

29 Gaelic Sport

GAA

MAY, 1964. Vol. 7. No. 5.

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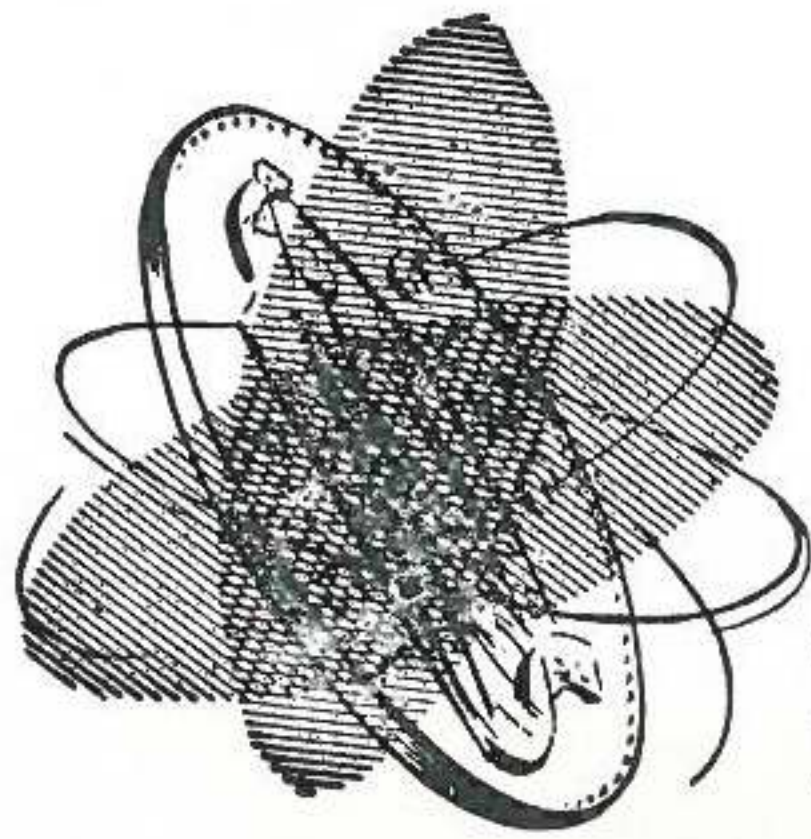
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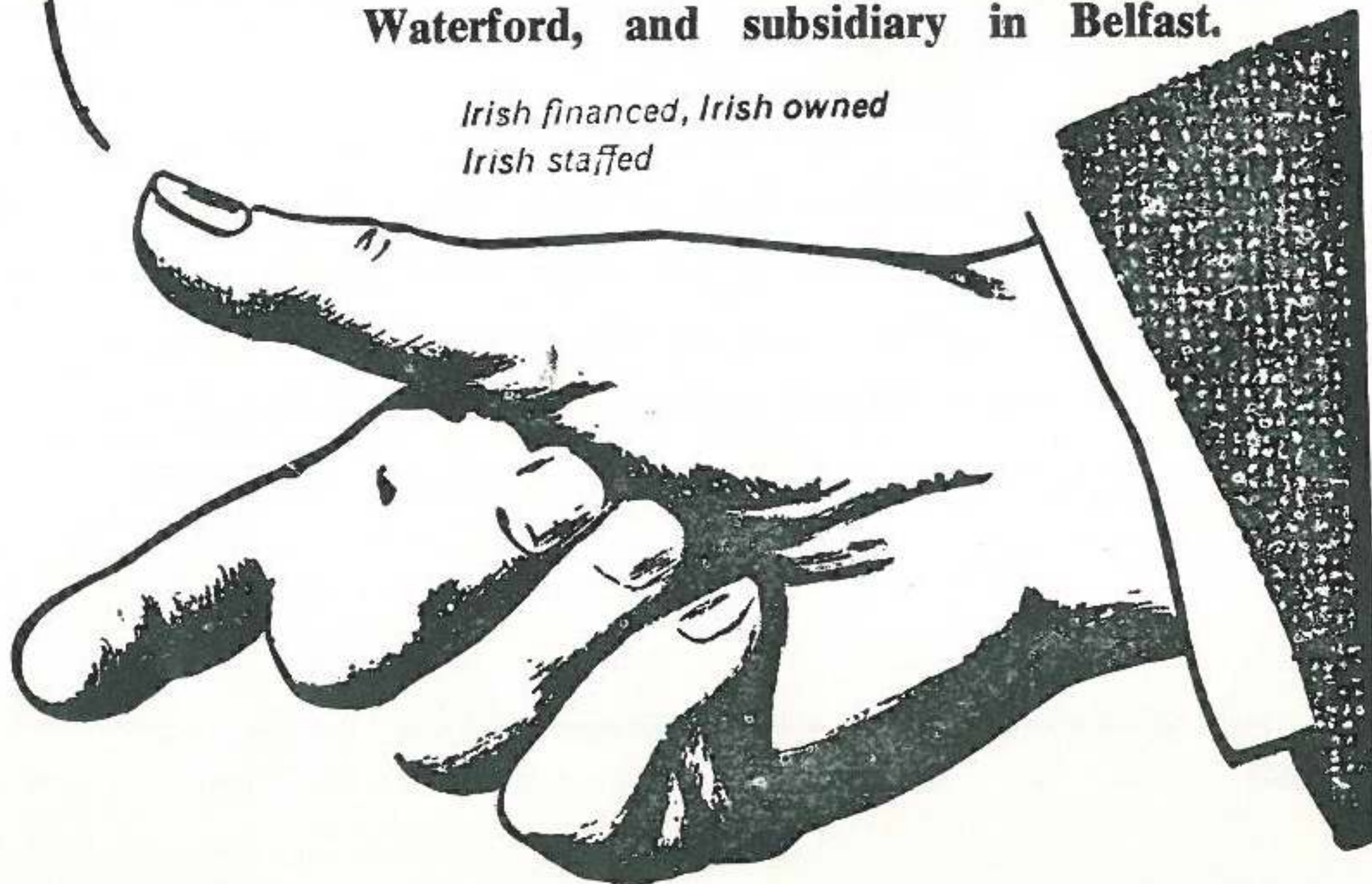
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The snipers

THERE is no denying that within the ranks of the G.A.A. there are those who wish to see a change with regard to Rule 27 (the Ban). That these people constitute a minority of the members of the Association appears quite definite, for when last a motion came before Congress asking that Rule 27 be deleted it was defeated by 272 votes to seven. That was but two years ago. There is no logical reason to believe that the position has since changed to any appreciable extent.

Still many might be misled into believing that it had. The Ban has been under considerable fire in recent times, but it must be carefully noted that virtually all of this sniping has come from people who have no connection whatsoever with the Association.

What motivates these people to pass judgment, or consider themselves competent to pass judgment, on the affairs of a national organisation to which they do not belong is not clear—and neither is it very important.

But what is important is that it is being done and their utterings are being afforded the utmost publicity.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is a democratic organisation—it always was. When and if the majority of its members decide that Rule 27 has outlived its usefulness then it will be removed or changed. But not until then.

Outside pressure must at all times be resisted. The motivation

behind such pressure is rarely one of concern for the welfare of the Association. Usually, in fact, it is the opposite.

The indications are that this outside intimidation will continue—that an effort will be made to build up the pressure with the aim of influencing next year's Congress. What a demeaning of the Association it would be if this effort were to enjoy even a minor success.

It strikes us that the attitude of all members of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael should now be one of alert resistance. A closing of the ranks is required. Those members who do not approve of Rule 27 should remember that it is but one of 275 Rules. The welfare and vigorous unity of the Association must be the overall concern. A clear demonstration of immunity to, and disapproval of, outside interference is required.

The G.A.A. embraces the best and most able of Irish manhood. It is well capable of thinking for itself. It neither requires nor welcomes prompting from outside its ranks. This we must make clear.

Perhaps the time is suitable too for a redefinition of the principles on which the Association stands. The G.A.A. is not simply one of a number of Irish sporting bodies. It is a national organisation for whom native games are but the means being utilised for the propagation of all facets of Irish nationalism. This we must all remember.

Gaelic Sport

Vol. 7. No. 5. MAY, 1964.

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COVER PICTURE

This month our cover picture features two of the "greats" in hurling—Michael Maher of Tipperary and the shy Wexford man is of course? — Nick O'Donnell.



DUBLIN FOR THE TRIP

SO I was wrong last month. Kerry are not booked for New York and what is more, they are not likely to be for quite some time. Dublin were deserving winners. They played by far the more intelligent football and once again proved themselves worthy holders of the All-Ireland crown.

It should be a particularly lively and entertaining encounter between themselves and Down. The return of Mickey Whelan will certainly add to the strength of the Metropolitans and I fancy them to come through and collect those air-tickets.

Down are, of course, still a difficult side to beat. If they get the openings there are none better at sending the ball home. Their backs too have regained much of their previous soundness but as a team they are still somewhat removed from their great days of a few years ago.

It is probably a question of spirit and enthusiasm—a difficult thing to rekindle to its former glow—especially in a team which once drank its fill of glory.

It is difficult to put one's finger directly on what is wrong with present-day Kerry football. Against Dublin there was an extraordinary lack of intelligent play among the forwards. A few seemed unfit—or perhaps it is that

they are finished. Anyway the indications are that the Kingdom will by no means start favourites in the 1964 championship race.

NEW PRESIDENT

A hearty Céad Míle Fáilte to our new President. He is a very gifted man. I have watched him develop over the past twenty years—from the flying forward of the early 'forties to the great legislator of today. He has every qualification and symbolises all that is good in the G.A.A. The Association will prosper during his reign.

CONGRESS

Leaving aside the election of President, I found congress quite a subdued affair. We often hear criticism of the Cork and Kerry delegates for having far too much to say but if it wasn't for them this year many of us would have fallen asleep. The Munstermen at least brought some humour into the proceedings.

The impatient delegates were as numerous as ever. They filed away long before half a day's work was done. There must surely be some other means of getting a day in Dublin besides coming up in the guise of a delegate to Congress. It is downright false pretences.

Any man who leaves Congress before the day's work is done is not worthy to represent his county

—and should never be allowed do so again.

County boards should make it their business to find out how their delegates behaved in this regard. Earnest club delegates should get up at the next board meeting and ask the Congress men to account for their movements. The odds are four to one that they are guilty. A straight question to the men in question will in most cases bring forth the truth.

Why should earnest men be deprived of the honour of representing their county at Congress by men who look upon the job as little more than a means of getting a free trip to Dublin. In most counties the same men are being sent year after year—and that is the main reason for this behaviour.

I say let each county find out if their delegates remained on or not. If they didn't remain on then most assuredly they should never be given the job again—they are only making little of their county and showing contempt for the great parliament of the Gaels.

CHANGE VENUE

Still on the subject of Congress—why should it be held in Dublin every year? Most national organisations nowadays move around with their annual meetings

(Continued on next page)

TOP TEN

DOWN AND CORK HEAD RANKINGS

THESE Top Ten lists are based on games played from Sunday, March 22, to Sunday, April 12, inclusive. Down marksman, Paddy Doherty, who had two highly impressive outings during the period in question, tops the football list, while Cork defender, Denis O'Riordan, leads the hurling list.

FOOTBALL

1. Paddy Doherty (Down)
2. Niall Sheehy (Kerry)
3. Mick Kissane (Dublin)
4. Sean O'Neill (Down)
5. Tom O'Hare (Down)
6. John Timmons (Dublin)
7. Gabriel Kelly (Cavan)
8. Willie Casey (Mayo)
9. Johnny Culloty (Kerry)
10. Frankie Donnelly (Tyrone)

HURLING

1. Denis O'Riordan (Cork)
2. Willie Rackard (Wexford)
3. Seamus Cleere (Kilkenny)

4. Paul Lynch (Wexford)
5. Liam Devaney (Tipperary)
6. Richie Browne (Cork)
7. Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny)
8. Ned Derivan (Galway)
9. Kevin Long (Limerick)
10. Jim Cullinan (Clare)

The list of National League top scorers, up to and including April 12, reads:—

FOOTBALL

1. Charlie Gallagher (Cavan) 4-31
2. Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry) 1-26.
3. Paddy Mulvaney (Meath) 7-7.
4. Mickey Whelan (Dublin) 2-21.
5. Paddy Doherty (Down) 3-17.
- Bobby Burns (Longford) 1-23.

HURLING

1. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny) 3-25.
2. Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) 4-14.
3. Nick O'Donnell (Wexford) 6-1.
4. John McKenna (Tipperary) 5-3.
5. Paul Lynch (Wexford) 0-17.

Note—Division II hurling games are not included.



PADDY DOHERTY, Down's left half forward, who leads "Gaelic Sport's" top ten footballers this month. Doherty also figures in the list of top National Football League scorers. With a total of 3-17 he shares fifth place with Longford's Bobby Burns, who compiled 1-23.

RUSSELL'S COLUMN

(Continued from page 4)

—usually to the holiday resorts which have plenty of accommodation.

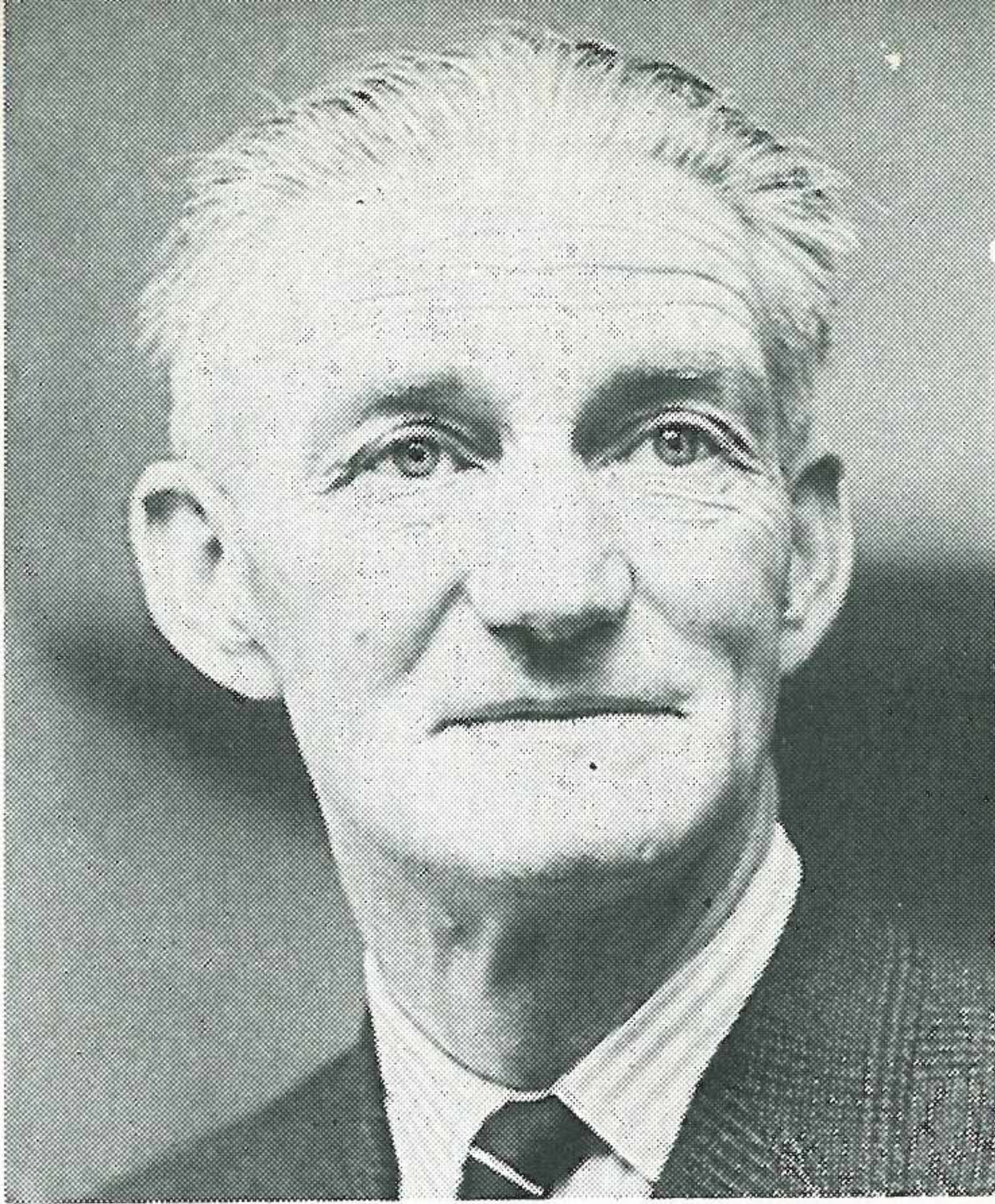
Yes, I know that there is a Rule covering the matter—Rule 65 which states that Congress must take place in Dublin. But sure the Rule could be changed. Let some club begin the move next year and I feel that it will receive con-

siderable support. A system of rotation could, if necessary, be worked out to assure that such places as Killarney, Tramore, Kilkee, Salthill, Bundoran, etc., got their turn.

