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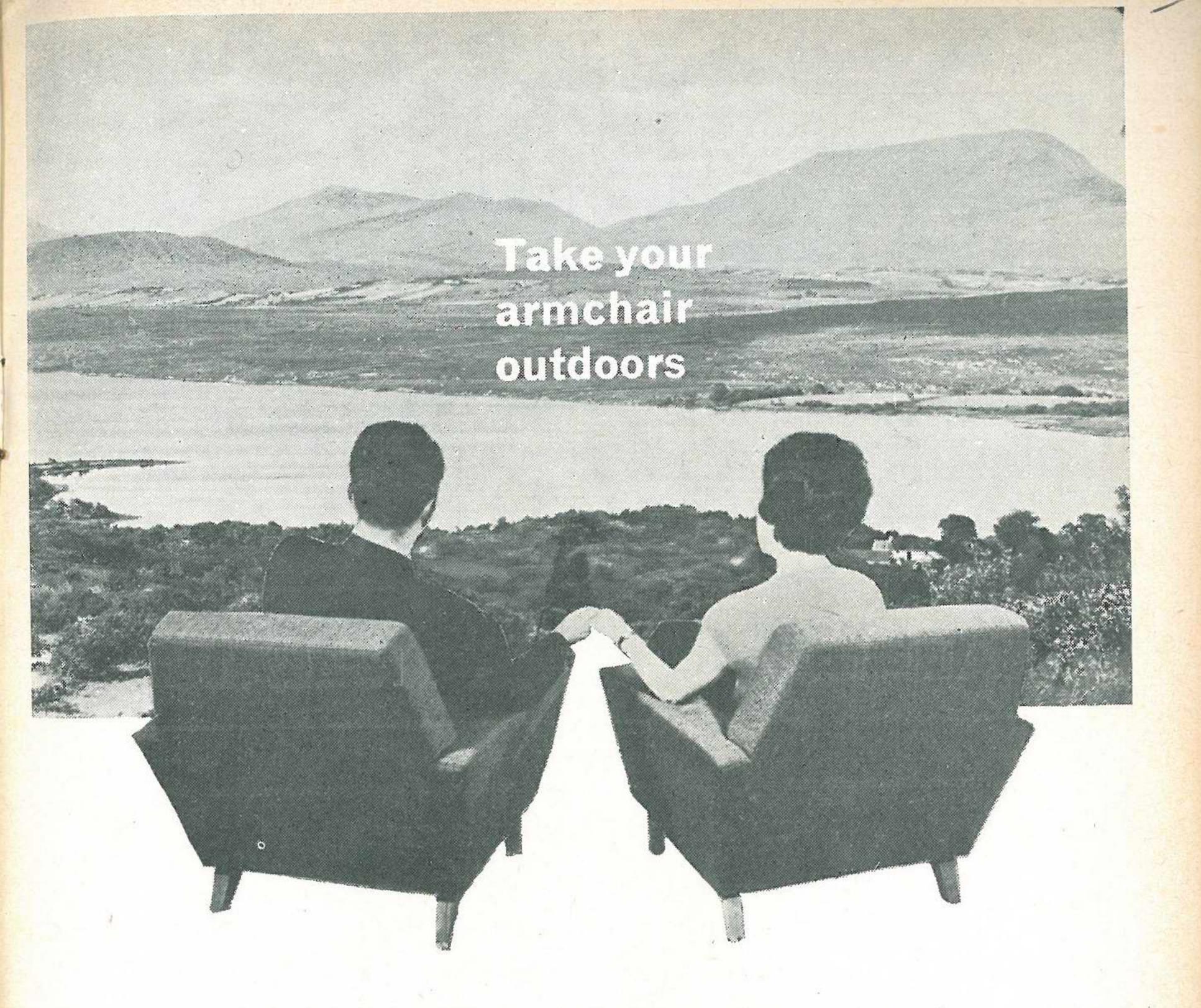
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#### EDITORIAL

### Sensational?

Congress passed one rather peculiar motion on Easter Sunday. It was worded like this: "That Central Council take steps to combat the sensational exploitation of the Association's affairs by certain sections of the Press."

The sections of the Press which allegedly offend in this respect were not named by the Waterford official who proposed the motion.

Many delegates must have wondered what newspapers they were taking steps to combat.

It is an interesting speculation. What, for instance, is "sensational exploitation" of the affairs of the Association?

Every newspaper conducted as a private enterprise, "exploits" G.A.A. affairs in one way or another. That is an elementary function in their line of business. The papers cover Gaelic games primarily to maintain or to increase circulation. That "exploitation" is fair and above board. Both sides benefit.

Now we come to sensationalism. What exactly does it mean? Are not the big headlines on All-Ireland final reports just as sensational in the real sense of the word as similar presentation of an article on the Ban?

Where is the line to be drawn? How can the Central Council combat one without affecting the other?

No doubt the sponsors of the motion had in mind certain types of controversial articles which appear in some papers from time to time.

In a field of business that has become almost frightenly competitive, is this trend not to be expected? Even tolerated? Is the G.A.A. not big enough now to take the few "fleabites" along with the vast splash of favourable comment?

It is not our business to tell the Central Council what to do. But they would steer the more diplomatic course were they to forget that Congress direction.

Because, exploitation regardless, the Association owes a great debt to the newspapers, and the men who write for them.

### MUNSTER FINALS OF LONG AGO

MUNSTER hurling Finals are still, as they have been for half a century, the show-piece of the caman game in the South, but when I see the huge hostings nowadays at Thurles or Cork or Limerick, I am always reminded nostalgically of other Munster Finals that I saw many a year ago and I fear that I am inclined to think that even the great gatherings of to-day lose something by comparison with the great days of the past.

Admittedly, a Munster Final at Thurles still has an atmosphere all its own, but I sometimes sigh for the days when everything was not quite so well ordered there as it is now, and only by looking back do we realise how much has been lost by the rules and regimentations of the present day.

When I went to Munster Finals in Thurles long ago there were, for instance, none of the regulations governing restaurants and cafes and the like that are in force nowadays. Anyone could turn restarunteur for the day and almost every house, it seemed, had a sign out that said "teas" or "sandwiches."

It was more or less the common practice that any house you faced into would serve you all the tea and ham and bread and butter that you could eat for half a crown, and certainly we did justice to the fare provided.

Matters nowadays may be far better arranged from the hygienic view-point, but the hospitality that characterised Thurles of old on big match days seems to be gone, regulated out of existence.

Then, too, Thurles on the day of a big match seemed to be the Mecca of every musicianer and ballad-singer in the South of Ireland.

A few musicians gather on big match days there yet but they are only a remnant, and they have to keep a weather-eye open always for the long arm of the law. The ballad-singers are, of course, to all intents and purposes dead and gone, and very few of those who still sing are content with ballads any longer to collect coppers from the hurling fans.

The days are gone, too, when all the lads from a townland came in to Thurles on benches in some local lorry, and departed singing as the dusk was falling on Liberty The Motor Insurance Square. Acts and the Road Haulage Acts and the rest of the regulations have made an end of all that, and we shall never again see a load of lively Corkmen depart for home to the strains of "We are the soldiers of the North Cork Brigade" or that rallying tune, 'The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee."

Gone, also, are the days when you had to know your hurlers to get full enjoyment out of a hurling match, when players were not numbered, when there were no programmes and when county teams were not announced beforehand in case of giving any secrets away to the enemy.

You had to know your hurlers then or else you hadn't a clue as to who was playing—at least you hadn't for the first twenty minutes or so until the shouts of their local partisans in the crowd had identified for you all the players on each side.

You could, of course, identify some of the players right away for various other reasons. Up to the middle 'twenties several wore soft felt hats while playing, and never seemed troubled either by the problem of keeping the hat safely on the head during the course of a hard or robust game.

Most wore caps and you could identify many stars by the angle at which the cap was worn. Others always wore the same kind of togs and, strangely enough, there was far less variety in togs then than now.

Some hurlers always wore black togs, others wore dark blue. Some wore black togs with a red or yellow or green stripe down the leg, others wore white togs with a coloured stripe, and while the County Board supplied the jersey in those days, the player brought his own togs, thus making it easy

### RULES AND REGULATIONS HAVE HELPED TO SPOIL THE GREAT SHOW-PIECE OF SOUTHERN HURLING

### By MOONDHARRIG

to identify a player even if there never was a programme.

Yet, while the games were more individualistic in those respects a generation ago, the hurling was not as fast or as spectacular as it often is now. To my mind, the reason for this is that pitches have improved out of all knowledge. For big games the sod is mowed and trimmed until it is like a billiard table and it plays true, which the old time pitches did not always do.

Besides, I think the present-day ball is livelier than it was in my youth, though this may again be due to the pitches being smoother and thus giving the ball more 'run' off the ground.

Hurleys have certainly got lighter, especially in the heel, which probably accounts for the fact that we seldom see the long sweeping ground strokes nowadays that characterised the Munster hurling of long ago.

But I would not go so far as to say that hurling now is better than what it was. It has changed in some slight respects. Even in Munster, the game is less rugged—the days when a player might be knocked unconscious by a body charge are gone forever and even what we think of as "full-blooded" hurling now would have called for no comment from our grand-fathers.

On the other hand, discipline is far more strict, and rightly so. The days when teams walked off the field dissatisfied with a referee's decision are also long over and done with. Yet I, in my time, saw that happen more than once in Munster Finals, and while the partisan followers were loud in their support of one side or the other, such a premature finish was small consolation to the neutral spectator.

One thing I am sorry for is that we see Munster Finals no more in Dungarvan, for some of my earliest memories of great Munster games are bound up with Dan Fraher's Field, the old Shandon Grounds set by the edge of a silver inlet of the sea.

I can recall nothing more pleasant than stepping out from the Square of Dungarvan to see a match, surrounded by the throngs from all over Munster and from half of Leinster, a summer sun beaming down from a cloudless sky and a pleasant breeze rippling through the tall trees at the far end of the ground and over all the salty tang of the sea.

It was there, back in 1925, that I saw Tipperary sweep Waterford from their path on the way to the All-Ireland title. Waterford had stars of the past and of the future on their team that day, the great Claremen, Brendan Considine and Mick Falvey, Dick Morrissey, so

tragically injured in the Cork-Kilkenny games of 1931, John "Dottie" Power and Charlie Ware. But they could not cry halt to the march of Boherlahan, led by durable Johnny Leahy.

Perhaps, in many ways, this was the least memorable of all the Munster Finals I have seen, but for me it will always be unforgettable, if for one reason only. At mid-field for Tipperary that day Mick Darcy was in his peak and in his prime. On his day few men could hold a candle to the Puckane wonder and that day at Dungarvan he surpassed himself.

Any game in which one sees a master-hurler play superbly is a memorable game and that is why sunny Dungarvan in that August of 1925 is always for me irrevocably linked with the name of Mick Darcy and with all the regal style and splendour that was his at his greatest.

I don't suppose we shall ever again see a Munster Final played at Dungarvan, a field which in its day housed some of the greatest of All-Ireland deciders; but at least there are a few of us left still with pleasant memories of that seaside town and of Dan Fraher's field, and of that great old veteran Dan Fraher himself, leaning on his stick when the game was over to greet old friends as the crowds filed away from the scene of some thrilling game.

### CAN HURLING

### BE TAUGHT?

#### By TERENCE ROYNANE

CAN hurling be taught? That is a question posed by the recent decision of Congress to set up a coaching scheme to assist in the spread of the National game.

Now, the immediate answer, I am sorry to say, must, in my opinion, be in the negative. You can't teach a man to hurl in the same way as you can teach him how to plough a straight furrow or how to drive a tractor, or how to play a melodeon.

You can't give a young fellow a stick and a ball, take him out in a field, and tell him 'Now I am going to teach you how to hurl'. Paradoxically, you can't teach a man to hurl unless he is hurling already.

By which I mean that the only folk who can be coached as hurlers are those who are already in love with the game and who are already playing hurling for the love of it. Hurling, in other words, cannot be forced but it can be fostered. And that is where the coaching comes in.

No amount of encouragement is any use unless the would-be players want to be hurlers, unless they want to play hurling for the pleasure the game gives.

Hurling lives in what are called the hurling areas because the game is the popular pastime, the sport of almost every leisure hour. Don't make any mistake about it, youngsters in these hurling areas do not go out to practice because they want to become All-Ireland stars, but because they love the thrill of feeling the sliothar fly from the ashen stick, because they love to double and twist on that ball, because they cannot resist the

lure of making thread and leather fly at their bidding.

There is endless fascination even in pucking to and fro, cutting the ball high into the air at one time, making it fly along the ground the next. And if pucking the ball around palls, you can always tussle for possession with the next player, fool him with feint or sally, lift and strike or hit on the ground as suits you best.

But unless you first love hurling for itself, as an incomparable ball-game, you will never give to it the hours of practice that are the foundations of hurling competence.

