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GAA

Gaelic Sport

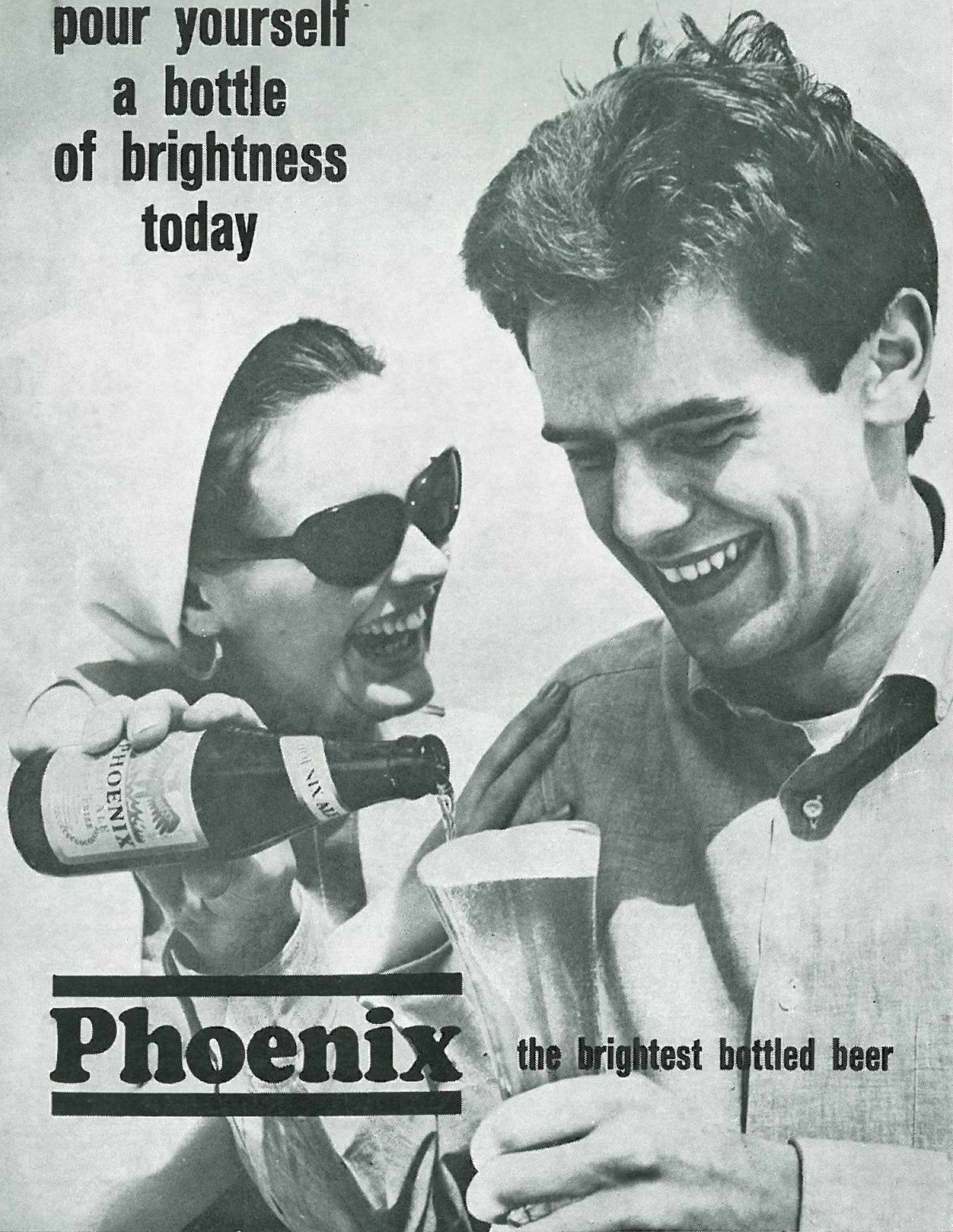


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DECEMBER, 1965 Vol. 8. No. 12.

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CLÁR NA SCUICÍ LAIŽEAN 1966

iomáint sinsiir 7 mionúir

- (1) IAR mí v. UA BPAÍLÍ—M. CEARR. } 8/5/66.
- (2) LAOIS v. CEATARLOC—PORTLAOISE }
- (3) (1) v. (2) — 22/5/66—PORTLAOISE nó TULAC MÓR.
- (4) CILL COIMNIG v. (3)—12/6/66.
- (5) ÁC CLIAÉ v. LOC SARMAN—19/6/66.
- (6) (5) v. (4) AN CRAOB 17/7/66.

iomáint mionúir speisialta

- (1) AN mí v. CILL DARA } má fé 17 blo. ar
- (2) LÚBÁI v. CILL MANTÁM }
- (3) (1) v. (2). } 22/5/66.

iomáint idir-meanaé

- (1) ÁC CLIAÉ v. AN mí—ÁC TRUM—1/5/66.
 - (2) UA BPAÍLÍ v. LAOIS—PORTLAOISE—1/5/66.
 - (3) CEATARLOC v. CILL COIMNIG—CILL COIMNIG—15/5/66.
 - (4) LOC SARMAN.
 - (5) (1) v. (2) } ar 29/5/66 más féoir.
 - (6) (3) v. (4) }
- AN CRAOB (5) v. (6).

iomáint fé 21 blo

- (1) CEATARLOC v. CILL COIMNIG—CEATARLOC—17/4/66.
- (2) LAOIS v. UA BPAÍLÍ—DIOKKA—10/4/66.
- (3) AN mí v. CILL DARA—MAG NUADAT—3/4/66.
- (4) IAR mí v. ÁC CLIAÉ—M. CEARR—27/3/66 nó 3/4/66.
- (5) LOC SARMAN v. (4)—24/4/66.

iomáint soisear

- (1) LÚBÁI v. CILL MANTÁM } ar 22/5/66.
- (2) AN mí v. CILL DARA }
- (3) (2) v. (3) AN CRAOB,

peil sinsiir 7 mionúir

- (1) LOC SARMAN v. CILL MANTÁM—IONAD A SOCRÚ—1/5/66.
- (2) (1) v. AN mí—P. AN CRÓCAIG—15/5/66.
- (3) IAR mí v. CEATARLOC—D. NUA—1/5/66.
- (4) LAOIS v. (3)—29/5/66.
- (5) LONGSPORT v. LÚBÁI—AN UAIM—8/5/66.
- (6) ÁC CLIAÉ v. (5)—12/6/66.
- (7) CILL DARA v. CILL COIMNIG—ÁC-1—24/4/66.

- (8) UA BPAÍLÍ v. (7)—15/5/66.
 - (9) (2) v. (4)—26/6/66.
 - (10) (6) v. (8)—3/7/66.
- AN CRAOB (9) v. (10)—24/7/66.

peil soisear

- (1) CILL DARA v. IAR mí—MAG NUADAT—3/4/66.
- (2) LONGSPORT v. UA BPAÍLÍ—27/3/66 nó 3/4/66.
- (3) CEATARLOC v. CILL COIMNIG—CEATARLOC—3/4/66.
- (4) LOC SARMAN v. CILL MANTÁM—EACORUM UÍ BROM 3/4/66.
- (5) LAOIS v. ÁC CLIAÉ—27/3/66 nó 3/4/66.
- (6) AN mí v. LÚBÁI—D. ÁC—27/3/66 nó 3/4/66.
- (7) (1) v. (2) }
- (8) (3) v. (4) } ar siúbal ar 24/4/66 más féoir.
- (9) (5) v. (6) }
- (10) (7) v. (8).
- (11) (9) v. (10).

peil fé 21 blo,

- (1) AN mí v. CILL DARA—AN UAIM } SAC
- (2) ÁC CLIAÉ v. LÚBÁI—D. ÁC } cluice
- (3) UA BPAÍLÍ v. LAOIS—CÚL AN TSUAIRE } ar
- (4) IAR-mí v. LONGSPORT—ÁC LÚAM }
- (5) CEATARLOC v. CILL MANTÁM—CEATARLOC } siúbal ar 17/4/66
- (6) LOC SARMAN v. (5).
- (7) (1) v. (2).
- (8) (3) v. (4).
- (9) (6) leigte.
- (10) (9) v. (7 nó 8).
- (11) AN CRAOB (7 nó 8) v. (10).

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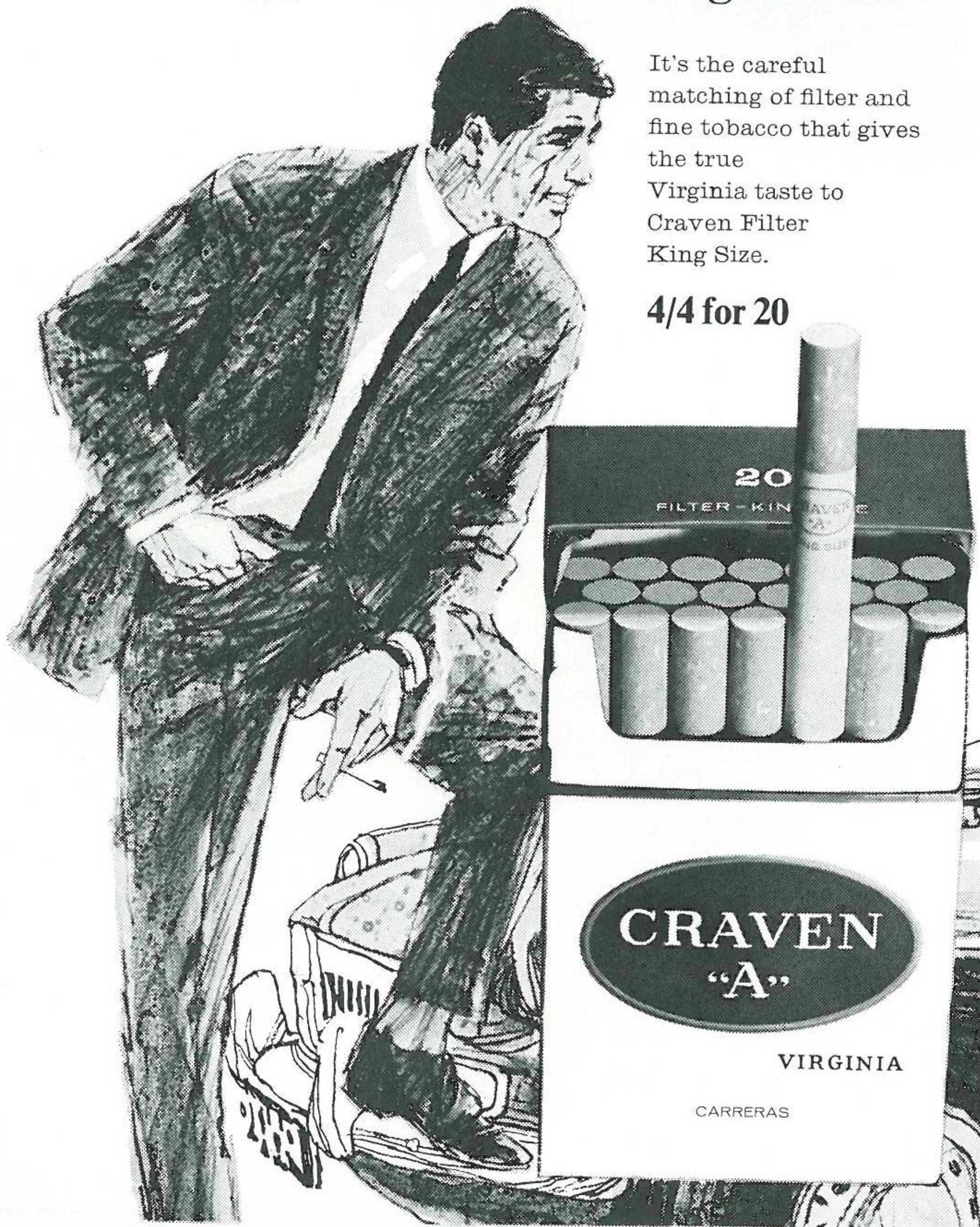
- (1) IAR mí v. AN mí—M. CEARR—20/3/66.
 - (2) LÚBÁI v. (1).
 - (3) UA BPAÍLÍ v. LAOIS—PORTLAOISE—20/3/66.
 - (4) LONGSPORT v. (3).
 - (5) CILL DARA v. CILL MANTÁM—EACORUM UÍ BROM—20/3/66.
 - (6) ÁC CLIAÉ v. (5).
 - (7) CILL COIMNIG v. CEATARLOC—CEATARLOC—20/3/66.
 - (8) LOC SARMAN v. (7).
 - (9) (2) v. (4).
 - (10) (6) v. (8).
- AN CRAOB (9) v. (10).

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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 8. No. 12. December, 1965

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COMMENT

PUT MONEY IN THY PURSE

ARE you a member of Ciste na Banban? Or more important still, is your club deriving a substantial and regular income from this same Ciste na Banban?

There is of late a tremendous consciousness throughout the Association of the necessity for providing players and spectators with modern facilities and amenities. This indeed is how it should be but in most instances these developments are retarded due to lack of finance.

It was for this very reason that Ciste na Banban came into being a little over two years ago. Since then it has provided clubs throughout the country with more than £112,000. So we ask again if your club has received a portion? If not, then the fault is that of the club alone.

It is a proven fact that Ciste na Banban is the answer to many of the problems which confront hundreds upon hundreds of clubs. Yet quite a number of these clubs have not bothered to avail themselves of this ready-made solution.

May we suggest that time is money and both are being lost. You would do your club a great service by taking pen in hand and writing to An Rúnaí, Ciste na Banban, 34 Parnell Place, Cork.

OUR COVER PICTURE

A MEMORY that warms the hurling man's heart on a cold December day: Croke Park . . . sunshine on green grass . . . the roar of the crowd like the triumphal swell of a great organ . . . and Tipperary and Kilkenny in battle gripped. What a wonderful recollection. Oh yes, the players. . . . Sure, you know them: Kieran Carey of Tipperary and Joe Dunphy of Kilkenny.

THE EDITOR ASKS

WHERE DO ALL THE

NORMALLY I am more than satisfied if I can get one All-Ireland final ticket but for this year's football final I desperately wanted a second one. And how I tried to get it. But there was nothing doing. I failed. During the search — and it was a long one spread out over a number of weeks, I learned a lot about tickets, where they all go and who gets them. Perhaps you would be interested in knowing too.

Well first of all there are 23,000 seats in Croke Park—made up of 16,000 on the huge Hogan Stand; 5,000 on the upper deck of the Cusack Stand and 2,000 on the Nally Stand.

When the new Hogan Stand was opened in 1959 'permanent' 10-year tickets were offered to the public at £10 upper deck and £15 lower deck. These tickets were tremendous value. They provided the holder with a seat at both senior finals (and replays if any) for ten years.

The reason why this scheme was availed of was to raise very necessary ready cash to pay-off part of the huge cost of building the Stand. However, the odd thing about it was that we didn't break any speed limits in rushing for these tickets.

I think it was 10,000 tickets that were offered under this scheme. Only approximately 7,000 were purchased. Furthermore some of these tickets were purchased by commercial firms such as Gael-Linn who offer them as prizes to their promoters prior to each All-Ireland final.

The first ten-year cycle ends in

THIS is the first of a new series of articles in which "Gaelic Sport's" Editor, TOM McQUAID, discusses a number of topics of major import. In the first of the series, "Where do all the Tickets Go?" the Editor answers with lucid detail the question that is heard on all sides—frequently in tones of angry frustration—during the month of September each year.

1969. When they are offered for sale again I have no doubt that there will be a huge demand for them. I don't suppose they will be as cheap next time but they will still remain a great bargain.

Anyway to get back to where the tickets go, we have established that approximately 7,000 of the 23,000 go to these holders of 'permanent' seats. This leaves 16,000. The next allocation is to the counties.

Each county board gets four tickets per every affiliated club on its books. There are in all well over 3,000 clubs. Multiply this by four and we have in the region of 13,000 tickets going to the counties. This leaves a balance of 3,000 tickets at Croke Park. But it does not end there.

The participating counties must naturally get a special allocation. The two senior counties get the bulk of this extra allocation—750 each to make 1,500. The allocation to the two minor counties brings this section to just on 2,000 tickets. This leaves a balance of 1,000. And there are still many more sections of the Association to be catered for.

Firstly there is the Central Council and the Association's Executive. Then there are the five Provincial Councils — Munster,

Leinster, Ulster, Connacht and Britain. There is also the Colleges Council. I must admit that I do not know what specific allocation each of these bodies get but just figure it out for yourself. There cannot be very much for them for remember there is still a huge press contingent to be taken care of, plus a host of important dignitaries ranging from bishops to ministers of state. The final thousand must take care of all of these bodies and people—and there it is.

Every single ticket is therefore strictly and specifically allocated. However, it is still worth having a further and deeper look at what happens to the 13,000 tickets which are allocated to the counties. Each county board gets, as I have already said, four tickets per registered club. This does not mean that every club gets four tickets. The county board has its own system of distribution and this varies from county to county.

Whatever system a county board uses is decided upon democratically and publically. Very often the allocation is published in its entirety in the local press.

Here, for example, is how Wexford disposed of their 1,450 tickets for the 1965 hurling final. Remember they were one of the competing

TICKETS GO ? ? ? ?

senior counties so they had an extra allocation — otherwise their share would be but half that figure.

	<i>Total</i>
To the clubs (3 each) - - - -	573
Twenty county players (5 each) - - - -	100
County Board members (2 each) - - - -	100
Four District Committees (10 each) - - - -	40
Members of Park Committees (2 each) - - - -	100
All-Ireland senior medalists (2 each) - - - -	140
Training Fund Trustees (2 each) - - - -	8
Senior hurling selectors (4 each) - - - -	20
Senior football selectors - - -	12
Former Co. Chairman and Secretaries - - - -	12
Officials of Rural Schools League - - - -	8
Senior hurling trainer - - -	3
Masseurs - - - -	6
Training campaign helpers - -	8
Team doctor - - - -	3
Others doctors - - - -	20
Dublin Wexford Association	10
Senior referees - - - -	20
Handball Board - - - -	8
The county's four T.D.s - - -	8
Mayor of Wexford - - - -	2
Other county officials - - -	10
St. Peters and Good Counsel Colleges - - - -	12
Christian Brother Schools - -	20
Local newspapers - - - -	12
Regular taxi drivers - - - -	15
Hotels - - - -	24
Secretary's voluntary helpers - - - -	70
Groundsmen - - - -	10
Bank staffs - - - -	12

Red Cross and Knights of Malta - - - -	16
Camogie Board - - - -	8
N.A.C.A. Board - - - -	6
Randalls hurling manufac- turers - - - -	4

All tickets had to be paid for except the 100 to the team. These were complimentary at the County Board's expense.

We can take it that these Wexford allocations are typical of all counties — except of course that Wexford's allocation was exceptionally large, firstly because they were in the final and secondly because they have more clubs than all other counties except Cork.

At the other end of the scale we have counties such as Longford and Monaghan (41 clubs each); Fermanagh and Leitrim (43 clubs each); Sligo 47 clubs, etc., whose allocation for a final is less than 200 tickets.

There can be anomalies too. Take Kerry for example. They, being mainly a one-game county, have only 75 clubs. Neighbouring Limerick have 167 clubs. This means that a year when Kerry are not involved in the football final Limerick gets more than twice as many football tickets as they do. This is a sore point down Kingdom way.