Personally, I think that such a move would have a good result. Anyway it is worth thinking about for the future.

Joe Lennon's Series

OWING to pressure of space, the fifth article in Joe Lennon's series, "Football in the 'Sixties," has been held over. It will appear in our June issue.



ALF MURRAY: THE PLAYER

By EAMONN YOUNG

RAILWAY CUP football and Ulster go hand in hand or should I say hand to toe these days, but not so long ago the story was different. In fact the Cups were ten years in being before the men of the North even got to a final, to be beaten by Paddy Moclair, Brendan Nestor and company in '36.

Three years later when they came again the O'Reillys, Tom and John Joe, Jim MacCullagh and Paddy Smith failed again, this time to the Laois Delaneys, Eddie Boyle, Tony Donnelly and the rest. That was Alf Murray's first year in a Railway Cup final; he played on the half-way line.

In 1940 Leinster stopped the Northerners in the semi-final and in the following year we Munstermen were introduced (athletically) to the man who now leads the Association.

Nineteen and green as they come, I didn't have much time to look around that day in Croke Park for Johnny Walsh, Gega O'Connor and I were trying to beat Tom Reilly, Jim MacCullagh and Gerry Smith while Sean Brosnan and Paddy Kennedy had John Joe Reilly and Paddy Smith at centre-field.

But that man Murray simply drew the eye.

Lean, hard, broad of shoulder

and slim at the waist, he must have been superbly fit for Bill Casey of Dingle at centre-back, as good a man as ever stood there, had to pull every trick out of the bag to handle the flier from Armagh.

They were well ahead but we caught up and almost on full time levelled to fight another day.

A month later T. P. O'Reilly and Danny Morgan, clever wingers from Cavan, flanked Alf Murray while we brought on Paddy Bawn Brosnan at full forward (where the youthful Bawn played most of his games).

It was a tough hour but our backs held out and goalie Danno Keeffe, covered off by three giants in the late Billy Myers, Joe Keohane and Tadhg Healy, with Dick Harnedy, Bill Casey and Eddie Walsh on top at half-back, brought another Railway Cup triumph to the South (pretty rare, alas, these days).

But had we known it, our supremacy over that particular Northern team was over. On the following year they were back twice as fast and twice as fit.

Alf Murray was again on the forty with young Kevin Armstrong and "Sticky" Maguire of Derry on the wings. The three of them would torment a saint and the two Bills from Dingle, Casey and Dillon, with Eddie Walsh from Knocknagoshel, were not in those days likely to be canonised.

Like the rest of us they played it hard and honest but we could not compare in fitness with the Ulstermen who danced past us and in the half-forward line were simply devastating.

Alf Murray's style was to come out to centre-field for possession and then just about anything could happen.

He might kick it away with a

long clean sweep of limb, but more likely he'd palm-pass out to Kevin Armstrong or Maguire whose ball-control was on par with Murray's own and who in turn gave the ordinary mortal no idea of what they were going to do.

They might pass it back to Murray who by this time would have skipped away out to the wing, and the Armagh man, off on a flying solo, would be chased by all and sundry who wouldn't worry over a neat little trip or jersey-pull if they could get near him.

The solid charge that is the back's legal antidote to the solo-run would follow, but hitting Alf Murray was like punching cobwebs and all we forwards saw was the lean hips, broad shoulders and long hair as your man raced goalwards yet again.

By the time he got near Joe Keohane and Simon Deignan, Alf had usually palmed the ball neatly over the bar and trotted out for another effort.

The boys used be raging.

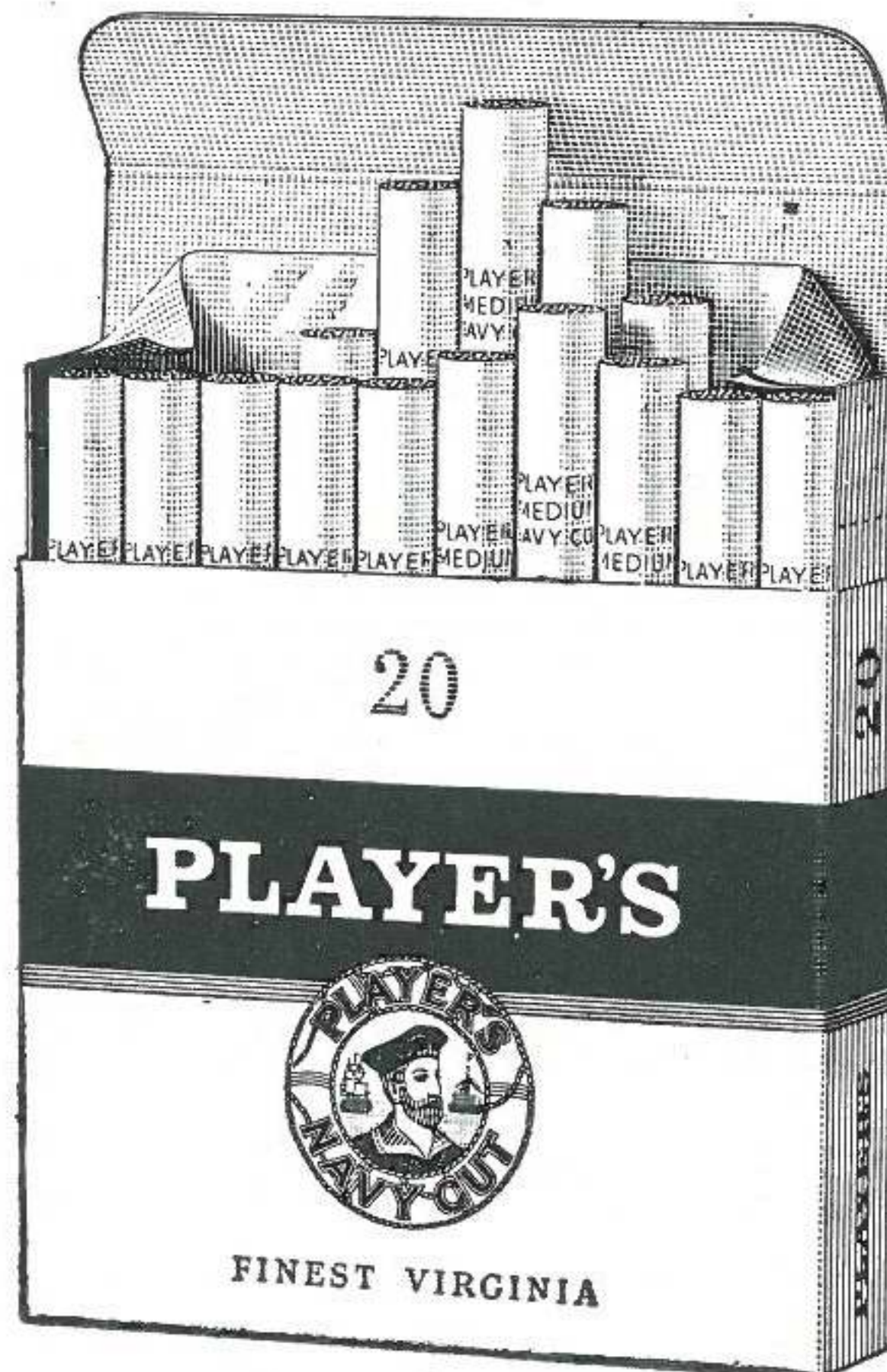
"Why wouldn't he shoot for a goal?" they'd say, but that was Alf's business. His way of scoring points was so easy it would have been foolish to try for goal.

In '42 they beat us well, and in '43 they put paid in the same fashion to a good Leinster side. In '44 the Midlanders got their own back and that was the end of Alf Murray's Railway Cup finals.

When the men from the North again appeared in '47 the centre forward spot Alf filled so well for so long, belonged to the great Mick Higgins.

I saw Alf Murray on Television and heard him answer Micheál Ó h-Eithir's question on the hand-pass. As Alf said (rather sadly I thought) new phases in the game are usually good ones, but boy-o-boy, if the old hand-pass were legal there's an opponent one would gladly give away—scheming, swerving, flying Alf Murray of Armagh.

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CLANN EIREANN

PROUDEST CLUB IN IRELAND

By Matt Fitzpatrick

THE proudest club in Ireland at present is Clann Eireann, Lurgan — not because they are reigning Armagh champions but because their club chairman, Alf Murray, has been elected President of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Alf has guided the fortunes of the club firstly as a player and then at administration level but this modest schoolteacher, whose life has been dedicated to the ideals of the Association, is quick to point out that Clann Eireann is not a one-man club. The premises and other amenities are the fruit of voluntary labour by the members.

Clann Eireann was first formed in 1936 and the man behind its formation was John O'Neill (R.I.P.) who guided the club until 1952. In those early years club successes were few on the trophy winning side but in 1942 Alf Murray and Eddie McLaughlin were members of the Ulster team to win the Railway Cup for the first time. That game is history now but a little known fact is that the Ulster team that day wore Clann Eireann jerseys.

The first county title won was a junior football one in 1946 and when Alf finished playing in 1950, he immediately set about planning a winning team for the senior crown. This came in 1954, a year in which the club "swept the decks" in the county, winning the senior title, senior league, Lurgan league and the Davitt and O'Connor Cups, as well as many tournament trophies. Leading

players on that winning side were Gerry Fegan, the Heaney and Henderson brothers, Sean Blaney, Ambrose Lavery, Liam McCorry, Colm and Joe McAlinden and Dan McKavanagh.

After this great triumph the club still continued in the top bracket in all county competitions being the losing side in five successive championship finals. Then last year in their sixth final appearance in eight years they bore fruit again by winning their second championship title. Apart from the title this achievement was proof of the great club spirit and loyalty which after so many near misses would have disheartened many a club. Leading players last year (and still are)—Gerry Fegan (who has captained both winning title teams) Dan McRory, Kevin Browne, Mick Murtagh, Liam Mitchell, Harry Hoy and Seamus McConville. Also last season the club won the Fr. McGeown and Davitt Cups and the Lurgan League.

But football activities are only one aspect of this great club's affairs — football is by far their most popular sport.

After the last war John O'Neill, Alf Murray, Ambrose Lavery and their then small group of voluntary workers got together with the idea of building a hut as a club headquarters.

As time passed plans became ambitious and so too did the planners with the net result that the fine St. Colman's Hall was erected at a cost of £10,000 and opened in 1953. It was during this period

that Alf Murray got his shoulder to the wheel with his great planning power and fanatical zeal to make a dream come through.

The club activities are endless. In the indoor category are basketball, boxing (they were the first County Armagh club to stage a full amateur international match when Ireland boxed Germany there last year), badminton, netball, table-tennis and yes, roller-skating. Other indoor activities are a dart club, snooker and billiards. There is a flourishing photographic club which produces the clubs own newsreel on local games and activities with a commentary by Alf Murray, while there is a reading room and television room.

The club also produces its own monthly bulletin or small magazine which is a real masterpiece. There is a bridge club with a special night a week set aside for the ladies as well as an Irish language and history class each Thursday night. A ceilidhe club is another popular item. The club always endeavours to get top personalities to lecture on cookery, modelling and hair styling etc. — so in this way the ladies are catered for.

Apart from football played in all four grades there are many more outdoor activities. Hurling, camogie, a harrier club (winners of the Ulster title many times) cycling club, tennis and handball are the most popular activities. The handball alleys are the pride of the club with three boxed alleys, and I'm authoritatively assured that they are the best in Ireland. The centre

(Continued on page 11)



CLEAN

Sparkling cleanliness, that reflects from the kitchen walls and furnishings, that gleams from the saucepans, that shines from the cooker—but then, of course, it *is* an electric cooker. Take the first step to *real* kitchen cleanliness now—change to electric cooking.

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The Clann Eireann team and members of the club's committee.

(Continued from page 9)

alley has a plate glass back wall (as strong as concrete) which provides greater light and also gives good viewing from a grand stand which has accommodation for five hundred spectators.

On either sides of the alleys are the tennis courts while behind them is the club practice pitch for football etc. The club has not had a proper club ground (most of their games were played on the Convent pitch) but soon that too will be overcome. Last year they bought five acres of ground a few minutes walk from the present club premises and plans are well advanced for laying out the playing area. The cost of the ground alone was £2,000 and it is estimated that it will take at least four times that amount to complete the work. At the moment the club premises and equipment is estimated at between £30,000 and £40,000. And please note. The club is free of debt. The club membership tops the three hundred mark.

At the moment, just completed are two sets of showers and toilets and these alone really bear inspection. They, like all other things undertaken by the club, are in the top bracket.

How does the club cope with and run all these activities? Very simple. Every section has its own committee which runs that section and looks after its own finances but is always responsible to the full club officials. In this way it is easy to plan out schedules weeks ahead for all concerned.

The club officials are: chairman, Alf Murray; vice-chairman, Sean O'Neill; joint-secretaries, Gerry Fegan, Dan McKavanagh; joint-treasurers, Pat McMahon and Ambrose Lavery. These are assisted by sub-committees of the various sections and the club trustees.

If you want to see the ideal club then I say call at Clann Eireann, Lurgan. They will be delighted to see you. In fact Gaels from all over the province come to see how

things are done. The evening I was down in Lurgan, representatives of the Killeavey club were there looking for the advice of Alf Murray and his ever-helpful members. Words could not describe my admiration of their work, and let me repeat again—all voluntary work. But who could refuse to do all this with such a planner as Alf there to see that things go ahead. No doubt his term of office as President should show to the nation his foresight and I know that he will lead the Association to greater heights.

Before I conclude (there is so much more I could write if space allowed) I would like to say thanks to Ambrose Lavery, Gerry Fegan, Pat McMahon and Terry Magill for their efforts and help in meeting me and showing me over the club and giving the history of Clann Eireann—a club which stands proudly as a living symbol of the organising genius of Alf Murray and his equally earnest fellow workers.



LOOKING AROUND

A PHOENIX TOO

WHEN sometime ago the Editor of GAEILIC SPORT asked me to contribute what he termed "a lively and topical column", I agreed—but on two conditions. Firstly that I could within reason write what I wished without any form of censorship by him or anybody else and secondly that I could use a *nom de plume*.

He agreed, but no doubt reading my thoughts, he stipulated a condition of his own—that I make it quite clear that any opinions expressed by me were solely my own and not necessarily his or those of the publishers. I have now complied with that request.

There are, they say, some things which are better left unsaid, and this is quite true. But there are also things which should be said but are not because we lack the courage to say them. With the latter I go half-way. I'm going to say them but I am not putting my name to them. For that I have very personal reasons.

So having done the necessary by way of introduction I will now get on to the facts and what better and more lively topic to begin with than the Tom Cheasty episode with all of its side issues. And before you tell me that this subject is played out—let me assure you that I have a few original things to say.

I am like the man whose oration on the question appeared the other Sunday in a national newspaper. Like thousands of others I read the report in full. Then I re-read

it for I noticed that there was something odd about it.

Firstly it was clear that a text of the speech had been supplied to the newspaper in question, but nonetheless there was something missing. Yes, that was it. Nowhere was it stated where the speech had been made—or when. It simply said "at a dinner in Dublin". This was most unusual for there are a score of "dinners" in Dublin every night and the organisers are always only too glad to get themselves and their function a spot of publicity. Yet it had not been done in this case. Why?

Could it have been that the oration was made at a certain type of function which if it were known would put the entire effort in a completely different light. Yes, that surely was it.

I asked around. It took some time but eventually I found out. It was a **cricket club dinner**.

So there you have it. That was why it had not been stated and what was more I was told that the speech had been made a number of weeks prior to its publication in the Sunday newspaper in question.

The following Sunday they mentioned the cricket club—but only in passing, as if it had no bearing on the issue.

PAT FANNING

Another interesting aspect of the Cheasty affair was how the anti-Ban campaigners (there are not that many of them really, it is just that the same few people make a lot of noise) tried to paint Munster Council chairman, Pat Fanning, as the "villain of the

piece." And this despite the fact that he was not directly involved in the suspension of the Ballyduffman.

Was there any connection between this and the fact that Fanning was standing for the Presidency of the G.A.A.? Was it an effort—a carefully premeditated effort, to prevent him from becoming President?

Certainly it points that way for virtually every single one of those irate letters to the papers—and even a few of the papers themselves, brought him into it. I saw no reference anywhere to the Waterford County Board chairman, who was in fact the man who suspended Cheasty.

Then, of course, there was Fanning's great oration at the Munster Convention. This really shook the anti-Ban men and sent them scurrying for pen and paper once more.

