

# Gaelic News

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Listen a stór, they have come from a place that's proud

Where hearts beat high for Ireland and hearts were bowed.

From people who fought and suffered, but never sold

That heritage guarded and girt by the Green and Gold.



# Antrim's Under-21 Win—What Does It Mean?

**I**N the eyes of people from counties that have tasted success at a higher level the winning of the All-Ireland under-21 football championship may not seem very important. But to a county like success-starved Antrim winning this title could well open the gateway to greater things and is therefore looked upon with tremendous excitement.

The first championship is always the hardest one to win and when Antrim defeated Roscommon in the final at Croke Park in September their big following in the crowd went wild with delight. They submerged the green sward of headquarters in a sea of saffron and white.

This was the moment every true follower of Antrim had waited for. The moment that an All-Ireland cup would become their's had been dreamt about for many years in the northern capital.

But now that the initial excitement and delight has worn off it is time to reflect and think of what the future holds for Antrim. Are they bound for greater things or will they again sink back into oblivion? It was with this question uppermost in my mind that I visited a recent training session at Casement Park and talked to the officials behind the scene.

"We are very confident of a good run in the national league," secretary Al McMurray told me. "At least six of the under-21 team are already in the senior side and there are others, some even in the reserves, that will definitely make the grade," he said.

Much of Antrim's success can be attributed to Manager Tommy Hall. When Tommy was appointed in February of last year Antrim hadn't won a game for 12 months. But he made it known to the county committee that appointed him and the followers in general that he didn't expect immediate results. "I asked the supporters for patience and to set their hopes on a few years hence rather than on the immediate future," Tommy told me.

"It was experience that I wanted the boys to gain at first and then success would follow I was sure," Hall said.

Tommy's plan seemed to have worked admirably. The senior team had a good run in the league last winter and the experience that the under-21 players in that side gained helped in no small way to bring the under-21 trophy to Antrim.

"I'd put it down to Tommy Hall's great way with the boys," assistant secretary Gerry Barry told me. "He has been connected with our minor teams for years now and most of these boys have grown up under his guidance. This year the under-21s got the breaks that the minors didn't get and in this way there is no doubt that we can go places."

"Tommy has generated a great spirit in the camp.

Club patriotism is forgotten when the boys don the county jersey. They are now willing to mix with each other more freely. This is a tremendous help," Al McMurray said.

Despite the great admiration that the Antrim county board members have for their heroes they are cautious about the future. They know that it is a big step from under-age competitions to senior ranks and they don't want to commit themselves as to when or if, the county will reach the top of the senior ladder.

"We should do well in the under-21 grade for the next two years. Our junior team should also benefit greatly next season and eventually the senior side should emerge as a force in Ulster," I was told.

Gerry Barry, the man with the statistics at his fingertips told me that 16 of this year's panel will again be available next year and 10 of them will be eligible in 1971 for the under-21 championship.

With around 1,300 adult players taking part in Antrim football leagues the selectors have a wide selection to choose their various teams from. I asked if enough top class players were now available to bring Antrim right to the top and I was told that the talent was definitely there. "Many of the senior players will now have to step up on their current form and their general approach to the game or they will find themselves replaced by the younger and more eager boys," was a comment from one of the selectors.

The effects of Antrim's victory are hard to assess. I find that some followers within the county are inclined to look upon an Antrim win, even in a very secondary competition, as the greatest thing since the start of the G.A.A. To others nothing short of bringing home the Sam Maguire Cup will do. Moderates seem to be few and far between amongst followers in the saffron county.

However, it is noticeable that teams from such hurling strongholds as Glenarriff and Armoy have entered the football leagues for the '69-'70 season and it could be that the county's rise to fame has motivated this.

Looking at the picture from the sideline as it were it would seem that Antrim are now in a position from which they have the means to better themselves in the football world. They will have gained much-needed support because as Tommy Hall put it "apart from do-

ing the boys good it has also done the followers a tremendous amount of good."

As well, the new-found spirit amongst the players

evening we had a private social. A majestic cake about 3' long and 2' wide was heartily enjoyed by both players and officials. Then on October 29 there

establish ourselves in the future," he added.

Personally, I believe that Antrim have the potential to become a force in senior circles. Whether they will win an All-Ireland senior title in the near future or not is a matter of conjecture. But if the boys retain their present impetus and as long as there are men like Tommy Hall, chairman Brian Moore, Al McMurray and all the other hard working officials around they are in with a great

chance.

Incidentally, according to his colleagues one man who has contributed greatly to Antrim's present position is treasurer Jack Rooney. It is not often that a treasurer is accorded praise for his part in a victory but because Jack was so willing to get training equipment and anything else that the boys needed he is looked upon as a person who has played a big part in bringing the under-21 championship to Antrim.

## TONY MCGEE REPORTS

might be just the thing to turn the tide in Antrim's favour. "Lack of social contact in former years was a big drawback. This year we have had many get-togethers and after training one

was a county dinner at which the All-Ireland medallists and their friends were guests of honour," Sport and Travel director McMurray told me. "All this will help our bid to



The Antrim Under-21 team. BACK ROW (left to right): Brendan Rainey, Andy McCallin, Paul Curran, Sean McClean, Gerry Dillon, Din Joe McGrogan, Aidan Hamill. MIDDLE ROW: Donal Burns, Terry Dunlop, Gerry Nellis, Billy Millar, Ray McIlroy, Seamus Killough, Jim Mullan, Sean Boylan, Sean Higgins. FRONT ROW: Tommy Hall (manager), Martin McGraughan, Michael Culbert, Gerry Pollack, Liam Boyle (capt.), Gerry McCann, Ciaran O'Neill, Joe Dowds, Al McMurray (Co. Secretary).

## HANDBALL

**T**HE most noteworthy achievement of the recent All-Ireland championships was the performance of Dublin in winning three of the titles. Niall Cahill and Pat Masterson from the Naomh Padraig club won the junior softball doubles, while another well-known club — St. Michans from Green St. — supplied the winners of two minor titles — Macartan Brady and Matthew Williams.

These victories will add considerably to the stature of the game in the Metropolis. The juniors' win will give added strength to what is generally regarded as Dublin's senior handballing trio — Andy Byrne, Mick Sullivan and Jim Doyle. And, yet to prove the point, the County selectors chose Cahill and Masterson as the doubles partnership for the National League.

Besides, being a boost for the young St. Michans club, the minor win has vindicated the Dublin Minor Board's decision of a couple of years ago to concentrate on native tal-

ent, when selecting county teams. Brady, in particular, is destined to go far. Formerly, a star with St. Macartans, Monaghan, he has the style, skill and physique to reach top senior standard.

The other two minor titles were won by the experienced Wexford partnership of Noel and John Quigley.

At last, Wicklow made the breakthrough when Joe Clery and Paddy Lee took a senior title to the county for the first time since 1931. This means a lot to handball in the County and particularly to their respective clubs, Arklow and Tinahely, who are both in course of completing roofed and floodlit courts.

Of course, where the old code of handball is concerned, Kildare can be expected to make an impression. At senior level, Willie Doran and Greg Lawler took the doubles title. This certainly was a wonderful uplift to Doran who has been trying for more than a decade to supple-

ment the junior title he won then.

Eamonn Deegan and John Browne followed this up by taking the junior handball doubles title, thus, maintaining Kildare's wonderful record in this particular competition. The other two junior singles titles went to Pat Davin of Tipperary and Mick McAuliffe from Limerick.

Davis, has, for a long time, been a force in the All-Army championships, and, despite his many appearance for the county, this is his first real break.

Limerick's McAuliffe also had the distinction of playing in a senior all-Ireland final, a few weeks after his junior success.

And, of course, whither Joe Maher. The great Drogheda ace won both senior singles titles and thus, maintained his unbeaten record since returning from Toronto some eighteen months ago. As a matter of fact it is now nearly a decade since Maher was beaten in singles compet-

ition. It is odds-on that he will be our representative in the World Championships next May.

On the administrative side of things the best news in a long time is that the Central Council has given the go-ahead for the erection of the super-equipped glass side and back-walled court at Croke Park.

It was an ambitious decision, taking into account the poor response to the recent fund-raising raffle. However, Secretary Joe Lynch still has confidence in the G.A.A. clubs. "We must forget the previous disappointment," he said, "and presume that the real significance of this great occasion had not been fully realised by our hurling and football units. The message has now been relayed and, we are confident of a unanimous and spontaneous response."

Everybody who wishes to see handball make progress will share his optimism.

Clarach Mac Eoin.



# NEWELL INSPIRED LONDON TO JUNIOR TITLE

Following their dismal display in the 1968 junior final against Tyrone, at Croke Park, there were many who had doubts about London's future in this, or any other, All-Ireland football competition. But, in the 1969 final, at New Eltham, the Londoners made amends quite decisively by easily defeating the home champions Wicklow.

There is little doubt in the minds of most London supporters but that this victory and the excellent display turned in by the team was a direct result of

the decision earlier in the year to appoint Martin Newell as trainer of the side. He succeeded in enforcing team discipline to a degree not usually associated with London teams and his own vast experience, acquired when helping Galway to three successive All-Ireland victories, was put to good use by Newell, both as coach and as a team member.

Needless to say, there is widespread regret that the popular Galwayman is leaving London to return home to take up an appointment in University College, Galway. On his recent playing form, he must have an excellent chance of returning to the Galway senior team in the near future, if he so desires.

And indeed several other London players should come into reckoning for places on their home teams, if they should decide to declare for their counties. Patsy McKenna, who dominated the midfield exchanges in the junior final, would certainly be a decided acquisition to Fermanagh, while one feels that Clare could do with the services of forty yards man Tom Meaney.

It was fitting that the captain of the London side should have been the veteran Offaly forward Tommy Greene, who thus won an All-Ireland medal one week after his former Offaly teammates Paddy McCormack, Greg Hughes and Johnny Egan had failed to win that elusive medal against Kerry.

There have been some rumours that London foot-

ballers might now seek to follow their hurling side into the senior All-Ireland championships. While there are many valid points in favour of such a move — and it would probably mean that more London based players would declare for London than at present — the time is scarcely opportune at the moment for any such approach. The London footballers have not, despite this year's victory, been as dominant as their intermediate hurlers had been and would need to further impress before engendering enough goodwill in G.A.A. circles to ensure their promotion.

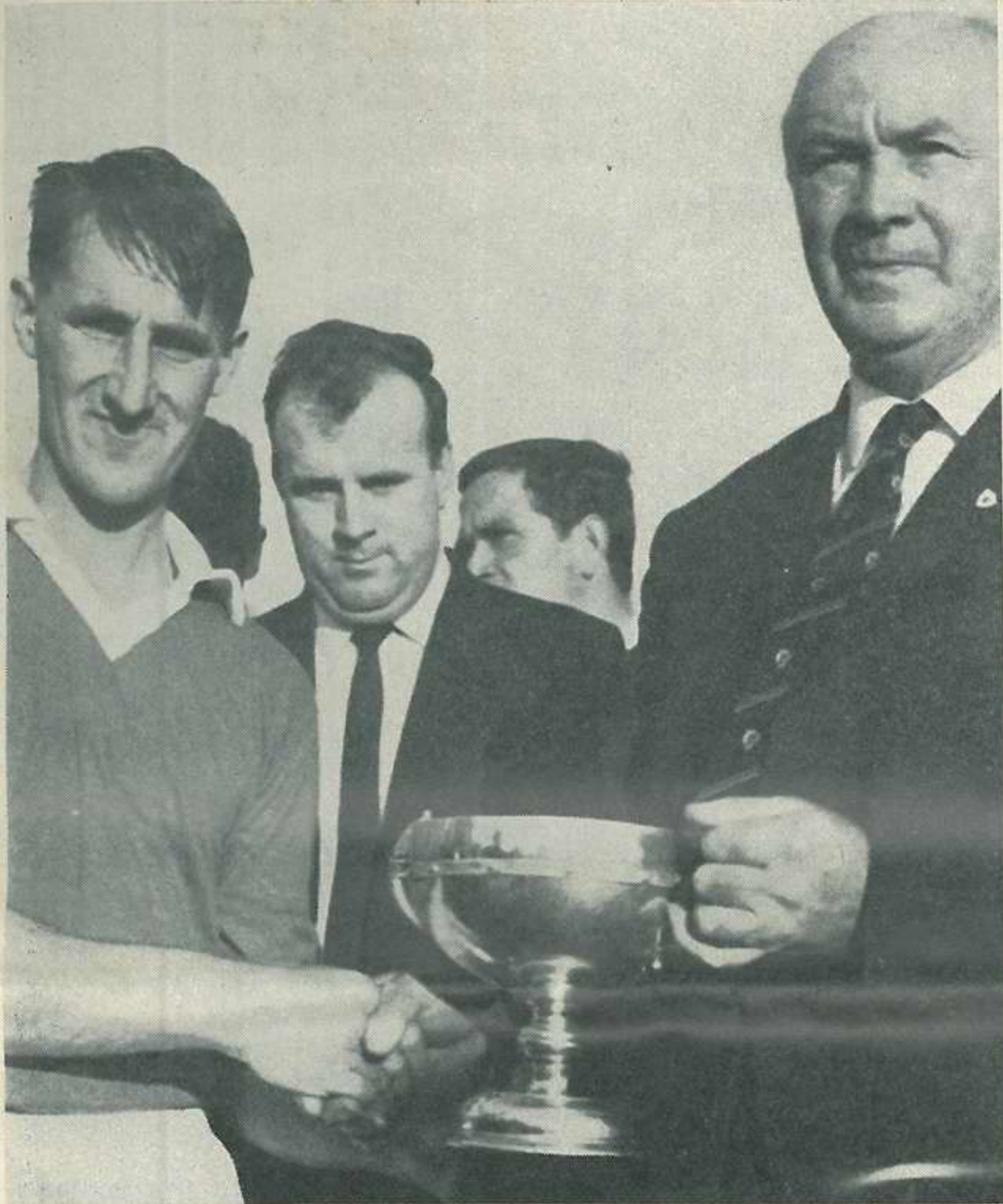
## SHAMROCK REVIVAL

Originally the oldest Gaelic football club in London, the Shamrock G.A.A. Club of Highgate, situated in a Parish administered by the Passionist Fathers, has as its present Secretary Dr. Brendan Ashe, C.P., of Ashe Street, Listowel. The

Club has at present a paid up membership of 350 and is making a considerable impact on Gaelic games in the English capital.

This is the first season of its revival after a lapse of three or four years. The initial meeting was held in Highgate and Dr. Brendan was delighted with the response. The club has now extended its activities to include hurling; it practises on Hampstead Heath and takes part in Junior Hurling Leagues. Although Fr. Brendan experiences difficulty in getting hurleys from Ireland, he has high hopes of having a juvenile section in hurling and football for next season.

The Shamrock Club has organised three successful social outings to Birmingham and Brighton for the benefit of players and their relatives. Gael Linn films are shown during the winter and groups have been organised to travel to the All-Ireland finals.



Tommy Greene receives the cup from Hugh Byrne



'Yer man was a waiter in the Shelbourne Hotel'

## News From Hertfordshire

# FAHY MAKES HIS MARK

If ever a player deserved an award for his dedication to the G.A.A. — then this must surely go to a young Galway student, who has been acclaimed as probably the player of the decade to appear in Hertfordshire football and hurling circles.

Now in his second season with Glen Rovers (Watford) Paddy Fahy, who hails from Kilchreest in Galway, came over from St. Mary's College (Galway) in 1968 joined Glen Rovers and in his first hurling game with the Club, put them on the high road to success that saw them capture the League title for the first time.

One week later he appeared on the Herts scene in football, playing with Glen Rovers — he comple-

tely dominated every exchange, and led his team to victory. Within weeks, a struggling team was to capture the Herts Junior title for the first time.

The Chaplins Football Cup came at the end of the year, and here again the brilliant young Kilchreest man was to leave his mark. Came the current season and the return from vacation of this dual star. From the very beginning he made his mark, and has been the inspiration of Glen Rovers capturing the Hurling League title for the second successive year.

Then came the entry of Glen Rovers to senior ranks in football, and nobody gave them an outside chance of winning through — but at their very first attempt they swept aside

all comers and on Sept 21 captured the coveted premier trophy. The turning point in the game came midway through the second half — when the tireless Fahy after dropping back to lend a hand to a hard-pressed defence — swept upfield with the ball on a solo run, and was pulled down going through.

From the resulting free thirty yards out Fahy sent the ball straight to the net.

Paddy has in 1969, also appeared on both the Herts County Hurling and Football teams in the Provincial championships — and with a little more support would certainly have seen the Herts hurlers contest this year's All-Ireland Junior Final — they fell to Warwickshire in the home final. — Sean Hynes.

## NEXT MONTH

# GAELIC NEWS PLUS CUCHULAINN ANNUAL

The December issue of GAELIC NEWS will be an exceptional publication for not alone will it contain all of the features which have made GAELIC NEWS such an outstanding success but it will also incorporate CUCHULAINN ANNUAL which for 13 years has been the most avidly read Gaelic games Christmas publication.

