

116 GAA

# Gaelic Sport

MAY, 1972

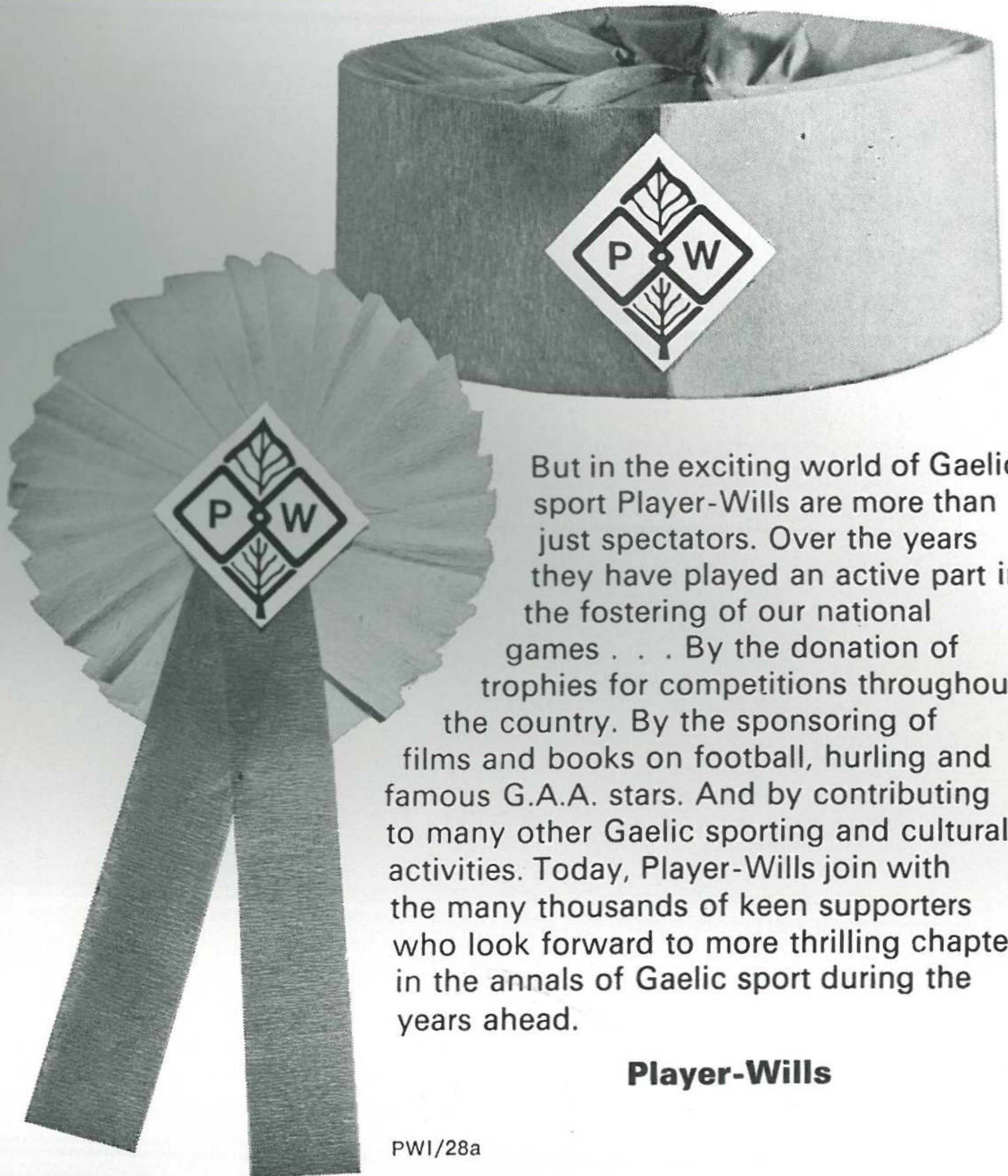
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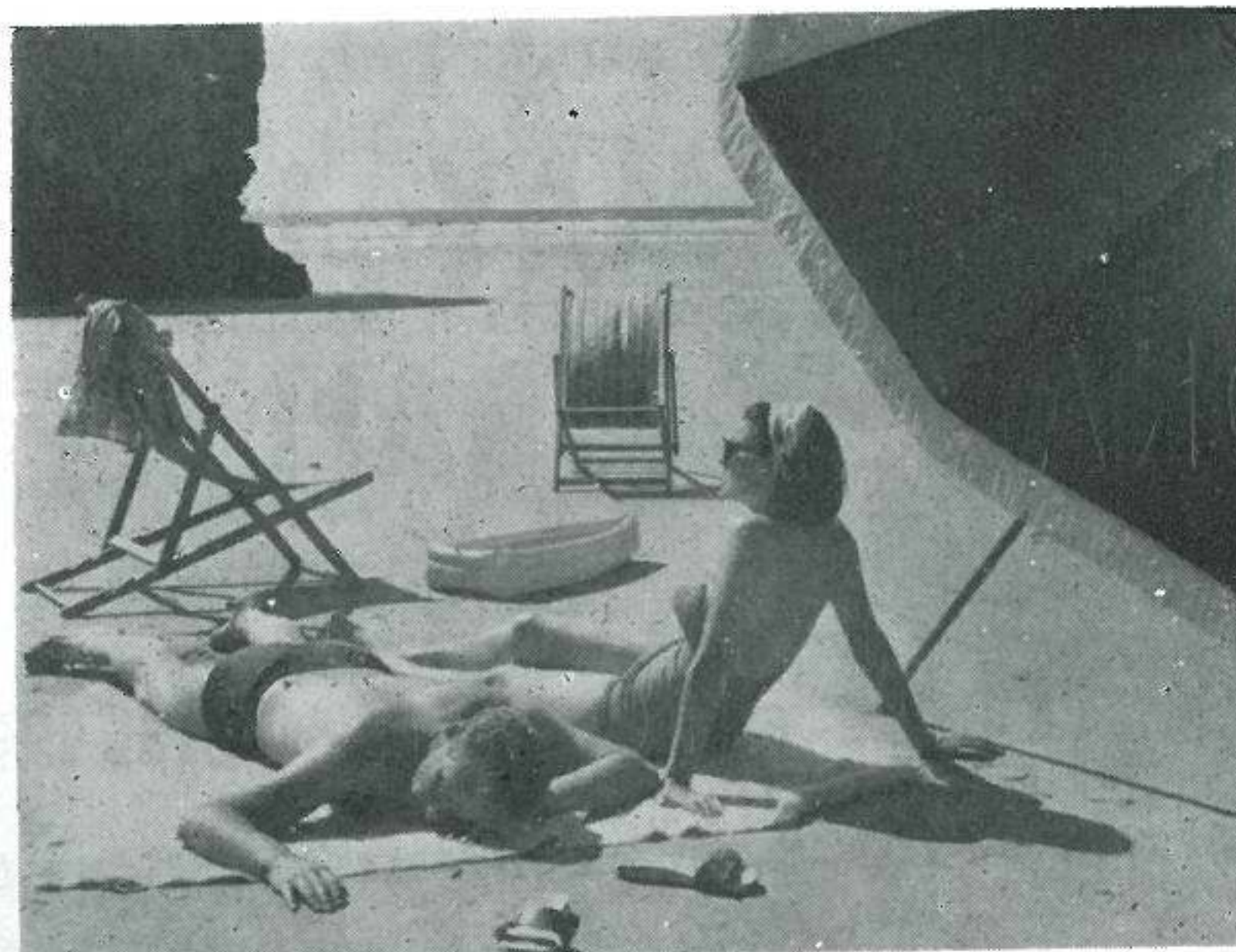
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GD 771B

# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 15. No. 5. MAY, 1972

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## COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover star this month is Ray Prendergast of Mayo. Ray, who plays club football with Castlebar Mitchells, has been a regular on the Mayo senior team since 1961, apart from a short sojourn in England and currently is playing as well as ever. Owen McCann takes a closer look at the Mayo No. 3 on page seven in this issue.

## WESTWARD HO!

ACCORDING to all reports—from pressmen, players and officials—the recent visit to San Francisco by Offaly, Tipperary and the All-Stars teams was a big success.

It was a tremendous undertaking, particularly on the part of the United Irish Societies in San Francisco, and we hope that it will continue to be a glittering annual event for many years to come.

However, no matter how long it goes on, it must remain a secondary tour, in official terms, compared with our competitive contacts with New York.

The big difference between the two is that the games in San Francisco are played between teams from Ireland (simply because opposition of requisite strength is not available in that city), whereas New York can still field teams which, playing on their own Gaelic Park, are often comparable with and occasionally better than the best in Ireland.

It is in this area that the biggest promotion of tours must be concentrated, since it offers us the best guarantee of continuing visits abroad for football and hurling teams over an indefinite period. New York will look upon the situation with similar sentiments, because, as well as desiring the visits of Irish teams to that city, they, too, want to send their teams to Ireland regularly.

That is not to say that we should not do all we can to promote the San Francisco enterprise (and any other that may arise) as a special bonus for our players.

Finally, we heartily welcome the resumption of tours to New York next month and wish the teams *bon voyage*.

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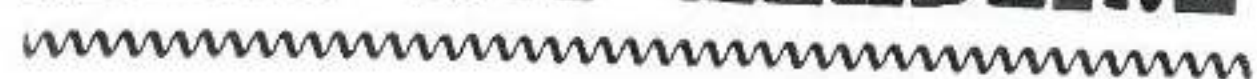


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## MAYO SET HEADLINE



# PRENDERGAST ONE OF SELECT GROUP

By OWEN McCANN

AN imaginative and welcome headline from Mayo. The county has decided to award in future a specially designed crest to each footballer who appears fifty times in the Mayo colours in games embracing the National League and the Championship. This is a splendid way to recognise long-service to the county (crests will also go, by the way, to County Board members of ten years standing), and is a tangible move that could profitably be followed, too, by other County Boards.

A number of the current Mayo outfit have already been honoured. They are John Morley, Ray Prendergast, Joe Langan, P. J. Loftus, Joe Corcoran and Johnny Carey, who have all appeared more than fifty times in the county colours in the premier competitions.

Prendergast's inclusion in the elite group set me thinking not only about his years in the famed green and red jersey, but of the outstanding contribution he has made to what must rank as one of the most remarkable family records in the history of football.

Ray is the third of three bro-

thers to wear the No. 3 county senior jersey. Back in 1946 Tom was the Mayo full-back. Then came Paddy, who highlighted a wonderful career by winning All-Ireland senior medals in 1950 and 1951.

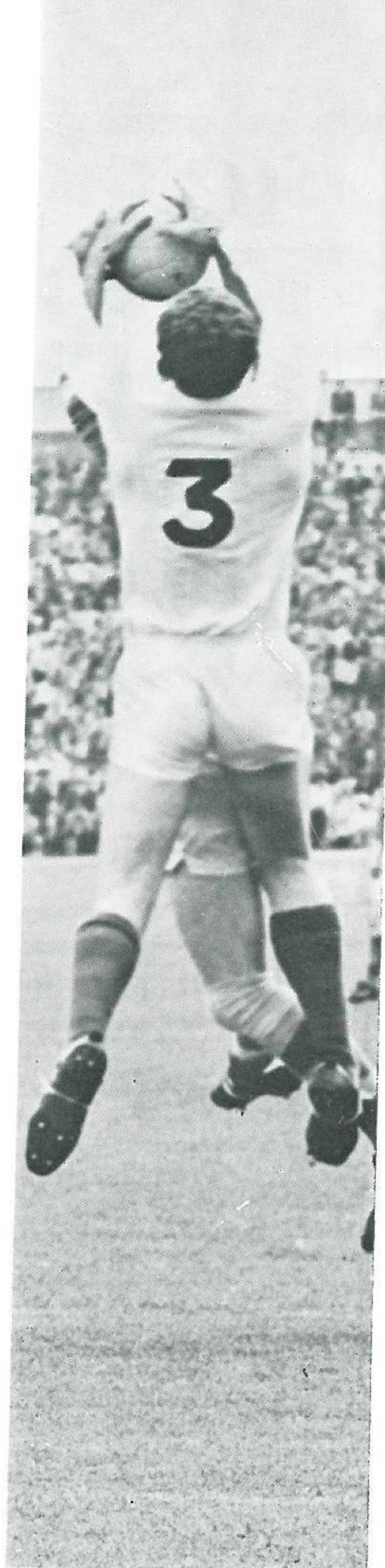
Paddy created such an outstanding impression in a real golden era for Mayo that it was inevitable that Ray's football skills invited critical comparison when he first began to make his imprint. That is the inevitable fate of any brother following in the footsteps of one who has hit the headlines, or of a son in the shoes of a famous father.

