

84

# Gaelic Sport

TWO SHILLINGS

JANUARY, 1969

*in this  
issue*

MEET  
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FARRELL  
U.C.G.  
FOOTBALL  
CLUB  
OFFICIAL

... INTERVIEWED  
BY  
JACK MAHON

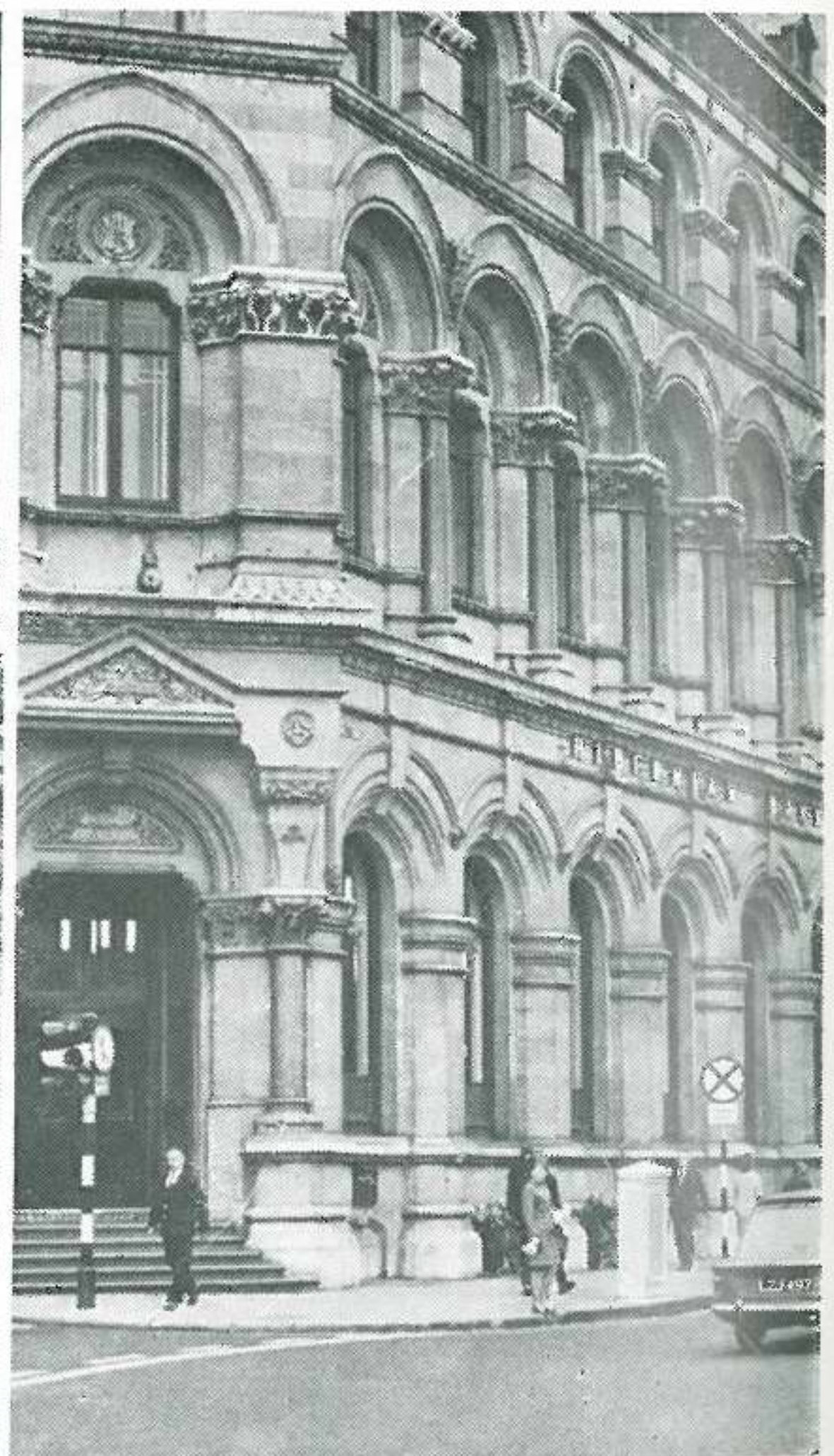
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**Top  
Ten  
Stars  
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1968**



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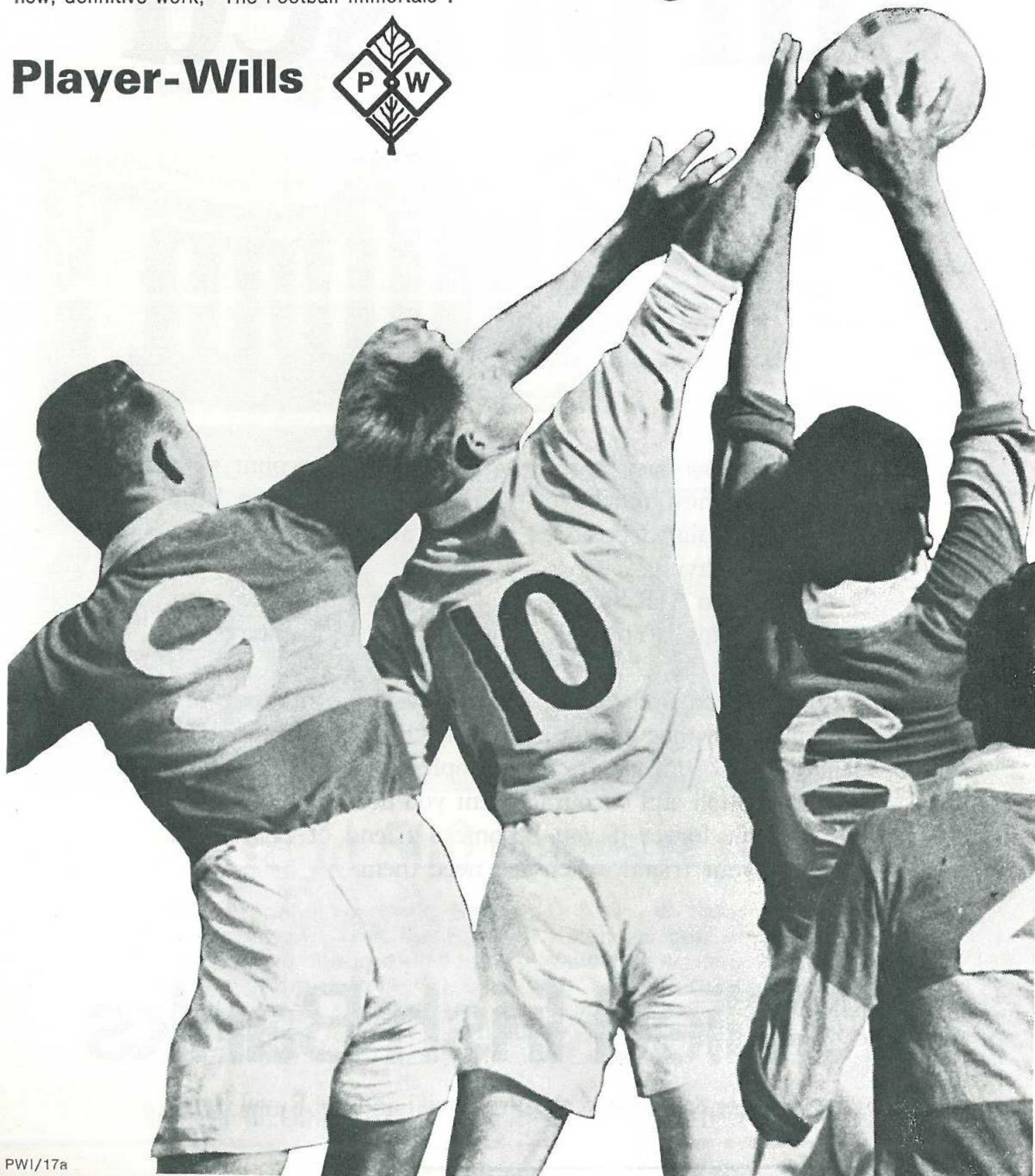
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# Gaelic Sport

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## Play on—for fun

WE are living in an era of professional sport. An era of big money-bags and highly-paid performers. Soccer is no longer a sport in the old meaning of that word, but an intensively organised, deeply-specialised form of public entertainment.

The money-bags govern golf. The professional circuit in that sport increases every year and the top amateur, unless he is well heeled in business, inevitably turns his eyes, and his ears, to the crackle of the sponsor's cheque-book.

There is no longer such a thing as amateur tennis at international level; even in athletics, the ancient barriers are being breached.

In this frightening money-market called big-time sport, is there any place left for the amateur game and the amateur sportsman? Where does the G.A.A. stand in the whirligig of paid public entertainers?

The questions are being asked (quietly now, but they will become louder and more insistent): Is professional Gaelic games a feasible proposition? Would the games improve as public entertainment and would they, therefore, win back the departing crowds, if the players were paid for their services?

It is an alarming thought. The Association has always prided itself on its amateur status—"the

greatest amateur sports organisation in the world" was a favourite phrase. Is it possible, in thirty or fifty years' time, that that boast will no longer be true?

The G.A.A. must never allow this to happen. But the day will surely come when it will have to fight tooth and nail to preserve the ideal of amateurism.

What is forgotten too often these days is that a hurler or footballer, whether he is a mere club scrubber or an All-Ireland star, is primarily playing the game for his own enjoyment. The fact that the Association builds enclosed grounds and takes money from the public at the turnstiles is not, essentially, the concern of the man who kicks or pucks a ball around the field inside. No doubt he is affected by it in a number of ways, but he can, if he wants to, remain aloof, and ignore the role of public performer into which the circumstances tend to cast him. He can still be his own boss, playing the game just for the fun of it.

Professional sport, especially professional team sport, is often a sordid, even a corrupt business. The public is shown the attractive wrapping and can only guess at the ugliness which is frequently hidden within.

The G.A.A. must jealously guard its heritage, of which amateurism is a basic principle.

## SPONSORSHIP

THE article above deals with professionalism in sport. This should not be confused with the sponsorship of amateur sports events by business firms. Perhaps the borderline is finely drawn, but the two fields are categorically separated.

A correspondent in this issue writes about commercial sponsorship and the G.A.A. And he says: "I find it hard to imagine how sponsorship could affect the amateur status of the G.A.A. as long as there was no question of actual payments to players for playing".

It is probable that the Association would benefit from large-scale sponsorship of certain events, such as the Australian tours, which, at the moment seem to have receded into the pipe-dream realm because of the magnitude of cost. As our correspondent declares, it is a loaded and complicated question. But it deserves close and objective study.

# TOP TEN

## Gaelic Sports-Stars of 1968

### O'NEILL AND ROCHE TAKE TOP PLACES

**S**EAN O'NEILL of Down, with 59 points, and Mick Roche of Tipperary, with 27 points, have emerged as *Gaelic Sport's* footballer and hurler of 1968.

O'Neill had a massive victory over all rivals. In fact his record points total is almost double that of his fellow-Down player, Tom O'Hare, who came second with 34 points. Yet, O'Hare's score is exceptionally high and would have placed him at the head of *Gaelic Sport's* annual football rankings in 1963, '64, '65, '66 and '67. Only Jack Quinn's 39 last year (the highest total until Sean O'Neill's) tops O'Hare's score.

It is worth noting that the Down full forward led our monthly rankings on three occasions during the year. He filled second place twice and took third, fourth and fifth position in the rankings at other times. All of which means that the great O'Neill figured among the Top Ten footballers in Ireland in seven out of the twelve months of 1968. That is a remarkable example of consistency at the very top level of performance.

Mick Roche had a close call from Wexford's 1968 All-Ireland captain, Dan Quigley, who took second place with 26 points, only one point behind the winner. It will be recalled that

the Tipperary player was man of the match in the All-Ireland final, when he gave a magnificent display at centre half back. That earned him top ranking in *Gaelic Sport's* list in the following month and, as events turned out, assured him of the final accolade when the points over the year were totalled.

But, like his football counterpart, Roche was consistent, too. He headed the monthly rankings on one other occasion, and took second and third places in our monthly call-over in between.

For the benefit of new readers, the system of rankings should be explained at this point. In each issue over the year, the top ten players in hurling and football are listed from one to 10. The ratings are based on inter-county performances in matches played in Ireland over the previous month. Ten points are awarded to the player in the number one position, nine to the second and so on down to one point to the player in tenth position. The Stars of the Year then emerge by the simple and, we believe, very fair method of totting up the points that each player scored over the previous twelve months.

A measure of Down's prominence on inter-county fields over the past year is that they fill the first four places on the football

list, Colm McAlarney and Paddy Doherty coming third and fourth behind O'Neill and O'Hare with 26 and 25 points respectively. Another member of the All-Ireland champions, Joe Lennon, fills sixth place with 16 points, but this mark is shared by Mickey Kearins of Sligo and Sean Cleary of Galway.

That is a marvellous record for Down. Six other members of the champion team figured in the rankings over the year, but they were not in the running for places among the annual Top Ten. They are Mickey Cole, John Purdy, Danny Kelly, John Murphy, Jim Milligan and Peter Rooney.

The following is the full football list. (Note that, while the number of places on the list is confined to ten, a few positions are shared by two or three players, who tied on the same points mark.)

Pts.	Name	Team
1—(59)	S. O'Neill .....	(Down)
2—(34)	T. O'Hare .....	(Down)
3—(26)	C. McAlarney	(Down)
4—(25)	P. Doherty ...	(Down)
5—(17)	J. Culloty ...	(Kerry)
6—(16)	J. Lennon .....	(Down)
	" M. Kearins ...	(Sligo)
	" S. Cleary ...	(Galway)
7—(15)	M. O'Connell	(Kerry)
	" W. Morgan ...	(Cork)
	" M. Kerrigan	(Meath)



Mick Roche

- 8—(14) **M. Hopkins** (Longford)
- 9—(12) **P. Griffin** ..... (Kerry)
- " **P. Mangan** (Kildare)
- " **P. Reynolds** ... (Meath)
- 10—(11) **R. Carolan** ... (Cavan)
- " **J. Duggan** ... (Galway)
- " **J. Hanniffy** (Longford)

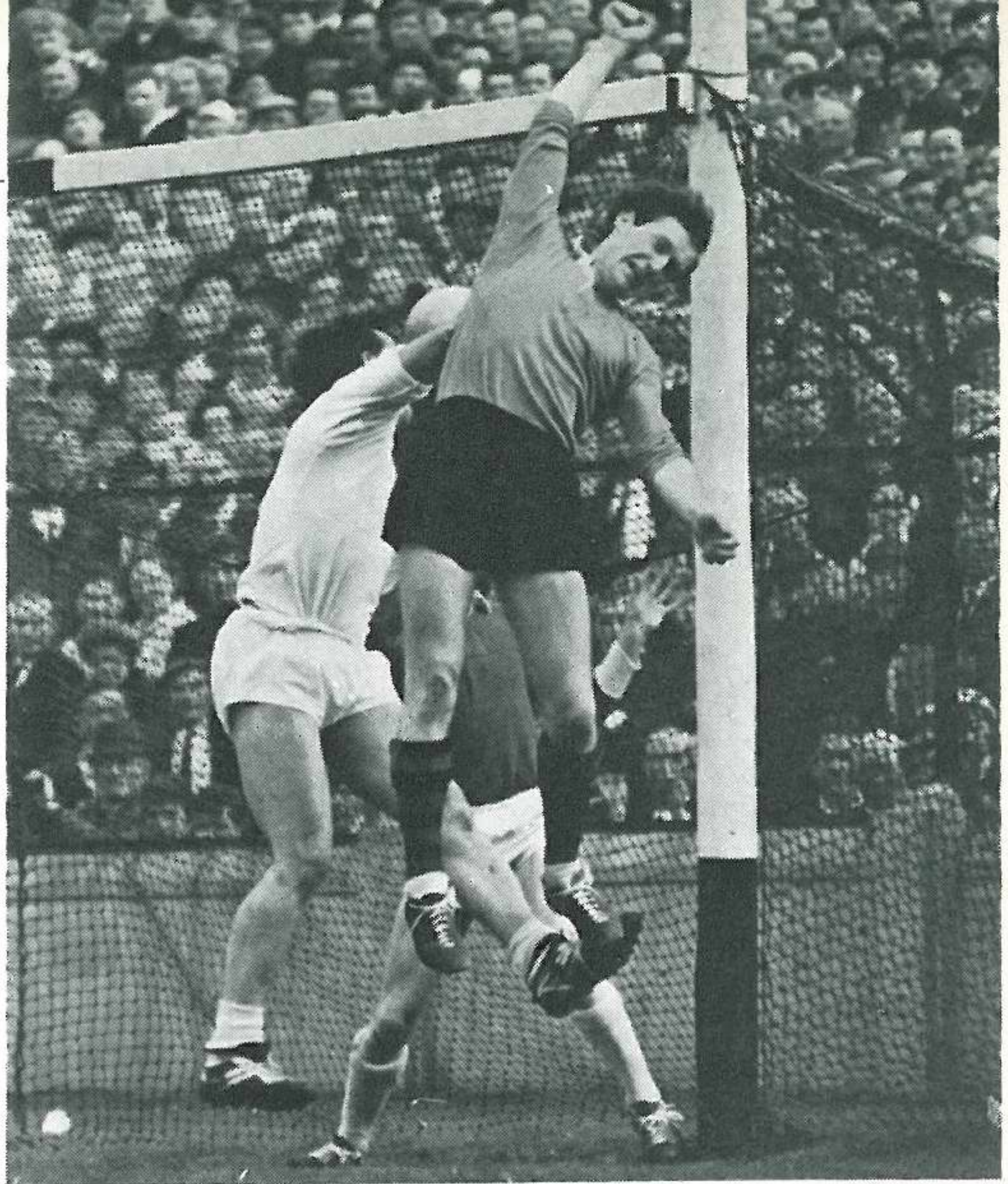
The only other footballers who reached double figures are Joe Corcoran (Mayo) and Martin Furlong (Offaly). Both scored ten points.

In hurling, Mick Roche's lead over Dan Quigley is so small (the minimum, in fact), that Wexford supporters may well feel inclined to call for a recount! But figures are incontrovertible—and the system is fool-proof. The Tipperary man well deserves the honour.

Wexford have compensation, however, for a run down the list shows that the All-Ireland champions have won seven places—and most of them very near the top.

Following is the full hurling list:

Pts.	Name	Team
1—(27)	<b>M. Roche</b>	(Tipperary)
2—(26)	<b>D. Quigley</b>	(Wexford)
3—(23)	<b>P. Nolan</b> ...	(Wexford)
	" <b>J. Quigley</b>	(Wexford)
4—(22)	<b>P. Lynch</b> ...	(Wexford)
5—(21)	<b>P. O'Brien</b> ...	(Clare)
6—(20)	<b>A. Doran</b>	(Wexford)
	" <b>J. Berry</b> ...	(Wexford)



Sean O'Neill in action.

- 7—(18) **J. Cullinan** ... (Clare)
- 8—(17) **P. Wilson** (Wexford)
- " **J. O'Donoghue** (Tipp.)
- 9—(15) **P. J. Ryan** (Tipperary)
- 10—(14) **P. Moran** (Kilkenny)

Other hurlers who scored double figures were: J. Treacy (Kilkenny), 13; W. Murphy (Wexford), J. McCarthy (Cork), J. Connolly (Galway), O. Walsh (Kilkenny), C. McCarthy (Cork), 12; S. Barry (Cork), 11; M. Foley (Waterford), D. Foley (Dublin), 10.

