

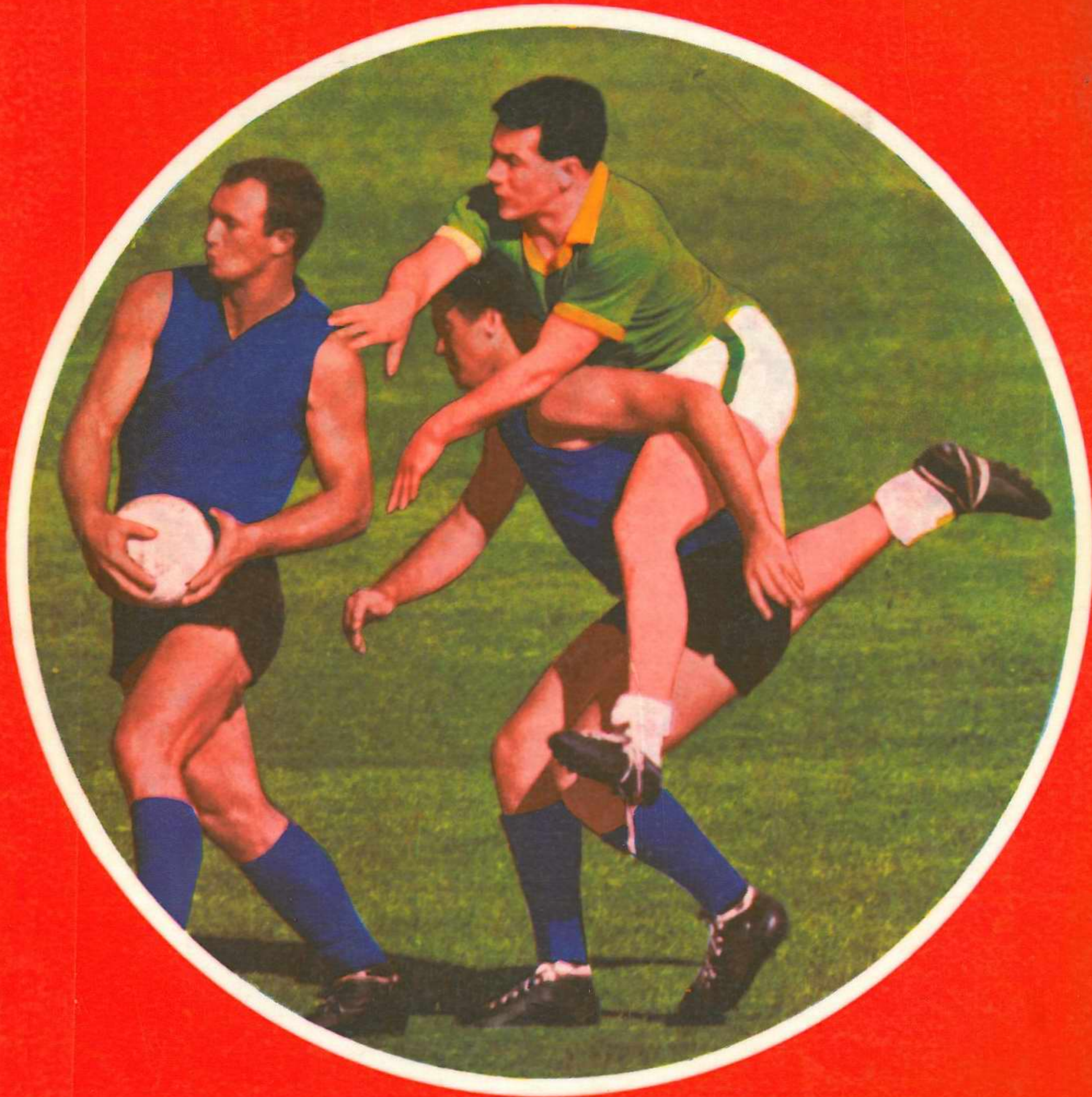
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Gaelic Sport

APRIL 1971

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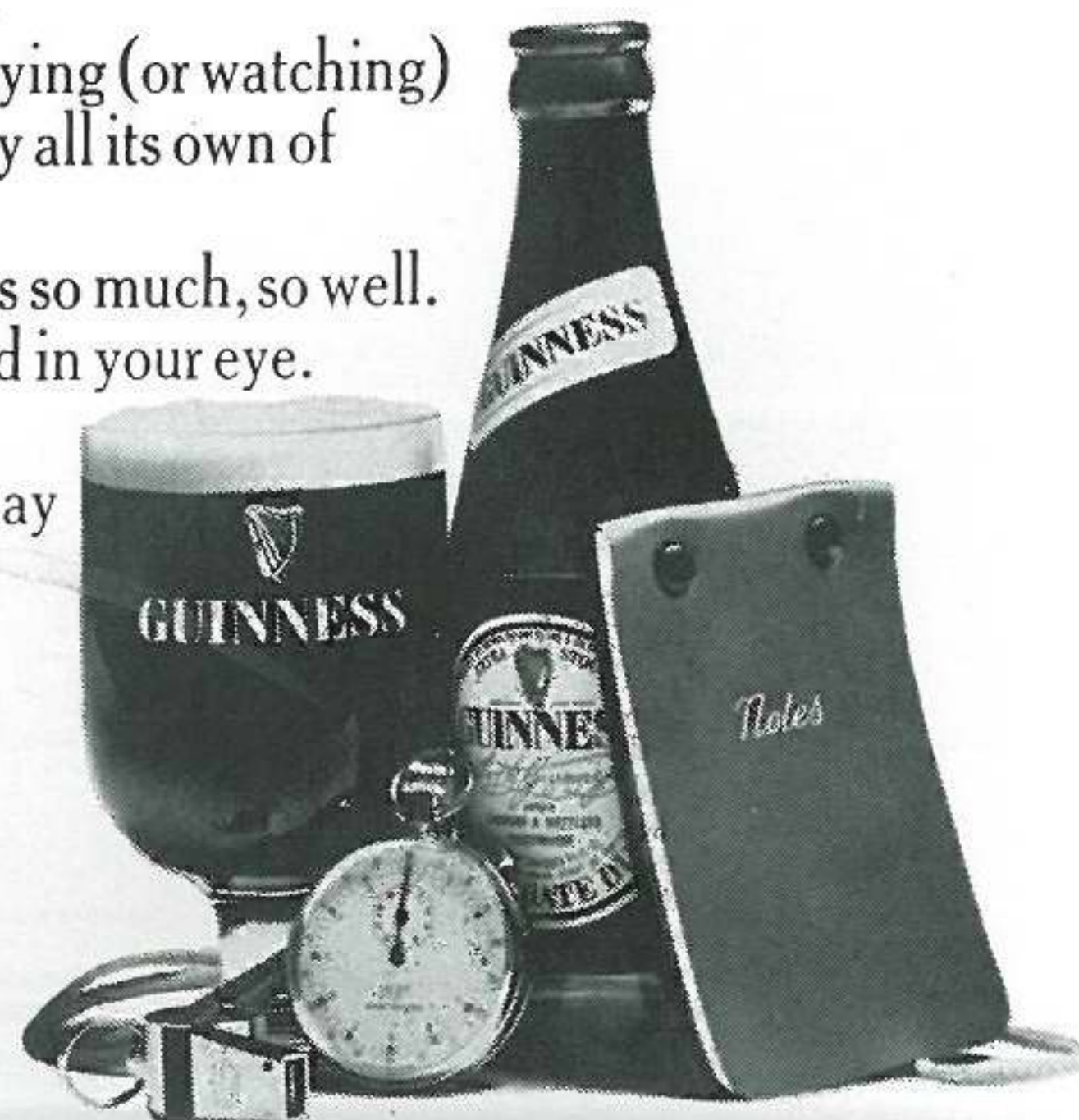


Home and awayness

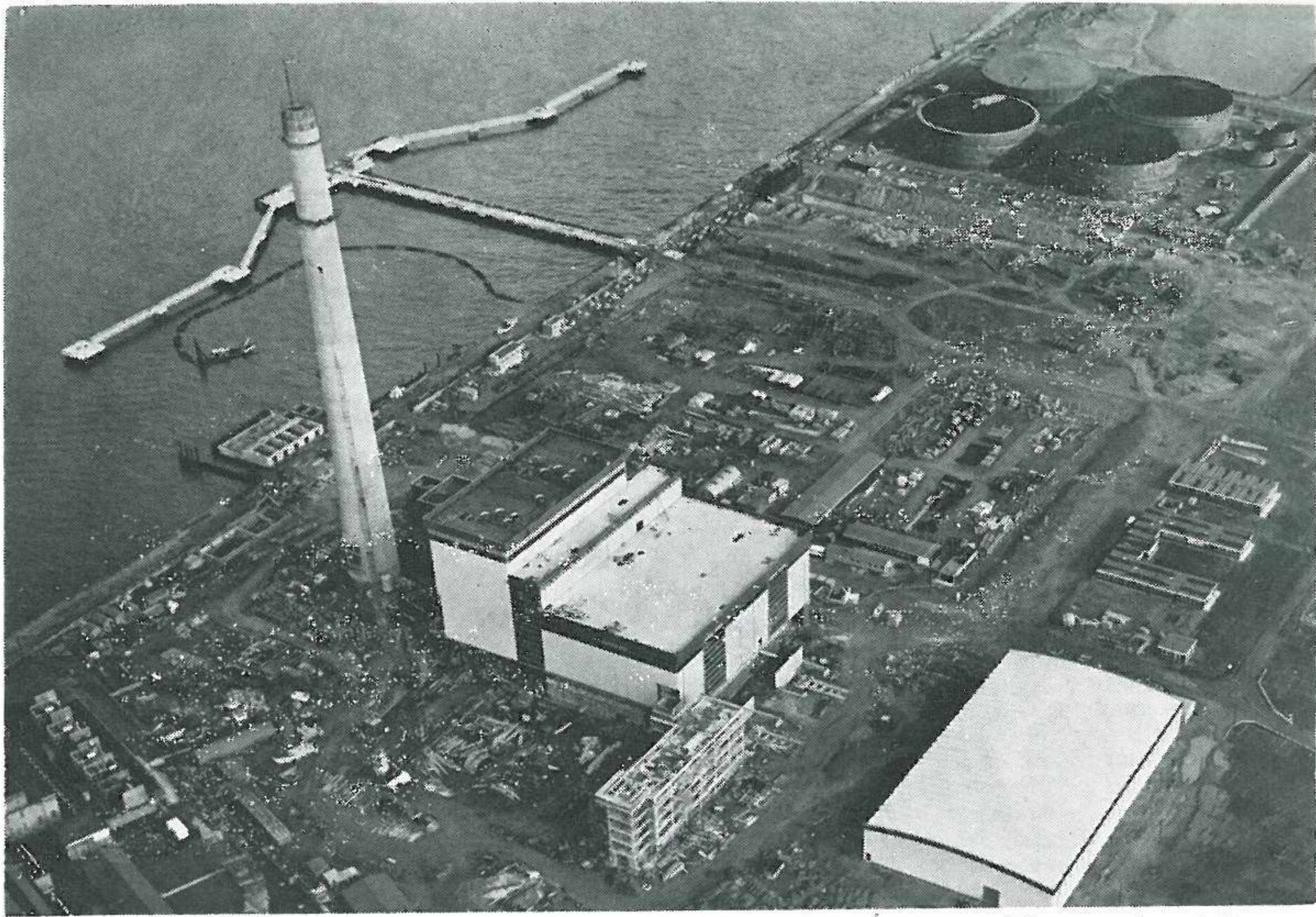
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 14. No. 4.

April, 1971

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COVER PHOTO

OUR action picture, featured this month, comes from Down-under and was taken during one of Meath's games on their Australian tour of '68. A citation for bravery to Meath's Peter Black would appear justified.

AN EPOCH ENDS

ENOUGH has been said about the Ban; it is dead, and all that remains to be done is the formal removal of the Rule from the Official Guide at Congress in Belfast at Easter. The line-up of convention voting ensures that that decision will be taken by the Association's annual assembly.

Many people will be hurt, but that is the price of democracy and, whether for good or ill, this has been a wonderful example of the democratic process in action, proving beyond any doubt the G.A.A.'s oft-repeated boast that its policies are determined by the free voice of its members.

But, is it for good or ill? The deletion of the Ban cannot be allowed to damage the games of hurling and Gaelic football, nor to dilute in any way the principles which have always inspired their promotion.

Rule 27 was a method of expressing those principles. That method is now found to be unacceptable to the majority of the Association's members. But the ideal is immutable and it is certain that that will be carefully and clearly spelled out by the President, Pat Fanning, and others, at Congress.

The G.A.A. is not a mere sporting organisation, it never was nor can it ever afford to be.

Positive encouragement of the national ideal, in an unrestricted environment, will now be the mode of operation. We believe that G.A.A. members and supporters, and, perhaps, many others,

will respond gladly to the new challenge. Gaelic games are the national games and not only must their traditional motivation not be lost, it must not be diluted in any way.

In some ways, the task may be more difficult now, in other ways it may be easier. The principal thing is that there will be men to meet the task, examine it in its new setting and ultimately accomplish it.

A brief comment must be made on the staging of Congress in Belfast. It was a splendid idea when first conceived; it demonstrated the G.A.A.'s constant devotion to the political integrity of the entire nation.

But, since the venue was chosen twelve months ago, Belfast has become a city virtually caught in the grip of war. Is it safe to send delegates from all parts of the country into such a potentially dangerous area? Is it likely to provoke Mr. Paisley and his friends into demonstrations which may well be explosive?

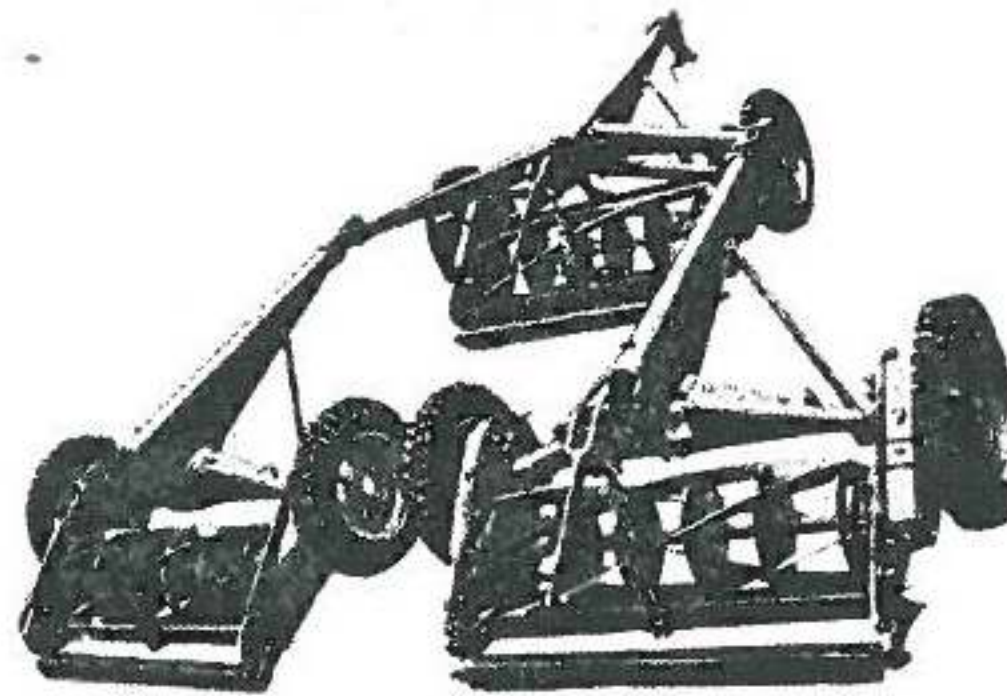
The G.A.A., you may say, has a perfect right to hold its Congresses in any part of the 32 Counties—it is a 32-county organisation. But at this time, in this dangerous political climate?

It is too late to change it now. We can only hope and pray that all will go well—that the Association will be allowed to go about its lawul business without molestation.

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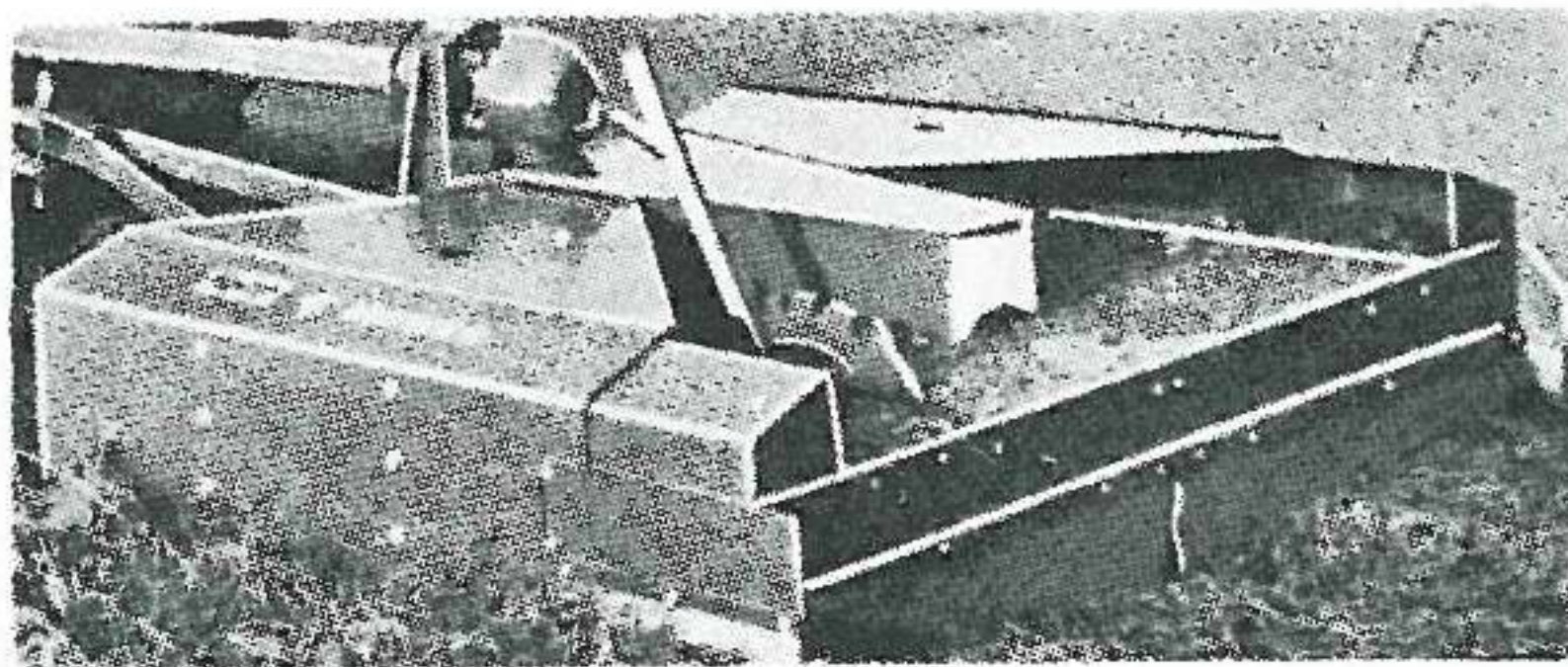
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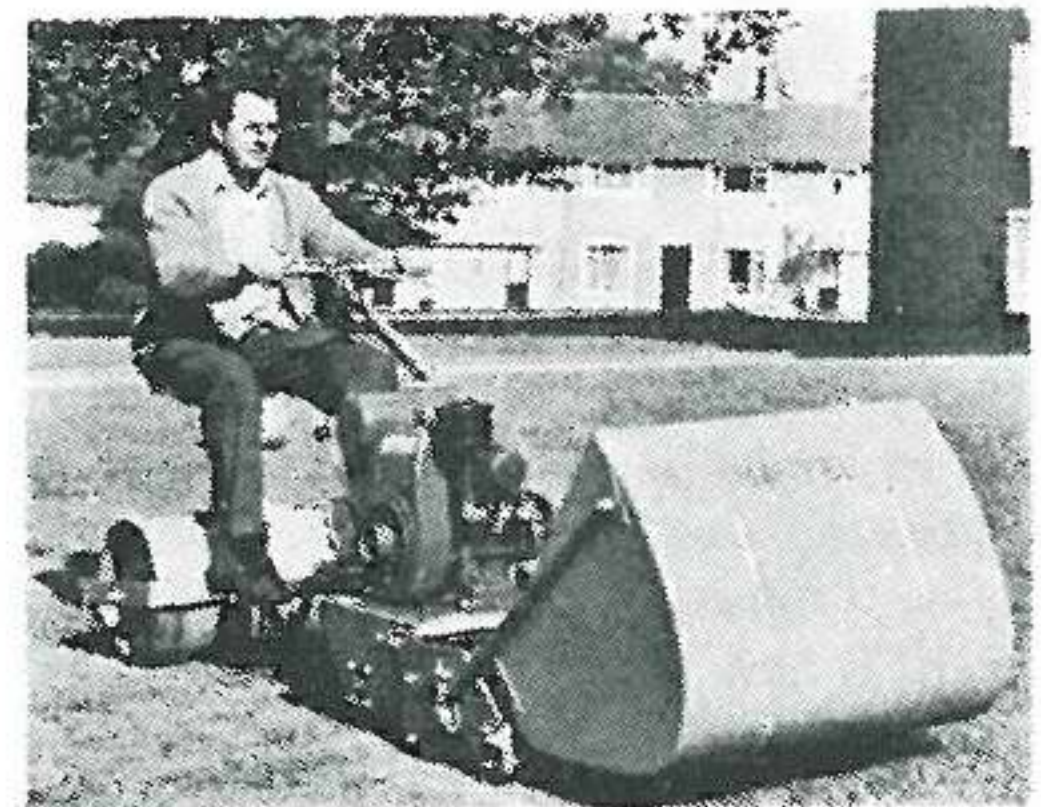


