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GAA

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AUGUST, 1966. Vol. 9. No. 8.





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AUGUST 21—**ULAI DH v. LAIGHIN**

SEPT. 4—ALL IRELAND S.H. FINAL

SEPT. 25—ALL IRELAND S.F. FINAL

**PAIRC AN CHROCAIGH**



# MILK

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS FOR OUR YOUNGER READERS

**Y**OU will be familiar with the events of 1916 in your history books. The significance of that year is so much more apparent in 1966 when we recall the deeds of our country's leaders in their struggle for a free Ireland.

Luckily we now live at a time when we may enjoy the benefits of those efforts and indeed the title "land of milk and honey" better befits this country now than at any previous era.

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*Vitamin G*—Helps to preserve a youthful appearance in later life, by resisting wrinkles.

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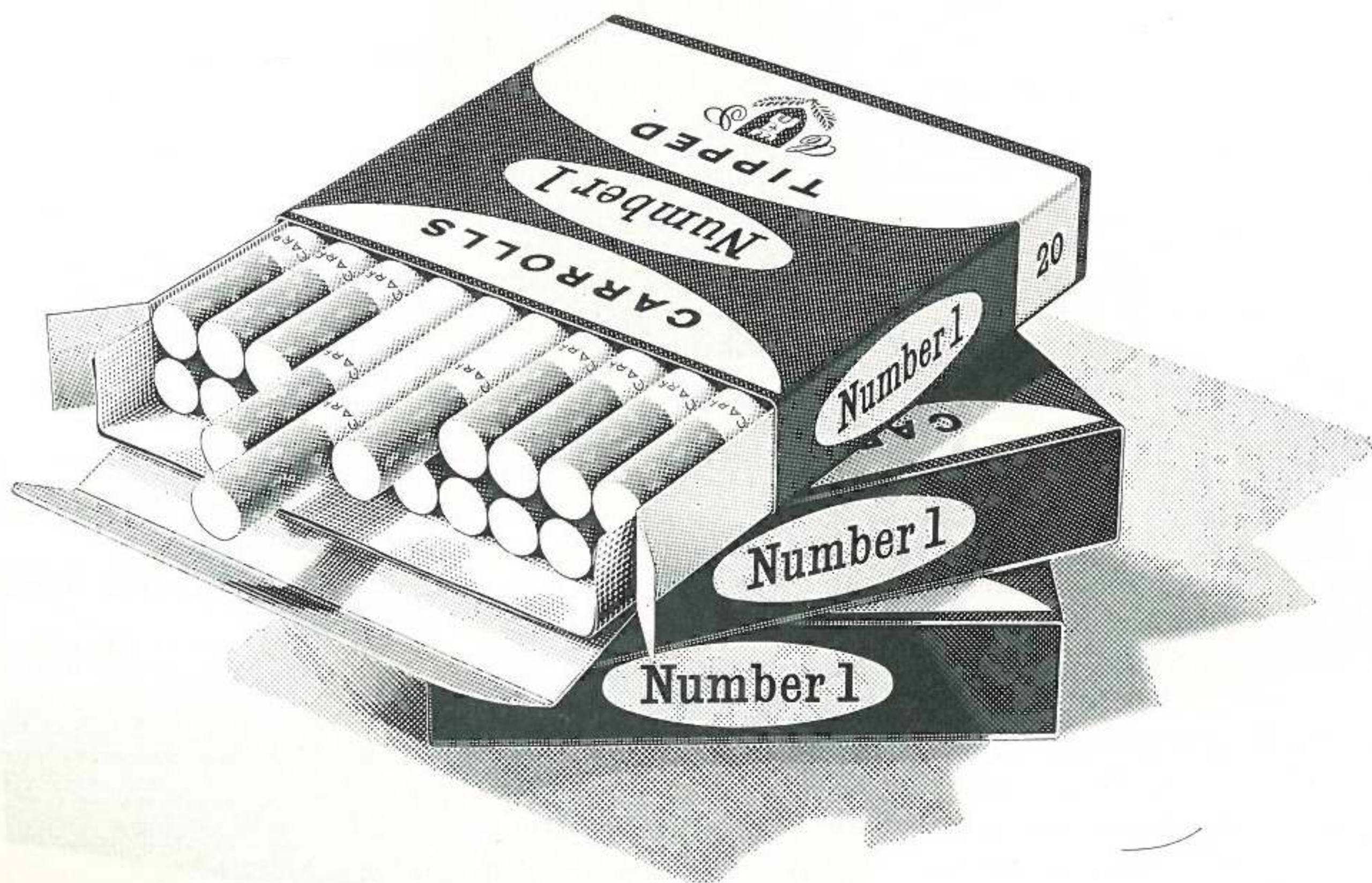
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## COMMENT

### AT WHOSE EXPENSE?

WE have nothing at all against international soccer and those who play it—nor do we object to Telefis Eireann or its official organ, the R.T.E. GUIDE, reporting extensively on the World Cup games. In this attitude, we feel that we are being realistic.

We also feel that we are being realistic when we state that Gaelic games command a following and a public interest many times greater than does soccer—be it of a home or international variety. This being so, is it not logical that we should expect Telefis Eireann and Co. to provide Gaelic games with a coverage in proportion to their popularity.

So far this has not been done—nor is there any indication that it is being contemplated.

And there is another aspect of it. It would be interesting to know how much Telefis Eireann paid to provide that World Cup coverage. We take the liberty to presume that they paid handsomely. Provided that this is so, is it not realistic to expect that Telefis Eireann also pay a handsome fee for its “live” coverage of Gaelic games?

In our May issue of this year we proved conclusively that “live” television is costing the G.A.A. anything from £10,000 to £20,000 per annum. The G.A.A. in turn receives the princely sum of ten guineas per annum from Telefis Eireann—while Telefis Eireann on the other hand pays lavishly for its soccer and rugby coverage.

In other words, the economies made at the expense of the G.A.A. leave Telefis Eireann in the position whereby huge fees can more readily be paid for the coverage of other sports.

This situation, we believe, is anything but realistic.

### COVER PICTURE

THIS month we feature an action shot from the Grounds Tournament final of 1965. The teams were Down and Galway; the men (left to right), Galway's Peter Crisham and Mattie McDonagh and Down's Tom O'Hare. Many good judges considered that game as the finest hour of football played last year.



# HATS OFF

## TO LOUTH AND CLARE

AS things turned out, neither Louth nor Clare will remember the 1966 championships with joy for they proved quite an anti-climax for them. Still there are those of us who think that both of these counties did themselves proud, if not on the field, then certainly in the boardroom prior to the vital championship games in question.

Let us first take the case of Louth. The scene is set at a packed and tense County Board meeting in Dundalk on the Monday prior to the game with Dublin. Louth is already hard-hit with injuries and victory, so sure after the Longford game, is now not quite so sure.

The key-issue before the meeting is whether or not the captain of the team and its star outfield player, Mick McKeown, is going to be suspended. A week previous he had been ordered from the field by referee Jackie Kiernan in a club game.

On face value it appears an open and shut case for the Rule states that McKeown must be suspended for at least one month. But wait, there is more to it and the delegates and officers know it.

Just as referee Kiernan's report was about to be read the pertinent question is asked—(a) is the report written on the official referee's form and (b), if not, is it on Irish water-marked paper?

The first point is not vital but point (b) is, as a further Rule states that all official correspondence

must be on Irish water-marked paper. If the answer to this point was in the negative then the report could be rejected or alternatively sent back to referee Kiernan with a request that he comply with the Rule and furnish a report on proper paper. By the time this would be forthcoming the match with Dublin would, of course, have been played.

Board Chairman, J. L. O'Reilly, who at that point had the report in his hand, confirmed that it was

this was a precedent which could be followed.

The meeting then digressed and began to discuss the incident which led to McKeown being ordered from the field. The discussion became earnest and at times even heated. However, eventually the meeting returned again to the question as to whether the referee's report should or should not be acted upon.

It was proposed that the report

### By The Editor

not written on the official form supplied to referees by the Board. However, he did not reply to the second and most important point. Instead he passed the report on to Vice-Chairman, Mr. N. Marry. Mr. Marry then examined it before handing it on to Secretary, Mr. P. Kearney. He in turn examined it, holding it up to the light, as had done the others, in search of a water-mark. The report was then passed on to Mr. S. Murray, the Board's second Vice-Chairman.

No one could find the vital and ever-so-necessary water-mark.

A Rev. Brother then recalled an objection in January, 1960, which had been rejected because the envelope containing it was not water-marked. That objection had not even been read. He held that

be "thrown out" but the motion was not put. An amendment that McKeown be dealt with according to Rule was carried and so the case closed. Mick McKeown was out for one month and Louth was without its captain and star midfielder on the following Sunday.

As we see it honour had been served. The manly course of action had been taken and credit had been done to the Wee County.

In our book integrity at official level counts for much more than victory on the field. There is no shortage of integrity among the Gaels of County Louth.

The Clare case is much better known—but at the same time no less worthy of further comment.

(Continued next page).



(From previous page).

To briefly recap. A week prior to Clare's first meeting with Cork, three of the county's regulars—Jim Woods, Pat McNamara and Tony Marsh, plus Jim Cullinan, the county's star prior to suspension last year, travelled to New York at the invitation of the Clare club in New York. The question was—did they play with the Clare club in New York against the Galway club in a vital New York competitive game?

No one seemed to know for sure. Despite requests from Croke Park, no evidence was forthcoming from New York and apparently the players themselves were saying nothing. The ball was very much in the Clare County Board court. Would they play these three players the following Sunday?

As we saw it, Clare could have played the three players in that first game and got away with it. Furthermore had they played them they would have beaten Cork. Woods, McNamara and Marsh were surely worth at least an extra point and that would have seen the Banner County to victory and win them a place against Limerick in the provincial semi-final.

Yes, we believe Clare would have got away with it due to lack of evidence. Remember, the only way they could not get away with it would be for Cork to object within seven days and when a county is fairly beaten on the field it seldom objects on a technicality (Remember the Paddy Croke case earlier in the year). Furthermore, even if Cork favoured objecting, there was no evidence at that stage.

The Clare officials must have known all of this. Like their Louth friends, they knew that there was a way of slipping through the Rule and getting away with it. But they too chose the honourable course. They left the "Yanks" on the sideline, re-arranged their team as best

