

72

GAA

Gaelic Sport

JANUARY 1968

TWO SHILLINGS

in this issue

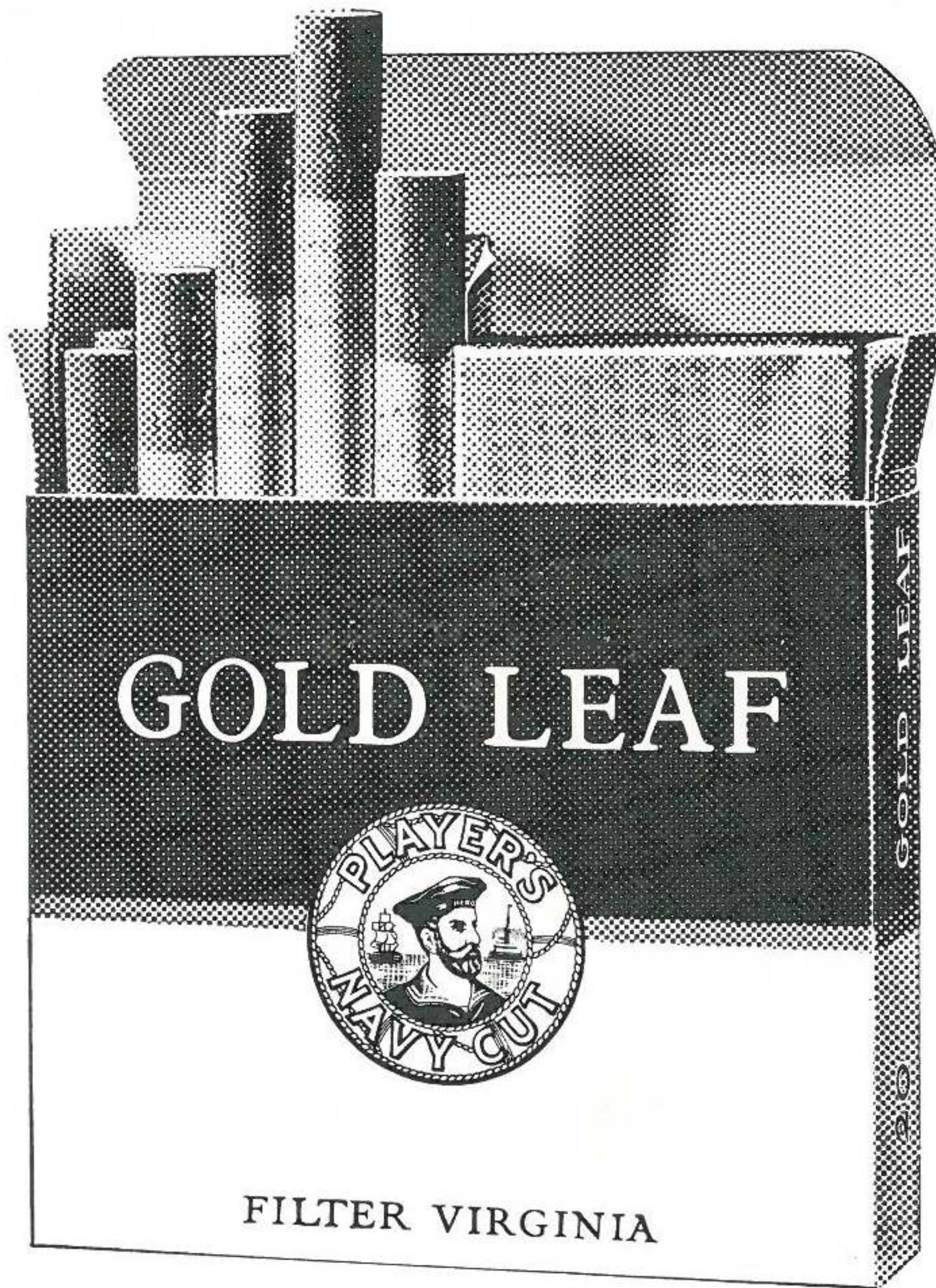
**Top
Ten
Stars
for
1967**

**IS
CAMOGIE
GETTING
A SQUARE
DEAL?**

**asks
Raymond
Smith**



**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
WITH
CAVAN'S
CHARLIE
GALLAGHER**



Smoke the
smoothest
cigarette of all

CLÁR LAIḂEAN, 1968

SOCHRUIḂTHE AG

AN CRUINNIU 11/11/'67

IOMÁINT MIONÚIR (Spéis.)

- (1) Cill Dara v. Cill Mhantáin—D. Nua, June, '68.
- (2) An Mhí v. Lúbhaí—Ardee, June, '68.
- (3) Iar-Mhí v. Ceatharlach—June, '68.

IOMÁINT SINSIR agus MIONÚIR

- (1) Laois v. Iar-Mhí—Tullamore.
- (2) Ua bhFáilí v. (1)
- (3) Loch Garman v. Áth Cliath—Kilkenny
- (4) Cill Choinnigh v. (2)
- (5) (3) v. (4)

Finals—14-7-'68

IOMÁINT IDIR-MHÉANACH

- (1) Ceatharlach v. Cill Mhantáin—Aughrim*
- (2) Cill Choinnigh v. (1)
- (3) Loch Garman v. Áth Cliath—Gorey
- (4) Cill Dara v. Ua bhFáilí—Tullamore
- (5) An Mhí v. Laois—Tullamore

(Draw for Semi-final)

All First Round Games 21-4-'68 except *

IOMÁINT SÓISEAR

- 1) Ceatharlach v. Cill Dara
- (2) Cill Mhantáin v. (1)
- (3) Lúbhaí v. An Mhí—Ardee
- (4) (3) v. Iar Mhí

Dates and Venues in June, 1968

IOMÁINT FÉ 21 BLD. (Spéis.)

- (1) Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí—M. Cearr.
- (2) Lúbhaí v. (1)
- (3) Cill Dara v. Cill Mhantáin—D. Nua.
- (4) Ceatharlach v. (3)
- (5) (2) v. (4)—An Craobh

N.B.—This is special C.C. Competition

IOMÁINT FÉ 21 BLD. (Championships)

- (1) Loch Garman v. Laois—Portlaoise
- (2) Cill Choinnigh v. Ua bhFáilí—Birr
- (3) Áth Cliath v. (1) no (2) (Draw for Bye)
- (4) (3) v. ? (An Craobh)

On 31-3-'68 or 7-4-'68

Corn Breathnach—Idir (4) Foirne a gabh páirteach leath-craobhacha 1968 (Iomáint Sinsir) agus na gluichí i Mhí Lughnasa.

PEIL MIONÚIR agus SINSIR (Roinn Spéis.)

- (1) Laois v. Loch Garman—Ceatharlach, 28-4-'68
- (2) Ceatharlach v. Cill Mhantáin—Áth Í, 21-4-'68
- * (3) (1) v. (2)—12-5-'68

PEIL MIONÚIR agus SINSIR (ar Craobh)

- (1) Longphort v. Áth Cliath
 - (2) Iar-Mhí v. an Mhí
 - (3) Cill Dara v. *(3)
 - (4) Lúghaí v Ua bhFáilí
- Semi-finals : (1) v. (2); (3) v. (4)
Finals : (1 no 2) v. (3 no 4)—21-7-'68

PEIL SÓISEAR

- (1) Lúbhaí v. An Mhí—Ardee
- (2) Áth Cliath v. (1)—An Uaimh or Drogheda
- (3) Iar-Mhí v. Longphort—Longford
- (4) Ua bhFáilí v. (3)—Longford or Mullingar
- (5) Cill Mhantáin v. Ceatharlach—Aughrim
- (6) Loch Garman v. (5)—Enniscorthy
- (7) Cill Choinnigh v. Cill Dara—D. Nua
- (8) Laois v. (7)
- (9) (2) v. (4)
- (10) (6) v (8)
- (11) (9) v. (10)—An Craobh

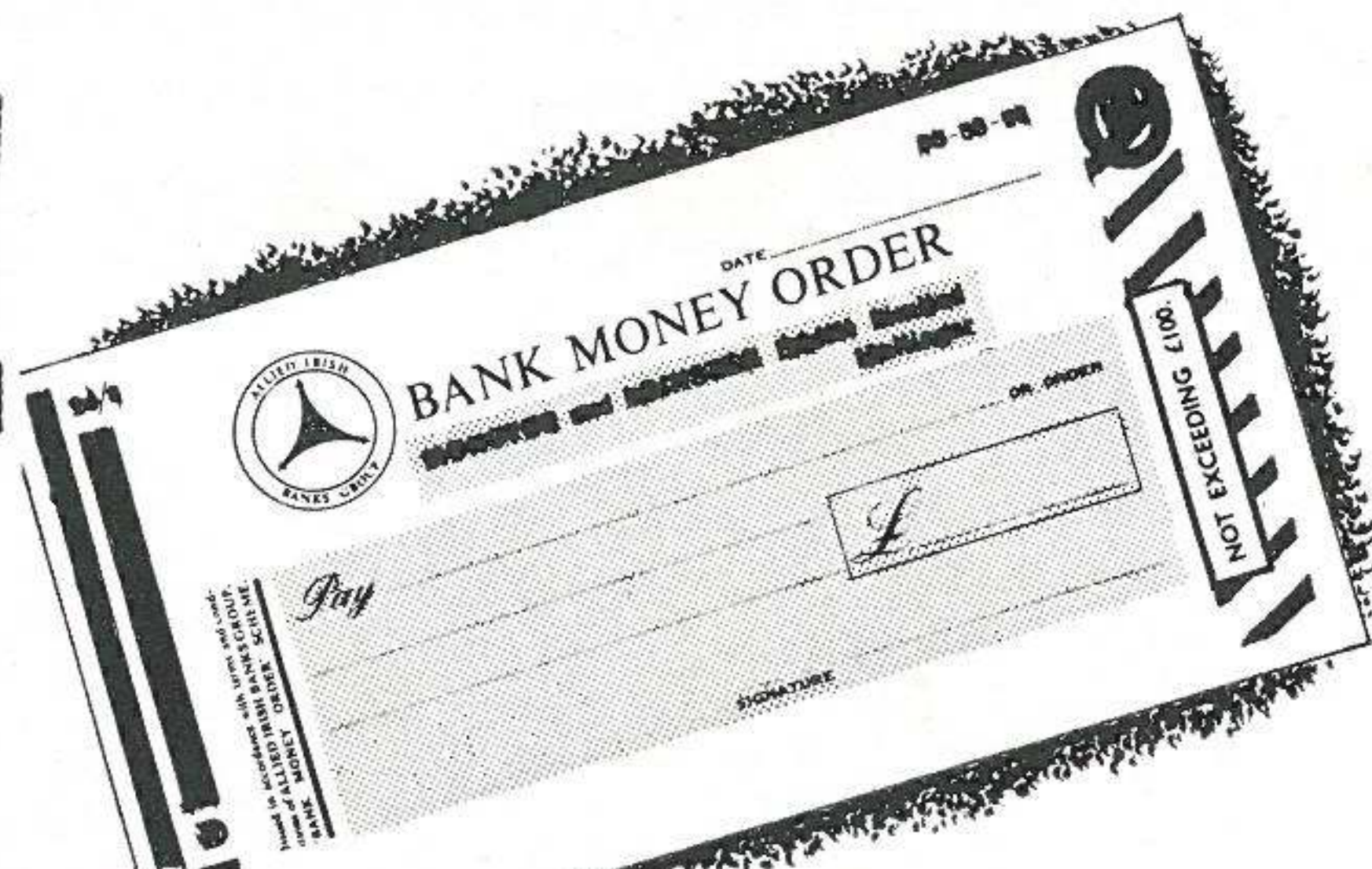
PEIL FÉ 21 BLD.

- (1) Lúbhaí v. Cill Dara—Dunleer
- (2) An Mhí v. Áth. Cliath—An Uaimh no Páirc an Chrócaigh
- (3) Laois v. Longphort—Longford or Portlaoise
- (4) Iar-Mhí v. Ua bhFáilí—Tullamore or Mullingar
- (5) Ceatharlach v. Cill Mhantáin—Ceatharlach
All games (1) to (5) inclusive on 14-4-'68
- (6) Loch Garman v. (5)
- (7) (1) v. (2)
- (8) (3) v. (4)
- (9) (6) v. (7) no (8)
(Draw for Bye)
- (10) (9) v. (7) no (8) (Bye). An Craobh

CORN UÍ BROIN

- (1) Longford v. Laois—Longford
- (2) Offaly v. (1)—Tullamore
- (3) Westmeath v. Carlow—Mullingar
- (4) Dublin v. (3)
- (5) Wicklow v. Kilkenny—Kilkenny
- (6) Wexford v. (5)
- (7) Louth v. Kildare—Droichead Nua
- (8) Meath v. (7)
Round 1 on 24 or 31-3-'68

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Gaelic Sport

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COVER PHOTO

Eileen Collins (Antrim) breaks away from Alice Hussey (Dublin) in the replayed All-Ireland Camogie final at Croke Park on October 15.

Inexcusable

GAELIC SPORT has consistently approved of, and unreservedly praised, the idea behind the Caltex (now the Texaco) Awards since their inception in 1958. The announcement of the Stars and the subsequent presentation of the coveted trophies have brightened the winter sporting scene annually over the past ten years. We have never seriously disagreed with—and more often than not we have applauded—the selections, in so far as they concerned the sports with which we deal.

On this occasion, however, we feel compelled to comment on an inexplicable omission from the list of award winners for 1967. And we think it is our duty to criticise, as strongly as possible, the panel of Sports Editors responsible for the inexcusable error.

Why was the World handball champion, Joey Maher of Louth (Ireland's only world champion at the present time), omitted from the list of the elite? Surely not because he represented Canada in the World series in Toronto. All sorts of expatriate Irish sportsmen have been honoured in the past, and often with far fewer qualifications.

Handballers have felt slighted because a representative of their ancient sport was not chosen for an award in former years. But on no previous occasion was their claim more than questionably marginal. This time, the omission of Maher is more than a slight: it is an unpardonable insult—to the World champion and to his sport.

Texaco retain the services of the Sports Editors of the national papers because they presume that those gentlemen are the most knowledgeable selectors available.

It is their practice each year to publish the short list of sports from which the award winners are to be chosen. This is done some weeks in advance of the announcement of the Stars.

The short list for 1967 was released just before the Toronto event was due to begin. It did not, as we know, include handball. Were the Sports Editors not aware—was there not one amongst them aware—that the world handball championship was about to take place? Did they not know that Joey Maher was a strong contender for the title, and that there were two Irish representatives competing, either of whom might have to be considered?

It is a Sports Editor's job to be fully informed of forthcoming arrangements in the whole spectrum of sports with which he is directly concerned. Presuming that the panel knew about it, the importance of the Toronto event demanded that the publication of the short list should have at least been postponed until the championship was decided.

Whatever the explanation, the truth is that someone blundered badly. We are reminded of the last two lines of a poem by the late Patrick Kavanagh. We take the liberty of quoting them out of context, thus changing their meaning to suit the present theme:

'Then by heavens he must be poor.'

I hear and is my heart not badly shaken?

There are many whose confidence in the selectors is badly shaken by the absence of Joey Maher from the list of Texaco Award nominees.

TOP TEN

OUR Stars of 1967

REMEMBER the story of the loving mamma who stood in her doorway as the column of soldiers passed by (no doubt, in the old days of the garrisons in Newbridge or Fermoy) and noticing a certain dissaray in the rhythm of the marching she turned to her neighbours and exclaimed: "They are all out of step except my Johnny."

In naming Jack Quinn of Meath and Eddie Keher of Kilkenny as OUR stars of the 1967 season, GAELIC SPORT will appear to be out of step with other, more publicised selections. But which is Johnny?

As readers are aware, we keep month-by-month records of individual senior inter-county performances, based on a rigid points system. Every game is taken into account — from January to December. OUR nominations are NOT made on the raking of end-of-the-season memories, but on the simple calculation of tabulated ratings over the entire year. This, we believe, is the only system which can possibly identify the top performers of the previous twelve months.

The points are awarded thus;

ten for each occasion that a player headed our monthly list, nine for second place and so on down to one point for each tenth placing.

And so, it in this way that our two star players of 1967, Quinn and Keher, have emerged. Hereunder we give the Top Ten in each game for 1967. Jack Quinn, the Meath full back, heads the football ratings which are as follows (points accumulated over the twelve month period in brackets):

FOOTBALL

- 1—Jack Quinn, Meath (39)
- 2—Joe Langan, Mayo (24)
- 3—John Morley, Mayo (20)
Bertie Cunningham, Meath (20)
- 4—Ray Carolan, Cavan (19)
Sean O'Connell, Derry (19)
- 5—Jimmy Keaveney, Dublin (17)
Sean O'Neill, Down (17)
Pat Donnellan, Galway (17)
- 6—Frank Cogan, Cork (16)

Quinn's lead of 15 points over Langan is the most decisive we have had since our Top Ten ratings were inaugurated in 1963. It is indicative of the Meath full back's consistency over the season that he scored so highly despite a moderate rating for his display against Cork's Con O'Sullivan in the All-Ireland final. He is the only one of

the 1967 Top Ten to have figured in last year's list. He was then rated number eight.

