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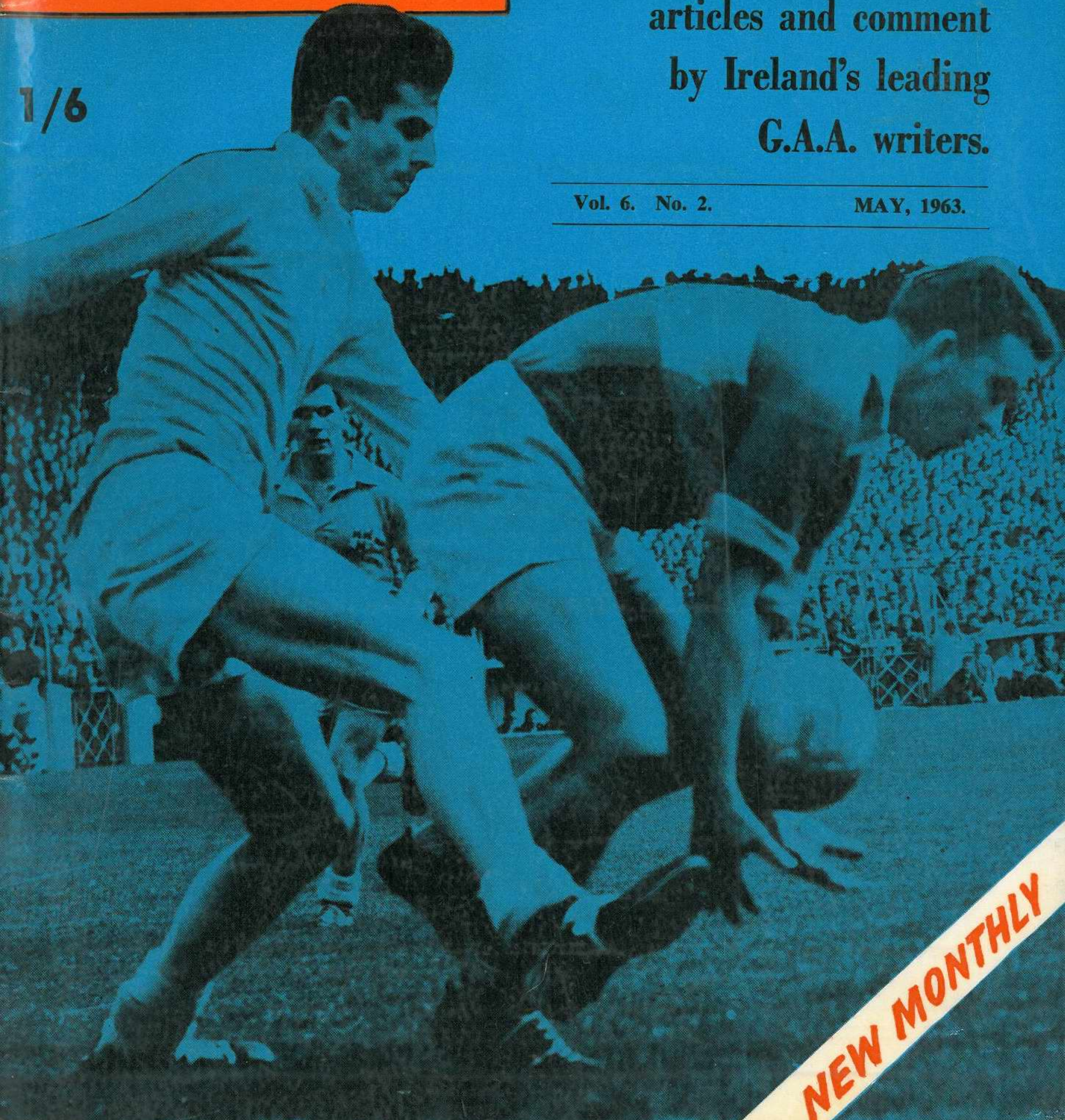
# Gaelic Sport

1/6

The quality magazine  
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articles and comment  
by Ireland's leading  
G.A.A. writers.

Vol. 6. No. 2.

MAY, 1963.



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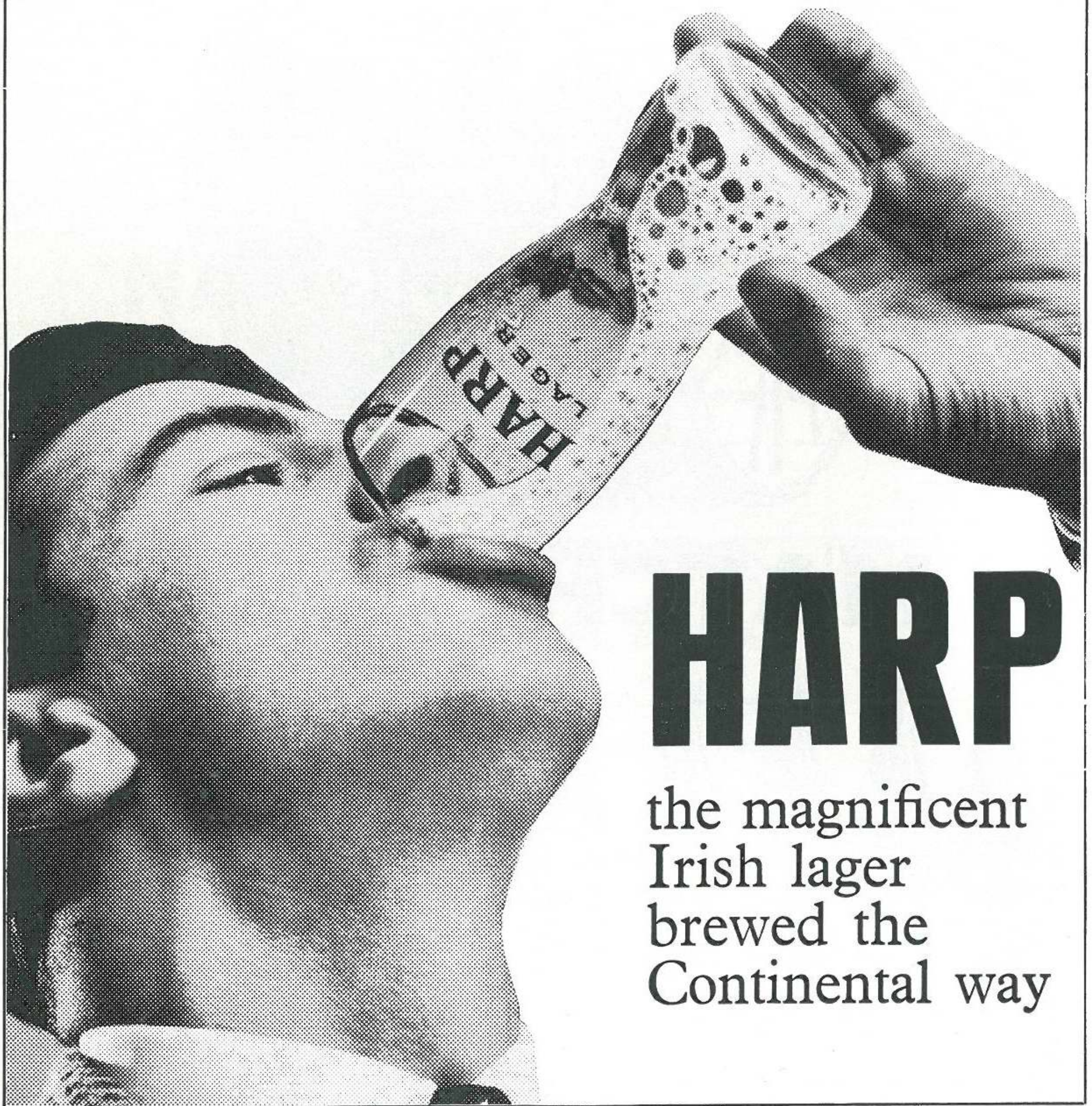
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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 6. No. 2. MAY, 1963.

Offices:  
79 Upr. Dorset Street,  
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## INDEX

<i>The Ban Must Stay</i> —by Sean Feeley	4
<i>Scoops</i> ... ..	7
<i>End of a Dream</i> —by Eamonn Mongey	9
<i>League Facts</i> ....	11
<i>American Dispatch</i> —by Manhattan	13
<i>Tipperary Football</i> Resurgence	17
<i>Down Memory Lane</i> —by Philip Roderick	18
<i>Mattie McDonagh's Record</i> —by Patrick Carver	21
<i>Plupatriotic</i> —by Sean O'Neill	22
<i>With the Gaels in Britain</i> —by Jeda	23
<i>Test Your Knowledge</i> —Chris Murray	26
<i>Wanted—Social Life</i> —by Sean Donegan	28
<i>Peil san Arm</i> —le Seán Ó Dúnagáin	31
<i>Scrapbook</i> —by Eamonn Young	33
<i>Brendan Corish—Referee</i> —by Patrick Carver	35
<i>Football in the 'Forties</i> —by Frankie Byrne	36
<i>While I Think Of It</i> —by Moondharrig	39
<i>Camogie</i> —by Agnes Hourigan	43
<i>Cork's 1952 League Win</i> —by Eamonn Young	49
<i>Penpoints</i> ....	55

## STOP PRESS

"Gaelic Sport" is now a monthly publication. It is on sale throughout Ireland on the first day of each month. See page 7 for details of our June issue.

## The hidden Ireland!

"INLAND there are the ancient Irish games."

The line appears in *Private Eye*. Perhaps you have not heard of *Private Eye*. The people who produce it call it a fortnightly lampoon. It is published in London. It satirizes everybody from British Royalty and politicians to Church of England bishops. It is, in fact, an excellent little journal.

Bord Failte think so, too. They bought a full-page advertisement in a recent issue. The line quoted at the beginning of this article appears in it. Do you not think that it is a remarkably stupid statement to emanate from an Irish organisation whose function is to promote tourism in Ireland?

Peer again at the picture it evokes. The intrepid Empire builders wading ashore at Kings-town (*sic*) and the North Wall. And then, with the requisite entourage of guides and gillies, striking inland through the jungles and marshes. Not even the image of a Livingstone to greet them at the end of the trail. The astonished gaze, the hurried note-taking as they glimpse through the dense foliage, the strange behaviour of a primitive people in the inland clearings: the natives at primeval play.

An then they trek back to the coast—for fishin' and huntin' and shootin' and golf. You see, the coast is civilised. Oh, won't Mother England be surprised, "Whack fol de diddle fol de di do day!"

On Easter Sunday, the Congress agenda included a proposal that Bord Failte be asked to publicise Gaelic Games as a tourist attraction. The *Private Eye* advertise-

ment appeared about the same time. What an incongruous coincidence.

We understand that Bord Failte employ a London advertising agency to handle their advertisements in British publications and on British television. One assumes, then, that the wording of the *Private Eye* advertisement was composed by one of the agency copywriters. But do not blame the copywriter for presenting Gaelic Games as a curiosity—and an afterthought. In normal advertising practice, the agency is thoroughly briefed by the client. In other words, the advertiser supplies all essential information concerning his "goods," and from this the finished advertisement is produced.

In this instance, Bord Failte are trying to sell, among other things, the sporting attractions of Ireland. We do not cavil with the precedence given to golf and fishing under the heading "Sport." Many of Britain's potential tourists are keenly interested in these pursuits. It is a splendid idea to tell them that their interests will be catered for if they visit this country.

But we suggest that, if they wish to speak again to the readers of *Private Eye* or of other British publications, the "hidden persuaders" at Baggot Street Bridge should acquaint themselves with the fact that Gaelic Games are Ireland's national games, and that they enjoy the support of the vast majority of the country's sporting public.

They might also mention that the jungles were cut down some considerable time before Strongbow arrived on his long vacation.

# REBUFFED

## CONGRESS DEALT FIRMLY WITH THE ANTI-BAN BOYS

By SEAL FEELEY

**P**ADRAIG DE BURCA and those for whom he spoke in the last issue of *Gaelic Sport* got their answer at Congress last month. The Dublin Ban motion received the treatment it deserved, and that should end the issue.

But then, if I know Mr. de Burca and his fellow-travellers it won't; for these people are consistent. They will probably come again. Rule 27 is open for discussion at the 1965 Congress and no doubt another Dublin anti-Ban sally can be expected. This is all the more reason why the thinking and motivation of these people should be fully discussed and analysed.

As far as *Gaelic Sport* is concerned, the current debate began in the Christmas number when I called on Congress to be firm with the Dublin motion which asked that discussion on Rule 27 be allowed annually.

As I saw it then, and as Congress saw it a few weeks ago, this motion was a waste of time and a blatant refusal to accept the 5-1 defeat handed out to the Dublin anti-Ban motion of last year.

In the last issue of *Gaelic Sport*, Mr. de Burca jumped to the rescue of the Dublin motion—but like many impetuous would-be rescuers, he was not able to swim, and so sank with his cause.

In this article I intend to hold a brief requiem for both victims.

The 1962 Congress decision, according to Mr. de Burca, was "a phoney vote to a large extent." What outrageous cheek, and how wonderfully it illustrates the mentality of the writer and of those who share his views.

Last year, Congress voted 180 to 40 against the Dublin motion calling for an investigation of

the Ban and on a direct call to remove the Ban, proposed by Carlow, Congress voted 272 to 7 against. Both of these votes were "phoney" according to Mr. de Burca. I need not comment further on this point.

He then went on to pick on two respected Congress personalities, Michael O Ruairc, of Kerry, and the Clare-born Tipperaryman, Seamus Gardiner, a former President of the Association, for their opposition to the Dublin motion.

It is not necessary to defend either of these men; their records and their deeds speak for themselves; but I do resent Mr. de Burca's cheap attempt to misrepresent what they said at Congress. The fact that they were two of the most outspoken opponents of what Mr. de Burca stands for undoubtedly explains his attitude towards them.

However, Mr. de Burca's article really gets interesting at about the half-way stage. Here he doffs his disguise and appears in his true colours as a violent opponent of the Ban, and what it represents. "The Ban restricts personal liberty . . . it divides Irishmen—bitterly at times," he wrote.

Yes, there can be no further doubt as to what these Dublin motions mean. They may be clothed in the guise of an inquiry, or of an investigation committee, but these are only smoke screens behind which crawl the dedicated anti-Ban men.

These people have not the courage to come out in the open with a direct motion asking for the removal of the Ban. They leave such obvious methods to Carlow. Instead, they try to undermine the rule bit by bit—hoping that an innocent-



*Galway's Michael Curtin surrounded by Waterford defenders, Jim Irish, Austin Flynn and Martin Og Morrissey (right background) during the National Hurling League semi-final at Croke Park. Waterford advanced to the final by 0-9 to 0-7.*

looking investigation committee will be set up, with, of course, themselves appointed to key positions, thereby controlling any investigation and making sure that an anti-Ban verdict is announced.

Let no one think that the days of Peter the Packer have gone—not by a long shot, as our Dublin friends would quickly prove, given control of such a committee.

This is illustrated further in Mr. de Burca's article when he refers to the Committee of Investigation which has been set up by the Dublin County Board to examine the position of the G.A.A. in the capital.

The terms of reference of this committee contain no mention whatsoever of the Ban—yet Mr. de Burca looks upon it as a weapon which can be used to bring an anti-Ban clause in its findings.

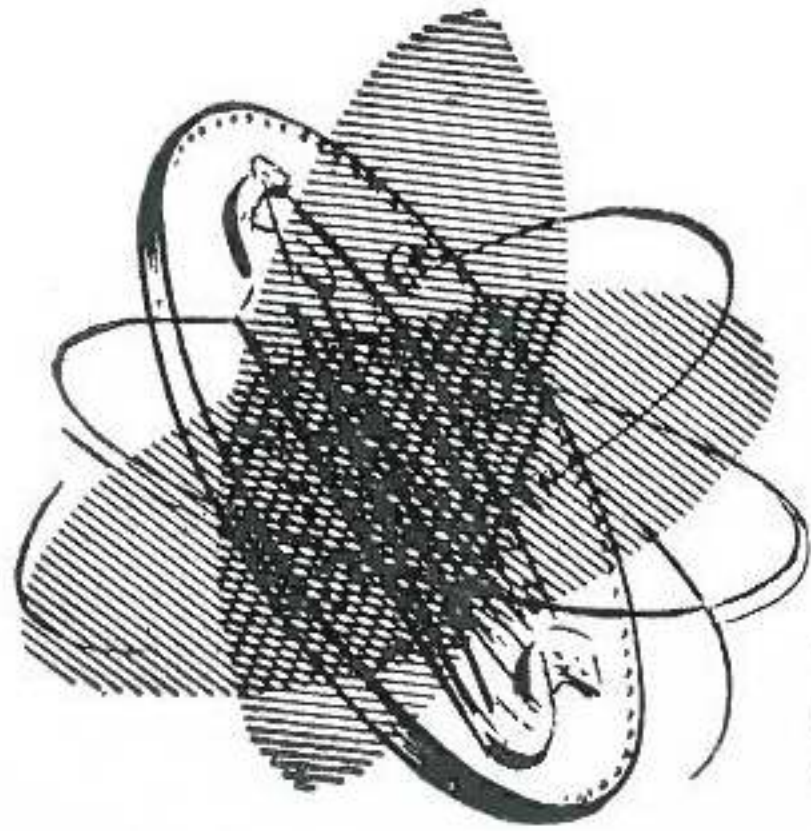
Let us revert to Mr. de Burca's key statement,

that "the Ban restricts personal liberty . . . and divides Irishmen." Of course it does. It divides the national from the anti-national — the true G.A.A. man from those who have no clear conception of what the association stands for. In this respect alone, Rule 27 serves a good purpose.

The G.A.A. Ban is needed. The just man may fall periodically, but he will rise again and return to the fold. In these days of internationalism and the supra-national approach, we need an anchorage—a line of demarcation.

What matter if Cusack was for or against the Ban or what Dr. Croke wrote on the subject as applied to his day. We are concerned with the situation as it exists now.

The Ban is more necessary now than ever. I doubt if I need elaborate why. Every true Gael who looks deep into his own heart knows the reasons.