The following were the rankings of players in matches played from November 24th to December 15, inclusive:

**HURLING**

- 1—**P. Wilson** ..... (Wexford)
- 2—**M. Jacob** ..... (Wexford)
- 3—**P. Lynch** ..... (Wexford)
- 4—**J. Berry** ..... (Wexford)
- 5—**A. Doran** ..... (Wexford)
- 6—**P. Barry** ..... (Cork)

- 7—**P. Moran** ..... (Kilkenny)
- 8—**D. Quigley** ..... (Wexford)
- 9—**J. Connolly** ..... (Galway)
- 10—**P. Dillon** ..... (Kilkenny)

**FOOTBALL**

- 1—**M. Furlong** ..... (Offaly)
- 2—**J. Culloty** ..... (Kerry)
- 3—**W. Morgan** ..... (Cork)
- 4—**J. Judge** ..... (Louth)
- 5—**M. Whelan** ..... (Dublin)
- 6—**J. Conway** ..... (Laois)
- 7—**M. Kerrigan** ..... (Meath)
- 8—**L. Leech** ..... (Louth)
- 9—**M. Carley** ..... (Westmeath)
- 10—**J. Donnelly** ..... (Kildare)

**NEW FEATURE**

Readers will find a new and novel feature in page 49 of this issue. It is a quiz with a difference; it will test your knowledge of Gaelic games—under pressure! And it is designed for young and old.



“...for the pleasure that’s in it”  
**GUINNESS** naturally

GD566B



# SEAN O'NEILL

## Footballer of 1968

### By Jay Drennan

AMONG footballers, nobody caught the imagination like Sean O'Neill, in the past year. There can have been no other player, since awards were introduced for outstanding individuals, who has so dominated and led the way from beginning to end of the season. A count at any stage of 1968 must have shown O'Neill firmly fixed in the lead, and the further the year went on the more he increased his lead.

Many men have had great years, and many have achieved prodigies, but seldom has a man set such a complex of problems that no one has looked like solving them even on one occasion. The list of vitally-timed and brilliantly produced scores which he got throughout the year helped merely to emphasise that

here was a man with the power to swing any game his team's way.

Concentration, alertness, skill of the highest order, and the desire to carry Down to success against any odds seem the essential elements that coalesce to make this ice-cold man such a unique forward. Concentration to him means the placing of one's whole mind inflexibly on the surge and current of the game: even unlikely skirmishings at the other end of the field engage his complete attention. So, when his team does gain possession he is always a move ahead, knows whether his best bet is to fall back and make an extra link in the build-up process, or to manoeuvre for a close in finishing position from which to launch those split-second interventions.

Off the ball, Sean O'Neill is the best forward player in the game; on the ball, his speed and economy of thought, his infinite variety of incisive attacking moves, and his cold precision of finish, puts him in a class apart from all attackers of 1968.

Apart from all the thrills which O'Neill has given to Down supporters and to neutrals, he has brought a whole new dimension to full-forward play. We have been used to players of something less than the very highest class on the edge of the square. You can have the heavyweight or the staunch-type who is a deadly man when he gets possession facing goal and must be fouled to be stopped. He will, perhaps, be a drilled distributor, also, to make up for his lack of mobility. And you can have the roving kind, who knows his limitations at the heavy-going near the posts, and prefers to come out and set up chances from further out.

But, Sean O'Neill has shown that full-forward is the ideal position for a truly highly-skilled

all-rounder. If he is good enough then No. 14 is the position from which he can have the greatest influence on things. But, O'Neill has also shown that such a player must be a singularly good one, and, most of all, a singularly thoughtful one.

For a slight man with no weight advantage, Seán O'Neill is tremendously dangerous around the square. He uses the fist and the deflection with extraordinary cunning — with an apparent sixth sense knowledge of the position of the posts and defenders behind him. His speed from a standing position takes him on the scene so suddenly that chinks appear in surprised defences. And his ice-cold appreciation of the rebound or the mishandling error gives him plenty of scores because he reacts like lightning, and before the backs can recover. Nobody who saw the speed which enabled him to turn a rebound past Culloty for the vital early All-Ireland goal when any of the obvious ploys might have meant the chance was gone, will underestimate the lethal qualities of speed and decisiveness.

Outside, O'Neill was long well-known as a splendid winger. He retains all the characteristics of the good outfield player; moves well with the ball, goes in decisively for possession, distributes it sagaciously. But, you do not see O'Neill falling back willy-nilly every time; that kind of full-forward play only hampers the other forwards when they are in their correct positions. It is when the half-line has lost its position falling back under pressure that O'Neill races to intervene near midfield, turning what would have been a comfortable clearance into a quick-switching deadly attack with the backs spread out over uncomfortably large spaces.



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MICKEY KEARINS

# *Kearins scales new peak*

**A** TRULY wonderful record-making year for Mickey Kearins! Such was the 24-year-old Sligo interprovincial footballer's dynamic sharpshooting during 1968 that, scorewise, he well and truly scaled dramatic new heights for a footballer.

In 24 engagements during the past year Kearins scored a majestic total of 2-135 (141 pts.)—a brilliant new peak for football. This betters by a quite impressive five points the previous high point in the code of 13-97 (136 pts.) scored in exactly the same number of games by Paddy Doherty (Down) when he led the way in both football and hurling in 1960.

In addition, this score also earns for Kearins, ranking as the first Connacht man to take the No. 1 spot in All-Ireland in both games since Sean Purcell filled a similar role with the Galway

county record of 11-74 (107 pts.) in 22 games back in 1958.

The Sligo ace is also the first from his province to top the All-Ireland football table over two separate years since I introduced these tables in 1955. He was the game's most prolific scorer in 1966 when he hit 3-90 (99 pts.) in 17 games, but he ran a moderate second to Eddie Keher (Kilkenny), who recorded 10-85 (115 pts.), also in 17 outings.

Ironically, a year earlier Kearins found the target as no Connacht man had done until his own achievements in 1968. He scored 4-104 (116 pts.) in 17 matches, but he was still passed out by both Charlie Gallagher (Cavan) and Keher.

Gallagher scored 7-102 (123 pts.) in 19 games, and the Kilkenny hurler had a personal best of 16-79 (127 pts.) from 20 hours.

That 1968 score points-wise by

Kearins, as distinct from goals and points combined, also earns him another record! The previous best was 107 points by Gallagher in 1964. He also scored six goals in 20 games that year to top both charts with the Cavan record of 125 points in all.

After all these notable scoring distinctions, I feel Kearins' record for 1968 is worthy of a complete run-down. He scored:

2-6 v. Mayo in a challenge at Sligo on February 18;

0-11 v. Civil Service (Dublin), Croke Park, April 6; v. Leitrim, League, Sligo, October 6;

0-10 v. Fermanagh, League, Irvinestown, October 20;

0-8 v. Longford, tournament, Longford, May 19; v. Leitrim, championship, Sligo, June 2; v. Kerry, challenge, Tralee, June 9; 0-7 v. Derry, League, Irvines-League, Croke Park, April 21; v. Kildare, League replay, May 5;

0-6 v. Donegal, League, Irvinestown, March 10; v. Kildare, League, Carrick-on-Shannon, March 31;

0-5 v. Mayo, championship, Castlebar, June 23; v. Kildare, tournament, Sligo, June 30; v. Antrim, August 25; v. Armagh, September 8; v. Antrim, September 29, all in Belfast tournament.

0-4 v. Dublin, Belfast tournament, August 11; v. Mayo, Gael-Linn Cup, Sligo, September 15; v. Donegal, League, Ballyshannon, November 10;

0-3 Connacht trial, Charlestown, February 11.

The Sligo sharpshooter failed to score in three of his outings—a February 4 challenge with Mayo at Charlestown, against Ulster at Cavan on March 3, and a March 17 challenge with Galway at Sligo.

His match average works out at an impressive 5.87 points. This is still only good enough, how-

● TO PAGE 10

● FROM PAGE 9

ever, to share top place in the land with Mayo's Joe Corcoran. The record match average in football is 7.18 points achieved by Paddy Doherty in each of his 11 games on the way to second place in football in 1958 with 11-36 (79 pts.).

The top scoring achievement in one match in football in 1968 was put up by Jack Berry (Wexford), who shot the best score in the code since 1960 at 3-9 in an O'Byrne Cup tie with Kilkenny at Gorey on April 21.

Penalty kicks were numerous enough during 1968. In all, 26 were awarded, and 15 resulted in goals. Two more were pointed. Of the remaining nine, four were saved by goalkeepers and five kicked wide.

In hurling, Eddie Keher becomes the first to top the chart outright in three separate seasons. He led the way in 1965 and 1966, and shared the No. 1 ranking with Tipperary's Jimmy Doyle in 1963. Doyle was outright leader in 1960 and 1964 and joint first with Christy Ring in 1962.

The Kilkenny hurler also now goes into the record book as the first player in either game to better a century of points four years in succession, and also the first man to reach three figures over five separate seasons.

He scored 103 points (9-76) in 17 games in 1963; had that personal best in 1965, and headed both charts again in 1966 with 10-85 (115 points) in 17 games.

In 1967, although an injury that forced him to retire during the All-Ireland final sidelined Keher also for the rest of the year, he was still only pipped for first place by a mere point by Pat Cronin (Clare). The Kilkenny man chalked up 13-64 (103 pts.) in 14 games.

In his 1968 campaign, Keher averaged 5.72 points per game, but Jimmy Doyle still gained a

# Ransomes

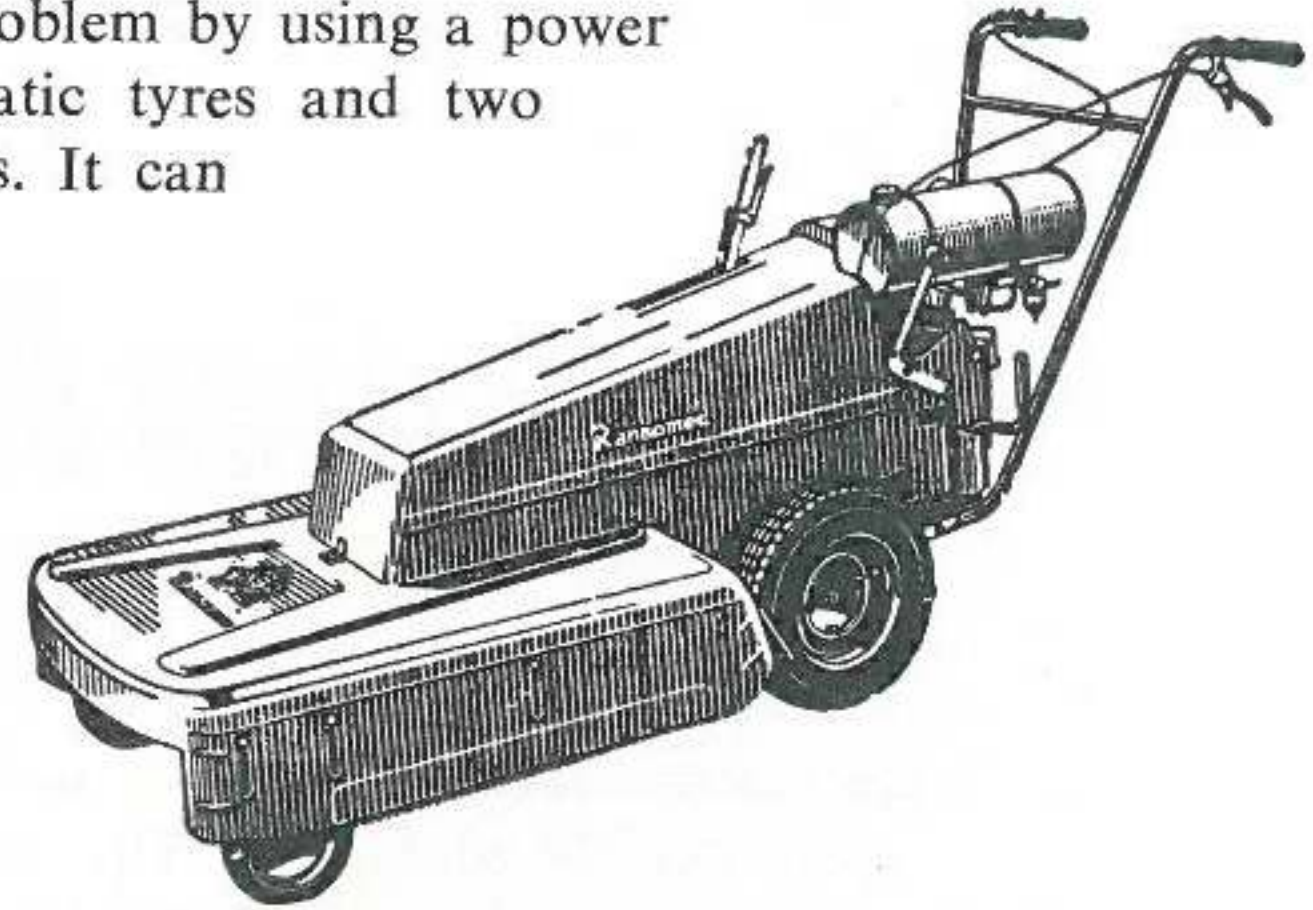
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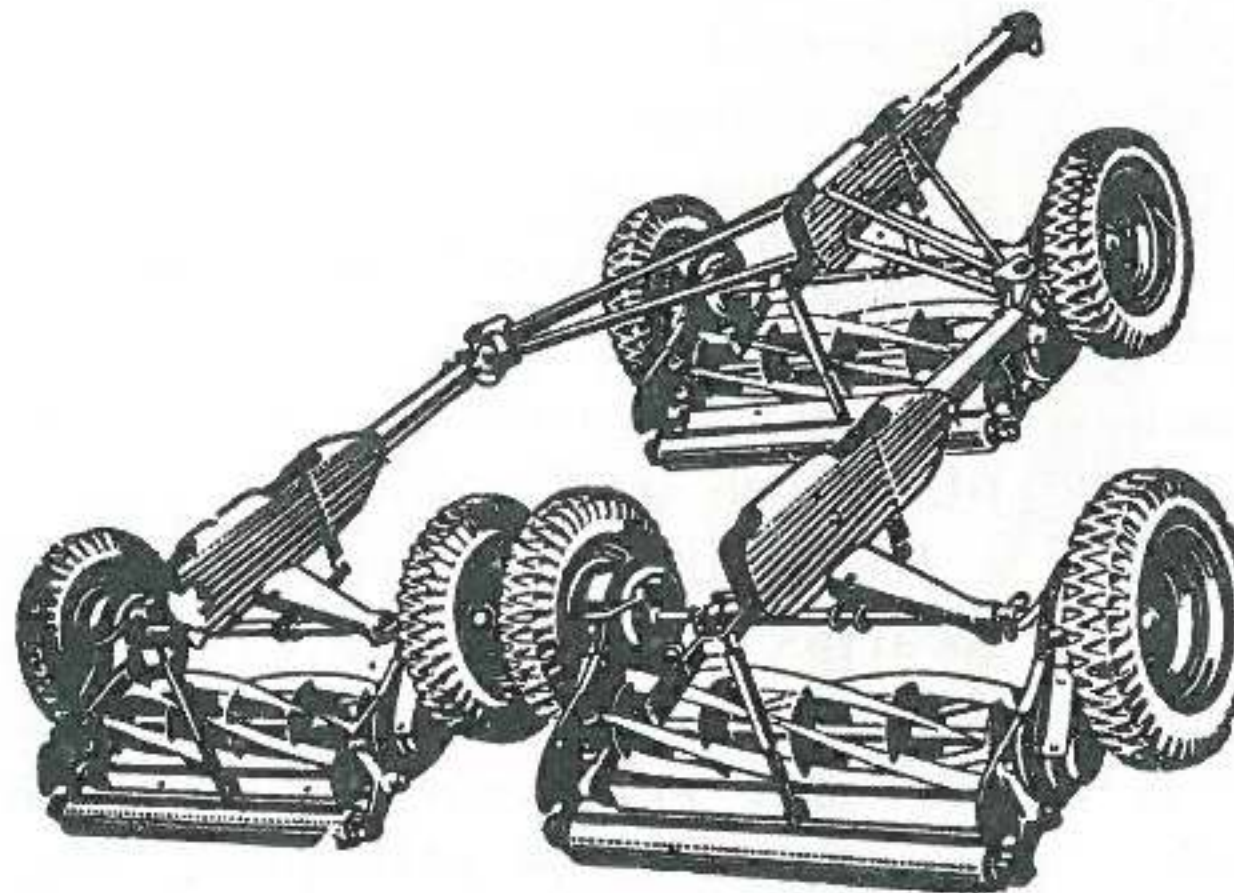
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clear lead here over all in hurling and football with 7.11 points per hour. The peak is 10.10 by Christy Ring for 22-35 (101 pts.) from 10 matches in 1959.

If football produced a new record, the Everest-like high in hurling of 35-50 (155 pts.) in 19 games in 1956 by Wexford's Nick Rackard, was not even "shaken" last year. Incidentally, the goals total that year is tops for both games.

The goals record in football is 13, and is held jointly by Paddy

Doherty, with that 1960 score and Johnny Joyce (Dublin), who shot 13-16 (55 pts.) in fourteen matches in 1962.

Sean O'Neill (Down) looked poised for a new goals record after the All-Ireland final win in September. He had five engagements after that Blue Riband win, but failed to bag a single goal to add to green flag No. 12 that he raised in the win over Kerry. However, O'Neill did reach a new personal best during 1968 with 101 points.

The points scoring record in hurling is 87. Jimmy Doyle reached that tally, and also scored 10 goals in his 17 engagements in 1964.

To wind up, Tommy Walsh blazed an impressive trail when he got 3-5 for Waterford in their National League win over Kilkenny at Waterford on October 13. Another Kilkenny-Waterford match in 1968, a July tournament at Waterford, produced another fine individual feat — 3-4 by Claus Dunne.

# THE CHARTS

## FOOTBALL

### CONNACHT

Pts.	Score	Games	Avg.
141 M. Kearins (Sligo) .....	2-135*	24	5.87
94 J. Corcoran (Mayo) .....	9-67	16	5.87
74 J. Keenan (Galway) .....	5-59	18	4.11
62 C. Dunne (Galway) .....	3-53	19	3.26
35 J. Henry (Sligo) .....	7-14	13	2.69

\* New Provincial and All-Ireland record.

### ULSTER

Pts.	Score	Games	Avg.
101 S. O'Neill (Down) .....	12-65	23	4.39
84 P. Doherty (Down) .....	6-66	19	4.42
75 C. Gallagher (Cavan) ...	4-63	16	4.68
43 S. Woods (Monaghan) ...	2-37	12	3.58
41 J. Murphy (Down) .....	5-26	21	1.95

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

### LEINSTER

Pts.	Score	Games	Avg.
75 A. Brennan (Meath) .....	6-57*	19	3.94
72 J. Donnelly (Kildare) ...	3-63	16	4.5
58 J. Hanniffy (Longford) ...	4-46	23	2.52
57 A. McTeague (Offaly) ...	2-51	11	5.18
55 P. Delaney (Dublin) .....	1-52	17	3.23

\* Includes scores during Australian tour.

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

### MUNSTER

Pts.	Score	Games	Avg.
58 M. O'Dwyer (Kerry) .....	4-46	12	4.83
30 M. O'Connell (Kerry) ...	1-27	11	2.72
29 C. O'Sullivan (Cork) .....	2-23	9	3.22
P. Griffin (Kerry) .....	1-26	10	2.90
27 M. Tynan (Limerick) ...	0-27	8	3.37
B. Lynch (Kerry) .....	2-21	9	3.00

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

## HURLING

### LEINSTER

Pts.	Score	Games	Avg.
103 E. Keher (Kilkenny) .....	9-76	18	5.72
66 A. Doran (Wexford) .....	17-15	17	3.88
65 J. Berry (Wexford) .....	18-11	18	3.61
61 P. Lynch (Wexford) .....	5-46	15	4.06
47 C. Dunne (Kilkenny) .....	8-23	12	3.91

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

### MUNSTER

Pts.	Score	Games	Avg.
64 J. Doyle (Tipperary) .....	3-55	9	7.11
54 C. McCarthy (Cork) .....	10-24	11	4.90
46 P. Cronin (Clare) .....	7-25	11	4.18
35 D. Nealon (Tipperary) ...	6-17	12	2.91
30 N. Pyne (Clare) .....	5-15	12	2.50

Provincial record—10-87 (117 pts.) in 17 games : J. Doyle (Tipperary), 1964.

