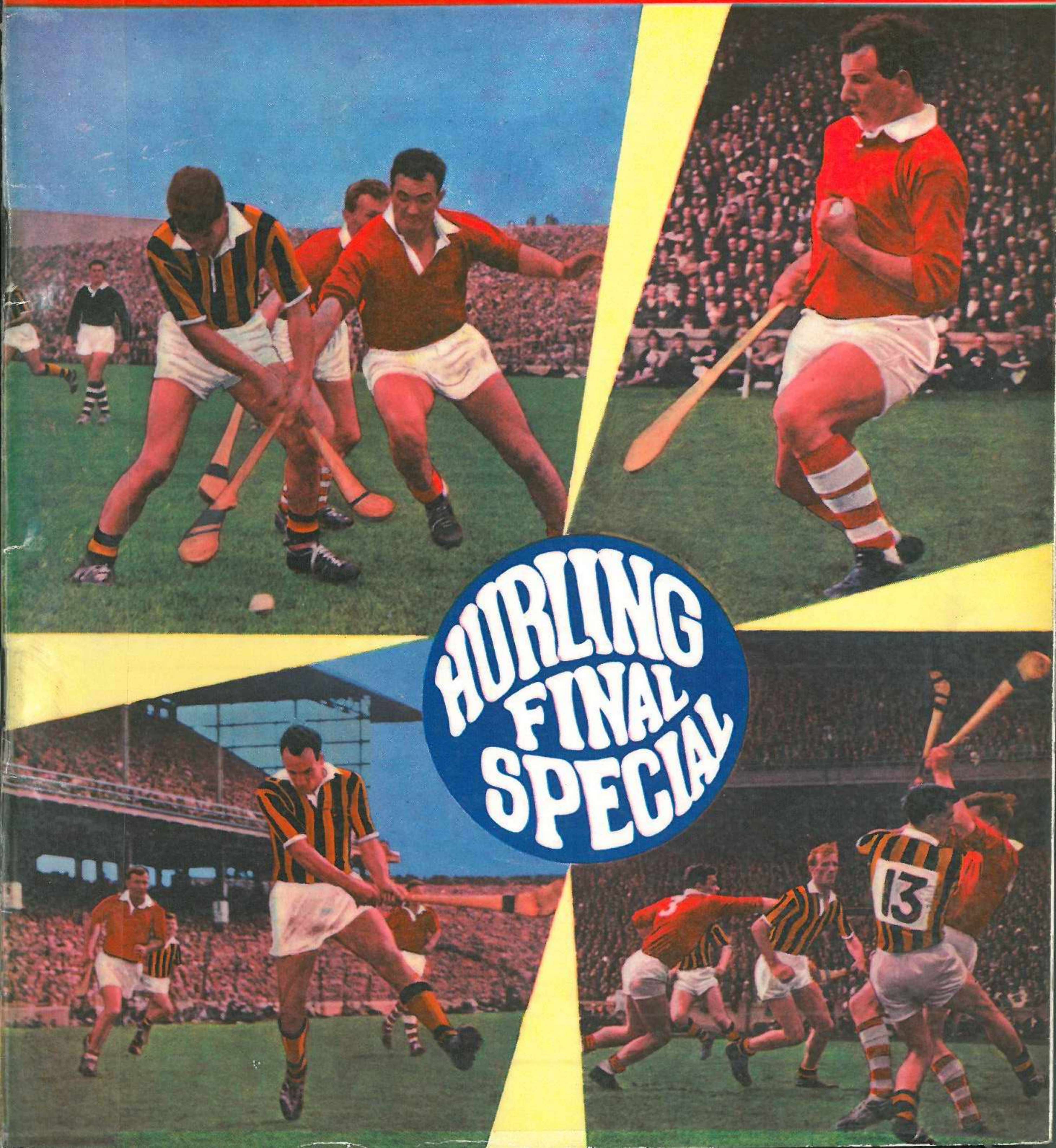


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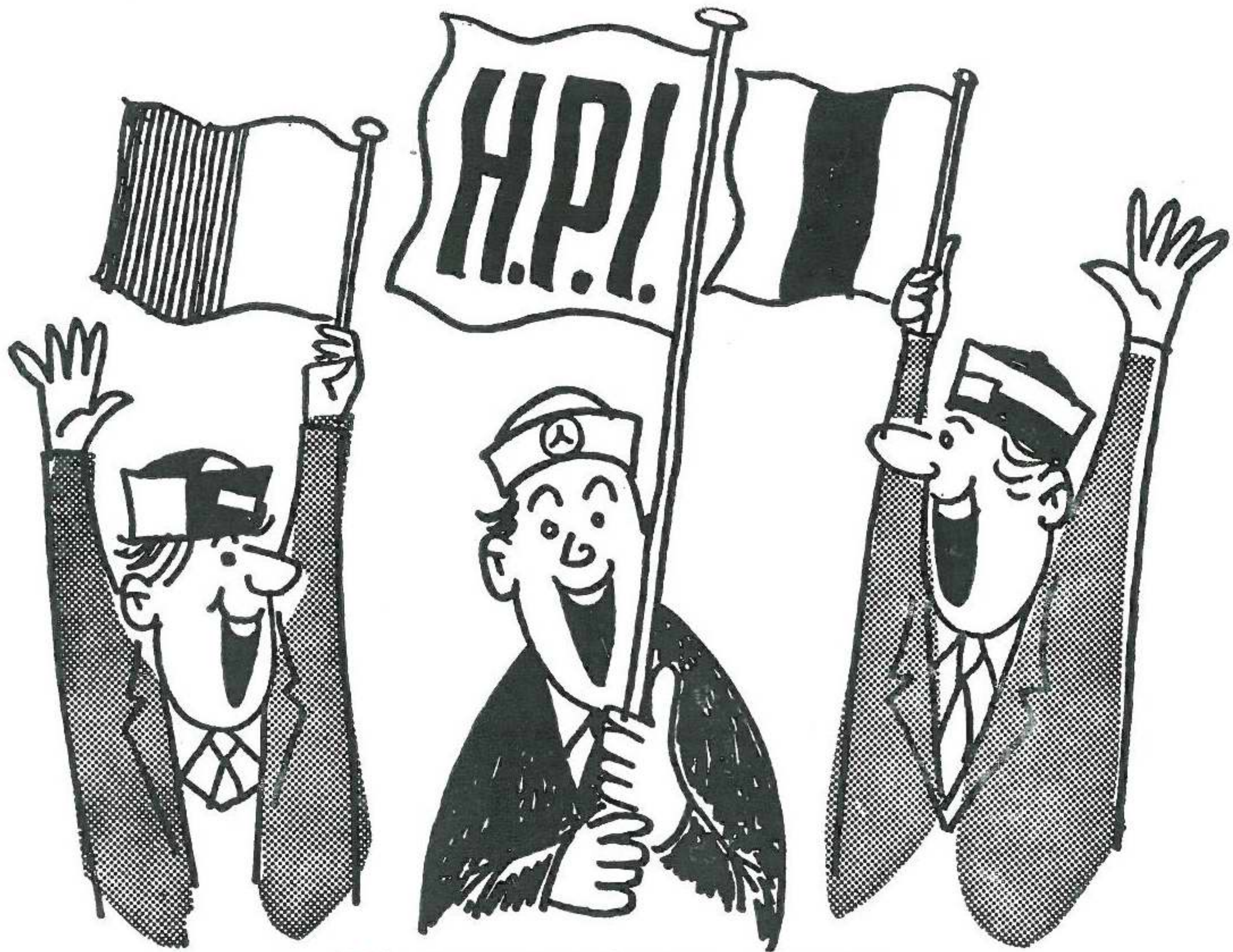
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WHAT NOW?

BILLY BARNIVILLE'S hurling was worthy of a more stirring occasion. The County Tipperary man's vigilance in goal was one of the few worthwhile features that ensured that the visit to Croke Park for the first All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final in 11 years was, for the paying customers, not a completely wasted afternoon.

There was, too, the drive and determination of Nicholas Power in attack, and deft touches by Jim Bennett and defender Martin Kirwan and the hard work of Tom Connolly in that all-round disappointing performance that further helped to bolster London's cause in the arguments now raging as to their right to remain in the senior grade.

Hurling is not so strong that it can afford to keep even one talented player, let alone a team on the sideline. Nevertheless, while many a great success story has had its foundation in dismal beginnings, few can seriously dispute the fact now that there is anything likely to be gained by retaining the 1969 set-up.

Rank and file supporters, who are excellent judges of what to expect from any fixture, will not in the future support any semi-final of a similar character to the recent Kilkenny-London game. If London are to remain in the Senior Championship, and are to pull in the crowds at the concluding stages in the future, they will have to prove themselves where it matters most—in the white-heat of the Championship.

This raises yet again a departure from age-old tradition, and because of old customs and beliefs, it would probably be expedient now to take the easy way

out and confine London to the Intermediate and junior grades, with a proviso allowing them to field a stated number of medalists the year following an Intermediate title win.

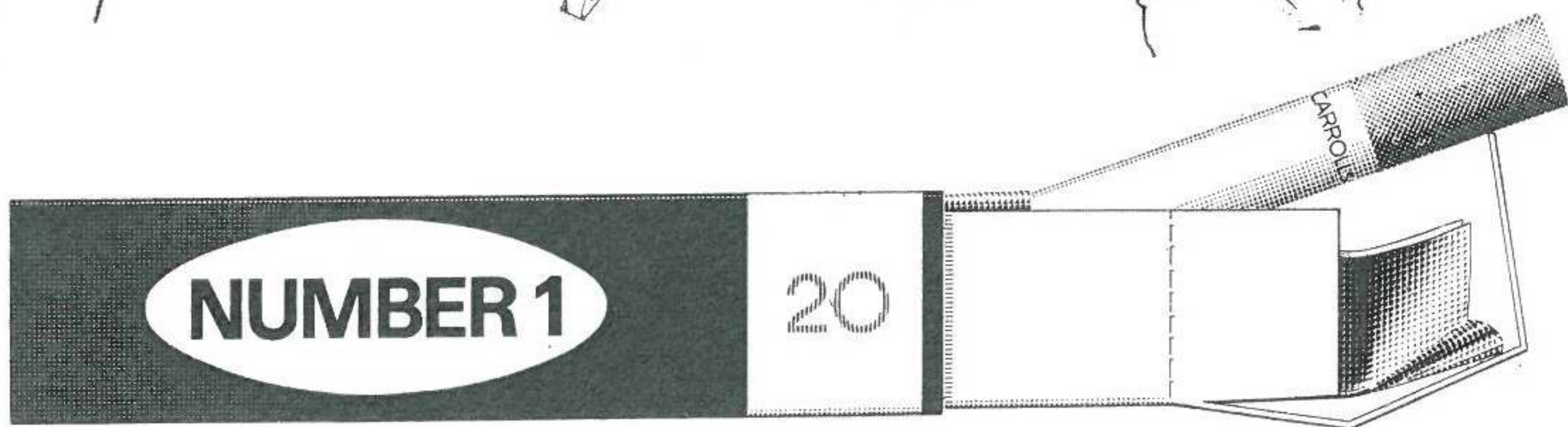
But would this be for the good of hurling in general? And did we not fail to face up squarely in the late 1950's to a somewhat corresponding situation when Antrim, after poor displays in the All-Ireland semi-finals, dropped out of the premier grade?

That was the obvious way out of that difficulty, but that self-imposed "partition" in the Championship has down the years made no positive contribution to the progress of hurling in the North.

Competitive match-play at senior championship level is the answer to London's problem. This could be provided by allowing the Exiles to compete in either the Munster or Leinster Championships, but really the edge of the 'Seventies is a time for a more progressive approach, a time to bring back Ulster to the premier scene, and to experiment in putting Connacht more into the picture.

This could be effectively achieved by creating a separate group composed of London, Galway, Kildare, who are making such impressive strides just now, Westmeath, an all-Ulster team, and a Rest of Connacht selection, with the winners qualifying for the All-Ireland semi-final.

Hurling is now crying out for vision and drive to stop the slide. London's defeat provides a great opportunity to at long last grasp the nettle. Are we big enough to accept the challenge?



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FINAL ANALYSIS

By SEAMUS O BRAONAIN

A WORD about 1966 and a glance at the teams of that year is an instructive approach to considering this year's chances of Cork and Kilkenny. Off hand, the match will be recalled as the 'final of the pill', when some Kilkennymen blamed their lethargy and inability to cope with the fiery Corkmen on stimulants which misfired. On simply objective hurling grounds, the outcome depended on the fact that Kilkenny were never allowed to settle by the super-fit, super-eager Corkmen, and then found themselves unable to adapt their game to the situation or master it to their own pattern. Very simply, Kilkenny had to play their tune to the tempo which Cork called, and Cork wielded the baton and kept to their tempo to the end.

In any game between the two old rivals this must be a serious consideration. Cork are at their best when the ball is flying and the pace electric; Kilkenny prosper in a moderate foxtrot, when their more deliberate skills and contrived artistry gets time to blossom. The present Cork team ought to be even better equipped than their 1966 side to maintain the pressure and pace, to dictate the manner in which the game is played. For that reason, one must look for stronger reasons



Kilkenny quartet (left to right): Ollie Walsh, Paddy Delaney, Martin Brennan and Jim Treacy.

why Kilkenny should be able to impose their style on the play, or able to beat Cork at their own game.

In the year after their failure to Cork they did, indeed, beat Tipperary at their own game, subduing much of their natural bent for the artistic and playing urgent combative hurling to the discomfort of the Tipperarymen. I have doubts, though about their ability to do the same with this Cork side, whose very strength they would then play to, and whose youthful drive would make them different by far to the then ageing Tipperary team.

Can Kilkenny, then, impose their own pattern on the play this time? It is, I think, a distinct possibility, strengthened by the manner in which the Munster final was played—first at Cork's tearaway gallop, then in a slower Tipperary-suited tempo, and, finally, at Cork's pace again. And while the play was ragged and pedestrian Tipperary, poor as

they were, kept picking off points to narrow the gap. Cork knocked in the goals that won the game as a sort of logical extension of whirligig of action, rather than by any contrived or invented formula or plan of tactics. Kilkenny will remember that the goals which beat them in 1966 were of the same calibre.

The sides lined out in 1966 as follows:

Cork: P. Barry; P. Doolan; T. O'Donoghue; D. Murphy; A. Connolly, J. O'Sullivan; P. Fitzgerald; J. McCarthy, M. Waters; S. Barry, J. O'Halloran, G. McCarthy; C. McCarthy, C. Sheehan, J. Bennett.

Kilkenny: O. Walsh; P. Henderson, J. Lynch, J. Treacey; S. Cleere, T. Carroll; M. Coogan; P. Moran, J. Teehan; E. Keher; C. Dunne; S. Buckley; J. Dunphy, P. Dillon, T. Walsh.

In the Cork side, in particular, there has been a very substantial turnover of players. The Cork defensive nucleus remains the same and the only change shows Tony Maher replacing Peter Doolan at rightback: the other two, O'Donoghue and Murphy, together with Paddy Barry who has proved himself possibly the most consistently sound keeper in the game, are as good as ever—maybe, even, better.

● TO PAGE 7



Cork quartet (left to right): Tomás Ryan, Pat Hegarty, Donal Clifford and Willie Walsh.



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For the good familiar drink in its old familiar place. For the taste of good times. And for all that it stands for, and has done for so long.

GUINNESS naturally

● FROM PAGE 5

The whole half-back line is gone, now, for Tony Connolly fell away out of contention, and Gerry O'Sullivan and Paddy Fitzgerald were veterans of many an unrewarding day in the red jersey. Justin McCarthy, centre-field in 1966, is in the Mick Roche vein of centre-half, stylish and heart-breaking when in command, but perhaps a little lacking in bite in a big game when the tension is heightened; nor do I judge Donal Clifford and Gerald McCarthy more than the equals of their predecessors.

Gerald, who was up at wing-forward on the same side of the field, is not too comfortable in high-class company at wing-half, certainly lacks the artistry and know-how which made Paddy Fitzgerald a great player at No. 7 over a long number of years. Clifford is uncompromising and dashing rather as Tony Connolly was, but, perhaps, lacks some of the stature and command which Connolly could exercise often.

Strength, utter dedication, fearlessness are the qualities which Denis Coughlan brings to replace at centre-field the smooth artistry and belief in positional play which were Justin McCarthy's stamp. In common both have the quality of intelligent assessment of the situation. Roger Tuohy, on the other hand, brings tidy general usefulness to the position as opposed to the solid grafting and firm clashing of Waters.

The half-forward line is the main difference between the team of 1966 and to-day—to my mind the other lines on the field add up to just about the same as before, though the component parts are somewhat different.

For instance, Charlie McCarthy holds his place, and I would consider him a greater danger now because he is a far more mature player who no longer finds it



Ollie Walsh, in action in the Leinster final against Offaly on July 20.

necessary to cover possession in order to get his scores. Charlie Cullinane, a big and somewhat cumbrous fullforward, could hardly present a greater threat than three-goal Colm Sheehan did three years ago as far as Kilkenny is concerned, while Eddie O'Brien, vigorous and a rover, is not at all so thoughtful a hurler as John Bennett in finish and depends for his effectiveness mostly on nuisance value in the creation of openings for others.

Yes, it is the Cork half-forwards who present the threat. Willie Walsh, in the centre, has captured the imagination with his three goals against Tipperary. But he resembles in no way the hard-grafting John O'Halloran who carried so much of the hard work which made Seanie Barry

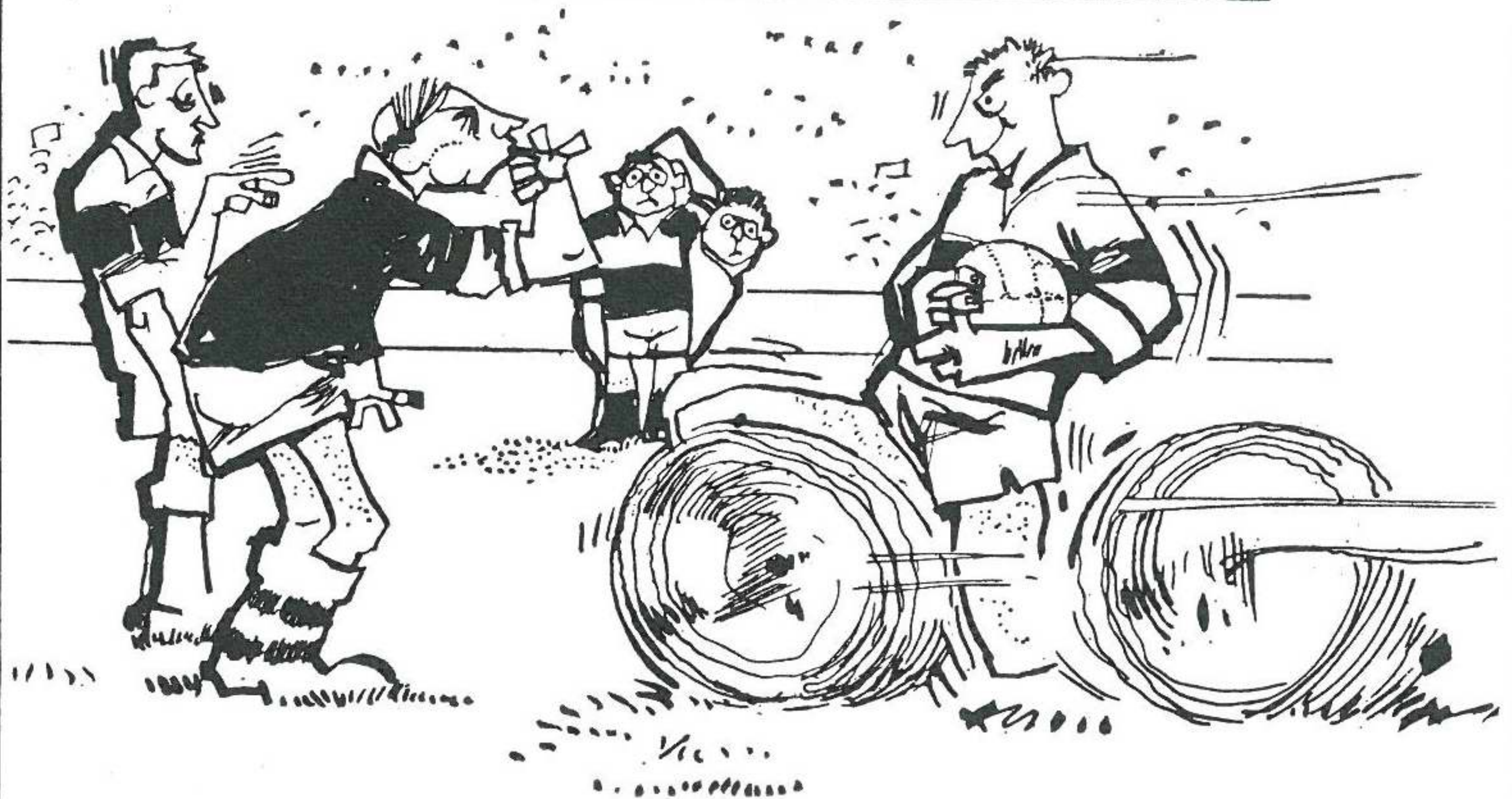
a match-winner. Walsh is the attacking type of centre-forward, and one with the blessed charism of goal-scoring. When his scoring touch fails him he will not hold his place easily.

The work of the line is carried by the two most exciting players of the year—Tomas Ryan and Pat Hegarty. Not only do these relieve their centre-forward of his work load, but they devour huge areas of ground for their midfielders and follow in avariciously for chances round goal.

Ryan will present a complex problem in the midfield area: a great deal of the game's outcome must depend on how well he is neutralised by Martin Coogan—and who better for the job? But Hegarty is another matter

● TO PAGE 62

SHELL



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

GOOD MILEAGE —





PADDY MORAN

A Profile by JAY DRENNAN

PADDY MORAN is no grey-beard, and, indeed, he is established in the Kilkenny team only since the early sixties, but it seems as though he has been in the team at least twice as long. For two reasons, I think, he has forced this impression on us: because he so seldom misses a match of any kind in the Kilkenny colours; and, because you do not see short glimpses of him in every game he plays, but, rather, almost a constant view.

No game seems unworthy of Moran's attention, and, from All-Ireland finals down to the most unpromising challenge fixture he will be in the Kilkenny line-out in his familiar midfield position. Not alone that, however, but there is only one way he seems to understand playing matches — with maximum commitment and perpetual action.

He simply does not know what it means to loaf around and take a nice breather, or how to play a game in an easy-going fashion. Even if you told him to go out and take it easy, Moran would be playing it with 100% effort after five or ten minutes.

Squat, sturdy and hardy, and a natural left-hander, Moran is not the classical image of the artistic hurler, and Paddy has long-since given up any boyhood dreams of classicism. Usefulness, tidiness, constancy, even predictability have been the virtues which he has brought to the county colours.

In another, predictability would be fatal; every man who marked him could guess his next

move and counter it. With Moran, predictability is the greatest virtue he has had in the course of a remarkably consistent career. Kilkenny's selectors must all have had his name written in on their sheets of paper even before they met for team-picking for the best part of the past decade.

They have known precisely what to expect and what they will get: every ball contested, every ball possessed struck soundly into opposing territory; seventies or long frees hit with mechanically repetitive precision; every ball in attacking ground skilfully flighted to the square or stroked over the bar.

Perhaps one of Moran's most outstanding contributions to Kilkenny was the beautiful loft to the square from under the Hogan Stand which gave Kilkenny an early goal in the 1967 final against Tipperary: against the wind, it fortified his team's morale, and shot the feet right from under Tipperary who were playing with a good breeze at the time.

It was that goal which enabled Kilkenny to fight the notable rearguard action of the first half of the match which, in fact, won the game for them in the long run.

But, if that episode stands out, it is not surprising because so few of Paddy Moran's special deeds seem to obtrude: even quite outstanding feats are submerged in the overall unheroic image his play presents. You remember how generally useful he

was, but, it is difficult to recall any specific incidents.

