

**87** GAA *this issue*

**Exclusive  
interview with  
Longford star**

**MICK  
HOPKINS**



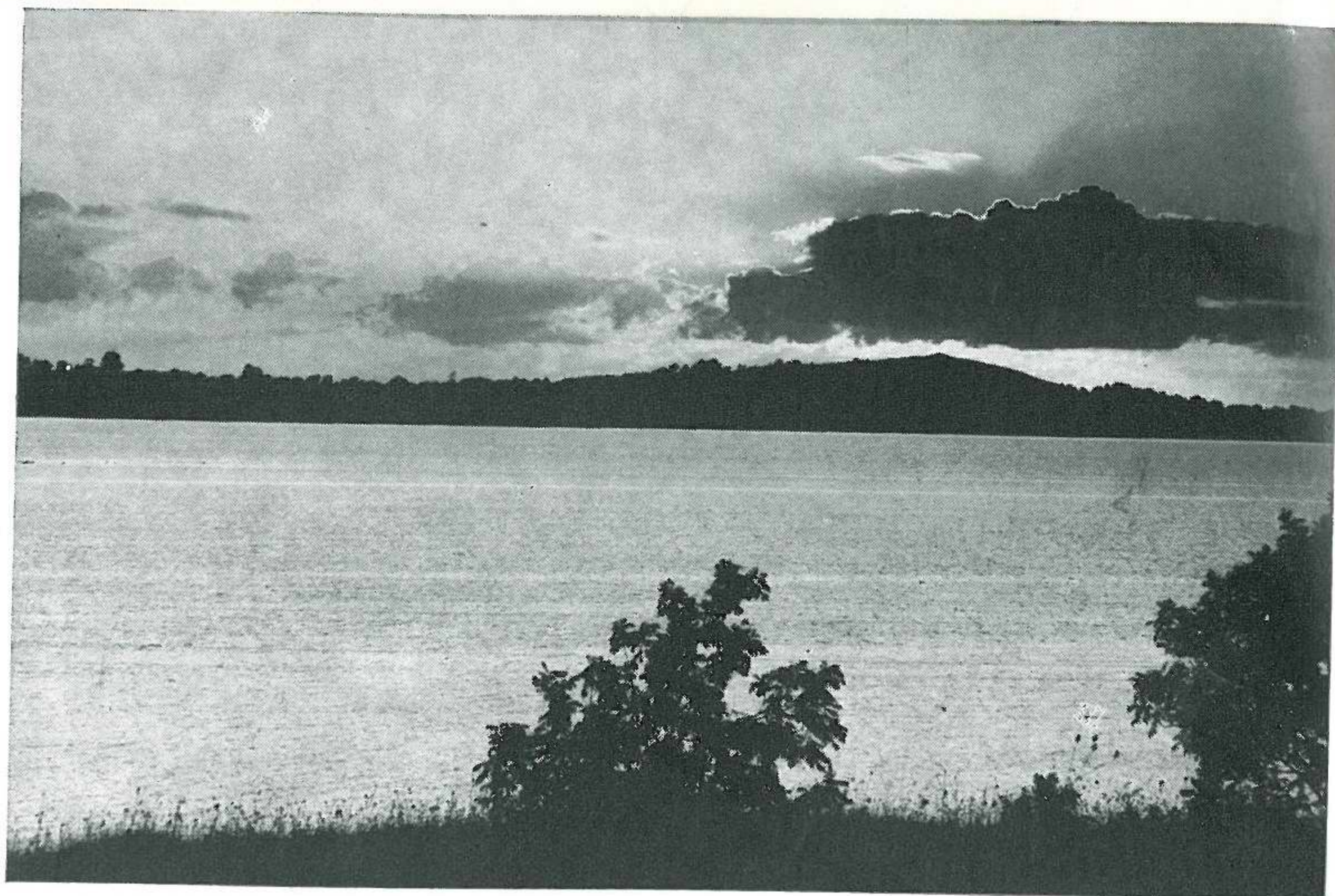
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PROGRESS?**



# Gaelic Sport

APRIL, 1969  
TWO SHILLINGS





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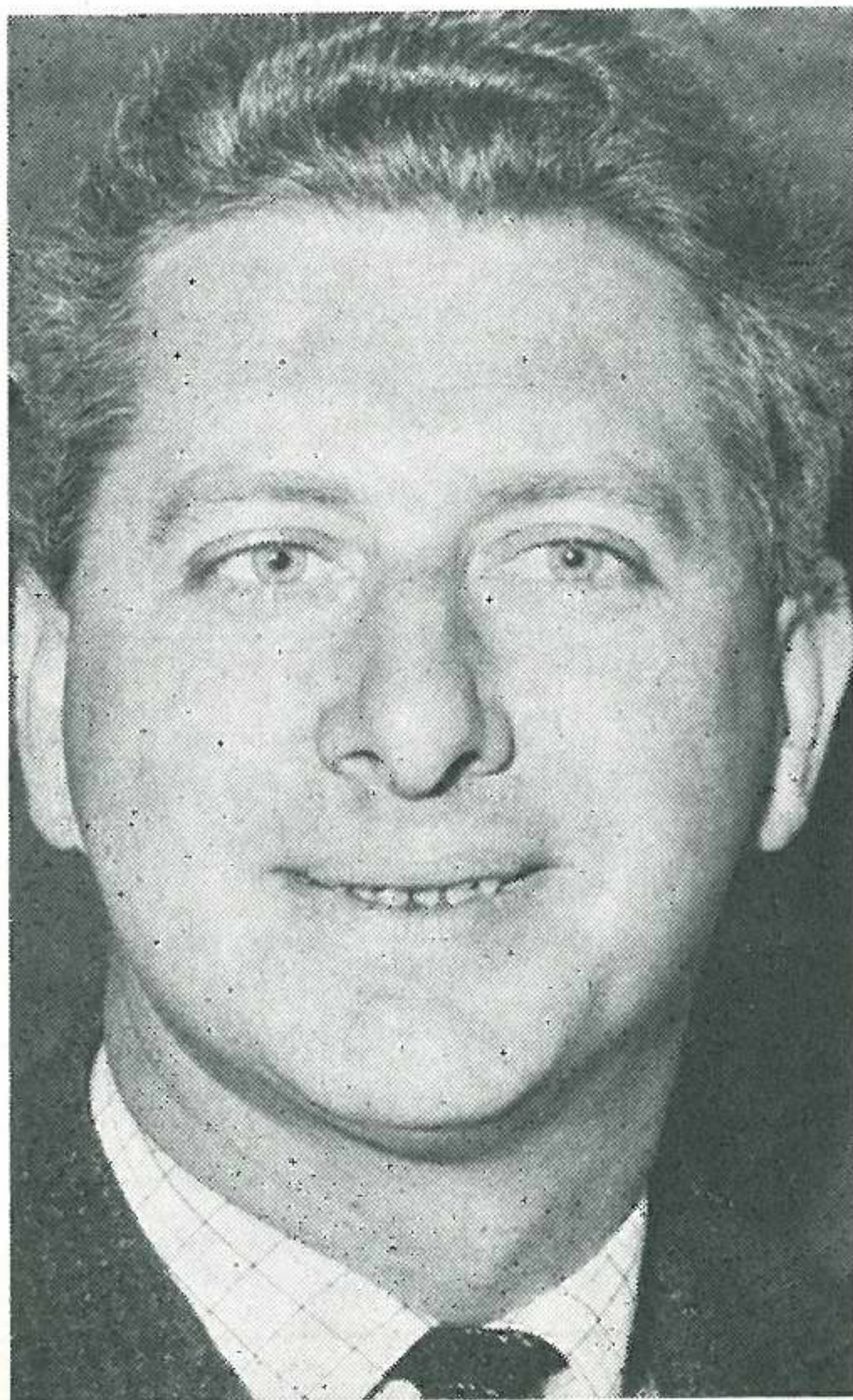
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# Gaelic Sport

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## COVER PHOTO

Our front cover this month features one of the gallant Longford men that shone so brilliantly throughout the recent 1968 football campaign, Mick Hopkins. It is the first occasion on which we have spotlighted a Longford player on our front cover but if they reproduce the same brand of exhilarating football in 1969, it certainly will not be the last.

## WHAT A MYTH!

**I**N the course of an article which appears in page 42 of this issue, Jack Mahon supports a view expressed by Joe Lennon some four or five years ago; to wit, that Kerry's football methods were ten years out of date. The former Galway centre half back doesn't repeat the Down player's pronouncement: Referring to Joe Lennon in another context, he simply states: "How right he [Joe Lennon] has been proven".

Jack Mahon was a great footballer; in recent years he has become a respected and astute commentator on Gaelic affairs; his opinions have been almost invariably well-considered and sound.

But we say that he errs in his judgment of Kerry football—a judgment which Joe Lennon has modified in recent times.

We may say here that we have no axe to grind as far as Kerry football is concerned. We merely strive to be fair to all. But, like many thousands of others, we have been admirers of Kerry's football style for many a long day—and even to this day, when it has shed so much of its old glory.

Down and Galway have dominated the football scene in this decade: they have beaten Kerry in All-Ireland finals. This is the basis for the assumption that Kerry's methods are out of date. But isn't there a simpler explanation?—namely, that Down and Galway have been lucky enough to produce teams of outstanding players in the Sixties, while Kerry's standards in this period have declined.

To discuss the multiplicity of

reasons for Kerry's relative decline is not practicable in limited space. Yet, the Kingdom have won two All-Irelands in the past ten years—a fair average by any reckoning. It looks insignificant only because Kerry were All-Ireland monopolists for so long.

The implication of the judgment, it seems, is that the present decade has produced greater footballers than any period in the past. There is a hint somewhere that Kerry's numerous All-Ireland victories were achieved, if not by flukes, then by rather crude teams playing, of course, against cruder teams.

There is the implication that the Landers, Sheehys, Russells, Keohanes, O'Connors, Kennedys, Brosnans, Garveys and Lynes (the litany could go on), and the style and methods they exhibited, were second-rate compared with the players and the methods of the Sixties. That suggestion hardly needs reflection.

Sorry, Jack, for taking you to task on what was a passing remark. But it is necessary to challenge what, we believe, is a fallacy.

The styles displayed by Galway and Down are splendid; but so is Kerry's, though we have seen too little of it lately. Conformity is a bad thing; variety is the lifeblood of team games. This has been the era of the Galway-Down style. No doubt, those counties will, sometime, slide temporarily into the valley and Kerry will scale the pinnacle once more.

That, for reasons difficult to define, is the inexorable law of sport.

THE exclusion rules have been a live topic of G.A.A. conversation for many years and interest in them revived again recently as a result of the appointment by the Central Council of a select Committee on the question.

This arose out of a decision of last Congress, the outcome of a Mayo motion which read "That a Committee be set up to set forth the present day reasons for the retention of Rule 27, giving consideration to the strength of the Association in the Country to-day and the changes which are taking place at all levels of society, this committee to submit its report after two years, and same to be published in the National newspapers, thus giving every club member a chance to make up his mind on this question before the Rule becomes due for discussion again in 1971."

The Central Council erred, I think, in its choice of members to act on this special committee. Most deep-thinking Gaels hoped it would be composed of men prominent in the affairs of the Association and known to be of an open mind on the vexed question. The other alternative appeared to be the selection of two or three each deeply committed as supporters and opponents of the controversial Rule, to be assisted by a neutral chairman.

In the event, the committee selected excites very little interest for, from its very nature alone, the most that can be expected of it is something akin to what has already been provided by that excellent contribution "The Steadfast Rule", which very adequately covers the national and historical reasons to justify the retention of the Rule.

## RULE 27: TIME FOR A RE-APPRAISAL?

The Association's leading Patron, Most Rev. Thomas Morris, D.D., Archbishop of Cashel, has since suggested in a most enchanting television interview an independent sociological survey on the effects of the rule. Coming from such a high source this proposal is bound to attract wide interest and looks assured of strong support.

At this stage it is well to remind readers that the eventual decision on this vexed question rests with the elected representatives of the clubs, and with them alone, assembled at Congress.

But on a question of such great importance to the future of the Association they are entitled to all the help that can be provided by a searching analysis of all aspects, and a careful study of existing circumstances.

We are living in days of great change and we have seen many deeply held convictions surrendered in many aspects of our national and religious life. This is a natural development which has been accelerated considerably by the quick tempo of modern living.

The G.A.A. cannot escape change and no matter how conservative we are, the unalterable fact remains that we must progress with the times, or be swept away by the torrent.

Calm study within the Association is our greatest need. Previous consideration of this controversial rule has been be-devilled

by the intrusion of outsiders who attempted in every forcible manner to dictate a certain course of action.

The great majority of the members very naturally resented this as a cheeky usurption of their responsibilities and a hardening of their attitude was inevitable. In the circumstances, an objective appraisal of the entire situation was never possible.

The case for the existence of the Rule has been very ably put in the publication "The Steadfast Rule" already mentioned.

On the other side of the coin, the arguments against its continuance are growing in volume and insistence. The matters that cause the most heart searching on the part of the majority of members are mainly domestic affairs.

By and large, the primary schools are amongst the greatest promoters of Gaelic games and the big bulk of the boys leaving national schools are at least fairly familiar with hurling and Gaelic football, especially in the big centres of population.

Difficulties start piling up when schooldays, in the primary sense, come to an end. I believe it is a fairly accurate estimate that over half of our boys are lost to the native code at this impressionable stage of their lives.

This is a happening that requires deep probing and it must be established whether the operation of the exclusion rule is



injuring the G.A.A. and depriving it of much of its best blood at a time when it is blossoming to maturity.

It is hard to put an old head on young shoulders and harder still to blame any lad who succumbs to the temptation of trying his skill at another code—particularly when most of his companions are going that way.

It is usually the honourable ones who are lost for when they discover they have made themselves out of bounds as far as the G.A.A. is concerned, they continue with the other code although I have heard many of them assert they would prefer Gaelic games. The ignorance regarding the procedure for reinstatement—and more important still—the six months waiting period—is a sufficient cold douche for many and mainly responsible for the very few who come back.

Quite a number elect for a double role and this is something extremely damaging to the G.A.A. image and one that sooner or later must land the entire movement in real hot water.

Insincerity is something most decent folk abhor and it is very disturbing to find so many in the Association to-day who by their actions must be branded in this category.

It is an open secret that Rule 27 is being widely ignored. Quite recently I heard reference to a team that won a divisional and county championship title and to the fact that it included a few players who had also won honours in a forbidden code around the same period. When I asked why nobody objected to them, the reply startled me. It was to the effect that they could not, for they also included players of a foreign code.

Abuses of this nature are, I am assured, widespread enough to be really alarming; whilst the

## YOUNG REPLIES TO READER

**'TRADITIONALIST'** says I'm inconsistent because I favour the open football and less physical contact in 13-a-side, while remembering with some satisfaction the virility of the 1957 Cork football team.

Now, the Cork football team of '57 was very virile and very fair. I think they deserved the few words of praise. Galway, incidentally, were a little cleverer. For that, too, they are worth commendation.

A thirteen a-side discussion is a general one, as distinct from the personal and particular. Open play is generally attractive, and close play, while hard and exciting, is usually not so. The sprinter is usually more graceful than the all-in wrestler. I can see why many of us prefer the closer, harder play. Many would like it better at seventeen a-side, or even twenty-one, when the game was supposed to be very good and really lively.

I don't advocate change-over to 13-a-side at all. I simply want — and have wanted for years—to see it tried in tournaments when we'll all base our judgment on fact.

Most of the great full-backs and full forwards would be good in other places. No need to mention names, for many have proved it. The important point isn't, however, individual excellence but a game attractive to the spectators and satisfying to the players. I don't want to see it become "a run and pass affair, riddled with scores" either. I'm not sure 13-a-side would create that.

Incidentally, 7-a-side, played on a smaller pitch, can give as much close play as desired. It was quite popular once with players and spectators.

Let's not be afraid to try reasonable innovations. In some ways, this fine association is conservative even in a conservative society.

EAMONN YOUNG.

number of even prominent G.A.A. players and supporters who are to be fairly regularly seen as spectators at the excluded codes is poor tribute to their loyalty.

Club socials are commonplace now and hundreds of them must be held throughout the country every month. The dancing rule is flagrantly violated at the great majority of them, often even when high officials of the Association are present.

If we allow disrespect for the rules to continue to grow the time cannot be far distant when all discipline will disappear.

The plain fact is that rules while they are there must be enforced and there must be no turning of the blind eye to them. I am not saying that violations are commonplace or are occurring in every county, but I am satisfied they are widespread enough to cause real concern.

Serious notice must be taken of them and if no other remedy can be found I am sure many sincere Gaels would prefer to see these rules abolished than that they remain a blot on the good name of the Association.



**“...for the sport that’s in it”**

For the way he *should* have played it.  
For the way you told him so at the top of  
your voice. And for the good dark drink  
that gave you your voice back.

**GUINNESS** naturally

# DANCING ROUND A RULE

By JIM BENNETT

*"A COUNCIL, Committee, or Club shall not organise any entertainment at which foreign dances are permitted.*

*"No Club or Club Committee shall hold a dance, until it shall have submitted its programme to the County Committee, and until it has been approved of by them.*

*"The penalty for breach of this Rule shall be suspension of not less than four weeks. The suspension shall be reckoned from the date of the meeting at which the case shall be decided.*

*"Any member of the G.A.A. who organises or helps others to organise foreign dances for the benefit of the G.A.A. shall be subject to a period of suspension to be decided by the governing body of the G.A.A."*

That is Rule 29 of the Official Guide. It is a rule which has been in controversy for some considerable time, and the number of motions which concern this very subject this year suggest that the matter is becoming more rather than less contentious. Abolition or modification of the present rule is a popular demand to-day.

