh Fomhair  
Ta meadu mor ar chuid de na  
duaiseanna agus freisin ta' roinnt  
athruithe ar na coinneallacha.

Bhi meadu mor ar lion na  
n-iomatheoiri i gcuid mhaith Com-  
ortas ag Oireachtas 1956 agus  
meadu freisin ar an bhfreastal ar na  
h-imeachtaí. H-iocadh nios mo  
airgid i nduaiseanna na mar a  
deineadh riamh cheana. Is com-  
hartha e sin ar an suim ata' a chur  
san Oireachtas agus comhartha e  
freisin ar fiuntas na h-oibre nuair  
a bhi na moltoiri sasta na duais-  
eanna san go leir a bhronnadh.

Thainig meadu ar lion na  
bhfoirne dramalochta agus ar lion  
na n-iomatheoiri ins na Comortais  
Ardain i gcóitinne agus go h-aithe  
ins na Comortais do Cheol Uirlisi.  
Reachtaitar na Comortais seo le  
chomh-oibrin o Chomhaltas Ceol-  
toiri Eireann.

Ta 65 comortais ar fad ann. Ni  
folair gach aon scríbhinn iomaichta  
do na Comortais liteartha agus do  
na Comortais ar cheol a cheapadh  
is a choiriu a bheith ag Runai an  
Oireachtais ar an 15 Iúil agus ise  
an 23 Meán Fomhair an la is deanaí  
chun glacadh le h-iarratais  
iomaichta do na Comortais Ardain.

Ta an Clar Comortais le fail ar  
real agus gach eolas eile i dtaobh  
na Feile o Runai an Oireachtais 14,  
Cearnóg Parnell, Ath Cliath.



# What's Wrong With Clare's Hurling?

*Asks Sean O'Neill*

"NEVER BET ON A CLARE TEAM UNLESS THE ODDS ARE GREATLY AGAINST THEM, AND EVEN THEN MAKE SURE YOU GET AT LEAST THREES." RATHER AN ODD STATEMENT, BUT IT WAS MADE TO ME RECENTLY BY A SON OF THE BANNER COUNTY WHILE WE DISCUSSED THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CLARE HURLING; AND TO BACK UP HIS REMARKS MY FRIEND MENTIONED A LIST OF RATHER AMAZING EVENTS WHICH STRETCHED FROM THE 1914 ALL-IRELAND FINAL TO THE 1955 MUNSTER TITLE DECIDER.

"We have," he said, squaring himself and adding an inch or two to his chest measurements, "produced some of the finest teams ever to grace a hurling pitch and, as a matter of fact, I go further and say that we produced the greatest team of all time in our 1932 fifteen."

"To back up this statement I have as good an authority as you could ask for in Tommy Leahy of Kilkenny, who hurled against them in that year's final. We were beaten by two points that day and I need not tell you that only for Tull Considine's miss in the last minutes we would have won and deserved it at that."

"Anyone who saw that game will tell you that we (note that at this stage 'we' had been substituted for 'they') were the better team and in meeting Kilkenny they were up against a team who had twice drawn with Cork in the previous final and who were in '32 as perfectly blended and experienced team as ever took the field in Croke Park. Many give them the credit of being the greatest ever, but mark my words, we were better."

## '32 Team

"Yes, that '32 team was a team and a half, stretching from poor Tommy Daly in goal—God be good to him—to Tull Considine as full-forward, there were men like Fowler McInerney, Tom Burnell, John Joe Doyle, Larry Blake, Jumbo Higgins—men as good as any who ever touched a hurley."

"But I am getting away from my argument," says my friend, as he drowns his nostalgic memories with one graceful movement of his right hand and swiftly continues.

"Since then and down through the years we have had great teams and great men. Year after year we have met the likes of Cork or Tipperary, hurled them off the field for over an hour, only to lose because of missed chances, and then sit back and watch our victors go ahead to win the title. Luck!—down in Clare we never heard of it."

Every once in a while we look like going places, like two years ago when we beat Cork and then Tipp, everyone was sure we were for it at last. I wrote to my daughter in Dublin to try and get a few tickets for the final and I was so confident that I was late for the Munster final against Limerick and missed the first quarter. The team was as sound a favourite as any that day. Well, you know what happened and that's only one example of many such an event.

## Defeat

A few years back we looked like winning the National League and our boys travelled to Cork to meet the locals who had lost their two previous games and had no further interest in the proceedings—what happened? Sure I need not tell you, we were licked and Cork were without Ring at that.

Even in the junior hurling championship of 1949 it happened that we had a great team with the likes of Jimmy Smith and many of our senior stars later on, and we walked the home title.

In the final proper we met London and it was played above all places, in Ennis, mind you!

GOALIE  
COMES  
OUT



At the match between Ireland and the Combined Universities, played before a disappointing crowd on the 18th March, at Croke Park, Jack Mangan was forced to come out to foil Universities' forward Frank Higgins. Ireland team-mates, Paddy O'Driscoll and Jim Devlin (on goal-line), were up in support. Final score: Ireland, 3-10; Combined Universities, 3-6.

London won—did you ever hear the likes of that—beaten by London after we-beating all Ireland?

I quickly agreed that it was very unfortunate and to try and bring the conversation around to a more constructive basis I slipped in with "well, what do you blame for this shakiness and inconsistency down through the years?"

## Temperament

"Well," said my companion, looking suggestively at the dregs. I took the hint and with a look of evident relief, he continued: "well, there you have me, I suppose it would take a stranger to spot it but whatever it is it's been there a long time. Maybe it's lack of proper discipline or our temperament—yes, that could be it, or just an unusual complex, you know—rags to riches and then rags again—like many a world boxing champion and then, maybe . . ."

From a distance there came the clarion call of "time, gentlemen", and like any law-abiding citizen of the Republic, I arose to go, much to the disappointment of my companion, who, with inarticulate grunts and mutterings of "we don't do this in the good old Banner" followed me out.

At the corner of the street, as I was about to bid him and Clare hurling the best of luck, he stopped me with: "Well, you know things are not so bad down there, as we often say at home 'what would we do at all if some year we won the All-Ireland, sure we would have nothing to look forward to and nothing to talk about and maybe it's better as it is'."

With that he pulled up the collar of his frieze top-coat and left me. "What would they do if they won the All-Ireland?"

It's an interesting thought and my own sentiments are "let's hope it happens soon—and we will quickly find out".

SEAN O'NEILL.

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"THREE slender things that  
best support the world:  
the slender stream of milk  
into the pail, the slender  
blade of green corn upon the  
ground, the slender thread  
over the hand of a skilled  
woman".

—The Triads of Ireland

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**'FEAR FEASA' calls for a new attitude to critics of our  
Gaelic games, and says . . .**

# THE REMEDY LIES WITH OURSELVES

ARDENT Gaels are very often upset when critics of our games point out some obvious flaw in organisation or some apparent fault in administration. The usual reaction is either to deny that they exist or to counter-attack by denouncing the critics as enemies of the G.A.A.

I think that the time has come for an honest re-appraisal of the situation. The G.A.A. is now powerful enough to stand criticism; but there remain those who resent the slightest adverse comment, even from within the organisation itself.

This, surely is a wrong and unhealthy attitude. It very often results in people who are sympathetic to the Gaelic movement as a whole being frightened off. Remember the old Irish proverb, "Bionn an fhirinne fein searbh." So, let's face it: like all big concerns we have our good points and our faults, too; let us be big enough to admit them.

If we start our games late; have long delays at the intervals; have bouts of fisticuffs on the field, and if our spectators sometimes take the law into their own hands and invade the pitch, how can we expect to escape criticism?

To be sure, these incidents are rare and isolated; but they still happen, and while they do, there are brickbats always at hand for those who wish to throw them.

It boils down to this: If we allow such things to happen, we have only ourselves to blame, and if we try to gloss over them as not worthy of the publicity they receive, we are not doing our duty.

The one sure antidote is frank, fearless criticism of ourselves. Faults, where they exist, should be discussed openly by club meetings, by the county boards, and, in more serious cases, by the Central Council.

A young player told me recently that he arose to make some suggestions at his club's annual meeting. His remarks, while perfectly fair and honest, were frowned upon by some of the older members, and he was practically told to sit down.

**YOUNG—BUT**

Admittedly, the lad is not long out of school—he was on a minor team—but he maintains that his comments were constructive and certainly did not deserve the treatment they received.

Who could blame the boy if he became a little cynical and drifted away from the game he knew and played so well?

We should always remember that our future progress depends on young players like him, and even if we think their views are sometimes immature and even wrong-headed, we should at least listen to them and then in a quiet way point out the faults (if they are there) in their reasoning.

No, let them have their say and if unpleasant things have to be said it's far better that they be said by members of the organisation than those less qualified on the outside.

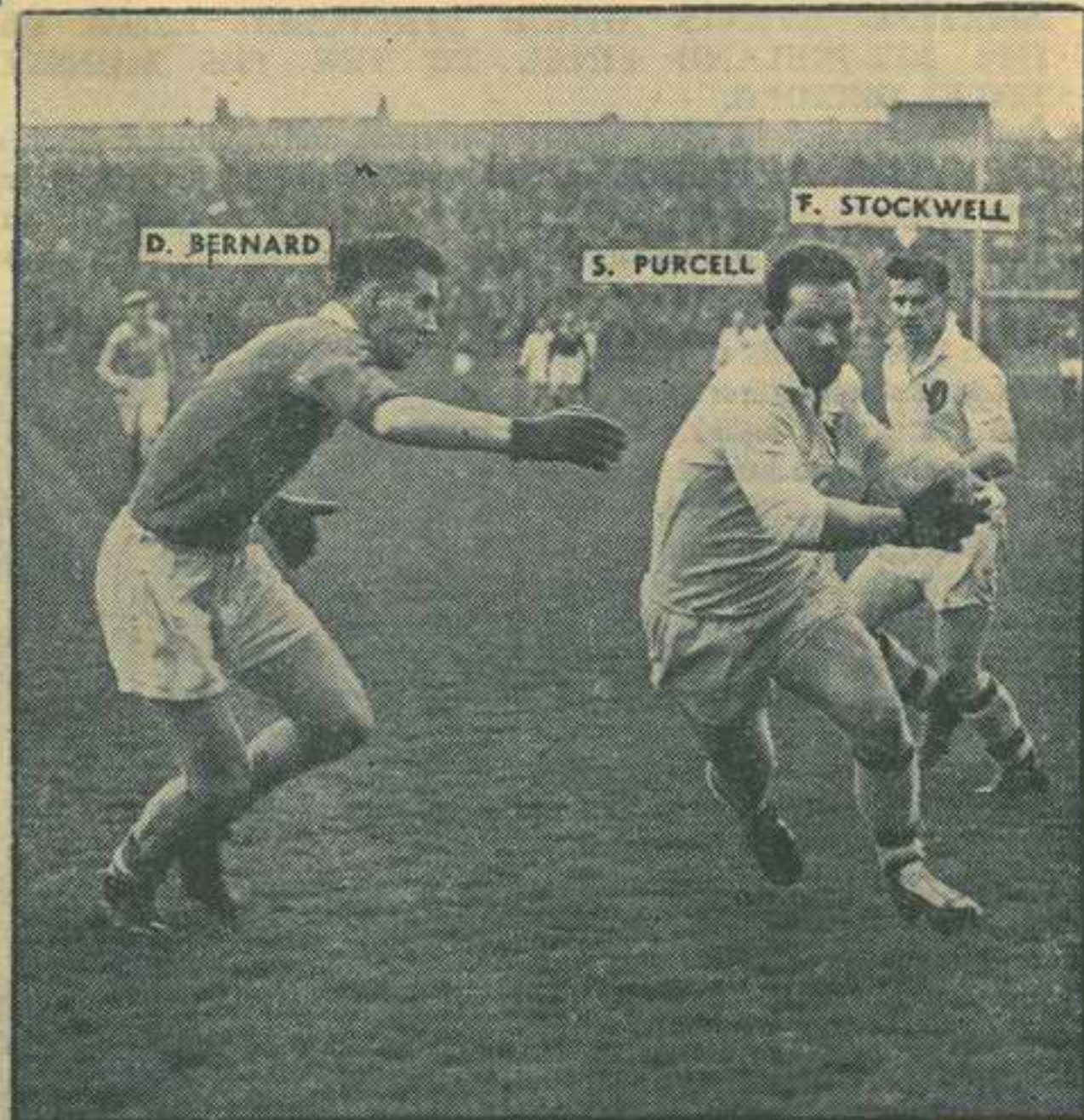
**NO NEW IDEAS**

I have often thought, how few secretaries really speak their minds at convention time. There are exceptions, of course.

