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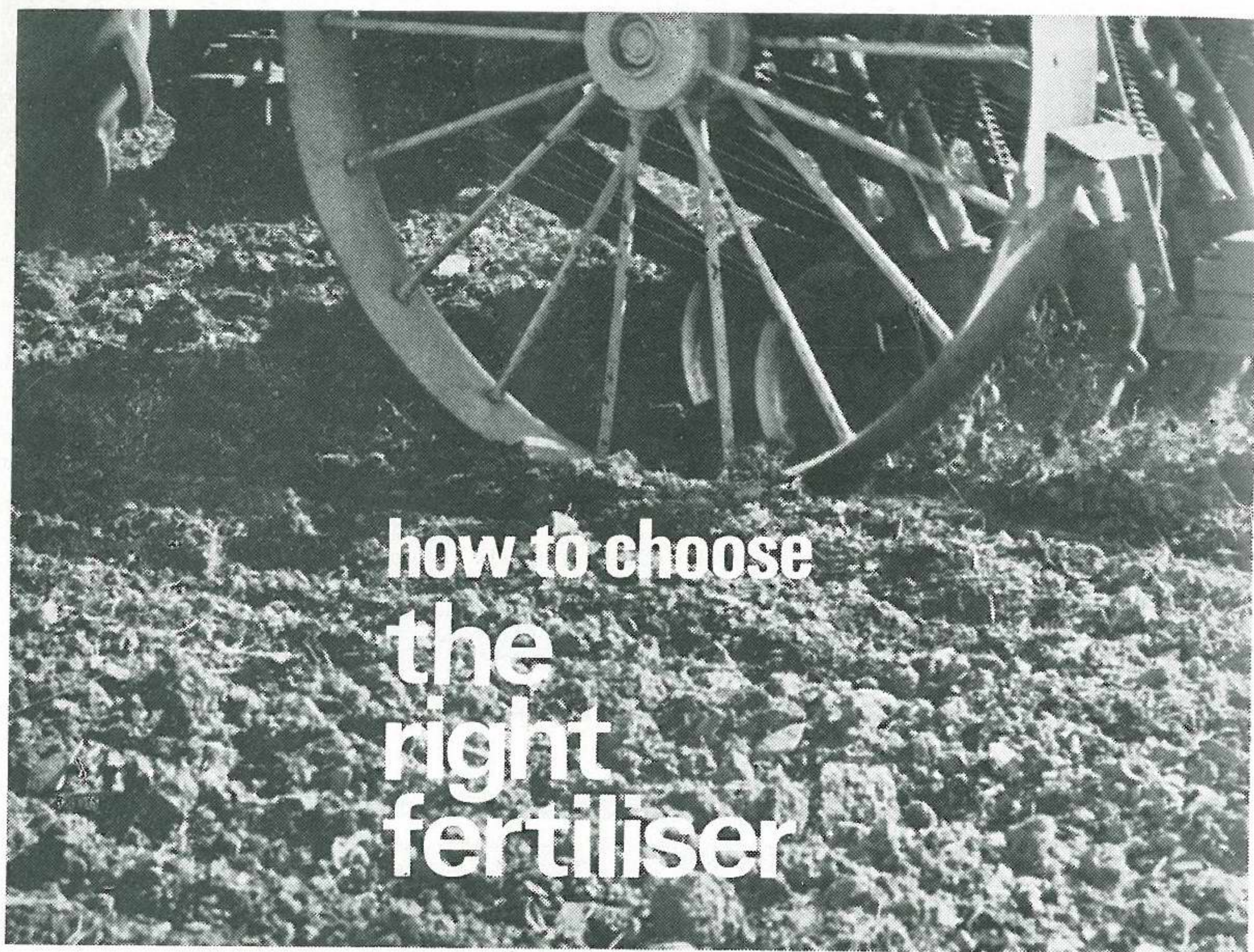
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THE GREAT REVIVAL

THE implementation of the Hurling Scheme is unquestionably the most extensive single task to be undertaken by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Yet there is no doubt but that all of what this master-plan sets forth can be achieved—provided its recommendations are followed step by step and that every county and club plays its part.

The Scheme calls for a beginning to be made in early March—one month hence. This means that any county which has not as yet set up its Coiste Iomána has no time to lose. This is a dynamic five-year plan. A delay in commencement can mean that a county will lag behind for the remainder of the period.

It must be remembered too that the responsibility for the success of this great revival is by no means confined to those appointed to lead it. Every individual member, player and supporter of our native games is embraced in the scheme. The enthusiastic assistance of all is required and every man and boy can play a part.

But there is need for haste, for the job must be got under-way as prescribed. Therefore let us all put to it. To bring hurling back is a task truly worthy of our labour.

AR AGHAIDH LINN IN AINM DE.

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JAY DRENNAN admits: I have a great deal of sympathy—but . . .

Meath should forget the referee crux —quickly !



● MARTIN QUINN
Meath's star defender.

THE Meath affair, as most newspapers now call the crux which arose between the Meath Co. Board and the Central Council, is certainly a sad chapter. Indeed, it has lengthened itself almost into a full scale work of many chapters, and this is the saddest thing. Perhaps the original difference of opinion may not have been a bad thing in itself, since it would have only served to highlight a possible weakness in the organisation of things, whereby a county may be asked to play under a man who has obviously given them displeasure in the past. A bit of consideration might have come up with an improvement in the scheme of things.

My statement about "obvious displeasure" above may need to be substantiated: almost everything one ventures to say when being foolhardy enough to step into such dangerous and troubled waters, ought I think be made explicit to avoid confusion. Though, in truth, I feel that in stepping in I am trying to act the part of peace-maker, since very few really neutral observers of the position have ventured to try that role.

But, to return to "obvious displeasure." This may very well go back even beyond the Tournament game, to the moment that Seamus Garvey was appointed for the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway. I feel the utmost sympathy for Garvey; he has been cast in as the unfortunate and unwitting villain in this piece. The poor chap was given the assignment for August in Croke Park and could do little or nothing about it, but since he had signified his willingness to act as a referee for the Association's games when and if needed, he had to accept.

At the time, I must confess that I had the clearly formed opinion

that this was a mistake on the part of the sub-committee of appointment: a mistake of policy and also a mistake of injustice to Garvey himself. At no stage do I admit that there was any injustice to Meath in this matter, for the same mistake of policy which appointed a young, inexperienced, and thoroughly uninitiated, though very competent, referee to a game laden with tensions of all kinds, and a game which was to be played before a critical crowd of, perhaps, 60,000 people, was an equal injustice to both Galway and Meath or any other teams which might have been playing that day if they were not. And a far greater injustice to Garvey himself.

These games at the end of the All-Ireland series must be given to battle hardened warriors who have forgotten to be nervous, who know the crowds and the teams and the tensions on a big occasion. There was an equally disastrous selection of Tom Cunningham (Waterford) for the Offaly-Down semi-final of four years ago. Not again that Cunningham was not an excellent referee, and reasonably experienced too, but that he was not prepared by the necessary slow process to tackle a job at the top. He was competent, as Garvey was competent, but who was to know that?

Then, of course, there is the misfortune that seems to follow the inexperienced referee, which seems to throw the controversial incident right in their laps—the McCartan penalty in Cunningham's case, the Jack Quinn "goal" in Garvey's.

Or, is it that anyone who suffers any marginal decision at the hands of a referee about whom it had been said freely in the days before the game: "You never know how he will go, you know; he's never done a big match before", is conditioned, predisposed to be dis-



● DAVE CARTHY



● OLIVER SHANLEY



● TOM BROWNE

AN ALL-IRELAND TITLE FOR THEIR COUNTY IN 1965?

pleased at anything close. And if there is anything marginal—and what game does not have some such incident—they *will* be displeased.

My impression is that Galway and Meath both entered that game in the same frame of mind: but, the rub of the green ran against Meath; so they were angry. If it had been the other way, I tell you for a certainty, Galway would have been equally angry. How or whether they would have shown it is, of course, another matter.

Now, to the game itself. I think that the comment of one of that circle of friends with whom I watch most Croke Park games was a perfect synthesis of the situation. Over a drink after the semi-final he said:

“Well, Garvey never made a mistake, and everybody got a fair crack of the whip. Luck and their own incompetence beat Meath. But, I don’t mind betting you any money, that Meath will be saying that they were robbed”.

We all agreed. And that was before we had spoken to any Meathman or had any inkling of the Meathmen’s attitudes. We sensed it in advance. Not, I hasten to add, because of Meath’s poor sportsmanship — for they are splendid fellows—but because of the predisposing factors which I have tried to explain above.

It is my opinion that Garvey handled the game excellently, but the sub-committee which appointed

him still had no right to expect so good a performance from one of his years and his experience.

On the point of particular controversy, I think no one has yet called in question that Quinn was fouled; most have made the issue one of the “advantage rule”. What advantage? Where was the probability of a score, particularly a goal? The record of the Meath shooting to that stage did not give a great degree of probability; and the fact that Quinn scored a “great” goal, which indeed it was, or would have been, only emphasises that he was remarkably quick and accurate and powerful in the placing of the shot before further impedence could be placed in his way. I was watching the play closely and was surprised, indeed, when he put the ball in the net. To me the opportunity did not appear anything like a clear-cut goal-chance.

On that point, of course, I will be the first to admit that others are perfectly in their rights in taking issue with me: impressions are strictly individual and subjective things. But, whatever the impressions of the probability of a goal from the boot of Quinn, I cannot subscribe to the censure of Garvey. Nor in any of the other points which have been brought forward either: not certainly in the admonition of Collier. The cause was not of major importance, but every referee must show that he

intends to be firm, and show it early.

This all seems to prove the point that Garvey was entirely impartial. I feel he was. But, it does not in the least affect the statement of my friend after the match. Meath were so narrowly defeated in a game which might so easily have been theirs; they had some ill-luck in the split decisions affecting them directly. Obviously, loyalty and county pride and partisanship being what it is, they would easily be understood by most reasonable people to feel disgruntled. Lack of real cause does not rule out an effect.

I have a great deal of sympathy with Meath in this case: some of it on emotional rather than on logical grounds, I admit. But then, I think that it was logic which caused all this trouble. The appointments sub-committee were too logical, the reaction from the Meath Board was too logical and remains so. It is a pity in this matter from the moment that it was felt that Meath were dissatisfied, since the committee which appointed Garvey apparently was not sufficiently in touch to sense it.

However to Meath I would say that if necessary they should now concede the matter entirely because if they do not quickly forget it they stand in danger, in their present disgruntled state, of losing the All-Ireland which ought—given reasonable progress—be theirs in 1965.

CONNACHT'S TOP TEN!

IT seems to be the fashion these past few weeks to be picking sportsmen of the year and top tens in respective counties and provinces. I will do likewise for our Western province and include in my roll of honour officials, referees and the other Gaelic games handball and camogie. This is my list:

1. NOEL TIERNEY (footballer).
2. DR. MICKEY LOFTUS (football referee).
3. MICKEY KEARNS (footballer).
4. JIMMY DUGGAN (hurler and referee).
5. THE DUNNES — JOHN "TULL" (official) and CYRIL (footballer).

6. EILEEN NAUGHTON (camogie).
7. JOHN DONNELLAN (captain).
8. GERRY MAHON and JIM FULLARD (handballers).
9. MATTIE McDONAGH (footballer).
10. MICHAEL CONNAUGHTON (footballer) and JOE EARLEY (college star).

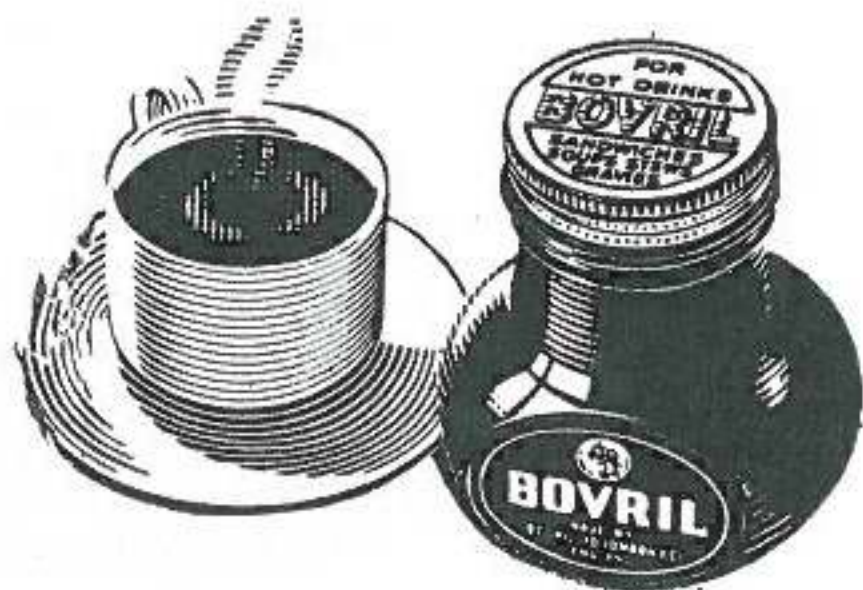
All readers will not agree with the above and will wonder why such as Mickey Cullinane, Rev. P. Mahon, Mick Reynold's, Mike Sweeney, Denis Gallagher, Padraic Joyce, Robbie Fox, Davy Doris, Dermot Gannon, Enda Colleran, Tommy O'Riordan ad infinitum were not included. But there are only ten places.

Noel Tierney's great play all

through the year should top any man's list. Another Paddy Prendergast — perhaps even better than Paddy. Can anybody say more? Dr. Mickey Loftus is the best referee West of the Shannon — a great sport who broke up his holidays in the U.S. to return (at his own expense) to referee the minor All-Ireland final and what a fine job he made of it too.

Mickey Kearns gave the best half-forward display seen in Connacht for many a day in the championship game versus Galway at Sligo on no less a man than John Donnellan. John, who comes later in the list, left his great hour to the All-Ireland final when he literally put Mick O'Connell "in his pocket" and what a great captain John

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proved to be. I will never forget his All-Ireland final acceptance speech—the best I've yet heard in Croke Park.

Jimmy Duggan still continues to hurl fluently and brilliantly. Against Cork in the championship he gave a polished display. Some few days after he buried his father R.I.P. and later in the year developed into a very fine referee of key games.

Cyril Dunne has never had a better year's football and his All-Ireland display was his best ever. His free taking ability is a perfected art. His father John is a very fine official and a great trainer whose enthusiasm knows no bounds.

Our camogie representative is Eileen Naughton, who did so much to win for U.C.G. both the Ashbourne Cup and the Galway county title. Unfortunately for Galway an injury caused her to miss the All-Ireland semi-final but her enthusiasm for the game saw her out helping to train the rest of the team although scarcely able to walk.

The handball award goes to Roscommonmen Mahon and Fullard as a result of their All-Ireland success while Mattie McDonagh, who won a second All-Ireland medal and seems good enough to be the first Connacht man to win three senior Celtic Cross awards, gets number nine spot. A genial and very popular character, Mattie's goal against Meath will never be forgotten.

Finally we honour Michael Connaughton of Claremorris, who played such a brilliant part in Mayo's surprise win over Roscommon and in Claremorris's county senior title success. His Connacht final display when opposed to John Donnellan, was not good by any means but he seems to be a man with a bright future.

Joe Earley, the St. Jarlath's College star shares tenth spot with his Claremorris neighbour and if the Balla redhead continues to



● JOHN "TULL" DUNNE and FATHER P. MAHON—the men behind Galway's football success.

improve they should be teammates on the Mayo senior side ere long.

With that I'll end. Even as I finish I think of Aubrey Higgins, the hurling referee of outstanding merit, Jimmy Duggan the great St. Jarlath's star, John Gibbons the Mayo minor star, Dermot Earley of St. Nathy's and his college pals

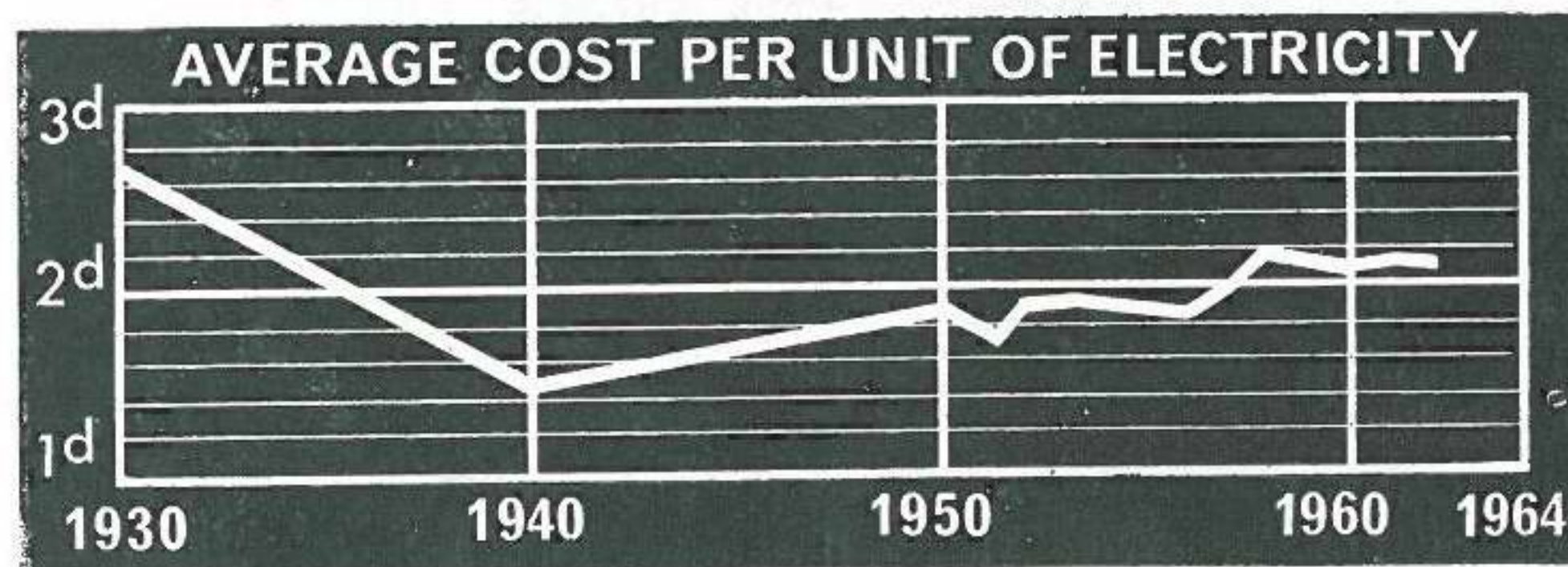
who won the All Ireland colleges' handball title once again for St. Nathy's, Marcus Henry the Sligo handballer, Ronan Creaven, the evergreen Gerry O'Malley . . .