The arguments of those who favour the deletion of Rule 29 from the Guide are broadly based on two distinct concepts: (1) Those who believe that this rule is outmoded, has passed its usefulness, become a 'drag', and ought to be jettisoned together with the principle involved; (2) those who accept the principle which the rule set out to establish—a commitment by the G.A.A. to Irish culture in general, of which dancing forms a part—but think the objects could be more easily and, certainly, more effectively

achieved by a positive rather than a negative approach.

Both sides have strong forces in their favour. Those who would be done with it once and for all, perhaps, may not quite see the rule in the context of the overall aims and objects of the G.A.A. The very nature of the Association's purpose is to be not alone a games playing organisation, but one of ideals and social commitments. Dancing is a social factor, and an integral part of the Gaelic culture which the Association has espoused and absorbed into itself as an essential element of its being.

It seems, therefore, that to jettison Rule 29 will merely scrape the surface of the problem. Rule 29, in fact, scarcely has an existence in its own right in the book of rules; it merely follows as a logical part of the whole pattern built up from the national and cultural objectives of the Association, and bolstered by the exclusion rules, in general.

Whatever arguments can be evolved — and, indeed, they appear to carry the breath of conviction as well as the image of practice — such arguments cannot assail this one portion of the rules, or this single segment of the objectives.

If this rule were to be stroked out and its commitment abandoned, it would, simply, mean that a portion of the cultural objectives of the Association was being forgotten. Yet, the very reason for this commitment to the preservation and assistance of things native, in the first place, gains its validity from the fact that it is a unit. Give in on the dancing section, and you

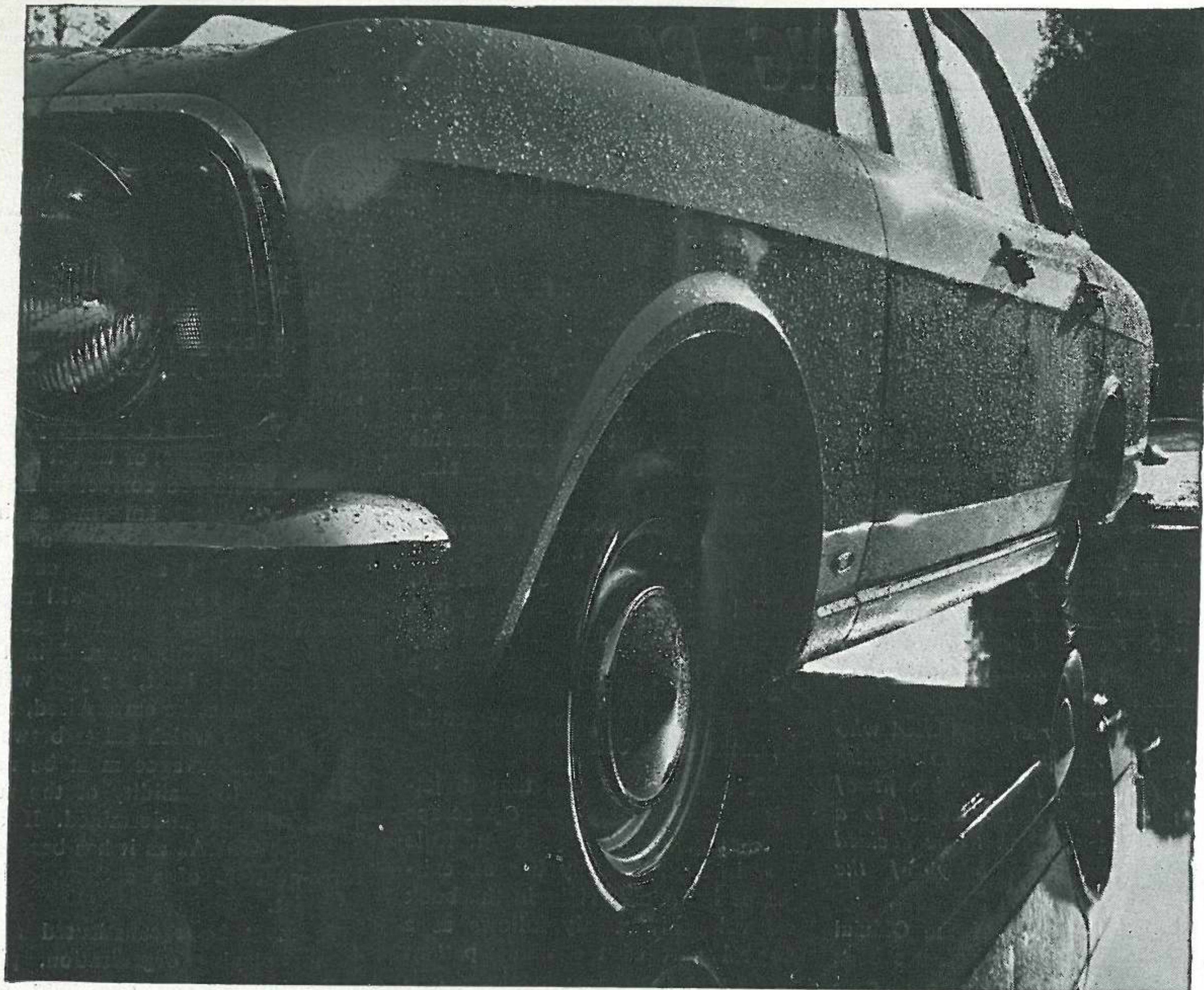
must, inevitably, give in on the foreign games portion, and all other parts of the rules which enshrine that aspect of the G.A.A. ideal.

In any of this I do not say that it may not be done, or that it might not be considered correct in many quarters. What I am emphasising is that the abandonment of the national context and the cultural bulwarks to nationality, will mean that all or nothing must go. If nothing, then things stand in the rule book, at least, as you were, though it must be emphasised, too, that the gap which exists between rule and observance must be narrowed, or the validity of the rule itself will be undermined. If all, then the G.A.A., as it has been for three-quarters of a century, ceases to exist.

It must be reconstituted as a games playing organisation, pure and simple. The overtones and motives tied to the games down the years, will have gone, and there remains the merely social good of organising games for health and pleasure, in a global context.

The replacement of the negative viewpoint of the rules as they stand with a positive approach, has much more to recommend it. And not alone for Rule 29, but for all other rules or exhortations towards the cultural integrity which the Association stands for. Much difficulty is caused, in practice, by the fact that players go to foreign dances every week, yet are strictly forbidden to organise them for their clubs. There would be the chance, of course, that the restatement of the rule in positive fashion would give the green light to some

● TO PAGE 41



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Or any other time, for that matter.

Because they love rain. Our  
paintwork thrives on it.

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splashing on the same old paint in the  
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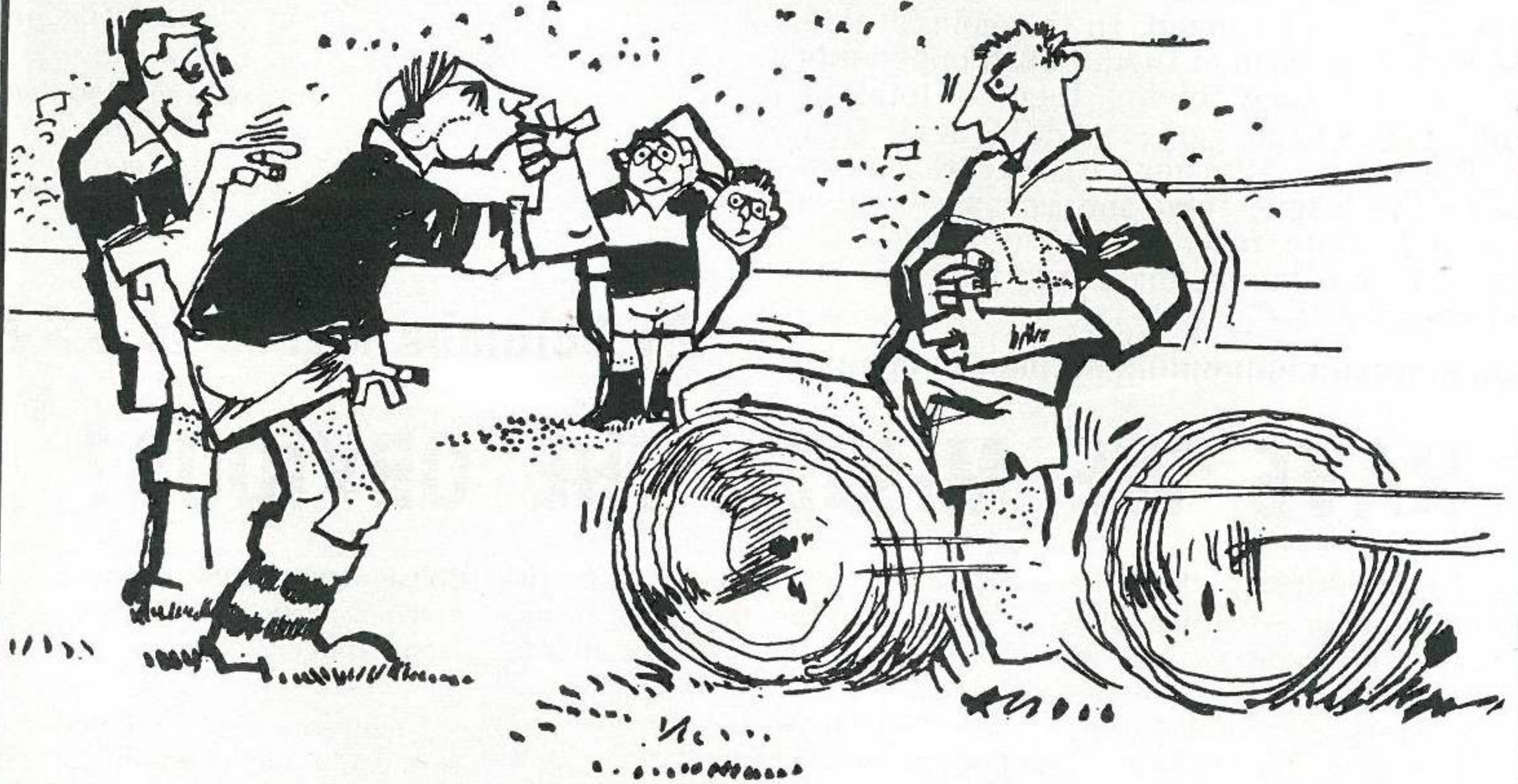
Just to be good is not good enough,  
but it's a good start.

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# SHELL



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

***GOOD MILEAGE*** —



● FROM PAGE 11

petitions from September to April and inter-county hurling from April to August you can fit club matches into the off season of the respective codes. County teams would, of course, eventually develop into super club teams.

My benign critics, Dan McAreavy and Seamus O'Ceallaigh, may like to trim my sails somewhat, but I feel I have just stated the only real solution to the danger of G.A.A. extinction.

In the December issue of "Gaelic Sport" Owen McCann came to roughly the same conclusion.

To conclude, here are the league groupings given in their possible finishing order for 1970. Relegation and promotion would be employed in both leagues.

Just think of it! During the football league, the communications media would be covering sixteen inter-county matches per week. All other sport would take a back seat and our youth would naturally take to games that provided important action often. The alternative!

Waterford soccer team and Alfie Hale 45 matches—Waterford hurling team and Larry Guinan five matches. The winner is obvious.

**FOOTBALL :**

**DIVISION 1**—Down, Galway, Meath, Kerry, Mayo, Cavan, Dublin, Cork, Longford, Donegal, Laois, Offaly, Roscommon, Tyrone, Louth, Derry.

**DIVISION 2**—Westmeath, Kildare, Sligo, Antrim, Monaghan, Armagh, Carlow, Leitrim, Wicklow, Tipperary, Waterford Fermanagh, Clare, Limerick, Wexford, Kilkenny.

**HURLING :**

**DIVISION 1**—Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford, Clare, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Dublin.

**DIVISION 2**—Offaly, Laois, Westmeath, Kerry, Antrim, Meath, Down, Carlow, Wicklow.



Willie Murphy

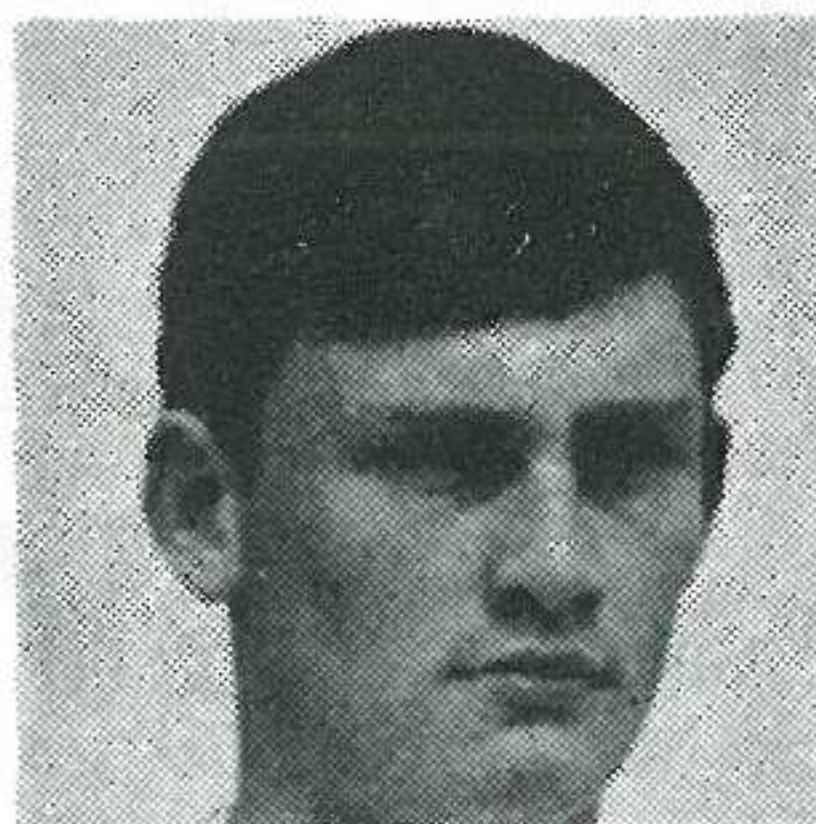


Justin McCarthy

**S**EVERAL new names appear in our rankings this month—inevitably after the major upsets of recent weeks.

The biggest surprise since our last issue was, of course, the defeat of All-Ireland and League title-holders Down by Westmeath at Carrickmacross. And the shining star of that Westmeath team was Dom Murtagh, who leads the football rankings with ten points—the first player to receive the maximum score since the introduction of our new rating system.

Two Galway men lead the hurling list as a result of their splendid displays when Connacht held Munster to a draw in the Railway Cup final at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day. We are pleased to be able to acknowledge the new upsurge in Galway hurling in this way.



Jimmy Duggan

# TOP TEN

Once again we draw readers' attention to the change in the rating system, which is more precise than heretofore. Players are no longer listed from one to ten, with ten points going to first place and so on down to one point for tenth place. Any number of the ten listed players could now receive the same allocation at any mark between ten and one.

And the maximum points (ten) are awarded only for exceptional performers.

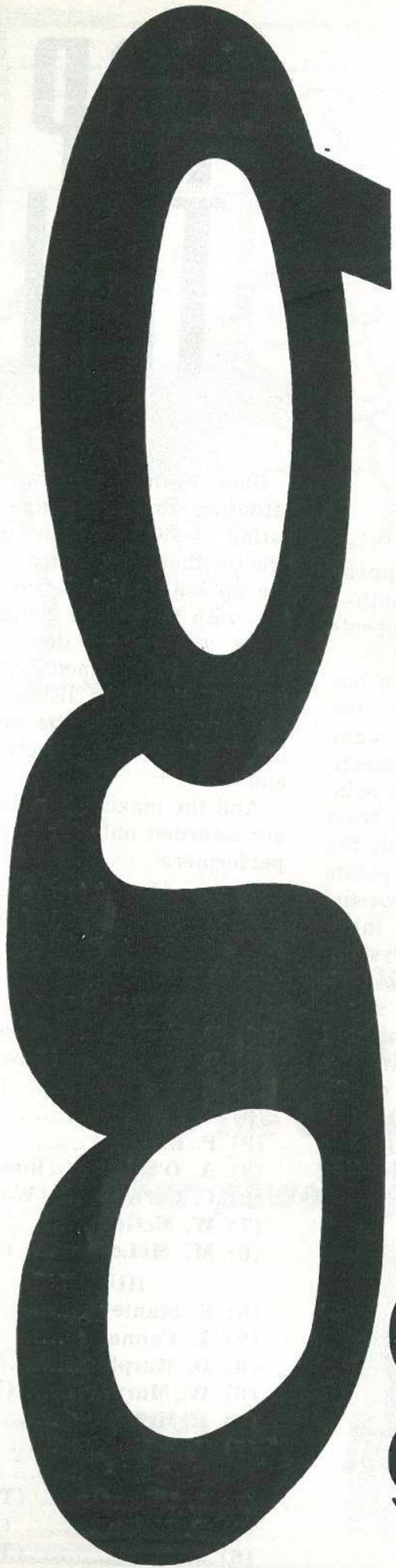
The current lists are compiled from games played from February 23 to St. Patrick's Day, inclusive.