Because it will cost only our usual price of 1/6, this mammoth issue is likely to be quickly sold out. So order your copy with your newsagent now — and don't forget your relatives and friends overseas or in hospital. They would treasure a copy.



# GAELIC NEWS

## CATERING FOR THE EXILES

It has finished a great season for the Exiles — the New York hurlers' highly impressive win over Kilkenny in the World Cup; London's triumph in the junior football championship and gallant Warwickshire's achievement in retaining the junior hurling title.

It all emphasises yet again the fact that, despite many obstacles, Gaelic games are thriving among the Irish overseas. It emphasises, too, the total lack of an overall policy in catering for our Exiles.

Of course, there is a structure — they can play in these competitions and, as well as that, London were allowed into this year's senior hurling championship — but it is a piecemeal arrangement and the Irish overseas have had to beg to achieve even that.

All initiative for the extent to which the Association caters for our Exiles has come from the Exiles themselves. Had they not pushed and begged, nothing would have been done. And so much more can, and requires, to be done.

It is well time a special committee was set up to examine this entire question — the objective being

to cater more fully for the Association overseas and, by doing so, better the Association as a whole.

The Association is as accountable for the welfare of its units in Birmingham as it is for its units in Ballinascreen or Ballinasloe. But the Birminghams have been neglected and it is only the determination of the G.A.A. men in these exiled units that has kept Gaelic games going overseas. No credit at all for this is due to the Association at home.

Much could be achieved by a good committee, which would include overseas representation, and which would carefully devise ways and means of giving our Exiles a new deal.

In latter years, the Central Council has spent scores of hours debating tuppence - halfpenny off-shoots of overseas competition, such as the "Jack Berry affair." How much better this time would have been spent in discussing an overall structure which would embrace our Exiles and allow them to develop to their full potential.

It is not yet too late.



### OUR COVER

Our cover photograph shows D. J. Crowley thundering past Offaly's Pat Keenan and Eugene Muliigan in the All-Ireland final. This photograph very much captures the magnitude of Crowley's contribution to the Kingdom's victory.



## we'd like to see all Irish people back home...

and we know how much they'd like to see the signs of home again. But for people who have been working in another country for some time, it often means starting from scratch when they do return. They can make things easier for themselves now by making a friend here in Ireland who will be able to help them when they do come home. You, no doubt, know someone in Britain or America who is saving hard to return. Do they know the advantages of saving through a bank account in Ireland? It's easy for anyone to open an account and to send deposits back regularly. In this way, the Bank Manager will get to know them and see that they are the kind of people he can help (and of course they will be earning interest on their savings) So why not fill your friend's name on the coupon, we will be happy to send them information about opening a bank account in Ireland. We'd like to help point the way home.

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# A Tribute to Warwickshire

**T**O win All-Ireland junior titles on consecutive years is a truly outstanding feat — when one remembers that it is necessary to field an entirely new team the second year.

The London hurlers performed the feat in 1959 and '60 and now the Warwickshire hurlers have done it. No other county has succeeded in either hurling or football since the junior division was first introduced in 1912.

However, Warwickshire's feat was consider-

ably greater than that of London. They have only 18 G.A.A. clubs in Warwickshire, as against over 60 in London. As well as that, London won their 1959 title in Croke Park and the 1960 title on home ground at New Eltham. Warwickshire had to travel to Tralee to win their second title.

That victory over a highly fancied Kerry side at Tralee on Sunday October 12 was a feat deserving to be seen apart.

It represented extraordinary determination and

a willingness to contend with, and overcome, obstacles of a kind which we, on this side of the channel, rarely come in contact with.

In this issue we devote six pages to the Irishmen of Warwickshire — as a tribute to them and in the hope that we will awaken among you, our readers, a greater appreciation of the dedication of not alone the G.A.A. men of Warwickshire but of Gaelic games-playing exiles at large.

**T**HE area of the Warwickshire Co. Board includes a large slice of the British Midlands and such major areas of population as Birmingham, Coventry, Northampton, Wolverhampton and Rugby. The Board has 18 clubs most of which cater for football and hurling and quite a few of which even have juvenile teams.

County Board meetings are held in Birmingham with every third meeting in Coventry. The Board's Officers are:

Chairman — Mick Houlihan a native of Emly, Co. Tipperary, and a former Secretary of the Board.

Vice-Chairman — Joe O'Rourke, a native of Westmeath.

Secretary — George Mc-

Guigan of Tyrone.

Assistant Secretary — Billy Collins of Limerick.

Treasurer — Ed Sullivan of Kerry.

Billy Collins also trains all of the Warwickshire county teams and it is doubtful if there was a fitter team in any grade of the 1969 championships, than the one which triumphed over Kerry in the junior hurling final.

Warwickshire's representative on the Provincial Council of Britain is Paddy Ryan, a Birmingham contractor and a native of Limerick. He is, as well, a driving force behind the John Mitchels Club in Birmingham — an outstanding club and current Warwickshire football champions.



Michael Houlihan, Chairman of the Warwickshire Co. Board.

The Warwickshire Board has pitches in Coventry, Leamington, Wolverhampton and Birmingham. These are local authority grounds which are rented by the Board. Two playing areas in Birmingham cost £218 per annum.

The Board cannot charge an admission fee to the

grounds. Instead, they sell programmes and the attendance accept it as a duty to purchase these in lieu of an admission charge. Rarely does one find any attempt at avoiding programme purchase.

This writer attended the recent Warwickshire senior football final between John Mitchels and Sean McDermotts. It was an excellent presentation — well stewarded and everything in proper order.

One achievement of which all Warwickshire G.A.A. men are particularly proud is the Baptismal Font in St. Catherine's Church, Birmingham. The Board subscribed £2,000 for the erection of this magnificent font, which is dedicated to the memory of John F. Kennedy. Golden hurleys are seen in the ironwork surrounds, of what is a great symbol of the close link between the Church and G.A.A. clubs overseas.

No reference to G.A.A. in Warwickshire can omit reference to Chris Holden, who is now back in his native Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny. Chris put twelve years of wholehearted work into Gaelic games in the British Midlands and he will long be remembered for it.

Competitions in Warwickshire are well organised. There is a senior football championship and league and a third competition, the Father Fird Cup. There is also a junior football championship. The hurling structure is similar. All of this means plenty of games.

However, perhaps the Board's greatest achievement of all is their juvenile organisation. There is a special Juvenile Board in existence for the past two years and this year War-

wickshire won the juvenile football championship of Britain.

An indication of the attention being given to juveniles by the Board is that they brought their county juvenile football team to Tralee for a challenge game on the occasion of the junior hurling final.

There are eight juvenile teams at present and two juvenile competitions. It must be remembered that all of the boys involved in these teams are English-born — the sons of Irish parents.

The Officers of the Warwickshire Juvenile Board are: Chairman, Michael O'Reilly (Tyrone); Vice-Chairman, Peadar Moran (Laois); Secretary, Tim Foley (Kerry); Treasurer, Luke Cohen.

These men, like their juvenile board counterparts in other parts of Britain, are achieving wonders in bringing English-born boys under the aegis of Gaelic games.

This writer attended a meeting of the Warwickshire County Board and was very impressed by the

business-like manner in which it was conducted. Two players who had blackguarded a referee were suspended for five years and there was no hesitancy about it. Chairman Mick Houlihan was promptly supported by the delegates and discipline was not alone maintained but, as well, it was obvious that everybody present wanted it to be maintained.

How different this same situation would have been handled in many home counties — or even at Central Council. The referee's report would be questioned and every effort would be made to whitewash the entire affair.

But not in Warwickshire.

The Board is also rigid on the common malpractice of bringing players over from Ireland. The Warwickshire Board insists on teams being photographed before the game and in this way strict surveillance is kept.

Yes indeed, we have a lot to learn from the G.A.A. men of Warwickshire.

## SEEN AND HEARD

**I**T is not often one sees it — a County Chairman refereeing the county final. However, I saw Warwickshire Chairman, Mick Houlihan do an excellent job in handling the John Mitchels versus Sean McDermotts senior football decider at Glebe Farm, Birmingham.

Needless to say, he hardly allowed any comments on the referee's report at the subsequent County Board meeting! Not that there was anything to report. It was a particularly sporting game. The only little incident

I noted was provided by an over-enthusiastic John Mitchel's supporter on the sideline. Quick as a flash, he was taken in hand by Mitchel's officials and that was the end of that.

The spacious lounge in the Coundon Hotel, Coventry, sports fifty photographs of various Galway County Board meetings! The proprietor is Mick Keane and there could be little doubt as to where he came from!

Well done Warwickshire on winning the All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship

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# How Warwickshire Kept Their Title

**A** MASTERLY display by their centre half-back Liam Dalton was the vital factor in the victory of Warwickshire over Kerry in the All-Ireland junior hurling final at Tralee.

with a verve and skill that would win him a place on most county senior teams in Ireland. No wonder his colleagues gathered around him at the end in a great display of enthusiasm to show their appreciation of his heroic efforts. From an early stage,

By Frank Dolan

The Kilkenny man stormed the scene like a mighty colossus, playing

iasm to show their appreciation of his heroic efforts. From an early stage,

Well done Warwickshire

Congratulations to All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions

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Dalton dominated his sector, repeatedly turning defence into attack with raking clearances. Kerry's Pat O'Sullivan could make virtually no headway against him, and neither could the other two men switched on him in the second half by the Kerry selectors — Tom "Bawn" McCarthy and Paudie Finnegan.

Dalton is proof of the fact that there is an immense wealth of hurling talent in the English midlands. Unable to call on many of the team that won the All-Ireland junior title last year, the Warwickshire selectors were forced to field almost a completely new fifteen this year, but quite obviously they didn't have to search too hard for replacements.

In the opinion of at least one Kerryman — county selector John Joe O'Sullivan — this was a better Warwickshire team than last year's outfit.

The game was very vigorously contested from start to finish. The Warwickshire men, in particular, didn't spare the ash, and their wholehearted, no-nonsense tactics paid handsome dividends.

In the first half, Kerry had the advantage of a strong breeze, but their forwards were unable to make much headway against Liam Dalton and Co. When they led by only 0-8 to 0-4 at half-time, it was obvious that a super effort would have to be forthcoming in the second half if they were to survive.

"Keep pulling hard, let the ball do the work, and you can beat them all right," selector Richie Purcell told the Kerry lads during the interval. Sure enough, Kerry went out with plenty of temper for the second half, and within four minutes had increased their lead with a point. Three minutes later, Tom "Bawn" McCarthy added another point from a free and now it was Warwickshire's turn to start worrying. Everybody knew they would have to get a goal? Would it come?

In the 36th minute, their full-forward Johnny Browne pointed a free from a difficult angle, and this seemed to be the signal for a tremendous Warwickshire resurgence.

Yet the goal that the Warwickshire men so anxiously sought came in the most unexpected manner. Their right half-back Mick Hanley took a free from inside his own seventy yards line and dropped the ball just outside the Kerry square; one of the Kerry backs reached for the ball with his hand, but it spun off it and went back over the line, out of the reach of goalkeeper Jim Breen.

This was the beginning of the end for Kerry. Warwickshire had at last drawn blood, and there was no stopping them now. Three minutes later, the Kerry net fell again to them. This time, Jimmy Gilligan obliged with a scorching drive after picking up a loose ball about

30 yards out.

Kerry fought back for an equalising point by Tom "Bawn" McCarthy, but it was obvious that they were fighting a losing battle at this stage, and when Billy Collins hammered home goal No. 3 for the visitors in the 47th minute, the game was as good as over. Kerry, to their credit, never stopped trying and launched a few hectic attacks in the last ten minutes. But they could not find a single chink in the defensive armour of the Warwickshire side.

Whilst centre half-back Dalton must be paraded as the star of victory, it would be ungracious not to give credit to every other member of the team for a job well done.

Goalkeeper Mick McCarthy was in splendid form, and was fronted by three very reliable men in Johnny O'Brien, Paddy Grimes and Pat Heffernan. Mick Hanley, in particular, gave great support to Dalton in the half-back line, whilst Tom Crowley and Louis Moloney put in a tremendous amount of work at midfield.

In attack, Mickey Brennan was always very much to the fore, and Mick Hanley, Billy Collins, Vincent Coffey, Johnny McLoughlin and team captain Johnny Browne lent him excellent support.

Kerry followers were most disappointed with the overall display of their team. They did a lot of picking and poking in the

first half, at a time when they should have been letting the ball do the work, and this proved very costly.

Pick of their team were defenders Noel Power, who had a storming first half, P. J. McIntyre, Tom "Bawn" McCarthy and Joe O'Sullivan.

Scorers: Warwickshire: M. Hanley, W. Collins (1-1 each), J. Gilligan (1-0), L. Moloney, M. Brennan, J. Browne, V. Coffey (0-1 each). Kerry: T. B. McCarthy (0-6), W. McCarthy (0-2), P. Finnegan, P. McCarthy and J. Gannon (0-1 each).

Warwickshire: M. McCarthy (Tipperary); J. O'Brien (Wexford); P. Grimes (Limerick); P. Heffernan (Limerick); M. Hanley (Tipperary); L. Dalton (Kilkenny); L. Moore (Laois); T. Crowley (Waterford); L. Moloney (Kilkenny); W. Collins (Limerick); M. Brennan (Kilkenny); J. Gilligan (Wexford); J. McLoughlin (Tipperary); J. Browne (Cork); V. Coffey (Galway). Sub: P. Hallinan (Waterford) for Gilligan.

Kerry: J. Breen; M. J. Quinlan, D. Kelliher, B. Kenny; N. Power, T. Cronin, P. J. McIntyre; T. B. McCarthy, P. Finnegan, P. McCarthy, P. O'Sullivan, J. O'Sullivan; C. Flaherty, W. McCarthy, J. Gannon. Subs: B. Twomey for Flaherty; T. Fleming for P. McCarthy; M. McCarthy for W. McCarthy.

Referee: P. Rankin (Laois).

Congratulations to All-Ireland Hurling Champions and best wishes to Warwickshire G.A.A.

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Warwickshire — All-Ireland junior hurling champions.

## The absent friend

ANY gathering of Warwickshire G.A.A. men will not be too long in discussion before someone mentions Fr. Pat Maguire. Be it in a pub or outside a chapel gate, but, one way or another, somebody will get around to Fr. Maguire. Of course, this is not confined to G.A.A. men. Any Irishman in Birmingham is as likely to talk of him.

He was a Leitrim man — from Ballinamore where they always took their football seriously. He was ordained a Columban Missionary and was sent to Birmingham as Chaplain to the Irish community.

Later he went to Coventry,

established a parish there and raised £100,000 to build the church of Our Lady of Assumption.

Back to Birmingham in 1964 to take charge of the parish of St. Catherine's. It was in a poor state but, within a few years, Fr. Maguire had built a church, a school and a social centre. It all required £264,000. The Birmingham City Council provided less than 25 per cent. Fr. Maguire had to raise the rest.

All the time, of course, he was an ardent G.A.A. man — filling the office of President of the Warwickshire County Board.

More than that, he was



Fr. Pat Maguire

always, too, the friend and counsellor of every Irishman that needed help.

In mid-March of this year,

Birmingham had its largest funeral in memory. Scores upon scores of thousands of Irishmen, women and children gathered into Birmingham from the British Midlands to walk for the last time with Fr. Maguire.

A pipe band played solemn dirges and the police held off traffic for a cortege which stretched for miles.

The Warwickshire County Board had lost its President, and the Irish in the Midlands had lost their friend, counsellor and champion. He was fifty years of age and they will tell you and one another about him in the pubs and outside the church gates in Birmingham, and in Coventry, too, for a very long time.

*Congratulations to Warwickshire Hurling team on winning All-Ireland Junior Championship*

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# Champions Of The Counties

## DONEGAL

**T**HE biggest news about this year's Donegal senior football championship was the fact that it was finished by September 21. After the debacle of 1968 in which all sorts of fantastic events reduced the championship to a farce, the county officers were intent on ensuring that there would be no repeat in 1969.

And things went smoothly enough except for an abandoned semi-final between holders St. Josephs (Bundoran-Ballyshannon) and Gweedore. By winning the replay, St. Josephs qualified for yet another final and were favourites to retain their crown when they faced St. Eunan's, Letterkenny in the county final at Ballybofey.

Missing from the St. Josephs team this year was their Donegal and Ulster player Bernard Brady, but they still had county players in Mickey McLoone, Liam McDaid, Pauric McShea, Declan O'Carroll, Seamie Granaghan and ex-Galway full-back, Sean Meade.

St. Eunans, who were especially anxious to win the final, as they were due to leave for a trip to the U.S. a fortnight later, had county men in Seamus Hoare, John Hannigan, Pat Conaghan, Sean Ferriter and Joe Winston.

The title changed hands on a score of 0-10 to 1-4 and nobody could deny that the Letterkenny team were worthy winners. Playing on the 'forty' Sean Ferriter displayed much of his old craft and his two quick points after half-time were decisive factors in his side's victory.

