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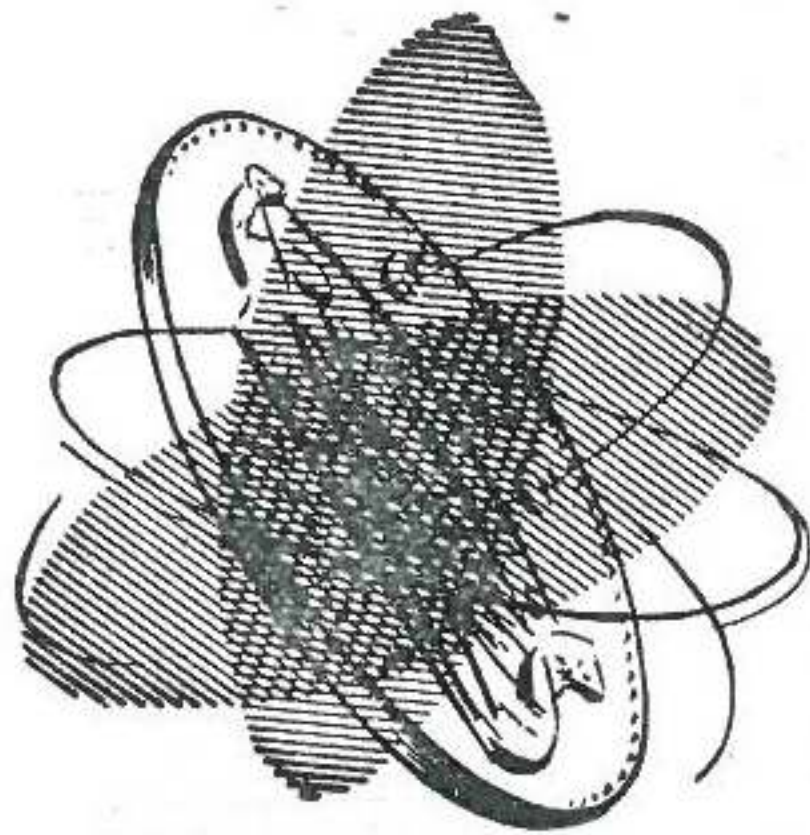
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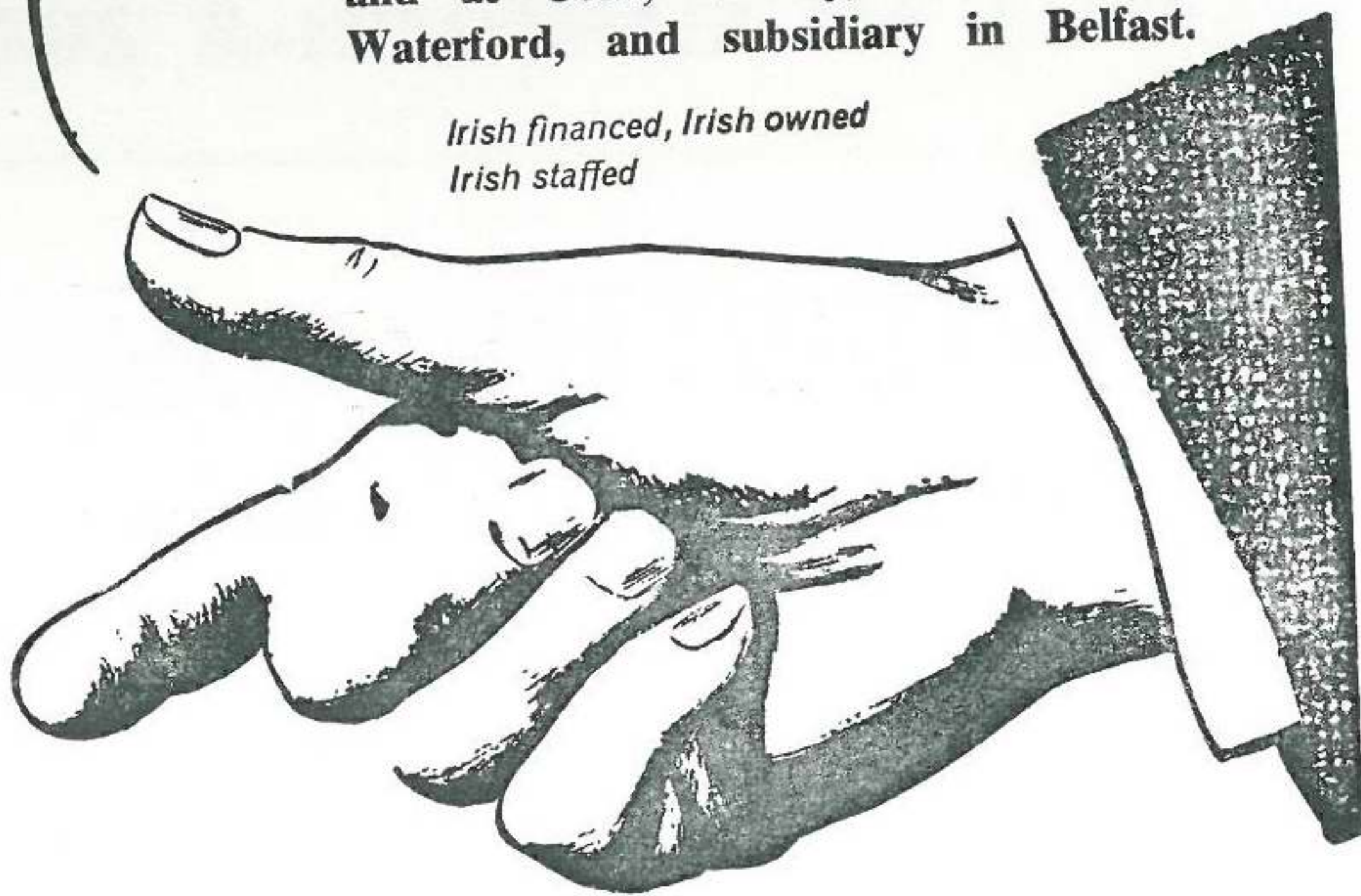
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COVER PICTURE

Our cover this month depicts the Giant of Hurling — Christy Ring. Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day, without the Maestro, will not be the same.

Comment

A hurling colossus

LOOK again at our front cover. No matter what you are—a hurling follower or a football follower in Mallow or Mullinahone; no matter where you are—in Bantry, Birr, Boston or Buffalo, you don't have to be told the name of the hurler whose picture is superimposed on that Croke Park scene.

Nor is it necessary to explain the symbolism of the design which we take justifiable pride in having conceived for this, our special St. Patrick's Day issue.

To G.A.A. men, Christy Ring has been for 22 years the symbol of hurling and the Railway Cup games on our National Holiday. His unbroken period of service with Munster in the inter-provincial championship spanned almost three-fifths of the time that these competitions have been in existence.

His brilliant deeds for his province in virtually every Railway Cup final from 1942 until last year, his unique dominance of the St. Patrick's Day scene, translated his image, for all who saw him or even heard of him, into the towering figure that our front cover now attempts, however inadequate, to convey.

And now that the Munster selectors have decided that they no longer require the service which Ring so loyally gave for half his lifetime—and could still give if he were asked—the symbolism of that picture assumes a mood of poignancy. For the image cannot this time become reality, an explosion into vibrant life and brilliant artistry, a mighty dynamism, electrifying the Croke Park atmosphere for forty or fifty thousand people on St. Patrick's Day. It is a dream, a stirring of memory's branches, a flood-tide of nostalgia. It is, if you

wish to look at it that way, an indictment of the men who told Ring to put his hurley stick away before the master, himself, had decided that his hurling days were over.

In these days of Ring's hurling twilight, it is easy to fall into the error of writing or talking about him in the past tense. As if his great career had ended because of his absence from the game for nine months, or because the Railway Cup selectors thought that they had in Munster six forwards superior to the man who, each year up to the end of 1962, proved, by his scoring feats alone, that he was still among the best two or three forwards in the game—and who would have provided similar proof last year had personal reasons not forced him temporarily to leave the playing fields.

In devoting this editorial, as well as the following few pages, to Christy Ring, we may be accused of supporting the personality cult which so many influential people in the G.A.A. are now decrying.

We confess that we are believers in the cult. Without the great personalities, our games would lose much of their appeal. When they emerge, how can they be submerged again? And how could a man of Ring's stature be concealed in the anonymity of the new team cult?

We believe that his genius and his deeds are, and will continue to be, an inspiration to the young players of today, and to countless thousands of others in coming generations.

We gladly dedicate this issue of GAEILIC SPORT to the greatest hurler of our time. And we hope that, twelve months from now, we will be able to welcome him back to the Railway Cup scene on St. Patrick's Day.

WHY DID THEY DROP RING?

"HE burned his hands off pullin' games out o' the fire—and then they dropped him."

That's what the man said on that cold January Monday morning down the quays after they had discussed the Munster hurling team.

No need to say who was in his mind.

"He had twenty-two good years of it," says another, "and he must grow old sometime."

I'll admit that argument annoys me.

At forty-three Ring is not old and there have been many men who were up in the big-time at that age. In fact his great predecessor from Dungourney, Jim Kelliher, whom so many maintain was even better than Ring, hurled well into his forties.

A player is as old as his legs and wind. They've proved that all over the world and there's no need to mention the names. In fact Christy Ring has disappointed me a little in this matter for I had said confidently that he would be flying until he was fifty. About two years ago he allowed that waistline to swell and the reduction in speed forced him to change his game. But there's no reason why he should not be quite fit again this spring after a period of sensible training and normal attention to diet.

Why did they drop him?

Was it because he wasn't playing very much last year?

Surely everyone knows that his absence from the game against Tipperary was caused by domestic difficulties and then when the league came along the selectors knew he was content to rest until the spring.

Many players who did not play in the championship have been selected on provincial teams so

By Eamonn Young

that argument doesn't hold water.

No, the only reason should be on the score of ability. Ring is still a great hurler. He has the strength far beyond his size, undying determination and a capacity for rousing himself to get a score.

As John Quirke once said to me, "If Ring saw a chance of a goal, Roger Bannister wouldn't beat him to it."

I have no complaint with any of the six Munster forwards, some of whom are really grand hurlers but if such an unhappy event occurred there are one or two whom I'd rather be trying to mark than our friend Christy.

Another thing, Ring knows the play of these other forwards, and he won't suffer from butterflies in the stomach. In fact he's at his best when the crowd is taking notice of him. Again look at the effect on the morale of the Munster team and the apprehension of the opponents when the Corkman

takes his place. And it's so true that he can never be trusted by opponents for he may lie low for a while and suddenly blaze into life, as he did once in the championship when he was a fuse that spluttered for forty-five minutes to erupt suddenly in an explosion whose triple goal-blows stunned Limerick.

Then think of the appeal his appearance in Croke Park would have for the audience. St. Patrick's Day in Croke Park has so many happy memories for the veteran and for those who watched him.

A player of that calibre, and who has given such wonderful service is entitled to a little bonus. My interpretation of that would be selection under rather doubtful circumstances such as surrounded him this spring when they sat down to pick the Munster team.

But Ring doesn't get that bonus. I'm afraid that his notoriously blunt speaking has not endeared him. However, it's not St. Patrick's Day yet and there are a few games to play. Ring has accepted the captaincy of the Glen and for me that means the man intends to hit the road back. If he does don't be surprised if on March 17 when we're up there on the stands in spite of food, drink and a watery sun, the mighty link with a great past steps jauntily on to the sod where he thrilled the thousands with slashing scores the likes we'll never see again.

I CANNOT quite remember when first I saw Christy Ring. It could have been the 1941 All-Ireland final when Cork scored a facile win over Dublin. That was his first senior final—but then I could well have seen him before that — perhaps as a minor. Certainly I have seen a lot of him since—probably every major inter-county game in which he has played.

Looking back, they were all great performances. There was, of course, the odd occasion when he

got our lift and arrived safely. It was exactly the same procedure as that of two weeks previous, when Cork and Limerick drew in a tremendous battle, but this time we were a lot more excited.

Cork had taken the field firm favourites in the drawn game. They had just won three All-Ireland titles in a row and by all indications were at their peak in '44. Limerick on the other hand were an old side. They had their day in the 'thirties and crowned it by coming back against the

point. One minute later Dick Stokes levelled from a free.

Cork put on the pressure but there was no beating Kennedy at full back and he cleared twice. Now it was Limerick's turn and they forced a seventy. Paddy McCarthy sent it over.

Cork replied with a Morrison goal and now it looked again as if the Leesiders would pull away—but not yet. Mick Mackey moved out. He had it—he went right, sidestepped two men and hit low and hard and the net shook. Limerick were ahead again. There were ten minutes gone.

I have rarely, if ever, seen better hurling. Sean Condon equalised and for the next ten minutes not a flag was raised but the ball being belted and mighty men straining to make it go their way.

Then it was Mackey again. Thirty-five yards out and he beat three men — and once more crashed it to the net. Mick you were never greater. And to prove it he whipped over a point.

Alan Lotty was down injured. Yes, he was going off — what a blow to Cork. An All-Ireland crown hung precariously. Paddy O'Donovan came on for Lotty.

Dick Stokes pointed to stretch the Shannonside lead but Cork only fought harder still. Condon narrowed the gap with a point. Jack Lynch had another from a long-distance free. Then it was half-time. The scoreboard read—Limerick, 2-4; Cork, 1-4. We spent the interval talking excitedly about Mackey. Then it was on again.

Dick Stokes took a pass and raised the white flag. Minutes later he put Limerick five points clear. What an upset this was going to be. Cork were now pulling hard and tempers were somewhat frayed. There was a general all-in around the Limerick square and from it Joe Kelly whipped!

(Continued on page 6)

THE MAESTRO'S

GREATEST SCORE

By JIM MULHOLLAND

was not the man of the match but he always contributed something to be remembered. It might be only a lone point. If my memory serves me right he wasn't such a tremendous scorer in the early years, but whatever he did, he did it with that touch of class which was his and his alone.

I have been trying to figure out his greatest game and simply cannot. There are about a dozen and I cannot choose from them. However, I have no difficulty at all about singling out his greatest score.

It was Sunday, July 30, 1944, and all roads led to Thurles. The War was still raging but we left them at it—hoping the best man would win and not caring who that might be. We put on our Sunday best, stood at the corner,

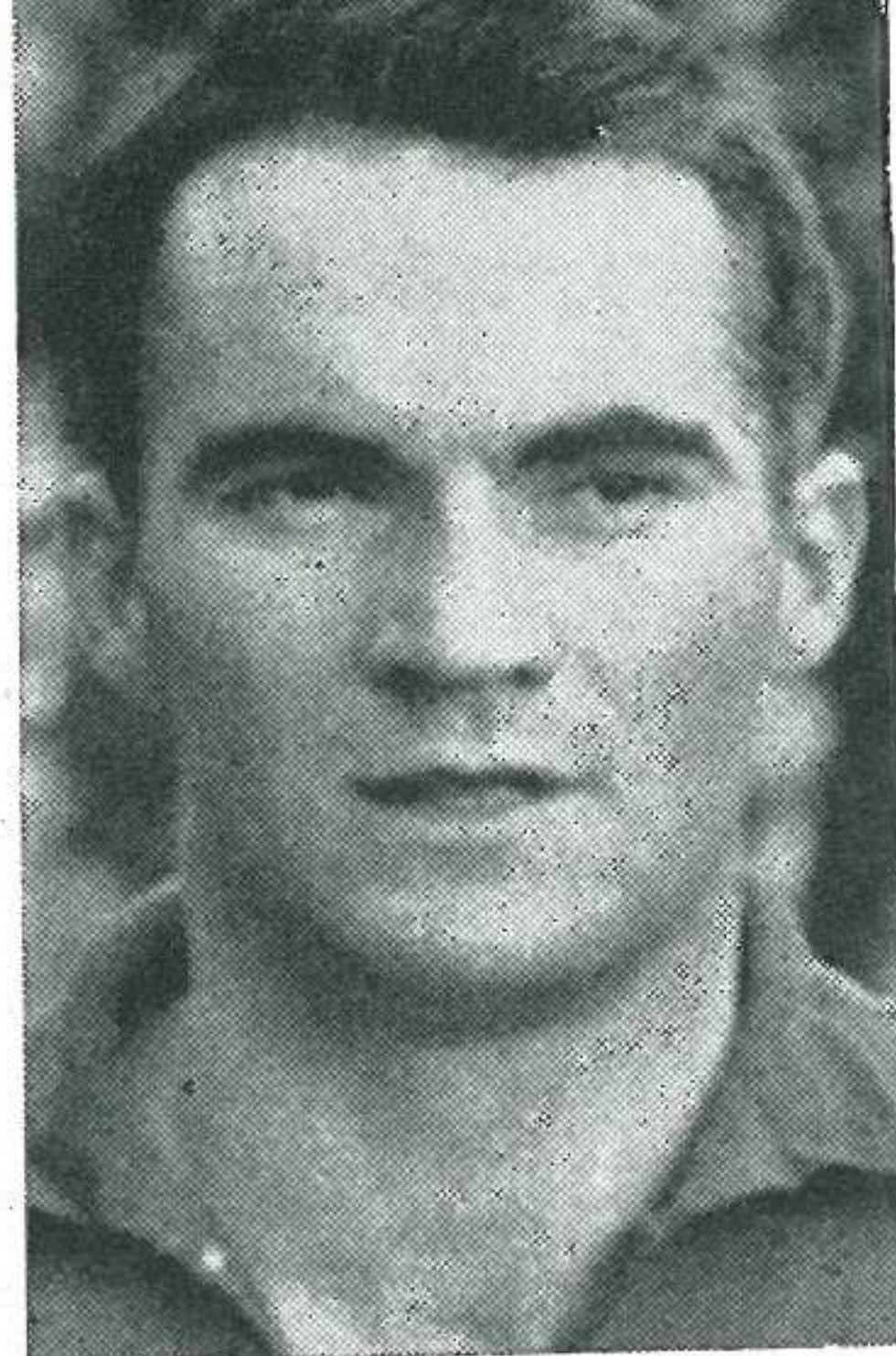
odds to regain the title in 1940. But that was four years ago.

However, the old Limerick warriors played like Trojans and came from behind to level in the last minute. The final score was Cork 6-7; Limerick 4-13. And now it was on again.

Both sides had made changes. For Cork, Alan Lotty and Con Murphy were back and Jack Lynch was moved to mid-field to partner Con Cottrill. Limerick had recalled Mick Kennedy, who had retired after the 1940 triumph, while they too made a few positional switches.

It was fast from the whistle and so it remained right through. I thought that the pace would get Limerick down but instead they seemed to revel in it. Jack Lynch opened the scoring—a well taken

TOP TEN



GREG HUGHES

Heads the football ratings this month.

OUR monthly ratings get underway again in this issue and these current lists are based on intercounty performances in games played up to and including Sunday, February 9. In football Offaly's Greg Hughes tops the list by virtue of three solid performances—two of which were in the county colours and the other in the Leinster interprovincial trial.

Most of the other positions too on this list were won by players who had the advantage of two, and in some cases three, outings since the 1964 season opened.

In hurling this trend was even more pronounced. Only a handful of counties had been in action by February 9 and here Wexford had the advantage for they had two games—against Carlow in the League and against Kilkenny in the O'Kennedy Shield.

FOOTBALL

1. G. HUGHES (Offaly)
2. E. WALSH (Mayo)
3. B. BURNS (Longford)
4. G. KANE (Westmeath)
5. S. MURRAY (Longford)
6. C. GALLAGHER (Cavan)
7. C. DUNNE (Galway)
8. M. O'CONNELL (Kerry)
9. F. WALSH (Laois)
10. D. FOLEY (Dublin)

HURLING

1. N. O'DONNELL (Wexford)
2. N. WHEELER (Wexford)
3. E. KEHER (Kilkenny)
4. W. RACKARD (Wexford)
5. L. DEVANEY (Tipperary)
6. T. ENGLISH (Tipperary)
7. J. SHIELDS (Dublin)
8. P. LYNCH (Wexford)
9. M. BOHAN (Dublin)
10. T. NEVILLE (Wexford)

SCORERS

At approximately the half-way stage in the National Leagues Eddie

Keher leads as the top hurling scorer while in football Cavan's Charlie Gallagher and Bobby Burns of Longford are level with a total of 26 points.

