

37

GAA

# Gaelic Sport

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JANUARY 1965. Vol. 8. No. 1.

INSIDE  
THE MOST CONSISTENT  
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



## Football

Noel Tierney, Galway

## GAELIC SPORT'S STARS OF 1964

## Hurling

Jimmy Doyle, Tipperary



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# CUMANN LÚIT-CLÉAS SAEDEAL

## CLÁR LAIJEAN 1965

### CORN UI BROIN (peil):

- (1) An mí v. IAR-MÍ—An Uaim—21/3/65.
  - (2) Luzáí v. (1)—D. Áta no m. CeARR.
  - (3) Uabfairí v. LAOIS—Tulaé Mór—21/3/65.
  - (4) Longport v. (3)—Longport.
  - (5) Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáin—D. Nuá—21/3/65.
  - (6) Át Cliaé v. (5)—Maḡ Nuádat nó ———
  - (7) Loé ḡarmán v. Cill Coimniḡ—Ros Míc Treóm—21/3/65.
  - (8) Ceatárloc v. (7)—Ceatárloc.
- Leat-craobáca:** (9) (2) v. (4). (10) (6) v. (8).  
**An Craob:** (9) v. (10).

### iomáint mionúir speisialta

- (1) Luzáí v. An mí—Baile Áta Fíróiáó—11/4/65.
- (2) Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáin—Drí Cuallann—4/4/65.
- (3) (1) v. (2) ———

### iomáint sinsir ḡ mionúir

- (1) Uabfairí v. Ceatárloc—Portlaoise—25/4/65.
- (2) LAOIS v. IAR-MÍ—Tulaé Mór—2/5/65.
- (3) (1) v. (2)—m. CeARR—Cill Coimniḡ no Tulaé Mór—16 no 23/5/65.
- (4) Loé ḡarmán v. Át Cliaé no (3) } AR 6/6/65 ASUS
- (5) Cill Coimniḡ v. Át Cliaé no (3) } 13/6/65 no  
27/6/65.

**An Craob:** (4) v. (5)—11/7/65.

### iomáint idir-mheaná

- (1) ——— v. An mí—Át Truim—
- (2) Át Cliaé v.—25/4/65—Át Cliaé—
- (3) Loé ḡarmán v. Cill Mantáin—11/4/65 ḡuire—
- (4) Uabfairí v. LAOIS—11/4/65—Diorra—
- (5) Cill Coimniḡ v. (3)

**Leat-craobáca:** (6) (2) v. (1). (7) (4) v. (5).

**An Craob:** (6) v. (7).

Ceist a sochrú re An Dún ASUS Donoróma ASAB  
Páirteac AS (1) ASUS (2).

### iomáint soisean

- (1) An mí v. Luzáí—Baile Áta Fíróiáó—11/4/65.
- (2) Cill Dara v. (1)—Bealtane, 1965.
- (3) Cill Mantáin v. Ceatárloc—D. Míc Caéaoir—Bealtane, 1965.

**An Craob:** (2) v. (3).

### iomáint pé 21 blo.

- (1) IAR-MÍ v. An mí—m. CeARR—25/65.
- (2) Át Cliaé v. Cill Dara—Át Cliaé—25/4/65.
- (3) Ceatárloc v. Cill Coimniḡ—Cill Coimniḡ—25/4/65.

(4) Uabfairí v. LAOIS—Portlaoise—4/4/65.

(5) Loé ḡarmán v. (3)—Ros Míc Treóm—2 no 9/5/65.

**Leat-craobáca:** (6) (1) v. (2). (7) (3) v. (5).

**An Craob:** (6) v. (7).

### peil pé 21 blo.

- (1) An mí v. Cill Dara—Maḡ Nuádat—18/4/65.
- (2) Át Cliaé v. (1)—Át Cliaé—2/5/65.
- (3) LAOIS v. Uabfairí—Diorra—11/4/65.
- (4) IAR-MÍ v. Longport—Longport—18/4/65.
- (5) Ceatárloc v. Cill Mantáin—m. An Bealaiḡ—18/4/65.
- (6) Loé ḡarmán v. (5)—'23/5/65.

**Leat-craobáca:**

(7) (3) v. (4)—16 no 23/5/65.

(8) (2) v. (6).

**An Craob:** (7) v. (8).

### peil sinsir ḡ mionúir

- (1) IAR-MÍ v. Luzáí—An Uaim—9/5/65.
- (2) An mí v. (1)—P. An Érócaiḡ—6/6/65.
- (3) Uabfairí v. Longport—m. CeARR—2/5/65.
- (4) LAOIS v. (3)—Tulaé Mór—23/5/65.
- (5) Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáin—Ceatárloc—2/5/65.
- (6) Ceatárloc v. (5)—Át 1 no Portlaoise—30/5/65.
- (7) Loé ḡarmán v. Cill Coimniḡ—Ros Míc Treóm—25/4/65.
- (8) Át Cliaé v. (7)—Át Cliaé no Loé ḡarmán—23/5/65.

**Leat-craobáca:** IDIR (2), (4), (6), (8)—AR 13/6/65  
ASUS 20/6/65 no 4/7/65.

**An Craob:** Páirc An Érócaiḡ AR 18/7/65.

### peil soisean

- (1) Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáin—D. Nuá—4/4/65.
- (2) LAOIS v. Uabfairí—P. Laoise—4/4/65.
- (3) Cill Coimniḡ v. Ceatárloc—Cill Coimniḡ—4/4/65.
- (4) IAR-MÍ v. An mí—m. CeARR—4/4/65.
- (5) Át Cliaé v. (1)—Maḡ Nuádat no m. An Bealaiḡ
- (6) Longport v. (2)—Tulaé Mór no Longport
- (7) Loé ḡarmán v. (3)—Cill Coimniḡ no Inis Córcáió
- (8) Luzáí v. (4)—D. Áta no An Uaim  
Cluicí AR Suibál AR 25/4/65 ma's peoir.

### CORN BREACNAÉ (iomáint)

**Leat-craobáca:**

(1) Cill Coimniḡ v. ———AR 25/7/65 no 1/8/65.

(2) Loé ḡarmán v. ———AR 25/7/65 no 1/8/65

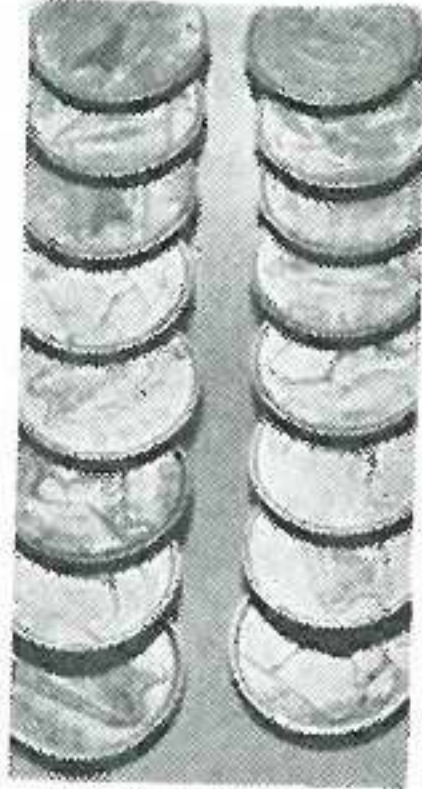
**An Craob:** (1) v. (2)—AR 8/8/65.



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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 8. No. 1. Jan., 1965.

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## INDEX

Top Ten Stars of 1964	4-5
Reviving the National Spirit: extracts from a speech by Alf Ó Muirí	6
Looking Around	
—with Fear Faire	9
The task before us	
—by Moondharrig	13
Náisiúnachas	
—le Seán Ó Dúnagáin	15
Filming Christy Ring	
—by Louis Marcus	17
The Hurling Plan:	
discussed by Eamonn Young	19
The hurling giant from Holycross	
—by Patrick Carver	21
Always pick a boot that's comfortable	
—says Joe Lennon	23
Face to Face with Dan McCartan ....	27
The model sportsman	
—by Paul Russell	30
Jimmy Doyle: the scoring wizard	
—by Owen McCann	31
Connacht Comment	
—by Chris Murray	35
Grounds Development:	
Seven page feature by Seamus O Ceallaigh and Jim O'Brien ....	36-42
The missing challenge	
—by Jay Drennan	43
Down's premier hurling club	
—by Matt Fitzpatrick	44
A night out with Wexford's sports stars	
—by Philip Roderick	45
Ulster Spotlight	
—by Conallach	51
Handball by Alleyman	53
Camogie ....	55

## COMMENT

### A CIVIL SERVICE TRY

OF the 275 Rules in the Official Guide only nine relate to what might be termed the Association's national concept. If the Dublin Civil Service Football Club has its way only six of these nine Rules will remain following the 1965 Congress.

Originally this club concerned itself with but one Rule. Three years have seen a three-fold growth of ambition. Simple arithmetical progression would suggest that by 1968 this club will seek to delete all nine Rules which relate to the Association's national commitments and aspirations. Not until the Civil Service Football Club graduates to that stage will its point of view be consistent.

Certainly the line of thought currently emanating from the club is anything but consistent. Why, for example, ask for the deletion of Rule 29, which deals with the promotion of foreign dances, and at the same time accept Rule 26, which in part deals with foreign dances promoted by British servicemen? These Rules are surely akin. If one is repugnant why not the other?

Then there are Rules 6, 7 and 8—all of which relate mainly to the use of Irish manufactured goods

and materials. Are not Irish dances as native as Irish cement or Irish notepaper?

How can one logically set about banishing the Rule which demands Irish dancing at certain official functions, while retaining the Rule which insists equally vehemently on the use of the Irish language with regard to certain official duties.

Likewise there is the Rule which states that a club or county secretary *must* use Irish water-marked paper, *must* sign his name in Irish, *must*, for official use, purchase Irish goods, etc. Is not this Rule as much "an undue interference with personal liberty" as is Rule 27 which prevents the same official from attending a rugby match?

If the Civil Service Football Club is to be at all true to itself it must develop its argument to a full and logical conclusion. It must put its case for the deletion of all things national plainly and without hedging. Only in this way will its singular point of view be precise and obvious to all.

Only in this way too will its efforts be fully judged and rejected as decisively as they deserve to be. We look forward to 1968.





● PADDY DOHERTY

# HERE THEY ARE! THE TOP TEN FOOTBALL

## *Noel Tierney and Jimmy Doyle head the honours list!*

**H**ERE then are the Top Ten footballers and hurlers of 1964 as tabulated from our monthly ratings. As regular readers are aware, we have maintained a monthly record of individual inter-county performances during the past year. These ratings are therefore based on the entire season. Every single intercounty performance has been taken into account.

The points are awarded as follows — ten for each occasion a player headed the monthly list, nine for a second placing and so on right down to one point for each tenth placing.

### FOOTBALL

#### 1 ● NOEL TIERNEY (33)

The safe fielding Galway full-back finished a clear winner on our charts, with no less than eight points to spare over his nearest rival. Last year we had Tierney in fourth position with 19 points. All indications are that the mighty Galwayman will be among the stars of the year for many a season to come.

#### 2 ● NIALL SHEEHY (25)

The veteran Kerry full-back had his finest-ever season during 1964. It was not Kerry's year but in this

regard the fault certainly was not Sheehy's. Last year he was joint sixth with 16 points.

#### 3 ● DES FOLEY (24)

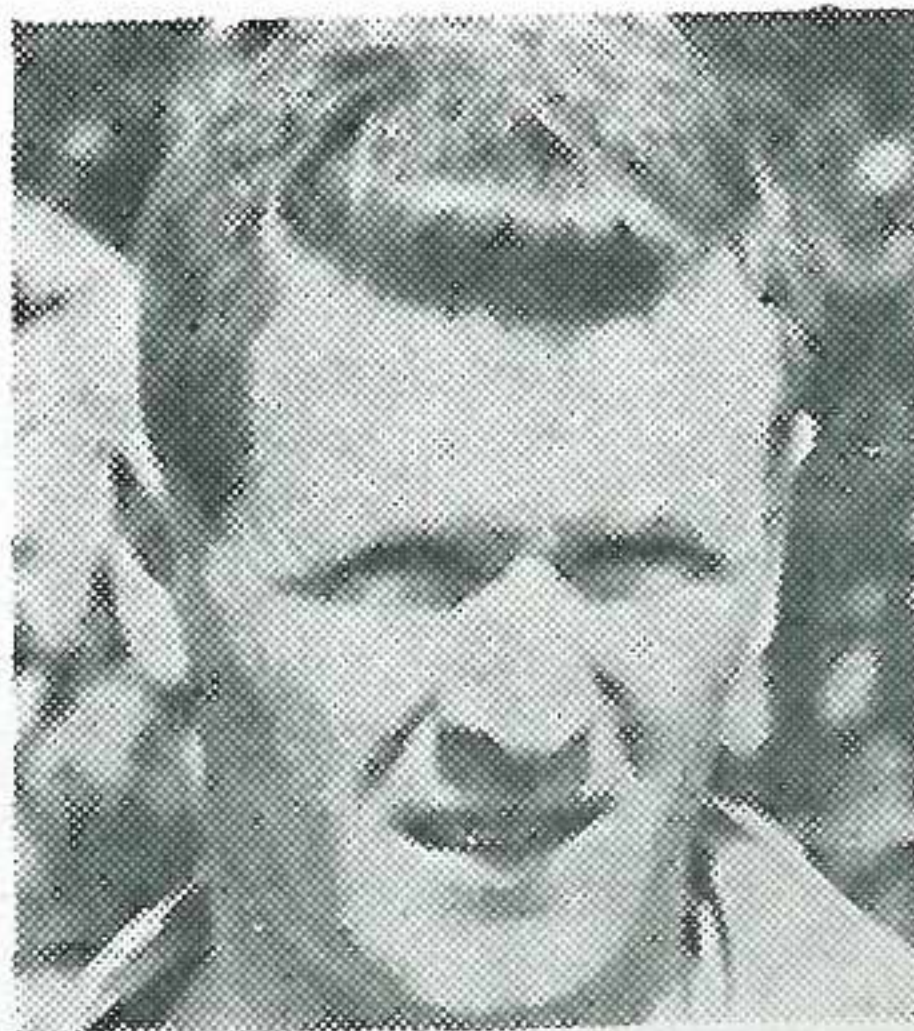
At the half-way mark all indications pointed to Foley becoming the footballer of the year. He twice topped our monthly list in the earlier stages of the season.

#### 4 ● JOHN DONNELLAN (21)

The great-hearted Galway captain played a major role in bringing the Sam Maguire Cup back to Connacht. His finest hour was one which will always be filled with tragic memories.

#### 5 ● JACK QUINN (20)

A splendid representative of



● OLLIE WALSH

resurgent Meath. Next year he could well be even higher up the list.

#### 6 ● PADDY DOHERTY (19)

While Down may have slumped, sharp-shooting Paddy Doherty certainly has not and he continued to perform with all of the skill and accuracy which brought him to the forefront some six seasons ago.

#### ● GERRY McRORY (19)

This fast Antrim forward shares sixth position mainly as a result of some outstanding performances in the earlier part of the season.

#### 8 ● MATTIE McDONAGH (18)

One of Galway's key-men throughout the season, McDonagh also figured on our honours list last season when he collected one point less.

#### ● PADDY HOLDEN (18)

Highly consistent performances throughout the year wins for the determined Dublin defender the joint-eighth position.

#### 10 ● CYRIL DUNNE (17)

Like John Donnellan, he reserved his greatest-ever hour for the All-Ireland final.



# AND HURLING STARS OF THE YEAR...



● **CYRIL DUNNE**



● **EDDIE KEHER**



● **JOHN DONNELLAN**

● **MICK REYNOLDS (17)**

Rarely spectacular but always consistent, Reynolds was a vital link in the mighty and all-conquering Galway machine.

## HURLING

**1 ● JIMMY DOYLE (36)**

It simply had to be a Tipperaryman who would top the hurling honours list and with six Premier County players in the running Jimmy Doyle just edged it. Oddly enough he never topped a monthly list but rarely was he missing. Picking up points throughout the season, he was always well placed. Jimmy was also the top scorer of 1964.

**2 ● MICHAEL KEATING (35)**

A high placing indeed for so youthful a player in his first year of senior championship competition. He could even be higher next year.

**3 ● OLLIE WALSH (34)**

Except for a lapse in the All-Ireland final, the Kilkenny net-minder had a tremendous year and thrilled the crowds on both sides of the Atlantic with brilliant performances.