And, of course, Pat Fanning didn't get elected President but let me assure you good readers that it wasn't the Cheasty affair or the anti-Ban men who caused that.

Congress choose Alf Murray—not as an alternative to what Pat Fanning stands for but simply because he was a man who embraced all of the Waterfordman's ideals.

Let nobody doubt that. I have listened to both Pat Fanning and Alf Murray speak on many occasions over the past decade or more. They differ greatly in accent but in little else.

They are two great Irishmen of which the G.A.A. can be proud.

FREQUENT!

Last Easter was Alf's turn to take the highest honour which we the Gaels of Ireland can confer. He had been in the field before and naturally was entitled to precedence. Next time it will be Pat Fanning's turn.

N.C.A.

Heartiest congratulations to the Dublin County Board and also Kevin Heffernan, Kevin Coffey, Jimmy Whan, Lar Foley, Jim Byrne, Donie O'Sullivan, Sean Og Sheehy and the other G.A.A. men who stood shoulder to shoulder with the N.C.A. in their protest at Leopardstown.

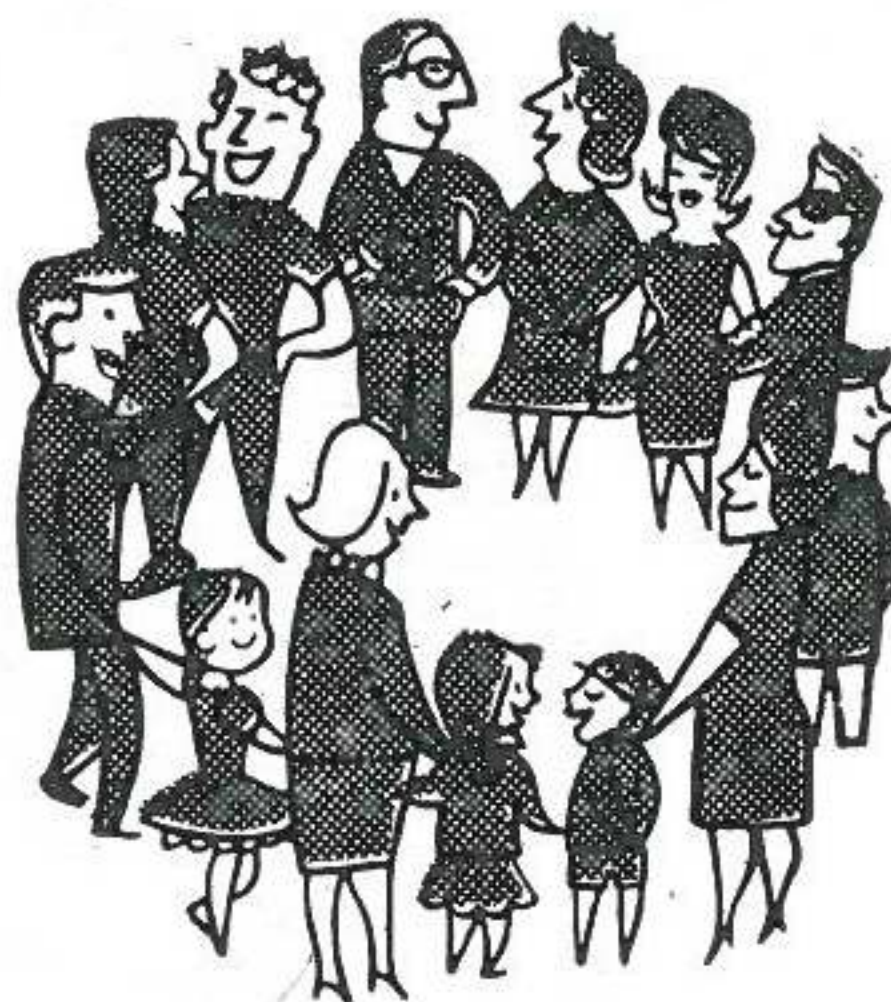
For too long has the G.A.A. remained inactive in this athletic struggle. Let us hope that from now on there will be greater participation and greater assistance given to the uncompromising young cyclists of the N.C.A. who in a recent statement clearly put before the country its objective. I quote: "... the promotion of nationality shall be considered more important than the promotion of cycle racing."

And might I couple with that a quotation from Alf Murray. Speaking at the Ulster Convention he stated—"It is more essential that a player should know why he is playing Gaelic Games than that he should play them well."

ST. CHAD'S, ETC.

I read the following recently in a provincial paper—"The Birmingham teams (St. Chad's football and hurling sides) will arrive (in Ballaghaderreen) on Easter Saturday. After the games the visitors
(Continued on page 49)

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THURLES SARSFIELDS

By Tom Ryan

THURLES SARSFIELDS, surely one of the greatest hurling clubs of them all, have invariably been in the hurling limelight since they won the first ever All-Ireland in 1887. Rulers of the hurling world, the immortal "Blues" are a household word wherever true sportsmen meet.

Victorious in twenty-five Tipperary senior hurling championship finals, winners of innumerable tournaments, it is easy to see why the Thurles men were the backbone of nineteen McCarthy Cup-winning sides.

In a recent interview with Mr. Jerry Doyle, associated with the training of Tipperary and Sarsfields since he won an All-Ireland medal in 1945, I tried to gain the key to the success of his club. Jerry, who with son, ace marksman Jimmy, share equally sixteen Tipperary senior hurling championship medals, reassured me that the Sarsfields are mere mortals who hail as their guiding light the age-old principle—teamwork.

"In the good old days," said Jerry, "when a player got on a team he thought it was great; now, if you have not got a car to bring him to train, you can forget him." Perhaps, it is the cheerfulness of the Suirsidiers, the willingness to train hard and consistently, that places them above the level of less illustrious clubs.

Much credit, however, is due the Christian Brothers in Thurles.

From their Rice Cup days to the fever-pitch excitement of the Harty Cup competition, the boys are grounded in the fundamentals of caman-wielding. The "Kings of the Harty" have contributed many notables to the county side, amongst them Tony Wall, Jimmy Doyle, Tommy Doyle, Pat Stake-lum. Indeed, as Jerry so emphatically stated: "Without the Brothers, hurling would be dead." Junior, minor, under-21 competitions, together with the street leagues, prepare the young for the senior arena.

The Sarsfields' style, containing the important elements of speed, grace and combination, is synonymous with Tipperary hurling. Even in the face of defeat Sarsfields maintain a scientific approach to the game. In arrears by ten points with ten minutes to go, in the mid-Tipperary final of 1952, Sarsfields never panicked. In their greatest hour they emerged victors by five points.

Sarsfields, are partly responsible for increasing the speed in hurling. "In the future, hurling will be left to the comparatively young, as it's getting faster every day," Jerry predicted. While the scientific attitude towards hurling is to be cultivated, brawn, Jerry believes, can never be neglected. To have a sprinkling of both, to maintain a balance, is the essence of good team-building. Remembering that a Sarsfields-studded Thurles Crokes won the



JIMMY DOYLE
In immortal "Blue".

county final in senior football the year Sarsfields surrendered the county title to Toomevara, I asked Jerry if the playing of both games was to be avoided. "Playing both games is all right, but it would be better for a player to stick to one game. One game is enough for anybody." However, Jerry sees no harm in a player changing his position occasionally, as it helps him to understand the tactics employed in various places throughout the field. The elusive forward, Jimmy, was in goal when he won the All-Ireland minor medal with Tipperary now he is the terror of net-minders!

But hurling ability counts for little without loyal supporters and in this respect Thurles fans are to be commended. Sarsfields are aware of the debt they owe to their stout-hearted followers. "There was many a time when we'd have lost without them," Jerry remarked.

Is Sarsfields' future bright? In a dramatic tone, Jerry replied: "Yes, while we have the schools." As the schools are unwavering in their efforts to promote the "fastest field game on earth" there is little doubt but that the blue-clad heroes of the "Cathedral Town" will continue to delight hurling fans for many a year to come.

LIAM DEVANEY

THERE is a tide in the affairs of men,

Which taken at the flood . . ."

I think every dog has his day one way or another. The veriest rabbit at games enjoys just one day of passable form; the moderate clubman has one game or one year when he looks something better; the good hurler will for one brief time look great; and the truly great will look superhuman.

It is the peak: an Everest summit which dwarfs all previous efforts at clambering ascent, and after which all else can only be an anti-climatic descent down the slippery slope. If you ever played games you will know what I mean; you will realise how magnificent, and how personal the feeling was; you will know how difficult it is to put it into words. I never was more than a stop-gap club junior player, whose place depended on who was ill, or who would have to stay at home to milk the cows; but for one ecstatic year, I commanded a regular place and a little measure of fame, when all my ideas proved translatable to effect.

This peak of performance is something strangely elusive, impossible to forecast, difficult to realise when it has ended, and never recognised when it is present. It is the co-ordination of the peaks of physical and mental development: suddenly there is strength unlimited, and the iron



LIAM DEVANEY

bands no longer close in fierce embrace around the heaving chest, the legs do not tire; and the mind is at ease, you know you can do it, there are no doubts. You have never felt so good before, never felt the same unity of purpose and execution: the same physical and mental co-ordination.

You have never played so well

*I recall beyond everything
one entire year when
Devaney was on Olympus.
All that year he hurled
like a god, like a hero
in the true Greek sense*

BY JAY DRENNAN

before, even if you have been physically excellent, for you have lacked the confident ease of mind to do great deeds. And, when the little hour has faded you will never feel so good again, for though your mental steadiness be still present, you will not again have the physical excellence to back it. Today is the point of perfect meeting between the body and soul.

Our games, indeed all games, are a combination of health, strength and fitness of body, confidence and strength of purpose arising from the ideal attitude of mind. When the co-ordination does not come about—and not all enjoy it to full degree—you have the players who could have touched the heights, but never have. The temperamental player, for instance, has had the physique, but could not come to terms with his attitude of mind; he never finds that confidence and belief in his own ability, so that he could do the things he wanted: the things he knew he could.

And, on the other hand, you have the "brainless wonder" in top physical condition, or the veteran whose ideas outreach his ability to carry them out: they have never managed to get the physical to come to terms with the mental: one has the ability but not the confidence, the other the confidence but not the ability. It is a sad business, really, for we realise

that we have seen our peak only when it is past, only when we shall never again attain it. And it is so short. There never was, surely, so striking a demonstration of the transience of things mortal, as far as the games player goes.

I have wandered far from my original intent: a study of Liam Devaney. But, he was the root and cause of the diversion. I recall Devaney always as a hurler who earns the description "great" among his contemporaries, and may even bid for that same distinction in the "Hall of Fame" when his sons are hurling for Tipperary. But, I recall, beyond everything, one entire year when Devaney was on Olympus. All that year he hurled like a god, like a hero in the true Greek sense. It did not matter where he played, corner-forward, centre-forward, wing or centre-field, or on a memorable occasion even centre-half back. Everywhere he was a hero, a god hurling thunder-bolts from his Olympian peak of form.

He is always cunning as a forward, dogged and constructive as a centre-field man, an exemplary marksman and taker of trifling chances. But, he will never be so good again, and he must know it, as in that year of golden youth, when life was truly worth living. He will do great things still for he is, as I said, a "great" hurler among his contemporaries, but that was his summit: the point of perfect marriage of his physical and mental gifts. And if he does not reach that peak again, should he mourn? Of course not:

"One crowded hour of glorious life,

Is worth an age without a name."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Jim Dermody

The Jim Dermody Story

AS TOLD TO TOMÁS O FAOLÁIN

A TOUR TO REMEMBER

JUNE 1934 saw the Kilkenny team set sail for America. After a rousing send off we arrived at Cobh and boarded the s.s. Berlin. Needless to say everyone was in great spirits and looking forward to the tour. Johnny Dunne and I had, of course, previously worked in America so the boys insisted that we be available to show them the sights. In charge of the party was county secretary, Sean Gibbons; our trainer was Mick Dalton, while Fr. Brennan looked after our spiritual welfare.

We left Cobh after the usual celebrations at the quayside and settled down for the Atlantic crossing. The ship's captain was most courteous. We were afforded every facility for training and seven days later we arrived in New York.

A welcoming committee, headed by Dick Sullivan, secretary of the New York G.A.A., and Jim McArdle, both Kilkennymen, were there to greet us and we certainly got a royal welcome. We were whisked away to the "Knights of

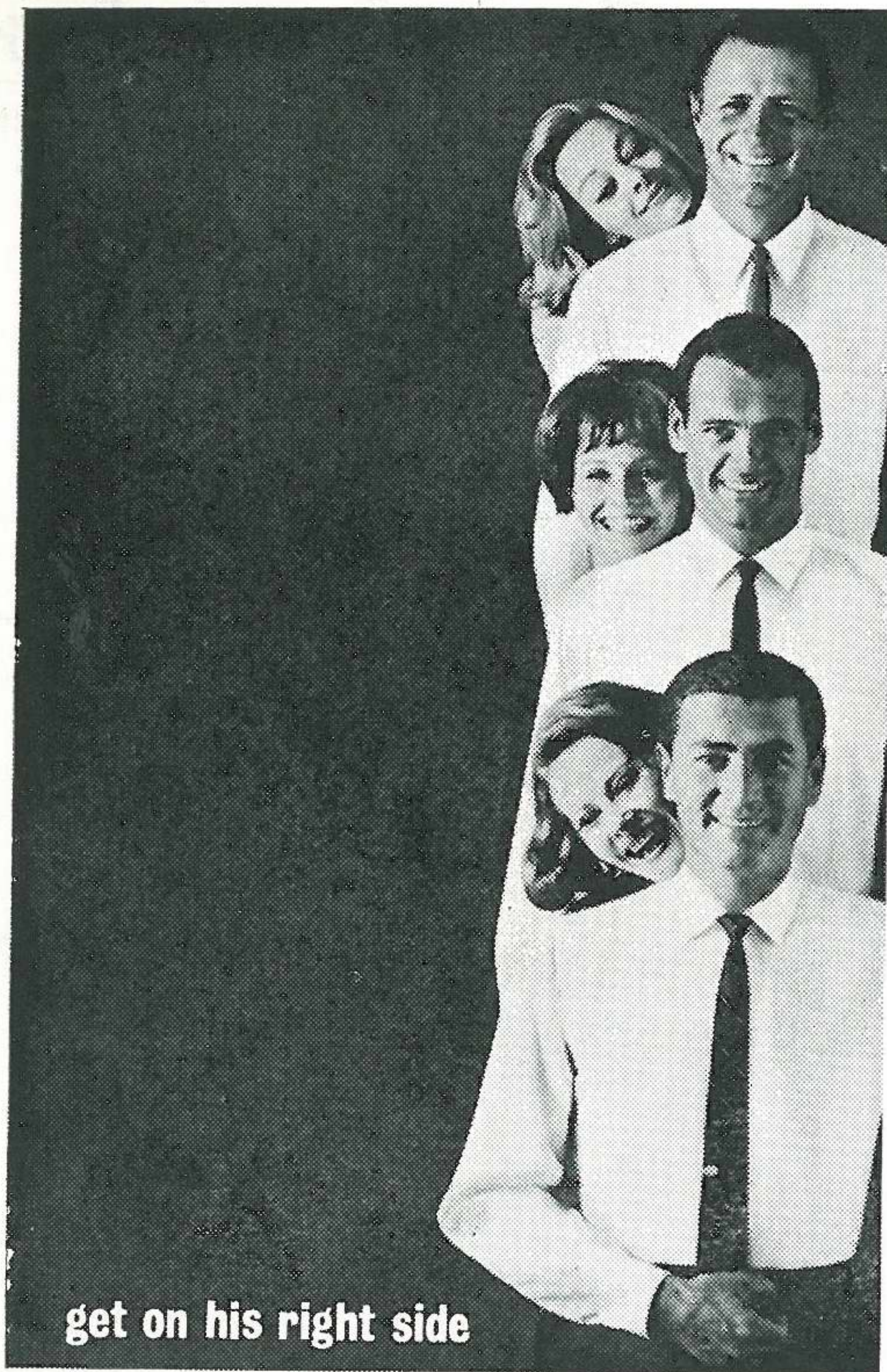
St. Columbanus Club", where we were to stay for the duration.

There we were greeted by another great gathering of exiles. The Club was literally invaded. Mick Dalton tried hard to keep the team under some form of control but it was impossible. Many slipped away with friends and relatives and were not seen again until early hours the next morning.

It was, of course, inevitable. The hospitality of our exiled friends
(Continued on page 20)



The Kilkenny hurling team, substitutes and officials who visited the United States in 1934.



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(Continued from page 19)

was something difficult to turn away from. However, Mick Dalton quickly regained his grip of the situation and he never let us forget that we were All-Ireland champions and had a reputation to uphold. We had a training session every day from then on and it was many the player that got the length of Mick's tongue.