HURLING

1. E. KEHER (Kilkenny) 2-17.
2. J. DOYLE (Tipperary) 3-10.
3. J. McKENNA (Tipperary) 5-3.
4. S. McLOUGHLIN (Tipperary) 5-1.
5. J. SMITH (Clare) 4-3.

FOOTBALL

1. B. BURNS (Longford) 1-23.
C. GALLAGHER (Cavan) 4-14.
3. M. O'DWYER (Kerry) 1-20.
4. P. MULVANEY (Meath) 5-6.
5. F. DONNELLY (Tyrone) 1-17.

Together with sharing the lead Longford footballer, Bobby Burns, has the distinction of having notched all of his county's scores in two of their six National League games—against Leitrim at Mohill in October and against Meath a

month later at Ceanannus Mor. Other almost equal feats of his were 0-5 out of a Longford total of 0-6 against Kildare in the O'Byrne Cup in December; 0-5 out of 0-7 against Sligo in the National League in early February and 0-7 out of 2-7 against Mayo in the League in November.

Note—our TOP FIVE lists of scorers are based solely on National League games up to and including Sunday, February 9. In hurling Division II games are not included.

Ring's Greatest Score

(Continued from page 5)

home a goal. The game was wide open once more.

But not for long though. McCarthy placed Clohessy and he sent to John Mackey. Limerick were five points clear once more.

Jack Quirke had a Cork point but if he did Mick Mackey goaled a third time. However the whistle was gone. Stokes missed the free. Could be that the pace was telling on Limerick . . . and it was. Morrison had a Cork goal—only a point remained. Time was run-

ning out and I spotted referee Carroll of Laois looking at his watch. Then it was Jack Quirke again and they were level.

There was certainly no more than a minute remaining and no more exciting minute could there have been. Limerick pucked out. Cork cleared. Limerick sent in again but back out came the ball. Then Ring had it at mid-field and he was away.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

I don't know how many Limerickmen tried to cut off his passage but at least three or four closed on him only to lose him. He was still coming—the ball as if glued to that stick. A side-step, a half turn and then he hit. We knew it was a score and the winning one but for the life of me I never saw the ball. Neither did anyone near me and by all indications neither did Dinny Malone in the Limerick goal or Kennedy, Cooney or Cregan who were in front of him.

However it took the vast crowd but a second to realise where it had gone. It was in the net. Cork were through and as history recalls they later retained their All-Ireland title.

It is certainly the score of scores in my book. He really cut through that Limerick defence and the ball must have flashed from his stick at extraordinary speed.

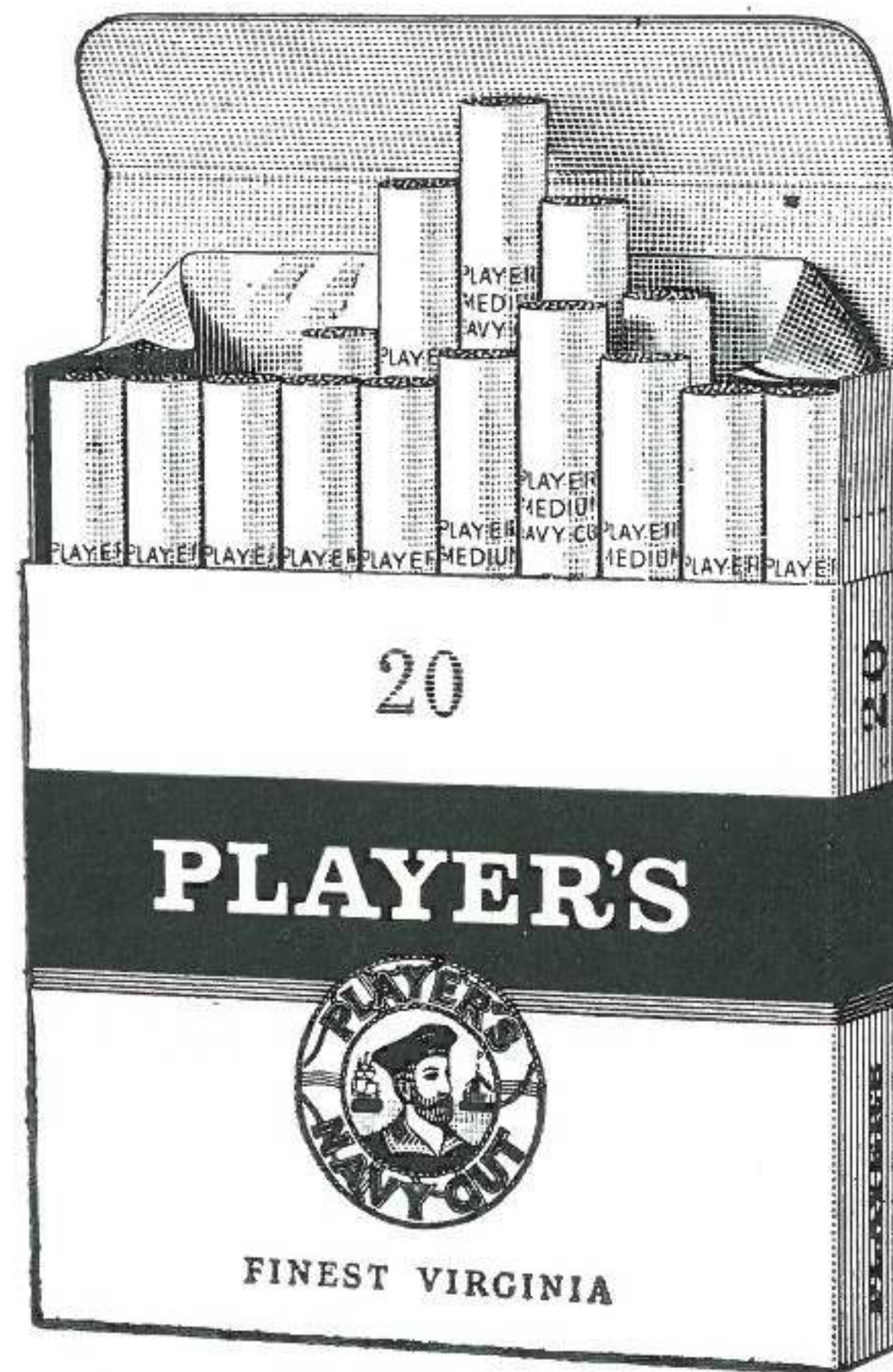
To this day I have often wondered why he went for a goal when a point would have done. But then it could have been one of a number of reasons.

The Limerick net-minder, Dinny Malone, had saved two tremendous efforts of his during the hour—it could be that he wanted the satisfaction of finally beating him—or perhaps he was confused regarding how the scores stood or how long remained.

However, I think it was neither of these. My opinion is that he knew he had a goal. Even then, twenty years ago, Ring had that uncanny judgment which we have long since come to accept. When he got that ball near mid-field and rounded and outsped one Limerickman after another he probably knew that nothing between Heaven and earth could stop him—and it didn't.

It was his only score of the game—but if it had been the only score of his entire career he would still be remembered for it.

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== RAILWAY CUP FACTS ==

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

* * *

The list of titles to date is:

	H.	F.	Total
Munster	28	6	34
Leinster	8	17	25
Connacht	1	7	8
Ulster	0	7	7

* * *

Kerry and Galway share the unique record of having won Railway Cup titles on their own. It was an all-Kerry Munster team which won the first football title in 1927. Oddly enough, that fifteen was little changed from the team which had lost to Kildare in the All-Ireland final six months earlier. An all-Galway Connacht team caused a sensation by winning the hurling crown in 1947. That team, however, went quite close to winning an All-Ireland title. They failed to Kilkenny by a point in the semi-final the following August. Kilkenny beat Cork in the final.

* * *

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

* * *

Des Foley is the only player to have won two Railway Cup medals on the same day. However, he is not the only man to have played in both finals on the same afternoon. Nick Rackard performed this feat in 1950 but Leinster lost both games.

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

* * *

Paul Russell has the unique distinction of having been selected with different provinces in the same year. Both Munster and Leinster picked him in 1928 and it took a Central Council ruling to decide which province he should play with. Leinster got him and he won a sensational final for them when, with Ulster leading by two points and only the same number of minutes remaining, he scored three long distance points. The amazing part of it all was that he was playing as a half-back.

* * *

Only once was a Railway Cup game unfinished. That too was in 1928. Munster were leading Ulster by two points at Croke Park and little time remained. The ball went over the line for a throw-in (sideline kick had yet to be introduced). An Ulsterman threw in the ball before the linesman had signalled, but the referee did not notice that the linesman had not signalled. Munster protested but play went on and Ulster sent to the net. Munster refused to kick out the ball and the game ended prematurely.

It was an all-Kerry Munster team and they were later suspended by the Central Council. Ulster went on to contest the final. The sideline official explained that he had been about to give a Munster throw when the Ulster player beat him to it—but it was another case of the referee's decision being final. Still Paul Russell sort of balanced matters for Kerry in the final.

* * *

Jack Higgins and John Joe

Sheehy hold the record of having captained three victorious Railway Cup football teams.

* * *

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

* * *

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

* * *

Christy Ring's record of twenty two years' service with Munster is by far the longest period of inter-provincial service. The only other player to come remotely near it is Dan O'Keeffe who had seventeen years in the Munster goal.

* * *

Although Munster are at the bottom of the list with regard to football titles they have in fact played in 23 finals. The football final appearance list reads: Leinster 25, Munster 23, Ulster 14, Connacht 11.

* * *

The 1949 football final replay produced quite a surprise. The contestants—Munster and Leinster, drew, 2-7 each, on March 17 and when they met again the following Sunday Munster won 4-9 to 1-4. What makes the result even more difficult to explain is the fact that the Munster players remained over in Dublin after the drawn game—and there is little record of any training.

* * *

Where have the Railway Cup medals of the past 36 years gone?

(Continued on page 67)

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PADDY PHELAN STOOD IN THE GAP!

IT makes me feel old now to think I can remember the time when, as far as G.A.A. games were concerned, St. Patrick's Day had nothing very special to offer. For it was not until 1926 that the idea of the present Railway Cup series took shape, and one of the men most prominent in the move was Padraig O'Caomh, then Secretary of the Cork County Board and for many a year now, of course, General Secretary of the whole Association.

The Railway Cup series got off to a slow start, for the first semi-finals late in 1926 did not attract a great deal of attention. But they got a great boost in the first finals on St. Patrick's Day, 1927, when the hurling final between Leinster and Munster provided one of the great classics of the game before Leinster won by a single point.

Indeed in hurling, though Munster quickly took the lead, Leinster stayed pretty close to them until 1941, but from there on Munster have dominated the hurling competition, despite a Galway win in 1947.

Leinster, however, have come back to something more like parity with the Munstermen in recent years, and it may well be that, as has been the case in 1962 and 1963, we shall not lack for excitement in the hurling clashes in future.

Nowadays, of course, it is rightly looked upon as a great honour to win a place on a provincial side, but I remember the early days

when county loyalties were often placed before provincial prestige. I remember 1930—the first Railway Cup hurling final I ever saw. Leinster found themselves unable to field the selected team because some of the men chosen did not turn up and at least one other player refused to field. I cannot recall what exactly the dispute was. I think it was over the question of captaincy and there had been no official Leinster senior hurling champions in the previous year of 1929.

Anyway, between the jigs and the reels, when Leinster mustered all their available forces, they found they had fourteen men to play outfield all right, but they had no goal-minder.

In such an emergency what were they to do?

Well, there was a young lad in the dressing room who had starred in the previous season for the Kilkenny minors, but had never played senior county. Nor, as far as anyone knew, had he ever played a match in the goal. But he was a very promising lad, so it being a case of needs must when the devil drives, they put him between the posts, where, although the team lost, the goalkeeper was not to blame at the end of the hour.

Now the peculiar thing about it was that the player in question, though he subsequently went on to set up a record in the number of times he played for Leinster, won several All-Ireland medals and a whole string of Leinster titles,

never again played in the goal in a competitive game.

His name, in case you don't know was Paddy Phelan, he hailed from Tullaroan and he must still be listed as among one of the greatest half-backs that ever graced the Railway Cup scene.

Another man with a remarkable Railway Cup record was the late Frank Sheehy, God rest him. Frank never played on a Kerry All-Ireland winning side, but he did play on the all-Kerry team that won the Railway Cup for the first time in 1927 and in fact scored the first point ever recorded in a Railway Cup final, but he never played on a Railway Cup side again.

One other old argument that I have heard about the Railway Cups is this. Did a Kilkenny man, playing as a Kilkennyman, ever win a Railway Cup football medal? Now I know that Sean Brennan, then domiciled in Kildare, won a couple of Railway Cup medals in his time, but Sean, though a native of the Castletomer area, was never in the Kilkenny colours when he was a noted football star, for he won all his glory with Kildare.

However, there is a strong tradition in Kilkenny and, especially in the Glenmore area, that Mick Connolly came on as a substitute in the 1928 Railway Cup final against Ulster, although his name is not listed in the official records.

The Annual Congress comes very hot on the heels of St. Patrick's Day this year and there should be a close contest for the

(Continued on page 18)

MATT FITZPATRICK says: The road is firm and open, and . . .

FERMANAGH ARE ON THE

THIRTY years ago Fermanagh appeared in their first National Football League final. It was not a happy hour for the gallant Northern county — they fell to Mayo, 5-8 to 0-2. That was 1934. Now it is 1964 and hopes are high once more. On Sunday, March 8, Fermanagh try for a place in the Dr. Lagan Cup final when they play Antrim at Castleblayney.

It will be quite a day for the managers of both teams. On the Fermanagh bench will be Paddy O'Hara, the man who has done so much to get the present resurgence underway. Opposing him will be his old club and intercounty team mate, Harry O'Neill. Together they shared in Antrim's glory of the mid-'forties and early 'fifties—now they try to outmatch one another as the mentors behind Ulsters two most promising teams.

It has not been easy for Fermanagh. The county lacked tradition and has been handicapped by the absence of experience. But that was not all. With no colleges to foster the games, the county has

had to depend largely on the youth who attended secondary schools in Monaghan, Armagh, Cavan and Derry.

Still the flag was always kept flying by men like Fr. Barney Lappin, now parish priest of Irvinestown. He led the county in the years after the "trouble times." The late Peter Cassidy, God rest his good soul, was another. Peter thought nothing of walking from his native Belnaleck to a County Board meeting in any part of the county.

In later years others like Seamus Kelly, Master Dunne, Tom Campbell, Fr. Hugh Duffy, Gerry Magee and Tom Fee, have led the way. Incidentally both the latter were on the county team of the 'thirties which won the Dr. McKenna Cup twice. Gerry is now President of the County Board, while Tom is, of course, the very efficient Secretary.

There were others too—I could really compile quite a list but they are all remembered and their work is at last beginning to bear fruit.

The All-Ireland junior victory of 1959 was, of course, the real beginning of this present resurgence. Since then the county has never been really too far removed from getting into the big-time. There were two hard-fought championship games with Down — others with Cavan and Donegal.

It has all helped to mature the team and the side has now developed into a very solid structure. The defence, built around full back, Sean Maguire, is most dependable. Sean is the last surviving link with the team beaten by Down in the 1949 Ulster junior final. We were together in St. Columb's College, Derry, and actually made our intercounty debut against Cavan in the 1948 junior championship. Later that year we were mid-field partners on the county minor team which lost to Tyrone. We were paired against Eddie Devlin and Donal Donnelly.

It was a hard-fought game and they beat us by four points. Few expected it then but that same

**When men
talk of clothes
they talk of . . .**

Bests

O'CONNELL STREET & WESTMORELAND STREET

MARCH

Tyrone side went on to win the All-Ireland title and that four points against Fermanagh was their smallest winning margin.

Yes, Fermanagh has never given up trying and eventual success is simply inevitable. That 1949 junior side for example did give rise to hopes but it was not to be. Tommy Gallagher, one of our mid-fielders on that fifteen emigrated to America. He later returned as full-back on the New York side which beat Cavan in the 1950 League final.

Two other members of the 1949 side, Sean Maguire (whom I have already mentioned) and Jimmy Cassidy, shared in the 1959 All-Ireland junior victory. Sean actually captained the team. How fitting it was that a Maguire should lead the Maguire County in its only national triumph.

But there was another Maguire star too that historic day against London. He was "Wee" John. It was his great goal in the second half that clinched the Cup for the county of his forefathers.

The men of 1959 brought Fermanagh its first glory but they have now been joined by some very competent newcomers. Half-forward, Felix Quigley, whose uncle Owen Callaghan, is at right half-back, is one of these new stars. Felix is a trainee teacher and has played a tremendous part in this present march forward.

It would be impossible in one brief article to do full justice to the men and the events which have at last put Fermanagh on the firm and open road. But there will be more time for that — before and after they have won the Lagan Cup.

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Peter Owens



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farm service

THE G.A.A. NEEDS A P.R.O.

THE work of the Central Council is of the greatest importance to the G.A.A. According to rule it is the supreme governing body of the Association from Congress to Congress, and the sole final authority to interpret the rules. Its jurisdiction extends over the whole Association in all matters of discipline, as well as in those that pertain to the funds, investments and property of the Association. Its decisions on all matters are legal and binding on all members of the Association.

Because of all this and because of the fact that what the Central Council does affects every aspect of the G.A.A. at every level, it is of the utmost importance that everything it does should be made known to everyone in the Association at the earliest possible opportunity. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Most of the Central Council work is done at open meetings of the full Council. If a newspaper reporter is present he will record and report as much as possible, and members can then learn from the Press what has transpired.

But no reporter can cover all matters dealt with at a meeting and, besides, a great deal of the Central Council work is done by the Executive or in committee with no reporters present. The result is that the general body of members of the G.A.A. do not "get the message."

It is true, of course, that minutes of each Central Council meeting are sent out to each county board, but this cannot be done until after they have been adopted at the next Central Council meeting (some-

times months later). Even then, once they reach the County Secretary that is sometimes the end of them.

They *may* be read at a county board meeting; the club delegates *may* take notes; these *may* in turn pass on all the information to their clubs and individual members—or they may not! Even if they do, they're still only minutes. There is without doubt, a breakdown in communication between the highest and lowest level of our Association.

What should be done? In the first place I think a Public Relations Officer should be appointed by the Central Council. This man would not only give information on fixtures, referees, etc., but he would also give details of the work of the various Central Council Committees.

Quite honestly, until the General Secretary's Report to the 1961 Congress most members were unaware that there were five Committees working. Even the General Secretary admitted this. I quote: "The light of publicity never shines on the various committees whose work goes on between each Congress and whose members meet to further the Association's aims and promote its objects." He then enumerates the Committees—The History Committee; The Referees' Committee; Coiste na Teangan; The Films, Television and Advertising Committee and finally Coiste na hÍomána.

Then, too, if the Central Council carries out an enquiry into any matter of public importance, the result should be made known

immediately after it has been adopted. The best way to do this is to issue the result of the enquiry to the Press for publication. This is what one expects from a public national body. Besides, it would counter any ill-informed criticism of our great Association.

