

16

DONIE NEALON



CALTEX STAR
HURLER 1962

Gaelic Sport

1'6

Vol. 6 No.1
March-April
1963



SPECIAL NEWS
FOR READERS
— see page 5

CEARD-CHUMANN OIBRITHE IOMCHAIR AGUS IL-+SAOTHAIR NA hEIREANN

- * The Irish Transport and General Workers' Union is Ireland's largest Trade Union with branches in every city and town in the country, North and South.
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CLÁR NA SCLUICÍ LAIŽEAN AS TEACHT 1963

iomáint (mionúir)

- (1) An Mí v Luḡaí—An Uaim, 31/3/63.
- (1a) IAR-mí v (1)—m. CeARR, 14/4/63.
- (2) Cill Dara v Cill Manncáin—Ác-Í, 14/4/63.
- (3) (1) v (2)—Duais speisialta ar buaóirí, 28/4/63.
- (4) Ceárlóc v Ua b'fáilí—Portlaoise, 28/4/63.

CORN UÍ BROIM (peite)

- (1) Cill Dara v Ceárlóc—O. Nua.
- (2) Loé Sarman v Laois—Imis Córtaió.
- (3) An Mí v IAR-mí—An Uaim.
- (4) Luḡaí v Ác Cuiac—O. Áca.
- (5) Longport v Ua b'fáilí—Longport.
- (6) Cill Coinniḡ v Cill Manncáin—Cill Coinniḡ.
(ḡac cluice ar siubal 3 p.m. ar 24/3/63)

iomáint idir-mheanac

- (1) Laois v Cill Dara—Ác-Í, 14/4/63.
- (2) Ua b'fáilí v An Mí—m. CeARR, 14/4/63.
n.D.—Ceárlóc 7 IAR-mí go Comórtais Soisir.
- (3) Donoróma v Ác Cuiac—Ác Cuiac, 7/4/63.
- (4) Cill Coinniḡ v (1).
- (5) Loé Sarman v (2).
- (6) (3) no (4) no (5).
- (7) (6) v f. leiḡte as (6) An Craob.

iomáint soisir

- (1) An Mí v Cill Manncáin—An Uaim, 7/4/63.
- (2) Ceárlóc v (1).
- (3) Luḡaí v Cill Dara—O. Áca, 7/4/63.
- (4) IAR-mí v (3).
An Craob (2) v (4).

peil soisir

- (1) Luḡaí v Cill Dara—O. Áca, 7/4/63.
- (2) Longport v Ua b'fáilí—m. CeARR, 7/4/63.
- (3) An Mí v Cill Manncáin—An Uaim, 7/4/63.
- (4) IAR-mí v Ác Cuiac—m. CeARR, 7/4/63.
- (5) Loé Sarman v Ceárlóc—Imis Córtaió, 7/4/63.
- (6) Laois v Cill Coinniḡ—Portlaoise, 7/4/63.

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CONNACHT CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1963

Calling Connacht Patrons

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF DATES OF
SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

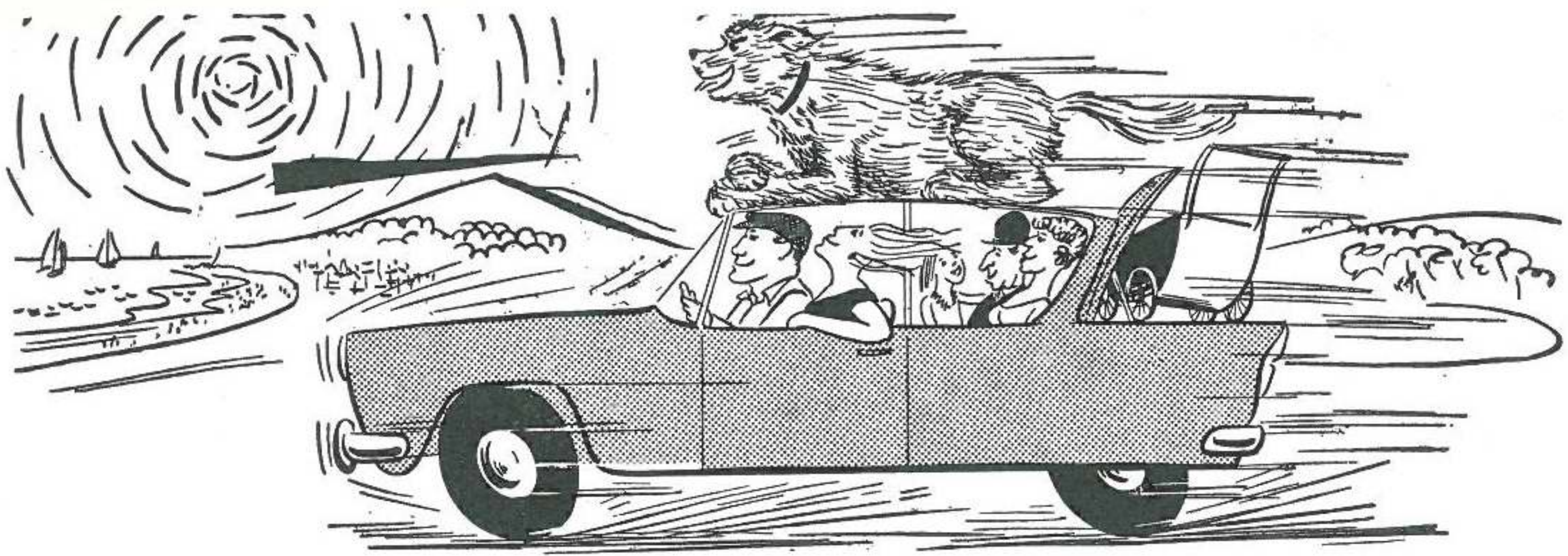
FIRST ROUND

June 9th : Sligo v. Leitrim,
at Sligo.
June 16th : Galway v. Mayo,
at Castlebar.

SEMI-FINAL

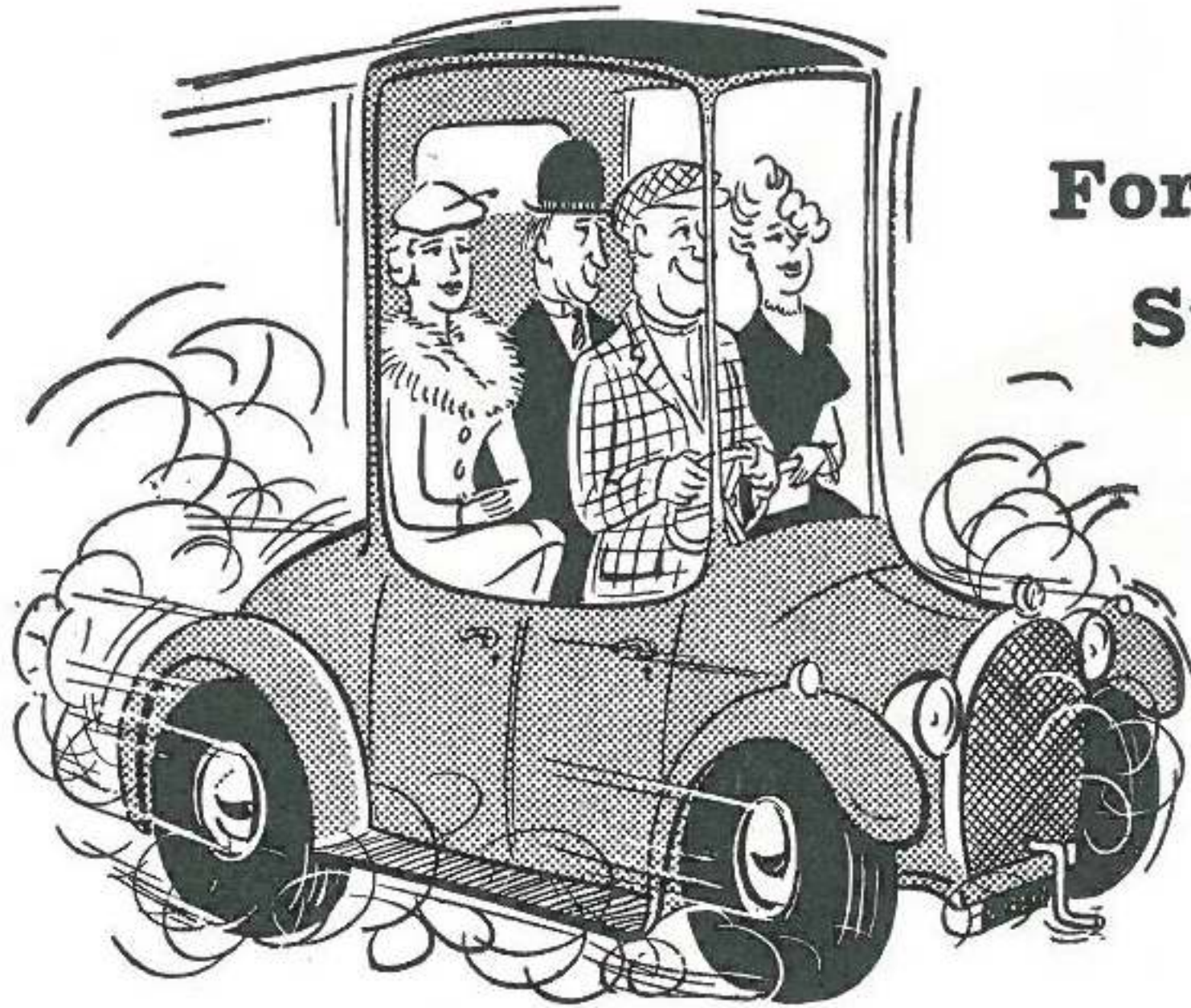
June 23rd : Roscommon v. Sligo or
Leitrim
If Leitrim, at Sligo;
If Sligo, at Charlestown.

**FINAL ON JULY 14th
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 6. No. 1, March-April, 1963

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See our
new address
at top of
column.

A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

The big decision

WITH this issue, "Gaelic Sport" has reached the first major turning point in its history. It is, as it were, a milestone marking the end of a four and a half year period of quarterly publication, and a signpost pointing the way to new frontiers.

And the threshold of the new frontiers is at hand: We have decided to produce "Gaelic Sport" as a regular monthly magazine, commencing on May 1. From that date onwards, we shall appear on the first of each month. In taking this momentous step we are confident that the new "Gaelic Sport," in the old familiar format, will meet with even greater success than that which has been achieved since first we appeared as a quarterly in September, 1958.

When this magazine began four and a half years ago, we were conscious that a quarterly could not adequately fill the demand of a vast potential readership which comprised almost the entire following of Gaelic Games. We realised, even then, that this demand could be met, ideally, by a monthly publication; but we also foresaw the necessity to explore the field with a quality magazine of less frequent issue.

This course was dictated by economics—the formidable barriers of production costs. As time passed, however, and "Gaelic Sport" took a leading rôle in the all too small body of regularly published and specialised literature on the national games, we found that the step from quarterly to monthly was not only desirable but necessary and inevitable.

Reader-reaction was, perhaps, the biggest single factor in hastening the decision we now have taken. During the past twelve months, the circulation of "Gaelic Sport" rose at a steep rate, and this increasing

popularity brought with it, from readers in Ireland and abroad, more insistent requests for monthly publication. In addition, and no less important or influential in shaping future plans, our advertisers had found in "Gaelic Sport" a valuable medium through which to reach a large cross-section of the people.

It would be stressing the obvious to dwell further on the fact that a monthly "Gaelic Sport" will prove of vastly greater value to our readers and advertisers.

We have said already that the format of the magazine will remain unchanged. This, we feel, is desirable; for much of its appeal is due to a colourful and artistically-designed cover and the distinctiveness and good taste of its typography and lay-out.

While its character in this respect will be maintained, the contents will naturally undergo a gradual process of re-modelling over the first few months. Up to now, the greater part of "Gaelic Sport" was composed of feature articles. This was due to the limiting deadlines imposed by a quarterly. A monthly publication will, however, provide us with new scope for news coverage and news comment, and the vital line of continuity for feature series.

From May Day onwards, "Gaelic Sport" will combine the old with the new in balanced proportions. Our tried and trusted policy will be continued into the new frontiers—that is, to be authoritative without being dull; to be bright and entertaining without being frivolous or shallow.

A final word of advice: The demand for "Gaelic Sport" will be abnormally heavy as soon as monthly publication gets under way. Make sure of your copy by ordering in advance.

LEINSTER SEEK THREE-IN-A-ROW

By DAVID DOYLE

CAN the Leinster footballers make it three in a row and thereby extend their Railway Cup record to eighteen victories—a total just one short of that of the other three provinces combined? Croke Park on March 17 will provide the answer, but before it does we shall have seen a rousing game. Leinster and Ulster have contested seven previous Railway Cup finals, and of these Leinster have won four. Their last meeting was, of course, a year ago, when the Southerners won by 1-11 to 0-11. Both sides have retained a majority of last year's players.

Leinster have a powerful full-back line in Paddy McCormack, Greg Hughes and "Pa" Connolly, while at midfield Mick Carolan and Mick Carley carry the provincial hopes.

Ulster have retained last year's full-back line, while the personnel in the attack shows but one change—Jody O'Neill displacing Sean O'Connell.

It was the Leinster defence more than any other sector which won the day last year, and I believe they can do it again. Granted, the Ulster half-forward line of Sean O'Neill, Jody O'Neill and Paddy Doherty showed brilliant form against Connacht, but did not the same line, with Jim McCartan in the centre instead of O'Neill, show even better form

against the westerners last year?

As a matter of fact, last year the Ulster half-forward line scored a total of 4-4 against Connacht in the semi-final at Cavan, yet this line was held scoreless from play in the final.

A win for Leinster this year would give Paddy McCormack, Greg Hughes, Paddy Holden, Mick Carley and Sean Brereton their third medal in a row. This would be a rare honour shared by only twenty-nine other footballers.

Hughes and Brereton are, of course, in search of their fourth football medal for they were

members of the victorious 1959 side. So, too, was Fintan Walsh, although he did not play on the 1961 and '62 sides.

All of the team with the exception of Liam Casey, "Pa" Connolly and Noel Delaney have played previously in Railway Cup finals.

Not since 1950 have Leinster been beaten in a Railway Cup football final, and ever since the competition began in 1927 they have shown particularly consistent form in football finals, winning seventeen of the twenty-four in which they have appeared.

Tradition, plus the determination to make it three in a row, will spur on the men of Leinster on March 17. It may well be close, but I expect them to retain the Cup.

Footnote—The twenty-nine players who have been on winning Railway Cup teams in three consecutive years are as follows:

P. Moclair, H. Kenny, P. Kelly, T. Regan, T. Burke, J. Carney, P. Flannelly (Mayo); M. Connaire, B. Nestor (Galway); M. Goff, J. Higgins, P. Doyle, P. Martin (Kildare); M. O'Brien, P. O'Brien, K. McConnell, P. Meegan (Meath); P. McDonnell, O. Freaney, K. Heffernan (Dublin); S. White, J. McDonnell (Louth); J. Rogers, G. O'Reilly (Wicklow); P. Dunne, J. Delaney (Laois); M. O'Neill (Wexford); A. Murphy (Carlow); and B. Beggs (Dublin and Galway).



Greg Hughes . . . in search of fourth medal.

... AND ULSTER SEEK REVENGE

By HUGH O'DONNELL

ULSTER is on the march and nothing short of an outstanding display by Leinster on St. Patrick's Day will prevent them from winning their seventh Railway Cup football title.

This year's Ulster side is already being compared with those great teams of 1942, '43 and '50, all of which were captained by the mighty John Joe O'Reilly. In Jim McDonnell Ulster have a worthy successor to the never-to-be-forgotten Cavanman.

This Ulster side, drawn mainly from Down and Cavan, have proved their worth against Connacht, and let no one doubt the ability of this year's western fifteen. Yet, they had few answers to the craft of Sean

O'Neill, Paddy Doherty, Jody O'Neill and James McCartan.

The Sligo outing will have benefited the Ulstermen and so, too, will the Lagan Cup semi-finals and final in which many of the team were engaged. Ulster will be fitter at Croke Park than they were at Sligo and uneasy must surely be the head which wears the inter-provincial crown.

Ulster won its first title in 1942. It was a late but glorious entry into the winners' arena. What a great Northern side that was—spearheaded by the genius of Alf Murray and backed by the safe hands of Jim McCullagh, John Joe O'Reilly and Eddie McLoughlin.

It was the era of the hand-pass and how the Northerners revelled in it. They were back again in 1943, and this time it was Leinster who went down to them in the final.

Ulster won their next title in 1947, when Antrim contributed eight players to the team. The "Glens" also provided a truly great captain in Kevin Armstrong and again it was Leinster who fell before them in the final.

The 1950 decider was one of the most one-sided on record, Ulster beating Leinster 4-11 to 1-7, while six years later the province outclassed Munster to win its fifth title.

That 1956 side contained two of this year's team, Jim McDonnell and Tom Maguire. However, the real hero seven years ago was the Monaghan



Sean O'Neill . . . one of Ulster's dangerous forwards.

man, John Rice, whose display in the final raised him to rank among the great centre half-backs of this generation.

Ulster's last title came in 1960. That team had the unusual experience of having five Down men in its midst . . . but the presence of the men from the Mourne is no longer a novelty.

And so the stage is set for yet another Ulster bid for the Cup. Leinster proved their masters last year, but then, there are many who consider that to have been an off-day for the North . . . and surely it must have been, seeing that Sean O'Neill, Paddy Doherty and James McCartan failed to raise a flag from play.

It will not happen again.

Previous Meetings

THE record of previous Leinster-Ulster Railway Cup football final meetings reads:—

- 1928—Leinster 1-8, Ulster 2-4.
- 1939—Leinster 3-8, Ulster 3-3.
- 1943—Ulster 3-7, Leinster 2-9.
- 1944—Leinster 1-10, Ulster 1-3.
- 1947—Ulster 1-6, Leinster 0-3.
- 1950—Ulster 4-11, Leinster 1-7.
- 1962—Leinster 1-11, Ulster 0-11.

This leaves Leinster leading by four games to three; but in the actual scoring Ulster are ahead, having registered a total of 14-45 to Leinster's 9-56.

MUNSTER CAN DO IT AGAIN

By TIM KELLY

ONLY once in the history of Railway Cup hurling have Munster failed to take the title on two consecutive years. That was exactly 30 years ago, when Leinster, having won the title in 1932, went on to retain it at Munster's expense twelve months later. Will history be repeated on March 17?

That hurling decider of 1933 was a thrilling game with Leinster eventually winning, 4-6 to 3-6. Starring for the victors were such legendary figures as Lowry Meagher, Matty Power, Paddy Phelan, Charlie McMahon and Jim "Builder" Walsh.

It was an entirely Kilkenny-Dublin fifteen—Kilkenny, who were the reigning All-Ireland champions, contributing eleven players to Dublin's four.

On the Munster team were such "greats" as Martin Kennedy, Timmy Ryan, Tommy Daly, John Joe Doyle, Paddy Clohessy, Phil Purcell and Dinny Barry Murphy.

Although Leinster have failed to retain the hurling title since, they did go quite close to doing so in 1937 and '42.

Oddly enough, although these provinces have contested twenty-eight of the thirty-six Railway Cup hurling finals played to date, they have never finished on level terms. Of this twenty-eight, Munster have won twenty. All of Leinster's eight victories were hard earned, with the lone exception of that of 1956, when, led by Nick O'Donnell, they humiliated the Southerners to the tune of 5-11 to 1-7.