Sunday came and we turned out at the Polo Grounds. We were reasonably fit despite the hectic week. Our opponents were a New York selection and 30,000 turned up to see the contest.

It was a hard game and we were somewhat lucky to win 2-8 to 3-0. The exiles had some excellent performers such as Andy Cordial of Offaly and Kilkennyman, Gus Fitzpatrick. We had two further meetings with the New Yorkers and on each occasion there was little in it.

Our fourth and final game was played in Boston against a Massachusetts selection, many of whom were Offalymen. They certainly showed us that all good hurlers were not in Ireland and we had to fight every inch of the way to finish level 0-12 each.

A number of things about that game stand out in my mind. One is the picture of Matty Power making a grab for a ball and missing it by about a yard. Normally Matty could grab a ball travelling like a bullet and this was the first time we had seen him miss. I can still see the look of amazement on his face and my own reaction was to burst out laughing.

Later Matty explained that he could see two balls coming at him and grabbed the wrong one. We pulled his leg about it for weeks after.

Another incident from that game concerned my hurley. For the only time in its career it figured on the scoring list. Paddy Phelan broke his and the replacement did not

(Continued on next page)

A Wise Move

BY SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE 1964 Munster Convention will be remembered for its decision to inaugurate provincial club championships in both hurling and football.

In theory the club is the important unit of the G.A.A., but in practice it had not always worked out that way. In recent years club activities have been more and more restricted, and this is particularly so in Munster where limitation of the number of teams permitted to participate in tournament competition has all but killed the great club clashes of other days.

I believe the restriction on club competition has seriously affected the standard of play in the province. Some years ago we had a number of well established club tournaments in which the leading teams of the different counties participated. They usually proved very attractive affairs and often treated large crowds to first-class fare. Teams benefitted through meeting the best of opposition and learned a lot from these encounters.

The restriction on the number of teams permitted to participate

MUNSTER MEDLEY

in these tournaments made the big scale promotion impossible, with the result that more and more committees took the easy way out by availing of the clause which permitted extra teams provided they were drawn from within the county of the organising club.

The results were not altogether satisfying, and it was not long before many organising bodies discovered they could make as much almost out of half a dozen nearby junior teams who travelled at little or no expense as out of the more ambitious venture in which costs were often fairly heavy.

This has brought an enormous increase in the number and scope of junior tournaments — a very welcome development, except that it is accompanied by an alarming decline in the opportunities of even moderate fare for senior club teams.

The standard of senior club play is deplorably low in most of the Southern counties at the moment, and in at least some the difference between the senior and junior grades is hardly noticeable.

For this reason the decision to establish Munster club championships will be warmly welcomed, particularly by those who value the importance of the club.

The meeting of the county champion clubs in a Munster title fight brings us right back to the early days of the G.A.A., when the first All-Ireland championships were fought on a club basis. There were no provincial divisions for the initial All-Ireland competition, the only one fought on the open draw arrangement, but by the time they were organised on a provincial basis the original club idea was about to give way to a county selection, made by the champion club.

Let us hope the new competitions will prove entirely successful and, in time, encourage the other provinces to similar promotions, eventually resulting in the establishment of an All-Ireland club championship in both codes.

THE JIM DERMODY STORY

(Continued from previous page)
suit him. He ran in to me and remarked "Jim, I couldn't hit a turnip with this stick—lend me yours." Without as much as by your leave, he took the stick out of my hand and gave me his. My hurley went on to send over five great points for Kilkenny — and valuable ones they were.

All good things come to an end and so it was with our American tour. Immediately after the Boston game taxis took us straight to the dockside where the s.s. Von Struben was waiting to take us home.

Need I say that there was many

a lump in the throat as hands were shook and good-byes were said. We sailed out of the harbour to the cheers of the exiled Irish men and women of New York and the odd shout of "Up the Kilkenny Cats" and "Come on the Stone-throwers."

Our trip home was one of reminiscences, recalling the events of our tour and the people we had met. Mick Dalton insisted on getting some training done in the ship's gym and every morning we were up on deck for exercise. Mick certainly was a hard task master but he was constantly pointing out that a hard road lay ahead if we

were to retain our All-Ireland title.

It was August and we were in training for the Leinster championship. We were confident and had reason to be. Dublin were our first opponents and it was not long before our dream was shattered. They thrashed us and we went home with bowed heads.

It wasn't the first time that a great team had collapsed on returning from a U.S. visit and it most certainly wasn't the last. The American bogey is now an accepted thing. But why should it be? Why cannot twenty fit young men go on tour for two or three weeks without completely losing form?

Next month I will have a few things to say on this question.

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AN POC FADA

BY SEAMUS O FIONNAGAIN

ON Whit Monday, May 18, Craobh Poc Fada na h-Eireann will be decided over Raon Cuailgne in Co. Louth. The course, stretching over the lovely Cooley Mountains and overlooking Carlingford Lough, is three miles and three hundred yards long. This is the fourth year of the competition, which is organised by Cumann Ógra Níomh Moninne of Dún Dealgan and approved by the Central Council of the G.A.A. It is the official long poc championship of Ireland.

Each county may enter a two-man team. The champions trophy is Corn Setanta, awarded to the man who completes the course in the lowest number of pocs. Corn na Craoibhe Rua is awarded to the runner-up. This year for the first time there will be a team award—a beautiful trophy which has been donated by Harp Lager.

There has always been debate and discussion as to who is the longest striker in hurling and now this competition is providing the answer. There can be little doubt but that the honour belongs to Kilkenny's star goalkeeper, Ollie Walsh.

He won the event in 1962 and last year he shared first place with Dennis Donnelly of Meath and Tom Geary of Waterford. This trio completed the course in seventy pocs. This year Cork, Tipperary and Wexford will be competing for the first time, as will Cavan, Armagh and Tyrone, so the contest will be particularly keen.

The Poc Fada was organised to help in the promotion of hurling in Co. Louth and in its neighbouring counties. As a competition it is a first-class event and it is watched and studied by the young

boys and youths of the area—who cannot but be inspired. They learn too—the different swings are compared, the method of correctly gripping the stick is noted, etc.

The young boys have the opportunity of partaking in the activities themselves by acting as giollaí to the contestants. The desire to emulate is quickly born.

Much has been said and written about the state of hurling. The hard fact of the matter is that if you draw an imaginary line from Howth to Clifden you divide the country physically in two equal parts. Of the counties north of the line only Meath have won a hurling crown—and that in junior grade.

An Poc Fada is one practical move towards bringing about a hurling revival in an area in which it is urgently desired.

Poc Fada roll of honour to-date:

1961 B. Godfrey (Limerick) 52.
T. Stack (Limerick) 65.

There was a very strong following wind on that day.

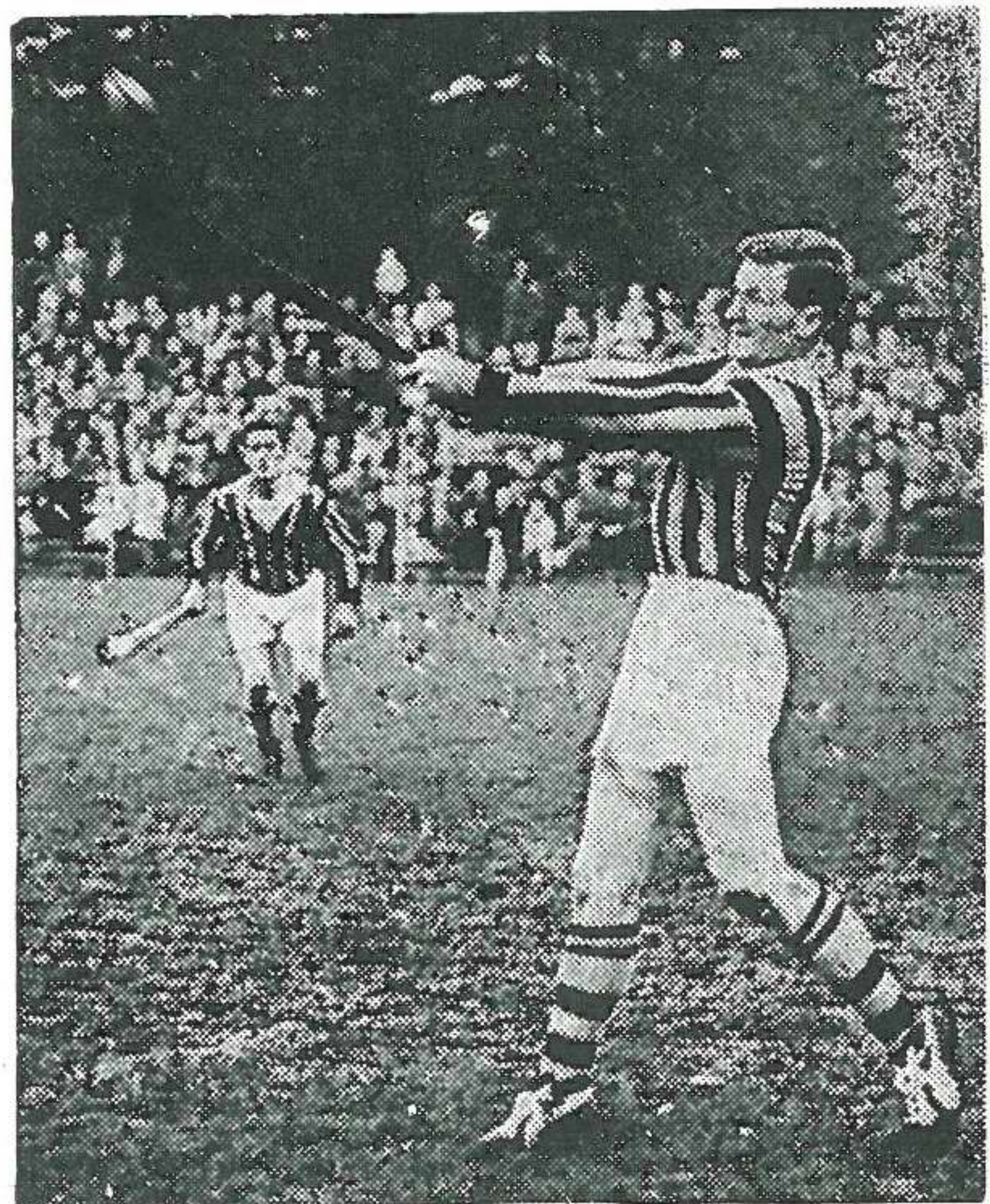
1962 Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny) 67
Dan Lennon (Kilkenny) 74
Des O'Neill (Antrim) 74

1963 Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny) 70
Dennis Donnelly
(Meath) 70
Tom Geary (Waterford) 70
A. Boothman (Dublin) 71

★

*OLLIE WALSH
...outright winner of the Poc Fada competition in 1962, and joint first with Denis Donnelly (Meath) and Tom Geary (Waterford) last year.*

★





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*O'Duffy's ultimatum to
'Fitz': take your choice
—football or the Olympic
Games!*

ONE OF KERRY'S GREATEST SONS

By **PATRICK CARVER**

NOWADAYS, with age chasing me up along the sideline, reminding me that one of these fine days it is going to catch up with me, I find, more and more, that I look forward, over the soothing comfort of a few pints, to the "post-mortems" after the big matches in Croke Park. Or, perhaps, not so much to the "post-mortems" of the games we have just seen, but to the good talk that eventually takes us back to the good old days when footballers and hurlers were so much better than they are to-day—even if it is only ourselves that think that way.

The talk is always good . . . but, sometimes it worries me to realise that we are talking about men that some of those in the company have never heard of or even, if they have, they know precious little about them.

Take our case recently. It was just after the day that Dublin beat Kerry in the National Football League semi-final at Croke Park and, of course, as usual, we were proving to ourselves how much Kerry would have won by . . . if only one of a million other Kerry-men had been playing.

We pulled out Kerry-men by the dozen. If Paddy Kennedy had been there . . . if Bob Stack had been in a similar position . . . if John Joe Sheehy had got a ball like that . . . if, if, if.

And then someone mentioned

the late Eamonn Fitzgerald and we got to talking about him. And it was just then that I noticed that one "youngster" in the company—Kerryman at that—was lost as far as we were concerned. After a while he confessed that he had never heard of "Fitz".

I forgave him—we must always forgive youth—yet I found it difficult to believe that even a young Kerryman did not know about Eamonn Fitzgerald . . . who was one of the finest sportsmen ever produced in the Kingdom.

Oddly enough, I must confess that I have very little recollection of Eamonn playing football—I was only a very small youngster when I saw him in action on the football field—but I do remember that he was a great half-forward, good enough to win All-Ireland medals with Kerry in 1930 and 1931.

Paul Russell would have known him well; they played together on Kerry teams for many years. Perhaps, someday, Paul, from his great treasure trove of memory will write us a story about Eamonn Fitzgerald the footballer.

For I knew him as Eamonn Fitzgerald the athlete, and looking back now, he must be rated as one of the finest we ever had in this country.

Eamonn was rather late in taking athletics seriously, for he was already an established G.A.A. star—he had played with Kerry in the 1927 All-Ireland final—when he

won his first Irish hop step and jump championship with 48' 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " in 1930.

Because of football he passed up the Irish championships in 1931 and chose instead to devote himself to football and he had the immense satisfaction of winning an All-Ireland medal that year.

But, in 1932, just when he was at the height of his football fame, and to a lesser extent, his athletic fame, Eamonn got what one could probably describe as an ultimatum from the late General O'Duffy, then President of the National Athletic Association of Ireland.

General O'Duffy realised that Eamonn was a brilliant footballer but he also realised that the young Kerryman with a little training could go close to winning the hop step and jump title at the Tenth Olympic Games in Los Angeles. His ultimatum to "Fitz" was—"Choose between the two; football or the possibility of an Olympic medal."

Eamonn, when I met him many years after in Killarney told me that it was one of the most difficult decisions he ever had to make. Loyalty to his county was on one side of the scales; the possibility of honour for his country was on the other.

He talked it over with some officials of the Kerry G.A.A. then . . . and their advice was to try for the Olympics. As Eamonn told

(Continued on page 26)



**... And yesterday
he was too stiff**

to move! Yesterday, aching muscles and joints made every move of the game sheer agony. But to-day he wields his hurley with swinging vigour — thanks to Sloan's Liniment. SLOAN'S cures aches and pains swiftly, completely. Just apply Sloan's to the affected part of the body, its healing, soothing warmth kills the pain at source. Why not follow his example? *Next time you suffer from strain or stiffness . . .*

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(Continued from page 25)

me later—"There were plenty of up-and-coming men in Kerry to take my place on the team.

So Eamonn Fitzgerald put his mind down to training for the trip to Los Angeles . . . and he passed up football in 1932.

By doing so he lost another All-Ireland football medal.

But there was compensation. He did not win an Olympic gold medal, for that matter he did not even get a bronze medal in Los Angeles. But he did prove that from his country's point of view that he had made the right choice that year.

Under the burning sun of California, in conditions that were far removed from those he had known at home, he put on the greatest performance of his athletic career.

In one of the strongest fields ever assembled for a hop step and jump competition he eventually finished fourth behind two Japanese and a Swede and just to show how high the standard was in that event that year, the winner Chuhei Nambu had to set a new world record to win the gold medal.

Eamonn Fitzgerald jumped 49' 3" —a foot farther than he had ever before cleared in his athletic career. And General O'Duffy went on record several times after to say that had conditions been a little cooler, "Fitz" would have done well over 50' and would, in all probability, have taken the silver medal.

His magnificent effort at Los Angeles took more out of Eamonn Fitzgerald than any of his All-Ireland appearances had.

For it was in producing the finest jump of his career in the Olympics that Eamonn Fitzgerald over-taxed himself and set off the illness that eventually was to claim his life.

He was a wonderful sportsman . . . one of the best the Kingdom has ever had.

SCRAPBOOK

By EAMONN YOUNG

IN a senior hurling tournament the sliotar hopped at mid-field and a player steadied himself to pull against it. At the last split-second an enthusiastic opponent dashed in to pull in the opposite way. The pull was a little high though honest and the first man was more annoyed than hurt. He pulled back and then both dropped the sticks and punched each other. Five yards away the experienced referee stood and watched. Then he blew the whistle and here my story fails for I don't know whether he gave a free or a slap-ball. In an impulsive fit of disgust I had left the game.

Can anyone tell me why the referee did not put the men off? A ready answer is: he didn't want both suspended for two months at the beginning of the championship. In honesty I can't think of any other. And yet just then Congress was voting in favour of automatic suspension. In the above case how easy it would have been to send both to the line and have the suspension, if any, imposed at the next meeting of the disciplinary committee.

—oOo—

In Cork we now have the largest vigilance committee in the country. Each Board member is a vigilante. The decision was taken when Chairman, Weesh Murphy, told the Board that he had failed to get anyone to act on the vigilance committee. Denis Conroy then took the bull by the horns and proposed the motion which resulted in the above decision.