But I said Top Ten—and even at that I had to make thirteen of the choice! Until next month slán agaibh.



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THE period of the "big talk" is over. We have had the views of the top Gaels and the lesser lights throughout the country on almost every aspect of G.A.A. control, administration and policy.

Divisional and county boards must now get down to brass tacks and devote their attention to plans to keep their clubs fully occupied during 1965.

Look at the problem facing them. They have a record muster of 3,100 clubs, comprising some 7,750 teams, with approximately 145,000 players to be kept busy, not counting the up and coming youths of primary school ranks.

We are told that large sections of our youths are deserting the playing fields and adopting more and more the role of spectator. Is this position forced on them in some areas through lack of competition?

This is a question many boards might ponder, for we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that too many governing bodies are content to run championship competition, usually on the knock-out system, and appear satisfied they are doing their duty and propagating the games.

Such boards are only fooling themselves if they believe they are serving the real purpose of the G.A.A., which is the maintenance of an active branch in every parish of the country.

We must face up to it that under the system operated by most boards the only guarantee any team has in a particular grade is one match in the season. If the team goes out in the opening round the players can be idle for the rest of the season for all the board cares.

Contrast this with the situation in other codes where teams are

generally assured of a regular series of weekly engagements throughout the official playing season. And then we wonder why youths seeking a sufficiency of match play are lured to these other games.

Boards must wake up to their responsibilities in this vital matter and immediately tackle the question of game planning to ensure a sufficiency of matches for every team.

Some may argue that there are plenty of tournament games to keep teams occupied. However the real trouble is that it is the winning teams that are constantly in demand. Very few want the teams who have been defeated in the early rounds of the championship. Paradoxically the weak teams—the ones most in need of help and encouragement—are the ones that rarely get it.

Some competition for the beaten teams is an absolute necessity, and boards must wake up to this fact before it is too late. Most parishes have playing fields now but the tragedy of it is that all too many of them are idle week in and week out, quite a few of them running into meadow in times when they should be full of pulsating life.

One division I know operated an excellent scheme of leagues for beaten teams. They commence their championships early in the

season, and have secondary competitions in all grades.

These competitions are run in four sections, the first for teams beaten in the first round of the championship, who will play off on the single league system.

The second section embrace teams knocked out in the second round of the championships, whilst the third section is for teams beaten in the third and subsequent rounds, including the final. Both these sections play off on the double league system.

Section four is a one team affair—the side winning out the championship. To illustrate the system:

From a sixteen team championship entry, the eight teams knocked out in the first round are guaranteed seven further games; the four teams beaten in the second round six; the three teams beaten in subsequent rounds four; whilst each section winner will eventually figure in semi-final and final to decide where the trophies go.

Strong point of this scheme is the manner in which it caters for the teams that most need it, whilst the sides who go well in the championship have less games to play. And sure sign that it is of real help is the frequency with which some of the beaten sides come up to win honours. But win or lose, all teams at least have a guarantee of being kept fairly busy.

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MICKEY WHELAN

FACE TO FACE with

SEAN O'DONNELL

A YEAR ago when "Gaelic Sport" tabulated its footballer of 1963, Mickey Whelan, the flying Dublin centre half-forward was an easy winner. It certainly was a popular choice and one which most people agreed with, for Whelan was the man who more than any other helped bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to Dublin.

Now 25, Mickey Whelan is at his peak and we can look to many more years of brilliant football. A regular with his county since late 1958, he has played in numerous positions from half-back to half-forward and mastered all of them.

Recently I had this interview with the stylish Clanna Gael player:

O'Donnell — To what do you attribute your great speed?

Whelan—I always include plenty of sprinting in my training. This is most essential, I believe, if one is to be fast.

O'D. — You went to the same school as Paddy Holden—St. Peter's, Phibsboro', so you also probably played hurling. Why then did you concentrate on football?

W. — Yes, I played hurling, in fact at school football was very



● MICKEY WHELAN

much in second place but I somehow found that I was making the grade faster as a footballer.

O'D.—Do you believe a player should confine himself to one game?

W.—No, certainly not. I would recommend both games for anybody who has the time. Playing both games one is always sure of being fit and of playing much more consistently. The time is the big problem.

O'D. — What game most stands out in your memory?

W.—Well, I would say that there are two—the 1963 Leinster final and All-Ireland final—the latter in particular of course.

O'D. — How about disappointments?

W.—Again I can think of two major games—the 1959 and '62 All-Ireland semi-finals against Kerry. We lost both. They were games which I thought we could have won.

O'D.—Who is the best centre half-back you have played on?

W.—There were so many. Gerry O'Malley, Dan McCartan, Seamus Murphy and "Pa" Connolly in particular spring to mind.

O'D.—Talking of centre half-backs, have you ever felt that you would like to play in that position?

W. — Indeed I have and still would like to play there. I think it would be a novel experience. Actually left half-back is my favourite position. Perhaps some day I will get a try-out in the centre.

● TO PAGE 12.



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● FROM PAGE 11

O'D.—How do you account for Dublin's defeat by New York in the 1964 League final?

W. — It was just one of those games when nothing seemed to go right for us. In short it was a game of missed chances from Dublin's point of view.

O'D.—There has been some talk recently that U.S. trips are in danger. Is there any comment which you would like to make?

W.—Well, firstly I would not say that U.S. trips are in danger. As I understand it, it is simply a question of arranging something so that such trips do not lose money. I think it would be a great pity not to have New York visits and if they have to be subsidised, then I would be in favour of a subsidy from the "home" League competition — or alternatively a special game to be played each year with proceeds going towards the International Fund.

O'D.—Are there any changes of rules which you would like to see?

W.—I think a penalty should be awarded for a foul committed inside the 14-yard line. I would also favour teams of thirteen-a-side instead of the present fifteen. These two moves would, I believe, lead to much more attractive football.

O'D. — Which county do you most like playing against?

W.—Kerry in particular, but I also enjoy playing against Galway and Down.

O'D.—Who were your idols when at school?

W. — Des Ferguson, Cathal O'Leary, Kevin Heffernan and Ollie Freaney.

O'D.—Finally, any other sporting interests?

W.—I am very keen on swimming and when I get a chance I play handball and basketball.



An Ród seo Romhainn

le
SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

BLIAIN úr againn agus tabharfad le fios cad iad na mianta atá agam, maidir leis an gCumann Lúchleas Gael, don bhliain 1965. An rud is fearr fé mhianta, ní hionann is deá-rúin ná gur féidir an mhilleán a chur ar dhaoine eile mura gcomhlíontar iad. Ag an am chéanna is maith an rud mianta scríbhneora a bheith breactha ar phár mar tugann siad rudaí áirithe chun chuimhne léitheoirí agus déanfaidh cuid acu rud éigin fé roinnt de na mianta, má bhíonn an deis acu.

An chéad mhian atá agam ná **GO DTABHARFAIDH GACH ÉINNE FÉ'N ATHBHEOCHAIT IOMÁNA** le dúthracht, diograis agus deá-thoil.

Nuair adeirim 'gach éinne' ciallaím chuile dhuine, ní hiad amháin oifigí agus imreoirí na gclub; ciallaím na tuismitheoirí, na múintoirí, na tuairisceoirí (idir nuachtáin, irisí, radio agus teilifíse) na Forsaí Cosanta agus na Gárdaí Síochána—éinne gur féidir leo an cluiche ársa álainn seo a mholadh don aosóg. Dáiríre, tá sé d'fhiacaibh ar oifigí agus baill na gclub gach iarracht a dhéanamh san aithbheochaint ach tig leis na daoine thuasluaite cabhair thar cuimse a thabhairt má toil leo. 'Sé mo mhian-se go dtabharfaidís.

An dara mhian atá agam ná go ndéanfaidh muintir gach uile pharóiste gach is féidir leo, tré chomhoibriú le **PÁIRC IMEARTHA FIÚNTACH A CHUR AR FÁIL**.

Tagraim don alt fé chlub Chill Mhacoda, i ndeisceart Chontae Átha Cliath, a scríobh an tUasal Micheál de Búrca, O.S., i "Our Games Annual". Cinnte ní féidir le gach club fán dtuaidh dul i mbun rudaí mar a dhein oifigí an chlub sin ach is eisiomplár den chéad scoth é. Ar a laghad tig leis an lucht leanúna ins gach pharóiste, páirc oiriúnach a cheannach (ceapaim go bhfuil banc éigin i ngiorracht chúig mhíle do chlub ar bith!) an tuisce sa pháirc a thaoscadh agus seomra gléasta a thógáil ann.

Diuidh ar ndiaidh is féidir áiseanna eile a chur ar fáil ach an pointe is tábhachtaí ná gur ceart do mhuintir an pharóiste tabhairt fén obair anois agus gan bheith ag fanacht le cabhair ó na húdaráis sa chumann—"is maith le Dia cúnaimh."

An tríú mhian atá agam don bhliain seo ná **GO GCUIRFEAR AN GHAEILGE CHUN CHINN** níos mó ná ariamh sa Chumann.

Is íontach Gaeilge phras bhlasta an Tuaiscirt á chloistéáil ón tUach-

tarán, Alf Ó Muirí, Gaeilge bhinn bhog na Mumhan ón Árd Rúnaí Seán Ó Síocháin, ar gach ócáid a oireann. Is deá-shompla dúinn uilig iad ach ní leor go mbíonn friotal na nGael ar theanga na noifíeach, pioca san Ardchomhairle nó sna clubanna iad. Tá sé i nam d'fhóirne na gcoláistí agus fóirne na mionúr cúpla beic nó cúpla gáir chatha as Gaeilge a leigint uathu mar "Buail í", "Chugam", "Fág fúm" agus a leithéidí.

An cheathrú mhian atá agam ná **GO NDIÚLTÓIDH COMHDHÁIL NA BLIANA AN MOLADH FÉ'N CHOSC CURTHA AR AGHAIDH AG COISTE ÁTHA CLATH**.

Scríobh mé fé Riail 27 go minic cheana, san iris seo, agus deirim arís nach é seo an tam leis an gcosc a chealú. Mar Chaitliceach ní oireann sé dom roinnt rialacha eaglasta a chomhlíonadh ach mar sin féin níl sé de rún agam iar a chealú. Ag an am chéanna níl ceangal na gcúig gcaol orm ag údaráisí na hEaglaise agus tig liom aistriú do na Mac Madaigh más mian liom. Mar an gcéanna le baill an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael.

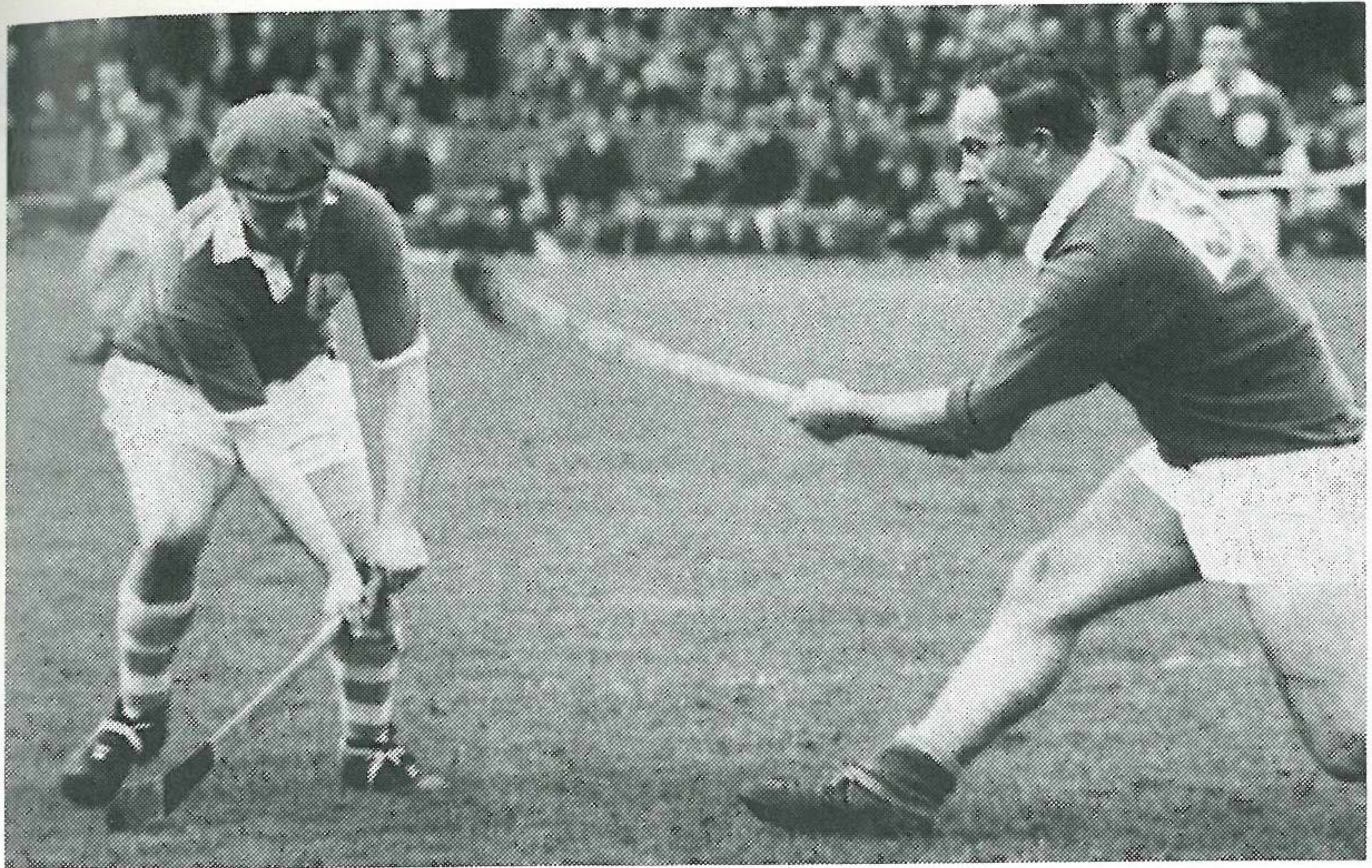
Ach tuigim, mar a thuigeann leis na rialacha Eaglasta. Chomh gach Caitliceach eile, na fáthanna

● **AR LEAN LEAT 49.**

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★ *TEAM-MATES IN OPPOSITION . . . Jimmy Doyle (with cap) being tackled by Michael Maher in the 1964 Tipperary County Final.*

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CLUBS

MUNSTER MEDLEY

by
**Seamus
O Ceallaigh**

MUNSTER Gaelic circles are buzzing with excitement in anticipation of the opening of the new champion club competition in both hurling and football, in which the participants will be the county champion clubs of the six Southern counties.

The establishment of the National Leagues and the extension of other competitions for county selections, have pushed the clubs into the background. The clubs are supposed to be the important unit of the Association, but in practise this is not often honoured. It is hoped that the new Munster competitions will help to alter this trend, and eventually lead to the establishment of an All-Ireland club championship—the dream of many fans over a long period.

In this year when such emphasis

is being so rightly placed on the advancement of hurling, it is doubtful if anything more colourful could be provided than the new club championship.

We have three outstanding combinations in the line up—Thurles Sarsfields, with 26 Tipperary senior hurling crowns to their name—nine of them won in the last decade; Glen Rovers with 20 Cork titles tucked away, and Mount Sion winners in Waterford on 19 occasions.

We have glamorous figures too—Mount Sion captain, Mick Flannelly, winner of 14 senior medals; Christy Ring, who shares with Tipperary's Mickey Byrne thirteen premier hurling county championship trophies.

We have mentioned three strong

● **TO PAGE 16.**

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● FROM PAGE 15.

contenders for this new crown, but nobody must make the mistake of writing off such club combinations as Cappamore, Newmarket-on-Fergus, or even Kerry's Kilmoyley, who have in Declan Lovett, the highest scoring forward of the entire county Championship series.