Work and steadiness he may have brought to the Kilkenny team, but, in his years in the side, he has developed positional play and insight into the pattern of the game to a fine degree. It is hard to say whether he is slower now, or whether he gets through the same huge amount of work, for he has learned to shorten the journey and lighten the burden by instinctively taking up the right position.

It is this which has added to his danger for the opposition in recent years, for he anticipates beautifully those half-clearances and pressured half-mistakes which land the ball in no man's land after an attack. That was the kind of chance which brought that 1967 goal against Tipperary and, doubtless, many another which has been merged into the general image of competence.

Strength of arm and shoulder gives him his length from tight positions, because his action is compact—almost miserly—as he leans his body into the short-swung strike. Loose, you note him unwinding and smoothing the ball away with an easy swing. He likes it in the hand and on the left, but, if he has to, he will thrash away on the ground or on the right.

Elegance is never his concern anyway. If he does have a claim to classical skills in hurling, Moran must rest it on his beautiful sideline cuts—there is hardly anyone in the game who hits

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final, they have been considered favourites for this year's championship. After the first round game against Clare (on the Sunday after the climatic League final) they have been nothing if not efficient in their progress through Munster to Croke Park.

Kilkenny's background is far different. After the sad business of the 1968 League final, which they lost, and after the suspension of Ollie Walsh and the injury and retirement of some others, their spirited showing against Wexford in the Leinster final seemed to mark a last ditch. They disintegrated afterwards, both in spirit and in skill. Their League showings were pathetic before Christmas and only barely hopeful afterwards.

It reached the point at one stage in October, after they had been soundly thrashed by Waterford, that their chairman was quoted as saying that the selectors were at their wits' end to find any players of inter-county standard to don the black-and-amber.

Yet, late in the League, Kilkenny showed signs of a renewed desire to win matches even if they fell far short of their traditional skill. Some preparatory matches before the championship, especially a particularly well hurled victory over Tipperary in Thurles, confirmed that the players who seemed so scarce in October were, indeed, avail-

● TO PAGE 15



Jim Tracey



Pat Henderson



Martin Coogan



Seamus Cleere

HOPES were raised earlier on that there might be something of a change in the pairing for the All-Ireland hurling final this September. However, Offaly's challenge was smothered in the end by Kilkenny; Clare could not grab their chance against Cork when they got them on the wrong foot; Limerick were unable to add coolness to their dash against Tipperary; Waterford's fallibility was discovered in the second half; Dublin's poverty was emphasised again by Kilkenny; Galway's improvement, meantime, was shown to be incomplete by maturing Cork.

It seems inevitable, in the last number of years, that the last four shall be Tipperary and Cork, Kilkenny and Wexford. The very downfall of Wexford caused few tears this summer because of the hopeful sign that Offaly might crash the barriers of hurling tradition and make the All-Ireland final the most unusual since Tipperary-Laois in 1949, or Galway-Wexford in 1955 when Wexford were more or less in the position Offaly now find themselves — threatening but unproven.

Offaly's effort, then, and the flash of hope from Clare were the only chinks in the iron curtain surrounding the big hurling powers. But, it made the year a not unsatisfactory one and gave

us food for future interesting developments.

Cork and Kilkenny means an old pairing; they have played many memorable finals before now, and they have an everlasting appeal. And, while they faced one another for the title again in 1966, the years before and since when they did not clash, and the changed balance of the teams lend plenty of real charm to their meeting now.

Cork are the team of the moment. Since their showings in the League, involving sound performances in the initial rounds, rising to a peak of pleasure in mastering Tipperary in their own home ground, and culminating in a comprehensive defeat of the All-Ireland champions in the



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CLASSICS OF LONG AGO

A recollection

by

DOMINIC DAVIN

UP to something like twenty years ago the big rivalry in hurling was that between Cork and Kilkenny. And it was one that lasted right from the early days of the Association through to around 1947.

Since then, Kilkenny and Cork have only met in one final whereas Kilkenny and Tipperary seemed to be meeting almost every second year in recent times. Now that may have made the rivalry between those counties intense, almost too intense as was proved once or twice, but I have noticed that in recent years, the public outside those two counties had lost faith in the ability of Tipperary and Kilkenny to provide a really spectacular final.

Indeed, a large section of the public had come to regard matches between the two counties as something of a private affair and could not be roused to enthusiasm one way or the other. On the other hand, when Cork and Kilkenny met all the enthusiasts from other counties came along to watch, because they invariably produced hurling above the ordinary.

And yet, the most famous series of games ever played between Cork and Kilkenny were not under official auspices at all, and, indeed, it was a series in which the General Council only intervened when there seemed a very real danger that these games would assume a greater importance to the teams, and to the public than even the All-Ireland finals.

This was the Munster Feis Tournament which was the only big G.A.A. inter-county series that began under one set of Rules with point-posts and seventeen aside and finished three and a half years later, under a different set of Rules with fifteen aside and a cross-bar, and no point-posts at all.

And yet, this Tournament began in an almost casual fashion. At the request of a Cork City curate, Rev. E. Fitzgerald, who was son of a very noted Corkman who subsequently became Lord Mayor of the City, and brother of the great goal-keeper Andy Fitzgerald from Blackrock, Cork and Kilkenny agreed to play a series of matches, the proceeds from which would go to aid the Munster Feis.

In announcing the Tournament, in which Central Council seems to have had neither hand, act nor part, the organisers said that it was hoped the series would help improve the standard of hurling in both counties.

The first match was played at the Cork Athletic Grounds on Sunday, February 21, 1909, and was the first meeting between the sides since Kilkenny had beaten Cork eight months before in the 1907 All-Ireland final at Dungarvan. Mick Crowe, the greatest referee of his own, and possibly of all time, was in charge and ten thousand spectators saw a wonderful exhibition of the game for the time of year, with the teams finishing level, Kilkenny 2-8; Cork 3-5.

The teams that did duty that day were :—

Kilkenny—Dick (Drug) Walsh (Captain), Mike Doyle, Jim Kelly, Dick Doyle, Dick Doherty, Ned Doyle (Mooncoin), Dan Stapleton, Matt Gargan, Dan Kennedy, Paddy Lanigan, Mike Shortall (Erins Own), Sim Walton, Jack Keoghan, Dick Grace, J. Hoyne (Tullaroan), John Power (goal), Pat Bowe (Piltown).

Cork—Tom Coughlan (Captain), Watt Palfrey (goal), Barry Murphy, Dinny Kidney, Larry Flaherty, Dinny Buckley, Tom O'Riordan, Mike Dorney, Paddy Mehigan (Carberry), Billy Mackessy, Mick Kidney, Andy Buckley (Dooric), all Blackrock, Jim Roynane, Bill Hennessy, Jim Kelleher (Dungourney), D. (Rooker) Keeffe (Redmonds), Jerry Beckett (St. Finbarrs).

The second game was played some three months later, on May 2, 1909, at St. James's Park, Kilkenny. In the meantime however, Kilkenny had had their troubles. They were suspended by the Leinster Council for refusing to take part in the Leinster final, because of a dispute over the Railway Shield a trophy which they had claimed because the winning Leinster team had been composed of sixteen Kilkennymen and one from Wexford. Kilkenny appealed to Central Council, who deemed the suspension wrong and referred the case back to Leinster Council. The matter was finally cleared up at the end of April, but by then the holders Kilkenny were out of the 1908 championship.

This second Munster Feis game was played one week after Kilkenny were reinstated, but even before eight thousand spectators on home ground, the Noremen showed the result of the lay-off and were beaten 4-7 to 1-9.

The third match was played on August 22, 1909 and this time at a neutral venue but a favourite

● TO PAGE 15

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● FROM PAGE 13

ground of both counties, Dan Fraher's Field in Dungarvan. Tom Kerwick from Thurles was referee this time, and the result was the second draw of the series, 2-9 each.

Oddly enough, there was no game played at all in this Munster Feis Tournament in 1910, and for the fourth game, which was staged on May 28, 1911, the teams went back to Cork, where they played the third draw in four matches, Cork 1-4; Kilkenny, 2-1.

When 1912 came round, it was originally announced that Cork and Kilkenny would meet as usual in the Munster Feis that year. But at this stage Central Council stepped in, and more or less made it plain that the next game in this competition would have to be the last, as it had gone on too long, and was now tending to interfere with championship schedules. And so, back to Dungarvan on July 7, 1912 went those hurlers of Cork and Kilkenny to finish the tournament they had begun nearly three and a half years before. Cork had seven of the players who took part in that first match. Kilkenny fielded thirteen.

The crowd was never properly estimated, but it was considered one of the biggest ever seen at Dungarvan in the old days. Mick Crowe was referee, and the game was reckoned one of the most remarkable exhibitions of hurling ever witnessed. Kilkenny, with the aid of a strong breeze, did much of the first half attacking, but could make little impression on a strong Cork defence. Each side had a point from a free and then Kilkenny had an amazing goal. The three Doyle brothers and Dick Doherty broke out of their own defence and playing the ball from man to man, as though they were playing ping-pong to quote a contemporary account brought it the length of

the field where Sim Walton and Jim Kelly joined in to record the only goal of the hour.

After the interval Cork, half-a-gale from the sea suddenly blowing up behind them were almost constantly on the attack, but the Kilkenny backs gave what has since been acknowledged as the most amazing display of defensive hurling ever seen. There was no score at all in that second half, though the harassed Cork attackers shot seventeen wides and Kilkenny emerged with the Munster Feis medals at last on scores of 1-1 to 0-1.

The teams on that historic day were:—

Kilkenny—'Drug' Walsh (captain), Ned Doyle, Dick Doyle,

Mick Doyle, Jim Kelly, Dick Doherty (Mooncoin), Sim Walton, Jack Keoghan, Dan Kennedy, Pierce Grace, Dick Grace (Tullaroan), Paddy Lanigan, J. J. Brennan, Tom McCormack, Matt Gargan (Erin's Own), Jack Rochford (Threecastles), John Power (goal) Piltown.

Cork—Andy Buckley (Dooric) (captain), Barry Murphy, Andy Fitzgerald (goal), Mike Dorney, Mike Kidney, Willie Dorney, Larry Flaherty (Blackrock), Jim Kelleher, Jim Roynane, Maurice Collins (Dungourney), Mick Byrne, Willie 'Bowler' Walsh (Sarsfields), Connie Sheehan (Redmonds), Paddy Mahony (Aghabullogue), J. 'Major' Kennedy (Carrigtwohill).

? ?

(FROM PAGE 11)

able after all and showing promise of settling into a sound side.

The return of Ollie Walsh, by the common will of the people and the players, added the final touch to morale. Since then, they have found again the confidence in their abilities that had forsaken them: Dublin suffered a heavy beating; and Offaly, on the crest of a wave of enthusiasm and carried along by no little skill, were contained for 55 minutes within striking distance, and destroyed by a timely late burst. Several good new men have been found, and the older ones have lost little, if anything, since their days at the top.

In spite of all that, Cork's credentials are more impressive—Clare, Galway and Tipperary have fallen to their hammer, and they have shown bursts of intimidating form in the process. More recent tests of strength between Leinster and Munster would appear to suggest that Munster is ahead by some little distance:

Tipperary-Wexford at Wembley; Connacht-Munster and Connacht-Leinster in the Railway Cup; Cork-Wexford in the League final.

It would appear that Offaly and Dublin, even considering Offaly's great form, would amount to a somewhat less searching test than Clare, Galway and Tipperary. Add to that the extraordinary buoyancy which attaches to Cork hurling when in a winning streak, the fierce enthusiasm and dedication which has played such a part in bringing this team to its present position, and the burning fervour of the atmosphere which their fanatical supporters will create on final day.

But subtract from it the long history of Kilkenny's ability to fight it point for point with even the greatest Cork teams, the inability ever of Cork to ignore the least impressive Kilkenny challenge, and the many last-minute point wins by the Noremen. And what is your answer then?

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Denis Murphy

DENIS MURPHY

talking to

NOEL COOGAN

AFTER the Munster final I was in the company of some Cork supporters who were discussing their county's fine victory over Tipperary. Each player was in turn warmly praised for his contribution to that long-awaited championship success against the "ould enemy."

When singing the praises of the Cork left full back and captain, Denis Murphy, one of the fans commented:

"He must be one of the best corner backs ever to wear the red and white jersey."

High praise indeed! But on recalling the big part the St. Finbarr's clubman played in that success and in so many other victories for his county I could not help feeling that the aforementioned supporter knows his hurling. When Cork defied the critics in the 1966 All-Ireland final Denis Murphy was one of the main reasons why the Kilkenny forwards had so little to show for their efforts at the end of the hour.

He also starred in that great League final victory over Wexford last May and, of course, in all the games leading up to the decider. A fair commentary of Denis Murphy's consistent brilliance at left full back for Cork is that he has been a regular for his county for ten years since making his senior debut in a League match against Antrim at Loughgiel in 1959.

As well as winning All-Ireland and National League medals he also holds Munster junior championship medals in both hurling and football.

I met Denis immediately after the Munster final and, although he was busy acknowledging congratulations from a countless number of delighted admirers, he still managed to answer the following questions.

N.C.—How, in your opinion, does the present Cork team compare with the 1966 title winning side?

D.M.—This is hard to say. I don't think there is much difference between the two sides. The 1966 team improved with every game and the present team has done likewise. I only hope they show the same enthusiasm in the final as the '66 side did.

N.C.—Did you expect Cork to

beat Tipperary by such a wide margin?

D.M.—I was not surprised by the three goal margin as most of our players are still improving and have a great future.

N.C. — Cork are likely to be favourites in the final. Which would you prefer — to be favourites or underdogs?

D.M.—Sometimes it is an advantage to be underdogs. In my estimation it is a 50-50 final. With an American trip at stake both teams will prepare and strive as they never did before.

N.C.—Does the fact that you are captain make any difference to your game in general?

D.M. — Yes. It has made a difference to my approach to the game. I feel the captain has to set an example on the playing field and also in training. He also has to be with the team at all times.

N.C.—What do you think of your chances of accepting the McCarthy Cup on behalf of your team-mates on the first Sunday in September?

D.M.—We have a very good chance as a number of our players have not yet realised their full potential and there is scope for further improvement in the Cork team.

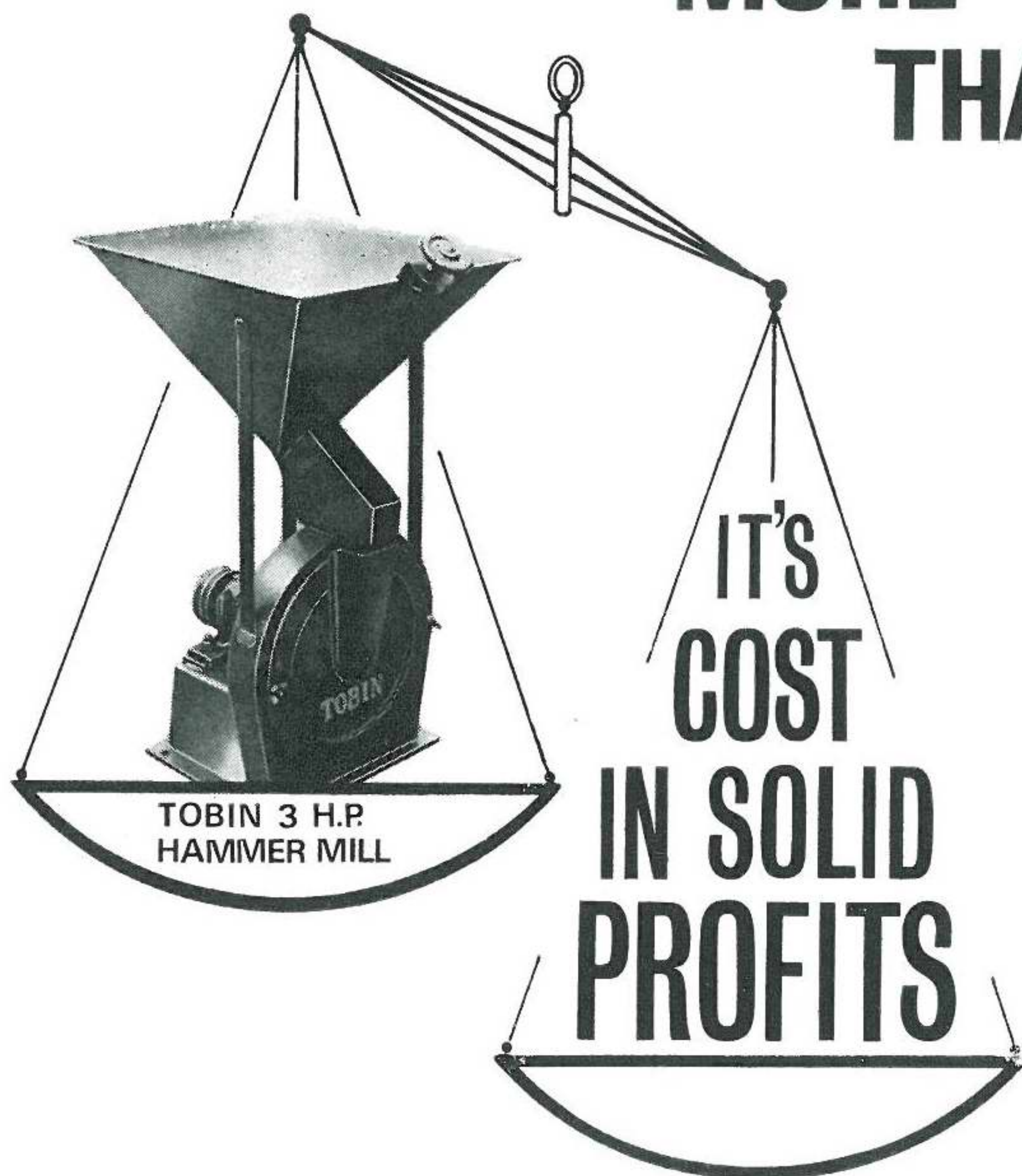
N.C.—Can you name a few of the best players you have come up against in your career so far?

D.M.—Christy Ring has to be number one, although I was lucky enough never to have the task of marking him. Philly Grimes, Oliver "Hopper" McGrath, Tony Doran, Michael Keating, Jimmy Doyle, Jimmy Smith and Eddie Keher are other great forwards I met.

N.C. — Finally, Denis, how much do you expect Cork to win the final by?

D.M.—It should be a very close game but I think we can get there by a goal.

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J. McCarthy



C. McCarthy

MAN FOR MAN!

WOULD Joe Louis have beaten Jack Dempsey? Would Rocky Marciano have put away Jack Johnson and would Cassius Clay have whipped the lot of them? Interesting questions, but where do you find the answer? Just how reliable was that famous computer world heavyweight championship and in any case if it were dead accurate we can't relate it to hurling teams.

The present Cork hurling side is a reasonably good side in my opinion. It's not great, as many of the followers and sports writers would have it. Its chief claims to the public affection it rightly holds, lie in its dedication, its spirit, and the fact that it beat Tipperary after the many lean years. Its prestige in consequence is at the moment greater than its merit.

Perhaps it will win this year's title and I sincerely hope so for two reasons: firstly it will be good for Cork and secondly for hurling (note the priorities). But if they do win I am not necessarily proved wrong any more than I'm proved right if they lose.

In '39, a Cork side was beaten by Kilkenny with a last minute point from the Cusack Stand side towards the Railway end by Jimmy Kelly of Kilkenny. We

went home very frustrated and critical of our own. How were we to know then that perhaps the greatest team of all was about to show its face.

In fact, it's unfair to compare the present side with the good teams of the past from Leaside. How can one compare a good Tipperary minor with Jimmy Doyle or a twenty-year-old Cork forward, no matter how talented, with Christy Ring. All one can say about the present Cork side is that there is potential which may make it as good (or as successful) as the teams of other days. Let's have a shot at examining that potential.

Paddy Barry is an experienced goalie and a very capable one. Like his comrades (and the Kerry footballers) he's a hungry player, hungry for legitimate glory and as a result rather formidable. Is he better than Tom Mulcahy of the great four-in-a-row days, or the Cinderella-man, David Creedon, who was called into the goal in '52 because three more goalies were not available.

David, who had retired stayed around for three All-Irelands which had evaded him during his fourteen successful years between the sticks for the Glen Rovers.

Most say that Mulcahy and

Andy Fitzgerald who is an old man now were the best Cork gave as goalies. Certainly, Paddy Barry is good enough for anyone. Tom O'Donoghue, the full-back, is a strong man who smothers the full forward by close marking. John Lyons of the '52-54 era was a clever ball-player who tapped the ball away successfully at times from champions like Nick Rackard. Batt Thornhill and Con Murphy of the forties were very strong men, bigger than O'Donoghue and good hurlers. In everything but experience and cleverness the present man measures up.

Tony Maher, a new man whose main characteristic is sincerity and dedication, is not as strong or as lively as Gerry O'Riordan was or as neat a ball-player as the great Billy Murphy of the long puck. Maher may be as good yet. I hope so. On the other side Denis Murphy has plenty of experience but has not the rugged strength of Din Joe Buckley or the ball-playing confidence of Tony O'Shaughnessy. Thirteen stone Murphy with successes under his belt, may very well be as good as either in time.

Justin McCarthy is the neatest ball-player we have had for some time but he is not a stopper centre-back. Then neither was Vincy Twomey who was about a stone and a half lighter. But Vincy's defensive anticipation was simply great, while McCarthy is essentially a midfielder. Paddy Donovan of the forties outweighed each by stones and was as strong as a horse. The present player is good potential but we must await his tussle with a punishing centre-forward.

Donal Clifford, a strong right

● TO PAGE 21

the to-morrow builders



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WILSON HARTNETT

● FROM PAGE 19

half back is only coming into his own. It would simply be unfair yet to compare him with the smooth ball-player Matty Fouhy or that strong delightful hurler Alan Lotty.

On the other side, Gerald MacCarthy is a man whose defensive sense and grit always warm my heart. Here is great potential and he'll be better if Cork win this one. He doesn't hurl with the same elan as flying

nett with Mick Roche? We're back to square one.

How would the centre-forward of '46 get on. His name was Ring.

Seán Condon, a smart, swinging hurler of the forties or Tom Sullivan, the Avondhu man of the fifties, would be compared with right winger Tom Ryan. This red-haired hurler was tremendously lively in the first half against Tipperary and ran Len Gayner out of it. In the second half, however, the slim Tipperaryman got

has played a lot of fast clever hurling for Cork and I'm not at all sure he's not going to be a fine player in a short time. In fact I would have given him a run at centre-forward letting in Willie Walsh to full forward, who was being tied down by Mick Roche.

The fact, that the switch had often been done before is an argument in my favour. In any case the game was won when Ray Cummins was substituted. We must compare Cullinane or Cummins with big Liam Dowling or strong Ted Sullivan who died so early. Our present men are not yet in the champion class though the potential is there.

Eddie O'Brien, a fast swerving player, who scores with his hand as much as with his hurley is the present corner-forward. He is not as clever as the late Derry Beckett who has had great speed and ball control and he's not as strong as tearaway striker Micka Brennan. Still if Eddie begins to strike he may be very good because he seems to have little trouble getting away.

Of course we never in my memory had a full forward line like Pat Barry, Liam Dowling and Christy Ring. No and we won't have another in my lifetime either. Anyway that's it. The present side is a pretty good one but it would be unfair to compare it with the side which won three successive All-Irelands from '52-54 while it would be just plain stupid to set them alongside the bunch that contested seven All-Irelands between '38 and '47 winning five and losing the other two by one point to Kilkenny. (A bad time to be talking about things like that). The team of to-day has a lot to learn. One of the things I like about them is the speed with which they pick up the lessons. This is a good bunch of young men. Who knows how far they'll go? But we must wait for the first championship at least and that's not won yet.



P. Barry



A. Maher



G. McCarthy

Willie John Daly but covers off better. He's not quite as cute as Jim Young who hurled for years in the position but otherwise he measures up well.

Of course, there's Con Roche who, no doubt, will be back but we must wait and see if the slim Barrsman steadies up his play.