Leinster's 1-11 to 1-9 victory last year was well deserved. They had the major share of the play throughout and were it not for some poor shooting would have won by a much more decisive margin.

Their hero of the hour was, of course, Des Foley, who captured his second Railway Cup medal of the afternoon and thereby made G.A.A. history.

Playing at mid-field, the young Dublin giant made little of all that Munster put against him and at the close of the game even the Clare veteran, Jimmy Smyth, was given a turn at trying to curb the Dubliner—but all in vain.

Should Leinster repeat the double this year Foley would possess four Railway Cup medals. He would then be firmly on the road towards breaking the Leinster record of seven Railway Cup medals won by Kevin Heffernan.

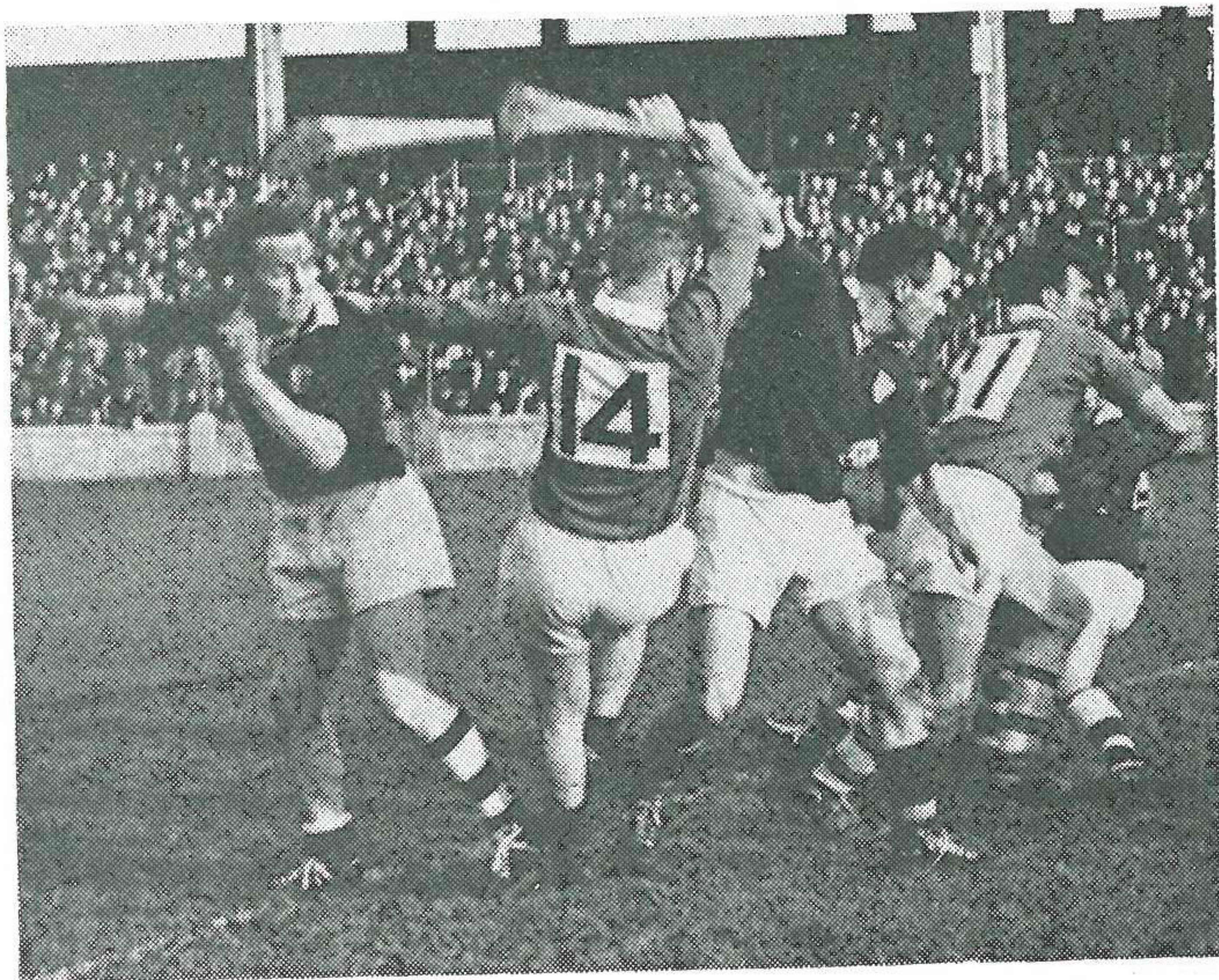
It is interesting to note that two of the province's greatest hurlers, Paddy Phelan and Matty Power, spent a lifetime at hurling to win four interprovincial medals — and this is the record for Leinster hurling.

But then, Des Foley is not the only player involved in this decider with a pocketful of incentive. Christy Ring, Munster's full forward, is as keen on winning his 18th interprovincial medal as he was on winning his first away back in 1942, while Jimmy Smyth will be trying hard for his eighth medal.

The semi-finals rarely give a clue as to the likely

(Continued next page.)

Ned Wheeler, the Leinster full forward (No. 14), in a tussle with Connacht backs during the Railway Cup hurling semi-final at Croke Park on February 24th. Leinster qualified for the final by 5-14 to 3-3.



outcome in the hurling final and this year was no exception. Munster were "pulling-up" all the way in their 9-7 to 3-5 win over Ulster, while Leinster were far from being as impressive as they might have been for most of the hour against Connacht, whom they beat 5-14 to 3-3.

Personally, I fancy Munster to edge the verdict on this occasion. They have a peculiar pride in the southern province with regard to monopolising this competition and the defeat of last year will serve the purpose of a well used spur.

I clearly remember their performance of 1957. The one-sided defeat of the previous year sent them thirsting for scores and in the end they won handsomely, 5-7 to Leinster's 2-5.

An equally decisive "revenge" victory for Munster this year is not likely, but what is likely is that we will have a thrilling game with the tradition and craft of the southerners carrying the day by a few points.

Sale of Wembley Tickets

IN order to increase the advance booking of tickets for the football and hurling tournament games at Wembley Stadium on Whit Saturday, the London G.A.A. Board has decided to grant a ten per cent. cash commission on sales to clubs throughout Britain.

Mr. J. Daly (Kerry), secretary of the London Board, is confident that if the London clubs alone—they number 65—avail themselves fully of this generous concession, profits from the 1963 games will be the biggest taken since this annual tournament began in 1958.

AT LAST! A REGULAR MONTHLY MAGAZINE ON GAELIC GAMES

(Full information in page five.)

**GO
WELL**

GO



Long list of failures

By SEAN FEELEY

THE fact that Munster has not won a Railway Cup football title since 1949 might lead one to believe, at first glance, that there would have been little more than a murmur of protest had the selectors decided on an all-Kerry team this year.

Would this action have been justified? To try and find the answer let us examine the records.

Munster won its first Railway Cup football title in 1927 with an all-Kerry team. Four years later, when the province won its second football crown, there were fourteen Kerry men along with Clare's Georgie Comerford.

The Kingdom continued to monopolise most of the positions throughout the 1930's and in 1940 an all-Kerry team was beaten, 3-7 to 0-2, by Leinster in the final. That was the same Kerry team which had, six months previously, won the All-Ireland title.

In 1941, Munster came back to regain the title with thirteen Kerry men but were well beaten by Ulster in the 1942 final with an all Kerry side except for Eamonn Young of Cork. With that game Kerry's monopoly ended.

Since then, the province has won three further titles and, odd as it may now appear, Cork had an equal representation to that of Kerry on those victorious teams.

In 1946, when the province won its fourth title, the team was made up of eight Corkmen, five Kerry men and two Tipperarymen. In 1948 Kerry had eight, Cork five with Tipperary and Clare having one each, while in 1949, the last occasion on which a football title went south, Cork and Kerry had six players each, Tipperary two and Clare one.

Looking back on those three most recent Munster victories, it is true to say that the stars of those teams were not Kerry men.

The 1946 team was Cork-dominated and it was those stars of the All-Ireland winning Leaside team of 1945 who led the province to victory. In 1948 and 1949 it was Clare's Noel Crowley who notched a handful of great goals which resulted in the Cup going south.

This seems to leave the position in deadlock, with the first decade and a half of Railway Cup competition pointing to the wisdom of a Kerry monopoly and the next decade making a very strong case for a Kerry minority.

In an effort to carry this analysis to some logical conclusion, let us turn briefly to the fortunes of other provinces.

Connacht won its first Railway Cup title in 1934 with a Mayo-Galway selection. Galway had contested the previous All-Ireland final and went on to bring home the Sam Maguire Cup in 1934. Mayo won the All-Ireland title in 1936 and very appropriately, Connacht won the Railway Cup title and retained it in 1937 and '38. Galway won the All-Ireland title in 1938.

Furthermore, Mayo were the reigning National League champions in 1934, '35, '36, '37, '38, '39, while Galway won this title in 1940.

Connacht's next Railway Cup triumph came in 1951, the year in which Mayo were reigning All-Ireland champions and the province did not win again until 1957—a year in which Galway were the reigning All-Ireland champions. Connacht

(Continued on page 59.)

RAILWAY CUP RECORDS

By SEAN O'NEILL

NOVEMBER 14, 1926, saw the playing of the first ever Railway Cup games. On that day Munster and Connacht qualified for the football final at the expense of Ulster and Leinster respectively. A week later Leinster beat Connacht to qualify for the first hurling final. Both finals were decided on March 17, 1927, with Munster

winning the football crown and Leinster the hurling.

The list of titles to date is:

	Hurling	Football	Total
Munster	27	6	33
Leinster	8	17	25
Connacht	1	7	8
Ulster	0	6	6

Munster have never been absent from a hurling final, while Leinster have played in twenty-seven, Connacht seven and Ulster one.

Ulster's lone hurling final appearance was in 1945 when they scored a sensational victory over Leinster in the semi-final. However, they were well beaten by Munster in the final.

Kerry and Galway share the unique record of having won Railway Cup titles on their own. It was an all-Kerry Munster team which won the first football title in 1927. Oddly enough, that fifteen was little changed from the team which lost to Kildare in the All-Ireland final six months earlier. An All-Galway Connacht team won the hurling crown in 1947.

Des Foley's performance in winning two Railway Cup medals on last St. Patrick's Day is an all-time record. However, he is not the only man to have played in both finals on the same day. Nick Rackard did it in 1950 but was on the losing side in both games.

Garrett Howard, Mick Ryan, Tommy Treacy, Paul Russell, George Comerford and Bobby Beggs share the distinction of having won Railway Cup medals with two provinces.

Jack Higgins and John Joe O'Reilly hold the record of having captained three winning Railway Cup teams.

George Comerford and Eamonn Young were both, in turn, odd



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men out on Munster teams. Comerford played with fourteen Kerry men in 1931 while Young was in a similar position in 1942.

The most one-sided Railway Cup hurling game was the Munster-Ulster semi-final of 1947. Munster won 9-7 to nil. This was the only such game in which a team failed to score. Yet, Munster were beaten, 2-7 to 1-1, by Connacht in the final.

The 1932 football semi-final saw Leinster beat Ulster, 4-11 to 1-3. Munster beat Leinster by the same seventeen points margin (5-6 to 1-1) in the 1937 semi-final. These were the most one-sided football games.

Christy Ring's feat of having represented Munster for twenty-two successive years (and he may add to it) is almost certain never to be challenged let alone equalled. Next to Ring comes Dan O'Keeffe who had seventeen years in the Munster football goal.

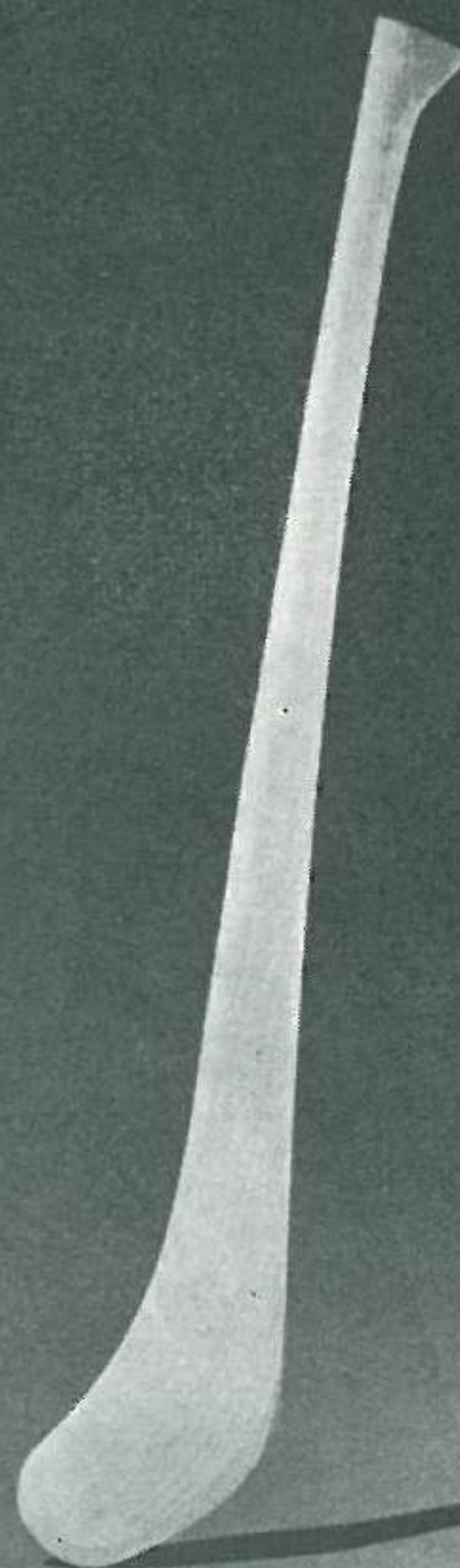
Although Munster share the bottom of the list with regard to football titles won, they have, in fact, played in 23 finals. The football final appearance list reads: Leinster, 24; Munster, 23; Ulster, 13; Connacht, 11.

The 1949 football final remains one of those unexplainable mysteries of interprovincial competition. March 17 fell on a Thursday and when the game ended in a draw, Munster 2-7, Leinster 2-7, it was decided to have the replay on the following Sunday.

Almost the entire Munster fifteen opted for remaining in the capital and this they did, enjoying their brief holiday to the full.

The Leinster team had returned home and it was generally felt that this would stand to them in the replay; but the very opposite happened and Munster played inspired football to win 4-9 to 1-4 . . . which could go to prove that, irrespective of the circumstances, G is good for you.

“the clash of
the ash-
and pride in
St. Lua...”

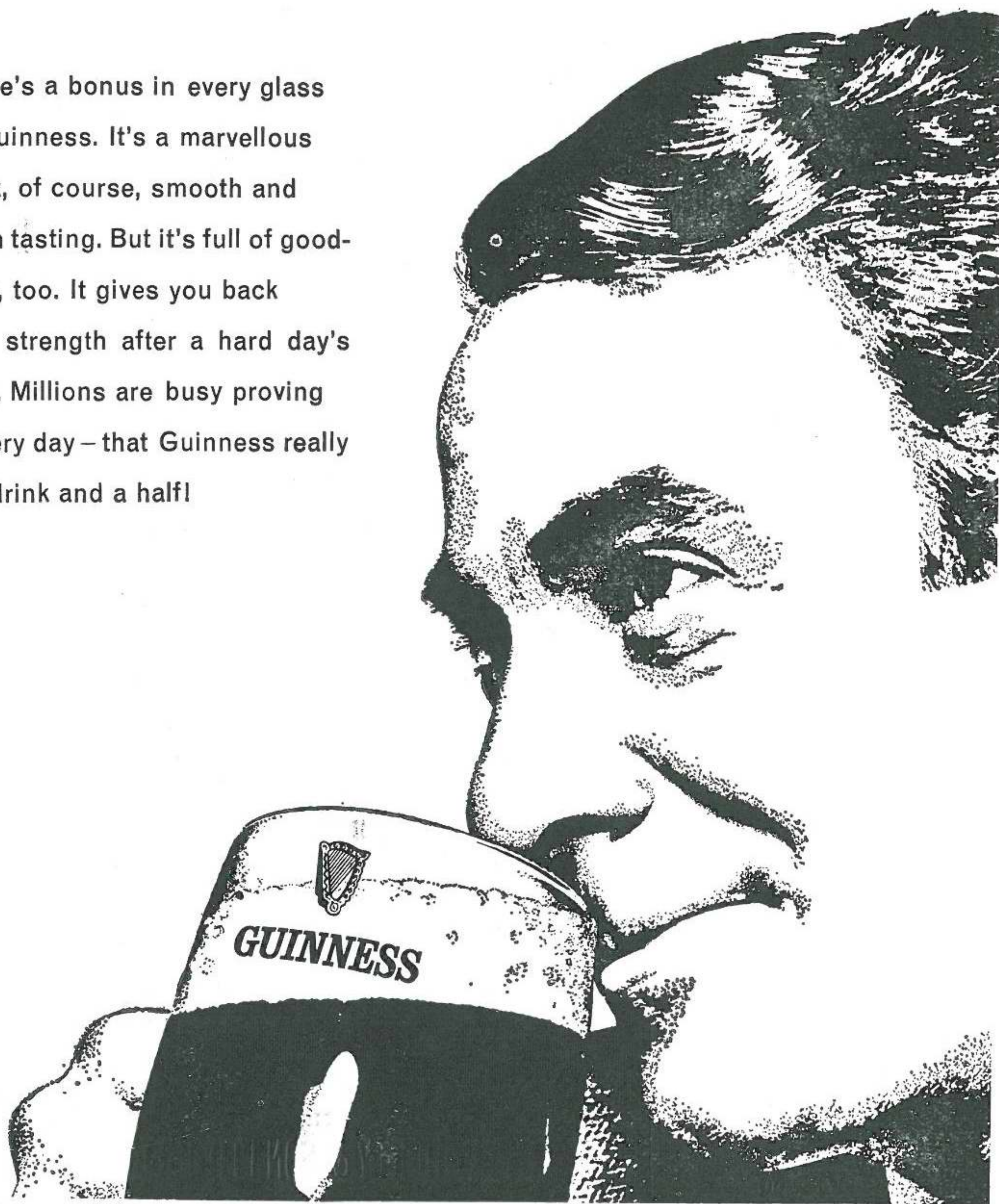


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CONNACHT NOTEBOOK

By Chris Murray

WITH St. Patrick's Day and the Railway Cup finals round the corner, it may not be out of place to present here the western province's Railway Cup record, giving the years of glory, the results in those years and the winning combinations on duty.

Connacht have won eight titles in all, seven in football and one hurling title. The years were:

Football—1934, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1951, 1957, 1958.

Hurling—1947.

RESULTS IN THOSE YEARS

Football

1936—February 9th at Castlebar, Connacht 1-7, Munster 2-2. Final, March 17th at Croke Park, Connacht 3-11, Ulster 2-3.

1937—February 7th at Carrick-on-Shannon, Connacht 4-6, Ulster 1-3. Final, March 17th at Croke Park, Connacht 2-4, Munster 0-5.

1938—February 13th at Cavan, Connacht 2-8, Ulster 0-3. Final at Croke Park on March 17th, Connacht 2-6, Munster 1-5..

1951—February 25th at Croke Park, Connacht 3-6, Ulster 2-8. Final at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day, Connacht 2-6, Munster 1-8.

1957—February 10th at Sligo, Connacht 2-8, Ulster 0-8. Final at Croke Park on March 17th, Connacht 2-9, Munster 1-6.

1958—February 16th at Ballinasloe, Connacht 1-11, Leinster 0-7. Final on March 17th at Croke Park, Connacht 2-7, Munster 0-8.

