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Gaelic Sport

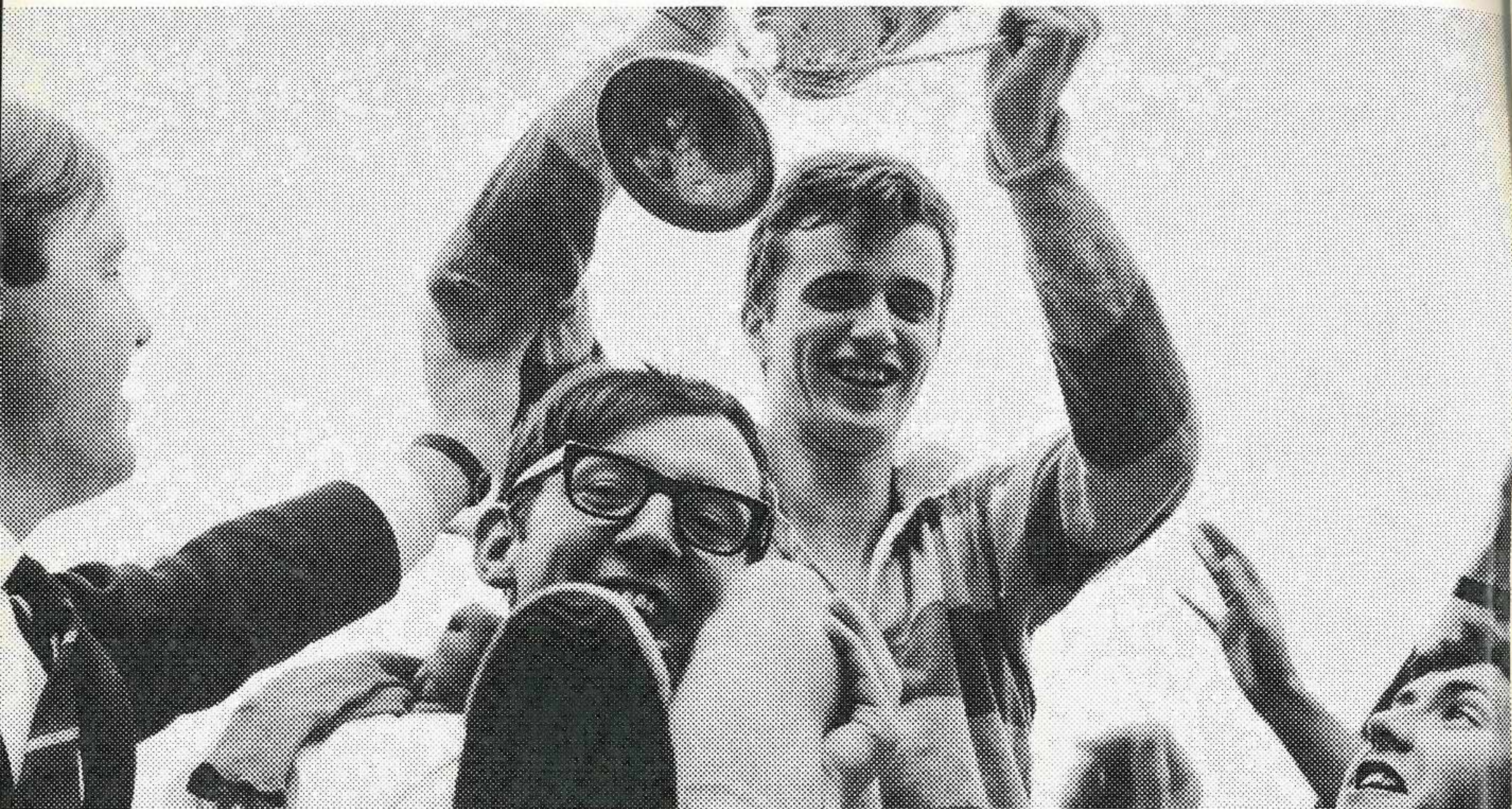
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ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

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1st September, 1968

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MINOR — 1.45 p.m.

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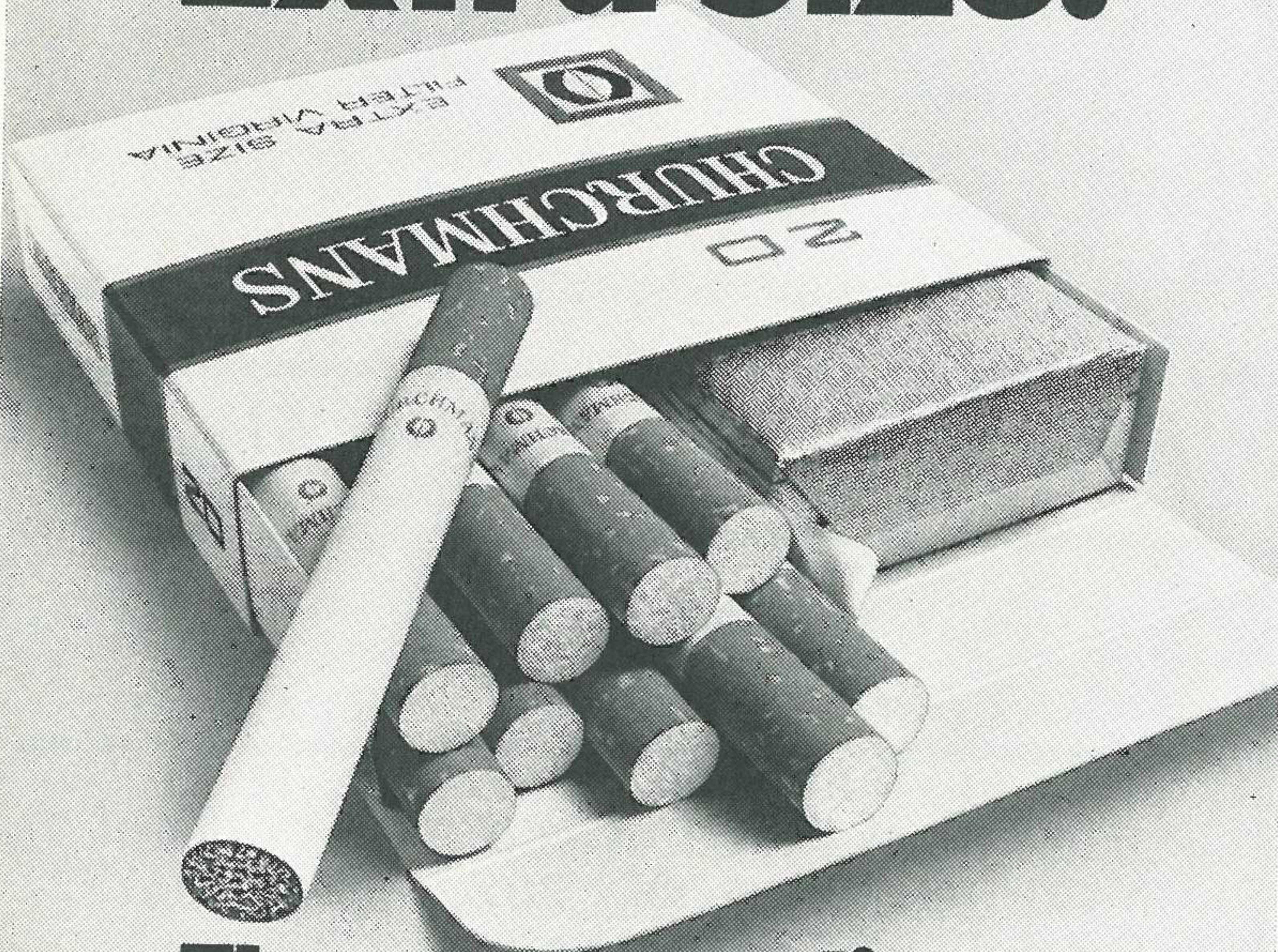
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 11, No. 9. SEPTEMBER, 1968

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COVER PICTURE :

Featured on our front cover this month are the Tipperary and Wexford Hurling teams :—

TIPPERARY—Standing (from left) : G. Doyle (trainer), J. O'Donoghue, L. Devaney, M. Burns, S. McLoughlin, M. Stapleton, J. Gleeson, J. Costigan, O. Bennett (trainer). Front row (from left) : P. J. Ryan, D. Nealon, J. Ryan, J. Doyle, M. Roche (capt.), L. Gaynor, J. McKenna, M. Keating.

WEXFORD—Standing (from left) : A. Doran, E. Kelly, D. Quigley (capt.), P. Wilson, T. Neville, J. Berry, P. Nolan. Front row (from left) : J. Quigley, W. Murphy, P. Lynch, V. Staples, C. Jacob, J. O'Brien, E. Colfer, D. Bernie.

Our first Jubilee

SELDOM we mention anniversaries. But this is a special occasion. It is the tenth anniversary of the foundation of **Gaelic Sport**, which started as a quarterly in September, 1958, and, by popular demand, became a monthly—the only one of its kind—in 1963.

It has been a long road, with many sharp bends, but also with some smooth, pleasant straights. Altogether, we have enjoyed the journey, as we know that you, our readers and advertisers, have enjoyed it; otherwise, we would not be here now to say these few words of thanks to all who helped us along the way—and that, of course, includes the officials and members of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, the Handball Council and the Camogie Association.

We look forward to a continuation of that support in the future, for the next ten years, and for ten times ten; and, in return, we promise to go on providing a

magazine that is bright, informative, authoritative, well-written, and loyal to the great Association that we have tried to serve. In short, a medium of news and balanced opinion which Gaelic Games and their supporters deserve and which, before the advent of **Gaelic Sport**, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and the national pastimes lacked.

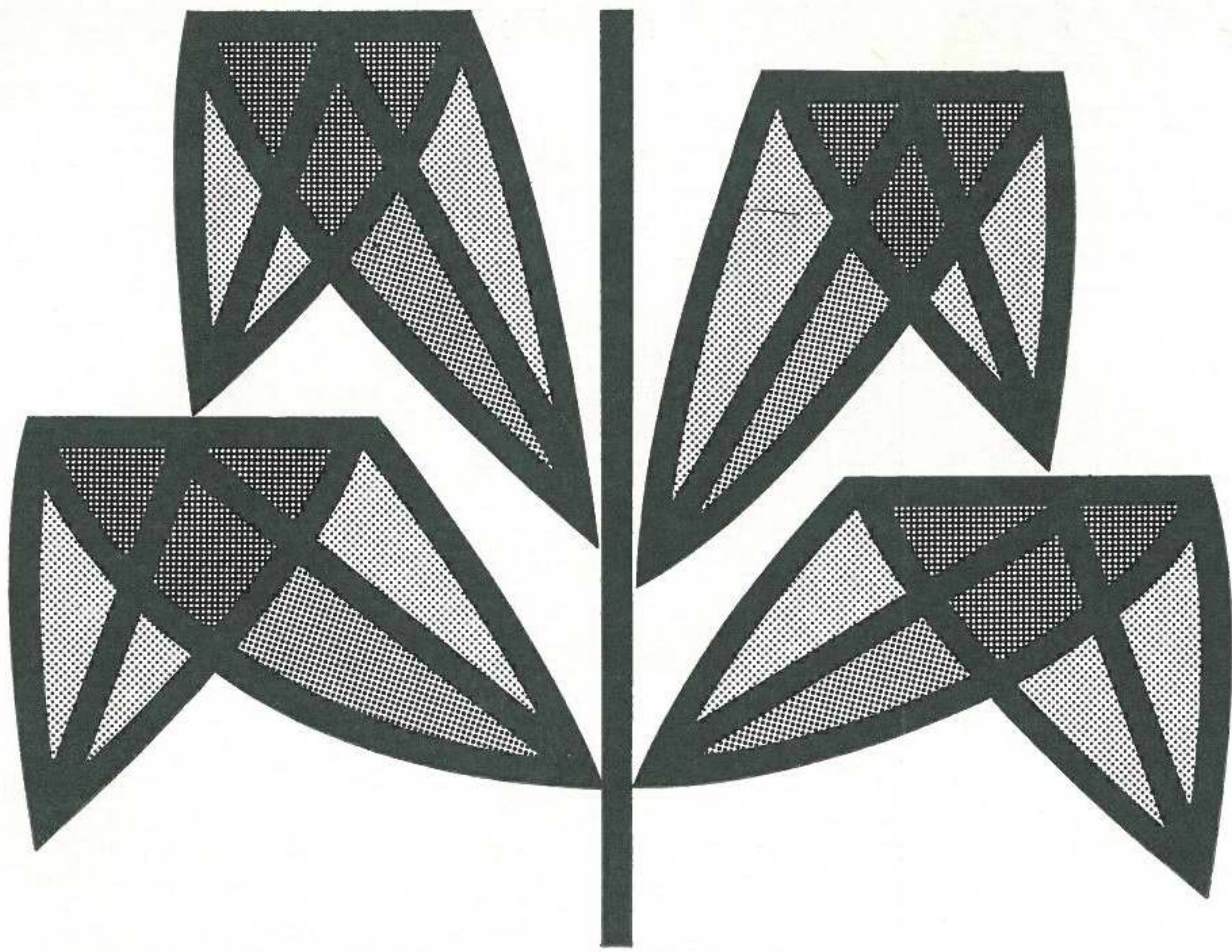
Before this magazine was founded ten years ago, there was no other regular publication devoted exclusively to Gaelic Games and G.A.A. affairs. The situation has changed quite remarkably in the meantime and it is only natural that we should take pride in the fact that we were the trend-setters.

We are proud also that **Gaelic Sport** is still the leading quality journal in the field of G.A.A. literature. We intend to keep it on that level and, if possible, to make it bigger and better as the years go on.

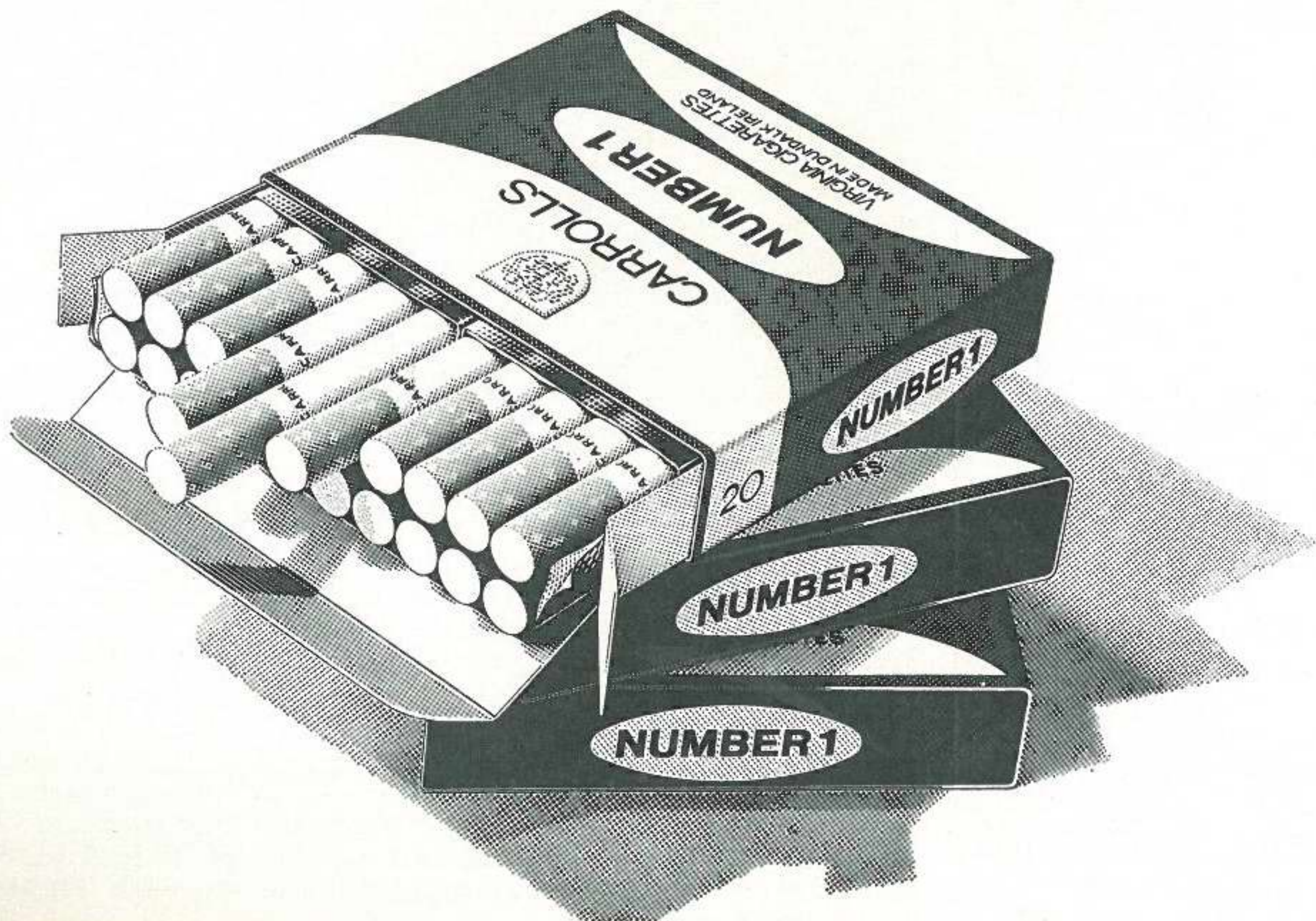
A WORD ON THE FINAL

IT IS A co-incidence that, when the first issue of **Gaelic Sport** appeared ten years ago, Tipperary were also playing in an All-Ireland Hurling final. Their opponents on that occasion were Galway; this time, Wexford provide the opposition.

Like **Gaelic Sport**, Tipperary have been markedly successful over the past decade. We wish them many more successes in the years ahead—which is not to mean that we are taking sides in their imminent confrontation with Wexford. The men of Loch Garman are making a welcome re-appearance in the All-Ireland Hurling final and we wish them as much luck as we wish Tipperary. May the better team win.



Carrolls Number 1
set the standard high





Tom Neville



Jimmy O'Brien



Pat Nolan

Wexford are playing— it will be a good game

“WEXFORD are playing—it will be a good game”.

I have a friend who constantly sings this verse whenever there is a game within reach with Wexford in it. It is his sole justification for supporting the Model County; his sole reason for choosing between matches on those busy Sundays. And much as he bores us sometimes, who can even begin to contradict his reasoning? As no other team can, Wexford hold out the promise of making your journey worth while, and your entry money well spent.

Wexford play exciting hurling—it is in their nature. When they win they are not over-aggressive or over-bearing, nor do they make the embarrassment and disappointment of losing over-bitter for their opponents or their op-

ponents' followers. When they lose, they take it gracefully, one of those things in a life which is bigger than the result of a match. Tomorrow is another day and today is today to be enjoyed to the full, to celebrate with victory if the gods so ordain, but, if not, there is always tomorrow. They have a splendid and loyal following who make a full-throated roar in their support, but it is always notable that they seem to excite more neutrals than any other team.

In a word, there is no ruthlessness in the nature of Wexford hurling. Their approach to the game is positive, never negative or destructive; and, because of that, they always give the other team a chance. They seem to take no pleasure in one sided matches, or in plans to grind the op-

position into the dust. To them it is more a matter of honour: we will play our game and you play your's and let us see in the end who has been most successful.

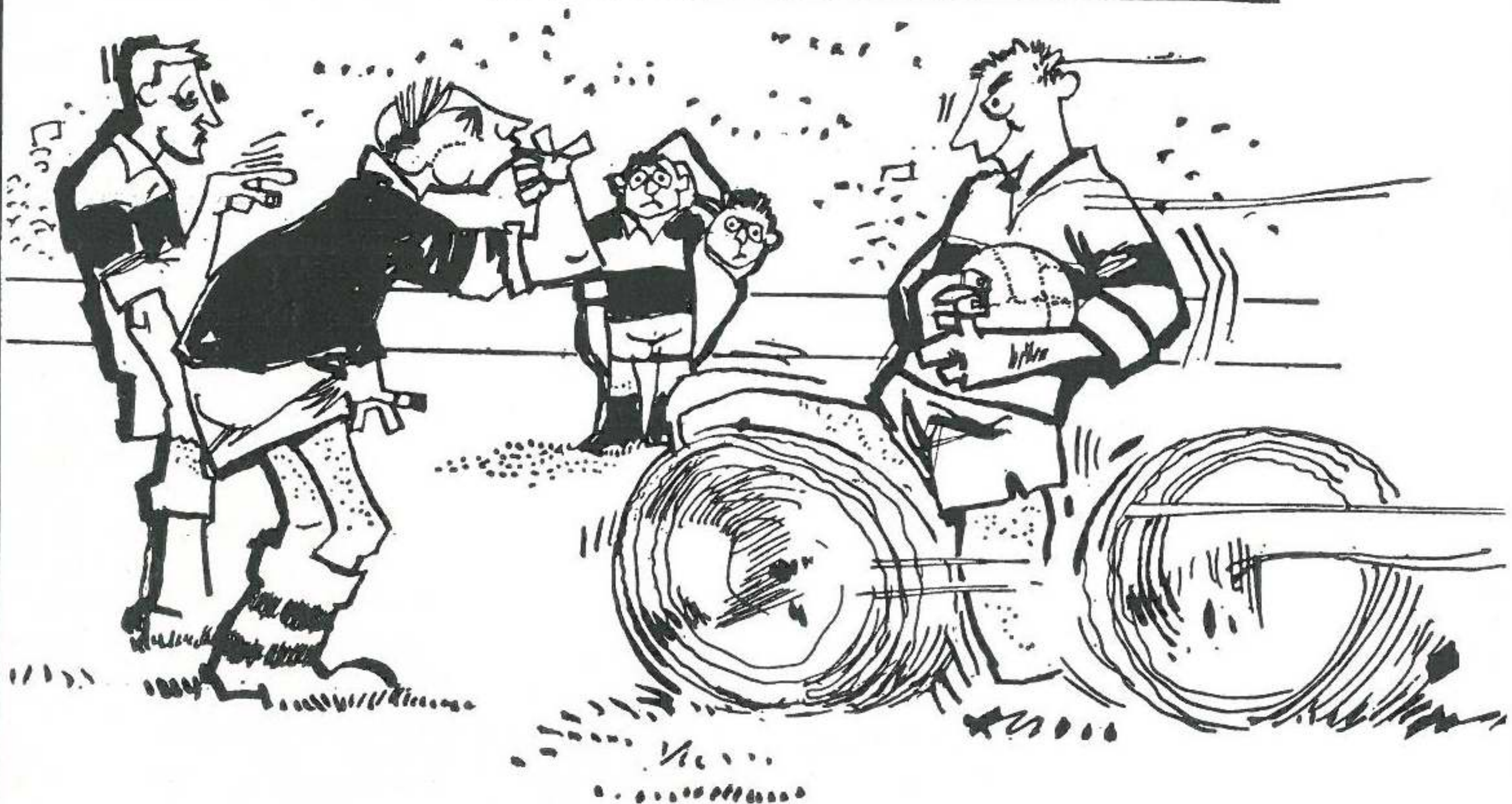
It is surely because of this willingness to enter a contest with the intention of playing positively that so many games were lost in rousing finishes; but, it is also the cause of so many of their victories being truly memorable ones scored in titanic struggles with high scores. Wexford have beaten them all in their day, so why bother to change their attitude to hurling; they have still men, in the traditions so brilliantly set by the Rackards and their associates, who would prefer to try the spectacular than play for dull safety.

Some, at least, of the present team would (like the Rackards) risk the stolid safety of getting the ball away from the danger area, for the hazardous pick-up, the tight manoeuvre and the hope of the huge hit away downfield. Don't most of those Wexfordmen love to “banish” a ball!

Of Wexford down the years it has been often their defenders who have caught the eye: Bobby and Billie Rackard, Nick O'Donnell, John Nolan, and nowadays, Dan Quigley, Tom Neville, Willie Murphy and Vin Staples—and in spite of outstanding performances by them, it is almost always found that the opposition has registered a respectable, sometimes big score. In other teams it would be cause enough to condemn the whole back-line. With Wexford it merely explains why

● TO PAGE 7

SHELL



***Jim could run like a bat out of h . . .
And kick most amazingly well,
But the ref took his name
Ere the end of the game
For powering his footwear with Shell.***

GOOD MILEAGE —



● FROM PAGE 5

they play so attractively as a team—an open game with little of the grim destructiveness of less attractive sides.