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SHOULD CONGRESS HOLD DEBATE ON THE BAN?

IT will be, of course, a momentous Congress—one to be remembered in the Annals for good or ill, but certainly, one to be remembered. First in Belfast: a remarkable and noteworthy fact, in itself. The Congress at which the Ban went kicking and screaming into the void, a fact that would make any Congress at which it happened a milestone and an historical event.

You could, of course, look upon the Ban's deletion at Belfast, in this blood-soaked year, in one or other of two ways. Depending, I suppose, on your point of view. You could bow in shame and disgrace that such a thing would be done in Belfast of to-day, of all places and of all times. You could be like one or two members who have done more than their share over the years, and fail to find it in their hearts to face the journey to Congress this year. You could, if you were of that mind, conclude that it was the price of to-day's Association and a symbol of what its values were that Belfast 1971 and the deletion of the Ban should have coincided.

Or, if you were of a different way of thinking, you could feel the knowing of pangs in the heart, yet realise that this pressure from the emotions was all the greater test of the logic of the case which forced you to argue and conclude in favour of rejection. To you, all the more valuable, even symbolic, that it should be in Belfast, and in 1971, that the Ban goes.

On the painful issue of Rule 26, however, there may be a point of some contact between the two groups. Again, whether that contact is to be a question of mollification or aggravation of the

cleavage depends on the way the "cookie crumbles". Is it to be an agreed catalyst, or bitter point of departure?

The position, as I see it, also has another interesting dichotomy: whether or not to have a full dress debate on the issues. They have after all been fully considered at most county conventions, and have been previously decided upon with deep analysis of their implications at club level—or so the presumption is. The voting for and against abolition is already declared, and it would be an injury to integrity and the democratic standing of the Association's processes to encourage any idea of deviation from the votes already cast at County level.

Would debate on these motions presume, by the very fact of such debate taking place, a possibility of altering or affecting the frame of mind of the delegates? All delegates are already committed. From their point of view, is not debate superfluous?

On the other hand, does the denial of any debate on the issues not do some hurt to the traditional practice of the Association? Is it not an unworthy precedent, in general? Is it not ignoring the fact that all those present are not delegates—some

are there "ex officio"—and that they have the right to hear the pro and con argued.

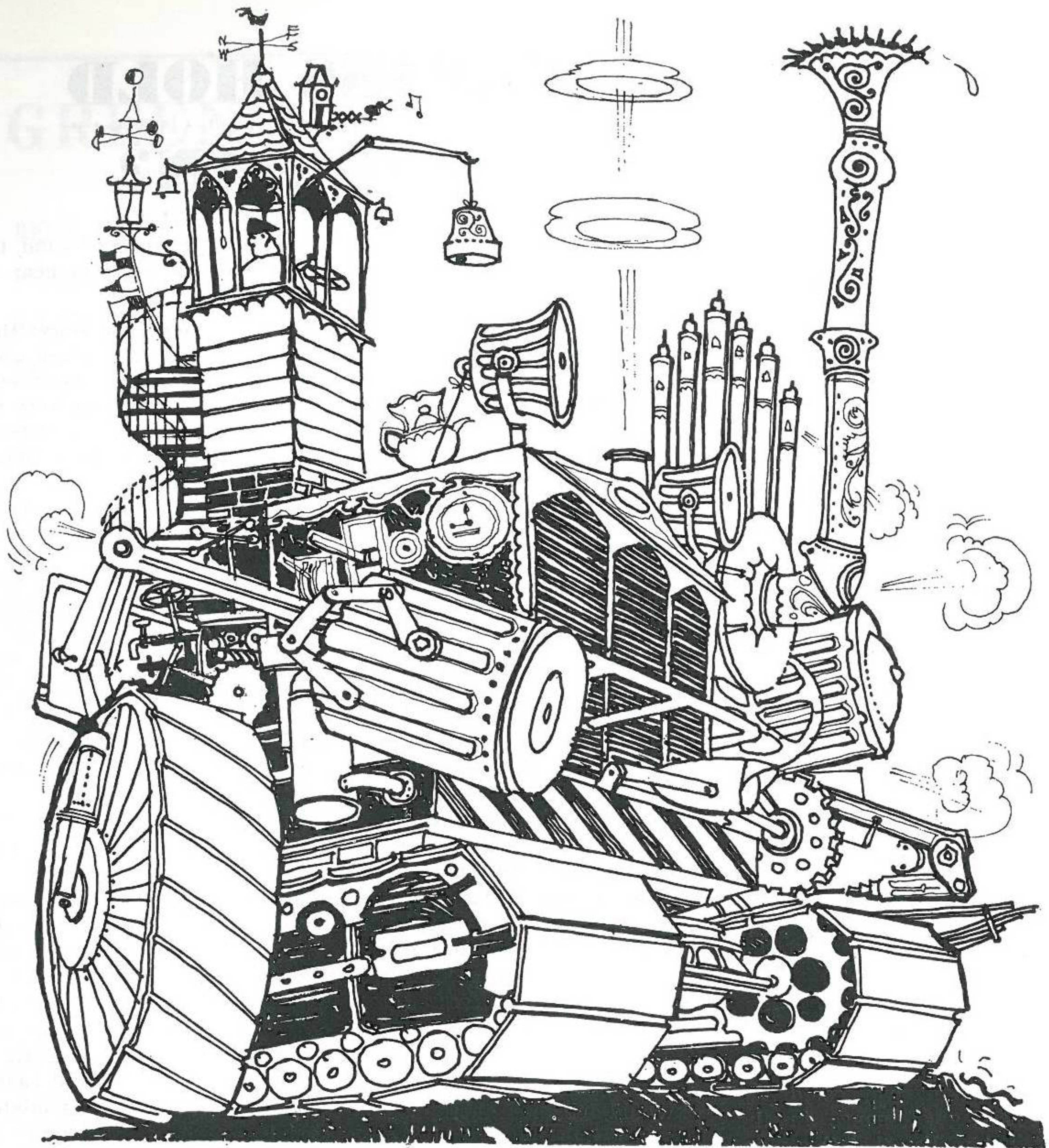
That is right and duty; then, there is expediency, which would demand that those whose sensibilities are hurt by the very fact that the Ban will be defeated should not have the knife twisted in the wound by being refused the right to have their say. To gag as well as to defeat on the vote would be ill-advised, too, I feel sure. And, it would not be either irrelevant or inappropriate if some of the 'gagged' were to point out that over the years when the victory of the pro-Ban side was as certain as that of the anti-Ban to-day, argument, proposal and debate was not denied the anti-Ban protagonists.

Delicate: that is the position, overall. There seems to be a way out of the impasse—the usual one, compromise. It is accepted that there should not be excessive time wasted on the matter which is capable of only one result; the time is badly needed for other matters which would be more productive now. But, to stifle discussion altogether would have an effect which though not intended could have far-reaching consequences of bitterness—even of injustice.

The solution seems to be a limited debate, either in time allotted or in numbers of speakers who are given the floor. There is little difference in fact, but, there might be differences in advantage to the procedure of the meeting. That would be one for the President to answer, but it seems to me that his way of fair play for all leads along such a path.

By
JAY

DRENNAN



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PILE OF GOOD WORK FOR CONGRESS

By

JIM BENNETT

INEVITABLY the Ban overshadows the prospect of Congress as we look forward. However, it is to be seriously hoped that the debate and the issue will not overshadow the events of the week-end, for there is an immense pile of good work to be done. You might say that there is a great load of good work which **must** be done—decisions in principle on matters which can only come up for discussion once a year—and once a year, nowadays, is rather like once in a decade a quarter of a century ago.

Supposing the Ban debate to be contained or disallowed altogether, and this is a matter which should present no difficulty because the matter has been voted on already and the votes of delegates are committed, there is, perhaps, a danger that time will be spent in great measure dealing with those various motions which could be classed under the heading "shoring up after the Ban".

It is not that I am against the spirit or the necessity for such shoring up, because the Ban rules have been long left stand for something which they never said in words, and which must be said positively in words now, if the ideals are not to be completely jettisoned. But, I think this is hardly the time or the place. First of all, this should have been done long ago—it is a fault that it has need to be done

now. But, that is the way things are. We let things slide because the Ban was there in apparent impregnable possession of the field, and there was never enough thought given to putting the emphasis of the Association's aims and ideals elsewhere. Even when this has been done to some practical extent, as often was—in positive efforts to promote the language, the music, the co-operation of communities for their own good, the social development schemes, the Scor entertainment—it was never felt urgent that the act be translated into the word of the rule which would now render the Ban redundant in any case.

But, it still does not seem the time to hastily delve into such matters now, in the penumbra of the Ban's disappearance. Nor does it seem possible to grapple at Congress with the kind of problem the Association is now set. This is a matter for sifting and presentation of the position as they see it by an expert Committee, followed by considerable further thought at local level, then presentation through County Convention in something like the manner in which the Ban was made obligatory material for consideration this year. Only then should the distilled essence and the decided opinion of the members come before Congress.

Besides which, the whole process of the Ban aftermath will

have to be viewed over a period; it will be realised only after a passage of time where the loopholes and weaknesses lie. And the remedying of them will be an evolutionary process like that of discovering them. **If** there are any.

Therefore, it would seem logical to take a global sort of pious resolution which means that nothing has really changed, and that the Association goes on as it was before, with perhaps a few more problems to meet, and that the important thing is to get "stuck in" and meet them. This getting "stuck in" should take the main portion of the time. Otherwise, it will have been a destructive Congress only.

The Open Draw for football, at least, must make a bold bid for recognition this time, but I see this as a matter of much wider consequence than the mere theory of an open draw. Clearly, it is inextricably tied up with the organisation of the Association, and with the functions in that organisation of the provincial councils.

It may be true, in fact, that the realisation that the structure of the Association's organisation through Provincial Councils is archaic, will come even before the question of Open Draw comes into reality. The fact is that the G.A.A. has become

● TO PAGE 10

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● FROM PAGE 9

caught between two stools in the matter of structures: there has been, of course, a stern commitment to local government at county and smaller divisional level; but, there has never been anything like so much enthusiasm for central control. It has, therefore, been eased along through two stages towards a form of central control—through provincial council to Central Council.

In to-day's world, there is little room for the kind of division of responsibility which is evident in having two such organisations of a central kind. They rather hinder one another; certainly they slow one another down. Of course, from the games organisation point of view they have been a wonderful help, taking much of the burden from the shoulders of the Central Executive so that they have been able to get on with the policy patterning to some extent.

But, all in all, the situation cries out to-day for quicker and more direct communication in decision making and in control. A far more complete and, therefore, more competent and even powerful structure at the heart of things is required. In this there is no problem in incorporating a division for games organisation and for dealing with particular provincial problems. But, at least, it would cut out some of the cross-purposes work and some of the duplication of effort which takes place at the moment.

The thought strikes one in thinking on the Open Draw, that the future of the provincial councils may well determine its future. If they were to go, there would not be the same compulsion and the same vested interest in keeping them. And there is that, apart altogether from the argument about their merits and attractions, as such.

IT'S JUST THAT SOMETHING WORKS WONDERS

SATURDAY . . . and there I was, sitting sedately, conservatively, almost primly in the luxurious press box at Murrayfield in Edinburgh. Everyone was so polite, so terribly friendly and yet so distant.

Sunday . . . and there I was, sitting on the back of a lorry, knocking back a bottle of Double Diamond so kindly presented by the Westmeath G.A.A. Board, exchanging the frequent ribald remark with Peter O'Brien of the Irish Press and enduring a running commentary on the Leinster v Connacht hurling game from a well-oiled Connacht supporter standing just in front of the lorry.

And, for good measure, there was a child of about five, doing his utmost to steal my writing pad and threatening to report me to the Guards for drinking "por-

ter". He also accused me of being drunk.

Mind you . . . of the two I think I preferred the slightly primitive press box provided by the Westmeath G.A.A. Board. Although only the Lord knows, what would have happened if it had started raining!

This was the second time I had been in the Athlone G.A.A. ground—I was there, too last year when Galway damn nearly caught Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final—and I'm inclined to wonder why we do not have more of our major games there.

The ground itself is excellent, beautifully appointed and extremely well-kept and the venue is central, not only for teams from Connacht, but also from Ulster and Leinster.

I would like to see far more use being made of it. And

between ourselves, I am getting just a little tired of going to Kilkenny, Thurles, Limerick and Navan all the time. It's nice to see a few new faces every now and then.

Just as it's nice to find a new pub every now and then — and your man, the fellow from the "Irish Times", and myself found one or two. And the good news about them is that they still haven't heard about the fortunes the publicans are making in Dublin. Or else, they're not interested in beating the poor customer to death.

However, I didn't set out to say all this. All I wanted to do was talk about the programme that the local club provided for the Railway Cup semi-final on that particular day.

For if anyone ever wanted any evidence to demonstrate that the Railway Cup competitions are now becoming the poor relations of G.A.A. sport, a little slip by the local club made the point neatly in the programme.

They listed Leinster's colours as "Purple and Gold"!

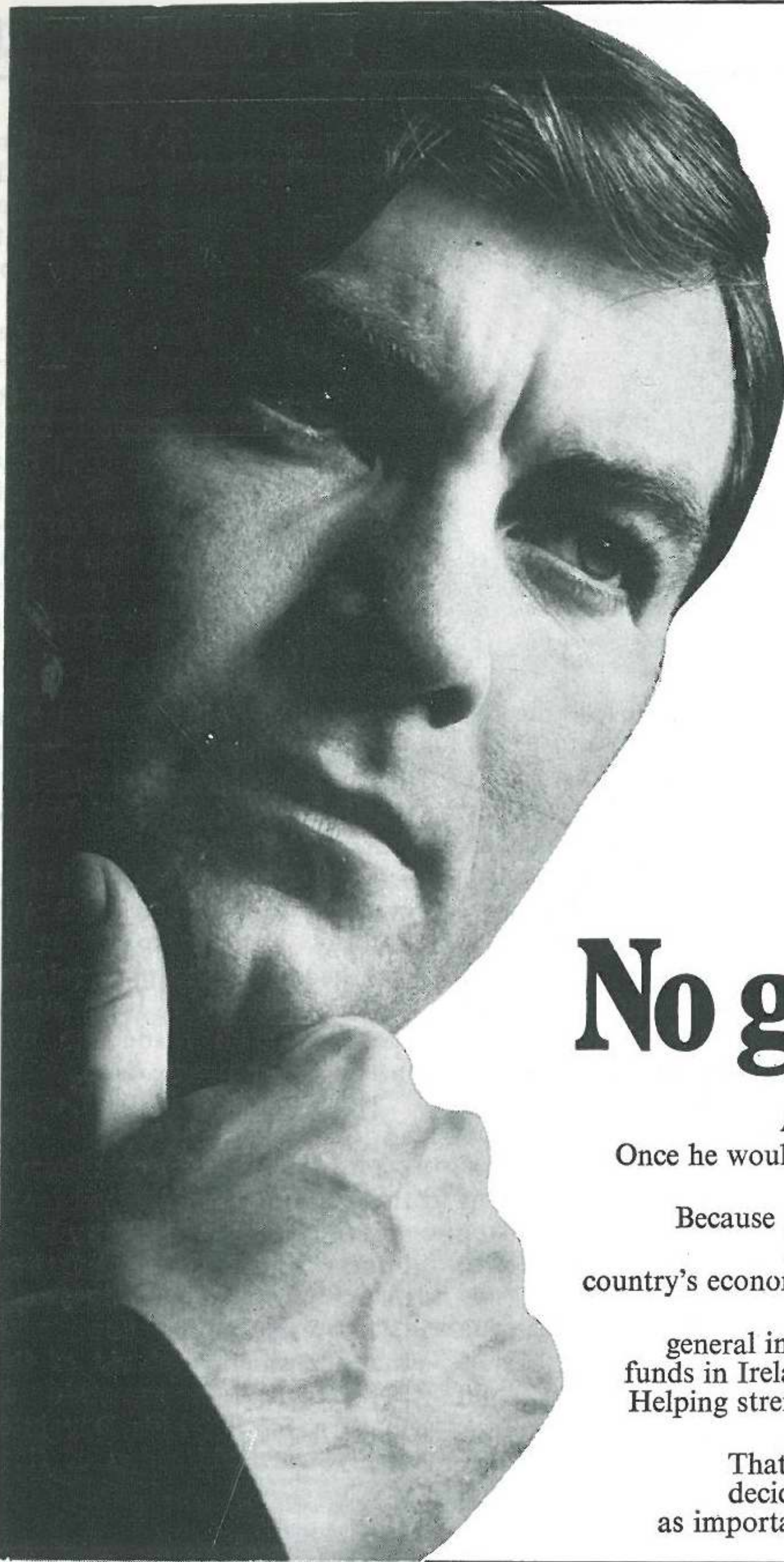
I'm not going to fault them for that . . . but it symbolised for me, anyway, the extraordinary lack of interest and enthusiasm that now marks these competitions.