On the halfway line Denis Coughlan, tall, fast and a ball-player partnered by small, very strong Roger Tuohy, cannot compare yet with the tall strong men, Gerald Murphy of Middleton and Joe Twomey of Glen Rovers who had good games in the '52-54 period of triumph. Jack Lynch and Con Cottrell or Jack Barrett were champion players. Our present men must wait for success to allow them stand on level footing.

Willie Walsh, a strong tearaway centre-forward has many of Joe Hartnett's qualities but Hartnett in the early fifties was beating great centre-backs regularly, so here again we must wait. How would Willie Walsh have got on with Pat Stakelum or Joe Hart-

on top. Of the three Corkmen, Condon had more size, style and success. But Ryan is only coming. Hitler Healy, Mick Kennefick and Jim Young all had a stab at left wing in the forties. Pat Hegarty, a strong and very clever player of the present day holds his own here with anyone and should improve a lot though Noel O'Dwyer held him well for periods in the second half of the Munster final. The left winger of the fifties was the great Christy.

Charlie MacCarthy has wonderful ball control and a purposeful shot. He intends to flake that ball through the back of the net and that's the spirit that makes a striker. He's not as tall as Pat Barry and not as strong as John Quirke who was in any case with Jacky Power, one of the game's great all-rounders insofar as both played star games all over the place. Still Charlie has that touch of brilliance and is entitled to be compared with most.

Charlie Cullinane the big full forward was taken off the field in the Munster final. He was tied up a lot by John Kelly who was right on top of his game. Still Cullinane

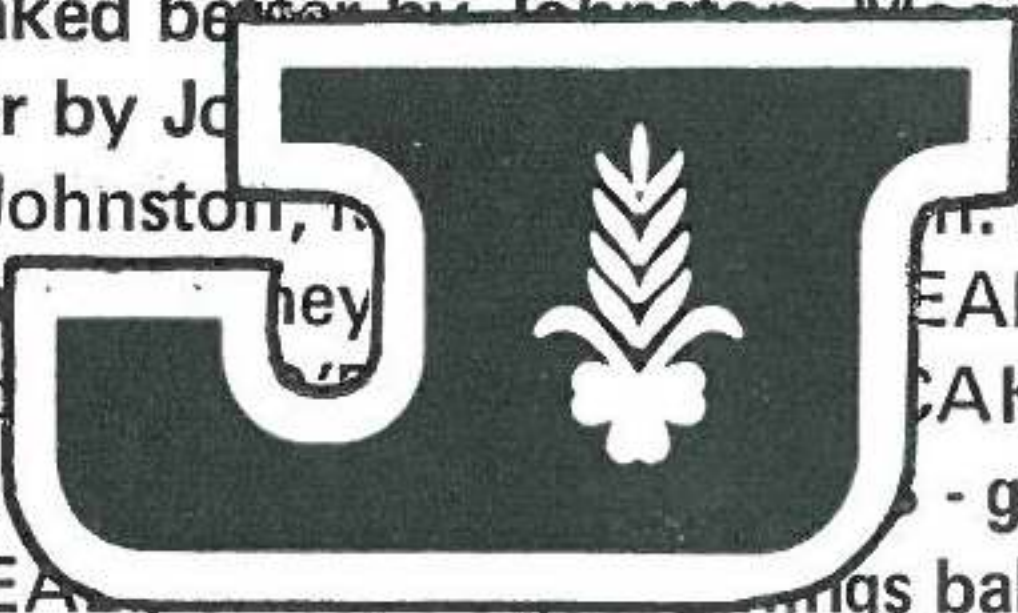
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TED CARROLL



A PEN PICTURE BY OWEN McCANN

ONE of the oldest members of the Kilkenny team, and still one of their most reliable links . . . that's Ted Carroll. Others may capture most of the headlines with their flamboyant hurling and impressive scoring feats, but the 30-year-old defender has still been a tremendous bulwark with his solid and progressive work that to me, at any rate, is one of the real hallmarks of true greatness.

Carroll hurls with composure and skill, and does his job with an exactness that ensures he is not easily outmanoeuvred by any forward. In short a reliably consistent performer, who invariably plays a vital part in each team success.

I always think that Carroll's qualities were particularly strikingly put into relief in Kilkenny's last All-Ireland final appearance two years ago. Then, as now, right full, he gave an object lesson in producing on the day a brand of unspectacular, but utterly dependable play, that proved a major contribution in opening up the way to that long-sought after Kilkenny win over Tipperary.

Not that the Noresider has always exercised his skills with unobtrusive efficiency. He has, on occasions, swung into spectacular action, and I can still vividly recall some really eye-catching—and equally stature-boosting—performances, particu-

larly in his days as a centre-half.

An outstanding man to have in your side, then, is Ted Carroll, which is hardly surprising considering that he is a product of that famed Kilkenny nursery, St. Kieran's. He won an All-Ireland medal, in fact with the College side in 1957, after having earlier played with the county as a minor.

He first won his place in the Kilkenny senior side in 1961 in the National League at centre-half, but it was not until towards the end of 1962 that he settled down to a regular position in the team, and went on to mature into as good a pivot as hurling has ever seen.

Indeed, many shrewd judges, not necessarily from the Nore-side, will argue that the Seamus Cleere-Ted Carroll-Martin Coogan half line of the mid 1960's ranks as the greatest defensive barrier in the long and colourful history of hurling. Be that as it may, this trio formed a department that unquestionably had a wealth of class, power and polish.

The 1963 All-Ireland final win over Waterford will always be remembered for Eddie Keher's marksmanship supreme — that was the match in which he shot 0-14. But it was also the game that proved the real mettle of the Cleere-Carroll-Coogan line, for this department was in all probability the real source of the Kilkenny victory.

Three years later the final touch of true—and undisputed—all time greatness was perhaps put into this powerful set-up. The match was the 1966 National League "Home" final, and with Carroll very much to the fore as a cool, dominant figure, this half-back line did much to fashion Kilkenny's first win in 44 years in major competitions over Tipperary.

It is a measure of the great natural talent and dedication of the hard-working Carroll, who won a Railway Cup medal in 1965, that he has also made such an impact at right full that, as another All-Ireland final approaches, the arguments are beginning to wage more intensely than ever — Ted Carroll to be remembered best in the years to come as a pivot or right full?

When things were not going too well for Kilkenny in the early part of the year, Ted Carroll was in there pulling his weight in fine style. He consistently ensured that the opposing attacks had to work hard for scores, and with his steady, whole-hearted play and all-out endeavour, he did more than one man's part in his own quiet way in providing the spark that eventually shot Kilkenny back on all cylinders roaring ahead again in quest of this 17th All-Ireland title.

All things considered, then,
● TO PAGE 47

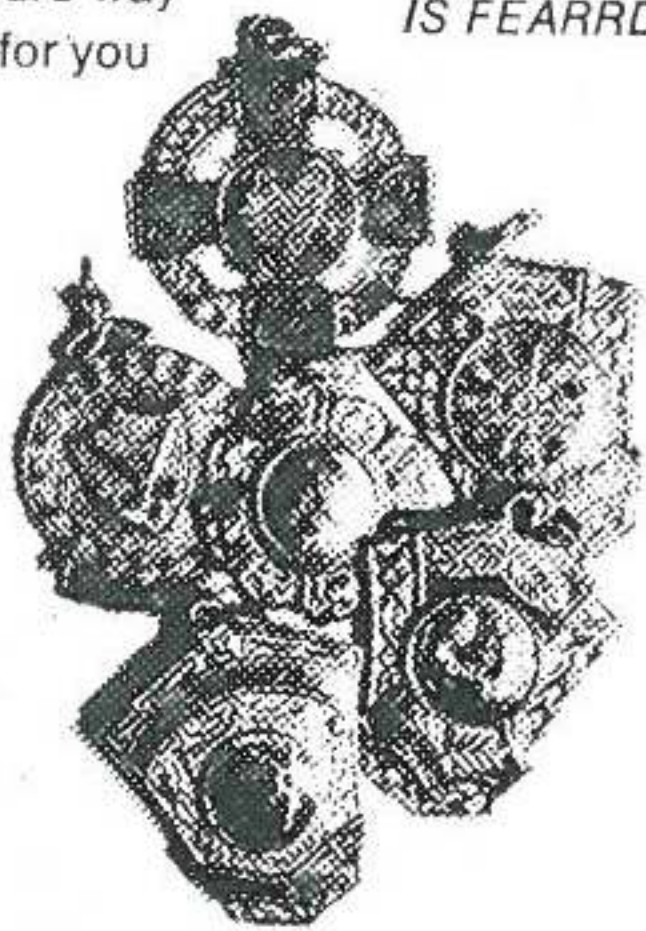
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IN PRAISE OF OFFALY

By JAY DRENNAN

"**B**BETTER to travel hopefully than to arrive": hardly true in any sense of the phrase in hurling and football. But this year saw Offaly achieve the best of both worlds which the phrase commends: they certainly arrived in football with the capture of the Leinster championship in undisputed fashion, and they have given their supporters every reason to travel hopefully into the future as far as hurling is concerned.

Nothing caused such surprise, I suppose, during a summer of moderate surprises in which All-Ireland champions and provincial champions were sent kicking into oblivion, as the victory of Offaly hurlers over Wexford, the All-Ireland champions. Yet, truly, that surprise result was the most pleasing thing of the year since it brought to light the fact that Offaly have taken their place among the very top hurling counties. Later, when called upon to face Kilkenny in the Leinster final, they tasted defeat, but it was the kind of defeat which earned them nothing but praise.

It is conceivable that the Wexford match might have been a bubble for later bursting. The manner of their performance against Kilkenny proved that there was no fluke, no cause for future concern on Offaly's part. They will be in the forefront, to be considered with the best when betting men consider on whom to lay their few shillings for this winter's League and next summer's championship.

Not alone have Offaly pushed to the front in the hurling field, but they have raised a standard of hope for all others who have little history of achievement or tradition of hurling. How often have Offaly been numbered among the hurling elite? This year they have proved that it does not really matter, and that the poorest relations, by their own unswerving efforts, can become hurling millionaires.

That is a signal factor which must render the question of the revival of hurling in an altogether different light. If Offaly, why not Galway (and to be fair, they, also, have made strides in the past year)? Why not Laois? Why not Kildare, who have made a lot of progress lately in the junior ranks? Why, indeed, should any county beyond those where a hurley is an unknown thing think that they, too, may not equal the example that Offaly has set?

Of course, Offaly did not bring off the big Leinster double, yet, since there were only a couple of points in the score, and far less in the play between them and both titles, they have also pointed out that the dually successful county need not be a thing of dreams. Why now does Kerry have to fear that hurling will ruin her football? Or Kilkenny, or Westmeath, or any other? It is possible to be on top in both, though whether it is possible to maintain highest standards continuously in both is not, perhaps, yet clear.

The enthusiasm of the Offaly hurlers was a matter to be noted in all their championship games this year, but, to put down their success to dash and enthusiasm alone would be a dangerous and most unfair conclusion. In the Leinster final, for instance, there were times when it was Kilkenny who looked deficient in skill. There were moments when the Kilkennymen were completely outhurled overhead, a department in which Kilkenny seldom yield best. The confidence they

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Will they play a victory duet for Cork



D. Coughlan



C. McCarthy

ANY team boasting a midfielder in a class all his own, and a finisher who consistently bangs the ball into the net or over the bar, are particularly well-armed for any engagement. This is a formidable twosome in the make-up of a side, a foundation on which many a major success is built. It is also the reason why Denis Coughlan and Charlie McCarthy may well lead to a victory duet for Cork.

Cork's selectors have every reason to smile smugly at the great contribution Coughlan has made to this return to Croke Park. When Con Roche was suspended many were the suggestions that the Glen Rovers dual-performer, who won an All-Ireland Under-21 medal in 1966 at left half, was the obvious choice for the No. 7 shirt.

No doubt Coughlan, who was not in the League final winning team last May, and went in as a substitute against Clare that month in the drawn Munster championship game, would have served the county regally at left half, the position which has been, in fact, his favourite one in hurling.

But the new stature he has acquired as a result of the provincial campaign must now leave the selectors' action in standing by Coughlan as a midfielder—he figured at midfield in last year's championship—as one of the biggest match-winning moves of the year.

Coughlan delivered the goods so superbly, particularly against Tipperary, that few will seriously dispute now that he is the most exciting player of the moment at midfield. The Munster final was

as severe a test as there is to measure the progress of the Glen Rovers' man, and it was a yardstick that clearly underlined that he is marching on firmly to a place among the elite.

The buoyant and exquisitely balanced Coughlan is poised and assured. There is a fluency and method about his hurling, he is alert and polished, and he gets through an amazing amount of very efficient play in every hour. Not the least important of his skills is his ability to deftly sail over valuable long-range points. Remember his two classic points from around 60 yards—Cork's opening scores of the second half—in the win over Tipperary? Those are the type of scores that win matches . . . scores that revive flagging spirits, and provide the inspiration for a renewed victory effort.

Denis Coughlan had a thorough schooling on the way up. He won minor inter-county honours as a defender in hurling, and highlighted a four year spell with the Under-21 side with that national medal success after three grand games with Wexford in 1966.

Now only 24, the 6 foot-plus dual-performer, who captained Cork in their unsuccessful All-

By
OWEN
McCANN

Ireland senior football final with Meath in 1967—he also won inter-county honours in this code at minor and under-21, and has played for Munster—has a preference for hurling.

Poised now for the most coveted honour of them all in hurling, Denis Coughlan, with his confidence in his own ability undoubtedly boosted by that hour of real splendour against Tipperary, must loom as a hurler likely to have a decisive influence on the outcome of this final.

Certainly, it is going to take vigilance and great effort on the part of the opposition to prevent the dashing and tireless Cork midfielder from carving out the scoring opportunities for his score-hungry forward division.

Much of the scoring thunder in that win over Tipperary was grabbed by three-goal hero Willie Walsh, but we still had a really brilliant example of the majestic finishing powers that mark Charlie McCarthy out as Cork's greatest score-getter since the days of the great Christy Ring. It came with Cork's third goal, brilliantly set up by Roger Touhy and Eddie O'Brien. It was McCarthy's pay-off punch that stole the show, as he broke away to put the golden flourish with a thundering shot to the net.

Charlie McCarthy is another brilliant graduate from that great under-21 title winning side of three years ago. Earlier, in 1966, of course, he starred in the All-Ireland senior win over Kilkenny.

Like Coughlan, the darting and

● TO PAGE 64



Nick Rackard . . . record surpassed

Great distinction for Offaly hurler

MOLLOY SURPASSES

RACKARD RECORD

KILKENNY captain Eddie Keher put up the highest individual score in an All-Ireland senior hurling final in years in his county's win in 1963 over Waterford. With tremendous skill and dexterity, he shot a splendid 0-14, ten of the points from frees.

Understandably, he had his best score for a full championship campaign that year at 2-25 (31 points) from three games, at the wonderful match average of 10.33 points. He led the way for both hurling and football that year.

But Keher has not since approached anything even remotely like the same scoring form in national championship finals. He landed only 0 2 in the 1964 final failure to Tipperary; hit 0-7 in the 1966 clash with Cork, and scored 0-3 against Tipperary in 1967, a game in which he had to retire with an injury.

However, the Kilkenny captain has already achieved one peak of his scoring career in the current championship with 1-10 against Dublin at Wexford in the Leinster semi-final. And, the last match in any competition—or challenge—in which he failed to put his name on the scoring sheet was right back in 1963 in the

Railway Cup final replay, in which he went in as a substitute. That was an impressive run of 109 games!

Cork's last final win in 1966 saw Seanie Barry emerge as the only Leesider to top the cham-

By **OWEN McCANN**

pionship scorers' chart in both codes. In five games the U.C.C. hurler hit 3-23 (32 points) at an average of 6.40 points.

That was a new high for a Cork man, beating by a point the previous best of 6-13 by Christy Ring in four games in 1956.

A new record for the Munster county, however, seems certain to go into the book after this final. Charlie McCarthy is already only three points short of a new high with his score of 6-12 from four games. And he did not fail to record fewer than four points in any outing so far in the series.

One of the most impressive championship records of them all, and also one of the longest standing, has been bettered already this year. Back in 1956 Nick

Rackard, of Wexford, put up the highest score for a championship campaign in both hurling and football at 12-15 (51 points). That worked out at 12.75 points in each of his four games; a tremendous match score that withstood all challenges until gallant Offaly achieved their year of glory in 1969.

And, appropriately enough it was Offaly's Paddy Molloy who achieved the great distinction of improving on Rackard's figure. Four years ago, Molloy had the tantalising experience of narrowly missing this record, when he averaged out exactly 12 points in each of his two games in that campaign with 4-12.

In three games this year he reached 8-15 (39 points), a personal best, of course, and exactly 13 points a game. So, congratulations Paddy Molloy. He now seems destined to top the hurling chart for the second time in his career. He led the way in 1965 with that 4-12, the only hurler from outside Wexford or Kilkenny to bring such a distinction to Leinster.

The most consistent scorer has been Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary), who headed the chart in five campaigns—1958, 1960, 1961, 1962 and 1964—a record for any

JIMMY DOYLE MOST CONSISTENT SCORER

hurler. He also holds the Munster Championship high-point score with 36 points, a total he twice reached—in 1960 with 6-18 in four games, and in 1962 with 4-24, also in four games.

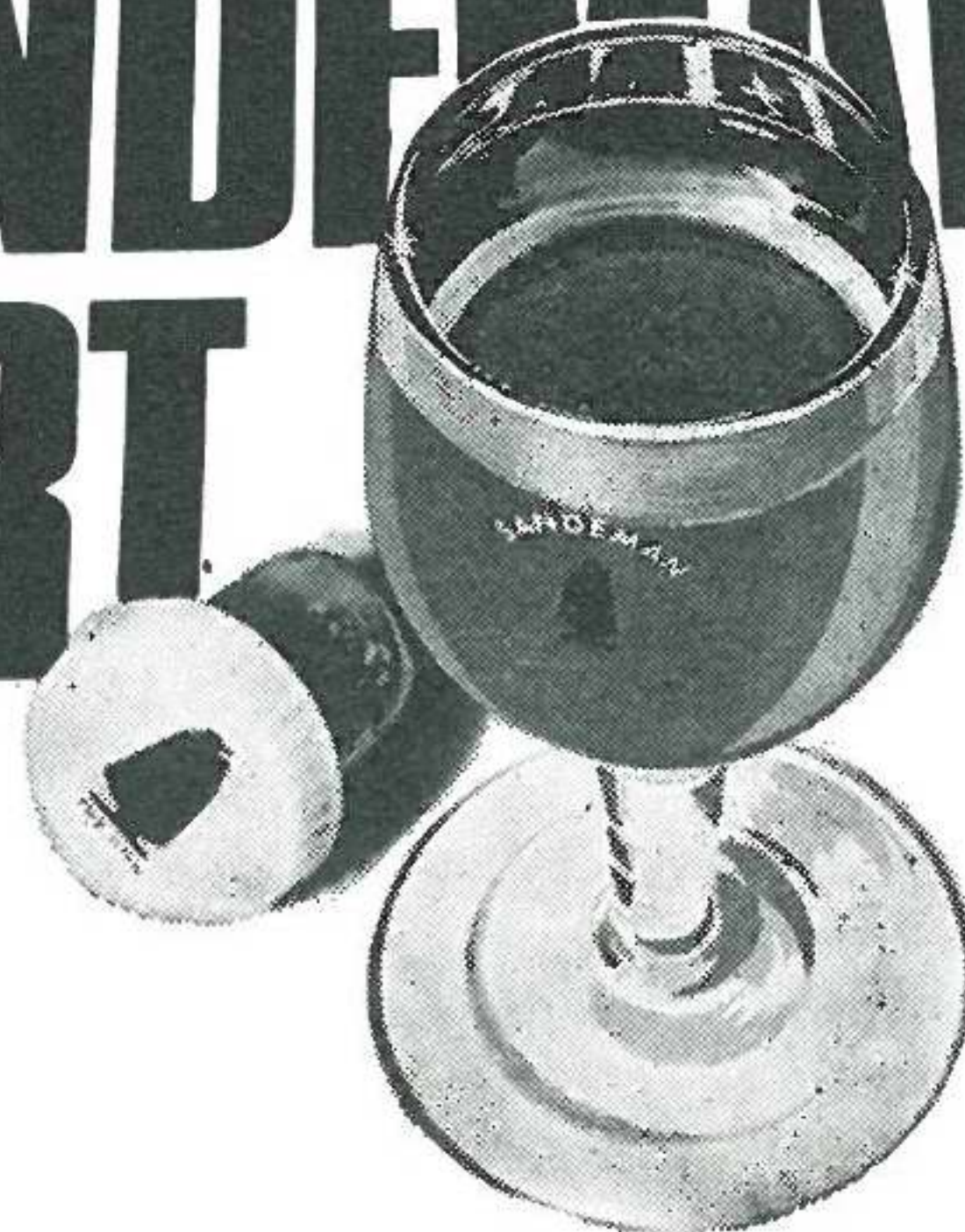
Cork recorded the highest score in a minor final when they registered 10-7 against Laois in 1964. Charlie McCarthy helped himself to 3-1 in that match.

That ten goal total is also the highest number of green flags raised in a final, and no team has yet won a final with a points only tally.

Waterford, however, did not raise a single point in their first final win in 1929, when they crashed home no fewer than five majors to Meath's score of 1-1. A year earlier in the first final, Dublin, in a replay of that game—Cork scored 1-8 and Dublin 3-2 in the draw—also did not score a point. Their goals figure came to four. These are the only pointless totals by any teams.

Cork are the only county to figure in all drawn minor finals. As well as that 1928 game, they were concerned in two meetings with Wexford in 1966. And defeat in the second one gave Cork the further distinction of being the only county to have both won and lost a replay.

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Paddy Barry

PADDY BARRY: A Profile

**By
Jim Bennett**

'CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'

EVERYTHING that Cork has achieved in the last number of years could never, surely, have been brought about without the portly little man with the eagle-eye and the Napoleonic confidence who has stood between their posts. When Paddy Barry began to keep goal for Cork you would not have given much more than tuppence for the county's chances of ever winning anything big in the foreseeable future. They were, then, the ragged remnants of rattle-taggle, Tipperary-haunted losers. The only trouble about the result when they played Tipperary was how much the margin would be this time.

Then came 1966 and a bunch of young hopefuls set out to restore the Cork fortunes. In defence Cork had plentiful problems still, based as deeply in lack of confidence and cohesion as in lack of ability. It was without doubt the soundness and reliability of

Paddy Barry which drew the defence together, began to give them confidence in their own abilities, and provided them with time to knit themselves into a watertight unit. The lack of solidity and dependability behind had been the cause that shot the nerves of several different groupings in the Cork defence to pieces. The provision by Barry of that soundness gave the new team time to settle down.

The year 1966 gave also a respite from Tipperary, and the morale-boosting replay runaway against Clare gave edge to their hopes against Limerick in the Munster final. Coming to the All-Ireland as complete underdogs, no one who saw it will forget the display of inspired goal-keeping by Paddy Barry which saw them through first-half crisis after crisis.

Justin McCarthy, Seanie Barry, Denis Murphy, Paddy Fitzgerald, Peter Doolan, Colm Sheehan all

played parts of more or less importance in winning that championship, and particularly the final, but there would not have been thoughts of victory were it not for the pluck, the judgment and calculating coolness of the little goalkeeper with the paunch.

Director of operations in defence, the one who guided his backs into confident formation, his aldermanic figure, receding hairline and unsmiling concentration entitle him to the honour of "Chairman of the Board". Very little now passes any individual member of his committee, and as for the chairman himself, he is a model of rectitude.

Barry likes his pants on the baggy side, he wears his jersey loose, and he seldom infringes on his image of dignity by breaking out of a brisk and business-like walk. He carries a pair of hurleys and a cap as he takes the field and goes to his goal, rather in the manner of a man with a brief case and rolled umbrella on the way to the office. I constantly expect to see him fish into some invisible pocket and consult his pocket watch to see that he is on time.