## The Top Ten

~~~~~

### PLACE OF

### HONOUR

### FOR BARRY

**O**UR Top Ten lists in this issue are based on individual inter-county performances from and including Sunday, June 12, to Sunday, July 3.

Heading the hurling list is Cork will-o'-the-wisp Sean Barry whose vital scores saw Cork draw with, and later trounce, Clare. Also on the list are his fellow-countymen, Jerry O'Sullivan, Denis O'Riordan and Pat Fitzgerald.

The football list is topped by Fermanagh's P. T. Treacy whose scoregetting played a big part in getting his county back into football prominence.

they could and went out and played the game.

It would have been nice had there been a happy ending to both stories—particularly in Clare's case. What a fairy-tale finish it would have been had Clare gone on and won the All-Ireland title with the "Yanks" still on the sideline rueing the day they deserted their county. But, of course, it did not happen that way. Clare fell apart for some inexplicable reason in the replay and they are now back in square one once more.

But again honour has been served. The Clare County Board can hold its head high. There is no disgrace attached to failing on



JOHN KEENAN

#### HURLING

1. Sean Barry (Cork).
2. Jerry O'Sullivan (Cork).
3. John Kirwan (Waterford).
4. Pat Cronin (Clare).
5. Andy Gallagher (Offaly).
6. Joe Condon (Waterford).
7. Denis O'Riordan (Cork).
8. Pascal O'Brien (Clare).
9. Jimmy O'Brien (Wexford).
10. Pat Fitzgerald (Cork).

#### FOOTBALL

1. P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh).
2. Mick O'Connell (Kerry).
3. Pat Collier (Meath).
4. Joe Langan (Mayo).
5. Mickey McLoone (Donegal).
6. John Donnelly (Kildare).
7. John Keenan (Galway).
8. Mick Kearins (Sligo).
9. Mick Ruane (Mayo).
10. Mick Brewster (Fermanagh).

the field—but there is in winning dishonestly.

As a tail-piece to the Clare affair, the question as to whether or not the "Yanks" played was cleared up a week later by both the "Connacht Tribune" and the "Western People".

The "Connacht Tribune" carried a full report of the Clare-Galway game in New York and its correspondent stated that the four imported players played a big part in Clare's 3-7 to 2-7 victory.

Willie Fahy who writes an American newsletter each week in the "Western People" also confirmed this point the same week.

(Continued page 46).





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## Liam O hOistín

**G**OILLIÚINT trom ar Chumann Lúithcleas Gael agus ar gach duine a raibh baint aige leis ba ea bás obann Liaim Uí Oistín le déanaí. Peileadoir thar an coitiantach, gurb é an bua is mó a bhí aige is docha ná an díogras a theasbáin sé i gconaí; oifigeach nár cheill a chuid ama ná a chuid smaointe ar an gCumann; duine de'n Coisde Polasaí a ceapadh anuraidh.

Gael i ngach gnéithe de'n saol Gaelach, a ghrá dos na cluichí doimhin ina chroí, ach a ghrá don teanga, do cheól agus rinne Gaelach ar choimhchéim leis. Cigire sgoile dob ea é le blianta agus ba mhór an tionchur a bhí aige ar na paistí agus na muinteoirí fé'n a churam.

Ach fear grámchar dob ea Liam, fear beo bríomhar bog-

croidheach, cara iontach, namha trócaireach, fear céile agus athair gur tubaisteach a chailiúint. Is deacair duinn déanamh gan é, beidh bearna mór le líonadh, agus brathfar uainn é ins na blianta nár tháinig fós.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh an anam dílis Gaelach; i Ríocht na Síochána go raibh sé.

—J. D.

# HURLING'S MAGIC CIRCLE

By **SÉAMUS Ó CEALLAIGH**

**A**NOTHER turning point has been reached in the history of the hurling championship, and any look back over the years will reveal distinct phases marking the pre-eminence of a particular county. These occur in fairly regular cycles and hinge within the narrow confines of a very few counties, which appear to indicate that the chances of others outside that magic hurling circle are only very slim indeed.

This may not be good for the game and it certainly illustrates the big strides the revivalists must make if hurling is to be put on a firm foundation in every corner of the country.

Dublin did break into the select and sacred company on six isolated occasions—three of them in the nineteen twenties, but they have yet to win the hurling crown with a native fifteen. Of the others,

Kerry, Clare, Laoighis, and Galway made only one indentation each—Waterford just slightly better. So we must agree there is a definite monopoly in the hurling world—and monopolies are rarely good.

Now that another era has ended with the defeat of Tipperary it provides an opportunity to look back on some of the great sides which have left such an impression on our hurling story.

The Premier County boys have been very much in the public eye over a spell extending back nearly twenty years with the result that they now head the championship honours roll and occupy a similar position as regards the National hurling League.

In addition, John Doyle had the proud distinction of equalling the great record made by Christy Ring in the championship arena and going well beyond the Cloyne man

in the gathering of League trophies.

Tipperary had two distinct cycles during those years—1949 to 1951 and 1961 to 1965 but the strange thing is that their only previous long spell of mastery dates back to the years before the turn of the century—1895 to 1900.

Cork have enjoyed more success periods than any other hurling county and can count four distinct eras—the first in the very early years of the championship (1890 to 1894), their next three and a half decades later (1926 to 1931) followed by the great spell of the early 'forties, and their final period of brilliance ten years afterwards.

Kilkenny had the most sustained spot in the limelight with that greatest of all teams, four members of which captured seven All-Ireland medals each in the years

(Continued overleaf)





*Tommy Doyle, one of Tipperary's greatest hurlers in the period 1937 to 1951. He retired with five All-Ireland medals.*

(From previous page)  
from 1904 to 1913. The Black and Ambers were also very much in the hurling picture in the early 'thirties.

The troubled days of the War of Independence saw Limerick with a magnificent side of champion caman wielders, but it was the men of the middle and late

'thirties who really hit the jackpot for the Shannonsiders. Their winning of five National League titles in successive years created a record that remains unbeaten.

The late 'fifties belonged to Wexford and they certainly made their days unforgettable ones, bringing a colour and glamour to their outings that did a lot for hurling.

Great hurlers stand out in bold relief as we look back over the different eras that span the archway of the years.

In the first noteworthy Cork combinations we had famed figures like Dan Lane, "Big Jer" Hinchion, Tom Toomey, Mickie Sheehan, Jim Kelleher, the Coughlans (five of whom won All-Ireland medals), Jim Delea, Jim Young and John Cashman.

Tipperary during their first glory spell had colourful hurling men like Mickie Maher, Johnny and Denis Walsh, Jim and Dick O'Keefe, the Flanagans, Thade and Jim; and the inevitable Ryans.

When Kilkenny shot to the forefront in the early years of the century they put Leinster really into a hurling picture, which they enlarged to an unexpected degree. New adherents were attracted to the games and soon names like "Drug" Walsh, Dick Doyle, Sim Walton, Jack Rockfort, Matt Gargan, Dick Grace and Jimmie Kelly—"the scoring machine" were household ones where ever native games were discussed.

Limerick were next on the stage with a powerful side which included probably the greatest half back line of all time in Jack Keane, Willie Hough and Denny Lanigan. With other notable men in Paddy McInerney, Bob McConkey, Willie Gleeson and Jimmie Humphries; who captained the first Irish hurling team in 1924; this Shannonside combination might in normal times have made even a greater impact on the hurling scene.

The Cork side which took over



*Tim Flood, brilliant forward on the great Wexford team of the 1950's.*

in 1926 was a most impressive one and those who saw them play still speak in glowing terms of the prowess of men like Sean Og and Denny Barry Murphy, Jim O'Regan, Jim Hurley, Eudie Coughlan, "Balty" and "Gah" Ahearne, "Love" Higgins and Paddy Delea.

Kilkenny followed with a short innings that brought to the forefront hurling heroes like Lory Meagher, Paddy Larkin, Podge Byrne, Paddy Phelan, Matty Power and "Lovely" Johnny Dunne.

Limerick were slowly but surely creeping back into the picture and when they took over the prowess of Mick and John Mackey, Timmy Ryan, Jack Power, Micky Cross, Paddy Clohesey, Jim Roche, Paddy Scanlan, Mick Kennedy and Paddy McMahon were discussed in unexpected places.

Cork had some rattling fine games with the men from the Shannon in the early 'forties—the memorable War years, when we were forced back to the old leisurely ways of travel—and enjoyed it! It was then we saw Billy Murphy, Jack Lynch, Micka Brennan, John Quirke, Con Cottrell, Christy Ring, Alan Lotty and Con Murphy at their brilliant best in what was probably the Rebel County's greatest ever era.



Three unforgettable games with Cork introduced us to the Tipperary team that in 1949 opened a new era also for Limerick's Pairc na nGael, which has since rivalled Thurles as a centre of Munster hurling activity. In that colourful Premier County period we met Jimmy Kennedy, the great score getter of those days, Tony Reddan, John and Tommy Doyle, Micky Byrne, Pat Stakelum, Jimmy Finn and Sean Kenny.

When Cork crashed back to the top in 1952 the evergreen Christy Ring was still to the fore and his winning of an eighth All-Ireland medal was the most notable event of their three in a row success. Willie John Daly, Tony O'Shaughnessy, Gerry O'Riordan, John Lyons, Matt Fuohy, Paddy Barry and Gerard Murphy were his main associates during this era.

Really, I think the 'fifties belong to Wexford and certainly they left the deepest impress on that decade. Public interest reached its peak during their heyday and the deeds of the Rackards, Art Foley, Nick O'Donnell, Jim English, Tim Flood, Padge Kehoe, and Ned Wheeler will be recalled with relish for many a day.

Tipperary's return to the lime-light in 1961 completes a memorable chapter in the annals of hurling. With John Doyle, for whom the era brought parity in All-Ireland success with his great Cork rival, Christy Ring; were notabilities like Jimmy Doyle, Liam Devaney, Tony Wall, Theo English, Doney Nealon, Michael Maher and Kieran Carey.

We have covered together some remarkable years in the story of our great hurling game and recalled in fleeting fashion the deeds of some of the colourful figures who made the welkin ring. They deserve to be remembered as part and parcel of a past that must inspire the youth of Ireland to an even greater devotion to one of the world's greatest pastimes.

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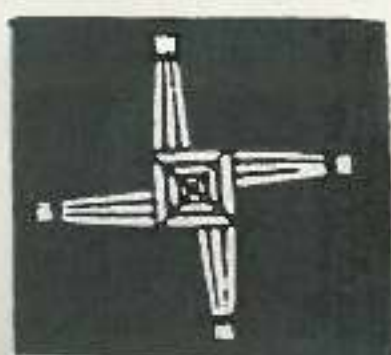




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# BREAK-DOWN OF SCORING RECORDS

HERE is a province-by-province break-down of the scoring records over the past ten years of the ace marksmen currently in inter-county football:

| ULSTER |              |        |         |        | LEINSTER |            |         |     |      |
|--------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|------------|---------|-----|------|
| Points | Score        | Games  | Average | Points | Score    | Games      | Average |     |      |
| 783    | P. Doherty   | 62-597 | 160     | 4.89   | 465      | J. Timmons | 24-393  | 133 | 3.49 |
| 615    | C. Gallagher | 40-495 | 143     | 4.30   | 310      | B. Hayden  | 26-232  | 90  | 3.44 |
| 318    | S. O'Connell | 21-255 | 88      | 3.61   | 282      | B. Burns   | 9-255   | 65  | 4.33 |
| 318    | S. O'Neill   | 28-234 | 128     | 2.48   | 225      | L. Leech   | 9-198   | 67  | 3.35 |
| 236    | J. McCartan  | 52- 80 | 134     | 1.76   | 224      | D. Carty   | 19-167  | 74  | 3.02 |
| 211    | P. T. Treacy | 25-136 | 68      | 3.10   | 213      | M. Whelan  | 21-150  | 107 | 1.99 |
| 188    | J. Nallen    | 27-107 | 79      | 2.37   | 205      | N. Delaney | 42- 79  | 86  | 2.38 |
| 175    | J. Whan      | 26- 97 | 83      | 2.10   |          |            |         |     |      |

| CONNACHT |            |        |         |        | MUNSTER     |                |         |      |      |
|----------|------------|--------|---------|--------|-------------|----------------|---------|------|------|
| Points   | Score      | Games  | Average | Points | Score       | Games          | Average |      |      |
| 482      | C. Flynn   | 40-362 | 108     | 4.46   | 235         | M. O'Connell   | 8-229   | 112  | 2.25 |
| 405      | C. Dunne   | 26-327 | 102     | 3.97   | 248         | B. O'Callaghan | 25-173  | 62   | 4.00 |
| 332      | M. Kearins | 10-302 | 61      | 5.44   | 126         | D. Geaney      | 18- 72  | 58   | 2.17 |