My own feeling nowadays is that we should get rid of them . . . and look for something else to turn St. Patrick's Day into a really worthwhile day of Gaelic Sport.

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MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

HOW much time the delegates to the Belfast Congress will spend in discussing the Ban removal Rules I do not know. But what I do know is that, if I were they, I would spend a great deal of time long before that in a bit of a symposium on the balance sheets presented by the provincial Councils.

Because, if the trend in the financial returns continues to decline as shown in three of the provinces through the last twelve months, the G.A.A. might well find the going very sticky indeed as far as finances are concerned.

The general and too often erroneous impression outside the Association that the G.A.A. is 'rotten with money' is hard to overtake, but it is certainly not justified as far as this year's provincial figures are concerned.

To start with Connacht, here is what the Auditors had to say in their preface to the annual financial statement.

"The most striking aspect of the figures in this year's accounts is the very large reduction in receipts from the Championship matches. Receipts for 1970 are less than half those of 1969 and the actual drop of £8,554 should be of considerable concern to all members. Naturally, if Income were to fall further, then the source of Grants and expenses may become strained and cut-backs in these might be necessary.

"This year, when it became obvious that Income had fallen, careful attention had to be paid to the distribution of grants . . . Income exceeded expenditure by £330, while the excess in 1969 was £5,314."

Now, over to Munster where

the Revenue Account report starts off as follows:

"The income for the year, as detailed, at £33,487, was £6,059 lower than in the previous year. The decrease occurred mainly in Gate receipts which were £5,806 lower than in the preceding twelve months . . . The result of the year's operations was an excess of Income over Expenditure of £6,675 as compared with the £11,326 for the previous year."

Over next to the accounts for the Ulster Council. Here the Auditor's report says:

"Income for the year, including refunds of expenses, amounted to £17,115. Expenditure came to £16,453. Income exceeded Expenditure by £662, taking the figures to the nearest pound.

"As compared with the preceding year, when Income exceeded Expenditure by £1,144, Income declined by £6,155 and Expenditure declined by £5,673. On the Income side of the Account, championship gate receipts were less by £6,863 and refund of Inter-provincial Team's expenses were greater by £560. On the Expenditure side of the Account the following were the variations of note: team's expenses were less by £675; Provincial team's expenses were greater by £558; field-rents for championship matches were less by £706, the charges for medals, plaques and presentations were less by £111; the charges for printing, advertising and stationery were less by £86; Accident Fund contributions were less by £354; grants for the minor inter-county football leagues were less by £95 and grants for improvements of Grounds and Handball

Alleys were less by"—wait for it —"£4,000".

It will be noted that in Connacht the amount of grants was in 1970 £800 less than in 1969, while in Munster the grants were also lower but only by the insignificant figure of £9.

Now, the significant facts about those reports is this, that in three of the four provinces, a drastic drop in gate receipts was the chief feature of 1970. And the moral to be drawn is that we must go out of our way to increase that revenue, otherwise there will have to be a sharp reduction in grants to compensate for the decreased income.

It may well be argued that gate receipts must vary from year to year, and that for instance, a Mayo-Galway football final in Connacht might well have made all the difference between 1970 and 1969.

The Leinster balance sheet may well be produced as proof that a good championship season makes a world of difference.

Certainly the Leinster receipts were up to £46,312, an increase of £7,924 on the previous year, while the excess of income over expenditure was £3,232, an increase of £2,818. But in all fairness it must be pointed out that Leinster had a very bad year, comparatively, in 1969 and the improvement was as necessary as it was welcome.

Now what is the moral to be drawn from the fall in gate receipts in three of the four provinces? Well, to me the moral seems plain that we will in future have to go out of our way to start wooing the customers all over again.

● TO PAGE 14



*finest cream sherry
right taste . . .
right price*

 **SANDEMAN**
Cream Sherry

● FROM PAGE 13

For more than 30 years we just had not to bother to do anything like that. We took it for granted that the thousands and thousands of spectators would keep rolling up, and that the newspapers would give us all the free publicity we wanted.

But come back with me, dear reader, to a time 40 years ago when that publicity was not so freely available, and when we in the G.A.A. really had to sell our wares. And I can tell you that, in those days when Paddy O'Keeffe had only recently taken over, the G.A.A. really worked hard to sell the Association's games to the public. There was scarcely a bill-board in Ireland that did not carry a large and colourful poster advertising whatever big match was on on the following Sunday. There was not a Railway station that did not advertise the same match inside and out; there was not a newspaper large or small that did not carry constant advertising of those big games.

I am sure some of my readers at least will recall the colourful poster of the Red Branch knight, complete with camán, who was a constant figure then on the bigger posters.

But, as the crowds rolled in, the ground work of publicity seems to be largely forgotten at every level. Now that the crowds have begun to drift away again we must all get down to the hard task of winning them back. There must, if necessary, be far more extensive advertising campaigns, the facilities at all our grounds large and small must be improved for the spectators as well as the players. We are in a competitive market now and if we do not offer better value, whether our competitors be television programmes, lounge bars, seaside resorts or other games, we must give the customers better value, or else . . .



AN GREANN SA CHUMANN

Le Seán Ó Dunagáin

DÚIRT duine éigin le déanaí go raibh fíor-bheagán scéalta grinn sa Ghaeilge. Tá an ceart aige. Tá raidhse scéal ann as Béarla faoi na cluichí Gaelacha agus is dóigh liom nach aon doch-ar aistriúchán a dhéanamh ar cinn a d'innis mé féin ar "Gaelic Sport" blianta ó shoin—agus iar-raim mathúnas roimhré ar Jack Mahon mar go bhfuil fhios agam gur léigh sé iad as Béarla fadó. B'fhéidir go bhfuilid ann adéar faidh gur mithid dom tabhairt faoi rud éigin eile seachas an síor-ghearán a bhíonn agam san alt seo.

Bhó Foireann Cheannasaíocht An Iarthair (Western Command) ag traenáil in Ath Luain agus bhí roinnt oifigigh, cúpla sáirsint agus roinnt saighdiúir singil (privates) ar an bhfoireann agus cé go raibh caradas ar leith eadar na baill bhí smacht ann mar sin féin. Lá amháin tar éis tréimhse traenála d'eirigh argóint idir bheirt Ciarraíoch, duine acu ina Lieutenant agus an duine eile ina Sháirsint. D'éist gach éinne leo, duine acu ag séanadh an méid a bhí á rá ag an duine eile go dtí sa deireadh go ndúirt an Sáirsint go deabhéasach, foighdeach, "Ar mhiste leat a dhuine uasail má glaoim 'bréagadóir' ort?" Scairt gach éinne agus b'shin deireadh na hargóna.

Mura gcreideann tú an scéal cuir ceist ar an Leas-Chornal Éamon Ó Condúin sa Choláiste Míleata (iar-lántaca ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe) nó ar Connie Ó Conchúir (duine d'fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhuaigh craobh na hÉireann 1938) an chéad uair eile a bheidh tú ag gabháil tríd Daingean Uí Chúis.

Táim faoi chomaoín ag Éamon Young (Corcaigh '45) don scéal seo. Bhí ogánach ag siúl abhaile go tromchroíach ón bhaile mór tar éis cluiche inar bualadh ar a fhoireann. Ag druidim ar a theach féin bhí sean-fhear, comh-arsa leis, ag bleán an bhó ar an mbán. D'fhiosraigh an sean-fhear faoi'n chluiche. Thug an tógánach an toradh dó agus, mar leathscéal dá fhoireann féin, dúirt sé, "Ach bhí an pháirc go dona, bhí sé orlach de láib ann agus bhí fánadh ann ó chliathán amháin go dtí an cliathán eile, ní raibh aon taobh-líne ceart ann agus bhí na cuailí ag ceann amháin den pháirc ar sceabh-adh!" Staon an seanfhear air ar feadh cúpla secund. "Tuigim," ar seisean, "agus cén sórt páirce in a raibh an fhoireann eile ag imirt?"

Is féidir scéal "grinn" a ghairm ar an gceann seo leanas más mian leat ach ní raibh sé chomh greannmhar sin don té ar tharla

sé do, Séamus Ó Cliúmhain (Jimmy Clifford) atá ina Ghárda Sióchána i gcathair Chorcaí faoi láthair.

Ceann de na peileadóirí is fearr dá bhfaca mé ariamh ab ea Jimmy. Bhí sé san airm i nGaillimh leis an gCath Gaelach agus cé gur ó Chiarraí do d'imir sé le Gaillimh sna blianta ag tosach na dachaidí. Bhí sé ar an bhfoireann a chlaóí foireann Átha Cliath i 1942, sa chraobh-chluiche. Tamall ina dhiadh sin chuaigh Jimmy isteach sna Gárdaí agus tar éis a chuid traenála, fostaíodh i gCorcaigh e. I mbliain 1945 d'iarr muintir Chorcaí air imirt leo agus bhí muintir Chiarraí ag tathaint air chomh maith. I ndeireadh báire chinn sé ar imirt le Ciarraí. Tá fhios ag gach éinne cad a tharla. Bhuaigh foireann Chorcaí ar Chiarraí i gCraobh na Mumhan agus bhaineadar amach Craobh na hÉireann chomh maith.

An bhliain ina dhiadh sin chinn Jimmy ar imirt le Corcaigh agus, an gcreidfeá é, bhuaigh Chiarraí Craobh na hÉireann!

Jimmy bocht. Dúirt mé leis i gcónaí gur chaill sé trí bhonn Uile-Éireann, ceann acu ar pháirc an imeartha (1942) agus an dá cheann eile toisc go raibh sé ar an fhoireann mí-cheart an dá uair.

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NA FIANNA SURGE INTO THE SEVENTIES

By JOHN HIGGINS

THE motto of the ancient Fianna which the Glasnevin-based Club, Na Fianna, have adopted is indeed appropriate when applied to the record of this dynamic unit of the G.A.A. 'Action according to our words' is surely the right motto for this Club which was formed as recently as 1955 and which is at present going 'full steam ahead' with the building of a Gaelic Centre to cater for the sporting, social and cultural needs of its five hundred members. The Club's ground at Mobhi Road, Glasnevin was acquired in 1963 and in 1967 the Guinness pavilion at Iveagh Grounds, Crumlin, was bought, dismantled and brought to Mobhi Road where it was re-erected and extended through the voluntary labour of Club members. Just when the work was almost completed the building was destroyed by fire as a result of vandalism. Undaunted, Club officials immediately went to work to raise funds for a bigger and more ambitious clubhouse. The task was formidable yet now, less than four years later, work on the building is well advanced



● Pictured at the recent Press Conference to announce plans of Na Fianna's new Gaelic Centre at Mobhi Road; (from right): Edmond Burke (Architect); Sean Clerkin, Chairman of Na Fianna; Pat Fanning, Uachtaran, C.L.G.; Br. D. F. O'Farrell, President of Na Fianna.

and the official opening is scheduled for next September. The total cost of Na Fianna's new Gaelic Centre will be approximately £43,000 and of this amount more than £15,000 is being raised from the Club's members and from the existing Club funds. The balance will be raised from the G.A.A. Club Development Scheme and from alternative credit facilities available to the Club.

The new Centre will have a Hall with seating capacity for five hundred people which will be separated from an enclosed handball alley by a glass back-wall. A large members' lounge, Committee rooms and accommodation for a resident caretaker will also be included in the new building. Male and female dressingroom facilities will be provided for the Club's hurling, football, handball and camogie sections. Provision is also being made for social functions in the form of a fully equipped kitchen.

The playing area has been excavated and will be re-laid after installation of a special drainage system so that two pitches, a full size adult pitch and a smaller one for juvenile or camogie matches, will be incor-

porated in the new lay-out.

While Na Fianna builds its new Centre it has become deeply involved in the social and cultural field. Weekly competitions in Irish dancing, singing, debating, music, recitations and question time are held throughout the winter months culminating in 'Feis Na Fianna' which features the finals of the various competitions together with additional sketches and dramatic presentations by Club members. In field games an annual festival, 'Feile Na Fianna', provides a week of hurling, football, handball, camogie, rounders and athletic events. When the Gaelic Centre is available both Feis and Feile will be further developed so that they will reflect every facet of Club activity.

The weekly Club meetings of Na Fianna are conducted in both Irish and English and those who are not too proficient in the native language are encouraged to use what Irish they know. With the advent of the Centre language courses are being arranged so that all members will have every opportunity to acquire a speaking knowledge of Irish.

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

The hall in the new building will be an invaluable asset to the Club's very active Dramatic and Variety group who have staged regular concerts presented entirely by Na Fianna members. Two years ago the Camogie section was formed and the ladies have since played a major role in Club affairs apart from winning the Junior A championship in their first year of active competition in Dublin. The Club has also introduced ladies handball and this game has proven very popular with the fair sex who will make very good use of the Club's new indoor handball alley.

With fifteen under-age teams competing in Dublin competitions, Na Fianna have a very real commitment to promoting Gaelic games amongst the youth of Glasnevin/Ballymun/Drumcondra and the fact that all teams are well catered for is a tribute to the organisational efficiency of the Club. In addition special coaching for boys from seven years old was introduced this year to promote hurling within the Club and a special hurling committee looks after the welfare and development of hurling at all levels in Na Fianna.

To keep members who cannot maintain regular contact with Club activity fully informed of current events the Club's newspaper 'Fianna Nuacht' is published every month and mailed to each member.

With so much work to do it was little wonder that Club Chairman Sean Clerkin, should express no fears about the probable abolition of Rule 27 when Na Fianna recently held their Press Conference in Dublin. He said "We welcome the abolition of the Ban because now the Association will have an outlook that is wholly positive rather than negative. We can now concentrate on the promotion of all the objectives of our founders".



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PRESIDENT'S AIMS REALISED

IN April, 1968, Rev. Br. B. C. Murphy became the first member of the Irish Christian Brothers to accept the Presidency of the Irish Handball Council.

This month will see the completion of his statutory three-year term of office, a period during which he added tremendously to the stature of the game in this country.

I recollect asking him what ambitions he would like to see realised during his term of office.

His answers at the time were centred on the desirability of seeing the game advanced at school level, a greater interest taken by G.A.A. Committees and better coverage by R.T.E. He had marked success in all those ambitions.

However, the real highlight of his Presidency must surely have been the staging of the World Championships for the first time in Ireland during October 1970.

It was a huge undertaking and necessitated the construction of a new de-luxe court in Croke Park that can accommodate close on 2,000 spectators.

The various media of publicity gave due recognition to the event, and, as in all such ventures, the contribution and dedication of a few had brought it to fruition.

President Bro. Murphy was the able leader of that small band. But leadership is an inherent quality of this man who will rank as the greatest President Irish handball ever produced.

He was born in Newbridge and

educated at Westland Row C.B.S. Even in those days he had a close attachment with the Association, being an able hurler and footballer, though he freely admits that handball always held a special place for him.

He is a man of many talents, and indeed, a deep concentration would be required of his contribution to various aspects of the Irish Language movement.

He has attained much honour in leading school choirs to resounding successes at competitive level, while, at one stage, his reputation as an amateur photographer indicated that he could also have gone very far in this field.

His name is always associated with the famed 1955 Tipperary Minor Football team that went to the All-Ireland Final against Dublin.

A few years later his flair for leadership came to light in Ceanannus Mór, for it was while he was based in the Meath town he became instrumental in re-kindling the handball flame amongst the youth of the town.

To-day, the results of that effort lives on, and the local handball club — St. Colmcille — has a reputation second to none.

In latter years, Bro. Murphy has been based in Dublin where he has been chiefly responsible for the rejuvenation of handball amongst younger players.

He is chairman of the Dublin Minor Handball Board, which, despite limited facilities, can complete a programme of 2,000

matches in the one season.

His contribution to the game in Dublin is substantiated by the fact that in latter years, the county has been very much to the fore at All-Ireland level in minor and Tailteann Championships. And for good measure, the reigning President of the Handball Council is still a very active member of the Commission which was set up to examine the affairs of the G.A.A.

In point of fact, it can be said that Brother Murphy, who has spent the last decade teaching in the O'Connell Schools and Coláiste Mhuire has made an invaluable contribution, not only to handball but also to the G.A.A.

We say comhgáirdeas to the President on a job well done.

His successor, who will be appointed very shortly has an unenviable standard to uphold. At the moment, speculation is rife as to who that new President will be, but it appears that the honour will rest between well-known Dublin Builder, J. J. Jennings and Bank Manager, Ray Doherty, who will seek the position under the tag of his native Roscommon.

Both of them gave unstinted help in the organisation of the World Championships and either can make a very valuable contribution to handball.

For either, Bro. Murphy has ploughed a furrow that time did not allow him to properly harrow, but, which is destined to yield a bountiful harvest for handball—Ireland's oldest sport.

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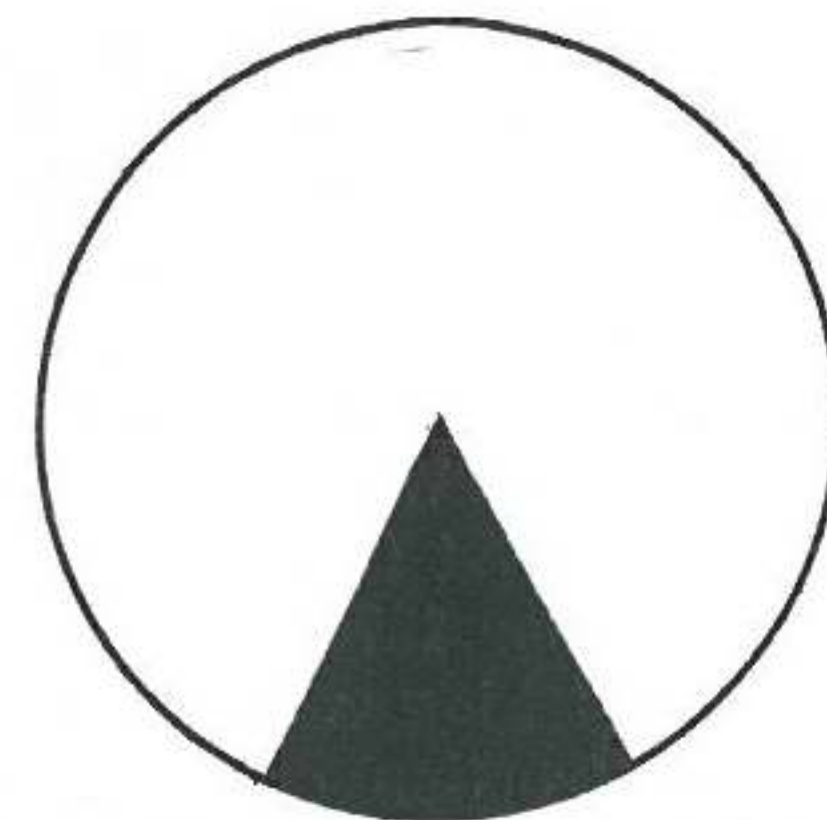
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STARS AT WORK

IF there is one thing that interests spectators more than the actual games themselves, it is a burning curiosity concerning the full-time occupations of their hurling and football stars. This interest in the full-time occupations of competitors is not confined, however, to Gaelic Games, it applies equally to anybody in the public eye, people simply want to know more about them. So this month we include some details of players, past and present, some famous, some not so well known, who in their particular jobs contribute to the nation's progress.

