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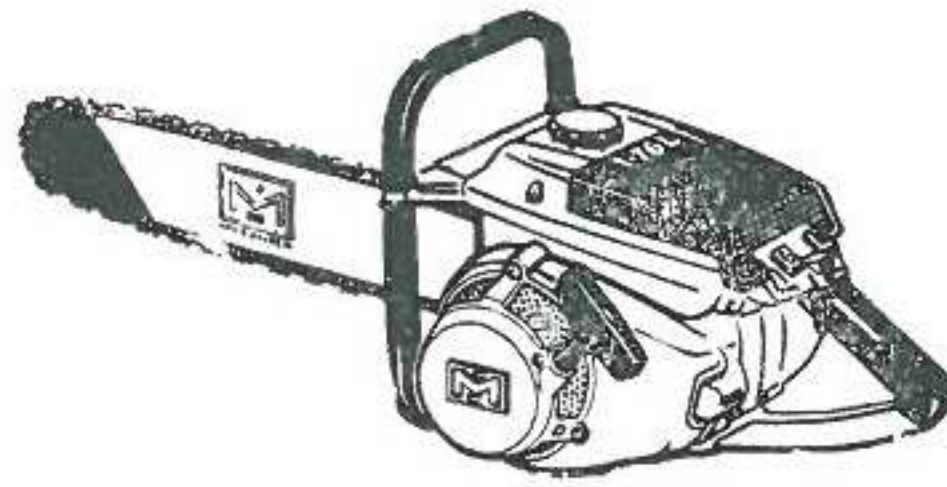
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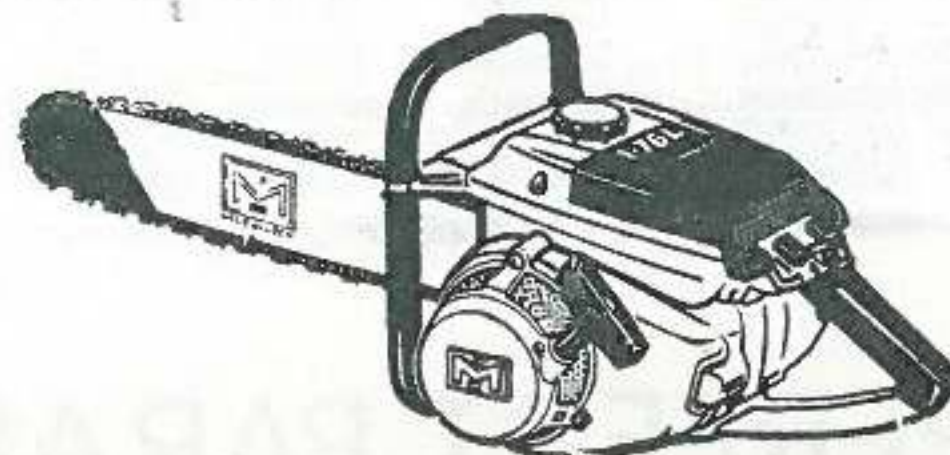
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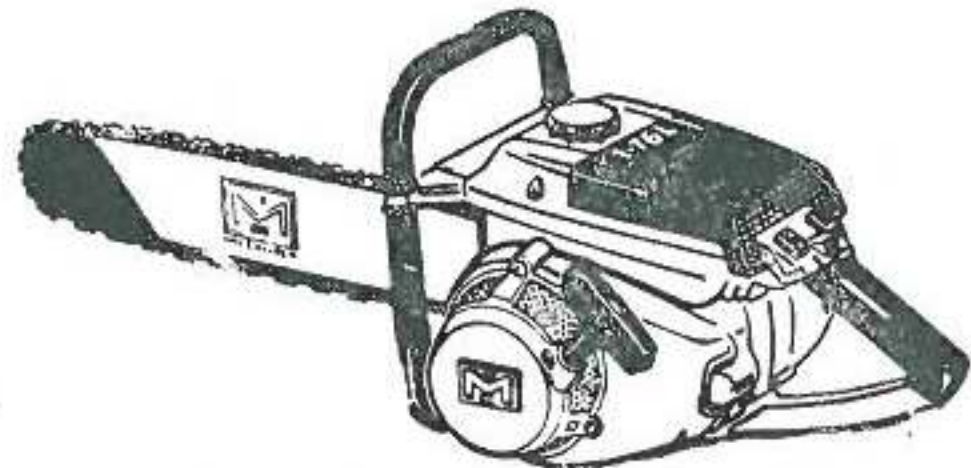
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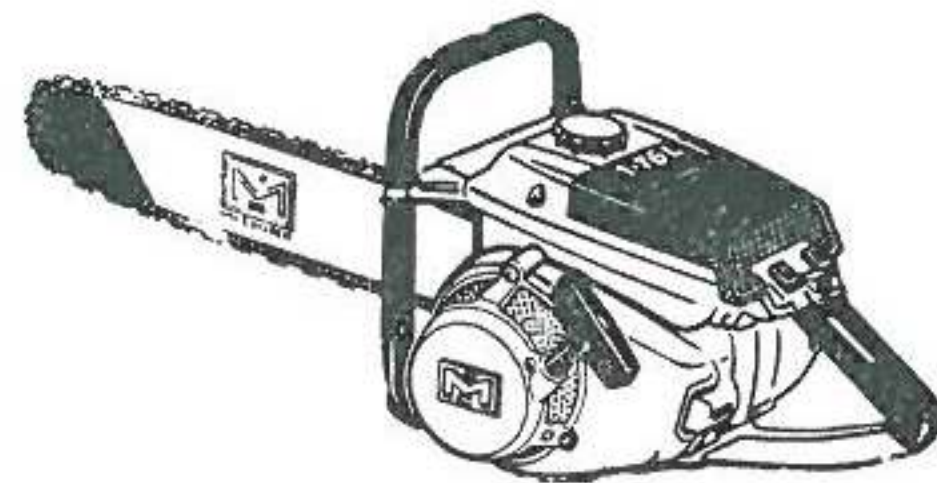
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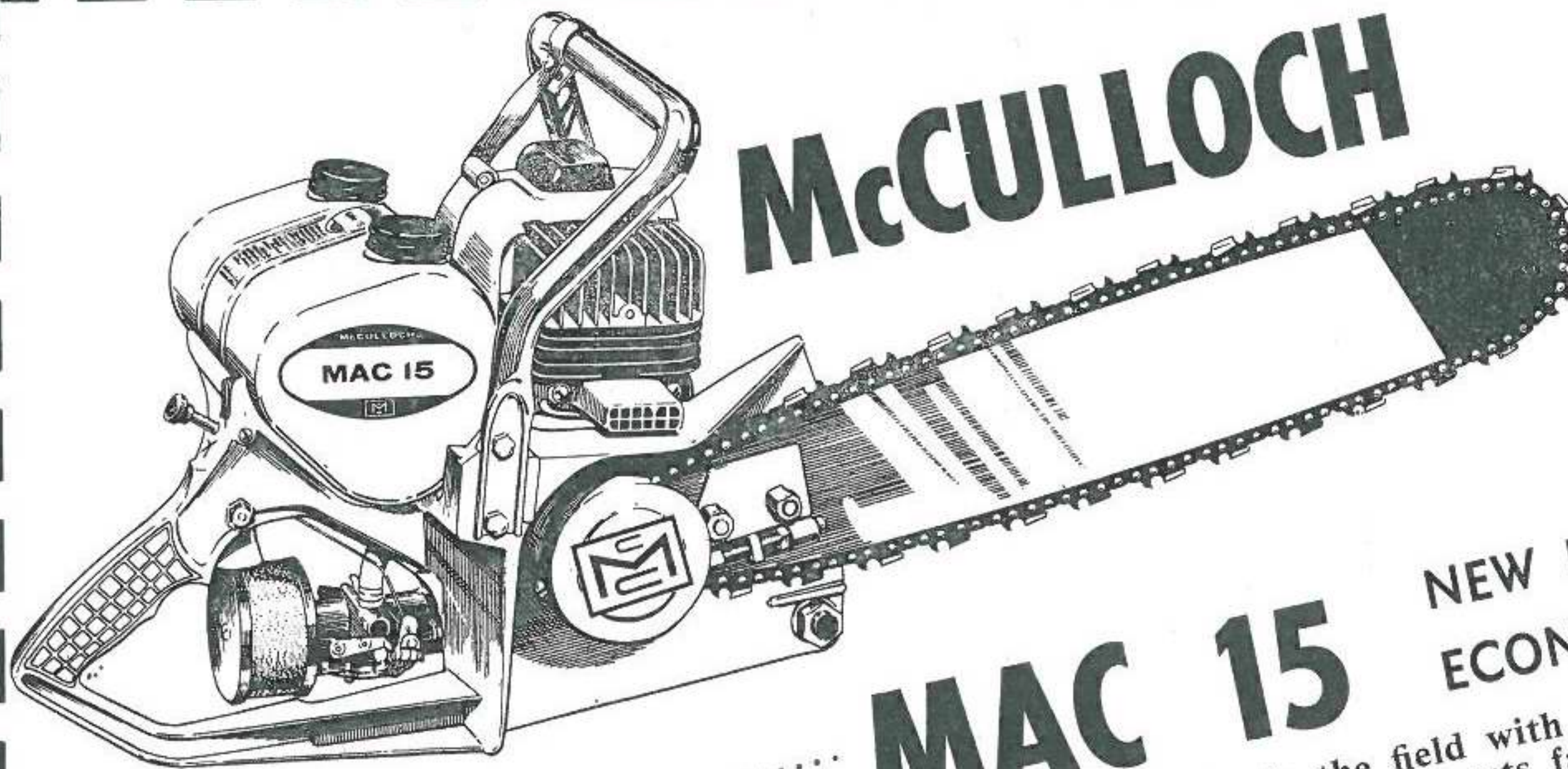
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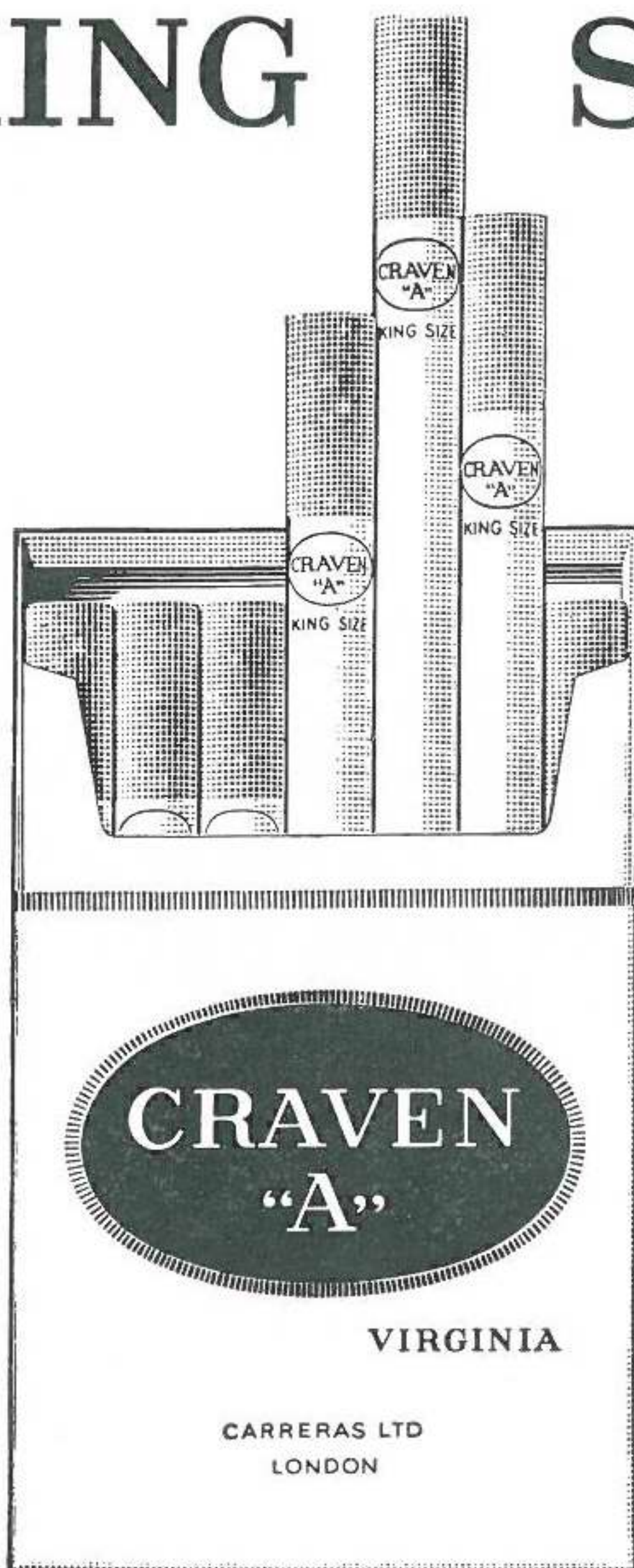
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## COMMENT

# THE MASTER PLAN

**T**O the men who produced the recent Hurling Scheme both we of the present and future generations owe a particular debt of gratitude. It is a master plan—sound, realistic and clearly defined.

It embraces the pertinent facts and recommends the utilisation of every modern and useful device in overcoming the various obstacles which have for so long hindered the spread of our most treasured sporting heritage.

This is a plan which can be carried through to the full. There is nothing vague or vainly hopeful about it. It sets out targets each of which can be realised, and illustrates precisely how the work should be done.

The long awaited blue-print now exists. The next step is its implementation. In this regard the enthusiastic assistance of all members and supporters of the Association is required.

The revival of hurling on a 32 County basis is about to begin. Cuirimís chuige. Tosach maith leath na hoibre.

# Gaelic Sport

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# *The revival begins . . .*

by SEAN O'NEILL

**T**HE new Hurling Scheme is vast, dynamic and yet ever so practical. It can be implemented and carried through to the full. If it is, then hurling will take its rightful place and Michael Cusack's dream and the dream of the countless men, who have over the past eight decades followed in his footsteps, will be a reality.

This is the only conclusion which can be reached by any sensible person who studies the recent recommendations of Coiste na hIomána. And let it be clear that it is the duty of every member of the Association, and indeed of every enthusiastic supporter of our native Games, to study these recommendations and help in their implementation.

This is the first and most important fact which must be grasped regarding the Hurling Scheme—IT CAN SUCCEED. Once this idea is accepted, then only the will to make it succeed is required.

There is no point at this stage wasting time criticising some minor or vague point in the Scheme. Of course it may have a small deficiency here and there (there was never a scheme that did not), but the important thing is to get on with the job and let the deficiencies present themselves as time goes on, rather than holding up the entire operation looking for them and arguing about them now.

There will be plenty of opportunity for alterations and amendments to the Scheme when the first 5-year plan has been com-

pleted. Then will be the time to argue on how it can be improved and strengthened . . . but now is the time for action and preparing to get on with the job.

Early March is the date set for the commencement of the big drive. By then the ground-work must be done. By then a Coiste Iomána must have been set up in each county and they will need to be ready to spearhead the work by early Spring.

Then as the evenings lengthen, the stage will be set and the clash of the ash should be heard in every parish in the land.

The most important, and indeed realistic, aspect of the Scheme is the emphasis it lays on the youth. Next March in the weaker counties it is envisaged that only practice matches and such non-competitive events be organised, with the emphasis being on getting as great a number of young boys as possible out with their camáin.

These practice sessions will need to be organised and encouraged by men who themselves have the gift for leading the young. It will be no easy task to maintain enthusiasm from early March right through to late Autumn—especially without the enticement of competitive games. So these practice sessions will have to be attractively organised and constant personal encouragement and supervision will be required.

However, provided this work is done and done properly during

1965, then by 1966 the next phase of the plan will go smoothly into operation. This calls for an under-15 competition in each county, while at the same time the enthusiasm for practising and friendly games is maintained.

In 1967 there will be an under-16 competition with the 'veterans' of the previous year now moving up the ladder and entering on their third season of camán wielding.

The following year there will be an under-17 competition and so on until by 1969 (the fifth year) each county can field a minor team in the All-Ireland championship.

By then too the game should have taken a definite root. There will be competitions at all age-levels from under-15 up and this will be backed by an experienced group of officials who will have behind them five years of solid work and experience.

There are 16 counties listed as "weak" in the Hurling Scheme. These are: Armagh, Cavan, Derry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Sligo, Tyrone and Wicklow. Who can say but that one of these will be All-Ireland minor hurling champions in 1969 or '70!

It may sound fantastic now—but it could well be. Hurlers are not born—but to be made, they must take to the game at a very early age. However there is no reason whatsoever why a group of boys, in





## *... to bring hurling back*

say Fermanagh, who are now between the ages of say ten and fourteen, could not be as masterly with hurleys in 1969 as a similar group in Kilkenny.

Practice makes perfect and it is plenty of practice, competition, encouragement and some coaching which makes good hurlers.

Physically the youth of Fermanagh are every bit as endowed as their counterparts in Kilkenny. Provided they can have the practice, the competition, the encouragement and the coaching there is no great reason why they should greatly differ in hurling ability in 1969.

Tradition does help. In counties like Kilkenny, Tipperary, Cork and Kerry, tradition has always helped—but it is not vital. The Down footballers had no tradition and yet they will be remembered as one of the great sides of modern times. And the thing about tradition is that once a county succeeds it then has tradition.

So the plan has now been drafted and to a large extent already digested. The facilities are also there—finance, hurleys, publicity, etc., are all about to be provided. There is no excuse for any county or for any club not playing their part.

This Scheme is the biggest plan of its kind ever embraced by the Association. It is a test of the G.A.A.'s strength and of its members willingness to rally and help make concrete something which the Association has been aspiring for since it was founded eighty years ago.

By the centenary year, 1984, every county should be competing in the All-Ireland senior championship. What is more every county should be there with a chance of winning the title.

It has long been a dream but now it can be a reality—provided we all play our part.



# Brú na nGael

## Le SEÁN Ó DÚNÁGAIN

**O**ICHE mhór a bhí ann tosach Mhí Shamhna nuair a d'oscail eadh Arus na Sean-Ghael i Sráid Seoirse Thuaidh i Ath Cliath (timpeall an chúinne ó "Barrys"). Cumann na Sean-Ghael a tugtar mar ainm ar an eagrais nua seo ach mar adúirt an Cathaoirleach, Paddy McDonnell, is suí caidrimh, comhrá is caitheamh aimsire do mhuintir an Chumainn Lúchleas pioca óg nó aosta iad.

