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Vol. 9. No. 2.
FEBRUARY, 1966.

Gaelic Sport



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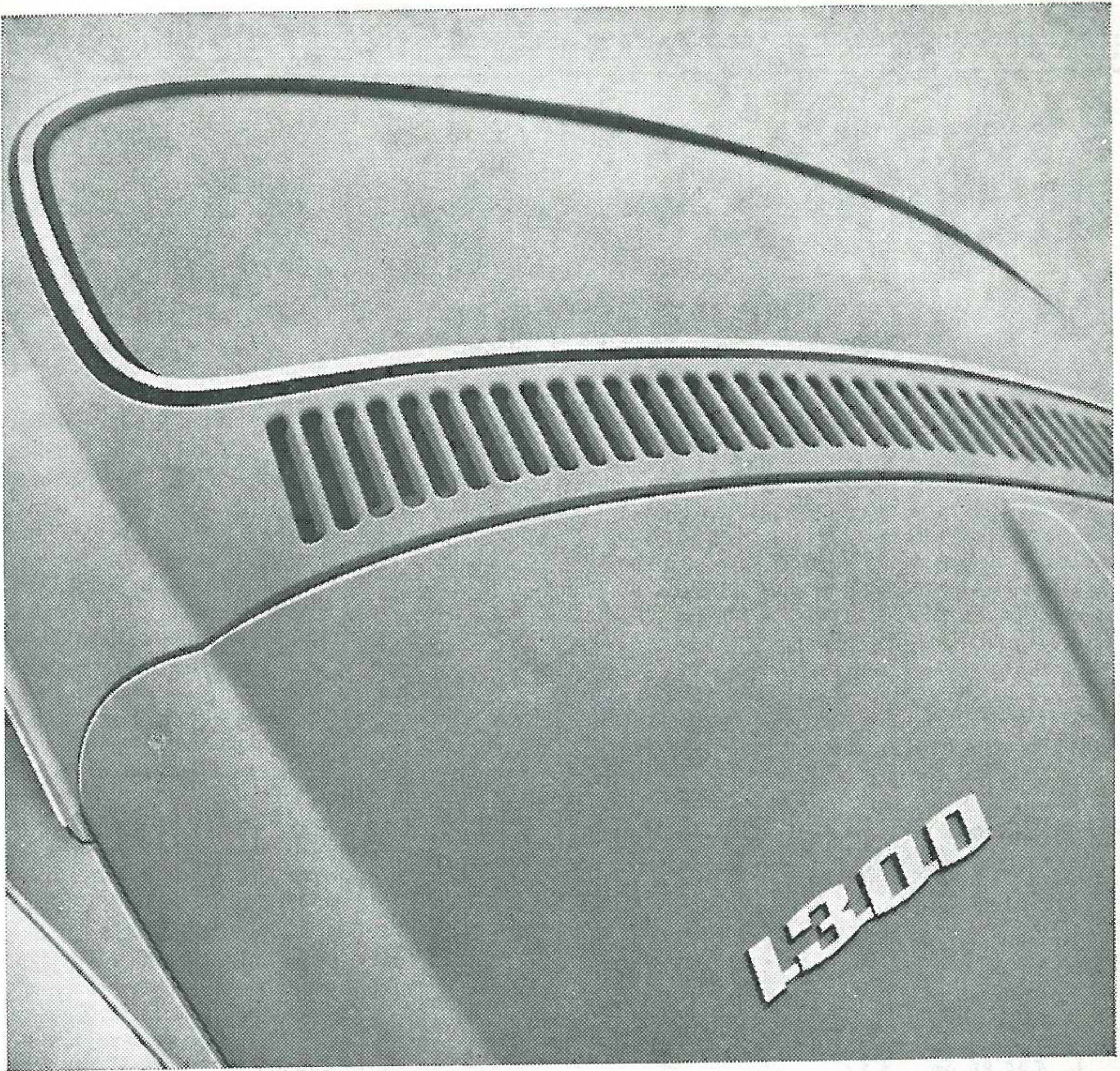
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By a Special Correspondent

THE Volkswagen factories in Germany turn out one car every eight seconds. That works out at about one and a half million cars a year. The principal reason for this huge turnout is the success of the car that everybody thought had come to the end of the road when Germany lost the war. The "Beetle" came back on to the world's market looking much the

same as it did when it was first introduced, and quickly established itself as a best seller. In the past four years, motorists in the United States alone have bought two million Volkswagens; in fact, every two out of three cars imported into the States are "Beetles". In Ireland, we have known of the virtues of the "Beetle" for a good few years, but

the success of this small car, with its lack of showy features, in the land of the big and flashy automobile really sets the seal on its qualities.

In Ireland, the latest "Beetle" is now formally known as the Volkswagen 1300. It differs hardly at all in external appearance from its predecessor, the Volkswagen 1200. Indeed, the only difference apparent to the casual eye is the number "1300" at the rear.

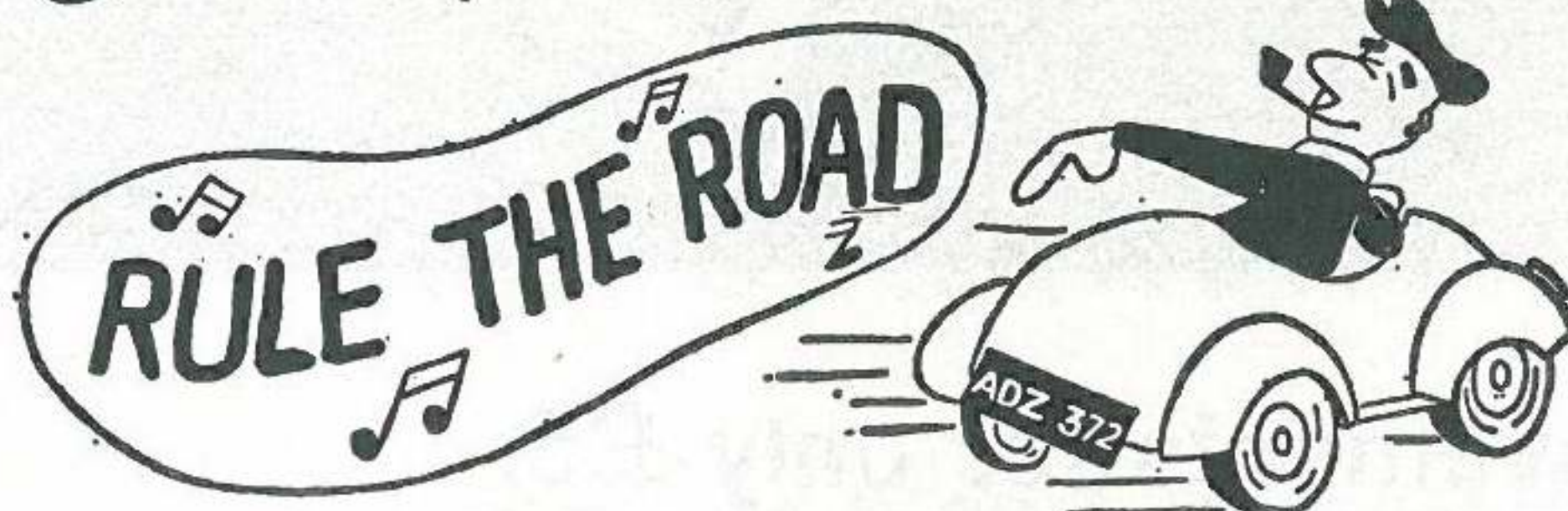
The principal difference between the 1200 and 1300 is under the bonnet. The rear-mounted engine has been increased in power from 1192 c.c. to 1285 c.c. This upgrading results in an even more lively performance. The top speed is now 75 m.p.h. against the former 71 m.p.h. Acceleration is also improved. From a standing start to 50 m.p.h. takes just a shade over 14 seconds, compared with about 18½ seconds. This improvement may seem slight but it makes the Volkswagen more nippy in town traffic and gives it extra power for overtaking on the open road.

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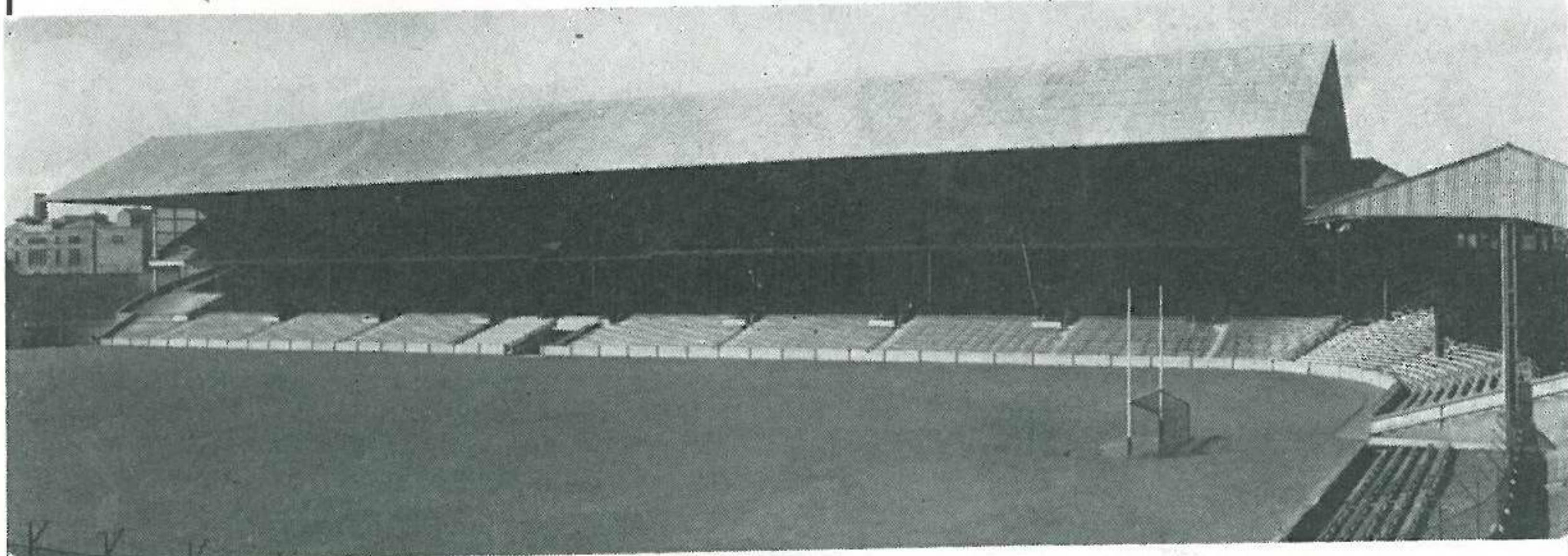
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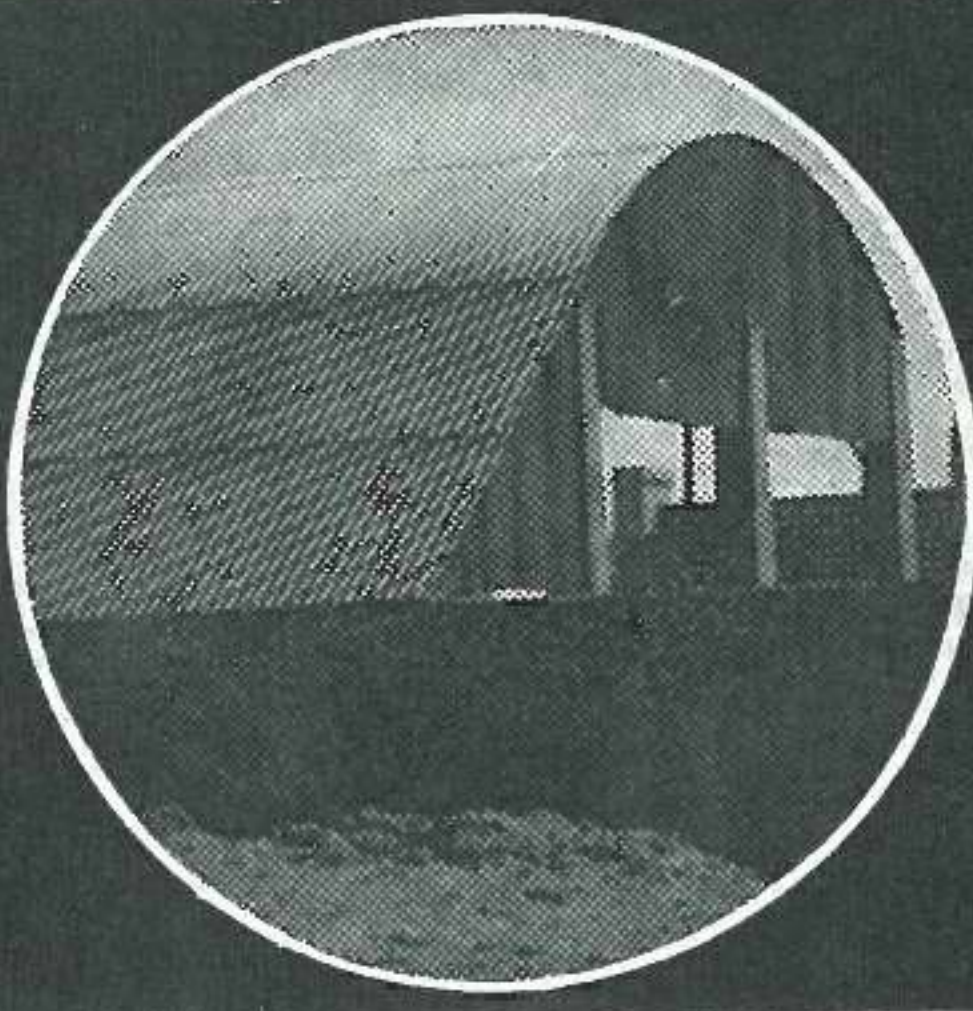
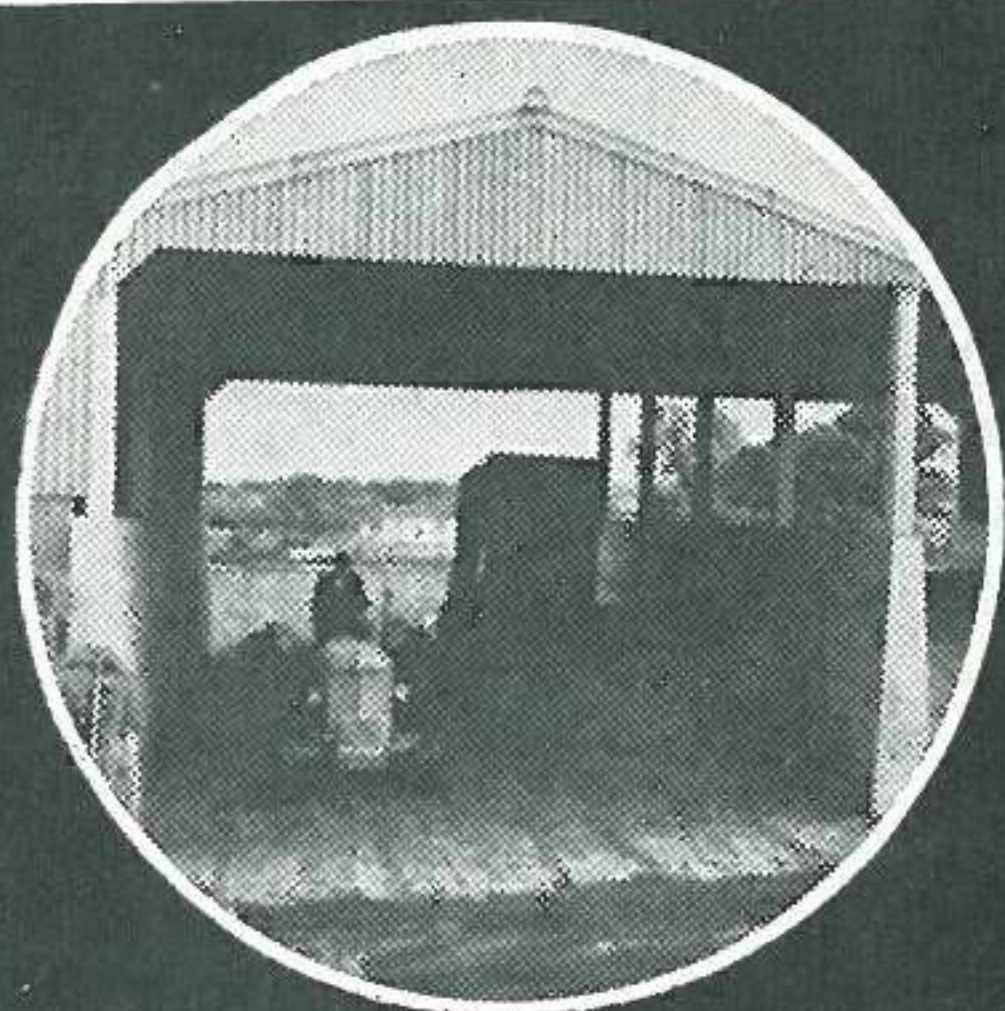


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COVER PHOTO

The Caltex Stars of 1965—Hurling: Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary). Football: Martin Newell (Galway). The awards were made by the Sports Editors of the national newspapers. (See also pages 24 and 25).

