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# Gaelic Sport

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PAT FANNING ►



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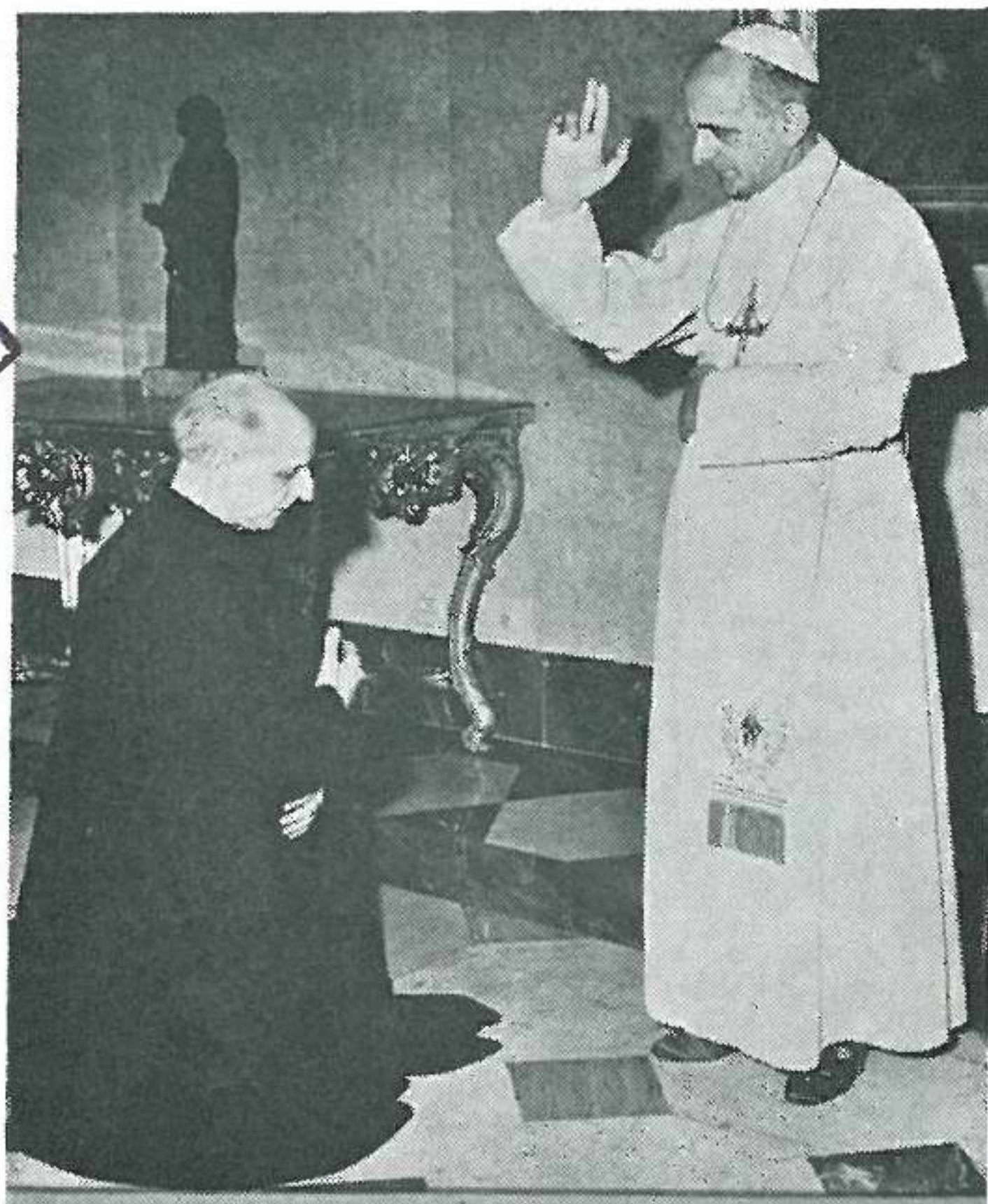
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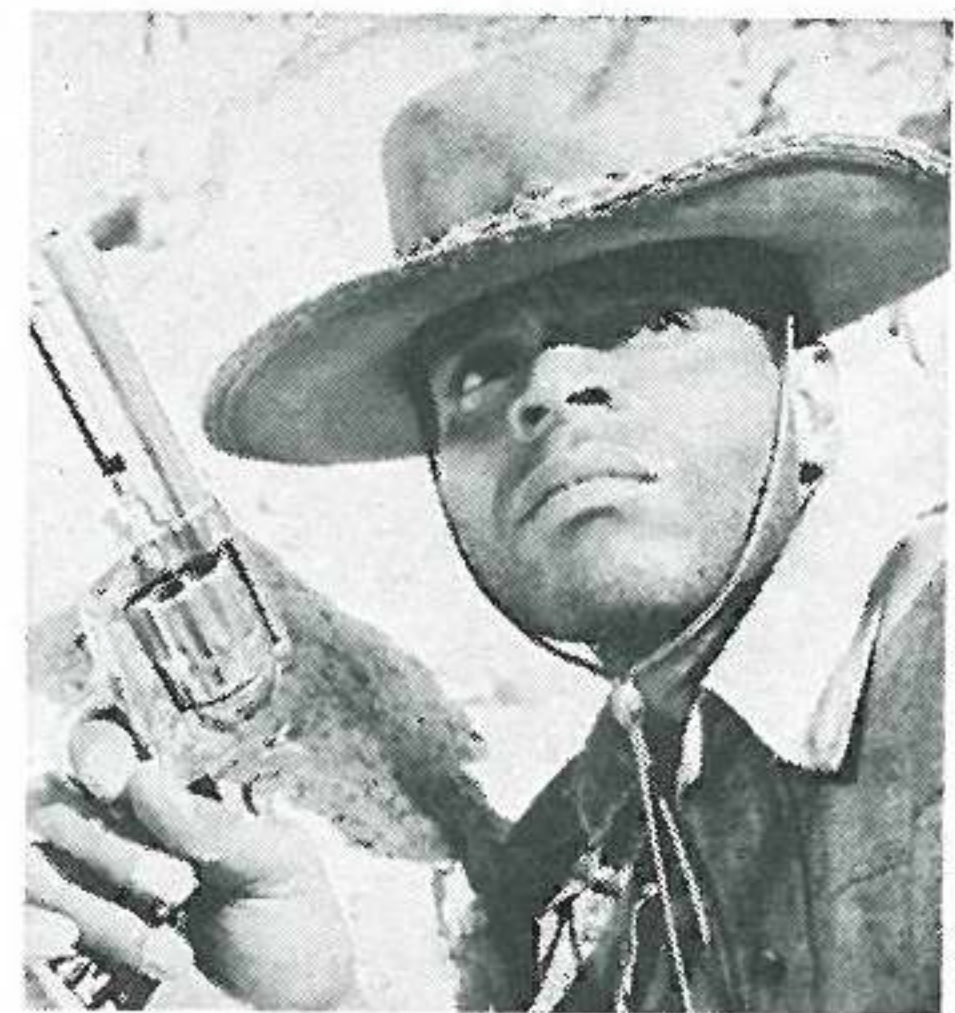
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FACE FOR A LIFETIME

# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 13. No. 5. May, 1970.

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## INDEX

	Page
<i>A Letter from the Third Master</i>	5
<i>It's a Waste of Time—Some- times—by Patrick David ...</i>	7
<i>Top Ten ... ..</i>	8
<i>Necks are for Sticking Out —by Jay Drennan</i>	9
<i>Seán O'Duffy —by Agnes Hourigan</i>	13
<i>Junior Desk —by Jack Mahon</i>	15
<i>Reflections on the G.A.A. Congress—by Eamonn Young</i>	17
<i>"Waste of Time", says Seán O'Neill, interviewed by Noel Coogan ... ..</i>	20
<i>These Young Stars belie the Prophets of Doom—by Owen McCann ... ..</i>	22
<i>The New President Interviewed by Jay Drennan ... ..</i>	24
<i>Weak Spot of Gaelic Games —by Joe Lennon ... ..</i>	26
<i>Dublin Marksmen —by Owen McCann</i>	29
<i>Handball—by Alleyman ... ..</i>	31
<i>Crossword ... ..</i>	37
<i>Moondharrig's Diary ... ..</i>	39
<i>An "Economy Drive" to the town of Mountmellick —by Philip Roderick</i>	41
<i>Imagine I couldn't have cared less when I heard that Cork beat Tipperary—says Philip Roderick ... ..</i>	42
<i>The Foresight and Courage of Ulster's Gerry Arthurs—by Seamus O Ceallaigh ... ..</i>	45

## COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover this month features an action shot from the recent Railway Cup Football Semi-final featuring Ulster and Munster. Ulster won this game on a score of 2-12 to 0-6. For the record, the two men tussling for possession are John Murphy (Down and Ulster) and Jerry Lucey (Cork and Munster).

## THE NEW CHIEF

WE welcome Pat Fanning to the presidency of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. His election at Congress on Easter Sunday was one of the most decisive in the history of the Association, demonstrating that the Gaels of Ireland wanted a man of his proven ability and vast experience to lead them over the next three years.

For that reason, his election was predictable. Before Easter, his prospects were often seriously questioned because of his defeats in two previous contests.

As can be seen now, the events of 1964 and 1967 were not relevant, except in whatever way they might have influenced the Waterford man to accept or decline the 1970 nomination.

He chose wisely, as did the Congress delegates. In saying that we do not detract from the

qualifications of the defeated candidates.

They put democracy into action; they sought the office in a fair fight. Any one, or all three of them, can succeed in the future if, as Pat Fanning said after his election in Galway, they continue to aspire to leadership "unashamedly."

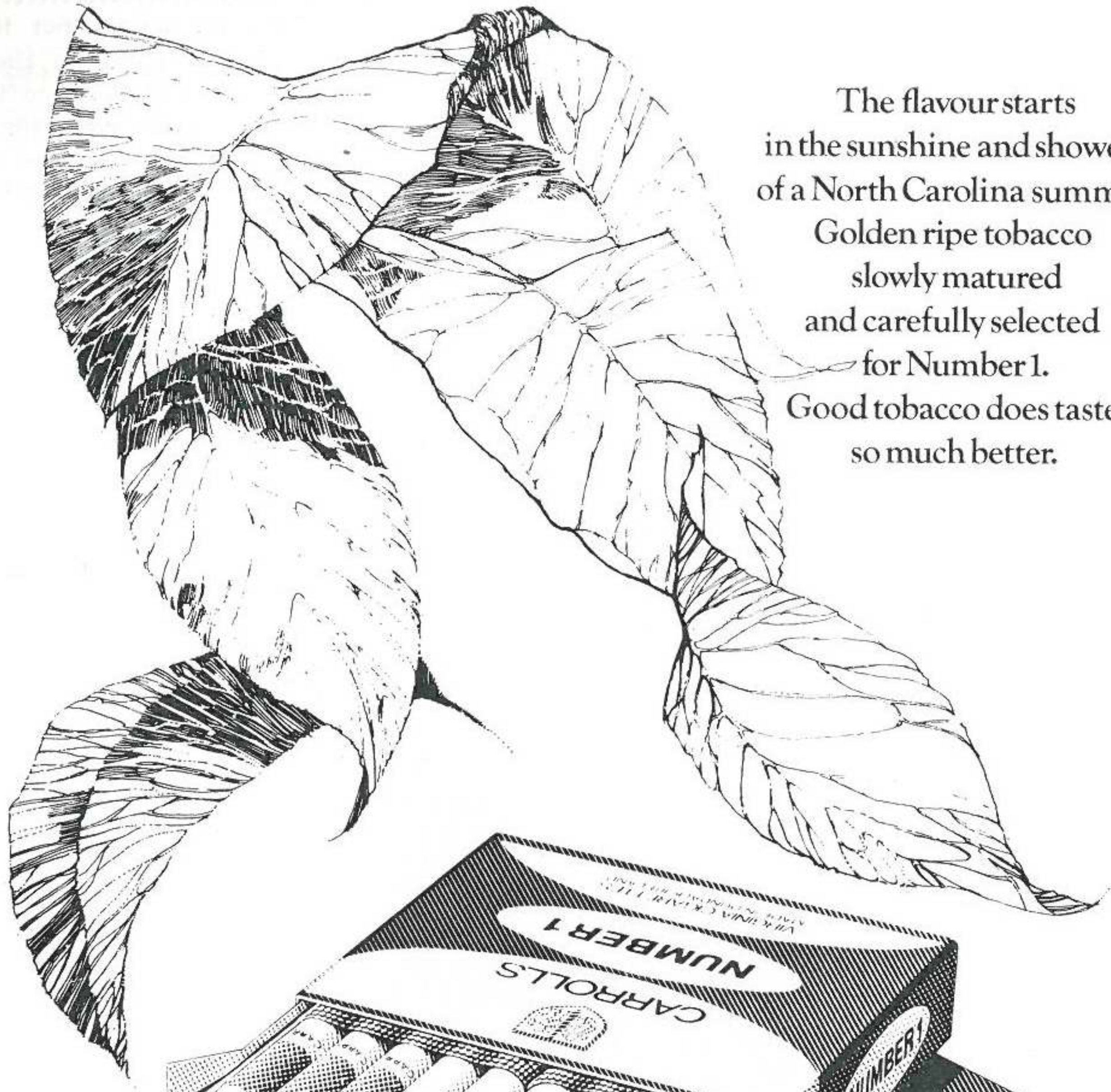
Pat Fanning has been called a "conservative" because of his unequivocal stand on the Association's traditional principles. He has given his answer in various interviews, in the press and on television, since his election.

The new President will carry on the progressive work of his predecessors. And he will enrich that work with his own progressive ideas. Cumann Lúthchleas Gael can look forward to three fruitful years under his enlightened leadership.

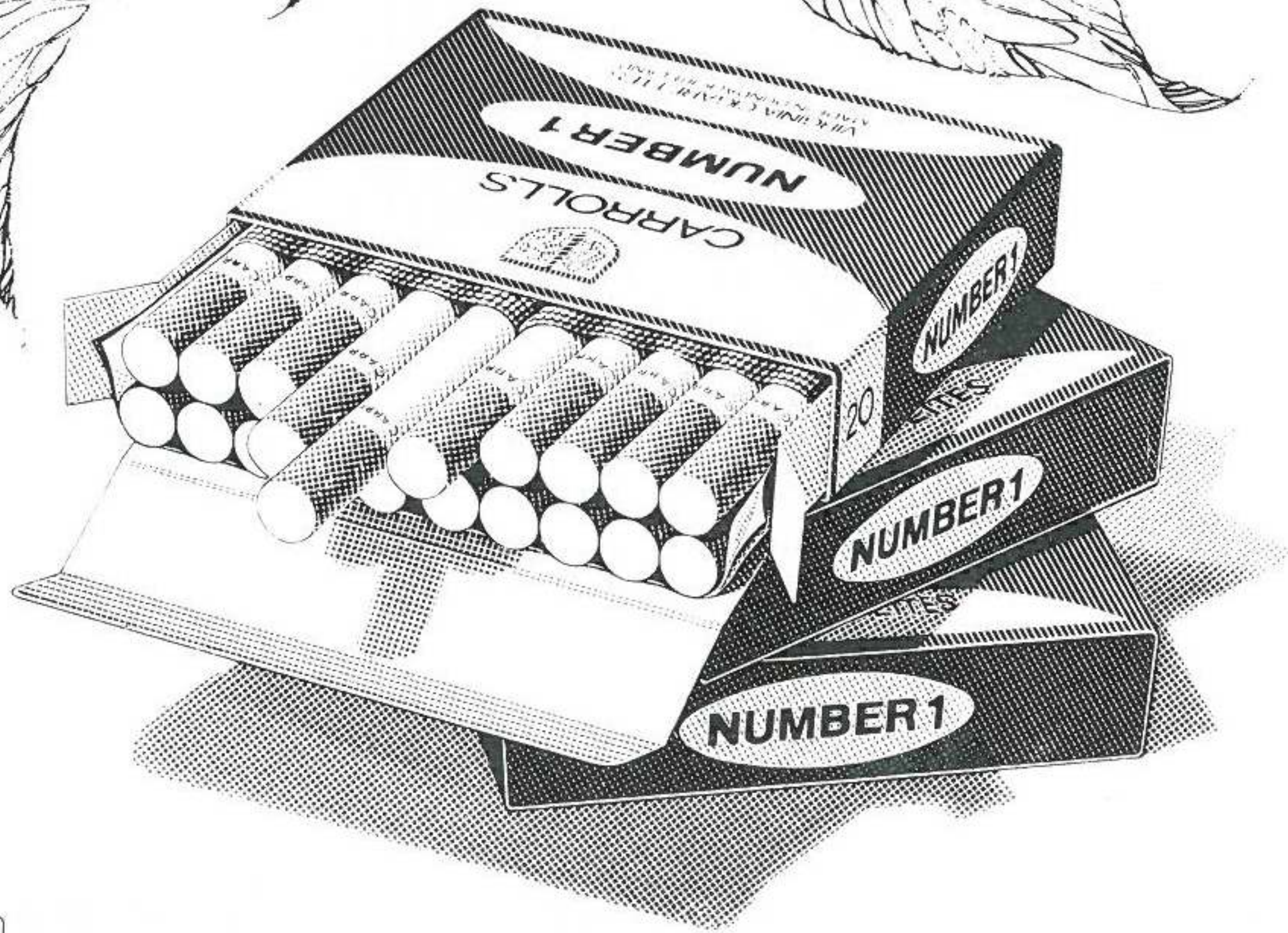
## Limerick revival

AND now another word of welcome—this time to Limerick, who are appearing in a National Hurling League decider for the first time since 1958. Hurling followers everywhere will applaud and delight in this return to the top by a county which possesses such a proud tradition in the game.

Limerick were known as the "league specialists" in the 1930s. Subsequently their star waned. Let us hope that their re-emergence marks the beginning of another distinguished era—for the sake of hurling at large.



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# JOE LENNON REPLIES TO FR. MANSFIELD

## A letter from the 'Third Master'

Dear Sir,

In last month's edition of GAE LIC SPORT, Fr. Columba Mansfield, O.S.A. raised a few points which I feel will bear comment.

Like him, I feel much needs to be done to develop a literature on Gaelic games though I might differ with him on what this would entail. Nonetheless, his views would be most interesting, especially the categories.

The reasons why there is a proliferation of texts on soccer, rugby, cricket, golf and basketball are quite simple. These are international games and the publishers of these works aim at a vast market at home and abroad often going into over 100,000 in a single edition never mind translation into several languages. The Irish booksellers only handle a fraction of a percent of any edition of such books.

On the other hand, a book on Gaelic games has no significant overseas market but with a playing strength of perhaps 100,000 one would expect a ready market for any text. However, this is not the case. Publishers do not take chances and authors are unwilling to risk their savings.

For example an edition of 10,000 books selling at 10/- each (quite an ambitious venture) will net the author £500 less perhaps £200 to £250 in expenses. If the book takes a year or two to write and a couple or three years to sell, it will be seen that in the

absence of substantial grants, writing a book on Gaelic games is not very attractive—financially at any rate.

Moreover, these other games are played professionally with the exception of Rugby Union and hence are industries in their own right. Universities throughout the world devote much research into these games but in Ireland, Gaelic games do not get their academic uplift. So much for the scarcity. It is interesting to note also that there are only a handful of books available on Australian Rules Football which is in pretty much the same category as Gaelic football although it is played professionally at one level.

I fear Fr. Mansfield's article is more likely to discourage authors than encourage for, in his review of the literature on Gaelic football, he dismisses one of my books

### Replying to Jack

**JACK MAHON** invited us to reply to his article which, among other things, commented on the many soccer magazines now flooding this country. Space does not permit us to do so in this issue. We hope to comply with his request next month.

"with frustration" and does not even mention the other. However, I hope to write a few more books.

I find it difficult to follow the reasoning behind Fr. Mansfield's criticisms of the four books selected as being "typical of their type" — not so much for the omission of any reference to *FITNESS FOR GAELIC FOOTBALL*, 1969, or indeed of his omission of reference to *KERRY'S FOOTBALL STORY* or *WITH THE GAELS OF WEXFORD* or indeed *JACK MAHONS* work in Galway which are classics in their own way but because of the nature and selectiveness of his criticism. This I find both disconcerting and discouraging. In this respect, I think Brendan Behan's definition of a critic is more apt than Ezra Pound's.