Youngsters spend those hours of practice almost unknown to themselves because they love to hurl, and unless children want to hurl, they can never be driven to do so. Hurling is an art, and a skill, and like all arts and skills while it can be fostered it cannot be forced.

So it is up to us, if we want to bring the hurling back to all thirty-two counties, to inculcate a love of and an interest in hurling first of all. For that reason let us make a start by making the youngsters fond of hurling.

So here is a suggestion. Croke Park is not full for the National Hurling League final and is not likely to be crowded out for such a game in the foreseeable future. Why can we not arrange to run special cheap excursions from all the schools and colleges of Ireland that play Gaelic Games to see the National Hurling League final and give the lads admission to Croke Park for a nominal fee as well? Five hundred pounds judiciously

Spent could bring a few thousand schoolboys to Croke Park for that day, and would, after a few years, do an immense amount of good in inculcating a love for hurling in areas where at present it is little more than a game to follow in the newspapers.

When a love of hurling and a desire to hurl are formed in the minds of the hurlers it is then that the game deserves to be fostered and the way to foster it is by providing the young lads with the opportunity of hurling. The competitive element is desirable but not essential. The important thing is first to get the youngsters hurling, and then give them something to hurl for.

A case in point that immediately comes to mind is Carlow where a few young lads, hurling between themselves, were encouraged to form street leagues, with the result that soon there were more and more youngsters hurling, and the street leagues became keener and keener, and within an amazingly short space of time we had Carlow winning through in a home junior hurling final.

Much the same thing is at the back of the rise of hurling in Dublin. The present almost all-

native Dublin team was coached and taught to an extent, but the boys who were taught and coached were boys who were already hurling, who had learned to love hurling in the schools' leagues and the street leagues.

All the coaching in the world will not make hurlers out of any other kind of material except willing material, and the first thing that we must foster, if we are going to spread hurling all Ireland over, is the desire to hurl and the desire to play the game for the sake of playing it.

Granted that, the rest is easy; the coaches will be working with pliable material and what has been done in Dublin and in Carlow can easily be repeated elsewhere. But unless the youngsters see hurling, and good hurling, what incentive can they have to hurl themselves?

If I had my way I would play the Munster and Leinster hurling finals, not in Thurles and Cork and Limerick and Kilkenny, but in Sligo and Leitrim and Cavan and Longford and Monaghan and Tyrone and Derry.

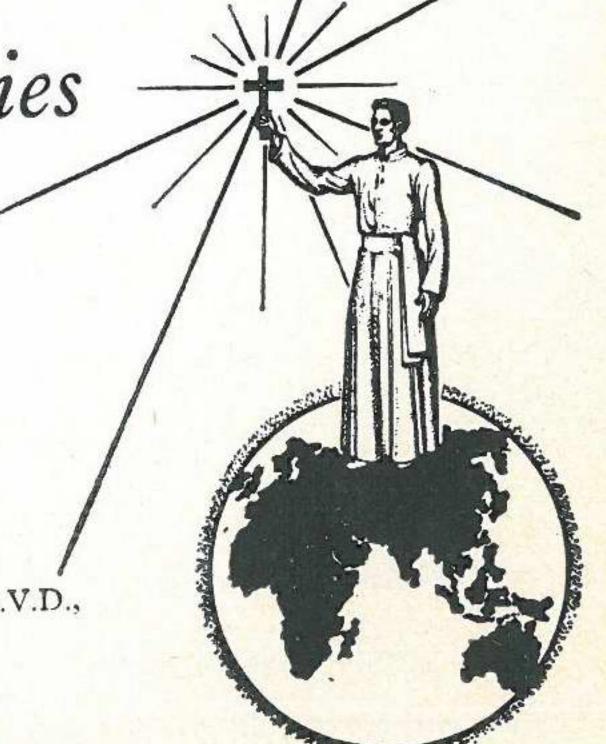
We must bring the hurling to the youth of those areas, for hurling is in many ways a fragile flower and will never grow by itself.

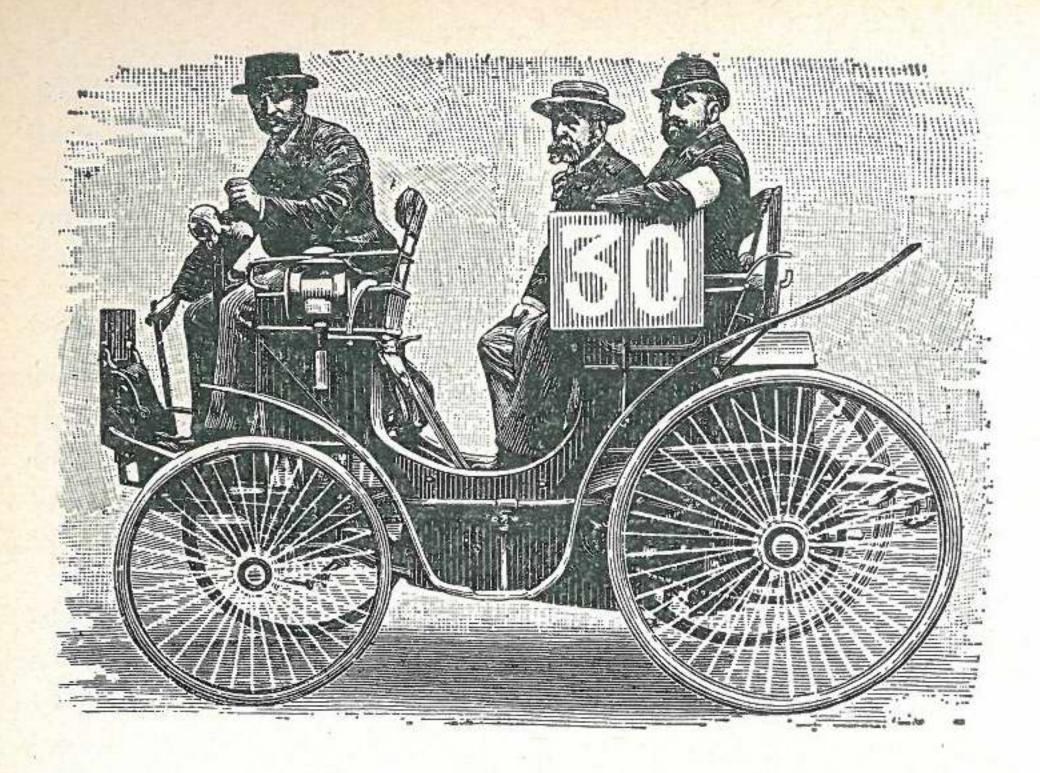
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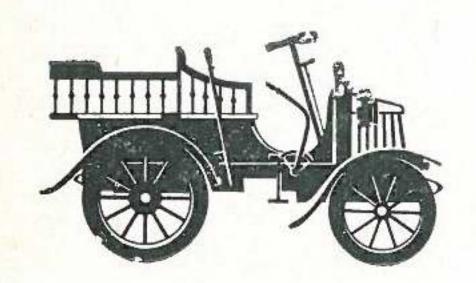
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Summer, with its sunshine, and even with its rain, is hurling time.

Some of us remember many summers, and we remember the gay crowds ... in Thurles ... in Limerick ... in Kilkenny ... and Croke Park.

Croke Park.
We remember the hurlers who came and went like the years men who flashed across the sunlit fields and then joined the great array in the glittering panorama of a hurling man's memory.

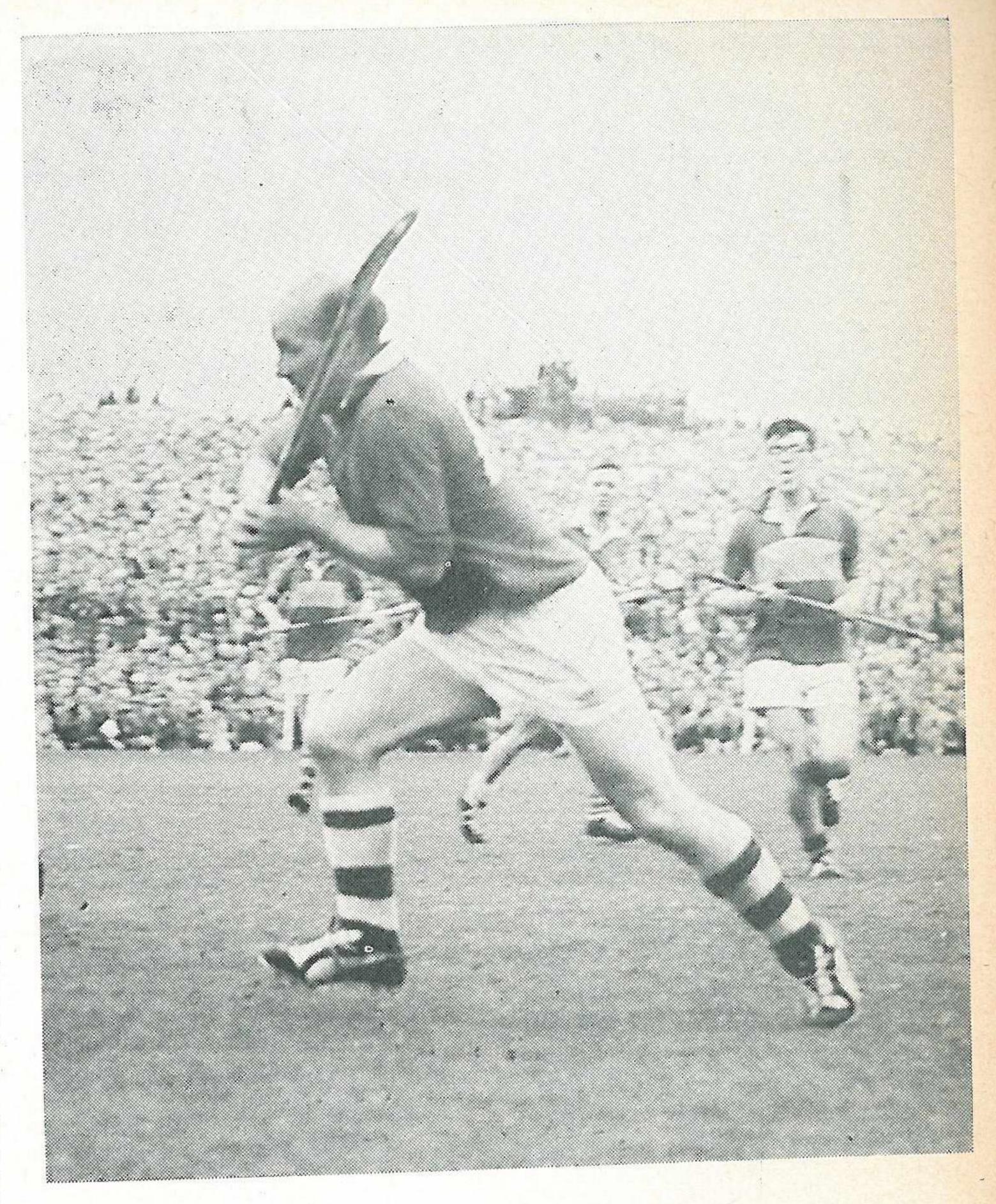
Many great hurlers rise and fall in the vast span of a quarter of a century. It is surely the ultimate in physical achievement when a man takes that span in one giant stride of almost incredible athleticism.

That is Christy Ring's record. He has been hurling in the Cork jersey, as a minor and senior, for twenty-five years. And now, as high summer throbs again, Ring enters his twenty-third championship season. It is an achievement that words are too puny to describe. We simply salute the most remarkable

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### Galway again!

THE most open provincial championship of all this year is the Connacht senior football campaign. For every man you meet who favours Roscommon to hold on to their title, you encounter just as many supporters of Galway's cause.

Others feel that Mayo are overdue a return to the top and this must be the year of their return. Leitrim think that they can rise to a Connacht title at last, feeling that Galway, their big obstacle of recent years, is no longer the force it was. Sligo, too, are fancied in some quarters.

But before we hazard a guess at the eventual champions let us take a look at the fixture list and the venues:

June 10 at Charlestown—Sligo v. Mayo. Referee: J. Martin (Roscommon). June 17, at Ballinas!oe—Leitrim v. Galway. Referee: J. Martin (Roscommon). June 24—If Roscommon v. Sligo, at Charlestown. Referee: M. Loftus (Mayo). If Roscommon v. Mayo, at Castlebar. Referee: M. Higgins (Cavan). Final—July 8 at Castlebar. Referee: J. Martin (Roscommon) or M. Higgins (Cavan).

Let us take a look at those fixtures. On June 10, Mayo should account for Sligo, despite the latter's resurgence. I look to Willie Casey, Eamonn Walsh, Ray Clarke, Joe Langan, Frank O'Leary, Mick Ruane and Johnny Farragher to prove too good for the Sligomen, powered by Brendan

McAuley, Joe Hannon, Paddy Kilgannon, Padraic Keane and Danny McHugh.