**GALWAY'S TOP SCORER :** J. Connolly, 1-22 (25 pts.) in 8 games; average 3.12 points.

**ULSTER'S TOP SCORER :** M. Stafford (Donegal), 3-13 (22 pts.) in 4 games; average 5.50 points.

# MICK ROCHE

---

## Hurler of 1968

By JIM BENNETT

IT has been a year of mixed fortunes for Tipperary: League champions after a triumphant, if disorganised, American tour, sad losers of the All-Ireland when all their years told against them at the crucial time, and, then, that pointless joust with newspapermen at the year's end. In all of this up and down fortune there has been one common denominator, at least, in the masterful form of Mick Roche.

For years there has been weeping and gnashing of teeth on the Waterford side of the Suir, but this year more than ever. For Roche used to play as a minor for St. Molleran's in the Waterford championships, was even given a minor county trial for the Decies, and, sad to tell, did not make the grade. So, while he has gone from strength to strength with Tipperary and the Carrick Davins, Waterford people have been wondering whether they should boast of Roche or envy Tipperary. They have concluded that they should, in fairness, do both.

This dark, thick-haired, relaxed young man has become the complete hurler. It is impossible to contest his right to the title of Hurler of 1968. Even as Wexford, spectacularly, raised their game to capture the All-Ireland, it was

Roche's play which struck into the memory. Tony Doran's heroic achievements in the second-half were stirring, indeed, but what a novice Doran looked in the first half marking the supreme Roche.

While playing centre-back there was a shade of contempt about Roche's play which placed him on a godlike eminence. In the final, he went into a clash with a Wexford player for a dropping overhead ball; half-way through the pull, he changed his mind, took his left hand away from his hurley and casually pouched in it the flying ball. Another time, he was covering off behind two players when the fast-travelling ball hit one of them on the side of the head and rebounded away at an unimaginable angle. Yet, there was Roche's hand ensuring it a soft landing. You got the unavoidable impression that form and fitness and training and superb skill had so quickened the man's reactions and smoothed out the rough ways of hurling, that everything that happened in the match seemed to be reduced, through his eyes, almost to slow motion.

That final showing has been compared to some of the vintage Bobby Rackard or his brother Billy. I can remember only one performance so dominating. That

was on an auspicious day in Thurles, in 1954, I think, when a poor Waterford side faced a very good Cork one, and Johnny O'Connor stood alone and heroic against a one way tide of sophisticated Cork pressure. The heavier the pressure became, the more majestic was Johnny's counter thrust; time after time, since there was little assistance outside, he carried the ball out of his own defensive quarters, through forests of attackers up to midfield before hurling it defiantly down to his ailing attack. And seconds later, he should have to do it all over again.

The circumstances may have been different, but the test of character, of pure natural ability, and of sophisticated hurling skill was the same. Roche, also, has all these things. But, while O'Connor was a combative, urgent, instinctive type of hero, Roche is deliberate, introspective and calculating. His great natural gifts are purity of sweet style, and an eye and reactions of extraordinary speed. His instinctive tendency is never to hurry, always to complete and garnish each move. And acquired skill and the built up lessons of experience now enable him to indulge his instincts to the full.

The contrast with O'Connor is fascinating. Johnny was so urgent

At centre half

he presents

a spectacle

too rarely

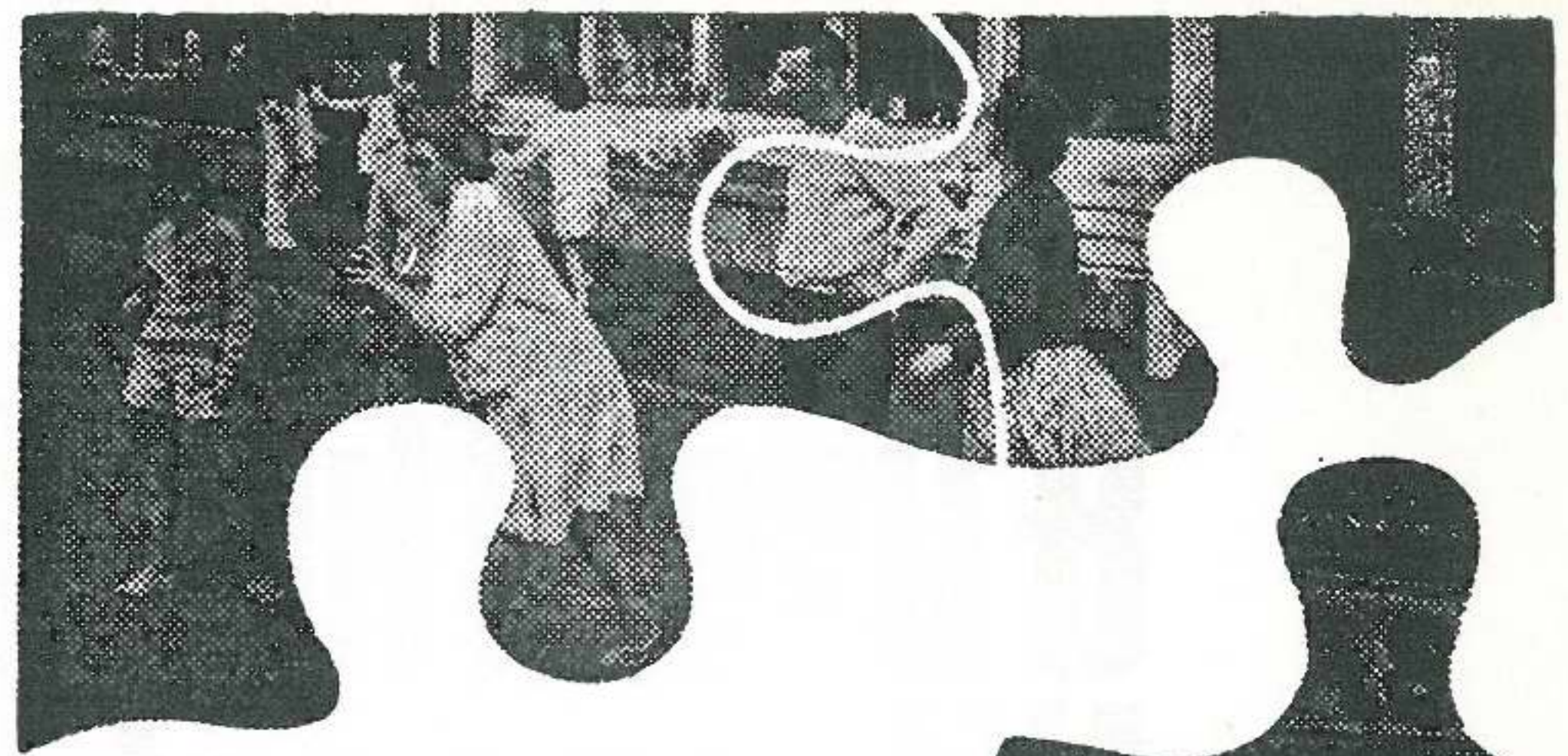
seen on our

hurling fields

in all he did, dashing in with no thought of safety; Roche is built quite differently, with an easy-going roll as his natural movement, and a *sang froid* and relaxation which would make Bing Crosby envious. Yet, he has a judgement of distance and timing which places him under the drop of the ball with almost unbroken regularity.

In striking, skill and body co-ordination makes the ball travel fluently. In fact, the same natural co-operation of hip and hand and eye, makes him a colossal hitter of a golf ball also.

We will not always see the most majestic of Roche's hurling, for Tipperary cannot afford to field without him at centre field. Here, of course, his sleight of hand, his reading of the game, his control of the solo into the heart of enemy territory, and his accuracy of stroke, make him a noteworthy figure — at his best among the best centre field men the game has produced. But, he is not always at his best at No. 8 or No. 9. Some disenchantment with mid-field play seems to depress him now and again. It is to be hoped that whenever this happens he will be given his head again at centre-back, for in that position he presents a spectacle too rarely seen on our hurling fields.



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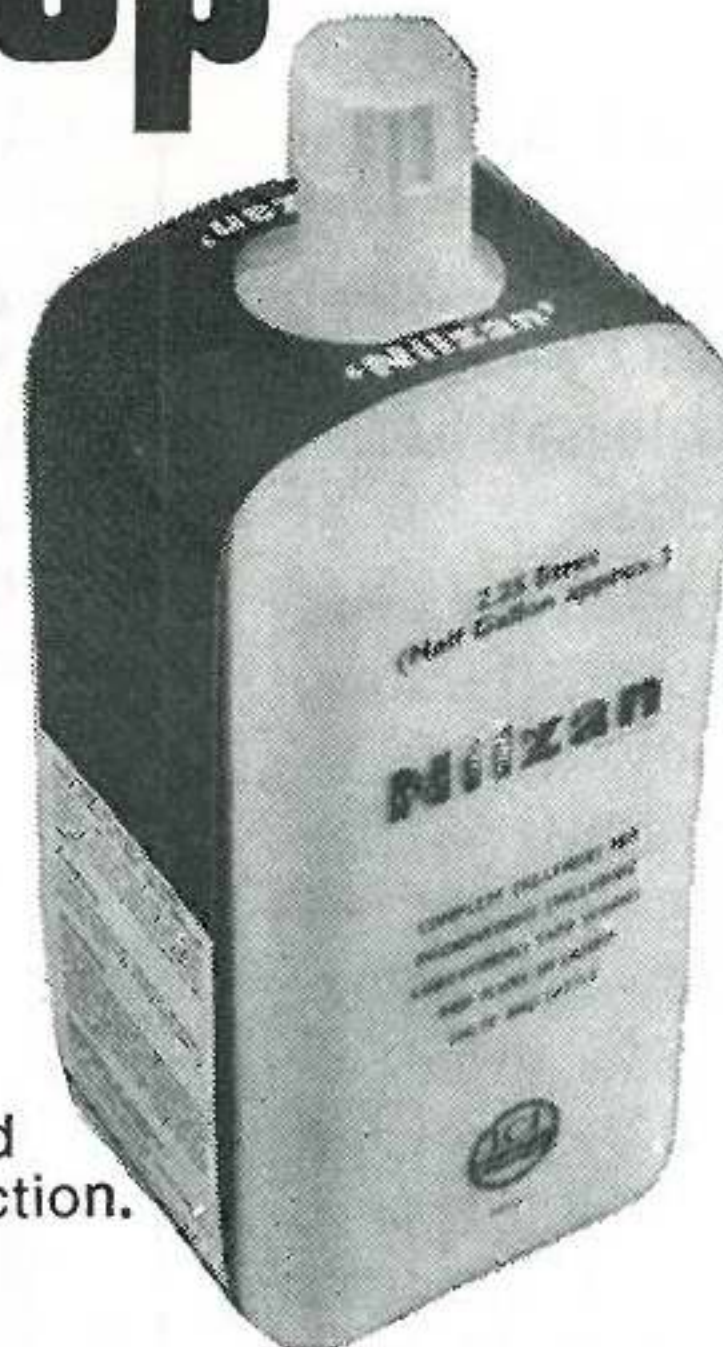
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## A LOOK AT THE TOP-BRACKET TEAMS WHO FAILED TO MAKE THE BIG BREAKTHROUGH

# THE BEST OF THE ALSO-RANS

**T**O the victors the spoils, and rightly so. But what of the "also-rans" of 1968, of such as Longford, Kildare, Sligo and Derry, in particular, who did not get on the winners list nationally in the premier grade last year, but still each made a deep imprint in the football scene?

What does the New Year hold for these counties? Will it at long last prove for one the year of the great break-through? Or for all four just another season of hope, effort and the final disappointment in that testing quest for a place on the top rung of the ladder?

Interesting questions these, as we bid farewell to 1968 and look hopefully to the year just dawning. So, let's take a look back on performances in the past year to see if we cannot grasp any worthwhile pointers that might help to throw some light on the likely prospects in the campaign ahead for these four particular counties.

**LONGFORD:** I thought that they—like, indeed, Kerry—were generally over-rated after their gallant failure in the All-Ireland semi-final. Admittedly, that match provided fast, fluent football, but I felt, at the time, that there was too much emphasis on the football provided, and not enough on the teams.

It did not seem to me then that Longford had what it takes

to make the big break-through. I thought they displayed weak links both in defence and attack. Nothing has happened since to improve Longford's ranking in my own book. Indeed, I feel they will have their work cut out to retain their Leinster title in 1969.

**KILDARE:** Since their All-Ireland under-21 title win in 1965, they have been dogged by defeats at senior level in the games that really mattered. I believe that had they beaten Down in the League final last May it would have given their young players a much-needed morale booster at just the right time, and could thus have proven the springboard for brighter days for the county.

Their form since has not been

By  
**OWEN  
McCANN**

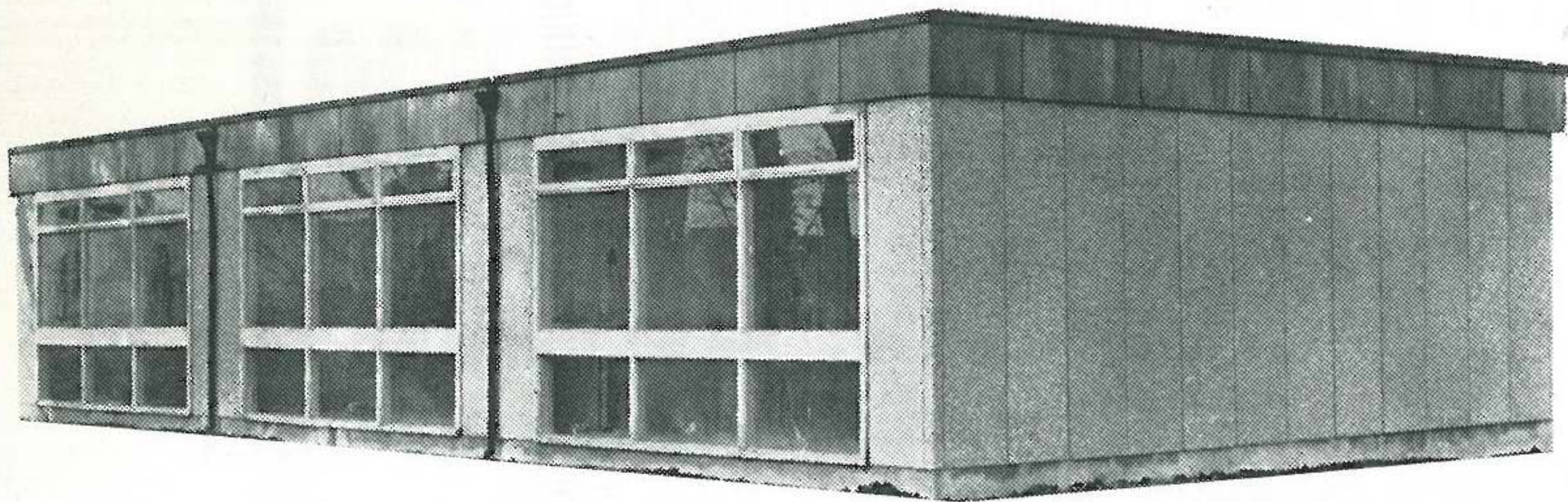
impressive. In their favour, however, is the fact that there should be no shortage of promising talent—they were also runners-up for the 1966 All-Ireland under-21 title, and won a third Leinster crown at this grade in 1967 — but at this stage I think it will still take Kildare some time to find again a blend capable of putting the county back again to the ranking enjoyed even last spring.

**SLIGO:** Mickey Kearins is a tremendous asset and he is backed up by some talented performers in all departments. Nevertheless, Sligo were somewhat too inconsistent for my liking in 1968. After those two grand games with Kildare in the League semi-final, they lost a number of matches I felt they should have won.

That's one reason why I now put an outside question-mark after Sligo's name. Another is that, while they have some efficient forwards besides Kearins, he still remains their only real SCORE-GETTER. So, I would also like to see greater all-round punch up front before supporting Sligo as a team likely to go places in the coming year.

**DERRY:** Although, unlike the

● TO PAGE 17



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*The Kildare team which contested the National Football League Home Final with Down last year.*

● **FROM PAGE 15**

other three counties under review, they did not contest a major senior game at Croke Park, it still seems to me that Derry have the best credentials of all for the coming season.

There is much to support this view. What I rate the most brilliant group of starlets I have ever seen won Derry's only All-Ireland minor title in 1965. Eight of those minors are now first-team regulars. What's more, these 1965 minor medallists were also in the team that brought the All-Ireland under-21 crown to Derry—and to Ulster for the first time—last September. Two more of that under-21 title winning side have also been playing regularly with Derry's senior outfit for some time.

Derry, then, have had the perfect build-up, or development, for a team with designs on getting to the top. Then, there is Seán O'Connell. They don't come

much better than this Ballerin artist. Although now in the veteran stage, he can still leave his stamp on any game and inspire his younger and less experienced colleagues. Only last month, for instance, he took ninth place in our rankings.

However, first-class talent is not the only key necessary to open up the door successfully to the always-testing challenge to greatness. Talent must be welded into a smart-moving, co-ordinated unit, with maturity, industry, power, class and purpose in all departments.

I submit that, as far as this guide-line is concerned, Derry, on their form in 1968, are also measuring up really well. They gave Down a great run in the championship and are currently on top of their League section with five points from games with Tyrone, Cavan and Longford. All of which inclines me to the view that Derry will be the team to

emerge from this League section—Cavan, Sligo and Donegal are the others in the hunt—for a League semi-final place.

If they get that far, Derry will really take beating. A good League run, bringing with it further self-confidence, could also prove the prelude to a spectacular championship march.

Yes, the more I look at Derry's outfit, and measure progress made, the more I feel that here is the side that could well exchange the mantle of "also-ran" of 1968 for a place among the elite of 1969.

Alas for hurling, the position remains static. Could Limerick's League win over Clare in October be an indication of bright days for the Shannonsiders? Possibly, but having been disappointed so often by the failure of counties outside the top-bracket to live up to expectations, I prefer to wait . . . and hope!

## Should the G.A.A. seek commercial sponsors?

# A loaded question

says **MOONDHARRIG**

**I**N this, our day, when sponsorship, to a greater or less extent, is available not alone for a remarkable variety of sporting events, big and small, but also for almost any kind of festival, frolic or fiesta, would the G.A.A. be justified in seeking or accepting such sponsorship? And, if sponsorship is accepted, how would such a move affect the Association's amateur status?

This is a loaded and complicated question which, to be quite candid, I would much prefer to sidestep, but since, in this case, it was posed for me directly by the editor, what can I do but express my honest opinion?

In the first place, of course, there is the fundamental question of the whole amateur status of the G.A.A. when the Association was founded it was, very deliberately, not confined to amateurs.

In its earliest years the Gaelic Athletic Association was exactly what its name implied, an Athletic association as far as competitive events were concerned. From the very start, in direct contrast to the rival body, the Irish Amateur Athletic Association, the G.A.A. allowed all athletes, both amateur and professional, to compete at its meetings. They did not compete against one another, however, but took part in strictly separate events on the same programme, in order to safeguard the international

position of the amateurs, who were liable to suspension if they competed against professionals.

Now the original rules of the G.A.A. made no mention whatever of either amateur or professional nor is there any direct rule defining what is or is not amateur status in the G.A.A.'s Official Guide to this day.

As far as I am aware, no rule was ever made debarring professional athletes from membership of the G.A.A. and, indeed, there are only two rules in the Official Guide which make any reference at all to the matter of amateurism.