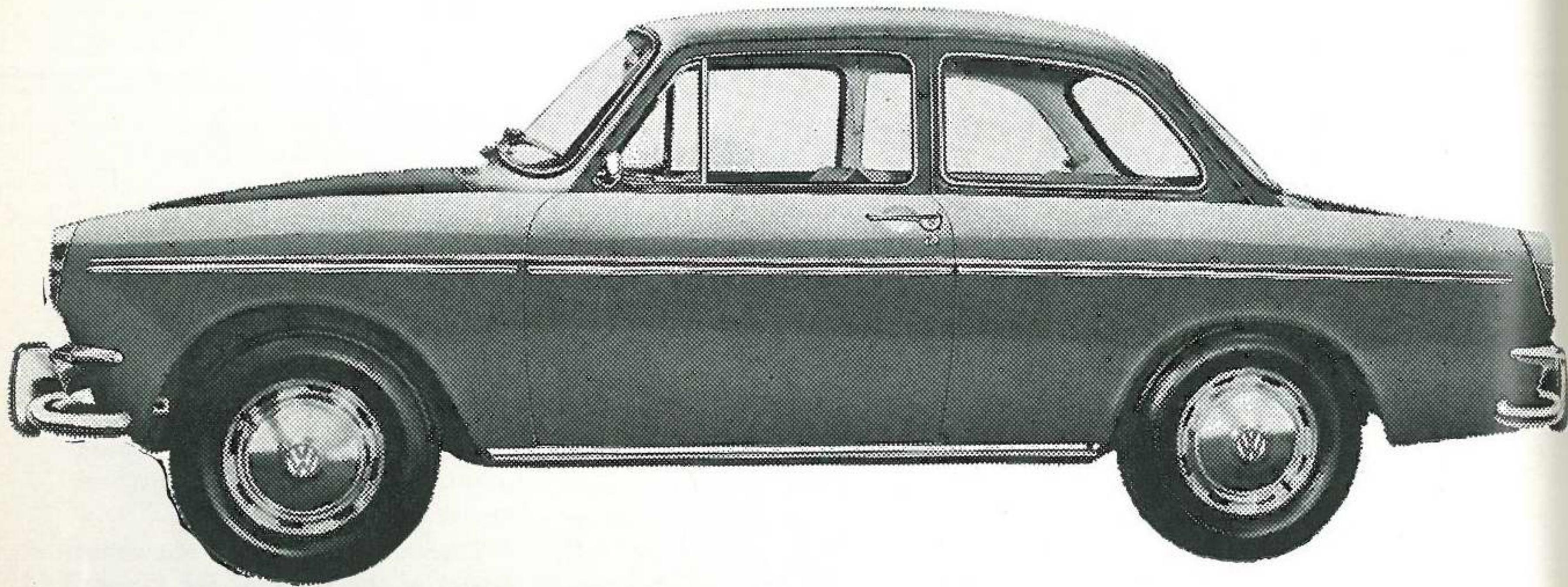
There is another important aspect of the work of the Central Council which deserves attention. If, for example, it interprets any rule, this interpretation should be made available instantly to all clubs and, further, it should be included in a special appendix to the Official Guide.

I myself suggested this at Congress three years ago and was told the matter would be looked into. I hope that this will be done in the next edition of the Guide. These rulings can be forgotten far too easily or lost in a maze of minutes. For example, how many remember the famous Kerry case of some years ago which brought a new interpretation of Rule 126.

As a result of a Central Council ruling on that occasion, any player ordered off the field for misconduct shall be suspended for at least a month *even if it be subsequently proved that he was ordered off in error*. This shows how important Central Council rulings can be.

Further it shows how the Central Council should, at all times, be conscious of the fact that it is legislating for the humblest member and smallest unit in the organisation and it should take every step to ensure that these are kept fully informed of everything it does.

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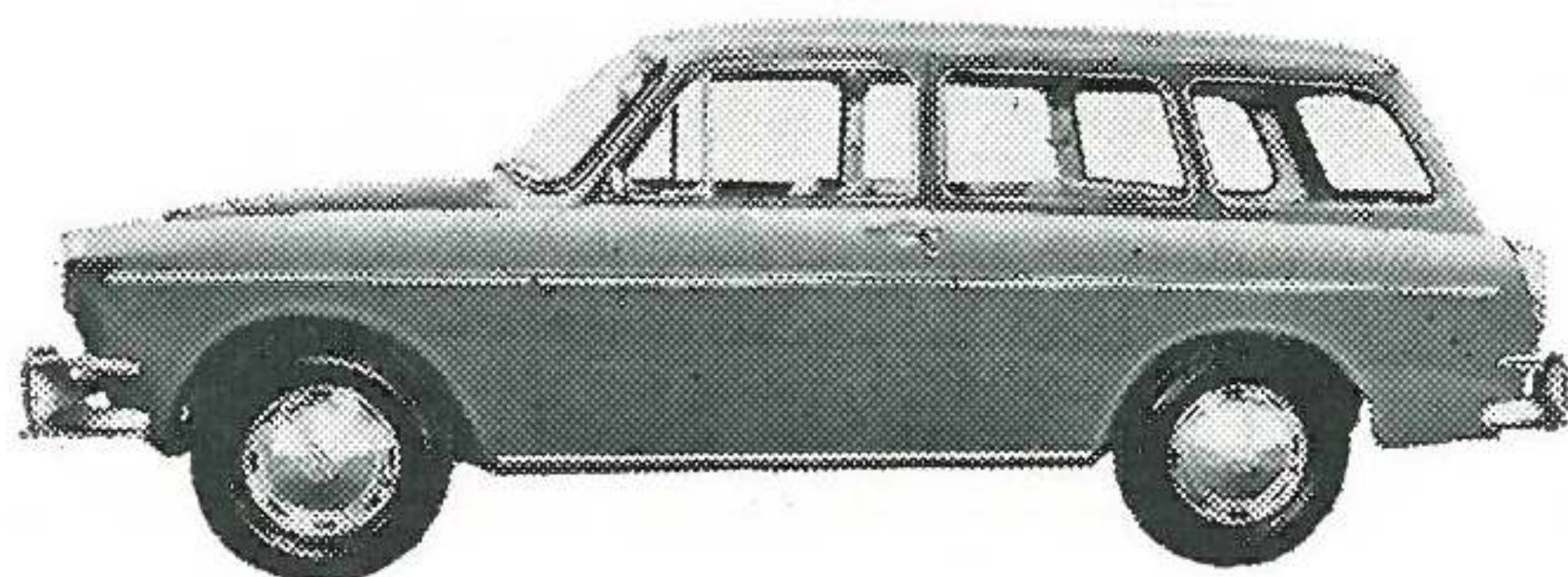
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FRANKIE DONNELLY

A pen-picture by Conallach

IN the little Tyrone village of Carrickmore in the parish of Termonmaguirk—where Irish was still widely spoken but a generation ago, I recently met the quiet and unassuming Frankie Donnelly. Although now in the twilight of his career this great forward played some of the finest football seen in Ulster during 1963 and it was no surprise at all when he regained a place on the provincial Railway Cup side.

Many people may not know that Frankie is, in fact, not a Tyrone man at all. He was actually born in Keady, County Armagh, but he came to live in Carrickmore when he was only five years old.

Frankie moved into big-time football in 1950. The previous year he helped Carrickmore win the county title and he was still a minor the following Spring. Before the 1950 season was out Donnelly had represented Tyrone in minor, junior and senior ranks—and he has been going strong ever since.

He is, of course, a natural footballer and there have been few better exponents of "toe to hand" play. The years 1956 and '57 were his great ones. Tyrone were then right up there at the top and Frankie in the left corner was their danger man. The team plan was to get the ball to him and he usually did the rest.

Very often he was fouled—but either way it was a score for his deadly marksmanship from placed

balls earned the Red Hand County many a victory.

He was the country's top scorer on a number of occasions during those years—and indeed is still right up there among the leaders, and this despite the fact that Tyrone are not a very busy inter-county side.

Frankie rates George Lavery—the great veteran from Kilwaslin, as the best corner back he has played against. According to the Tyrone man, George always plays a clean, sporting game. Others whom Frankie considers to have been difficult opponents were Micky Gribben of Derry, Sean Quinn of Armagh and the mighty Phil "Gunner" Brady of Cavan.

Of that great Tyrone side of 1956 and '57 only Jody O'Neill, Frank Higgins and Donnelly still continue to represent the county. Thady Turbett and Brian McSorley were, of course, playing until recently but the rest are gone—although many of them such as Mick McIlkenny, Eddie Devlin, Sean Donnelly and Mick Cushenan, are still young enough for inter-county football.

Tyrone failed in its quest for an All-Ireland title during those years—but they did go near to it and they can be credited with having brought about the big breakthrough from the North. After them came Derry and then Down. Now no one will be surprised if Fermanagh or Donegal follow in their footsteps but it took Tyrone

to show these once isolated counties how it could be done.

Frankie Donnelly has some great memories of those years—especially the trip to New York in 1957. Actually, only recently he got an invitation to go back out for an exhibition game with the Tyrone team in Philadelphia but a sad family bereavement prevented him from availing of the offer.

Club football in Tyrone has been at a standstill during the months of January and February, so Frankie had to train on his own. It takes great spirit for a veteran to tackle the job of reaching peak fitness in mid-February but such is Frankie Donnelly.

Carrickmore made quite a comeback in 1961 when Donnelly inspired a young team and they won the county title—their first since '49. It's a hard-working little club and the officers—Fr. Donnelly, Fr. Vallely, Kevin Murphy, Cyril Dolan and Mick Harte, are now planning a new pitch. This they feel would work wonders in the area. They all, of course, take great pride in the Donnelly feats.

Frankie is married to Rose Rice of Augher (a niece of former Tyrone player, Gerry Rice). They have three children.

Tyrone is somewhat in the wilderness these days—but it will come again. Meanwhile it falls to Armagh-born Frankie Donnelly to keep the banner of the Red Hand aloft.



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Jim Dermody

The Jim Dermody Story

(As told to Tomás O Faoláin)

LORY MEAGHER'S FINEST HOUR

I HAVE always held that picking the greatest footballer or hurler of all-time is a futile business. Certainly we know who the really great men were but how can you compare a great full back with a great mid-fielder and say that one was a better hurler? Switch them around—put the mid-fielder in full-back and the great defender out mid-field and how are they then? We really don't know.

Put the men in their own positions and then assess them—one mid-fielder against another or one full-back against the host of other never to be forgotten full-backs. This is the only way—and even then much of it will be fanciful speculation.

Still when it comes to mid-fielders, I doubt if many will argue against the choice of Lory Meagher as the man of men in this sector. Yes, that he was. And now I will tell you of Lory's greatest hour.

We began the 1933 championship as the proud holders of the All-Ireland title. We had earned it the hard way and we intended that it would be a good team that would take it from us. Yet we almost lost that crown twice in the one day.

It was in the Leinster final

against Dublin. It was fixed for Wexford Park and we set out by train. A great crowd had come to the station to see us off. We were all in great spirits—fully fit and confident. I remember sitting back discussing the Dublin side and the tactics which we should use.

Then one of our officials began to tell us of the welcome which the Gaels of Wexford had prepared for us. A welcoming party would meet us at the station and there would later be a reception in White's Hotel. We were due to arrive at 12 noon. We were all looking forward to what lay ahead—but little did we know.

The train arrived at Ballywilliam and here our trouble started. We noticed that there was a delay. It continued and naturally we began to get curious. Eventually someone made enquiries and was informed that the train was short of coal and that it would take only a little while to get things righted.

The "little while" became a long while and eventually two whole hours went by. So now you can imagine how we felt. Watches were being looked at and a general apprehension was felt by all.

Eventually the coal arrived and after some more delay the train

finally got moving. By the time we reached Wexford it was after 2.30 p.m. and there was no sign of the welcoming party. We were all alone.

A general panic now really gripped us. Were we going to lose our cherished All-Ireland crown by default? Certainly we were going to be 'dead' late on foot and there was no transport. What were we going to do?

It was Paddy Phelan who saved the day. He spotted some empty buses parked on the Quay and dashed over, got one open and shouted—"Come on lads, ye can tog-out on the way." With that he hopped in behind the wheel and somehow got the engine going. We all quickly scrambled in.

There was chaos inside the bus. There were at least thirty of us between players and officials. The players were frantically trying to change. You can imagine what it was like—trying to stand on one leg to get a trousers off and togs on. Some were standing on seats—some on the floor and everybody was shouting. Shoes, boots, shirts and coats were being flung all over the place.

Boys were shouting for jerseys—others for their "so and so" boots. No slap-stick film of the Chaplin era could compare with it—and all the while the bould Paddy Phelan was driving through the narrow streets at dare-devil speed. Eventually the bus stopped. We were there.

Tommy Leahy and a few others, who had managed to get fully togged during the journey, jumped out and dashed through the entrance. The rest of us followed seconds later in various stages of dress.

(Continued overleaf.)

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(From page 23.)

We dashed past officials and spectators without any explanation. They looked at us open-mouthed. Some no doubt thought we had all gone on a "booze".

Dublin were already lined up and the referee had evidently been blowing the whistle for some time. Eventually we were all on the field with our hero, Paddy Phelan, the last to come out.

The game went on at once. The spectators were, of course, completely unaware of our drama and for that reason were rather surprised by our early out-of-gear efforts. Dublin came at us fast and began to beat us for almost every ball. The first half was a nightmare. Only one man seemed to be playing for Kilkenny and he was Lory Meagher.

He was here, there and everywhere. He scored a great goal from thirty yards out and then was back in the defence to send back the puck-out. But, of course, he could not beat Dublin on his own—and alone virtually he was.

Nothing seemed to go right for the rest of the team. The great rush and fuss and the long while sitting in the train had its effect. Even I in goal appeared to be effected by it. I missed shot after shot as time and time again the Dublin forwards cut through our bewildered defence. Five times in that first half I went back and picked that ball out of the net. We went off the field being led 5-4 to 2-1. Our title appeared gone.

It was our County Secretary, Danny O'Brien, who had the hardest time of it during the break. Hundreds of Kilkenny supporters swarmed around him enquiring to know what was the matter with the team.

Meanwhile, Eddie Doyle was giving us a lecture. "Now lads," says he, "I know it looks bad, but steady down—stick to ground hurling and get first to the ball. We need at least six goals to pull

(Continued cols. 2-3 next page.)

THE DUTY OF COUNTY DELEGATES

ALMOST three hundred delegates will gather in Dublin on Easter Sunday for the annual Congress of the G.A.A. The most important item on their agenda that day will be the election of a new president to succeed Mr. Hugh Byrne, M.A., whose three-year term of office is now ending.

This important piece of business will be carried out in the morning session before lunch and not one of the nearly 300 delegates who are entitled to vote will want to miss the ballot.

But some six or seven hours later as the business of Congress is meandering slowly through the dwindling agenda and the day's work is nearly complete just how many of those delegates will still be present in the Gresham Hotel's Aberdeen Hall.

This is something that never fails to puzzle me about the G.A.A. Congress. I have seen it happen over and over again. A full house is mustered when a President is to be elected and is still present when some early motions like the changes of rule or the abolition of the so-called Ban is being debated.

But when motions that are taken later in the agenda—but which are equally vital to the affairs of the Association—are proposed never more than half of the delegates are interested enough to remain.

Granted Congress can at times become a very boring affair. Nevertheless any delegate who allows himself to go forward at his county's convention for election to Congress and yet cannot sustain an interest in the business of the day right to the end, does not deserve to be sent to Dublin as a delegate. Far too many of them

use the occasion as an excuse to have an afternoon in the city.

It happens year after year that in the last hour or two of Congress little more than two or three dozen delegates remain in the hall. And that out of nearly 300. It's a sad commentary, surely, on the interest these absentees have in the running of their Association. For Congress, meeting once a year, is the supreme body in this great organisation of ours.

Even those who remain cannot wait to get to the end of the motions with the result that the

last half dozen or so on the agenda are usually rushed unnecessarily. Some of these years a very vital motion is going to be pushed through without receiving the proper consideration and the delegates who slunk away early in the afternoon will then regret it for many a day. In fact, they will be the first to moan about the passage of such a motion.

So please delegates do your duty properly. You have been elected to represent your counties at Congress; then do so right to the end of Congress.

THE JIM DERMODY STORY

(Continued from page 24.)

this off and there is thirty minutes to do it. And it can be done."

We lined up again and now we were hurling more like our old selves. Marty Power had a quick point and it was a wonderful tonic. Like magic the old machine was operating. Lory send over one more point and a minute later yet another from the gifted stick that was Meagher's alone.

Kilkenny kept attacking and it was a twenty one yards free. Up came Lory and bending he crashed it all the way through a forest of Dublin hurleys—to the net.

We drew breath—and if we did Dublin availed of it to get a point. It was their last score. The backs clamped down and closed the gaps which were there in the first half. Lory did the rest.

He played havoc with them—dominating mid-field and bewildering their defence. He dropped ball after ball into the

Dublin goal-mouth and they came from all angles. Our forwards made use of them.

But just to make assurance doubly sure, Lory crashed home another amazing goal from a twenty-one yard free and infused by such feats sure our lads could not but respond. Three more times they found the Dublin net and for good measure whipped over five further points. Dublin had no answer to the power-packed Meagher hurling and in the end we had eight points to spare.

It was the genius and the spirit of Lory Meagher—and that alone which retained that All-Ireland crown for Kilkenny. We all knew it and so did the crowd. At the final whistle they rushed him and let me say that there were Dublin players among them too. Yes, it was Lory's finest hour.

Next month I will tell you about our great battle with resurgent Limerick in the final.



Making ends meet

Making ends meet can be a tiring and never-ending job. To sustain themselves in their waterside homes the Beavers need to maintain an unvarying water level, and so are committed to the building of a dam. This structure of logs, clay and grass, convex towards the direction of the current and equally strong in all its parts must surely be one of the wonders of nature. But the Beavers' work is never finished; the dam has constantly to be repaired if the level of the water is to be maintained.

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CAPS

JOE LENNON'S BOOK OPENS UP NEW ERA FOR FOOTBALL

Says Eamonn Mongey

"WE have not really tapped the resources of this game of Gaelic football. We are still imbibing the overflow of superfluous enjoyment. The great heart of the game is still only a dim throb in our ears. When we begin to make scientific approaches to the game and exploit its latent potentialities it will blossom forth in flashing brilliance which as yet we have seen only mirrored in the glass of our best performance to date."

Taking these words as his text, Down's Joe Lennon set out to make his contribution to the scientific advance of Gaelic football. The result—a book which has just been released entitled "COACHING GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR CHAMPIONS." It is the most significant contribution which has been yet made to the game; and I can honestly say that if all Joe Lennon's ideas are adopted and put into practice, this book will revolutionise Gaelic football.

The need for such a book and the need for a scientific approach to the game are first argued by Joe Lennon and let me say at once that in this his case is unanswerable in its fullness and conviction.

He then deals with the qualities which a coach must possess, and particularly with the psychology necessary in handling a group of men with different backgrounds, different temperaments and dif-



JOE LENNON

ferent talents. After that he gets down to the real meat.

With almost surgical expertise he dissects each skill in Gaelic football, shows how each can be most effectively taught and then restores them all to one perfect whole. All the lessons are illustrated with excellent diagrams and photographs which help to simplify matters considerably.

Besides the ordinary, fundamental skills, the book deals with some other lesser-known but very important ones. For instance, the technique of "the deflected pass" is fully examined. This is something which is rarely used, or even talked about, in Gaelic football, but which can produce the "unexpected" during a match.

Another most useful section deals with athletic injuries and their treatment and, in dealing with this, Joe Lennon has a few thrusts at the medical profession for the way in which they have

ignored what is almost a complete branch of medicine in itself.

I wouldn't like anyone to get the idea that this is purely a technical book. It is far from it. It is extremely readable, and I can guarantee that anyone who takes it up will gain almost as much pleasure as knowledge from it.

And there's no doubt about the knowledge of his subject which the author has. After all, he himself is a trained coach from one of the foremost athletic schools in the world — Loughborough College, England.

All in all then, this book is a "must" not only for all players but, particularly, for all those charged with the teaching of Gaelic games in all our schools, colleges and clubs.

At 10/-, plus 1/- postage, from J. F. Lennon, 74 Central Rd., Hugglescote, Coalville Leicester, England, it is indeed excellent value.

TAKE CARE



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FOOTBALL IN THE '60s

By JOE LENNON

ONE of the surprising features about intercounty football is the enormous amount of talk and discussion which it evokes. Yet, despite the fact that the game is so much a part of the community conversation, little if anything is done to help improve either the game or its background. We are content to talk and argue. Despite the fact that so much is said about training, little serious effort is ever made except on rare occasions and then only short periods.

To aim for any degree of success with a county team, the apathy towards hard work and the misunderstanding about training must be broken down. Players must want to come to train and training should be attractive enough to sustain their enthusiasm over the years. Furthermore, the complexes which produces weird statements like "Overtrained," "strain the heart," "wear out the body" etc. must be broken down and the mental attitude must be reconstructed along common sense and practical lines.

