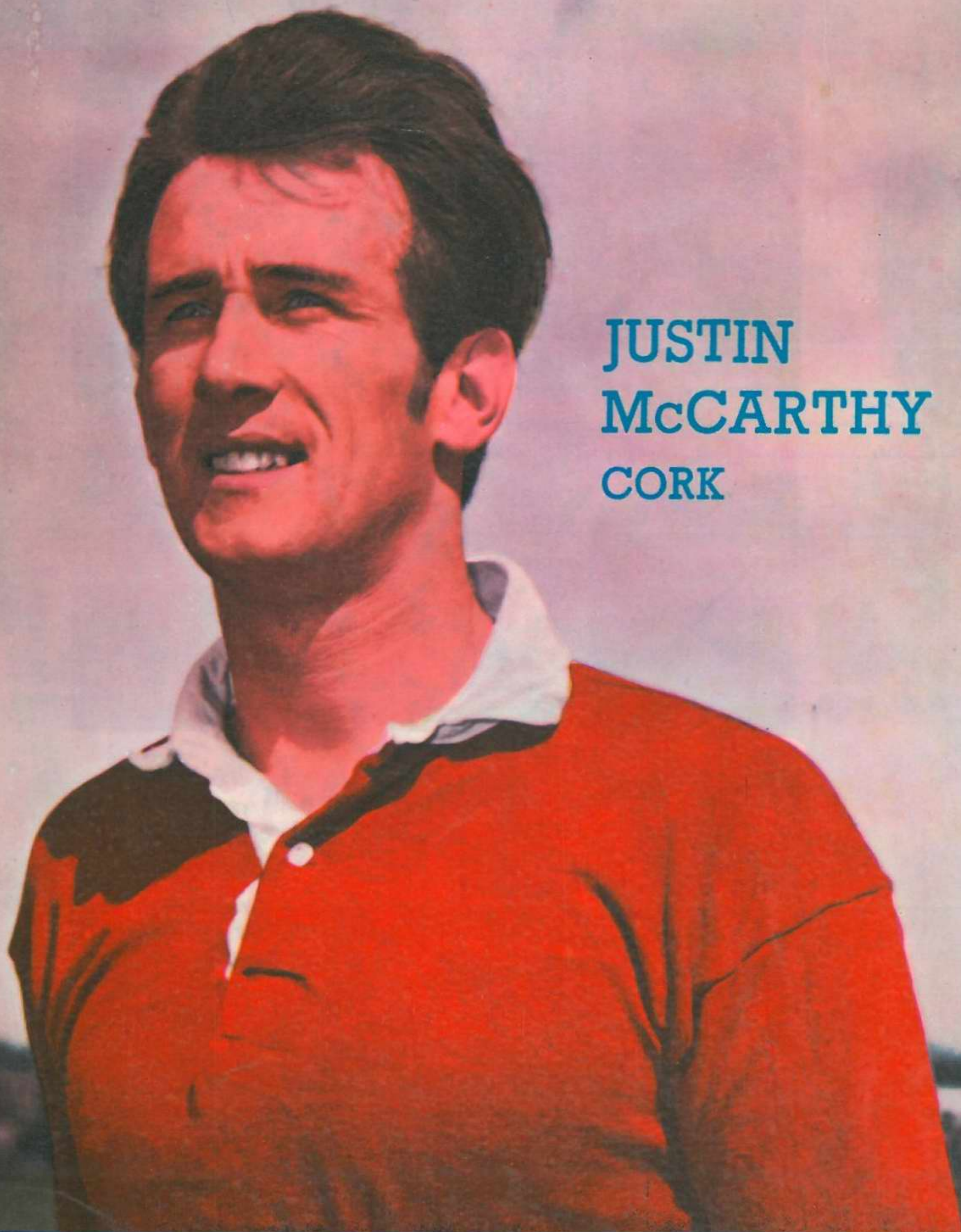


118 GAA

# Gaelic Sport

JULY, 1972

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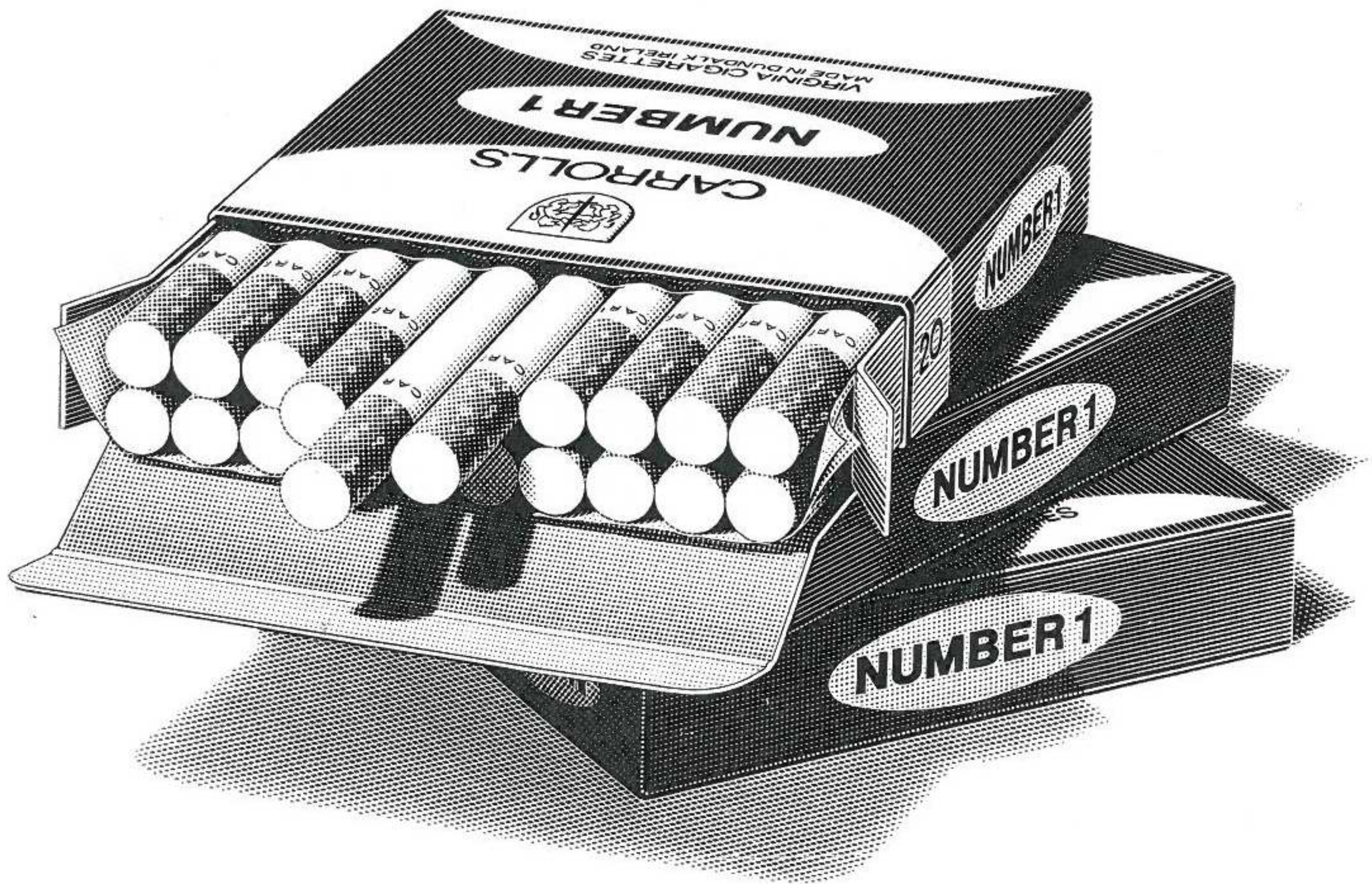
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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 15. No. 7. July, 1972

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## COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover star this month is that majestic hurler from the Rebel County, Justin McCarthy. It is surely no coincidence that when Justin lines out in the famed red jersey that a new spirit seems to run right through the Cork hurling team. Jay Drennan takes a closer look at this great hurler on pages 24 and 25 in this issue.

## BAD IMAGE

TWO articles in this issue refer to certain deficiencies in G.A.A. organisation and, sympathetically, admonish the Association for thus presenting an unfavourable image to the public.

We endorse the points made by both writers — and we could, if space allowed, add a few more.

In an organisation as large and as complex as Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, certain faults are bound to occur. The important thing is that these faults be remedied as soon as they have been recognised.

In many cases, this is not being done and the G.A.A.'s image and goodwill suffers accordingly, particularly among young people who are not prepared to accept second best.

The wind of change has blown through the Association but not yet vigorously enough to bring it abreast with other major sports organisations.

Punctuality for the starting times of matches and the interval breaks is still ignored in certain parts of the country, as if anything were good enough for the spectators who keep the show going with their hard cash.

It is very noticeable this year that the Leinster Council have made a special effort to get games

started at the times stated in the public press. It is a simple matter, really, if the leadership is strong and endowed with foresight.

Still, even the efficient Leinster Council falls down from time to time. There were two senior hurling championship games at Portlaoise in June—Dublin v. Westmeath and Laois v. Offaly—but a big attendance was not provided with a programme. That omission was unpardonable.

Also bad for the image is dirty or sloppy attire, not to mention lack of a public address system and scoreboard at club grounds, as well as at some inter-county fixtures.

It is odd that a great deal of talk about these matters within the Association has led to very little action to effect necessary changes.

It should be said that the good points far outnumber the bad; but, regrettably, it is the latter which mar the image in the public eye.

High on the credit side must be put the excellent new accommodation which has been provided for press, radio and television at Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow. It is a shining example for the entire Association.

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ARKS



C. McCarthy  
(Cork)



M. Roche  
(Tipperary)



P. Hegarty  
(Cork)

## This is the match of the year

IT will be, of course, the match of the year. Whatever happens afterwards — and there may be better hurling games or even more exciting ones — there will not be a match this year to equal in anticipation the Cork-Tipperary Munster semi-final. Many are already saying it is really the Munster final, and many even that it is the All-Ireland final. They are not noticeable in counties Limerick, Kilkenny, Laois and Wexford, of course, but, in most other counties there is a sprinkling of them.

As I remarked, there may be better games this year: and this match itself may turn out to be something of an anti-climax.

But that really has little to do with the fact that it is the match of the year. That fact does not depend on what happens in the game itself, but has proven itself in the weeks before, the days of talk and mounting atmosphere, the electricity of match day itself and the crowds on the way to the venue and to the field. In the hours of waiting for gates to open, taking up the best place, opening the sandwiches and tea or stronger beverage, feeling the tension mounting up from the

stomach muscles into the lungs that hold less breath, and the tongue that falls over itself with theories and possibilities and finally falls silent as the moment of truth approaches. In the roar to greet the teams. In the blind, stupid, uncomprehending disability to see anything but good and anything but fairness and sweet qualities of soul in one's own team as they puck about and march and ready themselves — all a blindfold charade in case even the concession of any good point to the opposition should have some psychic communicative effect that would place one's team similarly lacking in fighting attitude.

Once the ball is in and the match is being decided, the whole thing is over — actuality and realism take over. The fulfillment or the depression. But, that's a new leaf; that's the portion of life which is the slave of time refusing all tensions by providing the ultimate answer to matters of doubt and anticipation. But, whatever way things go then and afterwards, the build-up and the atmosphere and the knots in the stomach will never be again the same as for

this Cork and Tipperary clash.

In the old days, it was all a matter of "The hay made and Cork bate." Self-respecting Tipperary men could then face the remainder of the year with a feeling that come what may no natural disaster could overtake them, nor could such social and psychological trauma envelope them as would have them bow the knee to Cork and the head before all of Ireland.

Yet, things have changed. There will be fewer Tipperary men moving with leisurely strength across the broad acres of meadow land cutting and tossing, cocking and doubling, loading on drays and hauling home to the rick. Nowadays, it is tractors and cutter-bars, great mechanical rakes, and no saving — only the scooping up of grass and its treading down in the silage pit.

Nothing stands still. So the great Tipperary motto that set the year on its axis and showed the road to success as clearly as the road down the slopes of anonymity, is out of date and redolent of other days. Even so, a small updating will be found satisfactory by way of summarising the Tipperary way of seeing things. For it must be: "The silage laid and Cork bate."

Yet, whatever the changes that science and technology thrust upon us, the hurling story does not change. The objective to outdo all other objectives is to beat Cork (as, no doubt, it is, for Corkmen, to beat Tipperary).

To emphasise the matter further, this time they are clashing champions and National League title-holders. There can be no backing off from those kinds of titles and standards — it is the crunch, the showdown.

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**THERE'S MORE THAN GOODNESS IN GUINNESS**

GD 771B



# WRONG TIME FOR TOUR

By JIM BENNETT

ONE must wonder what is to become of all this business of tours, in particular American tours, and even more specifically, New York tours.

The renewal of efforts to get things back on a running basis after the unfortunate, but long threatening break which was precipitated by the blackguardly behaviour which involved Clem Foley while on refereeing duty, seems to have run into snags before it properly started.

It must be doubted whether, in any case a June tour was any kind of basis on which to re-establish the events. Surely, there is still a little spark of the amateur instinct left in most of our county players. Surely they have not all lost their values in the pursuit of the chances of self-indulgence. And, therefore, surely it was bound to happen that counties who had any chance of making reasonable progress in the coming championships would be frightfully guarded about taking on a New York tour on the eve of their provincial tests.

Well, it was so. The result is that partners for Derry were terribly hard to come by. Kerry were over in May despite the fact that they were known to be ambitious about adding the All-Ireland in September to the National League in which they defeated Mayo recently. From all news that can be gleaned from them and from the circumstances of their games, they will be a bit doubtful of how much they have harmed their chances of that All-Ireland.

They were involved in a very hard game, indeed, in which bruises and cuts were abundant. It probably proved their fighting spirit and qualities of resilience

—the very thing they will need for the championship, and the very thing which they lacked last July in their Munster final, significantly after further touring. Will they reproduce the New York fight in Ireland later this summer? They also have to concern themselves with players who have been sore and hurt after the tour, and, in view of the fact that two of the three games which they played were of the token variety, to say the most, they will wonder exactly what missionary quality their tour had, financial considerations for good causes apart.

Derry's trip will have been a big experience for them: they feel that they had to go anyway; it is by way of being a moral obligation for the objective is that of raising funds for the embattled members of the Northern communities. And, I suppose it does not matter that much to them really in regard to form, for Derry have succumbed to whatever kind of shortcoming they have in them every year for the last three or four, even when they remained at home. They can hardly do much harm, then, by going on tour. Who knows, it may have the opposite effect in their case—by taking their minds to a great degree off the championship tensions they may well arrive back relaxed and easy and capable of giving their best.