COMMENT

The new baby

ONE of the first and most interesting G.A.A. innovations of 1966 will be Division III of the National hurling League which will feature counties Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo, Donegal, Armagh, Monaghan and Louth.

Division III is not part of the Hurling Scheme—but rather a side-effect of it. The enthusiasm created by the Scheme among the juveniles overflowed into the adult ranks prompting them to, as it were, join it. It is a welcome and encouraging development.

However, Division III is nonetheless premature and as a result it must be handled with care. The standard of hurling which it is likely to produce cannot be very high. Likewise the public support which it will command may not be very great.

What must therefore be guarded against is the failure or apparent failure, of the new Division. Were it to fail, or become a slighted poor relation, it would throw quite a damper on the entire hurling revival. Division III is then an extra responsibility on those whose task it is "to bring the hurling back".

The trouble with Division III is that, technically, it is outside the Hurling Scheme and must therefore, as it were, stand on its own feet. The Central Council grant, which applies to counties in Division II, will, of course, be available but more than financial assistance will be required to make a success of the new Division.

The County Boards concerned must give wholehearted and enthusiastic support to their hurling men and, now that the die has been cast, must continue to provide this support until the Hurling Scheme catches up with Division III and the hurling talent which it is creating is embraced into it. This is some five to ten years removed.

Now that these seven newcomers have cast their caps into the hurling ring there can be no going back. From here on they are in and must remain in.

Division III has the chance of being the bright precursor to the great Revival. It can play a very successful role but to do so it will need every possible support.

Gaelic Sport

Vol. 9. No. 2. February, 1966.

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE GREAT GAELS GONE?

By the Editor

MOST of us have come across the individual who, in the course of a drinking session, excuses himself when his round is imminent. No doubt this stratagem came to the minds of more than a few at recent County Board meetings in Meath and Clare . . . the only trouble was that the toilets could not accommodate all of the welchers at the same time. And so they sat there, kept their hands in their pockets and said sweet nothing.

Before both meetings were a referee's report involving a prominent county player. In Clare's case the player was Jimmy Cullinan, the county's star centre half-back. The referee in question was former county goalkeeper, Mick Hayes, who refereed the 1965 All-Ireland senior hurling final.

Referee Hayes submitted an extremely lengthy and detailed report which stated among other things that Cullinan had struck him in the course of a game.

In Meath's case the player in question was county full-back, Martin Quinn. He was reported by referee S. Duff for having shouldered him and for then refusing to leave the field when ordered off.

Rule 126 of the Official Guide states—"A player insulting or threatening a referee, umpire or linesman, shall incur suspension for not less than twelve months. . ."

It is very clear and there are no ifs or buts about it. As a result one would expect that both reports would be dealt with quickly and with precision. This was not the case.

Both meetings tried at length to bring about decisions contrary to the rule. Suspensions of one month, two months, etc., were suggested. Not one delegate was found who had the principle to stand up and suggest that the rule be adhered to.

In each case the Chairman had to take matters into his own hands and apply the rule without receiving any proposition.

An extraordinary situation surely and a sad reflection on the men who sat there and shirked their duty.

We can only presume that the respective vice-chairmen, Central Council delegates, provincial council representatives, treasurers, etc., etc., were present at these meetings. These men hold responsible office in the G.A.A., yet on this occasion none of them was willing to stand up and accept the responsibility of making a proposition to up-hold the Rules of the G.A.A.

It certainly is not to their credit.

On the other hand what a splendid contrast was offered by the respective chairmen—Fr. P. Tully, C.C., Moynalty, in Meath's case and John Hanly, N.T., Clarecastle, in the Clare chair. Both men faced the pressures of popular

demand and stood alone. But they did their duty with courage and with dignity. They are a credit to the G.A.A.

These two happenings do emphasise the lack of moral courage that is often the root cause of much of the ills at county level. The general structure of rural community life is, of course, a contributory factor. Everybody knows everybody else sort of thing and nobody wants to offend or become involved in delicate issues. People are also inclined to think of the task of getting elected at the next convention.

Still we cannot have it both ways when it comes to running G.A.A. affairs. Either men are willing to accept responsibility and do their duty—or they should stay at home and read all about it in the newspapers.

In Meath's case the entire business leaves an even worse impression than that of Clare. Meath was the county which during the previous twelve months was most vocal in its criticism of the Central Council. The various fiery speeches made at Meath County Board meetings would have filled a very large book. But when it came to Meath carrying out its own duties in a fitting manner all the great orators were struck dumb.

One must wonder if they will ever have the neck to raise their voices again.

COMMEMORATION OF 1916

The Central Council of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael has decided on the following programme of activities as a contribution towards the Jubilee Commemoration of the 1916 Rising:

PAGEANT — A specially commissioned bi-lingual Pageant "Seachtar Fear: Seacht Lá" ("Seven Men: Seven Days") by Bryan MacMahon will be staged at Croke Park on the evenings of March 17th, 18th and 19th. The Pageant will involve a large cast.

BOOK—"Bearna Baol," a book comprising a series of essays in which tribute is paid to the 1916 leaders, and to the various national organisations for the part they played in the resurgence which culminated in the Rising. It is being edited by historian Tomás P.

Ó Néill and will be published in March. An tUasal Ó Néill was recently commissioned to produce the official History of the Association.

BALLADS — The Association is sponsoring a series of ballad competitions with prizes totalling £200 being offered for original ballads which incorporate as their theme some aspect of the Rising. Ballads may be in Irish or English and full particulars may be had from Croke Park.

In conjunction with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, a ballad singing competition is also being arranged. The purpose of this competition is a revival of the many fine ballads relating to 1916.

COUNTIES—All County Boards and Clubs of the Association are

being encouraged to play their part in the Jubilee Commemoration. The script of the Pageant will be supplied to any county or club which may feel in a position to present it, while a specially commissioned script for a Commemoration Concert is also available.

It is envisaged that every branch of the Association will either arrange its own commemoration activities or join in with other local bodies to jointly-sponsor an appropriate programme.

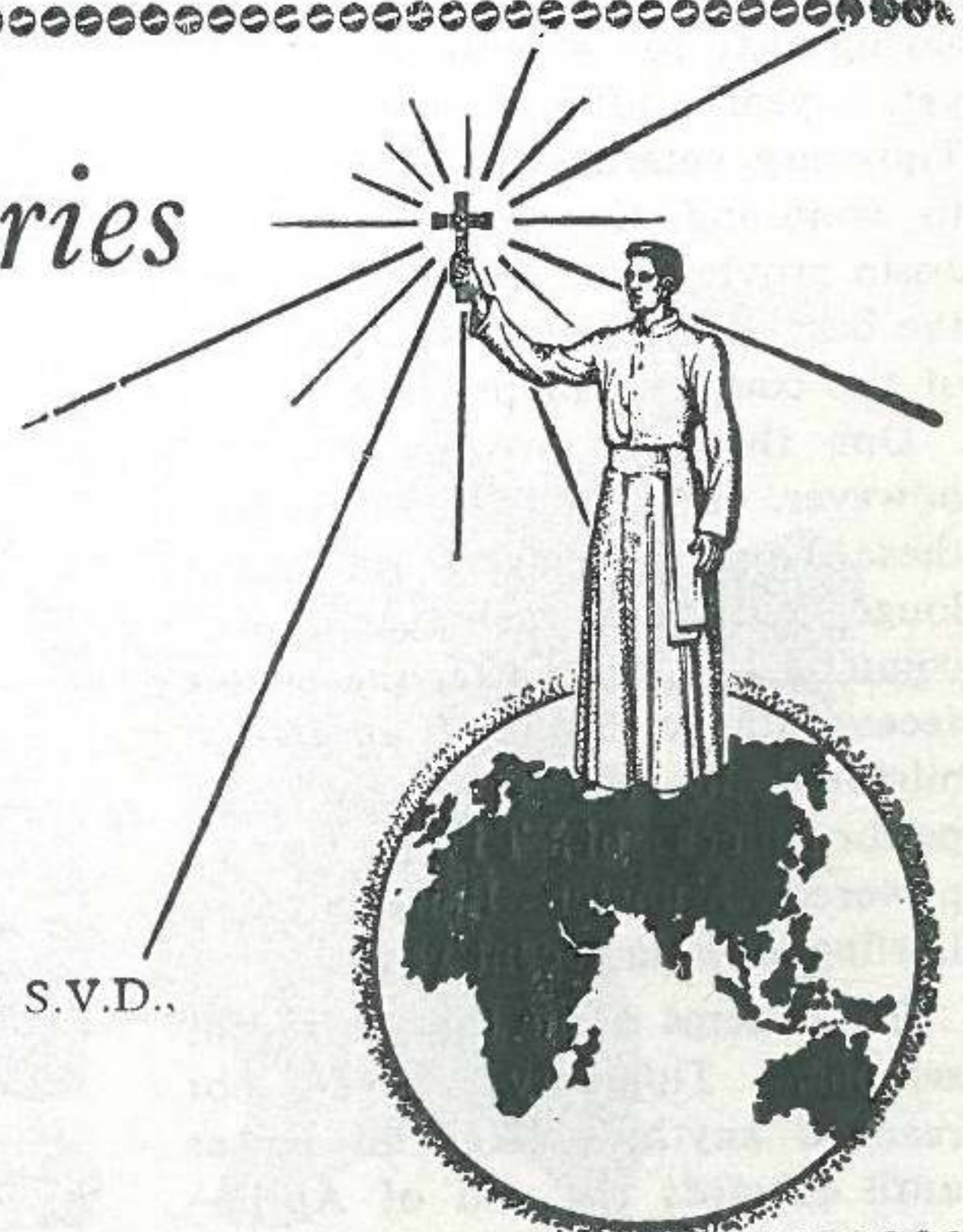
Annual Congress, 1966, has been brought forward from Easter Sunday to Sunday, March 20th, so as to provide every facility for a full participation by members of the Association throughout the country in honouring the memory of Laochra na Cásca.

The Divine Word Missionaries

a modern Society of Religious Priests and Brothers, have missionfields in South America, China (temporarily closed), Formosa, Japan, The Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Africa and India.

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NO POINT IN OPPOSING

TO all intents and purposes February marks the real start of the G.A.A. year on the playing-fields, since January nowadays has become, by tradition, convention month. So February seems a fitting time to look into the crystal ball of the future and try and see what 1966 is likely to bring.

At first glance there seems to be little point in opposing Tipperary for the All-Ireland hurling and National League titles. So overwhelming was their superiority in all the matches that counted in 1965 that, as someone said after the Oireachtas Final, there seemed no reason why they should have anything to fear for several years to come.

True, there are several of these Tipperary men who have been in the limelight so long that it almost seems inconceivable that they can stay at the top for yet another season. But people have been saying that for several years, and yet, year after year, these Tipperary veterans have come out to confound the critics by once again proving their superiority over the best of the young stars the rest of the country can produce.

One thing is growing obvious, however, and that is this. Some of these Tipperary players are taking longer and longer each year now to come back to form after the winter recess. Maybe that is, to an extent, mirrored by the relatively poor performances of Tipperary-powered Munster Railway Cup hurling sides in recent years.

So it seems to me that, in recent seasons, Tipperary have not reached anything like full power until towards the end of April—

witness their league defeat by Kilkenny at Thurles in the early stages of last season.

And that is why I think Tipperary are, at this stage, more likely to be caught napping in the league than in the championship. And, if they are beaten in the league, how might the lack of training for the league final react on their championship chances?

However, that is all pure supposition. As matters stand, as of February 1, 1966, Tipperary must be taken as warm 'long-odds' favourites to retain their league and championship senior titles.

That, in effect, means that Tipperary are odds-on to win their third successive senior title and John Doyle, if he continues to play—and there is no reason at this stage to assume that he will not—looks a good bet to become the

first man ever to win nine senior All-Ireland hurling medals.

In football, Galway find themselves in exactly the same position as Tipperary, defending both the league and the championship crowns and seeking their third senior All-Ireland in a row.

Now I am willing to bet that, on the morning of the Grounds Tournament final, Galway must have been just as firm favourites to come through again in 1966 as Tipperary still are in hurling.

But Down's most convincing victory over the champions that day has changed the whole outlook as far as most of the critics and many followers are concerned. Yet, despite the ease with which Down won, and the magnificent football they played in achieving that victory, I would not make the Mournemen automatic choices to sweep the boards in 1966.

They must, of course, start among the top favourites; in fact I would make the Ulster champions clear favourites to win the League. But the championship is another matter entirely. Galway, I imagine, will be somewhat more concerned about the third All-Ireland in a row than about retaining their league title, though it must be remembered that they are already in the play-off stages of the latter competition.

The way I look at it, Down, if they retain their pre-Christmas form, look the most likely side to take league honours, but they will face keen competition and stern opposition. Galway, on the other hand must start at least co-favourites to retain their championship title. They seem good



KIERAN CAREY
(Tipperary)

TIPPERARY!

enough to come again out of Con-nacht, and if they do their toughest hurdle is likely to be against the Munster champions in the semi-final.

But the hardest province of all to assess is Leinster where any one of four or five counties could win the title. At the moment Longford are favourites on my book to come through for the first time, but a lot of water will go under the bridges between now and the last Sunday in July, and it is a wise man who can name the Leinster senior football champions at this stage.

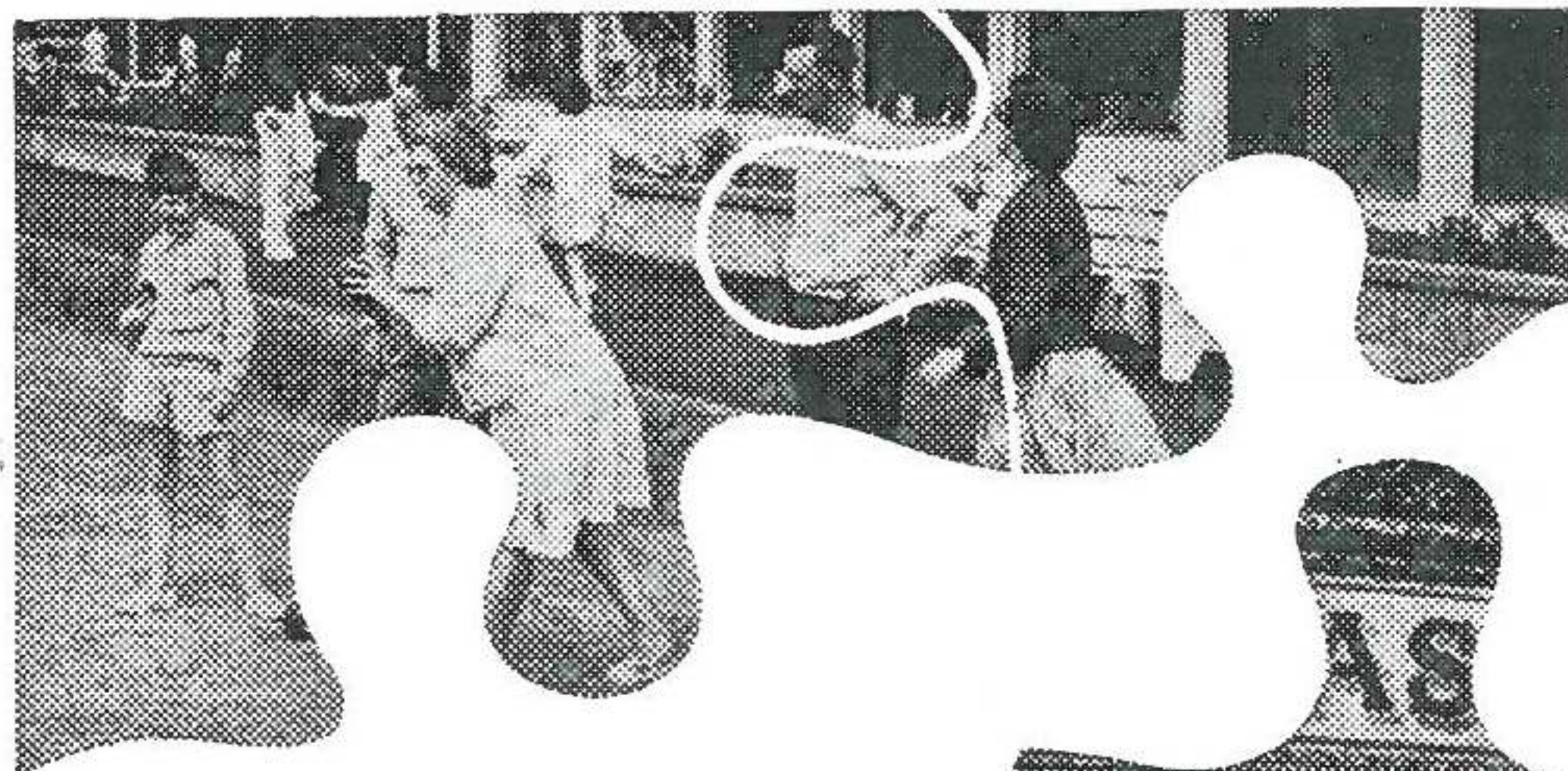
So much for the more fancied candidates in both hurling and football, now for a few outsiders.

In hurling I feel any shocks that may be coming could well be provided either by Limerick in Munster or by Kilkenny in Leinster.

In football there are two teams who will take a deal of watching in my view. They are Cork in Munster and Kildare in Leinster and I have that prophecy on the form shown by the youngsters of these counties in the Under-21 final last October.