The General Secretary, Mr. Padraig O'Caomh, is always outspoken and fearless; so too are Leinster and Ulster secretaries, Martin O'Neill and Gerry Arthurs.

There are others, too, but it is unfortunately true that too many give us the yearly ration of

## GOING THROUGH!



D. Bernard (Munster), with arms spread, dashes over in an effort to foil S. Purcell's attempt at going through for a Connacht score, in the recent Railway Cup Final. Frank Stockwell watches anxiously in the background.

cliches about "our national heritage"; "most successful year ever" (it always seems to be this); "games in a healthy state"; "Mr. So-and-So elected for the umpteenth year", you know them all!

In fact, a shrewd club official speaking to me during the week following publication of most of the conventions in the daily papers said: "Do you know what? In most of those reports, you could just change the names of the officers elected (sometimes even that would not be necessary) and the date and they would be practically the same as

last year's".

That may have been a trifle harsh; but there was undoubtedly much truth in what he said.

So, with the G.A.A. achieving so much and becoming a more powerful influence as the games progress, we should be more amenable to criticism, where it is justified and be big enough to ignore biased and malicious attacks as unworthy of attention. After all, the games and how they are played are what really count. If we approach them in the proper spirit, the players and the great Association, which guides them, will be above reproach.

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# RAS TAILTEANN IS ON, SAYS SEC.

"DESPITE RUMOURS TO THE CONTRARY, RAS TAILTEANN WILL BE STAGED THIS YEAR." SO SAID N.C.A. RACE SECRETARY, STEVE ABBOTT, WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN A WEEKLY PUBLICATION, FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF RACE DIRECTOR JIMMY LEAHY OF TRALEE.

"I SEE NO REASON WHY THE RACE SHOULD NOT BE RUN THIS YEAR," CONCLUDED ABBOTT.

A new Leinster Cycling Council was formed in Jury's Hotel, Dublin, on St. Patrick's Night. The President of the N.C.A. welcomed the delegates and stressed the need for an efficient Cycling Council for Leinster.

Up till now there had been no Council and, as a result, Leinster cyclists were at a great loss for their Provincial Road Championships.

The Council would also play its part in furthering the objects of the Association in Leinster.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Frank Baird, the well-known All-Ireland Road and Track Champion, was unanimously elected President, and in declaring him elected, Mr. Killeen paid tribute to his great work for the Association.

Under his guidance the Leinster Council will achieve every success, he said.

Replying Frank Baird thanked the delegates for placing so much confidence in him and he assured them that he would leave no stone unturned to put Leinster at the top of provincial cycling.

Secretary, Frank Reilly (Navan) another well-known racing man was elected Secretary and this was a particularly happy choice because Frank was one of the chief movers in raising the £700 in County Meath to send Tommy Flanagan to Melbourne.

A feature of the meeting was the number of active racing men elected as officers. Jim Pogley (Nth. Kildare) was elected treasurer.

The first business was the revival of the Leinster Road championships. It was agreed that the Council should run the following events this year: 100 Kilos massed start (Senior); 25 miles Time Trial (Senior) and 50 Kilos (Junior).

The next meeting was fixed for Kilkenny on April 28. Counties represented were Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Louth, Kilkenny, Westmeath and Wicklow.

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## LATE FLASH

It is likely that the well-known N.C.A. racing cyclist, Mick Christie, will retire from competitive cycling in the near future, writes "Roadman." It will be a big blow to his club, St. James's Gate.

He is now Chairman of the County Board and his anxiety to give this position plenty of attention may influence him to retire from racing.

# Cycling Snippets

By "ROADMAN"

IN 1954 the name Billy O'Brien was a household word in Irish cycling. The burly six foot two inch Carrigtwohill farmer was winning all before him and besides being the hero of the Ras Tailteann of that year, he won the 100 mile All-Ireland championship.

Later that year Billy surprised everyone by announcing his retirement from cycling and concentrating on his farm.

The old 'gradh' for the bike must be still on Billy as he is training again in Cork, and reports say that he is showing every sign of a successful comeback.

\* \* \*

Irish cycling may soon be losing one of its finest exponents as rumour has it that crack North Kildare cyclist Bernie O'Brien may soon be leaving for Canada. O'Brien, who was the first to win a National League title, stated that owing to unemployment he may be forced to emigrate.

\* \* \*

Probably the most active club in the N.C.A. is the Clann Brugh. This club, which was formed last summer by the well known cyclist, Steve Abbott, formerly of the Harp C.C., is making great efforts to en-

## Noted Cyclist Emigrates

JOHNNIE KEANE of Rosmoylan, Creggs, who returned from England to take second place in Ras Tailteann last year, has emigrated to America.

His magnificent showing in this race, without team-mates to help him, proves that this young man, a member of the Laught C.C., was one of the outstanding cyclists in the country, a fact advertised by the well-filled side-board in his home.

Johnnie intends to continue at the cycling game in the USA, but what a loss he will be to Irish and Connacht sport.

rich cycling with the teachings of Cathal Brugh.

Already it has a regular beginners Irish class and next on the list is a lecture entitled "The Heritage of Cathal Brugh", which will be delivered by club president, Seosamh Mac Criostal in the Four Courts Hotel on Friday, April 5.

From the racing point of view this club shows signs of reaching the top shortly, though the majority of the riders are still only in the novice stage.

Man to watch will be young Tony Quinn, Dublin, who made his name when winning the Co. Dublin Board Novice massed start last year.

### CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Features for the month of April will be the 50 mile Massed Start Championship of Ireland, which this year will be held in Nenagh; and the two-day Ras-Uladh: Newry to Bundoran and back.

On the National League front, the Kilkenny Co. Board will open the league with a 75 mile Ras Cill-coinnigh.

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# GEAR IS VERY IMPORTANT

*Says FLACCUS*

**LAST MONTH, I WROTE OF THE ELEMENTAL AND PRIMARY NECESSITY OF PHYSICAL FITNESS TO THE SPORTSMAN. HE NEEDS SUFFICIENT FITNESS FOR HIS PARTICULAR GAME, AND THIS IS THE POINT WHERE DIVERGENCE OCCURS IN TRAINING METHODS AND SYSTEM.**

I shall treat of getting fit at a future date, and give what is considered a very good training scheme, by the best authorities. On this occasion, however, we shall consider the second elemental necessity for the games-player, and that is, his gear.

It is true that young men have a greater or lesser degree of natural control, of natural ability for play; this native gift is facilitated by use, in other words, practice and experience which comes from constant play.

It is, however, enhanced by two factors which do not depend upon chance distribution of the Divine gifts: fitness and comfort.

Fitness was discussed last month; but comfort is another highly important, but little cared for, necessity.

Too many players are quite unconcerned with the clothes they wear when playing, and most important of all, with the footwear.

## SPARE BOOTS?

Everyone is familiar with the man who comes to the team's dressing-room half-an-hour before the match, and casually asks if anyone has got a spare pair of boots that he could lend to him.

It may seem incredible, but a well-known All-Ireland footballer scarcely ever had a properly fitting pair of boots of his own.

On one occasion this player turned up at the team's headquarters on the eve of the All-Ireland without boots, and finally borrowed a pair from one of the boys who played in the minor All-Ireland final just before the senior game.

The story, of course, has a sequel; the player in question had a fine game, and a great deal to do during the hour, but it was several weeks before he could again play. The moral of the story is as painfully obvious as the sequel. If you intend to play, provide yourself with comfortable, well-fitted equipment.

## FIRST ESSENTIAL

The most important items, of course, are the boots. In the last few years bootmaking firms have come to realise, at length, the necessity for putting a variety of styles and fittings on the market.

The player of to-day should be thankful that he has a choice, unlike his cousin of some years back, who simply had to take the standard model: heavy stout leather, thick serviceable soles, granite-hard toe-caps, uppers stretching well above the ankles.

Nowadays such innovations and helpful features as sponge insoles, rubber studs, low-cut uppers, supports for the foot and ankle, etc., should be availed of.

The result of all these new features has been a reduction in the weight of the boot to the minimum, while its durability remains unaltered, and maybe even improved.

Now, the buying of a pair of boots is an event in the life of any player in hurling or football. The footballer should study and fit on all the models and styles available in a size which will fit him comfortably.

## SIZE SMALLER

When he has decided which boot fits him best, he should then buy that model one size smaller. This is not so foolish as it seems; in fact, football boots stretch considerably and this should be bargained for, otherwise they become too big and do not support and enclose the foot properly.

Boots which are too loose have caused many a foot injury, and, naturally, they reduced the effectiveness of the wearer. The fact that they are bought too small means, of course, that they are not fit for immediate wear.

Football boots should not, in any circumstances, be used in a match immediately following their purchase. They must, first of all, be shaped to the form of the foot, by wearing them in the garden, in the home, even by the fire at night.

I know one prominent player who "broke-in" his last pair of football boots by wearing them while ploughing and doing the farm-work in the fields. Not until they are thoroughly "broken-in" and comfortable should they be used in a match.

Tastes must differ in this, as in many more serious matters, so it is impossible to indicate any particular type or style of boot as the best. What can and must be done, however, is to indicate what features of the present-day boot will be found helpful by most.

## LIGHTNESS

Lightness must be an obvious advantage; yet, coupled with durable light leather, it eliminates all possibility of an inferior article. The low-cut boot gives a greater support round the foot, while the higher-cut one gives a help to those who suffer from weak ankles, and who does not?

Studs are a further problem. Ideally, they should be inter-changeable according as the grounds are heavy or dry. The best of the fixed studs are the rubber ones because they do not tend to push through the soles when the going is hard on top.

A sponge insole is an added advantage for comfort; and if your boots do not contain them an ordinary pair of foam-rubber or similarly soft insoles is a good investment.

The cardinal rule should be "Buy Early"; because of the time needed for the breaking-in process, old boots should not be cast away at once, but the old and new footwear should overlap in use.

## MUST BE CLEANED

After a game the boots must be cleaned of mud and given a coat of dubbin; the soles should be done in ordinary black polish, for this keeps them hard. It is amazing what a difference this small chore makes to the life and to the comfort of football boots.

With a close connection to football boots, and almost as important, is the stocking problem. A clean pair, without any rough and ready darning, and especially without any holes, gives one the ideal requirements as regards stockings.