Bhí an-chuid daoine ann nach raibh aithne agam orthu ach bhuaill mé lena lán a raibh aithne agam orthu ins "na dachadaí" — Ginearál O Coisdealbha, an Sean-adóir Seán O Brosnacháin (Ciarraí), an Dochtúir Bill Loughnane (Clár), Jimmy Murray agus Donal Keenan (Roscomáin). Joe Keohane (Ciarraí), Simon Deignan (An Cabhán), Jim Donegan (Cill Choinnigh), Johnny McDonnell (Ath Cliath), Eddie Boyle (Lúghbhaí) agus an-chuid eile, ach an té ba inspéise ar fad domsa ná an duine ba chríonna a bhí a láthair.

Chuir cara liom, an Captaon Pádraig O Daltúin (Na Déise) in aithne dom fear arb' ainm Séamus

O Braonáin—fear scafanta a shil-feá bhí thart ar seasca bliain d'aois. An Ghaeilge a bhí á labhairt againn agus i dtosach mheasc mé le Braonánach eile é. Iar-stiúrthóir Radio Eireann é agus bhí bonn ar chrocadh ina chasóg sa sean-nós. Léigheas an scríbhinn ar an mbonn agus baineadh geit asam.

Bonn buaiteoirí Craobh na hUile Eireann sa pheil a bhí ann don bhliain 1907. I lár baill an bhoinn bhí ainm na mbuaiteoirí eadhon "Kickhams." Mhínigh Séamus gurab iad na Ciceamhaigh curáí Atha Cliath na bliana sin agus ag an taca sin b'iad curáí na gcontae a chuaigh i ngleic don Chraobh-chomórtas. Bhí mé ag rá a iontaí is a bhí sé bualadh le duine a bhuaigh Craobh na hEireann i 1907 nuair adúirt Séamus go raibh bonn eile aige a ghnóthaigh sé na bhliain 1902.

Ba le "Bray Emmetts" a bhí sé ag imirt sa bhliain 1902 agus bhuaigh Craobh na hEireann. Ait le ré, is contae Atha Cliath atá cláraithe sna caipéisí mar buaiteoirí na bliana sin mar i gcomórtaisí Atha Cliath a d'imir "Bray

Emmetts." Níl ach duine amháin eile, seachas Séamus, ón bhfoireann sin, 'na bheathaidh go fóill.

Tá scéal íontach le hinsint ag Séamus O Braonáin agus bh'féidir go scríobhfaidh sé é ar ball—as Gaeilge. Ach nárbh íontach go raibh duine dá leithéid, a bhuaigh Craobh na hEireann nuair nach raibh ach ocht mbliana déag slánaithe ag an gCumanu Lúchleas Gael, i láthair ag oscailt oifigiúil Bhrú na nGael i 1964.

Is féidir liom a shamhlú go mbeidh mé sa Bhrú sa bhliain 1984 ag comóradh céad bliain an Chumainn Lúchleas; go mbeidh ógánach ann, nár rugadh go fóill, a bhéas tar éis Craobh mionúr na hEireann a bhuaich sa bhliain sin; go mbeidh mé in ann dul suas chuige is a rá go raibh aithne agam ar dhuine a rugadh roimh bhúnú an Chumainn agus a ghnóthaigh bonn sinnsearach na hEireann sa bhliain 1902. D'fhéadfadh an t-ógánach sin a rá liom go mbeadh an deis aige féin ceann a ghnóthú sa bhliain 2002.

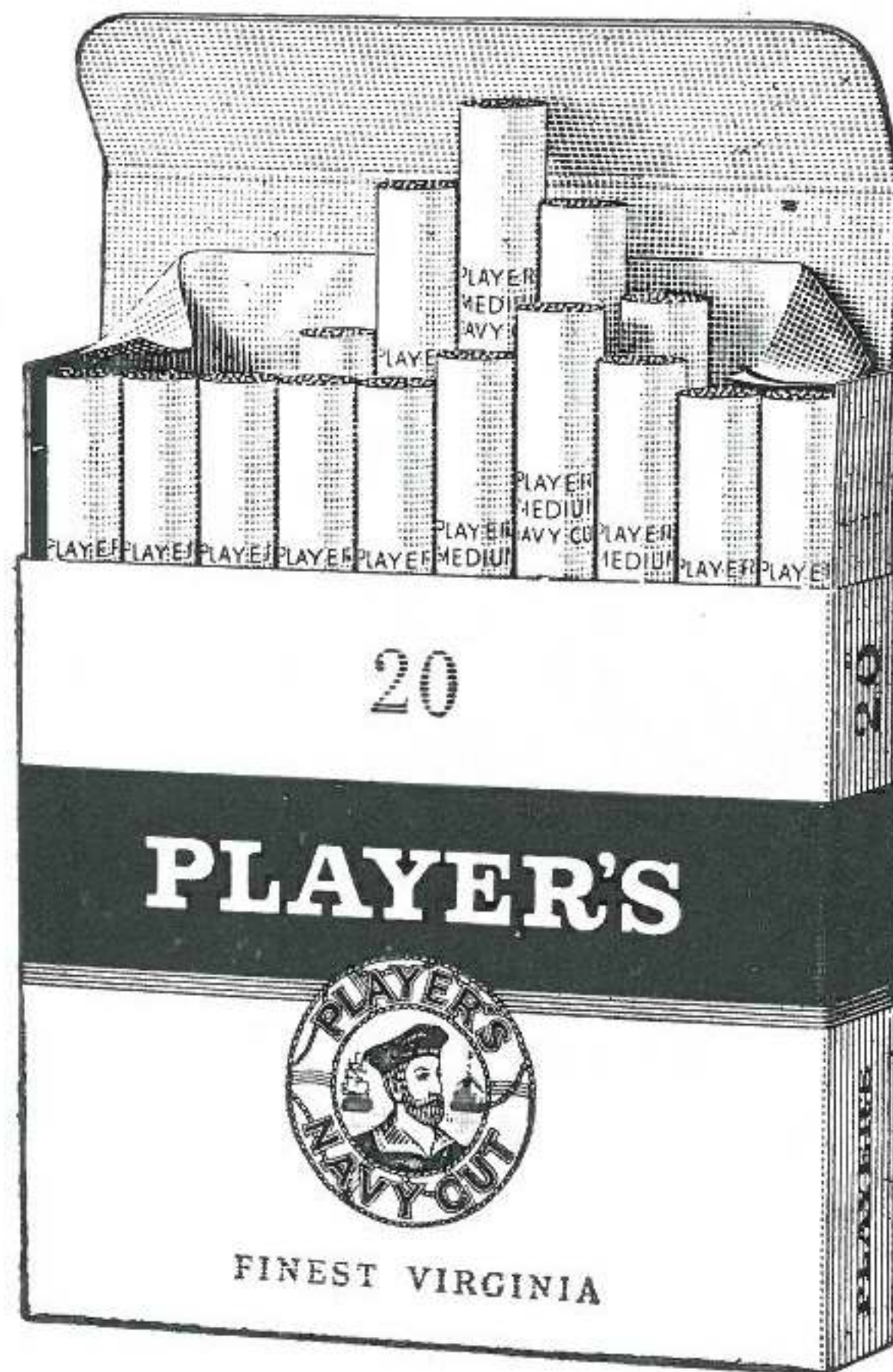
Guím gach rath ar Aras na Sean-Ghael. Is ann is féidir bualadh leis



● *EDDIE BOYLE . . . a bhí i mBrú na nGael.*

na hiarimreoirí, chluichí d'thimirt agus scéalta a chlos. Má tá cúnamh de dhith ar chorr-dhuine, nach bhfuil an tsláinte go ró-mhaith aige de dheasca na cluichí a d'imir sé fé'n bháisteach bh'féidir, is ann a cloisfear fé agus tig linn rud éigin a dhéanamh chun cabhráithe. Le daoine mar Paddy McDonnell i gceannas níl amhras ar bith orm go h-éireoidh go geal leis an gCumann.

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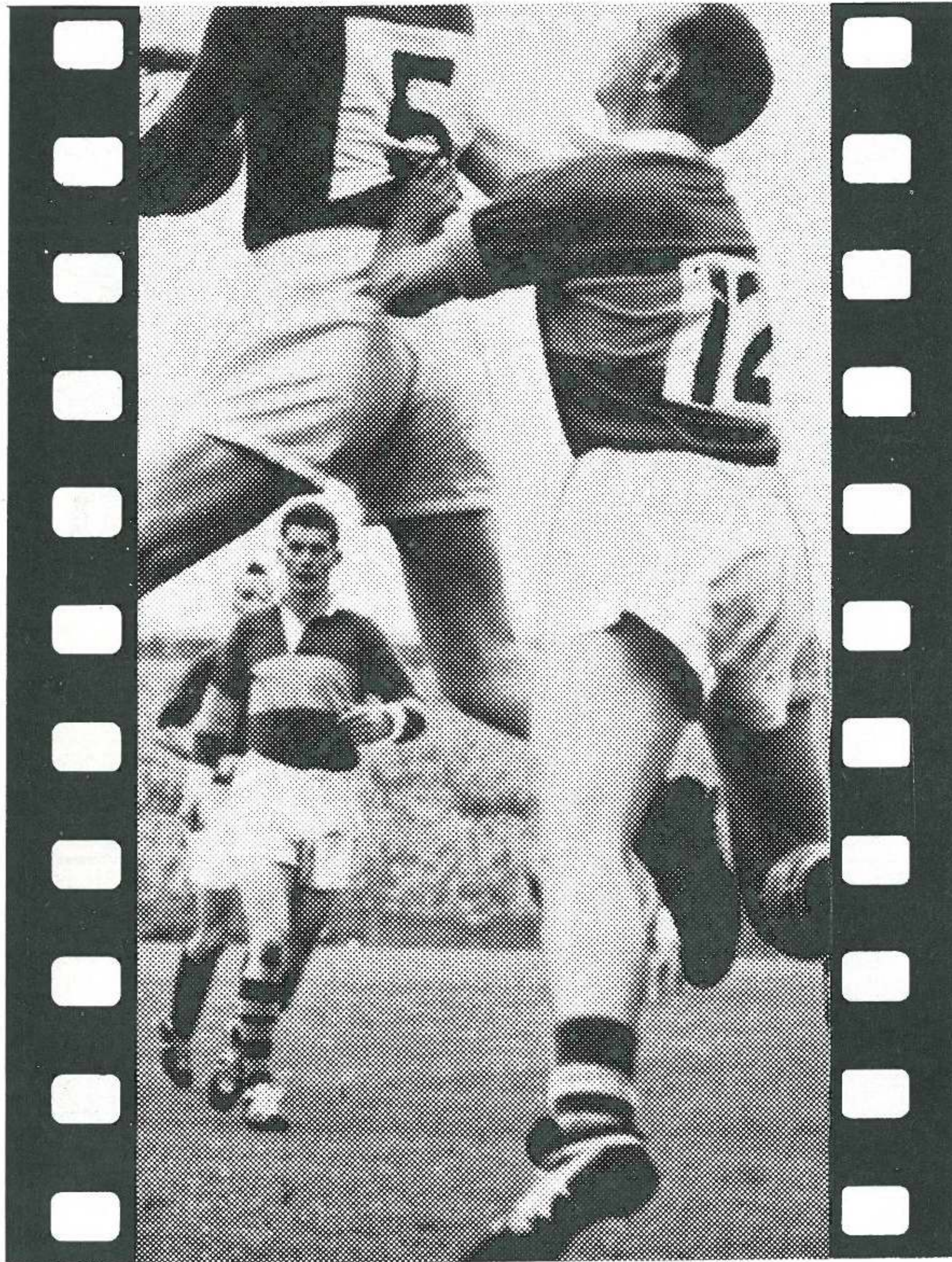


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# THE SHARPSHOOTER FROM BALLYKINLAR . . .

by OWEN McCANN

**P**ADDY DOHERTY has a strong claim to being ranked as the most prolific intercounty scorer of all time. Not only has the Down star finished in the top in the football scoring chart each year since 1958 (except in 1959)—but he also boasts the amazing distinction of having scored in all but one of the games he has played since February, 1958.

This Bachelor of the Scoring Science was second in the football chart in 1958 with 11-46 (79 pts.) from eleven games—an average of 7.18 points a match. This is the highest average yet achieved by a footballer in one year since statisticians started keeping records. Hurling's best is 10.1 points recorded by Christy Ring when he took the honours in 1959 with 22-35 (101 pts.) from 10 encounters.

The Ballykinlar sharpshooter had not such a successful time in 1959. He finished well down the field with 2-61 (67 pts.) from 18 outings.

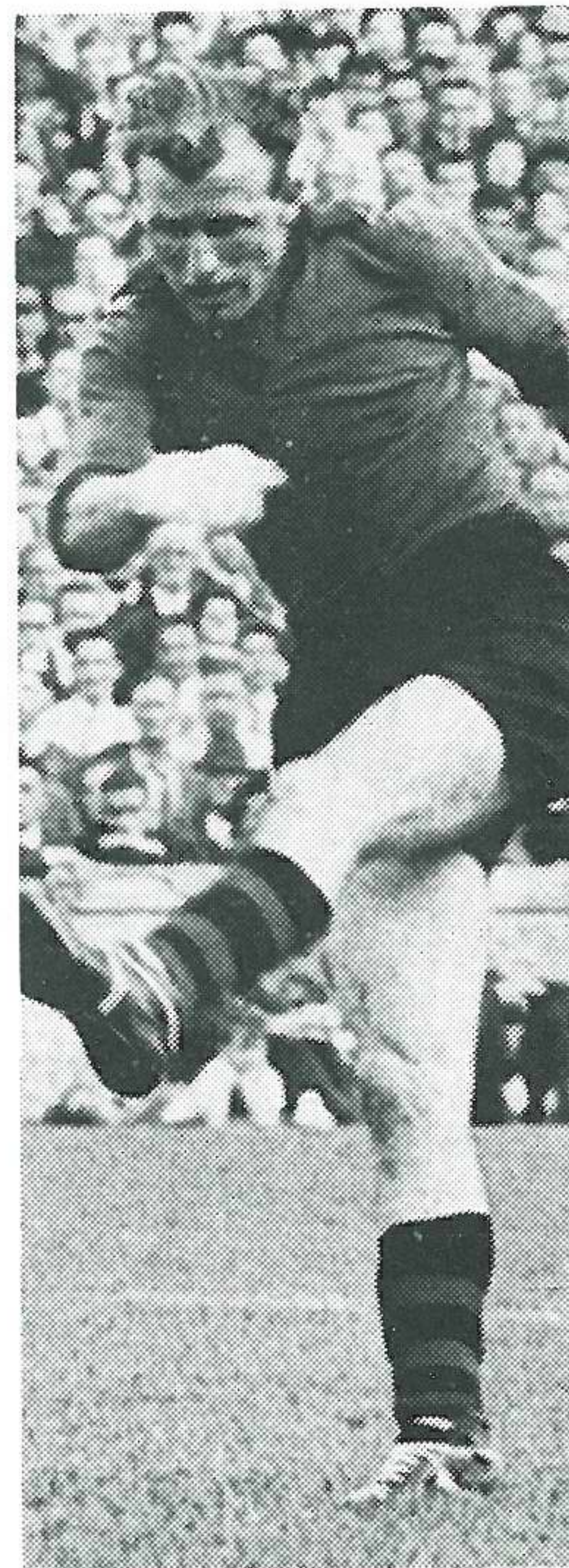
Doherty really made up for it in 1960, however. He scored 13-97 (136 pts.) from 24 games (5.66 points a match) to smash by 19 points the previous best for football (5-102) established by Frankie Donnelly of Tyrone in 1957. It remains the highest football score recorded in one year, but is 19 points below hurling's top score of 35-50 (155 pts.) established by

Nick Rackard from 19 games in 1956.

In 1961 the exquisitely balanced and clever Mourne star became the second player to top 100 points in successive years—Frankie Donnelly being the first. Doherty did it again in 1962—more than 100 points in each of three consecutive years. His actual total for the year was 5-90 (105 pts.), which he chalked up in 24 games at 4.37 points an hour, to finish with a clear lead of 27 points over his nearest rival in football, and six points ahead of the top man in hurling.

Last year was a poor one in football for scoring forwards. Bernie O'Callaghan (Kerry) took first place with a moderate 79 points from 17 games, six more than Doherty, who took one game more to record 8-49 at an average of 4.05 points. Three hurlers bettered O'Callaghan's total last year, with Jimmy Doyle taking first place with 103 points.

But, the dynamic Down marksman is in better scoring form this year. Although up to the start of the 1964-'65 National League he had played one game less than in the entire campaign last year, he has already eight points more than his 1963 total and the chances are that he will better the 100 points tally again this year.



● **PADDY DOHERTY . . . the supreme scoregetter.**

So, Paddy Doherty's impressive total from February, 1958, up to the start of the current National League campaign is a tremendous 54 goals and 486 points (648 pts.) from 134 games. This leaves his over-all match average at 4.83 points a game. And, remember, that he scored in all but one of those 134 engagements.

This wonderful scoring record stamps Paddy Doherty as a forward apart—a scoregetter with the ability to turn the slightest chance to excellent account.

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● *CYRIL DUNNE*

**A**S we strolled into Croke Park recently for the Grounds Tournament final, the thought struck me as to what a change it all was from that day six weeks earlier when we turned up to do battle for the All-Ireland title.

That surely was a day to be remembered. It took our officials quite some time to get us through to the dressing-room. Once inside the roar of the crowd, urging the minors to greater effort, became muffled and the tension really descended.

The small-talk and the wisecracks were over. There was plenty of time to tog out but despite this everybody appeared enveloped in a tide of urgency. The jerseys and socks were being given out. Somebody wanted sticking-plaster; another was shouting for cotton-wool. The odour of linament filled the room.

Soon a ball was being punched about by those who were satisfied that their boots were properly tied and who felt that they were all set to go. Then John Dunne was talking. A familiar exhortation—but more fervently than ever before.

It was time to do or die and we trotted out from under the huge Cusack Stand and into the bright light. The cheers of the crowd echoed around us and under our feet was the green carpeted sod of Croke Park.

We pranced a bit and kicked a ball and didn't feel too bad.

