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- New G.A.A. Rules For Club Membership
- Talking to Paddy Kennedy
- Survey '70 Looks at Longford
- Down 1960 The Fixture
 - **Kerry 1969**
- List Is In A

Mess

And All The Regular Features



More Troubles For John Kerry

Council meeting under the chairmanship of Seamus O Riain, there were many notable absentees including Trustee Padraig Mac Namee, Michael O'Rourke (Kerry), Fr. McGee (Longford), Nickey Rackard (Wexford), Brendan Nestor (Connacht Council) and Joe McMorrow (Sligo).

Timed for 7.30, the meeting commenced at 7.45 and lasted until 12.40.

The much discussed proposals for enacting a membership code for the G.A.A. were again before the Council and, in all, they involved twenty separate regulations.

After some involved discussion in which Mickey Duffy, Paddy Burke, Legal

John Dowling

Adviser, Donal Whelan (Waterford), Paddy Ryan (Munster Council) and several others took part, it was agreed to adopt regulations 1 to 6 as definite rules with a slight amendment to Rule 6.

It was agreed that the remaining suggestions should be accepted as guidelines only.

Next on the Agenda was the question of the Cardinal Cushing Games. The President said that from a letter he had received from John Kerry O'Donnell, he had assumed that the winners of the 1970 Railway Cup hurling final would be going to America for the games.

The secretary of the Irish section of the Cushing Games committee, Mr.

Paddy Downey

Paddy Downey, was also of the same impression and this was why, some weeks previously, the Executive had recommended that permission to travel be granted to the Railway Cup winners.

Leo McAlinden (Leitrim)
pointed out that it is a
special Cushing Games
committee in New York,
separate from the New
York G.A.A., which makes
the decision as to who is
invited each year.

After various delegates had expressed the view that the invitations were in the hands of only one man — John Kerry O'Donnell — Paddy Ryan stated that the time had now come to stop the tail wagging the dog in the matter of relations between the

Central Council and New York.

When Paddy O'Driscoll (Cork) proposed that until an invitation for the Railway Cup winners came through the General Secretary from the Cardinal Cushing Games Committee, the Central Council should call a halt, Leo McAlinden said that it was only eyewash accepting such a motion if it could not be implemented.

The President remarked at this stage that he himself felt a right fool over the whole affair.

Meath's Jack Fitzgerald was in a more militant mood, suggesting that: 'We have got to make a stand. We are the laughing-stock of the world and we should now give an ultimatum to New York — either the original invitation stands or all the tours cease forthwith.

John Dowling (Offaly) pointed out that it would be wrong to penalise the New York G.A.A. Board for the sins of the Cushing Games Committee. No doubt, John was bearing in mind that Offaly are due to go to New York next month.

The General Secretary intervened to point out that there would be no International Account in the



Seamus O'Riain

Congress Agenda because repeated requests to New York had failed to unearth the financial statement for the Kilkenny tour in 1969.

After several other contributions, none of which were very complimentary to the New York G.A.A. or Mr. John Kerry O'Donnell,



Paddy Purcell

the following proposal of Bob Freeman (Dublin) was agreed to:

"That John Kerry O'Donnell be told that the Ard Comhairle has sanctioned the recommendation of the Executive that the Railway Cup hurling winners travel for the 1970 Cushing Games."

The draw for the semifinals of the National Football League resulted: Divi-

sion 3 v Division 2; Division 1 v Division 4.

The President reported on the development of the property on Jones Road and this discussion was in committee.

Jack Fitzgerald enquired why no Central Council representative travelled with Kerry to Australia and the President replied that nobody had been invited to do so.

Yet another man has been engaged to write the history of the G.A.A. The man to follow in the unsuccessful footsteps of Padraig Puirseal and T. P. O'Neill was announced by the President as Marcus Burke, a son of the Association's legal adviser.

from R.T.E., permission was granted for the live televising of the Railway Cup final, for a fee of £750. It was to be pointed out to R.T.E. that this involved no further commitment for the remainder of the season.

Arising from a letter

The President in a farewell address briefly reviewed the three years of his office. He was of the opinion that the President should not be chairman of all the various subcommittees as this was too much of a strain on both parties.



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GAELIC NEWS

CO the Gaelic Athletic Association has taken unto itself a new President to lead it into the 'seventies. We wish Pat Fanning well.

His task in the next three years is the most difficult that has ever faced a G.A.A. President. There is much unrest in the Association and ever-widening difference of opinion on the most basic issues. The biggest single problem facing the new President will be to bring together the various conflicting groups within the Association, so that they will, at least work for the common good as opposed to working for their own ends.

A hard look will have to be taken at the efficiency or

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

otherwise of the Central Council which, in theory, is supposed to be the G.A.A.'s board of directors when it comes to running the business side of the Association's activities. There is no doubt but that there are many men of great ability on the Council who are being stifled by the system under which that body operates at the moment. It is, in effect, little more than a rubber stamp for the decisions of others, as is evidenced by the spending of as much as three hours of a Central Council meeting dealing with minutes of various sub-committees.

It may be said that there is little the President can do about this or similar situations as he is bound, like every other member, by the rules in the Official Guide. But surely a President is as strong as he makes himself. If he wishes, he can exert vast influence on every aspect of the G.A.A.'s activities. And anyway, surely the three year rule is in operation to ensure that there will be a

constant injection of new ideas by people with the moral courage to pursue these ideas to their conclusion.

The new President is a man of wide experience in G.A.A. administration. However, it is to be hoped that this fact will not deter him from examining the possibility of introducing new forms of administration to some sections at least of the Association's work. The fact that the old methods worked well does not necessarly mean that these methods are the best.

The young people in the G.A.A. and, in particular, the playing members will be looking almost in desperation to the newly-elected President for some indication that the Association is aware of their needs and desires in the G.A.A. context. If no positive sign of this is forthcoming the young members won't protest violently. They will simply forget about the G.A.A.

So, over to you Mr. President!

G.A.A. Tightens On Membership

THE following is a summary of the regulations for stricter control of club membership of the G.A.A. Numbers one to six are obligatory, while the remainder are issued as guide-lines only and a decision on their use is left to the discretion of each club.

Title and Objects

1. The name of the club shall be -

2. The objects of the club are the promotion of Ireland's national games and pastimes under the control of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, the active advancement of the Irish language and the fostering of Irish culture, in accordance with the rules of the Association.

3. The Club shall be affiliated to Cumann Luthchleas Gael in accordance with the general rules for the time being in force.

Membership

4. (a) Full membership

shall be open to all persons of 17 years of age and over who subscribe to the aims and objects of Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

(b) Persons under 17 years of age may be admitted as associate members.

5. The following shall be the form of application for membership:-

"I apply for membership of — Club. pledge myself to abide by the rules of Cumann Luthchleas Gael and of the club for the time being in force and I undertake to promote the objects of Cumann Luthchleas Gael."

Applicants for membership must be proposed and seconded by two existing members. Each person admitted as a member shall on payment of his first subscription be given a current membership card with his name inscribed. The card shall be signed by the Secretary or Treasurer of the club.

6. The annual membership subscription shall be decided by the Club.

Annual General Meeting

7. The Annual General Meeting of the club shall be held on or before 31st December and notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be conveyed to members at least five days beforehand. Only those members who have paid their subscription for the current year shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting shall elect:-Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and a working committee and these shall hold office until next Annual General Meeting. It shall elect such representatives of the club as may be required by General Rules or County County and District Committees and to attend Conventions.

8. Save where otherwise provided in these rules all decisions at General Meetings and Committee meetings shall be taken by a simple majority of those

present and voting. In the event of a tie the presiding Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Management

9. The affairs of the club shall be managed and controlled by a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and five ordinary members.

10. The Committee may appoint sub-committees for special purposes. Members of such sub-committees need not be members of the Club committee.

11. The Secretary shall have charge of correspondence and of the routine affairs of the club and shall keep minutes of all meetings. He shall submit an Annual Report on the year's working to the Annual General Meeting.

12. The Treasurer shall have charge of the routine financial affairs of the club, shall secure subscriptions, and keep records thereof and a roll-book of members. He shall open a bank account on behalf of the club and arrange with the bank that all cheques drawn on the Club's account shall be signed by the Treasurer and by the Chairman or Secretary. He shall present a financial statement to the Annual General Meeting showing the income and expenditure for the year and also showing how the club funds are held or invested.

13. No decision made by a meeting of the Committee shall be set aside or altered at a subsequent meeting save on a motion supported by no fewer than two thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

14. A special general meeting may be summoned by the committee or on a Bye Laws as members of requisition signed by no

fewer than 12 members of the Club. The only business to be transacted at such a meeting shall be the special business for which it is summoned. Members shall receive at least five days notice of the time and place of such meetings and of the special business to be transacted.

15. Notices of meetings may be served on members by a notice displayed on the club premises or by an advertisement in a newspaper nominated by the Committee for such pur-

16. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be twelve and for a meeting of the Committee the quorum shall be four.

17. Casual vacancies among officers or committee members shall be filled by the committee as such vacancies occur.

18. A resolution to wind up the club may be passed at a General Meeting specially summoned for the purpose of such resolution, if supported by not less than three fourths of those present and entitled to vote. On the passing of such resolution the club property shall thereupon be held in trust for the members of the County Committee of Cumann Luthchleas Gael to be disposed of as such County Committee shall direct.

19. If considered desirable the committee may appoint two trustees to hold the club property on trust for the members of the club. A trustee once appointed shall hold office until his death, resignation or removal from office by a resolution of the committee. Trustees shall be exofficio extra members of the committee.

20. These rules may be supplemented by bye-laws adopted at a general meeting of the club.

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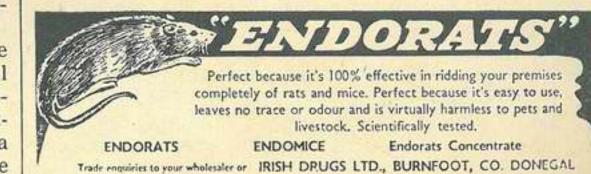
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Larry Stanley The Great

BY OLD. TIMER

couple of weeks ago the Kildare people in Dublin paid tribute to the greatest footballer that ever came from the Plains . . . Larry Stanley, and high time it was for them to do so. After all, Larry first stormed the football scene away back in 1919 and, no matter what way you look at it, that was more than fifty years ago.

Now, looking back across all the years, and allowing for the fact that I only knew Larry Stanley as a footballer when I was very young, and when he was, perhaps, past his best, I still can come to only one conclusion. Stanley and Mick O'Connell were the two greatest exponents of pure Gaelic football I have even seen. Allowing for the fact that the high, onehanded catch and the drop kick were more popular in the Kildare of Stanley's time than they ever were in Kerry, the two men were remarkably alike.

And I have a feeling that they were closest of all to one another in their mental approach to the game. They must beat their men by football, and football alone, or they would not beat them at all.

And that was why, in some of the games that I saw him play when I was a youngster, Larry Stanley was sometimes inconspicuous and even ineffective. The reason was not far to seek. Men were sent out to stop him from playing, by fair means, or foul, and resorting to similar tactics in reply was not in Larry Stanley's book, just as it is not in Mick O'Connell's.

And having said that much, let me go on to say, that Stanley, on his day, with a fair field and no favour, was, I feel, even a more stylish exponent of the game than even the great Valentia man.

I remember, when I was a boy, seeing him, one sunny evening long ago, come racing across Croke Park to a high ball which had been punted downfield by, I think, Matt Goff.

He was closely marked, as always, and two opponents went up for that ball with him. Stanley soared between them, took that ball one-handed, almost it seemed on the tips of his fingers, turned as he came down, and drop-kicked as he hit the ground . . . and that ball went sailing true and straight between the Railway posts for the most spectacular point I have ever seen on a football field.

So much for Larry Stanley the footballer, but what of Larry Stanley the athlete? One of the greatest American experts said of him: "if that man had expert coaching he could beat the world's best at either the high or the long jump."

And how true that was the Tailteann Games at Croke Park in 1924 showed, when Stanley narrowly failed, in a thrilling encounter, to beat the great American world and Olympic champion, Harold () .borne.

Yet Stanley never competed on an athletic field until he was nearly at the end of his teens and then only by accident at a small sports meeting in Blessington.

Yet he went on to win both Irish and British highjump titles, and, remember this - while Larry Stanley is only recalled nowadays for his high jumping, he was also a champion at the long-jump and the hopstep, and won sprints, and was a near-champion at throwing the javelin.

A native of Blacktrench, he came early to football stardom with Caragh, then with Kildare, next with Dublin and the far-famed Dublin Garda club team, and finally back with Kildare again.

Here I think one word of advice that I heard him



Colm Stanley, a son of the famous Larry.

give to young players years first is worth a ton of ago is worth reprinting: "An ounce of energy ex- other fellow has gained pended to get to the ball possession."

sweat wasted when the

Aine Meagher

A GIRL WITH A FINE FUTURE

MAKE a note of the name - Liz Garvan. She is going to be one of the great camogie stars of the years ahead. I was very impressed when I saw her play for Cork in an All-Ireland final a year or two ago, and in last year's College's All-Ireland final, but at the Athletic Grounds, Cork, a couple of weeks ago she surpassed even her displays in those two games.

