

25 Gaelic Sport

Vol. 7, No. 1.
JANUARY, 1964.

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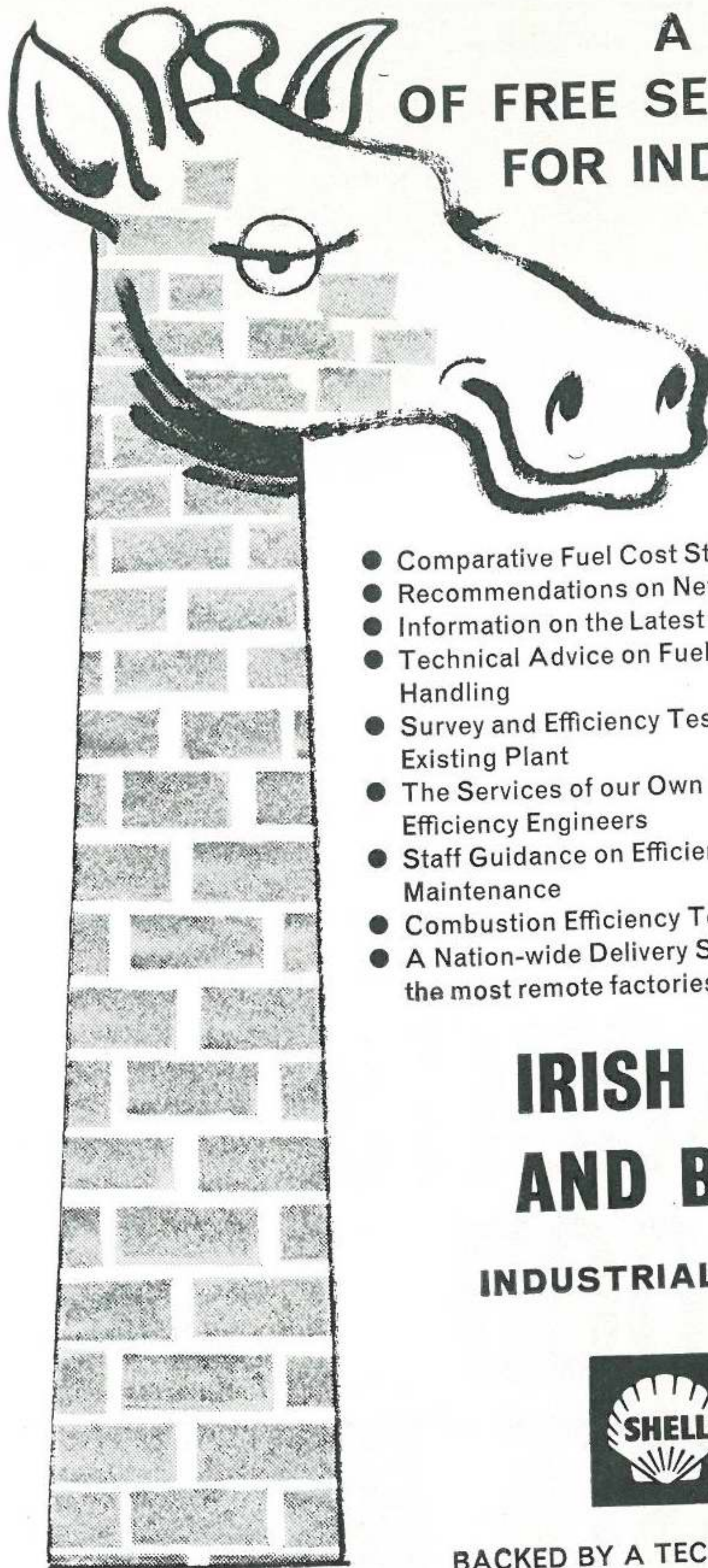
Corn Ui Broin

- (1) Ceathárloch v. Cill Dara—i gCeathárloch.
 (2) Laois v. Loch Garmán—Portlaoise.
 (3) Uabhfaílí v. Longport—Tulach Mór.
 (4) Cill Manntain v. Cill Choinnigh—Cill Choinnigh.
 (5) Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí—M. Cearr.
 *(6) Ath Cliath v. Lugháí—Ath Cliath.
 Cluichí (1) go (5) ar 15/3/64. *(6) ar 22/3/64.
 Gach cluiche ag 3 p.m.
- Bobta 2**—(1) v. (2); (3) v. (4); (5) v. (6).
- 5/4/64:**
 Cill Dara v. Cill Manntain—Cros Baile Coimín, J.F.
 Laois v. Uabhfaílí—Tulach Mór, J.F. and Int. H.
 An Mhí v. Iar-Mhí—An Uaimh, J.F.
 Ceathárloch v. Cill Choinnigh—Ceathárloch, J.F.
- 12/4/64:** Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí—M. Cearr, Int. H.
 Ath Cliath v. Cill Dara (Int. H.); Cill Manntain v. Lugháí (J.H.)—Ath. Cliath.
- 19/4/64:** Ath Cliath v. Cill Dara no Cill Manntain (J.F.); Cill Dara v. Cill Manntain (M.H.)—Droichead Nua.
 Longport v. Uabhfaílí no Laois—Longport no Tulach Mór (J.F.)
 Lugháí v. An Mhí (M.H.); Lugháí v. An Mhí no Iar-Mhí (J.F.)—An Uaimh.
 Loch Garman v. Ceathárloch no Cill Choinnigh (J.F.)—Ceathárloch no
- 26/4/64:** Iar-Mhí no an Mhí v. Aondróma (I.H.).
 Cill Choinnigh v. Laois no Uabhfaílí (I.H.)—Ráth Domhnaigh no Biorra.
 Loch Garman v. Ath Cliath no Cill Dara (I.H.)—Inis Córthaidh.
- 3/5/64:**
 Iar-Mhí v. Longport (M.F. & S.F.)—Longport.
 Laois v. Ceathárloch (M.H. & S.H.)—Cill Choinnigh.
 Cill Dara v. Cill Choinnigh (M.F.)—Droichead Nua.
- 10/5/64:**
 Uabhfaílí v. Iar-Mhí (M.H. & S.H.)—.....
 Ceathárloch v. Cill Manntain (M.F. & S.F.)—Ath I.
 An Mhí v. Cill Dara (J.H.)—Ath Truim.
- 17/5/64:**
 Lugháí v. Loch Garmán (M.F. & S.F.)—Páirc an Chrócaigh.
 Iar-Mhí no Uabhfaílí v. Laois no Ceathárloch (M.H. and S.H.).
- 24/5/64:**
 Ath Cliath v. Ceathárloch no Cill Manntain (M.F. and S.F.).
- 31/5/64:**
 Laois v. Longport no Iar-Mhí (M.F. & S.F.) Tulach Mór.
- 7/6/64:**
 An Mhí v. Cill Dara (M.F. & S.F.)—P. an Chrócaigh.
- 14/6/64:**
 Uabhfaílí v. Lugháí no Loch Garmán (M.F. & S.F.).
- 28/6/64:**
 Cill Choinnigh v. Loch Garmán (M.H. & S.H. semi-finals)—Páirc an Chrócaigh.
- 5/7/64:**
 Ath Cliath v. Buathoirí Roinn Speisialta (Iomáint Sinsir agus Mionúir), Semi-finals.
- 12/7/64:**
 Cluichí a sochrú—leath craobhacha (M.F. & S.F.).
- 19/7/64:**
 Craobhacha Iomáint (Mionúir agus Sinsir).
- 26/7/64:**
 Craobhacha Peil (Mionúir agus Sinsir).
- 2/8/64:**
 Leath Craobhacha Iomáint (Corn Breathnach).

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Gaelic Sport

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COVER PICTURE

The cover of our January Issue features Mayo's Vincent Nally and Cavan's Charlie Gallagher in a tussle for possession.

Comment

A new page

THE New Year and with it the Association begins a new page. The eightieth year commences and how it shall be chronicled we cannot tell. However, we can see to it that it gets off to a good start during the coming weeks.

This is Convention time and every county has the opportunity of taking stock and reviewing its position carefully. On how well this is done will greatly depend the progress of 1964.

There is in all counties room for improvement and for this reason a Convention should never be approached as a matter of routine. To do so is to miss a perfect opportunity of getting the year off on the right foot.

A good Convention, with new ideas and perhaps new faces coming to the forefront, can work wonders. In counties whose fortunes have not of late been particularly bright, it can rejuvenate lagging enthusiasm and instil a new confidence.

Many countries have annoying internal problems which create a lack of unity and prove a hindrance to success. The Convention is the

place to get such matters discussed, decided and done with.

In many other counties discipline and the general standard of behaviour leaves much to be desired. The Convention is the place for a sincere and unanimous declaration that such happenings must end. There is no place on Gaelic fields for brawls and incidents. Let this message go forth with resolve from Conventions where need be.

There are counties too who wander uninspiringly from year to year silently resigned to defeat in major competition. The Convention is the place to nail such apathy and complacency. No county has a monopoly of talent, nor is any county endowed with better Irish manhood than another. Once this idea is diffused and absorbed there is no obstacle in the realm of Gaelic Games which cannot eventually be overcome.

Yes, there is a new year ahead and let it be a memorable one. There is no better way of assuring that it will be than that all Conventions be both constructive and fruitful, thereby giving birth to a new determination to forge ahead and do the job. Cuirimis chuige. Tosach maith leath na hoibre.



● Phil Grimes

Gaelic Sport's hurling and...

PHIL GRIMES EDGES OUT KILKENNY STAR

HERE they are—the stars of 1963 and in order of merit. As regular readers are aware we have maintained a monthly record of individual performances during the past season and here are the results. The points were awarded as follows—ten for each occasion a player headed the monthly list, nine for a second placing and so on right down to one point for every tenth placing.

The hurling roll of honour created quite a problem for Phil Grimes and Eddie Keher tied for first place with 38 points each. It called for a casting vote and after careful consideration and a further review of the entire 1963 season, the Editor of GAELIC SPORT voted in favour of Grimes, thereby making the Waterford veteran our Hurler of the Year.

On the football list, Dublin's Mickey Whelan cantered home to become Footballer of the Year. He is followed by Kerry's Kevin Coffey and Galway trio, Mick Garrett, Noel Tierney and Mattie McDonagh.

HURLING

1. ● PHIL GRIMES (38)

The great-hearted Waterford veteran belied his age and stormed through the entire season. From early Spring to late Autumn, he was his county's inspiration in almost every game. To add to it he finished the 1962-63 National

League with the outstanding personal tally of 6-34, leaving him clearly ahead of his nearest rival. He was the second highest scorer in the championship.

2. ● EDDIE KEHER (38)

During 1963 the youthful Keher proved himself a worthy claimant to the mantle of Lory Meagher. He reserved his greatest performances for the championships and his fabulous fourteen points in the final made him the top scorer in the competition.

3. ● SEAMUS CLEERE (27)

Another player who gave some

extraordinary brilliant displays. He proved a worthy captain of the victorious men in Black and Amber. His magnificent defensive play was one of the highlights of the year.

4. ● AUSTIN FLYNN (22)

This high placing of the veteran Waterford full back will surprise only those who put an over emphasis on the spectacular. Ever-sound, Flynn was another who scored as a result of an entire season of consistency.

5. ● OLLIE WALSH (21)

Truly a hero of Kilkenny's All-Ireland triumph. His brilliant mind-ing of the goal was an indivisible part of the victory.

6. ● WILLIE RACKARD (20)

Another veteran who recaptured much of his old form and was particularly sound in every one of Wexford's outings.

7. ● JOHN DOYLE (18)

His county's most consistent player throughout the season. Never too highly placed on our monthly ratings yet, he was there more often than not.

● MARTIN OG MORRISEY (18)

Another of Waterford's heroes—particularly in the early part of the year, he shares seventh place with the great Tipperary veteran.

9. ● THEO ENGLISH (17)

Consistent throughout and brilliant on quite a number of



● Willie Rackard

BIG POINTS MARGIN FOR MICKEY WHELAN



● Mickey Whelan

occasions he proved more invaluable to Tipperary than ever.

● **TOM CHEASTY (17)**

He finished the year in controversy but he also produced some of its finest hurling — particularly in helping Waterford reach and win the National League 'home' final. He shares ninth place.

FOOTBALL

1. ● **MICKEY WHELAN (31)**

More than any other player he brought Dublin back to the zenith heights. He was their forward pivot and when needs be their centre field strength. He was also the championship's top scorer. Like Phil Grimes, he never topped a monthly list but he was very often listed and usually in a high position.

2. ● **KEVIN COFFEY (24)**

This placing may cause some surprise, particularly as it was not one of Kerry's greatest years, but again it is a case of all-the-year-round consistency outweighing sporadic brilliance. Coffey's good games have been many — right through from the opening of the season to its end.

3. ● **MICK GARRETT (20)**

More than any other player he led the Galway resurgence and went within an ace (or perhaps a penalty would be more appropriate) of carrying home the Sam Maguire Cup.

4. ● **NOEL TIERNEY (19)**

Certainly the "find" of the year and had he been "found" earlier in the season he might well be our Footballer of the Year. In a handful of games he established himself as the games finest full-back.

5. ● **MATTIE McDONAGH (17)**

Were it not for an injury in the Grounds Tournament semi-final, McDonagh would surely be even higher placed. He had just recaptured his most brilliant form and his absence was a great loss to Galway in the closing months of the season.

6. ● **"PA" CONNOLLY (16)**

It was only on second thought that the Leinster selectors



● Mattie McDonagh

honoured him last Spring but Kildare have long known his true worth. He had a tremendous year and only the absence of the big occasions prevented him from being listed higher.

● **NIALL SHEEHY (16)**

A worthy joint sixth is this representative of Kerry's greatest football family. Niall had his finest year and was a Kingdom hero in many a game.

8. ● **JOE LENNON (15)**

His almost lone bid against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final was undoubtedly the individual performance of the year. Despite his long service he now appears to be at his peak.

● **LEO MURPHY (15)**

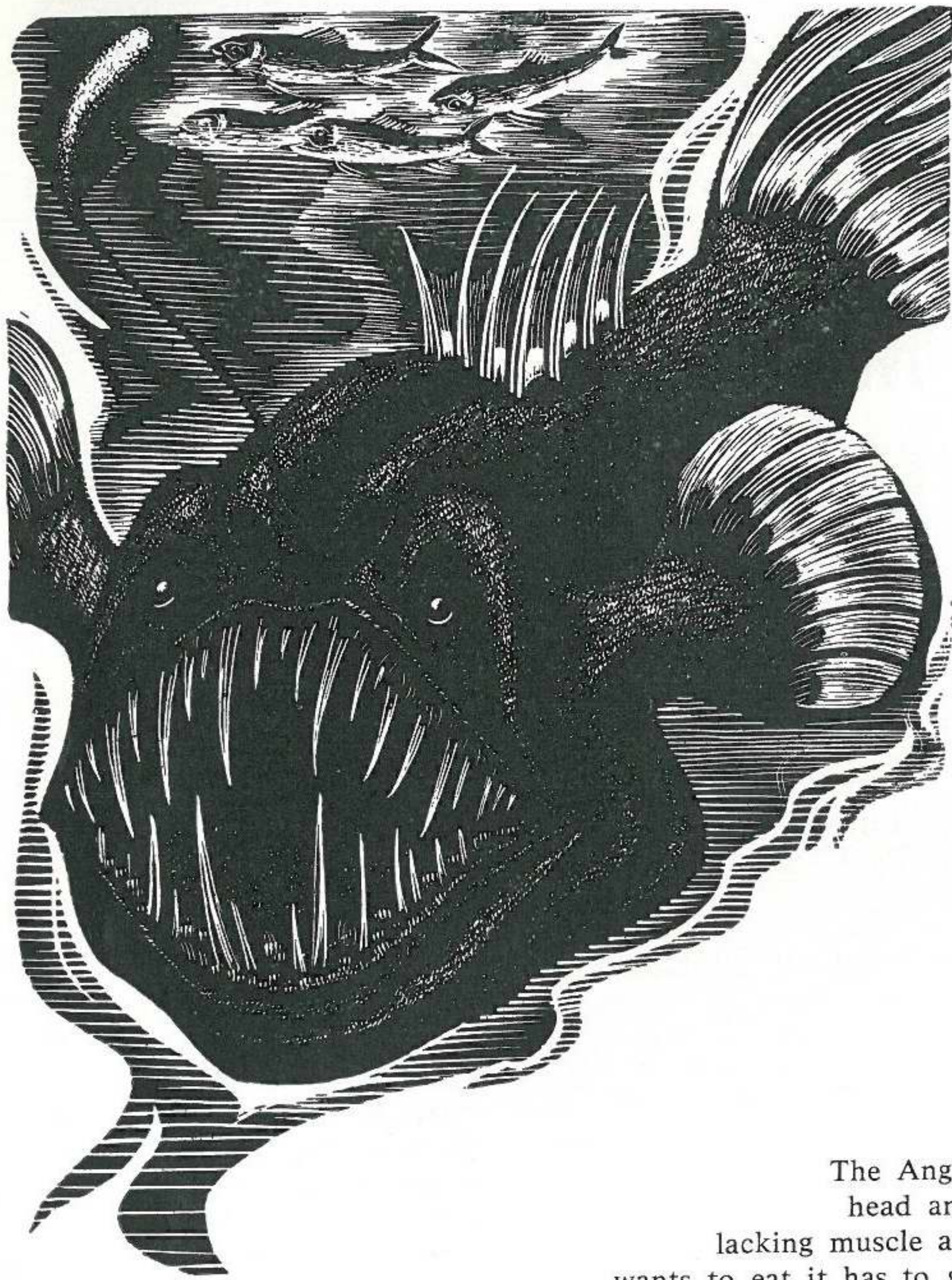
Fittingly, Murphy shares a placing with his team-mate. Throughout the year he was Down's most consistent player.