But with enthusiasm, dedication and natural talent this is the type of challenge that can be faced up to and taken in its stride. And Ray Prendergast has achieved just that!

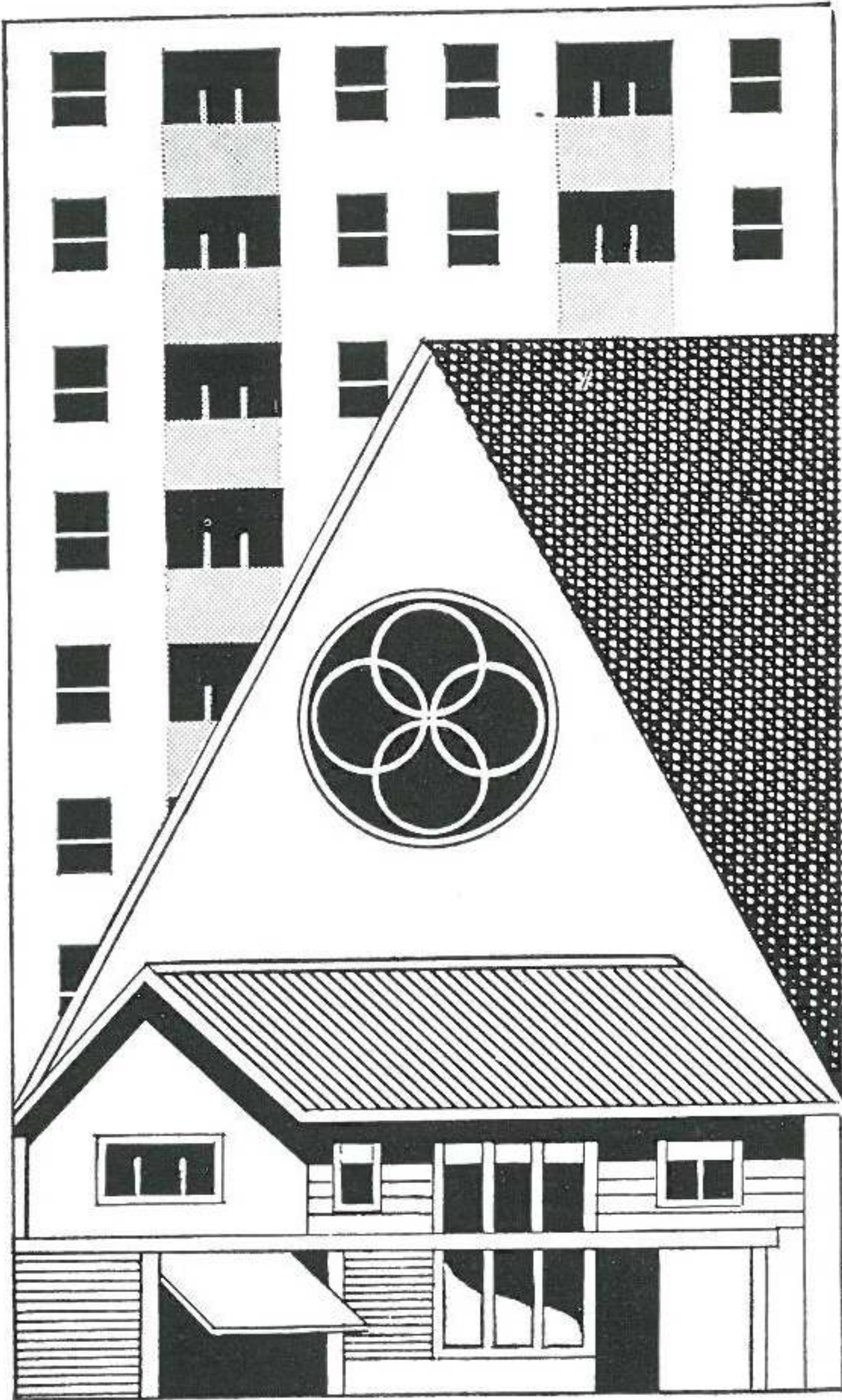
He does not walk in the shadows of his brothers. He is an original in his own right — a man who is leaving his own mark on the scene with dashing play and all-round flair.

Measure his qualities any way you will, and he emerges as a

● TO PAGE 9



● Mayo's Ray Prendergast goes high for this one.



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● FROM PAGE 7

champion competitor among the true champions.

Ray is a brilliant fielder. This is probably the chief weapon in his armoury. His positional sense is also superb, and his clearances are invariably unhurried and intelligently placed. In short, he has mastered in expert fashion all the skills of back play at its best.

Prendergast's potential was evident in his younger days. He had a good grounding in schools competitions, and he also played with the Mayo junior squad before winning his place at right full back in the senior team in the National League campaign of 1961-62.

Subsequently, a series of injuries and a period of emigration in England kept him out of the county side for about three years. He returned to live permanently in Castlebar around 1964, and soon regained his place in the Mayo senior squad.