This was St. Eunan's second time to dethrone St. Josephs in recent times, as they also beat them in 1967 and indeed, between them, these sides have dominated Donegal football in the 'sixties.

## FERMANAGH

**T**HE poor form of the Fermanagh county team in no way detracted from the county championship campaign this year. And when county champions Ederney were dismissed from the contest by Teemore, interest quickly reached fever pitch, especially when another surprise packet team, Irvinestown, also qualified for the final.

Irvinestown had returned to senior ranks only at the beginning of this season and few people expected them to make any major impact in 1969, as they had a very young side, which included several under-age players. The only intercounty player on their side was their Dublin-based accountancy student Gerry Magee, who, because of injury, was less than fully fit for the final.

In fact, one Irvinestown player, 16-year-old Anthony Maguire, played and won a medal in the county juvenile final later in the day. Teemore, with no well-known county stars, made the pace for most of the final, which was played at Irvinestown. But midway through the second half Irvinestown rallied from five points down and with a goal and two points from Gerry Magee and a point from Kevin McArt, they went into the lead.

Teemore, however, kept their heads and collected two further points to take their first Fermanagh title for 40 years. And the very big crowd went home happy with the standard of play and optimistic about the county's future on the intercounty scene.

## TYRONE

**T**HIRTEEN years ago in Croke Park, Frankie Donnelly was scoring valuable points for Tyrone in their efforts to win a first senior All-Ireland title, only to be thwarted by Galway in 1956 and Louth in 1957.

Just one year ago, he returned to Croke Park to play a vital role in Tyrone's victory over London in the junior All-Ireland final. And a few weeks ago, Frankie Donnelly was again the man of the moment, when, in the final of the Tyrone county championship at Dungannon, he was entrusted with a 21-yards free for Carrickmore in the last minute of the game.

The opposition was provided on this occasion by Coalisland, who, inspired mainly by brilliant forward play from John Early and a superb display at centre half-back by veteran Jody O'Neill, held the whip hand for most of the game and led by a point with only a couple of minutes left for play.

Then Carrickmore's John Keenan scored the equalising point and their supporters were more than satisfied to settle for a replay. But almost on time came a 21 yards free to Carrickmore, which Frankie Donnelly very carefully planted in the goalmouth and it was scrambled over the bar for the winning point.

It was an amazing turnabout in a game, in which Car-



Railway Cup stars who were on losing sides in county finals — Des Foley (St. Vincents) and Mickey Kearins (St. Patricks).



rickmore had looked a beaten side after half-time. Carrickmore, of course, have often won the Tyrone championship before but for them and for Frankie Donnelly, this must have been one of the sweetest victories of all.

## DERRY

**W**HEN Bellaghy set out to retain their Derry senior football championship this year, they were defending their prestigious position as Ulster club champions. They were also very conscious of their significant feat of having won nine out of the previous 13 Derry championships.

With such a record and backed up by intercounty players Tom Quinn, Tommy Diamond, Frankie O'Loane, Brendan Cassidy and Tom Scullion, the Bellaghy side were favourites to retain their crown from the outset of the competition. On their way to the final, they dis-

posed of Greenlough and Newbridge, without any bother at all, and Kilrea, without very much trouble.

The other section of the draw was a more open affair and, from this, Slaughtneil emerged, after a very hard fought semi-final victory over Sean O'Connell's Ballerin. They include county players Peter Convery and John Joe Kearney and had reached their first senior final in Derry on merit and hard work during the season.

In the final, at Magherafelt, Bellaghy retained the title by 1-9 to 0-8. They brought all their big time experience into play, but poor shooting, including a missed penalty, prevented them from making their winning margin much more convincing.

As it was, there was no doubting Bellaghy's worthiness to represent Derry in this year's Ulster club champion-



Gerry Magee — played for Irvinestown.

ship. For a rural club, their record of 10 county titles in 13 years has no equal in any part of Ireland.

## MONAGHAN

**I**N Monaghan, the scene was set for a lively senior football championship from the moment the holders, Clontibret, were knocked out in the first round by Monaghan Harps. The form book was further upset when 'Harps' were beaten in the second round by Inniskeen who, in turn, lost in the semi-final to Castleblayney Faughs.

In the other half of the draw, things went more smoothly, with Ballybay having a rather uncomplicated passage through to the final. Ballybay, who were trained by well-known referee Liam Maguire and former county star John Moen had developed their team over a period of a few years, from some fine under-age teams.

Castleblayney, however, were favourites for the final, mainly because of their fine championship record in Monaghan in the 'sixties when they took the title on five successive occasions.

Clever use of their 'big guns' played a major role in helping Ballybay to upset the odds. Intercounty goalie Paul McCarthy, who had been playing outfield, was recalled to the goalkeeping job where he completely sealed off the net.

Others who helped clinch victory for Ballybay were 'Coiner' Pierce who scored 2-3, John McCabe, at centre half-back, and county man Brendan Dowling at midfield. The final score was: Ballybay 3-5, Castleblayney 0-5 . . . a well deserved triumph and the re-emergence of Ballybay as a force in Ulster club football.

## ARMAGH

**J**UST like Dublin, Armagh was not so long ago a county where the county championship was little more than a benefit for one club. In Armagh's case, it was Crossmaglen Rangers, who dominated not only Armagh, but Ulster club football.

But all good things come to an end as the Rangers found out a few years back and they also learned that the road back to the top can be very difficult. Despite being out of the limelight for the past couple of years, Crossmaglen were fancied to take back the county title



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This month in the first of a series dealing with the county championships, David Collins deals with the football championships in some northern and midland counties.

when they faced the holders Lurgan Clan Na Gael in this year's final.

Many thought that the vast experience of Crossmaglen players Tom and Michael McCreesh, Gene Larkin, Kevin Halpenny and Eamon Casey would pull them through against the younger Lurgan side.

The final score, however, 2-6 to 0-4 in Clan Na Gael's favour, left no room for doubt about the winners' credentials.

With Brian Seeley dominant at full-back and Jimmy Smyth, who also plays with St. Josephs T.C., Belfast, playing havoc with Tom McCreesh, Clan Na Gael gave the former champions a lesson in football.

It now looks as if the Rangers have a hard road ahead if they are to recover their former glory and their greatest need would seem to be an infusion of young blood.

## LOUTH

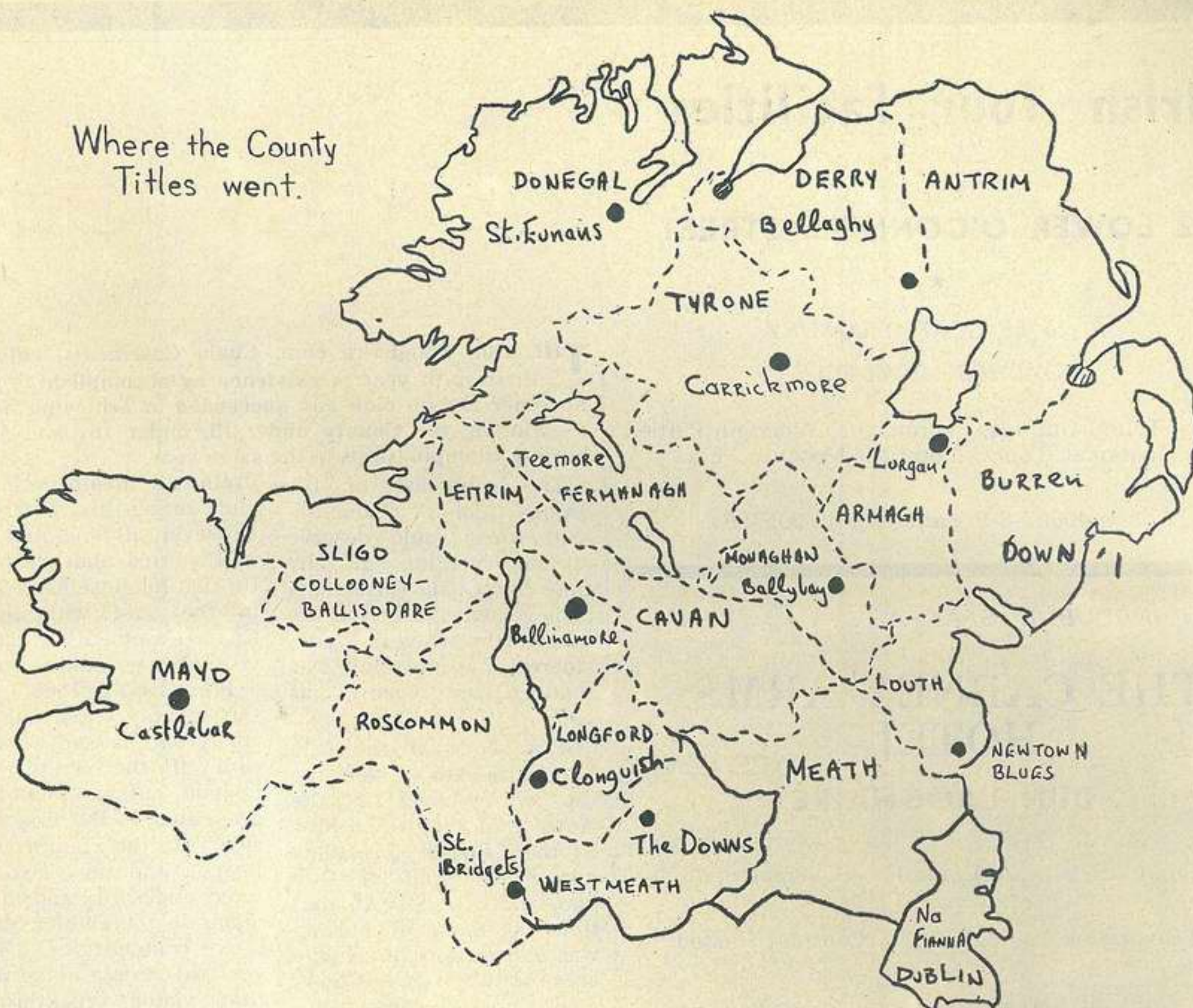
**A**LTHOUGH Louth, as an intercounty football force, have slipped steadily down the list throughout the 'sixties, the county has still managed to produce one of the country's outstanding club teams in Newtown Blues.

This Drogheda combination has, with the exception of one or two years, dominated Louth football, and their latest championship win on October 5 last, was their seventh success since 1960.

Last year's champions St. Marys, Ardee were strongly fancied to retain their title, but the loss, through retirement, of veteran Kevin Beahan proved very costly and they were beaten by Cooley Kickhams in a quarter final game. In the semi-final, Kickhams managed to draw with Newtown Blues rather surprisingly, but the Blues made no mistake in the replay and so faced Geraldines in the county final. Geraldines, inspired mainly by Frank Lynch, had come through a much easier half of the draw and were therefore complete outsiders for the final.

In this game, played at Ardee before a record crowd Newtown Blues won their eleventh Louth title, on a score of 1-14 to 2-5. So the captain of the Louth county team for next season will be one of the many 'Blues' players who wear the red jerseys. These include Frank

Where the County Titles went.



Clarke, Liam and Mickey Leech, Gerry Clifford and the Judge brothers.

## LEITRIM

**F**EW of this year's county finals had a more rustic setting than Leitrim's, which took place at the newly opened Gortle Tragh Park, only a couple of miles from the Longford border and several miles from even a village.

The contestants were two teams from the immediate vicinity — Ballinamore and Aughavas — both of whom were seeking their tenth county championship win. Like many another rural club nowadays, Aughavas are finding it difficult to retain the greatness that was theirs for so long, but they went near to giving themselves a shot in the arm, when with seven minutes to play in this year's final, they had levelled the scores — 1-8 to 2-5.

But the holders Ballinamore called on all their experience to notch three further points without reply.

The winners have several Leitrim seniors in their side, including Paddy Dolan, Dermot Gannon and Seamus Hayden both former St. Mel's, Longford players; Sean Kavanagh and Tom Galligan. This was their third successive county championship victory.

## DUBLIN

**A** few years ago, the story of the Dublin football championship any year would have been easily told. It was simply a question of recounting another success for St. Vincents, who ruled the roost for almost 20 years. Up until 1968, they had never been beaten in the championship by an All-Dublin side, as their three defeats were at the hands of U.C.D. and Erin's Hopes, neither of whom had any Dublin players.

It seemed that no all-Dublin club had the necessary psychological expertise to overcome the tradition of Vincents. But last year the champions were caught napping in the first round by Synge St. and eventually the title went to Clanna Gael.

This year St. Vincents were determined not to be caught unawares and despite playing poorly all year, they fought their way through to the final again, defeating in the process highly-rated Civil Service and Round Towers in a replay.

In the other half of the draw, generally reckoned to be the easier section, Na Fianna survived a few tight finishes to qualify for their first final appearance. This meant that two of Dublin's biggest and most progressive clubs — both have their own grounds and clubhouses — were facing each other in the county final.

Because Na Fianna had a long wait from their semi-final game and St. Vincents were at full strength again, the latter were favourites for the title. But Na Fianna were turned out in magnificent condition, despite their long wait and at the end of a close and hard fought game at Parnell Park, St. Vincents had to give best.

Na Fianna's one point victory was a significant one in the history of Dublin club football, as it dispels the

image of the invincibility of St. Vincents and opens the way for other all-Dublin clubs to reach the top.

## LONGFORD

**I**N Longford, where there are never more than ten senior teams in the championship, it might be thought that the county final could become rather repetitive. During the 'sixties this has been true to a large extent, with county final day being almost the sole prerogative of Clonguish and Granard St. Mary's. The origins of this rivalry can be traced in steady progression from the period of ascendancy enjoyed by both clubs, in under-age competitions during the middle and late 'fifties.

With only the odd intrusion from outsiders, Clonguish and Granard have had the Longford stage all to themselves for eight years, with nobody else winning a senior title in that period.

This year the old firm again won through to the final and a huge crowd thronged the county headquarters, Pearse Park to see if Granard could snatch the title from the holders. Hopes that former county star Bobby Burns, home on holidays from New York, would line out with his old club, Granard, vanished, when he returned to the U.S. a week prior to the game.

On the other hand, Clonguish were unsure of having Mick Hopkins and Jimmy Flynn, who a day before the final were still in Spain on holidays. But on the big day, both sides fielded at full strength and it was a late great goal by county star Hopkins, which sealed the fate of Granard for this year. So Clonguish retained the title and with it the much coveted right to nominate the captain of the Longford county team for the coming year.

## SLIGO

**G**ENERALLY speaking, amalgamated teams don't fare too well in championship football, their big disadvantage being lack of cohesion arising from unfamiliarity with each others play by the players involved.

Perhaps this is why the Collooney-Ballisodare combination were decisively beaten in the semi-final of the 1968 Sligo championship. Came 1969 however, and the combined team were back in style, and they qualified for the county final.

Waiting to meet them in the final were St. Patrick's, Dromard who apart from being champions in 1968 had also achieved fame as the home club of one Mickey Kearins. In the final St. Patrick's could not afford the luxury of playing Kearins in his forward role but instead he lined out at centre-field.

On the Collooney-Ballisodare side were Sligo county players Brendan McAuley, Ray Henry and Damian Martin. The final itself was made difficult for the players by very bad weather conditions at Corran Park, Ballymote and also by the fact that as the game progressed the spectators kept edging on to the field of play.

At the end St. Patrick's had lost their Sligo title by a score of 1-9 to 2-5. Even the genius of Kearins, who found himself overburdened with work at midfield, was unable to stave off defeat and so the combined Collooney-Ballisodare side had overcome their disadvantage to score a notable first triumph.



John Hannigan and Seamus Hoare — on the winning St. Eunan's, Letterkenny team.



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**T**HE Dun Laoghaire club, Cuala Casements, coloured their sixth year in existence by accomplishing what no other Dublin club had succeeded in achieving before — winning the County under 15, under 16½ and minor hurling championships in the same year.

The capturing of the unique treble of championship wins would deserve special mention at any time but Cuala Casements achievement is all the more noteworthy when it is considered that the club was founded as recently as 1963.

The seeds of the Dun Laoghaire club's rise to the top were sown in the Autumn of 1960 when Rev. Brother Joseph Considine joined the staff of Dun Laoghaire C.B.S. At that time the game of hurling was almost dormant in the area, so when Bro. Considine, a great hurling enthusiast, arrived in Dun Laoghaire, the future of the ancient game looked very bleak. However, Bro. Considine was determined to popularise the game and shortly after his arrival he began to organise hurling leagues in Dun Laoghaire C.B.S.

His enthusiasm for the game infused great interest in hurling in the school and inspired others to help promote the game. So, to cater for the ever-increasing numbers playing hurling and Gaelic Football, the Cuala Casements Club was founded in 1963 by Brother Considine, Tom Holden, Dick Curran, Mick Dunphy, Joe Canny, Johnny Robinson and Jim Sullivan. Cuala Casements fittingly celebrated their greatest year yet at a recent function and as a token of the club's appreciation of his contribution to their successes, Bro. Considine was presented with a transistor radio by the Committee and with a tape-recorder by the parents of the boys.