As things stand this year, it is almost a foregone conclusion that this will be a high scoring game. At least four of the Tipperary forwards are in first-class form; they will get chances and will capitalise on them. But, Wexford have a promising line in their attack, too, backed up by the dynamism of Phil Wilson at centre-field, so they will also have sufficient opportunity to worry the life out of the Tip-

perary defence; and if there is still the slightest hint of suspicion about that defence, Wexford are just the men to find the doubt.



Willie Murphy



Paul Lynch



John Quigley



Christy Jacob

perary defence; and if there is still the slightest hint of suspicion about that defence, Wexford are just the men to find the doubt. Midfield must play an important part in this All-Ireland final, because neither team could be considered to have an established partnership. Tipperary have been playing Donie Nealon here only reluctantly; he is not as young as he was, and then his punch in attack is missed, too. Of course, P. J. Ryan has come on a ton, and stands on the threshold of an impressive career; but, no one man can hold the midfield alone indefinitely.

Now Wexford have been in the grip of the devil about this sector also; a year ago, and less, it looked as though Phil Wilson was to continue his career as a left-wing forward, that he was

relieved of the midfield job. This was, of course, impossibly sanguine, for in my opinion Wilson is one of the very best midfielders in the game, and, further, that there is something in his make-up which indicates he was born to the position. For one thing, few teams could ever afford not to tap to the full his wonderful resources of stamina and sheer joy of living in the thick of things. One remembers the manner in which he ran all over the park against Kilkenny just when everyone else was tiring. If sometimes his solo-runs seem circuitous, they have

the great advantage of driving the opposition to distraction. But, by the time Wilson returned to midfield he found no one established there. In Phil's absence from the side, Dave Bernie and Eamon Buggy did duty somewhat inadequately when opposed by sheer class as represented by Des Foley of Dublin. In the Leinster final against Kilkenny Wilson was partnered by Bernie, but it was not until Paul Lynch was dropped back into centre-field that some satisfaction was achieved. But borrowing from Peter to pay Paul (pardon the pun) is not such a happy situation for Wexford any more than for Tipperary. Taking Lynch from attack would mean the loss of the most effective attacker, one who has had a big part in most of Wexford's important victories in the last two or three

years.

In midfield then, parallel problems exist. Pat Nolan must be expected to improve on his Leinster final inconsistency, for otherwise he will not equal the soundness of John O'Donoghue. The Wexford defence, sometimes a little ponderous and vulnerable to quick shifts of play must be given as good a chance against Tipperary's attack as that of Tipperary against the Wexford forwards. But, while there may be a doubt about McLoughlin's effectiveness and a problem about McKenna or his substitute, Wexford, on the whole, have many more imponderables in their line.

Jimmy O'Brien, the most skilled and crafty of all will be relied upon to snatch some of those special points of his from the wing, and one must expect his selection in the half-line this time.

Paul Lynch will be looked to for his accuracy from the frees and, if at centre-forward, for the pivotal drive of the line. The others, quite frankly, have to establish their real big-time form—John Quigley, a mere youth though wonderfully endowed, Christy Jacob, Jack Berry, Tony Doran, Seamus Whelan . . . all hurlers of known quality, but yet without roots in the Wexford team.

Doran has had a good season and is the nearest to establishment; Jacob has had his vicissitudes, Berry is strong and courageous. But what will they produce in the final?

Again, you see, Wexford are loaded with little niggling doubts; Tipperary are sure that they are good even at moderate form. Tipperary should be the favourites. But that has always been the time when Wexford play best. It looks as if my friend is right:

"Wexford are playing—it will be a good game".

For
particular
people





Mick Roche



P. J. Ryan



Matt Stapleton

By JIM BENNETT

Tipperary are back where they belong . . .

TIPPERARY are back where all Tipp. men will tell you they belong—in the All-Ireland final. Down that country, being Munster champions is not just a happening, it is more a way of life: aggressively they insist on their right of conquest; can never quite understand it when they are beaten; cannot conceive of any other county having much of a chance of beating their best.

And in the last fifteen or twenty years they have had the background to prove their superiority complex. Three or four times in that period they have produced teams which have been classed by the experts among the greatest ever. As their era drew to a close the same experts predicted for each a period of transition before the next climax; each time the team has refused to lie down and die like

the old soldier. Miraculously a new generation has knit with the old and another great team has taken over.

Now, it seems to have happened again. The curious thing is that Tipperary folk are bothered no end about the dearth of decent minors in the county—a county which was the very home of minor hurling for years and years. In recent times they have failed to field even a presentable minor side; yet, there are the young fellows in their early twenties ready to take their places in the country senior line-up and hold their own with the best in the country.

Of course, Tipperary have made an impression in the under-21 grade since its inception, but, at that stage, they are made players with little but experience to add to their skill. At the con-

clusion of last year's All-Ireland final there were not many who would seriously have given a chance to Tipperary to produce another star team this year. The old men—Doyle, Wall, English, McLoughlin—were surely beyond it, unable to reach their old form and probable candidates for retirement; and there were others—McKenna, Jimmy Doyle, Kieran Carey—at least doubtful, mainly on physical fitness grounds.

Then there was Mick Roche, who had lost his dominance in the midfield area, against whom a question mark would have had to be put, with another after the name of Mick Burns in view of his injury in the final just when long lost youthful form had returned to him.

Picking up the pieces was a

● TO PAGE 61

SEE THE HURLING AND FOOTBALL FINALS

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Michael Keating

TOP TEN

FOR his display in the Munster final against Cork, and again in the All-Ireland semi-final against Longford, Mick O'Connell of Kerry tops our football ratings this month. John Keenan of Galway takes a close second place while Pat Griffin of Kerry is only a 'shade' away, third.

Michael Keating's performance in Tipperary's Munster final victory over Cork makes him an obvious choice to head the hurling list.

FOOTBALL

- 1—M. O'Connell (Kerry)
- 2—J. Keenan (Galway)
- 3—P. Griffin (Kerry)
- 4—J. Lennon (Down)
- 5—Donie O'Sullivan ... (Kerry)
- 6—P. Doherty (Down)
- 7—J. Devine (Longford)
- 8—J. Hanniffy (Longford)
- 9—J. Duggan (Galway)
- 10—B. Lynch (Kerry)

HURLING

- 1—M. Keating (Tipperary)
- 2—M. Roche (Tipperary)
- 3—P. J. Ryan (Tipperary)
- 4—V. Staples (Wexford)
- 5—P. Moran (Kilkenny)
- 6—P. Lynch (Wexford)
- 7—J. O'Sullivan (Cork)
- 8—N. Skehan (Kilkenny)
- 9—C. McCarthy (Cork)
- 10—P. Barry (Cork)

FORM POINTS TO TIPPERARY

*But a victory for
Wexford would
be a wonderful
fillip for hurling*

RECENT hurling history and form both point to a Tipperary victory over Wexford in the All-Ireland Final. But at the same time one cannot approach the game in a dogmatic frame of mind. There are two results in the past decade or so that make for a cautious approach.

The one that no one can forget, of course, is the now-famous 1956 League Final when Tipperary turned over with a fifteen-point lead after playing with the gale-force breeze in the first half, only to be beaten in the end by four points.

Then there was the 1960 All-Ireland Final when Tipperary, after winning a memorable Munster Final against Cork at Thurles, went down to a surprising defeat in the All-Ireland. Tim Flood being the man of the match for the Wexford men.

Wexford might have won again in 1962. In eighty seconds they were two goals down, first Tom Moloughney found the net after Donie Nealon had blocked down a side-line cut from Liam Devaney, and then a weak puck-out by Nick O'Donnell, such a rare occurrence for him, led to a goal by John McLoughlin.

But Wexford fought back magnificently to level, went four points behind again, and then

**By
RAYMOND
SMITH**

levelled through Jimmy O'Brien (goal) and Billy Rackard (point from a seventy). Ned Wheeler put Wexford a point up and Croke Park erupted into a crescendo of cheering. Tipperary levelled — and again Wexford were in front with a point from a free by Padge Kehoe. Tim Flood made it a two points lead.

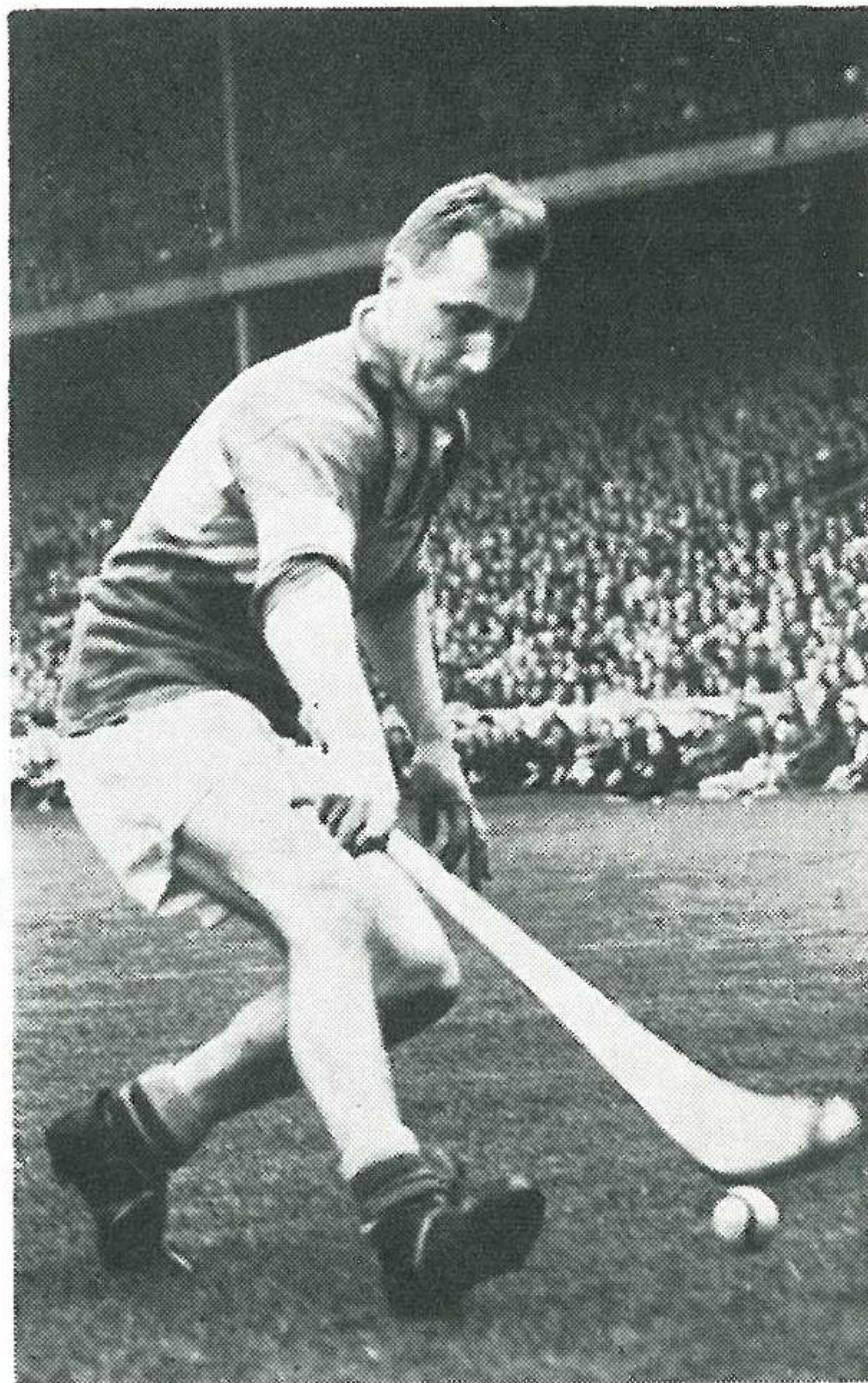
At this crucial stage, with ten minutes to go and the McCarthy Cup seemingly within their grasp, Wexford suffered a crushing blow when Billy Rackard slipped as he moved to intercept the ball; it broke to 'Mackey' McKenna fifty yards out and he went through on a glorious defence-splitting run, passing at the right moment

to Tom Ryan of Killenaule (now with Clare) and he finished it to the net for the decisive goal. Padge Kehoe equalised from a free but Donie Nealon and John McLoughlin pointed for Tipperary. Then Paul Lynch, from a pass by Tim Flood blazed narrowly wide in an effort for the winning goal, Tipperary surviving by 3-10 (19) to 2-11 (17).

That was the finest Final seen in Croke Park in the present decade.

Since that game the pendulum has swung in the games that matter towards Tipperary. Tipperary gave what I have always felt was their most impressive

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LIAM DEVANEY



**TRAVEL
THE
TEXACO
WAY!**

ALL other things being equal, as they say, the good big 'un will beat the good little 'un. That's as boxing goes. Very often it is the way hurling goes, too. But, though the big 'un may prevail, the sympathies lie with the little 'un. The emotions which the good hurlers of great strength and massive proportions evoke are more awe and admiration and, in the opposition's followers a grudging fear.



The man who was made for full forward

**DAN
QUIGLEY**

Dan Quigley is big and he plays like a big man; he is a little slow, a little ponderous and some of his turns are as ungainly as an articulated lorry-trailer. But, he makes the crowd gasp. He consistently provides those moments of grandeur which surprise no matter how often you have seen them before. The controlled giant-strength which swings into those enormous hits that travel three-quarters of the field's length; the Samson-power with which he surges through crowded goal areas to block and clear an attack; the great heaving frees

which land points from positions which the normal hurler would consider purely defensive.

But like most big men he is a quiet man, possessing the strength but never throwing his great weight about; if fault could be found it is that he is not assertive enough, like a man walking carefully among clustered chicks.

But, there is also a mystique which attaches to Quigley, the eldest of an illustrious hurling dynasty, for he is the living, breathing, purple and gold jerseyed link with Wexford's heroes—the team of big men who

brought the county its glory. Quigley is the reincarnation for the sentimental and the link for those who dream dreams with the Rackards, O'Donnell, Jim Morrissey, the Keohoes, big men of controlled power who brought into hurling from the late forties a totally new dimension.

Dan Quigley, however, has not had a settled time in Wexford's defence—from corner-back to centreback to full-back, out to centre-back again, and again to corner-back. For centre-back he is a little ponderous, for the corner a little confined, for full-back he was just not suited. There are few things more stimulating than to see him break up an attack and race out to clear with one of his enormous deliveries. If only he could settle permanently so that he might concentrate totally on developing his play there, he must be able to catch the imagination still further.

And, yet, it strikes me that some of this inability to make the centre-back position his own special preserve—for it surely is the place where he would be best suited—springs from the man's own situation. He would need to be fitter, less encumbered by weight, more lithe. For his own better form and the good of the game one would like to see him lose some weight and sharpen his movements in training. Then surely, he would have all the necessary qualities for centre-back.

And, yet, it is curious that Wexford have never tried Quigley in the role which, I think, would suit him best of all—the role played years ago by Nick Rackard, the thundering irresistible full-forward. Quigley has the great weight and power; he has the immense force of shot,

● TO PAGE 15

win, lose or draw

Everybody wants to win... nobody wants to lose and a draw means that you have only a fifty-fifty chance of surviving next time out.

Life is exactly like that; everybody wants to win but remember the old saying "It's tough at the top." The only sure way of getting to the top for you

and your family is by starting a regular savings plan and sticking to it. So get into training now... put something aside week by week or month by month and no matter how the team fares you'll always be on the winning side.

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● FROM PAGE 13

some of the ability to brush past men while carrying the ball on a solo. Above all he has that which causes the greatest disadvantage to full-backs—bulk. They hate the big man because they can hardly get a look at the play or the ball coming towards them; big men who use their size as a screen drive full-backs to the distraction of playing the ball almost by ear.

Wexford were reluctant to part with the pivotal, powerful full-forward, for their structure of play had been designed with that in view—they had Ned Wheeler there in the 1962 final against Tipperary, and right well I can recall the damage he caused and the manner in which he strained the nerves of the opposing defence to breaking point. Lately, others have been picking up the threads; Tony Doran, a good and useful full-forward is making the place his own, but he will never have the galvanic influence on his team which Rackard and, to a lesser degree, Wheeler could have.

I have always had a feeling that Dan Quigley would have been able to continue the pattern of play which was familiar to his county. I wonder that he was never seriously persuaded to apply himself to the full-forward position. He has the hurling for a forward, he is quick enough in a close exchange, and a little sharper mobility and reaction would come with practice—yes, he must reap a huge harvest as an attacker.

It leads one to the thought that it looks like a universal prejudice that the big men are automatically cast in the role of defenders even before they have shown any personal tendency; and the little ones in the role of attackers. How many have never reached their potential because they were satisfied with mediocrity in some early-chosen position.

A new Award for hero of Hurling Final

WHILE the thirty players on All-Ireland hurling final day will be striving tooth and nail for the Celtic medals, one of them will also earn for himself the Tommy McCarthy Trophy. The recipient may be a member of either team and the panel of judges will be thirty-four youths from the hillside village of Kilfinane in County Limerick. The story behind the trophy makes interesting reading.

Kilfinane is steeped in the Gaelic tradition. It was a team from the district which brought Limerick its first All-Ireland hurling title, but in recent times Gaelic games had declined and, in fact, no club existed in the parish.

When Leitrim-born Sgt. Mick Fox took up duty in the district he set about remedying the situation. His plans met with immediate success. He entered teams in all grades of hurling and football in the South Lime-

rick championships and they reached four finals.

Then, in mid-summer, one of Kilfinane's greatest hurlers, Tommy McCarthy, full-back on the Limerick All-Ireland team of 1934 and 1936, died in New York and the club decided to perpetuate his memory. And so Sgt. Fox came up with the idea of a trophy on All-Ireland final day.

The thirty-four youths will travel from Kilfinane to Croke Park, where they will be accommodated in the special enclosure. They will view the game and later vote for the player of their choice. The over all winner will receive the Tommy McCarthy trophy at an Irish night in Kilfinane later in September.

An interesting side-light to the trophy is that it will not be awarded again until a Limerick team appears in an All-Ireland hurling final. God speed the day!

THE LATE TOM KILCOYNE

WITH the rest of Gaeldom, the management and staff of Gaelic Sport mourn the passing of Tom Kilcoyne of Sligo. As one G.A.A. writer put it on the day after his death—the Association has lost one of its most gracious officials.

We, in this magazine, can endorse that tribute. We were frequently in contact with the late Connacht and Sligo Secretary over the past ten years and we knew him and admired him as an able and shrewd administrator (as his long service testifies) but, above all, as a man of courtesy and gentility—a gentleman.

He came of a great Gaelic family and his whole life was spent in the service of the cause he loved.

He was for thirty-three years Secretary of the Connacht Council and Secretary-Treasurer of the Sligo Co. Board for ten years more than that. He was also Sligo's delegate on the Central Council, and, at the time of his death, the longest-serving member of that body.

He had the distinction of travelling to the United States as assistant to the late Pádraig Ó Caoimh in the summer of 1947 to finalise arrangements for the All-Ireland football final in the Polo Grounds, New York, that year; and he acted as an umpire at the historic Cavan-Kerry game.

To his widow and family we offer our deep sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



LIMERICK MAN IN GOAL FOR TIPPERARY



John O'Donoghue prefers football!

A LIMERICK man in goal for Tipperary in this year's All-Ireland final—YES, it's true. The slender, black-haired culbair, John O'Donoghue who guards the net for the Premier County, was born in Galbally. The family moved to Tipperary town early in his youth and John has become "one of our own" in his adopted county.

He joined Arravale Rovers and has figured prominently with this club ever since, but his only honour gained with the Rovers was a county minor football championship medal. One of his proud possessions is a Harty Cup medal, won with Abbey C.B.S. (Tipperary) in 1959—the school's only success in this great competition.

During his term at U.C.C. he won two Fitzgibbon Cup medals and a Cork senior championship in both hurling and football. His trophies also include an All-Ireland Minor hurling medal, two Senior All-Ireland medals, three Munster Senior medals, three National Leagues and two Oireachtas awards.

He has represented Tipperary in football also and was captain of his county's minor teams in both codes in 1960. He is the only Tipperary town player ever to win an All-Ireland Senior hurling medal.

John, who joined the Tipperary senior team in the 1963/'64 season runs his own insurance broker's business in Tipperary. Recently I dropped in for a chat with the

genial goalkeeper and it went as follows:—

Murphy—A goalkeeper's task is a difficult one, John; do you enjoy playing between the posts?

O'Donoghue—I have played all my hurling as a goalkeeper and have enjoyed every moment of it. Of course, you must have good protection from your backs; otherwise inrushing forwards can be a menace.

M.—During your career, who was the best hurler you saw?

O'D.—Without a doubt, the best back was Tony Wall of Tipperary, whose displays in the 1964 championship will be long remembered. Tommy Walsh (Kilkenny) was the most dangerous forward I encountered while I also sampled some of Christy Ring's wiliness and artistry during my days with U.C.C.

M.—What game gave you your greatest thrill?

O'D.—This year's League final against Kilkenny. As you know, Tipperary were down and out after their All-Ireland defeat in September last and we had a score to settle. The lads went all out and you know the result.

M.—To what do you attribute Tipperary's great comeback after last year's reverse and the retirement of several key players?

O'D.—Chiefly the unity among the players. There is no friction. We are like one happy family. Then you had the ability of the new players to fit into the team and finally you

An interview
with
Sean Murphy

had the spirit and will to win among all concerned.

M.—How do you rate your chances against Wexford?

O'D.—First of all let me say I enjoy playing against Wexford. They are a grand bunch of players and have the happy knack of always bringing the best out of Tipperary. It should be a thrilling final. Now to your question. It is very hard to forecast the outcome of the final. On form, we should have their measure and we will, of course, be firm favourites. But Tipperary folk remember 1960 when Wexford confounded the critics by trouncing our highly-rated team.

M.—What do you reckon to be Wexford's strong point?

O'D.—They have a great back line, but one consolation for Tipperary is that they will be opposed by our sheet-anchor—our forward division. However, John Flanagan is a big loss here as a team always needs a utility player.

M.—Any comment to make on All-Ireland final day?