10. ● **DES FERGUSON (14)**

The man who ended three years of retirement and came back to play better than ever and share in Dublin's new-found glory. He missed the entire first half of the season yet figures among the stars of the year. He was just short of also making the hurling list. Both games combined he had a total of 25 points.

● **SEAN FERRITER (14)**

He led resurgent Donegal and had an outstanding year—despite
(Continued on page 47)



Making ends meet

The Angler Fish, in spite of its huge well-armoured head and ferocious expression is a flabby creature, lacking muscle and the speed to catch other fish. When it wants to eat it has to go fishing with a rod and bait. The rod is a long filament extending from its head and terminating in a glowing globule of tempting fish rather like a small electric light bulb. The "Angler" then proceeds to muddy the water by stirring up the bottom with its fins. When the fish gather around to investigate the glowing bait it opens and closes its huge jaws swallowing anything within reach, which might be a number of herrings, a tin can or even a small anchor.

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PHIL

GRIMES

*'His burning zeal lights
the flames of courage
and will to win at any
sacrifice of effort.'*

By JAY DRENNAN

PHIL GRIMES is an enthusiast—one of those men who burn up their energies, physical and nervous, at an astonishing rate but he seems to find unlimited resources in his superb physique and ever-young keenness. It is not often that a hurler plays through sixteen years with distinction and with consistency in the top-class, and yet produces, perhaps, his best form ever in the sixteenth year. I suppose honour falls on him now to some extent, at least, because of the position he has occupied during the last year: a position where tangible evidence in scores was added to his sixty minute endeavours.

When Phil Grimes was first changed to corner-forward, I had the gravest doubts as to whether he would function there with the same efficiency with which he has served the Waterford and New York teams over the years in positions further in the main thoroughfare of the play. I thought that his great enthusiasm for the ball and for being in the thick of things would be suppressed in the confines of the corner; I thought that his wide, sweeping style, the natural style of a centre-fielder or half-back, would be too loose for corner forward play, which we have come to associate with quick sharp-pulling men of instant reactions.

Phil Grimes, however, has proved even a greater corner

forward than he was a centre-fielder, or half-back. No further praise is necessary; his standard had been set so high out-field, that to say he was better inside, says all that is needed. In fact, Grimes brought a new dimension to corner-forward play, created a new set of problems for corner backs, which they have obviously not yet solved.

His enthusiasm could not be cooped in a few square yards, nor in futile patrolling of the goal-line to keep stray balls in play. As often as not he moves out into the half-forward line, races across to the opposite corner, or even as far afield as the right wing, helping out opponents, looking for passes, racing through for the returns, and swinging wide for room to unleash the broad-swing that still marks him as a player who has seen service further afield.

The most remarkable thing about Phil Grimes is that he spans the greatness of Waterford hurling, from the time of her first All-Ireland victory to the recent glories of League and championship prominence. He was on the team at left-half back when Waterford won the first round of the Munster championships in 1948, and was only absent from the team which went on to capture the All-Ireland for the county that year, because he had emigrated to New York in the meantime.

He hurled away in the States,

and opposed one of the visiting Tipperary teams of the early fifties. But, it was not until his return to Ireland, where he is truly at home, that he blossomed into the great player of the period 1957-'63. His centre-field pairing with Seamus Power laid the foundations for a triumph which was thrown away in less vital sections in the 1957 final; and again in 1959 they did the sweating in the engine-room for an All-Ireland of memorable hurling and great performances which was grasped safely. Right through last year in League and championship he has played a major part in every success.

His accuracy from frees was a telling factor in the long victory. One remembers especially a day in July at Limerick, when radar seemed built into his hurley. No more salutary lesson was ever taught to backs for their sins of holding and wrestling than that which the Tipperary men had to learn that day.

Magnificent physical condition has been, without any doubt, the main factor in keeping Grimes at the top for so long; though I would have you remember that he is not as long in the tooth as his long record of devotion would suggest—34 is not too old for plenty of good hurling still. The years have not told on him, because he has kept himself in constant superb condition: no

(Continued on page 9.)

HAD someone told me in July, 1958 that I was to win a couple of All-Ireland medals, I could only have laughed, for I had just completed a two-year tour of duty in the Persian Gulf, and had no intention of playing again. However, by sheer coincidence. I was forced to help out my club team, Aghaderg, when they ran out of substitutes in an obscure competition game down near Lurgan.

In the Spring of 1959, I regained my place on the county team, and over the next few years, I was privileged to have a hand in one of the major revolutions in modern Gaelic football. If the success which attended the Down team in those years was startling, it was also coldly premeditated.

Teams like this don't just happen. Almost every county has its bulge of good players. The secret of Down's success did not lie entirely in the fact that by accident rather than design, there happened to be a wealth of talented footballers emerging from their teens simultaneously. The subsequent evolution of the team as a functional unit, which far exceeded the summation of the immediately visible parts, was not the whim of circumstance. It was the product of a guiding genius which saw like Janus — before and aft — with a clarity which was little short of miraculous.

The rear view was littered with the wrecks of culpable defeats, miscalculations, lack of planning and co-ordination, and the spectre of insufficiency loomed as grotesque as the complex of inferiority. The one redeeming feature was that the spirit of the county had survived the Winter of defeat and though latent, it needed but the breath of Spring to blossom forth. That the spring of 1959 coincided with the emergence of the team is but by the way. The tide in our

FOOTBALL IN

THE 'SIXTIES

affairs was full and we took it at the turn.

During the preceeding season, the County Board was gathering its playing strength and formulating a campaign which was geared to culminate in an All-Ireland victory in five years time! Had it taken this long, it would have surely come about just the same. When Galway beat us in the semi-final in 1959, we were disappointed but not despairing because we were aware of this programme and had been conditioned to accept defeat as part of the plan. Hence, it came not as a shock but as confirmation of the predictions.

The initial motivation was still as vigorous as ever. The biggest problem to be solved was not a physical one. We were fit enough. The problem confronting the County Board was a most intricate psychological barrier which had to be broken down carefully but none the less effectively. Our main obstacle lay in our own minds. We had to reshape our conventional and limited assessment of our own capabilities. We needed the assurance that we were good enough, and we had to learn to move with the confidence born of such assurance.

During this period, a most remarkable change in the players' attitude came about. The maturation of mental processes was almost tangible. The air of con-

fidence in the camp was infectious. It emanated and pervaded all who went there. It was heavy with success. Lads whose greatest ambition once was to play in Croke Park now talked in terms of brushing Kerry aside in their stride.

This was not the product of chance. It was as deliberately pre-planned and implemented as was the judicious selection of preparatory challenge games. We were taken to Croke Park for an evening game against Dublin in 1958 when few ever guessed that it was part of our schedule for success. I was flown to Dublin for half-an-hour's football that night! The trip to Tralee was a similar tactic.

When we won the National League in 1960, it became evident that the five year plan could be substantially foreshortened. From the victory that Whit in Wembley till the Sam Maguire was ours, the pace of our progress was hard to assimilate.

Looking back on it now, the most surprising feature of the whole programme was the fact that after winning two National Leagues and two All-Ireland championships success had left me relatively cold. If this was the price of success, it was not only worthwhile, it is perhaps the most valuable lesson which life has taught me. It has enabled me to put ability and effort in a perspective which has since

(Continued next page.)

(From previous page.)

proved invaluable. While teaching me the limits of my ability, it has shown that effort can compensate for innate deficiency.

If the other counties of Ireland learned anything from our successes, it was surely that their own teams were good enough to emulate our achievements if they could only make that all important break through.

I was fortunate in being able to view the whole process objectively from my distant vantage point in England, unaffected by the mad whirl of excitement which enveloped the county. A few hours after winning my first All-Ireland medal, I was back in Lancashire writing up some notes for the next day's lectures.

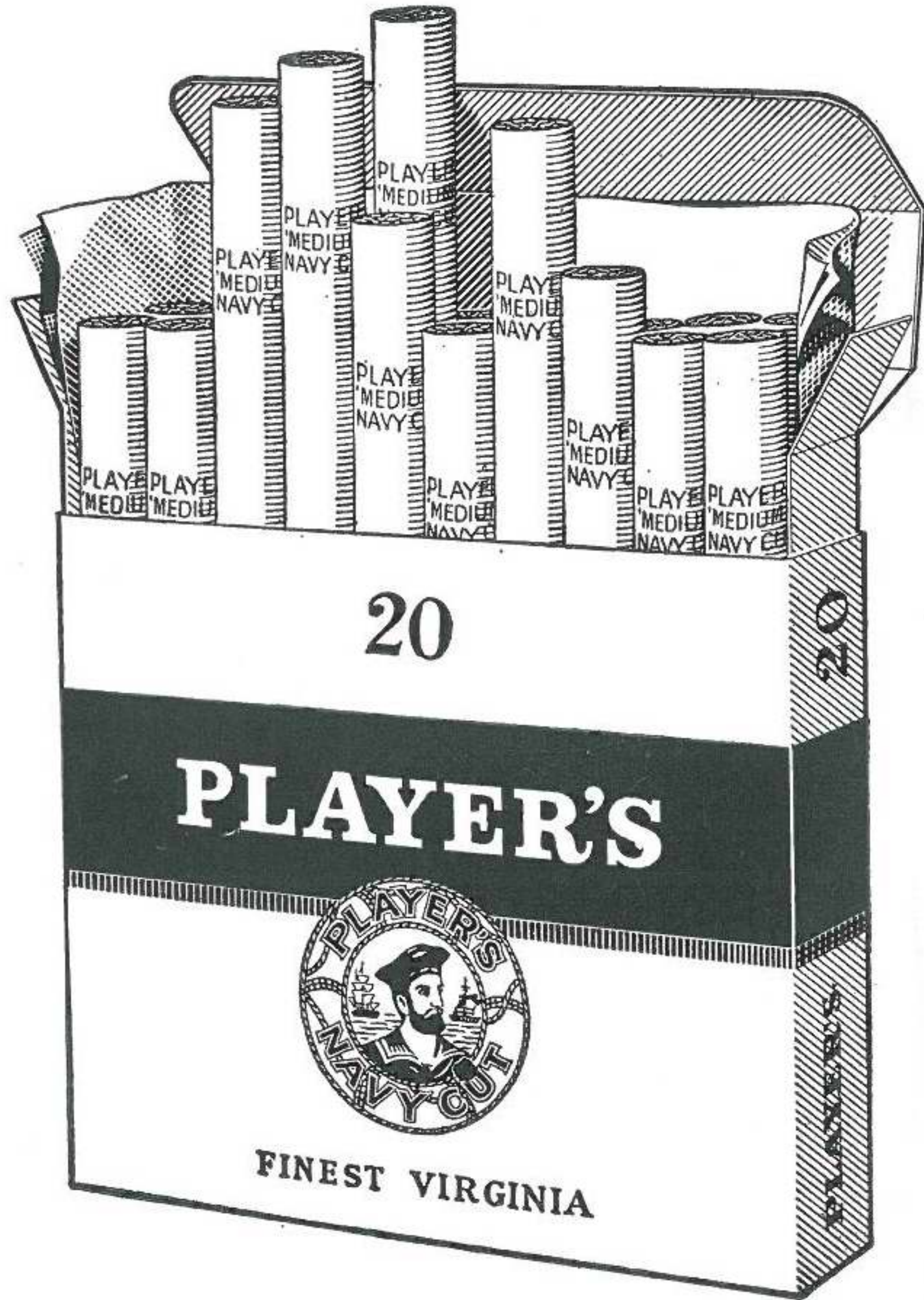
(Continued Next Month).

Phil Grimes

(From page 7.)

sacrifice is too much for Phil, to attain that peak fitness which has been his greatest asset on the field. But, then his task has been eased because he has been gifted with one of the most perfectly proportioned physiques in the game: a perfect machine for the production of a strength, speed, stamina, and dashing courage.

But many have had a fine physique and failed. Grimes has that extra quantity so rare that its absence in themselves is what makes 80,000 people watch a Croke Park final: the fire of burning zeal, which lights the flames of courage and will to win at any sacrifice of effort. It has devoured Grimes: you can see him in any game, impatient that the ball is not coming his way, raging with himself at a mistake, throwing himself recklessly at the ball near goal, prancing gleefully at a score, grabbing the water-bottle from the trainer and pouring it down the back of his jersey, to renew the vigour and cool the body, to withstand further assaults of the spirit. In a word . . . an enthusiast.



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THE PERSONALITY CULT

ONE of the most significant developments in the G.A.A. in recent years has been the cult of the personality. This is not simply a matter of having some star player bursting out through the newsprint in our national papers, like some giant Hercules but it's the whole recent tendency which has been to concentrate on and to idolise the individual rather than the team.

Thus we have, for example, the introduction of the Caltex awards which have sought each year to single out the outstanding hurler and the outstanding footballer; this in turn leading to hosts of amateur selectors nominating their particular choices—with hardly a thought for the teams.

The most recent example has been the invitations which have been extended to individual players to visit America for exhibition games. Nobody knows how these are selected or who selects them, but out of the blue three invitations arrived for Kerry players last year and it is now repeated that eight more players (four hurlers and four footballers) will be invited next year. This, of course, is a radical departure from what has been the accepted practice for transatlantic crossings by players. Hitherto teams were invited. Now it's the individuals.

And, of course, all the time we have the idolisation of particular players in the press—their life stories, their opinions and statements of how the result of every match depends on their displays. Personally, I think the whole thing has now reached the position where people are entitled to ask—Is this right? Is it a good

thing, or is it doing more harm than good?

I think the first thing to be stressed is that Gaelic Games are team games and it is the height of folly to say that any particular player "won a game on his own." Every player on every successful team makes some contribution to success at some stage of the game. Indeed, often it's the unspectacular player who makes the most contribution.

I remember, for instance, the deeds of Mayo corner back, John Forde. He never made any spectacular fetches or kicked prodigiously or outsped his man in a sprint to the ball; but he was always there when danger threatened, and it was a good forward indeed who scored even a point off him.

Wouldn't such a player be entitled to feel out of it if all honours were showered on other players to the exclusion of himself? John Forde, of course, never did because he was, above all, a team-man. But there is always the possibility that some players would feel aggrieved if an arbitrary selection meant that some of their colleagues got the opportunity of a trip to America while they, no less devoted, were left behind.

Then, too, there is always the possibility that with the prospect of a Caltex trophy or a visit to the New World, some particular player might incline to become selfish, forget the team and seek only their own glory. The team would become secondary to the individual and the cult of the personality would be firmly established.