Jack Lynch, winner of six All-Ireland medals in a row with Cork hurling and football teams in 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945 and 1946, now leads the Irish nation into the seventies. The leader of Fianna Fail has with him on his team such well known former players as Sean Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Lands, winner of All-Ireland medals with Mayo in 1950 and '51 at left-full back, Paddy Lalor, T.D., Minister for Industry and Commerce, former Laois Co. footballer, Des Foley, T.D., who captained the Dublin senior team to win the All-Ireland Football Final in 1963 and John Doyle, who won eight All-Ireland senior hurling medals with Tipperary. All and all a formidable combination.

The Standard Life Assurance Co. have Denis Murphy, the former Cork hurling star who captained his county to All-Ireland success in 1966. A more recent

triumph with which he was associated, was the great Cork win in the 1969 National League Final. Another former county player with Standard Life is Michael Cleary, their Senior Inspector in the Dublin area. Michael, who won an All-Ireland Minor medal

with Tipperary in 1953 also played with the Dublin team in 1958-59.

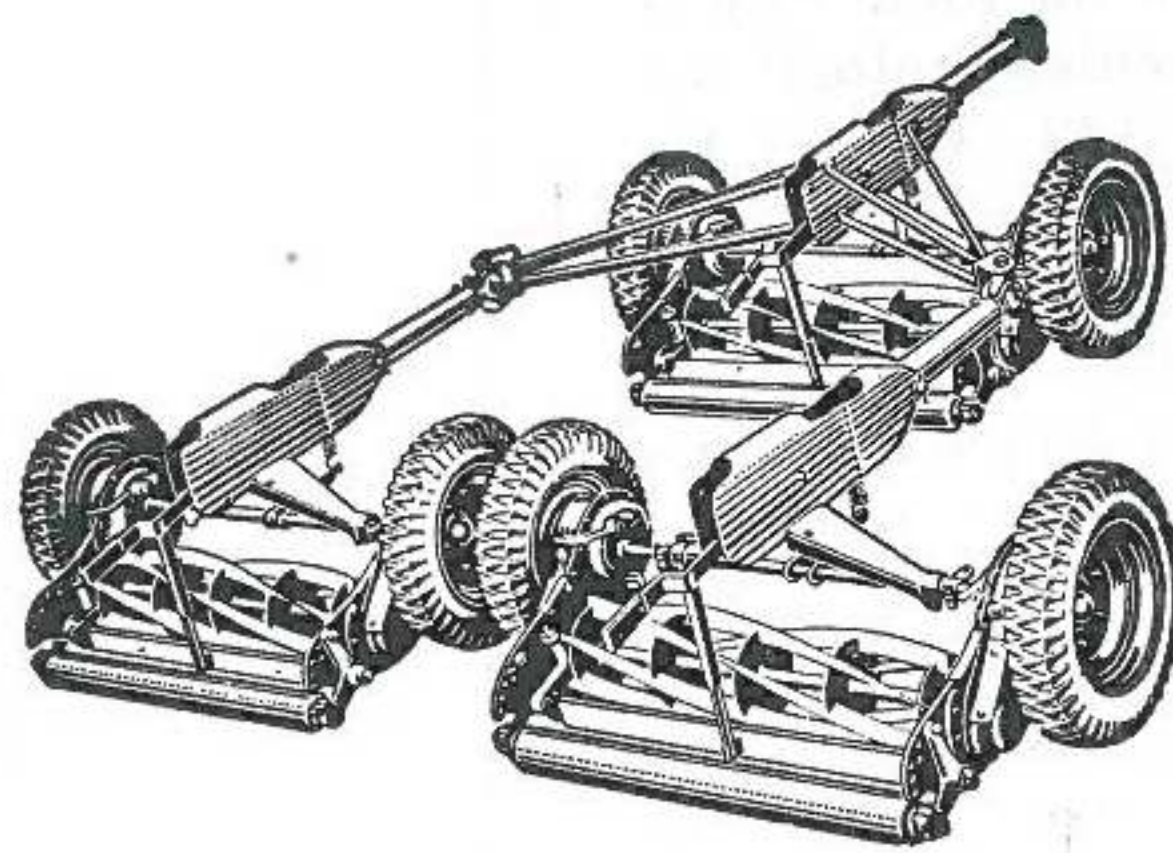
Among the many stars past and present in the E.S.B., there is one, Bill Robbins of Irishtown, who played with the Dublin team on that fateful Sunday, November 21st, 1920. Although 50 years have passed since Bloody Sunday, Bill, who is at present living in retirement in Ringsend, still remembers the events of that day vividly. "What was to be a friendly game," says Bill, "turned out to be a frightening experience. Within 10 minutes of the start of the game we heard shots and saw everyone running for

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

safety." He and a Tipperary player managed to get out of Croke Park safely. Some were not destined to do so. Fourteen spectators and one player, Michael Hogan, lay dead at the end of the day.

Any survey of this kind would not be complete without mentioning that Irish Shell and B.P. Ltd. have as their representative in East Cork the peerless Christy Ring, first man to win eight All-Ireland medals and surely the greatest hurler of them all.

Both Jackie Lyne and Paudge Keogh work with Guinness Group Sales. Jackie represents the company in the Killarney region, while Paudge looks after the Wexford area. In 1968, Paudge and Jackie trained the Wexford Senior Hurling team and the Kerry Senior Football team, respectively.

In the Hire Purchase Company of Ireland, we find Paddy Farnon, Manager, Carlow branch. Paddy shot the second half goal that sent Dublin on their way to an All-Ireland senior football win over Derry in 1958. One of the few dual medalists at minor in the All-Ireland Championships—he was in Dublin's hurling and football winning squads of 1954—he also won a Railway Cup medal in 1959. Gabriel Kelly, H.P.I. Representative in Longford, must rank as one of the greatest players never to win an All-Ireland senior medal. He was an automatic choice with Ulster from 1960 until he retired from inter-county games late in 1969.

Nealie Duggan, H.P.I. Representative in Cork, is another of the "greats" that the coveted All-Ireland senior football medal eluded. He gave great service to Cork between 1943 and 1957, and was a commanding figure in the 1956 and 1957 All-Ireland finals, won by Galway and Louth.

A SUCCESS STORY FROM TUAM

GRIFFITHS Earthmoving and Plant Hire is the largest earthmoving and plant hire firm in the West of Ireland and has in its fifteen years of existence developed from a one machine land reclamation firm into a major firm with over twenty items of operational plant from the large D8 Bulldozer down through Excavators to small Dumpers or in other words the complete range of earthmoving plant required in the development of sportsfields. As well as having the necessary modern machinery it has the professional know how through James N. Griffiths, the founder of the firm who is himself a qualified Agricultural Instructor, and Murty P. Hanly, B.E., his associate, who has made a close study of sportsfield development being a member of the Corofin Club in Co. Galway and for whom he designed and developed a pitch last year. Combined with suitable machinery and professional know how the firm has a fine team of experienced operators, some of whom have been with the firm thirteen and fourteen years and have gained experience in every corner of Ireland including Corofin, Co. Galway, where they developed a new G.A.A. pitch and are now starting operations on the new Golf Course at Oughterard as main contractors. Murty Hanly says: "As a member of the G.A.A. I am keenly aware of the need for more properly developed pitches especially in rural areas but would advise clubs to ensure that the development is done properly by a reputable contractor with the proper machinery at the right time of year, otherwise a lifetime of work and expense will not put right the damage."



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G.A.A. deserves a better deal from R.T.E.

I HAVE been watching television quite a good deal lately. However, my viewing has been confined to R.T.E. and certainly the majority of programmes on our national television station are nothing to write home about.

While far from satisfied with the amount of foreign tripe that is being dished out one of my main grouses with R.T.E. is the poor service which sports fans receive. And by sports I mean sports because I am not one of these fanatics who turns his set off when one of the so called "foreign games" appear on the screen.

Of the more popular Irish sports, rugby, soccer and golf can have little reason for complaints for all three get their fair share of showings. But what about our most popular sports as far as crowd appeal is concerned, Gaelic football and hurling? While a fair amount of viewing time is devoted to Gaelic affairs I still feel that the G.A.A. could get a better deal from R.T.E.

True, a few major games are screened live, the Railway Cup finals, the All-Ireland semi-finals

in football, the All-Ireland hurling and football finals, plus the occasional provincial final. Then edited highlights of featured matches are shown regularly on Sunday night's "Sports Final" programme. To complete the picture there is "Gaelic Report", a regular on the Monday night programme schedule.

Few faults can be found with the production of the big matches which are televised live. However, the opposite is the case as far as the screening of highlights of Gaelic games, on Sunday nights is concerned. What do we get but fifteen minutes or less action which is more often than not filmed by less than enough cameras. It is utterly ridiculous trying to cram the highlights of an hour's play into fifteen minutes.

On BBC-TV each Saturday night there is a very entertaining programme called "Match of the Day", featuring the highlights of two top English soccer games. For the record this programme lasts one hour.

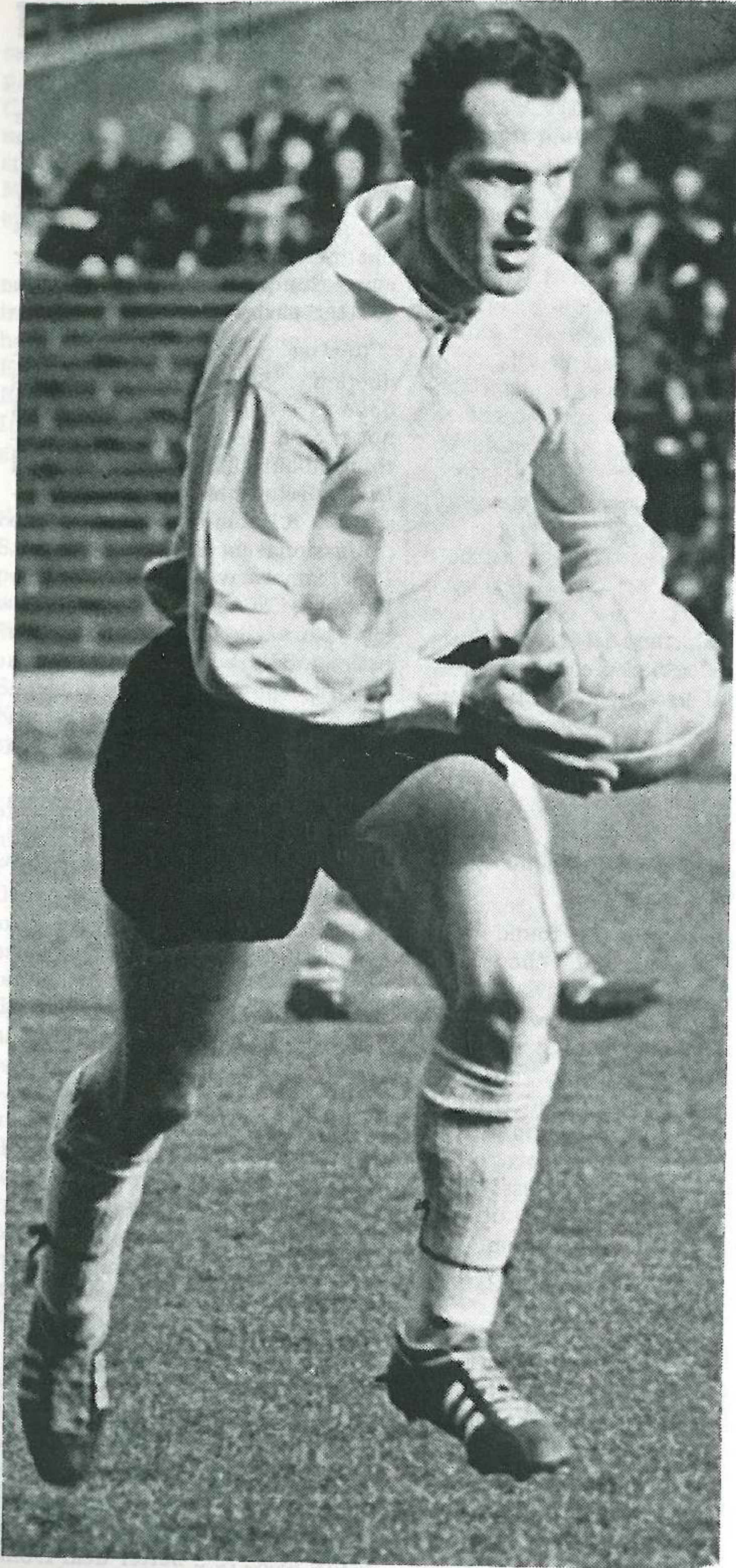
Why can't we have something on similar lines from RTE, featuring Gaelic games, hurling

and football on alternative weeks? After all, these are our most popular games and surely they deserve the same kind of recognition as soccer gets across Channel. How about an hour every Sunday night from about a quarter past ten on?

But we must have better production. Something which is done in a half hearted manner is not worth doing at all. Everything about that afore-mentioned BBC programme is so professional. RTE must become more professional in its presentations. Poor camera work does little for the image of the game. The commentators should give all those little details which can mean so much to the outsiders looking in. No effort should be spared in attempting to sell our games to those not already interested. A neatly presented programme along the lines of "Match of the Day" would surely be a step in the right direction.

As for "Gaelic Report", one can't help wondering if this fifteen minutes effort is really worthwhile. Here again we usually get poorly filmed highlights of one of the previous day's top matches. Surely to make this programme worthwhile it must be extended to 30 minutes. Why can't we have some interesting interviews with top Gaelic personalities? Neatly presented stories about well known clubs and players would not be out of place, either.

The problem of publicising Gaelic games must be tackled in a more professional manner. Television presents the ideal opportunity for a start in that direction. But, at the moment it is only fair to point out that the G.A.A. deserve a better deal from RTE.



SEAN O'CONNELL . . . Derry's brilliant forward.

NOW that the summer months are not too far away from us, perhaps this is an opportune time for taking a look ahead to the coming football championship campaign with a view to determining who is likely to fight out the exciting closing stages.

Can Kerry make it three in a row? Will this be Derry's big year or can Mayo atone for many recent disappointments by regaining the Sam Maguire Cup after a lapse of twenty years? These are just some of the questions that will be answered over the coming months.

What kind of fist could an ordinary supporter like yours truly make of answering those questions? Well, I don't suppose there's any harm in trying anyway.

For a start, let's attempt to assess the reigning champions' prospects of gaining title number twenty-three. As I put these few lines to paper the newspapers are busy telling us that Mick O'Connell is no longer interested in playing football. Of course, this is not the first time we have heard such stories and who knows but the great Valentia man may be back in the green and gold jersey come championship time.

Even without Micko it is difficult to see Kerry failing to come out of Munster again—another good case in favour of that open draw in football! Of the remaining five southern counties only Cork and Tipperary look capable of giving the Kingdom something to think about.

The Leesiders handed out a rare trouncing to the cham-

By **NOEL COOGAN**

this Derry's year?

pions in the League but the fact that Cork seem to produce their purple patches only once in a blue moon and that Kerry are always a much different proposition when the chips are down in the knock-out competition inclines one to believe that the Munster title will remain in the county where it has been since 1968.

Football in Tipperary has come on by leaps and bounds over the last twelve months or so. They gave Cork a fright in last year's Munster semi-final and they look destined for first division league fare next winter. While quite a few supporters would welcome Tipperary to Croke Park on All-Ireland semi-final day it is difficult to imagine it happening in 1971.

This year the Munster standard bearers will meet the Leinster champions in the second last championship hurdle. As usual the race for honours in the eastern province looks wide open.

The holders Meath are never easy to overcome in championship fare and will battle bravely in these efforts to succeed where they so narrowly failed last year. Other tough championship campaigners are Offaly and it would be foolish to disregard them in any previews.

It is hard to say the same of their near neighbours Kildare so inconsistent has been their record over the last few seasons. The Lily Whites have the skill but hardly the spirit.

Dublin and Louth had some great battles in Leinster back in the 'fifties. The last few years has seen lean times for these old

rivals but now things seem to be looking up for them again.

The Metropolitans have a promising young combination but lack of experience could delay their return to the big time just a little while longer.

But Louth hardly lack experience and I am prepared to take a chance by forecasting talented performers like Jim Mulroy, Leslie Toal, Benny Gaughran, Mick McKeown and the Leech brothers to inspire the Wee County sufficiently to give them their first provincial title since 1957.

Now to Connacht and although there are only five counties in contention it still looks anybody's title. I do not foresee either Leitrim or Roscommon coming out of the west. Sligo have been showing some nice form in the League and could well shock Galway and Mayo. Still the odds must be on either of the last named pair coming through.

The tribesmen are not near as classy as in the halcyon days of the mid-'sixties and although Mayo are not the most consistent of sides they should be just about good enough for provincial honours again. But one can't help wondering if the men in green and red have what it takes for that long awaited All-Ireland title.

The Ulster crown is never easy to come by and this year should not be an exception. Still, holders Derry will not easily be relieved of their title.