**4 ● JOHN DOYLE (32)**

The mighty man from Holycross

marches on defiantly. During the year he collected his seventh senior All-Ireland medal and his tenth National League medal.

**5 ● MICHAEL ROCHE (27)**

Extremely consistent throughout the season, Roche like Michael Keating would appear to have his greatest hurling ahead of him.

**6 ● THEO ENGLISH (26)**

Just one point behind his mid-field partner, English defies the passing years with one brilliant performance after another.



● **MATTIE McDONAGH**

**7 ● EDDIE KEHER (25)**

The Kilkennyman figured on three of our monthly lists prior to July and it is these early season performances which won for him seventh place. Last year he was in second position with 38 points.

**8 ● WILLIE RACKARD (19)**

The veteran Wexford defender was another who gave his best performances in the earlier half of the season. Last year we had him in sixth position.

**9 ● SEAMUS CLEERE (18)**

The Kilkenny stylist was in third position on our lists last year with 27 points.

**10 ● JERRY O'SULLIVAN (17)**

- LIAM DEVANEY (17)
- PAUL LYNCH (17)

Three men tie for tenth position—each of whom contributed much to their respective counties during the past season.

Included in these Top Ten ratings for 1964 are our placings for the period from Sunday, November 15, to the close of the season. These were:—

**HURLING** — 1. T. O'Mahony (Cork); 2. Noel Gallagher (Cork); 3. John Doyle (Tipperary); 4. M. Roche (Tipperary); 5. Jimmy Doyle

● **TO PAGE 7.**



*The following is an extract from a speech by Alf O Muiri, President of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, at a recent celebration at Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh, to mark the winning of the county S.F. championship by the local side.*

**'It is within the  
club, no matter how  
small, that this  
revival of the national  
spirit must begin . . .'**

**WE** in the G.A.A. are the only body left with the power to revive the national spirit. Since the clubs are the foundation of our

Association, it is within the club, no matter how small, and in the parish that the revival must begin. To quote Thomas Davis: 'This

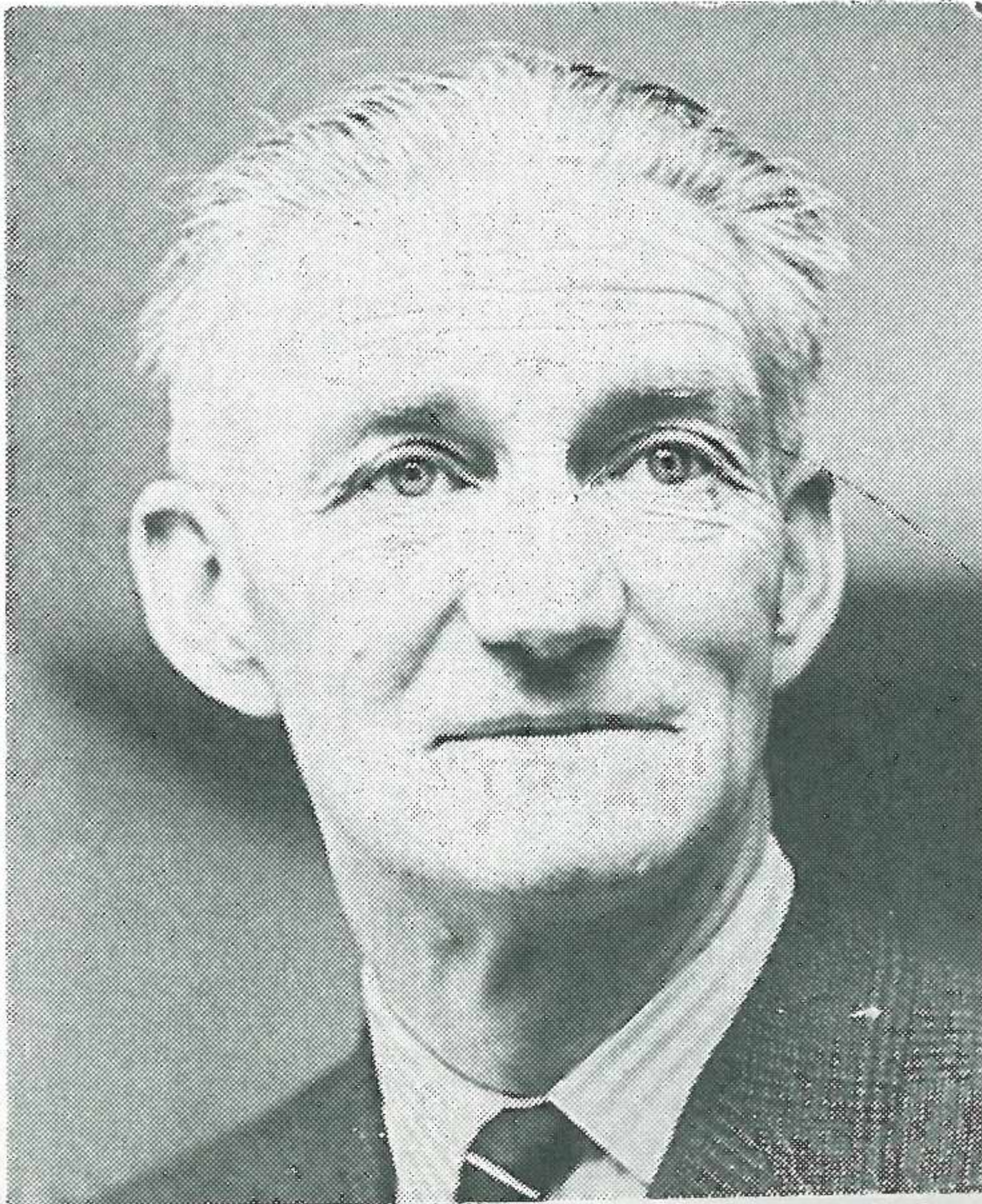
parish, this district is Ireland. We are Ireland. What we do today, the nation will be doing tomorrow.'

"Some critics have attacked my statement about the state of Irish nationality. I make no apology. And I believe that if the language of Ireland is to live, our children must speak with the tongue of their forefathers. Our games are better than any others; our music is far superior to what is commonly called pop music.

"If these unnatural influences are to be counteracted then only through the G.A.A. can the lead be given. The lead must come from the top, but it must also come from the clubs themselves. Every club can play its part by catering for the thousand and one activities of our national nature to keep the spirit alive. Nationality is not dead if it lives in the hearts of the faithful. There is a need to spread the gospel.

"How to go about it? The people of the parish could be called together for a lecture on some topic of national and historic interest. Children should be reminded that they have a language of their own. Many people still have something of the language.

"Example should be given by the clubs by organising Irish concerts



● ALF Ó MUIRÍ . . . Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

● TO PAGE 7.



and let the people rediscover that their music and dances are more enjoyable. And we must get away from this idea of a club which only caters for players who meet once a week.

"Here on the Mullabawn team you have the elite of the county and this parish has always been renowned as a fervent national stronghold. From you we expect a lead in this historic year, an example which could be important for the whole country.

"Red blood flowed in 1916 so that the people of Ireland should realise that they have a national identity, a culture, country and language of their own. It should not be necessary for red blood to flow again in order that our people shall realise that they have a distinct national identity separate from all others and that this nation should take its place among the nations of the world.

"The duty is yours, not only the members of this club, but the fathers and mothers of this parish, to tell the story of Ireland, a history of the national spirit, born of the past which lives for the future.

"Our mission in the G.A.A. calls for every club to play a full part in the life of the parish, not only organising hurling, football and handball, but also by making its influence felt in every sector of parish life."

## Top Ten

● FROM PAGE 5.

(Tipperary); 6. Theo English (Tipperary); 7. Jerry O'Sullivan (Cork); 8. J. McKenna (Tipperary); 9. D. Murphy (Cork); 10. P. Barry (Cork).

**FOOTBALL**—1. J. Keenan (Galway); 2. N. Tierney (Galway); 3. M. McDonagh (Galway); 4. J. Donnellan (Galway); 5. P. Moore (Meath); 6. M. Reynolds (Galway); 7. J. Quinn (Meath); 8. C. Dunne (Galway); 9. D. Gannon (Leitrim); 10. R. Creaven (Roscommon).

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# LOOKING AROUND

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## WELL DONE, CONNACHT!

**Q**UIETLY and without much ado both the Connacht Council and the Leitrim County Board recently held meetings through the medium of Irish. In both cases it was a new innovation and the meetings were most successful.

I met a Connacht Council regular a few days after their meeting.

"How did it go?" says I.

"Great," says he, "the best meeting we ever had. There was a power of work done and it was all over before 11 p.m. Usually we don't get down to real business until about that time for there are always the few fiery harangues in the beginning which take up so much time and signify nothing.

"But at the Irish meeting the harangues were skipped—maybe it was because the language does not possess as many cliches as English does. It was down to business right away and the result was a most fruitful meeting and everybody went home happy without having insulted anybody else."

Seriously though, it is a case of well done Connacht and Leitrim, who have set a headline for Munster and Leinster. The Ulster Council has, of course, for years

conducted its meetings entirely through Irish.

The entire move in Connacht originated from energetic Leitrim Co. Secretary, Tommy O'Riordan, who proposed a motion to the effect at both Leitrim Board and Connacht Council levels.

Tommy is in fact a Limerickman, but he has held office in Leitrim for the past decade or so and has been of tremendous service to the county. He regularly turns out with Carrick-on-Shannon in both football and hurling and has been for years a regular on the Leitrim hurling fifteen. He has also often played for the county in football. He was the driving force behind the development of the recently opened Mac Diarmada Park in Carrick-on-Shannon.

The most praiseworthy aspect of the O'Riordan endeavour to find for the national language a proper place in the scheme of things, is that it was only quite recently that he himself got down to a serious study of Irish.

In this he has shown officers of the Association throughout the country how it can and should be done.

If O'Riordan, one of the hardest-working county secretaries in the country, a dual player and a married man with a large young family, can find the time and the enthusiasm to sit down and gain a proficiency in Irish, then I see no excuse for other officials who have far less responsibility and time-consuming activities.

We need more men like Tommy O'Riordan who believe in converting lip-service to the language into something concrete.

### AN OLD TUNE

The ban the Ban brigade are at it again in Dublin and it is no coincidence that the usual letters are finding their way to the evening newspapers.

One does not have to be an expert to identify the hand-writing beneath the print in many of these letters. They are so long at it now that you would imagine that they would come up with a few original ideas instead of repeating the same old cants which have been so overwhelmingly rejected by Congress.

They remind me of a strolling-fiddler who used to travel the

● TO PAGE 11.



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CAPS



● FROM PAGE 9.

roads of my native county many years ago. He was known as "One-tune Kelly," and as might be expected from the name, he had but the one tune and badly he played it at that.

Still, he could always be depended upon to turn up every now and then and he would whine away at the old reliable few bars.

Few ever bothered to listen.

### HEATED WORDS

We all, I suppose, get heated now and again—and sometimes we over-do it and are sorry afterwards. The representatives of two provincial newspapers did this a few weeks back.

The two papers in question, the "Drogheda Independent" and the "Meath Chronicle" were naturally very interested in the Meath stand with regard to the Grounds Tournament final and they wrote to Croke Park for permission to send representatives to the Central Council meeting at which Meath's withdrawal and its various side-issues were to be discussed.

However, there is a long-standing Central Council rule which allows only the representatives of national newspapers and radio to attend these meetings. The reason for the rule is simple—space. There simply is not the space at Council meetings to accommodate a large press gathering.

The two newspapers in question were informed of this rule in writing by the Árd Rúnaí. However, that was not the end of it by a long-shot. On the night of the meeting representatives from both newspapers turned up and again sought the right to sit-in. This naturally could not be.

The following week-end both newspapers protested most strongly in their own columns. The "Drogheda Independent" in particular poured forth a mighty tirade.

To say the least of it the behaviour was childish. What did

## CÉAD SLÁN...

**AS** soon as this issue goes to press, I will no longer be Editor of GAEIC SPORT. I will therefore avail of this opportunity to sincerely thank all of those who during my past two years, as editor, contributed towards making my task a comparatively easy and pleasant one.

To the loyal contributors who month after month turned in worthwhile articles; to the advertisers without whose support no publication can exist; to the printers whose assistance, first-class workmanship and dependability were never wanting; to an understanding and non-interfering publisher, and finally to many thousands of nameless readers—*tá mé buíoch, fíor-bhuíoch.*

If one might be permitted to make a bequest on an occasion such as this, then mine is to leave to those who come after me the duty to maintain in this journal a constant consciousness of the basic purpose of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Broadly speaking the duty of a publication is to inform and entertain its readers. But when a publication aligns itself solely with a national organisation, it thereby must accept the solemn responsibility to propagate the gospel and aspirations of that organisation.

This I have endeavoured to do during the past two years and there is little reason to fear but that this policy will continue without compromise.

Is mise,

Breandán Mac Lua.

they expect? They had been informed that there was a rule which prevented their accommodation—and yet they insisted in turning up at the meeting demanding that the rule be ignored.

In making this comment I am fully aware that both these provincial papers give wide coverage to Gaelic Games. The "Drogheda Independent," in fact, usually gives two full pages to G.A.A. activity and its reporting is most detailed and a credit to the journalists concerned.

But we should try and not lose our heads—especially when we are

in the wrong. Let us journalists at least be logical.

### LAOIS FINAL

The recent Laois senior hurling final would not have been an easy match to broadcast for it was very much a family affair. Including three substitutes there were six Cuddys, five Mahoneys, five Dowlings, four Dooleys and two Moores.

For the record Cullohill, who were beaten in the opening round but who came back via a losers group, dethroned Camross by 4-4 to 4-3.



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# The task before us . . .

**N**OW that we have come to the end of 1964 and that 1965 looms ahead of us it is, as usual, stock-taking time, and it was in many respects a momentous year in Gaelic circles.

The death of Pádraig O Caoimh, who had for so long, as General Secretary, played a major part in guiding the destinies of the Association, marked the end of an era, and the G.A.A. will naturally feel his loss for many a day to come. But he has been succeeded by a man who knows better than anyone else in Ireland the O Caoimh technique and with Seán O Síocháin as Secretary and Alf Murray as President the Association can step forward confidently into the New Year ahead.

Not that the future will be entirely untroubled for the task before the G.A.A., as Pádraig O Caoimh so significantly warned in his final Secretarial Report, which was his last Will and Testament to the Association he loved, is to maintain the old ideals in a changing Ireland and to adopt new techniques to serve the old cause of preserving for the generations yet to come all that is best of the traditions handed down by our forefathers.

The drive to revive hurling can be but a single phase of the task ahead. There is also the grave necessity of reviving in the hearts of the rising generation the love of the language, of the dances and of the music of the Gael.

Compulsion is not the answer.

Compulsion is not the answer for this very good reason, that compulsion has been tried at the highest levels and has only succeeded in alienating many of those whose parents were among the most true and trusted of the original resurgence.

We must foster a love, not alone of the native games, but of the native dances, the native music and above all the native language among the youth, and we can only do that by adapting all the modern techniques to our purpose. It is not enough to say to the youth, however, that they must do such a thing, and must not do something else. When I was young a whole succession of British Governments kept on telling us what we must and must not do, and needless to say we did not accept their dictates.

That is why I feel that young people will take no heed of their elders laying down the law in things that are not concerned with major matters of faith and morals. We must, and that word 'must' does apply to us older folk, lead them to love things Gaelic as we learned to love those things, for in no other way can these marks of nationhood be preserved.

So let us work towards the ideal of having not alone a Gaelic team in every parish, but let that team be the centre of a club, and let that club become in turn not alone a centre of national games but of national culture, fielding not only hurling and football but camogie



● SEÁN Ó SÍOCHÁIN

and athletic teams, building a ball-alley, acquiring its own field, and then, building its own club rooms, where the language can be taught and ceili dances practised.

Such a Gaelic centre could act as a curb, too, on emigration and could give new life to areas long grown dull through lack of proper entertainment in leisure hours.

Aye the G.A.A. has plenty of work to do, and let us all make a start on it in this New Year of 1965.

### DES DILLON

At a time when hurling is girding itself for the Great Resurgence it is a particular pity that so many who could have played a part in the revival have been called from us, and it is with sincere regret that I record the passing of Des Dillon who won so many friends on the hurling fields by his displays for more than a decade with U.C.D., with Dublin, with Clare—he won his greatest fame in the jersey of his native county—and last of all with London.