A peculiar aspect of the football ratings is that, while the Meath full back stood out on his own in the final calculation, there were ties for third, fourth and fifth places. It is quite remarkable that this can happen in a "field" of almost one hundred candidates.

Among the also-rans who were very close to the qualifying mark were P. J. Loftus of Mayo, Terry Kearns of Meath, Joe Corcoran of Mayo, Charlie Gallagher of Cavan, Mick Burke of Cork, and Bernard Brady of Donegal.

HURLING

- 1—Eddie Keher, Kilkenny (34).
- 2—Liam Danagher, Clare (31).
- 3—Ollie Walsh, Kilkenny (25).
- 4—Jim Cullinan, Clare (24).
- 5—Pat Henderson, Kilkenny (22).
- 6—Phil Wilson, Wexford (20).
- 7—Tom Ryan, Clare (19).
- 8—Theo English, Tipperary (18).
- 9—Ted Carroll, Kilkenny (17).
Pat Nolan, Wexford (17).

Keher's success is all the more remarkable in that he has been out of hurling with an arm injury since the All-Ireland final on the first Sunday of September. The ace

Jack Quinn and Eddie Keher fill top places



Jack Quinn



Eddie Keher

marksman scored consistently high points ratings in the first half of the year and even Ollie Walsh's superb display of goalkeeping in the final against Tipperary (for which he was awarded maximum marks) couldn't catch up with Keher.

One way or the other, it is most fitting that Eddie leads the 1967 list of hurling stars, because he has only once been out of these ratings in the past five years. His highest positions previously were second to Phil Grimes in 1963 and third to Martin Coogan last year.

Two features of the hurling Top Ten are significant—Liam Danagher, that fine midfielder from Clare, comes a very close second, only three points behind Keher, and in the list as a whole his county has gained three places, only one behind the All-Ireland champions.

Kilkenny's domination of the placings was to be expected; the fact that Clare players fill almost a third of the list would have been less obvious to any one depending on memory rather than on the foolproof points system operated by GAELIC SPORT. Everyone must rejoice that Clare has done

so well, for in scoring so highly there is the heartening sign that the Banner county may soon reap the rewards of its long years of devotion to the game.

The inclusion of Wexford's Phil Wilson will please the many admirers of this great hurler, who made such a successful transfer from midfield to left half forward during the year. Indeed, it was in this position, and mainly in opposition to Kilkenny's Seamus Cleere, that Wilson gained the points that have now earned him sixth place in our ratings.

When compiling the points totals we included our Top Ten lists for November 19th and November 26th, the last two Sun-

days on which inter-county matches were played before the foot and mouth emergency brought a premature close to the 1967 season. The last monthly lists are:

FOOTBALL

- 1—GEORGE GLYNN ... (Down)
- 2—MICK NIBLOCK ... (Derry)
- 3—DERMOT EARLEY
(Roscommon)
- 4—J. J. MURPHY (Cork)
- 5—JOHN BURNS (Antrim)
- 6—SEAN O'NEILL (Down)
- 7—TONY BRENNAN ... (Meath)
- 8—TOM PRENDERGAST
(Kerry)
- 9—JOHNNY FARRAGHER
(Mayo)
- 10—SEAMUS TAGGART
(Tyrone)

HURLING

- 1—MICK FOLEY ... (Waterford)
- 2—JIM TREACY ... (Kilkenny)
- 3—NOEL PYNE (Clare)
- 4—LIAM DANAGHER ... (Clare)
- 5—PADDY MOLLOY ... (Offaly)
- 6—LARRY GUINAN (Waterford)
- 7—SEAMUS QUAID (Limerick)
- 8—PASCAL O'BRIEN ... (Clare)
- 9—CLAUS DUNNE (Kilkenny)
- 10—TED CARROLL (Kilkenny)

HISTORY OF BAN

"The Steadfast Rule", a history of the G.A.A. Ban, by Brendan Mac Lua (a former Editor of GAELIC SPORT) will be reviewed in our February issue.

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IT!

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THE topic for January is: "Should the All-Ireland senior football championship be played on an open draw?" A fairly weighty question to discuss properly in limited space. But have a go! There is a prize of ONE GUINEA for the best entry. Additional prizes of half a guinea may be awarded for other entries considered by the adjudicators to be worthy of publication.

Letters should not be longer than 350 words and preferably not shorter than 200 words. Write on one side of the paper **ONLY**.

Address entries to "You Said It", Gaelic Sport, 328 North Circular Road, Dublin. Closing date is first post on Tuesday, January 9. The winning entry will be published in our February issue.

LEAVE GAELIC FOOTBALL ALONE!

THE second month of our new "money for letters" competition, YOU SAID IT, has again brought entries from many parts of the country, most of them from younger readers, who, we are glad to see, comment very cogently and intelligently on the important question posed.

The winner of our December prize of ONE GUINEA is Peadar Mac Ceallabaí, Acla, Na Gleann-taí, Co. Dún na nGall.

The question set was: Would the abolition of the toe-pick, permitting players to lift the ball directly off the ground, improve Gaelic football? And Peadar Mac Ceallabaí's winning comments are:

"No! I know that my opinion disagrees with those of most

people on this topic, but I think it would be wrong to change such a distinctive facet of Gaelic football. To pick the ball directly off the ground would, certainly, make the game faster, but it would necessitate the abolition of one of the game's greatest skills. The art of picking the ball off the ground with the toe while travelling at a very fast pace is a great spectacle.

It is argued that the abolition of the toe-pick would cut out unnecessary fouls. Here again I must disagree. Jersey-pulling would still be practised as a means of impeding the player in possession. The direct pick-up might make the game faster, but it would also make it rougher. Gaelic football has been admired by visitors from nearly every

country in the world. They have admired it because it is so different from other football games; but would they still watch it if it became a watered down version of rugby or soccer?

All this talk about changing the rules has come about just because a team from Australia defeated our All-Ireland champions. The Australians were allowed to pick the ball directly off the ground, and the game looked faster.

But was it the new-style pick-up or the fitness of the visiting team that had this effect? Do we have to change our rules now to compete with other countries? I should hope not. Leave Gaelic football alone. We Irish are proud of it."



MY NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

OF the twenty-odd articles which I have written for GAELIC SPORT over the past two years, the only one which brought immediate reaction — as far as I am concerned — was my "Honours List" for 1966. And it was some consolation to know that at least twenty-five readers had perused the piece — eighteen callers complained of "unpardonable omissions," five queried the validity of some of my nominations in preference to "innumerable far more deserving choices" and two suggested that the list was "reasonably acceptable but in the wrong order."

At the risk of repeating the same mistakes I suggest the following as having made the biggest contribution to the G.A.A. during the past twelve months. The choice is a purely personal one, but perhaps it will encourage debate on the hundreds of permutations possible when selecting such a "team."

ONE — The Australian footballers. They came, saw and conquered in the most exciting and comprehensive manner imaginable. Let's hope the "things will never be the same again" attitude so enthusiastically accorded our visitors will not be allowed to lapse.

TWO — Brendan MacLua. His *The Steadfast Rule* may well be-

come a text book on the basic principles of the Association for future generations.

THREE — The various Grounds Committees throughout the country who have made preparations for the enormous advances when Grounds' Plan, Part II, comes into operation. In this connection the Fermanagh Committee is deserving of a special bouquet for giving a tremendous lead to all other counties by the excellence of its plans.

FOUR — The Kilkenny hurlers — and especially Ollie Walsh — for their magnificent All-Ireland win when that forty-five-year-old Tipperary championship hoodoo was well and truly laid. As for the performance of goalkeeper Walsh he made everyone — as Raymond Smith would put it — "live all that is great in the native pastime."

FIVE — The Cork minor footballers who gave — in their All-Ireland triumph — a superb exhibition of Gaelic football at its best. Nor should the efforts of gallant Laois be overlooked. Clearly mastered, they never once gave up playing the game and won many friends in the process. It was in this game, too, that referee Patsy Devlin (Tyrone) set the seal on his great contribution to refereeing over the years.

SIX — The fact that the target

set for the Martin Bergin Fund was exceeded by subscriptions from three-quarters of our counties was a heartening and clear proof of the solidarity which binds G.A.A. people throughout the country.

SEVEN — Rt. Rev. Monsignor Hamilton (Tipperary) for his offer to the Central Council of a sum of money for propaganda work on behalf of the Association.

EIGHT — The Antrim camogie team, whose All-Ireland success after the nerve-racking tension of the drawn match and the equally thrilling replay, has done so much for the game both in Ulster and throughout the country.

NINE — Referee Mick Hayes (Clare), not only for his handling of the All-Ireland final, but particularly for his performances in the two Kilkenny-New York games which were contested in a spirit which did credit to the Association.

TEN — Down and Wicklow juvenile hurlers for that superb exhibition in the special under-16 competition. What a pity that these lads met on a Saturday before a meagre attendance because their play thoroughly deserved a full house.

In what was a lean year for Ulster in the All-Ireland series, the achievements of St. Colman's

By **DAN**
~~~~~  
**McAREAVY**  
~~~~~

College in the Hogan Cup and Tyrone in the Vocational Schools' competition are well worthy of special mention.


DISAPPOINTMENTS — When I realise how much work remains undone in Armagh I hesitate to fire brick bats at anyone, but looking back on 1967 I must express disappointment with certain developments — or lack of developments — during the year.

ONE — R.T.E. for continuing — from any view-point — to treat the Association in a most shabby manner. The programme potential of the Association has not even been scratched and, of course, the long-sought special weekly programme seems as far away as ever.

TWO — The failure of the Central Council to establish an official system of communication within the Association, whereby information could be directly disseminated from the Central Council downwards to club level and which would also serve as a medium of exchange for successful plans and schemes which one county, or club, could have and which would be of use elsewhere. The benefits deriving from such a communications system would be substantial both as a unifying process and as a means of spreading useful information which is not at present easily available.

However, President Seamus Ryan is well aware of the problems when, in **Our Games** he states: "For effective and efficient progress it is vital to have constant communication up and

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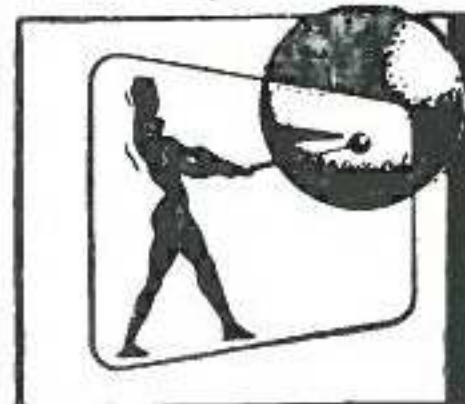


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PEOPLE ON THE GO

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THE PATTERNS OF HURLING STYLE

THE most knowledgable of all authorities on Gaelic games, because he had played them and excelled, and written about them and excelled equally, throughout the course of a long lifetime, P. D. Mehigan (Carbery) tells, somewhere, the story of the brash young journalist encountering a Kilkenny star of the long past.

"Hurlers of All-Ireland distinction, like my old friend from Kilkenny, are rather sensitive and suspicious of that personal enquiry common to pushing sporting journalists . . .

"'Tell me, Jack', said the young pressman, 'where did you Kilkenny fellows get the short, sharp, neat snap of the wrists; you know, that gets accuracy and distance so easily?' 'Twas a good sentence, I felt. Seán, the hurler, winked at me with the far eye:

"'I'll tell you, boy', says he, 'When we were children toddling around at home in Mooncoin, my uncle, God rest him, would bring home a dozen of stout from the fair, and drink them in the kitchen with his friends. He threw the

corks on the floor, and we used to hurl them around the kitchen *with a spoon.*'"

The shrewd "Carbery" was telling us in a soft and gentlemanly way that you shouldn't believe all you hear or read about the hurling game, or the extraordinary ways in which styles were developed. You may, like the trusting young journalist of the story, be strung along by the men who cannot understand why you even begin to try to analyse what to them seems so utterly natural, and so impossible of analysis.

It is, however, a common and pleasurable pursuit to try to follow the patterns of style in the hurling of various counties and their champions. To draw a line of connection between a man of to-day, John Doyle, for instance, and a man who laid the game's foundations, Mikie Maher of Tubberadora, maybe, is an exciting exercise, but scarcely a fruitful one.

Conditions have changed so much over the years. Even the feel of a county, or part of the country, is not so distinctive as it

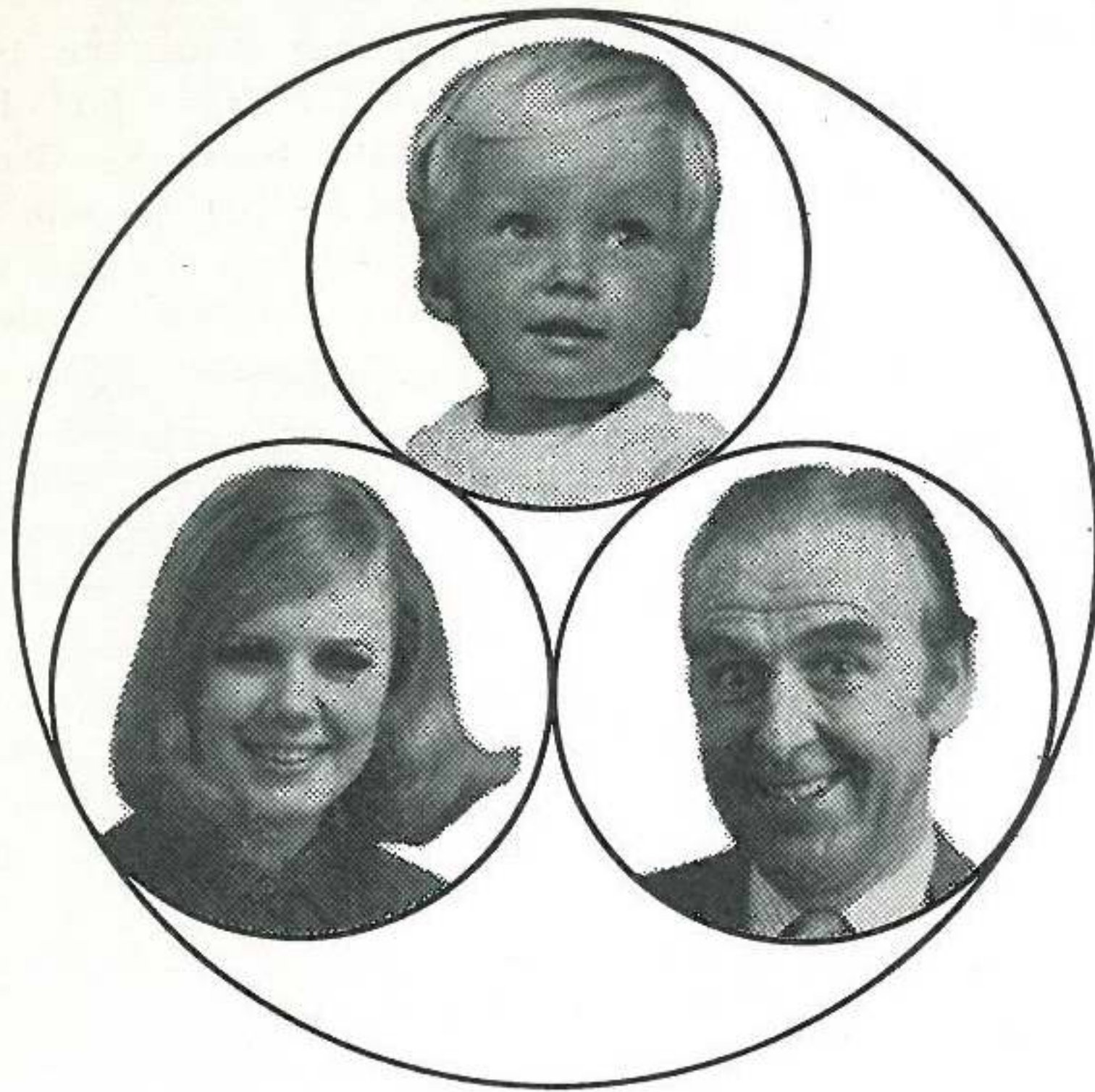
used to be. Once the boundary between Tipperary and Kilkenny might have been the Great Wall of China for all the similarity in hurling styles in the two counties; they even cut their hurleys to a different pattern.

Indeed, it was the different types of hurley used which give a clue to the different attitude to the game and, I suppose, the different characteristics and natural qualities of the hurlers in different parts of the country. The hurleys were not the cause of the different styles; rather the outpourings of the particular view of the game taken in the area, and the different physical appeals which hurling made to them.

There was a time around the turn of the century when you could tell almost every countyman by the cut of his stick: the Tipperary man with the broad sole and the sharp elbow, for driving ground hurling and power off the pull; the Corkman's broad rounded boss for neat striking and upright stance; the Clare and Galwaymen with the sweeping boss which demanded the full swing and full stretch of the arms, like a golf-driver; Wexford's sickle-shaped, round-handled stick; and the Kilkenny camán, with the uniformity and all-round balance which eventually became the choice of the nation's hurlers as a whole.