But what is the danger of this happening? Candidly, I think the possibility can be grossly exaggerated. We must remember that teams are composed of individuals, that these individuals differ in ability, in physique and even in day-to-day form so that the better equipped will naturally attract the more attention. But far from resenting this, the other players welcome it and are prepared to serve these players for the good of the team.

A good example of what I have in mind occurred in the 1950 All-Ireland semi-final in which Mayo met Armagh. I was playing centre-field with Padraig Carney who was one of the greatest midfield players ever in the game. But the same year Bill McCorry was playing great football for Armagh, so we decided in advance that I would play on Bill McCorry, try and mark him out of the game and thus give Padraig full scope to use his talents. It worked too, so that by the time Padraig retired injured the damage had been done.

Another aspect of the case is what the spectators want to see. A majority of them do come to see their team winning, but many too come to see particular players in action. Thus players like Christy Ring, Des. Foley, Mick O'Connell, Jimmy Doyle or James McCartan will have their own personal following wherever they go and they rarely fail to entertain.

The individual then must be a part of the G.A.A. scene and must get his due mead of praise and attention. But his interests must ever be subordinate to those of the team and any effort to reverse these positions must be resisted for the good of all.



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GERRY

FOOTBALL'S UNCROWNED KING

O'MALLEY

By Sean O'Neill

IT is over sixteen years since Gerry O'Malley first took his place with the men of Roscommon. To be precise it was October, 1947, and in a League game against Sligo. Except for a brief period in 1948, when studies forced his absence, the lion-hearted man from Kiltoom has served without interruption and is now the longest active player in intercounty football.

He has never won an All-Ireland medal—and probably never will. But what matter. Such trophies are insignificant by comparison with the greatness of the man and of his career. O'Malley will be remembered when scores upon scores of All-Ireland medal holders are long forgotten.

A product of St. Mary's Marist College, Athlone, Gerry never represented the county as a minor. He won his first medal hurling with Four Roads in 1945 and the following year he made the county junior football team. He was then eighteen. Senior honours were quick to follow.

He was, of course, four years too late. Roscommon had its fill of glory in 1943 and '44, when they made history in style. He would have looked well among them—standing shoulder to shoulder with Jimmy Murray, Brendan Lynch, Donal Keenan, Liam Gilmartin and the rest. But it was not to be. He came when the tumult had died down and alone he tried to revive it.

And how he tried. I ask has any



Gerry O'Malley

man during the past decade and a half tried more? We sought for words to describe his efforts—"a human dynamo" was perhaps the most fitting expression but it was still greatly inadequate to fully explain the combination of fighting heart, tremendous ability and impeccable sportsmanship.

No man is a team unto himself—but O'Malley tried and he almost was. It was never a sporadic effort, or a spectacle reserved for the big occasion. It was every hour of every game—and win, lose or draw, he fought for the last ball as if it were the first. He usually got both.

He helped U.C.G. win the Siger-son Cup in 1947 and this was to be the beginning of an era of

unparalleled service to university football. With St. Patrick's, Knockcroghery, he won county medals in 1948 and '49. Then in 1950 the Connacht selectors turned to him. For thirteen years he served them without break. Last year they dropped him and the country scorned them for their injustice.

In our hearts, of course, we knew that they were right but we would all have put him there. Such was his fame and the respect he held.

When the Representative Games got under way in 1950, he was an automatic choice for the University side. The Ireland selectors grabbed him on a few occasions too but between both sides he was always there.

A grand hurler too. He won a handful of county titles with Four Roads—numerous Connacht junior medals and to crown it all became a regular on the Connacht hurling team to boot. He was actually a substitute on the provincial hurling side as early as 1948 and between both codes can claim fifteen years of unbroken Railway Cup service. For the record the footballers honoured him thirteen times and the hurlers seven times.

There was that glorious month in the Spring of 1961 when he played in Croke Park on four successive Sundays—every one of them a National League semi-final. There was a draw and a replay against Kerry in football and a like

(Continued on Page 15.)



Jim Dermody

The JIM DERMODY STORY

(As told to Tomás O Faoláin)



Eudie Coughlan

WE MISSED OUR CHANCE IN '31

THOSE two fine writers, David Guiney and Padraig Puirseal, did a fine job recently in the "Irish Press" with regard to the 1931 hurling final.

No man had a better view than I of those epic games as I stood between the Kilkenny posts. They were certainly wonderful games.

Cork had been odds-on favourites, and why wouldn't they be? They had won the title in 1926, '28 and '29 and contested the '27 final. Still we held them to 1-6 in the first game. That was September 6.

Five weeks later we were at it again, and low and behold it was another draw—2-5 each. Not alone that but both teams had only seven scores in each game.

We were level 2-5 all with only minutes to go. Then Kilkenny got a free forty yards out, Eddie Doyle, who was our captain—God be good to him—signalled to Lory Meagher to take it. Poor Lory was exhausted, having played himself to a standstill.

"Let someone else take it, Eddie, for I am really played out," says Lory; but Eddie insisted.

Lory went over to the ball and you could feel the tension over the whole park. He lifted, struck



Jim Hurley . . . at midfield for Cork in 1931.

and, so help me, but it went wide. It was Kilkenny's golden opportunity and it was gone.

The final whistle sounded a minute or so later, and Eddie Doyle lined us all up for extra time. "Right, lads," says he, "we'll be playing fifteen minutes each way and I think Cork are cracking. So let's get it over with. We don't want this final going on until next year."



Paddy Delea



Paddy Larkin

But we were not allowed to go on. While the game was being played the wheels of officialdom had been grinding behind the scenes. The officials of both counties had held a hasty meeting towards the end of the hour when a draw looked inevitable, and they had agreed to waive the rule which specified that extra time must be played when there is a draw at the end of the second hour.

Sean Gibbons, the Chairman of the Kilkenny Board, came on to the pitch and informed us that it would have to wait until another day, so we marched off and the 1931 championship was still undecided.

Well, I have often wondered how would we have gone had we played that extra time. We were certainly putting on the pressure in the closing minutes, and I was of the same opinion as Eddie Doyle that Cork were beginning to crack.

Then, of course, there was the point that Lory missed. Forty yards out was no bother to him under normal conditions. He usually put such chances straight over the bar—but it simply was not our day.

The third and deciding game took place on Sunday, November 10. It was a cold, bleak day and fate had played a cruel trick on us. We had to take the field without Lory Meagher and Paddy Larkin. Without the genius of Lory at midfield and the great dependability of Larkin in the backs we were but half the team

(Continued next page.)

(From previous page.)

that finished level three weeks previously, and Cork took full advantage of the situation.

I am not discrediting in any way the men who replaced Meagher and Larkin for they played their hearts out—as did the entire team—but the odds were too great.

Jim Hurley was all on his own at midfield for Cork and he kept their forwards well supplied. Try as they did, our backs could not hold them as they came at us time and again.

The Ahernes and little Paddy Delea had little mercy on me in goal and they slammed the ball to the net five times and whipped over eight points as well.

Our boys had seven scores once again—3-4 this time—but there was no doubt about it, the better team had won. Cork were champions for 1931.

Still, we learned a lot and there was much glory in that defeat. The experience gained was to bring us much greater glory in the years which followed, and I will be telling you all about it next month.

Football's Uncrowned King

(From page 13.)

event against Down in the special hurling division.

The Roscommonmen's Association in New York had him over as their special guest in 1956 and quite a few of them crossed to be there just in case he won in 1962.

What a scene it would have been had O'Malley mounted those steps to take the Sam Maguire Cup. Croke Park would have never had anything to compare with it. But again it was not to be.

Still he plays on in the dim twilight of his great career. And let no man mistake his purpose. O'Malley is not playing for medals or in the faint hope of another Roscommon resurgence. He plays on for the same reason that he always played—because he loves the game.

Proof of this, if proof be needed, can be found in the fact that during almost all his adult life he has resided outside his county. Yet Roscommon has never had a more dependable club player. A hundred miles there and back to

help Knockcroghery, Kiltoom or Four Roads in some obscure competition was his usual Sunday. Be it wet or fine—the occasion great or small, he was there and he played the whole hour as only he could play it.

He is now Chairman of the County Hurling Board as well and finds time for it all despite the demands of his profession as an agricultural instructor. To Gaelic Games O'Malley gives—he does not ask.

Footballer, hurler, administrator—master of every position, hero in every game, longest serving of players, most honoured of Connaught interprovincials and most selected in the Ireland series—there is O'Malley.

Sportsman without blemish, player without faltering, greatest of the great hearts—Yes, this is O'Malley.

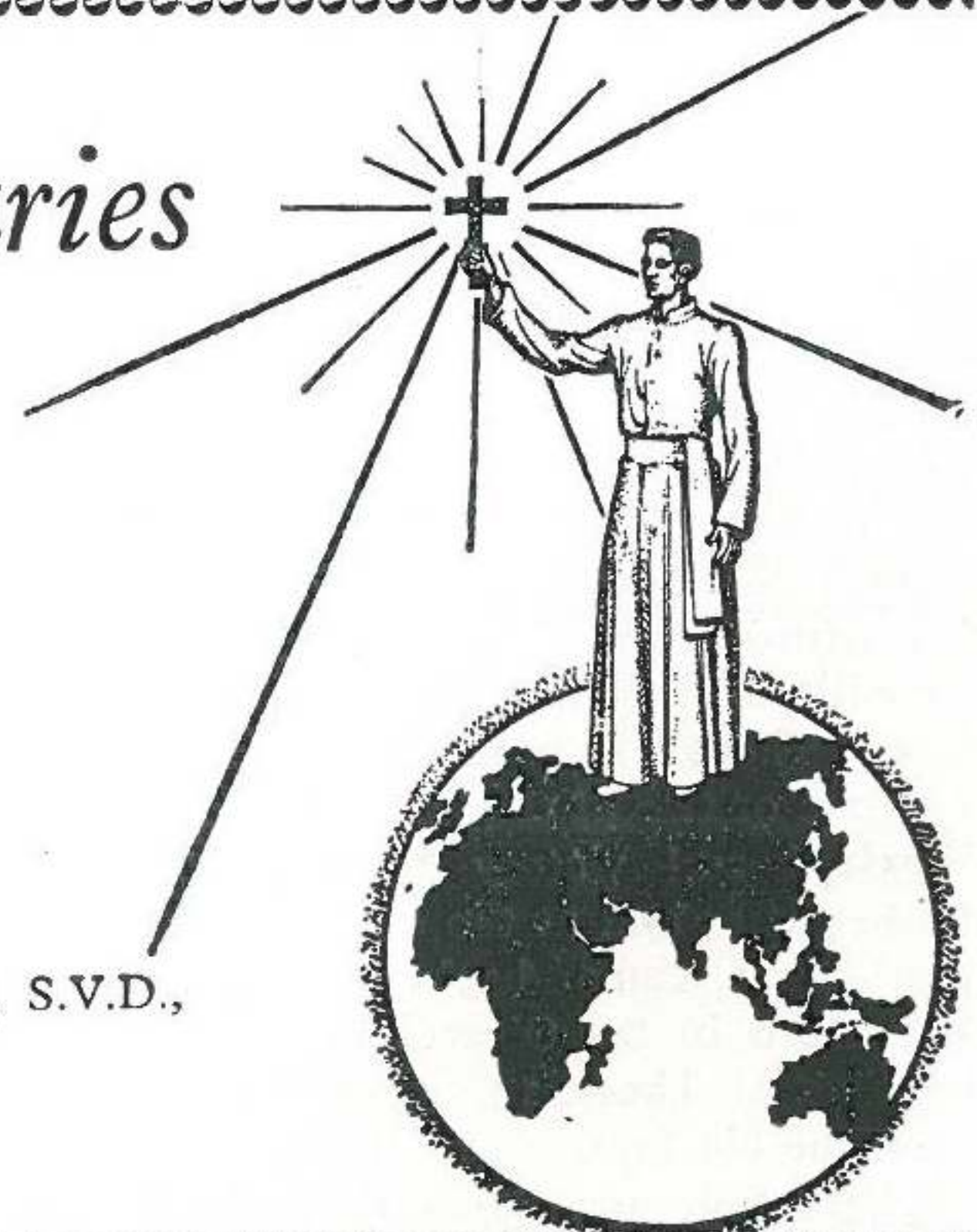
That he should not have an All-Ireland medal is of no consequence. Had he ten he could not have been more great.

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THE BIG FOUR

AN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT HURLING POWER

By JAY DRENNAN

IT has been an extraordinary year for hurling contradictions and it is therefore silly to try and forecast to any great degree how the honours list will be made up in 1964. However, we can I feel, look forward to a great hurling season.

How does one explain and correlate the contradictions of the past fifteen months. Let us begin with Tipperary's victory in the 1962 All-Ireland final. Then came Waterford's rush of Oireachtas, League and championship victories—establishing in the process a complete supremacy over Tipperary.

In last year's final Kilkenny proved to be Waterford's masters—yet a few weeks later they were beaten by Tipperary in the Oireachtas semi-final. Throughout it all Wexford remained on the fringe of the main action. They lost to Tipperary by the narrowest of margins in the 1962 final; to Waterford twice in the league, and to Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final. There was never more than a stroke or two of the ball between Wexford and victory in any of those games and at the end of the year they came back to beat Waterford in the Oireachtas competition. These therefore have been the big four.

These four at present form the quadrilateral of power in the

hurling game. Only they can be called first-class counties. Each is neighbour to two of the others—so quality hurling seems to have become even more centralised than ever before.

In spite of what partisans may say, I think there is a pattern stronger than mere faltering form in the apparently contradictory results of the past year. It is important to remember that there are four distinct styles and four distinct traditions in this quadrilateral.

Tipperary play the game ruggedly, polished by intelligent and sharp forwards, and the crafty Theo English at centre. Kilkenny are all style: a finely balanced game of variety and clever strokes. Kilkenny players give the impression that they are born with hurleys in their hands, while Tipperary men look as though they take their hurleys and play for healthy, competitive exercise after a good day's work saving the hay. Waterford lie somewhere in between the two, with a style born of admiration of their powerful neighbours: theirs is a kind of town and country style—clever touches and honest sweat combined, and backed up by a comradeship which is their strongest asset.

Down the years Waterford have been obsessed with a Tipperary

complex. It became a matter of honour for them to beat Tipperary and establish their supremacy over them; it was almost a fixation. Something like the four minute mile barrier, which once beaten for the first time, was conquered afterwards with comparative ease. This psychological break-through swept Waterford to the crest of their little wave. Tipperary were beaten consistently, and it was then Tipperary's turn to worry.

The roles had almost been reversed full circle when the Munster final came round in Limerick on a hot July Sunday. Waterford's new found confidence and Tipperary's incipient complex had a great deal to do with that game, when Waterford won almost in spite of themselves, and Tipperary lost by sending ball after ball wide.

Yet, while they rode this golden streak, Waterford never established their ability to beat Kilkenny: they did not meet them in competitive action. It was too bad for them that Kilkenny were their All-Ireland opponents, for over the years, Waterford have never fully fathomed Kilkenny.

Invariably, they have been lured into playing a game of pure style with them, beautiful to watch, but playing into the Kilkennymen's hands—for you cannot beat Kilkenny at pure style. And that was

the pattern in the final this year. Waterfordmen always find themselves held in fatal thrall and play Kilkenny's game with them.

That has never been the way between Tipperary and Kilkenny. In the recent Oireachtas semi-final, I was packed in between rival groups of supporters. As things grew worse, and the Kilkenny fans experienced the disappointment of defeat staring them in the eye, they muttered that Tipperary were playing the game too-hard. Tipperary men answered heatedly that it was all in the game. They were both right, of course, in their own way.

Tipperary were forthright and rugged in their traditional style, never dirty—for Tipperary players are hard, but not unfair. Unlike Waterford, there was never any danger that they would lapse into an effort to match Kilkenny at their own game. I think they would not know how, for the Tipperary style flows from their nature and from their hearts, and it is just the medicine for Kilkenny.