The fans will like to study the line up for this new competition, so here are the teams as they qualified:

Clare — Newmarket - on - Fergus (beat Clarecastle, 8-12 to 5-7). Players: J. Woods, G. McMahon (captain), M. Considine, L. Halpin, G. Fawl, V. Hogan, J. Hannon, L. Danaher, H. McCabe, P. Halpin, P. Cronin, J. Quinn, T. Melody, M. O'Leary, P. McNamara.

Cork—Glen Rovers (beat St. Finbarrs, 3-12 to 2-7). Players: T. O'Neill, M. Lane, L. Young, S. Kennefick, J. O'Sullivan, M. Twomey, M. McCarthy, J. Daly, J. Salmon, P. Harte, J. Young, D. Moore, W. Carroll, A. O'Flynn, C. Ring (captain).

Kerry—Kilmoyley (beat Lixnaw, 4-14 to 5-5). Players: Jimmy Moloney, Michael Regan (captain), Declan Lovett, Liam O'Connor, Tom Collins, X. Lovett, Michael Collins, John Flanagan, Patsy Connor, Avy Lovett, Willie O'Leary, Donal Regan, Sean Lovett, Michael Mulvihill, Michael O'Reilly.

Limerick — Cappamore (beat Dromcollogher, 5-5 to 1-4). Players: Seamus Ryan, P. McCarthy, Tom Ryan, G. Kenny, Michael Hayes, Sean Ryan, M. Ryan, Willie Crowe, Paddy O'Malley, D. Quirke, Doney Flynn, T. O'Donoghue, D. Crowe, Johnny Hayes (captain), T. O'Dwyer.

Tipperary — Thurles Sarsfields (beat Holycross-Ballycahill, 5-13 to 1-4). Players: M. Keane, M. McElgunn, Mickey Byrne, B. Maher, N. Murphy, Tony Wall, M. Dowd, T. Walsh, M. Dorney, P. Doyle, G. Hogan, P. Dorney, Jimmy Doyle, Sean McLoughlin, P. Butler.

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How the Railway Cup Games started . . .

THE New Year of 1965 is well fledged by now, and already the stage is set for the first really competitive games of the coming season, the Railway Cup semi-finals.

Those of the younger generation take those interprovincial games very much for granted nowadays, but they should always remember that, for more than half of its existence, the G.A.A. had no regular interprovincial series at all.

True, the first big hurling games played in Ireland in relatively modern times were interprovincial hurling matches between Munster and Leinster around the end of the 18th and the early years of the 19th century. But these matches were organised by the nobility and gentry of the times and were often the medium of heavy gambling by those of the ascendancy who had more money than sense.

Nor did the foundation of the G.A.A. reawaken provincial rivalry on a representative basis, for the Association had been more than a decade in existence before the first interprovincial game between representative teams was played.

Peculiarly enough, this match took place not in Ireland at all, but in England, for a hurling game

between chosen stars of Leinster and Munster was the high-light of the first Gaelic invasion of London and was staged at Stamford Bridge in the middle 'nineties. In this game Munster, who were assisted by the famed athletes Tom Kiely and John Flanagan and the doyen of early footballers, Willie Ryan of Arravale, beat a very representative Leinster side after a thrilling hour.

That 1896 game, led to other interprovincial matches in London, but teams of the same strength never went over again, and the interest aroused in such interprovincial matches took a long time to percolate homewards.

It was well into the nineteenth-hundreds before an inter-provincial series was inaugurated in Ireland by the Central Council, the trophies, the Railway Shields, being provided by the principal railway company. These new contests aroused plenty of popular interest and, in football particularly, the sides chosen were usually very representative.

Munster and Leinster shared football honours in the first couple of seasons, but then Munster won again to take possession of the football Shield, as the agreement had been that the first province to

win the series twice in succession or three times in all would take permanent possession.

The hurling series was more long drawn out, both Leinster and Munster winning twice, before Leinster took possession of the trophy after a long-remembered final in the old St. James's Park in Kilkenny.

Unfortunately, the hurling series suffered from the fact that the holders were inclined to pick their own men for these games and not care a great deal about the representative claims of the rest of the province. In the last three finals, for instance, Munster was represented solely by the hurlers of Tipperary, who, seemingly, did not feel they needed the assistance of even such a wonderful Cork hurler as Jamesy Kelleher from Dungourney, while the Leinster team that finally won the Shield consisted of fifteen Kilkennymen, Mike Cummins of Wexford and Bob O'Keeffe, then teaching in Laois, but listed by the Kilkennymen as a member of the Mooncoin club since he was a native of that South Kilkenny parish.

It seems most remarkable now, considering the amount of interest that these interprovincial games for the Railway Shield aroused, that no attempt whatever was made to continue the competitions after the original Shields were won.

One would have thought that the Railway Company might have offered to put up another set of trophies for continued competition, or that the winners might have put back the original Shields into circulation again. Possibly one of the reasons that the interprovincial games were not then continued was because of the controversies that followed the winning of them.

The Munster Council handed over the football Shield to Kerry on the grounds that the Kingdom

● TO PAGE 19.

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● FROM PAGE 17.

had supplied the province with the bulk of the winning side, but when, some time later, the Leinster Council was asked to donate the hurling Shield to Kilkenny a serious crux resulted.

The then Chairman of Leinster Council ruled that Kilkenny would have to play off for the trophy with Dublin, Wexford and Laois. Kilkenny refused to do so and, as a protest at not being awarded the trophy, withdrew from the Leinster championship final in which they were due to meet Dublin. Although the Noremen were then All-Ireland champions they were promptly suspended in most peculiar fashion by the Leinster Council.

The county as such was not suspended, but the four clubs which then supplied the entire county team, Mooncoin, Tullaroan, Erin's Own and Three Castles were all suspended because their players had withdrawn from the Leinster final.

Kilkenny appealed to Central Council and the Council ruled that Leinster Council was wrong in suspending the clubs. The matter was referred back to the provincial body which, after a series of special meetings, not alone lifted the suspension but awarded the Railway Shield to Kilkenny who then returned to the Association, but too late to defend their title in the 1908 championship in which Dublin held Tipperary to a draw at Jones's Road only to lose the replay at Athy.

The upshot was that nobody was much inclined to start any fresh controversy by suggesting that the Shield competition should be begun all over again and, in fact, inter-provincial games were not resumed for twenty years.

In passing, however, there was one sequel which deserves mention. Kilkenny, having received the Shield, a large piece of elaborate silvercraftsmanship, handed it over to the Corporation of the Marble City. A special hand-carved case of



● PADRAIG O CAOIMH . . . who proposed the introduction of the Railway Cup competitions.

oak was made for it, and it became one of the most remarkable features of the old Tholsel, the Town Hall of Kilkenny. It is many years ago since last I saw it there, but I presume it still holds an honoured place among the 'Fair City's' heirlooms.

Not till the middle 'twenties was the idea of an interprovincial series revived, and one of those behind the new move was the late Pádraig O Caoimh, then Secretary of Cork County Board.

The first games in hurling and football took place none too long

before Christmas, 1926, and the first finals were played at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day, 1927. The series got off to a flying start as the first hurling final, in which Leinster just pipped Munster, is still remembered as one of the finest exhibitions of caman-craft ever given.

It took perhaps three or four years before the new Railway Cup games really began to establish themselves, but they steadily grew in favour until nowadays they rightly rank as the leading matches of the first part of the Gaelic Year.

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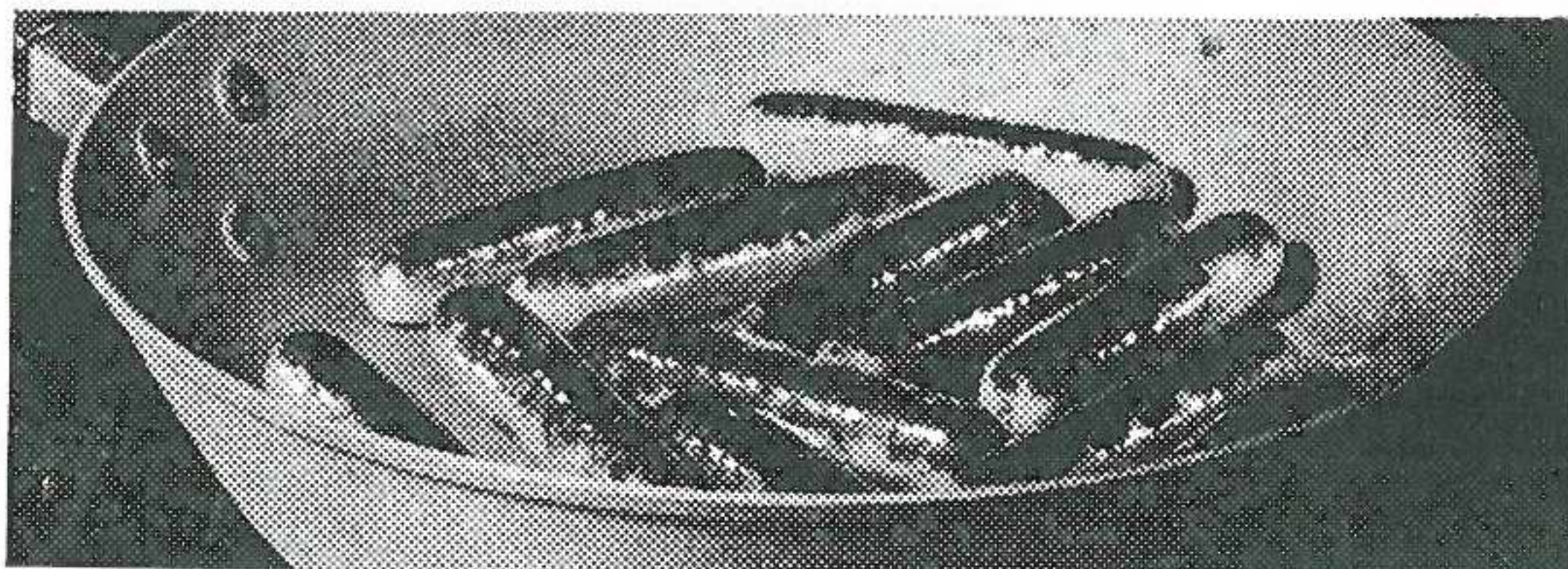
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WILL THE CUP GO NORTH AGAIN ?

By **CONALLACH**

IN last month's column I referred to Antrim's dissatisfaction at not having a representative on the Ulster team and in a recent visit to Donegal I found similar complaints although that county has its biggest ever representation on the provincial team. It was generally expected though that both Sean O'Donnell and John Hannigan could not be left off. O'Donnell has donned the provincial jersey before and Hannigan was one of Donegal's most consistent players throughout the year. In Monaghan it is claimed that Seamus McElroy should not have been overlooked. However, good luck to the wearers of the Red Hand and let us hope that the Cup will come North again for 1965.

LAGAN CUP

Monaghan have acquired the services of Peter O'Reilly to train their up and coming team for their Lagan Cup tie with Derry at Dungannon and no doubt the Dublinman will have them in good order. It is expected that McCartan, Moore and Tony Loughman will be back in action and their inclusion will strengthen the Farneymen. Their defence however will need to be on their toes to hold the

quicksilver Derry attack especially Sean O'Connell and Leo O'Neill. Jim McKeever is now the Derry team manager and he has full charge of the team on the field. This great player, with shrewd switches in the earlier part of the year, turned defeat into victory for the O'Cahan County. He could well do so again.

P. J. McKEEFRY

Congratulations to P. J. McKeefry a member of the Davitt's club, Swatragh, on his appointment as Sports' Editor of the "Irish News" Belfast. He has given the sports section a new look and he has kept up the good tradition of the "Irish News" as regards coverage of Gaelic games. In Ulster we should be thankful too to our weekly newspapers for the excellent coverage they give to our national games. The "Ulster Herald" papers; Observer Newspapers, "Derry Journal", "Northern Standard" and "Anglo-Celt" leave nothing to be desired in this respect.

LEO MURPHY

It is rumoured that Leo Murphy, now teaching in Rostrevor, will turn out again for Down in the concluding stages of the Lagan

Cup. If fully fit again, he would be a great help to the Mournemen. Former Galway player George Glynn has been playing very consistently in recent months for Down and his inclusion will strengthen their attack now that they are without the services of James McCartan.

IN MEMORY

I understand that the Donegal S. W. Divisional Board are to run a competition for a cup to perpetuate the memory of the late Davie Brennan, Glenties, a former county selector and Chairman of Donegal Co. Board. Davie Brennan was a great Gael, who propagated the ideals of the Association at all times and we wish this competition every success. Another worthy cause is the Joe Skeffington Testimonial Fund in Dungannon. Joe was connected with everything Irish and was a prominent member of the Ulster Council and Tyrone Board until his untimely death last year.

The progressive Four Masters Club, Donegal town have started Bingo in a big way in the Pavesi Ballroom. The proceeds will go to

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● FROM PAGE 21.

the development of Tir Conaill Park.

NEW OFFICER

Congratulations to our ex-Editor, Brendan Mac Lua, who has been appointed Executive Officer of the G.A.A. While working with Gael-Linn he did some very good programmes for Radio Eireann, one of the best being a profile of Alf O Muiri, President of the G.A.A. On account of his previous work he is well versed in Northern affairs.

THE OTHER BAN

The Ban has again come to light at various conventions and idle-minded people are taking this as an opportunity to seek support for their pet aversion. My views for the retention of the Ban are always clear-cut. No person is compelled to join the G.A.A. but affiliated members should abide by the rules. There have been unlimited alienated influences working against the G.A.A. since its foundation; certain college authorities do not allow their pupils to play Gaelic games, and those idle-minded anti-ban men should direct their attention to the Portrush G.A.A. club, Co. Antrim, who are not allowed to have a Gaelic field in the town by the same Saxon-minded people who have been planted there by an Imperial power.

A football pitch acquired in Portrush some time ago was maliciously ploughed and the goal-posts cut so that now the players have to travel six miles to get a playing field in another town. This is the 'Ban' which we Irishmen from Antrim to Cork should really be talking about.

Let the G.A.A., as the greatest national body in this country unite, and remove this unjust and unlawful "Ban" against young Irishmen. When we have that discriminating foreign influence removed from our sundered six counties we may then sit at council, revise and amend some Rules of the organisation if that appears necessary.

THE CALTEX STARS

by

JAY

DRENNAN

THE nation's sports editors selected John Doyle and Noel Tierney for the 1964 Caltex Awards and certainly I agree with their choice. Both men proved their right to the honour during last season.

Tierney is a young man with his greatest hours ahead of him. All indications are that when he passes from the scene his name will be coupled with those of the truly great full backs such as Joe Barrett, Eddie Boyle, Joe Keohane, Paddy O'Brien and Paddy Prendergast.

The Galwayman has all the requirements—size, strength, speed, safe hands and a cool intelligent brain. For him a great era lies ahead.

What a contrast is provided by John Doyle. He is now in the Autumn of his hurling and what a list of achievements, of feats and memories his name conjures before us.

Memory paints a picture of a nineteen year old Doyle, then playing corner-back, the position to which he has returned now after long service in the half-back line, but on the left in his early days while today he plays on the right. Not that it matters to him. That nineteen year-old Doyle was a chubby, beefy youngster, not really very readily recognisable as the tall, angular, spare man of today. The style of the player, however, is the same: uncom-

promising, tough and straightforward, and the mighty clearance upfield.

Later and better years—mainly because he was more in the game, and therefore enabled to be more spectacular—were spent at wing-half. It was in this position really that he became the idol of Tipperary followers, and often the rallying inspiration behind many a faltering Tipperary team.