Sligo look the main challengers to Galway in the West, while, perhaps, this at last may be Donegal's year in the North, though Armagh and Antrim cannot be ignored as serious contenders for Down's title.

So there you have it. Tipperary against the field in hurling; Galway and Down co-favourites in football, but neither quite in the Tipperary class. And if I'm completely wrong I'll present my excuses in my annual survey of the year next December, if God spares us all 'till then.



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Eddie Keher

LAURELS FOR KEHER

A NUMBER of noteworthy scoring achievements were recorded in 1965, with Eddie Keher taking chief honours with 16-79 (127 pts.) in 20 games. This total, which earns the Kilkenny hurler the No. 1 spot for both hurling and football, is the second best recorded by a hurler in one year since 1956 and the third best in both codes.

It is 28 points behind the record of 35-50 (155 pts.) from 19 outings by Nick Rackard in 1956, and nine minors short of the next highest score, 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 games by Paddy Doherty in 1960.

Keher, the first Leinster hurler to head both charts since that record-breaking run by Rackard, takes second place in the hurling match averages to Jimmy Doyle, who notched 7.40 points an hour in 1965. The record is 10.1 by Christy Ring in 1959.

Charlie Gallagher, who heads the football chart, is the first player in either game to better 100 points as distinct from goals and points combined, two years in a row. Another football record was smashed by Mick Kearns, whose total of 4-104 (116 pts.) in 17 engagements is no fewer than nine minors up on the previous best by a Connacht footballer of 11-74 in 22 outings by Sean Purcell in 1958.

Kearns' match average of 6.82 points is the highest in the football chart for 1965, and also a record for a Connachtman. The record here stands to the credit of Paddy Doherty at 7.18 minors an hour in each of his 11 matches in 1958.

Last year 25 penalty kicks were awarded in intercounty football—11 produced goals and two resulted in a point apiece, leaving 12 that failed to produce a single score.

Here is a province-by-province break-down of the top scorers for 1965:

HURLING

Leinster.

Points	Score	Games	Aver.
127	E. Keher 16-79	20	6.35
85	T. Walsh 14-43	17	5.00
48	C. O'Brien 10-18	13	3.69
44	M. Bermingham		
		8.20	9 5.50
38	J. Dunphy 11-5	15	2.53

Provincial record—N. Rackard, 35-50 in 11 games—1956.

Munster and Connacht.

Points	Score	Games	Aver.
111	J. Doyle 12-75	15	7.40
51	J. Bennett 4-39	12	4.25
48	S. McLoughlin		
		15-3	14 3.42
41	F. Coffey 6-23	7	5.85



Charlie Gallagher

37	D. Lovett* (Kerry)	4-25	8	4.62
	Provincial record—J. Doyle, 10-87 in 17 games—1964.			

FOOTBALL

Ulster.

Points	Score	Games	Aver.
123	C. Gallagher		
		7-102	19 6.47
80	M. McLoone		
		10- 50	19 4.21
76	P. Doherty		
		4- 64	15 5.06
46	P. McShea	7- 25	11 4.18
	J. Hannigan	9- 19	17 2.70

Provincial record—Paddy Doherty, 13-97 in 24—1960.

Connacht.

Points	Score	Games	Aver.
116	M. Kearns 4-104*	17	6.82
88	C. Dunne 2- 82	21	4.19
44	J. Keenan 4- 32	17	2.58
42	J. Langan 3- 33	17	2.47
37	S. Leydon 3. 28	18	2.05

* New Provincial record.

Leinster.

Points	Score	Games	Aver.
73	D. Carty	9.46	16 4.56
68	B. Burns	5.53	16 4.25
62	J. Timmons	5-47	12 5.16
60	S. Murray	4-48	20 3.00
52	L. Leech	0-52	12 4.33

Provincial record—H. Donnelly, 7-99 in 24—1961.

Munster.

Points	Score	Games	Aver.
56	B. O'Callaghan		
		6-38	12 4.66
49	E. Creggan	7-28	10 4.90
37	M. Tynan	5-12	12 3.08
36	M. O'Dwyer	3-27	11 3.27
28	P. Murphy*	7- 7	8 3.50

Provincial record—B. O'Callaghan, 9-52 in 17—1963.



CLEAN

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Hopes of a break in long spell of defeats

THE county conventions are over and February brings us back to Railway Cup time once more. Munster have never had such a long spell out of the "Railway" limelight—they have not won the football trophy since 1949, whilst hurling defeats in 1962, 1964 and 1965 means that they will have to pull up their socks fairly sharply if the 'sixties are not to prove their worst ever decade in inter-provincial hurling. Defeat in 1965 had a particular sting, with the Leinstermen triumphing—3-11 to 0-9.

The footballers are taking the question of getting back to the limelight very seriously and they made an unusually early comeback to activity after the Christmas recess for a trial tussle at Tralee to which all six Munster counties contributed players on a more equitable basis than for many years—indicating a welcome raising (I nearly said "levelling") of standards in the province.

Out of the forty selected Kerry had fourteen, whilst the nomination of nine Limerickmen speaks eloquently for the big strides the game has made by Shannonside inside a short period. Cork followed with seven, Tipperary had four (some thought they deserved more) whilst Clare and Waterford had three apiece.

Football enthusiasm is keener in Munster than it has been for many a day, and hopes are high that this year will see the break in the long spell of defeats.

The poor state of Munster hurling is reflected in the Railway Cup performances of the province over the past few seasons, and it is a sad reflection that at a period when Tipperary ruled the roost so decisively a team could not be produced that would recapture the Railway Cup.

Some blame the selectors for including too many who have turned the hurling tide as it were, but these men are still doing very well with their counties and replacements are not growing on every bush nowadays. However, some promising material has been ignored and another look at things may be necessary in the light of happenings in between, before St. Patrick's Day is reached.

BETTING

Allegations of betting at games have again been made in some Munster counties, and one case to which attention was rather forcibly drawn some time ago, was not by any means an isolated incident, or one confined to a particular county. In fact, most of the Southern counties are involved in some way in this evil, which needs a serious effort to eradicate before very great harm is done.

Betting among spectators is serious enough and many of my readers will recall occasions when traced directly to the bad sportsmanship of people who had "invested" none too wisely, and were quite prepared to prevent a game from finishing in a final

gamble at saving their fast disappearing money.

The indulgence of players in any form of betting strikes at the very foundations of amateur sport and opens the door to numerous abuses. Besides introducing an element entirely foreign to all the principles of fair play and clean manly sport, betting by participants must arouse suspicions that the slightest mistake in play tends to magnify enormously.

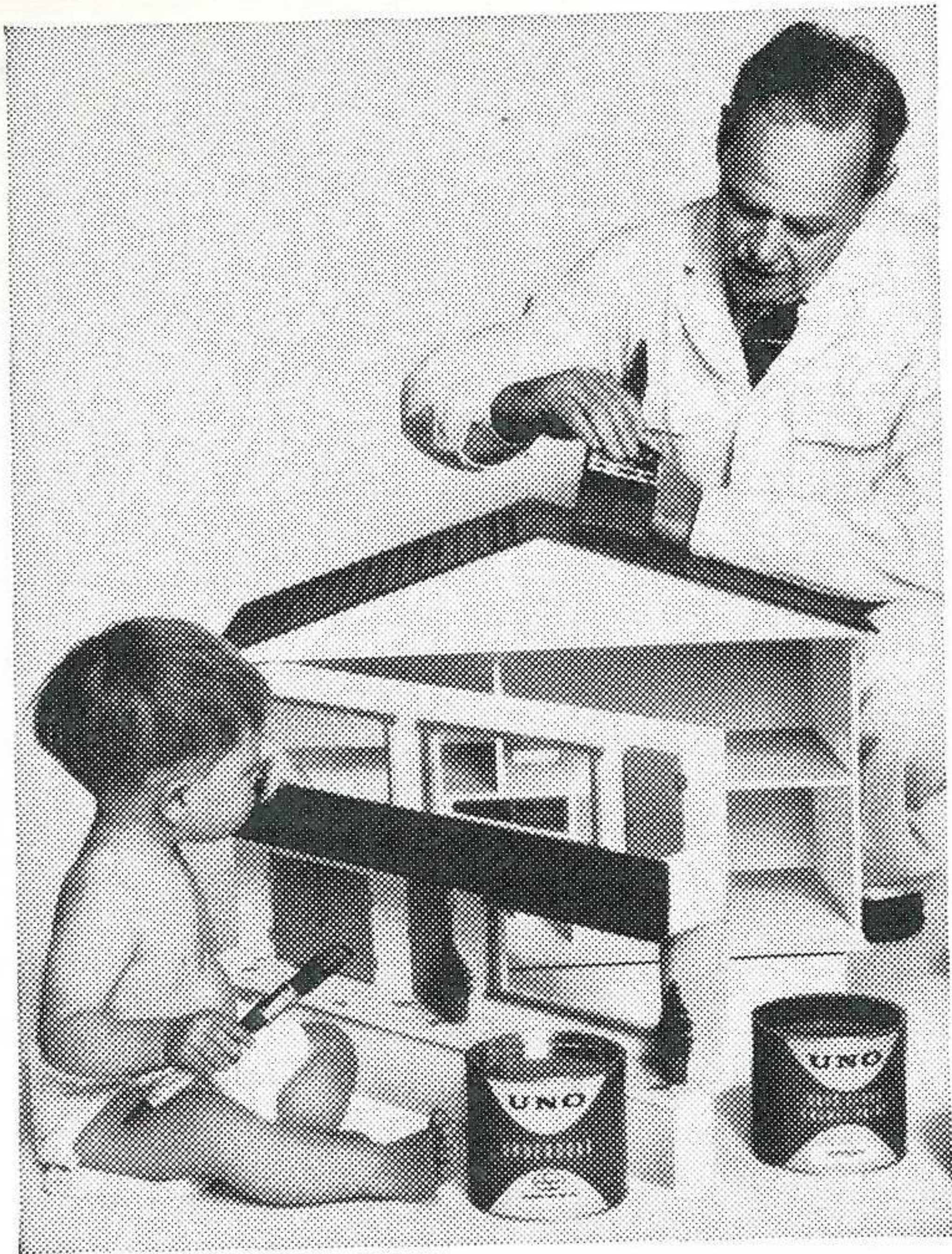
Betting is a canker that must be rigorously dealt with and should not be tolerated in any sport into which the human element enters. We know all too well the depths to which some will stoop in order to make what appeared to them "easy money".

One suggestion that referees were implicated in this betting business is too serious to pass over with any pious resolution, but constitutes an evil that must be stamped out with all the ruthlessness the situation demands. Our referees must be completely above suspicion, and only officials of proved integrity should be entrusted with the handling of even the least important of our games.

Actually, in this Medley last month reference was made to this evil, and I thought at the time that it was not anything like as serious as it subsequently turned out to be.

It is not an easy problem to tackle, and the rule, for obvious reasons, is a very difficult one to enforce. Gambling, is, of course, not permitted at any G.A.A. venue, but the opportunities of a flutter are all too numerous and the great majority of these transactions never come to light.

However, if all sincere Gaels, with the interests of the games at heart, set themselves against this harmful practice and did everything in their power to discourage it much good could be accomplished.



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ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

By Conallach

GENERALLY speaking Ulster Gaels are satisfied with the team selected to defend the province's treasured Railway Cup title. There were, of course, a few players whose selection one might have expected—men like Seamus Taggart (Tyrone), Tony McAtamney (Antrim) and Donegalmen Sean O'Donnell and John Hanigan. But the selectors did their best and, seeing as they have produced winning teams with considerable consistency of late, it is difficult to argue against them.

As I see it Ulster should at least reach the final. Having done that we will have another look at them.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Speaking of Railway Cup players, I recently had the pleasure of meeting former Ulster star of 1942-'43, Hudy Beag Gallagher who has a public-house and guest-house in his native Gweedore—a real welcome spot for those who care for a good discussion on Gaelic football.

Further over the same road is one of Donegal's most pleasant hotels—Radharc-na-Mara. It is owned by another former Donegal and Ulster player, Hughie Tim Boyle.

In fact the parish of Gweedore is dotted with hotels and licensed premises owned by former football stars, among them Willie Gallagher, Hughie Friel and Jimmy Coll.

If you want a holiday with plenty of G.A.A. discussion thrown in Gweedore is the spot.

MONAGHAN NEWS

Monaghan seem to be going through a lean period at present

● CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

THE POOR RELATIONS



By Frank Hughes

IT will be interesting to see what benefit a separate Hurling Board will be to County Westmeath. The County Convention opted for this move and I take it that the new board will be set up right away.

The trouble with hurling boards in counties which are predominantly football is that they give the county board an excuse for washing its hands of hurling troubles. These are then, very often, left entirely to the few hurling enthusiasts who make up the hurling board, which overnight becomes a very poor, and often forgotten, relation.

I am not suggesting for a moment that this will happen in Westmeath or that the idea even struck anybody—but it has happened in other counties.

On the other hand, of course, a hurling board given full and enthusiastic support by the county board in matters such as finance, facilities for fixtures, etc., can do very useful work—just as can specialists in any field of activity.

Let us hope that this is how it goes in Westmeath.

THE SECRET OF WEALTH!

"Meath can truthfully be described as being the wealthiest G.A.A. county in the country," said Senator Jack Fitzgerald at the Meath Convention.

If this is so then why did the Royal County kick up such a row a few years ago when admission to

Croke Park was raised by one shilling—or was it sixpence?

SO ROMANTIC

The Abbeyleix Club concluded its annual general meeting by candlelight—one candle. It was due to an electricity failure—which even the presence of Club President, Paddy Lawlor, T.D., and Parliamentary Secretary, could not ward off.

The main decision of the meeting was not to field a senior hurling team in 1966. For the first time since 1926 the club will be graded Intermediate. They won the county senior title in 1927, '32, '34, '39, '40, '44, '45 and '49.

TO GREEN PASTURES NEW

A good tip for all club and county boards came from Longford Secretary, Matt Fox, in his recent annual report. He suggested keeping an eye posted for proposed division of lands so that clubs might file their claim in good time.

MEATH INCIDENTS

Incidents in County Meath during 1965 took place at but a very small percentage of the 400 games

played, said County Secretary, Liam Creavin, in his annual report. Still it would have been more informative had he given a precise figure of how many referees' reports mentioned noteworthy incidents.

Certainly the general impression during the past year was that Meath had a bucket-full of them.

HONOURING THE GREATS

Ten surviving members of Wexford's four-in-a-row All-Ireland winning football teams of 1915-'18 will be honoured at a function in Wexford town on February 8 and what a memorable occasion it should be.

The ten survivors are: Thomas Doyle, Aidan Doyle, Phil Murray, Richard Reynolds, Gus O'Kennedy, Thomas Driscoll, John Doran, Dr. Thomas Pierse and Jimmy Goodall. John Doran is an uncle of the Rackards.

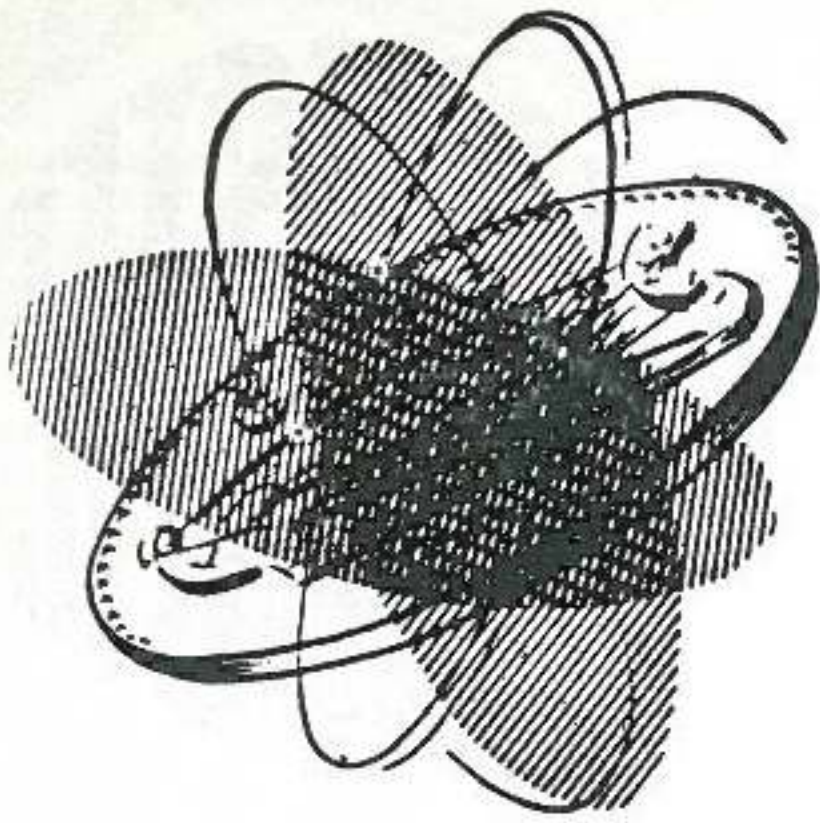
What mighty men these Slaney-siders of half a century ago must have been. Their record of appearing in six consecutive senior football finals will probably never be equalled.

ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

● FROM PAGE 14

and have no representative on the Ulster football team. Players such as Joe Carroll, Benny Mone and Gerry Fitzpatrick were fancied by home supporters but did not make it.