Of course, the mass production of hurleys, and the fact that it is nowadays considered a mark of fanaticism to fashion one's own, has tended to bring a uniformity to the style of the game, too. However, it is unlikely that all disparity of style will disappear, for, in spite of the similarity of the implements used, and in spite of the fact that the special skills which made styles very distinctive

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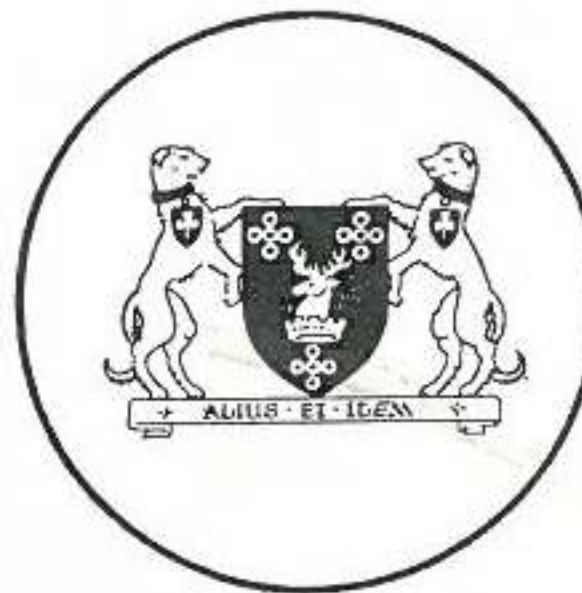
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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

are disappearing, the elements of particular approaches to the game tend to perpetuate themselves.

If the feeling for a particular type of hurling is not so strong as it used to be in each area, this is a symptom of a general loss of individuality in a world whose boundaries shrink with every new means of communication. Yet, in hurling, as in other things, tradition takes a hand towards distinctiveness where social patterns tend towards uniformity: hurling is handed on from generation to generation, and each generation draws on the wisdom of the former generation.

There is always an old hand to guide the destinies of the youth; always a word of advice ringing down the corridors of the years telling the youngsters of to-day when it is best to "pull on it" or when it is best to "lift and place it".

Style in hurling, like accent in speech, expresses the nature and character of place and people. It is not the hurleys they once used which created style; rather they expressed it. No better proof is needed than the fact that even with the same kind of hurleys—broadly speaking—over the last thirty or forty years, styles of play have not merged into one. There is still a healthy difference.

The same is true of football, and the fact of its truth is a large measure of the attraction of Gaelic games. They attract, in particular, more than foreign games, whose patterns and styles are textbook borrowings, because they are basic expressions of native bent.

Tipperary still plays a first-class, strong ground game, and like all the traditions of that county, they play an uncompromising, hard-driving defensive battle. It must, of course, be appreciated that style is as individual as it is communal, and individual players flourish in

teams which play a totally different kind of hurling.

One could hardly conceive of a more effective example than Jimmy Kennedy, who fashioned his own formula in the Tipperary colours: to the vast benefit of both. Paddy Kenny and Jimmy Doyle of the same county, with their great emphasis on getting the ball to the hand and manoeuvring for shooting angles, were in the Kennedy tradition.

But Tipperary or Kilkenny, or any other county, can only be considered a trail-blazer style, when they are successful. A losing team is in no position to fashion or develop a style. It has been said of Cork, and Kilkenny, too, before their All-Ireland wins of 1966 and 1967, that they were changing their styles. Changing is not the word. Losing teams are at their worst; when the run of defeats is prolonged, every aspect of their game becomes less effective. They tend to do things in a hurry, they lose confidence in themselves and with loss of confidence the ability to perform those special skills which add the special character to the style are less in evidence.

With Kilkenny, the special style has been the classic command of ball and hurley which has enabled them to be the masters of crisp overhead and on the ground striking and especially a sweet touch on the lift and a cleverness in working out shooting angles from even awkward positions.

Now, in their period of frustration ending with this year's early disappointments, they lost much of the slickness of touch, and their game became more hurried, somewhat more physical, more earnest, but not so polished. Earnestness of endeavour inclines to denude hurling of its particular style: teams in the doldrums are earnest since they cannot command the game to their own type of play.

Tipperary, the hard pullers, the hurling descendants of Semple and

*Christy Ring
... "the greatest
example of the
skilled ball-player
in hurling."*



the Mahers, Tom O'Grady, O'Brien and Stapleton, still pre-eminent in ground-hurling and power of stroke, when in one of their poorer periods tend to lose their commitment to their traditional style, trying to make sure by picking and slowing the play, by losing much of the real dash of their style.

Cork, rounded in style, easily the most skilful of the hurling counties in playing the ball in all sorts of ways have often shown the variety of their skills—in the solid, clean-hitting defence of Paddy O'Donovan and Alan Lotty and Jim Young, to the greatest example of the skilled ball-player in hurling—Christy Ring himself. Much of their recent hurling has been in the same mould, but pressing for success and shearing down its niceties.

Wexford's form of sweeping hurling suits the temperament and terrain of their home county; Waterford, not a power until later than the main hurling counties, knit together in their style the good things that made an impres-

sion on them in the play of their neighbours.

Limerick always hectic, daring and exciting, added something of the Mackey individualism and personal power to the physical qualities of their Tipperary neighbours. Clare and Galway are still very much in the direct line of the hard-hitting, first-time game of their forefathers.

All these basic qualities have, of course, tended to merge and flow with the influence of schools and colleges on the game—a later element in the picture, and a leveling one, in general.

Finally, those counties where a city or large town has played a large part in the game, have, almost invariably, brought an amount of sophistication, of concern with neat and elaborate moves and skills to their game more than have those counties which are largely rural in their hurling spheres of influence.

So, probably, environment must be a large part of the definition of the mode of self-expression called hurling.

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DENIS COUGHLAN



TALKING TO SEAN MURPHY

THE number of players who reached the top in both hurling and football at inter-county level is amazingly small. Names that readily spring to mind include Nick Rackard (Wexford), Kevin Armstrong (Antrim), the late Derry Beckett and the present Taoiseach, Jack Lynch (Cork) and the Foley brothers, Lar and Des, of Dublin. But down Cork way at the moment, there is a budding dual star who seems destined to surpass the feats of his predecessors. The man in question is a 22-year-old car salesman, Denis Coughlan, who has represented the Rebel County in all grades of hurling and football.

Denis is attached to Glen Rovers, with whom he has won two Cork senior hurling championships and one Munster inter-club medal, and to its sister club, St. Nicholas, with whom he has collected a similar number of football awards. His collection includes eight Munster championship medals and one All-Ireland Celtic Cross for the 1966 under-21 hurling championship.

Denis is kept busy with club and county games — he has hardly had a free Sunday in the last twelve months but he really enjoys the sport as I found out recently when I had the pleasure of interviewing the unassuming Glen Rovers player.

MURPHY — *Denis, being equally adept at hurling and football which game do you prefer?*

COUGHLAN — A difficult question, but I will plump for hurling.

M. — *What are your favourite positions?*

C. — Centrefield in football and left half-back in hurling.

M. — *Who are the best players you've encountered?*

C. — In football I would say Pat Griffin (Kerry) and Paddy Moran (Kilkenny) in hurling.

M. — *Is there any rule you would like to see altered in the rule book?*

C. — Just one. I would like to see the introduction of thirteen-a-side in football. This would allow for more open play around the goalmouth and eliminate the dragging and jersey-pulling of defenders. The results would be — more spectacular play and plenty of scores.

M. — *Having seen the Australians in action what are your comments?*

C. — Firstly, I admired their high fielding while their ability to kick long-range points was fantastic. Their team-work was a treat and it is here, I think, we can learn a lesson. The Australians made the ball do the work and always found a colleague with a well-positioned pass.

M. — *Do you think the G.A.A. will allow players to pick up the ball off the ground by hand following the success of this concession to the Australians?*

C. — Maybe not, but I think they should. It certainly opened up play and introduced more speed into the rhythm of the game. While I agree that the present system of lifting the ball with the toe of the boot is an art, it lends itself to rough tactics — such as unfair tackling from the rear.

M. — *Will Cork be a football force in 1968?*

C. — Naturally we were disap-

pointed with our failure to Meath in the All-Ireland final but we are not despondent. I feel we have the capabilities to atone for the failure next year. However, I think we will find it tough in Munster as Kerry are due a break.

M. — *Are you satisfied with the present National Football League groupings?*

C. — Very definitely NO. While I do not wish to belittle the efforts of Limerick and Tipperary, I feel they are out of their depth when pitted against Cork and Kerry. I think the strong counties, such as Galway, Mayo and Down, should be included in our section. This would give great competition and afford spectators an opportunity of seeing the country's top sides in action within easy reach.

M. — *How do you think the hurling revival scheme is progressing?*

C. — Well, in Cork it is certainly going great. There is a boom interest in juvenile activities. While on this point, I think that senior players should take a more active interest in the promotion of under-age games. Young lads are more likely to take notice of an established player.

M. — *Have you any other sporting interests?*

C. — I have, but, as I said earlier, all my free time is devoted to Gaelic games. I do, however, indulge in a spot of badminton.

M. — *What is your ambition in sport?*

C. — To achieve that coveted double — to win All-Ireland senior medals in both hurling and football.



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Mairead McAtamney of Antrim breaks away from Ann McAllister of Dublin in the drawn final of the All-Ireland camogie championship. In re-re are Pat Timmons (Dublin) on left, and Maeve Gilroy (Antrim).

CALL FOR BETTER COVERAGE ON R.T.E.

By SEAN O'DONNELL

WE have commentators in GAE LIC SPORT from each of the four provinces. Do any of them even recognise the fact that camogie exists? Sean O'Donnell and Jay Drennan interview all standards of G.A.A. stars. Have either ever interviewed a camogie player? Ah, maybe they were too

shy! Or is it that they are leaving it all to me? That is entirely too kind of them." Agnes Hourigan wrote that in the January, 1967, issue of GAE LIC SPORT.

Too kind of us? Not at all, Agnes. Sure it is usually the ladies who complain about the lack of opportunities to express

CAMOGIE SPECIAL

MAIREAD

McATAMNEY

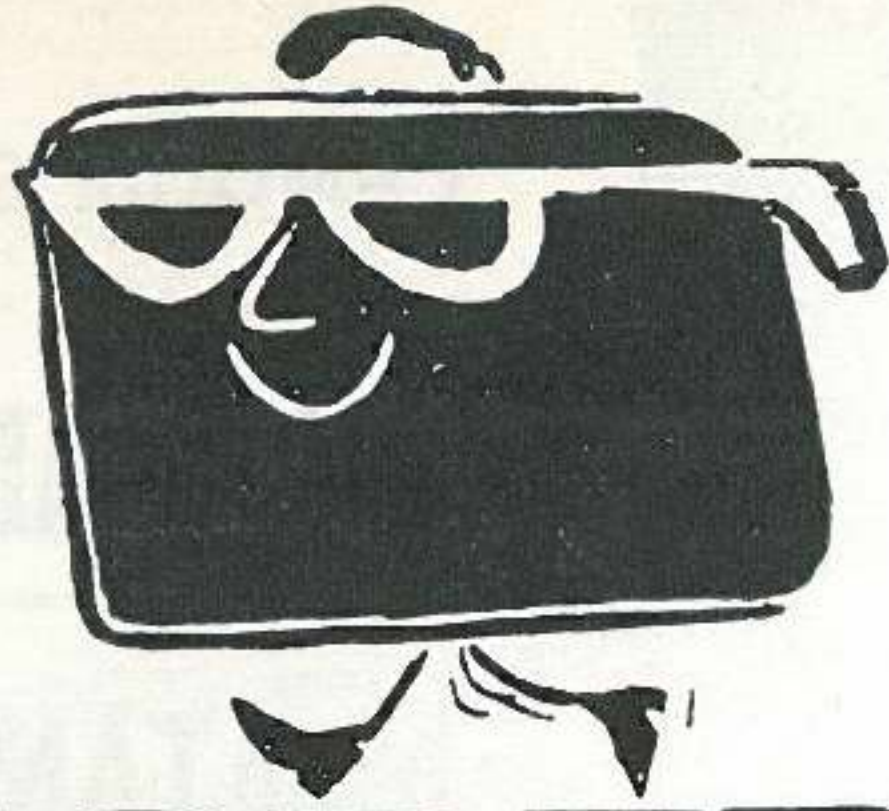
their views — let alone ask their menfolk to do it for them. But as you say, Agnes, "camogie is all with it"; so in order to stop being shy and get with it, I brushed back the hair from my eyes, put on my best Sunday suit and, with my ears still burning, off I went to Croke Park to see the camogie final replay.

Little did I know the surprise those girls had in store, with splendid, fast and furious hurling, and Antrim bringing to an end Dublin's ten-year winning streak — and more luck to them. I was delighted to see the Antrim girls triumph because they had come so near to it last year.

I was happier still to witness the sporting way in which the Dublin girls took their beating. For the minute the last whistle sounded, not only did they embrace their Antrim opponents on the field — they went up with them to the Hogan stand to cheer and applaud as the cup was being presented and clapped the victorious players all the way off the stand.

All round, it was a wonderful occasion for Antrim and especially so for Mairead McAtamney, who is reckoned to be one of the greatest players the game has known, a brilliant striker, right hand or left. The Portglenone girl, who is on the teaching staff of Derry Technical School, has been playing for the past ten years, and gives every encouragement to her pupils to take up the game — although no facilities are available

● **TO NEXT PAGE**



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WILSON HARTNELL

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

to her at the college for camogie.

I talked with Mairead McAtamney after the replayed final and with team mate Mairead Quinn in close attendance we proceeded to discuss the pros and cons of camogie. She was, of course, delighted at her county's great success, so I queried her on the length of time it took to clinch a title which they last won in 1956.

Mairead thinks that chopping and changing by the selectors had a rather unsettling effect on the side in the past. "Our forwards were very disorganised, unable to play together as a team, no combination whatsoever."

She attributes their success mainly to the combined efforts of the players who have been playing together now for over a year and, she added: "This success would not as easily have come about had it not been for the encouragement we got from our trainer, Mrs. Nancy Murray."

"We are very fortunate to have a goalkeeper of such ability as Teresa Kearns. Without a doubt she is as good as Ollie Walsh. There seems to be a shortage of goalkeepers around at the moment, as most girls are willing to play the game but none of them want to stay in goal."

Like Agnes Hourigan, Mairead feels that the game is sadly neglected by the public relations boys and, she says, especially so by Radio Telefís Éireann.

"Could Michael O'Hehir see to it that camogie gets better coverage in future sports programmes," pleads Mairead McAtamney.

She would like to see more men take up the job of refereeing and act as umpires and linesmen. She also feels that enough is not being done to popularise the game in the schools and colleges where camogie is played.

"The teachers are just not interested," says Mairead. "Amen-

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Camogie deserves new deal from the G.A.A.

THE sparkling fare served up by Antrim and Dublin in the All-Ireland Camogie final opened many people's eyes to the attractiveness of the game as played by the weaker sex—but is it getting a fair deal at present?

This is the question that must be posed.

It must be admitted that many G.A.A. enthusiasts, excepting those closely connected with the Camogie Boards and with the running of the competition, do not take the game seriously. Yes, they may look up the results of inter-county games, but normally they will not attend unless a camogie match is played as a curtain-raiser to a big championship or tournament match.

Thus, camogie is the cinderella of the G.A.A.—languishing in the shadows as far as the main body of enthusiasts is concerned but creating wonderful enthusiasm amongst the girls who play it and those who identify themselves closely with the teams.

For long Dublin dominated the scene—dominated it to such an extent, in fact, that it looked as if their monopoly would never be broken.

Brian Smyth, who led Meath to their first All-Ireland senior football crown in 1949 and was also

a fine hurler, thinks that Antrim's success could give new life to the camogie competitions. He told me that where the game is played in Meath it arouses keen interest and has a very good following; but to extend interest to the men-folk—the general body of rank and file followers—was the big problem.

He believes that the game is not getting enough encouragement and hardly enough publicity.

I pointed out to Brian that publicity depends on the interest which the masses take in a game. And if a game has not a mass following it cannot hope to capture the headlines, especially in these days when space is so limited and the ordinary G.A.A. competitions take up so many columns in the sporting pages.

Of course, if camogie matches were played as curtain-raisers to important tournament or league semi-finals or finals, then the ordinary follower might find himself going along—at least for the second half.

But while this might appear to be an ideal solution, it is not so easy to put it into practice.

Nick Purcell, Chairman of the Kilkenny Co. Board, made the point to me that the fixture list is very crowded as it is, and Central Council, Provincial Councils and

**RAYMOND SMITH TAKES
A CLOSE LOOK AT THE
BRIGHT PROSPECTS, AS
WELL AS THE PROBLEMS
FACING THE GIRLS' GAME
AT THE PRESENT TIME.**

Co. Boards find it difficult to keep to their schedules.

They must run a minor game as a curtain-raiser and sometimes even two senior semi-finals together to maintain schedules. And at local level it is often necessary to run three matches at the one venue on a Sunday.