Indeed the best tribute I can pay to the All-Ireland champions from Presentation Convent, Kilkenny was that they beat Liz Garvan's team, St. Aloysius, even though Liz was playing against them. She hopes to be in U.C.C. and club.

fective for U.C.C. in the ing days of Easter week. Ashbourne semi-final at Belfield. She is a niece of sentation convents, they

an Taoiseach, so hurling comes naturally.

Without any fuss a big new step forward has been taken in camogie by the inauguration of an advanced colleges' league in Dublin, in which Cathal Brugha Street, St. Raphael's, Sion Hill, and Carysfort Training College will Croke Park on April 18. compete as well as the second string of U.C.D. are Connaught senior One of the driving forces behind the Cathal Brugha Street team is Aisling Ni Shiochain, another daughter of the G.A.A. General Secretary.

chairman, Miss Nell Mc-Carthy is going to have a there was one heartening very busy time over the point that deserves men-Easter week-end. At the tion. The financial report should prove a great start she will be in charge of Central Council showed acquisition to the College of the Dublin Board's an excess of income over three-day coaching course expenditure and that is Another Cork player which will be run by the something welcome these who seems to have a very Leinster Colleges Council days, especially as the bright future is Honor at Presentation Convent, Council has to subsidise Lynch, who was very ef- Mountmellick, on the clos- the interprovincial and

are doing very well on the camogie fields.

Presentation Convent, Kilkenny not only retained their Leinster senior colleges title, defeating Presentation Mountmellick in the provincial final, but are also through to defend their All-Ireland title at

Presentation Oranmore champions and have high hopes of reaching the final, and several Presentation schools are doing well in the Leinster junior series.

The annual Congress Dublin County Board had a very extensive agenda to deal with, but championship, interclub And speaking of Pre- which do not pay their



"Will I goal it, or point it."

In An Interview With Sean Ryan PADDY KENNEDY Recalls:

When 22,000 Watched Club Game On A Friday Night

x-Kerry footballer Paddy Kennedy is rated by many knowledgeable followers as one of the finest midfielders the game has ever produced. The great Kingdom player won four All-Ireland senior medals - in 1939, '40, '41 and '46 - and was an automatic choice on the Munster team for many seasons gaining Railway Cup medals in 1941 and '46. Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Paddy and he had some interesting points to make about the current state of the game.

Q.: How does the present standard of football compare with that of your own playing days?

A.: As a spectacle, it is not as good. There is far too much fouling and, as a result, there is little continuity of play.

Q.: Who do you consider responsible for the current have always impressed me. unhealthy state of the Of the younger members, game?

blowing up for the fair shoulder, which was never removed from the rule book. If backs are to be penalised for this, how are they going to stop the opposing forwards. I would like to see the hand-pass restored, as it would enable players to part with the ball quicker. Referees are allowing players to hold on to the ball too long today. In Australian Rules football, a player caught in possession has a free awarded against him. I feel it would be a good idea if a rule similar to this were introduced into Gaelic football. This would eliminate much of the unsightly pushing and shoving.

Q.: How would you rate last year's title-winning Kerry team with the great Kingdom sides which you played on?

A.: They weren't very good at the beginning of the year but they had shown vast improvement by the time the All-Ireland final came around. However, I don't think they would have beaten our team as they hadn't the same physique.

Q.: How do you expect the present Kerry team to fare in the future?

A.: I think they should win another few All-Irelands, unless some of the other counties show exceptional improvement.

Q.: Was there any game or games during your playing career which hold particular memories for you?

A.: I can't single out any particular games but I suppose every All-Ireland final holds special appeal. Some say that no final is as sweet as the first one, but I enjoyed all of them.

Q .: You must have opposed some great players in your career. Who, in your opinion, were the best?

A.: The best midfielders I came up against were Tommy Murphy (Laois), the Roscommon pairing of Eamonn Boland and Liam Gilmartin, Henry Kenny (Mayo), the Carlow pairing of Luke Kelly and Jim Morris and Jim McCullagh (Armagh). While Tommy Murphy may not have been the most difficult man to mark, he was the classiest player I ever opposed.

Q.: Which of the present day players impress you most?

A.: Of the older members of the Kerry team, Johnny Culloty, Seamus Murphy, Mick O'Dwyer and Mick

O'Connell, when in form, I like Seamus Fitzgerald, A.: The referees must Tom Prendergast and Mick take a lot of the blame. O'Shea best. Of players Too many of them are from other counties, I have been most impressed by Mayo's John Morley, Jack Donnelly (Kildare) who could be great if he had more guts and Willie Bryan, the best footballer. on the Offaly team.

Q.: How would Mick O'Connell have fared if he had been around in your playing days?

A .: I don't think he would have relished the tough tackling.

Q.: Attendances at G.A.A. games have decreased greatly in recent years. What is the reason for this, in your opinion?

A.: This can be answered by going back to the reply which I gave to the first question. A deterioration in the standard of the game is the main reason for declining attendances. It is worth recalling that there were only 12 frees in the 1938 All-Ireland Final,

while there were 38 in last year's All-Ireland final.

O.: Interest in the Railway Cup is also waning. Have you any ideas on this matter?

A.: At one time, players regarded it as an honour to be selected for their respective provinces but that is not the case nowadays. In addition, the best 15 players, regardless of their respective counties, were then selected for each province.

Q.: Do you consider that there are too many competitions for intercounty teams at present?

A.: Yes, I think all challenge games should be scrapped and the months of December and January declared a close season. It is impossible to play football in the conditions which usually prevail during these months. Players need a rest, too, as it is only an amateur sport.

Q.: What was the standard of club football like during your playing days? A.: I was a member of the Geraldines team which won the Dublin senior title in three consecutive years (1940-'42). That team would be good enough to win an All-IIreland chamionship today and a lot of the clubs whom we beat in those days would win All-Irelands today. Sean Mc-Dermotts had three intercounty players who could not get their places on the club team. I also remember playing a St. Vincent de Paul tournament final against U.C.D. at Croke Park on a Friday evening before a crowd of 22,000!

Q.: In conclusion, what is your main wish for the G.A.A. in the coming decade?

A.: I would like to see the G.A.A. flourish. Hurling and Gaelic football are as good if not better than any field sport in the world. After all they are part of our national heritage and culture and if we are to retain our national identity, we must try to foster these games as they are as important to us as our language, music and dancing.



John Morley

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ATHRU MOR I mBLIAIN



Le PADRAIG O MEALOID

DE bharr deacrachtaí áirithe, nuair a léigheann tú an giodáinín seo bíonn sé tamaillín ó d'imigh sé uaimse. Mar sin is deacair dhom tuairim a thabhairt duit faoi an gcluiche, nó na cluichí a bhéas ann Dé Domhnaigh seo chugainn (pé cluichí iad féin). Tá sé chomh dona céanna a dhul ag caint faoi chuid de na cluichí atá imithe thart. Mar sin ní folair dul i mbun na fádthuairime, chun cinn nó ar gcúl.

Nil dabht ar bith faoi,



Tomas O Cuinn

ach ó thainig an bhliain, gurab é Doire an foireann is mó a bhfuil aghaidh an phobail tarraingte aige ar féin. Tá siad ag bualadh furtha agus thartsa, agus gan múrán stró a chur ortha féin leis. Ag an bpoinnte seo is beag iontas a bhfeadh orm iad a fheiceál, ar a laighead ar bith, sa chluiche leath-cheannais de'n tSraith Náisiúnta. Tá sé tugtha faoi deara agam go bhfuil fóirne airithe ann a bhféadfa foirne geimhre a thabhairt ortha, agus ar bhealach tá amhras orm gur ceann acu seo Doire.

Tá cuid dá gcuid imreoirí chomh maith is atá sa tír, Tomás O Cuinn agus Malachy McAfee ins na cúil mar shampla, agus ins na tosnaigh Micheál Niblock, (ar ais as na Státaí) agus an máistir-imreoir sin, Seán O Conaill.

B'fhéidir go bhfuil foirne ann a bhféadfá fóirne sraithe a thabhairt ortha. Ba ceann acu seo Maigh Eo san am a caitheadh. Ach ar bhealach is beagnach gur mar a chéile an dá rud, óir is ins an ngeimhre, nó sa droch-aimsir ar aon nós, de'n tsraith. Ní ceann acu seo Cábhan de réir chosúlachta.

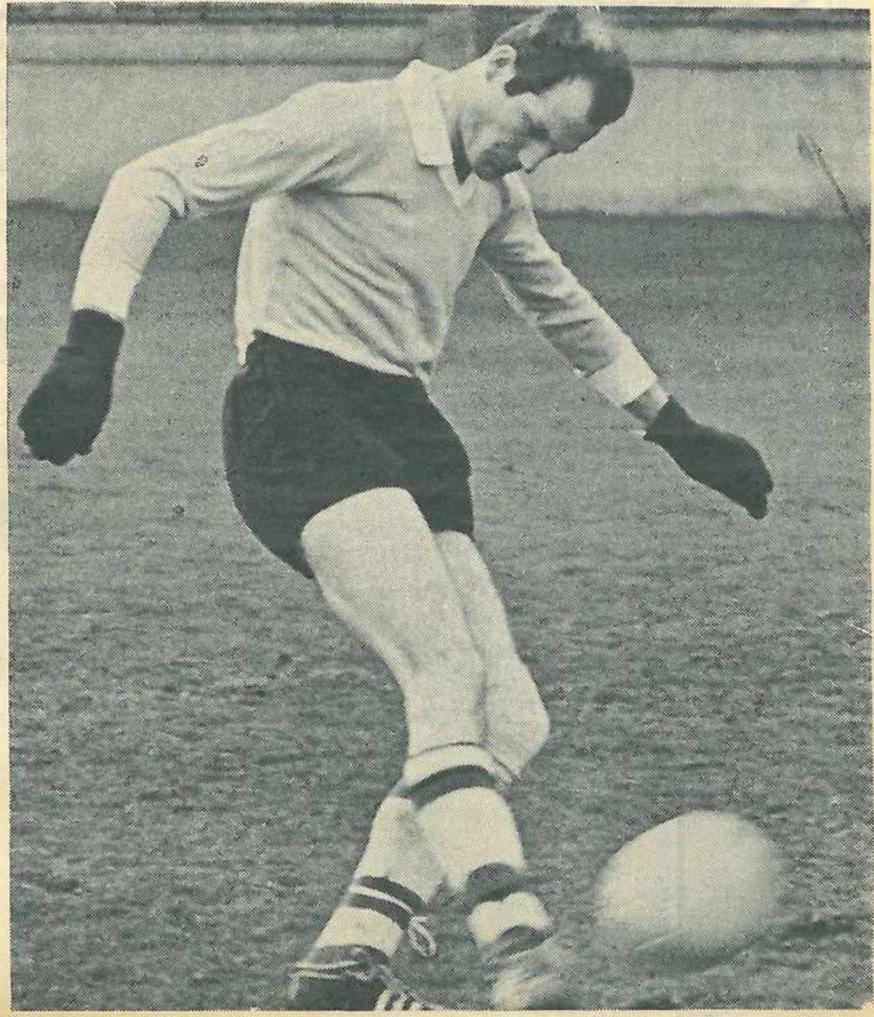
Ach is rud eile arís é nuair a thagann an Chraobh i gceist. Ta's agam go bhfuil sé raite cheanna agam, tá mé fein ag súil le Doire sléacht a dhéanamh le cupla bliain sa Chraobh. Ach níl cruthaithe acu fós gur foireann Craoibhe iad. Faoi láthair tá cineál breá peile á himirt acu, ach chomh

luath is a theann siad ar an bpáirc sa Chraobh, is foireann eile ar fad iad agus cineal eile peile a imríonn siad.

Ach cá bhfios nach í seo an bhliain a mhéadh athrú ar a bport. Ach mar sin féin, abair go mbeidís fein agus Cábhan ag teacht in aghaidh a chéile i gcluiche Craoibhe - well, cuir thú féin an cheist ort féin faoi ce'n bharúil a bheadh agat do'n scéal. Tá sé cruthaithe ag Cábhan gur an-fhoireann Craoibhe iad. Is cuma cé chomh liobarnach is a bhídís romhe ní féidir iad a chaitheamh i gcártaí sa Chraobh.

Tá daoine á cheapadh go bhfuil a leithéid de rud ann agus húdú, go bhíonn sé seo ag foireann ar fhoireann eile, go mbíonn se ag páirc ar fhoireann. Is minic i gcás na páirce gur ag a bpáirc baile fein a bhíonn an húdú seo ar fhoireann. Tá foirne ann agus imríonn siad i bhfad níos fearr i bPáirc an Chrócaigh na sa bhaile. Tá foirne eile ann agus tá siad togha sa bhaile, ach cuir isteach i bpáirc stróinseartha iad agus ní a himrítear an chuid is mo fhanann minseach ar bith acu. Tá foirne eile ann nar bhuaigh cluiche ariamh i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

> Séard a thug orm an méid sin a rá ná gur bhuail an smaoineamh mé, an bhfuil aon tseans go bhfuil húdú ag fás ag Uíbh Fhaillí san iomáint ar Loch Garman. Cé mhéid duine a bhí ag súil leis, an lá ar bhuaileadar Loch Garman sa Chraobh anuraidh? Ní mórán a bhí ag suil leo an



Sean O Conaill

cleas céanna a dhéanamh leo so tSraith i mbliana, ach féach céard a thárla.