**FOOTBALL**

- (10) **D. Murtagh** ... (Westmeath)
- (9) **D. Earley** ... (Roscommon)
- (9) **J. Duggan** ..... (Galway)
- (8) **L. Caffrey** ..... (Sligo)
- (8) **P. Delaney** ..... (Dublin)
- (8) **A. O'Sullivan** (Roscommon)
- (8) **C. Corroon** ... (Westmeath)
- (7) **W. McGee** ..... (Mayo)
- (6) **M. McLoone** ... (Donegal)

**HURLING**

- (9) **S. Stanley** ..... (Galway)
- (9) **J. Connolly** ..... (Galway)
- (8) **D. Murphy** ..... (Cork)
- (8) **W. Murphy** ..... (Wexford)
- (8) **J. McCarthy** ..... (Cork)
- (7) **B. O'Connor** ..... (Galway)
- (7) **C. Roche** ..... (Cork)
- (7) **J. Flanagan** ... (Tipperary)
- (6) **P. Nolan** ..... (Wexford)
- (6) **J. Doyle** ..... (Tipperary)



**Hi·Unit  
Red  
10·10·20**



**Hi·Unit  
Green  
15·5·10**



**Hi·Unit  
Blue  
6·12·18**

**Gouldings  
grows**



**A** STRAIGHT man. That's how I'd describe him. This may seem an unusual description of a man whose leg shows the effects of polio, but then there's an odd sprinter one wouldn't call straight.

This man Downey stands well over six feet, carries his close-cropped, waving grizzled head like a prince of the windblown headlands that framed his boyhood years. The square shoulders, erect carriage and relaxed, confident but sympathetic air make him welcome in any company for his warm personality and the lucidity of his conversation.

Paddy Downey has a great love of precision. In Dublin journalism for most of twenty years now, he was with the *Gaelic Weekly* and *Gaelic Echo* before moving on to the *Sunday Review* and *Evening Mail*. Now he's the leading sports writer on *The Irish Times* and known from one end of the land to the other.

My introduction to the Downey precision and care came many years ago when *Gaelic Weekly* asked me to compile material for a supplement on Cork teams. That year, 1956, we had two teams in the All-Ireland finals and there was plenty of material. I worked rather hard on the job, but the "labour we delight in, etc. . . ."

Anyway, there were many written words when Paddy and a few journalistic friends called that Saturday evening. He read all the stuff and so did the others, but I noticed that their scrutiny was much quicker than his. To tell the truth, I didn't blame them a bit.

Then they began to work on captions for photos and headlines for the various stories. They tossed a few ideas around and then settled quickly for something. Being rather haphazard myself, in some ways, I was glad to agree. Not Paddy Downey. He reconsidered each and every suggestion, changed words here, slipped in words there, and did everything except, like the poet, spend the evening shifting the

*"Gaelic Sport" now spotlights a man who daily spotlights others. He is Paddy Downey, leading Gaelic sports writer on "The Irish Times."*



Paddy Downey

## WRITER IN FOCUS

By EAMONN YOUNG

comma he had put in during the morning.

When the others returned to view the finished product they were quick to praise the amendments.

Today Paddy hasn't changed except in the way of further efficiency, for now practice and an ability to select words and phrases make his job easier, but he works on his writing until the final product has his personal polished stamp of clarity and depth.

The part of Ireland which gave us the Downeys is God's own country, where Nature in anger throwing white-capped thunderous water on black, shining rock, lifts in a moment a furrowed forehead to smile with the grace of sunlight on a murmuring evening sea.

*"The summer sun is sinking fast  
on Carbery's hundred isles,  
The evening sun is gleaming still  
on Gabriel's rough defiles,  
Old Inisherkin's crumbled fane  
looks like a moulting bird  
And in a calm and sleepy swell  
the ocean's voice is heard"*

Summer sun picking out the gold

of the sand, the blue of the deep water, the white of a seagull's wing, and for a background the heathery hills that peep shyly over each other's shoulders till the blue, maternal mountains of West Cork rise guardians in the background.

This country sent out men of hardiness, and imagination. In that set of wind, rock, and water most could not fail to have it.

Paddy Downey is a Dublin man now, for his work on *The Irish Times* makes it necessary that he live in the city where they rush and race and not all know where they're going. But it's men like these, who are bereft for a while of Nature's protective hand, miss it most, and who can see in the mind's eye the pictures of the open road and the dark mountain—and more important—that human understanding which goes with them.

These are the men whose writing and whose thinking, society needs. Remembering how important sport is to the community, perhaps it's as well to have one of the Downeys in it.

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# ELITE SIXTEEN OF THE CENTURY CLUB

By Owen McCann

WILL 1969 see a new name added to the list of the scoring elite, that select band of players who have punched home more than a century of points (goals and points combined) over a full season's campaign? In the period 1955 to 1968 inclusive, only nine footballers, and seven hurlers have reached three figures in a programme of competitive and challenge inter-county games, and Railway Cup and representative ties over one year.

Newest member of this exclusive "ton-up" club is Sean O'Neill, who headed the Ulster football chart for the first time last year with 12-65 (101 points) in 23 games. This earned for Down a share in a football record, as starting last year Galway alone had two members of this select band—Sean Purcell and Cyril Dunne. Kilkenny lead the way for both codes with Sean Clohosey, Eddie Keher and Tom Walsh.

Nick Rackard (Wexford) and Frankie Donnelly (Tyrone) are the doyens of the club. Rackard took his place with what still to-day ranks as the outstanding score in hurling and football for one year—a tremendous 35-50 (155 points) in

19 games in 1956. That year, too, Donnelly headed the nation-wide football chart with 10-76 (106 points) in 16 games. A year later, the Tyrone footballer became the first player in both codes to reach three figures two years running.

It was another Ulsterman, Paddy Doherty, who equalled that Frankie Donnelly record in 1961 of centuries on successive years. In 1960, the dynamic Down marksman hit 13-97 (136 points) in 24 games, a score that stood as the all-Ireland football record until 1968. In 1962, Doherty completed a great hat-trick by scoring 105 points, and he still stands as the only footballer to "break" the century barrier three years in succession.

Charlie Gallagher is the only other footballer to better 100 points over three separate years.

However, after putting up the Cavan county record at 6-107 (125 points) in 20 games in 1964, and landing 123 points in 1965, he did not reach three figures in 1966. A year later Gallagher chalked up his third 100 points-plus score.

The over-all place of honour, however, goes to Eddie Keher. He

is the only man to better the century four years in succession (1965-66-67-68), and last year he also became the first to score more than 100 points over five separate seasons; a record that only he himself is now likely to improve on. Keher's score in 1965 of 16-79 (127 points) in 20 games is the Kilkenny county peak.

Munster has three members as against Leinster's four in hurling. Here the pace-setter is Jimmy Doyle. He completed the code's first century of points three years on the trot (1963-64-65) and in 1965 he also became the first man in either code to reach three figures four times—he first passed out the elusive 100 points mark in 1960. Doyle's 1964 score of 10-87 (117 points) in 17 games is the Munster record.

Back to football, and a distinction for Mickey Kearins. He is the only Connacht man to pass out the elite target twice—1965 and last year, when the clever Sligo sharpshooter reached brilliant new heights in football with 2-135 (141 points) in 24 games.



*Micheál Kearins of Sligo, who reached brilliant new heights as a marksman in 1968 when he scored 2-135 for a record points total of 141.*

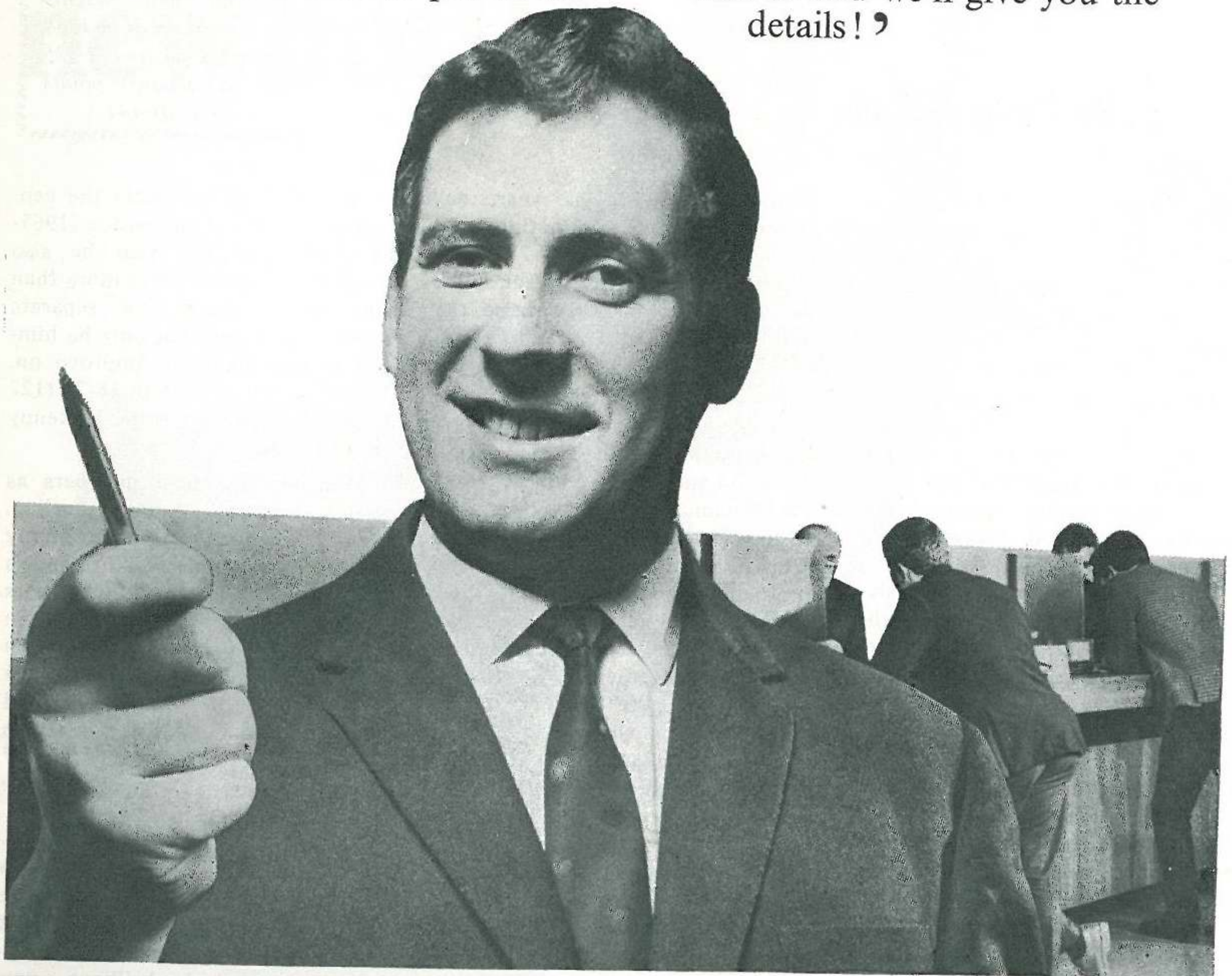
● TO PAGE 19

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● FROM PAGE 17

Cyril Dunne is the only other Connacht player in the present decade to get into the list. He was the West's top scorer in 1964 with 3-96 (105 points) in 21 games—two minors short of the Galway record set by Sean Purcell, when he became Connacht's first "ton-up" scorer in 1958 with 11-74 in 22 ties.

Considering that Leinster football teams have, year in, year out, invariably been pretty active in tournaments outside of the League and Championship, it is very surprising to find that only one player from the province has reached three figures in the present decade. He is Harry Donnelly, who completed a big hat-trick in 1961 when he cracked home 8-99 (120 points) in 24 games. That earned him the Leinster record, ranking as Offaly's only nation-wide chart-topper in either code, and also the distinction of being the only Leinster footballer to take the No. 1 spot in the 'Sixties.

The next best score by a Leinster footballer in the present decade is no fewer than 29 points behind the Donnelly record at 8-67 (91 points) in 21 games by Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin) for tops in the East, and second in Ireland in 1967.

Leinster, however, has one other member of the club elite—Ollie Freaney, who shot the Dublin county football record in 1959 at 5-86 (101 points) in 17 games to share first-place country-wide for both charts with Christy Ring (Cork).

No Munster footballer has yet got even within "sight" of the coveted points century. The provincial record is down the field at 79 minors, and was established by Bernie O'Callaghan (Kerry) in 17 games in 1963 at 9-52.

In the following list of the members of the club elite, we show the scorer in question, followed by the total score in points, the actual score, the number of games played, and finally the particular year.



Sean O'Neill of Down—who joined the "Century Club" in 1968.

## The statistics

### HURLING :

- EDDIE KEHER (Kilkenny)**  
 103—9-76. 17. 1963.  
 127—16-79. 20. 1965.  
 115—10-85. 17. 1966.  
 103—9-76. 18. 1968.
- JIMMY DOYLE (Tipperary)**  
 108—12-72. 13. 1960.  
 105—14-61. 16. 1963.  
 117—10-87. 17. 1964.  
 111—12-75. 15. 1965.
- CHRISTY RING (Cork)**  
 101—22-35. 10. 1959.  
 104—22-38. 13. 1961.
- NICK RACKARD (Wexford)**  
 155—35-50. 19. 1956.
- SEAN CLOHOSEY (Kilkenny)**  
 107—19-50. 20. 1956.
- TOM WALSH (Kilkenny)**  
 106—21-43. 21. 1964.
- PAT CRONIN (Clare)**  
 104—11-71. 18. 1967.

### FOOTBALL :

- PADDY DOHERTY (Down)**  
 136—13-97. 24. 1960.  
 107—6-89. 22. 1961.  
 105—5-90. 24. 1962.
- CHARLIE GALLAGHER (Cavan)**  
 125—6-107. 20. 1964.  
 123—7-102. 19. 1965.  
 109—5-94. 22. 1967.
- FRANKIE DONNELLY (Tyrone)**  
 106—10-76. 16. 1956.  
 117—5-102. 22. 1957.
- MICKY KEARINS (Sligo)**  
 116—4-104. 17. 1965.  
 141—2-135. 24. 1968.
- SEAN PURCELL (Galway)**  
 107—11-74. 22. 1958.
- OLLIE FREANEY (Dublin)**  
 101—5-86. 17. 1959.
- HARRY DONNELLY (Offaly)**  
 120—7-99. 24. 1961.
- CYRIL DUNNE (Galway)**  
 105—3-96. 21. 1964.
- SEAN O'NEILL (Down)**  
 101—12-65. 23. 1968.

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WILSON HARTNELL

# SHIFT OF FOCUS IN ATTACK

ONE of the notable things of the last few years in football has been the changing focus of forward play, and of the attention and the glamour of the attack. Few would have denied that the centre-forward position was the one where the most complete footballers used to parade their wares — combined in their make-up were the constructive skills and all the thought of making the others produce their best together with the deadly accurate finish on occasions when they were able to get a sight of the posts themselves.

Mick Higgins was surely such a focus in the Cavan attack even if Peter Donohue was a prolific scorer. Donohue's work would be classed as something of a by-product of Higgins' work. Of course, Donohue was unmatched in his own particular zone of score-taking, whether from play, or from frees. He had fined his scoring skills to a nicety.

Jimmy Murray would be acknowledged as the focus of the Roscommon attack in that splendid team of their's which won a pair of All-Irelands and should have won more in the middle part of the forties. Admittedly, Jack McQuillan was a hard-trier inside, and John Joe Fallon was a man of imagination in the full-forward

position, but, without Murray, that line would have been in dire straits — and none of those players would deny that when they look back over the years.

Brian Smyth was a keyman in the Meath attack; Eamonn Young was the classicist for Cork even if Jim Cronin had the finish inside; Gega O'Connor was a complete Kerry stylist, but Paddy Burke often cracked in the vital goals; Ollie Freaney, Padraic Carney, Jim McCartan were vital elements in their counties' attack.



*Con O'Sullivan didn't always receive the right service from Cork colleagues.*

In to-day's game, however, a great deal of the glamour has shifted from the centre-forward position to rest on the full-forward. The role of the full-forward has changed considerably, giving him duties and allowing him skills which would have been considered superfluous, if not endangering his effectiveness, a couple of decades ago.

Likewise, the role of the centre-forward has taken on something

of a new dimension and the character of the players manning the position has changed, too. It comes to this — that teams to-day are disposed to placing their most complete attacking footballer in the full-forward position rather than give him the No. 11 jersey.

The trend has been finalised, of course, with the brilliant displays of Sean O'Neill for Down during 1968, and, indeed, for several years past. Admittedly, he had the 'canny' Paddy Doherty outside, but it was hardly in the traditional role of the centre-forward that Doherty assisted O'Neill; in any case, it was a mutual benefit which they bestowed on one another.

Another in the same mould is the Corkman, at present playing with University College, Cork and Munster, of course, Ray Cummins. Have you seen this young man in action? If not, you have something of a thrill in store, for he is full of clever skills and gifted with a sharp imagination. His movements, long-legged and ground devouring, give him many vantage points from which to launch attacks, while, he is often up in support to finish the work. This all-round polished performance from full-forwards is a contrast from the "mullicking" style which was the accepted thing for the man on the square for too long.

Kevin Heffernan of Dublin must have had a profound influence on the notion of full-forward play, for his cleverness with the ball and off it, gave an insight into how the full-forward could dominate the match. Con O'Sullivan could have won many more matches for Cork had they recognised that he must be fed the right ball and not starved of service.