Photographs—we lined up and



● SEAN MEADE



● CHRISTY TYRELL



● JOHN KEENAN

## A DAY OF MEMORIES...

by MATTIE McDONAGH

tried to smile. One cameraman became most annoyed when the team broke away before he had finished. He wished us everything but good luck. Fortunately his influence with the "Gods" was limited.

Then we were marching behind the Artane Boys Band.

The big moment, for me at least, was when the band struck up *Amhrán na bhFiann* and the many thousands of voices blended to the music. It is a moment of great feeling. The blood surges rapidly and one is proud—of county and of country.

The shrill whistle—a thunderous roar and it is on. Sean Cleary was the first to break away but the attack was cleared. We came again. Christy Tyrell was fouled and we had a chance to take the lead.

I will never forget that moment when Cyril Dunne kicked high and true. And what a wonderful game he went on to play. His left-footed kick from sixty yards out at the end of the first half went directly over the black spot in the centre of the crossbar.

Our captain, John Donnellan, made everything appear so easy against the great Mick O'Connell. He snapped every ball that fell within twenty yards of him.

Sean Meade too looked the picture of confidence. Nothing could, or did, stop him from coming through to clear. Noel Tierney was dwarfing those around him, while behind him Johnny Geraghty was never better. His save from Jo Jo Barrett was a moment of glory which will never be forgotten in the West.

Enda Colleran too will be remembered. His long kick out was a great asset right through the hour. And then there was his ballet act with Geraghty when they both connected with a high ball and ballooned it over the sideline.

Bosco McDermott was ever-cool and ever-safe, while in front of him Martin Newell was as busy as a bee and even more productive. In the centre Garrett and Reynolds never gave up and their judicious placing of the ball was a joy.

And the forwards? They played like one well-tuned unit. One

would imagine that Seamus Leyden and John Keenan had some secret means of communication, so perfect was their understanding of what each was about.

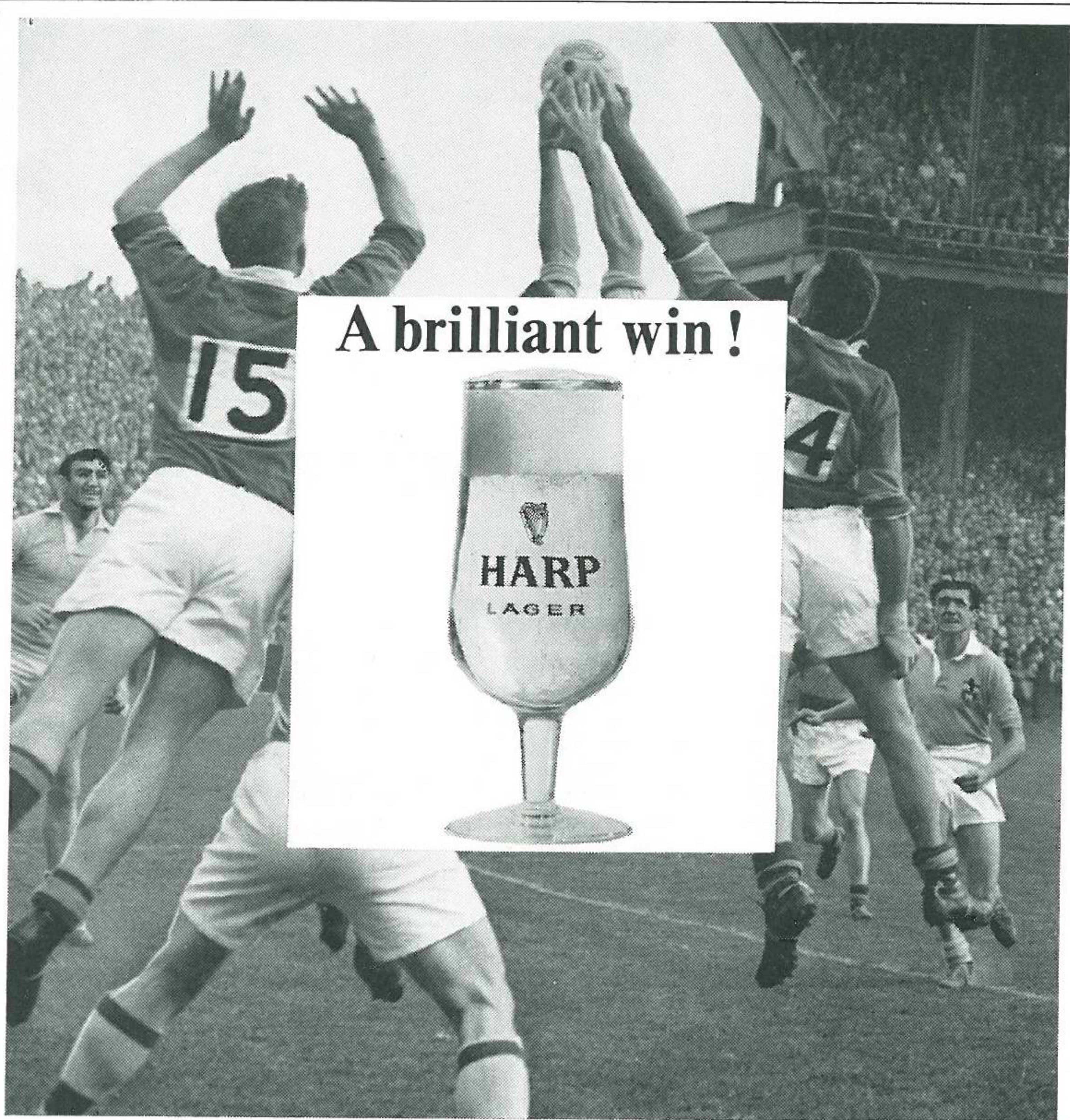
In the right corner Tyrell, Cleary and Dunne displayed delightful hand-passing movements. People have asked me since why Galway did not get a goal from some of those movements. There was an occasion or two when we might have gone for goals, but I think, in such a game and with the play as it was, that it was wiser to take the points and hope the goals would not be needed.

Actually opportunities of direct shots at goal were very few—the Kerry defence saw to that.

Speaking of Kerry, I feel that they benefited from the game—especially their newcomers. They will be back. As always the Kingdom men were models of sportsmanship. Seamus Murphy is as clean a back as ever fielded.

We exchanged a few cross words

● TO PAGE 59



**A brilliant win!**



All-Ireland winner in the Lager Championships—that's Harp, brewed in Dundalk in the traditional Continental way, and top scorer with lager drinkers from Derry to Dunquin.

**Everywhere they're drinking Harp  
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by PHILIP RODERICK

## AN OLD FRIEND...

I AM quite sure that Eamonn Young will have something to say in this issue about Ned Roche. More power to him if he does—but that is not going to prevent me from getting in my lick as well. You see, Ned is an old friend of mine, too, and I have a few things to say about him as well. So move over Youngy and make a little room for me.

When we meet Ned and myself are prone to argument—and the argument is almost always about him. Being the modest man that he never was — and, goodness knows I, myself, am far from being a modest man — Ned enjoys the hard words we always fire at one another.

The subject is invariably the merits of full back play. Ned, having spent a reasonable amount of time in that area for Kerry, claims to know something about the tactics a full-back should use; as for myself, having once played full-back for Duhallow in the Cork minor championships, I am an expert.

Over the years these arguments have waxed hot and furiously and I must confess that I am looking forward to the future when we will have even better ones. As always Ned will be absolutely wrong—and I will be right. He will believe that I have not got a brain between my two ears—and, in all fairness, I will have to allow him his opinion. If we did not

think like that, we would be wasting our time talking.

I have a great old regard for Ned and, mind you, he was not a bad full-back at all. He gave me a few heart tremors in the All-Ireland finals of 1953 and 1955, but these were forgotten when one saw the Sam Maguire Cup being taken over for another long trip down to Kerry.

Ned was not the greatest full-back to play for Kerry—at the risk of another argument the next time we will meet, I do not think he was up with Joe Barrett or Joe Keohane—but he never gave a bad display for Kerry. And any man who can tie two All-Ireland senior medals on to his watch chain must have been good.

He loved playing for Kerry; he enjoyed the victories — and the defeats took a lot out of him.

I remember well the time Kerry went down to their rather unexpected defeat against Derry in the All-Ireland semi-final on a wet and dreary Sunday afternoon in 1958. That night, Youngy and Ned and a few more of us retired to a hostelry near Kingsbridge to hold a sad post mortem.

There had been fifteen Kerry men on the field that day but to listen to Ned, one would think that he and he alone had been responsible for what had happened. He was really upset—and it was a long, long time before we could get him



● NED ROCHE

back to the point of having an argument with us.

Ned was, in his time a great Kerry footballer. Better than that he was and still is a great man, ready at anytime to give a helping hand in the cause of football or friendship.

This year because football is still dear to him, he pulled on a jersey again and went out to play in Co. Cork. His reward was a poor one.

The good old name of sport was forgotten and someone went back over a decade to prove that Ned had offended against Rule 27.

Because of it Ned Roche became the central figure of a bitter controversy.

I am not going to dwell on all that happened — only to express again what millions of civilised people have been saying since time began. Why is it always that someone forgets the good things—and remembers only the things that hurt.

At most, all that was at stake was a West Cork junior championship medal. Did Ned Roche need this medal. How would it look hanging beside his two All-Ireland medals?



# THE BLOND GIANT FROM SLANEYSIDE

by JIM O'BRIEN

A NEW season will begin in a few weeks time and it will be poorer for the fact that Ned Wheeler will no longer be in action on the green fields of Leinster.

Every year since 1951 the blond giant in the Wexford jersey was there with his own great-hearted brand of hurling. He played in virtually every key position for county and province and he mastered them all.

Although a native of Rathdowney, Co. Laois, Ned will always be remembered as a Wexfordman for he was a vital part of that glorious team which so much enriched hurling in recent years.

And so now all the great veteran warriors of the Slaneyside, with the exception of Willie Rackard, have laid their camans aside.

Behind them they leave an unequalled record of sportsmanship and hurling greatness.

### MEATH HUMOUR

It wasn't all depression in Royal Meath during the past month. At a County Board meeting at An Uaimh there was some rare humour when a referee's report stated that one player "was boxing during the match" while another was referred to as having "engaged in a bout of fisticuffs during the match."

Somebody enquired as to what was the difference.

"One is professional boxing while the other is amateur," cracked Mr. William Egleston.

"This is an amateur organisation so it should have been confined to amateur boxing," added Mr. Dick Snow.

### IRISH IN CARLOW

A referee, who it was alleged addressed the teams in Irish prior to the commencement of a minor game, was criticised for so doing by a club delegate at a recent meeting of the Carlow County Board.

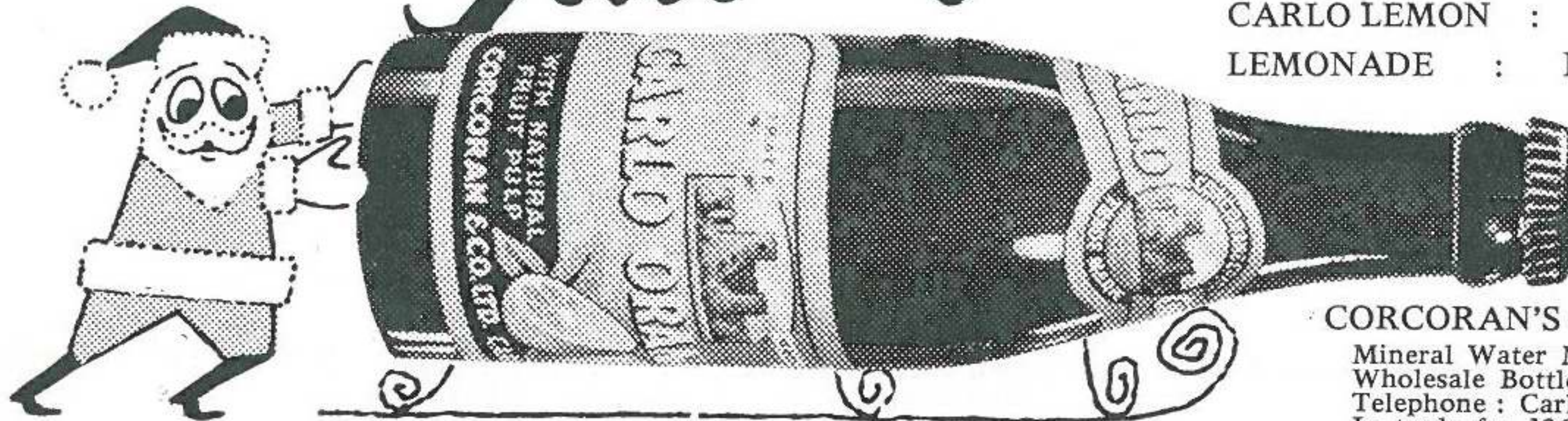
"There is no point in talking to a county chap in Irish," stated the delegate.

What an extraordinary mentality.

### OFFALY EXILES

Offaly can beat Cork in hurling as well as football—but only in New York. In a recent New York hurling championship game the Midlanders defeated Cork 2-11 to 1-8. Combining both football and hurling, Offaly are now about the strongest club in New York. They are already in the 1964 football

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● **OLLIE WALSH** . . . back between the posts for Kilkenny after a recent illness and playing as well as ever.

final having beaten Louth to qualify.

**TED LAFFEY**

Laois loses one of its most capable officials later this year when Football Board Secretary, Ted Laffey of Mountmellick, retires following fifteen years in office. A former county footballer in all grades he is being forced to retire due to increased business commitments.

**FAMILY AFFAIR**

The Thomastown Rangers junior hurling team in Co. Kilkenny had five sets of brothers in action during its successful campaign this year—Cullens, Bookles, Forrestals, O'Neills and McEntees. More unusual still, of course, was the fact that six Conroy brothers helped Clonard in their Laois senior hurling championship campaign.

**OFFALY STAR**

Offaly teenager, Michael Ryan, who is now making the grade with the county senior team, holds the distinction of having collected All-Ireland medals in three consecutive years. In 1962 and '63 he was a member of the victorious St. Mels, Longford, fifteen, while this year he made it three up with the Offaly minors. So he now has the proud record of being Offaly's leading All-Ireland medal winner.



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## *This is how* *the affair started . . .*

THE game was nearly over and I knew we had won for the tide was flowing strongly with us. In a vigorous rush we forced a fifty and as the referee placed the ball a great surge of relief swept over me for he looked at his watch. Up came the big player from the backs to take the kick and when the referee spoke to him we all knew he was saying that the game was over and the score should come direct.

Back went the big fellow, paused and trotted up to drive a long high ball about sixty-five yards. The fact that it was a few feet wide didn't make any difference; it was a good kick and we had won.

I wonder is that the last of Ned Roche's football?

Anyway that's how it finished; and this is how it began. The Dohenys of Dunmanway (called after the Fenian leader who rested near the town when on the run) are an old club. They represented Cork in the All-Ireland of 1897 and were beaten.

Being short of forwards this year they asked me to give them a hand and I asked my friend Capt. Ned Roche to turn out a team to give the boys a game.

After the game the Dohenys asked Ned to play for them and as he had not played for about two years the 36-year-old All-Ireland full back agreed to help the strug-

gling country club in their replay against neighbouring Skibbereen in the West Cork junior championship.

After the game Skibbereen objected to Ned Roche on the grounds that he had played rugby more than a decade ago. In the initial hearing in West Cork the objection was lost as no evidence was produced but the Skibbereen men appealed the case to the Cork County Board which referred the matter to its General Purposes Committee of eight (the five Board officers and three chosen from the Board). The G.P.C. sent the appeal back to West Cork directing them to demand from the Board a photograph which was in the possession of the County Secretary.

Again the West Corkmen under their chairman, Sean Crowley, of Bandon, considered the case and again the objection was lost.

Once more the Skibbereen men went to the County Board and this time the G.P.C. upheld their case and recommended to the Board that Ned Roche apply for reinstatement. In the ensuing discussion the Cork Chairman, Weesh Murphy stated that the decision was based on the photograph supplied by the County Secretary, Con Murphy, and taken in 1952 or '53.

The Dohenys thus were out of the championship and Roche was suspended, no term being stated—

but on application for reinstatement I presume he would get six months, which is the penalty for playing foreign games.

The Dohenys appealed to the Munster Council; Ned Roche did likewise.

In Limerick on November 10 the case came before the Council. There Chairman, Pat Fanning of Waterford, asked for an argument that the case was properly before him at all. Con Murphy contended that as Ned Roche's case and the Doheny's case had each got two hearings (simultaneously) it could not come before the Council as the Rule allows of only two hearings at any time.

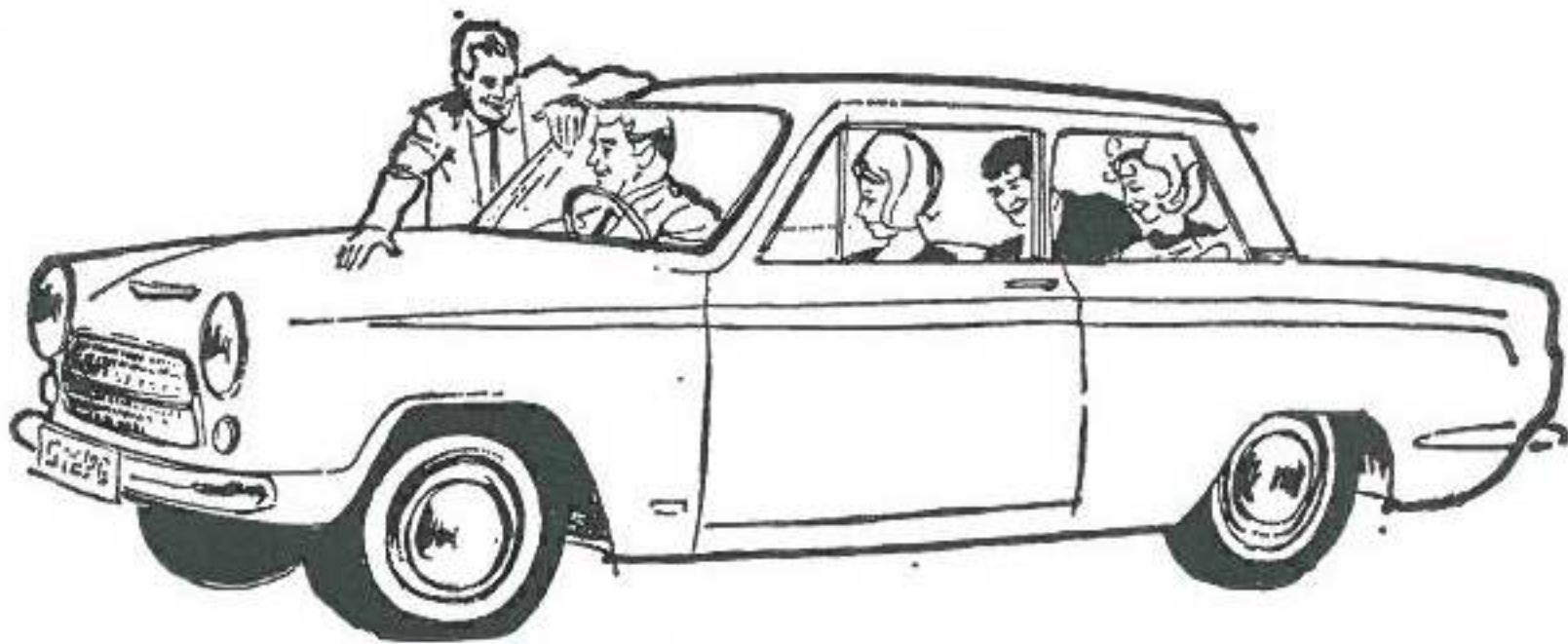
The Dohenys pointed out that although their case was heard four times (which in itself would seem an irregularity) it had never been properly heard. While Ned Roche and I pointed out that he was entitled to appeal against the suspension announced by Weesh Murphy.