Even if only two matches were staged and a camogie game were played with them, the difficulty, as Nick Purcell rightly sees it, is that it would be played as the first game at an hour when there would normally be only a handful of spectators in the ground, or as the last of three fixtures when most of the spectators would be making their way home.

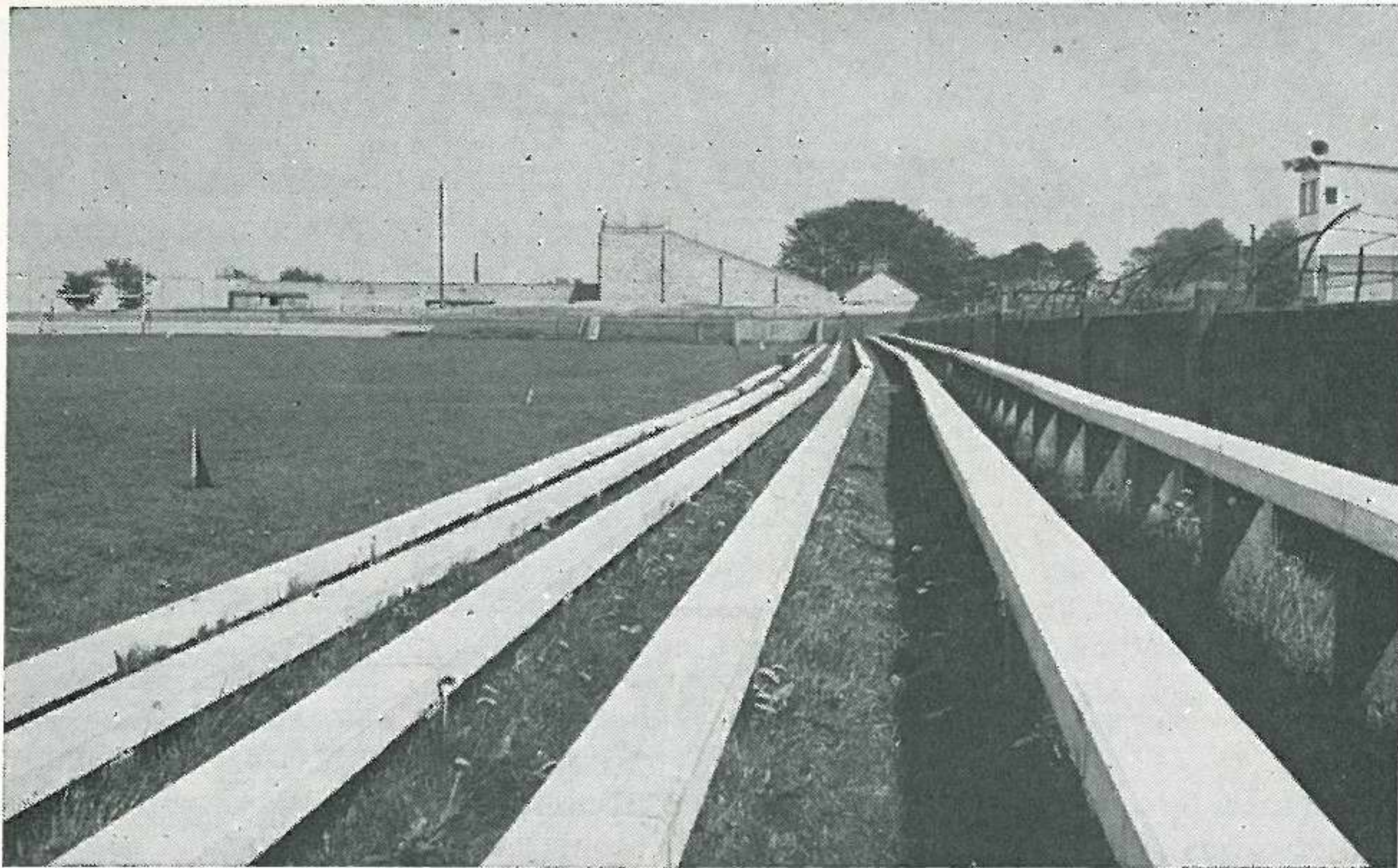
**CAMOGIE WOULD NEVER
GET PRIORITY IN A TRIPLE-
DECKER BILL.**

So here, then, is the crux. How can camogie hope to capture the crowds that would give it a new image and make the ordinary follower identify himself with his county—feeling depressed if they lost an All-Ireland final?

I always maintain that supporters must feel deeply enough interested in the fortunes of the teams taking part that they want to cheer them on to victory and wave the colours aloft as the cup

● TO PAGE 23

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is received — or feel genuinely down-hearted in defeat.

But can we honestly say to ourselves that we feel in any way depressed if our county loses in the camogie championship, or feel like celebrating if the All-Ireland title is won?

The approach, as often as not, is one of mild amusement and I am afraid that our legislators, and our G.A.A. leaders at all levels, have not helped in bringing about a new approach to the game.

Do we ever hear them speak about the need for a revival in camogie? Do we ever hear them speak about a scheme to give a new image to the game? Do we see cups put up for new competitions? I am afraid not.

Some writers with a real interest in the game, like Agnes Hourigan, continue to plead for a New Deal.

"The days are long gone when Ireland's destiny was, or could be decided by men only", Agnes Hourigan has written. "Even since 1922, women have been playing a more and more important role in every aspect of Irish life, and if we cannot hold the women of Ireland true to the old ideals, what hopes can we have for the future of the nation? And is there any other organisation, except the Camogie Association, that strives to further among women the very aims and objects which the G.A.A. has espoused for so long and advanced so magnificently? Most of all, unless the Camogie Association keeps the National Ideal alive in the minds of our young girls, I sadly feel that we may as well abandon Ireland to the Beatles and their followers. A Camogie Association, as strong as

it should be, would help to halt emigration and would play its part in retaining, and reviving the language and the dances of the Gael".

These are excellent words that strike a chord in the heart of everyone who loves the games.

Camogie to-day has more than three hundred clubs and eight thousand playing members. The association is to be congratulated on what has been achieved in face of great odds and little encouragement.

I say, it deserves a new deal from the G.A.A. Boards, from

G.A.A. followers in general and from the publicity media.

Antrim have shown the way to other counties and with the prospect now of winning an All-Ireland medal, more young girls should be inspired to take up the sport.

Christy Ring and John Doyle hold eight All-Ireland medals each—but between 1941 and 1962 Kathleen Mills won fifteen All-Ireland medals with the Dublin camogie team.

That record will certainly stand the test of time.

MAIREAD McATAMNEY

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ties are also sadly lacking at most venues. No showers or proper changing rooms available after travelling miles to a game."

I asked her about the game itself. Mairead thinks that most girls, particularly those new to the game, persist too much in lifting the ball off the ground, when a first-time stroke would be more beneficial and could lead to a score.

She also feels that the majority of players do not train enough. "I remember the time," she says, "when I would go out in the evening by myself and train for hours. I just loved it. Quite honestly, I don't know what is wrong with the girls of today. They seem to have neither energy nor enthusiasm and are all too easily attracted by less exacting amusements."

Mairead, who usually plays around the centre field spot, is a very accurate free-taker and says that she admires no man more

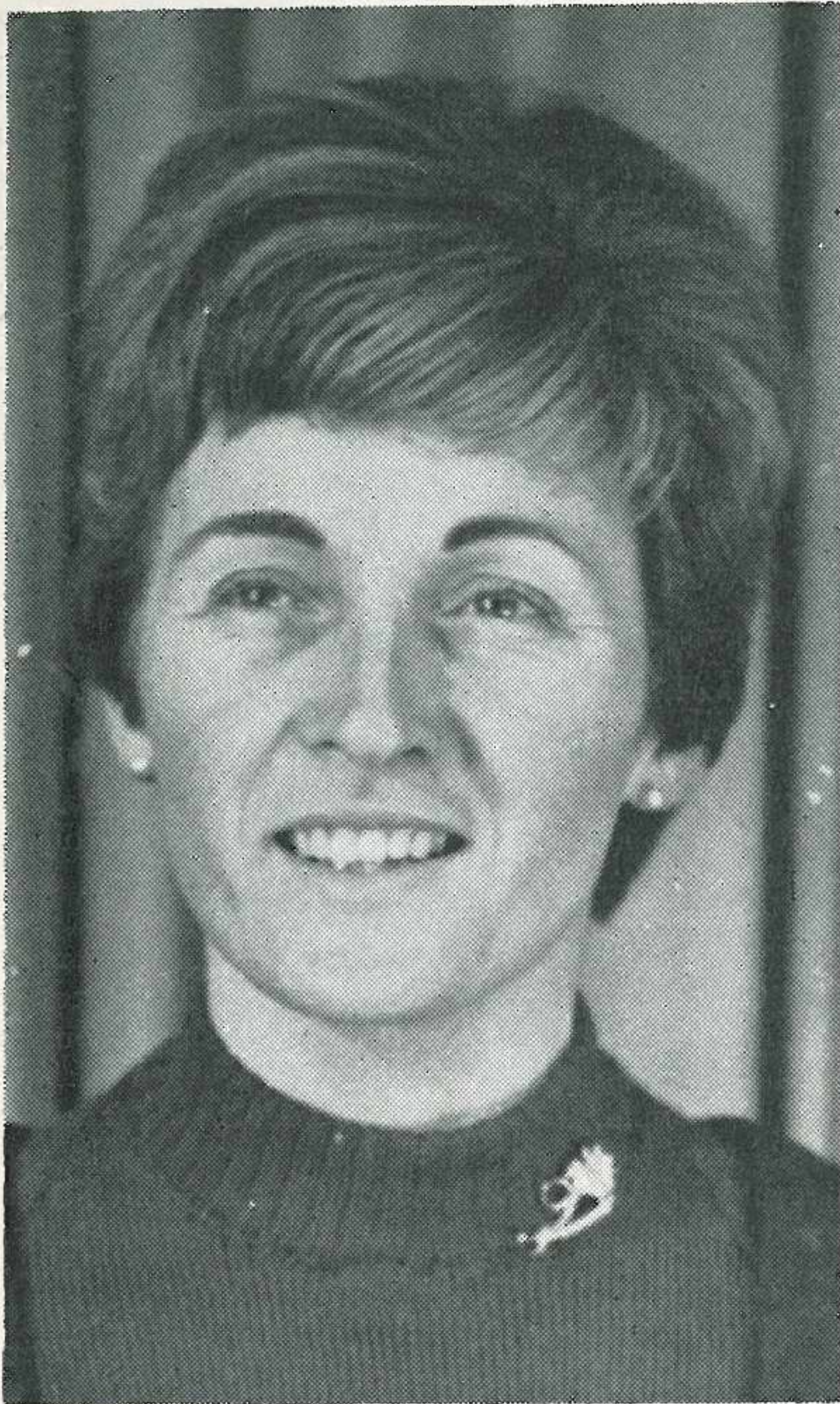
than Eddie Keher, and makes a particular study of his free-taking style every time the opportunity presents itself.

Brilliant though she was in the 1967 final, she gave what most people still rate as the greatest display ever witnessed on a camogie field in the 1966 decider. Yet the Antrim forwards failed to make use of their chances and Dublin won by two points. That display won for her an All-Star Award.

Now twenty-three years of age, Mairead has no intention of retiring. With her brother, Tony, who plays football for the county, she plans to keep the Antrim flag flying in the field of Gaelic sport for many years to come.

"Yes siree, Antrim will be back in 1968," says Mairead, "and we hope that camogie will by then occupy a much higher place in the fixtures allotted to Croke Park. We want more recognition from the boys in the control room."

BECKERS TEA
the best drink



By AGNES HOURIGAN

*Maeve Gilroy,
whose illustrious
playing career has
come to a close.*

LAST October, in Dublin, Ulster won the inter-provincial camogie title and the Gael-Linn Cup for the first time, and what more fitting than that Ulster should have been captained that day by the great Antrim star, Maeve Gilroy, playing in her last big game.

It was back around 1955 that I first saw Maeve Gilroy play in Dublin, although I had heard of her prowess for a year or two before that in the inter-varsity competitions for the Ashbourne Cup. In those early days she always played on the wing or at mid-

field, and her speed and stylish, long-range striking was a tremendous asset to every team she played on.

Came 1956 and she realised one of her greatest ambitions. Antrim caused a sensation when defeating Dublin by a point at Casement Park in the All-Ireland semi-final, and then went on to Croke Park to score a well-deserved victory over Cork in the All-Ireland final. And so Maeve won her first All-Ireland medal and played so well right through the campaign that she was named as one of the four Gaelic Sports stars of the year

and received her first Cuchulainn Award.

Thereafter, although she continued to play as well as ever, and helped Antrim to win a whole series of Ulster championships and Maguire Cup competitions, the supreme award tantalisingly eluded her. Antrim lost narrowly to Dublin in the All-Ireland final of 1957 and again went down in several finals of subsequent years.

Likewise, although she played some wonderful games for Ulster, the northern province could never achieve the final break-through to take the inter-provincial title.

Meanwhile, however, Maeve had been winning new laurels for herself as a referee. She refereed more than one All-Ireland final, several inter-provincial games, and was soon as well-known as a referee as she was a player.

When Antrim came back in their renewed bid to win All-Ireland honours in 1963, Maeve Gilroy had moved to the attack, but she later began a new career (almost) on the camogie fields when she moved to defence and once she took over the post of centre-back, became the sheet-anchor of the Antrim rearguard. But again victory eluded the Antrim girls narrowly in the 1966 final.

And then came 1967, and what a year it was for the North, and for Maeve Gilroy. Antrim, setting out from the start of the year with a fixed object—the winning of the All-Ireland title—readily retained the Maguire Cup and the Ulster title, and then went down to Cork to meet the Munster champions in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Antrim had never before beaten Cork on Cork soil. They did so most convincingly this time, and the star of the day was Maeve Gilroy, who gave a magnificent display of camogie at its best.

In the All-Ireland final she was

Maeve Gilroy

All her ambitions fulfilled, she retired from the game which she had so greatly graced for more than a decade.

not so conspicuous but she did hold the Dublin forwards in check, and she gave another sound display in the replay, and well deserved that second All-Ireland medal.

Next, as I have already said, when Ulster won the Gael-Linn Cup for the first time, Maeve Gilroy captained the side to victory and thus, all her ambitions fulfilled, retired from the game which

she had so greatly graced for more than a decade.

Secretary to a Belfast teachers' training college, Maeve will now have more time to devote to golf, of which she is already an outstanding exponent.

But Maeve, unless I am greatly mistaken, is far from finished with camogie. When the wonderful coaching course was held in Belfast last August, she was next in

command to Dublin's coach, Nell McCarthy, and made a great contribution to the work of the course. I cannot visualise such a course this year, or for many a year to come, being held without Maeve Gilroy.

Last March Maeve gained an All-Star award for her fine play. If there were an all-round award for camogie she would surely deserve it now.

TRULY GALA YEAR FOR CAMOGIE

WELCOME 1968, and there seems to be every prospect that it will be a truly gala year for camogie. The elements of keen competition are already there with Dublin getting ready for a tremendous bid to win back that All-Ireland trophy and Antrim equally determined to hang on to it in the North.

Moreover, in Leinster, such counties as Kilkenny and Wexford, conscious since the All-Ireland replay of the fact that Dublin can be beaten, will have their own ideas as to who will be the top team in the province this year.

Down south, Tipperary will be anxious to take the Munster title back from Cork as the Cork girls will be to confirm their new-found supremacy, while over in the west,

Oranmore after their fine showing in the All-Ireland club championship, will hardly rest content as long as Mayo hold the Connacht championship title.

So it should be a busy and rewarding year on the championship fields. And there is one thing, I am sure, all the other counties will be bearing in mind, and it is this. Over the past few years Antrim had much the same players as won the All-Ireland this year, yet they were beaten. This year they won, and there must be a lot of those who, like myself, turned up at the coaching course in Orangefield last August who are now wondering how much that course had to do with Antrim's subsequent All-Ireland victory.

One thing I did think rather

significant. Antrim in the All-Ireland replay were, if such were possible, even a faster and fitter side than they had been in the drawn game. In fact, they were noticeably faster than Dublin in the replay.

I am told that Antrim concentrated mainly on physical training through the weeks between. That certainly paid off.

In any case, I am sure that many other camogie administrators will be thinking through the next couple of months of the possibility of holding coaching courses of their own. And, whether such prove feasible or not, I am certain there will be a very strong representation from the South at the next August course in Orangefield.

Ramblings of an Old Soldier . . .



I OFTEN look back on my twenty-seven years' service in the army and go over the games and the fights and the fun with my friends. Our usual conversation is of the funny things our friends said and the difficult circumstances in which they often found themselves.

Silently we often think of the bad games we had and wish we could have them over again, for then we would really show what stars we were. And we always say . . . if only we knew as much about the game as we do now.

Who says we know a lot about it now?

But they were good days, days of mud and blood and thundering thumps and sunshine and frenzied crowds and battalions of soldiers marching twenty miles to see us lose . . . and nice women to meet afterwards and the chance of a beautiful meal in a civvy house . . .