If there are any abuses in the ticket business they are to be found at two points. Firstly the "permanent" ten-year seats. Let us take Mr. X. He could have walked in and bought a few tickets in 1959 for £10 each. Some weeks before each final he receives his upper Hogan Stand tickets. What he does

with them is his own affair. He may pass them on to a few rugby friends or perhaps they will even finish up with the touts who 'flog' them at three to five times their normal price.

Then there is the more ordinary individual. He is a hard-working member of the Association at county board level. As a result he gets two tickets of his county's allocation. However, he happens to have a small over-draft in the local bank or else wants facility for one. The manager of the bank happens to be the chairman of the local rugby club but in a nice quiet way he persuades our friend to let him have a ticket. The result is that the chairman of Bally— rugby club is sitting up on the Hogan Stand while the true Gaels of the parish are over on Hill 16.

Human nature can never be eliminated from anything and as a result there will always be the chairman of some Bally— rugby club up on the Hogan Stand. He will have got his ticket through some unofficial channel such as our friend who owed him a favour.

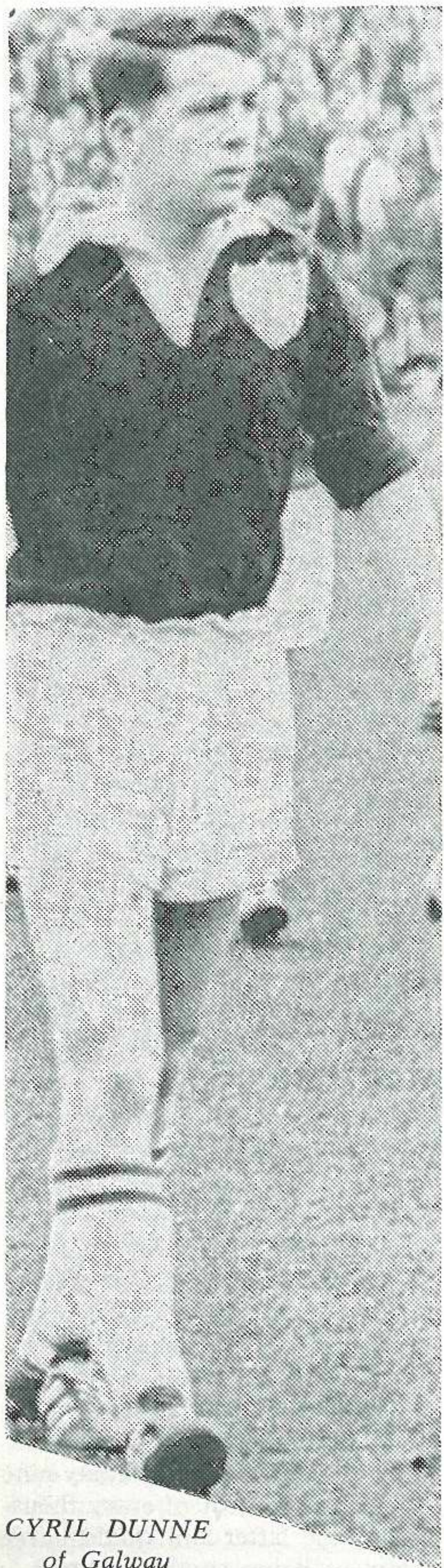
In conclusion I would make two final points. Firstly all tickets are allocated from Croke Park to the various branches of the Association in a fair and rigid manner. Every ticket is accounted and paid for.

Secondly every county board arranges its system of distribution democratically at public board meetings. They must pay Croke Park for every ticket.

However, when "Pat Murphy" gets his two tickets he can do what he likes with them. He can 'flog' them in the local or give them to the local bank manager, to his cousin Father Joe, or he can keep them safely in his pocket until he parts with them when he and a fellow Gael make their entry into Croke Park an hour before the big moment.

Nine hundred and ninety-nine "Pat Murphys" out of every thousand do the latter and would never dream of doing anything else.

ONLY TWO GAMES OUT OF SO MANY!



CYRIL DUNNE
of Galway

AN average year, maybe an all-round standard a little below average. That must be my verdict on the Gaelic year of 1965. Reasonably entertaining games we saw in plenty, but really memorable matches were all too few.

Indeed only two games, one in hurling and one in football sent me home entirely happy from Croke Park during the whole round of the year. One was the Leinster junior hurling final between Wicklow and Kildare and Kildare were again concerned in the other—the All-Ireland under-21 football final against Cork.

That hurling match was not the last word in style and stick-work or in all-round brilliance, but it was tremendously entertaining and roused a mainly neutral crowd to enthusiasm for a very simple reason. Here we had thirty young men playing for the fun of it and for the love of it and every one of them very obviously enjoyed every moment of that hour.

In the process they managed to transmit a great deal of their enjoyment to the crowd and I have often felt since that those two teams in their own way did more for the hurling revival in that hour than all the exhortations we can write would succeed in doing in the round of a year.

After all there is no game that gives greater satisfaction to play than our own game of hurling. The very feel of the ball flying sweetly

from the caman gives a thrill missing from all other sports. The clash of the ash and the song of the sliothar combine to form the sweetest of all music to the hurling lover and somehow all the basic delights of the game were captured in that drawn clash between Wicklow and Kildare, two counties that are, thank God, still content to enjoy their hurling and have not yet begun to take the game far too seriously, as is the case in the more famous counties where hurling of late has become so much a matter of prestige that defeat is, too often looked upon as disaster.

The realisation that we should play hurling because no game is greater fun is and must be the real basis of the hurling revival. No youngster will ever really become a good hurler because he feels it is a national duty to hurl.

It is, of course, a national duty to revive hurling, but only because it is the greatest game on earth, the living expression of all that was best and gayest in the age-old traditions of the Gael.

The second game I mentioned at the start was in a somewhat different category for the standard served up by both teams, especially in the last quarter was far and away the most brilliant, most spectacular and most stylish display of Gaelic football I have seen since St. Patrick's, Armagh, and St. Jarlath's, Tuam, provided an unfor-

● TO PAGE 9

LOOKING AROUND

By BRIAN DOHERTY

MAN WANTED

The following news item recently appeared in a Limerick paper :

The officials of the schoolboy section of Newcastle West Soccer Club are at the moment actively engaged in an effort to secure a first-class coach. The man they have in mind has had experience with two European countries and had to retire from active playing due to a severe injury, which years later has now cleared up. A native of Central Europe, he has taken up employment some 15 miles from Newcastle West. He played for the British Army Southern Command at the end of the war and during the Emergency trained for three years with Millwall.

I could make quite a few comments but on second thoughts they would be superfluous. This news item is complete in itself.

"OUR GAMES"

I have just finished reading "Our Games Annual, 1966" and, with all respect to the present company, I must still acclaim it as the finest G.A.A. publication I have ever had the pleasure to read. There are hours of pleasure for everybody and the photographs are tremendous. There is one full-page shot of Liam Devaney and Dan Quigley which is the best hurling shot I have ever seen.

However, you too probably have read "Our Games" by now. It not though you are missing a feast of G.A.A. reading.

LEST WE FORGET

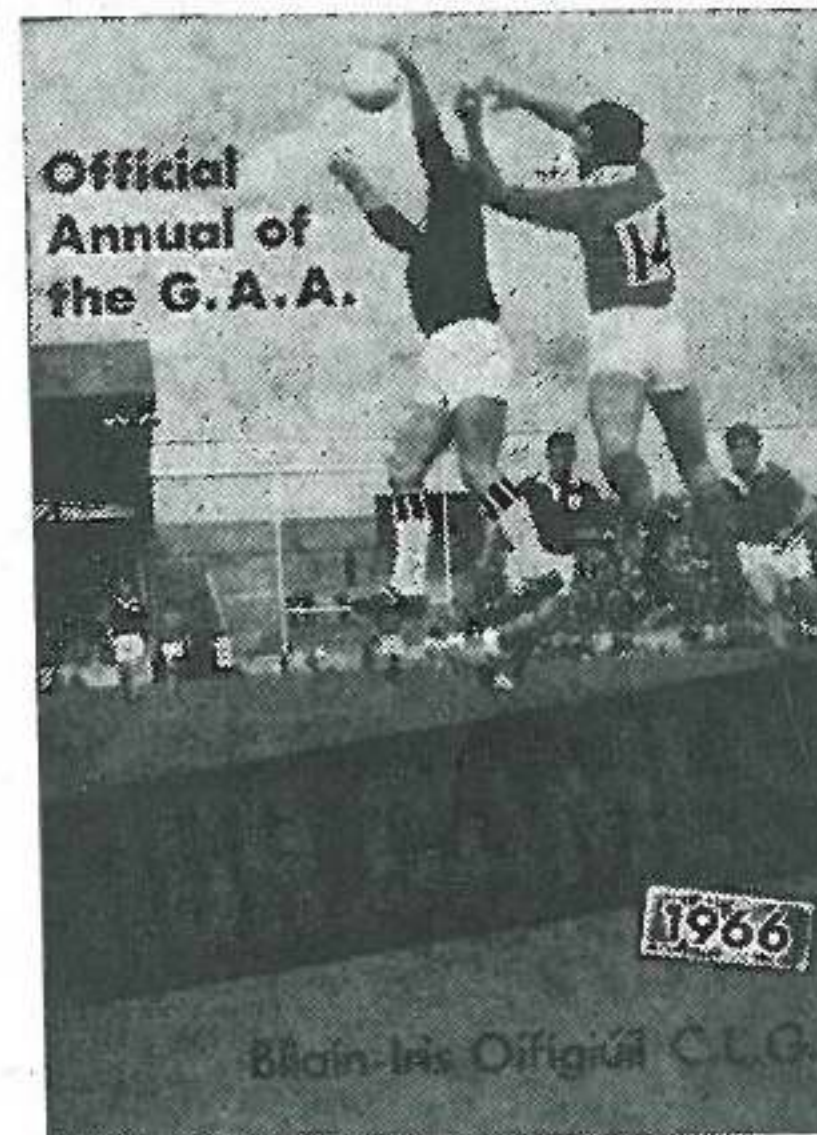
"The development of the language is only part of the development of our Irish culture as a whole and we cannot expect the language to develop unless the rest of our culture develops step by step with it.

"There should be more emphasis on fostering Irish music, songs, dances and games. There are still schools where our games are downgraded and where there are no facilities for playing them".

—Professor P. M. Quinlan in the Senate.

● TO PAGE 55

"THE BEST EVER"

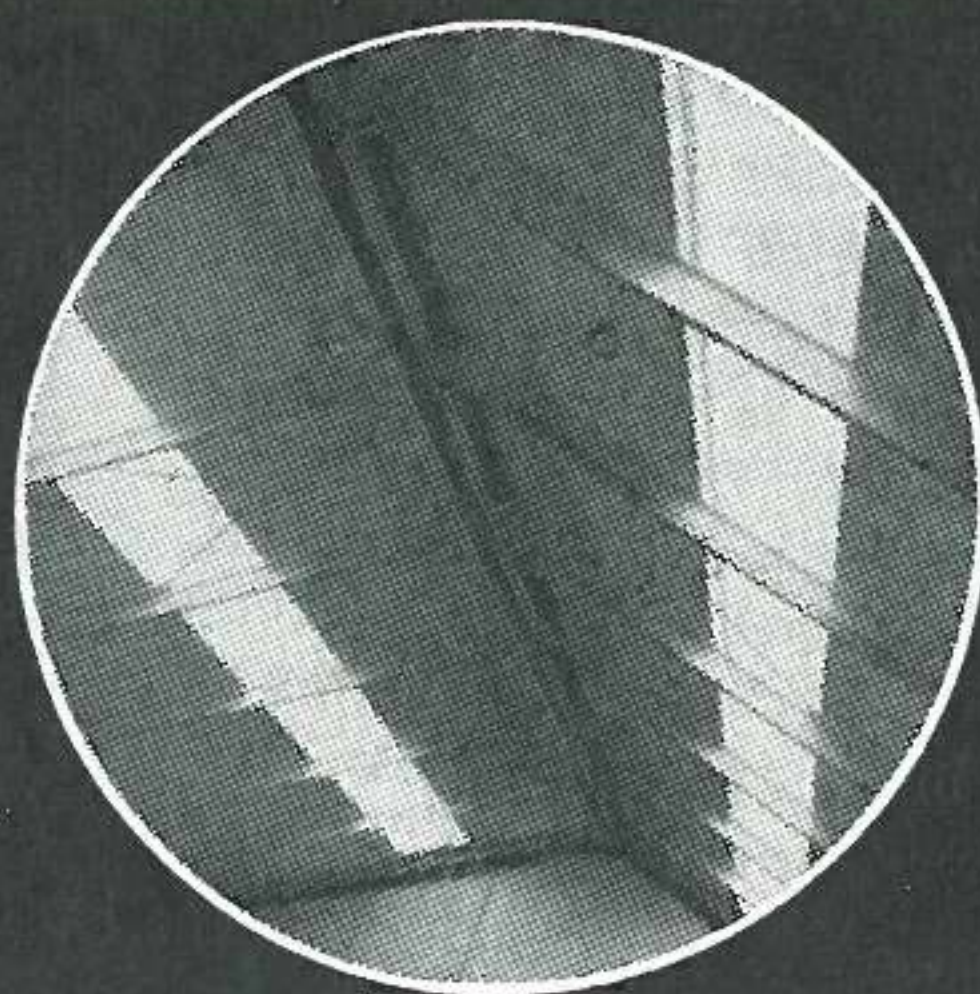
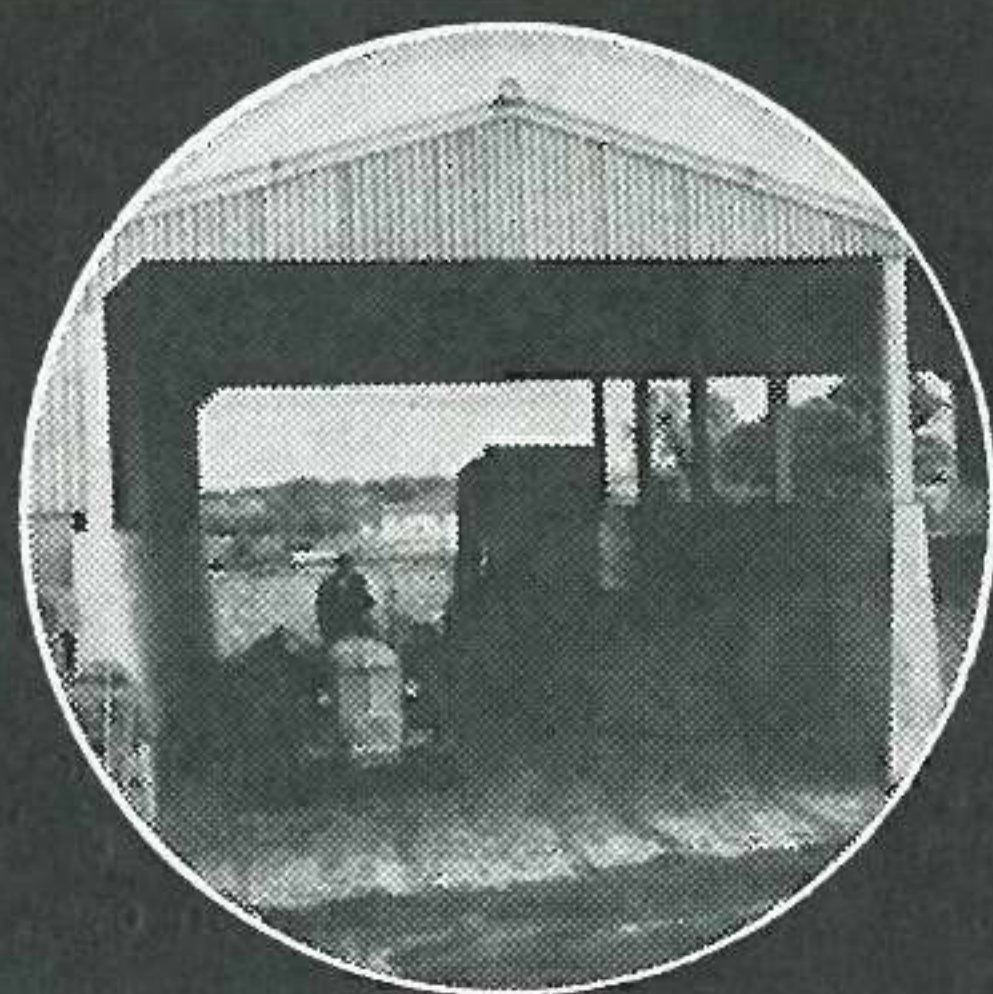
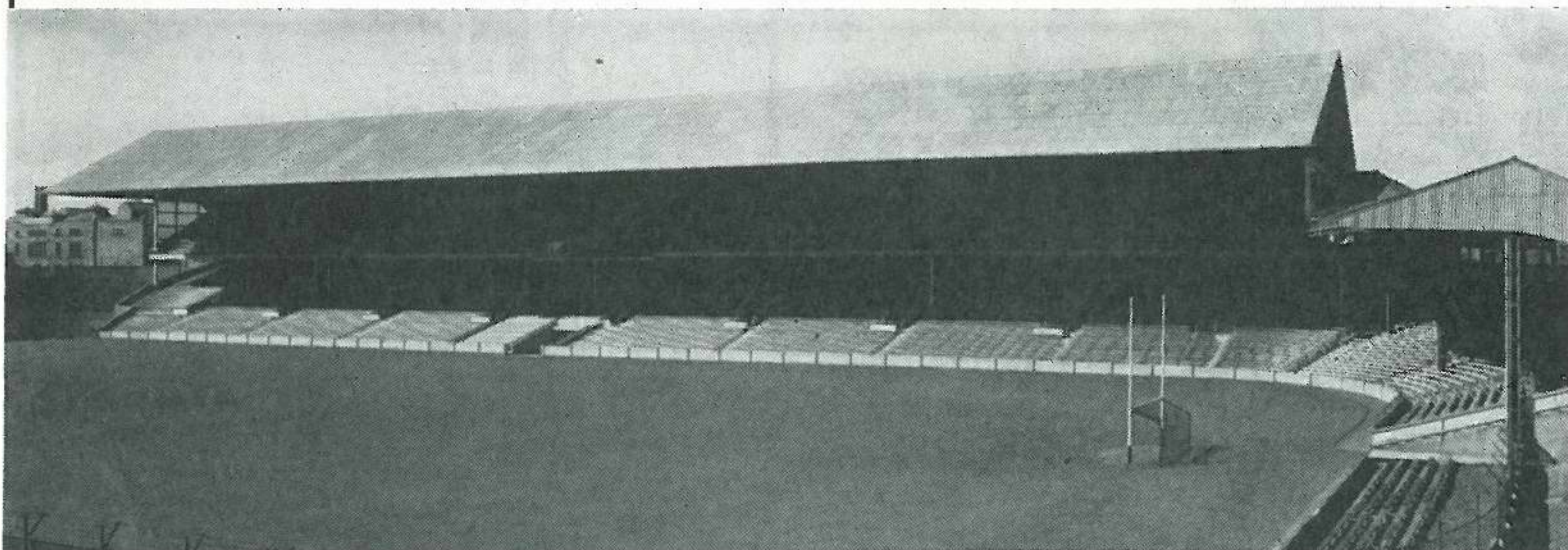


- OUR GAMES 1966 has already been hailed by the press as the most entertaining and attractively produced G.A.A. publication ever.
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Three of Galway's champion side . . . (l to r.): Seamus Leydon, Noel Tierney and Pat Donnellan.

● FROM PAGE 6

gettable hour in a colleges' final at Croke Park in the late 1940's.