Rule 5 states "Full-time training is inconsistent with the amateur status of members of the Gaelic Athletic Association", but leaves us no wiser as to what exactly "amateur status of members" is meant to define. Rule 115, which deals with "prizes or awards" to players who take part in a competition, decrees that prizes "shall consist only of trophies or playing

equipment, cash prizes being altogether forbidden".

Therefore, by deduction from what is implied in these rules, G.A.A. players cannot accept money for playing in or training for any matches under the jurisdiction of the Association.

But that is the limit of the G.A.A.'s "amateur status" restrictions. Players who are professionals in other sports—jockeys, boxers and, at the moment, a couple of rather well-known professional golfers—are or have been regular participants in competitive G.A.A. games, and nobody has ever thought of querying their amateur credentials.

So I find it hard to imagine how sponsorship could affect the amateur status of the G.A.A. as long as there was no question of actual payments to players for playing. On the other hand, I can see no objection to players being recompensed out of sponsored funds, if, for example, they are official coaches at a sponsored coaching course.

Nor would there be anything new in accepting cups and trophies and prizes from commercial firms, as long as each individual prize does not infringe Rule 115.

The Railway Cups, the All-Ireland minor hurling Cup and

several other well-known trophies were all presented by business firms, and no one ever objected to this as sponsorship.

Some years ago, we had advertisements on the Railway Wall at Croke Park, and on the stands at several other G.A.A. grounds. One or two may linger yet, but, generally speaking, they have been outlawed. Although, personally, I cannot for the life of me see where the ethical distinction is between an advertisement on the wall of an official G.A.A. ground and an advertisement in an official G.A.A. programme.

Indeed, if you care to look at it from that angle, it is the sponsorship provided by the advertisers that enables the G.A.A. to provide such fine official programmes at All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.

How much would the "Our Games Annual" in its present pleasing format cost to produce if there were no advertisements included? And surely, in this case, too, it can be argued that the advertisers are, therefore, to a greater or less extent, sponsoring the Association's official annual?

I see no reason at all why the G.A.A. should turn its back on sponsorship. In fact, the difficulty may well be at the other end of the ledger, to find scope for sponsorship in the G.A.A.

### A "JUNIOR" FOR JOHN

The Mayo centre-half back, John Morley, won his first Mayo junior championship medal recently when Ballaghaderreen defeated Kilmeena by five points. Morley played at centre-half back and the former Galway star, Mick Reynolds, played at centre-field.

The former Mayo full back, Jim Fleming, was captain of the team.

Certainly I see no need for such sponsorship in competitive events, so I would suggest that future sponsors should extend their benevolence first to coaching courses, which are the Associations greatest need, especially at minor, schools and colleges level.

A well-known firm has already sponsored educational films on both hurling and football. There is scope for many more films of similar nature, not to mention the fact that handball and camogie have been, thus far, almost entirely neglected.

There is another sphere in

which sponsorship is needed. Raymond Smith's excellent books on hurling and football and Joe Lennon's book on football coaching were both generously endowed by commercial firms. Is there no one willing to sponsor similar books giving similar hints and history for camogie and handball?

I see no good reason why the G.A.A. should not accept the aid of sponsorship in such matters as I have mentioned, and I am sure that every one of my readers will have ideas of his or her own of how sponsorship can be availed of within the Rules of the Association.

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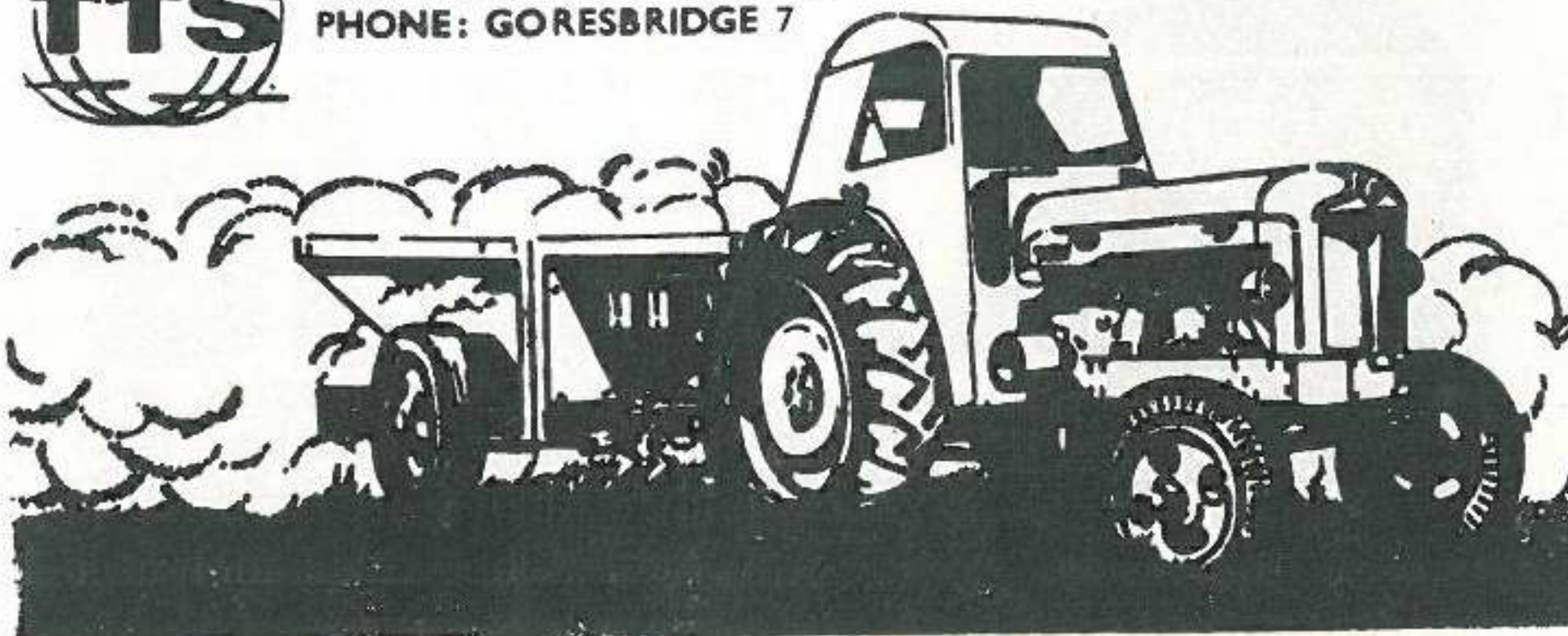
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PRESERVE OUR  
GAMES AND OUR  
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# THAT LAND IS OUR LAND

**Raymond Smith**  
reports



EVERY time I pass through places like Tubberadora and Tullaroan I marvel at the fact that immortal teams in G.A.A. history came from apparently open townlands.

You look over the green fields and you think of names like Big Mikey Maher and Sim Walton and you cannot but ponder the close link there has always been between the land and the development of our games.

And in turn the love of the land and the love of the games—so distinctive of the soil and spirit of Ireland—resulted in members of the G.A.A. playing a prominent and indeed a vital role in the winning of our freedom.

Before the advent of radio, cinema and television and before the car became as it is to-day, the boys and young men in rural parts went to the village field to play hurling and football in the long summer evenings. This was their recreation. Sometimes when a big match did not intervene in the afternoons, they would play all day long on Sunday—maybe into darkness and under the light of a full moon! They had that kind of enthusiasm.

I remember Sim Walton telling me that he often saw sixty in the field of a summer's evening in Tullaroan and the man he came up against in practice games was Pat (Fox) Maher, a legend in his lifetime.

"Fox" had been the man of the match in the 1897 Final, being awarded a silver-mounted hurley for his magnificent performance. It speaks volumes for Walton's skill that he won his place on the Tullaroan team when he was only 17 and once he made the Kilkenny side he never lost his place until the day he retired.

In the early nineteenth century, the playing rules as we know them to-day had not yet evolved. Neither had recognised playing areas.

Inter-parish matches in hurling and football were then the popular vogue. The teams met at a half-

way mark on a Sunday or Holyday afternoon. The match could go on until sundown.

Almost every able-bodied man in each parish entered the fray; there was no limit on the size of competing teams. The players usually played in their bare feet and as the play became more hectic discarded coats and even vests. The team bringing the ball "home" to the rival village was adjudged the winner. But sometimes the ball (not as hard as the ball used to-day) became just a sodden mass as it ended up in a ditch or trench.

Later the game progressed to the stage where it was played in some big field. The game was played from fence to fence and a goal was registered when the judges decided that one team had reached the fence. The next advance was the erection of a "bow" or arch of branches at each end of the field. The ball had to pass through this arch or bow before a score was registered. It was called "the gap in the goal"—and that is how the goalie is still even to this day called at times "the man in the gap".

Before the first All-Ireland championships proper were staged in 1887, unofficial inter-county championship games had already been played and in February, 1886 North Tipperary met South Galway at the Phoenix Park in a historic game—Tipperary emerging victorious and claiming the title "champions" of Ireland.

Big men who tilled the soil in the day and played hurling or football in the evenings dominated the county teams in the early years of the G.A.A. Small men had to be exceptional to hold their places. And the outstanding rural teams were able to challenge the town and city teams for supremacy and, indeed, as I have said already some of the greatest sides were formed of farmers or farm labourers.

Tom Semple and his immortal Thurles Blues were one day humbled by Glengoose in the Tipperary championship "in Dinny Kiely's field down the bog road" to quote

Pat Fitzgerald, the Glengoole captain who played with the Blues in the inter-county championship (and can still to-day recall memories of those golden days).

John Joe O'Reilly, the famous Cavan captain always maintained that it was when the cinema began to catch on in the mid-thirties that a turning point was reached in football history. It was significant too that this was a high point also in hurling history—Mick Mackey and his great team touching their zenith in 1936.

The War years, with few if any private cars on the road, were still glorious years for our games. We had the dramatic Limerick-Cork tussels at Thurles and the memorable Roscommon-Kerry duels in football. The games were a safety valve for a nation living under the threat of becoming involved in War.

I believe that it was when the affluent society came upon us in the sixties, seeing more and more cars on the road (with young people especially in the position to get their own vehicle) that a revolution happened in rural parts. This was accentuated by the advent of television. Big ballrooms had begun to mushroom up at strategically-placed points—and now dancing to the top showbands became the attraction for the young. Yes, they would still go to the fields—if they loved the games sufficiently.

But there was not the same widespread dedication. The drift from the land added to the problem. The young, seeing prospects of better pay and conditions and better opportunities for leisure and recreation and more regular hours, either left for the big towns and cities or emigrated to England.

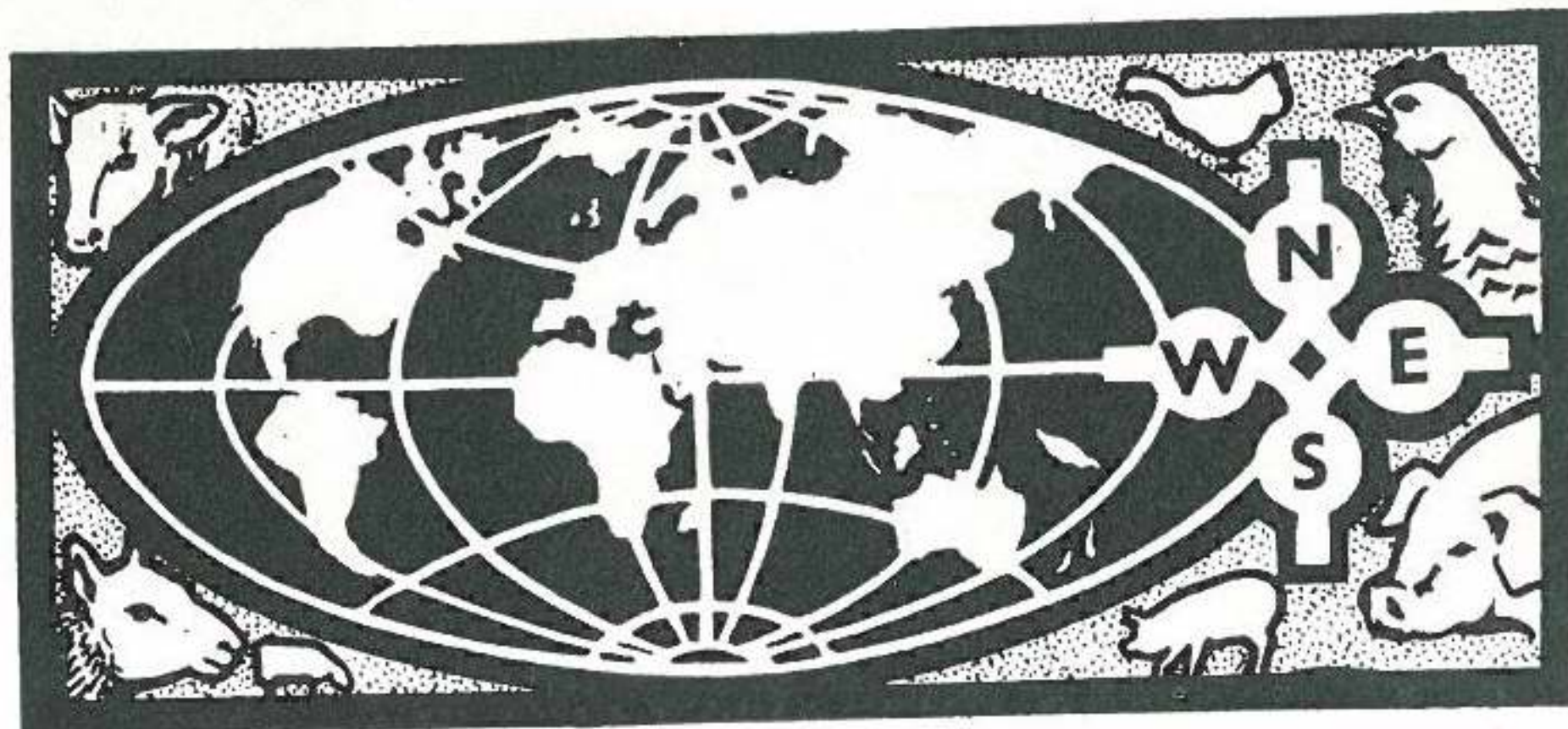
And so great rural teams fell on evil days. Boherlahan (successors to famed Tubberadora) found themselves languishing in junior ranks!

With 10,000 a year leaving the land, we must now fear for the very future of our national games

● Continued overleaf

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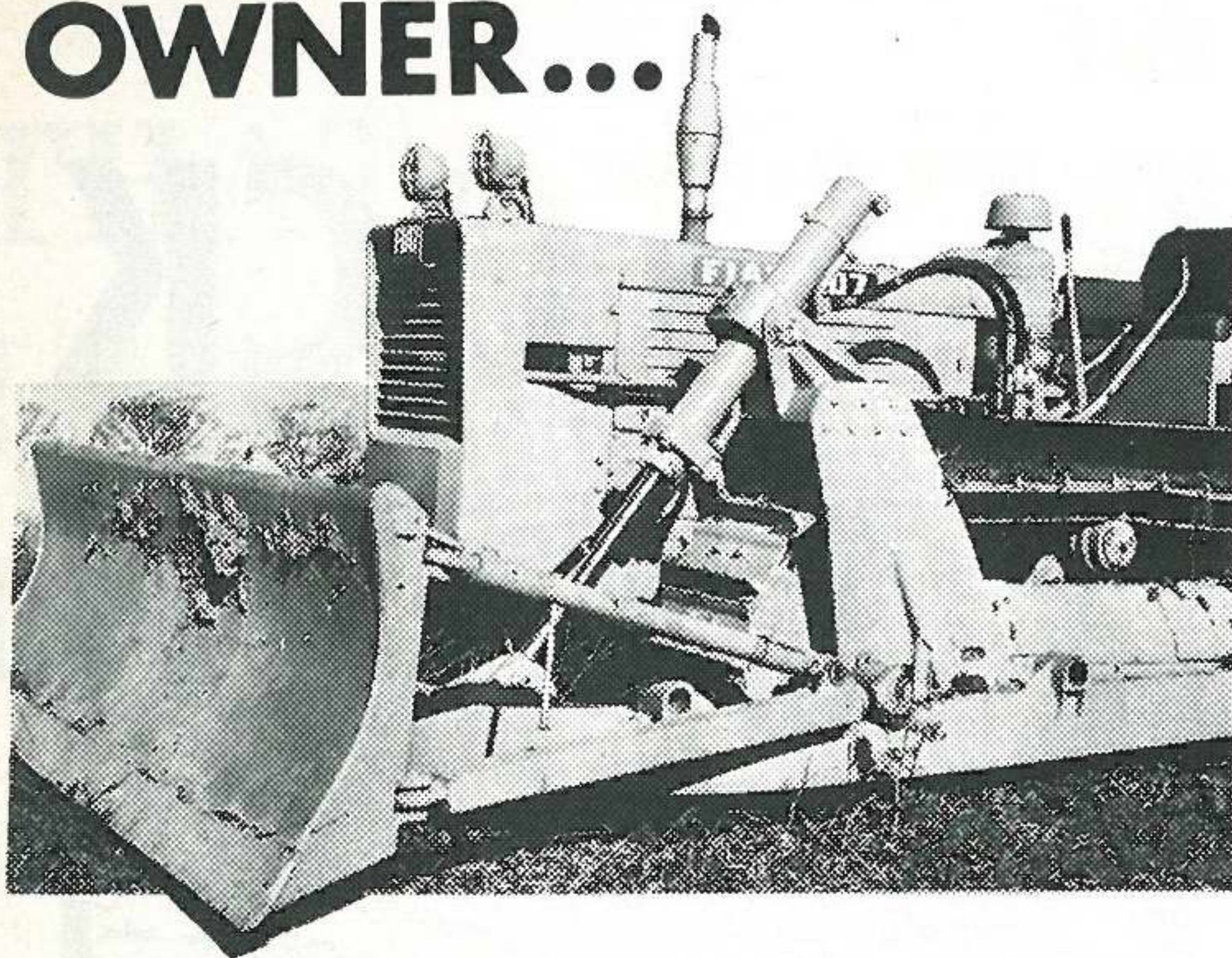
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### ● From previous page

because, let's be frank, if the games do not flourish in rural areas, they cannot make any real headway—and will indeed have difficulty in holding their place.

Foreign games offer an increasing challenge, not alone in the cities but even in traditional strongholds like Kerry and Tipperary.

Youngsters "taken" by the World Cup soccer games on television want to emulate Bobby Charlton, Georgie Best, Pele and Eusebio.

Government agencies and the economic farming organisations are vitally concerned with halting the drift from the land by improving the conditions of the people. Rural organisations, like Macra na Feirme, Macra na Tuaithe, Muintir na Tire and the I.C.A. have a vital role to play in brightening country life.

The G.A.A. itself is increasingly concerned with the social challenge.

The days of teams "togging out by the side of a ditch" are gone forever. So too the days when star players cycled to venues to play important club games.

The spectators of the future will want proper canteens at the leading grounds. And eventually too no progressive club will be without a modern Clubhouse or Pavilion, incorporating a room for socials and maybe a lounge bar plus all the amenities for indoor training and recreation.

I am firmly convinced that the G.A.A., which played such a vital role in the winning of our freedom and preserving the love of land and country down the years, can now play an equally important role in preserving the rural structures and traditions as we have come to cherish them. They will not be easily preserved. The pressures grow on every side. The G.A.A. must move with the times and must even be ahead of the times if the effort is to be crowned with success.

A land denuded of its people will be barren soil on which to preserve our games and our culture.





# THE HARD FACTS

By DAN McAREAVY

WITH the convention season once again upon us it had been my intention on this occasion to list a few of the points which I hoped to see discussed over the coming weeks; although 1969 is not a playing rules' year—or a "ban" one for that matter—there is much in the Official Guide which I believe merits close examination.

However, I recently received a letter which gave me a severe jolt and, in quoting it fully, perhaps it will have the same salutary effect on GAELIC SPORT readers.