Whacker Daly and Larry Malone were two private soldiers during the Emergency. They played everything and were slightly disposed to rough-house, on or off the field. Sometimes they managed to combine both the games and the fun. One day on the Curragh they were playing for a southern team and the going was real tough. There were swipes made from the very beginning and an odd, surprised yelp testified to the efficiency of a shrewdly-aimed wallop of a horny fist, or a dig of a bony elbow. Still, the thing was done with reason-

able discretion and though the ref. knew the general impoliteness was going on, he couldn't catch the offenders. Larry and Whacker were having a good time and enjoying it.

"Now look here", said the officer who was reffing, a very well-known man and still serving", cut out the dirt or someone's going off".

"Quite right, sir", says Larry. "Put 'em off, sir".

"Put 'em off, sir", chimed in Whacker. "Proper order, sir".

And the party continued merrier than ever.

Then Whacker hit an opponent a lovely dig of an elbow and your man, though winded, swung a long swipe at Whacker's noggin. The ref saw that one and ran up with the notebook out and took the chap's name.

Whacker sidled discreetly up to his pal.

"Come on away outa here, Larry", he said. "He's takin' names".

A friend of mine named Bill had been a great player during his university and army days. When he went back to civvy life he worked hard at his medicine and became a very popular doctor in a country town. When they decided to start a development association under the auspices of Muintir na Tire, they asked Bill if he would help. The big, soft-spoken man said he would, with pleasure.

So the campaign was started and they decided to speak to the people

as they came out from Mass on Sunday. The Protestant member of the committee asked that the same be done for his people. This was agreed. Now, who would speak? The eyes turned around on big Bill, who protested that medicine, not oratory, was his line. Not a hope; he was stuck.

Not liking it one bit, Bill mounted the ditch outside the church on the following Sunday and hoped the people would stop and listen. They did, and he got down off the ditch quite pleased with himself, drove to the Protestant church, sent in the Protestant member of the committee and awaited the exodus.

Gradually they began to come so Bill mounted the ditch once more, put on his dark-rimmed glasses, studied his papers and prepared to speak. Two men came out the gate, looked up rather apprehensively at the big fellow on the ditch and walked slowly up town. Next came three men who looked quickly and went downtown. Another dozen came out and kept going, until finally the whole congregation of about seventy had passed by. Most of those who remained stood talking about fifty yards away.

Big Bill got cross, took off his glasses, folded his papers and shouted at the people that he was only trying to help them and if they didn't want to listen they could go to hell. He jumped into his car and drove away flaming mad.

A week later he was attending an old Protestant woman. When he had finished she said: "Doctor there's something I want to say to you, but I'm afraid you'll be cross at me".

She was a nice old woman, so Bill told her to speak her heart out if she felt like it.

"Well, doctor, do you know what they're saying about you? They're saying wouldn't it be a lot better for you to mind your practice than to be standing up on ditches talking about the Border".

I was very fond of Lieut. Colonel Dinny Heuston, who died a few years ago, God rest him. He was a lively-witted Donegal man who grew up in the great days of Independence and contributed his share before joining the army at the beginning.

Dinny served for some years over in Renmore Barracks where he told me he became a friend of the writer, Padraig O Conaire.

One day the First Battalion got an invitation to play a hurling exhibition game over in Aranmore, and the team took off in the Dun Aengus under the eye of the battalion commander, Dinny Heuston and his friend, Padraig O Conaire.

She wasn't very far from the quay wall, Dinny told me, when he and Padraig were down in the bar having a drink and yarning away in Irish. After some time the word came that they were near Kilronan, the island port, so the players got their boots and togs and got ready to go ashore. Off they went and Dinny gave them a bit of a start so that the match would be ready to start by the time he got to the field.

Meanwhile, the conversation with his very affable friend grew more interesting and they argued away to their hearts' content. As Dinny was thinking of following the players he was startled to see some of them back again, and when he took another close look he knew that his suspicions were

correct. Those chaps didn't look as fresh and fit as when they left the boat—and no wonder, for the game was over and they were ready to go home.

"Most enjoyable match I ever travelled to", smiled Dinny.

We had some good fun out in Cyprus, though one can easily guess it's not all fun out there. Still, one can get the best out of a place if one realises there are

only about eighteen hours in each day to be enjoyed. Anyway, there wasn't much enthusiasm for Gaelic football, or hurling either, and it's hard to blame people who see men injured and simply can't afford any reduction of personnel in serious circumstances.

However, my particular bunch were anxious to play a spot of football and as there were a num-

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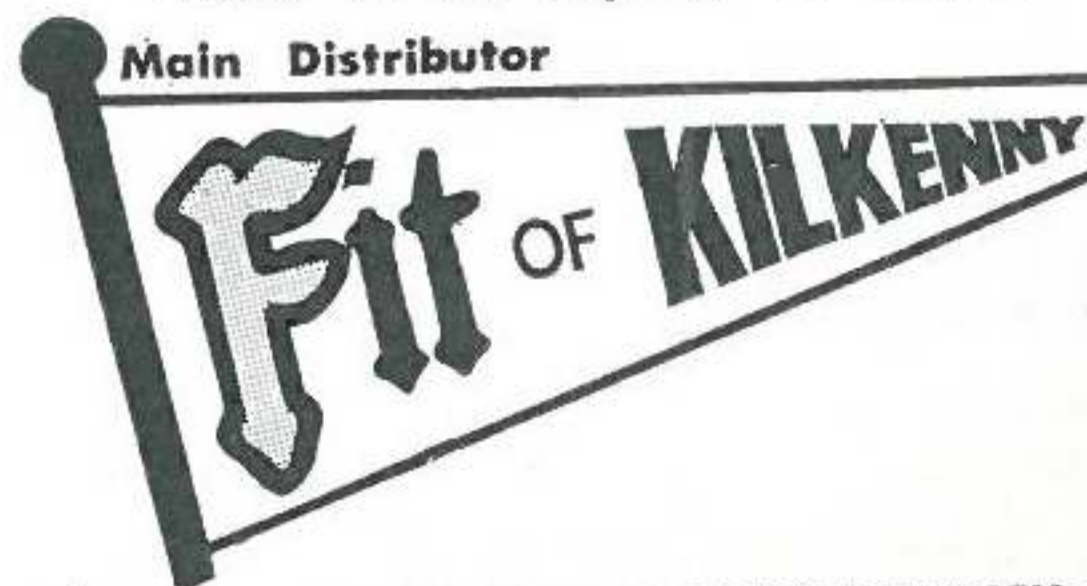
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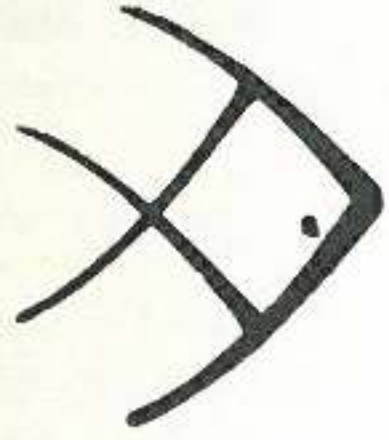


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● FROM PAGE 27

ber of them who hadn't been on any of the other company teams I was anxious to please them. They are good lads, anyway.

So we started a seven-a-side competition. The pitch was rock hard without a blade of grass and the ball hopped high. I told the chaps to wear long-sleeved jerseys to help protect themselves when they fell. I had chucked in the game, with a sigh of relief, when the Dohenys, my home team, won the Cork junior championship a few months before, but the bright sun of Cyprus, the comradeship, the love of the old game and, of course, that great big ego set me off again, and there I was inside in the back of a tent in the cool evening picking teams like a young fellow.

I bought a pair of knee-protectors as well and someone gave me a brand new pair of boots (which Youngy didn't pay for) and I togged out. You should see me in spotless white shirt and shorts, a span new white pair of knee-guards, new green and white stockings, a span new pair of black and white boots and a blue United Nations cap to cover the bald head. When I was some good, I was never half as well dressed. Ron Barassi was only trotting after me.

Anyway, my great rival was the Bull Hughes from Macroom. A small wedge of a private soldier he was (and is, for he won't grow any more), but he was as strong as a horse and had a terrible pair of horny hands. I used get away from him fairly often and after a few games was getting back into some kind of form and inclined to fancy myself; but when the Bull would get a ball from me and drive it away down the field with a few hops and jumps just to make it look good, the boys on the line would howl with delight and I would be gritting my teeth. Back to square one.

Eventually we got to the final

Pat Nevin gets medal on toss of a coin!

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Pat Nevin has won an All-Ireland medal — on the toss of a coin.

Mayo, who won the All-Ireland under-21 title last year, were allocated 20 medals by the Central Council. Fifteen of these medals went to the team that beat Kerry in the final at Ballynasloe. Three more were held for J. J. Cribben, Nick Lally and P. J. Golden, all clerical students, who missed only the final because they had to return to studies. Another one was given to John Clarke, who had come in as a substitute in several vital games.

This left only one medal. And two footballers, Nevin and Crossmolina's Pat McDonagh had played in earlier rounds.

Said Mayo's under-21 chairman, Mr. Anthony Mulloy: "The Central Council would not allow us to buy any additional All-Ireland medals so we had to toss between Nevin and McDonagh, and Nevin won."

But McDonagh and three other substitutes, Tom Maughan, Garrett Horkan, and Joe Timoney, will still be honoured. The Board is to present them with special medals.

of the competition and I was again playing on the Bull. We were breaking about even but my team was winning. The time was nearly up when one of their chaps handled the ball in the square and the ref., to my delight, awarded the penalty.

We had the game won anyway, but I fancy myself at penalties (let's say past tense, just to keep the record straight) and with that fast ball on the dry sod and shooting at the twenty-four foot soccer goal-posts, with the upright extensions for points, I knew I would blow the ball half way through the goal to Turkey.

Next thing I saw the goalie being shoved out of the way, and who stepped into goal only my old enemy, the Bull Hughes.

I was delighted, for there would be an extra vicious delight in beating the Bull and scoring the goal. He crouched there, all shoulders and hands, very alert and I was laughing. Hard luck,

Bull, I was saying, and trotted up.

I hit it a beauty, well away towards my left upright, and knew before the head came up that it was probably through.

But there was the Bull with the ball glued to his hands and he jumped like a stallion, as he lofted it way down the field. The match was over and we had won, but I can still hear those other fellows roaring as if THEY had!

As I strode in the gate of the post about one hundred yards away I saw the guard commander grinning slyly, for they all could see what happened.

"When that fellow Hughes comes in", I ground out, "put the beggar in the guardroom."

My last sight of the gate as I walked away through the tents was of two soldiers each gripping the Bull by the arms and marching him to prison. And the Bull had a grin from ear to ear.

It's no joke being an officer overseas.

SALUTE TO THE WORLD CHAMPION



Joey Maher's success opens up new horizons for handball says ALLEYMAN

JOEY MAHER

THE achievement of Joey Maher, the former Louth star, in winning the World championship at Toronto some few weeks ago, is the main talking point amongst handballers at the present time.

It has blown as a breath of fresh air across the handball horizon and I don't think we can blame followers of the code if they are immersed in a certain degree of smug pride.

It is, after all, a consolation that our little Island can produce a world champion in any code. The fact that Maher was playing in the Canadian singlet is only incidental — we look on it as a great win for our former star, who emigrated to Toronto about three

years ago and in the interim has been displaying his handball wares with distinction, as well as proving himself a good ambassador for Ireland.

In the flush of this success it is only natural that we should be lured, even temporarily, into the realms of fantasy and, perhaps, envisage the day when handball will be placed in the category of a worldwide competitive sport.

If we really examine the position in the context of the present organisation of the game, we find a definite foundation.

For a start, the present World series is based on the efforts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Phillipines, Australia and Ire-

land. South Africa could also be drafted into the network as Irish emigrants from this country have brought it to many locations in that continent and it still survives in those places.

I am confident also that it could be organised, or maybe revived is the operative word, in other countries. After all, as Bob Ripley of "Believe It or Not" fame once said: "Handball is the oldest game played with a ball."

So, in that context, why not have it played on a universal basis? In many cases, particularly in European countries, tradition and mythology provides the pointer.

For instance, we read that in the Tailteann Games of old, handball occupied a most important position. Despite communication difficulties European inhabitants are credited with travelling thousands of miles to battle for the crown of champion. The ancient Olympic Games of Greece were initiated nearly a thousand years after the Tailteann Games.

In this context those who have acquainted themselves with Homer will recall his elation with the handballing feats of Anagalla, Princess of Cercyre. She is reputed to have distinguished herself as a handballer who could throw down the gauntlet to the male heroes of her time. The game can also be traced to England where in the sixteenth century it was known as "Fives."

It also enjoyed immense popularity in France during the reign of Charles V, under the name of palm play. The nobility were particularly attracted to it, the gambling aspect being a major incentive.

Pelota, the national sport of the Basques and popular in Spain and Central America also has a common bond with handball.

In fact, both games are so akin to each other that Irishmen and Spaniards have, on occasions, met in competition.

Since the Handball Council in this country has played such a big part already in organising the World series in its present form, I am confident it will be continually on the alert towards further expansion. This discussion has, of course, emanated from the great victory of Joe Maher, which, in itself will be a big help to our own players here in improving their standards.

One man who is really walking tall over the whole affair is Ed Chalmers, the Canadian police officer. During the World Games in 1964, in which Maher played for Ireland, Chalmers recognised the potential of the Louth star. He did not rest happy until Maher was with him in Toronto, on a permanent basis, three months after those games.

Since then, Joe has never looked back. Shortly after arriving in Toronto he set about acclimatising himself to the smaller type court. Within a year he had proved himself the top player in Canada, winning the National championship, the Y.M.H.A. championship, the Quebec championship and the Cecil Finkel Memorial Trophy, which goes with the Toronto A singles championship.

The World title now crowns everything and we can be assured that Joe will carry it with distinction over the next three years.

That is the approximate span between each championship and for us in this country it is encouraging to note that the next championship on a world basis will be played here in May, 1970. We will be looking forward to seeing Joey Maher defend his title.