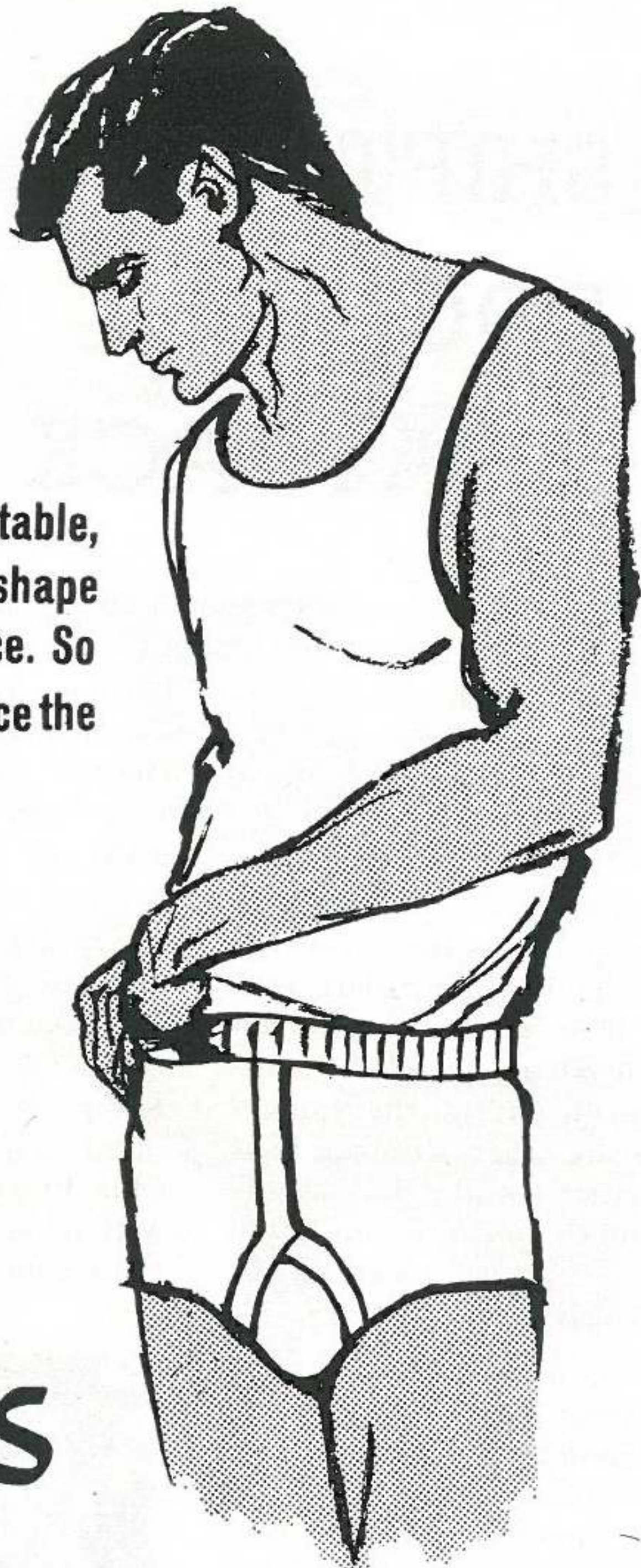
It may be for this reason that the hard-working, grafting type of

● TO PAGE 23

By JAY BRENNAN

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# Roscommon



By SEAN RICE

THERE were signs in the early part of this decade that a new Roscommon team had emerged which might emulate that great one of the early forties that won for Roscommon their two only All-Ireland titles.

That promise has since died. Now a still newer Roscommon team has emerged with the same hope and the same promise.

They have not yet reached the heights of the team that shocked young Galway in two Connacht finals at Castlebar in 1961 and again the following year. But they are still young and eager, and they believe the break-through will soon come and that they will then make up for the frustrations of the recent past.

But the present team know too that there is no Gerry O'Malley to urge and inspire them — no one to look to who might rally the flagging spirit when things begin to go wrong.

And yet, that alone may be the foundation of great things to come

for this present team. For I believe that is where the last team failed and where many to-day fail. Too much is expected of a player who continually outshines his colleagues. Too much is expected from him and too little from the others. When he has an off day, as all players inevitably have, the team collapses and with it the hope that earlier successes had engendered.

It happened to Roscommon and Gerry O'Malley — the greatest player Roscommon has known. It happens to-day to Sligo and Mick Kearins. It has happened to Mayo, and only now they have begun to discover it. It didn't happen to Galway, and they won three All-Irelands in a row. In almost every game they had a different star. And when it came to Final day they were all stars.

I believe Roscommon have learned that lesson, too. For when the great O'Malley retired from inter-county football they began to concentrate on youth. They won

## The hope of success rises again

the Connacht minor championship in 1965. And the following year were the first Connacht team to win the All-Ireland under-21 championship.

That team consisted mainly of players from the previous year's minor side. And to-day the senior team is made up mainly of players from the successful under-21 side. They have not yet fully hit on the winning blend but their displays against Galway with whom they drew in the championship last year and were subsequently beaten narrowly, have been heartening.

As Dr. Donal Keenan, chairman of the county board, pointed out: "Our players are young and enthusiastic. The potential is there and I think they have a bright future.

"This year we meet Sligo in the first round of the championship at Sligo and if we can manage to get over it successfully I think we have as good a chance as any other team of taking the Connacht championship.

Already Roscommon are planning for that game against Sligo. And this year the players have the added incentive of training under the guidance of Dr. Keenan and Jimmy Murray the man who captained the first Roscommon team to victory in the All-Ireland championship.

Roscommon have never been a push-over in the championship even for Galway when they were at their best. And now with the experience garnered in the past couple of years who is to say that this is not to be their year?

## SHIFT OF FOCUS IN ATTACK

### ● FROM PAGE 21

centre-forward has been greatly in demand, and why so few men have made a reputation in the position in the last couple of years. With the passing of Jim McCartan, who was a host in himself, whether creating the chances or scoring them, Down have had to place

Doherty there with the lack of another specialist limiting them; Kerrigan of Meath, to whom that county owes much, is basically a very good utility man; and, apart from Pat Griffin who tries to fulfil the old ideal, it would be hard to find a centre-forward, in the game now who tries to be all things to all men.

In a recent issue, Eamonn Young stated his ideas of what football would be like if played with 13-a-side teams. We received many reactions—for and against. In the article below, Young discusses the effect which a similar reduction would have on hurling.



# REDUCING THE HEA IN HELL'S KITCHEN

**H**URLING, though played on the same pitch with the same size goalposts, is a very different game to football. We have grown so accustomed to seeing them together since childhood that this rather obvious fact sometimes escapes us.

A loose man can win a game from fifty yards in football; in hurling one can add on twenty yards to this or even more. It's not so long since I saw Con Roche of Cork swing an eighty-five yards point over to draw a game.

The ball travels with fair speed in football and often the strongest fingers won't stop it. In hurling, we don't always see the ball and for me, anyhow, when I do see it from the twenty-one yards free, I know the ball will be blocked.

Once in training many years ago, it seems that the flying Willie John Daly of Carrigtwohill a man whose headlong, yet smart hurling always warmed my heart, was standing goal during a Cork team practice. The evening sun shone towards the Blackrock goal and the balls were coming in fast. Why wouldn't they? Christy Ring was practising his shooting and that suited Willie John, who was sharpening up his reflexes.

Then came one bullet rasping past Willie John's hurley that sank into the guts of the net, like Joe Louis' fist into a bag of feathers. Willie John took one look behind and muttered:

"Good job I wasn't in front of that one".

It's that speed, length and

accuracy of flight that makes hurling a different game to football. The differences will remain when the game is reduced to thirteen aside which I hope it will be some day, just for experimental purposes.

Great men have played at full back in hurling and there have been some excellent forwards also.

**By EAMON**

The goalmouth struggles have stimulated great excitement and just because the ball cannot always be seen we are left wondering breathlessly if it's going to be saved . . . it's a goal.

Thirteen aside will take away this indecision but instead it will allow the spectators to see the



*John Doyle once referred to the Tipperary square as "Hell's Kitchen." These pictures show action in that hot spot of the hurling world.*

**A**

play which is not now always possible. I maintain there will be the same excitement for that second when we don't know whether or not the man with the ball is going to score and the spectacle will have improved because we can see what's happening. After all, that's why we go there. Then don't for-

## **ANN YOUNG**

get that one of the vital aspects of fullback play in hurling is keeping the square clear. More luck to the men who can do it.

I think it was John Doyle who laughingly referred to the Tipperary square as Hell's Kitchen and a friend of mine, who was never happier than when criticising Tip-

perary, used show a newspaper photo in which John Doyle, Mick Maher and Kieran Casey were demonstrating in that delightfully dainty but firm way of theirs how three Kilkenny forwards should be discouraged from interfering with John O'Donoghue, who was rising gracefully (and all alone) for a sliotar dropping out of the sky.

I have no doubt that a second later the Tipperary forwards were attacking. I wanted to take the photo off my friend so that I, too, could criticise Tipperary, but he wouldn't give it to me. In fact, I was just plain jealous that our chaps weren't doing it.

Thirteen aside will cut out some blocking off and will compensate by showing more crafty hurling. Forwards will like this and probably goalies won't, though the chances are that with the reduced number, the goalie will have far more room to clear and can in fact become a very prominent player.

One can imagine how Ollie Walsh — whom I once saw clearing

a ball halfway between left half back and left wing forward — would like to play goalie in thirteen aside. His lightning change of feet, smart ball-control and sizzling puck would make him a tremendous player even as a goalie, apart from the task of stopping shots.

The centre-back would be even more vital than now for he would range from the square to centre-field down the middle, though the corner backs and wing halves would be as they are just now, speedy clever players with a good defensive sense and excellent anticipation. The centre-fielders would run more but the play being more open these lovers of the open spaces would be in their element, though I could see more positional changes as the fit man runs the opponent into the ground.

The centre-forward, a very fit, crafty leader, would in good-class play be a star hurler for along with the normal play of running out to midfield and striking it high to the

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## ● FROM PAGE 25

goal, clashing with the centre-back as the high ones drop between them, racing hard to front or side to double on the ball flying to the goal or from it. He would, in addition, have an excellent chance of getting his own goal and the ability to solo and then drive a hard shot would be practised more than ever.

No doubt about it, hurling is a striker's game and not a runner's. The man with the greed for goals and points in his heart and the lightning whip in his wrists is the star in hurling no matter how many are on the side. It goes without saying that with less men on the field his chances of scoring are greater and if he can run as well, he will be a first-class danger to the other side.

One wonders should the crossbar be lifted or the goalposts widened for thirteen aside. The goalie with the hurley outstretched can cover the extra footage. Again, one might ask shouldn't the dimensions be decreased considering the extra chances of scoring allowed because of looser marking. Candidly, I doubt if either argument makes a lot of difference.

But while we're talking about loose marking, Christy Ring was telling me the other day about the team which was turning out in a Cork village. The chairman gave his few strong words to the side and the boys got ready to get out there and win. Then the trainer jumped in and pulling the hat over his eyes gritted out:

"All ye have to do is to get to the ball, wan yard in front of yeer men. Wan yard is all ye want . . . and ye'll win that match".

John Joe was tying his laces and he looked up at the trainer.

"Wan yard, Ned" he said, thoughtfully, "wan yard . . . but there's one hundred and forty yards in the field . . . and there's only fifteen of us. T'would take an awful long time to get the ball from wan side to the other."

Don't forget that, with thirteen aside, it would take longer.

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# QUIZ-TIME

## SHOOTING FOR POINTS

YOU should be able to take these comparatively easy chances, though some of those from awkward "angles" may throw you; and you must be quick if your chance is not to be lost. Watch the frees; they are to be taken in the time limit indicated.

- 1—Can you name the only player to win hurling and football Railway Cup medals on the same day?
- 2—When, if ever, did Connacht and Munster meet in the Railway Cup hurling and football finals in the same year?
- 3—Who is the Provincial Secretary who is now retiring?

Time limit: 5 seconds

- 4—How long was he in office?
- 5—Can you name the present Roscommon footballer who achieved the unique distinction of playing championship football in all four grades for his county in 1966?

Time limit: 7 seconds

- 6—Can you name the Down-born man who holds an All-Ireland senior medal won with Dublin, and a county senior championship medal won in Meath?
- 7—With what counties did the following camogie stars gain fame.  
(a) Mave Gilroy; (b) Kathleen Coady.
- 8—With what county did Mick Casey star a few years ago (in football)?

Time limit: 5 seconds

- 9—How many senior All-Ireland

medals did Mick Mackey win?

Time limit: 10 seconds

- 10—How many players in an Australian Rules football team?  
(b) How many substitutes or "emergencies" are allowed?

Time limit: 10 seconds

## GO FOR A GOAL

And watch those time limits — you have to be quick to avail of a goal-scoring opportunity.

- 11—Which of the stars of the Down team which carried off the football All-Irelands of 1960 and 1961 later played with the county's juniors and reached the All-Ireland final in that grade?

Time limit: 8 seconds

- 12—Who was the goalkeeper when Meath won their football All-Ireland of 1954?

Time limit: 5 seconds

- 13—What unusual distinction in football have Leo McAlinden, George Comerford and Columba McDyer in common?

- 14—Sligo were Connacht minor champions in 1968. Had they

ever won that championship before? When?

Time limit: 7 seconds

- 15—What is the difference in value between a goal in Gaelic football and a goal in Australian Rules football?

Time limit: 5 seconds

- 16—What is the trophy for which the university camogie girls play each year?

- 17—Who is the Secretary of the London County Board, G.A.A.?

- 18—Who was the official who left the secretaryship in order to become Chairman of the Munster Handball Council at this year's Convention?

- 19—What position did Bill Cahill occupy for Kilkenny when winning an All-Ireland senior hurling medal in 1947?

Time limit: 7 seconds

- 20—Anthony Maher is a young hurler rapidly making a name for himself. With which county. And in what position?

Time limit: 10 seconds

ANSWERS: PAGE 29

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# HOW NICE OF DEAR EAMONN

SAYS AGNES HOURIGAN

THE Editor, God help his head, asked me, in a nice little note to comment on the piece about the camogie match by Eamonn Young in last month's issue. Well, I regret to say that though I read what Eamonn had to

say very carefully from beginning to end, I have no comment whatever to make.

Except possibly this one. That since, if the game was being refereed according to the official Rule Book of the Camogie Associa-

tion poor Eamonn would have had no story at all to tell, because there would have been a free out against Teresa at the end of paragraph two, and the matter would have ended there.

But it is a very big advance to have Eamonn writing for us about camogie. I cannot remember him having done so before, despite the considerable contribution that some members of his family have made to the game.

Meanwhile, I am wondering about a very controversial motion that is down for the annual Camogie Congress.

It is not, indeed, one particular motion but four separate motions from Galway, Cork, Down and Limerick, all aimed at either removing, or modifying, the present rule which says that any "Council, Committee or Club which organises any dance other than Ceili shall be suspended for six months."

Now, I know the position about this rule is not as bad as is the case with the corresponding rule of the G.A.A., which is utterly and flagrantly ignored. But the thinking behind most of the current requests for change seem to be two-fold.

In the first place, many people maintain that the task of making regular ceilis pay their way nowadays is very difficult, indeed. In the second place, in quite a number of parts of the country, particularly in the South, a 'ceili' is commonly taken to mean 'Ceili and Old-Time'.

Personally, I have no axe to grind in this context, except that I have been all my life a lover and protagonist of Irish music and dancing, and I would think as badly of letting our own music and dancing die as I would of seeing

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Brindley Adv.

any of our native games go to the wall.

So I hope that whatever decision Congress comes to, that decision will be observed to the letter. I am tired of reading in the local papers about social evenings and entertainment after presentation dinners, when it is too often all too obvious, from the names of the musical groups in attendance, that Irish music, to say the very least of it, was unlikely to be the dominant feature of the evening.

Two other very pertinent matters for discussion at Congress are the fate of the top cross-bar and the size of Central Council.

The top cross-bar has been under fire for many years, but there are, to my mind, two strong factors in its favour.

In the first place, that top cross-bar is the most distinctive feature of the whole camogie game, and I would, if only for sentimental and historic reasons, be very sorry to see it go. In the second place, it does, in my opinion encourage accuracy among the players, and, indeed, I often wonder why the G.A.A. have not adopted a similar device.

In the third place, there can be no harm in pointing out that the provision of the second cross-bar has never been a rule of the association. It is, instead, a recommendation, a kind of Council of perfection, and as such must be rather unique in any game.

As for Central Council, I am personally opposed to it as at present constituted, since it is composed entirely of the officers of the association together with the officers of the provincial councils, and as such is the easiest way of ensuring that all are represented.

I feel that the Council should be expanded.

In addition to the Central Council and provincial chairmen and secretaries, who total thirteen, we should have four representatives of each province, elected at the annual provincial conventions.