There is no such thing as a physical state of being "over-trained"—training is not like eating where you can do too much, it is more like learning where the more you learn the more you find out there is to know. There is a psychological barrier often placed here deliberately by officials who can only afford a limited time to attend training. The normal healthy heart cannot be strained by exercise. The heart is a muscle and exercise enlarges it to deal with increased work. An enlarged heart used to be thought abnor-

mal but now doctors realise that it is the natural result of exercise and, in fact, promotes longevity.

The body is continually being worn away and replaced. Washing the hands and face removes skin which is replaced from beneath. Protein lays down new tissue in the body, and granted a normal healthy body with an adequate diet, nothing but good will result from proper training. All the players must realise and appreciate this before they start or else they may not put enough effort into their work.

Having assembled the group of players, they must be told all this and they must accept the fact that getting fit is hard work. Tiredness is a normal reaction to exercise. They must learn to accept this, then try and ignore it and continue as hard as ever even when every muscle in their body tells them to stop. The acid level in the blood builds up much more quickly in the untrained muscle; the oxygen debt is paid off much slower by untrained body systems and these two factors must be gradually reduced to a minimum. When that awful period of getting fit is over and you feel the surge of power in the legs and shoulders even towards the end of a hard game—only then does the footballer appreciate the value of training.

Training periods should be short and carefully preplanned. The players must know exactly what has to be done and then get on with it. Quality of performance must be the aim rather than quantity which can be boring.

Before starting the training and

coaching of a team, every player must have enough kit to allow him to train properly. As a minimum, I would suggest two of everything — boots, socks, shinguards, athletic supports, togs, jerseys, sweaters, gloves; a track suit is a must and a pair of soft soled shoes for indoor work — canvas slippers or basketball boots do fine. The kit should be washed, dried and ironed every week—by the county board—and hung up in the player's locker ready for his next session—so that he can arrive in his good clothes, do his training, have a bath or shower, a hot drink and snack and go off home, warm, clean and comfortable—if a little tired. We must aim for this state of affairs rather than tell the players what their fathers had to put up with. They don't want to know about it and cannot be blamed for not so doing. If you want the best of anything, you must be prepared to pay for it.

I have assumed that the players have adequate indoor and outdoor training facilities. If two pitches are available so much the better to save the grass. The use of a large hall is also essential for training when outdoor work is impossible due to weather, lighting or the condition of the pitch. (I am working on the design of a sports centre which is basically a double handball alley, covered and lighted, which can be built at a reasonable cost but whose design will enable it to provide facilities for a multitude of activities from a driving range for golf to indoor hurling practice).

As well as all the players' kit, the training centre should have

(Continued overleaf)

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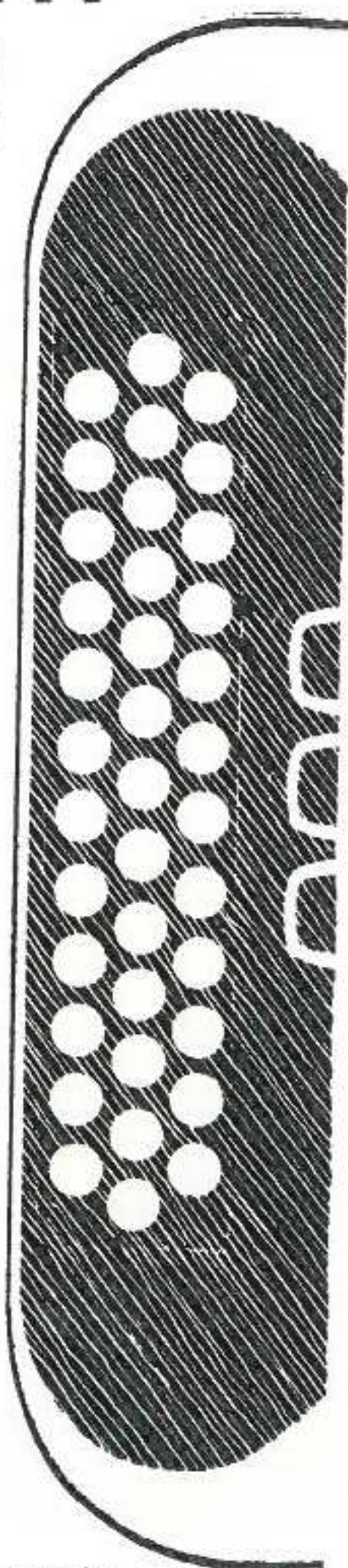
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JANUS

H 17

(Continued from page 29)

enough equipment to allow both trainer and coach to do their work efficiently. It goes without saying that there *must* be at least a dozen footballs or enough to allow one ball to every two players if possible. There should be several extra sets of goal posts which can be moved around to provide ample practice for coaching attack and defence patterns without wearing away the main goal areas.

I might be accused of being an idealist. These schemes might be rejected out of hand as too expensive and impossible. Let us say it would cost £25,000 to purchase and £1,000 a year to maintain such a training centre. This is well within the possibilities of any county board in Ireland—*IF WE REALLY WANT IT*. There is no good in saying it cannot be done. Look at what those Corkmen are doing—Good luck to them. How many golf clubs and tennis clubs have we in Ireland which find men to undertake this sort of responsibility? Yet no other games in Ireland have such a following as Gaelic Games. Our games are only as good as we are prepared to make them. If we are prepared to put up with second best then we will automatically be second rate.

If we would only give our games the chance they deserve, they will return the compliment a thousand fold.

There is not much use in making long term plans without incorporating this policy into them. However, if any county has only a field and hut at its disposal now don't be downhearted. There's nothing wrong in being poor—only with remaining poor. Set your sights high, do the best you can with what you have and always strive to improve every feature of the project. Aim for two fields and two huts by next year. That achieved, press on again.

Next month I'll tell you how to begin the training and coaching in earnest.

# SEAN MURRAY

G.A.A. honours are scarce in Longford and always have been. The county has never won a provincial senior title and rarely has it made the headlines. Still every now and then the odd son of the gallant county breaks through on his own to take his place in the national limelight. Such a Longfordman is Sean Murray.

Sean is now twenty-seven. He was on the Longford minor team in 1954, graduated to the junior team the following season and in 1956 joined the seniors. During the past four years or so he has been playing particularly good football both with the county and University College, Dublin. Still he was a long way removed from the fame which only the big occasions can provide. Then came the Leinster trial last January and a sparkling display by the lightly built Longfordman. He had made it. Sean Murray was in the big-time.

I recently had this interview with him.

*O'Donnell—Do you think that you would have made the grade were it not for U.C.D.?*

Murray—I don't think I would. Playing with U.C.D. has meant regular competition — plenty of outings and playing against top class opposition from whom there was much to be learned.



Sean Murray

*O'D.—Do you think it is a good or a bad thing for Dublin football that an "outside" team like U.C.D. should win the county title?*

M.—I think it will do the county an amount of good. It is a long time since Dublin football was ruled by a team made up of outsiders and the shock cannot but have a good effect in that it will force the native Dublin teams to train harder in an effort to win back the title. Furthermore our victory is likely to prove an incentive to weaker clubs. The big monopoly is now broken and the 1964 championship is quite open.

*O'D.—How many members has the U.C.D. club?*

M.—About two hundred—but,

## FACE TO FACE

with

Sean O'Donnell

of course, a lot of students play with other Dublin clubs..

*O'D.—What is the big difference between playing club football in Dublin and playing in Longford?*

M.—Much more competition is the main difference. Furthermore there are more training facilities in Dublin—and, of course, there is the incentive to train. The standard is high and you just cannot get away with being unfit.

*O'D.—Why has Longford never made the grade?*

M.—Like a good many teams without a tradition, Longford lack that confidence which is ever so necessary. Furthermore, there always seems to be a limited number of players from which to choose. Team-craft and understanding has also been wanting over the years. Still things are now taking a definite turn for the better and who knows we may well be within reach of that long awaited hour of glory.

*O'D.—What game gave you your greatest thrill?*

M.—The 1961 Sigerson Cup competition and in particular the final against U.C.G. I was captain of U.C.D. that year and later made the Combined Universities team.

*O'D.—Are there any forwards whom you would like to emulate?*

M.—Yes, Packy McGarty and Kevin Beahan.



Michael O'Hehir

## T.E. COVERAGE OF RAILWAY CUP FINALS

# NOTHING IS LEFT TO

**T**HE Telefis Eireann coverage on St. Patrick's Day of this year's Railway Cup football and hurling finals will last roughly three hours.

Thousands passing in to Croke Park "on the day" will see T.E.'s blue-and-white painted Outside Broadcast van, with the St. Brigid's Cross symbols on each side, parked behind the Hogan Stand. And countless other thousands, sitting in the warmth and comfort of their own homes, will see the games "live" on their television sets.

But few, if any, of these G.A.A. fans will spare a thought for the engineers and technicians behind this presentation of one of Gael-dom's biggest events of the year. For days and weeks and months of planning and attention to even the most minor detail will have gone in to this broadcast. Nothing will have been left to chance.

In the words of Telefis Eireann's Head of Sport Michael O'Hehir, television coverage is brought to you "by careful planning, never by accident." Michael should know. For in addition to commentating on the games, he is also the man responsible for ironing out the hundred-and-one administration difficulties which can arise before a broadcast.

Coverage plans must be dis-

cussed with G.A.A. officials at Croke Park. The starting times of games and actual lengths of coverage must also be discussed. Production plans, engineering plans—these, too, must be vetted by him before arrangements can be made for the actual broadcast.

Then the engineers and technicians start work on planning the broadcast. A detailed map of

---

### By MIKE BURNS

---

Croke Park is prepared, and everything is marked in, from the location of the O.B. van to the length and direction of cables and the actual position of the three cameras used to cover the game.

The experience of other years and other games has, of course, managed to cut-down much of this work to the bare minimum. But routine must still be observed. Any variation, without prior consultation, would lead to chaos. Hence the need of that detailed plan to avoid confusion.

Although the actual plan is drawn-up weeks and often months in advance of the broadcast date, the engineers and technicians don't

move in to Croke Park until four or five days before the broadcast.

Then comes the cable-laying, first from the cameras to the O.B. van, and then to the saucer-shaped "dish" at the rear of the Cusack Stand. It is from this "dish" that the picture is beamed to the giant T.E. mast on Kippure for transmission to the rest of Ireland.

Up to the moment, nothing has been heard of the producer. But it is on him the success or failure of the day's coverage depends. The three cameras record the play, but it is the producer who selects the most exciting or interesting picture to show you at home.

The producer, of course, never refers to this as "selecting a picture." In television parlance, this is known as "calling the shots." He does this by watching, on three monitors placed in the O.B. van, the pictures being recorded by the three cameras. He "calls" one of the three pictures, an assistant presses a button on a giant control panel . . . and you at home see the picture. It all sounds, and IS, very complicated—an engineering miracle.

This year, in addition to the thousands who will see the games here in Ireland, several million people will see the hurling game on coast-to-coast television in the

... COMPLICATED JOB

## CHANCE

United States. Arrangements for this showing were made by Michael O'Hehir when he was in America last year.

A tele-recording, or video-tape, of the hurling game will be flown to the U.S. shortly after the game ends. Early in April, Michael O'Hehir will fly to the U.S., where he will supervise the editing of the recording and "dub" a new sound track where it is felt that certain parts of the game may require an explanation for American viewers.

In mid-April, the game will be seen on ABC TV's "Wide World of Sport," a programme with an audience-rating of several millions.

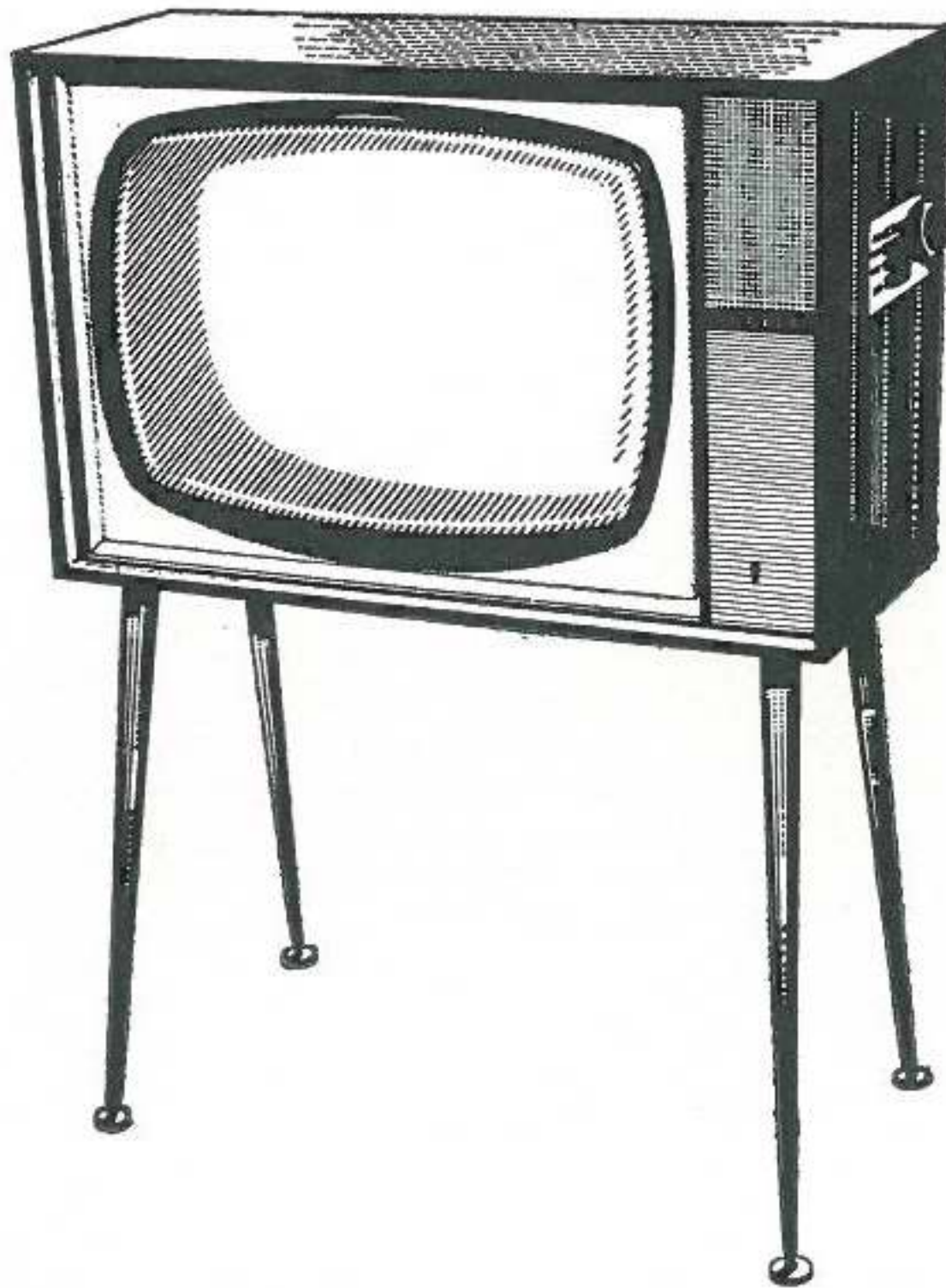
How the American public will react to this first view of the ancient game is difficult to estimate. But one man who hasn't any fears is our own Ambassador of Sport, Michael O'Hehir. He told me: "I think it will be a big hit with them."

Knowing Michael's uncanny judgment of just what the public wants, I must agree. And knowing, too, that when something is a "hit" with Americans they just can't get enough of it, I'm inclined to think that in the not-too-distant future we may hear that Americans want to see our games "live" via Telstar!

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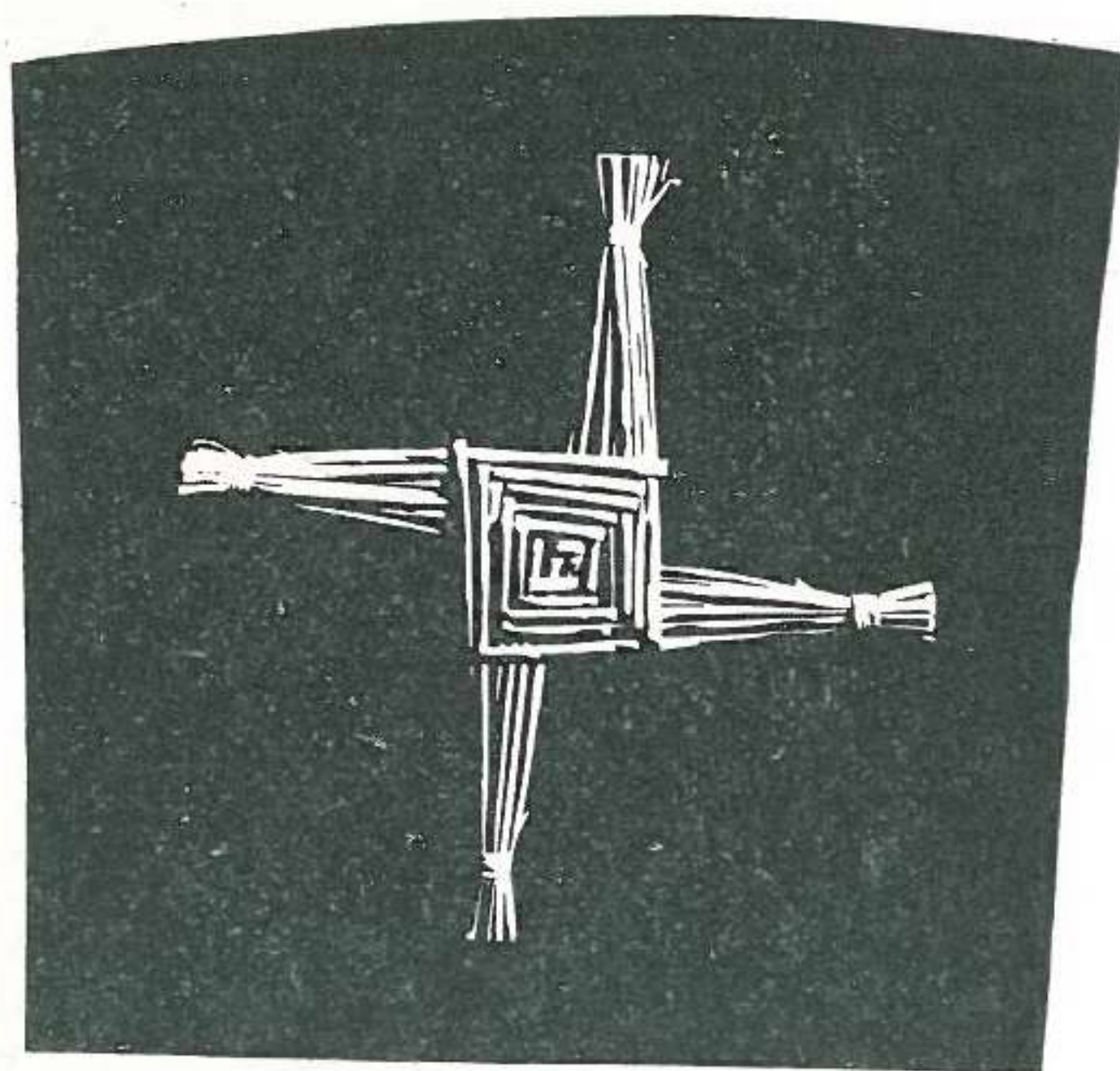
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# RULES

COMMENT BY  
(5) CHRIS MURRAY

**R**ULE 136 of the Official Guide deals with foul and rough play. Of all the playing rules it is the most detailed and the most clearly defined — yet, it is the rule most often violated. Rarely is it properly applied by referees and indications are that the vast majority of players and of the general public are not in the least familiar with the entire rule.

In previous issues of GAELIC SPORT I have dealt with the first sections of this rule and now I propose to deal with the latter five sections.

Section (e): "If a player refuses to leave when ordered off, or having been ordered off, again joins the game, the Referee shall terminate the game and report accordingly to the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture, who shall award the match to the other team."

Section (f): "A whole team may be disqualified and suspended for rough play, even though it won the match.

Comment—How very rarely do we see a whole team being disqualified or suspended—yet there are so many incidents.