Down will, no doubt, be anxious to get back on the title trail and while the Mournemen

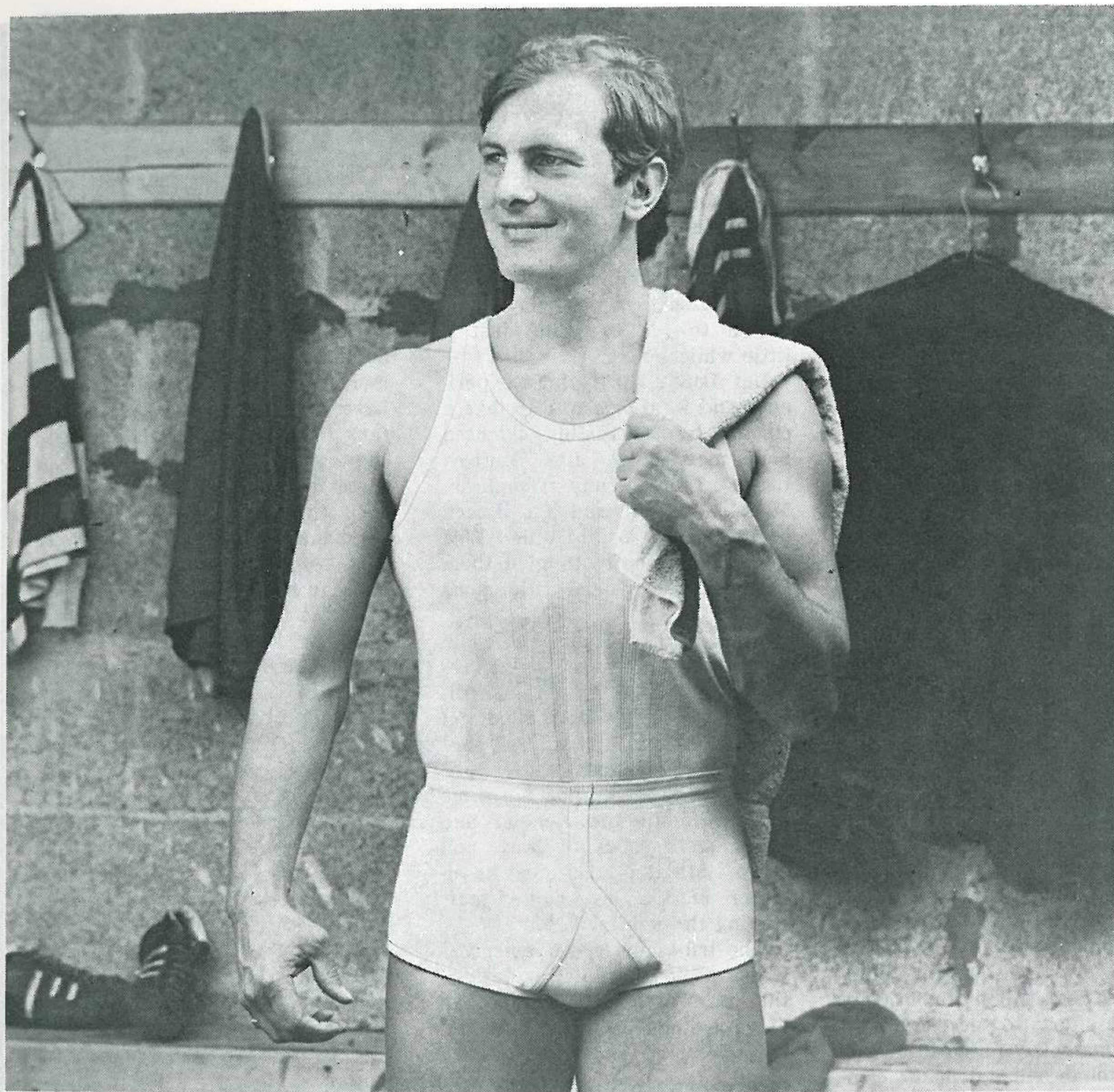
are not hitting the high spots by any means they are inclined to produce the goods when least expected.

Antrim served up some good stuff in the League and are definitely on the upgrade. Former "cocks of the North" Cavan have been disappointing their fans far too often of late. Still they can be quite a different force in championship fare.

Of the others up and coming Fermanagh could do best. That first Northern senior title may come to the O'Dwyer county over the next few years but hardly in 1971.

That brings me back to Derry and I have a feeling that these brave battlers from Bogside will be back in Croke Park again on All-Ireland semi-final day. Last year they threw away their chance of a headquarters appearance on the last Sunday of September. This year this fine side will be less affected by nerves. More mature and less wasteful up front.

There is bagfuls of footballing talent in men like Henry Diamond, Malachy McAfee, Gerry O'Loughlin, Seamus Lagan, Tom Quinn, Mickey Niblock and Eamon Coleman. And, of course, the old general, Sean O'Connell will be there to guide them once again. What a just reward an All-Ireland medal would be for this great footballer who has given such a lot to the game. What a just reward an All-Ireland title would be for this great Gaelic county. What odds a Kerry-Derry final with the Ulstermen gaining sweet revenge for last year's semi-final defeat?



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Charlie McCarthy

GREAT COME-BACK BY DUBLIN'S MICK BERMINGHAM

THIS is shaping up as a year likely to see changes in the inter-county scoring front. There have been some grand individual returns in both hurling and football, and the manner in which the Cork football finishers have generally been turning on the style augurs well for that county shedding at long last one of the least enviable of records.

Let's concentrate on the individuals first. One who may come back into the headlines again is Mickey Bermingham, who was a prolific marksman for Dublin in hurling before going to New York in the 'Sixties, and has been consistently among the scores since his return.

Bermingham's fluency in finding his way to goal has earned for him a proud place apart as regards Dublin score-getters. He set up the county record at 12-29 (65 points) in 14 games in 1964. Not only that, his score of 8.20 (44 points) in nine games in 1965 before going to New York has not even been improved on by a Dubliner.

Last year Bermingham made only five appearances with the senior county side, yet that still did not prevent him from earning ranking as Dublin's top scorer for the year with 2-17 (23 points). So, if the Metropolitan record is to go this year, Mickey Bermingham looks the man to do it.

Only two hurling records now stretch back to the 'Fifties. Amazingly enough they are at opposite ends of the chart. In 1955 Paddy Egan led the Galway list with a modest enough score of 11-19 (52 points) in 11 games, but that has since proved too high a target for forwards from the West.

Will 1971 see that record at last erased from the book? It is a distinct possibility, but one bet I would be prepared to take now is that Nick Rackard will still hold down the leading spot at the year's end. Scoring standards in hurling have generally been falling, and I can't see any marksman even remotely approaching this year the former Wexford crack shot's mammoth peak of 35-50 (155 points) in 19 games in 1956.

Considering that Cork completed the big League and Championship double last year without "rocking" Christy Ring's record of 22-38 (104 points) in 13

games in 1961, the odds must be against this county best being improved on. In fact, no Cork man has reached three figures since Ring's record-making season. Charlie McCarthy came nearest with 14-56 (98 points) in 16 games in 1969, but Ring himself bettered that by a point in 1962, his last year as Cork's top scorer, with 20-39 in 15 outings.

Now that unenviable Cork football record. While counties like Monaghan, Wexford, Tipperary and Antrim have been pushing ahead up the chart, Cork remain "anchored" on 47 points for a position that is now fifth from the bottom.

As far back as 1956 Nial Fitzgerald scored 4-35 in 15 games, and that score now stands as football's oldest county record. Just how much Cork have been off target in the years that have passed is brought home by the fact that a score of 7-18 (39 points) by Neilly Duggan in 1957 is the closest any score-getter has come to the record. Can Denis Coughlan, Ray Cummins or Jimmy Barrett at last bring Cork in "out of the cold"?

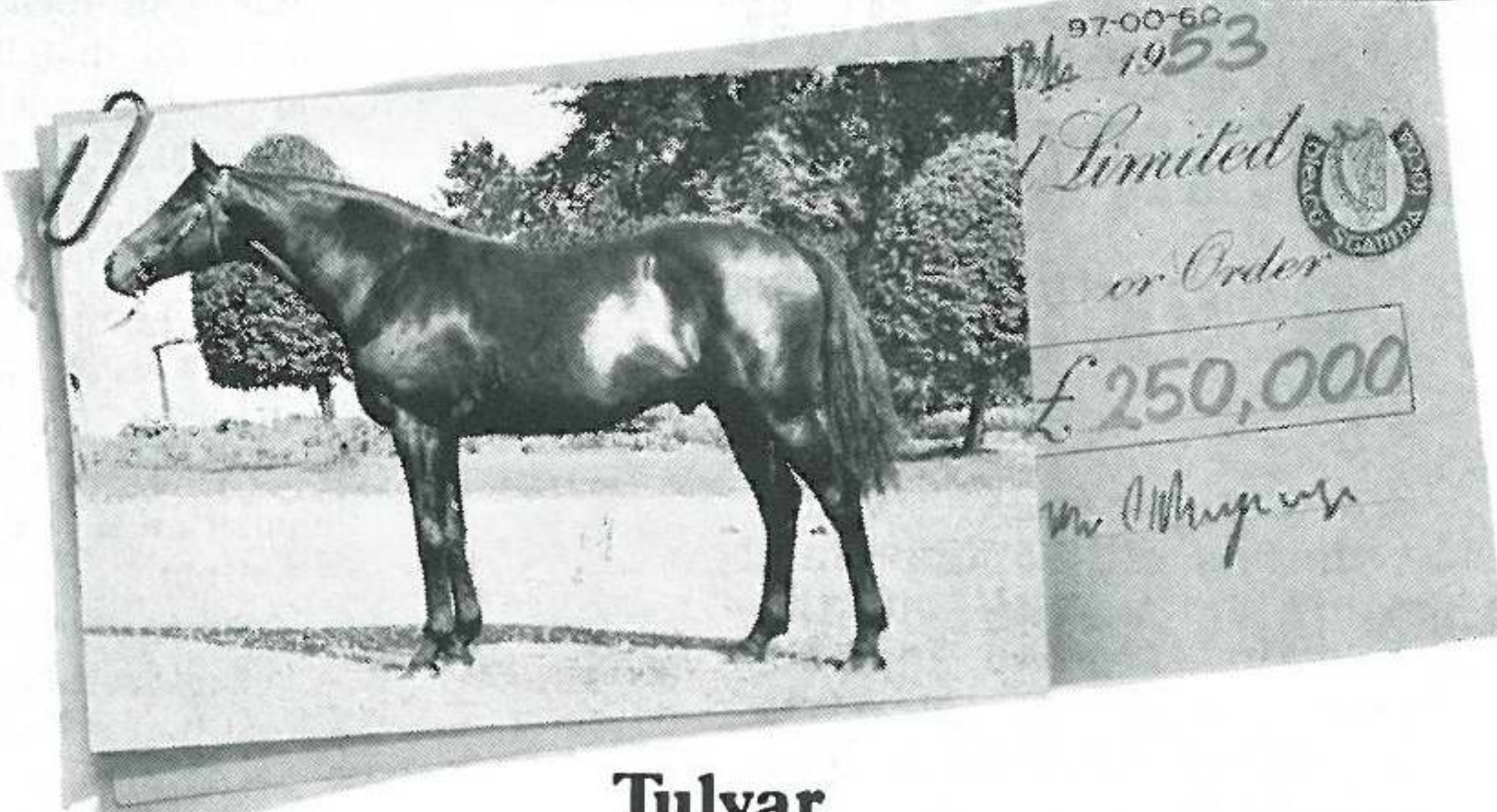
Derry took their place last year among the century-makers, and also achieved the most spectacular progress of any county up the all-county scoring league. Sean O'Connell pushed his own 1967 record of 11-44 (77 points) in 13 games up to 10-96 (126 points) in 25 games, to bring Derry from 16th place to fourth place.

There are now nine counties in the century class in football, and five in hurling. Two of the football records, those of Tyrone and Galway, stand since 1957 and 1958 respectively, and another, Dublin's, goes back to 1959.

● CHARTS ON PAGE 29

The Thoroughbred

Number four in a series from the makers of Paddy Whisky



Tulyar

He was a brown colt bred in County Kildare, by Tehran out of Neocracy. Unbeaten as a three year old, in 1952 he won the Derby, the King George and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, and the St. Leger.

His stakes total of £75,173 was a record for the English Turf. In 1953 the Irish National Stud paid the Aga Khan £250,000 for Tulyar, a world-record price for a thoroughbred at that time.

Through shipwreck to victory

In 1904, the steeplechaser Moifaa was being transported from New Zealand to England when the ship foundered. All on board were lost except for Moifaa, who swam to a nearby island. His owners eventually found him—none the worse for his experience. He was brought to England where a few months later he won the Aintree Grand National at 25/1. In 1911, Lord Kitchener rode him in London at the Coronation procession of King George V.



Shoemaker - record-breaker

Leading American jockey, Willie Shoemaker has broken most of the world records for riding on the Flat. In 1953, he rode 485 winners to set a new record for a single year. In September 1970, at Del Mar, California, he passed Johnny Longden's world record when he brought his total number of winners to 6,033.



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Eddie Keher



Cathal Flynn

COUNTY SCORING RECORDS

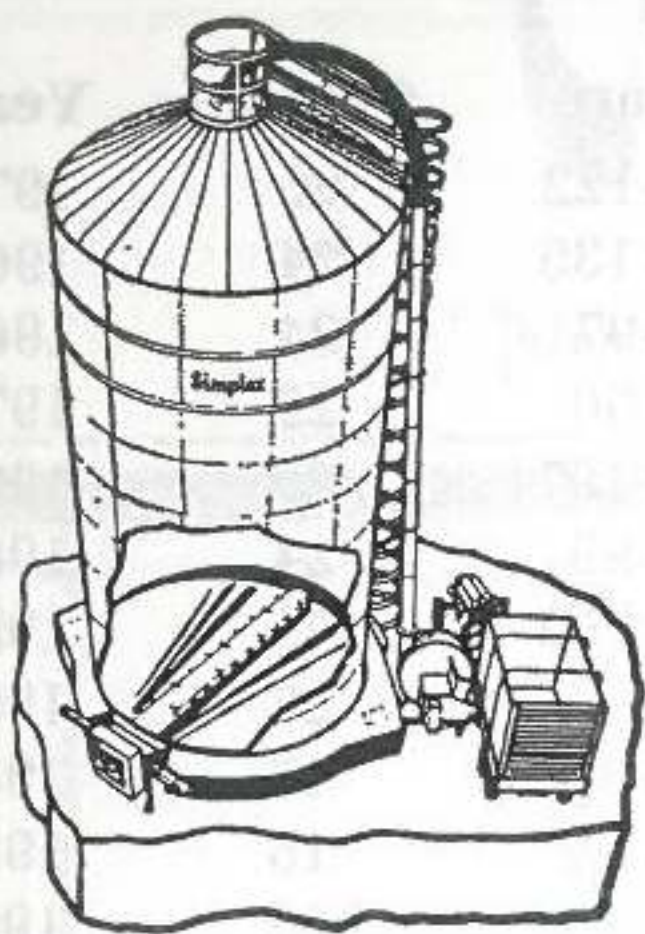
FOOTBALL

Points	Score	Games	Year
161—KERRY: M. O'Dwyer	13-122	26	1970
141—SLIGO: M. Kearins	2-135	24	1968
136—DOWN: P. Doherty	13-97	24	1960
126—DERRY: S. O'Connell	10-96	25	1970
125—CAVAN: C. Gallagher	6-107	20	1964
120—OFFALY: H. Donnelly	7-99	24	1961
117—TYRONE: F. Donnelly	5-102	22	1957
107—GALWAY: S. Purcell	11-74	22	1958
101—DUBLIN: O. Freaney	5-86	17	1959
95—MAYO: J. Corcoran	8-71	16	1966
92—ROSCOMMON: Don Feeley	3-83	22	1961
90—LONGFORD: B. Burns	3-81	17	1966
82—KILDARE: J. Donnelly	3-73	17	1959
81—LEITRIM: C. Flynn	2-75	17	1959
80—DONEGAL: M. McLoone	10-50	19	1965
79—MEATH: D. O'Brien	5-64	18	1958
72—LAOIS: J. Kenna	4-60	16	1959
67—LOUTH: K. Behan	11-34	16	1961
66—CARLOW: B. Hayden	7-45	10	1967
66—WESTMEATH: P. Buckley	5-51	18	1969
66—TIPPERARY: P. Blythe	4-54	13	1970
63—ANTRIM: A. McCallin	9-36	12	1970
63—WICKLOW: J. Timmons	8-39	12	1957
58—FERMANAGH: P. T. Treacy ...	7-37	14	1966
52—WEXFORD: Jack Berry	3-43	9	1970
49—LIMERICK: E. Cregan	7-28	10	1965
47—MONAGHAN: S. Woods	4-35	9	1969
47—CORK: N. Fitzgerald	4-35	15	1956
45—ARMAGH: J. Whan	9-18	16	1961
33—WATERFORD: V. Kirwan	1-30	11	1970
25—CLARE: M. O'Donoghue	3-16	8	1970
19—KILKENNY: T. Wilson	0-19	6	1962

HURLING

Points	Score	Games	Year
155—WEXFORD: N. Rackard	35-50	19	1956
127—KILKENNY: E. Keher	16-79	20	1965
124—TIPPERARY: J. Doyle	11-91	17	1969
104—CORK: C. Ring	22-38	13	1961
104—CLARE: P. Cronin	11-71	18	1967
96—OFFALY: P. Molloy	11-63	12	1966
87—WATERFORD: P. Grimes	10-57	14	1963
65—DUBLIN: M. Bermingham	12-29	14	1964
62—LIMERICK: Ritchie Bennis	4-50	13	1970
52—GALWAY: P. Egan	11-19	11	1955
48—LAOIS: C. O'Brien	10-18	13	1965
44—KILDARE: T. Carew	9-17	5	1969
44—WESTMEATH: T. Ring	1-41	10	1964
38—KERRY: D. Lovett	6-20	5	1966
36—ANTRIM: A. McCallin	4-24	8	1970
26—CARLOW: L. Walsh	2-20	5	1967

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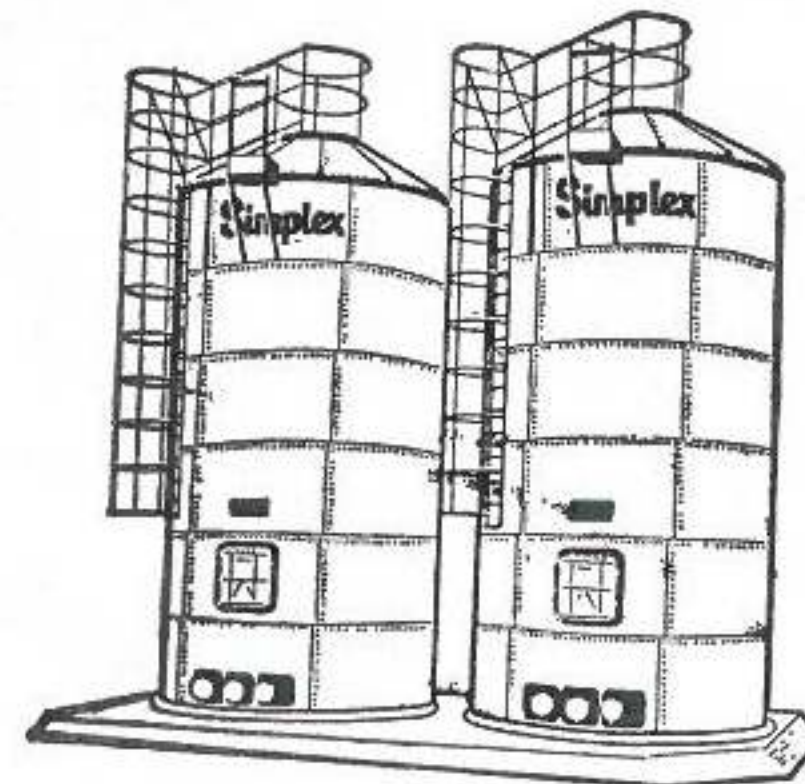


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BOLD STEP IN ULSTER

By DAN McAREAVY

ULSTER will fight and Ulster will be right! Whatever about the merits or otherwise of the age-old slogan the North has certainly taken a brave step towards putting Gaelic football "right" in an experiment getting underway this month.