Much more distressing to anyone hoping for a suitable solution to the problems of tours and getting a schedule which will prove satisfying on both sides of the Atlantic, is the fact that several counties, and innumerable clubs, have found that when it came for the time to count heads, they were short of some of their

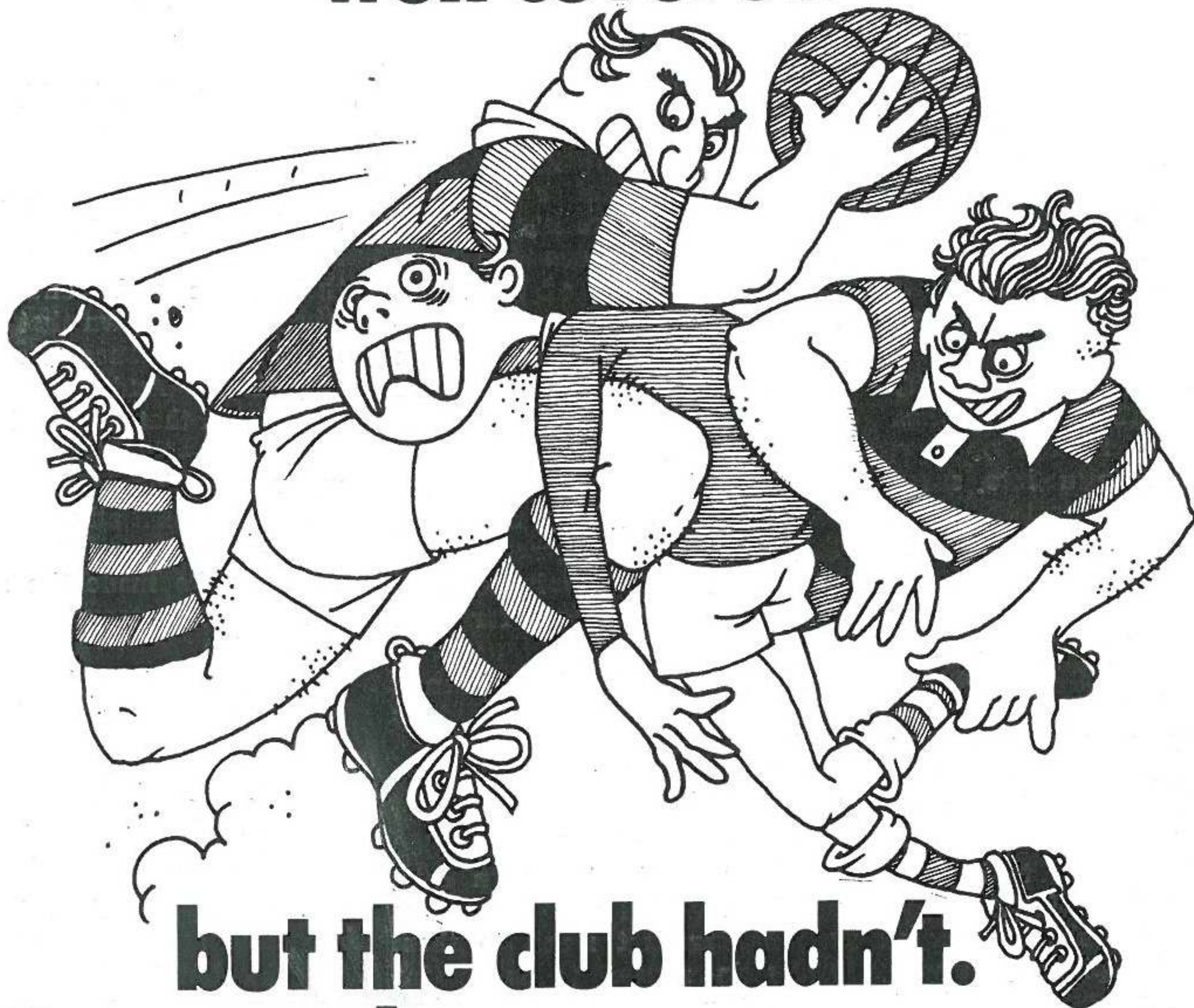
players for championship outings. This means that, in all probability, the old smuggling game is still in full strength: how can one imagine that permission was forthcoming for such players in their home clubs and counties when it was known that it would mean their absence at championship time? And one was of the impression that all that had been cleared up—that the clearing up was a condition of the new deal, in fact, and that all would be well for anyone who wanted to go on condition he made the simple—not to say courteous—request for permission.

These apparently conflicting interests make the solution of the New York tours problem infinitely difficult. The whole thing is further bedevilled by the fact that this is a one way business as far as paying for the costs goes—there appears little hope that any kind of tour over here will pay for itself, while New York trips pay almost for both lots. Left to private initiative the situation created would probably mean that there was a great traffic to the States, but none to Ireland. And, it must be part of the whole deal that the Yanks get the chance of the tour over here as well as the Irish getting the opportunity of seeing the sights in Manhattan.

Therefore, it would seem essential to arrange rigid and definite occasions when New York play here—once every year, football and hurling both together, or every year alternating football and hurling every second time. To play the All-Ireland title-holders? The League title-holders? Or some opposition otherwise determined?

● TO PAGE 9

# The opposition had him well covered



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● FROM PAGE 7

And, then, one must ask what of London and Britain? And whatever happened the Australian direction? For the moment, it is clear that Britain is desirous of playing a considerably increased part in international (and even national) G.A.A. affairs. They feel that they have now got a sufficiently strong base of power to begin to make their presence felt in competition with the home counties and with the New Yorkers. They have been showing interest in getting involved in the minor championships here in Ireland (successful) and in the inter-club competitions (unsuccessful) at last Congress.

Recently, rumour had it that in the absence of permanent and complete agreement on the place in which Britain might figure in the three-way action between New York, Ireland and themselves, they are making movements towards going it alone in an interchange of fixtures with New York. John "Kerry" O'Donnell, the doyen of the travelling footballers and hurlers, was over in London at the London County Board dinner not too long ago, and very definite chats were held to make the first agreement. O'Donnell was dead keen; London were dead keen; the rest of Britain is dead keen. The only barriers are probably organisational. It is necessary to have the British end contributing something to the joint fund—as usual New York home games would contribute the lion's share, but something more than token assistance in the finances would be expected. More important, something of importance in the promotional sense would be expected of the British games. They would have to make a public impact, preferably not alone among committed G.A.A. people. So, on that basis the thinking is going on. It may soon bear fruit.

# Fans need a better deal

By NOEL COOGAN

RECENTLY I had the pleasure of listening to one of the best known Gaelic football coaches in the country giving a little talk on the finer points of the game. He stressed towards the end of his speech that little things, that might seem unimportant, can often prove the difference between the winning and the losing of a match.

The following day I started thinking about the matter and after some deliberation came to the conclusion that little things, that might also seem somewhat unimportant can mean so much in the organisation of our national games.

Take for instance, the availability of score boards at G.A.A. venues. The powers that be in the Association appear to think that such luxuries are only necessary for inter-county games. A few weeks ago while reporting a couple of vital club championship games in my home county, I was given a friendly reminder by an acquaintance not to forget to mention the lack of a working scoreboard in my report.

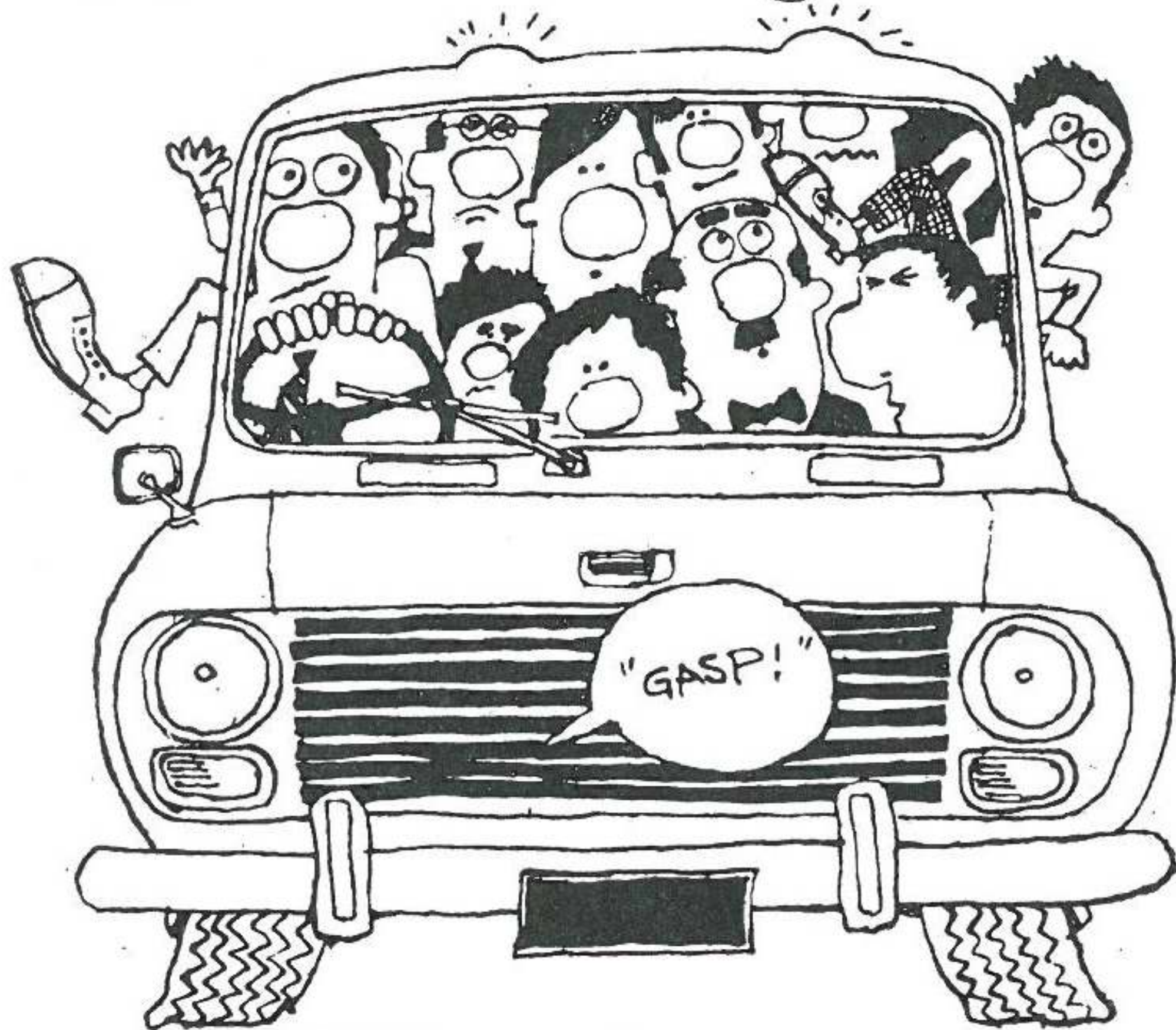
Here was one supporter genuinely concerned about being deprived of such a facility. True, there is a scoreboard in the venue in question, but its use, it seems, is reserved for "special occasions". The case, I'm sure, is much the same at many other

Gaelic grounds up and down the country. But, surely much greater use could be made of scoreboards. Spectators tend to lose track of the scoring. Think also of how it could benefit late-comers and also save them the bother of asking questions like, "What way is the scoring in this game?" The employing of one extra official each Sunday is all that is needed in this respect. Such a move could make a lot of supporters that little bit happier and also a little less confused.

Similarly the providing of public address systems is another facility that more attention should be paid to. These should be installed in as many venues as possible and used as often as is necessary. Teams should also wear numbers on their jerseys appropriate to their position on the field. I could go on and on, but is there really any point? Everything that I have said in the last few lines have been said on more than one occasion in the past.

But is the G.A.A. really interested in becoming a more efficient, better organised association? One can't help noticing how other sports bodies run their competitions. The points which I have brought up may be little ones, but they are not unimportant. They would mean a better deal for the supporters, who surely deserve such.

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# TOP TEN

WITH so many games to examine, the choice in both codes was difficult this month. All who appear in the lists below are worthy of the honour, however.

The ratings have been compiled from games played between May 21 and June 11, inclusive.

### FOOTBALL

- (9) D. McCarthy ..... (Cork)
- (9) E. Fitzgerald ..... (Kerry)
- (9) P. Reynolds ..... (Meath)
- (9) P. Walsh ..... (Waterford)
- (9) O. Crinnigan ..... (Kildare)
- (9) M. Whelan ..... (Dublin)
- (8) A. McGurk ..... (Derry)
- (8) K. J. O'Sullivan ..... (Cork)
- (8) M. Carolan ..... (Kildare)
- (7) K. Canavan ..... (Longford)

### HURLING

- (9) D. Coughlan ..... (Cork)
- (9) E. Flynn ..... (Dublin)
- (8) O. Gallagher ... (Westmeath)
- (8) D. Duggan ..... (Waterford)
- (8) J. Carroll ..... (Laois)
- (8) P. Hartigan ..... (Limerick)
- (8) F. Loughnane ... (Tipperary)
- (8) M. Malone ..... (Cork)
- (7) G. Conroy ..... (Laois)
- (7) P. Cunningham ..... (Dublin)

# LEINSTER HURLING NEEDS STRONG WEXFORD TEAM



Tony Doran  
(Wexford)

By OWEN McCANN

IT is a surprising quirk of fate that, although Leinster won the Railway Cup in hurling in 1971 and again last St. Patrick's Day, the over-all standard of the game in the province is still not high just now. Admittedly, Kilkenny, despite their semi-final failure to Limerick in the National League, must be up there on top with the best of them, but the other counties have not been producing hurling of a quality to get exactly worked up about.

In fact, the fare provided in some of the Leinster championship matches this season was really moderate, and it will take a stirring provincial decider this month to whet the appetite for a worth-while challenge to Munster in the hunt for the All-Ireland title.

However, irrespective of what happens in the coming run-in for the All-Ireland senior crown, I still don't believe that there are any grounds for despondency about the future of hurling in Leinster.

What the game needs most of all is a strong Wexford team. It is no reflection on Kilkenny, or on any of the other counties, to say that hurling in the East (and nationally as well) has lost some of its glamour because of the fact that the Slaneysiders have not been grabbing the headlines in recent times with their famed and much admired title winning brand of cavalier and colourful hurling.

Wexford have an appeal in rallying non-natives enthusiastically to their support that is un-

matched by any other county in the land. When they are going well, hurling is inevitably swinging along splendidly in national appeal.

So, what does the future hold for Wexford? The defeat of their under-21 squad by Dublin in a Leinster semi-final late in May must have been a blow, but over the past few years there was plenty of evidence in the minor and under-21 grades that Wexford have a rich pool of promising talent—a pool that is probably unmatched in quality by any county other than Cork.

The material, then, is there. And, men like the Quigley brothers John, Martin and Dan, that brilliant goal-grabbing Tony Doran, his brother Colm, and Jack Berry give Wexford a solid and experienced framework around which to mould a side capable of soon recapturing the days of glory.

Kilkenny, too, can look forward to the future with confidence. St. Kieran's won the All-Ireland Colleges championship in 1971 and were runners-up for this year's national title. The Kilkenny minors also made a brave show when losing to Cork in the All-Ireland final last September.

The hurling produced by starlets like Brian Cody, Tommy Teehan, Mickey Brennan, Pat Kearney, John Dunne and Ger Woodcock in that recent series of under-age finals left little doubt that the young men on the way up in Kilkenny are right up to the county's best standards—and that's saying something.

One wonders, too, if the light at the end of the tunnel is at

long last in sight for gallant Dublin. I have great admiration for the men working behind the scenes for hurling in the capital, and for the hurlers themselves. They have all been pulling their weight enthusiastically, in the face of both depressing support at the turnstiles for the seniors, and some morale deflating defeats.

But the high quality of the hurling produced by the under-21 side in the Leinster campaign this year is a very encouraging augury for the future. Vinny Holden, a sharpshooting and talented young man, who figured with the senior outfit in last season's League, Gerry Carroll, Martin Greaney, Jim Kealy and Brian Sweeney are some of the names from a well-drilled and smart-moving outfit who may graduate in time to help spark-off a come-back to the top by Dublin.

Offaly have not exactly made the impact generally expected in recent times, but here, too, is a county with bright young men forging to the top in under-age hurling. In short, there is plenty of potential for the future.