If, on occasions, he is embarrassed into precipitate action in a crowded goalmouth, he calls on some neat, precise footwork, holding his umbrella (hurley) as though warding off the unwanted attentions of some stray and over-exuberant dog.

Even when he pucks the ball out the image is not changed; he waits in his goalmouth for the return of the ball, and, unhurried, steers himself into an ornate swing like a businessman taking time off for a little gentle exercise on the golf links and assuring himself that his follow-through is beyond reproach.

FITNESS FOR GAELIC FOOTBALL

BY JOE LENNON



JOE LENNON

IN my new book "FITNESS FOR GAELIC FOOTBALL", which was published in July, I have outlined what I think is involved in the term fitness. In the past, I feel our interpretation of the term fitness was too narrow. For at most, I believe that fitness, as far as most people were concerned simply meant — physical fitness. Clearly this definition is inadequate for physical fitness is only a part of the fitness needed for football.

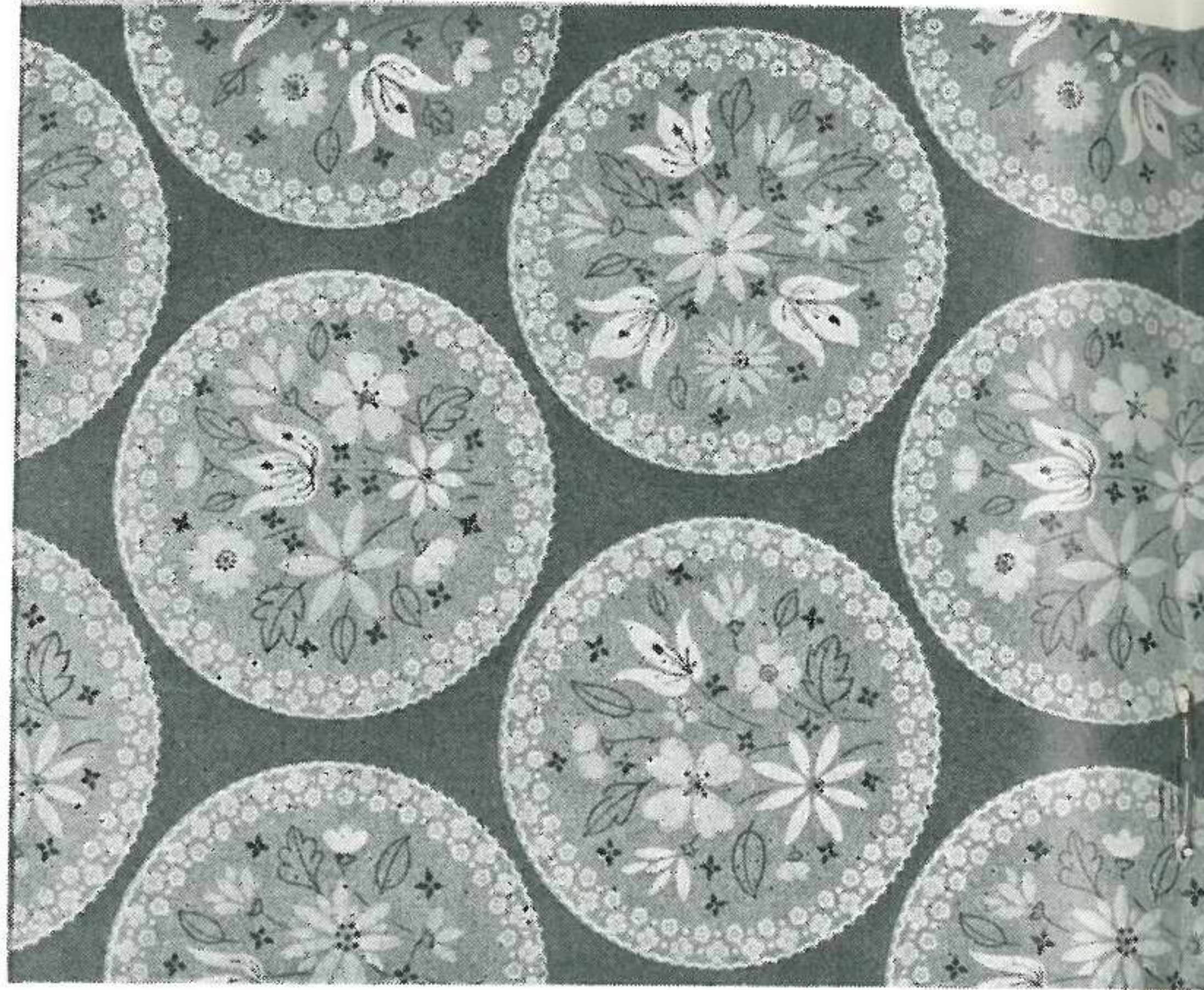
Runners and boxers who are in top physical condition are obviously very fit—physically. But they are not necessarily fit for football, for they may not have the skills necessary to play the game. Similarly, the really fit Gaelic footballer might not last one round in the ring or one lap of the track against a good quarter miler.

Hence, besides physical fitness, skill fitness is required for the footballer. As well as this—even when he is physically fit and has achieved a good standard of skill

guish coaching from training than in trying to evaluate the implications of the term and the effects on the game produced by good coaching.

If one sincerely wishes to explore the possibilities of a thesis or an idea, is it not better to experiment with an open mind? Is it not better to test the thesis in every possible way and then assess objectively the observable and measured results? If we do not do this, then how can we improve any facet of our Association? In football also, criticism is the beginning of knowledge.

Going back now to our first equation, let us proceed from there. The physical fitness is produced by training, skill fitness is produced by coaching and mental fitness is produced by coaching and match play experience. Now, obviously as the level of skill fitness improves with coaching and practice, these two components should be merged together in team pre-



achieved a good standard of skill, he may not turn in a good performance. Unless he is mentally fit, neither his skill fitness nor his physical fitness can be exploited to the full in all situations.

Therefore, as I see it now, **FITNESS (for football) = SKILL FITNESS + PHYSICAL FITNESS + MENTAL FITNESS** + . . . and then some more. Obviously, these three components are not entirely separable for they must be related to the game and to playing. We should not try to separate them too much at any stage for to do so may alter (adversely) our approach to the game.

It will be more rewarding, I feel, to look for the areas of convergence of these three components of fitness; and knowing what is entailed in each component, explore the area of overlap.

In general, I think it is true to say that our thinking about Gaelic games has been governed by examples (of principles) rather than by the principles themselves which underline the games. We have been more concerned about the individual trees in the wood rather than about the wood itself.

To me, this type of approach is reflected very obviously in the way in which we play the game, in the way in which we organise the game, control the game and indeed record the game. For example, when coaching was introduced a few years ago, it was obvious that a lot of members were more concerned about the term itself and trying to distin-

paration. In other words, the routines which are set for skill practices and tactical practices should be demanding enough to maintain and improve the level of physical fitness. Perhaps a simple example will illustrate this point.

When the players' speed has been improved to near maximum by sprint training, and good ball control has been acquired from toe-tap practices, these two (sprinting and toe-tapping) should be combined to produce practices for teaching players how to control the ball at all speeds and how to use speed to beat an opponent in a solo run.

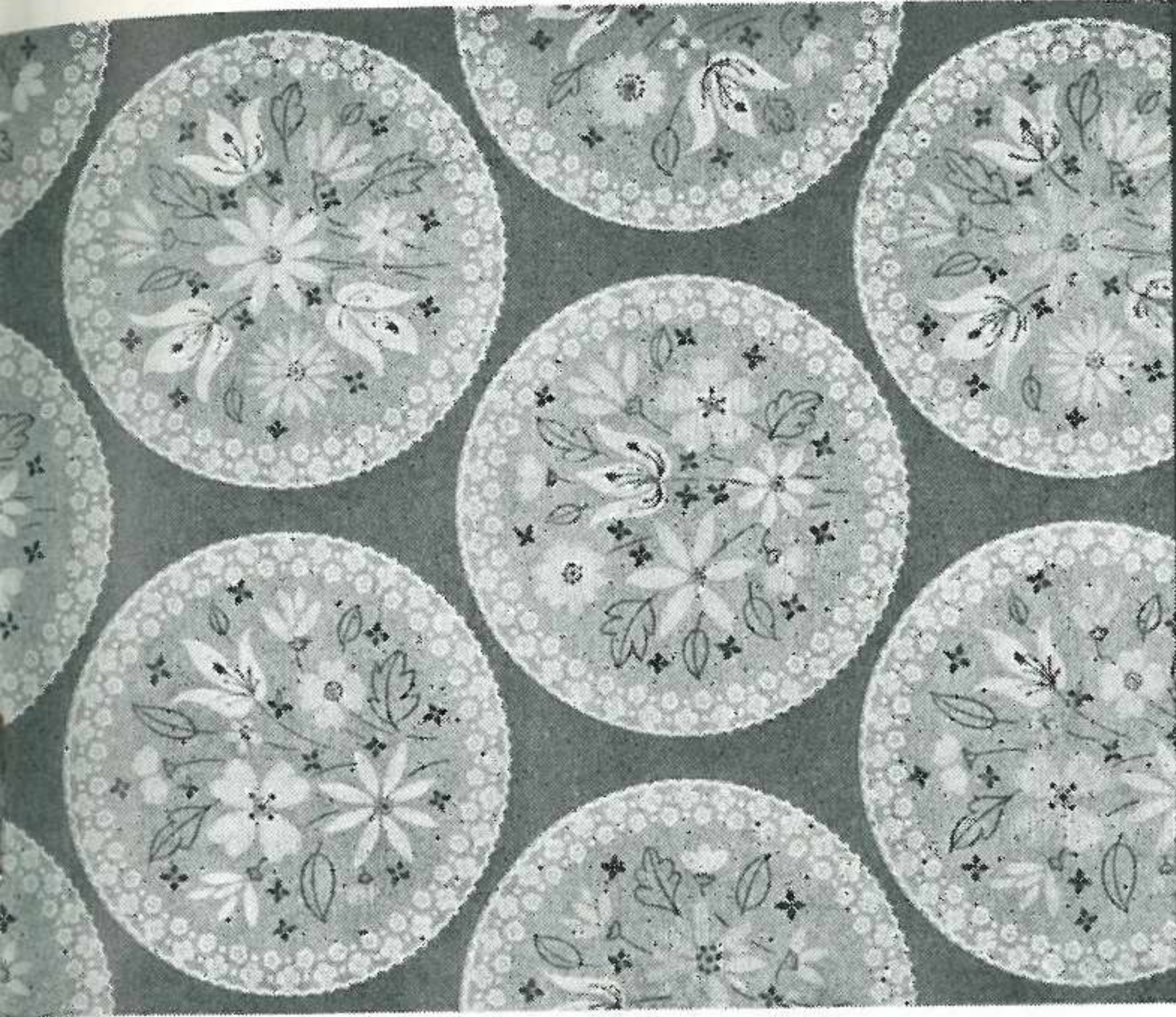
As this process continues, mental fitness begins to build up as confidence born of much practice produces better results for the players.

Before I leave this introductory article on this aspect of the contents of my new book, I should mention that in addition to these three important components of fitness, there is a large background of knowledge about the game which is necessary to enable the fit player to understand his game, interpret the game and assess his performance.

Very briefly, this knowledge of the game is covered by the term **PRINCIPLES OF PLAY**.

For those who wish to develop their ability to play the game, for those in charge of teams, for those who simply wish to understand better the game they see, I feel a good working knowledge of the principles of play is essential.

● **CONTINUED NEXT MONTH**



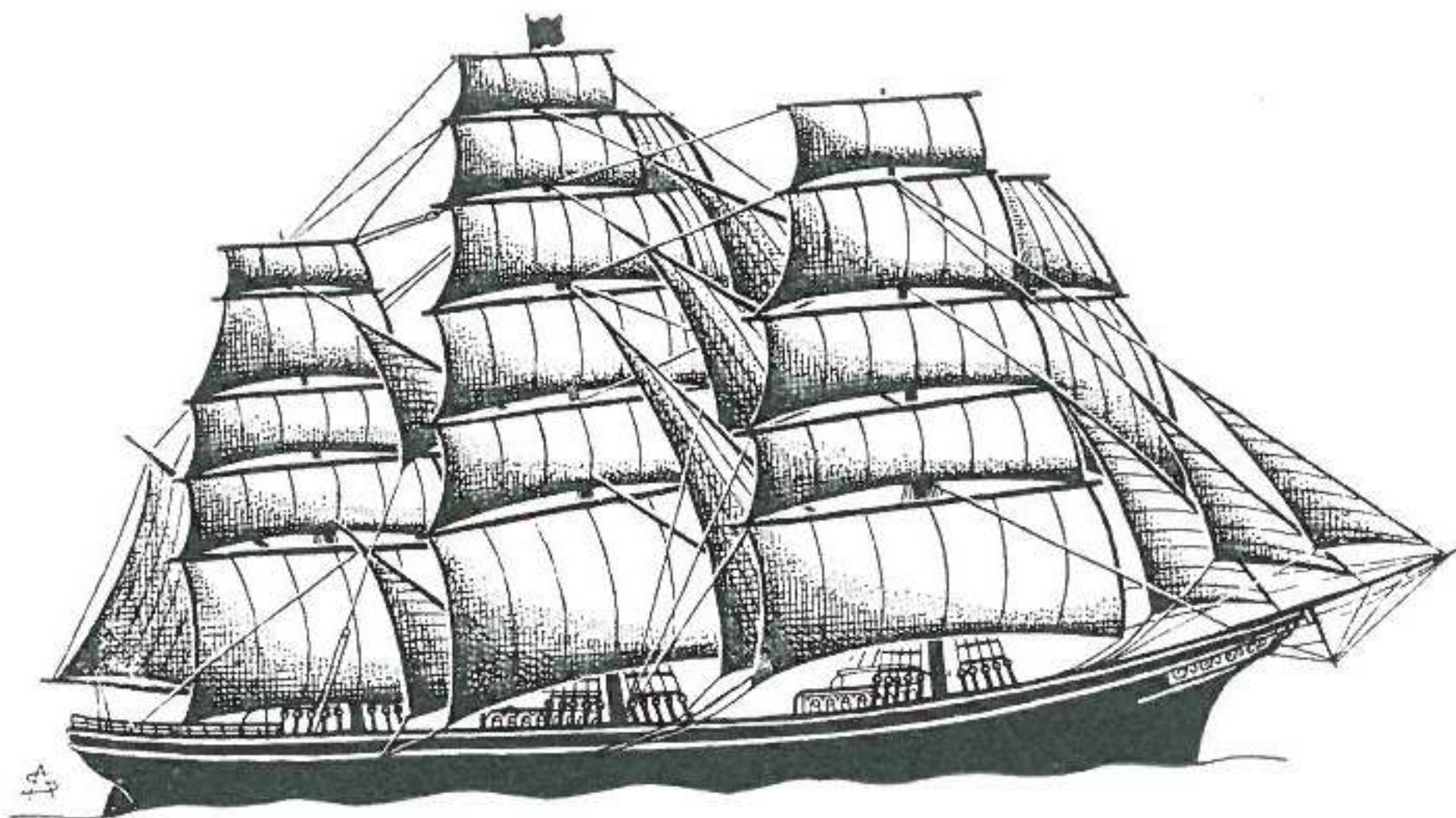
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ALL-IRELAND QUIZ

YOU should be able to score points from these opportunities. But, where there are frees (straight uncomplicated questions of fact) you must beware not to take over the limit of time.

POINTS :

- 1—How many All-Irelands have Cork won?
(Time limit: 7 seconds)
- 2—How many All-Irelands have Kilkenny won?
(Time limit: 7 seconds)
- 3—How many times have Cork and Kilkenny met in the All-Ireland final in hurling?
(Time limit: 7 seconds)
- 4—Who won the first All-Ireland hurling final?
(Time limit: 5 seconds)
- 5—By what score did Cork defeat Tipperary in winning their Munster crown this year?
- 6—By what score did Kilkenny defeat Offaly when winning through in Leinster?
- 7—Who captained Cork when last they won the hurling All-Ireland?
- 8—Who captained Kilkenny when they last captured the All-Ireland hurling title?
- 9—There was an All-Ireland hurling semi-final this year; when was the last one before that?
- 10—This year was not the first occasion London contested the All-Ireland, although there was a difference between this year and their previous participation at the turn of the century. What was that difference?

GOALS :

Goals are rather harder to come by and you must be quick

since goal-scoring chances occur only for a second or two, and then the opportunity is gone.

- 11—While most people know that Christy Ring and John Doyle have the record collection of medals won in All-Irelands, do you know what family collected the record number of Celtic Crosses?
- 12—Jack Lynch won the record number of All-Irelands in a row, but what Corkman played in 4 All-Ireland football finals and 3 All-Ireland hurling finals?

- 13—Where, outside Dublin, were the greatest number of All-Ireland hurling finals played?
(Time limit: 7 seconds)
- 14—Between 1904 and 1913 Kilkenny won seven All-Irelands, and four players won all seven medals. Can you name this Magnificent Four?
(Time limit: 20 seconds)
- 15—What curious coincidence links the finals of 1907 and 1939?
- 16—Who was the captain who led Cork to their first All-

Ireland hurling title?

- (Time limit: 10 seconds)
- 17—Who was the leader of Kilkenny when they captured their first title?
(Time limit: 10 seconds)
- 18—What are the maximum and minimum sizes of a hurling (or football) field?
(Time limit: 10 seconds)
- 19—How far apart are the goalposts?
(Time limit: 5 seconds)
- 20—What size is the parallelogram?
(Time limit: 5 seconds)

ANSWERS

POINTS :

- 1—Twenty.
2—Sixteen.
3—Eleven. (1893, 1904, 1905, 1907, 1912, 1926, 1931, 1939, 1946, 1947, 1966).
4—Tipperary (Thurles) who won the title of 1887 by 1 goal and 1 point to nil against Galway (Meelick). The game was played in Birr, on April 1st, 1888.
5—Cork 4-6; Tipperary 0-9.
6—Kilkenny 3-9; Offaly 0-16.
7—Gerald McCarthy.
8—Jim Treacy.
9—1958, when Tipperary beat Kilkenny before going on to win the final from Galway. The following year Galway began to play in the Munster championships.
10—This year London entered the fray at the semi-final stage. On the other occasion they contested the championship they played in the final against the winners of the Home championship.

GOALS :

- 11—The Doyle family of Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny. They won eighteen between them—Dick (7) Eddie (6) and Michael (5).
12—Willie Mackessy — winning the hurling title in 1903 and the football in 1911, among his seven final appearances.

- 13—Dungarvan, the first great Gaelic Games stadium where the finals of 1905, 1907, 1911 and the Home Final of 1903 were decided.
14—Sim Walton (Tullaroan)
Drug Walsh (Mooncoin);
Dick Doyle (Mooncoin);
John Rochford (Three Castles).
15—(a) The teams on each occasion were Kilkenny and Cork; (b) The margin on each occasion was on point; (c) The match on each occasion was won by a last

minute point for Kilkenny; (d) The scorer of the last minute winner, on each occasion, was named Jimmy Kelly.

- 16—Dan Lane (Aghabullogue) 1890.
17—Jer Doheny (Tullaroan) 1905.
18—Maximum: 160 yards long and 100 yards wide. Minimum: 140 yards long and 84 yards wide.
19—21 feet.
20—15 yards wide and 5 yards outwards from the goal-line.

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THE MINOR FINAL

By TONY OWENS

CORK and Kilkenny hold such honoured places in hurling that it is hard to credit that their meeting in the 39th All-Ireland minor final is the first clash of these counties at this stage in 30 years! Cork that year completed their only hat-trick of national titles and also brought the score

to 2-1 in their favour in finals with Kilkenny. The Noresiders won the initial encounter in 1936, and Cork evened the score a year later.

Who will come out on top this time? Neither team really scaled the heights in the toughest hurdles on the way to this sum-

mit, the provincial deciders, but it was still clearly evident in those games that here are teams with the potential to provide a stirring aperitif to the battle for the Liam McCarthy Cup.

Missing may be the really colourful personalities like the Quigley brothers and Mick Butler, Paddy Ring and Mick Bohane, who captured the imagination in recent finals, and helped so much to boost interest in those Wexford-Cork deciders over the last few seasons.

Nevertheless, both Kilkenny and Cork are liberally sprinkled with hurlers of real class and ability; exciting prospects with what it takes to stamp their authority on the final.

There's Tom Phelan, of Kilkenny. Here is a very gifted performer, who is skilled in his play, and a hard-worker. As a strong midfield link between defence and attack, he is certain to pose many problems for Cork.

Paddy Bollard could be another match-winner for Kilkenny. Nippy and clever, he uses the ball well, and makes the most of his scoring chances from play and frees.

Indeed, the Eddie Keher-like authority with which Bollard approaches shots at goal from placed balls could well prove the outstanding factor in clinching for Kilkenny a first title since they beat Tipperary in their last final appearance in 1962 for a seventh title.

But this is far from being a one-man Kilkenny attack. All the other forwards can take their scores, with Michael Carroll and Michael O'Shea, other particularly potent finishers in a division that will keep Cork's backs fully occupied.

In defence, I have been particularly impressed by Ger Burke.

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Here is an alert and active craftsman, who gives nothing away cheaply, and can also quickly turn defence into attack with his lengthy and well-directed clearances.

Also in the half-line is another stalwart, Denis McCormack, who captains Kilkenny. He displays drive and flair, and is another big stumbling-block to the Noreside goal. With the other posts also all capably manned, scores, then, are likely to be hard earned at this end.

And what of Cork's stars? They have an inspiring general in 17-year-old centre half Martin Doherty, of Glen Rovers, who is cool under pressure, a sure striker, and displaying what it takes to dictate the course of any game.

Kevin Murray is as solid as a rock on the right flank, and with Pat Casey and Jerry O'Sullivan especially prominent in the full line, the defence has much to recommend it.

One of the most impressive features of the Munster final was the midfield display of Noel Crowley, who has a good sense of position, and a splendid work-rate. So the sparks are likely to fly at midfield.

Cork, too, are pretty punchy in attack. They boast a fast-flowing and intelligent division that has plenty of competitive spirit and penetration, and is topped up by the individual brilliance of Tom Sheehan, Sean O'Leary and Gerry Hanley, each a dynamic match-winner in his own right.

I see this as a final that could provide all that is best in classical hurling. It's not easy to make a choice, but I have a feeling that Cork are all round the better balanced outfit, as well as possessing that flair, strength and stamina that is so necessary for a prospective championship winning side.

So, I'm forecasting that half-

back Sean Collins, of Cork, will be the one to climb the Hogan Stand steps for the "Irish Press" Cup, last won by Cork in 1967. That was the county's eighth All-Ireland title.

The "Irish Press" Cup was first presented for the 1949 series, and this trophy and the Liam McCarthy Cup have both yet to be won by Cork on the same afternoon. Cork, however, have completed the minor and senior

double twice—1928 and 1941.