The matter shows an extraordinary way of thinking. Though there are many G.A.A. men who do not agree with the foreign

games rule, we must accept that at least half of each Board does. In effect this suggests that while men believe in the rule and accept it's undesirable method of implementation they are not prepared to carry it out. And yet no one objected to being made a vigilante. The foreign games rule has ever been bedevilled by compromise and hypocrisy. Apply it to the hilt or forget about it.

—oOo—

Joe Lennon's book on football has caused many inquiries. The best way to answer these is to invest 11/-, send to the writer at

Poyntzpass, Newry, Co. Down (and Joe Lennon did not ask me to say that). It is obvious from a cursory glance at mine here on the table that each football club should have a copy. In addition to advice for coaches, trainers, and treatment of injuries (useful to hurling clubs also) there are complete studies of the catch, the kick, the solo, the lift, pass, scoring, blocking, swerving and team tactics. The photographs are clear and instructive and the general outlook progressive. It's a valuable contribution and a credit to this very skilled and whole-hearted performer.



Tony Morris, Cavan's left full-back, repels a Down attack in the League semi-final at Croke Park. On left is Jackie Fitzsimons, the Down right full-forward.

PROBLEMS

OF RULE

REVISION

SKILLED DRAFTSMAN

By **EAMONN MONGEY**

THE next year could well be one of the most important as regards our Rules. In the first instance, by special resolution at Congress, the Central Council was authorised to undertake a complete survey of the Rules, and it is expected that this work will be completed by 1965. Then, too, next Congress will be one where both the playing Rules and Rule 27 may come up for revision. In the intervening months, therefore, there is bound to be an amount of discussion on all aspects of all our Rules—on what needs to be, and what should be revised. It might now be an appropriate time to examine the Rules with all this in mind.

The special resolution at Congress was extraordinary in a number of ways. It didn't appear on the Agenda, nor were Standing Orders suspended to consider it. It was passed unanimously, yet no terms of reference were given to the Revision Committee; nor was it decided whether their recommendations would have to be ratified by Congress. In the light of all this, and without any real discussion at Congress, it is difficult to know how extensive or deep the survey will be.

There is one suggestion I would make, whatever kind of survey is undertaken and that is, that a skilled experienced draftsman should be included in the Committee. Drafting and revising call

for a special gift and while there are many in the G.A.A. who know what should be done, there are very few indeed who know how to do it properly. I think, therefore, that particular care should be paid to the constitution of the Committee with that in mind.

The main problem facing any Rules Revision Committee is how far to go. There are, of course, some anomalies in the Rules and there are Rules which beget conflicting interpretations. These should certainly be tackled first. For instance, everyone knows what "Congress" is and means; yet in the Official Guide it is variously referred to as "Congress," "General Congress" or "Annual Congress." The only thing this can do is to cause confusion.

Again, according to Rule 10—"All official correspondence to the Central and Provincial Councils . . . must come through the Secretary of the County Committee." On the other hand, Rule 95 (b) says that "Appeals against County Committees shall be lodged with the Secretary of Provincial Council." An appeal by St. Margaret's Club (Dublin) last year was lost through conflicting opinions of the proper procedure under these Rules in relation to an appeal.

The Rules Revision Committee has authority to deal with all the rules but can it do much with the Playing Rules, I wonder? Nobody has ever justified to me, for

example, why a footballer may carry a ball four steps (Rule 143) while a hurler may carry it for only three (Rule 148). It is only creating unnecessary difficulties for those who play or referee both games, and should in my opinion be made one or the other. Incidentally, if anyone could produce an effective method of limiting players to the appropriate number of steps he would be doing a good day's work for the game. It is the most abused rule in the book.

On second thoughts, I wonder is it as much abused as the substitution rules. The way the substitution rule is being used at the moment it is hard to believe that a player must be injured before he can be replaced. I was, indeed, very amused after this year's League semi-final between Down and Cavan to read one report of the game where it was emphasised that Val Kane was ill when he retired and was not just "taken out."

Apparently, it's now news when a player retires because he's injured. One suggestion on this which might prove effective would be to introduce a rule preventing a substitute from entering a game until five minutes after the man he was replacing had retired.

Another thing: some year's ago when a booklet entitled "Referees Instructions" was issued by the Central Council it was emphasised that where a player from each team fouls at the same time the referee

A Kerryman in trouble!

REQUIRED

must *hop the ball against the ground*. Has anyone seen a proper "hopped ball" in recent years? I certainly haven't!

Neither have I ever seen goalposts of the correct dimensions. According to Rule 129 they must be exactly 16 feet high. Yet even in Croke Park they must be twice that height.

I'm fairly well satisfied that the introduction of the words "at least" before "16 feet high" would be well within the scope of the work to be undertaken by the Rules Revision Committee. It's possible that they could also amend the "hopped ball" rule to authorise the referee to throw the ball up in the air, but I am doubtful if they could make amendments about substitution or carrying the ball. Fortunately, however, these things may be the subject of motions to Congress next year.

But there is one part of the Official Guide which must be revised and which can be revised by the Rules Revision Committee, and that is the Index. It is, without doubt, the most hopeless Index ever appended to so important a book. In writing this article I have searched in vain in it for a reference to a "hopped ball" or "goalposts" or "carrying the ball," while over the years I have searched fruitlessly for many others items. A complete revision of this Index is, indeed, long overdue.



Dublin's Brian McDonald (left) punches the ball goalwards as his team-mate, Gerry Davey grapples with Kerry's Seamus Murphy in the second of the League semi-finals at Croke Park.

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WHEN I was a young lad, America was a place away beyond the edge of the world. When one of the neighbours departed for the States we never expected to see him or her again, and nine times out of ten we never did. There was, of course, the occasional 'Returned Yank' who returned to dazzle us with gold teeth and strange flashy clothes and nasal talk, but they were the exceptions. The vast

factory. Now I think the time is ripe to approach this problem from a new angle altogether, and the first step to probing that problem from the necessary new angle came when the Down motion about international matches was discussed at Congress.

Now, if I may be pardoned for bringing myself into it, this new angle of international matches as the ideal climax to Irish-American

the one matter in which we lag behind other games and if this position were rectified we would gain a great deal of added prestige for Gaelic sport.

It may, perhaps, be advanced in objection that the whole basis of the foundation of our Gaelic Athletic Association was national rather than international, but there were no jet airliners in 1884, and the international aspect of our national games was recognised almost from the very start with the 'Invasion' of the United States in 1888 and the extension of the G.A.A. to England a couple of years later.

For many a year at home our games were threatened by games largely the preserve of the British Empire. The British Empire is now a thing of the past, and it is high time we thought of branching out into the Empire-building business on our own by founding an Empire of Gaelic Games—an empire embracing every area where the games of the Gael are still played and are still cherished by the sea-divided Sons of the Gael.

An annual International series with the United States would provide an easy and obvious start, aye, and a start that would be assured of success before the first game was ever played. There would be no great delay, I am sure, until the Gaels of Britain would be competing, too, and in a very short time we would have the basis of a full international series that could become the highlight of the Gaelic year in at least three countries and two continents.

And who knows but that, when the New Yorkers travel to Australia later this year, they may infuse life into the games under the Southern Cross that Australia, too, might measure up eventually to the standard of the International championships which would be

(Continued on page 33)

STRONG CASE FOR INTERNATIONALS

majority of those who went never returned and were only heard of again when the 'American letter' arrived at Christmas.

Well, all that has changed entirely in the forty years between and indeed, so much has the tempo of travel changed that a trip to America now is rather less than a trip to Dublin was in my childhood days. Why there is an airline employee up the road from me who, between one Sunday and the next, was to New York and back again, not once but twice.

The result has been a big increase in the comings and goings of Gaelic teams between here and America, a traffic that, if it is not channeled into some particular direction, could easily reach the stage where it could play the devil with our own league and championships alike.

Over the past ten or fifteen years various attempts have been made to fit the Gaels of New York into the competitive framework of our Irish competitions and, for one reason or another, none of these efforts have proved satis-

rivalry in Gaelic games is not a new angle at all.

The proposal was first put forward by me some fifteen years ago in the columns of the "Irish Catholic" and I have put it forward again many times since then. The idea is quite simple; it is just this, that every year in October the fifteen best hurmers of Ireland and the fifteen best hurlers of the United States meet for the World Series or the hurling Championship of the World, call it what you will. In addition the football pick of Ireland would meet the best of the Americans for a corresponding title.

If the football international was played in Ireland in any given year, the hurling international for that year would be played in America and vice-versa. This would ensure that a full international in one game or the other would be played in each country every year.

The advantages of full internationals hardly need to be stressed. At the moment the lack of full international competition is

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(Continued from page 31)

bound to be very high, right from the beginning?

From another very important aspect these international games would, I believe, have a terrific effect on the preservation of Gaelic pastimes among our permanent exiles. The most disappointing feature of the work of the Gaelic Athletic Association of New York and of the G.A.A. in Britain is that very, very few of the children of the exiles show any proficiency in, or any enthusiasm for, the games of their fathers. The 'elevation' of hurling and football to full international status would be bound to lead to a big improvement in this respect.

And what, you may well ask, would be the effect of such a scheme here at home? I think it would be very beneficial indeed in this respect. Men, outstanding hurlers and footballers in the weaker counties, normally cannot hope for any greater reward for their prowess than a place on their provincial side.

Were this international series instituted they would be in line for the supreme honour of playing for their country, and would also have the chance of winning a trip to America every second year.

So I sincerely hope that the Down motion will receive, from whatever body considers it next, the full consideration it deserves and that, in a couple of years time, we will be marching on Croke Park some October Sunday, with green rosettes on our lapels, to cheer the hurlers or footballers of Ireland on to victory in a 'full' international.

And now, just a small point, but a point that I think should be clarified, in all fairness to Dublin G.A.A. followers. It has been stated, in "Gaelic Sport" and elsewhere, that G.A.A. followers in Dublin (and, remember, G.A.A. followers in Dublin hail from every part in Ireland as well as from Dublin) objected to any increase in admission charges at Croke Park.



Mattie Cahill of Cavan gets to the ball before Tom O'Hare (Down) in the League semi-final at Croke Park on April 5.

Now, I know hundreds, if not thousands of G.A.A. followers in Dublin, and I have not heard a word of complaint from any of them about proposed increased charges at Croke Park. Dublin County Board members cannot be said to fully represent Dublin followers in matters such as this.

I have never known a Croke Park 'regular' to crib about whatever charge he had to pay on the gate—and, after all, the Croke Park 'regulars' are the men, and women, who pay up, not on All Ireland final dates only, but every Sunday Croke Park turnstiles are working.

GREAT LEADER AT THE HELM

By CONALLACH

CONGRATULATIONS to Alf Murray on being elected President of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Alf is indeed a great Gael, and a very capable legislator. He had a glorious football career and he delighted the crowds in Croke Park in 1942 with his hand to toe solo runs when he paved the way for Ulster's first Railway Cup victory.

He was born in Dromore, Co. Down, learned his football with C.B.S., Belfast, and later with Wolfe Tones, Clann na nGael and

Clann Eireann, Lurgan. From 1935 he has been a representative on the Ulster Council, being president from 1948-51. He has been on the Central Council for the past few years but as well as fulfilling such duties he takes an active interest in his own club Clann Eireann which is one of the best organised clubs in the country. He is a comparatively young man, a fluent Irish speaker, a man of great national ideals which should suit the demands of this high office. I feel that the G.A.A. will

show definite progress during his term.

DOWN AGAIN?

I have seen every Ulster senior team since the beginning of this year, and at this stage I feel that Down will again be Ulster's standard bearers in the All-Ireland semi-final. Of their glorious title winning teams of 1960, '61, only two are missing from the playing field—P. J. McElroy and Kevin Mussen who is now team manager. Young men like Patsy McAlinden, Tom O'Hare, Pat Hamill, Larry Powell, Brian Johnston, Jackie Fitzsimmons, and Val Kane have come in to replace some of the older men but the All-Ireland medalists are held among the substitutes and every one of them can be of considerable help to Down in the coming year.

Cavan, despite their League defeat by Down, are still a force and Antrim gave a fine display against Down in the Lagan Cup final. Harry O'Neill has revolutionised the Glensmen and they will not be easily beaten in the championship.

Donegal have a sound defence and midfield, but they have no forwards of the calibre of the Downmen. It is indeed a pity that there is a dearth of forward talent in the county as such long serving players as Seamus Hoare, Sean O'Donnell, John Hannigan, P. J. Flood, Sean Ferriter and Brendan McFeeley deserve an Ulster medal.

Of the other six counties, Derry is the most dangerous but they are always unpredictable. They have

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the talent but they have not succeeded in getting a winning combination together. In comparison to Down they have only six of the 1958 All-Ireland team to call on and some of the young men which they have tried have not made the grade. Yes, it looks like Down again—but they will have to fight for it.

BALLADS

Bridie O'Neill, Coalisland, won the ballad contest which was recently organised by Wolfe Tones Club, Bellaghy. This go-ahead club, which won six senior Derry titles in a row, have their own hall and by bringing singers from all over the province for successive weeks they have helped to promote ballad singing and make very suitable entertainment for their local supporters.

H. F. GRIBBEN

Congratulations to Hugh Francis Gribben, the Derry midfielder on his recent marriage to Olivia Doherty, Creagh, Toomebridge, a sister of 'Long' Tommy Doherty the former Derry player of the mid-fifties.

REVIVAL

Rough play has again been the order of the day in Monaghan in recent weeks and at Emyvale, Castleblayney, referee Eddie O'Connor was knocked out by a player. At two other venues in the county unruly scenes took place and it is imperative that the County Board take stern action in the matter. Club football of a high standard is played in the county but "needle" affairs between clubs has weakened the county team. The County Board have taken action before and I hope they will do so again.

In Donegal the growth of the G.A.A. continues with the formation of a new club in the Gaeltacht area of Glencolmcille, where Fr. McDyer is working hard to ensure that the people have a livelihood. That great Gael—Sean O hIghne is chairman and the other members are: vice-chairman, Sean Mac Fhionnlaoidh;

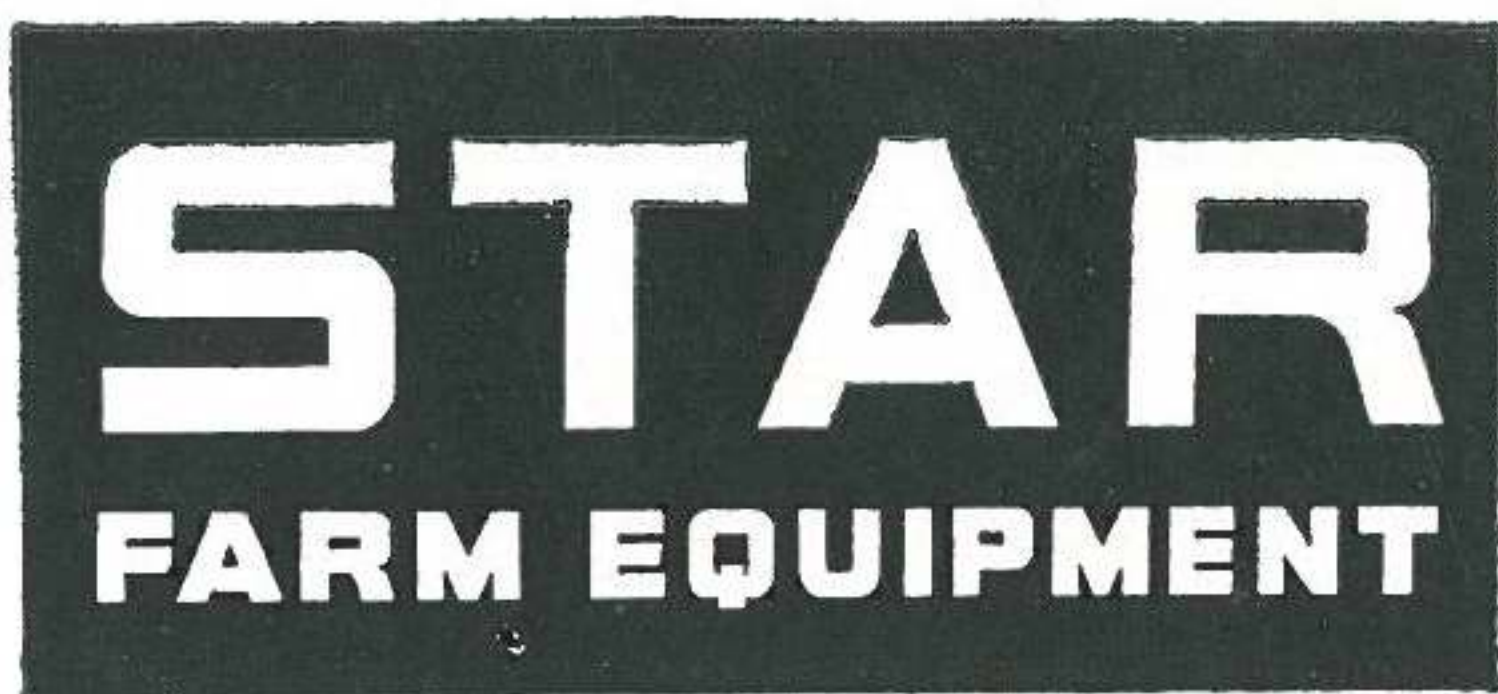
secretary, Sean O Dochartaigh; treasurer, Gearoid Mac Giolla Easbuic.