The same can be said of Kildare, that county that has made such grand progress at the premier national game in latter years, despite the fact that they lost to Westmeath in the opening round of the Leinster championship.

So, while I'm less optimistic about the hopes of Westmeath that victory by Laois over Offaly in this year's campaign could presage a bright future for them.

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# G.A.A. IMAGE TAKES A HAMMERING

THE image of the G.A.A. has been taking something of a hammering in recent times. There have been happenings both at home and in the U.S. that have provided the knockers with their best ammunition in years with which to fire broadsiders of caustic comments at the Association.

Even those of us with the best interests of the G.A.A. at heart found it hard to whip up any enthusiasm to try and counter the adverse remarks that were bandied about on the evening of the All-Ireland Club Football Championship final at Croke Park early in May when no trophy was on hand for presentation to the winners from Derry, Bellaghy.

Then, there was the chaotic situation that arose with regard to the planned visits to the U.S. of Cork and Limerick hurlers, and of Derry and the National League winners in football. We need not go over old ground here; suffice to say that the developments that eventually resulted in Derry carrying the inter-county banner on their own in the U.S. last month did not earn many marks for the prestige of the Association.

And, what about Kerry's visit to America in late May? Could anything be more calculated to

raise loud and derisive guffaws than the Kerry-Boston clash in the final match of the tour?

According to press reports it was agreed beforehand that the match would be a 13-a-side affair. Then, apparently Boston fielded 14 men, and Kerry brought their strength up to 14. No doubt it was all very light-hearted and enjoyable for spectators and players—but it was all hardly good enough in this day and age.

Especially now when even schoolboy teams in other codes are enjoying international competitive fare abroad, and are playing such fixtures under strict match and international regulations. When such young players measure their own experiences abroad against the reports they read of games like the Kerry-Boston match, they can hardly be blamed if they become disillusioned with the G.A.A.

Those of us living in Dublin have this summer come up against another irritating feature of the scene that is not helping to cultivate good public relations. Over the past few months there were annoying instances of referees failing to appear for official club games, and also of club matches being cancelled at very short notice.

Again this is unfair to the supporters and the players. Again it is putting the G.A.A. at a great disadvantage in competing with other sports—and this at a time when, it is true to say, that the all round support for the national games by the Liffey-side is not at all what it was.

What is the root cause of all the trouble? Is it a lack of communications within the G.A.A.? Or does the Association badly need an official Public Relations Officer?

Such an appointment is recommended in the mammoth report of the Commission that investigated the affairs of the G.A.A. But the more I look at the situation, the more I am convinced that the real answer lies in a more imaginative approach in the making of both inter-county and club fixtures.

Every other sporting organisation appears to be able to draw up an annual schedule—and to stick rigidly to it. As far back as mid-May I was shown a list of weekly fixtures for a Dublin schoolboy Rugby club for the season from September 1972 to April 1973.

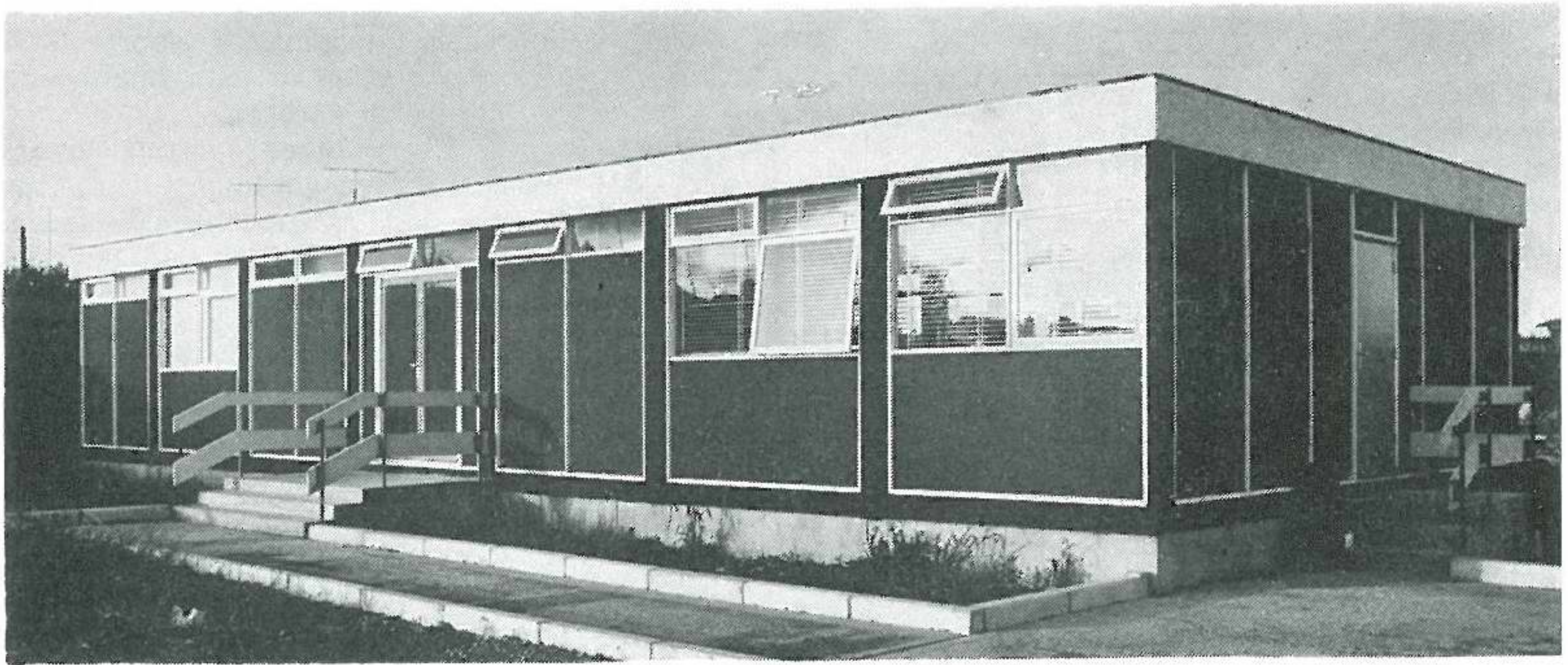
Contrast this with the approach in the G.A.A. Many competitions are allowed to drag on and on; postponements are permitted in the Leagues, sometimes in order that a single player is left free to turn out instead in a club or a Universities' match, and dates for games in the Provincial championships are also frequently altered on the eve of the competitions.

All of which helps to condition a much too easy going attitude with regard to the playing of many of the annual fixtures, both inter-county and club.

How much better for the pres-

● TO PAGE 41

# What's a club without a clubhouse?



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# MOVE TOWARDS AN OPEN DRAW

**W**ILL we have an Open Draw in the All-Ireland senior camogie championship next season? Such a development seems to be very much on the cards, and the annual Dublin Convention has already tabled a motion to that effect for the March Congress.

As it is, we are very little short of an Open Draw in the top competition this year, and in fact the semi-finals had to be redrawn as there was no senior side to represent Connacht.

According to the original pairings, the Ulster champions should have met the Connacht champions in one semi-final, but Antrim, who were unopposed in Ulster, would thus have got a semi-final walk-over, and so have found themselves in the All-Ireland final without playing any previous championship game.

Such a position would not alone have been farcical, it would also have been very unfair to Antrim, and indeed to whatever other counties would be directly concerned.

So Central Council very wisely decided to have Antrim play either Leinster or the Munster champions. Leinster got the bye, which means that the Munster winners will now play Antrim in the semi-final in Dublin in August with the Leinster champions facing the winners in the All-Ireland final on the third Sunday in September. So far so good, but this can obviously be

only a temporary measure, and it is obvious that Congress will have to devote plenty of time next Spring to this matter of the senior championship.

It is remarkable that only six counties, three in Leinster, two in Munster and one in Ulster are good enough to be rated senior, but in some respects the reason is not far to seek. One would expect winning junior sides to make an impact in the higher grade, but the first two counties to take the junior All-Ireland crown, Derry and Down, cut no ice on the senior scene. Then, for good measure, the All-Ireland junior crown in the last two seasons has been won by Dublin, already in senior ranks. Moreover, Cork have monopolised the Munster junior championship since the start.

As things stand this season, there is every hope that one of the counties now graded junior only will win the All-Ireland in that grade and thus qualify for senior ranks. But that would not improve matters much unless Galway took the junior title and that would give us no more than a second All-Ireland semi-final, and would still leave a great lack of competition and actual games for all the counties still in the senior grade.

It is a long time to Congress yet, but it is not too early to give this very serious problem of the senior championship some thought. I personally would

favour an open draw, with Leinster and Munster running their provincial championships as separate competitions as they think fit. But even the Open Draw alone would not solve the problem of lack of matches. So I would suggest that, if the Open Draw is adopted, a Losers Group be included.

This would mean that the counties beaten in the first round would then play off between themselves for a place in the second-round, which would in effect mean a place in the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Failing this, would it be possible to play off the early stages of the championship on a league system, with the two top teams facing one another in the September Final? Certainly some drastic steps will have to be taken, if the senior championship is to retain any meaning at all.

At the moment it can be truly said that, at least in the number of matches that have to be played, it is far harder to win a junior All-Ireland camogie medal than a senior one.

And perhaps there is the real long term solution. As the standard in junior ranks improves, we can hope to see more and more counties growing strong enough to hold their own in both grades. But this is necessarily a slow process and we will have to wait at least ten years before such a position can be attained.

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# Mind your own business.

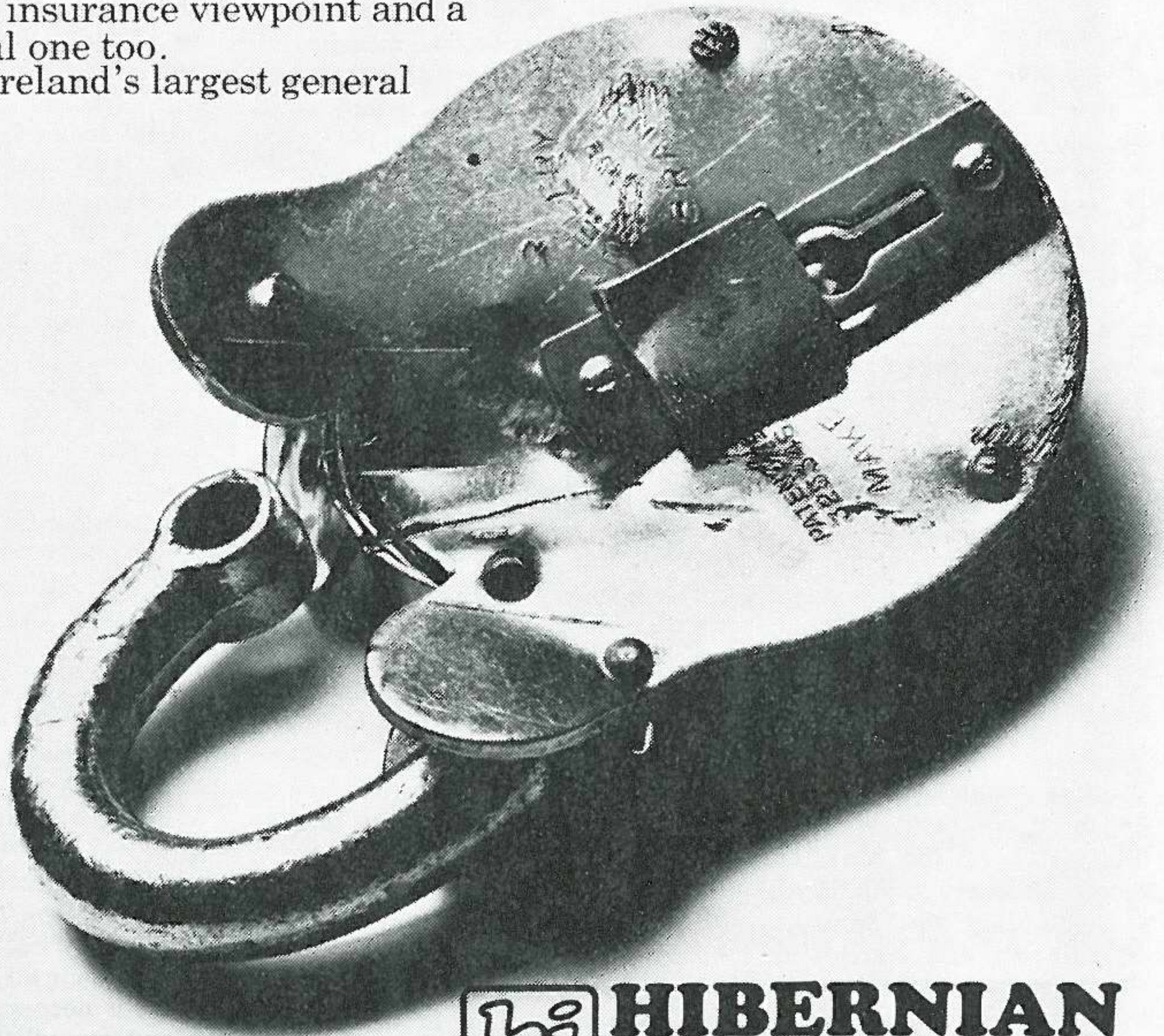
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# THE DAY RING ROCKED LIMERICK

"LIMERICK and Wexford for the All-Ireland" said the excited young man to me. Hard to blame him for with ten minutes left and Limerick four points in front the men in green were simply hurling their way to Croke Park blasting out of their way an honest but unavailing Cork challenge. That was sixteen years ago in Thurles. A remarkable Munster final.

Bishop Lucey threw in the sliothar before forty-seven thousand and Limerick with the wind to their backs were flying. Terry Kelly, tall, lean and skillful at full forward for Cork, had snatched a neat goal but then the Garryowen chaps had centre-forward Dermot Kelly slice over a neat point followed by a smashing goal from the slim young fellow over on the left wing named Liam Ryan now the well-known Maynooth priest and public speaker. Vivian Cobbe's impeccable style was creating problems for that grand hurler Jim Brohan and the Limerick point only presaged another by big Tom MacGarry the centre-forward whose job for the day was to get past the one and only Willie John Daly playing in the rather unusual place for him of centre-back. Terry Kelly slipped over another fast point from a lofting touch puck by Vincy Twomey and then Dermot Kelly



● *CHRISTY RING* awaiting the throw-in, by the late Dr. Kinnane, in the 1956 All-Ireland final against Wexford. Ring is in the foreground while Nick Rackard is to the rear (right).

## By EAMONN YOUNG

had another to find Limerick leading confidently by 2-4 to 1-1 and looking like champions.

Along with Vivian Cobbe, Tom MacGarry, Liam Ryan, Dermot Kelly, Mick Tynan, big and active at full forward was causing clever John Lyons with Mick Cashman in goal a lot of worry and Ray Prendergast a flier over on the right wing was exploiting with speed and swerve the temporary slowing down of stylish Pat Philpott who had picked up a smart knock on the noggin.

But the great damage was done by Limerick in the centre of the field for it was here that Gerald Murphy and Mick O'Regan had to put up with the excellent form of Tom Casey who was partnered on the day by the resolute

Jim Quaid twin brother of the left half back Jack Quaid, and was packing hours of good hurling into this day of days and the unfortunate Cork forwards were starved. Joe Hartnett eager, strong and restless had to rove outfield to get the ball and get away from that fine striker Seamus Ryan at the same time but with Jack Quaid staying with Pat Barry and Christy O'Shea dogged by fit Benny Fitzgibbon it was a grim hard grind for the Corkmen.

