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Mickey Cole

● DOWN IN SEARCH OF ANOTHER DOUBLE

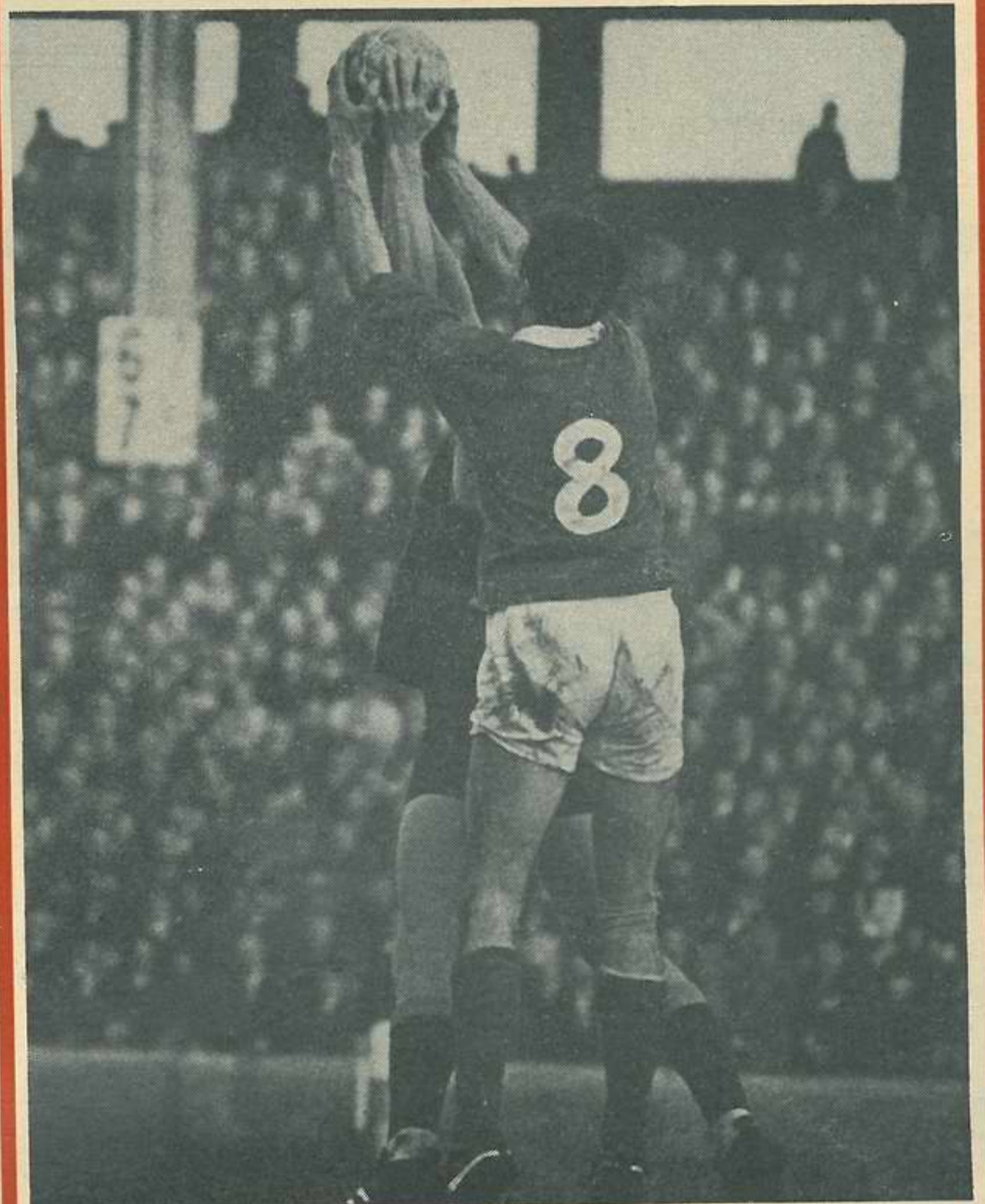
● MICK GLEESON ON THAT AUSTRALIAN TRIP

● A SPECIAL PULL-OUT PICTURE FEATURE FOR YOUNG READERS

● PAT FANNING ANALYSED FROM THE INSIDE

● ANOTHER BREAKTHROUGH FOR ST. JOHNS

● EXPLAINING AWAY THE G.A.A.'s THOUSANDS



P. J. Loftus



SEAN O FOGHLU TELLS US



Where All That Money Goes

The Financial Report of the Central Council for 1969 showed a marked improvement over previous years' reports. Thanks are due to the Executive Council, and its General Secretary, in particular, for such a satisfactory state of affairs.

A depth analysis into the Accounts, grouping the Provincial Councils' Accounts with the Central Council's reveals an excellent picture of the present financial structure of the Association.

Before proceeding, however, to analyse the Accounts, one should be pardoned for suggesting that the Central Council, now that a Management Accountant is to be appointed, should consider publishing a consolidated set of Accounts in future in a more condensed and readable format for members of the Association. Data should be given also relative to the financial position of County Boards under a number of headings.

The Consolidated Accounts for 1969 can be considered over four heads, namely: (1) Gross Income. (2) Profits. (3) Investments in Grounds, etc. (4) Bank and Cash Flow.

GROSS INCOME

The Gross Income of the Central Council and the Provincial Councils can be stated thus: Central Council — All-Ireland Championship, etc. £169,482; Leinster Council £39,923; Ulster Council £23,270; Connacht Council £17,051; Munster Council £39,546.

Total Income exclusive of Income earned by County Boards, Clubs, etc. £289,272.

A conservative Income for County Boards and Clubs, etc., would be around £120,000 for 1969.

It can be seen, therefore, that the G.A.A. has an income of £289,272 at Central Council and Provincial Councils level, and an estimated overall income of £400,000 for 1969. Surely this is an indication of the support given to the Association by its members and it is indeed a wonderful tribute to the drawing power of Gaelic games.

PROFITS

The net profits for 1969 can be set down as follows:

Central Council £50,932; Leinster Council £414; Ulster Council £1,143; Connacht Council £5,798; Munster Council £4,093. Total £62,380.

Total Net Profit after providing for the payments of Capital and Revenue Grants amounting to the staggering total of £70,048.

As grants, in most cases, are an appropriation of profits, in effect the real net profit earned is £132,428 arrived at thus:

Central Council £81,537; Leinster Council £18,217; Ulster Council £6,963; Connacht Council £8,645; Munster Council £15,066. Total £132,428.

An analysis of the Grants payments shows that £37,472 was paid out for Ground acquisition, improvements, etc., and the balance of £32,576 was paid out by way of subvention to subsidiary bodies, such as, the College Councils, Handball Association, Athletics and Camogie. In addition large sums were paid out to organisations outside the Association, by way of subscriptions to deserving causes.

INVESTMENT IN GROUNDS

Croke Park £540,141; Central Council investments in G.A.A. grounds throughout the organisation £273,155; Leinster Council £247,360; Ulster Council £80,350; Connacht Council £30,800; Munster Council £176,444; Other Areas £36,250. Total £1,384,500.

The Investment of £1,384,500 represents part only of the capital cost of grounds, etc. An examination of the Accounts of County Boards discloses that another £747,000 has been spent by the Boards themselves giving a total capital investment of £2,111,500.

Adding cash to a total of, approximately, £900,000 secured by Clubs and County Boards from their own resources, one gets the huge sum of just over £3,000,000 invested in grounds and buildings.

In the whole of Ireland there are some 700 odd Gaelic grounds. There are 1,159 Ecclesiastical Parishes in the country, indicating that there is still a long way to go to achieve the idea of one playing pitch in every parish.

At the apex of this structure is Croke Park, capable of holding an attendance of 80,000 with a total of 23,000 in seats under cover. Next in rank are 12 Provincial Grounds capable of accommodating the more important inter-county games. Third in the grade are 60 county grounds considered more than adequate for county championships.

By far the largest number of playing fields are the modest club grounds around the country, 260 of which are vested in Trustees for the G.A.A. and 367 other non-vested playing fields. The total area of the 700 grounds represents some 5,000 acres.

The entire available surplus income of the Association has been ploughed back into the purchase and improve-

ment of grounds. Hence the present lack of working capital for any further grounds development or other Club projects. Precisely this is the reason why the Central Council decided some time ago to embark on an unique fund raising scheme through the introduction of the Credit Scheme.

BANK AND CASH FLOW

Central Council in cash and investments £5,617; Leinster Council in cash and investments £13,322; Ulster Council in cash and investments £17,000; Connacht Council in cash and investments £7,900; Munster Council (investments only) £2,130; G.A.A. Limited £7,817. Total £53,786. Less Munster Council overdraft £26,741. Net Cash and Investments position £27,045.

An analysis of £27,045 is represented by cash £8,788 and investments £18,257.

It is clear, therefore, that a programme of Club development involving the provision of Club premises and social centres to meet the present need, must be financed on a new basis. £250,000 is urgently needed and in all £1,000,000 is required to carry out the Development projects envisaged over the next 3 to 5 years. Projects planned in Dublin alone will cost £250,000 inside the next two years.

Neither the present liquid asset position of the Association or future annual profits will be sufficiently high enough to undertake this work. Accordingly, intense efforts must be made to obtain investments from Clubs, individuals, groups, companies and others to provide loans at low interest rates for Clubs and other bodies which are affiliated to the Association.

An Association which can show in its Audited Accounts:

(1) An annual income of some	£400,000
(2) A net overall profit in 1969 of	£132,000
(3) Capital Assets valued at	£3,000,000
(4) Cash and Investments of	£53,000

can confidently look to the future, seek £1,000,000 for its Credit Scheme, and assure investors that their investments will be secure.

You reader can help in the great National work of the G.A.A. by subscribing as generously as possible. The Association, which in its wider role, collected £47,000 for the Northern Relief Fund deserves to be fully supported in its appeal to the Nation for £1,000,000.

The Success Of The Talent Contest

By TONY McGEE

NOT in their wildest dreams could Tony Williamson (Down) and Derry Gowan (Cork) have envisaged the outstanding success that the Winter Social Activities would be in their first year of operation. Williamson and Gowan, who masterminded the whole idea, are to be thanked by each and every G.A.A. member (and others beside) for their foresight of thought. Many's a long winter evening in rural Ireland was brightened by these talent contests.

Up north, the various semi-finals and finals "took the province by storm", as a witty Dan McAreavey, Fear a Ti at the Ulster finals said. Proof of this was the packed houses at finals such as those in Down where 700 people crowded into the I.N.F. Hall, Hilltown and in Fermanagh, where over 1,000 paid admission to the Regal Cinema, Enniskillen. The Ulster finals in the magnificent St. Malachy's Hall, Edendork, attracted 750 people, who enjoyed four hours of excellent entertainment.

Down and Fermanagh were

first off with their organisation and Armagh, Antrim, Derry, Tyrone, Donegal and Monaghan joined in the fun at later dates. Only Cavan failed to participate in Ulster. In both the Mourne and Erne counties all clubs took part, but unfortunately this was not the case elsewhere. However, a better response is expected next winter.

In the provincial semi-finals, Fermanagh and Armagh did best and both had a representative in every section of the Ulster finals.

Right from the beginning both Patricia McLaughlin (ballad singing) and Charlie McNally (recitation) were tipped as potential All-Ireland winners. Both vindicated their favouritism and carried off the highest award. The Kilkeel quiz team made it a treble for the north.

Patricia is an eighteen-year-old convent schoolgirl from Lurgan and is a daughter of Eddie McLaughlin, who was a corner back on the first Ulster team to win a Railway Cup in 1942. Patricia, who will do her "A" levels this term holds four Ulster colleges camogie medals

and intends to teach after leaving school. Her mother is a music teacher in Lurgan and Patricia — a member of the Clan na Gael club — has also appeared in opera.

Charlie McNally is well known in the west as a comedian and also for his monologues. He is a 35-year-old fruit salesman and a former Fermanagh junior footballer. He is a member of the Maguiresbridge club and he has broadcast on radio and appeared on T.V.

Gerry Sheehan, Frank McKnight and Colm Murnion made up the Kilkeel team. Gerry and Colm are teachers, whilst McKnight is a drapery manager. Gerry Sheehan is a Corkman and the present chairman of the Down hurling board. He is also a member of Croke Park's Coiste Iomana.

Even though this was the initial year of the competitions, there was little fault anyone could find with the format. However, I'm sure we can expect a few changes before next year's events begin.

One thing that caused some confusion in Ulster was the

composition of the quiz teams in the provincial semi-finals and final. Some people maintained that it must be the winning club from the county that carried its county banner, whilst others maintained that the rules allowed the best three individuals from the county to be that county's representatives.

Something that I feel would be a help in the Quiz Section is the inclusion of a round in which the members of a team would be allowed to confer before answering.

I understand that it has already been decided that next winter the Irish dancing section will be changed from individual to group dancing. Whilst this may be more spectacular, it certainly will set clubs a problem. It is much easier to secure one Irish dancer in most clubs, than to organise a troupe.

It has been a problem to differentiate between the professional and the amateur. This is something that will always be with us I suppose, because it is extremely difficult to say exactly what constitutes professionalism in talent such as

this. It would be a great pity if the ordinary club member was discouraged from entering, because the standard was too high.

At the Ulster finals, I did notice some discouragement — unintentional I'm sure — by some of the adjudicators. In summing up the recitation section, the adjudicator deplored the use of a microphone and said that it should never be used. But surely the size of the hall dictates this and if one's voice is not strong enough, a microphone has to be used so that everyone can hear. Furthermore, to the amateur, even the company of a "mike" on stage can be consoling.

The judges were very professional in their approach but they should have realized that this was a new effort and also allowed for the fact that they were dealing with untrained artists, who, in most cases, were making their debut as competitors.

One gripe I have is that the organizers in most counties failed to seek the publicity that the activities deserved. Only

Down and Fermanagh and, to a lesser extent, Tyrone, sent out advance information on the heats in their counties. In Ulster, we never saw a line anywhere about how the competitions were doing in other provinces, although I believe the local press in some areas did a fine job.

At the presentation of prizes after the provincial finals, Ulster chairman, Michael Feeney, presented Tony Williamson with a plaque in recognition of the work he put into organising the various events. At the All-Ireland finals in Liberty Hall, Dublin, Tony and Derry Gowan also received plaques from the then president, Seamus O Riain, as a tribute for their great work.

Both Tony and Derry were well deserving of these awards and I hope they will forgive me if I be so bold as to make a suggestion — why not rename the competitions "The G.A.A. Talent Contests"? In my opinion, the present title — "Winter Social Activities" — does not spell out plain enough what it's all about.

Eugene McGee reports on a G.A.A. breakthrough

St. Joseph's T.C. Arrive In The Big Time

WHILE the 300 wise men of the G.A.A. were shutting the doors on experimentation in Galway on Easter Sunday, a new football force was arriving on the scene in Belfast's Casement Park.

In the final of the Universities League, St. Joseph's Training College from Trench House, Belfast — popularly known as 'The Ranch' — defeated the many times champions, U.C.D., to win their first trophy for competitive senior football.

It is a strange fact that while Erin's Hope, the team from St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, is well known throughout the length and breadth of the country very few people even know about the existence of Trench House. Perhaps this is because almost all of the students there are

tion of the new university competitions a couple of years ago, Trench House had no competitive outlet for their teams, and perhaps, this is why they were unheard of for so long.

Then in 1969 they won the Eoin McKenna Cup, the competition for first year students, and also reached the final of the universities senior league, only to lose in a replay to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

This season, St. Joseph's were playing with St. Patrick's TC and several clerical colleges in the non-university section of the league, from which they emerged winners, and, with St. Patrick's they qualified for the semi-finals proper, along with Maynooth and U.C.D. from the university section.

In the semi-final, St. Joseph's got their revenge

team weathered the storm and two late points from Down's Peter Rooney saw them safely through to their first senior title. It was a rousing second half which brought a standing ovation from the big crowd for both teams at the final whistle.

Among the outstanding individual displays from St. Joseph's team were those from Tom Quinn and Matt Trolan (Derry); Ray McConville (Down); Pat King (Tyrone) and Peter Rooney, who scored a brilliant first half goal.

The brains behind the fine teamwork and combined movements of the Trench House team was, of course, Jim McKeever, their trainer and coach, who is also the lecturer in Physical Education at the college.

Hard luck story of



Peter Rooney . . . scored a great goal in the Universities League final.

Comortas Peile Na Ghaeltachta

Tá Coiste Peile na Gaeltachta ag rachtáil Comortas Péile idir Ghaeltachta mar a bhí an-uraidh. Béidh an babhta deiridh den Chomórtas i nGaiothdohar, Co. Dhún Na nGall le linn deire seachtaine na Cincise 29ú Bealtaine — lú Meitheamh. I mbliana comh maith tá an Coiste ag rachtáil trí Chomórtas breise, sé sin: 1. Comórtas "Cabaret." 2. Comórtas "Trath na gCeist." 3. Comórtas "An Cailín Gaelach."