Thanks to a Down motion overwhelmingly approved at the recent provincial convention 13-a-side senior inter-county football is to be introduced in this year's McKenna Cup.

It is an exciting prospect and in giving the move an unqualified welcome I am merely echoing the virtually unanimous voice of players and supporters in the area.

Superbly proposed by Mr. Barney Carr — best remembered nationally as team manager of the Down side which triumphed over Kerry and Offaly in the All-Ireland finals of '60 and '61—the motion was immediately supported by all but two of the 50 to 60-strong attendance.

Asking that the proposal be put into operation for a three-year trial period Mr. Carr left no doubt at all about his absolute conviction of the benefits which would accrue from the change.

"We need a whole new fundamental approach to our games", he declared. "If only we were not so conservative we would soon discover that Gaelic football is a far better game than the one we have accepted. Our refusal to experiment has, I am convinced, cost us dearly."

Referring to the work of the Rules Revision Committee last year Barney said that while he had every sympathy with them on the "altogether too summary"

dismissal of their recommendations by Congress he felt they had made a great mistake — "a serious sin of omission"—by not submitting proposals on 13-a-side.

"I am certain," he argued, "that a reduction in the number of players is basic to any improvement. Indeed it might well be that this change could eliminate the necessity for other more elaborate overhauls which have been talked about. If the consistently high number of fouls is the greatest malady affecting our games I regard the reduced playing strength as an obvious remedy."

Mr. Carr added: "We have allowed tactical development to stop at the point reached 20 years ago. The old stereotyped formation — with the exception of the occasional tentative introduction of the third mid-field player — is still with us. It is disappointing to note that our best sports writers have never made an in-depth examination of the tremendous potential of 13-a-side when even television shows up the shortcomings of persisting with those 'extra' players."

With the meeting so clearly in favour of the change there was a tense moment when the newly-elected chairman, Mr. Andy O'Brien (Cavan), wondered if in fact the motion should not be directed to Congress as a change of Rule 126—dealing with the number of players—"seems to be involved".

However it was soon pointed out that the 1970 Congress had empowered county committees, if they so desired, to reduce the number of players in a team from 15 to 13 for club competitions.

Delegates claimed that the nine Ulster counties were merely making arrangements for a series of games strictly within their own territory and to cries of "don't kill it with legislation", Mr. O'Brien said he believed Croke Park would agree to the proposal.

Talking to me since the Convention Barney Carr was understandably delighted at the very favourable public reaction to the move. Indeed his only regret seemed to be that he was not presently engaged in team management "to set my hand to putting theory into practice."

Of considerable interest too, was his dismissal of the idea that the change simply meant the elimination of the full-back and full-forward.

"As I see it," he pointed out, "the 12 out-field players in the new dispensation may be utilised in any number of permutations. It would be rather unimaginative to remove two given positions and then proceed as before. Surely it will be for the team mentors to plan the most useful formation."

He was certain play would be more fluid; the solo run would remain a vital gambit but there would be an increased emphasis on the art of passing while skill and physical fitness would really come into their own.

Incidentally the pairings in the McKenna Cup could hardly be more attractive for the experiment: Armagh v Fermanagh; Antrim v Cavan; Monaghan v Donegal; Derry v Tyrone and Down v Armagh or Fermanagh.

Southern counties please note.



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GROUND DEVELOPMENT

ask the experts - it's cheaper in the long run

Says DRU BARRON, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E.

A SPORT cannot thrive and expand unless the players can get regular games and can participate under reasonable conditions. It therefore follows that the most important object of all club committees must be to provide flat, well grassed and well drained pitches on which their members can enjoy themselves.

How, then, can we improve our pitches as cheaply as possible? To answer this I suggest we treat the matter in four stages:

- (a) Survey and Design.
- (b) Bulk Earthmoving.
- (c) Drainage.
- (d) Surface Preparation.

SURVEY AND DESIGN

Quite a lot of clubs have at least one member who can use a dumpy level. Why not persuade him to carry out a site survey and calculate the quantities of earth which it will be necessary to move? If no club member has the necessary experience then approach one of the larger earthmoving firms. You will find that some of them will be willing to carry out the design work as a service in the hope that you will give them the earthmoving contract. This leads to the second stage.

BULK EARTHMOVING

If the full-back says that his brother Sean has a traxcavator which he will hire to you cheaply, tell him to forget it. There are no savings to be made on this item by do-it-yourself, unless the quantities are very small. Large specialised mach-

ines like scrapers can shift earth for a fraction of the cost per cu. yd. of moving it with smaller machines. I will not attempt to quote prices in this article as these vary greatly, depending on haul distance, volume of material to be moved, type of material, availability of plant and the distance which the plant has to be transported to your site. If you're in no hurry to get your new pitch and can wait until the firm of your choice has machines in your

area you would, no doubt, save money, earthmoving equipment being quite expensive to transport. Sooner or later the correct equipment should be working locally.

Do not forget: large machines move earth more cheaply than small machines, so, unless the quantities on your site are small, approach a firm that has large machines. Whether you hire plant from them or get them

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GROUND DEVELOPMENT

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

to carry out the work on contract is a matter for yourselves. Contract has the advantage that you get a better idea of the total cost before commencing work. If you hire, be sure that some club member knows the plant capabilities as plant charges on a typical playing field are likely to be about £25 per hour and un-economic use would obviously lose you a lot of money.

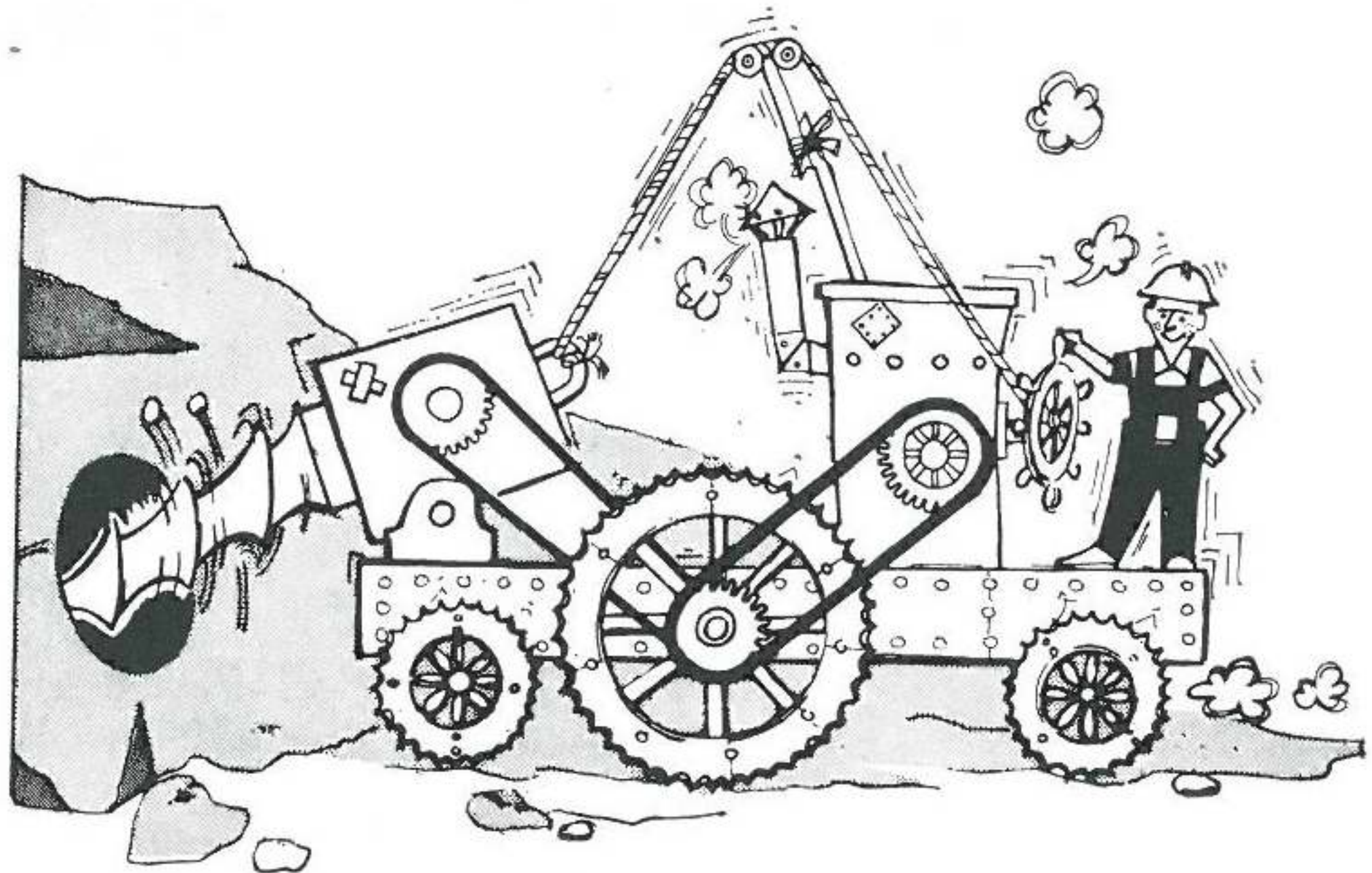
DRAINAGE

Here again you can make some savings by hiring a local JCB 3 or similar machine to dig the trenches, having the members lay the pipes and fill the trenches. Don't, however, skimp on drainage. You'll regret it forever. I cannot unfortunately advise on drainage layout in this article as this obviously is dependent on local conditions. By the way, plastic drainage pipe is replacing clay pipe these days.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Ploughing the topsoil is a job for your farmer members. Following that a work party is required to remove all stones. Granular fertiliser should now be applied in doses as recommended by the manufacturers. Buy some and "spread it around". Harrowing, seeding and rolling by the same team will complete the job giving future players improved conditions under which to play, thereby making their games more enjoyable. Obviously, the more enjoyment boys and girls get from their sport the less likely they are to drift away from it. The possession of adequate playing facilities by your clubs will help not only to keep alive but to further the interest in Gaelic sport.

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Seán Ó Síocháin

... a profile

By OWEN McCANN

THE Gaelic Athletic Association has been very fortunate in the fibre and dedication of the men who down the years have held the onerous post of General Secretary. From the first, Clare's Michael Cusack, in 1884, to Sean Ó Síocháin, all have contributed in the most prominent way possible with flair, drive and ability to chartering the passage that today finds the Association in such a proud and secure position.

Of all these great men who have filled the position — and there have been 17—it is probably true to say that none was confronted with the same demanding challenges as Seán Ó Síocháin faced up to when he was elected to the position on August 28, 1964. Even then, there were the unmistakable signs of great stirrings in a changing world, bringing with them new and more complex problems for sports administrators, and for Seán Ó Síocháin there was the added and almost intimidating responsibility of following in the footsteps of a legend.

The legend was Padraig Ó Caoimh, an exceptional man in Gaelic Games history by any measurement, and who took over as General Secretary in 1929. His tremendous qualities, wise

counsel and guidance ensured that the Association advanced at a great pace. He died in 1964.

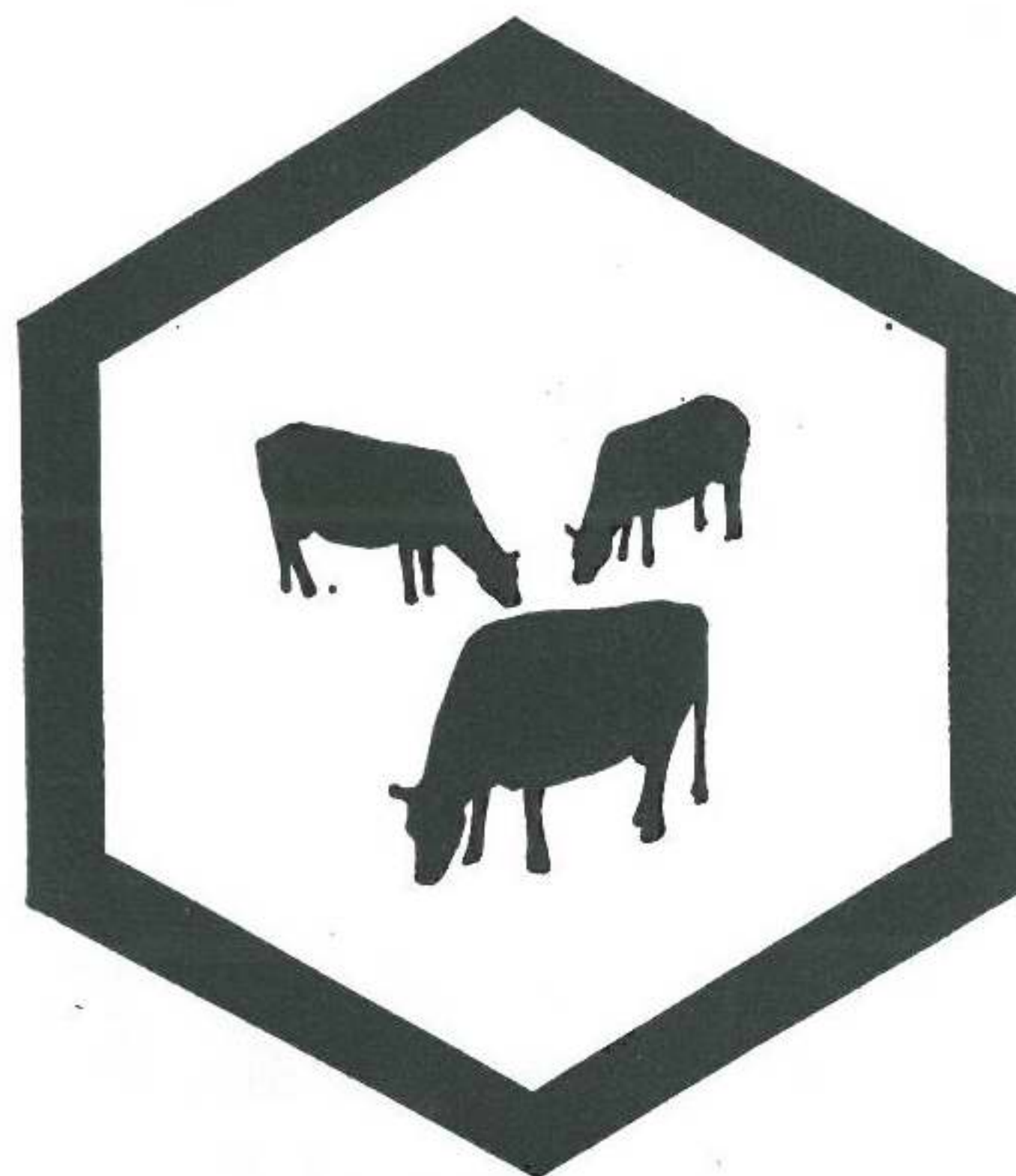
No finer tribute can be paid to the way Seán Ó Síocháin has measured up to that great double challenge than to say that he now casts his own impressive shadow. The confidence so firmly placed in him nearly seven years ago, has already been amply repaid.

With diligence, skill in organisation and administration, and

his own dynamic personality, he has done more than one man's share in ensuring the G.A.A.'s prominent and viable role in the life and affairs of the nation.

Seán Ó Síocháin was born in Kilnamartyra, near Macroom. At College his football class earned him interprovincial honours with Munster, and he also appeared with the provincial side in the Railway Cup in football. At club

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

level he played with Macroom, Erin's Hope and Clanna Gael in Dublin, in football, and with Civil Service in hurling. In inter-county competitions he figured with Cork in minor, junior and senior, and also played with Dublin.

There was a total of six applicants for the position of General Secretary in 1964, and Seán Ó Síocháin was elected with an over-all majority. Now, almost seven years further on, the Association can be truly said to be already very much in his debt.

It's a debt that is going to be added to in the years ahead. It is now generally agreed that the future will be even more demanding for those in sports administration. However, Seán Ó Síocháin's many fine qualities, super-efficiency and well-proven record point unerringly to even greater days ahead for the G.A.A.

●
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JUNIOR DESK

A column for
the
young reader

DEvised AND WRITTEn

By JACK MAHON

WE start off with our cut-outs as usual. This month we present John Connolly, the Galway hurling midfielder and Gene Cusack, the stocky Cavan forward. Let's talk about Connolly first. I taught him here in Galway so I know him well.

He always struck a ball beautifully in the style of Joe Salmon (remember him—a great Galway midfielder in the past) and is no mean footballer either. John played for New York last year and it is great to have him at home in Ireland again. He is our first Galway cut-out. So don't you be writing in to say I'm biased towards Galway!

Gene Cusack will always be remembered for the manner in which he stole the thunder in Croke Park in the two games with Offaly in 1969. Those great scores of his—the jump in the air with clenched fist after scoring—the sidelocks, all characteristically Cusack. He is our first Cavan cut-out and follows in the illustrious line of Mick Higgins, Tony Tighe, Paddy Carolan, John

Joe O'Reilly, P. J. Duke, 'The Gunner' Brady . . . I could keep naming them all day. It is time we had cut-outs from Antrim, Kilkenny, Waterford, Offaly, Louth, Westmeath . . . you just wait!

The January competition was a great success. Readers will be glad to know that we will be having another major competition

AS I said in March, our Mailbag gets bigger every month. One piece of advice, readers: Keep your letters short and write on one side of the page only. So let us roll on with your letters.

Dolores Houlihan, Ballyriorta, Middleton, Co. Cork—“We always got Gaelic Sport but I was never really interested in it before until Junior Desk appeared. I think it is a great idea but it could be improved if you had it in the centre of Gaelic Sport, because then you could have two centre leaves in colour of players and teams.

“My favourite players are

soon. Details in the May issue. Halpin's Tea have written to say they would be interested in sponsoring another competition soon again. So we will keep them to their word. Any other sponsors though? Oh yes, I knew I forgot something. Please buy a copy of “Our Boys” magazine and read its “Gaelic Games” column by M. O'Grady.

From the mailbag

(HURLING) Willie Walsh, Ray Cummins, Donal Clifford, Pat Hegarty and Tony Maher. (FOOTBALL) Billy Morgan, Teddy O'Brien, Kevin Kehilly, Bernie O'Neill and Frank Cogan.”

● Thanks for your nice comments, Dolores. Yes, I'd love a colour centre-spread, too, but it is so expensive to produce. However, keep prodding us. (J.M.)

Philip Finnegan, 35 College St., Cavan—“I like Junior Desk. It shows you have an interest in Juvenile Gaelic Football. In Cavan the youths have no in-

CUT-OUTS



Gene Cusack



John Connolly

● TO PAGE 38

● FROM PAGE 37

terest in Gaelic. Roughly one in every ten plays it. They call it "The Bogman's Game". I think if someone like you that has an interest would start a street league it would help to rise interest again."