And always have garters at the ready or tapes to hold the stockings up; if they fall down they will begin to drag into the boot, and may cause chaffing to the foot.

Next item is the knicks or shorts.

In general, it is fairly certain that knicks should be sufficiently loose to give freedom of movement, but not so loose as to flap uselessly about the players' legs.

Many players like brief-cut shorts with plenty of freedom in leg movement. These are ideal, and not only that, but they are extremely neat to look at on the field of play. Certainly, the knee-length cut has gone the same road as other out of date fashions.

## USEFUL AID

That completes the essential ward-

robe of the player, for the club supplies the jerseys. But, it is worthy of mention that very many games players nowadays wear a supporter, or at least an athletics slip underneath the knicks.

Such a garment is a help to many players and banishes, or rather prevents, a good deal of the drag and tiredness of stomach muscles by supporting them. A pair of swimming trunks is also a very good substitute for a supporter.

Finally, to the question of jerseys, and to an appeal to clubs. Do buy good comfortable, easy-fitting jerseys, and when you have bought them do, please, take reasonable care of them.

If you cannot afford to have them laundered after every match, at least dry and air them, and give them to the players in a pleasant condition, and not damp from the perspiration of weeks before, as is too often the case.

A lighter, half-sleeved, V-necked jersey has come on the market lately at much reduced price. It appears to be an excellent bargain, for it lasts very well. And, as well, it looks extremely smart.

## A SURPRISE?

Perhaps, my emphasis of the smartness of the gear causes surprise. The reason is, of course, that apart from all other considerations, there is a deep psychological effect in being well and smartly togged out. Very often the neatly dressed team shows comparable efficiency in its play.

The keen player will, then, check his togs four or five days before each match to see that his gear is in good condition, neat and tidy; and the keen Club Secretary will air those jerseys for his men on the night before each game.

Thus the second elemental aid to natural skill will be cared for. If, also, the fitness of the players, the first element, has been attended to, each man individually should produce the maximum output of efficient gameplay.



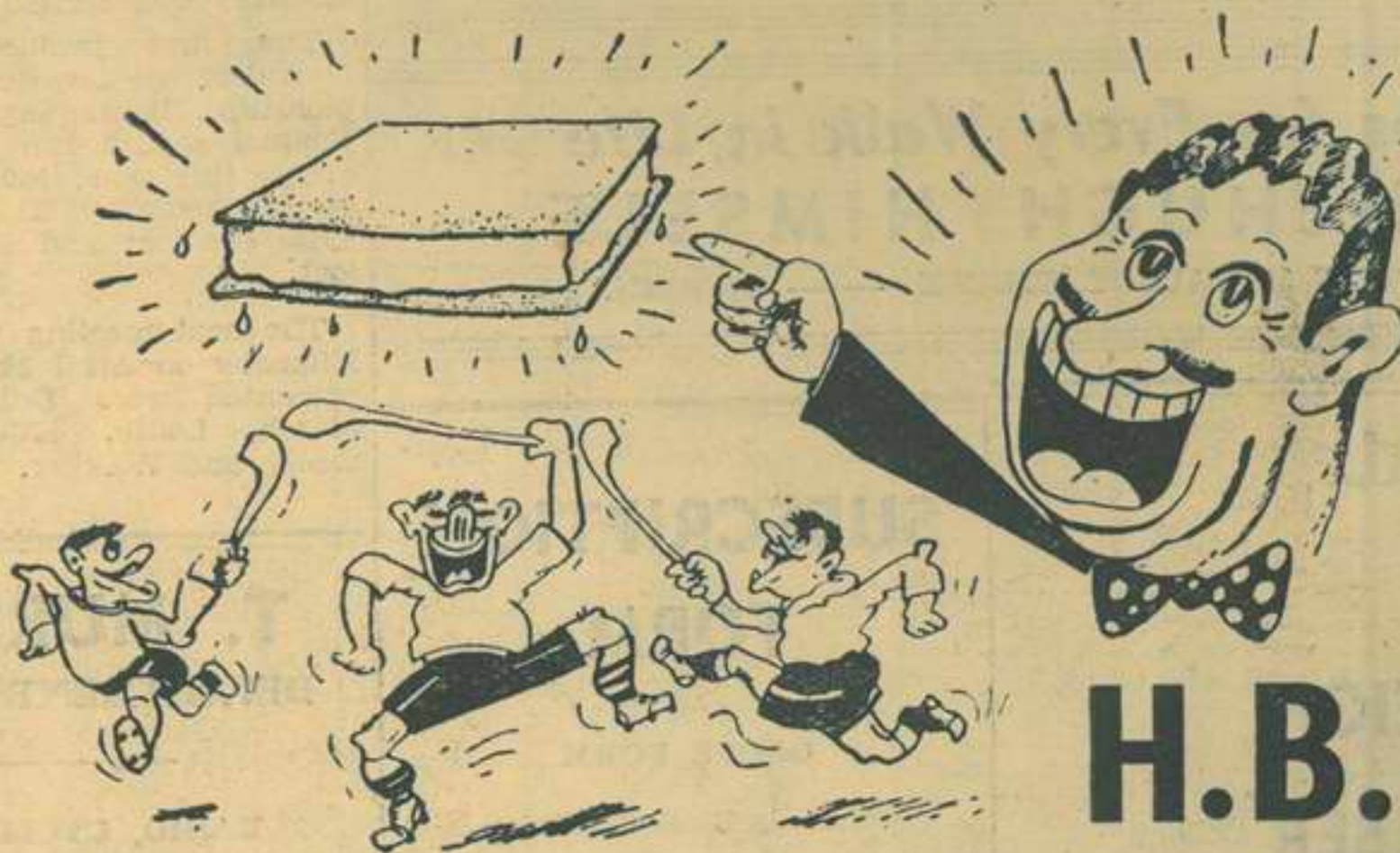
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# JUNIOR TITLE IS THE BOGEY

By PEADAR BYRNE.

ASK ANY DUBLIN GAEL WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT COMPETITION TO WIN AND HE WILL INVARIABLY REPLY: THE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP; AND I THINK IF THIS QUESTION WAS ASKED IN OTHER COUNTIES, THE ANSWER WOULD BE THE SAME.

You can win a Senior County Title on craft alone; you can even win an All-Ireland crown in the same manner, but skill alone never won a Junior Title.

Time out of number I've seen junior teams, top-heavy with sheer artistry, crumble to sides whose chief stock-in-trade was their ability to hit often and hard.

In fact, to win a Junior Title a team must primarily be a durable one. You've got to take it as well as give it, trade knocks as well as scores, and still keep going for the full sixty minutes.

## SOME SKILL

The most bitterly-fought senior ties are laced with a little good football, but there's no let-up in junior games and any team that attempts the frills is heading for trouble—lots of it.

We often hear people talk of youngsters being pitch-forked into the senior grade straight after leaving Minor ranks, but in my opinion it is far better for them to do so than to start playing Junior.

By playing Senior they will at least be competing against men who know the rudiments of the game and whose skill eliminates to a great extent the risk of injuring others.

Not so with some junior players, however, and it has happened that some clubs play men whose chief claim to fame is "that he is a great man to hit."

There is an acute need for reform in the gradings of Gaelic games, and as a start, I would suggest the inauguration of an under-21 competition. Such a move has been suggested before without success, but sooner or later, I think, the Central Council will have to fall in line with the wishes of the majority of the fans.

## TONIC EFFECT

A competition run on these lines would give Gaelic games a real shot-in-the-arm throughout Ireland. Give it the full status the Senior grade enjoys, with the provincial champions playing off for All-Ireland honours.

Some of the greatest names I have seen in recent years have been in the Minor grade; an under-21 All-Ireland series would, I venture to suggest, be an even greater success.

In addition, it would have the effect of reducing the number of players playing in Junior ranks. There are far too many Junior teams in the G.A.A. and the overall result is a lowering in the general standard of play.

Undoubtedly, an under-21 competition would be a step in the right direction. It would give promising juvenile teams a chance of keeping together after they had left Minor ranks, while, more important still, it would give the fans an opportunity of seeing hurling and football played at its purest, most thrilling best!

## In Brothers Footsteps

DID you know that Moling Morrissey, who was selected to play in the Carlow Minor trial game in Muinebheag recently is a brother of Mick Morrissey, Wexford All-Ireland hurler. Mick, too, played with the Carlow minors before he left his native county. Will Moling follow in his footsteps? He has already won two juvenile Co. Championship medals with St. Moling's. He is one to watch in the future.

## Turnstiles For Tuam

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The Central Council contributed £1,500. Connacht Council grants totalled £650. It also paid big sums in rents, and has paid over £1,000 for the installation of turnstiles. The Galway Co. Board has given £1,050.

The Stadium is now one of the finest in the country. From now on, however, it will have to contend with the claims of the Pearse Stadium in Galway, which will be opened in June.

The Tuam Stadium Association are to be congratulated on having cleared off the debt. Chief credit is due to Rev. Dr. Mooney, D.D., St. Jarlath's College, Chairman of the Committee, whose leadership and assistance was an inspiration to everyone.

The following are the officers for the coming year:—

President — Mr. M. W. Cahill; Vice-Pres. — Mr. H. B. Mangan; Chairman — Rev. B. Kavanagh, St. Jarlath's College; Vice-Chairman: Mr. Luke O'Brien; Hon. Treasurers — Messrs. J. O'Reilly and J. Moran; Hon. Sec.—Mr. Paddy Talty.

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# LIME IS NEEDED FOR GOOD CROPS

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## Liming Beneficial

Particular interest in recent years has centered in lime as one of the most effective means of increasing soil fertility. Tests and experience has proved that, when properly carried out, liming has had very beneficial results. Soil tests have proved beyond all doubt that lime deficiency in the soil has the effect of limiting to a marked extent crop production. Commonsense, in fact, indicates that if the quality of the soil is to be raised the greatest attention must be paid to liming.

The value of lime in the soil has long been recognised by Mr. P. D. Buckley, who, as far back as 1940 began burning limestone at Gortmore, Banteer, Co. Cork, for delivery to farmers in the county. This he continued to do until 1948 when ground limestone was introduced into this country.

Mr. Buckley began manufacturing ground limestone at his quarry and as time passed by, the demand for his product grew to such an extent that last year, his firm, the Ballygiblin Lime Works, purchased a new quarry at Ballygiblin, Cecilstown, Lombardstown, Co. Cork. This particular quarry was chosen from amongst many, for tests revealed that it had the highest neutralising value, with a total of 99.8 per cent.

## New Plant

Last year work commenced in the erection of new plant at the quarry, and by January of this year, it was in production. The plant is one of the most up-to-date in the country, electrically-operated and controlled throughout. So great is the demand that at present the plant is working twenty-four hours a day, and lime is being supplied to farmers not alone in County Cork, but also in Kerry and Limerick.

Ground limestone has always been beneficial to Irish farmers, but it is only comparatively recently that its value has been recognised.

The demand for ground limestone just after the war was poor; farmers in general were reticent to accept this new fertilizer. In some districts it was regarded with suspicion and of having some political implication. This hesitancy has since been changed, in the main by the hard working officers of the Department of Agriculture who by example, lectures and demonstration have done much to convince most farmers of the real value of ground Limestone, particularly with its virtue of cheapness.

## Authentic Figures

The table set out below will give an idea of how productivity can be increased on the farm by regular liming.

These are authentic figures showing the increase in yield per acre after a single dressing of 55 cwt. of ground limestone per acre applied at the beginning of a rotation in December, 1946.