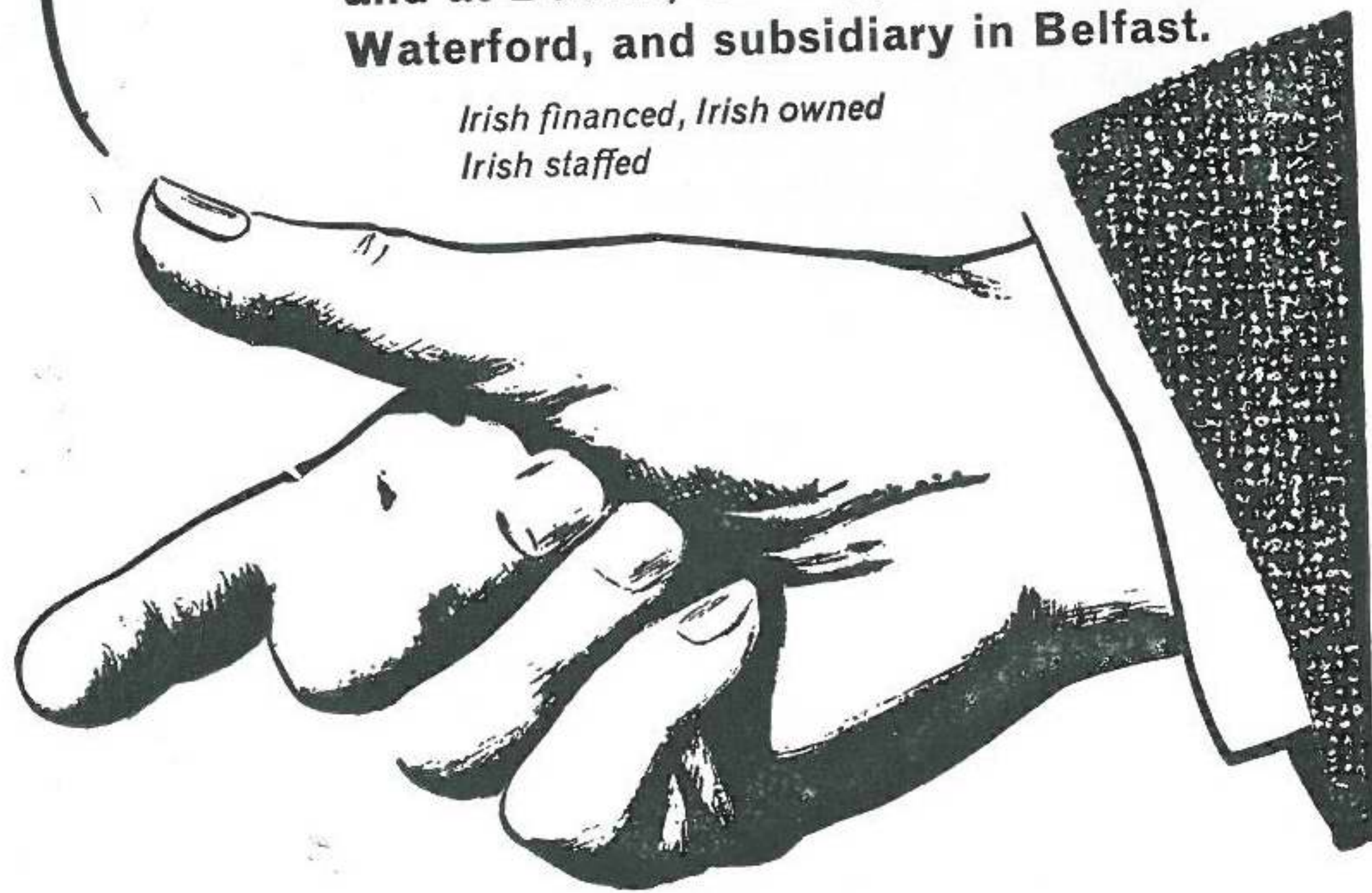
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# SCOOPS!

## TWENTY GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BUY THE JUNE ISSUE OF 'GAELIC SPORT'

● A FASCINATING series by **SEAN DONEGAN**, "Stories Yet Untold," will begin in our June issue. This is the chronicle of football and footballers in the Army during the years of the Emergency. The great names of the game crowd every anecdote . . . Joe Keohane, Simon Deignan, Sean Gallagher, Eamonn Young, Eddie Condon, Mick Tubridy, John Joe O'Reilly, Jim Cronin, and a host of others.

This is not just another run-of-the-mill collection of reminiscences. It is a series full of humour, wit and nostalgia . . . and, of course, those many stories which have never before been told. These now flow from the pen of a man who shared in them. They will cause some red faces . . . they will raise many delighted laughs . . . they will recall a host of happy memories.

● TO KATANGA (and back, we hope) has gone **COMMANDANT EAMONN YOUNG**; but this does not mean that his name will be missing from *Gaelic Sport*. We have pleasure in announcing that, in our June issue, Eamonn begins a new series, "The Lee-side's Golden Years." This is the inside story of Cork's great era, 1939-1947. Eamonn Young was not just a by-stander during those years: he shared in, and helped to make the story of which he now writes. From far away Elizabethville this series comes exclusively to readers of *Gaelic Sport*.

● WHAT A STORY—"Christy Ring—friend and foe"; and who better to tell it than **DES**

**FERGUSON**, the man who has crossed hurleys with the Cork Maestro more times during the past decade than he can remember. It will be appear in our June issue.

● EVERY COUNTY great or small has had at least one glorious hour. **SEAN O'NEILL** sets the ball rolling in our June issue with a new series, "Their Greatest Hour." He begins with Carlow in 1944—the year in which this wee county could, and perhaps should, have captured the All-Ireland football crown.

● THESE ARE but four of the new features which *Gaelic Sport* will bring to you in its June issue. There will be in the region of sixteen others . . . all adding up to twenty good reasons why you should order your copy now. It is magnificent value for a modest one and sixpence.

There will be a tremendous demand for our next issue . . . and, indeed, for all future issues of the new monthly *Gaelic Sport*. To make sure of your copy on the first of each month, place a standing order with your newsagent—or, should you prefer it, fill in the Subscription Form which is attached to this copy and send it to us immediately. In that way you will receive your copy by direct mail each month.

● ONLY *Gaelic Sport* gives you the inside stories from the big names in Gaelic Games. *Ná dearmad é a chur ar órdú láithreach.*

'Sí *Gaelic Sport* Rogha na nGael.



*Commndt. Eamonn Young*



*Sean Donegan*



*Des Ferguson*

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# END OF A DREAM

By Eamonn Mongey.

“WHAT was it all about,” was one question I heard asked after the so-called “Representative” game played recently in Croke Park between a depleted Universities team and an even more depleted Kerry team. What it meant to those seeing it for the first time, I don’t know; but to those of us who remember clearly the first of these games and all that they promised, this year’s performance meant the end of a wonderful dream.

The first of these Representative games (in football) was held in 1950 between “Ireland” and the Universities and I remember only too well all the breathless anticipation with which the final selection of the Ireland team was awaited. I remember also what a great honour it was to be selected for the team. All the “Ireland” players were treated with considerable respect and when the day of the match eventually came, huge crowds turned up at Croke Park to see them in action.

In the first game ever played, the Ireland team won well despite the presence of certain players in the Universities team like P. J. Duke (R.I.P.), Pat O’Neill, Padraig Carney, Billy Kenny, Jim Brosnan, Edwin Carolan and Peter Solan. However, when these were joined the next year by Sean Purcell, Paddy Markey, etc., the Ireland team had only a point to spare.

But by 1953 these players were all gone and the result was a fifteen-point defeat for the Universities. It was quite clear then that something had to be done. But, as it turned out, the remedy was going to prove worse than the disease.

The Universities were given permission to select graduates and, with this concession, the “Ireland” team degenerated into the “Rest.” The green jersey which was worn so proudly in the first few games now meant much less, if it

really meant anything at all. Even more, this decision would prevent for all time players like those I mentioned above plus Sean Murphy, Oliver Freaney, Kevin Heffernan, etc., from ever playing for Ireland or the “Rest.”

People lost interest; the players lost interest; crowds dwindled and the fact that the Universities won both in 1954 and 1955 didn’t seem to help matters at all. As a fixture it was on the way out. It might have still been saved if the authorities had decided to award Ireland jerseys to the players after the game based on their displays in the game. But the authorities wouldn’t budge and so, after an amount of fruitless chopping and changing over the years, this year we reached the bottom — and neither players nor spectators took the fixture seriously.

Two of Kerry’s best players, for instance, Mick O’Connell and Mick O’Dwyer, didn’t travel at all. Two more of them, Noel and Jimmy Lucey, played with the Army in the game before; while two others, Kevin Coffey and Dave Geaney, believe it or not, played with the Universities.

Is there any form in which the fixture could be successfully revived? Candidly, I don’t think so. Because the proceeds of the match have always gone to charity, I’m reluctant to say abolish it altogether, but I can see no other way out.

It would, of course, be possible to arrange a match between the All-Ireland champions and League champions (provided they are not the same) or to replay one of the more controversial games of the previous championship—namely, Cavan and Down last year. The proceeds in either event could be given to discharge our moral debt to charity.

But I still think that the original idea of an

(Continued overleaf.)



*Clutching hands go high for the dropping ball: Paud O'Donoghue (2) and J. J. Barrett (5), two Kerry defenders, leap for possession along with Combined Universities' forwards in the representative match at Croke Park. Kerry won a mediocre game on the score, 4-7 to 1-7.*

(From previous page.)

"Ireland" team was a good one and I think G.A.A. followers everywhere would welcome a revival of this idea. But I don't think there is any necessity for this team to play any other team. After all, the All-American team in American football doesn't play anyone.

Naming the best fifteen men in their positions on their displays each year would be sufficient honour so that in years to come people could say—"he was the Ireland full-back in 1963." To those players who might fail to win an All-Ireland medal, not through their own fault but because they were playing with inferior teams, this distinction would be rich compensation for such failure.

There remains, of course, the question of who should select the team. Originally, for the selection of the Ireland team, one man was nominated by the champions in each province and these met under the chairmanship of the President of the G.A.A. I don't think this was a good idea. County prejudices were very much in evidence and, at times, the selectors appeared to be getting their own back on those who didn't select their favourites for the provincial team—so that we had experience of seeing a player who wasn't even selected for his province being selected for Ireland. For this reason I feel that the selection should be made by an independent body like the Gaelic Sports Journalists

As a matter of fact, this is something which I think the Gaelic Sports Journalists should take over completely and run instead of their present arrangement of nominating the outstanding footballer and the outstanding hurler of the year—which is really only duplicating the Caltex awards. And the whole thing needn't cost any more: a certificate could be given to each player and these would not be any more expensive than the two handsome trophies which the annual recipients now receive from the Gaelic Sports Journalists. Yes, indeed, this is something which I heartily recommend to the Association of Gaelic Sports Journalists.

# League facts

## • Tipperary and Mayo head Roll of Honour

TIPPERARY and Mayo stand well above all other counties as National League specialists. Mayo won seven football titles in the space of eight years, while during the last fourteen years, Tipperary have captured the hurling crown on no less than nine occasions to bring their total of League victories to ten.

Here is the National League roll of honour:—

*Hurling* — Tipperary (10), Limerick (6), Cork (6), Dublin (2), Galway (2), Kilkenny (2), Wexford (2), Clare (1).

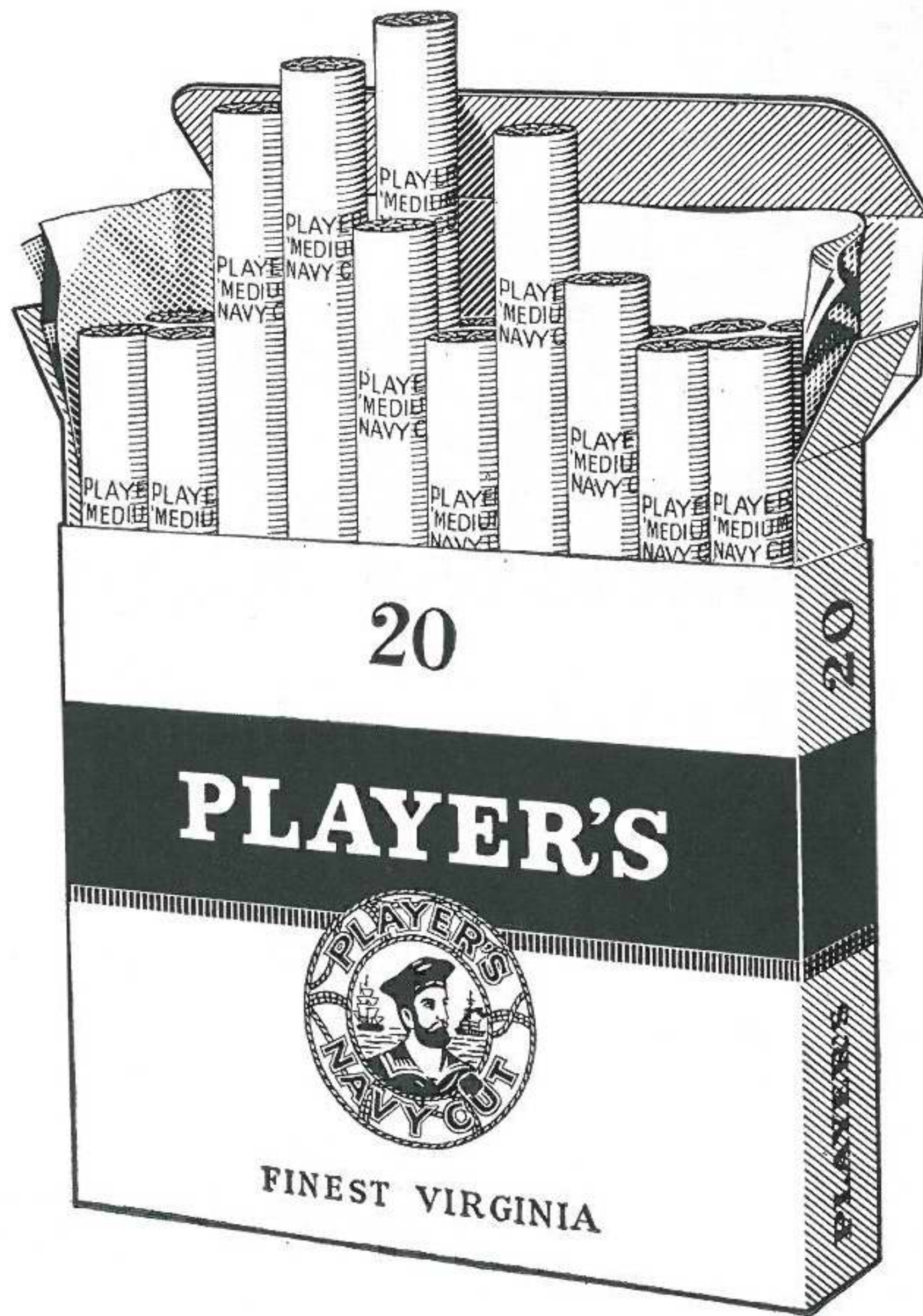
*Football*—Mayo (9), Kerry (6), Dublin (3), Meath (3), Cork (2), Galway (2), Laois (1), Cavan (1), New York (1), Derry (1), Down (1).

Mayo won six football titles in a row, 1934-'39. They did not compete in 1940 but were back to win the competition again in 1941. Had Mayo competed in 1940, they might well have made it a fabulous eight in a row.

Kerry showed considerable interest in the early days of the National League, winning four consecutive titles—1928 to '32. However, it was not until 1959 that the Kingdom won its fifth title—a lapse of twenty-seven years.

Tipperary, too, had a long spell in the League wilderness. They won their first hurling title in 1928 and their second in 1949. Since then, the Premier County has almost monopolised the competition, with John Doyle collecting a record total of nine League medals.

(Continued on page 14.)



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CAPS

# Red carpet for O'Connell

By MANHATTAN

**B**OSTON and New York await Mick O'Connell.

The princely Valentia man, of whom we have all heard so much but have yet to see, will receive a tumultuous welcome when he arrives in mid-May. O'Connell, Tom Long and Mick O'Dwyer will take the field at Boston on May 19, and in New York on May 26.

Both Long and O'Dwyer were, of course, in New York in 1959, but on that occasion O'Connell did not travel. His fame has now grown to such an extent that he has become a legend in these parts.

It will all be in aid of a very worthy charity—Cardinal Cushing's Peruvian mission memorial to the late Monsignor Duggan, a native of Cork, who died in the mission fields.

But the New York and the Boston-New England Boards have joined together to make the occasion an outstanding success. The Ruppert Brewing Co. have donated valuable trophies.

In charge of the entire operation is Joe Barrett, the former Galway hurler and for many years baseman with the Milwaukee Braves. Joe is the very capable general chairman, with Kevin Mulvihill as secretary.

The huge programme provides for two top-class exhibition games at Boston on May 19 and on the following Sunday the New York Field Day will feature the long-awaited and controversial 1962 senior hurling league final between Cork and Tipperary, plus an exhibition football game.

I was at the Irish Institute last month for the presentation of medals to the New York junior football and hurling champions. Doing the honours was the New York Board's new President, P. J. McMahon—a great Clare Gael.

Biggest cheer of the evening was for the one and only Terry Leahy, who played a major role in helping Kilkenny win the junior hurling title.

What a record this wonderman from the Nore holds. He won his first senior All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 1939. He won New York senior medals in 1950 and '57. He now has the distinction of having won championship medals in four decades. Yes, we have our answer to Christy Ring.

Glad to report that the great Nace O'Dowd is in the best of shape again following a long illness. Nace is one of our best.

Miss Patricia Lydon has been selected secretary of the New Jersey hurling club for the eighth year. I guess you have got nothing to beat that over there.

Carlow hope to make a bid for New York honours this year. New captain is Tom Kavanagh. Officers: President, Timothy Riordan; chairman, James McGovern; secretary, Timothy Sullivan.

Meet Terry Warner the new president of the Philadelphia Board and a credit to Gaelic Games. Born in America, of Cork parents, Terry grew up in a truly Gaelic atmosphere and became a hurler of note. He served with the U.S. Army and now holds an executive position with the Atlantic Refining Company.

The Board's new vice-president, Tommy Staunton, is also U.S.-born. Until quite recently, Tommy and his father, Pete, were regular teammates . . . and good footballers to boot.

Good to hear of a Longford resurgence in the home country. Juniors here won 1962 New York title.

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(From page 11.)

Limerick won five consecutive hurling titles — 1934-'38. The Shannonsiders won their last league title in 1947.