In nearby Killybegs, the local club, which was only formed in 1963, have acquired their own pitch so we should see keen competition in the South West in the next few years.

LONDON CLUB

Bernard Coyle the former Gweedore and Donegal county footballer, who played for Donegal

when they met Cork in the National League semi-final in 1952, has been appointed trainer of the Tir Chonail Gaels club in London. This club which was formed by a group of Donegal men in 1962 is doing exceptionally well in London competitions. Two other players who were prominent in Donegal football circles at home, Jackie Reilly and Christy Boyle, have been chosen captain and vice-captain respectively.



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LET'S MAKE IT A JUBILEE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE annual Congress of the Camogie Association decided recently on holding an All-Ireland inter-club competition to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the camogie game, but I sincerely trust that the Jubilee celebrations will not be confined to the inter-club championship alone.

I think that every club and every county board and every provincial council should mark the occasion with some particular function of its own, by a ceili or a get-together or a tea or something more elaborate.

Besides I feel the Central Council should go a bit further still, and I would advocate a full-dress dinner on the night of the All-Ireland final, plus a full-dress ceili in the most imposing Hotel in Dublin to mark the climax of the Jubilee Celebrations.

I may be wrong but I feel that the Irish-Ireland movement has been sadly losing its courage in recent years as far as giving any spectacular proof of its existence is concerned. Now I feel that the Camogie Association should take its courage in its hands and step forward into its proper place in the forefront of Irish life by showing its strength, and how better display its resilience than by holding in the capital a full-dress ceili and a formal dinner?

Heaven knows, we have enough camogie players and ex-players in comfortable positions in all walks of life to be well capable of paying for and gracing such functions. We have the brains and ability in the Association and in

its past members to organise and run such functions successfully. All it needs is a little bit of time and some painstaking organisation and I am firmly convinced that it can be done, and that all is really needed is the sanction of Central Council.

A social committee of past and present members could then be formed to make arrangements, and it is surprising how quickly enthusiasm would mount and the rest of the arrangements might not be nearly as difficult as anyone might imagine. And don't let anyone think that such functions would not be successful just because they may seem a bit elaborate and spectacular. After all who wouldn't pay a bit extra for the dinner or the ceili and who wouldn't invest in something extra special in the way of a frock or a hair-do for one night in sixty years.

I am sorry that we are not as yet to have a printed version of the new Rule Book, because the present typed version, though admirable in its way, is very cumbersome and very awkward to send through the post in any quantity.

Please, Central Council, let us have a nice, neat, brightly turned-out Rule Book as soon as possible.

And when that new rule-book is printed, please let it contain, too, a complete list of all county and provincial secretaries. On several occasions I have got letters to *Gaelic Sport* from girls who are very anxious to join a camogie club or even quite willing

to start a camogie club, and they are completely handicapped by the fact that they have not the faintest idea as to how or where to contact any official of the Camogie Association in their own county or in their own province.

For my part, if anybody who wishes to join a camogie team, or to found a camogie club, I will be only too willing to pass on any information required, but I still think it a great pity that the list of Secretaries is nowhere publicly available. Perhaps *Gaelic Sport* would be kind enough to publish such a list sometime soon.

I think the need for this is all the more pressing because the game is growing in popularity everywhere and I was very glad to see the Meath County Board reconstructed recently, while Westmeath, I am told, are very pleased with their new Board and Officers. Down South, interest is running very high in the Munster championship which, like the Leinster championships, begins this month.

Out West, Galway, inspired by that Ashbourne Cup victory, will be very hopeful of doing extremely well in the All-Ireland series while up North, Antrim will be intent on retaining the Maguire Cup first of all, then adding the Ulster title, and marching on to take the O'Duffy Cup this time.

Indeed, it seems at the moment that 1964 will be a real Jubilee Year in camogie. Let us all do that little bit extra to ensure that it will be so.

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DOWN GO TO CARRICK

ON May 24 Carrick-on-Shannon will have its big day. The new Sean McDermott Park will be officially opened and Galway and Down have signified their intentions to play the opening challenge game. This should be quite an attraction. We hope the sun shines in every way for the organisers and feel it will mark the dawn of a new era in Leitrim.

* * *

DUNMORE'S TRIP

Galway champions, Dunmore MacHale's, created a wonderful impression on their Easter visit to London and it is highly probable that they will be invited to play the London team at New Eltham again this coming Summer. All the county regulars, the Donnellans, McDermott, Leydon and John Keenan together with veterans Mahon, O'Connor and Glavey made their usual marks but the man who really caught the eye was diminutive Tommy Keenan, a brother of John, and a really dynamic forward. Galway are lucky to have him.

* * *

NEWELL'S EXCELLENCE

Galway footballers travelled to Tralee for a week evening challenge game in early April and confirmed their 1963 superiority over the Kerry men. One man made a particularly fine impression. I refer to Martin Newell, (back now again at his studies in Germany), whose speedy play at centre half back left the Kerry forwards a very inept bunch. Another great Galway display was given by midfielder Mick Garrett, who took

time off from honeymooning in the South to convince Kerry supporters of his great midfield talents.

* * *

REFEREES

First it was Galway, then Mayo, now Roscommon. Jimmy Martyn, Paddy O'Connor and Jamesy Murray recently conducted a course for referees in Roscommon. I have long admired Jimmy Martyn's crisp refereeing and Paddy O'Connor is one of the few referees I have seen to give the correct interpretation on the late tackle. Jamesy Murray of Knockcroghery needs no introduction. Refereeing in Roscommon should improve as a result.

* * *

FRANCIS McDONALD

In a recent game at Claremorris between Castlebar Mitchels and Tuam Stars, Francis McDonald of Castlebar, the former Mayo minor and St. Jarlath's College star, netted 5-1 out of a total of 5-3. Not bad scoring for a 'teenager.

* * *

UNSPORTING

In the Craobh Ruadh v. St. Josephs (Bundoran-Ballyshannon selection) Gold Flake Cup S.F. final at Ballyshannon some weeks back, an over-lenient referee allowed much unsporting conduct to go unpunished. The game, won by St. Josephs, 1-8 to 1-7, featured a most unsporting incident in connection with a penalty kick. Evidently as the ball was passing the Craobh Ruadh goalkeeper to enter the net, the

Craobh Rua captain, Tony Hayden, the former Leitrim player, stepped out from behind the goal post gathered the ball, cleared, and got away with this breach of football etiquette.

I censure the referee for allowing this to happen. Hayden should not have been allowed to remain behind the goal. There was a big delay, too, when another penalty was awarded to the winners and it took some time to get the game going. All calling for an investigation I suggest.

* * *

THE SCANLON CUP

The Scanlon Cup run by the Achill Island football club annually and confined to natives of the island, is a very praiseworthy competition and has done much to promote Gaelic football in the island. In fact I will go so far as to say it is the best parish league organised by any club in Ireland. This year it was again a tremendous success. Well done Denis Gallagher, Padraic Joyce and all who contribute to such a fine tournament.

* * *

GERAGHTY AND CONNAUGHTON

We wish a very speedy recovery to Galway footballer Brian Geraghty and hurler Michael Connaughton, both of whom were confined to bed in the same Galway nursing home recently. Red-headed Connaughton suffered an injury in the league game against Cork at Athenry, while Geraghty successfully underwent an operation.

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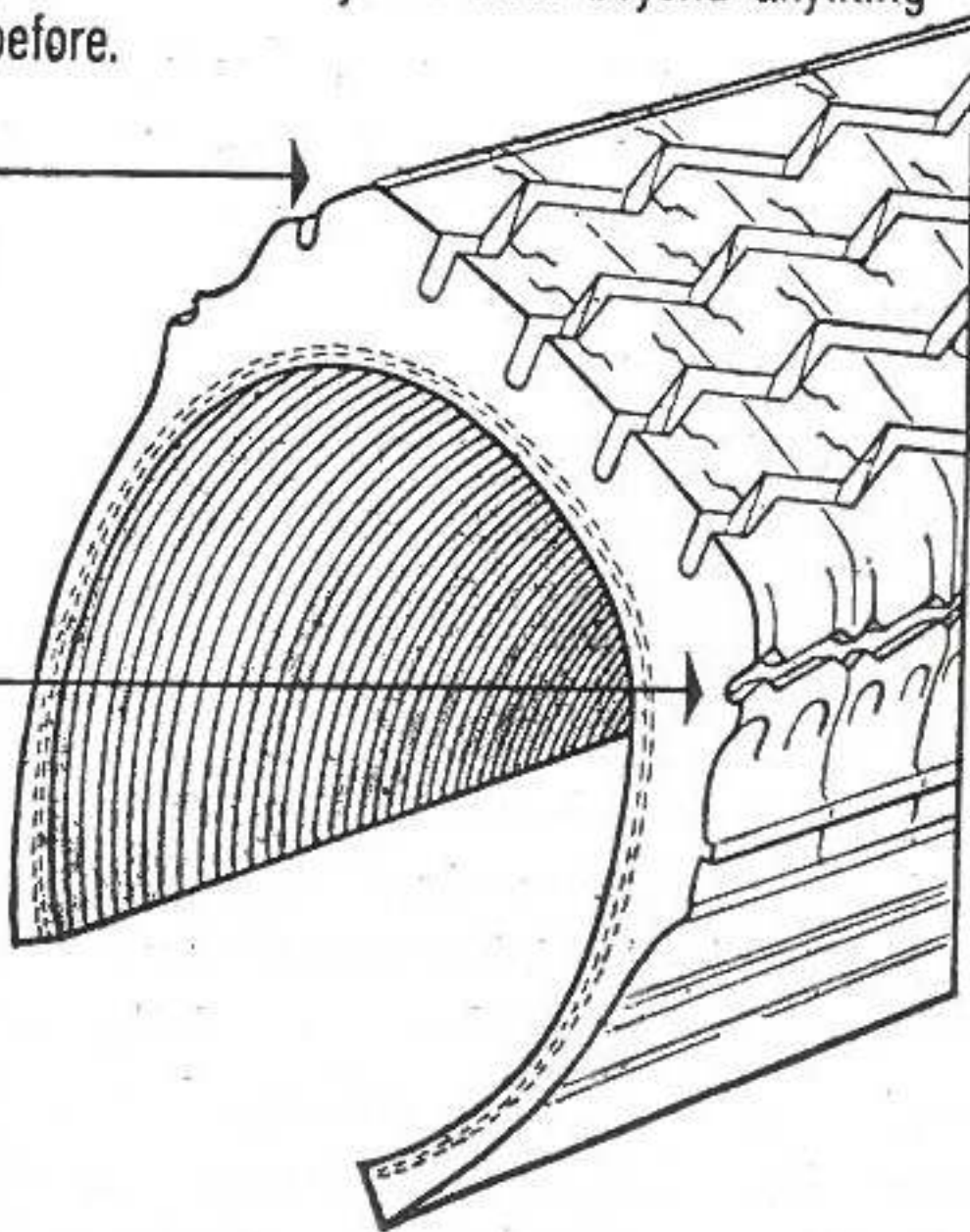
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MAY 3—M.F. and S.F.—Carlow v. Wicklow, at Athy. M.F. and S.F.—Westmeath v. Longford, at Longford.

MAY 10—M.H. and S.H.—Offaly v. Westmeath, Mullingar or Tullamore. J.H.—Meath v. Kildare, at Trim.

MAY 17—M.F. and S.F.—Louth v. Wexford, at Croke Park. M.H.—and S.H.—Westmeath or Offaly v. Laois or Carlow, at Portlaoise, Tullamore or Birr.

MAY 24—M.F. and S.F.—Dublin v. Carlow or Wicklow, Droichead Nua or Gorey.

MAY 31—M.F. and S.F.—Laois v. Longford or Westmeath, Mullingar or Tullamore.

JUNE 7—M.F. and S.F.—Meath v. Kildare, Croke Park.

JUNE 14—M.F. and S.F.—Offaly v. Louth or Wexford, Croke Park.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Draw for the Leinster semi-finals: Dublin or Carlow or Wicklow v. Laois or Longford or Westmeath; Meath or Kildare v. Offaly or Louth or Wexford. Dates for the hurling semi-finals will be arranged at the next meeting of the Council.

I AM not a Dublinman and therefore was for a while as anti-Dublin as any illogical countryman might be. However, after living in the city for a few years it dawned on me slowly but surely that Dublin players and officials were very much the same as players and officials in any other county.

Time went on and I got to know some of the Dublin players and I found out that they were a very fine bunch of lads. I learned too that these men stood by Gaelic Games—not because they were the only games in the area (this is the case in most counties) but because they loved the national games.

This is something which we always must remember. Ninety-five per cent. of us countrymen didn't have a choice as to what games we would play. Gaelic Games were the only games in our parish or town—so we played them and didn't have to ask ourselves why.

This is not the case in Dublin. The Des Foleys and Fergusons had a choice but they choose Gaelic Games and what is more they stood by them against every counter-attraction. This makes them particularly fine Gaels in my book. They are Gaels—not by circumstances as are most countrymen—but by choice and conviction.

So you see that is why when Dublin play Down next Sunday in the National football League final, I, a son of the Midlands, will be shouting for Dublin.

The Metropolitans are a credit to Gaelic Games.

Here for the record are the top Dublin scorers so far in the League: M. Whelan, 2-21; J. Gilroy, 3-4; D. Ferguson, 2-4; D. Foley, 1-7; B. McDonald, 0-10; J. Timmons, 0-9; G. Davey, 2-3 and E. Breslin, 2-3.

GATE TROUBLE

It is harder to get out of Páirc Tailteann, An Uaimh, than to get into it. So said irate delegates at a recent Meath County Board meeting. The result is that entrance and exit facilities are likely to be improved.

LONGFORD DECISION

Longford may have found the solution to the problem of mis-



conduct by supporters. County Chairman, Mr. J. Flynn, recently declared that in future clubs will be fined heavily when it is proven that their supporters were involved in any fracas.

BIRR PLANS

I understand that Tipperary and Galway have agreed to meet in a hurling game at Birr in September to commemorate their meeting there in 1888 in the first All-Ireland final. Also on this ambitious Birr programme is a meeting between Offaly and New York in football. It will be the last game of New York's world tour.

KERRY v. WICKLOW

Wicklow took a very dim view of Kerry's withdrawal from their National hurling League engagement at a Wicklow venue. The Leinstermen would certainly have travelled to Kerry had it been their turn to do so, and I can well

understand how they felt—particularly as Kerry are by no means a financially struggling county.

Still Wicklow were not very consistent when they themselves withdrew from the Leinster under-21 hurling competition a week or two later.

GREAT VETERAN

When the men of Knockshegowna gathered recently to receive their North Tipperary intermediate hurling medals, Michael Carroll was among them. He was the same Michael Carroll who helped Shinrone win the Offaly intermediate title in 1932. Two years later the Knockshegowna team was formed to compete in Tipperary competition and Michael has been going strong with them ever since. He won a juvenile medal in 1927.

IN BRIEF

Arklow is the only club that I know of that holds a flag-day. Proceeds go to the promotion of juvenile hurling and football.

* * *

No less than fifty-three football teams have entered the Kilkenny championships this year—ten senior, twenty-three junior and twenty minor. There is many a strong football county who cannot claim to have that many clubs.

* * *

Westmeath were rather annoyed that extra time was played in their junior football championship game with Meath. They had not been told prior to the game that in the event of a draw extra time would have to be played. Meath availed of the extra time to win well.

* * *

Louth S.F. champions, Newtown Blues, have fixed October of next year as the date for their U.S. trip.