Hurling

1947—March 9th at Croke Park, Connacht 2-6, Leinster 2-5.



Jack Mangan, former Galway and Connacht Railway Cup goalkeeper

Final at Croke Park on April 6th (Sunday), Connacht 2-5, Munster 1-1.

Football Victors

1934—T. Burke (goal), P. Quinn, P. Kelly, P. Flannelly, G. Ormsby, J. Carney, G. Courell, P. Mockler (Mayo), H. Carey, M. Connaire, F. Fox, J. Dunne, Mick Donnellan (capt.), M. Higgins and B. Nestor (Galway).

1936—T. Burke (goal), P. Kelly, T. Regan, G. Ormsby, H. Kenny, P. Flannelly, J. Carney, P. Moclair (Mayo), M. Connaire, F. Fox, R. Beggs, M. Higgins, R. Griffin, B. Nestor (Galway) and P. Kavanagh (Sligo).

1937—T. Burke (goal), T. Regan, P. Quinn, P. Kelly, P. Flannelly, H. Kenny, J. Carney, P. Laffey, J. Munnelly, P. Moclair (Mayo), M. Connaire, J. Dunne, D.

O'Sullivan, B. Nestor, R. Beggs (Galway). Sub.—J. MacGowan (Mayo).

1938—P. Moclair (capt.), T. Burke (goal), J. MacGowan, T. Regan, H. Kenny, J. Carney, P. Laffey, J. Munnelly, P. Kelly (Mayo), M. Connaire, C. Connolly, D. O'Sullivan, J. Dunne, M. Higgins, B. Nestor (Galway). Sub.—P. Flannelly (Mayo).

1951—J. Mangan (Galway), W. McQuillan (Roscommon), P. Prendergast, S. Flanagan (Mayo), E. Boland (Roscommon), H. Dixon, E. Mongey (Mayo), S. Purcell (Galway), G. O'Malley (Roscommon), E. Keogh (Galway), P. Carney, J. Gilvarry, M. Mulderrig, T. Langan, P. Solon (Mayo). Subs.—M. Flanagan (Mayo), F. White (Sligo).

(Continued on Page 50.)

Do they dread the moment of truth?

SEAN FEELEY'S article in your December issue on this year's Dublin Ban motion is a negative effort. Mr. Feeley needn't attach great weight to last year's Congress vote on the Dublin enquiry motion. It was a phoney vote to a large extent. Fifty delegates refrained from voting although presumably under instructions to vote against the motion. I wonder how many voted against the motion on instructions, but contrary to their own views?

Some of the principal speakers against the motion gave Congress a lop-sided picture of the strength of their mandates. Mr. O Ruairc of Kerry, one of the G.A.A.'s elder statesmen, advised Congress to ignore the views of the players on the Ban, on the ground that they were too immature to give an opinion on the subject.

But he withdrew this statement in its entirety at the very next meeting of the Kerry Co. Board when he explained that he must have had some irrational moments at Congress. Of course, public opinion had exploded on him meanwhile and it may be that somebody had told him that the man who was responsible for the re-imposition of the Ban back in 1906 was then a player. I refer to the late M. F. Crowe.

What manner of man was the late M. F. Crowe? Mr. Stanley Clarke, a G.A.A. man of 60 years' service, a contemporary of Mr. Crowe and a fellow I.R.B. man in 1906, wrote in the press recently that Mr. Crowe was a man of

liberal outlook. Mr. Clarke assured his readers that the Ban was re-introduced in 1906 as a security measure in this way:

As might be expected, there were many I.R.B. men in the G.A.A. then, and it was considered prudent to keep British army personnel and their friends out of the G.A.A. to prevent infiltration and sabotage of I.R.B. activities. Mr. Clarke pointed out that the Ban no longer had any meaning, therefore, after 1922. Mr. Clarke's view is supported by the fact that the main traditional strongholds of the G.A.A. wanted the Ban removed after 1922.

But the allusion to the late Mr. Crowe has led me away, temporarily at any rate, from the 1962 Congress. I was making the point that some of the main opposition speakers to the Dublin motion misled Congress. Take the case of Mr. Seamus Gardiner, ex-President of the G.A.A. Mr. Gardiner said at Congress when opposing the Dublin motion: "I speak for Tipperary. We are totally against the motion."

A SONG TO REMEMBER!

"Gaelic Sport" goes monthly in May.

*Good news for our readers,
hurray, hurray!*

Say it in rhyme,

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Apparently Mr. Gardiner forgot that the Tipperary Convention decided by a little more than half only, to oppose the Dublin motion. At the Tipperary Convention, 70 delegates out of 160 voted to support the Dublin motion.

At the Longford and Roscommon Conventions almost half the delegates supported motions against, or critical of, the Ban; yet, only one delegate from those counties—and he openly admitted that he was disobeying instructions—voted for Dublin's motion.

I could go on, but I feel that I have said enough to show that the Congress vote concealed more than it revealed.

Mr. Feeley tells us that the subject was debated for one hour and twenty-five minutes at last Congress, and that, therefore, we should be well satisfied. He must be very simple if he thinks that such a contentious subject could be adequately debated in that time. And, anyhow, the motion before Congress last year was not debated at all, by the opposition. All the opposition spoke to a motion to remove the Ban whilst the motion for discussion simply asked that a Committee of Inquiry be set up to go into the pros and cons of the Ban. Evidently, the opposition concluded that the "cons" would sink the "pros" if the light were let in—and hence the decision to clamp down on the inquiry. Evidently, Mr. Feeley is of that way of thinking, too. There is a Chinese proverb which

is very apt here. It says: "Prejudice is more remote from truth than ignorance."

No attempt was made at Congress to rebut the case made for the inquiry. The result was that that 180 to 40 vote, which appears to give Mr. Feeley so much pleasure, caused more cynicism than ever among the rank and file of the G.A.A. Accordingly, it is now more essential than ever in the interests of the G.A.A. that the matter be brought before Congress again at the earliest date.

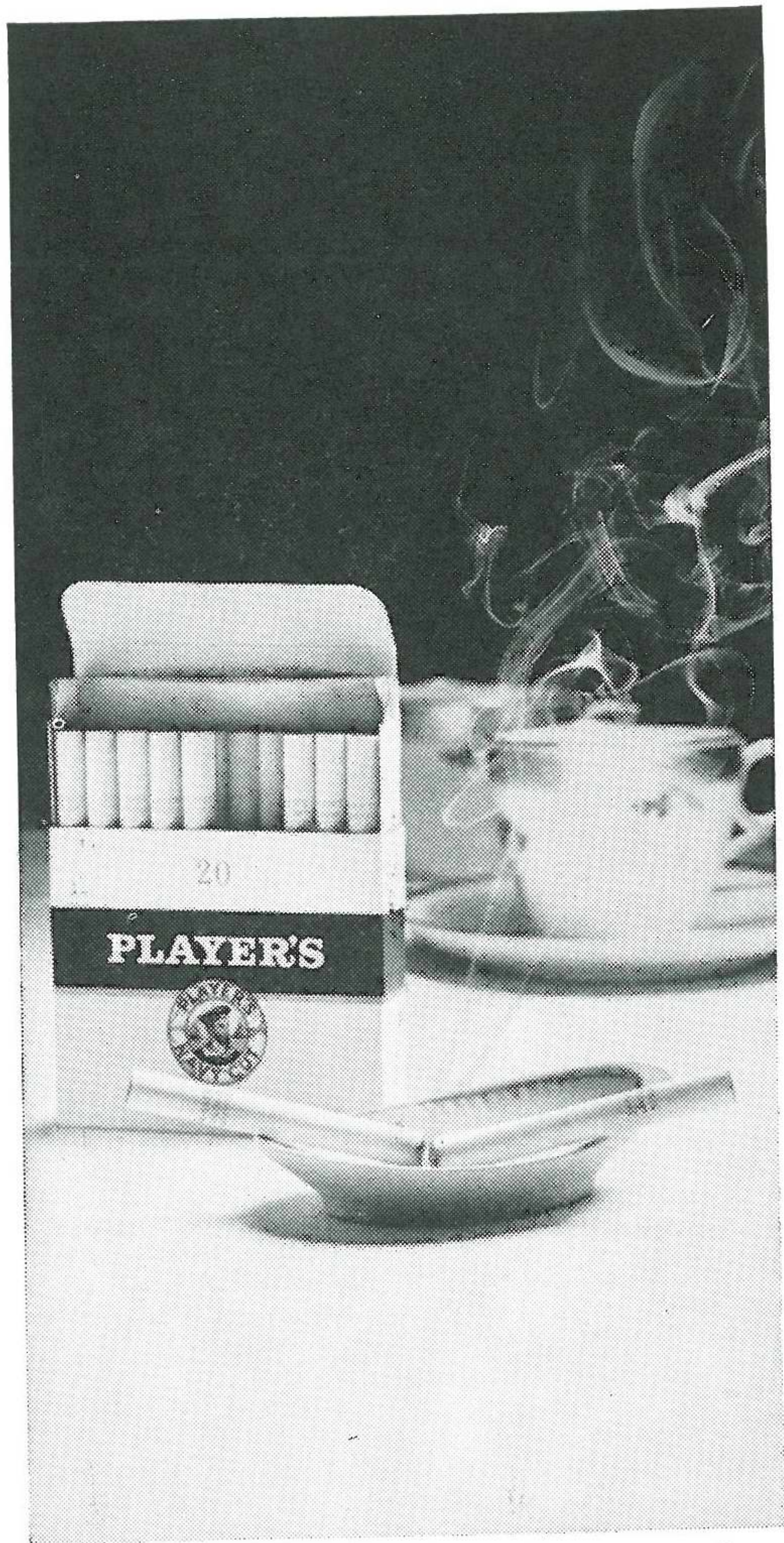
Mr. Feeley tells us that it would be "a waste of time to have Ban motions every year." Would it now? The Ban restricts personal liberty in games and in social contacts. It divides Irishmen—bitterly at times. If a G.A.A. man were to go to a whist drive organised by a rugby club he would incur automatic suspension for six months "for promoting rugby." These restrictions on personal liberty are fundamental and it is dangerous nonsense—from the point of view of the G.A.A., I mean—to say that the Ban is of little importance.

Anybody who values personal liberty will surely agree that any rule which restricts that liberty should be open to regular review.

Since the three-year cycle came in, back in 1926, Ban motions reached Congress on two or three occasions only—up to 1962. In fact, there was no worthwhile debate on the Ban at Congress between 1926 and 1962. Before 1926, Ban motions were debated regularly at Congress—and without rancour, we are told. It was since the close-down on discussion that the rancour came in.

It is only fair to say that the introduction of the three-year rule prevented "the wasting of Congress time," but the sore festered furiously beneath the surface. It was a case of "silence breeding contempt." But I believe that

(Continued Overleaf.)



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Butterkrust



Sliced **BATCH LOAF**

(From Previous Page.)

thinking G.A.A. men are of the opinion nowadays that the interests of the G.A.A. demand an early and searching inquiry into the Ban. The terms of reference of the Committee of Inquiry set up by the Dublin Board which will examine the position of the G.A.A. in Dublin—it is at present functioning — does not make specific reference to the Ban, but a casual study of the terms of reference suggests that they commit the committee to examine the Ban as a factor influencing the development of the G.A.A. in an area where over one-sixth of the population of the country live. The result of such an examination should be instructive.

To conclude, then, I would say that last year's Congress vote was a very substantial misrepresentation of G.A.A. rank and file outlook on the Ban, and if Mr. Feeley is in close contact with G.A.A. affairs he must know this. Last year's motion was not "fully discussed" at Congress. As we have seen, it wasn't discussed at all by those who voted against it.

Had the Dublin inquiry motion been approved last year, it would have meant a saving of time at Congress, because all the spade work would have been done by a Committee *outside of Congress*. The report of the committee would have spoken for itself. As it is, the present position is worse than it was, say, two years ago, because public confidence in regard to the Ban, and—far worse—in regard to G.A.A. thinking, has deteriorated meanwhile as a result of the "heads in the sand" policy of G.A.A. leaders. It is not without significance that the traditional Ban defenders have been as mute as mice during the past year in regard to the Ban, although it has been the subject of much adverse criticism in the press during that period.

(Continued on Page 57.)

AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION MUST GO

Says Eamonn Young

AUTOMATIC suspension for misconduct on the field must go. Of that I have been convinced for many years and it is with satisfaction the growing opposition to the rule is noted.

On a lovely summer's evening we sat down in Limerick to see the home team play Clare in a tournament. A nice young man from another county was the referee; it was a compliment to be asked to officiate. Both teams were playing in the Munster championship within the month.

The game wasn't long on before two well-known chaps were at it. Tough, hard men both, and neither had learned the meaning of surrender. Knowing both, we on the line became apprehensive, especially when the referee began appealing to them for a little law and order.

Worse it got, until we sighed with relief at the half-time whistle. They would cool down during the interval. Cool down? The first half was chicken-feed compared to the second and towards the end one man knocked his tough opponent out, chopped another over the head and the crowd rushed the field. A child called the more successful of the assailants a dirty player—so he belted the lad just to "larn" him.

We saw no more of the referee.

That was the night that finished me with the month's automatic suspension and small blame to me.

There are several solutions.

Wexfordmen see no reason why a man cannot be put off for the remainder of the game (and extra time if any) without being automatically suspended. The referee would simply report the

incident and the committee sitting in fair judgement would award punishment.

More than one decent man in opposition, makes the juvenile statement that there is danger that the committee would not impose proper punishment. The only answer to this is: if a committee is so weak, then replace it—or else haul down the flag and we'll all go home.

An elaboration of the Wexford suggestion is to have the player ordered off replaced. In a game attended by a big crowd the removal of one player ruins the spectacle and the referee usually avoids this by putting off two men together, though one may have been trying to defend himself; or the other ruse may be adopted, of watching for an offence, however slight, on the opponents' side.

In Cork we well remember when a very prominent man went to the line in a county final and ten thousand hearts fell to see their fourteen battling valiantly. But we knew it would be no use.

Five minutes later an unfortunate boy on the other side put a foot wrong—and only barely. That good old referee evened up like a shot and we all were happy again.

How easy to allow a sub. for the man put off, and having the newcomer count as two, leave his team in the precarious position of having only one (or perhaps none) left.

The admission of a sub. for the man ordered off would, in addition to the abolition of automatic suspension, mean that the man who does not intend to play the game would not last five minutes after attracting the referee's attention.

(Continued on Page 23.)

MILESTONES
IN MEDICINE



ANCIENT GREECE

The fifth century B.C. was indeed, the Golden Age of Greek civilisation. In a period of one hundred years, it produced such brilliant intellects as Pericles, Euripides, Socrates and Hippocrates. The latter has been justly named as the Father of medicine. He taught that every disease had a physical cause and urged his students to seek the cause. He refused to accept that magic or evil spirits had anything to do with disease. He noted down accurately the signs and symptoms of disease and his observations have never been surpassed for meticulous detail. An upright man himself, he insisted on his disciples adhering to a very strict ethical code which is embodied in the Hippocratic Oath—an oath which is still taken by many graduating students throughout the world. In the island of Cos, is still pointed out to tourists, the plane tree under which Hippocrates is reputed to have taught his students.

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CAPS

'JUNIOR' OR UNDER 21?

A Problem for Congress

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

WHEN Congress time comes round the delegates will have to make up their minds whether or not we are to have under-twenty-one championships instead of, or maybe, in addition to the junior grade. And, personally, I don't envy the delegates their task because, after thinking the matter over for myself, I cannot make up my mind one way or the other.

You see, there is so much to be said both for and against such championships that, in the end, I found myself just as much on the ditch as I was in the beginning.

Now, on the face of it under-21 championships would be very welcome for, at the moment, there is not all that scope for good youngsters who have just come out of the minor grade. These lads are not yet ripe for senior ranks and, in junior grade, they are liable to find themselves pitted against players who are, in some cases, older even than the "seniors."

Besides, an under-21 age limit will give uniform teams in these competitions all over the country. The youngsters will be meeting young men all more or less of their own age and strength and development and everybody will start fairly equal. On all these grounds, and they are very good grounds, the projected under-21 championship has everything to recommend it, but there are other factors to be considered and the first of these is this, can inter-county competition sustain an extra championship?

As it is, we frequently hear the complaint that players, and especially good players, have too much of a competitive burden to bear at the

moment. And if we assume that a star under-21 player will also be eligible to play senior, as he must, the burden is going to be considerably heavier in future. We must assume that, if there is going to be an inter-county under-21 championship, there must also of necessity be under-21 county championships as well. This means that the star under-21 player is going to have to play two county championships and two inter-county championships and where he is going to get the time, in between other commitments, I, for one, do not pretend to know if his playing career is over-crowded as it is.

Of course the cluttering-up of fixtures could be eased by dropping the present junior championships, at least at an inter-county level. But the ending of inter-county junior games would, I fear, be a blow to club games in all counties. After all, the G.A.A. is built on the club and the vast majority of clubs are junior clubs or at least junior clubs and junior teams attached to senior clubs.

The junior club is the club that gives the average player his Sunday outing, that caters for the "duffer" as well as for the up-and-coming player, and great though the temptation may be to add on another glamour event to the championship list, it is as well for us all to remember that the primary purpose of the G.A.A. is to foster and preserve the national pastimes, and the best way of fostering and preserving them is to have them played by as many people as possible. And the more junior clubs we have, catering for the not-so-good player, the better.

(Continued on Page 23.)

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Healthex

(Continued from Page 19.)

With the cross men hunted to the line regularly, they would go from the game in time. Needless to say, the referees would regain the respect and status which they once must have had, though, brother, it must be a long time ago.

The other solution (again with the automatic suspension abolished) is what I proposed to the Cork Convention some years ago. It was a little too radical then, but time is changing a lot of us

The ten-minute cooler is a ready-made solution to the average firebrand. The referee orders him off for ten minutes and tells him to report to the side-line judge at the end of this time. For the ten minutes he has the privilege of watching his opponent having a happy time on the field, playing his heart out to make the most of the ten minutes.

When I proposed this I remember Jim Barry, the trainer being firmly against, in honest fashion. He felt that men would be running on and off the field to the extreme confusion of the spectators, and many agreed that far from improving control it would ruin it. In fact, this does now happen, and I deliberately use the word "does".

I, myself, had first-class experience of it. We were playing an army game in the Camp Field, Cork, and the centre half-back whom I was trying to beat got rather rusty, not with me, but with two lads nearby. He laid it on rather heavily, too, so the referee said "Take it easy, Mac."

A few minutes later the man repeated his dangerous charge and the referee, Lt. Paddy Kelly, who won an All-Ireland junior championship with Cork, took his name and said, "Go to the line for ten minutes. At the end of that time report to the sideline man."

In the ten minutes, needless to say, I played quite well, and realised sadly that my freedom was drawing to a close when I saw my opponent speaking to the linesman. A minute later he was back and played not only an excellent but a clean game for the rest of the hour.

There was no need to speak to any other player that day, so we continued the rule. The boys in the Congo played it also.

Whatever solution one accepts, the fundamental is that automatic suspension must stand revealed for what it really is, a ball and chain on the referee's freedom of action. It is a pity, for it was intended as the reverse. But times are changing, and if our games are to stay on the pinnacle they have reached, we must be alert and ever ready to change for the better.

In any case, there is no permanent revolutionary change suggested. Congress can always re-introduce automatic suspension if experience proves it would have been better to keep it.

I, for one, am convinced that it is the greatest enemy to games control and sigh for its abolition. This will come.