Nobody knew it better than the red-jerseyed trio who were set in the full forward line gritting their teeth and hoping that more of the ball would come. Florrie O'Mahony, Terry Kelly and

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# THE DAY RING ROCKED LIMERICK

## ● FROM PAGE 17

Christy Ring were in the picture only now and then though Cork had two more wides than Limerick in this half several of them came from far outfield.

Pat Cuneen was solid in the Limerick goal and Willie Keane and Pat Enright were cutting hard into every ball that came. Worst of all from the Cork point of view Donal Broderick was having a very satisfactory day on Ringey and it seemed to me standing so close to the great forward that he was getting a bit fed up of the whole business. Hard to blame him I suppose with so little coming and he himself on an off day for he had missed two frees he normally would shoot over his shoulder.

Well there it was. 2-4 to 1-1 at half time and Limerickmen dreaming of Croke Park. Why not? They were fitter than Cork and hungry for victory.

After seven minutes of the second half it DID look all over when Tom MacGarry said to himself let's hurry up with this thing and finish the coddling. The green flag put them well in front a lead which Dermot Kelly now sprinting and swerving on the forty increased with a point a few minutes later. Eleven points to four and Limerickmen howling with delight. Ring and Hartnett switched but Seamus Ryan lifted his game and there was no change coming. A twenty-one yards free to Ring and the strong tanned arms flashed in the sun as he sunk it into the goalmouth. Someone stopped it and Willie Keane scrambled it away. Corkmen were mad with frustration. Hardworking blonde Christy O'Shea over on the left wing bobbed up out of a crowd and swung over a point. But a lot more were

needed. Florrie Mahony tacked on another and then Joe Hartnett playing his heart out slipped a pass to Ringey who flicked it over the bar.

Sensing the danger Limerick suddenly cut loose. From Pat Enright to Seamus Ryan and right down the field they hurled fast and hard, whipping the heads off any daisies left in Thurles. But the Cork backline held, and firmly, though they didn't look as if they would keep it up long. Ten minutes to go and the Limerick side was still faced towards Dublin.

Then it happened. Over towards the left corner Ringey grabbed one of the few balls he got from attentive Donal Broderick and without hesitation swung a left-handed shot towards the goal thirty yards away. A real smart stylish and powerful whip it was that glanced off the thin end of a Limerickman's bas and cannoned into the net. There was a share of luck in it but that didn't stop them from cheering all around me. But the game was on again and the sliothar was running to the Cork forward line right up to the centre where Pat Enright lashed it back. Ringey, gone mad now, was right over in the centre about twenty yards out when he swooped in head low and scooped the leather into a grasping fist, swinging powerful shoulders through goalwards with ash clattering off his back . . . and he kept going. At that speed there couldn't be far more. Then the hurley was gone, a swipe of a hard palm and the sliothar was in the corner of the net.

The crowd went mad and a dozen fellows near me ran out on to the field. One of them grasped Ringey around the neck

and began hugging him frantically and wouldn't let go — until the maestro gave him the flat of the bas right up in the bottom . . . and hard. Your man ran off the field like a scalded cat rubbing his backside and cursing. That's stewarding for you! But Ringey knew this game wasn't over yet by a long spit.

Sure enough Limerick, two points down screamed into action up the field and in a minute Vivian Cobbe slipped around two Cork backs and Mick Cashman hadn't a chance. Garryowen in the lead again and away with the puck out down to the Limerick twenty-one. A minute after, out of a forest of hurleys, Florrie Mahony shoved the sliothar into the open where the hawk pounced once again and the tremendous forearms of Christy Ring swung a hard straight shot with all his power right past the helpless Limerick keeper. Pat Garry's fine point after a great save from him by Cuneen and Terry Kelly's last and lovely goal closed the chapter.

Corkmen went wild and I felt just a bit sorry for the chaps from Limerick whom you couldn't blame for feeling it was all wrapped up.

The story may be appropriate this year. As I write, Limerick are waiting for Clare and Cork for Tipp. Is it Limerick's year? They have a lot in their favour and as Mick Tynan said to me in that moment of exasperation when Limerick had lost a League final to Cork that they might have won, a month ago.

"If we're good enough we can beat Clare in Ennis or anywhere else." In his eye was a glint which said, "Clare and anyone else."

### Has their turn come?

The wheel has come full circle once again. Will Limerick go up or down with it.

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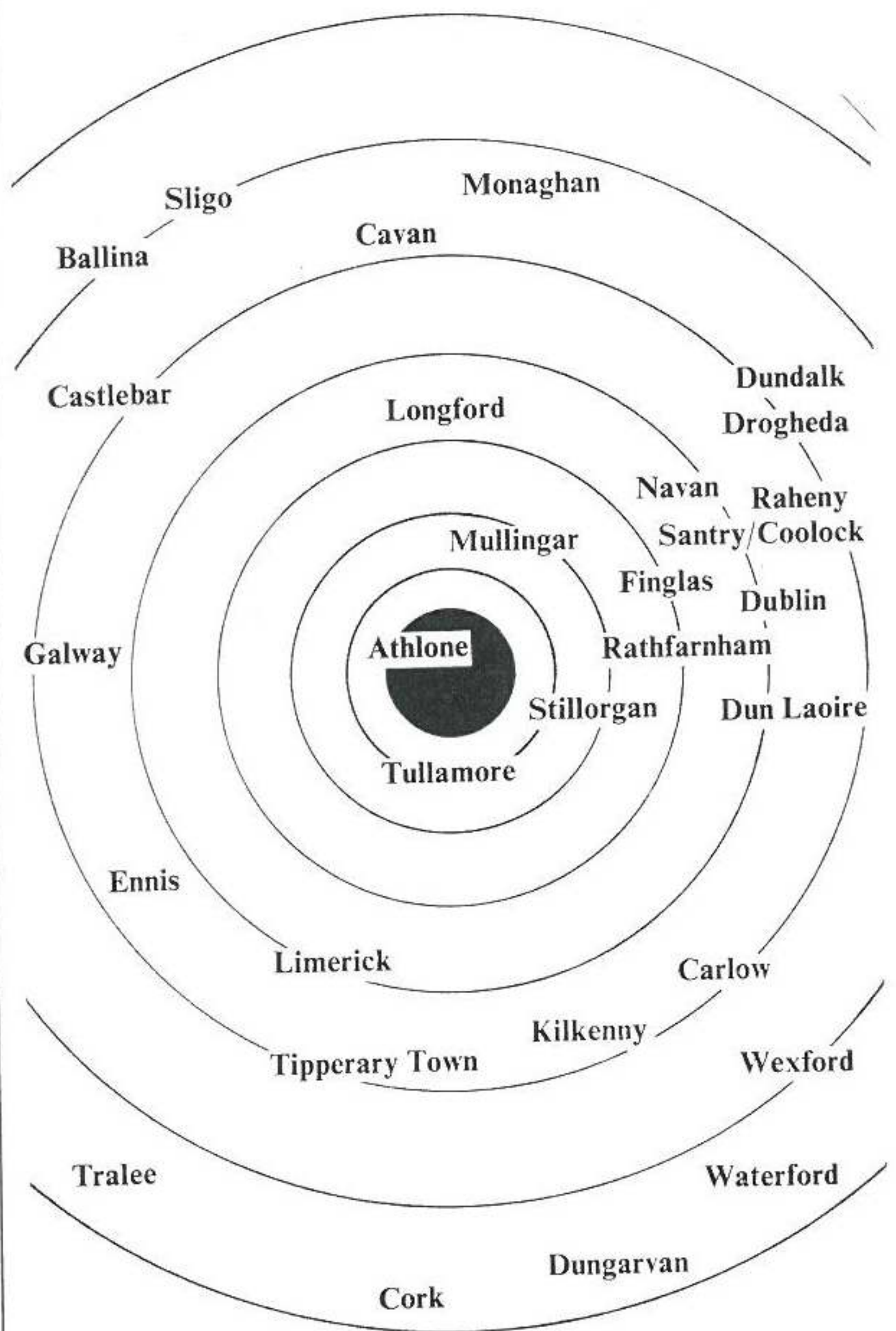
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# THE MUNSTER HURLING CIRCUIT

WHEN I was young, I was never satisfied until I had persuaded my father to take me with him on what it was then fashionable to call the Munster hurling circuit, and the Pilgrim's Way for the caman-craft lover was far more varied then than it is today when we are mainly confined to Limerick and Thurles with the occasional trip to Fitzgerald Stadium at Killarney or the Cork Athletic Grounds.

In the old days I have attended thrilling Munster hurling championship games at the old Sportsfield, now Walsh Park, in Waterford, at Davin Park in Carrick-on-Suir, where I saw Waterford beat Tipperary in a senior hurling tie for the first-time ever, at what was then, for me, far-away Cusack Park in Ennis, and at the pleasant but so seldom used pitch in Clonmel that, unfortunately, seems all too seldom used for big hurling games.

But, of all these venues that seem to have gone out of favour for hurling championship games in the South nowadays, that of which I have the happiest memories of all was Dan Fraher's Field, the old Shandon Park in Dungarvan.

Maybe it is because I was a very small boy when first I followed the hurlers to the town people then still liked to call the Old Borough something more than five and forty years ago, that Dungarvan still holds such a high place in my memories. Maybe these memories linger too, because although, whichever way you went, up to Carrick and across the hills, or down to

Waterford and up the main road, the distance from our house was no more than 35 miles, it was a high adventure to travel that distance in the days when motor-cars were still very much a novelty on Ireland's rural roads.

Ah, what a thrill it was to look over the back of the open Citroen and watch the clouds of dust from the limestone roads swirling behind us as we swept along at all of 25 miles an hour, though that dust became a problem if there happened to be another car 50 yards in front of you travelling at the same speed.

Yet, could any playing field have been more pleasant than Shandon Park on some sun-sweet Sunday afternoon of a long-gone July, with the cool breeze from the sea whispering through the shelter-belt of tall trees and the cream of Munster's hurling men doing battle out there on the green sward?

It was there I first saw so many craftsmen of the caman whose names are legend now. There came Cork's heroes of the 'Twenties, Eudie Coughlan, the Murphys, Sean Og, Mick and Denny Barry, the Ahearnes, Gah and Balty, Jim Regan from Kinsale and big Jim Hurley, and between the posts Eudie Coughlan's brother John, the man the Leaside fans called "Ballyhea".

There too I watched the Limerickmen whose days of All-Ireland greatness were just behind them, broad-shouldered Willie Hough, Denny Lanigan, tireless Willie Gleeson from Fedamore, Jim Humphries, Mick

Neville from Kilfinny and John Joe Kinnane who because of one wonderful game I saw him play against Tipperary there in Dungarvan remained one of the hurling heroes of my childhood.

Fraher's Field was then something of a home from home for many of Tipperary's best-remembered stalwarts. These were the days when Johnny Leahy's Boherlahan men were in full flower. With Captain Johnny were Arthur O'Donnell, equally invincible as goal-keeper or full-back, tearaway Mick Mockler, Martin Kennedy, that deadliest of chance-snapping full-forwards, Phil Cahill, the sweet-striking wingman from Holycross and Paddy Leahy, Johnny's brother, droll and durable.

Then there were the Darcy brothers, Jack and Mick, who hailed from a couple of miles outside Nenagh town. Indeed, the first Munster final I can ever remember seeing at Dungarvan has left me with a hurling memory to treasure for a lifetime, thanks to a superb display by Mick Darcy. Tall and spare, eyes asparkle beneath the back-swept mop of dark hair, Mick Darcy that day became what his memory still remains, my beau ideal of what a hurler should be. Not alone was he the stylist supreme, but he was then, and all his life continued to be, the most exemplary of sportsmen.

That same day was the first occasion I ever saw Waterford play in a Munster final, and it was a bleak enough day for those Decies hurlers as they had little

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answer to the power and expertise of Tipperary even though they had the assistance of two stalwart Claremen. Those, be it remembered, were times before the "declaration" rule had come into force.

One of the Clare pair was Brendan Considine, who had won an All-Ireland medal with his native county while still a schoolboy a way back in 1914 and another with John Ryan's Dublin Collegians when they had shocked another Johnny Leahy-led Boherlahan selection in the sensational final of 1917.

Brendan, now and for some time past, the esteemed head of

the Agricultural Credit Corporation, was then a bank official in Kilmacthomas, nor was that Munster Final in Fraher Field his last. A few years later, when he could play again for his native county, I saw him battling valiantly for Clare in a long-discussed drawn game and replay against Cork at Thurles.

The other Clareman who wore the Waterford colours that day at Dungarvan long ago was Mick Falvey, then a student-teacher at the De la Salle Training College. Mick, long domiciled in Dublin, and still as great an enthusiast as ever for the games, won a Munster championship medal with Clare in 1932 and

played against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of that year.

Yet, if Waterford were swamped by Tipperary in that Dungarvan final, the men from the Decies learned a great deal from that defeat and none learned more than one of their youngest players that day, Charlie Ware, who was yet to star for the hurlers in blue and white in an All-Ireland final.

But, to come back to Dungarvan itself. What a pleasant place it was when a game was over for the renewal of old friendships and the making of new ones. How well I remember seeing Dan Fraher himself, seated on a chair outside the pavilion in the evening sunshine, greeting his legion of acquaintances as the crowds streamed out, or entertaining his oldest friends in the big room above his shop on the Square, a room crowded with trophies and memories of his achievements on the Athletic fields of the '80s.

There, when I was too young for their names to mean anything to me, I saw and listened to Maurice Davin from Deerpark, the first President of the G.A.A. and his brother Pat, the only man who ever held the world's high and long jump records at the same time.

And it was in Dan Fraher's parlour that I also saw for the first time the tall Tom Kiely from Ballyneale, the former All-Round Athletic Champion of the World.

Ah, all that was a long, long time ago, and I wonder how many people in Ireland can boast nowadays, as I can, of having heard Maurice Davin play the fiddle?

And now the future of Fraher Field seems to be in doubt. But I have no doubts about it. If I had my way it would be renovated and re-opened as what it was for so many a year, the Show-ground of Munster Gael-dom.

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★

**T**HERE are few more consistent performers on our hurling fields at present than Kilkenny's sound left half back Martin Coogan. Somehow or other, that number seven black and amber jersey would not be the same without the brilliant Castlecomerman inside it. This great defender first donned that famous jersey back in 1958 when he was selected to represent the Nore-siders in the minor grade.

The following year Coogan lined out on the county junior team, while in 1960 his growing talents were recognised by the senior selectors. Martin has not looked back since being given that initial opportunity to prove his worth in the highest category. He has been more or less a permanent fixture on Kilkenny teams for as long as many supporters can remember.

Three years after his senior debut Martin Coogan helped his county to a great McCarthy Cup victory in 1963. Two further All-Ireland medals followed in 1967 and '69, while figuring in losing finals in 1964, '66 and last year. National League tokens were annexed in 1962 and '66. The Erin's Own clubman has also been a regular on the Leinster side since the early 'sixties.

Over the past dozen years or so Martin Coogan has succeeded in no small manner in winning the hearts of thousands of hurling enthusiasts up and down the country. This dour defender may not be the most spectacular of caman weavers, indeed one could be forgiven for not noticing him too much during the course of a match, but nevertheless the tire-

less Coogan gets through a huge amount of work in sixty minutes. Whether clearing his line, driving his side forward onto the attack, checking a dangerous opponent or popping over one of those typical long range points this long serving campaigner is constantly busying himself to a most effective degree.

Although now two years the wrong side of thirty, Martin is still playing as well as ever. Take the recent National League semi-final, in which Kilkenny narrowly failed to Limerick, as an example. Here he lasted the pace better than most and as one supporter aptly put it "was here there and everywhere at the end."