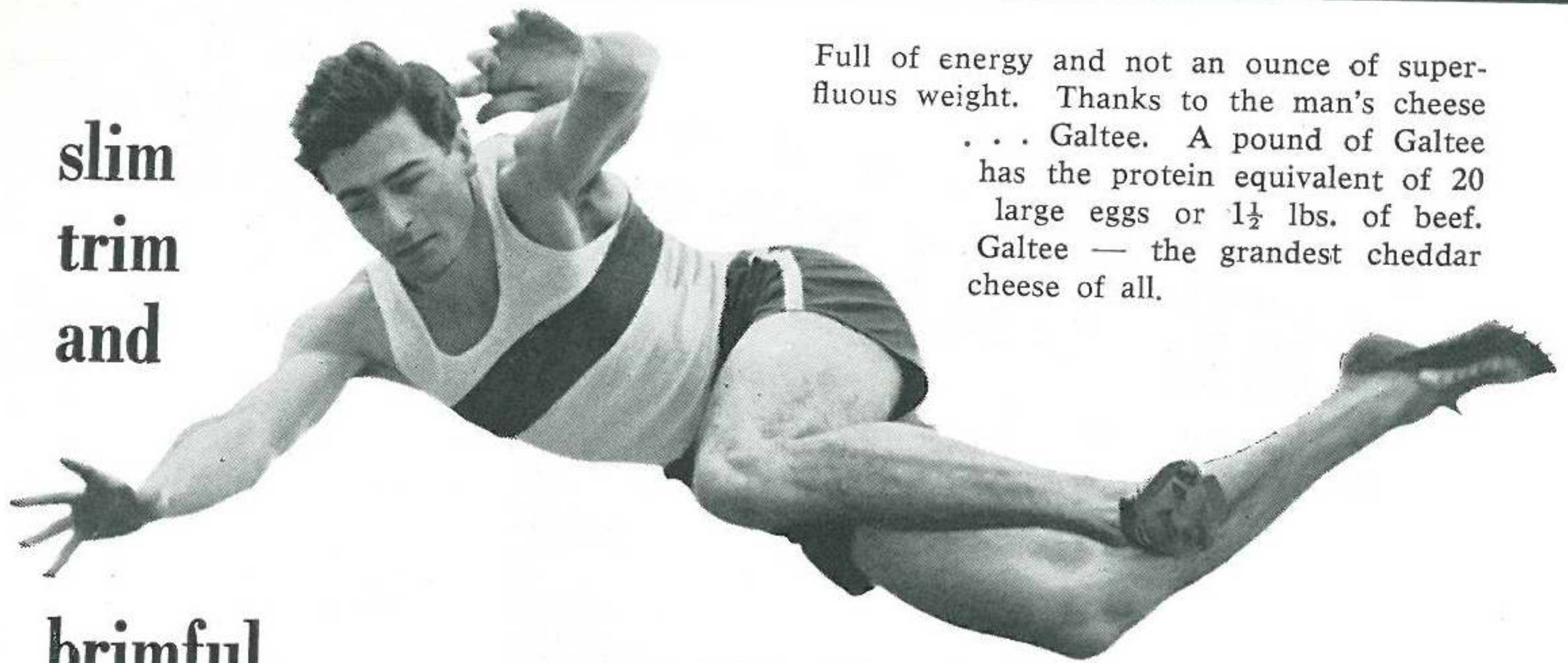
We will long remember—always I think—the mighty man breaking up a busy-buzzing attack, gathering the ball and coming bursting through the opposing ranks like a man running across the fields in the morning to drive in the cows: opposing forwards yielded in his path like dew under the early morning feet. It never failed to bring roars of throaty delight from the spectators; never failed to rouse the blood in the veins of his team-mates.

As Doyle careered through on these bursts for freedom or on those solos to relieve a harassed defence, hurleys and men seemed to hop and splinter off him as off a chiselled hunk of the Rock of Cashel. He was a hard man who played the game as he conceived it should be played, hard but fair. He never spared himself, never saw danger, and yet, he has been singularly free from injuries throughout his career.

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EAMONN YOUNG SAYS :

***The way to
fitness means
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"I WISH I were as fit as you." How often you have heard the words. How often perhaps you have said them yourself—aloud or in the mind. The male's desire for physical fitness is as natural as water flowing downhill.

Ages ago man simply had to be fit and strong, to hunt the animals for food and to protect his home and loved ones from human, animal and tempest. To-day that necessity for fitness is no longer so obvious in an age where even hunting, farming and soldiering can be done pretty well by what we once called the weaker sex.

The desire for manly fitness remains however and indeed may even be stimulated by the desire of the male to show that he is, in at least one essential way, superior to the female.

Talk to any man, of any age, about fitness, and provided you are not a fool, you have an

audience. What is the way to again become fit?

The first essential is to decide for yourself what standard you wish. Naturally the desire to play well in the annual "Old Boys" versus Students game is something different to an attempt on Junior Cummins' record in the 880.

The time devoted to one or the other demands a decision, and the man who cannot or will not give the requisite time must be prepared to strike a lower target.

The division of the time demands advice and now that the importance of physical education is being realised there is more guidance oral and written than there was ten years ago. The man who wishes to be fit and stay that way would be wise to seek that advice. If however he hasn't the self-discipline, the determination, the plain guts, then he is beaten from the start, because he will undoubtedly flop half-way.

The road to fitness like that of all human aspiration is an upward one and often it's hard but remember if one can't jump over a twelve foot wall one can always get a ladder. . . . And a ladder has rungs.

The way to fitness is to start at the bottom rung and work up steadily and perhaps slowly. Naturally the bottom rung for, say Mick Flannelly, in January will be a little higher than mine, but we both must start there. There are umpteen ways in which one may move upward from rung to rung.

Mattie Murphy a middle-distance running friend of mine from Ballymartle will run hard along road-circuits at night. Paddy Bawn Brosnan liked playing that very stimulating game of badminton; some hardy young men in an army gymnastic team of ours go to clubs

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MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR...

by

PHILIP RODERICK

IT was a few days after the Christmas and Eamonn Young and myself were on our way back to Cork city from Aghada, and as always we were doing our share of talking about sport. And, mind you, if you have ever been with the two of us, you will know that it takes a good man to get a word in edgeways.

We were just at Glanmire when Eamonn suddenly broke off in the middle of a long talk about Cork hurling and turned to me. "Come here" he said. "Would you like to talk to a man who knows what he is talking about when it comes to sport?"

"Nothing better," I told him. "Lead on." And that was how we came to wind up in the South Infirmary, talking to Eamonn's father, Jack Young, who had a little bout of illness before the holidays but who, thank God, was well on the mend when we called in to see him.

Now there is a man who can

● JOHN LYONS
... the former Cork and Munster full-back.



talk—and he has the experience to back up everything he says. He has 77 grand years behind him and, with one glorious sentence in a Cork accent that I wish I had, he can whip you back to the beginning of the century and chat about men whose names have become part and parcel of everything that was and is good in hurling and football.

And he does not confine himself to the past. He can yarn away about the present day sport with a knowledge that would put many of us professional journalists to shame. He followed the recent Olympics in Tokyo with relish and we must have spent a quarter of an hour or more talking about Peter Snell, a man after his own heart, who galloped off with the 800 and 1,500 metres in the Games.

But he was really at his best when he spoke about the great days of hurling and football and when he went back to that day long ago in 1911 when Cork's footballers took the All-Ireland title.

And he astonished me by telling me that eight of that team are still alive. Now that is a bit of a record, for, after all, 1911 is 54 years ago and that is a fair bit of time. He named them all off and I noticed that Eamonn had to agree with him. As I found out later, this subject had come up before and Eamonn had gone to the trouble of checking up.

One of the men of that team still alive, I am delighted to say, is the great Charley Paye, and, in case, any of you youngsters do not know who I am talking about, I had better tell you just a small bit about him.

Kind for me to be interested in him, because you see I come from Duhallow and Charley was as near to being a Duhallow man as did not matter. He was from the Fermoy side, but down in our part of Cork we had a big interest in him and, indeed, when I was growing

up, I remember well how I used to hear so many wonderful stories about him. In my innocence then, I thought that poor Charley had gone to his reward many, many

years before then. Now 30 years later, I find out that he is still with us and, by all accounts, in the best of health.

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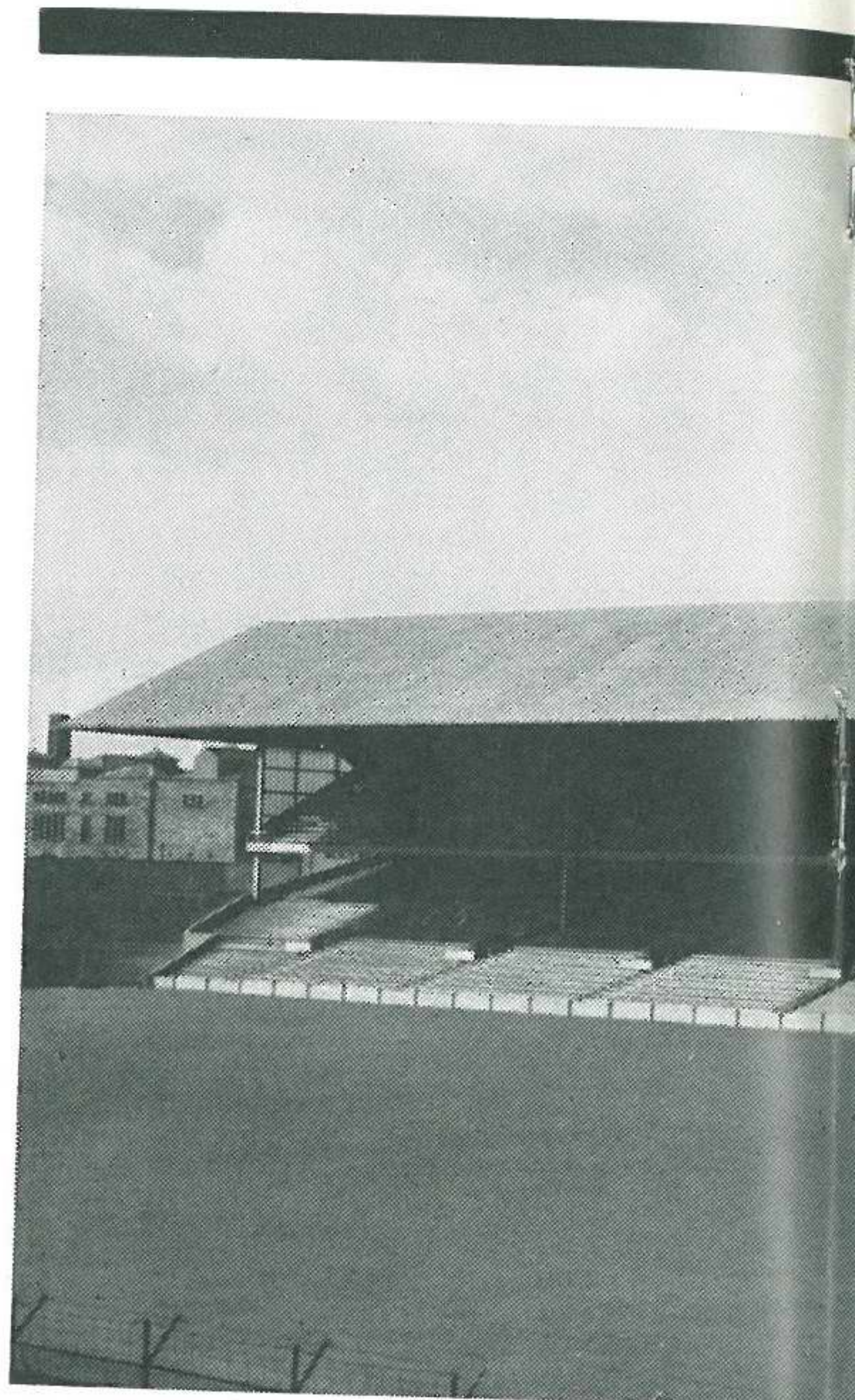
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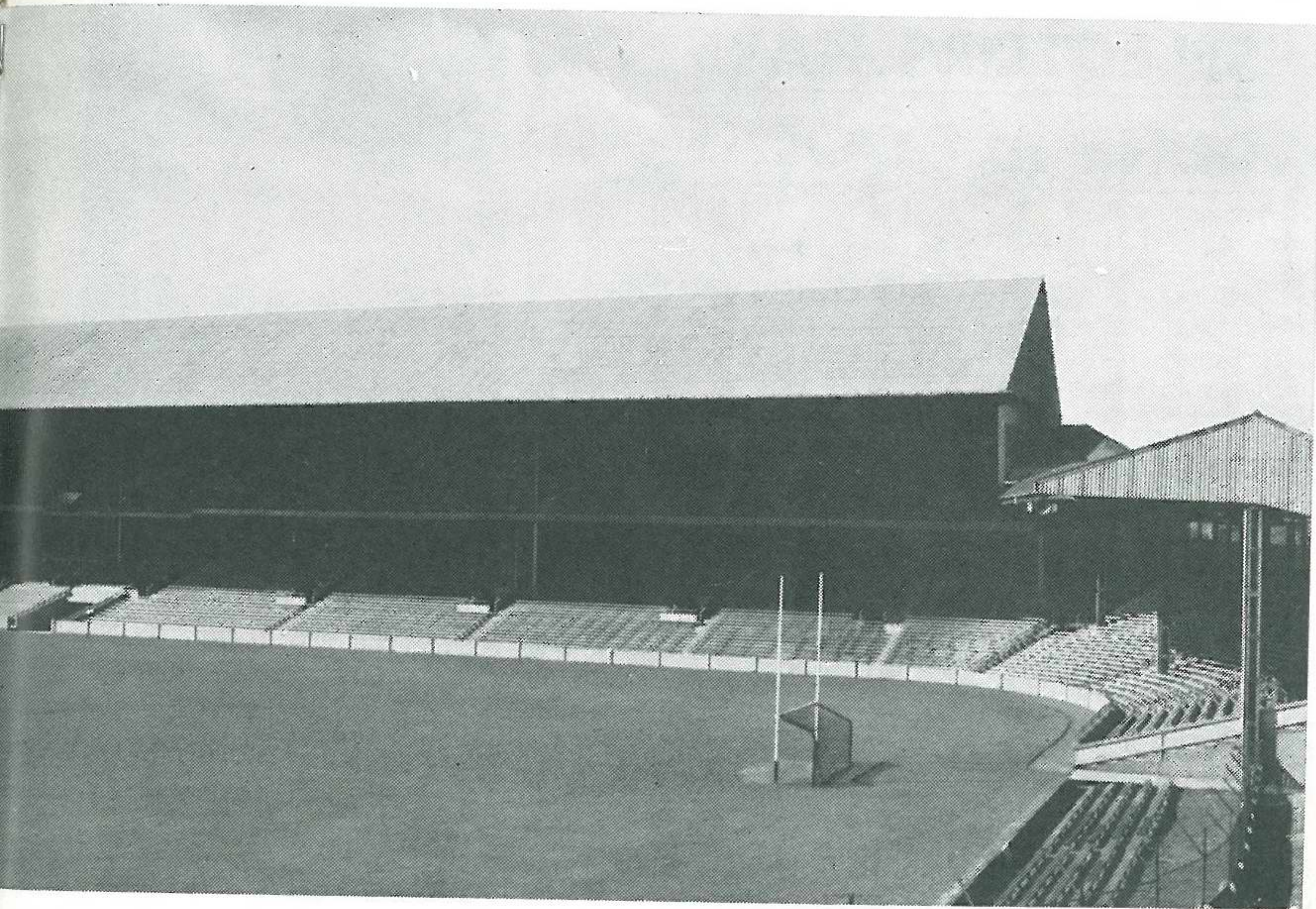
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THE SELECTORS HAVE DONE A GOOD JOB

A CONNACHT football side has not been seen at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day since 1958—but this year we should have a change. This year's lineout is a particularly good one and there is virtually no criticism of the job done by the selectors.

Galway, with ten of the fifteen places, provide the mainstay and with sights set on winning the National League and qualifying for that U.S. trip, the fitness of the Tribesmen can be depended upon.

From Geraghty in goal to lively Seamus Leydon at left full-forward this is an excellent side. They should certainly edge Leinster at An Uaimh on February 28 and qualify for the final.

"KNACKER" WALSH

The famous Michael "Knacker" Walsh of Ballinsloe, who captained Galway's first All-Ireland senior winning side of 1925 is no longer with us. The "Knacker", God rest him, was a very popular character in his day and a great footballer too. Representing Galway seniors from 1916 until 1927, when he emigrated to New York where he died recently. Michael's greatest hours were in the 1925 championship and Connacht final versus Mayo, when he scored the winning goal and in the 1919 All-Ireland semi-final replay versus Kerry when

says

CHRIS MURRAY

Galway won by 4-2 to 2-2, "Knacker" being the star of the hour. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

GALWAY CAMOGIE

New Secretary of the Galway Camogie Board is Kay Quinn of Oranmore whose great enthusiasm has done so much to re-awaken interest in the game in Oranmore. Chairman of the Board is once again Kitty O'Callaghan the former U.C.G. star from Moycullen, currently teaching in Tuam, and doing her bit to revive camogie there. The Board which has been in dire financial straits has co-opted Jimmy Duggan (hurler), Jack Mahon (footballer) and Mick Quaine (referee) into its Working Committee and is initiating an all out drive to put its financial resources in good order. Other diligent members of the Board are Emer Walsh, treasurer, Mary Morgan and Mena O'Donnell. Go n-éirighidh an t-ádh leo.

MAHON AND FULLARD

Congratulations are extended to Roscommon handballers Gerry Mahon and Jim Fullard on their junior All-Ireland handball success. All too few handball honours come



● *TOM BURKE . . . the great Mayo net-minder who helped Connacht win their first Railway Cup title in 1934.*

to Connacht. In fact interest in the game has regrettably died out in many Western areas. Alleys are allowed to fall from lack of use and little effort is made by the G.A.A. to promote what I consider a first-class game.

While on this subject I feel our leading G.A.A. clubs here in the West should do their utmost to promote all Gaelic games, football, hurling, handball and camogie. None of our clubs has a camogie team attached. How about it Castlebar, Tuam, Fr. Griffins, Dunmore, Craobh Ruadh, Ballina, Claremorris, Ballinamore, Carrick-on-Shannon, Elphin, Roscommon Gaels, Castlereah, etc. ?

Charley was born in Fermoy and in his schooldays spent quite an amount of time around the Military Barracks in the town. Around there he picked up a bit of soccer and became an outstanding player.

Be that as it may, Charley was weaned away from soccer and he was persuaded to join the local Gaelic football team. Sometime later, the "Ban" came along and from there on there was only the one game for him and he played nothing else for the rest of his sporting career.