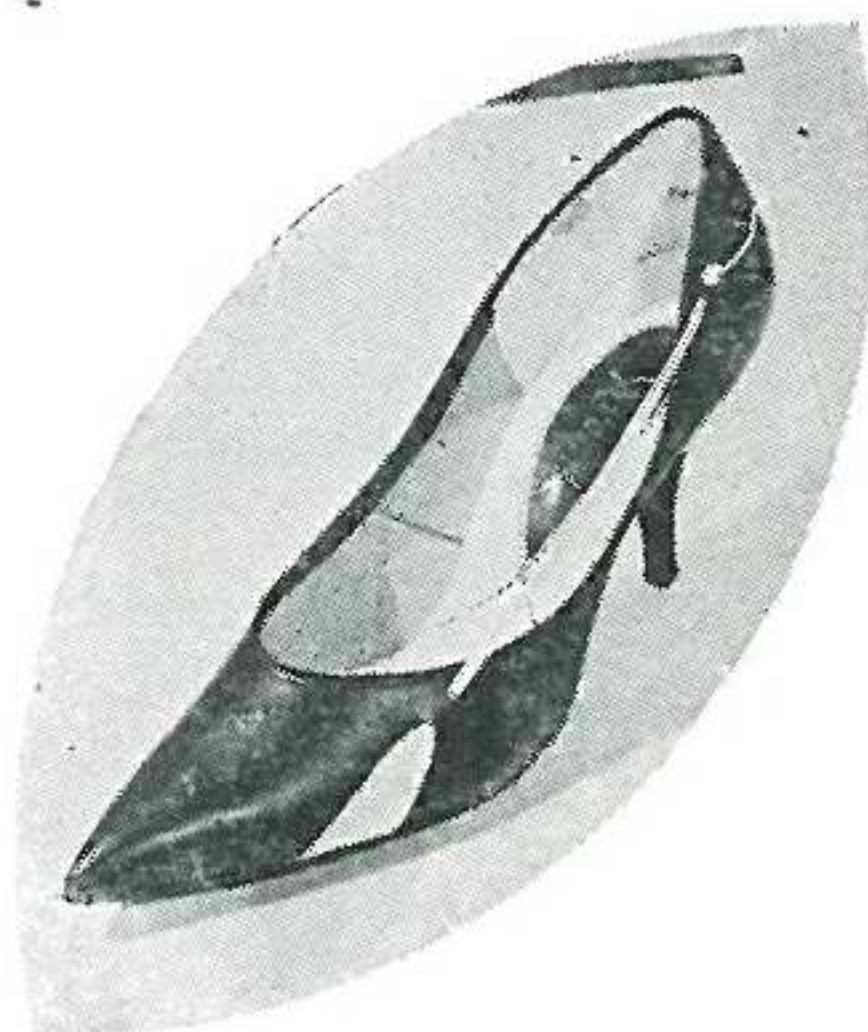
* * *

Louth play Meath in a challenge game at Ardee on May 28.

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JIM

McDONNELL

FACE TO FACE WITH SEAN O'DONNELL



JIM McDONNELL

CAVAN may be inconsistent—but Jim McDonnell never. For ten years this modest young man has been the star of Breffni. Every honour has come his way—except the one he most desires—an All-Ireland senior medal.

Jim first donned the county jersey as a minor in 1952. He played at corner forward. Two years later he was on the senior team and became a star of national fame the following year when in an extraordinary All-Ireland semi-final replay against Kerry, he fought virtually a lone battle.

That day he captured the admiration of all who watched, as time and time again he turned back the mighty Kingdom. It was surely one of the finest individual displays Croke Park has ever seen.

Since then he has remained at the top — ever brilliant, ever sporting. His position is left half-back—of that there is little doubt but so brilliant a footballer is McDonnell that he can star in any position—and has done so.

Proof of this, if proof be needed, is the fact that last year he finished as the top scorer in the 1962-'63 National League — and this despite the fact that Cavan failed to win their division let alone qualify for the League final.

Now 28, Jim is still at his peak. He is Cavan's captain and a worthy

one, following in the footsteps of the immortal John Joe O'Reilly and filling his mantle to the full. He is also assistant team-manager and is a regular delegate to convention and Congress.

In other words, Jim McDonnell plays a full role in Gaelic Games—not just as a great player who might justifiably limit his activities to match-play, but as a young man who is willing to put back into the game all that his talents provide.

Once the star of U.C.D., Jim is now teaching in Cavan and, just



PAUDIE SHEEHY

as in Croke Park, he plays with the same enthusiasm and brilliance for the Drung junior team. I had this interview with him shortly after Cavan's failure to Down in the League semi-final.

O'Donnell — What is your favourite position?

McDonnell—Although I began as a forward, I am now by far the happier when playing at left half-back.

O'D.—Do you consider your performance in the 1955 All-Ireland semi-final replay to have been your greatest?

McD.—Yes, I think that was one of my best with Cavan.

O'D.—Why are most players and ex-players slow to take an active part in administration?

McD.—Generally, players are interested only in playing the game. However every effort should be made, particularly at club level, to hold on to retiring players and utilise them in other roles.

O'D.—When you were growing up who was your football idol?

McD.—Mick Higgins — he was one of those gifted players who could draw a crowd on his own. We learned something every time we saw him play.

O'D.—Why are Cavan so inconsistent?

McD.—We are still team build-
(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from page 43)

ing. Experience is the only answer to this inconsistency. We have a very young team and I have every confidence that success lies ahead.

O'D.—Who was the most difficult opponent you have met.

McD.—There were many difficult ones. The ones which spring easiest to mind are Paudie Sheehy, Tadgh Lyne and Packy McGarty.

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

McD.—Yes, I always delight in meeting Kerry. They bring out the

best in a player. You play so much harder against them—even in a challenge game.

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

McD.—The 1962 Ulster Final when we upset the form-book and beat All-Ireland champions Down by a decisive margin.

O'D.—Have you any other sports interests?

McD.—I like to play handball and basketball. I think basketball is of immense value to a footballer.

O'D.—How is club football in Cavan?

McD.—Not by any means as good as it should be. Actually I consider the standard low. The enthusiasm of the youth leaves much to be desired.

O'D.—How will Cavan fare in this year's championship?

McD.—Better I believe than most people think.

O'D.—What do you look to in the future?

McD.—Well, I would certainly like to win that All-Ireland medal—and maybe a trip to America—that would be wonderful.



AS TRULY IRISH IN CHARACTER AS CROKE PARK ITSELF . . .



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MALLACHT AN IMIRCE

Le SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

IS trua ar fad go raibh ar Tom Furlong imeacht leis go Nua Eabhrach an mhí seo caite. Is cailiúint thar cuimse é d'fhoirinn peile Uí Fáile agus mar dhoms ar an scéal tá ráfla ann go bhfuil Paddy McCormack le himeacht freisin.

Ar dhein Coiste Chontae Uí Fáile aon rud chun post oiriúnach d'fháil do Furlong sa tír seo? Chuala mé gur dhein daoine áirithe iarracht le post fháil dó i mBlá Cliath agus gur éirigh leo ach go raibh sé ró-dhéanach ansan.

Sa bhliain 1928 rug Uí Fáile corn sóisearach na hÉireann leo san iománaíocht. Sa chluiche sin chlaóidear Corcaigh. I 1929 chuaigh furmhór fóirne Uí Fáile chuig Nua Eabhrach áit ar bhain roinnt mhaith acu clú agus cáil amach mar iománaithe; bhuaigh foireann Uí Fáile Nua Eabhrach craobh an cheantair sin ceithre bliana déag i ndiaidh a chéile. Sna blianta 1929-'32 rug roinnt mhaith d'fhoirinn shóisearach Chorcaí 1928 boinn chraobh sinsearach na hÉireann leo. Níl caighdeán iománaíochta Uí Fáile pioc níos fearr anois agus an imirce is cúis leis.

Ní cóir mar sin go leigfí d'imreoirí ar chaighdeán Peter Nolan, Paddy Casey, Joe Wrafter, Willie Nolan, Mick agus Tom Furlong imeacht gan iarracht mhór a dhéanamh len iad a choimeád. Ní féidir daoine a choinneáil sa tír in aghaidh a dtola, tá's agam, ach i gcás Tom Furlong bhí sé toilteanach fanacht in Eirinn—dúirt sé liom é.

Ba léir d'éinne bhí ag breathnú ar "G.A.A. World of Sport" ar theilifís an Chéadaoin tar éis na Cásca go raibh an Ghaeilge ar a thoil ag Uachtarán nua an Chumann Lúchleas Gael, Alf Ó Muirí.

Fosta bhí sé soiléar go raibh tití ag Alf ar an Ghaeilge a labhairt ach an rud is mó a chuir áthas ormsa ná gur duine é a raibh air an Ghaeilge a fhoghlaim ó bhun. B'fhéidir nach mbíonn an blas in iomlán ag duine nár tógadh le Gaeilge—ach ní dóibh liom go bhfuil buíochas ag dul dóibh siúd a mbíonn an Ghaeilge ón gcliabhán acu an blas is an líofacht a bheith acu go nádúrtha. Ar an láimh eile dhe tá go leor díobh a labhrann an Béarla (briste!) má thugann tú an deis dóibh.

Traoslaím d'Alf Ó Muirí as a bhfuil déanta agus á dhéanamh aige ar son na Gaeilge (thagair mé cheana do sin i GAELIC SPORT) agus guím rath is seán air mar Uachtarán.

—oOo—

Is ionadh nár dhein aon irisceoir tagairt cheana don ráiteas fé chluichí Gaelacha a rinne Ath-Uachtarán na Stáit Aontaithe Seán Mac Gearailt Ó Cinnéide (Dia lena anam uasal) an lá a bronnadh céimeanna air i gCaisleán Atha Cliath ag Coláiste Iolscoile Atha Clith ag Coláiste na Tríonóide.

As Béarla a rinne sé an ráiteas, ar ndó, ach deinim aistriúchán air

anseo: "Má bhíonn iomaíocht ariamh i bpeil Ghaelach idir an dá Choláiste béidh mé ag béicigh ar son U.C.D. agus ag guí ar son Trinity."

Le cuimhne na bhfear níor bhuaíl an dá choláiste in aghaidh a chéile i gcluichí Gaelacha ach tar éis ochtó bliain bhíodar le cluiche peile Gaelach d'imirt in aghaidh a chéile don chéad uair ariamh Dé Sathairn an 23ú Lá Samhna 1963.

An lá roimis sin, mar is eol do chách, dúnmharaíodh an Cinnéid-each agus cealaíodh an cluiche mar chomhartha bróin.

—oOo—

Má thuileann iománaí nó peileadóir airgead de bharr altanna nó leabhar a scríobh fé na cluichí an bhfuil sé 'na "Professional" ansan?

Tagann an cheist chun cuimhne nuair a fheicim an leabhar nua-scríofa ag Joe Lennon agus smaoiním ar an raic a tógadh le Eamon Young fadó.

Nílím á rá gur ghnóthaigh Eamon ná go ngnóthóidh Joe aon airgead as a n-iarrachtaí ach is ceist spéis-iúl í. An bhfuil aon tuairimí ag mo chuid léitheoirí faoi seo?

Molaim an sár-iarracht seo ag Joe Lennon. Is leabhar é a bhí ag teastáil go géar agus is dócha nach bhfuil duine eile sa tír, seachas Jim McKeeven b'fhéidir, atá oilete chun a leithéid a scríobh.

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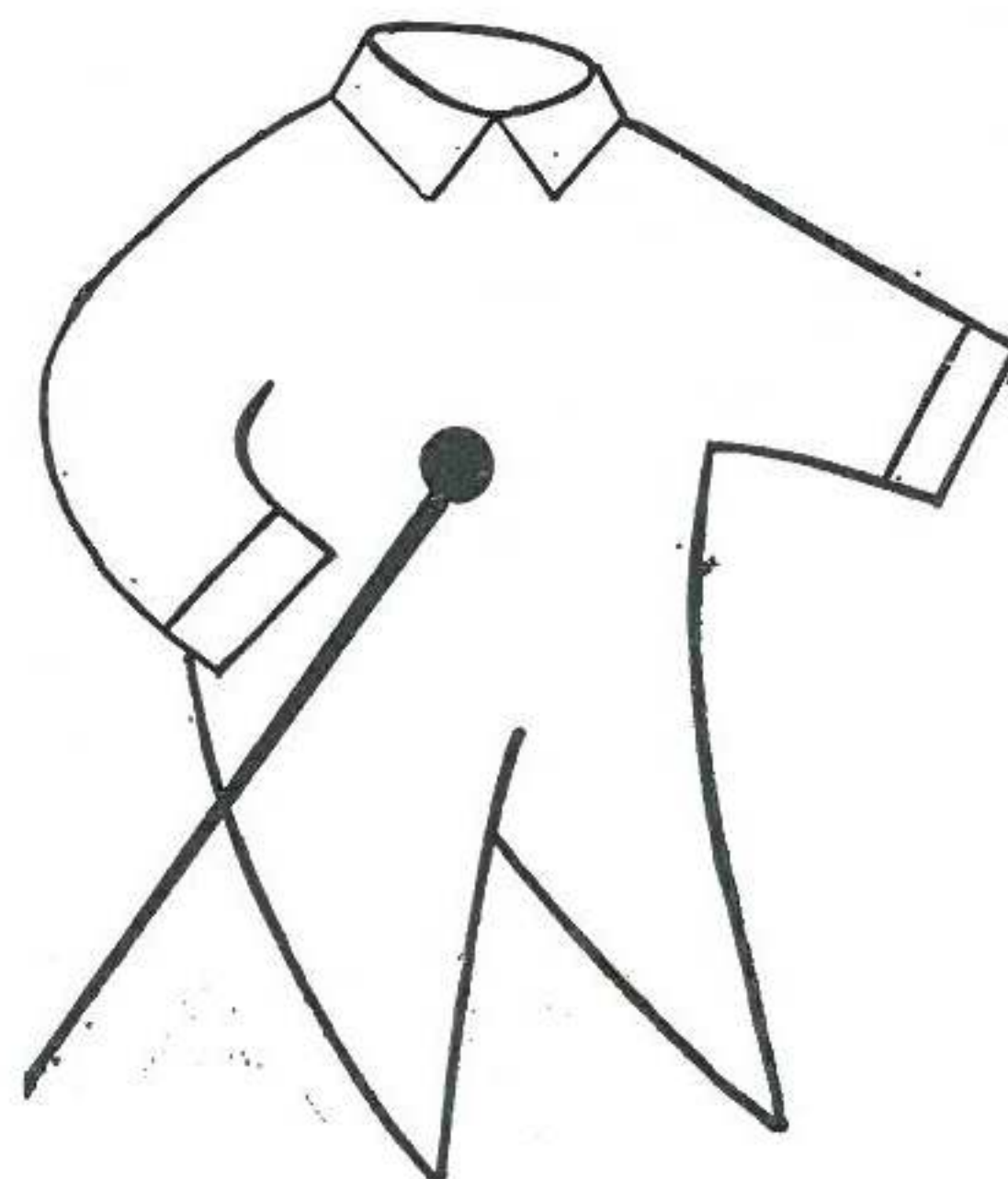
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ADVICE FOR THE UNINITIATED

SINCE handball became a regular feature in *Gaelic Sport* some months ago, it has been customary to pen a profile of one of our outstanding players or officials.

This month for a change, I would like to depart from this procedure, and write a few words on the actual playing aspects of the game.

This naturally is intended for the uninitiated, those legion of athletes throughout the country, who show a passing interest in the handball code, but, for one reason or other, are hesitant to make an attempt at playing the game itself.

This is rather strange, for handball offers much that cannot be found in our more popular field games.

Basically, it is individualistic—you are in there in the court on your own, and if you make a grievous mistake, the onus, for once, cannot be placed on the faulty goalkeeper or the full-forward who "fluffed" that easy shot.

If, on the otherhand, you play well, it is a wonderful boost for the ego, and it makes you feel good.

Neither does age matter a great deal in handball, for whether you are the young schoolboy, with aspirations towards handball greatness, or the field athlete now gone past your best, and starting to worry about that wretched avour-du-pois, there is always room for you in the handball fraternity.

"How do I make a start," you may ask.

Well, I don't set myself up as an expert of the playing crafts of the game, but for a start, anyway, the main essential is the acquisition of a handball.

There are, of course, two types

of handball namely the softball and hardball.

Beginners, as a rule, confine themselves to softball, for the hardball game, though it is the older form of the two, is a rather specialised art, and can be difficult to master at the outset.

A copy of the official Handball Guide, is also a tremendous asset, either to official, beginner or veteran.

The current Guide came into circulation in 1962, and does ample justice, to the four men who were instrumental in its compilation—Jimmy O'Brien (Kilkenny), Steve Casey (Galway), T. B. Kennedy (Kerry) and Joe Lynch ((Dublin).

A copy can be obtained from the

latter, who is Secretary of the Irish Handball Council, at 12 Goatstown Road, Dublin, and is well worth its nominal charge.

It gives full details of every All-Ireland title holder, since handball came under the wing of the G.A.A. way back in 1924, the playing rules of the game itself, by-laws governing committees subject to the Central Council and many other interesting facets.

But for a new player, the section headed—"Hints for Beginners" will prove most interesting and informative.