This was football that those who saw it will treasure until their dying day, football that revived overnight all the Kildare glories, that had for so long seemed faded for ever.

These Kildare lads had all the style and polish for which the county was once so famed, but they had strength and determination as well, and they proved one thing very, very conclusively, that football on the Plains must have some great days ahead.

And yet, over that thrilling hour, the Kildare victors were very, very little ahead of one of the finest, if not *the* finest, football side I have ever seen come out of Cork.

Certainly these Cork and Kildare players gave the under-21 grade an entirely new status, a status that the under-21s have yet to achieve on the hurling fields.

And speaking of the hurling fields, has ever a county dominated the senior scene as completely as Tipperary did during 1965. It is safe to say that they were virtually unchallenged at home.

Kilkenny, early and late in the year, did offer a challenge, but there could be no denying that these Tipperary champions were so

supreme when the chips were down that except for the Oireachtas final we did not see a really competitive senior inter-county hurling match at Croke Park in the round of the league and championship season. (The Leinster final, of course, between Wexford and Kilkenny was close, but it was a peculiarly dead and alive affair all through.)

Tipperary, of course, did lose that second leg of the National League final in New York but, no matter what way you look at it, those circumstances were exceptional.

John Doyle by collecting his eighth All-Ireland and eleventh National League medals has set himself in a place apart in the hurling annals.

I saw only one game in the intermediate hurling championships and was not impressed though I am told that the Cork side, which eventually took the title was something more than promising.

Nor was the minor grade particularly inspiring although Dublin, a workmanlike lot, were very deserving winners.

Indeed the most revealing comment I can make about championship hurling during 1965 is this. Far and away the best hurling I saw was played by the camogie teams of Dublin and Antrim in

their All-Ireland semi-final at Glenariff. Those girls could teach many of our senior teams how to play, fast, direct and skilful hurling.

In football the all-round standard in all grades was considerably higher than in the hurling. Galway looked true champions in every game I saw them play except two.

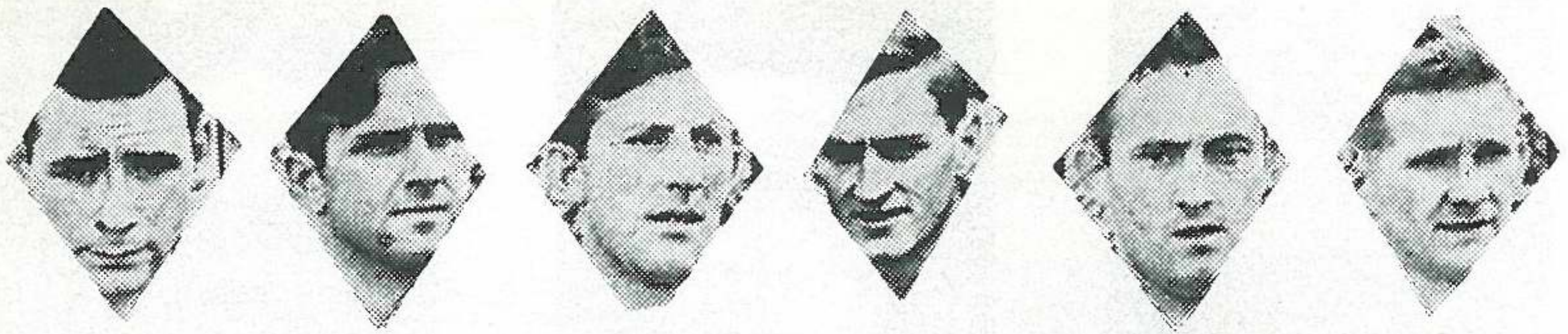
They were lucky to beat Kerry in the league final and luckier still to beat Down in the All-Ireland semi-final. But in the end they won the Sam Maguire Cup even more convincingly in 1965 than they did in 1964.

Most improved teams of the year were Down and Longford; Sligo and Antrim are two worth keeping an eye on.

Galway's all round strength was proved by the clear-cut final victory of their junior side over Kildare after a semi-final draw with Kerry.

Derry minors were a very promising side but, and this is a very healthy sign for the future, they had little enough to spare over Down, Roscommon or Kerry.

Ulster in football and Leinster in hurling retained the Railway Cups in average games that were a fitting prelude to this average year that, however, held much bright promise for 1966.



HURLING TEAM OF THE YEAR

LITTLE need to evaluate the candidates for the outstanding hurling team of the year this time: there is only one candidate. Tipperary is the only qualifier. They have set so high a standard that they have smothered all the others out of the race. How good were they this year? Were the others that bad, or was it that Tipperary was so good?

It is not difficult to say that Tipperary were very good indeed. It is also not so hard to come to the conclusion that the others were not up to the high standards which they have from time to time shown. But, I think there is a little more to it than that.

Tipperary were, maybe, not quite so good as the year before, and the opposition was no better than the year before. This is probably the truth, for after all Tipperary has a team which is getting a little long in the tooth—certainly many of them are still comparatively young, but even they have been hurling for a long time indeed.

Their performances during the year would suggest, however, that they have still a long way to go on the downward trail before they are endangered in their supremacy by any of the other counties. Yet, it was disappointing that Kilkenny have made such little progress in the year. This is still something very like the team which won an All-Ireland title somewhat before its time in 1963. Their burst of

By
JAY DRENNAN

brilliance to the top so soon may have had some effect in the final of 1964, one got the impression that all they needed was a normal amount of progress in teamwork and tactics to make the issue a closer one when they met Tipperary in 1965.

They didn't even survive to reach the decider, and because of their failure, Wexford was pitchforked into the glare of the spotlight and shipped up to Croke Park with a team that was still in the throes of rebuilding. I think they must have been surprised, but I have a feeling that they will benefit something more from their defeat there than did Kilkenny the year before.

Indeed, there is no reason to doubt that Wexford may be the team of the future; they have a good enough senior fifteen even as it is, and what a bundle of up-and-coming talent down at home. All

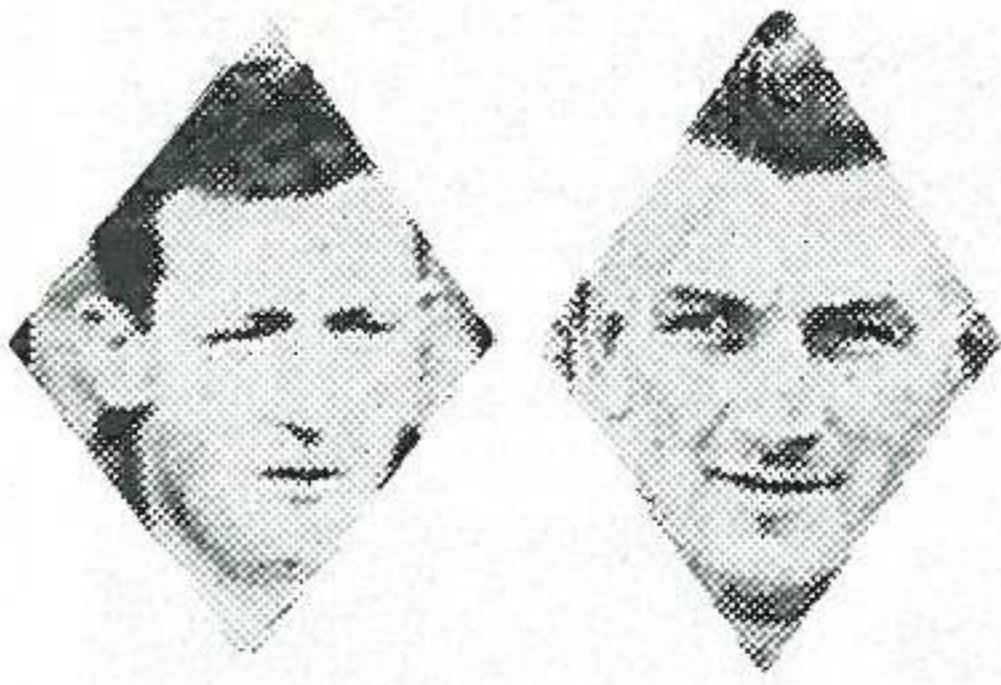
Members of Tipperary's all-conquering team pictured at the top of this article are (l. to r.): Jimmy Doyle, John Doyle, Kieran Carey, Donie Nealon, Mick Maher, Mick Burns, John McKenna and Theo English.

they need, I think, is time to mould the team along the best lines, and time to settle into a style which will suit them. They showed signs in the All-Ireland final of making the fatal blunder of adopting as a panacea the style of their betters who brought their county honour when these lads were still in short pants.

It is a fact that the impression made by the Rackards and Jim Morrissey, and Ned Wheeler, the Hearnés and the Kehoes cannot have been but great on these youngsters; but they would be very foolish to believe that they can play in the same style as these giants.

Fourteen and fifteen stone men can do things that eleven stone sprinters ought not to try. The grabbing hand of the Rackards could be so glorious for them, but so disastrous for a new generation of different build and, not less, but different, skills.

To return to the champions: it was a great year, no doubt, what with John Doyle getting even with Ring, and the League won on top of the championship once again. How long can they go on? The constant success of the last few years, with the constant pressure it puts on a team as every match becomes a vital one, has left Tipperary little chance to find new players of stature to step into the places which must some day be vacated.



How long can they go on?

Unless I am much mistaken there will be a problem in the full-line of defence should the three great present-day incumbents call it a day. One must wonder, too, what would happen to the team if Theo English were to lose his magnificently consistent form; if Jimmy Doyle continued to put on weight; if Donie Nealon's golden touch in the vital moment were to desert him; if Tony Wall ceased to hurl like an ideal from the pages of his own text-book.

On the supposition that all these things happened together, I think Tipperary would be in for a lean enough period, while they set about bringing in and blending young and inexperienced replacements. Since, however, these suppositions are hardly likely to occur for another year, at least, we have every right to expect that they will again carry off the crown next September.

But, one thing may be causing Tipperary folk some bother: that they have not turned out any of their masterful minor teams in recent years. Will this mean, in time, that the stream of good players on the way up will also strike a "dry" period? Can it mean that the ambitions of the youth of Tipperary have been sated with success?



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THE BUSY MEN OF DUBLIN

RECORDS OF A DECADE

I HAVE been going through my records for the decade 1955-'64 and have come up with some interesting statistics. During those ten years the Dublin footballers had 211 games—winning 138, drawing 12 and losing 61. They were the busiest team of the decade.

Next came the Galway footballers with 183 games of which they won 122 drew 11 and lost 50. The Kilkenny hurlers are in third place — 167 games, 101 wins, 12 draws and 54 losses.

Dublin also played most games in any single year of that decade — 27 in 1962. In those 27 games the Dublin footballers scored 44 goals and 238 points.

Galway were the only county to go through a year of that decade without defeat. The year was 1956 when Sean Purcell and his men had 17 games, won 16 of them and drew with Offaly in a challenge.

There were many scoring feats. In 1963 Kildare beat Carlow 9-7 to 0-1 in a football league game at Athy. Then there were the Tipperary-Kerry games. In hurling Tipperary won 15-4 to 2-3 in 1958 (a 50 points winning margin), while in football Kerry had revenge by 8-11 to 0-6 in 1961 at Kilmallock.

Dublin slammed home 10 goals against Longford in the 1960 Leinster football championship at Mullingar, while in hurling Wicklow beat Down 14-8 to 0-3 in 1963 at Ashford (a 47 points win).

When Kerry and Offaly met in hurling at Tralee in November, 1964 they finished 6-10 to 6-10,

while at the other end of the scale Meath and Longford footballers drew 0-2 each in 1958. Kilkenny did even better. Their footballers failed to score against Waterford at Thomastown in 1961. Waterford scored 2-1.

An interesting fact about penalty kicks. From 1957 to the end of last season there were 179 penalties awarded in senior intercounty and Railway Cup football games. Of these 100 resulted in goals, 13 were sent over the bar and 60 were missed. Which, in fact, means that four out of every nine penalties are missed or saved. This is an amazingly high proportion when you think about it.

Here then are the top scoring teams during the decade 1955-64 and their total scores for each year;

FOOTBALL

		<i>games scored</i>	
1955—Dublin	....	21	33-166
1956—Galway	....	17	35-151
1957—Tyrone	....	23	35-198
1958—Dublin	....	20	30-166
1959—Kerry	....	18	37-173
1960—Down	....	20	34-189
1961—Kerry	....	19	36-198
1962—Dublin	....	27	44-238
1963—Dublin	....	21	35-179
1964—Galway	....	24	36-232

It will be noted that, except for Dublin's huge total in 1962, there is quite a consistent pattern about the top total score each year.

By OWEN McCANN

HURLING

		<i>games scored</i>	
1955—Wexford	....	21	66-154
1956—Wexford	....	19	71-173
1957—Kilkenny	....	18	60-166
1958—Wexford	....	17	61-136
1959—Kilkenny	....	17	73-115
1960—Tipperary	....	16	65-176
1961—Tipperary	....	17	71-140
1962—Tipperary	....	19	74-172
1964—Tipperary	....	16	57-169

The big wins of the decade were:

FOOTBALL

By 33 pts.—	Kildare 9-7	Carlow 0-1—1963
By 29 pts.—	Kerry 8-11	Tipp. 0-6—1961
By 27 pts.—	Mayo 7-8	Leitrim 0-2—1963
By 27 pts.—	Roscommon 6-14	Fermanagh 1-2—1956.
By 26 pts.—	Dublin 10-13	Longford 3-6—1960.

HURLING

By 50 pts.—	Tipp. 15-14	Kerry 2-3—1958
By 47 pts.—	Wicklow 14-8	Down 0-3 — 1963.
By 40 pts.—	Tipp. 10-16	Kerry 1-3—1959
By 39 pts.—	Tipp. 11-11	Offaly 1-2—1962
By 38 pts.—	Tipp. 10-10	Kerry 0-2—1961.



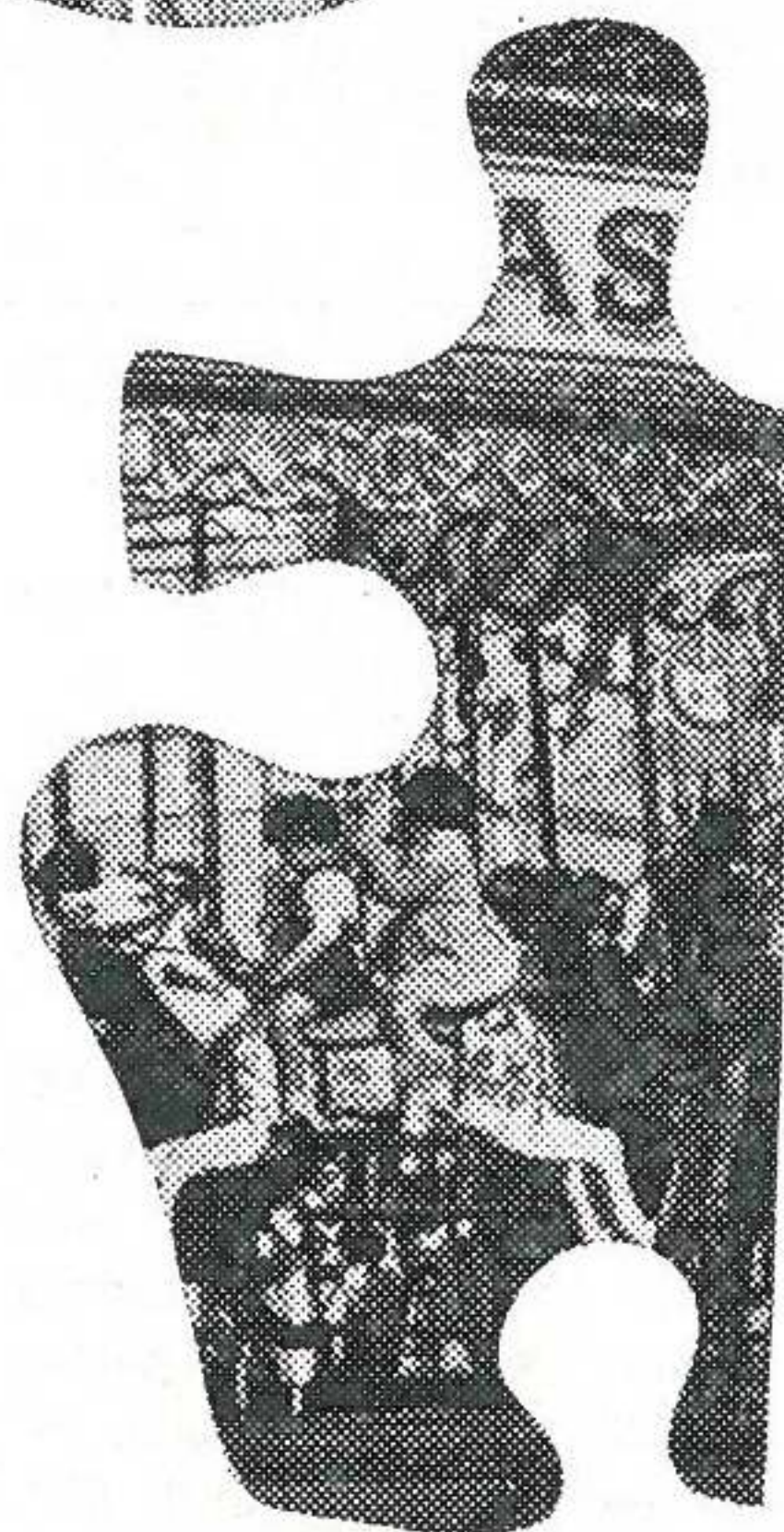
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TOP TEN

AS regular readers are aware, GAE LIC SPORT presents each month its Top Ten lists in football and hurling. These lists are based on individual senior intercounty performances during the previous month. Then at the end of each year the various monthly lists are totted up to decide the Top Ten footballers and hurlers of the year.

Watch out then for next month's issue which will feature our 1965 tabulations.

This month's lists are based on performances from Sunday, October 17 to Sunday, November 7 inclusive.

HURLING

1. Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary).
2. Tony Wall (Tipperary).
3. Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny).
4. Pat Henderson (Kilkenny).
5. Dan Quigley (Wexford).
6. Theo English (Tipperary).
7. Andy Comerford (Kilkenny).
8. Willie Murphy (Wexford).
9. Vin Staples (Wexford).
10. Seamus Cleere (Kilkenny).

FOOTBALL

1. Paddy Doherty (Down).
2. Sean O'Neill (Down).
3. James McCartan (Down).
4. Enda Colleran (Galway).
5. Johnny Geraghty (Galway).
6. Noel McClurg (Fermanagh).
7. Mick O'Connell (Kerry).
8. Paddy McMahon (Clare).
9. Seamus Taggart (Tyrone).
10. Sean Lee (Dublin).

**BY PHILIP
RODERICK—A
BIT OF A
WEXFORDMAN**



The Rackard brothers . . . Bobby, Nick and Willie.

LET'S DRINK A TOAST TO BOBBY RACKARD!

YOU know, I like to think that I am a bit of a Wexford man. Perhaps it is because we used to spend our holidays in Ballymoney outside Gorey for many years . . . or perhaps it is that I have many fond memories of competing at sports meetings in Co. Wexford many many years ago when Mick Waters and Willie Esmonde were flinging the javelin around and when young Maurice Furlong of Enniscorthy was vaulting higher than any man in this country. Or it could be as Pdraig Puirseal once said to me that any of us interested in hurling always like to claim

Wexford as our second county.