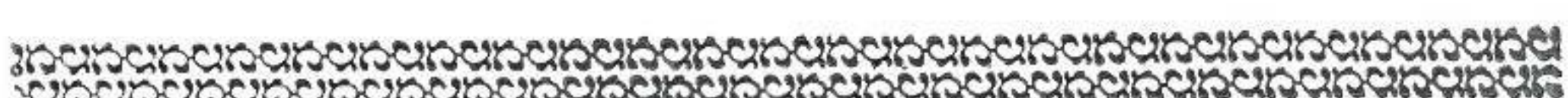
And then there is Wexford—the game's best losers. The big broad men from the broad acres of the south-east; men who drive the ball as Matt the Thresher might, who disdain the hasty puck for the greater thrill of the great sweeping hurl to the field's opposite end. Wexford men are like Tipperary men—they play as though they simply meant to recreate their minds and bodies after the week's work. But, they differ in that Tipperary men show the elements of dedication to the game of hurling, and towards victory, while Wexford men play as though they were thinking of the cows at home, which had to be milked, and the calves which had to be fed.

In one way, they are the only ones who have the correct perspective on the game: they realise it comes second, and far behind, the ordinary everyday life; that it is a release and a pleasure, but must not be more. This may well

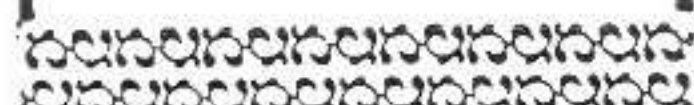
be why they *always* play a wonderful game, always give a good fight to the greatest, and quite often lose. But, it is also the reason why they are the best losers, and the best sportsmen of all.

Then there are the second-class counties: Cork, the grittiest of all, and Limerick, Clare, Galway, and Dublin's sophisticated speed. But, on all known factors, it must be quadrilateral which will supply

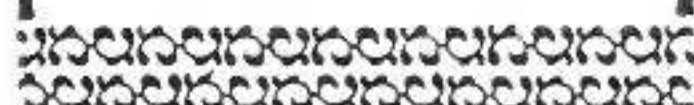
the answer. Will Waterford enter a decline. Will Kilkenny realise their full potential? If all else be equal, Tipperary will beat Waterford or Kilkenny any time according to tradition. To beat Kilkenny, Waterford would need to improve—while, of course, Wexford could beat them all, or lose gloriously, in the glorious uncertainty of the future. It will be an interesting year.



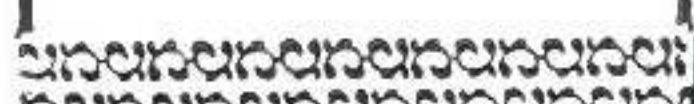
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DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDS

FIELDS are very much in the news in Munster at the moment, for in addition to the projected development of the two agreed centres — Limerick and Thurles — the Munster Council were asked at their last meeting to create a fund for important works at the other county grounds in the province.

This is a very necessary task, and it should be the aim to have in each county at least one ground capable of adequately and comfortably catering for the needs of both players and spectators.

This means a first class pavilion and equipment for the use of players, an assembly room or meeting place for the county board, along with office accommodation, and sufficient covered and seated facilities to meet the normal demands of spectators.

Planning should be very carefully organised, and anything in the line of over development guarded against. The normal requirements of the area should be carefully judged, and the best possible provision then made on that basis.

Munster is very well served in the matter of grounds and all the counties have some very fine playing fields. It would be impossible to deal with all of them in an article of this nature, but a quick look to those likely to figure in the proposed new development plans will prove of interest to the many Gaels who marvel at the great strides made in recent years in this very important aspect of G.A.A. advancement.

CUSACK PARK

For long the Gaels of Clare were

dependent on the Show Grounds at Ennis for their important games, a venue they were forced to share at times with other codes. When the great movement got under way for the acquiring of playing fields the property of the Association, Cusack's county was not remiss, and soon a centrally situated property was purchased in the capital town, prettily perched by the banks of the river, and dedicated to the memory of the great founder and first secretary of the G.A.A.—Michael Cusack. It would be impossible to name all those who helped in the work of procuring and developing these fields but in the Ennis case, Right Rev. Mons. Michael Hamilton, Art O'Donnell, Frank Moloney and Jack Spellacey were amongst the most earnest workers.

BY THE LEE

Cork Athletic Grounds is one of the oldest of our Munster Gaelic fields, and was managed, I think, by the first limited company formed for this purpose. Its members included such great Gaels as Tom Dooley, in after years affectionately known as the grand old man of the G.A.A.; J. J. Walsh, who as Minister for Posts and Telegraphs inaugurated the broadcasting of Gaelic Games, and was first Director of Aonach Tailteann; and well known athletic handicapper, J. J. Buckley, whose son, Jackie, was in after years secretary of the company.

The Ground served its purpose well for many years and was the scene of some great struggles, including the unforgettable Kerry-Kildare All-Ireland replay of 1903

Munster Medley

By Séamus O Ceallaigh

—a match that many maintain “made” Gaelic Football.

Then, in 1926, Cork and Tipperary met there in the Munster senior hurling final, and the crowd was of such dimensions that the ground burst its seams; outer galvanised and inner railings collapsed before the weight of numbers and the “powers that be” in Munster were alerted to the task of erecting spacious playing fields to hold the ever-increasing numbers anxious to see the games.

For long Cork was hemmed in on one side by the Showgrounds and on the other by the old Cork-Crosshaven railway line, but with the passing of the latter the embankment was acquired.

In due course, the familiar narrow entrance under the old railway bridge disappeared, a wide bridge was built over the nearby stream and a big drainage job completed.

Liam (“Bowler”) Walsh, Tom Long and Sean Og Murphy will be always associated with these improvements, but still the old grounds along the banks of the “lovely Lee” proved inadequate for present day Cork needs, and a new pitch has been acquired out Wilton way — the development of which is a task demanding the close attention of the present go-ahead Cork executive.

KILLARNEY

The new Parks Committee, when they considered the position in Munster choose Thurles, but in view of the advanced state of

(Continued on page 21)

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(Continued from page 19)

development in Limerick, and the small cost of completing the work there, put the Ennis Road grounds also on their approved list.

A somewhat similar situation exists in Kerry. The Killarney pitch is one of the most spacious in the country, with a magnificent natural bank, and in its early days staged the 1937 All-Ireland senior hurling final between Kilkenny and Tipperary, at which a new record for gate receipts at a hurling decider was achieved. Erected as a memorial to great Kerry football captain, Dick Fitzgerald, the inspiration behind the project was Dr. E. M. N. O'Sullivan, ably assisted by his namesake Eugene; Jerry and Maurice O'Leary, John Hallahan and Jerry Moynihan.

TRALEE

Originally laid out as a cricket oval, Tralee Sportsfield once boasted a popular cinder track, and it was inside this circuit the first G.A.A. pitch was sited, under the guidance of well known Gaels like Dan Nolan, P. J. Cahill, Nick Stack, Joe Harrington and Paddy Foley.

The grounds eventually fell into decline, the pitch became a veritable wilderness and by the end of the Civil War even the surrounding wall was levelled. Then men like John Joe Sheehy, Denny Curran, Mick McQuin, Maurice McCarthy, and Sean McCarthy stepped into the breach, big improvements were effected, and a fine main entrance erected, which includes a splendid bust of Austin Stack, to whom the field is dedicated, executed by the well known sculptor, Albert Power.

LIMERICK

Built from the raw, the very raw, which many of us remember away back in 1929, when men like W. P. Clifford, a former President of the G.A.A.; Denny Lanigan, Charlie Holland, Albie Quillinan and Tim Humphries, completed the

deal for property that few then thought would ever make the splendid stadium we know to-day.

Limerick Gaelic Grounds was one of the first fields vested in the G.A.A., but I think most credit for the almost miraculous advance at Ennis Road is due to the foresight of men like Canon Punch, Jacky O'Connell and Micky Fitzgibbon, who pushed ahead with such drive and purpose against what some thought to be unsurmountable odds. The purchase and re-erection of the old Hogan Stand was a particularly happy idea of theirs.

THURLES

Thurles Sportsfield, a parcel of about eleven acres, was sold by its owner, Joe Molloy, to the old Horse Show Committee in 1901, and it remained in their custody for almost a decade, until the show failed.

Mainly through the efforts of Very Rev. M. K. Ryan, the property was offered to the townspeople. The Thurles Gaelic Sportsfield Society Ltd. was formed and shares issued — the main shareholders included James Maher, Tom Semple and E. T. O'Meara.

In 1912, the town landlord offered the grounds to the town as a public park, the Urban Council accepted but the Local Government Board refused to sanction the raising of a loan to buy out the interest of the shareholders and clear the debt.

A clear title to the Grounds was not secured until 1936, and in the following year the Munster Council reached agreement with the shareholders for a development scheme, designed free by T. J. Hyland, B.E. with John Joe Callanan and M. J. Bowe being others actively associated with the project.

WATERFORD

The present Waterford Gaelic Field was the scene of a bitter fight

for the principle of Gaelic pitches for Gaelic games many years ago. The property originally belonged to a private company, and Willie Walsh, to whom the grounds is now dedicated, assisted by other well meaning Gaels, campaigned for its exclusive use for native pastimes.

The company resold to the landlord who, for a period, permitted all games to be played. An unrelentless struggle was waged until eventually a G.A.A. sympathiser gained control and he rented it exclusively to the Association.

Hostile interests however kept up the fight and eventually the Gaels found themselves in the position of having to buy out or clear out. They pooled everything they had and bought the grounds, which were in a very bad state at the time and their first task was a complete resodding.

The big figures in this courageous venture were Willie Walsh, Amby Medders and Sean Hogan, and they carried on until the field eventually came under full G.A.A. ownership.

DUNGARVAN

No reference to the playing fields of Munster could be concluded without mention of probably the most historic of them all — the famed Shandon Park, Dungarvan.

Originally owned by the Curran family, it was purchased by Dan Fraher, all round champion athlete of Ireland, staunch Gael and language enthusiast, towards the close of the last century. It quickly became the most popular venue in the country and many colourful games were played there including some unforgettable All-Ireland senior hurling finals. Some of the greatest players the game has known starred on what was acknowledged one of the finest pitches in the country, and in any scheme of ground development this old favourite with the fans must find an honoured place.

GAELIC GAMES IN GLASGOW

By CONALLACH

AT Eastfield in the suburbs of Glasgow, a group of Irishmen come together every Sunday to play their native games. Some of these emigrants work in the city; others come for the week-

end from Edinburgh, Greenock, Falkirk and many other Scottish cities, and they enjoy a keenly contested game at Eastfield Gaelic Park. This field which is only a short run from the city centre was

originally bought by the Glasgow County Board in 1953 at a cost of £650. Various improvements such as fencing, drainage and dressing room accommodation have been carried out since.

I can assure you that the difficulties which surround the organisation of Gaelic Games in Glasgow are indeed immense. It is very difficult to keep a team together as many of these young emigrants after working for a period in the city decide to go on to England or Wales to seek more enterprising employment. Many players work on Sunday. Soccer football is a great industry in Scotland and it is not an easy job for the County Board to get the necessary funds. Referees and administrators who have the time to devote to the organisation are difficult to get. It was no wonder then that the G.A.A. had lapsed in Glasgow for nearly a period of four years until 1960 when a band of Irishmen, who were previously connected with Gaelic Games in the city, like John Quaile of Fermanagh; Seamus Mac Cathmhaoil of Glasgow; Charlie Quinn of Tyrone; Owen Kelly, Harry McConnville, Eddie McBreaty and many others came together and formed a provisional committee with a view to holding the Gaelic Park at Eastfield for the G.A.A. and slowly but safely raising the necessary funds to re-organise the Association and eventually re-institute a County Board.

John Quaile a whole hearted Gael who was chairman of the Pearses Club before the G.A.A. ceased in Glasgow was appointed chairman of this committee and through his leadership and a hard working committee, a Board is operating again in Glasgow with four clubs affiliated. Progress was slow at first, but thanks to their

Phoenix Park Races

FIXTURE LIST, 1964

Sat., March 28th

Sat., April 11th

Sat., May 2nd

*Wed., May 6th**

Sat., May 30th

Sat., June 13th

*Wed., June 24th**

Sat., July 4th

*Wed., August 5th**

Sat., August 8th

Sat., September 12th

Sat., October 3rd

* DENOTES EVENING MEETING.

MULLINGAR RACES

1964

(Six Meetings)

Sat., February 22nd

Wed., June 3rd
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., June 29th
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., July 20th
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., Aug. 10th
(Evening Meeting)

Sat., Dec. 12th

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efforts there are now games every Sunday, at Eastfield Park.

In April, 1963, a Glasgow selection travelled to Liverpool and defeated their English counterparts in a very sporting game. Next year, the Glasgow Board hope to enter a team in the Junior championship and if they can hold their present selection of players they will have a useful side.

Of course this will not be the first time for a Glasgow selection to compete in the All-Ireland Junior football championship. The first occasion was in August, 1952, when Glasgow were rather unlucky to be narrowly beaten by London, at New Eltham, in the final of the championship of Britain.

I was domiciled in Glasgow at the time and I was a playing member of the Glasgow team on that occasion. Indeed, I am well aware of the spirit and enthusiasm that prevailed between players and officials and I am sure if the same spirit prevails next year Glasgow will do well.

On that warm August day in 1952, Glasgow's captain was Hudy Beag Gallagher, of Gweedore and Donegal, who won two Railway Cup medals with Ulster—others who were in the limelight then were his fellow club mates, Paddy Diver, Tom McGinley, Tony Coll, who played for Derry, Sean Barrett, Con McKenna, Monaghan; Pat O'Meara, Tipperary; Tom Conway, Mayo; Gerry Galvin, Roscommon (who is playing with the present team); and Mickey Friel, Donegal, a member of a great football family of seven brothers who all played for the Glasgow Pearses club.

John Quaile, chairman, with George Gallagher as secretary; L. Tierney, assistant secretary; and Charlie Quinn, treasurer, are at present carrying on the great work of the Gaelic Athletic Association in face of overwhelming odds. They have a further programme of reconstruction for which they need more finance and they do deserve the support of all Irish people in Scotland.

UNDER THE RULES OF RACING

CURRAGH RACES

FIXTURES 1964

SAT., APRIL 4th

WED., APRIL 22nd

WED., MAY 13th

SAT., MAY 16th

WED., JUNE 10th

SAT., JUNE 27th

WED., JULY 15th

SAT., JULY 25th

SAT., AUGUST 22nd

SAT., SEPTEMBER 5th

WED., SEPTEMBER 16th

THURS., SEPTEMBER 17th

SAT., OCTOBER 10th

SAT., OCTOBER 24th

SAT., NOVEMBER 7th.

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THE BAN

Serves National cause

• By SEAN FEELEY

IT is rather sad how so many of our younger generation find it difficult to grasp the national purpose of Cumann Luchleas Gael. For these it is simply a strong sports organisation differing from others only in that it sponsors games which have an Irish origin. This type of thinking, in solely a games context, is quite prevalent and therein lies the reason why the Ban is not always understood.

What must be made clear to these people then, and I include my adversary, Padraig de Burca, among them, is that the G.A.A. is a national organisation. It is national in the sense that it was founded and has grown not for the purpose of propagating the spread of games, but so as to serve the national cause. The games were but the means chosen to this end.

The Official Guide makes this very clear. I quote from page 25:

"The G.A.A. was founded not merely to promote and develop physical fitness, to proclaim champions, or to assemble vast gatherings of onlookers. These are the means by which the Association strives to reach their all-important end, which is the organisation of native pastimes and the promotion of athletic fitness as disciplined factors in the restoration of the historic Gaelic state and institutions."

However, the Guide goes on to signpost the true aims of the Asso-

A FINAL FLING

IN this issue, GAELIC SPORT again provides a platform for SEAN FEELEY and PADRAIG de BURCA to promulgate their opposing views on the G.A.A. Ban on foreign games. In our February number, Messrs. Feeley and de Burca will enter the "ring" for Round Four—which will conclude the present session of their heated controversy

ciation in an even clearer fashion. The vast majority of the Rules apply to administration and play, but there are also quite a few which have little to do with these things. The Ban (Rule 27) is but one of them.

Rules 6, 7, 8 and 9 stress the use of the Irish language, Irish notepaper and building materials and the National Flag.

Rule 26 prevents British soldiers, servicemen and police (irrespective of whether they are Irish-born) from being members of the Association. It also bans members of the Association from supporting any functions organised by these bodies.

Rule 29 states that members must not organise foreign dances,

while Rule 30 bans members from competing at any sports meetings which are not organised by the N.A.C.A.