This would provide a far more broadly based organisation and

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ-TIME

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1—Des Foley (Dublin) with Leinster in 1962.            | 11—Pat Rice.   |
| 2—Never.   | 12—P. McGearty.  |
| 3—Martin O'Neill (Wexford) who was Leinster secretary. | 13—They were all honoured by two provinces in Railway Cup matches. |
| 4.—40 years.   | 14—Yes, in 1949.   |
| 5—Dermot Earley.                                       | 15—Three points in Gaelic, as against six in Australian Rules.     |
| 6—Des Ferguson.  | 16—The Ashbourne Cup.  |
| 7—(a) Antrim ; (b) Dublin.                             | 17—Jerry Daly (Kerry).   |
| 8—Offaly.  | 18—Sean Slattery (Clare).  |
| 9—Three (3).   | 19—Full-forward.   |
| 10—(a) Eighteen (18) ; (b) Two (2).                    | 20—Cork; at corner-back.   |

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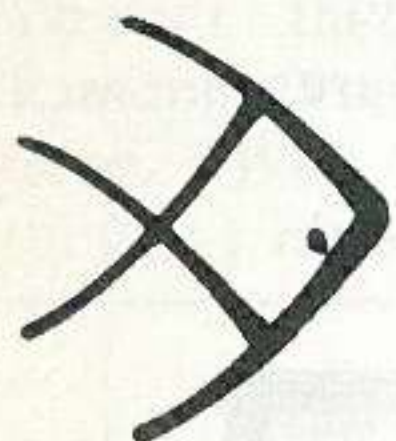
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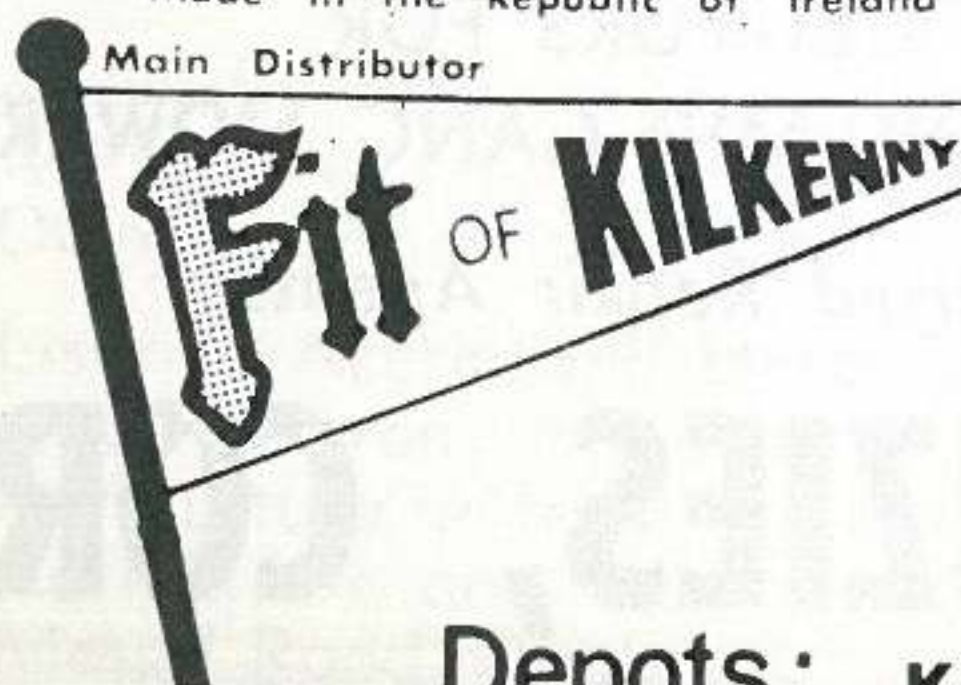
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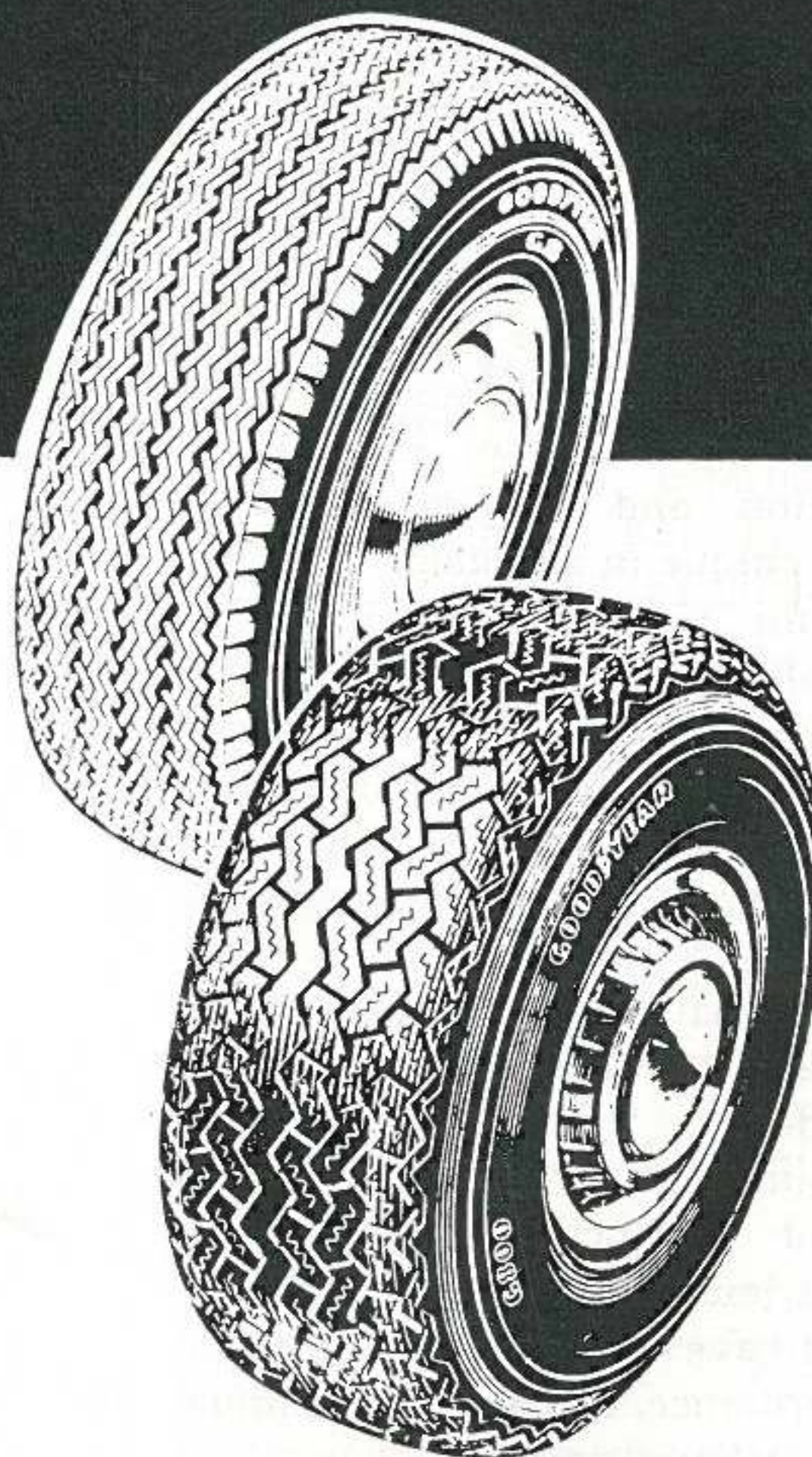
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## OWEN McCANN DEPLORES THE CLASHING OF PROVINCIAL FINALS

CLASHING of the spectacular provincial senior championship games each summer, the absence of box-office appeal at the Wembley Stadium programme as far as fans living in Ireland are concerned, late starts and programmes at provincial venues. These are some of the points that I find many of my friends keenly discussing lately.

This irritating clashing of the "plum" championship games of the year, the matches the fans want to see above all others, is fast becoming one of the most disappointing features of the Gaelic sport scene. This year, for instance, the Munster hurling final, and the Leinster football and Connacht football deciders have all been fixed for the same day—July 20. There are other annoying clashes of fixtures as well.

The trouble is that the four Provincial Councils act independently and arrange their fixtures to suit their own requirements. There may have been some excuse for this policy years ago when travel was difficult . . . but not any more.

In these days of fast, comfortable travel, football and hurling championship games no longer have an appeal that is wholly provincial. On the occasions in the past that the provincial championships bill has been confined to one or two games a Sunday it has been clearly demonstrated that thousands will journey to a match outside their own province, providing it does not mean missing one of their own top encounters.

Indeed, now that more and more are enjoying the fruits of

the five-day week, I find the tendency is growing to "make a week-end of it" as far as some of the top Championship games are concerned.

I had experience of this myself last summer . . . Limerick for the Munster hurling final (even though that Shannonside visit meant missing what looked an appealing Leinster football final) and the following week-end Bangor as my base for the Ulster football final at Casement Park in Belfast. This is a facet of the scene that could be exploited more fully to the benefit of the games generally . . . not to mention the tourist trade!

And I say that it's high time the officials of the four Provincial Councils—and indeed, the Central Council—woke up to this fact. What we need is an annual get-together, say, each January, of the Provincial Councils to work out a co-ordinated fixture list in order to keep the clashing of the top championship matches down to a minimum.

After all, such a meeting would not inconvenience the Provincial Councils. Even if it did, they must remember they have a duty to the fans—the people who pay to keep the games going—to make the effort to end

## DUTY TO FANS

this most unsatisfactory and annoying clashing of fixtures.

Such a move would also greatly benefit the provincial Councils financially. With the main games spread more evenly over the summer, the attendances would inevitably be bigger all round than at present.

The championships, too, would take on a new status and vigour as a result. After all, where's the logic in playing the Leinster senior hurling final in early July—the 1969 decider is scheduled for the 13th—and then having an interval of eight weeks until the winners next appear in the Championship? The Munster champions will have to "twiddle their thumbs" championship-wise for seven weeks.

This inactivity at the premier level—the showpiece competition—at a time when the tourist season is at its height, and when we should be putting our best foot forward in the interests of the promotion of the premier national game.

Then again, the long delay from the time the way is cleared for the All-Ireland final to the actual day of the game itself does not help to bolster up interest in the decider.

So much invariably happens in football, particularly with the championship semi-finals in August—that the events in the hurling provincial finals are dulled in the memory come All-Ireland final day. Consequently,

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the provincial deciders lose much of the power they should have in making the turnstiles click merrily on the day of the national final.

Some may say that as dates are at a premium in the short summer championship season it would not be possible to have a more even spread of the top games. That cuts no ice with me, however. If needs be, then, let's break with tradition, and put the All-Ireland finals back to the second Sunday in September, and the first Sunday of October.

The annual co-ordinated fixtures meeting I have suggested, and held in conjunction with Central Council officers, could go into all these factors, and, with sensible planning, and give and take all round, produce the type of streamlined and co-ordinated fixtures list that would put the championships marching through the 'Seventies as even more dynamic and forceful units in the never-ending battle to improve the status and standing of the national games. And, the fans, too, of course, would be much happier!

This growing custom of "making a week-end of it" also helped to put the spotlight on the Wembley Stadium annual Festival of Gaelic sport. Many of my friends have expressed the view that they

would like to travel to London, principally to see Wembley Stadium for themselves, but that the journey is not worth the effort and expense simply for friendly games.

I have been lured to New Eltham in London in my time by the juniors in the All-Ireland Championship, but frankly, I can't see myself visiting Wembley, much as I would like to, for non-competitive fare.

That brings me to my point: a competitive final for London. Surely it's worth a trial, especially as the Railway Cup finals would be ideal, in view of the fact that so many counties would be represented in the teams.

One of the two finals could be played at Wembley each year over, say, a four year trial period, with football and hurling alternating, without upsetting the schedule here at home in any way.

A national final, with its attendant air of tension, and every player giving of his level best, would have much greater appeal with our exiles across the water than any challenge game, no matter how attractive or novel. And, of course, those of us in Ireland who would dearly like to visit Wembley, but are unlikely to do so under the current set-up, would find the London attraction a strong one.

One other point: As live television coverage has been a feature of Wembley Stadium promotions in the past—and may well be again—competitive finals would create a better image of Gaelic Games in Britain than mere friendlies. It seems to me, in fact, that we are losing a great opportunity here to fully exploit our games.

Punctual starts. It's past time that we approached this matter in a responsible manner. True, there has been a big improvement in recent years, but there are still too many instances of games starting late. Unpunctuality creates a very bad impression, and is also unfair to spectators.

As for programmes, without them fans miss a lot, particularly in the Leagues, which frequently bring counties from different provinces into opposition, and the majority of the visiting players are not known, except by reputation, to home supporters. In fairness to supporters, and in the interests of prestige-building, ALL County Committees should ensure that programmes are published for ALL inter-county games, no matter what the venue, or the competition and not for the more important matches, as seems to be the case in some counties nowadays.



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NOW, with Congress upon us, the matter on which I find my sentiments most divided is the question of an All-Ireland club championship. Am I for it or against it? And the only honest answer I can give is that I am both for such a step, and against it at the same time.

After all, the All-Ireland championships as we now know them began as club championships. It was the champion club in each county that went forward to represent that county in the early All-Irelands and the championships had been in existence for several years before the county champions were allowed to go outside their own club members when sending forth a team to represent the county

It would be nice to think that the change was occasioned by the desire to field the best possible county team, and that the champion club called for assistance out of pure benevolence

But I am afraid that human nature also played no small part in effecting the change. If the champions of a county felt that they were weak in a position or two, it was not entirely unknown that they strengthened the weak spots with a player or two from other clubs in the county.

Anyway, the All-Ireland championships went away from the club basis and now the problem is should we revert to a club-championship again, not now as the main event of the Gaelic season but as a kind of side-show to the remarkably wide range of All-Ireland championships that we nowadays possess.

The case for a club championship was never more pertinent at a time when the fact that the club is the real basis and foundation stone of the Association is being so rightly stressed in so many quarters, but although I

## CLUB ALL-IRELAND: PROS AND CONS OF CASE

By MOONDHARRIG

have been a devoted club-man all my life, I am afraid that I remain hard to convince that an All-Ireland club championship will over-night, revive the many drooping clubs here and there through the country.

But facts must be faced and to me, in this instance, the vital facts are these. In the first place, we are over-loaded with All-Ireland competitions already. Either we are going to drop some of them to make way for the suggested club championships or we must run the club championships off as mid-week or evening games. But to provide Sundays for a club championship which of the current championships are you, dear reader, willing to drop?

Senior, intermediate, junior, under-21, minor? And if we decide to play the club championship as evening games this means they must be fitted in



*Séamus Ó Riain, who will preside at Congress.*

between late April and mid-September, which in turn, means that in almost every case a county will say, have to be represented in 1970 by the county champions of 1969, which is probably what would have to be done in any case.

But from the end of April to the end of September is the peak period of the inter-county season. So if you have a star player of a club side who is also a star of an inter-county side that is lucky enough (or possibly unlucky enough) to reach the finals of the National League and the Inter-county championship and the All-Ireland club championship all I can say is that, especially in Leinster and Ulster he is going to have so busy a summer that he is not going to have very much time left to take part with his club in the county championship of 1970.

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In those circumstances it is possible to visualise the county championships being pushed even further back into the autumn than is so often the case already.

There is another point about the club championships that might repay a little research. How will the spectator public react? I know if, for instance, Dublin St. Vincent's play Tuam Stars or Dunmore you will get an attendance of inter-county proportions but how many would you get at an evening game in Kilkenny's Nowlan Park between Muckalee and St. Mary's Ardee? You tell me!

And finances are a mighty important aspect because the finances of the G.A.A. are not what they used to be in the days when our society was not quite so affluent.

Indeed, it seems that if club championships are ever to become fully established, and pay their way it can only be done by completely forgetting the present provincial set-up and splitting the country, for football at least into four equal zones of eight counties each.

These zones to be decided by geographical nearness to one another for the very obvious reasons of economy.

But there is another point that

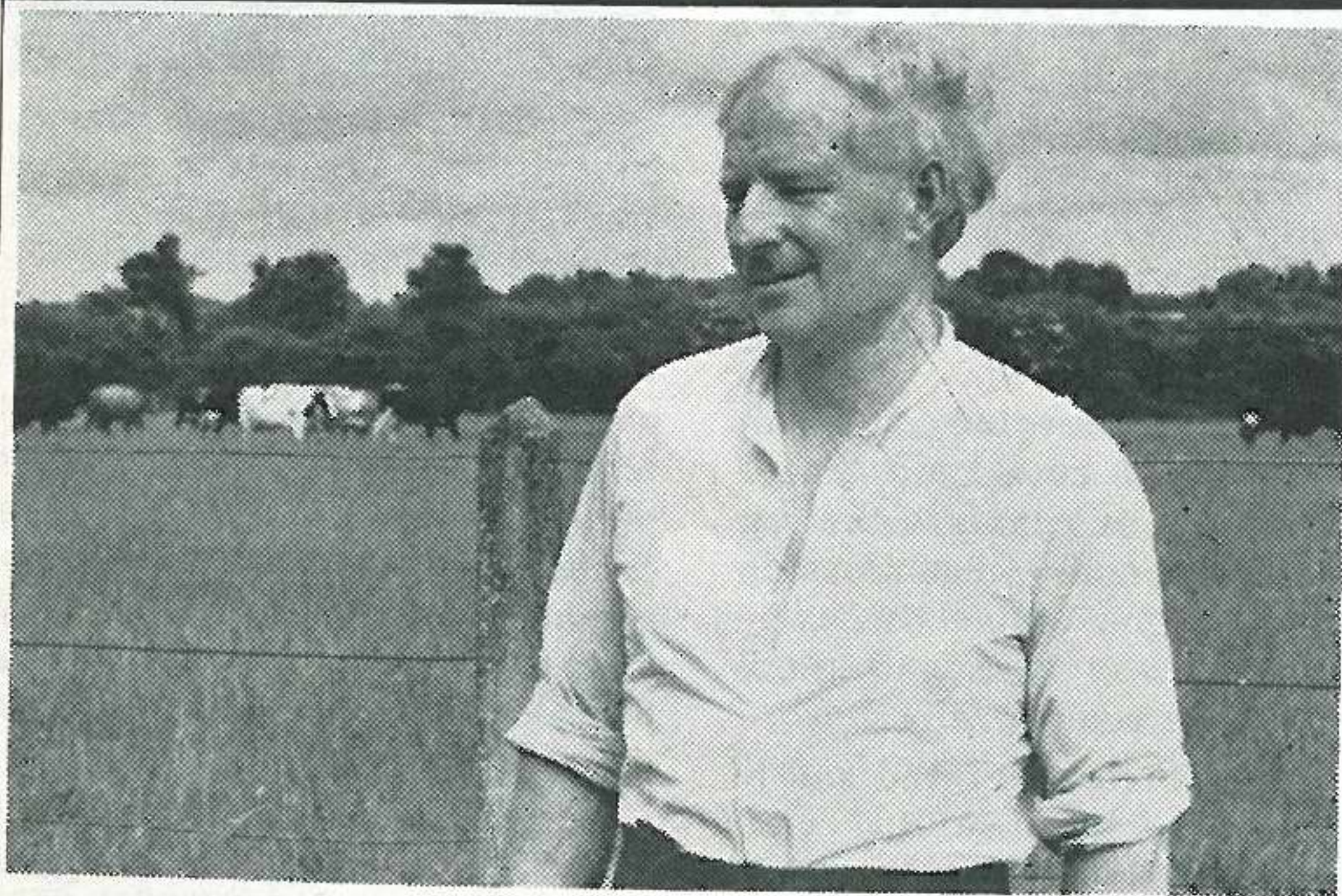
worries me about this concept of a club championship. I fear that it will mean little or nothing to the vast majority of clubs throughout the country while it will only tend to further strengthen those that are already prosperous and powerful.