Ni raibh aon tuairisc speisialta air ar an gcoras craolachain fein an tráthnóna sin, cé go raibh asimirt thrianach ag braith ar an toradh a thárla.

Ach ar ndóigh tá feabhas as cuimse ar Uibh Fhaillí. Tá misneach anois acu, agus muinín nua acu astu féin, agus is cuimneach liom a bheith á rá sin díreach tá bliain ó shin ann nuair a bhuail Tiobrad Arann iad i mBiorra. Is mór an tathrú é i mbliain, agus ar ndóigh is maith an tathrú é.

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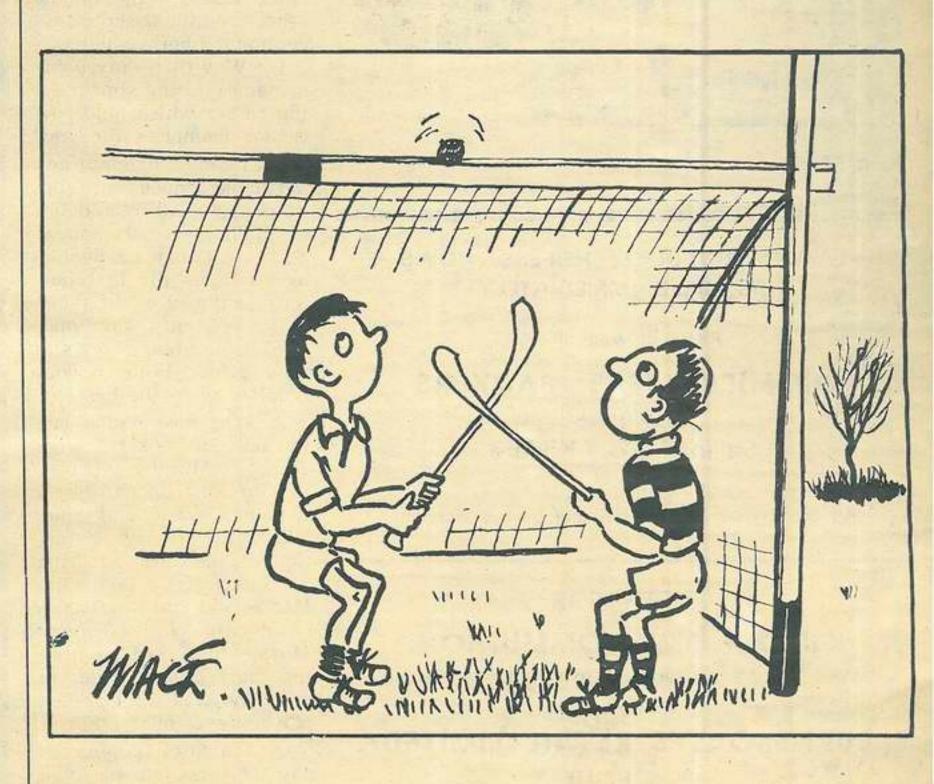
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Donegal Footballer ANTON CARROLL Suggests:

A Purging Of Ideas For The G.A.A.

Every year a fresh crop of starlets appears on the G.A.A. scene - brilliant minors of promise. However, it is generally accepted that many of them will soon fade into obscurity. Many youths are hailed for their potential but too often that potential is never realized. The G.A.A. accept this the ignorant acceptance

nation. Never is a sociologist's opinion sought and diminishing brilliance in an ex-minor is treated sagely as an inevitable phase, for many promising youngsters. Indeed, it seems to be generally accepted that a Gaelic footballer's career should follow sequential phases.

The phases are not adhered to with the same sequence for each individual player - the only common phase to all players being the ineviable oblivion, which will be accepted . . . post minor, post marriage or post thirty.

The whole phenomenon of unfulfilled promise should not be blamed on diminishing ability, for ability, unlike fitness or interest, does not diminish. Therefore since ability (probably inherent anyway), fitness and interest are required for stardom, the early decline of a promising player may be attributed to one or two root causes viz., loss of interest or loss of fitness.

If the G.A.A. wishes to curtail this "haemorrhage" of its life-blood, it must approach the question on a more elevated level than

with characteristic resig- which is a major chacteristic of the G.A.A.

The G.A.A. has a big head-start on other sporting organisations when it comes to recruitment for Gaelic games - conscription might be a better word - having the benediction of most clerical school authorities. There is usually a high standard of football and hurling in secondary schools - especially in boarding schools. This is due to the effective harnessing of boys' gregarious nature.

Since there is no female company to lure the boys from this prolonged adolescent state, the boys are happy to devote a latent childish enthusiasm to games. Fitness is universal in boarding schools. It follows then that each summer a host of well-equipped young men are turned over to the hands of the monolithic G.A.A. - and there the story turns.

Let's face it, the ideals of the G.A.A. are not exactly in keping with the ideals of amateur sport generally. Vatican II states that sport should promote fraternity. The G.A.A. inhibits fraternity and indeed its philosophy is more



ANTON CARROLL

to keeping with that of Ludwig Jahn, the German who saw sport as a means of preparation for the fight for the fatherland.

Perhaps the founder of the G.A.A. shared Jahn's philosophy and indeed the philosophy was appropriate to oppression. But, nowadays, fraternity is just as important as national identity. We may lose peace to

turmoil, but if we achieve by fraternity a 32 county Republic, we will not lose our national identity, for as a nation we shall have territorial integrity.

Therefore, I suggest that the G.A.A. should dismantle the barricades of distrust, which are created by Rules 26 and 27. Moreover, and more important to my central contention,

the G.A.A. should make itself more attractive to our own people, who are nowadays used to modern comforts.

The sports club has always been a social centre. The requirements of a social centre have changed. Twenty years ago, the social requirements of most Irish people were fulfilled by a gathering of contemporaries at the local corner, where they discussed recent and past footballing feats.

Nowadays, the people like to do their talking about a wider range of subjects and in more comfortable surroundings. Young men are less inhibited and they like to bring their girlfriends along and socialise, where they can have a drink or entertainment.

The G.A.A. must provide such social centres if it is to hold the people in its grip. Then young people will maintain the interest in Gaelic games and they will play them if the facilities are provided. The hierarchy of the G.A.A. must not fear a traumatic transition.

Change is a necessity of life. It is necessary in political, social and economic life. Stagnation is poisonous to all life. There should be a purging of ideas at various intervals. This can be done only by new infusions of ideas. The avant-garde

of new ideas is never feared, except by those who do not believe in themselves and what they stand

If the G.A.A. leaders are confident that their methods are best, then I am sure that their methods will prevail. They need not fear the charges of lip service or laissez-faire idealism.

I do not believe that the G.A.A. can maintain its popularity without more devotion to current social needs within sport. As I see it, many people opt out of the G.A.A. when they leave behind their gregariousness.

That step may come when a man leaves school and finds female company more attractive than exclusively male company. I am not saying that he turns lecherous - perhaps he turns healthy.

A man may opt out when he marries for one of two reasons. He may have to devote more time to domestic matters or, he may be left out by selectors who believe that the celibate bachelor is fitter for the fray.

One way or another, Gaelic games are losing many potential stars and many potentially outstanding members, because the G.A.A. neglects to cater for the social requirements of the 1970's.

Are Herts Lagging Behind?

IT is a well-known fact among G.A.A. members in Britain that unless juveniles can be involved in Gaelic games, then the G.A.A. members in Herts. days of the G.A.A. in that country are numbered. However, while moves have been made to popularise Irish games among juveniles in many counties in Britain, the G.A.A. in Hertfordshire remains apathetic ganise social functions but

and hopes for the best. This feeling of complacency and smugness is typical of the attitude of

The same position exists with regard to social activity in the county. Mick Hurley, Secretary of the Social Committee, informed me that several attempts were made to or-

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these efforts met with little, or no co-operation from either the members of the Committee or from the individual clubs. Only two years ago a County Board dinner dance had to be cancelled at the last moment, because players and their wives would not be given free tickets! So, it must be obvious to all that unless we in Herts bury our petty differences and begin to organise the G.A.A. on a more efficient basis, the Association will never be in a healthy state in this county.

G.A.A. officials throughout Britain were extremely sorry to see Tipperary man Paddy Ryan's term as brilliant young midfielder Provincial President come claims that anything goes to an end. The hard- in Herts football and the working London based official has given long and it is up to the Herts Co. valued service to the Provincial Council - six years receive fair protection on as Secretary, followed by the field of play this year. his three year's Presidency. Big news of the day was,

of course, Paddy's election as Chairman of the London Co. Board for the coming year. The vast experience gained whilst President he has attended many Central Council meetings will stand Paddy in good stead.

The standard of refereeing in Hertfordshire has come in for severe criticism from one of the most promising footballers of the past decade in the county - Frank Rogers of St. Columcilles and Westmeath. Frank feels so strongly about the leniency of some referees that he is thinking of packing in the game altogether. This offenders escape free. So Board to ensure all players

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The Bloodstock Industry

The bloodstock industry is worth some £4,300,000 per annum to Ireland in terms of horses sold. In addition, expatriates win around £2,000,000 in prize money abroad each year, and act as a fine advertisement for their country of origin. When such intangibles as stud fees, insurance premiums, freight charges and money spent by visitors to our shows, sales and racecourses, etc., are taken into account, the horse industry can truly be reckoned one of our greatest sources of revenue.

While we take pride in the good horses that we produce, competition is getting more fierce and there can be no room for complacency. France, Italy and Germany all breed good horses, and, together with Britain, prove serious rivals. Further afield, the United States, New Zealand, Russia and now Japan have to be reckoned with. The race for trade and prize money is on with a vengeance, and, while we still hold many advantages, we must not relax our efforts to improve standards for one moment.

Ireland is blessed with the climate and land conducive to the raising of good horses. The comparative mildness of our winters means that we have grazing all the year round, and it helps our horses to mature faster than others reared in less favourable conditions. Our limestone imparts good bone and soundness to the product of our studs. Add to these natural assets, Government support, clean racing, an infusion of money and native enthusiasm and you have an environment in which the world's best horses can be bred.

Unfortunately for us,

share some of these assets and both have more money to put into racing than we do. Where prizes are more lavish, horses are kept racing longer and stud values are more easily assessed. France, in parti-

both Britain and France have is that our horses maintain their size, their conformation and their inherent stamina far better in this part of the world than those bred in - say America. There, over the years, the species tends to degenerate unless it re-

is sad to see so many big prizes being won by Irish horses carrying the saddle cloths of foreign countries. If we could afford to retain a nucleus of really good horses ourselves, we could field invincible teams as we did between the



Levmoss . . . the most successful Irish racehorse of 1969 pictured here with members of the McGrath family and jockey Bill Williamson after winning the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe in Paris last May.

cular, has far better prize money than Ireland, and the stock she is now producing reflects the wisdom of her thinking. If we are to keep in the forefront with our horses, more money must be injected into racing and breeding, and into training the personnel who are vital to its prosperity, such as blacksmiths, etc.

Another advantage we

ceives a spot of fresh blood from Europe. This fact accounts for the most welcome interest shown in our horses by United States breeders. Japan has been a most prolific buyer in recent years and it will be interesting to see just how good her home-bred horses will be when once her industry gets into full swing.

Irish breeders have shown themselves to be very enterprising in making the best use of foreign blood, and Irish trainers send their charges to win races overseas and thus advertise the merits of our horses. There is nothing like international competition to keep us on our toes and the more this can be encouraged, the better it will be for the country.

Speaking of international competition, one is reminded of the importance of show jumping and combined training events at which our horses have excelled over the years. The Irish hunting field is the very best nursery for horses earmarked for these forms of sport, and here we have a distinct advantage over other countries where hunting does not take place. Nothing makes a horse use his head and brings out his courage better than following hounds.

Irish breeders, owners and international riders we must look well ahead have all played a tremendous part in advertising ments, not next year, but our half-bred horses, but it five and ten years hence.

wars. However, the lure of money is strong, and, as we have always lived by selling horses, it is only natural for most of our best to be sold to go abroad. Here again, better prizemoney to be won at home would help our owners to withstand the temptations to sell to foreigners.

There then is the state of the horse trade in Ireland at the moment. We have many advantages over our competitors and we must make the very best use of them. We have a natural talent for breeding good horses, and an aptitude for training and riding them well. We must see that the younger generation inherits this.

Our breeders, who have sunk so much of their resources into the production of good horses, are at last meeting strong markets and receiving prices commensurate with the amount of initiative they have shown. We must guard against over - production and be utterly ruthless in discarding unsound stock. Bad horses eat just as much as good ones!

Basically the horse buslness is in a healthy state, but we must always bear in mind the fact that competition is mounting and and anticipate require-

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(Bay, 1958)

By BEAU SABREUR out of LUSTROUS by LIGHTHOUSE II WINNER OF EIGHT RACES, value £5,208, from one mile to two miles, including Commonwealth Stakes, Sandown Park (beating GAUL and MERCHANT VENTURER) and placed thirteen times, including LADBROKE GOLD CUP.

HE was a thoroughly game and consistent performer and nearly always carried top weight, and is from a prolific winnerproducing family.

HIS GRANDAM, ARISTOCRACY, is the dam of seven winners of 32 races, including RICHARD LOUIS (£5,450 and sire of many winners)

LIGHT THRUST'S yearlings fetched up to 3,100 guineas. He is the sire of AFON BOY, 2 races (£1,127), over 7 furlongs, from his first crop last year.