|          |            |        |         | 106    | E. McCarthy | 8- 82          | 37      | 2.86 |      |

## Eagles of the North

By OWEN McCANN

OF the forwards currently in intercounty football the most prolific scorers are Ulster men. Paddy Doherty and Charlie Gallagher not only are the only players in the game with more than 500 points apiece to their credit, but each has also well and truly smashed this impressive barrier. Two other Northerners, Sean O'Connell and Sean O'Neill, are in a panel of seven players each having bettered the three centuries points mark.

Three Connacht players boast figures over the 300 points total. The West also has the third highest scorer, Cathal Flynn, with a tally of 482 points. This is 17 minors in front of the top Leinster marksman, John Timmons. Somewhat

surprisingly, Brendan Hayden is the only other Leinster player to better 300 minors.

Munster is well down the line, with Mick O'Connell taking first place with 253 points. Not only that, only four footballers in the South boast three figures. These include Dave Geaney, who has been on and off the Kerry team for spells during the period under review, and returned "exile" Gene McCarthy, who spent a number of years in New York in the early 1960's.

Paddy Doherty holds all but one of the scoring records. His 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 games in 1960 is the best recorded by a footballer in one year. Next in line is Gallagher with 6-107 (125 pts.) in

20 games in 1964. The Ballykinlar man's goals tally of 62 is 10 more than his nearest rival, fellow countyman Jim McCartan.

Doherty's points total, as distinct from goals and points combined, is at 597, no fewer than 102 minors ahead of the number two marksman in this respect, Charlie Gallagher. The Down sharpshooter chalked up his magnificent combined tally of 783 points in 160 games, scoring in all but one of these engagements, at the rate of 4.89 minors an hour.

However, impressive though this figure is, it is still only good enough to give Doherty second place in the scoring averages table. Leading the way here is Mick

(Continued overleaf)



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*JOHN TIMMONS  
Tops in Leinster.*

(From previous page).

Kearins, sixth highest scorer in the country, with 5.44 points a match. In third place with 4.46 minors is Cathal Flynn.

The come-back to the inter-county big-time this year with Cavan of that man of many county teams, John Nallen, has boosted this Mayo native's total to 188 points. This earns him the seventh place in the Ulster chart, although, of course, this total was recorded in the colours of Mayo, Galway, Meath as well as the Breffni blue.

Down is the only county with three forwards boasting more than 235 points each. However, two Galway men have bettered this total, and at the time of going to press John Keenan was on the 230 mark. Two Dubliners and two Kerry players have each also passed 200 points. These are the only four counties with more than one player boasting 200 points or more in the current charts.

Finally, the busiest footballer in the period under review was Mattie McDonagh with 163 engagements—three more than Paddy Doherty.



# *Sensation!*

(ENJOY IT)

IT has been a year of shocks and it could be that more are still to come. The first real big one was Longford's defeat of Galway in the National League. No doubt Down had exposed the chinks in the champions' armour and Longford's earnestness was well known. Yet, it's fair to say that the general public expected the slick Western side to freewheel to another triumph. It was Longford's determination which provided the vehicle for their steadiness and all-round ability to fetch and kick; the supporters went wild with delight.

Then came the championship and it was only natural that Longford faced Louth with quiet confidence. What a blow! The men in red from the small county served up an hour of delicately resourceful football and the League champions were in the dust.

Speaking to John Carolan, a young lieutenant in Cork, a few days before Louth played Dublin I was impressed by his confidence in his own team. Seldom have I seen a player who was so firmly convinced that this side would win. Yet the competent football played by the Louthmen that Sunday against Dublin was simply not good enough, for John Timmons slipped them a fast one and a Metropolitan side which no one had bothered to think about waltzed into the provincial semi-

final. Following that there was Kildare's defeat of Dublin.

In the hurling of course the big surprise or calamity according to the way you look at it was the defeat toppling of mighty Tipperary from the throne they had held so steadily for so long. As they hurled away solidly through the winter games, we here in Munster looked forward glumly to the prospect of seeing them steamroll their way to another All-Ireland with a ninth for that gallant warrior John Doyle.

We admired very grudgingly the skill and hurling aplomb of Tony Wall and the sprightly enthusiasm of Theo English. Would this Tipperary juggernaut ever stop? Then came the League defeat by Kilkenny and we all grinned. Perhaps the Noresiders would stop the Blue and Gold in the All-Ireland final for we still expected Tipperary to get out of Munster.

In fact the League defeat was not taken seriously by Munstermen at all and Johnny Lanigan the well-known Thurles man told me on the Sunday before the Limerick game that he expected the team would be all out to show the world they were still on top.

On the same day incidentally Seamus Ryan the Tipperary Chairman of the Munster Council had a different opinion. He told me he didn't mind so much losing the League title but didn't like the

fact that the defeat puzzled him. He couldn't see what caused it or how Tipperary could improve.

In the game against Limerick, which is history by now, none of us expected the Shannonsiders to win. What a great day it was. What delightful anticipation by left winger Eamonn Cregan who ran on to three balls with such speed and snipe-like suddenness that he positively startled not only the opposing players but the spectators as well.

Of course, we must remember that Tipperary were badly handicapped that day. They missed Tony Wall's shrewd covering off, centre forward Larry Kiely's sprightly vigour and then Jimmy Doyle was trying to fly on one wing.

If Tipperary had managed to draw that day the men in jerseys might not have changed much in personnel for the replay but the frame of mind would have been vastly more formidable.

However, it was a wonderful defeat, wonderful for the game which opened up for everyone at five o'clock that afternoon. I saw Corkmen who hadn't smiled for years laughing all over their faces.

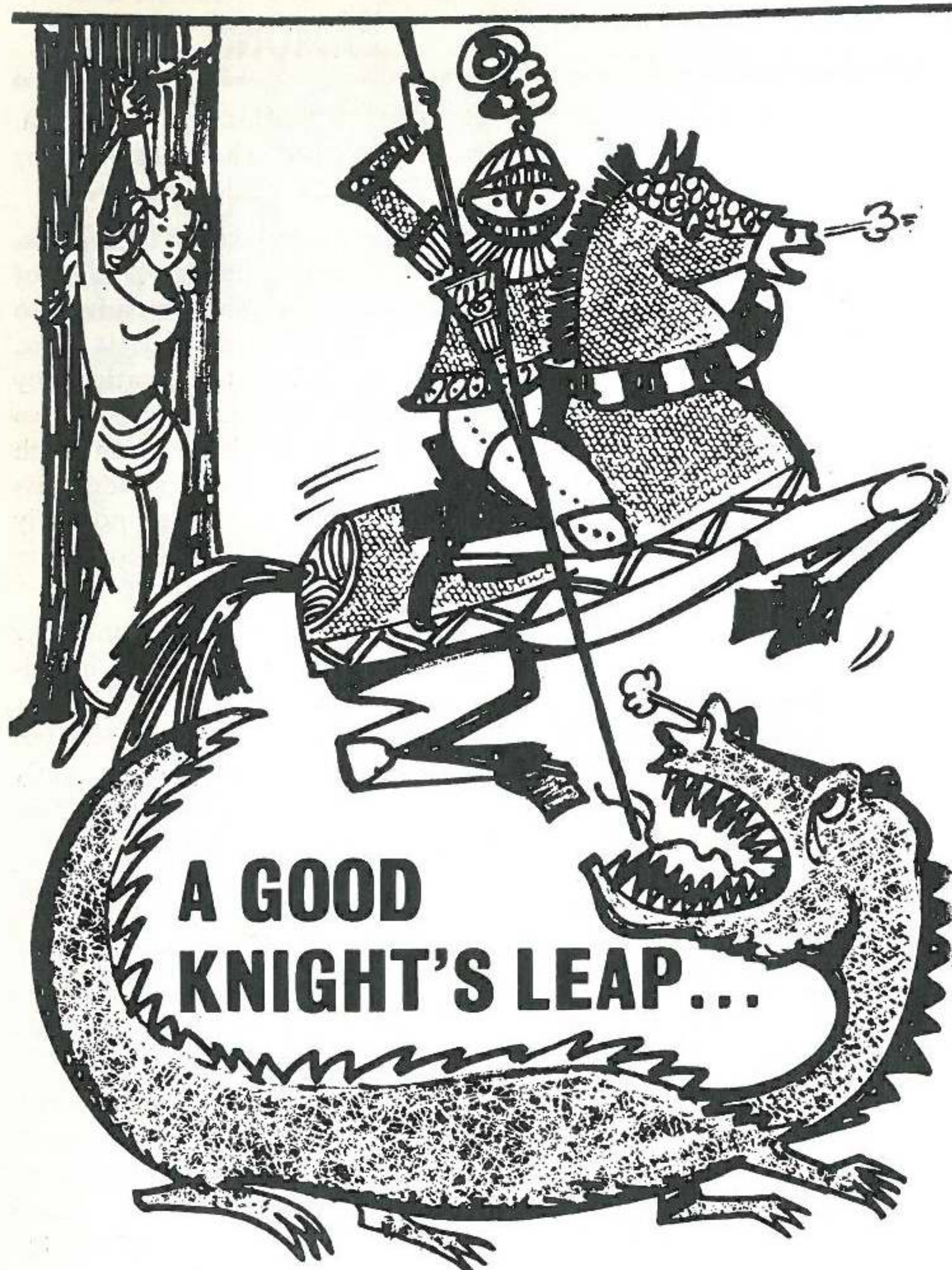
As good old Paddy Leahy used say, God rest him, it was indeed a great day for the Association.

Which reminds me of what Cork's Denis Conroy said. A few Corkmen were talking about the defeat of Tipperary after the first elation had evaporated and one of them said of course it would have been different if they had brought back Tony Wall from Cyprus. But they wouldn't bring him.

"They wouldn't half," said Denis Conroy. "They'd have brought back Paddy Leahy, only they didn't know where he was."

How the Boherlahan farmer with the jaunty hat would have loved that crack.





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# Shocks?

## MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

AS I write, the championships are well underway in the provinces and already we have seen our fair share of shocks and surprises. Yet, in some respects, the shocks were not all that shocking nor the surprises all that surprising, if you consider all the circumstances.

Longford after winning the league final, were left with just that fatal fortnight between that famous victory over Galway and the defeat by Louth. To me that seemed to imply that the Longford lads, after the tremendous dedication they had shown throughout the League campaign, relaxed during the interval and failed to regain their concentration sufficiently to match the determination and dash of the lively lads from Louth.

Louth, on the other hand, were short some keymen when they played Dublin at Drogheda in the second round, but even that did not explain the clear-cut conviction of Dublin's victory. One wonders if the Louthmen, in turn, were not a little bit carried away by that victory over Longford.

In the South, of course the big sensation of the championship came with the defeat of Tipperary by Limerick. Now I am not being wise after the event, but again Limerick's victory was not all that much of a surprise to me.

The writing had, I thought, been very much on the wall after that National League semi-final against Clare. They were never in real danger of defeat in that game but what must have been disconcerting to Tipperary was the number of Clare scores, and the relative



KIERAN CAREY

ease with which they were obtained.

In the League final against Kilkenny the Tipperary men seemed to have victory within their grasp through the third quarter, but they were never able to drive home their advantage even with half a gale behind them. Indeed through the last ten minutes it was very noticeable that despite the wind Kilkenny were very much on top even though they failed to score. Yet, there seemed to be two or three black and amber jerseys everywhere the ball fell, and the Kilkennymen were rather more convincing winners on the field than they were on the score-board.

Now what really interested me was this. For the first time in three years, Tipperary's rhythm of

victory had been broken, therefore their next outing against Limerick in the championship would obviously be a crucial one.

Could the champions get back into the groove in which they had moved so successfully for so long? Or would the fact that their tradition of invincibility had been broken count against them when they met the young and ambitious Limerick side? Well the result is history now. Limerick raced into an early and comforting lead. They staved off a very determined Tipperary rally, and regained control again to finish the most worthy and convincing of victors. By doing so they opened up the whole hurling championship and stirred the ambitions of every county left in the series.

Besides they posed a question which only the future can answer. Is the Tipperary side as we knew it through the past five or six seasons, finished and done with as a championship force?

One thing looks pretty certain, of course, John Doyle of Holy Cross has not yet come to the end of his hurling career. He is good for a season or two yet in any company and will, I feel sure, have at least one further try for that ninth All-Ireland medal.

Indeed, only one member of the Tipperary side has hung up his hurley at this juncture as far as inter-county hurling is concerned, full-back Michael Maher who has given so many years of magnificent service to his county.

There is also the fact that Tony

(Continued overleaf).





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(From previous page).

Wall is away in Cyprus, and that such as Theo English and Kieran Carey are, like John Doyle, approaching the veteran stage. There is also the fact that Jimmy Doyle is heavier than one expects him to be, as is Liam Devaney and neither of them is as lively as they used to be.

On the other hand, I saw what might be called Tipperary's "second string" with some half-dozen of the senior side for "stiffening" give a most-encouraging display for three-quarters of the hour against Kilkenny in the Grounds Tournament semi-final at Nowlan Park.

After forty minutes, Tipperary led a very strong Kilkenny side by fourteen points, and at that stage seemed on the way to a really sensational come-back to the hurling forefront. But then, when the Kilkennymen got moving, Tipperary seemed to lose their confidence, saw their long lead steadily whittled away, and were eventually beaten by a point in a tremendously exciting finish. Yet, they had done enough to prove that their is sufficient hurling talent in the county to keep Tipperary on top.

There is only one thing that may tell against an immediate Tipperary resurgence. This Grounds Tournament defeat means that the senior side will not have another competitive outing until September or early October.

The mechanical rhythm which so often stood to the side, through so much match-play together during the past few successful seasons will have grown mighty rusty by then, and it may be hard enough to resume the victory march that has been so dramatically shattered by three defeats in a row.

But, when all that is weighed and worded what are the odds but that Tipperary will be back to retain the Oireachtas Cup when the middle of October comes round.



# MICHAEL DEERING

## Presidents of the G.A.A.—5

By  
TERENCE  
ROYNANE