Unfortunately for Cuala Casements, Bro. Considine was transferred to St. John's C.B.S., Limerick City last August and nat-

urally all members in the club regret his departure. However, all wish him well in Limerick and are hopeful that his unselfish efforts in the past will inspire Cuala Casements to greater successes in the future.

From 1963 to 1966, Cuala Casements participated solely in the second division of the South City League but in 1966 they graduated to the first division of the South City League and they also entered under 16½ and minor teams in the Dublin Minor Board competitions. Last year saw Cuala make their first major breakthrough

when the Dublin under 15 hurling championship and league were won for the first time. The under-15 footballers also captured division II of the South City League last year. As already stated, this year has been the most successful in the club's short history.

Cuala Casements cater for both football and hurling in all age groups and although more hurling trophies have been won, interest in football is equally keen. Cuala's committee also assist the local Dun Laoghaire C.B.S. in organising leagues in the under 10, 11 and 12 age groups, by providing transport, hurleys and footballs etc. Last year Cuala Casements donated a

trophy — "Corn Mhic Easmoinn" — for a hurling competition for schools in the area, where the game was not being played. It is hoped that this will be an annual tournament.

The Club caters for a total of 14 teams. The under 13 and under 14 hurlers and footballers participate in the South County Dublin League, and Cuala League which caters for south Dublin and north Wicklow clubs, while the under 15 footballers and hurlers play in the South County Dublin League and also in the Dublin juvenile championship. The under 16½, minor and under 21 sides compete in the Dublin leagues and championships under the Minor Board, while the junior footballers and hurlers participate in the leagues and championships run by the Junior Football and Hurling Boards.

At the moment, the Club has approximately 200 playing members and about another 200 non-playing members. There is little difficulty in acquiring players for the various teams and there is great competition for places on most of the teams. However, it is difficult to get suitable, competent officials to look after all the teams and generally it is the same four or five dedicated members who supervise, organise and run all the teams.

Cuala Casements draw their players mainly from the Blackrock, Dun Laoghaire, Sallinoggin and Monkstown areas. The Club's main nursery is Dun Laoghaire C.B.S., but Oatlands C.B.S., Mount Merrion, Scoil Lorcan and Booterstown also provide players. As Dalkey Mitchels are the only other club in the area which caters for boys in the 12-18 age group, Cuala Casements future seems assured. The Club is mainly composed of local born players but it is prepared to accept any player who wishes to join the Club.

As yet, Cuala Casements do not possess a ground of their own and while they would wish to acquire one, the scarcity of suitable grounds in the area make the acquisition of one a remote prospect at this stage. At the moment, the club trains



Michael Holden . . . who has the distinction of having played in goal on this year's Dublin minor hurling team when only 14 and of being the sole player to figure on all three championship winning teams.

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# OUTPOST IN SOUTH DUBLIN

and plays its home games at the Corporation-owned pitch at Sallynoggin. Due to the co-operation of the local authority, there are no restrictions on the use of the grounds. In 1968, the club built their own pavilion and dressing rooms, with showers and other amenities on the Sallynoggin ground. This fine structure was built by voluntary labour by members of the club. The committee convenes once every two weeks in its own clubrooms at Sallynoggin.

## COLLECTIVE TRAINING

From February until the end of summer, the players of the club assemble two nights a week for collective outdoor training. During the winter months, the Technical School, Sallynoggin, with its gymnasium and amenities, is available to the club members for indoor training.

The club's chief mode of revenue is derived from the proceeds of a weekly bingo session, which is held at the Empire Hall, Glashule. Financially, Cuala Casements are very secure and the Committee is contemplating the development of a social centre to cater for the social aspect of the club. The club has already poured money into the development of hurling and this move has proved very successful.

Although Cuala Casements have been in existence for only six years, many club members have worn the Dublin jersey. John Grier played on the county under 21 football team this year and last year but, unfortunately, he has had to give up the game temporarily, because of cartilage trouble. In 1966, the club had four members on the Dublin minor hurling team — Billy Matthews, Pat Wallace, Danny Ryan and Joe Mooney while P. J. Holden

represented Cuala Casements on the Dublin minor hurling side in 1967.

## UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT

This year, the club had three brothers on the county minor hurling fifteen. P. J. Holden captained this year's side while his brothers Vincent and Michael, played at centre half-back and in goal, respectively. Vincent is eligible for the minor grade for the next two years while Michael must be one of the youngest, if not the youngest, players to represent Dublin in the minor grade. He was only 14 years of age at the time. Michael was also the only club member to play on the three championship winning sides.

Cyril Kealy, Eamonn Owens, Paddy Doyle, Shay Hammond, Paul Robinson and Johnnie Fitzgerald are other club members who have worn the Dublin jersey with distinction.

## DILIGENT COMMITTEE

Any club which wishes to be remotely successful must have a diligent and enthusiastic committee and in this regard Cuala Casements are particularly endowed. The Chairman of the club is Joe Canny, Joe, who is a Garda, is a native of Ruan, Co. Clare, and plays with the club's junior hurling team in addition to performing his administrative duties most efficiently. Joe has also been a Dublin minor hurling team selector for the past two years.

Mick Dunphy, a dynamic worker who hails from Cullohill, Co. Laois, is the secretary of the club. Like Joe Canny, Mick is also a Garda, and is secretary of the Dublin South City Board. Vice-chairman Tom Holden is a native of Kilkenny and is father of the three Holden brothers. Assistant-secretary Joe Mooney, an ex-Dublin minor hurler and still

eligible for the under 21 grade, is an active playing member of the club. Treasurer Austin Duffy is a Carlow man and his assistant Jim O'Sullivan hails from Kilkenny.

The Committee is comprised of Johnny Robinson, whose two sons Paul and Tommy played on the championship winning teams, Kieran Brennan, another Garda, who plays senior intercounty football with Laois, Brendan Lambkin, Jim O'Reilly, Tony Larkin, Sean Moran, Mick Priest, Noel Ruane, Peter Burke, Joe Ryan, Fechin Nea, and Br. McGovern, Principal, C.B.S., Dun Laoghaire.

The Honorary President of the club is Very Rev. Father McCann, P.P., Sallynoggin.

## WINNING SIDES

Such an article as this would be incomplete without listing the names of the boys who brought such honour to Cuala Casements. The following is the under 18 team — Paul Robinson; Phil Reddan, Cyril Kealy, Johnny Fitzgerald; Liam Brandon, Vincent Holden, Sean Mahon; Michael Prior, P. J. Holden, Terry Dunne, Eamon Owens, Shay Hammond; Larry Mahon, Finbar Brogan, Michael Holden.

The successful under 16½ team was: Robert Bell; Joe Flanagan, Phil Reddan, Pat Lenihan; Lorcan O'Reilly, Vincent Holden, Tony O'Reilly; Sean Mahon, Michael Priest; Martin Butler, Paul Robinson, Michael Holden; Terry Dunne, Seamus Archibald, Derek Mohan. Subs — Seamus McInerney, Paddy McCabe, Joe Fitzgerald, Tony O'Brien, Joe Keegan.

The victorious under 15 side was: Paddy Dolphin; Tommy Robinson, Michael Holden, John Murphy; Tucker Hefferman, Tony O'Brien, Kevin Mallen; Paddy McCabe, Joe Fitzgerald; Louis Cooney, Kenneth Crangle, Paul Delahunty; Tommy Johnston, Joe Keegan, Bobby Power. Subs — Michael Banahan, Derek McDonnell.



Members of the Committee of Cuala Casements. BACK ROW: Rev. Brother Considine, Mick Dunphy (Secretary), Joe Canny (Chairman), Liam Owens, Kieran Brennan. FRONT ROW: Mick Priest, Brendan Lambkin, Jim O'Reilly, Sean Moran, Tom Holden Tony Larkin.

Best wishes to Cuala Casements G.F.C.

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# The Final Analysis

## Analysis No. 1

By

Jim Bennett

I expected an exciting game in the All-Ireland final, but not a classical or spectacular one. It was so. There was too much similarity in the kind of football both teams play; there was too much at stake for both; and, as it happened on the day, the weather cooled whatever desire for the spectacular which they possessed.

Nonetheless, I enjoyed the game, and while it was on I was not particularly concerned that the standard was moderate by the measure of many other finals. That is my yardstick for a game, not the kind of posthumous rationalising which forces you to conclude that it fell short in some finer points of conception and execution.

It was a notable milestone in history, of course, and it brought Kerry over the hump that has beset them since 1962. Throughout the match, Kerry were playing a few points better than Offaly; but, in the last ten minutes they were a couple of goals the better side. One of those missed goal-chances converted into reality would have, I think, reflected the exact difference between the sides.

One of the big moments came before the start. O'Connell came through the gate from the dressing-room and the whole place erupted. It was astonishing and troubling. What a fantastic grip he has on the imaginations of the Gaelic public! He fielded a ball in the loosening-up kick-about — the crowds roared. He launched a fifty-yarder into the breeze, and thousands shouted it all the way as though it were the winning point instead of a practice shot. And you realise the burden of hopes and dreams and aesthetic illusions which this

man carries on his back: if he plays poorly, it is not that he loses a match so much, but that he shatters the precious hero-image in the minds of thousands. I sat next to a man who had travelled 140 miles on the morning of the game and had to dash back to his farm immediately afterwards, who said quite openly to me: "I came to see O'Connell play: no other reason; and I wouldn't dream of coming otherwise, for I do not mind, in the least, which side wins."

As it turned out the Master Footballer played a fine game; but, everybody said how moderate he was. You can't win when you are in O'Connell's position. For him, now, football has become a moral obligation rather than a pleasurable pastime.

It was D. J. Crowley, not surprisingly, who ran Offaly ragged. He has blossomed in the shade of the great O'Connell and has looked all the year as though he were on the brink of producing a display like this.

Amazing to think that this chap had never even played a club match just five years ago. He staunchly splits in the Kerry defence, rode roughshod on the Offaly defence, and ran riot at midfield.

Yet, the Kerry captain, Culloty, was the one who saved Kerry in several crises, any one of which would have led to disaster. A couple of first-class courageous saves under the bar and under pressure in the first-half; that great one from Evans' sizzler just after the change-over; and four or five strays which could have caused real trouble with any keeper but Johnny. The big surprise of the match was the breaching of the Offaly fortress — the full-back line. Liam Higgins was not expected by many to present much of a threat to Greg Hughes, but he ran him ragged. When you remember that Higgins is really a newcomer to the Kerry team, only arriving to take up D. J. Crowley's position at a late stage in the League, he looks a very fine prospect, indeed.

So, too, does the rawboned Gleeson, who seems to have overcome the hot temper which threatened him in his early games; while he has limitations in the corner forward position, I feel sure that he will serve Kerry well in the future in a position further out. He has looked and worked best in all his games in a retreat position, and it was no accident that he played such a notable part in the second-half at left-wing forward, in pushing the play towards the Offaly goal.

As the game was played the notable difference between the sides was in the quality of possession and the effectiveness of clearance by the half-back lines. Both lines were excellent, indeed, it would only be fair to state; but, Prendergast and O'Shea kept driving out to get clear possession and pick their spot for the most telling clearance, while Ryan and Mulligan gained most of their possession behind their men and had often to clear as the opportunity allowed. I suppose this might

## Analysis No. 2

By

David Collins

WHAT everybody said would happen did happen. Kerry duly won their twenty first All-Ireland title and if the game was not in keeping with the occasion, the history books will only record the facts. And the facts were: Kerry 0-10; Offaly 0-7.

It was a bad game. Let's not try to say otherwise or to gloss it over, by saying that because the issue was in doubt for so long, the game was interesting. This game was interesting only for the supporters of Kerry and to a lesser extent, Offaly.

All the things that were supposed to happen just did not happen. The Offaly full-back line *did not* exert a vice-like grip on their opponents; the Kerry half-forward line *did not* score all the long range points we were told they would score; Mick O'Connell *did not* dominate midfield; the Offaly forwards *did not* score any goals; Mick Morris *was not* a failure at

centre half-back.

In fact, one could go on listing the negative aspects of this year's All-Ireland final and while these were the dominant theme of the game, nevertheless, the game was not won by negative tactics as such. There were many very positive, progressive things which tended to be overshadowed by the many bad points in the game, but, in the final analysis,

it was these few good points which won the title for Kerry.

Number one among these was the brilliance of centrefield player, D. J. Crowley. The element of surprise is always a major weapon in sport. When players have been conditioned for weeks to expect one thing to happen in a game, only for the direct opposite to occur on the day, it has a very detrimental effect on their concentration, and consequently on their play.

Much of Offaly's pre-match thinking and scheming must have been centred on the threat of Mick O'Connell, at midfield, for Kerry. If O'Connell could be held to a fifty-fifty share of the midfield play, Offaly would be satisfied they thought. Therefore all planning was directed towards curbing O'Connell.

But what happens in the actual game? O'Connell is less than good, even by the standards of lesser mortals than himself, but the second midfielder,



Balance and poise displayed by Mick O'Shea as he beats Pat Keenan and clears for Kerry.

## Analysis No. 3

By

Raymond Smyth

IF you ask me to sum up in a nutshell why Kerry won, I will reply that Offaly could not match them in pure football in the second half and that they were foiled in their attempt to get the vital break-through goal when they most needed it—just after half-time. Mick Morris, the Kerry centre-back agreed that anything could have happened if Johnny Culloty had not been in the right spot at the right time to prevent a certain goal one minute after the interval from a piledriver by Sean Evans. Morris went so far as to admit that Offaly could well have gone on to win, for a goal then would have given them the inspiration they needed.

A team challenging for its first All-Ireland needs the uplift that a goal can give; a team needs it all the more to overcome Kerry's tradition in an All-Ireland Football Final — especially when the Kingdom, as was the case this year, were bidding for the coveted 21st

crown.

Without that goal, Offaly's points scoring rate was too slow after half-time. Kerry's wing-backs Tom Prendergast and Mike O'Shea played a vital part in victory. "They were so good that I was content to do the covering off," said Mick Morris.



## Three of Ireland's top writers review this year's football final.



Mick Gleeson scores Kerry's first point on the way to their 21st All-Ireland.

plained by the imbalance  
four of Kerry from mid-  
though there is some  
um of truth, also, in the  
that the Kerry men were  
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ily must give their future  
serious thought: the  
is hardly good enough to  
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e of Kerry. The split-  
d changing of the point  
tack which was so im-  
ve against Cavan was but  
nory. They ought to im-  
of course, but the ex-  
ce of this final may have  
an adverse effect on some  
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which lay at their feet  
they were only a point or  
hind in the second half,  
ently caused them to tense  
d their nerves seemed to  
the momentous hour of  
y.

ley, who can scarcely  
figured in Offaly's  
match plans, proceeds  
ompletely dominate the  
in his area, and far  
nd it.

was a change of  
s which more than  
ing else beat Offaly,  
even though the Kerry  
forward line failed to  
he precision supply of  
all that they had been  
stomed to from O'Con-  
ne full-forward line  
oted gratefully the  
supply coming their  
from D. J. Crowley.

The score sheet proves the  
point. From play, the  
Kerry half-forwards scored  
only one point, while the  
full-forwards got 0-4.

The second decisive  
point in Kerry's favour was  
Tom Prendergast's feat in  
blotting out of the game  
Offaly's answer to O'Con-  
nell, Tony McTague. Un-  
like Kerry, however, no  
colleague of McTague in  
attack was at hand to take  
over and supply the mis-  
sing initiative as Crowley  
did for O'Connell.

The result was that the

Midlanders' attack was a  
thing of bits and shreds  
and any scores that came  
their way were by accident  
rather than by design. It  
even lacked the honest-to-  
God ability to barge its  
way through for scores,  
their forwards being too  
light physically and coming  
off second best in man-to-  
man clashes with the  
Kerry men.

And yet, had Offaly got  
that goal just after half  
time the chances are they  
would have won the game.  
But they didn't deserve to

do so. The superiority in  
natural football skill was  
quite definitely on the  
side of Kerry.

And when all else fails  
in a final a team very often  
has to fall back on the  
inate ability of individual  
players.

This is the way it was  
with Kerry and they can  
thank the natural footbal-  
ling ability of Tom Pren-  
dergast, Mick O'Shea, D. J.  
Crowley, Mick Gleeson and  
Johnny Culloty for ensur-  
ing their twenty first All-  
Ireland victory.