FEE for 1970: £98 and £2 Groom's fee. No fee payable if mare is barren on 1st October, 1970.

PADDY'S BIRTHDAY

(Bay or Brown, 1960)

By EUDAEMON out of BIRTHDAY WOOD by BOIS ROUSSEL

WINNER OF THREE RACES from 10 to 15 furlongs, including Major Whitelaw Memorial Stakes, Kempton (carrying 9 st. 2 lb.) and Royal Caledonian Hunt Cup.

HALF-BROTHER to PADDY'S SISTER (unbeaten winner of £13,991) and PADDY'S POINT (winner and second in both English and Irish Derbys) and PADDY'S SONG (Cheshire Oaks). HIS SIRE, EUDAEMON, won 7 races including Gimcrack Stakes and Champagne Stakes at 2 years, and is successful

PADDY'S BIRTHDAY is the sire of 3 winners of 5 races and 8 places value £2,761 - his first three runners to date. FEE for 1970; £98 and £2 Groom's fee. No fee payable if mare is barren on October 1st, 1970.

The Popularity Of Greyhound Racing

INDEED it is true that more and more people are going to the dogs. In fact, greyhound racing is fast becoming one of Ireland's leading spectators sports with aggregate attendances at greyhound tracks today matching those at horse races. What is greyhound racing? To the outsider, it may seem nothing more than the pursuit of an electrically powered hare round the track by six greyhounds released simultaneously from a box.

scribed as an animated tween races in congenial roulette but as every en- surroundings. The race thusiast knows, that is a cards are quite informative very unfair description of a really great and fascinating sport. The great virtue of greyhound racing as a sport is that intrinsically it is exhilarating and satisfying enough to be worthy of the enthusiasm and excitement it generates.

Apart from the active supporter, the sport is very popular with the TV viewer and has topped TAM ratings with the highest number of viewers, on quite a number of occasions. The first known occasion on which greyhounds raced after a mechanical lure was in Welsh Harp, Hendon, London, in 1876. Despite this British beginning, the sport, as it is operated today, was imported from America. It was introduced to this country in 1927 with meetings at Celtic Park, Belfast, and Shelbourne Park, Dublin.

Since then the sport has developed considerably. There are today 18 tracks in the 26 counties, with a semi-state body, Bord na gCon, to look after them and keep a fatherly eye on the proceedings.

Since it was formed some dozen years ago, the Greyhound Board has been a real fairy godmother to the sport. Not alone has it paid out more than £1 million in prize money grants to lucky owners, but it has spent over £300,000 in tote installation and a further £1 million in track amenity development programmes. In addition, it has worked unceasingly in developing and expanding the market for the Irish greyhound in such countries as Great Britain, U.S., Spain, Italy, Sweden and Australia.

Quite recently, the "Doggy Board" bought Shelbourne Park and converted it into the most modern sports arena of its kind in the country with a magnificent glass enclosed stand.

Why are the dogs so popular?

There are many answers to that question as the sport is popular for a variety of reasons.

Greyhound racing is a first class entertainment which can be enjoyed at the end of a day's work, without the necessity for indulging in heavy betting.

Tracks are generally centrally located and a patron can enjoy a snack or a

Indeed it has been de- drink with a friend be-

round the track at speeds up citement as one's fancy puts in that storming finish; the anxious moment while awaiting the result of the photo-finish and the sigh of relief as the judge announces that one's fancy has won by a short head.

Greyhound racing today is probably one of the straightest sports in the world and regulations are strictly enforced. Greyhounds are inspected and get an identifying ear mark

Irish bred "Barrack Street" . . . an English Derby finalist in 1969 and an Open race winner.

and even the first night novice punter can quite often pick a few winners. Although many who go greyhound racing for the first time have a modest flutter on the number, name or colour of a particular greyhound, the expert tends to make a much deeper study of the form and by the exercise of sound judgment and unprejudiced thinking, can show a tidy profit for a modest outlay. Close observation of each race will show handsome dividends. A well fancied dog hindered at the first bend, could well be next week's long shot winner.

Races vary in length from 300 yds. up to 1,000 vds. and with the occasional hurdle races, there is plenty of variety. Hurdle races are very popular with the patron. Indeed, the doggie enthusiast claims that one of the most exciting spectacles in any sport is to watch a field of 6 top class hurdle dogs go up and over each jump with the grace and skill of an "Arkle".

Greyhounds themselves are full of idiosyncrasies . . . some stay, some rail, some fade, some run wide and some give up rather easily. A great greyhound is an attraction in himself and to the enthusiast is the canine equivalent of the football or hurling star, and is almost as big a crowd puller.

The greatest attraction of the sport is perhaps the race itself - the tenseness as the hare rumbles past; the spectacle as six greyhounds run

shortly after birth and there can be no substitution. Every greyhound that runs must have an identity card which contains every detail right down even to its toe nails. Before each race, these details are carefully checked by the steward and the greyhound is weighed.

A weight variation of more than to 40 m.p.h.; the thrills and ex- 3 lbs. from the previous racing weight will result in the withdrawal of a dog by the stewards. In addition, regular saliva tests are also carried out, if there is any suspicion of

Greyhound ownership is both easy and relatively cheap and greyhound owners span every social strata. A greyhound can cost anything from 2 guineas to 5,000 guineas. However, an owner hoping for a good run for his money in some of the bigger tracks would have to spend up to 200 guineas.

COURSING

Coursing is the competitive pursuit of a hare by two greyhounds. It has existed as an organised sport in this country for close on 150 years and is the parent sport of modern greyhound racing. The Irish Coursing Club is the organisation responsible for the day-today control of the sport. Park coursing or enclosed coursing is a very popular sport in this country, particularly with the rural population. Some of the older coursing enthusiasts criticise this form of coursing as being nothing more than a speed test involving only a turn or two before the hare escapes at the far end of the field.

However, all agree that it is responsible for producing some of our brightest young track stars of today. A glance at their pedigrees leaves one in no doubt about that fact. Indeed, many claim that this form of coursing is mainly responsible for maintaining this country's supremacy and prestige in the world of greyhound racing. The principal event in the coursing calendar is the Irish Cup which is held annually at Clounanna.

The other form of coursing is open coursing. This is the real test of stamina and only the most stout-hearted greyhounds win through. Unlike their park coursing counterparts, winners of open coursing stakes have not made their mark in the greyhound bloodstock industry as either the sire or dam of track stars.

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1967 — Ran up trial stake, January, Abbeyfeale (32). From March to October, 1967, ran 20 open races. Won 17 (12 in succession), 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Never ran graded race. Broke and set four track records on Ballybunion, Cork and Limerick tracks. Defeated and broke Move Handy's Limerick track record by 2 lengths. Never led to first bend from any trap, All wins, 3 to 10 lengths. Broke leg November, 1967. Called "One of the greatest sprinters of all time," "The Prince of sprinters." Breed to speed, consistency and winning strain of "The Wonders."

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SURVEY

Longford

TO most people, county Longford is one of the in-between counties of Ireland somewhere in the middle of the economic scale, avoiding the almost decadent waste of the poorest of the western counties, but, at the same time, far removed from the glittering prosperity of the counties on the eastern seaboard.

A closer look at the county itself seems to bear out this impression, for while the southern end of the county is dominated by prosperous farmers with plenty of rich fattening land and by the opening up of some mining interests, the northern section of the county, on the borders of Leitrim and Cavan, could have been taken from the poorest regions of Donegal or Connemara.

of the river Shannon. It is North Longford included in the county. in the government's pilot giving special reliefs to the These facts must be borne in mind when undertaking any survey of the state of the Gaelic Athletic Association in county Longford. So, too, must a few vital facts from the last census figures.

For example the total population of the county is around 30,000 and this figure has been falling by an average of over 400



every year since 1956. This figure makes Longford the county with the lowest population in the whole country and it is not surprising therefore that it is also the county with the least number of G.A.A. clubs in the country. The total number of clubs is in fact 41, just two less than its near neighbour Leitrim.

While the total population figures may seem bad enough, it is only when we take a closer look at the age groupings that the problem is seen in its true perspective. In the whole of county Longford there are only 2,680 males between the ages of 15 and 29; now presuming that half of these play Gaelic games, it means that, on average, there are about 32 such people to every club. Bearing these few facts in mind, we can now have a closer look at the Longford G.A.A.

Of the 41 clubs, only 9 are senior. These figures have remained more or less the same for a long number of years now . . . the

The only difference is out of existence or amalgathat these two areas qualify mates with a neighbouring for all the various state one. The parish rule opergrants because they hap- ates with unusual precision pen to be on the right side in Longford, and, for this reason, amalgamations a struggle to even get have been relatively rare

The senior teams in scheme which is aimed at Granard, Clonguish, Longford town and Carrickedpoorer western regions. mond are quite strong, but

son for remaining in a grade that is obviously beyond them. This means that these few clubs are but chopping blocks for the stronger ones. The intermediate grade, introduced in 1966, is probably the most even grade of the lot but the junior grade, too, tends to be somewhat lobsided in standard.

The administration of the Association's affairs is under the control of two bodies — the senior County Board and the Minor Board. Indeed, the county was one of the first in rural Ireland to have a separate minor board — something which has been copied by many other counties since. Few counties owe so much to their Minor Boards as Longford, for, during the 'fifties, the organisation of under-age affairs in the county reached a very high standard both on and off the field.

It was here that the basis for the county's latter

Board runs leagues and championship for the under-14, 16 and 18 grades, all of which are played by 15-aside teams with one exception, a special 9-aside under 18 league competition. In recent years, the minor championship has been improved by splitting it into two divisions according to standard.

The competitions run by the senior board, are championship and league in junior, inter. and senior grade, and the under-21 championship. For leagues, the county is divided into north and south, but all knockout competitions are played on an open draw for the whole county.

In passing, it should be pointed out that one great advantage enjoyed by small counties, such as Longford, is that of having no travelling problems. for club games. From Lanesboro, on the Roscommon border, to Moyne, on the Leitrim-Cavan border, is no more than thirty miles and no part of the county is more than twenty miles from the town of Longford.

It is in the county town that the only inter-county ground in Longford is situated. This is Pearse Park which has undergone much development in the past few years. First class dressing rooms were the first amenities to be provided and then the supporters were cared for, with the building of a fine covered stand.

Of late, new sideline seats have been installed and a mesh — wire fence has been erected around the playing pitch, which means that Pearse Park is now one of the very few provincial grounds that has a completely enclosed playing pitch - something which can no longer be classed as anything but a necessity. Like many another good provincial ground, Pearse Park gets very few top-class games nowadays, apart from those in which the home county is involved, but, despite this, the County Board intends to develop the ground still further.

In the last few years several clubs have acquired their own grounds, such as Granard, Ballymahon and Ballinalee. In most parts of the county, finding a suitable site for a ground can be quite difficult, because of the very uneven terrain which exists there. This fact added greatly to the cost of development of the park at Granard, where a great deal of excavation work was necessary in order to remove a very steep gradient on the only suitable site for a pitch that was available in the locality.

When most people think of Longford the first thing that comes to their mind from a football point of view is the fact that St. Mel's College is located in the town of Longford. This college has long been recognised as a nursery of great footballers, and, for many years now, it has provided a regular supply of players to the various Longford county teams.

Without St. Mel's, Longford G.A.A. would be in a bad way, as many of the comradeships formed there have served the county very well in later years, both from a playing and administrative point of view. The fact that St. Mel's seem to have a good team almost every year often prompts the question, as to why Longford county teams are not more consistent.



The reason for this lies in the fact that St. Mel's is a diocesan college for the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, which extends over parts of counties Longford, Leitrim, Cavan, Westmeath and Offaly, and therefore many of its pupils come from outside county Longford. On average, no more than half of the college team in any year would come from county Longford itself.

Still the football followers of Longford have great faith in St. Mel's, and feel, that as long as it is thriving, the county will never want for footballers.

Although Longford may be a small county, the G.A.A. has by no means a monopoly position. Longford town itself, like all garrison towns in the country, has always been a stronghold of soccer and this is probably the main reason why football has always been fighting an uphill battle. In a town of over 4,000 inhabitants, there is only one G.A.A.



Mick Hopkins

the others have been leading a rather hand-to-mouth existence for some time now and their ability to maintain senior status any longer must be open to question.

Indeed, with a few of only change coming when them, it would appear that one club temporarily goesclub pride is the only rea-

All in all, for a county of such small area and population, it would appear that if some clubs were to amalgamate, stronger units would result. But the parish rule, coupled with very keen club rivalry, will ensure that this will not happen for some time yet.

day successes on the playing fields was lain and it is also worth noting that the clubs which were strongest in the underage competitions in the 'fifties, Grandard and Clonguish, are now the dominant ones in senior ranks.