Section (g): "In awarding frees

for foul or rough play, the referee shall give the free from where foul occurred, if the foul prevented the player playing the ball. In football, when a player is fouled after delivery, a free kick shall be given where the ball lands, except a score is made, which is allowed; but should the ball cross the end or side-line, a free shall be given where the foul occurred; and, should the ball fall within the 14 yards line of the opponents territory, the free shall be given from the 14 yards line.

In hurling, when a player is fouled after delivery, a free puck shall be given (except a score is made, which is allowed) where the ball lands, if outside the 70 yards mark; or, on a point on the 70 yards mark opposite where it landed, if it be inside the 70 yards mark.

Comment — This section emphasises that very prevalent foul—the late charge. The nature of this act ensures that very often it will not be detected for the referee is naturally following the ball. One solution would be to empower the umpires to bring such acts to the referee's notice.

However, referees should always keep an eye posted for such fouls.

Section (h): In hurling, no player shall bring his hurley intentionally in contact with the person of another player or put his hurley from behind over another player for the purpose of getting the ball. No player shall strike another player's hurley, unless both are in the act of striking the ball. A player must not throw his hurley under any circumstances.

Section (i): Should a player from each team foul at the same time, the referee shall hop the ball where the foul occurred.

Finally there is a recommendation added, it reads—"Charging with the head constitutes dangerous play. The player doing so should be penalised at all times.

It would appear that the recommendation was once a rule and was discarded along the way.

There then is Rule 136—clear, precise, but still ever so abused, misunderstood and even ignored. There is no master plan required to eradicate incidents. The full and just implementation of Rule 136 is all that is necessary.

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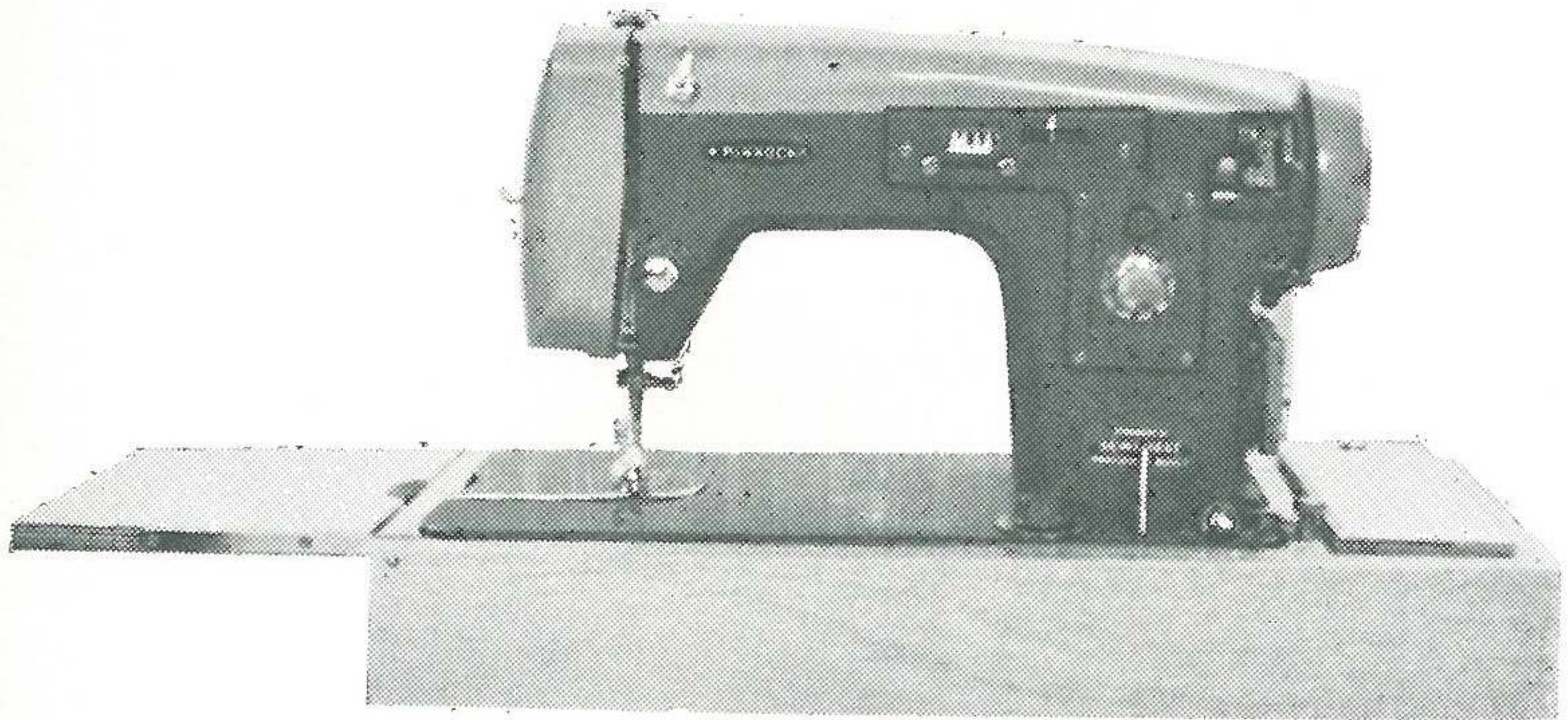


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# SCRAPBOOK

By EAMONN YOUNG

WHAT was the longest kick I ever saw? It makes me feel wonderfully old to be asked and I'm looking forward to the days ahead when the opinion will bear more weight and there may not be so many around to contradict. Maybe I'll be gone too but that's my problem. Anyway to return to the opening question, I remember a frosty day in February when we played (and beat) Connacht in Killarney.

At centre-back for Munster footballers was Dick Harnedy of Cork, a very fine player seldom seen because his county was more or less nowhere. Dick had a habit of racing out from his position to meet a high ball on the drop and he always drew a delighted roar from the crowd. Anyway we were playing into the town goal in Killarney with a strong wind and Connacht pushed the ball up-field until one of those high ones specially built for Harnedy dropped to the Corkman's position. Out he came like a steam engine and meeting it on the drop drove the unfortunate thing back twice as fast and as high as it came. The wind took up the joke and, carrying the ball on its wintry wings, blew it about twenty yards beyond the goalposts and of course right between them.

"Who's that fella?" asked Gega Connor. In those days a question like that from a Kerryman could

be regarded as a distinct compliment.

"Yerra," says I. "He's Harnedy. He was fairly good years ago."

But after that let me say that Dick's kick wasn't the longest. There was a day in Croke Park when big Pat MacAndrew, playing at centrefield for New York against Cork took a ball over near right half back under the Cusack and kicked it towards the Railway end. I'm not quite sure if "towards" is the right word; perhaps I should just say "to." Anyway I'd swear the kick was 70 yards—without a wind. Of course big Pat is about six feet four—and means every bit of it.

—oOo—

He was billed as the champion welterweight of the I.R.A. and went into the roped square—the loneliest place in the world—against the heavyweight champion (professional) of Ireland. Who was he? As even Dave Guiney and Padraig Purcell couldn't even sniff at it after a months study I'll give the answer. He's that little-known chap called Jim Barry whom one might have seen in charge of Cork teams in Croke Park—some years ago. Anyway Jim himself says it wasn't so hard to be the champion just then for the I.R.A. could not be described as madly enthusiastic about boxing. His opponent? Packey Mahoney of course.

—oOo—

More ripples on the waters of

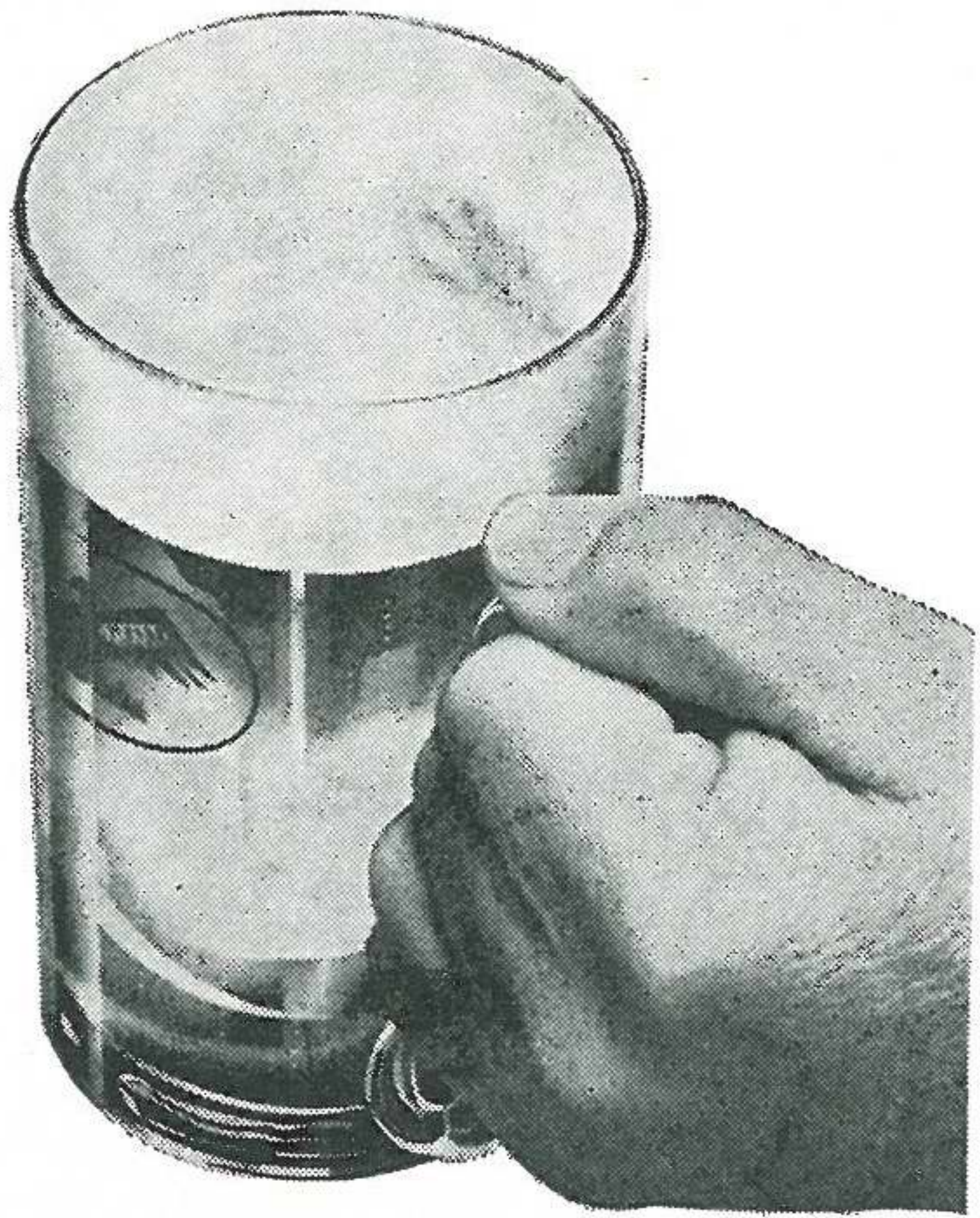
memory. I saw Tom Donohoe of Newtownbarry kick a fifty (with the toe) over the bar and about twenty yards behind it in Barrett's Park, New Ross, (now Kennedy Park) twenty-seven years ago. It was a minor game. In the following senior club game Tom's namesake, Joe from Enniscorthy, playing for the Starlights against Wexford Volunteers kicked a point off the first fifty. Off the second he got another and then realising that things were getting monotonous for us on the line drove the next one all the way to the net in spite of great footballers like the late Sacker Furlong. I wonder where are the two O'Donohoes now.

—oOo—

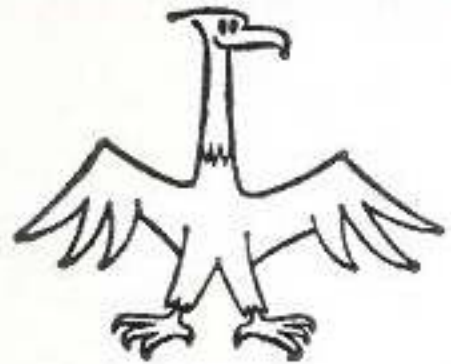
At the Cork Convention there was a spot of mild murder about canvassing and some really strong opinions spoken. No doubt we all would like to avoid canvassing for G.A.A. posts but in this day and age when the practice has become an essential part of our municipal and parliamentary life it's hard to blame the man who does it provided he doesn't organise an all-out campaign. Tom Woulfe that very clear-speaking Kerryman of the Dublin Board told me of a professor whose opinion he asked. Your man said he favoured canvassing for the practice enabled him to grant a private interview

(Continued on page 41)

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*John McKenna (extreme right) crashes home a Tipperary goal in the challenge match against Dublin at Parnell Park on February 2. Tipperary won by 4-10 to 2-10.*

## SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 39)

to each candidate and allowed him in consequence a perfect chance of making up his mind. An excellent argument for retaining the practice but certainly not one that appeals to all who indulge in it. Anyway I'm agin—but then I'm not looking for anything, at the moment.

—oOo—

"The authority enshrined in the

Rule (which allows a man to be put off the field) is absolute."

The other day when I was supposed to have the ceiling distempered before herself came home, I was reading the paper on the ground—a practice beloved of all children. Anyway that's what I saw. Nicely put isn't it? The writer? Our old friend Fear Ciuin the date is just two years ago. I notice that Down and Wexford are having another shot at this automatic suspension. I ran out of gas trying to persuade Corkmen in that direction but some day the

association will change. We'll be the better for it.

—oOo—

Should players drink? After the argument I heard the other night which was both technical, tactical moral, spiritual and physical, I just don't know. The fight ended with a savage—

"The man who drinks is—like the beast in the field," to be met with—

"And the man who doesn't is like the beast in the other field."

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# THE McKNIGHTS OF ARMAGH

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## ***DOWN MISSED THESE TALENTED BROTHERS BY A FEW YARDS!***

By John O. Grant

**A**LMOST every county can claim to have produced at least one great sporting family. Kerry has its Landers and Sheehys; Laois produced the Delaneys; Wexford found joy in the Rackards; Down has the McCartans and the O'Neills. Armagh too—despite the fact that it has yet to win major honours, has its famous family — the McKnights of Killeavey.

Actually the Orchard County is rather fortunate in having the McKnights as its own. But for the fact that the boundary line, which divides Armagh and Down, runs just a few yards to the right side of the McKnight home, Down would be an even better team. However, Armagh fans are surely grateful that the boundary line is where it is, for few if any have given greater service to the county than the three McKnights—John, Felix, and Michael.

Unlike most other great football families the McKnights had little or no tradition to inspire them. They learnt their early football, as many stars do, at school

—the Abbey C.B.S., Newry, and St. Patrick's College, Armagh.

These two establishments of learning can, of course, claim many other great footballers. From the Abbey have come men like the great Mal McEvoy of Armagh and the O'Neills of Down. St. Patrick's can boast of such fine products as Iggy Jones of Tyrone and Kevin Beahan of Louth—just to name a few. It was to be expected therefore that the natural latent talent of the young McKnights should blossom forth under such coaching.

The Armagh selectors soon began to take notice. In 1949 Michael and John were chosen on the county minor team. They starred right through the championship and helped Armagh win its only minor All-Ireland title.

Although Michael was the elder, it was John who first made the county senior team. He began his long spell of duty in 1951, and in ten years of intercounty competition his name became a household word. He was, of course, one of the stars of that great team

beaten by Kerry in the 1953 final and was for many a day a regular with Ulster and the combined Universities.

The youngest member of the trio, Felix, is the present Armagh full-back. He has been on the county senior team since 1957 and was a substitute on last year's Ulster side. A full-back with a style rather similar to Galway's Noel Tierney, he relies on skill and ability, rather than strength, to beat his opponents. At present domiciled in Downpatrick, County Down, where he practises as a doctor, Felix played a major part in Downpatrick's recent resurgence. In last year's Down county final which necessitated a replay, he played opposite brother-in-law, Jim McCartan, who was one of the stars of the victorious Glen side. Jim and Felix are quite accustomed to marking one another. Many good judges of football maintain that McKnight should have found a place on this year's Ulster fifteen.

Michael, the eldest of the McKnight footballers, is the least known of this illustrious family. Nevertheless he commanded a regular place on the Armagh senior team from 1955 to '58. He began as a half-back but soon moved to right full-back and there he remained until he retired.

Michael runs the family business in Newry and is now the only member of the family attached to the Killeavey club.

Armagh football is at present in the doldrums. Gone are the glories of the early fifties—but not the memories. While these remain hope will not be lost. Who knows but that another crop of young stars may soon emerge to lead the county back into a place in the sun—just as did the McKnights of Killeavey.

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AND GEORGE GARRETT DID  
IT IN A HURLING FINAL

# MY DREAM DEBUT ON GOGGIN'S HILL

By Patrick Carver

**T**HIS really is a little story about George Garrett of Cork but, seeing that it is about a "debut", it struck me before I started banging away at the typewriter that here at last was a chance for me to air something that I have always wanted to write about . . . my own debut in hurling.

This goes back a long time but I remember it well for it was the sole topic of conversation in our street for many a long day before the game ever took place.

We did not have a team, we did not have a jersey between us and, God love us, I doubt if we had more than three or four hurleys between the lot of us. The rest were home-made . . . but they served their purpose well in many a bitter campaign.

In the little town in Cork from where I come we were known as the O'Brien Street gang and our traditional enemies, for no reason that I can account for now, were Bluepool. Many a time we engaged them in "clodding" matches but, eventually there came a time when we decided to engage them in the friendlier atmosphere of hurling.

I cannot remember who suggested the match—it might have been Dan Lucey who is in Radio Eireann these days, or perhaps it was Gerry Goggin or Miah Mahoney—but it was duly arranged for Goggin's Hill, owned, I may add by Gerry Goggin's father. At least we were on home ground.

The preparations were immense

—and intense. Well I remember one suggestion that we should change our hairstyles. Someone felt that if we brushed our hair back, we would look a little more fierce.

The great day came and the apprehension as we waited Bluepool was frightening. They arrived in due course, two coats were put down for each goal about fifty yards apart, the two goalkeepers took their places and the rest of us made two lines in the middle of the pitch. I remember that I had to hold the hand of "Terror" Hayes and, mind you, I was not at all taken with the idea. "Terror" had a powerful reputation.

We did not bother with the niceties of backs and forwards. Everyone on each team, with the possible exception of the goalkeeper was a "rusher." In went the ball and off we went. How long the game lasted I do not know, but I have a feeling that it lasted until darkness forced us to give up.

It was a proud day for me—I scored a goal. Of course, they were no points, anyway. But it was a proud day for all of us who lived in or near O'Brien Street. We "whipped" Bluepool and, as far as we were concerned we were champions of the town. We lined up after the game and we marched proudly home, singing and cheering as we passed Burke's Mill and set off down Egmont Place towards O'Brien Street.

That was my debut—a dream

debut. It was like playing a game for Cork in an All-Ireland final at Croke Park. Just imagine . . . to make one's debut for Cork in an All-Ireland final!

Could that happen? It seems a bit far-fetched . . . but, indeed, it did happen on one occasion that I know of.

Here in GAELIC SPORT a few months ago Jim Dermody told the story of the 1931 All-Ireland final and, as I think most of you will agree, that was the greatest final of them all.

And, if you remember, in the second game of that wonderful epic, Morgan Madden was forced to go to the line in the second half. The man Cork brought on to replace him was George Garrett of Blackrock. And, if you remember, too, young George as he was then, played the game of his life and did more than a man's part to ensure that Cork lived to fight a third day.

That was the first time that George had ever played on the green sod of Croke Park and, believe it or not, it was also the very first time that he had ever played in an inter-county match for Cork.

Just think of it. To make one's debut in an All-Ireland final!

Yet, that is precisely what George Garrett did on that October afternoon back in 1931.

So you see, if I had told that little story first, who would have bothered to read about my debut on Goggin's Hill.