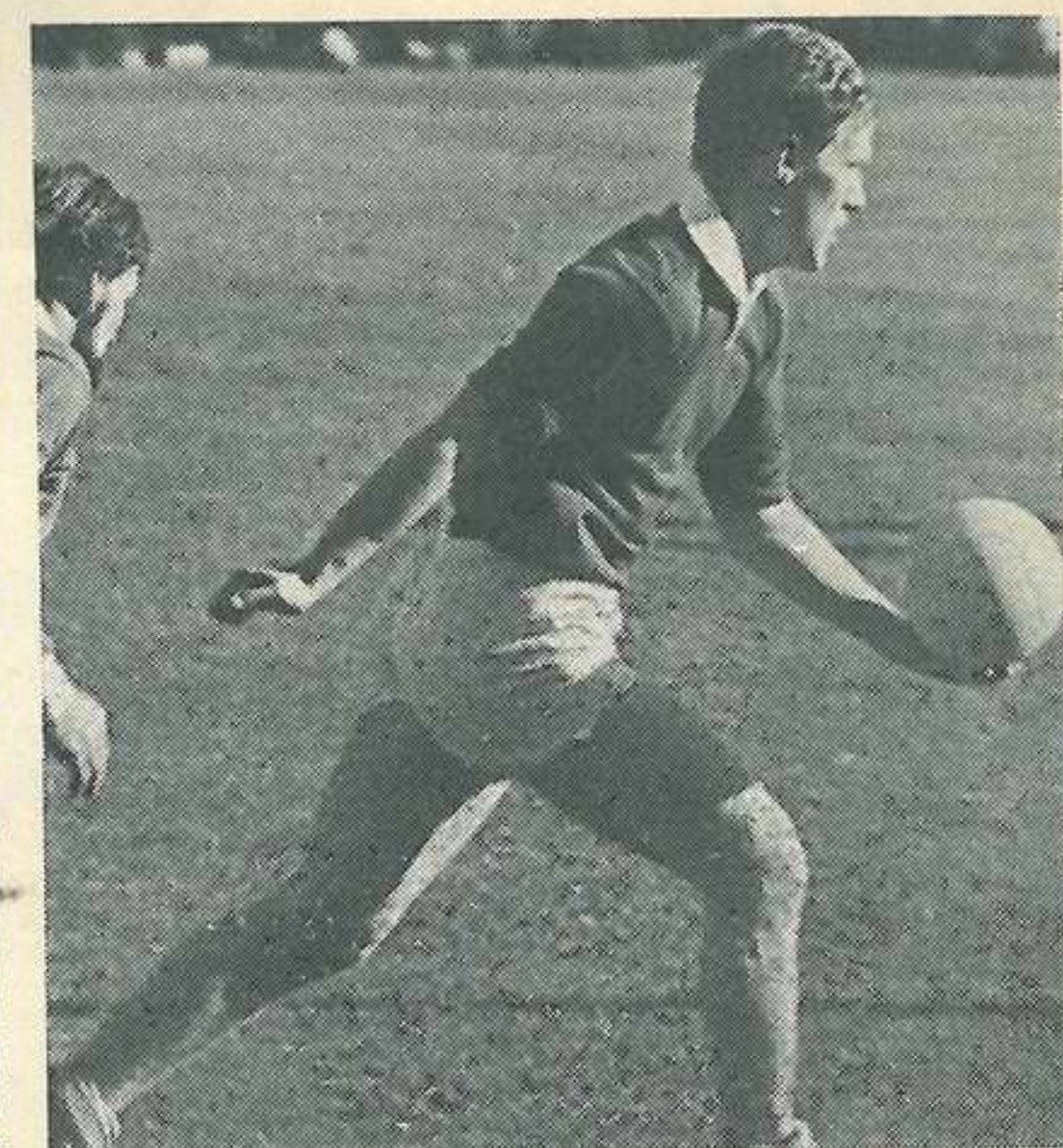
Béidh an chead dá Chomórtas a rachtáil ar an gcaoi cheadhna leis an Phéil, sé sin na babhtaí tosaigh idir na fóirne tá glacadh páirt sa phéil agus na buaitóirí ag dul go Gaiothdohar freisin i gcóir an bhabhta deiridh a bhéas i Amharclann Ghaiothdohar le linn an deire seachtaine céadhna. Béifear ag súil le cailín nó níos mó sa Chabaret, (ach gan iad bheith níos líonmhara nó na buachaillí ann), a mhaireas tuairim is fiche nóimead.

I dtaobh Comortas a trí béidh babhtaí tosaigh sna Condaeithe céadhna leis an phéil, Trath na gCeist, agus Cabaret, sé sin Midhe, Port Láirge, Corcaigh, Ciarraidhe, Gaillimh, Muigheo agus Dún Na nGall.

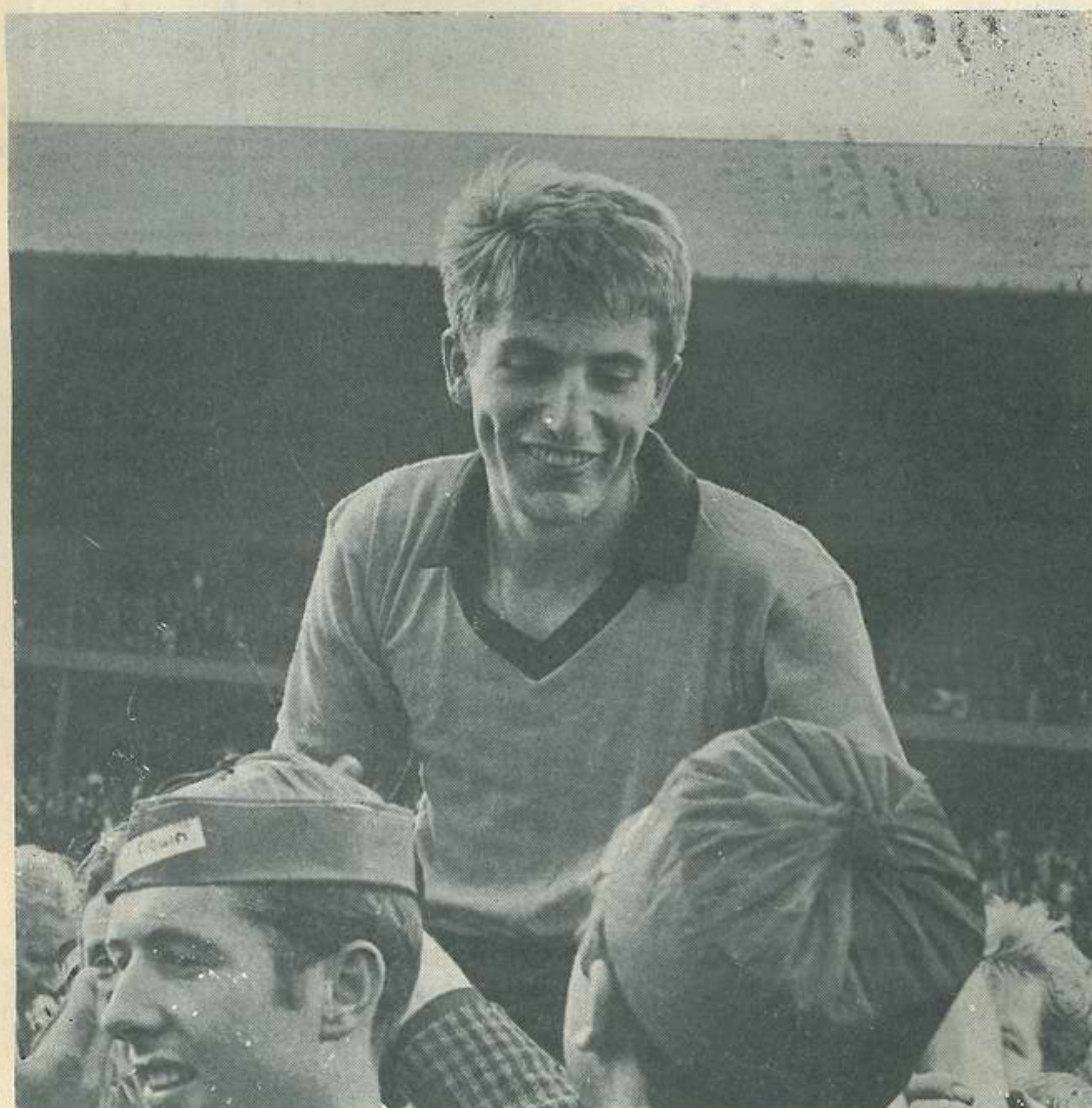
Is é Aidhm an Choiste leis na Comórtasí seo go léir nó teangmháil a chur ar fáil idir Gaeilgíoirí ins na Gaeltachtaí go léir, seans a thabhairt dóibh aithne a chur ar a chéile agus foghlaim ó na chéile chun an Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht a neartú. Anuraidh d'éirigh go hiontach leis an gComórtas péil agus níl aon amhras orainn nó gur mar an gcéadhna a bhéas na Comórtasí breise atá dá rachtáil i mbliana.

Cuireann na Comórtasí seo críoch le Féile Gaelach Ghaiothdohar a bheas dá rachtáil ón Domhnach 23ú Bealtaine go dtí 30ú Bealtaine. Tá an Féile seo dá rachtáil faoi Choiste speisialda, Coiste Féile Ghaiothdohar, Runaí Máire Bean Nic Niallais, Na Doire Beaga agus clúdaíonn sé seachtain iomlán de imeachtaí Gaelach mar dramaí, Céilidhthe, Cuirm Ceoil agus rudai eile.

Tá Bórd Fáilte ag Cló broc-eir speisialda i gcóir na Féile seo. Ba mhaith an rud mar sin dá dtioca libh bhuir gcáirde a mhealladh le seachtain saora a chaitheamh sa Ghaeltacht i nGaiothdohar agus sult is pleisiúr a bhaint as na himeachtaí seo go léir, áit a mhéadh teanga ár dtíre le cloisint acu dá labhairt ag Gaeilgíoirí ó gach áird de Eirinn.



Michael O Sé . . . ag imirt ar tuireann Baile an Fhirtheartaigh.



Colm McAlarney who missed St. Joseph's triumph.

from the Six Counties and graduates from St. Joseph's rarely travel south in search of a teaching job later on.

In recent years, however, St. Joseph's have been taking part in competitions organised by the Universities Council, and, indeed, none of the institutes of higher education has benefited more from the development work of the Council than the Belfast college. Prior to the initia-

over Maynooth and so they faced U.C.D. in the final at Casement Park on Easter Sunday. At half-time, the locals had an eight point lead and looked to be home and dried. But a spirited second-half rally by U.C.D. plus the retiral, with a knee injury, of their centre forward Sean McElhatton (Tyrone) made the going difficult for St. Joseph's and with four minutes left to play, their lead was cut to three points.

However, the Belfast

St. Joseph's successful year concerned Colm McAlarney, who had captained the side all year until breaking his ankle in the Railway Cup semi-final. It was only fitting that acting captain Sean McElhatton should stand down in favour of Colm for the presentation of the Ryan Cup after the game. This magnificent cup, incidentally, was originally presented in 1950 for the then highly popular game between Ireland and the Combined Universities.

Credit Scheme Investments

TWELVE COUNTIES NINETY PER CENT OFF TARGET

THE figures per county issued recently in connection with the Club Development Scheme make very interesting reading. The leading counties, on the basis of total units invested at the closing date for the first draw (£500 prize, monthly), are, as you might expect, the large centres of population — Dublin (292 units), Tipperary (104), Galway (62) — but a different picture is presented when counties are considered on the basis of the amount of their quota reached.

Each county in Ireland has been set a "target" or "quota" of two units per affiliated club (1969 affiliations) and in the race to reach this quota, the Top Ten counties, in order are :—

1. TIPPERARY
2. TYRONE
3. MAYO
4. ARMAGH
5. ROSCOMMON
6. DUBLIN
7. LOUTH
8. DOWN
9. DERRY
10. KILKENNY

These counties range from Kilkenny's 20 per cent of target to a top 51 per cent by Tipperary.

The second group of counties are :—

11. OFFALY
12. LEITRIM
13. GALWAY
14. CARLOW
15. MEATH

and just managing to slip into this section are such prominent counties as Cork and Waterford.

All 32 counties have some investments in the scheme but twelve counties have not yet exceeded 10 per cent of their target and a 'push' is indicated in these. It is surprising to find such as Antrim, Kerry, Limerick and Wexford in this third section.

**A.C.C.
Invest
£500**

MR. Brendan Considine, chairman of the Agricultural Credit Corporation recently presented a cheque for £500 to General Secretary Sean O Siachain as an investment by his company in the G.A.A. Credit Scheme.

Mr. Considine said that since practically all of the Corporation's clients were members of the farming community and supporters of the G.A.A. the board of the A.C.C. felt it appropriate that the Corporation lend support to the Club Development Scheme which has as its objective the improvement of social amenities, particularly in the countryside.



Joe Corcoran

Down Go Hunting Another Double

IF Down supporters are fond of attaching any significance to coincidence then they must be already thinking of another league and championship double in 1970.

For in 1960 and again in 1968 the Ulstermen pre-faced their All-Ireland championship victories over Kerry with wins earlier in the year in the final of the National Football League. Now they are again in the league final and must be strong favourites to win.

Down's path to the league finals of 1960, '68 and '70 has been almost along identical lines. In all three years they had lost heavily in the previous year's championship. In 1959 it was against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final; in 1967 against Cavan in the Ulster Final and in 1969 it was again against Cavan at the same stage of

the championship.

Three men have shared in all these ups and downs in the fortunes of the Mournemen — Dan McCartan, Joe Lennon and Sean O'Neill. Coach to the Down teams during all that time was Gerry Browne and surely this is no coincidence. Many people associated with the emergence of Down as a football force have been idolised at different times but it is doubtful if ever due credit has been accorded to Gerry Brown for his careful planning and his ability to get his players to carry out his thinking on the field.

When it comes to winning League titles Down are only in the halfpenny place (if there is such a place nowadays) in comparison to Mayo. And yet for all their titles it is amazing that Mayo have not appeared in a final since

1954 when they flew home Dr. Padraigh Carney from America for the game against Carlow. In those days this was almost a sensation.

In the West they honestly will not believe you if you try to make a case for Down in this year's final. After all they say, haven't Mayo beaten All-Ireland champions Kerry twice in this year's competition and runners-up Offaly twice also so what more could you ask than that.

And for good measure they whacked the whiz kids from Derry in the semi-final even if it was only by a point in the end.

The trouble for Mayo is that Down will hardly leave it until the last five minutes to win their game as Derry tried to do, so it looks like the first leg of the double for Tom O'Hare and his men.



Dan McCartan

How they got there

DOWN lost to Antrim 0-12 to 1-7; beat Meath 2-8 to 1-7; beat Louth 3-5 to 0-8; beat Louth 3-3 to 0-8; drew with Westmeath, 2-7 each; beat Westmeath 1-13 to 1-7; beat Louth 0-9 to 0-7; beat Kildare, 1-11 to 2-3.

MAYO beat Tipperary, 2-13 to 0-8; beat Kerry 1-11 to 0-12; beat Offaly 1-9 to 0-9; beat Offaly 2-17 to 0-8; beat Tipperary 3-3 to 0-4; lost to Kerry, 0-12 to 0-4; beat Clare 3-11 to 0-5; beat Kerry 0-10 to 1-5; beat Derry 1-11 to 2-7.

John O'Grady Takes A Look At

G.A.A. Writers In Profile

SPORTSWRITING is a pretty antique trade. For as long as people have been running, fighting, jumping and generally playing competitive games, there have been pen-wielding observers to report their deeds to the absentees, to do a little quiet boasting about their correct forecasts or some lame explaining-away of ones that went astray.

The first sportswriter was smarter. He just stuck to the bare facts of the contest and never obtruded his personal impressions. That was the unknown sacred writer who reported on the David - Goliath affair in the Book of Kings. The result was a good one for the bookmakers and made sensational reading in the morning papers of the day.

The tradition of anonymity has been more or less abandoned. When I was younger, the great names in Gaelic sports journalism were people like "Carbery", "Green Flag", "Moltoir" and the like. Now it's plain John D., Mick, Paddy and Val. Of course, the players, officials and the insiders generally knew very well who was hiding under the pen names — Mehigan, Coughlan and the rest. But to the general public, the man was obscured by the pen-name.

The loss of anonymity is a pity, in one sense. The reader nowadays is very conscious that he is getting only the fallible personal views of a known individual. In the older days the reports had an air of impersonal authority and objective wisdom about them. Lack of the agreeable personal writer-to-reader touch was compensated for by the feeling of oracular correctness. This has gone by the board nowadays, when the first person pronoun appears all over the place.

The job is not all glamour, as any of its practitioners can tell you. The endless quest for information, the multitude of 'phone-calls here, there and everywhere; the need to keep a delicate balance between diplomacy and candour in one's writings, the weekly chore of travelling to venues far or near — all these, and others, soon take the gloss off seeing one's stuff in print or one's by-line at the head of it.

A reporter can seldom enjoy a match in the same way as the fellow on the terrace. He is doing too much analysing and mental phrase-making at the time to be able to relax and take it in as an entertainment. He is also jotting down notes that would be indecipherable to anyone else.