I thought beforehand that  
McTague's jinking runs  
his deadly sidestep would  
real problems to the  
defence. But he was sel-  
seen at all against dynamic  
Prendergast and we saw  
football in the real Kerry  
ion also from Mike O'Shea.  
aly badly needed a centre-  
rd in the Jim McCartan  
l to open the Kerry de-  
with driving runs through  
entre. Sean Evans, at full-  
rd, was their best attacker  
considered him very un-  
not to get at least one  
(Mick Morris saved a cer-  
goal when getting in to  
him in the first half, as  
pivoted for his shot).  
should have been left at  
ward.

th power flowing from the  
back positions and Din  
Crowley touching superb  
ts at midfield, Kerry not  
red now by the contrary  
were still able to make  
vital break-aways that  
ht the points for victory.  
e strange thing about it  
that Kerry dominated mid-  
through the second half  
te the fact that Mick  
nnell didn't really get into  
lay. In fact I was begin-  
to think that the Valen-  
ia d man would be replaced,  
e Bryan was enjoying so  
freedom of movement

when there came a free fifty to blame. Kerry couldn't handle  
yards out. O'Connell came up  
to take it and planted it be-  
tween the posts.

But his efforts in getting the  
point that put his side a "safe"  
four points clear had a vital  
bearing on the result. Nobody,  
I noticed, seemed to want to  
take this free — they all  
realised how much depended  
upon it. But Mick O'Dwyer be-  
ckoned to O'Connell and with  
cool skill, he made no mistake.

Thus I was reminded of Ring  
in some of his games towards  
the close of his career — he  
would be out of it for fifty mi-  
nutes and then win it perhaps  
with a masterly stroke.

A shrewd Kerry follower put  
it well to me when he remarked  
that it wasn't how O'Connell  
performed in the general play  
that mattered — it was his pre-  
sence.

My only memory of the hour  
will be the fantastic reception  
accorded to O'Connell as he  
came out. Has a Croke Park  
crowd ever before risen to one  
man, like this, as he came out  
from the dressing rooms under  
the Cusack Stand? I was re-  
minded of Pele taking the field  
for Brazil.

It was the worst football I  
have seen since the listless  
Kerry-Meath game of 1954. Per-  
haps the blustery breeze was

Strangely enough, Offaly  
moved far better in attack in  
the first half than in the se-  
cond. As things did not go their  
way after half-time, some of  
their men I am afraid did not  
concentrate totally on the ball.  
I am not saying they stooped to  
dirty tactics (this was generally  
a good sporting hour with hard  
knocks given and taken in the  
right spirit), what I mean is  
that they tried to "knock"  
Kerry off their game, instead of  
trying to beat Kerry, as Down  
did in 1960-'61, with controlled  
power play up front. Eugene  
Mulligan and Mick Ryan both  
played excellently and Willie  
Bryan won a lot of possession  
at midfield, though spoiling it  
at times by his slowness in get-  
ting moving. The attack failed,  
apart from Sean Evans.

The veteran Offaly full-back  
line began to feel the pace to-  
wards the end and Kerry should  
have clinched it with a goal or  
even two. Greg Hughes main-

tained his reputation in the  
hour.

Din Joe Crowley was un-  
doubtedly Kerry's man of the  
hour and the man of the match  
— and quiet, sporting Johnny  
Culloty wiped out the memory  
of the mishap that cost a vital  
goal against Down in 1960 by  
making the all-important save  
this time. No player deserved  
more to lead Kerry to their 21st.

A game to forget quickly, a  
game that did not advance the  
code one iota — a game, in fact,  
that convinced me once again  
that the time has come to act  
on the "tackle" in Gaelic foot-  
ball and, in fact, alter the rules  
to make it a spectator sport,  
worth watching.

I met some of the Down  
players coming out of the  
ground. I couldn't help think-  
ing that if Down were there in-  
stead of Offaly there would  
have been only one result — a  
comfortable win for the Ulster  
champions.

If O'Neill and Doherty had got  
the chances that the Offaly for-  
wards got in the second half, I  
shudder to think what would  
have happened the Kerry de-  
fence.

It would have been torn to  
shreds.

## FOR THE RECORD

### FIGURES OF THE GAME

#### FIRST HALF

	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	50's
KERRY	0	5	9	13	1
OFFALY	0	2	4	10	0

#### SECOND HALF

	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	50's
KERRY	0	5	3	7	0
OFFALY	0	5	5	8	1

#### TOTALS

	Goals	Points	Wides	Frees	50's
KERRY	0	10	12	20	1
OFFALY	0	7	9	18	1

### ATTENDANCE

67,828

### LINE-OUTS

**Kerry:** J. Culloty; S. Murphy, P. O'Donoghue, S. Fitz-  
gerald; T. Prendergast, M. Morris, M. O'Shea; M. O'Con-  
nell, D. J. Crowley; B. Lynch, P. Griffin, E. O'Donoghue;  
M. Gleeson, L. Higgins, M. O'Dwyer.

**Offaly:** M. Furlong; P. McCormack, G. Hughes, J. Egan;  
E. Mulligan, N. Clavin, M. Ryan; L. Coughlan, W. Bryan,  
P. Keenan, A. Hickey, T. McTague; S. Kilroy, S. Evans,  
J. Cooney. Subs.: F. Costelloe (for Hickey), K. Kilmurray  
(for Keenan), P. Monaghan (for Kilroy).

**Referee:** S. Moloney (Tipperary).

### Scores by the clock

#### First Half

- ½ min. — Kerry point by Mick Gleeson.
- 5 mins. — Offaly point by Sean Evans.
- 14 mins. — Offaly point by Tony McTague.
- 14½ mins. — Kerry point by Liam Higgins.
- 15 mins. — Kerry point by Brendan Lynch.
- 16 mins. — Kerry point by Mick Gleeson.
- 29 mins. — Kerry point by D. J. Crowley.

Half-Time: Kerry, 0-5; Offaly, 0-2.

#### Second Half

- 5 mins. — Offaly point by Sean Evans.
- 7 mins. — Offaly point by Willie Bryan.
- 10 mins. — Kerry point by Mick O'Dwyer.
- 11 mins. — Kerry point by D. J. Crowley.
- 12 mins. — Offaly point by Tony McTague.
- 14 mins. — Offaly point by Pat Keenan.
- 18 mins. — Kerry point (free) by Mick O'Connell.
- 20 mins. — Kerry point (free) by Mick O'Dwyer.
- 25 mins. — Kerry point (free) by Mick O'Dwyer.
- 26 mins. — Offaly point (free) by Tony McTague.

Final score: Kerry, 0-10, Offaly, 0-7.



# A HURLER IN LILY WHITE

A hurler with that "box-office" appeal that the game is crying out for, an exciting pulse-raiser also in football, and a performer destined for many more honours in both codes . . . that, briefly, is the colourful sporting story of 24-year-old Pat Dunny.

Dunny has the distinction of having shared in all of Kildare's major triumphs in hurling, and this year in particular, he has also strikingly demonstrated that, with ability topped up by persistence and drive, it is not necessary to belong to a traditional stronghold to reach the top at this most distinctive of all games.

I rate his display in the win over Westmeath last May at Croke Park that gave Kildare their first National Hurling League Division II title, as good an exhibition of centre half back play as I have seen in any grade. And he was also a consistent star of the march to the first All-Ireland Intermediate Championship this year.

There is a big difference, of course, between the intermediate and senior grades, but I have little doubt that Pat Dunny would now be gladly handed a senior jersey in any county. Further I believe that he would also prove as successful a hurler in any talented company of seniors at the highest possible level, as he has in the premier grade of football.

One of the brightest lights in a galaxy of starlets that gave Kildare the All-Ireland Under-21 football title in 1965, the Raheens man may not be scaling the heights as a prolific score-getter in football, but he is still finding the target consistently for Kildare. He can also on occasions turn on a scoring barrage with a real vengeance.

I especially recall his grand exhibition, highlighted by the scoring of 3-2, in Kildare's win over Dublin at An Uaimh in a 1966 Leinster Senior Championship semi-final — his top match total to date.

Last March in the drawn league game with Offaly at Portlaoise, Pat Dunny passed out his 150th point in senior inter-county football. That was his 60th game, and brought his score to 21-90 (153 points) at the rate of 2.55 points an hour. Since then he has been moving steadily rather than spectacularly towards his second century.

Dunny was only 17 when he won his first All-Ireland medal. That was with the junior team that landed Kil-



Paddy Dunny in his most common role

dare's first national title in hurling in 1962. But the man we now know so well as a half-back in hurling and a forward in football, figured in that title winning team as goalkeeper.

In 1966 he was an inspiring captain and brilliant centre half in the side that regained the All-Ireland junior hurling title by beating Warwickshire at Birmingham. Now with four medals he leads the Kildare current All-Ireland medalists chart.

A lot can happen between now and early spring, but I feel that on his consistently good form all year in hurl-

ing, Pat Dunny must be very much in the hunt to win his first Railway Cup hurling jersey, and so join that select band of dual interprovincial performers. He was in the Leinster team beaten by Ulster in the 1967 semi-final in Belfast.

Be that as it may, however, the purposeful and dedicated approach of Pat Dunny will continue to be of incalculable value to Kildare in both codes in the years ahead — and will also provide rank-and-file enthusiasts up and down the country with much to enthuse over.

— Owen McCann.

## THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU

**N**OTHING causes more worry to players and team officials than the problems of injuries. As the number of games increase, so does the number of sports injuries.

During 1969, injuries to footballers and hurlers made more headlines than many of the big matches themselves. The most dramatic, of course, was Mick O'Connell's affliction prior to the All-Ireland final, which had added effect, since there was an air of mystery as to what O'Connell's injury actually was.

Most injuries, however, are of the more mundane type. Cartilage troubles; torn ligaments; hamstring strains; chipped ankle bones; dislocated shoulders; these are some of the injuries which cause all the trouble to players and consequently to selectors and coaches.

In the next and subsequent issues of GAELIC NEWS, we will have a qualified medical practitioner give his opinions on sports injuries and queries submitted by our readers.

If you have an injury problem on which you would like advice, send details to: Sports Doctor, GAELIC NEWS, 58 Haddington Rd., Dublin 4, to reach us before November 10.



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# THE LEAGUE AND THE LOLLY

WITH the new National Leagues already having commenced, all counties will be hoping that their particular group will turn out to be a financial bonanza. Statistics, however, prove that the financial results of the various groupings are just as uncertain as the results of the games themselves. There are so many variable factors, that the monetary returns from the league for a particular county can be no more than guess-work beforehand.

Who would have thought that in last year's League Division I, which included the then All-Ireland champions, and the greatest crowd pullers that the game has ever known — Down — would show a drop in income over expenditure figures, of over 50 per cent on the previous year. The actual figure was £4,164.

In fact, taken all round, last year's N.F.L. campaign was a less rewarding exercise for all counties than the previous year's competition, despite the fact that there was an unusually high number of drawn games.

For instance, the 32-county pay-out from the National Pool amounted to only £540, as compared with £646 the previous year. This is the figure which is of vital importance to the sixteen counties, which fail to qualify for the divisional semi-finals or finals. Since these sixteen have no further 'lolly' to collect from the League, except their small percentage from the N.F.L. semi-final and final, it can be seen just how important the divide of the Pool can be.

At this stage, it is necessary to briefly explain just how counties make money out of the league. Broadly speaking, there

are two categories of pay-outs.

## EQUAL SHARE

The first is from a National Pool. This Pool is compiled from the nett gate receipts of all the League games up to, and including, the divisional finals. Also included is a percentage from the receipts of the semi-finals and finals. At the end of each League campaign, this Pool is divided out equally among all 32 competing counties.

The idea behind this equal share out is primarily to ensure that the rich don't get richer and the poor don't get poorer. This is done by making the rich subsidise the poor, whether they like it or not.

And indeed there were quite a few of the rich who didn't take very kindly to the equal distribution of wealth, but they were solaced by the second half of the financial arrangements.

These cater for the 16 counties which manage to get to the divisional semi-final stage. The eight teams which lose the semi-finals get five per cent of the proceeds from the divisional final, as well as their travelling expenses.

The eight teams who qualify for the four divisional finals do even better as they receive ten per cent of the takings from the finals.

## BIG MONEY

But it is in the semi-finals and final of the League that the really big money is. In the semi-final, each team takes fifty per cent of the takings up to £1,000 and thereafter, they get 40 per cent of the remainder. The same system applies to the League final receipts.

This system is sound in that it guarantees each county a reasonable return, while, at the

same time, it provides ample rewards for the successful counties. Some of the weaker counties do distinctly better from this arrangement than in the old method by which individual 'gates' were shared by the two competing teams.

## LOW RECEIPTS

For instance in the 1968-'69 N.F.L., the total gate receipts from the matches played by several counties was far below their Pool allocation of £540. Examples are Kilkenny (£170), Waterford (£176), Wexford (£198), Armagh (£262) and Wicklow (£299).

As opposed to this, of course, many of the counties who received £540 had drawn gates far in excess of that figure in their three League games. Examples are Down (£1,485), Longford (£1,127) and Tyrone (£982) — none of whom could be very satisfied with their Pool allocations of £540.

Since a total of sixteen teams are involved in the share-outs from the divisional finals, the gate receipts at these four games are of vital importance. This is especially true of twelve out of the sixteen, since their interest in the League extends no further than the divisional stage. And it is amazing the extent of fluctuations in divisional final gate receipts.

## BIG DISPARITY

A glance at the accompanying diagram proves the point. In

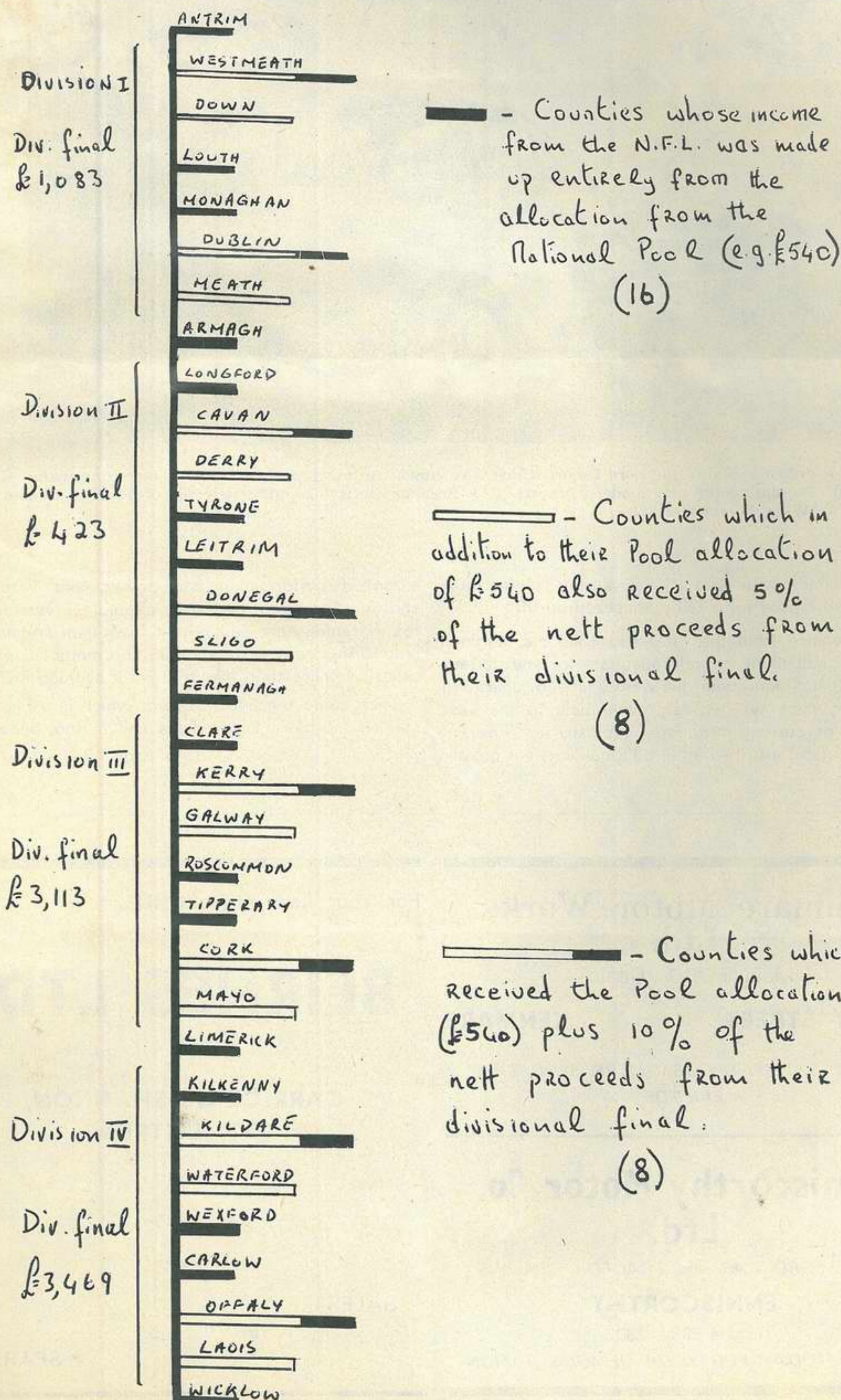
Division II, the percentage allocations were taken out of £423, which was a far cry from Division IV, where the final attracted a gate of £3,469.

For the four counties which advanced to the League semi-finals, and especially for the two League finalists, the financial rewards are great, although the 1968-'69 series was far behind that of the previous year. The Croke Park authorities told us on enquiry for the actual figures that they were not prepared to give them to us, so we can only conjecture as to how much Kerry, Offaly, Donegal and Westmeath got out of the League.