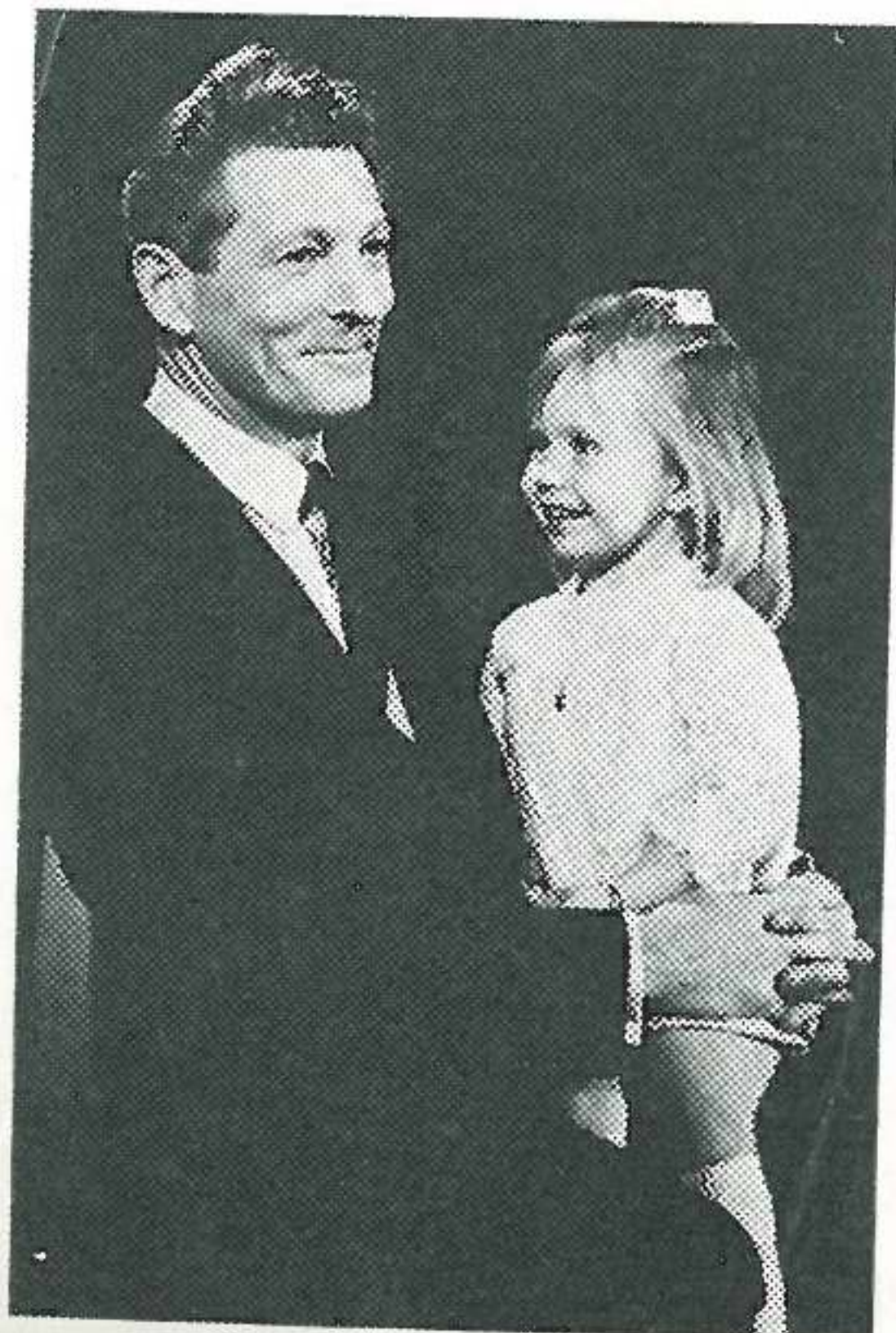
O'D.—I am glad of this opportunity to make a suggestion which I think is well worth carrying out. Why not organise a visit by the All-Ireland champions to the children's hospitals and orphanages around Dublin on the day after the match. I know the G.A.A. is against sponsorship, but surely some firm would be only too glad to sponsor gifts for distribution among the children. Imagine the joy of a young boy who

TO PAGE 58



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*Is hurling
weakened
by Tipperary's
strength?*

NONSENSE

SAYS EAMONN YOUNG

"IF Tipperary win this Munster final, it will be the finish of hurling".

The Limerickman who said this to me on that glorious sunny day in mid-July believed every word of it. Tipperary had been on top for years, he told me, and then two years ago his own county caught them and we all thought the Blue and Gold was finished.

Yet back they came again and almost won another All-Ireland. The defeat by Kilkenny showed a lot of us wishful thinkers that the days of Tipperary's greatness were over. How wrong we were may be proved in Croke Park on September 1 when once again the hurlers of Tipperary take on resurgent Wexford.

Tipperary won that Munster final my Limerick friend was worried about and Tipperary may win the All-Ireland of 1968. And still I don't think that this alone will finish hurling.

What has Limerick won over the years? No All-Ireland since that last gasp of Mick Mackey and company twenty-eight years ago. Is hurling gone in Clare, where they still sing of Tommy Daly and the wind-swept hills of Tulla?

Have Waterford and Galway thrown away the sticks? The answer is a very definite "No", which shows that not on All-Irelands alone doth hurlers and hurling live.

Did professional boxing go to the wall just because a quiet-spoken negro named Joe Louis strode the scene like the sporting colossus he was? No, in fact the prestige of professional boxing

was never higher than when champions like Louis dominated the scene.

Surely mile running was never healthier than when Herb Elliot was running all comers into the ground.

Wouldn't it be ridiculous to suggest that Golden Miller or Arkle did harm to horse-racing?

Tipperary are on top at the moment, or very near it, yet the county hasn't won every All-Ireland in recent years. In fact in the last twenty championships the Blue and Gold has come on top eight times to Cork's four, Wexford's and Kilkenny's three and Waterford's two.

In the previous twenty championships Tipperary could win only three (in 1930, '37 and '45) while Cork won eight. Wouldn't the country be forgiven for saying in 1947 that hurling was finished because Jack Lynch,

Alan Lotty and company had been playing in almost every hurling All-Ireland for the previous nine years?

Yet I don't remember hearing anyone of significance saying in those days that Cork was killing hurling. I do remember the dejection of the followers of beaten teams and the sad admission that 'the Cork fellas are too good'. Yet they didn't haul down the flag.

We in Cork were badly beaten in this Munster final and the dejection was almost complete when the game was over. I saw a man who had hurled a fairly successful hour for the county that day walking away on his own from a bunch of friends because they had hardly spoken a word to him.

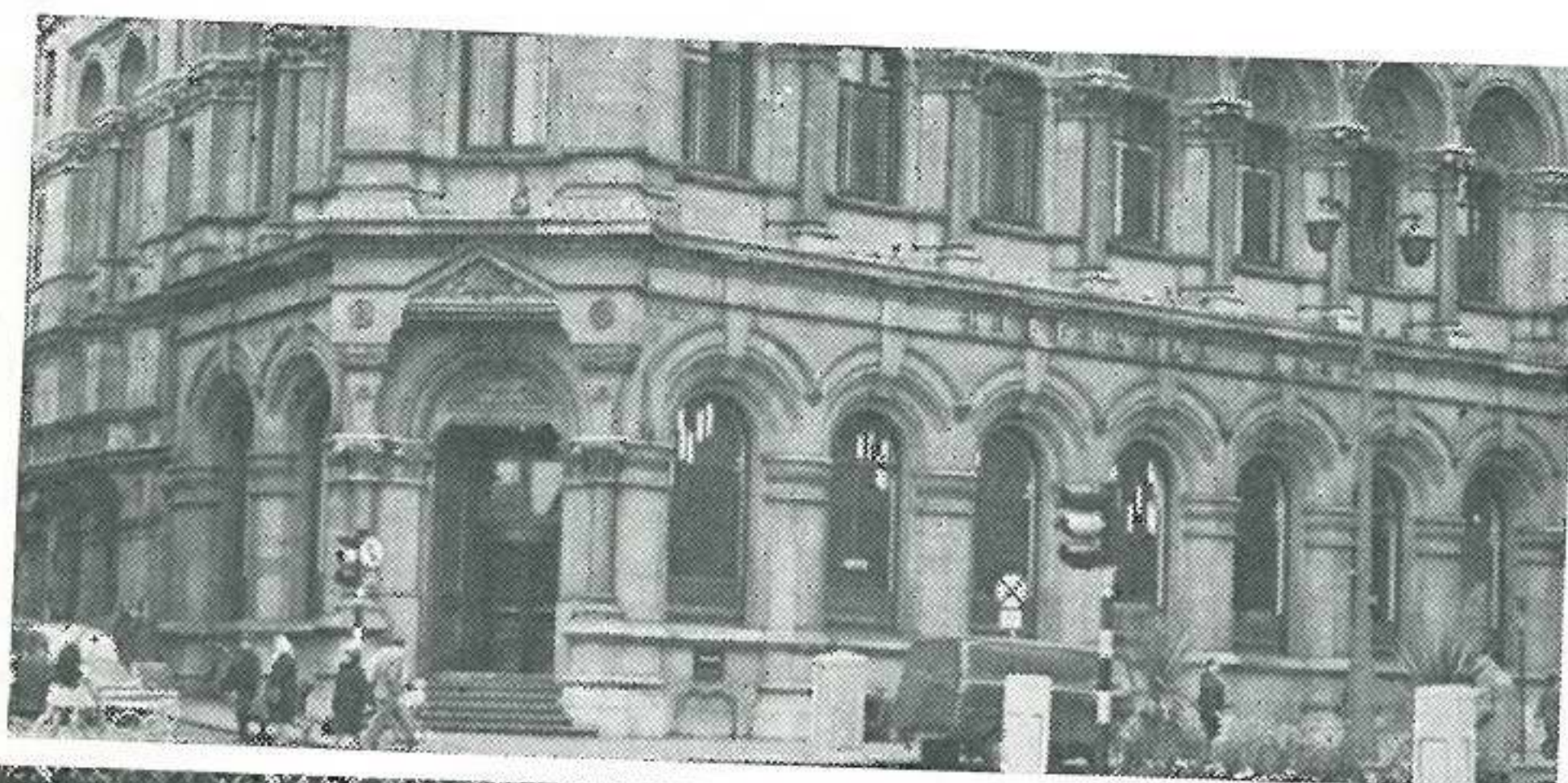
I was in a pub having a quiet, sad drink on my own, when the Cork crowd poured in after the game. There was hardly a word. The drinks were called quietly and the heads were down. No word spoken.

When the black tide with the white froth was within two inches of the bottom there was an odd murmur and by the time the second pint was half finished they were beginning to talk.

"Wasn't so-and-so hopeless?" "Are the hurlers all gone, or what?" "It's no use, we just haven't the stuff".

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CAN HURLING DECLINE BE HALTED?

I met a leading Tipperary priest at the Munster Final—a great worker in the cause of the hurling revival—and he was very perturbed concerning the present position of our oldest and most distinctive national game.

He agreed that a limited degree of success had been achieved in introducing hurling to areas where it was not extensively practised in the past and that the special hurling competitions for the weaker counties had produced some results.

He insisted, however, that the real danger to the game lurked in the traditional districts and he was emphatic that it was going downhill at an alarming rate in many places where it formerly flourished.

The reasons for this are not easily pinpointed. Hurling was strongest in its heyday in the rural areas and some of the greatest clubs and players the game has known were associated with rural Ireland. It was one of the simple pleasures of an easy-going people and became closely

entwined in the traditions of the area.

The pace has quickened appreciably in recent years and with it profound changes in rural Ireland. The flight from the land has depopulated the countryside whilst the coming into general use of the motor car has changed the entire pattern of life. Many young people are now travelling considerable distances daily to their places of employment and this sometimes drastically reduces their time for recreation. The motor car, too, has made us lazy, and considerably fewer are to be found anxious to spend their leisure time at the strenuous pastime of hurling.

There is no doubt about the fact that our young people are demanding a higher standard of living and are not satisfied with the old ways. I remember a sage old Gael, the late Johnny Leahy, once remarking that prosperity would kill the G.A.A., and I often wonder whether he was nearer the mark than we realised at the time.

Prosperity has certainly made profound changes in rural Ireland and many with a hankering for the old ways can be pardoned for not being over-enthusiastic about these changes. Today's youth are seeking their pleasures far from the old haunts and many feel it is a bad sign that the commercial dance halls can draw their patrons from anywhere within a forty miles radius.

The G.A.A. has made remarkable progress in recent years in the securing of playing fields and most worthwhile parishes are now well supplied in this regard. The real pity, however, is that more use is not being made of these pitches.

I think this is the kernel of the entire problem and that any effort to stem the hurling decline must be centred on the parish pitch. The youth must be got back to the playing fields and in the times in which we live a new approach has to be made to this whole problem.

The G.A.A. has shamefully neglected the social side and if it continues to do so its doom is sealed. Parish clubs must tackle at once the question of making their grounds the social hub of the district. They must encourage the girls to come along and play camogie; the boys hurling and football; and, in addition, extra room must be found for a tennis court and a pitch and putt course.

A well equipped pavilion is an absolute essential and it should have a comfortable and spacious room where dances and other social functions could be held. I think a licence is essential. Golf clubs and sports pavilions associated with other games cater for any of their members who like a drink and I don't think this

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Captain talks of

Wexford's plans

SO Wexford and Tipperary are due to battle it out once again for the McCarthy Cup. The funny thing about all this is that these counties seem to have a set arrangement (if you'll forgive the thought) to meet in the final every three years or so, like, for instance, 1965, when Tipperary won, and 1962 when the Munster side won again.

But you can take it from me that Wexford are going to make amends for those two defeats and if leap-year luck is anything to go on, they could be repeating their 1960 success over Tipperary.

Right in there to seal all inroads to goal is that big, strong man from Rathnure, Dan Quigley. Dan will have the added responsibility of captaincy this year, just like another famed Rathnure man, Billy Rackard, who captained the side in the 1962 final.

Let it be said here and now that Dan Quigley is maintaining that very high standard set by Rackard ever since he took over from his famed clubmate when brilliant Billy decided to call it a day.

So in order to get an insight into Wexford's plans for the final I had the following interview with Dan Quigley.

O'DONNELL—How does it feel to be back in the final?

QUIGLEY—It feels great. There is a fine spirit in Wexford at the moment. Everyone, and that includes over thirty players, minor

and senior who are very enthusiastic about it all. We will do our best not to disappoint them.

O'D. — What are Wexford's chances in the final?

Q. — We hope to win it.

O'D. — You sound very confident, Dan, but is this present team as good as the Wexford sides of 1955-56 when they won the All-Irelands, powered by the Rackard brothers, Nick O'Donnell and many more stars of that era?

Q. — It is hard to compare two teams. The present side is much younger and certainly less experienced than the '55 and '56 teams, and don't forget that Wexford were also in the final in 1954, which left them three years playing together in a row.

O'D. — To what do you attribute Wexford's comeback?

Q. — I don't think Wexford have ever had to make a comeback; they were always there and although not in the All-Ireland final for three years, it is true to say that we have been appearing in the Leinster final every year for some time now.

O'D. — Looking back on the Leinster final, do you believe Wexford were a shade lucky to beat Kilkenny?

Q. — You could say that we were lucky in the end. But again I think Kilkenny were very lucky to be so near us. I feel those two goals they got made them look better than they were. They sort of caught us nap-

ping as it were.

O'D. — What did you think of Kilkenny in the Leinster final?

Q. — I thought that, under the circumstances, they played very well, indeed. Their handicap of having to play without Ollie Walsh and Martin Coogan must have had a serious psychological effect on the team as a whole.

O'D. — How will you train for the final?

Q. — I intend to train very hard for this final, as I mentioned the enthusiasm is just great at the moment in Wexford and I expect to be in training at least two to three evenings per week.

O'D. — What memories do you hold from past experience in the Wexford colours, minor and senior?

Q. — Looking back I can recall some wonderful memories, but I also had my disappointments. Let's take the memories first. My most memorable experience was when we beat Kilkenny in 1965 in the Leinster final. But disappointments were on their way when we crashed to Tipperary in both League and Championship.

O'D. — You also play football—would you prefer it to hurling?

Q. — No. Hurling is my favourite, although football does make a nice change now and again. However, I suppose it is really which game you get used to and I have always played more hurling than football.

IN AN INTERVIEW

WITH

SEAN O'DONNELL

O'D. — How did you first become interested in hurling?

Q. — We always hurled among ourselves in the locality and as Wexford were doing pretty well at that time it was a great encouragement to us.

O'D. — This prompts me to ask you if you have ideas on how to attract more boys to play hurling?

Q. — I would like to suggest to former players to take more interest in promoting the game when they, themselves, have retired, I feel that they could have a tremendous influence on young lads if they were present at juvenile games in their districts.

O'D. — Hurling has become very controversial lately as a result of its rough play, flared tempers and the inevitable injury which results. What is your answer to combat all this?

Q. — Well, for a start I would abolish automatic suspension and, instead, when a player is put off let it only be for that day. In this way I feel that a referee could put a player off for less than at present and I am sure more referees would not hesitate to send a player to the line more often than at present.

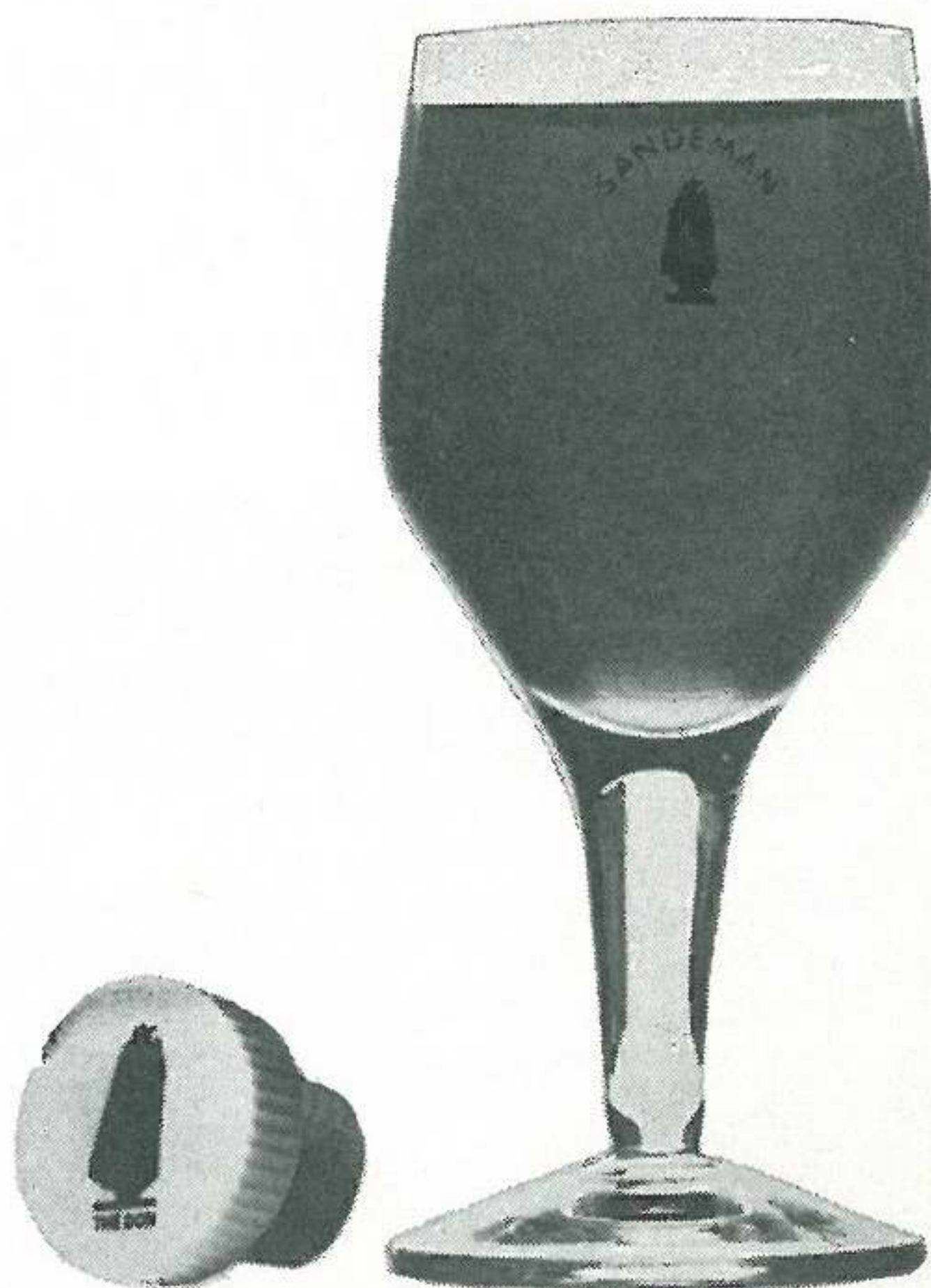
O'D. — A final question, Dan. Have you any other sporting interests or hobbies apart from Gaelic games?

Q. — Yes, I am a great lover of handball and shooting, that is, whenever I have time to devote to either!

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Séamus
O Riain

The wind of change

By Dan McAreavy



THE wind of change is blowing strongly through the hitherto conservative corridors of the G.A.A.

That, in essence, must be the reaction to the widely-publicised snippets of the Central Council discussions on the recommendations made by the special five-man reorganisation committee.

With "major shake-up on the way" a popular banner headline, with the heartening words of President Seamus Ryan—"it is not a case of whether we can afford to go so far, as can we afford not to"—to give urgency to the deliberations, and with a general "pro-change" feeling in the air, the Association could be on the threshold of the most exciting chapter in its history.

By the time this article appears something concrete may have emerged but, as yet, the whole position seems fluid with few definite guide-lines firmly established.

However I don't believe we can hope for radical changes immediately—the G.A.A. doesn't work like that—and there will be much compromising between the "Conservatives" and "Progressives"—I use the terms loosely and not in any spirit of denigration of sincerely-held views—before the new-look policy is finally hammered out.

My great worry is that things will become so bogged down on the question of organisers—the

extending of Croke Park staff is a comparatively simple matter—that at the end of the day the mountain will in fact produce the proverbial mouse.

Personally I believe there is a danger of the Central Council building from the top and presenting a structure in which the foliage will be awe-inspiring until the roots are inspected.

Why is there so much talk of "top" men when the crying need is for direct assistance for the counties and, even more so, for the clubs?

To me, it seems obvious that the greatest boost which the Association could be given would be the appointment of a full-time secretary in each county whose duty it would be—at a salary attractive enough to interest the right man — to develop every facet of the organisation within his territory.

It will always remain a mystery how these key officers absorb the work with which they are saddled and hints of clerical assistance are welcome but are simply not enough.

Already I hear outraged voices shriek "what about the money?" My answer is simple: The progress made in a county under a professional administration would repay the outlay several times over with clubs given a new lead by being really the vital cog in the machine which has always been claimed for them.

I don't believe the great money-raising potential of the Association has really been tapped and re-organisation—unless it is dis-organisation—will certainly lead to increased income.

When I speak of a "professional" administration I am not casting the slightest aspersion on our present crop of county secretaries. In fact I would be very happy to see them joining the paid ranks in the new set-up.

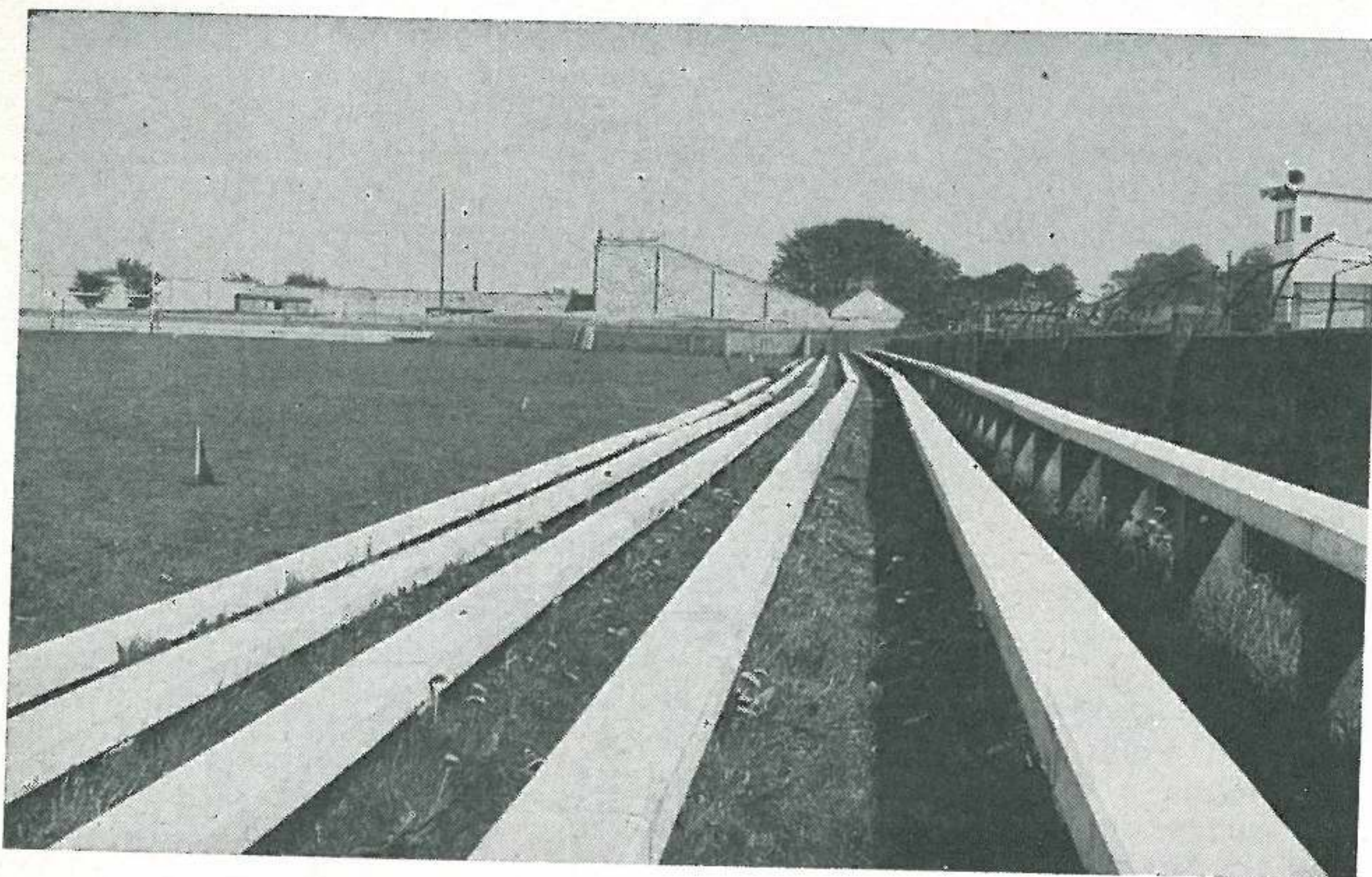
They would then have the time to exploit the talent which through no fault of their own is being cramped at the moment.