These seven Rules are very much related to the Ban and yet they are never attacked. I wonder why? I ask Mr. de Burca if he thinks that the G.A.A. should be thrown open to British servicemen and to elaborate his answer. Likewise I ask him if he believes that G.A.A. members should be allowed to compete at A.A.U. sports meetings? His answers will be very interesting. Will he be consistent in his thinking or will he attempt to suggest that these Rules have nothing to do with the Ban?

They are, of course, inseparable in that they all combine to form the national backbone of the Association. Take them away and you have left but a sports organisation of no purpose other than to organise games. I wonder if this is what Mr. de Burca wants?

I have said it before and I have no hesitation in saying it again—the Ban is more necessary to-day than it ever was. It is necessary because the broad objectives of the Association are as yet far from being achieved.

The "supreme goal" according to the Official Guide is "Ireland Gaelic and Free." Until this is achieved the Ban and all of its related Rules must remain.

Founders rejected it

• By PADRAIG de BURCA

LAST month GAELIC SPORT published round two of the Ban discussion. On that occasion I went into the ring first so that my opponent, Mr. Feeley, had the benefit of the advance text of my article. This month GAELIC SPORT has been good enough to reverse the procedure. I am thankful for this in more ways than one. I would have found it difficult to reply to Mr. Feeley's first article for the reason that there was no case to answer. It is true that he accused and abused me frequently of building my case on half truths, etc., but then one normally associates abuse with a lost cause. That is very much so here. I will now come to his article in this month's issue.

Mr. Feeley quoted an extract from the Official Guide to indicate that the G.A.A. had among its aims "the restoration of the historic Gaelic State and institutions." I agree with that objective. The same Guide says this about the founders of the G.A.A. — "to Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin and Archbishop Croke goes the greater share of credit for the creation and character of this National Organisation. Each in his own person embodies and imparted to the movement a distinct principle, and the triple union of aims and impulses thus obtained, constituted a potent national ideal." May I repeat once more that the

Ban had no place in the idealism of Cusack, Davin or Croke since all three rejected it. They were too clear sighted to think that a negative institution like the Ban could make any positive contribution to the advancement of the Gaelic ideals of the G.A.A.

The ban is a defeatist weapon. Of its nature it excludes. Thus it has, as I mentioned earlier, excluded the greatest of our patriots from the ranks of the G.A.A. It is doing the same thing today and the G.A.A. is much the poorer all round as a result. It is creating apartheid all along the line to the disadvantage of the G.A.A. particularly. Undoubtedly the G.A.A. has done much, in spite of the Ban, to unite Irishmen and to stimulate our national consciousness. But I hold that by dropping the Ban the potential of the G.A.A. to promote greater unity still as well as advancing our respect for ourselves (that is Nationalism) would be greatly enhanced.

Without the Ban, Irishmen who are now playing leading roles at home and abroad to add new dimensions to the image of Ireland would be eligible for membership of the G.A.A. They are not eligible for membership as matters stand. In short the G.A.A. can never hope to become a truly representative national organisation as long as the Ban remains.

Regarding Mr. Feeley's challenge to discuss some other G.A.A. bans, are we not confined by our terms of reference to discuss Rule 27 and the manner of its enforcement. But may I be permitted to remind him that members of the G.A.A. are free under the Rules to patronise foreign dances seven nights a week. That G.A.A. men exercise this freedom extensively is well known. Neither are G.A.A. men prohibited from buying foreign goods nor are they prohibited from spending their holidays in foreign lands. And oddly enough they are not prohibited from speaking English. As a matter of fact nowhere in the Official Guide is there any rule requiring members of the G.A.A. to speak the native language on any occasion. I am aware of that rule which requires that addresses be in Irish in official correspondence but for my part I'd like to see the G.A.A. playing a more positive role to restore the language. And isn't it a pity to see language enthusiasts banned from the G.A.A. because they play rugby or soccer?

This is not the place to discuss the ban on British soldiers and sailors but has it ever struck Mr. Feeley that members of the R.A.F. are not banned. Why I wonder? It would be out of place to discuss the ban on A.A.U. men here for

(Continued overleaf)



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THE BAN

(Continued from page 25)

many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that athletic unity proposals are at present under discussion elsewhere.

But I fear that I have devoted too much space in debunking Mr. Feeley's case. It contains too much "flag" and you can be certain that your man has his back to the wall when he resorts to flag waving. Unfortunately it has been one of the most favoured hobbies of our pseudo patriots. But the younger generation to whom Mr. Feeley refers are too enlightened to be influenced by stratagems like this. The younger generation will not tolerate antiquated and illogical restrictions on personal freedom. They know that nowhere else is the freedom of the individual fettered to the degree prescribed by the Ban — a rather unenviable record. They know that the G.A.A. permits its members to play a wide range of foreign games popular here. That the G.A.A. has picked arbitrarily on four games and has decreed that anybody who plays, watches or promotes any one of these is not fit on that account to be a member of the G.A.A. is something that the younger generation are unlikely to comprehend.

I submit that a study of this correspondence will bring home to young and old that the Ban is incomprehensible and indefensible as well. Mr. Feeley might do well to remember that the brand of patriotism necessary today is a positive force. There is no place for petty restrictions which only irritate and retard progress.

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SEE PAGE 48.

OLLIE

WALSH

FACE TO FACE

with

Sean O'Donnell

Every decade of the past eighty years has produced its great hurling goalkeepers but right up there with the very best of them stands Kilkenny's ever-popular Ollie Walsh.

Although only 26, Ollie can claim fourteen year's service in the Kilkenny colours. He was on the county juvenile side which played Dublin in 1949 and '50 and from there he graduated to a schools' selection which played Limerick in 1951. In that latter game he actually played outfield.

Two years later he was on the Kilkenny minor side with whom he played for three years. He was chosen on the senior fifteen in 1956. I recently had the pleasure of this interview with him:

O'Donnell — Ollie, how would you compare the victorious 1963 Kilkenny side with those of 1957 and '59?

Walsh—I would rate the present side faster. It is also a younger team and has yet, I believe, to reach its peak.

O'Donnell—Is there any county that you particularly look forward to playing against?

Walsh—Yes, Wexford. I suppose we have played them more often than any other side so rivalry is pretty keen. There is always great determination in our meetings and



Ollie Walsh

they are usually good games. Furthermore, of course, Wexford are great sportsmen and it is always a pleasure to play against them.

O'Donnell—Can you explain why Kilkenny usually fail against Tipperary?

Walsh—This is an often discussed question and the most obvious answer might be that Tipperary more often than not have the better team. However, remember that we beat them in the 1962 League and I think that we will at least hold our own against them from now on. Actually, Dublin are another team who give us a hard time of it. We seem to bring out the best in them and they usually

play very well against us. Take the 1963 Leinster final for example.

O'Donnell—What forward do you least like to see gain possession against you?

Walsh—Jimmy Doyle—he is so accurate that it usually means a score, and somehow he always seems to be well placed.

O'Donnell—What game do you remember best?

Walsh—Well I certainly got my greatest thrill in the 1957 final. It brought me my first All-Ireland medal, but more important, it was a great game.

O'Donnell—Have you any other sporting interests?

Walsh—Yes, I play a little handball and football. I actually won a Kilkenny senior football medal with Graiguenamanagh in 1957.

O'Donnell—Well as a final question Ollie, what do you look to in the hurling future?

Walsh—Our first objective is naturally the National League with its trip to New York as the prize for the "home" winners. After that I look forward to helping win the 1964 title. There is no reason why both these objectives cannot be attained. The team should perform better during the coming year than it has ever done. It will be more mature and experienced and should just about be reaching its peak.

THE WEST IS DUE A WIN

IN the 1964 Railway Cup football semi-finals, Connacht play Leinster at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, while Ulster, the champions, meet Munster. It is past time that Connacht won a Railway Cup football game, for not since they beat Leinster in 1958, at Ballinasloe too, have they had an inter-provincial win. The Westerners drew in their semi-final game versus Munster in Tuam in 1961, but were later overwhelmed in the

replay at Croke Park. Last year in Sligo, the Connacht side, with a nice blend of youth and experience showed fight and promise before yielding to Ulster. This year we look to a Galway-powered side to bring the white of Connacht back to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day.

Leinster always have a grand side and with All-Ireland champions Dublin, forming the backbone they will be difficult to match.

This will be Mick Garrett's first interprovincial honour for Connacht. I presume he will be selected and will captain the side. He has deserved such an honour long before now. Ronan Creaven of Roscommon is another man who should get the honour he deserved last year, though not at John Donnellan's expense. Seamus Leydon will probably gain his first interprovincial recognition too. Picking this team has whiled away quite a few hours in Western homes over Christmas.

FATHER O'GRADY

St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, famed in football, are now hitting the highlights in hurling. For this much credit is due their energetic and very spirited trainer, Rev. Martin O'Grady, a native of Kinvara and a useful hurler and footballer in his college days. Over the past few years he has infused great drive into St. Jarlath's hurling teams and now he has seen his charges through their greatest triumph in annihilating Our Lady's College, Gort, who had beaten St. Joseph's, Galway, in the Connacht Colleges semi-final. It will take a good team to beat them in the final.

ROSCOMMON IMPRESS

Roscommon are certainly playing very consistently in the current League with wins over Laois, Offaly and Louth before they entered the Winter recess. I like the new composition of their half back line of Craven, Curley and

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Geraghty. Volatile Geraghty had a great game in the position against Louth, while a fit Eamonn Curley is a grand centre half. Consistent Craven completes a promising line. Old reliable Gerry O'Malley operating at right half forward now, still soldiers on. As ever a glutton for work, one wonders where he gets the stamina. We all look forward to Dublin's League tilt with Roscommon at a Roscommon venue in the Spring—a game that could very well open up the Division again, if Dublin continue their supremacy over Galway.

TIERNEY AND STOCKWELL

In the same room of a Galway private nursing home recently were current Galway football star, Noel Tierney, and former star forward, Frank Stockwell. Noel was having his injured knee attended, while Frank had a cartilage operation consequent on his turning out for the men of 1956 against the 1963 team on the Sunday after the All-Ireland final. The nurse in charge had a busy time for, as you would imagine, visitors were very frequent and there was much football chat.

PACKEY McGARTY

Another still rallying to the county colours is Leitrim's pride, Packy McGarty, who people may think must be tired taking the plane home to assist his county's football fortunes. Not Packey, who is a very loyal Leitrim man, a credit to his county, his province and the G.A.A.; a man who gave some of the finest displays of wing forward play I have ever seen. He may be past his best, but he is still the darting scheming Packy, always after the ball, still the bane of defences and still being pulled down to Cathal Flynn's delight, for he usually boots over the resultant frees. Keep it up Packy—your genuine loyalty and service is appreciated.

CASTLEBAR

The choice lay between Galway's Pearse Park, Castlebar's McHale Park, Tuam's St. Jarlath's Stadium

and Sligo's Markievicz Park, and Castlebar got it. Were Gerry McDonald, that shrewd financial genius, Rev. T. Shannon, Sam McCormack and their energetic park committee in great glee? The Tuam committee, who are in the process of constructing a covered stand to supplement their grand dressing rooms and other hygienic facilities were dejected. Sligo and Galway likewise. Still nobody can fault the Castlebar pitch. It is not able to take rain like Tuam but otherwise is a grand stadium that is a credit to the province. Well done Castlebar.

IN BRIEF

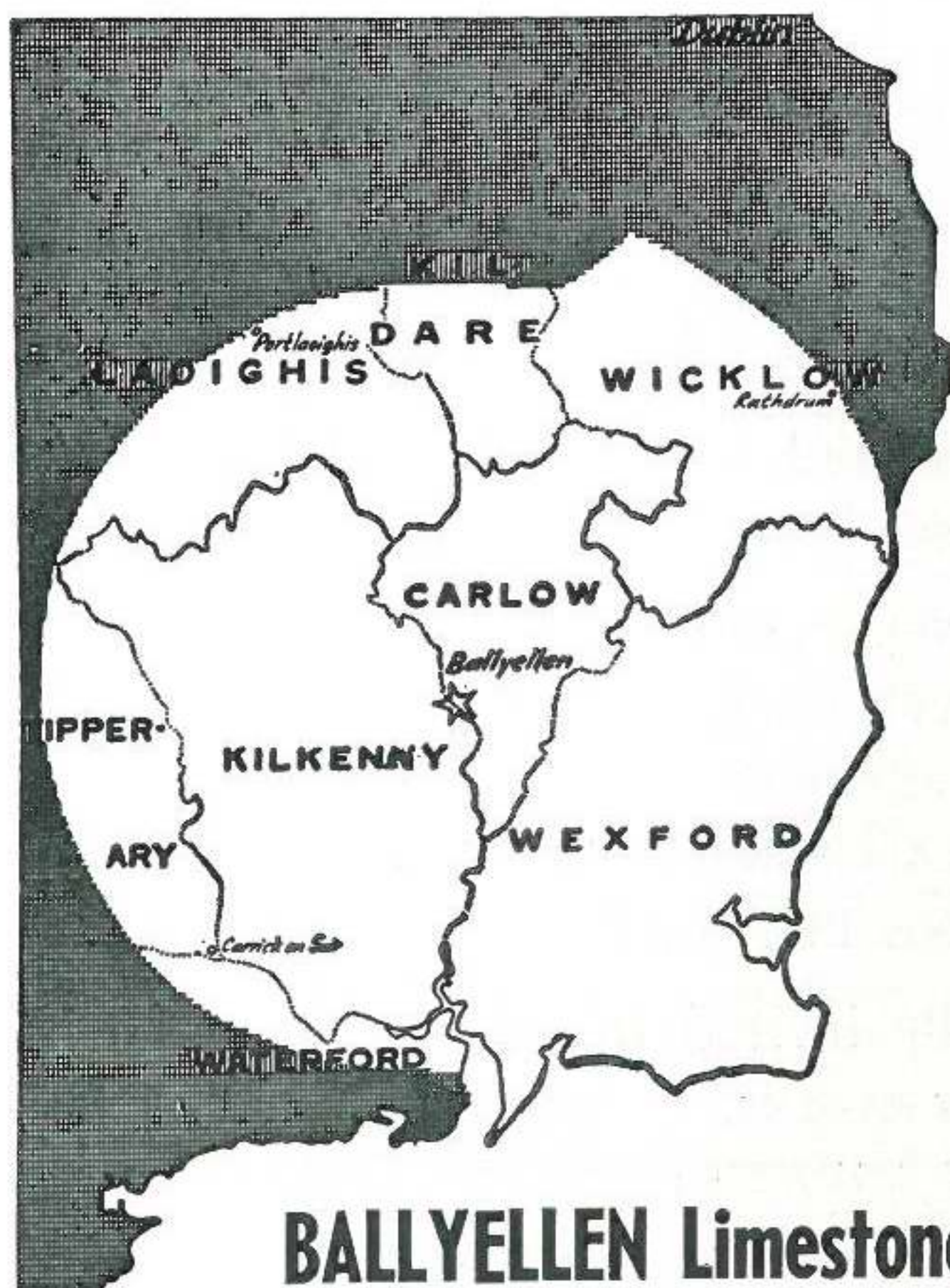
The grapevine tells me that:

- Dunmore McHale's plan a London trip at Easter.

- Castlebar Mitchel's intend to sponsor an All-Ireland club championship.
- St. Nathy's College, Ballaghadereen, are likely to give St. Jarlath's quite an hour in the Connacht Colleges football final.
- Mike Sweeney may, after all, put on the Galway jersey once more.
- Sligo could prove a shock team in the 1964 Connacht football championship.
- Kay Quinn, the Galway camogie player, is proving a first-class coach with the Oranmore Convent side. Beannacht libh.

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THE GILMORES OF CAVAN

By ALLEYMAN

IN the last few months I have attempted to outline the careers of some of the greatest players who have adorned the handball courts of Ireland in latter years. Yet, I must confess that I felt rather guilty, when lately an accomplice diplomatically reminded me that as far as I was concerned either Connaught, or Ulster handball must not exist. Nothing could be further from the truth, for while Leinster and Munstermen have undoubtedly left the greatest imprints on the four-walled game, players from the other two provinces have from time to time, won titles, and performed feats, that have already established them as monumental figures in the annals of handball.