Now, do not mistake my meaning. I want to see every club thriving and I have the highest regard for those clubs which, by a combination of hard work and initiative have already made their clubs an example of all that we would wish a club to be. But there will come the stage when we have to make up our minds as to what exactly the future of our club structure is to be.

Do we want just a few super-clubs in each county or are we still aiming at the old ideal of a strong and thriving G.A.A. club as a centre of Gaelicism in every parish?

And which type of club is an All-Ireland club championship most likely to develop? I think it may encourage the powerful club drawing its players from a wider and ever wider area, but then I could be wrong. I hope I am. Because, while I quite agree with those who maintain that in certain areas we have too many clubs (or would it in certain instances be fairer to say 'alleged' clubs) at the moment, I despair of the future of the G.A.A. if in, say, ten years time we were to have wide tracts of the country with no club of its own at all, but sending a player or two to play with a club ten miles away.

**FOOTNOTE** — One Gaelic organisation has been running an All-Ireland club championship for more than six years. Has anyone within the G.A.A. thought of asking Miss Sheila McAnulty, Ard Runai of the Camogie Association, for her views on how such a club championship works in actual practice on the playing fields.



T. J. Maher, President of the 130,000-strong National Farmers Association, pictured on his farm in the heart of the famed Tubberadora country in Tipperary. E. D. Ryan, the last surviving link of this peerless band of hurlers, died recently.

Mr. Maher heads an organisation that includes many famous hurlers and footballers and is fully conscious of the close links between rural Ireland and the strength of the G.A.A. John Doyle, Tipperary (holder of eight All-Ireland senior hurling medals); Bob Stack, Kerry (holder of six senior football medals); Mattie McDonnell, Meath; Pat Reynolds, Meath; Michael Kerins, Kerry; Tom Cheasty, Waterford; Jim Roche; Limerick and Gerry Colleran, Galway (brother of Enda Colleran), are just some of the names to be found amongst the N.F.A. membership. Mr. Maher himself is a frequent attender at big G.A.A. fixtures and was present in Croke Park last September when Wexford came from behind to beat Tipperary in a sensational second-half rally in the Hurling Final.

# NO PUNCHES PULLED

By ALLEYMAN

THE precise status of handball in this country at the present time is best assessed by the reports of the four provincial secretaries to their conventions, all of which have taken place in the very recent past.

Each of them have highlighted some point relative to the game, that, if pursued, could be of tangible importance.

For instance, in Ulster, Gerry McGowan, a former President of the All-Ireland Council, took the Parent Body of the Handball Council—the G.A.A. to task.

He was uncompromising in his remarks. In discussing a report that the G.A.A. might be officially connected with certain golfing competitions, Mr. McGowan questioned the possibility of priorities having been side-stepped.

In his view the primary rule of the G.A.A. is the preservation of the national games of hurling, football and handball. Unfortunately, the latter code, as far as Ulster is concerned commands only a Cinderella status.

This criticism is certainly substantiated by a county like Down where hurling and football is strong, but handball is completely dormant.

Down, of course, is only a case in point. There are many other counties where handball is completely ignored by the G.A.A. authorities and more is the pity.

Gerry McGowan pulled no punches when discussing the apathy shown by the G.A.A. in Antrim—his own county. The County Board there had built

Casement Park, provided Shaw's Road playing pitches and were now contemplating the provision of further social amenities.

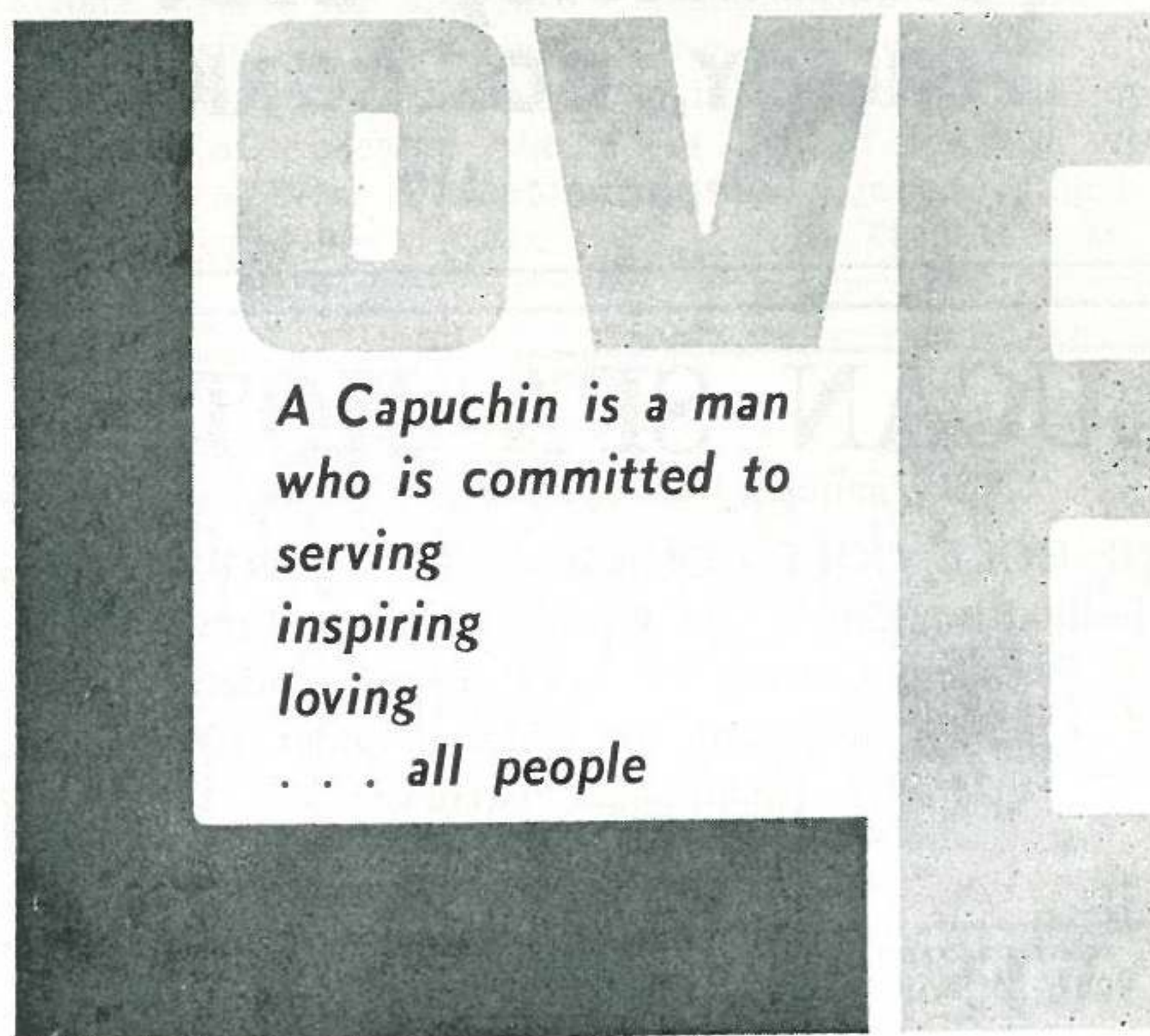
Yet, amidst all that plan-making no attempt was made at building even one ballcourt. The position in the county seemed to be aptly summed up by the Secretary when he said that the

Antrim G.A.A. had allowed handball to wither on promises.

Secretary Steve Casey, from the Connacht Council, has been shown up as an official with foresight.

In a review of the season's activities in the province, Steve, while concluding that they had

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### ● FROM PAGE 35

been quite successful, makes the point of the absolute necessity of providing a covered court in every county.

However, he goes a little further than this in stressing that when this amenity becomes more widespread it should be possible to play all handball games during the week.

His main argument is that major handball programmes arranged for Sundays just cannot compete, as far as commanding support is concerned, with the more publicised field games.

The Munster Secretary, Sean Slattery, had ideas which did not vary a great deal from those expressed in Connacht and Ulster. But, it was in Leinster, where Secretary Joe Lynch, as usual submitted a thought-provoking report that the most serious discussion of all was forthcoming. This pertained to the old code of hardball. It transpired that there is a strong school of thought in the province for the abolition of this code.

This argument is based on the contention that hardball should be standardised under a single code.

It seems completely out of proportion that at the present time, the All-Ireland championship in the hardball grade is considered of equal importance with the softball grade.

Yet, there cannot be even a vague comparison between their popularity.

While softball is the accepted form for tournaments and competitions it appears that hardball is only played at All-Ireland championship time. There may be the odd exception such as Ballymore-Eustace but, they are very much in the minority.

# MICK HOPKINS

talking to SEAN O'DONNELL



AS the championships are just around the corner it is time to take a look at some of the counties and players involved and get a closer insight at the merits of a particular team.

One such county is Longford, the Leinster champions for whom 1968 was a great year, but perhaps a little disappointing because of their eventual defeat by Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final.

But, the fact that they brought home their first Leinster title was the big talking point down Longford way and, indeed, all over the country people regard Longford's chances of capturing the Sam Maguire as pretty good. Perhaps 1969 will see their luck turn.

Mick Hopkins is one of the key men in a very lively Longford attack and I for one would not like to be in the opposing goal when he decides to make a trip in that direction. Instead I attacked him with the following questions from, would you believe, the 14 yards line.

O'D.—Mick, you have just returned from England. Did you, while there, have any contact with G.A.A. affairs?

H.—I didn't have much of a chance to take part in any games although I was approached by some clubs. Anyway, most grounds were unplayable because of snow. I understand that New Eltham is being sold for around the £250,000 mark and, perhaps this

news may be of interest to G.A.A. followers around Ireland.

O'D.—Looking ahead to the championship, what are Longford's chances and from whom do you expect most opposition?

H.—Longford will enter the championship with the same rating they had last year, which was not very high. This is the position to be in, I think. As a result of the long lay-off, our appetite for football should have improved. We have a reasonably good chance of reaching the Leinster final, at least. I would not like to predict any further.

As regards opposition, I would consider Meath, Kildare, Laois and Offaly to put forward a strong challenge.

O'D.—Do you feel that Longford were unlucky last year, or how do you explain their failure against Kerry?

H.—No, weather conditions, freedom from injury, etc. favoured us in our Leinster championship campaign. But after that we got our first taste of injury and I would say that it was lack of suitable substitutes for our game against Kerry

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WILSON HARTNELL

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that was the most costly factor.

**O'D.—Will this year's side show any changes from last season?**

H.—I have no idea at the moment what the personnel of our team for the championship will be. I like to see one or two new faces on the team from one year to another; it is a healthy sign and encourages young players within the county. We have some promising newcomers but the panel of players will, I feel, be much the same as last year.

**O'D.—Do you feel any changes are necessary in order to make Gaelic football more attractive?**

H.—To make Gaelic football attractive for the spectators it will be necessary to eliminate all unnecessary stoppages in play due to technical infringements. The pick-up rule, in my opinion,

is the most irritating rule of all. It breaks continuity in play and is the cause of the breakdown of many good movements. By allowing the pick-up, Australian style, dangerous tackles can be avoided and it would make for faster, cleaner and more continuous play. This rule adds nothing to the game and should be observed only during Lent as a penitential exercise.

**O'D.—How would you attract more young people to Gaelic games?**

H.—To attract more young people to play the game it must be made more appealing to them. Some of the revenue of the G.A.A. could be well spent in advertising the game for the benefit of the youth. Your GAELIC SPORT is doing its share in presenting the sport with a gloss which appeals to both young and old much more

than stereotyped newspaper reports of games played and to be played.

**O'D.—As a secondary teacher based in Dublin, do you feel there is an interest among your pupils in Gaelic?**

H.—I think the vast majority of schoolboys are interested in football and they have no less regard for Gaelic than for any other code. I think, however, it would be a great mistake to force it on them because the result would be rejection. The reaction to compulsion. Schools' competitions should be written up to a greater extent. It would provide the incentive schoolboys need to see their own team make the headlines.

**O'D.—It is generally felt that secondary schools are neglecting the promotion of Gaelic games and as a result, young lads are losing all interest in the game. Do you agree?**

H. — No. In fact, secondary schools are doing more than their share in this field. The sporting curriculum is confined to Gaelic games in a great number of schools. It is sufficient to look at the county teams of Ireland in all grades and to note the number of players who learned their skills in secondary schools. Also I feel it is worth bearing in mind that the fact that Gaelic games are still alive in the cities can be attributed to a great extent to the voluntary work of the schools.

**O'D.—What are your views of Gaelic games at international level?**

H. — International competition seems to me to be the life blood of any amateur sport and I think the G.A.A. will be losing a golden opportunity of infusing new life into its games if it does not grasp at this chance to promote Gaelic football, in particular, abroad. The Australians have come quite a long way in every sense

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of the word. Furthermore, such trips are recognised nowadays as a just reward for teams or individuals who reach the top in any amateur sport.

**O'D.—Do you consider Gaelic football a rough game?**

H.—No, if it is played according to the rules and this, of course, depends to a great extent on the referee.

**O'D.—Well, what do you think of the standard of referees at the moment?**

H. — Referees, unfortunately, are victims of the rule book. They are very much alone and should, I think, have the assistance of the linesmen, or some other official in detecting fouls. After all, they only have two eyes, and considering the disadvantages they have to overcome, the majority of them are very fair and efficient.

**O'D.—Would you care to take up the whistle yourself?**

H.—As the rules stand at the moment, I would not relish the job. I would, however, be willing to be a second referee if two were allowed.

**O'D. — What has been your greatest thrill in football so far?**

H.—Being on the Longford team which brought the first Leinster title to the county.

**O'D.—How about disappointments?**

H.—Our exit from the championship in the first round in 1966, two weeks after we had won the National League. I had been looking forward to a good run in the championship that year.

**O'D.—Are you satisfied with the facilities available to players at the moment?**

H.—In recent years things have improved in this regard, but at club level there is still a long way to go.

**O'D.—How do you feel about the social side of the G.A.A.?**

H. — The G.A.A. has great potential here, especially in rural

areas. Many people forget that it was never meant to be entirely a sporting organisation, but it is the sporting aspect that seems to be getting all the promotion. Those who support Gaelic games would also support their social functions if they had an opportunity. Other sporting organisations have their own club houses to cater for all, male and female alike. So why not G.A.A. clubs?

**O'D.—Do you like soccer?**

H.—I have an interest in all sports, regardless of their origins. I would like to see the G.A.A. adopt a more tolerant attitude towards foreign games, especially now that the younger generation is so conscious of the idea of freedom and tolerance. The 'Ban' which was designed to protect the G.A.A. may one day destroy it.

**O'D.—What are your views on the suspension of the Longford players?**

H. — The Longford County

Board, in enforcing Rule 27, acted courageously, knowing that their decision was going to be unpopular generally; but I think that their application of the Rule brought us one step nearer to its abolition. If other County Boards, whose delegates vote for the retention of Rule 27 at Congress, acted similarly, the 'Ban' would soon make its last appearance on the agenda. The fact that this rule is so seldom enforced accounts for the fact that it has lasted so long.

Most players and many officials are half-hearted in their loyalty to Rule 27. It is an embarrassment to the members of the Association and is a great stumbling-block to every one who is ecumenically minded in an opposing sense.

If reconnaissance expeditions by vigilantes is the only way of enforcing it, I think it should be forgotten about for that reason alone.

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# COMHDHÁIL NA CÁSCA

“SEAN BAN” DO SCRÍ

TÁ Comhdháil na Cásca ag teacht. Lá mór is ea é i saol Chumann Lúth Chleas Gaodhal. Cuirtear an Cumann fé scrúdú ar an ócáid seo. Déantar tagairt don dul-chun-chinn atá déanta, is ea, agus déantar tagairt leis don dul-chun-chinn ba chóir a bheith déanta, agus ná bhfuil déanta. Cuirfear ós cóir an chruinniú aon laige atá sa ghluaiseacht, agus molfaidh an fear so agus an fear siúd cad iad na neithe ba cheart a ghlacadh chun iad a leigheas. Saghas parlimente na nGaodhal is ea an Comhdháil bhliantiúl so. Saghas Árd Fheise é. Beidh sé ar siúl ar Domhnach na Cásca. Tagann teachtairí ó gach chonndae i nÉirinn chuige. Bíonn níos mó teachtairí i láthair ó chonndaethe mar Chorcaigh, Loch Garman is Gaillimh ná mar a bhíonn i láthair ó chonndaethe mar Longphort, Ceatharlach is Muineacháin nó Fearmanach cuir i gcás. Dathad bliain ó shoin díreach a bhíos ag an gComhdháil don chéad uair. I seomra i dteach ósta ar an dtaobh theas den chathair abhí sé ar siúl an uair sin. Ní raibh mórán Gaodhal i láthair ar an ócáid sin mar ní raibh an Cumann leath chó láidir ag an dtráth san is atá sé anois. Bhí slighe go leór dóibh go léir i ngnáth seomra tige ósta.