However, I have my eye on two youngsters who I do believe will hit the forefront in the Monaghan colours in the not too distant future. They are Johnny Leahy of Ballybay, who is at St. Macartan's College, and Aidan Deery, the son of former county star, Dr. Deery, now the county's M.O.H.



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SEAN O'NEILL

An interview by
SEAN O'DONNELL

THERE is little that need be said, by way of introduction, about Sean O'Neill. He is one of the great forwards of our era—this virtually everybody accepts.

I recently had this interview with the Down sharp-shooter.

O'Donnell — You naturally expect Down to retain their Ulster title, but from what counties do you see the greatest threat?

O'Neill—In the championship you can run into trouble against any county in Ulster. Antrim certainly look promising, as indeed do Armagh. Donegal have failed to live up to expectations but are still capable of slipping into gear, while Cavan in the championship are always difficult to beat.

O'D.—Do you share the opinion that Down "threw it away" against Galway in last year's semi-final?

O'N.—Naturally. Every Downman holds this view. We had all of the opportunities but failed to avail of them. It wasn't just that our forwards failed, we simply threw away scores which nine times out of ten we would have collected.



O'D. — Has there been any marked change in Down's training since the 1960-'61 era?

O'N. — There has been no change at all and I am convinced that this is a good thing. The current team is very keen and the spirit which saw us to the top six years ago is now very much alive again.

O'D.—Who are the best men you have played on?

O'N.—Martin Newell and Mick O'Dwyer are the two players who spring immediately to mind.

O'D.—You have played in a host of positions—are you happy at full forward?

O'N.—Quite happy. I don't mind at all being switched pro-

vided it is of benefit in blending the forwards. I like the full forward berth. I feel the position has great potential for exploitation.

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

O'N.—The 1960 All-Ireland final is, I suppose, the obvious one but the 1959 Ulster final will also always remain a lasting memory.

O'D.—Are there any changes you would like to see in the Rules of the G.A.A.?

O'N.—Yes, there are many but for a start I would like to see automatic suspension abolished. It is unfair to both players and referees. I could go on and name a few more Rules too which I would be happy to see go but we will leave these to some other day.



Tom McCreesh . . . well held.

At twenty-two, Armagh's brilliant young full back makes his first appearance on the Ulster football team.

THE RISE OF TOM McCREESH

BBETTER players than I have not been selected in the past, so I'm just keeping my fingers crossed". Thus spoke Ulster's new full-back, Tom McCreesh, only a few days prior to his selection for his province. I had travelled to Draperstown, Co. Derry where Tom works as an Agricultural Inspector, to speak to the man whom many people were then tipping to be Ulster's next full-back. However I found Tom more cautious than his supporters. "Naturally I'm hoping to gain a place on the Ulster team, and maybe with a bit of luck win a medal", he said, "but I'm prepared

to wait and see". Tom didn't have to wait for long. A few days later the Ulster team was announced and Tom could uncross his fingers.

Few can quibble with the Armagh man's selection. Throughout the past year he has been consistently brilliant for both club and county. In his last two appearances for Armagh, against Antrim and Down in the Lagan Cup, Tom performed magnificently. Against Down, he opposed none other than Sean O'Neill, and so well did Tom perform that the Down selectors moved O'Neill outfield. No mean achievement this on the part of the Armagh man when one remembers

that only a few weeks beforehand O'Neill had given Galway's Noel Tierney a real roasting in the Ground's Tournament final.

The first occasion that I saw Tom McCreesh in action for Armagh was against Antrim in a senior championship game at Lurgan in 1963. But to be truthful I was not greatly impressed by his display. I did not see him play again until 1965—and what a transformation had taken place. Whereas in '63 he seemed hesitant and unsure of himself, in '65 he was playing with great poise and confidence.

Tom follows in the footsteps of another great Armagh full-back, who represented both county and province in that position—Jack Bratten. Not surprisingly Tom mentioned the latter as one of his boyhood idols, and a man whom he grew up hoping to emulate. It may interest readers to know that Jack Bratten is still playing football. In fact 1965 was a special year for him too, for in helping Portadown win the Armagh junior county title he won his first ever junior championship medal.

Tom McCreesh's football career began some eight or nine years ago at the C.B.S. Dundalk. Whilst a pupil there he was a regular on the school teams and although he won no school medals he gained a sound knowledge of all the basic skills in football. Incidentally, another pupil attending the school at that time was Sean Og Flood, who was later to gain senior county honours with Louth. In 1960 Tom was selected at right full back for the Armagh minor team, which unfortunately for him made an early exit from the Ulster championship. However the following year Tom was again at right

By JOHN O. GRANT

full back on the Armagh minor team which captured the Ulster title but went down by a narrow margin to Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final. In 1962 he played for the Armagh juniors, and in the Autumn of that year, he joined the senior team at right full back. When the full-back position was vacated by Felix McKnight, Tom moved into the centre spot and he has remained there ever since.

Tom believes that Armagh football is on the way back. "I think the display of the team against Down in the Lagan Cup game at Newry proved that we have the nucleus of a title winning side at the moment. However," he continued, "only a supreme effort from players, officials and everybody connected with the game in the county, will suffice to bring us back to the top".

But do not get the idea that Tom's interest in the game is confined to county football alone. Far from it. The truth is that he is a very keen club man. This is proven by the fact that he travels home each week-end to play for his club Crossmaglen—a journey of some 70 miles. Crossmaglen are of course the kingpins of Armagh football at present and also rated one of the top clubs in Ulster. With the "Rangers", as they are known locally, Tom has won three senior county championship medals and one senior league medal.

Tom also plays at full-back for his club. When Crossmaglen won last year's county title by defeating Clann Eireann, Lurgan, in the final, he turned in a magnificent display. Indeed Tom's display was the only highlight of an otherwise dull final

● TO PAGE 23



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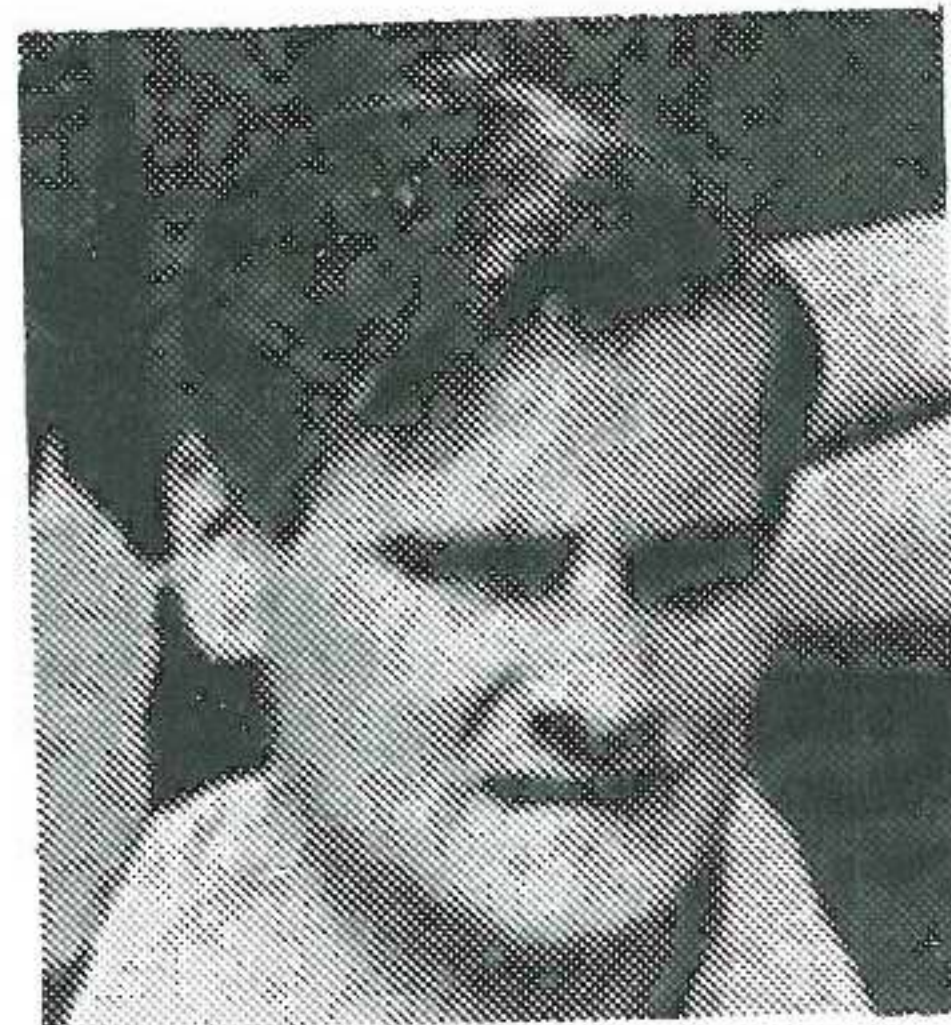
ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION A.I.

Counting the farmers

• • •



JOHN KEENAN
(On the land)



BOSCO McDERMOTT
(Teacher)

TWO OUT OF THIRTY!

WHAT have Jer. D. O'Connor and John Keenan in common? Yes, they are both All-Ireland football stars—but there is more to it than that. They are both farmers. Of the two teams and official substitutes involved in last year's All-Ireland senior football final only Jer. D. and John were real men of the land.

John Donnellan too is, of course, a farmer but it is not his primary occupation at present so I am excluding him.

When you think about it this is an extraordinary situation. We had two primarily farming counties and of the forty men they sent forth on Sunday, September 26 only two were farmers.



MICK O'DWYER
(Businessman)

Taking the 30 men who fielded for the throw-in, we find that teachers dominated. There were six—Johnny Geraghty, Mattie McDonagh, John Bosco McDermott, Sean Cleary, Pat Donnellan and Donie O'Sullivan. (Galway had two more among their substitutes—Tommy Keenan and Brian Geraghty.)

Next came technicians of one form or another and of these there were five—Sean Meade, Mick Garrett, Michael Morris, Derry O'Shea and Vincent Lucey.

There were four University Students—Martin Newell, Christy Tyrrell, Enda Colleran and Paud O'Donoghue.

Clerical officers came next—Seamus Leydon, Mick O'Connell and Cyril Dunne.

In joint fifth place we had three occupations with two men each—Noel Tierney and Bernie O'Callaghan (sales executives), J. J. Barrett and Mick O'Dwyer (businessmen) and our two farmers.

To complete the list we had John Donnellan (a T.D.), Niall Sheehy (an insurance executive), Pat Griffin (a Garda), Seamus Murphy (an Agricultural Instruc-



MICK GARRETT
(Technician)



JOHNNY CULLOTY
(Male Nurse)

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

dehorning of cattle

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*JOHN DONNELLAN
(Politician)*

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

tor), Johnny Culloty (a male nurse) and Denis O'Sullivan (a store-keeper).

As against all of this we do know that approximately 30 per cent. of all Irishmen are still employed on the land—say one in every three, while the ratio of farmers in action at Croke Park on football final day was but one in fifteen. What does this mean and what conclusions can we draw?

Well firstly it can be misleading to draw any general conclusions from one example. However, it is still a fact that if we examined the two teams in the hurling final we would find a somewhat similar position. There would have been no great change in 1963, or '64.

We can therefore conclude that farmers are now somewhat of a rarity in the higher level of Gaelic Games. But the question still remains as to why?

Certainly farmers have not turned away from football or hurling. If we could check all of the registered players in the ranks of the G.A.A., I think it is safe to say that it would be found that the men of the land by far exceed any other occupation.

Yes, at club level the farmers still predominate and more than

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

half of the teams which won senior county titles in 1965 could be described as rural teams. Still despite this farmers are few and far between when it comes to September in Croke Park.

Is it that farmers have not the time to perfect their game and to train to the degree which is necessary to make it to the top? This may be part of it—but only a small part.

The main reason, I suggest, is that the colleges and secondary schools are now the main factories for producing All-Ireland players and, if one might generalise again, the majority of prospective farmers do not attend these. As a result

they are deprived of the collective and regular training which college boys enjoy and also, of course, colleges' competitions.

There are other less important factors too like town and city players being more tightly and better organised from the point of view of training but I do think that the colleges is the main point.

As I see it this position will remain. It is now a built-in aspect of Irish social life. The farmers will continue to be a rarity at the top and the back-bone of the G.A.A. at club level.

It is an ironic situation—one of the prices of progress and of living in the latter half of the twentieth century.

TOM MCCREESH

● FROM PAGE 19

which Crossmaglen won comfortably.

Speaking of club football, Tom had a novel suggestion to make as regards the clearing up of incidents and dirty play. "I would like to see the referee choose and bring with him an impartial observer, for two reasons", said Tom. "Firstly, this man could watch out for any dirty play behind the referee's back. Secondly, he could render valuable assistance in any investigations which might follow a referee's report, into incidents of any kind".

When I made the point that umpires and linesmen were already in a position to do this Tom replied, "I know that is true, but more in theory than in practice. What usually happens at club games is that the referee has to ask for volunteers from the clubs concerned to act in these capacities. When incidents occur these men are too committed to one side or the other to be objective".

When I asked Tom what his greatest ambition in football was, he smiled and replied, "I suppose the ambition of every player is to win an All-Ireland senior medal with his county, and I'm no exception". Talking about the players he has opposed, Tom rated Joey Carroll of Monaghan and Sean O'Neill of Down as the ones who troubled him most. With regard to Sean O'Neill, Tom commented, "I certainly would not want to meet one like him every week".

The future looks bright for the young Armagh man. At 22 years of age he has many years of top class football ahead of him. He seems to have all the attributes that go into the making of a great full-back—safe hands, good judgment and for his size a remarkable turn of speed. I believe that Tom's journey to Croke Park with Ulster later in the month will be for him the first of many trips to headquarters.

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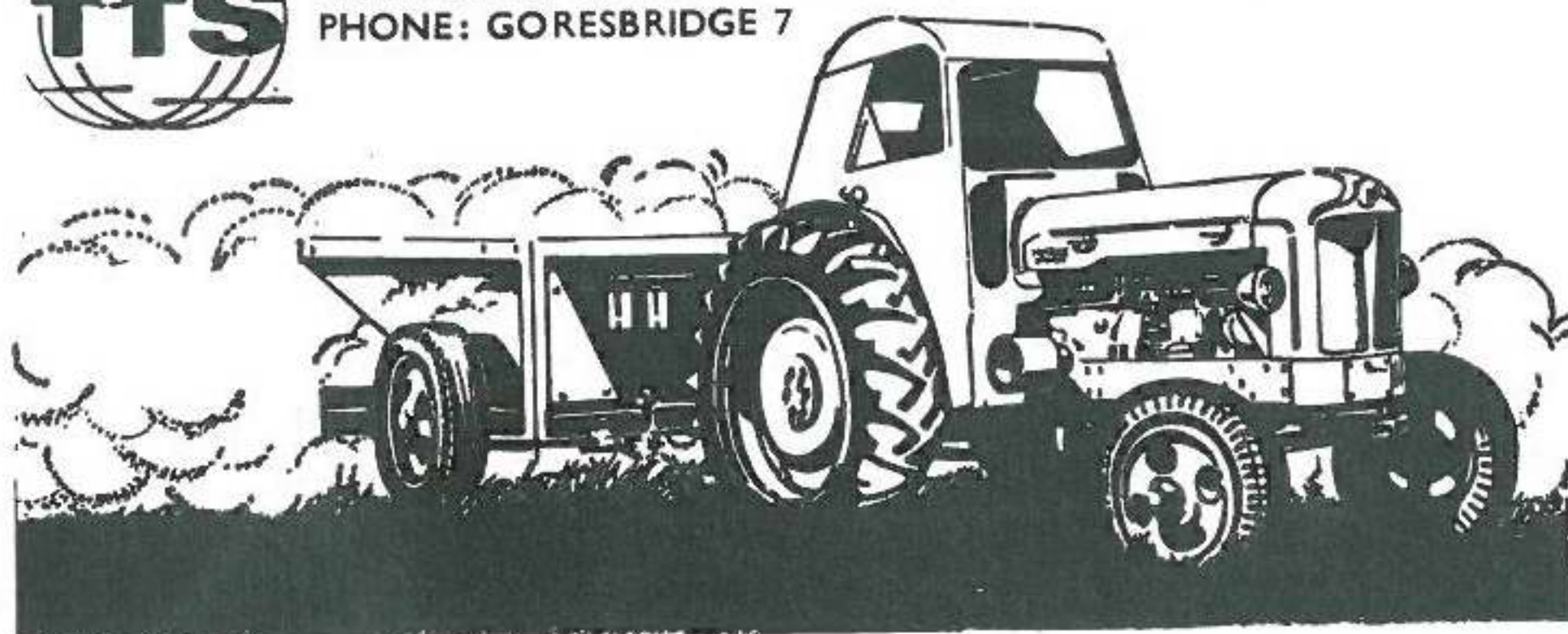
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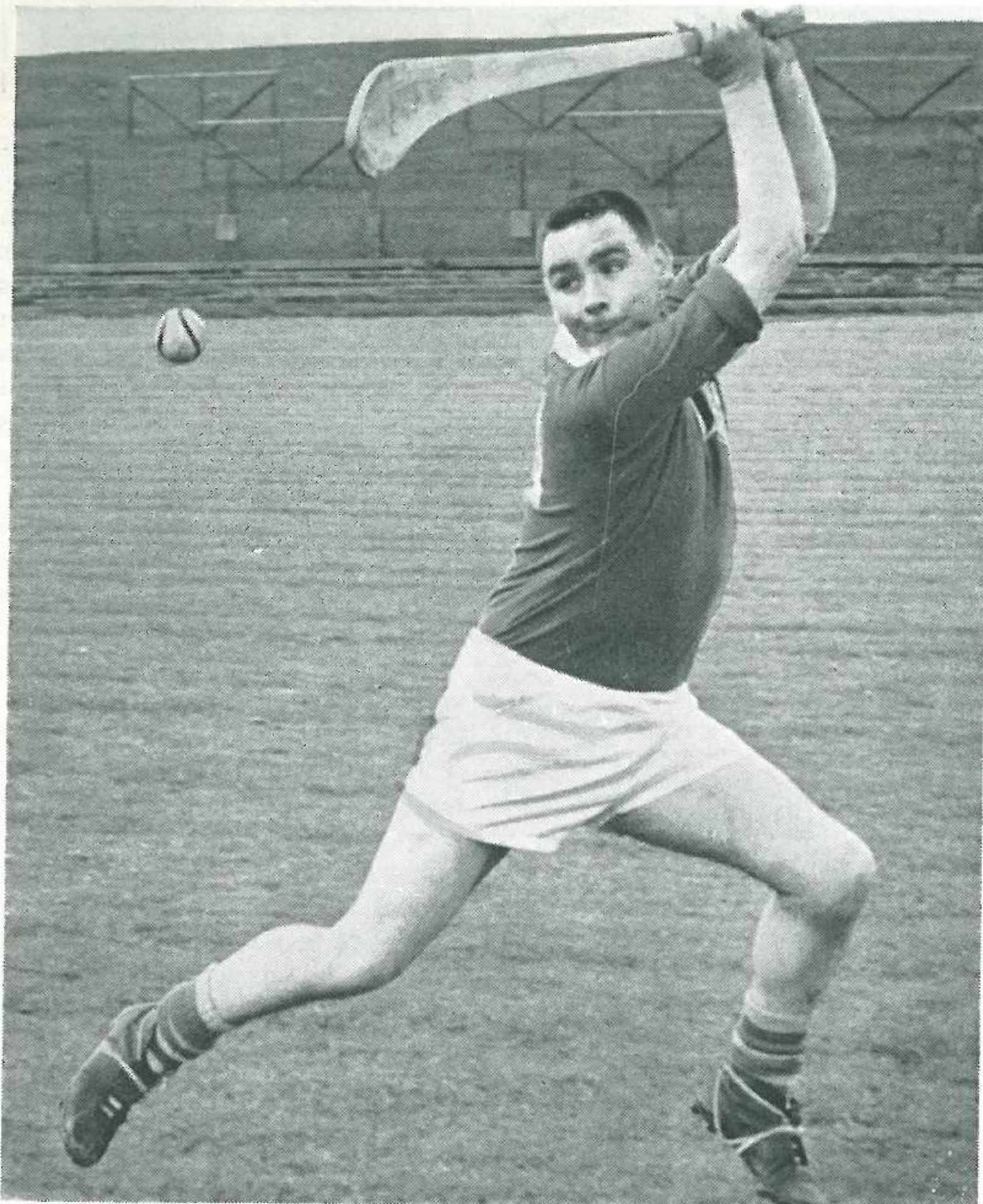
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THE CALTEX