**M**ICHAEL DEERING was a native of Limerick who, early in life moved to Cork and made his career in his adopted city. There he not only became a well-known shopkeeper, but, from the earliest days of the Association, was a pillar of the G.A.A.

Deering first came to the fore in the most critical days that the Association has ever known, the years immediately following the Parnell Split, when political controversy so bitterly divided the whole country. He was first elected to Central Council at the Annual Convention for 1891, held in Thurles in January, 1892, and attended by only eighteen delegates from six counties. The year that followed was a very lean year indeed for the Association, but Michael Deering never lost faith in the future.

He was one of the men who turned up, undaunted, in 1893 for the 1892 Convention at Thurles, which was attended by delegates from only three counties, Dublin, Cork and Kerry, and yet at once made plans for reorganising the rest of the country. He was also one of the men who later that year took the most courageous step ever taken by Central Council when the dramatic decision was made that in future the Association, while remaining intensely nationalistic, would not in future give allegiance to any political party.

This was a decision that was all the harder to take because all through the previous political battles the G.A.A. had been among Parnell's most vigorous supporters.

But this was one of the most clear-sighted decisions ever made by Central Council and the Association as a whole is still reaping the benefits of it to this day.

Deering, who had by this time become Chairman of Cork County Board, was a man of unyielding principle and, in 1895, withdrew from Central Council and led Cork out of the Association after a second replay had been ordered in the All-Ireland football final of 1894 between Cork and Dublin. The first replay had been abandoned a couple of minutes from time with Cork holding what seemed likely to be a winning lead.

But Michael Deering, after twelve months in the wilderness led Cork back into the Association again and in 1897 he became both a Vice-President and one of the G.A.A.'s official auditors. In the following year, 1898, when Frank Dineen resigned from the Presidency to take over the post of Secretary, Michael Deering was elected President at the Annual Convention securing 34 votes to 13 for Luke O'Kelly (Dublin) and 11 for Denis Spencer Lyons (Limerick).

In his very first year as President, Michael Deering saw the G.A.A. make remarkable progress and was unanimously re-elected at the 1899 Convention and again a year later in 1900.

Then in March, 1901, he died unexpectedly in Cork and left the Association the poorer for his passing. The Gaels of Cork erected a fitting monument to his memory.



# MICK DUFFY OF MONAGHAN

By JOHN O. GRANT

MONAGHAN'S interest in this year's Ulster championship was short-lived. In their first round game against Fermanagh at Clones they were well and truly beaten. Despite the fact that Fermanagh have for a long time been considered "the Cinderella team" in Ulster, few people were surprised by the result.

For the sad truth is that nowadays no one expects Monaghan to progress beyond the initial rounds of any of the Ulster competitions—at senior level anyway. In a county that has produced such fine individual stars over the years—men like Hugh McKearney, Fr. Enda McCormick and John Rice, and more recently Benny Mone and Joey Carroll—this state of affairs is difficult to understand.

No one is more keenly aware of Monaghan's plight than its present County Chairman—Mick Duffy. A native son of the county, he played all his football there, and for almost thirty years has held office in various capacities. As a player he won league and championship medals with his local club, Blackhill.

He became an official for the first time in 1939 when elected club secretary, a position he held until 1950. Meantime in 1944 he had become County Registrar. In 1952 he took office as Vice-Chairman of the County Board, and the following year was elected Chairman and Representative to the Central Council.

He has retained both positions ever since but not without stern opposition on various occasions. For instance at this year's County Convention he was opposed by former county footballer, John Murray. After the first ballot the result was a draw—72 votes each. A second ballot produced a victory for Mr. Duffy by eight votes—79 to 71. "You could have heard a pin dropping when the result was being announced", said Mr. Duffy. "It was certainly a close and exciting contest".

He also recalled his contests with Fr. Kirk for the position in the 1950's. Despite these challenges he has remained in office from the time he was first elected—a tribute surely to his popularity. Far from resenting opposition he welcomes

it. "It is a healthy sign to see people prepared to stand for office," he remarked, "and also a clear indication of the democratic nature of the Association".

Emigration, is in his opinion, one of the chief causes of Monaghan's poor performances in recent years. The county is mainly rural with most of the farmers living on small holdings. Young people reared on such farms have little option but to emigrate when they leave school, as the county does not possess sufficient industry to absorb them. To illustrate this point he named four county players who would be automatic selections for the senior team if they were domiciled at home—Joey Carroll, Tony Carville, McCartan Moore and Mick Forde.

The change in the educational set-up in the county is, he believes also responsible for the decline in Monaghan football. In former years young boys who wished to receive a secondary education usually went to St. McCartan's College, as boarders. Such is not the case to-day. Many boys now attend the new day-schools opened in towns like Castleblayney, Clones

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and Carrickmacross. The opportunity and time for playing football at these schools is much more limited than at the College. It still houses as many pupils as before but many of these come from outside the county.

Though the present picture of Monaghan football is gloomy, there are signs of a possible resurgence. Already this season the junior county team reached the final of the Ulster championship, only to be defeated by an above average Down side which included in its line-out players like Jim McCartan, Kevin O'Neill and John Smith. The minor team qualified for the Ulster Minor League final, but again the county tasted defeat at the hands of the Mournemen. Nevertheless these were encouraging performances. "We have a plentiful supply of good young players", stated Mr. Duffy, "but our big problems will be to try and blend them into a successful side, and also to try and keep them at home".

He is satisfied with the standard of club football in the county. "Any of our top clubs could hold their own with the best clubs in the country", he said. However he expressed regret that many club officials were apathetic about the fate of the county teams. "Unless all our club officials are prepared to do their duty with regard to the county teams", he stressed, "we can never hope to succeed".

I asked Mr. Duffy how the standard of football at present compared with that of his playing days? "The game nowadays is much faster, more scientific and much more attractive to watch", he replied. "Furthermore despite the fact that the emphasis is now on teamwork, brilliant individuals are still adorning the game".

He feels, however, that the intercounty programme is becoming a bit top-heavy. "The time is near, if it has not already arrived, to examine the whole system of intercounty competition," said Mr. Duffy. "In many cases at present it

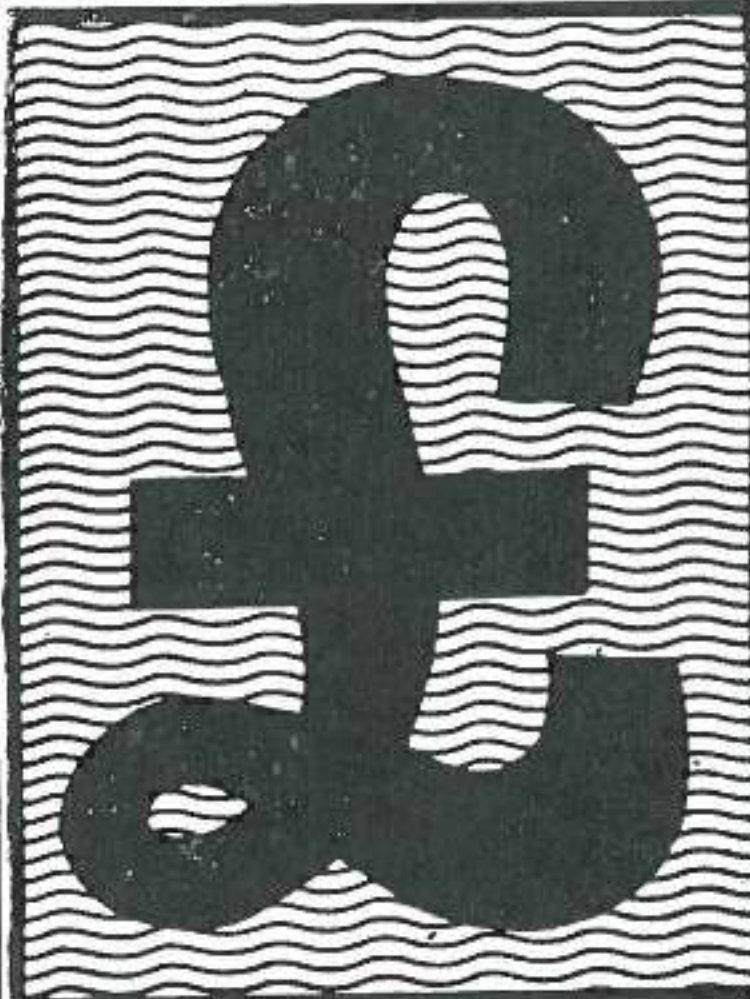
is placing an intolerable burden on many of our younger players".

He is delighted with the new National League set-up. "This is very beneficial to the weaker counties like my own. We are always grateful for small mercies", he commented. He favours retention of the present All-Ireland championship in preference to an open-draw competition. The latter would eliminate the provincial

deciders which he believes would be a great loss.

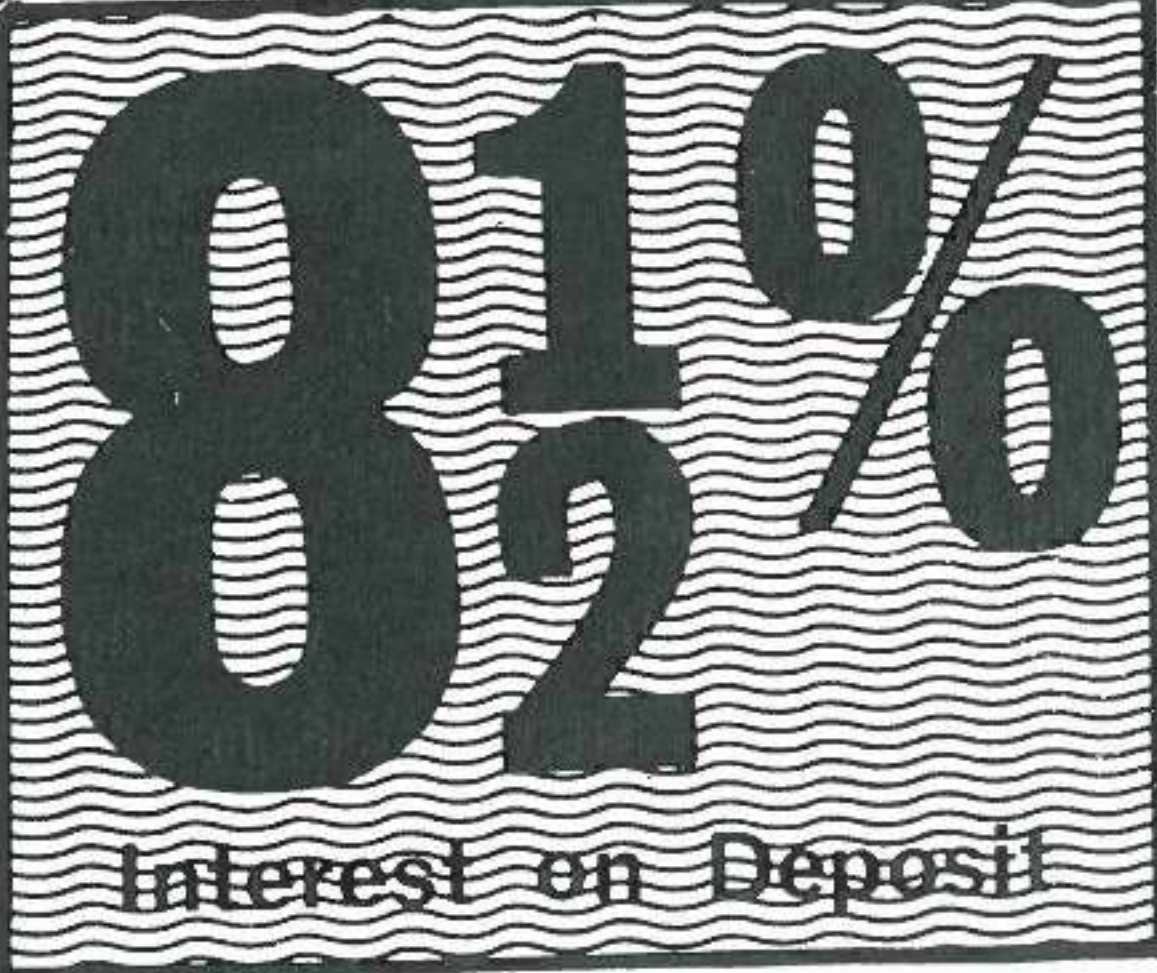
Since his election as County Chairman he has also had the task of representing his county at Central Council level. This body has from time to time been criticised for being too large and unwieldy. He does not subscribe to this view. He admits that the Council has occasionally made mistakes but

(Continued page 48).



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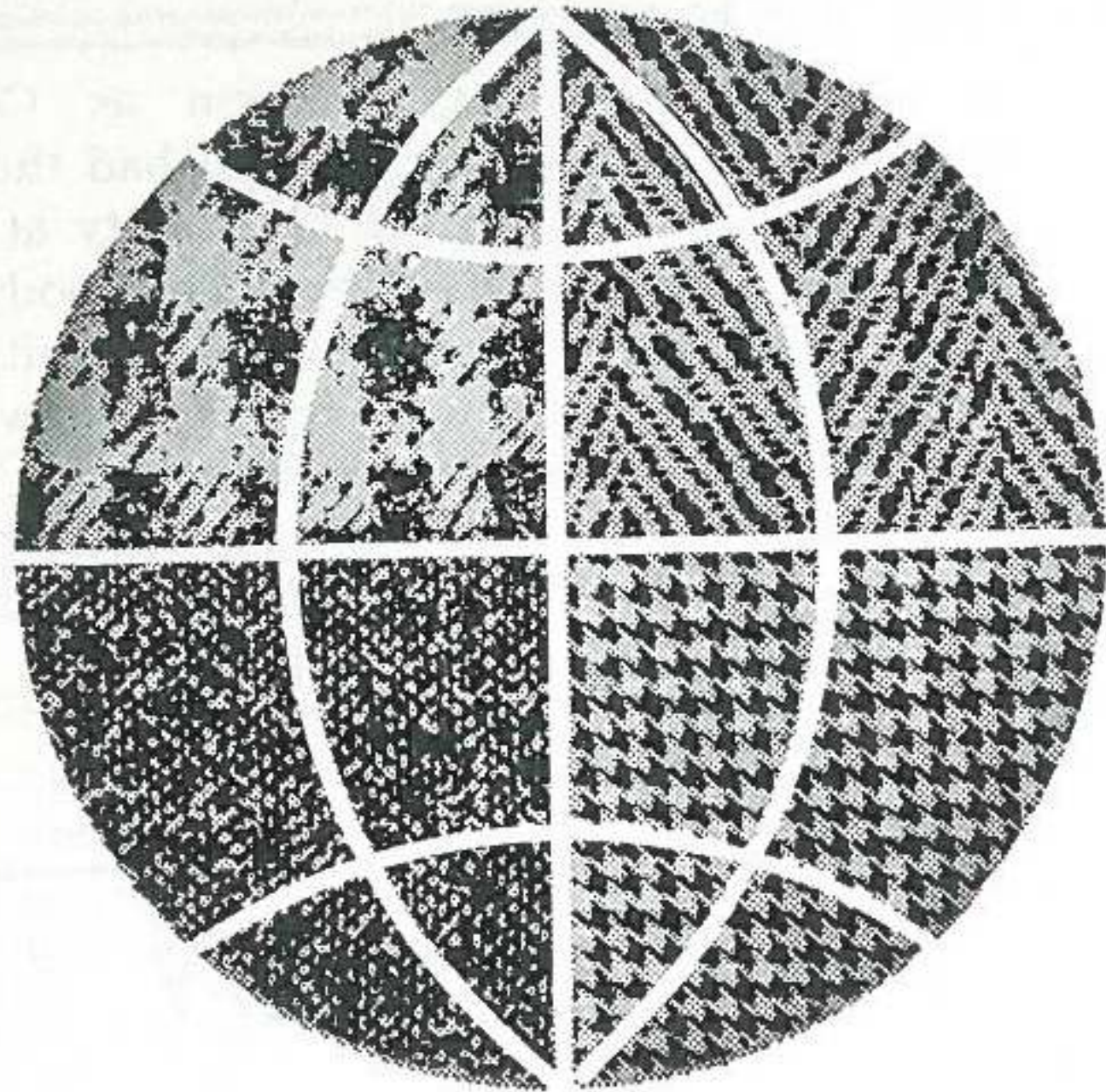
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*Adeir SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN*

**L**E fada tá udarasaí an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael ag moladh dá bhfó-oifigí dul i mbun gnótha i dtaca le saol sóisialta do mhuintir na gclub. Is minic a thagair mé don chéanna san Iris seo agus an uair dheiridh bhí moladh agam go bhfaighfí áit do na cailíní in imtheachtaí na gclub. Anois, tá áthas mór orm a chur in iúl go bhfuil club amháin tar éis cion míle fear a dhéanamh sa ghné seo den ghluaiseacht. Ar ndóight tá gliondar orm gur sa pharóiste agam féin a tharla sé.

Sráid-bhaile bheag ab' ea Tigh Lorcáin ar an mbóthar amach ó Bhleá Cliath go Brí Chualann. Le fiche bliain anuas tá tithe á dtógáil máguaird, i gCnoc Mhuirfean, i gCill Mhacoda agus i dTigh Lorcáin féin agus i láthair na huairé tá an cheantar chomh mór le Droichead Átha nó Sligeach. Paróiste Chill Mhacoda a bhí ann i dtosach báire, annsin tugadh Paróiste Cnoic Mhuirfean agus Chill Mhacoda ar an gcomhpharóiste le roinnt mhaith de bhlianta agus dhá bhliain ó shin roinneadh an ceantar ina dhá chuid, eadhon, Paróiste Chill Mhacoda agus paróiste Chnoic Mhuirfean.

Ar cuma ar bith bé "Cill Mhacoda" a tugtaí ar na foirne ón gceantar i gcónaí agus gach bliain beagnach, ó am a bhunaithe, bain-

eann an club craobh éigin leo san iomáint nó sa pheil. Caithfear a smaoitiú go dtáinig tromlach na muintire isteach sa pharóiste seo in dhiaidh posadh dóibh nó nuair nach raibh sa mhuirín ach leanáí óga. Dá bhrí sin d'fhás fóirne an chlub de réir mar a bhí na clainn a chur sna comórtaisí éagsúla diaidh ar ndiaidh; i láthair na huairé tá an chéad ghlún de bhuaicillí na háite ag imirt sa chomórtas fé bhun bliain ar fhichead agus i gceann cúpla bliain beidh foireann sinn-sireach san áit le cúnadh Dé.

Nuair a tógadh na tithe sa cheantar seo níor thug an Coiste Chontae, lucht pleanála nó na foirgneoirí, áird ar bith ar riachtanas mór amháin in aon áit dá leithéid, eadhon, páirc imeartha agus halla pharóiste. Bhí, agus tá, buiochas mór ag dul do dhream bheag fear a bhunaigh Club de chuid an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael agus a fuair páirc imeartha i lár baill an pharóiste.

Ach sna laetha atá inniú ann agus i bparóiste ar imeall na cathrach ní leor páirc imeartha. Ní mór ionad a bheith ar fáil do na cailíní mar caithfimid admháil gur ionann an dúil ionainn i gcomhlúadar na mban agus an dúil sa mhíl ag an gcuileoig! Cinnte ní leor páirc chleachta chamoige do na cailíní cé gur maith an áit é.

Ní mór seomraí caidrimh, linnte snámha, áiseanna do leadóg, rinne, leadóg búird agus a leithéidí agus halla le haghaidh díospóireachtaí agus sle haghaidh drámaí a bheith ar fáil.

Beidh na rudaí seo agus tuille ar fáil san "Glenalbyn Community Centre" mar a tugtar ar an ionad phléisiúir i bparóiste Chill Mhacoda. Teach mór fair-sing, den chineál ar a dtugtar 'Seoirseach,' suite i lár tailte de chúig acra déag nó mar sin atá san ionad. Thart ar sé acra talmhan atá tugtha suas do na páirceanna imeartha de chuid an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael agus tá an chuid seo den ionaid scartha ar fad ón gcuid eile i dtaca le chluichí dhe ach tig le muintir an Chumainn feidhm a bhaint as na háiseanna eile san ionad.

Is áit í seo gur féidir leis an glann ar fad dul ó am go chéile; tá coistí ceaptha le cúrsaí a choinneáil fé smacht agus níl dainséar don mhórálacht. Más maith is mithid do chlubanna an Chumainn tabhairt faoi ceist na ndéagóirí agus is eisiomplár an iarracht seo i bParóiste Chill Mhacoda. Le duine duine mar Micheál de Búrca, príomhoide na scoile, i gceannas, níl baol ná go n-éireoidh thar chuimse leis. Guidhim rath Dé ar an obair.





## DAN McAREAVY

(Armagh Co. Chairman)

# Time

**T**HAT the G.A.A. is the greatest national organisation in the country is an accepted fact. Its place in the hearts of the vast majority of the Irish people is secure and the amount of solid "good" that it has done cannot readily be estimated. But a chain is as strong as its weakest link and it never ceases to amaze me that as the G.A.A. heads confidently towards its centenary year it should still be such an easy target for much valid criticism.

There are many in the country who are inclined to sneer at our organisation and who are continually pointing out how we, of the G.A.A. are second class in many respects. And I am not including in this number those in the Six Counties whom we normally classify as Unionist. Whatever the motives of the critics may be there is little doubt that much of the mud they sling could be avoided if we set ourselves to eradicate some of the faults from which our organisation un-