Problem for Congress

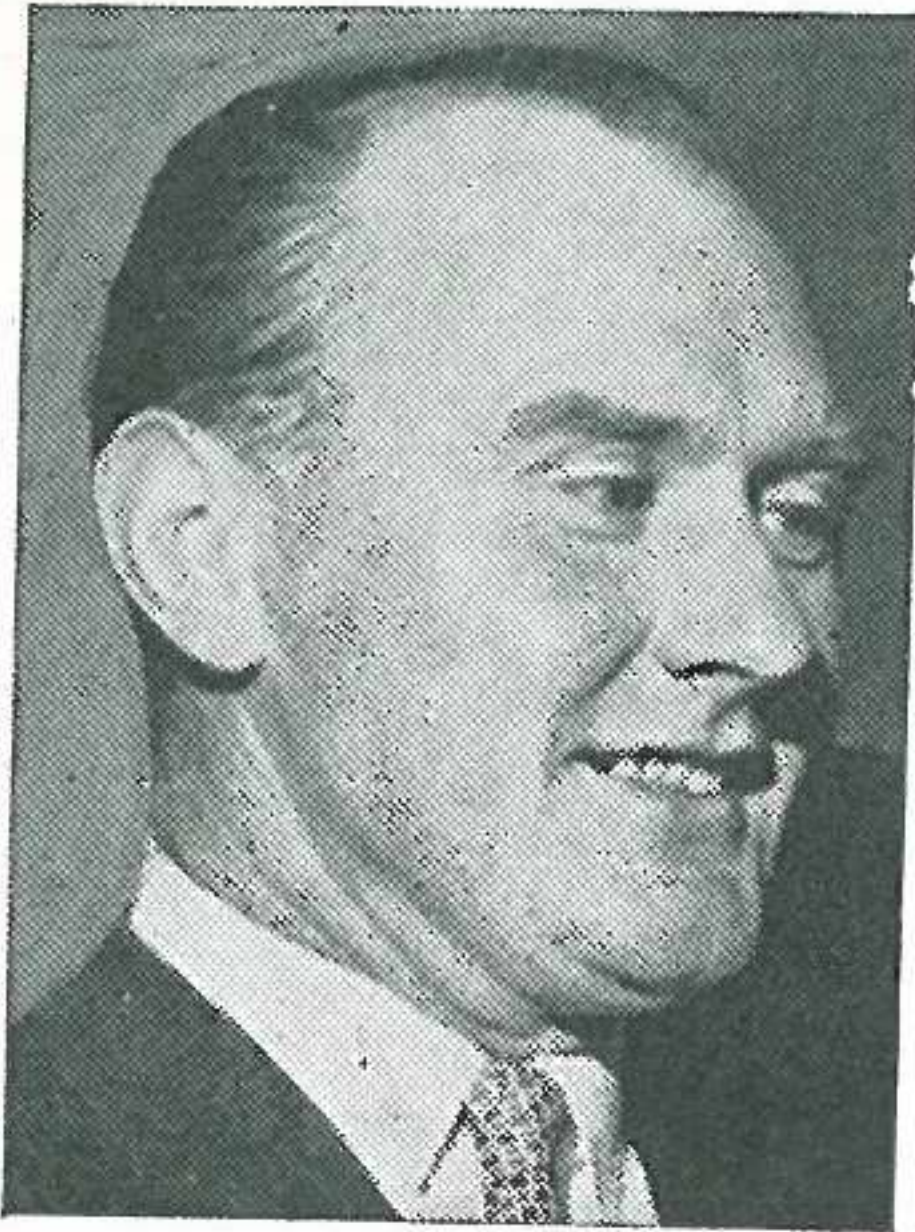
(Continued from Page 21.)

So if we are to have an under-21 championship do not let it be at the expense of the juniors. I know some junior teams carry men who have come down from senior ranks, but the number of these are not all that great, and, after all, the vast majority of them are playing on for the very good reason that, despite the onward march of the years, they just cannot bear to hang up the hurley and the football boots and bid a last farewell to the playing fields.

An under-21 championship is a good idea, but as I have shown, there are two sides to the matter and even additional snags are likely to present themselves. Would such championships add any great benefit to the "weaker" counties, or would they be entirely dominated by the "stronger" counties? And, of course, if the junior championships were changed to under-21, Britain would be left with very, very modest resources on which to call.

And those are the reasons why I don't envy the Congress delegates when they sit down to debate the pros and cons of an under-21 championship.

I can't quite make up my mind whether the good points outweigh the difficulties or vice-versa. Can you?



The author

A WARNING TO THE MEN OF VIOLENCE

CUT IT OUT!

By SEAN DONEGAN, former Offaly and Leinster footballer.

IT may be slang and, if said in the appropriate tone of voice, it may sound lowbrow, but that is exactly what we want in this case—to speak to those in our association, who are guilty of dirty play, in a tone and in a language they understand. Again we say to them “Cut it Out.”

To those in authority, whether at club or county level, we unequivocally state that this dirty play is a canker, a blot on our escutcheon; that this canker will eat into our souls and destroy our association; that drastic action is needed; that the quack’s method of curing the canker-afflicted patient be applied and that is to “Cut It Out.”

It was a sad evening for most followers and supporters of our native games to find a reverend gentleman speaking on Telefis Eireann of the “Brutality” practised by some so-called exponents. Now, this is a most serious accusation and, undoubtedly, brutality, being gross anti-social behaviour, is a sin against the Fifth Commandment. Was the priest correct in using the word? I think so. We have reached the stage when a spade must be called a spade; if we are afraid to use the correct term to describe a certain type of individual, who will bring further disrepute on the association if coddled, then we should hand over control of affairs to advocates of this kind of behaviour on the field.

Is it co-incidental that so many counties, this year, had motions before Conventions touching

on this subject? Is dirty play (or brutal conduct on a playing-field) widespread or are the local fathers crying “wolf”?

We must first of all differentiate between robust and dirty play. Gaelic games are not parlour ones and to participate one must be fit and one must expect knocks. Bodily contact is inherent in the games and being fast and full-blooded they are probably ideally suited to our temperament. Since bodily contact is allowed, a referee must be extra careful to note the difference between the unintentional and the deliberate. A strong, fast player, who surges through with the ball, may knock one or two opponents as a matter of course; his opponents will know he has shouldered them; on the day following the match he himself will feel and see the bruises on his muscles; he is a robust player. Many great players of this type spring to mind, all robust but strictly clean. But the dirty or brutal player is one who deliberately uses his fist, his boot or his knee on an opponent in such a way as to maim or injure. (In hurling, of course, it is one who uses the hurley for purposes other than striking the ball.)

Is dirty play widespread? At inter-county level one can say it is almost non-existent. At Croke Park, I can recall only one deliberate act of brutality in an inter-county game. At club level the story is not the same and the lower the

(Continued on Page 27.)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Christ Murray, "Gaelic Sport's" question-time master, sets you another 20 questions on G.A.A. affairs and statistics for your entertainment.

- 1—Ollie Walsh, Kilkenny's star goalkeeper, hails from
- 2—What is the official name of Sligo's G.A.A. Park?
- 3—Paddy Doherty, the Down half-forward, plays with what club?
- 4—The Fermanagh county colours are and white?
- 5—John Nallen, present Meath, former Galway and Mayo player, hails from
- 6—Present chairman of the Munster G.A.A. Council is
- 7—Who preceded him in that office?
- 8—Who was the first President of the G.A.A.?
- 9—What are the Sligo county colours?
- 10—For what competition is the Fitzgibbon Cup presented?
- 11—Who captained Kerry to All-Ireland success in 1953?
- 12—Their opponents, Armagh, were captained by
- 13—In that final, an Armagh forward missed a penalty that might have turned the tide. Can you name him?
- 14—Since entering Munster hurling competitions, have Galway won a Munster title in any grade?
- 15—Name the secretary of the Leinster Council of the G.A.A.?
- 16—To what profession does Tom Long, Kerry's outstanding full-forward, belong?
- 17—Did Tom ever play club football in Dublin?
- 18—If so, with what club or clubs?
- 19—Did he ever win a County Dublin S.F.C. medal?
- 20—What secondary school did he attend?

(Turn to page 58 for answers)

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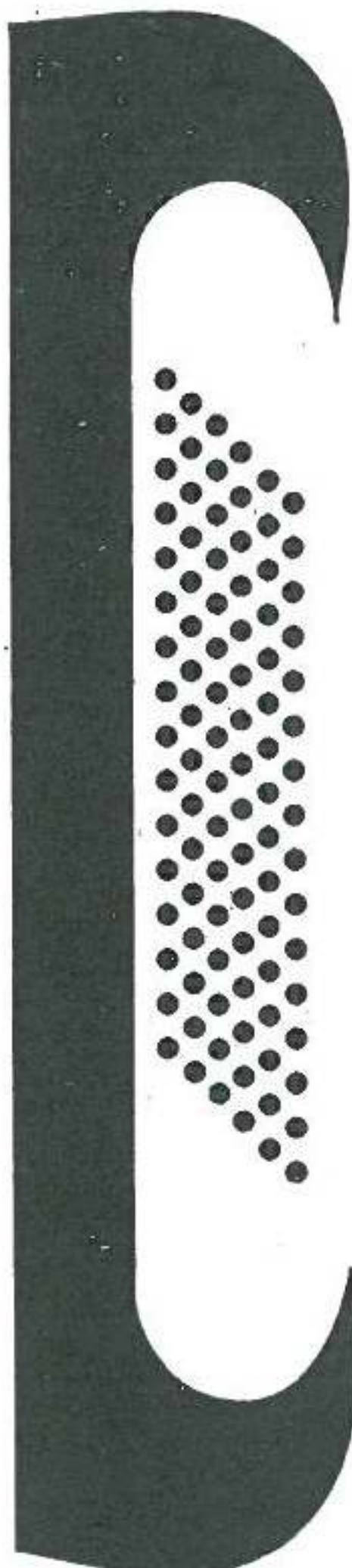
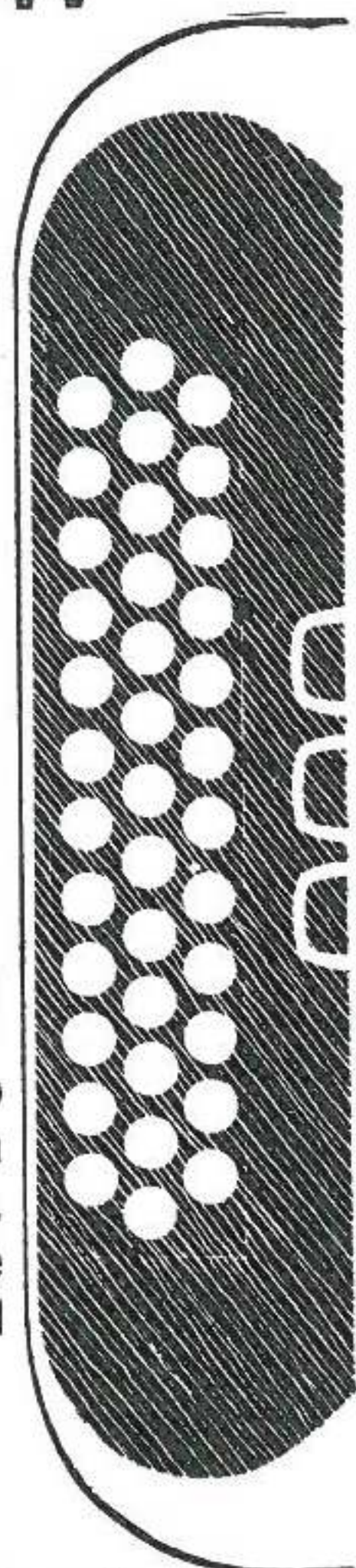
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## referee's responsibility



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Solus Teo., Bray, Co. Dublin.



(Continued from Page 24.)

standard of play the greater the chances of brutal conduct. Particularly in junior grade one is apt to see the slow, aging player resort to tactics usually associated with aboriginal or savage tribes.

It is my impression (and I came through the mill of junior football in three counties) that in inter-county games there is greater detachment from the crowd and a player is not so concerned at the result of the game. In any case, the crowd is so large that the player cannot hear his name being called or the private exhortation to "give it to him, Jimmy!"

In the local junior "derbies," the crowd becomes part of the game; they yell vivid and varied instructions to each particular hero; they frienzedly call for eternal punishment for the poor referee; they all become mentors and officials and why shouldn't they; isn't it their own parish team they're lookin' after? Many of those people are guilty of conduct likely to lead to a breach of the peace—in fact when some games start, especially those between neighbouring parishes, "the peace" is in smithereens from the first whistle.

Some officials blame gambling as the cause of doubtful, dirty or brutal conduct by players. I don't agree. The amount of gambling done on Gaelic games is very small and the "fancy" have no control over players to the extent that they (the players) will almost commit mayhem for monetary reward. No, the answer is not there. Rather is it parochial pride, fanned by the local loudmouths, which spurs the less thoughtful player to acts of violence altogether foreign to his nature.

Local and daily papers, too, have a heavy responsibility in this regard, both in a negative and a positive way. Colourful writing may be grist to the journalist's mill, but continual throwing about of phrases like "this year Ballywaddy will ensure that the left wing of attack on the

Kilgawley team will not be allowed the same scope . . ." or "The Ballywaddy full-forward can expect that goals will not come as easily as last time when he was allowed through on two occasions. . . ." Even on a higher scale, one finds gems such as this "The Kerry men are determined to prove once and for all. . . ."

Now, we all know that the teams mentioned have no communal mind nor have they got together and planned anything in particular. Nevertheless, reading such statements fires the imagination of the right half-back or the full-forward, with a determination to prove to any and every writer, by fair or foul means, that he is a better man than they give him credit for. The scribes should, therefore, refrain from provocative statements and, in a positive manner, impress on all players the necessity for clean, sporting conduct at all times—"the glory is not in the winning but in having taken part."

Referees, of course, can be the greatest single asset in the stamping out of brutality in our games. But they must be supported by the authorities; their reports must be acted upon "without fear or favour"; the direst penalties, even expulsion, must be imposed on both individuals and clubs guilty of brutal conduct or the condoning of it. Again, maybe a rule allowing referees to put a hothead to the line for a cooling-off period might assist in curbing the tendency to rough play.

In any event the remedy lies with the association. If our games are to appeal to those who sometimes reach for an excuse to prohibit their sons from playing them, then there must be a reasonable guarantee that those sons will not be maimed or scarred for life. Let us hope that club war-cries such as this infamous one, heard by the writer some years ago—"everything above the ground except the ball"—are dead as the Dodo. If they are not, its time for all wellwishers to take action. Immediately. . . .

---

**REMEMBER THE DATE: "GAELIC SPORT" GOES MONTHLY IN MAY**

---



Burt Budin

*"Live" coverage of matches is a miracle of team-work*

## BEHIND THE SCREENS

By MIKE BURNS



Michael O'Hehir

**O**VER now to Croke Park for to-day's Railway Cup finals. Your commentator is. . ."

The date: St. Patrick's Day. The time: shortly before 2.30 p.m. The occasion: the G.A.A.'s big inter-provincial double-decker. And behind the cool, impersonal, unhurried voice of the announcer a flurry of behind-the-screens activity as Telefis Eireann's Outside Broadcast Unit waits to bring viewers at home "live" coverage of the big event.

In the words of American-born Burt Budin, the man who will produce and direct the coverage, this is "real television."

"Everything happens in seconds. If you don't catch it, you've missed it for good," he says. "You can't rehearse a scene or hope to re-shoot a particularly exciting sequence."

Burt should know. For in America he produced everything from baseball to ice hockey for the big networks. Fast games, he admits—but adds: "They just crawl in comparison with hurling. It's the fastest game I've ever seen."

Until last September he had never seen a hurling game. Then, because of his baseball coverage experience, he was asked to produce the All-Ireland hurling final—and made such a success of it that praise rolled in from all sides.

For that game he placed two cameras in the Hogan Stand and a third behind the canal goal. Ideal placings for hurling—but how will he set up his cameras on St. Patrick's Day, with hurling AND football on the programme?

"Quite honestly, I don't know for sure," he admits. "I'm thinking of experimenting by placing all three cameras in the Hogan Stand; two in the centre and one at the canal end. In any event, I think it's important to concentrate on the hurling coverage."

The flight of the hurling ball is difficult to follow, he explains. After a puck it's impossible to follow the ball. So it's up to the cameraman to guess its trajectory and make a rough estimate of where it will land.

It's different in football. "The length the ball travels is shorter, the ball is larger and easier to

follow, and there's no difficulty in tracking it in the air," says producer Budin.

Two points govern his selection of camera positions. First the cameras must be in good positions to follow the play, and, secondly, at least one camera must be in a position to get close-ups of dignitaries attending the game.

Burt's job is to give instructions and, as the cameras follow play, select the best shots for your screen. Helping him are 25 unseen engineers, technicians, cameramen and other workers, each doing a highly specialised job.

And keeping a fatherly eye on all is the man with Gaeldom's best-known voice, TE's Head of Sport, Michael O'Hehir.

Since TE started, Micheal's face has become as well-known as his voice. But when he's not in front of the cameras and not holding a radio microphone, Micheal is busy with administration work in the ever-growing sports department.

Every week he must make plans for coverage of all sports.

Every week he must pick the personalities and select the main talking points for his "Sports Desk" programme.

Every Sunday he must make plans for film coverage of major G.A.A. games throughout the country.

If the game is over 150 miles from Dublin in, say, Tralee, plans may have to be made to rush the film to Shannon Airport so that it can be flown to Dublin.

Is there a suitable Shannon-Dublin flight? How long will it take a car to get from Tralee to Shannon? How long will it take a car to get from Dublin Airport to the studios? Will there be time to process the film for the programme?

These and a dozen other problems must be worked out—all for a few minutes of film on which someone will almost certainly pass this verdict: "Good — but they didn't show enough of it."

What DOES matter is that strenuous efforts are made to let you see a part of your particular game a few hours after it happens, even though the game may be in Cork, Killarney, Galway or Belfast.

Ideally, film for inclusion in the 9.15 p.m. Sunday round-up should be in the studios by 7 p.m. But on occasions, after hectic car dashes over treacherous roads, film that was still wet after processing has been rushed into the tele-cine room for transmission.

"All part of the service," says Micheal.