Jimmy Doyle

By Jay Drennan

THE Caltex Awards this year go to players who would have deserved them on grounds of consistency and fine play over many years as much as for their individual brilliance in the year just concluded. To that extent I am very happy that Jimmy Doyle and Martin Newell were honoured with statuettes, even if the GAELIC SPORT analytical survey of the year threw up as the real stars of the twelve months under review two other players from the same counties.

There is no doubt that Newell

and Doyle have ranked highly every year for a great part of the last decade—not only on the list of outstanding footballers and hurlers, but also on the list of sparkling stylists, and on the list of exemplary sportsmen. Indeed, as a side issue, and one which I am sure is always borne in mind by those who make such awards as these at the end of the year, it should always be remembered that they must only go to those of the highest standards of conduct on the field and off. Certainly no better examples are to be found of all that is best than Doyle and

Newell—or our own Geraghty and Wall, for that matter.

It pleases me that Newell was selected for various reasons. He is a most wonderfully satisfying player to watch, and any onlooker will always favour a player good to look at. Some are possibly even more effective at times in a more crude way. But Newell is a stylist among half-backs—he started as a stylist and he continues to play the same clean-cut game with which he began. There are many players who pick up nasty little habits as they go along, and often these little blemishes on their first pure fervour are glossed over and justified by the word “experience”. Newell, never.

But that is something one could guess at if one had never seen him play, but knew his enthusiasm and burning keenness. The difficulties under which he has kept up his participation in the game at the top level are enormous and need no labouring to the average follower. As a man in the highly demanding field of mathematics in this day and age, it would not be surprising if he were satisfied to tog out and take an occasional kick around to keep from going to seed, certainly not remain an ever-present in the Galway team which has been so pressurised in its climb to the top and its maintenance of that position.

EX STARS

Martin Newell



It amazes me constantly how he manages to give the time, and the fierce determination of purpose which must be needed to keep in All-Ireland fitness and keyed to football form, so alone and unaided. All these things point to a sense of the highest dedication to the game of football by Martin Newell, and a sense of the deepest allegiance to the highest ideals of the Association.

In that light of the character of the man and his make-up it is fairly reasonable to conclude that we should expect him to be the kind of footballer he is. Full of ideals he must be in his approach to the play, too, since he plays it with full commitment and no pull-back; but, he commits himself in trust of the other man's fair play, and I have seldom seen him bring anything but the best out of any player who opposed him. A man who plays on Newell can expect to have every possible chance to excel at the game of football, but little real hope that he can be good enough to beat his opposite number.

It is a thing not lightly to be considered, either, that of all the Galwaymen on that team which is now a byword for its great teamwork, no man shows such esprit de corps as Martin. No one is so conscientious in covering his colleagues, whether fellow half-backs or centre fields or back even to his

full-backs. No man has done more to shape the fellowship of the Galway team, either, by playing in any position in which he is asked, and turning in a fine show.

He has been switched away from his favourite and best position at left-half, to left-full and centre-half, and maybe elsewhere that I cannot remember offhand. But, he has always been as fine in all aspects of the play wherever he has been. And this from a man who, most of the time, never sees a training session with the team, or has an opportunity to talk with them in the week before the match.

It pleases me too that Jimmy Doyle has been honoured. I feel that Jimmy is the same to hurling that Newell is to football—allowing for a different basic purpose in their positions, of course. But, Jimmy Doyle is a fine example to all in his behaviour; he shows that skill will out, to coin a phrase, just like truth. That you can be effective and a match-winner many, many times over, and yet self-effacing. He shows that a good young minor can go on to be as good a senior, and that the high forecasts of his future need not break any young fellow's nerve, or overswell his ego.

It could be that Jimmy Doyle has not had his full measure of praise for all the games he won

outright or contributed the lion's share towards winning for Tipperary, because he is so quiet about it all. He never rushes for the limelight; he never does anything flamboyant when the simple thing will do. He is no show-off, no teaser of defences less talented than himself.

The secret in Jimmy Doyle's case seems to be the echo of the wise words about removing "the mote from thine own eye" and only then removing the "beam from thy brother's eye". He bases the whole structure of his brilliance on supreme skill in doing the simple things of the game with devastating efficiency: the shooting, the frees, the inside swerve exquisitely timed to get the scope for the long shot from the wing; the chances which occur—he does not miss the good chances ever.

Since his first appearance, as a minor, on the Tipperary senior team, there has scarcely been a game when he did not contribute some huge slice of the victory cake. Has he ever been completely subdued? He has never had a bad season—hardly ever a poor game. Always he has braved the toughest tussle; often, like all great players, he is met with doubtful or, at least, uncompromising treatment. Always he has met that too, with the contempt it deserves, and continued to show how "skill will out".

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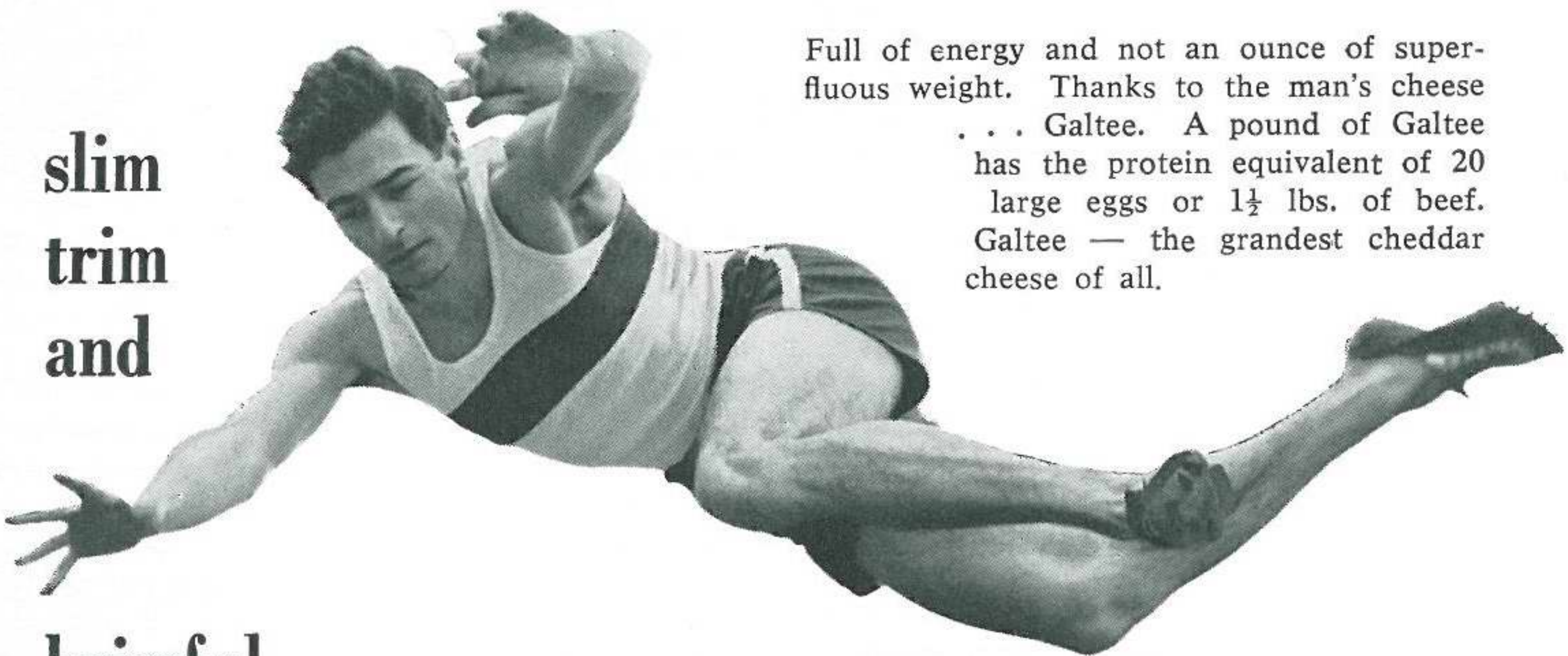
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NEWRY MITCHELS

By
MATT FITZPATRICK

THE town of Newry is a Gaelic stronghold and can boast the fact that it has five clubs playing in various leagues in County Down. At the moment one of those clubs formed but a decade ago has helped write a chapter of Mourne history which has brought joy to the hearts of all Downmen.

Newry Mitchels, home club of Sean O'Neill, is a club with this proud record. In the decade they have been in existence they have captured the Down senior county title twice. Many of the men who started the club and played on the first teams are still there to the present day.

It was in the summer of 1954 that some of the members of the John Bosco Youth Club approached Gerry Brown to start a football club. They entered a team in the South Down junior league and then in 1956 the

Mitchels club was founded from that humble beginning.

Men behind the team and also their key players were Gerry Brown, who trained Tyrone to win Ulster titles in 1956 and '57, and Arthur Ruddy, now secretary of the South Down Referees' Association. Total expenses in that first year were a modest £32.

Among the first players on that team were Ray (now Fr.) Hollywood and Kevin O'Neill then starring on the Newry MacRory Cup college team. Also playing too were John and Jim Bannon, Paddy McAteer, Eddie O'Hagan, Aidan McChesney—most of whom still wear the club colours.

With the club founded on youth it is not surprising that their first honours were in the minor ranks. One year after formation (1957) the minor championship and league title came to the club and

men like Ray Hollywood, Kevin and Sean O'Neill, Brendan McSherry and Jim Bannon starred on that victorious side.

More victories followed and in 1958 the South Down junior football league was won and this was followed the next year by the Intermediate title.

Came 1960, a memorable year for Down and Mitchels. With the Sam Maguire Cup at last brought over the "Border," Mitchels set about establishing another record.

When the club was formed in '56 Gerry Brown told the assembled members at their first meeting: "Put your heart into the club and your best play on the field. If this is done and you are faithful to the club and our games then I guarantee that the county title will be won inside six years." Bold words but physical training

● **CONTINUED OVERLEAF**

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**
 expert Gerry was not boasting. The club members proved him right. They took that Down title after being but four years in existence.

Again many of the players of the early championship team were former minor stars of '57, with them were others like Willie and Bernie O'Hare, Tom Crawley, P. J. McCartney, John (now Fr.)

O'Rorke and two "foreigners" in Aidan O'Neill (Tyrone) and Aidan McChesney (Cavan). Aidan O'Neill helped Castlewellan win the Down championship a month ago.

The luck of the "Mitchels" changed and in 1963 they were relegated to the "B" league but this only brought out the best in the club and after one year in the lower grade they came back for the double.

Aided again by most of the players of the previous win, plus Pat and Peter Tavey (formerly Monaghan), Pat Toal, Sean McCracken, Brian O'Neill and P. J. Smith they upset all the odds and overcame fancied Ballykinlar and brought the title back to South Down. This game was a personal triumph for Sean O'Neill. Playing at full forward it was his morale boosting goals that demoralised the opposition.

Now the club is in the running for the senior league title which has so far eluded them.

Mitchels has always been a family club. The O'Hares (Willie and Bernie), Pat and Ray Hollywood, Kevin, Sean and Brian O'Neill, Jim, John and Mickey Bannon, Pat and Tom McAteer and others have always given their best to the club.

Yes indeed, a very great future looks assured for Mitchels under the guiding hands and wisdom of Chairman Brian Donaghy; Vice-Chairman, Peter McParland; Secretary, Kevin O'Neill; Treasurer, Brendan Carroll. The team trainer is Gerry Brown and also on the committee are Sean O'Neill, Tom McAteer and Jim Bannon. Fr. Ray Hollywood, now serving on the Mission fields, and Fr. Tom Crawley, now in Rome, are Hon. Presidents of the club.

To Gerry Browne and Sean O'Neill I say thank you for helping me compile this short history of the club.

Next month I will take a look at Armagh kingpins Crossmaglen Rangers.



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THE ASHBOURNE CUP

By Agnes Hourigan

FEBRUARY is usually one of the worst months of the year, as far as the weather is concerned, and yet it is a month to which I always look forward because it brings the oldest and yet one of the liveliest camogie competitions of the year, the Ashbourne Cup. From time to time nowadays we hear complaints about the Universities, and their alleged lack of interest in things national, yet it must and ought to be remembered that the girl-undergraduates of the Universities founded their inter-
varsity competition away back in 1915 when there was no camogie Central Council, no intercounty matches and, in fact, no other nation-wide competition in the game at all. Indeed the inter-
varsity competition was there for many years before ever the camogie Association came into existence.

So the Ashbourne Cup Committee can proudly claim to be far and away the oldest organised camogie body in the country, and has never lapsed from that day in 1915 until now, which gives it more than fifty years of continued existence, as compared with the All-Ireland championship which only came into existence in 1932 and the provincial championships which date from 1935 or 1936.

Moreover the Ashbourne Cup series holds the proud and remarkable record of being played despite any and every vagary of weather and mankind. Even in the darkest days of the War of Independence and the Civil War, the Ashbourne Cup competition took place and on several occasions, on particularly bad February week-ends, the Ashbourne Cup matches were the only

games played under any code in Ireland.

A typical example of what these girls can achieve was provided some four years ago, when the series was last played in Dublin. A heavy snowfall wiped out any possibility, one would think, of playing games of any kind in the vicinity of the capital that day. Yet, in response to an appeal from the ladies, the male undergraduates of U.C.D. turned up at Belfield on that Sunday morning, shifted tons and tons of snow off the playing pitch and the games went on.

Only once was the Ashbourne Cup series not played, and that was in the heart of the 'Emergency' years during World War II. The Ashbourne was then played on the league system which meant that each team had to play three

matches. This meant that the competition extended over three days, with another two days for travelling. But in those days, trains only ran a couple of times a week, and when it came to drawing up a schedule for the competition that year, it was found that it would be impossible to play unless the teams could stay for a week at the appointed venue. Well, the teams were willing, but the cost was found to be prohibitive, and so, for that one year the Ashbourne Cup series was not played.