The grass-roots — very badly neglected, in my opinion, in recent years—would get a much-needed injection instead of the great amount of energy at present expended on less beneficial enterprises.

The idea of a full-time president and four full-time provincial secretaries as suggested by the Down chairman Paddy O'Donoghue also appeals to me but, in my view,, such a group could only be acceptable if it were to act as a kind of cabinet for the county secretaries under them—otherwise it would just be another committee of which we have far too many.

I am certain that the Central Council will not—at this stage—adopt the idea of a full-time secretary in each county but I am equally certain that some day it will.

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MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

SO it's Wexford and Tipperary to meet again in the All-Ireland hurling final of 1968, their fifth such clash in modern times. Tipperary won in 1950, 1962 and 1965; Wexford had one solitary victory, in 1960.

Now, the All-Ireland hurling final has always, in the past, been looked forward to as the most glamorous event of the hurling year, and I must say that I for one, look forward to this game as a match that could well bring a great deal of the glamour back that has been missing ever since 1962.

I know a lot of people may disagree with that statement, but I intend to stand by it just the same, and, maybe, prove my contention as well.

For high excitement, the Kilkenny v. Waterford final of 1963 takes whacking, and Eddie Keher's feat that day in scoring fourteen points is unlikely ever to be equalled; but you have only to look at the amazingly high scoring by both teams in that game to realise, now that the excitement has cooled, that the defensive standard was also amazingly poor.

The following year saw a dour game between Kilkenny and Tipperary. Tipperary won well, but somehow, for me, there was an air of tension that hung, however imperceptibly, over the scene.

In the 1965 final, although Tipperary and Wexford met again, the glamour was definitely missing as the Tipperary boys marched to unexpectedly easy victory. In 1966 all was set for

a real return of glamour, for those great rivals of old, Cork and Kilkenny, met in the decider. But again, at the end, one felt something was lacking.

And that despite the wonderful enthusiasm with which the overjoyed Cork supporters greeted their side's long-awaited and well-earned victory.

Last year's final, again between Kilkenny and Tipperary, had knife-edge rivalry, and will live long in Noreside memories for two reasons, victory over their Tipperary neighbours in a senior All-Ireland final for the first time since 1922, and the sad accident that ended in its early bloom Tom Walsh's brilliant hurling career.

But again, this was a grim and determined encounter, and of the glamour of, say, the 1931, 1935, 1946, 1947, 1956, 1960 or 1962 finals it had little to show.

Yet, time was when, both in attendance and glamour, the hurling final was a close rival to the football decider. Nobody who views the situation objectively would deny that football has long ago taken over the leadership, and the hurling final is now definitely the lesser event of the two.

And the reason for that is simple enough. In the last ten finals only six counties, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Cork and Dublin have played. Four out of five finals have been between either Wexford or Kilkenny and Tipperary. Tipperary reached seven of the last ten finals. Kilkenny five and Wexford four, Waterford played

only in two and Cork and Dublin in just one each.

How different the position in football. In the last ten years as many counties have reached the All-Ireland final, even though the period covers Galway's long reign. Moreover, the list covers a very wide area. Down, Kerry, Cork Galway, Dublin, Roscommon, Meath, Derry, Offaly—and some of them are very much Johnny-come-latelies to the world of first-class football.

Add on Mayo, Cavan, Kildare, Longford and Laois, and it is easy to see how fresh teams so often bring fresh glamour to the football championship. What are the hopes of reviving the full glamour of the hurling finals to match the crowd-pulling attractions of the football deciders?

The first requisite, of course, is new blood in the finals. Now, it is no fault of Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford that these counties have appeared in so many finals in recent years. No, the fault lies, surely, with the other first-class hurling counties, who have in recent years been lacking in the consistency of the three already named.

Cork, Waterford, Clare, Galway and Dublin must improve their all-round standards if we are to have the variety in the All-Ireland finals that must be the first consideration in adding interest; but something more than variety is required to bring the overflow crowds and the full glamour back to the All-Ireland hurling final scene.

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

But it is not all that easy to ensure even the needed variety as long as the senior hurling championship continues to be run in two unchanging and seemingly unchangeable sections, which are exactly what the Leinster and Munster championships amount to at the moment.

So, it seems to me that the first step towards reviving country-wide interest in the whole senior hurling championship is to introduce the open draw. This would at least ensure the much-needed variety and would almost certainly ensure new faces in the All-Ireland finals.

Meanwhile, back to the current final. Tipperary, on their form since winning the League at home and shattering New York's ambitions abroad have been solidly impressive. They were far too good both for Cork and for Clare in the Munster final and semi-final respectively.

In both instances, they showed their power after the interval and it therefore seems Wexford, if they are to win this one, will need to be well ahead at half-time.

The Wexford-men may have been just a trifle lucky to get past Kilkenny by a single point in the Leinster final, but they showed their power when really swamping the understrength Noremen in the subsequent Walsh Cup final.

Kilkenny, one feels, were then upset by early injuries and 'soft' scores against them, but even so, Wexford's scoring power could not be doubted and they will make a very brave bid to avenge that 1962 defeat by Tipperary.

But solid Tipperary will take a great deal of beating and must be given a favourite's chance of further extending their lead at the top of the senior championship list.

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The giants of yesteryear

By OWEN McCANN

AN All-Ireland senior hurling final win over Tipperary is a noteworthy feat in the history of any county, but while Wexford's 1960 title was at the expense of the premier County, many still hold that Wexford had their greatest final win ever against Cork in 1956.

Wexford regained the All-Ireland hurling crown in 1955 after a 45 year interval, but they did not meet either of the acknowledged masters of Munster hurling that year. So, without casting any reflection at all on the credentials of Limerick, who lost the semi-final, and the finalists Galway, many still felt that Wexford had to really prove their mettle as champions when they lined-up against honours-laden Cork in the 1956 All-Ireland decider.

That match proved a showpiece

worthy of the great occasion: fast, exciting, sporting, with hurling of a high standard, and climaxed by a golden last quarter. And at the end of it all, Wexford had proved beyond question that they were well entitled to rank among the great combinations of all time by avenging, on the score 2-14 to 2-8, their 1954 final defeat by Cork.

For one of the real giants of that great team, and one of the most celebrated figures in hurling history, Nick Rackard, there was the added distinction at the end of the final of a tremendous new hurling and football championships scoring record to his name. He finished the four match campaign with 12-15 (51 pts.), at an outstanding match average of 12.75 points. Both records — over-all score and match-average — still stand, and will not be beaten this

year either.

When 1965 became yester-year, Nick Rackard had 35-50 (155 pts.) to his credit from 19 games in all competitions. This is also the record for a full year's campaign in the period 1955-1967. He averaged 8.15 points a game in that memorable campaign.

While Nick Rackard was hitting the scoring peaks in that 1956 All-Ireland final, Art Foley was adding to his laurels as a goalkeeper. Indeed, he coloured that great game with one of hurling's legendary saves—a save that was probably the real "clincher" for Wexford. It came in the 37th minute, and it was a superb one from the Master of the Hurling Science himself, Christy Ring.

Foley played in his first All-



Nick O'Donnell, Wexford's incomparable full back of the "comeback" years.

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WILSON HARTNELL



● FLASHBACK to the 1956 championship final clash between Wexford and Cork shows Wexfordmen (from left) Nicky Rackard, T. Ryan and T. Dixon converging on Cork goalkeeper Mick Cashman. Wexford won this game 2-14 to 2-8.

● FROM PAGE 29

Ireland final against Cork in 1954, and was also in the 1955 title winning combination. Brilliant saving, marked by coolness, daring, uncanny positioning, safe catching and swift, effective clearing stamped him as a really great goalkeeper.

Rackard had a particularly gifted talent for punching home the goals and points. Tall, forceful, hard-working and ever alert for the slightest opportunity, he could snap into score-getting action with devastating effectiveness at any time. His scoring record is liberally sprinkled with match totals like 7-7, 6-4, 5-4. He was, in fact, the ideal leader, an inspiring figure,

who had the ability to dictate the course of a game and prove a brilliant match-winner on his own.

Nevertheless, Nick Rackard and Art Foley were only two bright lights in a constellation of stars that brought Wexford out of the hurling shadows in the 1950s.

The Model County was powered by "giants" in all departments . . . men with that extra special talent that separates the great hurler from the good one. In fact, one remembers so much more from those days when Wexford, with their cavalier and colourful hurling, won so many new followers for the game in all corners of Ireland.

There was the polished and delightful hurling of Nick Rackard's brothers, Bobbie and

Willie, in the rearguard. Offhand, one can remember many fine performances from this pair, but towering over all in my mind is a real *tour-de-force* by Bobbie in the 1954 final with Cork.

He moved from centre half to full back when Nick O'Donnell went off injured and, with skill and dexterity, he illuminated that game with what many with much longer experience of the game than I have rate the greatest exhibition of defensive hurling of the modern era.

Tim Flood . . . a forward in the classical mould. Elusive and clever, he outmanoeuvred most of the great defenders of his time. He had pace, technical excellence, and moved intelligently. He was also

● TO PAGE 32

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● FROM PAGE 31

a dynamic artist in turning half a chance into a score.

He left a particularly deep imprint on so many games that it is hard to single out one above the other, but I still especially cherish a regal display of all the arts and crafts of the game in Leinster's 1956 Railway Cup final win over Munster.

Nick O'Donnell was Kilkenny's "gift" to Wexford. This native of the Noreside was Wexford's captain in 1955, and was also a brilliant unit in all of the county's ups-and-downs during that era when Wexford brought "Ireland back to hurling".

Here was a rock on which so many attacks floundered . . . a man with inflexible defensive spirit, limitless energy and mastery in all phases of the game. Wexford owe much to his prowess for so many of their achievements of the 1950s, and again in 1960, when he became the first man to captain two All-Ireland championship winning teams from the Model County in the senior grade.

Padge Kehoe, now one of the key figures in this latest title bid as team manager, is another name linked nobly with bright memories of great displays and memorable scores. And Paddy Kehoe . . . Ned Wheeler . . . Jim English . . . one could go on and on, but space must force us to call a halt.

Yes, mighty men from Wexford strode the hurling scene in the 1950s . . . men with the nobility of kings, who blazed impressive new trails, set majestic new peaks for the county, and enriched hurling by their all-round performances and tremendous sporting qualities.

And no better tribute, surely, could be paid to their deeds than that their heirs to this great tradition, who put their own notable talents on parade in the minor and senior finals of 1968, have already proved that they are living up to the high standard of those giants from yesteryear.

*It's no poker
game, but
Wexford hold . . .*



Tony Doran

A
PAIR
OF
ACES

GERRY BREEN

WEXFORD go into this 80th All-Ireland senior hurling final with many valuable assets, but the more I ponder on them, the more I feel that Dan Quigley's great ability and the goal-grabbing flair and forceful play of Tony Doran are the ones above all others that may open up the way to a successful conquest by the Model County of 1968's Everest of Hurling.

Big in stature and big in hurling ability and know-how—that's this modern-day Cuchulainn of hurling, Dan Quigley. He has been such a prominent—and dominant—figure in the game for some years that we are now inclined to regard him as a veteran. Veteran he may be in the playing sense yet he is still only 24, having joined the Wexford senior

team in 1963 when just over the minor age limit.

In his near five-years in the top-flight, Quigley has fully lived up to the tremendous promise that marked him as one of the outstanding figures of the minor and Colleges' grades in the late 1950s and early years of this decade. Indeed, watching him play a truly regal captain's role in the Leinster final win in July, I reflected, not for the first time, what a tremendously valuable player he now is in the Wexford set-up.

I prize "work-rate" particularly highly in the make-up of a player. In this regard, the towering Rathnure stalwart takes full marks, for he works ceaselessly, determinedly, doggedly throughout every game. He is also brainy, vigilant, cool under

pressure, and possesses good positional sense.

Quigley, too can get in his puck to clear his lines under the severest pressure and, with that long puck of his, he can also set his forwards into action with a real vengeance.

The Wexford captain also has the ability to colour his dynamic displays by notching valuable scores of his own. In 11 games this year, for instance, he has helped himself to a noteworthy 1-7.

Quigley matches his brilliant skills and advancing maturity with a wealth of experience garnered in the white-heat of games that matter—his collection includes two Railway Cup medals, two Leinster senior medals and one National League souvenir.

Weighing 14 st., and standing 6 ft. 1 in., Dan Quigley goes down in my book as a man ideally equipped for the testing dual role of Wexford's pivot and captain. I'm convinced that he will present both a solid barrier to the Tipperary attack and once again be of incalculable value in initiating many Wexford attacks with his powerful and well-directed pucks.

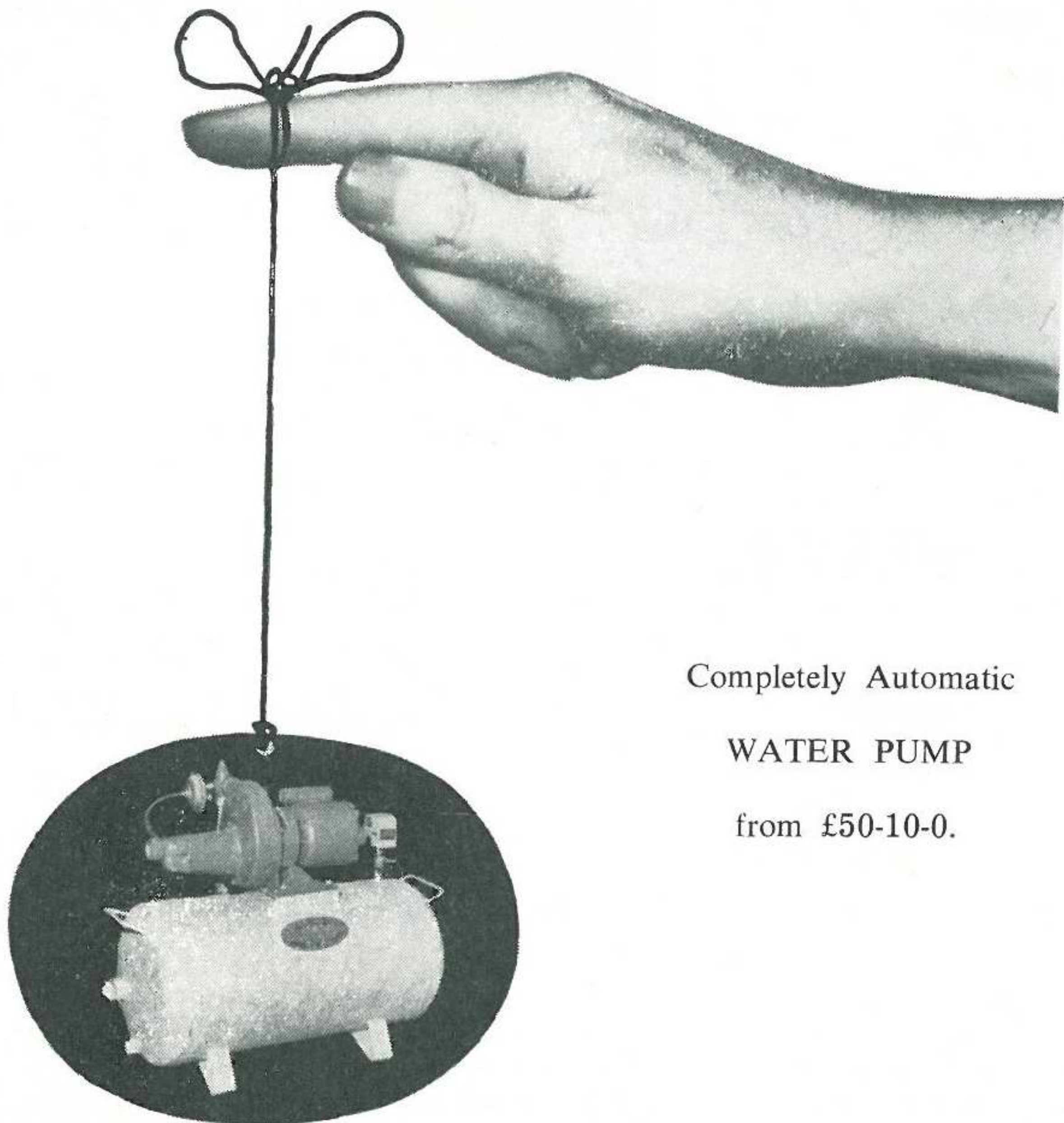
And that is where Tony Doran, above all others, could be the one most effectively to complement the good defensive work of Quigley and his co-defenders by popping in the vital shots for the green flags.

I fully appreciate the scoring ability of Paul Lynch. After all, he scored more than any Wexford forward for a full season since 1962 when he headed their chart last year with 10-47 (77 pts.) in 14 games—second highest in Leinster. With 4-29 (41 pts.) in 10 games this year, he is just a point behind the county's current chart-topper, Tony Doran, who has 12-6 from 12 ties.

Obviously, then, Paul Lynch is the man likely to be right on the target

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A tense moment in the 1965 All-Ireland final between Tipperary and Wexford as Donie Nealon tries to sprint clear of Tom Neville.



● **FROM PAGE 33**

in the All-Ireland final. Yet, in the expectations that this will be a close, score-for-score decider, it seems to me that the ability to punch home goals could well prove a decisive factor—and in this all-important match-winning art, Doran is displaying much of the expertise of that goal-getter supreme of hurling and football Donie Nealon!

Remember the cool, professional way he whipped home Wexford's first goal in the recent Leinster final? And for good measure, he popped up later in that match to raise another valuable green flag.

Doran hit a great goal and also scored two points in Wexford's win over Tipperary in the 1965 All-Ireland under-21 final. He was again in goal-grabbing form in the 1966

under-21 championship and he climaxed his impressive scoring returns in that campaign with 4-2 in those three stirring games with Cork before the title went to the Leaside.

Doran had been steadily finding the road to goal in the premier grade. Totals like 3-0 against Offaly in a League tie at Gorey in February 1967; 2-3 against Limerick in the League semi-final in May 1967, and 2-2 against Dublin in this year's Leinster semi-final, not to mention those two golden goals in the Leinster decider, underline his lethal efficiency.

Doran's 12 goals this year brings his tally in 35 games as a senior to 32 — nearly one per match. His points record is not as impressive at 20, but still pushes his over-all

total to a grand one of 116, or 3.31 points an hour.

There can be no doubt that in Tony Doran, who won a National League medal in 1967, Wexford have a clever, quick and accurate chance-snapper, certain to pose many problems for the Munster champion's rearguard.

Yes, with the powerfully-built and majestic Dan Quigley as a brilliant marshall of the rearguard, and also as an outstanding prompter of the attack, and Doran on hand to worry the opposing defence and to make the most of every opportunity to set the net singing a merry tune for Wexford, the Leinster champions have a pair of really dazzling aces who may well prove the trump cards in this bid for a fifth national crown.



IS THE G.A.A. IN DANGER OF EX

Marriage of and golfers?

*Most Rev. Dr. G. O. Simms,
Protestant Archbishop of Dublin.
"Has he ever been invited to an
All-Ireland", asks Columba
Mansfield, O.S.A., in the article
below.*

SPAIN would be less Spanish if bullfighting in the grand manner went out of fashion. Ireland would be less Irish if her native games were to dwindle in importance to the status of a quaint side show. If our games are to survive, the more sophisticated elements in our society must come to their aid.

The Spanish bullfight is celebrated in art, literature, music, even in grand opera, but Ireland's unique games have been neglected by her poets, artists, and writers. The artist mirrors life in his work. An authentic Irish art or literature cannot afford to ignore hurling or Gaelic football. During club and inter-county championships a large section of our population think, speak and live our native games, yet our artists and *literati* have by and large chosen to ignore this fact. Trinity and the remnants of the Ascendancy have for too long been trendsetters in Irish artistic and literary circles. If Irish writers are to reflect Irish life in their works then Irish games

must have a part in that work.

As part of the nation's cultural life the G.A.A. should utilise other cultural elements to further its own ends. Poets and writers could be commissioned to express the reality of our games in literary form. An attempt should be made to involve sectors of the community that at present ignore the G.A.A. in its work.

Surely by careful behind the scenes manipulation speakers who respect and value hurling and football could be enticed more often on to Television panels and discussion groups. Newspapers give ample coverage to Gaelic games but literary articles dealing with hurling and football themes need to appear

more often on the national and local press.

At club level a great leap forward is essential if the G.A.A. is to retain any grip on Ireland's youth. Each club should have a playing pitch equipped with dressing rooms and a canteen. The dressing rooms should have showers, presses, gymnastic equipment, and a medical chest. The canteen should be capable of providing players with a decent meal after matches or serious training. Wives and sweethearts could aid in the running of the canteen.

Each club should also have its clubhouse which would serve for meetings, concerts, dances and cultural gatherings. The clubhouse should also have a filing cabinet containing records of all matches and meetings. Where possible there should be club ties and blazers for all playing members. How do golf clubs manage to provide such a service for their members despite the fact that many more play hurling and football than play golf?

Given a clubhouse the G.A.A. should foster games such as billiards, snooker, whist, bridge, darts, and chess, during the winter months. If these widely played and sophisticated indoor

Gaels

This is the second of two articles in which Columba Mansfield, O.S.A., writes about the G.A.A.'s problems and weaknesses, and suggests how these may be eradicated.

games were to centre around the local hurling or football club then the future of Gaelic games would be secure.

Why not an alliance between hurling and golf? Golf is an ideal game for the retired hurler

J. D. Sheridan, and a history of a Mayo club. The actual teams could be inserted on the week of the match.

If this sounds extravagant let G.A.A. officials call to the offices of any League of Ireland soccer

urban society. Energy at present expended on the ban controversy could be better employed in a constructive attempt to involve all sections of the community in Gaelic games. If necessary, a social study could be made and its solutions applied to the problem. Priests and Brothers could do more to banish the causes of social divisions and snobbery from Irish life. A mature and widely based G.A.A. would prove a natural catalyst in the Irish community.

Colleges Gaelic Games leave much to be desired. St. Peter's and Criost Rí may have looked good on final day but only about five colleges were in the senior hurling championship with a real chance. A mere handful of matches brought Peter's the title. Each college should have a serious match in all grades on its weekly half day or on Sundays. Matches could be played on a home and away basis like American College rugby. There should be a social side to these games. At present the teams play their game and then part perhaps never to meet again. Games could be followed by a meal and concert, so that hurling and football would become what

By Columba Mansfield, O.S.A.

so why not an affiliation between G.A.A. and golf clubs? Impossible? Hardly!

Match programmes may seem a small element in the life of a sporting organisation but a good programme can do much to mould the outlook of those who support a particular sport. All inter-county championship matches should have attractive programmes. Since fixtures are made well in advance of the actual match the basic programme could be prepared months before the event. Suppose Sligo are drawn against Mayo in the Connacht championship; the programme could contain a literary piece on some famous game played by Mayo, an account of the state of the game in Sligo, a pen picture of some Mayo star of the past, the imaginary reaction of the poet Yeats to a football match, a piece by

club and ask to see the thirty or so programmes that they produce in a season.