The following Sunday should see Galway defeat Leitrim once again in Ballinasloe. Will Galway have the services of Sean Purcell and Jack Mahon? Is Frank Evers returning? Will Mick Greally be back again? The young Galway players such as Donnellan, Leydon, Keenan, McDermott, Geraghty and Leo will be keen to redeem recent bad form. Leitrim will have old reliables Paddy McGarty, Cathal Flynn and Tony Hayden, and may call on new blood in the St. Mel's stalwarts, Davy Doris and Dermot Gannon. Galway should come through.

In the Roscommon-Mayo semi-final at Castlebar, I fancy the home side to reach the final despite great resistance from such as Gerry O'Malley, John Lynch, John Oliver Moran, Donal Feely, Eamonn Curley and Tony Kenny. And so to another Galway-Mayo Connacht final in Castlebar.

This pairing would conjure up memories of the 'thirties and of the great rivalry that then existed between the sides. That rivalry is still keen, and this would be a Connacht final to attract a record crowd.

But where am I rambling? I forgot that Packy McGarty has still to win a Connacht medal; that Gerry O'Malley has still to win an All-Ireland medal; that Sligo are quietly fancied by many. But that's my Connacht final, and I will go further and plump for a Galway victory.

### C.L.G. agus an Ghaeilge

### Le SEÁN Ó DÚNÁGAIN

TÁ dream ann adeir nach mbíonn de Ghaeilge in úsáid ag an Gcumann Luthchleas Gael ach "A Chara" agus "Le meas". An fíor seo nó an bhfuil an teanga náisiúnta ag fáil cothrom na féinne san eagras?

Deirim go bhfuil dian-iarracht á dhéanamh ag an gCumann leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Tá na céadta púnt sa bhliain á gcaitheamh acu ar scoláireachtaí chun na Gaeltachta: bronann an Ard-Chomhairle suim mhór airgid ar Chonradh na Gaeilge leis an scéim seo a chur i gcrích. Táthar ag cabhrú leis an ngluaiseacht athbheochana ar dhá bhealach anseo, eadhon, táid ag tabhairt tacaíochta do na teaghlaigh sa

Ghaeltacht agus táid ag feabhsú Gaeilge na macléinn a théann ar na scoláireachtaí seo.

Chomh maith le sin, tá sé de dhualgas ar gach Clárathóir Club ainmneacha na n-imreoir a chlárú as Gaeilge. 'Sna cláracha a feictear ag na cluichí móra ainmnítear na himreóirí as Gaeilge maille leis an leagan bhéarla; dairíre ní bhíonn an caighdeán ró-árd san iarracht seo ach mar sin féin is iarracht cheart é.

Sa Treorán Oifigiúil tá na rialacha as Gaeilge ar thaobh amháin agus as Béarla ar an dtaobh eile. Cítear domsa gurbé an Ghaeilge an leagan oifigiúil d'aon riail; deir an bhunreacht gurbí an Ghaeilge teanga oifigiúil na tíre seo agus an

bhfuil sé de dhánaíocht ag éinne a rá nach gclaoíonn an C.L.G. leis an mbunreacht?

Mar sin féin ní heol domsa gur caitheadh i leath-taoibh aon mholadh toisc é bheith sa leagan Béarla amháin! Deintear amhlaidh len alán moltaí toisc nach iad na focail ceart a deintear tagairt dóibh—as Béarla. Mar sin féin is maith an rud é an dá leagan a bheith ós comhair a cheile; ar an mbealach sin tig le duine na focail a chur i gcomparáid agus b'fhéidir rud éigin fhoghlaim.

Bealach eile 'na chuidíonn an C.L.G. leis an ngluaiseacht ná go labhrann teachtaí an Chumainn Gaeilge ag Cruinnithe Coiste bíodh sé 'na chruinniú cinn bliana nó ina chruinniú miosúil. An eiseamláir is fearr de seo ná Coiste Chúige Uladh-deintear an gnó ar fad tré Ghaeilge ag gach cruinniú den Choiste seo. Arís caithfimíd dul chuig an Tuaisceart chun sampla eile fháil. Tá Club i gCo. Árd Macha ar a dtugtar "Clann Éireann"; club do chailíní is buachaillí é seo agus fóirne peile, iomána is camógaíochta acu; céilithe á reachtáil acu gach seach-Deintear teagasc gleactain. aíochta agus gnó an Chlub seo tré Ghaeilge ar fad! Ní haon ionadh é seo le daoine mar Pádraig Mac Fhloinn agus Alf O Muirí i bhfeidhíl gnótha. Ach níl aon chlub sa Deisceart incurtha le seo ná, chomh fada agus is eol domsa,

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ní dheineann ceachtar de na Coistí Chúigí eile a chuid gnó ar fadh tré Ghaeilge.

I bPáirc an Chrócaigh le linn na gcluichí craoltar na ráiteasaí as Gaeilge i dtosach agus 'na dhiaidh sin as Béarla. Ag bronnadh na gCorn labhrann Uachtarán C.L.G. (nó a ionadaí) as Gaeilge agus níos minicí ná a chéile freagraíonn captaon na fóirne buachana as Gaeilge chomh maith. Ar ndó bíonn na cláracha dá-theangach agus le haghaidh na Craobhchomórtaisí gach bliain, is i nGaeilge a bhíonn an príomhalt ar na Cláracha Speisialta a ullmhaítear do na hócaídí úd.

Molta ag Coiste Ard Mhacha (an Contae seo arís!) i mbliana ag an Chomhdháil um Cháisc: - "Go mbeadh an tráchtaireacht Gaeilge ar fad má tugtar cead don Udarás Telefís cluichí Gaelacha a scannánú." Mo ghreidhn iad Muintir Árd Macha! (ach cogar! Bhí orthu an moladh a thabhairt as Béarla mar nac'ı dtuigfeadh na Deisceartaigh é!!). Is inmholta an rún seo; ní hionann tráchtaireacht telfíse agus tráchtaireacht radio; ní gá an méid céanna a rá agus tig leis an mbreathnóir an cluiche a leanúint mura dtuigeann sé gach rud a ndeireann an chainteoir. Ach fiú amháin ar an Radio anois, bíonn ar a laghad dhá ócáid sa bhliain go mbíonn an tráchtaireacht as Gaeilge-lá 'le Pádraig (cluiche amháin) agus ócáid Craobhchomórtas an Oireachtais. Ní bréag a rá gurbé Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh (a dheineann na trachtaireachtaí seo) an duine is iomrátaí sa tír maidir leis an sórt seo gnótha, lasmuigh de Mhícheál Ó hÉithir.

Tríd is tríd mar sin tá an Cumann Luthchleas Gael dáiríre fén athbheochaint; táid ag tabhairt gach cabhrach is féidir don ghluaiseacht; tá an teanga á labhairt ag na hoifigigh agus ag na teachtaí chomh fada agus is féidir. Déantar gnó na gCoistí ar uairibh tré Ghaeilge. Ní fada uainn an lá go ndéanfar gnó na Comhdhála tré Ghaeilge amháin, tá súil agam.

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### Form book says Kilkenny

#### By PETER BYRNE

It's been a tough, grinding winter hasn't it? Snow, floods, ice, we've had the lot during a terrible spell which, for many people, was enlivened by one thing only. The fact that summer—and the G.A.A. championship season—was just around the corner.

Now those sun-scorched days have arrived (we hope) and within the next few weeks the race for hurling's supreme prize, the McCarthy Cup will thunder into a white-hot contest.

Maybe, as the old-timers say, the personalities have gone out of hurling. Maybe the old fire which sent names like Mick Mackey, Lory Meagher and Mick Gill on to some of their greatest triumphs is now burning a little less fiercely.

But for all that, the All-Ireland senior hurling championship retains an aura all it's own and it's a safe bet that by the first Sunday in September the contest will have whipped up it's customary nationwide fever.

Who'll survive to battle out that tempestous final or, more difficult still, where will the time-honoured McCarthy Cup rest on the night of Sunday, September 2.

Tricky questions these made all the more dangerous by the see-saw fortunes of several of the leading contenders during the recent National Hurling League—a competition which, for some, must have seriously blighted their 1962 championship hopes.

Take Tipperary, for instance.

Last September they struggled over a lop-sided Dublin obstacle with a milk-and-water performance which caused many to forecast that the moment of truth was rapidly ap-



LARRY GUINAN . . . back on Waterford's championship team.

proaching for a county which was just as swiftly running out of topclass forwards.

And sure enough, zero point seemed to have been reached when the champions slumped badly to Kilkenny in the League, in a game in which the shortage of scoregrabbing forwards in the Premier

County just now was exposed in all it's stark nakedness.

But can a county, armed with the greatest record of them all in this competition, be dismissed on the strength of this one unexpected reverse?

Candidly I don't think so. Sure, Tipp. haven't got the semblance of a good full-forward line. But they HAVE got two of the best half-forwards in the game in Donie Nealon and Jimmy Doyle.

And backing them is a first-class defence built around Mick Maher, Tony Wall, Mick Burns and John Doyle which must rank on a par with the best.

Throw in the mid-field drive of Liam Devaney and Theo. English and it all adds up to a pretty workmanlike outfit which will not succumb without a mighty fight.

What of Cork. Against Dublin in the League they looked in the super bracket, blotting out the much-vaunted Metropolitan attack and snapping up scores in a manner which suggested that the Rebel County had at last welded together a title-winning combination.

But what a flop against Kilkenny! Early on they seemed capable of fulfilling that high promise, but "folded" in alarming style. For all the craft of Christy Ring, the Leesiders certainly didn't look championship "probables" on this display.

A safer bet to topple Tipp. could be Waterford. Powered by such astute hurlers as Seamus Power, Phil Grimes, Frank Walsh, Larry Guinan and Michael Og Morrissey, the Decies played some splendid hurling in the League before going out to Cork, and in their best vein could be a real force in the cham-

So, for my money its Tipp. to win again in Munster.

No less complicated is the position in Leinster. At the start of the year Dublin looked red-hot favourites to retain their crown and, indeed, there were many astute hurling judges who forecast an All-Ireland win for the Metropolitans.

But then came that amazing slump in the League, and even making due allowance for the fact that they were robbed of the services of Des. Foley, it is hard to reconcile that form with All-Ireland title-winning potential.

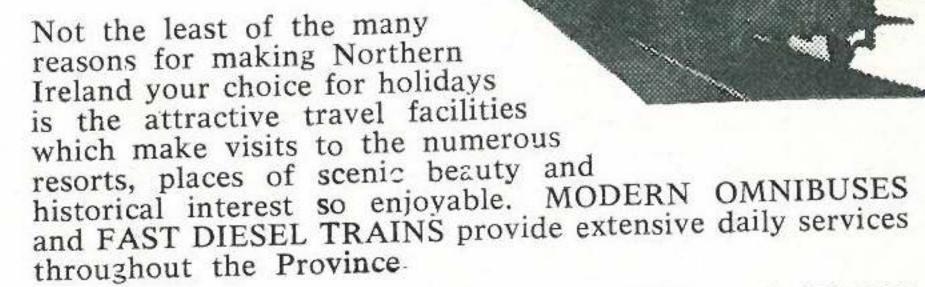
Wexford's star appears to have set—for the time being at any rate—and while hurling followers everywhere will regret the temporary slump, there is no denying the fact that the purple-and-gold brigade are not nearly the force they were in previous years.

And so to Kilkenny. A couple of months ago you could have had long odds against their chances of lifting the McCarthy Cup this year, but that rating took a severe hammering when the Noresiders stormed their way through to a great League triumph.

Buttressed by the Walshes, their defence is eminently sound and while the forward line could do with a couple more Eddie Kehers they are, nevertheless, quite a nippy outfit.

All of which would give us a Tipperary-Kilkenny final—and a repeat of that League "semi-final" battle earlier this year. And the winners? Well, if the form book counts for anything it would just have to be Kilkenny.

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### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

In this new feature, CHRIS MURRAY sets you a list of twenty questions which range over a wide field of Gaelic games' records and general information. They are tough or easy, depending on your interest in and knowledge of G.A.A. affairs. Like to take a shot at it? Well, then, fire ahead.

- 1—What is the weight of a foot-ball?
- 2—How many counties have succeeded in winning senior All-Ireland honours in both hurling and football? Name them.
- 3—When did a club side from one county win an All-Ireland Senior Football victory for another county? Name the club.
- 4—When were the first All-Irelands with teams of 17 a side played?
- 5—Has the double All-Ireland, hurling and football, in the same year ever been achieved? If so, how many times and by whom?
- 6—When was the Annual Congress of the G.A.A. transferred to Dublin? Where was it held before then?
- 7—What is the official name for the G.A.A. pitch in Magherafelt (Co. Derry)?
- 8—What are the measurements of the "parallelogram", or "square" as it is called?
- 9—When was the old Hogan Stand opened in Croke Park? When was the new Hogan Stand opened? Where is the old Hogan Stand now?
- 10—Who won the greatest number of Railway Cup football medals to date?
- 11—Who was Sam Maguire?
- 12—What is the standard weight of a hurling ball?