Whatever it is, I must confess, even though I will always be a staunch Corkman, that I have a very very soft spot for Wexford. God forgive me for admitting it . . . but I was cheering for them in this year's All-Ireland final and even though I knew the result was a foregone conclusion from early on, there was always the little hope that a miracle might happen. But, it was not to be . . . and I was a sad man leaving Croke Park that day.

But I was happy again the other day; my little bit of adopted Wex-

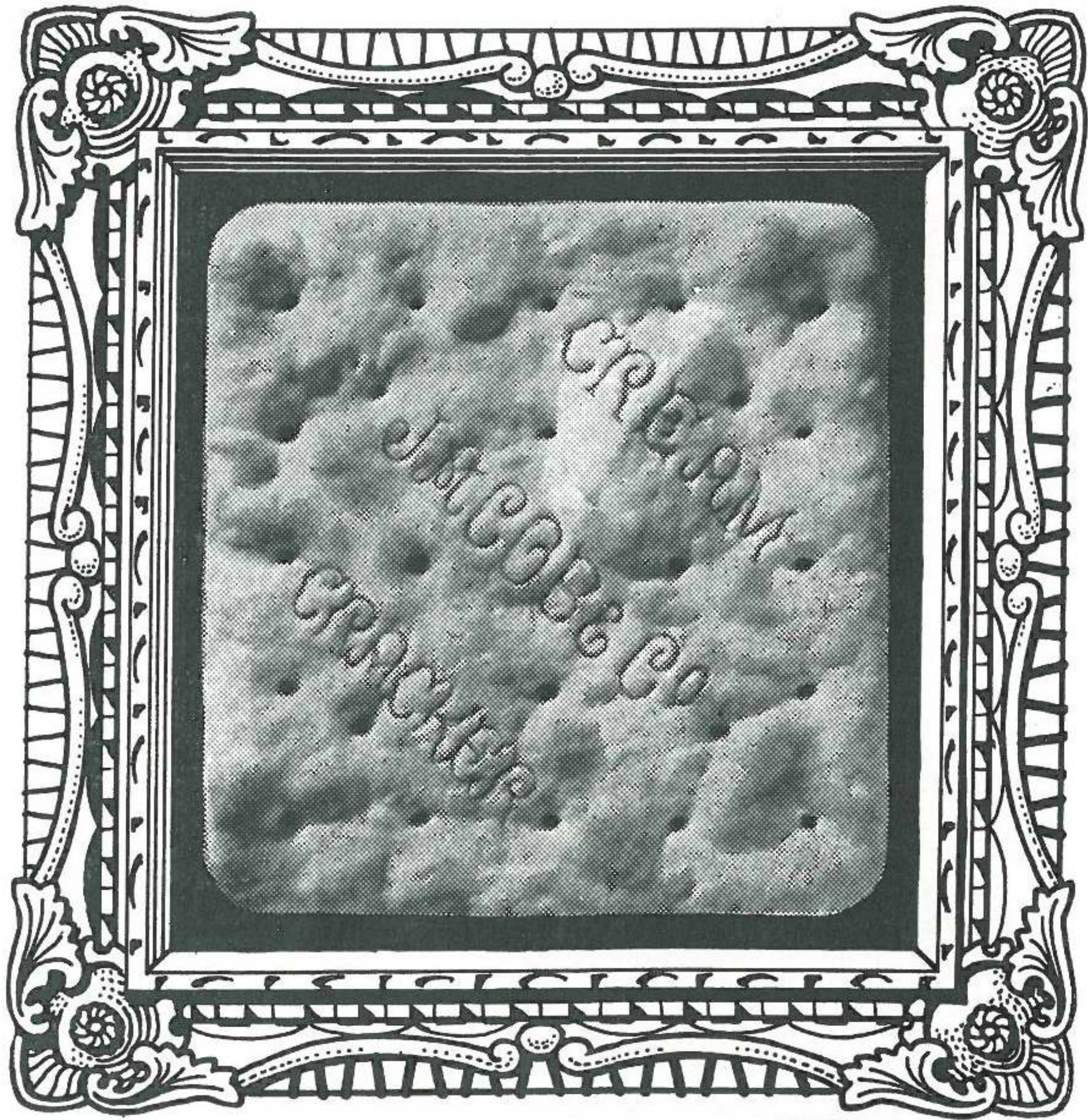
ford blood got a little shot of new life into it when I heard the news that Bobby Rackard had been chosen—and it was unanimous — for the John Power Wexford Sports Star of the Past Award. Never did any man deserve this award more and, to be quite honest, I was just as pleased about it as if Eamonn Young had got it.

And tell me; weren't you just as pleased? Of course you were. Whatever it is, there was always that magnetism about the Rackards of Killane and over the years they have built up a wonderfully warm reputation that has endeared them to everyone who has ever followed hurling.

I remember well when they started to come into the sporting limelight. Nick, of course, was the first and many was the Sunday during the early 1940s when I saw him playing either for Wexford or in some Dublin club game. He was an imposing youngster at the time but often in those days when we watched him, there was the regret that we would never see him win an All-Ireland medal. How could he? He was with Wexford, and, except for one period when it seemed that a Wexford football team might go somewhere the county appeared to be deemed forever to remain in the wilderness of hurling.

Then, all of a sudden, there were three Rackards on the Wexford hurling team, and people were

(Continued Page 17)



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A TOAST TO BOBBY RACKARD

(From
Page 15)

beginning to talk of the family. But, even then, there did not appear to be much hope that Wexford hurling would go anywhere. And Nick, by then, was speedily heading towards the veteran stages.

Came 1951. Wexford won the Leinster title, gave Galway a good beating in the All-Ireland semi-final and, much to everyone's delight and perhaps a little surprise, Wexford were at Croke Park to play in an All-Ireland hurling final.

How many of you remember that final? I do vividly . . . and my lasting memory of it was the goal that Wexford scored in the first five minutes. A ball dropped into the goal area and the tremendous figure of Nick Rackard, surrounded, it seemed by Tipperary men, swept everyone, including Tipperary's goalkeeper, Tony Reddan, into the back of the net. It was a glorious start and when Wexford had another goal shortly afterwards, the signs of great things to come were shining on the wall.

But, Tipperary, then the finely tempered warriors of many battles, took over, and, in the end, with craft and experience, turned back the Wexford challenge. When it was all over, Tipperary were easy winners by a margin of ten points.

And that, as far as most people were concerned, was the end of Wexford as a hurling power. They were beaten in the Leinster championships for the next two years; it looked as though the Rackard's hopes of All-Ireland medals were gone forever.

Then came 1954 and, after a fantastic victory over Antrim, in which Nick set a record of 7 goals and 7 points, Wexford were back in the All-Ireland final again. Cork beat them but as the following

years were to prove, Wexford's bad days were over.

Everyone was happy the following year—with the possible exception of Galway. It was not a great final but I think the thought in everyone's mind leaving Croke Park that day was the fact that Nick Rackard, at long last, had got his All-Ireland medal.

He was back again the following year, in a great final, to win a second one but this time he had to share all the honours with his two brothers. After all, three brothers winning All-Ireland medals for the second year in succession was an even bigger thing than the fact that Nick had got his long sought honour.

Everyone knows what has happened since then; Wexford won

another All-Ireland final in 1960 and even as late as this year were still good enough to win through to the last round of the All-Ireland championship.

But, nowadays, and there is always that little bit of regret when one thinks about it, there is no Rackard on the team. And, personally, I find it difficult to think about Wexford hurling without thinking about the Rackard family.

With the award now to Bobby of the Sports Star of the Past, it is good to know that his own countymen feel as I do. They, too, like all of us in this country will never forget the fact that Wexford hurling was at its finest when the Rackards were there to give it the lustre that will last through the years.

And nothing is more certain than that with the passage of time, there will be three Rackards in the "John Power Wexford Sports Stars of the Past". As the years go by Nicky and Billy must be honoured in their own county's Hall of Fame.

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EAMONN YOUNG LOOKS AT—

THE CHANGING FACE OF

SOME years ago I wrote a little story. Briefly it went like this:

The full-back ran out to take the kick. The game was almost over and his team was leading by one point in the final of the county junior championship.

Instead of kicking out the ball he picked it up with his foot hopped it twice on his toe and having made about fifteen yards against a startled foe, kicked a nice pass to his pal who hared off down the field. To make a long story short it went over the bar.

The referee nearly ruptured himself blowing the whistle. He called back the ball and placed it for a penalty. A good lad ran up to kick. The full back was in the goal—and so was the ball in about two seconds flat.

The crowd rushed the pitch; the referee got a hiding and the full-back was last seen running home across the fields.

Of course it never happened. But I thought it would if ever a footballer (or hurler) availed of the liberty given in the Rules.

For simplicity we'll stick to one game and read the end of Rule 141 which says: "The player taking the kick out may play the ball more than once before any other player touches it."

In the middle of October the full back from Bandon ran up to the kick out, down in Clonakilty. Ray O'Neill was his name. But he didn't kick it out. He picked

it up and drove away. I was hoping the referee hadn't read the rule for I was for the Dohenys who were the opposition. Unfortunately the referee had. A fortnight after, another junior full-back did the same. I heard since he had consulted the referee. There was no whistle.

This shows that players are reading more. And that's how the games will change in the years ahead. Hurling is one of those fundamental games of skill that doesn't breed many innovations but in football great changes have already been made by players who read and spend hours in practice. The solo-run, the hand-pass, the foot-pass, the dribble, the ground-pass are all skills that have altered the game with their arrival without ever changing the fundamentals of ability to gain possession (fetch) and to score (accurate kick) that are the bed-rock of Gaelic football.

In the same way as men practice more together—and remember we have more leisure for practice than five years ago—they will take out-field frees much more quickly and instead of always driving the long ball will often tap a twenty yarder low to a comrade. The same will apply to the sideline balls. And everybody will be able to kick those ground balls well—even in club football—something that cannot be said to-day.

I can see a heavier penalty for pulling down. And now I'm not

one bit worried about the John Donnellan-Derry O'Shea effort in the final. I would probably have done the same—if I could catch that Kerryman.

But many years ago I proposed at a Cork County Convention that the deliberate pull down outside the twenty-one would be penalised by a twenty-one yard free while the same foul inside the twenty-one would merit a penalty. At present as everyone knows it pays to pull down. This Rule which will probably come would eliminate it.

I think the years ahead will give us greater scoring. The increased awareness of the back to the free-kicking danger will cut down fouling but as referees are (quite wrongly) blowing the hard but fair shoulder-charge we'll find the forwards in football anyway, getting away with more, and if they practice more as I expect we'll have naturally accurate men kicking more accurately with less virile interference.

In the 21-aside days the emphasis was on strength. The important item in the days ahead will be swerve, skill and playing brains. The big, fast, clever man will remain better than the small, fast, clever man, but there will be more room for the weaker fellow and consequently more of them in it.

I hope—and I'm by no means sure of this—that referees will try to guard the man who goes up for the fetch, a lovely skill. How I

FOOTBALL

wish that every effort to spoil the fetch, every push in the back, every tug at the jersey was seen and whistled. A lot of the negative football we see to-day might go as a result.

I was counting the points scored in the football finals of the 'twenties. They totalled 88 as against 138 in the 'forties. The trend will remain with us in the years ahead I think and it stands to reason that the more points scored the more scores will be got from the half-forward line and the corners with less emphasis on the strong full-forward and full-back who stay on the square.

Will the roving full-forward then become more the normal than the exception? It would seem that the more combined the play becomes the more the full forward will run out towards the forty yards.

As we well know, however, if he can't shoot he'll still be a bad full-forward.

Gaelic football will become I think a more skilful and combined game as the years slip by. It should remain quite attractive and draw the crowds in spite of television (which should not be shown instantaneously anyhow).

Still, I'm not sure that the All-Ireland champions of 1975, in spite of improved skills and training methods, would beat the Galway team of 1965—or the Cavan side of thirty years ago.



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Handball in Dublin

By ALLEYMAN

THE story of handball in Dublin is an intriguing one. Through the years the county has always been a recognised stronghold of the game so let us delve into history, and re-live again some of the marathon games played at Weldon's, then famed ballcourt in Ballymun, popularly known as the "Boot."

It in fact was designed and laid out by the great and much travelled John Lawlor, who in turn had the unique distinction of playing professional handball, having a crack at the world championship with Phil Casey of Brooklyn, and then to become the first President of the Handball Council under G.A.A. rules.

Clondalkin, Lusk, Ashtown and Terenure were other handball havens of an earlier era. Dublin has changed in latter years, with the main concentration now confined within the City boundaries.

It is difficult to explain the contraction from the rural areas, though, on reflection, it might indicate that when handball flourished in the districts I mentioned earlier, it was based more in the family unit than the club.

The important aspect of having the ballcourts properly vested in the Association, was, apparently,

overlooked by those who built them, hence the disposal of premises, to which the courts were attached wrote an end to the games in those areas.

Nonetheless, handball in Dublin to-day is far from being a dormant art. Rather does one get the impression that it is passing through a stage of revitalisation. We may in the not too distant future see a revitalisation in the outlying areas.

The cue for such development would, of course, have to come from the City clubs and a dynamic leadership at Dublin County Board level.

Some assistance too, would naturally be appreciated from the legion of former top-class players, who benefitted most in their playing days but who are now inactive.

It is, perhaps, in the schoolboy that the real image of 1970 handball in Dublin is best reflected.

Enthusiasm, both at primary and secondary school level, is gaining impetus, competition is keen, and the inevitable struggle for a place at the top makes way for a general raising of standards.

Coincidental, with that, it is interesting to note, that the County Board recently broke new ground when a special meeting was convened to elect a Minor Board that

would cater solely for the under-age players in the county.

If first impressions count for anything, then the venture is deemed to be a wonderful success.

Representatives from the schools and colleges, who hitherto had kept the flag flying, were naturally there, but, most encouraging was the attendance of many newcomers among them recently affiliated clubs, all enthusiastic and eager to give a much-needed injection to juvenile handball in Dublin.

And, to put the new Board in its correct perspective, General Secretary Seosamh O Loingsigh, and Leinster Chairman, Dick Arnold came along to launch the attempt and wish it every success.

The forthcoming plans are adventurous, embracing the running of leagues in all age groups from ten to eighteen, to be followed by championships of a similar nature.

Finance, as ever, in handball, will be a major problem, but I understand that plans for a flag-day, or major raffle are contemplated. In effect, a lead has been given that could be followed effectively by other counties.

And as for Dublin itself, it is certain that, with youth on the march the future of the game in the county is secure.



Martin Newell.

MARTIN NEWELL: MAN OF

WHAT were the events on the senior intercounty playing fields during the year now drawing to a close that will live longest in our memories? A difficult question.

Take the outstanding individual display of the year, for instance. John Timmons gave a majestic performance, capped by the scoring of 3-3, against Louth in a National League tie at Dundalk in March; Tom Maguire's Railway Cup final showing was centre half-back play at its best; P. J. Flood was an inspiring figure in Donegal's Dr. Lagan Cup semi-final win over Down in March, and Tony Wall really illuminated the scene with his brilliant hurling in the League final second leg tie, and the Oireachtas Cup decider.

Weigh in some spectacular goal-keeping performances by Ollie Walsh and Johnny Geraghty, the power-packed football of Pat Collier in the Leinster championship semi-final against Westmeath at

Croke Park, and the fluent and polished hurling of Jimmy Doyle in the League "home" final, and it all adds up to a worthy list of contenders.

I award the honour, however, to Martin Newell's showing in that disappointing All-Ireland final. This was a brilliant exhibition; cool, purposeful, assured, and sealed regally in greatness by safe-fielding, and the efficient manner in which he both backed up at midfield, and provided the forwards with lengthy and well-directed deliveries. A display this that not only shone like a beacon in that dull encounter, but ranks as one of the best of recent years in either code.

Games of the year? The list is not quite as long here, as really superb games were not all that plentiful. Still, Dublin's last second point win over Offaly at Croke Park in the opening League series of 1965 climaxed a gripping encounter; Kilkenny and Tipperary provided sparkling hurling in that

League clash that ended in a shock Noreside win at Thurles in April, and the Meath-Westmeath Leinster clash, and the Oireachtas Cup final were other games with many of the essential ingredients needed for billing as match of the year.

But my choice is the Down-Kerry Grounds' Tournament semi-final. This was a splendid game: fast, exciting, sporting, with skillful and intelligent and combined football from both sides, and climaxed by a pulsating final twelve minutes, which saw Down come from two points in arrears to snatch victory with a Paddy Doherty point a half minute from the final whistles.

In line for selection as goal of 1965 are a superbly taken score by John Timmons in the 28th minute of that League tie at Dundalk that climaxed a grand movement; Phil Wilson's goal that put the dream finish to a superb 50 yards solo dash and earned Wexford a last minute League win over Dublin at

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THE YEAR

Croke Park in April; the Seamus Leydon score that won the "home" final, and Sean McLoughlin's palmed major in the All-Ireland decider.

I pass them all over, however, in favour of Down's first goal in the Ulster final with Cavan at Clones. Felix Quigley collected, on the right, a clearance from Tom O'Hare, and centered to Sean O'Neill. He cleverly drew the backs, and placed the ball perfectly just ahead of the in-rushing Paddy Doherty, who unleashed on the run a cracking left footed drive from ten yards that gave the goalkeeper no chance. A brilliantly conceived and executed score this.

When one comes to considering the save of the year, Ollie Walsh and Johnny Geraghty are the goalkeepers who immediately spring to mind. Both undoubtedly brought off some wonderful saves throughout the year, and singling out one is by no means an easy choice.

Challenging particularly strongly for selection as the point of 1965 are a brilliantly taken score from 30 yards out casually put over by Martin Codd to end the scoring in the Leinster final, and a superb sideline point from 50 yards by Theo English after eight minutes of the second half of the All-Ireland final.

Here, then, is to 1966—may it be another year of memorable and notable and sporting performances, and great games, and also a successful one for all concerned with GAELIC SPORT!

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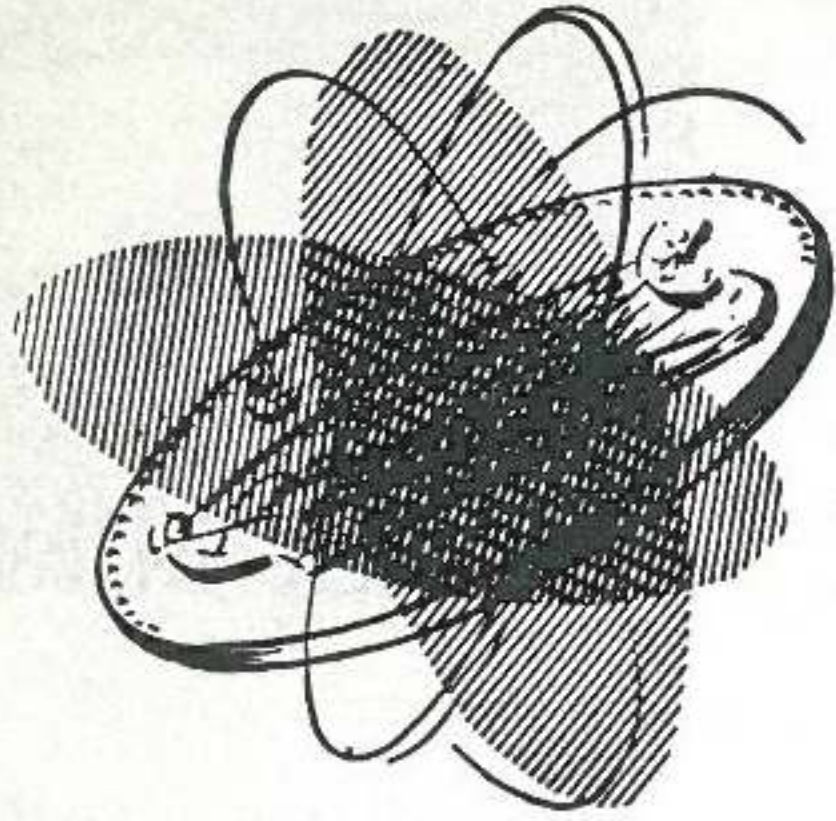
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EAMONN YOUNG *replies to critic of Kerry football*

BALDERDASH, Mr. HUGHES

WISHFUL thinking, pulling our legs or plain balderdash. That's how I regard Frank Hughes' article in last month's issue.