In Dublin, an attempt should be made to bridge the gap between Gaelic and rugby schools. Why not a special hurling league for colleges such as Wesley and St. Columba's? Has Archbishop Simms ever been invited to an All-Ireland? What of the ban? Well, I have mixed views on this but I think that if the G.A.A. is sincere it should accept a referendum of its playing members. Why not a secret ballot of all those who play senior hurling or football for their counties in 1968? Surely such a ballot would give a true picture of the thinking at grassroot level on this thorny subject.

At any rate, idle squabbles about the ban will not help the national games meet the challenge presented by a complex

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Dear Fr. Mansfield — — — — —

I BEG TO DIFFER

— — — — — Seamus Ó Ceallaigh

A WRITER in one of our national dailies suggested some time ago that the G.A.A. was in danger of extinction.

I don't think any of my readers will see the day when the G.A.A. will cease to exist—young and all as they may be now. Yet I agree that the Association is passing through a critical stage and that urgent action is needed if it is to maintain its leading place in the sporting life of the nation.

In the same newspaper that carried the article above mentioned, a weekly column appears titled "Sportorama", and this only mentions matters of G.A.A. interest on very rare occasions whilst giving considerable coverage to relatively unimportant personages and happenings in other codes.

In an evening production from the same newspaper group, space appears to be readily available

for informed comment on even junior and minor games in certain codes whilst important local G.A.A. activities, including senior championship ties attracting large attendances are completely ignored.

This is only typical of the general approach by the national newspapers to the G.A.A. and its games.

The Association recently had to exert considerable pressure in order to get some sort of fair play from the national television service and the time seems ripe for similar action to ensure that the so-called national press ends its discrimination against things Gaelic.

The Gaelic Athletic Association has 2,927 clubs in Ireland alone, which is an average of almost one hundred clubs per county—a strength that cannot be matched by any other association—sporting or cultural.

The parishes that have not a G.A.A. club are very few, and the organisation is equally strong in the urban and rural areas, as in the big cities.

G.A.A. clubs, if properly marshalled, could very effectively deal with any discrimination against things Gaelic by hitting those responsible where it will be felt most—in the pocket.

Circulation figures mean everything to a newspaper and if G.A.A. men ceased to buy any publication or exerted their un-

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IS THE G.A.A. IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION?

● FROM PAGE 37

they were meant to be—pleasant recreation — and lose their present atmosphere of backs and forwards played on muddy winter evenings.

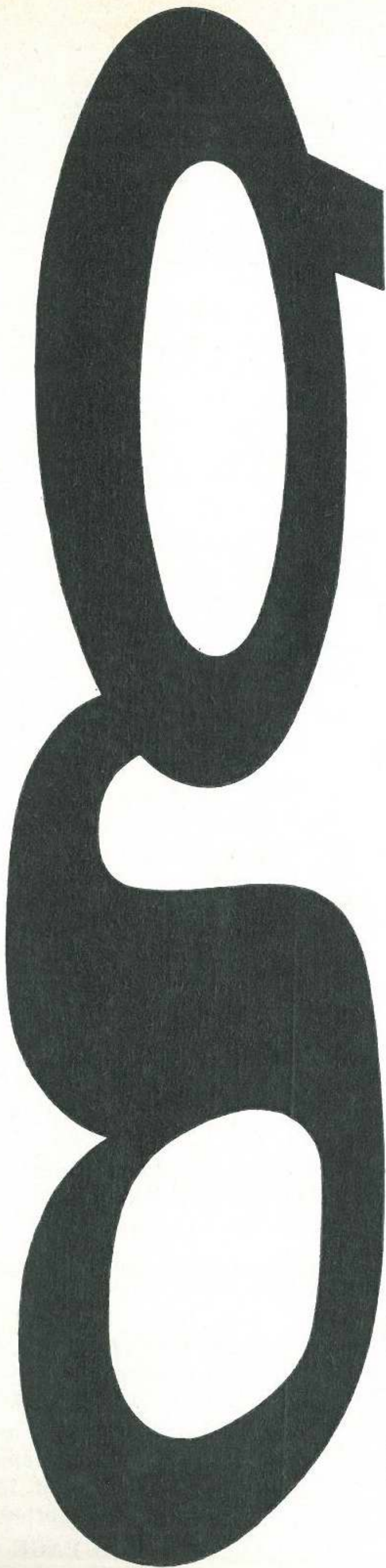
The rapid urbanisation of society may mean that field sports will gradually become less popular and that city dwellers will be content to act as spectators at soccer matches between the great clubs of Europe and the world. As I see it, the G.A.A. will only survive if it meets this threat by becoming more sophisticated and urban in outlook and composition.

A marriage of the Gaelic and golfing interests would go a long way towards helping the G.A.A. update its methods. At present an alliance between hurling and golf seems impossible but it would be useful to study the reasons for this seeming impossibility. Of course, the ending

of the ban might herald a linking up of hurling, Gaelic football and rugby but the ban seems booked for a long stay even though television brings the soccer games of the world to the kitchen table.

We cannot forget the spirit of Knocknagow, but we must face the fact that Matt the Thresher has been replaced by the combine harvester. Despite its array of concrete-encircled playing fields the G.A.A. still has one foot in the no longer existing world of Knocknagow. If Gaelic games are to live on the organisation that promotes them must face up to the realism of life in the 1960s.

The vast majority of the Republic's citizens want to see the G.A.A. succeeding in its aims. The G.A.A. will succeed if it uses the talent of the nation to further its ends and taps the latent good will that is waiting to be utilised in its service.



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**Gouldings
grows**

● FROM PAGE 39

doubted influence in diverting advertising revenue to organs friendly to the national aims and ideals of the Association, then a big improvement would almost certainly be effected.

The Association is undoubtedly in troubled waters and is at the stage when leadership must assert itself. Enemies of the games and of the national approach of the G.A.A. are everywhere, and rarely lose an opportunity of discrediting the Association and its ideals.

Nationality is dying in this country. That is evident to anybody prepared to face up to realities. The G.A.A. saved Ireland before and it can do so again. A militant approach is demanded and it must take the form of a crusade. The call must go out to every club in the country for positive action on well-defined lines.

A healthy respect for the Association has first to be established and this is where good leadership and direction comes in.

At the outset the main essential is a vast improvement in the means of communication between the ordinary club member and the central authority. Each club at least, if not every individual member, should get regular directions from headquarters—and if there is a nettle to be grasped

let it be remembered that the only way to do it and avoid self harm is in a bold, firm way.

The G.A.A. should vigorously fight every disruptive element bringing every influence it can command into play when considered necessary.

There is an old saying that attack is the greatest form of defence and the Association should remember this in its approach to college and industrial concerns who refuse the national games at least an equal place with imported pastimes; with the newspapers who act in a similar way; with the authorities at local or government level who discriminate against fields devoted exclusively to native sport; with concerns who sponsor rival codes and refuse support to Gaelic games or enterprises; with festival committees who fail to recognise that what the visitor to Ireland requires most of all is a glimpse at the culture, games, music, language and traditions racy of the Irish soil.

The G.A.A. has made amazing strides in the last forty years. Many of the older members remember when the Association had not a field it could call its own with the solitary exception of Croke Park; and when the number of affiliated clubs had not topped the thousand mark. A crowd of twenty thousand specta-

tors at an All-Ireland final was something to be marvelled at and national newspaper mention of the Association's activities was practically non-existent.

There are several stadiums now in the provinces capable of accommodating up to fifty thousand spectators; every county has a number of grounds adequate for local needs and the drive to have every club own its own playing pitch has produced a most edifying response.

Attention has recently been directed to improving the amenities at all grounds, club and county, and whilst much has been accomplished in a short space, a lot more remains to be done before we can be satisfied that anything like perfection has been reached.

I once heard a great figure in our national life—and he was not a politician—say that if there were nothing else to strive for, life would be robbed of a lot of its enjoyment, with all incentive gone.

That would be the real danger day for the G.A.A., but we have assurance in plenty that nowhere is that position likely to be reached in the foreseeable future.

The difficulties besetting the G.A.A. and nationality in general provide plenty of work for those willing to do it, and whilst that situation prevails there is no fear for the G.A.A.



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Tribute to Wexford

NO matter what facet of handball we study, it becomes ever more clear that Wexford ranks in the top bracket. This is a situation that has been fashioned, not by accident, but by the solidarity of clubs and the utter dedication of officials down through the years.

For handball is taken seriously by those even with the remotest interest in it by Slaneyside.

That follows naturally, for the game is deep-rooted in the county and can be traced well back into the last century.

And, I suppose, that is the reason why it is commonplace to

find Wexfordmen gaining honours either at provincial or All-Ireland level.

The present season has been one of outstanding success for Wexford's playing representatives. It certainly is no mean feat to reach eight Leinster finals, from an overall total of twelve; yet such is the burning ambition of those charged with administering the game in the county, that they are prone to point out the reasons for defeat in the other four.

It is only appropriate to pinpoint a few really outstanding achievements.


From a novel, if from no other point of view, one cannot lose track of the special record which fell to the Quigley family from Taghmon on June 30.

The head of the family, John senior, went off to play in the over forty Tailteann Games at Croke Park, while John junior was at Talbots' Inch for a Leinster championship game.

It certainly proved to be a triumphant day for father and son. The younger member caused a major upset by ousting the reigning All-Ireland minor champion, Pat Murphy, who, though he was playing in the Dublin colours, is, in fact, from Taghmon also.


And John senior returned from Croke Park with a silver Tailteann medal—his reward for a very creditable second place in partnership with John Doyle.

A week earlier, the junior handball player, Jim King, lined out at Ceanannus Mór and won



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his way to the provincial final, despite the fact that he was suffering from two broken ribs.

This typifies precisely the enthusiasm which filters through Wexford's county players when they are given the honour of wearing the county singlet.

One of the county's best achievements this season was in the senior softball doubles, where Richie Lyng and Seamus Buggy accounted for the famous Louth partnership of Joe Maher and Paddy Reilly.

The notable feature here is that Buggy was only a junior representative last season, but, on promotion to senior ranks this season, has shown signs that he will be as capable a handballer as his brother, the inter-county player, Ned, is a hurler.

On the question of playing courts there is no county better equipped than Wexford.

Alleys are dotted at strategic points throughout the county and probably this is one of the main reasons why the standard of play is at such a high level. However, with the emphasis on covered courts at present, it is enlightening to learn that Wexford will shortly have three such courts.

Until comparatively recent times the only covered court in existence was at Taghmon. Then, over in the famed Ballyanne Club it was decided that the time was at hand to have the court roofed. Various fund-raising schemes were initiated and before long the dream of the club members became a reality.

Latest news is that Bridgetown is on the verge of undertaking the same type of reconstruction work.

There is hardly any need to mention that John Ryan, one of the greatest players ever to grace an Irish court, is a member of Bridgetown and is playing a big part in the present revival.

Thus, the successful story of Wexford handball rolls over. It gives a shining lead to other

counties.

It is appropriate also to pay a little tribute to the county's top officials.

They are Chairman, John Lyng and Secretary, Seán O'Leary, two dedicated officials who are invar-

iably at hand when the name of the game in the county is at stake. They play a big part in the synchronised machine that is Wexford handball of the present day.

Long may it remain so.



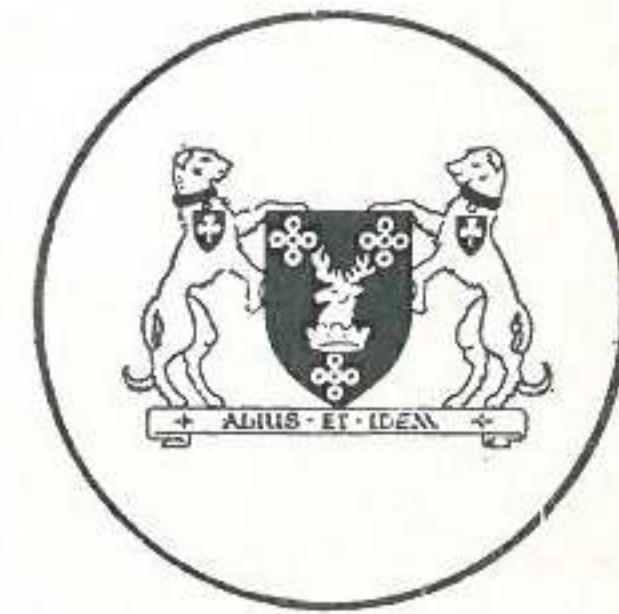
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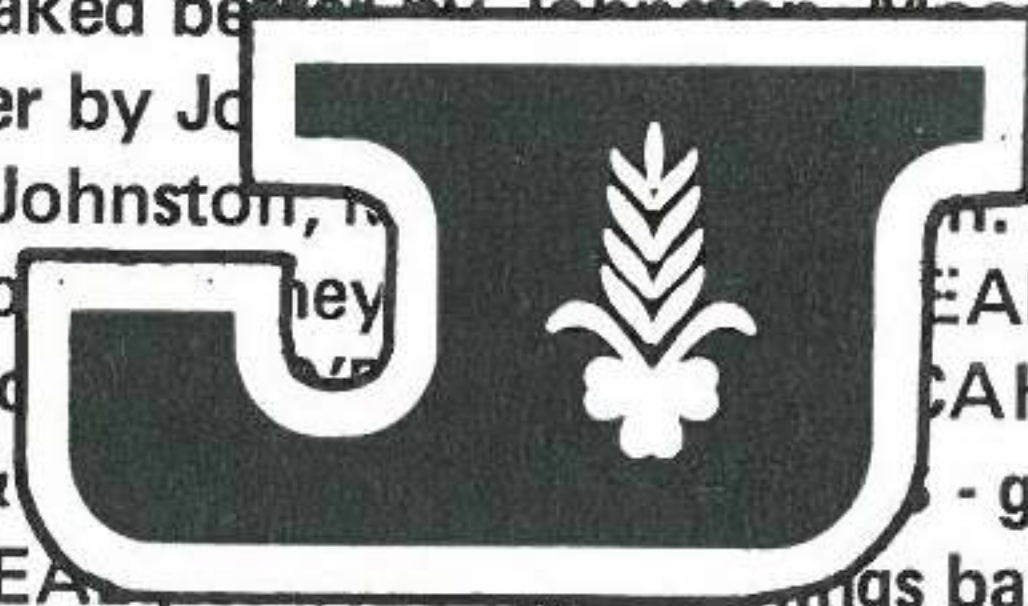
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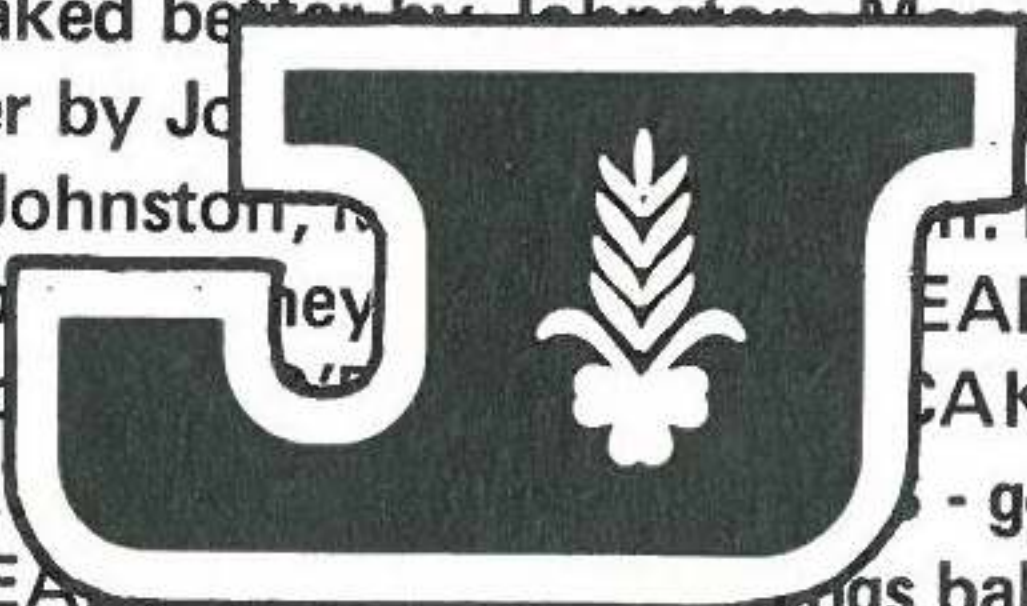
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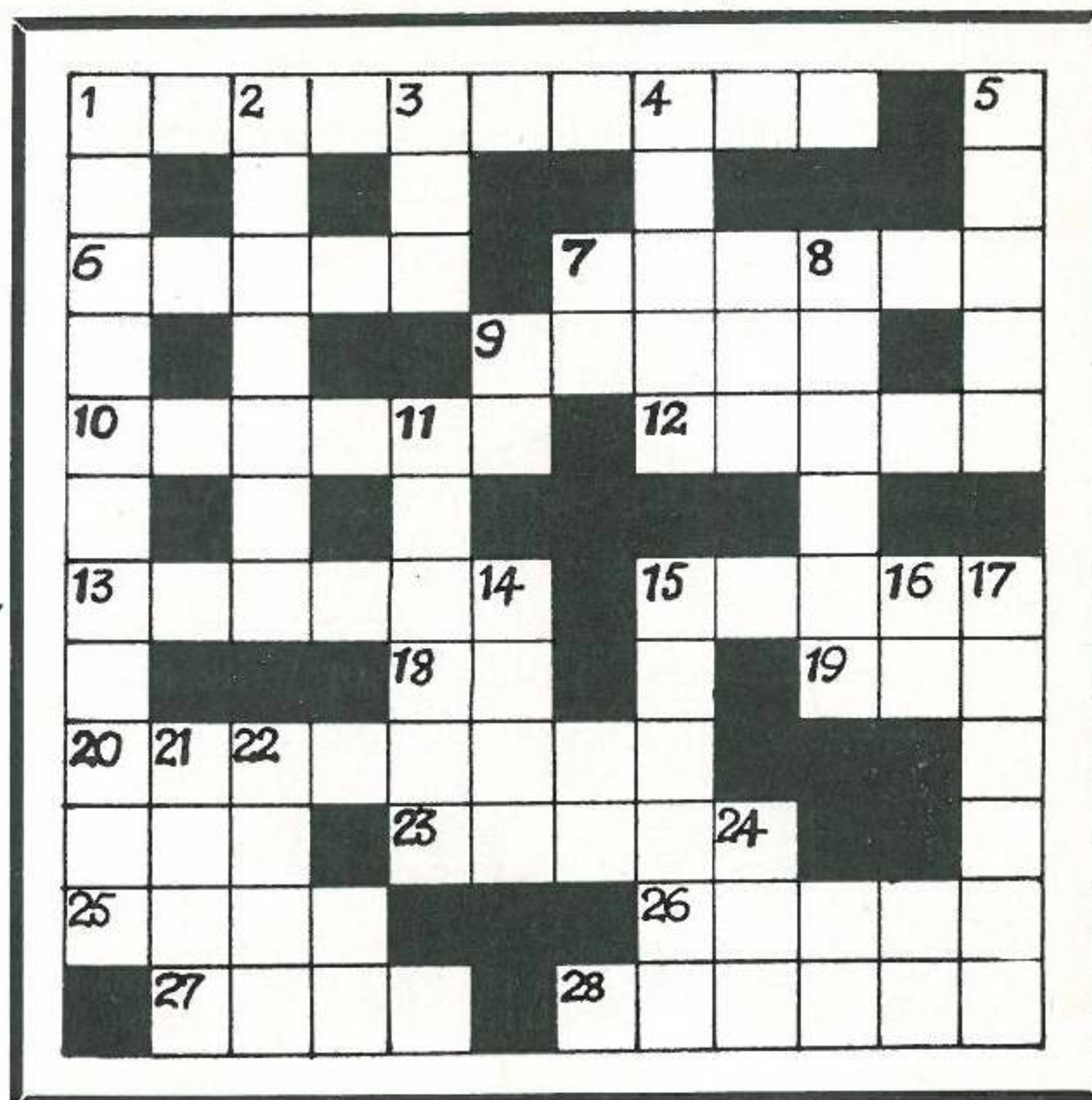
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CROSSWORD

By PERMUTER

No. 36



ACROSS :

1. Captain of the Antrim hurlers who reached the All-Ireland final in 1943. Or, it could be the wing-forward who was on the Meath team but has lost his place in the last year or two. (5, 5)
6. Half-back for Cork, either minor or senior football, in 1967. (5)
7. Doyen of Gaelic games broadcasters. (6)
9. The only real surface for hurling—the green sward. (5)
10. Polished and shining. (5)
12. Left-half back for 1960 All-Ireland winners. (5)
13. Captain of Kilkenny. (6)
15. Solan will give cash advances for club developments. (5)
18. O.K. you have been eliminated from the championships. (1, 1)
19. Bin with which to write. (3)
20. Kept goal for Dublin and Kilkenny taking an All-Ireland medal with the latter in 1947. (1, 7)
23. Hurling and football distances are usually estimated in such units. (5)
25. (and 28 Across) Meath full-forward. (4, 6)
26. Straight from the bow in direction. (5)
27. Decapitated Down hurler is left a victim for plunder. (4)
28. (See 25 Across).

DOWN :

1. At centre-field on the same Antrim team as 1 Across. (4, 7)
2. Prominent Cavan referee, who, not long ago, was an equally prominent footballer. (7)
3. Yonder, briefly. (3)
4. Gus has been a strong link in the Galway hurling team for some years. (5)
5. Centre-field for Kilkenny most consistently. (5)
7. Alternatively. (2)
8. Full-forward on the first Ulster team to win an All-Ireland hurling title. (1, 5)
9. Initially, right-half back for Kerry in the early forties. (1, 1)
11. Leo of Dublin or Tony of Offaly. (6)
14. Goya seems as though he has been following a middle-eastern system of control over body and mind. (4)
15. Naulad could build a sort of carriage in which old-time players might have travelled to matches. (6)
16. Northern Ireland? (2)
17. Cork-born Senator with substantial hand in Wexford's hurling affairs. (1, 5)
21. The sort of kick wing-halves use to get distance. (4)
22. Did the shot rove wide? (4)
24. Senior Round Robin? (1, 1, 1)

SOLUTION : PAGE 72

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The Cork minor team who beat Wexford in the 1967 All-Ireland final.

The Minors

CORK BOYS DEFEND TITLE

By OWEN McCANN

ONCE more it's up to Cork to foil Leinster's minors! Tipperary, who head the roll of honour with 12 titles between 1930 and 1959, lost the finals of 1960, 1961 and 1962, all to Kilkenny, and Limerick were unsuccessful against Wexford in 1963 and against Dublin in 1965.

But in this era, during which the dominance has swung as never before from the South to the East, Cork switched on the "red light" twice along the Leinster success road. They ended a four-year unbeaten Leinster run — the province's most successful yet — by decisively beating Laois in 1964 in a final in which they also recorded, at 10-7, the highest score by a winning team in the concluding round. Laois scored 1-4.

Last year Cork put Munster back

again on top with a 2-15 to 5-3 win over the county that won the All-Ireland in 1966—Wexford.

True, in between Cork also had their share in the story of Munster failures in the current decade, when they lost, after a replay, to Wexford in 1966. But two wins in three finals still stamp the Rebel County as Munster's No. 1, minor-wise in the 1966s.

It's not surprising that Cork have a credit balance from their last three deciders, for their finals record is an impressive one. That 1966 defeat, in fact, was one of only two in ten finals. The first was in 1936, to Kilkenny. Their wins were in the first final in 1928 with Dublin, after a replay, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964 and last year, eight titles for second place in the winners' list.

Cork, who figured in the only two drawn finals in the history of the championship, are now poised for a first Munster double since Tipperary made it two on the trot in 1957, and the first by any county since 1962, when Kilkenny landed the second leg of their only hat-trick of titles.

Having watched Cork in their resounding 7-8 to 4-2 Munster final win over Waterford in July, I am convinced that, despite the unquestioned ability of Wexford, the Leesiders have good grounds for optimism regarding their chances of holding on to their title.