doubtedly suffers. Should we not, now and then, take a quick look at the things that might be improved?

It seems to me that many of our matches are over-robust and there is an unwarranted amount of rough play. The fault here would appear to lie with our referees who seem reluctant to order players from the field for any offence less than striking an opponent and not always even then. It is surely time that the "dirty foul" should be punished by instant dismissal. Our games will never be what they should be until a player can put all he has into a match without having to keep an eye on the opposing player in case he (the opponent) may maim or injure him.

Within the last year I heard a high official of the G.A.A. having the courage to declare that the conduct at some of our games was a disgrace. It was a most important meeting and this delegate was howled down by a few sincere but

obviously ill-informed die-hards. We were assured by this minority element that "it was scandalous for anyone to talk like that especially in this year of 1966". The logic of the hecklers left me dumbfounded. If we use the "all for Ireland mentality" to cloak our weaknesses then we are only fooling ourselves.

When offenders are ordered off and the time comes for a committee to deal with them, the first function seems to be to find an excuse for letting them off (I have read in the press recently where a county chairman made a valiant attempt to prove that "fighting" was not "striking"). Protests and appeals are examined to find excuses for upholding them, club delegates are eloquent in the defence of the delinquents and every "mitigating circumstance" is taken into account. Why not "boot out" these people who give us the reputation of being hooligans? They will never be missed.

Punctuality has never been a strong point in the G.A.A. routine.



# for reappraisal

I have not been at a single club or county game this year which commenced at the time it was supposed to commence. If a game cannot start until 3.50 p.m. then it should not be advertised to begin at 3.30 p.m. It is absolutely unknown for club games to start except when the latest latecomer is ready. Have you ever seen a club game starting bang on time? This same disdain for time-keeping applies also to our weekly and monthly meetings.

Then what of the lip-service which is paid to the cause of Irish dancing at meeting after meeting, at convention after convention, at presentation after presentation. Just check your local papers next week and see if there is more than one advert. out of every 20 for a ceili.

The acquisition of proper playing fields will be discussed in a later article and this is a problem of major dimensions especially here in the North. But what of the fields we have? Could they not be

far more "presentable" with even a minimum of labour and expense? In many club matches field markings are non-existent and surely a simple line of wire would help to give spectators a clue where the sideline boundary lies.

Our fixture lists also have a habit of getting out of hand because many clubs (or so it seems to me) consider it an achievement if that flimsy excuse for postponement holds water in the eyes of the committee in charge. This is something I cannot understand, just as I am also at a loss trying to reason out why at least one member of a club team so often appears in shirt and trousers. Such conduct leaves a bad taste.

Perhaps you will feel that I am simply a cynical critic who wants to find holes where none exist. That is not true because I am fully aware of the tireless and successful efforts of over 90 per cent. of our members in every facet of the life of the Association, but it is the "carry on" of that less than 10 per

cent. which is the trouble. Nor do I wish it to go out that I am the great perfectionist myself who has always dotted his "i's" and crossed his "t's". Far from it, but as the clergyman once said "Don't do as I do but do as I preach".

We may say that the "public image" of the Association is a matter only for the members of the Association, but the growth of the G.A.A., the spread of its influence, and its extension to include every section of the community in this country, depends on the perfection which we, its members, can give it. Let us proceed to tidy-up some of the small things.

The charge of being "second-class" will always be levelled against us so long as we act in a "second-class" manner. The G.A.A. is much too widespread and influential an organisation to be ignored, so it is up to us, the members, to see that those who might wish to ignore us, will have little to carp about concerning the conduct of our affairs.



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## HOW THE YOUNG ONES GROW TO GREATNESS

**U**P and coming teams, their full confidence not yet gained from experience, often meet established teams, and with various results. But, there is one thread which runs through such results: unless the veterans make their presence felt the first day, they will not often do so in a replay. A draw on the first day is always a satisfactory outcome for a team which is on the way up; against such opposition, it is a far from satisfactory result for those established at the top, or on the way down.

Young teams have much to gain from the playing of games, especially in the red-hot atmosphere of the championship. And here again is an important and often disregarded point: that new teams often make a great impression in League or tournament games, yet disappoint their supporters in the championship. It is hardly to be wondered at when you stop to think of the difference in the whole tone of things at the first round of the championships even; there is a tension, an expectancy and a building up of hopes far beyond the sixty minutes which are to be played that day. Even fairly far on through the League competition, and in challenge games, the same electricity does not crackle in the air, the same tense necessity to do well does not communicate itself to the players.

This is where experience has points to spare over young and surprised newcomers; the thing they call tradition, and which is so difficult of definition, may have something to do with this maiden flight of the unfledged, also, for it

has been noticeable that newcomers from the highly-honoured and long-supreme counties take less time to acclimatise to the tension.

I thought that the Offaly-Kildare game was a very good example of this principle: on the first day, Offaly, who, in spite of the amount of younger material in their ranks, had a solid backbone of experienced, long-headed campaigners, were the better. They had to be, indeed, if they were to win, and the winning had to be done that day. Kildare—anyone who had his eyes open at all could see this through the winter in the League after last year's fine under-21 performance—were a team of plentiful skill, polish and ability, who must improve as they gained more experience of the championship.

The draw the first day may have been a more significant factor than we can now see. It may be that history will show that it was the turning of a tide of events, perhaps changing the face of the honours list in the years to come.

That is the dilemma which faces the newcomers: they will find it hardest to make their mark early, because of their lack of big-time know how, and because of the shock of the experience of playing for "keeps". A couple of disappointments like this and fatalistic depression can take a hand; years pass and the promised success does not come. If they are good enough, it should come with perseverance. To persevere in the face of adversity is no easy task.

On the other hand, because of the danger of loss of form from



*"Pa" Connolly, who scored the point that earned Kildare a draw with Offaly in the quarter-final of the Leinster senior football championship. The Lilywhites were clear-cut winners in the replay.*

disappointment, need for a reasonably early break-through, at least through a few rounds, is vital. And, then again you could have the team which does not lose heart, but which keeps its form and plugs away, eventually breaking through after a number of years. They are like Derry in the 'fifties: when Derry got the breakthrough in Ulster and came to the All-Ireland Final, they had been promising for quite a while. But, when they were beaten in that final by Dublin, they were just too old, had soldiered a little too long, and had not left in them the reserves of resilience which would bounce them back to go all the way to the top next time.

On the other hand, note Galway's record: they were a young team, indeed, when they got through Connacht in 1963, beat Kerry against all the odds, and lost to Dublin, mainly through their very inexperience. But they were young enough—had broken

(Continued overleaf).



(From previous page).

through in time—to rebound from disappointment to a relaxed determination to do better next time.

This seems to be a very good rule, with few enough exceptions, and it even seems to override considerable changes in personnel: Cork cracked the Kerry dominance first in 1943, and won out in 1945, even though they had quite a number of newcomers to the team. Waterford failed in hurling in 1957 with a young side which got through Munster just at the right time for the good of their future development: they won the All-Ireland title two years later. Down first made an impact which was stifled by Purcell-powered Galway, but they were back with a vengeance.

It is on such things that history hinges: little things, which seem unimportant at the time, but which, in retrospect, point the clear path to final achievement. Trying to read history into those trifles in advance is a terribly hazardous business, but it seems to me that the makings of history are there in the cases of both Longford and Kildare this year. Both have had some success, so far; both are young enough to benefit for years to come; both resilient enough to come back from almost inevitable disappointment somewhere along the line of their early advances; both intelligent enough to gather and use the lessons of combat.

But, for both, it will be an uphill struggle as in the case of Down, for neither has a tradition to back them as Galway had. Longford are without a background of any kind; Kildare, of course, have one of the most illustrious backgrounds of any county in class as well as accomplishment, but the time-lag since the last great Kildare team has been so long that it matters little to to-day's youngsters, who were not born then. For them it can be as much a burden as an inspiration.

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## Congratulations To

# Wexford's Jimmy O'Brien

CONGRATULATIONS to Wexford hurler Jimmy O'Brien and his fellow co-directors Mr. and Mrs. Laurence O'Brien on the opening of their new premises the Central Garage at Lady Lane in Waterford. Jimmy O'Brien has been a fixture on the Wexford hurling team for some considerable time now and if one got the opportunity to ask the unassuming Jimmy what was the most memorable day in his life, we have no doubt that his reply would be "the first Sunday in September 1960."

For it was on that memorable day that fifteen men from the Model county trounced Tipperary to the tune of 2-15 to 0-11. For days, even weeks, before the game all the experts had written the match off as a walk-over for Tipperary but not alone did Nick O'Donnell and his fourteen heroes defeat the Munstermen, they walked round them and indeed the final score, decisive as it may appear, did not do justice to the superiority of the Wexford side that day.

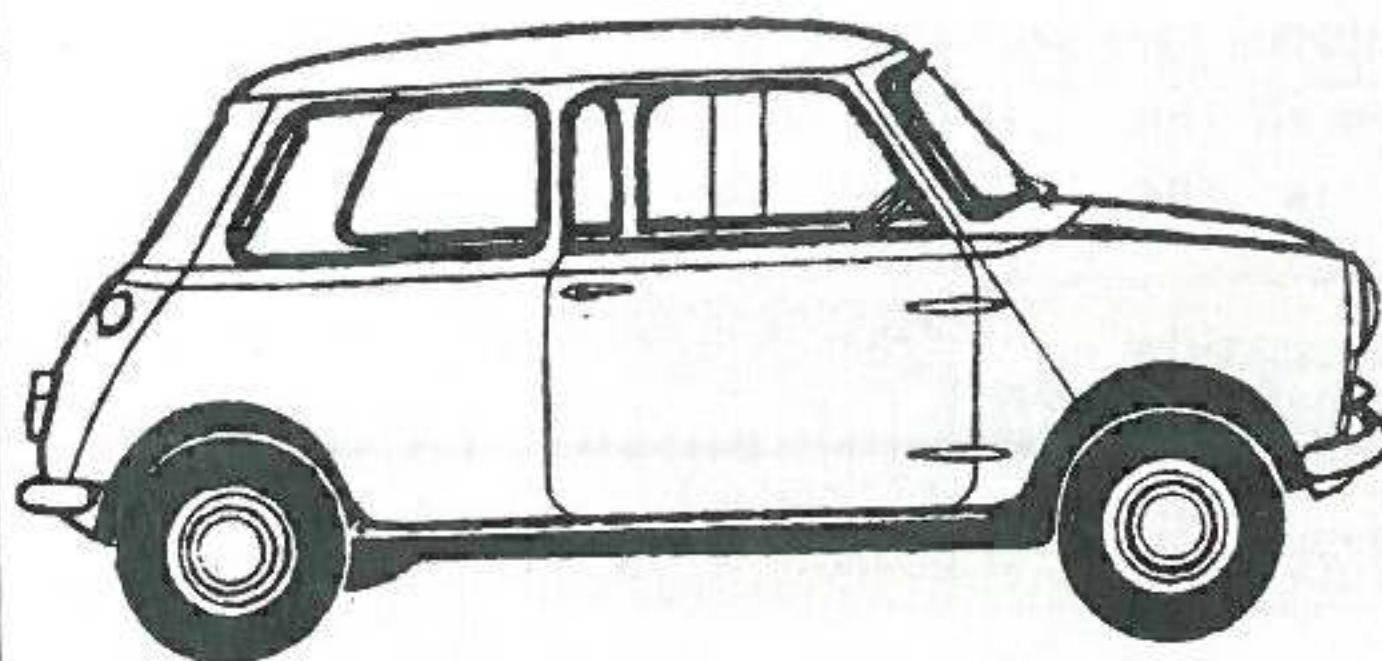
The Wexford line-out, in that historic victory, read as follows: Pat Nolan, John Mitchell, Nick O'Donnell, Tom Neville, Jim English, Willie Rackard, John Nolan, Ned Wheeler, Jim Morrissey, Jimmy O'Brien, Padge Keogh, Seamus Quaide, Hopper McGrath, Jack Harding and Tim Flood.

One of Jimmy's executives in his new premises is Waterford All-Ireland medal winner, Larry Guinan. Larry collected his medal with the victorious Waterford team of 1959 when after a drawn final they came out again on the 4th of October to overcome Kilkenny.

Once again, good luck Jimmy in your new enterprise and may your business prosper.

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*Ollie Walsh of Kilkenny, victorious on two occasions in the Poc Fada competition over the Cooley mountains.*