● Philip, it is great to have a young lad like you who really talks his mind. Do you mean to tell me that in Cavan town ye have no G.A.A. enthusiast to organise a street league for ye? Write to Jim McDonnell, the Cavan Chairman, and he will help you. (J.M.)

Noel Joy, Clontarf, Dublin—"I would like to make some complaints about Gaelic Sport: (a) There are far too many advertisements in it; (b) All the articles are about the big teams like Mayo, Kerry and Cork and there is nothing about Dublin or the other counties not doing so well at the moment; (c) There should be more coloured photos. Please put in a picture of the Dublin 1963 team, the attendance and the score."

● There must be advertising in GAELIC SPORT or it would cease to exist. Yes, we probably talk too much about the big teams but we won't forget Dublin in future. (Jimmy Keaveney's Cut-out must have pleased you). Finally, I don't know if we have a photo of the '63 team but the attendance was 87,706,

Dolores Houlihan, who hails from Midleton, Co. Cork.



and the score was: Dublin 1-9; Galway 0-10. Finally, one question: Are you any relation of Jimmy Joy, a great Dublin footballer in the 'forties? (J.M.)

Seamus Whitney, 73 Bellefield Rd., Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford—"I think Junior Desk is a great

John Hahessy and his brother. John was the winner of an "Our Games" Annual in our competition.



idea. I buy Gaelic Sport regularly now. My favourite hurler is Matt Browne and footballer Mickey Niblock."

Kevin and Thomas Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo—"Junior Desk is great. I would like to get these cut-outs sometime: S. O'Neill, P. Doherty, T. Prendergast, D. J. Crowley, T. O'Hare."

● We have already included Sean O'Neill twice. See page 41 for action picture of Paddy Doherty. (J.M.)

Anthony Clancy, Knockroe, Ennistymon, Co. Clare—"The interview with Mick O'Connell was great. It is very sad to read of his retiring. When are you going to give us a cut-out of a Clareman?"

● We had Pat Cronin last month. (J.M.)

Francis J. Costello, St. Mary's College, Galway—"St. Mary's is an excellent college combining a good mixture of studies and sport. We have a great senior football team this year as you know due to Mr. McDermott's training."

● You are talking about Bosco McDermott, Francis. Yes, I know ye have a grand team. I'm a St. Jarlath's man myself, but I have a great gradh for 'The Marys', too. (J.M.)

Ciaran Keohane, 40 Main St., Midleton, Co. Cork, sent in his photograph with his entry for the Halpin's Tea sponsored competition. Any relation of Joe Keohane, the great Kerry fullback? (J.M.)

Gerald O'Carroll, Honan Hostel,

College Road, Cork—"I read GAELIC SPORT every month and thoroughly enjoy it. But I would like to make a number of suggestions which I believe would improve even further its presentation and increase its appeal:

"(1) You need more pictures. There should be a big picture in nearly every page and a giant pin-up in the two centre pages. I am thinking of some of those soccer magazines which many people buy just to get the pin-up in the middle in order to hang it on the wall of the bedroom.

"(2) Have interviews with trainers as well as with players and referees.

"Let me finish by saying that the star profiles in every issue are great and I think Junior Desk is a



Mary O'Driscoll, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, appropriately won a Cork jersey in our competition.

wonderful idea. How about reproducing that wonderful picture showing Mick O'Connell fielding a high ball in his own square in the 1968 football final?"

● Now, there is a good letter. Your centre pages Pin-up idea is very good, preferably in colour. Yes you have a point about trainers too—men like Mick Campbell, Jackie Lyne, Joe Lennon, Pat O'Hare (notice all football trainers). Where are

the great hurling trainers? Why are they less in the news. (J.M.)

Liam Jones, Mountshannon, Co. Clare—(Our most faithful correspondent every month). "I think the Ban should not go. If it goes, players will be playing every game and concentrating on nothing."

● *A very good point, Liam. I think the Ban has to go but other safeguards will ensure that G.A.A. players will give loyalty to our Irish games. They are the best games, anyhow. (J.M.)*

Michael Kemmy, Garbally, Birr, Co. Offaly—"GAELIC SPORT is great. I want cut-outs of Christy Ring, John Doyle, John Connolly and Tom Ryan. My favourite hurlers are Charlie McCarthy, Tom Ryan and Johnnie Kirwan. My favourite footballers are Johnny Culloty and John Horgan. Please publish this letter."

● *Sure Michael. Isn't John Horgan a hurler A good one, too. He was one of the greatest minor hurling stars I remember. Himself and Jimmy Doyle and Billy Duffy and Eddie Keher and wee Charlie, of course. (J.M.)*

THE PRIZEWINNERS

Nearly all of the prizewinners in our recent competition wrote acknowledging receipt of their prizes and telling us something about themselves as follows:—

Liam Farrell, Kilmartin House, Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin — "Thanks very much for the new O'Neill's All-Ireland football. I am thrilled. I attend St. Kevin's C.B.S., Ballygall Rd., and play with the school team. I play club football with St. Margarets. Jack Quinn is in our parish and we often play football together in the evenings. He gives me some very good tips. I hope someday to follow in his footsteps as captain of the Meath team. I enjoy Junior Desk very much and hope you have many more competitions."

● *Congrats again, Liam. Jack Quinn is a really great fullback and was a great midfielder, too. He follows in the footsteps of the great Paddy O'Brien, Paddy Connell and Jim Kearney. Meath always had great players. (J.M.)*

Mary O'Driscoll, Derryclough, Drinagh, Dunmanway, Co. Cork—"I am looking forward to more competitions in Junior Desk sponsored by such firms as Halpin's Tea. I attend the Presentation Convent in Crosshaven and enjoy playing tennis. Please give us Cut-outs of Kevin Kehilly and Con Roche."

● *Mary won the Cork jersey and*

hails from Eamonn Young's native place. Yes, we will have more competitions and more Cork Cut-outs, too. (J.M.)

John Hahessy, 51 Árd Mhuire, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary—"I was delighted to win "Our Games" Annual. I have three

● **TO PAGE 40**

UNDER THE RULES OF RACING

CURRAGH RACES

THE HEADQUARTERS OF IRISH RACING

1971 FIXTURES

<p>SAT. APRIL 3rd SAT. APRIL 17th WED. MAY 12th WED. JUNE 9th (E) WED. JULY 7th (E)</p>		<p>SAT. AUGUST 14th SAT. AUGUST 28th WED. SEPTEMBER 1st SAT. SEPTEMBER 11th SAT. OCTOBER 16th SAT. OCTOBER 30th</p>
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CLASSICS

IRISH 2000 & 1000 GUINEAS	SAT. MAY 15th
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IRISH ST. LEGER	SAT. SEPT. 25th

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● FROM PAGE 39

younger brothers and an older sister. I go to the C.B.S. in Carrick-on-Suir and play football and hurling but football is my favourite game.

"I won a hurling medal in 1969 and was a sub on the Carrick-on-Suir team that won the Primary Schools Tipperary League last October. I got a pair of football socks from our trainer, Mr. Nealon, for good attendance at all the training sessions."

● *Is Mr. Nealon by any chance Donie Nealon? I think that Mr. Nealon must be a great trainer and I admire his thoughtfulness in giving a prize to the best attenders at training. (J.M.)*

Sean Kelly, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Co. Kilkenny—"I got the Kerry jersey and the tea from Halpin's and I told all my pals in school about my great win."

● *Get your pals to enter future competitions. (J.M.)*

Next, **Thomas O'Connor, 12 John St., Enniscorthy**, writes asking for more colour in the magazine and in Junior Desk, particularly. He has two old G.A.A. Rule Books of 1919 and 1930 and has a programme of the 1947 Kilkenny v. Cork hurling final. He wants a copy of the September 1968 issue of GAELIC SPORT, if any reader has one to spare.

Oliver Brady, Corcashel, Redhills, Co. Cavan, has written twice praising my book, "Twelve Glorious Years" in some ways and

Liam O'Farrell, Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin, prizewinner in our recent competition.



Ciaran Keohane Midleton, Co. Cork.



condemning me for my treatment of Down and Joe Lennon. He thinks Junior Desk is great and that the competitions and the prizes are wonderful. Any chance of a weekly magazine, he asks.

John Hogan, 21 Knockanpierce, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, asks for a photo of the Rackards. All three together or one at a time. He writes: "Where can I get 'Twenty Years of the G.A.A.', 'Decades of Glory', 'Kerry's G.A.A. Story', 'Limerick's G.A.A. Story' and any other books there are written

about the G.A.A. Could I get a photo of Galway 1938?"

Connie Dennehy, Rockwell College, Cashel, writes asking where he can get a copy of "The Football Immortals."

G.A.A. PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Some of the books mentioned above are out of print. The following are still available.

"The Football Immortals", by Raymond Smith (8/6). (Publishers: Bruce Spicer Ltd., 30 Molesworth St., Dublin).

"Twelve Glorious Years", by J. Mahon (6/-). (Publisher: J. Mahon, 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway).

"Gaels in the Sun", by Peter McDermott (15/-). (Publisher: P. McDermott, G.A.A., Navan, Co. Meath).

"Coaching Gaelic Football for Champions", by Joe Lennon (10/-). (Publisher: J. Lennon, Gormanstown, Co. Meath).

"Our Games Annual, 1971"—Official Year Book of the G.A.A. (6/-). (Publisher: G.A.A., Páirc an Chrócaigh, Baile Átha Cliath).

"Three-in-a-Row", by J. Mahon (2/6). (Publisher: J. Mahon, 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway).

"Fitness for Gaelic Football", by Joe Lennon (8/6). (Publisher: Society of St. Paul, Athlone, Co. Westmeath).

"The Hurling Immortals", by Raymond Smith (8/6). (Publisher: Bruce Spicer Ltd., 30 Molesworth St., Dublin).

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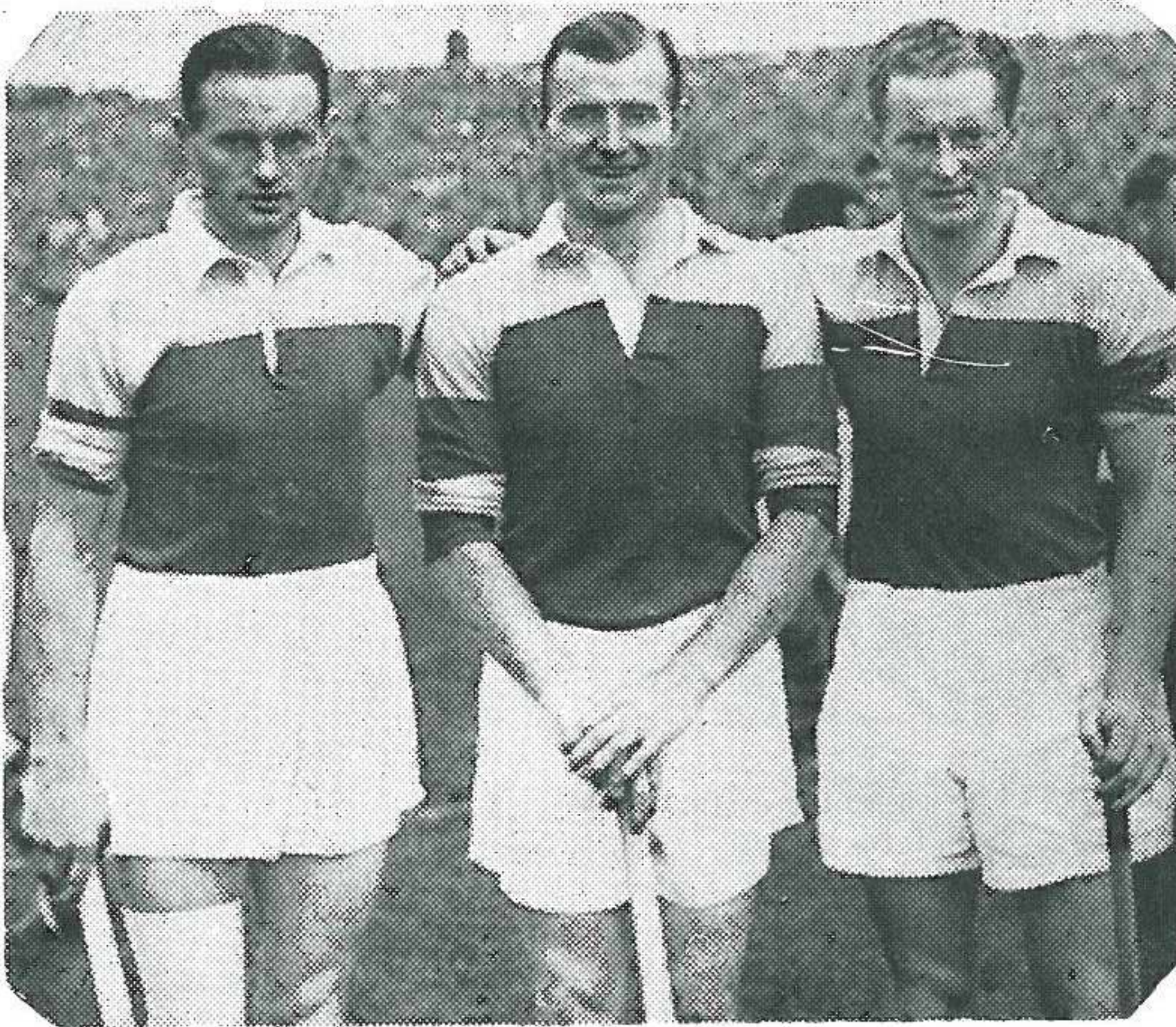
There may be some past issues of the "Our Games Annual" available at Croke Park.

Well that's all the "Mailbag" this month. Please write to me if you have anything to tell me, any ideas, suggestions, stories, good photographs — ANYTHING. As Pat Fanning said when he wrote to us: "Give the older

people your ideas." So please write to—

Junior Desk,
c/o Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.

Jack Mahon



● WEXFORD'S immortal Rackard brothers, (from left): Bobby, Nick and Billy.



● PADDY DOHERTY
one of the "greats" of all time.

Lenin said on his deathbed that in order to do what he wanted to do for Russia, he would need ten men like Francis of Assisi.

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Great Show in Cork

a slippery sod, the students from Cork and Dublin served up camogie of magnificent standard in a fifty-minute thriller.

Despite all the odds, they had been held to a draw by Galway in their semi-final on the previous day and only just scraped through in extra time, the Dublin students snatched victory from the confident Cork girls in as exciting a finish as ever I have seen in long experience of this competition.

To those who did not see the game it may have seemed that the match was little more than a scoring duel between the two All-Ireland stars Liz Garvan for Cork, and Ann Carroll for Dublin. But such was far from being the case as all the players on both sides gave of their best.

For those who were not there, it is well to point out that among the sterling U.C.D. defenders were two girls whose family names are already very well known on the sportsfields. At left back for the winners was Mary O'Hehir, daughter of famed sports commentator, Radio-Telefís Eireann's Head of Sport, Michael O'Hehir. At right back was Brenda Devlin, whose father Brendan Devlin, the former Tyrone star, U.C.D. club football President and long-standing member of the Dublin G.A.A. Executive died shortly before Christmas.

U.C.D. could also claim that in this series a nun won an award in a major camogie competition for the first time. At full forward they had Máire Ní Shuilleabháin, a former Colleges star, now in religion and an arts student.

There were times in this final when Liz Garvan played even better than she did in the All-Ireland final, but eventually she

had to give best to the better team-work of U.C.D.

Galway had three really outstanding players in Jane Murphy, Claire Conroy and Pat Feeney, but the most promising side of all were the girls from Queen's University, who enjoyed very little luck, but displayed completely unexpected spirit and talent.

In fact I shall look forward with particular interest to the showing of the Queen's side in next year's series at Galway.

The Annual Congress will just be over when this edition of Gaelic Sport appears and it will be interesting to see what happens about the uniforms. There are various motions to have the present one changed, but I would suggest one of two things, that the special committee set up by Central Council to look into uniforms decide the matter or else that a competition be held with a suitable prize going to the originator of whatever style of costume is eventually adopted.

I was glad to see that Munster have substituted a minor (under-18) championship for the secondary competition, which, confined as it was to those who had not won a senior provincial medal, always seemed to me to be a trifle unreal.

Bellaghy, the Derry champions who so convincingly won their way to the All-Ireland club championship final, have one very experienced player indeed. She is Teresa Cassidy, the Antrim All-Ireland goalkeeper who plays her club camogie for the Derry side. Formerly Teresa Kearns, she does not play in goal for Bellaghy. Teresa figures in the attack, thus fulfilling the ambition of so many goalkeepers, to score goals as a change from saving them.

ALTHOUGH it is well past and done with now, the annual Ashbourne inter-varsity camogie series at Cork surely provided one more proof, if proof were needed, of the continued improvement in the all-round standard of the game of the Girl Gaels.

Despite almost impossible conditions at the Mardyke, driving rain, high wind, a greasy ball and

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CLUB
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TAKE
NOTE!

THIS month we have news of special interest to all G.A.A. club secretaries. Dara Distributors, that progressive company formed early last year by a group of experienced executives, have been appointed sole agents in Ireland for Gravely grounds maintenance equipment. Gravely, a byword for quality and reliability is now to be backed up by a first class after-sales service including a full range of accessories and servicing facilities.