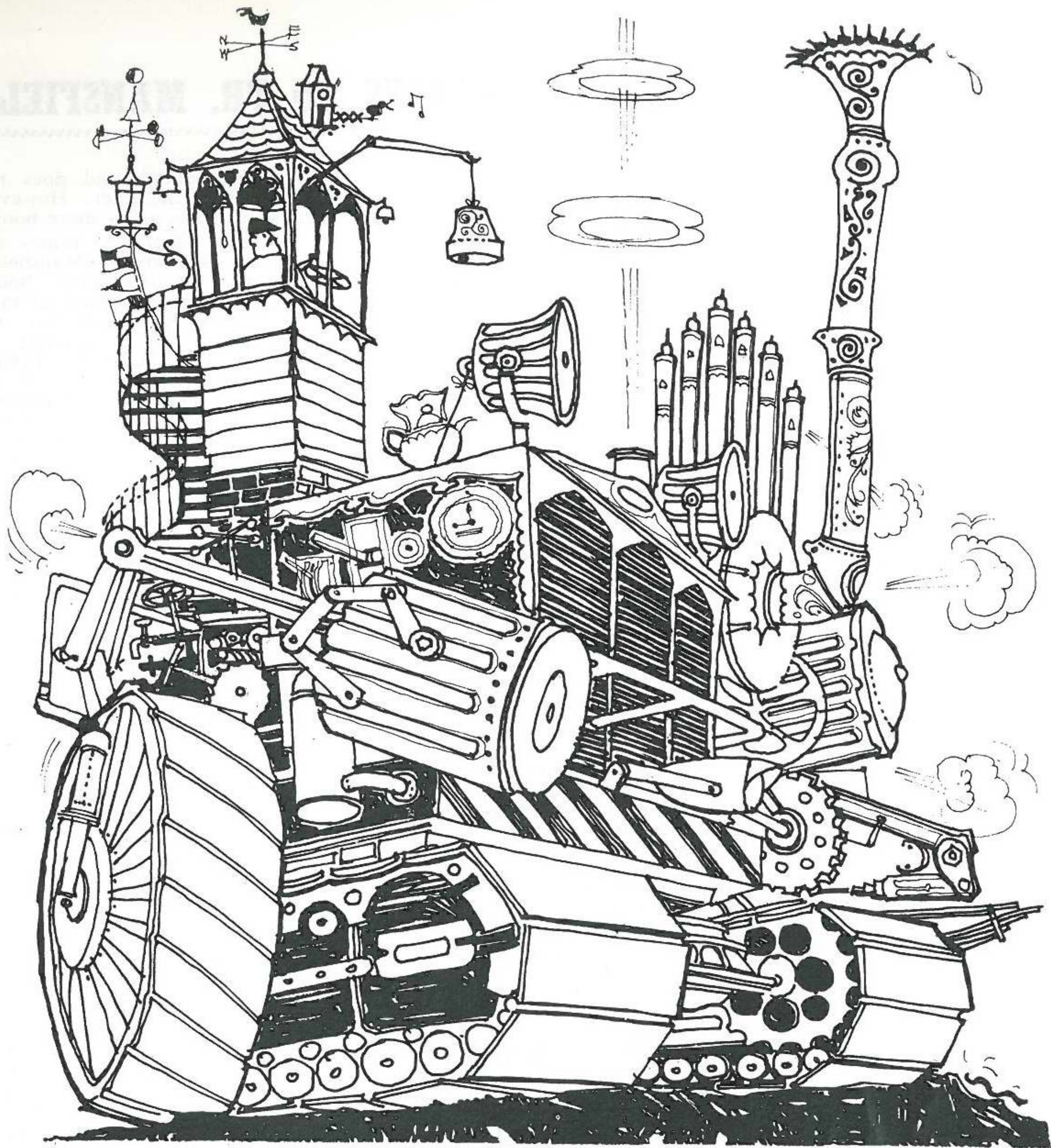
If Fr. Mansfield put my book down "with a sense of frustration" because as he said I advocated "a ball to every man in training", he obviously did not see p. 15 q.u. nor has he seen a coach in action with a good club or county team. Or, if he really felt that it consists in the main of detailed instructions on the drilling of teams and individuals," I am saddened for obviously he has not read the book carefully. Had he read either book, he would have noted a chapter devoted to tactics—short in each case but still there—these he obviously missed or he would not have asked me to write a third time on them.

I find it most frustrating that in 1970, we do not appear to have accepted the fact that it is absolutely essential to have a thorough working knowledge of relevant terminology before attempting to write about the technical side of the game or criticising works on this aspect of our games.

Fr. Mansfield and I cannot begin a discussion on the relative merits of the technical side of the game until he and I accept a common definition of such terms as "drilling", "coaching", "training" and "teaching" as applied to football. Nor until he accepts that principles are more important than examples of principles. This is a pity.

However, it is a problem which besets the G.A.A. at many levels. The lack of definition of terms and standardisation of interpretation is

● TO PAGE 7



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# IT'S FUN TO WASTE TIME—SOMETIMES

ONE of the most important things about doing any research on any subject, is never to stray from the original task. Digress for a second, just leave your eye stray for a moment and it's a hundred to one on that you'll get yourself caught up in something else and you'll be off on a tangent into other fields.

And the trouble is that all too often those other fields can be highly diverting and entertaining, even if they have nothing whatsoever to do with the subject you're working on.

I got caught badly recently when I went into the National Library to do some research on something that had happened in the early part of 1936. Something involving my own family—and a thousand miles away from anything to do with sport.

There I was, turning over the yellowing pages of a 1936 newspaper when suddenly, for no good reason, I allowed my eyes to pause at a report of a G.A.A. game and, of course, I was

By  
**PATRICK DAVID**

caught. I began to read it and an hour later, instead of being hard at work on my proper job, I was now doing research on the G.A.A. game.

A waste of time? Of course it was. Nothing more than useless information. But then I had a mild brainwave. I could put it to some use. After all if it interested me, it might interest you and cause a little talk and argument. So here we go. Ulster and Leinster met in the semi-final of the Railway Cup football competition at the Athletic Grounds, Dundalk, in February, 1936, and according to the paper, it brought in a record attendance to the ground.

Cavan were then the All-Ireland champions and they chose the Ulster team. Not unnaturally they picked an almost all-Cavan side and, in fact, there were only two outsiders on the

team—J. McCullough (Down) and J. Vallely (Armagh).

The Leinster side came from several counties and, according to the paper one Mortimer Kelly lined out at centrehalf forward. I'm sure Murt Kelly would enjoy the dignified name they gave him in those far-off days.

However, to the game itself. I am not going to give you a blow by blow description—just the scoring, which makes interesting history.

After 10 minutes Louis Blessing had a point for Ulster and five minutes later John McKeivitt levelled for Leinster.

And that, believe it or not, was the total scoring in the first half.

And now to the second half. Magee scored a point for Ulster and Whitty levelled again for Leinster.

And that was the end of the scoring. The final result was Ulster 0-2; Leinster 0-2.

Now if that is not some sort of record or other in G.A.A. games, I'm a monkey's uncle.

Can anyone beat it?

## ● FROM PAGE 5

essential before our games can develop.

For example, when he illustrated what he meant by a tactic, he did no more than give an isolated and naive example of a general principle. This is like mistaking a miniature conifer for a pine forest. In any case, what meaning can a book on tactics have if the principles of play are not either understood or explained as we go along. I have analysed the principles of play in *FITNESS FOR GAELIC FOOTBALL* and with very little assistance, he or anyone else for that matter could produce a book on tactics based on these.

I would suggest to Fr. Mansfield

that PEIL could not have been written before 1964 and, in fact, had I torn pages 18 to 88 out of *COACHING GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR CHAMPIONS* and sold it at 5/- a time, PEIL would never have been written. For, as Bro. McDonnell was forced to admit in a post-publication acknowledgement:

"I am indebted to JOE LENNON for the use of diagrams from his book *COACHING GAELIC FOOTBALL FOR CHAMPIONS*, and I wish to thank him for the use I have made of extracts from his book in the sections dealing with tackling, passing, blocking, toe tapping and kicking" q.v. He could have gone on . . . Hence, Fr. Mansfield did not compare my book with the booklet

PEIL. If our Irish "schoolboys' psychological make-up" is such that it can only cope with the verbiage of PEIL, God help Ireland. We should "put down with frustration" every text book in both Inter and Leaving Cert and substitute Fallons notes en masse. I have great faith in both the intelligence and the application of Irish schoolboys. Even though I don't claim to be a psychologist, I would suggest that more damage is done to them and the game by reducing football to such absurdities.

Finally, if Fr. Mansfield had only had some good counsel before he wrote his article, he would have realised that his prayers for a Nazi general in Croke Park have, after all, been answered.



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# TOP TEN

**T**HE following lists have been compiled from games played between March 22 and April 19, inclusive. Consequently, although Offaly received a heavy beating from Limerick in the semi-final of the National Hurling League, a few of the midland team had already staked strong claims to places in the ratings with superb displays in their victory over Kilkenny at Birr on March 22.

Inevitably, players from Mayo and Down, National Football League finalists on May 10, figure prominently in the football ratings.

## HURLING

- (9) **D. Martin** ..... (Offaly)
- (9) **R. Bennis** ..... (Limerick)
- (8) **P. J. Keane** ..... (Limerick)
- (8) **P. J. Whelehan** ..... (Offaly)
- (8) **B. Moylan** ..... (Offaly)
- (8) **E. Cregan** ..... (Limerick)
- (8) **D. Clifford** ..... (Cork)
- (7) **P. McDonnell** ..... (Cork)
- (7) **J. Flaherty** ..... (Offaly)
- (7) **T. O'Connor** ... (Tipperary)

## FOOTBALL

- (9) **J. Langan** ..... (Mayo)
- (9) **J. Fitzsimons** ..... (Down)
- (9) **P. Gallagher** ..... (Louth)
- (9) **J. Corcoran** ..... (Mayo)
- (8) **R. Niland** ..... (Mayo)
- (8) **M. Carolan** ..... (Kildare)
- (8) **S. O'Neill** ..... (Down)
- (7) **S. Lagan** ..... (Derry)
- (7) **D. McCartan** ..... (Down)
- (7) **J. Donnelly** ..... (Kildare)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**JAY DRENNAN**



*Dan Quigley  
 (Wexford)*



*P. J. Ryan  
 (Tipperary)*



*Mick Roche  
 (Tipperary)*



*Willie Murphy  
 (Wexford)*

## **NECKS ARE FOR STICKING OUT!**

**R**ELUCTANTLY, one must admit to the swift passage of time, to the fact that the June issue of **Gaelic Sport** is taking shape on the editor's desk. No longer can we push aside the invitation to try to select the champions of the coming season. It is time to place one's critical head on the block and bare one's forecasting neck to the chopper.

Kilkenny reign in hurling; Cork were heirs apparent last year; Tipperary languished like deposed monarchs; Wexford played as much like kings who had abdicated rather than been ousted from their throne. Already, there are some straws in the wind which would indicate some slight changes in the balance of power, although it again seems likely that the choice of champions will be from the same narrow circle of favourites.

One significant factor enters into this year's calculations which was not on the map last time—the position of Offaly. In this county where football already has held the highest possible esteem, hurling has come right to the top in a short space of time,

The performances in the Leinster championships last summer startled us. Not because we doubted that such a convincing and strong challenge could have been mounted by one of the poorer hurling relations, but because of



*Paddy Moran  
 (Kilkenny)*

the sophisticated and skilful manner in which the challenge was sustained.

Most emerging new powers have more to offer of vigour and enthusiasm, of loyalty and pride, of fitness and never say die, than of pure skill and impressive technique. Offaly were different. They were, of course, buoyed up with enthusiasm and fire; but, they also displayed a standard of control and striking skill which was heavy embarrassment to any opponents who thought they might impose themselves upon them when the dash and enthusiastic fervour had spent itself.

No such opportunity occurred,



*Donal Clifford  
 (Cork)*



*Tony Maher  
 (Cork)*

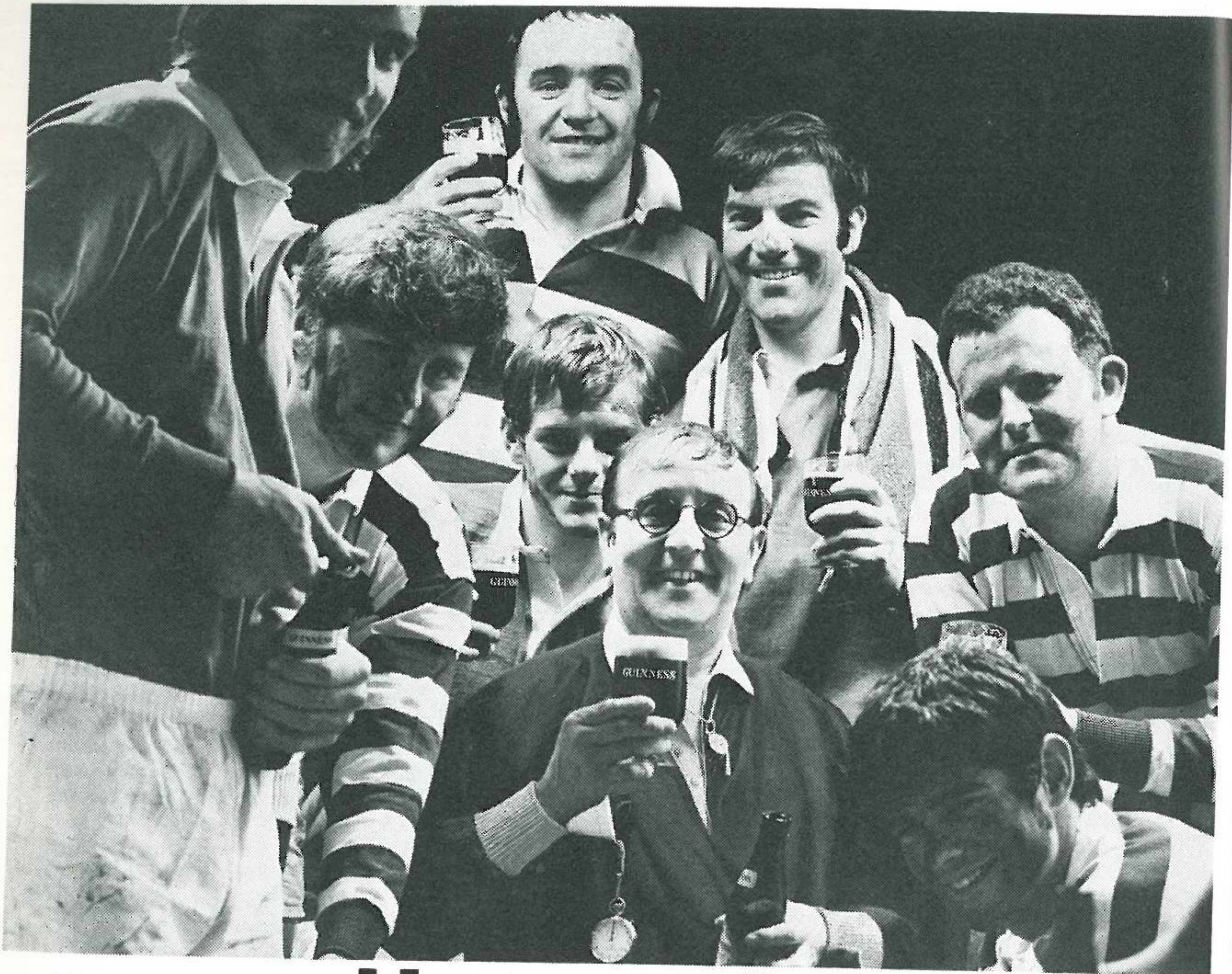
not because of the sustained drive of Offaly, but because of the fact that opponents who hoped to impose their skill on the game were unable to do so at any point.

It is, maybe, a good indication of that to recall how successful Offaly have been in the National League during the winter. The euphoric of emotion and loyal dedication was long gone, chilled in the misery of many an unpleasant winter evening, yet, they still proved a match and more for the best in the country. That is because they are based in a high degree of skill; and, because of that, they can now take on anyone with sanguine hope that they would be able to master them.

At least the emergence of Offaly does give a new dimension to the championship picture. They must be seriously considered, and could very well be an attractive long-odds shot for the adventurous punter. And, yet, the business of establishment is the greatest single factor which makes it hard for a county to achieve the breakthrough.

Teams who seem to have had everything have still found themselves working hard for a significant championship achievement—and against teams which they would have beaten with comfort in

● **TO PAGE 11**



# Home or Awayness

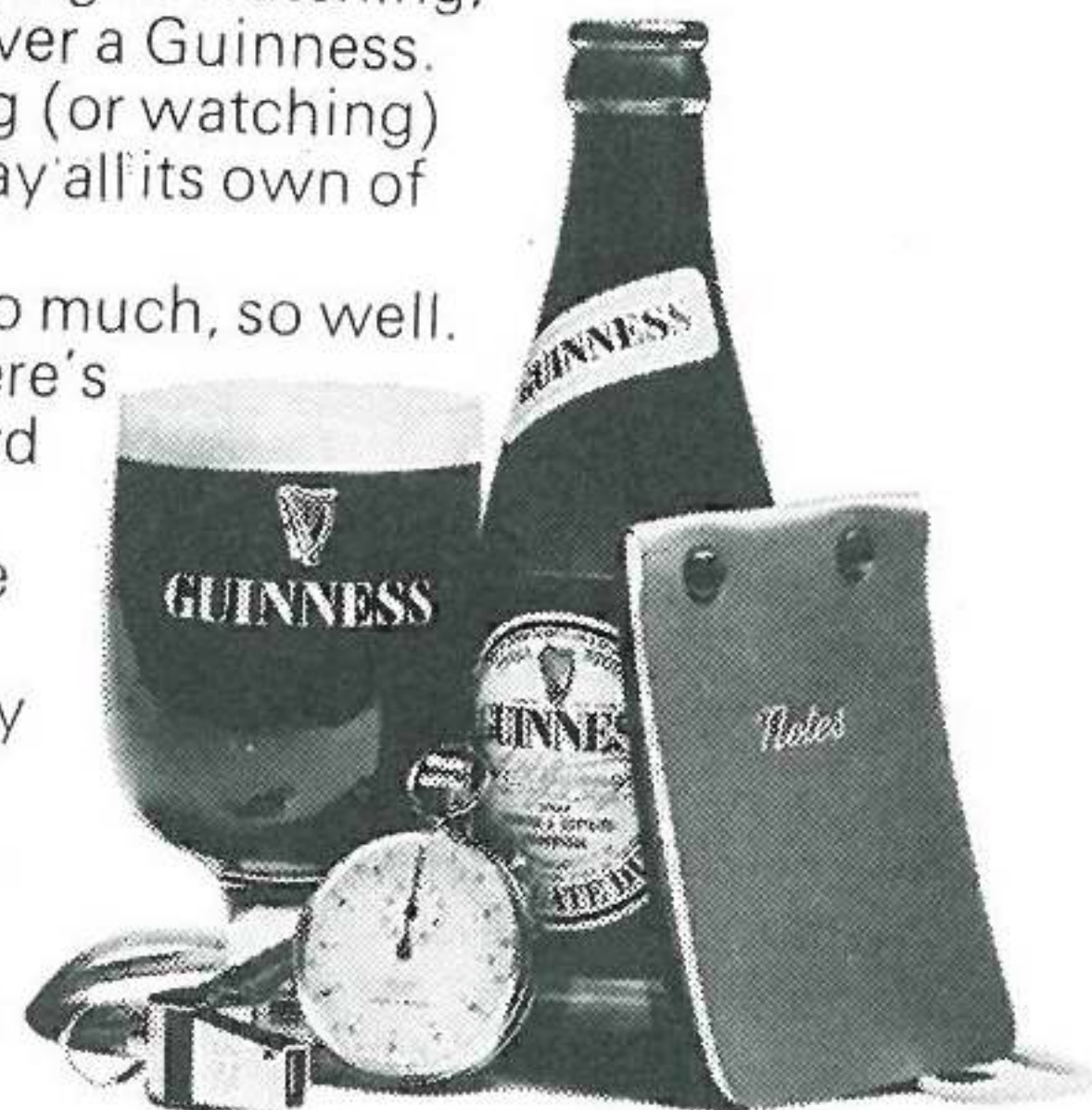
Whether you're playing or watching, after the game get together over a Guinness.

And if you're playing (or watching) away then Guinness has a way all its own of making you feel at home.

For Guinness says so much, so well.

Like welcome. Or here's mud in your eye. Look forward to seeing you again.

Now isn't that a nice way to cheer the winners. (Even better, isn't it a nice way to cheer the losers?)



There's more than goodness in Guinness

GD598C

● FROM PAGE 9

the winter, or in a challenge or tournament.

Kilkenny really looked on the crest of a wave at the end of the 1969 All-Ireland; they appeared to have recaptured a lot of the Kilkenny magic for survival and for imposing their class on the opposition at the crucial time.

They also seemed to have discovered and blooded in the best Kilkenny tradition several fine young players of unlimited prospects. For one thing, they seemed to have found a solution to the difficult centre-field problem which had been throwing unbearable burdens on Paddy Moran for years.

It looked as though Paddy could now be spared for a forward position where he would fill one of the several bothersome positions in a line which depended almost entirely on the ability of Eddie Keher to produce the vital scores. Kavanagh, Millea and Lawler seemed to show signs of improved prospects for the future in a forward line which had long belied the great Kilkenny tradition of class attackers. Mick Lawler and Frank Cummins looked as though centre-field was safe for years to come. The defence which has carried the team—untypically, in the light of history—for many years, past, seemed in no danger of immediate disintegration.

Things have not developed as Kilkenny might have liked; centre-field is still the problem area, it has been for a long time; the forwards have not matured or retained their promised form, and Keher is again carrying the rest of the line, and, worse still, the defence is showing a crack and a creak here and there.