The fact that this great veteran is still employing his talents so beneficially is one of the reasons why Kilkenny supporters can look ahead to the big tests confronting them with a fair amount of confidence. This year's hurling championship race is wide open and indeed the men in the black and amber have in the past turned up trumps when much less was expected of them.

And if fate has it in store that more glory days lie ahead for Kilkenny in the coming months, then one thing we can rest assured of is that, barring accidents, that so familiar and so popular figure in the number seven jersey will be to the fore in such a revival. But whether his club or county is up or down supporters can bank upon wholehearted endeavour from Martin Coogan. Although now in the autumn of a glorious career there are definitely a few kicks left in this "old dog" yet.

JUSTIN McCARTHY

# Portrait of a master hurler

ONCE, when some questioner tried to pin him down to answer whether his political views could be construed as being of the left or the right or the centre, that great nose was raised in the air and the cold eye was allowed to look straight ahead on a level several metres above the heads of the questioners, as Charles de Gaulle spoke in measured and emotionless tones: "De Gaulle is neither of the left, nor of the right. De Gaulle is **above**."

So, thousands disliked him — many because they could not live to his standards, many because he made them uncomfortably aware of the series of compromises which their own lives are —and they called him haughty, and vouched that he was dominating because he dominated.

It was a matter of character and an attitude stemming from the rigid standards self-imposed by that character, and themselves, in turn, contributing to the making of that character. It's the same in every walk of life, I suppose, but it shows itself so clearly in public figures — politicians and hurlers and footballers.

Of course, the Master Footballer comes to mind: he has never compromised — neither of the left (let us substitute the

questionable in tactics or behaviour) nor of the right (the faint-hearted and conservative in their small-mindedness), but above . . . And because above, O'Connell has dominated.

Another such is the hurler Justin McCarthy, a player who has set the seal of proof on the elements of his character, and at the same time proved my thesis, by his mind-over-matter recovery from a brutal leg injury. He, too, before and after his injury has never compromised in his playing of the game, never

a comparatively raw Cork side to capture the title of 1966. And those who like to draw a long bow, would even argue that it was the McCarthy-led form of 1969 which had been lost in his absence, and was only gradually recovered in his continued absence, that accounted for the honour of 1970.

Of course, a team is the sum of its constitutive parts; and, of course, no single man can be individually responsible for events to the extent of that exaggerated statement of them. But, equally,

By

Jay Drennan

rushed his measured reading of the play, never allowed himself to be rash or imprudent or to settle for the little objectives of little men. In a phrase, he has imposed his character on the game of hurling . . . and because he is above, he dominates.

It has been claimed, and with some justification, that the absence of McCarthy from the Cork side, coming at the crucial time of the final, cost Cork the All-Ireland of 1969. Similarly, it has been argued that it was the presence of Justin more than any other single factor which enabled

the superimposition of something extra on top of the sum of parts which can be contributed by players of presence and character, players whose attitude and self-possession give them the ability to dominate, adds a certain touch to a team that changes fifteen good players into champion material. Equally, it might well be true—and it is a thought worth exploring sometime—that without that extra quality fifteen good or even very good players could never be champion class.

It is strange that hurlers who

# ter ler

are "above" (and footballers, too, surely) seem to become even more authoritative and dominating the higher the standard they play. I have been hearing for years that Justin McCarthy was a moderate enough hurler, that he could be kept very quiet in inter-factory leagues or local club competition.

The prophet among his own people, of course, is part of it. But, even more than that the fact that so many of these games are played at headlong, break-neck, hustle-bustle, "Pull, you divil" tempo. And more still the fact that you can read and read and read a game of lower standing and only become more confused as players scuffle the ball ten yards when they should be hitting it thirty, and a man who should clear easily, or accept a pass and score make a muck of it through anxiety, lack of skill, or mis-judgement of space and time.

The further up the grades you go the more predictable the play and its pattern, the more speedily the ball's travel isolates players from the headlong hassel. The more the one who is above can see all from above and impose his personality and dominance on the play.

So it was with McCarthy. He has always been a more influen-



● Master footballer Mick O'Connell (shown above) and master hurler Justin McCarthy have many things in common.

tial player at inter-county level than at club level—comparatively. And the higher the standard of the inter-county competition the more effective his influence.

It seems as though some other charism also goes with the character of dominance: Mackey was dominant because of his character, but also because of the ebullience of his physical presence in a game. Ring was essentially the same, the electric speed, the unholy skill that made one think sometimes of the men

who were said to be able to "colour the cards" in old-remembered games of 45.

With McCarthy, the charism is elegance, ease, the long loping stride, the appearance of never being hurried, the smooth classical swing and the controlled long stroke. And, finally, it is something of the quality of winning generals in war, who are almost invariably those who have fought their battles on the terrain which they themselves have chosen. McCarthy chooses his . . . and let the other fellow do the chasing.

# GAELIC

# SCRAPBOOK

By  
**TONY REID**

**I**F there has ever been a worse winter than that of 1947 then I am glad that I was not around to experience it. Snow and frost set in around the middle of January and it was almost the end of April before we were released from the ice-age that had brought utter havoc to the entire country.

Sport took a real knock-out and

only the hardest of individuals occasionally ventured on to some football or hurling pitch when it was found reasonably possible to get a game in to prevent complete chaos to the various fixture lists. Rivers, lakes and canals froze over completely and an acute shortage of firewood and coal did nothing to ease the position for the sorely tried

citizenry.

It was against this background that the most momentous decision ever taken by the GAA was made at Congress when a Clare motion to have the All-Ireland football final played in New York was debated.

The motion was put by Canon Hamilton of Clare, who said that as the standing of Gaelic games in the USA was rapidly declining the time was opportune to do something to remedy the situation. The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Fitzpatrick, also from Clare.

Among those who supported the motion was Alf Murray, Armagh, and it was carried at Congress by an overwhelming majority.

The news that the All-Ireland football finalists were going to New York naturally added tremendous spice to the games in all four Provinces and some stern struggles indeed ensued. But first the hurling battles.

Kilkenny were the king-pins in Leinster and they got to the All-Ireland semi-final stage by beating Wexford and Dublin by convincing margins. Cork and Limerick made good progress to the Munster final, but the match turned out to be a big disappointment, never living up to the true form of previous Munster classics. Cork won by 2-6 to 2-3 in the final which was played at Thurles.

Galway had no opposition in the west and this was obvious in their semi-final engagement with Kilkenny which was played at Birr. Although they held Kilkenny for most of the affair,



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more match practice would have surely seen them through. As it turned out only a last minute point by Jim Langton clinched the issue for the Kilkennymen, 2-9 to 1-11.

Up to the hurling final, played on September 7, the standard of play had been largely disappointing, but little did the 61,510 spectators who thronged Croke Park that day realise the magnificent treat that was in store for them.

Kilkenny and Cork provided the fans with the most thrilling sixty minutes of hurling that many experts said was the greatest display of the art that was ever witnessed in the sport's long history.

Right from the opening minute, when Tommy Walton whisked over the opening score of the game, a point for Kilkenny, until the last dramatic seconds the match was one long series of thrills, spectacular hurling, speed and astonishing individual displays of supreme skill.

Dr. Jim Young, Joe Kelly, Alan Lotty, Connie Murphy, Mossie O'Riordan, Jack Lynch and the incomparable Christy Ring stamped their personalities on the game for Cork while Terry Leahy, Mark Marnell, Paddy Grace, Shem Downey and Jimmy Langton performed wonders for the Black and Amber brigade.

Kilkenny were the faster and more polished side and showed their great fighting qualities by coming from behind to beat the gallant Cork fifteen. In fact the hero of the hour was Kilkenny's Terry Leahy who scored the equaliser for his team in the last minute of the game, a point, and seconds later as the referee was about to blow for time, Terry sent over another point to clinch the match, 0-14 to 2-7.

In football, the promise of things to come lay heavily over every match played in the championships in all four provinces.

Laois, the Leinster title holders,

were fancied to hold on to their crown, and it looked that way in the earlier rounds of the competition when they recorded easy wins over Offaly and Kildare, although the Lily Whites put up better resistance than Offaly. Dublin fell to Louth who in turn were shocked by Meath. In the Leinster final an even bigger surprise was in store as the Meath team removed Laois from the scene by 3-7 to 1-7.

In Munster a series of largely undistinguished games resulted in a Kerry v Cork confrontation and a right good thriller it turned out to be. It was no fault of Eamonn Young's that Cork went under, 3-8 to 2-6, as he gave a masterly display at midfield that just failed to swing the game the Rebel County's way.

In Connacht, Roscommon made impressive strides to the provincial final where they encountered little bother in removing the Sligo challenge, 2-12 to 1-8.

Cavan and Antrim met in the Ulster decider and an epic battle ensued in pouring rain. The Cavan men just about deserved to win against the holders by 3-4 to 1-6 and now the stage was set for the All-Ireland semi-finals.

The first semi-final was played on August 3, when Cavan and Roscommon did battle at Croke Park. What one paper later described as "a million dollar goal" was scored in the dying minutes of the first half by Peter Donohue for Cavan from a superb pass from Tony Tighe. This score inspired the Ulster champions to go on to play a fine second half in a game that fell below expectations. The score was, Cavan 2-4, Roscommon 0-6.

The second semi-final a week later between Kerry and Meath was also a little disappointing and only a splendid display by Kerry's Paddy Kennedy and Teddy O'Connor redeemed the

match from a spectator's point of view. The attendance of 65,939 who saw Kerry win by 1-11 to 0-5 was the highest ever for a semi-final and broke the week-old record of 60,075 set up between Cavan and Roscommon.

And so in Kerry and Cavan bags were packed and passports put in order for the journey to the new world 3,000 miles away across the blue Atlantic. Hopes in both camps were high and many good wishes went with the two teams as they started out on their historic voyage.

The Polo Grounds, New York, was packed with followers of both counties and the teams paraded round the stadium led

● TO PAGE 28

## FOCLÓIR TÍREOLAÍOCHTA DICTIONARY OF GEOGRAPHY

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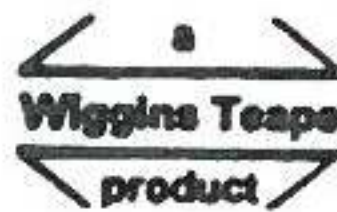
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● FROM PAGE 27

by a police band and massed pipers on that Sunday in September while those of us at home were clustered round the radio waiting for the great match to begin.

It was a match that exceeded the wildest dreams of those associated with the historic venture. The match was played at top speed all through despite the bone hard pitch and sweltering heat.

Cavan made a disastrous start and found themselves four points down in the first three minutes as "Gega" O'Connor with a point in the first minute and Garvey a couple of minutes later with a goal shook the Cavan men. Gradually Cavan settled down and Peter Donohue opened their account with a well taken point. Then Kerry struck again with a second goal when Eddie Dowling burst his way past bemused Cavan defenders to crash the ball beyond the outstretched arms of Gannon in Cavan's goal.

"Gega" O'Connor tacked on another point for Kerry and it began to look as though the Ulstermen were to be annihilated. In the 14th minute McDyer had a Cavan point and O'Connor and Paddy Kennedy put two more points over for the rampant Kerry men.

At this juncture the mighty saviour of Breffni, Peter Donohue, decided that enough was enough and he lashed three quick points, all from frees, over the Kerry bar. The Munster champions were now only five points ahead and fresh hope spread through the Cavan ranks.

Then, just before the interval, Joe Stafford and Mick Higgins scored two great goals to leave the Cavanmen ahead, 2-5 to 2-4, at the break.

The second period developed into a personal scoring duel between Peter Donohue and "Gega"

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# ATTEMPT TO SMASH NEW ASSOCIATION

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE first meeting of the G.A.A. —following its founding at Thurles on 1st November, 1884 —was held in the Victoria Hotel, Cork, on 27th December, 1884. Four of the founder members—Maurice Davin, Michael Cusack, John McKay and J. K. Bracken—were in attendance, along with twelve others, including the mayor-elect, Alderman Madden.

It was agreed that the elected officers, together with two representatives from each affiliated club would form the governing body of the Association.

The next meeting, at Thurles on 17th January, 1885, discussed and adopted rules for hurling, football, cycling and athletics; and set the aim of the organisers towards the formation of a branch of the G.A.A. in every parish throughout the land.

Michael Cusack reported that the national press had almost completely ignored the founding of the Association, and were not prepared to give it any publicity.

At this stage it might be well to point out that the emphasis in the early days of the G.A.A. was on athletics—with particular reference to weight throwing and jumping—which were the traditional pastimes of the Irish countryside, and in which Irishmen excelled. Although these were widely practised at fairs

and meetings and at cross road gatherings, there was no organised championships or other competitions.

What sporting opportunities there were in those days were confined to the upper classes with no provision whatever for the ordinary people. Anything in the nature of sports meetings were held on week days, which cut out the opportunities for other than “gentlemen of leisure” to participate. Any others were not wanted anyway, and this was made very plain.

The “establishment” or ascendancy class, who up to this had controlled athletics in Ireland, fought the G.A.A. from its inception and openly discouraged leading athletes from giving it any support. They went further following the second Thurles meeting and took active steps to combat it.

At a meeting in Dublin on 22nd January, 1885, the Irish Cyclists’ Association were told they should unite with the athletes throughout the country in order to quash the G.A.A.

This was too much for the “Cork Examiner,” who came out strongly in favour of the G.A.A. in their issue of the following day, in which they said: “If the cyclists of Dublin imagine they are going to quash the Archbishop of Cashel and national

leaders like Parnell and Davitt, because of their expressed desire to promote Irish athletics, we feel we must tell them they are very grievously mistaken.”

The opposition continued unabated however, and on 21st February, 1885, a fairly largely attended meeting in the Wicklow Hotel, Dublin, decided that the clubs represented would form themselves into an Association for the government of athletics in Ireland—to be known as the “Irish Amateur Athletic Association”.

All the resources this body could command—and they were considerable—were mustered in the bid to smash the G.A.A.

The efforts at obstruction thus engendered had a very different result from that intended, for the plain people rallied under the Gaelic Athletic standard and its growth was phenomenal. Clubs were affiliated from all parts of the country and within a very short period an exceedingly large number had joined its ranks.

Following a number of skirmishes — mainly strenuous attempts to prevent leading athletes from participating in G.A.A. sports gatherings — the G.A.A. carried the fight into the open when they organised a sports at Tralee in direct opposition, and on the same day, as one arranged under the I.A.A.A. auspices by the County Kerry Cricket and Athletic Club.

The result was a big triumph for the G.A.A. which had the militant support of William Moore Stack—a well known Kerry Fenian, whose son, Austin, afterwards gave great service to the Kerry G.A.A. and to the cause of nationality. The Gaelic Park in Tralee is now dedicated to Austin’s memory.

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### ● FROM PAGE 29

Four hundred athletes participated in the G.A.A. gathering, and Very Rev. Fr. McMahon, P.P. in a stirring address, said the attendance was the largest he had seen in Tralee since Daniel O'Connell addressed his famous meeting there forty years previously—and that despite the fact that the event was held on a Wednesday, which was an ordinary working day for the bulk of the population.

The Athletic and Cricket Club meeting was a complete and absolute flop — a circumstance that was not lost on the people, who so eloquently demonstrated their attachment to the G.A.A.

Efforts continued, however, to dissuade athletes from participating in G.A.A. sports meetings—nearly two hundred of which were held during 1885—but these met with very little success, and when the first athletic championship meeting of the G.A.A. was held at Tramore on 6th October, 1885, almost all the leading athletic figures of the period were there.