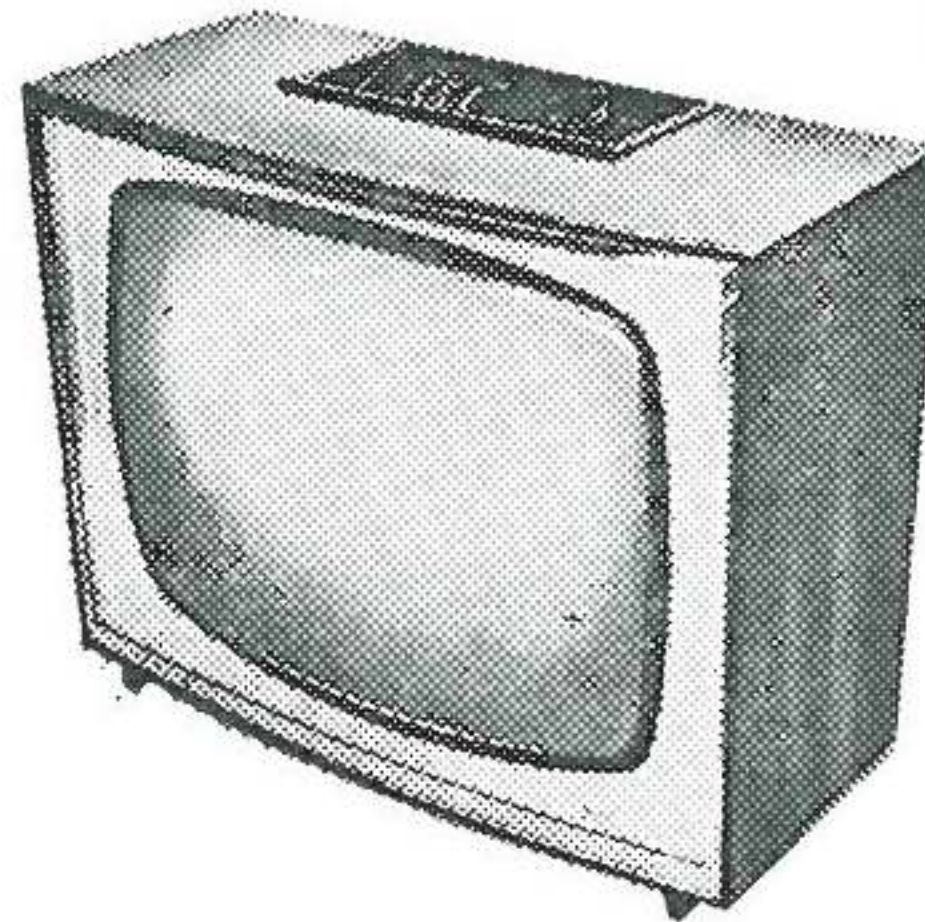
Snow, ice and a necessarily curtailed fixture list have limited film coverage of Gaelic games during the winter months. But when the championship season opens, it is hoped to put the Sunday transmission time back to 10.15 p.m. and extend the length of the programme to 30 minutes.

This will mean that more and longer film sequences can be used, and also that film can be brought from greater distances.

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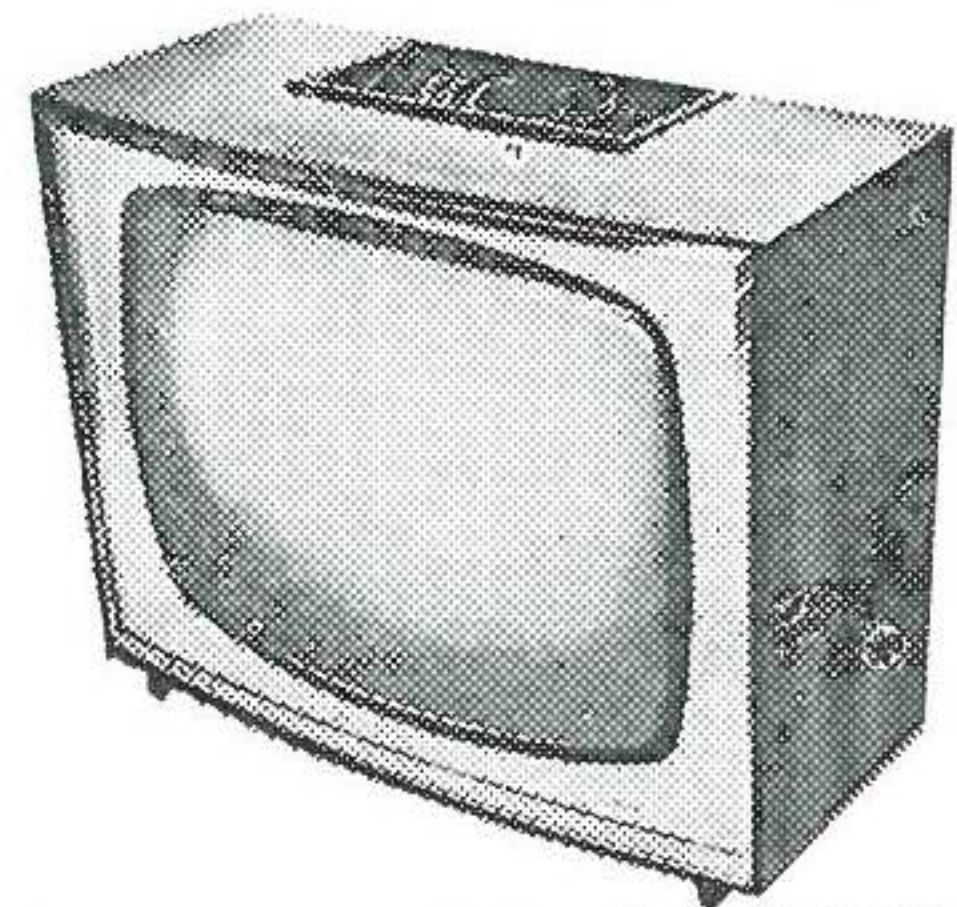


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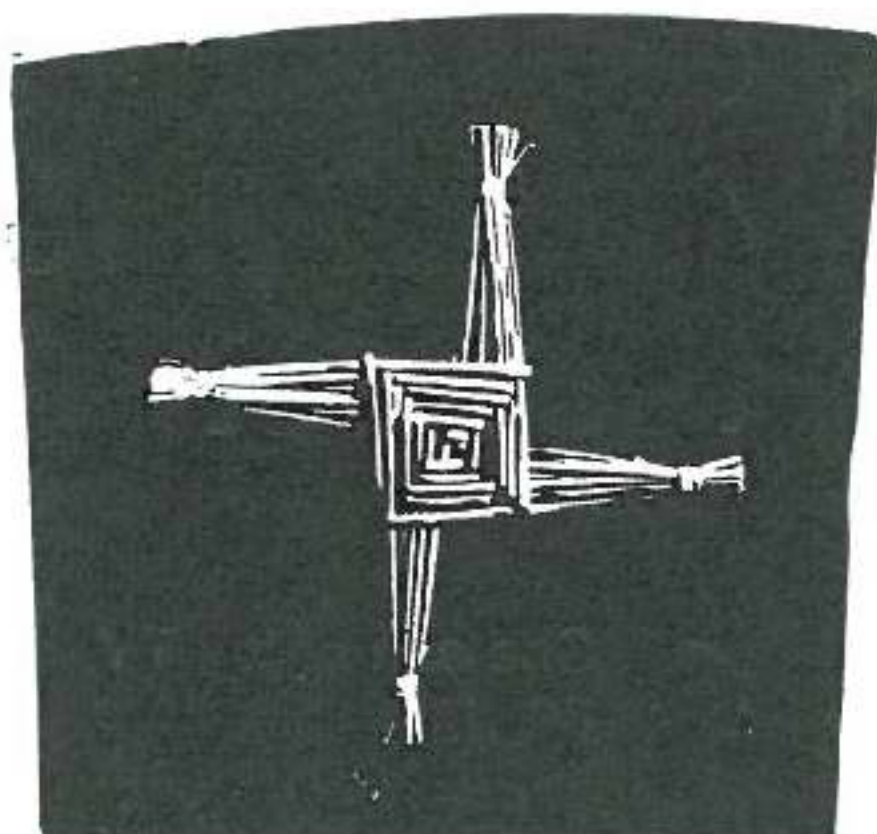


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## *The people must get what*

NOW that the national television service has finally been extended to the whole country, and that much of the country has enjoyed television for something more than twelve months, can we form any opinion as to the effect, if any, that the new service has had, and is likely to have, on the native games?

Personally, I am at something of a disadvantage in dealing with this subject as far as the games televised direct are concerned, because every time a match was televised direct I was at the match in question, and therefore not in a position to judge what impact these telecasts had on the public at large.

But, from subsequent conversations with people who normally are not, shall we say, G.A.A.-minded I found that, for instance, the staging and the pageantry of All-Ireland finals, not to mention the speed and style of the play, took them somewhat by surprise. Not till then did I realise that some few folk had still been under the impression that G.A.A. matches were a kind of Donnybrook Fair! In so far as such ideas were killed once and for all the "live" televising of these matches must have done a certain amount of good.

Also, of course, every follower of hurling or football who wished to do so was given the opportunity of seeing the stars of the game in action right before his eyes,

and, one hopes, profited by that opportunity.

But as to the impact that television in general has had on the cause of the National games over the past twelve months, I am somewhat dubious.

In the first place, the sports coverage afforded by *Telefis Eireann* has dwindled considerably since the early days, and, in that all-round reduction, Gaelic games have suffered very heavily or, should I say, particularly heavily.

Those weekly interludes on Sports Desk may not have been everybody's dish but they were at least something. Sports Desk now is so truncated that it is not much use to any sport.

Indeed, looking back over the year I think that the most likeable programmes I have seen from a G.A.A. viewpoint were the few "coaching-sessions," if you like to call them that, from Simon Deignan in the children's sports programmes on Friday evenings.

Now I know it is unfair to compare *Telefis Eireann* with, say, the B.B.C., but the fact remains that the B.B.C. on Wednesdays and Saturdays gives far better coverage to the popular games in England than we do to our popular games here.

In playing membership and club strength the G.A.A. surely deserves far more space on *Telefis Eireann* than it is getting, just as sport as a whole deserves far more space than it is getting, and we

need that G.A.A. coverage on a far wider scale.

It is little use showing us thirty seconds of long-range flashes from a solitary game on a Sunday night. What we need is three to four minutes of the high-lights of at least the two principal games played, plus still-pictures of the men who starred in the rest. In addition, through the week, we want more programmes of instruction and coaching on hurling and football, and interviews with a few players, trainers and officials.

As well as that, I would like to see the cameras brought, upon occasion, away from the big-time and down to the lower levels. Give us a look at minor games and Colleges games and county club games. And it might be no harm for *Telefis Eireann* to remember that handball and camogie are native games, too. Last December, for a few brief moments, the cameras flashed us to Croke Park for the final of a Colleges' camogie championship and gave us an all-too-short glimpse of high class play and tremendous enthusiasm. Why can we not see this kind of thing more often?

*Telefis Eireann* is young as yet, and any fair-minded person is willing to allow for teething troubles. But now that a nationwide service has been established and that the organisation is on a pretty even keel, it is high time that the station got down seriously to a competent coverage of the most popular games in the country,

## National Games

### *they want*

if only for the sake of giving the public what the public manifestly want.

Now let us look at matters from the angle of the G.A.A. and see whether the association is liable to lose or to gain by having as much time and space as possible on television. Those who feared that local matches would be sadly affected by the live televising of big games should have their fears set at rest by the present schedule which announces far in advance the actual matches that are going to be televised "live," so that there will hardly be any further difficulty in this respect.

Those who feel that the Central Council are wrong in letting big games be televised "live" for a very nominal fee are, to my mind, wrong themselves, because the value to the association in prestige and publicity, at the present stage, far outweighs the fee asked for. In addition, the reluctance of non-national sports-bodies to allow their big games to be televised has been well noted by the public at large.

On the other hand, in view of all that they have to offer the television authorities, I, for one, feel that the G.A.A. ought to insist that features on native games be kept separate from those on other sports. The present system is entirely unsatisfactory and urgently calls for revision. If the

*(Continued on page 51)*



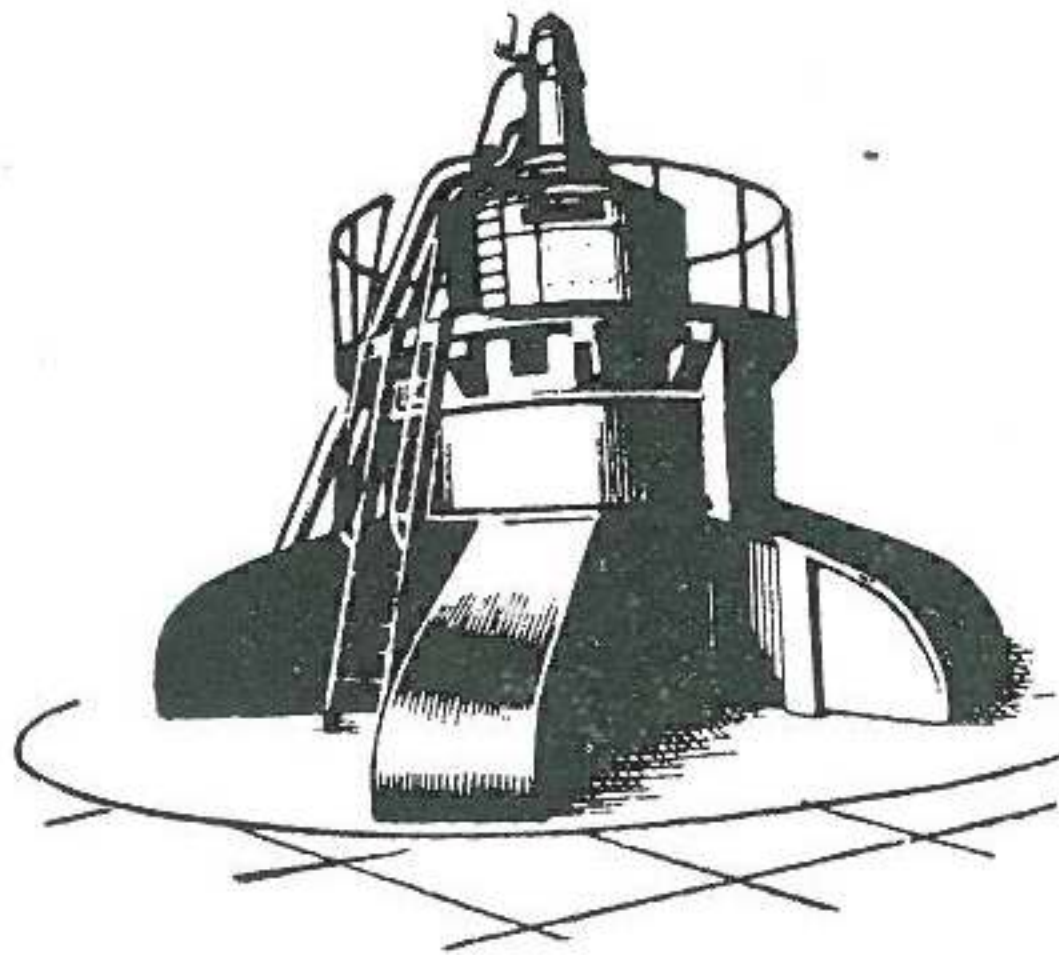
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# EVERY PLAYER SHOULD BUY THE RULE-BOOK

By AGNES HOURIGAN

SOME people seem to be wondering if the recent Congress of the Camogie Association, called to consider the revision of the Rules and Constitution of the association, was some kind of revolutionary step. Well, it was nothing of the kind. It was, if you like to put it that way, just a bit of tidying up.

Since the present rule-book came out more than ten years ago quite a number of amendments and changes had been made both in the rules and in small matters of the constitution. Besides, the old rule book had been compiled in sections. Not all these sections avoided the obvious danger of over-lapping each other and the result was that it was in a couple of instances possible to take one interpretation from a rule in one part of the book and another interpretation of the same thing from another rule in another part of the book.

So, when the rule-book was being revised at all, it was decided to completely recast and remould it so that not only are all new rules and decisions incorporated but the book now runs on directly from the start and all rules dealing with similar matters are grouped together.

But though the matter of presentation is greatly changed there are no changes except for clarity and consistency in the rules themselves.

What the Special Congress has been doing is ensuring that the rules in future will be clear-cut and open to one interpretation only.

---

**PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY:  
YOU'VE A DATE IN MAY!**

(SEE PAGE FIVE.)

... to buy "Gaelic Sport" on the first of every month. The first issue of the new monthly "Gaelic Sport" will be published on May Day.

And they have made a reasonably good job of their task. But I would suggest that when the Camogie Association issue their new rule-book and Official Guide they go one step further and give it a really bright and attractive cover. A few extra pounds expense would be money well invested in this respect. Also, it would be a very good idea to make the book available far more readily than is the case at present. If I want to buy a book of rules on hockey or tennis or any similar game I can obtain such in any big bookshop. To obtain a book of camogie rules for some

(Continued on Page 59.)



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field  
or at the  
ceilidh**

*there's a*

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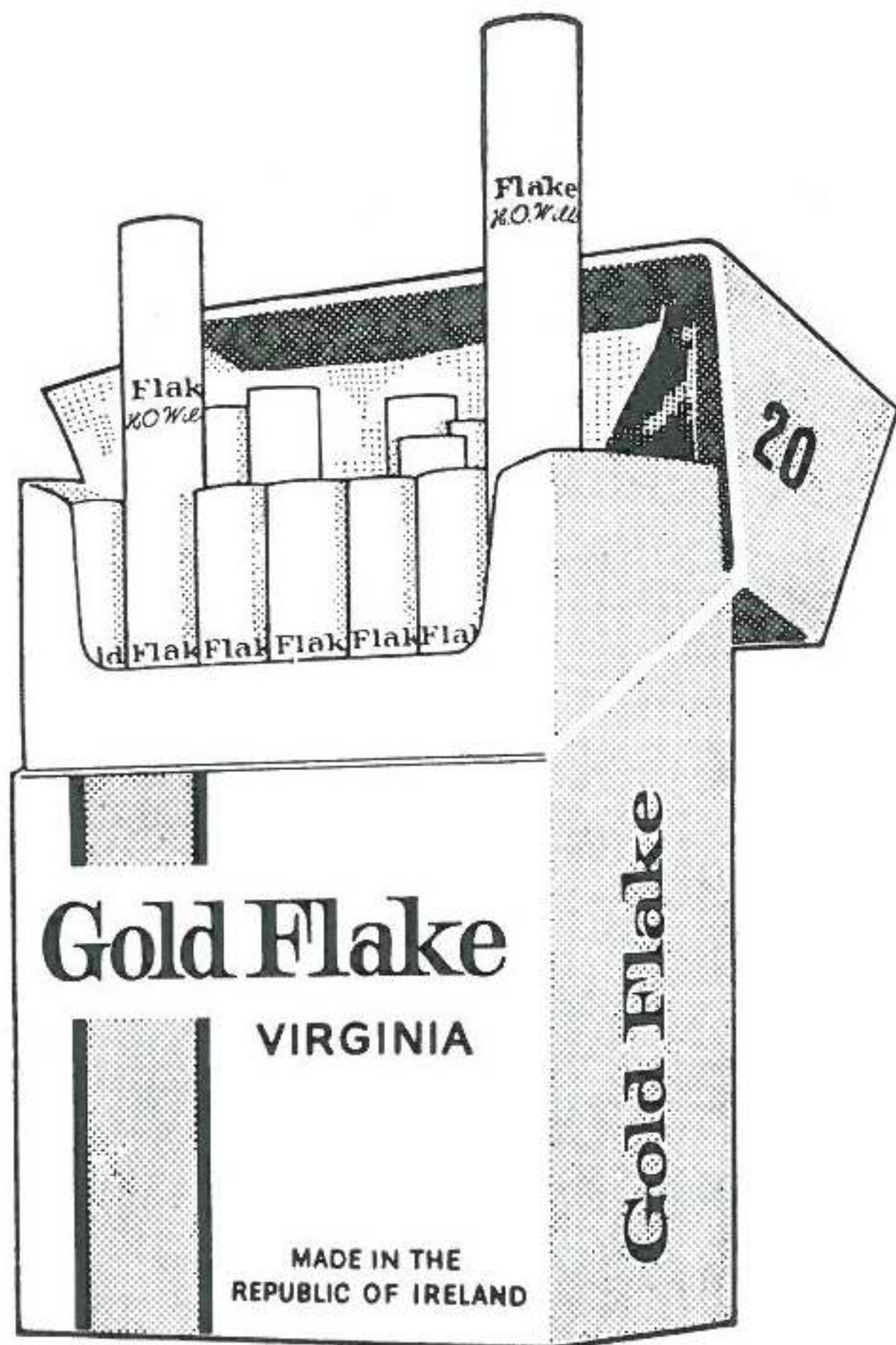
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# TRÍ LÁ COMHDHÁLA

Adeir SEAN O DUNAGAIN

IS nós é ag gach eagrais mór comhdháil bliantúil a bheith aige. Is cuid den nósmaireacht comhdhaonach é go bhfaghann baill an eagrais deis lena gcuid tuairimí agus moltaí a chur ós comhair a gcomhrádaíthe. Is maith an nós é. De gnath 'siad na teachtaí chuig an chomhdháil bhliantúil na daone is mó le rá sna ceantracha éagsúla; le chéile is orthu siúd a bhratheann an egras.