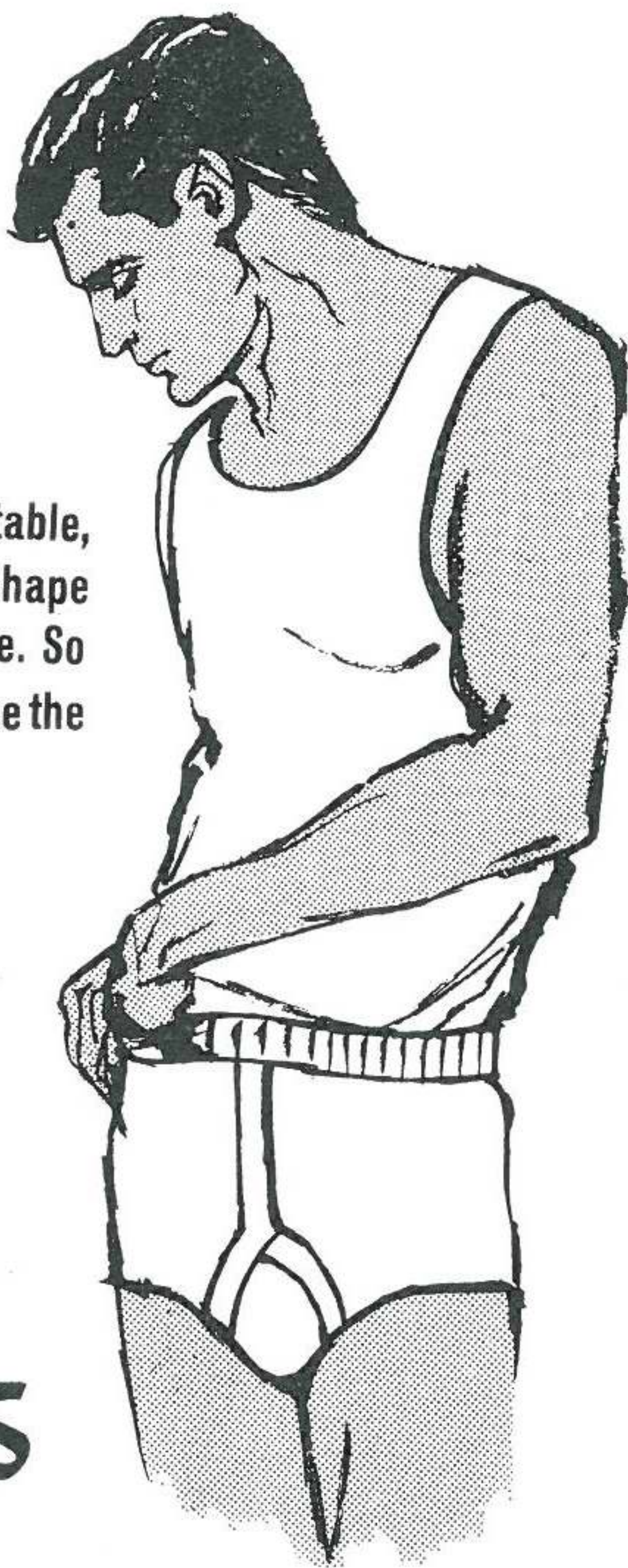
Kilkenny won out at minor and senior in 1935. That ranked as the only Leinster double until Wexford's day of glory last September.

Tipperary lead the minor chart with 12 titles. After Cork and Kilkenny comes Dublin with four crowns. Wexford's win last year was their third, and Limerick and Waterford complete the list with two championships each.



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TIPPERARY: THE END OF AN ERA?

By

RAYMOND SMITH

TIPPERARY'S failure in the Munster final was more than just a defeat at the hand of the "old enemy" after twelve years of supremacy in the South.

It marked, to my mind, the end of an era—the setting of the sun for the remaining veterans of the 1964-'65 side, the most streamlined and power-packed combination to leave the Premier County in the recent era.

The break-up of the 1964-'65 side began in 1967. In fact, the first significant sign came in 1966 when Tipperary lost in sensational fashion to Limerick at Cork and Michael Maher, a bulwark of defence at full-back, played his last game for the county.

The following year, Tipperary had enough experience and hurling craft to reach the All-Ireland. Really of course, Clare should have beaten them in the Munster final but after a memorable first half lost it by the wrong tactics in the second — they tried to match Tipperary in hurling and switched from the first-time tactics that had proved so effective in the first period.

In the All-Ireland, a great defence crumbled in face of the speed of the Kilkenny attack, in particular Tom Walsh (until his retirement through injury) and Eddie Keher (also forced to retire in the last quarter). Kilkenny had midfield superiority to back their attack — and Tipperary could not stay the tide in the last quarter. Indeed, I am convinced that if Walsh and Keher had been there in the closing stages, Kilkenny would have won by ten or twelve points instead of four.

So John Doyle, Kieran Carey, Theo English and Tony Wall called it a day—an outstanding quartet these, a winning nucleus in themselves at their best.

The breaking-up process continued in 1968, though Tipperary still had the ability to reach another All-Ireland. 'Mackey' McKenna and Liam Devaney said farewell to the scene.

In three years seven stalwarts had retired and Larry Kiely, so effective at centre-forward in the 1964 All-Ireland, found that he could not combine the demands of the Army show jumping team and inter-county hurling. He was a great loss.

Another county would, perhaps, have gone into the wilderness for five or six years, maybe even a decade, as the process of team-building began. But Tipperary still had the services of veterans Jimmy Doyle, Donie Nealon and John McLoughlin and young veterans of All-Ireland and Munster battles in Michael Keating, Mick Roche, John O'Donoghue, Len Gaynor, P. J. Ryan and John Flanagan.

This year, however, the Tipperary team, especially the defence began to take on a definite new look. It was obvious that the process of finding and building a new team for the seventies was already under way. Tipperary in effect were building around the remaining veterans, hoping that their experience and class might carry them to Munster and All-Ireland honours. It was hope rather than a conviction — the type of conviction that comes when you have a combination like the 1964-'65 power-packed side.

It shows how good the 1964-'65 team really was that the last remnants of the side, so to speak, could guide the county to the Munster final for the third successive year.

With no John Doyle, no Tony Wall, Kieran Carey, Theo

● TO PAGE 40

● FROM PAGE 39

English or Liam Devaney the great levelling-off process had arrived. Tipperary were no longer streets ahead of all opposition as in 1964 and '65. They were shown to be human in the 1967 All-Ireland, shown to be very vulnerable in defence in the second half of last year's final—and in this year's Munster final proved to be ordinary mortals.

Jimmy Doyle said to me shortly before the Munster final that if Tipperary managed to get over Cork they could not afford to lose the final. He was right. A third successive All-Ireland defeat just would not have been accepted by Tipperary followers,

just as Cork followers would not have accepted defeat in the Munster final. The humiliation of last year's defeat by Tipperary had hurt their pride too much and the memory had to be effaced. And so we were not really surprised, were we, when Cork's fierce will-to-win and their balance through the field swept them to victory over the Premier County?

I feel that the game definitely marked the end of the line for Donie Nealon and John McLoughlin in inter-county grade. Jimmy Doyle, too, may call it a day—but I feel that a player with his accuracy can still be an asset in the full line of attack, at corner-forward while Tipperary are ex-

perimenting to find a proper blend in attack.

So nearly all that fine band of hurlers who started such a bright new era for Tipperary in 1958 have now departed from the hurling scene—a string of glorious triumphs behind them and their names etched for all time in the annals of the game.

What do the Seventies hold for Tipperary?

I feel that they must face the sober fact that they will hardly dominate the scene as in the sixties, when they took four All-Ireland titles and lost three finals—an outstanding feat in itself to compete in seven finals.

As I have indicated, there has come a levelling off of standards on the hurling scene.

Tipperary will not be easily beaten ever. True they may be building for a season or two but like Cork themselves and like Kerry you can always expect them back.

Men like Roche, Keating, Flanagan and P. J. Ryan are still young and have plenty of hurling in them. King and Kelly made their mark in the Munster final and Noel O'Dwyer had a good second half.

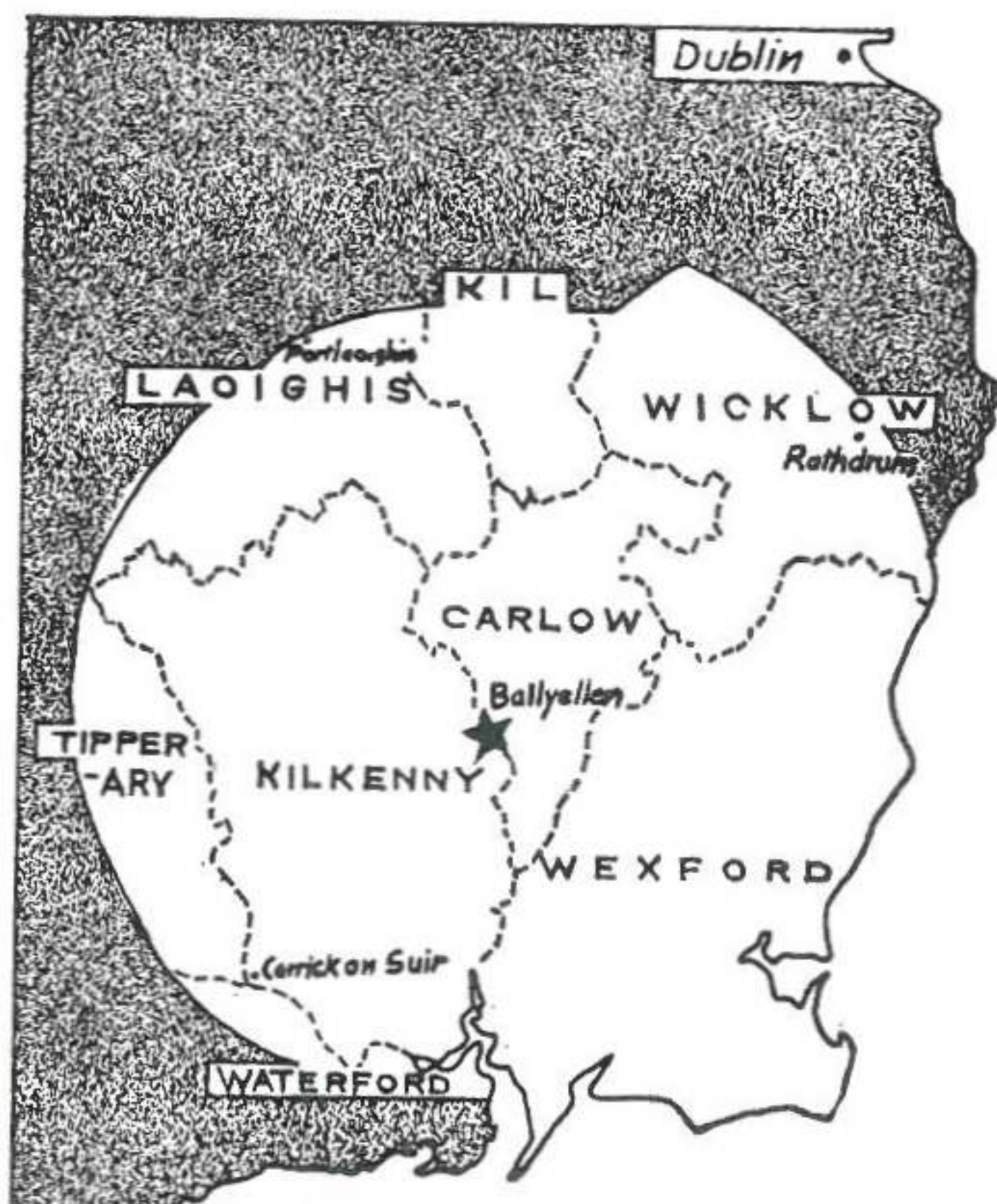
The problems are up front. And it will not be easy to find replacements for men of the calibre of Devaney, Nealon and Jimmy Doyle (when he calls it a day).

Worse still, it is disturbing that Tipperary have been so long out of the minor honours list. I put this down to the fact that they are not getting a nucleus of five or six finished hurlers from Thurles C.B.S. as in the old days.

Indeed, somebody made the point to me that if Jimmy Doyle and John McLoughlin now decide to call it a day and are not in the Tipperary line-out next season, we could have a Tipperary team without a Thurles Sarsfields man. Tom Semple

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would turn in his grave at the thought of that!

I am not saying that all the good hurlers come from Thurles. Far from it. Roche and Keating are fit to rank amongst the best that have worn the Blue-and-Gold—and they learned their hurling in the South.

But in my days in Thurles C.B.S., a young lad came up through the ranks from Croke Cup to Dean Ryan Cup to Dr. Harty Cup—and he was a finished product when he made the Tipperary minor team. Remember Paddy Kenny in 1945. . .

Remember Jimmy Doyle as a minor. . .

Soccer is being played in Thurles and soccer is being played in Boherlahan and other parts of Tipperary.

This of itself does not mean that hurling is going to lose its premier position—it will always be No. 1, I believe, in the county.

What has happened is that after a surfeit of success in the Sixties, Tipperary's appetite has been dimmed.

They need a period in the wilderness to get back the old edge, which they had in 1958 when they began a glorious run.

They had such a strong team from 1964 that they could almost walk through all opposition in Munster — and into the All-Ireland without much bother.

The honeymoon days are over.

Instead of waiting for victory to come, as it came in 1964 and '65 because they had the ability to win with a one-two goal punch when they wanted to, they must realise that they a normal, everyday attack and will have to fight for victory.

They may discover another streamlined side in the Seventies—who knows, but until they do times will not be easy.

There will be no days of wine and roses for a while again, I am afraid.

Ransomes

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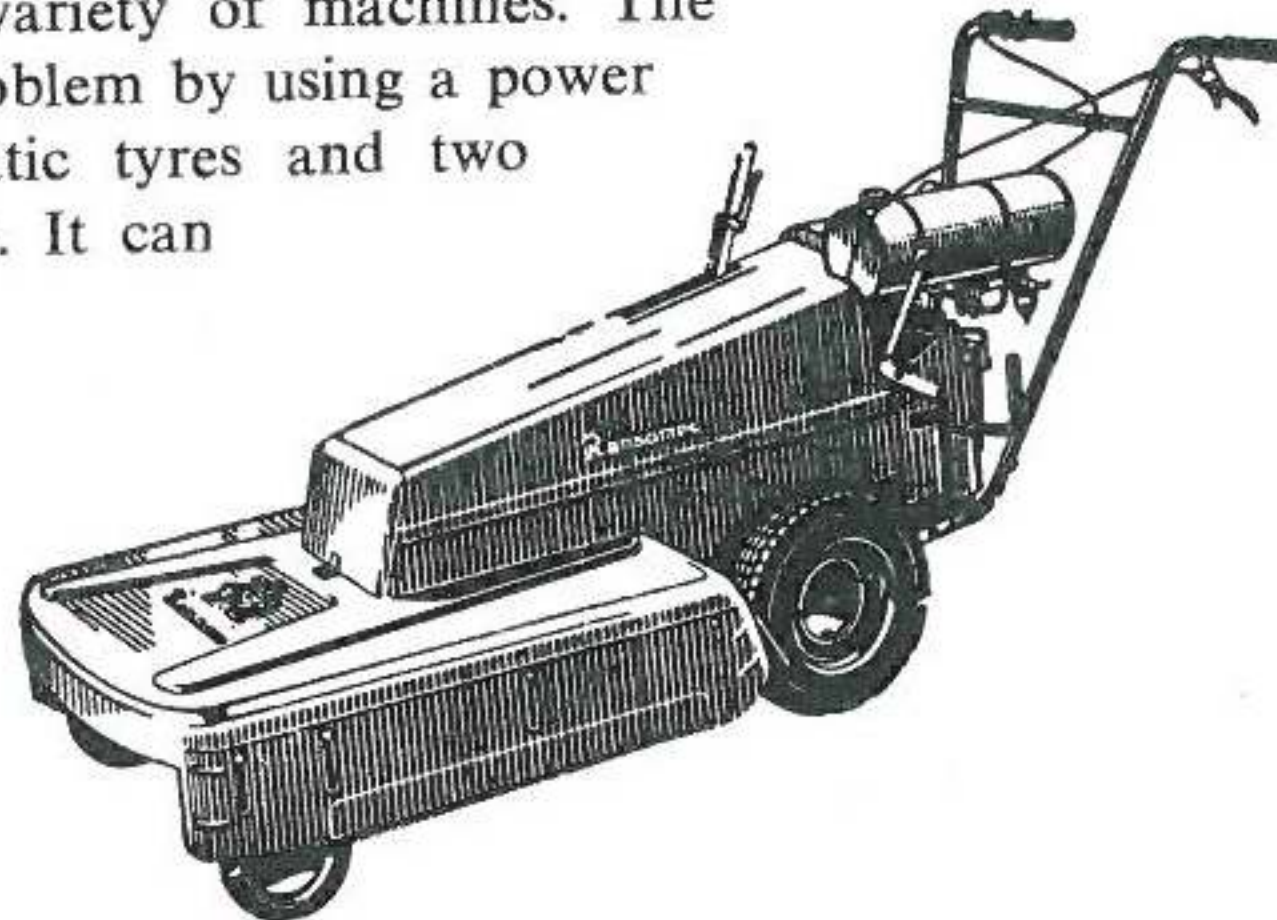
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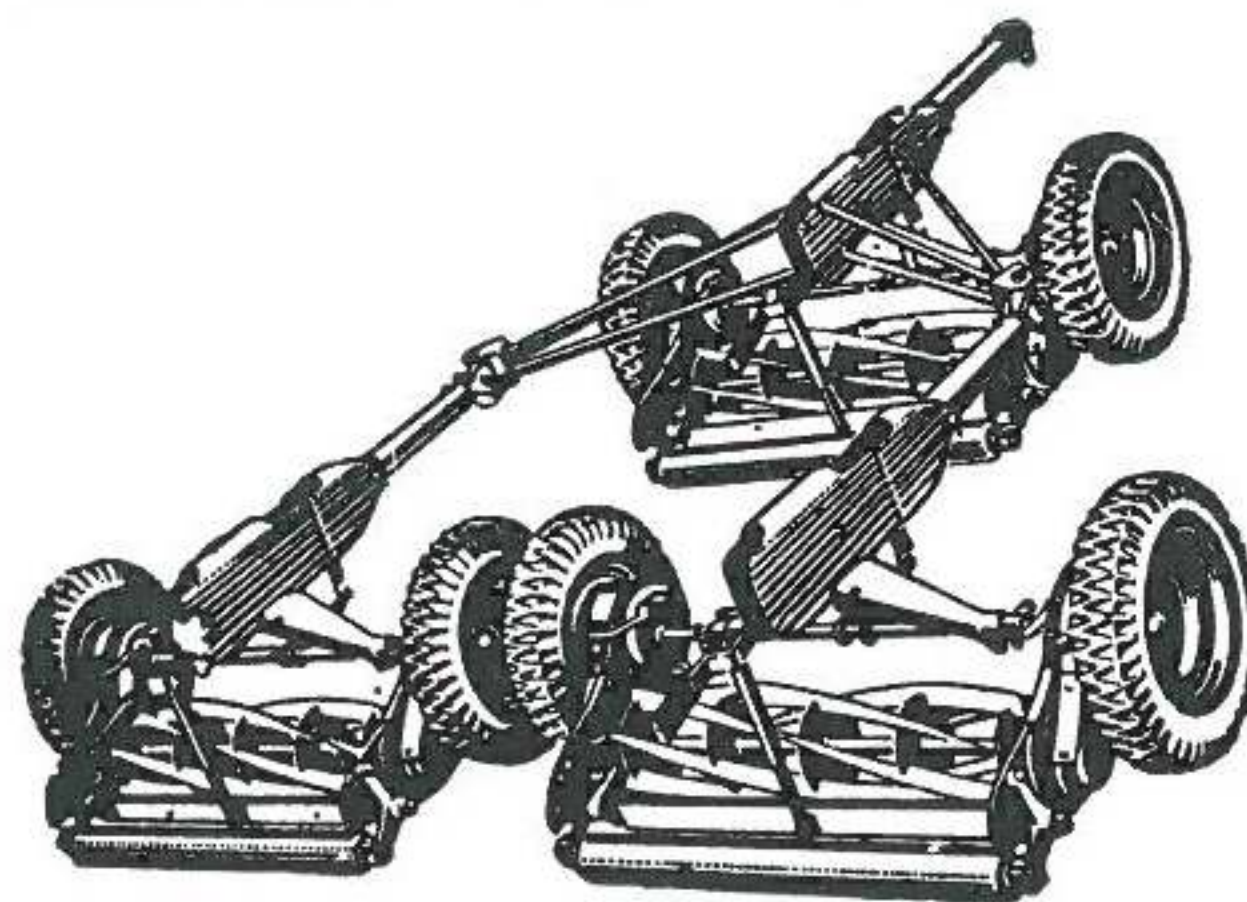
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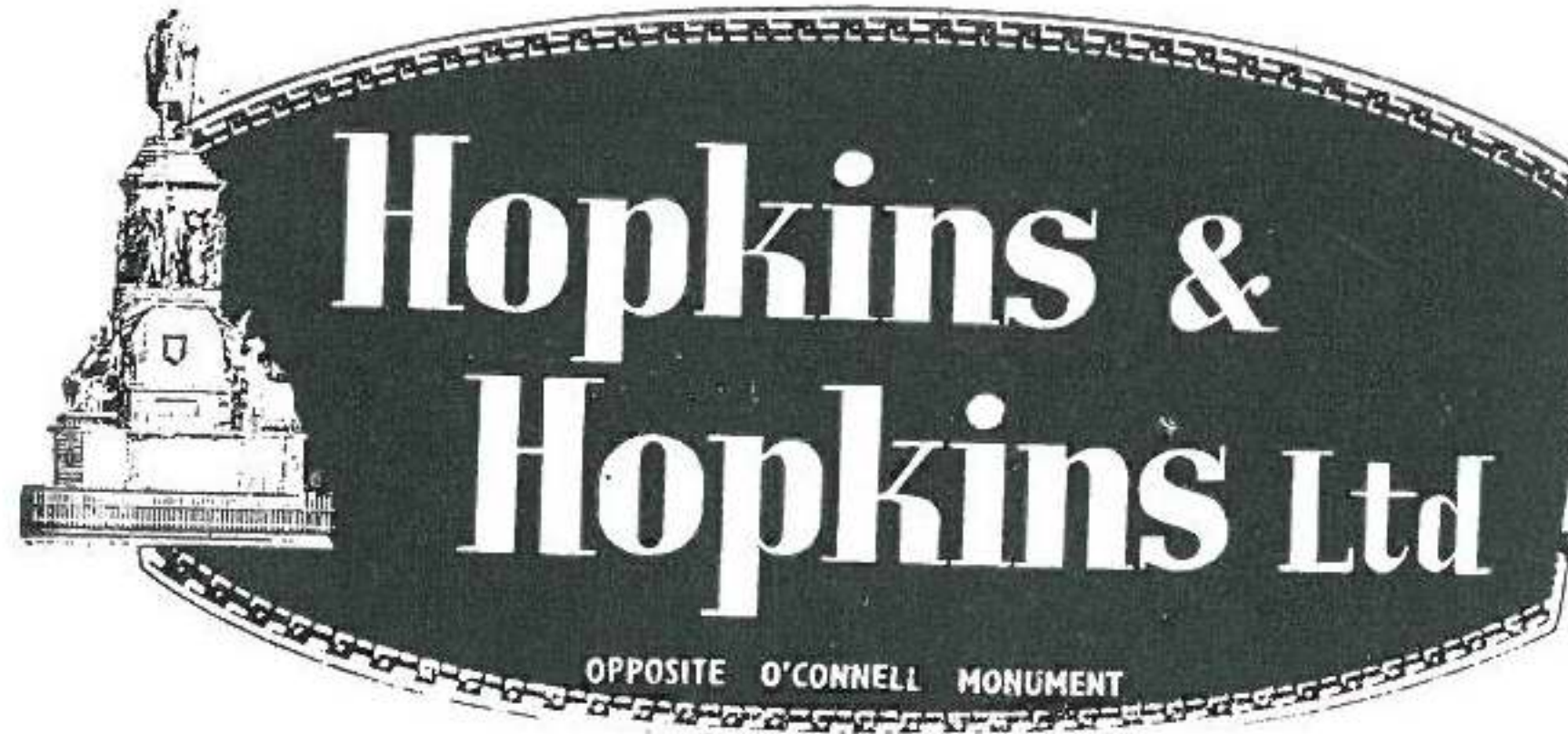
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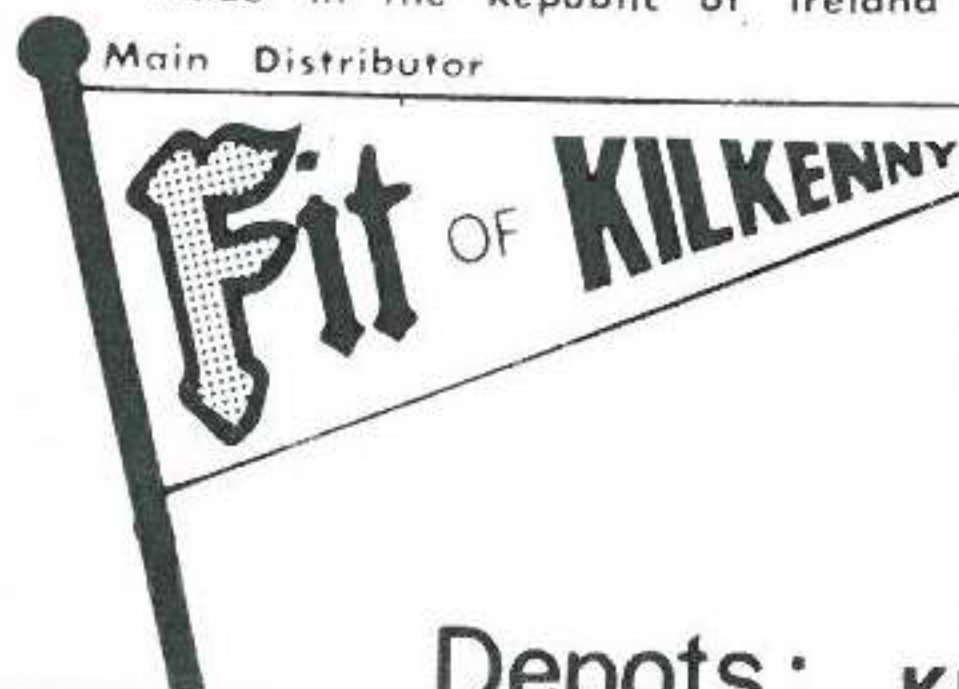
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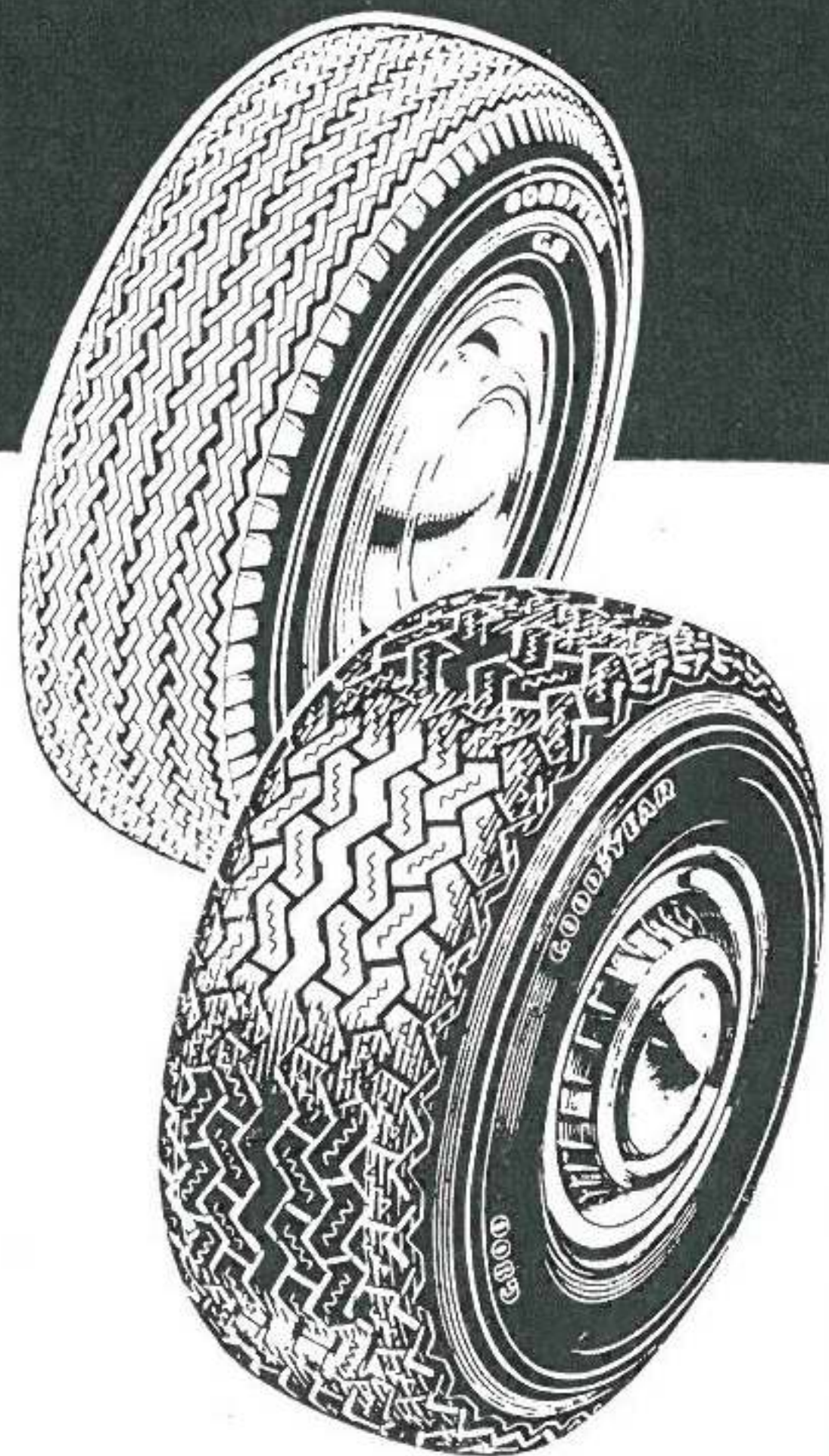
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THE HURLING IMMORTALS