And it's usually as he bends to make a note that something dramatic happens in the way of a move, a score or just a plain row. It is a help that his colleagues are



M. Dunne

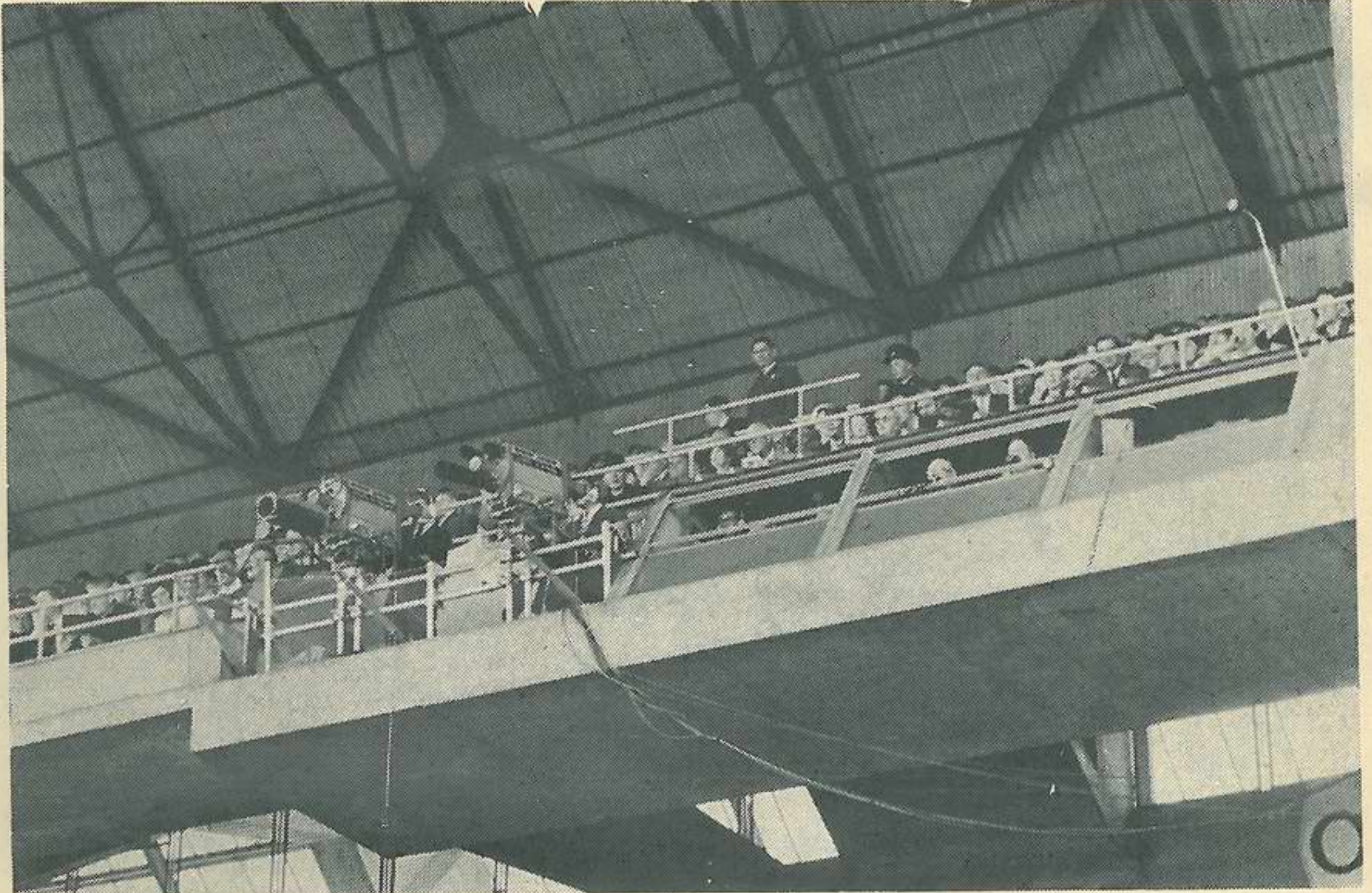


P. Downey

generally alongside him and so he can exchange snippets of information, clean up the matter of "who got that one" or spot a positional switch.

There are those who feel that we would get more interesting reports if the writers were all stationed well apart from one another. Being close together can lead to a sort of "common denominator" sort of agreed impression, whereas wide separation should produce more healthy variation of opinion.

Press-boxes, or the general lack of them, is an old grouse among the writers. Croke Park's new stand has a very fine one, but elsewhere they are more or less non-existent. Sitting behind a side-line table, the writers are at the haphazard mercy of the weather and the movements of the crowd, who often hide the arena from view as they make an early departure along the line.



The Press Box at Croke Park

One of the biggest hazards they face is the touchiness of counties and players. A breach of relations with these could be awkward and lead to a drought in information. That lamentable Tipperary Board v Press row of two years ago is a good illustration. There have been other cases of bad feeling between particular counties and individual writers. But time heals them all pretty thoroughly.

Most of the trouble arises out of rough play and incidents. A writer who ventures to criticise one side more than the other is not going to be popular for a while, however correct he may be. Accusations of bias are a natural outcome. To be fair to the writers, they never claim to be giving more than their own opinions as individuals or that they know more about the game than anyone else.

It is not generally realised what a comprehensive service our national papers give in their games reports. No English paper gives, or could give, a report on every single major soccer game. They select the ones that are of most regional interest in the area served by the particular edition. But in Ireland we expect the dailies to report every intercounty game and this they do, insofar as space permits.

I have referred already to the things that mar a writer's enjoyment of the game. Be he can't enjoy the immediate aftermath, the inquests and debates that rage after the last whistle. If he's from the national papers, he's got to do his stuff more or less at once and get it away to head office.

So he writes under severe pressure of time. In these exacting circumstances, the standard of reporting is very high. The provincial people can relax and reflect, being under no such pressure.

As they are constantly giving judgments on players' performances I think the national writers could for once, submit to a little assessment of their own work. So here goes.

John D. Hickey can, at times, be little florid in style but he has the cardinal virtue of communicating enthusiasm to the reader. As well as that, he is easily the most courageous in voicing a view that could draw both ire and fire.

Paddy Downey's style is the most urbane of the "big four" . . . in keeping with the tone and tradition of his paper, which is in the uppercrust Fleet St. vein.

Mick Dunne I find harder to categorise and, candidly, lacking in personal flavour. Which is not to doubt the

soundness of his judgment of man or match.

Val Dorgan is easily the best of them from a hurler's point of view, since he is more apt to relate his comments to styles and tactics as seen in the particular game. This, of course, traces back to his Glen Rovers days and gives extra weight to his work.

Between daily and Sunday G.A.A. material, there is a vast gulf, in my opinion, and one more to the credit of the dailies. The Sunday's have gone miles too far in aping the more sensational, ink-splashing cross-channel variety. This is a development of the past Decade.

Up to then, you could find sensible previews of the



D. Carroll



J. D. Hickey

day's big games. Now you are bombarded with headlines black enough to announce a World War, at least. I've seen headlines that took up more space than the "story" below. Instead of sane and solid material on the games of the day we tend to get a load of froth.

Just take a hard peep at any of the Irish "Sundays" nowadays and see the miserable proportion of the G.A.A. space devoted to the actual games, by comparison with the amount given to some "topic of the moment." You've got to search to find out what's on.

One practice they have more or less dropped — and no harm — is the article allegedly written by some "name" player; filled with predictable clichés about their "respect for the opposition" and their confidence in victory "by a few points".

Dubtex designs for the '70's



Dubtex leads the way into the exciting new decade with up-to-the-minute styles to suit the most discerning men. Subtly shaped topcoats take top honours in the '70 Collection — the Man-About-Town Coat, the DB Townie Coat (illustrated) and the SB Coachman Coat. These are just a few of the outstanding models from the Topcoat range designed by Mr. Chaudhry of the Tailor and Cutter, London. Two handsome attractions in the Dubtex car coat range are the Single-Breasted and the Double-Breasted Car Coats. A full range of boy's and youth's coats and suits and men's slacks complete the Dubtex '70 Collection.

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Menswear Style

UNTIL recently, menswear must have been one of Ireland's most frustrating industries! The manufacturers were inhibited on all sides by consumer attitudes — traditionally conservative — and a general lack of dress consciousness which kept style standards well behind those of other European markets. Indeed, when it came to Irishmen and fashion, it seemed that never the twain would meet!

However, the Irish Menswear Council set up in 1967 by the textile and manufacturing industries, changed all that in an incredibly short time, for today at least 60 per cent of our menfolk are openly fashion conscious and the other 40 per cent are becoming increasingly so.

BY PETER DALY

The Council which collects and evaluates data on colour, fabric and style trends, brings to Ireland the very best features of current international menswear fashions. Consequently, our manufacturers are producing styled garments comparable to any other country in the world. This was proved recently when the twenty-five Irish menswear manufacturers, who attended the International Men's and Boys' Wear Exhibition (under the sponsorship of C.T.T.) returned home from London, with firm orders in the region of £250,000, with follow up orders in excess of £800,000. When I say that the Exhibition attracted buyers from all over the world, you will see what I mean.

Magee's of Donegal are one of the firms who have been directly responsible for persuading Irishmen to adopt more colourful clothes. Their fabulous tweeds cover a wide range of autumnal colouring, as well as the new range of shades and designs in those lighter greys and fawn beiges so popular even in late autumn. Magee's have indeed put our native Irish tweeds on the international market and their wool/cashmere and mohair lightweight yarn combines firmness and durability with the lightweight character now demanded by the modern Irishman as well as by the international traveller.

Dubtex (clothing) Ltd. are another Irish firm who are also well-known outside Ireland. They have become known as the leading trouser makers in Ireland — in fact "Dubtex" is a household word here. They concentrate, above all on good cutting, without which, of course, a garment will never look elegant or keep its shape. As well as suits, sports jackets and overcoats for adults, Dubtex are also responsible for

Talcraft — comfortable, practical, imaginative and smart wear for boys — age 6-12 years.

It is interesting to note that the Menswear Industry in Ireland is comprised of 60 outerwear — overcoats, jackets, suits and slack manufacturers, backed up by 8 lining manufacturers and 13 mills. I spoke to Mr. S. M. O'Sullivan, Director, Seaford Fabrics Ltd., who make linings for most of the mens trade in this country — and some for export. "In order to keep abreast of the fashion," he said, we must manufacture fabric which is internationally acceptable, and believe it or not the men's trade is also subject to the dictates of fashion."

He went on to say that over the last twenty years there has been a very appreciable change in the type and construction of men's linings, and as well as the fabric, colour is of the utmost importance. "Indeed," he continued "the fact that we export linings is evidence that we are up to date and our plant — we warp, weave, dye and finish our own fabric — is the most modern in the British Isles."

SHOPPING GUIDE

First of all, it is well to keep in mind that men's clothes this year have a long, lean relaxed look... clothes which can be worn

anywhere and which will look "right" in Geneva, New York or Dublin. Consequently, suits have a longer and straighter line, very slightly waisted. Shoulders are narrower and sleeves slimmer, lapels larger and slightly curved.

Sports jackets are again slim-cut — 2 buttoned — with wide rolling lapels. Pockets are set high with deep flaps to give jacket a "long" effect. This is an ideal style for the big checks — high fashion at present — and is also suitable for a single breasted blazer with patch pockets.

The double breasted blazer is cut longer which allows a wider opening to show plenty of shirt and tie.

Trousers this year are more flaired — the flair starting just above the knee. Instead of belt loops the "in" look is a back strap and buckle set below the waist band. Turn-ups are optional, and, it is interesting to note, are not too popular with any of the Irishmen whose opinion I have asked! Incidentally, choose a wide toed shoe to suit this style.

The overcoat may be worn in different forms. (i) The trenchcoat is revived by cutting it as a fitted coat — making it neat and elegant. It should have a long cavalry vent at the back, a wide belt and stitching along the edge. (ii) The fitted coat is ideal for all twilled cloths. Worn with an open and low-set Prussian collar with long points. Prussian collars are really fashionable. The coat should be close fitting over the chest, slightly waisted and slightly flaired

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JOHN DALY

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at the bottom. (iii) The raglan coat so beloved of men has been updated, by slimming down the shoulders and sleeves. (iv) The car coat is another current lancer style. The latter is No. 1 on the fashion list.

The evening suit — always romantic—has changed a lot in the last decade. This year style gives it long, pointed lapels with thin silk braiding along the edges. This style is ideal for black mohair or black velvet. Because it is so simple and underplayed, an elaborate shirt in lace, voile, crepe or linen can be worn with it.

The above are a few fashion pointers to keep in mind when next you go shopping. (And if you need moral support bring the "woman" in your life with you — she will know all the answers).

Of course, to most men buying a new suit is a big occasion and here are a few questions to ask yourself before you make the big decision.

"Will the new suit be suitable for a wide variety of occasions?" "Will the colour blend with most of my shirts, ties and shoes?" "Does it fit properly?" (Most suits are much too big).

The most serviceable suit and one which best answers some of these questions for most individuals is a mid-grey suit with a textured interest . . . a hopsack or a flannel. For the man on a limited budget a plain suit should be a

better buy than a patterned one. NOTE: Never buy a suit unless the trousers fit properly — no matter how nicely the jacket sits.

ACCESSORIES

No matter how good your basic wardrobe is, a careful choice of accessories is necessary to show it off to the best advantage. The style conscious man must build up a wide selection of shirts and ties to highlight his suit, sports jacket, blazer and trousers. Even the man with the limited wardrobe can stretch it very far by the careful use of accessories.

As a general rule, buy dark coloured shirts and bright coloured ties. The main "fashion" idea is, however, to find a shirt and tie with the same basic colour; as long as both of these have the same colour theme you can wear them with almost any coloured suit or sports outfit. In fact, some manufacturers are producing shirts with a matching tie in the same fabric. Blue shirts are often the most serviceable — a plain navy tie, a cream tie or a black tie can be worn with them.

And the last bit of advice is — find a style or colour which really suits you and wear it all the time. It is better not to experiment, just stick to the same look and buy new versions of it, instead of following every latest "gimmick".



This sand-coloured single-breasted suit is from the 1970 range of Crimplene for men. It has a nice heavy-ribbed texture and good style points.

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Liam Campbell Reports

I wasn't at Congress. When I heard beforehand that duty would be calling me elsewhere on Easter Sunday, I was quite disappointed. Because this, to me, was going to be the big one, the watershed for the G.A.A., when thinking would finally be based on the future and not exclusively on the past. In years to come, I felt, we'd reminisce and say "The real change for the better came in Galway back in 1970." God help my innocence!

The worst episode must have been that extraordinary decision about the voting of delegates at Congress. Surely, by the very definition of the word, a delegate is one who is delegated to represent the views and opinions of the county that sent him to Congress in the first place. These views and opinions should be made known very clearly to the delegates before they set off; a special meeting of the County Board is the way to do this, with each motion

for Congress being voted on and a decision reached. It would be interesting to know how many county boards instructed their delegates on how to vote at Galway... I doubt if there were many.

But this is missing the most alarming aspect of the affair. By the vote at Congress, it appears that a delegate may vote any way he likes! Presumably this means that a man may vote against a motion proposed even by his own county. I know there is a precedent for this, but I don't feel it's a good idea.

With this type of thinking, Jack Lynch could tell his constituents in Cork that he intended doing one thing if returned to the Dail, and then go off and do the exact opposite. Neither Jack Lynch nor the Dail would have much respect after this, and the same might happen to the G.A.A. freelance delegate and Congress.

You might as well announce out straight that the Easter weekend will, in

future, be devoted to a trip for the lucky ones to an interesting and often entertaining debate, with the final voting depending on each individual's reaction to the colour of the proposer's hair, or his taste in ties, or even his accent.

The whole thing is grossly unfair to those county delegations who go to the trouble of voting according to the wishes of their countymen. Maybe I'm making too much of the issue, but it seems another example of the slobbery way of doing things that is the curse of the Association, and it's hard to justify it as democratic.

My heart really goes out to the members of the Rules Revision Committee. Here they were, a bunch of knowledgeable football

men, invited (invited, mark you) to see if they could offer any suggestions about improving the game. They came from every part of the country, and they worked hard at the job. Some of their ideas may have been hard to agree with, but they must have been made with good reason... imagine saying that Sean O'Neill or John Dowling or Weeshie Murphy, just to mention three of them, don't know anything about football.

But the whole set of recommendations was shot down in flames. All right, I'd say, if we were going to have to live with them for five long years, but a trial period of one year was allowable. Yet the changes didn't get even the courtesy of a trial! If the members of that ill-treated



"Weeshie" Murphy

committee never accepted another invitation again I wouldn't blame them... would you?

The funniest comment I heard was in an interview with a delegate who had voted against the larger square, or parallelogram or rectangle or whatever it is; he was against it because it would be impossible for referees to administer the rule. In the name of heaven, why?