If the contents represent the position in the country generally—and, as I say, it jogged my "Armagh" conscience most unpleasantly—then it would appear that the bulk of the time at our forthcoming annual gatherings might be most profitably spent on fundamentals rather than on the nicety of some way-out point of order.

Written by Mr. Hugh O'Hare, whose work for juveniles in the Dundalk area of County Louth, coupled with his activities on behalf of Coiste na Banban needs no commendation here, the letter in my opinion, puts us face to face with the major problem of our time—not only the future of our clubs but their very survival. (Of course, if the club is to be abandoned as the basic unit of

the Association, a different picture emerges. But surely that day is not yet with us.)

I quote without further comment except to say: Is this the position in your county? If it is, what action do you propose?

Carlingford.

1/12/1968.

A Chara,—Just a thought! I've been speaking with Seán Murray, County Louth's chairman, on this point and maybe you might like to give it your consideration.

In recent times it has come to my notice that certain clubs in this county are in dire straits money-wise, personnel-wise, etc., and may be in danger of extinction.

Apparently, the County Board is not fully aware of the situation. Our County Board officers—like most other County officials—are a tireless group and are already overworked.

The situation then is this—(a) certain clubs need assistance badly and (b) County Board officials are not in a position to give this help.

It simply amounts to a lack of liaison between the County Board and the clubs. I attach no blame to the County Board—it is overworked, as I have already pointed out—but the result will be detrimental to the Association.

Now, the Central Council is examining the possibility of paid organisers. I would like to propose the following:—

(a) That County Boards set the ball rolling by appointing a part-time organiser-adviser whose job it would be to visit and advise clubs on matters of Association policy—finance, rules, attitude to language, purchase of grounds, transport, club set-up, etc. This man could be paid car mileage for expenses.

(b) That Provincial Councils appoint, on a trial basis (e.g. for two years), an organiser-adviser for the areas of high population—**Leinster:** Dublin, Athlone **Munster:** Cork, Shannon Airport, Limerick; **Ulster:** Craigavon, Belfast, Derry; **Connacht:** Castlebar, Galway.

(c) That the Central Council appoint their own organisers, whose function would be then less comprehensive.

Professionalism in sport does not really appeal to me, but I see the harm that is being done in cases where clubs are left without advice. I come across many cases of such disillusionment in clubs throughout this county.

I have let Alf Murray know my mind on this matter. Maybe you could give it some thought.

Rath Dé ort.

AODH Ó HÍR.

# THE STARS OF 1968

IT is never a really difficult task to enumerate the outstanding half dozen stars in a sport for any particular year, but the real crux arises when one attempts to put them in their correct order,

This is the exercise I am setting myself with regard to the handball scene for 1968.

The premier spot, without a shadow of doubt, goes to Joe Maher, our World champion, who came home from Toronto at the beginning of the season and went about re-establishing himself as the top player in this country.

How well he succeeded is indicated by his performance in regaining both the singles titles.

This was no easy task, even for a World champion, for it must be realised that he was faced with the task of re-adjusting his play entirely to co-ordinate with the larger playing expanse of our courts.

There is little that can be added to the many tributes already paid to Maher, except to re-emphasise the disappointment of handballers that he was not chosen for a Texaco award.

Micky Walsh, the forty-four-

year old veteran from Mayo, would be my second choice. This is based on his fantastic performance in the early season when he swept all opposition aside to win the Gael-Linn trophy.

Certainly, even the most optimistic of his supporters could not have envisaged an outright win for him.

The Gael-Linn competition, which is based on time and thus does not allow for the pacing of a game that is in the make-up of the rubber system, is more suited to the younger player, hence when Walsh went to Bally-

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macelligot last April he was, perhaps, the least fancied of the eight who were fighting it out that day.

He really turned traitor on the experts and made their efforts at forecasting look novice-like. Handball is not normally regarded as a team game, but my third merit placing goes to the Wexford team of four that won the National League. It was composed of Richie Lyng, Jim King, Séamus Buggy and Joe Howlin.

This team had also won the title in 1967 and some of them also played a leading part in bringing victory to Wexford in 1965.

In effect, they have been instrumental in helping to establish a league-winning tradition in Wexford that has seen the county win three out of the four finals already played.

Ray Doherty, the Roscommon player, is fourth amongst my stars. This season he climaxed a chequered career with victory in the final of the Junior Softball

Doubles where his partner was Pat Clarke.

For Doherty, whose last victories at All-Ireland level were in 1951 and 1952 when he won minor titles, this was the season when his true potential was really revealed.

He excelled himself in every outing during the season but was at his very best on final night when the opposition was provided by the Kirby brothers from Clare. Doherty's refined ball-play, clever positioning and accurate killing were chiefly responsible for the Roscommon victory. It is also appropriate to mention that Doherty was the star of the county team that went to the League final.

There are only two further nominations to be made and the list of candidates appears to be growing!

However, I feel compelled to include Murt McEllistrim one of the famed brothers from Ballymacelligot, who also had a very good season. He gave Joe Maher his closest run.

That was in the final of the Senior Softball Singles at Ballymote, when he beat the Louth ace in the first set and seemed assured of victory when he led decisively in the second.

Only the experience of the World champion retrieved the situation. McEllistrim made ample amends when he partnered brother Tom to success in the Senior Doubles.

The final place goes to the young, ice-cool Wexford minor, John Quigley, who, though he has two further years in the grade, was good enough to take two All-Ireland titles.

It is interesting to note that his father, John senior, also won a trophy in the over-40 Tailteann.

Here, in order, are my six outstanding performers for 1968:

(1)—**Joe Maher** (Louth); (2)—**Micky Walsh** (Mayo); (3)—**Wexford National League Team**; (4)—**Ray Doherty** (Roscommon); 5—**Murt McEllistrim** (Kerry); 6—**John Quigley** (Wexford).

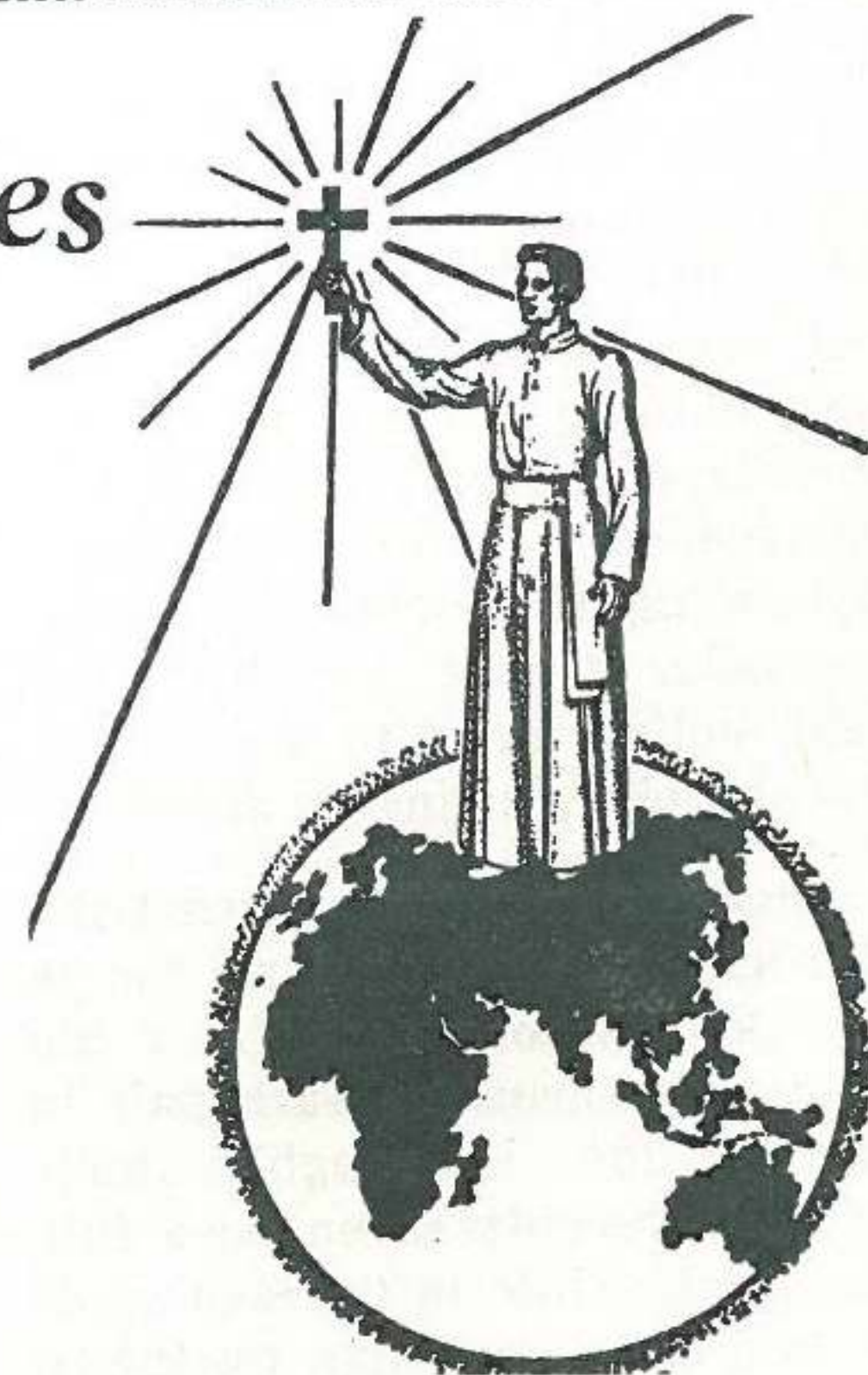
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*Last month, the Colleges Council was granted permission by the Central Council to experiment with thirteen a-side teams in football. In this article, the former Cork player and trainer, Eamonn Young, makes a case for the adoption of the system in all grades of the game.*

# The b thirte

**T**HIRTEEN-A-SIDE football is nothing new. Colonel Jock Caseley of Monaghan described his experiences to me, twenty-five years ago, of the game they had in Ulster Colleges before the war. I often think we would have had thirteen-a-side on a greater scale had we, in the last thirty years, authorised a trial period or a trial tournament in which the merits (or demerits) would be obvious.

On the face of it thirteen-a-side could be very attractive, provided the players would give a moment of thought to the change in tactics and functional play that would evolve.

I think the goalie will play a really attractive part. It's a role that never in the weakest moments appealed to me and I have nothing but admiration for the chaps who play there. But in thirteen-a-side I see a cul baire, fast on his feet, clever and a good footballer taking the ball out-field, delivering it to a comrade, and thereby starting an attack.

I see his comrades passing the ball back to him regularly for he will be a loose man in a big space. The area for each pair in fifteen-a-side is roughly forty yards by twenty seven on a full-size pitch, while in thirteen-a-side it will be about forty by thirty-one, which is a far bigger differ-

ence than one may think, for remember it is allowed to each of the thirteen.

The two full backs will probably play right and left, more or less in their present roles. The goalie would probably take the kick out and the corner backs would concentrate on harrasing the two forwards, who would be strikers. On robbing the forwards, the full backs would not part with the same urgency now demanded, for they would probably not face a second opponent immediately and would have time to direct the clearance cleverly. I could see them swing the ball over to the wing half back on the opposite side or by carrying it a little, to the loose midfielder or wing forward. It goes without saying that the man who doesn't have the presence of mind to deliver the ball properly wouldn't be long in the game and it is feared that some of our buckrooters, dear though they may be to the hearts of the populace, would fade from the scene, grumbling that the thing had now become an old woman's game.

Certainly, there will be less black-eyes and cut noses and less reason too for the spectators to get mixed up in the fun.

There would be more solo running. I often wonder that this should be limited to two taps on the toe. The wing half backs will

be of the same type as we have today, fast agile men, good ball-players and always ready to turn defence into attack by speedy use of their mental and physical ability. Their first duty will be to mark their men, however, for, with the extra open space the chances of the other backs stopping the flying wing forward who has got away are less, and I could see goals made and scored directly by the wingers, a task which is not now part of their play.

So, it will be little consolation

**By EAMON**

for the wing half back to remember the scoring move he started, if his man has cut through for a few of his own.

Even in fifteen-a-side football the wing half back is sometimes inclined to think his main job is to get his name on the scoreboard. It's a fault that has ruined many a good player. The defender is mentally suited to harrasing, robbing, blocking and clearing. That's why he is a defender.

The most important man on the field will, I think, be the centre-back. There's a suggestion that he may fall back to fill the space vacated by the centre full

# Benefits of Ten a-side



back in fifteen-a-side. I don't think so. The goalie will probably fill in here. The centre back will firstly watch the centre forward who will again be a fine footballer. There will be less close play and less physical punishment, lawful and otherwise, so this will be a real duel in anticipation, ball-control in the air and on the ground and, of course, a battle of trickery, a capacity for which is the hallmark of the real player.

When the centre back gets possession he will probably be

ANN YOUNG

able to burst past his man and will be relatively unhindered in delivery. Again, with the greater likelihood of players in open spaces he will be expected to deliver a long or short ball with foot or fist to a comrade, thus keeping possession.

At the moment, we are happy just to see him clear his lines. The centre back who will do this alone in thirteen-a-side won't be long in good competition. He may carry the ball a little drawing an opposing centre field before parting to an unmarked man, or he may drop a long kick down probably to the side of the opposing

goal but not into it, to a grateful unmarked goalie.

The centre back, as I see it, will be more of an attacking player than he now is, and in fact as this can be said of all backs and goalie, the emphasis of the game will be on attack, not on defence. If this is so, it follows that the game, when properly played, will be less negative, less irritating and far more attractive to the spectator and player.

Centre-fielders will continue to need the stamina, fetching ability, long, straight kick and fighting heart of the present good halfway line men. They will make the ball do more of the travelling and they will have to be more accurate in delivery, for emphasis will be on keeping possession, having gained it, so there's not much value in fetching a glorious one out of the skies and then rooting the thing sixty yards into an unmarked defender's hands.

The fifty is not now really a centre-fielder's kick, but in thirteen-a-side I could see wing half backs a little wary of going too far downfield to take them when the opposing winger is fast and clever; so we may have the centre fielder taking more of the long frees.

Playing with the wind the forwards will, as now, need to be accurate and the long, curling shot for a point will be as useful

as ever, though goals will come more often in the absence of the packed and muddy squares.

Against the breeze, however, what will matter will be speed, smart clever delivery, ball control and ability to strike from close in. The fast, clever forward line which will swing the ball around will be very dangerous, even against the breeze when the backs will be inclined to come downfield and the chance is there for the sudden breakaway.

The centre-forward will be a fine player with brains and skill. I can see him going into the square to draw in the centre back (who won't be drawn if he has confidence in himself and his goalie). A moment later, the centre forward will be roving around midfield picking up loose balls and transferring them to a forward who has moved in to the open space before running smartly in himself to make the extra man, and perhaps take the return pass.

There will be great fun in this thirteen-a-side if ever we get really interested, and surely the thing to do is to have an experimental tournament so that we can make up our minds whether or not it should replace the traditional type.

The game started with half the male (and some of the female, perhaps) population of the

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# THE PRESS AND GAELIC GAMES

By  
SEAN  
O'DONNELL

At this time every year it is usual to look back on the previous twelve months and describe for one's friends the things that amused us about Gaelic games during the year. It is not uncommon for us to have had our disappointments as well.

I have a feeling, though, that most people's disappointments would slightly outweigh their happier moments during the year and I think that attendance figures were an indication of this.

However, I don't feel that the drop in crowds was because people were disappointed with the standard served up by Gaelic teams during 1968, but I would say that

G.A.A. followers in general are not as enthusiastic as they used to be.

It is strange, but it is a fact, that quite a few people will not go to a match if the day is slightly damp, or a shower of rain is falling, or if that game is on the radio.

Now, don't get me wrong for Michael O'Hehir has, over the years, inspired hundreds of thousands of young men, through his commentaries on radio, to become interested in Gaelic games in the first instance. We listened to our radio and we read our newspapers, the sports columns that is, and it all helped to work up our enthusiasm for Sunday's game. Mind you it wasn't a very important game

either. But the papers said it would be a game that shouldn't be missed, were we to disagree? Those were the days!

Yes, siree, those were the days when the newspapers did our Gaelic games proud and made you feel you wanted to be there, despite weather or anything else that was likely to deter you from going.

Most of us need encouragement, at the best of times, to perform our normal duties in every-day life. We need those little reminders. This can also apply to Gaelic games. If we don't hear about them, or read about them, well we just won't go to watch them. To make doubly clear what I am talking about I will quote from the Editorial in the November issue of Gaelic Sport which went as follows, "Are the national newspapers about to relegate Gaelic games to a secondary position in their coverage of sport?"

I agree with the Editor of this magazine that Gaelic games are not getting the coverage they deserve from our national daily press and, as a result, I believe that attendances are dropping.

We have listened to many arguments regarding the drop-off in crowds at Gaelic matches recently and if it wasn't television that got the blame, it was suggested that the venue was not a suitable one and so on. The interesting point about all this is that it was, more often than not, the newspapers who expressed these remarks, and quite naturally they made us think. We obviously did not realise it was so far, or that we were likely to be at a discomfort at a particular ground because of its lack of facilities. It all adds up, you know, and our minds are made up in

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accordance with what we hear and read.

What we read will always influence us more so than what we have verbally described to us. The printed word is that much stronger and it will stay in our memory longer, but remarks such as these can make all the difference as to whether we will go to the game or not.

Take, for instance, film critics, very diplomatic gentlemen, if you know what I mean. Now, have you ever heard them describe the type of cinema that a film is being shown in and its suitability to patrons? Well, of course not. You go to a film not knowing the kind of cinema in which you are viewing it, or you can wait until a particular film comes to your local, which will have cheaper rates. However, as for Gaelic games, you can see them only once, with less chance of a repeat showing of that thriller you saw last Sunday.

But why are the national papers, as the Editor pointed out, devoting less space to Gaelic games. Do international sporting events have all that much to do with it? Perhaps, but the sad fact is that Gaelic games seem to lose their appeal to newspapers as soon as a team moves outside Ireland to compete in what most people would consider an important event—certainly important enough to merit the sending of staff reporters from the national newspapers.

The same papers are likely to point out that it is financially impossible, or that there is not sufficient interest. I think there will be less interest unless there is more publicity. Soccer and rugby have got widespread publicity at international level, but Gaelic teams have not got the same publicity when playing outside Ireland.

Now, I am not campaigning against soccer, rugby, golf or boxing. All of them deserve their share of publicity. But they get it, and Gaelic games do not. Gaelic

games seem to attract special attention where rough play is concerned, or when someone is suspended and what led up to it. And, of course, special features can be devoted to what so-and-so said about the Ban, or if our national press considers there is sufficient interest, a poll can be taken concerning that rule, making it a national issue and, no doubt, interest will develop concerning it.

I feel certain that the same interest would develop in Gaelic games if only the national press considered it worth their while to give them the publicity they deserve. It is a fact that our games receive more space after they are played than they are afforded beforehand.

Like most things, football and hurling need to be advertised and, as they say in advertising, if the product is good it deserves special consideration. Now, newspapers don't sell because people want to look at the advertisements. Every

man and woman has his or her own reason for buying a paper. It could be that you buy your paper for a particular feature you always read, or for the cartoons, or, like most men, for the sports page. And, if what you specialise in is not where you expect to find it, you will hardly buy that newspaper consistently.

So, if you have not got the opportunity to read about Gaelic games how can you be interested enough to attend them. The national daily newspapers have wide public appeal and so have Gaelic football and hurling. If, say, 90,000 Croke Park patrons buy their daily paper, just like they buy their **GAELIC SPORT**, it should boost the popularity of that paper, and the games likewise.

The next time the national press run a poll, they should first of all consider if those thousands of sports followers care more about the poll, or about knowing where their games are being played.

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**W**ITH Spring just around the corner it is appropriate that this month Linda Collins turns the focus on a very important, but too often neglected aspect of the home—floor coverings. When Linda wants to get the facts she goes to the top people in the industry and in the following article many of our female readers will be amazed at the tremendous strides that have been made in recent years in all varieties of floor coverings.