Limed and unlimed plots received the same manurial treatment each year.

1947—Barley (Malting) 16½ cwt (limed), 7 cwt (unlimed), 9½ cwt (increase).

1948—Sugar Beet 16½ tons (limed), 11½ tons (unlimed), 5 tons (increase).

1948—Mangels 36½ tons (limed), 20½ tons (unlimed), 16 tons (increase).

1949—Spring Wheat 39 cwt (limed), 20 cwt (unlimed), 19 cwt (increase).

1949—Barley (feeding) 48 cwt (limed), 20 cwt (unlimed), 28 cwt (increase).

1950—Grass (Silage) 12½ tons (limed), 10 tons (unlimed), 2½ tons (increase).

1951—Grass (Silage) 21½ tons (limed), 16 tons (unlimed), 5½ tons (increase).

1952—Grass (Silage) 18½ tons (limed), 16 tons (unlimed), 2½ tons (increase).

## Prize Bonds—A Good Investment

PRIZE Bonds have evoked widespread interest and sales to date are highly satisfactory. Their appeal is not confined to any particular section of the community but extends to all classes, and Banks and Post Offices throughout the country have been kept busy handling applications.

Whether a person is a large-scale investor or has only £5 to spare Prize Bonds are a very attractive proposition. They form an easy way of saving combined with a chance of winning substantial cash prizes in the half-yearly draws. Unlike a lottery where the stake money is sacrificed there is no loss of the capital invested as the Bonds can be cashed whenever the holder wishes. It goes without saying, of course, that once a Bond is repaid it cannot participate in further draws for prizes. If a person holds more than one Bond he can win more than one prize in each draw. His Bonds will participate in every draw as long as he holds them irrespective of whether he may have

already won one or more prizes in previous draws.

A minimum prize fund of £10,000 is guaranteed for each draw, but this sum will be increased if the total investment in the Bonds exceeds £500,000. If, for instance, Bonds to the value of £1 million go into the first draw the prize money will be £20,000.

The strictest secrecy will be observed in relation to all Bond transactions and the names of winning Bond holders will not be published. Nobody need, therefore, refrain from buying Bonds for fear of his investment or his winnings becoming common knowledge.

Bonds cost £5 each and may be purchased without limit. Two persons can share and be registered as the owners of a Bond and, indeed, there is nothing to prevent a number of people arranging to buy a Bond between them but, in that event, only two of them will be registered as owners.

The closing date for applications is 5th April so that those who wish to participate in the first draw next September should purchase their Bonds without delay.

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## Ballindereen G.A.A. Club Shows The Way

**B**ALLINDEREEN G.A.A. Club is one of the most energetic in South Galway. Last year they entered senior, junior Grade A, junior Grade B, minor and juvenile teams in the South Board Championships.

It was only after thrilling replays that they lost the senior and junior Grade A championships to Gort. With such a wealth of talent at its disposal, it is the club's ambition to have Ballindereen field a senior

team in the Co. Galway senior championship once again.

To improve the standard of the game, the club is to hold a Parish League. Man behind the scheme is popular Joe O'Connor, former Galway hurler and a delegate to the County Board.

The parish is evenly quartered by roads that cross at Ballindereen village and each of the four sectors will field a team. The captains of the teams will be Joe O'Connor, Christy Fawe, Bertie Helebert and Michael Kelly.

The teams will have nine-a-side and some thrilling games are expected. The parish has a great hurling tradition.

One of the captains, Bertie Helebert, is a nephew of the famous Mick Gill, who helped Galway win their only All-Ireland in 1923, and Dublin in 1924.

If there were more clubs in the county with the same spirit as Ballindereen, hurling in Galway would not be long in the doldrums.

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# GALWAY CRISIS IS BREWING

SAYS LIAM S. O'LOISTIN.

**A**LTHOUGH GALWAY, REPRESENTING CONNACHT, WERE BEATEN BADLY ON THE SCOREBOARD IN THE RECENT RAILWAY CUP HURLING SEMI-FINAL, THE SCORE DID NOT REFLECT TRULY THE WORTH OF THE WESTERN CAMANWIELDERS.

Despite the last-minute loss of their star forward, Billy Duffy, and the crushing set-back of four Munster goals, the Connacht men put up a gallant show.

They outthured the Southerners and claimed, territorially, sixty per cent. of the game for practically all of the second half.

### OLD FAILING

But the old weakness in shooting and forward finish proved their bogey once again, and Munster's team survived to reach another Railway Cup decider.

Heartened, however, by the display in the drawn game and maintaining that Billy Duffy's presence in the forward line would make all the difference, Western supporters await anxiously the decision of the Central Council on Leinster's generous invitation to the Tribesmen to enter the Leinster Senior Championship.

Let it be put on record that Galway appreciate fully and are deeply grateful to the Eastern province for this open-hearted and sincere gesture to the "lone-stars" of the West. That they will gladly avail of the invitation is beyond doubt, but whether it will solve the hurling question in Connacht is another six-marker.

The biggest and most obvious advantage that such inclusion will bestow on Galway is the sorely needed match practice, which has, so often, proved the downfall of the Westerners in big matches.

### NOT THE SAME

Challenge matches, tournament and friendly games and a strenuous training of session has failed to produce the desired effect in the past.

It is commonly agreed that only the razor keenness of competitive contests can give to a team the endurance and experience so necessary to reach the top.

That Galway, had they enjoyed such testing matches, would have gained better results is beyond argument and their isolation has so far proved their downfall at crucial moments.

Their entry into Leinster hurling would cure this weakness, and it is very probable, too, that their weakness forward might also be remedied, but here quite a lot depends on the players themselves.

The prolonged campaign now before them means that players must continue to keep fit, to fulfil what will be for the Galway men an unusually long season—hitherto their championship campaign consisted of two matches at the most.

### OTHER FACTORS

Added to fitness must be the readiness, eagerness and ability to absorb, master and reproduce as their own the many niceties which they are bound to meet and see in contests with such craftsmen of the game as Kilkenny, Wexford or Dublin.

Thus this new departure will prove both a testing place and a schooling ground for Galway hurling and should prove beneficial to the game within the county.

It may even extend into Roscommon, the only other Western county

who are making any real effort to foster hurling.

But ordinary attendance at lectures and demonstrations will not remove the great necessity of "homework," and herein, in my opinion, lies the safest method of salvation for Western hurling.

This has been proved in Dublin, where the Primary Schools League has produced such magnificent results—an everlasting monument of gratitude and satisfaction to the many teachers—both lay and clerical—who gave so generously of their time and energies, and often of their pocket, to foster hurling among the youngsters.

### HARD TASK

Slow, arduous work it proved, but the results were ample recompense for those unselfish workers.

They realised that in common with all games, hurlers, to reach any degree of ability or perfection, must commence young. Their slogan was the old Irish sean-fhocal: "Mol an oige agus tío faid si."

Galway must tackle the question in the same manner, and so must Connacht or any other area that wishes to have a hurling team.

To produce hurlers, not to import them, must be the aim. And Gal-

way, with a tradition behind it, should not find much difficulty, if the job is tackled in a business-like way.

### SCHOOLS' PART

Every school of every grade should have a team with the teachers in charge, because when all is said and done, the teachers know their boys and can get the best out of them.

The County Board must spend some of their funds to provide camans and balls for the youngsters and to provide medals or other trophies—preferably more camans—for winners in inter-school competitions.

That the County Boards do this we know, but they do not extend their influence or activities far or wide enough.

Finally, star players, like Joe Salmon, Billy O'Neill, Sean Duggan, Josie Gallagher, or "Inky" Flaherty might be invited to give coaching lessons in an effort to pass on some of their craft and skill to the younger generation.

All these efforts, backed by constant conscientious practice, would soon ensure that Galway hurling would be able to take the place it so richly deserves—at the top.

## CONNACHTMAN'S RAMBLINGS

By "FEAR SIUL"

**F**ORMER star players and present administrators, Brendan Nestor and John Dunne, have been re-appointed managers of the Galway football team, which they directed so successfully in 1956.

Under their expert tuition, advice and management, stranger things than a repeat of last year's All-Ireland triumph could happen.

Congrats to Roscommon C.B.S. team who have won in Section B of the Connacht Colleges' competition. Their capable mentor and trainer is Brother Killian.

Dr. Bill O'Toole, popular Louisburgh medico and former Mayo and Louisburgh player has taken up his appointment as Dispensary doctor on Clare Island, famed sea-girt fastness of the legendary sea-queen of the West, Grace O'Malley.

Milltown village, Galway, has all arrangements completed for the opening of its new football pitch on Easter Sunday, when a Mayo selection will meet a Galway side for valuable trophies.

Former Galway forward of the 40's and capable sprinter and boxer, Jarlath Canavan, MRCVS, Tuam, has been elected captain of the local golf club.

West Mayo divisional football board have formed a referees panel and have approved of the following nominations to the "whistling" section:

J. Mulvey, J. Munnely, T. Lyons, P. Horkan and M. Flynn, Castlebar; F. Quinn and P. Sheridan, Breaffy;

J. McNally, Ballintubber; L. Ralph, Belcarra, T. Sheridan, Westport; and D. Conaboy, St. Patrick's.

The above will be required to attend a refresher course in the near future, which is being held with Co. Board approval and under the supervision of energetic County Secretary, Johnny Mulvey, with the object of acquiring a uniform interpretation and application of the rules.

Josie Munnely, Mayo star forward from '35 to '46 and now one of his county's five Senior selectors, won his twelfth county senior championship medal when Castlebar Mitchels defeated Crossmolina in the recent, delayed 1956 Senior final.