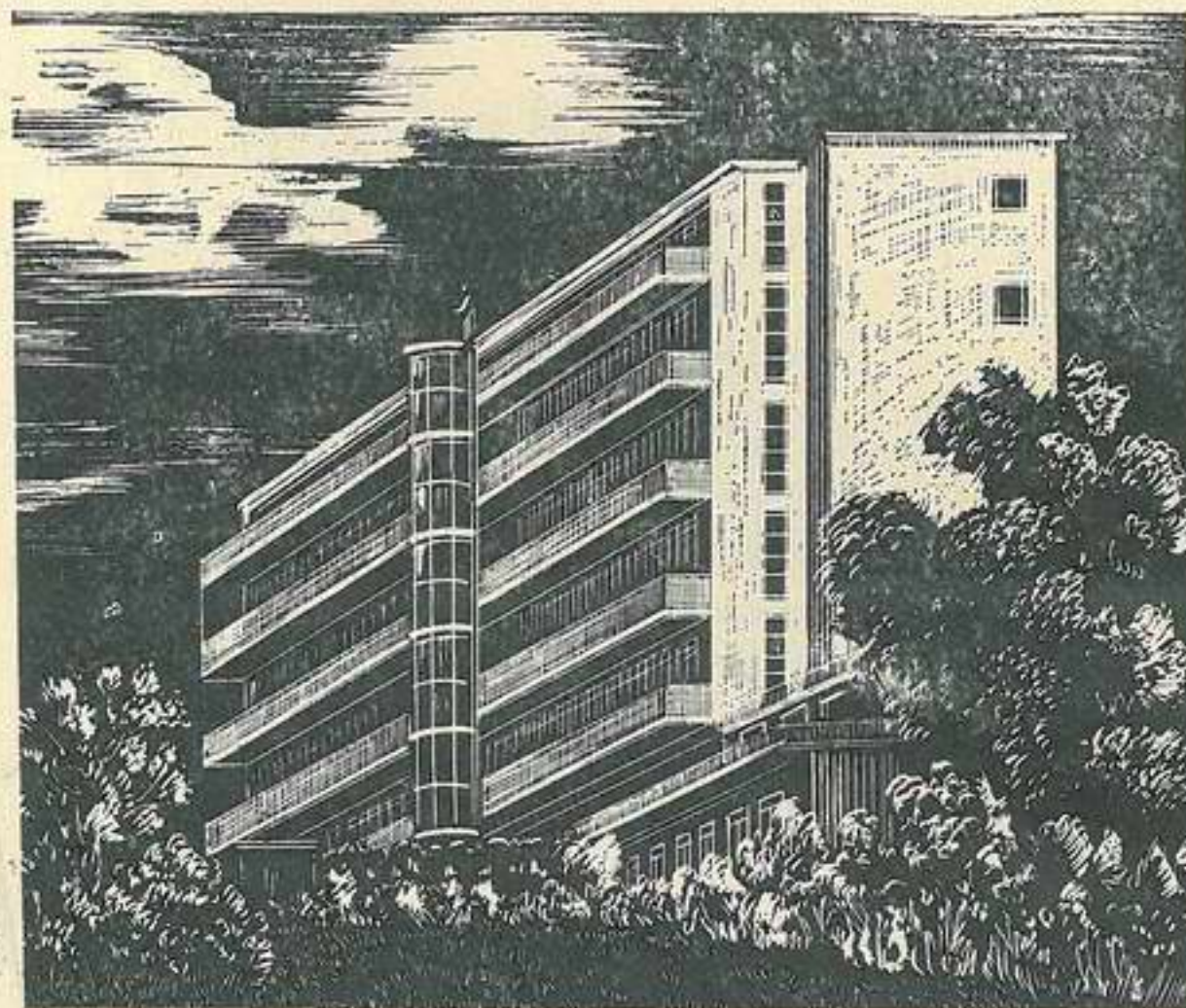
The acceptance of an eighty-minute game for the bigger occasions means nothing at all, since it is hardly a playing rule. No, I think the suggested chan-

ges were worth a fair trial, and now we really are stuck with the present trend towards negative football for at least five more long years, during which time two World Cup soccer series will be on our screens — in colour!

Finally, how can you justify voting against the handpass? Don't say it is an innovation: after all, Kerry won sixteen of their All-Ireland titles while the handpass was legal. Could it be that we're getting afraid to change anything at all? Pat Fanning has a tough job ahead of him right enough.



Paddy Ryan and John Dowling... their suggestions were rejected.



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Dublin And Longford Go On Trial

THE meeting of Longford and Dublin in the first round of the Leinster senior football championship at Mullingar on May 17 is of more than ordinary interest to the keen student of football. Both teams are very debatable quantities at the present time, but for very different reasons. Dublin have to all intents and purposes a new team. Of the old guard of the 'sixties, only Mick Kelleher, Jimmy Keaveney and Shay O'Connor are left. The remainder have been recruited from the under-age ranks of Dublin club football, an area of football where it is very easy for a young player to get lost in the wilderness.

It is an unusual Dublin team in that its sternest critics are its own supporters. Despite a promising run in the league, the ordinary Dublin man still has no time for this outfit. Maybe it is because there is no Heffernan, Freaney or Whelan on the team, or maybe because the once mighty St. Vincents, who once had fourteen players on the Dublin team in a

league final, are now represented only by Jimmy Keaveney.

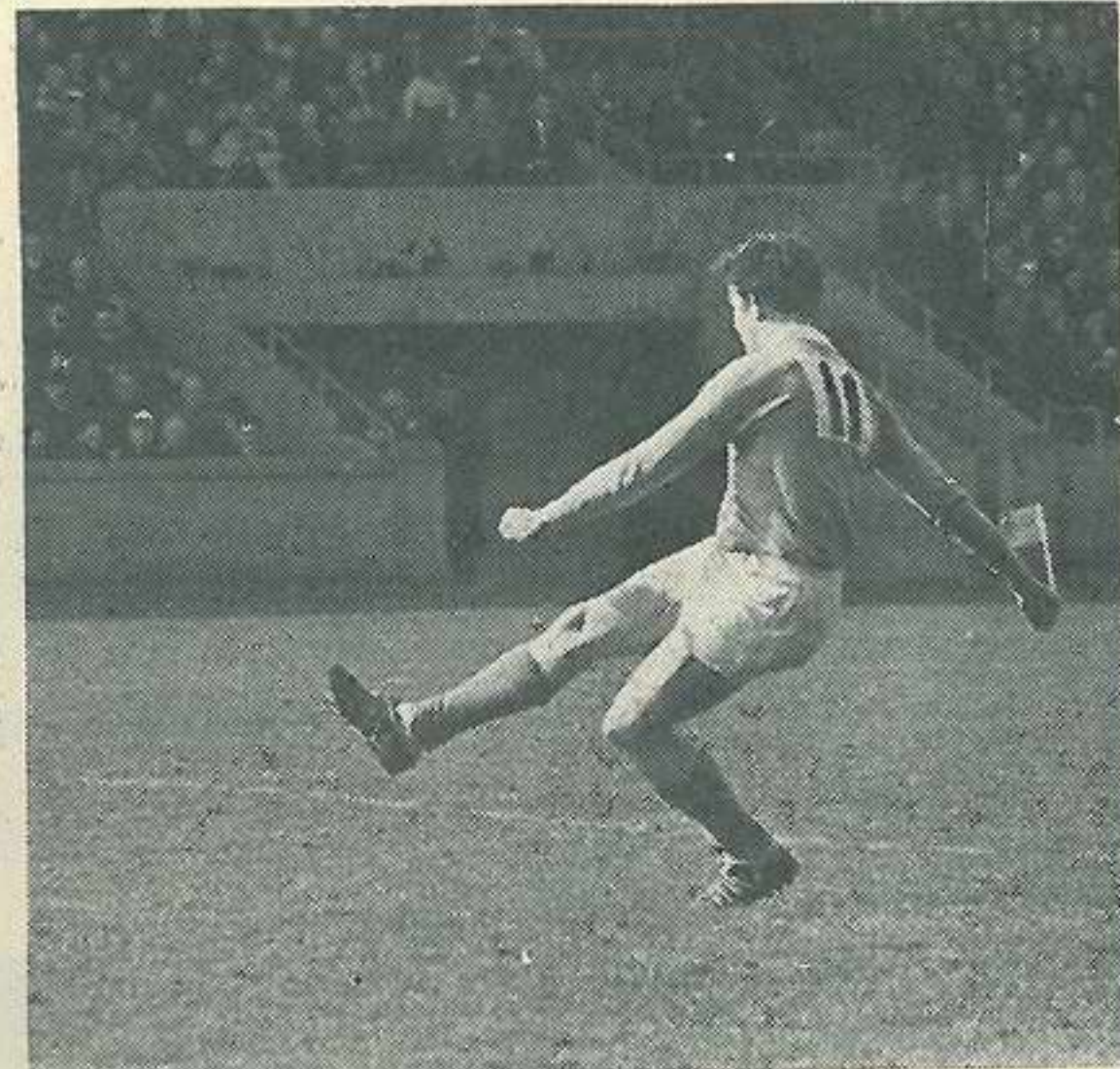
Whatever the reason, this present Dublin side has a long way to go before proving itself. And yet, on closer analysis, there is evidence unmistakably, of great potential among the present panel of players. When they commenced training for the first time as a group last October, under Kevin Heffernan, they started at the very bottom of the scale.

Then gradually, they be-

gan to move up with three successive league victories over Monaghan, Armagh and Westmeath, none of whom admittedly took a great deal of beating. Nevertheless these wins gave the young Dublin players the impetus to put more effort into their homework, with such good effect that they should have beaten Louth in their divisional semi-final, instead of drawing with them. In the replay they failed, as they had in the drawn game, through inexperience.

That was on March 24, and since then the homework has been continued without a break. Since last October these Dublin players have been attending training on Tuesday and Thursday nights, as well as on Saturday afternoons. That's an awful lot of training in any man's reckoning and must bear fruit in teamwork and combination. A longtime Dublin problem of too much club activity cutting across the training of the county players has been largely solved by the players this year agreeing to give preference to their county preparations.

Of course, all this preparation will be useless if the talent is not there, but, in Dublin, they have few



Jimmy Keaveney . . . one of Dublin's old brigade.

when they won their only Leinster championship, several players were generally believed to be on their last chance, but it is a safe bet that many of these will again wear the royal blue against Dublin on May 17.

It is a strange fact about Longford that they never achieved anything noteworthy since that Leinster success of 1968, despite the fact that they have practically the same panel of players available. This year they departed from the League at an early stage and remained idle for over two months.

However, they have been training since the middle of April, with former player Mickey Kelly. Whether they left it too late in starting or not, only May 18 will tell.

Mick Higgins has the distinction of having coached a team to Croke Park for an All-Ireland semi-final for the past three years — Cavan in 1967 and '69 and Longford in '68. Since he is no longer in charge of Cavan or Longford his chance of a four-timer has gone.

On the score of experience, Longford have the edge over any other Leinster county. Larry Gillen, Brendan and Pat Barden, Mick Hopkins, Jimmy Flynn, Tom Mulvihill and Sean Donnelly should be clever enough now to get

themselves out of many awkward situations in a tough Leinster championship game and Longford will be banking heavily on this for their meeting with the younger and definitely faster Dublin players.

It is an unusually interesting first round game, with both teams going on trial but for different reasons. For Dublin, it is a test of their inexperience; for Longford it is a test of their experience. The fact that the game is fixed for Mullingar is a major boost for Longford, since this venue is practically home ground for them, while, at the same time, it is not a lucky venue for Dublin.

Yes, May 17 in Cusack Park, Mullingar, should be a very interesting afternoon, indeed.

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Mick Hopkins

worries in this respect. There is an abundance of young talent in the city and only a small share of it is in training under Kevin Heffernan. Of the newcomers, perhaps the four players on the panel from the progressive north-side club Raheny are the best example of the new-look Dublin team.

For pure football skills, you couldn't ask for better than David Hickey or Pat Leahy, while Pat Gogarty, the former Belcamp star, and Kevin Hegarty have that other vital attribute for championship football—physical toughness. The same can be said for wing half-back Pat O'Neill, who has improved out of all recognition during the past twelve months.

On the other side of the scale, there is Longford. Even their most ardent supporter would not claim that youth is on their side this year. Two years ago,



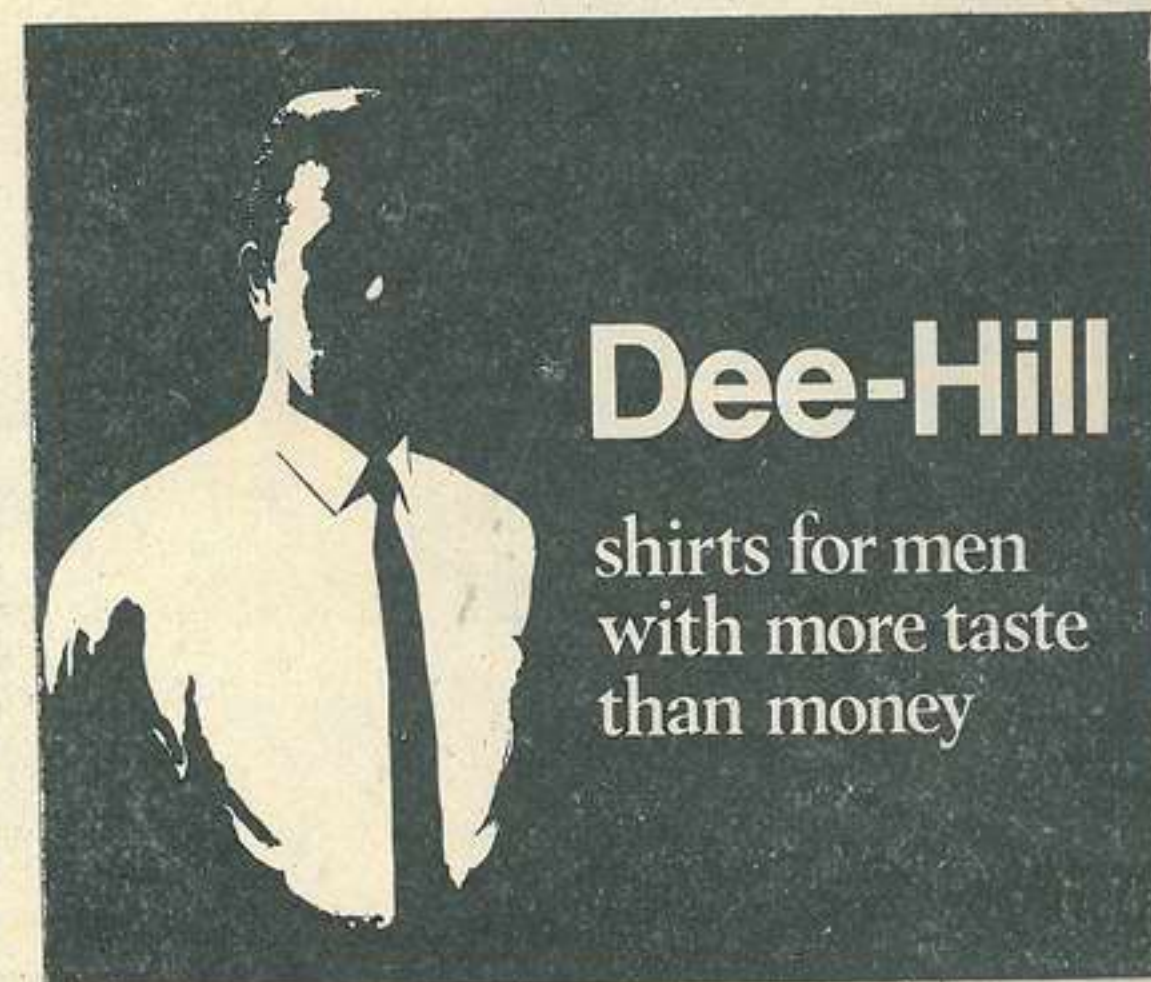
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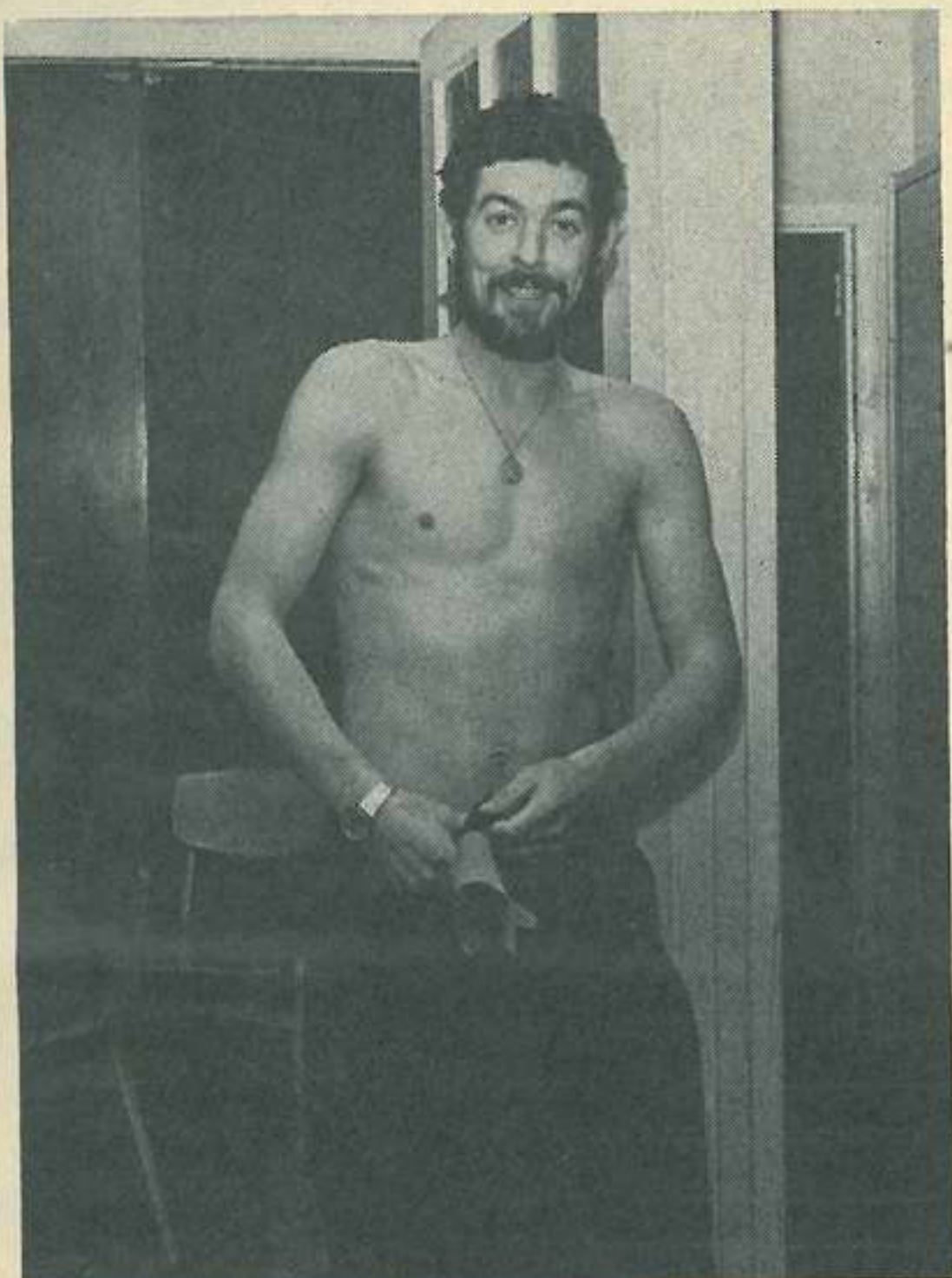