## *Poc fada idea 'catching on'*

**T**HE success of Cork goalkeeper, Finbar O'Neill, in this year's "Poc Fada" competition over the Cooley Hills course in County Louth has aroused considerable interest in the Southern hurling counties, and at a recent gathering of caman enthusiasts the suggestion was made that a number of similar competitions at local level would prove attractive, and would help hurling.

First of all, for those who may not be familiar with this comparatively new departure in the hurling sphere, a word of explanation may be necessary. "An Poc Fada" is, as its title implies, a "Long Puck" contest.

A championship has been played over the Cooley Hills near Dundalk for the past five years—the "course" extending over heather plateaux, stretches of mossy upland, steep inclines and ravines, and covering a total distance of almost three and a quarter miles. The ball is struck from the hand by competitors, and the player or team completing the course in the least number of shots, is the winner.

Visitors to some of our seaside Western coasts may have noticed groups on some of the larger strands developing the idea and

getting good holiday amusement from their endeavours. They have been in the main impromptu contests and played for side bets in some cases.

Keen enthusiasts maintain that contests of this nature played across country have a lot to recommend them and could provide good healthy exercise for as many as would like to participate.

There are remarkable potentialities, and for those who would not care too much for the strenuous cross-country stuff there is always the possibility of laying out a suitable track "on the flat" or securing the occasional use of a race or golf course.

The requirements are simple enough, and for those anxious for a bit of exercise, without undue exertion, appropriate arrangements should not be that difficult.

The main thing is that the idea is "catching on," and for the moment maybe it is as well that it be left free from regulation to permit different styles develop, from which it may be possible at a later day to evolve something really worth while, and acceptable to the vast majority of enthusiasts.

### **CLARE YANKS**

The rumpus raised as a result of the unauthorised trip of a quar-

tette of Claremen to New York highlights a problem that could become a very serious one in no time unless serious steps are taken now to nip what is becoming a growing practice in the bud.

We must face the fact that this was not an isolated incident as anyone in close touch with airport happenings will testify. It may be the first time the cat really escaped from the bag, but it is far from the first time similar missions have been attempted.

It is not easy to establish what occurred at the other side of the Atlantic as a result of these visits. One would think that the established players with most of the county sides there are sufficiently well known to the regular patrons of Gaelic Park as to make the appearance of "importees" stand out in bold relief.

A former well known player in New York has stated that clubs there are finding it more and more difficult to secure first-class players because emigration of the right type of material is not now on the grand scale of other days. This has forced mentors to seek assistance from outside New York and even from other of the American States and sometimes the word of



## MUNSTER MEDLEY

By

Seamus O Ceallaigh

club officials is the only clue to the identity of these players.

This, he says, could be now becoming established practice and it might be quite possible for leading Irish-based players to turn out in Gaelic Park without the bulk of the fans knowing who they were.

The offer of a free trip and a week's holiday in New York is a terrific inducement to any Irish lad and one that demands great willpower to turn down. In this respect it poses a serious problem for it must be faced that the enjoyment to be derived from the trip far outweighs in the opinion of many young players the chances of being caught and suffering a suspension term.

The solution to the problem appears to rest in New York where a climate must be established which will discourage clubs there from issuing invitations and paying the expenses of home-based players.

They must realise they have started something which could snowball out of all proportion and eventually create a monster that could wreak untold havoc to the whole concept of an amateur sporting organisation.

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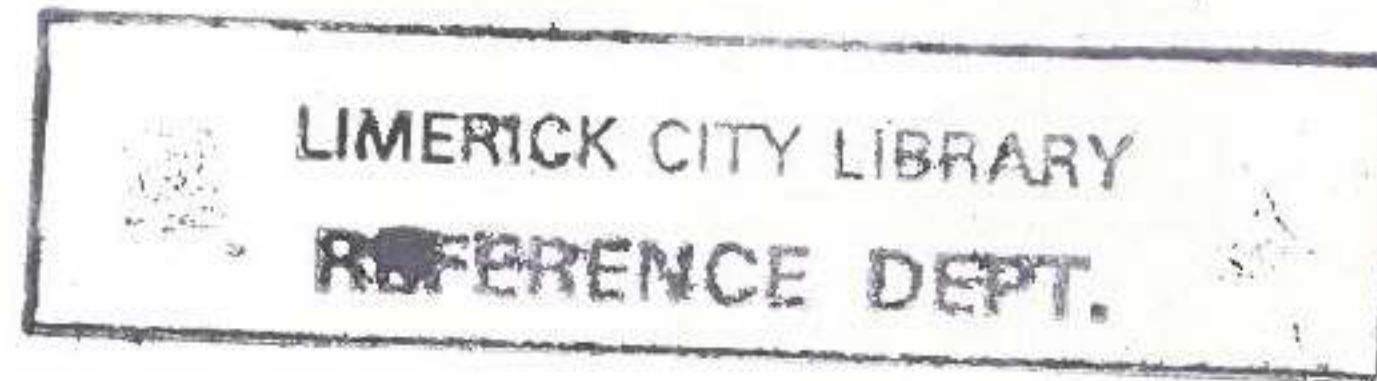
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*"If we agree that there is much room for a more dynamic approach on our part then surely we should make a more determined effort to provide for the special needs which face these areas. We must provide the initial impetus to these people who have no ready forum, no clubhouse or historical binding force such as would be applicable to similar areas in a rural environment".—Extract from the late Pádraig Ó Caoimh's last General Report to Congress.*

# KILMACUD

## SHOW THE WAY



By TOM McQUAID

ON the 9th of June last a new chapter was written into the G.A.A. history book; the place, Glenalbyn House, Stillorgan, situated about five miles from Dublin's city centre. Before a large gathering of press representatives, leaders of industry and many sporting organisations, Very Rev. B. Harley, P.P. of Kilmacud, opened and blessed the Glenalbyn Community Centre, a project sponsored and financed by Kilmacud G.A.A. Club. But let's start at the beginning.

In November, 1963, Kilmacud G.A.A. Club, which was founded as recently as 1959, bought six and a half acres of land for £12,000 for use as pitches; a short time later they bought another one and a half acres. They proposed building a pavilion and dressing rooms on these lands. At the time it was felt it would be a pity, in view of the scarcity of amenities and playing spaces in the district, if these developments were carried out in a narrow, exclusive manner. A social group called the Glenalbyn Social and Athletic Federation was formed to seek areas of agreement and co-operation so that affiliations, creeds and classes

might co-operate for the good of the youth of the district without any sacrifice of individual principles. It was agreed to cultivate the many social, athletic and cultural activities on which there was no dispute rather than become involved in the relatively few in regard to which there was contention.

The plans for the Community Centre were drawn up by an architect and an interest free loan was sought from the County Council. The Council agreed to grant a loan of £54,000, but the arrival of the credit squeeze made it impossible to proceed with the project.

At this time Glenalbyn House, a spacious Georgian residence with six and a half acres attached, came on the market, and with the aid of backing and grants from the Central Council of the G.A.A. and Messrs. A. Guinness & Co. Ltd., this property was bought and adapted as a Community Centre at considerable expense.

The following points are noteworthy in connection with this project:

(a) It is the first open liberal Community Centre sponsored by

any sporting organisation which is open to members of all classes, creeds and affiliations.

(b) Members may join without any sacrifice of their individual principles or allegiances.

(c) It is the first club house to be sponsored by a G.A.A. club with bar lounges for members attached.

(d) The aim is to seek areas of agreement rather than perpetuate old differences.

(e) The emphasis is on the family: to provide facilities and amenities for all members of the family.

(f) A large part of the holding of fifteen acres has been devoted to those communal activities in which everybody, irrespective of affiliation, may take part.

The Community Centre presently provides for its members facilities for meetings, card games, bridge, whist, ballad sessions, concerts, debates, gramophone recitals, keep fit classes, television and film shows.

For adult members there are comfortable lounge bars used mainly by members and their wives. For juveniles and teen-

● TO PAGE 35



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# KILMACUD SHOW THE WAY

● FROM PAGE 33

agers there is a completely separate section with its own private entrances and exits. This section contains a soft drink bar and lounge, five table tennis tables, two miniature billiard tables, a gymnasium, and separate toilets and dressing rooms. Other amenities include a hard tennis court which is specially slotted for conversion into a basketball pitch. A pitch and putt course is also in process of preparation.

More ambitious projects, which will take longer to complete, include a large basketball hall which can also be used for concerts, dances, dramatics and general meetings. Also envisaged is an indoor heated swimming pool of international competition standard, and last, but certainly not least, two first-class G.A.A. pitches, one

for Seniors and one for the Juveniles.

The provision of bar lounges in the Community Centre may cause surprise and misgivings in some quarters but the following points should be borne in mind:

(a) These lounges may be used only by those over twenty-one. The main aim is to bring parents together for the welfare of their children, to use the profits as an economic prop for the provision of further amenities and activities for the youth, and also to enable ex-players to keep in touch, by giving them a social centre in which to renew old friendships.

It is no longer possible to run clubs on the raffle ticket or the odd dance organised surreptitiously by the club officials, and it is surely to be desired that parents

should associate themselves with the welfare of their children.

(b) In this Centre the under twenty-ones have a complete section of their own and are denied access to the main building, thereby ensuring that there can be no possible abuse of the licensed facilities.

Glenalbyn has been modelled on the golf club system, a system which has done much to preserve open green spaces throughout the country, particularly in the suburbs of the towns and cities, and it is no secret that few of these golf clubs could survive without the profits which accrue through the lounge bar sales. Another important point is that admission to the licensed part of the Glenalbyn Centre is reserved strictly for members, who may introduce visitors under certain well-defined conditions, but it is not the intention to admit non-member spectators at the various games.

This whole project has been the  
● TO PAGE 37



ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY . . . when the victorious Kilmacud G.A.A. (Under 13) team were being presented with their trophy at Glenalbyn House it was difficult to know who were the prouder, the parents or the conquering heroes. Chairman of the Kilmacud Club, Micheál de Búrca is second from left (back row).



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**MAKE SURE IT'S**

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**ASK TO SEE THE BOTTLE**



# KILMACUD

## ● FROM PAGE 35

work of a few intensely dedicated men. They are the officers of the Kilmacud G.A.A. Club, as follows: The President: Very Rev. B. Harley, Parish Priest of Kilmacud; Chairman: Micheál de Búrca; Secretary: Sean Collins; Treasurers: James J. Rea and M. Wilson; Trustees: In addition to the Chairman and Mr. Rea there are the brothers Matt and Patrick Forkin. The Patron of the Kilmacud Club is Very Rev. S. Clune, P.P. of Mount Merrion.

It would be an injustice to these men to try and convey in words what they have achieved and indeed what they will achieve in the future. In the course of my visit, it is no exaggeration to say that there were more than one hundred young boys and girls all participating in some sort of healthy sport, facilities for which had been provided by the hard work of the Kilmacud Club Officers, and indeed when I took my leave of Micheál de Búrca around midnight this extraordinary man was just about to commence some administrative work which would take him well into the night, and I know that even mentioning this fact will embarrass this unassuming man.

There are those who would accuse the G.A.A. of being apathetic, of living in the past or, to use the modern idiom of "not being with it," but while there are men like Micheál de Búrca and his co-officers of the Kilmacud G.A.A. Club alive and kicking, to those would-be accusers I say "BE SILENT"!



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**A**N ideal venue has been secured for the 1966 All-Ireland Ploughing Championships which will be held on the 2nd and 3rd November, on the Rosegarland Estate, Wexford, by kind permission of Mr. Francis Leigh.

An added attraction will be the new Class for students of Agricultural Colleges, the final of which will be run in conjunction with the National Finals in Rosegarland. The winner will receive a prize of £300 and runner-up £150, sponsored by Messrs. Henry Ford & Son Ltd.