**G**OING down on your knees to scrub and polish is out of date. You might have to mop an occasional grease spill from beside the cooker; or if the baby throws his dinner plate at daddy—well, you'll have to go down on your knees to deal with that. But the old chore of washing the floor a square foot at a time, rinsing it, letting it dry, then attacking it with polishing cloths and rubbing, rubbing, rubbing—that's all over. Most of today's "hard" floors have a built in shine: some of them have a high gloss, others are semi-gloss while still others are designed to look good with only a dull sheen.

If it's a carpet you're after, cunning designers have fixed things so that you can choose a pattern which, if the worst happens and it gets badly stained, can be cleaned back to good-as-new in a matter of minutes. Naturally you won't be frying chops or feeding a fractious baby on carpet.

With all these heavenly qualities of hard wear and saving of labour, plus attractive appearance, now taken for granted, your only problem is one of choice. Did somebody mention money? Here again the news is good. Millionaires can spread themselves on super-de-luxe vinyl floorings or hand-knotted carpets but the rest of us, watching the vanishing quidlets, can take comfort in the thought that a relatively modest expenditure will ensure floorings for us which may last several lifetimes.

When you must watch every penny, obviously it's sensible to

lay sheet or tile flooring yourself. There are several categories of each type to choose from; all specifically designed for the home handyman. So don't go outside these categories when buying. When the manufacturers recommend that a floor should be professionally laid you take a risk by ignoring their advice.

In fact it's sound sense to do exactly as the manufacturers recommend when choosing or laying any type of flooring. They are a progressive and enthusiastic bunch of people and if you approach their offices direct for advice you won't be turned away. Instructional and informational leaflets—admirably clearly written—are at your disposal in any case.

We can't hope to tell you everything about every product here, so our comments should be taken as guidelines, whether you're a housewife on the lookout for a new look in sitting room or kitchen, or a school manager faced with the problem of picking a flooring for the new assembly hall.

The most confusing thing about carpets is the variety of qualities available but basically it boils down to the fact that there are some sorts which are suitable for areas of light wear (bedrooms or breakfast rooms perhaps) while others are heavier to take correspondingly heavier traffic, in living rooms, halls, or in places like offices or pubs. You need to think this out carefully. A light quality bedroom carpet is fine for a room used by one or two adults. It won't

## FLOOR COVERINGS

stand up to the belting it'll get from three teenage sons who keep their table-tennis equipment and their record player in the bedroom, and often entertain their pals there too. And a little-used sitting room might be carpeted just as well with a lighter-grade version of what you lay in the much-used hall. For spots where there is consistent heavy traffic—say a social centre attached to a sports club—heaviest contract quality will stand up best to the wear. And remember no carpet is better than its underfelt. The best of them will get baldy in no time unless you have a good thick felt underneath.

Youghal Carpets are associated in our minds with a slim, glamorous blonde who couldn't resist the soft, deep pile but others find them fairly irresistible too—including those who aren't blonde, slim, glamorous or even female. The Youghal range is made entirely from wool, so whether you buy Emerald or Gold quality (for areas of lightish wear) or Diamond, Super Diamond or Extra Super Diamond (for heavy, very heavy and ultra-heavy traffic) you'll get an all-wool carpet with all its built-in advantages. The headache comes when trying to choose a design from the plethora available. And here's where a visit to one of their carpet showrooms comes in handy. People within travelling distance of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway or Waterford, should make the effort to get in and see for themselves what's available. You

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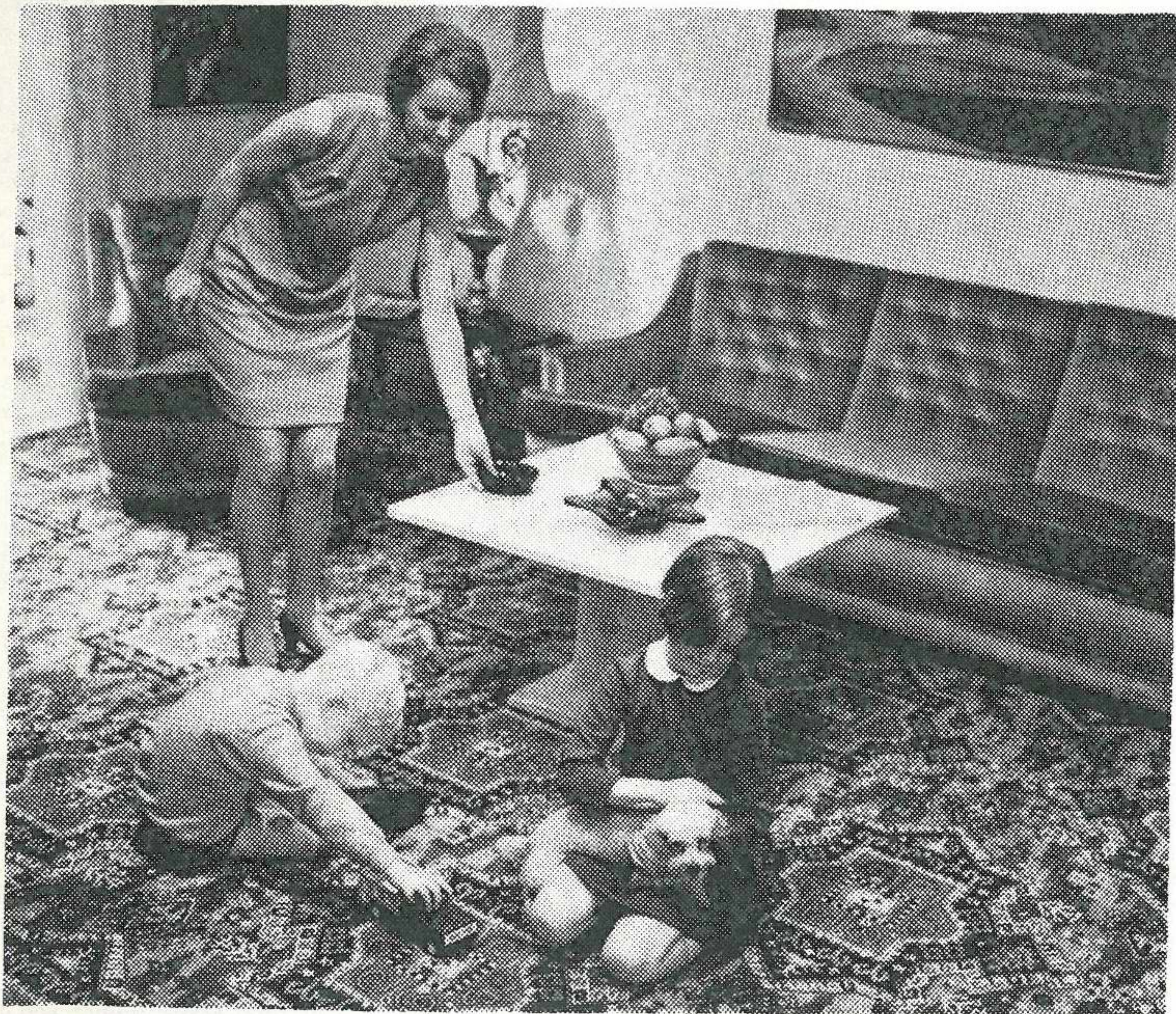
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## Youghal

### WOOL CARPETS

● From page 31

can't buy anything at the showrooms but you can get good advice and see the full range. If you're in the contract context, Youghal can arrange for their travelling consultant to call and see you. Unfortunately it's not practicable to extend this service to housewives since they necessarily buy in comparatively small quantities. If your order totals a couple of hundred yards, they'll provide a special exclusive design to your own specifications. Which would be a nice piece of one-up-manship for somebody bent on making a fortune in the tourist business.

At the showrooms of Kincora Carpets in Nassau Street, Dublin, we admired all eleven patterns in the "Corvette" range—the one that's been such a runaway success since its introduction. This is a mixture of 42½% Evlan, 42½% Nylon and 15% Wool. It is graded for heavy domestic use and having absorbed that important point the price—though we won't quote it here—may come as a pleasant surprise. Seven of the designs are available in Broadloom, meaning you buy a solid piece of carpeting to fit up to twelve feet across without seaming. This can work out very economically, depending on the shape of the area to be covered. Those who love the thought of plain unpatterned carpet, but shrink from the idea of attendant problems like footmarks and "shading", should look at Kincora Kintwist. It has a slightly curly pile which minimises these difficulties to the point of extinction. Patrick Scott, the young Irish artist whose work has become internationally known in a short space of years, is responsible for designing Kincora's contract range. And he has succeeded in producing patterns which are pleasing and yet practical.

Turning to "The Hard Stuff", I quote my 87-year-old grand-aunt who went to buy something new for the floor recently. She came back from the shops with her head

spinning from all the new items that had been presented to her. "God be with the days," said she, "when you went in and asked for a bit of oilcloth." Nevertheless she ended up with a felt-backed modern product which was a great improvement on what had been down before. To-day, the versions of linoleum, vinyl sheet, vinyl tiles, vinyl asbestos tiles, must total hundreds. Each one, though, is different and somewhere among

the hundreds there's something just right for you in every way. So persevere till you find it, rather than taking the lazy way out. Again, you've got to consider all the special circumstances before making a final choice. Say you've got a hall opening directly off the street, meaning mud gets tracked in a lot on rainy days. One item which might suit could be Relief Excelon "parquet" in vinyl asbes-

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● From page 33

tos by the Armstrong Cork Co. When laid it looks exactly like real parquet only you can slosh it out with a mop and bucket whenever it's muddy and you don't need the polishing pads to shine it up—the shine is always there. For a nice "French country kitchen" effect their Tuftone gives a bright homely look, again with mini-care qualities built in. It's cleverly textured and can look like carpet when down, so it's a good choice for, say, a busy dining room. Where quietness is of paramount importance the thing to choose is a felt-backed vinyl—it mutes the loudest football from the heaviest boots. And the harassed headmaster or club secretary hovering between a choice of "soft" and "hard" floor might investigate the possibilities of the newer than tomorrow all-nylon carpets, non-woven, now making their appearance on the Irish market. The Armstrong one is called "Accolux" and comes in attractive colours.

Marley are the people who make Marley Consort—the sheet vinyl flooring which overnight, almost, converted thousands of people to its advantages. We may yet see the day when they'll lay a green version of it in Croke Park to replace all that unpractical grass. "Our Man from Marley" told us to emphasise to readers that a flooring can only be as good as the subfloor its laid on. So before you roll out that precious piece of colourful vinyl, knock in all those nailheads, fill cracks in a timber floor with filler, and sand everything down nicely. With "Marley-tred" which has a felt-backing, you can get away with slight variations of level, but it's best to aim at the ideal. If tiles appeal more to you, you can get Consort in tile form too, with very clear and concise instructions on how to put it down.

People with old, uneven floors—say quarry tiles—don't have the backbreaking task of hacking them all up before they lay down some-

thing new. You can now get "Smoothtex" from Marley which you mix to a paste, slap on over the old floor and even out to a new surface. It's almost like magic but you can't of course, use it on timber floors.

Dunlop are ready and willing to serve you with everything from the new Selfstik tiles which you'll actually be able to buy in packets at the supermarket when you go in to get the weekly groceries, to

needlefelt Nylon Carpeting known as Semlon which apparently comes up smiling even after it's been tramped on by a horde of enraged elephants. The Selfstik tiles are the answer to prayer for ham-fisted handymen, because you don't even need to mix the adhesive when sticking them down. It's already applied to the back of the tile, protected by a sheet of paper. Peel off the paper, stick the tile in

● To page 36



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● **From previous page**

place on the floor, and that's it. The colours are particularly exciting. I liked the red-brown Madeira tan and the gay Citrine Yellow, but there are lots and lots more.

Working out patterns in tiles fulfills the creative instinct in most of us. The classic two-colour combinations are great, but it's more fun to work with three and the tiles themselves suggest ideas on how to combine them. Dunlop say they have a new solution to the sound problem with their foam-backed Semflex. It was specially recommended for high-rise flats, so the noise of the neighbours walking round above and below wouldn't send people insane, but has also possibilities, we think, for the earth-bound parents with sensitive ears and a clutch of noisy children. Dunlop also do a new and exciting nylon carpet in which, they say, "crush marks and stiletto indentations rapidly disappear" when it's subjected to heaviest traffic conditions. Their laboratory testers must have great fun with it.

Onto the "Semlon"—the name of the new carpet—they poured red and blue ink, black shoe polish, acriflavine (whatever that is) and permanganate of potash. They were then detailed to clean them all off again, and proved that it could be done leaving hardly a trace of damage. I wish I'd been there for the fun. The new Dunlop Vynolay pattern of an old Spanish tile which was such a huge success in England is now available here. It'll be interesting to see how it goes. Their new Woodgrain tiles have a very comprehensive range of shades, including a couple of unusual ones like Limed Oak and Sapele.

We haven't said half enough to do justice to all the many and varied floorings now available all over Ireland—we've merely shown the tip of a very large iceberg. There are all sorts of products

there wasn't space for, all of them backed by the wonderful reputations of the firms mentioned. So as we said at the beginning, you must look around instead of tamely buying what somebody else bought. And if you follow correct

laying and maintenance instructions—and all the firms are ready and willing to tell you about these—you'll have the sort of attractive, trouble free flooring we all ought to take as our just due in this day and age.

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# HAPPY HOLIDAY

**I**F you are still dreaming about and telling of the many experiences on your last holiday, let me give you a reminder; it is now time to start thinking about your 1969 dream holiday.

Because we are not blessed with continuous good weather in this isle of ours we are inclined to envy those whose weather permits them to lie on golden sands and soak up the heat of the sun for over six months of the year. Having managed, I hope to interest you in sampling the warmth of the Mediterranean or Adriatic waters, I will now continue, without further delay, and give you some pertinent details of holidaying in two of Europe's sun-spots: Italy and Spain.

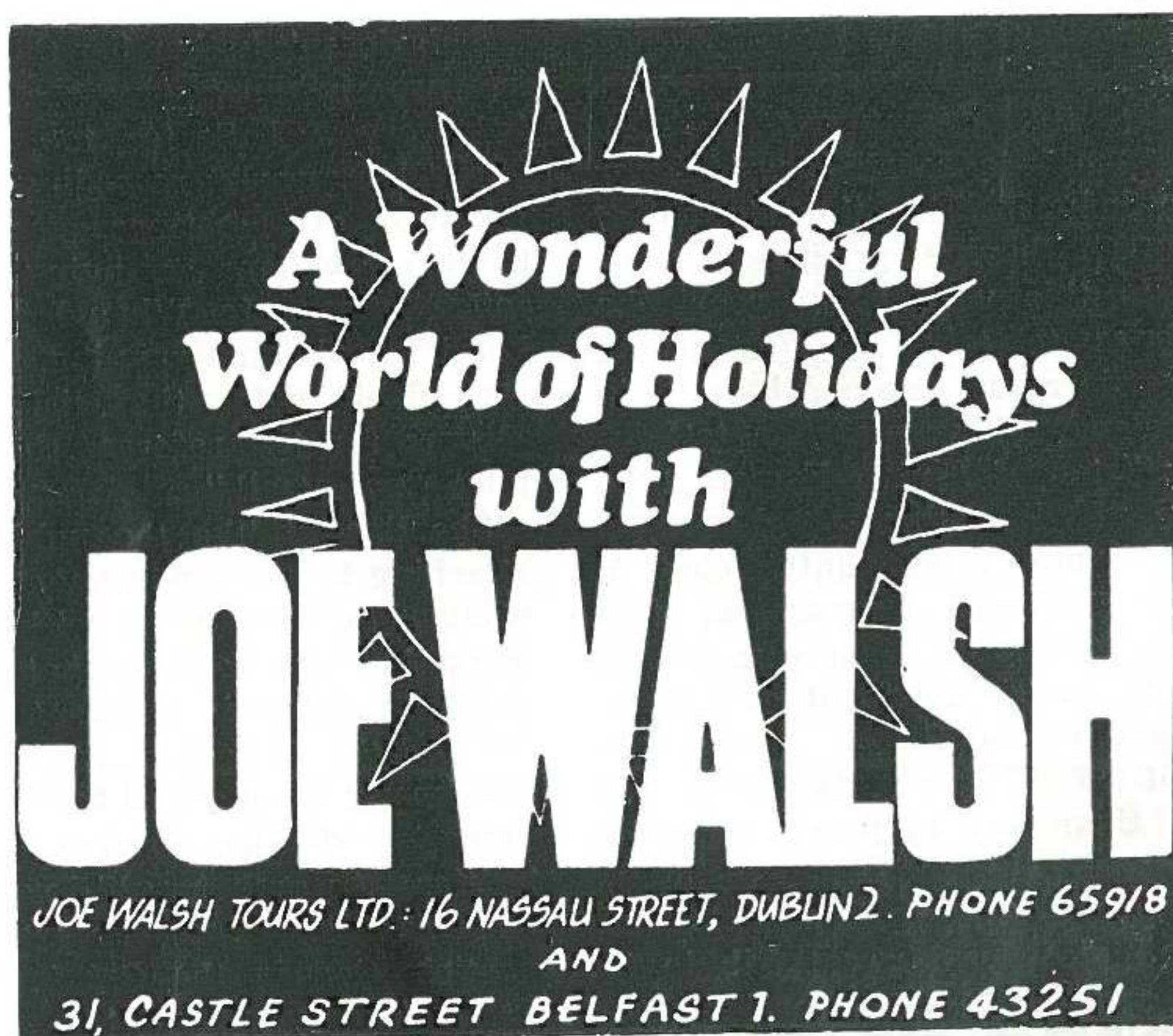
It no longer surprises the travelling Irish public to be told they

can have two weeks with full-board accommodation in Italy for less than 60 guineas or in Spain for less than 50 guineas. In Italy there is a host of resorts strewn along its Adriatic coast, the better known ones of which are Rimini and Cattolica and lesser known places, such as, Gabbice Mare, Riccione and many others. All of them, however, have many things in common, sun, sand, sea, to mention but a few of the more important items on your list of priorities.

Spain, while it, too, can lay claim to having a wealth of sandy beaches and all the sun-seeker could desire, can boast further in that it provides for the winter sun-worshipper as well. During the months of May, June, July, August and the early part of September the resorts

most popular with us Irish are Sitges, Lloret de Mar and Tossa de Mar, all within easy reach of Barcelona. Here everybody does as the Spaniards do—join in the thrills and excitement of the bullfight, drink the local wines in gay, lively night-clubs or just take a siesta.

Majorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands, is all too much part of Spain and its holiday complex to ignore it entirely in this short article. Once favoured by the wealthy as an annual retreat island, Majorca is now within most people's holiday budget, eleven days being available for 49 guineas or so. Without dipping too deeply into one's financial resources one can avail of a holiday for two weeks on Spain's Costa del Sol, which knows no Winter, for less than 80 guineas. Have I set the seed of thought? If so, now is the time to go along to your travel agent with your deposit and avoid being disappointed as those after you will be. I'll see you on the Continent.