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Danny Kelly

Danny Kelly is a 25-year-old tailor from Downpatrick and his ready wit has often been a great help to the Down team. He won an All-Ireland medal in 1968 and hopes for another one this year.

John Quigley is the third member of the Quigley family from Rathnure to star for Wexford hurlers and is easily distinguished by his flaming red hair. He also plays football for Wexford. Martin is an employee of the Agricultural Credit Corporation in Harcourt Street, Dublin.

John Murphy is 22 and plays with the Newry Shamrocks club. He works in the Town Hall, Newry and is a nephew of the Down secretary T. P. Murphy.

Pat Henderson is 27 and a employee of Kilkenny Design Workshop. A county minor in 1960, he came on to the senior team in 1964 and played at centre half-back in Kilkenny's senior All-Ireland victories of 1967 and last year.

John Horgan . . . a 19-year-old member of the Blackrock club, who played in the All-Ireland minor hurling finals of 1966, '67 and '68 and seems set for a lengthy stay on the Cork senior side.

Jimmy Duggan from the Corofin club will be one of Galway's main hopes when Connacht championship time comes around. Jimmy works in the National Bank in Galway. Here he is seen receiving treatment for an injury.

Aidan Richardson was captain and midfielder on the

Sligo minor team beaten narrowly in the 1968 All-Ireland final. A player of fine physique, he is now securing his place on Sligo's senior side.

Pictured here having a chat are Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry) and Mick Hopkins (Longford), both of whom are teachers in Dublin and also former classmates in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Hopkins plays with Clonigh and O'Sullivan with East Kerry and The Spa.

Kerry defenders Mick Morris and Paud O'Donoghue Morris will next month be sitting for his final engineering examinations at U.C.C. O'Donoghue, a B.Comm. graduate of U.C.D. is a vocational teacher and is also a keen follower of horse and dog racing.

Justin McCarthy, from Passage, broke his leg a week before last year's hurling final and has not played since. However, he is now back in training and hopes to be hurling again before very long.

Joey Maher, is one of the few Irishmen ever to become world champion in any sport. He won the World Handball title in New York in 1967 and will be Ireland's main hope of a world title when the championships are held in Croke Park next October.

Tom Colleary, who plays alongside his brother Jim on the Sligo team, is a student of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, while Jim is a student in All-Hallows College.



Aidan Richardson



Pat Henderson



John Murphy



John Horgan



John Quigley



Donie O'Sullivan and Mick Hopkins



Justin McCarthy



Jimmy Duggan



Joe Maher



Mick Morris and Paud O'Donoghue



Tom Colleary

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USED CARS:

How To Find A Bargain

Before you set off on the long, weary trail to purchase a used car, there are a number of points to bear in mind, especially if you are a novice at the business. Firstly, it would be wise to dispel the idea from mind that all the glittering automobiles that you inspect are bargains. The simple fact is that not all used cars are such.

Granted you will now and then come across a real bargain but this will probably be after you have viewed quite a few. The majority of sensible people do not part with their cars while they are running well, except for some exceptional reasons. But then, as well, there is the minority who do. They trade-in because they simply require a change or wish to constantly have a current model.

Another piece of valuable advice is that unless you are an expert at detecting



One of the more reliable used car bargains . . . a Mercedes.

hidden faults and blemishes in a car, take somebody along with you who is. He will ensure that

you will not be easy prey to some smooth-talking salesman who convinces you that he is doing you a favour.

Before you set off to purchase the care of your dreams, know to within a few pounds how much you are prepared to pay. If you fancy something in the "banger" class then don't fork out something like £200. Young enthusiasts buying their first car often start off with something in the £40 - £60 bracket and this is probably the best way of learning the problems of motoring.

However, if your figure is less than £200 then keep an extra £50 in reserve. At that level you're probably going to need it, maybe not in the first six months, but fairly soon afterwards. Apart from the price, have a clear idea of what size, h.p. rating and even which model you want. If you have made up your mind before entering the sales-room don't allow anybody to talk you into another model.

Top of the grades is the twelve-month to two-years old car which are to be found in established garages and are usually traded in by the garage's regular customers who buy new cars at roughly 2-year intervals. There is a big significance in the one-owner car. In nine cases out of ten you can be sure that it has been carefully driven, and it is probably more important that it has been handled carefully on the road, than that it has been serviced carefully — even

in the best garage. As well as that people who change their cars regularly normally keep them at their best.

The one-owner model represents a big difference from anything else in the used-car line and naturally it commands the highest price. It is usual to pay about 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the new-car price for a model like this and usually such cars are good value at that. That is assuming that it is not more than two years old. In its third year it will drop another 10 to 15 per cent.

Books, some large ones, have been written on this subject without exhausting all the possibilities, so a page leaves somewhat less scope. I might suggest some reasonably good buys, like 100 E Anglias or Prefects (cheap), 105 E Anglias (between '60 and '64), B.M.C. Minis (after '63), Minors, Fiats 600's (after '62). There are a few rare ones too, like the Fiat 1800 ('62 and '63), the old Mk. 2 Consul (a great car), Rovers of nearly any age, Mercedes and Citroens.

However, before you commit yourself always ask to see the car's tax book and decide as nearly as possible how much you intend to spend. If you are considering a particular model, which is recommended, get as many owners' experiences as possible of it before you make up your mind and don't buy something that you did not intend to purchase. Your job should be less hazardous if you follow these rules.

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A Man Who Has Worked With Him For Many Years Describes:

The Heart and Soul of Pat Fanning

It gave me considerable personal satisfaction to know that Padraig O Fainin had been elected to the Association's highest office. But, it also gave me satisfaction of a less selfish nature because I am convinced that the best man has been chosen, the man who can and will, if permitted, do most for the Association in the next three years. I knew O Fainin, by reputation, even before I ever got to directly confront his impressive personality, and still longer before I came to work with him in some of his varied fields of activity for the Association.

What manner of man is he? Electric. Bring him along anywhere something has to be done for the G.A.A. and plug him in — he whirls into instant action, keeps on at top speed, and never switches off or breaks down unless some extrinsic agency switches him off or causes the current to fail. If you were to forget to switch him off before you went to bed at night, there is no doubt that he would be there, fresh as paint and glowing, still on top voltage, in the morning.

Like most things electric, he creates a local heat that can be felt by all those close enough; it is a great consolation in cold and hard times, stirring the blood in those who are chilled; it seems superfluous and a little annoying to those already perspiring.

There are conductors and non-conductors. To the conductors, he passes a powerful and constant charge, expecting that it be passed on through other conductors. In the non-conductors, he sets up a resistance, generates an amount of heat and sometimes fire. But, none can really be unconscious of his presence or without regard for his activities and influences.

Fanning has a long term of allegiance behind him; his personal sincerity and conviction is without question. He is absolutely convinced that the G.A.A. is the vehicle in which he must make his contribution to his country's welfare; and he is absolutely convinced, likewise, of the necessity to give such service and dedication to his country, to uphold its integrity, to forward its sense of purpose, to maintain its identity.

He is, therefore, in the perfect mental position for his job — there will never be a doubt about the validity of the Association's work and its importance in Fanning's mind. He is an ally to be sought and an opponent to be feared, because of this certainty.

The greater part of his life has been tied up with the G.A.A. He would admit that almost all his leisure time has been devoted to it as the years went by, and that a stage of things has now arrived when he takes on a job which is of greater significance for the welfare of the country as a whole, in a part-time unpaid capacity, while continuing in his local government position for the salary which keeps himself and his family in reasonable comfort.

He lives in one of the front rows of houses on the huge housing development in Waterford city; the area is named the Cork road, and it is not without some ribbing from his colleagues that Fanning — the dyed in the wool Waterford man — has had to confess to such an address.

It is a neat and comfortable house, immaculately kept by his wife, a woman of extraordinary charm, and a living lie to the modern thesis of total emancipation. Her joy in her husband's success on the way to the top has been her reward; if it were not so, Fanning could not be where he is today.

On the days of the Congress and those immediately after, the Fanning house was inundated with visitors. Clubmates from Mount Sion — men who can take it as hard as it is going — wept openly. It was not just something else in the run-of-the-mill to these fellows: it was the fulfilment of the destiny of a club which has set itself standards of dedication and drive and leadership seldom equalled.

There is a family atmosphere, a set of loyalties forged in neighbourhood friendship and school camaraderie, and given substance in adulthood among the members of that club. That Fanning — one of them — had reached the top, was not just something else.

In his hurling days, Padraig was a sound enough performer, and certainly would be classed more in the role of hard-worker and tight-puller than in the role of brilliant open hurling, which he played no small part in fostering among the Waterford stars of the 'fifties and earlier 'sixties.

There are stories of the pep-talks he gave those teams before and at half-time in crucial matches, which would make your hair stand on end. There was little doubt, even at the time, that while the hurlers had the spirit and the skill and the ability to carry any obstacles, that Fanning travelled with them as a kind of bottled injection of extra life and extra realisation of their obligations to their people — an elixir to be drawn on when things were toughest.

Most people who know Padraig O Fainin (he prefers his name to be used in Irish, though most people seem to think of him as Pat Fanning) have the impression that they scarcely recognise the man of today in the memory of the man of twenty years, or even a dozen years ago.

He made a few fiery speeches in those days which got him a national image of a supreme reactionary — if you would equate the idea of reaction with strong pro-Ban views and a firm conviction of the essential requirement of the national commitment as basic to the G.A.A. This image pursues him to the present day. Ask a hundred ordinary G.A.A. men what the predominating characteristic of Padraig O Fainin's thinking is and you will get an answer: "A fanatic on the Ban", as a facile summary from 90 of them.

Does it do him justice? I think not. I think that his career gives him a right to a deeper thinking of his make-up. He thinks so himself. I asked him and he said that it was curious that men like himself were branded as reactionaries because they held firmly to what seemed to them

he was inclined to find himself in situations he would well have wished himself well rid of. Not any more, though.

I watched him under searching television interview recently, as I have watched him performing under pressure in many areas of the Association's work over the last few years, and noted the quite remarkable difference of approach. Men who were known to like throwing him a fetching question or to make a slightly aggravating remark just to draw the red-head into action, have long been finding it a waste of time.

He has been able to squeeze out a smile and toss the ball gently back to them with a disarming: "Well, that is a leading question; but all the same, I take your point and will answer it as best I can"



Pat Fanning (right) after Waterford's All-Ireland minor victory in 1948.

the clear essence of the Association's being, even though they were among the acknowledged leaders in progressive thinking on how to modernise and re-orientate G.A.A. approaches today to a changing world.

I can see his point: he feels a little aggrieved that to one wing of the Association, he is branded a fanatic and a reactionary, while to another he is an over-progressive.

Some have said: "He'll be another Murray," and left it at that, presumably making that sufficient condemnation. Murray was strong on the Ban, on the national commitment, on the image of the G.A.A. as a leader in cultural preservation at all levels — not just games alone; he was sure that the Association called on most of its energies from those who saw commitment to it as a service to the whole nation rather than to the games only.

Fanning will hold that view exactly, I should say. If you feel it is wrong, you can have your viewpoint; but, you cannot avoid the fact that Fanning's point is as valid as yours, and that it has the greater weight of tradition behind it.

But Murray was also a man of new ideas — most of the better new ideas in the Association can be traced back to his instigation. In that, he placed a great emphasis on hurling and on the planning of policy. Rest assured that Fanning will be the same: hurling is his first love, and policy has been his deepest concern for some six years past. If there were aspects of the Murray image which caused some members of the Association to rebel against it, there will be many of the same aspects in Fanning's image.

Not, indeed, that I consider him a carbon copy of Murray. He admires him, and he may have patterned, unconsciously, some of his own developments on Murray, but, he has his own view of things, and there is no doubt that his backing of his view can be firm, if not overbearing, when he sees the need for it.

The weakness of Fanning to some of those who knew and worked with him over a long number of years was his quick and sometimes over-vigorous reaction to criticism of himself or his adopted view; he can still be quick in jumping to the defence of club or his county.

But, not any longer in the manner of the earlier years, in which he was in deep with both feet before he gave himself time to cool off; in those days,

What does the Ban mean, in Fanning's view of the G.A.A. Quite frankly, as far as I know, very little in practical terms. He is a man who seldom stops to consider it, in practice, for he is always too busy working to broaden the wider horizons of the Association's work.

His concern is with the future and the positive mood and positive method with which the future must be approached. He has, I think, a wholesome suspicion of those who seem to approach every crisis and every difficulty which the G.A.A. faces with only one attitude: "Why not get rid of the Ban and then everything will be alright."

In a nutshell, I would incline to put it like this: Fanning is not obsessed, or even over-preoccupied with the retention of the Ban at any cost, half so much as some seem to be obsessed with its abolition at any cost. What he has said to me once on this subject seems valid: "Why cannot all of us who have a thousand things in common and only one point of difference, get together with total determination to work on those thousand things for their improvement, rather than have to harp on the one point of difference."

I believe also that he is a bit put out at the fact that everyone is so concerned, of a sudden, about his attitude to the Ban: he cannot see why, as President, his views should be so heavily weighted on an issue of basic principle and General Rule — a matter which is for the Association as a whole to consider at the appropriate times and decide to retain or to abolish.

Where are Fanning's strengths? I think one of the things he has going for him is that he is the man who has broken, at last, the long sequence of teachers in the Presidency. Dr. Stuart apart, the line stretches back almost ad infinitum. The teaching profession, perhaps as no other, engenders the conservative and the careful attitude to things.

It is only natural, after all, that most teachers must be sound and steady men, middle of the road in most of the things of life, neither given to excess in sticking with the past nor in reaching imaginatively towards the future. They are, by the exigencies of their calling bound rather tightly to the poetic description:

"Be not the first on whom the new is tried,
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

Fanning has the chance of showing more imagination and daring than the teachers might

have felt temperamentally able to do. It is well within his capacity to do so, for he has always been a man of firm convictions once he has studied a situation and taken his stand. No half measures.

Will he rush into dangerous waters because of this enthusiasm of his for progress? I cannot see that happening any President to a serious degree within the present structure of things in the Association, in any case. But, neither would I fear that Fanning would rush in where he should not, even if he were in dictatorial command.

He has been too long at the top, too long on the Policy Committee not to be able to distinguish what is possible from what is impossible, too long thinking and worrying about the Association's path into the future. Last of all, he is too intelligent to make major blunders.

His brilliantly flashing mind is at once his most striking feature and his most double-edged asset. No problem is too complex no train of thought too difficult: he can tune in, in an instant, on the wavelength of any discussion he joins.