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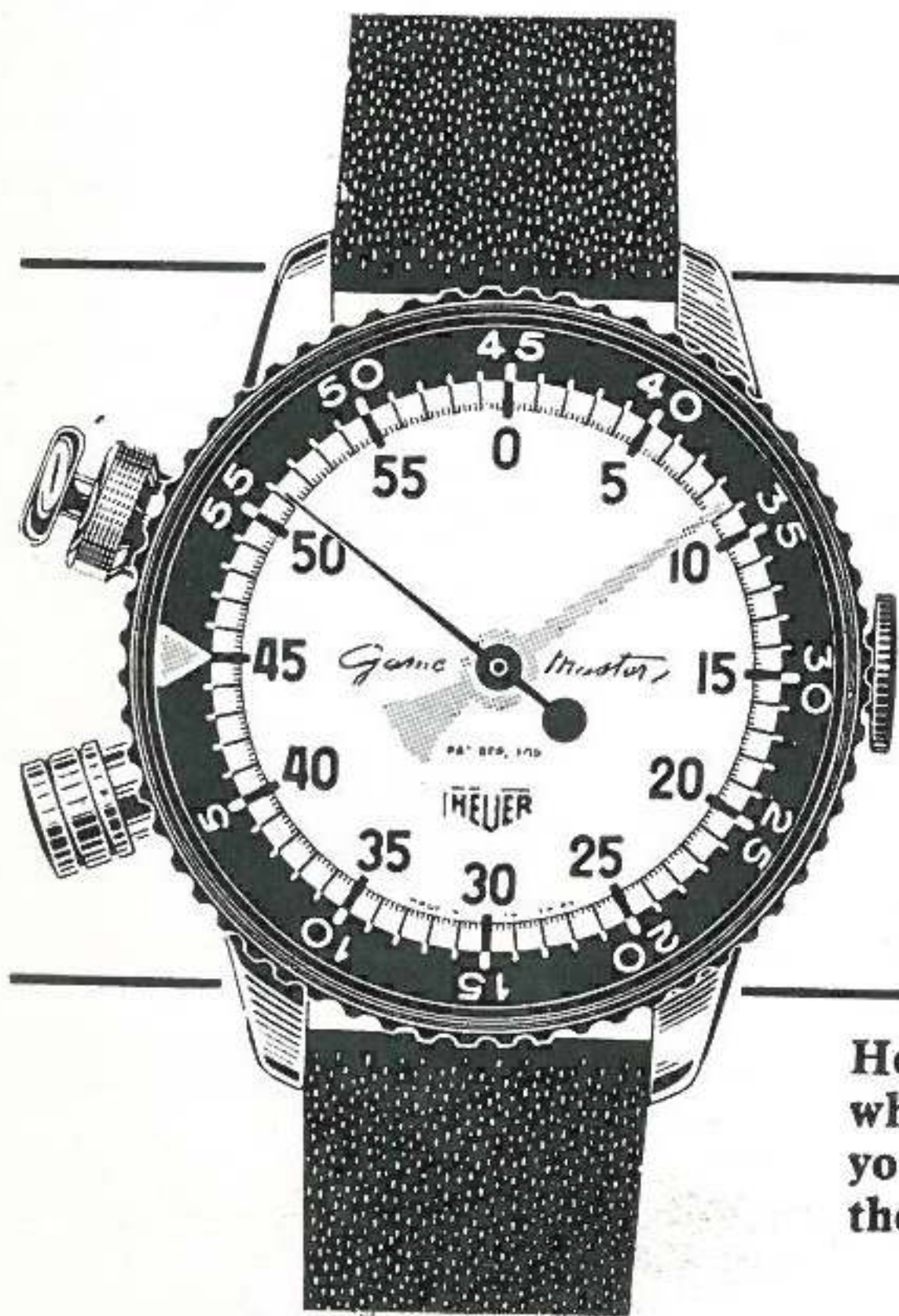
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# MAY OPENING FOR CARRICK PITCH

THE official opening of a magnificent new G.A.A. ground in Carrick-on-Shannon will take place on May 24. The new park will be known as Pairc Sean Mac Diarmada and Galway footballers have already accepted the invitation to play on opening day. Over £5,000 has already gone into the development of the ground and another £3,000 will be expended before opening day.

The opening will be followed very quickly by an even-greater occasion in Carrick-on-Shannon. On June 7, the new pitch will be the venue for the Connacht S.F.C. first round game between Leitrim and Roscommon. Leitrim surprisingly halted Roscommon's gallop last year and may well do so again on June 7. But much water will flow between now and then. Let us hope all goes well for the very active Carrick Ground's Committee between now and May 24.

## GERRY McDONNELL

New Treasurer of the Mayo County Board is Castlebar's financial wizard, Gerry McDonnell. Gerry succeeds Pat Conway as Treasurer and will, no doubt, keep up Pat's fine standard in the office. Gerry has been the brains behind the scenes in Castlebar football for quite some time now and has been largely instrumental in establishing the local grounds as the new provincial venue. He was also the man behind the Castlebar Mitchel's trip to the U.S. in 1960 and their 1963 grand tour of England. We wish him good luck in his new office.

## NEW MOUNTBELLEW PITCH

Another new G.A.A. park will be opened in the West in early

## By Chris Murray

Summer—I refer to the fine reconstruction work being carried out on Mountbellew's old park, which will be known officially as Pairc an Chreagáin from now on. Much credit is due to Michael Dillon, acting Secretary of the ground committee. We note, too, that Mountbellew has not neglected the players or the spectators for excellent dressing facilities for players and toilet amenities for the public will be provided. This is only proper. Well done Mountbellew.

## SCALE OF GRANTS

A scale of grants, which will be payable in future to G.A.A. grounds in the provinces was devised at a recent meeting of the Connacht Council. It is as follows:

Club grounds—£250.

Club grounds with dressing

rooms, water and sewerage—£500.

County grounds—with dressing rooms, water and sewerage—£1,500.

Provincial grounds—£2,500.

The meeting decided to allocate investments as follows:

Carrick-on-Shannon — £500; Newport—£250; Tubbercurry—£250; Ballinamore—£100; Tarmon—£50; Vocational Schools—£50, and camogie clubs—£50.

## FR. JACK SOLON

New Chairman of the Galway County Board is Rev. Fr. Jack Solon, C.C., Kiltormer, the former star Clare hurler of the forties. Fr. Solon is a brother of Dermot Solon of Clare and Munster hurling fame. The Rev. Chairman has done great work on Kiltormer's new G.A.A. Park and is already inspiring Galway hurling with his great enthusiasm. He is also a first class golfer—a game he will not be able to devote much time to in the year ahead. We wish him well and hope he resuscitates Galway hurling. It badly needs a boost.

## GALWAY G.A.A. YEARBOOK

I am glad to see that a new G.A.A. publication will be published this month. I refer to the proposed Galway G.A.A. Yearbook. Among the contributors are Sean Purcell, Martin Newell, Ken Croke (New York), Jack Mahon, Jimmy Duggan, Patrick McDermott (U.C.G.), Rev. P. Mahon, Rev. B. Kavanagh (St. Jarlath's College), Joe Sweeney, (Ballygar) and Mickey Cullinane (Turloughmore). The book will carry club statistics of the county up to date and a special

(Continued on page 49.)



Jimmy Duggan, who contributes to the Galway G.A.A. year book.

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(From page 47.)

feature on each of the champion clubs in the county.

#### CLUB ITEMS

Noel Tierney, the Galway star full-back will captain his club Milltown in 1964.

Rumour has it that George Geraghty, Roscommon's mercurial high fielding footballer will assist Castlebar Mitchels in the year ahead. Tommy Quigley was re-elected captain of this club once again with Ray Clarke and Liam Malone as vice-captains. Why two?

Captain of the Kiltimagh junior team for 1964 is Johnny Lydon. Martin Shannon, the St. Jarlath's College star, will captain the club's minor string.

Secretary of the Tubbercurry club for 1964 is Mr. M. O'Hara, a fine Gael.

Captain of the recently revived Castlegar hurling club for 1964 is Tommy Egan, while brother John Joe will again be the club secretary.

Chairman of the Ballinasloe St. Grellan's club for 1964 is Mr. M. O'Connor, U.C.D.

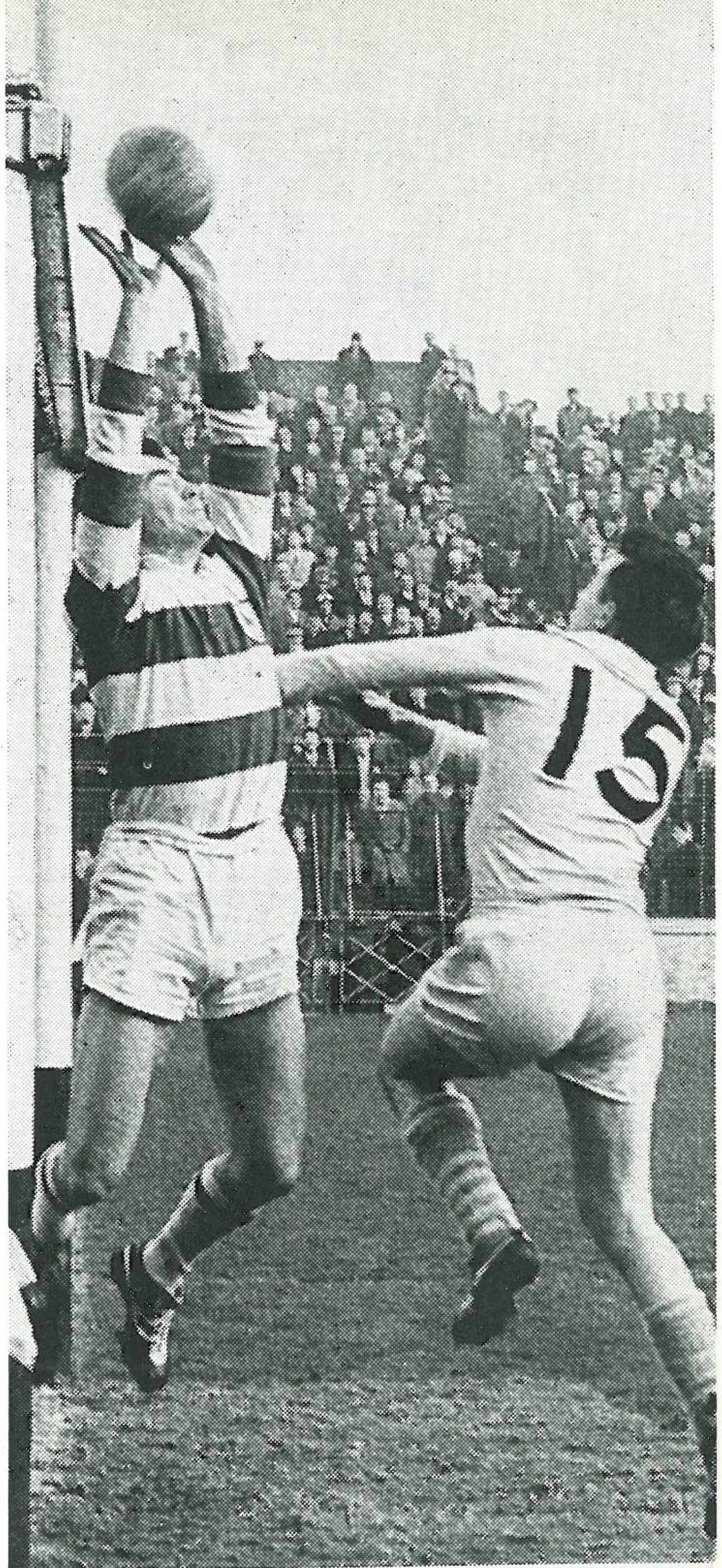
Gerry Gorman was elected Chairman of the Woodford club for 1964.

Fr. Paddy Costello, a former Galway footballer, was re-elected Chairman of the Mountbellew club.

Mr. J. J. McGowan, former Mayo, Castlebar and U.C.G. footballer has submitted a very fine development scheme to Mayo Secretary, Johnny Mulvey, for McHale Park, Castlebar, their provincial venue.

Achill's very efficient Gael, Mr. P. Joyce, N.T., has been re-elected club secretary. The annual football competition for the Scanlon Cup is being run on the Island at the moment.

With that, I'll conclude the "Note-book" and hope, even if it is a wee bit premature, that you all have an enjoyable day on March 17. Beannacht libh.



*The Louth goalkeeper, Andy Kieran, saves under pressure from Jackie Gilroy, Dublin's left full-forward, in the Division III league match at Croke Park on February 9. Dublin won by 3-9 to 0-7.*

# MUNSTER MEDLEY

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

CORK County Board are considering the purchase of a tape recorder for the purpose of getting together as much information as possible concerning the early days of the Association in the county.

This question of G.A.A. history has been cropping up in various forms for many years, and one often wonders if we have really made up our minds on the best way of tackling what is really a complex problem.

I have some experience of the subject, in that about thirty years ago I attempted a comprehensive history of a particular county. I found the actual collection of the material a fascinating study, but

memory is a fickle thing, and much of the information supplied was found contradictory when an attempt was made to piece it together.

Most of the old timers had vivid recollection of particular successes, and they elaborated on these. They often gave considerable notice to insignificant tournament victories whilst important championship ties were ignored, particularly if their favourite happened to be on the losing side.

Reference to newspaper files of the period proved even more frustrating. Little notice was given to Gaelic Games in the early days, even in the provincial press.

Occasionally you felt you had found something worth while when you came across advance notice of some important game—obviously a supplied report. It was only on rare occasions, however, that this was followed by the result or any information on the actual match.

It is getting late in the day now for recording the actual happenings of the early G.A.A. days. However, a lot of useful work could be accomplished by concentrating on the parishes and attempting to get to the root of the organisation in each area. The difficulties encountered, the methods of travel, the journeys covered, the colourful figures and events all make interesting reading and would be well worth preserving.

Every county should aim at the collection of certain information as the very minimum. This should include the background to the foundation, the men and the clubs associated with the establishment of the county Board, and a factual year to year account of the various championships—not elaborate, yet highlighting any outstanding characteristics.

The ebb and flow of County organisation, peculiar happenings and outstanding personalities, along with some coverage of handball, and athletic events in the years when the latter remained under G.A.A. control, are all items demanding recognition.

This is stimulating work for any enthusiasts willing to devote time and study to an absorbing subject, and I hope that now that the matter has been brought to notice it will be tackled energetically not only in Cork but in all the other counties as well.

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### CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Tipperary and Cork are endeavouring to have the intercounty club championships revived. In this they are taking a step backwards, but one that many hold is in the right direction.

We pay lip service to the club as the basic unit of the G.A.A., yet the tendency down the years has been to take from the clubs and build the glamour around the counties. To continue travelling unchecked along this road can bring us to only one ending—a situation where those lucky enough to secure county recognition would enjoy all the play, with the role of the rest that of mere spectators.

The G.A.A. was founded for the purpose of bringing the games back to the ordinary people and its big objective must remain at the very minimum a club in every parish and all the youth of Ireland regularly in action on the playing fields.

### LIMERICK PLAN

Limerick County Convention took the unusual step of giving a special committee, composed of officials of the County and Divisional Boards, a virtual blank cheque for the season to effect any changes they think fit in all aspects of G.A.A. management and administration within the County.

The immediate objective of this Committee is to improve the number and standard of senior clubs in both hurling and football. Here the emphasis will be on the parish unit, and group teams picked from junior clubs are being discouraged. Similarly, efforts are being made to prevent junior and minor clubs seeking talent outside the parish. A strict parish rule operates for juvenile play and whilst it is not proposed to extend this to the other grades, junior and minor clubs will only be permitted to take players from one adjoining parish — and then only if that parish has no club of its own.

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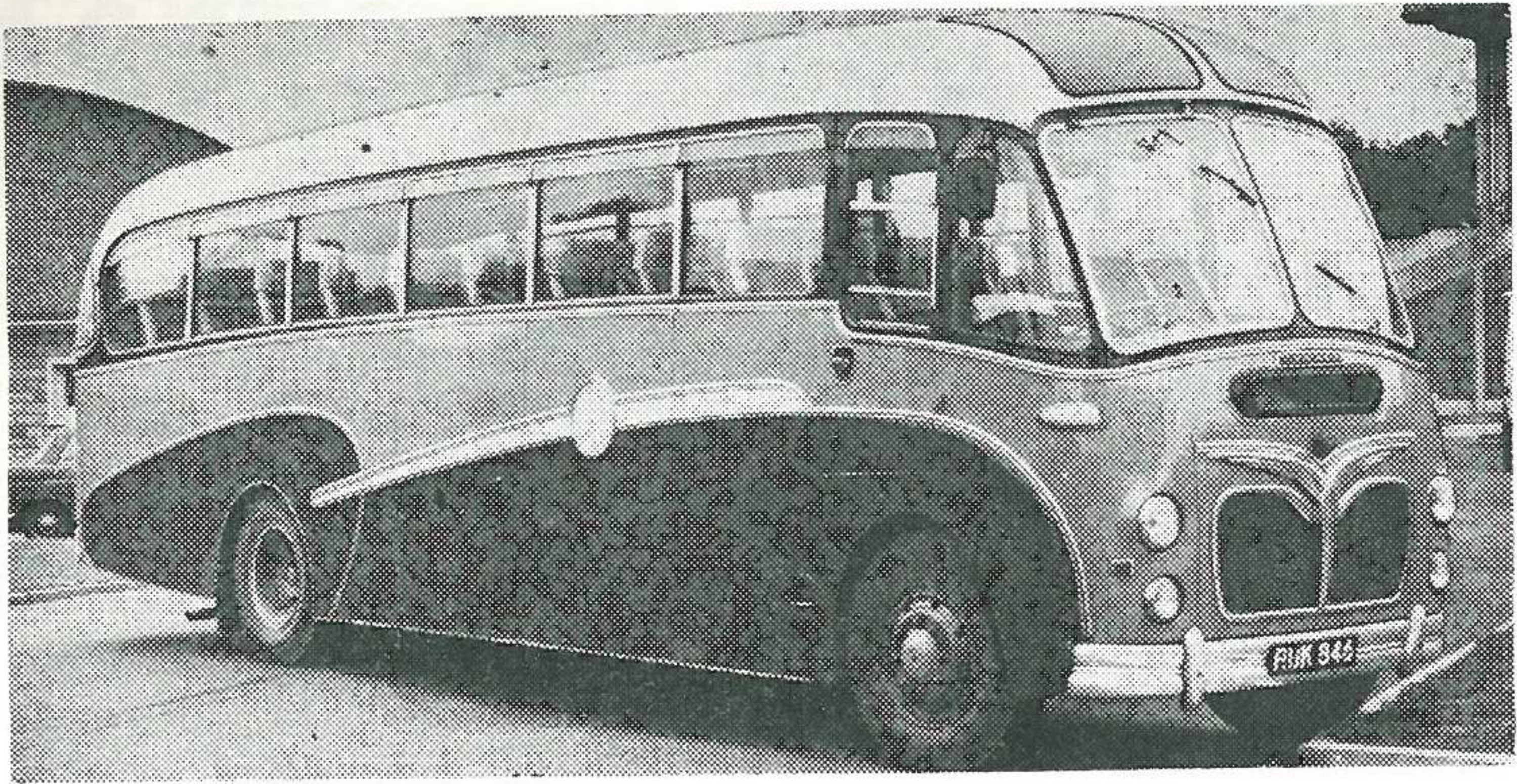