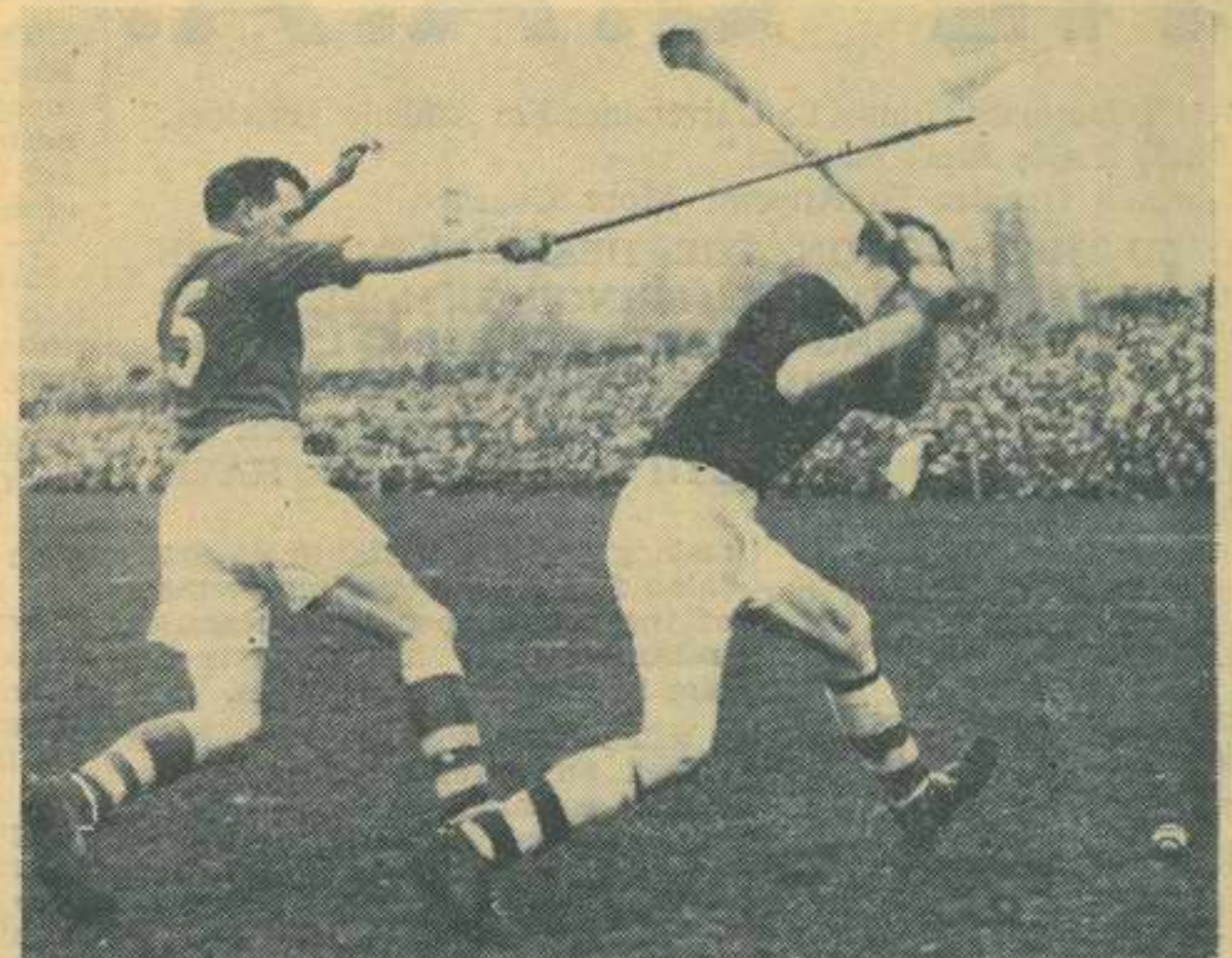
And to judge by his spritely display, this ever-young veteran seems quite likely to be hunting for another medal next year!

Elphin GAA club run a monster seven-a-side tournament for a set of suit lengths with valuable medals for runners-up, on Easter Sunday and following week evenings.

Entries come from Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon, Cavan, Westmeath and Galway.

Maree GAA club presented Paddy O'Rourke, their stalwart left half-back, with a wrist-watch to mark his departure to U.S.A.

Well-known as a footballer, hurler and athlete, he also helped the 50th Battalion FCA to win two All-Ireland titles and several Connacht championships on the shooting ranges.



M. Sweeney, the Connacht goalie, pulls on a ground ball as P. Barry, the Munster left full-forward, rushed in to the tackle during the Railway Cup semi-final, at Limerick.

## Did you know?



## The Cromlech

The first traces to be found in this part of the world of the activity of primitive man consist in the uses to which he put these erratic blocks of granite called Cromlechs. In the time of St. Patrick they appear to have been objects shrouded in mystery and awe. Excavation has shown that they are sepulchral monuments built over graves which no doubt contained the bodies of great warriors and kings. There has been much speculation as to how the builders managed without modern machinery to place so large a stone weighing in some instances as much as 80 tons on top of the supporting stones. Some authorities, however, hold that these large granite boulders, far from having been moved by prehistoric man, were placed in position by the glaciers of the Great Ice Age.

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# Handball Spotlight

(BY J. K. CLARKE).

## J. MAXWELL—WONDER BOY

MANY Irish handballers have played in competitions in two or more widely separated countries during the course of a single season, notably J. Sweeney, who, following his return to Tipperary from the United States, eventually partnered his countyman, J. Bergin, in winning the Irish senior S.B.D. title in 1949 and 1950.

Another was P. O'Brien, of Garistown, Co. Dublin, who during the past six years has been home on vacation from Australia twice, and after playing in the Australian Championships or Carnival, was a colourful performer at the popular Kingscourt, County Cavan, inter-county S.B.D. Tournament, which attracted leading players.

### SPECIAL HONOUR

But few I feel, share Joe Maxwell's distinction of having gained championship awards in both Dublin and New York in the same season.

Joe became co-winner of the Dublin 1956 Intermediate H.B.D. Championship, at Croke Park's all concrete court, a few weeks ago, having previously finished second in the Irish Junior S.B.D. Tournament played at Lynch's all wooden court in New York last summer.

It is interesting to note that Joe's win here was with the native or cracker ball, while his American achievement was with their softball—the code in general use now.

Joe hails from Cloughran, Ballymun, Co. Dublin, and was born only a few yards from the famous "Boot Inn" court, where he commenced his handball as a school-boy nearly twenty years ago.

As there was little softball played at this celebrated centre in those days, it is not surprising that Joe's best game came to be with the native ball.

### PLAYED FOR "METS"

He played as a minor for the Metropolitan Club in the 1946 Co. Dublin championships, entering also, in the following two years, for the novice events.

His first success came in 1949, when he won the Dublin novice title. In the following year 1950 he took the county junior S.B. singles, and with club-mate J. Quigley finished second in the H.B. doubles. He played in the Dublin Intermediate Championships before leaving for New York, about two years ago.

He was soon prominent in Irish activities in the States, which, apart from playing handball, included, in conjunction with Dublin-born Harry McGuirk, the Radio and Television journalist—the re-organisation of the Dublin Gaelic football team, after a lapse of thirty years.

Incidentally, the side gave a good account of itself in last season's league, and included amongst its playing strength no less than ten Dublin men, and Joe himself.

Joe played his handball—the American variety with padded gloves and India rubber ball—on a New York court owned by a Leitrim born lady, Mrs. Mary Lynch.

It is constructed entirely of wood—floor, four walls, gallery and flat roof—with floor space of approximately 20 by 50 feet—a new experience for Irish players used to concrete alleys.

It is believed, however, that this court, which is a very old one, was of concrete originally, having been entirely faced in with timber at a later period.

In this court last summer, the annual Irish Junior Handball Tournament was staged. Some 50 to 60 pairs competed, most of whom were Irish, with a leavening of Irish-Americans, Italians and Jews.

It is a very popular competition, and was won after six rounds of hard play by two Irish-Americans, Walsh and Russell, who were given a stiff final rubber by Maxwell and his partner, M. Murphy from Kerry.

The Irish lads received ornate shields for second place. In the fall, Joe returned to Dublin, and was entered, with P. Madden, for the Co. Dublin Intermediate H.B.D. Championship, by his old club, Metropolitan.

They won the title, three games to nil, so Joe became the proud possessor of a championship medal won in Dublin, and a runner-up

shield gained in New York, both during the 1956 playing season.

And as a tribute to his work for football, his American colleagues, prior to his departure, presented him with a solid gold watch.

Since returning to Dublin, he has continued his football with St. Margarets, where he is regarded as a leading member.

Joe has three brothers, all of whom played handball—William, Tom and Eugene.

Bill was runner-up in the Dublin junior H.B.S. in 1944, and again in 1945, in which year he won the junior H.B.D. with club-mate P. Doran (Mets) as partner.

Eugene played for the old "Boot" club, in the Novices, as far back as 1938, running into second place in the Novice S.B.D. in 1940. He retired some five years later.

Tom also played with the "Boot" before emigrating to America.

# Athletics

By FRANK SALES

SOME matters which arose at the Annual Congress of the N.A.C.A., and which did not receive full notice in reports, may be of interest.

The first proposal of the new President, Chief Supt. Tom McDonagh—for a National Collection—was very well received by delegates.

It was decided to split the collection three ways, between the General and Provincial Councils and the County Boards, but later indications are that the collecting clubs will keep a share.

### WELCOME STEP

The General Council was to appoint a Committee to bring it up to date and have printed the long-awaited Constitution and Rules.

The 440 yards Hurdles is back in the two-day All-Ireland Championship Meet, after 25 years absence. The 1932 winner was, of course, Bob Tisdall, who set the present record of 54.2 seconds as a foretaste of his Olympic victory in 51.8.

It was fitting that the return of Tisdall's event should have been inspired by his fellow-townsmen, for it was the Nenagh Olympic Club that asked the Tipperary Board to sponsor the motion at Congress.

Quarter-milers and half-milers, who don't seem to make the grade on the flat, might with profit devote some attention to this engaging if exacting event.

The hurdles are 3 feet high, and the correct distances are: start to 1st hurdle: 49½ yards; Between hurdles: 38½ yards; 10th hurdle to tape: 46½ yards.

The appointment of an Hon. Press Secretary should result in an increase in badly-needed publicity for the Association.

Officers of the General Council impressed on delegates that they would welcome any assistance in endeavouring to persuade Radio Eireann to grant commentaries on the 2-Day All-Ireland Meet on July 27 and 28.

It is hoped that someone will be able to coax the broadcasting authorities to make amends for years of neglect and to provide the large interested public in most of the 32 counties with a worthy account of this fine fixture.

The Board of Control will accept complaints from any athlete who feels aggrieved at the nature of a prize offered him. This was emphasised as a result of statements that sports promoters were not fulfilling their duties already covered by rules.

Incidentally, a large stock exists at

15 South William St., of "Rules for Competitions" at 2/6 each and of "Laws for Clubs and Co. Boards" at 6d. each.

### REAL NECESSITY

These settle all the recurring problems of the organisation and should not be out of the hands of any club or sports promoters or indeed of any member of the Association.

THOSE WHO APPLY FOR SPORTS PERMITS FROM NOW ONWARDS MUST PAY AN EXTRA 10/-.

The Lourdes A.C., Drogheda, announced that they had discovered an Insurance Company willing to cover athletes for injury etc. for the rock-bottom premium of 4/- per head.

I imagine that many Clubs will be making enquiries from the Drogheda boys as a result.

### IN SEARCH OF SUN!

The National Relays Meet at Ballinasloe, dogged by downpours for three years try again for Sunshine on June 2.

Word of the extra excitement which these races, backed by a full complement of field and cycling events, cause has spread throughout the four provinces over the years and it is expected that more clubs than ever will enter teams this year.

The Coaching School are planning to hold their annual sessions in the week prior to the All-Ireland championships.

This is a week's holidays to be commended to every school and club for at least one teacher or member.

The number of points of skill-education and tricks of training and technique one can learn are legion and are demonstrated by Jack Sweeney, whose coaching prowess is widely known.

Matt Farnan c/o Guinness', Crumlin, Dublin, will be glad to supply details.

The upsurge of standards in recent seasons and the tales told from the training camps of Winter, 1956-7, make one's mouth water in anticipation of the Summer clashes.

Suffice to mention one likely hero and possible filler of Peter McArdle's spikes. A big lad, really strong by God-given nature and extremely rigorous training, is Ted Foley of Celtic A.C.

In 1954 he returned from London to record a strange double in the National Youths' championships—the 440 and Hammer Throw.

Last year he made no concession to competition in a tough training schedule, which faced the future, yet took the Guinness 880 in fast time and captured the Leinster 60 title.

This season he could dominate whatever distances in the 220-Mile range he selects.



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# Change Of Name—Change Of Luck?