This year the Ashbourne Cup competition comes back to Belfield and this time it will be a very intriguing competition indeed, between Cork, the holders, Galway, the ex-champions, and Dublin who have not won since 1962, and that is a long, long lapse for them, and they will be very anxious to return to the winners' list.

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The Experts make it a Milky Way!



By Brian Doherty

HOW experts differ. Everybody concerned with picking the footballer and hurler of 1965 agreed that the All-Ireland champions should supply the stars, but from there on the experts went their own ways.

Gaelic Sport has the most thorough system in that it picks the top ten footballers and hurlers each month of the playing season and so at the end of the year it is a case of calculating mathematically from these monthly lists. This system produced Johnny Geraghty as the footballer of the year and, by a large margin, Tony Wall as the hurler of the year.

The sports editors of the national newspapers rely on their memories when picking the Caltex stars and they came up with Martin Newell and Jimmy Doyle.

Meanwhile a panel of local journalists were busy in Galway picking the county's sports stars of the year and they chose Enda Colleran as Galway's footballer of 1965.

Likewise another panel was doing a like job picking Tipperary's stars of 1965. Their hurler of the year was "Mackey" McKenna.

So it was a case of nobody seeing eye to eye.

And while on this subject of seeing things differently, I must take issue with the Galway journalists who picked Jimmy Cranny,

Organiser of the Connacht Branch of the Irish Amateur Swimming Association, as the county's sports organiser of the year.

Now let me say at the outset that I am all for swimming and have no doubt but that Mr. Cranny did an excellent year's work during 1965. However, I cannot see how anybody could have topped P. J. Callinan who, as Secretary of the Galway Coiste Iomana, rates in my book as not alone Galway's organiser of 1965—but Ireland's.

Callinan is a man who has shown how to go about bringing hurling back. As a result of his work Galway now leads all counties in the current hurling drive. His work during the past year is clearly defined in the figures: "Number of juvenile hurling teams in Galway in 1964—43; number of teams in 1965—172".

I ask you could any organiser have topped that?

HUSBAND VERSUS WIFE

We have heard of brothers being on opposing sides and in the Limerick junior hurling championship last year there was a father and his son on opposing sides—but nobody will ever top the recent Monaghan feat of having a husband and wife on opposing sides.

Yes, it really did happen just before Christmas when the Clones camogie team sought a male

opposition in a practice game. In goal for the girls was Mrs. Mary Connolly, while her husband Seamus (a former county goal-keeper) minded the net for the men.

SAME BUT DIFFERENT

The facts were the same but they were viewed differently:

Under a heading of DROP IN THE NUMBER OF CLUBS the "Irish Press" reported—

At the Co. Louth G.A.A. Board's meeting in Ardee yesterday 59 clubs representing 99 teams affiliated for the coming year in comparison with last year's total of 66 clubs representing 96 teams.

The "Irish Times" reported:
A total of 99 teams affiliated for the coming season, representing an increase of three on 1965.

NEW YORK HURLING

I hear that there is considerable hurling activity in New York. Handicapped by the absence of, as it were, intercounty opposition the New York Board has been matching their team against various number two selections and these have produced some lively encounters.

SLIP OF THE PEN

I particularly liked the divisional board secretary who, in his annual report, complimented the local Coiste Iomana for the great work it had done for juvenile hurling and football in the area.

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THE first rung on the ladder to fitness is health. The average man has fair health but it needs care. Attention to health will not only give better performances in competition, but greater joy in living. When the competitive days are over a well-cared body usually allows one to view the young fellows competing for many years while giving one at the same time an ideal chance of reminding some (who might not be in a position to disagree) what great men we ourselves were.

People to-day are more conscious of food than they were twenty years ago and that's one of the main reasons why we have better performances. The value of steaks, milk, fish, fruit, and vegetables are better known among the players of to-day and they know



Phil Brady

Put both hands on the table and shove

the foods which put on extra and unwanted pounds. Likewise they know how to take it off.

By the way it's no harm to mention concerning the effort at shedding the pounds an experience I had very recently. I was trying to get ready for the All-Army Squash championship and was in unusually poor trim, due to an injury and good times over Christmas. I stood on the weighing scales knowing I had increased on the normal twelve stone ten pounds. To my dismay the figures read thirteen stone five.

I played an hour's squash in the morning wearing as much clothes as I could. In the afternoon I repeated the dose. The poor body ached a bit but the reward was the indicator pointing to

twelve stone nine-and-a-half which represented a nine-and-a-half pound drop in six hours. Of course there was nothing eaten in that time and after the exercise the thirst was pretty bad. Still after a repeat on the following day I stripped at twelve seven—and felt a lot better.

There is only one exercise for taking down weight they say and that is to put both hands on the table and shove. Exercise usually calls for more food but if one can combine the two by eating a little less, especially of bread and potatoes and exercising more the pounds will always fall away.

In this matter I would advise the serious player to buy a bathroom scales and learn to the pound his correct weight. He can

then strike that weight on the day of his performance.

An essential part of getting fit and staying that way is getting to bed early. The amateur must meet the demands of his calling in life, and will normally have to do his training outside of working hours. As training is in itself a physical strain and very often a mental one also when the competition is very important, it is only the fool who will deny himself enough rest. Life for most days of the year is a heart-breaking treadmill. The energetic fellow tries to do his job and as much beyond it as possible. When those tasks are done there's another dozen waiting for attention and the healthier and more energetic a man is the more he will attempt them.

If you want a job done ask a busy man to do it. But the busy man remains that way only because he is shrewd enough to rest. Some need seven hours sleep others eight. Hardworking players often need ten. Each man must find this out for himself and ensure that he gets enough. A friend of mine goes to bed at nine o'clock once a week and at ten on at least two other nights. He's as healthy as a salmon.

Mental relaxation usually comes with adequate rest. Certainly lack of sleep and hard work only combine to tire the body and put one's nerves on edge and surely a bad performance will result.

I remember in 1949 playing football on the half-way line for Cork and trying to help Con McGrath, now a Garda Sergeant down in Kerry. Con, a Clifden man, was at the time a thundering player. He trained very hard and when the boys ran around the field Con would be out there running faster and farther than everyone else. I tried

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

to stay with him. I did, but it nearly killed me.

My form stayed very good for a while but I remember training for a semi-final game against

Cavan and asking to drop out on the Wednesday night for I was simply worn out.

On the Sunday, for the first time on a field, I had an inferiority complex. Con McGrath and I were

marking Phil Brady and Victor Sherlock. Con had a good hour but Victor must have had the easiest game of his life. At half-time I asked the late Jim Hurley to take me off for by this time I knew there was no complex—I was downright inferior.

Jim, God rest him, thought "Youngy" would come and left me there. But while the spirit was willing the flesh wouldn't answer. The body was tired and the nerve gone.

That's what some call staleness and the average performer has a horror of it. In fact, much of the fear is groundless for a week's rest is the cure. I played a match a week after, in a lower grade undoubtedly, but I was flying.

They'll tell you that the greatest relaxer of all is alcohol. Well, alcohol is a depressant and without doubt it often reduces to it's correct size a worry that may have been tearing with giant talons. I have no great quarrel with drink though I am convinced that as sure as one will take a glass in his hand the day will come when he'll make a fool of himself. The sensible way to look at this, however, is to remember that without the drink he will, as sure as night follows day, also make a fool of himself.

I would say that during training it's better for the average man to avoid drink. There will be exceptions and that's why I've used the word average. But there are plenty of soft drinks one can take and I remember always having bottles of Lucozade for Cork teams at half-time. The very sight of a long drink, the feel of it, and the pleasant taste of it is in itself relaxing. There is without doubt an invigorating substance in many of the soft drinks such as In-Vite.

Lastly in ascending the ladder to fitness let's not forget the value of exercise. It may sound a little naive to comment on exercise but the fact is that too many are



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writes Cycle Champion Jimmy Carr

Just three short years ago I first became a racing cyclist when I joined the "Sundrive Cycling Club." Shortly afterwards I almost packed it in because of my lack of stamina. Just then a friend "rescued" me when he suggested that "In-Vite" could help me build myself to peak fitness and also enhance my stamina. Sure enough, I gave it a try and I haven't looked back since. I was never troubled with common colds and in my short career I was able to compete in the fantastic number of 152 races, of which I won 102—mostly sprints. These victories include such top races as the Sundrive Derby, the Sundrive Marathon, the Phoenix Handicap and the Champion Sprint (all in two successive years). In addition to this I was the club's champion sprinter from 1963 to 1965.

It is a great sport and interested and ambitious beginners can do little better than start in track sprints and work up the ladder.

Undoubtedly, I found, fitness was the key to success and proper nourishment is often the deciding factor and I found that in IN-VITE.

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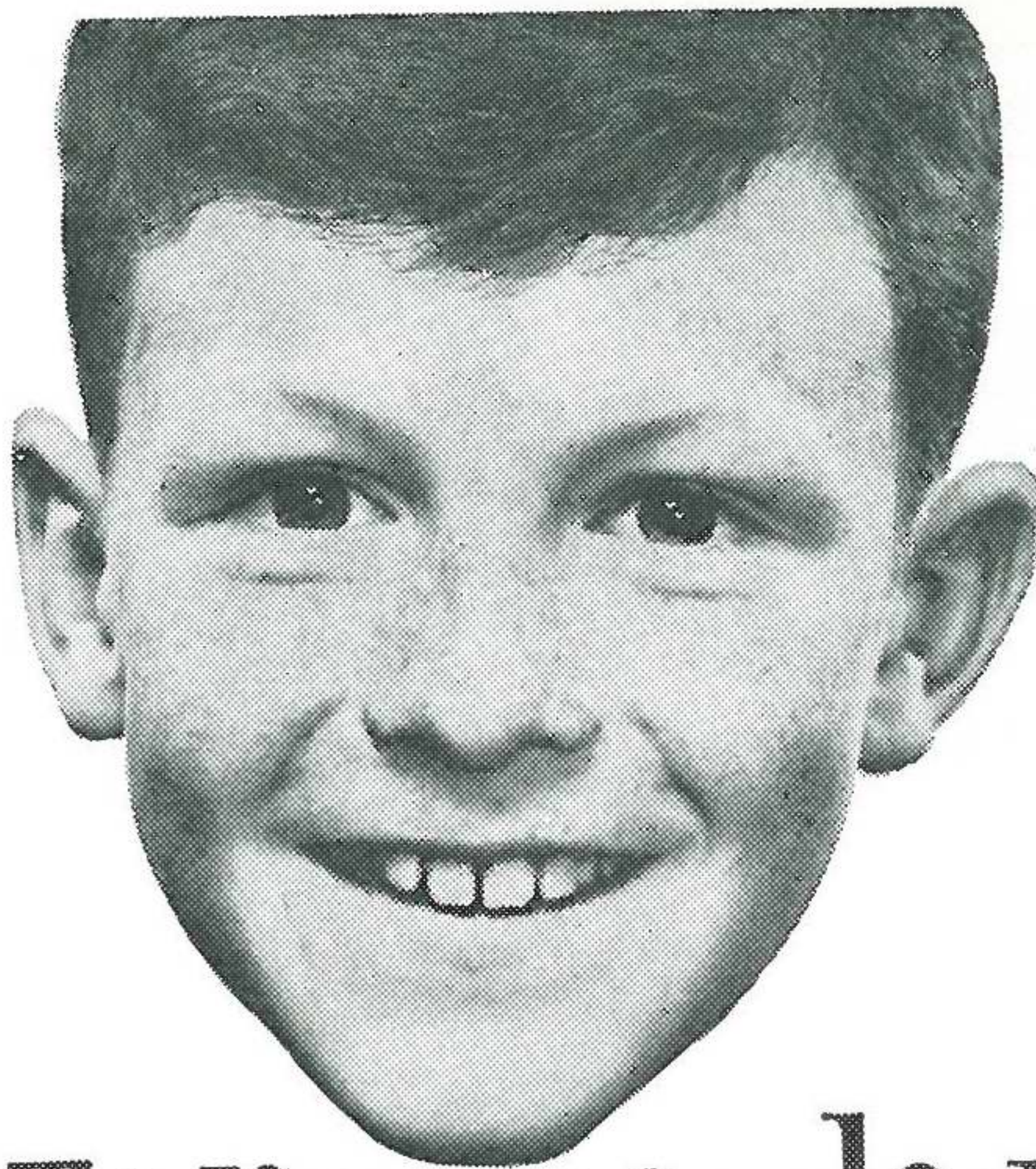
afraid of it. A story like my unhappy experience while training to play Cavan is enough to send some younger men away with a horror of staleness or tiredness. The result is that these fellows don't exercise enough and are not strong enough, fast enough or very often skilful enough.

To practice the basic skills of any game the player must work hard at them. In addition he must work just as hard to get his chest pumping out the poison which is used air and getting in the oxygen. If a man's wind is not right he simply cannot run. The way to get that wind right is to improve the bellows that God put into our chests. This won't be done by easy lapping around a field. The man whose pulse isn't above one hundred and twenty isn't doing himself any good. The fellow whose usual pulse is about sixty-six (say half a dozen under normal) should be up at about one hundred and sixty when he's really training hard.

Don't be afraid of harming the heart. When the pulse-beat goes up to one hundred and eighty one may collapse. That's nature's safety valve and the correct action is to lie still while the body repays the oxygen debt. Remember that voluntary exercise will not strain the heart. If one were chased by a bull a heart-strain might follow the extraordinary effort at escape but I suppose it would be better to live with a strained heart than be killed by the bull.

To summarise all this, a player must get advice on diet. He should find out by trial and error just how much sleep he needs and if he likes a cat-nap after dinner so much the better. He might wait for that glorious pint until the game is over and substitute a soft drink during training and he must run hard until he's gasping for breath before that running is doing him any good.

There only one road to fitness and it is sign-posted by courage and self-denial.



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Le Seán O Dúnagáin

NI fheictear dom-sa go bhfuil an tSraith Náisiúnta Peile i mbliana go hiomlán sásúil. Ní hé nach maith an rud é a mhalairt de contaetha a bheith san iomaíocht le chéile seachas mar a bhíodh sna blianta roimhe seo. Is amhlaidh go mbraitheann furmhór na gcontae ar na sraith-chluichí chun airgead a chnuasú agus, de réir mar a cluinim, tá roinnt aca ar an mbealach chun airgead a chailliúint i mbliana.

Ait le rá cuireann an suíomh seo isteach ar an iomáint freisin. Cuirim i gcás contaethe mar Ua Fáilí, Iarmhí agus Laois ar a ngairmtear "Contaethe Laga" i

dtaca leis an iomáint dhe. Is contaethe "láidre" iad ó thaobh na peile dhe. Gach bliain cailtear airgead ar na cluichí iomána ach deintear brabach maith ar na cluichí peile. I gcás na bliana seo má deintear brabach beag ar na cluichí peile ní leor é le cur in aghaidh na cailliúna sna cluichí iomána. Dá bhrí sin tá dáinséar ann nach leanfaidh siad san Sraith Iomána ar chor ar bith agus ba huafásach an 'céim-siar' é sin.

Cén fáth nach bhfuil ag éirí go maith leis an Sraith Peile? Is amhlaidh go bhfuil na grúpaí ró-bheag agus, dá bhithín, ní bhíonn spéis ar bith i bhfoireann atá tar

éis dhá chluiche a chailliúint; fiú is beag an spéis a mbíonn i roinnt aca tar éis cluiche amháin a chailliúint mar de gnáth is in aghaidh contae níos láidre a bhíodh san iomaíocht sa tarna bhabhta. Tá's agam gur glacadh leis an gcomórtas Chorn Lagan mar eisiomplár nuair chinneadh ar an socrú don bhliain seo ach ní dóigh liom gur maith an eisiomplár é.

Sa chéad dul síos ba chomhionann, beagnach, an comórtas Chorn Lagan agus Craobh Uladh. Fosta, bhí an caighdeán peile sna contaethe úda, le fada, ar aon-chéim, d'fhéadfá a rá. Dá bhrí sin bhí spéis ar leith sna cluichí i Roinn 1 mar a tugtaí ar an gComórtas sin. Rud eile dhe bhí an Corn Lagan le buachaint ba chuma céard a tharla 'na dhiaidh sin.

Níl na buntaisí sin ins na Ranna eile óir tá contaethe laga curtha inteach le contaethe láidre, táid roghnaithe ó chúigí éagsúla agus níl Corn ná Sciath ag dul chuig buaiteoiri na Ranna. Nílím ag rá nach maith an rud é Ciarraí a sgagadh ón gcuid eile i gCúige Mumhan ach ní féidir an dá thrá a fhreastal.

Rud maith fén socrú mar atá sé ná go bhfuil naoi gcluichí ar a laghad ins gach Roinn agus déarfainn go dtiocfaidh na contaethe a théann chomh fada leis an naoú gcluiche go maith as ó thaobh an airgid dhe. Ach caithfear smaoin-eadh ar na contaethe nach nimirídh cluiche ar bith ó dheire Samhna go dtí go dtosnaoinn na Craobh-chluichí arís i Mí Bealtaine.

An bhfuil leigheas agam? Is deacair aon tsocrú a shamhailt a bhéadh in iomlán sásmhach ach is dóigh liom go bhféadfaí teacht ar réiteach éigin le deá-thoil ó na coistí chontae.