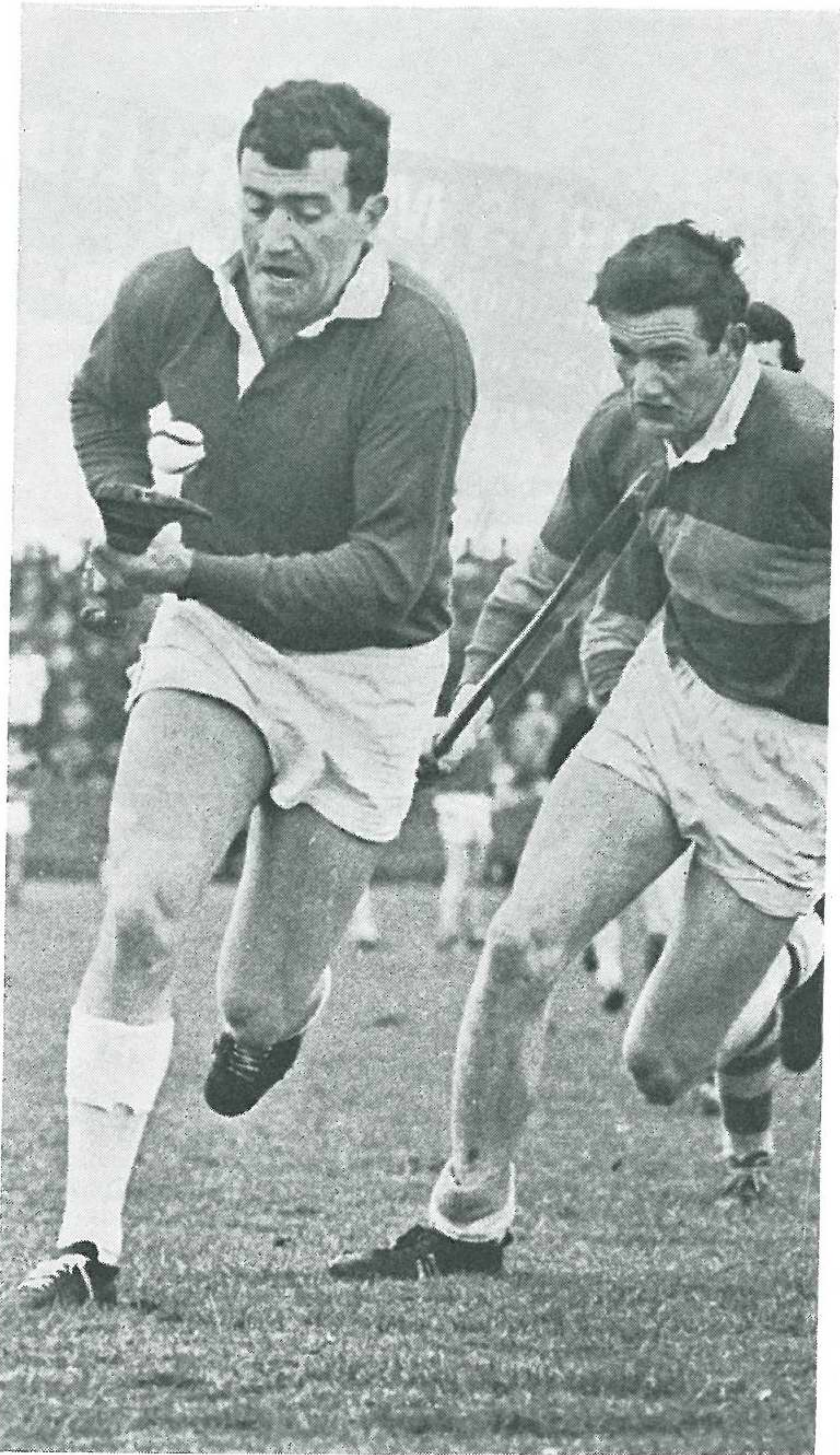
It will demand a very severe reappraisal or a serious application to training for Kilkenny to challenge for the title a second time on the run. Offaly would not mind taking them on in the morning, I am sure, and would

fancy their chances of reversing last year's near thing.

Of Dublin and Laois, nothing can seriously be said that has not been true over far too long a period—that they seem to be natural losers. Wexford, however,

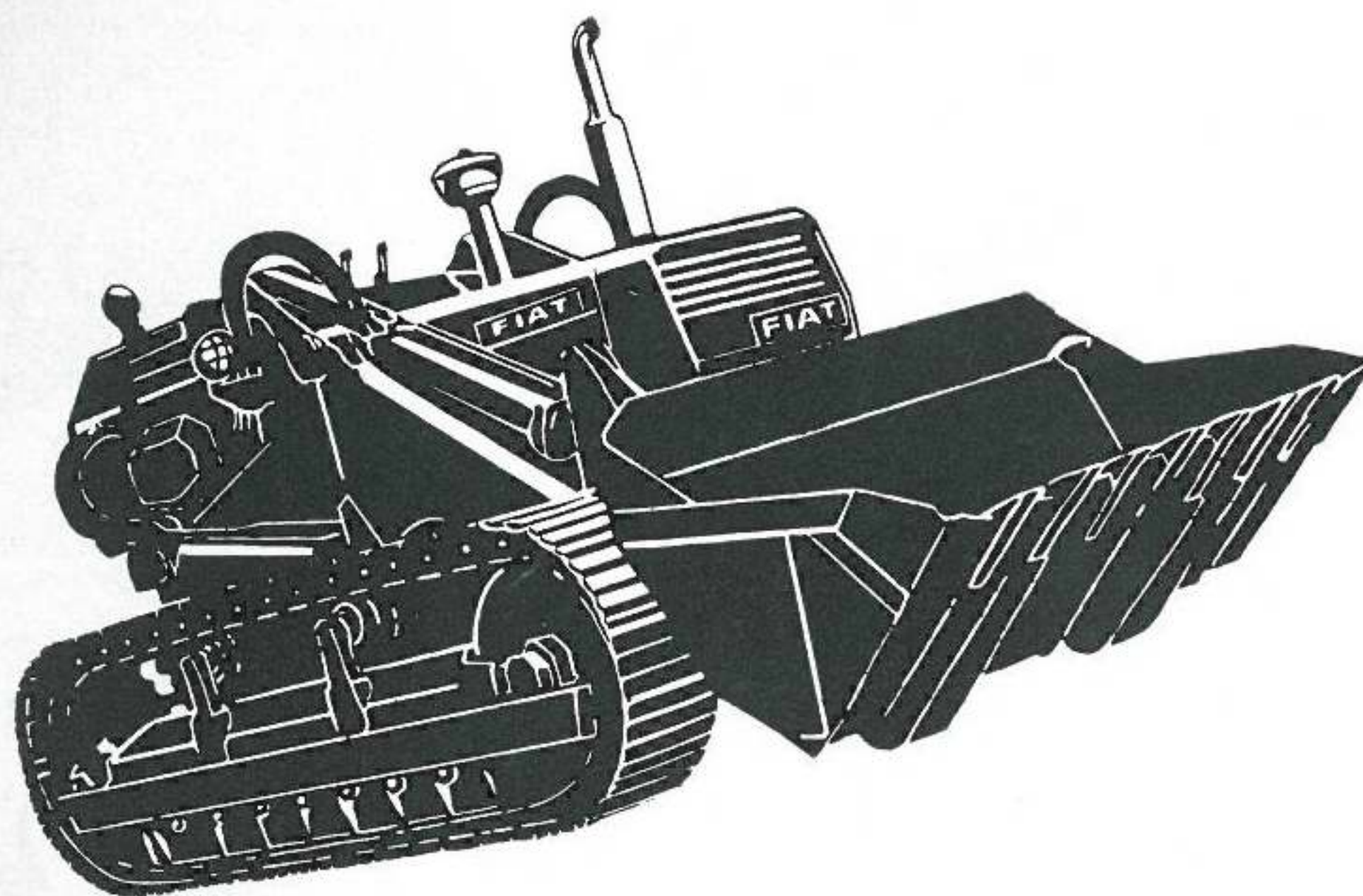
are an enigma. Brimming with potential and with hurlers of known ability, they can seldom string together a whole sixty minutes of their best, not to mention several games in succes-

● TO PAGE 12



CHARLIE CULLINANE (Cork)

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● FROM PAGE 11

sion in their top form. It is strange, but, as we all know from the past, that is the very time when Wexford are most likely to rise and strike down their detractors.

The Munster scene, also, bears close resemblance to that of last year, except that, this time, Tipperary are unlikely to cause the same weeping and gnashing of teeth among their followers as they caused after last year's Munster final.

Cork have plenty of fire and dash and mission, no little skill, and a great depth of talent. Their side will be all the harder now for the disappointment of last September.

Limerick have again showed the same consistency in their League campaign which they have been showing for several years past; but, it has not given results in the championship in the past—so, how can one expect that it will do so this year.

Clare also have shown a touch or two to cherish hope, but, it is hardly likely that they can approach the championship with any more confidence than they had last year or for several years.

They were nearly good enough for a number of years; they have nothing that I can see to indicate that they are so much improved as to make this their year. Waterford are struggling on the bottom run of their downward slide; they can only go upward from here, but, I cannot see that they have strung together the players to drag them off that bottom rung in the immediate future.

No, it is Tipperary that catch my fancy; they have shown a dedication to the business of reviving the county's fortunes and building the self-confidence of the players after the recriminations of last year that is impressive.

They have shown a great interest in putting the county back on top throughout their League campaign.

● TO PAGE 48



## 'MR. CAMOGIE'

SEAN O'DUFFY, WINNER OF  
THE CUCHULAIN AWARD,  
TALKS TO AGNES HOURIGAN

ALMOST since camogie was first instituted in 1904, Sean O'Duffy has been the man who by devoting so much of his spare-time and abundant energy to the organisation of the game, has built the organisation into the force it is to-day.

His work was finally recognised when, on St. Patrick's Eve, he was presented with the Cuchulainn Award for his contribution not alone to Camogie but to the whole Gaelic ideal, a fitting tribute to a great Gael, and an old 1916 man.

He was recently interviewed for GAELIC SPORT by our Camogie correspondent, Agnes Hourigan.

*A.H.—Sean, exactly how far back does your association with Camogie go?*

S. O'D.—My Association with the game started about 1906 when, as a member of the Crokes Gaelic Club I helped to encourage our girl-members to play the game. Our club included in its programme football, hurling, camogie, Irish dancing and singing, concerts. A monthly lecture was given by prominent Irishmen, the last by Francis Sheehy Skeffington.

*A.H.—When did Camogie really "arrive" as a national game?*

S. O'D.—When Camogie teams were given pride of place in the Tailteann games of 1928 and 1932.

*A.H.—What is your most pleasant memory of all your camogie years?*

S. O'D.—In 1930, when on a visit to the U.S.A. I saw that a camogie game was to be played in Inisfail Park, New York. There I met an old friend, Wedger Meagher, who then insisted that I referee the game, which was between Dublin and Offaly.

*A.H.—And the day you took most pride in the Association?*

S. O'D.—When, on October 23, 1932, the teams of the Dublin County Board, some six hundred players, marched from 41 Parnell Square to the Phoenix Park, where Professor Agnes O'Farrelly opened the No. 2 Ground. It was also a proud moment to assist at the opening of No. 3 and No. 4 pitches on Sunday, June 20, 1967. And, of course, another unforgettable day was when a record crowd of 9,136 turned up at Croke Park on October 17, 1943, for the All-Ireland final between Dublin and Cork.

Other proud occasions were provided by the setting up of the provincial councils in 1934, and the playing of the All-Ireland semi-finals for the first time at Croke Park on November 1, 1935.

*A.H.—And your greatest wish for the future?*

S. O'D.—To see an efficient County Board functioning in every county, so that we could

truly say ours is an All-Ireland Association. The encouragement of school and college teams should be a primary duty for all such boards.

The popularisation of the game rests with the enthusiastic members of the Association. Lady teachers can play a big part, but in the past few years it has been a great pleasure to welcome to our aid so many nuns who are willing workers in our cause. And we should always remember that our Association has a national ideal.

*A.H.—Do you think there is any need for rule changes?*

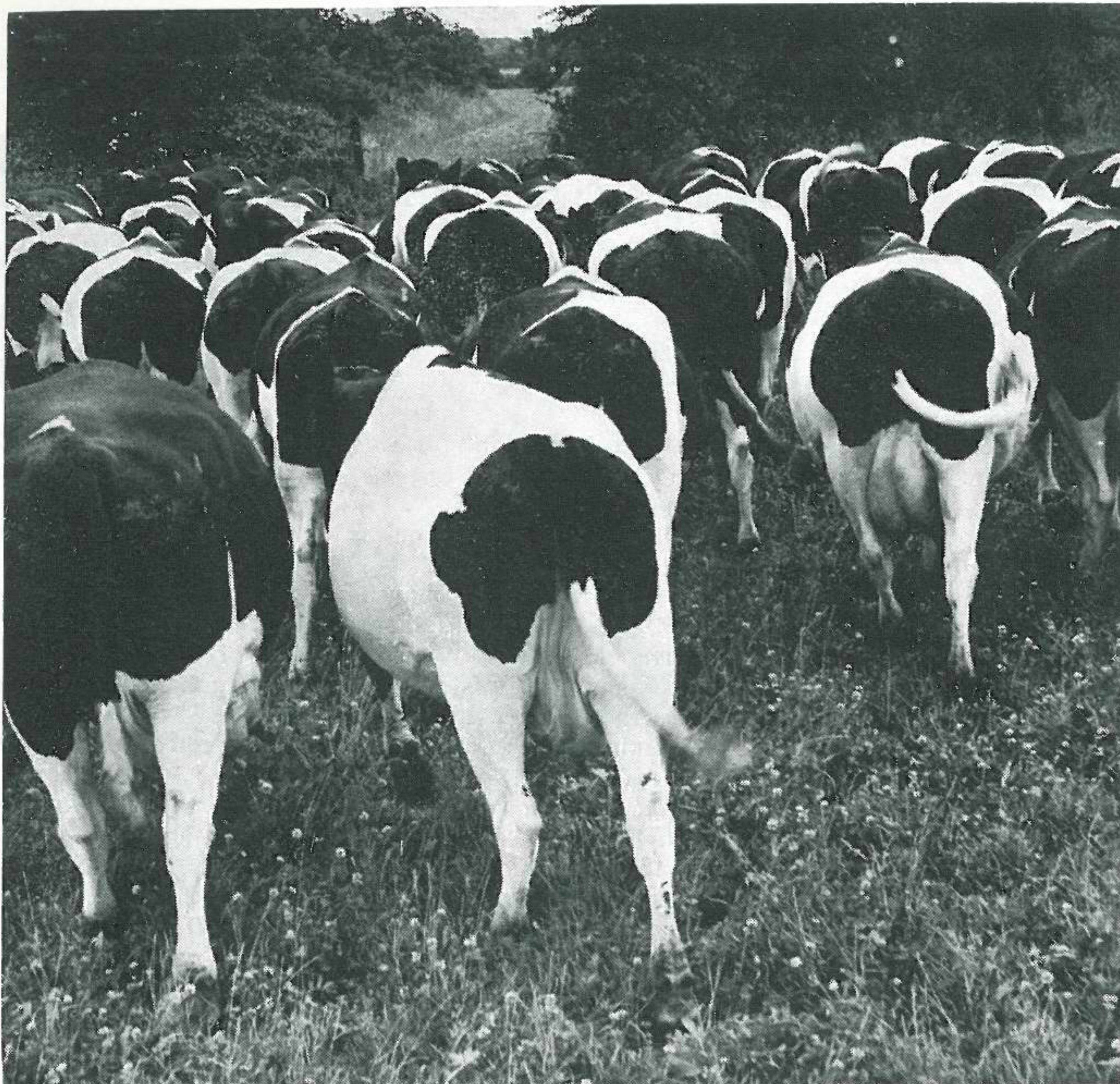
S. O'D.—I think the rules are good enough, what we need are more and more teams especially from schools and Colleges and young enthusiastic people coming forward at all levels to carry on the "staff-work."

*A.H.—Do you think the G.A.A. could be a greater help?*

S. O'D.—The G.A.A. has always helped in many ways, but I would not advise that our matches should be played in conjunction with big hurling and football matches. There could be exceptions, as for instance the occasion recently when the interprovincial final was played before the Oireachtas hurling final.

*A.H.—How does the standard of play to-day compare with that of say fifty years ago?*

● TO PAGE 37



## Long after the cows go home Bord Bainne's still at work

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# JUNIOR DESK

A new column  
for the  
younger set

DEvised AND WRITTEn

By JACK MAHON

WE will kick-off with the name for this column. I've used "Junior Desk" for this month's issue, but if you have any better suggestions, write and let me hear them. You may consider "Junior Platform" a better title.

What is this column? Who will it cater for? What will it contain? Well, first of all it is intended for the younger set, but we can't stop the older set from reading it! How young must you be? Well, this depends on yourself, but it is aimed primarily (now that's much too big a word to use!) at youngsters in national schools.

What will it contain? Again this will depend on you. I'd like to hear your ideas on this, too. But first of all could I make a few suggestions to you. If you read my column last month, you'll know of my ideas. I'm all for scrapbooks for one thing. So let us look at this hobby first. I'm a scrapbook addict much to my wife's regret. She swears she'll throw them all out some day, but she knows better!

The idea is that all you young

G.A.A. fans should start a G.A.A. scrapbook. I'd like if *Gaelic Sport* would print their own scrapbook and either issue it free with one issue of their magazine or else supply it on request to readers at a nominal fee. This scrapbook should carry special spaces for the G.A.A. stars' and each issue of *Gaelic Sport* should carry at least two scrapbook stars, these to be numbered and to be of standard size so that they fit exactly in the space allotted to them in the special *Gaelic Sport* scrapbook.

All this would take time so let us be practical. The first thing you are to do is go and buy a scrapbook. Get a big one. Don't mind if it has soccer stars on the cover. We youngsters are liberal! Then get a roll of Sellotape if you can get the money from your Dad (or your Mam). I always found my mother a safer bet, although my father, God rest him, never let us down in a crisis.

If you can't afford sellotape, use flour and water, like I did first. Cut out the photographs

neatly and paste them in neatly. Keep your scrapbook in a safe place too. Maintain interest in it and fill it. At that stage it will be a hobby and you'll buy another one. Some day you'll probably have 50 like I have now.

In this column alone I intend to incorporate two scrapbook photographs every month. This month it is Mick O'Connell and Christy Ring. Mick O'Connell is still playing football. I was delighted to see him return to play in a League game recently I'm sure you'd all like to see him really back for Kerry again. Listen kids, would you ever write to him in Valentia Island and tell him how much you'd like to see him play for Kerry again. Unfortunately, we will never see Christy Ring play hurling again.

I remember him playing in a Munster final down in Thurles one day and he was marked out of the game for 50 minutes. Then in the last ten minutes he ran riot and scored goals and points

## CUT-OUTS



CHRISTY RING



MICK O'CONNELL

● TO PAGE 16

● FROM PAGE 15

to win the game against Limerick almost on his own. Well, not on his own, because one man on his own never wins a game, you know. Knowing Mick O'Connell and Christy Ring, I know they'll be delighted that I have started this column for youngsters. So much for scrapbooks.

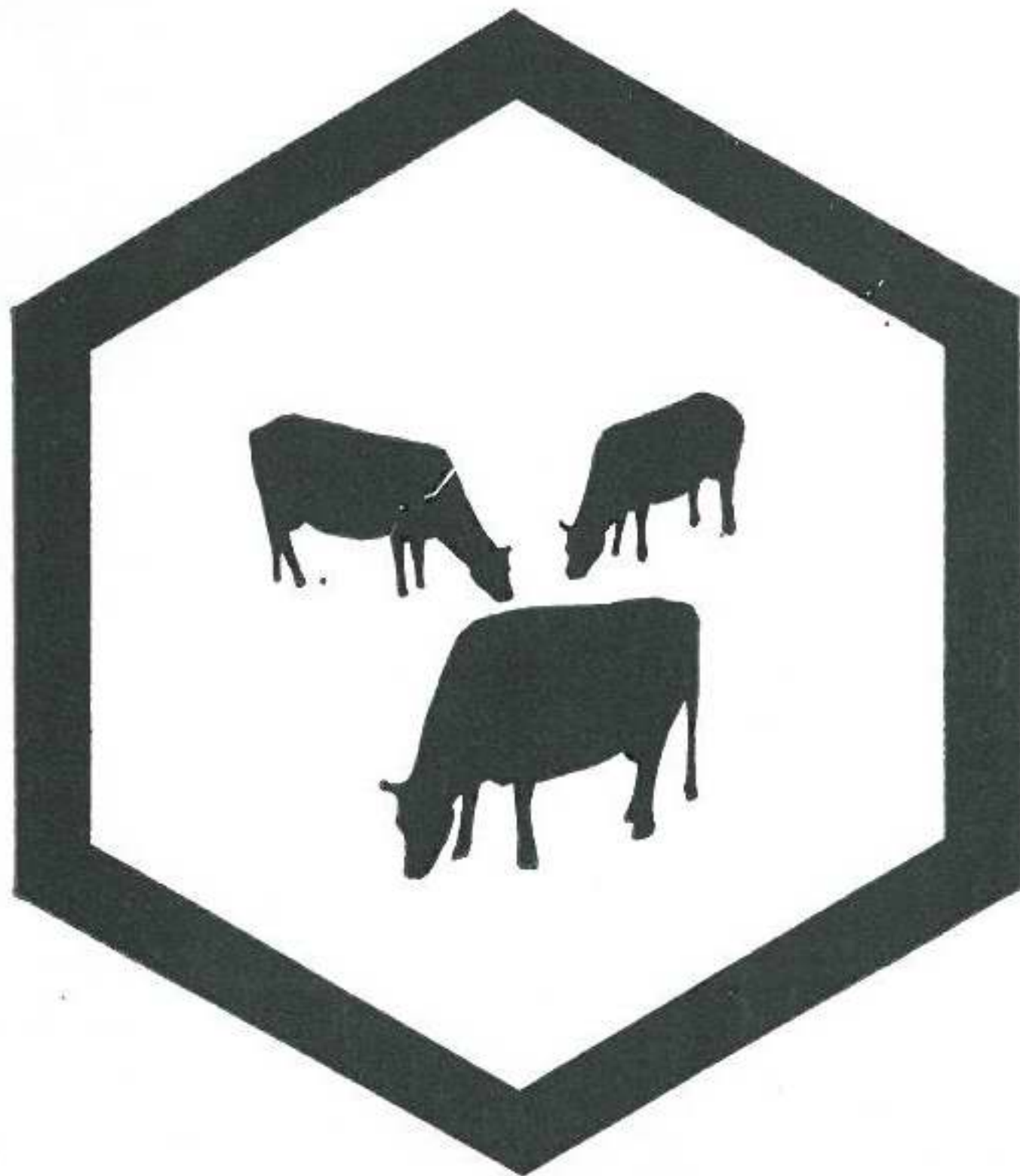
Well, I had other ideas. Painting competitions, pen-pal section, a special *Gaelic Sport* club with

badge and certificate supplied for a small fee, easy educational crosswords, quiz, cartoons, comic strips. Oh yes, why not send on a photograph of yourself for this column. Now it must be a good photograph. Write your name and address at the back and tell us something about yourself. Tell me who is your favourite hurler or footballer, where you are from, your age and if you have any requests to

make (or criticisms!), please do. Tell me your age. Only do it immediately all you young folks from Dublin, Galway, Derry, Tralee, Dungarvan, Thomastown, Ballybay, Belfast, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Now don't be shy and next month I'll have another "Junior Desk" for you with two more scrapbook photos and some more interesting (I hope) chat for you. The month after that I'll deal with your letters in reply to this first column. So remember you won't see any mention of your letters until July.