So, to put things in their proper perspective, let us on this occasion, go northwards to Cavan, and to the town of Kingscourt, from whence has emanated those proud handballing sons of Breffni, the brothers John and Lewis Gilmore. This is no epistle of a continuous chain of great triumphs and All-Ireland victories, rather is it the simple story of two brothers, who by sheer honest endeavour, have risen from the ranks of mediocrity, survived the pangs of misfortune and hard luck, yet go on to carve a special niche for Cavan and Ulster handball when in 1963 they won a junior doubles All-Ireland title.

A solitary junior title — surely, one might say, this is a rather modest achievement, to rush into print about, but obviously that same person would, in no way, be conversant with the general trend of Ulster handball, which is generally recognised as sub-standard in comparison to the rest of the country, and has indeed, from time to time, spent periods languishing in the doldrums. As a matter of interest, five titles, is the sum-total of Ulster successes since the All-Ireland series commenced in 1925, whilst the previous doubles victory was in 1930, when J. Molloy and H. Smith, also of Cavan won out.

So the importance of the Gilmore's achievement, when placed in its correct context, is immediately appreciated, as a victory which has proven to be of inestimable value, not only to Ulster, but to the game in general.

Lewis and John Gilmore, have not, like some champions, jumped to the top rung of success, overnight. Way back in 1957, they were starting out on the long road to an All-Ireland victory, and on August 18 of that year, Lewis representing Cavan, in the minor grade, clashed with the dread of all minor players at that time — Joe Clery, from Wicklow. Needless to say, his efforts against the Tinahely star, proved fruitless, yet his mentors saw in him, a potential that only required a little nurturing.

Simultaneously, John, was also testing his mettle against the best, and in the junior soft singles semi-final, clashed unsuccessfully with Louth's Fintan Confrey, who in latter years was to emerge as a top-class senior.

Such was the pattern for the next five years—so near and yet so far.

The Gilmores were good enough to dominate the scene in Ulster, although they had their set-backs here also, for two fine players in Liam Hanley and Seamus McCabe emerged to put Monaghan handball into the limelight.

But the turn of the road, was just over the hill, and in the 1963 championships, the series just completed, the Cavanmen again set out on the victory trail. Their march through Ulster, was devastating, they brushed all opposition aside and between them landed all four provincial titles.

This brings us to a memorable day in Kingscourt on August 25 this year. The Gilmores at their own request were competing in both softball and hardball doubles semi-finals, in the first against Wexford and in the latter against Dublin. Considering that their opponents were no less an accomplished quartet than Paddy Holmes, Billy Lyng, Mick Sullivan and Matt Purcell, the magnitude of their task was readily conceivable.

But the Gilmores, upset all calculations, and went on to score as good a double, as handball can boast of. Later in the year they had to admit second best to Pat Supple and Jack Murphy from Cork, in hardball but then on that all-important Sunday in October, at Horse and Jockey, they won their title at the expense of another family combination, Tom and Joe Kirby from Clare.

So the junior ranks bid adieu to a combination, whose ability and sportsmanlike behaviour, has done credit to Cavan and Ulster. The senior grade will certainly benefit by their presence.

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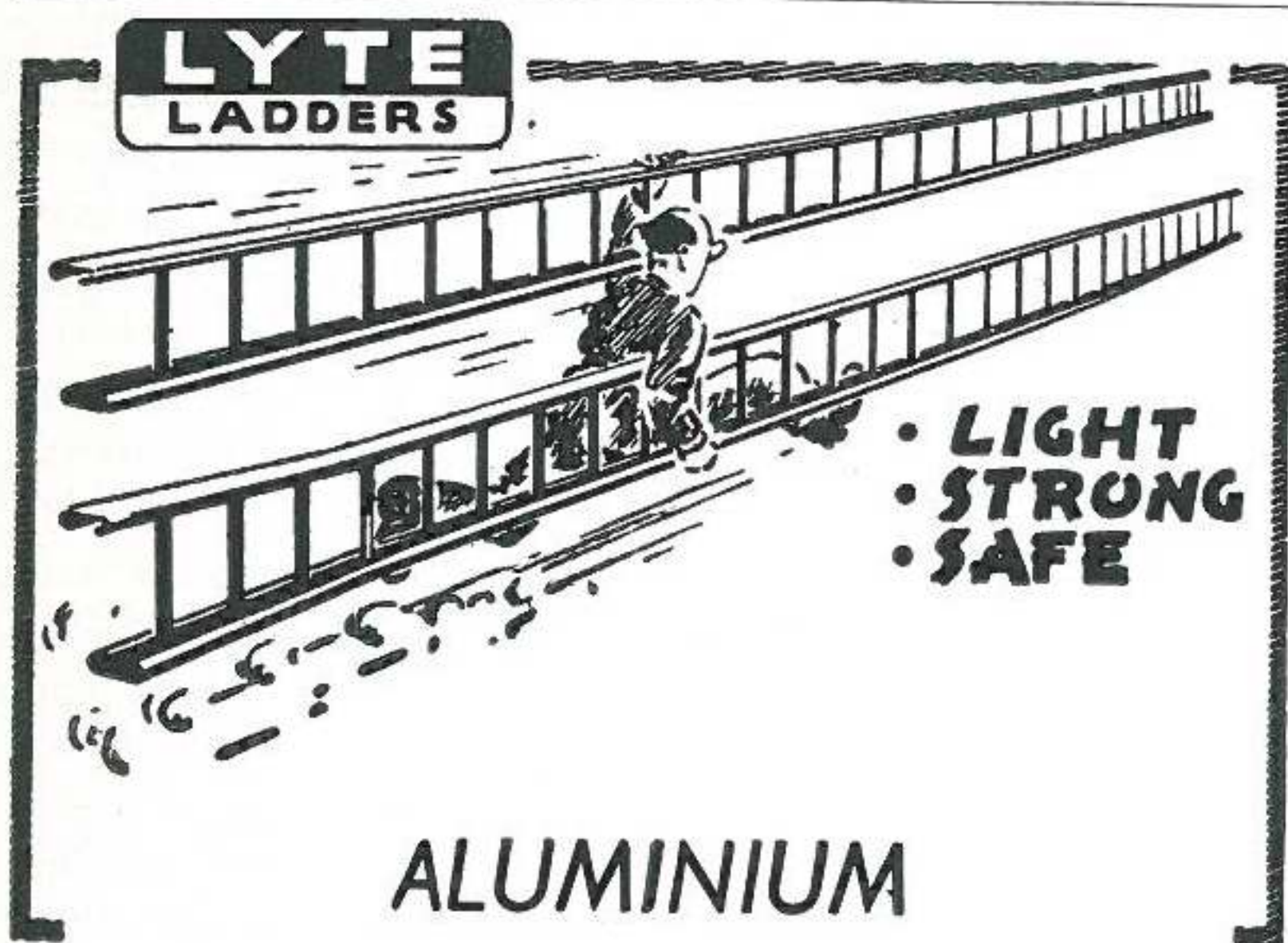
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A TIME OF CRISIS

EVERY now and then I pick up that grand book "Kerry's Football Story"—written of course, by the man most fitted to write it, the inimitable "P.F." and I have never failed to find in it inspiration, and indeed facts, which have proved invaluable.

It was only the other night that I wanted to check a point in connection with the 1923 All-Ireland final and I turned to "P.F." and began to read his account of the period. It was then the thought struck me that in surviving those years the G.A.A. survived the greatest crisis which could have confronted it. I am, of course, referring to the Civil War and the divided state of the country from 1922 onwards.

The country was divided and so indeed were the individual members of the G.A.A. but as a body and as an ideal the Association itself stood firm and went on to grow in strength despite the general state of things.

Take the position in Kerry at that time for example. The summer of 1923 saw the vast majority of the county's top players interned as political prisoners. Only two players turned up at Tralee to begin training for the first round of the Munster championship against Limerick. That

match was eventually won with a "scrap" team.

In the provincial semi-final against Cork only a dozen Kerry players took the field and three spectators had to be called in from the sideline. Somehow Kerry won and went on to survive against Tipperary in the Munster final.

However, then came the general amnesty and home came the men who could play football. They were no sooner home than they challenged the Munster champions. It ended in a draw. A huge crowd turned out for the replay and the ex-internees gave the county team a tremendous beating.

The following spring the reorganised Kingdom side beat Cavan in the 1923 semi-final and thereby qualified to meet Dublin in the final. However, Austin Stack, president of the Kerry Board, and a number of other prominent Gaels were still in prison and as a protest the Kingdom refused to play the final.

Limerick, who had qualified to meet Galway in the hurling final took like action and the Central Council stepped in and suspended all the protesting counties. This surely was the point of precarious balance. Galway were awarded the hurling title but refused to take it. It was touch and go—the Associa-

tion could have split right down the centre — perhaps never to recover. However, it didn't and Galway played a big part in holding it together.

They refused to accept the hurling title and instead managed to get an All-Ireland Convention called. The Convention revoked all the suspensions and simultaneously the remaining prisoners were released. The crisis was over.

It is interesting to speculate what might have happened had Galway accepted that title; or had that All-Ireland Convention failed. Certainly the Association would have been greatly damaged.

As it happened Galway did win that 1923 hurling title—ironically they have not won one since. They beat Limerick 7-3 to 4-5 on September 14, 1924. Exactly three months later, December 14, a member of that Galway team, Mick Gill, helped Dublin beat Galway in the 1924 final. Mick, of course, went on to become one of the all-time greats.

Kerry had their delayed game on Sunday, December 28, 1924, and lost to Dublin, 1-5 to 1-3. However, it was to be but the beginning of the Kingdom's golden era.

(Continued overleaf.)



Vigorous action during the O'Byrne Cup final between Louth and Longford at Drogheda on December 8—a Louth player, the ball safely held in clutching arms, breaks through a group of Longford opponents. Louth won the trophy (for the first time) by 1-10 to 0-10.

The Russell Column

(Continued from previous page.)

For my own part, I suppose I have a lot to be grateful for in that the 1923 final was played a year behind time. As it was I just made the team by an extraordinary piece of luck when Dick Fitzgerald, God be good to him, picked me out of the blue a week or so before the final. As it happened I was only seventeen at that time so I would not have

been let go to see the game let alone have the honour of playing in it had it been played in 1923.

I was too young to realise the full significance of the position at the time but looking back I think we can safely say that the G.A.A. survived its greatest crisis in style.

We must remember too that it played a tremendous part in bringing the people together after

the great division of the Civil War. When the old county spirit was up it covered a multitude of differences and for one brief hour political antagonists shared a common cause.

It is something that the Association can always be proud of. Only an organisation destined to be great could convert its severest crisis into its finest hour.

THE TREE GROWS AS THE TWIG IS BENT!

WELCOME, 1964, and here's hoping that it will be another year of progress and prosperity for the games of the Gael. But, it is as well to realise that in the year to come we all have our part to play, spectators, players and commentators alike. For no one of us is perfect, and we can all at least make the resolution to do a little better in the New Year, even if we don't get much further than the good resolution.

One thing in particular that we should all do our best to ensure is that we will see less of rough and dangerous play than we have had to put up with at times during the past twelve months. I am not going to go back over the year past to rake up what is best left lie, but I will say this much, that if all players say to themselves that they will not forget their innate spirit of sportsmanship, no matter what the provocation; that if all the spectators limit themselves to encouraging their own teams, and cease decrying the opposition and if commentators speak out when there is need for plain speaking, I don't think any of us will have any great cause for examination of conscience at the end of the season ahead.

In one category I sincerely hope that we shall have no cause for complaint, and that is in under-age games. I have been astounded in the last couple of seasons to read of players being put off in colleges' games. Now, in my days on the colleges' fields, and I don't

suppose we were any greater saints than the generations that have come after us, such a thing would have been entirely unheard of. In fact such a disgrace would never have been lived down by the player concerned. In addition, had any player transgressed on the field, he would have had to answer to his own school authorities for disgracing the good name of the school.

Why, I remember being at a colleges' game some thirty years ago in which a certain player, through excess of enthusiasm, was playing it rough and shall we say tough, without, in my opinion, being deliberately dirty. Certainly the referee gave a few frees against him, but did not issue a warning. However the revered and reverend President of that player's own school, who was watching from a place of honour on the side-line, could stomach the lad's strong-arm tactics no longer. Mid-way through the second-half, that President marched onto the playing pitch with measured steps, got a firm grip on the nearest ear of the offender, and marched him off. The silence on the pitch and on the side-lines as he did so is with me still, and even the most rabid supporters of the other school had nothing whatever to say.

The remainder of that game saw not even an accidental foul from either team, and the man who was referee told me years afterwards that it taught him a lesson he never forgot. Let's hope that the

too-keen rivalry that is creeping into some colleges' games these past few seasons will be dealt with as severely at disciplinary level by the individual colleges themselves, and that the likes of me will not have to refer to it again. But surely it calls for comment when, as happened within the past eighteen months, the referee of a colleges' match had to take refuge after a game.

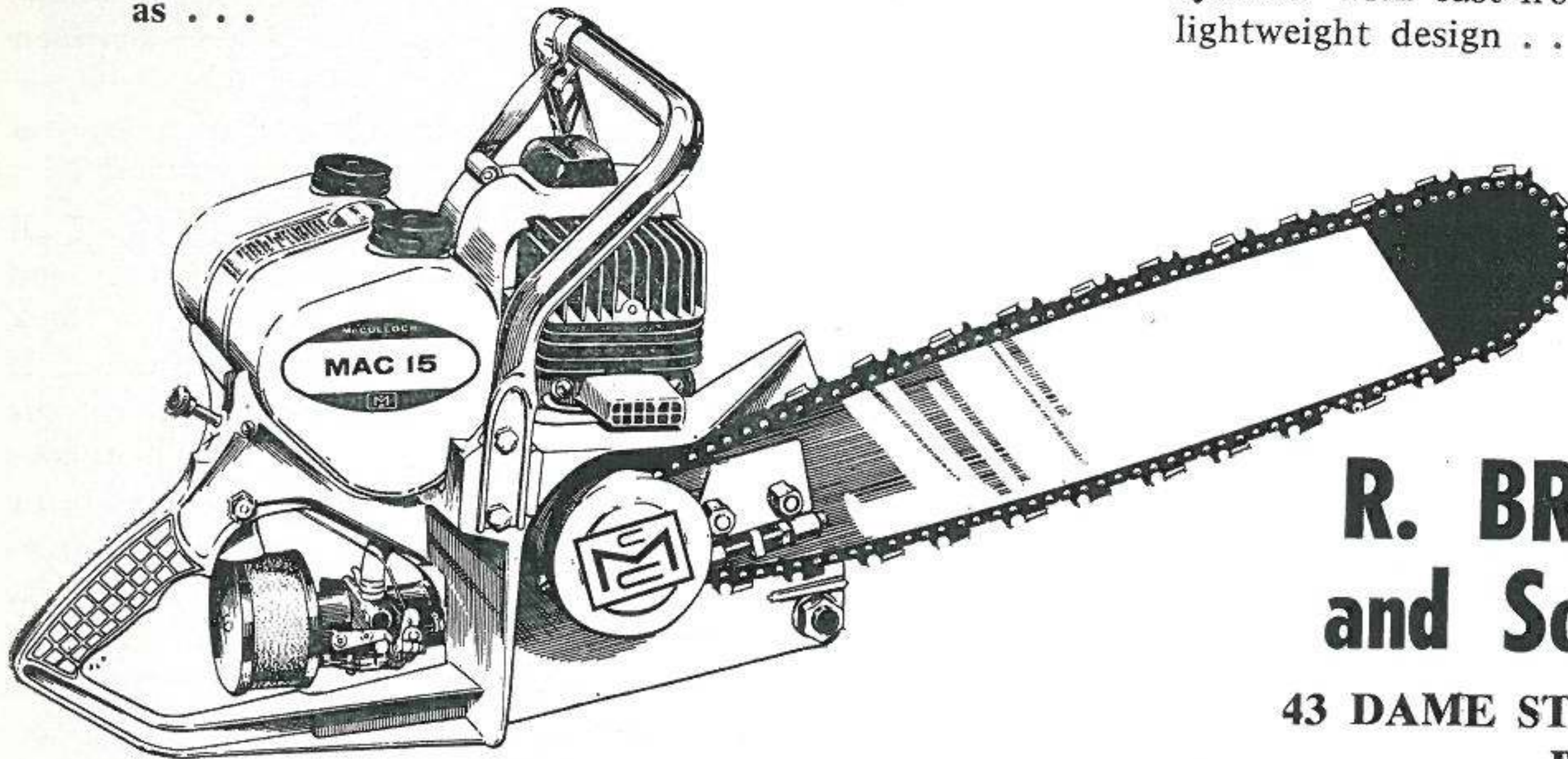
Also I sincerely hope that all referees will deal immediately and severely with every sign of lack of discipline in minor matches. It has been very disturbing in the past couple of years to see minors raising their fists and adopting fighting attitudes even in big games at Croke Park. I admit that these breaches of every rule of good conduct, not to say of every rule of sportsmanship, have been fortunately rare, but my contention is that they should not happen at all. I believe that no law at all should be given to minors by referees in such instances. There should be no warnings for breaches of sportsmanship in minor games. Straight to the line even for the first offence is the only answer!