In this modern era that for Mayo has been one of glimpses of old glory repeatedly dashed by important defeats, Ray Prendergast, who is now in his early 'thirties, has been one of their most consistent players. He was at full back when Mayo regained the Connacht title in 1967 after an interval of twelve years, but Meath ended the high hopes in the All-Ireland semi-final. Two years later he won a second Connacht senior medal, and then Kerry ousted the West from the Sam Maguire Cup race.

Nevertheless, the cool, cagey Mayo full-back has still plenty to show medal-wise for his years in football. In addition to those Connacht senior souvenirs, he holds one Railway Cup medal. He has not figured on an actual Cup final winning side (in his only outing in a final in 1969 Connacht lost to Ulster), but he was an



● JOE LANGAN

official substitute in the team that took the 1967 title.

Ray, who is a member of the Castlebar Mitchels club, was also a prominent figure in the march that culminated in the National League title returning to the county in 1969-70 after an absence of 16 years. He has also put his football skills on parade at Wembley Stadium, and played with Connacht in the Cardinal Cushing Games in the U.S. a couple of years back.

All in all, then, an impressive enough haul, even if the most coveted medal of them all is still missing. Will the Championship campaign now swinging into gear bring a change of fortune?

I would not be prepared to take any bets. But of one thing I am certain — the intelligent manner in which Ray Prendergast continues to turn on the style at full back marks him out as a footballer to figure prominently in the headlines in what promises to be such an exciting Championship season.

# TOP TEN

**F**OR his tremendous feat in scoring 14 points against Mayo in the National Football League semi-final on April 16, Offaly's captain, Tony McTague, gets top place with a maximum 10 points (rarely awarded) in our football rankings this month.

Clinching the accolade for the brilliant Ferbane place-kicker was the point from a free which drew the match for Offaly as time had run out. McTague kicked 11 of his 14 points from frees and two from 50s.

Performances of players in San Francisco were taken into account when the lists were being compiled from games played from March 19 to April 16, inclusive.

## FOOTBALL

- (10) A. McTague ..... (Offaly)
- (9) D. O'Sullivan ..... (Kerry)
- (9) J. Morley ..... (Mayo)
- (9) R. Prendergast ... (Mayo)
- (9) N. Clavin ..... (Offaly)
- (8) L. Diamond ..... (Derry)
- (8) M. O'Dwyer ..... (Kerry)
- (8) E. Fitzgerald ..... (Kerry)
- (8) K. Kilmurray ..... (Offaly)
- (7) J. O'Leary ..... (Derry)

## HURLING

- (9) R. Cummins ..... (Cork)
- (9) D. Martin ..... (Offaly)
- (9) L. King ..... (Tipperary)
- (8) D. Duggan ... (Waterford)
- (8) F. Loughnane (Tipperary)
- (8) S. Looney ..... (Cork)
- (8) S. Greene ..... (Waterford)
- (8) E. Cregan ..... (Limerick)
- (8) F. Cummins ... (Kilkenny)
- (7) S. O'Leary ..... (Cork)

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# PLAY FAIR WITH THE 'REGULARS'

## THAT TICKET SCHEME

By OWEN McCANN

I HAVE no wish to go over old ground with regard to the controversy sparked off by the Central Council scheme to sell 2,000 Hogan Stand tickets on a 20-year basis at £100 each. The proposal received a thorough airing from both points of view in last month's GAELIC SPORT, and delegates at the annual Congress in Cork also had their say.

But I am disappointed that in all the arguments for and against no consideration was given to the position of the many who support Gaelic games week in, week out, without having any affiliations with a particular club team. These are the people who will be found at Croke Park or Thurles, at Belfast's Casement Park, or Galway's Pearse Stadium on any afternoon a match is staged there, regardless of the teams in action.

They have their favourite teams, of course, both club and county. But basically, hurling and football, and not teams, are the top priorities with such supporters. They go regularly to their local venue because they are passionately interested in the games; because they have the well-being of the Association deeply at heart, and also because the national games are the sports that provide them with the maximum enjoyment and satisfaction.

These fans also generally frequent the same area at each venue. In this way they get to know each other by sight, though not by name, and the friendships that blossom forth as a result becomes another important part of the attraction of an afternoon at

Croke Park, or whatever the venue.

The G.A.A. owes much to such supporters. They can be depended on to turn up during the winter months, for instance, when many others prefer the comfort of the fireside and the attraction of television.

This is particularly true at Croke Park. In recent years the Dublin hurlers have not been enjoying much support in their home ties in the National League. Without the hard core of headquarters regulars the gate receipts would have been much thinner. One can point to other examples—the sparse crowd at the televised Leinster Colleges' Senior Football Championship final in March. Here again, it was generally the regulars who paid the bulk of the cash at the turnstiles.

In short, the Croke Park regulars and those of other venues, are the people who are paying out their hard-earned money during the months when it is needed probably most of all.

And, what, you may well ask, has all this to do with All-Ireland final tickets? Well, the irony of the situation is that these very supporters I have been writing about are the ones who generally miss out on the two show-piece games of the year. The reason is that because they are not actively associated with any club they find it next to impossible to get a ticket for an All-Ireland final.

This is understandable enough. Any club man with a ticket to spare is not going to pass over a member of his own club in

favour of a non-member, even if he knows full well that the non-member is a much more ardent supporter of the games, attendance-wise, than his club colleague.

It will be argued, of course, that there is nothing to stop a non-club man from seeking admission to the standing accommodation at the Canal End, or on Hill 16 on All-Ireland final days. But the fact of the matter is that not everyone likes to watch a game from a goal-end.

This is one of the biggest weaknesses in the current Croke Park set-up. The many thousands who much prefer to watch any game from a point along the sideline are not catered for as regards standing accommodation. That's why many of the people who, although regulars at games throughout the year, still prefer the live telecast than a place on the Canal End or on Hill 16 on All-Ireland final days.