Finally, write to me at the following address "Junior Desk", *Gaelic Sport*, 80 Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin 9.



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The left back takes a long shot at goal!

# I'M NOT SURPRISED AT THE NO-CHANGE RESULT

says  
**EAMONN YOUNG**

CONGRESS in Galway, I said to myself, and there will be some great changes for the better. But now that it's all over I'm not very surprised at the no-change result for we are, as a consequence of both our geography and our history, a conservative people. In addition, a great unwieldy body like Congress is bound to be conservative.

This does not mean that I'm radical and in fact, I see a desire to pull up the roots of either the G.A.A. or of society as something away out.

But changes must be made as people change and it is a well-known historical fact that failure to make the small changes as the need arises results in sweeping changes later on with drastic and not always good results. The sluice-gates take away the extra water from the dam. Without them, the stoutest concrete gives.

At Congress, the proposer of a motion has, before he stands up, a fraction of the audience already going for him. Likewise, he has a number against. The folk he is after are the non-committed and sometimes they are not many. The trouble is that unless these are completely convinced they won't budge. If there is any doubt, the natural thing is to play safe and stay with what you have.

That is why the recommendations of John Dowling's rule-change committee started off against the breeze and, indeed, only for the suspension of standing orders allowing the trial period of one year they could have stayed at home altogether.

The rule changes should all have been tried in competition of some sort so that all present would have known exactly what they were voting for.

For instance I have been for years in favour of thirteen-aside games but that doesn't mean I want them in an All-Ireland. I want to see them played regularly over a good period in secondary competitions so that, if and when we do make a change, it will be a sensible one. The cutting out of the solo-run, the snatch from the ground, the extended square, the open handpass, suspension for the period of the game, etc., etc., could all have been tried out in each county so that the man in the street who, after all, pays at the gate, carries the jerseys, and begets sons to wear them, will have an opinion based not on surmise but experience.

In the absence of these trials and considering the conservative mentality, the result we had in Galway is just what we deserved. However, many people are satisfied with the *status quo* and will remain that way for their lives. I'm not. I want our best brains to be rest-

lessly seeking change for the better and I want them to get a chance to try out their ideas so that if they are wrong no harm is done.

I see no great harm in the 80-minute game and some good, but why should we be forced to experiment in the big games. We could have tried it out in the championships of each county and then talked from fact, not opinion, next Easter. I think the men will be fit enough for it and, anyway, one only has to be as fit as the other fellow and he's no professional either. I don't remember ever feeling really tired at the end of a game, and if I remember the social activities of most of my friends for the succeeding twelve hours they weren't worn out either.

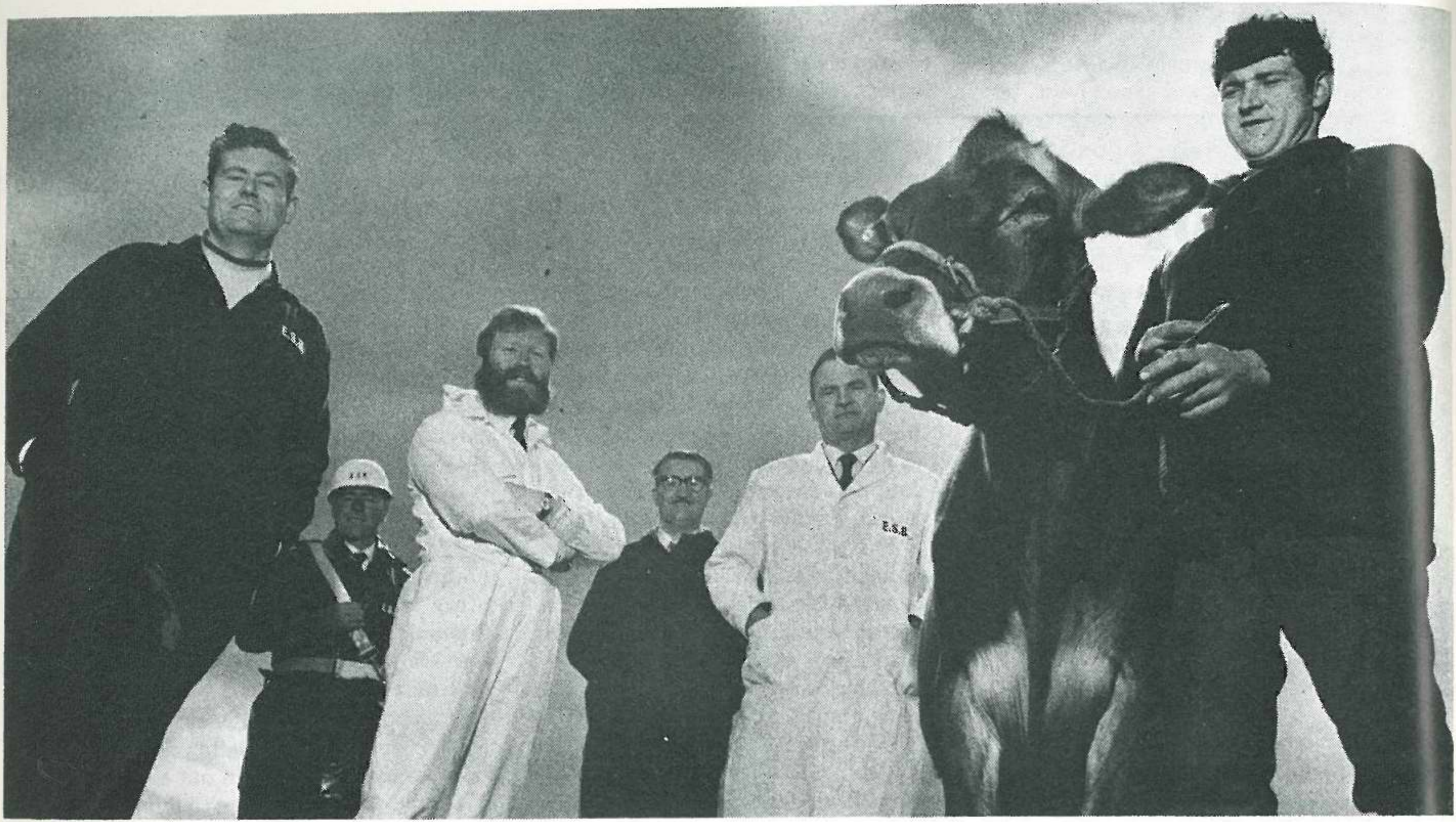
To be honest, I don't think I would stay for the end of a long weary game on a winter evening but for the moment we don't have to worry about that.

The fiver fine for exceeding the ten-minute half time should do good if it is carried out. It's a long time now since the fine for late starts was passed and seldom enough it has been imposed. The score allowed when the man who has been fouled, kicked it over or under the bar is another natural, and every little improvement helps.

The substitution for uninjured players, a matter some of us have been belting at for years, has come at last and the sham is over. More important, we are now telling the truth for the rule specifically stated that the man who went off had to be injured. If dishonesty is necessary (dreadful thing to admit) it's bad enough; when it's not necessary it's really stupid.

The All-Ireland club championship indicates the steady growth in awareness of the clubs' importance. But it's another commitment

● TO PAGE 19

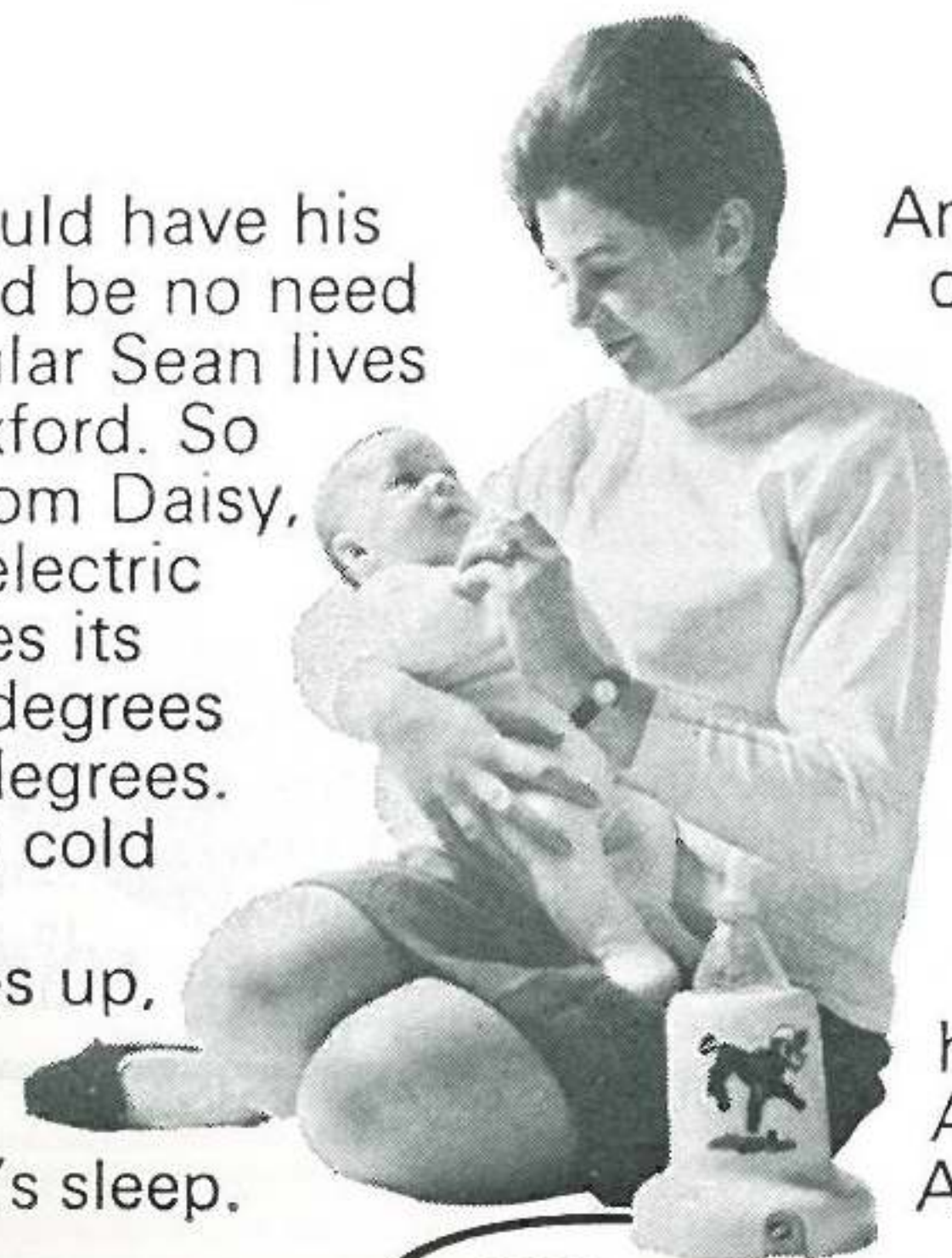


# We cooled Daisy's milk this morning

And we'll warm Sean's tonight

If every single Sean could have his own individual Daisy, there'd be no need for the ESB. But this particular Sean lives in Dublin, and Daisy in Wexford. So when the milk comes hot from Daisy, it goes straight through an electric cooling plant. In two minutes its temperature drops from 70 degrees to a safe-from-bacteria 45 degrees. So that Sean's Mum buys it cold but clean.

Then when Sean wakes up, it's on with the bottle-warmer. He gets his heated milk. His Mum gets a night's sleep.



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So that when you press a switch, hot becomes cold. And cold hot. And dark bright. And wheels turn. And fires burn. And and and and and.

 a little plug  
for the ESB

## ● FROM PAGE 17

and, while I applaud it, the fact that we have not cut down anywhere else is disturbing. I have always been an admirer of the enthusiastic player who is not good enough to get on an inter-county senior team, but who feels proud to drag on the junior shirt. Still, it has to be limited somehow and in some counties it is only a lack-lustre flower bed where senior roses are expected to bloom.

If the club championship is a success it may be another nail in the coffin lid of the junior championships where the weight of money lost is enough to keep the corpse safe anyhow.

I thought the quick free would not get through because it might make the game untidy but am not sorry it's getting a trial. Still, I would rather have an innovation that we would keep and I'm not sure we'll retain this one. The trial matches in the counties would have helped. The play will now be more continuous, and that's good. What may not be good is the blocking, legal and otherwise, that will go on the moment the foul is committed to ensure that the kicker won't get the ball to a loose comrade. However, I may be exaggerating.

I never liked Galway hurling in Munster, not because they didn't add to the championship but because it seemed bad for Connacht. Many sound men didn't agree. Now they're back in the West and if the game had progressed in the other counties as a result of sincere guidance and hard work, then the absence may have done good after all, while the return of the kings will set the princelings working harder to topple them. An All-Ireland semi-final between Ulster and Leinster may not be as far off as we think. And remember that Antrim beat Kilkenny before.

The thirteen-a-side game got the hammer but the amendment

is just as good as having it passed . . . better, in fact, for now we have the experimental period I'm always talking about. Each county can have them now, a permission each could have got anyway with half the fuss.

I'm not sold on the snatch off the ground and would have gone against it, but then I didn't see much of it and thought about one in ten knows how often and how far to exploit the solo-run. I'm not sorry they have left it there until we see its absence tried out more

## 'AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION IS LIKE TAKING A HAMMER TO KILL A FLY'

widely. I do think it should be curtailed somewhat.

With 174 for the open palm pass and only 94 against, the writing does seem on the wall here. In spite of the fact that Congress isn't renowned for the extreme youth of its delegates there may be a lot of people not quite sure what they are voting for here. It's a long time since we saw any palm passing and middle aged men like us aren't noted for the accuracy of our youthful memories.

I enjoyed the palm-passing game

and saw it at its worst also. We might be very, very wise to try this one out well before bringing it back to Congress. It's easy enough to ask for permission to have a few tournaments using it.

We still won't be allowed enjoy the popular dances which, in addition to giving people legitimate pastime, help to make money for those clubhouses we would like the clubs to build. I'm afraid that my own brand of national philosophy is not the restrictive kind and I don't think that exclusion is either desirable or practical. I always praise the undoubted sincerity of those who disagree with me here. I admire the principle but deplore the method. When current affairs have stabilised again perhaps the time for discussion on such matters will be more suitable.

A match I saw recently only confirmed what many of us have been saying for years, get rid of the automatic suspension. At the moment it wouldn't be at all popular to put off an inter-county man and by that I don't mean that inter-county players are dirty.

In fact, the reverse is nearer the truth. But would you put off an inter-county man when your county is playing within the month. Perhaps you would but then you're honest. I'm afraid crooks like me would wear out the pencil taking his name first. A solution is to put the man off for the game and let the committee award the suspension. I don't think it was ever the intention to have the referee award a month's suspension. The thing is like taking a hammer to kill a flea. But Congress still doesn't see it that way.

But good work was done at Congress and everything does not depend on rules. So much lies with foresight, imagination, integrity and industry. I don't think we are short on these qualities of leadership and look forward to a year of progress under Pat Fanning.



SEAN O'NEILL

# WASTE OF TIME SAYS SEAN O'NEILL

In a talk with  
NOEL COOGAN

money involved. The reasons given by the delegates for rejecting the proposed new rules were very bad ones.

*N.C.—Are you, yourself, in favour of ALL the proposed changes in the playing rules?*

S. O'N.—I am in favour of every one of them. There has been much talk about the need to clean up the game. These rules would have that very effect and would also lead to a more fluent game.

*N.C.—Is there any particular change which you especially wanted to see introduced to the game.*

S. O'N.—I would like to have seen three, at least, passed—the restriction of the solo-run, the picking up of the ball and the enlargement of the square. I feel that if those three changes were accepted then our work would not have been entirely in vain.

*N.C.—I have my doubts about the restriction of the solo run. Take, for instance, if a forward gains possession, say thirty yards out, with*

ONE of the big talking points in G.A.A. circles in recent weeks has been the rejection of most of the proposed rules changes put forward by the recently formed Rules Revision Committee at Congress. Many football supporters, who believe that the changes would have made the game more attractive and exciting, have not been slow in expressing their disappointment at the attitude of the delegates at Galway on Easter Sunday.

The great Down forward, Sean

O'Neill, is a member of the Rules Revision Committee and a few days after Congress I spoke to him about the matter and also other topical subjects. Our conversation went as follows:—

*N.C.—What is your reaction to the rejection of most of the recommendations by the Rules Revision Committee at Congress?*

S. O'N.—It is a great pity that the proposed changes in the playing rules were rejected out of hand at Congress. It made our work seem pointless, not to mention the waste of time and

only the goalkeeper to beat. What does he do?

S. O'N.—The other forwards should be up in support to receive a pass. The solo-run means nothing to me and I never use it. It only slows down the game and gives the defence time to cover up. I would also like to emphasise the fact that we are not trying to abolish the solo-run, as has been suggested in certain areas, but to restrict it.

N.C.—How does the standard of football at present compare with that of when you started your inter-county career?

S. O'N.—The standard is improving all the time, due to the awareness that fitness is most essential in modern football. A fit team is more able to play good football than a less fit team. I dislike negative, spoiling football, which is a real threat to our game. Attack is always the best means of defence.

N.C.—Does the use of negative and spoiling tactics by defenders ever cause you annoyance?

S. O'N.—It must annoy you when a defender persists in playing the man. If the referee does not do his job it can also lead to frustration. However, most players whom I opposed played clean, sporting football.

N.C.—Have the troubles in the Six Counties proved any handicap to the G.A.A. in that area?

S. O'N.—No, not directly. It didn't affect travelling or training anyway.

N.C.—There have been suggestions recently that members of the R.U.C. be admitted to the G.A.A. What are your views?

S. O'N.—The constitution of the G.A.A. states that it be non-political and non-sectarian. I would like to see the Association follow that rule.

N.C.—As a resident of occupied Ireland have you ever been subjected to provocation for being a member of the G.A.A.?

S. O'N.—I have never been

subjected to any provocation, but at the same time the Protestants have no time for the G.A.A. because of the "Ban".

N.C.—And what are your views on the "Ban"?

S. O'N. — I am completely against the "Ban". If it is to be retained why is it not enforced? I cannot tolerate hypocrisy. The "Ban" divides Irishmen and I have no time for anything like that. It is also alienating the youth of the country. It is a big thorn in the G.A.A. and a major problem for the 'Seventies. The Association will have to come to grips with itself and "get with it", Ireland 1970 style.

N.C.—You have scored many great goals in your career. Are

there any which you particularly remember?

S. O'N.—There are three. A last-minute penalty goal against Dublin in the 1962 League final when we were two points behind, the first goal against Kerry in the 1968 All-Ireland final and the goal against Galway in the semi-final the same year.

N.C.—You have won virtually every honour the game has to offer. Have you any unfulfilled ambition which you would like to achieve before retiring?

S. O'N.—Honours mean nothing to me. I just play for the love of the game. I enjoy playing football and I just want to keep on playing as long as I can keep myself fit enough to do so.

## A SERIOUS REFLECTION

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Father Dan Joe O'Mahony,  
Capuchin Friary,  
Holy Trinity, Cork.



# These young stars

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## believe the

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## prophets of gloom

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AT a time when the prophets of gloom are so vocal about the future of the national games, nothing gives greater confidence in the ability of football and hurling to maintain the march forward in firm style than the many exciting young players now making an outstanding imprint in all provinces.

It is to the youngsters that we must look for the type of gifted crowd-pullers needed to keep our great games at the top. And whether it is defenders, midfielders, or forwards, the depth of talent is such that it must surely be the envy of every other sporting association in the country.