- 13—What family has the record as far as winning All-Ireland medals is concerned?
- 14—What cup is presented to the winners of the Universities football championship annually? Who donated it?
- 15—Who is the only man to win more than one All-Ireland medal in both hurling and football?
- 16—Name the man most honoured in the series of Ireland v. Combined Universities football games played annually?
- 17—What is the official name of the Galway City G.A.A. grounds?
- Ireland honours with two counties and Railway Cup medals with two provinces.
- 19—Three Corkmen have won both All-Ireland hurling and football medals. Name the trio.
- 20—Christy Ring has won a Cork senior football medal. With what club?

The above questions constitute a challenge to our readers, particularly those who, like myself, feel they know so much about Gaelic Games! See how many correct answers you can give and then see to which of the following categories do you belong.

18-20 Correct—Excellent.

14-17 Correct—Very good. 10-13 Correct—Fair.

(Answers page 31.))

### "GAELIC SPORT" ON THE BALL

REMEMBER our issue of December 1961? In that issue, our contributor, Sean Donegan, in his article "Ca dteann na mionuir maithe?" advocated a revision of the Junior Championship, intimating that the good minors were being ruined under the present set-up. He recommended that an age-limit for junior classification be established and suggested 21 years as the upper limit.

Now the same championship has come under fire, at Congress, from no less a personage than the General Secretary himself, Padraig O Caoimh.

If you want to be up-to-date in G.A.A. matters you must read "Gaelic Sport". The top writers, in both Irish and English, keep you posted on affairs that concern all followers, players and officials—and all for the modest price of 1/6.

### School for Referees

THE decision of Congress to establish a School for Referees has met with acclaim in almost every county.

For several years, disparities in rule interpretation, particularly in football, have been growing more frequent and more noticeable.

Widespread dissatisfaction has been the upshot—especially in cases where northern referees have officiated at matches in which southern teams were engaged, and vice versa.

Now, however, the setting up of the school should eventually lead to a greater efficiency among referees at all levels of competition.



### Remember the team?



#### TIPPERARY, 1950

When Tipperary and Kilkenny clashed in the All-Ireland final of 1950 they were having their second major meeting of that year. Their National League "Home" final of a few months earlier was still a vivid memory in the minds of the fans and 67,000 turned out to see the return.

For Tipperary it was more than a bid for their 15th hurling title. It was a battle to retain the championship and qualify to travel as hurling kingpins to America in October. Eight times since 1900 Tipperary had won the hurling crown, but not once in that time had they succeeded in retaining it for the second year. Now, as defending champions again, they hoped to beat the hoodoo.

But even their most ardent supporters questioned the wisdom of introducing a newcomer at right half back to mark the great Jimmy Langton. Jimmy Finn, a strapping youngster from Borrisoleigh, lacked experience for such a task, they said. Before the hour was out, however, he had given an exhibition of the hurling artistry that made him one of the game's great defenders. It was a tense hour. Four times in the first half the scores were level. Just before the interval whistle, Jimmy Heffernan and Langton gave Kilkenny the lead with a brace of points.

Low shots had little chance against Tipperary that day. In goal Tony Redden was at the top of his form, although he had been under medical care since the semi-final, in which he was injured. He was fronted by an unyielding defence, in which a youngster named John Doyle, with Mickey Byrne and former forward Tony Brennan were solid as a stone wall.

By the 38th minute Tipperary had equalised with points from the Kenny brothers, Sean and Paddy. Two minutes later Seamus Bannon put them in front, and as the game entered the last quarter Paddy Kenny put them two points up.

Ned Ryan's bullet-like shot for a goal was stopped by Ramie Dowling, but Paddy Kenny grabbed the clearance and crashed the ball to the net.

Kilkenny, who had sought a goal in vain up to then, succeeded when only seconds were left to play, but Jimmy Kelly's shot served only to reduce the margin of Tipperary's win. The Munster champions had conquered again. Final score - Tipperary 1-9; Kilkenny 1-8.

#### TIPPERARY

A. Redden

A. Brennan J. Doyle M. Byrne T. Doyle P. Stakelum J. Finn P. Shanahan S. Bannon S. Kenny (Capt.) M. Ryan E. Ryan J. Kennedy M. Maher P. Kenny

#### KILKENNY

P. Hayden J. Hogan R. Dowling P. Prendergast J. Kelly M. Marnell W. Walsh M. Kenny (Capt.) D. Kennedy W. Costigan J. Langton S. Downey L. Reidy J. Mulcahy J. Heffernan

### Remember the name!



### THE 'INJURY' LARK

#### By SEAN DONEGAN

SOME years ago the vexed question of unlimited substitution of players, during games, held the G.A.A. stage. An attempt to curb the existing abuses was made by limiting the number of substitutes to three. This leads us to the argument that even with three substitutes the rule is still abused and a case can be made for the total abolition of such rule.

To clarify the position further let us break down the rule into its parts. The rule states that not more than three acts of substitution for injured players shall be permitted. The phrase "acts of substitution" is deliberately inserted in lieu of "substitutes" as the framers of the rule were well aware that a player who had left the field could return to the fray and yet not be termed a substitute. This in itself was a turning of the blind eye to the important term "injured players". To all intents and purposes an injured player, in any game, will be deemed to be hors de combat not alone for the remainder of such game but maybe for the next day or two. But, in reality, substitution in most cases is made for the sake of substitution and most of the "injured" players trot off the field. Evidence to support my statement that the injury, if any, is only of a minor nature, is the fact that many players, so replaced, return to the field at a later stage of the game.

Such substitution leads to many misunderstandings and even hard feelings. No player likes to be told to "lie down"; it has been known that players refused to do so and were afterwards dropped from their teams. Apart from hurting a player's feelings, the Selection Committee are showing themselves in a poor light by asking players to feign in ury. In the public view they

are, to all intents and purposes, saying, "we made a mistake in placing this man on our original line-out; player X is a better man". Granted, one or two players may have an off-day but this is all part of the uncertainty of the game and the opponents probably suffer from a similar malady in other positions. In any case, the rule was not framed to allow for off-form players.

The rule also states that the penalty for exceeding the limit of three acts of substitution is "loss of the game". But there is no penalty for the team losing the game. And if, through chance, both teams exceeded the limit, what then? Neither would be entitled to the game and so, if this occurred in a major final, there would have to be a new final between the defeated semi-finalists or the trophy would not be deemed to be won at all.

This is purely conjecture, of course, but it has been known that in a major final in Croke Park one team exceeded the limit and suffered no penalty because it lost the game.

Is it a good rule or should substitution be abolished? I say abolish it. But this may appear to be too drastic; many will say that an All-Ire and or League or other important final could be ruined if, in fact, a player were really injured. That may be so, but we have often seen teams with fourteen men (one player having been put to the line) playing with added gusto and even winning.

If the complete abolition of substitutes is too drastic, then I would be in favour of allowing limited substitution as follows:—

(a) A substitute goalie may be brought in at any stage of the game when the original goalie has suffered injury.

(Continued page 41.)

### Can hurling survive?

#### Asks BOB DOLAN

CAN hurling survive? Is there enough being done to preserve and spread our ancient game? Have the plans and schemes which were proposed at Congress and other levels of G.A.A. administration proved successful? And perhaps the most important question of all have the new divisional arrangements for the National Hurling League done more harm than good for the cause of our great game?

These questions have become cliches, so often have they been posed in newspapers, magazines and in fact, wherever hurling is discussed.

What are the answers? I think most fans and critics will agree that hurling can and will survive but only in the counties where it is strong and virile at the moment.

That is, of course, at inter-county level. Hard though such counties as Down, Antrim, Roscommon, Meath, Louth and Kerry may strive it is hard to see them taking their place in top-class competition.

Call it lack of tradition or what you will, but it is undeniable that the building of hurling teams in those counties and others not mentioned has been, and will be, a difficult task.

Even in counties where the game has been established for many years, hurling is having a struggle. Look at Limerick, who not so long ago were Kingpins of the hurling world, and at Laois, whose hurlers are not exactly setting the world on fire; so it is hard to see top class hurling spreading further afield in the future.

There is no doubt that it will probably gain ground at lower

levels of competition as one often hears of the establishment of new juvenile groups throughout the country and more particularly in the cities and built-up areas.

But those enthusiasts who form and develop juvenile hurling clubs, all have the same tale of woe to tell: "We haven't enough money. Hurleys are too costly."

And this very real difficulty is a limiting factor in the spread of hurling no matter how it may be minimised by those who shrug it off by saying "Where there's a will there's a way."

Most of the County Boards have played their parts by providing free or subsidised hurleys but in most cases their efforts merely ease the problem rather than solve it.

Contrast the ease with which a football club can be formed. Literally all that is needed is a football and football boots—the jerseys, etc. can follow later, and, of course, a playing field.

On the other hand, those who want to establish a hurling team in a new area must have a reasonable sum of money in the "kitty" before such a step can be contemplated.

Not alone must they have the price of about twenty hurleys but they must have the wherewithal to replace broken sticks as well. They can only get help from the County Boards when they affiliate and to affiliate they must have a club formed, so the difficulties are enormous.

Apart from this aspect of the problem, there have been commissions and committees set up from time to time, and can anyone

honestly say that any of these bodies has done anything really worthwhile for our ancient game. I doubt it.

Take one of the most recent examples of their work—the new divisions of the National Hurling League. From the very outset it was obvious that the divisions would work out as follows:

In Division I "C" it was clear that the issue would be between Dublin and Galway; in Division I "B" Kilkenny and Tipp. were fancied to contest the decider, while in Division I "A" there was undoubtedly a possibility of a slightly more interesting set-up, with Wexford, Waterford and Cork all in the running for divisional honours.

But the vital question here is: did this arrangement better the lesser hurling powers who competed in these divisions. I think in all fairness it must be said that it did not.

If it did anything, it convinced these counties that they still haven't a chance and probably never will, of catching up on their more powerful brethren.

could a better plan have been evolved? I think so. A number of suggestions come to mind, perhaps the ideal one being the formation of a one-division league which would mean that the teams at present playing in the three premier groups would play in a single league and they would each play thirteen matches in a season.

I know that there will be immediate protests about travel and the impossibility of carrying out such a heavy programme, but on examination would it impose such a burden after all?

If the league were started two weeks after the All-Ireland hurling final, continued at fortnightly intervals up to the first week in December, and resumed in the first week in February, the full schedule could be completed by May.

This system would undoubtedly mean that there would be no league final as we know it at present, but there could be a top four competition such as is operated in the Dublin Hurling League to take its place and supply the welcome "readies".

The travelling would be something of a handicap, especially when one thinks in terms of travelling from, say, Clare or Cork to Antrim, but as far as improving the game of hurling is concerned there can be no doubt that the weaker counties would reap the benefits in a big way because they would have more variety and more games and that would be bound to have a favourable effect on their standard.

Further, it would really only mean a long trip every two years because, for example, if Antrim travelled to Cork this year, the Munstermen would have to repay the visit the following year.

At all events, something concrete will have to be done to make the league more profitable and interesting for the small fry, and when this is done I have no doubt that the improvement will be seen and so the game of hurling should benefit.

As well as this, I would like to see some definite proposals for the provision of cheap hurleys, not alone for the young but for the older players as well.

More ash trees should be planted and hurley manufacturers should be encouraged to experiment with some of the modern materials with a view to finding a durable and suitable substance for making hurleys.

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### 'DANNO' STANDS APART

### A Profile: By Liam Fox

football . . . . holder of the football. For there are few greatest number of All-Ireland greater nurseries of the game championship medals. But not than this C.B.S. and fewer towns only does "Danno" stand apart so steeped in football tradition. as the only player to win seven All-Ireland fotball medals, he is still remembered as the greatest goalkeeper of all time.

football has known.

The alertness, agility and utter reliability of this outstanding netminder amounted to one of the biggest assets on Kerry teams of many talents and several stars.

footballer Danno — although from an American tour early Munster in seven Railway Cup born in Cork—was reared in that summer, "Pedlar" Sweeney finals and was on the winning famed Tralee and was educated having been injured in America provincial side in 1931 and '41 and coached in the arts of foot- and Tim O'Donnell having to and he played with the Kerry Brothers' school.

AS Christy Ring is to hurling Not surprisingly then, he soon so is Dan O'Keeffe to made a name for himself in

In 1927 Danno played with a newly formed club called Rangers and two years later was on the Strand Street side. Came Those of us fortunate enough 1930 and he won a Kerry minor to have seen this great player in championship medal and the his hey-day were privileged same year he collected an Allindeed; those too young to have Ireland medal when he was had that experience missed some goalkepeer on the junior team of the greatest thrills Gaelic that beat Dublin at the U.C.C. grounds in Cork.