But, because he often gets ahead of the spoken word, he will sometimes leap across steps in an argument, leaving lacunae unfilled; people sometimes misunderstand that as arrogance or prejudice or an overbearing attitude, or they simply say he talks too much. But, I would rather have Fanning with his openness and his frankness than the canny listener who may be assimilating it all, or who may have nothing behind an intelligent facade.

The strong point of the new President, in my opinion, is as it should be in that office, based in the larger view — on Association policy and the direction of its movement forward — rather than in the minutiae of petty administration. He was always a man who held the spirit as even more important than the rule, vital though the rule was.

But, I have seen him scratching over a rule or its application, though I have never seen him in doubt about a general attitude of the Association or about his own view on broad issues of principle. I would say, in fact, that he has the breadth of vision and the depth of understanding which is the real quality of the top leadership.

Most people know that Padraig O Fainin is a prodigious worker. He has a dynamic physical drive, a great unending store of fresh vigour which makes it impossible for him to rest easy when something is happening around him. It is no secret that he has hardly given his health a fair chance (his doctor must have the "screaming ab-dabs" from his intransigent view of doctor's orders) but he seems to thrive on it. His bouncy gait and compact build could mean he only retired from play a year or two ago.

But, with all that work, he is not the type who has everything neatly compartmentalised. He is a copious note-taker — as would befit one who has been for many years a contributor at some length to the Waterford News and Star — but, I don't think he can always find the notes when he needs them.

He does not have the mind or the view of things which the good secretary possesses; for his maximum efficiency he would always need to work in close alliance with a good secretary. But Fanning will be as good as any one who ever held the position in projecting the Association's image and ideal.

He is a fluent talker, and, though there were those who feared he would make a too heated performer for television at one time, he is now a cool and self-possessed man before the cameras. He is a great believer in the improvement of the press relations and the public relations of the Association and has said that he will do his best to bring the necessary professional expertise to bear on their improvement — if he can.

In the list of things which Fanning has discussed with various interviewers as his priorities for his term of office, he has laid emphasis on the necessity of giving the organisational structure of the Association a professional touch.

He shows a deep appreciation of the fact that everything must be tip-top in execution in present day circumstances. But, his Association's base will be, he says, always the amateur. The dedicated individual is the one on which the club and the superstructure will have to be built and maintained. In this, he sees no anomaly; he says: "That's how it will be in any form of human endeavour; and the last to complain is the dedicated individual himself."

That is very much how Fanning sees himself, probably; and, it is the kind of attitude which caused him, down the years, to drive himself beyond reasonable or acceptable limits, and to expect almost as much from others about him. Most of his enemies, if enemies they can be called, are those who were unwilling to keep up the pace Fanning set.

In such a position, you have only two things you can do: you can admit your own inadequacy in the light of the other's demands; or, you can detract and backbite, in the hope of self-justification. Some will, inevitably choose the latter course. While Fanning is President there will be many tried in the fire of his insatiable appetite for work.

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THE SUNDAY NEWS

Tony McGee Reports From Belfast:

St. John's Club

There have been many milestones in the life of the St. John's club, Belfast, but by far the greatest, in the eyes of the present committee, has yet to come. But come it will and in the very near future, too. Within the next few weeks a new social centre will be opened within the confines of Corrigan Park on the Whiterock Road, which has been the headquarters of the "Jonnies" since the mid-fifties.

The men behind this club — which was formed in 1929 — are facing the seventies with a realistic approach. They realise that the future of the club depends entirely on keeping the members together . . . this applies especially in the case of the younger generation of members.

The social centre, which is now ready for its first big night, is built with pre-cast concrete and covers an area of 3,000 sq. ft. It has a well-appointed entrance hall, a TV. room, a main hall, kitchen and various other rooms available for meetings etc. The main hall will be used for social functions, table tennis, basketball, squash, talent contests etc.

It is also hoped to have a small bar — again for the use of club members only.

"Our main aim is to provide a greater variety of interests for our members. We are aiming at an Irish culture centre generally, in which we can have everything from Irish social nights to Irish plays," said post office official John Gough, who has been secretary for the past five years.

An elaborate banquet has been arranged for the opening night. Two chefs have been booked and a dinner — complete with silver service — will be provided. Cabaret and dancing will also be part of what looks to be a "night of nights."

The cost of this new venture has been in the region of £8,000 but this is only Phase 1 of the plans that the St. John's committee have drawn up. Next year, Corrigan Pk. will be closed completely and a new pitch laid. This will be completed with the help of the Antrim County Board and will cost approximately £6,000 and will take nearly 18 months to finish.

A stand in the park, which has been a target for vandals down the years, will also be re-roofed and the dressing rooms underneath will be modernised. This will take another £3,000.

"There are a lot of things that we would like to do,



Sean Burns . . . captain of St. John's championship winning football and hurling team, pictured here with his wife.

but they are not just possible at present," chairman Andy McCallin told me. "On the success of the social club will depend a lot of our plans for the future. We would like to have a centre similar to that belonging to the Kilmacud club and I would love to see a handball alley in Corrigan," he said.

Experiments can continue

QUITE a lot of people did quite a lot of cribbing afterwards about all the things that the delegates to the Galway Congress didn't do, and the principal criticism was directed at the failure to anything concrete about the suggestions put up by the Rules Revision Committee.

By OLD-TIMER

Now, in my humble opinion, it was unfair to the same Rules Revision Committee to have their findings put before this 1970 Congress in such a take-it-or-leave-it way. In all the circumstances it would surely have been much wiser to have asked the Galway Congress to approve of experimenting, at various levels, with all the suggested Rule changes through the coming year, in every county.

Then, when everyone had seen all the changes, and had made up their minds as to what innovations they favoured, or didn't favour, as the case might be, the whole matter of these playing-rule changes could have been brought back to Congress next year, and we could have dealt with the whole matter fairly and squarely.

But, although that opportunity was missed, what really was disheartening, was the chorus that went up after Congress about the work of the Rules Re-

vision Committee being entirely wasted, and the whole football scene being left bogged down through the next five years.

Now that is ridiculous nonsense. No matter how bad or how good we may think the rules are, or are not, we all accepted them until now, and we were all pretty well content with the football they provided through the past 25 years.

In the second place, what prevents those who favour a change in the football rules from going ahead with the experiments? I could be wrong, but I believe that, if a club wants to really draw the crowds, it has only to organise a football tournament incorporating all the suggested rules-changes — straight pick-up, restricted solo run, bigger parallelogram, 13-aside, the lot, and a few such tournaments would soon test whether the amendments will make the game more spectacular, and more popular.

And such practical demonstrations might even suggest amendments to the amendments, and lead to a really practicable revision of the playing rules next time round.

Two failures of Congress I did find a bit disappointing, however. One was the failure to straighten out the whole business concerning the automatic suspension of a player sent off the field.

As the Rule stands, a player is automatically suspended for a month, even if he is sent off by mistake, and I have seen more than one such case of mistaken identity in my time.

Surely the organisation of the whole Association is sufficiently advanced by now to set up disciplinary committees at local Board, County Board and Provincial Council level who could meet once a week — when necessary — and deal with all cases of players sent off on the previous Sunday in all or any games under their jurisdiction.

The other matter that should have been cleared up and wasn't, was Rule 29 — the "foreign dance" rule. Now, in case everybody else has forgotten, the basic purpose of this Rule is to encourage Irish dancing. Last year, "old time" dances as well as ceili dances were permitted at G.A.A. functions.

The trouble there, basically, is a matter of definition. To me, an old-time dance is essentially anything such as the Viennese Waltz, the Valetta, the Military Two Step, that had been in vogue before my time. But when I came to discuss the matter with members of the next generation, I found that, to them, fox-trots, slow waltzes, Rhumbas and 'the like', which were being denounced from the pulpits when my dancing days were starting, were not only looked upon as old-time — I think they

believed all such dances dated back to Noah's Ark.

Now to my mind, a far more practical approach to Rule 29 would be (a) to stipulate that a certain proportion of dances at every official G.A.A. function should be ceili dances; (b) every club running such a function should be encouraged to set up practice ceilis to teach our own dances properly to their members.

Now the camogie people, at their Congress, dropped their 'foreign dance' rule altogether, but this doesn't mean that they have lost their idealism. Ten days later, their Leinster Colleges Council held a coaching course at Mountmellick, and each evening, as a wind-up to the day, the instructors led the kids in a short ceili dancing session.

There is a very big moral there for us in the G.A.A. If we want ceili dancing, it will have to be taught by us! — and don't ask me to do it. I can't do the 16-hand reel too well on the crutches!

FOOTNOTE . . . I know we're an amateur organisation and we only play for the love of the games, but who would ever believe it, reading about how worried all the counties concerned were when it came to the matter of financial arrangements for the League semi-final and so forth. Or is it now merely a case of "it's money makes the mare go."

Get New Social Centre

On the playing fields, St. John's are well known throughout the country. They are presently Antrim dual champions, having won both the hurling and football titles last year. But this is nothing new to them. They achieved this feat four times before and, in 1956, not only did they win the senior hurling and football championships, but also the senior hurling and football leagues as well as eleven other titles!

Formed in the Beechmount and Broadway areas of Belfast in 1929, St. John's first collected the hurling championship in 1934 but had to wait until 1945 for their initial football crown. O'Donovan Rossa and themselves were the big guns in the 'fifties but, from 1959 until 1965 (inclusive), St. John's held the senior football cup as a 'prisoner' at Corrigan Park.

It was during this spell of greatness that the "Jonnies" committee realised that at club level, there was something lacking. So they set about organising a Top Four competition between the football champions of Antrim, Down, Armagh and Derry. With the help of the St. Molaise club, Irvinestown, they expanded this into the unofficial Ulster club championship and secured the Guinness Cup as a prize. From this excellent idea has now grown the official All-Ireland club championship.

Another thing that the "Jonnies" felt was missing in Antrim was an annual presentation of awards. And again they took this task upon themselves and have carried it out successfully for the past five years.

The cost of running a club of the magnitude of St. John's is high. Corrigan Park alone costs them £1,300 per annum to run, and they have a special committee to raise finance. They even have their own debt collectors to make sure all members pay their annual subscription. Car rallies, guest teas and other functions organised by the ladies committee, and their annual outdoor week (it will be held next month) — during which they still run the Top Four competition — all help to raise funds.

Like all famous clubs, there are notable personalities in the St. John's camp. Their vice-president is 75-year-old Bob Foley, who joined the club, a matter of months after its formation. A former "Hall of Fame" award winner, Bob is famous amongst the older stock of the G.A.A. in Antrim.

Andy McCallin has been chairman since 1954 with the exception of one year. Andy, who is father of county will-



Martin McGranaghan . . . Antrim's left full-back in last year's All-Ireland under-21 final.

o-wisp Andy Junior, is the driving force at Corrigan Pk. A forthright man, he lives, sleeps and eats Gaelic games. St. John's owe a lot to him for their present strong position.

County team manager, Tommy Hall, because of county duty, hasn't much time these days to spend at Corrigan Pk., but he still is an enthusiastic "Jonnies" member, and has done a lot for youth in the club. Incidentally, Tommy has a celebration of his own coming up next month.

St. John's players and county teams are synonymous. I'd say at least 95 per cent of their adult players have worn the county jersey at some time. Four of them — Andy McCallin, Gerry McCann, Din Joe McGrogan and Martin McGranaghan — won All-Ireland under-21 medals last year and their full back, Eamon Grieve was a reserve on the Ulster football team this season.

At present, the club runs 10 teams and, on Saturday

mornings, they organise games for the 11, 12 and 13-year-olds of the district. Almost all the St. John's players graduate from the juvenile grade right up to the senior teams and off-hand, I can think of only three who did not begin their career with the "Jonnies."

Secretary John Gough, holder of a Dr. McKenna Cup medal, joined the club from St. Gall's. Hugh Murphy and John Maguire, both Fermanagh men, went to Corrigan Pk. when the Morans folded in 1965. Murphy threw in his lot with Antrim then, but Maguire kept his connections with the Erne County.

The club, which has a present membership of around 200, is growing every day. "We get lots of parents asking us if their young sons can join, but unfortunately many of these boys are in the 10-12 age group and there is no official competition in Antrim for them," said John Gough.

Corrigan Pk. is situated on the Whiterock Rd., which joins the Falls and Springfield Roads and circles the infamous Ballymurphy Estate. The recent troubles in this area did not affect the club nor did the riots of last year. Their wooden clubrooms were burned down last year, but this was due to an electrical fault and not to arson.

Although St. John's had its grassroots in the Beechmount area, members are now spread out over greater Belfast, with quite a few of them living in the Anders-town and Stewartstown districts of the city. Down the years, families have played a big part in the life of St. John's and none more so than the Gallaghers. Seamus, Herbie, Henry, Eugene, Mickey, Eamon and Pat are all current playing members.

But no article on the "Jonnies" would be complete, without a special mention of Seanie Burns. Thirty-year-old Seanie, like so many St. John's men, an Ulster Brewery employee, carved a special niche for himself in the annals of the Antrim G.A.A. last season. He captained both his club's hurling and football sides to victory in the senior championship and became the first player ever to achieve this wonderful feat.

As a sample of his prowess with a hurley stick, I'll quote a Tipperary man: "Sean Burns would walk on to any hurling team in Ireland."

I would like to pay a special tribute to Andy McCallin and John Gough . . . without whose willing help this article would not have been possible.

Exciting Times Ahead For Handball

JOE LYNCH is the absolute idealist in so far as we can apply the term to handball. Joe is the reign-

By CLARACH MacEOIN

ing Secretary of the Irish Handball Council, a position he has graced with distinction for close on 20 years and he is likely to do so for as many more if he wishes. There is no doubt but that his business acumen and drive to get things done have contributed substantially to the advancement of handball.

The Annual Report from Joe Lynch on the progress or otherwise of handball, never fails to achieve

widespread acclaim and, this year, despite his many commitments in connection with the World Championship, was no exception. Needless to say these same championships are the priority of his report.

He enthuses over the fact that the games are being played in this country and sees them as the opening for widespread revival of interest in the game. In turn, Mr. Lynch has called on handballers everywhere to help in promoting the games and the construction of the new court.

And, the clarion call has gone out to the G.A.A. clubs who failed miserably,

when a request for funds was made a few months ago. It was envisaged that the response from each club would be in the region of £5, but the actual average figure was 1/4 per club.

Leadership was another theme that dominated the Annual Report. Indeed, it would appear that in the near future the Handball Council, either independently, or through the G.A.A. administration will have to appoint one or two full-time organisers. This is based on the Secretary's assertion that, in some counties, the game is not organised at all and, little or no effort is being made by G.A.A. committees to rectify the position. A full

time organiser seems to be the answer, who could also be utilised in counties where handball is dependent on the efforts of a single club.

As for handball in the 'sixties, Joe Lynch opines that on a general basis considerable progress was made. He places particular emphasis on the introduction of competition at national level for players under 14, 16 and 21 years and, also for players over 40 years of age.

As a result of these developments, there is now a full competition structure at national level, which eliminates the big age gap that existed in former years. The Willwood Sports Foundation played a

big part in realising this achievement. Likewise, the Gael-Linn organisation has come in for particular praise, for the generous financial assistance given for the annual Gael-Linn competition.

When this event was initiated in 1953-'54, a total of 160 players took part, whereas, the present entry is in the region of 1,200. Other factors contributed to the success of the 'sixties, notably the introduction of 40' x 20' courts, the National League and inter-club championships, grants from the G.A.A. for capital investment and Ireland's participation in the World Championships.

Well, work has commenced on the construction

of the new Court for the World Championships and, in less than four months time, handball will have a home to be proud of. What a difference it will be from the conventional court, with its concrete back-wall, where only the spectators in the first row can see every aspect of play.

In the new Court, the back wall and side walls will be composed of glass, so that spectators will have a clear view of every aspect of a game. This will surely give handball a new dimension, not to mention the fact that it will then be a ready subject for television purposes.

There are certainly exciting times ahead for handball.

The Importance Of

MORE than 65 per cent of Irish cars have one or more damaged or dangerously worn tyres. Nine out of ten casings exchanged for remoulds are worn completely through, far beyond the limit of safe road adhesion. These were the startling, and very disquieting findings of a recent survey carried out in this country into this vital aspect of road safety in particular and driving in general. It was the existence of such an unfortunate state of affairs, so potentially dangerous to life and limb, and undoubtedly one of the prime causes of road accidents, that inspired the holding of Tyre Safety Week.

Sponsors were the Irish Tyre Distributors Association and the tyre manufacturers.

One of the objectives of the Association is to consider and make re-

commendations to Government officials, tyre manufacturers and other interested persons "on all matters which, in the opinion of the Association, are for the benefit

and the safety of the public as tyre users."

The Week was organised with the willing support and co-operation of the motor trade, tyre dealers, motoring organisations, the Road Safety Association, the Gardai and the Department of Local Government.

Motorists were encouraged to have a thorough examination carried out of their tyres. To make it as easy as possible, garages throughout the country provided free tyre-checks. Colourful display material

was also widely distributed to call the attention of the motoring public to this facility provided for their convenience—and indeed their welfare.