I would not say that the team is anything like the complete combination that the 15 points southern final victory would suggest, for I

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must admit that I was very disappointed by the all-round performance of the Waterford side. Nonetheless, I still saw enough in that hour to cause me to chalk down many high credit marks to this Cork combination.

A striking force that notched 7-8 must obviously have many good points. I liked, particularly, once

again, the qualities of Paddy Ring, who helped himself in fine style to 0-7 in last year's All-Ireland final. This nephew of mighty Christy Ring showed that he is fully living up to that great promise we all saw last year as an attacker skilled in play and expert in the making and taking of scores.

Mick Malone and Tom Buckley, two more links with last year, also

impressed me again. Malone notched 3-2 against Waterford, an impressive feat in any man's language, and he is certainly a potent finisher who must be closely watched. Buckley, too, showed that he is a gifted forward by highlighting a fine display with a total of 1-4.

Midfield is good and there is power and depth in the defence, with all posts efficiently manned, and John Horgan and Mick Bohane, the survivors from that talented outfit of last year, blending in experience.

The team also possesses drive and spirit and all the hurlers work hard. Like all Cork teams, no matter what the grade, there is, too, class, skill and polish, and the hurlers are all sure strikers.

Cork, then, have a lot "going" for them in this decider. Furthermore, if you are an advocate of tradition, Cork have it as well! Cork and Tipperary won out in minor and senior, respectively in the South in 1931, 1951, 1964 and last year, and each year Cork took the minor crown! Munster also made it a double in each of those years, except last September, when Kilkenny accounted for Tipperary. 1964, is the last year both titles went to the same province.

Despite all their aces, however, Cork are undoubtedly up against it. They invariably find Wexford a tough nut to crack in any All-Ireland final and judging by the Leinster decider, this one will be no exception.

Nevertheless, there is potential in this Cork side: potential that may well blossom brilliantly on final day into that smooth, power-packed hurling that, despite the best efforts of Wexford, could result in the championship staying in Munster.

Be that as it may, this is still one game I would not like to miss, for I confidently expect the tie to add another brilliant chapter to the colourful story of Cork-Wexford All-Ireland finals that have given hurling such a wonderful uplift in the past 14 years.



Wexford will take beating

By J. K. BURKE

WEXFORD took a long time to make an imprint on teenage hurling, but in the present decade they are certainly making up for lost time. Four provincial titles, two All-Irelands and three All-Ireland colleges' championships since 1962 stamp the Model County as the most dynamic force of all in teenage hurling in the 1960s.

In addition, just as the county won new recruits to the code during that never-to-be-forgotten break-through into the sunlight at senior level in the last decade, Wexford have polished this glittering "show-case" of teenage successes with a style of colourful, whole-hearted and sporting hurling that delights the fans, and, in general, is by far the most effective way of all to accelerate the game's nation-wide development.

The indications are that, win, lose, or draw, the present splendid Wexford minor outfit will celebrate this 38th All-Ireland final with a performance in keeping with Wexford hurling. Clear-cut wins over Dublin and Kilkenny on the way to a first-ever Leinster minor hat-trick, their two stiffest tests in the series so far, clearly underline that here is another combination with the formula for All-Ireland victory.

For a start, the team has a major asset, and one that is particularly important in a minor decider—a solid core of players "steeled" in the experience of important finals.

Seven of the present side were

in the team beaten by Cork in last year's final and six figured in St. Peter's win in the Colleges' final earlier this year.

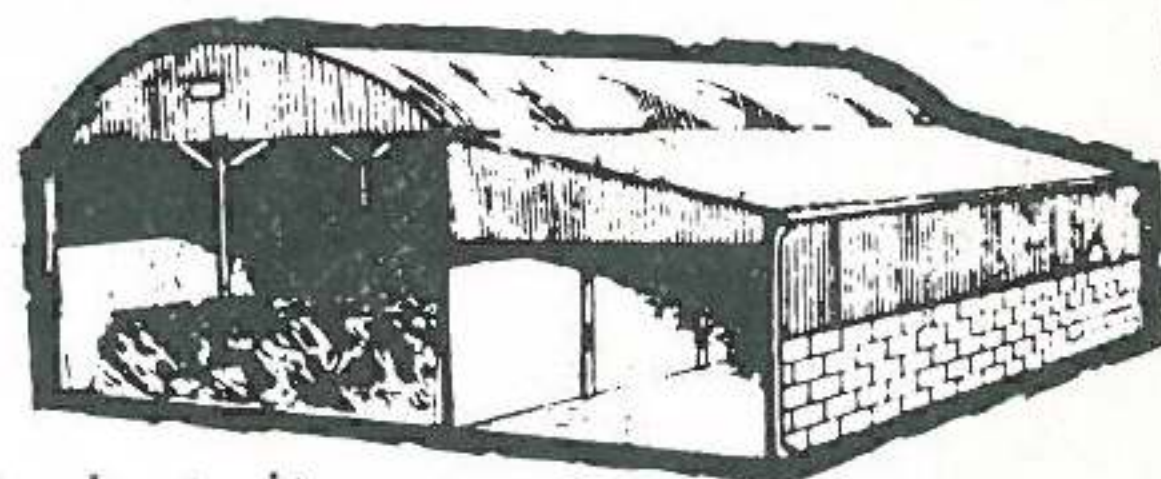
Their All-Ireland experience should ensure that Wexford get into their stride right from the first whistle, and thus produce

their best form all through, but especially in those unnerving opening ten minutes, during which a final is frequently won and lost.

Then, there is strength and class in defence, and power and

● TO PAGE 51

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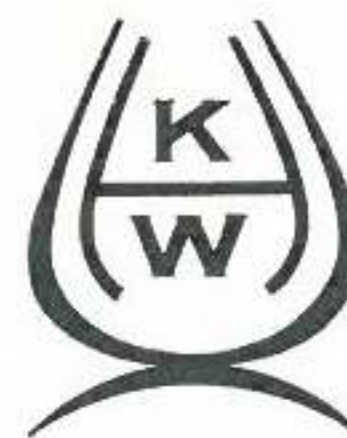
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Wexford minors, losers to Cork in last year's decider.

● FROM PAGE 49

drive at midfield. Over all, however, it's scores that win matches and Wexford certainly pack punch in front of goal. In their two games in Leinster, they hit the highly impressive total of 9-25 (52 pts.), or 26 points per hour.

So, while victory in an All-Ireland final in any grade is rarely easily gained, Wexford have an outstanding chance of putting their name on the "Irish Press" Cup for the third time.

This trophy was first borne home in triumph to Slaneyside in 1963. Three years later, Wexford in their second final—and Cork played only the second drawn decider, and Wexford made it title No. 2 in the replay. Cork had their revenge over Wexford in last year's decider.

Martin Quigley is maintaining a family tradition. His older brothers, Dan and Pat, were in the side that won St. Peter's first All-Ireland Colleges crown in 1962. Pat was an attacker in the all-conquering 1963 Wexford minor side. Another Quigley,

John, was to the fore at centre-half in Wexford's other All-Ireland minor championship success in 1966.

Last year, St. Peter's won their second All-Ireland title and John Quigley and younger brothers Jim (right full back) and Martin (left half forward) each figured prominently in that achievement. This means that the Quigley family of Rathnure has the distinction of being represented in every Wexford team that has so far won a teenage All-Ireland championship.

Wexford landed their first Leinster minor and senior double in July. This means they have a chance of becoming the first Leinster county to win the "Irish Press" Cup and the Liam McCarthy Cup on the same day. The last year both trophies went to the same county was in 1949, the year the "Irish Press" Cup was first awarded for the minor championship, and Tipperary completed that double. In 1935, Kilkenny won out at minor and senior, the only year that both crowns were won by a Leinster county.

However, the minors cannot be faulted in this decade, at least, for Leinster's failure to land that elusive double. Since 1960, the East has won the All-Ireland minor crown each year, except in 1964 and 1966. Indeed, in the period 1960-66 the province's record of six crowns is only one title short of the number won by Leinster in the 31 year stretch from 1928, when the first final was played, to 1959!

Can Wexford make it title No. 7 for Leinster, and so give a tremendous spur to their seniors to go on and write a final chapter to what would then go down as the county's greatest year in hurling?

From what I saw of Wexford in the earlier rounds, and of the St. Peter's team in the All-Ireland Colleges' championship, and knowing the grit and determination of Wexford hurling, I am firmly convinced that it will take a tremendous effort by the Munster champions, talented though they are, to prevent the boys from the Slaney from making a winning start to the day.

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● FROM PAGE 21

facility is abused or that it encourages others to drink.

Every G.A.A. club should have a youth section, under youthful management, and with every facility to express their individuality. They should have a special youth room and be encouraged to organise all types of events and entertainments, particularly during the winter months. Outdoor activities should be particularly fostered and very special attention given to the acquiring of the many skills associated with hurling and football.

A community spirit must be developed and every effort made to involve the entire parish. Hurling is our oldest and most distinctive national pastime and it should be the aim of every parish to make their youth as proficient as possible at the game.

Hurling is an expensive pastime and the Central G.A.A. authority should play their part in its revival by vigorously pursuing research that will produce an unbreakable hurley at a reasonable price.

The notion has grown recently that hurling is a dangerous game. That is incorrect. If played properly by well tutored players injury of any kind is very rarely suffered. Undoubtedly, there has been regrettable incidents at hurling matches, of late, reflecting a vicious tendency unfortunately appearing in most forms of sport. A hurley in the hands of an unsporting player is a dangerous weapon and for that reason clubs should be particularly on their guard and determined that come what may the individual who will not respect the game and the person of his opponent will not find a place on any of their teams.

A public opinion must be raised against unsporting tactics and this is one of the great ways by which all of us can contribute to the hurling revival.

CAMOGIE TOPICS

By AGNES HOURIGAN

AS I write the provincial championships have all but concluded and the position is that only two of the provincial champions have retained their titles. They are Antrim, again supreme in the North, and Cork, who had to go into extra time to defeat Waterford in an exciting Munster final at Tramore.

Those title-holders who lost their crowns were Mayo, who put up a stubborn fight against Galway, but were beaten in the end and, of course, the greatest surprise of all, Dublin, who failed so sensationally to Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final, the first time in thirty-one years that they had failed to win the Leinster title.

Then, in turn, Kilkenny were well beaten by Wexford, who already have had their greatest camogie year to date, having taken their first ever Leinster title, and crowned that by becoming the first county ever to complete the Leinster double by winning the junior title as well.

Indeed, after watching that Leinster junior final one feels that the Wexford selectors must be wondering if a couple of those junior players are not worth promotion to the senior side.

Another problem, of course, is that both the Wexford teams have to travel to Ulster venues for the All-Ireland semi-finals and this is bound to cause a great strain on the county's financial resources. However, so great is the interest in the game in the

Model County at the moment that I have no doubt that finance will in the end prove the least of their worries.

As I forecast at the time, the institution of the All-Ireland junior championship has proved a great fillip to the game in all provinces and I would not be surprised if all four provincial championships have attracted larger crowds and better gate receipts than in any previous year. Munster played both senior and junior finals together but, unfortunately, the final pairings worked out badly.

Tramore was a reasonably good venue for the senior final between Waterford and Cork, but bringing Cork and Kerry to the

same ground for the junior final was a different matter altogether. The Kerry girls had to travel the full breadth of the province, and one hardly supposes that they brought very many supporters to follow them on that long journey. However, I suppose that is the luck of the draw.

One thing that has pleased me very much is the uniformly high standard we have seen thus far in the junior games. The Leinster final between Dublin and Wexford was a little classic in its own way and shows that there is plenty of reserve talent in both counties.

The enthusiasm and dedication that has been growing within the

● TO PAGE 55

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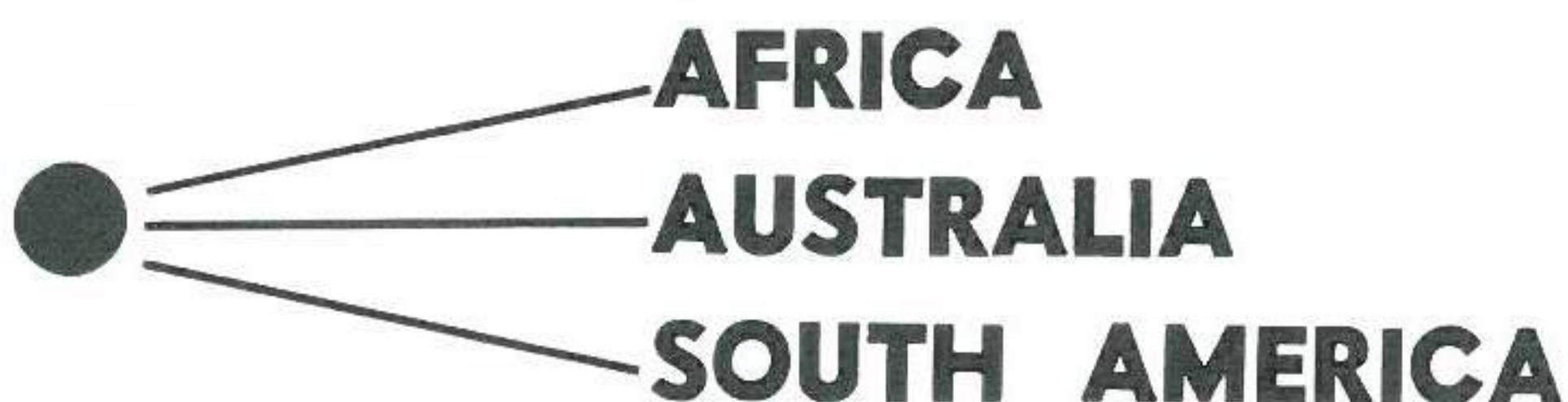
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● FROM PAGE 53

Association through the past couple of seasons has been again intensified over the past couple of months and gives the Special Committee which is at present considering all the ways and means of reorganising the game plenty of material on which to work.

The Committee is at present compiling a fully comprehensive survey of the position of the game in all the counties, and will then deliberate on exactly how that position may be best and most quickly improved.

● Cork and Galway, like Wexford, made history by winning both titles in Munster and Connaught, and will have the honour of being the first counties to represent their provinces in the junior All-Ireland series.

● The great Galway star, Eileen Naughton, now a doctor, was held up by her hospital duties on the day of the Connaught final. Yet she made a dash to the game when her duties were over, and came on for her county in the closing stages.

● Annie and Josie Keogh, who won Leinster junior medals with Wexford, are sisters of Kit Keogh, who has won several All-Ireland medals with Dublin. This Wexford junior side also includes a younger sister of the great Wexford senior defender, Margaret O'Leary.

● On the Dublin junior side was Doreen Golden, a daughter of the former All-Ireland star, Doreen Rogers.

● The All-Ireland finals, senior and junior will be played at Croke Park, on the third Sunday in September. It is not too early now to suggest to clubs, and possibly to schools teams, that they should arrange a trip to Dublin for that day and make this first dual All-Ireland day a real get-together of camogie players, officials and followers.

CAMOGIE STARS: 9

MARY SINNOTT OF WEXFORD

By AGNES HOURIGAN

WHEN Wexford at last achieved the big break through that they had so long striven for, the winning of the Leinster senior championship for the first time, one of the great stars of their victory was the full-back, Mary Sinnott.

Her long clearances, and tremendous goal-pucks, that always fell deep in opposing territory, were the most spectacular feature of her display, but she also performed the most essential duty of a full-back, the consistent foiling of the best efforts of the Kilkenny forwards.

To those who have been watching her play for the past half-dozen seasons or thereabouts that wonderful display by Mary Sinnott came as no surprise, for she has long been recognised as the outstanding full-back in Leinster and possibly the greatest in the game at present. She has won a whole succession of Leinster intermediate medals with her county and several Gael-Linn

interprovincial medals for good measure.

Tall and athletic, she is a natural games player and is well known in other sporting scenes. She is equally talented both at Badminton and lawn tennis, and has won championships in both games.

In fact she holds the distinction of having won Wexford all-county sports awards in different years in different games, camogie and badminton.

But then she comes of versatile sporting stock for she is a niece of the former Wexford All-Ireland hurler, Mick O'Hanlon, who was also a senior inter-county footballer of considerable distinction.

It remains to be seen whether Mary Sinnott will achieve further honours this year, but she has already done more than enough to justify her inclusion in any list of the great stars of the game.

And to add to her achievements on the camogie fields, she is also an extremely competent referee.



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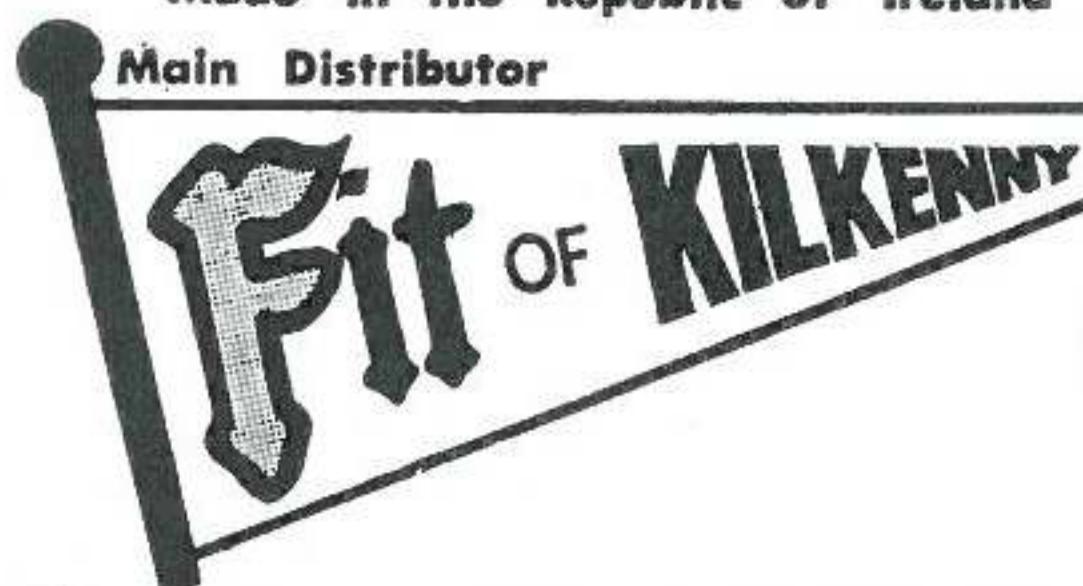
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le LIAM O TUAMA

IS é seo an mhí is tábhtaidhe i saoghal Chumann Lúth Chleas Gaolhal, mar i rith na míosa so imrófar an dá chluiche is tábhtaidhe i rith na bliana go léir, is é sin, an cluiche cheannais peile agus an cluiche cheannais iománíochta. Tá tarraingt draoíachta ag gabháil le gach cheann den dá chluiche seo. Bíonn daoine ag cur síos orra, abfad roimh ré, agus abfad tar éis iad a bheith thart. Beidh a thuairimí phearsanta féin, ag gach aoinne roimh ré, agus 'na dhiaidh sin arís. Tá aithne agam ar dhaoine agus tagann siad go dtí an dá chraobh-chluichí seo, blian i ndiaidh bliana, is cuma cad iad na conndaethe atá páirteach. Tagann cuid aca go Baile Átha Cliath lá nó dó roimh ré; agus fanann siad le cáirde sa chathair. Ní théigheann cuid aca abhaile, díreach, tar éis an chluiche ach chó beag. Caitheann siad lá nó dó eile sa chathair, cuid aca ag déanamh beagáinín siopa-dórchta is mar sin de. Lá mór na saoghal é, teacht go Baile Átha Cliath. Bíonn siad ag trú leis ó cheann cheann na bliana. Táim cinnte go bfuil na mílte is na mílte daoine ar fuaid na tíre seo, go mór mhór, iad siúd atá tamall ana

fhada ón gcathair, agus ní chuirfidís cos leo sa phríomh chathair riamh, riamh, ach amháin na craobh-chluichí a bheith ann. Is iad na cluichí a mhealann iad. Seadh, tá rud éigin, draoideacht éigin a gabháil le-n-ár gcluichí náisiúnta. Cuid de nádiúr ár gcine iad, sin mar a bhíodar riamh, agus sin mar a fhanfiadh siad go deó, chó fhda is a bheidh uisce ag rith agus féar ag fás ar thalamh ghlas na h-Éireann.

Ó GACH ÁIRD

Bhí lá, agus ní ró-fhada siar é ach chó beag, agus ní bheadh i láthair ag na craobh-chluichí ach daoine go raibh cómhnaidhe orra i-n-Éirinn. Rud eile ní i mBaile Átha Cliath a bhíodh na craobh-chluichí i gcómhnaidhe. Bhídís i-n-áiteanna eile seachas Baile Átha Cliath, cuir i gcás, Corcaigh, Tiobrad Árann, Dúrlas Éile is Áth h-í. D'imir Ciarraidhe is Cill Dara i gcoinnibh a chéile trí h-uaire i dtosach na h-aoise seo. B'iontach iad na cluichí céadna seo. Chuireadar tús le réim nua, maidir le peil Ghaodhalach. D'imríodh an chéad chluiche i dTiobrad Árann,

san áit na bfuil Páirc uí Treasaigh i láthair na h-uaire. Bhí an dá fhuireann ar aon scór amháin ag deire na h-uaire. Ní raibh aon árdán nó taobh-líne ceart ann an uair úd, chun na daoine a choimeád taobh amuigh de pháirc na h-imirtha. Téad de shaghas éigin a úsáideadar.

I gCorcaigh abhí an ath-imirt agus cluiche iontach eile abhí ann, agus an toradh céadna abhí leis, is abhí i dTiobrad Árann—an dá fhuireann ar aon scór amháin arís. I gCorcaigh arís abhí an tarna ath-imirt. Thánaigh daoine ó gach áird chun an triú babhta so d'feiscint. Bhí níos mó daoine i láthair ag an gcluiche seo ná mar abhí ag aon chluiche ó bhunú an Chumainn i leith, agus do bailigheadh níos mó airgid ag an ngeata mar a gcéadna. Maidir leis an gcluiche féin, sár-chluiche eile abhí ann—cluiche breágh, glan, fearúil. Aoinne abhí ag féachaint air, níor dhéin sé dearmhad air riamh, riamh. Ní rabhas féin ann, ach bhí m'athair ann, agus is minic a bhíod sé ag cur síos air, cois teine istoidhe.

● AR LEAN LEATH. 58

MÓDHANNA NUA

Maidir le córacha iompair, is iontach go deó an dul chun cinn atá déanta ón dtréimhse úd. Bhí na daoine ag brath ar an dtraen ar fad, ar fad an uair sin. Ní dóigh liom gur thánigh aoinne go dtí aon cheann des na trí cluichí san, i ngluaisteán, mar ní rabhadar ann chuige ach ceann fánach, agus aon cheann abhí ann is ag "na h-uaisle" a bhíodh sé, de ghnáth,—daoine ná raibh aon mheas aca orainn ná ar Chumann Lúth Cleas Gaeda ach chó beag. Tá móran buntáistí ag daoine an lae indiú maidir le teastal chun chluichí. Tá gluaisteáin, busanna is eitealláin ann i láthair na h-uaire. Módhanna nua taistil is ea iad so uile. Tagann na céadta is na céadta gach blian ó Shasanna go dtí na craobh-chluichí. Tagann a bfuirmhór ar eitealláin. Tagann cuid aca ar maidin agus fillenn siad abhaile arís um thráth-nóna arís. Ní ó Shasanna amháin a thagann siad. Tagann siad chugainn ó Nua Eabhrach agus ó chathaireacha eile i n-America chó maith. Is breágh leó a bheith 'na dtír dhuchais féin, is a bheith ag measadh le muinntir a dtíre féin. Déanann sé maitheas dóibh i míle slighe.