But his greatest moment this far came late on the eve of the 1931 All-Ireland final. Kerry had qualified to meet their old rivals Kildare once again. But with John Joe Sheehy having Like many another Kerry retired after the team's return selectors sat down to pick their visits to America.

team when the party arrived in Dublin on the eve of the final.

In addition to the changes forced on them they produced a shock when they eventually announced their team nearing midnight on Saturday by picking Dan O'Keeffe as their goalkeeper instead of Johnny O'Riordan, who had won All-Ireland medals with the county in 1926, '29 and '30 and earlier in 1931 had captained the team (in the absence of J. J. Sheehy) that won the National League by beating Cavan in the final.

In all "Danno" played with Kerry in ten senior All-Ireland finals—three of them, 1937, '38 and '46, requiring replays—and he won his seven medals in 1931, '32, '37, '39, '40, '41 and

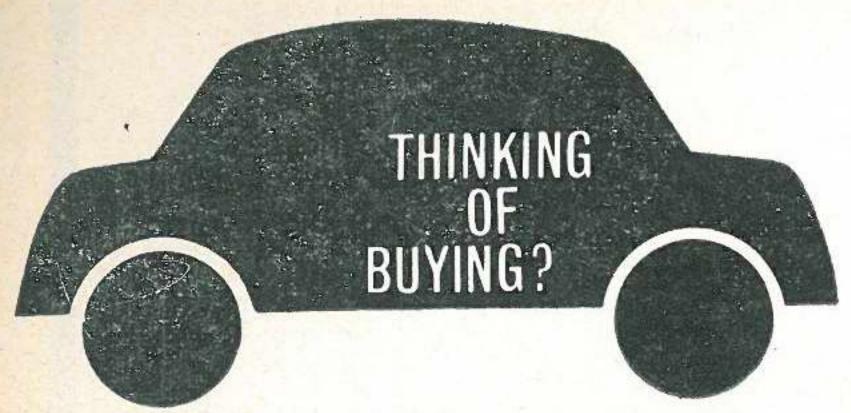
In that time he played with ball at the local Christian cry-off the side on Saturday, the teams of 1933 and 1947 on their



# MATCH REWERER



(from left) are, Tim Lyons (K.), Tony Hadden (D.) and Niall Sheehy (K.). ast year's Down-Kerry semi in the All-Ireland footbal These men could meet again this year final, and the players (from left) are, This fine action shot is from final.



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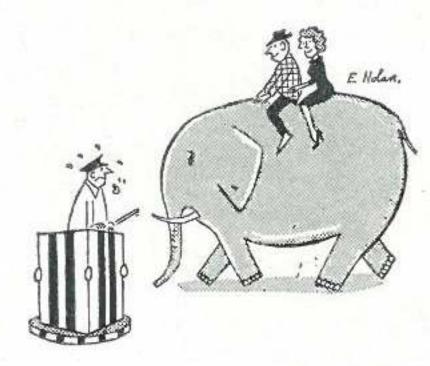
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### Camogie is NOT hurling!

#### By AGNES HOURIGAN

IT is not often that I put in an appearance at the G.A.A. Congress, but I was there or thereabouts for a brief time last Easter, to thank some of my good G.A.A. friends who come so often to the aid of the camogie folk, and also, I fear, to ask some further help from them through the season ahead.

There one very well-known G.A.A. official from the south said to me quite seriously, "I quite appreciate the work you people are doing, but, seriously, I don't think that hurling is a suitable game for girls." And he was very much surprised when I pointed out to him that camogie is NOT hurling.

Indeed, with his original view-point, wrong though it was, I am in complete agreement. Hurling is NOT a game for girls. Hurling, with its body-charging, its hard pulling, its emphasis at times on strength instead of on skill, is not suitable for girls. But, may I repeat, hurling is NOT camogie.

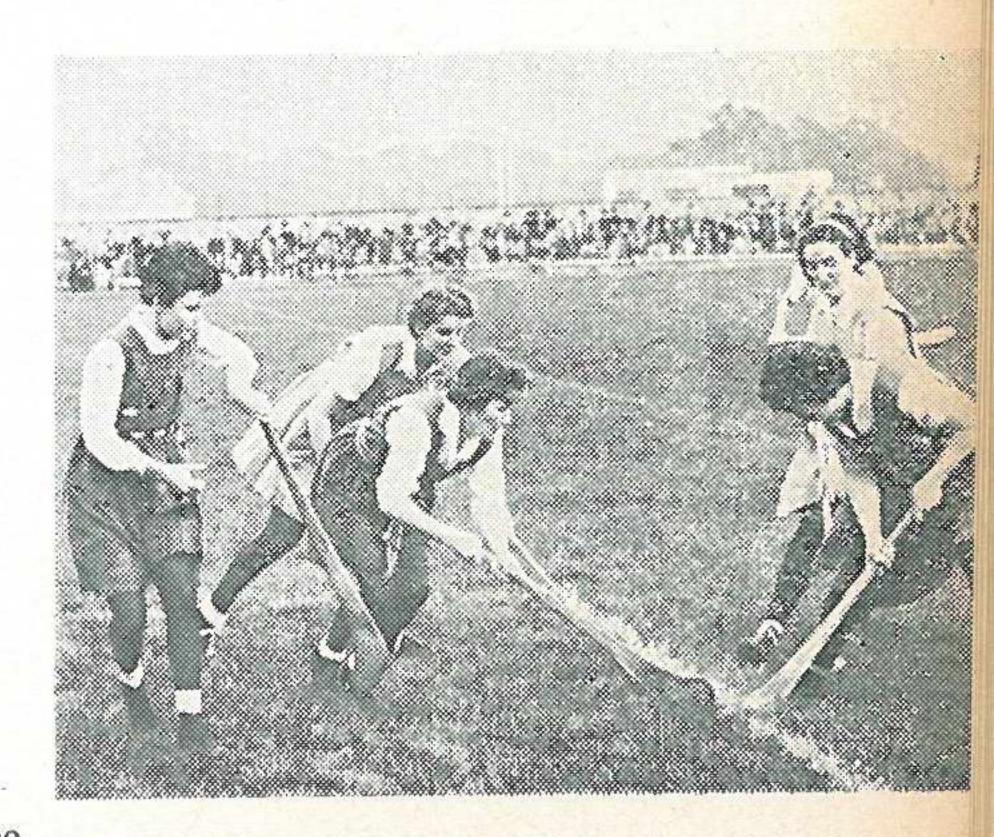
The camogie rules have been specially framed to make the game suitable for girls, as my G.A.A. friend was first to admit when I posted him a copy of the same rules.

The trouble with a great many people who would naturally be all in favour of camogie is that they assume camogie is no more than 'hurling

for girls'. And the result is that well-meaning folk do start camogie teams, more or less under hurling rules, and then quite naturally find that the game is too rough for the players.

I have been surprised to find teams in some areas that have been playing what they thought was camogie for a couple of years and yet had never even seen a camogie rule book. They were playing hurling, with a '30' substituted for a '70',

(Continued overleaf.)



#### (Continued from page 29.)

and thought that was the only difference between the two games.

When refereeing matches in which some country teams were engaged, I have been astounded to find even experienced players who could not understand when they were whistled up for 'shouldering'. They had always assumed it was part of the game.

Well, it isn't Neither is blocking an opponent's stick in the air allowed. Neither is it permitted to enter an opponent's 'square' before the ball. Nor is any kind of body-checking permitted, or holding off an opponent. The ball is always the only consideration.

So camogie is not hurling and it is not 'too rough' a game for girls, when played according to the camogie rules. Incidentally, it might be no harm if hurling borrowed an idea or two from camogie, the second cross-bar for instance, or

allowing the defending team to puck out from the fourteen yard mark after a score against them.

The championship season is already upon us and I expect this to provide us with one of the best camogie seasons yet. There should be the keenest battle for a long time for the All-Ireland crown, and I would not be at all surprised if Tipperary succeeded in bringing home the O'Duffy Cup for the first time.

When last I wrote here I castigated Telefis Eireann for neglecting camogie. Well, in the interval between the time I wrote and the time "Gaelic Sport" was published, Telefis Eireann gave us a very fair show, showing us last year's All-Ireland final and quite a good coverage of the Ashbourne Inter-varsity Cup.

Let's hope that they keep up the good work and that we shall be seeing Michael O'Hehir, or some of his men, not alone at the All-Ireland final but at other lively championship matches between now and next September.



... first in the field

### How Did You Score?

#### Answers to Questions on Page 19

- 1-13 to 15 ounces.
- 2—Seven. They are Dublin, Cork, Tipperary, Kerry, Wexford, Limerick and Galway.
- 3—In 1902. The club was Bray
  Emmets which competed in
  the Dublin championships and
  won the All-Ireland S.F. title
  of that year as a Dublin club.
- 4—1892. Before this a team consisted of 21.
- 5—Three times—by Cork in 1890 and by Tipperary in 1895 and 1900.
- 6-1909. Thurles before then.
- 7—O'Donovan Rossa's Gaelic Grounds.
- 8-Fifteen yards by five yards.
- 9—In 1926 (Old Stand). In 1959 (New Stand). The old Hogan Stand is now installed in Limerick Gaelic Grounds.
- 10—Kevin Heffernan, the popular Dublin footballer, who won his seventh Railway Cup medal this year.
- 11—A Protestant Corkman, who gave lifelong service to the G.A.A. and to Ireland in London.
- 12—From  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ounces.
- 13—The Doyles of Mooncoin.

  Between 1905 and 1913, the three brothers, Dick, Eddie and Mick, won 18 All-Ireland medals between them.
- 14—The Sigerson Cup. The donor of the Cup, Dr. George Sigerson, was a professor in U.C.D., a great scholar, a poet, and a Fenian.
- 15—Frank Burke, a native of Kildare; three in football with

- Dublin, 1921, '22 and '23, and two in hurling with the same county in 1917 and 1920,
- 16—Gerry O'Malley of Roscommon. His appearance on the Ireland football selection this year marked his ninth successive appearance in this series of games.
- 17-Pearse Stadium, Salthill.
- 18—The two players who have achieved this feat are Bobby Beggs (won Railway Cup football medals with Leinster in 1935 and with Connacht in 1936 and '37; and All-Ireland
- medals with Galway in 1938 and Dublin in 1942) and Caleb Crone (won All Ireland medals with Dublin in 1942 and Cork in 1945; and won Railway Cup football medals with Leinster in 1944 and Munster in 1946).
- 19—Willie Mackessy (H. 1903 and F. 1911), Jack Lynch (H. 1941, '42, '43, '44 and '46 and F. 1945), Derry Beckett (H. 1942 and F. 1945).
- 20—St. Nicholas' Club (known as St. Nick's), sister club of Glen Rovers.

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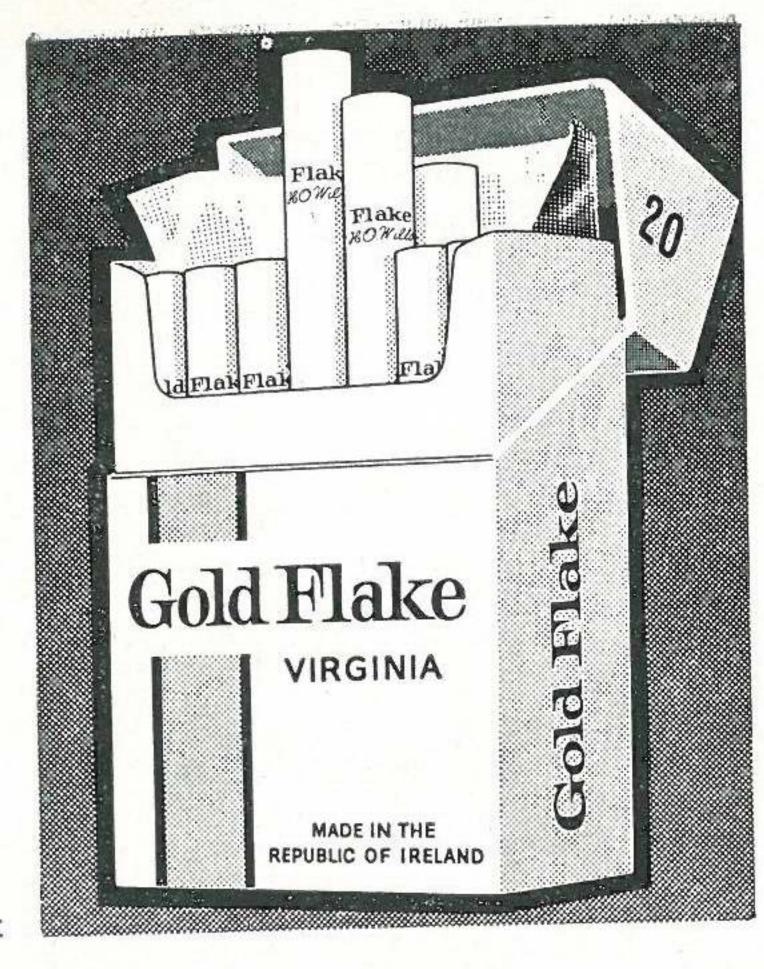
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### Why should the players pipe down?