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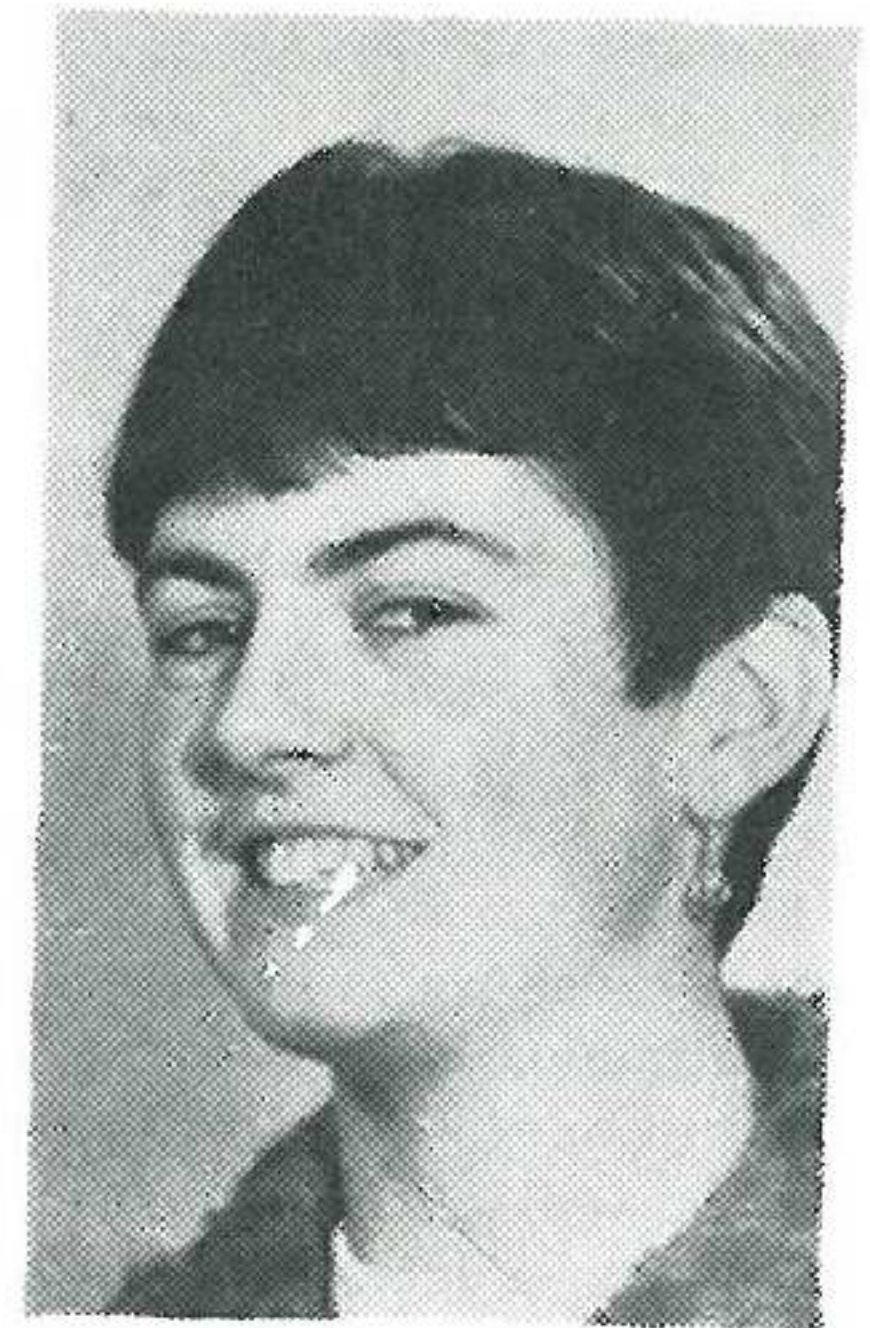
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# JEAN FARRELL

## *The girl with the man-sized job*

By **JACK MAHON**



Jean Farrell

**A** MOST accommodating girl is Jean Farrell of Lanesboro, who recently made the headlines, when she was elected assistant secretary of the U.C. Galway Gaelic football club. She rang me once she heard I was anxious to get in touch with her. When I told her about GAELIC SPORT'S proposed interview, she was overcome. When told further of the cover picture on GAELIC SPORT her first remark was: "Why all the fuss. Since I'm only the assistant secretary and it's only by chance I was elected. I just don't understand."

I then explained that she was the first or one of the first girls in Ireland to join the administrative side of the G.A.A., that she was **news**, that as far as I could remember, only Cathy Harrop, the girl singer from New Zealand, who sang "The Rose of Tralee" so well at the All-Ireland football final, and a Galway girl in London, who acted in a similar capacity for Bros. Pearse Hurling Club, had preceded her.

She consented to the interview once I convinced her it was genuine. So we arranged a date at my house. What an interesting life an interviewer has!

Well, Jean came on the

appointed night. Though slightly shy at first in her green and white frock and still somewhat amazed at all the fuss, she told me just how she came to be in this position. It seems Peadar O'Toole, the U.C.G. secretary told Jean that there was a good chance that a girl student would be elected assistant secretary and asked her would she be interested. She was. So to the appointment.

Jean is a fourth year Higher Diploma in Education student at U.C.G., having graduated as a B.A. this year. Next year, she hopes to take up a teaching appointment somewhere in Ireland (clubs please note!)

Sister of Fintan Farrell, (the Longford footballer, who made his senior inter-county debut in the Grounds' Tournament this year, although a mere minor as yet) Jean is not fanatically interested in the G.A.A. No, she is not one of those girls who go out of their way to prove to men's company that they know all about it. Jean, whose home club is Rathcline, pays great tribute to her primary school teacher, Mr. Cahill, from Fermayle, who instilled a love of Gaelic games in his pupils, boys and girls.

The idea of electing Jean

assistant secretary was meant to encourage more ladies to become active members of the U.C.G. G.A.A. club, as well as to set a headline for other G.A.A. clubs in Ireland. So far, no other girl student has joined the club. So Jean is all on her own at meetings.

This doesn't bother her though, because she knows most of the lads very well. So far, too, Jean loves her work, recording the minutes of meetings, making hotel reservations, arranging challenge games, etc. When I asked her if she'd mind running on to the field with the lists of players for the referee, she replied "not at all."

She doesn't like the publicity attaching to her appointment and would like to get on with the work, but she realises that this publicity glare is accidental to her and that it will soon be over. She knows she is a first-timer and being so she has her responsibilities. As one would expect, Jean is all for greater women participation in the G.A.A. But this will depend on the clubs themselves. Girls will have to be invited to become members, will have to feel wanted. They will not volunteer themselves. She is



not in favour of a club electing a separate ladies' committee; feels it should be a mixed committee.

The G.A.A. club only caters for its players and should embrace all sections of the community, youngsters, the players, the past players and everybody literally. The introduction of women as club members would help. Games should be the major interest but a G.A.A. club could and should provide other amenities like a golf club does, more or less. The women would certainly improve the social side of things, catering, providing entertainment, etc.

Next year, Jean, as I've said, will be out teaching and hopes to help promote games in the school she will be teaching in, boys and girls, if needs be. Her favourite footballers are John Purdy, Brendan Barden and Liam Sammon. When I asked her had her appointment meant more whistles and yahoos as she passed the U.C.G. Archway, she replied "No."

Finally, Jean gave her best reason for joining the ranks of G.A.A. officialdom:

"Women to date have been completely isolated from G.A.A. games. They should be brought more into the sporting lives of men, especially the sporting lives of their husbands or future husbands. Before this men either went out to play a match or watch one on a Sunday, every Sunday and left their wives or girl friends at home, just stuck there. Whereas if these wives or girl friends were active G.A.A. committee members, well there would be a place for women if not at the games, then certainly at the social functions that should follow.

"This would end the days of the G.A.A. widow and that would be a big blessing." Amen to that, say we.

● From page 27

parish playing the other. Eventually, they cut it down to twenty-one and I talked with some tough men who loved it that way. My father spent most of his time playing seventeen-a-side and then in 1913 came the present-size team. After fifty-six years or so, the cry is still for more open play, speed, accuracy and skill. Will thirteen-a-side give all these? It seems to be worth a try.

Perhaps the way to do it is for Congress to authorise the rule change, allowing a tournament to be played in each county, and one inter-county tournament, before taking a firm decision (which is not final in that it lasts for only

five years) on the change in the following Congress.

I suggested this many years ago when discussing a change to the thirteen-a-side game and indeed, we could with profit apply this trial period to many of the rule changes suggested. It would certainly reduce the likelihood or error.

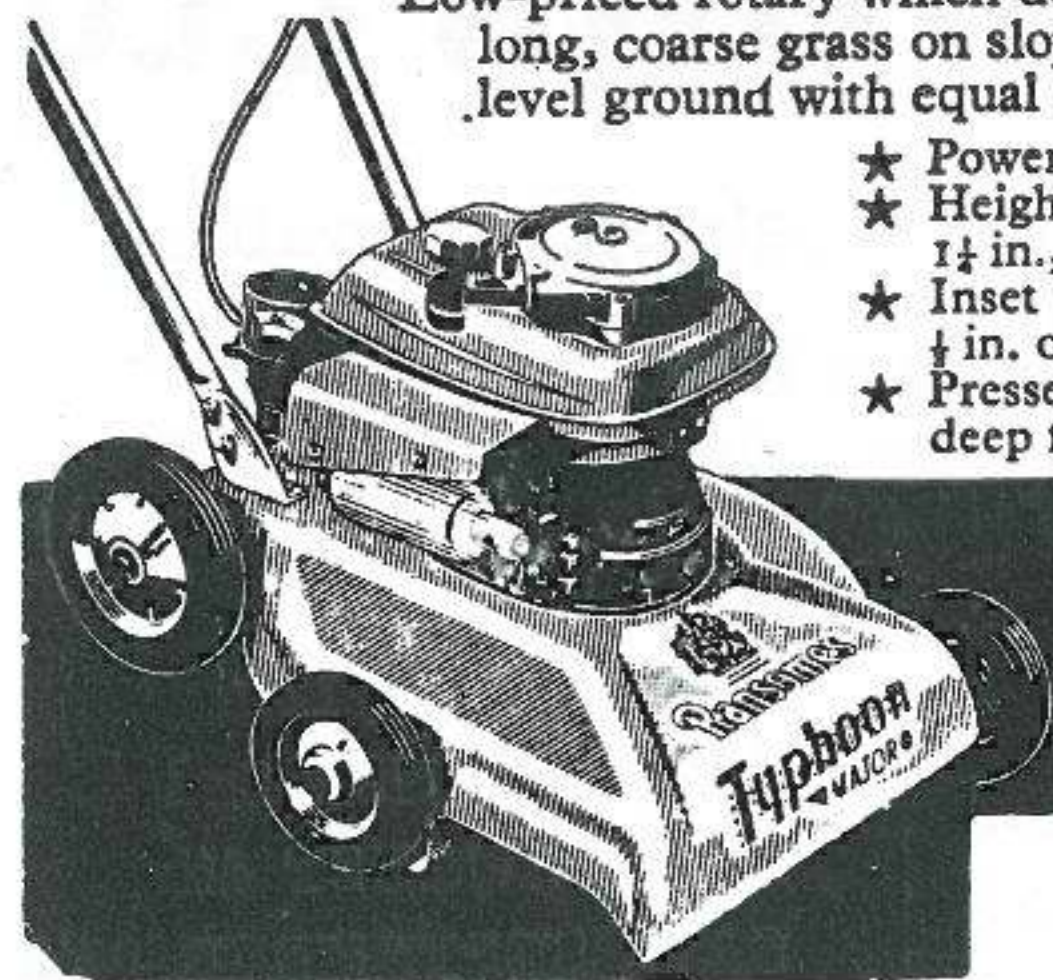
The advocates of the palmed pass still bemoan the fact that the fisted pass was never properly considered before it was brought into the game. It was certainly the abuse of the old, rather than the merits of the new, which caused the change.

Anyway, what about a real test of the thirteen-a-side?

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SAT., JULY 12th

SAT., AUGUST 2nd

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WHETHER we like it or not, T.V. is here to stay. It has meant a radical change in the living habits of the community and many people both in business and in sporting organisations have both profited and lost by its advent. T.V. has been largely responsible for the great upsurge of interest in golf and the enthusiasm generated by the 1966 World Cup soccer competition led directly to large scale investment in the game in the U.S. With so many channels to choose from, living and recreational habits must be affected in some way, and they are. The attendances at rugby and soccer Internationals have been drastically curtailed due to T.V. and no fee can compensate for a half empty stadium. The G.A.A. recognised this fact of life but in doing so it also, at RTE's inception seven years ago, decided to aid the establishment of the new service by allowing coverage of its big matches for a nominal fee. This didn't work out. Not only did the gates suffer alarmingly at the semi-final stage but club matches in counties not having any connection whatever with the semi-finalists found their gates affected.

This was the beginning of the present uneasy relationship which exists between the G.A.A. and RTE. But the potential of T.V. is so great that it would be a

### ● RACING FIXTURES

The racing fixtures which appear on this page cover some of the most important events due to be contested during 1969 and to our race-going readers, we suggest you hold on to these notices for reference during the current season.

*That is the question?*  
**BARRY KEEGAN**  
*comes up with some interesting answers.*

great pity if the G.A.A. did not grasp the nettle, so to speak, and meet RTE on its own terms.

The Catholic Church has seen the need to do this and with the establishment of its Communications Centre in Booterstown Ave., have gone a long way to solving it.

Sure enough the G.A.A. could not afford a centre of its own but I am sure that the Hierarchy which has so many links with the Association would agree to a sharing of facilities on a fee basis. I don't think this has been tried. Why not? And don't tell me you wouldn't find anyone in the G.A.A. capable of doing this. There are plenty and it is our duty to find them. With the knowledge thus obtained the opportunities are limitless. Coaching films could be prepared both for showing in clubs in the winter months and on T.V. itself. This could be in effect, a kind of extension to the Gormanston courses which were so successful earlier this year.

The hurling revival could be enormously helped by instructional films which could be obtainable at a nominal fee from Headquarters. This is not all. Throughout the year a T.V. fitness course could be organised not only for active G.A.A. members but also the many ex-players who still like to keep in trim.

Television cannot be ignored but it can be ill-used and the present set-up of scrappy programmes devoted to G.A.A. affairs does not do justice either to RTE or the G.A.A. Let the Association prepare its personnel first and when thus prepared let us sit down with RTE and hammer out a system of programmes which would be of benefit to all.

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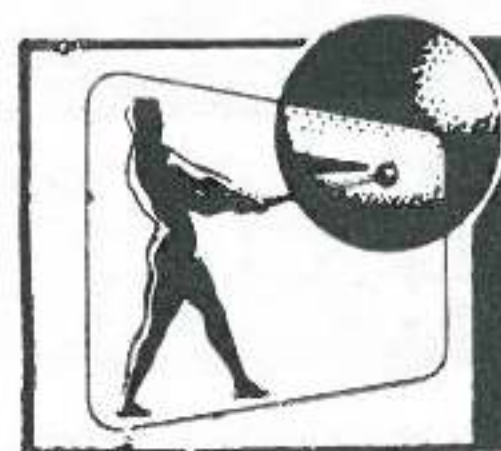
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# THE BURRISHOOLE 'TWINS'

By SEAN RICE

THE Burrishoole twins they call them. Both are members of the same club, both are red-heads, 21-years-old and six footers. One plays at full-forward for Mayo, the other at full back. They are the products of Mayo's All-Ireland winning under-21 team of 1967, and on their young shoulders lies the future of Mayo's senior footballers.

Willie McGee and Christy Loftus are the names.

McGee, a Dublin based Garda, is probably the more notable. For it was he who exploded into notoriety at Ballinasloe two years ago when he shattered Kerry by scoring four goals in the replay of the All-Ireland under-21 championship.

Shortly afterwards he was promoted to the senior team, but in his first outing against Clare in the National League last season he dislocated his shoulder and was out of the team for six months.

Christy Loftus was also on that under-21 team at left-full back. And although he played senior in a challenge game that same year, it was not until the present National League campaign

started that he commanded a regular place.

Both players grew up together in their native Newport. They had been playing there since they were children; played for the local national school and for St. Mary's secondary school. They played minor football for the local club, Burrishoole, with whom Loftus won a West Mayo junior medal at the age of 16. Both he and McGee subsequently won Connacht minor league medals with Mayo.

McGee is an opportunist who rarely fails to score in any game. He is quick-thinking with a long, lazy stride that is as deceptive as his method of fielding—a quick dart of the hands and the ball is suddenly tucked into his body. His is a polished style.

Loftus, on the other hand, is of the rugged style. No great polish, but solid and uncompromising. His aim is to stop a player from scoring rather than perform any spectacular feat. There are no embellishments. He has a job to do and does it as simply and effectively as he knows how.

Strangely, Loftus never played full back for his club. In fact, it

was at centrefield he became prominent and his first venture into intercounty fare was at full forward. However, before his style became bent in that direction he was tried in defence and in this sector he gave his best performances.

Neither he nor McGee have fully settled into senior football for the county. But they are the type of players on which Mayo are at present concentrating. And, so far, the selectors' gamble is paying off. For Mayo have entered the new year undefeated in the National League—something that has not happened for many years.

This could well be attributed to the enthusiasm of players like Willie McGee and Christy Loftus and other young players on the side, even though it may be a while before they take Mayo to the pinnacle of success. But they are promising. They have youth on their side and they also have the taste of success in other grades.

If the hunger for further success gnaws deeply enough they may well have brought into the senior grade the prerequisites for victory here too.

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# *The ladies who stole the show in '68*

## **CAMOGIE**

**By  
Agnes  
Hourigan**

**L**AST month I listed briefly my top camogie stars of 1968, meaning to give the reasons why this month—and then I find that Seán O'Donnell has gone and stolen a great deal of my thunder by going and interviewing my camogie star of the year, MARGARET O'LEARY.

Well, that still does not get away from the fact that Margaret was the outstanding performer on the camogie fields of Ireland last season.

She began on a high note when she won a 1967 All-Ireland club medal with her Dublin club in the replay of the final which took place in Ballinasloe in the Spring.

Then she played a major part in helping Eoghan Ruadh to retain both the Dublin league and championship. For the Leinster senior championship final against Kilkenny, Wexford moved Margaret from her 'till then customary centre-back post to mid-field, and there she played a major part in enabling her county to win this title for the first time. She had a great game against champions Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final at Glenariff, and, if closely marked for three-quarters of the way in the All-Ireland final against Cork, she was a dominant figure in the closing stages.

Margaret then went on to play brilliantly against Ulster in the final of the interprovincial series

at Croke Park where victory for Leinster meant that she had won all the top camogie awards in the same year.

Though a troublesome finger-injury deprived her of the chance of playing in the Dublin McCarthy Cup, she wound up her camogie year typically by refereeing the Wexford county final.

PEGGY DORGAN of Cork was

the outstanding forward of the camogie year. It was her accuracy, both from frees and from play, that carried her county out of Munster and into the All-Ireland final, and it was no fault of hers that the red tunics failed to carry the day against Wexford in the exciting final. She also played brilliantly

● TO PAGE 44



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*The Wexford camogie team, winners of the All-Ireland senior championship for the first time last year.*

● FROM PAGE 43

in the Cork championships and for the losing Munster side in the Gael-Linn Cup semi-final against Ulster.

BRIGID O'CONNOR (Wexford) was another player who had a great year. She played very well in the Leinster final and was the outstanding winger on view in the All-Ireland semi-final and final. In addition, she helped her club, Adamstown, to win both the junior and senior championship of Wexford.

MEL CUMMINS (Cork). It was the unbeatable goalkeeping of Mel Cummins that saw Cork through against Tipperary and Waterford in the Munster championship and she also gave a brilliant display in the All-Ireland final.

SUE CASHMAN (Antrim). It was no fault of Sue Cashman that

Antrim failed to retain their All-Ireland crown. A very deserving winner of a Texaco award early in the season, she was the star of the Antrim side in the All-Ireland semi-final and also played well for Ulster. But she had some consolation when her club Deirdre won the Antrim title once again after a thrilling draw and replay with Ahogill.

CARMEL O'SHEA (Kilkenny). The tall, fair-haired former Colleges star played magnificently for Kilkenny when they sensationally defeated Dublin in the Leinster semi-final. She subsequently starred for the Leinster interprovincial side and for the St. Paul's team that won the Kilkenny, Leinster and All-Ireland club championships.

MARY SINNOTT (Wexford). The great Wexford full-back had a very successful year on the

county side, and gave, perhaps, her best performance in the Leinster final.