MAYBE its because they believe that a change in name will bring about a change in luck or just for variety or maybe its to puzzle would be objectors—but the St. Mary's Kilmurry football club in the county Clare must hold the record for changing its name. When first founded, the club which takes in the areas of Kilmurry, Quilty and Mullagh, was

known as St. Mary's, Kilmurry and after a number of years it was decided to change the name to Quilty football Club. This remained until a few years back, when for a short period the name was changed to Mullagh but this probably due to a monopoly of Quilty members did not long remain, so back it went to Quilty again and now for the 1957 season the Club decided that their fathers and grandfathers knew best so it's St. Mary's, Kilmurry once more. Name changing has not taken up all the time of the West Clare Gaels for although not very

lucky in winning major honours, they have always been capable of producing a good team and many exceptionally fine footballers best of whom were, Paddy Power, who played for Munster and Michael Boyle, who has a long inter-county record, who if lacking in size made up for it with great skill and ball control. At the annual general meeting of the Club the following officers were elected: Chairman, Tony Power. Vice Chairman, D. Sexton; Sec., John Daly; Assistant Sec., P. Doherty; Treasurer, J. Sexton.

# NO LUCK FOR WEE COUNTY

By PEADAR BYRNE.

JUST HOW MISLEADING CAN RECORDS BE! TWO SUCCESSES IN OVER SIXTY ATTEMPTS IS NOT GOOD GOING BY ANY STANDARD—YET THAT PRECISELY IS THE NUMBER OF TIMES LOUTH HAVE WON THE ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL TITLE. AND WHO CAN DENY THE GREATNESS OF THE WEE COUNTY AS A FOOTBALL FORCE ON THE SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION IT HAS MADE TOWARDS PUTTING THE G.A.A. IN THE HEALTHY POSITION IT ENJOYS TO-DAY.

Right down the years, Louth has been a pillar of strength in the Association. Enthusiasm and boundless energy are a vital part of the make-up of your average Louth enthusiast.

In fact, it was these factors which helped in no small measure to overcome the efforts of a few people who attempted to make the Wee County a stronghold of foreign games.

## MEMORABLE

Recall the last occasion on which Louth contested an All-Ireland final—against Mayo in 1950. I still have vivid recollections of the wave of feverish excitement that hit Dublin on that September's day as thousands of supporters, bedecked in red and white colours, arrived to cheer on Tom Conlon and his fighting men.

The bid failed but how majestic were those Leinstermen in defeat. Although pitted against one of the greatest Mayo teams ever, they were always in with a winning chance until that fatal moment when Mick Flanagan slipped through to bury Louth's hopes with a typical opportunist goal.

Since then, Louth have fielded some really brilliant teams but somehow they never seem to get among the honours list.

Their last big success was in 1953, when they came through Leinster in flying style, only to fall to the rugged Kerry men in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Delve into the past and recall some of the old-time "greats" who have worn the red jersey of Louth. Remember the regal figure of Eddie Boyle, the prince of full-backs, or that dynamic bundle of energy that was his brother, Sean. Other names, like Sean Thornton, Jim Tuft, Paddy Markey and Kevin Connolly, flood the mind—men whose every move bore the hallmark of real class, and yet men who never gained even one All-Ireland medal.

## SELECTOR TROUBLE?

Why? Many reasons have been put forward for the failure of the Louth men in recent years, but in my opinion the root cause lies not with the players but with the selectors. Down the years they have made strange decisions which, I think, sometimes cost them victory.

In recent times a more steady approach has been evident, and followers believe that Louth's turn to show their paces has come. They have strung together a nice blend and with the accent on youth, they should mature into a sturdy team.

And if their efforts are crowned with an All-Ireland success, nobody will begrudge them, if only for the fact that it will give Stephen White a richly-merited All-Ireland medal.

BELOW — Kevin Heffernan the Dublin full-forward was nicely positioned for this lobbing shot into the Offaly goalmouth at Parnell Park, recently, but M. Ash, the Offaly full-back, went highest at punch the ball out of the danger zone.



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# Will The Hurling Fever Spread?

WILL THE HURLING FEVER, WHICH HAS ENGULFED WEXFORD AND KILKENNY OF LATE, SPREAD TO CARLOW, WHICH IS SANDWICHED ALMOST BETWEEN THE TWO? IT SHOULD, AND LET'S HOPE IT WILL.

For the last few years hurling seems to be getting a grip in the county, due, I think, to the efforts of the men who are keeping the Juvenile Championship going.

Last year they had their first reward when the Carlow minor hurlers advanced to the Leinster semi-final. In the past it was hard to get a very large crowd to attend a hurling match, but at last year's juvenile final a good crowd turned out.

Is it a sign of the long-awaited interest in hurling in the county? I think so.

Perhaps some of it may be due to the fact that men like Mick Morrissey, Wexford's outstanding back, has shown them that a Carlow man can take his place on the hurling field as good as the rest.

May I suggest to the men in charge of our hurling teams this year that they give them plenty of match-play before the championship starts, and so give them the chance of building up a bit of team-work so essential for victory.

## SAME COLOUR— DIFFERENT CLUB.

POPULAR Dublin County footballer, Des. Carroll, who is now living in London, has joined the Shamrock Club there, with a "Lonebeacon."

He should feel at home with his new club because their colours are the same as those of his Dublin club, Parnells. It is believed that the founder of the Shamrocks had some connection with Parnells, hence their identical colours.



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# Sean O'Callaghan's Gaelic Sports Review

## LESSONS FROM RAILWAY CUP GAMES

NOW that the Railway Cup finals for 1957 have been decided, we can look back and see what lessons can be learned from the results.

It was by no means a surprise to see Connacht win in football, as that was according to general expectations.

Leinster hurlers were confidently expected to repeat last year's victory over the same opposition—Munster.

In my opinion, Leinster gained a much too easy victory over Ulster in the semi-final, and the selectors were satisfied to choose that side again.

### REAL TEST

Not so with Munster; they had a stiff fight against the all-Galway side representing Connacht, and by all accounts were lucky to get away with a draw.

The Munster selectors took time by the forelock, made several changes, and in the replay won readily.

Possibly had the positions been reversed, or as they stood last year, there might have been no Munster victory at all.

Had Munster met Ulster, as Leinster did this year, and won, the selectors would have left well enough alone.

ster did this year, and won, the selectors would have left well enough alone.

In future years, which ever province meets Ulster, the result can hardly be accepted on its face value.

### PERSONAL TRIUMPH

Getting back to the final, I am beginning to wonder if the Munster victory can be accepted as such, or has it a personal triumph for their captain the one and only Christy Ring.

Christy was playing in his 13th Railway Cup final. He made his first appearance as a sub in 1941, came on in 1942 and there he has remained.

His personal contribution to the game was 3 goals and five points, playing in the unusual role of full forward.

When Leinster won the Railway Cup a year back, it marked the beginning of a long run of Wexford victories in league, championship and Oireachtas, apart from various tournaments.

Judging from the latest results Wexford's star has set, at least so far as the present league is concerned.

This year's Munster triumph may mark the revival of Cork as the hurling power. That is, if one is to take note of the fact that the Munster defence was mainly composed of Corkmen. Cashman

in goal, J. Brohan, J. Lyons and Tony O'Shaughnessy.

Elsewhere in the team are to be found Philpott, Barry, Kelly and Christy Ring. Surely with such men at their disposal the Cork selectors can well look forward to a bright championship future for 1957.

After a lapse of six years the Railway Cup has followed the same path as the Sam Maguire Cup and rests peacefully in the West. It was only the natural run of consequences that the men who spearheaded Galway to victory in the All-Ireland final should play a similar role in the Railway Cup.

Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell were not alone in this Western triumph. They were ably abetted by the Leitrim pair, Blessing and Patsy McGarty. Others to play a notable part in the success were Gerry O'Malley, John Nallen, Elvers, and the Sligo pair, O'Dowd and Christie.

### NO FIREWORKS

The annual exhibition games Ireland v The Rest in hurling, and Ireland v Combined Universities in football, served their purpose.

Neither of the games set the heather ablaze, but in each instance the results fully justified the Ireland selectors in their choice of material.

When the Ireland selectors had completed their task, there was little left for "The Rest" to work upon. Even as it stood, some of the latter disappointed rather badly.

Of the two games the football encounter was by far superior. It lacked the fire of the championships and, of course, there was little or nothing at stake.

For the second day in succession the Connacht and Ireland goalkeeper Jack Mangan conceded a penalty and was beaten on each occasion by Tadgh Lyne and Kevin Heffernan. Both Stockwell and Mangan were to the fore in the respective teams. So too, were the brothers Devlin from Co. Tyrone.

### TAIL-PIECE

Arising out of the Railway Cup football semi-finals — Munster (hurling) v Connacht at Limerick and Connacht (football) v Ulster at Sligo, the two provinces were each fined £20 for being late in taking the field.

It will be recalled that the Radio Eireann authorities wrote to the Central Council with regard to the delay in starting the games. This was the result.

I see that 14 teams have entered for the 1957 Galway Senior Hurling Championship. The draw for the first round, which will be played on May 5, is: Liam Mellows (Galway City) v Gort; Carnmore v Ballindereen; Maree v Loughrea; Abbeyknockmoy v Fohenagh; Army v Leitrim; Castlegar v Ballinasloe and Turloughmore v Ardara.

### Ulster Affiliations

1916—1956.

CLUB affiliations for the various Ulster Counties in 1916 make interesting comparison with those of to-day. Here is a list of the 1916 figures with those of to-day given in parenthesis:—Antrim, 25 (93); Armagh, 7 (45); Cavan, 21 (52); Derry, 5 (42); Down, 12 (50); Fermanagh, 6 (39); Monaghan, 22 (28); Tyrone, 16 (40).

According to the Secretary's report for that year, a surplus of £9 was recorded for the first time on the Association's workings in Ulster.

## Here And There In Leinster

By PEADAR BYRNE

LOOK UP THE RECORDS OF DUBLIN FOOTBALL AND YOU WILL DISCOVER THE NAME OF THE O'DWYER'S CLUB, BALBRIGGAN, LISTED AS THE WINNERS OF MANY JUNIOR TROPHIES.

Despite all these successes, however, this long-established club could never gain admission to senior ranks.

Now, at last, the Balbriggan men have gained that honour by dint of a fine win in the Dublin Intermediate Championship last year, and they proved their mettle when running a much fancied Skerries team to two points in their initial outing in the premier grade.

### BOHAN FIT AGAIN

Kildare followers will be glad to learn that Lt. Mick Bohan, who figured with much distinction on both hurling and football teams last year, has fully recovered from his recent injury.

The Army man sustained a nasty knock when assisting the Lily Whites in a hurling game against Meath, but is now fully fit and, in his own words: "Just rarin' to go."

Incidentally, Mick, together with Kildare colleague, Tony O'Grady, is creating quite an impression in the Army School of Jumping, where he is undergoing a course just now.

Who knows, maybe they'll follow in the illustrious footsteps of the late Capt. Mick Tubridy, who made his mark on G.A.A. fields before entering the horse-jumping arena.

Left or right, it's all the same to Wicklow's "human dynamo," Gerry O'Reilly. The fair-haired Wicklowman has played most of his football on the right flank of the half-back line, but this year was selected by the Ireland selectors to play on the left.

Was he upset?—Not a bit of it, for he took the switch in his stride and proved his versatility by turning in a "blinder."

One of the many surprises in Metropolitan football circles last year was the victory of St. Enda's in the Junior 'C' Division. Encouraged by their successes, they are playing even better this season, and with well-known swimmer Peter Kinsella playing sterling stuff at full forward, their efforts may well be crowned with success again this year.

New Laois delegate to the Central Council is Co. Board Chairman, Lar Brady. The vacancy was caused by the death of the late Mr. P. J. Campion, and in an election to choose his successor, Mr. Brady beat Bill Delaney (Stradbally) by the odd vote in seventeen.