HURLING men who want to get the full background story of how the Cork-Kilkenny tradition was built up down the years will welcome the publication of Raymond Smith's updated 350-page history of the national game, "The Hurling Immortals", which is now on sale.

Here you can read of such stars of the 1903-'13 period as "Drug" Walsh, Jack Rochford and Sim Walton of Kilkenny and Jim Kelleher, Willie Mackessy and Andy Fitzgerald of Cork.

And you can read also of the 1931 games and of 1946 and 1947—and there is a full

chapter devoted to Cork's triumph in 1966 and Kilkenny's defeat of Tipperary in 1967 is also fully covered.

Indeed, what will make this book such a ready "winner" is the fact that it brings the story of hurling right up to the Munster and Leinster Finals of this year—it includes 60 pages of brilliant team and action studies and it has complete records of All-Ireland teams and results and also League and Interprovincial records.

It has a Foreword by the President of the G.A.A., Mr. Seamus Ryan and the Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch has answered a number of questions put to him by the author.

Every All-Ireland final from the start of the championships in 1887 will be found in this book—and all the immortal names. You get the "inside" stories on the controversial incidents from the players themselves and if you enjoyed "The Football Immortals", then you will want to have "The Hurling Immortals" beside it on your bookshelf of G.A.A. literature.

"The Hurling Immortals" is published by Bruce Spicer Ltd., 30, Molesworth Street, Dublin, at 8/6 (three dollars air mail to the States). It can be got through any bookseller or direct from the publishers.

CAMOGIE



By AGNES HOURIGAN

Final takes rightful place

IN the last couple of years the All-Ireland Camogie final has at last tended to become what it always should have been, something of a national event. True, the crowds have not yet reached the numbers that they should, but with the junior final now being played in conjunction with the senior final, we can expect the crowds to increase steadily, and more and more clubs and schools will presumably decide to bring their teams on excursion to Croke Park on final day. And it is all a far cry from the days when the All-Ireland camogie championship took its first halting step away back in 1932.

Camogie had taken a long time to recover from the Troubled

Years and was not assisted by the fact that the camogie series in the Tailteann Games of 1924 was beset by a whole lot of troubles that were not the making of the players and that had nothing whatever to do with the camogie game.

By the time the next Tailteann Games came round in 1928, the situation was far more favourable and indeed it might be said that the great camogie revival really began at Croke Park with those Aonach Tailteann matches.

Then, when the Tailteann Games were coming round again in 1932, the number of enthusiasts had grown so great not alone in Cork, Galway, Belfast and Dublin, but in Louth and Tipperary that it was decided,

before ever the Games began, to reorganise the Camogie Association on an All-Ireland basis and hold an All-Ireland championship.

Some really spectacular interprovincial matches at the Tailteann Games themselves, added to the prevailing enthusiasm and the result was that the first All-Ireland championship began in the Autumn of 1932.

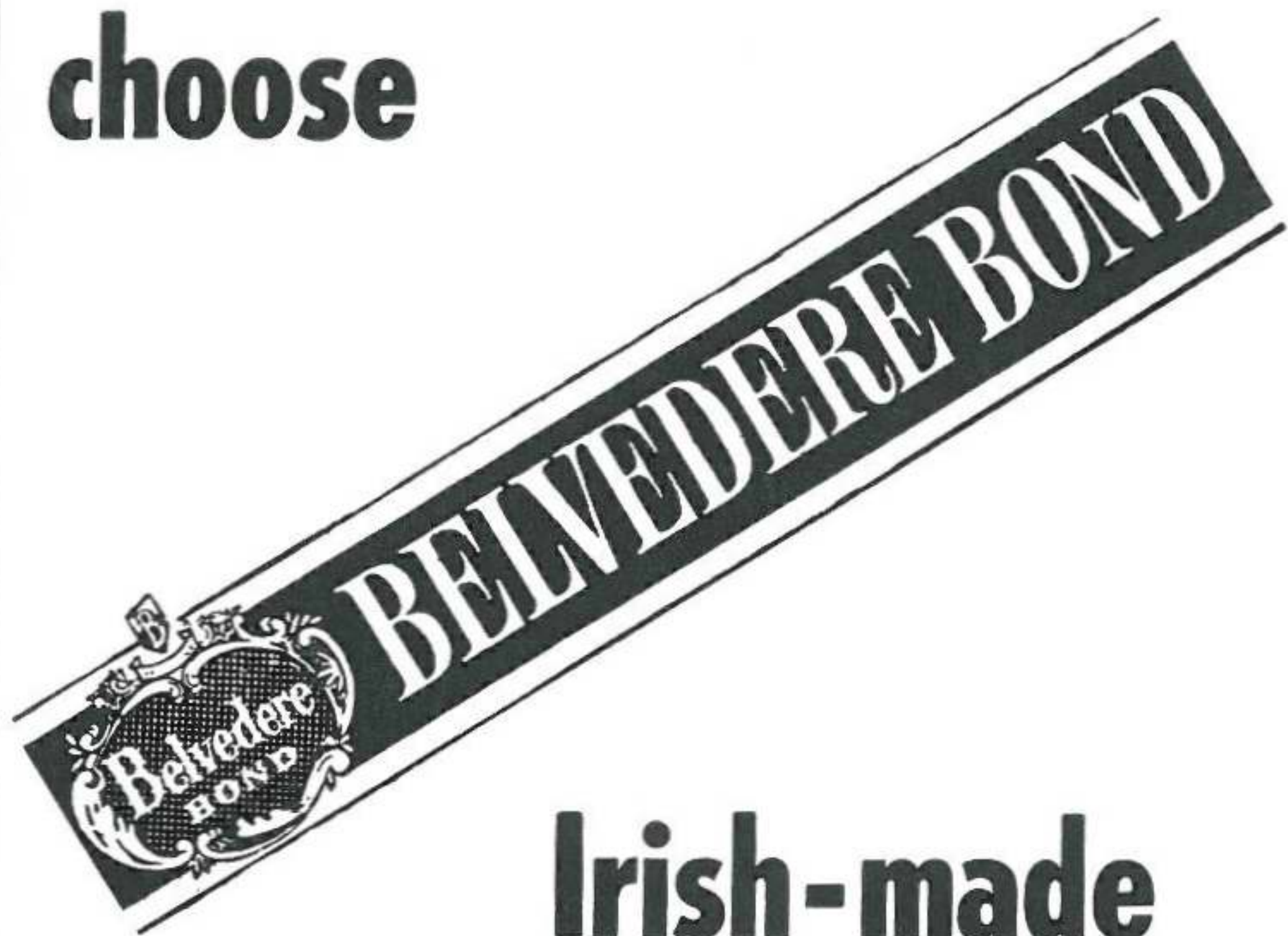
It was decided to play the competition on an open draw basis since there were no provincial Councils and no machinery for organising provincial championships.

Unfortunately, enthusiasm and ambition in many cases ran higher than the actual practical

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ADMAR

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position, and counties found themselves up against far greater problems than they had anticipated. The series started well, but then began to drag on. The competition started very late in the year and eventually was abandoned entirely for the winter months, and was not resumed until the late Spring of 1933.

Eventually, Dublin and Galway qualified for the final, which was only as should be for it was those two counties who had provided the Leinster and Connacht teams that had provided such wonderful exhibitions of the game in the Tailteann Games during the previous summer.

This first final was played at Galway on August 6, 1933, the August week-end, and provided a most entertaining clash.

Dublin, who had whatever wind advantage there was led by 2-1 to nil at the interval.

Galway improved after the interval, but could make no real impression on a cast-iron Dublin defence. So Dublin took that first title on scores 3-2 to 0-2.

Star of the Dublin attack was the late Ita McNeill who scored two goals and a point. Jean Hannon from Bray had the winners' third goal, while I think their great star, Peggy Morris from Headford, who captained the side, had both the Galway scores.

The referee was the one and only Sean O'Duffy who, after the game presented the O'Duffy Cup to the winning team. That was thirty-six years ago, and the All-Ireland camogie championship has come a long way since then, but how far it would have come without the constant work of Sean O'Duffy through the years remains a problem that will never be solved.

BATTLES LONG AGO

THE first time I ever saw Cork and Kilkenny play in an All-Ireland senior hurling final was away back in 1926, and, let's face it, I was not particularly impressed. It had been raining all the day before and most of the morning as well, and Croke Park seemed to me to be a miserable kind of place.

I don't know where I got so much money as half-a-crown, for I was not even a teen-ager, but I installed myself on a side-line seat, and what was more there was no great rush on side-line seats that day.

I remember that Cork won very easily, that the only Kilkennyman to enhance his reputation was the goal-keeper Dick Cantwell, whom you can always find nowadays during his leisure hours if you search a certain section of the Liffey bank frequented by devoted anglers, and that approximately half the attendance did not stand for the 'Soldiers Song' which was at that time still considered by dedicated Republicans to be the Anthem of the Free Staters.

The next time I saw Cork and Kilkenny in a final I seem to have spent the whole Autumn on the job. With about thirty thousand more I turned up at Croke Park on the first Sunday in the September of 1931 to see what everyone felt was going to be a pretty one-sided final between a great Cork team and an almost untested Kilkenny side.

Amazingly, Kilkenny called the tune for most of a sparkling hour, and were only caught by a remarkable point sent over by the Cork captain, Eudie Cough-



Jim Regan (left) and Dinny Barry Murphy, two of Cork's greatest hurlers in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Jim Regan coaches the present Cork side.

lan, who was actually on his knees at the time.

So we all came back again a month later to see the replay. And a few thousand extra came with us this time.

This was one of the greatest hurling matches I have ever seen. It was not quite as spectacular as the first game but it was even more exciting. Again Kilkenny astonished everybody by the way they played, and in fact they might well have won by a point because a long ball by their left half-back Eddie Doyle missed the Cork upright by inches in the very last minute of a spell-binding hour. But in the end they finished level again, and so most of us came back to Croke Park on the first Sunday in November to see the teams meet for the third time. But it wasn't so easy to get there. That I will remind those who talk about the good old days was the winter of 1931 when the full force of the great depression had really hit Ireland.

I never remember such hardship in the country before or since and my most vivid memory is of walking across Kilkenny on the Saturday before the match

to get my excursion ticket at the railway station, and seeing shops in John Street closed because the coal-miners were coming in on a hunger march from Castlecomer.

Anyway, in that third game, Kilkenny had to field without the one and only Lory Meagher and that looked before hand, a crippling blow. But the remarkable point of it was that they went very near to victory.

There was a ten minute period in the first half, and another ten minute period at the start of the second when the black and amber seemed about to conquer adversity and Cork alike.

But the canny Corkmen weathered the storm and when Kilkenny fell away in the last ten minutes, built up a winning margin that was distinctly flattering. The third time I saw Cork and Kilkenny play was in the final of 1939. Britain and France had just declared war on Germany, and we had a war all our own in Dublin, for it was a day of brief yet fearsome thunderstorms.

We had one in the morning, but that had dried off by the time the senior final began. This time we had a lot of young players on both teams, but Kilkenny, showing sparkling style in the first half, seemed to have the title wrapped up at the interval.

Then another thundershower came, and Cork came back into the game with a vengeance.

Steadily they pulled down the lead until they were level, and then Jack Lynch, not then quite as well known in Ireland as he is today, hit a ball that could not

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● FROM PAGE 45

be anything else but a goal except that it rose straight up and went over the bar for a point. It was unbelievable, and to add to Cork's crown of sorrows Jimmy Kelly landed a winning point for Kilkenny from a seemingly impossible position in the closing second. That was the first time I ever saw Kilkenny beat Cork in a senior All-Ireland and I did not see them play again until 1946. In the meantime Cork had won four in a row and Christy Ring had come to his full flowering and it was Ring who dominated this 1946 final, for he made lanes through the Kilkenny defence, and gave Cork one of their easiest victories ever over their old rivals.

So, when the same two counties met again in the final of 1947 you might well imagine that the public would have had enough of this Cork-Kilkenny business.

But such was far from being the case. In the first place that was the year the All-Ireland football final was to be played in New York and some of the enthusiasm rubbed off on the hurling series also.

In the second place it was one of the warmest summers in my memory, and that brought out the crowds, and it certainly brought the hurling fans to Croke Park for the final.

The Kilkennymen were again the outsiders, and they seemed to thrive on that as they so often do, for they led Cork a merry dance for three-quarters of the hour.

But just when it seemed that the Noremens were advancing to a fairly easy victory, Cork struck back. One goal they scored, then another, and another so that so far from being in arrears they found themselves a point ahead with time running out fast.

Then Terry Leahy balanced with a point from a Kilkenny free but Cork came sweeping

away from the puck-out in search of a winning score.

Out to meet that sliothar came Paddy Grace, then corner back, now County Secretary. He sent a long ball almost into the Cork goal-mouth where it was blocked out to the roving Terry Leahy who promptly flicked it over the bar for the winning point.

Against all previous hurling history it was nineteen years before Cork and Kilkenny again met in a senior final. This time,

and for the first time that I can ever recall in such a clash, Kilkenny were the clear-cut favourites, but unfancied Cork knocked them out of their stride, kept them out of their stride, and won one of the most unexpected and meritorious of all their victories.

This time we are more or less back to square one for Cork are favourites again, which, I suppose means that anything can happen.

TED CARROLL

Kilkenny are already very much in the debt of the 5 ft. 11 ins. tall Lisdowney man. And they could owe much more to him after this encounter. Clever positional play, that wealth of experience and natural ability and know-how perfected in the games that matter are mighty weapons that Ted Carroll, of the un-

● FROM PAGE 23

quenchable spirit, tremendous ability and tenacity brings into this latest bid by Kilkenny for new glory.

With Cork so punchy in attack, they are also assets that must give Kilkenny supporters a great deal of comfort in these days of anxious waiting before the opening whistle.

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LOOK AT
A WELCOME
ADDITION
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THE Summerhill Engineering Perpetual Cup is the latest addition to the ever-growing list of sponsored tournaments in the G.A.A. This one must be considered most welcome for it represents sponsorship by the North City Engineering Firm of a thirteen-a-side, pick-the-ball-off-the-ground Petroleum League.

In a most successful campaign which has just been completed, all the Oil Giants, with the exception of Irish Shell, who, I am assured, will be a definite entry next year, competed.

The five entrants were Esso, Burmah, McMullans, Arrow and Texaco.

After a vigorous campaign which ensured that each team played four matches there was a final show-down between Texaco and Esso.

This was a game to remember, where prestige was of paramount importance. The Esso boys, under the astute managership of Paddy Foran, were slight favourites. They had accounted for Texaco by the slender margin of a point in the course of the League, though, in the interim Texaco's team director, Pat Kennedy, had unearthed some very useful talent by means of inter-departmental matches in the firm.

As the game opened, Esso let the huge crowd in attendance at the St. Vincent's ground in Raheny, know why they had the favourites' rating.

Ably marshalled by P. Synnott, one of the famed O'Toole's clan, and P. McRory, a mid-fielder of exceptional quality, they roared through the Texaco defence on many occasions to steer some beautiful shots over the bar. Though it was to the credit of the Texaco defence with B. Grist brilliant in goal, ably backed by T. Sisk and G. Kiernan, that there was only four points in it at the call of half-time.

On the turnover the Texaco men, resplendent in their new green and white stripe, and ably backed by their enthusiastic cheer squad, went about reducing the arrears.

With Captain Simon Behan rampant and D. Martin and J. Meggs in scoring mood Texaco rallied to become the first holders of the Summerhill Cup, though it was no fault of D. Wrafter and M. Hughes that Esso went down. In fact a clever movement between the two of them at the finish nearly thwarted the Texaco squad.

Summerhill Manager, Jack Murphy, who presented the trophy to Simon Behan, complimented all the

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participants and indicated that competitions of this type are an ideal outlet at a time when employees find themselves with a lot more leisure time than heretofore.

An unusual aspect of the competition was that either of the other three contestants — Burmah, Arrow or McMullans could have gained a place in the final. Such was the intensity of the matches that a meagre point decided many of the games. Indeed any of the three could pinpoint instances that brought about respective downfalls.

The Petroleum League has positively established itself and, very definitely, has exposed much latent talent in the Gaelic football code amongst the employees of the oil companies. In future besides the addition of Irish Shell it is likely that Subsidiary Companies of the Big Guns will also participate.

The League has also opened up new avenues. I hear that Texaco, the winners, are contemplating the initiation of a Texaco International League, in which different branches of the company in various countries will be invited to participate. Such a competition could be well under way before next spring.

Quite likely the other companies may follow the same course. Obviously this new G.A.A. Petroleum League is a vital boost to the Association. Those who initiated it are deserving of the highest commendation.

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FACTS and FIGURES

COMPILED BY SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

EIGHTY-ONE All-Ireland hurling Finals have been decided since the first championship was inaugurated in 1887. The competition was not played the following year, because of the "Invasion" of America by teams of hurlers, footballers and athletes; and, in 1911, Kilkenny received a walk over from Limerick, who refused to play at the venue selected.

The trophy for the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship is the Liam McCarthy Cup, which was presented to the Association in 1921. Limerick were the first holders.

The early All-Ireland finals were contested by twenty-one aside teams. In 1892 the number of players was reduced to seventeen. In 1913 fifteen was fixed as the number. Originally a goal eclipsed any number of points. In 1892 a goal was made equal to five points, and later (1913) to three points.

Three games were necessary to decide the 1931 title fight between Cork and Kilkenny. Three other All-Ireland finals ended in draws—Dublin v. Tipperary in 1908; Limerick v. Dublin in 1934 and Kilkenny v. Waterford in 1959. Only once was extra time played in an All-Ireland final. This was in 1891 between Kerry and Wexford.

Highest score in an All-Ireland final was registered by Tipperary in 1896. Only team to win an All-Ireland final without scoring a

point was Wexford in 1910. Kilkenny won the 1947 title and Tipperary the 1961 crown without scoring a goal.

The record attendance for a hurling final was the 84,856 that turned up to see Cork play Wexford in 1954.

The 1926 meeting of Cork and Kilkenny was the first all-Ireland final to have a radio broadcast. The commentator was the late P. D. Mehigan ("Carbery").

Christy Ring of Cork and John Doyle of Tipperary have won the greatest number of All-Ireland Senior Hurling medals—eight.

An Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, is the only player to win six senior all-Ireland medals in consecutive years. He was on the Cork team that won the All-Ireland Senior Hurling titles of 1941, 1942 (when he was captain), 1943, 1944 and 1946; and the All-Ireland Senior Football title for 1945.

Tipperary head the list of championship winners with twenty-one crowns to their name. Cork are the only county to win four finals in succession, which they accomplished between 1941 and 1944.