A sweeping hurler, a giant among giants when the proper mood was on him, Des Dillon was a name to conjure with in the hurling world a decade ago, and is among the select band who played

● TO PAGE 14.



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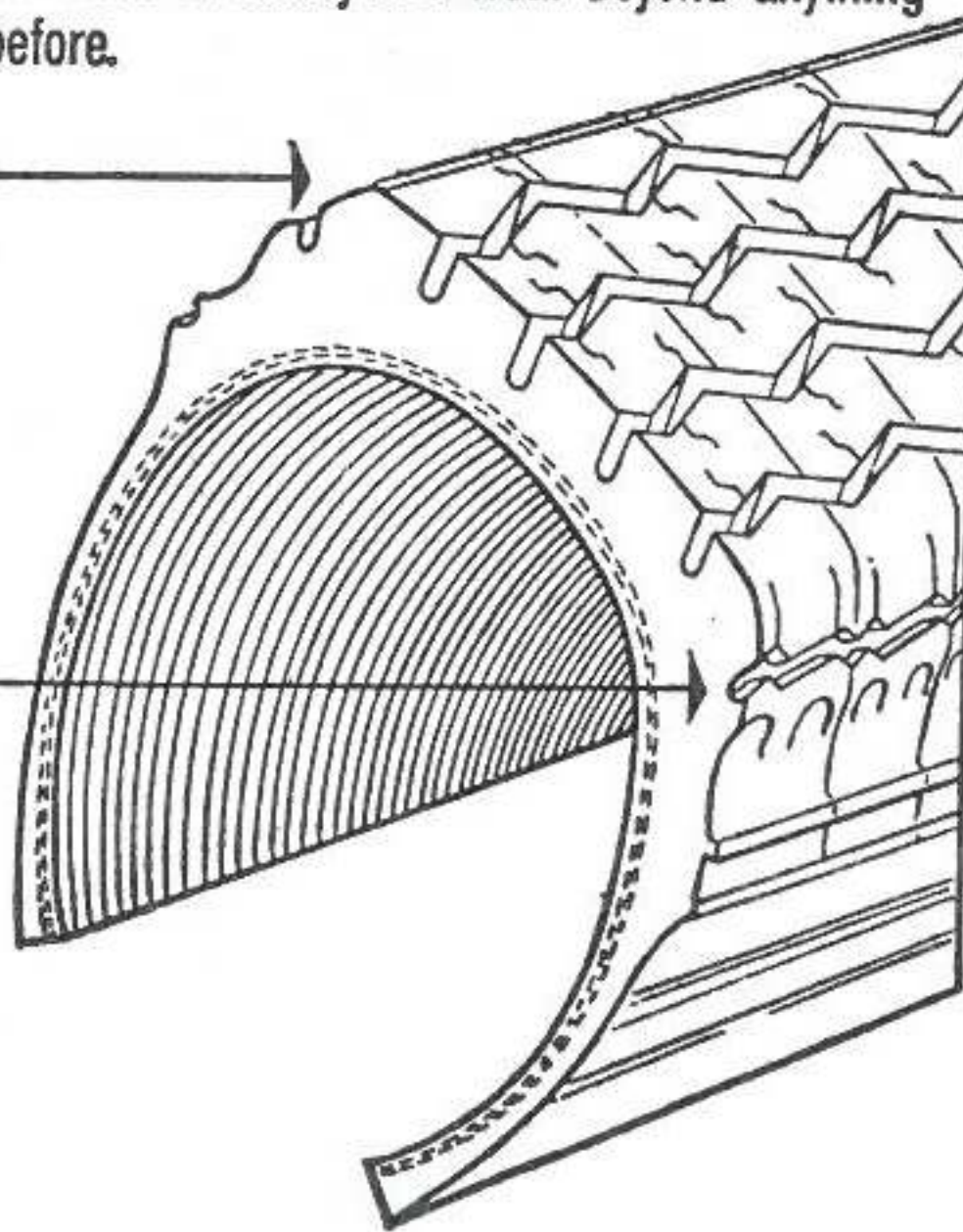
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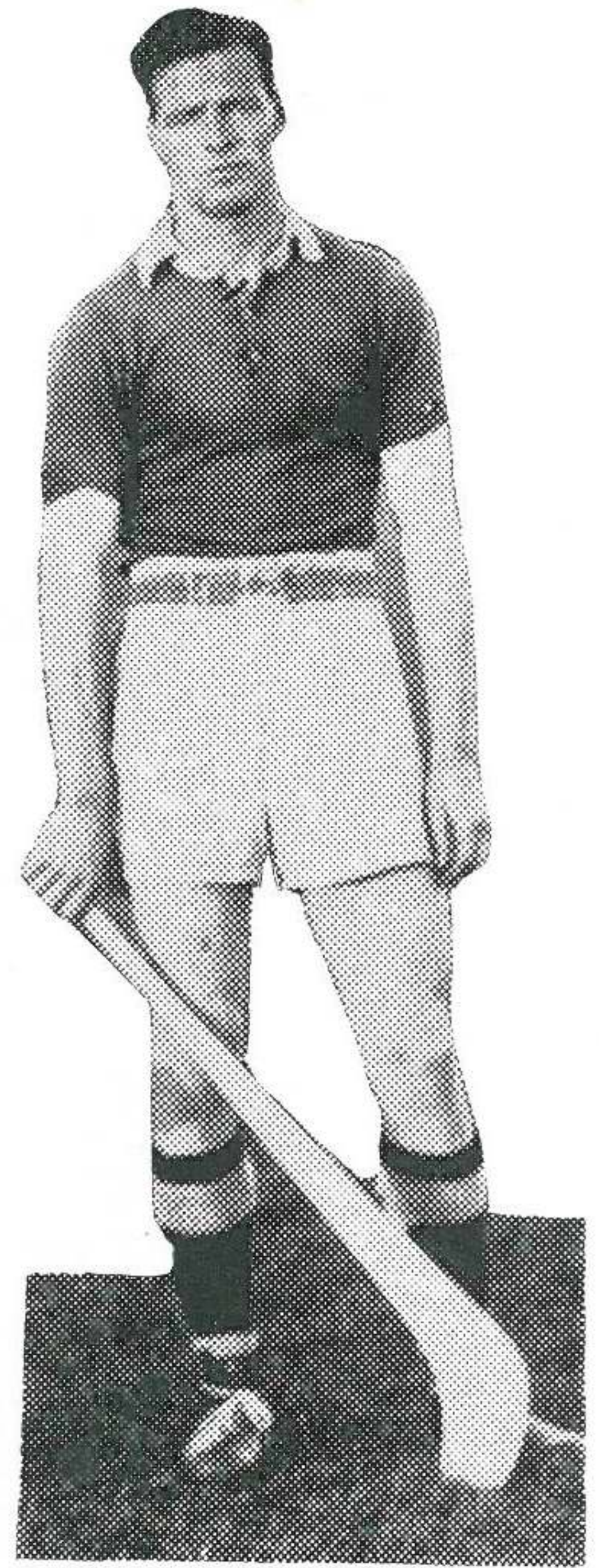
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### ● CORRECTION:

We identified this picture as Mick Gill in our November issue, and in this respect we were correct. However, it was NOT the Mick Gill who won two senior All-Ireland hurling medals in 1924 but his fellow-countyman and namesake, who was one of the stars of the victorious 1938 Dublin team. Our apologies to two great hurlers.

## Moondharrig

● FROM PAGE 13.

for both Leinster and Munster in hurling.

He was scarcely less famed in the handball alleys. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.





# NÁISIÚNACHAS

le  
SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

**C**EARD is “Náisiúnachas” ann? Cuirim an cheist de bhrí gur chualas fear óg ag rá ar chlár theilifíse le déanaí “nár chóir spóirt is náisiúnachas a mheascadh, gur féidir le gach duine a thuairimí féin a bheith aige fé náisiúnachas ach nach ceart do eagraíocht spóirt iacaibh a chur air claoi le teagasc fé náisiúnachas” nó, mar adeirtear sna cúirteanna dlí, ‘focail den bhrí céanna’.

Céard is “Náisiúnachas” ann? Freagra: na cáilíochta lena naithnítear náisiún: ceangal láidir dár náisiún féin nó dár mhuintir; an cine ar a gairmítear náisiún; cine daoine; caractéar náisiúnta; saol ar leith mar náisiún; aondacht náisiúnta.

An dtig le duine a thuairimí féin a bheith aige fé náisiúnachas? Ní féidir. Níl sé ar chumas aon duine, drong, dream, scata, cumann nó eile, na téarmaí thuasluaite a a shéanadh nó d’athrú agus baineanann na téarmaí le náisiún ar bith ar domhan. Ach maidir leis an náisiún seo ’gainn-ne caithfimid tacaíocht ‘an Bhunreachta a tharraingt chugainn:

“AIRTEAGAIL 2: Is é oileán na hEireann go hiomlán maille lena’

oileáin agus a fharraigí teorann, na críocha náisiúnta.”

Do réir sin is náisiúnachas freisin aon iarracht a deintear nó a ceaptar leis na críocha náisiúnta d’aothaontú fé rialtas Ghael don chine Ghael.

Ní aontaim leo siúd adeir nach chóir go meascafaí spóirt agus náisiúnachas. Fhaid is a thugann dronganna áirithe spóirt le fios don saol fódhlach go bhfuil dhá “náisiún” ann deirim nach bhfuil an ceart ag Eireannach claoi leis na dronganna úd.

Ag dul ar ais don bhfear óg ar theilifís. Má’s mian le duine (Gael) a thuairimí féin a bheith aige fé náisiúnachas caithfidh sé bheith den tuairim nach Gael nó Eireannach é. Fiú muintir na Sé Contae, go háirithe iad siúd ar a dtugtar “Óráistigh”, scairtear don domhan mhór gur Eireannaigh iad. Cinnte tá na hÓráistigh mórtasach go bhfuilid ’san Impireacht ach san am céanna is Eireannaigh iad atá deighilte óna gcomh-Eireannaigh de dheasca cleasa pholiticúla. Aithníd gur cúinne den náisiún iad—cuid de náisiún na hEireann.

Dá bhrí sin ní hiad Oifigigh ná baill an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael a chum an téarma “Náisiún na hEireann.” Is iad is fearr a choth-

aíonn nó a thugann tacaíocht do na gnéithe úd náisiúnachais a scarann cine eile eadhon teanga, cluichí is ceol. Ach lasmuigh de na cluichí Gaelacha tá spóirt eile ann nach mbaineann le cine ar bith; ina measc tá rothaíocht. Tá cumann ar a dtugtar N.C.A. ag a raibh agus ag a bhfuil dlú-thadhal eadar é agus an C.L.G. Mar is dual d’eagras Gaelach, chinn an N.C.A. ar rothaíocht d’eagrú is do reachtáil don tír iomlán ionnas is gurbé é náisiún 32-Chontae an tír seo *de jure* chomh maith le *de facto*.

Aon eagras a thugann aithint don teorainn mí-nádúrtha sa bhealach go mbíonn foireann amháin rothaíotha (nó peileadóirí nó snámhaithe agus rl.) ó Dheisceart na tíre agus foireann eile don Tuaisceart táid ag dul, in aghaidh náisiúneachais. Fiú náisiún na nGearmánach, atá scaoilte i bhfad níos géire ná an náisiún seo againnne, tig leo teacht le chéile mar náisiún amháin do na Cluichí Oilimpiceacha.

Níl an scríobhnóir seo a rá nach féidir le baill Chumainn ar bith imtheachtaí áirithe ’na gCumann féin a cheistiú. Má tá rialacha agus nósanna imtheachta daonfhlaith-eachais fé réim sa chumainn tig le:

● AR LEAN. LEAT. 56.





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## FILMING

# CHRISTY RING . . .

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by **LOUIS MARCUS**

*who directed the Gael Linn-Wills films "Peil" and "Christy Ring"*

---

IT is well known that Christy Ring shuns publicity. Many are the journalists, radio men and newspaper editors who have learned this to their disappointment. Thus, when W.D. & H.O. Wills offered to sponsor Gael-Linn films on hurling and football, there was no guarantee that Christy would perform his skills for the camera. That he agreed to do so is due to one thing only — his intense enthusiasm for the game and his desire to see it spread.

A film to glorify the legendary Ring would not have appealed to him in the slightest — but a film which could demonstrate the basic skills of hurling to players and followers throughout the country was something close to his heart. Often during the filming I heard Christy lament the expensiveness of hurleys as one of the prime reasons why young lads turned to other games for their amusement.

Christy threw himself into the work of the film with the same concentration and determination that he shows on the field. Every detail of the instructional sequence was sifted through endless conversations and revised until the maestro was completely satisfied. Even the smallest details underwent his careful scrutiny.

I remember the morning we began filming; we had bought a

new set of togs for the purpose, and Christy fingered them thoughtfully, explaining to us how different materials and design of togs can affect a player's comfort and performance on the field. The ones we had procured passed his examination—but the hurleys did not.

He tried each of them, bending them to test the "give." Finally he sniffed his disapproval and returned to his own trusty stick. Christy keeps the same hurley as long as he can, mending it if at all possible. Incidentally, a lot of Christy's shooting power comes from the fact that he carries the heaviest hurley in Ireland; only his powerful wrists could swing it with such lightning speed.

During the actual filming Christy's complete mastery of hurling revealed itself to the full. Patiently he repeated the same stroke for the camera over and over again, but each performance was identical. So deeply had he studied the game and so thoroughly had he disciplined his own style that, whether doubling or pulling, lifting or cutting, each stroke was perfect in its economy and its effectiveness.

Often Christy would tell us how he had arrived at the best way of playing a certain stroke. He would quote incidents from games over the last two decades as though

they happened yesterday. And he spoke not just of Croke Park or Thurles or the Athletic Grounds, but of evenings in the field behind his home in Cloyne, playing around with local lads.

Even then, in apparent relaxation, his mind was gnawing away at the problems of hurling, ever alert for a new discovery and for something to add to his knowledge. It seemed that in his head he carried a huge filing system where millions of hurling incidents were stored away, to be taken out as needed for reference and comparison.

He freely acknowledged too what he had learned from others, not just as a youth but even in his latest years. If Ring saw a player do something he could not, he would study the man carefully, analyse the stroke, practice it himself, and make it an instinctive part of his own game.

His opponents, too, were subjected to the same searching enquiry. Christy claims that no man ever beat him with the same trick twice. After the first time, the defeat would be analysed and—the secret once discovered—a new ruse would be needed after that.

But for all this dour determination, Christy can relax too, and

● TO PAGE 49.



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## EVERY COUNTY SHOULD

## FIELD A TEAM IN

## MINOR RANKS BY 1969

**T**HE plan to bring the hurling back is a good one. The essential is the fielding by each county of a hurling team in minor ranks in 1969 and if that target is realised—I see no reason why it shouldn't—we will be well on the way to winning the battle which has for so long been slowly lost.

There will be more ash converted into hurleys in the years ahead and more money given for subsidising the price. In this matter we note that the Association is not going into the manufacturing business itself, probably because it wishes to keep the goodwill of men who have provided the sticks over the years. In fact it will be the aim to find manufacturers in each county.

I have often suggested that there should be a co-operative effort by the clubs to provide themselves with cheaper hurleys. The plan would be for half a dozen populous clubs to send an envoy to buy ash, have it cut, drawn to a mill and cut into rough hurleys which the club carpenters would shape into finished sticks. All work should be paid for and it seems reasonable that a cheaper stick would be produced.

In fact the hurling plan does not exclude such a possibility for it simply prefers not to embark on a manufacturing process at a central level.

The coaching scheme is an essential part of the plan. Physical education today is of immense importance but before education is disseminated it must be evaluated. The fundamental is that experts must write. The skilled men must put on paper their thoughts on the skills in hurling and football. The reason we did not have an adequate bibliography on the games back is because the busiest men were working in an organisational capacity and their writings were mostly confined to the odd speech on important organisational occasions.

Those who had time to write books on hurling or football could not be assured of financial success so we're lucky indeed to have books by Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan, Dick Fitzgerald and Joe Lennon.

Better than books are the films, but the book is the spring-board for the film. Confucius said that a picture is worth a thousand words and who am I to contradict the man. The era of the film came in years ago and there's no doubt it's the correct medium for portrayal of any skill. The loop films used to teach athletes are excellent. They are sold for ten shillings and show the technique of all the athletic events in great detail.