Kerry are a spent force says Frank.

Firstly, though he says, and quite rightly, that football has changed, and quite wrongly, that it started with the Dublin team in the mid-fifties and was continued by Down and Galway. In fact the first real changes started in the early days of the century when they reduced

teams from 21 to 17 and about ten years later lopped a further two off the sides. Yet the Kingdom which didn't win its first championship until 1903, survived these changes to fight their way to the final on no less than eight occasions in the next twelve years, winning five times.

The solo-run which many think is a pretty modern skill started down in Tralee in 1924, when that burly forward the late John P. Murphy of Cavan—a cousin of Tom

and John Joe O'Reilly — startled the crowd. Add this innovation to the bewildering hand-passing style and good football of the Lily Whites in the second half of the 'twenties — and yet the Kingdom won its three of five contested finals two of them over Kildare.

In the 'thirties the great Cavan sides led by Tom O'Reilly, Jim Smith, Danny Morgan and Paddy Smith were powerful combinations because they had size, strength, fitness, and grit with an ability to fetch kick and hand-pass that has seldom been equalled not to mind surpassed. Yet with the likes of Cavan, Kildare, Galway, Mayo, and Meath all playing good football, Kerry in that decade appeared in six finals winning five.

The reason was because two great teams — one finishing in '32 (Joe Barrett, Paul Russell, Con Brosnan, Bob Stack and company) and another which included Danno Keefe, Joe Keohane, Johnny Walsh, Miko Doyle, starting in '37 gave Kerry a vehicle of athleticism, dedication and skill which enabled the Kingdom craft to ride the billows of change.

In the early forties the "new"

● TO PAGE 27

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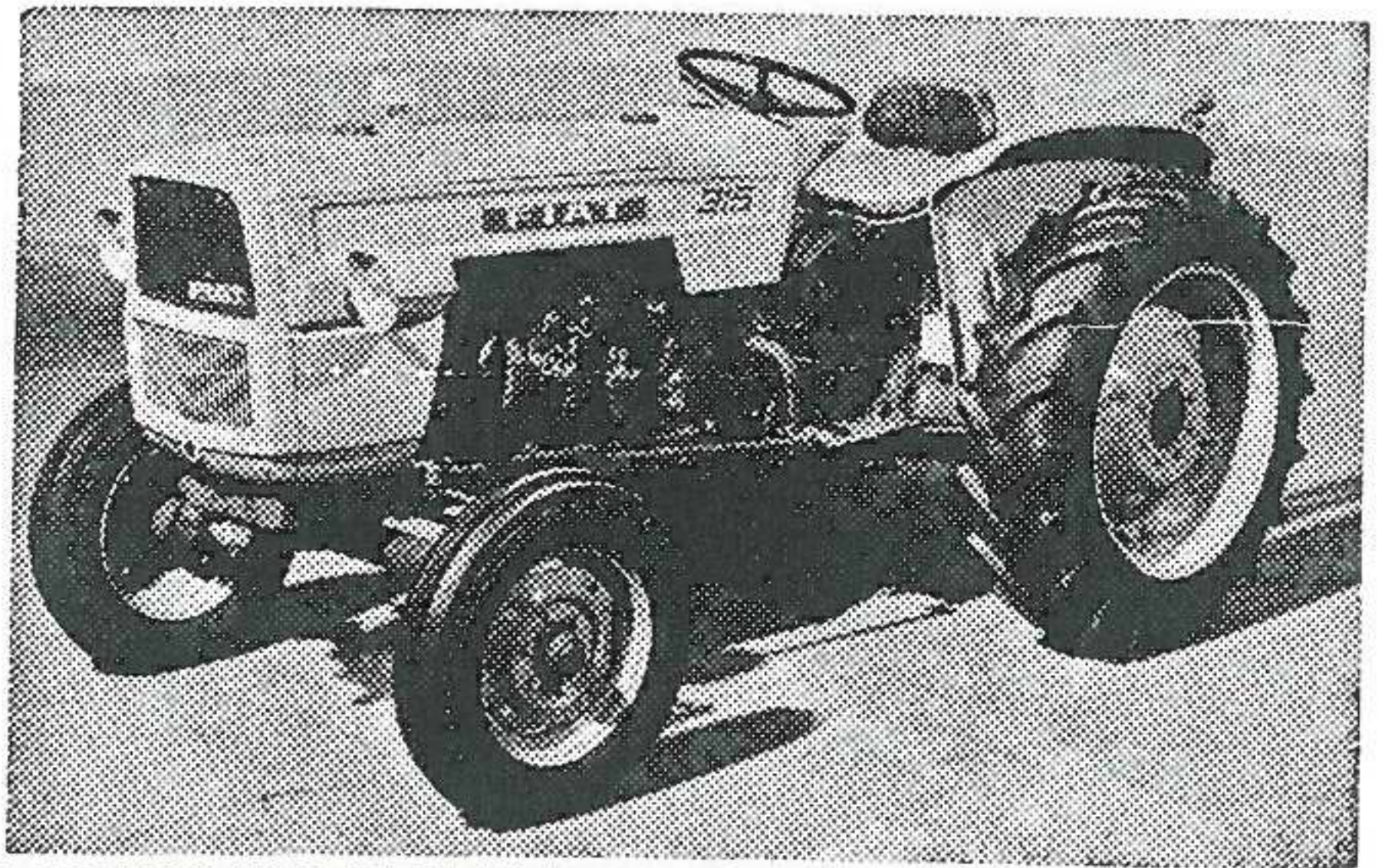
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● FROM PAGE 25

Ulster style (which in reality was only a slight extension of the old) was tried out in the Railway Cups by Kevin Armstrong, Alf Murray and the boys. It was a great success and many a Kerry back was left floundering in March. Why not? These Ulstermen were good performers. In the summer, however, when all were fit, running with the ball wasn't so effective.

The reason why Kerry didn't win the All-Ireland title between 1946 and '53 is because great men and teams from several counties kept them out and not because of any particular style. Sean Flanagan the Mayo corner back of those years could solo and pass as well as any man but these were only part of a great footballer's skill and ability.

In the 'forties Kerry appeared in four finals winning three. In the 'fifties the statistics were the same. And yet Kerry had to beat Armagh, Dublin and Galway. It's not too far back to remind ourselves what everybody said Dublin would do to Kerry in '55. I'm not crowing, for Kerry is not my county, and many a time I cheered for Dublin, but surely we remember that Jim Crowley, Kevin Heffernan, Ollie Freaney and their friends were good players, practising what they all again called the "new style". What beat them then? Remember Tadg Lyne's accuracy from the left wing?

And now we've arrived in the sixties when the spent Kingdom salmon is floundering on the hook.

Still in the six All-Irelands of this decade Kerry have togged out for four and in fact the present team (or the recently past team if you want to put it my way) won two championships for it started in '59. That's not a bad record at all.

To go into a little more detail we must remember that in the 1960 final, deservedly won by Down, Kerry had a full back and a full forward who limped around the field. In '61 Kerry won the National

League and I must pause over '62, to discuss how "Kerry slipped back to pick up an easy title against Roscommon."

Down the champions of '61 took the National League that year and were beaten by Cavan. Were Cavan bad? Roscommon beat Cavan. Roscommon beat Kerry well, in the popular Whitsun tournament where Kerrymen play hard for their places. Were Roscommon bad?

Kerry trained hard for the final; I saw them. In the game Tom Long, a powerful and skilful player, had a great hour at full forward and Mick O'Connell kicked seven long-range points from frees. Were Kerry bad? So much for the "soft" All-Ireland.

In 1963 Kerry won the National League against New York and while Dublin and Galway deservedly fought out the senior championship the Green and Gold "slipped" in for the junior and minor titles.

In 1964 Galway very truly beat a bad Kerry side, while Kerry won the under-21 title. This year Galway repeated the dose—again over a bad Kerry side—and by that I don't mean that the present champions, all honour to them, might not beat a good Kerry side.

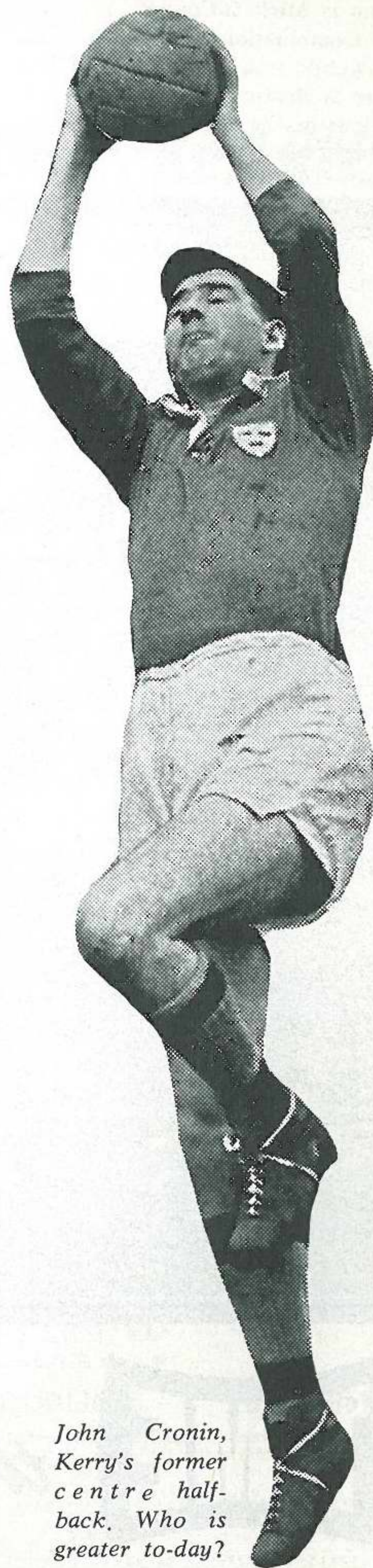
The last few paragraphs show, I hope, that there's an odd jump and an occasional kick left in the salmon.

Seriously though *IT'S THE MEN THAT MATTER? NOT THE STYLES*. It's not easy to gather fifteen champions but when one does they'll win no matter what the style, though I remain convinced that the most effective football is the catch (high or low) and the kick straight (again high or low).

So much for Frank Hughes' statement that "combination football is taking over and dominating—to the exclusion of the traditional catch and kick".

Anyone would think that they never played combined football in

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



John Cronin, Kerry's former centre half-back. Who is greater to-day?

Kerry. The best foot-passer in the game is Mick O'Connell.

"Combination football is what the public wants. They like it. It is more sophisticated—more in keeping with the latter end of the twentieth century", says Frank.

I doubt if it's what they want. What are the games that have drawn the biggest attendances before television? As for the bit about sophistication I can't for the life of me see what he means. Would the public like it more if

the players gave a demonstration of La Yanka at half-time?

"If this is what the people want and admire, then this is what the majority of our youth will try to develop".

I wonder very much. Is Frank sure that just for that reason our youth won't go the other way?

Mr. Hughes says that Kerry are handicapped in being the custodians of a traditional style and they couldn't drop it overnight and join the slick-moving Galway, Down and Dublin. Unfortunately, as I see it, too many of them are inclined to drop their traditional style—the catch and kick straight style. As for the slick-moving opponents, I have no doubt that even Dinny Curran of the Kerry 1903 team would have no great objections if Noel Tierney, John Donnellan, Seamus Leydon, Paddy Doherty, Dan McCartan, and Bill Casey were born Kerry men. Their styles would not contrast.

"Sure, they will remain a strong football power", says Frank, "but their days of domination are over". They won a lot but did they really dominate? I don't think so, and if Frank does, maybe therein lies the reason for his many misconceptions.

If it's any consolation to him I must point out what he missed: the competition is keener in three provinces than it was twenty years ago.

I wish it were the same in Munster, and the day that Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Cork are harder to beat the less likelihood of seeing sub-standard Kerry teams in Croke Park.

"Kerry are finished as a major football power"—that's wishful thinking.

"They'll pick up the odd title when Dublin are poor or Down and Galway worn out"—that's balderdash.

"The Kingdom is a thing of the past"—that's surely a grand aul' effort at pulling our legs.



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Sean O'Donnell

SEAN O'DONNELL talking to :

MICHEÁL KEARNS

BEING the star of a team puts a great load on a player. He must always give a top-class performance—otherwise it will be felt that he let the team down. Then there is the other side to it. As the star and danger-man, he will always merit special attention from the opposition. So life is hard for the star. He is blessed with extra talent but more often than not he needs a few other blessings as well.

Such a star is Sligo's Micheál Kearns—the man who is expected to win every game virtually on his own. He does win quite a few of them but great though he is, he is still only one man and more often than not he has two opponents swinging off him.

I recently button-holed the flying Sligoman and shot him a few questions. I asked him what happened in the Connacht final when they had Galway well in hand only to let them slip away again.

Micheál feels that the turn of the tide came with Christy Tyrrell's snap goal. It knocked the fight and the confidence out of Sligo and so they let Galway steal ahead. It wouldn't of course, have happened to a more experienced team.

Still Michael seems to have great respect and even affection for Galwaymen. He rates them very highly, considers them "a fine bunch of lads". And how right he is.

And what of the 1966 season? Was the Connacht final a flash in the pan. Having seen Sligo so well beaten by Longford in the Grounds' Tournament many people think so.

I have heard the view expressed that in the Connacht final Sligo caught a Galway team tired and "burnt-up" following their U.S. tour. Micheál Kearns does not agree at all.


He feels Galway were in the vicinity of near their best in the Western decider and that Sligo are deserving of every recognition for having given the Galwaymen so close a game.

And then what about the flop against Longford? Well here Micheál has a long and quite logical explanation. Firstly he points out that Sligo were missing some key players. Secondly there was Croke Park. Sligo had not been there since before the present team were born. It was a major handicap but he feels that the team has greatly

benefitted from the visit. Furthermore, he reminded me of those quick Longford goals which had the game "sewn-up" from such an early stage. Leaving these snap scores aside, he points to the fact that it was a fairly evenly contested game. And he is right. The recent League game proves it.

As to who were the most difficult opponents he has had to contend with, the 22-year-old Sligoman named Dan McCartan and John Donnellan. His greatest thrill to date was being honoured by the trip to America for the Cardinal Cushing Fund games.

And still we had not answered the question of Sligo's hopes for 1966. On this Micheál appeared evasive, Maybe he did not want to make any predictions.



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Is íontach ar fad an clisteacht atá sna daoine seo. In áit éigin sna haltanna, nó sna litreacha, tagrann siad don "seal a chaitheadar i Scoil na mBráthar" nó go raibh "ballraíocht acu tráth i gClub éigin

sa Chumann" nó go bhfuilid ar aon intinn leis an gCumann seachas an riail seo.

Táim ag fanacht le fada le ráiteas éigin ó oifigeach de chuid mhuintir rugbaí nó sacar ag rá nach raibh

sé riamh sa Chumann Lúchleas ach gur mhaith leis dá mbéadh caoi chuige aige fhaid is go bhféadfadh sé claoi le cúrsaí sacar nó rugbaí ag an am céanna. Go raibh sé ag goilleadh go mór air nach raibh sé in

ann lán-tacaíocht a thabhairt don Chumann mar go raibh riail éigin ann (tá uimhir ar leith ar an riail ach ní chuimhin liom é agus ní féidir liom teacht ar Leabhar na Rialach) ag cur cosc air.

Fosta go raibh aithne aige ar an-chuid ógánach, atá i láthair ag imirt sacar agus rugbaí, agus go bhfuil dúil thar chuimse acu sa pheil Ghaolach, (gan trácht orthu siúd de threabh an hocaí a d'imreodh iomáint) agus gur mian leo sacar d'imirt Dé Domhnaigh. 'Sé sin le Gaolach Dé Domhnaigh. 'Sé sin le rá, roinnt acu, mar go raibh Rial ag cuid de na clubanna sacar agus rugbaí gan cluichí d'imirt an Lá an Tiarna. Bhuel dairíre níl an rial seo ag na clubanna ach tá Rial Eaglasta ann faoi'n a leithéid agus níor mhaith leis na hógánaigh seo dul in aghaidh Rial Eaglasta.

Agus, chomh maith, (adéarfadh an toifigeach seo), ba mhaith linn caidreamh a dhéanamh leis na Gaeil seo sna seomraí Chlub againn oicheadanta Shathairn ach go háirithe. Tá deiseanna ólacháin agus damhsa againn go dtí meán oíche ar a laghad agus do bhainfeadh muintir an Chumann an-leas as na háiseanna seo.

Do bhéadh adéarfadh sé, an-chaoi ag an gCumann Lúchleas Gael sár-imreoirí de chuid na clubanna sacar agus rugbaí a roghnú ar na fóirne do na comórtaisí sa Chumann. Ní cheart d'éinne a rá go mbeadh tuirse orthu Dé Domhnaigh mar táid an-aicillí; ar ndóigh do thabharfaimís liosta de na himreoirí nach nimreodh Dé Domhnaigh ar fathanna choinsiasa.

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Ba mhaith liom féin, adéarfadh sé, seasamh guala le gualainn leis na gnáth-thuataigh lá éigin i bPáirc an Crócaigh, nó fiú thíos fán dtuaith i nDúrlas Eile, agus Amhrán na bhFian a scairteadh in árd mo chinn is mo ghotha; tá an ceol ar eolas agam ó bheith ag freastal ar na hócáidí iontacha úda, Cluichí Idirnáisiúnta, agus níl le déanamh agam ach na focail a mheabhruímar a fheiceann tú tá togha na Gaeilge agam.

Níor mhaith liom adéarfadh sé, bheith ag lorg fábhhar agus mé toilteanach dul isteach sa Chumann gan aon choinníol (ach amháin an riail damanta sin a scriosadh as an Leabhar) ach ba lá mór againn é dá bhféadfaimís uilig, idir Sean-Ghaeil agus Nua-Ghaeil, ag cluiche mór i bPáirc Mhic Easmainn i mBéal Feirste an tamhrán diadha úd "Go Slánfaidh Dia an Banrioghán" a chanadh le chéile.

Dála an scéil cérbh é an fear sin Mac Easmainn?

NOTA: Nuair a fheicfidh mé a leithéad de ráiteas ó dhuine éigin seachas "na saoi" beidh mé sásta bheith im eadargháblaí sa chás).



DEFINING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP

By

JOE LENNON

GOOD sportsmanship is one of those things which is not easy to define positively. It is much easier to say what good sportsmanship *is not* than what it is. By listing things which we regard as bad on one side and things we admire as good on the other, we can arrive at an appreciation of good sportsmanship. But these acts or feelings are merely symptoms of this virtue, conscious expressions of something which is dealt with almost entirely at subconscious levels.

The nature of good sportsmanship

is a very deep and involved problem being tied up with personality traits, fear, physical and mental health, environment, inherent and expressed ability and, I believe also, the nature of the activity involved.