Charley Paye was the youngest member of the Fermoy team that played in the All-Ireland of 1906 and three years later was invited to travel out to New York to help the Corkmen out there in the American All-Ireland final. Later, of course, he was with Jack Young when Cork won the All-Ireland football final of 1911.

Is it not wonderful to know that eight men of that team are still alive? Would it not be even more wonderful if we could get them all together again, even if it was for only one night, so that they could live over again together the memories of that great day 54 years ago.

God knows but I may be getting a little cynical . . . but it is beginning to annoy me nowadays that we have sponsors galore for the sportsmen of the present day and no one at all is bothering about the men of the past, who, in their way, wrote the history of sport in this country . . . the men who paved the way to the greatness and depth we have to-day in both hurling and football.

Do you not agree that it would be a wonderful idea? Look at the talk there would be . . . and look

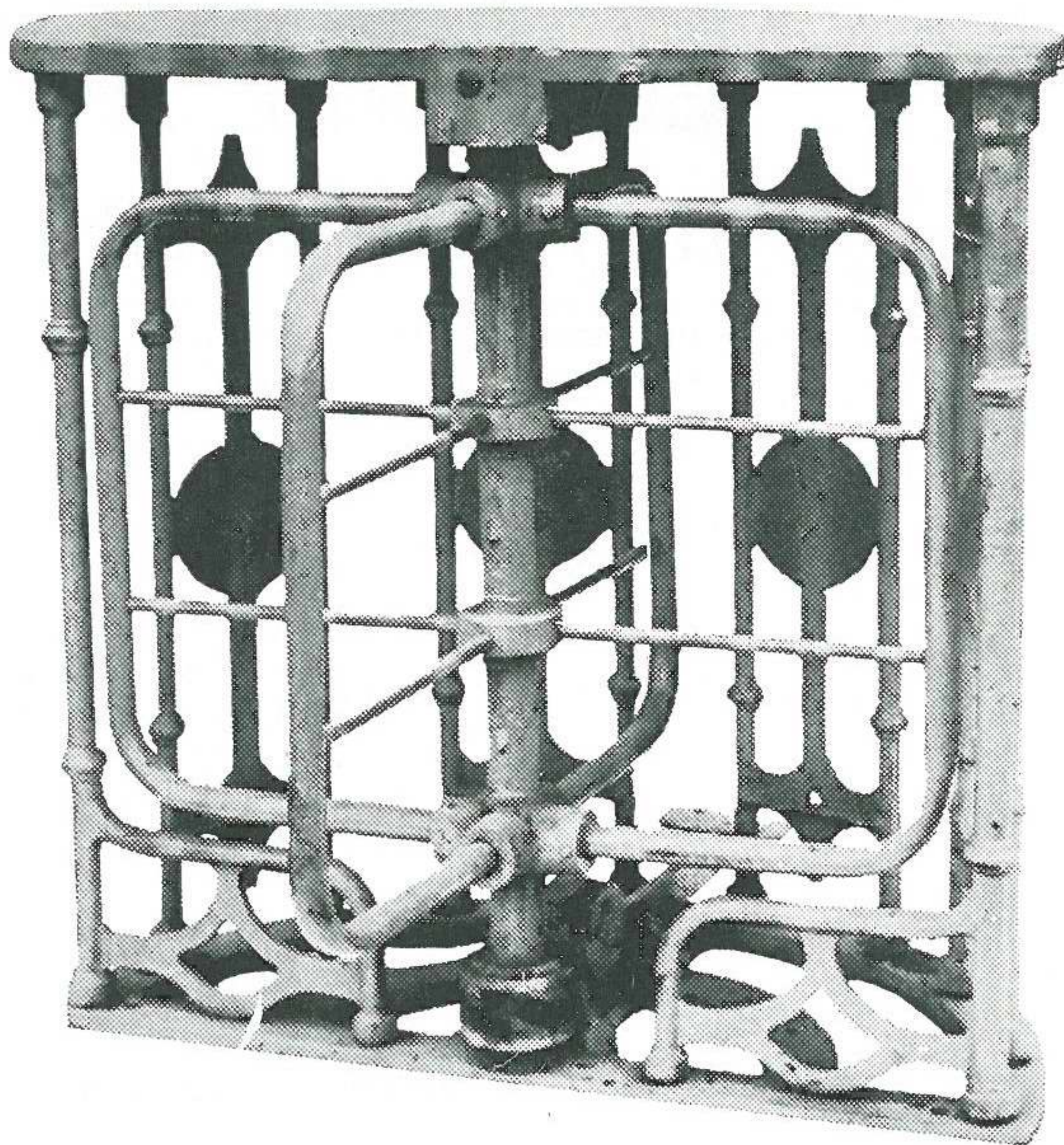
at the enjoyment we would all have.

I know I thoroughly enjoyed the little time I spent talking to Jack Young . . . and I would have been there still if a very pretty nurse had not come along to tell Eamonn

and myself that we were overstaying our visit.

One of these fine nights, when Jack Young is well and fit again, maybe I will take a trip down to Cork for another chat.

I hope it will be soon.



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THE G.A.A. AND THE BANKS

by

DÓMHNALL Ó HÓGÁIN

NOT so many years ago, the popular image of a bank clerk was that of a polite well-dressed young man, who didn't appear to kill himself working during the four hours per day that the banks were open to the public and who, shortly after 3 p.m., was to be seen on the golf links, or setting out with gun or rod, in search of relaxation after his labours. More robust types played tennis or rugby, but if anyone remarked that bankers, as a class, showed more than their proper proportion of games players, someone else was sure to reply sourly that (a) they had plenty of time for sport and (b) they played only "U" games anyway.

However, even those who held the opinion that bank officials were sports-minded drones must have had second thoughts in 1951 when they became involved in — of all things — a seven-week's strike. Hardly had this unexpected show of intelligence been digested than further news came through which confirmed the impression that a new and strange generation of bank officials had arrived — they were actually reported to be playing Gaelic games. Yes, it was in 1951, also, that the inter-banks Gaelic football competition made its debut before a somewhat incredulous

Irish sporting public, since which date its progress has been such as to merit serious reporting, even in the austere pages of the "Irish Times"

In the early days of the competition, bank teams had sometimes to be completed by accepting volunteers from "other codes"; headed goals and really low tackling were not then the rarities which they have since become. In recent years, however, the broader base of recruitment for all banks has brought into their service ever-increasing numbers of young men who played Gaelic football at school, and competition is now razor-keen for places on the six or seven teams which compete each year for the handsome trophy presented by the Irish Bank Officials' Association.

Similarly, an early dearth of players in certain banks led to amalgamations — strictly for football purposes—and the roll of winners shows combinations such as Northern-Ulster and, more unexpectedly, National-Hibernian, but, for some years past, one or other of the "big four"—National, Bank of Ireland, Munster and Leinster and Ulster—has won the Cup.

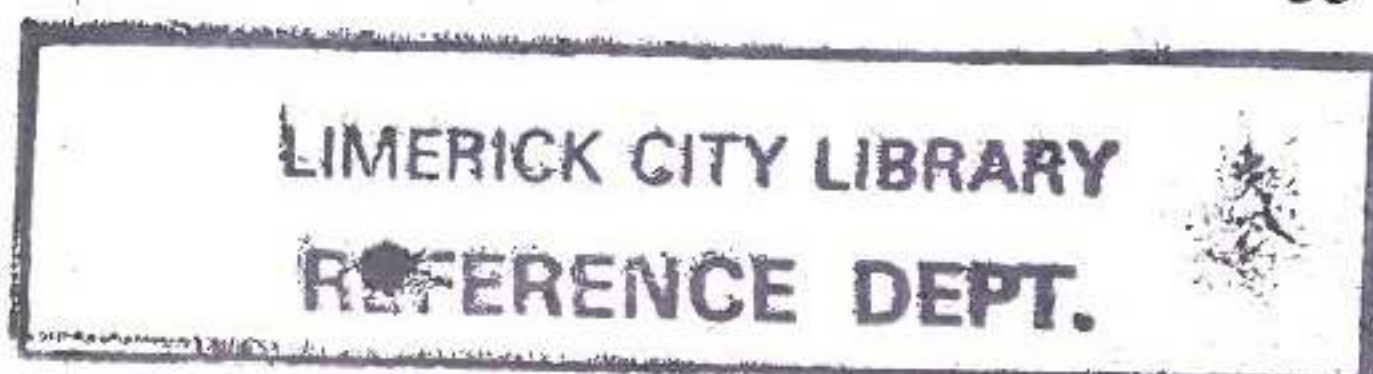
National, indeed, have a long lead over their rivals, having cap-

tured the trophy five times on their own and twice in collaboration with Hibernian—a total equal to the combined efforts of Munster and Leinster (2), Bank of Ireland (2), Northern-Ulster (2) and Ulster (1). They won in 1963 and 1964 and will be keen to be the first bank to win three years running, but the young and improving Bank of Ireland side may have something to say to that.

These teams met in last year's final, when National were a point in arrears with no more than a minute of injury time to go, but the hour produced the man and Pat Aherne's sideline kick went direct to the net to bring back the Cup to what—in the opinion of Bank of Ireland supporters — was the wrong side of College Green.

The competition gets under way in September and is run off in six or seven weeks. Travelling expenses incurred in bringing players up from the provinces can be heavy on teams which go through to the final, but the Directors of these banks have always provided the solid financial backing without which no cup can be won. They have also turned out in reasonable numbers to encourage their men

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● FROM PAGE 33

vocally and one remembers especially the high-powered delegation which once travelled from Belfast — on a Sabbath! — to windswept Islandbridge, where, happily, their red-shirted champions proved victorious.

National's run of success in the competition owes a lot to Mick Burke (Cork), Pat Aherne (Kerry), Jim Fallon (Westmeath) and Michael Keating (Tipperary), while the Ulster's line-out includes Jimmy O'Donnell (Cavan), Brendan Needham (Louth) and the legendary and many-countied John Nallen.

Munster and Leinster have Sean O'Connell (Cork), a brother of the fabulous Mick, and Bernie McBride (Longford) and Bank of Ireland can call on Joe O'Donnell (Donegal) and Eamon Gallagher (Leitrim) in addition to Cormac Greally (Galway), to whose all-round capabilities no more than glancing reference can be made in these pages.

A united banks team could, with some confidence, take on a selection from any other trade, profession or occupation—either in football or hurling—and such a combination is, in fact, the present holder of a cup presented for competition between football teams representing the banks and the insurance companies, which has not, however, been played for the past few seasons.

In 1960, a hurling competition was also inaugurated, for which the Irish Bank Officials' Association has presented a cup. The number of competing banks is smaller and the Cup has travelled backwards and forwards between the National and the Munster and Leinster, but interest in the competition is growing, and more and more young bankers are endeavouring to emulate National's Sean Clohessy (Kilkenny), Pat Murphy (Limerick) and Terry Maloney (Tipperary), Munster and Leinster's Conor Dwyer

(Tipperary), Provincial's Eddie Keher (Kilkenny) and Jim Phelan (Waterford) and Bank of Ireland's Paul Hartnett (Cork).

There are upwards of a dozen sports at which inter-bank cups are competed for, some of them venerable trophies first won thirty or forty years ago. The Golf Cup is one of the oldest and probably the most prized, but, of the others, the youthful Gaelic Football Cup now arouses an interest in bank offices from Cahirciveen to Falls Road, Belfast, which equals that taken in other team games once considered more suitable for bank officials. This broadening of interest can have only good results, and sportsmen of all shades of opinion will be in favour of an increase in the number of bankers playing Gaelic games, to the benefit alike of the players, of the games themselves and of the sporting traditions of our country.

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THE KING OF HURLERS

By **PATRICK CARVER**

THIS story I am going to tell you now is a short one and if you decide when you have read it that I have been doing a little boasting about Cork, well then you are entitled to your opinion. And I will not blame you for it. You see, I may be a little biased; after all I am a Corkman.

I had the good fortune last month to be invited to the Beamish and Crawford Cork Sportstars banquet and I may as well say here and now that it was a good night. However, that has nothing to do with the story.

After dinner, Jim Young, one of the best men we ever produced in Cork, made the announcements as the presentations of the awards was being made and he made a right good job of it. He gave his facts clearly, he made no mistakes and everything went along smoothly.

Finally he came to one particular presentation and one could sense the expectancy all over the banqueting hall.

He pointed out first of all that it would give him extreme pleasure to make this particular award and he went on to talk about the recipient in glowing terms. Then finally he came to the end.

"This award," he said, "goes to a man who is the greatest sports personality this country has ever known . . . a man whose fame has gone far beyond our shores . . . the king of hurlers himself . . . Christy Ring."

And I wish you could have been with me when everyone of that king's subjects stood up to cheer. It was the greatest ovation I have ever heard in my life . . . and it went on and on. It was absolutely wonderful.

A few minutes later when Christy was sitting on the rostrum, I turned to a staunch, died-in-the-wool, hard-bitten Dublin journalist who was sitting beside me.

"There you are," I said, "Take a good look at him. The king of hurlers."

Your man took a long look at Christy and then turned back to me.

"You're right," he said, "he even looks like the king that he is."

All I hope, as a Corkman, is that his reign will go on for a long time to come.



● **THE KING OF HURLERS . . . Christy Ring and Con Sullivan at the Cork Sport Stars function.**

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IMPROVEMENT IS NEEDED

BY ALLEYMAN

A NEW year has been born and already many of our well-intentioned resolutions gone by the board. This desire to turn over a new leaf at the beginning of a year permeates through all aspects of life and even among sportsmen the desire to mend our ways either at administration or actual playing level is ever present.

Thus in the case of handball there is no harm whatever in attempting to devise ways and means of improving even further on one of the most highly-skilled ball games in existence. For it would be foolish for us to "gild the lily" and say there is no improvement needed—such a position does not apply in any sport.

For a start a word on the club.

The very roots of an organisation are found in the club, be it the unit boasting a hundred or more members and monopolising the affairs of its particular county or the struggling club away in the sparsely populated area, striving might and main for its very existence.

So, for a moment, let us dwell on the part the clubs play in the promotion of handball today, and prompt the question—are some clubs failing in their duty?

It is very easy for me to be the "hurler on the ditch", yet I have no hesitation in saying that in

many instances the answer is very definitely in the positive.

Clubs in name, yes, but in unity, comradeship and spirit—no. Indeed, I know of quite a few instances where clubs have been competing in county championships year in, year out, yet it has never dawned on anybody to hold an annual general meeting.

With whom does the fault lie? Initially, with the club officials themselves, but more particularly with the very players and members for not demanding that such a situation be rectified. I am not, by any means, inferring that club chairmen, secretaries and treasurers are failing in their tasks. Far from it. Their duties are unenviable, a probable reason why they are allowed to carry them indefinitely.

But an annual general meeting is surely an essential, if only to pass a vote of appreciation to those same officials, or to admonish them for the few small errors made.

From club level we move to county conventions and on to provincial conventions, and finally to Annual Congress.

Unfortunately, we are inclined to treat conventions too lightly, as a matter of routine, or as a necessary evil which crops up every year and should be disposed of as quickly as possible.

Convention is the vital meeting

which steers the course of the game in a county, for the next twelve months. It is the one time in a year that every county gets the opportunity of taking stock and reviewing past events or previewing the issues of the future. Internal matters can be ironed out to the satisfaction of most, while it is also a recognised fact that a good convention can yield ideas which may prove a boom to a county in the future.

From there to Annual Congress, the most important meeting of the handballing year and the very axis around which our game revolves.

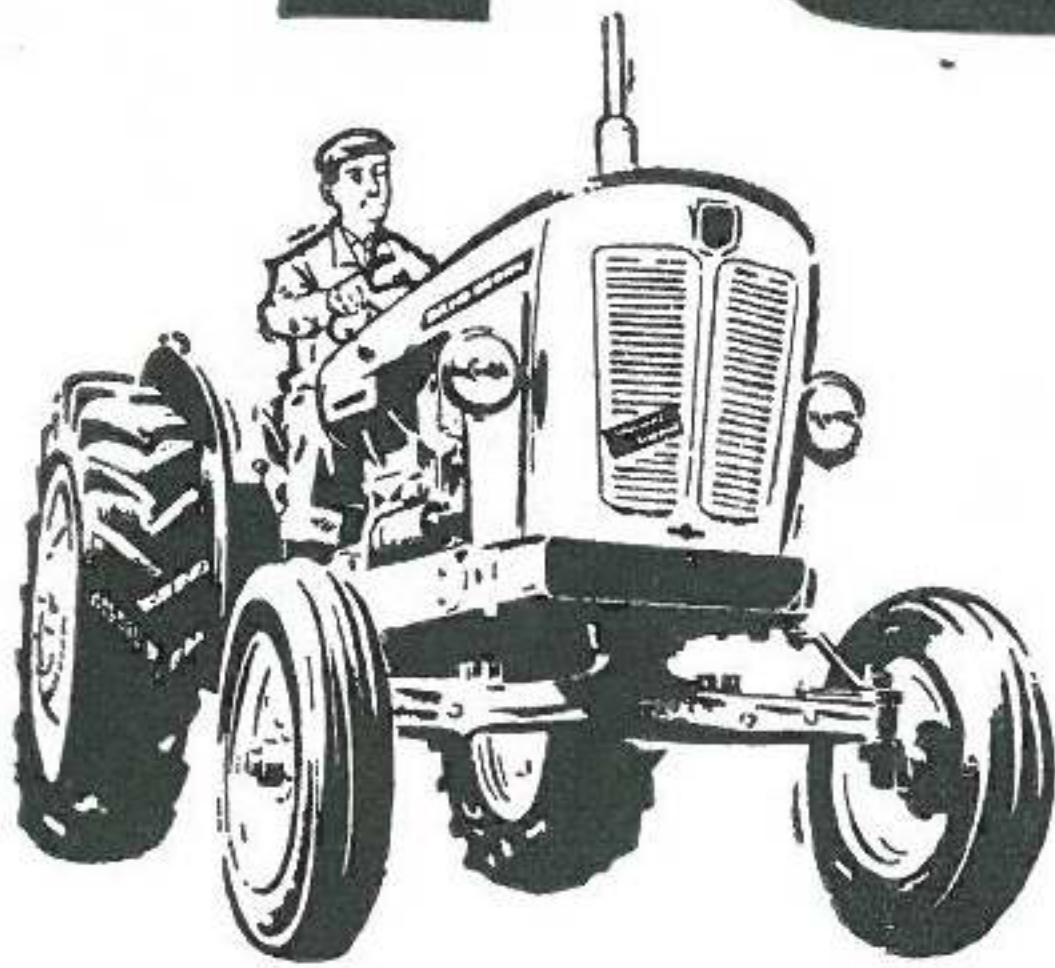
But on occasion, I have got the impression, that some delegates come to Congress with the sole intention of supporting or rejecting a motion, which will prove beneficial to their own particular counties.