At present, the Minor

The Census Figures

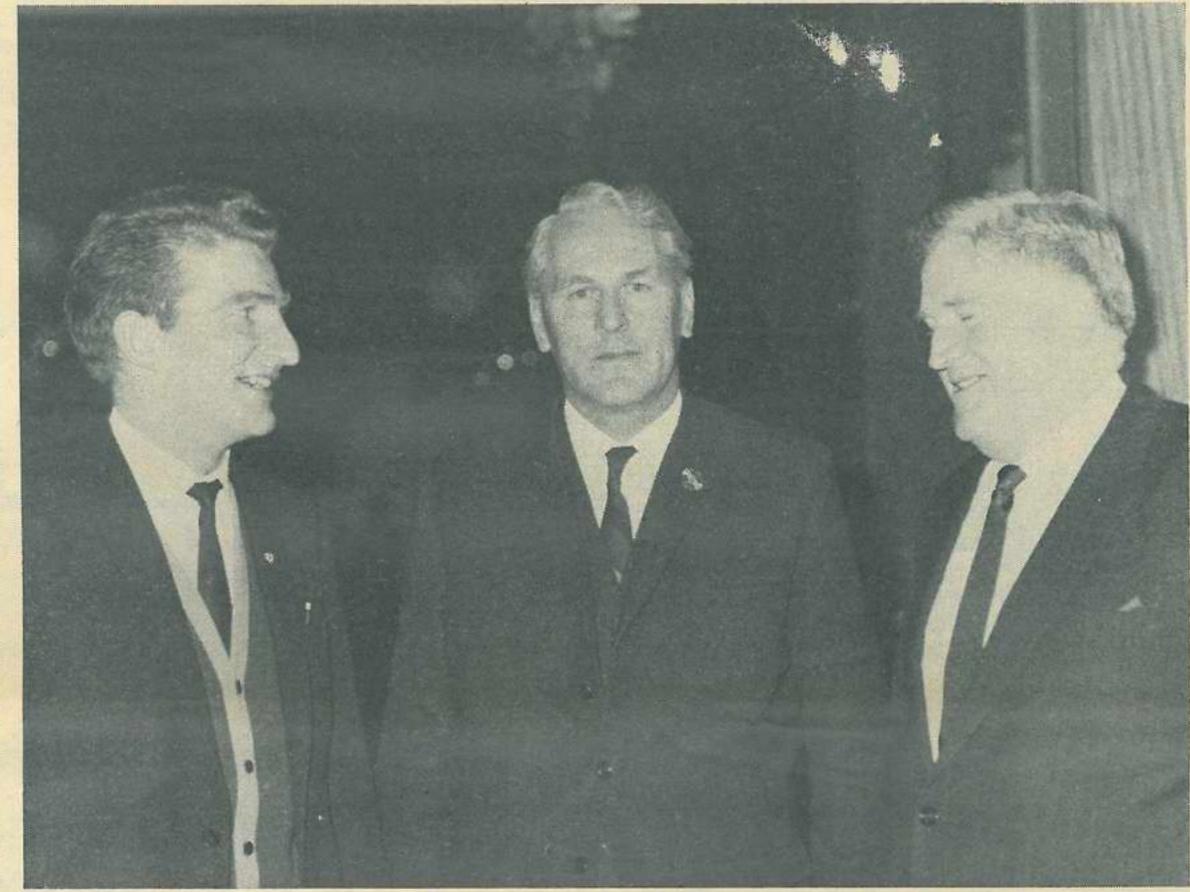
club and this has no permanent ground or headquarters of its own.

Of late, a rugby club has been formed to provide still more competition in the town and it remains to be seen if the other clubs in the county can rise to the challenge now being provided by these other sports on their own doorstep. At the moment there seems to be very little cooperation between the G.A.A. clubs and other organisations, but the Clonguish club do occasionally organise functions in con-I.C.A.

casional efforts at co-oper- twelve county province ation with some farming like Leinster can never be organisations, but these have been rare. With many of the young men who are G.A.A. members also being attached to other organisations, it seems a pity that Leinster senior title. Occmore co-operation of a practical nature does not take place.

With regard to publicity for its activities, the G.A.A. in Longford is adequately served, having a special correspondent on the local newspaper who happens to be a ex-county footballer. Anyway in such a small county, publicity for games does not pose any great preolems.

Like many another county that has been starved of success over the years, Longford has now grown used to the idea and, just as in Fermanagh, the absence of titles has in no way retarded the organisjunction with the local ation of the games within the county. The lot of a There have also been oc- very small county in a an easy one - a fact that is brought home to Longford people every time they consider the fact that the county has won only one asional successes at junior level, however, have been sufficient to starve



Seamus O'Riain pictured here with Longford Co. Secretary Sean Donnelly (left) and County Chairman Jimmy Flynn.

off frustration on the home front.

Yet it is almost inevitable that as time goes on and less players become available, the difficulties of fielding a good county team in Longford will become more and more acute.

The senior county board in Longford is on conventional lines, with every club having two delegates but only one vote, at the meetings which are usually held once a month. There is a separate Coisde Iomana in

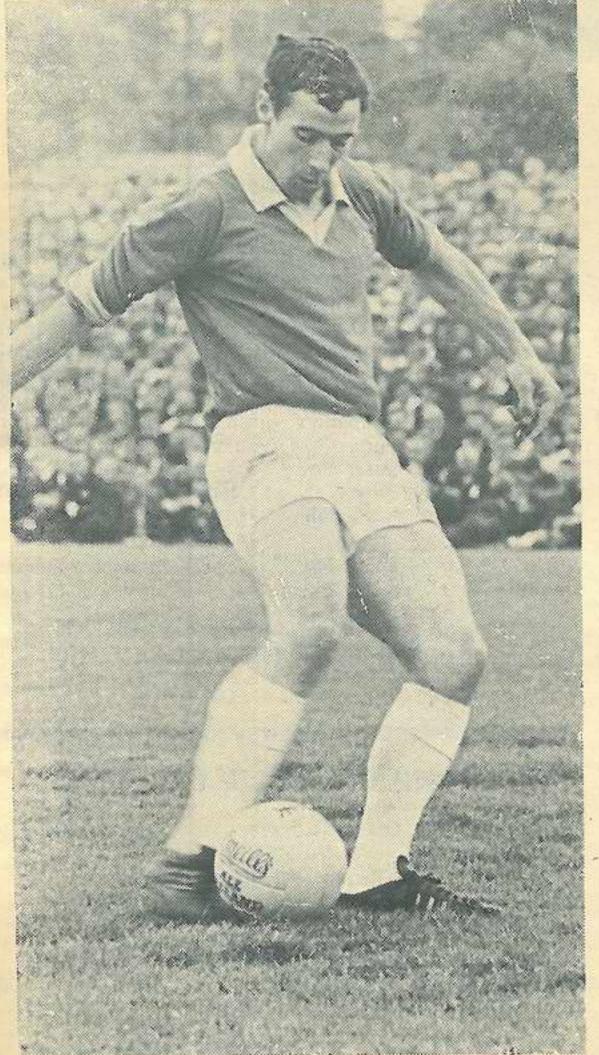
the county, with sole responsibility for developing hurling. At present there are hurling teams at underage level in only three or four parishes.

In all of these areas, the impetus behind the teams has been provided by people from hurling areas who are working in the locality. Therefore when one of these people moves to another county the hurling effort he had started in some parish in Longford may well die out. If

the hurling drive in Longford is to succeed, the people of the county themselves will have to take a much more active part in its organisation than is the

case at present. is much room for improvement among the clubs in county Longford. At pre-

sent, hardly any club in the county runs any regular social function and when they do wish to raise money for club funds, they invariably do so by holding a dance rather than a ceili. On the social side, there Only one or two clubs, such as Colmcille or Mostrim, are content to hold ceilis only.



Jackie Devine is one of many Longford men who have emigrated to London.

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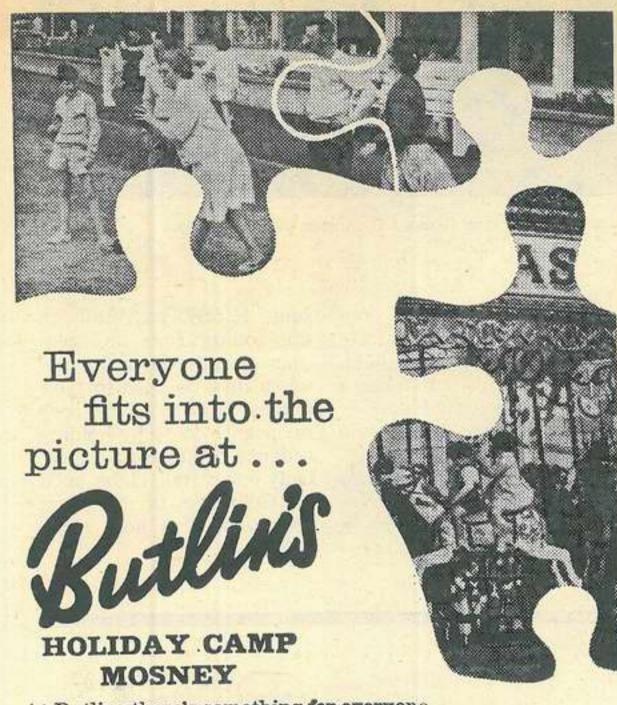
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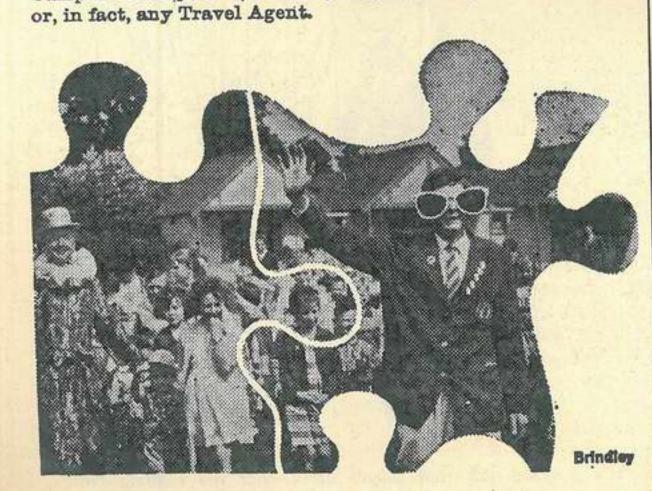
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paradoxical though it may seem, in this modern age of jet travel and wider horizons, an increasing number of Irish people are becoming more aware of the advantages and attractions of holidaying at home. The Continental holiday becomes less and less of a status symbol and a novelty each year as people come to realise that an equally, if not more, enjoyable time can be had by availing of the facilities that are on offer in Ireland.

By holidaying at home, one eliminates the necessity of having to make a plane or boat journey and the complications that often arise in transit. The first-timer always finds Continental holidays very different for the first few days with the strange customs and language, but the novelty generally doesn't last very long and very often one finds oneself longing for familiar surroundings where one can converse without having to resort to a dictionary every few seconds.

The language barrier is always a problem except to the dedicated linguist and the position is aggravated when there is a whole family concerned and there is a danger of children reacting badly to strange food.

Likewise, trouble can often crop up on a Continental motoring holiday when something goes wrong with the car and there is often difficulty in making oneself understood. At least, if something does happen to the car, or the kiddies get sick while on holiday in Ireland, there is never any difficulty in communicating with somebody who can help.

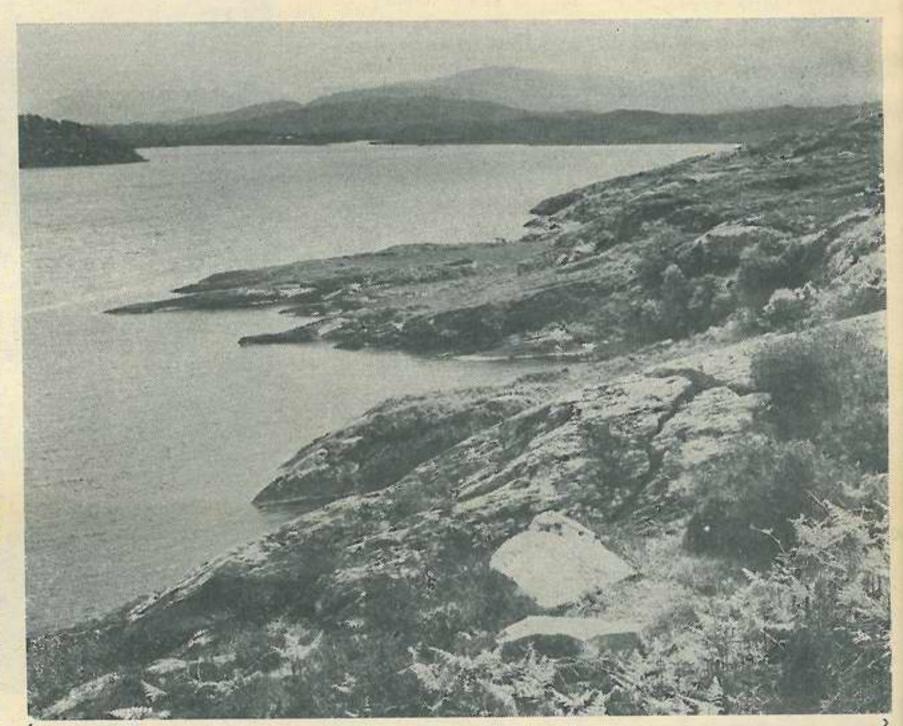
In Ireland, there is something for everybody from the mountaineer to the golfer and if you are not the outdoor, athletic type then you are just as well catered for. If you plan a motoring holiday you will discover how extraordinarily varied is the scenery.

Each region from the highlands of Donegal to the Ring of Kerry, from Connemara to the Wicklow Hills has its own distinctive flavour.