TIPPERARY: Colours—Blue, Gold Hoop (21 wins)—1887. Beat Galway, 1-1 to nil, at Birr, April 1, 1888. Captain—J. Stapleton. **1895.** Beat Kilkenny, 6-8 to 1-0, at Jones' Road. March 15, 1896. Captain—M. Maher. **1896.** Beat Dublin, 8-14 to 0-4, at Jones' Road. March 27, 1898. Captain—

M. Maher. **1898.** Beat Kilkenny, 7-13 to 3-10, at Jones' Road. March 25, 1900. Captain—M. Maher. **1899—**Beat Wexford, 3-12 to 1-4, at Jones' Road, March 24, 1901. Captain—T. Condon. **1900.** Beat London, 2-5 to 0-6, at Jones' Road. October 26, 1902. Captain—E. Hayes. **1906.** Beat Dublin, 3-16 to 3-8, at Kilkenny. October 27, 1907. Captain—T. Semple. **1908.** Beat Dublin, 3-15 to 1-5, at Athy, June 27, 1909. Captain—T. Semple. On April 25, 1909, at Jones' Road they drew—Tipperary 2-5. Dublin 1-8. **1916.** Beat Kilkenny, 5-4 to 3-2, at Croke Park. January 21, 1917. Captain—J. Leahy. **1925.** Beat Galway, 5-6 to 1-5, at Croke Park, September 6, 1925. Captain—J. Leahy. **1930.** Beat Dublin, 2-7 to 1-3, at Croke Park, September 7, 1930. Captain—J. J. Callanan. **1937.** Beat Kilkenny, 3-11 to 0-3, at Fitzgerald, Killarney, September 5, 1937. Captain—J. Lanigan. **1945.** Beat Kilkenny, 5-6 to 3-6, at Croke Park, September 2, 1945. Captain—J. Maher. **1949.** Beat Laois, 3-11 to 0-3, at Croke Park, September 4, 1949. Captain—P. Stakelum. **1950.** Beat Kilkenny, 1-9 to 1-8, at Croke Park, September 3, 1950. Captain—S. Kenny. **1951.** Beat Wexford, 7-7 to 3-9, at Croke Park, September 2, 1951. Captain—J. Finn. **1958.** Beat Galway, 4-9 to 2-5, at Croke Park, September 7, 1958. Captain—A. Wall. **1961.** Beat Dublin, 0-16 to 1-12, at Croke Park. September 3, 1961. Captain—M. Hassett. **1962.** Beat Wexford

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3-10 to 2-11, at Croke Park, September 2, 1962. Captain—J. Doyle. 1964. Beat Kilkenny, 5-13 to 2-8, at Croke Park, September 6, 1964. Captain—M. Murphy. 1965. Beat Wexford 2-16 to 0-10, at Croke Park, September 5th, 1965. Captain—J. Doyle.

CORK: Colours—Red and White (20 wins)—1890. Beat Wexford 1-6 to 2-2 (unfinished—Cork awarded match), at Clonturk Park, Dublin. November 16, 1890. Captain—D. Lane. 1892. Beat Dublin 2-4 to 1-1 (unfinished—Cork awarded match), at Clonturk Park, Dublin. March 26, 1893. Captain—W. O'Callaghan. 1893. Beat Kilkenny 6-8 to 0-2, at Phoenix Park, Dublin. June 24, 1894. Captain—J. Murphy. 1894. Beat Dublin 5-20 to 2-0, at Clonturk Park, Dublin. March 24, 1895. Captain—S. Hayes. 1902. Beat London 3-13 to nil, at Cork. September 11, 1904. Captain—J. Kelleher. 1903. Beat London, 3-16 to 1-1, at Jones' Road. November 12, 1905. Captain—S. Riordan. 1919. Beat Dublin 6-4 to 2-4, at Croke Park, September 21, 1919. Captain—J. Kennedy. 1926. Beat Kilkenny 4-6 to 2-0, at Croke Park, October 24, 1926. Captain—S. Murphy. 1928. Beat Galway 6-12 to 1-0, at Croke Park. September 9, 1928. Captain—S. Murphy. 1929. Beat Galway 4-9 to 1-3, at Croke Park. September 1, 1929. Captain—D. B. Murphy. 1931. Beat Kilkenny 5-8 to 3-4, at

Croke Park, November 1, 1931. Captain—E. Coughlan. Drawn game Cork 1-6, Kilkenny 1-6. September 6. First replay, Cork 2-5, Kilkenny 2-5, October 11. 1941. Beat Dublin 5-11 to 0-6, at Croke Park, September 28, 1941. Captain—C. Buckley. 1942. Beat Dublin 2-14 to 3-4, at Croke Park. September 6, 1942. Captain—J. Lynch. 1943. Beat Antrim, 5-16 to 0-4, at Croke Park. September 5, 1943. Captain—M. Kennefick. 1944. Beat Dublin, 2-13 to 1-2, at Croke Park, September 3, 1944. Captain—S. Condon. 1946. Beat Kilkenny 7-5 to 3-8, at Croke Park, September 1, 1946. Captain—C. Ring. 1952. Beat Dublin 2-14 to 0-7, at Croke Park, September 7, 1952. Captain—P. Barry. 1953. Beat Galway 3-3 to 0-8, at Croke Park. September 6, 1953. Captain—C. Ring. 1954. Beat Wexford 1-9 to 1-6, at Croke Park. September 5, 1954. Captain—C. Ring. 1966. Beat Kilkenny 3-9 to 1-10, at Croke Park. September 4, 1966. Captain—G. McCarthy.

KILKENNY: Colours: Black and amber stripes (16 wins). 1904. Beat Cork, 1-9 to 1-8, at Carrick on Suir, June 24, 1906. Captain: J. Doheny. 1905. Beat Cork 7-7 to 2-9 at Dungarvan, June 30, 1907. Captain. D. Stapleton. In a disputed match at Tipperary on April 14 the score was: Cork 5-10, Kilkenny 3-13. The Central Council ordered a replay. 1907. Beat Cork, 3-12 to 4-8, at Dungarvan, June 21, 1908.

Captain—R. Walsh. 1909. Beat Tipperary 4-6 to 0-12, at Cork, December 12, 1909. Captain—R. Walsh. 1911. Walk over from Limerick at Thurles, April 21, 1912. Captain—S. Walton. The final was originally fixed for Cork on February 18 but the playing pitch was flooded and the match could not take place. Limerick refused to play at the new venue appointed. 1912. Beat Cork 2-1 to 1-3 at Croke Park, November 17, 1912. Captain—S. Walton. 1913. Beat Tipperary 2-4 to 1-2 at Croke Park, November 2, 1913. Captain—R. Walsh. 1922. Beat Tipperary 4-2 to 2-6 at Croke Park, September 9, 1923. Captain—W. Dunphy. 1932. Beat Clare 3-3 to 2-3 at Croke Park, September 14, 1932. Captain—J. Walsh. 1933. Beat Limerick 1-7 to 0-6 at Croke Park, September 3, 1933. Captain—E. Doyle. 1935. Beat Limerick 2-5 to 2-4 at Croke Park, September 1, 1935. Captain—L. Meagher. 1939. Beat Cork 2-7 to 3-3 at Croke Park, September 3, 1939. Captain—J. Walsh. 1947. Beat Cork 0-14 to 2-7 at Croke Park, September 7, 1947. Captain—D. Kennedy. 1957. Beat Waterford 4-10 to 3-12 at Croke Park, September 1, 1957. Captain—M. Kelly. 1963. Beat Waterford 4-17 to 6-8 at Croke Park, September 1, 1963. Captain—S. Cleere. 1967. Beat Tipperary 3-8 to 2-7 at

● TO PAGE 55



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● FROM PAGE 9

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SAM MAGUIRE CUP

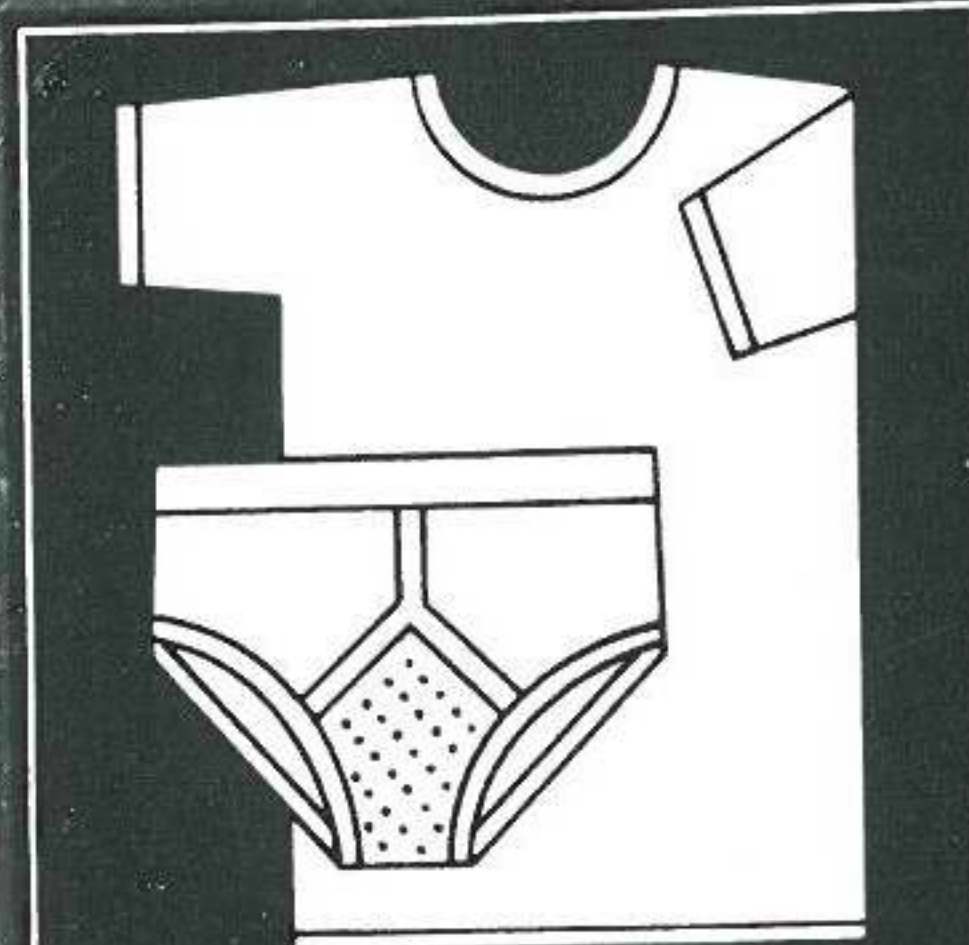
IN 1927 the Central Council decided to have made specially, a cup in honour of the patriot Sam Maguire who had just died. He had been active in the I.R.B. in London and indeed had captained the London-Irish team to victory in the 1901 Senior Football decider. The honour of making the Cup was given to Hopkins & Hopkins the jewellers opposite the O'Connell Monument and Eden Quay. One of the stipulations was that the Cup was to be made in the workshops of the company and nowhere else. Lorcan O'Toole and other members of the Executive were very much in evidence to see that this request was carried out. Myles Richard Hopkins was Managing Director of the company at that time. He was a great benefactor to the I.R.B. and the G.A.A. and numbered among his personal friends Michael Cusack and Sean T. O'Kelly, afterwards Uachtaran na hEireann.

The Cup is a copy of the Ardagh Chalice and was made from one piece of flat silver over a period of several months. The chaising was done by McKay, a Scottish craftsman, and the gold work by Matthew Staunton, both employed by Hopkins & Hopkins as were all the craftsmen who worked on the Sam Maguire Cup.

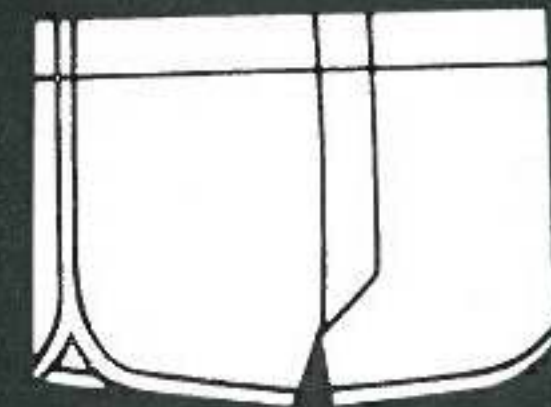
So next September when the victorious captain holds up the Sam Maguire for cheering crowds, spare a thought for the many hands and minds that made it all possible.

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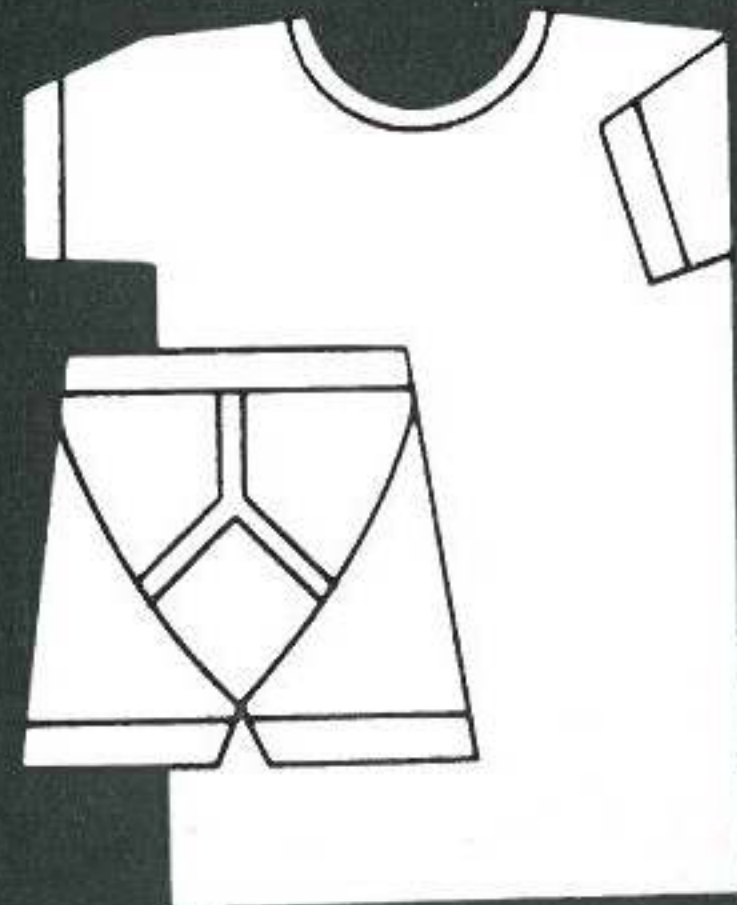
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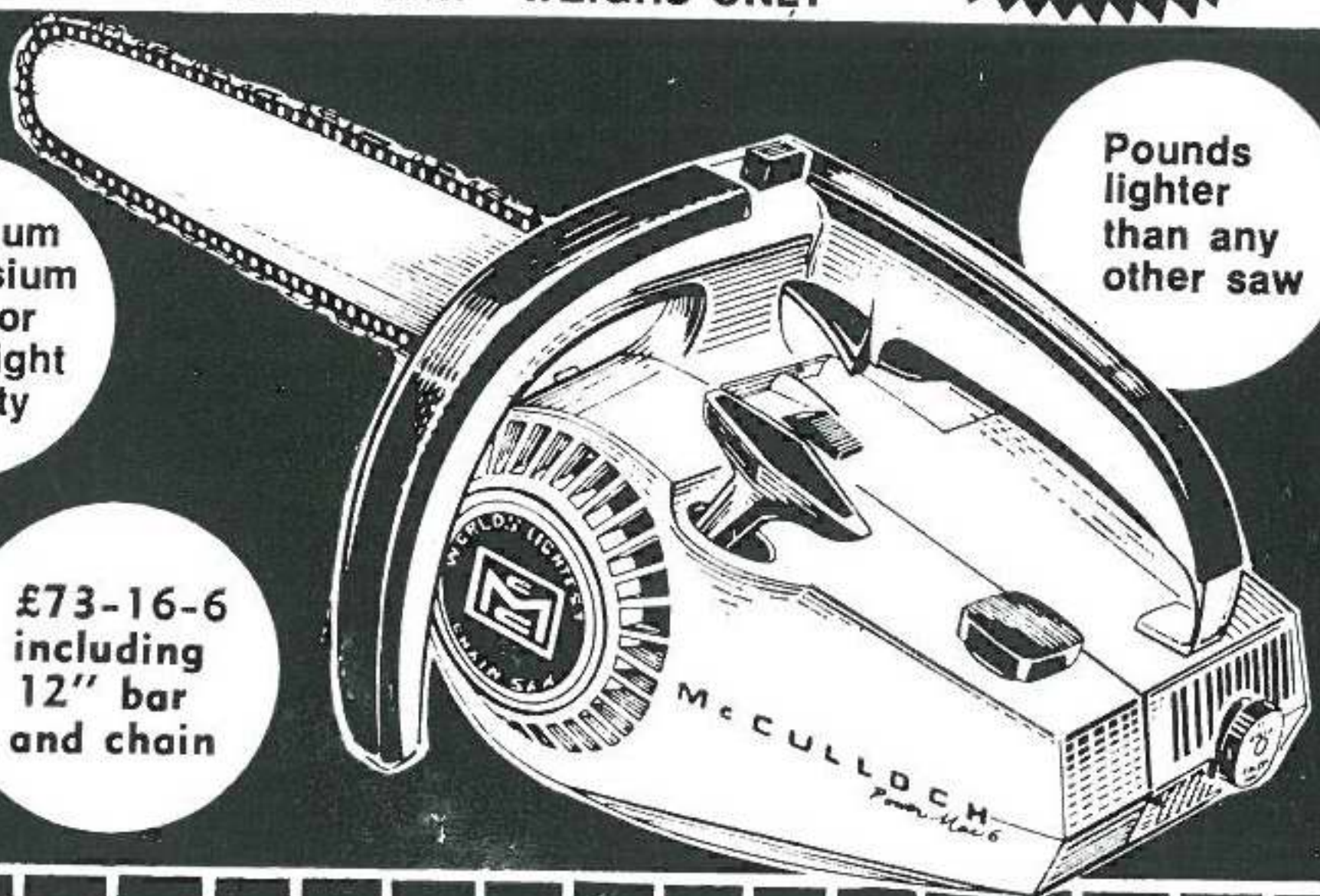
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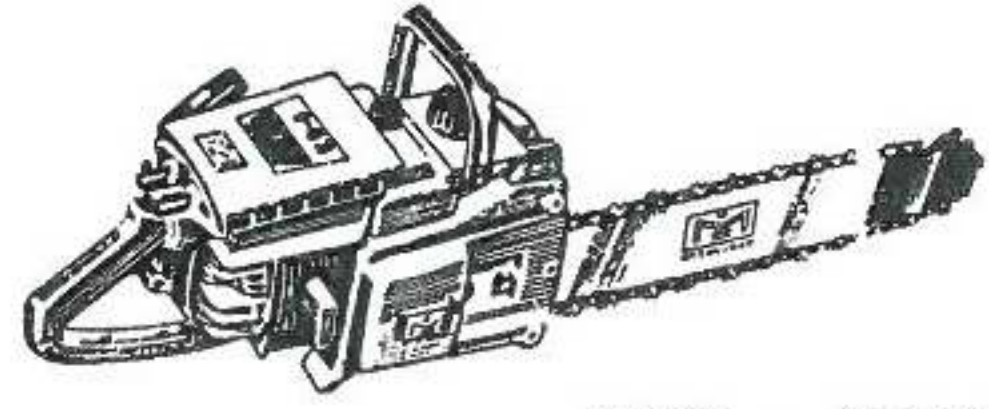
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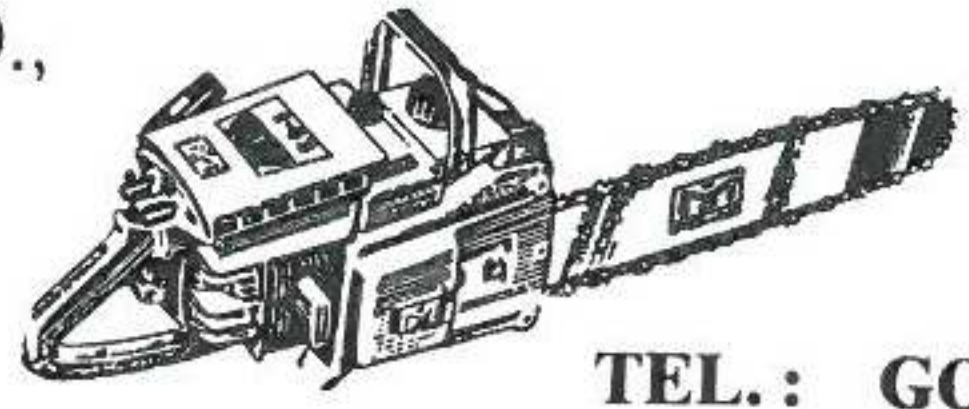
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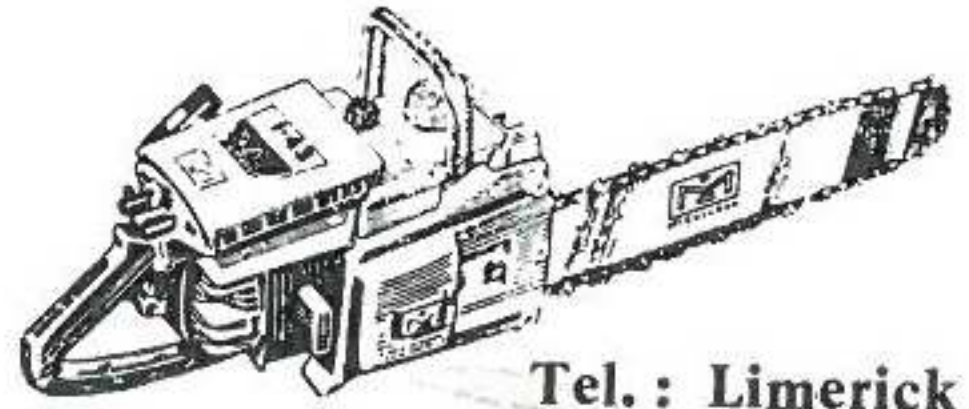
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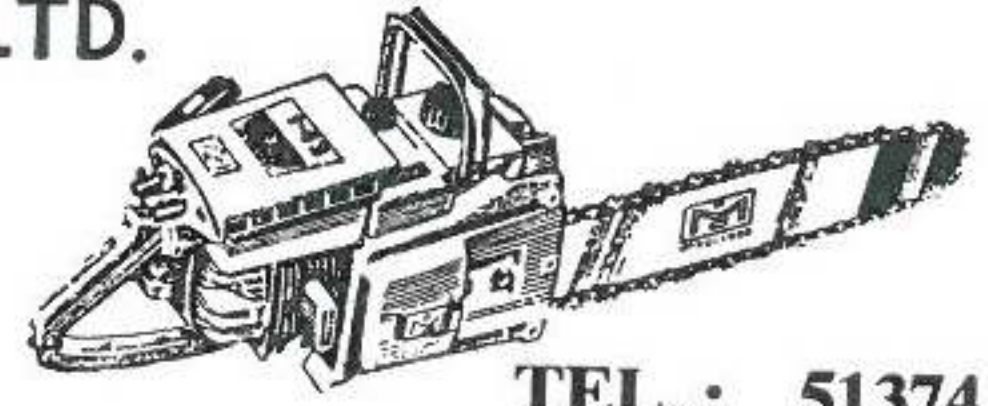
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McCulloch have various other engineering interests and produce a two seater gyrocopter with production presold for several years. The company also has associated oil and land development projects. It was in connection with publicity for the latter that McCulloch purchased London Bridge for their resort cum light industry new city at Lake Havasu. The bridge is now at the halfway stage of demolition and transfer and is expected to be in use as an attraction and amenity in what was once barren Arizona desert by 1971. The tremendous impetus given to land and oil sales by the publicity attending the purchase of the bridge has made it one of the best buys of all time.

● FROM PAGE 52

Croke Park, September 3, 1967. Captain—J. Treacy.