In the years ahead, it is obvious that handball will undergo changes in its very make-up and playing rules. On the shoulders of our club, county and provincial officials therefore rests the responsibility of ensuring the success of these.

Thus, for 1965, I would like to envisage handball as a compact association, well organised at club, county, and provincial level, well bulwarked to withstand any rebuffs it might encounter, in the years ahead.

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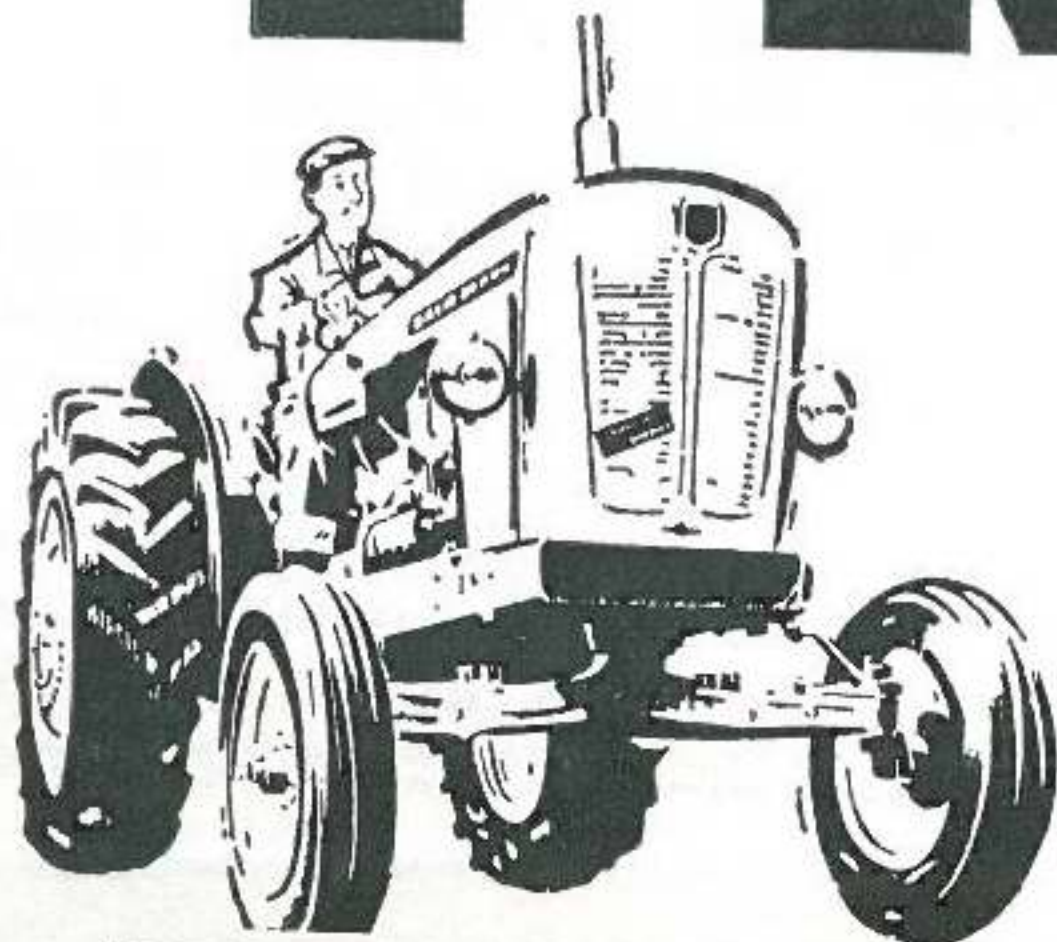


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SLIGO YOUTH WINS TITLE

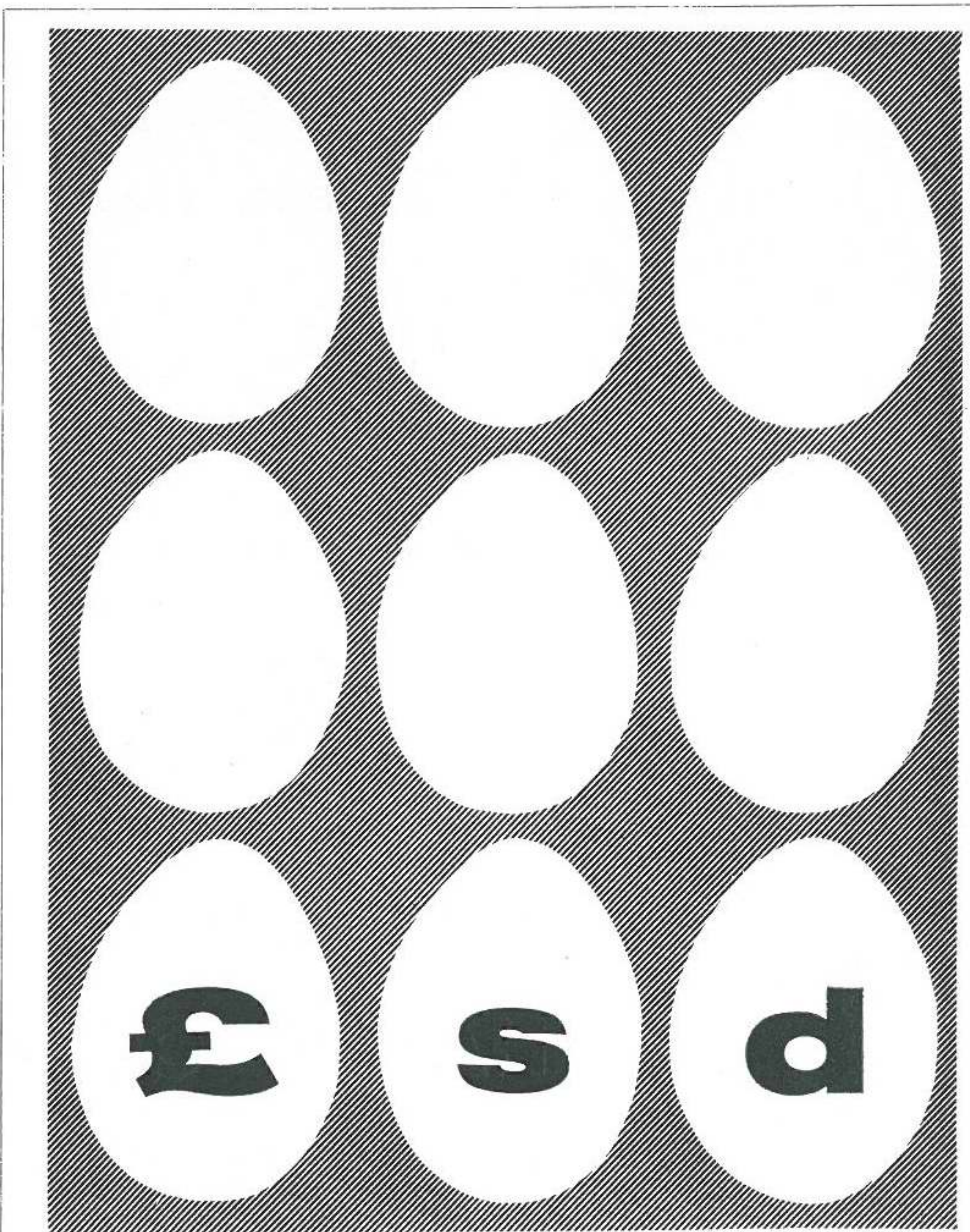
The Young Farmer of the Year, 1964, is 17-year-old Hubert Killoran, Reen, Killavil, Ballymote, Co. Sligo. At a recent function in Dublin, An Taoiseach, Mr. Lemass presented him with the David Brown perpetual trophy and a £100 cheque also donated by David Brown Tractors. For the purpose of the competition, which is organised by Macra Na Tuaithe, Hubert undertook a project of beet growing, milk recording, sow and bonham rearing and farm management.

Mr. Haughey, Minister for Agriculture, said one of the bright hopes for Irish agriculture was the number of fine young Macra Na Tuaithe trained farmers now coming into the industry. But we needed still more.

The Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Joseph Walsh, who acted as chairman of the adjudicating panel which chose the Young Farmer of the Year, said efforts were being made by the Government to set aside money for agriculture, and that was a step in the right direction for which they were all grateful.

Mr. V. K. Bell, General Manager, David Brown Tractors (Ireland) Limited stressed the vital role played by Macra na Tuaithe in the education of our youth.

Other finalists were: **MUNSTER**. Cathal Foley, Reen House, Killorglin, Co. Kerry. Projects: Pig Rearing and care of Pedigree Freisians. **LEINSTER**: Patrick Timmons, Killynure, Tullow, Co. Carlow. Projects: Sow and bonhams, calf rearing and beet growing; and **ULSTER** Michael McMahan, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. Projects: Horticultural (Strawberry and Raspberry growing).



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Charlie Gallagher creates a scoring record...

by OWEN
McCANN

CHARLIE GALLAGHER established a new scoring record when he headed the intercounty scorers' charts for both codes last year with 6-107 in 20 games. His points total, as distinct from goals and points combined, is the highest achieved by a player in either code since scoring statistics began to be compiled a decade ago.

The previous best was 102 points which, allied to five goals earned Frankie Donnelly the top spot for both codes in 1957. Surprisingly enough, hurling's points scoring record was well below the top two in football in 1964. Jimmy Doyle was the top hurler with 10-87 from 17 outings.

The goals scoring record is held by Nick Rackard. In 1956 he cracked home 35 goals, and also chalked up 50 points for the highest score in either code at 155 points in 19 hours. Football's top is 13 goals, held jointly by Paddy Doherty with 13-97 in 24 games in 1960, and Johnny Joyce, who landed 13-16 (55 pts) from 14 ties in 1962.

Harry Donnelly holds the record



● CHARLIE GALLAGHER (left) in a duel for possession with Mayo's Vincent Nally.

for a Leinster footballer at 7-99 from 24 tests during 1961. Indeed, the only other year so far in which a Leinster footballer topped a century of points was in 1959, when Ollie Freaney took first place in the code with 5-86 (101 pts.) in 17 games.

The Connacht record is well behind the Ulster and Leinster totals at 11-74. This was established by Sean Purcell in 22 engagements when he headed both charts in 1958. He is the only Con-

● TO PAGE 45.

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EAMONN YOUNG

● FROM PAGE 25.

at night for weight-lifting, judo and wrestling. So many of our friends play basket-ball and ten pin bowling.

In recent years they have tested a system called circuit-training which is very valuable, because not only does it test a man well but it allows of a large number to train together by putting each of them through a number of exercises consecutively. For instance a man may progress from chinning himself on a bar six times, to jumping up on a fourteen-inch bench three times holding a 15-pound sandbag, to climbing a ten-foot rope without using his legs and so on. And it's all done against the clock — and there's another fellow chasing you.

The important thing is that each man will have a schedule or programme of training which he will follow according to his desire and the completion of which will put him at or near the top rung of his ladder. If you follow a plan or schedule please be sure to get advice.

When one is fit according to one's own likes and desires, the next thing is, to stay that way. Good food, rest, adequate exercise, intelligent self-analysis and advice are constant requirements, but remember that over 2,000 years ago old Cicero said "food and drink must be taken to renew strength not to clog it."

The level of human achievement has not yet been reached and the exploitation of the body and mind is something which even the scientists have not yet agreed on.

One of us may have trouble high-jumping three-feet-six but what height of barbed wire will stop us when followed by a roaring bull? During the war for example a soldier heaved out of a

trench an unexploded shell, that would exert an Olympic lifter.

The way to good performance, or the top rung of that ladder is shortened by the use of a whistle, a watch and a whip. That's how they make world-beaters. In fact the advice applies to any field of human endeavour. And it's all worth it. The values of physical fitness to the class performer must be wonderful. How Peter Snell must have rejoiced after the Olympics. How John Donnellan's tragic All-Ireland day must have been softened by knowing of his late father's satisfaction at seeing him lead a Galway side, whipped on by the obvious fitness and determination of their flying half-back.

For the man whose desire is not to break records or win trophies, fitness also gives that great sense of well-being and content which is the real and most valuable result of exertion. And that brings me on to the greatest lie of all—that exercise shortens life — that the "jock-strapper" will strain his heart. Rather does it make men live longer and enjoy life more in doing so.

King Gustav of Sweden who played tennis into his eighties; Bernard McFadden who learned to parachute-jump at eighty; Larry Flaherty and Tom Barry of Cork who won hurling All-Irelands of '03 and '01; my father and his seven comrades who at an average of eighty are the survivors of the seventeen aside Cork champion football team of 1911; Martin Kennedy, perhaps the greatest full forward of them all, who hurled till he was fifty, youngsters like Percy Cerutti, Sugar Ray Robinson, Archie Moore and Christy Ring take a little from the argument, once so popular that when a

chap reached thirty and married his main exertion should be talking about what a great man he was.

The older man should continue to engage in sport. If he's a player the fact that skill is not lost and cunning increased makes him dangerous; if an athlete the joy of adequate performance is enough to give happiness and health.

In the Helsinki games grandmothers participated with success in some of the athletic events for women and it is acknowledged that swimming, rowing and weight-lifting are suitable activities for older people.

In this over-nourished and under-exercised society almost any kind of exercise is good and if it's any consolation cardiologists say that the healthy heart, whatever the stress imposed on it, has a margin beyond the extreme call upon it, and is protected by the earlier breakdown of less vital structures.

So there it is. If your health is good then enjoy it more with exercise; if it isn't, improve it by judicious medically-advised activity, and remember it's no good praying to God to guide your footsteps if you're too lazy to move your feet.

Lifelong health and strength is not a birthright; it is a way of life.

OUR COVER

Since September 1958, when the first issue of Gaelic Sport appeared, readers have been writing exhorting us to feature a colour picture of John Doyle on our front cover—well here it is and need we say that featuring the Holycross man on the cover gives us just as much satisfaction as, no doubt, it will give his thousands of hurling fans throughout the country.

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★ *TWO OF THE KINGDOM'S STARS . . . Johnny Culloty, the long-serving Kerry and Munster goalkeeper, and Mick O'Dwyer, one of the great Munster footballers of recent years who has failed to collect a Railway Cup medal.*

CHARLIE GALLAGHER

● FROM PAGE 41.

nacht man to get into the No. 1 spot in either game. Cyril Dunne, who took second place in football last year with 3-96, just two points short of Purcell's record is the only other Western footballer yet to break the points century barrier.

In sharp contrast to the other provinces. Munster score-getters in football have not been very prolific over the years. The top for a Southerner is a very moderate 79 minors. Yet, surprisingly, that tally (9-52 is the actual total) was still not only good enough to earn Bernie O'Callaghan the premier position in football in 1963, but left him no fewer than six minors ahead of his chief rival. That year, incidentally, was the only one since

1955 (when Ollie Freaney headed the chart with 6-72) that the points century was not bettered by at least one footballer.

While Nick Rackard was setting up that all time scoring high in 1956, Sean Clohessy was also scoring freely. He finished that year in second place, a point ahead of football's ace marksman, Frankie Donnelly, with 19-50 in 20 games. This still stands as the second highest score by a Leinster hurler.

Jimmy Doyle's total last year (117 pts.) is not only now the second highest in hurling, but smashes by 13 points the previous best for a Munster hurler of 22-38 recorded in 13 matches by Christy Ring in 1961.

We have to go back to 1955 for

11-19 in 11 games by Paddy Egan for sixth place in the chart.