Fighting words came out from the next general meeting of the G.A.A. clubs: "We declare that the Gaelic Athletic Association is not a political organisation although it is a thoroughly national one; that our objects are the cultivation and preservation of our national pastimes; and our platform sufficiently wide for Irishmen of all creeds and classes. Whilst we welcome assistance from every quarter, we do not stand in need of any support from any organisation external to our own."

The President, Maurice Davin, said they in Ireland had not been conquered, at least as far as athletics went, and hence the G.A.A. was formed. Six hundred athletes had competed under their auspices in the first year, which was something not previously experienced in

Ireland, where athletics had been confined to a privileged class.

A meeting of the I.A.A.A. held in Dublin on 24th November, 1885, was very straight-forward in its assessment of the situation. It was accepted that the G.A.A. had held 150 meetings during the year, and they agreed it was not possible to deny but that it was a decided success. Some delegates even went so far as to suggest amalgamation of the two bodies.

Speaking at Dungarvan in March, 1886, Most Rev. Dr. Croke vigorously defended the G.A.A. He said it had been a great success and would continue so, but he would never be a party to its amalgamation with any other. The Association was spreading like wildfire through every part of the country and he concluded by saying: "We have beaten out our other friends from the field of manly exercises as we have beaten them out of the field of politics."

It was generally accepted that the attempts of the ascendancy group to crush the G.A.A. had failed, and that their supporters were reluctantly compelled to recognise that unpalatable fact.

Overtures for amalgamation were made but these were rejected by the G.A.A. However, a certain amount of harmony was achieved, and the bitterness of the initial year was not repeated.

Hurling and football clubs, in addition to athletic ones, were formed in 1886, and in the following year the organisers were able to report very satisfactory progress with the establishment of clubs of both codes in the great majority of the parishes. A big number of tournament competitions were announced, and special trains were run in conjunction with some of them.

The first broadside seeking the support of G.A.A. members for goods of Irish manufacture

was fired by the Central Council at a meeting, the most representative since its establishment, at Thurles on 6th April, 1886.

A sensation was caused when it was learned that Michael Cusack, the founder, was removed from the position of Secretary on 4th July, 1886, the Association meeting held on that occasion deciding that he had not been discharging his duties satisfactorily.

The first exclusion rule against the admission to membership of the G.A.A. of any persons playing under Rugby or any other non-Gaelic rules was adopted at a meeting held at Thurles on 27th September, 1886.

The second annual convention at Thurles on 15th November,

### ● TO PAGE 41

## E.M.I. NEWS

AMONG the new releases from E.M.I. now on sale in record shops throughout Ireland is the first L.P. from the Band of the Irish Army. This fine record on the Studio Two label will be distributed throughout the world and will no doubt create great excitement among the Irish overseas.

On the Talisman label there are two equally fine records just on release. Firstly, there is that very talented Irish artist Geraldine O'Grady presenting an excellent selection of traditional Irish airs with the assistance of her sister Eily, on piano. The second disc features Pat Lynch. This is Pat's first L.P. for quite some time and contains a varied selection of romantic ballads including the very successful "When We Were Young."

On the Ruby label "Greener Pastures" features the Hoot'nans who are undoubtedly one of Ireland's leading Country and Western Bands.

# FOR YOUR OWN GOOD

**E**ACH year the number of miles driven by the average G.A.A. follower in Ireland must be very considerable. When you consider the number of matches played at neutral or away venues throughout the late spring and summer months and multiply this by the number of car-owning G.A.A. followers the mileage must be well into the millions.

If you doubt this just consider the traffic situation following a Provincial final.

Driving can be safe but too often wilful negligence on the part of the driver himself can be a contributing cause of accidents. Statistics show that over half the accidents happen at weekends so people travelling to and from matches ought to take particular care.

The Minister for Local Government and his departmental officials have been in the forefront of the campaign to remind the public of their obligation to themselves and others on the roads. Regulations are made with people's safety in mind and should be obeyed. There is unfortunately plenty of evidence to show that many motorists are not obeying these regulations.

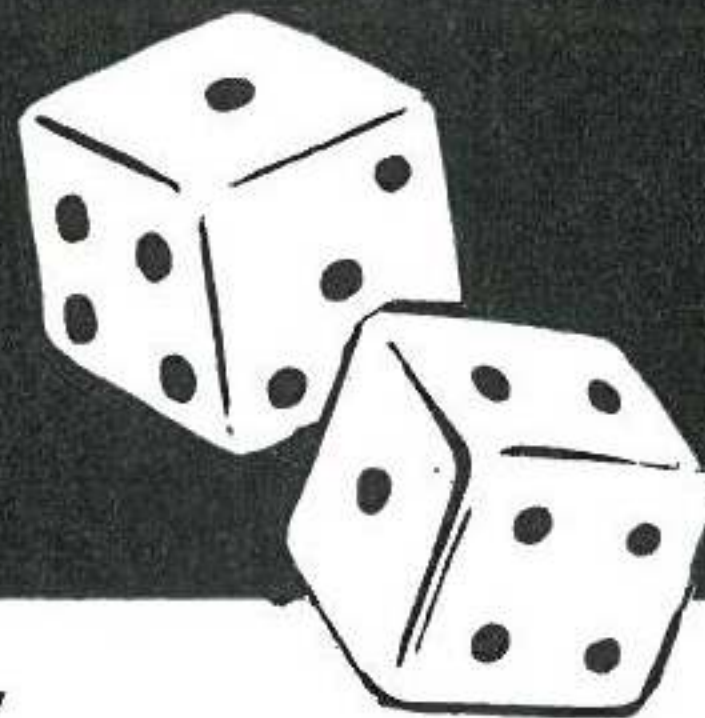
Each of us should think carefully about the way in which we

drive. And before we begin to drive at all we should check our car thoroughly to see if it is road-worthy. If it is not it is a danger not only to ourselves but to other road users also.

The brakes spring readily to mind as examples of equipment to be checked and these must be kept in perfect condition. But we tend to forget other very important items. Tyres which after all are our sole contact with the road should be checked regularly. It is an offence to drive with bad tyres because they skid so easily. Know the correct tyre pressures for your make of car and see that these pressures are maintained. Your life could depend on it.

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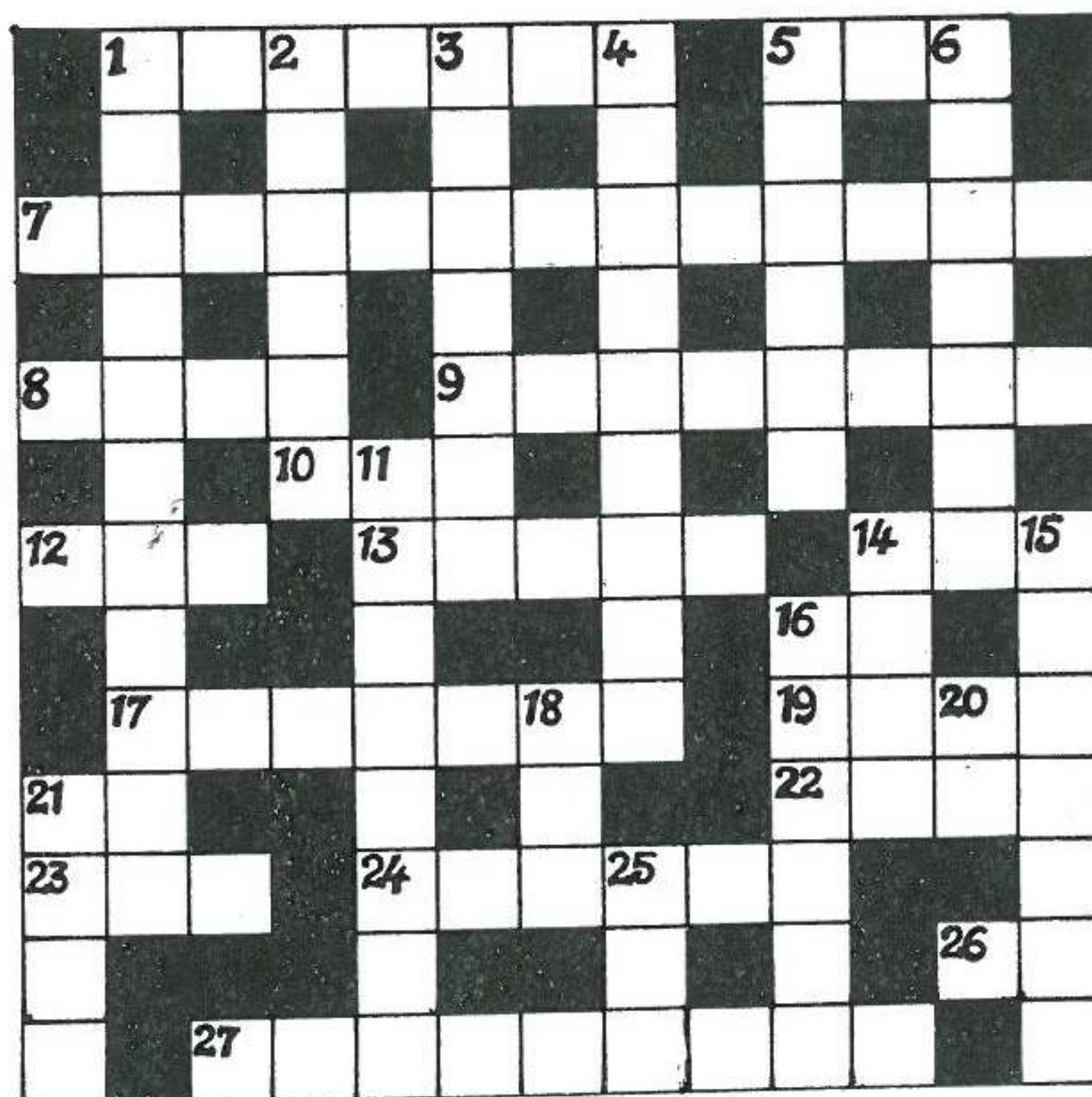
By PERMUTER

## ACROSS :

- 1—Infer B.F. comes from famous northern football area. (7)
- 5—Sad little ways to publicise games. (3)
- 7—Arming lenders indicates the narrow degree of victory. (7, 6)
- 8—A hurler at different times with Tipperary, Clare and Galway. (4)
- 9—Altogether lacking in coherence—rubbish, in fact. (8)
- 10—A bishopric to view the game. (3)
- 12—A mostly urban kind of embrocation to tone the muscles. (3)
- 13—The All-Ireland footballing son of All-Ireland footballing father, John. (5)
- 14—It's close to snow. (3)
- 16—Behold, half a solo. (2)
- 17—Sound Clare hurler makes a beginning in poultry. (1, 6)
- 19—So, Al came too. (4)
- 21—Exclamation of dismay or pain. (2)
- 22—"No, No," they say, "It's too early a time for a game." (4)
- 23—Passing on unopposed to the next round. (3)
- 24—Settling in well as Paddy Doherty's replacement as place-kicker. (6)
- 26—Refuse to give number. (2)
- 27—Centre-field man who took over from his brother at full-back with thrilling results. (4, 5)

## DOWN :

- 1—Four All-Irelands in a row and noted for his long puck. (5, 6)
- 2—Donegal club named for local patron saint. (6)
- 3—Lynchpin of many famous Dublin forward lines of the fifties. (7)
- 4—Semi-minty flavour emphasises the size of the problems facing the G.A.A. to-day. (9)



- 5—Rear it to be one which puts its whole heart into a game. (1, 5)
- 6—Big sons to replace brilliant wing forward in hand-passing Antrim teams. (1, 6)
- 11—Coon surrounded by mice has the financial well-being in mind. (8)
- 14—Almost loose, yet carry the ball on an individual run in possession. (4)
- 15—Tullamore Gaelic Park. (7)
- 16—Lon embraces Ann in the presence of long-serving wing-half-back in football with Waterford. (6)
- 18—Donnelly, of Offaly, briefly. (3)
- 20—The outer half of the solo in 16 Across. (2)
- 21—E, boy, you must stick to the rules. (4)
- 25—Just a little of Benny, ex-U.C.D. and Louth player. (3)

SOLUTION : Page 48

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● One of the most heartening aspects of the G.A.A.'s Ground Development Scheme is the response from many Irish business concerns. Our picture (above) was taken at the Goulding Fertilisers Ltd. reception on the occasion of the firm's presentation of a cheque for £3,000 for investment in the Development Scheme and shows (from left) Donal O'Byrne, Goulding Fertilisers Ltd., Seán Ó Síocháin, General Secretary, G.A.A., Kiernan Curtain, President, Macra na Feirme, and Sean Healy of the I.F.A.

## GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT

# MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

By OWEN McCANN

**D**URING the Provincial Senior Championships season I seem to inevitably spend much of my time reflecting on the general condition of the major grounds throughout the country, and also on the facilities and accommodation they provide for spectators and players. No doubt the reason is largely due to the fact that during the all too few cherished weeks of summer I usually travel many miles to attend Championship games Sunday after Sunday in all provinces.

At many venues one will find much that is on the credit side. It is to the credit of the Association that it was not today or yesterday that the importance of acquiring and developing grounds was first realised.

Nevertheless, none can reasonably deny that the picture still has a dark side to it — a side that needs to be tackled quickly in the interests of the people who pay to keep the games going, and also of the players.

Covered accommodation, either for standing or seated spectators is not all that it should be at many venues. Indeed, I have attended provincial finals in my time at venues lacking covered accommodation of any sort.

Sideline seating with free access to the playing pitch can also help to create a poor public image for a ground.

Overcrowding of the sideline seats can lead to frayed tempers, and general annoyance among the cash customers. Their enjoyment of a match is thus badly hit, and there is the added danger here that the overcrowding will lead to encroachment on the playing pitch, with resultant stoppages in play.

As for players and officials, they can also on occasions point the finger of criticism with regard to dressingroom facilities, a lack of showers, and also of cover for substitutes and selectors on the sidelines.

Grounds, then, have an impor-

tant role in the life of the Association. The more they meet the standards we now expect in this modern age, the greater will be the overall appeal of Gaelic games.

Fortunately, grounds and their developments are featured in the report of the Commission that examined all aspects of the workings of the G.A.A. A number of sensible, if obvious, suggestions were put forward.

If the suggestions of the Commission are implemented, fans will have little to complain about. Nevertheless, the question must still be asked at this juncture: Why are many of the inter-county grounds still lagging behind in the facilities outlined above?

No doubt a shortage of finance is part of the answer. I wonder, though, if the root cause is not deeper. A genuine lack of incentive at town and county level, for instance?

When you see what enthusiasm and hard work can do to improve the facilities at club grounds it makes one wonder why the same standard cannot be attained elsewhere. Dublin's Na Fianna are a case in point. Founded only seventeen years ago they recently opened a £50,000 development incorporating football and hurling pitch, an indoor handball alley and clubrooms. If one club can do this why cannot some county boards do at least as much?

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# WHAT AN AWFUL WASTE!

IT is a recognised fact that the lack of courts is one of the major drawbacks to the continued progress of handball in Dublin. The non-attention given by Government Departments and the Corporation is a factor that continually grieves the handballer in Dublin, whose only opportunity of getting in some practice is to take out membership of the new court at Croke Park.

At the moment, the membership quota has been realised, with the result, that many players are not given any opportunity to practice.

One obvious Government fault can be pin-pointed: the six three-walled courts which exist in the grounds of the Department of Defence at Mobhi Road. On numerous occasions over the last decade representations have been made for a lease on these courts, so that they could be renovated, roofed and floodlit.