DUBLIN — Colours: Sky blue and white (6 wins). 1889. Beat Clare 5-1 to 1-6 at Inchicore, November 3, 1889. Captain—N. O'Shea. 1917. Beat Tipperary 5-4 to 4-2 at Croke Park, October 28, 1917. Captain—J. Ryan. 1920. Beat Cork 4-9 to 4-3 at Croke Park, May 14, 1922. Captain—R. Mockler. 1924. Beat Galway 5-3 to 2-6 at Croke Park, December 14, 1924. Captain—P. Alyward. 1927. Beat Cork 4-8 to 1-3 at Croke Park, September 4, 1927. Captain—M. Gill. 1938. Beat Waterford 2-5 to 1-6 at Croke Park, September 4, 1938. Captain: M. Daniels.

LIMERICK — Colours: Green, white collar and cuffs (6 wins). 1897. Beat Kilkenny 3-4 to 2-4 at Tipperary, November 20, 1898. Captain—D. Grimes. 1918. Beat Wexford 9-5 to 1-3 at Croke Park, January 26, 1919. Captain—W. Hough. 1921. Beat Dublin 8-5 to 3-2 at Croke Park, May 4, 1923. Captain—R. McConkey. 1934. Beat Dublin 5-2 to 2-6 at Croke Park September 30, 1934. Captain—T. Ryan. The pair drew: Limerick 2-7, Dublin 3-4 at Croke Park on September 2. 1936. Beat Kilkenny 5-6 to 1-5 at Croke Park, September 6, 1936. Captain—M. Mackey. 1940. Beat Kilkenny 3-7 to 1-7 at Croke Park, September 1, 1940. Captain—M. Mackey.

WEXFORD — Colours: Purple, with yellow shoulders (5 wins). 1910. Beat Limerick 7-0 to 6-2 at Jones' Road, November 20, 1910. Captain—R. Doyle. 1955. Beat Galway 3-13 to 2-8 at Croke Park, September 4, 1955. Captain—N. O'Donnell. 1956. Beat Cork 2-14 to 2-8 at Croke Park, September 23, 1956. Captain—J. English. 1960. Beat Tipperary 2-15 to 0-11 at Croke Park, September 4, 1960. Captain—N. O'Donnell. 1968. Beat Tipperary 5-8 to 3-12

at Croke Park, September 1, 1968. Captain—D. Quigley.

WATERFORD. Colours: White, with blue collar (2 wins). 1948. Beat Dublin 6-7 to 4-2, at Croke Park. September 5, 1948. Captain—J. Ware. 1959. Beat Kilkenny 3-12 to 1-10, at Croke Park. October 4, 1959. Captain—F. Walsh. The pair drew on September 5. Waterford 1-17, Kilkenny 5-5.

KERRY. Colours: Green and Gold Hoop (1 win). 1891. Beat Wexford 2-3 to 1-5, at Clonturk Park, Dublin, on February 28, 1892. Captain—J. Mahony. The sides were level at 1-2 each at full time and an extra half hour was played.

LONDON. Colours: Green and Gold (1 win). 1901. Beat Cork 1-5 to 0-4, at Jones' Road, August 2, 1903. Captain—J. Coughlan.

CLARE. Colours: Gold, Blue Hoop (1 win). 1914. Beat Laois 5-1 to 1-0, at Croke Park, October 18, 1914. Captain—A. Power.

LAOIS. Colours: Blue, White Hoop (One win). 1915. Beat Cork 6-2 to 4-1, at Croke Park, October 24, 1915. Captain—J. Finlay.

GALWAY. Colours: Maroon, with white collar (One win). 1923. Beat Limerick, 7-3 to 4-5, at Croke Park, September 14, 1924. Captain—M. Kenny.

★ ★ ★

All Ireland Minor Hurling Championship Winners. Trophy: "Irish Press" Cup.

TIPPERARY (12 wins)—1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959.

CORK (8 wins)—1928, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964, 1967.

KILKENNY (7 wins)—1931, 1935, 1936, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962.

DUBLIN (4 wins)—1945, 1946, 1954, 1965.

WEXFORD (3 wins)—1963, 1966, 1968.

WATERFORD (2 wins)—1929, 1948.

LIMERICK (2 wins)—1940, 1958.

DELANEY THE KEYMAN?

By RAYMOND SMITH

THE sixties to date have seen Kilkenny contest three All-Ireland finals (1963, '66 and '67), winning two and losing the third ('66) in surprising fashion—to Cork.

The strongest side Kilkenny fielded in the decade was undoubtedly the 1967 combination which stopped John Doyle in his bid for the coveted ninth.

Kilkenny were hot favourites to defeat Cork in 1966—such hot favourites, in fact, that they undoubtedly fell the victims of complacency and over-confidence played no small part in their downfall. As Eddie Keher put it to me afterwards—"we waited

for victory to come, instead of going all out for it".

Last year's Leinster Final defeat by Wexford can be written off. Kilkenny played under the shadow of having to field without Ollie Walsh and, while in the circumstances they put up a very brave showing, there was to my mind something unreal about the whole affair, especially in the first half. It seemed as if Kilkenny were resigned to defeat without Ollie and had no great appetite that day to risk all in defence of their crown—when their star goalie was an enforced spectator in the Hogan Stand.

Last year's defeat then cannot

be attributed to any sudden drastic fall in Kilkenny standards. Exceptional circumstances contributed to that defeat, as I have indicated and so it is wiser to remember the Kilkenny of 1967 rather than of 1968.

Kilkenny could well have been bidding for a four-timer this year—certainly they should be going for their third All-Ireland in four years.

I believe that while the 1969 side does reach the same level of power and team-work as the 1967 team, it has talent and it has skill and the Leinster Final proved that the Noresiders have perhaps the most talked-about hurling prospect to wear the Black and Amber for some seasons—one Paddy Delaney. I hasten to add that a player must not be judged on one outstanding performance, neither must one be influenced too much by the fact that he finished the hour with three goals.

But what impressed me most about Paddy Delaney was not the fact that he got three goals against Offaly but the way he directed the flow of the attack from the centre-forward position. It was a real "go-go" display if I can coin a phrase—he was dynamic in his approach as he opened up movements and at the same time his overhead hurling made shrewd spectators sit up and take notice. I recall saying to myself at the end: "Delaney could win an All-Ireland for Kilkenny".

One man does not make an All-Ireland winning team and Kilkenny need to come under closer scrutiny than that. They have more than Paddy Delaney

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—they have in their captain Eddie Keher the forward with the best eye for a goal-scoring chance in the game to-day. And one of the most reliable free-takers (recall his record-breaking feat for Kilkenny against Waterford in 1963).

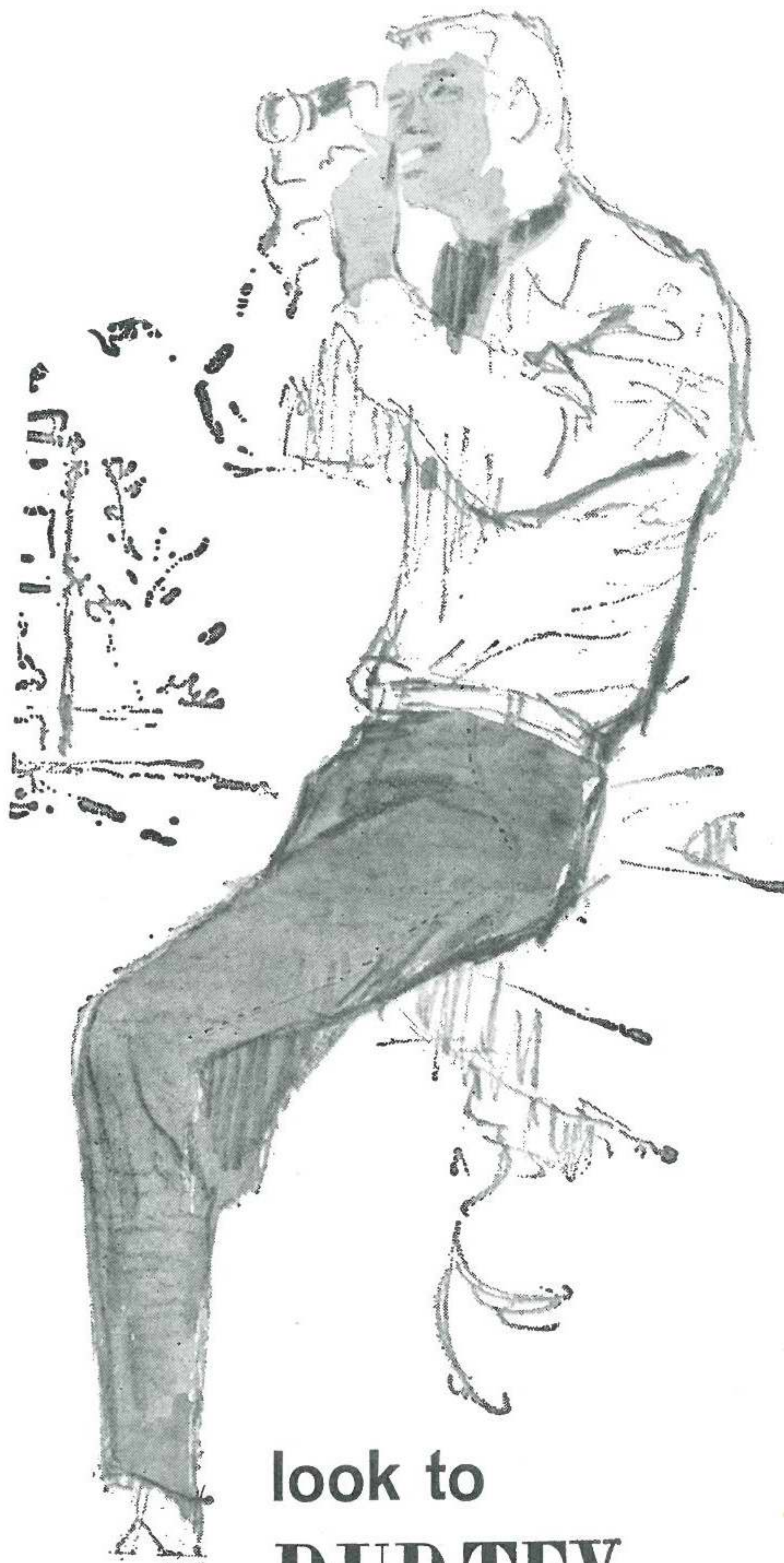
Kilkenny too have Paddy Henderson and Paddy Moran, fine hurlers both and Ted Carroll and Jim Treacy, close and reliable at cornerback and, of course, Ollie Walsh, who has no peer between the posts at his best. His greatest asset to the side is his inspirational effect on his team-mates—when Ollie comes out and makes one of his spectacular clearances it can have the effect on Kilkenny that John Doyle's hurling at corner-back had on his Tipperary team-mates.

Apart from the star names, Kilkenny have that vital classic touch in their hurling, which makes them always a dangerous prospect at the ultimate stage of the championship. And they have a wonderful tradition behind them.

Instance their record between 1903 and 1913 when they took seven titles in ten years—and could have won all ten but for domestic trouble in days when club rivalry was too keen at times. Instance their glorious failure against Cork in the classic 1931 three-timer, Lory Meagher being missing the third day—Lory who had starred in the first and second games. Instance their defeat of Limerick and Mick Mackey in 1935 when the great Shannonside combination was attaining to the peak of its power, and the manner in which they surprised Cork in the dramatic thunder-and-lightning Final of 1939.

Then there was the way they came back in 1947 to win what has come to be regarded as the finest All-Ireland from a purely hurling viewpoint in the past

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● FROM PAGE 57

twenty-five years. In defeating Cork that day, they made ample amends for the debacle they suffered the previous season at the hands of the Leesiders—and a brilliant Christy Ring.

The defeat of 1946 taught Kilkenny a lesson for the following year.

In a word their pride had been hurt—and they were not going to allow the Black and Amber to suffer another humiliation at Croke Park.

And the 1966 defeat by Cork still rankles with the Kilkenny players. Ollie Walsh has often said to me that it was the fact that they threw away the All-Ireland in 1966 that won the title for Kilkenny in 1967—"we started the 1967 season with the determination written in our hearts that if we got to Croke Park, it was all the same who we met, we would win out".

So Kilkenny will have a score to settle when they meet Cork. Cork will be the hot favourites this time—Cork will know what is expected of them by their supporters. After the toppling of Tipperary, Corkmen will not hear of defeat. It must be victory or nothing against Kilkenny.

This, of course, will put a great strain on the Cork players. They have shown all through this memorable season for Cork hurling that they can stand up to it. They have been tested in the Oireachtas (when they tasted unlucky defeat by Tipperary at Thurles) and in the League (when they scored a great triumph over Tipperary at Thurles and then disposed of Wexford in the Final) and in the early rounds of the Munster championship, they survived a draw with Clare and beat them in impressive style in the replay.

Yes, Cork have the confidence and belief in themselves now that can only come from victory when the chips are really down but an

All-Ireland Final is a law unto itself. I recall Jimmy Doyle saying to me that it's fifteen fully-trained men against fifteen and if the scoring is close a puck of the ball can often decide.

Remember the 1954 Final when a puck of the ball won it for Cork. Remember 1956 when a puck of the ball won it for Wexford—Ring broke through and fired in a shot that had "goal" written all over it, only to see Art Foley save it brilliantly under the bar. Ring ran in and shook his hand—he knew he had made his vital effort and it had not come off.

Remember 1966 when a ball from the right wing hit the woodwork and came down **behind** Ollie Walsh for the vital goal that won the day for Cork and sent Kilkenny crashing to defeat just as the ranks were closing and it looked like being a desperately close thing.

And, of course, you must never forget 1968 which contains a lesson for all counties. Tipperary coasting home at half time (the great Jackie Power of Limerick saying to me at the interval that Wexford were being made to look like juniors)—all too easy it seemed.

But John Doyle remarked to me under the Hogan Stand just before the teams came out again—"I'm afraid Tipperary may have given all their best hurling in the first half—it's not over yet".

And he was right. It was not over . . .

So while Cork are favourites and while their speed and balance through the field and above all the very urgency of their hurling makes them worthy Munster standard-bearers, I have this feeling that we could see a very fine All-Ireland Final.

The first ten minutes, I believe, will prove decisive. Cork got a first-minute goal against Wexford

in the League and never looked back. It was the same against Tipperary in the Munster Final. If they strike quickly against Kilkenny they will dictate the game, I feel—because now they have confidence in themselves that was so sadly absent in Munster Finals against Tipperary through the mid sixties.

I am not saying that Kilkenny will beat Cork. How can I make a definite forecast that way after watching Cork's authoritative dismissal of Tipperary at Limerick. But what I do venture to say is that I will not be one bit surprised if Kilkenny succeed in surprising Cork in 1969 where Cork surprised them in 1966.

It is a better Cork team than 1966—much better. But it is not a great one. John Keane of Waterford made the point that if Cork were a great side they would not have gone twenty minutes of the second half against Tipperary without a score. They would have wrapped up the game in the space of ten minutes or so.

I agree. Somewhere between their dashing form of the first half and that twenty minutes in the shadows in the second, we find the true Cork. Which will you have?

To sum up I feel it will be a close game this time. No matter who wins it, I am hoping to see some classic hurling. The Munster Final was a sad disappointment—we felt Cork would win it but we thought Tipperary would really make it a humdinger of a match. It didn't turn out that way. Even if Kilkenny lose, I believe Cork will know they are in a match and if Kilkenny win, the man I feel we will be acclaiming is Paddy Delaney.

He's certainly the most exciting prospect I have seen in 1969—with Denis Coughlan of Cork.

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HURLING

- (9) D. Coughlan (Cork)
- (9) W. Barniville (London)
- (9) Fr. T. Murphy ... (Kilkenny)
- (9) W. Walsh (Cork)
- (8) P. Delaney (Kilkenny)
- (8) B. Moylan (Offaly)
- (8) P. Molloy (Offaly)
- (7) P. Hegarty (Cork)
- (7) O. Walsh (Kilkenny)
- (7) E. Keher (Kilkenny)

FOOTBALL

- (9) M. O'Connell (Kerry)
- (8) D. J. Crowley (Kerry)
- (8) H. Newman (Cavan)
- (8) R. Carolan (Cavan)
- (8) M. O'Shea (Kerry)
- (8) J. Morley (Mayo)
- (8) T. Fitzgerald (Mayo)
- (7) W. Bryan (Offaly)
- (7) A. McTeague (Offaly)
- (7) T. Prendergast (Kerry)

HANDBALL

By ALLEYMAN

THE MOONMAN COMETH?

MICHAEL COLLINS of Apollo II moon fame to open the World Championships next May —this was one of the most interesting points raised at the latest meeting of the Central Handball Council.

There was obvious merit in it too, for Collins has quite a reputation as a handballer. He is the champion handballer at the Heuston Base and makes no secret of the fact that handball is his favourite game. In fact, his last recreational exercise prior to blast-off was a rigid handballing work-out in the court.

The members of the Council took kindly to the idea, all being of the same mind, that the presence of Collins would be a tremendous boost to the game generally.

Handball seems to be a favourite game with the moon-men. Thomas Stafford and John Young of the Apollo 10 flight are also accomplished ball-players, so perhaps, if Collins is not available, we may see one of his colleagues.

The disturbing news concerning the World Games is the delay in getting the construction of the new court under way. I gauge that the proposed cost is causing some concern, though it is good to know that the cost will not be a deterrent in the long run.

The keymen of Irish Handball —President Rev. Bro. B. C.

Murphy and Secretary Joe Lynch are at hand to give a final reminder that the closing date for the Big Raffle is drawing near. It is directed chiefly at every G.A.A. club throughout the country since the full co-operation of each unit will allow for a very sizeable profit.

One must comment on a further boost given to the Raffle recently by the Central Administration of the G.A.A. Affable President, Seamus O Riain, took it on himself to make personal contact with the G.A.A. Chairman in each county, with a call for help to the handball cause by every unit from Council to club.

While in the past I may have criticised the lack of assistance given by the G.A.A. to handball, I must now frankly admit that the Central Body has shown in very definite terms that it is no longer content to have Handball labelled as the "Cinderella" of the Association.

Now, by conceding to modest demands, the clubs can also show that they are equally proud, with the selection of Ireland as the venue for the World Games. A meagre six cards to the value of £6 has been sent to each club with a return of £3 requested.

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entirely. It is to his inspired cavorting round the field in the first twenty minutes that Cork must give most credit for the goals which fell to Walsh in the Munster final. He has the physique, the fitness and the gnawing enthusiasm that drives him incessantly all over the ground to cause confusion and distraction in positions far removed from his own.

If a ball breaks anywhere in the opposition goal area, ten to one Hegarty is the man driving in for it. Willie Murphy has a major challenge on his plate; how to even begin to cut Hegarty completely out of the game is an enormous task for this comparative newcomer. For instance, though Noel O'Dwyer hurled Hegarty out of possession in the second-half against Tipperary, it was a shot from him from the right-corner position which led to Walsh's last goal for Cork.

As against the numerous Cork changes, Kilkenny will field the same defence, essentially, and a sounder one to the extent that Pa Dillon now has returned to the full-back position which he should have occupied in 1966, in the light of hindsight. Ted Carroll and Pat Henderson will have switched, and only Murphy is new. It is a formidable line-up with depths of experience. The full-line has proved its compactness and cover for Ollie Walsh, and the four between them will

hope to ensure that no goals are scored like the three in 1966.

The match will be won or lost by the half-backs. In passing, it might be a fair and prophetic comment to make that they have often won watches before for Kilkenny, and seldom—if ever—lost any. Coogan is ideal for such a task; Henderson, at his best—but he does so vary in form—can handle Walsh; can Murphy bottle-up the effervescence of Hegarty?

There is no more reliable man midfield than Paddy Moran, staunch believer in the old Theo English breed of 'keeping going and the others will come back to you, or better still, start ahead and keep going so that they never catch up with you'. With the help of the promising Lalor there should be no overwhelming imbalance there.

Pat Delaney, a fetcher and carrier, and an indestructible enthusiast in the Hegarty mould could be dangerous medicine for Justin McCarthy; Eddie Keher will be able to snatch openings as he always does. And, if I were Pat Lalor, I would train like the devil at sprints, for speed to the ball will find Gerald McCarthy's weakness.

If all goes well for Kilkenny as I have outlined up to there, they will win, but there remains the full-forward line whose adequacy will be necessary to clinch that victory. This line has been so often inadequate by any standards in the past that it must again cause concern. Jim Lynch, big and fairly mobile, might cause Tom O'Donoghue bother, but he must nip about a little or he will be enmeshed in struggling immobility like Seán McLoughlin in the Munster final. Millea shows dashing promise and Martin Brennan was good enough against Offaly.

It all adds up to an intriguing game of tactics but I feel Kilkenny will just get there in what promises to be a thrilling hour.

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showed as they went about their task proved that they, at least, never had any thoughts that they were not in every way Kilkenny's equals.

The occasion held little tension for them, obviously, for they knew how good they were, and were willing to take on Kilkenny on full hurling terms—and let the best man win. Indeed, it would be a biased man who would say that they were in more than the slightest degree the worst team on the day.

Speed and vigour, of course, was a keynote in their game. But, it was wonderfully heartening to see that they never hoped to lay the foundations of their success on it alone. Skilful hurling and, at times, quite brilliant craft were basic; and this is wonderful to see for it is the quality which will not wither. It is because, therefore, of the manner of their play in victory and defeat that one confidently hopes to see them gain a wholesome share of the big honours in the near future. They have no need whatever to feel despondent, and it would be a terrible thing if disappointment in defeat were in any way to affect their dazzling prospects for the future.

It is to be hoped that luck will accompany their efforts now, for success in the near future is important: it is important to ensure their confidence is not impaired; and it is important, too, that it should arrive before the supreme skill of Paddy Molloy is lost to the game. His example has been no mean factor in breeding in these Offaly men the resolve to place their trust in skill . . . first, last and above all.

In a county more noted for vigour than skill at many times in the past, it is a notable triumph for hurling that they should have taken such great strides when reliance on skill has taken precedence.



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THE LATE BROTHER O'SHEA

WE were deeply saddened by the death of Brother Michael Laurence O'Shea, a Gael of lofty and steadfast ideals and a gentleman whose kindness and charitable nature enriched everyone who was privileged to know him.

He loved hurling more dearly than he loved football, which was unusual, though not unique, in a son of Kerry.

He was closely associated with us on GAELIC SPORT for several years, as a contributor both in Irish and English. He wrote under a

number of pen-names including "Seán Bán", "Liam Ó Tuama" and "Setanta" and had begun a new series on the games in the Schools and Colleges under the latter pseudonym in recent issues.

He had submitted his articles — probably the last things he wrote — for our September issue when he met his death so tragically on Carrantouhill.

To his relatives and to the community of Christian Brothers we offer our deep sympathy. Ar dheis dé go raibh a anam.

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elusive McCarthy has come up through the ranks. Croke Park patrons, in fact, had an early preview of the budding finishing technique par-excellence that is now serving Cork so well when, in 1964, McCarthy highlighted an outstanding performance in the All-Ireland minor final win over Laois by helping himself to an impressive 3-1.

Not really so surprising, then, to find the name of this St. Finbarr's hurler pencilled in four years later in the top spot for Cork, and second for all Munster, in the senior chart, with the best total for a full year's campaign by any Cork man since the days of Ring.

Only 22, and standing only 5 ft. 7 ins., Charlie McCarthy, who was surprisingly omitted from

Munster's team in this year's successful Railway Cup campaign, is a hurler to torment any rearguard and a really hard man to shackle. A craftsman to his fingertips, he is quick as light, and positive in his play, a darting, daunting menace, whose inexhaustible energy and skill continue to brilliantly emphasise his growing reputation.

So, with the rare qualities and considerable talents of Denis Coughlan probing for mastery at midfield, and the elusive Charlie McCarthy sure to treat every precious opportunity with the mood of a miser, and also a perfectionist in opening up the way to goal for his co-attackers, it's a safe assumption that if it is to be a Cork victory song, this pair will be most vocal.

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