### WELCOME NEWS

The news that Des Ferguson will

not, after all, emigrate to America has come as a welcome surprise to Dublin Gaels. The famous St. Vincent's all-rounder got an eleventh-hour "reprieve" when a group of well-known sportsmen secured a good post for him—a deserved tribute to a great player.

However, the departure of Norman Allen, Marcus Wilson and Paddy Haughey is a severe blow to the famed Marino club.

Still on the depressing subject of emigration, Louth enthusiasts made a presentation to Jack Bell (St. Mary's) prior to his departure for Canada.

Jack will go down as one of the all-time "greats" of Louth football, for his many sterling displays at right full-back won him many honours, including the "Footballer of the Year" award in 1950. We wish him good luck and God speed! wish him good luck and God speed! severe loss through the death of Martin Power. Cast in the true Kilkenny mould, Martin was a hurler to his finger-tips, and was one of the pillars of the County team in the 'thirties. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

### Exiles All

There was a big attendance at a Celli in the Carlton Hall, Marino recently when St. Vincents made farewell presentations to Norman Allen, Marcus Wilson, Joe Butler and Kevin Moore prior to their departure for America.

Earlier in the week another member of the famed Marino club, "Jock" Haughey, had sailed to the golden West thereby bringing the club's loss to five. And so at long last, the famous St. Vincent's team, perhaps the greatest ever to grace G.A.A. fields, has begun to disintegrate. Most of the team, had been together since Primary Schools' ranks and during the past few years, they have swept the boards in all competitions including the National Football League title, when representing Dublin, they humbled the then All-Ireland champions Cavan in the final.

Speaking at the presentation, the President and founder of the club, Most Rev. Dr. Fitzpatrick, referred to the great service the quintet had given the club. Their deeds on the athletic fields would long be remembered he said, and he wished them all good fortune in their new careers in America.

Also present were Rev. Brothers Fitzgerald, Keane, Hickey and O'Donoghue.

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REV. PRESIDENT

# Ernest Blythe Says: "I'm Confident"

WHEN I JOINED THE GAELIC LEAGUE AS A BOY, STORIES WERE TOLD OF CONTINENTAL LANGUAGES WHICH HAD AT ONE TIME SO FALLEN INTO DISUSE THAT ONLY A MERE HANDFUL OF PEOPLE KNEW THEM, BUT WHICH HAD, NEVERTHELESS, BEEN TRIUMPHANTLY RESTORED. THESE STORIES GAVE US EXTRA COURAGE FOR A PERIOD, BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THEY WERE ENTIRELY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

Later on, the illusions which arose from such fantastic tales did great harm and, indeed, they continue to do harm to this very day, preventing our people and our Government from appreciating the vital fact that we are pioneers engaged in an unprecedented struggle and that we cannot take anything that has been done for a national language in any other country as a measure of what is necessary for our own public authorities to do for Irish.

When I mentioned to a friend some time ago that I intended to publicise the unparalleled difficulty of the work before us, he begged me not to do so, saying that enemies of the language and of Irish nationality would quote my words on this point for their own purposes and ignore everything else I might say.

## Languid Pace

In my opinion, the reason why the State has not yet begun to take seriously its responsibilities in regard to Irish is that very few of those who are active or influential in politics realise the immensity of the difficulties that have to be overcome.

Many of them genuinely think that it should be possible for the voluntary organisations, with a little help from the Exchequer to do all that is necessary without calling further on the State.

Perhaps they are not to blame for entertaining such an unrealistic idea, since even those of us who are closest to the work have only gradually come to understand the position.

It is essential, however, to convince political leaders without delay that our present languid pace will not do.

If the Gaeltacht was as extensive to-day as it was when the Gaelic League was established sixty-four years ago there would be no need for us to be anxious about the future of the language.

As things stand the matter is desperately urgent. The Gaeltacht has become very small and like other remote and infertile areas, it is being deserted by much of its population, so that as a linguistic reservoir, it is shrinking alarmingly, even where its geographical areas is not being reduced.

If the languid, inadequate effort of the past thirty years were to continue for another generation, it is to be feared that the language instead of being placed ultimately in a position of safety, might become

so enfeebled as to make its preservation impossible.

The people of the Gaeltacht will not make any serious conscious effort to retain Irish indefinitely, if it should seem to them that all the rest of the country is going to be content with English. In a word they will not be satisfied to become a permanently peculiar people in their own country. If Irishmen stick to English, the people of the Gaeltacht will gradually and inevitably turn to English too. Consequently the position is that we must within the life of the next two generations at most, do enough by way of re-Gaelicising the Gaeltacht to ensure that the Gaeltacht as we know it to-day, does not fade into relative insignificance and, indeed, is not unduly weakened until an adequate new Gaeltacht has arisen to supplant and in part, replace it.

## Sometimes Harder

Sometimes it is harder to carry on the cultural part of the struggle for national survival than it was to carry on the military part of it. It is harder to keep on fighting continuously against the indolence and frivolity and selfishness which lie in us all than it was to fight at intervals against a foreign enemy who, ever and again moved us to anger and to hatred of himself. The present part of the struggle is, nevertheless, like a shooting war in so far as it is impossible to devise a plan of campaign in advance for any phase of it and be certain that the plan will be adequate to ensure success.

## Soldiers' Raffles

It has often been said, with obvious truth that Irish cannot be kept alive through State action and influence only. Why the statement has been made so often, practically ad nauseam, I do not know, since I have never heard anyone doubt or dispute it.

The thing that requires to be stated and re-stated is that it

would be just as foolish and as stupid for the State to refuse to pay for the equipment in books, films, theatres, Gaeltacht factories, etc.—and other expensive items necessary in connection with the task of saving the language, as it would be for the State to decide in time of war that our soldiers must run dances and concerts to pay for their rifles and Christmas raffles to find the means of purchasing aeroplanes and artillery.

Thomas Davis said that it was even more necessary for a nation to defend its language than its territory. In that he was, undoubtedly, right, and our State authorities of to-day must realise that the primary responsibility for preserving the ancient language of our people and restoring it to general use lies, inescapably, with them.

## Confident

Truth to tell a voluntary association can do less, apart from propaganda in a linguistic struggle under conditions such as prevail here than in a military struggle. In a military struggle a small group may, sometimes, find a vulnerable spot in the enemies' defences and bring about his downfall with a sudden, deadly onslaught. But in order that work for a language may attain success such as we, in this country, desire, it must not be confined to one group or area but must influence strongly almost the entire population, and such general effectiveness cannot be attained without full use of the machinery of State.

I, for one, do not believe that God has decreed that now, of all times, this nation for which so much has been sacrificed through the ages, shall dissolve and disappear as an entity.

I am not disturbed to see certain people renouncing the cause of the language and even becoming envenomed opponents of it as they advance in years or secure wealth or office. Such turncoats frequently appeared during the struggle for political freedom.

Despite all that may occur by way of desertion, however, and despite the fact that dark and difficult periods will be encountered, I am confident that the national struggle handed down to us will be continued until full and final success is achieved, turning into wine the water of the preliminary victory won in the military phase and bestowing on the fruits of that victory the quality of permanency.

OUR GAMES IN SONG—2.

## THE BOULD CHRISTY RING

— By —

SEAN MORRISON

(Air: "Thady Quill").

1.  
Oh! ye Gaels of old Ireland, all  
lovers of Hurling,  
Gather from highland, from valley  
and glen,  
'Till I sing you the praises of all  
Ireland's greatest,  
Who is no other Gael than the  
Bould Christy Ring!

\* \* \*

CHORUS:  
For speed and for passing, for  
feinting or dashing,  
For soloing, for frees, he is surely  
the king,  
With his praises resounding, by  
valley and fountain,  
Good luck and long life to you,  
Bould Christy Ring!

\* \* \*

From Killarney to Belfast, none  
could be more steadfast,  
What speeding and dashing, from  
left to right wing!  
When e'er danger threatens, forget  
all your worries  
And leave all score-getting to Bould  
Christy Ring.

\* \* \*

CHORUS:  
For speed and for passing, for  
feinting or dashing,  
For soloing, for frees, he is surely  
the king,  
With his praises resounding, by  
valley and fountain,  
Good luck and long life to you,  
Bould Christy Ring!

We have heard of Cuchulain, the  
famed Hound of Ulster;  
We've heard of the Greek, and the  
famous Viking;  
But their fame is just nothing on  
history's pages  
Compared to the deeds of the Bould  
Christy Ring.

\* \* \*

CHORUS:  
For speed and for passing, for  
feinting or dashing,  
For soloing, for frees, he is surely  
the king,  
With his praises resounding, by  
valley and fountain,  
Good luck and long life to you,  
Bould Christy Ring!

\* \* \*

They tell me a man is soon to be  
elected  
To rule over Ireland like an ancient  
High King;  
To find the right one it is simple  
and easy,  
If it's not Tommy Doyle, then it's  
bound to be Ring.

\* \* \*

CHORUS:  
For speed and for passing, for  
feinting or dashing,  
For soloing, for frees, he is surely  
the king,  
With his praises resounding, by  
valley and fountain,  
Good luck and long life to you,  
Bould Christy Ring!



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# JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE

## MAC RORY CUP 1918-'57

THE recent victory of St. Colman's College, Newry in the Cardinal MacRory Cup calls to mind that this is the thirty-ninth year of the competition, writes Craobh Rua.

The first meeting of the Ulster Colleges Council was held on November 10, 1917, and practically all the Diocesan Colleges and many Secondary Schools in the province gave assurances that they would take part in the proposed competitions.

The first convention was held in Portadown on January 12, 1918, and officers elected were: President, Rev. Fr. Rudden, St. Patrick's, Cavan; Vice-President, Rev. Fr. Meenagh, C.M., St. Patrick's, Armagh; Secretary, Rev. Fr. B. O'Daly, St. Macartan's, Monaghan.

Rules and bye-laws were drawn up for the management of the championships and it was announced that Most Rev. Dr. MacRory, Bishop of Down and Connor, at that time had presented a cup for the senior football championship.

Ever since then, Ulster football has reaped the benefits of college football tuition. Undoubtedly, Saint Colman's are worthy successors to the champions' throne but it is pleasing also to be able to report that the split, which this year divided Ulster in two for football purposes, has been healed and all the Ulster Colleges will take part in next year's MacRory Cup.

**HARD  
LUCK!**



N. Flynn, Ballyfin's goalkeeper, looks horrified into the net after St. Joseph's forwards burst through in a heavy attack to chalk up a goal in the Leinster Colleges' Union senior football game at Droichead Nua recently.

**Up For It!**



Meath and Leitrim footballers in action during the match between these counties in the National Football League at Ballinamore recently. Meath won. Final score: Meath, 2-11; Leitrim, 0-11.

### Club Leabhar Na Soisear

Bunaíodh CLUB LEABHAR NA SOISEAR i Mí Dheireadh Fomhair, 1956. Tá an Club fe choimirce ag Comhdháil Naisiunta na Gaeilge fe mar ata an Club do dhaoine fosta. Ar an abhar san freastalann foireann Oifige na Comhdhála ar obair chleireachais an Chluib, agus loctar na costais a ghabhann le solathar paiperais, le postas agus eile as ciste na Comhdhála. Fagann san go n-usaídear na tailli uile a iocann na comhaltai leis an gClub chun leabhra a cheannach.