## NEW GROUPINGS

In the new N.F.L., there are some new groupings and there will also be more groups playing a double round League. This latter is an extra source of revenue to the counties involved, as only 20 per cent of the second round takings go to the National Pool. The rest goes to the competing counties and since the second round is usually a better money spinner than the first, it can be seen that it was not just the extra games that many counties were looking for, when they sought the double round league.

It is also a further bonus for the successful counties as, naturally, these will draw bigger second round 'gates' than their less successful brethren.



## Calculation of Pool 1968-'69

	Gross Takings	Expenses	Nett Income
DIVISION I	£5,475	£1,781	£3,699
DIVISION II	£4,400	£1,254	£3,146
DIVISION III	£11,739	£3,631	£8,107
DIVISION IV	£6,588	£2,668	£3,920
TOTALS	£28,203	£9,335	£18,868

(For Pool)

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# The Ford Escort

FORD introduced the Escort almost exactly a decade after the arrival of the Anglia (the 'E' Anglia). It caused quite a sensation January twelve-months ago, when people realised that Ford were no longer in the mini class and had opted out of the minimum road-tax group.

By Hugh McGrillen

At the time it seemed a very unorthodox step, but Fords have always been the masters of orthodoxy and what a lot of the critics did not realise was that the mass-market had moved away from the smallest sector into the next class up. And where you find the biggest mass-market, there you find Ford.

Within less than twelve months of its introduction, the Escort had climbed the sales figures to be the biggest-selling single model on the Irish market — which seemed to suggest that the critics had gone wrong somewhere. Even more significant, it was the car which won the Irish Car of the Year title in a poll-carried out by the Steering Column — the syndicated motor feature carried by some half-dozen of our leading provincial papers.

The formula for success in the Escort was simple but sure. It is an entirely conventional car with front-mounted engine, driving the rear wheels through a synchromesh 4-speed gearbox. It had a pleasant,



The new 4 door model of the Ford Escort which was shown to Ford dealers at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin. Presenting the new model were Mr. T. J. Brennan (left) Managing Director of Ford of Ireland and Mr. J. D. Wyer, Director of Sales.

unremarkable shape and it was a very ample four-seater with space for a fairly squeezed-up fifth.

Performance from the 1100 and 1300 c.c. engines was designed to be entirely adequate for any current demands, and along with this went a level of operating economy which was entirely acceptable to the vast majority of current motorists. Typically for Ford in recent years, it also had an in-built capacity for greatly

extended performance and power, and Ford, very shortly after its introduction, offered GT versions and the extremely fast and potent Twin-cam engined variation. This car ran up such an enormous list of successes in rallies that at one stage it seemed invincible.

Then came the Escort Estate which is a big carrier still on the basic Escort lines and it, too, became an

Continued on page 18

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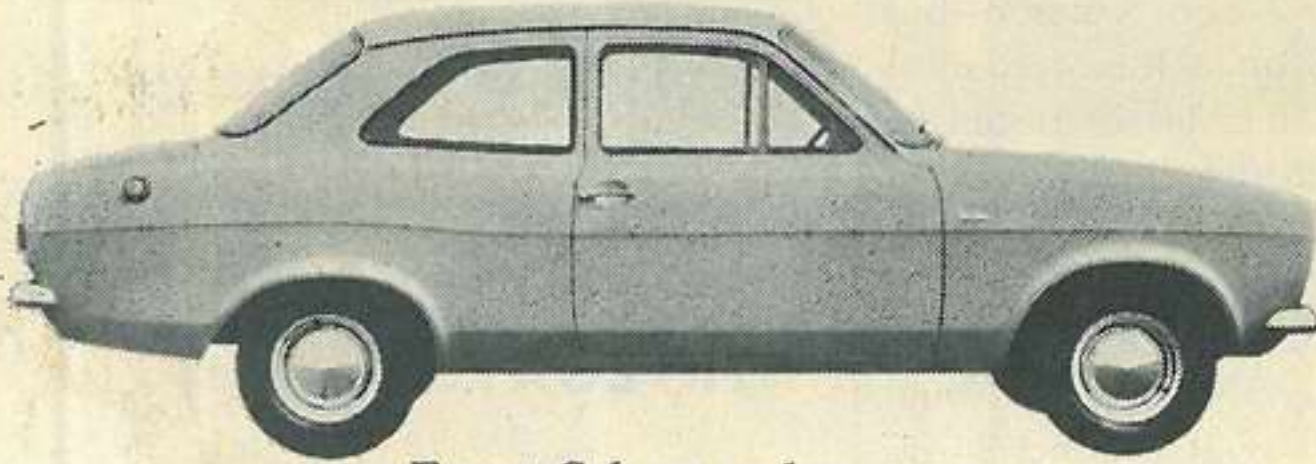
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## The alternatives.



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Escort De Luxe. 4-door. 1100 c.c.

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(See our basic Escort Saloon above.)

If you want a sports saloon that accelerates from 0-60 in 13 seconds, then that's what you should have. (See our GT saloon above.)

If you want an Estate car that carries about twice as much as its competitors, then that's what you should have. (See our Estate car above.)

If you want a really luxurious small family car, then that's what you should have.

(See our Escort De Luxe above.)

And if you want 4-doors, you should be given the choice.

We've given you the choice. (See our 4-door De Luxe and Super above.)

So before you buy an Escort, take a look at all the alternatives.

After all, when we've taken the trouble to make such a wide range of Escorts, we'd hate you to have to settle for anything less than the car you really want.

Ford leads the way.



Henry Ford & Son Limited, Cork.



# The Ford Escort

Continued from page 16

immediate success. The only missing feature then was two rear doors and with a success like this on their hands, as well as a 4-door version of the Vauxhall Viva to contend with, it seemed inevitable that Ford would bring a 4-door Escort on the market.

Last month it duly arrived, and the Escort looks all set for a new rise in its existing record sales figures. The whole concept of this car has been based on a computer-calculated design, which started out with the requirements of the present day family motorist on-a-budget and worked these out in terms of interior space, fuel economy, performance and overall running costs. The Escort's specification was the answer.

There are few changes in the 4-door version, apart from added details of comfort, but the immediate acceptance of the car in its original form is evidence enough that few changes were necessary. Significantly, Ford did not greatly publicise this 4-door version, but its arrival has been based, again, on a lot of market research work, which indicated that a lot of potential buyers were by-passing the Escort for lack of the rear doors.

Slightly heavier than the two-door, this version gives almost identical performance, with a top speed in the mid-80's (if we could only use it), and fuel consumption which should come out at around 34-36 m.p.g. With the 1300 c.c. engine, the acceleration is well up among the best in this horse-power class, and road behaviour generally is a tribute to what can be done with entirely conventional mechanical layout.

Like Vauxhall and Rootes models, Ford still retain the non-independent rear axle and having covered many thousands of miles in Belgium, Germany and Austria in a GT version earlier this year, I can vouch for the excellence of this car's road-holding under all conditions. The Escort is one of the most adaptable and versatile designs in production and it will become an ultra acceptable 4-door family saloon, just as it has been in its 2-door, GT, Twin-cam or estate car version. Another big lease of life for this winner.

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## SEAN RYAN TALKING TO:

# Mick Mellett

**M**EATH'S star forward Mick Mellett has proven himself one of football's outstanding attackers over the last few seasons. In 1967, his first term in senior intercounty fare, he won an All-Ireland medal, when occupying the left half-forward position on his county's title-winning team and the Martinstown clubman also was a member of Meath's historic Australian tour party last year. Mick is also a useful hurler and has represented his county in the junior grade. I had a meeting with Mick recently and our conversation went as follows:

**Q: How do you think Meath will fare in the coming National League?**

**A:** I think we have a very good chance of doing well. With a few promising young players coming up, we should give a good account of ourselves.

**Q: Are you satisfied that the best players are being selected for the Meath team?**

**A:** Yes, definitely. Proof of this is that when we won the All-Ireland title in 1967, there were fifteen players from fifteen different clubs on the team.

**Q: Which teams do you fear most in the coming League campaign?**

**A:** In our own Division, I expect Down, despite their elimination from the championship, to prove very difficult opposition. If we can qualify from our section, we will probably meet Kerry. We gave a

very good account of ourselves in a challenge match against them early in the year, when we held them to a draw with an understrength team. Of the others, I reckon Kildare might be most dangerous.

**Q: Are you satisfied with the present divisional set-up in the League?**

**A:** No. I would like to see two sections 'A' and 'B', with the sixteen strongest counties in the 'A' section. These two sections could each be divided into two divisions, with eight teams in each division on a north and south basis.

In each section, the winners of one division could play the runners-up of the other, and vice versa, in the semi-final. A special trophy could be awarded to the winners of the weaker section and the two finalists could qualify for promotion to the 'A' section the following season. The two bottom teams in the 'A' section could likewise be relegated to the weaker section.

**Q: The G.A.A. has been receiving a lot of criticism of late. Are there any changes which you would like to see being made in the structure of the Association?**

**A:** I would like to see the rules altered to permit players to watch 'foreign games', and I would also like to see the rule relating to 'foreign' dances deleted. However, I think players would find it very difficult to play for instance, Gaelic football and soccer. It

is difficult enough to play football and hurling, but, in this case, the fixtures are usually arranged to suit the players.

**Q: Are you satisfied with the playing rules?**

**A:** I would like to see a larger square, extending twenty one yards out from goal, with two points being awarded for any free converted from inside this area. I think it is ridiculous to see a player with a goal at his mercy being fouled and getting only a point for it. I would be in favour of retaining the present five yard square for penalties. I would also like to see the umpires and linesmen given power to point out to the referee incidents which happen behind his back. Some referees penalise late tackles but I wish more of them would do this.

**Q: Who are the best players, you have opposed in your intercounty career to date?**

**A:** Frank Cogan (Cork) and Tom O'Hare (Down) are two that I would prefer not to meet very often in the future.

**Q: As a player who toured Australia, what are your views on the possibilities of making Gaelic football an international game?**

**A:** I would like to see a world championship involving America, Australia, Britain and a county team or a national selection from Ireland. This could be held every two or three years, with the venue rotating between the four countries. I would also like to

see the Central Council sponsoring any county going on such trips.

**Q: Have Meath disimproved much since they won the All-Ireland title in 1967?**

**A:** The Australian tour took a lot out of the team and also virtually ruined our chance of retaining the title last year. Since then, some of the older members have lost form. However, with our present blend of youth and experience, we should soon be as good, if not better, than in 1967.

**Q: You also play hurling. Are you satisfied that enough is being done for hurling in Meath?**

**A:** Yes, there is some good work being done. But this is not an easy job, as football is the more popular game and Meath never had a great hurling tradition. However, I think the position would improve if hurling was promoted more in the schools.

**Q: What did you think of this year's football final and how, in your opinion, do Kerry compare with the champions of the last few years?**

**A:** Almost everybody agrees that it was a poor final and in my opinion, it was the worst in years. The wind didn't help, but I don't think it would have been much better on a calm day. I think last year's champions, Down, the Galway three-in-a-row side and maybe our side of '67 would have beaten Kerry.

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BY  
BRIAN  
GERAGHTY

# All I Need is The Money

I have often imagined myself as manager of a Gaelic Football team in a professional set-up. Players paid, transfer fees, full-time training and all that jazz.

Such a man — this manager guy — would want to possess all the attributes of an astute gambler on the stock market.

Now I have never gambled on the stock market; my brokers have always handled my vast inheritance in this field. But I have gambled! And every time I am forced to think of my excursion into this particular pastime I have doubts about this football manager job. However, these doubts have not prevented me from carrying out the Walter-Mitty type exercise of buying and selling Gaelic players in an effort to build up my ideal team.

What should one look for as regards the finished

product — in this case the team that will take the field in top class competition? A proper blending of youth and experience, arrived at as cheaply as possible by having a good club scout and under-age training ground.

The goalman should come as a result of this training school. As manager I would not be prepared to expend a lot of money on filling this position. However if I did have to make a purchase in present day Gaelic football I would probably go for Johnny Geraghty. He is no longer between the Galway posts, due to, in my humble opinion, a temporary loss of confidence on his part. So therefore I could buy cheaply. At his best he was the best Gaelic keeper I have seen. He is still young. At twenty seven he has many years left. And I could expect him within a few years to

return to top form.

To instill confidence in Geraghty a good steady and experienced full back would have to be put to man the square. I would be prepared to spend a fair few pounds sterling in this venture. If "The Times" weren't going too well I'd have a go for Greg Hughes and change his mind about retiring. Offaly would be looking for a fair few quid I'd imagine—but then I might make a deal by offering them a good young forward that would have come through my training school. They could do with him and it would ease my financial worry.

Corner - backs? With Hughes' experience we could have two of the younger brigade, but if I had to go to the market again for these I would choose John Carey of Mayo for the number two spot and Andy McCabe of

Cavan on the other side. After the All-Ireland series I would probably get Andy cheaper than Seamus Fitzgerald.

The half line of defence I would expect to have readymade with young well-tutored player—close marking defenders who would also have the know-how of turning defence into

attack! However I wouldn't mind having someone like the Antrim under 21 full back, Seamus Killough at centre-half with maybe Eugene Mulligan on his right and Down's Ray McConville at left-half. The latter impressed me during last year's championship.

I would be satisfied with Down's two mid-fielders in

rest of the team into match winning scores. About ten good youngsters, and I would be willing to pay any price for Sean O'Neill at full forward to provide the focal point. He would be the general that so many sides are lacking.

If I did have to buy I would be interested in the following players as well as O'Neill, Mickey Niblock at right-half, or maybe Brendan Lynch of Kerry who could pick off a few long range points. However there would be a big price to be paid there and as well I would like to see him let that ball around a bit more instead of the more usual solo run effort.

With His Lordship's permission we could have Jim Colleary of Sligo on the mark or young O'Toole from Wicklow, who possibly might feel more at home on the wing in senior inter-county football. Another player for whom I would be prepared to go a good price would be Mayo's young winger Des Griffith. He has the qualities necessary to be a top class poacher and distributor.

In the front line with O'Neill at full forward one could have Willie McGee of Mayo, Babs Keating, Dessie Dolan, Sean Donnelly, Gene Cusack.

How about this line-out:

Geraghty, Carey, Hughes, McCabe, Mulligan, Killough, McConville, McAlarney, J. Murphy (or Milligan), Griffith, Niblock, O'Toole (or Lynch), McGee, O'Neill, Donnelly (or Cusack at right corner forward).

After all it's easy being a manager. All that is necessary now is the money.



John Murphy



Des Griffith

## OLD-TIMER RECALLS

# Longest Puck Of Them All

If we're to believe the television — and why shouldn't we, it has the answer to everything now, just as Old Moore's Almanac had when I was a boy — the Fastest Gun in the West, no matter how fast he was, always ended up by meeting someone faster than himself.

And, the day of the Football Final, I found out that being an Old Timer has the very same problem. You are always liable to hit up against an even Older Timer than yourself. There was I, belting up Jones' Road, trying to get into the minor match before the fierce shower that was obviously coming, and there was this ancient friend of mine, coming skipping up from the Canal Bank like a two-year-old. And he couldn't let me pass unmolested.

"Where were your eyes the day of the hurling final," says he, "or is it how your eyes were dazzled by all the notabilities around your seat in the Hogan Stand?"

I let that pass because I know he has a location himself on the upper deck of the Cusack that he wouldn't swap for the best plush seat in the Ard Comhairle. "Something happened during the hurling final that only happened once before in an inter-county match in my life-time, and did you write about it? You did not because you didn't know the differ, because you weren't there the first day."

With that the shower came, and we had to run into the little shop for shelter, and there I finally dragged out of him what he was giving out about. It was that time in the first half when Eddie Keher took the free, and not only drove the ball high over the cross-bar, but high over the Canal Wall and clean out of the ground.

"And that was only done once before in my time," said my ancient friend, "in an inter-county match anyway."

He knitted his brows. "Twas sixty years ago if not more, and it was another Kilkenny man did it, but I'm damned if I can remember his name. I'll tell you this much, he was a long, lank of a fellow from Threecastles, and he drove the ball clean out of the ground at the Railway End from about 40 yards out the field."

"I heard tell of it," said I cautiously, "but I can't lay hands of his name either."

He cackled with laughter. "Of course you heard tell of it, but only because of the likes of me who were there to see it and to tell the likes of you about it."

The shower was easing, and the crowd was cheering inside, and I couldn't see any point in missing the thrills of the present for the oddities of the past, but he had a last crack at me even as we ventured out onto Jones' Road.

"And what's more, I saw what you won't see today or any other day. I saw the football driven over the Railway Wall in a club match. And the man that did it was the Cocker Daly — over the Wall it went and over the Railway as well. And you weren't there to see it. And yet you have the cheek to call yourself an old-timer."

### Every Score

I let it go with him. I had to, but when I got home after the football final I spent the next week going through every source I could dig up in order to see could I prove him wrong.