LOURDES

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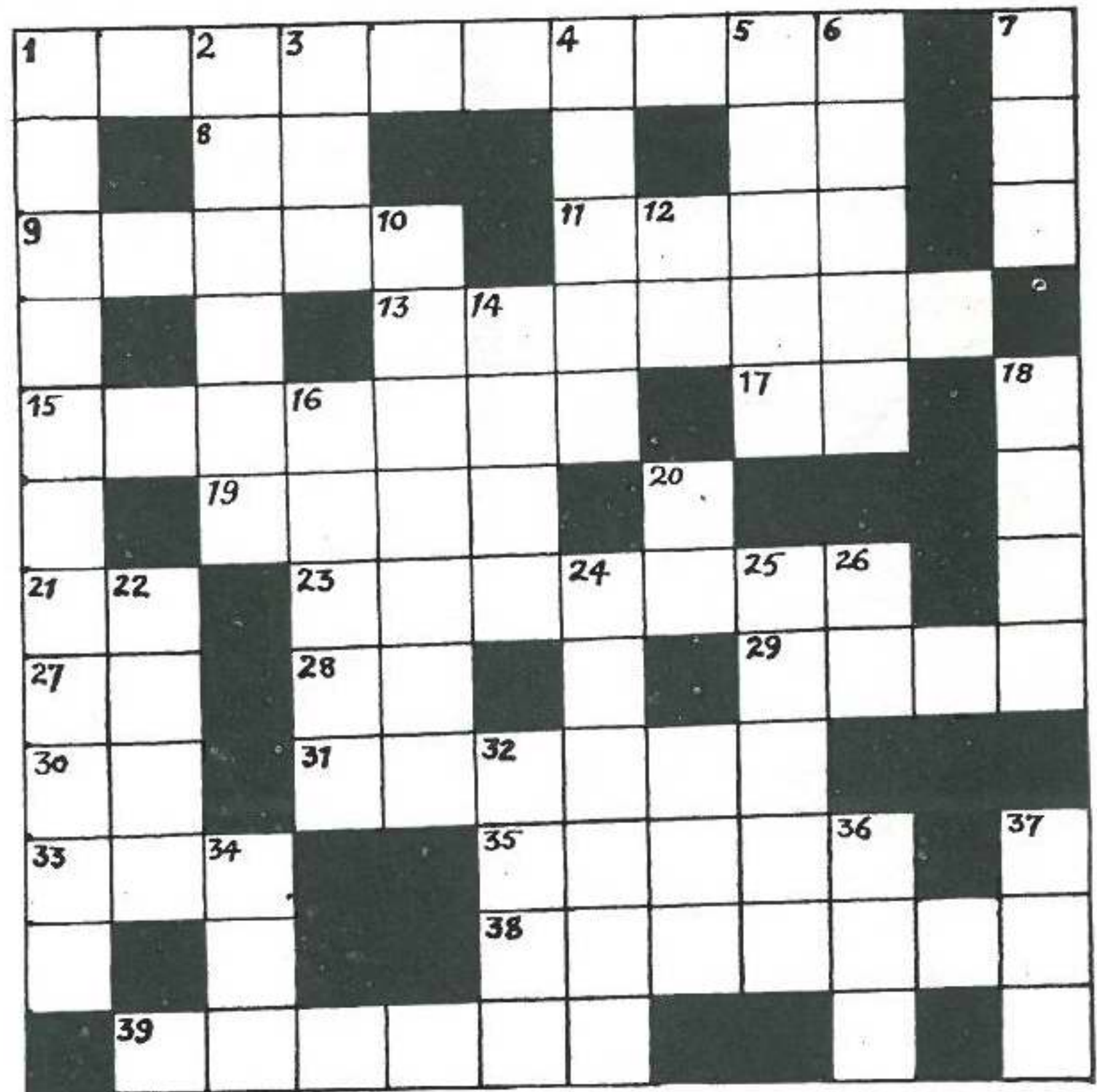


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By Permuter

CLUES ACROSS :

1. A player who distinguished himself almost everywhere for Kerry, even though his name may suggest that he is best on the edge of the field. (6, 4)
8. Grades B 2 are not enough if you want to turn in a first class performance. (1, 1)
9. Patsy has been, perhaps, Cork's best forward in the last few years. (5)
11. Murphy, late great Carlow player. (4)
13. The big discovery of the Limerick minor teams of the last few years, now an established star in both senior football and hurling. (1, 6)
15. All-Ireland winning Louth full-back. (1, 6)
17. Endless end. (2)
19. The kind of clearance which often gets defence into even more trouble. (4)
21. The Galway captain when that county first became champions. Initials. (1, 1)
23. Some players spend spare moments shooting these—whether live or clay. (7)
27. Cork forward from the Barrs who would most likely take a bow and arrow to shoot 23 across. Initials. (1, 1)
28. Some say the greatest midfielder of all-time in football. Initials. (1, 1)
29. Lady of luck with the smile of fortune. (4)
30. Has played with more illustrious counties in hurling than Kildare which he now helps. Initials. (1, 1)



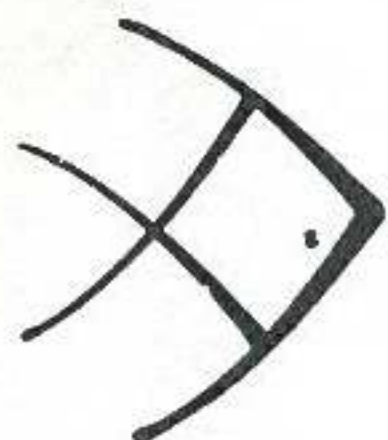
31. Main colour of the Roscommon jerseys—in layman's language. (6)
- 33 (and 18 Down). Star for Dublin and Tipperary in the forwards, even if he had to paddle through water. (3, 4)
- 35 A towering centre-field who had to sever his connection with the game.
- 38 Frank was a clever and precise footballer from the north, who never needed to use

● TO PAGE 39

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THE OLD YEAR REMEMBERED

THIS time of year is always associated with sentiment. We like to ramble back through the lane of memory, conveniently forget our unsuccessful experiences, but to dwell for a while on what we, individually, chose to be the outstanding features of the season. My reminiscences are varied and many.

They range from the administrative to the playing, and in turn to the social side of handball which undoubtedly gained a new stature in the past year.

Let us then hark away back to Annual Congress in March when Ulster, often considered as the last outpost of Irish handball, found her own level in the sphere

with Gerry McGowan, the Antrim and Provincial Chairman being elected as the new President of the Irish Handball Council.

He succeeded Rev. Fr. E. Neville who had completed his stipulated three-year term of office—a period in which his shrewd brain and calculating judgment had been of inestimable value.

The election of the new President coincided with the change of attitude, which betook legislators of the game, with particular reference to the adjustment of playing rules. It is now nine months since these changes materialised, a long enough period to judge their effectiveness and without any unnecessary preamble I have no hesitation

in saying that their implementation was timely. Irish handball is much the better for them—especially from a spectator point of view.

Then, to change course, and enter the field of active competition I particularly harbour memories of Gael-Linn final day in Lurgan, last April—not, alone for the splendour of the handball, but also because of the conditions.

It was the worst day, I ever stood under the open sky to watch a match in any sphere. The heavens opened and the northern wind blew its hardest, yet amidst it all eight of the country's top

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

CROSSWORD CLUES

● FROM PAGE 37

the golf-club which his name would suggest.

39. Wexford goalie. (1, 5)

CLUES DOWN :

1. Has represented Wicklow as well as Dublin, and seems to get bigger if not actually better all the time. (4, 7)
2. Billie Hosey of . . . ? (6)
3. The team's outfit. (3)
4. It is a maxim that "Every player has something to —". (5)
5. Quiet dig from a full-back which sometimes goes un-noticed. (5)
6. It's a Corkman all right, but, whether a centre field of a few years back or the wing forward of the present is hard to say. (1, 4)
7. Holders of the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups. (3)
10. Slippery forwards can wriggle thus. (3, 4)
12. A point between North and East midway. (2)
14. Longest serving Wexford senior player—no fishy story this.

16. Quick to flit in and out among the backs, and carrying quite a little sting. (5)
18. See 33 across.
20. Regarding . . . (2)
22. What no Gaelic player gets for playing. It's an amateur organisation, you see. (4)
24. Manager of the New York hurlers, or right corner forward for Waterford in their 1948 title winning team. (6)
25. What a crazy mixed up world. (5)
26. A football and hurling midfielder with Dublin, before emigrating to the States. Initials. (1, 1)
32. Famous Aghabullogue and Cork All-Ireland captain appears disguised as a girl. (4)
34. An O'Keeffe who holds the record number of football medals. (3)
36. A word which means only a small part of the playing surface, but which is often used to mean the whole park. (3)
37. Barely making ends meet, most clubs have to measure out their resources with greatest care to survive. (3)

(Solution : page 48)

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**
players contrived to serve up an exhibition par excellence.

For the records the tough as teak Joe Delaney, from Talbots Inch, was the eventual winner.

Then there was the rugged road of the championship campaign, which in my book, anyway, was highly satisfactory. Maybe it did not contain all that the purist would wish for, and while it started without a real personality, it ended with no less than sixteen

players having had a bite at the cherry of success.

What a wonderful game was the senior hardball singles final between the Mayo star Peadar McGee and Monaghan's Seamus McCabe, who came from Clones to Ceanannus Mor on a mid-September Sunday morning unfancied by all except his most loyal supporters.

He put in a wonderful effort, before bowing out in the fifth game.

It was a triumphant season for the young Wexford ace, Richie Lyng, who emerged from Ballyanne to take the senior soft singles, thus becoming the first player ever to win a title in all three grades of minor, junior and senior.

Congratulations also to the Connaught counties, Roscommon, Mayo, and Galway, on history-making feats. Not so long ago Connaught was regarded as a cinderella of handball, but thanks to able administration at county and provincial level the game has made commendable progress, so that the Westerners can now stand shoulder to shoulder with the best.

For too long the social side of the G.A.A. or lack of it, is something which gives us all food for thought or script. But, I am glad to say that handballers are, of late, playing their part in organising victory dinners, socials and other functions where friend and foe can meet in an atmosphere so utterly different from that of the committee-room and playing court.

CHAMPIONS OF 1965

S.S.S.—R. Lyng (Wexford).

S.S.D.—J. Delaney and T. Ryan (Kilkenny).

S.H.S.—P. McGee (Mayo).

S.H.D.—P. McGee and P. Bol-
lingbrook (Mayo).

J.S.S.—P. Sheerin (Offaly).

J.S.D.—D. McGovern and L.
Molloy (Meath).

J.H.S.—P. Sheerin (Offaly).

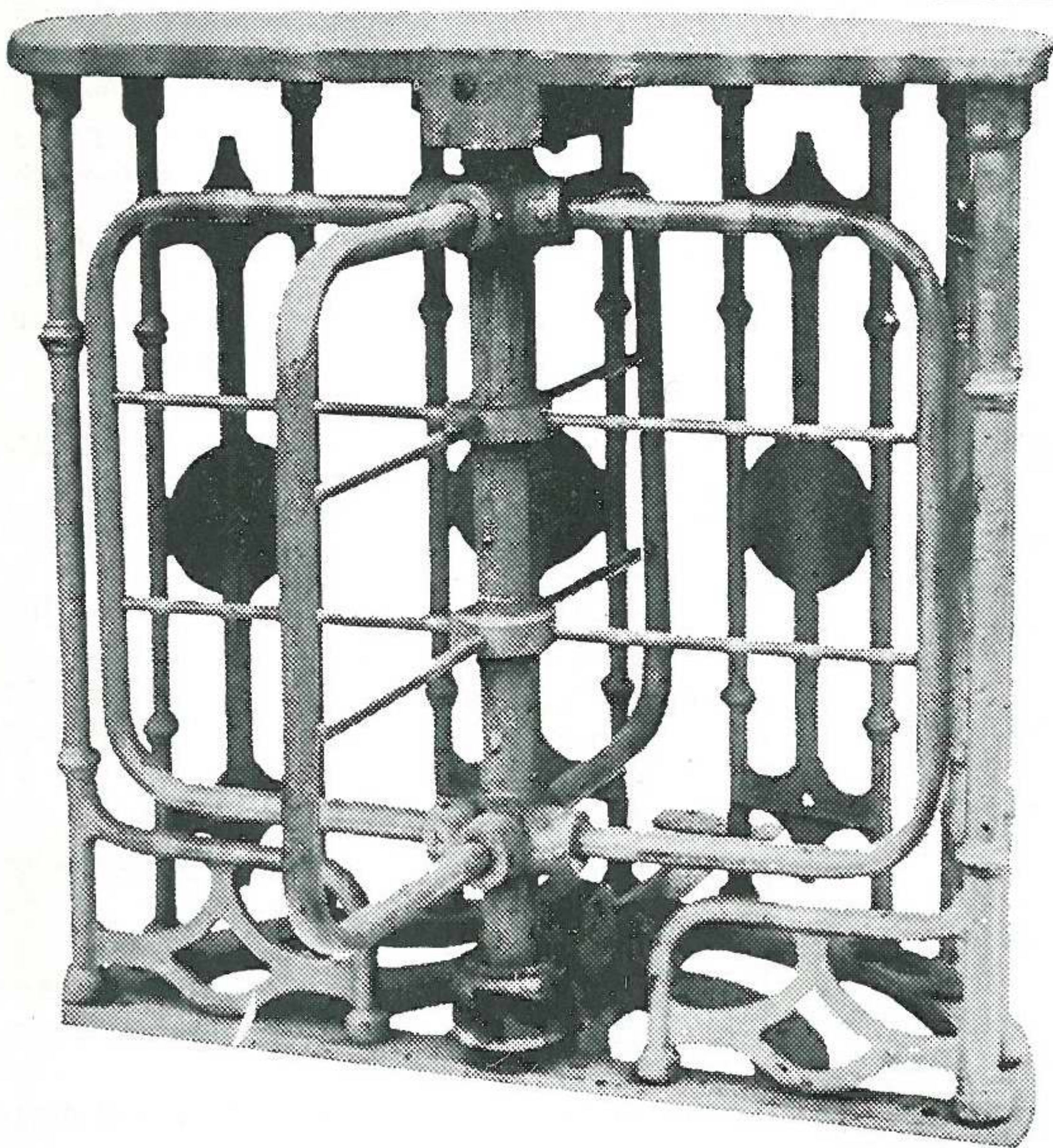
J.H.D.—M. Sullivan and J. Doyle
(Dublin).

M.S.S.—P. Clarke (Roscommon).

M.S.D.—W. Myles and M. Fitz-
Gibbon (Kerry).

M.H.S.—T. Geoghegan (Kildare).

M.H.D.—T. Curley and S. Lynch
(Galway).



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Christy Ring



Mick Mackey

AND NAME THE SUBS YOURSELF

By Eamonn Young

MY best football team of the last twenty five years, published in the December edition having met, as I expected, with unanimous approval!, the editor told me to repeat in hurling. Having now established myself as a sort of genius at this thing I approach the present task with calm brow. Here goes.

Ollie Walsh I love with all my heart for he's the most entertaining player on view for years. He has a wonderful eye and a lightning change of feet. He's also let in ones a junior goalie would stop so we pass on. There's Art Foley who won that second All-

Ireland for Wexford in 1956 as sure as you're reading this by stopping that Christy Ring shot; there's Jimmy O'Connell of Kilkenny with the eye of a hawk; Sean Duggan of Galway; Tom Mulcahy was probably the best goalie Cork ever had, Tony Reddan a powerful man with a fast eye and buckets of courage and Ned Power of Waterford. Any of them was good enough to catch swallows flying to their nests in the eaves through the dusk of the summer evening.

But my choice is a quiet man from Limerick who I believe was very nervous before the game but who drove many of us mad during

it. His name is Paddy Scanlan and in one ten minutes on a sunny day in Thurles I saw him block enough close-in shots to make one think the damn place was boarded up.

For right full back one has to sort out between John Doyle, Paddy Grace of Kilkenny, Jimmy Brohan, Tom Cunningham, Billy Murphy of Cork who played in seven All-Irelands and whose puck-out alone was tremendous value to a team.

I think it was in the 1942 final against Dublin that full forward John Quirke doubled on a Murphy puck out and scored a goal at the Canal end.

Anyway my man for the corner back position is the tall athlete from Wexford. His name—Bobby Rackard.

Diamond Hayden, John Maher of Tipperary, Con Murphy and John Lyons of Cork, Mick Butler of

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● FROM PAGE 41

Dublin, Austin Flynn and Nick O'Donnell were all fine full backs. I take O'Donnell because of his immense strength, good hurling ability as distinct from pure stopping power, and tremendous heart. Remember his headlong charge on Christy Ring's shot in the '54 All-Ireland final? He went off with a broken collar-bone.

John Doyle who must be considered for at least three places, Mark Marnell, Peter Blanchfield, Alan Lotty, Vince Twomey and Din Joe Buckley of Cork, are the men for left full. Of these I pick five All-Irelander Din Joe Buckley because of his grim strength, and fine ball playing ability.

Jimmy Finn and Pat Stakelum and Mick Burns of Tipperary, Willie Campbell of Cork, Bobbie Hinks and Seamus Cleere of Kilkenny, Des Ferguson and Jimmy Duggan were all names to discuss when talking about wing half back. My champion here is Pat Stakelum who starred at centre back but who was a fine winger also. The steady play of the Tipp. man was an inspiration to his team and only by a powerful bustling hurler like Joe Hartnett was his classic efficiency ever upset.