Tá a leithéid de chomhdháil ag an gCumann Lúchleas Gael. Is ionann é, ar mhórán bealach, le comhdhála eile ach leis an deifir mór seo amháin—'sí an chumhacht is mó sa Chumann í. An bhfuil meas dá réir air nó an bhfuil deis ceart aige leis an gcumhacht seo a chur i gcrích?

Sé mo thuairim nach bhfuil Comhdháil bhliantúil an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael á reachtáil in gceart.

Ar an gcéad dul síos níl go leor ama ag teachtaí chun gach moladh a phlé. Ní dócha go bhfuil duine sa tír déarfadh liom go bhfuil níos mó ná sé uaire a chloig oibre déanta Domhnach Cásca. Taréis Aifrinn is bricfásta ní thig leis an gComhdháil teacht le chéile go dtí a deich a chlog ar maidin agus, ar ndóigh, deintear iarracht i gcónaí críochnú roimh am té (6.0 p.m.?). Idir an dá linn bíonn sos le haghaidh dinnéir gan trácht ar "shosanna" neamhoifigiúla.

Sa gnáth bhliain bíonn thart ar seachtó moltaí curtha iseach ag na Coistí Contaethe. Moltaí iad sea a pléadh ag chlub éigin i dtosach agus 'na dhiaidh sin ag Comhdháil an Chontae; má cuirtear ar aghaidh chuig Comhdháil

an Chumainn iad bí cinnte nach amaidíocht atá iontu. Más fiú bioráin é tógfaidh sé ar a laghad deich bomaite le haon mholadh ar leith a bhreithniú. Fiú gan céim cúnasáochta a bheith ag duine is soiléir go nglacfadh na moltaí ar a laghad dhá uair a' chloig déag. Dhá lá oibre adeirim!

Chomh maith le moltaí, tá anchuid eile oibre le déanamh ag Comhdháil. Tá cúnaisí na bliana le scrúdú; tá oifigigh le toghadh; bíonn ceisteanna tábhachtacha na Lárchoiste le chur ós comhair an Comhdhála gan trácht ar na "horáidí." Ar aon chuma tá lá eile oibre ann—sé hin má táid chun an obair a dhéanamh i gceart.

De dheasca an ghanntanais ama tá cumhacht na Comhdhála á briseadh. I dtosach báire "toghtar" fó-choiste ón Lárchoiste leis na moltaí d'iniúchadh roimh ré féachant cad iad na cinn gur féidir a fhágaint ar lár! Tá cumhacht na Comhdhála briste ag an bpointe seo. Ní abraim nach daoine ionaraiceacha iad a scrúdaíonn na moltaí a cuirtear fén a mbráid, ach deirim nach bhfuil sé ceadmhach a leithéid a dhéanamh. Ná h-abair liom gur tugadh cead ag Comhdháil na bliana roimhe sin—ní féidir le Comhdháil ar bith rialacha mar seo a dhéanamh do chomhdháil eile; tig le Comhdháil fó-choiste a thoghadh imeasc na dteachtaí, bailithe le chéile, chun moltaí a bhreithniú amhail is nach mbíonn dhá mholadh ionn á bplé agus ag cur ama amú. Má cosctar ar aon mholadh teacht ós comhair Comhdhála, ar bhealach ar bith eile, tá an cosc sin mí-dhleathach.

Leis an fuadar uilig a bhíonn fé imeachtaí na Comhdhála i láthair na huaire tá nós ag mórán teachtaí gan a gcuid tuairimí a nochtadh chor ar bith agus fiú, mura bhfuil suim ar leith acu i moladh fágtar an halla ar fad. Chomh maith le sin is minic nach dtagann an teachta toghtha go Blá Cliath chor ar bith ach go gcuirtear ionadaí, go bhfuil cónaí air sa chathair, chuig an Chomhdháil agus gan tuairim aige roimh ré céard tá le plé. Cuireann rud mar seo dí-mheas ar an gcruinniú.

I dtaca le seo ní fheadar cen fáth go mbíonn an Chomhdháil i mBlá Cliath gach bliain. Ag an tráth sin bliana (Cásca) bhéadh fáilte rómpa i mórán áiteacha go háirithe má leannann na húdaráisí mo chomhairle agus trí lá ar a laghad a bheith ann don Chomhdháil bhliantúil. Go háirithe, cén fáth nach i mBéal Feirste a bhéadh sé mar chruthúnas nach bhfuil deighilt teorainn ar bith ann maidir le cúrsaí an Chumainn?

Tá trí lá, ar a laghad, riachtanach chun an Chomhdháil a reachtáil sa cheart. Molaim go dtosnódh gnó na Comhdhála ar 11.0 a.m. Satharn Cásca agus go gcríochnódh an obair ar 5.0 p.m. Luan Cásca. Má bhíonn fonn rástaí nó fonn caithimh aimsire eile ar theachta le linn na laetha úd ní cóir go dtoghfaí 'na theachta é sa chéad dul síos. Máisé an eagrais is mó spóirt amaitéareach sa domhan é an Cumann Lúchleas Gael ba chóir go raghfaí i mbun gnótha go stuama agus gan an fuadar is an síor-bhrostú seo bheith ag déanamh magaidh den Chomhdháil.

ONE of the most interesting motions to appear on a County Convention agenda for a long time was the Rostrevor motion which sought to direct the Down County Board to appoint a Press Officer.

Not only was it an interesting motion, it was a most necessary step—not for Down alone but for the G.A.A. in general. For make no mistake about it one of the greatest lacks in the G.A.A. at the present moment is effective public relations.

It seems strange to me that, at a time when every reputable business organisation has decided that a public relations officer is essential to project a favourable public image by supplying all necessary information and answering any criticisms, the G.A.A. seems largely unconcerned about its public image, supplies only the minimum of information, and refuses to answer critics—or does so in such a manner as to damage rather than enhance its reputation.

Take, for example, the favourite insult which is hurled at the organisation—“Where does all the money go?” Is it not time that our “smart” critics were, in fact, told where it does go—that almost half a million pounds of it has already gone into Croke Park and that the rates alone on Croke Park come to £2,500 per annum?

Now, I know every G.A.A. body produces its own annual accounts, but this fact seems to be completely unknown to the majority of people in Ireland—both inside and outside the G.A.A.—while those who, in fact, see the actual accounts constitute a very small minority even of the G.A.A. itself.

A short resume of the accounts under broad heads would go a long way towards answering our critics, if it were published as a news item in the news columns of our national press.

We, of course, have other critics,

## THE G.A.A. NEEDS

### A PUBLIC

## RELATIONS MAN

By EAMONN MONGEY

too, who seem to make capital out of the slightest “incident” in our games, and take delight in suggesting that there is a deplorably low standard of sportsmanship to be found on G.A.A. pitches, and that we are doing nothing whatever about remedying the position.

If criticism of dirty play, in particular instances, comes from sincere followers of the game within the G.A.A. itself, then it behoves us to look into the matter and put our house in order but, if it comes from snipers of ill-will on the fringe, then they should be answered firmly and authoritatively.

In the past we have failed singularly to do this and many adverse judgments in default of such a defence have been given against us. Silence tends only to confirm the opinions of these critics.

Now, if all this suggests that the G.A.A. should spend time defending itself and that our posture should be permanently defensive, nothing could be

further from my mind. The G.A.A. has, and is performing, a duty far more positive — about which not enough is known.

There are certain facts about our association which are too rarely heard, if at all: for instance, that we have an average of nearly 100 clubs per county, that we have nearly 100,000 playing members, that we have virtually a pitch in every parish and that all our facilities are readily available for any function or movement of national or religious significance—in short that the G.A.A. breathes the true spirit of Ireland, all over Ireland.

Even within the G.A.A. itself a press officer has a major function to perform for the benefit of its members. If we take only one aspect—the work of the Central Council—we can see clearly how lacking we are in knowledge of its activities. Until sometime after the 1961 Congress, virtually no one knows that a long list of what, in effect, were new rules, incorporating a threat of suspension and covering TV and Radio



activities, tournaments, advertising, etc., had been passed months before by the Central Council.

Then, too, from time to time the Central Council gives its interpretations on various rules and gives rulings on other matters of considerable importance to the average G.A.A. follower—yet as often as not, no word about them reaches more than 1 per cent. of our members.

Even for the sake of the Central Council itself, more publicity could be given to the activities of the various committees it controls—committees on policy, history, hurling, referees, rules, etc.

But while a great deal of this is, in a way, incidental information, there is also an amount of essential information which is not always readily forthcoming. Team selections are always anxiously sought after. The names of referees for big games are of the greatest significance. Results as soon as possible after the match are a must to many followers. News of fixtures and meetings always attract attention. Yet, how often have we to wait unnecessarily for days after it has become known for information such as this.

The truth is that the G.A.A. seems most reluctant to volunteer information on its activities. All its bodies and virtually all its officers do gladly give it readily when asked for it—but not until then.

A Press Officer—at every level of our hierarchy, from Central Council down—would remedy this state of affairs. He could do nothing but good, not only for the members and bodies which constitute the G.A.A., but also for the organisation as a whole, by projecting an image of an organisation which is truly national in its outlook, highly dedicated in its approach and efficient in the control and management of its affairs.

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# SCRAPBOOK

By Eamonn Young

WE were going out from under the Hogan Stand that dirty day in February, hoping we could win a Railway Cup semi-final. Playing "agin'" the breeze in the first half we were down six points and not at all happy about the February fitness, or unfitness, which is the traditional characteristic of Munster football teams. Anxiously, the grizzled fisherman from Dingle squinted towards the Canal end. "We have the wind," said Paddy Bawn, "if she'll only blow." She didn't.

\* \* \*

AND ten minutes afterwards a lively forward from Connacht (no names this time) dashed out towards the Cusack for the ball that was slipping along the top of the greasy sod. After him charged a Munster back. Down bent the Connacht chap to pick up, but the sod was false and out went he on his face. Bleep went the whistle and the referee pointed towards goal giving the free against the back who had been close enough to look dangerous but who had not, in fact, fouled at all.

As the pair ran in to face the free the Munsterman in grim rage snarled in his man's ear. "Listen, ladeen, don't you be throwing your head in front of my boot or, by the praises, I'll kick it off you."

\* \* \*

AND the day down in Kenmare when, as a 19-year-old, I was marking Gega O'Connor who at

that time was about the best they had in that neck of the woods. A high ball came along, so by way of no harm, I eased my shoulder into Gega's back, the ball fell into my hands and I did something with it. Delighted with my cunning I was running up the field when Gega (he now runs a pub in New York) passed me by with—"Young, if the ref. won't give me fair play, by hell, I'll get it for myself." It was a very clean game after that and, needless to say, the fact that Gega was Munster middleweight champ. had nothing to do with it.

\* \* \*

IN a recent effort to make the draw for the Cork hurling championship more interesting it was suggested that the weaker teams would be nominated and placed in suitable parts of the draw. Delegates expressed disapproval, and the inter-county winger, Mick Mortell, of U.C.C., pointed out with a smile that he would trust only himself to make the draw.

## MAY DAY IS D-DAY

. . . And D stands for DECISION — the big decision, repeatedly requested by our readers, to publish "Gaelic Sport" as a regular monthly magazine. The decisive step has now been taken . . .

"GAELIC SPORT" GOES MONTHLY ON MAY 1.

The surest way to kill a suggestion is to laugh at it and though I'm sure that this wasn't Mick's deliberate aim, it did the trick. Yet, there's nothing new in arranging draws and while there may be some difficulty in picking the weak teams, there's none at all in selecting four strong ones in sixteen and giving them each a quarter of the draw through which to fight.

In Cork, for instance, the obvious choices would be the old established senior teams, Rockies, Glen, Sarsfields and Barrs. The same argument applies to any county, and in the later stages of the championship don't forget it's the established teams with the big following who bring in the crowds.

\* \* \*

WE'VE been arguing for years about more control on the field. Should we abolish automatic suspension, or does it tie the referee's hands? Should we allow a sub for the man put off, this sub counting as two? There are a few more solutions. A friend of mine back from the Congo says they had a simple and effective way which put an end to all blackguarding. They put the offender off for ten minutes. It was necessary only once in a match and then only in an odd game, for the players knew the referee would exercise his power on the drop of a hat and the man who was sent off endured either the

(Continued overleaf.)

(Continued from previous page.)

blame of his friends on the line or their stony silence, which, in most cases, was worse. At the end of the ten minutes he asked the linesman to attract the referee's attention and soon got back into the game—to stay.

\* \* \*

**FIBRE-GLASS** hurleys. Why not? We didn't like plastics, or television, or motor-cars either, all because they changed what we had known and loved. But life is full of change and not always for the worse. If we can put a cheap and durable hurley in the hands of the young fellow, to give him that thrill when he whips on the sliotar, I wouldn't mind if it were made of processed blotting paper.

**I**N the south, Ciste na Banban, the pools system started by the Cork County Board, is gaining momentum. Of every weekly shilling subscribed, fourpence will go to the club which collects; so to earn a weekly fiver all the club needs is a steady three hundred subscribers. Only three hundred subscribers. Only three hundred you'll say. But surely, most clubs can call on that number of supporters and enough members to call on them for the shilling. Professional organisers, selected G.A.A. men, are appointed and the results should come. The money will go to buy grounds, supply cheaper hurleys, help to buy pitches and assist the language revival.

\* \* \*

**T**HERE'S a significant wave of enthusiasm for the under-21

competitions, and I feel we will hear more of them in the years ahead. It is doubtful if the junior competition has ever attracted as much as it should and it wouldn't surprise me to see it replaced by, say, an under-23 championship in the not very distant future.

The greatest injury done to the junior competition was the practice of using it as a trial ground for senior players or a dump for the "has-beens." There's hardly a county which hasn't done it, indicating clearly that they don't give a fig for the championship which was designed to exercise men who were not good enough for senior ranks, at least for the moment. If we admit that the competition is not aimed to achieve its object, then we should abolish it.

\* \* \*

**A**ND what about the day long ago when they lost the football in the game down in Kerry. It was a grand, rough match but the enforced inactivity bored the spectators. Then came the loud, clear voice: "Come on Cashtleisland, play away without it."

\* \* \*

**C**ANVASSING! Some folk get hot under the collar when the word comes up, but you'll find that at some stage they suffered because of it. In January each year there's a lot of it done for posts in the G.A.A. administration. But what of it? It's done openly, and the candidate goes on tour with his advisers just as do the politicians of this democratic state. And when all is done the voter has the right to change his mind in the secret ballot.

\* \* \*

**T**HE way our blood-pressure rises because some schools won't play Irish games sometimes

(Continued on page 57.)

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# THE KINGDOM'S KING • By Sean O'Neill

"What is a Kingdom without  
a king?"  
Asked the old man scornfully.

"But we have a king," I soon  
replied,  
"A king of men, our joy and  
pride,  
A better man ne'er crossed  
the tide  
And reached our Kingdom's  
shore."

"Who is this man of whom  
you boast,  
Him you say who reached our  
coast,  
The man you would that I  
should toast?"  
Asked the old man scornfully.

"He is a man both tall and  
strong;  
A man of men in any throng,  
For him we sure have waited  
long,  
And his name it is  
O'Connell."

"A kingly name," the old man  
cried.  
"That name was once all  
Ireland's pride,  
'Twas many a mile the men  
did ride  
To hear the great O'Connell."

"This man," said I, "is not the  
same.  
Our new-found king he plays  
the game  
And in it he has won more  
fame  
Than e'er had Dan O'Connell."

"This man has never bowed his  
head  
To England's queen or  
England's red,  
But on to victory his men  
has led,  
Our peerless Mick O'Connell."

"The Kingdom's pride, the  
Kingdom's toast,  
Whose fame doth reach from  
coast to coast,  
A man of whom we all can  
boast,  
Is princely Mick O'Connell."

The old man smiled and I  
could see  
New-born joy and new-born  
glee  
And turning then, he said to  
me,  
"Our king should have a  
throne."

"A throne he has," I said with  
pride,  
"Of shoulders firmly side by  
side

And on them high our king  
doth ride  
As we carry him from battle."

"No finer throne within the  
land,"  
The old man cried and grasped  
my hand.

"Your news to me is truly  
grand  
For I feared the day I'd never  
see."

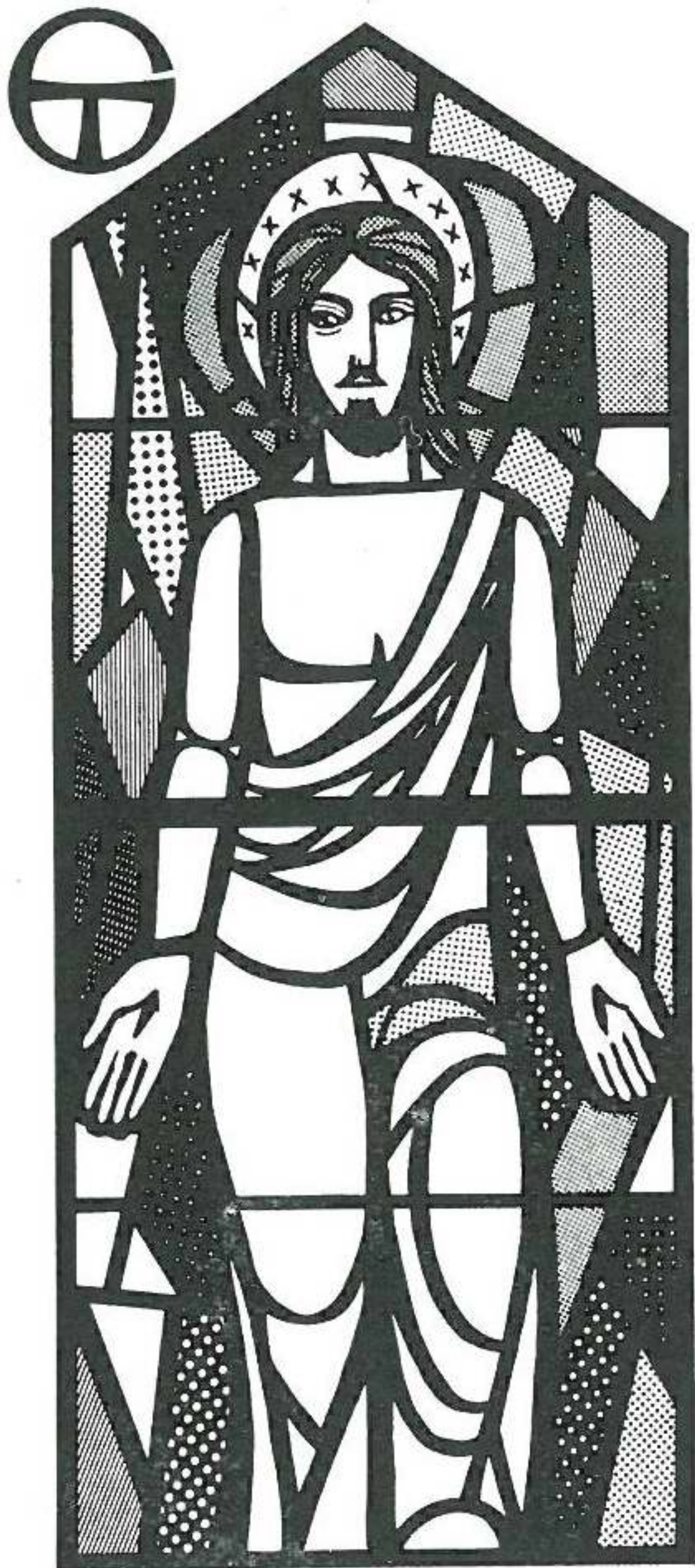
"Yes, the Kingdom now it has  
a king,  
And every voice can loudly  
sing  
And every bell its chimes can  
ring  
The praise of Mick O'Connell."