Due to the war, the National League competitions were not played in 1942, '43, '44 and '45. Hardest hit by this cessation of activities was the great Cork hurling side of those years, who won five All-Ireland titles between 1941 and '46. The Leesiders won the League in 1940 and '41 and would almost certainly have added a few more titles in the years which followed had the competition continued during the war.

Kildare is the only major football county not to have won a League title. However, they went very close to it in the 1928 decider against Kerry — a game still regarded as the greatest league final of them all.

It was played at Croke Park on April 28. Seven months previously, Kildare had beaten Kerry, 0-5 to 0-3, in the All-Ireland final and all concerned recognised that there was more at stake than a League title in this return meeting.

The scores were level on three occasions in the first half, but at the interval Kerry were in front, 1-2 to 0-4. Kildare took the lead with a goal early in the second half and remained in front until well into the final quarter, when the Kingdom hit back with a goal.

Only a point remained and Kildare had a chance to equalise in the last minute when they forced a fifty. Jack Higgins took the kick and it dropped inches wide. The final score was: Kerry, 2-4; Kildare, 1-6.

Oddly enough, Kerry were beaten by Tipperary in the Munster championship three months later.

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Arrow





*Eamonn Mooney, the Meath goalkeeper, saving a hard drive from a Cavan forward in the N.F.L. (Div. II) play-off at Drogheda. Meath won by 2-4 to 0-7.*

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# THE TURN OF THE WHEEL

## TIPPERARY LAUNCH BIG DRIVE TO RECAPTURE FOOTBALL GREATNESS

ONLY the aged can remember that day in June, 1922, when Tipperary captured their last All-Ireland senior football title. The championship at stake was that of 1920, and the Premier County were deserving winners, beating Dublin 1-6 to 1-2.

Yes, footballers were the toast of Tipperary in the early 1920's and names like Ned Shea, Gus McCarthy (Fethard), Mick Arrigan, Jerry Shelly, Mick Tobin, Dick Lanigan (Grangemockler), Bill Barrett, Jim Doran (Mullinahone) were then as revered as those of Jimmy Doyle, Donie Nealon and Liam Devaney to-day.

But the wheel can turn and Tipperary have now firmly set their shoulder to it. Football is on the way back in the Premier County. The aim is to recapture both major titles simultaneously, as was done in 1895 and 1900.

This is no pipe dream in Tipperary. The plans, carefully drafted and enthusiastically received, are already in operation.

It all began at the County Convention when the cry for a football revival was raised. Two weeks later a meeting took place between representatives from the county champions, Ardfinnan, and a sub-committee of the County Board.

After this meeting a special county football committee was set up and a dynamic plan to put Tipperary football back into the forefront was adopted.

It is a nine-point plan—detailed, precise and dynamic. If there was ever a formula for success, then

this is it. The special football committee has been given entire control of the game within the county. It has the power to manage, select and train as it sees fit. All fixtures within the county are under its jurisdiction and it holds the right to recommend disciplinary action.

The Tipperary plan is truly a new departure. Red tape has been eliminated and replaced by action. The special committee which remains in office for three years and which will implement the plan is as follows: Luke Carroll (Roscrea), Billy Kelly (Templemore), Mick Frawley (Emly), Dick Power (Clonmel) and John Cummins (Ardfinnan). Together with these five permanent members there is one representative from the county champions. This year's champions, Ardfinnan, have nominated Rev. Dr. Marsh.

No sooner had the special committee taken office than they went to work. Early March saw the appointment of the former county footballer, Captain Sean Minogue, as senior trainer. Simultaneously, a panel of thirty senior players were chosen for regular training and a sub-committee was appointed to give equal attention to minors within the county.

Tipperary realise that there is no shortcut back to football prominence. Their stock has fallen particularly low in recent years and only earnest endeavour will raise it. It will not be achieved in one year or even two . . . but it can be done and it is with that realisation that the

Premier County footballers have tackled the job. A good beginning has been made . . . agus is tosach maith leath na hoibre.

For their first championship outing, Tipperary meet Clare at Limerick on June 2. For this game they will be well prepared. Training begins early this month and there will be a challenge game against Cork at Fethard on May 19.

Tipperary should beat Clare, for they drew with them some months ago in the National League. A victory in the first round means meeting Kerry at Listowel on June 23 in the Munster semi-final. This could be the end of the county's 1963 Championship hopes, but that does not really matter. What does matter is that a good account be given against the All-Ireland champions, thereby gaining confidence for the future.

And it is to the future that Tipperary footballers look — the 1963-'64 National League . . . the 1964 Championship; yes, and even further ahead.

But the day must come; for such endeavour does not go unrewarded. Tipperary has a great football tradition—it may belong to the far past but it is there nonetheless. With four senior football titles to its credit the county ranks joint fifth (with Galway and Kildare) in the list of All-Ireland winners. Only Kerry, Dublin, Wexford and Cavan are ahead.

What Tipperary have done twice before they can do again. Before this decade is out the Premier County will capture the Premier Double.

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

By Philip Roderick.

**E**VERYONE—even those with only a passing interest in Gaelic games—knows that the first meeting of the G.A.A. took place at Thurles on November 1, 1884 . . . but how many know where the second meeting was held?

This was at the Victoria Hotel, in Cork, on December 27, 1884, at which the Mayor-Elect of Cork presided.

One of the most important announcements at this particular meeting was a statement by Michael Cusack that William O'Brien had agreed to set aside half a column a week in his paper, "United Irishman," to the coverage of G.A.A. games.

With the establishment of *Gaelic Sport* as a monthly publication and with the tremendous coverage given nowadays in our national newspapers to both hurling and football, we seem to have made quite an advance since then.

\* \* \*

**T**HE first "conflict" between the newly-formed G.A.A. and the old Irish Amateur Athletic Association occurred at Tralee on Sunday, June 17, 1885.

The Kerry County Athletic and Cricket Club arranged a "gigantic" sports fixture for that afternoon, knowing at the time that the Kerry Gaels, of which the famous Austin Stack was a prominent member, had also arranged a sports fixture for the same afternoon at Tralee.

The result was a decisive victory for Kerry Gaels. More than 10,000 attended their meeting . . . and it is on record that less than 100 turned up for the I.A.A.A. sports.

\* \* \*

**O**N Sunday, October 6, 1885, the first athletics championships sponsored by the G.A.A. were held at Tramore, and, by all accounts, they included something to attract almost everyone.

For instance, if you fancied a flutter on the "gee-gees," there was nothing to stop you. Horse racing was included on the programme!

\* \* \*

**H**OSTILITY towards "banned" games was not very pronounced in 1887. In that year, the association granted permission to two Tipperary clubs—the famous Rosanna Rovers and the equally renowned Commercials—to allow some of their members to continue to play rugby for a few weeks until the Munster Senior Cup had been decided.

\* \* \*

**T**HE late Jack Grace of the great Tullaroan family left five All-Ireland senior football medals when he died in his early thirties in 1915 . . . and he was extremely unfortunate not to have won a hurling medal. In all he played in eleven All-Ireland finals.

He won his football medals with Dublin in 1901, 1902, 1906, 1907

and 1909, and also played in the 1904 final. In hurling finals, he played in 1902 when Dublin lost to Cork after a replay, in 1906 when Dublin lost again, and also in 1908 when Dublin met Cork twice before going down to defeat.

\* \* \*

**A**T the 1925 Congress of the G.A.A. it was proposed that if Dublin reached the semi-finals or finals of the All-Ireland championships, the venues for the games should be outside Dublin.

And who do you think was the most vehement speaker against this motion? None other than the late Dick Fitzgerald of Kerry. He was absolutely and totally against such a move and spoke at great length on his belief that the games should be played in Dublin. The motion, of course, was defeated.

\* \* \*

**A**T the 1933 Congress the matter of establishing an All-Ireland Club in Dublin was mooted, and, according to all reports of the discussion on it, the idea was extremely favourably received. Everyone felt that an association with a membership of over 100,000 should have a Dublin headquarters where visitors and old All-Ireland players from the provinces could meet socially every now and then.

A wonderful idea and what a great pity it was never carried through. Particularly, as at the

time, a suitable premises, fully furnished would have cost only. . . £1,500.

Just imagine what it would have been worth to-day?

\* \* \*

**I**F by any chance you get yourself involved in an argument about the hurler with the longest career in inter-county competition, do not forget to give a little consideration to John McKeown of Antrim. He began hurling in the early part of this century and turned out for the Antrim team in 1908, and as late as the middle thirties was still a regular member of the county side.

That gives Christy Ring a few years to go yet.

\* \* \*

"We missed the boat." Could you imagine someone putting forward that as an excuse for missing a G.A.A. match? Apparently it happened quite often in Co. Fermanagh in the early days of the association when the famous Newtownbutler First Fermanaghs took on Knockinny John Mitchels. In their many inter-club games, both teams often made use of sailboats on Lough Erne to travel to their matches.

\* \* \*

It is on record that, long before the G.A.A. came into existence, the first book of rules ever printed for hurling was brought out by the Killimor Hurling Club in East Galway.

\* \* \*

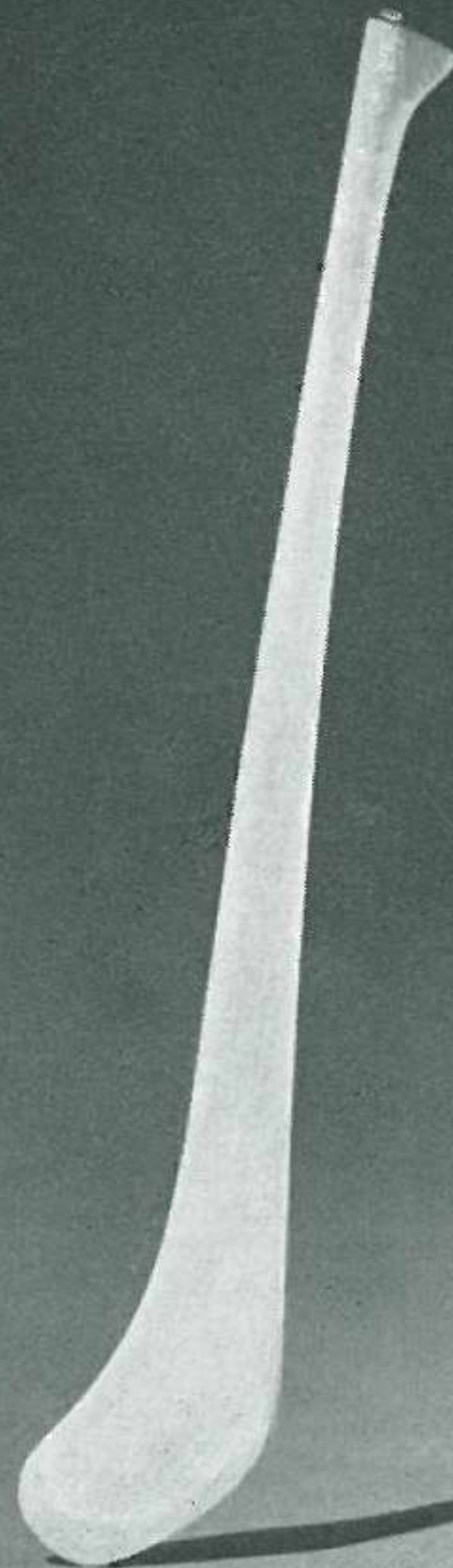
**O**NE of the pioneers of Gaelic games in Co. Kerry was Moore Stack, who was a noted Fenian and who spent some time in prison with the famous Charles J. Kickham. Moore Stack was, of course, father of the great Kerry footballer, Austin Stack.

\* \* \*

Do you know . . . that the first Gaelic footballer to perfect the raising of the ball with the toe was M. Kennedy of Roseberry, Co. Kildare.

(Continued page 25.)

"the clash of  
the ash-  
and pride in  
St. Lua..."



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**GO  
WELL**

**GO**



# MATTIE McDONAGH'S UNIQUE RECORD

*By Patrick Carver.*

THOSE who watched Galway and Roscommon in their Connacht minor football championship game at Ballinasloe in May, 1953, noticed nothing out of the ordinary. For, indeed, nothing extraordinary happened in this particular game.

True, they may have been impressed with the performance of a sturdily-built lad, wearing the No. 9 jersey for Galway. His name, according to the programme, was M. McDonagh and he gave every indication of first-class promise. His fielding was excellent, his kicking magnificent and he showed speed, anticipation and intelligence in almost every move he made.

Outside of that there was nothing unusual, other than the fact that Galway, who had been strongly fancied, were well beaten.

A week passed and again there was a minor championship game at Ballinasloe and again it was between Galway and Roscommon. This time, however, it was a hurling game.

And this time, the spectators did see something out of the ordinary, particularly one of them—the famous John Dunne, former Galway All-Ireland footballer and now one of the Trustees of the G.A.A.

Out there on the field again was a sturdily-built young man and, according to the programme, his name was M. McDonagh . . . and

he was wearing the No. 9 jersey.

Only this time, however, it was a Roscommon jersey!

And, oddly enough, it was all perfectly legal. Mattie McDonagh—for our young hero was the same man whose name to-day is almost synonymous with Galway football—had every right to play for both Galway and Roscommon in the Connacht championships that year.

Mattie comes from Ballygar and when the Ballygar football team was started around 1951, they played in Co. Galway competitions, for as everyone knows, Ballygar is about a mile from the Roscommon border.

However, at that time, Ballygar were playing in Roscommon hurling competitions and, in fact, it is on record that they won the senior hurling championship of Roscommon in 1952. They had been given permission to play in Roscommon, so that the Ballygar



*Mattie McDonagh*

hurlers would have a chance of improving before moving into Galway competitions.

Fortunately, in view of the complex situation that might have blown up had both the Galway minor football team and the Roscommon minor hurling sides reached the Connacht finals that year, both were beaten in the preliminary rounds.

But the circumstances did however, give Mattie MacDonagh the unique distinction of playing for two counties on successive Sundays in the same year's provincial championships, with the same two counties involved in both games.

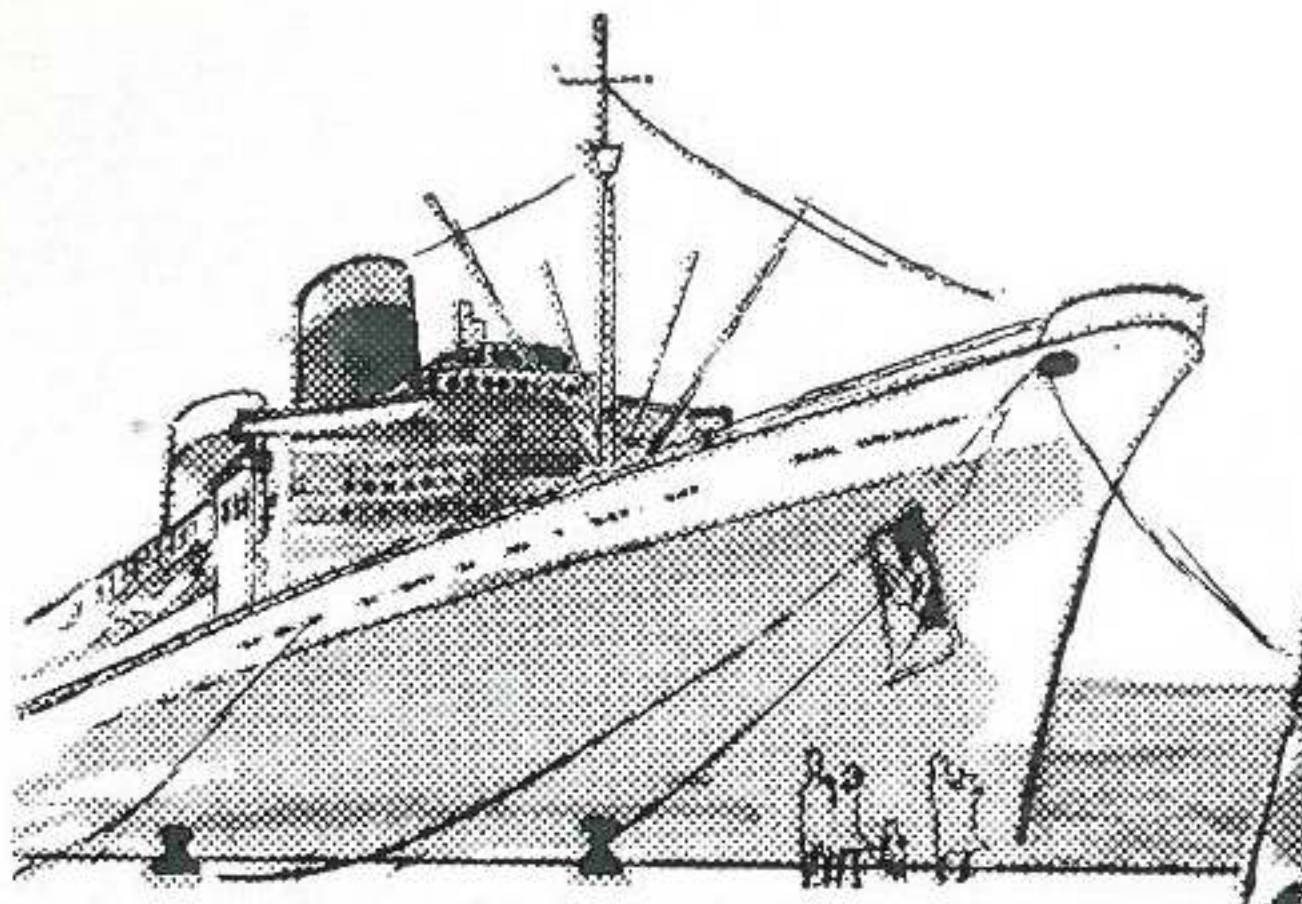
But this could not happen today; nowadays there is no hurling team in Ballygar.

## Mayo May Recall Dan O'Neill

Dan O'Neill, the Mayoman, who won an All-Ireland medal as a midfielder with Louth in 1957, and a League medal with his native Mayo in 1954, is back again in his native Castlebar and will assist the home club in 1963. If Dan can regain his former fitness and dash, Mayo might do well to recall him

for the vital championship clash with Galway in June in Dan's own Castlebar.

Speaking of Castlebar reminds us that this enterprising and ambitious club, who were the first G.A.A. club to embark on a U.S. tour, are planning a ten days tour of England this summer.