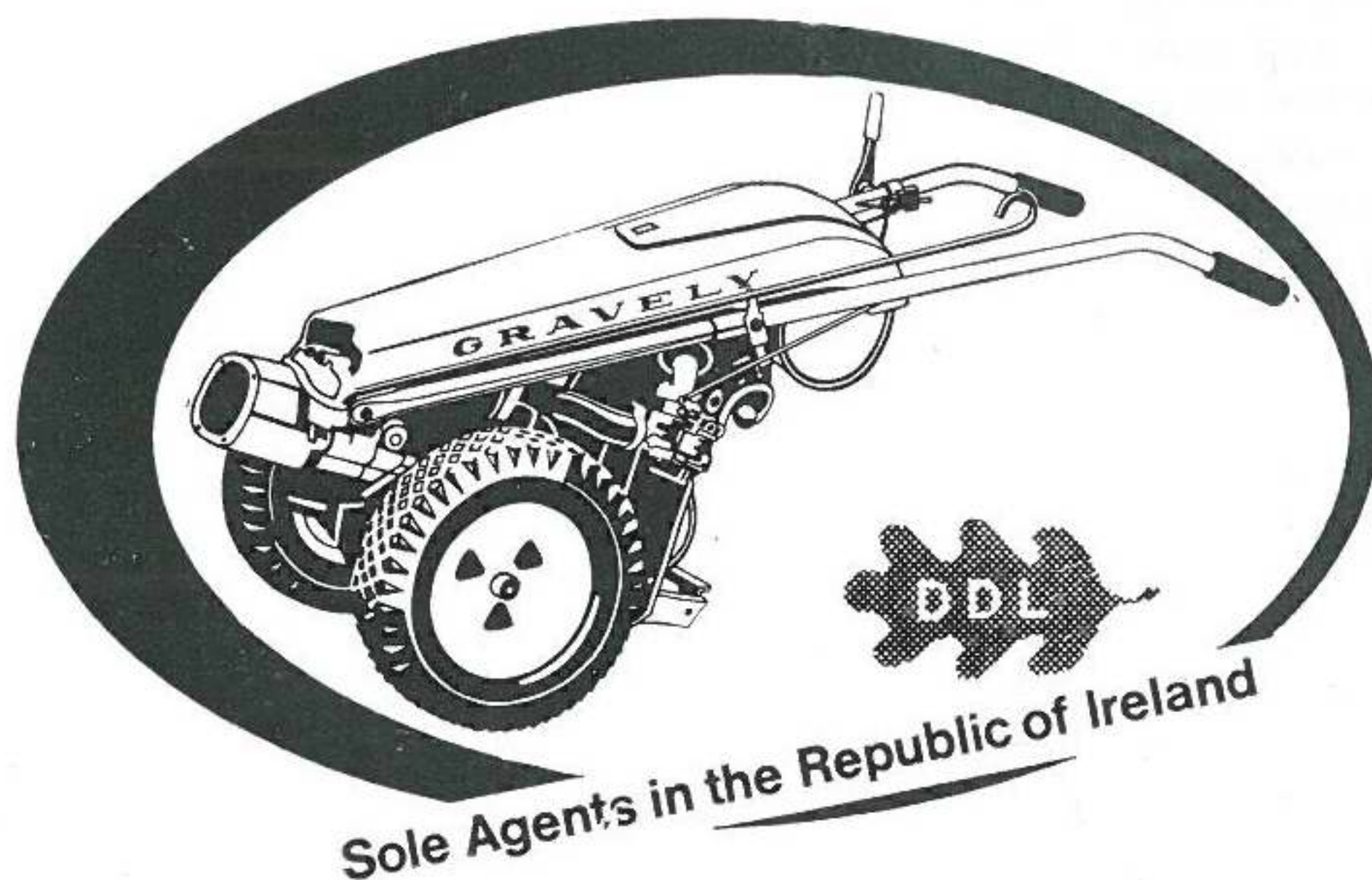
Gravely equipment is based on a basic tractor unit with a 7.6 h.p. air-cooled engine. There are no belts and it is completely gear driven. There are thirty-one tools and attachments available but the principal ones which should appeal to those in charge of sports ground maintenance are the 30" reel mower, 30" rotary mower and a 42" sickle bar. The 30" reel mower has a swivel action which follows every tip and rise in the surface and it works independently of the tractor wheels. You can attach a 3 Reel Gang mowing unit to the 30" Reel mower to give a combination that cuts a 75" swath and follows every change in the contour. If it should be required, a seat can be mounted for an operative at the rear. A roller may be attached also.

The addition of the prestigious Gravely range of equipment will mean in effect that Dara will have the exclusive distribution rights in Ireland on all their merchandise. Three divisions have

been set up, one handling the Craigton and Smith range of golf equipment, another the extensive Hohner range of musical instruments, while a third will cover Toro lawn care equipment, Gravely grounds maintenance

products and Kyoritsu chain saws.

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RECOLLECTIONS OF GREAT MINORS

By EAMONN YOUNG

SOMETIMES I think that playing minor was the happiest period of my own playing days. I had two years on Cork minor hurling teams and each time we pulled it off. The first year—and it wasn't yesterday—the main reason was the selectors made a very wise move. They moved me—to the line. The second year no selector could catch me and I lasted it out.

But, after the matches we won, and that was all of them, we used sit down in the sun and watch the Cork seniors come out. They failed us the first year in a Dungarvan downpour but the second year we raised the curtain for them all the way until Kilkenny pulled it down in thunder and lightning.

But the minor really has great fun. People love it if he wins and they don't get too worked up if he loses. He's a prologue for his senior brother and his win puts

the crowd in good humour. Then he has holidays from school and he trains like mad, and he's his mammy's idol and there's always a nice girl somewhere looking at him with slightly glazed eyes. His photo is on the paper and men he doesn't know are calling him cordially by his Christian name. Ah, youth . . .

One of the really great minors was Des Foley of Dublin for he was a natural at both games. He had the great advantage of testing competition during his school-days at St. Joseph's, Fairview, and his big frame, his dedication to the game and the excellent guidance all combined to make him a star in the under-age competition. And he showed very competently later on that it wasn't his size that made him a star in the young men's competitions. Here was a stylish ball-playing athlete who adorned the fields he played on and who then



went on to keep the flag flying well for Dublin all over the place.

Eddie Keher was another young hurler who naturally took the eye. The speed, ball-control, delightful swerve of the lad in the black-and-amber were delightful or agonising to watch, all according to your point of view. What I always liked about him in addition to these was his ability to play composed hurling with a poise rather beyond his years. This poise is essential to any good player and without it even the best will make a lot of mistakes. Keher in maturity retained the ability to do the right thing most of the time . . . no man does it all the time and as this ability is only the manifestation of mental clarity and decisiveness it was no wonder he became a good, great player when he developed, as he did. In fact, though of this I have no real proof, I think Eddie Keher a stronger player to-day than many men who show their strength more obviously.

He wasn't as lucky in minor competitions as many others—as myself, for instance, and the likes of me wouldn't keep the ball pucked out to him—for as far as I remember he was on Kilkenny sides that were beaten in three All-Irelands.

Tony Wall was the most dominating minor I have seen. He simply did everything right and was just about everywhere,

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ranging from centre-field to forward and backline with an ease and aplomb that quite annoyed me, for he spent most of the time beating Cork or, whenever he wasn't, he was constantly reminding me that here was another thorn growing sharp for our wounded side.

He was very strong and in memory now seems to have been a lot bigger and heavier than his friends and opponents. His ball-control was perfect and he could take it on his hurley anywhere.

I am no wild enthusiast about promoting minors and nearly always laugh gently to myself in superior fashion when I hear the man-in-the-street (the poor sucker who is supposed to know nothing and usually ends up by telling us "experts" that 'I told you so'.) suggesting that such and such a minor should be promoted right on to the senior team. The only one I ever suggested was Tony Wall one day in a conversation with Paddy Leahy of Tipp. Paddy listened and said nothing. I knew he didn't agree, though he was delighted with Tony Wall in the minor squad.

In fact, when Wall moved on from minor class he was not an immediate success and as his book happens to be on the shelf it may be of interest to quote. He says:

"After minor days I quickly

moved to senior status but I was now in for a rude awakening. The hurling I had learned and the style I had developed was not as effective among the men as it was among the boys. As a minor, I was big enough and strong enough to get to the ball, get it into my hand, look around and then hit it. This style did not work among the seniors. I found that I was not bigger or stronger than those around me. I was not particularly fast and I was not particularly fit and my left-handed shot was weak. I came to the conclusion that these faults would have to be eliminated as far as possible, and that I would have to learn to play the ball much faster and in a greater variety of ways".


And when Tony Wall had re-learned his hurling he became one of the all-time great centre-backs.

In '57 I think it was over in Limerick that I cordially hated another young Tipperaryman. Cork minors were really catching up on Tipp when a sub made his appearance in a Tipp jersey. He was a member of the senior squad which was playing in the tensely-awaited affair we had gone to see but the Tipp minor selectors had the last word and Jimmy Doyle, the minor who was playing senior, was sent in to beat Cork. That is exactly what he did. He chased after the ball everywhere it

went, having been stimulated no doubt by the frustration of sitting on the line watching his pals being beaten, and he soloed, drove, pulled on the ground, met it in the air, scored points and a goal, shook his fist at his pals and shouted at them to wake up.

It was the most stimulating performance I had ever seen by a minor. Doyle's delightful skill was too well-loved by the crowds for me to talk about it.

There's one minor I remember very well. He wasn't what you'd call an outstanding minor. At least, the crowds didn't think so. I did, for I was very close to him on the field. He played only one year for his county, though I hear that the selectors slipped badly in not having him on the year before. The same selectors reminded us afterwards that they won the minor All-Ireland without him. He played right half back and really he was tremendous. He was a slight, hardy fellow with a fair crew-cut, had very strong arms, could hit a solid ball with a certain ferocity off the ground or in the air and he won that minor final with a bullet from a twenty-one yards free. People got to know about him afterwards. From Cloyne he was. Ring was the name. But they are only a few of the great young men who danced around Croke Park in the bursting vitality of youth.



GO  **GREYHOUND RACING!** **FOR A GREAT NIGHT OUT!**

THE COLLEGES GRADUATES

By OWEN McCANN

SEANIE BARRY (Cork), Jimmy Duggan (Galway), Malachy McAfee (Derry) and John O'Keeffe (Kerry)—just four prominent campaigners chosen at random who help to mirror the proud link between the All-Ireland Colleges' senior championships and the inter-county senior grade. These players are among the many national medal winners in Colleges' competitions who are contributing so much to big time football and hurling.

So it has been over the years, and the debt the Association and the counties owe to the Colleges, and to enthusiastic mentors who continue to give of their time and efforts so unselfishly in the successful development of these particular tests, and in helping as a result to mould the stars of the future, is a heavy one.

The Colleges' provincial championships have an honoured history stretching back to pre-1920 days, and interprovincial tests were promoted annually in hurling and football from 1927 to 1956. In 1957, the All-Ireland individual Colleges' Championships, which had been earlier staged for three seasons (1946, 1947 and 1948), were revived, and have been going great guns ever since.

The Hogan Cup in football has been brought in triumph to all provinces. It is surprising to find, however, that Munster's initial win was not until as recently as 1968, when a Colaiste Christ Ri, Turner's Cross, Cork, side that included Seamus Looney and Martin Doherty, beat Belcamp O.M.I., Dublin. A year later the circle of football national titles was com-

pleted for Kerry, when John O'Keeffe, in the No. 6 jersey, led St. Brendan's, Killarney, to All-Ireland honours.

Nine schools now have their names on the trophy, with St. Jarlath's, Tuam, clear leaders with six titles. Jarlath's contested the first final in 1946, losing to St. Patrick's, Armagh. Those schools also clashed for the 1947 title, won by Tuam. That was also the last final appearance by St. Patrick's. In 1961 Jarlath's became the first winners of two football titles in succession.

The only Dublin school to come out on top is St. Joseph's, Fairview. In their glory year of 1959 they were captained by Des Foley.

Hurling's prize is the Croke Cup. Munster and Leinster, as to be expected, dominate the chart, with the South having the edge by 9 titles to eight. In the only non South-East decider, St. Mary's, Galway, lost in 1966 to Limerick C.B.S.

Setting the pace with five crowns are St. Kieran's, Kilkenny. The first champions were St. Flannan's, Ennis, and they retained the award in 1947 to complete the initial double in both codes. Only once since then has the school taken the premier award—in 1958.

The famed Quigley family, of Wexford, has many proud distinctions among them that of having been represented in every St. Peter's, Wexford, All-Ireland senior hurling title winning outfit. Dan and Pat were in the history-making 1962 side. John, Jim

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The Quigley brothers of Wexford—left to right: Martin, John, Dan, Jimmy and Pat.

and Martin all shone in the second title winning combination of 1967, and Martin and Jim helped St. Peter's to retain the Croke Cup in 1968.

One of the high points in individual scoring returns was achieved by John Purdy, who later, of course, shone for Down, during the campaign that resulted in St. Colman's bringing the trophy to Newry for the first and only time.

In nine games Purdy scored eight goals and 30 points (54 points) at a splendid match average of six points. I cannot say if this is a record for the Championships, but if not, it must be as near to the top as makes little difference.

In hurling, I remember especially the spot-on-finishing of diminutive full-forward Frank

O'Brien when recording 4-2 for St. Finbarr's, Farranferris, Cork, in their 1969 final win over St. Kieran's. This is the highest individual score in a hurling or football final over the past eleven campaigns. Next best is 2-6 by Ritchie Grace for Limerick C.B.S. in their drawn 1967 encounter with St. Peter's, Wexford, who won the replay.

The tops in football was achieved by Billy Field at 2-4 for Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, in their dramatic win over St. Malachy's, Belfast, for the 1970 title.

Finally, St. Peter's, Wexford, have the most amazing record of all. Almost unbelievably each title win was gained in a replay!

The All-Ireland Colleges' Championship Roll of Honour is:

FOOTBALL

6: St. Jarlath's, Tuam, 1947,

1958, 1960, 1961, 1964, 1966.

3: St. Mel's, Longford, 1948, 1962, 1963.

2: Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, 1968, 1970.

1. each : St. Brendan's, Killarney, 1969; St. Colman's, Newry, 1967; St. Columb's, Derry, 1965; St. Joseph's, Fairview, Dublin, 1959; St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen, 1957; St. Patrick's, Armagh, 1946.

HURLING

5: St. Kieran's, Kilkenny, 1948, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1965.

3: St. Flannan's, Ennis, 1946, 1947, 1958.

3: St. Peter's, Wexford, 1962, 1967, 1968.

2: St. Finbarr's, Farranferris, Cork, 1963, 1969.

2: Limerick C.B.S., 1964, 1966.

2: North Monastery, Cork, 1960, 1970.

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CLEARING UP A FEW POINTS ABOUT MR. KEY-HUR

By PATRICK CARVER

THE voice on the telephone had all the undertones and overtones of Eton, Harrow, Oxford, Cambridge and the British royal family . . . and it asked for me by name.

I murmured gently—"Yes."

Back it came again, fruity and round—I could visualise a bristling moustache, the cutaway Norfolk jacket and the drainpipe whipcord trousers — "I believe old boy that you are acquainted with Miss —." He mentioned her name, I recognised it but I was cautious — "Yes, indeed, I do."

"Well, old boy, it's like this"—the voice was now in full spate — "She has written a story for us about one of your famous sportsmen. Eddie Key-Hur is the name,

old boy—recognise it?"

"A rather splendid story, damn well written but there are a few little items I would like to check with you. You probably know the lad, do you, old boy?"

I scraped in with a little yes.

"It seems he plays hurling — a bit like shinty, I imagine—it sounds a damn good game and he is quite a star, isn't he, old boy?"

"It says here that he comes from Inisty-oogee in Co. Kilkenny and that his father was stationed there with the Irish Guards."

I managed to get in the little correction about Eddie's birthplace but I think he ignored me.

"Damn it all, I think there must be a mistake here. I was in the Guards for years you know, and I can't recall that they were

ever stationed in Ireland. Fine regiment and all that, jolly fine record, splendid chaps, but I believe they were always stationed in England."

"You know, several of the Guards won the V.C., not only in the last show but also in the early one, you know, back in 1914. The one that was to end all wars and all that sort of stuff."

He went on and on . . . and there was no stopping him. I got the history of the Irish Guards, the lot.

He did stop, eventually and I ventured a tiny remark.

"It's possible she meant to write Garda rather than Guards."

"Of course, of course" — the voice was relieved . . . By Gad, that's it. Knew damn well it couldn't have been our crowd. Never stationed in Ireland, you know. Fine chaps, great regiment . . ."

He was off again.

Half an hour later, I managed to break in . . . and I halted him. "I've got to go"—and I was firm, very firm.

"But, of course, dear boy. How jolly of you to talk to me for so long. Splendid, splendid . . . absolutely marvellous. I am really pleased about the Guards, you know. I couldn't be wrong about that. I knew they were never stationed in . . ."

I hung up.

Eddie Keher . . . the trouble you cause me!

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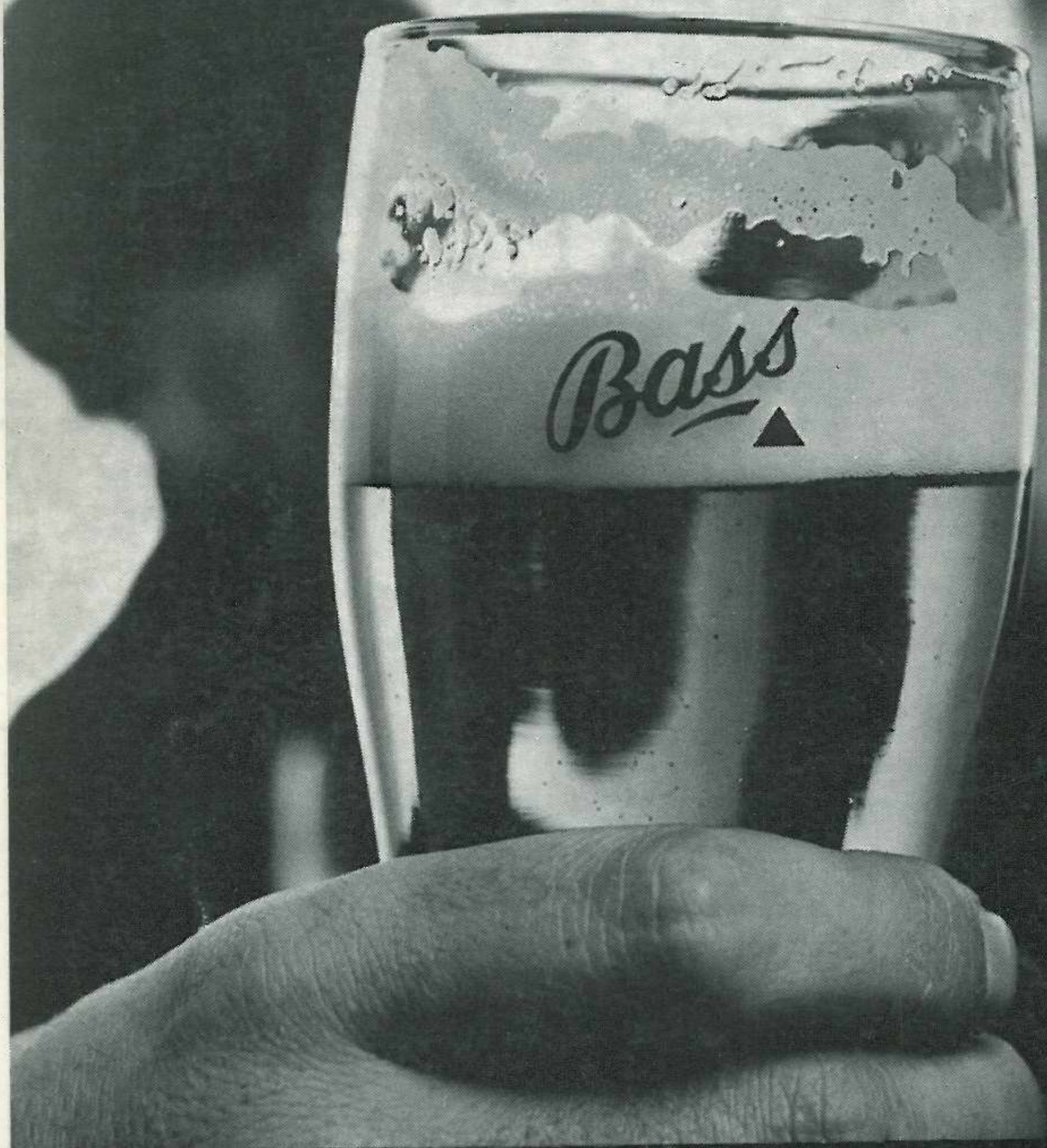
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