To make a long story short the appeal was found to be not in order and we went home most depressed.

Whether or not the matter is all over as I write is not clear and not being exactly a neutral I am not the best judge of this entire affair.

Anyway both myself and Ned and a few more are very cranky these days. Perhaps it is the first sign of old age.

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by **MATT  
FITZPATRICK**

**D**ONEGAL had for so long been the "Cinderella" football and hurling county in Ulster, but during the past decade great strides have been made despite the still prevalent emigration problem, and now the county enjoys success at many levels although a senior provincial title still evades them.

Proud of their club heritage, the county has down the years produced great club teams, but I doubt if ever they had one to compare with Mac Cumhails (Stranorlar-Ballybofey) who this year won the county football title for the third successive year, so equalling the feat of Gweedore.

Actually, Mac Cumhails was the name given to the club in 1957 in honour of the district's favourite son Sean Mac Cumhaill, who during the forty-eight short years of his life breathed into the people, district and club the breath of the Association and all things Gaelic. His sufferings as a result of imprisonment are part of history now, but when he died the people of Stranorlar and Ballybofey united



● *MAC CUMHAILLS . . . leading lights in the Donegal football world.*

together to form the club as it is known today.

But let's go back to the beginning. Gaelic football first came to the district around the first part of the present century, but then there were two teams. The twin towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar are separated by the river Finn and that then provided the boundary for the teams. Then in 1926 Ballybofey, Eire Og and Stranorlar Sarsfields united to form Erin's Hopes.

Under the chairmanship of Frank Murphy the Hopes got going, and others to whom a lot of work fell in organising affairs were J. J. Byrne, Michael McGinty, John McGill, Neil Harvey and the late Sean Mac Cumhaill. It was during those early years that the genius of Sean Mac Cumhaill was seen to greatest effect.

First success came four years later when they won the McGinley Cup, and players who helped in that triumph were John Brady, Frank Thomson, Charlie Rutherford, Harry McNulty, Jack Hannigan, Fred McMenamin, Nick Craw-

ford, Frank Griffen and his brother Ben, the present chairman.

The club won the junior title in 1932, '44 and '55, but still the major trophies eluded them. Then in 1957 the club was reorganised and given its present name to honour the memory of the man who had done so much for the Association not only locally but throughout the county during his term of office as County Board Secretary.

Ben Griffen was elected to the chair. Vice-chairman was Paddy McMenamin. Paddy O'Flanagan became secretary with Joe Doherty treasurer. These four men still maintain important positions in the club.

With the new formation the big build-up began, and two years later success was achieved when for the first time the senior county title was won with a memorable victory over Kilcar.

In 1960 the League was won and with it the Democrat Cup, while in 1961 the McGinley Cup again found a resting place by the river Finn. Now the last three years are familiar history as the club has

remained unbeaten in the championship, retaining its title each year.

Down the years great players have donned the club colours, but pride of place goes to Frankie McFeeley who was the first (of many they hope) to win a Railway Cup medal with Ulster in 1963.

The upsurge of Donegal in Ulster has coincided with the rise of Mac Cumhails as a force in the county, and during the past few years the club has supplied Donegal with the backbone of the team with the McFeeleys, Dan McMenamin, Harry Laverty, Tom Prendergast and Andy Gallan, to name only a few.

Mac Cumhaill Park is situated across the bridge in Ballybofey by the side of the River Finn. Opened in 1956, herein lies the success of the club. The finest park in the North-West, the ground and dressing rooms are estimated at a value of over £12,000. The playing surface is first class and the natural grand stand banking on one side gives a perfect view. The brain-child of Sean Mac Cumhaill, this

● **TO PAGE 28**

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# NOEL TIERNEY

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## FACE TO FACE WITH SEAN O'DONNELL

**F**EW men in modern times have sprung into the limelight so quickly and so impressively as 22-year-old Noel Tierney, who is already being hailed as one of the greatest full backs of all-time.

Oddly enough it was as a full forward that Noel first bid for a place on a Galway team. That was back in 1958 when he played in a county minor trial. He was chosen as a substitute. The following year he made the team at full back and was still there in 1960 when the Westerners won the All-Ireland minor title.

In 1960 too he made his senior debut but was generally placed at corner-back during the National League campaign which followed. An injury interrupted his career for a spell but he was back better than ever and in last year's Connacht championship was moved to full-back.

He was an immediate star and has remained one ever since. Tierney is now the rock on which so many attacks flounder and fail. His uncanny judgment, safe hands and great strength and speed have during the past two championships carried Galway to the pinnacle of football glory. He is likely to

remain one of our outstanding stars for many a day.

Recently I put these questions to him.

*O'Donnell — What game has given you your greatest thrill?*

Tierney—This year's semi-final against Meath. It was a great game there was a doubt all the way.

*O'D.—Which county do you prefer most to play against?*

T.—Kerry. I suppose it is because there is more glory in beating Kerry than any other county. Furthermore they always play a fine manly game.

*O'D.—Who are the most difficult opponents you have met?*

T.—I can think of three in particular—Des Ferguson, Tom Long and James McCartan.

*O'D.—Who would you consider the greatest footballer that you have ever seen?*

T.—Again I would be inclined to name three — Sean Purcell, Frank Stockwell and Gerry O'Malley.

*O'D.—To what do you attribute Galway's success this year?*

T.—Well there was a great understanding among the players. Many of us were on the minor

teams of 1959 and '60 and we sort of developed together.

*O'D.—What of next year, what will happen?*

T.—We would certainly like to win the National League and qualify for that trip to New York which slipped through our fingers early this year. We are, I suppose, lucky that there is a U.S. visit again next year.

*O'D.—Are there any changes in the Rules that you would wish for?*

T.—Not really but I would like to see better insurance coverage for injured players.

*O'D.—Have you any special means of keeping fit—especially off season?*

T.—A hard-working farmer is always in pretty good shape.

*O'D.—Are the Galway hurlers ever going to emulate the footballers?*

T.—Well I certainly hope so. There is great work at present being done in the schools throughout the county and, provided it continues I think that we can look to a Galway hurling resurgence.

*O'D.—Any other sporting interests?*

T.—Yes, I like boxing and wrestling—also shooting.

## The facts behind Rule 30

**R**ULE 30 of the Official Guide states: *Members shall not be permitted to compete at sports meetings in Ireland which are carried out under the laws of any Association rival to the N.A.C.A.* The penalty for violation of this Rule is six months suspension.

Violation of this Rule has been very rare — and for two reasons. Firstly, the A.A.U. and C.R.E., the two splinter organisations who have set themselves up in rivalry with the N.A.C.A., are very small and have in the past remained confined to a few clubs in Dublin.

The second reason why this Rule is so seldom violated is that the vast majority of members and supporters of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael fully understand how the A.A.U. and C.R.E. came into being and how they bartered, not alone athletic and cycling unity in Ireland, but also our National Flag, our National Anthem and our national sovereignty of 32 Counties, for the paltry price of international competition.

The entire background and make-up of these two organisations is obnoxious to even the most casual follower of the G.A.A., and indeed to the vast majority of

Irishmen who are in any way familiar with the situation.

Still there is the possibility that some people particularly the youth of secondary school-going age, might not be aware of what these organisations represent.

Why I refer to this entire position is because it is no secret that an effort is at present being made by the A.A.U. and C.R.E. to infiltrate into Munster and particularly into Tipperary.

This must not be allowed happen. Tipperary has too long and too proud a national and a G.A.A. record to find room for any sporting organisations of denationalising aspiration. Members of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael in particular should be alert to any such happenings. It is their duty to oppose and to protect the allegiance of our youth.

This no doubt, will be done in gallant Tipperary.

While on this subject too it might be no harm to re-state once again the position which exists with regard to Irish athletics and the Olympic Games.

The N.A.C.A. and N.C.A., who together represent 95 per cent. of Irish athletes and cyclists, are prevented from taking part in all inter-

national competition including the Olympic Games.

Briefly the history of this situation is as follows. The G.A.A. from its foundation took control of Irish athletics and cycling. In those early days there was no international competition as far as Ireland was concerned as we were then ruled entirely by England.

However with the setting up of the State in 1922 the door was opened to international competition and so at that year's Easter Congress the G.A.A. set up a sub-committee to study the position. A month later Congress was reconvened to receive the recommendations of that committee. The recommendation was that the National Athletic and Cycling Association be formed as a separate wing of the G.A.A. Congress ratified the recommendation and so the N.A.C.A. came into being.

The N.A.C.A. had control of all athletics throughout the country and so it was that Ireland competed for the first time in the Olympic Games—in Paris in 1924. Again an All-Ireland team took the field at Amsterdam at the 1928 Games and the mighty Pat O'Callaghan won the hammer event.

It was the same at Los Angeles



● **PAT O'CALLAGHAN** . . .  
*the Irish Olympics man with the  
 golden touch.*

at the 1932 Olympics, and this time we won two gold medals—O'Callaghan retaining the hammer title and Bob Tisdall winning the 400 metres hurdles.

However, trouble was just around the corner. England was dissatisfied with the position whereby a 32 County Irish team should be competing under the Tricolour, and so she did everything possible to prevent the position remaining. Eventually in 1934, at the International Amateur Athletic Federation Congress at Stockholm, England succeeded in having a motion passed which would confine Ireland to 26 Counties for athletic purposes.

Ireland was therefore suspended from international competition unless the N.A.C.A. was willing to accept the ruling and confine itself to 26 counties and leave the six North Eastern of our counties to England. The 1934 N.A.C.A. Congress refused and so the suspension came into being.

How long this suspension would have lasted is a matter of conjecture. But I think that it is safe to say that it could not be enforced in the world of to-day were it not for the action taken by seven N.A.C.A. clubs in 1937.

These seven clubs, among them

● **TO PAGE 27**



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## FEAR FAIRE

### ● FROM PAGE 25

Clonliffe Harriers, Donore Harriers and Trinity College, broke away from the suspended N.A.C.A. in 1937. They formed the "A.A.U. of Eire" and with England's help got the recognition of the International Federation. They promised to confine themselves to 26 Counties and so the "split" was in being.

A few years later a new 26 County cycling body known as C.R.E. came into being as an offshoot of the A.A.U. It is very much to the credit of the athletes and cyclists of Ireland that neither of these bodies ever succeeded in extending their scope outside of Dublin. They were of the Pale and in the Pale they have remained.

However, by virtue of the fact that these few clubs were now being allowed to represent, or to be more precise mis-represent, Ireland in Olympic Games and other international events, the situation became most confused to those of other countries.

It is very difficult to explain to a Frenchman, an Algerian, an Argentinian, or any other national, that Ireland is still being deprived of international competition. He will ask who were those who competed in Tokyo or in Rome or in Melbourne under the name of Ireland. You try and explain and he immediately thinks that it is some sort of an internal feud between two rival Irish bodies (just as there was in America last year). It is virtually impossible to persuade him that an injustice is being done to the Irish nation.

But if there was no A.A.U. or C.R.E. the position would be very clear. He would see that Ireland was being deprived of international competition for very obvious and very unjust political reasons. He

would see that England had brought politics into athletics and was keeping it there. More than likely he would support Ireland's claim—as would the vast majority of the newly emerged nations.

But the tragedy is that the A.A.U. and C.R.E. do exist and so the position is therefore most unclear to an outsider. It is the Irish fighting among themselves once again, he thinks. And so the position remains.

But let us never forget that the N.A.C.A. and the N.C.A. are both branch associations of the G.A.A. The G.A.A. gave them birth and still stands loyal with them.

So too must every Irishman and boy who has any sense of justice or national pride.

#### JAMES McCARTAN

"Linesman," the Gaelic Games correspondent in the Co. Down weekly newspaper, "Frontier Sentinel", began his article in the issue of October 31 as follows:

"The manner in which Down has hit the headlines this week, firstly by the defeat at the hands of Monaghan, and then by the much publicised retiral of James McCartan, almost creates the impression that a crisis has occurred in the affairs of the Association in Down.

"My first intimation that things were not as they should be on Sunday, was when passing the Warrenpoint golf course on my way to the game (against Monaghan). I glanced over at a group on the first tee, and could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw the familiar outline of James McCartan preparing to drive off. To be truthful I thought my eyes were deceiving me, but when I learned of the retiral news at Newry a short time



● JAMES McCARTAN . . . will he be back with Down?

later I could only murmur 'it was James all right'."

Later in the article "Linesman" comments—"There are few who make hasty decisions and who do not live to regret them, and great as the satisfaction is in sinking even a two yards putt, it could hardly mean as much as sinking a ball in the net from twenty yards in a Lagan Cup or Ulster final. At least not to a man like McCartan."

I would lay even money that, if Down make any form of resurgence, James will be back.

#### CLARE FORGETS

Clare captured its one and only senior All-Ireland title when on October 18, 1914, its hurlers defeated Laois at Croke Park. This year therefore is the 50th anniversary of that victory and I was rather surprised to see no effort made in the Banner County to mark the occasion.

Quite a number of that victorious 1914 Clare team are still very much alive and it was a pity that there was not some form of get-together to honour them.

Come to think of it, Clare brought off a double that year for they also won the junior hurling title. So there must have been quite a few bonfires burning throughout the county this time 50 years ago.

Seeing as they have had no major achievement to celebrate since, one would have thought that they would have remembered.

# ULSTER CLUBS

● FROM PAGE 21

park is a living memory to this truly great man.

But the club are still thinking

of the future and another four acres alongside have been acquired and are being developed into two practice pitches. More land is

available for purchase which would provide facilities for bigger and better dressing rooms; and let me say right away that the club is free from debt, thanks to the efforts of the members and locals whose support is unyielding.

The club runs football in all grades, senior, junior, minor and juvenile, and has county titles in all grades. Hurling is now well rooted and minor and junior teams are going strong, while facilities are provided in Butt Hall, Ballybofey, for ceili dancing, darts, cards, billiards, snooker, table tennis and various other indoor games.

In Butt Hall are the most modern shower baths, dressing rooms and dining rooms. Here the members meet, plan, discuss, play and enjoy themselves in a truly Gaelic atmosphere, and here too the youth of the twin towns enjoy the fruits of the hard work of Ben Griffen, Paddy Murphy, the late Paddy McNulty and of course the late Sean Mac Cumhaill.

The senior football team is trained and managed by Gerry Griffen, while Paddy O'Flannigan, his brother Michael, Dan McMenamin, Eddie McFeeley, Frank Quinn, Joe McCaffrey and Cathal Hannigan form the park committee whose job it is to raise funds. They do this with their snowball whist drives which have become a feature in the North-West.

So there you have it. A look at a young club which looks to the future with the proud assurance that in Sean Mac Cumhaill they had a great founder, teacher and administrator whose memory will always remain to inspire.

My thanks to Ben Griffen, Paddy O'Flannigan, Joe Doherty, Gerry Griffen and ex-Derry county player Sean Young (now secretary of the club) for their help and hospitality.

Next month I will take a look at Ballygalget, hurling champions of Co. Down.

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# FOUR GREAT STALWARTS

WHAT a pity that at the very moment when the G.A.A.'s Five-Year Plan for hurling was being announced the Association and the hurling game should have lost four great stalwarts whose loss will be mourned for many a year.

First to go was Jack Anthony of Pilltown, one of Kilkenny's old guard. Jack was one of that remarkable band of hurlers that the Noreside produced in the early years of this century. He was on the side that, after years of vain striving, brought the first-ever All-Ireland to the Nore in 1904.

Jack Anthony in that game was playing almost in his own backyard, for that final was staged at the old ground of the Davins at Carrick-on-Suir, Deerpark, only a few miles from the Anthony home in Pilltown.

Then in 1905, Jack was back again to win his second Celtic Cross medal, but it is with his third victory in the 1907 final against Cork that the name of the Pilltown stalwart is still particularly associated in Kilkenny.

That final, played at Dan Fraher's Shandon Park, in Dungarvan on a mid-Summer day 1908, is still treasured in the memory of all old-time hurling followers as one of the greatest ever played. Right through the hour it was score for score as the white ball was whipped from one end of the pitch to the other to the frenzied cheers of the

huge crowd that swayed in the summer sunshine.

Time was running out as Kilkenny went into a belated lead. Referee, Mick Crowe, was already looking at his watch when Cork went bounding away to balance the scores. The cheers of the Cork following were still echoing round the ground as Kilkenny goal-man John Power of Pilltown got ready to puck-out the ball, while even the Kilkenny supporters agreed that a draw was a fair result, for the time was up and everyone expected the last whistle on the puck-out.

Mick Crowe blew for the puck-out, and as he ran upfield dropped the whistle. He halted and went

back to pick it up. Power pucked that ball away out to the wing where his club-mate Jack Anthony waited. Anthony of the spun-steel wrists, hit that white ball in his stride while it was still high above his head, and sent it sailing on to the Cork square where Jim Kelly of Mooncoin whipped it on the drop and sent it sailing high between the Cork posts even as referee Crowe was picking up his whistle.