In a recent discussion on the subject with a few colleagues of mine some interesting suggestions were made. Danny O'Brien, the professional golfer and coach, suggested that good sportsmanship varies from game to game. In an aggressive body-contact game someone might well be a

thoroughly bad sport yet may be a perfect gentleman in a non-contact game like golf. There is certainly a lot of truth in this statement but whether or not it is merely that one is better able to handle, at conscious level, feelings which produce acts of bad sportsmanship in non-competitive sport needs further study.

Moreover, if one feels bad about something in a game of football, it can be "worked off" on an opponent or the ball. Not so in golf.

John Horne, the well-known tennis coach made the suggestion (with a smile) that—

"Good sportsmanship is the art of pretending that you are not doing your damndest to win at all costs."

This definition usually provides a laugh but it also contains an element of truth and raises the question — is much apparent good sportsmanship a pretence? In this respect, it is like religion. One can go through all the motions and still go to hell.

Is good sportsmanship a by-product of participation or is it an inherent characteristic trait like having blue eyes? Is it something which rubs off onto the personality from one's environment? Is it an acquired social skill? Is it like the largess of the rich—easy to give when you are eminently successful? Is it something we feel, say or do or does it produce these feelings? Does it vary from game to game and age to age or is it a permanently fixed quantity, a gene?

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Can a sense of good sportsmanship be engendered in the young and will it remain once it is appreciated? Does highly competitive sport increase or decrease it?

These and many other questions must be answered before we get a positive definition.

I think people are born good sportsmen or otherwise and that some by virtue of their experience and environment change for better or worse. You can teach a boy what you mean by good sportsmanship, by example and by indicating what you consider bad or praiseworthy in his or his colleague's behaviour. But that's as far as it goes. It is like discipline in so far as it is imposed from within.

Whether or not one is able to suppress or at least control one's feelings and words, it is possible in almost all cases to acquire an ability to pretend one is not as annoyed as one really is and to control aggressiveness. This is a perfectly acceptable substitute for the real thing.

Personally, I believe that good sportsmanship is closely allied to ability, self-discipline and fear. The fear of defeat, of being disgraced, the fear of physical injury and pain, the fear of having one's inadequacies exposed. For these reasons, I also believe it can vary from sport to sport in its manifestations. Bad sportsmanship is very much more prevalent in body-contact sports which are not well organised or where the referee is not in complete control.

Obviously, the fear of dismissal even from an All-Ireland final is not sufficient to deter players who are keyed up to such a pitch that they literally explode into violence when baulked. Here is a case where the type of the competition has an effect on the players' sense of values.

If good sportsmanship is difficult to define, discipline is not. Discipline in sport is an ability to confine one's actions within socially

acceptable limits. Even though one cannot prevent bad thoughts it is possible in almost all cases to prevent unsporting actions and this would go a long way to solving our problems at the moment.

Club and county officials should

discipline players and never encourage or defend unsporting action. Perhaps it would be a good start if all clubs and counties made a list of the do's and don'ts and posted them on the club's notice board where all could see them.

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Gaelic Games Crossword

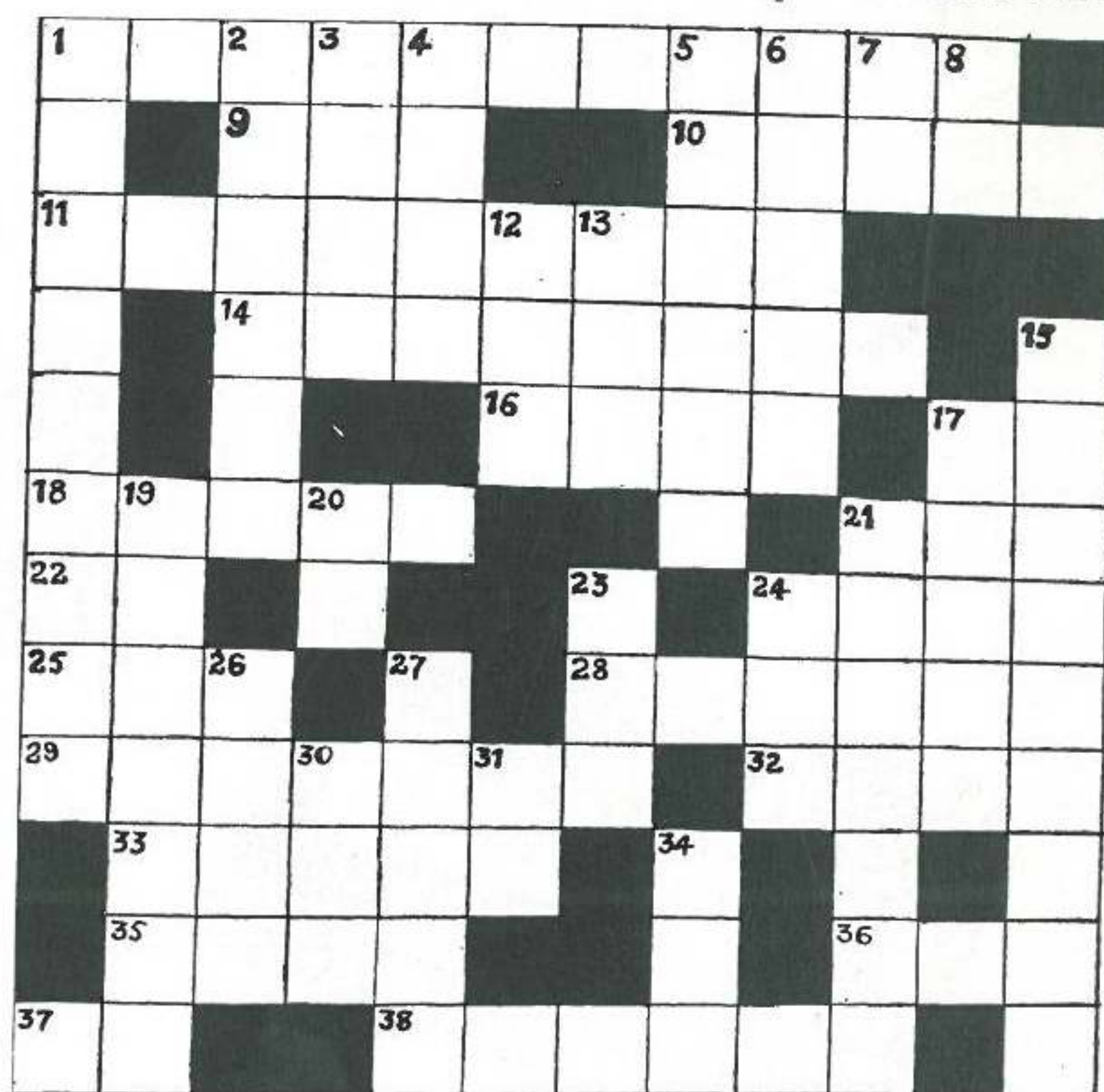
By PERMUTER

ACROSS :

1. An attacker with the speed of a bird. Does he run or fly? (4, 7)
9. An "illegal" organisation has got all mixed up. (3)
10. Cavan's Gunner. (5)
11. The county which holds the hurling crown. (9)
14. All trainers have these in regard to how best to prepare their charges. (3, 5)
16. The club (familiarily) which holds a special niche in Cork hurling. (4)
17. Quality in a forward which enables him partly to achieve a goal. (2)
18. Staunch Mayo back of the fifties, more likely to suggest a famous film maker. (5)
21. The view the day before a game. (3)
22. A game not postponed must obviously be this. (2)
24. Nothing imaginary about this. "It's for — man." (4)
25. Remembers briefly. (3)
28. Some lacadaisical players have been described as in this. (6)
29. A northern player who seems that he might be more at home at baseball or cards. (7)
32. Add an "a" and you get a song of praise; replace an "e" with an "i" and you get what an injured player suffers. (4)
33. Full-back for the Cork hurlers in the fifties; a man well-equipped to clear his lines. (5)
35. A good present-day Limerick half-back. Tall, obviously. (4)
36. Also. (3)
37. Senior Football played back to front. (2)
38. George was a member of 26 down. (6)

DOWN :

1. A county which holds two All-Ireland senior titles in hurling; the second was six years back. (9)
2. Nickname of Leitrim star. Was he only a kid? (6)
3. What a goalkeeper may do when a rasper leaves him standing. (4)
4. Many players worry like this. (4)
5. Take your choice of the Meath forwards in the All-Ireland final of 1939; he is first on the list, alphabetically. (1, 5)
6. Seldom does one get a Tipperary team without one. (1, 4)
7. Royal Academician? (2)



8. Initials of famous hurler/handballer tragically killed in the recent past. (2)
12. An attempt to arrange the result? Or an outfit? (3)
13. A mixed-up boy. (3)
15. Physical education expert and coaching author. (3, 6).
17. A name which brought lustre to Kilkenny hurling. (5)
19. Kevin and Sean both won All-Ireland senior football honours in recent years. (7)
20. Defence Forces, perhaps. (2)
21. The price one pays occasionally for fouling. (7)
23. In brief, restricted—usually in business. (3).
24. Taking the blame—a knock on the knuckles, it would seem. (3)
26. They gained their first senior All-Ireland in football in 1936. (4)
27. A Bingo variant much used by clubs for fund-raising. (5)
30. School where the Minister for Industry and Commerce got his hurling grounding; or, at least, what Corkmen call it. (3)
31. Last year's Kerry full-back, now retired. (Initials) (2)
34. Familiar Christian name of Kerry captain in drawn All-Ireland final who, when dropped for the replay scored the winning point when he came on as a sub. (3)

SOLUTION : PAGE 60



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By Seamus Ó Ceallaigh

Canon Punch Park welcome addition

AFTER years of frustration and disappointment Limerick City Board G.A.A. have at long last got their new grounds into commission. The first games were played on the Canon Punch Park pitch a few weeks ago and it has been in regular use since and has helped the City Board very materially in getting its heavy programme nearer completion.

This was a particularly troublesome year for the City Board who were unable to get many of their games played at the normal time because of the big number of inter-county games played in Limerick. The closing of other venues was responsible for this, and now it is hinted that a somewhat similar situation could possibly arise next season.

Some of the younger members were disappointed that the Canon Punch Park pitch was a bit rough and uneven for the opening game, but the older Gaels who remember Limerick Gaelic Grounds the day the first matches were played there agree that the new pitch is far ahead of what the Ennis Road one was then. A lot of work remains to be done, but the Canon Punch Park is spacious and level, it is centred in the heart of the city, well served by public transport, and time and patience will make a perfect job of it.

MICK FLANNELLY

Mick Flannelly of Waterford equalled the long standing record

of Mick Mackey of Ahane when he recently helped Mount Sion win their twentieth County Senior Hurling crown.

Mick Mackey has twenty Limerick senior county medals all told, for he also won five in football, whilst he had the distinction of captaining Ahane hurlers on nine winning occasions.

KERRY WARNING

Dr. Jim Brosnan, Chairman of Kerry County Board, announced a get tough policy with clubs playing over-age players in juvenile and minor competitions. The Chairman said that under-age games could be flourishing in Kerry but for the abuse of the age rule. In future an offending club he said, would not be allowed enter another under-age competition for at least five years.



Seamus Power . . . helped Mount Sion to their 20th Waterford senior hurling title.

PATRICKSWELL

In these days of club amalgamations, and parishes complaining they are unable to field teams, the example of Patrickswell, who recently won both the Limerick county senior hurling title and the county junior football crown for the first time, is worth studying.

This small rural parish has the extraordinary total of eighteen teams participating in Limerick championship ties, for the parish boasts two clubs—Patrickswell and Ballybrown.

Patrickswell has twelve teams—senior, junior, under-21, minor and juvenile, in both hurling and football; whilst Ballybrown has eight—junior, under-21, minor and juvenile—also in both codes.

Their junior team has reached the divisional hurling final so the games are certainly thriving in this very active parish, which also boasts two playing pitches.

The Patrickswell side which won the senior county crown was actually drawn from nine houses, with one family providing six players, another three and still another a pair—all brothers.

KERRY CHANGE

For a number of years Cahirciveen has had the service of the Kerry county team on the first Sunday of August for a game in aid of the local playing field. Next year this will be changed for the County Board has decided that Dingle must get the team for a match with Limerick.

HOW TO EXPAND

St. Patricks Club, Limerick, has recently completed a novel hurling competition. In a drive for new members the club committee decided to seek the aid of their under-age members. Two or three boys from a district were contacted and asked to try and get a team to participate in an under-14½ competition. In some instances older club members were brought into help but generally the boys did all the management themselves.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

what
the
butler
saw



Kildare
wallpapers!

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Several teams were organised and the competition proved so successful that the club are considering extending the idea to other grades and to football.

COMPETITIONS

A delegate at Cork County Board expressed the opinion that there were too many competitions in the Association, and that some of them should be discontinued.

It is doubtful if all would agree with this viewpoint, for there are clubs in a bad way every season because of lack of match play. Some actually only get one match in the year, because if they are knocked out in a particular championship in the first round they oftentimes find no other competition in which to participate.

Parish tournaments usually look for the successful clubs, and it is these who generally complain of an overdose of engagements. However, they have the remedy in their own hands. They need not enter for all these competitions, rather should they leave some of them to the clubs which need them most. That is the sensible approach, and one that would really help the progress of the games.

ENNIS INCIDENT

Bad stewarding at an important Munster Colleges game at Cusack Park, Ennis, recently nearly led to serious trouble. Excited spectators who were permitted to congregate around one of the goals were anything but sportsmen, and a visiting team complains that at least two of their players were assaulted by spectators when play neared the end line.

Things like this should not happen on any field but it is particularly sad to see it occurring in school and college ties. The Colleges Council must ensure that if proper stewarding is not guaranteed games will only be played at venues that are completely neutral to both participating teams.

Slán agaibh go léir, a cháirde
Gaedheal.

NO COMPLAINTS!

WHY it is I do not know, but when I come to write my piece for GAELIC SPORT I all too often find myself grouching like a bear with a sore head about something or another. Well, this time, I promise faithfully not to grouse at all. Indeed I do not see how anybody with the best interests of camogie at heart could find much cause to grouse when looking back on 1965, the most successful year the game has known for a long time.

The list of achievements during the past twelve months is impressive. New competitions were to be found in every grade and in three of the four provinces, the game is slowly but surely making headway in the schools. There was excellent co-operation between the Camogie Association and the G.A.A. and our hopes for the future were never brighter.

In addition I doubt if the standard of play has ever been higher in the games which I saw, and I saw a fair share of them through the round of the year, starting with a magnificent display by the girls from the University College, Cork,

when taking the Ashbourne Cup in the inter-varsity games at Belfast.

Nor could anyone ask for a better game than we saw in the semi-final of the Dublin championship at Croke Park between Celtic and Austin Stacks, and, in between, I had watched some grand displays in the Leinster and Dublin colleges championships.

When the intercounty games came round, we saw a few fine encounters, notably the Dublin-Wexford clash in the Leinster senior final and a very hard-fought fifty minutes between Cork and Tipperary before Munster honours remained with the girls from the Premier County.

But all these games faded into insignificance when compared with the All-Ireland semi-final between Dublin and Antrim. That day produced the best camogie match I ever saw, and maybe it was the best camogie match ever played, but certainly it captivated the big crowd, and set a standard that will always be hard to equal and almost impossible to surpass.

The All-Ireland final between

Dublin and Tipperary suffered, perhaps, as far as I was concerned, by comparison with that Glenariffe classic. Not that we did not see plenty of fine camogie in the final, too, but we never saw play of the sustained brilliance that marked the semi-final, while Dublin's goal-rush early in the second-half killed the competitive interest to a great extent from there on.

But Dublin, an extremely well-balanced side, richly deserved their twenty-fourth title, while Tipperary, gallant losers, lost no prestige in defeat. For Dublin full-forward Una O'Connor this was her twelfth All-Ireland medal, and her ninth successive All-Ireland victory and Una is still going strong, as she proved on the last day of October, when she set another record by becoming the first player ever to win six inter-provincial camogie medals, a feat she accomplished when Leinster narrowly defeated Ulster at Parnell Park.

I had seen Leinster, after travelling to Fermoy, show such magnificent form in beating holders Munster that they had been rightly called a team of all the talents, and for nearly forty minutes of the fifty they looked as though they would also take Ulster in their stride. Then the Ulster experiment of moving Antrim's Sue Ward from

● TO PAGE 41

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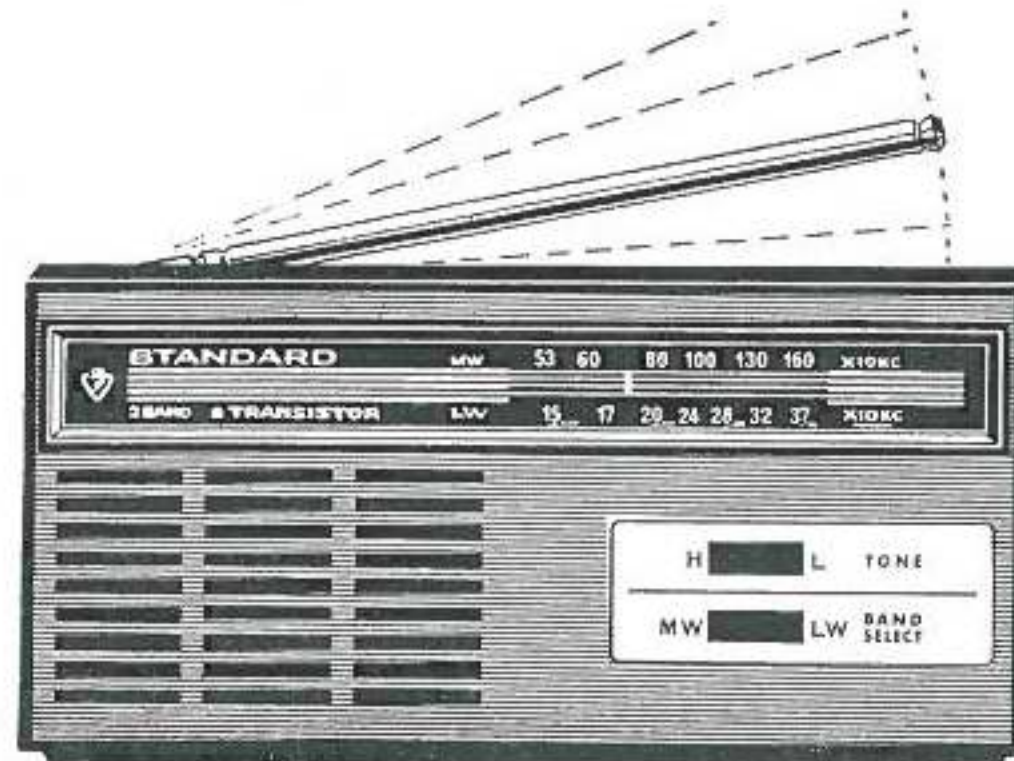
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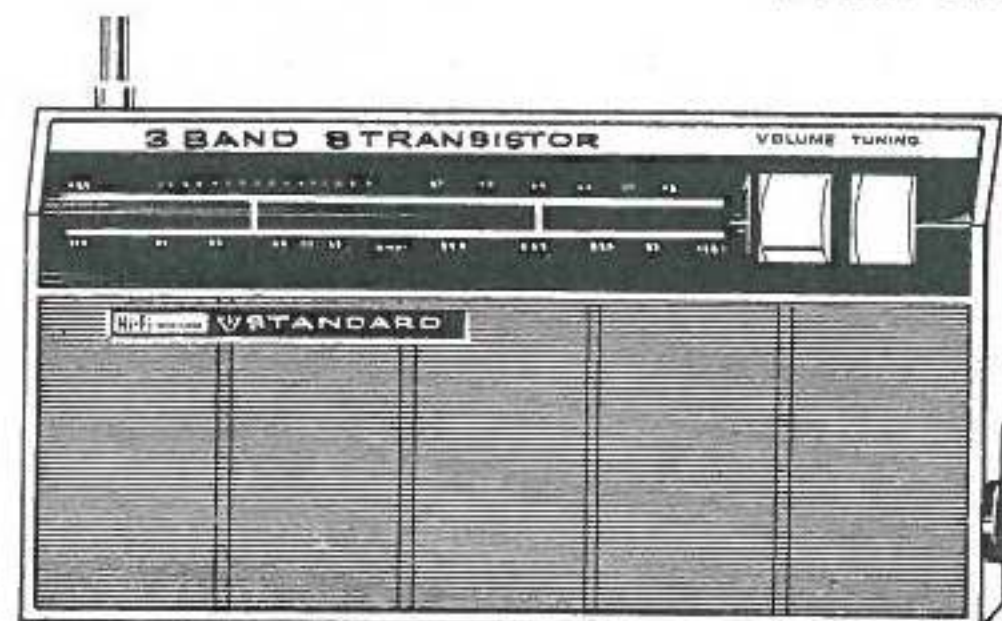
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Kathleen Ryder, Leinster captain (left) shaking hands with Anne Carroll, Munster captain. Referee Kathleen O'Duffy looks on.