A free competition was also held, the very acceptable prize for which was a year's supply of petrol.

National Tyre Safety Week was the result of an intensive and hard-hitting national advertising campaign carried out by the Association. Keynote of the initial phase of this campaign drawing attention to the dangers of

faulty tyres was the slogan: "A Bald Tyre is a Killer."

The laudable objective of the week-long campaign was spelled out by Mr. M. J. McNulty, President of the Association, at the International Tyre Safety symposium which was held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dublin as a preliminary to National Tyre Safety Week.

great deal of relevance for everyone who drives a motor vehicle in Ireland today.

For instance, Mr. Tom French, senior tyre designer with Dunlop U.K., says: "We in tyres think that as one of many engineering components on a car or truck, the tyre plays an exceptional role in making the vehicle safe and comfortable. Apart from its negative role — of not failing or disintegrating — the tyre makes two major contributions towards viable vehicle operation — it provides comfort, freedom from fatigue and suppresses noise."

RIGOROUS CHECKS

Nowadays the designer of the primary mechanism, the vehicle, carries out rigorous checks on the safety aspects of the secondary component, the tyre.

The tyre industry is now equipping itself with sophisticated equipment to simulate road surface disturbances into the tyre and to measure how effective are various tyre constructions in reducing the bad effects.

Discussing the big improvements that have taken place in important aspects of tyre/road adhesion over the past decade, he sums up the wet adhesion situation as follows: "Our aim is to get the word 'skid' out of the language for all tyre types — to get it into italics in our dictionaries — as obsolete as some of the nineteenth century words relating to mail coach operation."

Mr. McNulty said: "National Tyre Safety Week will attempt to highlight the fact that worn tyres can kill, whilst at the same time encourage the motoring public to remedy the situation by availing of the special tyre services available throughout the country during this particular time."

OBLIGATION

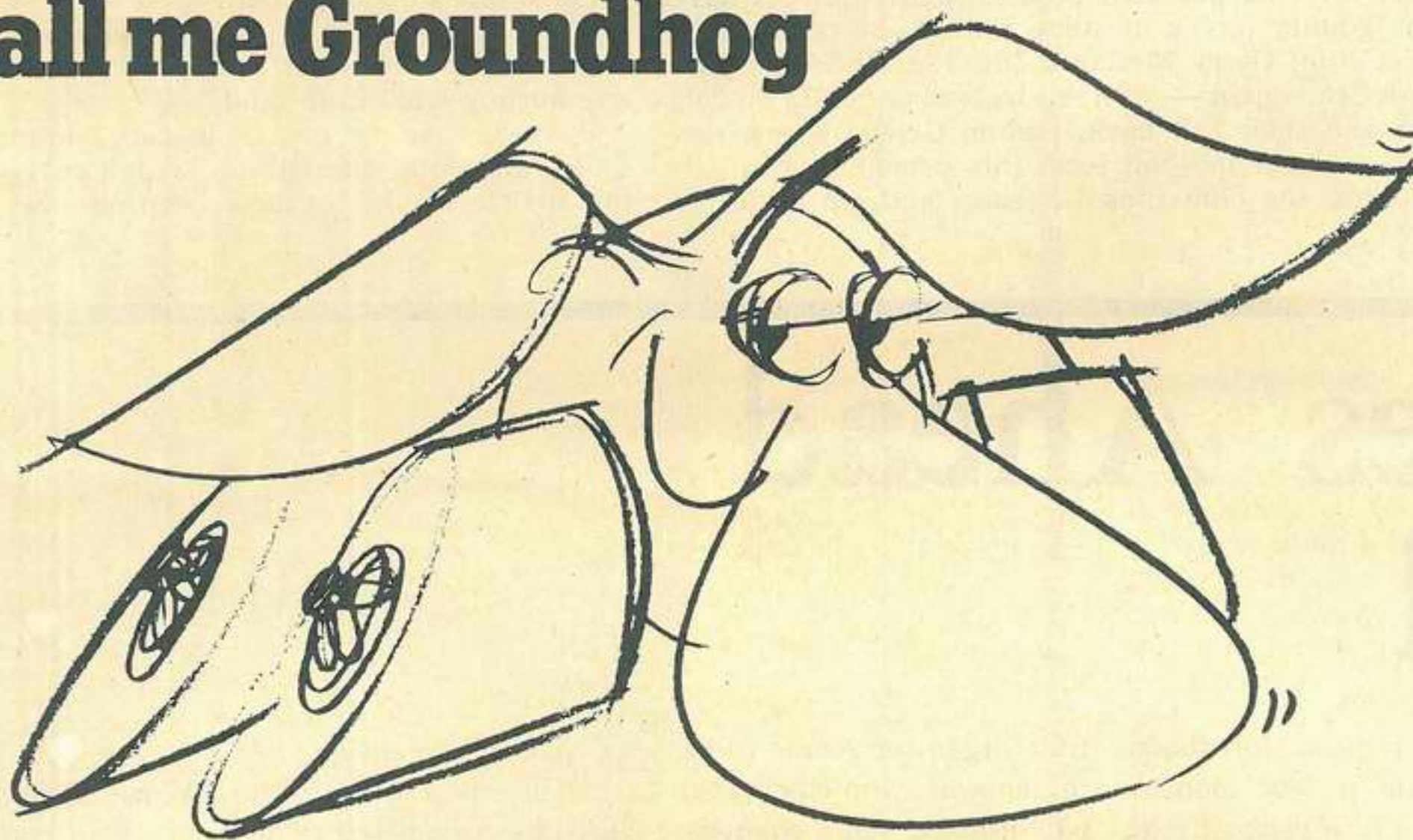
He stressed that they who are involved in the tyre industry, "selling a product on which the lives of our customers may ultimately depend," had a serious obligation at all times to keep themselves informed of the latest developments within the industry, and to listen and learn from those most qualified, "in order that our customers — the motoring public — may ultimately benefit from our advice."

In fact, more than 600 people attending the symposium, one of the largest gatherings ever in the Irish motor industry, heard some of the leading figures in the world tyre business giving their views and advice.

The views of these experts, who came to Ireland specially to lend their support to the National Tyre Safety Week, have a

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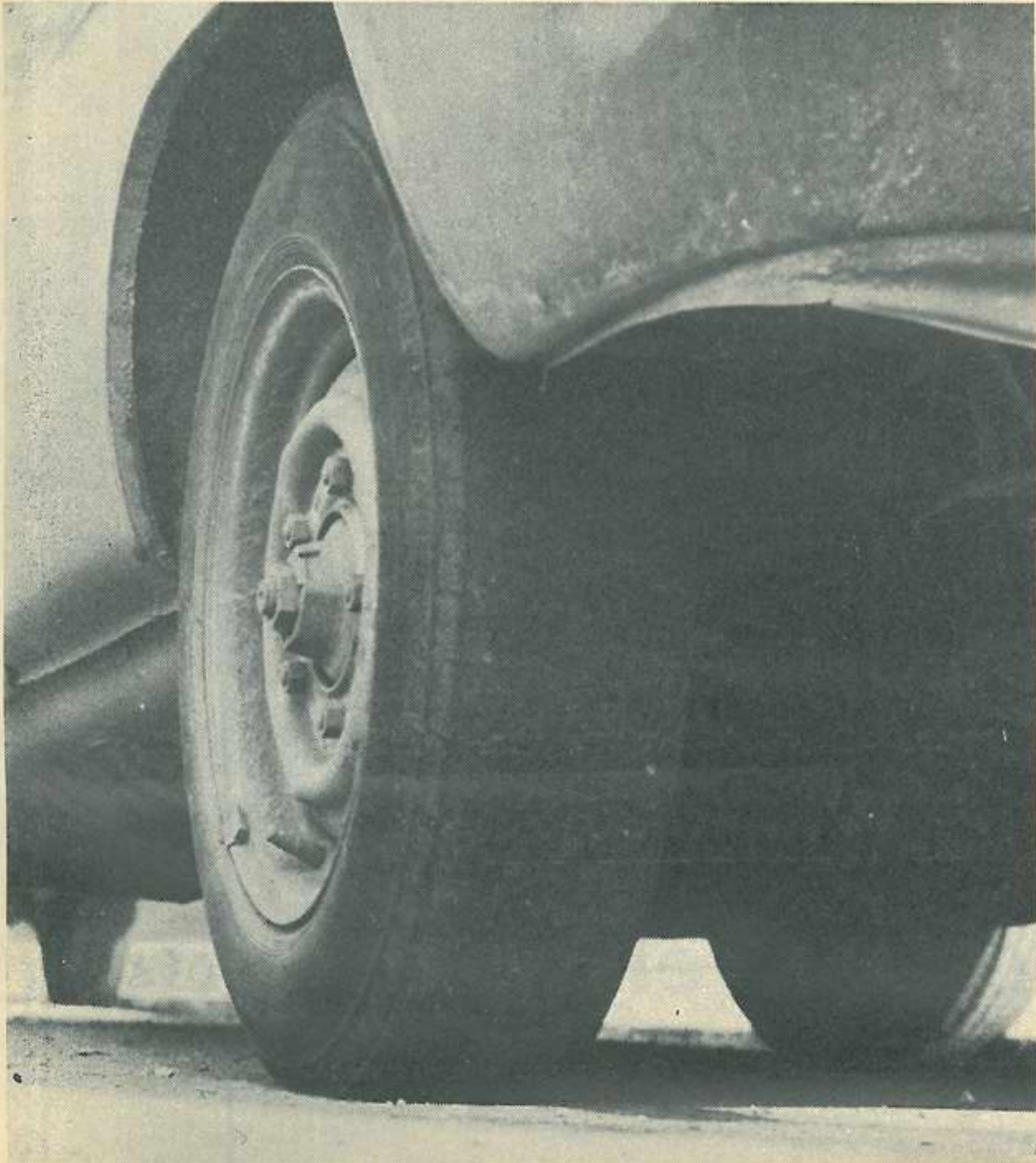
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Worn tyres can kill : Badly worn tyres like the one shown here which was recently photographed in a public car park can be found all over Ireland.

tyres and retreads." He believes that standards to control tyre and remould quality are necessary.

Minimum tread-depth regulations and tread-wear-indicators must be enforced, according to this expert. And road authorities must aim "at as uniform a coefficient-of-friction as possible throughout their road-network and take immediate steps in case conditions deteriorate."

Tyre safety standards set up on a voluntary basis may be needed in Europe as they were in the 1960's in the United States, according to Mr. Winston W. Marsh, Executive Vice-President of the National Tyre Dealers and Retreaders' Association, Washington, D.C., who also came to Dublin for the launching of National Tyre Safety Week.

With the advent of the higher speed automobile, the more delicate suspension on the front end, and the improved roads which make higher speeds possible, "the safety of the tyre or that particular component part of the automobile became more and more vital," says Mr. Marsh, speaking of his own country. His remarks have universal application.

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LOW, LOW PRICES

The Irish Tyre Distributors' Association, formed in September, 1968, is fully representative of the Irish tyre distribution industry. It speaks on behalf of everyone in the £7 million Irish replacement tyre distribution industry. Officers are: President, M. J. McNulty; hon. secretary, J. R. Beatty; hon. treasurer, P. Mackey; Committee, P. J. Henderson and S. Roche.

and, to suppress bone-shaking vibrations — let us get on now, nearly 100 years later, with the job and do it."

Mr. Tj. Huese, from the Netherlands, who is Vice-President of the International Organisation of National Associations of Tyre Specialists, is convinced that modern transportation can only accept "premium the first line new

able. "Why should a man spend his whole working life in a rattling, noise-saturated truck cab, when good engine ring can give him a pleasant, fatigue-free environment?" asks Mr. French. They could expect the drivers to have some say in this and they in the tyre industry to play a leading part.

And he added: "The tyre was invented, in Irel-

is being recognised as a cause of many errors-of-judgment type of accident.

Part of the problem is concerned with reduction of mechanical and aerodynamic noise, but disturbances from the road, transmitted through the tyre, constitute at least 50 per cent of the total problem.

MOBILE EARTHQUAKES

The improvements taking place in passenger cars only throw into sharp relief the basically bad position of trucks and buses. These could generally be described as "mobile earthquakes," and the challenge is being accepted by both the vehicle and tyre engineers to do something about it.

Prototype units exist with the basic ride properties of current luxury cars. The likely impact on safety for long-distance truck drivers is consider-

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Le PADRAIG O MEALOID

Is docha gurab é port an chuid is mó de na daoine ar an aimsir seo ná Códh-áil bhliantúil C.L.G., a tionúladh i nGaillimh i mbliana. Ar ndóigh is sár smaoinemh é an Chódh-áil chéanna a scaoileadh thart ar fud na tíre.

Sé an chéad rud a ba mhaith liom a dhéanamh

ná mo chogáirdeachas a chur in iúl do'n Uachtarán nua, Pádraig O Fainín as Portláirge. Tá sean aithne agam ar an bhfear, is dócha go bhfuil sé suas le fiche bliain ó shin ó chas mé leis i dtosach. Tá's agam an díogras atá ann, agus má's fíor an rud atá cuid mhaith a rá gurab é an club bun agus rúta na heagraíochta, annsin ní baol dá gcreideamh go ceann trí bliana. Abair "Cnoc Sion" agus smaoinéidh tú láithreach ar Phádraig O Fainín. Cé go bhfuil sé fíor go gcreideann sé go diongbhála i mbun-phrionsabail na heagraíochta agus ins na cluichí, ní hionann sin agus a rá gur fear coimheádach é, ní hea. Déarfainn go bhfeicfear borradh mór faoi'n taobh sóisialta de C.L.G. ins na

trí bliana seo romhainn amach.

Thug mé mo bharúil cheana faoi na hathruithe a bhí molta am imeartha, ach measaim gur cheart é a chur i bhfeidhm freisin ar na cluichí faoi 21, agus freisin ins na babhtai deiridh de'n tSraith Náisiúnta. Ach meastú nár cheart é a bheith in ngach cluiche ins na gráid sin i dteannta na mbabhtai deiridh.

Ar shlí tá áthas orm nár cuireadh deire leis an rith aonair, agus munar léigh tú an píosa ina raibh mé ag cur síos ar seo cheana luaim arís duit l eithéidí Kevin Armstrong, Frank Stockwell, Seán Puirseil, agus Jimmy Langton, Mick Mackey agus Christy Ring san iomáint, agus cuid mhaith eile. Ach ar ndóigh

tá cuid mhaith imreoirí agus ba cheart do dhuine éigin a rá leo éirge as.

Ach ar an taobh eile dhe ba ionann's deire a chur leis an solo agus á rá le George Best (agus cé hé nach bhfuil sé feicthe go dleathach aige ar an TV) fáil réidh leis an liathroid chomh luath is a fhaigheann sé i! Tá cineál solo de shórt éigin i ngach cluiche páirce feictheardhom. Béidir á bhfeicinn cluiche gan é go mbeadh athrú aigne orm.

Mo dhiombá nar cuir-eadh méid ar gceannntar piónóis, rud a raibh gá leis mheas mé, nó sin dhá speac éirice a thabhairt in aghaidh feall taobh istigh de'n line ceithre slata déag. Tá a leitheid i gcis pheil mar shampla. Rud eile nach bhfuil mé buaite air isea an

piocadh glan de'n talamh.

Chonaic mé cluiche dearóil ó thaobh lucht feachanna de i bPáirc an Chrócaigh Domhnach Cásca. Ní mórán a bhí le buachaint as, agus ba ghránna an rud é fear a fheiceál a dhonnadh chomh mór sin, in aon turas chomh fada agus ba léir domsa, agus go raibh sé trí lá san ospidáil á bharr. Chuir sé fearg chomh mór sin ar dhuine dhá chomrádaithe agus gur thug sé faoi fhear na coire le doirne (rud nár cheart dó-san a dhéanamh ach oiread) nuair a fuair sé droim an réitheóra leis. Ach seo é an áit a néiríonn an pointe spéisúil. Thug duine éigin scéala do'n réiteoir faoi agus siar leis go raibh "Focal" aige le fear na ndóirne.

Ní fada ó shin ó dearn-

adh iarracht comhachtaí de'n tsórt seo a thabhairt do na maoir eile, a bhíonn ag na cúil agus ag an taobh líne, sa chaoi is go bhféadfaidís áird an mholtóra a dhíriú ar eachtraí a tharlódh taobh thiar á chúl. Ach níor tugadh an comhacht seo dóibh, agus caithfidh a mbéal a bheith binn ina thost. Ach an féidir go bhfuil an comhacht seo cheana féin ag deich bhfeara fichead eile ar an bpáirc, nó an é sin an fáth nár tugadh an comhacht seo do na maoir!! Scéala an ghabadain arís agus é freisin ag dul ina aghaidh féin. Well, ní trá faillí é ó thaobh cuid de na cúrsaí seo. A mhaoir seachain do bhrat, a mholtóir ná caill do fheadóg, agus a imreoir seachain thú féin. Ce'n chaoi a gceicéallann sé sin thú?