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**ANGRY YOUNG**  
**MEN ARE**  
**VERY CLEVER**

**P**LAYWRIGHT John B. Keane recently turned lexicographer and coined a new word, "plupatriotic," to add spice to an eloquent verbal assault on the Ban. Gaelic Sport's balladman, Sean O'Neill, finds in this the subject for a parody on John B.'s own ballad from his most famous play "Sive."

**PLUPATRIOTIC**

Oh, John B. you are the man  
That is always in the van,  
With an open mouth to old man  
and garsun;  
Plates of snuff they say you ate,  
Baker's bread and currany cake,  
For 'tis plenty you are saying late  
and soon.

'Tis on the road to Abbeyfeale,  
Selling flour and selling meal,  
You should spend what you have  
of idle time,  
Faith 'tis you that's making bold  
Trying to cod the young and old  
Plupatriotic is a tough one for a  
child.

Come all good men and true,  
This sad tale I'll tell to you  
Of a playwright glib who never  
sticks to plays;  
He has got so much to say,  
So plupatriotic in his way,  
But I guess he'll have to end it  
late or soon.

For there can't be so much left  
For a playwright even deft  
As the bold John B. from storied  
old Listowel,  
Every sacred cow he's killed,  
Every paper he has filled,  
The bold man from the mountain  
John B. Dubh.

:: :: ::

*They say that Cain killed Abel  
And that John B. would kill the  
Ban;  
But this "Keane" 'aint able  
Even though he thinks he can.*



# Wembley ties should draw record crowd

By 'JEDA'

THE London County Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association is now embarking on its 68th year, and it was but fitting that the start of the 1963 season once again brought a record number of affiliated clubs, which now stands at 65, representing over 4,000 registered members. It is a recognised fact that in the lean years as well as the good, the London Board has been fortunate in having men of integrity, men of foresight at the helm. The achievements of the Board in the years since the war—the perfecting of club organisation, the increase in competitions to suit all grades, and the acquisition of the fine playing fields at New Eltham — are a lasting monument to hard-working, earnest officials and a real boon to the many young Irishmen who cross the Irish Sea.

The fact that only £6,000 remains of the debt of over £20,000 incurred to purchase the ground at New Eltham speaks well for the men who have handled the finances in recent years and the one aim of the present treasurer — Johnny Moriarty, of Lispole, Co. Kerry, is to clear off the existing debt and get down to the serious task of developing the ground which is now valued in the region of £50,000.

Johnny, who has been Board Treasurer for the past five years learned his football with the Christian Brothers of Dingle and won four Senior county championship medals with Dingle. He is also the proud possessor of an All-

Ireland Senior football medal, won with his native Kerry in 1939, when still at College.

The London Board owes much of its present high standing to the leadership and efficiency of its chairman, Jim Mullarkey, who has held office for seven years. Although born in Tubercurry, Co. Sligo, Jim was brought up in Galway where he played for the Tuam Stars. Since coming to London also he has made his mark in the business field and is now an official of one of the leading building companies in the capital.

Secretary, Jerry Daly, of Castlemaine, Co. Kerry, has been in office for three years. He took over from John Dunne, Portarlington, Laois, who had to tender his resignation due to being transferred to Hastings. Down through the years, London has been fortunate in having such able G.A.A. officials including Jim Conway (Cavan), Jack Shalloe (recently deceased, of Kilkenny), Rev. Fr. J. Cremin (Kerry), Liam Geraghty (Kildare) and Paddy O'Donoghue (Limerick). Liam Geraghty is, of course, the present chairman of the Kildare County Board and Leinster Council.

The London Board is now finalising its plans for the double-decker programme being staged at Wembley Stadium on Whit Saturday, June 1st, and already the first step has been taken in advertising the games throughout Britain. In spite of the fact that the Board has made an overall handsome profit on these fixtures, it is a sad fact

that the attendance has never reached the 40,000 mark during the five years of their existence, notwithstanding the fact that there is an estimated Irish population in London of over 500,000. However, hopes are high that a new attendance record will be set up this year especially as the cream of Irish teams will be in action.

In football, the drawing power of the All-Ireland champions, Kerry, should bring the crowds flocking to Wembley, especially as their opponents will be either Cavan or Down, either of whom would prove most popular. The disappointing attendance at last year's fixtures was attributed mainly to the deflection of Down, who were obliged to fulfil another engagement in the U.S.A., and in view of the thrilling encounter between Kerry and Down at Wembley two years ago, a repeat performance is eagerly awaited.

However, the London Board is not unmindful of the fact that Kerry and Cavan set up an attendance record at Mitcham Stadium some ten years ago when several thousand spectators were unable to gain admittance, and the revival of the Ulster champions after some years in the wilderness would add greatly to their popularity at Wembley.

In hurling, Tipperary are no strangers to London having appeared in the capital almost continuously from 1947 onwards. The superb display of the All-Ireland champions in overcoming Dublin in the 1962 Wembley fixture should whet the appetite of the most ardent hurling supporter and the forthcoming clash between Tipperary and Kilkenny should prove to be one of the best games seen in Britain for years.

When the counties last met in a challenge game at Birmingham in September, 1962, Kilkenny upset the book of form by scoring the narrowest of victories over their fancied rivals and Midland Gaels will flock to the Wembley fixture in anticipation of a repeat performance.

With seventeen Senior football clubs taking part in the London competitions the standard has improved immeasurably in recent years. Parnells who won the 1962 Championship with the assistance of such outstanding players as John Jennings (Mayo), Frank Hurley (Kerry), Larry Bolger (Offaly) and P. J. Gaughan (Mayo), should again be very much to the

(Continued overleaf.)

(From previous page.)

fore this season, although the champions were defeated in the first round of the current Tipperary Cup by an impressive Naomh Mhuire fifteen.

Highlight of the game was the splendid form of the Naomh Mhuire full back, Sean Mulderrig, and the years rest lightly on this former Mayo stalwart. The acquisition of Gene Driscoll (Kerry), Pat Fitzmaurice (Galway), Jackie Devine (Longford) and Joe Hughes (Carlow) enhances Naomh Mhuire's prospects of regaining the Senior crown.

In spite of having lost the service of the Roscommon county player, George Geraghty, Garryowen should also make a big impression in the 1963 competitions as they have outstanding players in Sean Diggins (Galway), Sean Murphy (Cavan), Frank Duignan (Meath) and Tommy Dowling (Kildare).

Having brought off the championship and league double in 1962 Brian Boru's, one of London's oldest hurling clubs, are strongly

tipped to make their presence felt once again this season. A proud boast of the Brian Boru officials is that ten of the players who figured in the 1962 championship final represented London at various stages during the past few years. Among these were Paddy Ryan (Tipperary), Val O'Halloran (Clare), Paddy O'Dwyer (Tipperary), John Dorgan (Cork), Michael Barnaville (Tipperary), the Hickey brothers (Tipperary), Pat Harney (Dublin) and Michael Craddock (Tipperary).

The G.A.A. is also going ahead by leaps and bounds in Warwickshire where the main games are played at Glebe Farm, Birmingham. The newly appointed chairman of the Warwickshire Board is Doctor John McAndrew, the former Mayo star. John is also captain of the John Mitchels Club and his consistent form is certain to ensure his automatic selection at full-back on the county team.

Warwickshire have always been prominent in the provincial championships of Britain and although London have had the edge during the past few years, their victories

over the Midland teams have never been decisive.

In view of the success of the Tipperary-Kilkenny Senior hurling challenge at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, last September, the Warwickshire Board is considering staging another such fixture this year, although not necessarily a hurling tie. Big drawback at the moment is the lack of a permanent ground in Birmingham but the board is gradually building its finances with the eventual aim of owning a ground of its own. At the present time, the board has a credit surplus of over £4,000.

The current Down midfielder, Joe Lennon, is now domiciled in Birmingham and assists the John Mitchels Football Club, although, of course, he is quite eligible to represent his native county.

One of Britain's most progressive boards is Hertfordshire. Formed some five years ago to cater for the overflow from London, Hertfordshire is now gradually overtaking such established boards as London and Warwickshire. Rev. Fr. Jerome O'Hanlon, of Lombardstown, Co. Cork, who has been chairman since the inception of the board is to be congratulated on the terrific strides made, and this year Hertfordshire are strongly tipped to make their presence felt in the provincial championships. At the recent Convention, Jim McNicholas (Charlestown, Co. Mayo) was appointed secretary, and the efficient treasurer is Joe Swift of Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.

The affairs of the association are also in safe hands in Gloucester where the go-ahead Secretary, Frank Bellew, of Monaghan, is delighted at the increase in the number of clubs this year. Hurling and football clubs have been affiliated from Gloucester, Cheltenham, Newport, Cardiff, Swindon, Salisbury and Southampton and when it is realised that 150 miles separate the Newport and Southampton clubs, the difficulties of the board officials can be appreciated.

Britain's weakest board, East Midlands, have at last consolidated their position after years of uphill struggle, and the chairman, Sean McCabe (Cavan), is most confident as to future prospects. Mr. McCabe attributes this optimism to the resurgence of clubs in Nottingham, Derby, Mansfield and Lincoln and already there are hopes that further clubs will be formed in the outlying districts.

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(From page 19.)

In their Croke Cup game in 1906, Mayo and Kerry played what must have been one of the lowest-scoring games in the history of the G.A.A. At the end of the hour the scoreboard read: Mayo, 0-1; Kerry, 0-1.

\* \* \*

IN Dublin, in January, 1740, a football match, under the accepted rules of the time, was played on the river Liffey. The river was frozen to a depth of six inches.

\* \* \*

How many Gaelic games—major ones—have been played in this country, outside of Sundays and Church Holidays? A nice question . . . that could lead to a few arguments. We remember one—on Easter Monday, 1941—when Munster met Ulster in a Railway Cup final replay.



*Determination gleamed in every tensed muscle as Waterford's Phil Grimes—with Tom Cheasty in support—advanced on the Wexford goal during the play-off for leadership of Group A (Division I) of the National Hurling League at Kilkenny. Waterford triumphed by a goal—2-7 to 1-7.*

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**C**HRIS MURRAY, our G.A.A. question-time expert, presents another set of 20 questions:

- 1—Sean Ferriter of Donegal plays for what club?
- 2—When did we have our first telecast of Gaelic games from Croke Park from Telefis Eireann?
- 3—Was there a live telecast from Croke Park prior to then?
- 4—If so, who was the commentator?
- 5—John Doyle of Tipperary hails from . . . ?
- 6—What are the club colours of Tuam Stars?
- 7—Christy Ring is a native of what Cork village?
- 8—Name the trophy presented for the All-Ireland senior hurling championship?
- 9—Sam Maguire was born in . . . ?
- 10—What is the official name for the G.A.A. pitch in Tralee?
- 11—What footballer was popularly known as “the flying doctor”?
- 12—Cathal Flynn, the Leitrim forward, plays club football in Dublin. With what club?
- 13—Who were the All-Ireland Colleges S.H. champions of 1962?
- 14—Who were their opponents in the final?
- 15—Mick Mackey played with what famous Limerick club?
- 16—Name the three stands in Croke Park?
- 17—Who is the longest-serving member of the present Down football team?
- 18—Who is the longest-serving member of the Waterford hurling team?
- 19—Kerry defeated Dublin in the All-Ireland final of 1955. Who was their full forward on that occasion?
- 20—Name Dublin’s left half back on that occasion?

(Answers on page 32.)

# Frank McFeely

'A truly remarkable rise to stardom'

By HUGH O'DONNELL

ONLY a year in senior inter-county football and at mid-field for but half of that period, yet to-day Donegal's youthful Frank McFeely is hailed as the heir apparent to Mick O'Connell. His has been a truly remarkable rise to stardom and one which personifies the great football resurgence in his native county.

A product of St. Columb's College, Derry, where his uncle, Very Rev. A. C. McFeely, now parish priest of Strabane, was President, Frank made the Donegal minor team in 1961.

Some great performances with his home club, MacCumhailis, followed and in April '62 he joined his elder brother, Brendan, on the county senior team. Frank's debut was against Armagh in the Dr. McKenna Cup; he played at right full forward.

Donegal lost and their next outing was in June against Derry in the Ulster championship. For this game McFeely changed corners but again Donegal were beaten.

From June to September last, Donegal remained inactive in intercounty competition. Then came the Dr. Lagan Cup competition and Donegal were on the march. Leading them was the tall, young man from Ballybofey, Frank McFeely, who by now was playing at midfield.

The Dr. Lagan Cup semi-final against Tyrone put the final seal of greatness on McFeely. In this game he was unbeatable and when Donegal met Down in the final two weeks later, the Ballybofey man repeated his performance and outclassed all that the

mighty Mournemen could put against him.

Croke Park saw him star on March 17, and twenty-four hours later it hailed him again when he led Donegal in a mighty rally against All-Ireland champions, Kerry.

Six days later McFeely was back again, this time starring for

the Combined Universities; and so in the space of eight days he thrilled Croke Park a third time.

What a pity Mick O'Connell was missing from the Kingdom line-out. It would surely have been a clash of giants. But this clash will come; for Frank McFeely has arrived at the top in Gaelic football and there he will stay for many a day.

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# LACK OF SOCIAL LIFE

**T**HE absence of social activities in the Gaelic Athletic Association has been stressed by Padraig O Caoimh, Alf Murray and a number of other prominent figures in recent weeks and now that proper emphasis has been laid on this deficiency, let us hope that a general remedial movement will begin.

When compared with other sporting bodies it is immediately obvious that the social calendar of the G.A.A., apart from a get-together for presentation of

medals, is far from full. There are those, of course, who say that the be-all of some other organisations is the light fantastic at week-ends; that their existence depends on being seen at the right type of shindig in the company of the right people and that the G.A.A. man (or lady) has a higher motive than that. Be that as it may, I maintain that there is no reason why more social intercourse cannot go hand-in-glove with the idealistic outlook.

As a player, I found that my


contact with my opposite numbers on other teams, whether club, county or provincial, began with the "throw-in" and ended with the peremptory handshake at the end of the game. A rushed post-game meal and a hurried exit from the venue, as if the other team were forming a posse to run us out of town, were the usual procedures. Many years later I met some of my erstwhile opponents and found them to be men whose friendly acquaintance off the field in our playing days would have been an enjoyable experience.

An instance of what could be done to engender friendship and understanding between players was my experience with the All-Army team of the late 'forties. Antrim were at that time knocking at the All-Ireland door and the County Board was also raising funds for the development of Casement Park. As part of the scheme an All-Army team and the Dublin camogie team travelled to Belfast for a week-end to take on the Antrim teams. The southern teams travelled together from Amiens Street and there and then many an army man became a camogie fan.

Officials of both Antrim Boards took us under their wings from the moment we arrived and after the games, on the Sunday, both sides sat down to a meal together with players fraternising, getting tips, hearing of the difficulties in another county with many a pair conversing in our native tongue. A

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# IN THE G.A.A.

ceili was laid on and every member of both Antrim teams made it a point to escort some member of the other teams to the hall and introductions all round lent the proceedings an informal and enjoyable atmosphere. For myself, I became fast friends with the great Harry O'Neill who, during the game at Corrigan Park, had sent me careering across the side-line nose first. Harry took me on a tour of Belfast in his car and later he and his friends treated us to some beautiful northern ballads.

This is just one example of what can be done. Who can say that to-day we, who were lucky to be feted by those wonderful Antrim people, have not a better understanding of their difficulties, and esteem them all the more for their undoubted patriotism, friendliness and Irish-Ireland outlook?

At club level within a county it should not be impossible, or costly, to fete a visiting team occasionally. Much bitterness and the parochial outlook would be eradicated; it would become obvious that the "ogre" one had been marking on the field was a nice chap after all; maybe even that his female relations were not the screaming hellions we had imagined and their acquaintance should be cultivated further!

At inter-county level it is impossible to put on the social trimmings during the championship as teams invariably

(Continued page 53.)



*Waterford defenders clearing a high ball in the N.H.L. (Group A) play-off against Wexford at Nowlan Park.*



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# LÁ DÁ RAIBH

le Seán O Dúnagáin.

**B**E Ré na Práinne ré na peile san Arm. Mar a shílfeá chuaigh roinnt mhaith peileadóirí as gach contae isteach sna Fórsa Cosanta nuair a séideadh an rabhachán i mí Mheithimh 1940. Chomh maith leis an líon aonaid san Arm féin tháinig méadú mór ar an méid fóirne a bhí ar fáil agus, maille le sin, ar an méid comórtas a reachtáilleadh.

Nílím ag rá gur chuir peileadóirí idir-chontae caighdeán peile an Airm ar a bhonnaibh an tráth úd. Fheabhsaigh comórtaisí is traenáil an Airm cumas an-chuid peileadóirí measardha agus, dá thoradh gur togadh ar fóirne a gContae iad. Mar sin, ó thaobh na peile dhe, ba mhaith an rud an Phráinn!

I rith na mblianta sin is insa Chéad Chathlán Ghaelach i nGaillimh a bhíos fostaithe agus in éineacht liom ar fhoirinn an aonaid sin bhí daoine mar Joe Keohane (Ciarraí), Eddie Condon, John Burke agus Connie O'Connor (Gaillimh), Seán Gallagher (Aontruim), Colm Browne (Lúghaí), Jimmie Clifford (Gaillimh, Corcaigh, Ciarraí) agus beirt a d'imir le Gaillimh 'na dhiaidh sin Mick Collins (An Clochán) agus Henry O'Toole (Uachtar Ard). Is comhartha é sin ceapaim, den chaighdeán peile an uair úd, agus lasmuigh de chomórtaisí Airm deirim gurbh mhaith an rud do chaighdeán peile na Gaillimhe foireann mar sin bheith ag imirt sna craobh-chluichí sa Chontae.

Bhí fóirne dá leithéid siúd ina lán áitheacha agus toisc aonaid a bheith scaipithe go maith ar fud na tíre tharla go raibh sár-fhóirne Airm i gceantracha nach aibh an caighdeán ró-árd iontu. Dá bharr sin bhí comórtaisí peile níos suimiúla sna contaethe sin agus is iomaí fear ó chontae eile a togadh ar fhoirinn an chontae ina raibh a aonad suite.