Excellent as the 'Christy Ring' film and 'Peil' are we don't have to rely on them. Men like Louis

### SAYS EAMONN YOUNG

Marcus, the Cork man who made both of these films, should be able to turn out loop films for a fraction of the price.

A foundation stone of the Central Council's plan for hurling (which by the way has been approved in principle and not yet debated in detail as I write) is the hurling committee in each county.

This will be of five members and it will not be the county selection committee whose job is to turn out the county team. The job will be to encourage hurling in every way. They will examine the financing of hurleys, use the two hundred, three hundred, or four hundred pounds grant from Central Council well, organise youthful hurling and provide cheaper hurleys for all ages.

These are the men on whom the plan will stand or fall. And remember we must get them working for five years. There's little limelight in the job and let's be honest most of us like a little of that. These men must be real workers.

An elaboration of the scheme, which I have suggested before now is the payment of a small salary to one of these county committee men. At present the county committees pay their secretaries in most cases and sometimes the treasurer gets a small financial reward. These men earn every

● TO PAGE 20.



## EAMONN YOUNG

● FROM PAGE 19.



● Former Cork stars Paddy Barry and Alan Lotty pictured at a recent Sarsfields Club function.

penny of what they get and, right or wrong, I feel that, enthusiasm being priceless, the Association has them cheaply.

But these men are administrators—important, essential—but still administrators. They watch the P's and Q's they cross the T's and dot the I's. **BUT THEY DON'T ORGANISE. WE WANT ORGANISERS.**

So why not give five pounds a week to the man who will spend his spare hours driving the roads with hurleys in the boot, enthusiasm and sportmanship in his heart, and ideas in his head. He's the man we want.

Imagine him going into a village in his county to meet the local G.A.A. men. Picture him then around the table planning games and competitions, discussing the price and provision of hurleys, or coaching sessions where films will be used, where experts will swing a hurl before a youthful audience. And picture the results when a group of happy shining-faced kids are swinging ash on the playing fields. It matters not if they never win an All-Ireland (though it's handy enough if they do). The main thing is that the game is played and youngsters are getting exercise in one of the world's noblest sports, which will help to make them fitter, stronger, and better Irishmen in both mind and body.

Leadership is the greatest need in the Ireland of today. Technical skills and accountancy are important but they are merely the mechanics of progress. What we want in the G.A.A. are the leaders for we have plenty of the others whose valuable abilities must be exploited to ensure that the Association keeps harmonious pace with modern life.

● TO PAGE 56.

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## THE HURLING GIANT

### FROM HOLYCROSS . . .

by PATRICK CARVER

I HAVE yet to meet John Doyle of Holycross . . . and, come to think of it now, he had three All-Ireland senior hurling medals in his collection before I began to take any great notice of him. Still, on reflection, a Tipperary team of those years would not have been an outstanding Tipperary team without him.

In those days—and I suppose you could say the same about him in recent years—he never made the headlines in say the same way that Christy Ring or Nick Rackard was doing. Oddly enough in all the "post-mortems" of his games, it was strange to find that almost everyone felt as myself that the same John Doyle had played a wonderful hour.

Just how long has he been playing senior championship hurling with Tipperary? I had to go to the records to find out and they told me that his first senior championship game was against Cork in the famous replay at Limerick in 1949.

Now I was at that game and I cannot recall him at all. But he must have played well for Tipperary beat Cork after extra time and John Doyle was still on the team when Tipperary went on to beat Clare in the Munster semi-final and Limerick in the Munster final.

And he was still around when Tipperary slaughtered Antrim in

the All-Ireland semi-final and he duly collected his first senior medal after the men in blue and gold had beaten Laois in the All-Ireland Final.

He was in good company that

● Continued  
on  
Page 32.



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# ALWAYS PICK A BOOT THAT'S COMFORTABLE!

**T**HE first pair of football boots I ever wore was a discarded pair of size tens. I wear size seven or seven and a half now, depending on the make and shape of the upper. A pair of boots lasts me about three months because I use them six or seven times a week during the school term. So over the past few years, I have kicked a couple of dozen pair of boots to pieces.

Having to use football boots so much, a word or two about what I feel a player should look for in a pair of boots and what he should look for in his kit in general might be worth passing on. I have often seen players in Croke Park starting the game with dirty, ill-fitting boots, soiled shorts and scruffy jerseys. This carelessness, I'm very glad to say, is now becoming rarer and the sooner that all players at all levels take a greater pride in their appearance the better.

There is a certain psychological effect, which wearing a new suit or a new top coat can give you, which sort of makes you take a bit more pride in yourself and your job. The same is true of football kit. The well-dressed player gets a little 'lift' a comfortable feeling, more assurance when he togs out in freshly laundered kit and comfortable boots.

I would like to do an exhaustive study of this topic some time because I'm sure that there is a lot which we could learn from it—a sort of "WHICH" study on

kit. In the meantime, what are the important features of games footwear? Number one on the list is comfort. The boot should be the right size and width. Do not accept a longer boot just to get adequate width. The boot should not be more than half an inch longer than the foot or there will be the danger of—stubbing the toe; striking the ball incorrectly to avoid stubbing; wrinkling at the toecap which can cause blisters as well as the extra unnecessary weight.

The width should allow one pair of socks to be worn and permit the sides to be drawn almost together when laced without squeezing the bones of the foot together. There should not be more than a comfortable pressure all round the foot. Cramping can cause all sorts of medical problems and can spoil performance. Cramps, blisters, corns and limps are often caused by narrow boots even though they are only worn for a couple of hours a week. Incidentally, the current fashion in normal footwear which favours very pointed shoes is doing a great deal of damage to feet and is concerning medical authorities as well as football officials.

The trend from the old long-upper boot to the continental low cut style has been criticised harshly. Personally, I like an upper which extends above the inside and outside ankle bones for protection but I never lace to the top because you should not restrict the full range of ankle flexion in the for-

ward-backward plane; a certain amount of support which will prevent side flexion, going over on the ankle is advisable but once again, a certain amount of common sense should be used here.

If you strap the ankle tightly you immediately stress the Achilles tendon of the heel and in the vigorous extensions of the foot when kicking and preparing to jump, this tendon is working at a mechanical disadvantage which can cause a nasty strain. The normal foot of a fit player does not need any strapping, it is accustomed to taking all the normal and abnormal strains in training. I think it should be remembered that the foot should do the kicking not the boot.

Despite this however, I like a hard toe for wet or muddy conditions as it helps to get a little lift when playing ground shots. The new multi-stud soles are a boon. I like four in the heel and eight or ten on the sole, long in the wet and short when it's dry. The sole of the boot is usually strengthened by a metal rod inside the sole. This is an advantage. The bonded rubber-soled boots have not as good a sole support as leather but still include a short piece of flexible metal.

Keen players who have flat feet or high arches should either have their boots handmade or fitted with supports to avoid strain. One pair of socks is sufficient, a pair of shin guards is advisable but should be

● TO PAGE 25.



first in the field . . .

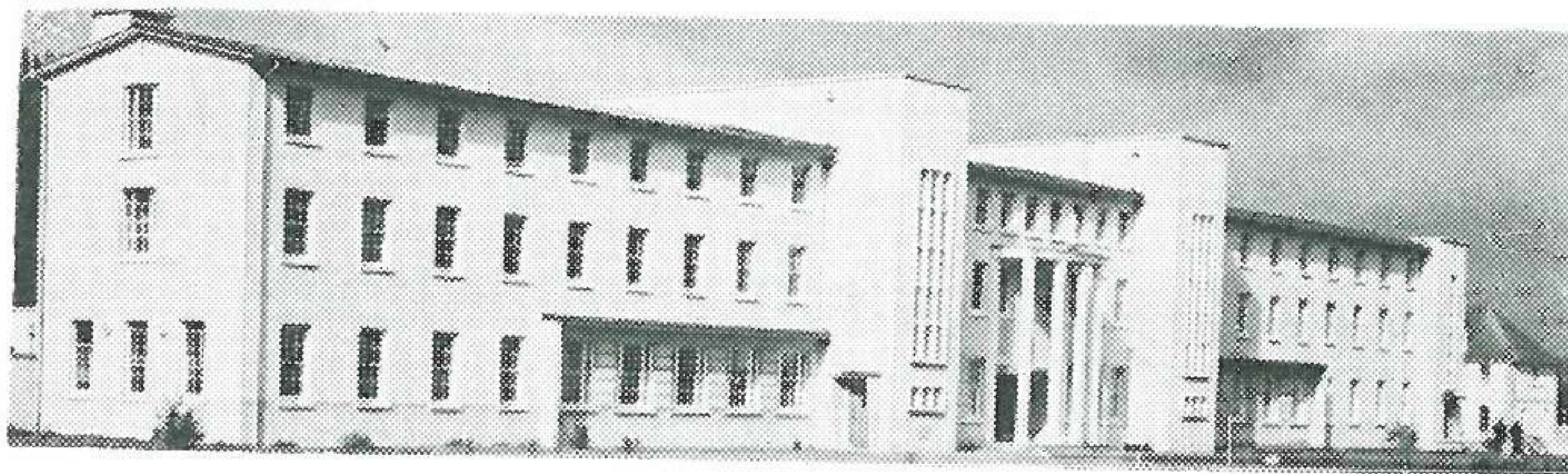
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*CHEERS ! . . . the Galway team being presented with Harp Lager Waterford Glass tankards to mark their All-Ireland victory.*

*—Photo by courtesy of the Connacht Tribune, Galway.*

## Joe Lennon

● FROM PAGE 23.

thin and narrow and light and should be fastened so that they don't slip.

I think every player should wear an athletic support. Many players use swimming togs and these are fine so long as they do give some support without being tight around the groin where they might restrict circulation and hence cause cramp. I prefer a broad band support for the togs because it is more comfortable and less likely to 'bite' into the hips.

There is no reason why a regular team member should not have a jersey which fits him correctly. It is a fairly simple matter to measure all the players before ordering a set of jerseys. Don't drown the little corner-forward in a 48" shirt. Long sleeves are useful for wet conditions but if they are to be long, keep the cuffs neat.

Finally, gloves and cap. A good pair of gloves is essential in wet conditions. There is now a brand on the market which has rubber strips fitted along the palms and fingers to give maximum grip. Un-

fortunately, they cost 25/- a pair so, generally, a pair of coarse fibre gloves will suffice. Wool does not give a good grip. For those who need or feel they need a cap, get one with a good brim which will not slip off.

Whether you buy the most expensive or the best you can afford, the most important thing to remember is that they should fit you comfortably. Keep all the kit well serviced and always turn out looking your best. You will feel that much better and will play that much better.



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# DAN McCARTAN

---

## FACE TO FACE with SEAN O'DONNELL

---

DAN McCARTAN has always been somewhat in the shadow of his older and longer-serving brother, James, but despite this he has long been recognised as a very fine player and as he is still only 25 it is to be expected that he has much of his best football ahead of him.

It was as a forward that Dan first came to prominence. He was at left corner for St. Colman's, Newry, in the 1957 All-Ireland colleges' final and at centre half-forward in the 1958 colleges semi-final.

It was as a forward too that he first played for the Down seniors in 1959, but later that year he moved to centre half-back and it was in that position that he so much contributed to the great era of Down football which was to follow.

I recently put the following questions to him:

*O'Donnell—Is the present Down team finished as a major football force?*

McCartan—Despite recent displays I do not at all believe that Down are, as you say, finished. As a

matter of fact I look to a very determined bid to win the Dr. Lagan Cup and certainly by the time the championship opens I think that you will see a rejuvenated Down.

*O'D.—What in your opinion caused the decline?*

McC.—We had won every honour that was to be won and naturally interest faded somewhat. But I believe that it is only a temporary lull.

*O'D.—Going back to the beginning, to what do you most attribute Down's rise to fame?*

McC.—It was a hard road and more than anything else team spirit saw us through. Furthermore, the fact that we had more or less the same team playing together for a period prior to enjoying success certainly helped.

*O'D.—What would you consider to have been Down's greatest performance?*

McC.—The 1962 National League final against Dublin. It took a tremendous effort to win that game and we just managed it by a point.

*O'O.—How about your own best game?*

McC.—The game which gave me most personal satisfaction was the 1955 Ranafast Cup final in which St. Colman's beat St. McCartan's, Monaghan.

*O'D.—Could you ever be as enthusiastic again as you were in 1960-62?*

McC.—Yes, as soon as I am finished with all the major examinations I will have much more time to devote to football and even at present I believe that I am every bit as keen as I ever was.

*OD.—Can you visualise the Down hurlers emulating the football success?*

McC.—It may take some time but they have the enthusiasm and should eventually make it into big-time hurling at least.

*O'D.—Who were the most difficult opponents that you have played on?*

McC.—I would think Tom Long and Mickey Whelan.

*O'O.—Finally Dan, I take it that you have no thoughts at all of retiring?*

McC.—None. I hope to play on for many a year.



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## THE MODEL SPORTSMAN

OVER the years there have been few players that I have admired more than Des Ferguson, who a few weeks back announced his retirement from inter-county competition. Des always played an honest game—no frills, no show-

manship, but always trying and always playing intelligently.

He was every inch of a perfect sportsman — a model player in every way and always a credit to his club, county and to the Association.

Very few players mastered both football and hurling as he did and his must have been one of the busiest careers of all time. Between club, county and province, he must have averaged one game a week over the past 18 years.

And, of course, he could have gone on. He was hurling as well as ever and was still a very useful man to have among the Dublin football forwards. But, I believe in a man going out while he is still on top and this Ferguson has wisely done.

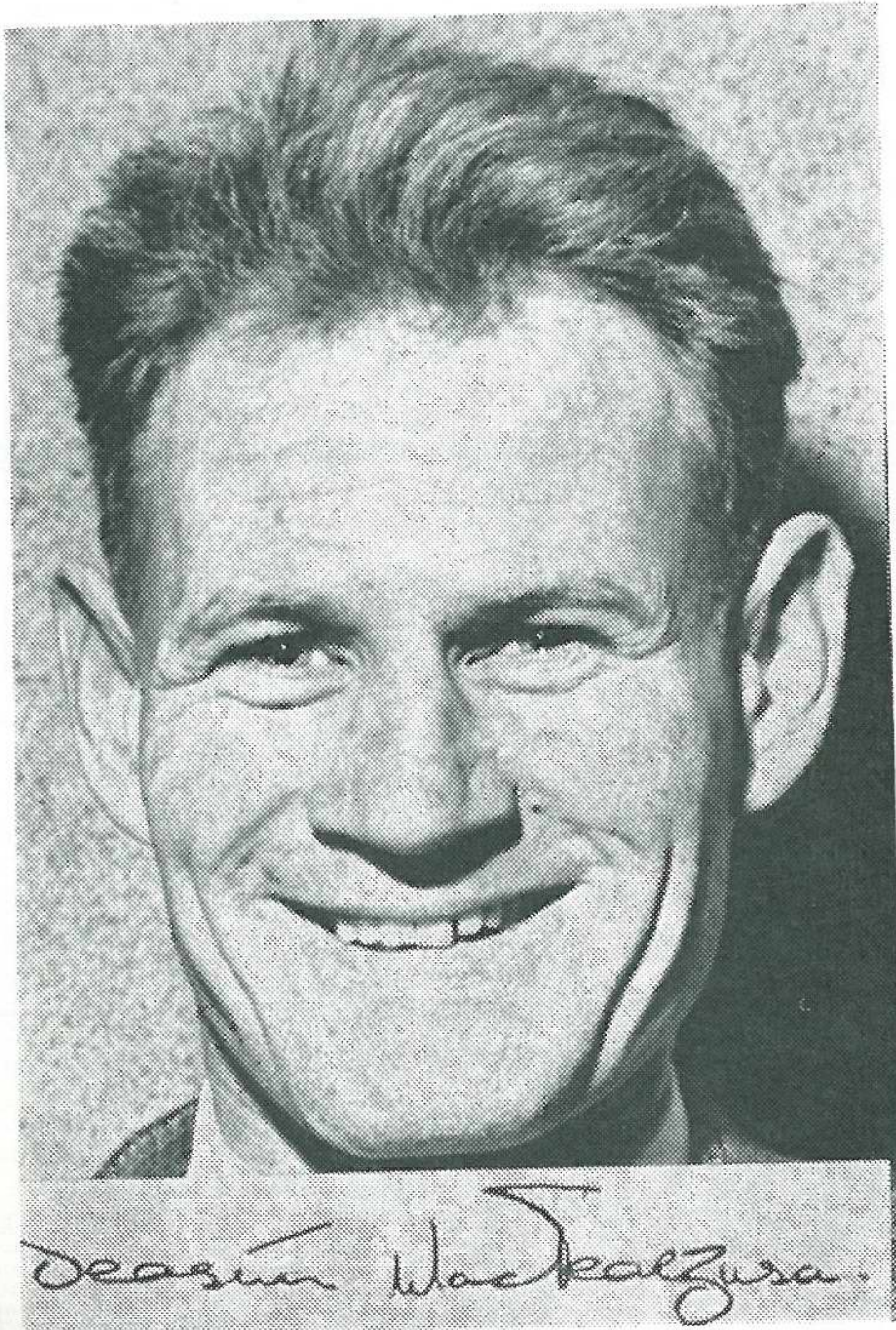
What a magnificent comeback to football Des made in 1963. Without him I doubt very much if Dublin would have won the All-Ireland title. They would probably have failed to Kildare in the Leinster championship and that would have been that.