I remember at a minor game not too long ago I so far forgot myself as to shout at the referee who was administering a stern warning to a young culprit, "Send him off, ref." And I was immediately roundly abused by a nearby spectator who said, "What do you want that referee to do—ruin the boy's whole future?" Now that is the wrong attitude altogether. It was not the referee who struck one of the opposition, it was the player he was lecturing, and it was not the referee who was doing anything to the boy's own future, it was the boy himself who could not control his own temper for sixty minutes on a playing field.

(Continued on page 37.)

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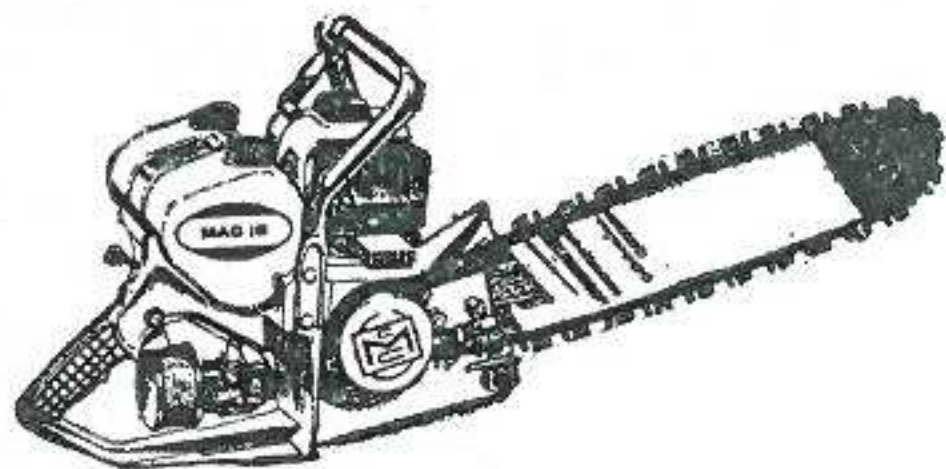
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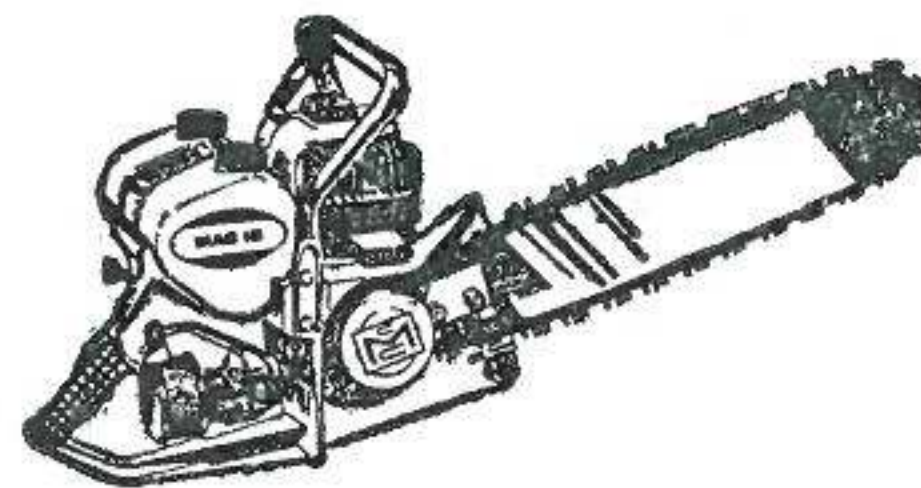
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MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

(Continued from page 35.)

The tree grows as the twig is bent, and if a lad is allowed to lose his temper in a minor match, and get away with it, he is going to be far more difficult to control when he grows to manhood.

But enough of such gloomy thoughts. What do I particularly look forward to in the year ahead? Well I hope to see some really brilliant football matches, both in League and championship, for Kerry have gathered together one

of the most promising sides ever to represent the county; Galway have yet to come to their full flowering; Dublin, the All-Ireland champions, are a very young side still, and I find it hard to believe that we have seen the end of Down's greatness.

Then add on the promise of Fermanagh and Donegal in the North the revival of Mayo in the West, where Roscommon cannot yet be written off, and the potential of such counties in Leinster as

Meath, Louth, Kildare, Carlow, and newly-arisen Longford, and we must have many a thrilling game ahead on the senior football fields.

I wish I could be as optimistic about hurling, but the fact remains that we have not a half-a-dozen top-class teams in the country at the moment, and the only really bright spot in the closing months of the year was provided in the gallant games played by Clare in the National hurling League, though they lost all of them.

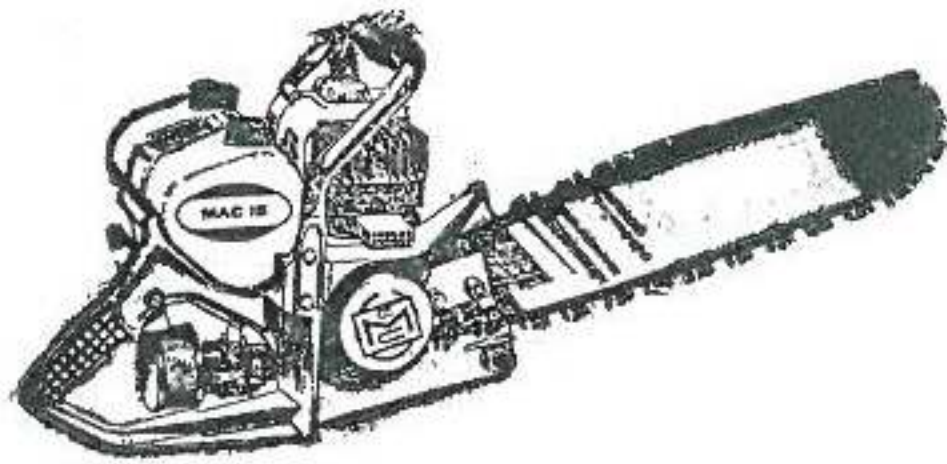
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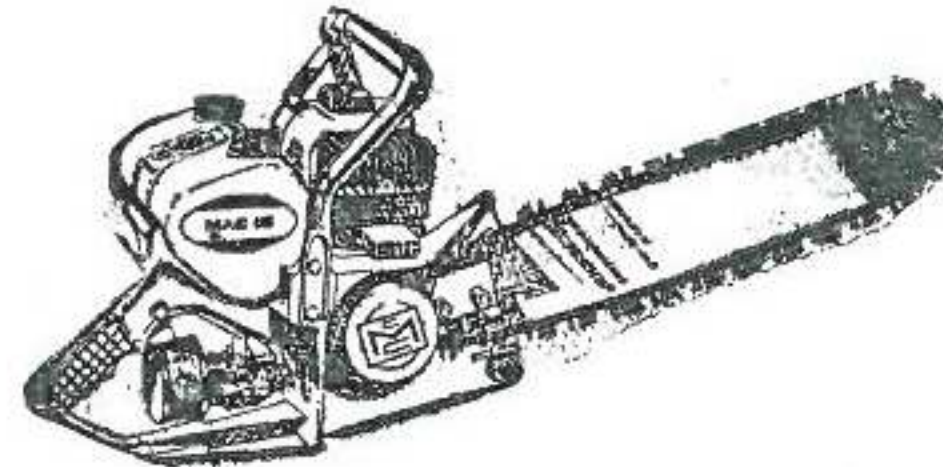


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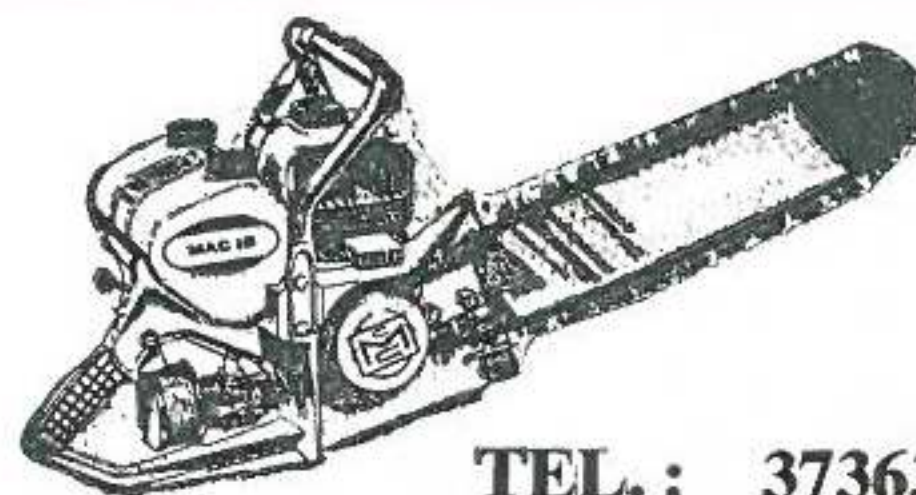
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NEW YEAR SUGGESTIONS

FACING a New Year on the camogie fields, what suggestions have I to put forward? Well, three things in particular I would very much like to see. First, the Gael-Linn Cup interprovincial competition brought forward to the start of the season instead of tagging along at the end of it as has been the case up till now. Secondly a fixed date granted by the G.A.A. at Croke Park each year for the All-Ireland camogie final, and thirdly, the establishment of an All-Ireland colleges series.

The Gael-Linn Cup provides some of the best camogie seen from one end of the year to the other. I do not remember seeing better camogie, outside the All-Ireland semi-finals and final, than was provided in the interprovincial series in 1963, and the final at Gorey between the winners Munster and Connacht was a really brilliant exhibition of the game.

But the trouble is that, by the time this game was played early in November, there was little or no public interest remaining and that game, magnificent though it was, was played before a couple of hundred spectators.

Now the G.A.A. plays its Railway Cup inter-provincial matches at the start of the season, and they make a fitting start to the big games of the year. Why cannot the camogie Central Council do likewise?

There is no point in attempting to have these games as early as March, for camogie in many counties is none too active at that time of year, but I can see no reason

why the semi-finals and final could not both be played in May as an appetiser for the championship games then ready to begin.

In fact as far as the players are concerned it would give them the opportunity of getting into training perhaps a bit earlier than usual, grounds would be dry, the days long, and I feel the financial return would be considerably better than at present, when in fact the competition is a big financial drain on the Association.

Secondly there is the matter of a fixed date for the final each year at Croke Park. One feels that, since we are very kindly given Croke Park each year, it would be handier for everybody concerned if that date became a permanent one. The camogie championship schedule has long been geared in such a way, that the final can be played at anytime from the beginning of August on.

If we had an August date fixed for each year, it would then be possible to play either in the afternoon or in the evening as best suited the G.A.A. commitments and it would also be possible for the camogie Association to make all its main fixtures, including the Gael-Linn Cup fixtures, far in advance, which would allow everybody to plan well ahead.

At the moment players on teams liable to be concerned in the All-Ireland final have to be very wary about fixing to go away for their holidays, as they cannot be sure whether the All-Ireland is likely to be played in August, September or October.

Last year two players who had expected the final to be played in August fixed their holidays for September, and then found they had picked exactly the wrong time. One of them put back a flight to Spain for a week, and was lucky that she only sustained a minor "fine" for doing so. The other had to fly home from the middle of a holiday to play, and gladly did so. But such matters would not arise if a fixed date for the final were possible.

Finally there is the matter of the All-Ireland colleges competition. There have long been excellent provincial colleges championships in Ulster and Leinster. But, despite the standard of the game in the Cork schools, (on what we saw last year the highest in Ireland,) there is no provincial competition in Munster, nor is there one in Connacht. I feel the best thing Central Council could do is to start their All-Ireland competition with the two provinces already running competitions, and let Munster and Connacht join in just as soon as those provinces set up provincial colleges councils and provincial colleges championships of their own.

The ideal thing would be for each province to be represented by a full selection from the province in such competitions, but the cost of bringing girls together from widely scattered areas to a central venue would probably be prohibitive, so it would I think be better in the circumstances to have each province represented by the champion school.

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THE KIRWANS OF KILMACTHOMAS

Portrait of a Famous Family

By PHILIP RODERICK

MANY years ago — many more than I care to remember now — and at a time when I was in my infancy as a sports journalist, I was fortunate one evening to ramble into the Imperial Hotel in Waterford — and even more fortunate to strike up a conversation with a rather charming gentleman who, over a cup of coffee, mentioned quite casually that he had once won an All-Ireland medal with Kerry.

That, believe it or not, was the first time I ever met one of the Kirwans of Kilmacthomas—and God forgive me for confessing this—it was the first time I had ever heard of the Kirwans of Kilmacthomas.

Nowadays there is very little that I could not tell you about the Kirwans. For that chance meeting with Rody Kirwan in Waterford many years ago blossomed into a grand friendship; one that lasted right up to his death a few years ago.

Rody, himself, of course, was the most remarkable of the Kirwans. When I first met him, he had just retired from the managership of a bank and was settled down into a well-earned retirement. And I daresay he had a fair amount of time to talk to me.

And mind you I was a good listener. Night after night I sat there while Rody took me back over the years; back to the great days when Kerry football was in its ascendancy, to a time when Irish sportsmen were known from one corner of the world to the other.

Rody, a gifted athlete, was a

magnificent footballer and had the distinction of playing senior inter-county football with three counties.

He began his football career with the Lismore Blackwater Ramblers club, with whom he won a county championship. In 1898 he played in his first All-Ireland final, with the Waterford side that went down narrowly to Dublin at Tipperary.

In 1901 he was transferred to the bank in New Ross and in his first season of football there won a senior county championship medal with Camolin Rovers. The following year he was picked for Wexford but, before he got a chance of doing anything great with the Slaneymen, he was transferred to Castleisland, Co. Kerry.

Then followed the golden years of his great career. Between then and 1907, when he retired from football, he won two All-Ireland medals and three Munster medals with the Kingdom.

Like all the other Kirwans, Rody was versatile. In 1902 he rowed for New Ross in the International Regatta in Cork and, as many a Wexfordman will tell you, it took a good oarsman to get his place on a New Ross crew in those days.

In 1903, he took up athletics and won Munster championships in the high jump and hurdles. During his athletic career he won, in all, about 150 prizes.

Jim Kirwan, the eldest of the family, has often been claimed as the father of hurling in County Waterford . . . and, possibly, rightly so.

After all, the first hurleys made

in Waterford were made from ash which grew on the Kirwan's farm at Clonea and were fashioned, after hours, by a local carpenter in the Kirwans' barn. The Clonea club was formed by Jim Kirwan and did all its training in a field owned by the Kirwans.

Jim captained the Clonea team that brought the first county hurling title to the parish and in 1903 he went on to captain the Waterford senior hurling team.

Another brother, Eddie, was a member of Dan Fraher's Shandon Rovers team and, early on, showed distinct promise of developing into a fine hurler and footballer and all-round athlete. Unfortunately, he was caught by the fever epidemic of 1889 and died at the age of 18.

Pat Kirwan broke a leg while playing football, but, although he later became an outstanding half-miler, he never returned to the game at which he showed signs of becoming an outstanding performer. Pat emigrated to America in 1909 and died at the end of the 1940s in Nome, Alaska.