● FROM PAGE 39

defence into attack suddenly started to pay off as the great Deirdre player swept in three goals. But those scores came just too late in the day to give Ulster their first title and so Leinster hold the Gael-Linn Cup for the first time since 1962.

Incidentally the most encouraging feature of this Leinster victory was the brilliance of the non-Dublin players. Mary Sinnott and Margaret O'Leary of Wexford, Susan Dooley of Offaly and Claire O'Hanrahan of Kilkenny were

stars, even in this company, and I was also impressed by several of the non-Antrim players on the Ulster side, and in particular by Angela Kennedy of Down.

Although there was no competition in either Leinster or Connaught, the first official club championship of Ireland was still a notable success. St. Patrick's of Glengoole-Ballingarry brought off a notable achievement by travelling to Belfast and there defeating Deirdre in the final. They had impressed by their Munster victories and, though the final margin was

small, there could be no doubt as to which was the better side.

In Munster the inaugural secondary championship was played, confined to players who had not already won an inter-provincial medal and the honours deservedly went to Limerick who scored narrow but deserved victories over Tipperary, Cork and Waterford in turn.

All in all, 1965 was a great year for camogie and if 1966 shows as appreciable an advance, the girl-Gaels will have no cause for complaint.

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LEINSTER ROUND UP

LONGFORD, BEWARE!

By FRANK HUGHES

MOST people agree that Offaly burned themselves out during those few months at the close of 1961 when they played on ten successive Sundays. Come spring 1962 and a great Offaly team was no more.

But what of Longford, could the same thing happen again? Two of their star players, Brendan Barden and Mick Hopkins recently had their 31st successive Sunday in action with club and county. Most of the other players on the county team must have a record not far behind.

Longford have been hard at it now since the Leinster championship. I have lost track of how many League, tournament and challenge games they have played in. They certainly deserve their winter break.

FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

You no doubt remember "Jimma" Rae, the former Carlow and Leinster star of the 'forties. Well he has seven sons and a daughter all following in father's footsteps.

At a recent Eire Og Club dinner, John, aged 20, received five medals; Bernie, aged 19, took six; Tom, aged 18, collected seven plus a cup. The rest of the "team" Tony, Des, "Jimma" and Noel were also there to collect their share. Daughter Breda has already won four camogie medals.

In all there were 300 medals presented at the dinner. Needless to say it was an occasion to be remembered.

BOB O'KEEFFE

Honour was done to the memory of the late Bob O'Keeffe, one of the great figures of the G.A.A., recently by the members of the Laois Kiltotton and Borris-in-Ossory clubs when a wreath was laid on his grave and an oration delivered.

One time President of the Association, Bob O'Keeffe was one of the greatest hurlers of his time starring with both Dublin and



MICK O'CONNELL
A Wicklow holiday?

Laois. He won every honour which the game had to offer.

However, it would appear that there is at least one person who never heard of him, for the sub-editor who put the heading on the report of the visit to the grave in a certain provincial newspaper wrote—**FOOTBALLER REMEMBERED.**

THE RED CARPET

Both Wicklow and Louth played hosts in style to the Kerry foot-

ballers for their recent National League meetings. The red carpet was out at both Aughrim and Dundalk and the Kerry men were greeted as if they were the reigning champions ten times over. Word has it that Mick O'Connell has even promised to take up an invitation to spend a week's holiday in Co. Wicklow.

It all puts some responsibility on the Kerry County Board to return the compliment next year when it is Wicklow and Louth's turn to travel.

JIMMY KEARNS

The death of Offalyman, Jimmy Kearns in New York at the youthful age of 41 brought sorrow to both sides of the Atlantic. Jimmy helped Cloghan win the 1945 Offaly senior football title. In New York he helped Offaly win the 1957 U.S. title. He was also a fine hurler. He leaves a wife and two children. *Beannacht Dé le na anam.*

IN BRIEF

At least Louth were original with their "crib" about All-Ireland tickets. It wasn't that they didn't get enough but that the ones they got were not good enough.

* * *

The Kilkenny junior football championship is running late this year—mainly because Kilmacow and Bigwood had to meet six times before their first round game was decided. Eventually Kilmacow advanced 3-2 to 0-8.

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JIMMY DOYLE

FACE TO FACE
WITH
SEAN O'DONNELL



JIMMY DOYLE—there is a magic ring from that name. It symbolises Tipperary—the team which has dominated hurling as the game has never been dominated before. It spells out scores — endless scores in game after game, year after year. Yes, Jimmy Doyle, pride of Tipperary.

Recently I had this conversation with him:

O'Donnell—Do you think that Tipperary's complete dominance is good for the game?

Doyle—Well it is certainly good for the game in Tipperary. It inspires the youth and there is a wonderful standard of juvenile hurling throughout the county. If all other counties approached the game as is done in Tipperary then hurling would be tremendous. You cannot blame Tipperary for being good.

O'D — You believe then that other counties could emulate Tipperary?

D.—Of course they could.

O'D.—What do you think of the present Hurling Revival Scheme?

D. — I think it is an excellent plan. I would though like to see more incentives—and this applies to senior players too. I do not favour the rule which confines individual prizes in tournaments to

a value not exceeding £4. Suit-lengths used to be a great incentive and I believe it is a pity that they can no longer be offered.

O'D.—To what do you attribute your own hurling skill?

D. — Constant practice and enthusiasm. If you want to acquire any skill you need to keep at it. There is no other way. A match every second Sunday never made a great player. You need to practice and keep practising.

O'D.— — This also, I suppose, applies to the taking of frees.

D.—Very much so. A top-class free-taker must practice more than any other player. He has a very great responsibility. I am never satisfied until I can consistently drive the ball through the rungs of a ladder from a distance of fourteen yards.

O'D.—Did you enjoy your recent visit to the U.S.?

D.—I enjoyed it very much — especially the visit to Chicago where each player stayed with an Irish family. I stayed with Malachy Mannion, a Galwayman, and he and another man, Dan Sharp, did so much to make the visit so memorable. When I was leaving they presented me with a beautiful cup which I will always cherish.

O'D.—What do you think of the idea of having New York compete

in the All-Ireland senior championship?

D.—I feel their entry would be justified. We could certainly fit them in. There is always a long delay between the Munster final and the All-Ireland final and it would mean that we would have a proper All-Ireland semi-final.

O'D.—Well what about the year ahead? Will it be Tipperary again?

D.—It is too early to forecast. We will be there trying anyway.

O'D.—Who do you rate as the finest half-back you have played on?

D.—I would rate Seamus Cleere as the greatest wing back. Tony Wall is the best centre-half back I have ever seen. I must also mention Martin Coogan and John Nolan against whom I had such hard hours from time to time.

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

D.—My first senior final I suppose. That was against Galway in 1958. I also particularly enjoyed the 1964 win over Kilkenny.

O'D.—Have you any other sporting interest?

D.—I like football and play regularly with the home club. I play badminton which is excellent for keeping fit off-season. I am also very keen on boxing.

A MEMORY OF HYDE PARK

—and Emilio's first glimpse of hurling

By VINCENT CAPRANI

A RECENT article in the IRISH CATHOLIC comments on the extent to which our national game has caught the imagination of the British public. It tells of an Irish priest who secured a special pitch for hurlers on Clapham Common, of the crowds of Londoners returning from work who stopped to watch the exploits of two emigrant teams, and the admiring comments drawn from them by the speed of caman-wielders.

More indicative of John Bull's new-found interest in one of the world's fastest games was, of course, the B.B.C.'s "live" showing of the 1965 All-Ireland finals.

The aforementioned article had the effect of luring my thoughts down one of memory's by-roads; to be more specific, it brought me back ten years to a Sunday morning in Hyde Park, to a dozen stalwart Irish lads belting a sliotar across the sun-dappled grass, and to my companion of that Spring morning—a young Italian waiter, lately arrived in London from Milan. We were returning from work in a West End hotel and we had stopped to watch the unusual sight of hurlers at practice in Hyde Park.

Finding a comfortable place beneath some trees we sat down and continued to watch in silence for a few moments. Then I shot a sidelong glance at Emilio, my

companion. He was quite obviously impressed by the vigorous play; sudden interest, wonderment and frank admiration vied with each other for mastery of his expressive features. That pleased me. I let my gaze swing back to the hurlers, while tiny strands of pride and nostalgia wove themselves into the fabric of my thoughts.

"Che cosa fanno essi?"

I explained to Emilio that they were playing hurling.

"E giuoco Inglese?"

No, it was not an English sport. It was an Irish sport, a very ancient one, I hastened to assure him.

Scarcely taking his eyes off the players Emilio began to ply me with questions. He wanted to know more about hurling; in particular he wanted to know about hurling in London. . . .

What did I know about hurling in London? Very little, I had to admit to myself. I could remember having read somewhere about a hurling match at Stamford Bridge way back in 1896 when a Munster selection had defeated Leinster and I remember wondering if that had been the first major hurling game played in the London area. Certainly there must have been a fair amount of hurling done by the exiles in those days, for the 1901 All-Ireland championship was won by a London team which defeated Cork, the home champions.

I knew also that in that same decade and in connection with G.A.A. affairs in London, a young Corkman who was destined to be one of the founders of the Irish Free State, had the metal of his great determination forged by his first "fight" on a national issue. I refer to the youthful Michael Collins, then employed as a clerk in the London Post Office Savings Bank and at 18 years of age secretary of the Geraldine Football and Hurling Club. At that time he was throwing the full weight of his influence and exhortations on the side which favoured the "Ban" on foreign games, fighting against what he later referred to as the "peaceful penetration" of Ireland by English games and amusements and the social influences which followed in their wake.

It was a crucial juncture in the history of the London G.A.A. and it resulted in about ten clubs breaking up. Only three remained loyal to the parent body and these clubs (of which the Geraldines was one) grew stronger. In a short while Collins became treasurer of the London County Board of the joint clubs. Amongst Collin's many London friends and associates were the two men whose names are perpetuated in the trophies which were presented to the G.A.A. and which are annually contested for in the All-

Ireland senior championships—Sam Maguire and Liam MacCarthy.

The latter was born in London, the son of a West Cork man who emigrated from Ballygarvan in the middle of the last century.

But apart from these and a few other fragments from the pages of history I had to admit that I really knew very little about hurling in London, and what little I knew was very difficult to explain to my friend Emilio—his limited knowledge of English and my scantier knowledge of Italian did not facilitate lengthy or detailed explanation.

Yet I need not have worried about my inadequacies as a propagandist, for the clash of the ash and the skill of the hurlers on that Sunday morning (and the successive Sunday mornings on which we came to watch) were much more eloquent than any words of mine; like all great sports the spectacle of hurling extolls its own distinctive magic and does not require the agency of mere words.

In the ensuing weeks, and whenever the circumstances of our employment permitted, we went to watch the "giucatori di hurling" until Emilio left our hotel. He went to take up a more lucrative position in a Soho night club situated in one of those little side streets that had at some time in the past wandered carelessly off Shaftesbury Avenue and lost itself in a maze of old houses.

I only met him once again, bumping into him accidentally one day in Regent Street. In the few moments at our disposal I was gratified to learn that he still went to watch the hurlers and when I bid him "Addio" it was with the knowledge that Gaelic sport had gained a new fan, albeit a somewhat unusual one.

I believe that Emilio has settled down permanently in London and I feel sure he was amongst the millions who watched the B.B.C.'s relay of the 1965 All-Ireland hurling final and that his English

has sufficiently improved to have appreciated Michael O'Hehir's fine commentary of the game.

Perhaps Emilio is among the regular spectators at Clapham

Common in the evenings. Who knows, maybe he has even bought one of those ash sticks with the curved bas? *Così e la vita*, as he used to say. Thus is life. . . .

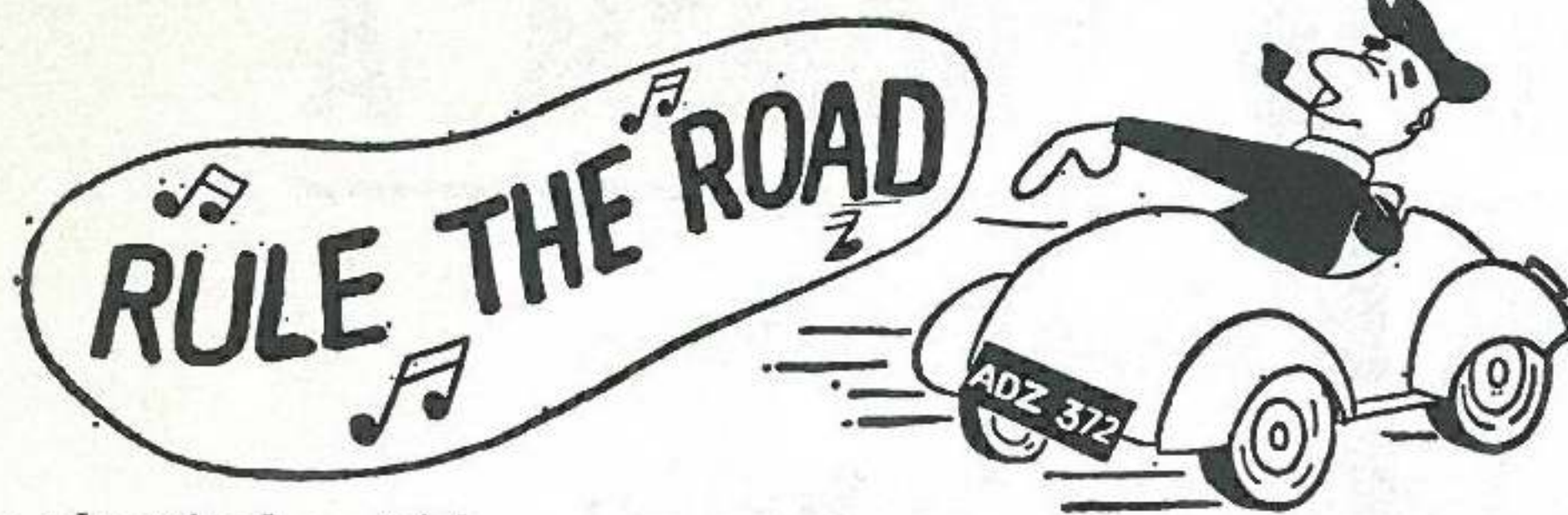


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A DAY OF RECKONING

(I give you the 'Barrs—Bless 'em)

By PATRICK CARVER

HE was the sort of a man you always see at a county hurling final—and rarely at an inter-county game. He must have been around the 70 mark and the navy blue suit, the highly polished boots, the wing collar with the small knot in the tie and the inevitable medal hanging proudly on the gold chain that stretched across his waistcoat, immediately stamped him as a man from another era. One knew instinctively that he was not a city man by birth; there was that fine colour about his wrinkled face that marked him as a man who spent a lot of time in the open.

He stood alone, dragging away contentedly on a well-blackened pipe and paying no attention to anyone.

But one sensed the flicker of excitement when the St. Finbarr's side raced out onto the field for this year's county final against U.C.C. He did not look like the type of a man who would be cheering for U.C.C., although it was possible that one of his sons might be a student. No. Somehow or other one felt at once that this man had come out of retirement specially to see "The Barrs".

Now, I don't think there is any necessity to tell you that "The Barrs" won the county final this

year. It was not all that great a game but the main thing about it was that it gave immense satisfaction to all the supporters from the Lough and elsewhere who, with "The Barrs" in the wilderness for many years, had at long last something to cheer about . . . and boast about.

Late that night, in a pub not far from the Lough, I looked up from my drink and saw my man at the far end of the bar . . . and again he was alone. For want of anything better to do—those around me had played the county final at least fifteen times since we moved into the pub and seeing that a kindly host had shut the doors and had offered up a few prayers that the police would be understanding that night—I mooched down beside him.

He was in no hurry at all with his pint. Nowadays some of our youngsters drink off a pint as though they were afraid that the pub would run out of drink, but this man had the hallmark of a good pint-man about him. He savoured each drop of it.

"That was a fair match to-day," I threw out an opening gambit.

"Fair enough, I suppose," he was not all that anxious for company. There was a long silence.

"You were glad 'The Barrs' won?" There was nothing like trying to keep the talk going.

"That I was—and am. It has been a long time since the last final." It was obvious from the way he said it that only finals in which St. Finbarr's were involved counted with him.

"You've seen a lot of them," I was curious.

"Everyone of them since 'The Barrs' won in 1919." I was right, he had to be around the 70 mark.