I say it is time the G.A.A. played fair with these regulars. After all, the butcher, the baker and the grocer look after their regulars, so why not the G.A.A.?

What can the Association do? Well, in this technological age it should be practicable, surely, to install vending-type machines at the principal venues throughout the country. Supporters could then be equipped with a yearly ticket to be date stamped by the machine at a selected number of games at the venues from October to the following April.

This period would take in the worst weather conditions of the year, and the selected games

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# Mind your own business.

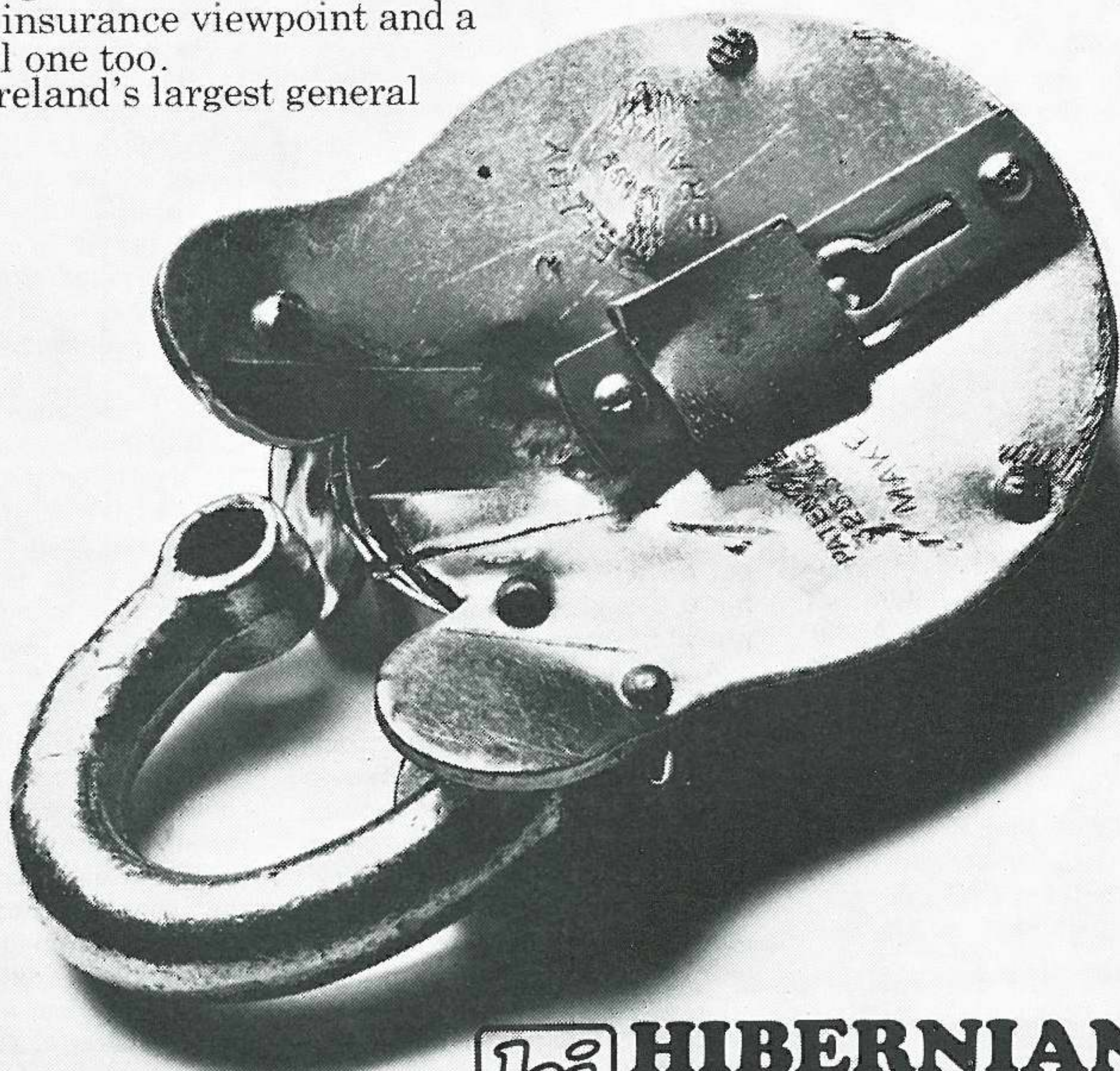
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## END OF AN ERA

WHEN Padraig McNamee retired as one of the Association's trustees at the recent Congress in Cork it was the end of an era dating back to 1930—and an event sincerely regretted not only in his native Ulster but throughout the country.

Padraig's record is too well known to require detailed repetition here. The respect — and affection—in which he is held throughout the organisation which he has served so well, is a better tribute than the pen can compose.

Born in Mullaghbawn, that historic village in South Armagh, he has spent most of his life in Holywood in County Down, but for G.A.A. purposes Padraig was an Antrim man who never missed a term on the Central Council in those 42 years since 1930.

During this lengthy stint he had the unique distinction of serving two spells as President (1938-1943) and he was in the chair during the famous controversy when Dr. Douglas Hyde, then President of Ireland, was suspended under the now defunct Ban rules.

When the Central Council sought a chairman to preside over the two-year workings of the Commission, whose report will be the subject of the Special Congress later in the year, it turned to McNamee and it was this role which has, perhaps, given him the greatest satisfaction. "This was the most dedicated body of

men I ever saw," he has remarked, a sentiment already reciprocated by his colleagues on the Commission.

It is good to know that Padraig still remains a member of the History Sub-committee, a role he will retain until this work is completed. "Not many people know about this History Committee because as yet we don't have much to report," he said. "We are compiling an in-depth history of the Association and I'm hoping that this will be ready within a year."

All the same the Central Council will not be the same without him.

About Congress itself it was very much a "no change event" and of course to be absolutely fair to the delegates there was little real meat on which to chew. There is no longer any Ban to generate heat, playing rules are not due for revision until 1975 while clearly most counties are reserving their liveliest ammunition for the Special Congress later.