If you do not possess your own car but would still like a motoring holiday there are numerous official sites is small (a list is available) and parking rates are low; the average charge is 8/- per night or £2 per week. Hiring charges run from about 8 guineas upwards in May to 12 to 18 guineas in July and August. Early booking is advisable.

The golfer can play a complete round-the-coast tour of Ireland or select a home-base like Killarney, Dublin or Belfast and sample the surrounding courses . . . they're never more than a club's length away.

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A view of the beautiful lakes of Killarney.

firms who offer cars for hire, with or without chaffeur. Rates vary greatly according to the type of car and time of year, but, as a rough guide, a self-drive Volkswagen or Morris 1000 can be had from £16-16-0 per week in the low season to £26-5-0 in mid-summer. A deposit is sometimes required. To be on the safe side, book a car early if you intend holidaying in mid-summer.

Caravanning is also an ideal form of holidaying in this country, as there are so few extensive built-up areas. The number of

Some people like to see as much of the countryside as possible during their annual vacation without having the bother of driving a car and if you include yourself in this category, C.I.E. and many of the private coach companies operate holiday tours.

If you are a golfer and you like to get in a few rounds during your holiday, then you are your own worst enemy if you intend holidaying abroad. This country has more golfing room per head of population than 18 of the 21 major golfing nations.

even more than superb uncrowded courses, and magnificent scenery, it is a unique experience. The secret ingredient of Irish golf is its friendly atmosphere. From the world championship course to the intimate 9-hole, wherever you play you will be welcome and completely free to come and go, when and where your fancy takes you.

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Some golfers treat their clubs like their shadow, they bring them everywhere, and it's a good idea. But if you prefer to travel light the 'pro' at any Irish club will be happy to fix you up for whatever period you like. Clothes also need consideration, bring a couple of sweaters, the stiff breezes on some of our coastal courses add interest to the game but they can get a little chilly. A light rainproof jacket will provide protection against the sudden showers which vanish as quickly as they arrive. Preferably your shoes should be heavy, the rough on some Irish courses can be just that rough.

The fisherman is also extremely well catered for in this country. Salmon are caught in all the larger rivers of Ireland, in many of the smaller rivers and in many lakes. There is free fishing on some lakes, e.g.,



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Lough Corrib, Lough Conn, Lough Fern in Donegal, the Killarney Lakes and Lough Currane at Waterville. There is also a good deal of free salmon fishing rivers, but it is somewhat uncertain, and dependent on weather and water conditions.

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The area is immensely popular with Ulster people and visitors alike who love to drive along the wonderful coast road, tread interesting cliff walks, play on the challenging golf courses beside the sea, bathe from the wide acres of beach, roam through the scenic splendour of the glens or fish some of the finest salmon and trout rivers in Ulster. But although it draws people from far and near it is such a thinly populated and unspoilt area, that there is no impression of crowds.

The hinterland is equally beautiful and full of interest with its high peat moors, rich farmland, small country towns and the broad serene valley of the River Bann, the delight of

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It is a wild and diversified area of nearly 5,000 square miles, with a winding and magnificent coastline, garnished with many islands. West of a line from Galway city, north through the lakes of Corrib, Mask and Conn, there

Gougane Barra, Co. Cork. both angler and boatman. is a great grouping of tence. Captain Boycott mountains. Contrasting strongly with this mass of old igneous rock, the eastern portions of both counties are level limestone plains merging into the great Central Plain of Ireland. The towns and villages of the West have an indi-

viduality all their own. The large Gaeltacht areas of the western highlands and your feet. seaboard preserve much of what is daily vanishing in Irish folk culture. Traditional house types and village colonies, boatbuilding, village crafts all you this year. remain as evidence of early man's habits and methods.

Out by the western seaboard, gaunt castles ring with memories of that stalwart Amazon, Grainne Mhaol. Killala in north Mayo was the invasion beach-head of the French in 1798. A mayor of Galway hanged his own son in expiation of an unpardonable crime as no one else would carry out the sen-

added a new word to the English language when ostracised by his tenantry, he had to flee from Lough Mask House, These are only snapshots and flitting images of the pageant-like background of the West. And behind it all is that age-old lure of trekking into the setting sun, to the edge of the land where the ocean sounds endlessly at

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Owen McCann Discusses:

Down 1960 v Kerry 1969

WAS the Kerry team that swept all before it last year a better side than the Down squad that opened the decade with a series of history-making football achievements? Statistics, they say, can be made to prove anything, but they still provide the only tangible barometer as to the respective merits of these great combinations.

The records indicate, in fact, that there is little to choose between the sides. Let's take major trophies won for a start.

In 1960, Down took the National League and All-Ireland titles, and beat New York in the St. Brendan Cup final, which corresponds nowadays to the World Cup. The Grounds' Tournament was not introduced until 1961, but Kerry's success in that competition last year can be balanced out by the Down 1960 outfit's win over Galway in the Wembley tournament final.



Paddy Doherty

Kerry, of course, lost at Wembley to Down in 1969.

Then, there is the Railway Cup, and possibly a point up here for the Ulster county. Pat Rice, Joe Lennon, Sean O'Neill, Paddy Doherty, Tony Hadden and Kevin Mussen (he went in as a substitute) helped Ulster to beat Munster in the final. Last year,

Connacht mastered Munster in the decider.

Down had 21 games in that 1960 run, including a game with a Dublin All Stars team, compared with Kerry's 26 engagements last year. Almost unbelievably, the teams stand equal as regards the number of goals scored, but Kerry have a mighty pull in the points table, which puts them out by over two points in front, in the average score per game chart. Down landed 15.09 points an outing for 39 goals and 200 points (317 points) and Kerry 17.53 points for 39-339 (456 points).

Down conceded 10.04 points an hour, and Kerry 10.42 points. The score against the Ulster team was 23-142 (211 points), and against Kerry 22-205 (271 points).

In terms of actually winning engagements, Down were more successful. In only three of those 21 outings did they fail to leave the pitch victorious. Of those three matches, one ended all square.

Kerry won one match more than Down (19 to 18) but they played five draws last year, and lost two games. In other words . . . seven non-victorious outings, as against Down's three.

Another striking similarity between the teams is that each year one player dominated the scoring returns. In 1960, it was Paddy Doherty, with 13-97 (136 points) in 24 games (including the Railway Cup and in one other fixture). This still stands as the best score by an Ulster footballer.

Last year, it was Mick



Another Kerry score from the boot of Mick O'Dwyer . . their top scorer in 1969.

O'Dwyer, and like Doherty, he achieved a provincial record. The Kerryman scored 8-96 (120 points) in 22 games, all in the Kingdom jersey.

So, which was the greater combination - Down

real key to the problem, and I leave it to yourself to work it out - if you can to your own satisfaction! Incidentally, last year

was Kerry's busiest in the period 1957 to 1969 inclusive. Meath lead in this



Brian Morgan heads for goal in the 1960 All-Ireland final against Kerry.

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of 1960, or Kerry of 1969? regard with 28 games in Would the 1969 Kerry de- 1967. fence have fared better against the Sean O'Neill, Jim McCartan, Paddy Patsy O'Hagan and Brian Morgan attack, than the Down rearguard of 1960 against last year's Kingdom scoring division?

In second place with 27 games in 1962 are Dublin, while Down had 25 out-Doherty, Tony Hadden, ings in 1968. That year, of course, they won the League, All-Ireland Championship and the World Cup in New York, but lost to Longford in the Grounds Therein, I think, lies the Tournament semi-final.

The flavour starts in the sunshine and showers of a North Carolina summer. Golden ripe tobacco slowly matured and carefully selected for Number 1. Good tobacco does taste so much better.



Carrolls Number 1 the taste of good tobacco

Remembering "Leo" Casey

"O then tell me Sean O'Farrell
Tell me why you hurry so?
Hush ma bhuchal hush and listen
And his cheeks were all aglow".

The Artane Boys turned under the Cusack Stand and swung across Croke Park, Behind them thirty hearts "in manhoods burning noon" from Kerry and Offaly, marched into All-Ireland combat — to the stirring strains of "The Rising of the Moon." In the tension and excitement before last year's football final, did anyone spare a thought for the tragic young Fenian poet who wrote that immortal ballad?

Maybe not. But this year, especially in Longford and Westmeath many people should remember. For just a hundred years ago on St. Patrick's Day 1870, John Keegan "Leo" Casey died — within earshot of what is now Croke Park —

The Artane Boys turned at 16 Summerhill, Dublin. under the Cusack Stand Before his 24th birthday and swung across Croke the sun had set on the young man who had writhearts "in manhoods burnten ten "The Rising of the ing noon" from Kerry and Moon."

Half way between Ballymahon and Mullingar, about a mile off the main road "Leo" was born at Mount Dalton, in the famine year of 1846. For a short while he attended nearby Newbristy School where even as a child he was ear-marked for greatness. Then his father, school teacher Luke Casey, moved to Gurteen outside Ballymahon.

Finishing school he worked for some time as a teacher first at Gurteen, then at Cleraun in the neighbouring parish of New-

towncashel, and later at Kenagh. But Casey's interest and his talent lay in another field.

From an early age it was apparent that he was a gifted poet. His first published poem "The Lesson" was inspired by the outbreak of rebellion in Poland. Instead of consigning it to a fate of oblivion like many of his other efforts, Casey sent the poem to the editor of "The Nation." It appeared in the next issue of the paper and the Ballymahon boy became a regular contributor to that Journal.

By the time he was fifteen it is said that "Leo" had written his best known ballad "The Rising of the Moon." A thousand copies of this poem were printed and circulated around Longford, Westmeath, and Cavan, Instead of the well known line "There beside the singing River" Casey had intended "There beside the Inny's River" but he was afraid that it would be taken too literally by the police in the locality during those troubled times.

Early in 1866 Casey quit the teaching profession and left Ballymahon to take up a job at Murtaghs Mills in Castlerea. Here he continued his membership of the Fenian movement and also his writing. His first book of poems "A wreath of Shamrocks" was published by subscription in October of that year. It was in Castlerea that the poet first met Mary Josephine Briscoe, the young lady who later became his wife. And it was also in Castlerea, on a March morning in 1867, that Casey was arrested in his bed on "the suspicion" of being a member of the Fenian conspiracy.

After a short visit to his family at Ballymahon Leo returned to Dublin where on January 18th, 1868 Mary Briscoe became his wife. The wedding, which took place at the Pro-Cathedral, was beset with difficulties. On the morning of the marriage the best man was arrested. Then the officiating priest — a Fr. O'Farrell - was reluctant to perform the "Fenian" ceremony for fear of reprisals by the authorities. Scarcely had the knot been tied than a raiding party broke up the celebrations, and Casey was forced to flee from his bride into hiding. A week later they were re-united, and under the assumed name of Harrison they took up residence at Cork Hill close to Dublin Castle.

"Leo" now made up for lost time with his pen. Short stories, poems, and articles poured from him to the National Press, and he was also appointed Irish correspondent for the Boston Pilot. Openly appearing again in public he now began to develop a reputation as an accomplished orator - and he toured England and Ireland giving lectures on topics of National literary interest. He also played a major part in the famous Dungarvan Election when he helped the Nationalist Matthews to defeat the crown candidate Barry.

But the seeds of ill health sown in Mountjoy were slowly taking their toll. In March, 1870 Casey's cab was in a collision with a dray on the North side of Dublins Quay's. Jumping from the cab "Leo" fell on his back injuring his lungs and rupturing a blood vessel. Next day he was taken ill crossing O'Connell Bridge, and passers by rushed him to a doctor in Earl St. Later Casey was carried home to Summerhill and to a sick bed from which he was never again to rise.

Casey was accorded a public funeral and the whole country mourned his passing. As his remains

were brought through the city 50,000 people — many of them had come from Longford, Westmeath and Roscommon — followed the cortege to Glasnevin. A magnificent monument still stands over the grave where "Leo" rests.

Fittingly during this the centenary year of his death in his boyhood town of

Ballymahon — where the Minor football club proudly play under the name "Leo Caseys" — work is in progress on a new G.A.A. Park to be named in his honour. Let's hope Ballymahon will not be alone in honouring the memory of a man whose poetry and patriotism have never received their rightful recognition.

My Fenian Boy

Since Leo Casey's best-known ballad "The Rising of the Moon" is known by virtually everybody, we reproduce here instead another of his Fenian ballads "My Fenian Boy."

Come let us roam together
O'er the soft and purple heather,
Ere the golden sun has set behind the calm and
shining sea;
For I know your breast is swelling
Now to hear what I'll be telling
All about the true, true lover you were asking
now of me;
So, Katie, my sweet lisper,
I will name him in a whisper —

Oh! his name is like the sunshine, so full of light and joy;
And when his face is smiling,
All the world it is beguiling
He's the pride of sweet Dungarvan — he's my

Oh, Katie, dear, believe me,
No fancy doth deceive me —
You might search thro' dear old Ireland, from
Antrim to Cape Clear
From Ulster's dim grey mountains
To Muskerry's fairy fountains;
And I stake my life upon it, you will never find

his peer.
His eyes are purely beaming
As the stars in winter gleaming,
An arm to aid the oppressed is his, or tyrant to

destroy;
A will like Shannon river,
Clear, yet changeless still, forever,
A voice as soft as music has my Fenian Boy!

Three suitors to my hand, dear,
And each I can command, dear,
I only have to say the word to wear the wedding
ring;

But they're soulless, mean and slavish,
Money-grabbers, low and knavish.
How dare they ask the heart and hand I've given
to my king!