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In aon chas go roghnófar an leabhar ceanna do bhuachaillí agus do cailíní beidh seans ag duine d'non bheirt (bhuachaill agus cailín) ata sa líonnti ceanna leabhar eile a ghlacadh in aith an rogha-leabhair oifigiúil.

Imeasc na scribhinní ona roghnófar na leabhra ta cinn a ghnóthaigh duaiseanna luachmhara da n-udair le roinnt bhliain anuas. Ceann acu sin is ea an chead leabhar (a bheidh ar fail um Nollaig na bliana seo) agus ata roghnaithe do bhuachaillí agus do cailíní. Sin e AN TIOLAR DUBH le Críostoir O Floinn sceal romansúil agus eachtraíochta a bhaineann le haimsir an tSairsealigh. Níl teidil na leabhra eile a heiseofar don Chlub sa chead bhliain da shaol ar eolas fos.

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# WATERFORD, A COME-BACK?

By "FLACCUS"

## REVIVAL

Waterford hurling probably touched rock-bottom against Limerick in the Munster Championships of 1955. The revival began with the 1956 Championships; though they were beaten in the first round by Cork, their form was most encouraging.

The credit for the improved showing was shared by the Old Guard, who show remarkable consistency over the years, and the new; but above all, Tom Cheasty was credited with the infusion of that missing spirit into the long moribund body of Waterford hurling.

This freshness and hope in the County was justified when the League began. Wexford's all-conquering gallop was halted, Dublin were humbled, and Cork run close away from home, and in this run of success a new star was born.

Frankie Walsh, the Mount Sion boy, is hailed as one of the most brilliant hurlers to appear for some time.

Slim, lithe, perfectly balanced, Frankie has the quick reflexes and the co-ordination which carries into action those lightning directives of the alert brain.

He is a stylist in the classical sense, crisp on the ground, smart off his hand, and with exquisite timing overhead. His talents, allied to youthful speed and stamina, make him an ideal choice at wing-forward, where his best displays have been given.

## FOOTBALL TOO

Besides his hurling exploits, he has, of course, had a big hand in the exploits of Mount Sion footballers. This year he captured Senior County Championship medals for hurling and football in Mount Sion's record year.

And, of course, Mount Sion's achievements were the outstanding feature of the year in the Southern County. They have proved by their winning of senior hurling and football and minor hurling and football championships, the value of teamwork and training, and the spirit which binds their teams together in a united endeavour.

They have, of course, dominated the hurling scene for some years back, and they possess the great proportion of the outstanding players in the county; their minor hurlers are ready-made straight from the great nursery of the game from which the club is named.

However, it is the footballers of the club which rate most credit. Without any shining stars, but with every man a hundred per cent. trier giving his best, they are a living example to all other clubs of what can be done with goodwill, good management and, most of all, good spirit.

Not too long ago, Mount Sion had no football teams of consequence. Then they had a good junior team, but the object of the team was scarcely more ambitious than the keeping together and the keeping fit of the hurlers between matches.

## PROMISED WELL

Then the improvement of the footballers gave hope of greater things; they began to concentrate on developing their football talents. They trained harder, improved teamwork until it became a fetish with them, and now at length success has crowned their efforts.

Many teams studded with stars—Kilrossanty, Dungarvan, Brickey Rangers—have all had to bow the knee to a team, in every sense of the word.

The recovery which they staged in the vital last quarter of the county final, against Dungarvan, was symptomatic of the great spirit of a great-hearted club.

The Christmas lull has now passed, and the Phelan Cup games are being played now as a pipe-opener to the more important business of the championships, which will be beginning soon after Easter.

Geraldines have been showing good form recently, though it seems their resources are a little limited for them to be a force in the championships.

## DUNGARVAN STRONG

Dungarvan are a strong team again, but they will be somewhat under strength until the University session closes and the Ecclesiastical students return for the summer holidays.

Forecasts of the junior ranks are always extremely hazardous, because of the great variations of form and team-strength from year to year; but Stradbally, last year's Western Divisional champions, and the County runners-up, must be again favoured.

The only doubt about them must be about the number of veterans who man vital positions on the team; but the younger men, who showed such fine form towards the end of last year's campaign, should carry them to success.

## New Camogie Club



OVER twenty members attended the first general meeting of the newly formed Brian Boru Camogie Club, held at Victoria, London, recently. Mr. P. Ryan, Secretary of the Brian Boru Hurling and Football Club, addressed the members and assured them of all the support that it was possible for his club to give them.

It was decided to affiliate this present season and to enter a team in the forthcoming London Championship, in which there are five clubs: Sarsfields, Cuchullain's, St. Monica's, Tomas MacCurtains and now Brian Boru.

There is a possibility that another club will be in existence in the near future; so it is hoped that the spirit of the younger clubs will be infused into the existing County Board to make a better effort to complete the Championship, which was not played last year.

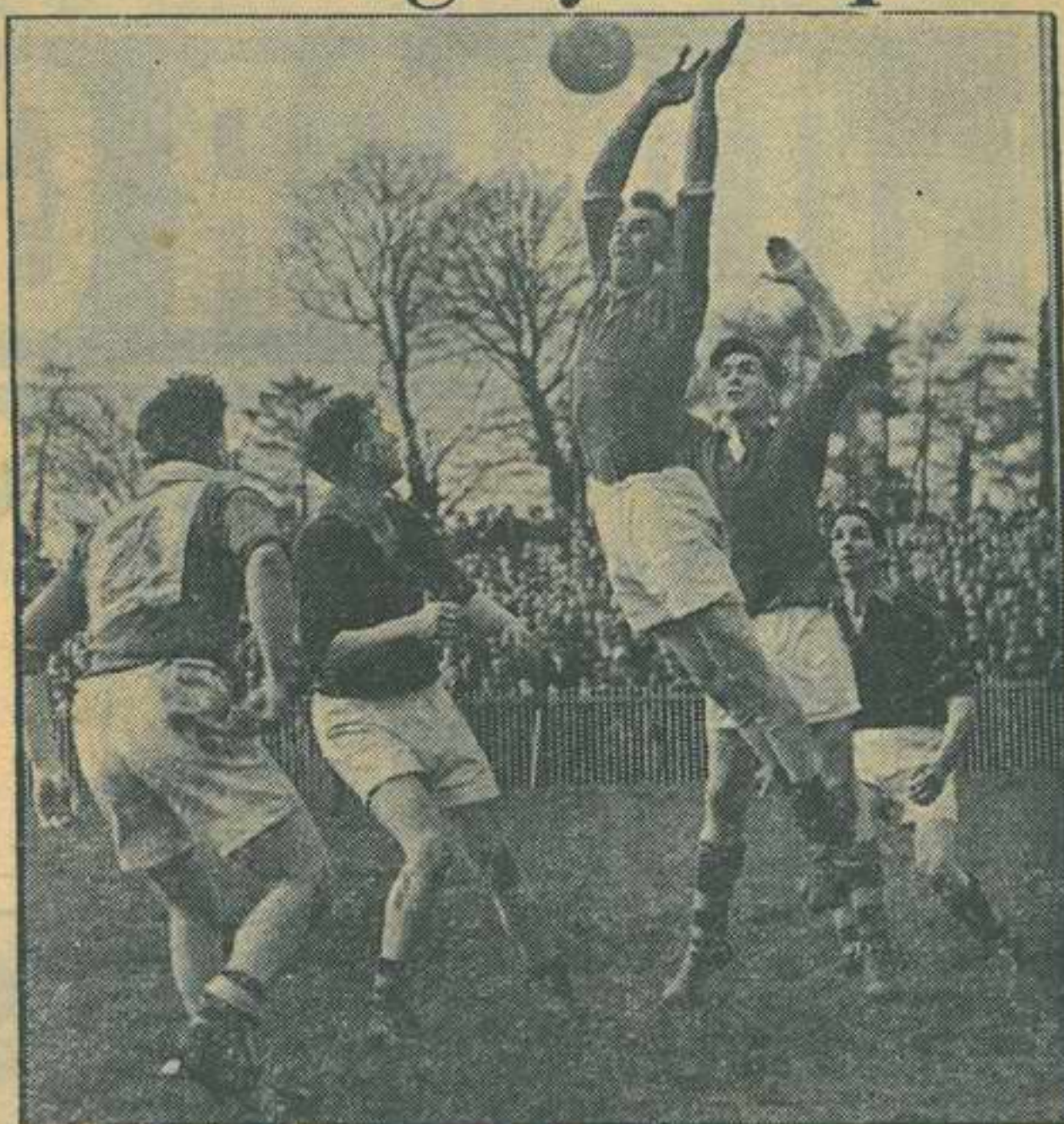
Brian Boru decided to don the same colours, black and amber, as their brothers in the hurling club, and all players were urged to go into training immediately and some friendly matches are being arranged.

Officers elected were:—

President: Mrs. M. Hurley (Dublin); Chairman: Miss E. Harper (Dublin); Vice-Chairman: Miss D. Ryan (Tipperary); Treasurer: Miss P. O'Dowd (Dublin); Secretary: Miss J. McNally (Dublin); Captain: Miss P. Harte (Tipperary); Vice-Captain: Miss B. Farrell (Meath).

All new members will be most welcome and they should contact the Secretary: Miss Jean McNally, 44, Duncan Tce., Islington, London, W.1.

## A Mighty Leap



Phil Brady, Cavan's goalkeeper, cleared this dangerous shot in the recent National League match between Cavan and Meath. Final score: Cavan 1-12, Meath 2-7.

## New Church Needs Your Help

PLANS are well advanced for the erection of a new church in the Templeogue-Fortfield district of Dublin.

The population in this district of the Parish of Terenure has grown considerably in the last few years and the need for a church is now obvious.

A suitable site was acquired some time ago in a central position in the new residential area close to Fortfield Road.

The church will be dedicated to Pope St. Pius X. It will incorporate many interesting features. In the general design an effort has been made to create and maintain the character of a Roman Basilican Church.

As the Church will be seen against a background of dwelling-houses, every architectural device has been used to ensure that the scale of the Church will be in harmony with its surroundings.

This has been done without any loss to the dignity and beauty of the building.

A most interesting and appropriate feature will be a magnificent shrine with statue of St. Pius, which will be located in a central position at the rear facing the High Altar. The surround to the shrine will echo the Baldachino over the High Altar in St. Peter's, Rome.

The building of the church will place added responsibilities on the shoulders of Father Union, Parish Priest of Terenure, but his faith in his people, and in the help of St. Pius X, is great. He faces the future with confidence.

## AUSSIES V. GAELS

BY LONGAEL

THE possibility of staging a football game between a London Gaelic Selection and a team drawn from the Australian Colony in London is now a stage nearer due to a meeting held at the Irish Club recently.

Mr. Bowen, the Australian representative has accepted that 15 footballers as laid down by G.A.A. rules should constitute a team, instead of 18. There will, however, be no goalkeeper but three players will operate mid-field.

A compromise regarding the size of the pitch has also been reached and the size of the pitch will measure 180 yards by 100 yards. The football will be as in Gaelic, the Australian football is oval.

As a means of picking up G.A.A. rules, Mr. Bowen, who is a qualified coach in his native Australia, is joining the North-West London Gaelic Football Club, Naomh Mhuire.

The first game between a Gaelic and an Australian selection is expected to take place this month.

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Printed by the Greyhound and Sporting Press Ltd., Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, for the Proprietors, Gaelic Echo (1954) Ltd., 13 Parliament St., Dublin. Phone 71621.