At centreback I should consider Paddy Clohessy of Fedamore very seriously if he wasn't at the end of his career in the early forties. John Keane of Waterford, Billie Burke of Kilkenny, Paddy Donovan of



Bobby Rackard

Cork, Willie Rackard, strong precise and clever Tony Wall, are all specialists in centre-back play but the man I pick was a specialist almost anywhere. He played with Cork from '32 to '44 winning four All-Irelands and his name is John Quirke a man who had it every way, in strength, dedication and hurling.

At left half back there is Jim Byrne of Dublin, Jim Young of Cork, Tommy Purcell and Tommy Doyle of Tipp. (though Doyle played almost everywhere too) and Johnny MacGovern of Kilkenny.

My man here is, however, one of the greats of all time Paddy Phelan of Kilkenny and his blinding skill

is well remembered far from his native county.

Ned Wade and Harry Gray of Dublin, Sean Barrett of Cork, Timmy Ryan of Limerick, Jimmy Walsh and Terry Leahy of Kilkenny, Fr. Gantly and Joe Salmon of Galway, Willie O'Donnell of Tipp., Christy Moylan and Vincent Baston of Waterford were heroes on the halfway line. Theo English and Seamus Power of a few years back could hold their own with anyone. My selection here is six—All-Irelander Jack Lynch with Terry Leahy as the partner.

In the forwards we must first decide who will take the centre-forward spot. After that it will be easy. Christy Ring would be my man but that might mean leaving out Mick Mackey who caused a lot of trouble to great backs long after 1940. We'll put Mackey on the twenty-one edging out Padge Kehoe, Willie John Daly, Tom Cheasty, Ned Wheeler and then Christy Ring at left half forward steps in front of Dick Stokes, Frankie Walsh and Tommy Doyle.

At right wing we have Jimmy Langton and Sean Clohessy of Kilkenny, Kevin Armstrong of Antrim and Joe Salmon also considered at centre-field. Hard to beat that Thurles stylist here all the same. My man is swarthy Jimmy Doyle of the flowing style whose scores for Tipp. will ever be remembered.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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BROCHURE ON REQUEST

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Paddy McMahon of Limerick was my boy childhood hero at full forward and I hadn't seen Martin Kennedy of Tipperary. Willie O'Donnell of Tipp. was a capable athletic ballplayer who could star anywhere. "Inky" Flaherty of Galway another versatile man had fine hours on the mark but I saw no one to equal the power, hurling and inspired determination of Nicky Rackard.

At right corner we have Jimmy Smith of Clare, powerful and accurate, Paddy Kenny of Tipp. with the beautiful ciotog shot, Shem Downey of Kilkenny who positively amazed me by his explosive speed when first I saw him on that bleak Railway Cup day so many years ago. The champ here is the man with the muscles of a weightlifter I saw long ago when pulling off a blue Munster jersey in the Croke Park dressing room.



Nick Rackard

He could play anywhere and did. His name is Jacky Power of Limerick.

For the last place there's Inky Flaherty, Pat Barry of Cork, Billy Dwyer of Kilkenny. But the man who always delighted me in the position by his wonderful ball-

control, the whiplash strength in the slim form and the ever-shining intelligence was Tim Flood of Wexford.

I deliberately avoided checking on the county representation before starting so I might not be influenced. Now let's check.

The team is: Paddy Scanlan (Limerick), Bobby Rackard (Wexford), Nick O'Donnell (Wexford), Din Joe Buckley (Cork), Pat Stakelum (Tipp.), John Quirke (Cork), Paddy Phelan (Kilkenny), Jack Lynch (Cork) and Terry Leahy (Kilkenny), Jimmy Doyle (Tipp.), Mick Mackey (Limerick), Christy Ring (Cork), Jacky Power (Limerick), Nick Rackard (Wexford), and Tim Flood (Wexford).

That makes four each from Wexford and Cork, three from Limerick, two from Tipperary and Kilkenny.

As a New Year exercise in memory I'll let you sort out the subs. yourselves.

CUMANN LÚIC-CLÉAS SAEÓEAL

CLÁR LAIḡEAN 1966

iomáint sinsiḡ ḡ mionúir

- (1) IAR MÍ v. Ua Bpáilí—m. CeARR. } 8/5/66.
- (2) LAOIS v. Ceácarloc—DORTLAOISE }
- (3) (1) v. (2) — 22/5/66—DORTLAOISE nó TuLac MÓR.
- (4) CILL ÓIMNIG v. (3)—12/6/66.
- (5) Ác CLIAc v. Loc SARMAN—19/6/66.
- (6) (5) v. (4) AN CRAOḡ 17/7/66.

peil sinsiḡ ḡ mionúir

- (1) Loc SARMAN v. CILL MANTÁIN—IONAO A SOCRÚ—1/5/66.
- (2) (1) v. AN MÍ—D. AN ÓRÓCÁIG—15/5/66.
- (3) IAR MÍ v. Ceácarloc—D. NUa—1/5/66.
- (4) LAOIS v. (3)—29/5/66.
- (5) LONGPORT v. LÚDÁI—AN UAIM—8/5/66.
- (6) Ác CLIAc v. (5)—12/6/66.
- (7) CILL DARA v. CILL ÓIMNIG—Ác-1—24/4/66.
- (8) Ua Bpáilí v. (7)—15/5/66.
- (9) (2) v. (4)—26/6/66.
- (10) (6) v. (8)—3/7/66.
- AN CRAOḡ (9) v. (10)—24/7/66.

iomáint pé 21 bLḡ

- (1) Ceácarloc v. CILL ÓIMNIG—Ceácarloc—17/4/66.
- (2) LAOIS v. Ua Bpáilí—DIOERRA—10/4/66.
- (3) AN MÍ v. CILL DARA—MAG NUAOAc—3/4/66.
- (4) IAR MÍ v. Ác CLIAc—m. CeARR—27/3/66 nó 3/4/66.
- (5) Loc SARMAN v. (4)—24/4/66.

peil pé 21 bLḡ,

- (1) AN MÍ v. CILL DARA—AN UAIM
 - (2) Ác CLIAc v. LUḡÁI—D. ÁcA
 - (3) Ua Bpáilí v. LAOIS—CÚL AN TSUOAIḡE
 - (4) IAR-MÍ v. LONGPORT—Ác LÚAIN
 - (5) Ceácarloc v. CILL MANTÁIN—Ceácarloc
- } SAC
cluice
AR
- } SIÚDÁL AR
17/4/66
- (6) Loc SARMAN v. (5).
 - (7) (1) v. (2).
 - (8) (3) v. (4).
 - (9) (6) leigte.
 - (10) (9) v. (7 nó 8).
 - (11) AN CRAOḡ (7 nó 8) v. (10).

Ulster chase Leinster's record

ULSTER footballers are in line this year to equal a Leinster record of four Railway Cup triumphs in succession. The Easterners started off that record-breaking run at Ballinasloe in February, 1952, when a much criticised team surprised even their most ardent supporters by beating the then holders, Connacht, 1-8 to 1-7, in a thrilling encounter. Connacht again had the last chance to foil Leinster's record bid on March 17, 1955, but they failed on the score of 1-14 to 1-10. Leinster lost the following year in the semi-final to Munster on the score 3-4 to 0-9, at Croke Park.

Only two players, Stephen White (Louth) and Ollie Freaney (Dublin), had the distinction of playing in all eight games in that record-making run. Neither had to retire at any stage in any one game. Micheál O'Brien (Meath), Gerry O'Reilly and Jim Rogers, both of Wicklow, and Kevin Heffernan each played in seven games. Injury kept O'Brien off the 1954 semi-final side, and O'Reilly missed the 1955 decider for the same reason. Rogers was not chosen for the 1952 semi-final, and Heffernan was dropped for the 1955 semi-final.

White was "Mr. Versatile" of that history-making march. In the 1952 and 1953 semi-finals and finals, he filled the left half-forward position, while in the 1954 semi-final he played at left half back, and in the decider that year held down the left midfield spot.



KEVIN HEFFERNAN
(Leinster)

In 1955, he was again at left wing forward for the semi-final, and in the final figured at left half back.

Heffernan was the top scorer of the series with 5-25 (40 pts.), an average of 5.71 minors an outing. His total exceeded by no fewer than 30 points that of his nearest rival in the scoring chart, Ollie Freaney.

Only two Leinster counties failed to get at least one representative on one of the eight Leinster teams concerned in setting up that record. They were Kilkenny and Westmeath. Micheál O'Brien (1952), Paddy Meegan (1953), Jim McDonnell (1954) and Paddy O'Brien (1955) were the victorious Leinster captains.



PADDY DOHERTY
(Ulster)

I wonder is it an omen of things to come that Ulster's current unbeaten run, which last St. Patrick's Day resulted in the first three-in-a-row titles triumph ever by the North, also started with a win over Connacht, and at a Western venue, too? That game was at Sligo in 1963, and the score was 2-8 to 1-5. Of the team chosen to represent the North against Leinster at Croke Park at the end of this month, only three played in Ulster's six games so far—Gabriel Kelly, Paddy Doherty and Sean Ferriter.

Kelly and Doherty each manned in each of those outings the same post, right back and left half for-

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



Mattie McDonnell of Meath, one of Leinster's most prominent players in the mid 'fifties.

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

ward respectively. They have both again been chosen in these berths for the tilt with Leinster. Neither Kelly or Doherty was forced to go off in any game. Ferriter wore the No. 9 jersey in the 1963 semi-final, 1964 semi-final and final. He went off injured in two finals—1963 and 1965.

Sean O'Neill played in all but the 1965 semi-final, for which he was chosen, but was forced to cry off the side. He filled right half forward in all outings, except last

year's decider, in which he was, as will be the case in the coming game, at full forward.

If Ulster do equal Leinster's record, Paddy Doherty is almost certainly assured of a higher total than Heffernan. Already with 4-24, he is only four points short of the tally recorded by the Dubliner.

Doherty, Kelly and Sean O'Neill have each a chance this year to equal Tom Maguire's record for an Ulster man of five Railway Cup medals, established between 1956 and last March. This trio were also in Ulster's 1960 title winning team, and it is interesting to note that Kelly and Doherty also manned the right full back and left half forward berths in that final win.

All the Ulster counties, except Antrim, have been represented on at least one of the Northern teams in the just completed historic hat-trick of titles. Antrim is also unrepresented in the actual line-out in the team to meet Leinster.

Ulster's last two failures in this series were to Leinster—in the 1962 final, and the 1961 semi-final. The provinces have met 25 times in the Railway Cup semi-finals and finals since 1928, and the score stands at 14-9 in favour of Leinster with two games drawn.

BOOKLET ON HURLING

THE volume of publications appertaining to Gaelic Games continues to grow. One of the latest and most significant additions is "Hurling at the Crossroads," by Paddy Downey, the "Irish Times" Gaelic Games Correspondent.

"Hurling at the Crossroads"—a reprint in booklet format of a series of articles by Downey which appeared in the "Irish Times" some months ago—is a comprehensive survey of the premier national game in all its aspects, and it was published originally by the "Times" to coincide with the launching of the G.A.A.'s Revival Scheme.

The booklet can be had from the "Irish Times," Westmoreland Street, Dublin, for 2/6 (2/11 post free).

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KEEP THE ROWDIES OUT

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

TROUBLE makers at matches were again very much in evidence last season and in most venues where incidents occurred the blame must be laid squarely on the shoulders of unruly spectators.

At the outset let me emphasise that the vast majority of our games are played in good sporting manner, free of anything in the nature of rancour or bitterness. Considerably less than one per cent. are not contested in the right spirit, but even that number can be sufficient to cause serious concern in view of the huge number of G.A.A. matches played throughout a season.

Except in occasionally extreme cases the referee is usually able to deal with unruly players, and it is fairly evident to all keen students of the games that if all but the players could be kept off the pitch the risk of trouble would be very materially reduced.

The lessons to be learned from this are clear cut. Field committees must face up to the absolute necessity of providing

adequate stewarding for all matches, or, alternatively, providing a proper enclosure which would prevent the encroachment of spectators at any point.

Some pitches have an exceptionally good reputation for stewarding, and the trouble makers know that if they try any of their antics they will come off second best. They are a cowardly bunch, most of them, and conduct themselves when it is made clear no monkey business will be tolerated.

Many venues rise to the occasion for the big games but fall down on the job at other times. Difficulties also arise when the home team might be engaged, maybe many miles away, thereby depriving the venue of the help of the majority of its usual helpers.

On top of all this is the increasing difficulty of getting individuals to act as stewards, and it will be agreed that the day of the voluntary helper is nearing an end, and that fields must plan for a permanent system of reserving their playing space to its proper use.

Slackness in stewarding has led to unruly scenes in the past, and is in danger of doing so again.

Some favour as a solution of the problem the abolition of side line seating, and the complete enclosure of the playing space with link wire raised some six feet or higher.

I believe the complete and adequate sealing off of the pitch should be insisted upon everywhere. It would be the positive answer to trouble during a game, and would enable the powers that be deal adequately with any transgressions of players, now too frequently covered up by the subsequent action of spectators, who distract attention from the original incident by causing a much greater rumpus.

Instead of the abolition of side-line seating, what is really called for is a complete re-appraisal of the situation in the light of the altered circumstances of recent years.

Side-line seating as we knew it in the past may have become out-

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

dated, but we cannot ignore the fact that spectators at G.A.A. matches are seeking more and more seated accommodation. They are willing to pay for this, and field planners should do everything possible to meet the demand. It would obviously also be in their own interests to do so, in view of the greater revenue it would provide.

An easy solution in many instances might be found by removing the present side line seating without interfering with the existing pailing. The seats could then be re-erected outside the pailing on the embankments on both sides of the pitch, extending from the centre to any distance and height deemed necessary. The corners and both ends would then be reserved for the standing spectators, thus giving a fairer deal to all concerned.

The interests of all the spectators who pay their money to enjoying a game, unimpeded by distraction in the way of encroaching individual

or excessive pillars or wire should be kept paramount, and some scheme has to be devised whereby this ideal will be served.

A certain number of stewards will of course always be necessary, and it is no harm to emphasise that their job is to make the spectator as comfortable and trouble free as is humanly possible. The spectator on his part is not always as helpful as he could be, and a lot of difficulties might be avoided if spectators made it plain early on to the would be troublesome ones that they wanted to enjoy the game and would not tolerate any interference with that enjoyment.

Stewards are doing what is at best a thankless task and they deserve the sympathy and co-operation of all who are anxious to keep our fields free for the purpose for which they are provided—the playing of the games. There is no room on them for spectators, who have their own accommodation, and must be made keep to it.

Munster Railway Cup Selections

HURLING :

The Munster team which will meet Galway at Ballinasloe on February 27 is:—

J. O'Donoghue (Tipp.); J. Doyle (Tipp.), A. Flynn (Waterford), D. Murphy (Cork); D. Riordan (Cork), T. Wall (Tipp.), T. O'Brien (Limerick); M. Roche (Tipp.), R. Hartigan (Limerick); J. Doyle (Tipp.), L. Kiely (Tipp.), L. Danaher (Clare); D. Nealon (Tipp.), J. McKenna (Tipp.), S. McLoughlin (Tipp.).

FOOTBALL :

The Munster football team to play Connacht in the Railway Cup semi-final at Tralee on February 27 is:—

J. Culloty (Kerry); Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), S. Downes (Clare), M. Morris (Kerry); D. O'Sullivan (Kerry), T. Fitzgerald (Limerick), P. McMahon (Clare); M. O'Connell (Kerry), M. Burke (Cork); E. Ryan (Cork), T. Hayes (Cork), D. Geaney (Kerry); P. Murphy (Limerick), C. O'Sullivan (Cork), B. O'Callaghan (Kerry).

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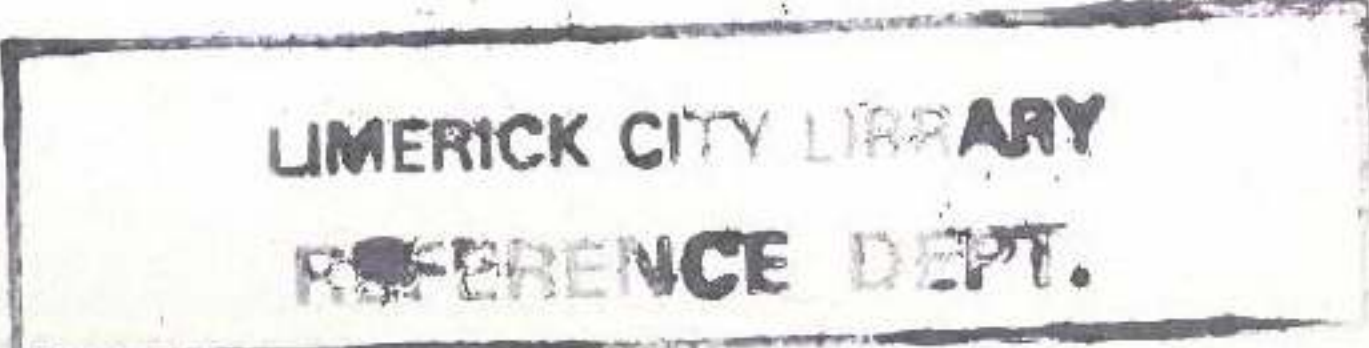
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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