Dá thoradh bhí peileadóirí cliútacha a rug bonn Craobh na hEireann leo le contaethe eile seachas a gcontaethe dúchais. Tagann chun cuimhne láithreach Mich Tubridy (R.I.P.), agus Jim Cronin le Corcaigh 1945. Cé déarfadh liom go mbuafadh Corcaigh 'na n-eaghmais? Caleb Crone (R.I.P.) agus Bertie Murphy le hAth Cliath 1942, beirt eile a spreagann chun cuimhne agus lasmuigh de Chraobh na hEireann smaoiním ar Mick O'Brien as Tiobrad Arann a d'imir le Cill Dara agus Laighean, Ger Kavanagh (Portláirgeach) lán-taca do Loch Garmán agus Cúige Laighean 1945 agus Sean Brennan as Cill Choinnigh a bhain amach cliú dó féin le Cill Dara.

Mar sin táim ag ceapadh gurbé Ré na Práinne an Ré Peile ab' fhearr san Arm. Is trua nach raibh comórtaisí idir an Arm agus Eire an taca sin mar dhéarfainn gur a mhalairt de scéal a bheadh ann agus atá i láthair na huaire nuair nach féidir le foireann an Airm an fód a sheasamb le muintir na nOllscoil. Anseo thios foireann Airm amháin ó Ré na Práinne a d'fhéadfadh dubhshlán fóirne ar bith a thabhairt:—

D. O'Keeffe (Corcaigh); Martin O'Brien (Cill Dara agus Laighean), Joe Keohane (Ciarraí is Mumha), Bill Jackson (Roscommon agus Connacht); Eddie Condon (Gaillimh agus Connacht), John Joe O'Reilly (Cabhán agus Uladh), Simon Deignan (Cabhán agus Uladh); Liam Gilmartin (Roscomáin agus Connacht), Sean Gallagher (Aontruim agus Uladh); Mick Tubridy (Corcaigh agus Mumha), Eamonn Young (Corcaigh agus Mumha), Seán Brennan (Cill Dara agus Laighean); Paddy Kehoe (Loch Garman agus Laighean), Jim Cronin (Corcaigh agus Mumha), Mick O'Brien (Cill Dara agus Laighean).



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## QUIZ ANSWERS

(Answers to questions on page 26.)

- 1—Dungloe.
- 2—St. Patrick's Day, 1962.
- 3—Yes on All-Ireland S.F. Final day 1961, when the B.B.C. televised the Down v. Offaly game.
- 4—Jim McKeever of Derry football fame.
- 5—Holycross (Co. Tipperary).
- 6—Red and White.
- 7—Cloyne.
- 8—Liam McCarthy Cup.
- 9—Dunmanway (Co. Cork).
- 10—Austin Stack Park.
- 11—Padraic Carney of Mayo, who flew from the United States in 1954 to help his native county win the semi-final and final of the National Football League.
- 12—Sean Mac Dermott's.
- 13—St. Peter's College, Wexford.
- 14—Ennis C.B.S.
- 15—Ahane.
- 16—Hogan, Cusack and Nally.
- 17—George Lavery.
- 18—Phil Grimes.
- 19—Mick Murphy.
- 20—Nicky Maher, a highly talented player.

## Catch for Mayo

The former Leitrim and St. Mel's College footballer, Davy Doris, has declared for Mayo for the coming year. Doris, at present a student in U.C.D. with whom he played Sigerson Cup football in 1962, was one of the best, if not the very best College footballer in the 1960-61 season.

Then as a very talented centre-half forward, he played a major part in helping St. Mel's reach the Hogan Cup final, before yielding to St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, in a great decider.

Davy has not realised his full potential in senior county fields as yet, but when he does, he will be a decided acquisition to Mayo's senior football team.

# SCRAPBOOK

By EAMONN YOUNG

**K**ERRYMEN have not taken kindly to the suggestion made verbally and in print this spring that they are not playing their part in the long-awaited return to Munster of the football Railway Cup. There is no longer any fear, I am glad to say that the players will not be fit, for there is only one other medal which the Kerry footballer now values more than the one which he might win on St. Patrick's Day. Small blame to him—there aren't that many of those medals in the province now. I'm looking forward to next year and a real sensible and well-organised effort to win the trophy which has eluded us since '49.

\* \* \*

"NOT much use in having fields if there's no one to hurl in them," said Derry Gowan at the gathering in North Cork some time ago. Yes, we have the fields and will have more but what has become of the cost of the caman? Like everything else, it has soared and in no other game is one likely to lose most of a pound's worth in the first blow.

One of the reasons that the price remains high is because the hurley-maker cannot in most cases sell direct to the clubs. **HE'S TIED TO THE RETAILER.** The solution is for friendly clubs (we surely have a few) to come together in a co-operative effort,

buy standing ash, have it cut, transported, sawed and shaped by craftsmen attached to their own clubs. Each man should be paid for his work and you can be sure the price of the stick will come down by enough to put two hurleys playing where we now have one. After all, that's what we want, isn't it?

\* \* \*

**TELEVISION** is a success. For a while we doubted if the hurling game could be telecast successfully and feared that a combination of bad reception and failing eye-sight would leave us lamenting. The thrilling Railway Cup game on St. Patrick's Day dispelled these fears and the speed, the cut, parry and dash of the incomparable iomaniocht came to life on the silver screen with a vivacity that excited the viewers.

One suggestion to those competent TE men: there's no point in showing us, for anything up to five seconds, a white sliotar rolling along the ground without a player in sight. What we want to see is not so much the ball (just then, anyhow) but a pair of hardy athletes straining every muscle to outwit each other in the race for possession. One of the great attractions of games is in their revealing of character. We never see that more plainly than in the struggle for the ball. Just then

the human is far more interesting than a mere fistful of cork, hair and leather.

\* \* \*

**SPEAKING** of the excitement that can be created by TV, it's doubtful if anyone had the audience in such a frenzy as that man with the thrill in his throat, Micheal O hEithir. Years ago, Cork footballers were playing and the words of the commentator were being eaten up in a small pub in West Cork. A free was given to the county and they were only two points down with ten minutes to go. A deadly hush fell and the pint glasses were laid down softly on the floor or counter; not a sound. "He's walking up," says O hEithir, "and he kicks . . . wide." "Blast it," said the old footballer, "why the hell didn't I take it myself?"

\* \* \*

**THE OTHER** Sunday in a Cork schoolboys' game a high ball landed near the goalmouth, and lo, as if the wand of a magician had waved, just as the ball touched the ground it vanished from sight. The grass was not by any means long enough to hide it. Closer inspection revealed a deep rut in the ground a foot wide, and looking closer still they found that the **BALL HAD VANISHED**

(Continued on page 35.)



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(From page 33.)

WITHOUT TRACE. A watchful father gathered his two small sons: "Come on," says he, "whatever about the ball I can't afford to lose the two of ye."

\* \* \*

A SMALL MAN—a good friend of mine—went to see Kerry play Cork in the Munster football final in the Park. The place was packed and the gates were open—not to let folk in, but to let those who couldn't stick the going, out. The small man didn't see a player or a jersey. He saw the white bail going up in the air and coming down again. He came away convinced that Cork were longer kickers than Kerry.

\* \* \*

IT WAS in '27, I think, when Cork hurlers played All-Ireland champions Tipperary after they had come back from the States. The terraces bursting at the seams could hold the crowd no longer and the torrent of people simply overflowed in peaceful invasion right onto the pitch. Paddy Leahy of Tipperary says the reason was that Cork people were just dying to see at close quarters the world champions from Tipperary.

\* \* \*

NOTHING bores me as much as the egotistical old-timer who pontificates about the great men long ago (the term means anything from sixty to ten years). I always felt that the young fellows of today trained as hard, and pointed to the increased athletic standards to prove it. I'm getting shaky on the point having seen too many twenty-one-year-olds going out half-trained in the last year to ignore the point.

Too many of them are sitting in offices, driving cars, and relaxing in cinema seats. Even the farmer gets a lot of his work done mechanically and it is doubtful if we will now find so often the tough young countryman who can work from seven in the morning and go out that evening to cut

## ALL-BLACKS' ACTION BAFFLED REFEREE

By PATRICK CARVER

It was the summer of 1943—a glorious summer's evening at Wexford Park—and the All-Blacks and Cathal Brugha were fighting out a tense game in the Towns' League. This, as many Wexford people will remember, was being run to raise funds to erect a memorial to the famous Wexford footballer, "Sacker" Furlong, who had died during the previous year.

Coming towards the end of the game, the referee, Brendan Corish, now a well-known personality of Dail Eireann, awarded a 21-yards free to the Cathal Brugha side. At this stage, the teams were level and tension was high.

As a point was almost certain for Cathal Brugha, the All-Blacks decided the time had come for swift and sud-

den action. Indeed, extraordinary action.

First they packed the goal-mouth and then, six or seven or possibly eight—climbed up the uprights and, locking themselves arm in arm, they stood along the crossbar.

Alas, this gallant and unprecedented effort came to naught. Cathal Brugha scored the point and, subsequently, won the game.

Brendan Corish recalls that, at the time, he was worried as to whether the action of the All-Blacks was legal. However, he checked up on it afterwards and, as far as he was able to trace, there was no rule in the G.A.A. to prevent them from doing so.

Recently I talked to a man who was present at this extraordinary game. "It had to be seen to be believed," he told me.

his way through the best of 'em with shoulders and hips hardened by the manly work of his calling.

I think we're getting soft and whose fault is it? It's our own. I mean the middle-aged folk like myself. We're rearing the kids soft, and we don't drop from our teams the lads who are more interested in that other manly pastime of courting.

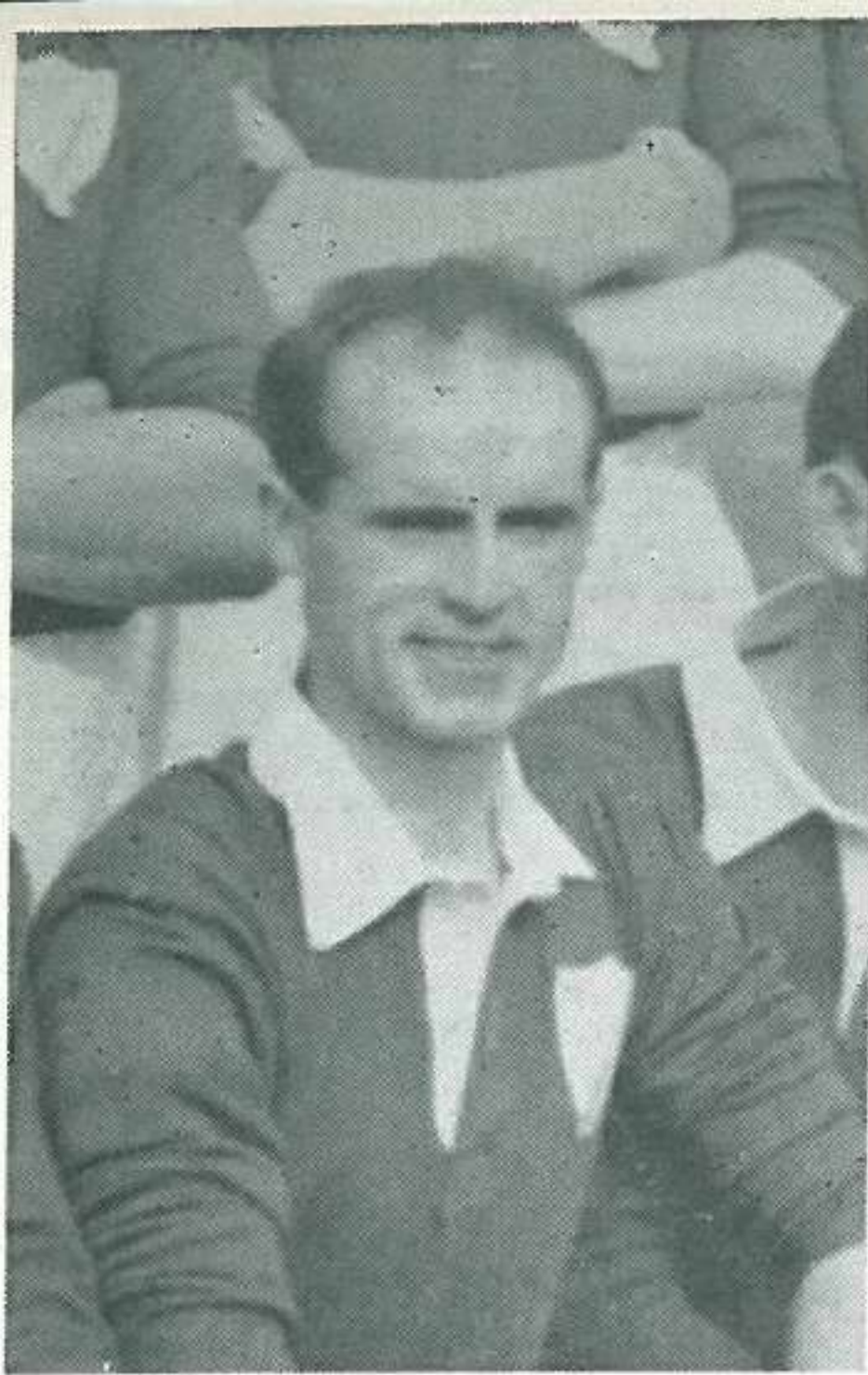
\* \* \*

THE BOYS of the village had won the hurling championship and the place was afire with joy. They would take the cup down to the Canon and Paddy Cullinane would present it to him. There were many men of greater standing than

Paddy but he was a "good aul' skin" and a bit of a character.

In the Canon's drawing-room Paddy made the speech and the Canon was delighted, so he gave the men a pound. This was fifty years ago. Later when Paddy was paying for the drink the boys said: "I'll have a pint, Mr. Cullinane . . . I'll try a medium, Mr. Cullinane. . . ." But as the night wore on Paddy began to see the light.

"Ah, I know ye," he turned on them fiercely. "While I'm buying I'll be Mr. Cullinane, but when the pound is gone ye'll be calling me 'Patchen the Gander.'" Isn't that the way of the world!



Frankie Byrne

**T**HE period 1940-49 could well be regarded as the greatest in the history of the G.A.A. For this was the great era of expansion as the playing strength of the association showed a marked increase and attendances at All-Ireland finals soared. It also was an era of change as new names were inscribed on the Sam Maguire Cup and within the provinces weaker counties rose to offer stern opposition to their more exalted rivals.

The dawn of the decade saw Europe embroiled in World War II and although Ireland had no part in the bitter struggle she could not escape the atmosphere of uncertainty and excitement which pervaded Europe. This atmosphere is normally the constant companion of any inter-county senior championship clash; but with the abandoning of the National League during the war, the All-Ireland series roused followers' interest to fever pitch as never before.

The average attendance at All-Ireland finals during the 1930's was 45,000. Yet, despite travel restrictions, more than 79,000 fans flocked to Croke Park to see Roscommon defeat Kerry in 1944 and by the end of the decade even this figure was topped on September 23rd, 1949, when Meath won their first senior football title and robbed Cavan of their expected hat-trick.

## Stirring The Embers Of Other Days

# Football in the 'Forties

By FRANKIE BYRNE, former Meath star.

Six counties shared All-Ireland titles in the 40's. Kerry, with such immortals as Danno Keefe, Joe Keonane, Paddy Kennedy, Gega Connor and Batt Garvey had the lion's share and helped themselves to three in 1940, '41 and '40. Dublin took the title in 1942 at the expense of Galway, mainly due to the brilliance of "Beery" Kenney, Bobby Beggs, Peter O'Reilly, Brendan Quinn and Paddy Bermingham. It was a case of third time lucky for Beggs who had figured unsuccessfully with Galway in the two previous finals. It must have been a galling experience for the Corribmen to be beaten in three successive finals.

Then came Roscommon, the glamour team of the mid-'forties. Powered by the Murray brothers of Knockcroghery, Jimmy and Phelim; Brendan Lynch, Bill Carlos and Donal Keenan, they literally rose from the ranks winning the minor title in 1939, the junior title in 1940 and becoming senior titleholders in 1943-44.

Cork became worthy champions in 1945 when they beat their more fancied rivals Cavan. I will long remember the dynamic display of Eamonn Young at midfield, the undaunted spirit of Weesh Murphy at fullback, the opportunism of Derry Beckett and the determination of the late Mick Tubridy.

But the men from Breffni could not be long denied their laurels and from 1947-49 they were well nigh invincible. Led by that wonderful captain, the late J. J.

O'Reilly and with a star-studded line-out that included Mick Higgins, Simon Deignan, the late Paul Duke, Tony Tighe and Peter O'Donoghue they were the toast of New York when defeating Kerry in that history-making All-Ireland final played on a bone-hard pitch in the Polo Grounds.

Cavan successfully defended their title in 1948 despite a grandstand finish by gallant Mayo. To Meath fell the honour of finally toppling their great rivals and neighbours, Cavan, and so record their first All-Ireland. Since the mid-forties, Meath had been gradually stringing together a more than useful combination and when Paddy O'Brien, a top-class centre-field, was placed at full-back he formed the centrepiece of what was to become one of the greatest, if not the greatest, full-back line of all time. With forwards of the calibre of Peter McDermott, Paddy Meegan and Brian Smith, Meath had arrived and were destined to remain in the limelight for several years to come.

While newcomers Roscommon, Meath and Cork, who hadn't won a senior football title since 1911, were blazing historic trails in the 'forties, two other counties also captured the imagination of the football public during this exciting decade. Lowly Carlow made the headlines in 1944 when they won their first ever Leinster senior crown. Pitted against mighty Kerry in the semi-final they won the hearts of Gaels throughout the country by their tremendous dis-

play and though narrowly defeated they had outstanding players in Jim Morris, "Jimma" Rea and "Penny" Whelan who brought Carlow to the fore as a football force in Leinster. Like Kerry in Munster, Cavan were almost perennial champions of Ulster. But in 1946 they relinquished their crown and to Croke Park to do battle with the Kingdom came the new Ulster title holders, Antrim.

Although they, too, tasted the bitter cup of narrow defeat, those saffron-clad lads from the north were to become the most exciting and controversial team in the history of the G.A.A. Names like Kevin Armstrong, Sean Gallagher, Sean Gibson, Joe MacCallin and Georgie Waterson became household words and as long as Gaels are wont to reminisce about past games, so long will their feats live fresh in the memory.

The Railway Cup competition received a shot in the arm on St. Patrick's Day, 1942, when Ulster defeated fourteen Kerrymen and Eamonn Young, representing Munster. Winning two more titles before the close of the decade the Northern province became the force in football they remain today. Their distinctive style of play always made for an exciting game when pitted against opponents who favoured what is loosely described as "traditional" football. Apart from Cavan and Antrim stars already mentioned, players like Big Jim McCullagh, Columba McDyer, "Sticky" Maguire and the late Vincent Duffy left an indelible imprint on the game.