The crowd went wild with excitement, the long whistle blew loud and shrill, and thanks to that wonderful stroke of Jack Anthony's Kilkenny had won by a single point, but whether Kilkenny would thus have beaten Cork, and the clock, if Mick Crowe had not dropped his whistle is something that only referee Crowe could tell—and Mick, God rest him, has been dead these forty years.

Tom Neary of Kilkenny was a man who never played in an All-Ireland final, but it could be safely said that without him very few All-Irelands might have been played in the last thirty-five years or thereabouts for few teams have ever taken a championship field without a Neary hurley to send the ball straight and true.

Tom Neary had, as a youngster, been a well-known player with the old Kilkenny city club, Erin's Own, and later was a founder member of another Marble City side, Dicksboro. His hurleys eventually



● The late Mick D'Arcy.

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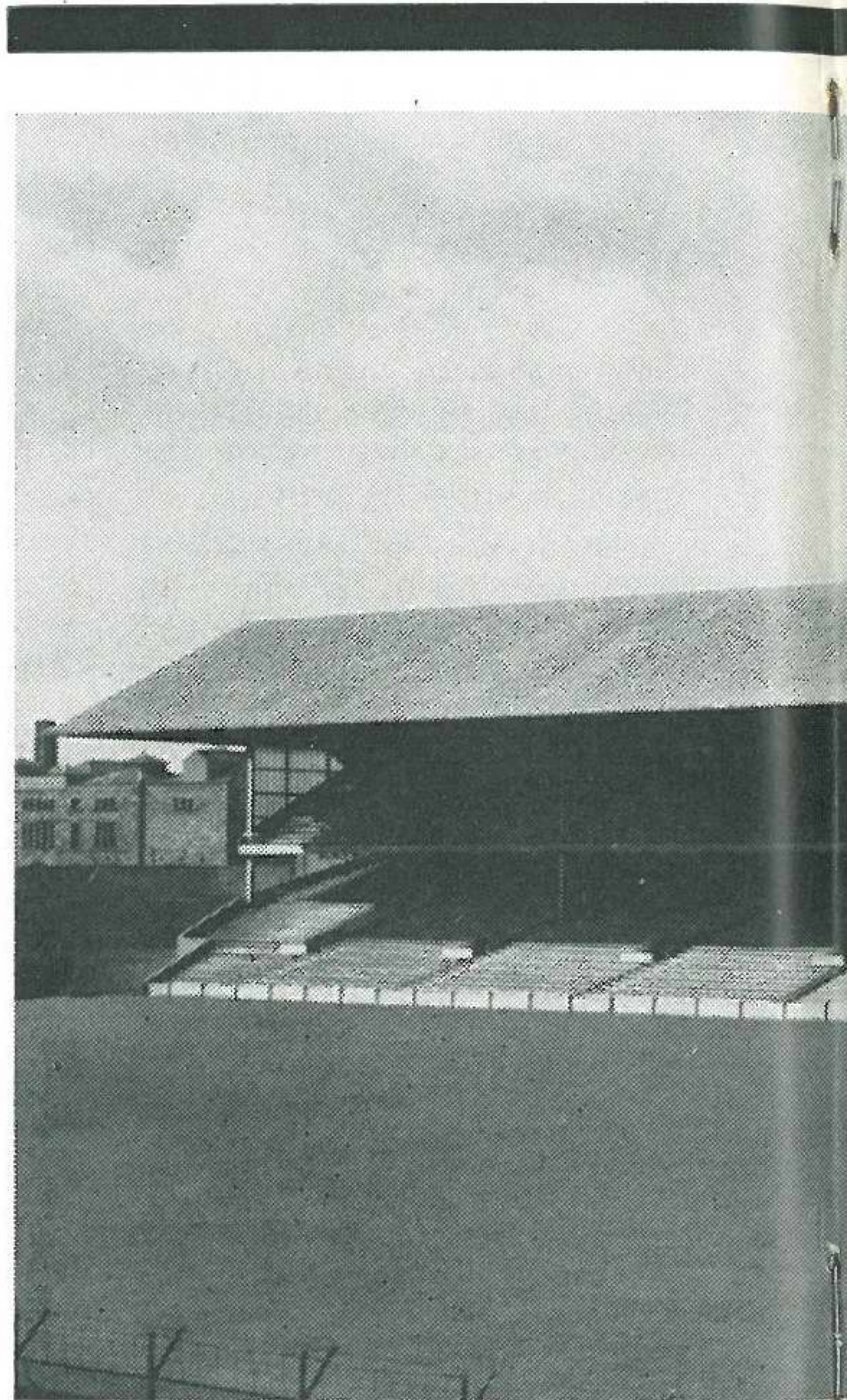
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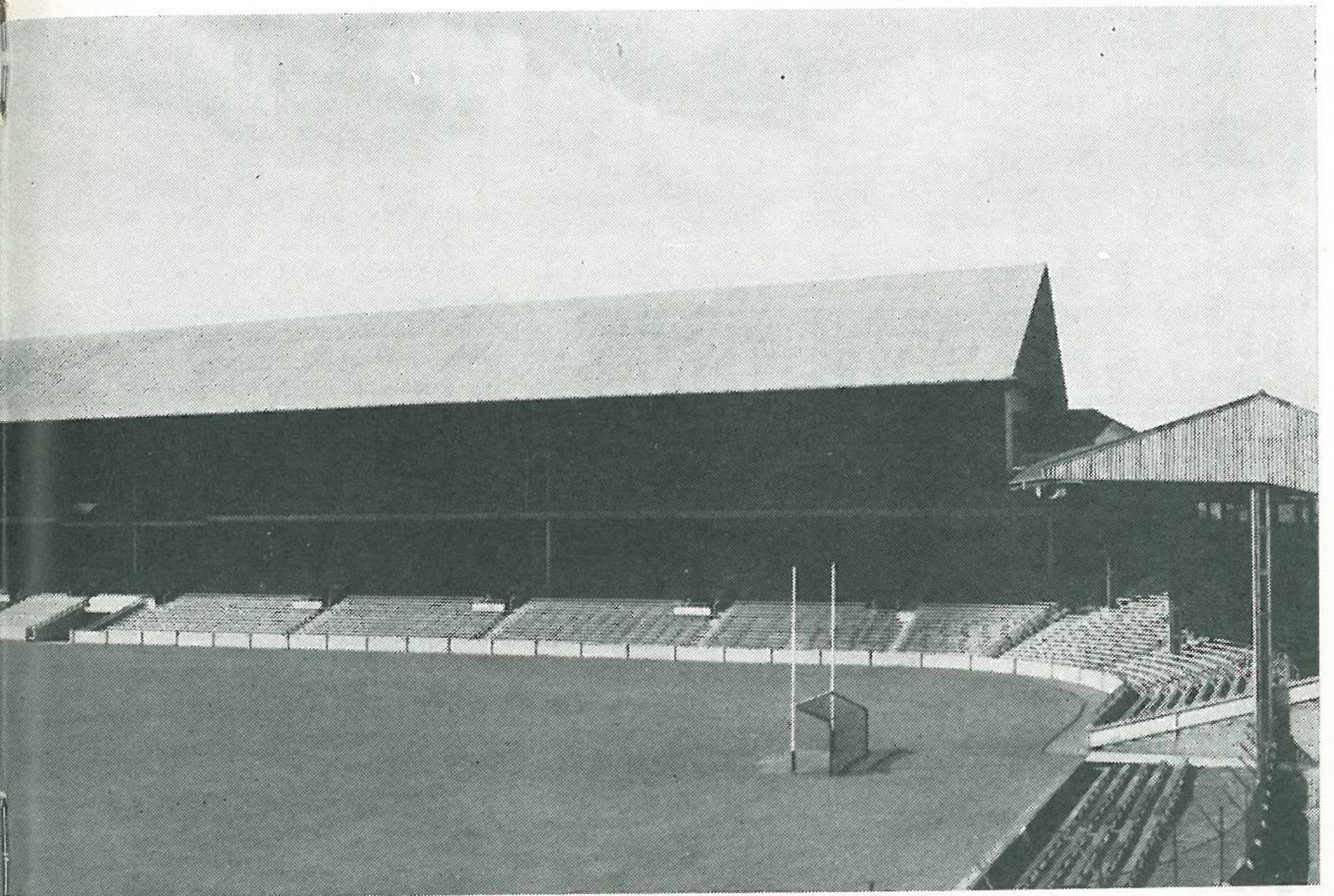
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# MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

● From Page 29

became the standard pattern throughout the country, and it is the Neary concept, forty years ago, of what a balanced caman should be that is the headline for every hurley factory to-day. In fact, thinking back to the days when he was the only large-scale manufacturer in the country, it can safely be said that Tom Neary of James's Green was the man who standardised the caman.

To few men in Ireland has it been granted to leave such an imprint on the hurling game as was

granted to Mick D'Arcy of Nenagh, Tipperary and U.C.D. Raised in the best traditions of North Tipperary hurling, (he often told me he purposely set out to emulate the famed Nenagh de Wets, whom, as a very small boy, he had seen in all their glory, and never forgot), Mick D'Arcy was for some years the brightest star of the talent-bright hurling times of the 'twenties.

But when his inter-county days were ended, prematurely many felt, he lost none of his fierce enthusiasm for the game but for thirty years devoted his spare time to fostering the game among the

students of University College, Dublin. Generation after generation of U.C.D. students had the benefit of his advice and attention, and never through the years was any man better loved by all who knew him.

A great sportsman and a great organiser, Mick D'Arcy really 'nursed' the U.C.D. hurling club. There was nothing this graduate would not do for the undergraduates—even to fielding out in goal which he did a couple of years ago when some of the side did not turn up and Mick, to avoid the ignominy to the club of conceding a walk-over, played in goal for the hour even though he was then in his sixtieth year and even though it was almost forty years before since first he had donned the jersey of St. Patrick's Blue.

But, to those who knew Mick D'Arcy's enthusiasm for the hurling game and his devotion to the U.C.D. club, such a gesture only typified the great heart of as true a Gael as ever set foot on any playing pitch.

Another great enthusiast whom hurling could ill-afford to lose at this juncture was Garda John Howard.

A native of Croom, he played minor for Limerick, as one would expect of a nephew of the great Garrett. I knew him best on the playing fields as full back for the Crokes and later as trainer of some great recent sides in the purple and gold.

But his most valuable work was done in coaching the youngsters and teaching and encouraging them to play the game. Nor did he confine his interests to hurling; he coached schools camogie teams too.

John would have been an invaluable asset to the new coaching scheme proposed by Central Council, but God called him home while still in his prime.

May God rest these hurling men. We shall not see their peers.

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# TOP TEN

## John Doyle ar Bárr

**T**Á liostaí na míosa seo bunaithe ar chluichí sinsear idir-chontae a himríodh ón Domhnach, Deire Fómhair 18, go dtí an Domhnach, Samhain 8.

Sé an sean laoch, John Doyle, atá ar bárr san iomáint de brárr



● MATTIE McDONAGH

sár imirt i gcomórtas an Oireachtais.

Sa pheil sé Mattie McDonagh atá chun cinn, le Joe Langan ó Mhuigheo sa tarna háit.

### IOMÁINT

1. John Doyle (Tiobrad Árann).
2. Michael Keating (Tiobrad Árann).
3. Dan Quigley (Loch Garman).
4. Pat Henderson (Cill Chainnigh).
5. Theo English (Tiobrad Árann).
6. Liam Devaney (Tiobrad Árann).
7. Ted Carroll (Cill Chainnigh).
8. Kevin Long (Luimneach).
9. Mick Birmingham (Áth Cliath).
10. Seamus Cleere (Cill Chainnigh).

### PEIL

1. Mattie McDonagh (Gaillimh).

### ● JOHN DOYLE



2. Joe Langan (Muigheo).
3. Paddy Holden (Áth Cliath).
4. Noel Tierney (Gaillimh).
5. Mick Reynolds (Gaillimh).
6. Sean Woods (Muineachán).
7. Seamus Leyden (Gaillimh).
8. Paddy Doherty (An Dún).
9. Jim O'Hanlon (Muineachán).
10. Charlie Gallagher (Cabhán).

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## SORROW AND TRAGEDY

**F**IRST it was Mrs. Jack Whelan whose untimely death in August caused widespread sorrow amongst Galway Gaels. Then Mrs. Paddy Hughes of Milltown died a short time after she had attended the All-Ireland hurling final. The double tragedy of Galway's All-Ireland day resulting in the deaths of Mick Donnellan and Mick Higgins is now history, but the recent death of Mrs. Bosco McDermott is the severest of all. A most likeable person and a very gentle girl indeed was Kathleen. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to Bosco on his terrible tragedy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam uasal.

### REFEREE LOFTUS

Congratulations are extended to Crossmolina's popular doctor, Mickey Loftus, on his refereeing of the minor football All-Ireland. His dismissal of two would-be-pugilists early on in the game helped in no small way to "make" this game. Maybe I am wrong but I think our minor players are being over pampered to a degree as to regard themselves "touch-me-nots" on All-Ireland day. We should rid our minor games of an undesirable ever-growing tendency to become rough, untidy and, at times, posi-

tively cheeky. More referees like Mickey Loftus, who will take no nonsense, may be the cure.

### REJOICING

Despite all the sorrow and tragedy, Galway has had its rejoicing for its All-Ireland victory. Galway City with Mayor, Mr. Paddy Flaherty, in charge feted the champions in style. It did seem odd, however, that no representative of Galway's last winning team of '56 was invited to the banquet. Then Ballygar, Glenamaddy, Caherlistrane and Turloughmore feted the heroes in style. Now we hear rumours of further celebrations in Dunmore, Ballinasloe and Tuam.

### GALWAY YEARBOOK

The second edition of the Galway G.A.A. Yearbook is under way and with so much to write about, writers such as John Donnellan, Sean Duggan, Sean Purcell, Seamus Cullinane, Mick Gill, Rev. B. Kavanagh, Enda Colleran, J. K. Hehir, Joe Salmon, Rev. P. Mahon, Brendan Nestor, and Frank Fahy should make this second edition even better than the first.

### COLLEGES' EVENTS

I confidently predict a St. Mary's College, Galway, v St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Connacht colleges' S.F. final this year and what is

more I expect a thriller. I base my judgment on their recent meeting in Galway, when the Hogan Cup champions St. Jarlaths were lucky enough to win by a goal. In this game there was a real clash of giants in St. Mary's star Mayo minor John Gibbons of Louisburgh and St. Jarlath's Jimmy Duggan from Claremorris.

The League system, which provides all five participating colleges with four games each, also provides a final between the two top teams, is a very good idea which might be copied in other competitions.

### JUNIOR STARS

Congratulations are extended to Robbie Fox of Hollymount, Tommy Clancy of Moycullen and Mickey Kearns of Dromard on inspiring respective junior football championships in Mayo, Galway and Sligo. All three are great sportsmen who have done much for their clubs in attaining title-winning status.

### MICK MANNION

Delighted to see that Mick Mannion, the great Laught cyclist of yore, is back in N.C.A. activities once again and I wish this great Gael all the success his wonderful enthusiasm deserves.

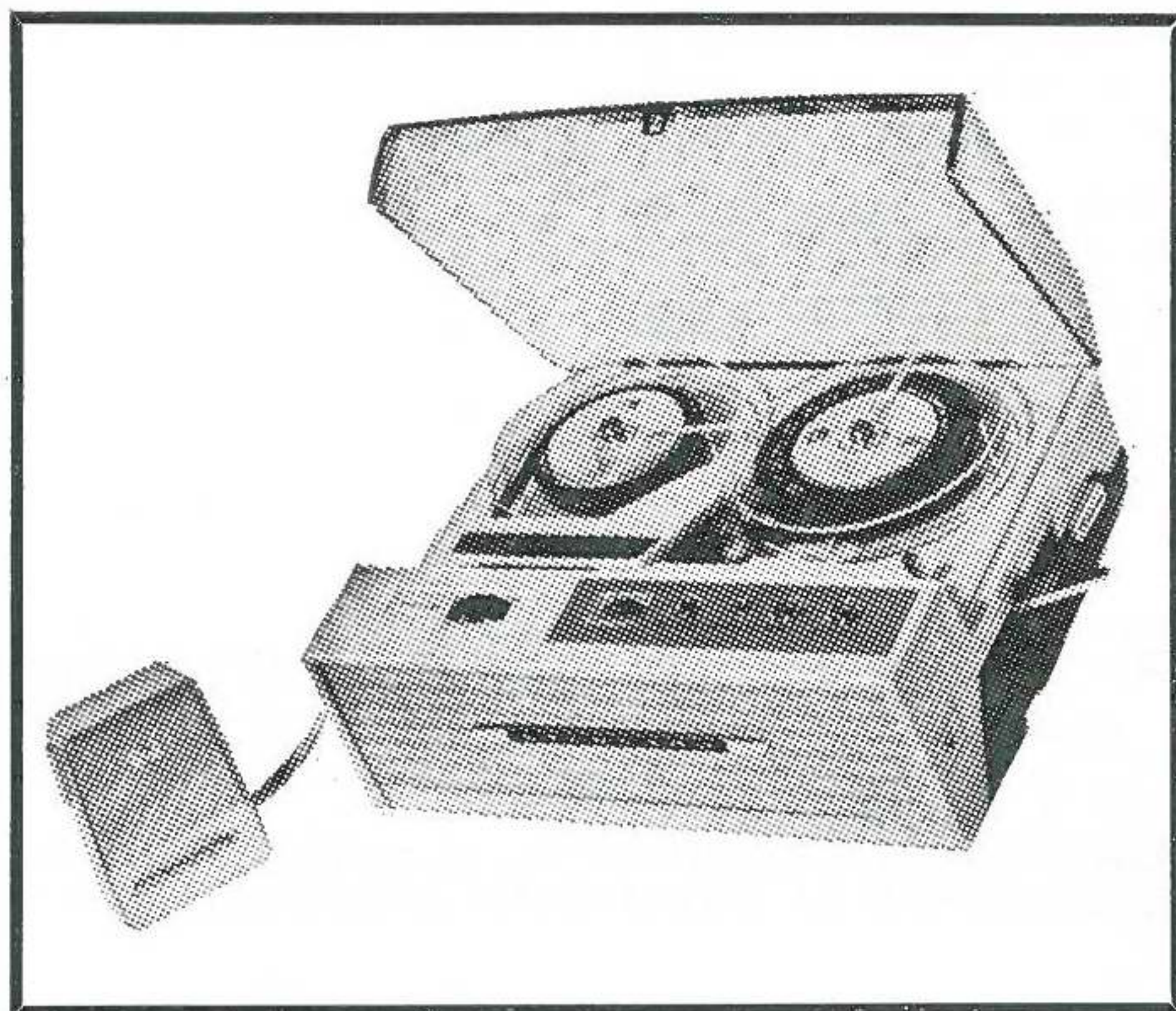
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## A "must" for all G.A.A. fans

THE sixth official annual of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is now on sale throughout the country and it is surely a "must" for all followers of our native games.