Personally I regard the decision to have a countrywide discussion at county board level on the Central Council's longterm plan for the sale of Hogan Stand tickets, as the most heartening development in this year's deliberations. Although the principle of long-term selling stands, at least each county will now have the opportunity of conveying its precise wishes on the question to

its Central Council delegate.

Con Murphy (Cork), I thought, put his finger on the main reason for the present controversy over the scheme when he declared: "A lot of the trouble about the 20-year tickets was caused by bad communications before the scheme was launched." I couldn't agree more.

If only for the sake of Jim Mullarkey, Johnny Moriarty and Pat McCabe I was glad that the champions of Britain are to be admitted to the All-Ireland minor football championship, and full marks to Derry on piloting through that motion setting up a committee to examine the playing rules.

But perhaps the move which the man on the terrace will welcome most was the decision—sponsored by Dublin—outlawing "bottle carrying mentors and over-zealous team handlers and officials from making those irritating incursions on to the playing pitch." In future such incursions are to be allowed only with the permission of the referee. I sincerely hope that salutary penalties will be introduced for infringements of an arrangement which is long overdue.

Mayo's request for the setting up of a National Referees' Committee is, happily, not yet lost. Like those very worthwhile proposals to have the playing rules revised every three years instead

● TO PAGE 47

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By  
**TONY REID**

# GAELIC

# SCRAPBOOK

ANY account of the sporting activities during 1939 must be overshadowed by the events on the world political front during the year. War and rumours of war were rife throughout these twelve fateful months until finally, on Sunday, September 3, at 11 o'clock in the morning, Britain declared that a state of war existed between her and Germany. Six hours later France issued a similar statement and the six-year holocaust had "officially" begun.

In January the death of Pope Pius XI occurred and a couple of weeks later his successor, the late Pope Pius XII was elected to replace him. During this same month William Butler Yeats died at Mentrone, on the Riviera.

It was another year of surprises on the G.A.A. front, with new powers rising to replace reigning champions giving the games that impetus that comes from the glorious uncertainty which is traditional in football and hurling.

Before the championships opened both Kerry and Galway enjoyed a most satisfactory tour of the eastern cities of the U.S.A. although from a financial standpoint things could have been better.

Meath's footballers deserve special mention as they shocked all the big guns in Leinster by their surprising upsurge. When Leinster won the Railway Cup in March it was the Meath players on the team that played a major part in making the victory possible. Leinster provided the

sterner championship tests in 1939 and when the campaign got under way the first shock was handed out when Meath eliminated the holders Laois.

Kildare, who had been building towards a comeback for some time, were the next victims of the Royal County marvels. For the first time in forty-four years Meath had won the Leinster football title.

In Connacht a tremendous final was fought out between Mayo and Galway. So great was the excitement that the playing field was invaded time and again by enthusiastic followers of both sides. At times the crowd pressure was so great that a narrow passage down the middle of the field was all that the rival teams had to manoeuvre on. The match was played in Roscommon and Mayo emerged the victors.

Cavan and Armagh attracted so much attention that the Ulster final between the sides had to be brought to Croke Park as it was impossible to find a venue suitable enough to hold the crowds in Ulster. Cavan won, 2-3 to 1-4, and qualified to meet Meath in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Kerry skated through Munster, trouncing Tipperary in a disappointing final.

The semi-finals resulted in a Kerry v Meath final confrontation. Mayo held the Kingdom to a low scoring draw, but they fell away badly in the replay and lost by ten points. Although Meath beat Cavan by 1-9 to 1-1 the match was far closer than

might be imagined.

In the All-Ireland final, Kerry played in the red and white colours of Dingle to avoid a clash with the green and gold of Royal Meath. The match itself was a little disappointing although it was eagerly contested. Kerry set up an early lead but by half-time the sides were level at 1-2 apiece. In the second half, a great Meath fight-back almost shocked Kerry. Ball after ball landed in the Munstermen's goalmouth but luck was not going to smile on Meath. Danno Keeffe stood between Meath and their first title and he was more than happy when the final whistle sounded to leave his side winners by 2-5 to 2-3. It was a brave show by the losers and they gained many new admirers as a result of their great efforts during the long campaign of 1939.

There was few better years for hurling than the period under review this month. Munster again threw up a packet of really great games, such as Limerick against Tipperary, Waterford v Cork and Cork's superb match with Limerick. The Munster final was played at Thurles in front of 50,000 people, a new record attendance for a provincial final. Both Cork and Limerick in turn looked potential winners as the game swayed to and fro, with the supporters enjoying a feast of hurling skills and thrills. Nearing time, it looked like being Limerick's title, but a brilliant effort by Cork's forwards pulled the match their way with a late

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# WHAT NOW FOR CORK?

By EAMONN YOUNG

JUST because Cork beat Offaly by 18 points Galway by 16 and Tipperary by seven some folk are saying that the Leaside players are back with a big bang. In fact the true Cork supporter is not counting his chicks too soon.

Last year it was expected that Cork would have a sound team and challenge well for the All-Ireland once again. On the day against Limerick the men in the red jerseys were simply hopeless. That is not to say that several played quite well but as a team they were as the West Corkman said to me: "a fishtful of God-help-usheens." Some of the best were injured and others were well out of position. Limerick were pretty capable and deserved a win. No one begrudged them an All-Ireland but they just weren't good enough which proved to me anyhow that Cork were not in the class.

But this year's Cork team is different. They were pretty bad before Christmas and a lack of harmony didn't help. Gerald McCarthy was suspended as a result of a county final between Barrs and Rockies and generally the morale wasn't high. However, things are different now. McCarthy isn't back yet and, being always an admirer of his skilful and uncompromising championship hurling. I hope he hasn't waited for the end of his suspension to get really fit, for ability to hurl in the Munster championship isn't something you get by putting a coin in the slot.