Regrettably, the 1949 decider between Meath and Cavan was the last All-Ireland final in which the handpass was used. Its cumbersome successor, the fisted pass, more than any other single factor, has served to rob this wonderful game of much of its speed, skill and grace of movement, so that for me, football in the 'forties was superior to anything I have seen

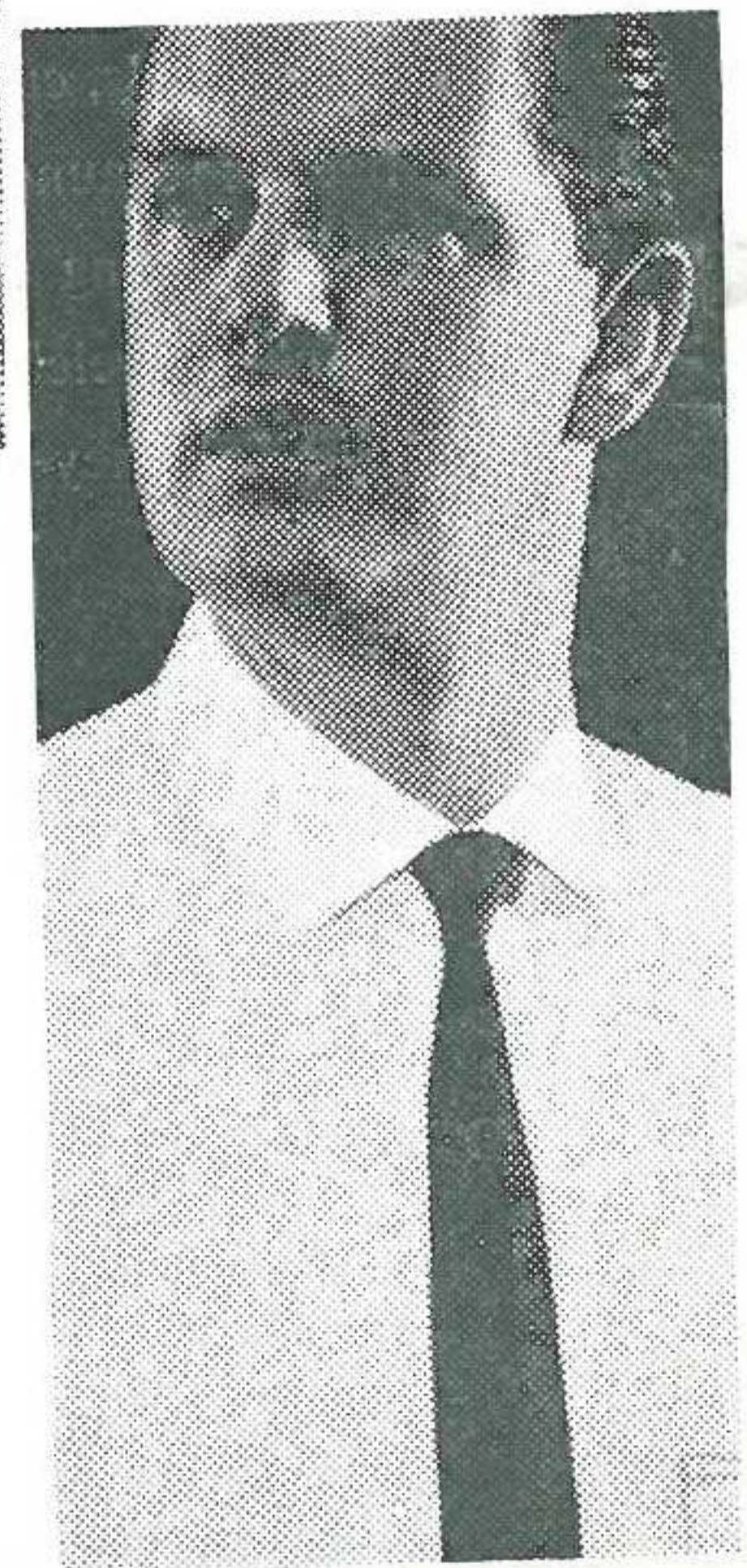
(Continued page 56.)



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# WHILE I THINK OF IT

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**By Moondharrig**

**E**VER since Munster and Leinster drew in the Railway Cup final on St. Patrick's Day, I am constantly meeting people who try to persuade me that this was not the first drawn final in the history of the competition.

Several folk have tried to convince me that Munster and Connacht played a draw on St. Patrick's Day, 1947, and that Connacht won the replay on the following Easter Sunday. Indeed, two different men have told me how distinctly they remember Christy Ring landing the equalising point from the last puck of the game on that St. Patrick's Day from a line-ball out under Hill Sixteen.

Well the facts are the facts, and the relevant fact is that the Railway Cup hurling final of 1947 could not be played on St. Patrick's Day at all. That was the year of the worst winter we had until the one just past and the whole G.A.A. schedule was badly upset.

The first hurling semi-final was not played until March 9 at Croke Park, when Connacht beat Leinster by a point, 2-6 to 2-5. A week later, on March 16, St. Patrick's Eve, Munster beat Ulster by 9-7 to no score and were due to play Connacht in the final on the following day. But a Colleges hurling game had been played along with the interprovincial that Sunday and Croke Park cut up badly, and, in fact, was almost a sea of mud.

In addition, a blizzard of sleet came down as soon as the senior match ended, and lasted for some hours. So only the football final was played on St. Patrick's Day, the hurling being put back to Easter Sunday.

Connacht won a sensational victory, but that was not the only historic event to occur on that afternoon. The Annual Congress was being held the same day, and before the Railway Cup final

was over we knew the decision had been taken to play the All-Ireland football final in New York.

## THAT OTHER GAME

But what did my friends see who claim that Connacht and Munster played a drawn game that year? I think they are mixing up the final of 1946 with that of 1947. In 1946, Connacht and Munster also met in the final and it was one of the greatest ever played in the competition.

Play swept from end to end right through the hour, and scores were level in the last minute when someone, perhaps it was Christy Ring, landed a great winning point for Munster. But Connacht were marching to the attack again on the last whistle. And, if I remember rightly, the man who refereed that game was Dr. Joe Stuart, who became President of the G.A.A. more than a decade afterwards.

## LONG SERVICE

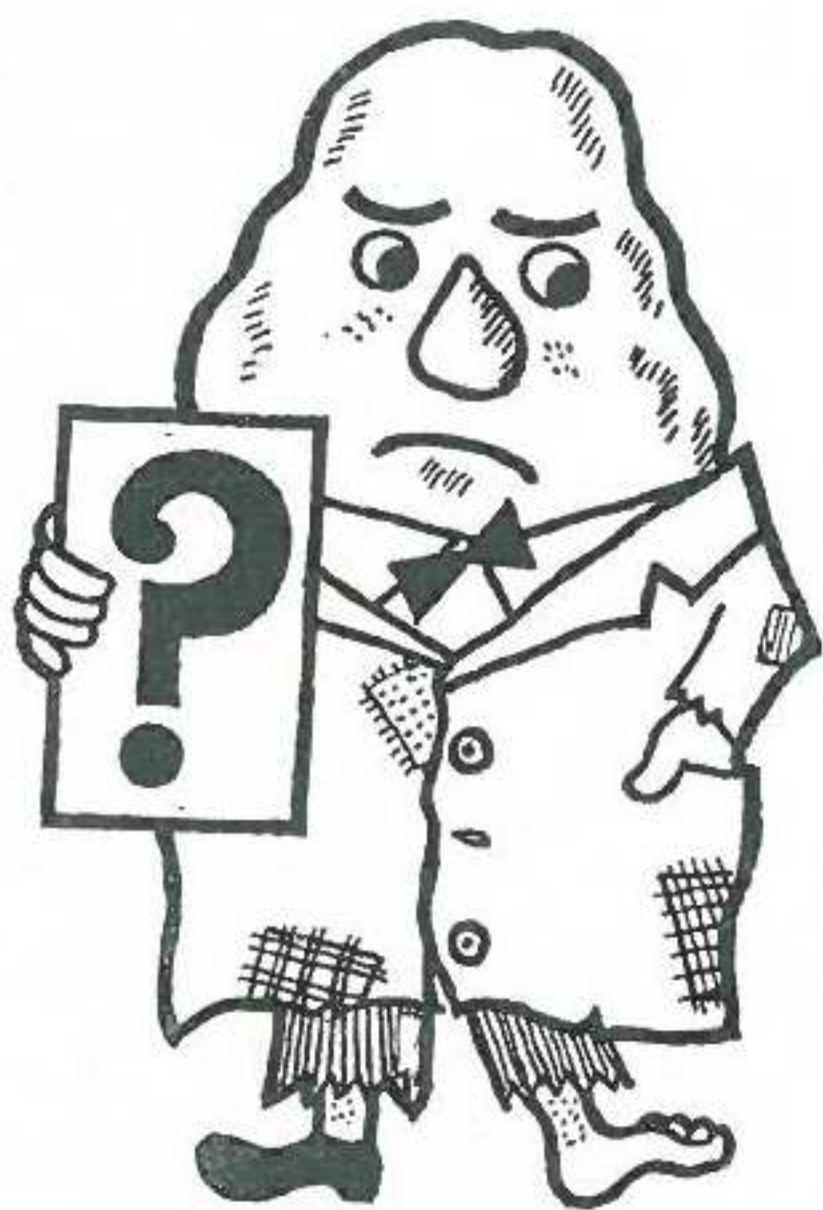
Of all the men who played in those far-off days, only Christy Ring still remains to delight us now, and, of course, Ringey's connection with the Railway Cup series goes back to his first victory in 1942. Yet there is another link with the 1942 teams worth recalling.

In 1942 a young fellow from Wexford named Nicky Rackard was a reserve on the Leinster side. When Munster and Leinster met in this year's final replay on Easter Sunday, Billy, the last of the Rackards, was still in the Leinster colours and indeed the captain of the side. The Rackard connection has lasted pretty faithfully down the years, although there were a couple of recent seasons when the family was not represented.

Peculiarly enough, when Leinster, after a 13-year break won the Cup in 1954, there was no Rackard on the original line-out although all three

(Continued page 41.)

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(From page 39.)

played in 1953. In 1954 Bobby was ill, while Nicky, after more than ten years in the Leinster colours, was among the reserves. However, Billy came on as a sub. that day and the three went on to set up a Railway Cup record when they played together on the winning side in the final of 1956, the only three brothers ever to play together on a winning Railway Cup hurling team.

### FORGOTTEN MAN

The man who took Nick Rackard's place on that victorious Leinster team of 1954 was Paulie Fitzgerald from Glenmore, who made one further appearance in big-time hurling, as full-forward for the Combined Universities and The Rest team which beat Ireland in 1955. Then he vanished from the senior hurling inter-county scene although I understand he still plays, and plays well, for his club.

But if the Kilkenny hurlers forgot about him, the footballers didn't and the same Paulie Fitzgerald is still in the black and amber, full-forward for Kilkenny's senior footballers.

### CONGRESS MATTERS

Without any very contentious matters for discussion, Congress this year looked likely to be quiet enough, but one man sadly missed there by the old-timers was Jack Shalloe, who had represented the Gaels of Britain for so many years. Jack was by birth a native of the Kilmacow district in County Kilkenny but he had so long represented the Gaels across the Channel that a

lot of us down the years had come to look upon him as the typification of the Gaels of Britain.

Actually, Jack had started his G.A.A career in South Wales and only went to London after World War I. I think he must have been the only man who could boast that he had hurled both for Wales and for England. May his kindly soul rest in peace.

### ANOTHER CHANGE

There was, in another sphere, a radical change in the Congress set-up this year. Tommy Moore's was gone! To many who were not particularly partial to alcoholic refreshment, a visit to Tommy Moore's was part of the trip up to Congress. Even many a well-known Pioneer dropped in there on Congress Day to drink a mineral and chat with the old friends.

An old friend of mine, whose taste was for somewhat stronger refreshment, said to me when I met him at the start of this month. "No. I am not going up to the Congress this year. I wouldn't know what to do with myself. Sure, I always spent the second session of the Congress in Tommy's!"

### CLONMEL APPOINTMENT

Mr. Christopher Phelan, a very prominent member of the Éire Óg hurling club, has been appointed Manager of the Clonmel Depot of Tayto Limited. Mr. Phelan is also an active member of the Clonmel Unit of the Order of Malta First Aid.

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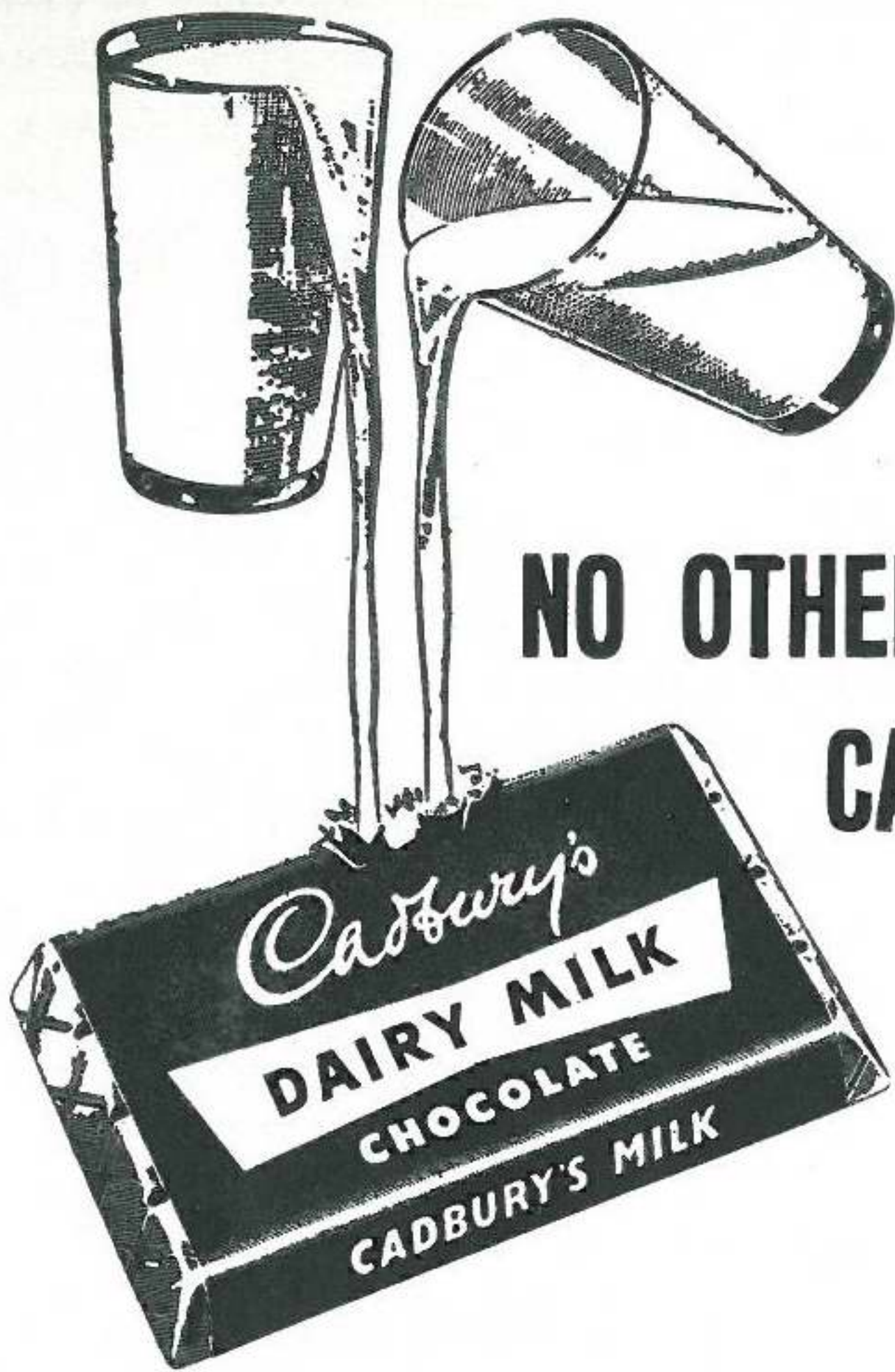
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# A FRESH START

AS I write another camogie season is ahead of us, and if we all put our minds to it we can help to make it the greatest that our association has yet known. Next year the Camogie Association will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee, and that is all the more reason to make this a truly memorable season.

This year we start off afresh, as it were, with newly revised Rules and Constitution which should make administration all the easier. All we want now is the enthusiasm to press forward to our goal of a camogie team in every parish.

The first step in that direction is a County Board in every county and in that respect Munster is leading the way, for the game is going well in the southern province, generally. Kerry, long on the side-lines, produced a great revival in recent months, Cork and Tipperary are strong as ever, the Limerick revival continues and I hear good news from Clare.

The only place that seems to have fallen back somewhat is Waterford, but I am sure that my good friend, Miss Josie McNamara, will soon get the Decies reorganised again.

In Leinster, where all counties have some camogie, organisation seemed to be on the point of running low in several that were once enthusiastic, but Kilkenny, Laois and Carlow are, I hear, all coming back into action this year and the setting up of a County Board in Westmeath should serve as a spur to the only two counties in Leinster now without a board, Meath and Offaly.

There are great hopes, too, in Ulster where at least seven of the nine counties are practising busily for the season ahead, and if the news from the West is scanty enough, yet Galway, Mayo and Sligo are all to the good.

The game is spreading steadily in the schools and inside the next five years, if Central Council and the Provincial Councils keep up their present work, we could have all thirty-two counties participating in the inter-county championships. And perhaps, when Louis Marcus has finished his hurling film on Christy Ring, he might make a short-short on camogie. After all, there are several thousand camogie players in the country and they go to the pictures, too; and if we have not the prestige that we should have, we are not going to gain prestige by being unduly modest about our numbers and our achievements.

I must repeat once again that the Camogie Association is the biggest and strongest women's sporting organisation in Ireland but, if we do not recognise that fact ourselves, there is not much hope that others will recognise it for us.

So now, let us have a look ahead and see what the coming season has to offer. I would like to think that someone will beat Dublin in Leinster this year — not that I have anything against Dublin, which is the showplace of camogie in Ireland and very deservedly so. But they have ruled the roost for so long, that, in many quarters, a defeat for Dublin has come to be looked upon as a victory for the game.