Ransomes

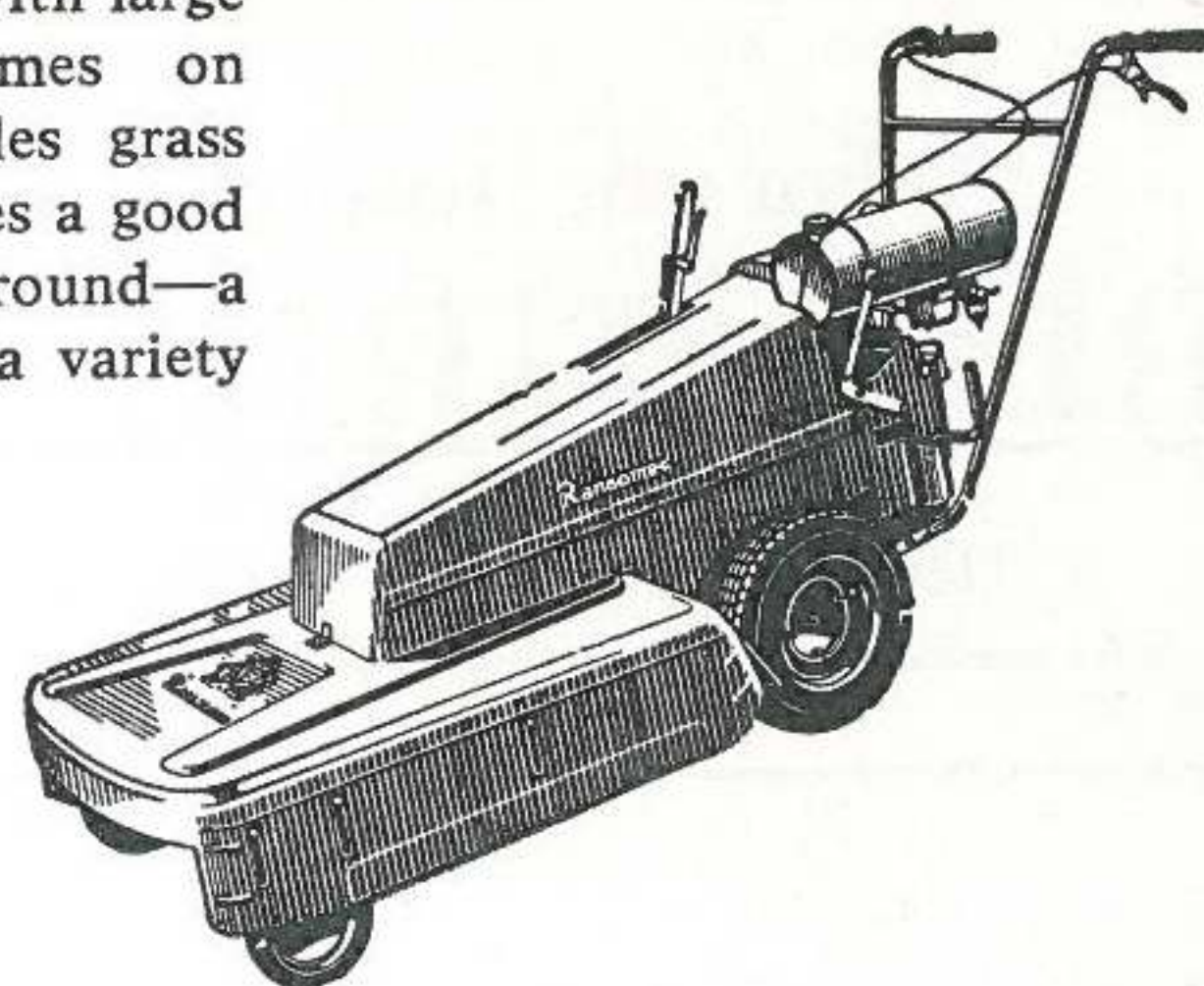
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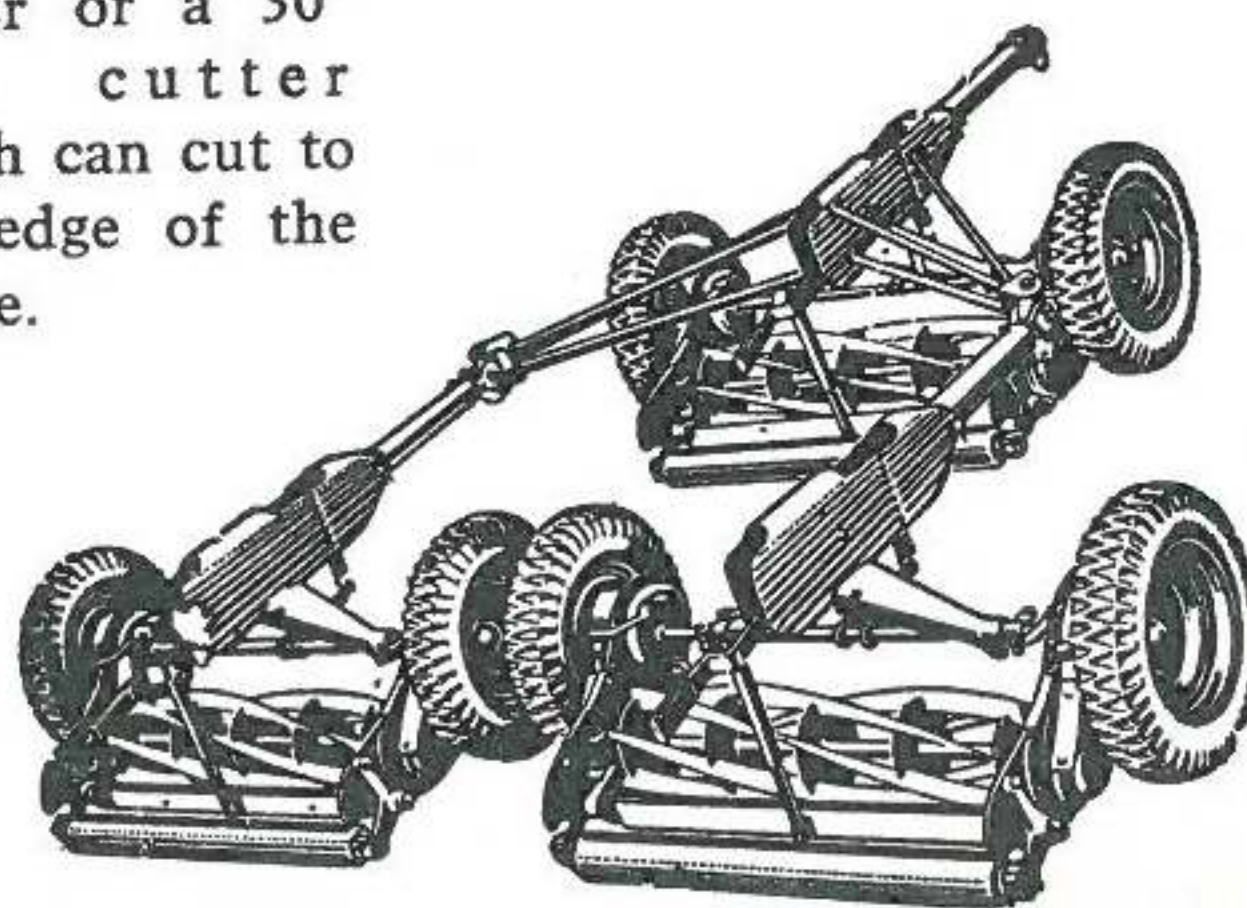
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GALLAGHER AND CRONIN SHINE

THE year just ended was a noteworthy one on the scoring front. A number of important new record-making achievements were highlighted by the feats of Charlie Gallagher and Pat Cronin. The Cavan sharpshooter equalled one record, and hit another, while the Newmarket-on-Fergus club man set three new peaks for Clare hurling.

Starting the 1967 campaign, Paddy Doherty was the only footballer to better a century of points in three separate years (1960-61-62). Gallagher broke the 100 points "barrier" for the third time last year and, in the process, he also became the first player to take the premier spot for football for the third time.

The Breffni inter-provincial headed both charts for the first time with a personal total in that his points tally, as distinct from goals and points combined, is the highest in either code. In 1965 he again took the No. 1 spot in football, scoring 7-102 (123 pts.) in 19 outings, but was beaten into second place for both codes by four points by Eddie Keher.

That 1965 total left Gallagher the third man to head football's chart more than once. Frankie Donnelly, of Tyrone, was the first in 1956 and '57; Ollie Freaney followed on in 1959, after taking the lead position in 1955, and Paddy Doherty, who despite his 100 points-plus in 1961, was still beaten for the elusive top scoring role by Harry Donnelly, in 1960-'61 and '62.

The tally that comfortably won for Gallagher that unique chart-topping hat-trick in football was 5-94 (109 pts.) in twenty-one out-

ings with Cavan. However, he also went in as a substitute for Ulster in the Railway Cup semi-final at Belfast, so he actually figured in twenty-two matches last year. He did not get his name on the scoring sheet in the interprovincial. As well as taking top spot in football, Gallagher also finished ace marksman of last year, five minors up on hurling's No. 1, Pat Cronin.

Gallagher, who is Ulster's ace marksman for the fourth year in a row, is one of only three links with the panel of top-twenty football scorers of 1966 to improve on that year's figures. He was third for all Ireland at 6-73 (91 pts.) in sixteen ties. Seán O'Connell jumped from fifth in Ulster and fourteenth in Ireland at 5-37 (52 pts.) in twelve ties, to second in the North and fourth country-wise, and he also smashed his own Derry record to boot. He pushed it by 14 points from 4-51 (63 pts.) in seventeen tests in 1958, to 11-44 (77 pts.) in thirteen engagements. Mick Tynan moves from fourth in Munster and nineteenth in Ireland in 1966 to second in Munster and fourteenth country-wise.

Still standing in football are Paddy Doherty's records at 13-97 (136 pts.) in twenty-four games in 1960, the best for one year in the code, and match average of 7.18 minors in each of his eleven games in 1958. Footballer with the best 1967 average in the chart is Brendan Hayden, who totalled 6.60 minors an hour on the way to bettering his own Carlow football and hurling record. Also yet to be bettered in the big ball game is the football tops in goals at 13, jointly held by Paddy Doherty with that 1960 total, and Johnny

Joyce, who scored 13-16 (55 pts.) in fourteen matches with Dublin in 1962.

The past year was one of the vintage seasons as far as penalty kicks were concerned. Twenty-seven were awarded, including that much-talked about one in the Galway-Donegal League semi-final in April. Nineteen resulted in goals, and the remainder, including that one for Donegal, failed to yield a score between them. The 1967 total is the third highest since I started keeping these records. The outstanding year was 1958, when thirty-seven spot kicks brought 23 goals and one point. Next is 1960 with 28.

Cronin is the first Clare hurler to better 100 points. He is also the first from the county to top the hurling chart, and, understandably, the third leg of his impressive hat-trick is a new record for the county.

The Clare marksman just got home by a single point over Eddie Keher. He scored 11-71 (104 pts.) in eighteen games. This puts him out in front by 35 points over the previous best by a Clare hurler since I introduced these scoring statistics. That was 17-18 (69 pts.) in eight games by Jimmy Smyth in 1963.

But Keher must surely rank as the unlucky score-getter of the past year. Such was his dynamic pay-off punch in front of goal this year that the odds are he would have scaled greater heights than in 1965, when he set a new peak for a Kilkenny hurler, had an injury sustained in the All-Ireland final not subsequently kept him side-lined for the rest of 1967.

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But that injury did not stop him from recording one new record, for his 13-64 (103 pts.) in fourteen games leaves him the first Leinster hurler to better a points century in three separate successive campaigns. Furthermore, he also takes first place in the average points a match table for both codes at 7.35 points.

And, if that was not enough to make it a memorable year score-wise for Keher, injury notwithstanding, he also equalled two distinctions held by Jimmy Doyle. The Tipperary hurler was the first to score a century of points three years running (1963, 1964, 1965), and in 1965, he also became the first man to reach three figures four times—he broke the barrier for the first time in 1960.

Keher has his first century in 1963 at 9-76 (103 pts.) in seventeen games; second to Doyle that year. In 1965 he hit the Kilkenny county record with the second highest score in hurling at 16-79 (127 pts.) in twenty outings—predictably, the outstanding score that year in the two codes.

It is well short, however, of the Everest-like high achieved by Nick Rackard in nineteen games in 1965—35-50 (155 pts.). Those thirty-five green flags also rank as the highest number raised in one year. The best as regards points is 87 that, allied to 10 goals that put Doyle ahead in hurling from seventeen games in 1964.

Keher reached three figures again in 1966, when he once more finished as the most prolific marksman in the land for hurling and football with 10-85 (115 pts.) in seventeen games.

Finally, Keher landed the outstanding individual scoring achievement of 1967 with 2-10 against Offaly in a League game at Kilkenny in February, and in football, Seán O'Connell blazed an impressive trail with 4-3 against Armagh in a Lagan Cup semi-final replay at Dungannon in March.

The scoring charts

FOOTBALL

ULSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
109—C. Gallagher (Cavan)	5-94	22	4.95
77—S. O'Connell (Derry)	11-44	13	5.92
64—S. O'Neill (Down)	9-37	17	3.76
48—P. Murray (Cavan)	2-42	20	2.40
46—N. Gallagher (Donegal)	2-40	15	3.06

Provincial record—13-97 (136 p.s.) in 24 games: P. Doherty, 1960.

LEINSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
91—J. Keaveney (Dublin)	8-67	21	4.33
66—B. Hayden (Carlow)	7-45	10	6.60
62—A. Brennan (Meath)	4-50	18	3.44
51—J. Evers (Dublin)	5-36	21	2.42
43—A. McTeague (Offaly)	1-40	9	4.77

Provincial record—7-99 (120 pts.) in 24 games: H. Donnelly, 1961.

CONNACHT

Points	Score	Games	Average
84—J. Corcoran (Mayo)	0-84	21	4.00
73—C. Dunne (Galway)	3-64	17	4.29
64—M. Kearins (Sligo)	4-52	13	4.92
51—J. Keenan (Galway)	2-45	22	2.31
35—A. Whyte (Roscommon)	4-23	13	2.68

Provincial record—4-104 (116 pts.) in 17 games: M. Kearins, 1965.

MUNSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
33—J. O'Shea (Kerry)	2-27	7	4.71
32—M. Tynan (Limerick)	3-23	5	6.40
26—C. O'Sullivan (Cork)	1-23	10	2.60
23—E. McCarthy (Cork)	4-11	7	3.28
22—T. Kelliher (Kerry)	1-19	8	2.75

Provincial record—9-52 (79 pts.) in 17 games: B. O'Callaghan, 1963.

HURLING

MUNSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
104—P. Cronin (Clare)	11-71	18	5.77
62—C. McCarthy (Cork)	12-26	11	5.63
53—D. Nealon (Tipperary)	7-32	14	3.78
48—M. Keating (Tipperary)	12-12	9	5.33
J. McKenna (Tipperary)	9-21	14	3.42

Provincial record—10-87 (117 pts.) in 17 games: J. Doyle, 1964. Galway's top scorer of 1967: D. Coen 3-7 in 3 games.

LEINSTER

Points	Score	Games	Average
103—E. Keher (Kilkenny)	13-64	14	7.35
77—P. Lynch (Wexford)	10-47	14	5.50
59—P. Molloy (Offaly)	9-32	9	6.55
53—M. Brennan (Kilkenny)	14-11	17	3.11
52—C. Dunne (Kilkenny)	4-40	17	3.05

Provincial record—35-50 (155 pts.) in 19 games: N. Rackard, 1956.

Focus on Fermanagh

By **TIM HORGAN**

FERMANAGH is not a county one usually associates with the top bracket of football forces, but in recent years great steps have been taken to bring the Erne-siders to the forefront in Ulster and a reasonable amount of success has been achieved. The county has its problems — a small population, a high rate of emigration and limited resources for building up a strong and static community — but the tireless efforts of devoted Gaels have borne fruit on the football field in recent times.

The county won its very first All-Ireland title in 1959 when the junior footballers beat London in the championship decider at New Eltham, and the minor team showed great promise last year by reaching the Ulster final. In addition, top class performers like P. T. Treacy have given Fermanagh a new status among high-ranking counties.

Fermanagh has been in G.A.A. games since the Association was founded in 1884, and it is interesting to note that before football established itself, hurling was the top sport in the county. At the turn of the century, the County Board registered many hurling clubs, while football was confined entirely to South Fermanagh.

Hurling developed through the efforts of the Gaelic League and was helped considerably by the setting up of creameries all over the county. These were almost invariably managed by men from the southern counties, notably the Whyte brothers from Tipperary, who established hurling around Enniskillen.

The first World War had a

shattering effect on the game in Fermanagh, though by 1923 hurling was again going strong. However, its popularity declined in the subsequent years and by 1939 only three hurling clubs remained, Coa, Enniskillen, and Seemuldoon. These were obliterated by the second World War.

The football scene was dominated by Teemore Shamrocks in the early decades and by 1930

this club had nearly twenty senior titles to its credit. For years the Fermanagh team consisted of all but one of the Teemore side, the lone outsider being McGarvey of Newtownbutler. Teemore's best known football family, the Clarke brothers, Luke, Pat and Tommy, are still remembered with affection in Fermanagh.

During the 1930's the Fer-

● TO PAGE 36

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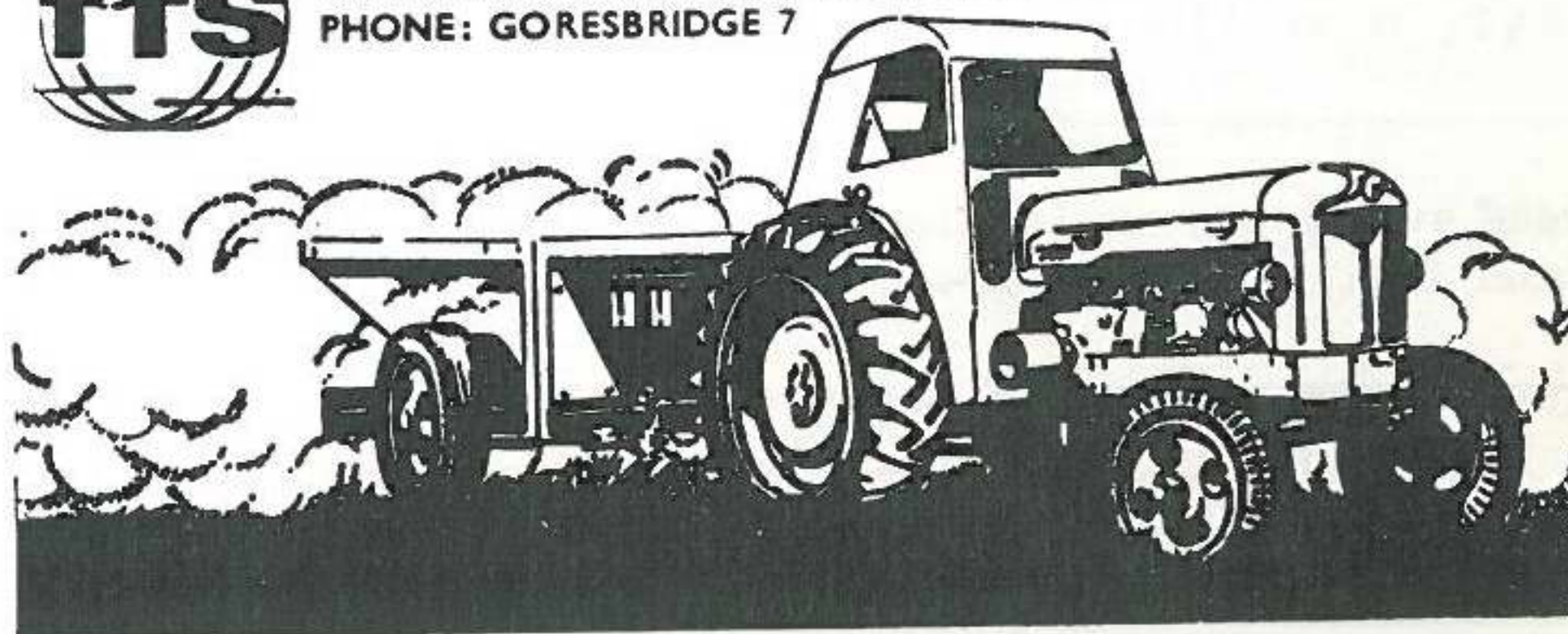
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Sat., June 8th	Sat., Aug. 10th
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SAT., MAY 11th	SAT., SEPTEMBER 21st
MON., MAY 13th (E)	SAT., OCTOBER 26th
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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

managh footballers won the McKenna Cup twice and reached the Ulster final in 1935. Their leading stalwarts in those years included the McDonnell brothers, Eamonn, Tommy and Charlie, Billy Maguire, Willy Carty, Eugene Lennon, Gerry Magee, Frank Johnston and Johnny Monaghan. They were beaten in the provincial decider of '35 by Cavan, who went on to capture the All-Ireland crown.