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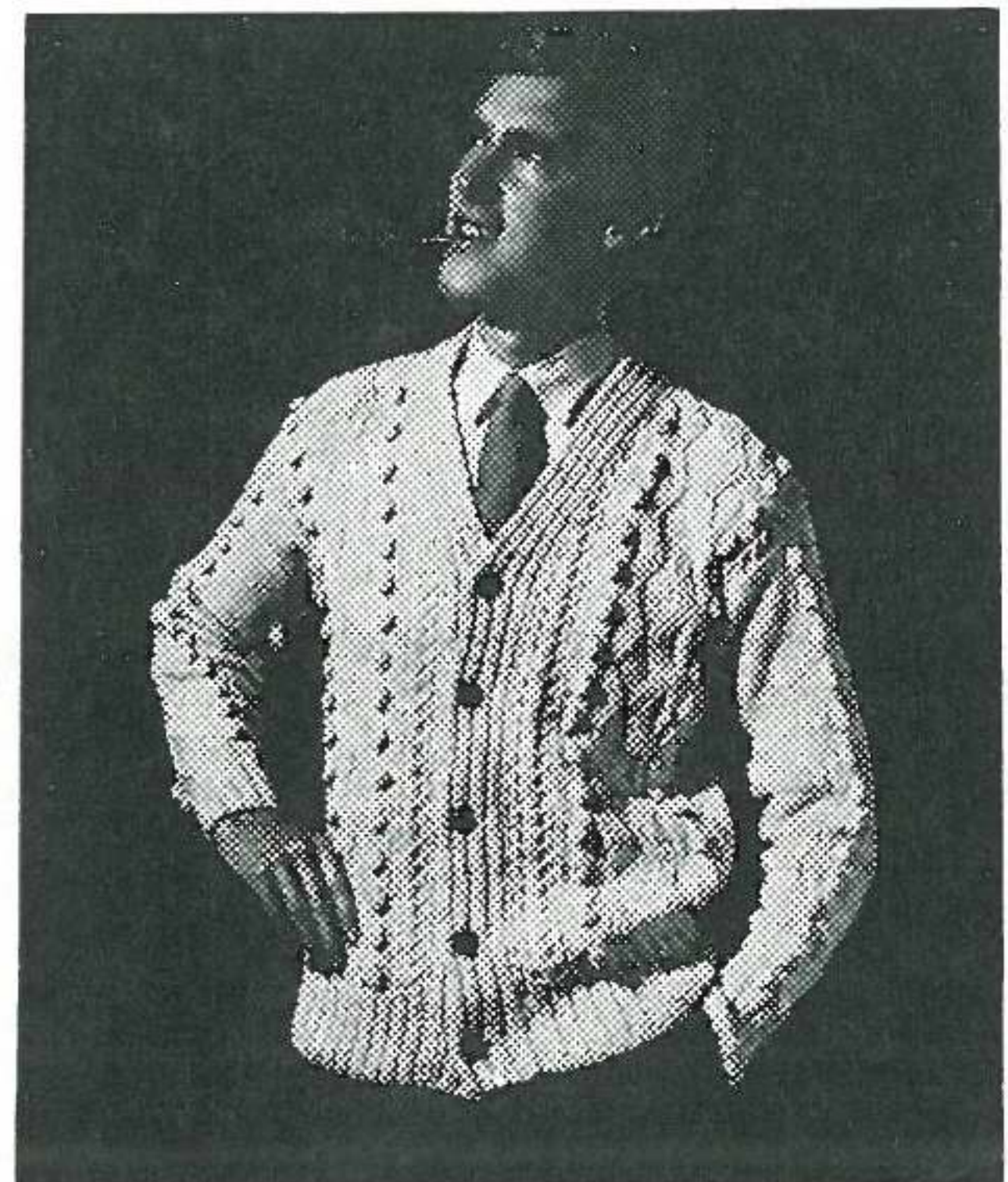
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# A TRAGIC LOSS TO DONEGAL

The recent death of Davy Brennan, former Chairman of the Donegal County Board, has shocked Gaels all over Ulster. His passing at the age of 42 years came at a time when he was considered by many clubs as a leading contender for the post of County Chairman for 1964. I have known Davy Brennan for the past fifteen years, as a fearless player with his native Glenties and Donegal; as county selector; as Chairman for many years of the S.W. Divisional Board and as County Chairman. He was also a capable and zealous referee and a man who really had his heart in the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Davy was of a kindly, jovial nature. His main interest was the local St. Conal's Club, Glenties, which he served so well in his playing days and he was with them when they were beaten in this year's junior county final. He was also the driving force behind the Glenties park committee. In recent years emigration has hit that area rather heavily, but this great man always kept a team going in Glenties and the progress which they made in this year's championship was mainly due to the enthusiasm and efforts of their leader. Donegal will miss this very capable legislator and an ardent Gael.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a anam.  
**LAGAN CUP**

The coming clash of Fermanagh and Antrim in the Lagan Cup semi-final should be a real thriller. Fermanagh have always found the Glensmen a tough proposition and one can be assured that Harry O'Neill's care will take the field fully determined to earn a place in the final. This is a good Antrim

side which is on the upgrade and players such as McKay, McCorry, Duggan, McAtamney, Grogan, Totten, McNeill and Lynn will hold their own in any company.

Fermanagh started their climb following a heavy defeat by Sligo in a challenge game last year. The players concentrated on training hard and under the direction of teachers Mick Brewster (who plays with Omagh St. Enda's) and John Joe Tracey of Devenish. In Belfast the county team trainer Pat O'Hara takes care of the players who were domiciled there and their fitness helped in no small way to bring them to the semi-final. Club football is good in Fermanagh and this augurs well for the county team. The Maguire county has in all forty-six clubs affiliated and when I talked to Tom Fee their zealous County Secretary, he was quietly confident of his team's ability to reach the final. And if Fer-

managh can play as they did when beating Donegal at Irvinestown, I feel that Antrim are in for a tough hour from P. T. Tracey, John Maguire, Des O'Rourke and company.

## JIM MCKEEVER

It was a rather big disappointment for Derry followers at the recent county convention, when Jim McKeever, who now resides in Belfast, said that he would not be able to undertake the post of county team manager. It is indeed a great pity that McKeever, probably the greatest player Derry ever produced, did not undertake the job as his advice and guidance based on experience on the field and as a physical education instructor at St. Mary's Training College, Belfast, would have been a great asset to the present county team. The Derry management and selectors have put good teams on  
**(Continued on page 54)**

## 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.

(Continued from page 53)

the field but their tendency to change players all over the place has lost many games. Players like Brian Devlin, George Magee, Dinny McKeever, Billy O'Kane, and Brian Mullan have been switched back and forward far too often to allow them to settle to their game.

#### BASIL GUIDERA

Back home again from England to Moneymore in his native County Derry is Basil Guidera former Ulster Council representative and vice chairman of the Derry County Board. Basil is a man of great national ideals and while in England at different periods he taught Irish classes for the Gaelic League in Liverpool, Birmingham and

other cities. During his term of activity on the Derry Board a few years ago he organised Gaelic League classes in Greenlough where he worked with the firm of Teady McErleans and in other centres in South Derry. Let us hope then that this capable administrator will settle down in his native Moneymore and undertake again the work which he loves.

#### DR. O'CALLAGHAN CUP

Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan — Bishop of Clogher, showed his appreciation of Gaelic games recently when he was present to present the Dr. O'Callaghan Cup to St. Tiernach's School, Clones. This cup was donated by Dr. O'Callaghan for competition among the

secondary schools of the Farney County.

#### JOE SALMON

Congratulations to Joe Salmon, from Eyrecourt, the famous Galway hurler, on his recent engagement to Miss Sal Morgan, manageress of Alma House, Monaghan, and formerly from Loughrea, County Galway. They hope to reside in Cork where Joe is now employed.

#### NEW SECRETARY

John McArdle N.T., the Monaghan footballer, has been appointed County Secretary for 1964 in preference to Michael Feeney N.T. who is Ulster Council representative. John is one of the twin McArdles of Drumhowan.

(Continued on next page)

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### Foilseacháin Rialtais

Stuara Ard-Oifig an Phoist,  
Baile Átha Cliath.  
nó ó dhioltóiri leabhar.

AN GÚM

(Continued from previous page)

His brother Tom was in goal for Ulster last year but the county's poor displays in 1963 did not give him the opportunity of upholding his reputation. This young legislator can be relied on to work hard to put Monaghan football back in its rightful place.

#### NORTH DOWN RESURGENCE

Some time ago I travelled through the northern part of County Down—to Crossgar, Ballygowan, Saintfield, Comber, Killyleagh, Newtownards, Bangor, Donaghadee and Ballinahinch with its memories of Betsy Gray. I thought of this vast area of the Mourne County without a G.A.A. club. But not for long — Down's victorious march is at last bearing fruit and in the past few months three new clubs have sprung to life in this rather anglicised territory. Yes! the story of the famous Irish heroine Betsy Gray may again be told around the fireside in Newtownards and Bangor when Gaelic players get together to discuss the aims and ideals of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

It is indeed encouraging to find a club at Darragh Cross, a small cross roads near to the villages of Ballygowan and Saintfield. Eamonn Swail of Kilclief and Paddy Mullan of Darragh Cross brought the players together here first. They now have a membership of twenty five with B. Mageean as secretary; T. Murray as treasurer. ,

In Bangor two young determined men, Tom Ward and Jim O'Hare, called a meeting of all people interested in the G.A.A. last December and as a result of their efforts the first ever Gaelic football team was started in Bangor with the following officials:—

President—Fr. McAtamney P.P.; chairman—Frank Campbell; vice-chairman—Fr. Harper; Secretary—M. McShannon; treasurer — H. Close.

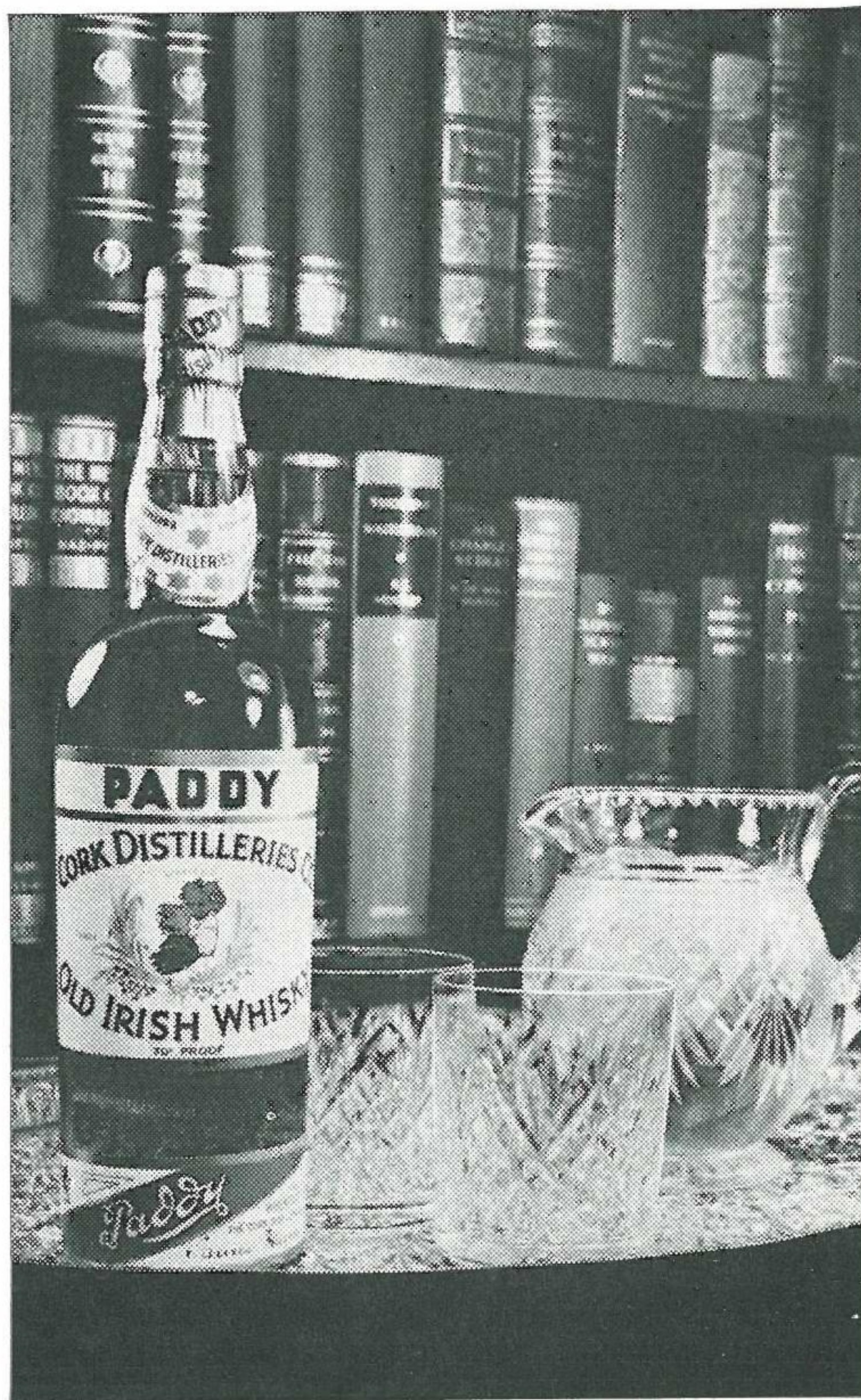
The St. Congalls club has a membership of thirty. However,

we must look to Baile Ard Uladh for the greatest progress where the local club has an affiliated membership of seventy. Scrabo Harps, Newtownards, was formed following an article about inactivity in North Down by T. P. Murphy in the "Downman" as far back as August, 1963. Two local lads—Joe McCormack and Stephen Noble got practice outings going and

they now have junior, minor and schoolboy teams. The committee in charge is:—

President—Dr. E. Quiery; chairman—T. McLaughlin; vice-chairman—P. McCormack; secretary—J. Mullan; treasurer—S. A. Noble.

All the new clubs want to see a north Down league formed, but if not they will probably take part in the East Down league.



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## A CORK READER ADDS TO MY REPERTOIRE

Says Philip Roderick

THOUSANDS of people, God love us, think that the life of a newspaper man is a glamorous one. They see us as men leading colourful, exciting lives, racing from one big sporting fixture to another, meeting famous sportsmen every day of the week . . . in fact, as gentlemen leading the life of Riley.

Possibly. And maybe it is glamorous in a way . . . but, for all the glamour there is a great deal of monotony. So much so that we tend to become a little jaded and cynical at times. After all, as a good friend of mine—a man with thirty or forty years' of sports journalism behind him—said to me not long ago—"It happened last year, it happened this year . . . and it will happen again next year."

And that is all so true. Sports stars spring up every year, they flicker through their brief hour of glory and then they fade and die. As one disappears, another comes up and the cycle goes on forever. Yesterday's hero is forgotten today; today's hero will be a memory tomorrow. Newspaper men write stories about stars; time comes when they look for a new star to write about. It is as easy as all that. No wonder we become cynical. We have seen it all before . . . and we will see it all again.

But, every now and then we write a story and we strike a little gold. We write for thousands . . . but if our stories reach just one reader, then we glow with satisfaction. Writing becomes

worthwhile again and we forget our cynicism.

And just two months ago, I struck a little gold—and it gave me a great lift.

If you remember I wrote a story about the Kirwans of Kilmacthomas, one of the greatest athletic families we have had in this country. How many of you read it, I do not know . . . but I do know that, in Little Island in Cork, one man did read it and, more important still, he took a little time off to sit down at a table and write me a letter.

In that particular story, I wrote that the first hurley to be made in County Waterford was fashioned by a carpenter on the Kirwan farm . . . and the man who wrote to me from Little Island is the son of the man who fashioned that first hurley.

He is William Meehan and he wrote :

*Dear Mr. Roderick,—I read with great interest your article on the Kirwans of Kilmacthomas in GAELIC SPORT and it brought back many happy memories for me as it was my father, the late Patrick Meehan of Killerquill, Clonea, Carrick-on-Suir who made the first hurley. He called it the "Gander's Neck" and it certainly started something for he became a very well-known maker of hurleys afterwards. He supplied them to every county and college in Ireland and, indeed, also sent them off to many foreign countries.*

*I spent sometime making hurleys but had to give it up owing to the*

*shortage of ash. I still make them for anyone with the "makings."*

The late Patrick Meehan, linked so closely with one of Ireland's most famous sporting families, was, in his own right, also a very remarkable man and played a memorable role for his country in the troubled years that followed 1916.

On one famous occasion he climbed to the top of the old Danish castle in his native Clonea and fixed the National Flag right on top of it. This was no mean feat, for at the time the stairs of the Castle had collapsed completely . . . and the distance to the top was over 100 feet.

This caused consternation not alone in Clonea but throughout Waterford and eventually the country. The British forces were ordered to remove the flag . . . but that was a little easier ordered than done.

They made many futile attempts to get the flag down but, despite all their efforts, it flew there proudly until time and weather eventually accomplished what the might of the British forces in County Waterford had failed to do.

So you see, quite often it is extraordinary what one little piece of writing will do. I wrote a story on a famous sporting family and now I have been able to add another chapter about another great man to it. The next time I write about the Kirwans—and sports journalists always write more than one story about subjects they like—I will be able to add in the story of Patrick Meehan . . . a man, who in his own way, added a little to the history of our greatest sporting association.

But his son's letter did more than help to add to a good story . . . it also brought a little ray of sunshine into the heart of the man who wrote it.

And for that, Mr. William Meehan . . . God Bless you.

# CLUICHÍ AGUS CEÓL

Le Seán O Dúnaigín

**C**HONAIC mé litir le déanaí ag rá nár chóir go mbeadh "Faith of Our Fathers" á chanadh roimh cluichí agus go raibh deasgnáth an Chumainn Lúchleas ró-shollúnta ar fad. Cé go raibh mé beagán ar buile faoin litir i dtosach báire thosaigh mé ag smaoinemh faoin ábhar agus sa deireadh ní raibh mé cinnte.

Deir bunreacht an Chumainn go bhfuil sé neamh-pholaiticiúil agus neamh-sheicteach (non-sectarian). Má claoítear go dlúth daingean leis an dá phrionsabal sin ní cóir

go gcanfaí aon amhrán a chuirfeadh olc ar Phrotastúnach nó ar Iúdach agus tagann cúpla pointe speisiúla chun cuimhnimh anseo. Ní thig le Iúdaigh cluiche d'imirt ar an Satharn agus de ghnáth ní ghlacann Protastúnaigh páirt in imeachtaí spóirt a himrítear Dé Domhnaigh.

Ach chonaic mé Protastúnaigh ag imirt peile is iomáint agus d'imir mé leo. Ní raibh aon rud neamhghnáthach ansan agus ní raibh aon dán diadha á chantan ach oiread. Cluichí club atá i gceist agam agus go hiondúil ní bhíonn deasgnáth

speisialta leo siúd ach ag cáinteadh an mholtóra. Nuair a thagaimíd go dtí na cluichí móra is scéal eile ar fad atá ann.

Cuirtear an dá fhoireann "ar paráid" lastiar de bhanna ceoil éigin agus go bhfoire Dia orainn is trua mhéileach an iarracht chun seinme a dheineann cuid acu. Ní bhíonn furmhór na nimreoirí ar a suaimhneas sa pharáid seo, cuid acu ag siúl ar nós cuma liom. Ag breathnú ar na paráideanna seo is cinnte nach náisiún mileatha muid is cuma cad deirtear faoi na Fianna agus Daithí Rí fadó.


Ach ansan nuair a cantar "Faith of Our Fathers" agus "Amhrán na bhFian" tagann fonn troda ar an lucht féachana agus cuirtear milleán ar imreoir má bhíonn sé beagán guagach.

Tá áiteanna ar leith do na dánta diadha agus ní ar pháirceanna na hÉireann roimh tosnú chluiche iad. An bhfaca éinne sliothar á bhualadh sa tséipéal riamh? Nó ar chuala inne gáir chatha mar "Up Oaly" i roilig?

Dá seasfadh an dá fhoireann in aon líne ós cóir suíochán an Uachtaráin fháid is a seinfí "Amhrán na bhFian" lá an chraoibh-chluiche ba leor sin, im' thuairim. Aon uair eile, a bhéadh tábhachtach go leor chuige, d'fhéalfadh na tacaí bheith 'na suíomh agus na tosaigh ag lár páirce fhaid is a seinfí.

Molaim go gcuirfí deireadh leis an mór shiúl timpeall na páirceanna agus nach gcuirfí aon bhrú ar Phrotastúnaigh leis na dánta diadha is cuma más uathu siúd a fuairamar an fonn "Faith of Our Fathers" nó nach ea.

Ceapaim gur bac mór é an creideamh a mheascadh le spórt. Ceárd é do thuairim-se?



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# SMALL GATHERING OF OLD GAELS

By Jim O'Brien

**C**UMANN NA SEAN GAEL spread its wings to Kildare recently and there was a gathering of the veterans at Droichead Nua. The organisation's national chairman, Paddy McDonnell, was present as was secretary Tony Herbert. However the attendance left much to be desired. Less than thirty turned up and it would suggest that they all die young—or else have short memories in the county of the Lily Whites.