The day when Dublin's thirty-year-old supremacy is seriously challenged in Leinster will be a good day for the game. If Kilkenny had kept going as they were a couple of years ago they might have been the first to halt the Metropolitan girls, but I am afraid that Kilkenny have a lot of rebuilding to do. So have Laois. Wexford and Louth look the two strongest sides out-

(Continued page 45.)

# As truly Irish in character as Croke Park itself . . .

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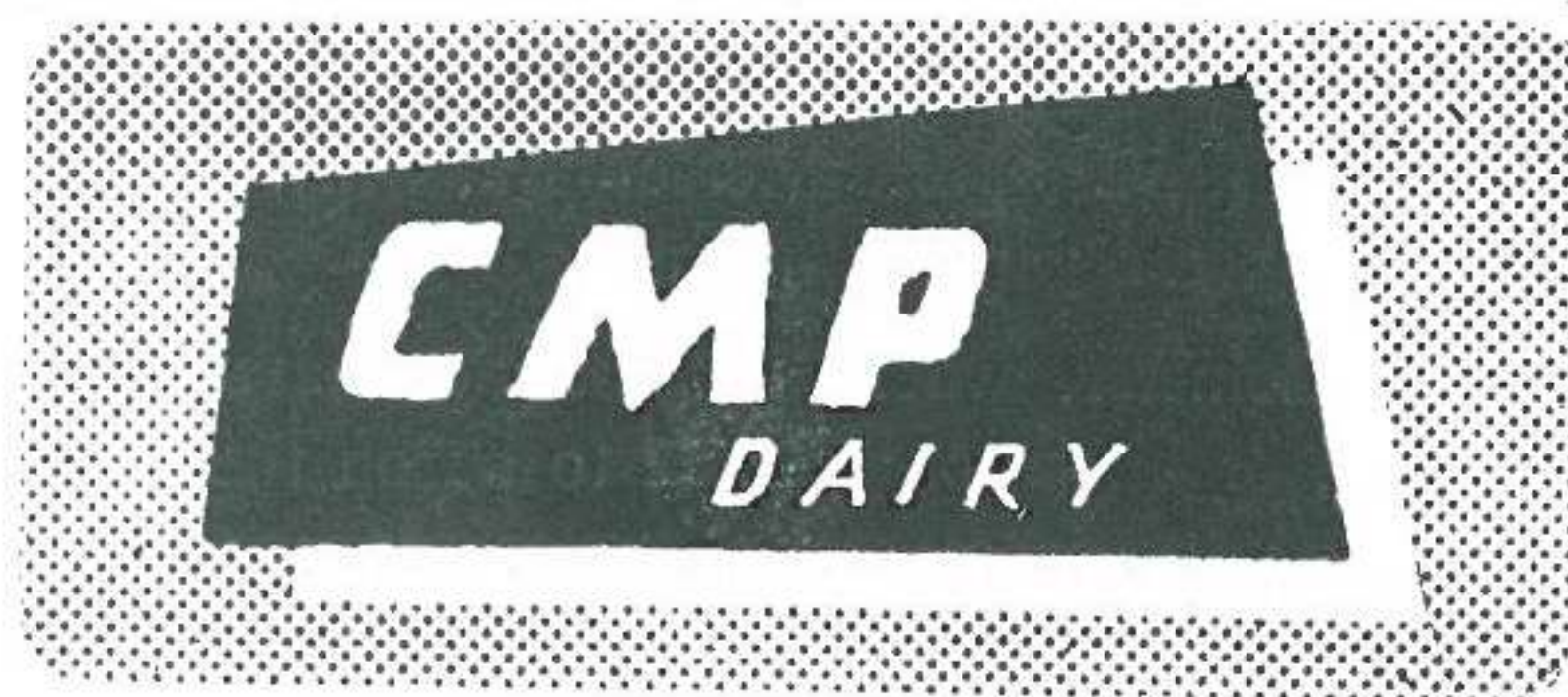
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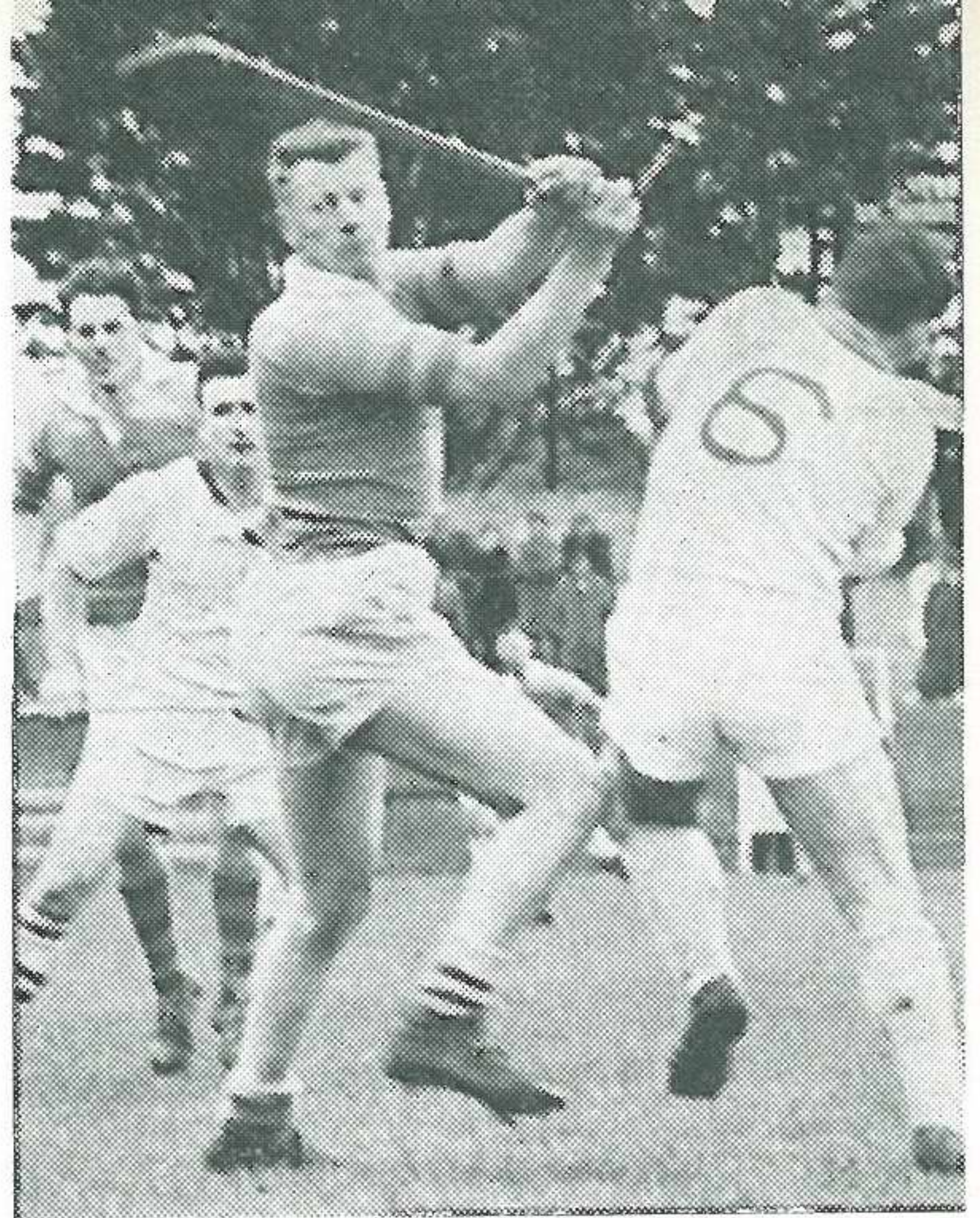
(From page 43.)

side of Dublin, but it must be Dublin for the Leinster title again.

There will be hard cracking in Munster where Tipperary, Cork and Limerick look so well-matched nowadays. In some ways, Limerick could be the best prospect of the three, but they need a little more experience and so I fancy Cork to take the Munster title again this year.

Until we know if Galway can fix up their internal troubles it will be impossible to say what will happen in the West. But it seems certain that, if Castlegar do not play with Galway, Mayo will regain the Connacht title.

And that brings us to the North, where I cannot see anyone challenging Antrim. Indeed, if Antrim play this year up to the promise they showed last year, they could be the best team in the country, so I am going to take my courage in my hands, even this early in the season, and nominate Antrim as my long odds favourites to take the All-Ireland camogie title of 1963.



Ned Wheeler (Wexford) in a tussle with Waterford's Martin Og Morrissey (No. 6) during N.H.L. (Group A) play-off at Kilkenny.

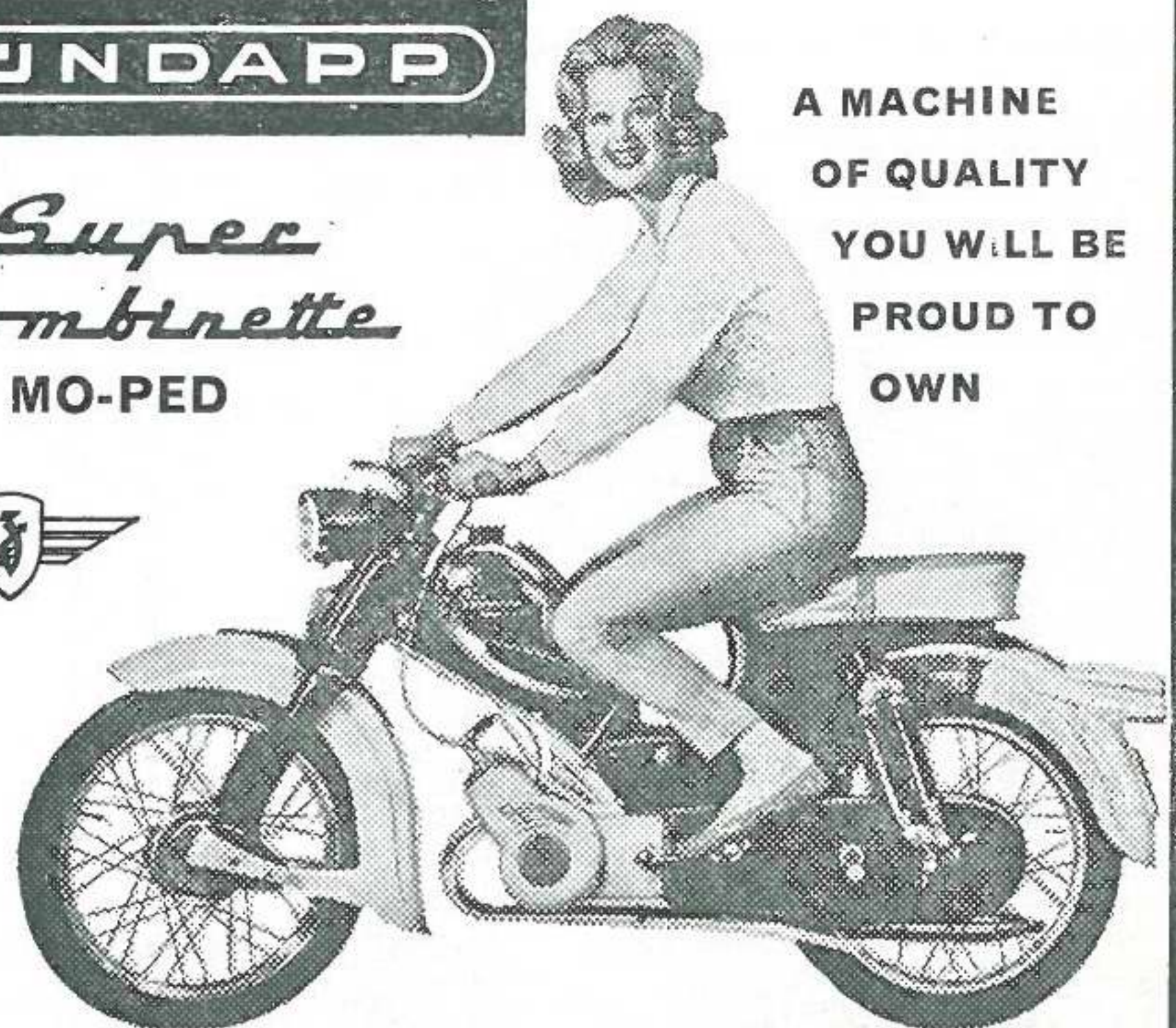
## St. Mel's have close link with Leitrim

There is a close link between Leitrim football and St. Mel's College, Longford, Leitrim being, for the most part, in the Diocese of Ardagh. The former trainer of St. Mel's Fr. Manning, is the present chairman of the Leitrim Co. Board. The present St. Mel's trainer, Rev. James McKeon, is a former Leitrim footballer, who played at left full-back for Leitrim against Galway in the Connacht finals of 1957 and 1958.

Besides, the captain of St. Mel's 1962 side was Dermot Gannon from Ballinamore, a lad who should make the grade in county football before long. Tony Hayden, too, the present Leitrim back, was a brilliant Colleges footballer for St. Mel's.

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# LOOK OUT FOR LAOIS

By JIM O'BRIEN

**T**HIS will be Laois's year in Leinster. It may be a premature forecast, but I take the O'Moore County to win the provincial football crown for the first time since 1946. It has been a long wait for Laois, but the time to make amends is at hand.

Looking back on last year's championship it is not fanciful to suggest that had luck not deserted Laois in the provincial semi-final at Carlow, they, and not Dublin, would have met Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Dublin won that game, 0-13 to 1-8, and went on to account for an off-form Offaly in the provincial final. Laois also would have beaten Offaly . . . but that chance was lost at Carlow.

Laois made an exceptionally poor start in the 1962/63 National League when failing badly to Galway in the opening round. However, they quickly regained their feet and beat Louth, lost to Offaly by a point, scored a decisive win over Dublin and then finished off the competition with good victories over Wicklow and Roscommon.

The Galway game was just one of those days when nothing went right for Laois, but the Offaly tie at Tullamore was one which certainly could have been won. However, errors can teach and Laois is learning.

In Fintan Walsh, Noel and Danny Delaney, Mick McDonnell, Tom Browne, Olly Fennell & Co., Laois have a well-balanced team. Perhaps they lack an individual star of the Tommy Murphy or Bill Delaney calibre, but nevertheless, this team is capable of developing into a side equal to that which brought the county so much glory in the 'thirties.

Yes, I say keep an eye on Laois in the coming championship. They meet the winners of Carlow-Kilkenny on May 26 and victory here would send them into the provincial semi-final against Offaly, Longford or Westmeath.

The Leinster final is fixed for July 14. You will see Laois there . . . and for an even pound I say that they will win it, too.

## PHIL REPAYS A DEBT

**P**HIL GRIMES collected a rather easy All-Ireland medal in 1948. He played against Clare in the first round of the Munster championship and then emigrated to America. This game was sufficient to merit him an All-Ireland medal when Waterford won the title three months later.

But then Phil Grimes came back and more than repayed his native county. He captained the 1957 team which was narrowly beaten in the All-Ireland final. Again in 1959 he was one of the

stars when the Deise brought home its second All-Ireland title.

And now Phil is back again. Fifteen years after winning that first All-Ireland medal he is still repaying Waterford. Years rest lightly on this great Mount Sion hurler and sportsman. At 34 he is now playing as brilliantly as ever. With a League tally of 3-20 from six games, he enters the final on May 5 as his county's top scorer and he may well finish up as the League's top marksman.

Yes, Phil Grimes has returned the compliment in full.

## DES FERGUSON JOINS UNBEATABLE TEAM

**D**ES FERGUSON, star Dublin and Leinster hurler and footballer, will be a regular contributor to future issues of GAE LIC SPORT (see page 7).

One of the few players to truly master both codes, we estimate that Des has played 350-400 senior inter-county games. This, surely, constitutes an all-time record. His article on Christy Ring, which will appear in our June issue, must be read by all followers of Gaelic Games.

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**CORCAIGH v. CHLAIR**

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May 12th, at Lismore

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# We took home the title —and forgot the Cup!

By EAMONN YOUNG

# CORK'S 1952 LEAGUE WIN

WE ended in triumph—but what a bad start we made! It was a rainy November day in Cork when we met Mayo, the All-Ireland champions. Nobody expected us to win, and we didn't disappoint them.

I was the Cork captain and not one bit unhappy to hear that a Mayo car had broken down; Tom Langan and big John MacAndrew were late. We felt we could get along in their absence.

Mick Cahill had a point and Padraic Carney equalised; Toddy Kelliher slammed one against the upright and Con MacGrath got a point, but Carney again slipped over a free. Again we struck the upright, this time with a bullet-shot from Mick Cahill, and it rebounded right into my welcoming arms so I raised a flag to which Cahill, the big man from Mullinahone, added another and we led by two points at half time.

In the second half I got a little downhearted when Langan and MacAndrew ran onto the field for Langan, in particular, was a terrific player. Con MacGrath had a point and Peter Solon negatived, but our lads were now getting very panicky as the Mayo machine—and it was a fine side—swung into action.

We began to foul and run out of position and Carney shot another free point; then his fifty was belted to the net by Sheehan amid a forest of legs in a muddy goalmouth. A few minutes later, just to rub it in, Carney drove a long high fifty right through a

dozen frantic hands in the goalmouth to the back of the net. It wasn't a good day; I saw a player drag another by the hair and we got a proper scolding from everyone. They said we couldn't beat our way out of a paper bag.

Three weeks later we met Kerry in Tralee—and not a bit confident. My friend Danno Keeffe of Millstreet had come on to the goal as a result of some terrific displays with Collins and we were lucky to have him. Kerry, amazing to relate, scored only two points (Paud Sheehy and Tadg Lyne) over the hour in spite of the fact that Colm Kenneally, Tom Ashe, Gerald O'Sullivan and Dan Hannifan all played well. Donie Donovan shot us two points and John Joe Henchion got a goal and a point while the backs, with John Cronin and Weesh Murphy doing well, were on top of their game.

Mick Cahill had another belt at the goalpost after halftime and I tacked on a point; but Kerry were turning on the heat and in a desperate goalmouth rush I saw poor Danno Keeffe grasp frantically at a rolling ball and go down before a headlong charge of Kerry-men. Good bye Danno, they'll take you away in a handkerchief. But when the cluster of dirty jerseys and muddy limbs melted away the army man dragged himself up out of the mud, still holding the ball.