#### Asks Eamonn Young

"MR. MICEAL O RUAIRC (Kerry) said that his county was utterly opposed to the motion (to abolish the ban). The motion which came before their county convention came in by the back door from Ballybunion. Continuing, Mr. O Ruairc said that it had often been stated that the voice of the players was not heard, but he saw no reason why it should be. In schools, colleges and universities, students had no say in the curriculum, because they were too immature to make decisions of major importance. . ." That is an extract from a newspaper report of the recent G.A.A. Congress.

Firstly, let us say that it's very doubtful if Kerry is utterly opposed to the motion (any more than Cork, or, as Pat Fanning, the Munster Council chairman, suggests, all Munster); but that's not the point.

Players get great fun and good ones earn great honour. All of them work hard, and many of them, who by their enthusiam keep the small clubs going, get very little reward. It is, to say the least, most ungrateful to suggest their voice should not be heard.

At home we listen even to the voices of children and, indeed, parents who don't, soon see the children go. Players are not children; yet Miceal O Ruairc, I suspect, regards them as such by drawing a parallel with college students.

The average age of the playing body must be about 25. Let's not forget that men of this age in all countries and in all ages changed the course of history. In fact, as we all know, many players support the ban. Will their opinions be disregarded as readily, or will they be hailed because they agree with the majority of the older officials? I

have no doubt that should the playing body give an overwhelming vote in favour of the ban it would be congratulated on its loyalty by Miceal O Ruairc.

Let's face it, the only person whose freedom is drastically curtailed by the ban is the player. Surely, for that reason alone he is entitled to have his voice heard.

Again, the player is able to examine the question in the light of modern conditions. Which of us middle-aged folk can deny that years bring a tendency to get out of step. These players of to-day, whether they support or oppose the ban, will run this Association to-morrow. They won't thank us for calling them babies.

It would be unfair, I think, to suggest that Padraig Gearty, who put the players' point of view at Congress, desires that players alone should make a decision for which they are allegedly immature. No group has a right to force a decision of major importance: that is the function of Congress.

A referendum suggested by Padraig Gearty would, I expect, include all members of the G.A.A., thereby making it democratic. In fact, it would be undemocratic to suggest that such a decision, for or against, would be otherwise.

The parallel drawn with students is both incorrect and unfair. In these modern days, students are making their opinions felt in education and, indeed, the tendency is to encourage such expression. But even if it were not, their interests are guarded by parents who ensure that the

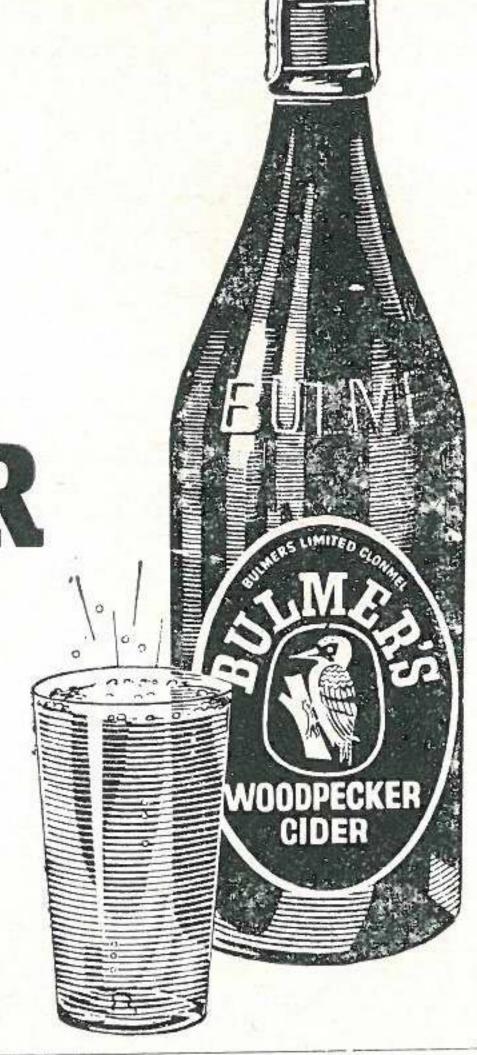
(Continued on page 35.)

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educational bodies are more aware of their feelings.

The player is not a student; he's a MEMBER OF AN ORGANISATION WITH ALL A MEMBER'S RIGHTS. If he is not allowed speak, his status is stultified. He must confine his attentions to playing. Would it be fair to deny an official the right of playing should he feel like doing so?

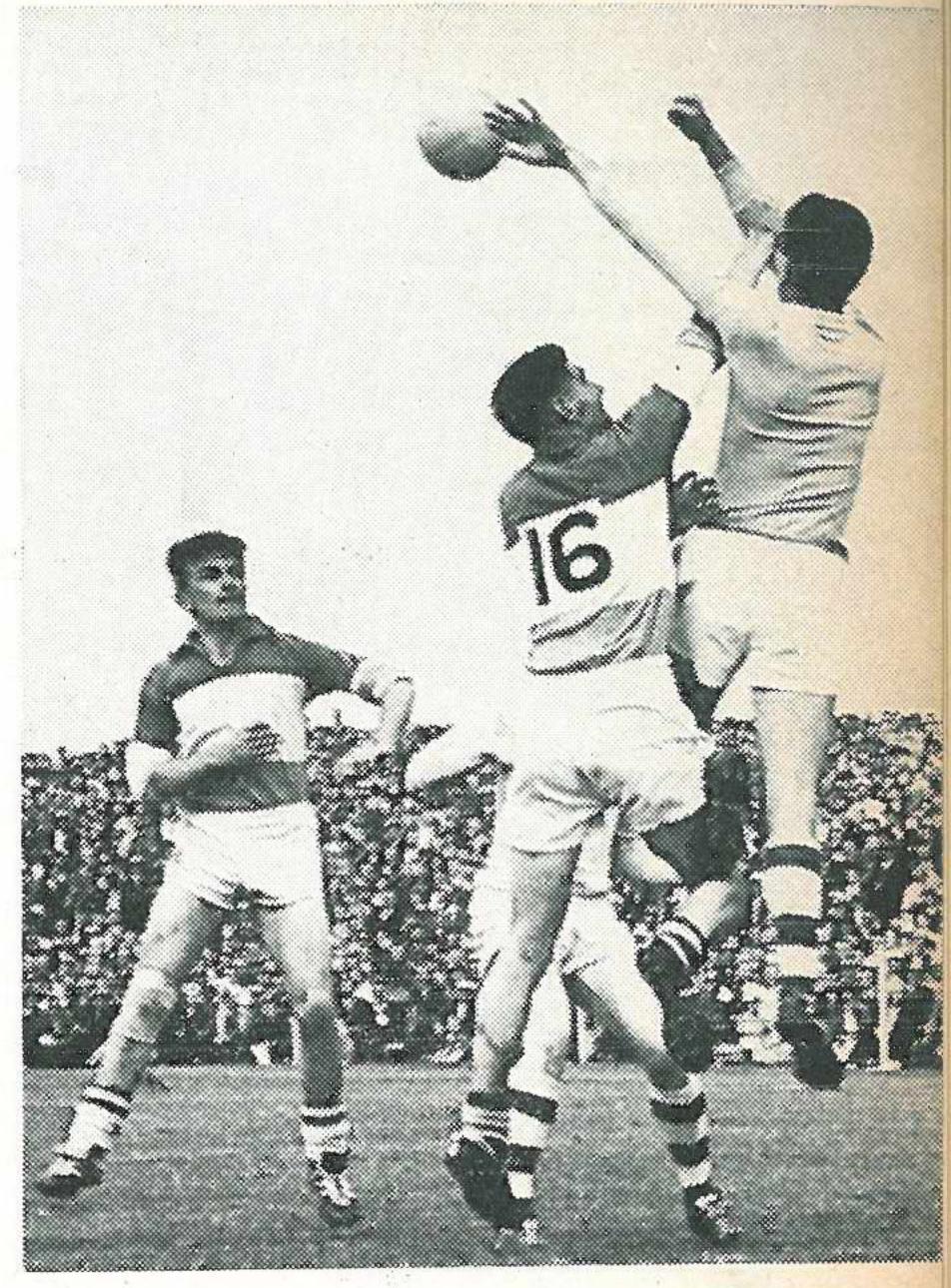
The Association cannot let it be said that it ignores the wishes of the players, and the fact that a serious-minded and experienced member of the Central Council (whom, incidentally, I admire) suggests such, has met with the approval of many.

It gives food for thought to those who, like myself, have been for long critical of the facilities (or lack of them) given to players, especially in the matter of modern dressingrooms where they may relax for a moment before the game instead of fighting their way through the crowds at some of our big games, all because we have grown up in the tradition of supporting premises endowed with adequate supplies of alcohol (and foolish talk).

It also makes one ponder on the lack of progress in the improvement of refereeing, which has continued to present, in consequence, a constant physical danger to players. Remember, officials seldom get hurt.

Many of us who have disapproved of Miceal O Ruairc's words are convinced that he has stated a personal opinion (to which he is quite entitled) but which does not represent the policy of Cumann Luit-chleas Gael.

The Association has every reason to cherish its players. Certainly, those of us who continue to associate ourselves closely with the clubs have no reason to reduce our respect for them. May their voice (right or wrong) always be heard, and let's avoid the day when they regard us as a lot of narrow-minded old fogies, a category to which a repetition of Miceal O Ruairc's statements will very soon reduce us,



PASCAL FLYNN, the Dublin 'keeper, clears an Offaly attack although closely tackled by Peter Daly in the Leinster final of 1961. Har Donnelly of Offaly is on left.

Meanwhile, if the players want to ensure that their voice is heard, the Association provides a broad democratic path for them. Let them take more interest in the administration of their clubs and not leave the burden to one or two. By engaging in this work they will become an articulate body and take manfully the responsibility of maintaining or changing the rules, instead of leaving lone Padraig Gearty to speak for them.

Lastly, now that the G.A.A. very definitely wants the ban, let's call a halt to the despicable hypocrisy unworthy of a great organisation and enforce the rule—to the very hilt.

### MAURICE DAVIN

### The man who became first President of the G.A.A.

IT is a rather odd and unbefitting fact that while our national stadium honours both Dr. Croke and Michael Cusack, nothing in it recalls the name of the third joint founder of the Gaelic Athletic Association, Maurice Davin.

When Maurice Davin took office as the first President of the G.A.A., he was 43 years of age. A few years previously, he had few equals in the world as an all-round athlete. The high jump,

long jump, hop, step, and jump and, of course, the weights, were Davin's events.

Towards the latter part of his career he confined himself to the weights and it was not uncommon for him to win all weight-throwing events at a championship meeting.

The most amazing aspect of Davin's athletic career is not what he won but that he was almost 30 years of age before he became interested in athletics. Had he

begun at a normal age there is no telling of what he might have achieved.

Davin's first love was rowing. His native Carrick-on-Suir was then the venue for regular boatraces and regattas and the youthful Davin became an expert oarsman while still in his teens. So keen was he on the sport that he learned how to build his own boats and it is said that he never lost a race in one of these.

Another of Davin's early sporting interests was boxing. Standing well over six feet and weighing 15 stone, Davin possessed a natural flair for the noble art. Carrick-on-Suir had a boxing school in those days of the mid 19th century and Maurice Davin eagerly availed of what it had to offer.

However, he was not satisfied at confining his knowledge to the rudiments of the sport and in 1865 he made a point of availing of a visit to Carrick by the great American heavyweight champion, John C. Heenan, to improve his knowledge of the art.

It is said that Heenan took a great liking to Davin and spent many hours sparring with him.

At that time, Jem Mace was the British heavyweight champion. Born at Norwich of Romany stock. Mace is now universally accepted as being the father of modern scientific boxing. He first won the British title in 1861, lost it to

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### ... THE GREAT JEM MACE REFUSED TO FIGHT HIM

#### By SEAN FEELEY

Tom King in November 1862 and regained it in the Spring of 1866.

In June 1868, Mace embarked on an exhibition tour of Ireland, which eventually brought him to Clonmel. With him was his brother "Pooley" Mace, who was also a professional boxer.

At that time Maurice Davin was 27 and no man had ever beaten him in a fight. He had fought numerous British army champions without being extended and it was only natural that he should travel to Clonmel to see the great Jem Mace.

Having watched the Englishman sparring in an exhibition bout, Davin became convinced that he could beat him. After the performance, he quietly challenged him but Mace, having looked the towering Irishman over with a careful eye, refused. So did his brother.