It was Ferguson who brought them over that hurdle and he remained to help mould the Dublin attack into a match-winning combination.

He wasn't, of course, half the player he had been in the mid-fifties but he still had a wonderful football brain. I remember one particular match at the close of 1963—it could have been in the Grounds Tournament, and he caught no more than five or six balls—yet he either scored or made a score with every one of them.

Des will be missed from the

● TO PAGE 33.





# Jimmy Doyle: the scoring wizard

by OWEN McCANN

A TOTAL of seven hundred points in intercounty senior games—that is the impressive target that Jimmy Doyle is poised to achieve in the opening games of this New Year. After 113 outings with the Tipperary senior team this Thurles Sarsfield's man with the dynamic scoring touch is only seven minors short of that 700 points tally.

Although Doyle has been in intercounty senior hurling since late in 1957, when he was still a minor, it was not really until 1958 that he began to produce in this grade that brilliantly effective brand of accurate markmanship that has since established him as one of the most efficient score-getters in hurling history. Jimmy finished the campaign in 1958 in fourth place on the hurling chart with 4-47 (59 pts.) in 12 games—an impressive enough match average of 4.91 points.

The sweet and sure-striking Tipperary man took second place in hurling in 1959 with 11-52 (85 pts.) in 16 outings, and then, he went one better the following year. His total was 12-72 (108 pts.)



**JIMMY DOYLE**  
*A 700-point tally.*

That year, too, Jimmy achieved his best match average so far at 8.30 points (he played 13 games). This is better than any average yet in football, and has only been bettered by one hurler—Christy Ring, who in 1959 averaged 10.1 points per game.

Doyle was not quite so successful in the top-scorers "stakes" in 1961. He finished in third place, no fewer than 30 points behind Christy

Ring, and ten points below Oliver "Hopper" McGrath. All the same, his 6.16 points average for 12 engagements was only beaten by the inimitable Cork hurler with eight minors a match.

Since that campaign, however, Doyle has not been out of the number one spot on the hurling charts. He shared first place in 1962 with Christy Ring, scoring 13-60 (99 pts.) in 15 ties.

Doyle topped the century of points for the second time in 1963, when he again shared first place in the table. He recorded 14-61 (103 pts.) in 16 games as against 9-76 by Eddie Keher in 17 games, to thus gain slightly the better match average at 6.43 points to the Nore-sider's 6.05 minors.

Last year's campaign was the most successful yet for this brilliant Master of the Scoring Art. He smashed his own 1960 personal best by nine points with 10-87 (117 pts.) to finish alone on top of the hurling chart for the second time in his career. Other than Nick Rackard in 1956, only three players have bettered this total in recent years—Paddy Doherty with 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 games in 1960, Charlie Gallagher with 6-107 (125 pts.) in 20 tests in 1964, and Harry Donnelly with 7-99 (120 pts.) in 24 matches in 1961.

Doyle, who had a lead of four points over his nearest hurling rival, Tom Walsh, took 17 outings to build up last year's total at the highest average in either code at 6.38 points.

Consequently, the Tipperary hurler starts the coming year's campaign with a grand total of 77 goals and 462 points (693 points) to his credit. He has scored in all but three of his 113 senior intercounty games and has an average score of 6.13 points per outing.

What a switch it has been from his early minor days when in fact he was a goalkeeper.



# JOHN DOYLE

● FROM PAGE 21.

afternoon; up at the top with many great Tipperary men whose names are still vivid in our memories—Phil Shanahan, Tommy Doyle, Flor Coffey, Tony Reddan, Jimmy Kennedy and Seamus Bannon. He

had to be good to hold his place with a side that had men like those in it.

By the time I began to pay serious attention to the fact that John Doyle was a great hurler, he had three All-Ireland medals in his

pocket and Tipperary had slipped somewhat from the scene. Cork and Wexford had taken over.

The next time I saw him in an All-Ireland final was in 1958 and he was as always adequate. But who would have said that here was a man who one day might tie with Christy Ring with eight All-Ireland medals. And that is something the same John Doyle may do in 1965.

Tipperary were out of the All-Ireland hunt in 1959 and, much to everyone's surprise, John Doyle was on the losing side in 1960 when a Wexford team that few had fancied, caught fire on the one day in the year that really mattered.

Then came 1961 and John Doyle had five All-Ireland medals. A year later and he had six. Waterford came through to beat Tipperary in the Munster final of 1963 . . . but a year later Tipperary were back, and, much to the consternation of every Corkman, John Doyle had another All-Ireland medal—and now needs just one more to tie with Christy Ring.

In just over 15 years, John Doyle of Holycross, with little fuss or commotion and with no histrionics, has become part of the legends of G.A.A. sport; in just over 15 years he has moved steadily ahead to take his place with the giants of hurling history.

As I have said, I have never met John Doyle of Holycross. Someday perhaps I will . . . and I am looking forward to it.

I would like to shake him by the hand . . . and thank him for all the great memories he has given me—and thousands of others—in recent years.

## Phoenix Park Races

FIXTURE LIST, 1965

Sat., March 20th

Sat, April 17th

Sat., May 1st

Wed., May 5th\*

Sat. May 29th

Sat., June 9th

Wed., June 30th\*

Sat., July 10th

Wed., August 4th\*

Sat., August 7th

Sat., September 11th

Sat., October 2nd

\* DENOTES EVENING MEETING.

## MULLINGAR RACES 1965

(Seven Meetings)

Sat., February 13th

Wed., May 19th  
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., June 28th  
(Evening Meeting)

Tues., June 29th  
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., July 19th  
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., Aug. 9th  
(Evening Meeting)

Sat., Dec. 11th

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### Racing Fixtures

The racing fixtures which appear on these two pages cover the most important events due to be contested during 1965 and to our race-going readers, we suggest you hold on to these notices for reference during the current season.



## RUSSELL

● FROM PAGE 30.

Dublin scene. He was the last of the original St. Vincents players who succeeded in putting Dublin back on the G.A.A. map. He helped bring a new spirit to the Metropolis—a spirit of pride which had not been found in the City since the great days of O'Tooles some thirty-five years before.

I certainly hope that Ferguson continues to train and coach. He has a great gift in this direction and he should be used as much as possible in helping with the new Hurling Scheme. Here is one great player whose service to the Association is not likely to end on the day he puts aside his boots and hurley.

### JACK DALY

The retirement of Des Ferguson in no way surprised me but I was more than taken aback to read (in or about the same time) that Jack Daly, the youthful and energetic Chairman of the Clare County Board, had decided not to go forward for office in the New Year.

I have never met Jack Daly but from what I had heard from numerous sources, he appeared the greatest thing to come the county's way since the young Jimmy Smyth.

In two short years Daly worked wonders in the Banner County. He established discipline and injected a new spirit into things. As a result Clare had a most successful year in 1964 with six teams putting in at least one round in the Munster championship.

The youngest county chairman in the country, Jack Daly appeared set for a most fruitful and lengthy term in office but evidently pressure of business has forced him to call a halt. He is certainly a great loss.

Still he has laid the foundation and if his successor just continues on the same lines, then Jack Daly's work will not have been in vain.

UNDER THE RULES OF RACING

# CURRAGH RACES

## FIXTURES 1965

SAT., APRIL 3rd

WED., APRIL 21st

SAT., MAY 15th

THURS., MAY 27th

WED., JUNE 9th

SAT., JUNE 26th

WED., JULY 14th (E.)

SAT., JULY 24th

SAT., AUGUST 14th

SAT., AUGUST 28th

WED., SEPTEMBER 15th

SAT., SEPTEMBER 18th

SAT., OCTOBER 9th

SAT., OCTOBER 23rd

SAT., NOVEMBER 6th

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## FIXTURES 1965

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SAT., FEBRUARY 6th

SAT., FEBRUARY 27th

SAT., MARCH 13th

SAT., MAY 8th

MON., MAY 10th (E.)

WED., JUNE 2nd (E.)

FRI., JULY 16th (E.)

SAT., JULY 17th

SAT., JULY 31st

MON., AUGUST 2nd

SAT., OCTOBER 30th

SAT., NOVEMBER 20th

MON., DECEMBER 27th

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## IT'S GALWAY FOR THE DOUBLE!

**W**ATCHING Galway annihilate a spirited Roscommon side at Dr. Duggan Park, Ballinasloe, in late November, I am convinced that barring accidents they will bring off the double and crown a glorious year as Dublin did last year in winning for themselves a well-deserved trip to the States. In the game referred to no one performed better than John Donnellan, Noel Tierney, John Keenan and Enda Colleran. Donnellan, despite a hard election campaign, never played more fluently. Tierney was rock-solid, Keenan unbelievably fast and spirited and Enda Colleran confirming his great 1964 form.

### RONAN CREAVERN

One Roscommon man stood head and shoulders over all others in that game. I refer to Ronan Creaven at right half-back. Brilliant in the air, he gave a superlative performance of lengthy kicking right through the hour and in my book is an automatic selection on Connacht's team again this year—though not at John Donnellan's expense. Another Roscommon player who impressed me was centre half forward Kevin Carney who scored one delightful point and gave the run-around to Galway substitute, Mick Coen of Tuam. Johnny Neill, the goalkeeper, was another who played a noble part.

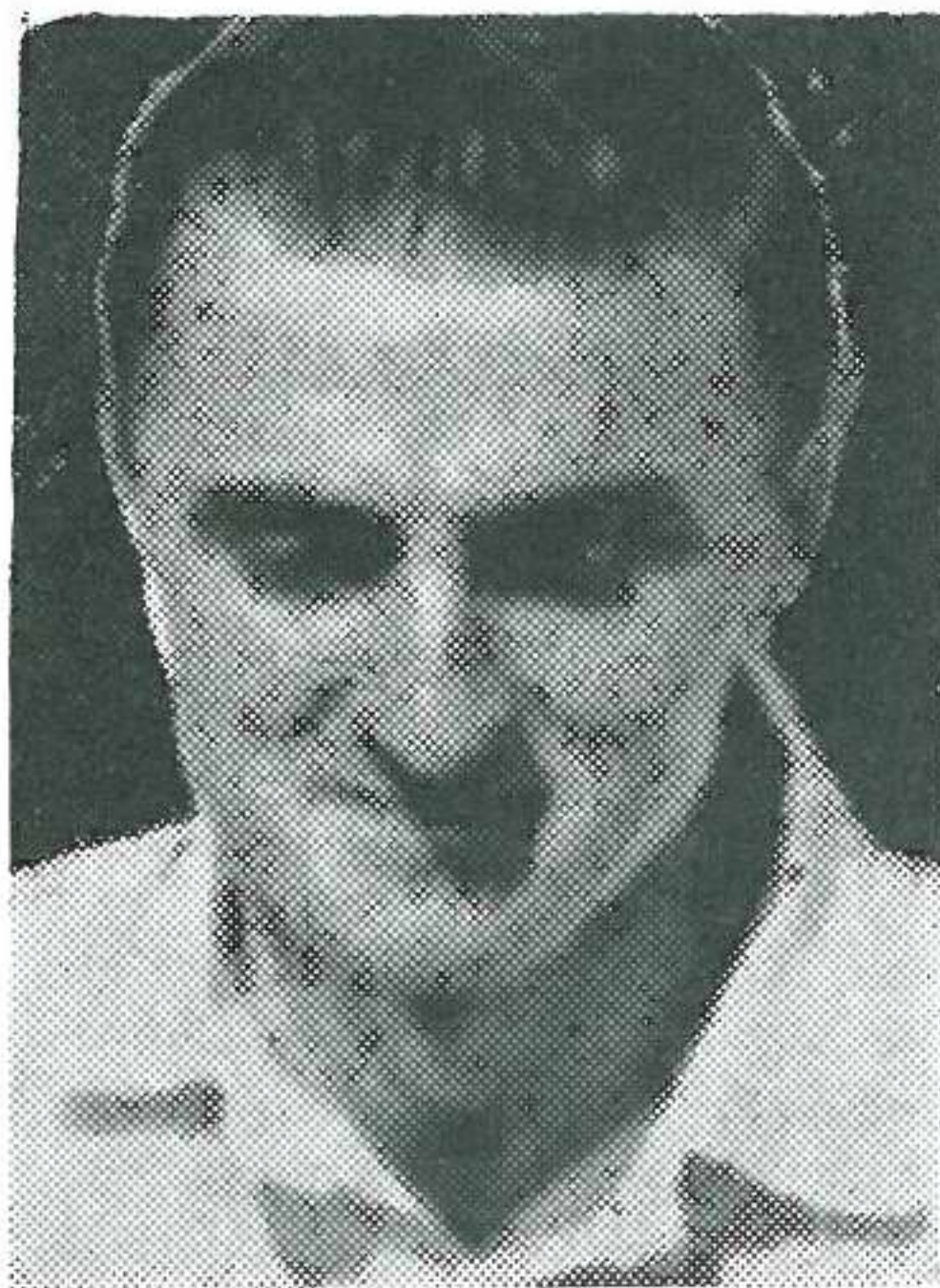
### BROTHER ROBERT

Just back from Santa Monica,

Br. Robert of St. Patrick's Boys N.S. in Galway is making his presence felt in Galway City G.A.A. circles. Together with fellow teachers Brothers Hugh and James, they should build up some fine G.A.A. teams in St. Joseph's College in the years ahead.

### GANNON AND McGARTY

Last year in this column I tipped Dermot Gannon as Packy McGarty's logical successor to the leadership of Leitrim's attack. This year I go one step further and expect Dermot, whose consistency right through 1964 justifiably merits his inclusion, to gain a Connacht selection—even at Packy's expense.



● **JIMMY DUGGAN**  
*An Impressive Referee*

### JIMMY DUGGAN

Watching that wonderful sportsman Jimmy Duggan referee the Fitzgibbon Cup semi-final between U.C.C. and U.C.D., I must say his crisp style impressed me no end. The game in question was no parlour game as one would expect. It had all the fire of inter-varsity competition—keen, hard, tough but, nevertheless, healthy stuff. But Duggan saw to it that the play was not interrupted too often and nevertheless managed to show who was boss. This was the very best game of hurling that I have seen in years.

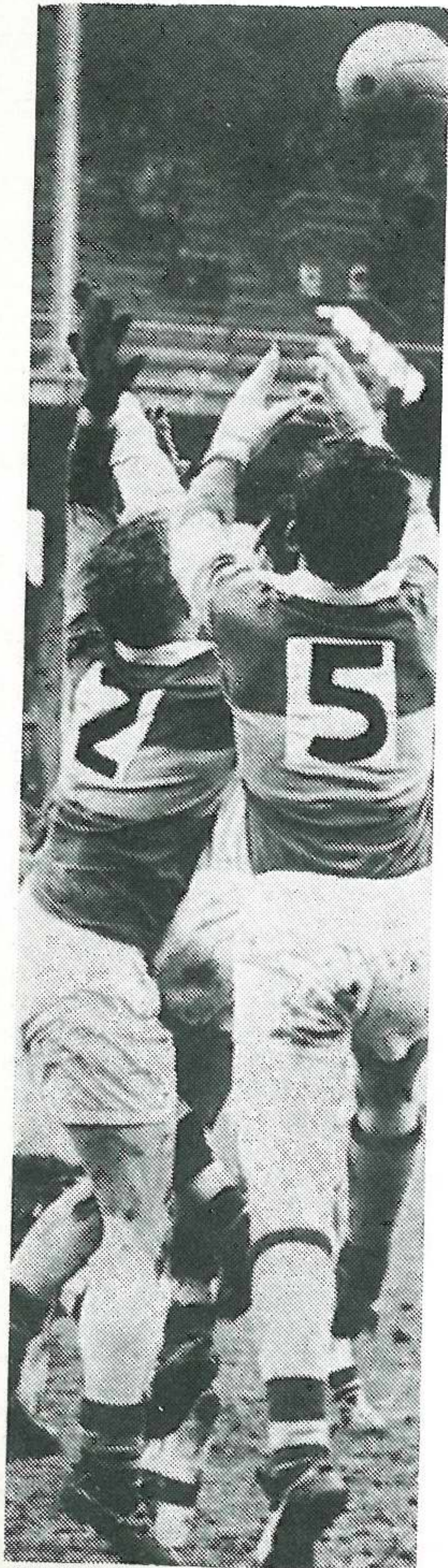
### COMING STARS

This year's Connacht colleges football campaign has already produced three great games—St. Jarlath's v. St. Mary's, St. Nathy's v. St. Jarlath's and St. Mary's v. St. Nathy's. Jarlath's were lucky to beat St. Mary's, while the latter two games were draws.