Here, it is suggested, that the beginner, should make a start by throwing the ball, to the front wall,

(Continued on page 49)



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(Continued from page 47)

in an underhand stroke, until one is successful, in hitting an imaginary mark. This should be done in turn with both hands, for the importance of being an ambidextrous player cannot be overstressed.

The ideal way suggested to practise the "return," is to throw the ball to the front wall with the right hand, and on its rebound, strike it with the left, alternating this procedure, with both hands, in the course of a training session. The main thing to remember, of course, is that, in serving, the ball must hit the front wall first, and that it can only bounce once before being returned to that same wall.

The back-wall return can also prove quite a problem, but here the experts say that it can be overcome by throwing the ball to the back wall and trying to return it, on the first bounce or without bouncing at all. Body stance is a major factor in the perfection of this shot, for it is essential that the player, at the commencement of his return, should be facing the back wall, and then bring his body around to be facing the front wall on completion of the stroke.

These are just a few of the very valuable "Hints for Beginners" contained in the handball Guide, which also stresses the importance of relaxation, breath control, and the warning, not to be too impetuous during the course of a game.

And just for good measure—"if your hands have a tendency to get sore or swell, it is recommended that you soak them in hot

water for five minutes, then in ice-cold water, before playing."

All of these are, of course, only suggestions and very often many of us find it nearly impossible to practice what we read in theory.

Indeed many players reach the top in sport with styles that are contradictory to the basic principles of their particular game.

But maybe you, from time to time, had an inkling to test your capabilities at the handball code.

Something invariably cropped up and you delayed the day, when you would make your appearance in the ballcourt.

LOOKING AROUND

(Continued from page 13)

will be guests at a dance in St. Mary's Hall. Music will be provided by the Famous Black and White Minstrels, Birmingham, who accompany the team and will be playing in Ireland for the first time."

Now for a start let me say that I do not know whether this famous English band arrived or not. I do know though that St. Chad's arrived and played a number of games in the West.

However, if they did bring over that band with them then I call for their suspension and that of the home clubs who joined in the effort.

I have nothing against modern dancing—used to step it out myself in my day, but there is a rule in the book and it should be adhered to.

Unless I am mistaken the All-Ireland champion ceili band is in Birmingham (or is it Liverpool).

But how about another attempt. Equip yourself with the mere essentials—a handball, a pair of canvas shoes and an Official Guide, and go down to the local alley and try a few shots.

I bet you will enjoy the experience and probably you will join the local club.

If there is no club in your parish, village or town perhaps you might organise one. Handball can well do with every new player, and you will find the task a rewarding one. Best of luck in your handballing escapades.

Certainly Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann are very strong in that city and there must be half-a-dozen ceili bands there.

St. Chad's, of course, would not think of bringing over one of these.

LOOKING BACK

Finally let's end on a quieter note. I notice that Meath have just got around to finishing their 1960-'61 senior football league—but not to worry, they are not that far behind.

Take Donegal for example. I recently read the following in one of their local papers:

"... the selectors will sit down at Ballybofey to think again. Their choice of men may decide Donegal's entire 1864 future."

Well, I suppose that there is really no harm in a bit of hindsight... it is at least a change in these days of urgently "looking to the future."

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GAEDHEALACHAS TEORANTA

*The Cork man who tried
To hitch a lift from
Reykjavik to New York
To see a football final*

THE GREAT YEARNING

By Philip Roderick

I KNOW quite a lot of people are not happy about the fact that the National hurling League "home" final is to be played in New York this year, and indeed I can sympathise with them. You see, I am not happy about it . . . but, then, there is nothing I can do about it.

Unless some rich old aunt dies off shortly and leaves me a small fortune, I have about as much chance of walking down Broadway on the day before the final as I have of being asked to play for Kerry in this year's championships. Anyway, I have been checking through my list of relations and I find that I have no rich old aunt. I have a few old aunts but, God love us, they are just like myself—perpetually short of the stuff that the banks give out.

But, let us not be too unhappy about not being able to see this year's League final in hurling. Just think of all the people who are absolutely delighted that they are going to see it. These are the people who, normally, never get the chance of seeing our biggest games . . . people who live in America and who, like myself, have no rich aunt.

And, be happy for me, too . . . for this gives me a chance of telling you a little story that I have

been dying to tell for years back. And I have never had the opportunity before.

In the early Autumn of 1947, I was far away from my native Cork—far too far away for my liking. I was in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland. And I can tell you this that, for an Irishman, there can be a vast difference between walking down the main street of Reykjavik on a Saturday night and hanging around Patrick Street waiting for a few of the lads to turn up on a Saturday night.

Iceland, in those early years after the war was no Paradise for a young Irishman with a scarcity of money in his pocket . . . and I was jingling my worldly wealth in one of my trousers' pockets.

Cigarettes cost about nine shillings a packet, matches were tenpence a box, a visit to a picture cost about a pound and, most tragic of all, a bottle of beer at the Hotel Borg, where I was staying, ran around seven or eight shillings. The travel allowance was small . . . and I was just coming to the end of it.

On this particular night, I retired back to the hotel at an early hour and I was sitting in the lounge reading an American magazine when I was told that someone was looking for me at the desk.

Full of curiosity, I duly marched off to the desk to find out, who, in all Heaven's name, could be looking for me in Reykjavik.

He was a young man—that I can remember—and he looked just like any young man one would see any day of the week in either O'Connell Street or Patrick Street.

And best of all, he spoke a language that I knew all too well . . . and it came forth in the rich resonance that only someone like myself could appreciate . . . a healthy, rich, beautiful, unmistakable Cork accent.

He told me he had seen my picture in one of Reykjavik's newspapers—that is right, the newspapers must have been short of material at the time and a few days earlier they had printed a picture of me and, indeed, had devoted quite an amount of editorial to me—and, deducing that I was Irish and more than likely from Cork, he had gone to the trouble of going to the newspaper offices to find out where I was staying in Reykjavik.

This young man knew his way about the city and eventually, we wound up in a nice little house down by the quays. This was a house where a bottle of beer cost a reasonable price and where our limited resources could cope with an evening of mild entertainment.

Inevitably we got around to talking about G.A.A. games and he told me how much he had missed seeing Cork win their four hurling All-Irelands in a row.

It transpired that he had been out of Ireland since 1938. He had seen the hurling final of that year

(Continued on page 53)



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(Continued from page 51)

between Dublin and Waterford but shortly after he had emigrated to America.

With America's entry into the war, he had joined the Air Force and, now in 1947, he was stationed at an American Air Force field just outside Reykjavik. In all those years he had never been home but his family had kept him in touch with affairs in Ireland and not surprisingly he was still enthusiastically interested in both hurling and football.

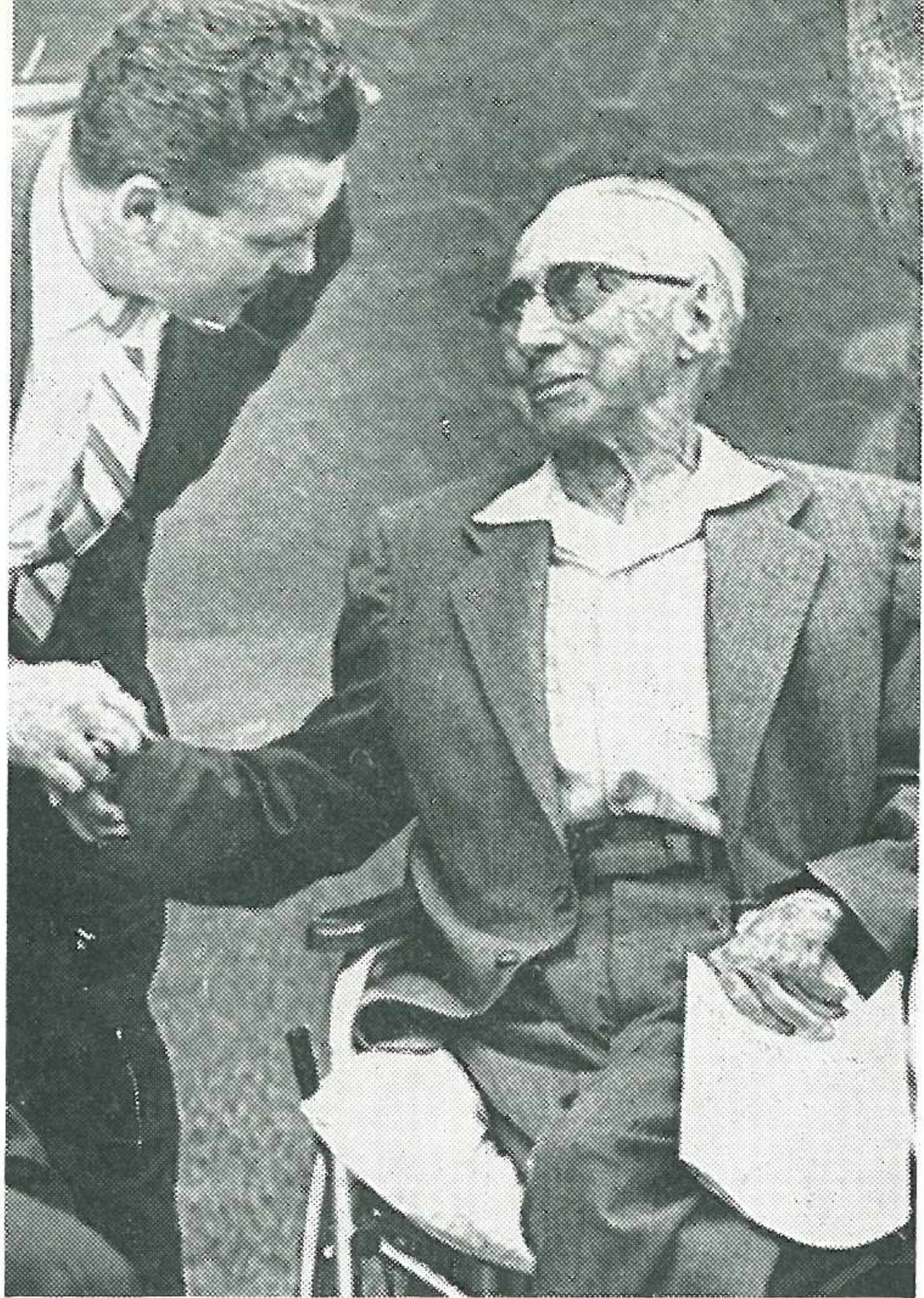
And no man in the world was more delighted than he was that the All-Ireland football final for 1947 had been fixed for New York. For the first time in almost ten years, he, at long last, had a chance of seeing an All-Ireland.

At the time we met, he was endeavouring to hitch a ride to New York in one of the Air Force planes that passed through Reykjavik almost every day. With the volume of traffic to America, he was almost certain that he would be able to get to New York or thereabouts in time for the final between Kerry and Cavan.

For ten years he had not been able to see an All-Ireland final at Croke Park; for ten years he had not been able to afford the trip back to the old country to see a major hurling or football game. And there in Reykjavik, a lonely place for an Irishman, he was plotting and scheming to hitch a ride to New York to see the game between Kerry and Cavan.

I never knew whether or not he made it—we promised to write but like so many other things, we forgot to do so—but let us hope that he did.

Or perhaps he realised another



EXILES MEET: The late Wedger Meagher (seated) greeting "Gega" O'Connor, Kerry's former All-Irelander, after a match at Gaelic Park, New York.

of one of the ambitions he spoke about to me . . . that one day, he might get a transfer to Germany and that he might be able to hitch a ride on a plane landing at Shannon, so that he might get to see his family and perhaps to see Cork play hurling again.

There must be thousands of Irishmen and women throughout America who feel just as that

youngster felt in Reykjavik in 1947.

So the next time you feel like complaining that we have been robbed of our National League home final this year . . . spare a thought for the young man I met in Reykjavik . . . and for all those who cannot hop on a train and head off for Croke Park every Sunday.

They deserve a break too.

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Sport is Vital to Nationhood

SPORT is necessary for the welfare of any nation. This is something which most great men have realised and stressed. We in Ireland have long cherished sport and sportsmen—from the early days of Eamhain Macha and the Tailteann Games right on to the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884.

The new Association attached an even greater significance to sport. It saw it as a means of marshalling the young manhood of Ireland—as a means of “promoting athletic fitness as disciplined factors in the restoration of the historic Gaelic state and institutions.”

Shortly after the turn of the century Padraig Pearse was looking to our national games as the means of “hardening” the youth for the task which lay ahead.

Some half a century later another great man, John F. Kennedy, declared that sport and physical fitness were vital to the “vigor of our country”. He appointed a Council of Youth Fitness to carry out his ideas.

Pope Pius XII also greatly concerned himself with sport and he made many memorable pronouncements on the subject.

Each of these men saw sport, not as an end in itself but as a means to a greater end. But let us see for ourselves what they had to say :

Scoil Eanna, Pearse's great and revolutionary scholastic college at Rathfarnham had been a stronghold of Gaelic Games prior to the formation of the Leinster Colleges' Council in 1910. When the Council was formed in November of that year at a meeting held at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, Pearse was elected vice-chairman with Fr.

John Doody, President of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, taking the chair.

The previous year Pearse had written—“Nothing has given me greater pleasure during the past session than to watch Scoil Eanna developing as it has been doing on the athletic side. Our boys must now be amongst the best hurlers



Sweaters for Men

and footballers in Ireland. Wellington is credited with the dictum that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of Eton. I am certain that when it comes to a question of Ireland winning battles, her main reliance must be her hurlers. To your camans O Boys of Banba!"

Later he wrote:— "We fought our way through the season winning the leadership and medals in the juvenile hurling league and losing them in minor hurling and football only in the finals. In the following year, 1911, we won the schools championship in hurling and football.

This year we have called into existence a Leinster inter-college championship in hurling and football which will further stimulate Scoil Eanna to excel at its chosen games. And I am seeing to it that all our lads learn to shoot, to fence, to march, to box, to wrestle and to swim. I hope that the other schools and colleges will follow us here too.

Every day I feel more certain that the *hardening* of our boys and young men is the work of the moment for Ireland."

President Kennedy too was a revolutionary—only that the revolution he aimed for was to be one achieved by gradual process rather than dramatic means. In July, 1961, he spoke as follows:—

"The strength of our democracy is no greater than the collective well-being of our people. The vigor of our country is no stronger than the vitality and will of all our countrymen. The level of physical, mental, moral and spiritual fitness of every American citizen must be our constant concern.

The need for increased attention to the physical fitness of our youth is clearly established. Although to-day young people are fundamentally healthier than the youth of any previous generation, the majority have not developed strong, agile bodies. The softening

(Continued overleaf)

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(Continued from page 55)

process of our civilisation continues to carry on its persistent erosion.

It is of great importance then that we take immediate steps to ensure that every American child be given the opportunity to make and keep himself physically fit—fit to learn, fit to understand, to grow in grace and stature, to fully live.

We must expand and improve our health services, health education and physical education. We must increase our facilities and the time devoted to physical activity. We must invigorate our curricula and give high priority to the crusade for excellence in health and fitness.

In our total fitness efforts the schools, of course, will not stand alone. I urge that in all communities there be more co-ordination between the schools and the community, parent, educators and the civic-minded citizens in carrying forward a resourceful, vigorous programme for physical

fitness—a programme that will stir the imagination of our youth, calling on their toughest abilities, enlisting their greatest enthusiasm—a programme which will enable them to build the energy and strength that is their American heritage.”

His Holiness Pope Pius XII listed the three qualities of the true sportsman as follows: The first and greatest was loyalty to fair play. The second was endurance and the third a sense of team spirit.

The first quality, fair play, was the greatest, he stressed, but the third was the noblest. It was the quality whereby a player put the good of his team always before his own glory.

Sport, His Holiness explained, was not an end in itself: it was only a way, a good healthy way, of developing young bodies and young minds.

Addressing 50,000 young athletes in St. Peter's Square on the occasion of the 10th anniver-

sary of the Italian Sports Centre, His Holiness ranged over the realm of sport. He spoke from both the moral and the practical point of view and his view on training technique is of particular interest. Having commented on the necessity of technique and special training he went on:—

“Still the use of technique although a necessary element, especially in contest, is neither the whole nor the better part of sport. Technique in sport, just as in the arts, should not obstruct the development of the spiritual forces, such as intuition, will, sensitive awareness, courage and tenacity, which are in truth, the real secret of every successful effort.

Technique alone not only impedes the acquirement of those spiritual boons which sport has for its objective, but even when leading to victory, it satisfies neither him who uses it nor those who go to enjoy the contest.

This is what the crowds in the stadium mean when at times they deplore the fact that the teams engaged do not play with their hearts, because in general, whenever it is a question of human activity the beginning and the end must always be the physical element; in other words sport must dominate technique. Make use of technique, but let the sport prevail.”

The true concept and meaning of sport both as a national and moral force is clearly defined in these quotations.

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