They cosher with my father,
And I'm sure that I would rather
They'd not spend the live-long day with my poor

feelings to annoy;
With their falsehoods and their cheating,
They make him swear each meeting —
He would rather see me dead than wed my Fenian
Boy!

My love is pure, I know it,
And he's not ashamed to show it,
As the clink of guineas never was the music of his soul;
For the hand, now hard with labour,

Yet will grasp the shining sabre, When the shout of Freedom's battle on the startled air shall roll,

All his fervent love of Erin
I freely, gladly share in,
To him who loves not country, woman's heart is
but a toy;

Oh! the hearts of truth and honour

Beat beneath the Emerald banner —

The banner of my true lover — of my Fenian Boy!

We both, dear Kate, must tarry, Yet awhile before we marry, For spring may bring the landing of the exiles far

Our gallant men will rally
From the mountain and the valley
And well I know whose rifle will be foremost in

the fray,
Oh! nearer then and nearer,
Oh! nearer then and dearer.

Kind heart, I fear the grief will o'ermaster my great joy;

But who comes up the meadow?
Why I ought to know his shadow
'Tis his own dear self is coming — 'tis my Fenian
Boy!

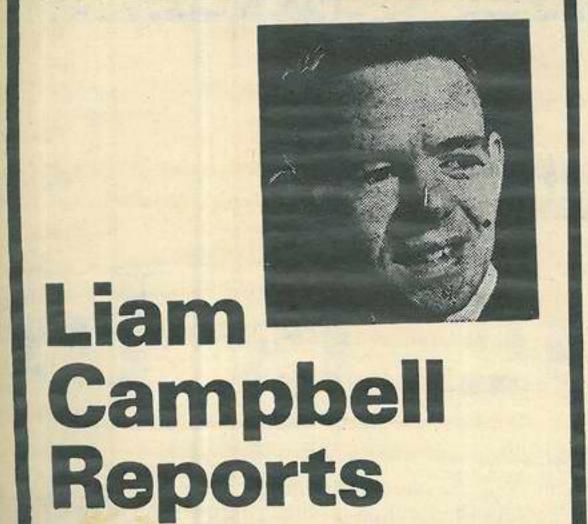


Home or Awayness



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IT'S not often you come across a weekend with only rare dull moments, a real brimful-of-interest kind of weekend, with as much action off the field as on it. So when I do hit up against such a period I feel it's worth chronicling (what a word!).

The weekend to which I refer was that of March 7 and 8, and the action was in Galway. The occasion was the annual academic gathering to decide which University would hold the Fitzgibbon Cup for the ensuing year, and the method of settling this disputation was, as is usual, the playing of a hurling competition, the winners to take

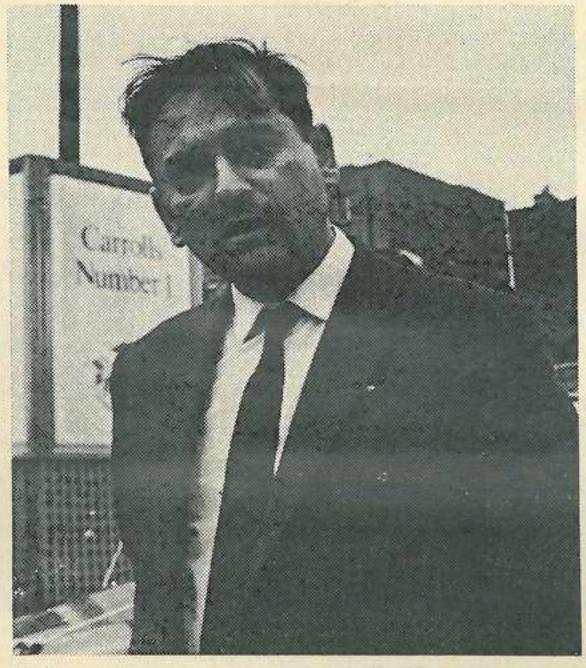
There were few venturesome souls present at Pearse Stadium when the formalities opened promptly (yes, promptly - credit where it's due) on the Saturday. The protagonists were Galway and Queen's, the latter, I felt, playing out of sheer cussedness rather than any concrete hope of winning. But good luck to their cussedness; I'm still one of those who cling to the old-fashioned notions about participation being more important that winning, etc. They were well and truly whacked by a Galway team that scored nine goals and the same nunber of points. The men of the west missed at least that many scores again, and they didn't impress me all that much, since the Radio & TV All-Stars would have won against this Queen's team!

Dublin and Cork were next, and this had the seeds of real combat before the ball went in at all. Protests were lodged against the composition of the Dublin team, who were alleged to be including night students. Now, I don't know whether they were or not, and I wouldn't tell anyway, since it's none of my business, but the rules of the competition are there for all to read, and it would appear that night students are not allowed. Be that as it may, the game started only five minutes late, and this

A Hectic Weekend In Galway

delay was due entirely to the protests, with no blame to players or organisers.

It was clear early on that the Dublin defence was good, and Cork realised this. But they didn't seem able to do much about it, and in the end Dublin had won handily enough - but not all that handily, and this hard game was sure to tell on them in the final the next day. The wily Galwaymen saw this, too, and Tony Finan, their



Paddy McDermott

guiding light, informed me solemnly that his boys were geared for that final, and not for the semi-final which had not impressed me.

The off-field action then began, with phone calls and messages to members of the Universities' Council regarding the objection to Dublin. During the evening it was observed that the objection had not been accompanied by the requisite fee, and there were darker hints that the Cork team might not be all that legal if close scrutiny

were made of it. It's fair to record that I don't think any of these charges and counter-charges ever looled like being pushed to a conclusion, and Paddy McDermott announced that the final would go on - Galway v. Dullin. On the off-chance that both charges and countercharges were going to be pushed, there was a possibility (and I said "possibility") that both Dublin and Cork would have been found illegal, so a real clearer of the air could only be achieved if Galway won . . . and on all the evidence, that was an unlikely outcome.

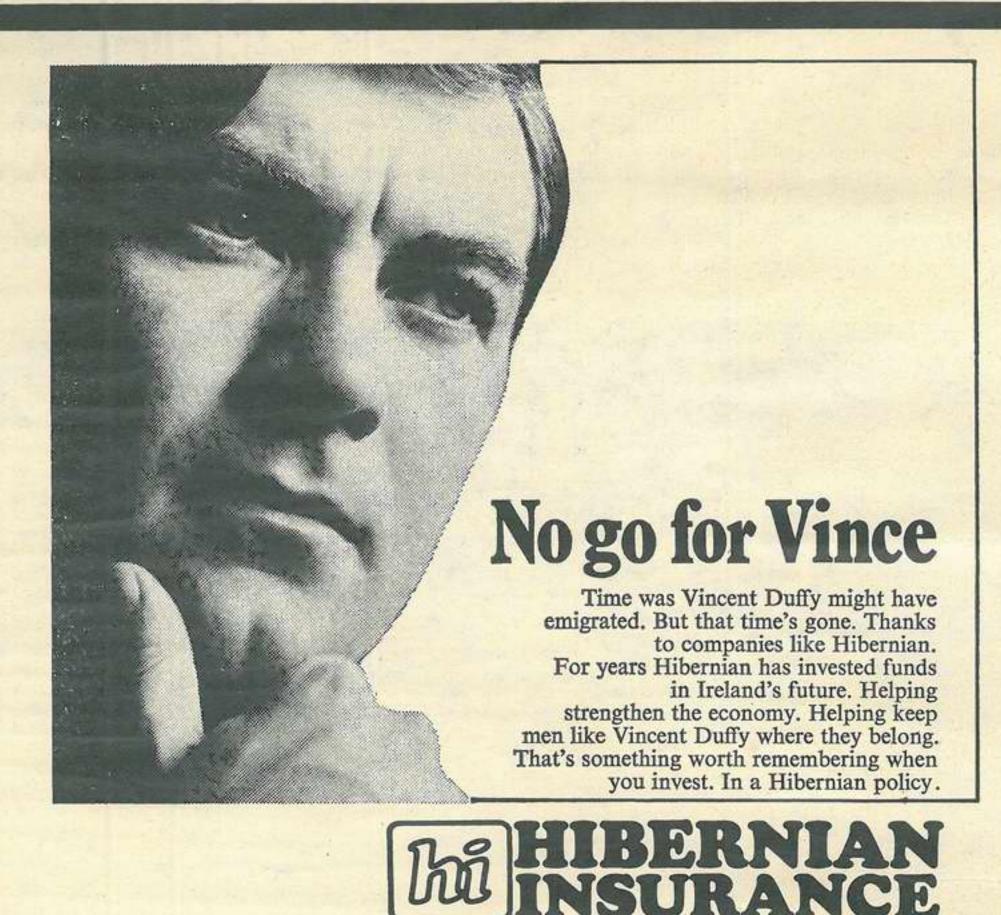
The crowd was much bigger on the Sunday, and the majority were shouting for Galway, quite understandably. President Seamus O Riain threw in the ball, and a most fantastic game was on. Galway lost a player after eleven minutes, and their chances seemed less than ever. They tried to play real hurling with Dublin, and this was not wise. Still, they were only a point behind at half-time, with the wind to face for the second half. It was at this break that they won the game . . . instructions were to hit every ball first time, with no picking-up or similar niceties. These instructions were followed, and in two breakaways they scored goals - both by Austin Costello. They seemed to have it all wrapped up, but Dublin came late, and three points left them only one behind. It was Jack Ryan (son of the President) who flicked over the equaliser just on full time, so between them the Ryans started and finished the game.

Extra time followed (ten minutes each way) and at the break Galway were again a point down, and again had to face the wind. Dublin were tiring, though, and the noise from the terraces was deafening. Galway packed their own half, leaving only two or three men up, and they prayed for that one breakaway. It came (the Lord must be a Galwayman!) with Tim Burns stroking it on towards Austin Costello, and Austin doubled on it first time, just as he had been advised. A split-second of silence, then a roar that must have shaken the city as the net leaped . . . Galway were ahead -

Four minutes to go, and it was agony. Nails were chewed to the knuckle as Dublin attacked and attacked again, but the underdogs held on, and when John Moloney blew his whistle for the last time I made a quick exit, because the student demonstration to end all student demonstrations erupted.

A famous victory after 21 years, a victory generously applauded by the sporting Dublin students. And one of the best things about Galway's win is that it leaves the deliberations about night-students or first-year students or fees or anything else strictly for the academics.

Connacht Championship



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May 3 (at Mayo venue) Mayo v. Galway. May 10 (Carrick-on-

v. Roscommon.

v. Roscommon).

v. Galway.

be arranged).

Fixtures

common.

SENIOR FOOTBALL

Shannon) Leitrim v. Ros-

June 7 (at Carrick-on-

June 21. Mayo v. Leit-

rim or Roscommon (at Mayo venue if Mayo v.

Leitrim; at Tuam if Mayo

June 28 (At Sligo): Sligo

July 12. Final (venue to

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL

May 3. (at Mayo) Sligo

Shannon) Leitrim v. Sligo or Roscommon.

Final: Date and venue to be arranged.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

April 19 (at Roscommon) Roscommon v. Sligo.

April 19 (at Mayo) Mayo v. Galway.

April 26 (at Carrick-on-

Shannon) Leitrim v. Sligo or Roscommon.

May 17: Final (venue to be arranged).

MINOR HURLING

April 5 (at Carrick-on-Shannon) Mayo v. Sligo; Roscommon v. Leitrim. Final on May 3 or 10 (venue to be arranged).

JUNIOR HURLING

Mayo v. Sligo; Roscommon v. Leitrim (dates and venues to be arranged).

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

April 5 (at Ballinasloe) St. Bridgets (Roscommon) Dunmore McHale's (Gal-

April 5 (at Carrick-on-Shannon) Ballinamore (Leitrim) v. Collooney (Sligo).

On date to be arranged: Castlebar Mitchells (Mayo) will meet the winners of the Ballinamore v. Collooney match.

Jim Bennett Takes A Hard Look At

The G.A.A.'s Fixtures Problems And Concludes That:

The Whole Thing Is In

everybody is bothered about structures these days: it is the "in thing." I am concerned, in particular, at this beginning of a new championship season of the structure of the games and the grades and the near impossible snarl into which the fixtures of the Association have been getting themselves in recent times.

Yet, here we go into another busy season with a hope and a prayer, and with a bit of luck we should come out of it all right with most of the championships finished before Christmas and with another bit of luck a few rounds of the Leagus played, too. So, why worry.

I do worry. I feel that if there is one thing more than another which the G.A.A. demands, it is a coming to terms with matches and dates and fixtures. Not just at National level, but right down the line through provincial fixtures, county and divisional fixtures, through senior and junior to under-21 and minor and juvenile. If there is a pattern in things at the moment, it baffles me to find it.

For a start off, no county board has been able to get down to "talking turkey" about its plans in detail for the coming season's championships yet, because they have not got a complete schedule of the kind of intercounty

fixtures which might affect them and cause them to make last minute amendments.

Even when they have, and even when they get to deciding their plans, they will have to reconcile the sometimes conflicting interests of hurling and football, not to mention the bringing of under age championships into the picture at a meaningful time.

Then there are divisional boards in many places which have to wait until the county boards have spoken, before they dare claim a date or a venue for their use. They must pick up the crumbs which fall from the table of their betters.