Paud Sheehy moved in to take the penalty and again Danno got ready. Paud hit a lovely stiff shot to the left but with a swerve

and lightning clutch that brought a cheer even from opponents, Danno drove a great ball down-field and we couldn't be beaten after that.

The win made it a play-off for group honours with Kerry and Mayo, so when the Kingdom stopped the western side we met our neighbours again on a wet March day in the Mardyke, Cork, in a game that put the heart cross-ways in a lot of us.

We were fit enough but in the opening quarter they made hares of us, and it was maddening to see those young friends of mine, Jim Brosnan and Paud Sheehy swinging over long points from far out in a style that has won more games for Kerry than any other county. Helped by Ashe, Hannifan, and Eddie Dowling they were leading us by nine points to two, which Tom Moriarty and Donie Donovan had scored for us.

I was centre-forward trying to slip away from that very skilful footballer, Micksy Palmer, and not doing too well until a ball flashed over our heads in to John Joe Henchion and Paddy Bawn. Henchion came bursting out, with the Bawn breathing fire down his neck, and seeing me remembered one of our many plans (a lot of them didn't come off).

Anyway, he slapped it smartly and I gathered on the way in. That goal put a lot of heart into us and on the turn-over Tom Moriarty and I balanced the two points by Tadg Lyne and Paud  
(Continued on page 51.)

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(From page 49.)

Sheehy to leave us still within two points as we came into lost time. Flying fit, we gave a lot of them the run-about but the points weren't coming and I thought the clock would beat us.

Then came a forty yards free and John Cronin, who had been very sound at centreback came up to kick. It was now or never. In among the big fellows I could only hope someone would make a mistake and I'd have a go, but Cronin sliced it over to the right corner and it looked safe for Kerry.

Suddenly big Jim Galvin's lean hands were on it and as quick as he hit the ground he swung a desperate left-footed shot from almost on the line. It slammed against the lower side of the bar and my heart leaped when I saw that goalie Marcus O'Neill had no chance.

It was a £2,000 kick, for it won the League for Cork. Kerry had already beaten Mayo and we were through.

When we went onto the field in Croke Park to play Donegal there were at least 31 counties against us. Why not? It was the debut of the men from Tirconnail. They were very fit and got plenty of the ball but were slow to shoot. This was right into the barrow of Weesh Murphy, Cormac Dineen, and Fr. Jim White, as tight a full-back line as one could wish. They covered, hit hard and fairly, and gripped a fistful of jersey when the referee was busy.

The half line, with John Cronin in great form, did the rest, for Denis Bernard and Mick Gould were just then improving with every game. We got a fair share of the ball from Neally Duggan and Tom Moriarty on the halfway line and by half time had three fine goals from Henschion, Mick Cahill and Moriarty, as well as two points (Moriarty and Young).

In the second half they got really on top and time and again swept up the field until the crowd



*Vincent Nally, the Mayo full-back (right), fetches safely despite a one-handed attempt to secure possession by Cavan's Charlie Gallagher in the N.F.L. (Division II) play-off at Croke Park.*

*Cavan won a poor game on the score, 3-11 to 1-7.*

got really excited and it looked as if they would catch us. MacCauley and Coyle added to their first half points and a few more by MacGettrick, Wickham and Brennan left them with a good

chance and the crowd roaring them on.

But Danno Keefe, who played ten successive games in the county goal without letting the

(Continued overleaf)

(From previous page.)

ball go by, was in deadly form and we held out. Jim Gallagher and the tall O'Donnell, in succession, kept me pretty quiet that day and Wickham, Dawson and Brogan showed us that Donegal men were up with the best.

Now for Dublin in three weeks' time, and under the guidance of the veteran athlete, Jack O'Brien, we trained like hell. As Dublin walked out on the field the wave of vocal thunder shook the stands—and Cormac Dineen said to me, "It's a good job only fifteen of 'em can play."

I slipped over a point early on but we were in trouble when Brother Crowley from my own town, Dunmanway, started flying down the left wing for Dublin in a way that really frightened me. I ran down to Paddy Driscoll, who was not then the great player he

was soon to become, and told him to stay on the line side of your man or we were done. After a while Paddy got on top though the cleric had run into a very hard bump some time before. Then I swung a shot from twenty yards that codded everyone, including myself, and that green flag was a great help; Mick Cahill's point gave us a grip on the game. Brother Crowley simply waltzed past three of our tough backs and placed Cathal O'Leary for a smashing goal, but a few minutes later Tom Moriarty finished a nice move in which a lot of us joined, to stick it in the net. Kevin Heffernan pointed a free and we led them by 2-2 to 1-1 at half time.

Again Heffernan pointed a free and O'Leary got another point, and after eight minutes, when Heffernan raised another white flag from a dead ball, the stands rocked and

they said we were gone. I won't forget the great football on the half-way line where towering Neally Duggan and a good young fellow, Denis Bernard, played grand football with superb Jim Crowley and that clever and courageous small man, Maurice Whelan.

We were at it ding-dong and our defence hung on with Fr. White and Cormac Dineen tackling like terriers. A ground ball rolled into the Dublin goal over near the Cusack side at the Railway end and big Mick Moylan charged out to pull on it. The ball whizzed over my head as I came running in and if God hadn't made me a small man I wouldn't be writing this.

But a minute later a half back panicked and Dublin had a free at forty-five yards on the Cusack wing facing the canal. Kevin Heffernan moved out to kick and my heart jumped when Dan Ryan from Tralee walked over and told Kevin that he must score direct.

I knew he hadn't a hope and just waited. Up ran the slender forward and swung a perfect kick. Straight and true it sailed for our goal, and so help me, it was going straight over. But no, as I leaned to the right in an agony of suspense, willing that ball to go wide, it struck the right upright and Ollie Freaney grabbed it. About two dozen Corkmen pounced on him; but Dan Ryan's whistle sang a lovely note and it was all over.

The final against the Yanks was easy by comparison. We beat them well in Croke Park and my memories of the day are happy. I was at left wing and we all were flying fit. Neally Duggan played on Pat MacAndrew who was about three inches taller so the first few high balls that came, Duggan tapped them down to me as planned; but I remember MacAndrew's first kick; it must have gone seventy yards towards

(Continued on page 54.)

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(Continued from page 29.)

meet on neutral ground. During the League games, however, when one team has home venue, there is absolutely no reason why a reception of some kind cannot be laid on for the visitors. It is not strictly necessary, or even advisable, that this function be "officially" organised. I think that the older and more imposing officials of both sides should depart to quieter climes with, maybe, a younger officer of the board deputed to see that everybody enjoyed himself properly.

A facet of this proposal which should be examined is that established hurling clubs might be invited on week-ends to "football" areas to play local selections (and vice-versa, of course). Local players could each take a "guest" to his home for the Saturday and Sunday; in this way costs would be cut down. A dual purpose would be served by this plan—the social side of the G.A.A. would be extended and the games would benefit too.

## HAPPY HARPS!

Three of this year's Connacht Railway Cup football team are domiciled in Collooney, Co. Sligo, and expect to play for the local club, Collooney Harps, in the local championship and league. They are the midfielders Brendan McAuley and John Morley and full-back Vincent Nally.

Besides the interprovincials, the club can boast of county players in Bill Shannon, the former Mayo star, Jimmy Killoran, formerly based in London, and Tony Gray. Collooney Harps won the Sligo J.F.C. last year. With all this talent available, they should capture the senior crown in 1963.



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(From page 52.)

the Railway end. Of course, he's a gigantic man.

When it was obvious we were going to win even our own crowd became playful and when Josie Looney of Blackpool, Cork, whom I had often met when playing for our great club rivals, St. Nicholas, came back on me the crowd enjoyed it—especially when that cunning rogue with a neat spot of groundwork left me booting fresh air. Wasn't it the divil to hear your own followers shouting "Come on, St. Nicks." It would happen only in Cork.

Anyway, that was our league win. Toots Kelliher had a great debut and they gave us a mighty cup.

The following night we arrived back in Cork on the train and a big crowd turned up, led by Jim Hurley the hurler, to welcome the team and the first National Football League Cup.

Slight anti-climax. There was no cup. **YOUNGY HAD FORGOTTEN IT IN DUBLIN.**

The following day it arrived by train with a tag bearing my name and a suggestion that it be filled in Mooney's. They were good days.

## TWIST OF FATE

IT is most unlikely that 1963 will produce a hard luck story to compare with that which last month befell Larry Powell.

Larry was then a young man with a dream. His dream was of Croke Park and the All-Ireland Colleges' Hogan Cup which he hoped to bear proudly from it. It was no far-fetched boyish vision; for Larry was captain of St. Colman's, Newry, and he and his young team mates had just swept all before them in Ulster.

In the provincial final for the McRory Cup, they beat the holders, St. Patrick's, Cavan, 2-8 to 0-2 and so Larry Powell had every right to dream.

Only one hurdle remained on the road to Croke Park and the All-Ireland final—St. Mels, the reigning champions. It was a formidable obstacle, but Larry and his boys were confident; and so was their mentor, the famed Jim McCartan.

They trained as never before and with all the enthusiasm of uninhibited youth. All was ready. The final training session was over and the boys trotted off the college pitch. Someone had the ball and kicked it. It soared high and seemed to stop for a second before descending.

It was an inviting drop and Larry Powell rose high to meet it. He caught it cleanly—and fell. A dream had ended. Cruel fate had taken a hand and St. Colman's were without their captain and star midfielder.

Yes, a twisted ankle left Larry Powell sitting on the sideline when St. Colman's met St. Mels last month at Ceanannus Mor. The final score was, St. Mels 1-10, St. Colman's 2-5.

With Larry Powell, St. Colman's would have won. His presence at midfield would have made all the difference when in the second half St. Mels began their great fight back. But it was not to be.

Larry Powell will never bear the Hogan Cup from Croke Park, for next June he will bid adieu to St. Colman's. But then, there are other trophies and other years. We will remember the name. We will be looking out for Larry Powell—at Croke Park.

### 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.

Please write to the **Rev. Fr. Director: White Fathers, Blacklion, Co. Cavan**, who will gratefully acknowledge all contributions however small.

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## "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"

A Chara,—Much has been said and written recently concerning the incidents at Dublin-Galway National League games. I think that the following extract from the "Kerry Sentinel" of March 31, 1893, speaks for itself:—

"Clonturk has been a favourite place of meeting, but after to-day's experience the adjective will no longer be applicable. The area may suit Metropolitans very well but it is extremely improbable that a provincial team will ever again consent to come to Dublin to wield a caman or to kick a ball in a championship contest."

The games referred to in this report were the 1892 All-Ireland football and hurling finals. Both were played on March 26.

The hurling game between Redmonds (Cork) and Faughs-Davitts (Dublin) was played first but so unruly were the Dublin supporters that it had to be ended ten minutes before time. Needless to say, Cork were leading at the time. They were later awarded the title.

In the football final, Laune Rangers (Kerry) played Young Irelands (Dublin). This game was finished for the very good reason that Dublin were ahead but from beginning to end the Kerry players were insulted and heckled by the Dublin mob. Most neutral supporters were of the opinion that had the game been played outside of Dublin, Kerry would have won.

That great Gael, the late Dan Fraher of Dungarvan, refereed both those finals.

Yes, Dublin's tradition of rowdyism goes back a long way and sure you can't beat tradition.  
—"An Old Galway Gael."

Your report of the 1892 finals is correct but it would appear that you were not at Pearse Stadium last March when Dublin and Galway met in the National Hurling League. Rowdyism is not confined to any particular county and it is the duty of all responsible Gaels to weed out these individuals from our midst.  
—EDITOR.

## THE KIND WORD

Sir, — May I bid a hearty welcome to *Gaelic Sport* as a monthly. There certainly is room for it and if it manages to remain as good as it was as a quarterly, it will surely prosper. I have just placed a standing order with my newsagent and she tells me that

I am the third to have done so this week. —"Regular Reader."  
Drimnagh, Dublin.

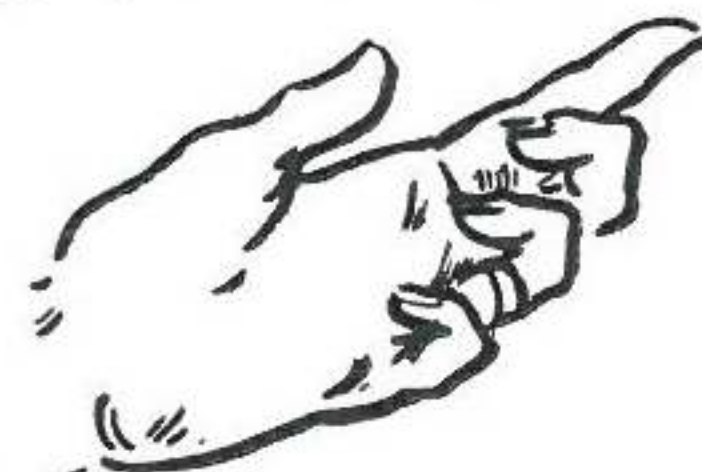
## "ILL-INFORMED RUBBISH"

A Chara,—Eamonn Mongey hit the nail on the head in your last issue when he called for the  
(Continued overleaf.)

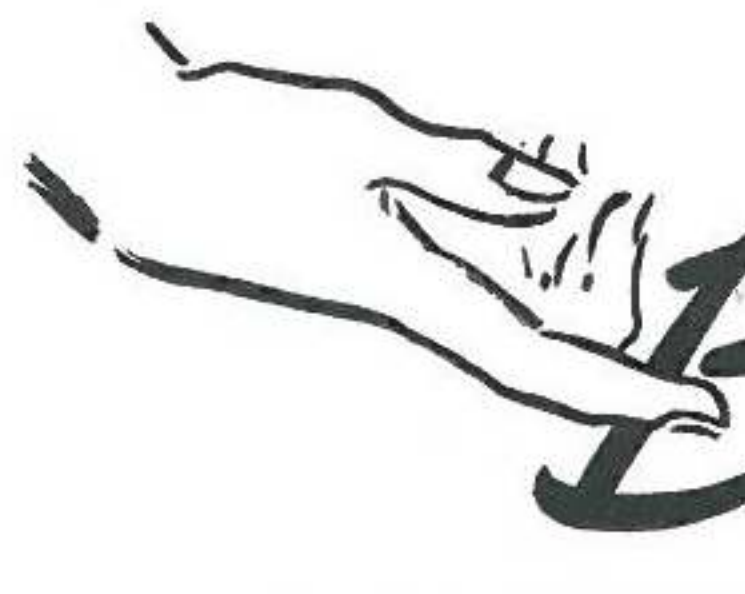


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(From previous page.)

appointment of a G.A.A. Press Officer. As I see it, the first duty of such an official would be to counter the type of ill-informed rubbish poured forth by the likes of your correspondent, P. de Burca. Mr. de Burca's article in support of Dublin's anti-Ban antics is as phoney a piece of writing as I have yet read. Keep it up *Gaelic Sport*—and lose more readers.

—“An Irishman.”

Birmingham.

*Padraig de Burca's article was in reply to one by Sean Feeley which appeared in the Christmas issue. Feeley returns to the fray in this number—EDITOR.*

### ÓN AOS ÓG

A Chara,—Táim dhá bhlian déag d'aois agus ceapaim go mba chóir níos mó altanna Gaeilge a bheith i *Gaelic Sport*. Bíonn alt maith ag Seán Ó Dúnagáin gach uair ach ba chóir níos mó ná alt amháin. An bhfuil Gaeilge ag aon duine eile thuas ansan agaibh?

—Seán Ó Dálaigh.

Bothar na Trá, Gaillimh.

*Bheul a Sheáin, tá dhá alt Gaeilge in eagrán na míosa seo—ceann Sheáin Uí Dhúnagáin agus*

*do cheann fhéin. Bí linn agus beidh breis amach anseo — AN tEAGARTHÓIR.*

### TELEVISION

Sir,—Mike Burns' inside story on Telefis Eireann and Gaelic Games in your last number was very informative but there is no thanks due to our television boys for their “strenuous efforts.” The G.A.A., in my opinion, is much too generous to Telefis Eireann, who in return are giving Gaelic Games a very poor show.

What we need from T.E. is:—

1) A Sunday night programme devoted solely to that day's G.A.A. games; 2) A mid-week programme of at least 30 minutes with discussions, news and interviews.

Telefis Eireann is not giving a fair deal and it must not be allowed to continue this treatment. Either we get our proper share or they should not be allowed into Croke Park with their cameras.

—John Burke.

Rathfarnham, Dublin.

### A BIG HIT

A Chara,—Best of luck to *Gaelic Sport* on its switch over to a monthly. It is a grand magazine and we will be looking forward to

it every month. Keep up the good work.

—“Three Portlaoise Lads.”

A Chara,—I got a copy of *Gaelic Sport* from a friend a few days ago. It was my first time seeing it, and I really enjoyed it. Please send it to me monthly as there are a few great Gaelic fans here in the North West. Keep up the good work.

Father Gerry Lovett.

Washington, U.S.A.

### ANSWERS SOUGHT

Sir,—Please let me have the Carlow team which won the Leinster football title in 1944, also did John Doyle win an All-Ireland minor medal with Tipperary?

Andrew Kenny,

9, Blackburn Street.

Old Trafford, Manchester, 16.

*The Carlow team was: J. Quinlan; J. Lawler, J. Archibold, P. Farrell; P. Whelan, B. O'Rourke, E. Joyce; L. Kelly, J. Morris; J. Moore, M. Byrne, W. Hosey; P. Sullivan, J. Doyle, J. Rea. The final score was Carlow, 2-6; Dublin, 1-6. Carlow scorers were: J. Doyle (1-4), J. Rea (1-2).*

*Yes, John Doyle won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1947.*

(From page 37.)

played since then. This was the decade when immortals like Eddie Boyle, Tommy Murphy, Bill Delaney, the late Tony Donnelly and Willie Goodison graced the game. I was privileged to know them “mar ní bheidh a leitheidi aris ann.”

The Editor has insisted that I pick the team of the 'forties, and with a certain amount of reluctance I have accepted the task. I have chosen the team solely on displays during this decade and therefore excluded many great players whose finest hours were divided between this and earlier or later decades. Here then is my team of the 'forties:—

D. O'Keeffe; J. J. O'Reilly, E. Boyle, P. B. Brosnan; B. Lynch, W. Goodison, S. Deignan; T. Murphy, P. Kennedy; T. Tighe, J. Murray, E. Young; K. Armstrong, P. Donoghue, P. McDermott.

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