This All-Ireland is leading up to be one of the keenest ever, with a trip to New Zealand for the winner, who will represent Ireland in the World Ploughing Contest in May, 1967.

**PENPOINT**

Dear Sir,—I am writing to you, so that I may point out a certain prejudice in the G.A.A.! In the first round of the Ulster championships, Down had to play Tyrone at Dungannon. In the first round, Antrim played Derry at Casement Park. In the "semis", Down had to go to Casement! Two Home Games for Antrim is too much.

Also, when I was last in Casement Park, wearing Down's colours, Antrim men remarked: "O Down are all old men!" Well, Antrim supporter, they can still beat ANY team in Ulster, eg., Donegal, Fermanagh, Armagh, Tyrone, etc. Age has nothing to do with it (e.g., Christy Ring). It's CLASS That Counts!

Yours Faithfully,  
**THOMAS CASSIDY.**

58, Bankmore Street,  
 Belfast 7.

P.S.: I dare you to print this, and give me an answer?

*EDITOR: Now, Now, Master Cassidy! Don't be too upset, after all did not Down win both their away games and you must feel even more proud of them now.*

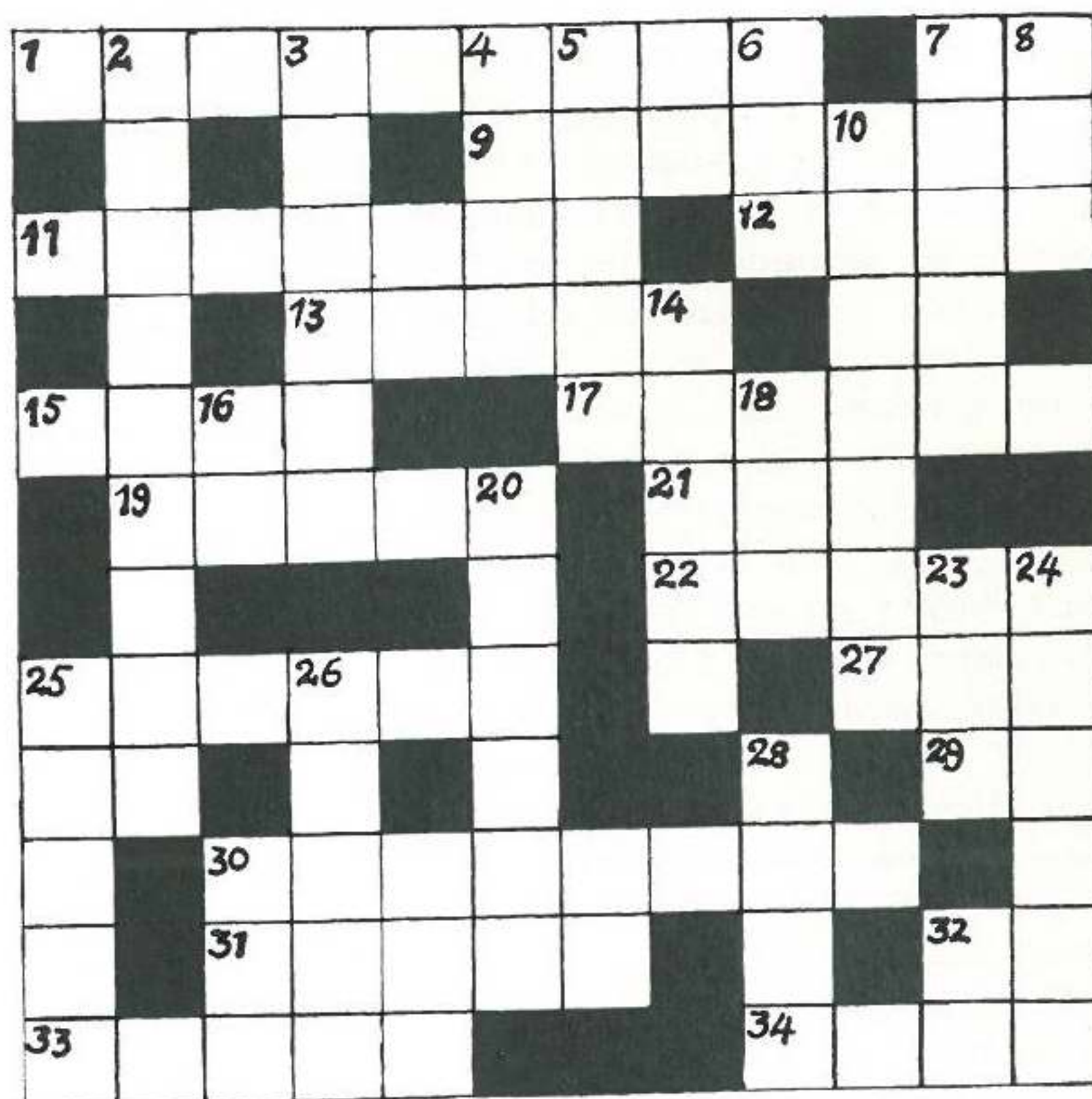


# CROSSWORD

By PERMUTER

## CLUES ACROSS:

1. A Cavan and Ulster goalkeeper of the forties. (3, 6)
7. Another goalkeeper—a famous Mayo one (initials). (1, 1)
9. For long the mainstay of football in his county; he had to wait for hurling to win his only All-Ireland medal. (7)
11. A stylish Cork centre-back or corner-back of the last successful Cork teams in the fifties. (1, 6)
12. A Cork football forward had the same Christian name as a great world heavy-weight champion with Mayo connections. (4)
13. Those unused to holding hurleys sometimes develop such sore spots on their hands. (5)
15. What the referee ought to do to one who hits another accidentally. (4)
17. It could be Ignatius from Galway, or Joe from Waterford. (6)
19. TR before the finish leads to a general tendency. (5)
21. Three parts of the man who made the Ark. (3)
22. All-Ireland champions in their grade in 1965. (5)
25. A stalwart Galway defender, and an author, too. (1.5)
27. A combined movement performed by a twosome? (3)
29. Northern Union, perhaps? (2)
30. Kerry forward, who has appeared at centre-field also; was in the last two unsuccessful teams. (1, 7)
31. The best known trainer-manager of the lot, in spite of recent lack of success by his home county. (5)
32. Cork footballer of the forties, who played for Munster in a time when few outside Kerry enjoyed the honour; wing-half back mostly. Initials. (2)
33. Like 32, but a forward. (5)



34. Essential goal equipment in all championship games. (4)

## CLUES DOWN

2. The playing of such a period is necessary to resolve a deadlock. (5, 4)
3. Colourful Meath forward—formerly with Laois. (6)
4. Drumgoole—his Christian name suggests birth at Christmas.
5. Key man at centre or corner forward in Meath All-Ireland victories. He had a namesake in goal for that county. (5)
6. National League Game? (3)
7. The atmosphere, perhaps, in a tight finish. (5)
8. Always a nice draw, especially in the first round, allowing a clear passage. (3)
10. Laois defender's surname; if it were his Christian name he would probably be called Len. (7)
14. For long a sub., he has now begun to make his name on Galway's team. (5)
16. Initials of Kilkenny hurler whose name suggests the space race. (2)

(Continued overleaf)



# CAMOGIE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE resurgence of camogie here and there throughout the country has been a feature of the month since last I wrote, and by now the championships should have been completed in all provinces.

In Leinster, the senior championship was finished earlier than elsewhere, and again Dublin retained the title although they were harder pressed this year than for many seasons past. Wexford, meeting them for the fifth consecutive year in the Leinster final, gave the champions a very hard run for their medals and made the boldest bid yet to bring the senior crown out of Dublin.

It is in fact just thirty years since this feat was last accomplished and that was by Louth at a Dublin venue back in 1936. Dublin avenged that defeat in the following season after a drawn game and a replay.

The number of times in the thirty years since then that Dublin have been hard-pressed to win the Leinster title are so few that they can be fairly readily recalled. There were, of course, a couple of seasons in which, for one reason or another, Dublin did not compete, and there were a few other seasons in which a single club, C.I.E., represented the Metropolis.

But when Dublin sent out a united side there were very few occasions when they were made fight tooth and nail for Leinster victory. There was for instance one wonderful game against Kildare at Kill just before the war, in which Dublin were a trifle lucky to attain victory and a game against Wicklow, played I think at Ashford in the early 'fifties, and another occasion at Parnell Park a year or two afterwards when a gallant Meath team led Dublin for much of the trip but faded away in the closing stages.

But the closest call, I think, that Dublin have had in all these years was at Parnell Park something more than a decade ago when Wicklow, after leading into the closing stages, were unluckily beaten by a few late scores. Those were the days when the four Kavanagh sisters from Rathnew were playing and I think the Glenealy sisters were the brightest of Wicklow's stars. Three of them if not four played at one time or another for Wicklow, and they were members of a remarkable Gaelic family, for their father played for Wicklow for more than twenty years, while every one of a long line of brothers also played football for the county.

The Douglas sisters and Nancy

Quinn were other Wicklow stars of that fine side, who came so close to victory in Parnell Park on that drizzly evening.

Wexford showed considerable improvement this year on some previous seasons and I was particularly impressed by their defence in which, for once, even that fine full-back Mary Sinnott was somewhat overshadowed by the displays of her fellow defenders, Joan Murphy, Carmel Fortune, and above all Margaret O'Leary who is by now one of the finest defenders in the country.

What then of Dublin? Are they short of last year's standard? That remains to be seen, but two things must be remembered. In the first place this was their first competitive outing since the All-Ireland final last September and they did not seem to me to be in anything like peak condition. In the second place it is also well to remember that Dublin have had only one change from last year.

That change brings in one inter-provincial in Kitty Murphy, who formerly played with Clare but is now resident in Dublin, for Alice Hussey who is, I understand, very unlikely to play again, as she intends taking up an appointment in Spain.

## CROSSWORD CLUES (From Page 39)

18. Louth player—his name is the same as a top jockey of the moment. (3)
20. One of Down's best—but he missed the golden era, though a sub in 1960. He sounds at home in Colorado. (6)
23. Urn makes an important instruction to all players. (3)
24. In this category are found the stars of the future. (6)
25. Kennedy of Dublin (1948) and later of Tipperary. (5)
26. This goalkeeper came into the Limerick team as an experiment, but has never since looked back. (5)
28. An outstanding performer for New York, who sounds like a north European or even the balancing mechanism of a fish. (4)
30. Post Boys' United—perhaps. (3)
32. Right—but briefly. (2)



## CAVAN SIGH FOR OLD HEROES

**B**y the time you read these notes at least seven of Ulster's football hopefuls will have fallen by the wayside, but in no place will the fall have been as severe as in Cavan. Hopes had been so high this year for a break-through which would have led to a renewal of old glory—and then crash—a trouncing by Donegal. And to make it worse it happened at Breffni Park right before the eyes of all Cavan Gaeldom.

These days in Breffni they sigh for Tony Tighe, John Joe O'Reilly, Mick Higgins, Simon Deignan, Victor Sherlock, Louis Blessing, Willie Young and many more who carried the flag aloft to victory in sterner days. They ask what is wrong, and never is there an answer which appears convincing.

Like the rest, I don't claim to have the answer either. I just wonder.

I can tell you this though—the county has some fine minor hopefuls. Maybe they will grow up quickly to be Tony Tighes and John Joe O'Reillys. I certainly hope so for football is the poorer without Cavan to the forefront.

### BELFAST COURSE

During the first week of August Des Ferguson, Donie Nealon and Father T. Maher—now recognised as the country's foremost hurling coaches—will be in Belfast conducting a course for boys and teachers. The unusual feature behind the story is, of course, that indirectly the Stormont Government are the sponsors of the course.

### IN BRIEF

The bold Frankie Donnelly kicked eleven points for his club,

Carrickmore, against Magherafelt, Co. Derry, in a football tournament recently. Tyrone could certainly have done with this great veteran against Down.

◆ ◆ ◆

Donegal star Sean Ferriter may soon play with St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, while in Derry competition former county star, Leo O'Neill, has turned out for Dungiven where he is now teaching. There he teams up with former comrades, Frankie Broolly, Charlie O'Connor and Billy O'Kane. Leo's brother, Gerry, has thrown in his lot with the Rasharkin club across the Bann in County Antrim.

◆ ◆ ◆

Big upset in Derry this year is the defeat of long reigning champions, Bellaghy, who were ousted by unfancied Ballinascreen. The latter had former county half back Colm Mulholland at full forward.

There is no doubt at all but that the All-Ireland victory of the Fermanagh Vocational Schools' team played a major part in reviving the spirit in the county which has resulted in the resurgence of the senior team.

◆ ◆ ◆

The President of the G.A.A., Alf Ó Muirí, opened a fine new field at Ballycran, Co. Down, recently. Ballycran is out on the Ards Peninsula. It used to be a hurling area until Down rose to football fame. Now it is a football stronghold.

◆ ◆ ◆

Mention of Ballycran reminds me of a former player of theirs—Kircubbin chemist Sean Blaney. During my playing days with the Ulster Colleges, I thought Blaney the best Colleges' player I had ever seen.

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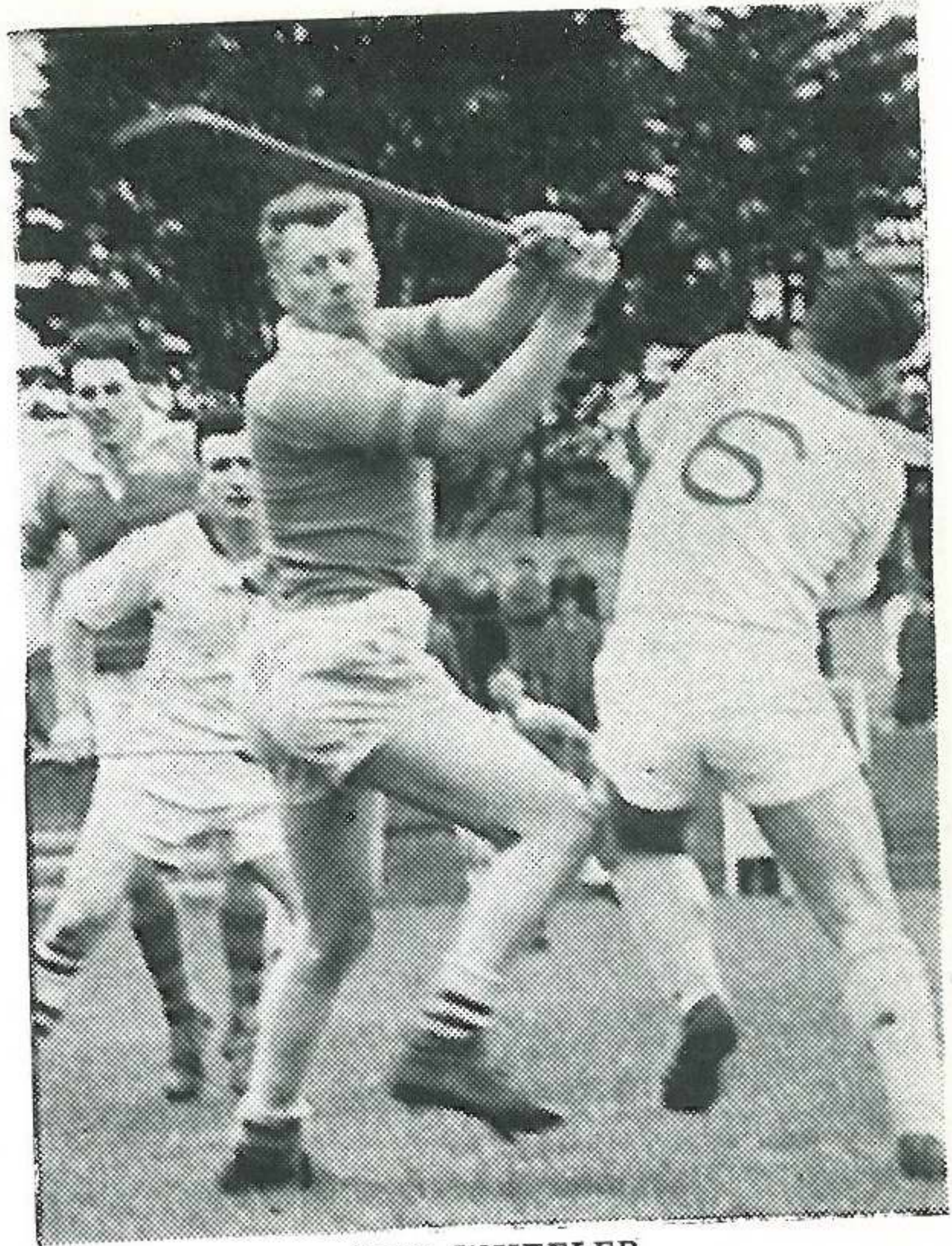
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# LEINSTER ROUND-UP

## *Farewell to Ned Wheeler*



NED WHEELER

By FRANK HUGHES

**G**OOD luck to you Ned Wheeler in far off Australia. May your banner never fall and may the Southern Cross always protect you and yours.

Yes, the great Ned Wheeler has gone to make a new life for himself and his young family and while it was a case of voluntary emigration, prompted largely by a spirit of adventure, it is still a sad event, for Ireland can ill afford to lose giants of men like Ned Wheeler.

In my book he was one of the outstanding hurlers of our time. A powerful striker who starred in every position from centre half-back to full forward.

A Laoisman by birth he was, of course, Wexford by adoption and it is as such he will be remembered. And we will remember him

—the blond giant who for fifteen years graced the hurling fields of Ireland.

### SHAY O'HANLON

And from a giant in one sport to a giant in another. A belated "well done" to Seamus O'Hanlon who was surely Leinster's star sportsman of the past month. By winning Rás Tailteann a third time, O'Hanlon proved himself to be without doubt the greatest road-cyclist Ireland has ever produced.

What a great pity the N.C.A. is still prevented from taking its rightful place on the international scene. In men like O'Hanlon, Paddy Flanagan, Gene Mangan and Co., Ireland has amateur cyclists who could bring great international honour to our shores. But such is the state of things that these men stay banned—and simply because

they happen to believe that this country of ours consists of 32 counties.

### THE OFFALY HURLERS

When we look back on the current championship season. I believe it will have to be admitted that one of the major indications of hurling progress was the performance of the men from Offaly.

They won Division II of the National Hurling League and reached the Leinster semi-final where they gave an outstanding performance against League champions Kilkenny.

Mark you, the only major difference between the two teams in that latter game was experience and as things stand I would rate Offaly well fit to step into Division I of the N.H.L. later this year.

(Continued overleaf).



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(From previous page).