All such requests have been ignored and, indeed the only real move made was the conversion of one of the courts into a coalshed!

It seems ludicrous, that the initiative of the groups, who wished to take them in hand and were prepared to devote time on a voluntary basis, to thus provide a very necessary social amenity, could have been so easily ignored.

There is also the case of the court at the old Garda Depot in the Phoenix Park. This is Board of Works property but, is guarded so zealously that clubs have been refused permission to use it over a number of years.

Indeed, to aggravate the position comes the news that the court at Dublin Castle, to which the public had access, is about

to be demolished.

To complete the survey there are the two courts which were partly built by the Dublin Corporation in Nephin Park, Cabra, but were never completed.

On the credit side, recognition must be given to a couple of clubs in Dublin who are tackling the alley scarcity problem themselves. In Oldtown, in North County Dublin, some few years ago, a band of enthusiasts took it on themselves to provide a revolutionary type court, 40 ft. x 20 ft.

It was a creditable performance by a community only a couple of hundred strong. The cue has now been taken by the St. Maur's club in Rush, which has raised a lot of money in the past couple of years and will probably have a new court within the next twelve months.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Apropos the above article, a copy of this issue is now in the hands of Michael O'Kennedy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education. If anybody can put this scandalous situation right, he's the man.*

## LARRY ROE MEMORIAL



● To perpetuate the memory of the late Larry Roe the publishers of *GAELIC SPORT* presented to the Dublin Minor Handball Board a trophy for competition among Dublin schools and colleges. Our picture shows (from left) George Roe, who partnered his late brother when representing Dublin, Br. B. C. Ó Murchú, President, Dublin Minor Handball Board and Tommy McQuaid, Editor, *GAELIC SPORT*.

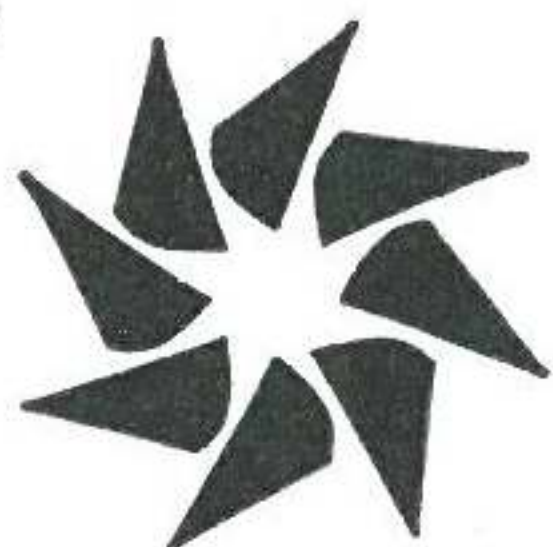


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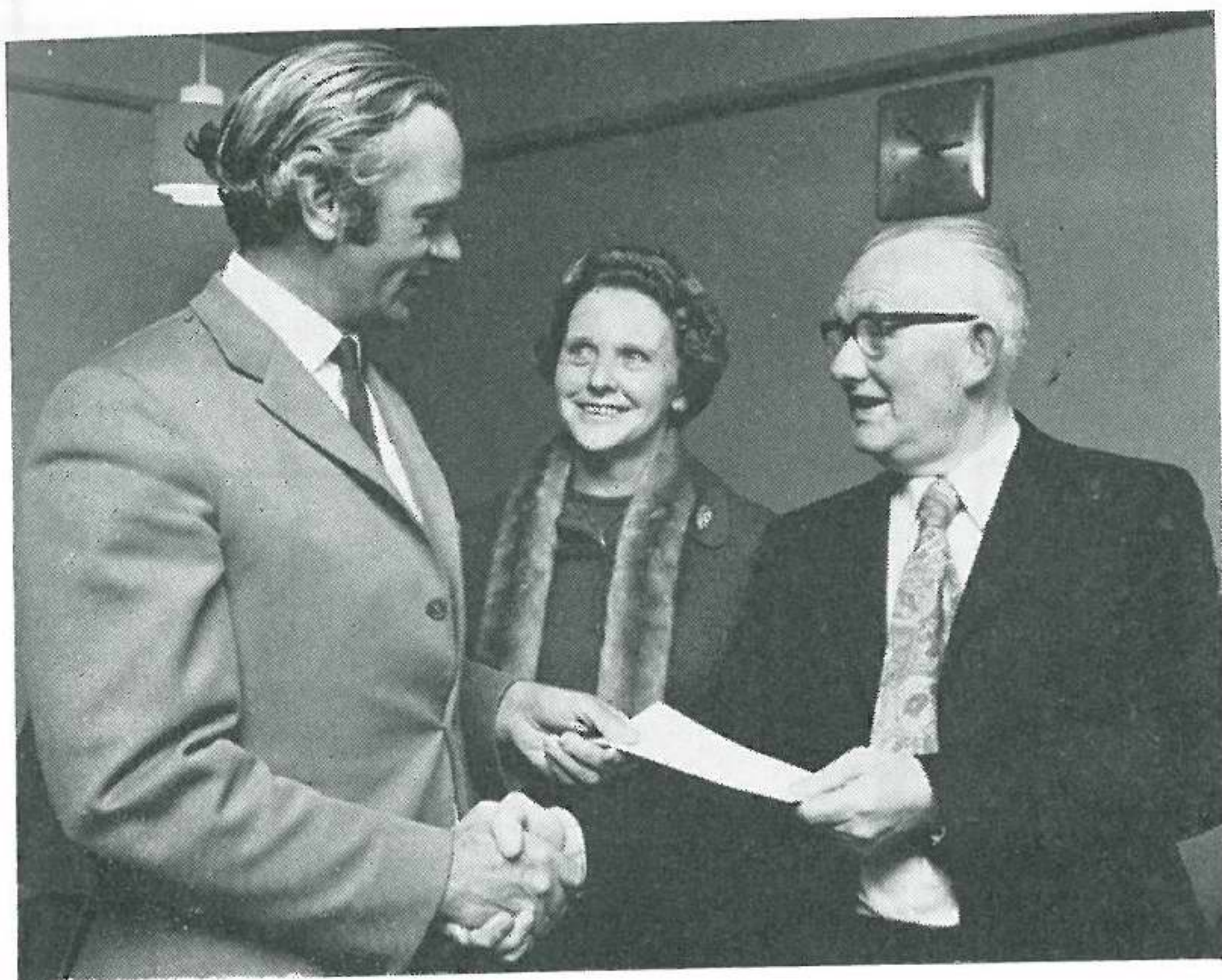
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# MAYO G.A.A. MAN WINS £1000 IN

## CONDOR

### QUIZ



OUR picture shows Paddy Gallagher of Ballina (on right) being presented with a cheque for £1,000 by C. W. D. Morgan, General Manager, Galaher (Dublin) Ltd., at a reception at the company's factory at Tallaght, County Dublin. Also in the picture is Mrs. Paddy Gallagher. A former treasurer and secretary of Ballina Stephenites G.A.A. Club, Mr. Gallagher won first prize in the Condor Tobacco Sports Quiz. As well as picking the correct answers to the various questions posed in the competition he correctly nominated the sportsman whom the judges considered to have made the greatest contribution to Irish sport over the past decade, Christy O'Connor. Mr. Gallagher's son Malachy, has represented his native Mayo on many occasions and had the distinction of playing against the Australian touring team in Croke Park in '67.

## Special Offer to G.A.A. Fans

**J**OHNSON & PERROTT the longest established and least expensive car hire firm in Ireland look forward to enquiries from G.A.A. supporters. John Bailey the Dublin manager of this Cork firm will assist you and can even offer special discounts to G.A.A. members.

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John Bailey himself is very active in the Dalkey Mitchells G.A.A. Club where he is involved in every aspect of club work.

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## Limerick star in the news

**R**ECENT big happening in the banking world was the amalgamation of what was formally Ulster Merchant Finance (Dublin) Ltd. and Lombard Banking Ireland Ltd. These two companies have now merged and the new company name is Lombard and Ulster Banking Ireland Ltd. and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ulster Bank. We went along recently to find out more about the new company and were ushered into the office of the Assistant to the Chief Executive who turned out to be none other than former Limerick G.A.A. star Pat Murphy.

Followers of Gaelic games especially down South and more especially in the Limerick area

will readily recall Pat's record to mind, he was a regular on both the Limerick Senior Hurling and Football teams from 1960 to 1967 and represented Munster in football in 1966, '70 and '72.

In 1958 Pat played on the Limerick Minor Hurling team which won the All-Ireland Championship that year and in 1960 he captained Limerick C.B.S. in both Hurling and Football when his team won the Corn na Mumhan, Munster Colleges Senior final title and were narrowly defeated in the final of the Harty Cup.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL  
COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN

## ***MUNSTER FINALS***

***Football—16th July  
Hurling—30th July***

★ Remember these dates ★

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL  
COMHAIRLE CONNACHT

## ***CONNACHT FOOTBALL FINAL***

***July 9th***

★ Remember this date ★

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quickly



## G.A.A. IMAGE TAKES A HAMMERING

### ● FROM PAGE 13

tige of the Association if the four Provincial Councils and Central Council had an annual get-together in November to work out a co-ordinated schedule, embracing all competitions, for the year ahead. There should also be a provision that postponements would not be permitted, except for the gravest of reasons.

In addition, the counties should be instructed to draw up their club schedules each January for the full year ahead in conjunction with the published inter-county programme.

In this way the counties and the clubs would know exactly

their annual commitments from the start of each year. The no postponements rule, which should also be applicable to club games, would keep the schedule up to date.

Referees at club ties would thus have a greater incentive to turn up. After all, as is the case at present, little is lost, except the hurt feelings of spectators and players when a club match falls through because of the failure of a referee to turn up. This would not be the case under the plan I advocate.

And, think what a splendid public relations job such a plan would do for the G.A.A.! It would brighten up the image no

### ● FROM PAGE 28

O'Connor as each man answered the other's scoring achievements in amazing rapidity. First O'Connor pointed, then Donohue, then Donohue again. Once more O'Connor sent over a point and yet again came a like score from Peter Donohue. That was the end of the scoring vendetta between the two as Cavan blasted full steam ahead. Mick Higgins added two more points for Cavan and that was that.

As the game reached its conclusion, Kerry were hotly pressing the Cavan lines but great work by John Joe O'Reilly, J. Wilson and Smith saw Cavan through. The deciding factor in Cavan's wonderful performance

was their brilliant use of the hand pass as opposed to Kerry's more traditional long kicking style. The 23-year-old Peter Donohue was the star of this victory and he earned himself the title of the "Babe Ruth of Gaelic football." Every Cavan supporter had reason to be proud of the fifteen men who represented the county on this great history making occasion, but none was prouder than the late Commandant John Joe O'Reilly, that prince of Breffni footballers who captained the team in the Polo Grounds that September Sunday, 25 years ago. But let us not forget the losers, Kerry, who more than played their part in making the occasion so memorable.

### ● FROM PAGE 31

1886, decided on the inauguration of All-Ireland hurling and football championships, the champion clubs in each instance to represent the respective counties. It was agreed that county committees be established to arrange local club championship competitions.

Handball rules were also

promulgated at this meeting.

County conventions were held during December and January, and a very satisfactory number of county committees appointed.

A number of the county gatherings stressed the need of an official organ for the Association—something which is still a very live topic—and as yet unresolved.

end, both among supporters and the sporting public in general, create greater all round interest in the competitions, and add to their appeal and glamour.

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T. J. Maher is President of the 150,000-strong Irish Farmers Association. Mr. Maher heads an organisation that includes many famous hurlers and footballers and is fully conscious of the close links between rural Ireland and the strength of the G.A.A. John Doyle, Tipperary (holder of eight All Ireland senior hurling medals); Bob Stack, Kerry (holder of six senior football medals); Mattie McDonnell, Meath; Pat Reynolds, Meath; Michael Kerins, Kerry; Tom Cheasty, Waterford; Jim Roche, Limerick and Gerry Colleran, Galway (brother of Enda Colleran), Sean Foran and Sean Evans, Offaly, are just some of the names to be found amongst the I.F.A. membership. Mr. Maher himself is a frequent attender at G.A.A. fixtures.

## **ULSTER VIEWPOINT**



*Dan McAreavy*

# **FERMANAGH HAS LAID THE GHOST OF BAD OLD DAYS**

*By DAN McAREAVY*

**S**O long the chopping block of the other counties, Fermanagh has firmly laid the ghost of the bad old days, thanks to a most forward-looking administration—headed by chairman John McElholm and secretary Malachy Mahon—which has brought that unity of purpose which will not be denied.

The upsurge in playing standards is clearly reflected by the performances over the past two years in the under-21 championship and National Football League. Defeat against Derry has merely postponed the final breakthrough.

And when Fermanagh do win that Ulster title—or even greater honours—as I am convinced they will in the not too distant future much of the credit will surely belong to that very enlightened youth programme now securely established in the county.

Indeed, many of the so-called more glamorous counties might well take a leaf out of the Erne book if they are really serious

about responding to president Pat Fanning's clarion call at Congress: "The G.A.A. is for young people and young people hold the key to its future."

But not nearly enough publicity has been given to the Fermanagh Youth Board which has the responsibility for all under-age activity. I confess, rather shamefacedly, that I was certainly in the dark until I had a word with secretary Seamus McCusker recently.

Emphasising that he was merely a spokesman for the board, 23-year-old Seamus, a teacher and member of the senior county panel, outlined a campaign which, if logic means anything, must soon begin to pay handsome dividends.

In a tribute to all those responsible for the support currently being accorded the Youth Board's activities, the secretary singled out the Fermanagh County Committee, the clubs for their all round co-operation, the Intermediate schools which had "come

as a boon" to the county, St. Michael's College, Enniskillen Technical College and the many teachers "now repaying in full measure what they had got out of the Association." He regarded Fermanagh's success in the Ulster Vocational Schools' championship as "an encouraging sign of the times."

With a heartening degree of independence—"we are virtually autonomous," the secretary said—the youth board is currently involved in three major under-age all-county leagues. No fewer than 16 teams take part at under-14 level (with the matches played off on Saturdays) while there are 17 teams in the under-16 league with 18 in the under-18 or minor campaign.

McCusker, who took over as secretary of the Youth Board at the January Convention, is in no doubt at all about the "crisis in allegiance" facing the Association in its dealing with the young people of today. "As I see it," he stressed, "the writing on the wall has become clearer and clearer. Unless we are prepared to offer youth an attractive and regular programme of matches they will go elsewhere and who can really blame them? The soccer authorities can provide this programme and I fail to see why the G.A.A., with the tremendous volume of good will at its disposal, cannot do likewise."

This was a submission with which few could disagree, embodying as it does, much of the sentiment expressed in the recent Commission Report, now the subject of examination by county boards throughout the country.

Incidentally, Seamus McCusker is very anxious for his charges to meet other counties in representative games at under-14, under-16 or under-18 level. Already a real plum fixture for the under-14s lies in that invitation from the Dublin Schools' Board for Fermanagh to meet Dublin as a curtain raiser to the annual game between the counties' senior sides.

"This should prove a great incentive to the boys," the secretary pointed out. "Equally important it will help us to nail the myth about Croke Park nerves. If we can get our players there young enough and often enough there should be little to fear on this point when they go as seniors."

But what about the very young boys who may be finding it difficult to win places on their clubs' under-14 teams? Well, there is good news for them too. A drive is under way—spearheaded by Mr. John Donnelly of St. Michael's Primary School—to investigate the feasibility of a primary schools' competition.