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# THE RULE JUGGLERS

By Jack Power

YEAR after year the agendas for county conventions are cluttered with motions requesting amendments in the G.A.A. rules. To anyone even vaguely familiar with the Official Guide it is a mystery how so many people can find so many faults or omissions in a set of laws that seem to cover every aspect of conduct, both on the field of play and in the council chamber.

To the uninitiated the Official Guide is a fearsome booklet packed with semi-legal jargon. There are few, if any, loopholes for the would-be law-breaker to slip through, and any offence not specifically mentioned can always be classified under Rule 12 as "conduct calculated to bring the Association into disrepute," for which the period of suspension "shall in no instance be less than six months."

I was once a member of a club which refused to play an important championship game because the referee appointed could not officiate. In his place there appeared a man who was the only official in the county we had told the Board we did not want.

Yet, here he was, ready to handle the game, and we hadn't even been notified about it! Naturally, we protested, and offered to play the game with any other referee in Ireland in charge, but it was of no avail.

We were told "play, or else". Well, we didn't play, and soon afterwards were all rewarded for sticking to our guns by receiving six months' suspension for bringing the Association into disrepute.

We weren't suspended for not playing the game or for leaving the field without the referee's permission. They couldn't suspend us for not giving adequate notice of our intention of not playing, because we didn't know about the new referee until we were lined up waiting for the game to commence and he appeared "out of nowhere."

However, they nailed us under Rule 12 and that was that, although, between ourselves, very few people criticised us for our actions. In fact all the blame was attached to the County Board.

To return to the Official Guide, it should not be imagined that it is the only code of rules governing G.A.A. members. Far from it. Each county has its set of bye-laws dealing solely with internal organisation. Between these and the Official Guide it is possible for even board officers to forget every single "do" and "don't," as the following instances will show.

Just before Christmas a meeting of the Cavan County Board asked a club to explain why it hadn't turned up for a junior league game on the previous Sunday. This club had not even bothered to notify the board, or its opponents, of its intention not to play. As a result, one team, the referee and some spectators attended the venue, but found they were simply on a fool's errand.

The errant club was liable to a term of suspension for its action, but, when asked for an

(Continued overleaf).

(From previous page).

explanation, stated that in fact it was the County Board which had broken the rules!

Naturally, this caused something of a sensation, and when pressed further the club stated that the County Bye-Laws ordained that no competitive match be played in the county in the months of December and January! Needless to say, the matter ended there, with the club completely exonerated.

Around the same period, Dublin asked Waterford to play a senior hurling challenge. The request was discussed at the Waterford County Board and there were two schools of thought about the matter.

The Board officers and some members were in favour of playing the game, while others present disagreed on the grounds that the players had had a long, hard season and were entitled to a rest.

One of the objectors went further and stated that Waterford could not, by rule, play. When asked why, he produced a copy of the County Bye-Laws, one of which ordained that members of the county team were entitled to a rest (presumably from inter-county engagements) in December and January.

That put the board in a dilemma and a compromise was eventually reached by agreeing to play Dublin and availing of the match to try out some new players.

You may well ask what need is there for new rules and amendments to existing ones when county board officers are not even conversant with their own bye-laws. It is a good question, but I would go farther and ask the G.A.A. to clarify some of the ambiguous rules already in existence.

Take, for example, the rule dealing with university students declaring for their home clubs. It states clearly that they may play with their college clubs during the academic year and with their home clubs during the summer holiday period.

Academic year is then defined as October 1 to May 31, and summer holiday as June 1 to September 30. No comment is needed on the manner in which this rule is broken year after

year by clubs fielding students in county championship games after October 1.

The definition of a junior player for inter-county purposes is another bone of contention from time to time. It is generally accepted that once a player lines out on his county's senior championship team in any season, he automatically becomes ineligible for the junior team.

What does Rule 85B have to say about this? Here are the exact words: "Eligible declared players and all players who have played solely on junior championship teams within the county during the twelve months prior to the 1st day of January of the current year, or who have been inactive during the said period; except such afore-mentioned players as have (1) played on senior inter-county championship team during said period; (2) won junior provincial (excepting Britain) or All-Ireland championship in said period."

The meaning is perfectly clear and no reference is made to players who have played senior inter-county championship since January 1 of the current year. In 1961, in the All-Ireland junior semi-final against Galway, Monaghan fielded some players who had helped win the Ulster junior title but who had, in the meantime, lined out in the provincial senior championship.

Many people criticised Monaghan for this, but going on the wording of Rule 85B, they were perfectly entitled to do so. Perhaps it was just as well that Monaghan lost.

These are but two examples of the rules that badly need clarification. There are others, but space does not permit mention of them here.

At any rate, the Official Guide, as it stands, is sufficient to deal more than adequately with G.A.A. procedure both on and off the field of play, and in the council chamber as well.

An occasional amendment or addition is very welcome when it is vitally necessary, but heaven spare us from those perennial proposers of new motions when the rules at present in force are not rigidly adhered to in many instances—a fact which is responsible for much of the trouble that, from time to time, tends to bring the Gaelic Athletic Association into disrepute.



# CALTEX HURLER OF 1962

SEPTEMBER 1960, and the pride of Tipperary lay humbled and shattered. The mighty men from Wexford had done something which no county had been capable of since 1922—namely to beat the Premier County in an All-Ireland final . . . and what really added brine to the wound was the decisiveness of the defeat—2-15 to 0-11.

In the depression which followed, it was only natural that a scapegoat should be sought and found. He was Donie Nealon, and the Tipperary selectors dropped him from the team chosen to contest the Oireachtas semi-final.

But then, if Donie Nealon was chosen to represent the vanquished Tipperary in 1960, he was chosen in 1962 to represent all that was great and

glorious in the long hurling history of that county . . . and no man was worthier of the honour.

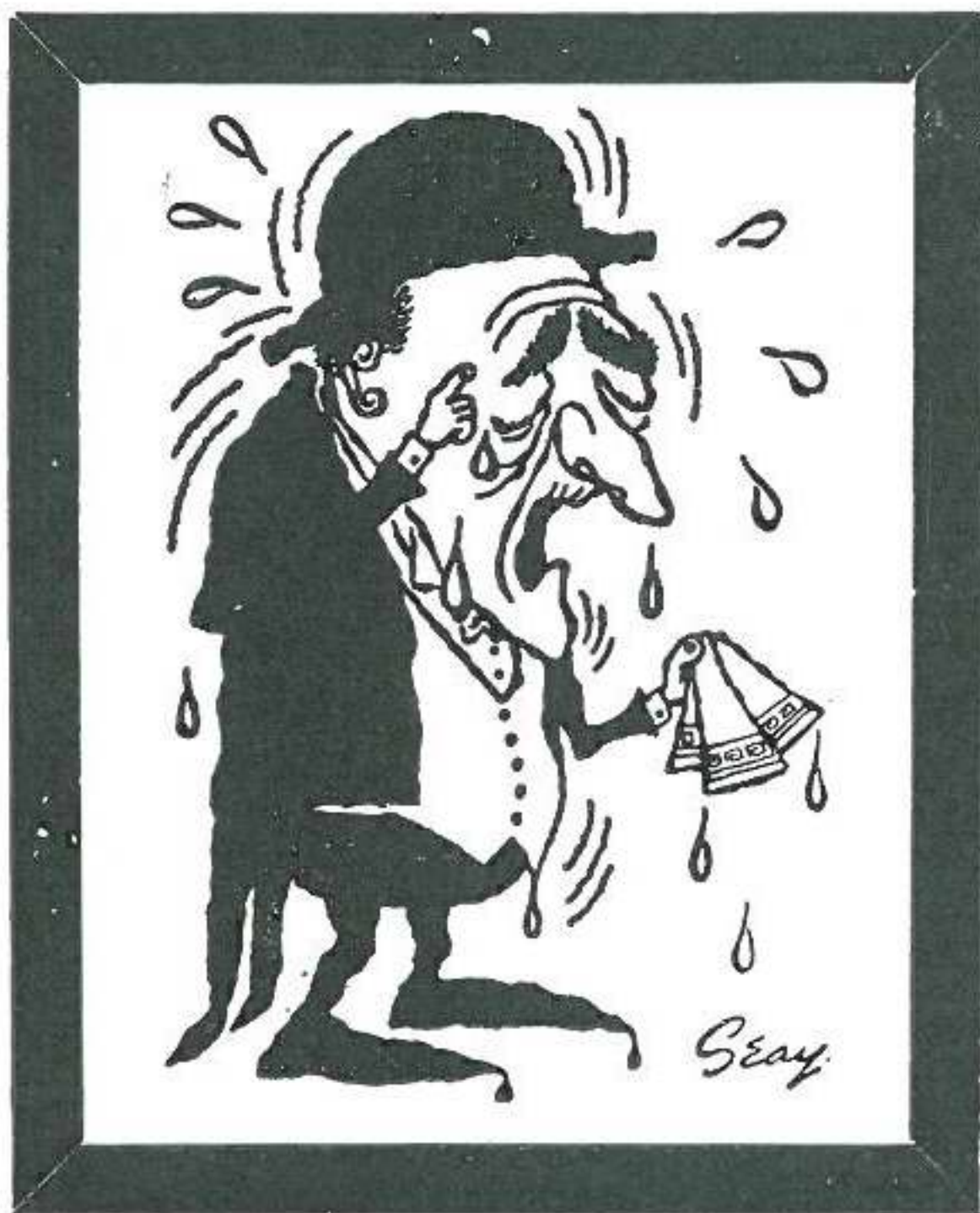
Approximately half a million television viewers watched Donie Nealon accept the 1962 Caltex hurling award last January and those of them who were followers of the code which he represented, could not but feel a glow of pride.

It was not for Tipperary alone that Donie Nealon spoke that night, but for all of Ireland—for every county and parish in which our national games are cherished.

He spoke for all of us, and he did so with competence, earnestness and justifiable pride. His hour of glory was ours and his mastery of the occasion was that of Gaelic games over all other sections of Irish sport.



Donie Nealon



## IF I'D ONLY KNOWN . . .

He would have given anything to see that match; but the thought of queues and crowded carriages and rush and bother put him off.

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“\*?!”, quote he, “If I’d only known. . .”

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"A"—Tipperary a bye. "B"—Cork v. Clare, Thurles, May 26. "C"—Galway v. Limerick, Ennis, June 9. "D"—Waterford a bye. Semi-finals—"A" v. "B", Limerick, June 30. "C" v. "D", July 6, if Waterford v. Galway, Limerick; if Waterford v. Limerick, July 6, at Cork. Final—July 28.

### **SENIOR FOOTBALL**

"A"—Kerry v. Limerick, Askeaton, May 5. "B"—Clare v. Tipperary, at Limerick or Bruff, May 5 or 19. "C"—Waterford v. Cork, Waterford Venue, May 19.

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## JOE SALMON

### of Galway

By LIAM FOX

THE annals of hurling and football are adorned by a lustrous list of All-Ireland medalists, but the history of our national games has been equally enriched by an exclusive band of players who are often classified as "the greatest men never to have won All-Ireland medals."

Among them are some of the greats of football and hurling—men like Alf Murray of Armagh, Bill Delaney and Tommy Murphy of Laois, Gerry O'Malley of Roscommon and Kevin Armstrong of Antrim. But one of the greatest of all is Joe Salmon, Galway's hurling midfielder of superb skill and undiminished enthusiasm.

For more than a decade Joe Salmon's has been the best known name in Galway, and, indeed, Connacht, hurling. For in that time he has served his county and province well, but in doing so he has gained but few of the material rewards that have been collected by players fortunate enough—though often less accomplished than this Galwayman—to have been born in one of the title-winning strongholds of hurling.

Indeed, after more than 13 years as a member of the Galway senior team, Salmon can boast of having only four of the game's major trophies in his possession. These are one National League and three Oireachtas medals.

The first was won in 1951 at

the famed Polo Grounds, New York, where Galway, after qualifying for a trans-Atlantic trip by beating Wexford in the "home" National League final, overcame New York to capture the League title for the second time after a lapse of 19 years.

In the Oireachtas competition Galway has fared more successfully than elsewhere and in its own way, contributed to the now wide popularity of this tournament. When they won it in 1950, '52 and '58 Joe Salmon played a vital role in their victories and collected medals as the reward.

But medals and titles mean little to Salmon whose dedication to hurling springs from a true devotion. His enthusiasm is not kindled by a desire for the rewards that the game may bestow. In fact, for Joe Salmon, complete satisfaction which playing the game gives him is the only real reward he seeks.

And this Galwayman extracts real satisfaction from this ancient game of ours; and because of that satisfaction he has striven over the years to perfect his natural style and skill. Over the same years that same skill of this accomplished craftsman has been the source of extraordinary enjoyment to hurling followers up and down the country.

A native of Eyrecourt, this lithe, supple athlete was educated at St. Joseph's College (Ballinasloe) and there he

excelled at sprinting and won Connacht colleges' athletics medals.

A hurler of high promise, he was picked on the 1949 Galway minor team and played in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park on an August Sunday that was one of the wettest days in living memory. Then, having paid only a brief visit to the dressing-room, he came back on to the field to play with the Galway seniors in the semi-final against Laois.

Since then Salmon has never been omitted by Galway and has played for Connacht regularly in the meantime, except on occasions when injury prevented him taking part in the Railway Cup series.

He played Fitzgibbon Cup hurling while a student at University College, Galway, and he has played with the Combined Universities and has been chosen regularly for the Rest of Ireland. Since 1958 he has worked in Cork and played with the famed Glen Rovers club—and, indeed, is only the second non-Corkman to wear the famed green, gold and black jersey of the Cork club.

Although he celebrates his 31st birthday in April, Salmon's enthusiasm for the game is still as great as ever and this was proved early in February when he embarked on a course of indoor training in preparation for Connacht's Railway Cup semi-final against Leinster.

## CONNACHT NOTEBOOK

(From Page 15.)

1957—J. Mangan (capt.) (Galway), W. Casey (Mayo), I. O'Dowd (Sligo), Tom Dillon (Galway), G. O'Malley (Roscommon), J. Mahon (Galway), E. Moriarty (Mayo), N. Blessing (Leitrim), J. Nallen (Mayo), F. Evers, S. Purcell (Galway), P. McGarty (Leitrim), J. Young, F. Stockwell (Galway), M. Christie (Sligo).

1958—A. Brady (Roscommon), W. Casey, I. Dowd, T. Dillon, J. Mahon, G. O'Malley, M. Greally (Galway), J. Nallen, F. Evers, M. McDonagh (Galway), S. Purcell, P. McGarty, G. Kirwan (Galway), F. Stockwell and C. Flynn (Leitrim).

### Hurling Victors

1947—S. Duggan, D. Flynn, P. Forde, W. Fahy, M. J. Flaherty, J. Brophy, B. Power, J. Killeen, P. Gantley Josie Gallagher, H. Gordon, P. Jordan, M. Nestor, T. Kelly, Stephen Galagher (all Galway).

From the above statistics we can see that seven Connachtmen of the 'thirties each won four Railway Cup medals. They were: Tom Burke, Paddy Moclair, Patsy Flannelly, Jackie Carney, Purty Kelly (all Mayo), Mick Connaire and Brendan Nestor of Galway.

In more recent times Galway's Sean Purcell and Roscommon's Gerry O'Malley won three Railway Cup medals each, the years being 1951, '57 and '58.

### REPRESENTATIVE RECORDS

Representative records for Connacht in the football world are shared by Sean Purcell and Gerry O'Malley jointly. Purcell was first chosen for Connacht in 1949 and played for them without a break until 1961—thirteen successive years—a record not likely to be surpassed in our lifetime. Last year, Gerry O'Malley equalled this (Continued Next Page.)

### A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE HIBERNIAN BALLROOM, A.O.H., PARNELL SQUARE, DUBLIN

Built in 1905. Most artistic and largest on Parnell Square West. At the back of the stage, surmounted by a banner bearing the word 'Fáilte', is the Harp and Shamrock, Green, White and Gold. Over the stage is the coat-of-arms of the O'Daly's, at one period Chief poets of Ireland, founders of Colleges and Seats of Learning, crossed to Scotland and there established Colleges of Music. Hence the connection between Irish and Scottish music. (Let him who can deny this claim, bring forth worthy proof against the ancient records and annals of the Gael). On the left side of the ballroom are oil paintings of the O'Neill's of Ulster, ancestors of the O'Daly's. Also on the left is an oil painting of St. Brigid, patron Saint of Kildare, recently valued at several hundred pounds. Among the oil paintings on the right is one of Patrick Sarsfield, considered to be the finest in existence. On a panel at the bottom of the ballroom and surmounted by the coat-of-arms of the four provinces are photographs of céilí bands, hurling and football teams. Pride of place is given to those of Christy Ring, the Rackard Brothers, Mick Mackey, Michael O'Hehir and Dr. Brian Galligan, Vice-president of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Also a rare photograph taken in 1936 of the Leaside Club, who run céilí and old-time dancing in the ballroom every Sunday night. A.O.H. means Ancient Order of Hibernians, known in penal times as the Ribbon Men and defenders, Catholics whose property was confiscated, the owners evicted and their lands given to Orangemen. The name was later changed to A.O.H. and has remained so ever since.

Ribbon Men — so called because the badge they wore took the form of a ribbon. Defenders — Defenders of their faith, their homes, and their country.

Works consulted in connection with the above: Annals of the Four Masters, Annals of Clonmacnoise, The Tribes of Ireland (O'Donovan) O'Harts Irish Pedigrees, History of Ireland (Abbé Mac-Geoghegan and John Mitchel) History of the O'Daly's, History of the O'Daly's of Muintir Bhaire and other sources.

*The border shows the Celtic and other ornate designs in the ballroom.*

achievement. Gerry, who was honoured a year later than Sean, may not be finished yet with Railway Cup football, for there is no more dedicated athlete in Ireland to-day.

#### OTHER GREAT RECORDS

Other great records include those of Sean Flanagan, the incomparable Mayo corner back, first selected as a substitute in 1944, gaining his first honour at right corner back in 1946 and keeping his place in the western rearguard until 1956, with one break in 1955, when he was dropped for the semi-final and recalled for the final, which game Connacht lost to the last of Leinster's great four-in-a-row sides of that time; Sligo's Nace O'Dowd, first selected a substitute in 1952, and figuring prominently in all Connacht's Railway Cup games from then until the year of his departure to the U.S. (1959); Henry Kenny, Mayo's great midfielder, selected for eight successive years and winning three Railway Cup medals in 1936, '37 and '38. His interprovincial career embraced the years 1936-'43 inclusive, a wonderful innings for a midfielder; Galway's rock-like corner back, Dinny O'Sullivan, first chosen in 1935, selected again in 1937, '38, '39, '40, '41 and ending up as Connacht's full-back in 1944.