The Railway Cup may not have provided exhilarating fare, but the football series provided further evidence that Tony Gallagher is a youngster destined to walk proudly in the tradition of such great Ulster goalkeepers as Seamus Morris (Cavan), Thady Turbitt (Tyrone) and Seamus Hoare (Donegal).

Gallagher may not have had a lot to do in the games with Munster and Connacht, but what came his way was dealt with in a mature manner that belied his 20 years. An All-Ireland junior medalist in 1968, the Tyrone player has all the hallmarks of a goal-keeping ace . . . safe hands, cool head, agility, instant reflexes, ceaseless vigilance and good judgement.

Such a brilliant start at the top level to his senior career is certain to be a wonderful boost to Tony's self-assurance. He may well prove just the type of inspiring player who could spearhead a Tyrone revival in the near future.

At the same time, the young Tyrone star cannot have any grounds for complacency regarding his Ulster team job. Looming as a serious rival for the post is another exciting goalkeeper, Ray McIlroy. He displayed all the qualities needed to get to the top in last year's All-Ireland under 21 victory by Antrim. Ray, who has since appeared with the Antrim senior side, also puts up a very dependable barrier in goal, and he has the double virtue of being just as dependable in the number one jersey in hurling.

Another young goalkeeper with the magnetism to draw the crowds is Damien Martin. Only 22, the Banagher man's mastery of this tough art has been a major factor in Offaly's emergence to a place in the hurling sun. He is the nearest we have yet seen to compare with Ollie Walsh, and it's a safe bet now that he will soon follow the great Kilkenny man into interprovincial lore.

Andy McCallin was a team-mate of McIlroy's in that Antrim under-21 history-making squad. Accurate from free-kicks, and a real opportunist, he scored as good a goal as I have seen this year. Late in a senior challenge with Dublin at O'Toole Park, Dublin, in January, he plucked the ball out of the air and then demonstrated his mastery of the solo run before completing a brilliant move with cool assurance by cracking home a powerful 25 yards drive.

"Wee Andy" is certainly taking in his stride his promotion to the premier grade. I have little doubt that time and again in the future

we will talk excitedly and enthusiastically about his ball control, artistry and shooting power. And like McIlroy, he is also a more than useful hurler. In fact, he figured with Ulster in this year's Railway Cup.

No one who followed Sligo's march in 1968 to the All-Ireland minor football final—they lost to Cork—will forget the talents displayed by the team's towering captain and midfielder, Aidan Richardson. A wholehearted and tireless footballer, his high fielding was a brilliant feature of his impressive displays.

In his appearances with the Sligo senior side this year, the Tourlestrane club man has left little doubt that he is fully living up to his earlier promise. With his sure-fielding and wholehearted football, Aidan is a young man who will pose plenty of testing problems around midfield for Sligo's opponents.

Watching James Morgan's cool and devastating display of sharp shooting against Westmeath at Navan in early March in a National Football League Division I semi-final replay—he kicked seven points from frees, and three from play—it was hard to realise that the Down man only made his senior championship debut last June.

Morgan's potential is emphasised all the more by that exhibition because the pressure was on him as a free-taker by virtue of the fact that Down's usually accurate touch from fees was not so strikingly in evidence as usual in the drawn match a week earlier.

By OWEN McCANN



Morgan was an under-21 player last year. His talents are not limited to free-taking and points scoring, vitally important though these facts are in the make-up of a forward. He can also push the ball around effectively, lay on the chances, and link up cleverly.

"What a pity that they did not give Tommy Carew a place in that attack" remarked a stranger to all and sundry as he took his leave well before the final whistle in this year's Railway Cup hurling final.

It was a well-deserved tribute to a young man whose class, artistry and faultless marksmanship were among the brightest features of hurling in the lower grades in 1969. Everything about Carew's work for Kildare during a campaign that brought the county an historic double-first in hurling of the 1968-69 National League Division II title and the All-Ireland intermediate championships, had the stamp of a hurler well equipped to hold his own with the best in the premier grade.

Carew, who is from Clane, and won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in football in 1965, has contributed greatly to moulding Kildare into such a promising force in hurling. Now also, of course, a county senior football team regular, both games will gain much from his polish and skills in the years ahead.

Paul Byrne is steadily finding his feet in the big-time hurling with Tipperary. Elusive, intelligent and a sure striker, he also has a real talent for snatching goals and points.

Seamus Looney (Cork), a dynamic graduate from the minor grades in both hurling and football, Dublin footballers Pat Leahy and David Hickey, and Cavan footballer Tom O'Reilly . . . these are just some other names in the list of talented performers forging ahead in football and hurling who are likely to help to keep the turnstiles clicking long after the forecasts of today's prophets of gloom are forgotten.

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# THE NEW PRI

**T**HIRD time lucky, they say. But, it was hardly luck which brought the supreme honour of the Association to Pat Fanning on Easter Sunday, 1970. He had been beaten twice, and it was the very fact of those two defeats which enabled him to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt to the membership of the Association that he was the man for the job.

For one thing, he never gave up — there are some who might well consider that they had taken enough after twice being also ran; for another thing, it was in the period since his first effort at election that he did most of the work which has marked him out, now, as a man of real quality and one of the most creative and most hard-working men in the G.A.A.

The victory was one of the most complete for the Presidency: proof that the Association may not take a great deal of note of the "whizz kid" when he appears on the scene, but that it keeps a close enough eye on him, and if he continues to "whizz" they will be ready to accept him in the fullness of maturity and probity.

In the case of Pádraig Ó Fainín, it is a crowning of a long life's dedication to the welfare of club, division, county, province, and, at various capacities, for the central organisation of the Association. His work as the guiding genius of the Policy Com-

mittee has shown him as one of the most enlightened of our thinkers, and this balanced out the reputation of reactionary, right-wing fanatic which somehow seems to have attached to some of his earlier activities in the Association.

Now, the Association seems happy that they have found a progressive who is at the same time grounded in the fundamental ideals and nationalistic con-

tual component in their success.

How does the President see the Association's position and priorities: I asked him some questions on these topics at his home shortly after his election, and while (as he said) he was still in the whirl of things caused by the excitements of Congress week-end.

*Q.—Are you satisfied with the present state of things?*

*A.—I am never satisfied: to be*

---

## *By Jay Drennan*

---

cepts on which the G.A.A. must stand.

Who is Pádraig Ó Fainín? First and above all, he is a G.A.A. man—in the broad sense;; as a close second, he is a Mount Sion man; not far away in third, he is a Waterford man. His enthusiasm has been a great driving force behind the wonderful success story of Cnoc Sion, the club which grew from the school, and which has established so close a set of almost "family" ties between its members, cementing them from schooldays.

His drive behind the Waterford hurlers will be acknowledged by every one of the squad which kept the county among the stars for almost a decade in the 'fifties and 'sixties as a vital spiri-

satisfied is to rest on your oars convinced that there is nothing more to do, and I do not think that state of things will ever occur in any human organisation like the G.A.A. Nevertheless, I feel that we have nothing to be ashamed about when you compare the Association's position with that of other national organisations. I'd say it is sound, and a cause of cautious satisfaction. Yet, while there are spheres where progress has been steady, there are others which are a cause for worry and self-examination.

*Q.—What do you consider the positive gains of the last decade?*

*A.—That's almost impossible to answer in a few sentences. But, as you ask me, I'll try. It*

# PRESIDENT

## *an interview*

was a momentous decade for the Association, in my opinion. The establishment of Bord na bPáirc and with it the establishment of major stadia in every province, together with the continued and increasing acquisition of club fields in every county. The Presidency of Ailf Ó Múirí gave a new dimension and a new urgency to the affairs of the Association; the tempo was maintained under Seamus Ó Riain. The Coisde Iomána scheme and the drive for the revival of hurling became a matter of live importance. Grounds Plan II was devised with its emphasis on club-field development. And the Credit Scheme gives substance to what had been previously no more than a pious hope in the business of club and social development.

Then, we have begun to question and doubt and examine the Association's structure and workings. We have at last begun to take a long, hard look at ourselves. Together with the other points mentioned I consider that this questioning attitude towards our Association makes up the more positive part of the advance.

*Q.—And what of the ground lost?*

*A.—Well, the failure of the Hurling Plan to achieve its objectives entirely, the considerable degree of indifference to it, I consider a great opportunity lost. While hurling languishes in many places and makes little*

*progress in non-hurling areas, I cannot feel happy with the situation, and would feel that we would not only be losing ground but creating a position from which it will be progressively more difficult to achieve hurling's revival. I also think that we were slow to appreciate the challenge on the social front, losing ground and time in the process.*

*Q.—What do you think of the Association's ability to meet these challenges?*

*A.—Oh, I am absolutely confident that the Association can make the necessary adjustments that are needed to play a full part in this age which is so different from the one into which the G.A.A. was born 86 years ago. I am very sure that the Association at every level—most of all club level—can gear itself to the challenge of the 70s. Pledged to an ideal, with strong roots, and with a worthy motivation, and with the great mass of Irish youth on which it maintains a firm hold, together with the long history of adversity and flair for coping with every new challenge—these things convince me that the G.A.A. will not lose its vigour suddenly, or even slowly. The prospects, I am sure, are bright.*

*Q.—What kind of ideal situation would you like to aim at?*

*A.—Naturally, most of all I would desire a situation where the people as a whole recognised*



*the National games for what they are—among the finest in the world, but more than that, an integral part of our heritage, something distinctive.*

*I would be concerned that the G.A.A. club should be developed not merely as a Gaelic games playing unit, but also as a focus of a wide range of social activity to enable young and old, male and female to fulfil themselves. And, of course, I should want to have hurling played everywhere and recognised as being the special characteristic of Ireland which it is.*

*Q.—I know you are a great hurling man, and you were closely involved in the Coisde Iomana scheme. How much importance do you attribute to the hurling revival?*

*A.—I think it is of paramount*

● TO PAGE 43



**JOE LENNON** calls for major shake-up in the organisation of Colleges games.

## WEAK SPOT OF GAEELIC GAMES

**T**HE fact that the All-Ireland Colleges football championships can almost pass without notice or with only a moderate amount of interest indicates a very weak spot in our Association. Apart from the colleges and, to a lesser extent, the counties in which the colleges are situated, there is not a great deal of interest or enthusiasm aroused by this big sporting event. This is less than satisfactory.

I feel the time has come when we should have a major shake-up in the organisation of college G.A.A. competitions. The time has arrived when we must go all out to sell our games to the schoolboys of today, when we must capture their interest and energies and cultivate their taste and ambitions. These things just don't happen; they have got to be made to happen. We have got to con-

struct a new image for the game and offer new horizons and challenges.

All of this is apart from forging ahead with better teaching and coaching methods, bigger involvement campaigns within the colleges, greater interest and incentive schemes and better refereeing and control of games.

It is a credit to the rugby colleges that the Leinster schools final can attract 25,000 spectators to Lansdowne Road. All of these can't be students. The imagination of the public has been caught and held. We must do likewise.

Provincial finals should be played on the best pitch in the province rather than on some county ground which cannot offer the amenities a large crowd requires in winter. We must exploit every angle to attract more people — parents and general

public. We are less likely to attract a large crowd to a small provincial town than to Cork, Galway, Belfast or Dublin, where the spectators can make a whole day of the trip rather than a quick dash. In other words, we must rethink our methods and reasons for selecting the venue for finals.

Then we must organise all available transport at cheapest possible prices. The greater the numbers travelling, the cheaper will be the fares and so these two factors are complementary. All schools should be organised into a national campaign for this event. One or more coach loads should be organised from each college in the country. Croke Park should be packed, it should be taken over by the schoolboys of this country for their final.

We might usefully allocate some special day in April or May each year — a Saturday preferably — which would be schools final day, and do a publicity campaign on it. We need to exploit the media for all the advertising we can get.

College Gaelic football could become more attractive than inter-county football if it were well publicised and organised. Many claim it's the best standard of football in the country and there's something in what they say. Certainly the talent is there, the skill is there, and few other teams at any level have as many opportunities for collective training. We should sell this aspect of the games to the public and then encourage the schools to stimulate interest in attending the games also.

There might well be some advantage in having the hurling and camogie finals on the same day as the football. There's no better way to get across the idea that the games of the Association are something big and important than by having big crowds and important

people there. We must use some supermarket psychology in our sales technique.

If we continue to use our better college games as curtain raisers for inter-county games we are wasting a great opportunity to develop the spectating habit of both public and parents. College games are attractive enough to stand on their own, draw their own crowd and build up their own patronage.

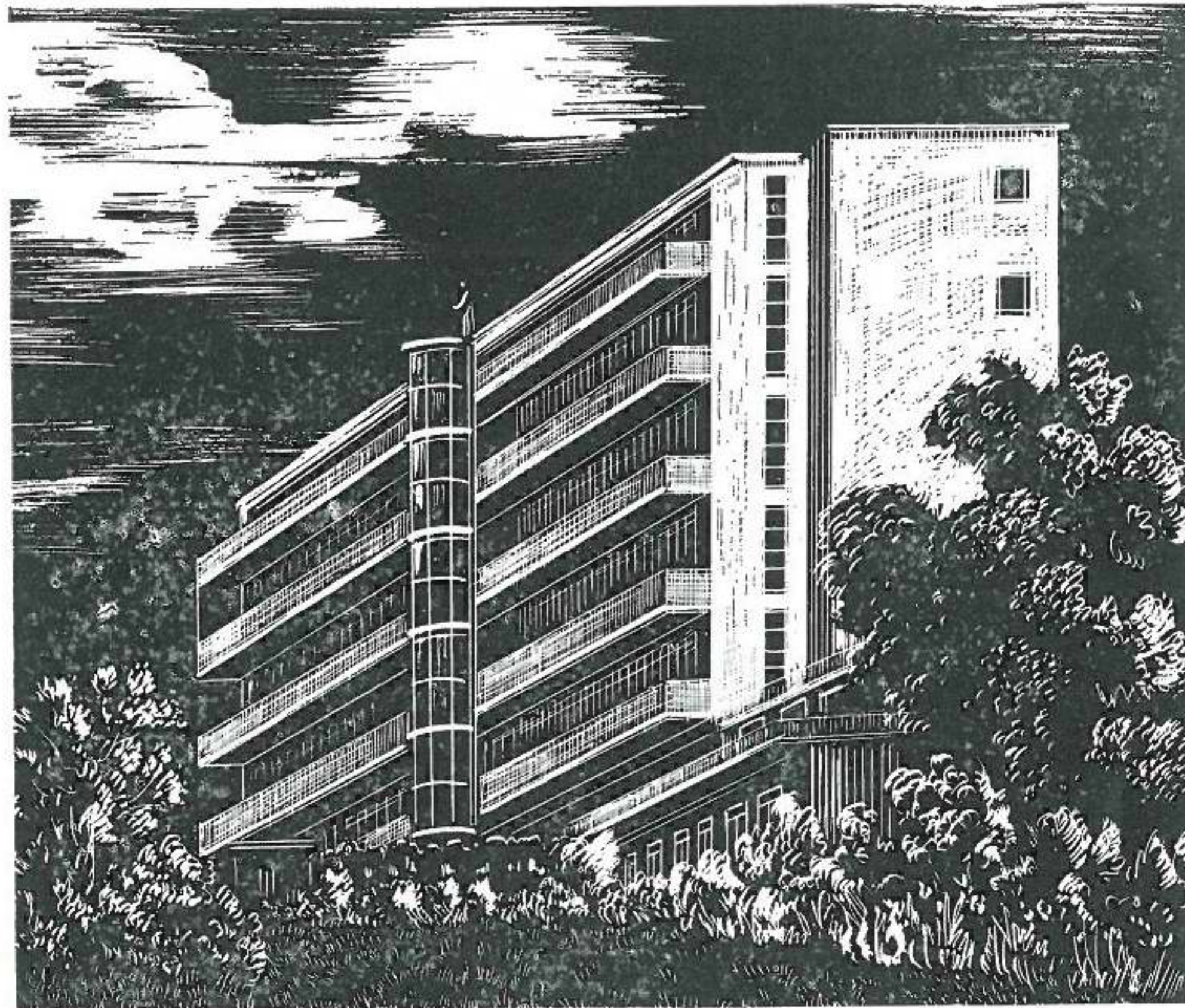
Finally, we must seriously consider our charges for admission to college games.

Frankly, I do not think that admission fees should be charged to students at all. The money is not needed. Medals and trophies can be paid for by college affiliation fees. I think it is a scandalous state of affairs that some full-time employees of the Association derive part of their income for organising college games—receive several hundred pounds a year for organising a few games.

We must invest money in schools and their games—not draw money from them. If we want to

encourage our non-playing enthusiasts, we should make admission free. They are out of pocket enough in travelling expenses without having to pay in as well. Give the youth a free seat in the Hogan Stand now and again and they'll appreciate it. They'll come back to the Hogan Stand as adults.

I hope that the Seventies sees a new approach to the organisation of our games at school level and that we succeed in recapturing the attention of the youth.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL, DROGHEDA. This up-to-date hospital is run by the Medical Missionaries of Mary and has special teaching facilities for the treatment of tropical diseases. It is one of the many hospitals to benefit from the fund to which Irish Hospitals' Sweepstakes have contributed over eighty six million pounds. You, too, might benefit from a ticket in the Sweep.

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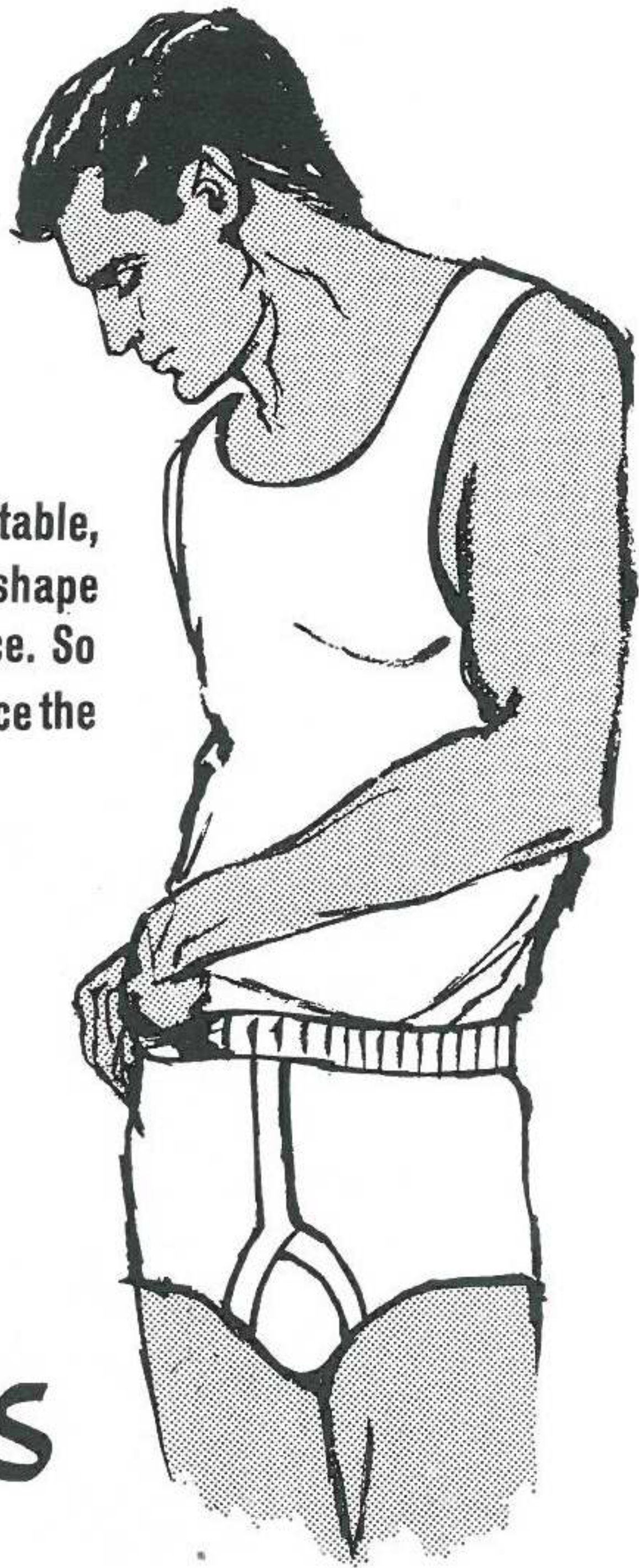
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yours



*national*

# Dublin marksmen

**JACK WALLACE** (O'Tooles) and Achill Boothman (St. Columba's) share the outstanding scoring record in Dublin club games, league, championships, challenges and tournaments, in the period 1957 to 1969 inclusive.

Wallace lifted the scoring rate out of a "rut" last year when he ended a run of six successive campaigns without the century of points total being reached in either hurling or football. In addition, he put his name into the record book with a score that was good enough to earn for him one impressive new peak, and yet was tantalisingly short by a mere point of establishing him as the outstanding marksman of the period.

The O'Tooles sharpshooter, who has worn the county jersey, shot 24-42 (114 points) in 17 hurling engagements. This earned him a new goals record, one more than the previous best, and his combined total equalled the county record put up by Boothman in 1962.

However, Wallace achieved by far the better match-average. He scored 6.70 points an hour, as against the Crumlin man's 5.18 minors in each of his 22 games for 15-69.

Of the select band of seven players who have reached three figures in Metropolitan games, Donie Nealon, of U.C.D., and Tipperary fame, shot the best match score at 6.80 points for 17-51 (102 points) in 1958. His games tally is the lowest in the panel at 15.