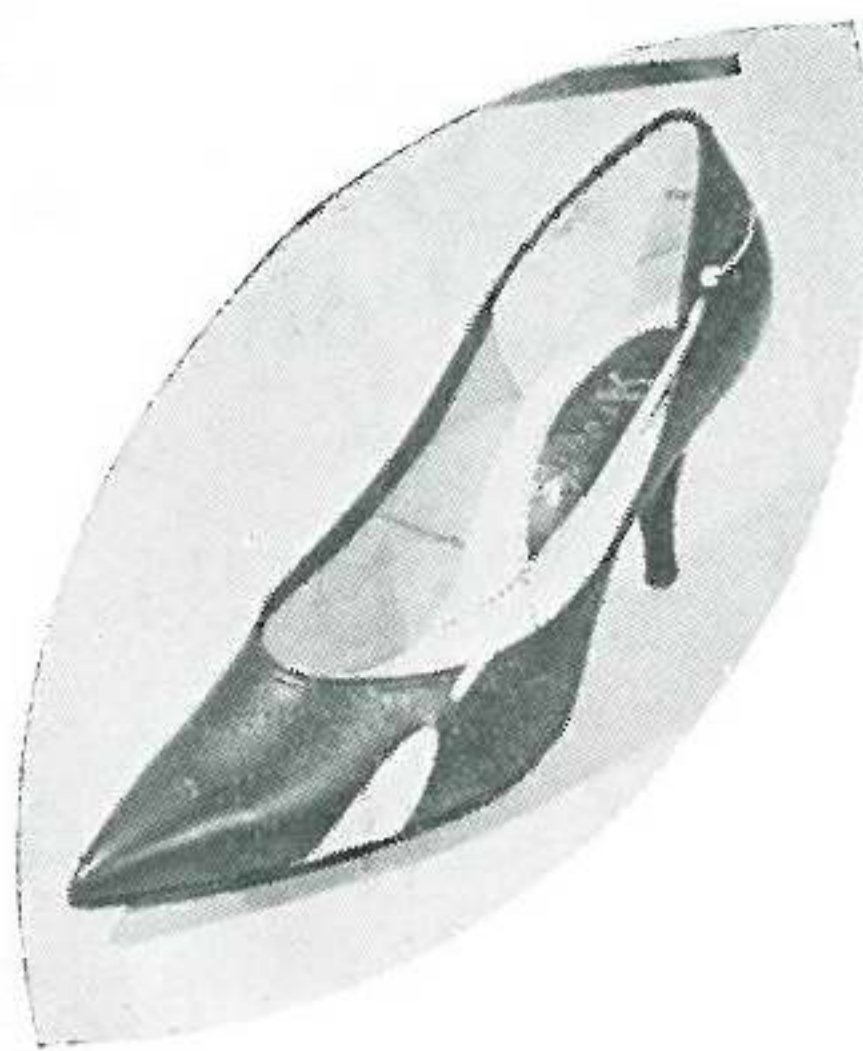
Paddy Doherty is the only player in either code to score more than 100 points three years in a row (he exceeded the century in 1960, 1961 and 1962). He also has football's highest match average over a year's campaign at 7.18 points, recorded in 1958. No other footballer has yet averaged even six points an outing over a year.

Jimmy Doyle has the distinction of being the only hurler to reach three figures in three different campaigns: 1960, 1963, and 1964. His best match average of 8.30 points in 1960, but this is well down on the record of 10.1 points per game established by the inimitable Christy Ring in 1959.

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A FEBRUARY START?

by AGNES HOURIGAN

NOW with the happy memories of the Jubilee Year of 1964 to inspire us, the Camogie Association sets off very resolutely indeed to further extend its prestige and popularity through the year ahead.

The winter and spring months are usually months of very little activity on the camogie fields, and most counties seem to maintain a virtual closed-season from mid-October to mid-March. There are very good reasons for this, as the rural areas particularly find difficulty in making travelling arrangements, the short evenings make practice difficult and the state of pitches is often very bad at that time of year.

However, it must be pointed out that, despite anything but favourable weather, there were a number of important games played off last December, and quite successfully at that. The Leinster Colleges' final was played at Croke Park on December 8, the final of the Jubilee Cup came to Croke Park on the following Sunday, and the final stages of the Dublin Jubilee seven-a-side competition were not played off until December 20, the Sunday before Christmas.

The fact that these games were all got through successfully proves beyond contradiction that camogie can be played at any level even in the heart of winter.

Now, while I am not in favour of playing important matches that late in the year (the 'gate' at the Croke Park games I have mentioned was, for instance sadly curtailed by rain and cold) I do feel that it should

be possible to keep local competitions going almost right up to the end of November and to resume them at the start of February.

The trouble with many counties is, of course, that they have not the competitions to keep their teams going through a ten-month long season. In fact, in all too many counties, camogie only seems to come to life for a few championship weeks in the summer and then hibernate again until the following summer comes round. No wonder it is hard to sustain interest in the game in many areas, since games are too few and far between.

Therefore I think County Boards should give considerable thought

to organising some extra competitions for their clubs in addition to the championship. A short competition in the late spring, to enable their teams to get back into practice after the winter and a league starting around championship time in the summer and carrying on well into the autumn would spread the interest in camogie through most of the year and would also give many of the counties exactly what their players seem most to lack, match-play experience.

In fact I always feel that one of the reasons that Dublin has established such a long-term supremacy in camogie is that the Dublin players have matches right through the year. Indeed the competitive Dublin season as such starts in early September and, except for a two-week break at Christmas, is kept going until early June.

The result is that Dublin players in all grades get in a tremendous amount of actual match-play and I firmly believe it is this match-play experience that is the keystone of the continued superiority

● TO PAGE 48.



● ST. PATRICK'S (Glengoole), who won the 1964 Tipperary camogie title. FRONT ROW (left to right): Monica Ryan, Lucy Scott, Ann Grahame, Ann Carroll (capt.), Peggy Grahame, Margaret Cashin, Rita Scott. BACK: Alice Long, Maura Maher, Ann Langton, Mary Grahame, Sally Long, Slatia Dunne, Joan Ryan. Ann Carroll is also the star of the Mercy Convent, Callan and a Tipperary and Munster interprovincial regular.

THE CALTEX STARS

● FROM PAGE 23

Now he stands on the brink of an even more lasting place in the records of the games than he would have even as a great player with a great record of consistency; for, with only a little luck to help he can raise his total of All-Ireland medals to a level equal to that of the Grand Master of hurling himself, Christy Ring.

And with his greater list of ancillary titles and medals, he would then stand alone in the record books. Not, I think that this is of much importance, and I think that Doyle would be the first to admit that he was always in a better team than was Christy when he won at least two of his All-Irelands. Figures, in the end, pale before the significance of the character and personality of the player himself.

Somehow it is nearly always the player who has played with success in more than one position that catches the imagination as a hurler

of great quality — Christy Ring, Mick Mackey, Ned Wheeler, Donie Nealon. But, Doyle, I am sure, had no desire ever to be anything but a defender. He made it an art in itself, by not allowing himself to be gripped in the stultifying grip of pure negation. His defence was attack too.

Never the mere blocking of an opponent, the effort to cancel out his man. Doyle won by dominating his opponent, almost browbeating him into submission.

Of men, Doyle was not the fastest, even in younger years; not the quickest to turn; not the greatest of overhead players. Yet, there was probably never a player who was so comfortable playing on small, tricky, speedy and elusive forwards. He chewed their reputations three at a time as an appetiser before breakfast. For he was surely the best man of our time when facing the ball, and the most irresistible of all in going to meet it.

● FROM PAGE 47.

of the Metropolitans on inter-county fields.

This month of February will see the inauguration of the new Leinster Colleges junior competition. For this series all players who have not taken part in the senior championship will be eligible, and this means that the weaker schools will have a chance of coming into their own.

The organisers, I hear, are faced with the problem of having a flood of entries, for the enthusiasm of school-girls for camogie in Leinster was never higher, as the prestige of the senior competition for the Stuart Cup has boosted the 'status' of camogie through the whole province, and especially in Dublin where more schools than ever before are taking part in the local leagues and championship.

Indeed so many games are now down for decision each Saturday that the Phoenix Park Grounds are no longer sufficient to cope with the demand and it is nothing strange nowadays to have games at half a dozen venues engaged on a Saturday afternoon, which after all, is only as it should be.

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DUN LAOGHAIRE

MUNSTER MEDLEY

● FROM PAGE 16.

Waterford—Mount Sion (beat Abbeyside, 3-6 to 1-6). Players: M. Foley, M. Og Morrissey, Fred O'Brien, M. Walsh, Larry Guinan, P. Fanning, T. Walsh, M. Gallagher, Fintan O'Brien, J. Flavin, Mick Flannelly (captain), T. Forristal, Frankie Walsh, Seamus Power, Phil Grimes.

The interest club games can arouse in Munster is illustrated by the 24,000 crowd who paid £2,587 to see Glen Rovers win the Cork title.

Football has hardly the same appeal in the South, yet the new competition is arousing plenty of interest, particularly in quarters where it is felt that Kerry will hardly be able to maintain the monopoly they have so long enjoyed in the intercounty field.

Some usually good judges hold that the big ball competition could

be a very open one with the winners not easy to forecast. Again a look at the likely teams may be of assistance to the keen students of this code.

Clare—Coraclare (beat Kilmurry, 2-8 to 1-9). Players: P. McGrath, P. Callinan, M. Queally, T. Kelly, T. Murphy, J. Carey, P. J. McGuane, T. Mescall, M. Gallagher, B. Sheehy, S. Donoghue, M. Kelly, M. Garry, J. Gallagher, M. Queally.

Cork—U.C.C. (beat Carbery, 0-12 to 1-6). Players: G. Lohen, Jimmie Blake, M. McCormack, V. Cronin, T. Mulvihill, F. O'Reilly, J. McCarthy, M. Fleming, F. Cogan, D. Philpott, J. O'Halloran, M. Kelly, D. Harnedy, F. O'Rourke, D. Geaney.

Kerry—Shannon Rangers (beat East Kerry, 1-10 to 1-5). Players: A. Kenneally, M. McElligott, P. O'Donoghue, M. J. Quinlan, J. Mulvihill, S. McCarthy, M. Mulvihill, J. D. O'Connor, M. English, B. McCarthy, T. O'Sullivan, T. Barrett, E. O'Donoghue, D. McAuliffe (captain), M. Walsh.

Limerick—Ballysteen (beat St. Patrick's, 3-7 to 1-2). Players: B. Walsh, L. O'Shaughnessy, T. Perryman, Doney Nestor, Basil Fitzgibbon, T. Fitzgerald, E. Walsh, Tom Carrig, P. Reidy, M. Allen, F. Kenny, P. Chambers, M. Walsh, P. Carrig, M. Ranahen.

Tipperary—Ardfinnan (beat St. Flannen's, 5-10 to 3-3). Players: J. Moran, J. J. Lonergan, M. Moore, A. McDermott, P. Ryan, D. Keating, M. Burns, B. Moloney, S. McCormack, Peter Savage, M. Savage, M. Keating, P. O'Brien, Patsy Savage, John Keating, T. Ryan.

Waterford — Kilrossanty (beat Ardmore, 2-3 to 0-8). Players: S. Ormonde, J. Maher, M. Pender, T. Moloney, T. Baldwin, J. Power, N. Walsh, J. Walsh, T. Flynn, T. Walsh, T. Riordan, P. Walsh, J. White, P. Fitzgerald, N. Casey.

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pireachta céanna a dhein gach iar-
racht leis an gCumann Lúchleas
Gael a chur fé chois, an tImpir-
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● MULLAGHBAWN CUCHULLAIN'S

Back Row: Left to Right. E. Quinn, J. McGlade, J. McNulty, J. Murphy, P. O'Hanlon, J. Daly. Second Row: L. to R. M. Quinn (Chairman), D. Kelly, E. Ryan, H. Murphy, J. McCoy, P. Kelly, P. McCoy, B. McCoy, P. Murphy (Treas.). Front Row: L. to R. B. Coakley, G. O'Hanlon, P. Smith, S. McCreesh (capt.), B. Crilly (Secretary), B. Quinn, C. Grant.

YOUNG CLUB—BIG FUTURE

MULLAGHBAWN Cuchullain's are a very young club and in the short time since their foundation they have attained a degree of success that fulfils the faith and devotion of the members and of their loyal band of supporters who this year reached their "Everest" when the club won their first Armagh senior football title.

Mullaghbawn village and parish nestles in a pocket of South Armagh bounded by counties Down, Monaghan and Louth and I'm told that so small is the area from which the club selects its players that a blow on a whistle

by MATT FITZPATRICK

could summon all club members in a matter of minutes.

The present Cuchullain club was founded in 1950 although there had always been in the district a G.A.A. club. Previous clubs were the Old Cuchullains, O'Rahilly's and St. Mary's. The latter went out of existence in 1948 but a connection with this former club exists to-day as present team captain Seamus McCreesh was a player with the St. Mary's side.

With its foundation in 1950 the task of getting players together fell on the shoulders of secretary Gerry McCreesh and chairman Benny Murphy. The club entered the South Armagh junior league in 1951 and sad to relate that victories were very few indeed but such was the dedication and enthusiasm that all matches were fulfilled.

● TO PAGE 52

● FROM PAGE 51

During those early years John Bennett, Francis McKeown, Harry Grant, John Doherty, Barney Murchin, Benny Murphy and Seamus and Gerry McCreesh were the men who kept the team going and all planned for the day when final success would be their reward.

In the mid '50's the Armagh selectors recognised the worth of some of the 'Bawn players and Seamus McCreesh and Harry Grant donned the county jersey. In fact Seamus was a member of the Armagh side beaten by Kerry in that then much talked about 1953 All-Ireland final and at the present time he is still wearing, still with distinction, the orange jersey of Armagh.

But back to the club records. In 1957 they battled their way through to the Armagh junior championship final only to be beaten by Armagh Harps. With eyes set for the future a minor team

was got going and in 1958 Mullaghbawn tasted championship success for the first time. The club amalgamated with Forkhill, Cam-lough and, under the name of Oliver Plunkets, they won the Armagh minor title with Cuchulains supplying eight players on the winning side. Joe and Hughie Murphy, Joe McCoy, Billy Coakley, Derek Kelly, Pat Smith, Eamonn Quinn and Eugene Ryan had the honour of bringing to the club its first county medals and it is interesting to note that all these eight shared in the successes of the club right up to the present time.

Things brightened up now and in 1959 they finished runners up in S. Armagh League and in 1960 the barrier was cracked again when they won the Armagh junior championship to give the club its first ever county title. Men who helped make that feat possible were players like Benny Crilly, Tommy Daly, Seamus McCreesh, Pat McKenna, Derek Kelly and many

of his fellow minors of 1958 plus Brian Quinn, Joe Murphy and John McGlade.

After this success things were really bright and the team was successful in winning three out of four Whitecross tournaments.

Having reached the final of the 1964 senior Championship they acquired the services of former Louth and Leinster player Jim Quigley and it was his faithful advice and training that stood to Mullaghbawn when they overcame Wolfe Tones to bring to the parish its first ever senior football title.

Firmly established now, the club runs senior, junior, minor and under-16 teams and last year an amalgamated minor side captured the Armagh title for the second time. Helping in this win were Joe Daly, Charlie Grant, Pat Kelly, Joe McNally and Pat Toal and it is with these young men that Mullaghbawn looks to the future.

The club unfortunately has not got its own ground but they are

LOURDES

OBLATE PILGRIMAGE 1965

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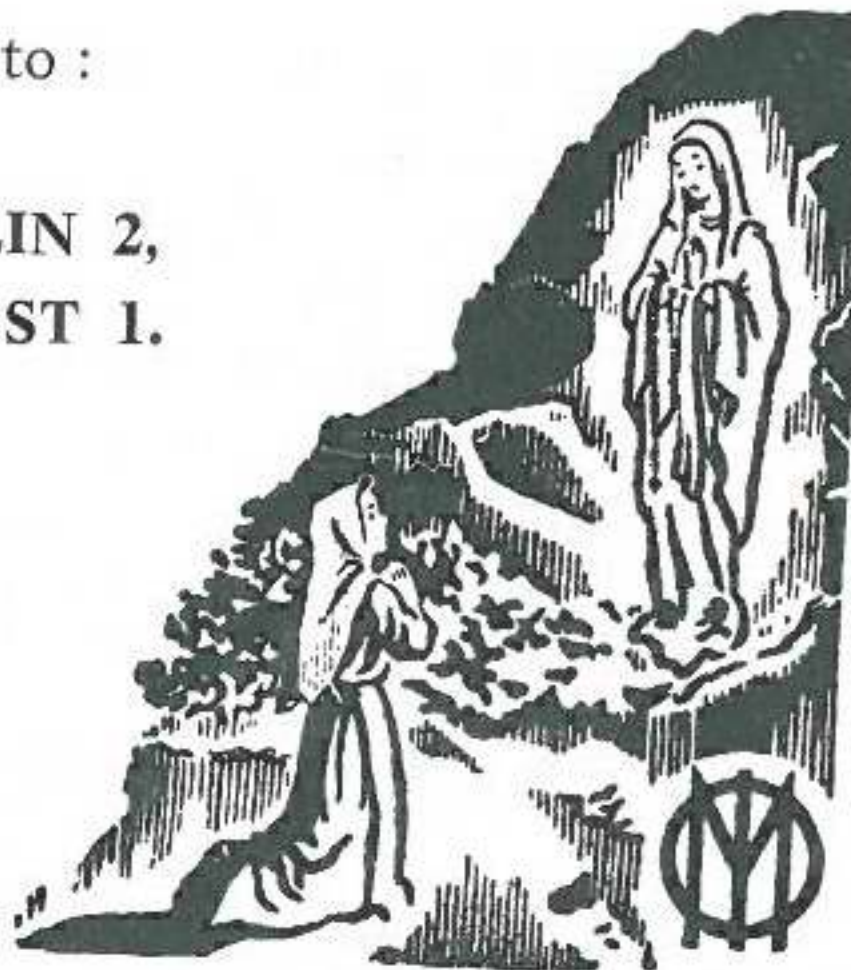
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eagerly awaiting this and plans are ready for the development of new club rooms when enough capital is available. All club facilities are provided in the local parish hall and the club has free access to all facilities. There is basketball, table tennis, billiards, snooker, card-rooms and facilities for physical training.