## **WEXFORD FOOTBALL**

Despite the trouncing received by the Wexford footballers against Meath in the opening round of the Leinster championship, it is obvious that a football revival is underway by the Slaney. In minor and under-21, Wexford has produced very solid teams this year and I think it is safe to say that in two years or so the county will be back as a reasonable football force capable of giving a match of it to the best.

## **WICKLOW HURLING**

While Wexford may be considering a football resurgence, there is every indication that Wicklow are on the verge of a hurling breakthrough. By the time you read these notes they will probably have played Kildare in the Leinster junior hurling final due for July 31 and I shall be surprised if they have not been victorious.

Dublin hurler, Paddy Croke, has had the team for a special course of training and he speaks highly of them.

Last year, Wicklow reached the All-Ireland semi-final where they lost narrowly to Armagh, at Armagh. If Wicklow reach the same stage this year they will have the home venue and will, once again, face the Ulster champions.

Here is a long-term forecast—Wicklow to reach the All-Ireland J. H. "home" final. This, however, is very much conditional on no damage being done to the county's prospects by an objection which, as I write, has been lodged by Arklow Geraldines against Forestry College. Forestry beat Arklow 5-17 to 2-1 in the county senior hurling championship.

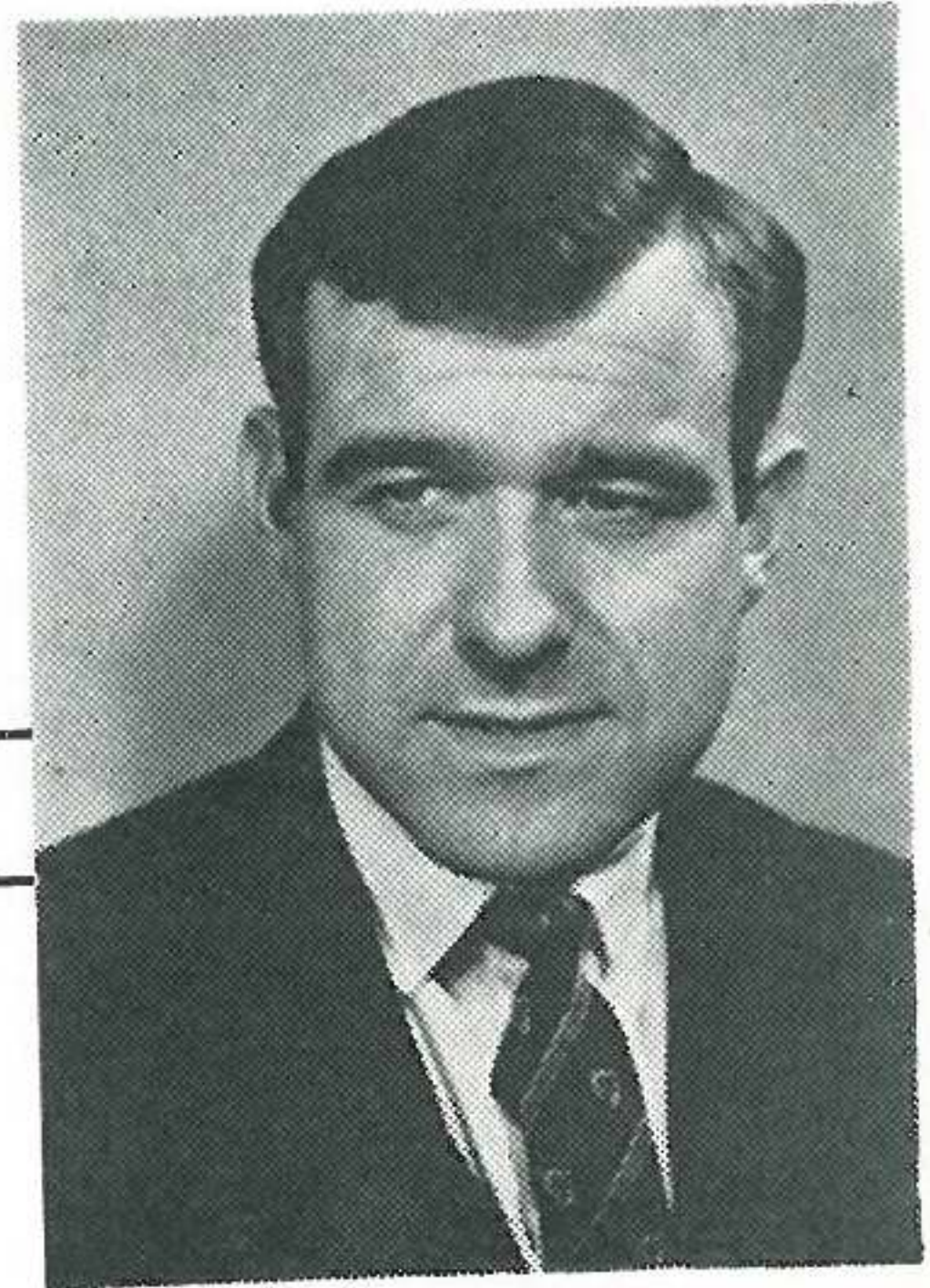
A few years back Wicklow were on the verge of a hurling breakthrough when another objection against Forestry College led to internal trouble which knocked the legs from under the county's prospects.

I sincerely hope there is not a repeat.



# PAT HENCHY

FACE TO FACE WITH SEAN O'DONNELL



PAT HENCHY

CLARE are out of the hurling championship race—in fact at about 5.15 p.m. on Sunday, July 3, quite a few Clare people felt that they were out of the human race. Hopes had been so high and then utter collapse. For an opinion as to where Clare goes from here I recently had the following conversation with Pat Henchy, the county's longest serving player.

*O'Donnell—I suppose it goes without saying that there is widespread disappointment in the county following the heavy defeat in the replay against Cork?*

Henchy—Yes, and perhaps that is understating the position. However, time heals everything and the “load” is beginning to lift.

*O'D.—Have you any explanation for the poor performance by Clare?*

Henchy—I have about a hundred explanations but I see little

point in trotting them out. Anyway I don't suppose you would have sufficient space. Seriously though, I prefer not to dwell on it. Had we been beaten by only a few points it might be a useful exercise to carry out a post-mortem—we might learn something from it but we were routed and the game is best forgotten from Clare's point of view.

*O'D.—How do you now view the future of this Clare team?*

Henchy—Believe it or not but I believe that the team has an excellent future provided there are no psychological ill-effects. The team is a very young one with plenty of hurling ability as was proven in the National League—particularly at Croke Park against Tipperary and then against Cork in the first game. I am convinced that if Sunday, July 3, is forgotten—or put down to being no more

than an interesting experience, Clare can come back in the League and be there with a much improved team in next year's championship. The talent to do this is there.

*O'D.—You therefore don't consider the result of the replay against Cork to be a true indication of Clare's worth?*

Henchy—Of course not. No one who saw the drawn game would suggest that it was.

*O'D.—What single quality do you believe Clare most require?*

Henchy—I should think it is experience.

*O'D.—To change the subject Pat, what do you think of Galway's participation in the Munster hurling championship?*

Henchy—Well, they have had no less success than Clare has had

(Continued Page 48).



(From page 7).

Reading his reference to it one can only conclude that the said Mr. Fahy has been in the States for quite some time and as a result very much Americanised. He stated:

*But the irony of the game is that one of the players from Clare, who came from Ireland, was already under suspension in Ireland . . .*

That in our humble opinion was without doubt the understatement of the month.

It is impossible to close the Clare casebook without a word of condemnation of those responsible for bringing out the players. The players themselves are by no means free of guilt, but it must be

realised that the temptation was tremendous—a short holiday in New York and everything paid.

But the men in New York who put up the bribe and did the tempting are surely the real culprits. They must stand condemned not alone as poor G.A.A. men and poor sportsmen but as men of no regard at all for the county of their birth, its hopes and aspirations.

Clare has been long enough in the wilderness and to have its chances of a major break-through ruined by its own exiled county-men was true irony—if not something a lot worse.

Finally, whatever system it is that operates with the New York G.A.A. and allows for the violation

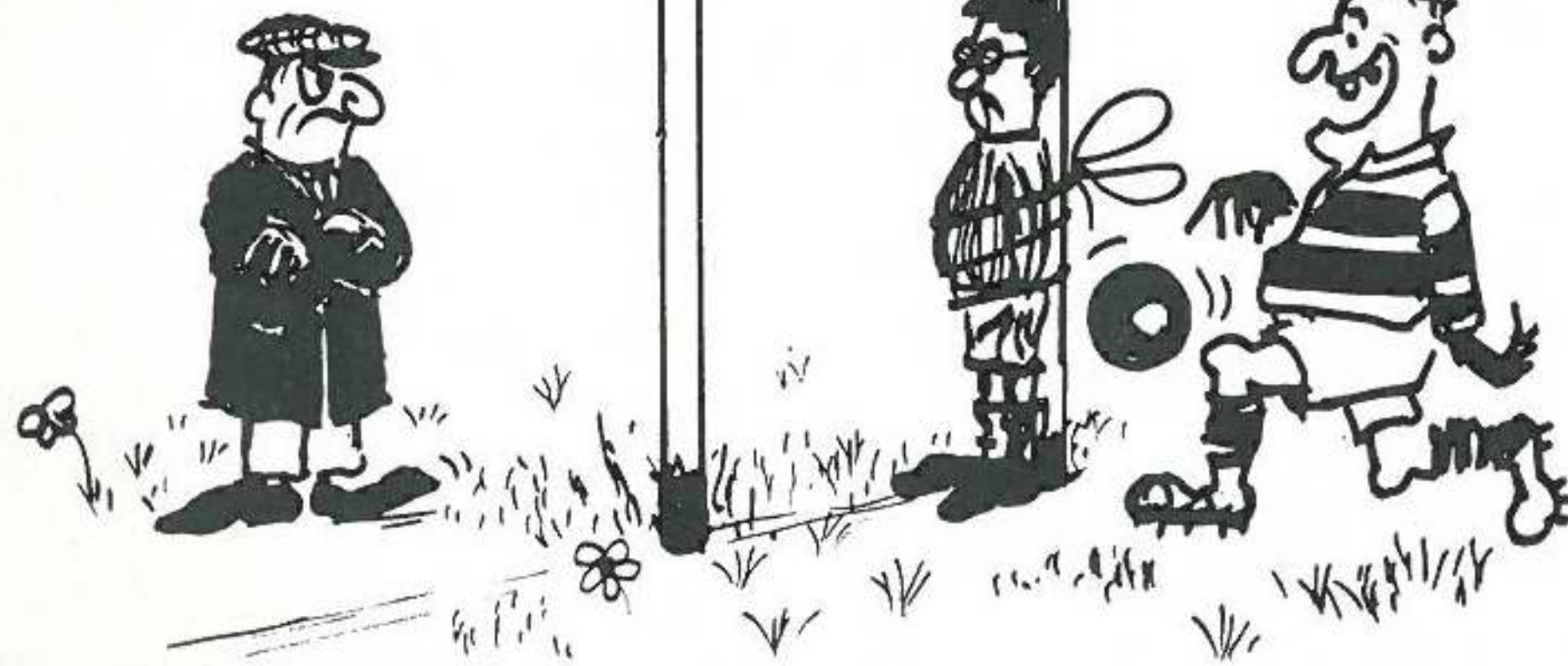
of Rules which are vital to the whole structure of the Association, must also be condemned.

Clare in New York would not have done what they did unless they felt that they would get away with it in New York. And, at the time of writing, it would appear that they have got away with it. For the sake of everybody, let us hope the New York Board lives up to its responsibility.

But in the midst of it all the County Board's of Clare and Louth can surely hold their heads high. We doff our hats to them both.

*For the report on the Louth County Board meeting we are indebted to the "Drogheda Independent".*

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## MAN OF THE MONTH

**I**F handball nominated an outstanding personality each month, I have no hesitation in saying that the current holder would be John Fleming from Dublin. The tall Detective Inspector has just brought this year's Garda championships to a close, and to say that he made a success of them would be a gross under-statement.

When John was given the task a couple of seasons back of re-organising handball in the force, many viewed the venture with a little trepidation. Time, however, has brought its own results and it stands to the credit of Inspector Fleming and his small band of workers, that the Garda club is now pulling its true weight in the cause of Irish handball.

This, of course, is not John's first contribution to the game. He hit the headlines as a player many years ago in the Dublin singlet. Success was not his lot, although on more than one occasion, sheer hard luck deprived him of the spoils. Likewise when the occasion demanded it, he gave his services willingly as an administrator.

It was little wonder in fact that when the Garda Club was formed in Dublin at the end of 1962 in conjunction with the general re-organisation of sport in the force, John Fleming was its first Secretary. He has guided many of its

players to success in various championships and the senior and junior teams to victory in the leagues.

And for the record John himself was one of the most enthusiastic, and certainly not the least skilled member of those teams.

In the final analysis, however, the Garda championships are his greatest monument, and in future years, when they have outgrown their present dimensions, enthusiasts can point to the hard work and words of encouragement, which came from the genial man in Dublin Castle, who made it all possible.

As for the championships themselves, they clicked over merrily, drawing entries from stations in all four provinces. In that contest, let me add that the star of the show in which many shone was, in my opinion, the veteran Kanturk man Jim McGrath. At 46, he took his place beside players half his age and rendered quite a good account of himself.

In fact, his efforts were justly rewarded on the final day of the games, when he won the senior hardball doubles event, in partnership with the Cabra station representative, Willie Doran. This title, which was an addition to the junior he won in 1963, represents the zenith of handball endeavour,

for the gallant McGrath, who sees fit to make the long journey from Kanturk every year to compete.

Another McGrath—this time Pat from Nenagh—also made news. He formed a durable partnership with station colleague Bill Maguire and went on to win the senior softball doubles event. This was a particularly significant achievement in so far as it brought to a dramatic close, the virtual monopoly, which Dublin's Mick Sullivan and Richie Walsh had held on the senior section for many years.

With the utmost respect for the latter two, who have gallantly kept the Garda to the fore in inter-county competition over the past six years, it must be recorded that their eventual dismissal will make for much livelier competition in the premier section in years to come.

Congratulations also to Willie Doran, the Ballymore-Eustace-born player from Cabra Station. Like all players from the Kildare village his speciality is hardball, and there is no doubt but he showed all the scientific skills of the code in winning the singles and doubles events. Indeed if he retains his present degree of fitness and general form Kildare could well have a banker for an All-Ireland title next year.

Frank Stafford from Kilkenny was also in rampant mood, throughout the week. He won the two junior softball titles as a consequence of which he must in future years compete in the senior section.

Other players who showed up distinctively were P. J. Farren, John Flaherty, Liam Ferguson, Louis McNulty and Pat O'Connor.

So much for Garda week—which from a handball angle was an outstanding success. Suffice to say, that it has whetted our appetite for a repetition in 1967.



# PAT HENCHY

(From page 45).

during the same period. I do believe though that Galway should stay in Munster. However, if the possibility of creating a new hurling province was fully explored—a province which would include such as Galway, Offaly, Laois, Westmeath, Antrim, and maybe Clare, it would, in my opinion, contribute to the hurling revival. In the absence of the creation of such a province I feel Galway should remain in Munster.

O'D.—Do you think the hurling revival is succeeding?

Henchy—All indications are that a great beginning has been made.

O'D.—What do you think of the present standard of refereeing?

Henchy—I think the standard is good. At present referees are much stricter in dealing with dangerous play. This is excellent. Referees have, of course, an unenviable task. The recent standardisation of rule interpretation should help matters further.

O'D.—What is the standard of club hurling in Clare like?

Henchy—Quite high and always has been—despite the often sub-standard performances of our county teams. I have played club hurling in Dublin and Cork and the standard of club competition, in my time, has been at least as high in Clare.

O'D.—What do you think of the new National League structure?

Henchy—We have as yet no reason to criticise it and time alone will prove its worth. Certainly the new system of finance distribution is a boon to the struggling counties.

O'D.—What are your views on training—particularly for inter-county competition?

Henchy—I favour some indoor training to be followed by field training. One must have a serious approach to training if one is to stay in intercounty competition. While the traditional field training has proven itself down the years, I do feel that indoor training is very much complimentary—particularly for players with sedentary occupations.

# MICK DUFFY

(From page 21).

feels that a smaller group might also have made the same mistakes. The great benefit of the present system as he sees it, is the direct link between each county and the council, something which might be missing if there were smaller numbers.

He would however like to see the number of delegates to Congress reduced, with equal representation for all counties.

The introduction of coaching to the G.A.A. is something else he would wholeheartedly support. "It is only by teaching the young players all the basic skills right from the start, that we can improve the games", said Mr. Duffy. In this respect he deplors the lack of coaching at club level.

In private life this prominent official works for the Department of Social Welfare. What spare time he has he devotes to working for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the local Rehabilitation Society. When I arrived to speak to him Mr. Duffy was busy catching up on some "paper work". As I left he was setting off to a County Board meeting. Like most other top officials Mr. Duffy is a busy man.

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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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