Davin is said to have returned to Carrick - on - Suir a very disappointed man; for he had looked forward to fighting Mace and putting his acquired fistic ability to a final test.

Two years later, Mace travelled to America and beat Tom Allen at Kennerville, Louisiana, in a bout that was recognised as being for the world heavyweight title. Mace retired shortly afterwards.

To-day, boxing historians attribute the introduction of science and skill into the noble art to Jem Mace. He was one of the first to be elected to the American "Boxing Hall of Fame" a few years ago.

Yet, this man, great as he was, once turned down a fight—even a sparring session—with the man who was later to become the first President of the G.A.A.

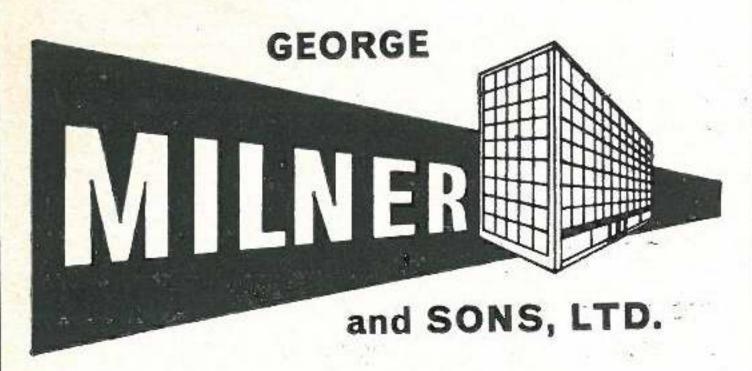
It is interesting to speculate on what might have happened had Mace fought Davin. It would certainly have been a great fight. Mace would have been the more skilful but standing only 5' 9" and weighing less than 12 stone, he could not hope to match Davin's strength.

What if Davin had beaten Mace? Would he have then realised that his natural boxing ability was capable of earning him fame and fortune? Would he have turned professional? It is an intriguing thought.



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### THE FIRST STEP

#### By FRANK FOLEY

ONE of the happiest pieces of news to come out of this year's Congress was the announcement that, at long last, a satisfactory settlement had been found to the differences between the Central Council and the New York Board.

All is now forgiven and, we hope, forgotten, too. And New York come back into the National Leagues, not into the St. Brendan Cup competitions, which have been abandoned.

Since their inauguration in 1954 the St. Brendan Cup competitions have been a bone of contention with the New York body. They have never been happy with them and have always felt that they were a poor sop after they had been excluded from the Leagues in which they played in the early 1950s—and won in football when they beat Cavan in the 1950 final.

In the negotiations that preceded this year's Congress, New York sought annual games with the All-Ireland champions, but this is something the ruling bodies here at home have steadfastly refused.

So with commonsense each side gave a little and New York return to the National Leagues, for which there will now be runners-up trophies for the first time.

Most important of all, that unhappy "blank year" disappears and the contests will be staged annually, alternately in Dublin and New York—in the latter city, presumably, as a double-decker programme in the Polo Grounds, which has been saved from demolition by the recent formation of the New York Mets baseball side now based there.

This new arrangement is bound to give even added impetus to the National Leagues, for counties must now beat New York to win the titles rather than winning them at home and going out to play for the St. Brendan Cup which never really assumed a high status or importance.

Also approved at Congress was County Board status for the American League which runs G.A.A. affairs in cities outside New York and which sponsored Down's tour this summer.

Perhaps in time the American League, now that it has been given the boost of official recognition, will become strong enough to take its place in the National Leagues. For the possibilities of a truly all-American championship lie in the fact that New York and the American League are fully recognised and approved by the Central Council and Congress.

And rather than try to outdo each other, hese bodies should work together towards the happy state of full co-operation and a continental competition.

Such a spirit of co-operation could bring a new level of competition into the G.A.A.—the nearest approach the Association has yet had to full internationals.

And it's possible. Following an American championship, the two American bodies could pick teams in hurling and football that would meet Ireland teams.

These latter could be chosen on the evenings of the annual exhibition games—Rest of Ireland v. the Combined Universities in Football, Rest v. the All-Ireland champions in hurling.

What an injection this would mean for these exhibitions, which are fast losing their appeal for the public and they provide no real incentive for the players. But, just imagine the rousing, thrilling games these annual contests would be if the players knew that on their performances depended selection for an Ireland team to travel on an American trip.

Let's hope this year's Congress is the first step on the road to such a competition.

### THREE AMONG MANY

BOOK-TALK: By SEAN O'NEILL

AN hour spent in a Dublin public library recently brought home to me very forcibly the great deficiency which exists in the way of books on Gaelic games. On the spacious shelves of this library, I counted no less than ninety-seven books on sport. Only three of these were on Gaelic games.

Perched together on a lowly shelf were Canon Fogarty's elaborate history of the Tipperary G.A.A., John P. Power's excellent little book on Cork hurling champions, "A Story of Champions", and "The Gaels of Wexford" (carelessly printed as "Gails" by the cover binders).

These were the only representatives of the sports which hold the interest and the respect of the vast majority of the Irish people. Above and alongside these three books were scores of bigger and better bound volumes on rugby, soccer, cricket, tennis and other sports.

Cricket, which can claim no more than a few thousand followers in this country, had nine books to its credit. Soccer had in the region of fifteen and rugby had even more.

Why was this so? Why were there not plenty of books on Gaelic games on those shelves? The simple truth is that there are very few books on Gaelic affairs—for the very good reason that these books rarely, if ever, pay their way.

We may have over one million regular followers of our native games, yet it is a well-established fact that a sale of two to three thousand is the very most that a book on Gaelic games can command.

Even at ten shillings per copy this would not cover the basic printing cost of an average-sized

hard-covered book, let alone reward the author for his labour.

We are blessed with a score or more top-class writers on Gaelic affairs—men who through their love of the games would gladly write a book on hurling or football without concern for reward; but not a publisher in Ireland would risk producing such a book.

As far as I can recollect, about twenty books solely devoted to Gaelic games have appeared in print. Of these, over one half were paper backs and many are now out of print.

The earliest G.A.A. publications were Dick Fitzgerald's "How to Play Gaelic Football" and T. F. O'Sullivan's history of the Association. Both of these are now collectors' items.

"Carbery", that doyen of Gaelic sports writers, was next in the field and he is still with us and writing almost as prolifically as ever.

In recent years the position has improved slightly, but the supply is still wholly inadequate. However, only three of the G.A.A. books published during the last decade had hard covers. These were Tommy Doyle's "A Lifetime in Hurling", Dr. E. O'Sullivan's "Art and Science of Gaelic Football" and Canon Fogarty's Tipperary history.

"Our Games Annual", sponsored by the Central Council, made its second welcome appearance earlier this year and certainly this is a move in the right direction in more ways than one.

The ten to eighteen age-group are by far the best purchasers of sports books and their needs should be catered for first and foremost (if for no other reason than to counter the vast supply of

(Continued on page 47)

#### (Continued from page 21.)

(b) A substitute may be used to replace a player who suffers injury in the first 15 minutes of a game. No substitution for any injured player after the first quarter.

Proposed rule (b) above might lead to many complications in regard to the actual time elapsed, but the referee shall decide if, in fact, fifteen minutes have elapsed or not and shall allow or disallow the substitution accordingly. It should also be noted that there is no limit to the number of substitutions for genuine injuries in the first quarter.

In any case, it spikes the guns of the sideline geniuses who will take more than fifteen minutes to decide if they have made a mistake in playing certain people and it will also curtail the practice of playing "the half-hour man" who is deliberately held over until the second half because of age or state of fitness. If he is not fit to play the first hour then he should not be on the selection to the exclusion of an up-and-coming youngster.

Apart from all other considerations, substitution for its own sake presents us with the spectacle of the semi-beserk "official" (who is normally a good runner) galloping around the field telling certain players to lie down and switching others ad infinitum when the "injury" is inflicted.

It makes one truly sorry for the odd player who is genuinely injured and does not receive sufficient sympathy from a disbelieving crowd.

As I said before, please abolish substitution altogether; it is only make-believe and does more harm than good.

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### SCRAPBOOK

#### By EAMONN YOUNG

THE slim young player in the track-suit drew a few smiles as he danced around among the players who were tuning up before the game. It was a nice maroon colour and so many of the oldtimers thought him a sissy. But when he went on as a sub later in the game he proved as manly as the next. It is so important to warm up the muscles before they are asked to stand the strain imposed on them by the active mind that sends a body chasing a ball. A track-suit keeps the body warm and who wants a sub shivering on the sideline—as I have seen them.

THE elderly player in the junior inter-county ranks is, I think, on his way out. I have always admired the veteran whose craft, strength and fitness made him so useful to his team but that affection was always reduced a little by the picture of the young fellow on the side-line who was robbed thereby of a place.

In Munster we now have an under-21 competition in football to help in raising the standard and we hear more comment every day about confining the junior competition to the under 23's or thereabouts.

With the frequent talk about the number of minors who are being lost because of their failure to become inter-county junior we'll find, I think, a combination of the arguments resulting in the cutting

off of the older junior player in favour of the young man.

It would probably make the inter-county junior championship more interesting also. Certainly it does not now command the interest it should.

A T last something positive is being done about the growing of ash and in the autumn it is hoped to start the work. It is hoped to plant units of 50,000 trees and the requirements of each county would be a matter for the county boards.

There might be a number of separate plantations in the county or perhaps the easier and more efficient method would be to plant the lot in one place. The ash sapling would probably be sold for 22/6 per 100 for three-year-old plants and 25/- for four-year-olds. They should be planted three feet apart in rows also three apart, deep moist soil is best. and the months November to March are best.

One can plant about 4,000 saplings in the acre and in 15 years one would hope for thinnings to give hurleys. When we can put a cheap hurley in the hands of the youngster we will have made a definite stride in the revival of the incomparable iomaniocht.

SPEAKING of hurleys, I notice that the old trick of the narrow heel is still being sprung on people. The width of the hurleys heel

should be the width of a ha'penny at least. The thinner the heel the more sticks out of one root—and the more profit for the merchant.

HAVING argued with an All-Ireland player about the "square" rule (and for once found myself right) it's no harm to elaborate.

Yes, a forward MAY stand inside the square when a 14 yards free is being taken. The snag is if he scores, the goal should be disallowed. If, however, the ball returns to the square before the player has had time to get out of it and if a goal is scored without his help it will be allowed.

If the ball goes high over the bar it will be allowed even though the full-forward may be leaning up against the goal-post. The fact that my friend didn't know the rule indicates to me that there must be a "fierce" number of ignorant umpires in the country.

AM convinced that 14 men should never be asked to play 15. In rugby and soccer they do it when a man is injured badly; but who says that's fair play. In our games it happens that a man is put off for disorderly behaviour and the game soon becomes uninteresting.

Fortunately, we have a number of sensible refs who put off two

(Continued page 45.)

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#### M. O MEISCILL.

Prìomh Oifigeach Gnothach. Scoil Ceard-Oideachais, Roscomain.

zmmmmmmmmmmmmmm

#### (Continued from page 43.)

men even though one is probably innocent. Anything is better than the unequal contest though the automatic suspension makes one sorry for at least one player.

I feel that this, too, will go eventually to be replaced by a punishment decided by a committee. If our committees can't be trusted to do this it's time to haul down the flag.

In fascination we watched the hardy young player eat his food. It was like clockwork as the potatoes, cabbage, meat, milk—and raw onions—disappeared. It would have thrilled my old heart but for the fact that he was playing centre-field in a tough game one nour after.

Eating heavy feeds before a game is madness. The idea that one needs the food is usually wrong: one doesn't need ten gallons of petrol to travel 20 miles in a small car. The only meal a player needs before an afternon match is a good breakfast. If he likes a cup of tea later so much the better.

Best to let the big meal till an hour after the game when one has talked to the friends and the excitement implicit in real endeavour is abated. No need to prescribe the time-honoured way of getting an appetite.

Me? I prefer a red steak, but my butcher tells me the sheep is a far better animal.

ONCE again we must call attention to the sanitary facilities at our big games. In some cases they are excellent: in others?

DOES TV excite players? Are they distracted from their efforts by the hundreds of eyes boring into the small of their backs? There are some men who are always conscious of the grand-

stand whether at work, in company or at play. The real player sees only one thing—the ball.

If it's in the grasp of another he wants to get it. Sometimes his methods are not the most polite, but brother, the camera, or even the referee, dosen't stop him.

PEOPLE like me who don't like the foreign games rule but keep it, are tired of seeing others break it scot free. It is only natural to suppose that the officials who spoke with such conviction for the rule at Congress will now enforce it—to the hilt . . . WE'RE WATCHING.