Cumann na Sean Gael is worthy of support. They are not looking for former stars or former inter-county men even. The membership is open to all—be he former star or a former substitute on the local junior team. It is an organisation which can do much good work—in a quiet way, for many deserving and needy Gaels. But it can do little unless it gets support. Let's hope the County Kildare branch, under the care of Peter Watters and Paddy Murrihy, will grow and eventually show a strength worthy of a county with Kildare's background.

## OFFALY PLANS

Three men will in future take full charge of the Offaly footballers during each game. There are seven selectors but they must nominate three from among themselves, to rule from the sideline during each game. Dublin's Peter O'Reilly will as usual train the team, while Brother Denis of the Presentation Brothers, Birr, is now training the county hurlers.

## PARTITIONED

Still on the subject of Offaly, I didn't know until recently that it was a partitioned county. It came up at the County Convention. It

seems that that part of Offaly, south of Shinrone, and this includes Moneygall and Dunkerrin, is under the jurisdiction of the North Tipperary Board. Likewise, a section of North Tipperary is in Offaly for G.A.A. purposes. This has been the position for quite some time.

However it now seems that each section wants to return to its old allegiance—but won't be let. The North Tipperary Board turned down the "cut off" Tipperarymen and the Offaly Convention did likewise with an application from its partitioned brethren. It doesn't appear altogether fair.

## UNUSUAL FUNCTION

They had an unusual evening at Termonfechin, Co. Louth, recently. No less than three hundred people turned up for a supper and dance and the occasion was sponsored by the local G.A.A. club, St. Fechins, in conjunction with the Seapoint Pitch and Putt club. During the evening golf trophies and G.A.A. medals were presented—and as they say, a great night was had by all.

This type of joint function is new to me as far as the G.A.A. is concerned and I am not sure if it is a good thing. Perhaps it is. But I would certainly like to hear a discussion on it. The music at this particular function was provided by the Comet-Tones Dance Band. Does this not suggest a breach of Rule 29 . . . but then I wasn't there.

## CHRIS DELANEY

How the years fly. It seems only yesterday since the mighty Chris Delaney was starring with Laois and Leinster, yet he has just retired from the Garda Síochána after thirty years service. Chris

was one of the finest full forwards I have seen. Only Mayomen Paddy Moclair and Tom Langan deserve to rate ahead of him—and then only just. His nephew, Noel, of current Leinster and Laois fame, has a long way to go before quite filling the position with the same class.

## NEW MEATH CLUB

The Geneva Disarmament Conference was nothing to compare with the hard negotiations which went on to bring about an amalgamation of the Co. Meath, Drumbaragh and Ceanannus Mor senior clubs. Old spleens were buried and resurrected again—new ones were thought of—a splinter group took shape. But then we are living in the era of negotiation triumph. If America and Russia could bring about a Test-Ban treaty surely Drumbaragh and Ceanannus Mor could do it. And they did. The result is Colmcille Gaels. It will be interesting to see how it goes.

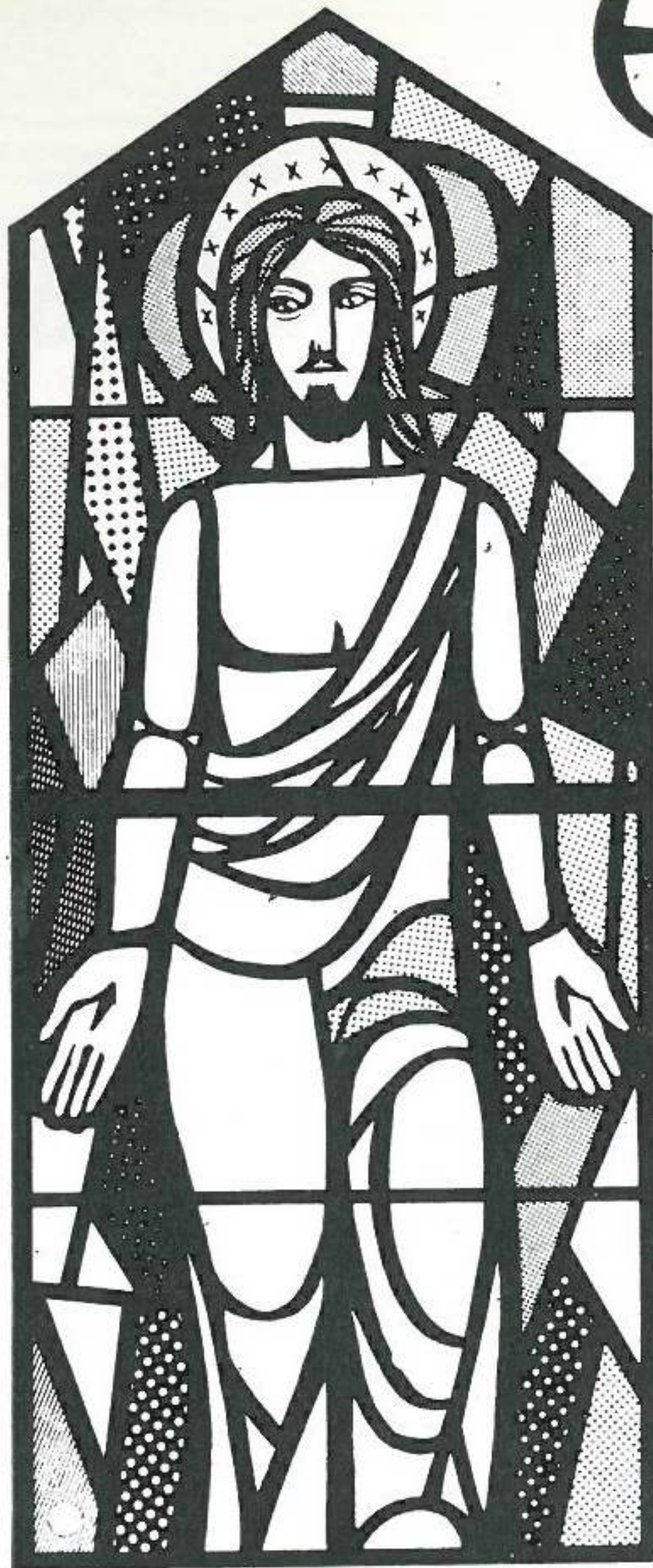
## CARLOW MEDALS

I hear that they nearly had to hire a lorry to get all the medals along to the McGrath Memorial Hall, Muinebeg, recently. No less than eighty were presented in the course of the evening. The local hurling club captured minor and junior championship titles, plus minor and senior league honours during 1963.

## GOOD IDEA

Offaly send an unusual motion to Congress. It calls for a club All-Ireland championship — but confined to the weaker hurling counties. It certainly is a good idea. Most of these counties are

(Continued on page 61)



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# CONNACHT COUNCIL

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JUNE 7th

**Leitrim v Roscommon**

At Carrick-on-Shannon

JUNE 21st

**Sligo v Galway**

At Sligo

JUNE 28th

**Mayo v Roscommon or Leitrim**

At Castlebar or Ballinamore

JULY 12th

**Final**

Venue to be fixed.

(Continued from page 59)

in no way overloaded with hurling fixtures — either club or inter-county, so the old argument against this type of competition does not hold. Furthermore, most of the weak hurling counties are bunched together thereby keeping travel costs at a minimum.

#### FINANCE

Some interesting financial figures — Wexford earned £1,682 in the 1962-'63 National Hurling League as against £57 in the football competition. I remember when it used to be the other way around. Just think that less than twenty years ago Wexford was primarily a football county.

And still on money matters — the treasurer of the East Wicklow Board stated at the annual convention that he began 1963 with £1-5-0 in the kitty and finished with exactly the same amount. Not a penny was paid out or received during the year.

#### MEMBERSHIP CARD

There is nothing wrong with borrowing a good idea and I think that all progressive Leinster clubs could do well by learning from the men of Dunmore, Co. Galway. There the local club, who won the 1963 county S.F. title, have an ideal membership card which is a credit to them and to the man who planned it — former county and interprovincial star, Jack Mahon.

It measures about three inches by two and inside there are four pages. Yet in that little space there is almost everything one needs to know about this progressive club. There is a fine photograph of the present senior team; a record of every game in every grade in which the club engaged in during 1963; a full list of club officers and a roll of honour of every senior captain since the club was founded in 1886. The cost of producing this membership card was not great but it shows the pride which the members have in their club. No wonder they are county champions.

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## PRESS DOES GOOD JOB

I HAVE long been a convention fan. This year I was at the gathering of the Gaels of Kildare and let me say for a start how impressed I was by the manner in which Chairman, Liam Geraghty, handled the entire affair. His ruling and command of the Convention was fair, impartial and firm—just as it should be.

The Secretary, Peter Delaney, had some hard words to say about television and the press in his very precise report. I agreed with him regarding the former but not the latter. I think the press is doing a good job, and I am referring now to national and provincial newspapers. There are a very small minority of provincial papers who do not meet their obligations to the Gaels of their respective counties—but these are very few and far between.

We must always remember too that newspapers are private concerns set up to make money for their owners or shareholders. Strictly speaking, a newspaper can do what it likes and is not obliged to comply with the wishes of any section of the public. This would not be a wise commercial policy but it is a free country.

However, the position of Telefis Eireann is entirely different. Here we have a concern owned, not by private individuals, but by the people of Ireland. It was set up with tax-payers' money and national revenue. Everybody who

wishes to have a television set must, by law, subscribe to Telefis Eireann through the purchase of a licence.

This being so T.E. is very much obliged to serve the wishes and the interests of the majority and this is not being done with regard to Gaelic Games. The coverage is inadequate and poor.

Roscommon County Secretary, Phil Gannon, was another to speak out on this point. He stated in his report that other games are being given virtually as much television time as those of the G.A.A. and he calls for an effort to improve the position.

I doubt if there were many Chairmen in Ireland who could say what was said by Jack Daly at the Clare Convention. In his address he stated that there was not one unsporting incident reported during the entire year. What a fine position for a county to be in.

Yet, the fact of the matter is that the position was the very opposite in Clare during 1962. The county had one "incident" after another — many of them even meriting a mention in the national press.

How did Clare change the position? Well it all reverts back to Jack Daly—a young, forceful and determined Ennis engineer, who took office a year ago. From the outset he made the position clear. He stated that he would deal with every incident, applying

the rule without fear or favour. It took but one month for Clare to know that he meant what he said and that was that. There were no "incidents" and the county has had a fruitful year.

Discipline is a great thing. With it a county can get places and I have a feeling that Clare, particularly in hurling, are about to come back in style. In my book they will be a major force in 1965—and perhaps even sooner.

Another young and determined County Chairman, Dr. Jim Brosnan, spoke out plainly at the Kerry Convention. Jim played the game hard but manly and his approach to administration is similar.

He has in a few short years established himself as an outstanding critic of the Central Council. Most men would avoid such a task but not the Kerryman. And let's face it the Central Council, like every other body, should be criticised when needs be. Actually to be kept on its toes it needs criticism.

There was some interesting voting in some counties. For example in Cavan current star, Jim McDonnell, topped the poll in the vote for delegates to the Ulster Convention. Behind him were such illustrious men as Mick Higgins and County Chairman, T. P. O'Reilly.

In Laois, too, youth conquered. In the vote for the positions of

(Continued on page 65)

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delegates to the Leinster Convention, Ollie Fennell outscored Chairman, Jack Conroy, who had just been elected to office, with the legendary Jack Delaney in third place.

But then let's face it—this is how it should be. The G.A.A. is primarily an organisation for the youth and provided they have a proper grasp of the purpose of the Association and have the necessary ability, I say send the youth to the front lines.

If there is something going to be done then they are the men to do it. However, if you want talk—good talk and less action, then leave it to old-timers like myself. We simply love talk but the pity is that we are getting stiff in the bones.

There were hard words against canvassing both at the Cork and Laois Conventions. It is a fact, of course, that canvassing for office is widespread. It is human nature I suppose. However there is an answer—simply don't vote for the man who canvasses your vote.

I hear that they are still mighty sore up Cavan way about Breffni Park being overlooked by the Parks Committee which recently selected a venue in each province for special development. I fully understand how they feel. Still there is going to be no hard monopoly in this business as I understand it. Breffni Park will still get its big games—except that Casement Park will be the first choice for Ulster football finals.

The pity is that in both Ulster and Connacht there is only one senior provincial final. Munster and Leinster have football and hurling finals of almost equal interest and there are therefore more big days to be allocated.

The Leitrim County Board will in future have at least one meeting per year through the medium of Irish. This is certainly a lead for other counties. For years we have been listening to empty words con-



**JIM McDONNELL**  
*Topped the poll*

cerning the language at conventions—and even Congress, and down deep we all knew that little was going to be done about it (outside of Ulster, of course, where all Council meetings are in Irish).

It is therefore good to see Leitrim, led by its energetic and very able Secretary, Tommy O'Riordan, doing something to prove that it wasn't all really humbug.

Down Waterford way the Tom Cheasty incident evidently still lives—despite the fact that the Ballyduffman has applied for re-instatement. The County Convention passed a motion, sponsored by Ballyduff, asking that Rule 69 be deleted. This is the rule which confines discussion at Congress on the Ban to every third year.

I have a feeling that people are getting a bit tired of Ban discussions—and this includes many of those who would like to see the Rule go. We have had a tremendous amount of them in recent years. An outsider might be forgiven for thinking that it was the only rule we had in the Association.

My bet is that this Waterford motion will die a quick death at Congress.

Donegal, I see, made a fine profit on the funds-raising campaign of last year. When all the training was done there was still £800 to credit. What a fine tribute to the enthusiasm and generosity of a county which must surely eventually make it.

They took a few falls in the latter half of last year but, as I said before, it is better to learn how to fall and rise again when one is young. It is easier done then. A trouncing in an Ulster final or a Lagan Cup game does no great psychological damage. A trouncing in an All Ireland final probably would.

There was an interesting point made at the Down Convention. Out of every £60 spent by the Board only £2 goes towards hurling. This would probably hold true in most of the weaker hurling counties and it speaks for itself. If you don't put it in you simply cannot take it out.

In conclusion, a brief trip across the Atlantic to New York where some weeks back the G.A.A. of that metropolis celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The games had been going strong there for many years prior to 1914 but it was not until then that the Association was officially founded. Of the original founders only Paddy Grimes is still to the fore.

The Gaels of New York celebrated their jubilee in style and well they might. There is fifty years of fruitful work behind them. May they long continue to prosper.

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## LETTERS

A Chara—I would be obliged if you would publish in your next issue the Clare team that won the 1946 National hurling League — and also the scorers, if possible.  
**Peter McGrath.**

2 Ely Place,  
Sea Road,  
Galway.

*The team was: J. Daly, D. McInerney, P. Callaghan, T. Byrnes, D. Carroll, D. Solan, B. McMahan, A. Hannon, J. Solan, M. Nugent, R. Frost, M. Daly, M. Halloran, J. Whelan, P. Quain, (substitutes J. Minogue for Halloran, P. Lyons for Minogue).*

*The game was played at Croke Park in July of 1946 and the final score was Clare, 2-10; Dublin, 2-5. The counties had drawn (1-6 each) at Limerick six weeks previous. The man of the match was Clare mid-fielder, Jackie Solan, who had not been available for the drawn game. He is now Fr. J. Solan, C.C. and was elected County Chairman at the recent Galway Convention. Fr. Solan's brother, Dermot, was centre half-back on the Clare team. It is also interesting to note that Matt Nugent, another of Clare's heroes on that day, played in last year's Munster championship.*

*The scorers were: Clare — J. Solan, 1-5; M. Daly, 0-3; M. Nugent, 1-0; P. Quain, 0-1; P. Lyons, 0-1. Dublin—J. Prior, 1-1; T. Herbert, 1-0; E. Daly, 0-1; H. Grey, 0-1; E. Wade, 0-1; J. O'Brien, 0-1.—EDITOR.*

### CORK IN 1945

Sir—Would you please let me know the Cork team which beat Cavan in the 1945 football final.  
**T. Morrison.**

Monagurra,  
Shanagarry,  
Co. Cork.

*The team was—M. O'Driscoll, D. Magnier, P. Murphy, C. Crone, P. Cronin, T. Crowley, D. O'Connor, F. O'Donovan, E. Young, E. Casey, H. O'Neill, M. Tubridy, J. Lynch, J. Cronin, D. Beckett. (substitute—J. Ahern for E. Casey)—EDITOR.*

### TALL ORDER

A Chara—I would like to make a few suggestions. First—would it  
(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

not be better to have a weekly edition and smaller in size. In this way it would be possible to be up to-date and give previews and descriptions of games. Also why not give instructions on the rules for younger readers and finally, for a bit more encouragement, why not give free photographs of our favourite stars!

David Murphy (age 13).

Terenure,  
Dublin 6.

#### PAUL RUSSELL

A Chara—A brief word of thanks to Paul Russell for his very touching and beautifully written article on the late Johnny McGoldrick in last month's issue.

Green and Gold.

Carrick-on-Shannon.

*Green Flag, (Waterford) and S.H. (Nenagh) — Your suggestions are being considered—EDITOR.*

### RAILWAY CUP FACTS

(Continued from page 9)

This list supplies the answer. Cork have won most with a grand total of 138. Next come Tipperary with a total of 106. The full list is:—

**Hurling**—Cork (117), Tipperary (101), Limerick (95), Waterford (69), Kilkenny (57), Dublin (41), Clare (38), Wexford (15), Galway (15), Westmeath (2).

**Football**—Kerry (61), Dublin (55), Mayo (49), Galway (42), Kildare (39), Meath (39), Cavan (37), Laois (36), Louth (30), Cork (21), Offaly (20), Armagh (16), Down (14), Wicklow (13), Antrim (11), Wexford (9), Carlow (8), Derry (7), Donegal (7), Monaghan (7), Roscommon (6), Tyrone (5), Tipperary (5), Longford (4), Leitrim (4), Sligo (4), Clare (3), Westmeath (2), Fermanagh (1).

On a provincial basis, Munster have won 510 Railway Cup medals, Leinster 370, Connacht 120 and Ulster 105. Medals awarded to substitutes are not included in these lists.

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

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

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

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

# CAMOGIE COMMENT

By Agnes Hourigan

**S**T. Patrick's Day and Easter will will come upon us very close together this year, and after Easter the camogie season usually opens more or less officially in those parts of the country where the game is rarely practised to any great extent in the winter and early spring.

By Easter, of course, the Annual Congress will be over and this year I hope that the new rules will be finally approved and be ready for publication in permanent form thereafter. It is not good for the Association that we have not the up to date rules, in permanent form at the moment and the sooner we are in a position to rectify that the better. Also I must harp back on a subject that I have referred to more than once before.

For heavens sake, when we have

the new Rule Book, let it have a more attractive format; a bright cover would do no harm at all to the spread of the game.

This year the camogie Association should, properly speaking, celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the "invention" of the game, and I hope Central Council will take some steps to mark the occasion in suitable fashion.

Ten years ago there was a very fine exhibition game between Leinster and Munster at Pairc Tailteann, An Uaimh, where the first public game of camogie was played back in 1904. Perhaps the Association could go back to An Uaimh again this year, but, if so, I think the match put on should include players from all over Ireland possibly Ulster and Munster v Leinster and Connacht or else North v

South, with the dividing line drawn, say, from Dublin to Galway. Or to approach the matter from another angle we could have an exhibition game between a team selected by the President on one side and a team selected by the General Secretary on the other. But I think that the occasion should also be used as a suitable chance of spreading the game into areas where it is at present weak. The various provincial councils will best know where and when to play such exhibition games, and I trust that they will all organise at least one next Autumn.

Now that there is at last some recognition for camogie in the way of an Annual Award, I am sure there will be greater enthusiasm than ever for the game this year, but there is one matter which I hope will come before Congress and it is this, the question of an All-Ireland colleges' championship.

At present there are very keenly contested provincial colleges' championships in Ulster and Leinster, and there are excellent local championships in Cork and Galway.

I believe that if an All-Ireland colleges' championship were set up it would quickly acquire so much prestige that the schools which at present try to ignore the existence of camogie would soon be hastening to join. And if we once had a strong schools' and colleges' competition established throughout the country many of our worries about popularising the game would be ended for good and all.

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Published by "Gaelic Sport." Printed by Cityview Press Ltd., 32 Portland Place, Dublin 1.