Fermanagh won the Ulster junior title in 1943 and two years later qualified for the senior final. But once again old rivals Cavan got the better of them in the decider and put paid to all hopes of a major provincial title. The subsequent years were very lean, but interest was maintained by some exciting clashes in the club championship on the home front.

Lisnaskea Emmets emerged as the dominant power in Fermanagh and produced inter-county stars of the calibre of Tommy Durnien, Paddy Fox, Eugene Collins, the Curran brothers and Frank Maguire. For almost two decades Lisnaskea reigned supreme in the county, but in the late 1950's another club, Roslea Shamrocks, took command. Their rise coincided with a marked improvement in county team standards and culminated in Fermanagh's one and only All-Ireland triumph in 1959.

The path to the final was a long and tough one that year and Fermanagh had to play eight matches before they won the title. They defeated Derry, Donegal, Armagh and Antrim in the provincial championship, but the semi-final against Dublin ended in a draw. However, Fermanagh asserted their authority in the replay, winning by 4-13 to 3-8, and they enjoyed a seven-point victory over Kerry in the home final. Then they travelled to England for the final proper, beat London by 1-11 to

2-4 and brought back the All-Ireland junior title to Fermanagh.

Among the heroes of that memorable success were Owen Clerkin, Fr. Ignatius McQuillan who later helped St. Columb's, Derry, to win the All-Ireland Colleges title, Kevin Screenan, Mick Brewster, P. T. Treacy and John Maguire. However, the county failed to follow up the victory with a major impact in the senior ranks.

Nevertheless, the standard of football has improved in Fermanagh in recent times, and this has been brought about through the efforts of an industrious County Board.

"The county at the moment is well organised," says the hard-working county secretary, Tom Fee. "Every district has its club or clubs and the emphasis on minors, juveniles and schoolboys has undoubtedly, paid dividends."

Fermanagh won the Vocational Schools championship in 1966, while St. Michael's College, Enniskillen and St. Mary's Intermediate School, Irvinestown have helped to raise the esteem of Fermanagh football in Ulster also. In addition, youthful clubs like Devenish from the Belleek and Garrison district, Ederney and the long-established Newtownbutler have helped in the promotion of games among the younger generation. Last year Fermanagh reached the Ulster minor football final but were beaten by Tyrone.

One of the major problems affecting Fermanagh is emigration. "Many young footballers leaving school have to go to England," says Tom Fee, "so that the county is deprived of quite a lot of young talent. Grounds problems also make it difficult to build a strong team. Fermanagh with better facilities and concentration and with a little more spirit, could produce a team as good as any."

Corcoran's footwear problem

JOE CORCORAN, Mayo's wily left-half forward, was puzzled by his poor shooting form.

For Corcoran, who was Ireland's crack marksman in 1966 with a total of 8 goals and 72 points, seemed to have left his scoring boots behind him in Mayo's last three games.

And then it suddenly occurred to him: he had bought a new pair of boots for a challenge against Australia and his shooting has been erratic since.

So when Joe went into training for the Grounds tournament final against Cavan he switched back to his old boots and the scoring touch came back.

He was to have worn the old boots for that game, but he didn't get a chance. For the game was postponed owing to the foot-and-mouth epidemic in England.

In the meantime, he has been running-in the new boots and he hopes to have them in shape for Mayo's next game.

In the past, many stylish Fermanagh footballers were denied recognition by the Ulster selectors but P. T. Treacy made history when he won a Railway Cup medal four years ago. Under-21 star Sean McGrath became the first Fermanagh man to win a Sigerson Cup award when he helped U.C.C. to retain the title in 1966, and Malachy Mahon became the first Erne-side referee to be considered for inter-county appointments. So

Fermanagh has been recognised as a football county of note at last.

"Fermanagh teams have never quite managed to break through to the top in Ulster football," says the county chairman, John McElholm, "but since 1959 we have succeeded in keeping well clear of our old berth at the bottom of the ladder." And perhaps on this note, and the optimism it implies, it is time to end our focus on Fermanagh.

MULLINGAR RACES

FIXTURE LIST, 1968

(Six Meetings)

Sat., February 24th

Wed., May 15th
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., June 17th
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., July 15th
(Evening Meeting)

Mon., August 12th
(Evening Meeting)

Sat., December 7th

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 at Ballybofey

16th June—Cavan v. Antrim
 at Cavan

23rd June—Monaghan v. Fermanagh or Tyrone
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THE MAN WITH THE MAGICAL BOOTS



THERE is no need to parade the scoring feats of Charlie Gallagher. That is ably taken care of by my colleague, Owen McCann. However, now that Cavan are hitting the high spots with bang up to form displays in the League, and in their two games in the Grounds tournament against All-Ireland champions Meath, the spotlight is on Breffni again and particularly on its bonny Prince Charlie.

I dropped in to have a chat with the Derry-based dentist. He was most helpful and talked engagingly.

O'DONNELL—Charlie, I won't ask you where you got your boots, but perhaps you could explain, for the benefit of Owen McCann, just how you became so accurate at frees?

GALLAGHER — I would say accuracy at frees comes essentially from constant practice. Some players have a natural ability and this, of course, is a great help. Take Paddy Doherty as a typical example of this.

O'D. — Rumour has it that you train St. Columb's college team in Derry. Is this true?

G. — No. I have occasionally practised with them under Fr. McQuillan (former Fermanagh full back) and I have picked up some valuable hints from his training programme.

O'D.—Cavan are playing great stuff at the moment. Can they continue to do so and what are their chances of top honours?

G. — Yes, I agree, the team played very well in 1967 and I think they are in the running for top honours. At least they can no longer be taken lightly.

O'D. — Looking ahead to the Ulster championship, are Cavan a certainty?

Charlie Gallagher

An interview with SEAN O'DONNELL

G. — You must be joking Sean. and I sincerely hope that our fellows, regardless of how well they do in the League, do not go in to the championship with this attitude. The championship is an entirely different kettle of fish altogether. But I have high hopes, provided the players train hard and waste no time in preparing themselves for a tough campaign.

O'D. — You seem to anticipate a tough Ulster championship. From whom do you expect most trouble?

G. — Yes, this year's Provincial championship is more open than ever before. Derry are a young and very promising side, they beat us in the League. Donegal are fighting for success for some time now and I thought them a shade unlucky so far not to get through. Still, I suppose Down, the bogey team in the province, will be well up there at the final stages.

O'D. — Cavan have been very inconsistent. Why?

G. — We could never keep a full side together. Too much chopping and changing. However, I now feel certain that we have a very balanced

team and with the help and advice of Mick Higgins we will do our best to keep it that way.

O'D. — How is club football within the county and how about hurling? Is it making any progress at all?

G. — Club football varies, but generally it is satisfactory. As for the hurling programme, I am glad to report it is also making good progress.

O'D. — What are your views on the new League set up?

G. — It is a welcome improvement and it should help the weaker counties considerably. It is also very interesting from a follower's point of view. Take as an example the Longford v. Tyrone game and the Dublin v. Monaghan one and pose the question — when did these counties meet before?

O'D. — Have you any comment to make on the Australians' recent visit?

G. — Yes. Their visit has done our game a world of good. I think it may lead to the restoration of the

● TO PAGE 43

News from the North

By SEAMUS McCLUSKEY

THE former Monaghan county full-back, Sean Woods of Clontibret O'Neills, was moved upfield to lead the attack by his club in the 1967 Monaghan senior county championship and proved an immediate success in his new role. Top scorer for his club, he helped bring his team to the final of the Monaghan championship, and in the final against Castleblayney Faughs, scored all but two of Clontibret's points.

With the coming of the National Football League competition he was automatically chosen as leader of the attack on the Monaghan county team and in only four games (three N.F.L. ties and one

challenge game) he became Monaghan's "top scorer" for 1967, compiling 2-14 in these four outings and displacing Castleblayney's Gerry Fitzpatrick from the place of honour at the top of the ladder—a place which the latter had held for the previous two years. With 2-11 to his credit, Fitzpatrick finished in second place.

A hand injury kept Gerry out of Monaghan's last game of the year—against Westmeath at Ballybay—and, although he was two points in front of Woods before this game started, he was compelled to take his place on the sideline and watch his title slip away as the Clon-

tibret star scored all five of Monaghan's points.

RAMBLER JOHN

The Tyrone junior player, John McCaffrey of Clogher, has transferred to Emyvale club and will take part in Co. Monaghan football competitions during the coming season. John and his brother Packie (an Emyvale committee member), are proprietors of one of North Monaghan's most popular singing pubs—the "Rambling House" in Emyvale, where football is always one of the main topics.

Another North Monaghan junior club—Tyholland St. Patrick's—is likely to have the services of the Longford corner back, Brendan Gilmore, during the coming year. His transfer from a Louth club is expected to become effective shortly.

RIGHT ATMOSPHERE

St. Michael's College, Enniskillen, has come very much into the Ulster limelight again and following their recent convincing win over St. Colman's, Newry, at Ballybay, the college has qualified for the semi-final stages of the MacRory Cup competition. Besides an excellent senior side, the college could also field quite a strong team from its teaching staff, one of whom is the Fermanagh county and Ulster Railway Cup star—Mick Brewster.

The two latest additions to the teaching staff of the college are also well-known Monaghan club footballers—Peadar McMahan (Emyvale) and Fr. Macartan McQuaid (Truagh). These Fermanagh students are certainly growing up in the right atmosphere.

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Macartan's College Monaghan, was the guest speaker at the recent meeting of South Antrim referees, held in Belfast, which was exceptionally well attended and proved a tremendous success, Fr. McCormack, who is County team manager in Monaghan, has now addressed meetings of referees in practically all nine counties of Ulster.

END OF THE ROAD

The famous Dungannon Clarkes player, Tommy Campbell, has decided to "call-it-a-day" and hang up his football boots after an amazing twenty-three years of very faithful senior service with this great Co. Tyrone club. Dr. Tommy has been part-and-parcel of the Clarkes down the years and won Tyrone senior championship medals with them in 1944, 1947, 1951 and 1956 and won an Ulster senior championship medal with the great Tyrone county team of 1956.

The Ulster selectors also honoured him but, unfortunately, he failed to win a Railway Cup medal. His last game for the Clarkes was on Sunday, November 26 last, when he played at full back for the Dungannon side against Coalisland in the Tyrone Senior League. Captain of the side, he played as well as ever and thwarted many scoring efforts by the Coalisland forwards. At the conclusion of this game both teams lined up and gave Tommy a hearty send-off as he left the field. I expect there will be many more warm tributes paid to this great-hearted player before the present winter season is finished.

COUNTY PROSPECT

The latest acquisition by the Newbridge club in Co. Derry is the Ballybay football star, Cathal McCarthy, who has transferred from the mid-Monaghan club and is at present in the contracting business in South Derry. His recent display in the Fr. Hackett Cup final against Magheracloone (he was still eligible to play for Ballybay in this competition) stamped

McCarthy as a "county-man" and both Derry and Monaghan mentors are likely to be very much "on his tail" during the next few weeks. A real opportunist forward, he is son of a former great Monaghan forward of the same name, Charley McCarthy, who helped his county to their one and only All-Ireland appearance against Kerry away back in 1930.

GUEST OF HONOUR

The Ulster G.A.A. chairman, Michael Feeney, N.T., was the guest of honour at the annual social of Co. Tyrone Board held in Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, on the last Sunday of November. Three trophies, won by Tyrone in 1967, were on display — the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Cup, the Ulster Minor Football championship Cup and the Ulster Minor Football League trophy.

In his address to the big attendance, Mr. Feeney paid glowing tributes to the Tyrone teams which

had proved so successful during the past season and said that these victories could and should spur the wearers of the "Red Hand" on to greater successes in the years to come. Ulster's genial secretary, Gerry Arthurs (Keady) was also present and, as well as complimenting Tyrone football sides of 1967, also complimented Tyrone hurlers on their fine displays during the year.

QUIET HOMECOMING

The foot and mouth epidemic caused the cancellation of the big reception planned by Clones handball supporters for the All-Ireland senior champion, Seamus McCabe, on his return from Canada at the beginning of December. Seamus gave quite a good account of himself in the World series in Toronto, finishing third in the League table. The experience gained on this trip should prove a great asset to him when the World championships are held here in 1970.

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SEAMUS O RIAIN

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

WHEN, last Easter, they came to select a successor to the dynamic Alf Murray from Armagh, the assembled Gaels at the annual Congress in Dublin had a wide variety of candidates from whom to choose. No matter which way they voted, they could hardly have gone wrong; but in the end, after a searching election, they chose a man in the very best traditions of the office which he was to hold, a national teacher, an Irish speaker, a Gael from his

cradle, as the saying is—Seamus O Riain, who was probably better known to the rank and file of Munster Gaeldom for many a year as Jim Ryan, or if you wanted to be specific in a county of Ryans, Jim Ryan of the North Board.

And here is a peculiar side-light. Though a Tipperary official, Jim Ryan is not, by birth or residence, actually a Tipperaryman. He was born, and still lives, in Moneygall and teaches in Dunkerrin, and both Moneygall and Dunkerrin are



in County Offaly as far as geography goes.

But, for G.A.A. purposes, both have been under the jurisdiction of Tipperary county for more than 50 years. Indeed, Mrs. Ryan's uncle, Darby Collison, was a member of Wedger Meagher's famed 'Toomevara Greyhounds', won an All-Ireland medal with Johnny Leahy's Boherlahan selection against Kilkenny back in 1916 and also played in the 1917 final.

Seamus O Riain, himself, was a useful performer in both hurling and football, and like his very recent predecessor, Hugh Byrne, has a keen interest in athletics, having been for several years chairman of the Tipperary N.A.C.A. Board.

Besides, the prowess on the playing fields is being carried on by another generation for Seamus has already had the pleasure of watching his son, Jack, win an All-Ireland under-21 hurling medal with Tipperary, and the same son also played on the Tipperary football team against Dublin at Croke Park in the drawn Bloody Sunday tournament final.

Seamus O Riain is young in office as yet, but he has already given proof that he is well worthy of the seat he holds.