As county champions they hope to give a lead in hurling and a start is being made to form a club while for social activities Mullagh-bawn rates as one of the top clubs in the county. Their annual dinner and ceili (this year they had a real celebration) are eagerly looked forward to.

So this young club plans for the future, a future that looks very bright indeed and they can truly set a lead for all other rural clubs. Their faithful devotion, perseverance and never-say-die spirit is a fine example for a struggling club and now Mullaghbawn can join the elite of County Armagh.

Their eager committee is keen to succeed and I know that they will do all in their power to get hurling going in the area. Club officials are: president, Fr. B. Magennis P.P.; vice president, Fr. B. McDonald, C.C.; chairman, Michael Quinn; vice chairman, Paddy McCann; Secretary, Bernard Crilly; asst. sec., Pat Kelly; treasurer, Pete Murphy; committee: Seamus McCreesh, Michael McCann, Henry O'Neill, Jack Kelly, Danny Rice, Hugh Murphy, Frank Power and John McGlade. Paddy McCann, Pete Murphy, Seamus McCreesh and Michael McCann have all been with the club since its formation.

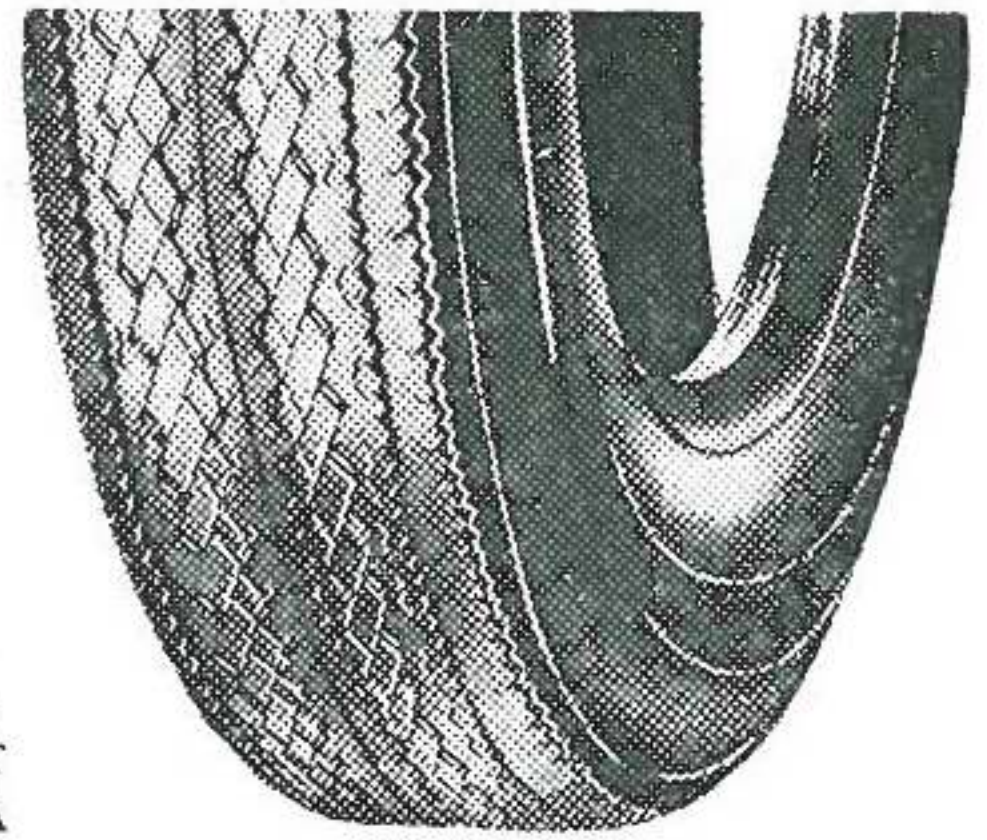
To Seamus McCreesh, Peter Murphy and Bernard Crilly (surely the most impressive and methodical club secretary I have ever met) I say thank you for having me in your midst and may your good work prosper.

Next month I will visit Down senior league champions, Castlewellan.

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TAKE PRIDE IN THAT CLUB GROUND

SAYS JOE LENNON

I SUPPOSE there is some truth in the saying that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of England. Many Irishmen expect the G.A.A. fields to produce a similar victory for Ireland.

Despite the fact that few Irishmen have not seen the beautiful playing surface of Croke Park either from the terraces or on film, very, very few parks throughout the country can compare with Jimmy Curran's garden. Yet, if clubs were prepared to spend just a little time and money each week on their pitches they could produce as good a playing surface as that which we so admire in Croke Park.

I must say that I have never played on a better surface but I have seen a few pitches which had a better finish. Croke Park is an excellent example of what patience and care can produce. It may come as a surprise to some to hear that

it is not completely level, there are one or two slight rises which are camouflaged by the neatly tailored surfaces.

If your pitch happens to be on the side of a hill or has one or more slopes which would require several weeks with an earth remover to level up, or, if there are difficulties with drainage or rocks, you are not going to work any miracles without spending vast sums of money. And here is one point which should be very carefully analysed and assessed before either buying or renovating a pitch. If the capital outlay for necessary improvement exceeds one third of the cost of buying alternative suitable ground, then a club should buy new land and sell the old.

On the otherhand, if like about 70% of the grounds in the country, there are no serious difficulties with drainage, rocks or level, then with a little care and attention a fine

close surface can be cultivated. Drainage problems can often be solved fairly cheaply now by mole drains and porous pipes. Rocks by blasting and levelling by filling or removal. All these tasks can be carried out quite quickly and, depending on the amount of well organised goodwill, quite cheaply.

There is no excuse in this day and age for not having a pitch properly marked and flagged, for not having nets, the posts painted, for not removing loose stones, filling in little potholes, reseeding bare patches and removing manure. Goal areas soon become bare and rutted and very seldom is any attempt made to returf, reseed and fertilize. The grass should never be allowed to grow longer than an inch and a half or two inches.

If animals are allowed to graze on a playing field, a very serious health hazard is incurred and virus diseases can be contacted, even though a player may not have sustained more than a slight skin abrasion. In any case, even if there are good First Aid facilities and hot water in the dressing room, surely we have got to the stage when county pitches should be free from animal grazing.

We should take a pride in our club ground, we should be proud to welcome visiting teams to neat, comfortable dressing rooms and to play on a very well tended pitch.

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If we have any real pride in the Association which we are constantly reminded owes its strength and vitality to little rural clubs, then we should have a pride in our club premises and playing pitch. Show me a pitch and club premises and I'll tell you how the members think of the game, the Association, the community and, for that matter, themselves.

The groundsman at the local golf course may be prepared to supply all the details of the technique of re-turfing, re-seeding and fertilizing. An old mowing machine can easily be adapted to cut as low as a lawn mower and then pressed into regular service. The grass should be raked off and used to make compost for fertilizer. In fact, think of your pitch as you would of a lawn.

If your dad had to walk twenty miles to a match, tog out behind the ditch in pouring rain, play on an unmarked, dirty pitch and walk all the way home again dirty, wet and tired, there's no reason why you should have to do the same. Privation of this order is not indicative of an excess of love for game or country, it merely indicates a lack of initiative and intelligence.

Don't make this game any harder than it is already. I hope every club will make a resolution to cultivate their pitch and erect and maintain a comfortable dressing room. And now is the time to start.

PENPOINTS

Sir,—Your contributor, Mr. Joe Lennon, frightens me. In your January issue, he wasted considerable space on a somewhat tedious article on, of all things "boots" and terrified me with a statement—"I would like to do an exhaustive study of this topic some time because I am sure there is a lot which we could learn from it—a sort of "WHICH" study on kit".

God forbid that he should be permitted to do so in the pages of "GAELIC SPORT". I could not not imagine anything as dreary.

I believe Mr. Lennon is a teacher by profession and I feel he should know that "GAELIC SPORT" has a valuable contribution to make to the G.A.A.; that of entertainment rather than education.

By all means let him entertain us . . . but, please, no more education — particularly about "boots".

D.G.

VOLUNTARY EFFORT

A Chara—I see that the Welfare state idea is now creeping into the G.A.A. As I understand it many county board chairmen now want the central "government" to supply all of the aids and finance for local ground development.

This is a very dangerous trend. The real strength of the G.A.A. has always been voluntary effort and earnest work by many thousands of men who never made the headlines or did any talking. If grounds are to be developed the work, 90 per cent of it anyway, must be done by local effort. Too much from the top kills such local effort.

So let the young men get out and do the work and stop trying to get somebody else to do it for them.

A VETERAN.

Kells,
Co. Meath.

BOBBY BEGGS

A Chara, — Please confirm if Bobby Beggs was on the 1934 Dublin team.

S. O CEALLAIGH.

Ath Cliath, 14.

Yes, Bobby Beggs was on the Dublin team beaten by Galway in the 1934 All-Ireland final. Having played with Galway in the 1938, '40 and '41 finals, he was back with Dublin in 1942 and helped defeat Galway in that year's final—EDITOR.

Health and Good Leather

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So every month do cast an eye over the various advertisements which appear in "Gaelic Sport". Note them and support the firms in question. Remember they are supporting you and what you believe in.

Buying Irish adds pleasure and purpose to purchasing.

TEN PIN BOWLING HERE TO STAY

On the 16th of December last, Stillorgan Bowl, the home of ten-pin Bowling in Dublin celebrated its first anniversary.

The success and progress of tenpin bowling in such a short period of time has exceeded all expectations and this was brought home forcibly to me during a recent interview with Mr. Jack Murphy the Managing Director. It seems that the average Irishman and woman are "naturals" when it comes to bowling and this, plus the fact that it is an ideal family sport, accounts for its overall popularity with all age groups.

In November last, the European ten-pin Bowling Championships were held in Milan and for the first time Ireland had a representative in Michael Staines, who turned in a very good performance despite the fact that he was Ireland's lone entry. Great credit for Ireland been accepted as a country in her own right in the Championships goes to Mr. Murphy, as due to the fact that there was only a one-man team entry the organising committee brought great pressure to bear on him to come in under the mantle of England but the Drogheda born, ex-Christian Brother's man stubbornly refused and eventually won the day.

A.M.F., the makers of bowling equipment, in conjunction with a group of international sponsors have arranged a very attractive world competition for 1965 in which players at Stillorgan will participate. Prizes include trips to the World Fair, trips to the Southern States of the U.S.A. and a Christmas visit to Bethlehem.

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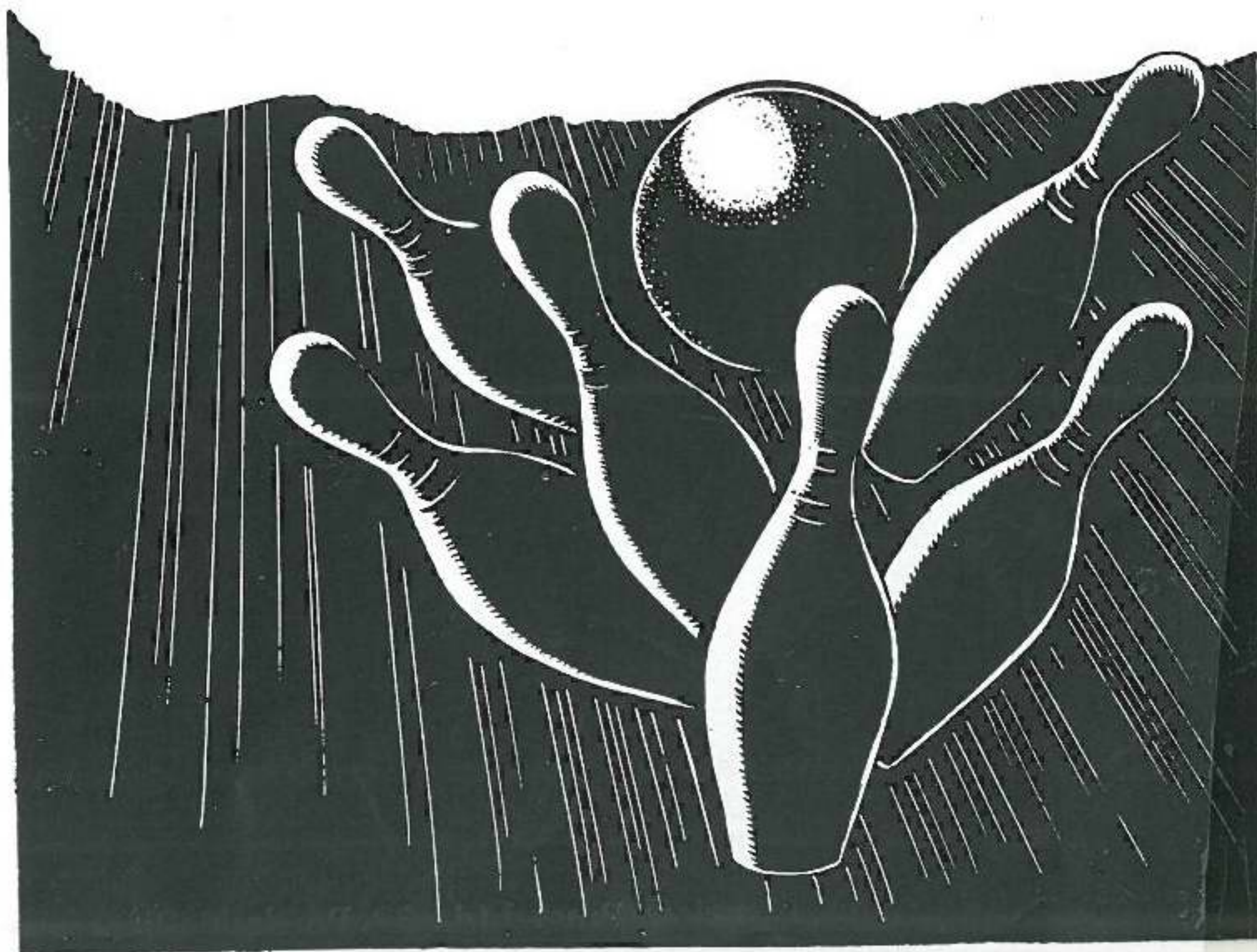
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the new sport that's knocking them all over

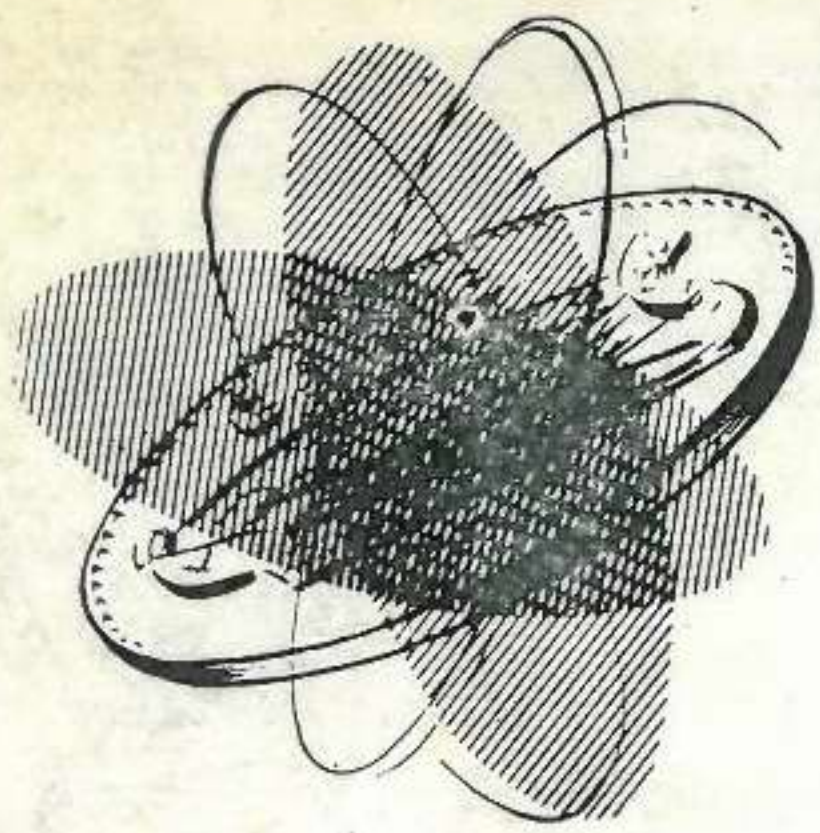
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let's go **BOWLING**—at **The Stillorgan Bowl**



fogarty

STILLORGAN BOWL
1937



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