ÁIT EILE AR FAD

Áit eile ar fad is é Baile Átha Cliath ar an lá go mbíonn na craobh-Chluichí ghá n-imirt i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Fiú amháin ar an oidhche roimh ré, mothuigíonn tú an t-atarú. Ag siubhal suas síos Sráid uí Chonnaill, muinntear na tuaithe ar fad atá ann. Árdíonn sé do chroidhe, is bogann sé do chroidhe. Cuireann sé 'na luighe ort ná bfuil an t-seana chúis marbh fós. Castar ort, plúr ár gcine, óg is aosta, cuid aca a thánaigh abfad ó bhaile, an chéad uair do chuid aca a bheith i mBaile Átha Cliath i-n-aon chor, buachaillí breághtha, ag caitheamh cótaí troma b'féidir, seadh is caipíní leis an seana stíl, tá 's agat—bláth ár dtíre, is rogha chine Gaodhal

JOHN O'DONOGHUE

was confined to bed for years when he received a gift and handshake from his hurling or football idol. This small gesture would help to foster goodwill and also give our games a better image.

For a start, why not visit Artane. After all, the boys' band from this institution has become part and parcel of All-Ireland final day. Why not repay the compliment?

M.—Any rule you would like to see changed in the present set-up?

O'D.—I would very much like to see thirteen-a-side hurling given a trial. It would eliminate a lot of fouling, produce more open play and result in more scores. That's what makes a game good. Plans are afoot for a thirteen-a-side game in Munster in the near future. I think also that the authorities should experiment with the automatic suspension rule. By all means be harsh with offenders who strike an op-

ponent with a hurley, but for trivial offences why not try a "cooling period" of say ten minutes?

M.—Any other comment to make on the general G.A.A. scene?

O'D.—I think the Association should spread its wings and get more involved in social activities. For instance, why was there not a game played for the Biafara Famine Appeal? After all, many ex G.A.A. players are labouring on the Mission field in the stricken country and our help should be forthcoming. Just look at the great work Jimmy Magee's All-Stars are doing for charity with the help of our ex G.A.A. players.

M.—What are your ambitions now?

O'D.—Strange to relate, I prefer football to hurling, and would dearly like to see Tipperary win Munster and All-Ireland senior football titles.

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● FROM PAGE 19

Our breadman said to the wife that there was a terrible thing done out at Rathcooney graveyard on Sunday night. The graves had all been torn up. Horrified, she asked why.

They were looking for hurlers, Mam, the breadman said. But does anyone thing that hurling is dead in Cork? Not at all. The defeat by Tipperary has only emphasised that something is wrong. The men we have aren't good enough, or we are selecting some of the wrong ones, or we must wait a few more years 'till the younger chaps really widen their shoulders and swing into it with the white hurleys flying.

The other counties must do the same and it is obvious from the display of Waterford's minor hurlers, trained and stimulated by the very manly performer Seamus Power, that na Deise will soon be back also.

In the meantime, it's the character of the champions (Tipperary or Wexford) that matters to the image of a great game. Just as Joe Louis shed a glow on professional boxing, so can Tipperary and Wexford warm us all in the glory of fluent hurling and make us admire once again a game of which any country can be proud, though, naturally, we would prefer to see our own counties demonstrating it.

Just as during the grim reign of Sonny Liston, the professional boxing scene was dimmed, or just as the introduction of racism has dulled the athletic glory of the Mahummad Ali era so, too, can riotous behaviour mar the triumphs of Tipperary or Wexford.

But I don't think that's going to happen. The attention of the country was drawn, very rightly, to the indiscretions of the last twelve months and the outcry that was raised at hurley-swinging in big games has made con-

trol a bit tighter in the smaller, but no less important games also. Everyone realises that the thing to hit is the sliotar and that's how I see it just now.

Though I would prefer to see the red jersey in there on final day, I really don't mind very much if we see a game of hard, fast hurling and may the best horse jump the ditch.

Let's stop moaning about the

state of hurling and, instead, go out and play it. If we are too long in the tooth to do this, then, at least, let's give a cheer for the dedicated athlete who bends his mind and body to the task of perfecting his skill in a noble game.

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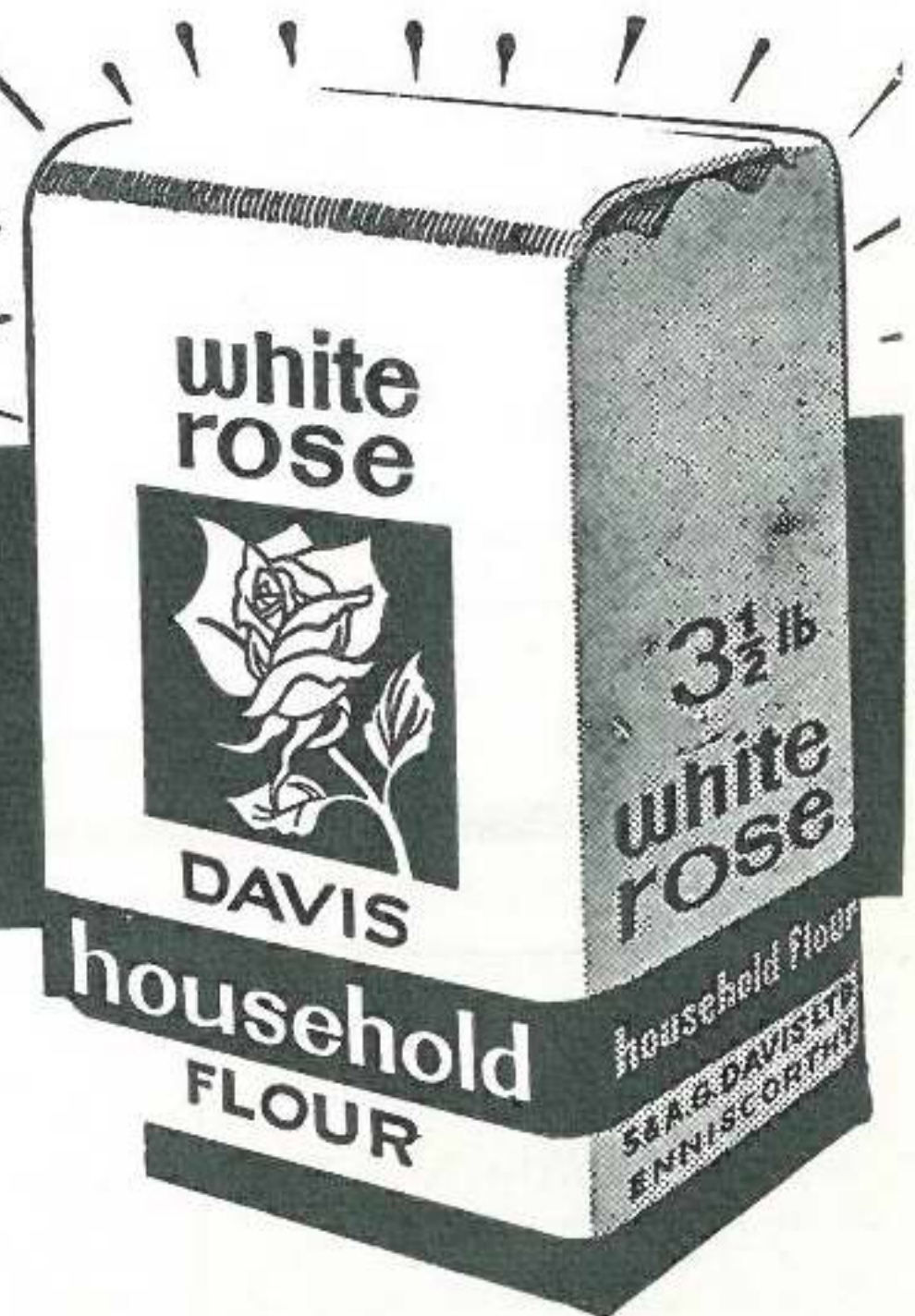
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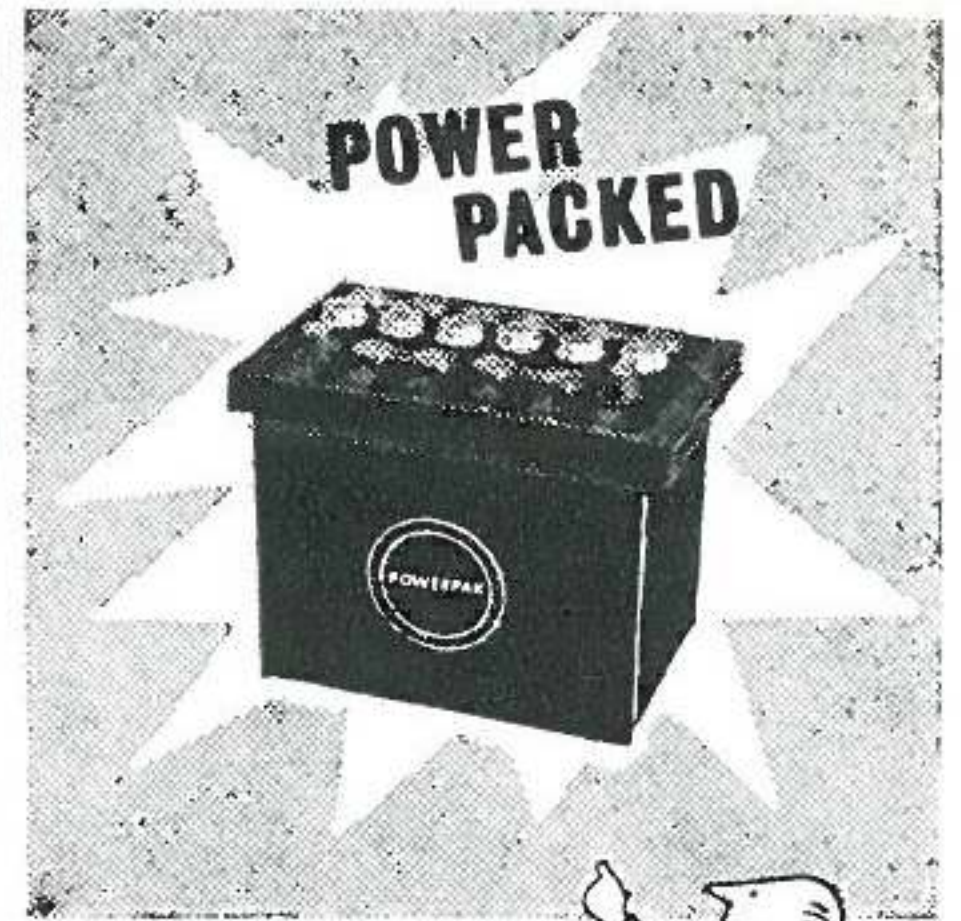
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Mick Burns



John Gleeson



Len Gaynor

● FROM PAGE 9

painful process: it looked for a while as though it would take time. Some of the remaining men from the great days were slow to show their paces again, and the youngsters on whom the hope of spare-parts was to be based did not immediately prove their worth. A trough of depression settled over the Premier County and hurling men bit their nails almost as far as their elbows after the spiritless misery of the heavy Wexford defeat. It looked as if they hadn't a chance in the League, but they worked their way back into it by their own initiative—drawing a crucial game with Kilkenny when Nealon of the old and P. J. Ryan of the new stormed the scene, and winning the play-off, to move on and face for an inevitable win—and all the time improving once they had turned the corner after the New Ross disaster. The pride of Tipperary had been hurt then as seldom before, and the improvement was a manifestation of that pride more than anything else.

It would not be putting too much of a point on it to say that Donie Nealon was the leader in this resurgence; his centre-field play propped up the section which most needed attention, and his influence brought the best out of young Ryan. It was a remarkable display of courage from this veteran player to be willing to carry the centre-field burden, and just when his task seemed to have merited him release for his

specialised job in the attack, the suspension of young Flanagan has thrown the load back on his shoulders. It cannot, however, be a situation which causes satisfaction in Tipperary.

Mick Roche, right out of touch at centre-field, meanwhile was carving out a reputation for himself as a centre-back of great ability—he loses nothing by comparison with his illustrious predecessor Tony Wall. In fact, he is far more aggressive and assertive in his play there than Wall, though, of course, he has not yet developed the uncanny sixth sense for defensive cover which was the hallmark of Tony's game.

P. J. Ryan flowered beyond expectation; O'Gorman and Flanagan fulfilled the potential they had shown the previous year; Len Gaynor continued un-

interrupted the astonishingly consistent brilliance which has blessed his whole career in the blue-and-gold jersey; Jimmy Doyle worked hard to shed weight and was again somewhere near his best; Keating never failed to produce the quality performance; John O'Donoghue regained again that edge of confidence which he lacked after a serious footballing injury.

The League was won, and the championship has been but a pleasant sharpener so far. This team appears to have cemented itself together during the American trip integrating the younger players into the Tipperary way of hurling life. And this year has brought some extra bonuses: Jimmy Ryan coming in to show his invaluable qualities as a hunter and runner working that little harder to make up for any slight loss of stamina in some of the veterans; Stapleton has been found to have not only the hurling skill but the big-match temperament and the adaptability; Gleeson proves Tipperary must have an endless mine of defensive talent, and the rollicking, happy Costigan drives the point home by taking over the full-back berth and handling it with the air of a man who truly enjoys his hurling as much as hurling to win; and Jack Ryan proves to be a splendid and energetic provider who will yet make profitable contribution.

Then McLoughlin wasn't really finished after all; and neither was Devaney who seems to go on and on and on . . . and remains as effective as ever. So what can you say of Tipperary, and the hurling men of Tipperary, except that they are back where they belong once more. Pride and love of hurling have brought them far from the bad moments of mid-winter, and who is to say that it will not play an important part in their struggle for ultimate supremacy on September 1.



Liam Devaney



Donie Nealon

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display of recent times when they shattered Wexford (5-12 to 1-4) in the 1964 League (Home) Final. It was all over at half-time when they led by 4-7 to 0-2, four golden goals, brilliantly executed. In the 1965 All-Ireland Tipperary again proved too strong for Wexford, winning by 2-16 to 0-10. Tipperary were bidding for their 21st crown and John Doyle for his eighth All-Ireland medal (to put him level with Ring).

There was an air of inevitability about it all, Tipperary being the hottest favourites imaginable against a Wexford side, nine of whom were appearing in their first decider.

Tipperary beat Wexford in the League semi-final this season but Wexford forwards, be it said, revealed loopholes in the defence, still finding its feet at the time.

Therefore, a study of the League and All-Ireland results since 1960 shows that the advantage is now in Tipperary's favour and not alone on the balance of games won, but in the psychological sense too. I know that returning from America the view of the Tipperary players generally was that if they could get over Clare in the first round they would win the All-Ireland. They felt they had the measure of both Cork and Wexford.

Wexford in the Leinster Final were a far better team against Kilkenny than Cork were against Tipperary in the Munster Final. I am not saying that because Cork suffered such a trouncing. I am saying it because Kilkenny in defeat produced some really fine hurling in the second half, when they snatched a 'soft' goal that would have knocked the heart out of most other sides, Wexford came fighting back and within a twinkling Phil Wilson had placed the ball in the square to 'make' a golden goal.

Wexford, remember, beat a side that included men of the calibre of Seamus Cleere, Ted Carroll, Eddie Keher, Claus Dunne, Pat Henderson, Jim Treacy—and Cork at present haven't hurlers of the skill of these players.

True, Kilkenny were without Ollie Walsh and his absence cast a certain shadow over the match that to my mind made all the difference between defeat and victory as far as the Noresiders were concerned. They wanted the inspiration Ollie alone can provide at his best. My overall impression of the game was that the Wexford defence would not hold the Tipperary attack. I will not develop the argument, you form your impressions after long years looking at hurling. I may be wrong; Wexford proved me wrong in 1960 and could do so again. But I came away from Croke Park after the Leinster Final with the conviction that the skill and fast hitting of Jimmy Doyle, 'Babs' Keating and Donie Nealon would prove too much for the Wexford defence. We had known all this season that Kilkenny had no full-forward line of real class or punch and it was blatantly obvious when the openings came against Wexford. In the end Eddie Keher had to switch into the left corner and he nearly got the equalising point on the call of time.

Tipperary, I thought, won at half-pace against Cork whereas Wexford were at full stretch against Kilkenny. They were like a 'lazy' classic horse of real merit who wins by a comfortable three or four lengths in a trial when it might have been ten.

Tony Herbert, the former Limerick and Dublin player who certainly knows his hurling, confirmed this viewpoint, as did other shrewd judges of the game.

Wexford's forwards, I reckon, are far better than Cork's and the Leesiders have no midfielder to

match Phil Wilson when he really gets going.

I know that there are men (Tipperary supporters amongst them) who still will not accept the Tipperary defence as being 'tops', well though it played against Cork. I know too that Tipperary have not been happy all this season with the midfield.

When there are doubts, and nagging doubts like these, you cannot be certain. You are liable to fall back on tradition remembering that Tipperary have only failed twice since 1922 to win at Croke Park on All-Ireland day—an imposing record.

To sum up then, Wexford are not the Wexford of 1955-'56 or 1960, but they are certainly a much better-balanced team now than in 1965, a result I discount. Tipperary, to my mind, are not as powerful or streamlined as they were in 1964-'65 but individual players like Jimmy Doyle, 'Babs' Keating, Mick Roche and P. J. Ryan, to mention but four, stand very high in my ratings at the moment, and it is very hard indeed to oppose a side that includes them.

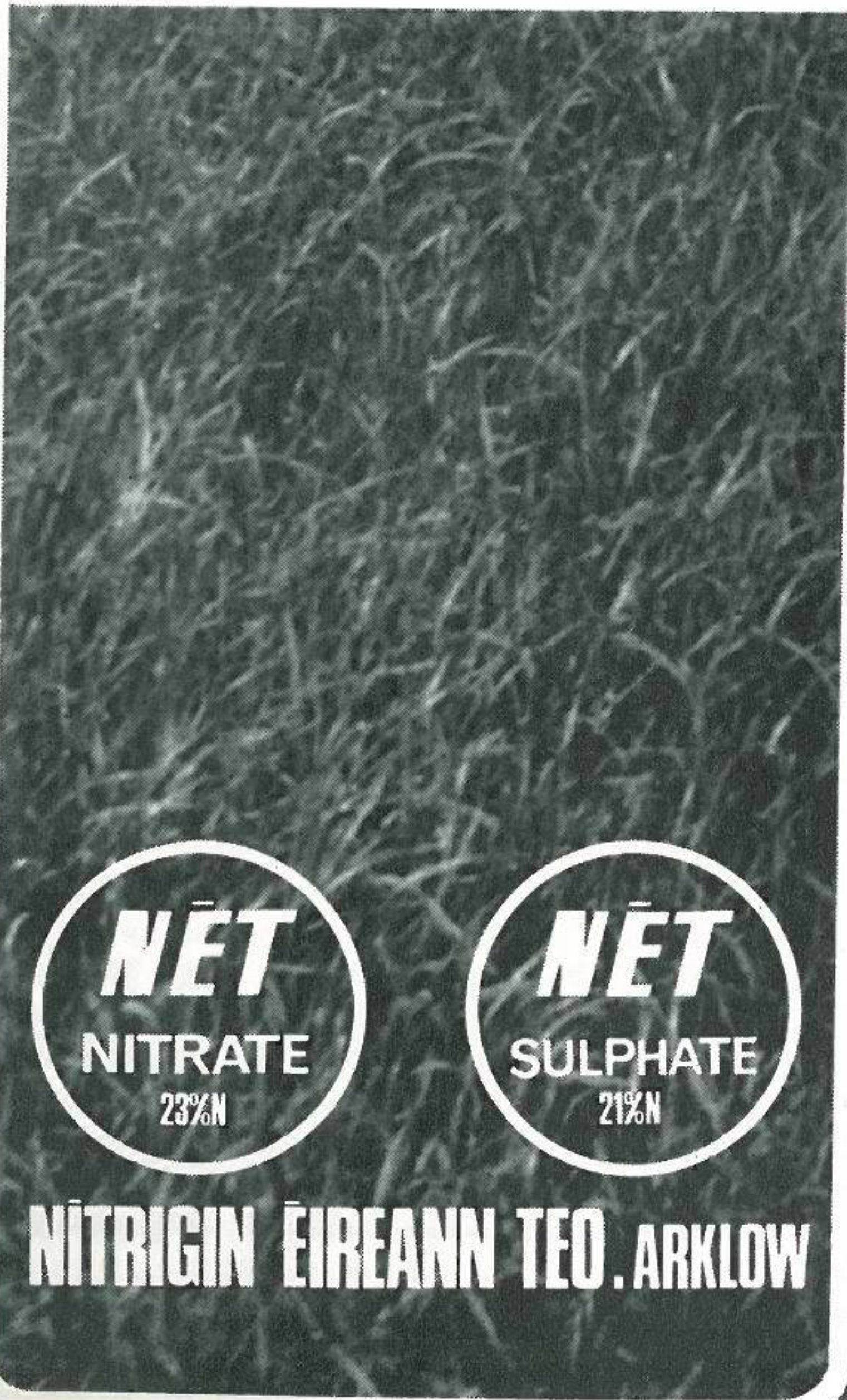
Tipperary have gone from strength to strength since that initial defeat by Wexford way back in the early stages of the League. There is a wonderful spirit amongst the players and they will not hear of defeat. Wexford, in turn, have shown a purpose and dedication in their approach this season that impresses me greatly.

I would like to see a Final as memorable in content as the 1962 decider between these two counties. Hurling needs it. I grow tired of expecting the glory of other days to be recaptured, as was the case this year with the Munster Final, only to find Tipperary going out and making it look all too one-sided.

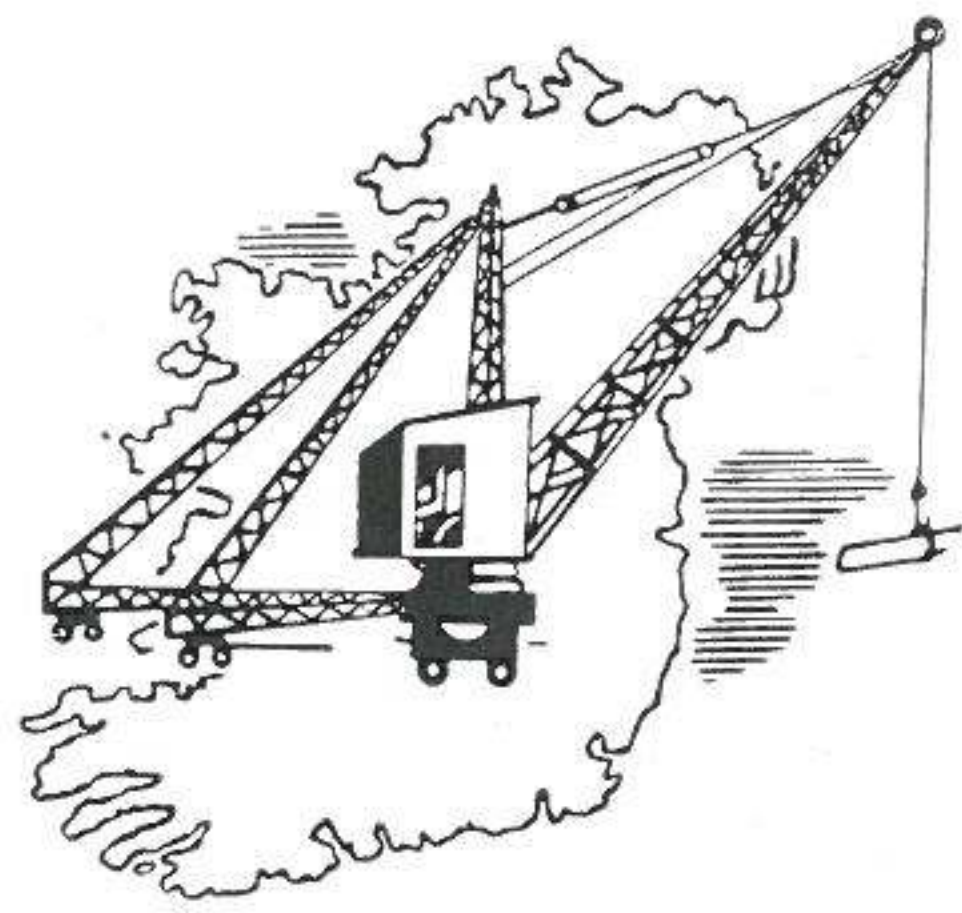
If Wexford upset the odds, one cannot but admit that it would be a great fillip for the game.