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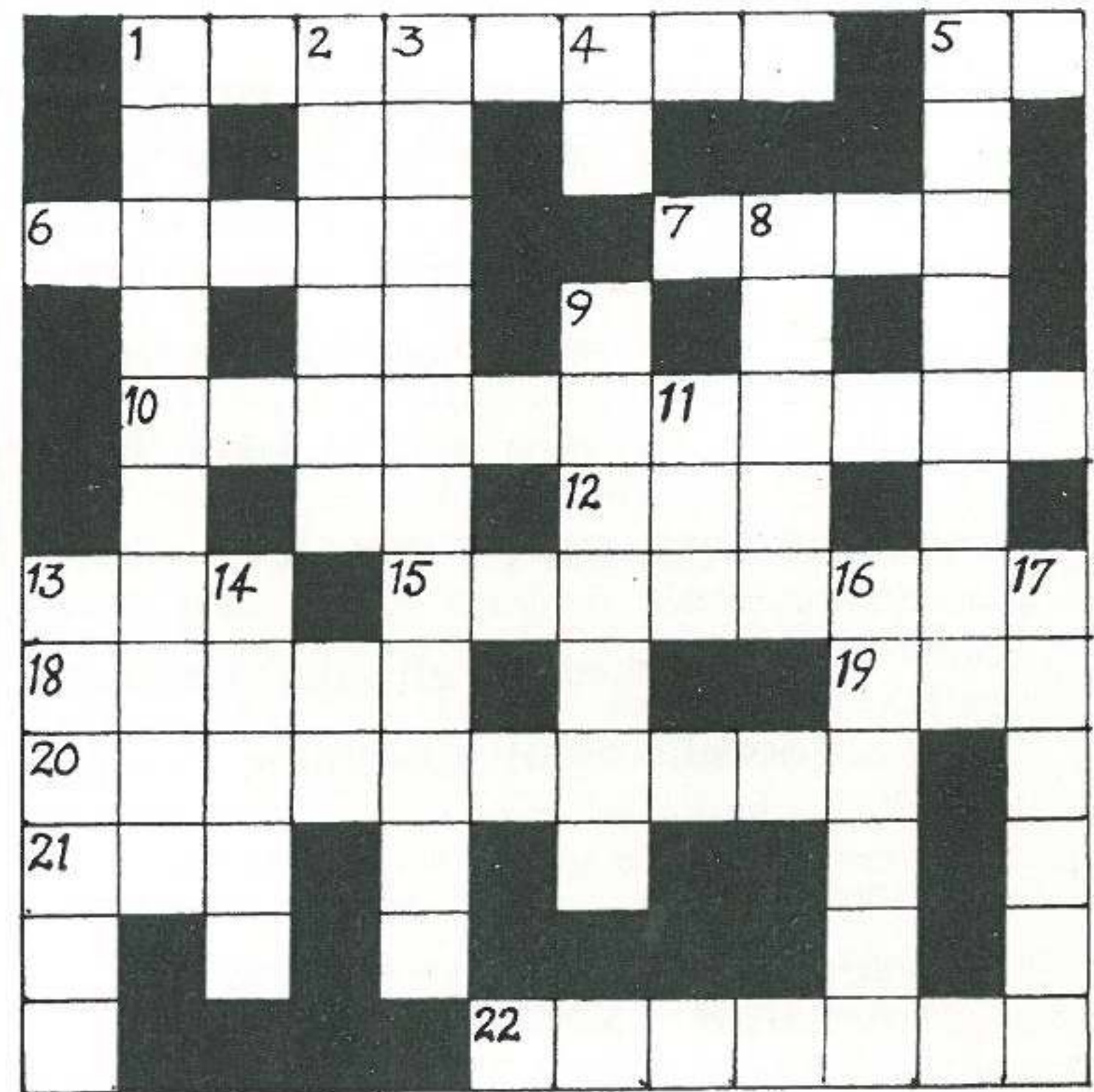
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ACROSS :

1. Head of religious house, for a long time stalwart of Dublin hurling. (3, 5)
5. Kerry footballer of rare defensive quality who has been more recently a selector. Initials. (1, 1)
6. Young Cork star, who was making his second successive appearance in the minor All-Ireland series in 1967 (at centre-field). (1, 4)
7. Clare footballer shared the same name as one of Ireland's best-known comedians.
10. Promising Offaly back, recent recruit from minor ranks. (7, 4)
12. Field equipment essential for inter-county fixtures. (3)
13. Rat who brought the game to a fine point of craftsmanship. (3)
15. One of the team of officials in charge of a game. (8)
18. One of the main necessities for those in training (5)
19. Leitrim's tally of Connacht football titles. (3)
20. Meath's best-known player, perhaps; he was injured in the All-Ireland semi-final. (3, 7)
21. The dye has run. (3)
22. See 14 Down.

DOWN :

1. Mayo captain, incapacitated by illness for All-Ireland semi-final. (4, 6)
2. I munch a continental city. (6)
3. Blond Cork star hurling half-back in the 'fifties; namesake on present football team. (3, 8)
4. Small Tyrone forward. Initials. (1, 1)
5. Half-forward in Galway football teams of the 'forties. (1, 7)



8. An indoor game demanding accuracy; found in most pavilions and pubs. (5)
9. Laois footballing family. (7)
11. Dublin midfielder sounds as though he should be a Corkman. (3)
13. Consider it truly existing. (2, 4)
14. (and 22 Across). Kerry left-half back in many hard games of the 'forties. (5, 7)
16. Ex-Down senior All-Irelander, whose brother figured as minor All-Ireland man in 1966. (6)
17. Galway hurling corner-forward of the 'forties whose brother was a star football corner-forward. (6)

SOLUTION : PAGE 48

CHARLIE GALLAGHER

● FROM PAGE 39

hand pass and the introduction of the pick up, which I believe would improve the game and would minimise fouling. I think we should hold annual international games if possible. To my mind, Rule 27 is ridiculous, and I would like to see it abolished soon. We have nothing to lose by revoking it.

O'D. — What do you reckon was the toughest game you played in?

G. — It is difficult to single out one particular game, but our championship clash with Armagh at

Castleblayney in 1956 was a hectic match. The Ulster finals in 1962 and '64 were also memorable games. Although the college was beaten, it would be hard to forget the Dublin championship final in 1958, at Croke Park between U.C.D. and St. Vincents.

O'D. — When you first donned the Cavan jersey, who were the men you admired most?

G. — I am glad you asked me this question for there are many men to whom I would like to pay

tribute. First of all, Peter Donoghue, Phil "Gunner" Brady, Simon Deignan and Pat Carolan, who were still playing on the county team when I started. The 1947 and '48 teams included many of my heroes. Men like Mick Higgins, Tony Tighe, T. P. O'Reilly, Edwin Carolan and Joe Stafford and, of course, I cannot forget the men from the other counties, like Tom Langan and Pdraig Carney of Mayo and the Galway greats, Purcell and Stockwell.

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JOHN MORLEY

PEN-PICTURE
By SEAN RICE

IN the eyes of his supporters he is a giant—a colossus walking a corridor of fame. He has no peers as a centre-half back, they say. He is the keystone of the Mayo team.

John Morley has got used to the plaudits. So he pays no heed. He is 25 now and he knows this is transient admiration—a fleeting bubble likely to burst at any time.

For the Mayo captain has tasted the bitterness of failure, too. And the heartbreaks, and the disappointments and the wrath of angry supporters. He is used to hard times.

He is one of a new generation of Mayo footballers—a generation grown up in the years that have seen great challenges to the attitude of players.

And his dream of supreme honours is hewn from years of misery in Mayo football, a phase that has made the period before that a golden memory for those who still remember.

John Morley doesn't remember that era—from 1948 to 1951. He was too young. But his promptings and his good example may well be the beginning of a golden era for the present generation. For at last a pencil of light has penetrated the 12-year-old gloom in which Mayo football has been enshrouded.

As Morley put it: "A Connacht title last year was a great break-through. And judging by all the talent that is in the county I think Mayo must win at least one All-Ireland title within the next few years."

He first came to prominence while playing with that great nur-

sery, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, with whom he won two successive All-Ireland titles.

"Beating St. Mel's, Longford, in 1961, to win my second medal gave me the greatest thrill of my life," he said.

A native of Knock, Morley has played with Kiltimagh, Collooney, Co. Sligo, Civil Service, Dublin and Ballaghaderreen, where he is now stationed as a Garda.

He played minor football for Mayo in 1960, has his first outing with the Mayo senior team against Galway in the Gael Linn Cup Tournament in September, 1961, and played junior for Mayo the following year.

Since then he has been a regular on the senior team and was selected for Connacht in 1963, 1966 and again last year. As well as this, he has been captain of the Mayo team for the past two years.

His greatest disappointment came last year when he was rushed to hospital with appendicitis two weeks before he was due to lead Mayo on to Croke Park against Meath in the All-Ireland semi-final.

"It was a terrible blow," he said. "And then, after coming into the game in the second half, to find I was too weak to give of my best."

The Mayo captain hopes to be back in Croke Park again this year. "It's going to be a struggle, though. The winners of the Galway-Roscommon game will be our toughest obstacle. And Roscommon proved against us a few weeks ago that they are a very promising young team."

And yet, strangely, the forward

Morley fears most does not come from either of these teams. He is Sligo's Michael Kearins.

"He is a great forward and can be a match winner on his own as he has so often proved," he said.

To whom does he attribute Mayo's football resurgence?

"To a dedicated selection panel who study every position carefully for every game; to a great chairman; to two capable and dedicated trainers, and to a panel of players who are anxious to reach the top and are prepared to train hard and to make sacrifices in order to achieve this aim."

I asked him if he had learned anything from the Australians. "Nothing about the art of the game," he said. "But they taught me what it means to be fit. That was the only gulf between the Aussies and us. I don't think we can ever hope to be as fit. But there is certainly room for considerable improvement."

John smiled when I asked him what he wished for most. "The answer is easy," he said, "To win an All-Ireland title with Mayo."

The answer indeed is easy, much easier than the task. But if Mayo fail to win an All-Ireland title within the next few years it will not be for want of trying by John Morley.

He lives for football. All the dash and fire he can command is poured into the game he loves so much.

There will be other disappointments. There will be cries and sighs from his now admiring supporters. But before that, Morley could well hold the Sam Maguire Cup aloft in Croke Park.

THOUGHTS ON THE BAN

WHEN I was younger, I was quite a dab hand at making good resolutions for the New Year. But after I had reached a certain age I sadly discovered that there was not much point in making such resolutions any more. The years had grown so short and sped by so quickly that another New Year was at hand before I had got the resolutions from the previous one properly sorted out.

Then I tried to turn myself into a kind of Old Moore, making prophecies for the year ahead. But I soon had to abandon that lark, too, because around March I found it hard to remember what it was I had predicted in January.

So nowadays I just take the New Year as it comes, and I find

that when it does come it is very much the same as the one that has gone before.

That is why I am not taking too serious a view of 1968. After all, it is just an extension of 1967, and I do not anticipate any great changes in the G.A.A. world, even though the 'Ban' rule is due to come up for discussion again at Congress.

Anytime the Ban has come up for discussion in recent years the newspapers have managed to make a real Roman Holiday out of it, aided by a small number of eloquent, if well-meaning people who write long letters abusing, or defending, the Ban, as the case may be.

Now, my way of looking at all

that has always been this. The Ban is simply and solely a matter for the G.A.A. If anyone outside the G.A.A. has any strong feelings on the matter, his opinions do not matter a thrawneen, unless and until he joins the Association. And when he does, the place to air his views is within the Association and not in the correspondence columns of the newspapers.

On the other hand, if a genuine member of the G.A.A. honestly disagrees with Rule 27, or Rule 28, or Rule 29, for that matter, he should not be pilloried for that opinion, and there has, I fear, in recent years, been a certain tendency to what used long ago be called 'felon-setting' in this regard.

Surely the real case at point is this. Does the 'Ban' advance or retard the G.A.A. in its work of preserving and popularising all that is best in the national tradition? If certain people believe that the Rule is not serving the Association to the best advantage, and hold that opinion from the best possible motives, why should the rest of us decry them for doing so as long as all concerned have the best interests of the G.A.A. at heart?

Personally, I have never had any difficulties with Rule 27, although in my playing days I am afraid I was inclined to blink both eyes at a few other rules. The reason Rule 27 never bothered me was this. When I was young I was too busy playing Gaelic games to even be aware that any other games existed.

In one happy year—we'd better not be specific—I set a remarkable personal record by fielding

● TO NEXT PAGE

"OUR GAMI

"AN ideal Christmas present is a favourite punchline in December book reviews. I would probably have used it if I had been reviewing "O'Games Annual 1968" in the December issue of GAELIC SPORT. That was not possible because our last number had been prepared for publication before the Annual appeared.

But the advice still holds good. The latest edition of the Association's official yearly publication is an ideal present any time. And it is a necessary purchase for anyone who values good reading, good pictures and all the vital statistics of the year gone by.

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out in the junior hurling championships of four different counties. And no one could accuse me of being a medal-hunter either, because the teams I fielded for all went out in the first or second round,—which goes to show of course that neither was I either a Lory Meagher or a Mick Mackey.

Indeed, there was no need for me to change my name even, for my name was never one of those that appeared in the papers for brilliant displays. So I was never suspended.

Not that breaking those rules worried me then. I was mad for hurling and was only too glad to play for anyone that asked me.

Oh, in the youth of me, I was maybe worried a bit about being 'had up' for being too obliging with my services, but I doubt if I was even aware of what exactly the 'Ban' rule meant.

And even when my playing days were over, the 'Ban' never worried me. There was never a

if I had the inclination to do so, which I never had.

So I suppose I was lucky, because I was one of those for whom Rule 27 was really an unnecessary article of my Gaelic faith.

I was observing it faithfully before ever I knew it existed. But a new generation has arisen since my time, and I regret to state that while they seem to know far more about Rule 27 than I did, it does not bother them any more than it bothered me, but for a very different reason. It seems to me that many of them just ignore it!

And the fact that the rule has been abandoned in New York doesn't help when I find myself in an argument about it nowadays with the younger set. Nor can I find an easy answer when I am

traliars play with an oval ball at Lansdowne Road.

However, in the future I have the perfect answer to all arguments. I will tell all who start to argue about the 'Ban' to read Brendan Mac Lua's book *The Steadfast Rule*, and, if they have not, they don't know what they are talking about.

GALWAYS' All-Ireland footballer, Liam Sammon escaped serious injury recently when a car he was driving crashed near Castlebar. Ray Prendergast, Mayo's former full back, was a passenger in the car and was removed to hospital with injuries to his hand and face. Neither footballer was detained in hospital.

HONOURS LIST

● FROM PAGE 9

down through delegates, through literature and through personal contact between the club members and the higher officials. Within the Association, the board or committee meeting is the centre of communication where delegates contribute and receive information and ideas."

THREE—The new format of the National Football League, which can merely be regarded as a half-hearted attempt at re-organisation. Why a straightforward set-up of four divisions with eight in each was rejected in favour of "the bits and pieces" of the present arrangement is something which I will never understand. And are there all that many obstacles to an earlier start to the league programme.

FOUR — The decision to have a combined five-year ticket instead of separate hurling and football issues will certainly add to the nightmares of Co. Committees when the problems of distribution have to be faced.

MY NEW YEAR HOPE — That more and more energy will be directed towards catering for the youth of the country, not only with extra competitions but with a far greater involvement of the young people in the general workings of the Association.

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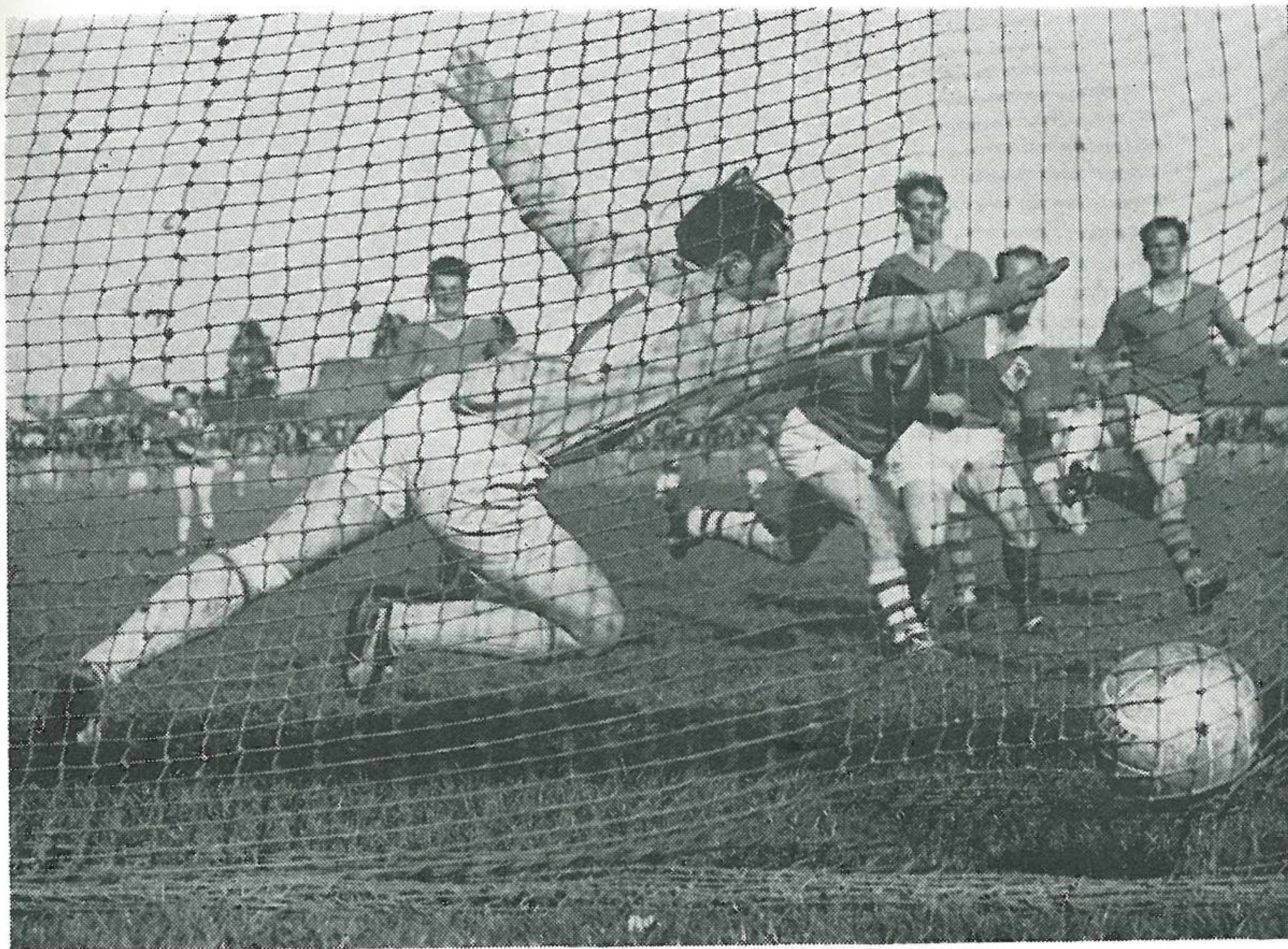
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Crossword Solution

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