This year's Annual greatly differs from previous years. The whole concept of production and layout has changed and the result is a much more colourful and attractive publication.

There is a brilliant four-colour

cover featuring an action scene from this year's All-Ireland hurling final, while two colours are used throughout the entire 128 pages. The obvious objective was a more visually attractive publication and this has certainly been achieved.

It is profusely illustrated throughout as well as having a special 32-page photographic section and there are also some excellent cartoons.

The Annual has a foreword by

the new Ard Rúnaí, Seán Ó Síocháin, and there is a special section devoted to the memory of the late Pádraig Ó Caoimh, with the Association's President, Alf Ó Muirí, contributing the main feature.

Other contributors include Donie Nealon, Mick Dunne, Eddie Keher, Jim McDonnell, Jim McKeever, Joe Lennon, Mairtín Newell, John Healy, Val Dorgan, Seán Ó Dúna-gáin, Séamus Ó Ceallaigh, Séamus Ó Braonáin and Donal Carroll.

The National Language gets its rightful place throughout and virtually every aspect of the Association's affairs is dealt with.

There is also a most valuable statistics section which gives a complete record of every senior championship game during the year, together with scores, venues and dates. Also given are the results of all other major competitions and the All-Ireland final teams and scores in all grades.

This section will help to decide many an argument in the years to come.

In short this year's OUR GAMES ANNUAL does the Association proud. Editor Paddy Downey has done an excellent job and is to be sincerely congratulated.

This year too the Annual costs but five shillings and at this price it is well within the reach of everybody. It is outstanding value for money; we recommend it wholeheartedly to all our readers.



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# THE ARMCHAIR ASSESSORS...



● MICK REYNOLDS

by JAY DRENNAN

THE slack of the year is upon us again. That time of year when the fields are beginning to empty, and when scores of hurlers and footballers on the fence are descending from their perch to take up armchair positions in pubs and clubs and homes throughout the land, there to let their theories have a thorough airing, and to telescope the deeds of two months ago with the deeds of two decades since.

Every season has its own charm, I suppose, and though winter brings the time when the activity of the sportsfields spins slower and slower and finally stops altogether, it had a number of advantages too. High summer with the trim and fit vanguard of the best of today's players filling the scene, leaves little opportunity for reminiscing, except in quick flashes.

The figures of portly men in waistcoats, clothed with an aura of respectability and a fair covering of flesh on their middle-aged bones, are too real in summer to take the field with the young pretenders to their places of glory. But, when the lights are lit and the fire blazes up in the grate, the "time machine" works its magic, the years and the surplus pounds are shed and the

men of yesterday can take the fields of the imagination in equal step with today's gallants.

Winter, in fact, is the season of the veteran and the has-been, as surely as summer is the season of the strong young stars of today. He

is a great player, indeed, who can hold his summer reputation through the winter of comparison with shades of his predecessors.

How have this summer's stars measured up in the first sharp nip

● TO PAGE 39

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# JAY DRENNAN

## ● FROM PAGE 37

of the frosty winter. Champions, inevitably, come first under the scrutiny. Tipperary and Galway will be holding the fort against all-comers. I have heard it said that Tipperary would not have lasted a quarter-hour with the Limerick of the thirties; but, fair play, I also heard a grudging grey-beard admit under some pressure that this year's champions were almost as good as any Croke Park has seen.

Early winter fireside gatherings have already compared and found wanting the present Galway team with that of 1938; the Mayo team of the early fifties and the Kerry team of the early thirties. But, in spite of all that the most niggardly critic has been heard to admit that seldom has he seen such a fine co-operative effort in Croke Park—the team first and last, individual ambition nowhere.

This is a great tribute to the year's winners but, of course, there is something special—some outstanding trait—in every championship winning team. They would never have won otherwise. And this year, I feel, that the greatest point in favour of the hurling and football champions was their teamwork—their ability to find a man who would rise to the occasion and never the same man.

Tipperary in the hurling final showed remarkable power in all quarters, and they were so far better together than Kilkenny that they overpowered them. Galway's teamwork throughout the whole year, with scarcely a man outshining his fellows, needs little comment.

This, in fact, is probably the beginning of an era of greater

emphasis on the co-ordination of the effort of the whole team working through all its parts, and the end of the era of the great individual stars who could carry a team on their heroic backs. Perhaps, it may be that Sean Purcell and Mick O'Connell were the last of the great match-winning stars. There will continue to be stars, fine players much better than their more ordinary comrades, but it may be that they will be negated in their efforts to a telling degree by the co-ordinated teamwork and tactics of somewhat less talented rivals.

If it is the case, it would be a double-edged sword, by which some of the glamour of the great solo stars of the past would never be equalled by the minor stars of the future. But, against that the benefit would be better teamwork, far more sophisticated tactical play—the sinking of the individual into the overall pattern of the team's needs.

It would all add greatly to the spectacle of the games, though it must inevitably take away some of the unique thrill of watching a man of more than human talents performing. Have your choice: a super efficient machine whose parts mesh to eliminate the opposition, or a Christy Ring or Mick Mackey striding the scene, like a Gulliver among the Lilliputians. Both have their attractions. But, for me, the great stars are more exciting.

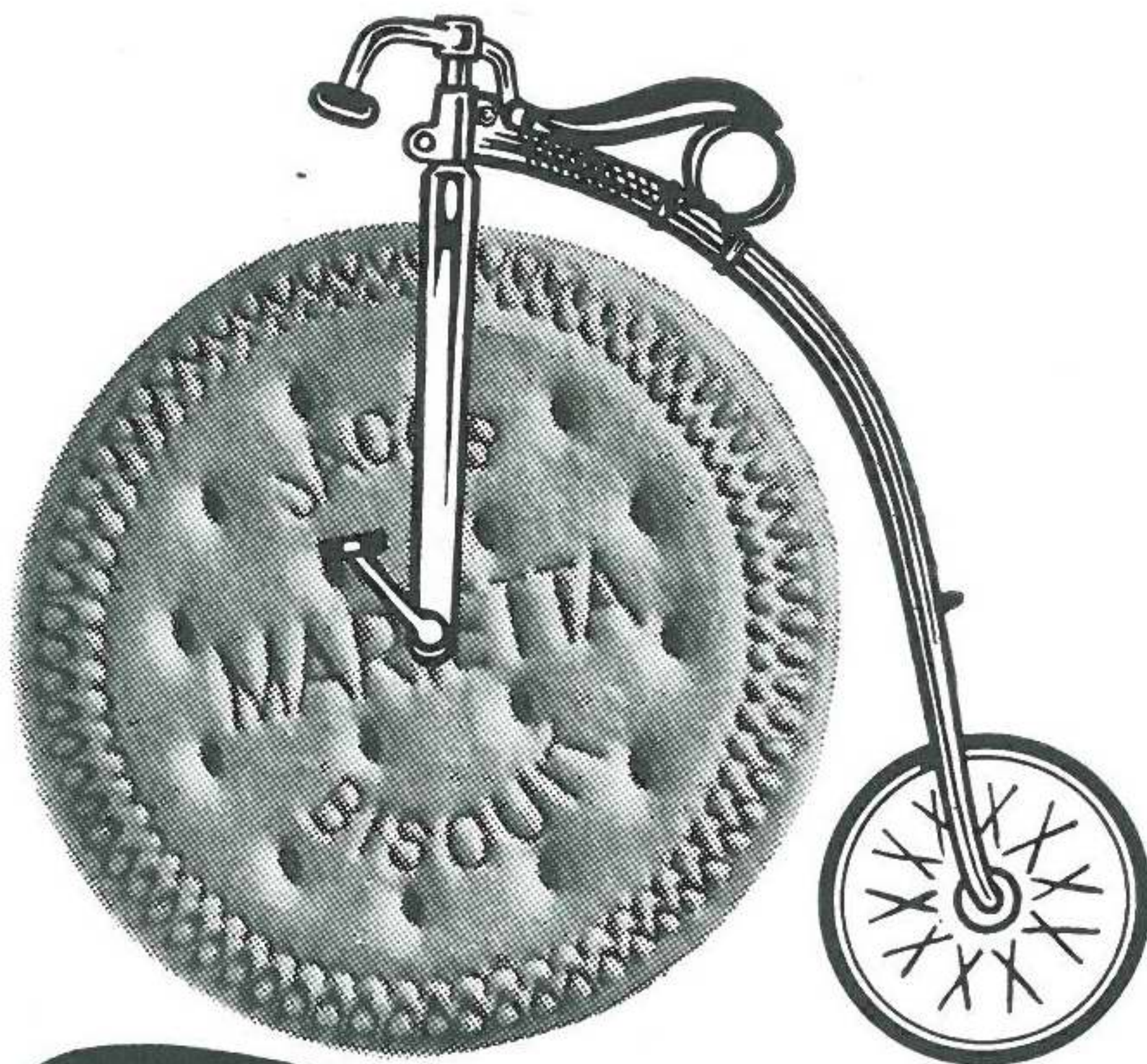
It is, I think, like the difference between a pleasure of the senses and a pleasure of the intellect: the one so immediate, so personal, so affecting; the other, so deep, so soul-satisfying, yet so detached.

It maybe, however, that we shall have the best of both worlds, for out of the precise machine, clicking smoothly into precise tactical gears, that was Galway throughout the championships, there also emerged, to my eyes at least, a star of great quality—Mick Reynolds. Last year, Reynolds was overshadowed by Garrett at midfield. This year he blossomed forth into a superbly skilful player, not only outstanding in the primary art of a centre-fielder that of gaining possession, but remarkably and hitherto unsuspectedly delicious in his distribution.

Galway's forwards have been praised to the skies for their speedy accurate and almost telepathic inter-play; they deserved that praise. But, a forward who gets no service of the ball can do nothing; and a forward who gets a disordered and wild service of the ball must react at considerably less than his best; but, the forward who enjoys a neat, precise and selective service, must—if he is even slightly deserving of the name—perform in his brightest and best mood. Thus Reynolds and the Galway attack.

Apart from the greater prospect of improved team-play in the future, which Galway's win emphasised, the year was remarkable too for several other points which may portend the beginning of a new deal. The fall of the great Down team from the highest pinnacle which they have long inhabited; the continued improvement of Meath; the decline of Dublin; the new-look Kerry—more intent on closer collaboration but lacking in much of the fire which burned in the bellies of their fathers and grandfathers; the promise for the future in Offaly and Cork, Antrim and Mayo, as the minor All-Ireland series showed. But, what the new era holds in store for us time only will tell.

And the hurling pattern? That is another night's talk.



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## MONAGHAN ARE BACK!

By CONALLACH

SOME while back in this column I forecast that we would shortly see a resurgence in Monaghan. I based this view on their grand performance against Down in the championship. How right I was. Monaghan are now back to the forefront in Ulster.

Their recent victory over Down has proven a tremendous tonic and they will certainly make a bold bid for Lagan Cup honours. In Joe Carroll, Seamus McElroy, Benny Mone, Tony Loughinan, McCartan Moore, Sean Woods, Jim O'Hanlon and Co., Monaghan have players fit for any company.

Monaghan last won the Dr. Lagan Cup in 1950. It was in fact their one and only triumph in the competition. The county has won the Dr. McKenna Cup five times—the last time being 1952. The county's last Ulster senior championship triumph was in 1938.

### DONEGAL RETURN

Another Ulster county very much looking forward to 1965 is Donegal who, when the new season opens, will probably start favourites to capture the Dr. Lagan Cup.

Donegal's many failures in recent years were mainly due to lack of worthwhile forwards but in young men such as Frankie Campbell, Declan O'Carroll, Michael McLoone, and Tony McDevitt they



● PAUL KELLY . . . one of Donegal's stars.

now seem to have a much more dependable blend up front. At full-forward John Hannigan is playing excellent football.

Incidentally Donegal recently won an All-Ireland title with the same John playing a major role.

He helped St. Conal's Mental Hospital, Letterkenny, defeat St. Otteran's Mental Hospital, Waterford, at Croke Park in the All-Ireland final of that competition.

### DERRY NEWS

Alphonsus Deane, secretary of the Derry Co. Board for many years, will not seek re-election at convention. He is a man who has

given tremendous service to the Association and he will certainly be missed.

Speaking of Derry—the county's selectors seem to be as busy as ever. Few teams have ever been switched and changed about as much as the Derry football side of recent years and with no apparent result.

After Derry's defeat by Donegal in the Lagan Cup some short while ago, the team chosen to play Armagh a few weeks later showed five changes in personnel and at least as many more positional changes. When the county appears again we will probably see as many more changes. This procedure is not likely to produce a winning fifteen.

### ST. JOHN'S WIN

Congratulations to St. John's, Belfast, on winning the Ulster club S.F. competition. In the final they beat Devenish, Co. Fermanagh, who had the service of the four Treacy brothers . . . but then had not St. John's the five Gallagher brothers.

### COLLEGES CHANGE

The Ulster Colleges Council has amalgamated the McRory and McLarnon Cup competitions—the winners playing out for the premier award, the McRory Cup, and the losers competing for the McLarnon trophy.



**Paul Russell**

## ***THE MAGIC OF CHRISTY RING —ON FILM!***

**S**EEING that I was born and reared in an almost all-football county, I was never much of a hurler. However, I am convinced that I would have been a considerably better man with the caman had I seen the Gael Linn-Wills film "CHRISTY RING" some thirty or forty years ago.

There is no doubt at all but that one can learn quite a number of vital things about the playing of hurling just by seeing this film once. This is, I believe, the real test of the film and it comes through with full marks.

From just a single viewing one learns something and any young hurler cannot but add to his craft by seeing this film. The instructional sequence is not particularly long—no more than ten or fifteen minutes but so well has it been done that it covers almost all the basic skills and in a manner which is clear and easily grasped.

If this film never did anything else but prove conclusively that hurling can be greatly aided by schemes of this kind, its contribution to the game would be

immense. But, of course, it does much more.

It captures for all time something of the magic and hurling genius of Christy Ring. It shows him in the Autumn of his career and provides for future generations a glimpse at the man who is a legend in our time.

What struck me most about the film was the clear proof of Ring's own extraordinary understanding of the game. Let's face it, few footballers or hurlers bother to give much thought to the whys and the wherefores of the game. The great players are invariably great because they are particularly blessed and dedicated.

But Ring in this film really proves how different he was and is in his approach. He knows why everything is done and why it should be done in a particular way.

He has over the years studied and perfected every stroke and every move. He has eliminated the wrong methods and improved on the correct ones, while always adding his own particular touch of

genius to this evolution of hurling perfection.

In one way I am sorry that this entire film was not devoted to instruction for in this way much more could have been covered and much more of the Ring wizardry would have been captured.

However, the film was produced for general cinema audiences and for that reason it had to be made in the manner in which it has been. In this way too, of course, it will be seen by many more people than if it had been purely an instructional film of interest only to followers of our native games.

It is, of course, a magnificent contribution to Gaelic Games and to Christy Ring, producer Louis Marcus, Gael-Linn and Wills we all owe a deep debt of gratitude. They are a most unusual combination but together they have combined to produce probably the most valuable treasure in the not too well filled library of G.A.A. records.

And let us hope that this film does not mark the end of this very

● TO PAGE 44

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTY

on this further milestone in his great hurling career—the making of the film “CHRISTY RING”. Cork has long been proud of his tremendous achievements in the field of sport. In the fields of Industry a new Cork “Star” is now making its mark. Cor-Tex Proofers Ltd., of Kinsale Road, with the production of CortX cushioning. Amongst industries already being served are, textiles, motor, ship and aircraft, furniture, caravan and building, footwear and bedding.