And at the end of all my searching the sad fact of the matter was that I only proved him right, on both counts! Anyway, at the end of it, I at least knew more than my Old Old-Timer friend. I knew the name of the man from Threecastles who put the ball over the Railway Wall.

His name was Tom Murphy and he achieved his remarkable feat when playing for Kilkenny against Offaly in the Leinster semi-final, from well out the field, on September 2, 1906. Of course it should be no wonder to anyone that the said Tom Murphy was able to belt that ball over the Railway Wall. After all, earlier in that same year at a long puck competition at the old St. James' Park in Kilkenny, Mr. Tom Murphy from Threecastles won

with a drive of 129 yards!

And here is an unexpected twist to his story. In spite of all his achievements, the same Tom Murphy never won an All-Ireland medal, not on the field anyway, although he may well have collected one as a sub.

Ever since that football final I have been trying to figure out what it was the hurling final had that the football final so patently lacked. Of course, Kerry supporters can have no complaints about a day that gave them that long-awaited 21st title. But for me, and I fear for every neutral spectator to whom I have spoken since, all the sparkle seemed to fade out of the game in the second half.

### Offaly Goal

There was no reason at all for it, but, around me, and the people around me were mainly "neutrals", you could feel the crowd stirring uneasily right through the last quarter. Indeed, a friend of mine swears that, where he was, the man next him wanted to go two minutes before time. My friend said to him, "Hold on, maybe Offaly would score a goal yet, and make a draw of it."

And the answer he got was, "And if they do, who is going to come and see the replay?"

I didn't think myself it was nearly as bad as that, but I did think it was the final that failed most to

the middle. They are two strong runners, know how to use the ball to the best of advantage and are young enough to last for the hour. John Murphy of Down is another who would come under my microscopic eye for this position. Of course I would give a lot to have Jimmy Duggan out there doing the approach jobs for my front liners but I imagine that the Galway back-room squad would put too high a price on their star's head for my budget. Funnilly enough, Mick O'Connell or Jack Donnelly, this season's foremost midfield pair would not attract me.

My trainers and coach would have a readymade forward machine oiled to turn the good work of the

live up to pre-match promise since Galway and Kerry met for the third time in four years in the final of 1941. By then the teams had got to know each other too well. They cancelled one another out almost and gave us a most negative game of football which Kerry won, deservedly, but in mighty pedestrian fashion.

But if this year's football final lacked sustained brilliance it was made memorable by the fine performances as individuals of three Kerry players Din Joe Crowley, Mick O'Shea and Tom Prendergast.

O'Shea I have long ago ear-marked as the equal of Sean Murphy at his best and fit to challenge the Camp star for the claim to be Kerry's greatest half-back since Paul Russell.

But, on second half form particularly, Prendergast must now stand upsides with any of them.

As for Crowley, I owe him an apology. From the first day I saw him in Croke Park I had labelled him in my own mind as a good honest footballer, stout-hearted and tenacious, but I had labelled him as short of All-Ireland class. My judgment was completely wrong.

Even though it was the wing halves that, I suppose, saved the day for Kerry, it was Crowley who won the match for them, and in all fairness to a man who rose magnificently to the occasion when the need was greatest, I will always remember Kerry's historic 21st All-Ireland victory as Din Joe Crowley's All-Ireland.



Well done Warwickshire Hurlers

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# Warwickshire at play

**A** FAIR TEST of the spirit and buoyancy of an Irish community overseas is the extent and success of its entertainment. In this regard, Warwickshire abounds.

The G.A.A. is, of course, very much part of it. Take St. Finbarr's Club, Coventry for example. It began in 1953 as a hurling club with only a handful of members. Football was later introduced and there was a one-shilling-per-week subscription collected from members.

In 1956, the club purchased what was an old cinema and from this has grown a magnificent social club with, now, over 1,000 members.

The Secretary-Manager of the Club is Tipperaryman Joe McCarty. Joe possesses boundless energy and wonderful organising ability. He has been in charge since 1956 and has built up a unique structure.

G.A.A. teams thrive — senior, junior, minor and juvenile, while the social club, which has spent £30,000 in renovating and converting the former cinema, is the heart of Irish life in Coventry. It is also a mighty fund-raiser for every worthy Irish cause or church undertaking.

vacant warehouses to stock Irish products and that there is a ready market for these products if they were available on a systematic and constant basis.

These are but fleeting glimpses of a few of the men and activities of the Irish in Warwickshire — a

The Warwickshire group of young men and boys who flew into Shannon on Saturday, October 11, and then journeyed on to Tralee to play Kerry in junior hurling and juvenile football, represented more than the deciding of a secondary G.A.A. championship. They were symbols of an unconquered people who have overcome obstacles which we at home hardly ever dream of.

They beat Kerry and made hurling history. Next season they will have a powerful intermediate team — based on this year's and last year's All-Ireland winning junior sides.

They train hard on those local government patches of ground in Coventry and Birmingham. Their's a deep and silent pride — they are the forgotten people who had to build a life which their own country denied them. But they have built that life, while at the same time retaining their natural attachment to Ireland and its games.

They are a heroic people.



Joe Murray conveys "Miss Munster" to dais at the Irish Community Centre, Birmingham.

The Irish Community Centre in Birmingham also provides an inspiration for Irishmen at home and away. It had a quiet beginning and grew to the point where in 1964 it was incorporated as a Limited Company.

Its purpose is laid out in the memorandum: "To foster and promote the spiritual, social and cultural welfare of the Irish community..."

This it is doing — with entertainment, hospitality and a home-away-from-home being provided every night.

Genial Joe Murray is the Secretary. He was also one of the founders.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in Birmingham does what its name suggests. It parades the Irish in their pride.

The Committee's Chairman is Bill Hester, a native of Ballaghaderreen, County Roscommon. Bill has a shop at 342 Tiverton Road, Sallyoak, Birmingham. The shop used to sell only Irish goods — but now Bill Hester states that he cannot get sufficient of them.

He is very critical of certain Irish manufacturers whom, he says, seem concerned only with supplying large catering establishments and who apparently have no interest in across-counter sales.

Bill insists that Birmingham should have an Irish goods distribution centre — that Coras Trachtala should arrange for the acquiring of one of Birmingham's

community which was forced to leave home to find a home, but which has built one and which now has a great pride in its achievements.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

## Coiste Conndae Warwickshire

On behalf of the Officers and Board

I take this opportunity, through

GAELIC NEWS, to thank:

Our members for loyal service over the years;

our players, referees and officials

in all grades for work well

and willingly performed;

our All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions

of whom we are so proud.

And finally

our supporters for their continued help and  
co-operation.

May we continue to progress and success attend  
all our efforts.

With best wishes to our relatives and friends in Ireland.

MICHEAL O HUALLACHAIN,

Cathaoirleach.

## Our Thanks

Gaelic News wishes to put on record its sincere thanks to all of those Warwickshire Irishmen who assisted our representatives in the compiling of this six page feature.

In particular we wish to thank Michael Houlihan, Chairman of the Warwickshire County Board — also Assistant Secretary Joe O'Rourke, Paddy Ryan, and Eddie Crowe of the Mitchels club; Paddy McDermott and Joe Murray of the Irish Centre, Birmingham, and Joe McCarthy Secretary-Manager of the St. Finbarr's Club, Coventry.

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All is safe at the Warwickshire posts against Kerry in the All-Ireland junior hurling final at Tralee. Kerry failed to score a single goal.

## All is quiet at Bickenhill

**T**HERE are many great stories of battles that had to be fought to acquire various G.A.A. pitches — particularly back in the early years when the cry was "Gaelic grounds for Gaelic games." Such happenings are rare in our time — although there must be a helluva lot of telling in how John "Kerry" O'Donnell has held on to Gaelic Park in New York, despite various pressures and even bids by the owners, the New York transport authority, to dictate to him regarding it.

However, the battle waged by the G.A.A. men of Warwickshire for a ground of their own at Bickenhill, Meriden (right in the centre of England between Coventry and Birmingham) is a story very much worth telling.

Almost three years ago an estate known as The Grange Estate came on to the market in six lots. Lot Four took the fancy of the Warwickshire Board. It consisted of ten acres and bordered a roadway. It was ideal for two good playing pitches and a car park.

Having scrutinised the property, the Board appointed a three-man special committee under its current Chairman, Michael Houlihan (then Secretary) to bid for the ground. Following negotiations, they purchased it for £3,500. The G.A.A. had, at last, a ground all of its own, right in the heart of England.

Yes, it had but, when planning permission was sought to develop the property into a sportsfield, the request was turned down by the Meriden Rural District Council.

The Meriden Rural District Council found a variety of reasons for refusing permis-

sion — ranging from: that it was good agricultural land to the likelihood of traffic congestion.

All of this might be justifiable except for one thing — Lot Five, on the other side of the road, a 14 acre site of equally good agricultural land, was cleared for rugby pitches, a pavilion and a cricket ground.

The Warwickshire Board began to fight. They called upon all of the legal machinery which British law provides — eventually succeeding in getting a public enquiry held. The enquiry was chaired by a Government official named Ashworth, who sported the following letters after his name — A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., Dip. T.P.

But they lost again.

Various local residents (and none of them too local, for this is a rural area) were ready to object and their objections were considered weighty. None of these same people had raised any objec-

tion to the rugby development — despite it being a considerably bigger project than the G.A.A. one.

Finally, the case was ruled upon by the British Minister of Housing and Local Government. He dismissed the G.A.A.'s appeal.

The Warwickshire County Board still owns that fine ten-acre site at Meriden, right in the heart of England. But it lies idle. Gaelic games can never be played there.

The G.A.A. men of Warwickshire, who have followed the Bickenhill event stage by stage and who have read every document in the voluminous file concerning it, will tell you that it was a case of downright discrimination against the Irish. On one side of the road a rugby-cricket complex is in order. On the other side, a G.A.A. owned ground is refused.

Certainly, the weight of evidence does come down heavily for a conclusion of discrimination.

But then the G.A.A. men of

Warwickshire were not the first Irishmen in Britain to be discriminated against . . . nor is it likely that they will be the last.

Well done Warwickshire!

All-Ireland Junior Hurling Champions

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## Champions of Warwickshire

THE most familiar face in the above photograph of John Mitchels, the Warwickshire football champions, is of course John McAndrew in the centre of the front row. Back in 1950 and '51 when Mayo swept all before them Dr. John was a key figure in the half-back line. In latter years, he has been an inspiration to the G.A.A. of Warwickshire — playing for them, leading them for a period as County Chairman and, when necessary, assisting them in a professional capacity.

There are few Irishmen more respected in the British Midlands than Dr. John McAndrew.

He still stars for John Mitchels and, at 44 years of age, is still a great club defender. He is also President of the club.

Big John's huge frame dominated the field in the recent Warwickshire county final against Sean McDermotts. As he thundered out to clear on one occasion a spectator was heard to shout: "Come out gently John, or you'll knock the children."

John's equally well remembered and even bigger brother, Pat, is also a doctor in Warwickshire. He is, of course, older than John but looks younger. Pat was conspicuous among the spectators at the county final — standing half a head above the crowd.

The Mitchels club is one of the oldest in Britain and Paddy Ryan, who represents Warwickshire on the Provincial Council of Britain, is the club's longest serving member.

It is said in Birmingham that more Irishmen get employment through the Mitchels club than through the various exchanges.

Mitchels also have a magnificent social club with their own premises, bar and entertainments. There are ballad sessions, dancing and a variety of other social activities which go to make the Irish in Birmingham feel very much at home.

Mick Gavigan is the genial barman and host at the Mitchels social club and when he states that "Paddy Dixon of Ballivor was as

good a man as ever cleared a ball," you don't have to enquire further as to his place of origin.

A great club the John Mitchels — great on the field and great in caring for its members and in providing a good social life for them.

May it long continue to do so.

On a later occasion we hope to write on those other fine G.A.A. clubs in the Warwickshire area. Mitchels may be number one but there are plenty of worthy challengers.

## BILLY COLLINS

LIMERICKMAN Billy Collins fills a dual role in Warwickshire. He is both Assistant County Secretary and trainer of the county team. A former Limerick minor star, Billy has been in Britain for thirteen years. To him, belongs a great amount of the credit for Warwickshire's junior hurling triumphs in 1968 and '69.

Billy modestly insists that he has learned much of what he knows of training teams from Dr. John McAndrew and Joe Lennon. The latter spent a number of years in the British Midlands and was a member of the John Mitchel's Club.

From a trainer's viewpoint, Billy maintains that twenty-one is the ideal age for players contending for top honours. "They have that perfect combination of enthusiasm and physical peak and, equally important, they will accept advice and discipline at that age."

The vast majority of Warwickshire's 1969 team were around the twenty-one mark and Billy looks to 1970 being an equally good year. "With the pick of the 1968 and '69 winning teams, we will have a fine intermediate team and we will certainly be trying hard for a third All-Ireland title."

Well done Warwickshire G.A.A.

Heartiest congratulations to All-Ireland Junior Hurling  
Champions !

# John Mitchels

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## Liam Campbell Reports

**I'M in a bad mood today, so here's a grumble. Consider a county that has won the All-Ireland football title once in the last fifty years . . . a big occasion it was, and rightly so. Wouldn't you imagine that the captain of that team would now be worthy of at least one ticket for the football final, from that county whose team he led to victory?**

I don't think it's unreasonable to expect, especially when the man in question was only too happy to pay for said ticket. Well, such a county exists, and such a captain exists, but he found on application, he tells me, that the ticket didn't exist! You'll be able to guess his identity when I tell you that he plays the accordion as well, or better, than he used to play football.

He got a ticket in the end, but from Croke Park, where a sense of proportion prevails, it seems, in these matters. A happy ending to a story that need never have happened. And

after all that trouble, it wasn't even a good match!

**T**HE All-Ireland final . . . it gave rise to at least one controversy anyway: was it the worst ever? I'm afraid that, barring the fact that it was Kerry's twenty-first, the whole thing was eminently forgettable. At one stage in the second half, I remember looking around the field and asking myself was I really at an All-Ireland final at all, so lacking was the atmosphere of the big occasion. And, mark you, Offaly were catching up on

Kerry at the time! The least said about the 1969 All-Ireland the better.

Those who claimed that Kerry weren't much of a team had their claim weakened two weeks later when the champions wiped the floor with Cavan in the Grounds' Tournament. They played some fine football, without too much elaboration, and the only weakness was in the shooting. Of course, don't forget that this was the poorest Cavan team for ages, so you can't go too much by the form against them. Anybody can look good, when they've little or nothing to beat. I think myself that this Kerry team have their best days ahead of them yet, especially when they realise that a team is made up of fifteen men . . . the defence is the main worry.

The first of the two Grounds' Tournament semi-finals — the drawn game between Mayo and Offaly — was an enjoyable hour. Again we had some misdirected shooting, especially by Mayo, who were both lucky and unlucky to draw. The Connacht champions still lack that little something required to wrap-up a game when they've got a grip on it. Their football skill is high above average, and now the forwards are all trying to score, taking some of

the weight off Joe Corcoran.

But that same Grounds' Tournament game brought-up something that I don't think anybody else has mentioned; the first Offaly goal was the most obvious 'square ball' I've ever seen. Yet only the Mayo defenders made any comment on it, and their comment was clearly only half-hearted: after all, when did anybody last see a goal being disallowed because the scorer was in the square long before the ball? You can't, it seems, fight it.

Week after week, I see goals being allowed all over

the country when they shouldn't be. So the obvious thing to do is scrap the rule altogether, or if you won't do that, enforce it. I trust Offaly won't think I'm picking on them specifically, because, as I said, this is going on all the time, and common sense indicates that it be rationalised . . . one way or the other.

Mention of the square rule was prompted by the fact that the umpires in camogie matches seem to be far more aware of it. At the Leinster-Ulster game, only a week before the Grounds' Tournament, I saw two goals being dis-

allowed because of square trouble, and in neither case was the infringement as obvious to onlookers, as in the football case.

But then there are so many things to be learned from the oft-despised ladies game . . . little unimportant things like sportsmanship, for example! I well remember the biting comment of a disappointed follower about his team's display in a rough, tough no-credit-to-anybody match: "They played like a bunch of camogie players." The poor man . . . he didn't know how utterly wrong he was!

One thing about that particular camogie match, though: both teams had difficulty with securing numbers for the players, and both sets of officials went to great trouble to make things easier for reporters (and commentators!) who, understandably, weren't as fast to recognise the players as they would be in a hurling or football match. To these officials, I offer my thanks. But one — and only one seemed to consider that our difficulties were a source of great amusement; at any rate she laughed quite a lot. I hope this lady reads this, and thinks about it when she's tempted to complain about the lack of publicity for camogie.