**ROINNT BEÓ, ROINNT  
MARBH**

As an mhéid abhí ag an gComhdháil sin ní doigh liom go bhfuil níos mó ná cúigear nó seisear beó inniu—roinnt beó, roinnt marbh sin díreach mar atá. Ní féidir

liom chuimhneamh thar beirt nó triúir atá beó fós. Bhí an seana laoch úd Labhrás Ó Brádaigh ó Laois ann, is beidh sé ann arís ar Domhnach na Cásca adéarfainn. Ní doigh liom gur chaill sé oiread is Comhdháil amháin ó shoin i leith. Is cuimhin liom blian amháin nuair abhí sneachta ana throm ann agus is a mhuinn chapail a thánaigh sé. Sin Labhrás ó Brádaigh duit. Bhí Micheál Mac Eochaidh ó Chonndae Loch Garman ann. Tá saghas tuairme agam go raibh sé ag múineadh i Laois an tráth úd. Sin fear eile nár chaill aon chruinniú ó shoin i leith, agus bíonn rud éigin suimiúil le rádh aige gach aon bhlian. Is féidir liom liosta mór d’ainmneacha a luadh—daoine abhí i láthair ag an gcrúinniú an lá san—daoine atá imthighthe go dtí an saol eile anois, solas na bhflaitheas orra go léir léir, mar bhí aithine mhaith agam orra go léir beagnach, agus is mó greas cainte abhí agam leo ó am go chéile.

Ar na daoine do labhair an lá san, bhí Pádraigh Ó Caoimh. Fear breágh óg abhí ann an uair sin. Bhí sé mar rúnaí ar choiste Chorcaigh. Toghadh é mar árd rúnaí an bhlian chéadna san, chó fhada agus is cuimhin liom anois. Níl aon teóra leis an mhéid saothair a chuir an fear san isteach i gcúis Chumainn Lúth Chleas Gaodhal. Bhí a chroí is a anam sa ghluaiseacht. Aoinne go raibh sean aithine aige air, is mé féin orra san, ní dhéanfaimíd dearmhad go deó air, go mór mhór i dteach an phobail.

Bhí Seán Óg Ó Murchú ó Chor-

caigh ann, fear breá eile. Bhí beirt seana laochra ann ó Chonndae Lughbhaidhe — Tomás De Búrca is Paddí Ó Dubhaigh. D'fhéadfainn liosta mór fada eile a chur leo siúd—solus na bhflaitheas dóibh go léir. Pribhiléid do b'ea é a bheith 'na gcomhlúadar ar an saol seo, agus bheadh sé mar a gcéadna thall. Gur mar sin a bheidh le congnamh Dé.

### BÓTHAR FADA FÓS

Pléfeá mórán ceisteanna ag an gComhdháil ach tá míle ceist eile ná bheidh sé d'uain aca a phlé. Tá an-dhul-chun-cinn déanta ag an gCumann, le dathad blian anuas, ach mar sin féin, tá bóthar fada ann fós sar a bheidh adhm a Chiosóigigh bainte amach. Tá an sprid náisiúnta lag agus ana lag sa tír i láthair na h-uaire.

Tá cultúir an tsaoil mhóir amuigh ag brú isteach orainn ó lá go lá. Cuireann roinnt mhaith dar ndaoine óga níos mó suime i dtorthaí chluiche peile i Sasanna ná mar a chuirid i dtorthaí chluichí annso, na dtír dhúthchais féin.

Rud eile, nílimid sásta, nó ní ceart dúinn a bheith sásta le status iománíochta ar fuaid na tíre i láthair na h-uaire. Ní doigh liom-sa ach go háirithe go raibh sé níos laige riamh. Taobh amuigh de thrí nó cheithre conndaethe, níl seans ar bith ag fhurmhór na gconndaethe eile craobh na hÉireann a bhaint amach.

Ní mar sin a bhíodh dathad bliain ó shoin. Tá's agat go maith roimh ré anois beagnach cé bheidh páirteach ann—ceann no dhá cheann des na conndaethe láidre úd. Fan go bhfeichfir, a bhuachaill, agus bíodh Loch Garman go h-árd sa liosta agat arís.

### ● FROM PAGE 9

clubs, at least, to forget completely the spirit of the exhortation because of the loosing of the stringent rule.

Yet, it is strongly felt that positive goals would not be forgotten; indeed, the goodwill which issues spontaneously from the fact that only an exhortation acts as guide, could give a real impetus to the progress of Irish dancing, and, indeed, to the furtherance of all

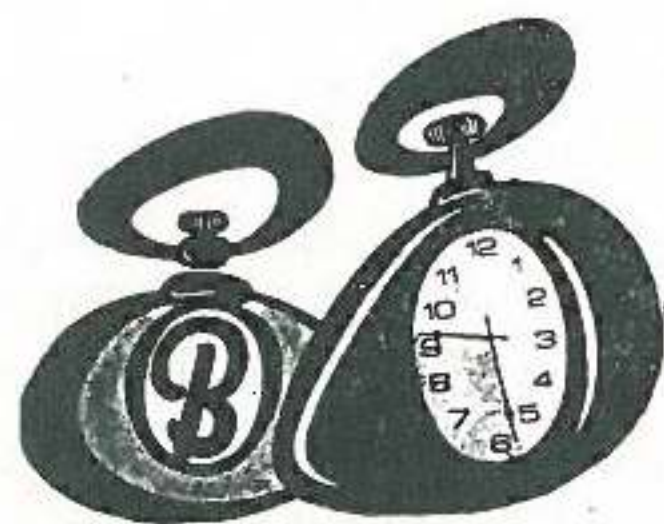
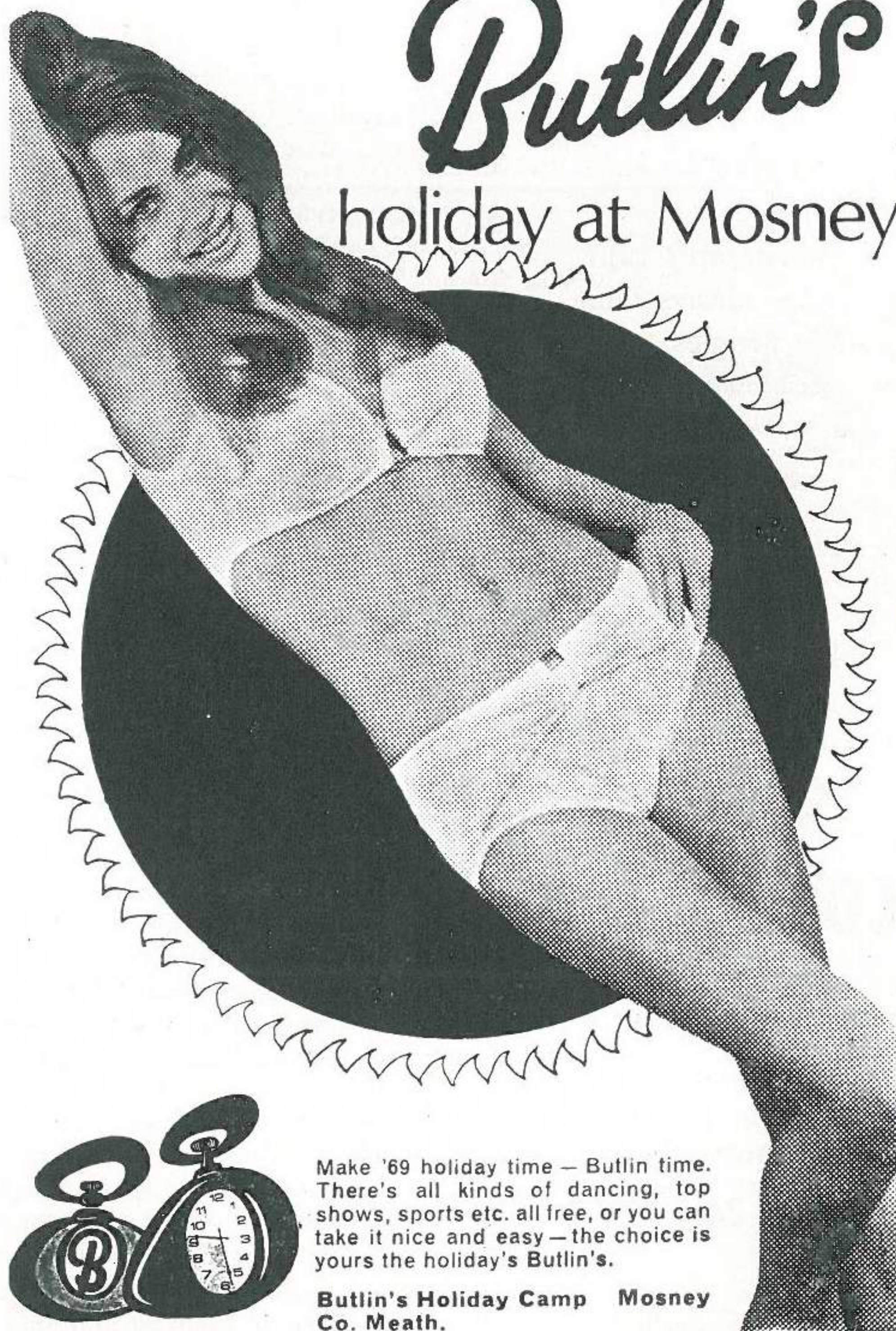
things Irish to which the G.A.A. aspires.

No principles would be lost; nothing of the traditional G.A.A. ideal would be lost; goodwill might be increased; bones of contention, so sharp in their directness, could be buried; and, if the Association has its heart in the right place after all, better and more enthusiastic progress could be made than all the threatening laws could ever achieve.

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# **THE CONDUCT AT TUAM APPALLED ME**

Says **JACK MAHON**



**T**HE week following the Connacht v. Ulster Railway Cup semi-final in Tuam Stadium I received the following letter from Donal McCormack, Warrenpoint, Co. Down:—

“Dear Mr. Mahon, — After listening to, and reading about, the disgraceful booing and stone throwing of the Connacht supporters at the Ulster and Down captain, Joe Lennon, in Tuam on Sunday last (February 16th) I sincerely hope that the same publicity will be given to this affair, by you, as has been given to the ‘bad’ conduct of Down supporters in the past. So, please, remember that there are more supporters than Down’s who cannot behave themselves at a football match.”

Well, Donal, though it does not give me any pleasure to admit it, the Connacht supporters’ behaviour (some at least) towards the Ulster team, to Joe Lennon and to a lesser extent to Paddy Doherty, that day in Tuam was disgusting. Often since I’ve been trying to analyse the reasons why —no, not to condone it. In fact, every decent Connacht supporter I met that day and there are many of these too, were appalled by it all.

After much thought I believe it was a mixture of jealousy of the Down players in particular mixed with a certain resentment towards Joe Lennon. We were used to winning All-Irelands down here in Galway and in the

process of winning three on the trot, we picked up a fair share of fair weather supporters who, to be in the swing of things attached themselves to a winning team.

These people became the best judges of football in Ireland overnight, great critics of referees, supporters who never appreciated the other team’s play. This was all very well until Galway started losing. These supporters couldn’t take this and it was precisely this type of supporter that started the “treatment” meted out to Joe Lennon in Tuam.

It emanated from the stand initially, especially after Joe had involved himself in a fairly heavy frontal charge on Jim Colleary. It wasn’t a terrible charge. Still it was fuel to the fire of those supporters who feel that Joe Lennon should not commit a foul, simply because he has had the guts to write a book about football.

Ireland has always been a funny old spot. The higher you climb the more people will try to “knock” you off your pedestal. I will admit that Joe has not always been the most tactful of people in his Sunday writing, or the most angelic of players. In fact, some of his pronouncements have been tactless at the time of writing, yet have been proven right afterwards.

Remember his pronouncement about Kerry football? Everybody at the time felt it was tact-

less, even cheeky, but how right he has been proven! Sometimes, too, his play can be quite rugged and, to my mind, his idea of tackling an opponent betimes is not within my rules of the game.

Still, what is a tackle? Isn't this one of the major flaws in our game of football? Isn't it this lack of the ability to tackle correctly and legitimately that has bedevilled our game of football and caused most games to be free-riden affairs resolved by monotonous displays of place-kicking. I have stopped clapping the pointing of a free unless it is from a difficult angle or it is a "50". Then it is an effort. I can point 14-yard frees myself without a bit of bother. Where is the skill in this exercise? Goaling a penalty is a feat and a challenge to both goalkeeper and kicker. But what challenge is there in a close free for backs or forwards?

Yes, Donal, I was appalled by the behaviour of the unsporting Connacht supporters in Tuam. Often in the past I've condemned Down supporters for similar displays of ignorance. It is only right that commentators, even players, should condemn this ignorance. I would never condone it. Isn't it time some Down player of the past or present did likewise where the ignorance of his own supporters is concerned.

It is up to us, players, ex-players, commentators, to educate these fair-weather supporters. No doubt, there are many sporting Down supporters, too; indeed the vast majority are the very best. But let us never condone the conduct of the few who besmirch the good name of our county or province.

Very few people who have played the game ever boo or cat-call. It doesn't help in any way. In the long run it's only a game and we should try to enjoy it. Let us always display the nice side of our nature, not the ugly side. Booing is ugly.



● Joe Lennon . . . booed and stoned at Tuam.

## Teachers tog out

By JACK MAHON

**WE** had a most interesting experiment in Tuam on the eve of the Connacht v. Ulster Railway Cup semi-final. A few of us, namely Johnny Biesty (Mayo), Peter Keady (Galway Co.) and myself organised a game of football between Mayo's vocational teachers and their teaching colleagues in Galway. To celebrate this inaugural event in Connacht we organised a dinner and social in the Hermitage Hotel in Tuam that night, to which the captains of the Railway Cup teams, Joe Lennon and Coilin McDonagh (there was a slight mix-up over one invitation list and we had John Keenan along as well, but John was, indeed, very welcome), our referee for the occasion, Seán Purcell, and the C.E.O.s of the respective counties.

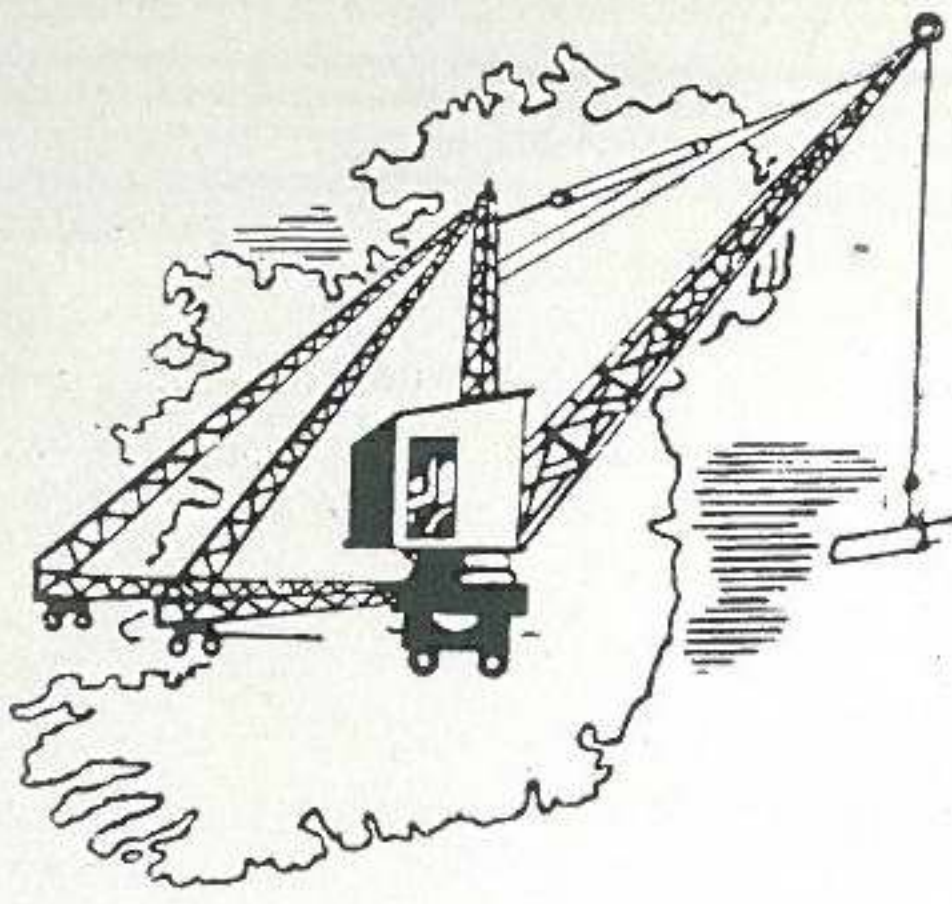
The game was a keen one,

without ever being taken too seriously and Galway won by 2-2 to 0-6. The weather conditions were terrible, to put it mildly. Still both teams were delighted that they braved the elements and all were in excellent form for the dinner held shortly after the game.

Mayo are very keen to have a replay but this is to be an annual event, so we will have to wait until next year for the return game in Castlebar.