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OSMOND BENNETT



The Corkman who trains Tipperary

By RAYMOND SMITH

YOU cannot talk about the outstanding successes Tipperary has enjoyed in recent years without referring to the non-Tipperaryman who trains them—Osmond Bennett, better known to the players and supporters as “Ossie.”

In Tipperary it goes against tradition to pick a Corkman domiciled in the county on the senior championship side. And in Cork it is the same where Tipperary-born players are concerned. When Mick Ryan of Roscrea and John O’Grady of Moycarkey were starring for Cork clubs, they could not make the Cork senior team and would hardly have done so, even if they were particularly anxious to wear the Red and White.

Tipperary then have paid a very special tribute to the skill of Ballinhassig-born Ossie Bennett as a trainer in relying on him as their man through most of the sixties—and he has assisted them with joint-trainer Gerry Doyle (father of Jimmy) in the winning of four All-Irelands since 1961.

“I must admit,” said Ossie, “that I did not feel too good at first about training Tipperary when they were opposing Cork in the Munster championship. I preferred it when the two teams did not come up against each other. But eventually I had to face the inevitable and I saw Tipperary score very big victories over Cork in Munster. Perhaps there were Cork people who did

not like it—but the way I came to see it was that hurling itself must be first and what really matters is that one is involved in furthering the game itself.”

To-day he is in the motor trade in Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, and he has helped Tipperary score important victories over this county too. But for most hurling followers Ossie has long since merged into the Tipperary camp and, indeed, is almost regarded as a ‘native’ now.

In America he purchased a very old-style model Ford and had it shipped back to Ireland like a rare prize—meeting it off the docks himself, the day after Tipperary beat Clare in the Munster semi-final. There is something in that. It indicates that in business Ossie is conscious of the proud traditions of the past and what the men who blazed the trail accomplished. But he is right up with the times too and this is clearly evident in his approach to training methods.

“I believe,” he confided, “that if you have the men and the team it is easy enough to train them. And if they are dedicated in their approach and observe the schedules laid down, the task is made simpler still. You could be the best trainer in the world, and if you hadn’t the men it would be ridiculous hoping to win an All-Ireland crown.”

Ossie has the hurlers and he is conscious of this but he knows too how to employ this great talent properly. There was a

time when all hurlers on a team, lightly-built as well as well-muscled men, could be given the same hard training through a stiff championship campaign. What is one man’s meat. . . .

Ossie Bennett has never made this mistake. Neither has he made the mistake of hitting the training hard for each match. When Tipperary won the League title in the States, he said that he would only do the very minimum that was necessary for the Clare game, realising that hard training after a tiring trip could turn the players sour.

Timing then of preparation is everything—you hit your peak at first in the Spring to win the League, then you coast to the Munster Final, hitting a secondary peak for that and then you must ensure that the team comes out fresh with renewed vigour for the All-Ireland Final, if you get that far.

With Tipperary, Ossie Bennett has discounted for all time the theory that an American trip could spoil a team’s prospects of winning the championship. Tipperary have come back more than once in recent years to win the championship after taking the League title in the States. The man who was born in Ballinhassig about thirteen miles from Cork city does not under-estimate the challenge Tipperary faces in the All-Ireland. “We are very much up against it, I feel,” he said. “Wexford have a way of

● TO PAGE 67

LUCOZADE

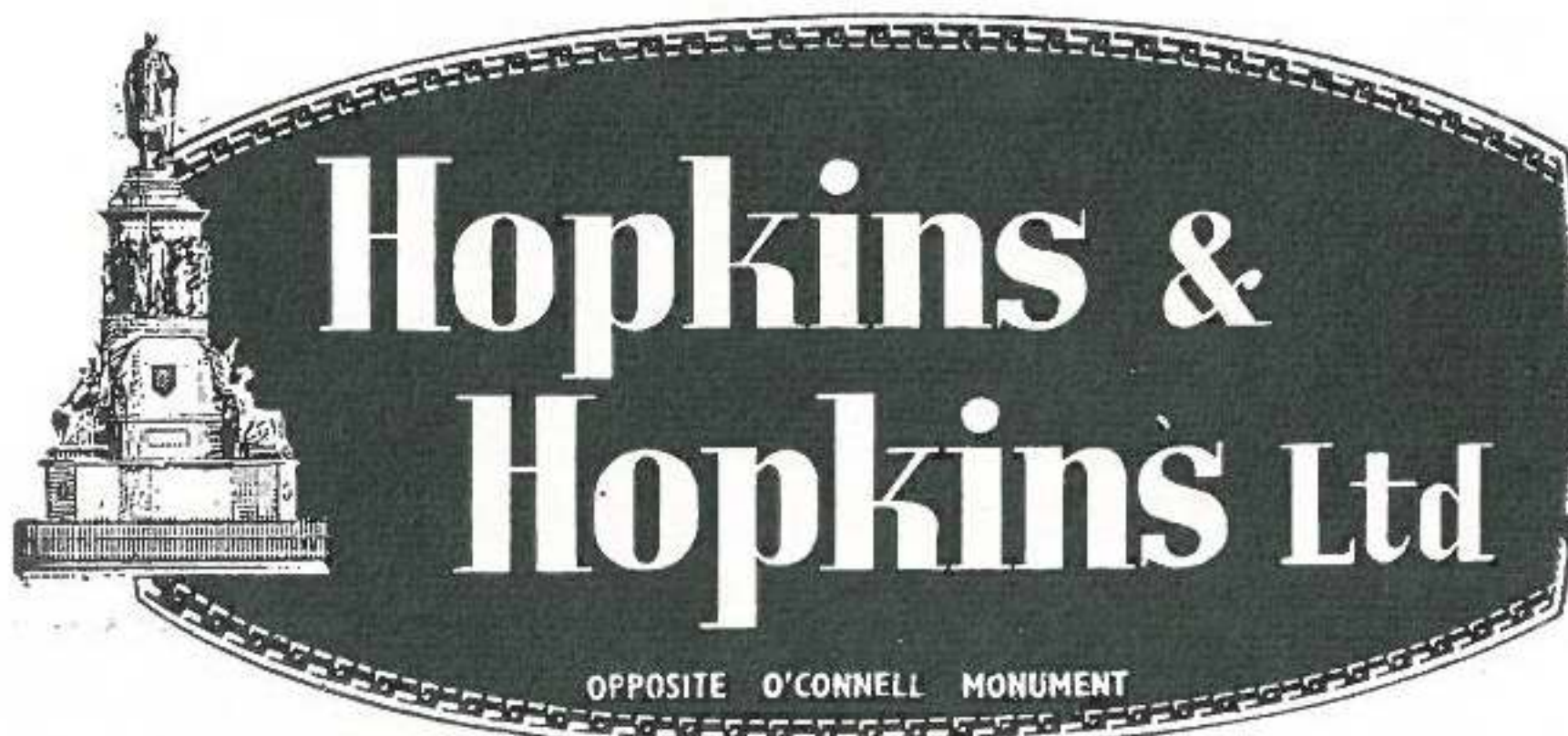
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● FROM PAGE 65

producing their very best displays on All-Ireland Final days and when Tipperary are their opponents they seem to be especially good."

He would make no forecasts, he was hoping for the best, he was hoping that what Tipperary did in Gaelic Park, New York, and again in Cork (against Clare) and in Limerick (against Cork) they would repeat at Croke Park on the day that mattered most.

Tipperary have won four All-Irelands under him now and will this be a fifth for his training skill?

Even if Wexford should shatter his hopes Osmond Bennett will take it with a philosophical shrug and will be the same genial, hearty "Ossie" to hurling followers everywhere.



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ALL-IRELAND ROLL OF HONOUR

SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

FOLLOWING is the full list of All-Ireland senior hurling champions, with the beaten finalists in brackets:—

1887—**Tipperary** (Galway)
 1888—Championship not decided.
 1889—**Dublin** (Clare)
 1890—**Cork** (Wexford)
 1891—**Kerry** (Wexford)
 1892—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1893—**Cork** (Kilkenny)
 1894—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1895—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1896—**Tipperary** (Dublin)
 1897—**Limerick** (Kilkenny)
 1898—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1899—**Tipperary** (Wexford)
 1900—**Tipperary** (London-Irish)
 1901—**London-Irish** (Cork)
 1902—**Cork** (London-Irish)
 1903—**Cork** (London-Irish)
 1904—**Kilkenny** (Cork)
 1905—**Kilkenny** (Cork)
 1906—**Tipperary** (Dublin)
 1907—**Kilkenny** (Cork)
 1908—**Tipperary** (Dublin)
 1909—**Kilkenny** (Tipperary)
 1910—**Wexford** (Limerick)
 1911—**Kilkenny** (Tipperary)
 1912—**Kilkenny** (Cork)
 1913—**Kilkenny** (Tipperary)
 1914—**Clare** (Laois)
 1915—**Laois** (Cork)
 1916—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1917—**Dublin** (Tipperary)
 1918—**Limerick** (Wexford)
 1919—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1920—**Dublin** (Cork)
 1921—**Limerick** (Dublin)

1922—**Kilkenny** (Tipperary)
 1923—**Galway** (Limerick)
 1924—**Dublin** (Galway)
 1925—**Tipperary** (Galway)
 1926—**Cork** (Kilkenny)
 1927—**Dublin** (Cork)
 1928—**Cork** (Galway)
 1929—**Cork** (Galway)
 1930—**Tipperary** (Dublin)
 1931—**Cork** (Kilkenny)
 1932—**Kilkenny** (Clare)
 1933—**Kilkenny** (Limerick)
 1934—**Limerick** (Dublin)
 1935—**Kilkenny** (Limerick)
 1936—**Limerick** (Kilkenny)
 1937—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1938—**Dublin** (Waterford)
 1939—**Kilkenny** (Cork)
 1940—**Limerick** (Kilkenny)
 1941—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1942—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1943—**Cork** (Antrim)
 1944—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1945—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1946—**Cork** (Kilkenny)
 1947—**Kilkenny** (Cork)
 1948—**Waterford** (Dublin)
 1949—**Tipperary** (Laois)
 1950—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1951—**Tipperary** (Wexford)
 1952—**Cork** (Dublin)
 1953—**Cork** (Galway)
 1954—**Cork** (Wexford)
 1955—**Wexford** (Galway)
 1956—**Wexford** (Cork)
 1957—**Kilkenny** (Waterford)
 1958—**Tipperary** (Galway)
 1959—**Waterford** (Kilkenny)
 1960—**Wexford** (Tipperary)

1961—**Tipperary** (Dublin)
 1962—**Tipperary** (Wexford)
 1963—**Kilkenny** (Waterford)
 1964—**Tipperary** (Kilkenny)
 1965—**Tipperary** (Wexford)
 1966—**Cork** (Kilkenny)
 1967—**Kilkenny** (Tipperary)

MINOR CHAMPIONS

1928—**Cork**; 1929—**Waterford**;
 1930 — **Tipperary**; 1931 — **Kilkenny**;
 1932—**Tipperary**; 1933—**Tipperary**;
 1934—**Tipperary**; 1935—**Kilkenny**;
 1936—**Cork**; 1937—**Cork**;
 1938—**Cork**; 1939—**Cork**;
 1940 — **Limerick**; 1941 — **Cork**;
 1942/3/4 — **Suspended**; 1945—**Dublin**;
 1946—**Dublin**; 1947—**Tipperary**;
 1948—**Waterford**; 1949—

Tipperary; 1950—**Kilkenny**; 1951—**Cork**;
 1952—**Tipperary**; 1953—**Tipperary**;
 1954—**Dublin**; 1955—**Tipperary**;
 1956—**Tipperary**; 1957—**Tipperary**;
 1958 — **Limerick**;
 1959 — **Tipperary**; 1960 — **Kilkenny**;
 1961 — **Kilkenny**; 1962—**Kilkenny**;
 1963—**Wexford**; 1964—**Cork**;
 1965—**Dublin**; 1966—**Wexford**;
 1967—**Cork**.



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VICTORIOUS ALL-IRELAND HURLING CAPTAINS

1887—J. Stapleton, Tipperary.
 1889—N. O'Shea, Dublin.
 1890—D. Lane, Cork.
 1891—J. Mahony, Kerry.
 1892—W. O'Callaghan, Cork.
 1893—J. Murphy, Cork.
 1894—S. Hayes, Cork.
 1895—M. Maher, Tipperary.
 1896—M. Maher, Tipperary.
 1897—D. Grimes, Limerick.
 1898—M. Maher, Tipperary.
 1899—T. Condon, Tipperary.
 1900—E. Hayes, Tipperary.
 1901—J. Coughlan, London.
 1902—J. Kelleher, Cork.
 1903—S. Riordan, Cork.
 1904—J. Doheny, Kilkenny.
 1905—D. Stapleton, Kilkenny.
 1906—T. Semple, Tipperary.
 1907—R. Walsh, Kilkenny.
 1908—T. Semple, Tipperary.
 1909—R. Walsh, Kilkenny.
 1910—R. Doyle, Wexford.
 1911—S. Walton, Kilkenny.
 1912—S. Walton, Kilkenny.
 1913—R. Walsh, Kilkenny.
 1914—A. Power, Clare.
 1915—J. Finlay, Laois.
 1916—J. Leahy, Tipperary.
 1917—J. Ryan, Dublin.
 1918—W. Hough, Limerick.
 1919—J. Kennedy, Cork.
 1920—R. Mockler, Dublin.
 1921—R. McConkey, Limerick.
 1922—W. Dunphy, Kilkenny.
 1923—M. Kenny, Galway.
 1924—P. Alyward, Dublin.

1925—J. Leahy, Tipperary.
 1926—S. Murphy, Cork.
 1927—M. Gill, Dublin.
 1928—S. Murphy, Cork.
 1929—D. B. Murphy, Cork.
 1930—J. J. Callanan, Tipperary.
 1931—E. Coughlan, Cork.
 1932—J. Walsh, Kilkenny.
 1933—E. Doyle, Kilkenny.
 1934—T. Ryan, Limerick.
 1935—L. Meagher, Kilkenny.
 1936—M. Mackey, Limerick.
 1937—J. Lanigan, Tipperary.
 1938—M. Daniels, Dublin.
 1939—J. Walsh, Kilkenny.
 1940—M. Mackey, Limerick.
 1941—C. Buckley, Cork.
 1942—J. Lynch, Cork.
 1943—M. Kennefick, Cork.
 1944—S. Condon, Cork.
 1945—J. Maher, Tipperary.
 1946—C. Ring, Cork.
 1947—D. Kennedy, Kilkenny.
 1948—J. Ware, Waterford.
 1949—P. Stakelum, Tipperary.
 1950—S. Kenny, Tipperary.
 1951—J. Finn, Tipperary.
 1952—P. Barry, Cork.
 1953—C. Ring, Cork.
 1954—C. Ring, Cork.
 1955—N. O'Donnell, Wexford.
 1956—J. English, Wexford.
 1957—M. Kelly, Kilkenny.
 1958—A. Wall, Tipperary.
 1959—F. Walsh, Waterford.
 1960—N. O'Donnell, Wexford.
 1961—M. Hassett, Tipperary.

1962—J. Doyle, Tipperary.
 1963—S. Cleere, Kilkenny.
 1964—M. Murphy, Tipperary.
 1965—J. Doyle, Tipperary.
 1966—G. McCarthy, Cork.
 1967—J. Treacy, Kilkenny.

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MINORS TO REDEEM CORK'S NAME

By *TIM HORGAN*

CORK'S hurling fortunes may have declined with the eclipse of the senior team in this year's Munster final but on September 1st the minor hurlers will go all out to redeem the county's lost name when they play Wexford in the All-Ireland decider. The Cork boys will be bidding for their ninth title and defending their crown against their old Slaneyside rivals.

The minor hurling championship was begun in 1928 and Cork became the first champions when they beat Dublin after a replay of the final. The competition was suspended during the war years, 1942, '43 and '44, but since its inauguration eleven counties, including Antrim and Meath, have contested the All-Ireland final.

Cork won their second title in 1937 when a young hurler from Cloyne, named Christy Ring, helped them score a good win over Kilkenny in the final. Ring was a member of the victorious Cork team again the following year, and when the Leesiders brought off the three-in-a-row in 1939 a flying youth from Dunmanway, Eamonn Young by name, was the hero of the day.

After a year's respite Cork were back on the victory trail in 1941 when they played Galway in the last final before the recess. Joe Kelly, a brilliant athlete and hurler from Dillon's Cross, led the Rebel County to a sensational

3-11 to 1-1 victory over the Connaught champions and the way was paved for Cork's great senior run in the early 'forties.

Ten years elapsed before the red-jerseyed youths were seen in Croke Park again but they came back with a flourish in 1951 and defeated Galway by two goals in the final. Terry Kelly of Tracton, Eamonn Goulding from Blackpool and Phil Duggan of Grenagh were the most promising youngsters on show that day and all three later played senior hurling with distinction.

The minor championship was dominated by Tipperary in the 'fifties—six titles went to the boys in Blue and Gold during that decade—and it wasn't until 1964 that Cork managed to regain the Munster crown and reach the All-Ireland final. Charlie McCarthy of the 'Barrs was the most notable member of the team which met Laois in the national decider and inflicted a gigantic 10-7 to 1-4 defeat on them. The acquisition of the seventh minor title marked a turning point in the fortunes of the Cork hurlers and two years later Charlie McCarthy was to collect a senior medal with his county.

The Cork minors won their ninth provincial title in 1966 and met Wexford in the All-Ireland final. The game was played at a cracking pace and eventually ended in a 6-7 apiece draw. Then

in a scintillating replay, when it looked as if Cork would carry the day, Wexford made a great comeback in the last quarter, scored four goals and won by two points.

Cork and Wexford qualified for last year's final also and a repeat of the 1966 form was provided. However, this time fortune favoured the Leesiders and after a great performance against the wind in the second-half they went on to win by three points.

Two Cork players will be lining out in their third consecutive All-Ireland final this month. One is the tall, blonde defender John Horgan of the 'Rockies and the other is Christy Ring's nephew, Paddy, who played a great game in last year's final. The record for most appearances in minor finals is held by Jimmy Doyle of Tipperary, who took part in four games, 1954-'58 inclusive, and won medals on the three latter occasions.

Following their brilliant passage through the Leinster championship Wexford have been tipped by many observers to take All-Ireland honours in the minor code this year. However, Cork possess six of the best players from last year's victorious team and these will be assisted by a host of competent newcomers. Tom Buckley of Glen Rovers and Mick Malone of Eire Og are two

● TO PAGE 72

THE LATE DAN O'ROURKE

TWO great Gaels have died since our last issue appeared—first Tom Kilcoyne of Sligo and a few days later Dan O'Rourke, who held the Presidency of the G.A.A. from 1946 to 1949.

Dan O'Rourke, 80 at his death, was a native of County Leitrim, but his name will always be associated with Roscommon, with whom he played inter-county football in the early years of the century and whose interests he cherished in his long years of official service within the Association.

He was chairman of the Co. Board when Roscommon won its two All-Ireland football titles—in 1943 and 1944.

He had the distinction of holding the presidential office when the 1947 Congress voted to play the All-Ireland football final in New York that year and he was present in the Polo Grounds when Cavan took the Sam Maguire Cup from Kerry.

To his family we offer our deep sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 45

1	J	I	2	M	M	3	Y	W	A	4	L	S	H	5	M
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6	C	O	G	A	N			7	O	H	E	H	I	R	
	K		U					8	G	R	A	S	S		A
9	B	R	I	G	H	T				10	N	O	L	A	N
	A		R		I								O		
11	T	R	E	A	C		14	Y		15	L	O	A	16	13
	E						18	K	O		A		19	N	I
20	S	D	21	N	E	G	A	N							R
	O	R	V			23	Y	A	R	D	24	S			O
25	N	O	E	L							26	A	R	R	O
						27	P	R	E	Y			28	C	U
															R

● FROM PAGE 71

of the most accomplished forwards in the game and with Paddy Ring a threat to any defence, these should give the Wexford backs a lot to worry about. Timothy O'Shea (Passage), Mick Ryan (Inniscarra), Seamus Looney (St. Finbarrs) and Martin Coleman (Ballinhasig) are some of the other notable players on the team.

The champions defeated Lime-

rick, Galway and a promising Waterford side on their way to the final and, now that Cork hurling badly needs the fillip a minor success can provide, they should make an extra-special effort to retain the title. Wexford will be striving for their third All-Ireland minor crown and should provide very stiff opposition to the champions. But my guess is that Cork will win by a few points again this year.

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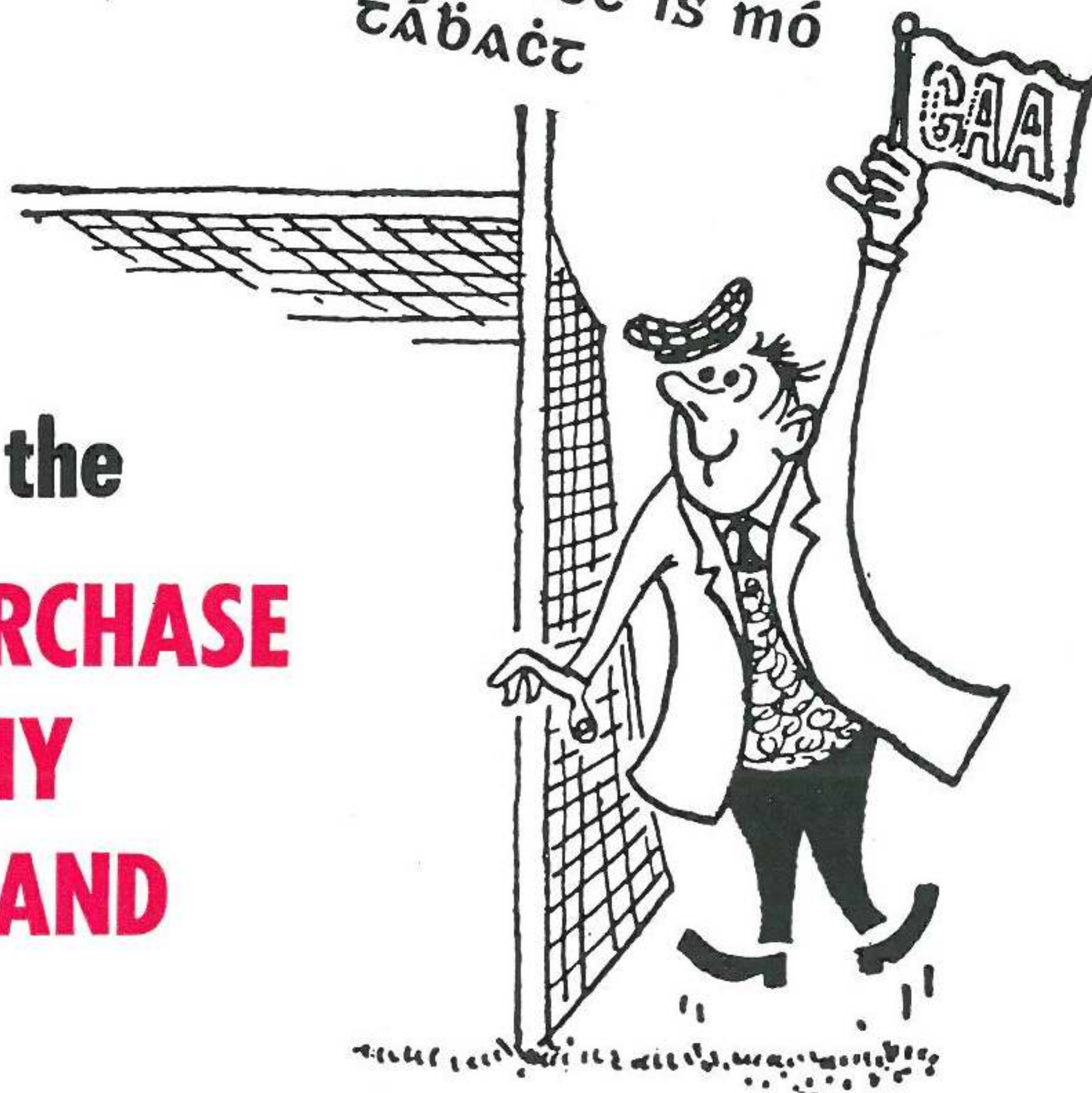
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