#### INTERESTING FACTS

The Donnellan brothers, John and Pat, who were selected this year, are keeping up the family tradition, as their father, Mick Donnellan of Dunmore, was himself a noted Connacht star in the early days. Which prompts the question: How many sets of brothers have been selected for Connacht together or separately? First we had the Collerans of Sligo, the Murrays, Lynchs and McQuillans of Roscommon, the Mulderrigs of Mayo, and now the Donnellans of Galway. In all eight since 1927.

## TELEVISION AND THE G.A.A.

(From Page 33.)

G.A.A. can have a spot of its own on radio, why cannot the same be done on television?

I know that it is easy to criticise, but surely the biggest sporting organisation in the country is entitled to the biggest share of sports time on the national television service? Further, can we not extend the time devoted to Gaelic games on

the programmes for young people, with more intensive coverage of schools and colleges games, more coaching programmes, more black-board teaching of tactics, more youngsters who are already playing the games and want to be able to play those games better.

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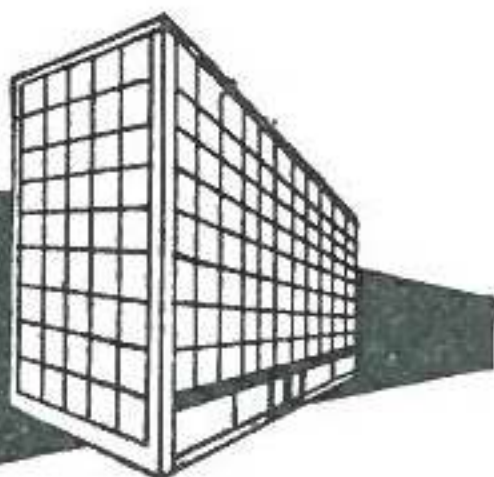
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## AIMS OF WRITERS' BODY

By FRANK FOLEY

TOWARDS the end of this month statuettes will be presented at a dinner in Dublin to the Kerry footballer, Mick O'Connell, and the Tipperary hurler, John Doyle, by the Association of Gaelic Sports Journalists whose members voted these players the Gaelic Stars of 1962. A Certificate of Merit for outstanding work on behalf of Gaelic games will be presented to Louis Marcus, the director of the film "Peil" made by Gael-Linn and W.D. & H. O. Wills.

All this—particularly the announcement of O'Connell and the naming of Doyle as the hurler of the year—tends to confuse followers of Gaelic Games. For not long before this announcement they had read that Doyle's Tipperary team-mate, Donie Nealon, had also been chosen as Hurler of the Year.

So let's throw some light on the situation. O'Connell and Nealon were among ten sports personalities chosen to receive awards presented by Caltex (Ireland) Ltd. O'Connell and Doyle will be the recipients of the awards presented by the Association of Gaelic Sports Journalists.

The thing to remember is that the men who receive these different awards are chosen by two separate groups of people. The Sports Editors of the Dublin, Cork and Belfast newspapers pick the stars for Caltex; the stars honoured by the Association of Gaelic Sports Journalists are chosen by the members of that organisation themselves.

The A.G.S.J. confines its membership to professional, full-time journalists who are identified with Gaelic Games and it draws its members from the provincial weekly as well as the Dublin, Cork and Belfast morning, evening and Sunday newspapers.

The aims of the Association of Gaelic Sports Journalists were explained to me by its secretary,

Mick Dunne. He said: "Down the years very good relations have always existed between the G.A.A., at all levels, and the G.A.A. writers. It is the primary purpose of our year-old organisation to maintain, and if possible strengthen, those relations.

"One of the ways in which we can do this is to bestow our awards annually on two of the G.A.A.'s players and then entertain the players and some of the G.A.A. officials at our annual function. It's a social get-together and it helps cement the bonds between both groups — the

(Continued on page 55.)

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*Jimmy Brohan, the Munster right full-back (No. 2) holds off an Ulster forward in the inter-provincial hurling semi-final at Croke Park on February 24th. Munster reached the St. Patrick's Day final on the score: 9-7 to 3-5.*

---

(From page 53.)

writers and the players and officials they write about, whether it be praise or, as is often the case, criticism."

Paddy Downey, treasurer of the A.G.S.J., had another reason: "Its our job to attend all the matches as representatives of our papers. But in the course of carrying out our duty we get tremendous enjoyment from watching the feats of the players. In a small way, our awards are a token of our appreciation for the enjoyment we receive."

The Association, I learned, has no wish to cut across any similar presentations. It was pointed out that this award-giving has been the tradition in newspaper circles in almost every country in the world. In the United States awards are made by the Boxing writers of New York, the Baseball writers, the Football writers; "Sports Illustrated" magazine elects its Sportsman of the Year; the Associated Press and United Press International hold annual polls and each group of writers attached to a particular sport in England name their player of the year.

The G.A.A. journalists feel that, as the newspapermen most actively connected with Gaelic Games, they—just like the soccer-writers in soccer—are entitled, if they so wish, to name their players of the year. This they do in their annual country-wide ballot.

This Association was founded in November, 1961, and its officers are: Patron—P. D. Mehigan (Carbery); president—Michael O'Hehir (Telefis Eireann-Radio Eireann); chairman—John D. Hickey (Irish Independent); vice-chairman—Val Dorgan (Cork Examiner); treasurer — Paddy Downey (Irish Times); secretary—Mick Dunne (Irish Press); provincial representative — J. F. Burke (Midland Tribune, Birr).



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## YOU ASKED FOR IT

### "Gaelic Sport" Goes Monthly In May

● Yes, you did. Ever since "Gaelic Sport" first appeared as a quarterly in September, 1958. Readers, both in Ireland and abroad, have flooded us with requests for more frequent publication. Up to the present we were unable to gratify our readers wishes. Now, however, we are glad to announce that this issue is the last of the quarterly series. "Gaelic Sport" will appear monthly from May 1 onwards.

---

# A memory of Mick Tubridy

By EAMONN YOUNG

"THE fittest man in Ireland."

That's what the 74-inch Clonakilty footballer, Factna O'Donovan said to me as we walked on to the training ground in the Mardyke 18 years ago. The man he spoke of was a son of Kilrush named Mick Tubridy, and the gathering was in aid of an All-Ireland football crown for Cork.

I had known the slim, black-

haired athlete, Tubridy, since his cadet days in the Military College on the Curragh three years previously and had ample experience of the flashing speed, neat ball-control and cool self-confidence which made him the classy performer now admired by good footballers like Tadhg Crowley, Weesh Murphy, Paddy Cronin, "Tocher" Casey, Jim Cronin and Jack Lynch.

Stripping at eleven and a half stone, his lean muscles rippling smoothly under a tanned skin, I remember his dash along the right wing towards the canal goal in the 1945 final against Cavan. Racing, jinking, juggling that ball, he swerved past opponents and we groaned as he carried it too far and got into trouble with a Breffni rear-guard where John Joe O'Reilly, Big Tom and Barney Cully were ready to sell their lives for Cavan and their first All-Ireland.

But just when Tubridy seemed at a complete stop his hesitation fooling all, he swooped back to the right like a startled snipe and bang—that ball was stuck in the back of a net and we nearly went mad.

His career with Cork was short; for not long after crowning his All-Ireland win with a Railway Cup medal in the following spring (there were nine Corkmen on the side) the Army riding team began to claim him.

But here in Cork they still speak of Mick, a star that flashed in brief but striking glory across our athletic horizon and left behind it a tale of wonder.

God rest you Tubridy. With Derry Beckett, Caleb Crone, John Joe O'Reilly and P. J. Duke, comrades or opponents on that day in 1945, you have gone away—a little before the rest of us. May we play the game as well.

## A PRIEST OF YOUR OWN

IT is not given to every home to count a Priest among its children but every family can have its "own Priest" by helping a student on towards the Sacred Priesthood. Your family can have its "own White Father" by contributing to St. Anthony's burse; thus sharing in the upkeep of a Student in the "White Fathers' Missionary College.

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## Sweaters for Men

(From page 42.)

amuses me. It's no use getting cross at them. These schools play rugby either because they genuinely love the game, which is their right, or because the kids' fathers played it there, or because following the oval ball "raises" the children into a social stratum very desirable (and often too expensive). There will be snobbery and inferiority complex there as long as humans breathe, and if the game of rugby becomes one of its vehicles we should not waste our breath over it, other than to remind ourselves that such sporting (or unsporting) snobbery exists.

\* \* \*

I'VE always considered that a definite handicap to the youngster who might be good at games is the "star" father. Very recently the doorbell rang at the house of a friend—a very good hurler. The sturdy red-haired boy called for the hurler's son to play a game. The good lads were not available and they were trying out the rest.

But young Jim wouldn't play. The mother coaxed him also, but, no. Disappointed "Red" went away and the father sat down in silence. "But," said Jim quietly, after a while, sensing his father's dejection. "Daddy, you were a star and they'd expect me to be good too—and sure I'm no good." There's a lot in that sentence which indicates he might become a good man if not a good hurler.

\* \* \*

STILL, the living proof that the argument is faulty is the Sheehy family of Tralee. Paud, Niall, Brian and Sean wore the Kingdom colours in Croke Park where the name would be remembered anyway for the football of their father, John Joe.

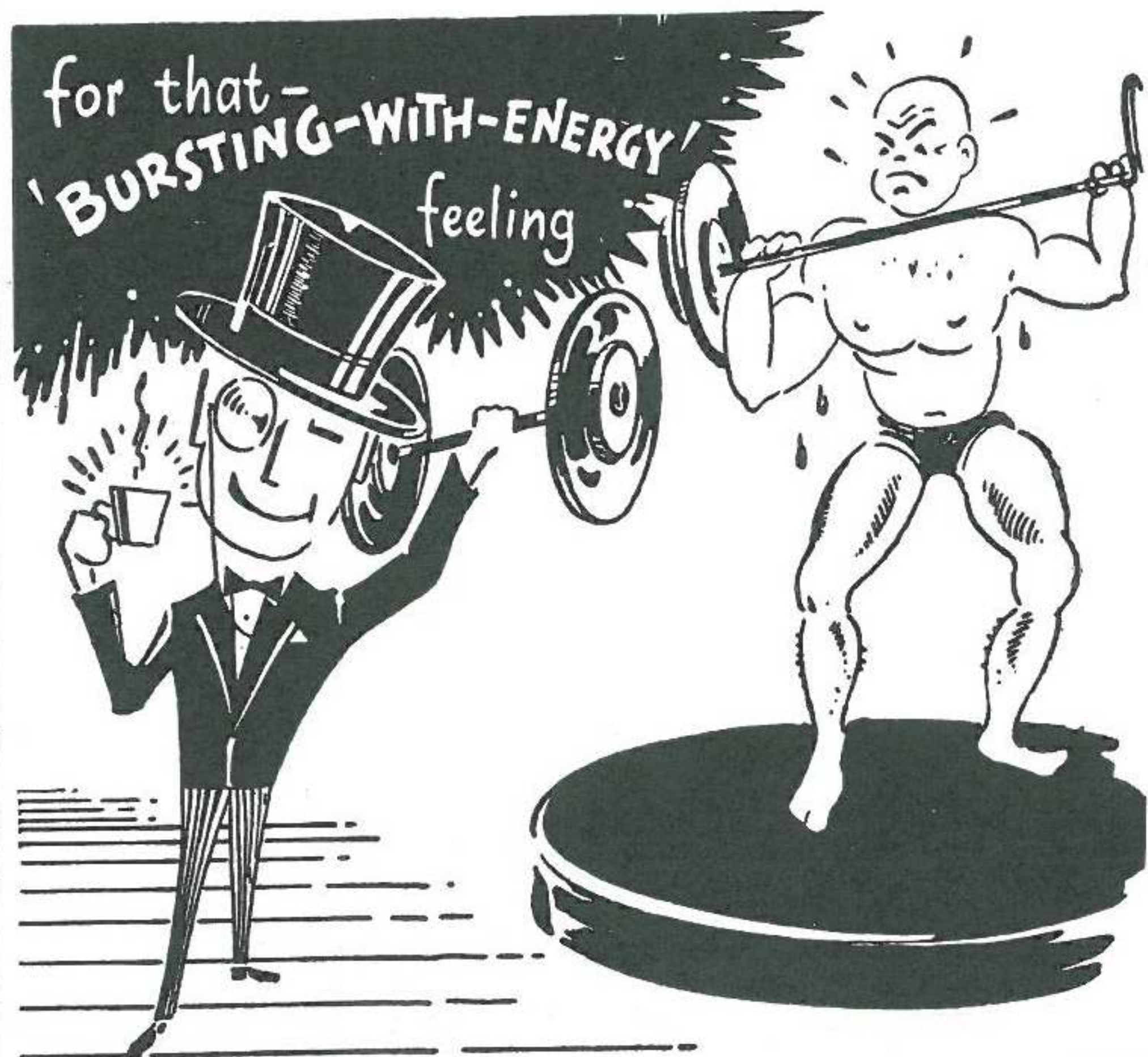
(From page 18.)

There was a motion before the Cork Convention, recently calling for the abolition of the three-year restriction on Ban motions. The motion got no support although a reasonable case was made for it, according to the press reports. What was the opposition case? In substance, there was no argument put up against it. It was a "blindfolded" vote, in other

words. But Mr. Jim Barry said—according to the press report—"When this issue was raised at Congress last year, we all felt it was the end of the Ban motions for all time."

It appears that the "Ban gardai" do not want the Ban discussed at any time, and that in itself is a measure of their lack of faith in it. Are they afraid to face the moment of truth.

## Togha An Trean-Fhir



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## Quiz

### answers

(Answers to questions on page 25.)

- 1—Thomastown (Co. Kilkenny).
  - 2—Countess Markievicz Park.
  - 3—Ballykinlar G.A.A. Club.
  - 4—Green.
  - 5—Crossmolina (Co. Mayo).
  - 6—Pat Fanning of Waterford.
  - 7—Jack Barrett of Cork.
  - 8—Maurice Davin (Tipperary).
  - 9—White with black hoop.
  - 10—The Intervarsity hurling competition played annually between U.C.D., U.C.C., U.C.G. and Q.U., Belfast, which will have a new and, may I add, welcome entrant in 1963 in Trinity College, Dublin.
  - 11—Jas. Murphy, a sterling corner back.
  - 12—Sean Quinn, a brilliant left half-back, small in stature but big in heart.
  - 13—Bill McCorry, who gave Armagh yeoman service in those years.
  - 14—Yes. Galway won her first and only Munster title last year, defeating Cork in the intermediate hurling final.
  - 15—Martin O'Neill of Wexford.
  - 16—Tom is a national teacher by profession.
  - 17—Yes.
  - 18—With Erin's Hope (Drumcondra) while training to be a schoolteacher and afterwards with Clan na Gael.
  - 19—Yes, in 1956, when Erin's Hope ended St. Vincent's great run; a feat not achieved by any other Dublin club since.
  - 20—Colaiste Iosagain (Ballyvourney).
- 18-20 Correct—**Excellent.**  
13-17 Correct—**Very Good.**  
10-12 Correct—**Fair.**

(Continued from page 11).

won again in 1958 and it will be remembered that Galway won the 1957 National League title.

In all of this there is an obvious point, namely that when either Galway or Mayo were on top in inter-county competition they, in turn, carried Connacht to the Railway Cup title.

A similar situation can be seen in both Ulster and Leinster, and there is no doubt that a province depends mainly on its leading county team.

The following table illustrates this point further. Counting since the interprovincial competitions began in 1927 the honours have been distributed as follows. Alongside are the number of All-Ireland football titles won by the respective provinces during the same period.

|          | Railway Cup | All-Ire. |
|----------|-------------|----------|
| CONNACHT | 7           | 8        |
| ULSTER   | 6           | 8        |
| LEINSTER | 17          | 7        |
| MUNSTER  | 6           | 14       |

Connacht and Ulster have won Railway Cup titles in almost direct proportion to their All-Ireland victories. Leinster has done considerably better but Munster is away behind, winning not even an interprovincial title for every two All-Ireland titles captured since 1927.

And seeing that it was Kerry who won thirteen of those fourteen All-Ireland titles, it is obvious that the Kingdom is not pulling its weight in the southern province.

The casual approach by Kerry men to Railway Cup competition is surely the reason for the long list of Munster failures and whether giving them back a complete monopoly of the team would lead to any improvement is indeed doubtful.

As a matter of fact, it is the Cork, Tipperary, Clare and Waterford players who approach the Railway Cup competition with the proper interest. For most of these it is a rare opportunity, perhaps never to be repeated, of hitting the headlines and they usually give the occasion all that they possess.

It would seem, therefore, that there is no case for an all-Kerry Munster team. To chose one would be a grievous wrong to those gallant players from other Munster counties who are really interested in this annual event.

(Continued from page 35).

years past has been as hard to achieve as securing a ticket for an All-Ireland football final. Not even club or county secretaries had any, and I know one provincial secretary who, when she wanted to get rule books for clubs and counties under her jurisdiction, had to buy them every time at what, seemingly, was the only shop in Ireland at which they could be bought.

I would suggest that these rule books be made generally available through book-sellers and that every club member be advised to buy one.

The new rules stipulate that every club should have a rule-book. I feel that every player should have one, not to say every club. The cost of the book will be small and if every player bought one it could be sold at a nominal sum. And that is another reason for making the format attractive. Besides, an attractive format might bring in a little advertising that would help to cut down the cost to the members of the association.

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# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,—It makes one wild to hear all the criticism from foreign games people about rough and dirty play in Gaelic games, while we rarely hear a whisper about the "mayhem" that goes on in rugby and soccer.

It is highly amusing, therefore, to see that the "paragons" of sportsmen are now fighting among themselves. In other words, the beans are being well and truly spilled!

There is a chap named Danny Blanchflower, from Belfast, who plays soccer for Tottenham Hotspur in England. This Mr. Blanchflower writes for an English Sunday paper, and recently he was hauled up in a letter from a "rugger type," who criticised soccer players for arguing with the referee, and for dancing around like schoolgirls when they scored goals.

Naturally, Mr. Blanchflower didn't like this kind of talk, so the following Sunday he kicked back at the chaps who play the rugby code.

Here are a few quotations from his article: "Nothing riles me more than phoney values in sport, and it seems to me that Rugby Union has more than its fair share." Referring to his college days he said. "The violence and brutality of Rugby did not appeal much to me . . ."

"I feel that such arts [subtlety and timing] are too much at the mercy of the blood and thunder brigade . . ."

"At international level I have been appalled at some of the weaknesses in the standards of play. I have seen fat, heavy men stumble around like paralysed hippopotami . . ."

"I happened to be in South Africa last summer when Richard Sharp [the English rugby player] had his face smashed. You could almost taste the bitterness in the air.

"Nobody said much about it. People must have thought something about it, but in Rugby some things are too delicate to discuss. In soccer, of course, the offender would have been sent off for violence. But in Rugby it is hard to tell the difference between fair and unfair violence."

Amusing, isn't it, to get a glimpse of the other side of the picture for a change?

Perhaps our Irish newspapers would now cast their angry glances

on the foreign games' fields—just to see what goes on beneath the scrums. It might also prove that they are not covering Gaelic games so extensively only because of the commercial value of mass readership.

'MYLES THE SLASHER,'  
Co. Cavan.

## DEAR READERS :

Just a final line to remind you that our next issue will appear on May 1. "Gaelic Sport" will be published regularly on the first of every month from May Day onwards. Make sure of your copy by placing a standing order with your newsagent.

THE EDITOR.

"Gaelic Sport."

*Austin*



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