In An Interview With Sean Ryan Phil Wilson Says

Kilkenny and Tipp are the Dangers to Wexford

WEXFORD hurler and footballer Phil Wilson has over the last few seasons proved himself one of the best dual performers on Gaelic fields. While he is probably better known as a hurler, he is also one of the Slaney-siders' most consistent attackers in the big ball game. The highlight of Phil's career to date came in September 1968 when he played a major part at midfield in helping his county to All-Ireland honours. I had the following interview with Phil Wilson recently.

Q: Were you disappointed at Wexford's early elimination from the National Hurling League?

A: No, I wasn't really disappointed. It showed us our weak spots and should make us go harder for the championship. At the same time we expected to do better and to at least reach the semi-final stage.

Q: Has the team disimproved much since winning the 1968 All-Ireland title?

A: Every team will go back some time after winning an All-Ireland title. In our case some of our players are getting old and replacements had to be found for them.

Q: How do you expect Wexford to fare in the coming hurling championship campaign?

A: We should do well as there is not a lot between the top few teams at the moment.

Q: Which counties do you consider the main dangers to your title hopes?

A: I expect Kilkenny to be the big dangers in Leinster and if we can get over them I expect to meet Tipperary, who should win through in Munster this year.

Q: You also play football. Do you find it much of a strain playing both games at top level?

A: No. I don't find it any strain at all. The fact that I play both games only helps to keep me very fit.

Q: Wexford seem to be making good strides in the football world. How do you rate their chances for the championship this year?

A: If we get the breaks we should do very well. We

lost about five players through injury and emigration but the most of them should be back for the championship.

Q: Who do you rate the big dangers in Leinster?

A: Kildare would be favourites in my book.

Q: Which do you prefer playing, hurling or football?

A: I prefer football.

Q: How do the standards in hurling and football respectively compare now with when you first started playing inter county games?

A: The standards in both games have gone down. A



Happy days for Phil Wilson after Wexford's All-Ireland victory in 1968.

Q: Are you satisfied that enough is being done to make hurling more popular?

A: This is hard to say. A lot of parents are reluctant to let their young sons play hurling as they consider it a dangerous game. But the new headgear should do much to destroy such fears. Certainly I think it is a great innovation and it could have saved me a few stitches, if introduced a few years ago.

Q: In conclusion, are there any changes which you would like to see being made by the G.A.A. in the near future?

A: I would like to see the Ban abolished and I would also like to see more young people holding key positions in the Association as the older members stick to the old-fashioned ideas.

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lot of young people, especially in country areas, seem to have more interest in soccer and rugby than was the case a few years ago. There is a great need for more social activity in the G.A.A. so as to attract more youths to our games.

The Progress of Camogie

BY AINE MEAGHER

One of the most remarkable facts about camogie is the lack of knowledge about the history, the strength, the organisation and the position of the game in the whole Gaelic set-up, a lack of knowledge that exists not alone among the general public, but among large sections of the G.A.A. and even within the Camogie Association itself.

There is a large body of outside opinion which believes that the Camogie Association is, in some way, part of the G.A.A. That is not and has never been the case. Both Associations have, in many respects, the same ideals, and there is a great deal of co-operation at various levels, although this co-operation could often be improved. But the Camogie Association has always been a completely independent organisation. It is not affiliated to the G.A.A., and its existence is not acknowledged in the G.A.A.'s Official Guide.

Nor is the Camogie Association heavily subsidised out of G.A.A. funds as a number of people, even in both Associations, seem to think. The G.A.A. at top level, makes its pitches available to the Central Council of the Camogie Association for big games — the most important concession in this respect being the permanent allocation of Croke Park for the All-Ireland camogie finals each year on the third Sunday in September.

Croke Park and other venues are also granted for other camogie matches, when available, but there is no pre-arrangement in this regard.

As regards grants, the Central Council of the Camogie Association receives nothing from the Central Council of the G.A.A. Such a grant has been suggested more than once, but was turned down by the annual Camogie Congress each time, on the grounds that it might interfere with the Association's independence.

The provincial G.A.A. Councils of Ulster, Connacht and Munster do give small annual grants to the Camogie Councils in those provinces. Leinster does not give an annual grant, but did give a donation towards organisation to the Leinster Camogie Council some years ago, and oddly enough gave a grant recently to All-Ireland camogie champions Wexford. In some isolated cases, G.A.A. county boards give small grants to their local camogie boards.

That is the full extent of the G.A.A.'s financial commitments towards the Camogie Association, though it should be pointed out, in all fairness, that the Camogie Association has always chosen to stand on its own feet as far as possible. Generally speaking, except for the most important matches, camogie teams pay their own way.

Meals for players are provided only at All-Ireland finals and semi-finals and interprovincial games by Central Council. Travelling expenses of teams and other expenses have not always been met in full, for the simple reason that the funds have not been there, but county boards, teams and even players have always been quite willing to pay their way.

At the end of 1969, there were just over 400 affiliated clubs registered with the Camogie Association, and it can be assumed that there are, in the country, another dozen clubs or so that are not properly affiliated.

Allowing for the fact that half those clubs would have enough members to form one team only, one must also take cognisance of the fact that the other half can boast of two teams, or in some cases three or four, so, at a modest computation, the Camogie Association can boast of over ten thousand, and possibly up to twelve thousand, affiliated members.

Some counties are, of course, far better organis-

ed than others. In Leinster, Dublin and Kildare are very well catered for and Wexford has made tremendous headway in the past couple of years, Louth, Kil-

kenny and Meath are reasonable, but the game is almost completely dead, in Longford, Carlow, Offaly and Westmeath and Laois is only reawakening.



One of the reasons why camogie is attractive!

Cork is far and away the best organised county in Munster, followed by Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford. Clare comes and goes, and a few enthusiasts have been keeping the game alive in Kerry.

In the West, Galway leads the way, and Mayo, Sligo and Roscommon are active to lesser extents, but there is only one club in Roscommon.

Antrim has long been the leading county in the North, but Armagh is also very well organised, with Down and Derry and Monaghan reasonably so. There is some camogie in Tyrone and Fermanagh, but little in Cavan or Donegal.

The great hope for the future of the games in the weaker counties is, however, the development of the schools competitions and it is here that camogie has made the most heartening progress in the past few years.

The inauguration last year of the All-Ireland colleges' championship provided a tremendous fillip to the game in schools in all four provinces, and this year there are 22 schools affiliated in Connacht, a similar number in Leinster, 2 in Munster and 2 secondary schools, plus 12 intermediate schools in Ulster.

Moreover, when the Le-

inster Colleges Council held a coaching course at Mountmellick at Easter, it attracted nuns and physical education teachers and pupils from schools that are not even participating at present in camogie.

And there is a further recent development. In Dublin, the Teachers Training College at Carysfort, the Domestic Economy College at Cathal Brugha Street and the Physical Training College, at Sion Hill, are all fielding teams in a special Advanced Colleges League.

This means that the teachers of the future, at every level, will have experience of, and an enthusiasm for, camogie that has hitherto been all too often lacking. So the future was already bright, before ever Mr. Molloy came along with his grant of £1,000 which, in all the circumstances, could not have come at a more opportune time.

The time is ripe for expansion, for more intense organisation more coaching courses, referees' courses, officer courses, and above all, the subsidising of camogie sticks, especially for the schools.

One thing is certain. No Association will use the Government's grant to better effect.

Camogie Attraction For Kilkenny Festival

Top club teams from Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny and Limerick will take part this month in a senior camogie tournament which will be run in conjunction with the Kilkenny Beer Festival. Connor Press, Jenkinstown, Kilkenny have presented a trophy and a set of medals for the tournament and the teams taking part are Eoghan Ruadh (Dublin), Ahane (Limerick), Imokilly (Cork) and St. Pauls (Kilkenny). The two semi-finals, in which Eoghan Ruadh oppose Ahane and Imokilly meet St. Pauls, will take place at St. John's Park, Kilkenny on Sunday, May 24 and the final at the same venue on the following Sunday.

Camogie has become very popular in Kilkenny over the past few years and this tournament should help to engender even more interest in the game in the

county. Of course, the city club, St. Pauls, have won the All-Ireland senior club championship for the past two years and include many county and interprovincial players in their line-out. Among them are Nuala Duncan, Mary Conway, Elizabeth Neary and Carmel O'Shea. However, they will be without the services of goalkeeper Jo Golden and sharpshooter Ann Carroll for the tournament.

The other three teams in the tournament are amongst the finest clubs in Ireland. Eoghan Ruadh have many Dublin and interprovincial players on their side, including Margaret O'Leary, the Wexford star, and Kay Lyons, the ex-Dublin captain.

Ahane have reached the All-Ireland club championship final for the past two years and have fine players

in Carrie Clancy, who has gained intercounty and interprovincial honours, and Marjorie Doughan, of interprovincial and U.C.D. fame.

Although this is their first year as a senior club, the Imokilly side which is picked from clubs in Glan-

mire, Watergrasshill, Cloyne and Churchtown, is fancied to do very well in the Cork championship. They have county players in Marie Costigan, Maisie Murphy and Catherine Ryan.

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In The News with Bacchus

27...28

...29...

OUT?

OLD Ignatians 6-1, arrow 2-1.

This was the result when these two teams met in a friendly football game played at Harlow Rugby grounds in England recently. The game drew a large and appreciative attendance and was refereed by 71 years young Limerick man Albert Garrard.

The Old Ignatians rugby men have played several games of Gaelic football recently and are very anxious to popularise the game among other English rugby clubs. Naturally there were several Irishmen playing for the English side and they weren't all full-time rugby players either!

And after the match there was a Ceili Mor in the clubhouse of the Ignatians club! With this kind of carry-on in England and those Kerry fellows playing with an oval (otherwise known as a rugby) ball in Australia, I don't know what the G.A.A. is coming to at all.

Ah well, I'm sure our new President will soon get us all back on the straight and narrow path signposted by rules 27, 28 and 29!

All Aboard For Gaelic Park

I see where Congress admitted defeat as regards weekend trips to New York by players from this country. It's amazing how the times change!

If the same idea had been suggested a few years ago there would have been, and indeed there was, an outcry with all kinds of dubious motives being attributed to our American cousins. Now, of course, things have changed, mainly because it is a case of 'he who is without sin casting the first stone'. For although covering up for misdemeanours is a speciality among G.A.A. members there was no hope of cloaking all the transgressions which occurred last year and so the counties gave in to making this latest concession whereby players from this country may travel to New York, as often as they can get somebody to pay their way, so long as they get permission from their home club and county beforehand.

It should be a great season in Gaelic Park with the big-money clubs such as Kerry, Connemara Gaels, Donegal, Louth, and of

course Monaghan vying with one another for the cream of this country's football talent.

The only differential now will be in the small matter of 'weekend expenses' but then the G.A.A. is an amateur organisation so there shouldn't be any problem there.

And our county players will laugh all the way to the bank when they return!

Meath Player Away

EMIGRATION has proved a big problem for many a county over the years. The loss of players like Joe Foley (Wexford), and Tom Lynch (Cavan) proved stunning blows in recent months.

Last year Meath lost a promising young player in Tommy O'Dowd who went to work in England. Now another up and coming youngster from the Royal County, Ken Rennicks has taken a similar course. Meath supporters will be hoping that Rennicks, who was getting his name on

the score sheet regularly, will return home before the championship commences.

Another Club Magazine

ANOTHER G.A.A. club to publish their own magazine is the Sarsfield's club from Belfast. Their fine publication, 'An Sairseil' is a splendid example of local effort being put to good use rather than being wasted in idle chatter as is so often the case in the G.A.A.

There is plenty of excellent reading in the first issue of An Sairseil as can be seen from the contents list: Match Reports; The G.A.A. and the People; Women in the G.A.A.; and Club Development Scheme.

The headquarters of the Sarsfields club is 109 Divis Street, Belfast 11, a fact which speaks for itself, especially when it is remembered that their clubrooms were burned to the ground during last year's August riots.

O'Neill The Organiser

THE fifth annual dinner dance of the Down Association of Gaelic Sportsmen (D.A.G.S.) took place recently in the Ardmore Hotel, Newry and what a great night's entertainment it turned out to be. Sean O'Neill was this year's organiser and, before going any further, I must pay tribute to his ability in this field.

But O'Neill was not the only "star" of the night. In a short but concise after-dinner speech, Chairman of the Community Relations Committee in the North, Mr. Maurice Hayes, who was accompanied by his wife, Frances — an ardent Down supporter — spoke of the part sport could play in fostering good community relations and urged all present to play their part in this sphere.

He also said that we in the G.A.A. should not throw a cordon around ourselves in an effort to keep some sections of the community out.

The D.A.G.S. was formed in 1962, so that the members of the various Down teams would not drift apart when their playing days were over. It seems to have gone a long way to achieving its aim. It is a great pity that there are not more organisations like it.

In attendance at this latest function was P. J. McElroy and Kevin O'Neill amongst players from the early part of the last decade. Recently retired Paddy Doherty was also there, plus, of course, many of the present Down line-out including captain Tom O'Hare (no, I haven't forgotten my promise, Tom), John Murphy, Danny Kelly, Dan McCartan, Joe Lennon, James McCartan etc.

But one of the nicest things of all was the number of players from other countries that were present. Brian McEniff made the long trip from Bundoran and, from Magherafelt, came Mickey Niblock. Armagh's Gene Larkin and Tom McCreesh and Seamus Killough (Antrim) were also present. Many other players from both north and south of the Border also attended.

Representing Down and Ulster of the late 'forties was ex-goalkeeper John O'Hare from Newry — now a furniture salesman in Belfast. Also there was Gaelic News contributor, Matt Fitzpatrick.

It goes without saying, of course, that all the males I have mentioned were accompanied by an attractive partner — some of them wives, some of them girlfriends.

Irish Must Learn Aussie Football

Mick Gleeson discusses some aspects of Kerry's Australian trip with Eugene McGee.

THE only hope that I can see for international tours to Australia is that an Irish team coached for two or three months in Australian Football would travel out there and take on the Aussies at their own game.

This is the firm conviction of Kerry's Mick Gleeson after taking part in this year's Kerry tour down under and he would also make it a pre-requisite for success that an Australian team coming over to Ireland must play our teams at Gaelic Football with very few modifications.

In this way both countries could put up a good show and certainly good enough to make the effort a competitive success which it has got to be if the Australian public are to patronise matches in their country sufficiently well to make tours a financial success.

And this most certainly did not happen on the Kerry tour according to Mick Gleeson. The crowds were small everywhere and it was clear that the games meant nothing to the Australians. With one or two exceptions all the publicity had to be done by Kerry themselves and this is where this tour differed so much to Meath's in 1968 when Harry Beitzel had mounted a massive publicity campaign long before the team even arrived in the country.

This time Harry Beitzel's role in the whole operation ended on the Thursday before the tour when he sent a cable to Dr. Jim

Brosnan advising the cancellation of the trip. This in effect meant that Beitzel was opting out of the whole operation at the very last moment and he never appeared on the scene at all in Melbourne, his home town. As a result, the pre-match arrangements were very haphazard. In Perth, for example, on the morning that Kerry were due to play there were no Gaelic goalposts erected.

It became clear throughout the tour that Harry Beitzel is a very small man indeed in the administration of Australian Football. However, he did indicate on one occasion that he intended bringing another Aussie team on tour to Ireland.

Talking to some Australian Rules players Mick Gleeson found that they share the same basic interest in tours as do Gaelic footballers — that of having a good time. They all spoke highly of their last trip to this country and

would be anxious to make a return visit. The only man likely to provide them with an opportunity to do so is Harry Beitzel.

Of the matches played



Mick Gleeson

on the tour Mick Gleeson would point to that played in Melbourne as the toughest since several of the opposition had played Gaelic football before. These included Ron Barassi, Alex Jesulenko and Neill Kerley. The only major concession made in all the games was the abolishing of the pick-up.

Mick considers the half hour played with the oval ball in Adelaide to be of some significance. The Aussies were really trying to win that day. Before the game they heard a half hour pep talk from Neill Kerley and at half time the scores were level. 'Their biggest problem was the tackle'.

Going back to his original point Gleeson points out that when the Aussies came to Ireland the public went to watch them — because they were playing Gaelic Football. They would not have come if an Irish team was playing the visitors at Australian Rules — at least not after the first game or two. The same applies in Australia so therefore it is stupid to expect the public over there to come and watch a game they know nothing about. Things would be completely different, how-

ever, if the natives were to be challenged at their own game.

It is interesting to recall the most memorable moment of the trip as far as Gleeson (who plays for Kerry champions East Kerry and for U.C.D.) was concerned. It was the words of an anonymous well-wisher in New Zealand who told him: 'Your team have been the best ambassadors ever sent out of Ireland. The ironic thing is, as Mick points out, the Kerry team was not sent out at all. They went completely from their own re-

sources and as far as the Irish government was concerned the tour never existed. One wonders what all the bright young men in Bord Failte and Coras Trachtala had against utilising the Kerry party for the good of the country.

Like all the Kerry players the East Kerry man enjoyed his round-the-world trip immensely. In his own words: 'I would readily swap an All-Ireland medal for another tour like that.' Coming from a Kerryman these are strong words indeed.

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