"Could you get me Joe Lennon, fast"

## Na Minis Aris

**B**HI cupla rud beag i "Gaelic News" na míosa seo caite ar chuir mé spéis ionnta. Ceann acu bhí sé sáite thiar ar an leathanach deire, an píosa faoi na 'minis,' (an píosa scríobhnóireachta atá i gceist agam anois agus ní hí an leis ná an fhlesh). Sé an leathanach céanna an chead cheann a bhféachaim air, dhá chuis leis, cheann

fuair sí ticead! nó nach bhfuil a fhios aici fós gurab é sin an lá a mbionn cine (Gael) eile ar fad i bPáirc an Chrocaigh. Nó béidir gur taobh thiar de chúl an chanáil a bhí sí agus gurb bhain mionn-treabhsair na nimreoirí an t-amharc dí (thar eis di a bheith ag suil le iad a fheiceail ag imirt i sean bhrísti fada nó nioc-airbhacair), nó gur chuair sí spéis éigin san imirt!

Ach idir mhagadh is da ríre, céard faoi na cailíní a imríonn ins na minis, na camogaithe. Nach doigh leat go bhfuil sé in am athdhearú a dheanamh ar a gcuid eadaigh imeartha? Tá an caighdeán imeartha imighthe i bhfeabhas chomh mór sin, é níos tapúla, agus ar an imreoir níos mó iarrachta á chur isteach i rith cluiche agus gur iontas nach mbionn cuid de na cailíní marbh ón méid clúdaigh a bhíonn ortha ina dhiaidh. Fágaimis siud mar atá sé go fóill.

An píosa beag eile ar chuir mé spéis ann bhí sé faoi'n teideal "It Happened". Deir sé: "One of the biggest upsets on record was the defeat of Kerry by Antrim in the 1912 All-Ireland semi-final. The previous year Cork had beaten Antrim 6-6 to 1-2 in the All-Ireland final and, when Kerry easily defeated Cork in the 1912 Munster final, their semi-final meeting with Antrim appeared little more than a formality."

Ach an aon iontas níos mó é ná an Dún agus Loch Garman a dhul síos i mbliana? Ar ndoigh ba ea an am. Bhí an trá ann, agus ní fada ó shin é, agus ó gheobhadh contae cuig feara déag maithe le chéile d'fheadhfa a bheith ag suil go gcoinneodis ortha ag buachaint, agus ina theannta sin gur beag duine acu a cuifí as a áit fad is a bheadh sé ina shea'. Ní dóigh liom féin go dtiocfaidh an lá go deo arís go mbuaidhfídh contae ceithre

chraobh i ndiaidh a chéile, in iomáint ná i bpeil. Siad Gaillimh is gaire a chuaigh dhó le déanaí le trí cinn, agus tabhair faoi deara nach raibh ach ocht bhfeara déag ar fad páirteach ins na trí cinn.

Tá an lá caite a bhfuil traidisiún agus foireann maith na bliana anuraidh ag dul ag buaichaint comórtas na bliana seo. Dhá bhithin sin féin droch sheans gurab iad Ciarraí agus Cill Chainnigh a bhuaidhfídh craobhacha na bliana seo chugainn, ná béidir craobh a gCúige. Tá an oiread ag braith anois ar an deacrach ceart inntinne

agus atá ar abalatacht peile nó iománaíochta. Tá an oiread eile ag brath ar oilteacht coirp. Agus ní féidir an oilteacht cheart coirp is gá a fháil muna bhfuil an deacrach ceart. Rud eile a chuireann leis an athru seo nach bhfuil faitíos ar chontaetha eile feasta roimh an traidisiún ársa seo a luaitear le contaetha airithe. Tigeann siad nach bhfuil sé do-dhéanta an ceann is fearr a fháil ar na beic mhóra, nach aon oll-iontais iad.

Athru eile atá tagtha is ea an gaol nua atá idir an tSraith agus an Chraobh. Sé is doichidí anois má

bhuadhann foireann an tSraith gurab iad a bhuaigh an Chraobh freisin. Ní fada ó shin chor ar bith ó ba é a mhalairt a bhí fíor. Ba cineal hudu é do'n Chraobh an tSraith a bhuaichaint roimhe. Sé an sampla is minicí de sin a luaitear na Maigh Eó a bhuaigh sé Sraith ó 1933/34 go dtí '38/'39 agus nar bhuaigh ach Craobh amháin le na linn, 1936. Ach ina aghaidh sin tharraing siad as an tSraith i '39/40, ach níor bhuadhann an Chraobh. Ar ais leo sa tSraith an chéad bliain eile, agus an gcreidfeá gur bhuadar é?

## CAMOGIE

By Aine Meagher

**D**ESPITE the big part they played in Wexford's second consecutive victory in the camogie final, the Kehoe's from Adamstown narrowly failed in their bid to set up an All-Time record of three of them playing together on the same All-Ireland team on the same day.

In 1968 Bridget Doyle, whose maiden name of course is Kehoe played at right wing on the winning side, with her sister Josie at right forward and sister Annie among the subs. In the 1969 final the three sisters played together on the Wexford side that won the Leinster title, but they ran into bad luck in the semi-final when all three of them again played against Tipperary. Josie was sent off along with one of the Tipperary players and so only two Kehoe sisters were

again together on the winning All-Ireland side. But they have high hopes that they may have better luck next year.

But then these Kehoe sisters members of a long family have already set up a camogie record and one that is never likely to be broken except by themselves.

They are the only family of which four members have already won All-Ireland camogie medals. Bridget, Josie and Annie have done so with Wexford, while Kit has won three with Dublin. And I hear there is a possibility that Kit who is now Mrs. Codd, and living back in her native county Wexford, may well be seen in the Wexford colours next season.

So we may yet see four Kehoe sisters playing together in an All-Ireland final, and, remember, there are more of

them coming up.

### OVER THE BORDER

Derry's feat in winning the All-Ireland junior championship means that the trophy, the New Ireland Cup continues its sojourn across the border, as in 1968 the first year it was competed for, it was won by Down.

Captain of the winning side was the former U.C.D. Ashbourne Cup star Kathleen O'Hagan who now plays for Greenlough. And a couple of the players had already won Ulster Intermediate schools championship medals with Claudy, a school where their coach is the Antrim full-back and captain Moya Forde.

### TURN AROUND

A remarkable feature of the Leinster team which defeated Ulster in the interprovincial semi-final at Croke Park was that it contained two players who had previously played for Munster, Kitty Murphy of Dublin and Ann Carroll of Kilkenny. Both were school-girls when they played for the Southern

province. Kitty was then still in her native Clare while Ann was living in Ballintaggart just over the Tipperary border. Ann had originally played for Kilkenny, and has returned to the black and amber colours since her family returned to live in Kilkenny.

Incidentally, Ann Carroll holds two other unique camogie records. She twice won provincial championships in two different provinces in the same year. She was on two Mercy Convent Callan teams that won the Leinster senior schools title, and in those same years was on Tipperary senior sides that won the Munster title. And she is also the only player who has ever won All-Ireland club championship medals with two different clubs, St. Patrick's of Tipperary and St. Paul's of Kilkenny.

● Reports from the Colleges Conventions in Leinster, Munster and Ulster all report an influx of new schools and greatly increased enthusiasm so that 1969-'70 should be a truly memorable season on the schools playing fields.



Le Padraig O Mealold

mhaith é agus leighim gach páipéar ó na dheire aniar (áit a dtosnaíonn an spoirt) ach amháin páipéar an Domhnaigh. Ina mbolg sin a bhíonn an spoirt, agus bíonn mo bhealach féin agam le na fháil amach cé a bhuaidhfídh príomh-chluichí an lae de réir mar a deir ceann acu.

Ach na 'minis'. Tabhair faoi deara gur ar lá chluiche ceannais na hionánaíochta a bhí an tagarthoir doibh ann. Cuirfidh mé geall nach as Chnoc a Sé Déag a bhí sí, áit a bhféicfeadh sí neart minis a mbreathnadh sí chomh hiseal leo! Nach maith a



# In The News with Bacchus

## Let's go with Rheingold

Although you cannot order a bottle of Rheingold beer in any licensed premises in this country, nevertheless the name of that New York Beer Company is well known to all G.A.A. travellers to the U.S.A. as their sponsorship at Gaelic Park has ensured the success of many a trip including the Cardinal Cushing Games.

The firm's marketing manager for many years was the late Tommy Ayres who was one of the G.A.A.'s greatest allies in New York. Well, Rheingold also sponsor baseball and in particular the New York Mets on radio and T.V.

Recent figures have revealed a fascinating parallel between its fortunes and those of the ball club. For instance, in 1966, after finishing last in each of

200,000. Rheingold rallied as well. Sales totalled \$189 million, just below the record.

This season The Mets have had their best ever season winning almost everything in sight including the World Series, so we can expect Rheingold to have a few million extra dollars to spend. How about it John Kerry?

## Doctor's Help

St. Finians, a junior football club in south county Dublin, made a spectacular signing recently in the person of Dr. Bernard Brady.

The Donegal and Ulster footballer up to now has played his club football with St. Joseph's, Bundoran, with whom he won several Donegal county championship medals but he is no stranger to Dublin

very good reasons too, for not going senior but that's another story.

Well all good things come to an end and Connemara Gaels' end was brought about by Donegal on a score of 1-4 to 0-6. Naturally, Donegal spread their net fairly wide and even if they had no T.D.'s playing this year a few academics filled the bill just as well!

## Another Paddy B.

When North Monastery, Cork, beat De La Salle, Waterford in a Munster senior colleges game a couple of weeks ago one of the stars of the defeated Waterford side was a lad called P. B. Brosnan.

And if you're thinking what I think you're thinking, then you're thinking correctly. The lad is indeed a son of Paddy Bawn Brosnan.

skills of football and how best they can be taught to youngsters. It is really more of a manual than a book, the sort of thing that could be used and taught chapter by chapter or page by page.

The illustrative photographs dealing with each skill are the best of any G.A.A. coaching book to date and I believe there is a possibility that at a later date these can be made available in the form of film slides.

It is said that the Central Council have printed 10,000 copies of Br. McDonnell's book 'Peil' so we can assume that from this privileged position it will be circulated throughout the Association. If it is it will do a world of good for the game.

## A Little Knowledge

As readers of the September issue of Gaelic News will be aware, the Department of Education this year for the first time made some scholarships available to St. Mary's College of Physical Education, Strawberry Hill, London.

Among the fifteen selected candidates were Mick Kissane (Dublin) and Liam Sammon (Galway) for the one-year course and Sean Mulvihill (Longford), Billy Cogan (Cork) and Pat Sands (Galway) for two-year courses. The latter three are well known minor footballers with their counties.

## The Road West

Meanwhile another well known footballer, Dublin's Mickey Whelan is heading off in the other direction in search of knowledge on the same subject — Physical Education. He is bound for New York city where he will study for a few years.

No doubt he will also resume his relationship with a certain senior team over there and who knows, maybe next year he will win the New York championship medal he narrowly missed this summer!

## Grounds for Complaint

While the Grounds Tournament Football semi-finals, drew a reasonable crowd of 17,000 odd to Croke Park the hurling semi-final between old rivals Cork and Wexford on the same day could not muster one thousand paying customers to Thurles Sportsfield.

And the programme also included the All-Ireland Intermediate hurling final between Kildare and Cork. I wonder where were all the Cork supporters gone to. After all only six weeks earlier we were told repeatedly that Cork had the greatest supporters of any team in the country.

Could it be that Cork supporters are only the greatest when their side is

## Presenting the Problem

I hear that some people in London were not very impressed with the Central Council's idea of having Wicklowman Hugh Byrne present the cup to Tommy Greene, captain of their junior football team after the All-Ireland final.

They had nothing against Hugh Byrne of course but their point was that no neutral member of the Central Council was sent over specifically as used to be the common practice.

This is not the first time such a complaint has been voiced by counties winning subsidiary competitions but while they have a valid point it is difficult nowadays with so many All-Ireland finals to be played to have a suitable G.A.A. officer present on every occasion.

## How It's Done

This is the third successive issue of Gaelic News in which we refer to a new G.A.A. publication and after all the barren years this marks a pleasant change for the better.

The latest addition to the list is Brother McDonnell's book dealing with the

club football either as he is one of the few non-Dublin born players in modern times to win two county championship medals in the metropolis.

Bernard Brady played at centre half back for U.C.D. when they won the 1963 and '65 Dublin titles. He should be a decided acquisition to the Newcastle side in their bid to reach senior ranks.

## Academic Success

Almost as big a turn up as the success of the New York Mets was the defeat of Connemara Gaels in the recent junior final at Gaelic Park. Readers of this column might remember that the Gaels hadn't been beaten for several years and were reckoned by many to be better than most of the senior teams in Gaelic Park. They had their own

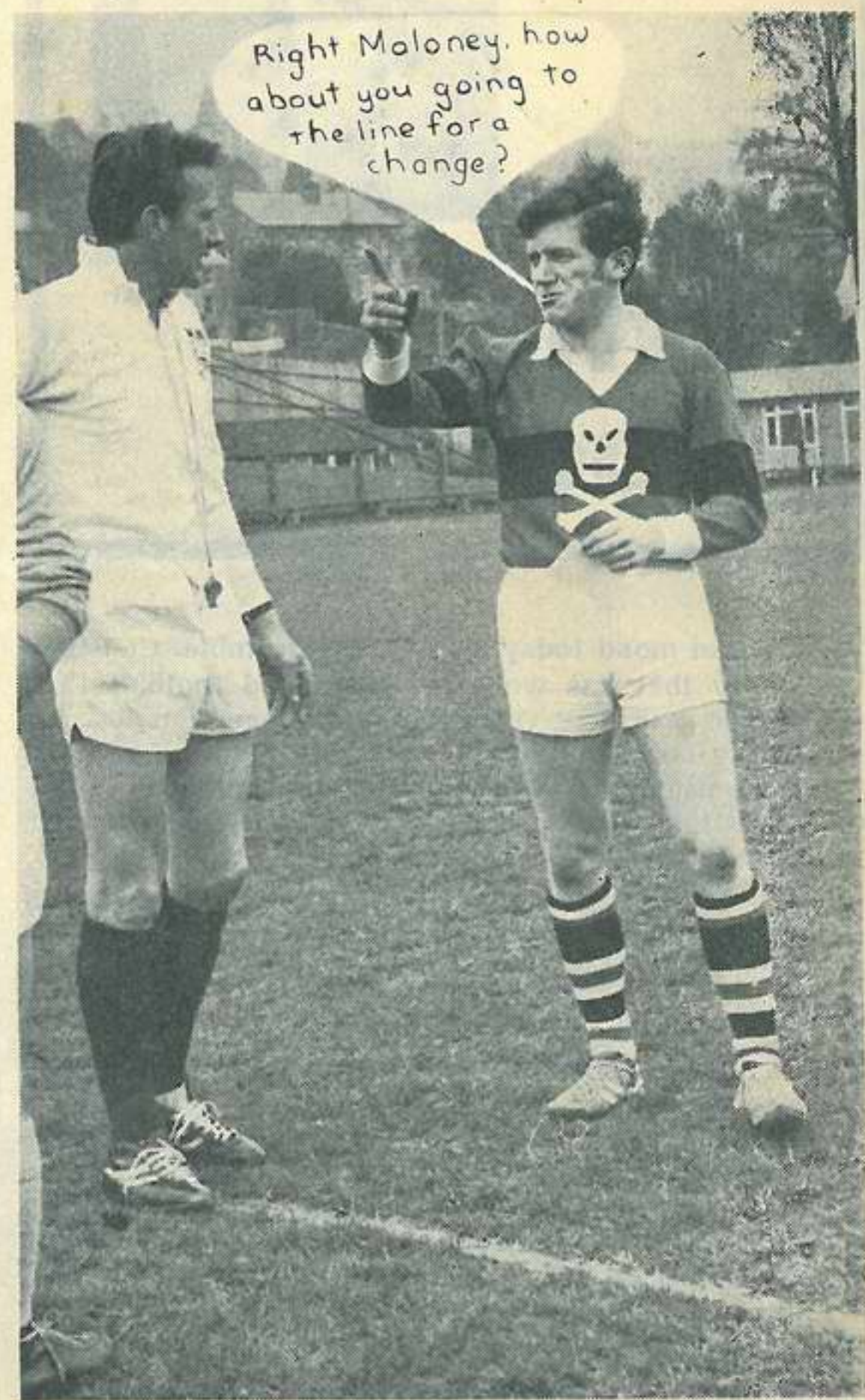


Taking note for further reference — Sean O'Neill at the Offaly-Cavan semi-final. With him is George Glynn.

their first four seasons, the Mets rose to ninth place, their best ever, won 66 games, their most ever, and drew 1,932,693 to Shea Stadium, another record. That same year Rheingold's sales reached \$190 million, a record, and the company stock hit an all-time high.

But in 1967 the Mets fell back to 10th place and the paid attendance dropped more than 350,000. Rheingold, too, had a rough year. The company lost more than \$200,000, the stock nose-dived and changes were made in top management.

In 1968 the Mets started up again. They finished ninth, won a record high of 73 games and attendance jumped more than



on top of the ladder? Of course it didn't help the attendance to have the two Tipperary senior hurling semi-finals on in Thurles venue at all.

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