Cork beat Tipp on April 16, and after all, the men in blue and gold weren't exactly novices.

Tipp had a solid side which was doing the important thing: winning, and with the championship around the corner the McCarthy Cup holders were very determined to hold on to it and still stand a fair good chance of doing so.

Take a look at Cork's strength, or weakness if you want to put it that way. Paddy Barry, the goalie, is playing well and sparkled in the fitful sunshine of Limerick against Galway. Pat McDonnell, the best hurler I've seen at full back, is improving his stopping ability which was not at all good, for McDonnell hurled the ball and very often forgot about the man. His corner backs, Brian Murphy and Paddy Crowley, are strong solid players who have plenty championship experience, and then there's Tony Maher to step in if he recovers, as expected, his very resolute and crafty stopping ability shown before he went out of the game with a head injury last October in the county final. Maher has already played in the San Francisco games and his form is being watched closely now. He wasn't on the side against Galway, but I won't be surprised if he does come back.

Seamus Looney, hurling with style and vigour, is improved a lot at centre-back and this more than anything else gives a reason for confidence, for without a good man in that spot you are only whistling in the wind. Frank Norberg, solid at right wing back, and Con Roche, hurling with his old elan, complete a backline that may be good enough to hold even a dangerous forward line to a fair

score. Teddy O'Brien, a very lively and versatile half back, and John Horgan, the fair-haired corner back who was very good 12 months ago, are the other men in defence, where I have now named 10.

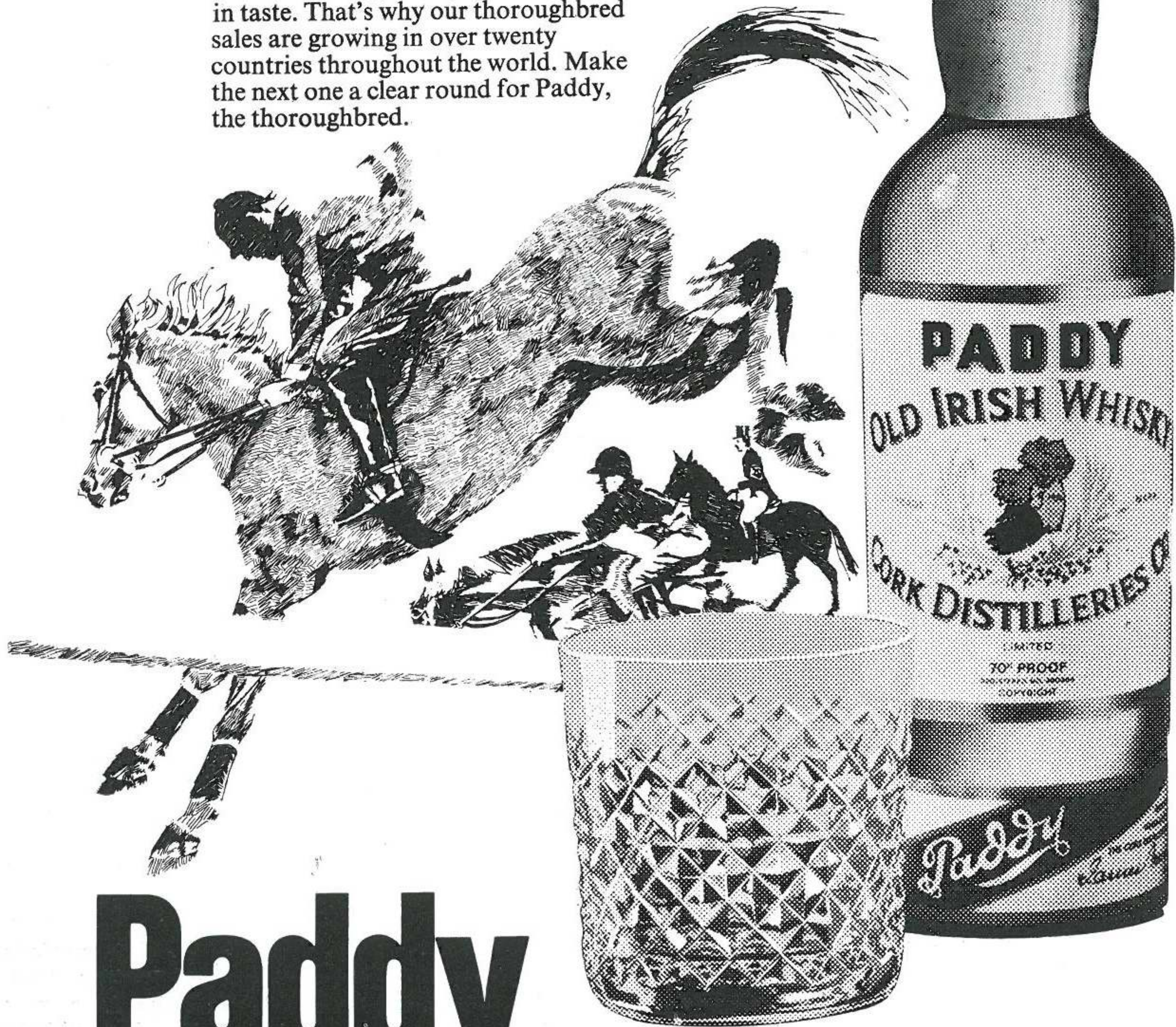
Centre field is not the team's strongest sector, even though it may well become so. At the moment Simon Murphy and McCarthy, two very good and experienced players, are not in top form but one feels that with another month's careful training they should be right for the championship. Then Gerald McCarthy should be back and one mustn't forget that Denis Coughlan is a very neat hurler on his day.