## By OWEN McCANN

We have to go back to 1962 for the last century-breaker in football. In 25 games that year Paddy Somers (St. Anne's) helped himself to 14-69 (111 points), which now stands as the county high-point.

That record has not since been even remotely in danger. Eamonn O'Connor (Erin's Isle) came nearest to the tally when he headed both charts in 1968 with 13-56 (95 points) in 24 games.

But a comparative newcomer, Pat Leahy (Raheny), who is again eligible for the under-21 grade this year, although now, of course, a well-established Dublin county senior, made a spectacular entry into the bigtime chart last year. He shot 0-90 in 17 games to head the football table, and better the previous points scoring record of 88 notched up by John Timmons in 22 games in



*John Timmons . . . figures among the "century-makers" in Dublin games during the past twelve years.*

1961. He also shot four goals in that campaign.

Leading the way in the goals-scoring stakes are Billy Monks (St. Margaret's) with 16-19 (67 points) in 19 games in 1957, and Paddy Delaney, now with Round Towers, with 16-27 (75 points) in 13 outings in the O'Toole colours in 1960.

The top match average for the football century-makers stands to the credit of Kevin Screenan, one-time Sean McDermott's and Fermanagh county star, at 5.61 points for the record total for a non-native footballer of 5-86 (101 points) in 18 engagements.

## THE CENTURY-MAKERS

	Points		Score	Games	Average
1969	114	(H.) J. Wallace (O'Tooles)	24-42	17	6.70
1962	114	(H.) A. Boothman (St. Columba's)	15-69	22	5.18
1962	111	(F.) P. Somers (St. Anne's)	14-69	25	4.44
1958	102	(H.) D. Nealon (U.C.D.)	17-51	15	6.80
1957	101	(F.) K. Screenan (Sean McDermott's)	5-86	18	5.61
1961	100	(F.) J. Timmons (Sean McDermott's)	4-88	22	4.54
1958	100	(F.) A. Foley (Parnells)	13-61	26	3.84

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## G.A.A.

### MAY 3

## NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE FINALS

### MAY 10

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINALS

### i bPáirc An Chrócaigh



# POOR TURN-OUT AT CONGRESS

## HANDBALL by ALLEYMAN

I WAS rather disappointed at the poor attendance of delegates for the recent Congress of the Handball Association held in Coláiste Mhuire, Dublin. One would have imagined that, in this particular year, when the World Championship is a major item, that a reasonably representative attendance would have been there.

However, the Munster counties were the only ones who turned up in force.

The Congress itself did yield a bit of productive thinking and firm decisions were taken on a number of items.

The mode of selecting representatives for the World Championship which, incidentally, will now be held in early October, produced a deal of debate.

Eventually it was agreed that the winner of the senior softball singles championship would wear the Irish singlet in the individual event.

The doubles is a bit more complicated, but, I am happy that a fair compromise was reached.

The winners of each provincial softball doubles championship, together with four other doubles partnerships to be chosen by the Central Council, will participate in round-robin tournaments and the successful partnership will go on to represent Ireland in October.

Dublin's request to have handball removed from the charter of All-Ireland championships was

beaten decisively. Most counties were hesitant to abandon it, if only from the traditional viewpoint.

It now appears that an all-out effort must be made to revive interest in this code, and John Moore, the former Kilkenny secretary, has taken the first steps by intimating that he will ensure an adequate supply of the actual handballs.

Roscommon must be highly lauded for showing an interest in the players who never seem to gain honours at national or provincial levels.

A motion on these lines was passed and, as a result, the inter-club championship next season will be confined to players who have never won junior or senior titles, within their own provinces.

Ray Doherty, the Dublin-based Roscommon star, was highly commended for his initiative in producing a book on both general and coaching aspects of handball. It will be available well in advance of the World Championships in October.

Work has at last commenced on the construction of the new super-de-luxe court for the World championships.

It will prove to be a tremendous boost to the game, for the lack of a real handball stadium is something that has been a huge draw-back through the years. This is not a castigation of the many fine courts we have throughout the country but, in

point of fact, it has to be admitted that none of them can accommodate the crowd that would wish to see a World championship.

Neither has any of them those little perks such as a canteen, boardroom for meetings or press conferences or heating facilities which are so necessary nowadays.

The new court will be revolutionary in so far as the side walls and back wall will be made entirely from glass as against the traditionally constructed courts with concrete side and back walls.

The only vantage point can be from a gallery at the back wall.

However, under this system, it is only the handful of spectators directly behind the back wall who can view a game in its entirety. The other spectators, by reason of the angle of their viewing miss most of the actual back-wall play, and, one does not need to be a real student of the game to realise that it can, and usually is, the most exciting.

The new court, which will accommodate about one thousand spectators, will rectify this situation. It is hardly surprising that, with the new court under way, fund-raising is of vital importance.

Council President and Secretary Rev. Bro. B. C. Murphy and Joe Lynch, respectively, have issued a joint statement on the

● TO PAGE 48

# I was floored

Marley Consort really does shine like new again, with only a quick wipe with a damp cloth! (That's because it's protected by a tough, thick vinyl shield, my dealer tells me). Besides nine-inch tiles, it comes in three, four and six-foot widths. And the patterns are simply super. But be sure you ask for Marley Consort by name. Now, how about another coffee?"



 **MARLEY**  
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This Spring give your home a real shake-up

# Modernise it!

Says LINDA COLLINS

WHEN Spring sunshine begins to hit the country with full force, as we piously hope it will soon, housewives' thoughts are supposed to turn to thoughts of Spring-cleaning. And so they do, but if you happen to live in an oldish house about which you normally say, with pride, 'It was good enough for my Father, so it's good enough for me too', your reaction in Spring may be to wish fervently that the house would burn down around your ears, so you can build yourself a decent bungalow.

In fact this type of feeling about the ancestral home is by no means confined to women. Listen to any man complaining about how long it takes to repair guttering that was new a hundred years ago, or to replace a window-pane completely inaccessible except from the top of an eighteen-foot ladder. When the year is new we all want what's

new and beautiful to go with it.

But sometimes it can be a pity to abandon a house which is old an da mite inconvenient. For one thing, older houses usually have a greater floor area and especially where there is a large family "the more rooms the merrier" as the man says.

Making your house look good from the outside is almost too easy. The new outdoor paints which incorporate sand and rubber in their composition flow on easily and really do help to keep the weather out. They maintain their good appearance for many years, too. A hall door is so easy to strip down and varnish any woman could do the job in a day.

It's more likely to be inside the house that you'll run into snags. Most old Irish farmhouses are damp and the "back kitchen" is a place where nobody goes anymore except when the child-

ren play hide and seek. But today it is cheaper and easier than before to solve the ground-damp problem. If dampness is only slight, there are compounds to be applied direct to the walls which will keep it out. A more serious problem can be treated by cutting out a section of the wall just above ground level, six feet at a time, allowing it to dry off and replacing with a proofed material. A sort of portable damp-proof course in fact.

Everybody nowadays knows all about bathrooms—"getting the water in" used to be the main topic of conversation whereas now people discuss the merits of coloured suites versus plain white, and whether the bathroom floor should have a carpet on it or plain tiles. Many farmhouses rely on their kitchen ranges to provide them with hot water for the bathrooms and a very efficient job the ranges make of it. Though "range" isn't the right word to describe those sleek and gleaming objects manufactured by such firms as Hammond Lane Foundry which give you heat control to the nth degree at the touch of a knob, and will provide water to wash the clothes for you as easily as they'll cook the dinner.

Many people are content to let

● TO PAGE 35

## Put your foot down on marley at Lees

When looking at the wonderful range of Marley floor-coverings at Lees be sure to see Marleyflor, Marleytex and Marleytread —they're exciting!



Furnishing Centre, Mary St., Dublin; Carpet and Fabric Shop, Dun Laoghaire; Rathmines; Bray.

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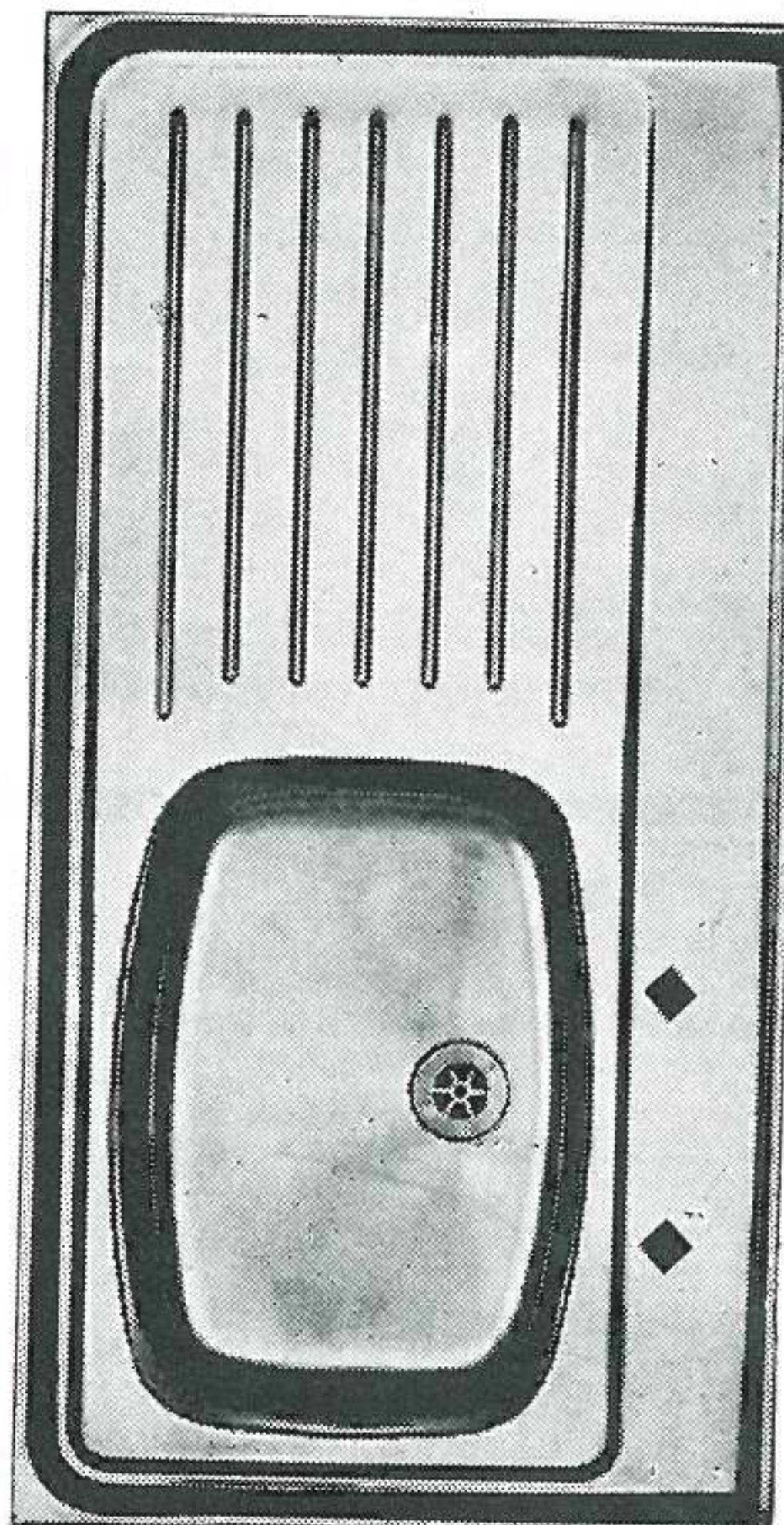
Tea is nature's own reviver . . . cools you in Summer, warms you in Winter . . . puts the heart back into you. It's the quickest, most economical refresher of all.

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A 'Maid' Stainless Steel sink is easy to work with, Good to look at. And more—it's a mighty tough sink that gives a lifetime's sterling service in the kitchen. Because there's nothing as durable as stainless steel. That's what makes the 'Maid' a terrific investment.

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● FROM PAGE 33

the stove keep working month in and month out but in some houses where the kitchen is, perhaps, rather small, things can get uncomfortable when a heat-wave strikes. And heatwaves do happen—we had one for three months only two years ago. In cases like this it can be a wise precaution to have an immersion heater which runs off electricity fitted, so that though the fires go out the water will still run hot when needed. The ESB does a good package job on these and though the price they quote is a couple of pounds above what a handyman might charge, you have their guarantee that the work of installation is properly carried out. I am suffering myself from a handyman-installed immersion with the switch put in upside down. Everytime we want a bath we have to turn the dial to "sink" and vice versa.

Life has complications enough without that one.

If you are thinking in terms of modernising the cooking arrangements in an old house, bottled gas is worth consideration. It has the great advantage that you don't have to have any structural alterations made when you instal it. In an older house you never know what you'll find once you start lifting floorboards and boring through walls! There's also the fact that independence of supply is guaranteed by those handy Kosangas cylinders, large or small to suit your own requirements—and that can count for a lot if you live in a rather isolated spot. Just make sure you're holding sufficient of them because if you run out it's no one's fault except your own.

Kosangas has even been adopted into many city homes because it is so versatile, clean and safe. Besides cooking with it, you can buy Kosangas space heaters, central heating and



● When Lee's of Dun Laoghaire were planning their new exclusive department for teenage girls they wanted a floor-covering that was luxurious under foot, attractive to the eye and that could stand up to tremendous wear. They chose Marleytex carpets.

water heating. I bet you didn't know you can even iron by Kosangas—their Rhythm iron, complete with stand and flex, costs only £5-19-0.

The cookers grow more attractive by the year. Eye-level grills, fast burners, big ovens, thermostatic control, automatic ignition (so safe with children in the house), are all features available

within the Kosangas cooker range. You can choose, if money is tight, a functional Ligmar model with four burners, including a simmer burner and family-sized oven at £33, or you can splurge on a New World Rangette at £105-10-0, which has a full-size time-controlled oven, automatic ignition, full width storage

● OVERLEAF

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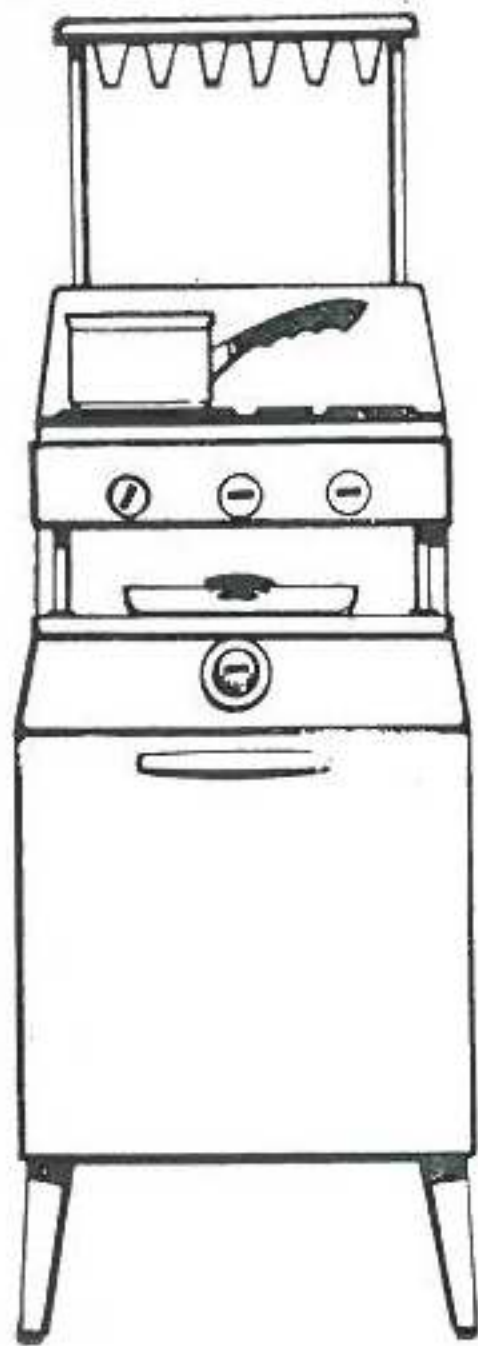
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## The New World 32DU

A little big one, designed to make the best of both worlds. Compact enough to suit the smaller household. But big enough to cook a meal for four. That spacious oven takes a 10 lb turkey (and has a special low-low setting to keep food piping hot). That grill will cook six lamb chops at a time. Those burners are diagonally placed to give you extra elbow room. But see it for yourself. Ask your Kosangas dealer to demonstrate the stylish little big one from Radiation.

**Kosangas**  
cuts cooking costs

WILSON HARTNELL

## ● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

compartment, warming chamber, grill, four Radoflex burners, spillage well for easy cleaning and a wipe-clean finish. And in between the two there's plenty of choice at every price level.

Latest news from America is that there's a swing away from "soft" floors to "hard" floors. Meaning that they're getting tired of carpets and reverting to the shiny sort of stuff you can polish. Or rather, you don't polish it, for the new vinyl floorings, besides the fact that they now look really attractive and carry good designs, are specially treated not to need polishing. Look at the new Marley ranges and you'll spot something appealing. Their designs include many which would look good in hall, bedroom or living room as well as in the kitchen. On a hot day there's something cool and inviting about an expanse of pale, shiny floor—you can always throw down a rug or two on it when the weather turns cold again! It is worth knowing that these vinyls have now proved themselves as standing up to the test of time and hard wear. Department stores like the large premises of Lee's in Bray, Co. Wicklow, for instance, have covered all their floors with Marley products—so they must be fairly confident that they'll stand up to abuse!

Incidentally, a special word to readers in the Wee County, whatever your house needs call into Murdock's of Drogheda—if they haven't got it I'll eat my hat, (not my new Easter one . . . please!).

Well, readers, that's it for this month. I do hope your Spring cleaning operations get under way, without too many upsets. The important thing to remember is not to let it get you down. Don't try to get it all done in a flash—easy does it.

# CROSSWORD

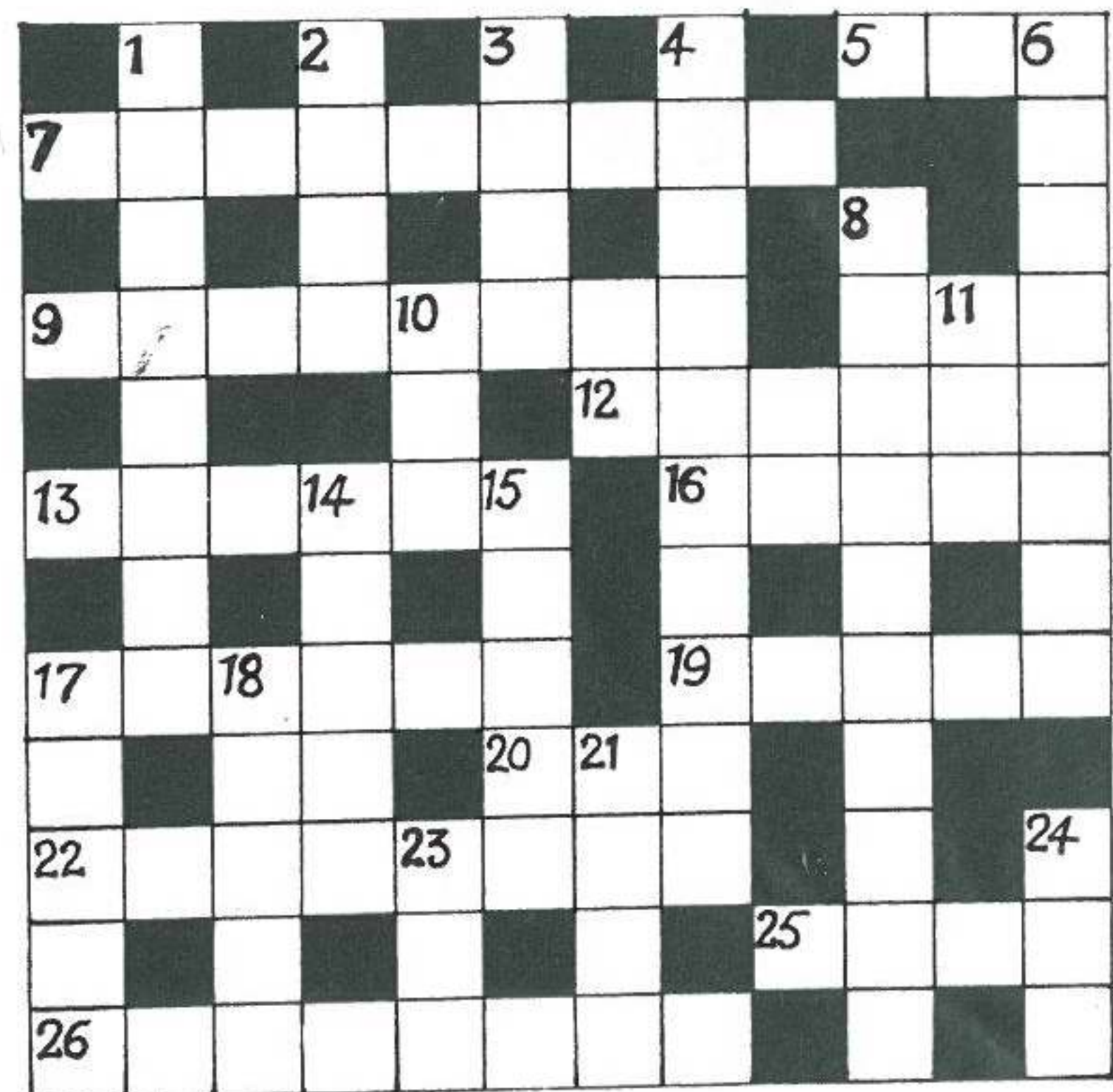
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## ACROSS

- 5—Vocal expression of dissatisfaction. (3)  
 7—(and 6 Down) Guiding genius of New York G.A.A. (4, 5, 8)  
 9—Good young Galway midfielder in hurling; or, Waterford corner-back in football. (8)  
 12—The season for Pastorals and for the Leagues. (6)  
 13—For long an outstanding Westmeath player, still top man at midfield (6)  
 16—Corner-forward on Cavan team which lost the replayed All-Ireland of 1937 to Kerry. (5)  
 17—A boxer's assistant or Mayo's 1950 All-Ireland. (6).  
 19—Flynn—not the hurler, but the movie star. (5)  
 20—The greatest part of a debt incurred through a bet. (3)  
 22—A pair of Clare players who sound like leaves in the breeze. (8)  
 25—The purpose of half-time, mostly. (4)  
 26—Star at handball as well as football where he figured at midfield. (8)

## DOWN

- 1—The soundest, perhaps, of Down's defence. (3, 5)  
 2—Nona, in turning, loses her identity, becoming unknown. (4)  
 3—Ring for a star Louth back. (4)  
 4—A great team in Dublin football early in the century, though it might be hard for them to figure in Dublin championships to-day. (4, 6)  
 6—See 7 Across.  
 8—Derry goalkeeper in their losing All-Ireland final appearance. (3, 7)



- 10—Number of League titles which Longford have captured. (3)  
 11—Dublin footballer by a Cork river. (3)  
 14—The county beaten by Mayo in their 1936 final triumph. (5)  
 15—Most honoured Tipperary back breaks into Swiss singing technique. (5)  
 17—Takes all kinds to make a team. (5)  
 18—Case T could lead to a distinct division or class of society. (5)  
 21—Very nearly a dark Meath forward. (4)  
 23—Munster river flows backwards to provide a very slippery customer. (3)  
 24—In brief, limited. (3)

**SOLUTION : PAGE 48**

## 'MR. CAMOGIE'

### ● FROM PAGE 13

S. O'D.—There can be no real comparison with the days when the old-time maxi trailed the mud, and there was considerable debate on a rule that skirts be six inches from the ground, and only goal-keepers could use the skirt to stop the ball. It was a long time before any but the best players could "lift and strike."