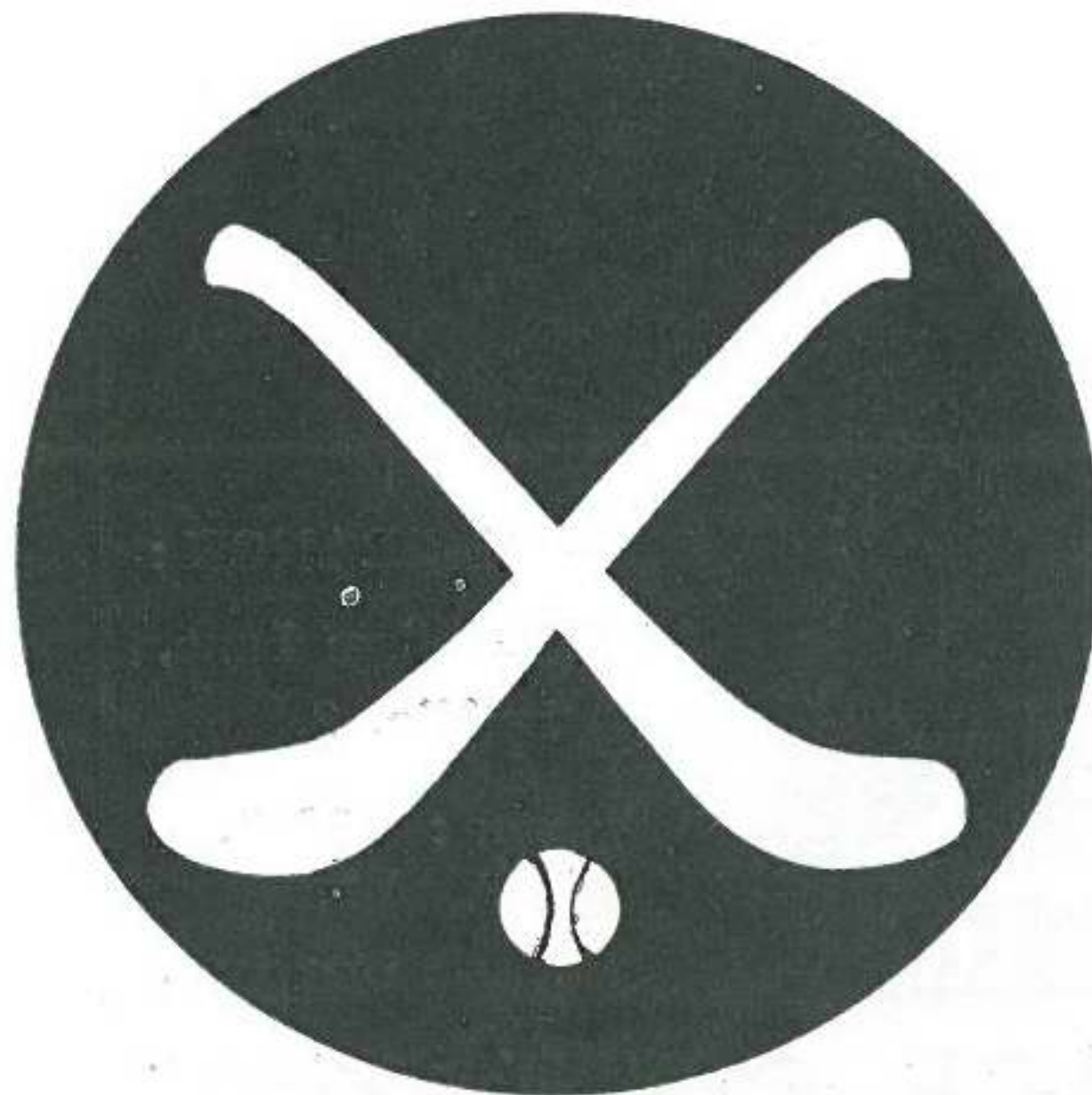
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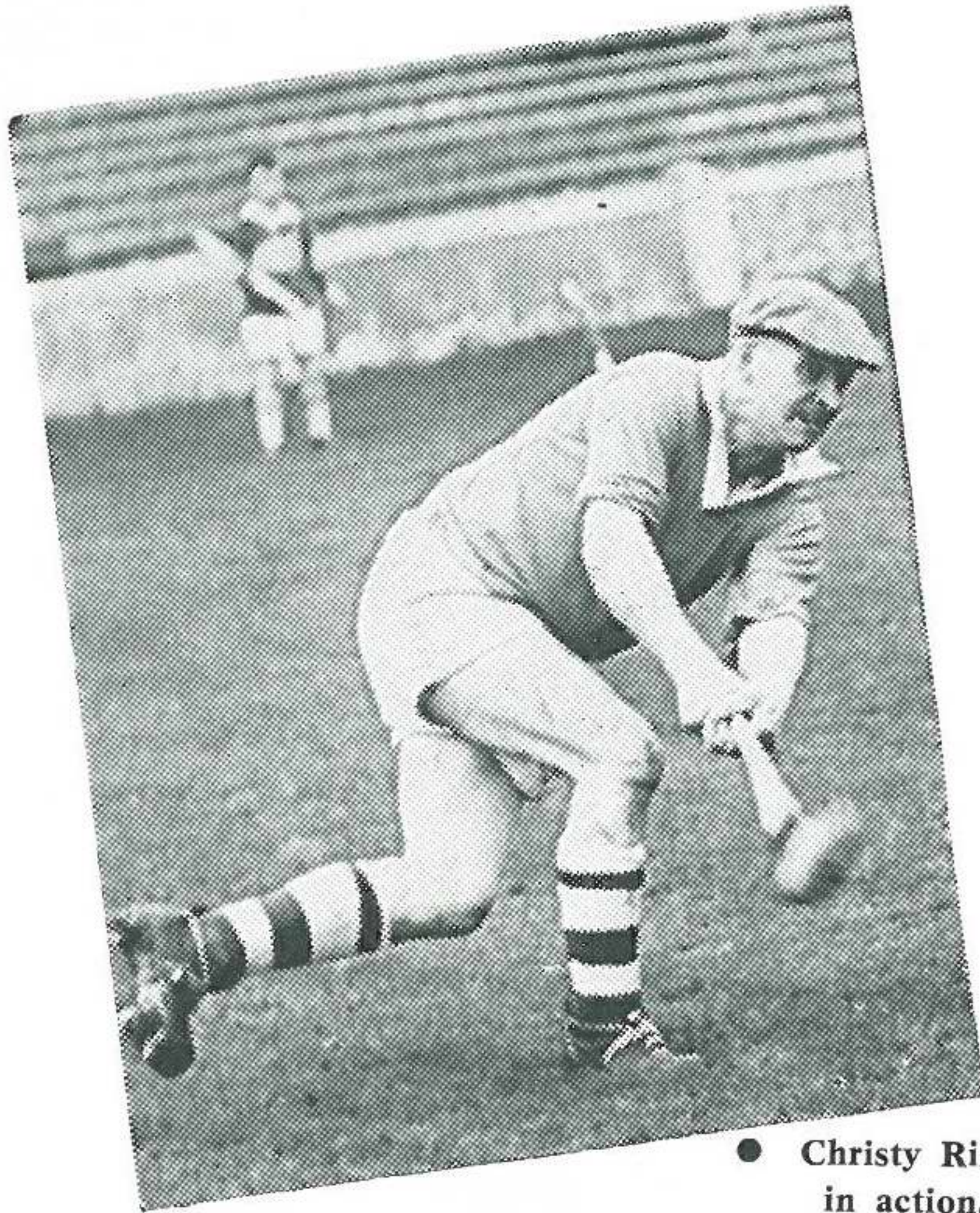
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● Christy Ring  
in action.

● FROM PAGE 42

productive association between Gael Linn and Wills. Actually what I would most like to see is a sequence to "CHRISTY RING".

This film need only be the beginning. A second film which would continue where this film ends would be even more valuable. Christy Ring has much more to demonstrate and hurling needs to draw forth as much as possible of the genius of this man before he puts away his stick for good.

Actually there could even be a third film in which Christy would deal with team skills and tactics. It is something which I hope all concerned will give further thought to.

But let me conclude with a final word to readers. Be sure and see this film. You will enjoy it and you will learn from it. And one is never too old to learn something extra about hurling for we will all have to play a part to revive it to full bloom.

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## OUR COVER

**O**UR cover this month features a fine action shot from this year's Kerry-Cavan football semi-final and we would particularly like to focus the spotlight on the man-in-the-middle, the quiet and unassuming Gabriel Kelly.

Gabriel first made headlines in the Mayo colours but was quickly recalled to his native Cavan. He has remained over the years that county's most consistent player and, as he is only 26, is likely to remain so for many a day.

An impeccable sportsman and a great enthusiast, Gabriel also turns out for his firm, Arnotts, and this year helped them to win the treasured Kickham Cup.

## LET'S HAVE A SUMMER BREAK!

**B**Y the end of this month most of the competitions should have been completed and the season will be over for all intents and purposes. With the end of the playing season, the season of committees and conventions begins.

From now until next Easter, the organisation machinery of the Association clicks into gear and the business of the Association builds up from little club meetings to the big annual convention of Congress.

Whether or not we are fortunate in having a close season during the winter months is debatable. There are many good arguments on both sides. In favour of it, one might say that the Summer months are better suited to playing and watching and there is less chance of interrupted schedules because of inclement weather.

On the other hand, the cold winter months are not conducive to strenuous exercise and, generally, most players hibernate for a couple of months and take no more exercise than their daily work demands. All the tone and fitness of well-trained muscles fades away and the first few games of the new season are a severe shock to the listless limbs.

Of course, players need a break from competitive football but I feel that if this break were in the Summer, most players would keep fit by playing summer games and by swimming and athletics. Besides this, the pitches which also need a break would get a rest when

it will do them most good—in the growing season.

But back to the theme of winter season with particular emphasis on what players who wish to keep fit during the winter should do and what all members of the Association can do to help in the close season.

First of all, I would appeal to every player, every club member, to every interested supporter of our Association to ensure that he attends his club's annual general meeting and acquaints himself with

the work which is being done and, more important, take his part in formulating the programme for next year and shaping the future policy of the Association.

As I have said before, it is no use objecting to any single part or policy of our Association if one is not prepared to commit himself for one night at least—the night of his club's A.G.M. If the Association is not worth one evening, it is not worth arguing about. If democracy means anything, it requires that the vast

● TO PAGE 47

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## Joe Lennon

### ● FROM PAGE 45

majority of the members use their right to formulate the policy of the Association by voting at club level at this all important time. In theory, the results of the deliberations at club level directly govern the outcome at Congress. In practice, only a tiny minority of the members of the Association concern themselves intimately with these vital issues.

In theory also, each member of the Association should concern himself with his county convention. He should be keen enough to follow up his club's delegates' progress to the county convention and furthermore his county's delegates to Congress. While Congress is often criticised for being too large, too slow, and for not being able to maintain the interest of the delegates for more than a few hours on one or two major issues, it should be remembered that the men who go there have a moral obligation to present their county's views on all the items on the agenda. So much for administration.

The keen footballer who wishes to remain reasonably fit all through the Winter and so begin the new season without that awful period of pains and aches which most players go through, has got quite a tough problem on his hands when we think of training facilities.

The top performers in all sports play for twelve months of the year. The close season is very active if not very competitive. It is almost impossible for outdoor training to be done regularly in small clubs unless players take up road running. It is very difficult for indoor training to be done either because very few clubs have indoor training facilities.

Yet there is a tremendous amount which could be done if all the available resources were tapped.



● Says Lennon the keep-fit expert: "The winter break affects the tone and fitness of well-trained muscles."

For example, it would be reasonably easy to install lighting in a handball alley and train there. It would be reasonably easy to organise very useful and enjoyable evening sessions in every parish hall. It would not be very difficult to hire local dance halls for mid-week training sessions lasting an hour or so.

If a club is fortunate enough to have a hall, it could buy these new nylon nets which hang the full length of the hall and across the ceiling, and practice free kicks, goal-keeping and hurling. The players could find very energetic, enjoyable and skilful exercise in arranging a volleyball tournament. This game has a lot to offer Gaelic footballers and is an excellent

method of keeping fit and keeping one's 'eye in'.

Apart from these novel methods of fitness training, the traditional training methods will go a long way to maintaining and even increasing strength and stamina.

When you think of the physical requirements of a skill performance like kicking a dead ball, it is very easy to see how one might increase one's kicking power and hence the skill. It is obvious that the muscles in the leg must be exercised, but how? It is not so obvious, perhaps, that the most important muscle groups in the stomach wall need to be very strong before one can kick powerfully. Hence, although a player may be aiming

● TO PAGE 60

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## ANDY'S RETURN

### REVIVES EXCITING MEMORIES

by SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE recent visit of Andy Moloney to the Bruff district after an absence of two score years in exile recalls a stirring incident of the troubled times in Ireland.

Limerick and Tipperary were fixed to meet in the semi-final of the Munster senior hurling championship at Cork Athletic Grounds on Sunday, August 8, 1920. It was an exciting week-end, as it had been announced that Most Rev. Dr. Mannix would visit Ireland, and the British Government had expressed their intention of preventing him.

Martial Law was clamped on in Cork, and rail services were disrupted, due to the patriotic and courageous action of the Railwaymen in refusing to carry members of the British forces of occupation.

The G.A.A. decided to go on with the game, the venue being transferred to Riverstown, thus avoiding the ban in operation as regards Cork City. The Limerick players travelled by motor coach on the Saturday evening. They were held up and searched by the Black and Tans at Charleville, and some who were wearing photographs of Archbishop Mannix were roughly handled before being allowed to proceed.

On arrival in Cork the coach

headed for the Victoria Hotel in Patrick Street, where the team were to stay. At that time a big glass canopy supported by pillars extended from the hotel door right out to the edge of the footpath. The road surface was greasy following a shower of rain and as the motor coach pulled in it developed a skid. It hit one of the supporting pillars and the terrific crash as glass and ironwork piled high on the path brought military and police racing from all angles. The boys from Garryowen had arrived.

Andy Moloney was the driver of the coach, which was to figure in another exciting escapade the famous "Foggy Day" when Blackrock (Cork) and Young Ireland (Limerick) contested the Charleville club tournament final.

The road by Croom was almost impassable at the time, and the Limerick players returned by Kilmallock. Crawling through the fog the coach failed to negotiate the difficult archway there, and the back portion was severed by the impact. Luckily nobody was injured. It was the end, however, of a vehicle which held many memories for Gaels.

#### SHANNON AIRPORT

A determined effort is being

made to establish strong G.A.A. clubs at Shannon Airport. Previous attempts in this direction failed because the organisers were unable to surmount the difficulties of workers at the Airport living a considerable distance away, many of them in another county.

Now the development of a new town at Drumgeely has eased matters considerably and it is hoped to have senior and junior teams in the Clare championships next year.

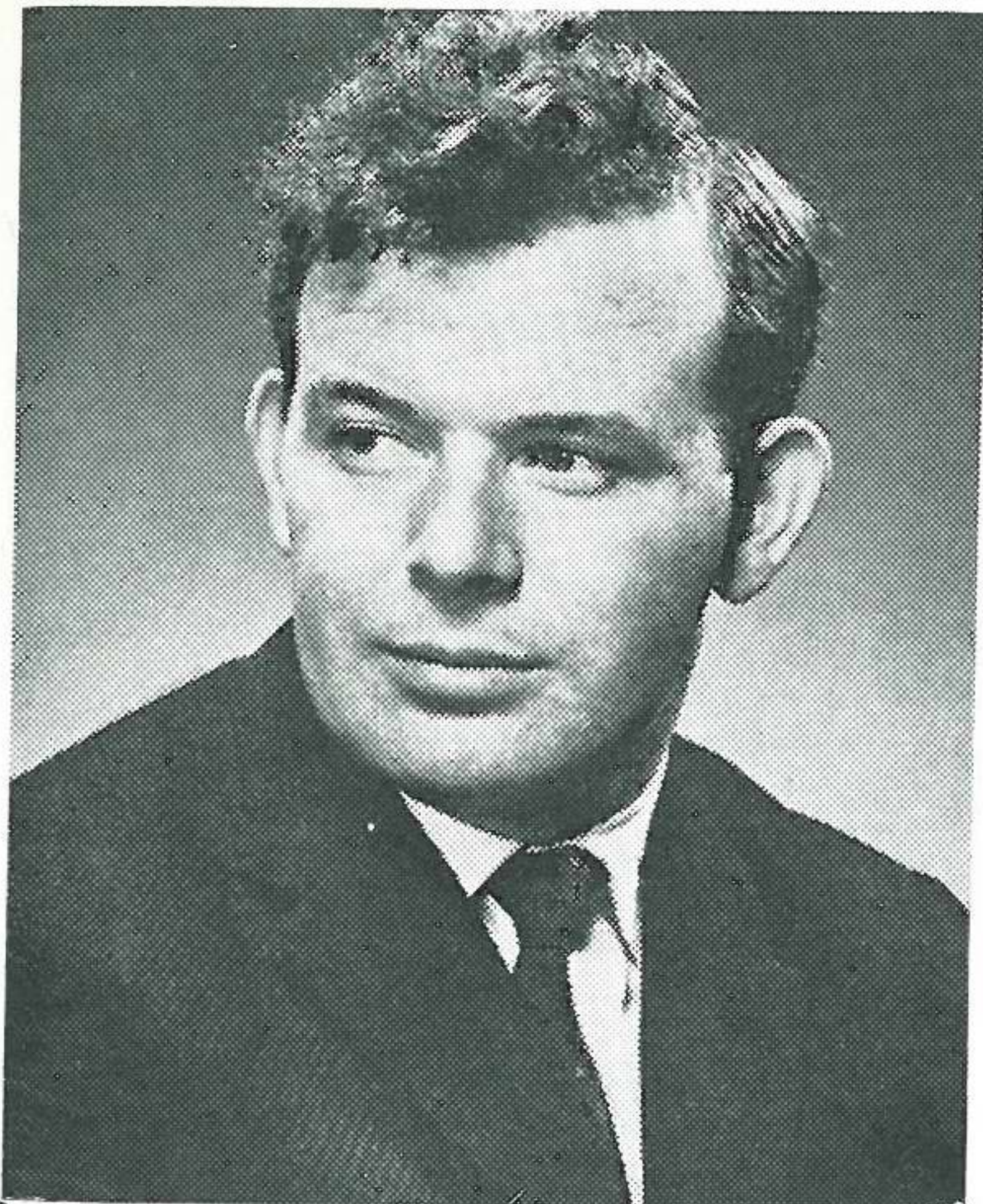
Several well known players work at Shannon, both at the Airport and in the Industrial Estate. Many of these live in Limerick and, of course, cannot play in the Clare championships. Others are members of existing Clare clubs and have not been anxious in the past to transfer from these clubs.

With the population of Drumgeely very much on the increase, and a fine playing pitch available at Ballymurtagh Cross, the indications are that first rate teams should be available.

Shift work is a difficulty that has to be overcome but hopes are high that with the proper spirit the worst effects of this can be surmounted.

Shannon Airport participated in the past in Limerick inter-firm

● TO PAGE 57



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# *Why not build a maple-floor alley?*

By ALLEYMAN

TO the pessimist, Ireland's entry into international handball could be termed a disaster, for our only claim to fame was a second-last place in the league table just one better than Australia.

In reality, however, there is no trace of despondency among either the players or officials who made the trip to America and the general feeling is that it was a worthwhile venture. When I spoke to General Secretary, Joe Lynch, a while back, he was effervescent with enthusiasm for the future of international handball, stressing that our showing this year, should not be taken as the real strength of the game in this country.

Rightly, he pointed out, that we entered the tournament blindfolded, as it were, to the intricacies and variations that lay ahead. It is easy to be wise after the event, but the one revealing feature emanating from the games, is that it is an absolute necessity to have a playing strength of three players for any hope of success.

As it was, Joe Maher, was called upon to play both singles and doubles and while he fought gamely in every outing, the strain was bound to take its toll.

Unlike our alleys at home, those in New York are centrally heated, so that besides the smaller dimensions of the court itself, it is actually the heat that militates most against a player who is not used to playing in such an environment.