In these games three men strode the scene—all big men and all from different counties—namely Jimmy Duggan (Jarlath's and Galway), Dermot Earley (Nathy's and Roscommon) and John Gibbons (Mary's and Mayo). Of one thing I'm sure, you'll hear much more in the years ahead about all three, particularly Duggan who should be even better than his father Joe of Galway fame.

Slán agaibh agus Aithbhliain fé mhaise dhíobh go léir.





When it comes to  
looking after players . . .

## KERRY ARE ALWAYS A

by SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

**D**R. JIM BROSNAN, the Kerry County Board Chairman, has plans to make his county the most advanced in the entire country in the matter of playing field development.

We have many splendid fields in several counties, some of them excellently equipped for spectator accommodation. In the vast majority, however, little thought has been given to the comfort of the player. In fact, in a number of instances, the boys or men who provide all the thrills and entertainment are almost completely ignored where amenities are concerned.

Kerry have always been a step ahead of most other counties in looking after their players, and when present plans are implemented they will be much further in advance in this regard.

Interesting development planned for the two main venues in the county—Tralee and Killarney—include the building of comfort-

ably furnished social centres attached to modern new dressing rooms equipped with up-to-the-minute amenities.

The arrangement is an excellent one—the provision of an ideally situated meeting place where rural teams can get to know each other in pleasant surroundings before and after a game. We have too little social contact in the G.A.A., and most forward-thinking people will welcome this development and move in the right direction at last.

Other important venues, notably those at Caherciveen, Dingle, Killorglin and Listowel are also earmarked for improvement, and this will include the erection of first class dressing rooms.

Naturally, all this is going to cost a lot of money. Dr. Brosnan sets the figure at around £30,000. He is confident that the Munster and Central Councils will put up half this sum, and Kerry will provide the rest. It looks a big assignment, but the Kingdom Gaels have well-laid plans and success must crown their efforts.

### Ó CAOIMH MEMORIAL

Another county with a big grounds problem is Cork. Here

● UP FOR THE BALL ! . . .  
*but too often little thought is given to the comfort of the player, says Seamus O Ceallaigh.*



# Ransomes

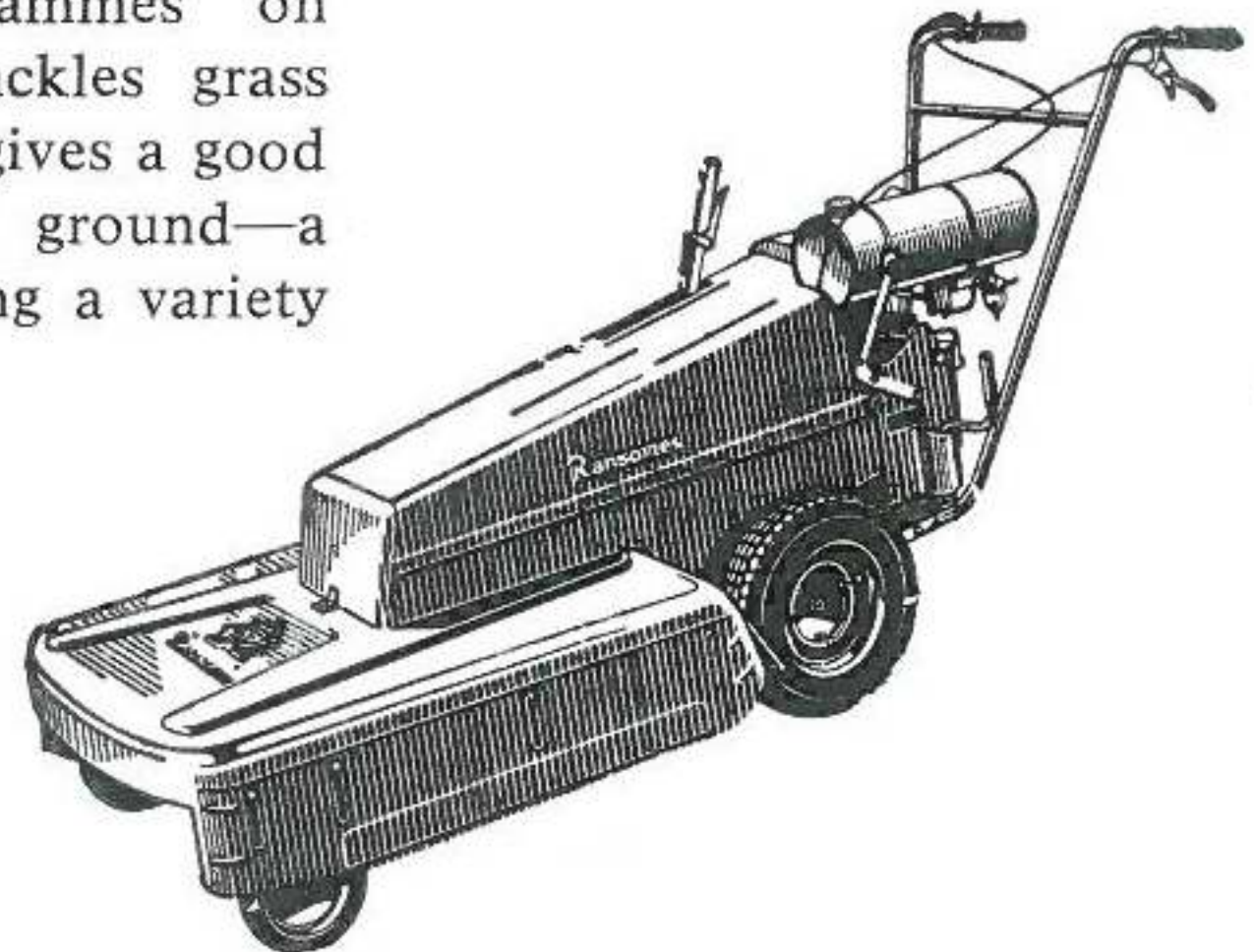
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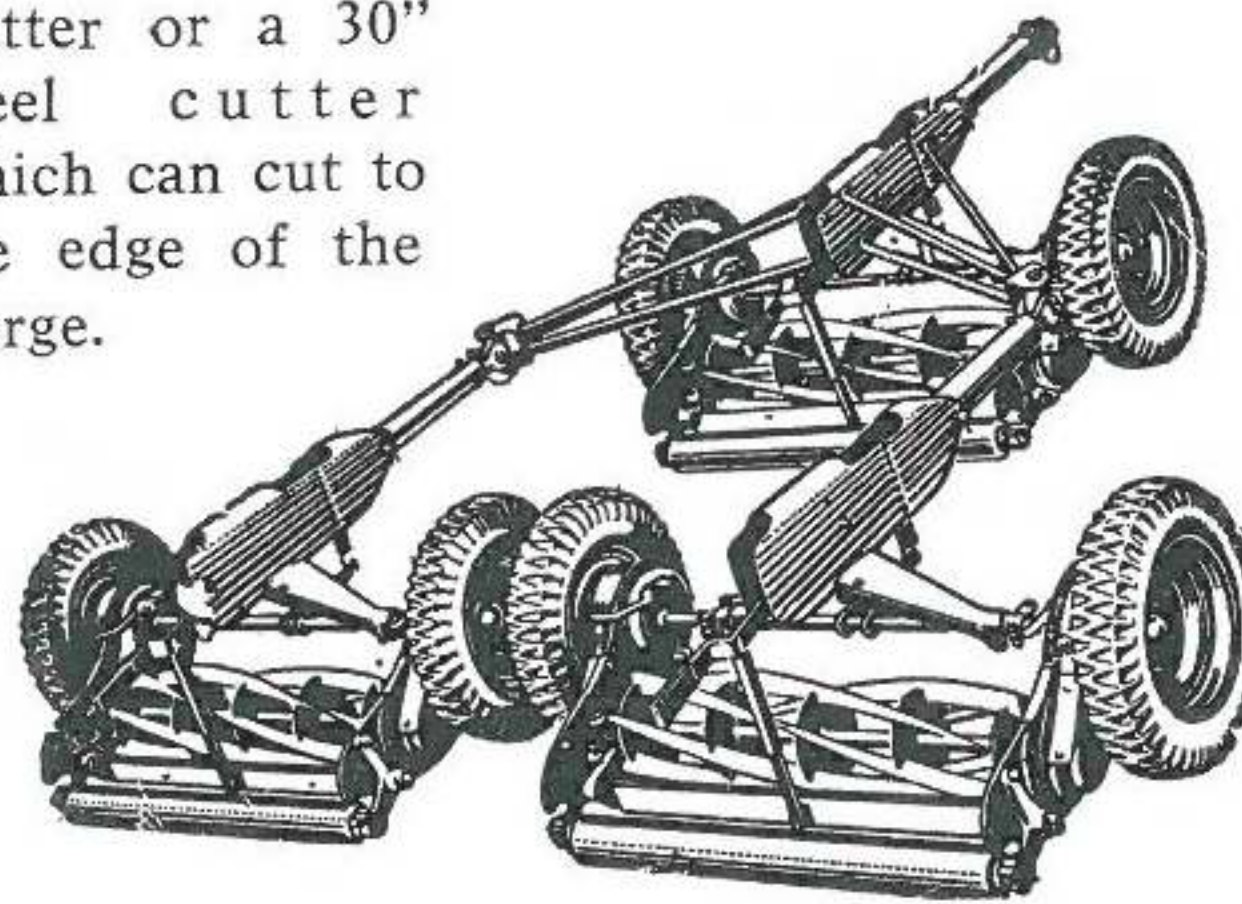
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## STEP AHEAD!

the proposed new Padraig Ó Caoimh Memorial Park is the chief topic of conversation and many suggestions have been received as to the ideal layout. The planners are fortunate in that they have plenty of space and can take their time with the project.

Some are talking in terms of a 100,000 capacity stadium, but the more realistic ones say that really comfortable accommodation for half that number would be more to the point. I am inclined to row in with the latter viewpoint, for I feel we are rapidly approaching the day when patrons will demand a reserved seat for any worthwhile game, and 50,000 satisfied patrons is a very big muster.

I hope the Cork planners profit from the experience of other field committees and divide their accommodation into sections, with separate entrances to each section. This is the only way in which proper crowd control can be guaranteed.

Cork have the opportunity of providing the ideal stadium, and let's hope they grasp it with both hands.





# THE KILMACUD PLAN WILL BE AN INSPIRATION TO THE PROVINCE . . .

says **JIM O'BRIEN**

**T**HE social revolution begun within Cumann Lúthchleas Gael by the Clann Eireann Club, Lurgan, some years back, is at last spreading. It is a welcome trend. Now the Kilmacud club in the Southern suburbs of Dublin City are at work on a scheme which, when completed, will no doubt prove the inspiration to Leinster

which Clann Eireann was to Ulster.

The Kilmacud plan envisages one full sized pitch plus two smaller ones suitable for practice and juvenile games. With these there will be tennis courts and a handball alley. Alongside will stand a £40,000 clubhouse which will include a heated swimming pool and a huge recreation hall

suitable for both social functions and basket-ball competition.

There will also be facilities for all types of indoor games, meetings, lectures, etc. In short, when completed this scheme will provide the youth of Kilmacud and its outlying areas with a social centre which will be both inviting and national.

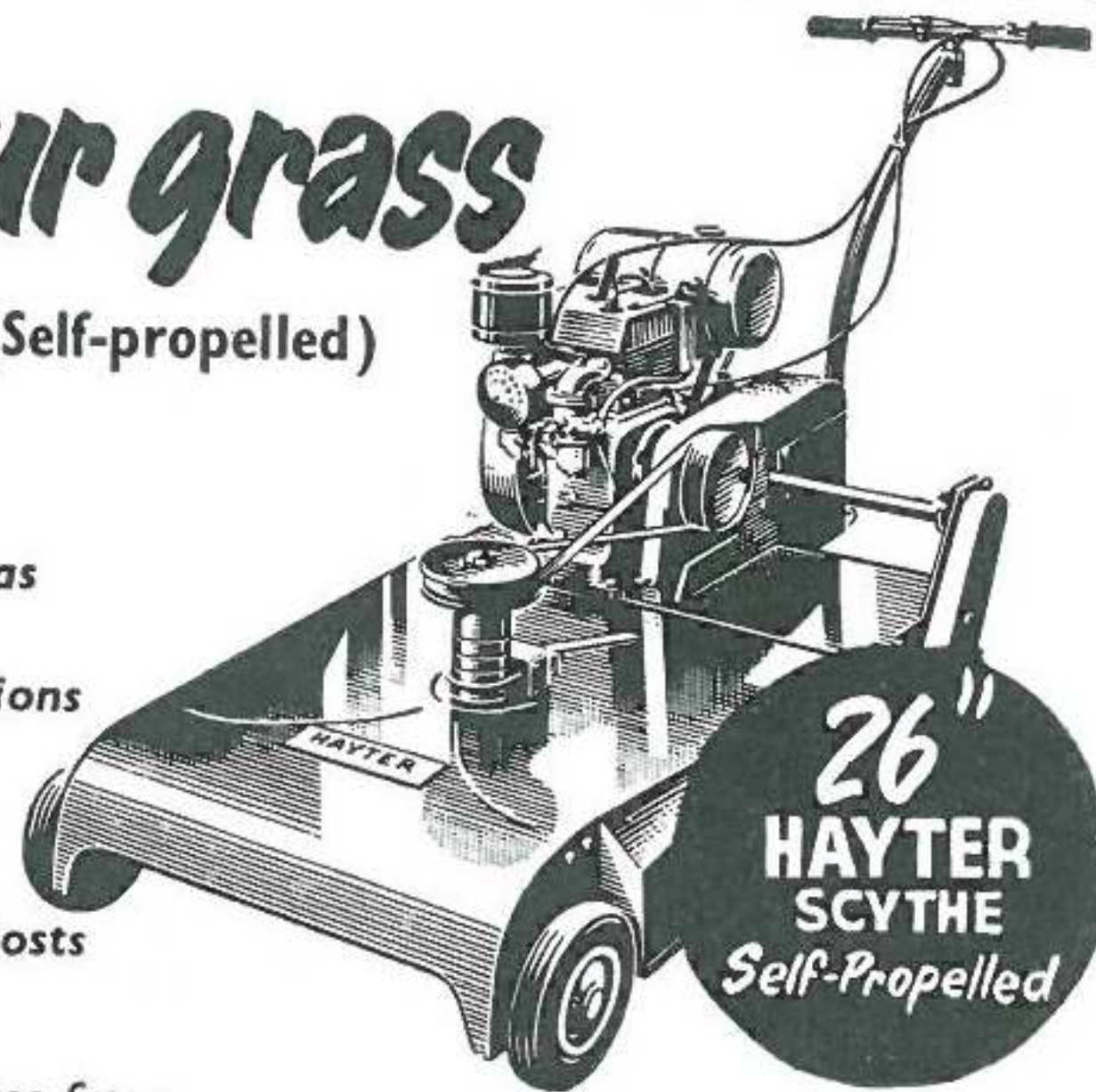
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# QUOTE

from JIM O'BRIEN

'Kilmacud now gives a lead in Leinster. Let us hope that, when completed, this scheme will be visited and studied by representatives of other clubs. There will be a lot to be learned.'

Association in urban areas. They are in fact the answer to most of the problems which confront clubs in cities and large towns. A social centre, like that planned for Kilmacud, will not alone attract the youth to our games but it will also prompt retiring players to remain on in various other capacities.