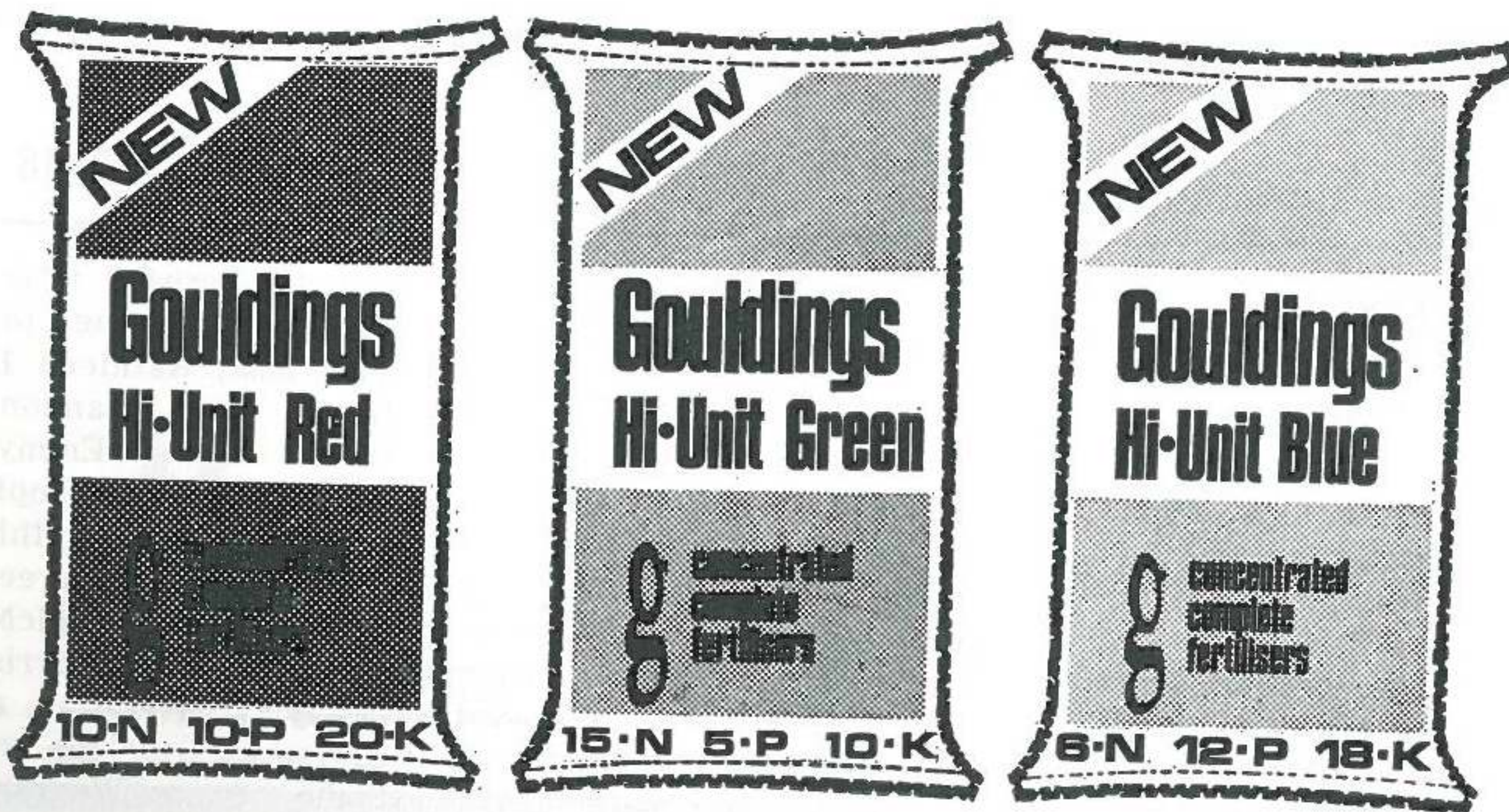
Standards first came up with the Tailteann Games of 1928, and have been steadily improving ever since.

A.H.—You have seen all the great players since the start of organised camogie. Who would you rate the greatest of all?

S. O'D.—That is an impossible question to answer because each generation produces its own stars. Miss M. Gill, President of the Association for many years, was perhaps one of the greatest

stylists. Perhaps it is wiser if I confine my listings to players of time past, Kathleen Hanratty of Louth, Jean Hannon of Bray, Dublin stars Emmy Delaney, Maura Carroll, Sophia Brack, Eileen Duffy, Kathleen Mills, Brid Kenny, Doreen Rogers, Angela Egan, Ita McNeill, Peggy Griffin and Peg Morris (Galway), Peggy Hogg (Cork), and then of course we have the great stars of to-day from Wexford, Antrim, Dublin and elsewhere.

# Gouldings keeping Ireland fertile





# *The young Eagles made no impact*

FROM the long-term viewpoint the really worrying aspect of the recent Congress at Galway was this, that the vast majority of the delegates who contributed to the debates were exactly the same men who have been the stalwarts of Congress for years.

Now, the vast majority of these speakers were excellent. Their views were well worth listening to, in 1970 as in years gone by. The good work that most of them do for the Association at Congress is as obvious now as it always has been.

But, that much having been granted, we must face up to the real problem. Where are their successors going to come from? Because the salient fact about the Galway Congress was that the young men, who should be the leaders of the G.A.A. in ten years time, were conspicuous almost entirely by their absence.

At the last Dublin Congress a year ago I saw great hope for the future in the trenchant speaking of the University men, Pdraig McDermott of Galway and Tony Barrett from Kerry in particular. I had hoped that this year they would have emerged as leaders of

the younger Gaels at Congress. Yet, if McDermott spoke at all, he rated no mention, while though Tony Barrett spoke and spoke well, the young eagles of 1969 never seemed to ascend the same heights or have the same impact beyond at Galway in 1970.

In fact for those of us who, in 1970, are inclined to worry about the G.A.A. in 1980, the future would look very bleak indeed were it not for the ability, intelligence and dedication of two newcomers in the Dublin delegation, former All-Ireland footballer, Gerry Davey, and the Scoil Ui Chonail club-man Joe Rowley.

Both of them had to overcome two serious handicaps. They spoke late, towards the end of a tiring two-day event and they were speaking for Dublin, a county which, for some reason I have never been able to pin-point, seems, as often as not, to be viewed with a certain amount of reserve by some other Congress delegates.

Yet Gerry Davey made a very good case for the deletion of Rule 29—though Congress was in no mood for changing a rule

that it had almost discarded a year before while Joe Rowley had so many facts on the advantages of changing the league system in football to four divisions of eight teams each, that the motion was accepted in principle, and was referred to the Central Council for implementation.

Now it particularly pleased me to see both Davey and Rowley speaking up at Congress for both are young men, very young by present Congress standards.

Moreover they are both men who are and have been doing very valuable work for the G.A.A. Gerry Davey was secretary and a very good one, too, of the committee that ran the Dublin Talent Competition, a committee of which Joe Rowley was an active member. And Gerry is playing both hurling and football at senior club level.

Joe Rowley has been a great organiser of the games at the lower levels, minor and under-21 for example, and as he is doing research work at Belfield is also very often to be found on the U.C.D. football grounds at Greenfield.

These are the kind of active young workers that the Association needs, as spokesmen as well as members in every county. Many counties have the workers, but how many of them are ready to come forward and speak up for their views and for their own generation.

Very, very few, if the Galway Congress is to be accepted as evidence. And yet, at the present moment the Association desperately needs articulate young men to put its case to the rising generation. After all the vast majority of those who lead the

● TO PAGE 48

Our Lord appealed to dedicated men to renounce ordinary good things of life to be with him and give themselves totally to his work.

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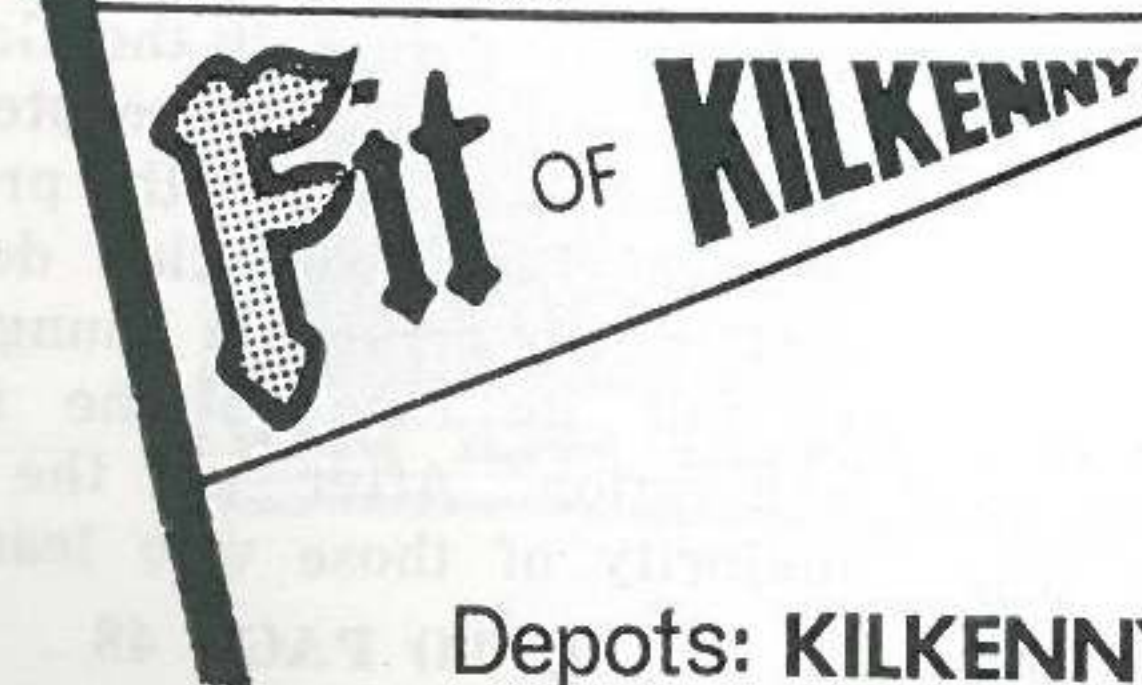
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# AN 'ECONOMY DRIVE' TO THE TOWN OF MOUNTMELICK

By  
PHILIP  
RODERICK

I'M afraid sport has very little to do with this little story. It's only remotely concerned with it and, in fact, if you're not a drinking man, perhaps it might be better if you turned the page and carried on with your reading of what's been happening in hurling and football.

The whole thing began on a Saturday night in Dublin. I met your man and, as is our wont, we retired to one of the city's best-known hostelries, not a stone's throw away from O'Connell Bridge. Nowadays, of course, in our affluent society, it wasn't the public bar for us. Oh, no! Nowadays we have become the lounge men. We were upstairs and with our wealth, we were paying that little penny or two extra on our pints of stout and the occasional half one.

And being the gregarious people that we are—even more gregarious when the drink is flowing—we were joined in time by kindred souls. And two of these, younger and still blissfully unaware of the traps and snares of married life, were accompanied with two rather fetching young ladies. At our age, your man and myself, were not too concerned with the appealing uplift they gave to our company.

But we were concerned with what they were drinking. Par-

ticularly as one round of drinks, just two pints for your man and myself and two pints for the two young men plus their partners' potions, came to a staggering, whopping almost incredible thirty-two shillings. However, there is no meanness in us. We paid up with a smile—and swore that we wouldn't get caught again so easily.

Now let me bring you along to the following morning. I duly met your man outside Liberty Hall and we set off for Birr to see that vital hurling league game between Kilkenny and Offaly at Birr. A nice, short trip with a good match in prospect.

It was a pleasant trip and, as your man remarked to me later, even a mildly historic one. We passed through Clonaslee — the home town of Mick Dunne. And you know something? They haven't put up a plaque in the place yet to honour him. Mick himself told me later than he doesn't expect to be honoured for a few years yet.

However, I'm digressing. With just the tiniest of hangovers, your man and myself sought a place to have a mild revive—and for no good reason, other than it looked a nice, quiet friendly little town, we stopped at Mountmellick. And the house we chose to grace with our august personalities was

called "Ted's"—and that is really it's name.

There was, of course, no Ted. He had disappeared a few years earlier and the owner now was a good Mayo man who had returned after half a lifetime in the pub business in America.

There's nothing like a cheerful drop of whiskey to whip away the mind's cobwebs — particularly when you follow it down with a pint of stout, drawn with care, solicitude and kindness. Stout is like that: it has to be gently and lovingly treated.

The price of the pint of stout was a shattering surprise—but a happy shattering surprise. Just 2/9—yes, two shillings and ninepence. Quite impressive—if you compared it with the 3/6 we had been paying the night before.

We went through all the prices with the owner—and he confessed, in fact, that one could even get the pint cheaper in Mountmellick. There was one house that charged 2/8.

A pint of lager was almost a shilling cheaper than in Dublin, all the bottled beers and stouts were much cheaper and even those spectacular drinks that the two ladies had been drinking the night before, were more than a shilling cheaper.

As your man said—"If we

● TO PAGE 47

# IMAGINE! I COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS WHEN I HEARD THAT CORK BEAT TIPP.!

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHILIP RODERICK**

**S**INUSITIS. Now if there is a word in the English language that I hate, loathe, despise and detest, it's that. Because I have sinusitis—and the heavens protect you from ever having it.

I have had it for 10 long years—and chronic sinusitis at that. It's always there, only sometimes it's worse than others. Sometimes it goes stark, raving mad and I join it.

Of course, there are cures for it. I have 2,984 of them and I'll be delighted to pass them on to you if you need them. But I can assure you here and now that not one of them works.

And like a mean thief in the night, it always strikes when you don't even suspect it.

Take last month for instance. On a Saturday night, your man and myself made all our arrangements to go to Cork to see Tipperary and Cork meet in the National Hurling League semi-final.

And that, I think you will agree, is something that anyone could look forward to. Cork and Tipperary at anytime has a nice, nostalgic, musical ring to it. And with the match in Cork, what, indeed, could be better?

There were lots of old friends to be met again after the barren, cheerless months of the winter, particularly now that the great awakening to the summer and Munster hurling was just around the corner.

A bit of crack with Eamonn Young and the latest progress report on his battle with the B.A. degree at U.C.C. . . . a word or two with Denis Conroy . . . perhaps even an argument or three with Val Dorgan of the Cork Examiner on our prospects for the year . . . and, of course, a few good drops of that decent Cork

whiskey, Midleton, in a nice, quiet, old world pub off Patrick Street.

There was the happy thought, too, that we might bump into John D. Hickey of the Irish Independent and get the low-down behind Kerry's football trip around the world and all the good stories from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and America. The meaty stuff; the stories that couldn't appear in any self-respecting newspaper.

And it all never happened. I didn't even get to Cork. Somewhere in the middle of the night, probably in the middle of a dream that Cork were beating Tipperary by 30 goals and 99 points to nil, the sinusitis crept into my roof and banged my poor, unoffending nose and my head, with a sledgehammer. And I can assure you that I wasn't a nice man to know for the next 24 hours. I couldn't be spoken to, I couldn't eat and the headache was like a scimitar cutting my head in two.

Somewhere in the oceans of pain I heard that Cork had won and—heresy—I couldn't have cared less at the time.

Happily, the sinusitis eased up the following morning and sanity returned. I was able to announce to all and sundry that I had never had even the slightest qualms or fears about the result. It was never more than child's play to the men.

And now, glory be, we have just the one game to go to retain the National hurling league. And, look at who's in it with us. Limerick of all people. They made handy work of the giantkillers Offaly—and, to be honest, I didn't think they would.

It should be a happy sight to

● TO PAGE 47

# THE NEW PRESIDENT

## ● FROM PAGE 25

importance; I consider it second only to the language as a symbol of our nationality. I am not concerned, however, that hurling might die. It is secure in the traditional areas, and in pockets in other areas; but, that is not the point at all. It must be revived and played everywhere, and that is why the drive must be given new impetus and kept going continuously no matter what the obstacles or how depressing the lack of success.

I see two distinct phases: first is getting the game played in all areas; second is bringing those poorer areas up to the standard of the traditionally powerful strongholds of the game. But, the second can only be possible when the first has been achieved, and it concerns me far less than the first. Hurleys, hurleys and more

hurleys; the dedication of the workers for the revival; the provision of the opportunity and the elimination of the difficulties or doubts about the playing of the game—these must come first and must be persevered with.

*Q.—I gather you are also deeply committed to the development of the club along broader lines than hitherto?*

*A.—Yes, I think that any great steps towards progress must envisage clubs that are geared to and leadership which is ready for fresh thinking. Too many clubs have just existed in the past, and because of this their influence in the community in which they were was marginal. The clubs must plan for big things, must not be frightened by big commitment to their society, must expand their sphere of influence much wider, must*

attract and then hold young people.