I believe the refereeing was very strict too, and many of the accepted tricks and gimmicks which are accepted as all part of the game in this country, would be viewed with disdain according to American rules.

However, there is little point in bemoaning the instances in which we were found wanting—better by far to make a realistic examination of the position, so that when we travel for the next World Games there can be no alibis.

It would appear, that whether we like to admit it or not the Americans both in the committee rooms and on the playing courts, have developed the game to a fine art, hence it is apparent that we must fall in line though it pulls against the grain of the stubborn Irish heart to do so.

There will be reservations of course, for there are certain aspects of the American game which could be improved by reference to our rules, so here we will be expecting co-operation from our friends on the far side of the Atlantic.

And what changes must Irish handball undergo to bring it in line, with the accepted *modus operandi* in the international field.

Frankly, I would not consider it within my capabilities to offer the perfect formula, and in turn, would only attempt to express my own observations. Well, for a start, what

about the composition of the game itself. In the international sphere, it is played on a rubber-of-three system, while the Irish game is decided on a rubber of five for softball and seven for hardball.

For a long time now, and even before the advent of the international games, I have been plugging for a change in our system—for the very simple reason that in this age of progress and changing face, the handball community is being left behind.

Administrators are hesitant to budge from the traditional to the futuristic outlook and in consequence handball is suffering.

One does not have to be a Solomon to realise that the rubber of seven is antiquated, and that the rubber of five can be dragged out indefinitely. I would suggest time-basis handball as the obvious solution and would like to see its introduction plugged at international level, but failing this would certainly fall in line with the rubber of three.

The next problems are not so easily tackled. There is the question of the smaller handball, which if decided upon would possibly entail prolonged negotiation with the manufacturer of the present ball, or alternatively the appointment of a new agent.

And then the real problem—the handball alley which according to international specifications is 20 by 40—much smaller than our own. This is something of a major dilemma, for it would be well-nigh in the nature of an impossibility to reconstruct our courts to those smaller proportions.

But I have a suggestion. Let the Central Council of the G.A.A. build a maple floored alley in a central location. Invest it in the Handball Council and thus as the good parent to the child, ensuring that when Irish handballers set out for the World games in Toronto in 1967, they have an even chance of returning as World Champions.

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# THE SMYCO CUP PROMOTES KEEN RIVALRY

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE Smyco Cup, the magnificent trophy donated by Smyth's of Balbriggan, has done a great deal to promote rivalry between the counties who compete for the Leinster junior championship. In the years since first it was competed for it has been won by Kilkenny, Kildare, Offaly and Wicklow and in each case it was the first occasion that the counties concerned had ever won a camogie championship award.

Indeed the junior competition has done a great deal for the spread of the game in Leinster, and I feel that the colleges junior championship which is scheduled to start after Christmas will give an even greater fillip to the continued spread of the game in the Eastern province.

The Leinster senior colleges competition for the Stuart Cup has in a very short space of time acquired a prestige that is almost equal to that of senior inter-county games and if the junior series which is already assured of a huge entry follows suit I can foresee the competition having to be broken up into divisions to get the decider finished in good time.

The effect the Leinster colleges competition has had on the Dublin colleges competition has in a few years been nothing short of phenomenal. This season the number of entries have been the greatest ever and no longer can the Phoenix Park pitches suffice

for the Saturday afternoon games.

There are matches now at three and often four venues on a Saturday and the enthusiasm for camogie among the Dublin school-girls was never higher.

It can only be a matter of time until such enthusiasm tells its tale, and I do wish that the Munster counties outside Cork would follow the examples set by the youngsters from the Lee and set up a colleges competition for the Southern province.

The Ulster colleges competitions are very successful also but it is true that there are no schools competing there at the moment except those from inside the Six-County area? Surely the girls colleges of the three counties of the Republic that form part of the historic province of Ulster are not so bereft of patriotism as to think camogie beneath them?

They have a good schools competition in Galway, but again it is confined to a small area around Galway city. Surely the great schools of the provincial West could each put at least one team in the field?

Camogie is on the march and now is the time, when the G.A.A. is embarking on a five-year plan to spread hurling, for camogie to speed up its own drive for more clubs, greater enthusiasm and more perfect organisation.

I have seen no reference at all to camogie in such pieces as I have

seen about the G.A.A. hurling scheme, but surely it must be obvious to the officers both of the Gaelic Athletic Association and the officers of the Camogie Association that the spread of camogie and of hurling can and must be very closely correlated. In fact the G.A.A. could to my mind consult very closely with the camogie folk, who have after all managed to keep 'hurling' for the girl Gaels alive and well organised in counties such as Antrim, Derry, Wicklow, Kildare, Louth, Longford, Mayo and Monaghan which are classified as weak hurling counties and in some of which hurling may virtually be said to be non-existent.

Moreover, the camogie game has battled on in those counties, not alone without subsidies, but often without any funds at all, and remember every camogie player has to provide her own playing stick even for inter-county and All-Ireland games. The cost of a hurley may be high for the average hurler, but surely it works out at even higher still for the average camogie player, whose wage-rate must be proportionately less, but I have rarely heard of any complaints in this regard, and don't tell me that camogie players don't break their sticks.

So let us hope that when the hurling scheme goes into effect that we shall see close co-operation between the hurling and camogie folk to the mutual advantage of both games.

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## A night to remember

**I**F you were there you will remember the wonderful crowd that turned up; if you were not there I had better tell that there was hardly room to breathe at the official opening of the Sean Gael Headquarters recently in Dublin.

For all that, it was a night to remember as hundreds of famous hurlers and footballers came together for the first time in years and the conversation flowed like good wine.

“Do you remember?” That opening sentence must have been used a thousand times that evening. And always it was the opening of a sluice gate to a headlong river of G.A.A. memories that cascaded from the early years of the century right down to the present day. The talk was good that night and it never stopped until the sound of midnight began to silence it reluctantly.

From that evening one could have picked out a thousand items that would have made a good story for this month's GAELIC SPORT; yet my abiding memory of it was a brief chat I had with a quiet little man in the hallway a few minutes before I left for home.

I was standing alone at the time; so too was he. Many people saluted him; he smiled back gently and spoke just as gently. Eventually as always happens when two men are standing alone at functions like these we caught each other's eye and gradually moved closer together.

It was only then I recognised him—a man, who many years ago had been one of the idols of Croke

Park hurling; a man, whose feats for his native Kilkenny had won him four All-Ireland medals in the black-and-amber.

“Well, Mattie”—I asked him—  
“How are things going?”

“Couldn't be better” — he answered—“Isn't it grand to be here on a night like this?”

From that we fell to talking. Into one of those quiet easy chats that rambled nicely along from one subject to the other. And, within minutes I had fallen into the trap that I had been trying to avoid all night. I found myself starting every sentence with “Do you remember?”

And, indeed he could: for Mattie Power has a lot to remember. If my old memory is right he won his first All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny in the 1922 final. And throughout the 1930's he was still one of the most famous hurlers in the land. His last All-Ireland was that tragic day for Kilkenny when Tipperary ran riot at Killarney.

Mattie shared in many of Kilkenny's greatest triumphs; for the better part of two decades he hurled with some of the greatest men who have ever worn the black and amber. He was there in the early twenties with men like Walter and Eddie Dunphy, Dick Grace, Pat Aylward, Tom Carroll, Paddy Glendon and Dick Tobin; he matured with Lory Meagher, Jim Dermody, Paddy Phelan, Peter and Eddie Byrne and Johnny and Dan Dunne and he was still around when Paddy Grace, Peter Blanchfield, Jimmy Langton and Terry Leahy were coming to the fore.

He talked about them and with



● MATTIE  
POWER

pride just as he talked too about the great men he had known and played against — Eudie Coughlan, Dinny Barry, Murphy, Jim Hurley, Mick Mackey, Paddy Clohessy, Mick Gill, Mick King, Charlie McMahon and the others who spanned those glorious years with him.

The talk was easy; the talk was good and I enjoyed it. Then someone came along and it was time to go. Mattie and myself shook hands, we said goodbye — and a few moments later I was walking down the street talking about subjects that had nothing to do with the G.A.A.

It was a few hours later that I realised what my little chat with Mattie had done. More so than all the speeches that night it had brought home to me the reason that Brú na Sean-Gael was so essential.

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# Briefly

**G**ALWAY hurling is having a lean spell on both sides of the Atlantic. Having fallen to Cork by thirteen points in the Munster championship earlier this year, the Galway hurlers in New York recently did worse when going under to the Leesiders by a fifteen points margin in the delayed 1963 championship.

\* \* \*

Cork's hero in New York was former home star Liam Dowling, who won All-Ireland medals in 1952 and '53. He showed much of his old form in scoring a personal total of 5-1.

\* \* \*

Galway's outstanding player was Paddy Egan who now has the distinction of having played in the 1964 Railway Cup series, the 1964 Munster intermediate championship and the 1963 New York championship in that order and all in the space of a few months.

\* \* \*

Incidentally few seem to have noticed that Galway scored exactly 2-7 in their lone Munster senior hurling championship appearances of 1964, '63 and '62. At least no

one can say that they are not consistent.

\* \* \*

Brendan Lynch, Roscommon's star defender in their All-Ireland victories of 1943 and '44, trained this year's Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, juvenile team. Supt. Lynch was recently transferred to North Clare.

\* \* \*

The Caherline club in Co. Limerick has the distinction of having a lady secretary. She is Mrs. Breeda Hourigan.

\* \* \*

**G**AELIC SPORT welcomes the good news that Limerick's popular Co. Secretary and former All-Ireland hurler, Jackie O'Connell, is well again following a serious illness.

\* \* \*

Your best contact for an All-Ireland final ticket is a Kerry referee. The Kerry Co. Board some time back decided that referees would receive one ticket for every three games which they took charge of. A busy referee could net from seven to ten tickets.



● *TOM BURKE, who guarded the Mayo net in each of their six National League victories of a quarter of a century ago.*

## MUNSTER MEDLEY

### ● FROM PAGE 49

league competition with considerable success, but this was not affected by residence qualification or association with other teams for championship fare, and so it was possible to avail of a wide choice which will not be open to the present organisers.

### GREETINGS

It was a happy occasion recently for well known Waterford G.A.A.

personality, Dick Rellis, who celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his wedding.

Kind thoughts go out in this Christmas issue to a number of our Gaels who are ill, and we wish Jacky O'Connell, Secretary Limerick County Board G.A.A.; Paddy Leahy, Tipperary selector; Michael McNamee, formerly of Glenroe; Frank McGrath, Nenagh; and Tom Pinkert, Waterford, a complete

return to their usual good health and spirits.

Death has robbed us of some colourful figures, including that masterful hurler, Mick D'Arcy of Toomevara; hurler and referee, Garda Sergt. John Howard of Croom; hurler Tom Reddan of Borrisokane; and Pat Teehan of Lisduff, who rarely missed a club game of any consequence in Kilkenny and Tipperary.

Happy Christmas everyone!



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Seo i bhfoirm leabhair cuid de na himeachtaí úd. Anois beidh buanchlár d'eachtraí na gcarad ag gach páiste a mbeidh sé d'adh air cóip den leabhar a fháil.

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# PENPOINT

... FROM A SHEFFIELD READER

Sir,—Reading of the great success of the present Galway football team, I am prompted to say a few words about the Dunmore McHale's of which, I think, I am the oldest living member. I am 87 this month. I was born in Dunmore in 1877 and remember the first team which played for them.

The club was formed about 1886 or '87. I remember Galway's first meeting with Kerry in Limerick. I cannot give the exact year but I remember the account of it which I got from James Keeley (a wonderful forward). He and Georgie Tully were on the Galway team.

He said after seeing Kerry in action, he realised that we in Galway did not know how to play football. Kerry, of course, won. Georgie Tully was captain of the Galway team and he was a very fine player and athlete.

The next Dunmore captain was John Quinn. I played under him a few times. I was the youngest senior player and I played my last game about 1897. It was against Tuam at Gurrans old race course at Tuam. We were beaten by a single point.

I went to Dublin in 1898 and that cut short my football career as

I did not join any Dublin team but I used to practice with the Geraldines for a time. I have been here in England for the past 27 years although I never worked here as I was retired when I came over.

My own family in Dunmore is one of the oldest in the area. We can trace the line back for 300 years in the same house, or at least on the same site.

My nephew Andie O'Connor and my grand nephew, Seamus Leydon, still carry on the good cause and I hope they will continue to propagate the old spirit of the Gael.

The third chapter of Dunmore's history produced some grand players such as Jas. Nestor (father of Brendan), Mick Halliday, Martin Walsh, Ned Kilkenny, Jas. Gynn, John McWalter and Mick Donnellan.

The club was founded by the late Michael Finnegan and the first team was as follows—Georgie Tully (Capt.), Tom Hussey, Pat Skahill,

Denny Finnegan, Jimmy Donnellan, John Lynskey, Tommy Mannion, Mick Martin, Paud Redington, Patsy Kennedy, Jas. Keeley, Pauty Martin, "Dr." Treacy, Billy Griffin, Thomas Rodgers, Davitt Kelly, Peter Reilly, Anthony Reilly, Martin Fleming, Tommy Gilmore, Peter Finnegan and Michael Walsh.

I have a good memory and can remember much of the old days of 70 years and more ago. I remember walking miles to play at Milltown, Clonfad, etc. Afterwards we progressed to the two horse brake for travelling to places like Tuam.

I hope you can sort out this letter. My heart is still in the West and I just felt that I had to get a few of the old memories off my chest.

ANDIE O'CONNOR,

187 Highgreave,  
Sheffield 5,  
England.

## ● FROM PAGE THIRTEEN

with Niall Sheehy during the game and laughed about it the following day at the John Player reception. Niall is powerfully strong and can

hit a mighty shoulder on an opponent, but he is always scrupulously clean.

Getting back to the game—it was not as hectic as people expected. Though Kerry came within two points of us at one stage in the second half, they never looked like taking control.

Still the final whistle was sweet music to Galwaymen for Kerry's reputation for pulling a game out of the fire in the closing minutes is based on solid achievements.

The joy of victory was short lived for the news of Mick Donnellan's death came moments after the final whistle. Later came word of Mick Higgins. A victory march became a sad cortege. Never has the Sam Maguire Cup travelled so lonely a road. Go ndéanaidh Dia trócaire ar an mbeirt laoch.

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# Joe Lennon

## ● FROM PAGE 47

to double his kicking power, he will have to concentrate on the major muscle groups of thigh, hip and stomach.

The well-known leg raising exercise (lying on the back)—the scissors, cycling and circling, are all very useful if they are properly done. For example, to lie on the back and raise both legs six inches off the floor and hold for a minute can be quite exhausting at the beginning—especially if heavy foot wear is worn. This simple exercise can be expanded to include alternate leg raising (keeping both feet clear of the floor), a scissors action with the leg still off the floor, a knees raising exercise—shooting the feet alternatively away from the trunk, and a hip twisting exercise where one tries to touch the left shoulder with the right foot and vice versa.

Weights can be used to great effect to build up strength and power in all the major muscle groups. With these simple exercises and with weights, each player should set himself a target each night, each week and each month and try to reach it. He may decide to aim for ten successive ten-yard sprints and build up his recovery rate. The next week, he can aim for fifteen and so on.

In a limited space, such as a handball alley, a club hall or even a school gymnasium, it is possible to map out a circuit of exercises for the players with about six or eight tasks in each circuit. A small group of four or five works at each task. A number of repetitions and a time limit is set for the circuit. As the fitness increases, the number of tasks is increased and the time is reduced.

A fairly strenuous circuit of

eight tasks for groups of three could be completed in six or seven minutes. If this is repeated two or three times with a five minute rest between each circuit, a very heavy schedule of work can be completed in twenty minutes. Two such sessions each week will keep any player in top shape.

If a player can afford two half-hour periods per week, he should aim for twenty minutes strenuous work and then ten minutes recreative exercise where he does any activity he likes or plays a game like volleyball, badminton, judo, wrestling and even that great sport which is fast becoming popular again—Olympic gymnastics.

So with a little bit of initiative and only one hour a week, any player can begin the new season stronger, fitter, faster and more skilful than he finished the old one. This is how the top-class performers improve.

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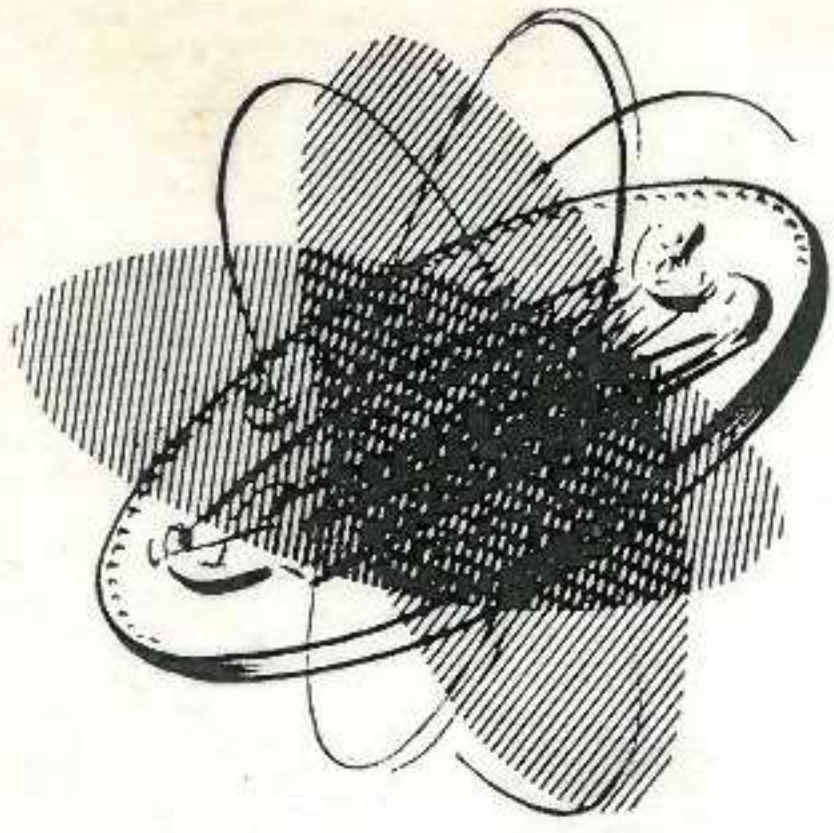
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