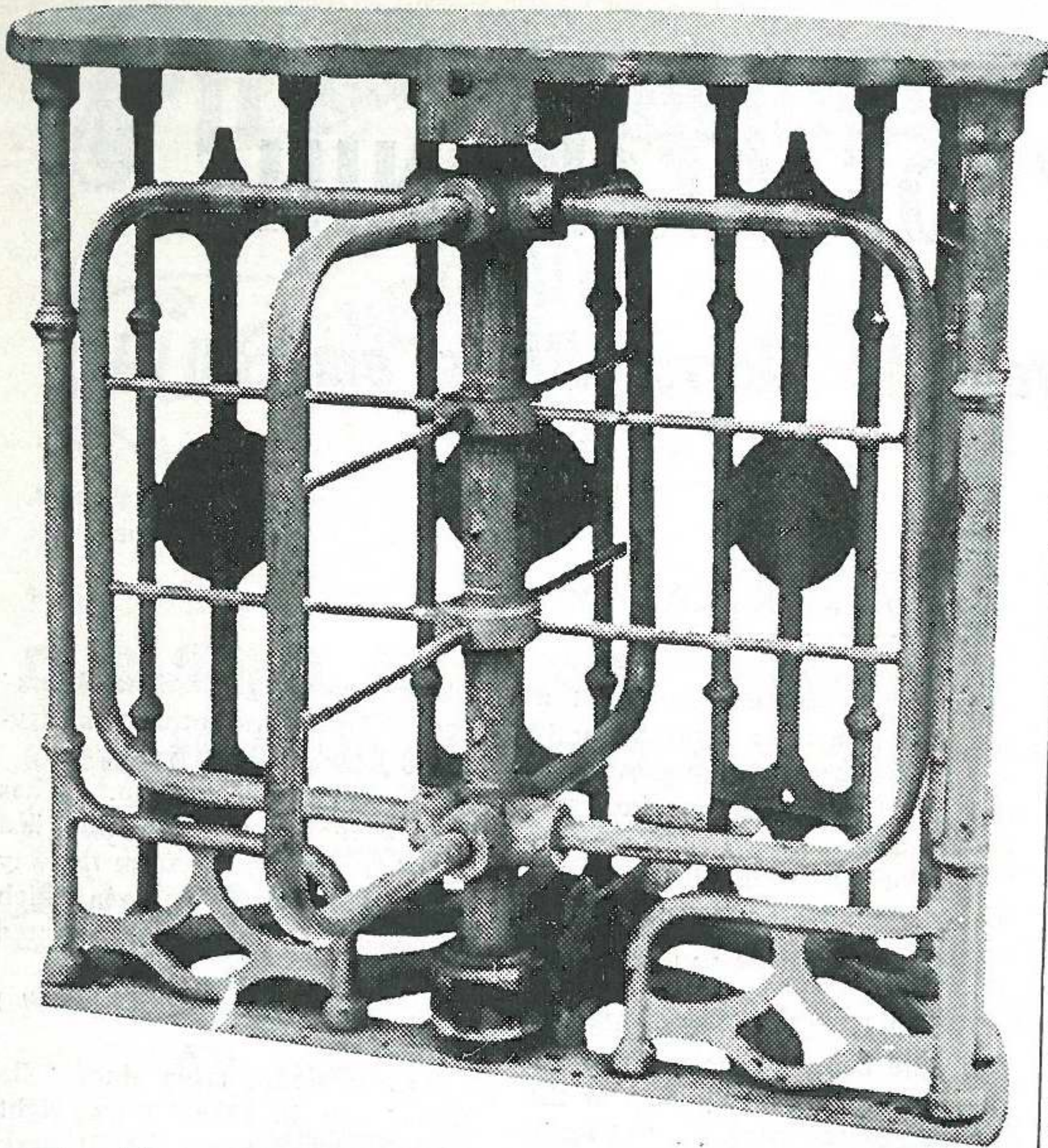
"Did you play with them?"

"Yes, indeed," he said. "But," and this he said with a little air of sadness, "never in a county final I knew them all from Bacchus Leary and Patcheen Sullivan down to Sean Condon and I am proud to have known them."

There was no stopping him after that. He went on talking and talking about "The Barrs". The names tripped off his tongue and he took me from early in the century right up to that afternoon.

And the best final of all, according to him, was the one in 1926 when Blackrock who had won the All-Ireland final that year for Cork, took on "The Barrs." It just had to be a walk-over for the "Rockies"; on their team that day

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

they had ten of the men who had played for Cork against Kilkenny. St. Finbarr's had only the two—Dannix Ring and Dr. Joe Kearney.

At half-time the "Rockies" led by 12 points to four; with just five minutes to go they were still ahead, now by 19 points to eight.

Then came one of the greatest rallies in the history of Cork hurling. The "Barrs" fought back and with just 60 seconds left in the game they had narrowed the gap to two points.

"And then," says he with satisfaction, "The Barrs' got a 70. Dannix Ring moved up to take it. Everything depended on it. He shot the ball straight and true to the goalmouth and in the twinkling of an eye, the ball was in the net. I don't know to this day who scored the goal but it didn't matter, 'the Barrs' were champions."

I lost him after that. He slipped off into a little world of his own . . . a little world where he could still see the majestic figure of Dannix Ring as he bent to take the 70. In that little world, he saw the ball curling through the air; saw again the tremendous battle in the goalmouth . . . and again the ball in the net. Memory was like a film strip, going over and over and over that magic moment of 1926.

It was about an hour later when he set off for home. He walked strongly to the door, waited patiently while mine host opened it carefully after taking a quick look through the window to see whether the police were staying away from the Lough that night.

He stood at the door and turned around. He raised his hat with a grace that only a man of his generation can achieve. And his voice rang through the pub.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I give you 'The Barrs'—Bless em."

And he was gone . . . before he could hear the "Amen" that came from all of us.

By CHRIS MURRAY

COMMENT

PADDY EGAN STARS FOR 'EXILES'

GALWAY won the New York hurling League beating Kilkenny 4-7 to 4-5 at Gaelic Park recently. Man of the match was former home-star Paddy Egan while lending quite a hand was ex-Dublin hurler Mick Bermingham.

All indications are that here at home Galway will be back as a major hurling force in a few years. The county's Coiste Iomána has done tremendous work during the past year and the number of juvenile hurling teams in the county has more than doubled.

MAYO HURLING

Hurling is also making headway in Mayo. Cong, led by former Galway star, Tom Conway, recently



MATTIE McDONAGH
A big tribute

won the county junior hurling title beating Ballyheane in a game

which produced fine hurling. Cong have also won the minor title.

As soon as a third division is got underway in the National Hurling League, Mayo will have a team in action. So too incidentally will Leitrim.

MATTIE HONOURED

The biggest crowd ever to pack the Esker Ballroom, Glenamaddy were on hand recently to honour Mattie McDonagh. The function was organised by the Ballygar club.

NOT WORRIED

Galway people are not worried about the heavy defeat by Down in the Grounds Tournament final. Everybody that I have spoken to believe that a full-strength Galway team would have beaten Down under normal playing conditions.

LOOKING AROUND

● FROM PAGE SEVEN

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

You figure this out. It is an extract from a Dublin evening newspaper report on the Antrim-Monaghan Lagan Cup game:

Antrim levelled the scores 1-3 each when Monaghan were awarded a penalty following a melee in the square.

Macartan Moore took the kick but to the dismay of Monaghan followers, he shot straight at goalkeeper George Eagleson who had no difficulty in clearing.

WRONG BOOK

The Stradene hurling club appeared to have a cut and dried objection before the Cavan Hurling Board recently. It was presented in great detail and with obvious care. However, it all meant nothing when it

was found that they had been referring throughout to the 1951 edition of the Official Guide which has long been replaced with a new edition. The club may appeal to the Ulster Council.

WATERFORD SELECTORS

The Waterford under-21 hurlers are in safe hands for 1966. On the selection committee are Tom Cunningham, Seamus Power and Ned Power. This is a most welcome trend. Young players cannot but be inspired by such star selectors. What is more they will have every confidence in them.

What a pity all counties would not find such fruitful work for the former stars and veterans who in nine out of ten cases are allowed to pass from the playing fields into oblivion and are therefore lost to the Association.

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By
Conallach

IT'S UP DOWN AGAIN!

THE big talking point up North here for the past month has been Down's great win over Galway in the Grounds Tournament and, of course, the return of Jim McCartan which is credited with much of the victory.

I always felt that McCartan would be back and have said so in this column. Newcomers, Seamus Doyle, Dickie Murphy, Willie Doyle and Ray Morgan certainly lived up to my forecast for them earlier this year.

The Lagan Cup competition has produced no real spectacular games to date but there have been some very fine individual displays. Tyrone's Seamus Taggart is following in the footsteps of brother Jackie and proving to be a great player, while Armagh's Tom McCreesh is matching up to the best-ever displays of former star Armagh full backs such as Jim McCullagh, Jack Bratten and Felix McKnight. Noel McClurg of Fermanagh and Monaghan's Frank Marron are two others who have produced brilliant performances in recent times.

"An Camán", the Croke Park

monthly report on the hurling revival, makes fine reading and it is heartening to learn of the progress that is being made in Ulster counties such as Cavan where the "wise ones" said hurling could never gain a foot-hold.

Incidentally in nearby Monaghan there is a great camogie revival underway at present. They have no less than ten teams.

Speaking of Monaghan reminds me—Tommy McArdle, the county's long-serving goalkeeper has announced his retirement—as has former county player Joe Smyth. Joe won seven county championship medals during his twenty-year spell with Clontibret O'Neill's. Many believe that had he been brought in during this year's county final, Clontibret and not Castleblayney would now be champions.

In Donegal it is estimated that the recent flooding did £2,000 worth of damage to McCumhaill Park, Ballybofey. This is a severe body-blow to a gallant park committee led by Ben Griffin, Paddy Murphy and Co.

Breffni Park, Cavan, was recently



JAMES McCARTAN
Fruitful return

used as a landing-ground for a helicopter which flew in to take a man seriously injured in a road accident to a Dublin hospital. And still in Cavan, the Ballyconnell club made a presentation to Tom and Mrs. Maguire at a recent banquet. The Cavan Co. Board also availed of the occasion to make Tom another presentation to mark his retirement after so many years of great service.

Finally congratulations to Castleblayney Faughs, Cavan Gaels, Bellaghy Wolfe Tones, Clonoe O'Rahillys, Devenish, Crossmaglen Rangers and St. John's, Belfast, on winning their respective county senior titles. "The Johnnies" climaxed a truly great year by winning the Ulster club championship as well.

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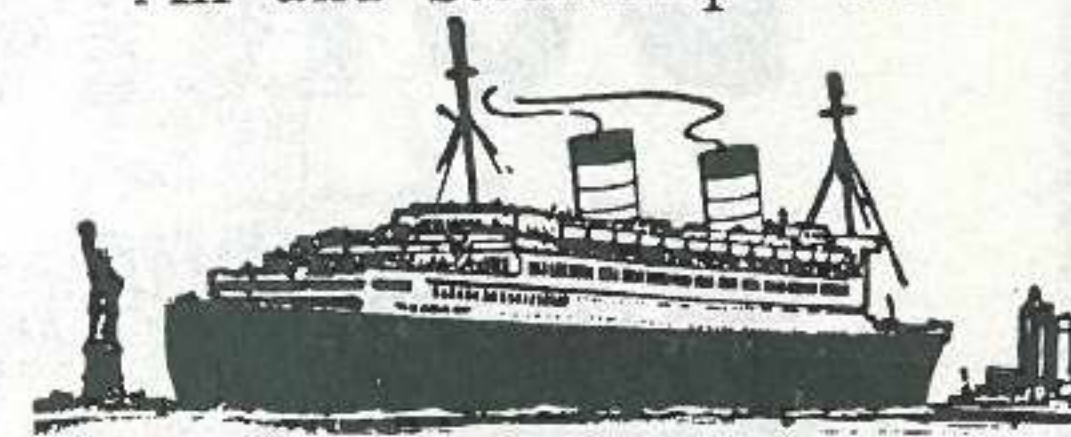
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SUNDAY

November 21st

1920

THE sun shone brightly on this day and at this time 45 years ago when the finest of Tipperary's and Dublin's young manhood came out on to Croke Park for what promised to be a thrilling football contest. They were then Ireland's foremost football counties and a large crowd had gathered to view the game.

Punctually referee, Mick Salmon of Kildare, himself a former star, sounded the whistle and the game was on. From the throw-in Tipperary took a firm grip at mid-field and began a series of attacks on the Dublin goal.

And so it remained during those opening minutes—the Premier County pressing and Dublin trying hard to find their feet and balance the tide of play.

There was a natural stillness as the ball was being placed for a kick-out following a Tipperary wide and into this quietness intruded the sound of a distant aeroplane. It seemed to grow louder, and as the players battled for possession at mid-field the aeroplane came into view and began to fly in a circle over the field. It attracted many eyes away from the play.

Then suddenly and without any warning Croke Park was

the scene of a holocaust. Rifle and machine-gun fire burst from all sides, pouring volley after volley into the amazed and defenseless crowd.

On the field, Michael Hogan, one of the Tipperary backs lay mortally wounded, while within seconds a dozen spectators were dead or dying. Many more were seriously wounded.

This was Bloody Sunday.

It was no accident or unavoidable side-effect of war. It was, in fact, a cold-blooded act of the foulest murder—premeditated and efficiently executed.

And so to-day Croke Park remembers. The surviving members of those two teams of Sunday, November 21st, 1920, have come again to pay tribute to the memory of those who died and to do honour to the cause whose victims they were.

It must never be forgotten that it was to Croke Park that the British Military and auxiliary forces came on this day 45 years ago. They recognised this stadium as the centre and symbol of Irish nationalism and nationalistic aspiration—and so they brutally stained its green sod with blood.

That stain and that memory can never be wholly erased—certainly not while there is as yet an unrealised Irish dream.

—*Extracts from Commemoration Programme.*

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TUT TUT MR. CARVER!

Sir,—Please allow me space to reply to Mr. Patrick Carver whose article in last month's issue was the most stupid I have ever read. He called Galway a team of "shreds and patches" and in doing showed how little he knows about Gaelic football.

Our Galway boys have won every honour that there is to be won and they are a credit to Gaelic games. Where has Mr. Carver been these last two years?

In conclusion may I say that like Mr. Carver I too would like to see new faces such as Donegal in Croke Park but to get there and take the honours they will have to beat one of the finest sides of all time—namely the present Galway fifteen.

Let us give credit where it is due and recognise the fact that Galway 1963-'65 were a team apart. What is more they will prove it again in 1966.

ROSE BURKE (Miss)

Nun's Island,
Galway.

A Chara, — Here I am, an old fool at 37, finally incensed into taking pen in hand to voice disapproval at something written by a journalist (Patrick Carver) in your November issue.

He called Galway a poor team. Well I saw my first final in 1938 and all major games since and I can tell him that Galway 1965 were anything but a poor team. They are a first-class side as their record over the past three seasons clearly shows.

There seems to be a journalistic tendency nowadays to stress the shortcomings of the loser and

explain how they failed, rather than attribute any praiseworthy quality to the victor.

I am a Dublinman, born and

reared, so I am neutral as far as Galway are concerned but I do feel that journalists in general and

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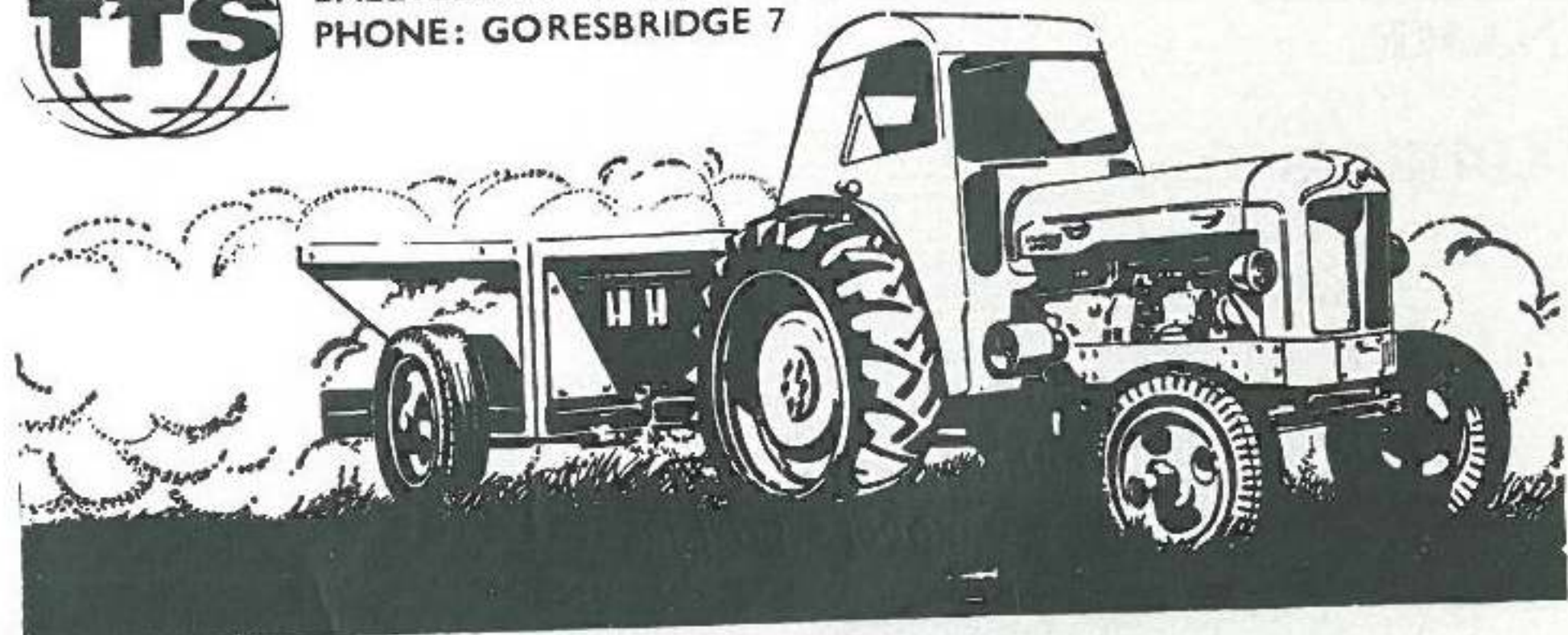
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PEN-POINTS

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

friend Carver in particular have done less than justice to a very fine team.

JOHN C. CONNOLLY.

300 Malahide Road,
Artane,
Dublin 5.

We apologise to Mr. Connolly for not having the space to produce his entertaining letter in full.

—EDITOR.

A Chara, — I am a constant reader of "Gaelic Sport" since November, 1963. I have kept every copy since then but there was one I could not get, and I was very sorry to miss it. It was the September issue of this year.

I would be very grateful if you published in your December issue the Top Ten of that month. It is the first article I read every month. Another article I would like to refer to was Eamonn Young's story on the Cork teams of 1956-'57. I enjoyed it very much. I look forward to getting your magazine every month and I read it from cover to cover.

G.A.A. FAN.

Reavouler,
Drinagh,
Dunmanway,
Co. Cork.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Top Ten Ratings as they appeared in our September Issue were:—*

FOOTBALL: 1, John Donnellan (Galway); 2, Bernie Hartigan (Limerick); 3, Matty McDonagh (Galway); 4, Danny McHugh (Sligo); 5, Joe Lennon (Down); 6, Jackie Devine (Longford); 7, Mick Durkan (Sligo); 8, Mick Tynan (Limerick); 9, Denis O'Sullivan (Kerry); 10, Paddy Doherty (Down).

HURLING: 1, Phil Wilson (Wexford); 2, Vin Staples (Wexford); 3, Tony Wall (Tipperary); 4, Len Gaynor (Tipperary); 5, Dan Quigley (Wexford); 6, Denis O'Riordan (Cork); 7, Tom Neville (Wexford); 8, Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny); 9, Martin Coogan (Kilkenny); 10, Dick Shannon (Wexford).

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Rest of Leinster team to play Wexford

Following is the Rest of Leinster hurling team to meet Wexford in the Railway Cup trial at Croke Park on December 12 (2.15):—

O. Walsh (Kilkenny); P. Henderson (Kilkenny), L. O'Mahony (Laois), P. Jackson (Westmeath); S. Cleere (Kilkenny), P. O'Mahony (Laois), M. Coogan (Kilkenny), B. Cooney (Dublin), P. Molloy (Offaly); A. Boothman (Dublin), P. Bradley (Westmeath), E. Keher (Kilkenny); T. Walsh (Kilkenny), C. O'Brien (Laois), W. Walsh (Carlow).

Subs.—T. Ring (Westmeath), J. Lynch (Kilkenny), P. Maycock (Dublin), A. Comerford (Kilkenny), W. Gorman (Offaly), P. Dillon (Kilkenny), J. Houlihan (Laois), E. Woods (Dublin), P. Dunny (Kildare).

The Rest of Leinster team to meet Dublin in the football trial will not be chosen until January.

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(From page 35)

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