Juvenile and schools fixtures, street leagues and those very worthwhile friendly games, together with any subsidiary competitions have to be fitted in to any crevice which may remain - probably summer evenings, at a moment's notice, with less than adequate publicity and almost unknown even to the supporters of the teams involved.

This kind of thing cannot go on. It is not difficult to see what keeps on happening - a recurring pattern which is killing the weaker limbs and fattening to bloated exhaustion those already strong.

How, then should one strive to overcome this? Not by bemoaning the fact, and letting it remain like that; not by relying on the inspired ingenuity of the many secretaries and fixtures' committees which keep on evolving staggering methods for cramming a quart into a pint pot. The very fact that such brilliance is constantly shown is proof positive that it should be used in a more efficient and correlated manner.

The exercise must begin at the top: Central Council must slice the cake in an equitable fashion so as to give scope and importance to the dates on which you can watch an interesting inter-club match, just as to those crammed with intercounty attractions.

As it is, there is little attraction in the summer to spend any Sunday watching club games, for there is always a programme of tempting attractiveness within easy reach of any with the most casual interest.

I have said before, and repeat that the role of the computer should not be ignored here; it will be only as important as the information it is fed, of course, but, if the Central Council can set the basic rules for giving fair play to all, there is no other way of putting those rules impartially into effect.

However, Brian Geraghty Carries On Regardless With His Preview Of The 1970 Championship

Another Kerry - Down Final?

It is a bit early to be picturing the last Sunday of next September, and the All-Ireland football final. However, it is only a monpionship, and sure what is two months but a few week-ends and a couple of trips in and out of the office. And the last Sunday of September is not so far away if one looks at it like that.

I'm keen to have a good day this coming All-Ireland day if the Lord leaves me around 'til then, and I am getting more and more perturbed as to which section of the community will be there in strength to brighten my afternoon with their cheers.

The reigning champions Kerry look to be a safe bet to come out from the southern states, so we will stick them into the final rounds without any more talk about it.

Leinster provided last year's beaten finalists. This time the champions of the east will be taking their chance against Kerry at semi-final stage.

Looking at the draw in Leinster, Offaly, Kildare, and Meath seem pretty certain of getting through

in their groupings to the later stages. Dublin, Louth and Longford are evenly matched in Group 1, particularly from the point of th to the start of the cham- view of their inconsistency. Dublin are promising good things at present but this is not a great side and I feel, that although Longford will be fancied, Louth might be able to sneak through. In the final analysis, Offaly can come through again from the province.

> In the west I think the way is clear for Mayo. Roscommon and Sligo are very unpredictable sides, neither of them good, while Galway have determination. The present Mayo panel has got many chances and in championship football it has never impressed when pitted against any worthwhile opposition. Unless it collapses completely, however, it must get to the All-Ireland semi-final stage on this occasion.

Who will face Mayo from the north? A difficult one this! At present, no one could be blamed for picking Derry. Sean O'Connell and his boys are doing everything, that is asked of them. But then Derry have flattered before in the early part of the season only to

falter at the big test.

I still have a sneaking regard for Down and Sean O'Neill as a championship team, and, of course, the present standard bearers, Cavan, can never be ruled

out in a sudden death competition. Despite Derry's present class, I go for Down to carry the hopes of the Ulstermen.

Kerry will defeat Offaly again, and I think Mayo

too cool for them.

crushed in by those Kerry to me, that Down always and Down supporters next seem to have too many September. Very diplomat- questions for Kerry to be ically I will contain my able to answer.

will find Down a little bit voice except to point out to another neutral suppor-Which means I'll be all ter, who will be quite close



An action shot from the last Down-Kerry All-Ireland final meeting as John Purdy flings out a fisted

art has country because of against the rate It should be possible, I maintain, early in the year, to issue every club - not to mention every county - with a list of dates, places and times at which they will be engaged.

Games must be played to a result on the first time of meeting; draws are the curse of any system you work out; yet, I would allow replays, on consideration, if they were to be exclusively mid-week evening games, and if they did not disturb the next fixture on the list for the winners.

How about some pruning? I should lose no tears to see the junior championships or intermediate ones go. I see no advantage in having the second string of counties getting a run in the championship. Instead, there would be a junior or grade II championship for all those counties who had no senior side.

In hurling, that would be a good championship and worth while as a means of climbing the ladder. In football, it would not exist at all at the moment - there are counties competing in junior competition with their second teams who would not win in that grade even with their first team.

outclassed at top level to take a look at themselves and be honest. Nonetheless, no such championships could be run without some minimum number of contestants say eight.

It would improve the competitive element in those games, and it would cut out the "hopeless cause" efforts of some counties, who stand to gain nothing but a hiding in the senior grade. And it would really hot up the senior grade right from the start, rather than from the half-way stage.

Skimming through these large areas of planning and thought in a short space like this might seem to do the matter less than justice - indeed, I am convinced that it does.

But, there is another point which I must comment on. It mainly concerns the intercounty minor and under-21 championship rather than the other grades, but, indeed, it refers to them, too, to some extent. In a short time now, every county will have lined out for a minor championship first round, or an under-21 first round.

But, how many will have played even a single round of their own domestic minor or under-21 championship. It might encourage some of the counties which are They will not have seen the minors of this year in com-

petitive action of any kind - unless a trial or two and their selection of the county team must depend on last year's form from those who are still eligible for minor; or on the current form in senior ranks - if there is any current form - of the prospective candidates.

A new man who has suddenly sprouted over the winter would have no chance of selection - at least, not until too late. By that time the county might have been eliminated and without its best team in the field.

These championships are, of their nature as age limit championships, worthless as an indication of county material at the grade, since the best will obviously be those with longest experience, and they will be over age next years when the new inter-county minor team is to be selected. It is clear to me, at any rate, that the final stages in these championships should be about to conclude now. They would interfere with the Colleges' games? The weather is too bad? Rot:

The boys are playing - many of them - all the year with their school team and do not mind this kind of weather; and short of making them less effective for their own school team, the benefit of the championship games in their own counties would sharpen them up rather than allowing them to taste boredom.

CORK HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS

BOT THE THREE THE The Cork hurlers, who won the National League last season and reached the All-Ireland final afterwards, cannot face 1970 with any great degree of optimism. Injury, suspension and retirement have played havoc with the team and it will take the county selectors a lot of time to find adequate replacements for key figures in vital positions.

The leg injury which forced Justin McCarthy to miss the All-Ireland final is likely to keep the Passage star out of action for some time. Justin had established himself as a reliable centre-back before the road accident put paid to his chances of playing in the All-Ireland final. But no suitable player has come to take his place in defence.

Willie Walsh, the powerful Youghal hurler, occupied the No. 6 spot in the final and did so very successfully. However, Walsh is needed in the forward division, where his drive and enthusiasm are seen to greatest effect on the forty yards mark. He missed a few games recently because of a suspension, but he should be back to his best form when the championship comes around.

Another suspended player, Tom O'Donoghue, of Sarsfields, will not be there for this year's championship and his absence will be noticed in the full-back line. O'Donoghue received a two years suspension after the All-Ireland final, and

held the post for ten years, announced his retirement recently and thus left another conspicuous gap in defence.

Of the defenders who took part in the All-Ireland final, only Tony Maher, Donal Clifford, Gerald Mc-



Justin McCarthy . . . likely to be out of action for some time.

the Cork selectors now face the task of finding a strong full-back to take his place.

The selectors must also find a man to occupy the left-corner back position. Denis Murphy, who

Carthy and goalkeeper Paddy Barry remain, Willie Walsh is likely to revert to the forward line, although in such an exigency he may have to continue at centre-

back. However, the select-

ors must look to the recent under-21 teams brought the All-Ireland title to Cork. Seamus Looney (U.C.C.), Pat Mc-Donnell (Inniscarra), Frank Norberg (Blackrock) and Mick McCarthy (U.C.C.) are the most promising defenders, but unfortunately none of them is a Tom O'Donoghue or Denis Murphy.

So it seems as if the Cork team will have some acute problems in defence this season. Matters won't be too good in attack either where some players may find it difficult to retain their All-Ireland places. Only Charlie McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Pat Hegarty are certain to occupy the spots they filled so successfully last year. The other three may have trouble convincing the selectors of their worth.

Cork may yet produce a strong team for the championship in the summer, but few Leesiders can be happy with the situation as it stands right now. The loss of Justin McCarthy, Tom O'Donoghue and Denis Murphy is a triple-barrelled blow from which the Cork hurlers may take a long time to recover.

— TIM HORGAN.

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In The News with Bacchus

Newcastle Happy

THERE'S great rejoicing out around Newcastle, south county Dublin, now that former Donegal and Ulster footballer Bernard Brady has set up his own medical practice in the village.

Some time ago Dr. Brady, who is also doctor-inattendance at Croke Park, joined the local St. Finnians intermediate team and will be a key man in their bid to gain promotion to senior ranks in Dublin this season.

Red Faces Galway

hear there were some embarrassing moments down in Galway during Fitzgibbon Cup weekend when U.C.C. objected to several members of the U.C.D. team after the teams had met in the semifinal.

The G.A.A. President Seamus O Riain was in Galway and, although not directly involved in dealing with the objection, he had more than a passing interest since the captain of the U.C.D. team was his son, Jack.

And believe it or not, the Dublin team overcame the objection!

Promotion In Gaelic Park

WITH the new playing the senior competitions Gaelic Park about now, the big news is that the two if they do not acquit themoutstanding junior teams selves very well. of the past few years in New York — Connemara Gaels and Donegal - are this year taking their chance in senior ranks.

They will bring a muchneeded touch of novelty to

season starting in and knowing the two teams, I will be surprised

> Since they are both past masters at producing the surprise guest players, I'm sure that Aer Lingus, too, will be glad of the extra games now available to both teams.



Joe Salmon, the Connemara Gaels star, who will be playing senior division football in Gaelic Park this season.

Finding Seven-A Side Champions

Martin Quinn

WE mightn't have got around yet to holding an All-Ireland club championship, but on April 18 and 19, there will be a novel venture in Dublin when the U.C.D. football club will sponsor an All-Ireland seven-a-side football championship.

It will be a blitz affair, with all games except the semi-finals and final being played on the Saturday, with the remaining games on Sunday.

All 32 county champions were invited and it is expected that the majority will accept especially since it is believed there are valuable trophies etc. for successful teams.

Certainly, Belfield will be a football fans' paradise on April 18, with the best

Seamus Leydon



Bellaghy, Kilbride, New-

town Blues, Dunmore Mc-

Hales, Lurgan Clanna Gael,

Revolutionary New-Type

PEN years of research and development aimed at the production of a super hurley which would be in every way "the perfect hurley", and which at the same time would lend itself to mass production, having an absolute consistent quality and at a competitive price, has at last been achieved. Some of the many advantages this hurley offers are outlined hereunder and will no doubt be of the utmost importance to everyone interested in the promotion of the game in the future.

It is now possible to supply a 32" or 34" hurley which will on average give continuous service for at least two years and Senior and 36" an average of one year. The projected life span of this type of hurley is I believe conservative,

and should be of immense benefit for the promotion of the game particularly at youth level, where the constant availability of properly made hurley is of prime importance. All agree that the present situation is critical whereby the youth even with the hurley subsidisation is without a hurley for at least nine months of the year. The hurley offers many other major advantages over the conventional stick, such as :-

(1) The hurley is manufactured by a patented process of timber lamination, which produces a lightweight hurley of great strength having a unique balance, a super spring, effortless and absolute accurate driving power.

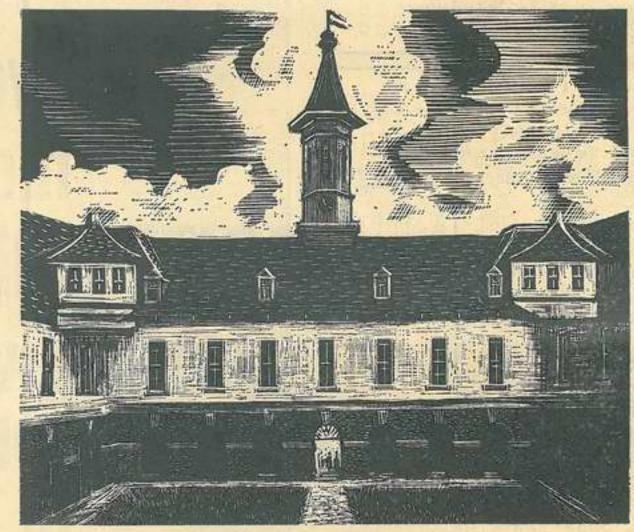
(2) The springing in the

handle is scientifically controlled, and is built in during the manufacturing process, and will always remain constant.

(3) The hurley has a special full length all weather rubber impregnated grip, which completely eliminates slipping in or from the hand, but giving a degree of hurley control heretofore unobtainable.

This hurley will be of great benefit to camogie players due to its lightweight and balance. The price of the hurleys will range between 15/- for Junior size and 25/- for Senior.

An Coiste Iomana has already ordered 1,000 of the new hurleys from the maker, Matt Gartland, Raharney, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

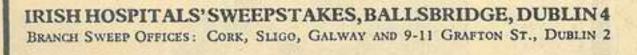


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CLOSING DATE JUNE 2



A recent picture of the newly elected officers of the New York G.A.A. Board.