Percy Kirwan—and thank God, he is still hale and hearty below in Kilmacthomas — was cast in much the same mould as Rody and, indeed, on one famous occasion in 1903, had the distinction of playing senior inter-county against Kerry in both hurling and football — on the same Sunday afternoon.

However, it was not on the G.A.A. pitches that Percy Kirwan won his greatest fame . . . but on the athletic arenas of the world.

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(Continued overleaf)

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(Continued from previous page)

won the Irish championships he crossed over to England to add the British titles to his collection.

At the Papal Sports Festival in Rome in 1908—open to athletes from all over the world, he won three gold medals in the 100 and 200 metres and in the long jump.

Here in Ireland, Percy won eleven Irish titles and, in all, won between 350 and 400 trophies during his career.

Yes, indeed, the Kirwans occupy a very special place in the history of Waterford G.A.A. As a matter of fact they occupy a very special niche in Ireland's sporting history . . . for they were all wonderful athletes and sportsmen.

Which makes one wonder why no one has ever thought about rendering some honour to this magnificent family.

Who would deserve it more?

Kerry Gets Moving

By AGNES HOURIGAN

Recently I have been hearing very good reports from Kerry of the progress camogie is making in the Kingdom. It has taken a long time for Kerry to get moving, but now that the cailini have got into their stride at last I expect Kerry to soon make its presence felt on the camogie fields.

I hear of progressive moves too in Wicklow for long Dublin's closest challengers in Leinster, and indeed the return to full activity on the camogie fields of the girls from the Garden County would be warmly welcomed.

I have had several queries from readers seeking copies of the amended Rules. The best way to obtain these is through the county secretaries, all of whom should have got an allocation by now. The amended Rules are at present in temporary form, but will be published in a permanent booklet as soon as the Annual Congress has had an opportunity of seeing how they work.

AN GÁ TRIALACHA?

CEIST AG SEAN O DUNAGAIN

LE roint bliana anuas tá sé de nós ag na Comhairlí Cúige cluichí, ar a dtugtar "trialacha," d'imirt sara toghfar na fóirne chúigí do chomórtas Corn na nIarnród. N'fheadar an bhfuil mórán céille leo nó an gá a leithéid de chluiche?

Ar an gcéad dul síos is i gceartlár an Gheimhridh i imrítear na chuichí úd. I gcoitinne is i rith na míosa Feabhra a bhíonn na chuichí leath-cheannais le himirt agus, dá bhithín, ní mór na "trialacha" d'imirt tráth éigin idir chóch na gcluichí sa sraith náisiúnta, tosach mí na Nollag, agus an chéad seachtain i mí Feabhra. 'Sé seo díreach an taca ag a mbíonn deis ag imreoirí sos a ghlacadh.

Lasmuigh den aimsir agus de chrut na bpáirceanna i lár an Gheimhridh ní bhíonn suim dá laghad ag an bpobal sna cluichí seo. D'fhéadfainn a rá nach mbíonn mórán spéise ag cuid mhaith de na himreoirí iontu ach oiread. Ar an fáth seo leanas. Toghtar curaí na bliana sa chúige in iomlán ar thaobh amáin agus an freasabhra ón chuid eile den chúige. Ó bheith ag éisteacht agus ag breathnú i rith na bliana is cinnte dearfa go mbeidh ar a laghad leath den fhoirinn chúige tofa ó fhoirinn na gcuraí. Maille le

le sin tá's ag an ngnáth-dhuine cad iad na himreoirí ar fhoirinn na guraí a toghfar. Na daoine sna suíomh sin ar fhoirinn an fhreasabhra is cuma sa tsioc leo cén bhealach a nimrid. 'Sa tsioc' nó b'fhéidir sa tsneachta! Cuirim i gcás i mbliana ghlacfaí geall go dtoghfar Deasún Ó Foghlú agus Seán Ó Tiomáin do lár na páirce ar fhoirinn peile Laighean; an gceapann éinne go mbeidh spéis dá laghad sa "trial" ag an mbeirt a toghfar na 'gcoinne?

Má tá triail le bheith ann ní ciall ar bith le foireann iomlán na gcuraí a roghnú. Cén fáth nach bhfágfar ar lár iad siúd ar an bhfoirinn sin nach bhfuil an fhéith iontu ó thosach? B'fhearr i bhfad dhá fhoireann a roghnú ar a dtabharfaí na "Probables" agus na "Possibles." Chífi abhfad níos mó imreoirí ó na contaethe "laga" ar an mbealach seo — bhéadh de ghnáth 22 nó 23 áiteacha dóibh sa triail in ionad 15 mar atá i láthar na huaire.

Cúpla bliain ó shin bhí an aimsir chomh dona sin nach raibá deis ag Comharle Uladh an triail d'imirt. Sa deireadh bhí orthu suí síos agus an fhoireann a roghnú ar an gcumas a bhí ar na himreoirí i rith na bliana roimhe sin. Céard a tharla? Bhuaigh na

hUltaigh an Corn don chéad uair i ndeich mbliana! Is cuimhin liom peileadóir iontach Uí Fáile, Pádraigh Mac a' tSaoir, nár roghnaíodh ar fhoirinn a chontae bliain amháin (1946?) ach chonaic Choiste Roghnacháin Laighean é, i rith na bliana, ag imirt le foireann Sheáin Mhic Diarmada i mBlá Cliath agus roghnaíodh ar fhoirinn Laighean é. Chruthaigh sé ar na daoine ab' fhearr ar an bhfoirinn an bhliain chéanna. Ar ndó ní raibh 'trialacha' ann an tráth sin.

Ceapaim gurab' fhearr i bhfad dá dtoghfaidh gach Coiste Chúige, ag tosach na bliana, ceathrar nó cúigear a d'fhéadfaí brath orthu freastal ar furmhór na gcluichí eadar-chontate chun an fhoireann chúige a roghnú ar deireadh na bliana; ar an gcumas abhí ag imreoir tríd na bliana a déanfaí an roghnachán seo agus ní ar chluiche amháin i lár an gheimhridh agus na himreoirí saite go dtí na haltanna sa láib.

Ní gá trialacha. An amhlaidh nach gcreideann na coistí an méid a chonaic siad sna craobh-chluichí agus sna cluichí sa sraith náisiúnta? Ba mhaith liom go gcuirfí deireadh leo — 'Sé sin na trialacha agus ní na Coistí Roghnacháin.

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MECCA OF GAELIC SPORTSMEN

ONE of Ireland's newest and most thriving industries, Erin Foods—a division of the Irish Sugar Company—seems to have become a mecca of Gaelic sport enthusiasts. The list of prominent G.A.A. men on the staff is quite extensive.

Best known, perhaps, is Kerry's Paudie Sheehy, now in retirement from intercounty football but still playing brilliantly with John Mitchell's.

Well-known Dublin hurler, Jimmy Gray, is head of the company's Shipping Department while his assistant is none other than Gerry Davey—who had the honour

of scoring the only goal in last year's senior football final.

It was in December, 1962, against Wicklow in the National League that Gerry got his chance. The withdrawal of Mickey Whelan due to injury resulted in him being included in the full forward line and he notched the finest goal of the game.

However, few would have guessed then that either he or Dublin would have engaged in the All-Ireland final nine months later, for at this time last year the Metropolitans were showing particularly poor form.

Dublin selector and county registrar, Don Cotter, is also with the company and holds a position in the Secretarial Department.

Throughout the country too at the company's factories at Carlow, Mallow, Thurles and Tuam, Gaelic Games get pride of place and many hundreds of G.A.A. players and members are employed.



Pictured on left are three of the many G.A.A. personalities employed by Comhlucht Siuicre Eireann Teo. Top to Bottom: Paudie Sheehy (Kerry), Gerry Davey (Dublin) and Jimmy Gray (Dublin).

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AN OLD LILY WHITE PASSES ON

By JIM O'BRIEN

GAELS from all over Ireland joined in sorrow with the men of Kildare at the recent passing of Bill Merriman — the Grand Old Man of the Lily Whites. He was the last link with the great 1905 team which brought Kildare its first All-Ireland title.

A native of Rathcoffey, he played most of his football with Clane and helped them win the 1916 county title. It was fitting that Clane should come back again to take the 1963 title and that they should be captained by Bill's nephew, Pa Connolly. Also on last year's victorious Clane side was Tom Merriman — a grandson of Bill's.

And so another great Gael has gone to join Jack Higgins, Paul Doyle, "Hussey" Cribben and the rest of the immortal Lily Whites. God be good to them all.

TULLAMORE OF AGE

Kerry may have failed to "come of age" last year—but not Tullamore. The Offaly club captured the county senior football title for the twenty-first time and recently they celebrated that victory in fitting style.

Present were a host of the old guard who helped the club in olden days and it was many the game that they replayed all over again.

Tullamore made a lively start in their bid for titles. They won their first in 1896 and retained the title in 1897, '98 and '99. Not a decade has since passed without

at least two championships coming to consistent Tullamore.

LAST TRIBUTE

I wonder how many Gaels noted that the Irish Army Cadets, who rendered a fitting last honour to the late President John F. Kennedy, were under the command of Westmeath footballer, Lt. Frank Colclough. It was his voice which rang out the commands in Irish at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington.

PAT BRADLEY

And still on the subject of Westmeath, I have no doubt whatsoever but that the player of the year was young Pat Bradley. Honoured by his county in six grades he set up more records during 1963 than any other three players combined. But then there are years ahead of this young Westmeath star and one day he will be given full national recognition for the great player he is.

BAN VICTORY

All this talk about the general public being opposed to the G.A.A. Ban is all hogwash if we are to judge by a recent debate sponsored by the Tullamore D.E.W. Debating Society. The motion was "That the G.A.A. Ban is obsolete." Those present formed a fair cross-section of the general public and the motion was defeated.

COME ON LONGFORD

Few counties have won so little as gallant Longford but by all indications the tide has turned. Certainly their form at the close of

last season augurs well for the future and this county will carry with it the best wishes of Gael-dom at large when it tackles the more arduous hurdles of the New Year.

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CASTLEBAR SET A HEADLINE

By **EAMONN MONGEY**

WELL Bord na bPaire has made its selections of provincial parks and, as a result, there is great joy in Thurles, Kilkenny, Belfast and Castlebar!

It is reported that McHale Park, Castlebar, was the first unanimous choice of Bord na bPaire, and anyone who knows the Park and knows how much work was put into it will not be in the least surprised.

The pitch itself is one of the best winter pitches in Ireland. The seating accommodation can hold 14,000, and the terracing a further 26,000. The dressing-rooms have hot and cold running water, with

showers. There is a glass-fronted press box and a glass-fronted radio commentator's box. It is blessed with ample space for further development, ample entrances and a number of access roads. In other words, it is an ideal provincial park.

Much of this may have been foreseen by those who acquired the pitch in the first instance for they were men of courage and vision, and prepared to back both with hard cash. A sum of £750 was needed to buy the ground in the first instance. The club could only raise £350. So, seven members gave £50 each, and five others

gave £10 each to make up the balance. Their names deserve mention — Messrs. Langan, Tierney, Rattigan, Haughey, Garavan, Lavelle, Dr. Mongey. Messrs. Moran, Byrne, Hoban, Tansey and Geraghty.

That was in 1927 and the hon. secretary of Castlebar Mitchells at that time, Sam McCormack, is still joint secretary now. It was, however, when he was joined by Gerry McDonald in 1941 that things really began to move.

Gerry thought big, planned big and acted big. His plan was to excavate the whole pitch, drain it thoroughly, build it up again, instal first class seating accommodation, dressing facilities, etc. The fact that all this would cost an estimated £25,000 didn't trouble him in the least, because, in fact, he turned out to be the fundraiser supreme.

Again all the locals rallied around. A sufficient number went bail for the £25,000 in the bank: scores of voluntary workers gave their free time working on the pitch. Every conceivable method of fund-raising was embarked on, and, eventually, not only was the Park completed, but the huge debt was completely cleared off. And then Gerry set off to build a practice pitch beside the main pitch to preserve the latter!

It will be thus seen that in the selection of McHale Park as the provincial ground simple justice was done, for there has been no better example of "Do it yourself" in the G.A.A. The Castlebar Mitchells have truly set a headline for all other clubs in Ireland.

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(Continued from page 5)

their failures in recent months. On one occasion he headed the football list. He shares the tenth position.

Perhaps we might also mention some of the men who almost made the year's Top Ten. In hurling there was the great Clare veteran, Jimmy Smyth. He finished in eleventh place with 16 points. Only lack of opportunity prevented him from winning a higher placing. Other hurlers who were just below the mark were P. J. Keane, Mick Flannelly, Tom Walsh and Des Ferguson.

In football Lar Foley was just that trifle short despite his great-hearted performances at both the beginning and the end of the championship. He also figured on the monthly hurling list and had a two-game total of 17 points. Other footballers well placed were Charlie Gallagher, Seamus Leyden, Frank McFeeley, Des Foley, Pat Donnellan, Frankie Donnelly and T. P. Treacy.

The roll of honour for 1963 cannot be closed without a mention of at least two players who showed outstanding brilliance in grades other than senior. Westmeath's Pat Bradley might well be hailed as the all-round player of the year. He played in more championship games during 1963 than has many another player in an entire decade. He was honoured by his county in every grade of football and hurling.

Another young star, whose performances during 1963 augurs well for the future, is Tipperary's Michael "Babs" Keating. He starred in all grades other than minor and was the hero of Tipperary's intermediate hurling victory. He was also, of course, honoured by the Munster football selectors.

We would emphasise again that our ratings are based on the entire season with every single senior intercounty performance taken into consideration.



Bernard Brady of U.C.D. clears a St. Vincent's attack during the Dublin S.F. semi-final, in which the students scored an historic victory over the Marino men.

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THE LATE TADHG CROWLEY

An Appreciation
by Eamonn Young

A BIG burly lad with black locks hanging down over his eyes he was when first we met that day in Clonmel playing Kerry in minor football. That game in which Tadgo's contribution helped a lot towards success was the first of many sporting struggles we were to have against the sons of the Kingdom in the years to come.

Later in that year we were to meet again this time with hurleys in our hands when Tadgo and I were partners on the half-way line for Cork in the minor championship.

Well, I remember that final day in '39 when we lined out against Kilkenny and the big boy from Clonakilty played his heart out . . . and we won. The years that followed saw Tadgo blossom into a fine player until in '45 he shared with John Joe O'Reilly the

honour of being in my opinion the best centre-back in the country. That was the year when Tadgo captained the Cork team that brought back the All-Ireland after thirty-four years.

I still remember the crowning joy of it all and how much the skipper revelled, like his merry Clonakilty comrades, in the surging reception given to us by the loyal people of Cork. When his intercounty career had finished Tadgo Crowley—rounder in figure—gave his mighty services to Clonakilty and broke many a forwards heart by the uncanny way he was able to grab those high balls that landed in the goal-mouth.

Popular and conscientious as a referee, honoured many a time as a selector Tadgo was the personification of the big light-hearted

sporting countryman of which Thank God the nation produces a fair share.

For us who played with that fine man from West Cork there will be unfortunately none other just like Tadgo. He goes to rest with his three comrades of '45 Caleb Crone, Derry Beckett, and Mick Tubridy. John Joe and P. J. Duke have gone from the opposing Cavan side.

May God rest their good souls in peace.

We have lost our captain.

READERS WRITE

A Chara,—I was delighted to find the Jim Dermody Story in GAEILIC SPORT. He was one of the best and I have often wondered where he was. It is a long time ago now but I remember it well how Gaelic Games gave this great player a very raw deal. It is something which we will never live down. I hope he tells the story in full.

"ANOTHER BUILDER"

Dublin 7.

Sir,—I certainly enjoyed Paul Russell's article "Where Are They Now" in last month's issue. Please let us have more like it. They bring back great memories.

"OLD TIMER"

Navan.

QUESTION

A Chara,—Can you tell me if Eamonn Young was the only man to play on a Munster football team with fourteen Kerry men and also if an all-Kerry Munster team ever won the Railway Cup.

J.W.

Portlaoise.

Eamonn Young was the only non-Kerry player on the 1942 Munster side which lost to Ulster in the final. George Comerford of Clare performed a like feat in 1931 when Munster won the title. An all-Kerry side won the 1927 Railway Cup final—which incidentally was the first—EDITOR.

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