It seemed unfair to ask

Seamus McCusker if his Board had any other plans in mind, but he anticipated the question by suggesting that he would like to see a residential coaching course organised in the summer. "When the Kerry representatives complained at Congress about falling standards because of neglect of coaching it is surely time for us all to take note," he remarked.

Fermanagh County Youth Board may be aiming high both in the range of its competitions and its plans for the future. Somehow I cannot believe it will be disappointed with the response.

## CAMOGIE

### ● FROM PAGE 15

The Coaching Courses will, of course, be a great help in this respect, and I am hopeful of a great resurgence in the Connacht standard after this year's National Coaching Course which will be held in mid-July in St. Joseph's College, Garbally Park, Ballinasloe. It was the decision of the Course Committee, and I think a wise one, that instead of bringing the girls from all Provinces to the National Course, the Course should be brought to all provinces in turn. The turnout at Ballinasloe will test the wisdom, or otherwise, of that decision.

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# JUNIOR DESK

A section for  
the  
young reader

*This space is  
reserved for  
a new picture  
of Jack Mahon.*

PRESENTED BY **JACK MAHON**

SO you won't see that laughing hyena of a photograph of yours truly here any more! You like our full page Cut-out. I wish we could have two. Our Cut-out this month is Tipperary's All-Ireland winning captain of last year Tadhg O'Connor of Roscrea. A fine wing half back, Tadhg really hit the hurling scene last year. One really excellent clearance from him at a critical stage of last year's final stamped him as a man with a flair for the big occasion.

We are having no competition this month. The winners of the May competition for 4 copies of Raymond Smith's latest edition of "The Football Immortals" were as follows:

In Section One (under-twelves) the winners were: **Seán Furlong, Kilmaclegue, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford** (7 years); and **James Hubbert, North Square, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork** (11 years).

The correct answers were as follows:

- (1) Jim Colleary (Sligo)
- (2) Andy Dunworth (Limerick)
- (3) John Conway (Laois)
- (4) Brian McEniff (Donegal)
- (5) Con Roche (Cork)

- (6) Paudie Lynch (Kerry)
- (7) Mickey Fay (Meath)
- (8) Tom McGuinness (Derry)

In Section Two (thirteens to seventeens) the winners were: **Jimmy Cullen, Ballavarra, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny** (13 years); and **Michael Deady, Gortmolire, Lombardstown, Mallow, Co. Cork** (13 years).

The correct answer was: Dunny (Pat) of Kildare. We thank Raymond Smith once again and wish him success with the next edition of "The Hurling Immortals". We will want him to present 4 copies of the new book in the All-Ireland hurling final issue. O.K., Raymond?

## Tony McTague

This month we have no "Star in Focus" interview. Something better. After Tony McTague's fantastic display of place-kicking in the drawn League semi-final with Mayo, I asked him to let Junior Desk fans know how he felt after scoring the equaliser and other pertinent questions related to his expert place-kicking ability. This is what he had to say:

"I got no special thrill, except the satisfaction of not being

beaten. Over the last few years I have not practised "place-kicking" at all. But previously I spent every day, almost, practising in the local field, if not in the field, in my own backyard.

"I used to shoot the ball through a doorway from different parts of the yard with a rubber ball. (I kicked a million through this door). I did this sometimes at 10 o'clock in the morning or at 10 o'clock at night (form of madness) and, by the way, I got as much satisfaction from this as I ever got in Croke Park. I have always felt there are a number of things in place-kicking which are a must.

"Boots—at least 6 months' wear before using in game (never given to other player). I would be lost without my own boots.

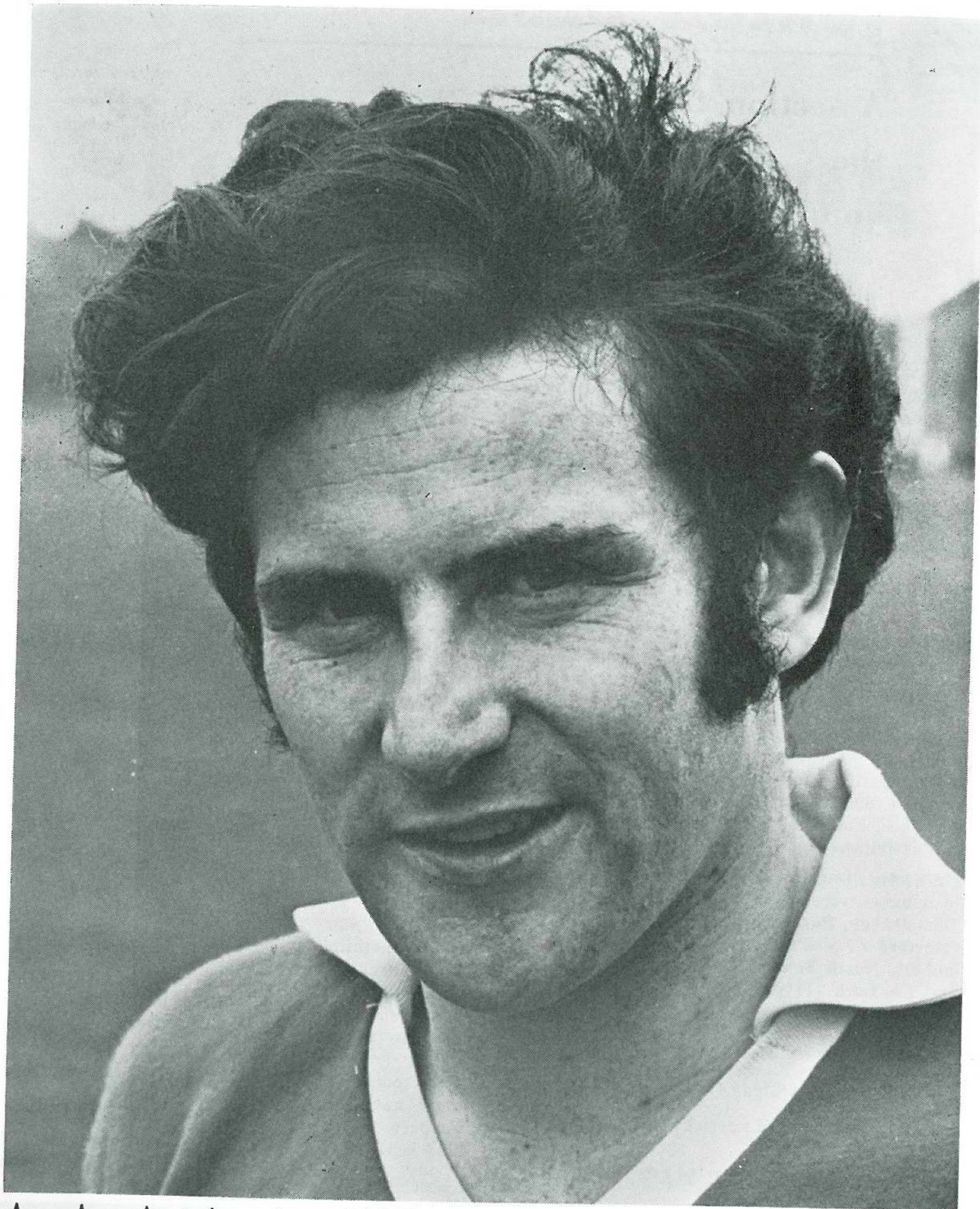
"Placing the ball — some players probably are different but it is necessary for me to place the ball. I place the lace of the ball in a certain way and direct the ball a little to the right of mid-posts.

"Concentration — as in all games, one has to keep the eye on the ball at all times.

"Word of advice—anything you do, do it for the benefit of your team."

● TO PAGE 47

**CUT-OUT** - - - - -



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **TADHG O'CONNOR, TIPPERARY**



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

## ● FROM PAGE 45

On behalf of Junior Desk I say a sincere go raibh maith agat, Tony.

## MAYO CREST

The idea begun in Mayo of presenting the Mayo crest to inter-county men who have recorded 50 or more appearances for Mayo seniors in League or Championship or to officials who have given 10 or more years of loyal service to the Mayo G.A.A. Board is a real gem. It is an honour not easily achieved and is an honour that cannot be bought. Immediately I thought that all counties should introduce a similar idea.

Being selfish I immediately wondered if I would qualify for such an honour myself. It took a fair bit of calculating but my number of senior league and championship outings for Galway totalled 68. Not bad. It was exciting. Sean Purcell must have topped the 100.

I don't know who had the idea but my suspicions point to Rev. Leo Morahan, Chairman of the Mayo County Board. Now here is one of the finest men I know. You know him—that man who compels you to look and listen to his most interesting "Outlook" programmes on TV. Fr. Morahan will be embarrassed to read my praise of him for we have been firm friends for years. He is one of the greatest characters I know. Mayo are very lucky to have him. The crest must be his idea.

## CONNACHT FINAL PROGRAMME

Last year we produced our first official Connacht S.F. final programme. Both programmes (draw and replay) were sold out. This year we are producing another souvenir programme and are

printing 12,000 of them. They will cost 7p each. So readers if you want a copy of one send me on a P.O. for 12p to cover postage as well. Don't forget all you programme hunters (three 4p stamps will do).

## FÉILE NA nGAEL

This is the month of the Féile na nGael in Co. Tipperary. In conjunction with the Féile, a Project Competition confined to National schools in Co. Tipperary has been sponsored by Allied



● Tony McTague

Irish Banks. In addition there is an essay competition for post-primary students. Last year's Féile was a great success. I would like very much to be present this year but there are so many things to see, aren't there? Once again, I wish our hurling friends a pleasant weekend in Co. Tipperary and pose the question once again to all our Gaelic football lovers. Why not a

Féile na nGael in Gaelic football at some other venue during some other weekend? Why not?

## AISHLING

Last month I reviewed "An Déiseach", Waterford's G.A.A. Annual edited by Séamus Ó Braonáin. This month I want to tell you about the monthly Cavan G.A.A. newspaper, "Aishling", the second issue of which I received to-day. Costing 5p, it is a superb review of the G.A.A. in the county embracing camogie, the schools, referees—you name it. Liberally sprinkled with good photos, the 12 page tabloid is an example to other Co. Boards of what we can do. I hope it can be maintained and that it will go from strength to strength. It is a credit to its editors. Rev. S. Brady, St. Patrick's College, Cavan will, I'm sure, be delighted to oblige any readers interested with a copy. Just send him on 10p for one (includes postage).

That's it for another month apart from the "Mailbag". This is championship time—the best time of the year. Holidays. Long evenings. Games everywhere. Great to be alive. I'll finish with a quotation from an article by the late Commdt. John Joe O'Reilly, the great Cavan captain from the May issue of "Aishling": "Some people say take up football to get fit. I say get fit before taking up football."

## From the Mailbag

Padraig Mannion, Currameigh, Toomard, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway — "The Michael O'Hehir interview was great. How about a Cut-out of P. J. Smyth—a second John Geraghty."

● Will last month's cover do? (J.M.)

Walter Walsh (Age 10 years), The Villa, Ellesmere Ave., Dublin 7 — "Yes I agree with Liam Jones. We are big Apes. The G.A.A. should make an agreement with Smiths Crisps or Tayto to give free stickers of G.A.A. stars that could be worn or stuck

● OVERLEAF

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on schoolbags or on hurleys. Why isn't there a G.A.A. shop, where you can get jerseys, kitbags, etc.?"

● *Now there are a few suggestions for a G.A.A. P.R.O. man. (J.M.)*

**J. P. O'Connor, Coumaleague, Ballyferriter, Tralee, Co. Kerry**—"Kerry won their only hurling title in 1891."

**Agnes Brogan, Ballyknock, Bofeenaun, Ballina, Co. Mayo**—"Liam Jones is right. Irish companies will only benefit themselves if they sponsor G.A.A. competitions. Please interview Willie McGee. Brian O'Reilly is great."

● *I agree on all counts. Yes we will interview the great Willie sometime. The greatest goalscorer we have. (J.M.)*

**Gerard Murray, Main Street, Charleston, Co. Mayo**—"Junior Desk improves all the time. Can we have a Cut-out of a handballer?"

● *Sometime. D.V. (J.M.)*

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**—"My favourites are Damien Martin, Tony Doran, Eamonn Cregan, Ray Cummins, P. J. Smyth, Nick Clavin, Willie Bryan and Sean O'Neill."

**Joseph Doyle, Lansdowne Lodge, Kenmare, Co. Kerry**—"Yes we are awful apes. Why doesn't Green Ribbon Tea have a wall poster in Gaelic football as they have one of British soccer stars or indeed Irish soccer stars. Why always Cross-Channel soccer stars?"

● *I often wonder myself. (J.M.)*

**Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Sligo**—"The Cut-out of Mickey Kearins will have a proud place on the wall behind my bed. With G.A.A. ties, kitbags, scarves, the G.A.A. is on the move."

● *And so say all of us. (J.M.)*

**Kevin Nolan, 318 Carrick Road, Portlaw, Co. Waterford**—"Where could I buy a Tipperary jersey, size 34. I can't get one in the whole of Waterford?"

● *This vexes me. I still didn't get the Christmas present of an Offaly jersey for my son, John. Now he wants a Kerry jersey for his birthday. Surely we should be catering for the young people who want jerseys in the county colours. It is so obvious as to make me mad. Where can I get an Offaly jersey (size 30) or a Kerry jersey (size 30) or the Tipperary jersey for Kevin above. (J.M.)*

**Philip Parsons, Main St., Graigueenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny**—"I play hurling for Graig under-12 team."

**Michael Whelton, Castlehaven, Skibbereen, Co. Cork**—"I play hurling and football with Castlehaven. It is a great club. Donie Collins is from here and has brothers playing with us."

● *Be a good clubman always. (J.M.)*

**Peadar Ó Tuatáin, Lissan No. 1 School, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone**—"I am writing to Carrolls, Gael Linn and other bodies about sponsoring an All-Ireland Club Rounders Competition. Fr. Horan, O.M.I., Inchicore, Dublin, is in favour of it, too. I envisage a 3 months plan to sort out All-Ireland championships for males and females (not mixed teams) in August, September and October. If publicity was given to this, I think we could save the game from the Commission-recommended fate and provide the G.A.A. and Ireland with a new dimension in sport."

● *Peadar is a great Rounders enthusiast. Listen readers would you like to hear about rounders? Or do you care. If you do let me know and I'll tell you about the rules of the game. Personally I'd hate to see any game of ours die while there is one person in Ireland anxious to derive enjoyment from it. I know nothing about rounders but I aim to learn. (J.M.)*

Our final letter is from **P. V. O'Neill, Director, O'Neils, Irish International Sports Co., 94 Capel St., Dublin 1**—"Dear Mr. Mahon, Being aware of your expert knowledge on G.A.A. affairs and having read many of your fine articles on the game, I wish to inform you that we have introduced a new laceless ball to the game and like all footballs it can be completely destroyed by over inflation. Unfortunately the tendency to over-inflate this ball is even greater. The other note of warning I would like to add is that the ball should not be used on a pitch where it may be kicked into bushes and punctured. Should this ball become punctured, it is a costly job to have it repaired as a new bladder has to be fitted and the case re-stitched."

That's all from the Mailbag this month. If you want to write me about anything please do. Your juvenile team, your trainer, your teacher, your idol, your favourite game—anything. I hope you all wrote to Ray Cummins, The Sports Centre, 36 Princes St., Cork, about the kitbag. It is a grand job—the Galway one is anyhow. It is perhaps a shade big for juveniles. Better that way than too small. Send your letters to me marked:

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● FROM PAGE 33

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