All agreed it was a grand idea and we hope every county arranges games like these, with social functions following.

In Leinster, Louth, Meath and other counties have staged such games, while Cork and Kerry played each other last year. It is time teachers organised G.A.A. outings for themselves as well as for their students.



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# CROSSWORD

By PERMUTER

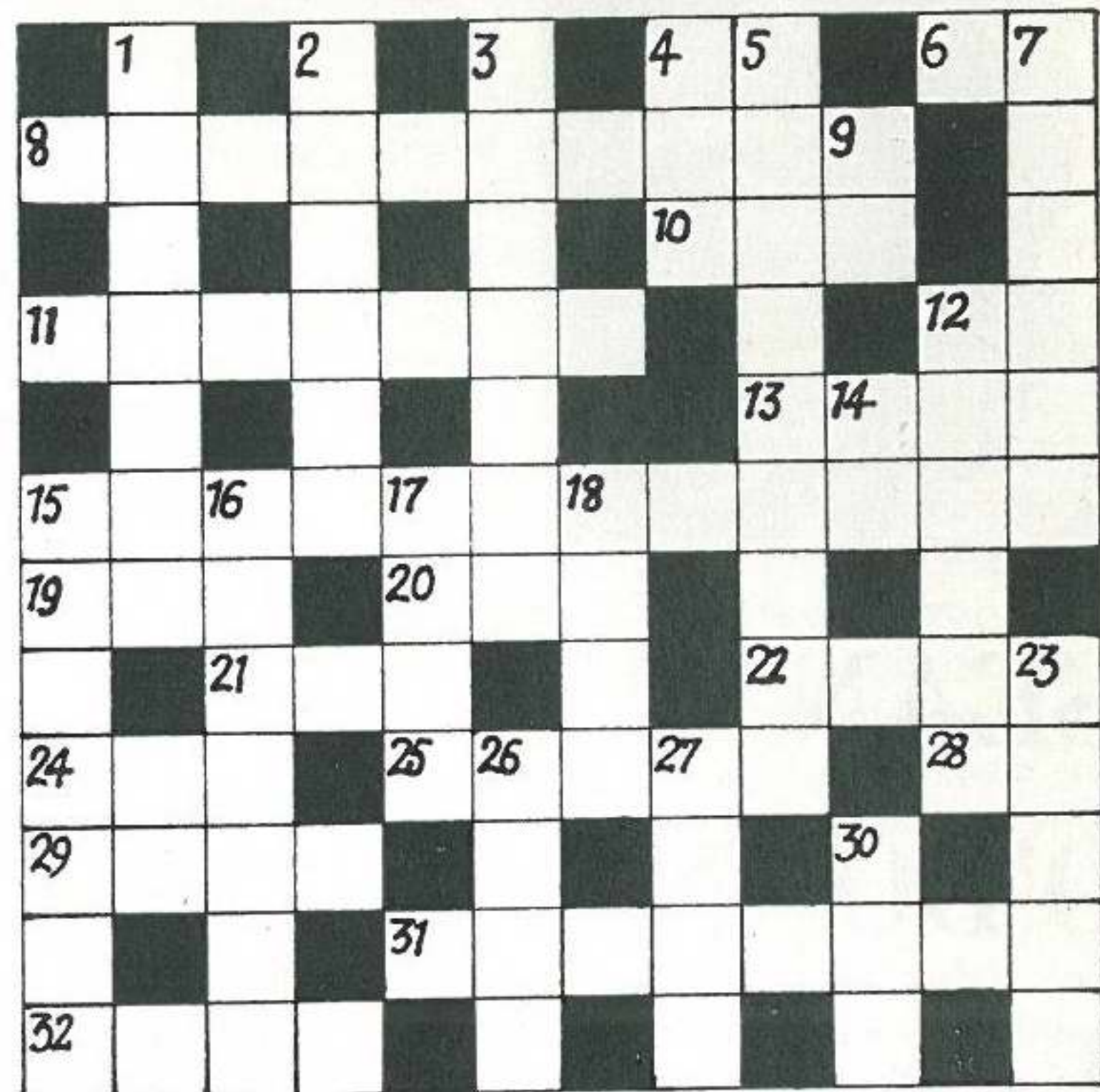
No. 42

## ACROSS

4. Buckley, a noted hurling defender with great Cork teams of the forties. (1, 1)
6. Initials of Wexford's key centre-fieldman in the 1968 championship. (1, 1)
8. College which has recently entered public competition for the first time in the new Universities' and Colleges' League. (3, 7)
10. If full teams do not turn up, the best thing to do is to — the players up, and have a friendly. (3)
11. Son of famous Kildare star has been introduced to football as a member of Clerical team in the new Universities' and Colleges' League. (7)
12. Women's singles, perhaps. (1, 1)
13. Tail is wagged to give French milk. (4)
15. Brilliant Wicklow and Leinster half-back of the '40s and early '50s.
19. Boy is confused. (3)
20. Free choice: you may take whichever you wish. (3)
21. Rae receives an auditory injury. (3)
22. Such light is certainly not adequate for hurling, though it lends a romantic glow. (4)
24. An Irish Bird. (3)
25. Coughlan, the Cork all-rounder. (5)
28. North-East. (2)
29. Nora in disarray makes an Italian River. (4)
31. Has established himself again in the Kerry team although only coming in as second choice in the All-Ireland semi-final. (8)
32. The early part of yesterday. (4)

## DOWN

1. Mayo half-back. (7)
2. Slang term which describes a beautiful black eye. (6)
3. Tipperary defender at corner or full-back. (7)
4. Christian name of 31 Across. (3)
5. Football goalkeeper of Tipperary and Munster over twenty years ago. (1, 8)



7. The sweet flicking action which gives hurling beautiful style, comes from the subtle forearm. (6)
9. Disembowelled sex. (2)
12. Wexford centre-field star who won All-Ireland with London before he won with his home county. (6)
14. Little Albert. (2)
15. Cork wing half-back who has been in and out of the county hurling team in the past year. (1,6)
16. Limerick centre-forward — one of a noted Patrickswell hurling family. (1,6)
17. The measure which is used on playing fields (4)
18. Tom has been outstanding in hurling with two Munster counties. (4)
23. Sean O—— was Down's great star in 1968. (5)
26. Colleran, who was Galway's captain to All-Ireland victory. (4)
27. Taverns, perhaps, where victories are celebrated. (4)
30. The colour of the Down jerseys. (3)

SOLUTION : PAGE 48



**SEAN  
O'DONNELL  
TAKES  
A  
LOOK  
AT  
SOME  
G.A.A.  
MEN  
OFF  
THE  
FIELD**

IT has always been of tremendous interest to me to know what part G.A.A. men play in the industrial life of our country, and until I sat down to make a list of them I never realised that so many of our Gaelic football and hurling stars, current players and ex-players, inter-county men and those not so well known, were indeed very prominent in the commercial life of our country.

There is an old saying among G.A.A. followers wherever they meet, "where are they now", so in order to satisfy at least some of the fans I went about compiling the following list.

First of all let me point out that the names are not given either in order of rank in the companies or status as players.

In the HIRE PURCHASE COMPANY OF IRELAND we find Paddy Farnon (Manager, Carlow Branch), who was one of Dublin's most dangerous forwards around 1958-'59 and I am sure all Derry men will remember the roasting he gave their back line in the All-Ireland football final of that year. He also played for Leinster in 1959 and he won minor football and hurling medals with Dublin in 1954.

Gabriel Kelly (Representative, Longford Branch) is to my mind Cavan's most consistent performer over the years and indeed I would hate to choose between him and that other great Cavan star of former years Noel O'Reilly. Gabriel, just like Noel did, mans the right full back position on both the Cavan and Ulster teams. But strange as it may sound, Gabriel first came to prominence with Mayo in the senior grade in 1957 and '58.

Nealie Duggan (Representative, Cork Branch) was a prominent member of the Cork football side from 1943 to 1957 and will probably be best remembered for his courageous efforts around the full forward line in

1956 and '57 when he was also captain of the side, but '57 was the year that Dermot O'Brien and his stars from the County Louth took the Sam Maguire despite the great work Nealie put in that day.

GUINNESS too can boast of their share of G.A.A. stars. Men like the Keague brothers, Ronnie (Traffic Dept.) who won All-Ireland junior and Leinster senior football medals with Meath in the mid-fifties while Oliver (Engineers) figured prominently on Meath's National League teams of 1956 and '57. Kevin Matthews (Traffic Dept.) one of Dublin's greatest hurling goalkeepers, his career with them stretching from the mid-forties through to the greater part of the 'fifties and he also was Leinster's goalkeeper on many occasions.

GUINNESS GROUP SALES employs Padge Kehoe, one of Wexford's greats in the hurling field and the man whom most Wexford people claim as the man that won them the All-Ireland in 1968 when he was their Team Manager. And to this very day not one of us in GAELIC SPORT knows what Padge said to his players in the dressingroom at half-time when all seemed lost against the mighty Tipperary men.

Jackie Lyne is also in the Sales



● NOEL TIERNEY





● JIMMY GRAY

Dept. and I don't have to remind you that he was one of the greatest among the Kerry football teams in the mid-forties and fifties. Then you have John Lyons, Cork's stonewall full back on their hurling teams of 1952-'53 and '54. P. J. Garvan, Kilkenny hurling star of the late 'forties; John O'Donnell (no relation by the way) played senior hurling for his native Limerick and for Dublin and was also the holder of the Irish 220 yards record from 1949 to 1967 and sure with a name like that how could he miss. Colm Smith of Cavan is the Sligo Field Manager for the Company.

THE IRISH SUGAR COMPANY have in their employment Liam Devaney who is a salesman in Thurles and one of the hardest triers Tipperary ever put on the hurling field. Noel Tierney is attached to the Tuam factory in his native Galway and is without doubt one of the surest men ever to don the number 3 jersey. And still in the Irish Sugar Co. we find Michael Foy, Information Officer, a very keen G.A.A. follower, and a perfect gentleman in every sense of the word.

ERIN FOODS have Jimmy Gray as Traffic Manager and Jimmy is, of course, a former Dublin hurling goalkeeper and is

at present the chairman of the Dublin County Board.

IRISH SHELL employ Paddy Prendergast as representative in Tralee and all G.A.A. fans should recognise that name and the one to follow it—Christy Ring who is a representative in East Cork and Galway also have a hurler by name M. F. Coughlin, who is a routine Analyst and to make sure of getting to the game on time these three gentlemen have put you-know-what in their petrol tanks.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE have M. Fletcher in their Accounts Division and he played for Dublin from 1944. He won an All-Ireland medal with them in '48 and Leinster medals in 1941 and '42. He played at right corner forward in the junior hurling side of '37. Quite a versatile performer. F. Dowling played in the 1935 All-Ireland football final as a half back and was full back from 1935 to '45 with such Kildare greats as Matt Gough, Jack Higgins, Paddy Martin, Peter Waters and Tom Keogh.

PLAYERS/WILLS too have their share of G.A.A. men to boast of, men like Michael Kelly from Nenagh in Tipperary, an electrician with the company and a former star hurler with Young

Irelands in Dublin around the 1935-'36 period; Martin Kennedy at present on the Tipperary selection committee and who also played with Michael Kelly, is a very active participant as an official in G.A.A. matters at the moment. Peter Crisham works in the wages office and is on the panel of the Galway senior football team at present. He travels to and from Dublin to play for his home club Tuam Stars and has played for Galway in both junior and senior grades. Michael Hayes is a representative with the company and played hurling for St. Vincents (Glasnevin) and was on the Dublin minor team in 1938, junior in '58 and '59 and starred on the senior side in 1963.

HENRY FORD & SONS of Cork must be very proud indeed of their G.A.A. men. Take Peter Doolan that wonderful right full back who works in their Paint Department. Peter played the game of his life in the All-Ireland hurling final in 1966 and has the unusual distinction of having played for New York before he donned his native Cork jersey. Mick Cashman, also in the Paint Department was Cork's hurling goalkeeper for a number of years. Johnny Carroll, Cork

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

●  
CHRISTY  
RING—  
Now we know  
what  
happened  
to his  
opponents,  
they were  
Shell-shocked.  
●



# Camogie

● FROM PAGE 29

would make the Central Council a far more representative body than it is at the moment when it in all actuality really represents an Executive Committee.

But on the other hand, I am a bit worried about making Central Council too unwieldy. So perhaps it might be better again if each province be represented by four delegates, two of them to be the chairman and secretary of the Provincial Council. That would give sixteen members, to whom would be added the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Organiser of Central Council together with the two Trustees. In addition, I would add on a representative of the Central Colleges Council if and when such a body is formed.

● FROM PAGE 47

senior footballer, works in the Electrical Dept. John Redmond played senior hurling for Wexford and Cork and is attached to the assembly stores and then we have Paddy Healy from the same department who I understand played hurling with none other than the Taoiseach—Jack Lynch. There are many more G.A.A. men in this company but it would take all of GAELIC SPORT to include them and unfortunately space does not permit.

I could not finish an article like this without some reference to Dinny Gallivan, who is Managing Director of DUBLIN ERECTION COMPANY and is, without any shadow of doubt, a champion spectator in his own right, for Dinny never misses a G.A.A. game rain, hail or snow and more power to him. I hope the G.A.A. authorities don't forget him when they are giving out the All-Ireland tickets for the finals next September.



Peter Doolan



Liam Devaney



Johnny Carroll



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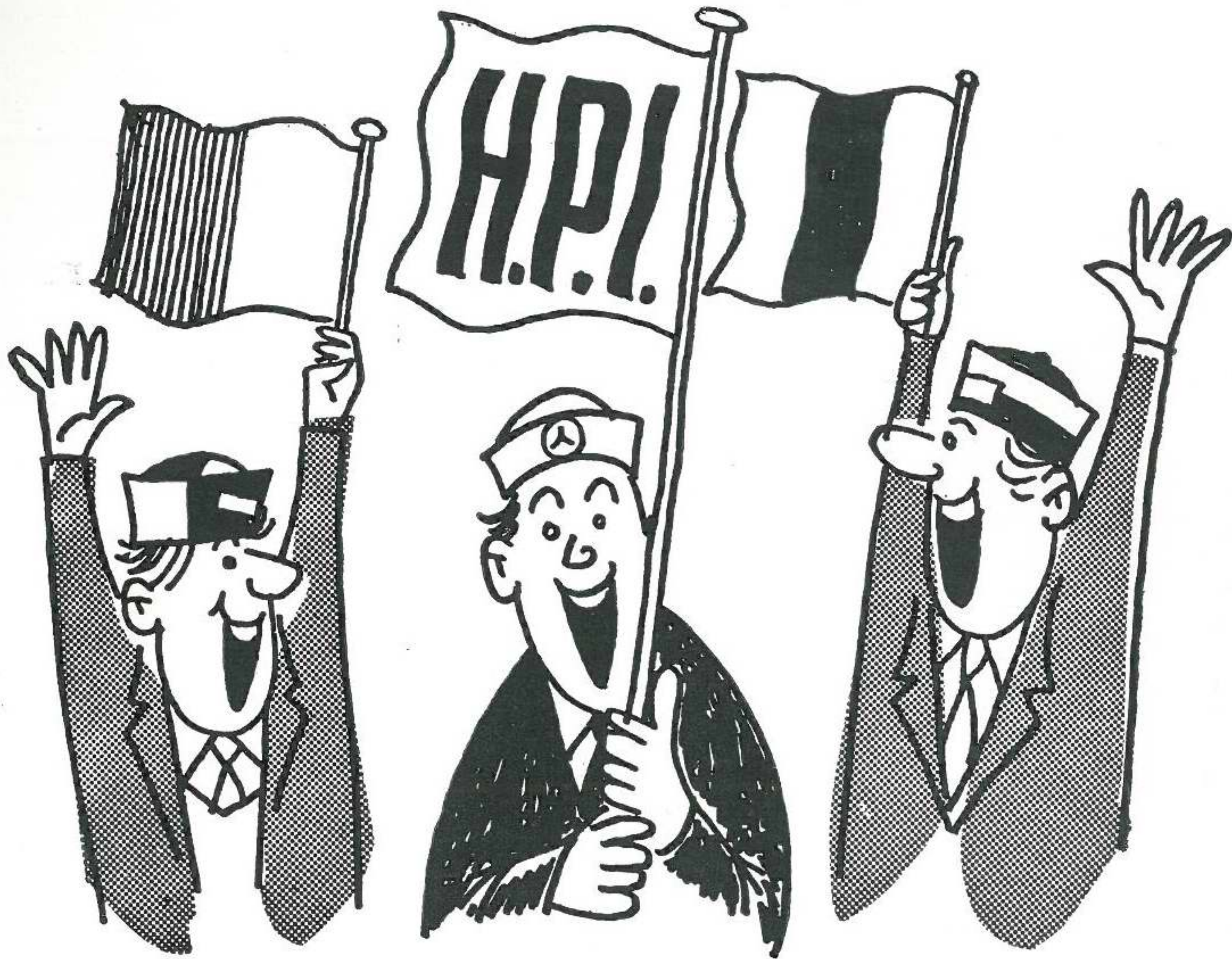
## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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1F	2S	3G	4D	5J	6P	7W
8A	L	L	H	A	L	L
	A	I	E	19M	I	X
11S	T	A	N	L	E	12W
	L	E	S	13P	14A	I
15G	E	16R	R	17Y	O	18R
19O	Y	B	20A	N	Y	A
L	21E	A	R	A	22M	O
24E	A	N	25D	26E	N	27S
29A	R	N	O	N	N	30R
R	I	31D	O	N	N	E
32Y	E	S	T	A	S	D

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