Furthermore, the social centre idea is, as was pointed out by the President of the Association, Alf O Muirí, in GAELIC SPORT recently, the best method for the spreading of the G.A.A. gospel and national influence.

In developments of this kind Cumann Luthchleas Gael has the answer to the constantly flowing tide of anti-national influences. These can only be met and halted by stronger national influences and while the G.A.A. has always maintained its strong national principles, it has long lacked the method and the means of spreading this gospel as fully as was desired.

Kilmacud now gives a lead in Leinster. Let us hope that when completed this scheme will be visited and studied by representatives of other counties and clubs. There will be a lot to be learned and much inspiration to be found.

It should be mentioned too that in this development the Kilmacud Club are receiving considerable financial assistance from Arthur Guinness and Sons. However, this would not be forthcoming were it not for the fact that the club officials had the initiative to plan the scheme, get it underway and prove that it would be a success.

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# MUNSTER MEDLEY

## WHY THE LONG DELAY IN STARTING WORK

**A**ROUSING a lot of unfavourable comment in Limerick sporting circles is the failure of the City

Board G.A.A. to get on with development work at the Canon Punch Park.

Some years ago the Board entered into negotiation with Limerick Corporation for the acquisition of extensive playing space in the heart of the city, adjacent to some of the largest housing schemes, convenient to the railway terminus, and exceptionally well situated as far as city bus services were concerned.

After considerable delay the deal was completed and the property acquired on a long term lease. Following representation from Limerick County Board N.A.C.A. for the provision of an athletic track, further ground was subsequently bought, this time from C.I.E. The complete transaction was later sanctioned by the legal advisors to the Association, and trustees were appointed.

The property was already bounded on two sides by walls erected in connection with Corporation housing schemes, and the City Board, shortly after finalising matters, erected a concrete wall, which included a number of entrance gates along a third side, leaving only the portion running along the railway embankment to be enclosed. At the same time they brought several hundred tons of top soil—some of it from the ancestral lands of Canon Punch—

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# ON LIMERICK'S CANON PUNCH PARK?

by SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

and spread it over the pitch, which they had levelled.

That was exactly four years ago. Soil experts were then consulted and as far as I can ascertain, they suggested ploughing and harrowing of the ground, and setting the following spring with a good grass mixture.

Others afterwards advocated leaving the existing sod undisturbed, holding that a more satisfactory pitch would be provided in this way by cutting and rolling following elimination of weeds.

Nothing further in the line of development work has been since undertaken. The Board let the field to one of its clubs two years ago, on the understanding that the club would use it as a training ground and generally act as caretakers, whilst ensuring that the main pitch would be available to the Board for its competitions when required. The club, and a school in the area, did a bit of training there for a time, but during the last twelve months the only occupants appear to be a group of itinerant horses who graze undisturbed.

Meantime, considerable development work has proceeded on adjoining sites. On the opposite of the railway line the Pearse Stadium has arisen—a fully enclosed pitch devoted mainly to soccer. On the

other side of the entrance roadway is Caledonian Park, another soccer ground—and a little further away is a recently laid out pitch and putt course.


Most amazing feature of the whole affair is the fact that the City Board are in a bad way for pitches, and many of their com-

petitions are in arrears because of this reason. In fact, the lack of proper grounds has hampered the development of hurling and football in the city area, and is probably the main reason why so many youths turn to games other than Gaelic when schooldays end.

● TO PAGE 42

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I recently asked a City Board spokesman why the grounds had not been put into some kind of playing shape, and was told that lack of finance was the reason. The income of this particular Board is

very limited, and all of it goes in providing trophies for the big number of competitions organised each year.

The purchase price of the grounds and the money already spent on development, was raised through subscription, and a number of entertainments organised for the purpose, but this means seems to have dried up. The fact remains that monies coming in of late have not paid the interest on the bank overdraft, although the latter is only about £700 in all.

I understand the Central Council have made a grant of £600 towards the project, but City Board officials say they have been told this will not be paid until matches are actually being played on the pitch. The Munster Council gave, I think £200 which went towards reducing the overdraft.

It is not easy to find who is responsible for the delay in completing the work, but one thing is certain. It is that Gaelic Games in Limerick are seriously suffering, both at school, inter-firm and divisional board levels.

Here is a first class ground right in the heart of the city and in its most densely populated part lying idle whilst thousands of Gaelic minded youth are clamouring for a place to play.

We complain of other pitches being swallowed up by the house builders, and for development projects of one kind or the other, but if we fail to make use of what we have there is little to be gained by crying over what we have lost.

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# The missing challenge

by JAY DRENNAN

LAST May, before a serious ball had been hit in championship combat, I asked a friend of mine in casual conversation, who would win the All-Ireland hurling title on the first Sunday of September. Without a moment's hesitation he answered:

"Well, I can't tell you who will win for definite. But, I will tell you this—there is no doubt in the world as to which teams will be playing the final that day—Tipperary and Kilkenny. It can't be anyone else".

I must admit that I had to agree with his summing up of the situation, and it was that way that every reasonably balanced hurling fan saw the picture of hurling in May. If there were forecasts to be made, perhaps the forecaster might fight shy of telling you who would win out, but nine out of ten of them would say that either Tipperary or Kilkenny would win through. It is a sad situation—not to say a critical one—when the horizons of the hurling game have so shortened their limits that two counties only seem to have a chance of final victory in the championship.

Now, be clear on this, I am not running down the standard of the All-Ireland final, nor of the first half of the Leinster game between Kilkenny and Wexford. What I am bemoaning is the general falling off all round the country in the play and even in the spirit of the marginal counties: those counties who must be the ones to liven things up by a spirited challenge for honours. Waterford, Limerick, Cork, Clare and Galway, in

Munster; Dublin, Carlow, Laois, Offaly and Westmeath and, even, Wexford.

Before Wexford people jump to slay me, may I say this: I do not say that Wexford played badly or below their potential on the day in the championships: rather, I admire them, as always, for their never say die "value for money" performance. It was earlier in the spring that they crumbled from a really dangerous championship threat to the role of outsiders. I think you could pin-point the moment as that in which Tipperary committed mayhem upon them in Croke Park. They were outsiders before the championships began: it is a tribute to their stern will that they did so well.

Dublin, a team with little to their name over the past few years, on their record during the league and challenge season could not be seen as anything of a threat in Leinster. Laois, Offaly and Westmeath have lowered their ambitions, it seems, to far lesser goals than Leinster championships—they used not be so unambitious. Carlow's progressive promise and strong rise in hurling from junior ranks reached a full stop and started a backward slide. That was the challenge to Kilkenny. And, let it be whispered, even Kilkenny had nothing to boast about since their triumph against Waterford the previous September, except a series of sub-standard performances. But they could and should improve.

The Munster picture was similar. Waterford were the saddest of the bunch: all the buoyancy and devil

and hope that had raised them to greatness seemed to have leaked out of their punctured ambitions after the 1963 defeat. They played like a slipping team right through the League: the old were getting too old and the young were too young. They could hardly recover to beat a rejuvenated Tipperary; there was even doubt if they could beat a mildly interested Cork. They couldn't as it turned out, more by their own failings than by any greatness that Cork showed.

Cork themselves were a strange proposition: a win over Kilkenny in the League seemed to say that they were on the comeback trail. But, that day's form belied other days, and there were more of the other days. Nothing much to crow over in the game against Wexford in the League semi-final. They could not hope to beat Tipperary on that form, however they might fare against lesser Munster foes. Limerick? Clare? Galway? On what evidence could one give them a chance?

That was the picture in May, and it is sadder still to say that it remained the picture in September. Apart, perhaps, from Clare who made a slight improvement on their dismal record of recent years, and whose enthusiastic effort for better things may mean some forward strides, not one of the other counties showed anything to give us hope. The proof of the pudding is in the tasting: and so let us taste. Can you now say who will win the All-Ireland next September? Would you not have to answer. "I can't be really sure, but I'd say it ought to be a Tipperary-Kilkenny final." Status quo. Or, is it even status quo for the others? Are they declining into the role of permanent outsiders?

All this having been said, I think it only fair to say that Tipperary, the eventual champions, were one of the best of recent champions. I venture to think that their display in the All-Ireland has not been equalled for a long time.



# Down's premier hurling club . . .

by MATT  
FITZPATRICK



● BALLYGALGET . . . Down's No. 1 hurling side.

**B**ALLYGALGET Mitchels are Down's premier hurling club and proud of it. The club contributed no less than eight men to the county's 1964 All-Ireland winning junior side and as a result played a major role in the making of hurling history.

There is neither town nor village in the Ballygalget parish so their's is truly a rural club. The club was founded in March, 1939. In the early part of the century soccer was played in the area but Gaelic football then took over and a club known as Slans was in existence up to the mid-'twenties. However, hurling had yet to make its appearance in Ballygalget.

Founder members of the hurling club were James Bailie, who became the first chairman, Tommy Flynn (secretary) and John Susk, Paddy Mason and John Gerard and John McGratton, both of whom have since gone to a Heavenly reward.

The club's first game was against Tullycannon. It was played in a field lent by John McGratton and Ballygalget were beaten. However this in no way disheartened them. The following year they entered regular competition and by 1942 had won the local Ards league. A year later they were Down junior champions.

Among the men who contributed much to that success was Joe

Liddane, a Galwayman then employed locally. Joe passed on much hurling craft to the local boys and he is still remembered with affection although he has long left the area.

Others to help in that first major triumph were Paddy McGratton, Joe Dynes, Willie Susk, George Vance and John Bailie, who incidentally is still going strong and helped Ballygalget capture the 1964 Down senior title.

The club had its ups and downs during the next few years but in 1953 a very young side brought back the county junior title, with men like Hugh Dorrian, John Bailie, John Caldwell, Willie Johnson, Hugh McCulloch, John Mona, Johnny Dorrian, Joe Watson and Joe Smith contributing to the success.

This victory sent the club into senior ranks and in 1956 they captured the county league title. Championship honours were rather slow in coming but after qualifying for the several finals—four of which they lost by only a single point, the club eventually captured the county title in 1959. In the final they beat old rivals Portaferry.

In 1960 Ballygalget got permission to compete in the Co. Antrim league and so now they were competing in two counties

and benefiting from the regular match-play.

Last season came the second major victory when the club regained the Down senior championship. The team included twelve of the side which performed the same feat in 1959. The newcomers were Willie Coulter, Dan McVeigh and Brendan Crawford.

As well as senior hurling the club also performs well in minor grade and contributed nine players to the Down fifteen which won the Ulster minor title in 1957.

A football team came on the scene in 1959 and they are also doing particularly well this year, while the club is also proud of having a very active camogie team.

However the source of real pride is, of course, the contribution made to the victorious 1964 Down junior fifteen. The eight Ballygalget men were: Hugh Dorrian, Danny Crawford, Pat Braniff, Willie Smith, Eddie McGratton, Alo Hinds and John and Willie Coulter.

These men helped to break the hurling barrier which has for so long kept Ulster and All-Ireland hurling titles apart. They have helped to begin something which we hope will not end.

Incidentally it is worth mentioning that in all, Ballygalget players

● TO PAGE 47



I DID not feel like going anywhere that particular Wednesday evening. It was bleak and cold in Dublin; winter which we had been dodging for a few months suddenly cracked its icy fingers that evening and promised us that we could forget about the aftermath of a summer that had followed us comfortably through October and most of November. The cold days were on the way.

Then there was the prospect of a long drive to Wexford; a chilling prospect on an evening like this. God knows, at that stage, I would willingly have forgotten all about the Wexford Sportstars' Banquet—even though it was being sponsored by old friends of mine, John Power and Sons Limited. But, I had been invited . . . and what could one do about it? Courage was necessary.

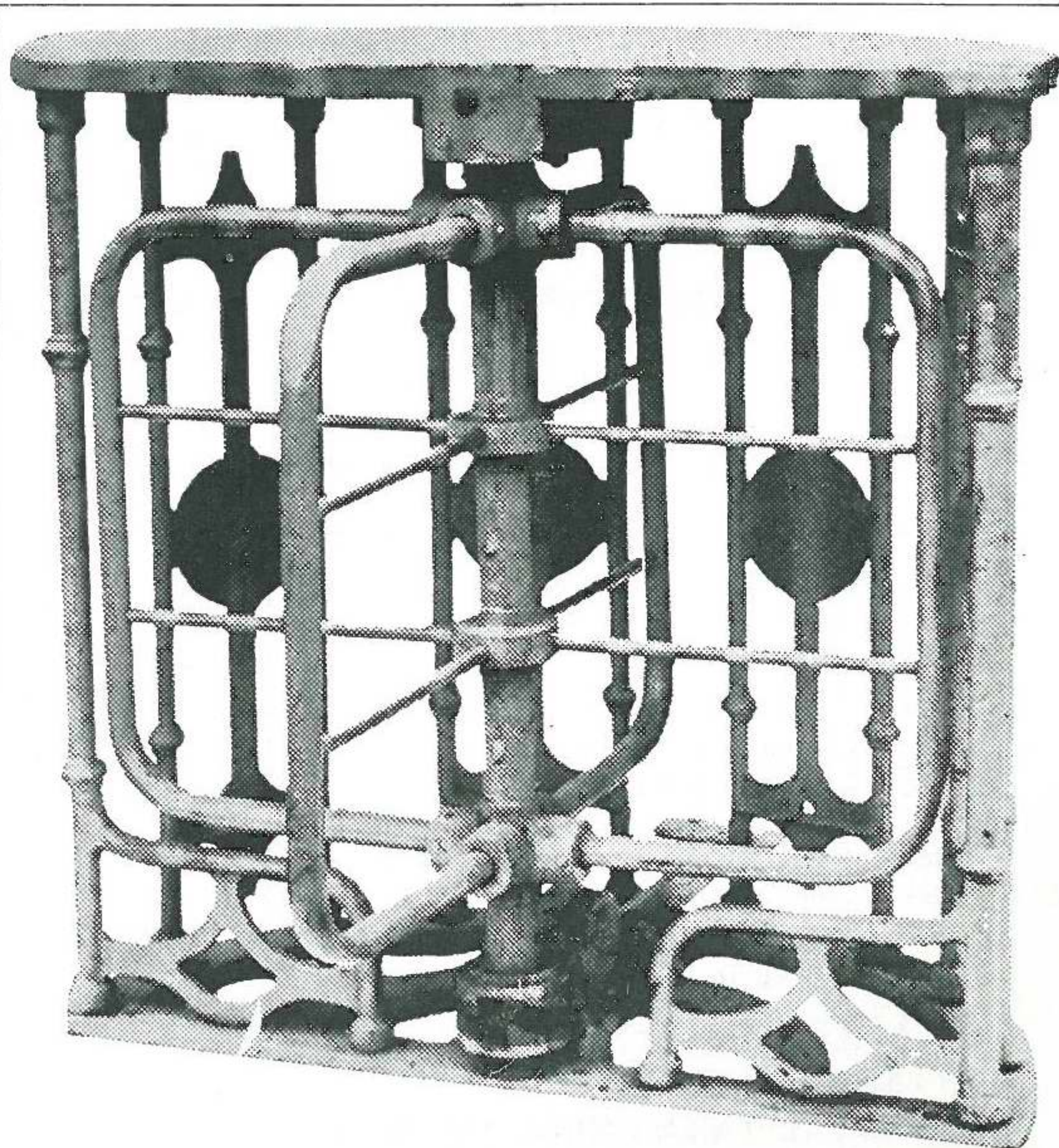
So, in keeping with the evening—cold-hearted and a little miserable—I set off for the South-East, down along the coast to Wexford. I walked into the reception which Power's put on before the banquet just a little apprehensive. One stands there with a glass in one hand, hoping that, sooner or later, one will see a familiar face. And how long it sometimes takes before one does see that familiar face.

I should not have worried at all. I had no sooner collected a fortifying drink than I saw the massive figure of an old friend. There in all his glory, fit and well, was Billy Esmonde.

Billy—or Bill as so many other people know him—has been a friend of mine for over twenty years. We met first when he was competing in athletics and there is no need for me to tell you that he was a good man in athletics. A fine weight-thrower, a splendid javelin-thrower, he won county and Leinster championships by the bucket-load before—unwisely, in

● TO PAGE 47

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## Philip Roderick

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● FROM PAGE 45

my opinion—he started to train and coach Wexford hurling teams.

I have to say unwisely—after all, I am a Corkman and I still have sad memories of that dreadful September day in 1956 when Wexford beat us in the All-Ireland at Croke Park . . . and I still think Billy should have stuck to athletics. Well, at least until after 1956.