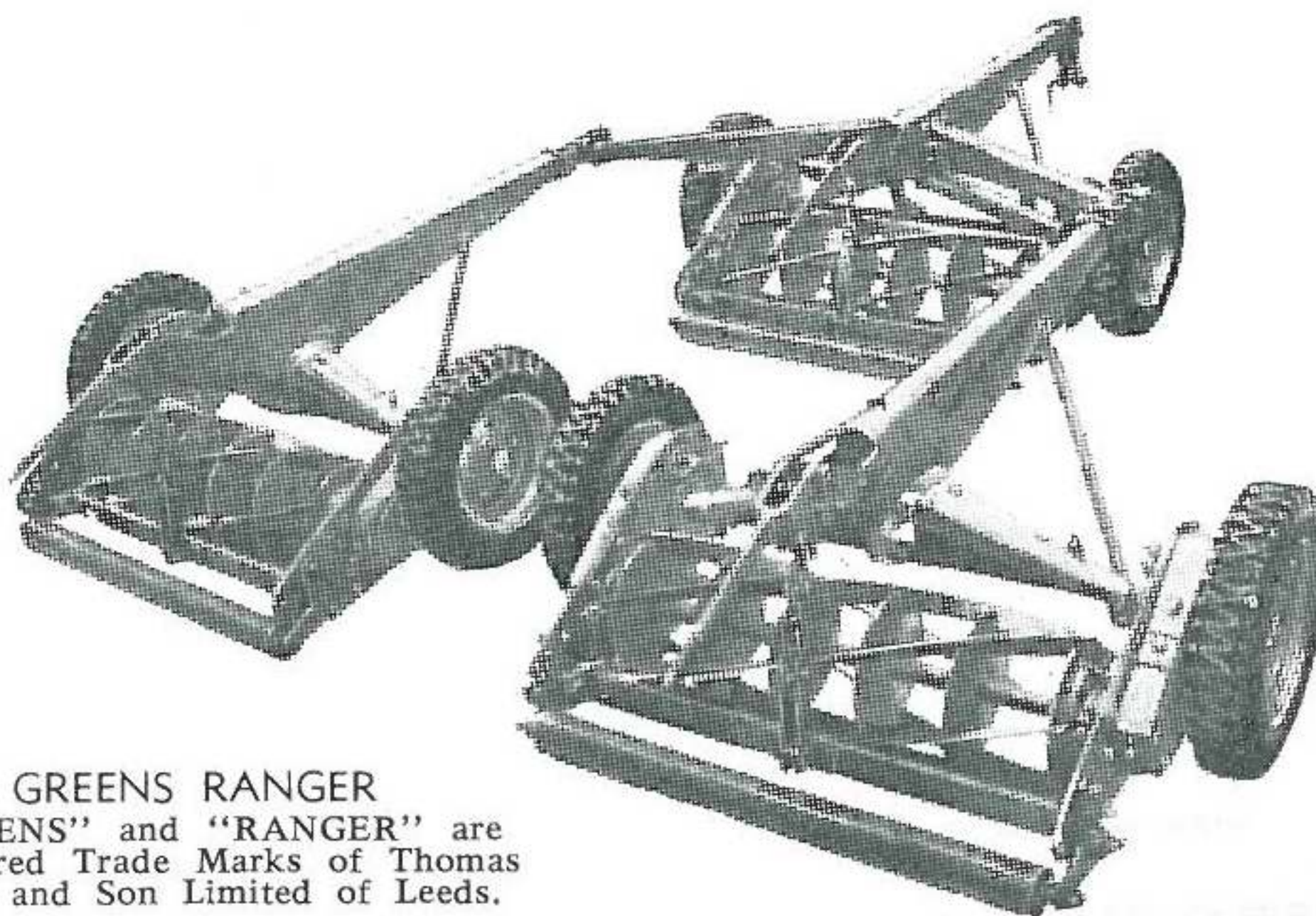
*Q.—Have you any hopes for improving the structure of the G.A.A. in order to get greater efficiency from its enormous size and its huge and widespread membership?*

*A.—The best can only be got from the great bulk of the Association by efficiency and renewed dedication. To achieve that efficiency I would like to see professionals introduced into the G.A.A. wherever they are necessary in order to produce the best results. This is not to denigrate the role of the voluntary worker: in fact, it is to render more effective and fruitful the work of the voluntary worker. I think the specialist or the general administrator servicing the voluntary workers and easing their burden, directing their energies to the best effect is the solution to maximum efficiency in the Association.*

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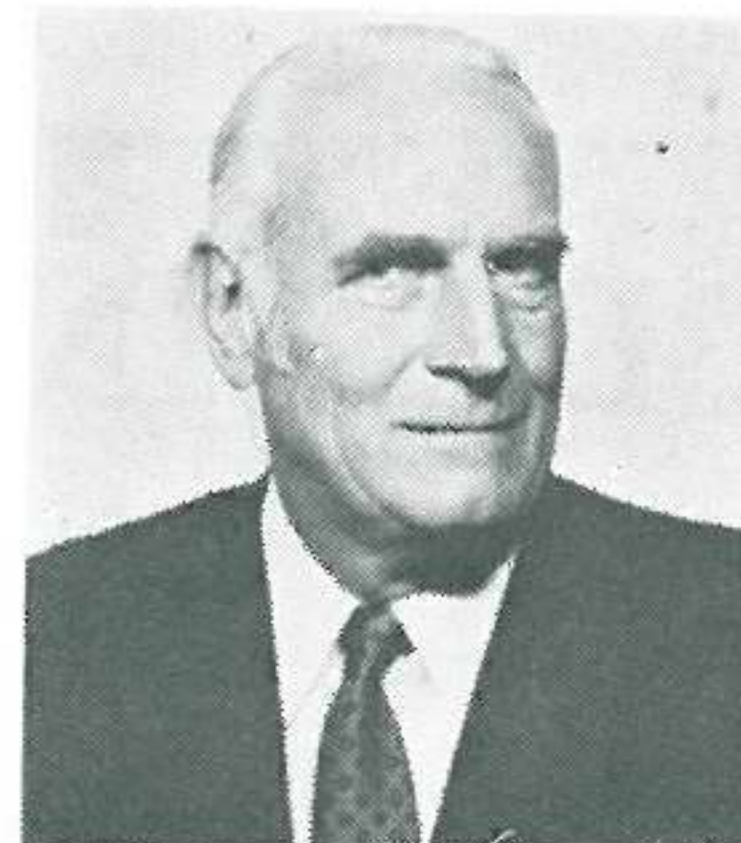
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## NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER



**JIM HEALY** (above) is enjoying his first visit back to Ireland since 1945. Jim, whose father hails from Clare is a football fanatic, he is a great admirer of Gaelic football and derived great pleasure from watching the Meath team during their visit to Australia in 1968 and he would dearly love to see further progress being made in the Irish-Australian tours.

Jim, who lives in Perth, is Hon. Treasurer of the West Perth Football Club's Fan Club, who won the Australian Championship in 1969. His ambition is to see an All-Ireland final and he intends to be back in Ireland in September and we have no doubt that this genial Australian will be sitting in the "Hogan" on the 6th of September next.

# THE FORESIGHT AND COURAGE OF ULSTER'S GERRY ARTHURS

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE thanks of all deep thinking Gaels goes to Ulster Council G.A.A. Secretary, Gerry Arthurs, for the forthright and courageous manner in which he recently referred to a problem that is causing serious concern to many lovers of our native games.

In almost all the big centres of population the primary schools are doing splendid work for the G.A.A., and most of the boys attending these schools get the opportunity of playing Gaelic games, and are encouraged to do so.

It is when the boys graduate from primary school that the difficulties begin to mount. More and more are now taking secondary education and it is a sad fact that in quite a number of the schools and colleges catering for this branch Gaelic games are not highlighted, and in some instances not even played.

Boys attending these establishments have to play the games that are on the school programme. It is all tommy rot to say they can refuse, for nobody would encourage a boy to possibly jeopardise his whole future by doing so.

The G.A.A. have slept on this problem all too long, whilst thousands of boys are going from their grasp—many of them reared in the Gaelic tradition—and embracing other codes.

There are two courses open to the Association. One is to denounce the schools and colleges

where Gaelic games are virtually banned; to list those establishments where the games get fair treatment and urge parents and guardians to send their children to the latter. Special school grants might even be made available, the better to implement this policy.

No matter how successful this might work the Association would still be at a disadvantage as far as the other schools were concerned, whilst the question of boys being induced to other codes outside the school influence, through street leagues, inter-firm competitions, and the like, would still remain unsolved.

It is in this context that Gerry Arthur's suggestion that "entry by schoolboys to membership of the Association should be without restriction" scores heavily. It is the sensible approach and the only feasible one, if the G.A.A. is not to continue losing the Youth of Ireland—and that to an alarming degree.

This drain of our best blood is far more serious than most realise and there is no doubt it would reach disastrous proportions only for the fact that hundreds of clubs are ignoring the rules and including in their teams boys who are also playing some of the forbidden codes. Some clubs openly admit that were they forced to drop these players they would have to go out of existence.

The thing is snowballing. More and more of our youth—in rural

now, as well as urban areas—are turning to the forbidden codes, and clubs must turn the blind eye to their transgressions or suffer the consequences.

The stage of mass disobedience is rapidly being reached—a stage long since established in respect of the dancing rule.

Some may be satisfied to see the exclusion rules go by default, but as one who supported the retention of these rules when they were the subject of much controversy many years ago, I feel the stage has been reached now when they must be abolished before they bring the entire Association into disrepute.

I have seen a suggestion by an eminent member of the Association that a way out might be the establishment of a hurling and football competition to cater for boys not eligible to legally participate in regular G.A.A. play.

This would be a very dangerous experiment that could do untold harm. The unity of the Association must be preserved at all costs. I believe it has a future to play in the development of community life, particularly in the rural areas and in the housing estates of the larger centres. It is important that this community development be guided on Irish-Ireland lines but the first essential is the ability of the entire community to participate. This cannot be achieved whilst we have rules debarring a particular section.

● TO PAGE 47

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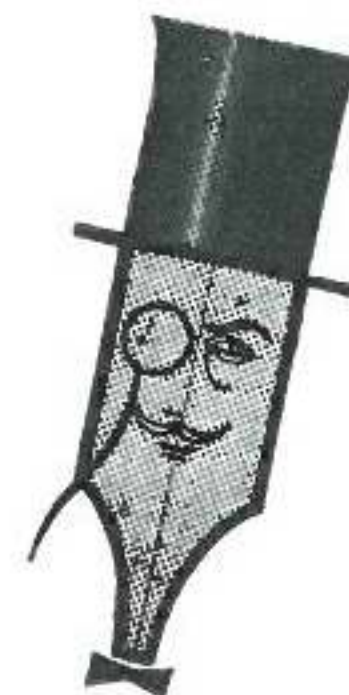
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## NOW FOR THE LEAGUE FINAL!

### ● FROM PAGE 42

see the red of Cork and that vivid green of Limerick at Croke Park this month. Has it ever happened before? Don't ask me; at the moment I'm far too lazy to start checking the record books.

Limerick, of course, can boast that they have already beaten Cork in this season's League, but, between ourselves, I wouldn't put much store by that. They caught Cork at a very sad and bad time. Shortly after two beatings by Kilkenny and I'm afraid the old enthusiasm in Cork was at a very, very low ebb at the time.

This promises to be a final and a half. Limerick have some powerful men, the two Hartigans, old P. J. Keane, Tom Bluett—and I'm glad that he has had second thoughts about retiring—and the three Bennis brothers, and now that they have the bit between

their teeth, they're going to be hard to stop.

But I like the look of this Cork team. They have brought in a few big men to plug the gaps that were so open in last year's All-Ireland final and, judging by what Paddy Downey of the Irish Times and Val Dorgan have told me since the match I missed in Cork, they seem to have found a little of the devil and dash that was sadly missing in last year's fifteen.

It holds out all the promise of a towering final of hurling—and, sinusitis or not, I'll be there, neutral as always, cheering my head off for Cork.

Will the old sinusitis strike again? Say nothing; I've just been sent the 2,985th cure and I'm told this is the answer.

You'll pardon me while I blow my nose in confidence.

## 'ECONOMY DRIVE'

### ● FROM PAGE 41

hadn't to go to the match, we could stay here all day and save money."

And you couldn't have asked for better surroundings and better company. The men in the bar—sound pint drinkers who lifted their glasses with that confident flourish that comes with much practice — knew their sports and they could talk eloquently and authoritatively about them. We spent over an hour in the place and, to be true, it passed all too quickly and we were sad to leave.

As I said at the beginning, this little story has nothing to do with sport. Just drink and nothing else.

On our way out the door, I put the question to the owner. "Tell me"—says I—"how can you sell drink so cheaply and still do such a great business?"

His reply and your man will vouch for it, was illuminating. "If you tried Dublin prices here," he said, "the people just wouldn't drink. And I'm quite happy with the business I'm doing."

Anyone here in Dublin prepared to go on a drink strike with me?

At this stage, I think it's about the only solution, the only answer, if we're ever going to fight against the prices in Dublin.

## ULSTER'S GERRY ARTHURS

### ● FROM PAGE 45

I was satisfied these rules were revelant at one period of my membership of the Association, but the G.A.A., like every other organisation, must meet the challenge of the times. It must face change, recognise it, and act accordingly.

This is a lesson that every progressive body—sporting, cultural and business, has to learn the hard way. The G.A.A. is no exception. It cannot persist with fixed ideas but must accept change, or perish. This is just stark reality—as portrayed by the evidence all about us if we only bother to study it.

Those in control of the G.A.A. must be aware of what is happening all about them. They must see change in every facet

of Irish life over even a relatively short period. This is the material of which experience is made—and to profit from it is the natural consequence. To attempt to ignore or bypass facts could be fatal.

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● FROM PAGE 39

G.A.A. at every level and in every county to-day were themselves the articulate young men of the Association 20 years ago. Does the problem of where their successors are going to come from never worry them? Because I must admit that it worries me.

But to come back to the achievements or otherwise of this Galway Congress, the delegates were in far from adventurous mood. Indeed it might be said that they rejected every attempted innovation except one—the hop-ball and the 'quick' free are very minor matters, although I can see plenty of trouble in the actual application of this 'quick-free' rule.

The one major change, of course, was the extension of playing time to 80 minutes in senior provincial finals and All-

Ireland games. Unfortunately extending playing time in some senior championship games but not in others looks very much like a half-measure, but we can only wait and see how it works out in practice.

Outside the playing rules, the biggest decision Congress made was to allow Galway opt out of the Munster hurling championship. Galway's sojourn in the South was never really happy, but their present position, in a section that is to include London, and possibly the Ulster Champions, looks to be rather artificial.

I am still convinced, however, that in all the circumstances, the real salvation for the senior hurling championship is the open draw, but how long will it take to convince Congress of that simple fact?

## NECKS ARE FOR STICKING OUT!

● FROM PAGE 12

veterans who have shown no signs of declining ability; now they also have rediscovered the form of several of the younger members of last year's team; and they have found a gaggle of new men with most of what it takes.

Now, there is a fire in the hearts of the Tipperary men, too. They have something to prove and intend to prove or else . . . I see no reason to doubt the signs. It looks to me like a renewal of the old pattern of things with Tipperary capturing the McCarthy Cup back from the custody of the pirating Kilkennymen in September next.



● John O'Donoghue  
Tipperary

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## X-WORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 37

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## HANDBALL

● FROM PAGE 31

present efforts to accumulate funds.

These can be divided into three categories, namely, (a) an open appeal to the public and business concerns; (b) a direct appeal to G.A.A. and handball county Boards and Clubs and (c) the super "21 ace" raffle which is now in full swing.

In connection with the raffle, it is based on a 50-50 divide between the selling club and the Handball Council.

As a special attraction there are special terms for clubs which guarantee to sell a definite quota. Subscriptions and further queries on these ventures can be made to Rev. Bro. B. C. Murphy at Coláiste Mhuire, Dublin 1, or to Joe Lynch, 12 Goatstown Road, Dublin 14.

Let us hope they will be a major success.

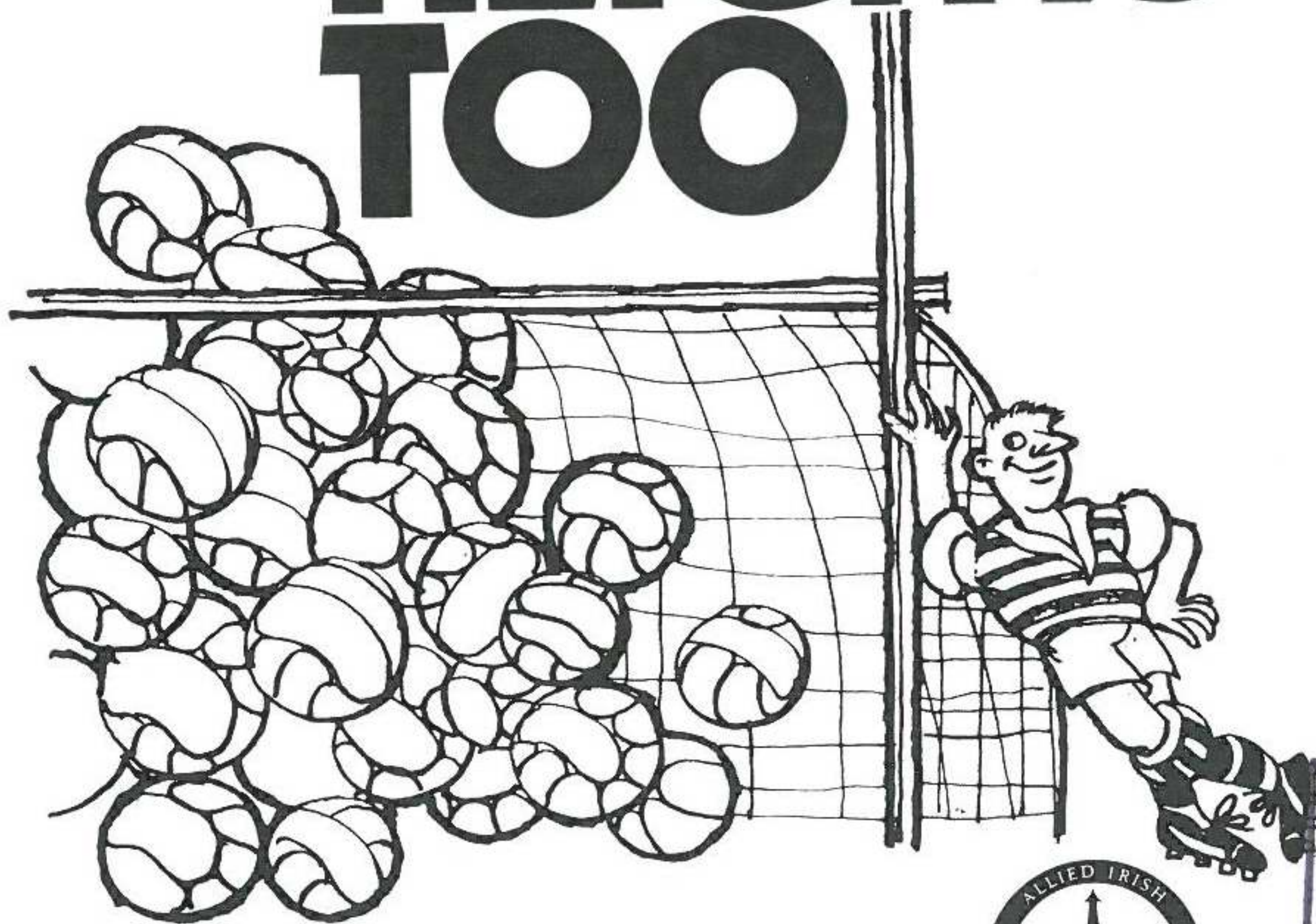
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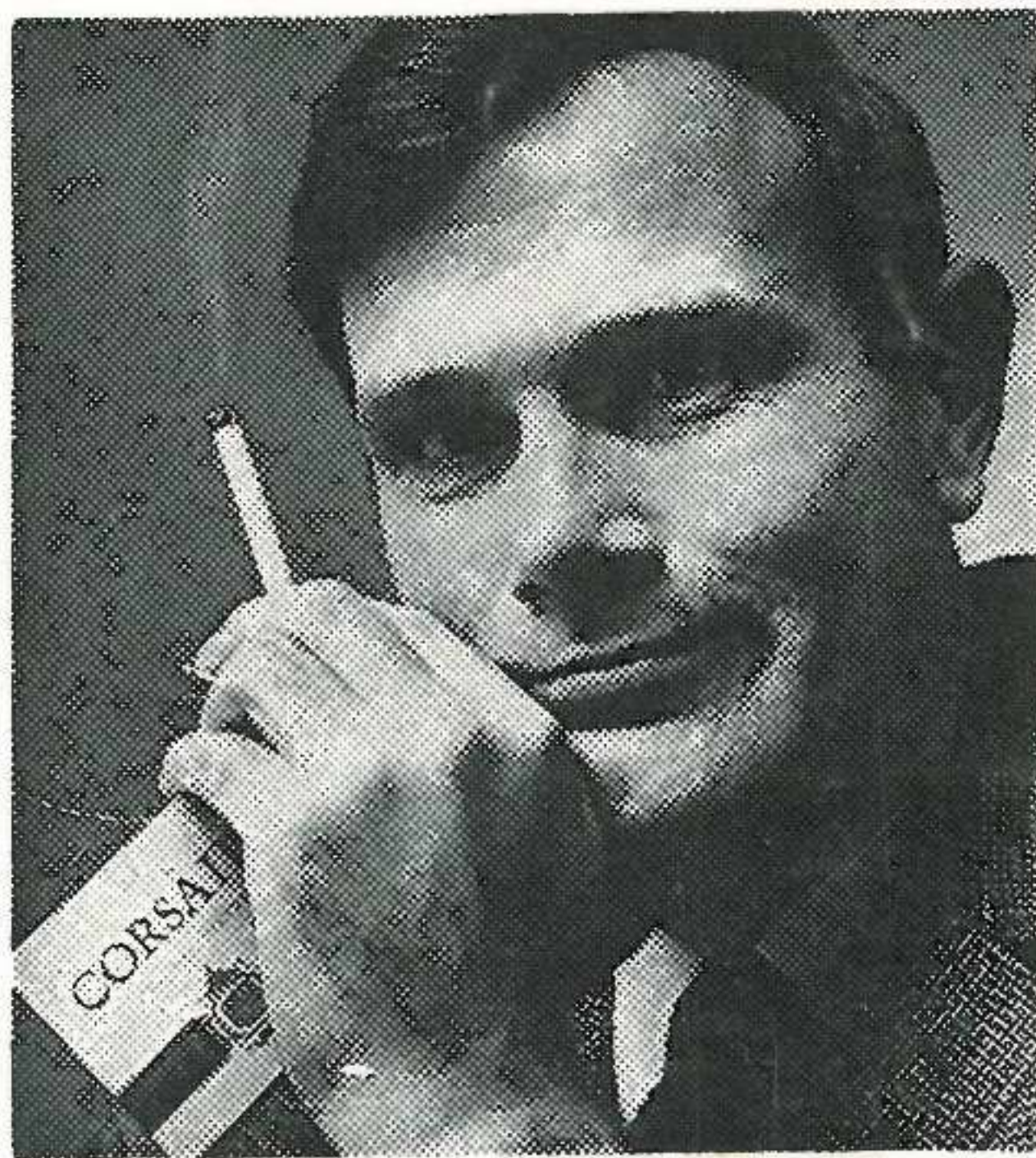
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**If you're asked  
to pay 4'11d  
for Corsair,  
don't.**

**They're only 4'7d.**



**You pay less tax, that's why.**