ONCE we were playing a game and our veteran forward was going through. Maybe he wasn't quite as fast as in days gone by, but he had a ton of heart. He was belted a bit and lost the ball. Back he came after it and hopped the

man who took it from him off the ground.

The ref blew against him. "Why did you do that," says our man about to burst a blood-vessel. "Didn't you see what you did?" says the ref. "Didn't YOU see what he did to me?" said the forward. "No,' says the ref. "Well," says our friend, "You'll see this" and he chopped him a bonk on the noggin that nearly put his photo on the ground. When it came up at a meeting I was advised to plead insanity. That didn't work either.

are playing the game with the public (especially those whose eyes are not as keen as they used to be) by using more white footballs and sliotars. The players like it also and can strike, or kick, a better ball as a result.

(Continued overleaf.)

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#### (Continued from page 45.)

Football fetching is, of course, a joy when the leather is fairly new. The all-round increase in playing skill is the just reward of the teams that wish to give the public a fair run for their money.

IN these days when a man's social status is no longer in proportion to the size of vehicle that carries him along, the gardai can hardly be blamed for keeping traffic out of towns on the day of a big game.

I was surprised, however, some time ago to find that we had to dismount a mile outside the town and yet the town itself was empty. Do the business people want it this way? Surely not (as for the Jarveys, I have no objection to any man making an honest living and God knows they work hard for it; but I do object to paying 2/6 for a car park far from the game just to keep our jarvey friends going to and fro for the day. Sometimes its hard to know who wins the match.

TELEVISION will not affect attendances too much I think. It will (please God) reduce the size of crowds at provincial venues by a

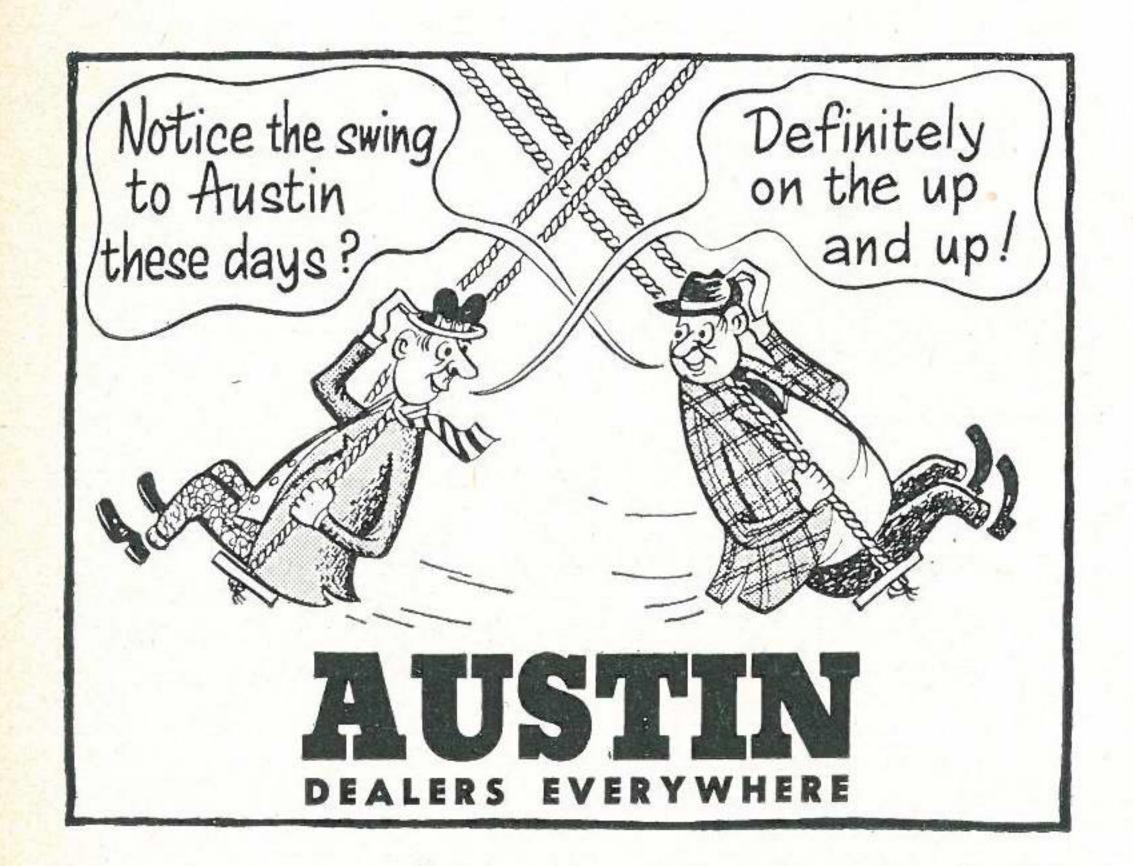
few thousand and thereby allow us to enjoy the game in peace.

As for the rest, does anyone think that the man (or girl) who is looking forward to a day out is going to stick at home with his nose to the screen where, if the truth be told, he may get a better view of the game.

While the blood runs red there will be men who refuse to be content with anything but personal performance.

CO sorry to see the Kerry motion about impartial appeals committee beaten at Congress. The idea was that when a case is put, all interested parties would retire and allow the council to decide. That is not so now. I notice that the motion was last on the Congress agenda and taken only when the hard core of officialdom (which wants the strong hand now given by our unjust procedure) remained. Rather surprised at a fair-minded man like Paddy O'Keeffe. Maybe it was out of his control.

"YOU know, I feel tired," I confessed. We were sitting by the fire in Clonmel a few minutes before going out to play an army football game. Jim Doherty, the ex-Ulster Railway Cup player from Donegal, sat opposite. With a stony face he said: "Still you're a great man to travel at all—at your age."





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A thrilling moment in the 1961 Munster final between Tipperary and Cork. Donal O'Brien, Tipp's netminder, saves in spite of close attention from Cork's Mick Quane, while Mick Maher (Tipp) moves in to help.

#### (Continued from page 40.)

books, magazines and annuals on non-native sports).

Attractive, coloured and illustrated books are needed for our youth in order to nurture an interest in native games. "Our Games Annual" does try to fill this vacuum but it should only be a beginning. Other books and publications are

needed and it falls to the lot of the Central Council to sponsor or subsidise their production. It certainly cannot be done without their help.

I would strongly advocate the setting up of a Central Council sub-committee to review the entire position. Private enterprise is incapable of meeting the existing needs and it therefore becomes the responsibility of the Association to do what it can to remedy the position.

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### SHINTY

#### A Look at Scotlan d's

#### National Pastime

#### By Conallach

SCOTLAND'S national game of Shinty, which is played mostly by Highlanders who speak the Gaelic language in Edinburgh University, Inverary, Brae-Lochober, Loch Carron, Ballinachullish, and many other Scottish centres, was played in this country on various occasions and was well received by Irishmen.

Shinty is a game somewhat similar to hurling and the first match between hurlers from Ireland and shinty players from Scotland took place at Lee Bridge Gardens, London, when the London Irish hurlers defeated the London Scottish Association by three goals.

Tom Barry, that great Cork Gael, and a member of the London-Irish hurling team which won the All-Ireland championship of 1901, said in a newspaper interview a few years ago that this shinty game really stood out in his memory.

In 1899 a team representing the Camanachd Association in Scotland took on the London-Irish in a great game at Stamford Bridge which was watched by 40,000 people. It ended in a draw and a Scottish Marquis who had donated a set of medals for the winners, decided to give a special set to each team for such a great performance.

In 1897 the Celtic H.C. went from Dublin to Glasgow to play the Cowal Shinty Club from the North of Scotland, but the Highlanders were victorious on their home ground and had nine goals to spare at the end.

In a return game at Jones' Road in the same year, the Irishmen reduced the arrears and were

only beaten by two goals. Michael Cusack, first President of the G.A.A., refereed this match.

Twice in the year 1924 the Scottish shinty team beat the Dublin Collegians in the first internationals proper—part of the Tailteann Games. There was an attendance of 30,000 at Croke Park

(Continued page 51.)



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#### (Continued from page 49.)

when Scotland pulled through after a very hard game. One of the Dublin papers had this to say of the contest:

"The visit of a Scottish team to Croke Park, where they met an Irish hurling team on Saturday, aroused considerable interest. The game was followed with rapt attention by a huge crowd and at times enthusiasm reached a high pitch. Scotland were victorious after a fast and strenuous but thoroughly sportsmanlike game."

Although beaten by one goal, the Irish put up a great show and great displays were given by Jack Darcy of Tipperary and 'Builder' Walsh of Dublin, who had a great tussle with Highlander Hugh Nicholson of Glasgow Skye.

A special set of international rules were in force to suit a shinty-hurling clash. These rules still exist.

The sliotar can be stopped with the foot on the ground but it cannot be kicked. Teams consist of 14 players and the duration of the game is an hour and ten minutes. Only one sub can come in during a game. Instead of the 70 as in hurling there is a puck from 45 yards. Frees are taken from 21 yards, but no points are counted.

As one would expect, the rules did not suit the Irish but by 1932 we beat the Scotsmen twice at the Tailteann Games in Croke Park. Annual inter-University games between Edinburgh University and Queen's University, Belfast, were very popular for many years.

I had the opportunity of meeting our Highland friends in 1952 when, as secretary of the Glasgow Hurling Board, I played for the Eoghan O'Growney hurling club of Glasgow against Edinburgh University at the University pitch in East Fettes, Edinburgh.

This game was under the auspices of the Glasgow Co. Board G.A.A. and although we were beaten the conflicting styles were really sensational. Some of the rules were rather difficult for

hurlers and the shinty stick was very heavy to handle. However, the game was very enjoyable.

Later in the season a few of us played for the Glasgow Skye Shinty Club, and we soon got accustomed to the intricacies of the game. This shinty stick, which is rather like a hockey stick, has a great striking force. The playing field has a maximum length of 200 yards and a maximum width of 100 yards. The goal-line is four yards wide and the goal posts 10 feet high.

A team consists of 12 players, the duration of the game is 90 minutes and there is time for injury. Points are not counted and only the goal-keeper is allowed to kick or handle the ball. The game at times is very tough but the standard of refereeing is good and some great clashes take place.

As an amateur association like the G.A.A., they have made great strides against big odds. These men have built up a very efficient organisation, they realise that shinty is their national game and that it is a game well worth preserving.

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#### READERS' LETTERS

#### Down Tour

Sir,-From what we have heard, the Down team's tour of America has not been a success. Apart altogether from the standard of football played, the crowds who turned up to see the games were deplorably small, and as a result, the organisers of the tour must be deeply in the "red".

This is too bad; for the newlyfounded American League deserved success on their venture.

The question now arises, however-was the venture too big for them? Were they not aware beforehand that support for the games wasn't strong enough in the cities which Down visited?

It seems to me that the only way to ensure success on these tours is to stage full-scale internationals. All-Ireland teams (and I mean the pick of Ireland) versus All-American teams. It's the only way to pull in the crowds.

J. Murphy.

Co. Clare.

#### The Ban

A Chara, — Congress certainly gave the answer to those who tried their best to have Rule 27 deleted from the Official Guide.

The abolitionist campaign was conducted in a sneaky manner; but the people who conducted it backed the wrong horse. The Gaels of Ireland are still staunch and true. Foreign games are still forbidden - and long may that situation remain!

"S and Fast."

Drogheda.

A Chara,—Even though Dublin's motion on the Ban was beaten at Congress, it is obvious that the wind of change is blowing through the G.A.A.

Up to recent times, G.A.A. members who didn't believe in it were

afraid to stand up and criticise this rule. But not any longer.

The young people are taking over the running of the organisation all over the country, and my guess is that when all the old "diehards" have passed on, the Ban won't last winking time.

"Hurry It Up."

Co. Wexford.

#### Failure?

Sir,—When are Galway going to pull out of the Munster hurling championship? They have been playing in the South now for the past four seasons, and their record is just as bad as it was when they were the sole standard-bearers in Connacht.

Look at their record: Beaten by Waterford (first round) in 1959 and 1960; beat Clare (first round) 1961, then were beaten by Tipperary; beaten this year (first round) by Limerick. Only one win in four seasons!

Galway went into Munster to improve their hurling - to give them the competition that they lacked in the West. But the experiment has been a sorry failure.

They would have been better off had they remained as they were. They at least had a chance of winning through to the final. I think they would have gained more experience in that arrangement than in the poor first - round matches in Munster.

I believe that the Galway County Board should now decide to revert to the old position. They have nothing to lose and everything to gain from taking an independent stand. For, so far, they have got nothing but crumbs from the Munster hurling masters' tables.

"Midlander."

Tullamore.

#### Well Done

A Chara,—May I offer my congratulations to Down on adding the League to their All-Ireland title.

I agree that Dublin threw away numerous chances in the final, but Down still had the ability to fight back and win. That is the sign of a really great team. In fact, I would say that Down are the finest team ever to grace Croke Park.

"Lagansider."

Belfast.



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