Billy and myself did a fair amount of talking about the merits and de-merits of Cork and Wexford hurling teams. He told me that Wexford have a lot of youngsters coming on at a great pace and he firmly expects to have a tip-top team in the championships within the next few years. And, of course, I believe that Cork will have a great team by 1966.

There you had the basis of a fine argument and by the time we were through with it, the night in Wexford had a sparkle about it; a sparkle that was going to dance in the hours that followed.

From there on, I seemed to spend the evening shaking hands with old friends.

Paddy Kehoe slapped me on the back, called me a few rude names . . . and there we were back again, playing that 1956 final. Personally I would have preferred to talk about the 1954 final—that was the year Cork beat Wexford—but there was never any hope of that.

It had been eight years since I saw Paddy last and on that occasion—a great evening in New Ross when a very pretty Mrs. Kehoe put on a tea that lasted me for several days—Paddy was talking about retiring from hurling. He did, of course, do so shortly afterwards . . . but, in the condition he is at the moment, I think the Wexford selectors should have another look at him. If they are looking for young fellows, in peak condition, Paddy is their man.

And when they are at it, they could have a look, too, at another young fellow—Bobby Rackard. I had a great chat with him that night and, in my opinion, he looks better now than he did on that terrible day in 1956 when he played one of the greatest games he has ever played at Croke Park. And, God help us, Cork had to be on the receiving end.

And there was Willie Goodison, looking as fresh as the proverbial daisy. He collected the award for “Sportsman of the Past” . . . and looked as though he should be collecting one as ‘Sportsman of the Present’. As always, he was in good voice and gave us a fine piece of singing before the night was over.

Seamus Keevans, a great footballer and a grand sportsman, added a few more inches to his stature, when he was called on to make a speech . . . and he came up with one of the best of the night.

---

## Matt Fitzpatrick

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● FROM PAGE 44

have, since 1957, collected 49 Ulster and All-Ireland medals.

So far the club has not got around to building its own headquarters but thanks to the club president, Fr. Armstrong, they do enjoy considerable facilities at the local hall which conveniently adjoins the club’s playing pitch.

Here club members have every indoor recreation such as table-tennis, basket-ball, billiards, badminton, etc. Here too is held the club’s annual céilí every Easter Sunday night and this is the real big social occasion of the year for the Gaels of Ballygalget.

The club’s present officers are: President, Fr. Armstrong; vice-president, Danny Crawford; Chairman, Benny Crawford; secretary, Seamus McGratton; treasurer, Eddie McGratton.

I met them all in Wexford that night and the talk about the present and the past flowed like vintage champagne.

Things were going fine . . . and then someone said it was time we should go to bed. At this early hour? Someone else pointed out it was four o’clock in the morning. So, we went to bed. But, what had happened to the night? Where had it disappeared to . . . so quickly?

Still, we will be able to pick up the threads again next year, if the good Lord permits us stay around that long. Frank O’Reilly, Chairman of John Power and Son Limited, has promised that we can all meet in Wexford again next year and as another old friend of mine, Kevin Morris, now Mayor of Wexford, said that night . . . “More power to him for that”.

It was a wonderful night in Wexford . . . and, all I can say is that if I were not a Corkman . . . well, I would like to be a Wexfordman.

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Hurling is now the major topic of discussion following the publication of the new Central Council plan and certainly if anybody wants to see a true example of how it can be done, then I say to them—come to Ballygalget.

Here hurling and a hurling tradition has been brought into being during the playing career of one man, John Bailie, who was there in the beginning and is still going strong and winning medals.

My sincere thanks to John McGratton, James McKenna, Benny and Danny Crawford, Willie Johnson and John Bailie for having me and giving me the necessary particulars to put together this brief article.

Next month I will visit Mulla-bawn — the Armagh football champions.



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# FILMING CHRISTY RING

● FROM PAGE 17.

even poke fun at the game of hurling. His fund of stories are often side-splitting.

One day — when the weather prevented filming—he showed us some clownish tricks that he would not dare produce in a game, or even at serious practice. One of these demonstrates how to beat a man for possession in a most unorthodox manner.

Christy runs towards a ground ball while his would-be opponent comes from the side. Ring lifts smartly but in doing so scoops the ball so high that it goes over his shoulder.

The delighted would-be opponent naturally darts around behind Ring to clear the ball down field—only to find to his amazement that there is no ball to be found.

Ring meanwhile is gone flying through on his own, having simply put back his left hand and caught the ball behind his back as soon as it went over his shoulder.

Another time Christy went into goal while we fired in shots from all angles. With an expression of amusement, he blocked our shots with ease, shifting the hurley from one hand to the other while standing rooted in the same spot. For a ball coming between his legs, he would bring the stick behind him and tap it out from between his knees. Once, he shaped to move the wrong way and just as we thought we had him beaten, he whipped round full circle and doubled on the ball before it crossed the line. The entire performance was uncanny. Ring must be the greatest goalman that has ever lived.

Now that the Central Council has announced its Hurling Scheme,



● RING IN ACTION . . . "complete mastery of hurling."

it is obvious that this film could not have come at a better time. And it is a great pleasure to all who worked on it to know that the Gael-Linn/Wills production of "Christy Ring" will assist in the

spreading of the game throughout the country. Certainly, for Christy himself, I know that this is the deepest satisfaction he could possibly have from his long and devoted work before the cameras.



the TASTE tells. . .

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# **ANTRIM**

## **GET THE BRUSH-OFF**

By **CONALLACH**

**I**F I were an Antrim man, which I am not, I would be feeling rather sore at the Ulster selectors for not having found a place for even one player from the Glens on the provincial fifteen. Sure enough Jim McCorry has found a place among the substitutes but in my book the high fielding Antrim full-back was an obvious choice for the team. On his form during the past season he had a definite edge on Donegal's Bernard Brady, whom the selectors have chosen for the position.

Tony McAtamney and Gerry McRory were two other Antrim players who should have been at least in the 20-man selection.

### **DONEGAL DINNER**

Congratulations to the Donegal County Board on their most successful first Annual Dinner which took place recently in the National Hotel, Donegal town. The event was sponsored by the local Four Masters club who made an excellent job of the arrangements.

The leading guest of honour was the new Árd Rúnaí, Seán Ó Síocháin, who in the course of an after-dinner address called for more social occasions on the part of the Association. He also advised clubs to take a more active

● TO PAGE 52.



● **SEAN O'NEILL . . .** whose brilliant performances were the main factor in the Sigerson Cup triumph of Queen's University, Belfast.



## ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

● FROM PAGE 51.

role in the social and cultural activities of their respective parishes and to join with organisations such as Connradh na Gaeilge and Macra na Tuaithe in activities which have a common aim.

### DR. LAGAN CUP

Not in years has there been such an interest in the Dr. Lagan Cup semi-finals and probably the reason

for this is because the outcome appears most open.

On February 21, we will have the meeting of Derry and Monaghan and here Monaghan must start slight favourites on the strength of their three fine performances to-date in the competition. However this game is still quite open, for Derry are as we know, specialists in this event.

Down, the holders, meet Donegal in the second semi-final on March 7 and here again anything could happen. Shrewd judges that I have spoken to maintain that Down need but that spark to set them off on a successful comeback. The great heroes of 1960 and '61 are still comparatively young men and now that they have had their well deserved rest, they could well be back.

And incidentally such a comeback could well include James McCartan. Very few in these parts believe that there is anything permanent about his retirement.

Whither Donegal? After a period of inconsistency and poor forward play, this county now appears to have settled down to playing sound dependable football. They have gained all of the necessary experience and it is certainly their turn to take over in the province.

Unless Down show a sudden resurgence, I fancy Donegal to just about advance to the Lagan Cup final.

### SEAN O'NEILL

What tremendous form Sean O'Neill showed in the Sigerson Cup. It could well be that this great Down player has yet to reach his football peak. If there is a Down resurgence then certainly dynamic O'Neill will be its spear-head.

## JAMES P. LARKIN

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# TRIUMPH OF THE 'UNKNOWN'S'

## HANDBALL by ALLEYMAN

THE upsurge of a few lesser known counties, the triumphant march of Joe Maher through all opposition in the senior championships, the heroic efforts of Mayo's Micky Walsh, and the continued dominance of the Kerry combination of Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien in the doubles grade—these, for me at least, were the highlights of 1964.

Kudos to Roscommon and Cork, who established themselves on the roll-call of All-Ireland title-holders. They broke through the traditional barrier, which one had come to accept as an impregnable fence for a certain few counties in the hardball grade, and gave notice to all and sundry that in the years ahead they will be a distinct force in the game.

Gerry Mahon and Kevin Fullard were the Western heroes. They set out on the trail of All-Ireland honours in the Spring-time as distinct underdogs, but gradually gained impetus as the season advanced and crowned their magnificent efforts, with a well-earned junior All-Ireland title.

I would term their victory against Dubliners Jimmy Moloney

and Mick Sullivan as their greatest endeavour.

I remember that Sunday morning in the Ceanannus Mor ball-court when this quartet met to do battle for a place in the final.

The tenseness filtered through a packed gallery, although, among the Dublin followers there was an air of confidence, which one sensed, must bring victory.

Fullard and Mahon had other ideas, they set about their task with an abandon that startled the Metropolitans, and went on for a deserved victory.

That particular day in Ceanannus Mor also reminds me of the two magnificent minors the home county put into action in this year's campaign.

Dessie McGovern and Dermot Grimes were surely the best partnership the Royal County ever sent to action in the under-age competitions.

They won a tremendous battle against the Henry brothers—Marcus and Raymond from the Ballymote club in Sligo, and came, oh, so near, to making history, when they went down, only by a

few aces, to Kerry's Billy Myles and Mick Fitzgibbon.

And now, congratulations to Cork. A few years ago handball in the county was virtually dead, but thanks to the initiative of the G.A.A. County Board, the enthusiasm of a few handballers, and the dedication of their playing representatives, the Rebel County has been well and truly re-established in the handball arenas.

Young Pat Coady was the county's hero this season, taking two hardball titles, the singles where he beat Bill Hennessy of Kildare and the doubles, where he partnered Noel O'Brien to victory against the 1963 champions Greg Lawlor and Tom Geoghegan, also of Kildare.

The one thing that disappoints me at present, is that Coady did not qualify for an award among the thirteen Cork sports-stars who were announced recently. Surely his contribution to the success of his county in a sporting sphere was magnanimous, and prompts me to ask the question—what was the reason for his omission?

The best loser of the year was

● TO PAGE 56.



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# **An open letter to Agnes Hourigan . . .**

“**E**XPECT not and you shall not be disappointed” is a very old and a very wise saying, but despite many previous disappointments I had felt that at long last, some attempt would be made to give recognition to camogie among the Caltex Awards in this the Jubilee Year (and the Diamond Jubilee at that) of the camogie Association. But no, camogie was once again shamefully ignored, and I for one feel that the time has come to ask the reason why.

It can hardly, one imagines, be the fault of the sponsors, for surely camogie players, their fathers, their brothers, their sweethearts and their sons spend as much on petrol as any other section of the community, and have not shown any prejudice against any particular brand.

Where then does the fault lie? With the Sports Editors of our national newspapers? Well one sports editor at least must be absolved, for no less than a couple of weeks ago I saw him pay his way through the turnstiles at Parnell Park to see Glen Rovers play Celtic in the semi-final of the Jubilee Cup competition. Another sports editor I have seen watching, and enjoying, an All-Ireland

camogie final at Croke Park, and yet another I have seen reporting more than one All-Ireland camogie final.

So there are at least three of the nine sports editors who know that camogie is not a game played exclusively by teen-age youths in their sisters' gym-slips. But have we any proof that the remaining six sports editors even know that the game exists? I am afraid that, from their decisions on the Caltex Sports panel over the past few years, we have no proof that the majority of sports editors have ever seen a camogie match at all.

After all, this season they could not even find a place for camogie among their original lists of, not ten, but fifteen sports even though they saw fit to include judo, God save the mark!

They also included hockey, a sport which does not recognise either the Caltex Awards or, as far as some of its players are concerned, the fact that Ireland has ceased to be part of the United Kingdom.

They are also giving an award to the athlete of the year. After all that has happened to Irish athletics this year I feel that whoever gets the athletics award

should quietly leave the country before he is laughed out of it. Or maybe the editors will suffer from a belated rush of blood to the head and award it to Maeve Kyle, who at least has the courage of her convictions and has consistently taken her stand under the tricolour and not under the Union Jack, and who had she the good fortune to remain in her native Kilkenny, might well have turned out to be one of the great camogie players of all time.

But then that would mean giving a sports award to a woman, and they gave an award to a woman as late as last year, and I suppose we shall have to live on that until at least the year after next.

In the meantime, for the benefit of the six Sports Editors who never seem to have heard of the Camogie Association, may I point out (a) that it has nearly 300 clubs and ten thousand playing members; (b) that in any competition it is the greatest organisation for women in the sporting life of this country (I admit that on paper the G.U.I. might be able to produce more than ten thousand playing members, but lady members of golf-clubs are only second-class citizens at best: I know because I am a member of two clubs and I well realise that I am only tolerated for my annual cheque); (c) the Camogie Association is 60 years old and (d) it did not lack for an outstanding achievement in 1964 during which Una O'Connor won her eleventh All-Ireland medal. Did any hurler or Gaelic footballer win an eleventh All-Ireland medal in 1964?

I hope you persuade the Editor of GAELIC SPORT to print this letter. If you do, maybe camogie will start to get somewhere in 1965.—Yours in Sport,

**Emer II.**

FOOTNOTE: Beyond wishing a happy New Year to all my readers there does not seem to be anything left for me to add.—A. Hourigan.



# NÁISIÚNACHAS

● AR LEAN. Ó LEAT. 15.

haon duine a thuairimí a thabhairt, ceisteanna a chur is na hoifigí a cháineadh. Mura mbíonn riara-chán an Chumainn do réir na rial-acha agus má aontaíonn furchóir an choiste stiúrtha, nó furchóir na mball, nach bhfuil gnáithe áirithe sa cheart, tig leo na coistí d'athrú. Ach má tháinig daoine áirithe isteach sa chumann dá dtoil féin agus nach bhfuil furchóir na mball ar aon aigne leo nach bhfuil rialacha an chumainn á gcomhlíonadh, caithfidh na daoine sin claoi leis na rialacha. Ach ní féidir leo a rá go bhfuil éinne ag sá teagaisc fé náisiún-achas síos 'na scórnaigh.

Mar adúirt i dtosach níl ach an taon teagasc amháin ann fé sin. Ní féidir le duine ar bith a théarmaí féin a chumadh.

# HANDBALL

● FROM PAGE 53.

the veteran from Castlebar—Micky Walsh—who lined out in the Mayo singlet. I saw him in many of his matches and could not but admire his gentlemanly behaviour, alley decorum, and superb sportsmanship.

He took victory modestly, defeat sportingly, never presenting alibis but conversely giving full credit to his victor.

My lasting memory of him goes back to the eve of the All-Ireland hurling final at Croke Park where he played Joe Maher in the All-Ireland semi-final. Walsh never played better, and frightened the Louthman into extracting every shot from his vast handball repertoire before he won the day.

Although in fairness, Joe Maher was the year's outstanding personality, cutting a clear swathe through all contenders on his way

to three titles, one of which was the doubles where he was joined by Paddy Reilly. Not forgetting of course, old faithfuls Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien who brought further renown to the Kingdom by retaining their softball doubles crown. And their kinsmen, Pat Moriarity and Willie Kerins in the junior grade and minors Mick Fitzgibbon and Billy Myles who are all title-holders.

In fact Kerry emerges as the premier county of 1964, with four titles to their credit.

Finally, congratulations to Paddy Bollingbrook of Mayo, who compensated for previous failures by winning the hard singles while from Sligo Marcus Henry came forth again to retain his minor soft singles crown.

So much for the handball fortunes of 1964, a year in which the game went to further strength, and signs for the future certainly look very promising

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## EAMONN YOUNG

● FROM PAGE 20.

So if we can find the leaders in the counties give them something which will allow them to get a decent present for the wife at Christmas, to send the kids to secondary school even if they are not scholarship material, or to relish the many small joys which the earning of a little extra can provide.

A pretty well-known man once told me if we found real friends to grapple them to our hearts with hoops of steel.

The friend of the G.A.A. in '64 is the dedicated, efficient organiser. Let the hoops be of steel and may the hinges of our friendship with them never rust.



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