EILEEN NAUGHTON (Galway). This great goal-keeper was the driving force behind University College Galway's Ashbourne Cup win and she also played superbly for Galway and Connaught later in the year.

ALICE HUSSEY (Dublin) gave two glorious exhibitions for Leinster in the interprovincial final and semi-final and the Dublin star is still probably the best centre-back in the country.

BARBARA SANDS (Down). This young Down girl, member of a large and distinguished camogie family, gave a great display for Down in the All-Ireland junior final when her sweeping deliveries from the left wing were often reminiscent of the great Kathleen Mills.

# NA PIARSAIGH

## *Limerick's newest club*

**T**HE most notable event in Limerick City Gaeldom for many a day was the launching of Cumann na Piarasaigh.

Those not fully informed on the matter will say it was only another G.A.A. club in a city already fairly well serviced in this respect, but further study will discover that Na Piarasaigh is a club with a difference—one designed for the exciting 'seventies on lines that mark a complete breakaway from the hide-bound conventions that stifle the work of too many of our present institutions.

The founders of Na Piarasaigh had the advantage of starting from scratch on virgin soil as it were, and consequently they were able to do a lot of things that might not be possible in other circumstances.

They operate in an area only recently developed and where all the residents are virtual newcomers with practically no established ties there. It is a fast growing residential area on the northern outskirts of Limerick City and adjacent to the busy main road to Shannon Airport and the West of Ireland generally.

A complete new community is being established there, and what the club plans is a centre for this

community, and which it is intended will cater for all the recreational needs of the area.

The committee have set their sights high and are presently negotiating for a substantial parcel of land in the heart of the estate on which it is intended to provide adequate playing space for Gaelic games. On the other perimeter a first class pitch-and-putt course will be laid out plus a number of tennis courts. Also on the agenda for immediate fulfilment is the erection of a pavilion and community centre,

planned on the most modern lines and intended to cater for a variety of indoor activities; the hub on which the social life of the parish will revolve.

This is a most ambitious project but the go ahead committee representatives of this fast developing district, have already shown their ability to both think and act big in their handling of worthwhile undertakings.

In the early summer shortly after their foundation, they organised a great hurling symposium, which attracted nationwide interest because of the noteworthy panel of speakers they secured. Headed by the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, the panel also included Seamus Ryan, President of the G.A.A.; Michael O'Hehir, Head of Sports, Radio Telefis Eireann; Father Tommy Maher of Kilkenny, Ireland's leading hurling coach, and Brother L. P. O'Caithnia of Cork; who recently compiled a history of hurling.

● TO PAGE 47

## **M.V. COACH TOURS**

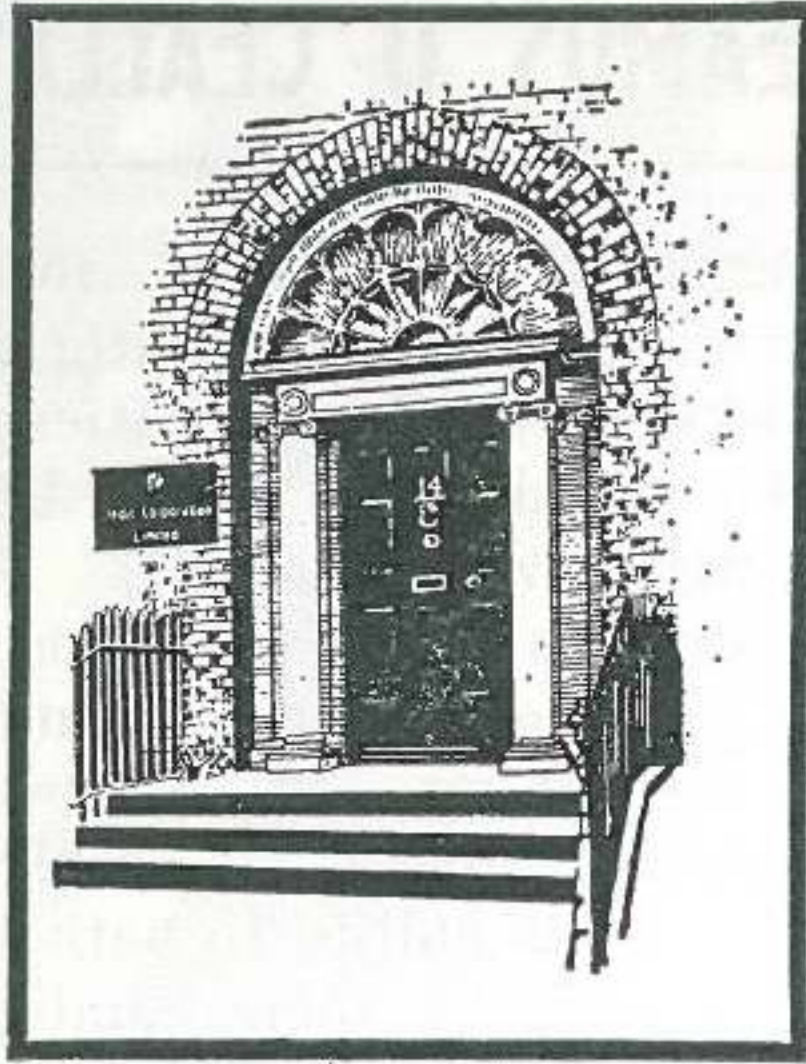
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● FROM PAGE 45

All the Dublin national dailies sent their top G.A.A. writers to the Symposium and every County Board in Munster had their leading figures in attendance. Held in Limerick's largest ball-room, the organisers set a headline for future G.A.A. social life by the generous hospitality extended to all the visiting personalities in one of Limerick's leading hotels both before and after the function. They set a high standard and lived up to it—and this has been the pattern for all their activities, right from the commencement.

Recently they organised a most successful hurling coaching course which was conducted by the well known Tipperary hurler, Donie Nealon, who is one of the three instructors at the annual national course in Gormanston College. This was open to all hurling enthusiasts in Limerick and its surrounding areas. It proved exceedingly helpful, with every aspect of the game explained very clearly, demonstrated skilfully and illustrated on film. It too was a most ambitious undertaking and extended over a full month, indicating the forward thinking of the club mentors.

A strong social life is already firmly established and this is

maintained by regular weekly functions in the nearby Inter-continental Hotel, which are well patronised by the members and well wishers of the club.

The founders caused as little disruption as possible to nearby G.A.A. clubs by confining their activities to players in the age groups of fourteen, fifteen and sixteen years for the initial season. They gathered, guided and trained large groups of the youth of the area whom they soon imbued with their own infectious enthusiasm with the result that now they have a dedicated body of boys who have gained considerable experience through participation in the various championship and league competitions and as a result of the recent coaching course.

The aim of the club is to give as many boys as are interested the opportunity of playing as many games as possible—and this is the spirit that has been instilled into each member. Playing for the love of the game and from the pleasure to be derived from a sporting encounter is the main objective. Victory when it comes is always welcome—but only one of the contestants can win a game, and if the loser profits from the lessons of a defeat the long term benefit can be of considerable value.

Chairman and main driving force behind the club is Noel Drumgoole, the former Leinster and Dublin hurling star, and he has a magnificent team of co-workers, who in less than a year have added a powerful new dimension to the G.A.A. in Limerick.

The club have borrowed an axiom of former G.A.A. President, Alf Murray, and incorporated it in their charter :

“The basic idea must be maintained that the club stands for Ireland and for things Irish. That need not be an aggressive attitude nor should it be used to antagonise people who may not fully accept all that the G.A.A. stands for. It should be part of the atmosphere of the club that there is a preference for things Irish—in language, games, music, goods and literature—in all the small things where preference is possible, but there should also be an appreciation of the contribution that can still be made to community life by those who have no wish to exercise the preference to the full. The club's duty is to help and assist all who have some contribution to make towards a better life for the whole community and each individual has his or her own special mite to add to the community well being.”

---

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1st June—**Tyrone v. Derry**  
at Dungannon

8th June—**Antrim v. Donegal**  
at Belfast

15th June—**Armagh v. Monaghan**  
at Armagh

**Cavan v. Fermanagh**  
at Irvinestown

22nd June—**Down v. Antrim or Donegal**

If Down v. Antrim, at Newry; if Down  
v. Donegal, at Newry or a neutral venue.

### **JUNE 29, SEMI-FINAL**

**Cavan or Fermanagh v. Derry or Tyrone**

### **JULY 6, SEMI-FINAL**

**Antrim or Donegal or Down v. Armagh  
or Monaghan**

**FINAL — JULY 27th**

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# QUIZ-TIME

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## SHOOTING FOR POINTS

**Y**OU should be able to tap these over, though if you are a little rusty for want of practice some of those from awkward angles may "throw" you. Watch the close frees, they are to be taken in the time limit indicated. As with all close frees, you only get one chance.

1—Name the captain of the team which won the 1968 All-Ireland minor hurling championship.

**Time limit: 10 seconds.**

2—Name the captain of the team which won the 1968 All-Ireland minor football championship.

**Time limit: 10 seconds.**

3—For what county team does Liz Garvan play camogie?

4—Which county won the Leinster Special under-21 hurling championship in 1968?

**Time limit: 7 seconds.**

5—In the Connacht football semi-final Galway and Roscommon drew on June 16th. Can you remember the score?

6—Antrim played in the All-Ireland senior foot-

ball series was 1946, losing the semi-final to Kerry. Can you say who was captain of that Antrim team?

7—What position was occupied by the famous Paddy Kennedy in the Polo Grounds final of 1947?

8—What club does Pat Cronin (Clare) play for?

9—Name the Waterford hurling champions 1968?

10—Can you name the Dublin hurling selector who was forced to line out in his county's team in the Leinster championship?

## GO FOR A GOAL

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

11—Who is the top scorer in a major inter-county game in hurling (as far as records show) and what was that score?

12—Can you say who was the top scorer in a football inter-county game during the year 1968, and what was the score?

13—Who is President of the Camogie Association?

14—Who is President of the Handball Council?

15—Can you name the young handballer who won two minor All-Irelands in 1968 and was runner-up in a third?

**Time limit: 7 seconds.**

16—Can you name the goalkeeper who has been outstanding for London for a number of years?

**Time limit: 7 seconds.**

17—Can you name the well-known long distance runner who captured both the 2 miles and 10 miles championship of N.A.C.A.?

18—Can you name the Kerry All-Ireland footballer who represented Ireland at the Olympic Games of 1932?

19—Who was the Down team-manager during last year's successful run?

**Time limit: 6 seconds.**

20—Can you give the score of the Monaghan-Fermanagh replay in the 1968 Ulster championship?

**Time limit: 7 seconds.**

● ANSWERS PAGE 52

# TOSACH BLIANA NUA



LIAM  
Ó TUAMA  
A SCRÍ

**T**Á blian amháin imthighthe thart agus tá bliana nua eile ag síneadh rómhainn amach. "Tempus fugit" adubhairt Bhergil uair amháin. 'Seadh imíonn an aimsear thart. Tá sé sin cinnte, agus níl aon ealó againn as. Tá sé mar nós ag mórán daoine rún nó dó a dhéanamh i dtosach na bliana, cinn gur fiú iad a dhéanamh agus cinn go mbeadh ar a gcumas a chólíonadh i rith na bliana atá rómpa amach. 'Seadh is fiu go mór é, rún daingean a dhéanamh, má chuireann sé feabhas ar aon nídh nár déanadh go ró shásiúil i rith na bliana atá imthighthe thart.

Táim cinnte go bhfuil mórán rudaí ann, gur fiú iad a dhéanamh againn-ne go léir, chun feabhas a chur air seo is air siúd. An mhéid againn go bhfuil baint againn le cúrsaí ár gcluichí le cúpla scór bliain chímíd gádh leis. Togaimís deagh iompar ar pháirc na h-imtheatha cuir i gcás, ceapaimís go raibh na cluichí abfad Éireann níos fear-iúla, níos glaine, níos uaisle leath-chéad blian ó shoin, ná mar athá siad i láthair na h-uaire. Cuireann sé déistin ort go minic nuair a chionn tú an droch-iompar a thárlíonn ar pháirc-eanna na h-imtheath ar fuaid na tíre.

## CIONNTACH THUADH IS THEAS

Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil aon chonndae thuaid ná theas gan a roinnt féin den droch-iompar so. Ní fheadar an bhfuil aon chonndae in aon chor againn go bféadfadh Gaedhil an Chonndae sin a dhá lámha bhána d'árdú agus a rádh ná thárlíonn aon droch-iompar 'na gconndae féin, ná bhíonn bun cleithe istigh nó bárr cleithe amuigh 'na gconndae féin, pé nídh a thárlíonn i gconndae eile. Tá ana chuid suaireachais ag teacht isteach 'nár gcluichí, seadh suaireachas, agus rud éigin níos measa fós, roinnt mhaith salachair. Seo mar a fhéachaim-se air, do réir mar atáimíd níos gallda mar náisiún atáimíd ag éirí níos mí-uaisle ar pháirc na h-imtheatha. Ní gádh dhuit dul abfad ó bhaile chun an droch-iompar so adeirim-se d'fheiscint. Ní gádh do mhéar do chur ar an gclub so nó ar an gclub siúd in áiteanna atá abfad, abfad amach. Chifeá droch-iompar i bPáirc a' Chrócaigh fiú amháin ó am go h-am, agus bíonn óg is aosta cionntach. Nuair a bhíos ag éirí suas ní fheicfeá garsún ag éirí a láimhe riamh, riamh, riamh. Pé leath-scéal a bheadh ag duine óg ní ceart dó aon nídh mí-cheart a dhéanamh ar an bpáirc. Ba chóir go mbeadh smacht aige air féin. Maidir le

Páirc a' Chrócaigh, agus is cuma, cé bhíonn ag imirt ann, agus pribhléid is ea é a bheith ag imirt in aon chor. Tá aithne agam ag na céadta, is mé féin orra chó maith agus ní raibh sé de phribhléid againn a bheith páirteach i gcluiche ann riamh in aon chor, cé gur chailleamar ana-chuid alluis idir imirt na gcluichí agus iarrachtaí iad a chur chun cinn annso is annsúd tríd an dtír.

## NA DEAGH-BÉASA IS FEARR

'Seadh, bheadh coinne agat leis na déagh-béasa is fearr in áit mar Pháirc an Chrócaigh. Bíonn daoine ann ó thíorthaibh thar lear, ach mór an náire, tá daoine ann agus is cuma leo cé bhíonn i láthair, sagairt, easbuig nó árd-easbuig. Ar an dtaobh eile, castar na daoine is fearr sa domhan iomlán ort i measg Goadhal Éireann. Is cuma pioca ag buadhchaint a bhíonn siad nó ag cailliúint go h-olc a bhíonn siad, déanann siad an nídh uasal i gcomhnaí riamh. Ní thabhairfidís aon trioblóid don mholtóir. Pé nídh nó pé órdú a thugann an moltóir glactar leis, agus sin sin. Imirtheóirí den t-saghas san, agus imirtheóirí den t-sabhas amháin atá ag teastáil uainn. Sin rún amháin go bhféadfadh mórán dár n-imirtheóirí a dhéanamh, aithris a dhéanamh ar phlúr na nGaodhal.

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*The Longford team who, last year, won the Leinster senior football title for the first time.*

## HOW LONGFORD CAME BACK

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

**T**HERE is tremendous satisfaction in achieving something that has never been done before and when that achievement is the winning of the Leinster senior football championship the satisfaction is all the greater, so it is no wonder that the bonfires blazed throughout County Longford in mid-July when the provincial championship cup came home for the first time.

It was an achievement the possibility of which seemed to have slipped away a few years ago when Longford reached the Leinster final only to lose to Dublin on a rain-soaked sod in Croke Park. Undaunted by that defeat, and well tutored by Cavan's Mick Higgins, the Longford lads came back to win the National League, defeating All-Ireland champions Galway in a thrilling home final, and then, in the final proper, overcoming the stern New York challenge in a stormy two-leg final at Longford and Croke Park.

But, in the meantime, just a

fortnight after that home league victory they crashed to Louth at An Uaimh in the 1966 championship. Through the winter they lost their league crown and when, in 1967, they again crashed in the championship, there was something of a crisis in the county.

The ranks were closed, however, and Longford came out in the 1968 championship more determined than ever. They gave their supporters great early heart, and considerable satisfaction by defeating Dublin in the opening round at Tullamore, the first time Longford had ever beaten the men from the Metropolis in senior championship.

They went on to beat the All-Ireland champions, Meath, in the semi-final, again at Tullamore, and amply fulfilled the ambitions of eighty years when they easily accounted for Laois to gain that long-coveted Leinster senior title. It was the greatest moment so far in the Gaelic history of the west-midlanders, but though

their bid for higher honours was, for the moment, foiled by Kerry in the semi-final, but failed only very narrowly indeed after a glorious second-half rally. But the Leinstermen had another hour of glory still to come.

In the semi-final of the Grounds tournament they scored a memorable victory, after a thrilling game, over All-Ireland champions Down, and thus achieved the remarkable distinction of defeating two sets of All-Ireland champions in the same year.

So, although a much under-strength team subsequently went down to resurgent Galway in the final, 1968 must still go into Longford annals as possibly the county's most successful yet.

And when one realises, that ever since early July, they had been continually hard-hit by injuries, and in their latest games by suspensions, it is no wonder that all Longford is looking forward to 1969 in a spirit of considerable optimism.

# READER'S FORUM

A Chara—I was very impressed by the tone of Dan McAreavy's reply to Fr. Columba Mansfield in your last issue. Knowing McAreavy to be in favour of the "Ban", I thought he dealt very reasonably with Fr. Mansfield's suggestion that G.A.A. members might be allowed to play rugby and soccer during the G.A.A. close season.

But I disagreed with him when he said: "More games are not what we want." I am sure we need fewer inter-county games—especially in the below-senior grades—but, surely, the only way the G.A.A. can attract and then satisfy boys and men is to provide them with regular club games—and that means games every Sunday.

He mentions the spread of soccer to State schools and to territories traditionally regarded as [G.A.A.] strongholds.

And you know why? Because

the soccer people give their players regular weekly games, and the G.A.A. does not.

Of course, to foster the Gaelic games, not only must officialdom provide constant activity in all club grades, but it must also make sure that sportsmanship takes a paramount place in the games, otherwise the young fellows will be attracted to sports which are governed by strict discipline.

Gaelic games, at local level, have not always been noted for their sportsmanship. The wild men must be weeded out if the games are to attract the youth of to-day in big numbers. That, with punctuality, and certain changes in the rules of Gaelic football, is the only way to "match the challenge" of soccer, as Dan McAreavy puts it.

Is mise,

T. O Ceallaigh.

Luimneach.

A Chara—I would like to say thanks to you, and to the writer, Eamonn Young, for the wonderful tribute to the late Jim Barry, which you published in the December number of GAELIC SPORT. It was beautifully written by Eamonn Young and was undoubtedly the best appreciation of Jim Barry printed by any newspaper or journal.

Corkonian.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

### POINTS

1—Tom Byrne (Wexford); 2—Donal Ahearne (Cork); 3—Cork; 4—Westmeath; 5—Galway 2-10, Roscommon 3-7; 6—George Waterson; 7—Left-corner forward; 8—Newmarket-on-Fergus; 9—Ballygunner; 10—Christy Hayes.

### GOALS

11—Nick Rackard, 7-7 for Wexford against Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1956; 12—Jack Berry, 3-9 for Wexford against Kilkenny in an O'Byrne Cup game at Gorey on April 21, 1968; 13—Mrs. Rosina McManus (Ulster); 14—Rev. Bro. B. C. Murphy (Meath); 15—John Quigley (Wexford), won the M.H.S. and M.S.D., running-up in the M.H.D.; 16—Willie Barniville; 17—Willie Webb (Rising Sun); 18—Eamon Fitzgerald; 19—Gerry Browne; 20—Monaghan 2-12, Fermanagh 2-5.

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