In the forwards there is Ray Cummins on the mark, and if the tall Rockies player is fit his general ability makes him quite formidable, while Charlie McCarthy is running and hitting that sliotar well once again. Pat Hegarty at left wing—he lost his father suddenly on Patrick's Day when the veteran was looking at the Railway Cup game on television—is coming back into form and the new man, Seanie Leary of Youghal, a very strong bustling young player who rounds his man well and strikes a good ball, combines with energetic Mick Malone, the centre-forward. The sixth man in the forwards is the tall young Rockies man, Doney Collins, who is a very sweet hurler. He has still to prove himself and indeed so have several of the side, which is the reason why, after saying that Cork have potential, one must pause and reflect on the

● TO PAGE 45

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# Paddy

## The Thoroughbred

# WILL THE ALL-STARS IDEA SURVIVE?

**T**ASTES in the mouth after the Offaly operation having been washed out with extra-strength mouthwash, we can again try to get those All-Stars and All-Ireland Champions tours into perspective and try also to find their worth.

Of course, it is true that the tours to the States (and elsewhere) are something of a perk for the best players and the best teams. This has been something of an acknowledged thing in the G.A.A. from away back. It may well be that earlier tourists felt something more of the evangelical spirit in their setting out, but there is little doubt that they looked on a tour as a nice holiday, too.

Accepted then that these little extras to which the great achievers of the Association's history have something of a right have done harm neither to themselves nor to the games, we might ask what they have done for the games in the States, in particular.

Here you judge by impressions which you collect from the other side, since we have little enough evidence at home to suggest that any great or measur-

able change has been wrought. In fact, it is well established among emigrants of the various generations that were it not for the constant to-and-fro interchange, it would be deadly difficult to maintain the fresh and eager attitude which so many of them take to Gaelic games.

There are some who would have it that it is a deliberate cultivation of a ghetto mentality on the part of the Irish abroad. That they should "integrate." They should not be forever looking back and longing for things past—cut the umbilical cord and fend for themselves detached forever from their motherland.

As against that one must make a plea for nature; the influence of that quality in one which makes one long for one's sources; and that need in one to have roots and a past. This is something quite natural and precious to most people with any of the sensitivity and human charity which makes them worthwhile citizens of the world as much as worthwhile citizens of a particular country. In a nutshell, those who can cut loose from their

roots callously, forget a past as though casting off an old shoe, are those very people of no understanding of their fellow men. They are often the ones who make ruthless millions, I suppose, but at what cost to the little values of others and at what benefit to themselves.

It strikes me that any country absorbing into it citizens of another country would wish that they retained much of their identity; it would seem to be the guarantee that they were humans; with human feelings, with community concern and with all the best things that make men socially worthwhile.

So, they prefer to keep to themselves. But, this is not the record of the Irish in the States, at any rate. Their record of achievement, of sheer hard work, of interest in the social institutions and even the politics of their new home is amply demonstrated. And it makes no difference to their new allegiance that they prefer to recharge their batteries at the Gaelic games and in meeting their fellow Irish-Americans.

Any fall-off for the ideals of those emigrant and American-Irish would be unworthy. To that extent it is reasonable to suggest that tours, in themselves, are highly to be commended.

In passing, however, it would be well to remember that they contribute nothing at all to the Association at home, unless you count the outlet for ambition that they form. But, for the ordinary club and the ordinary member, they might as well have never been invented.

The All-Stars idea, in particular, was a well-conceived one in the context of a tour abroad.

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It would have been unlikely to succeed unless there was either a carrot attached in the way of reward, or a test in the way of a serious match.

Previous efforts at selecting Ireland or Universities and Ireland were doomed to failure because there was never a credible way in which the team could show its paces or be tested in them. Nor was there any reward.

Of course, there is still no possible way in which some diffi-

culties can be overcome. The All-Ireland champions will be the only opposition which would not be overmatched against them. Yet, these champion sides will, automatically almost, contain several of the All-Stars. So, it would appear that the selection of the All-Stars is still an academic, pencil and paper kind of exercise. When it comes to going on the field, what you really have, in fact, is the All-Ireland champions against The Rest.

But, one recalls that this very fixture was quite popular up to

a few years ago, yet outlived its welcome. Thus, it would appear that the All-Stars idea rests on just one thing—the attraction of a glamorous trip abroad, perhaps to the Californian sun. At home, this may give the best players an interest in the idea and in its continuation; but, to the rank and file membership, it has no such attraction going for it. It should not be too long before they lose interest in the selection of other representative sides. If that happens, will the All-Stars die the death?



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## R.T.E. TEAM IN U.S.

WHEN the All-Ireland football champions, Offaly, and hurling champions, Tipperary, flew to San Francisco on March 23 together with the Carrolls All-Star hurling and football teams, to play at Balbao Stadium on Sundays March 26th and April 2nd, an RTE team accompanied them and sent back filmed and radio reports of the games.

The team comprised Michael O'Carroll (director), Mick Dunne (reporter), Eileen Good (production assistant), Sean Kelleher (cameraman) and Brian Lynch (sound operator).

On Wednesday, March 29, RTE television transmitted a 50-minute

programme in colour showing the highlights of the previous Sunday's matches. The commentary was by RTE's Head of Sport, Michael O'Hehir, who was in San Francisco for the games on the first Sunday of the trip. Edited highlights of the April 2 matches were shown on Saturday, April 8, in Sports Special following the live telecast of the Aintree Grand National.

Reports of the San Francisco games were given on RTE radio by Mick Dunne after the 9.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. news bulletins on March 27 and April 3. Progress reports on the tour, as well as interviews were also included in

*The R.T.E. team which covered the San Francisco tour of the All-Ireland champions and the All-Star hurling and football teams. They are (left to right): Mick Dunne (R.T.E.'s Gaelic games correspondent), Eileen Good (production assistant), Brian Lynch (sound operator), Sean Kelleher (cameraman) and Michael Carroll (director).*

Saturday Sport on radio and Sportsline programmes.

The visit of the All-Ireland champions and the All-Stars was arranged by the United Irish Societies of San Francisco in conjunction with the Central Council of the G.A.A. The visit of the Tipperary and All-Star hurlers was the first to San Francisco by hurling teams since Tipperary played there in 1931.

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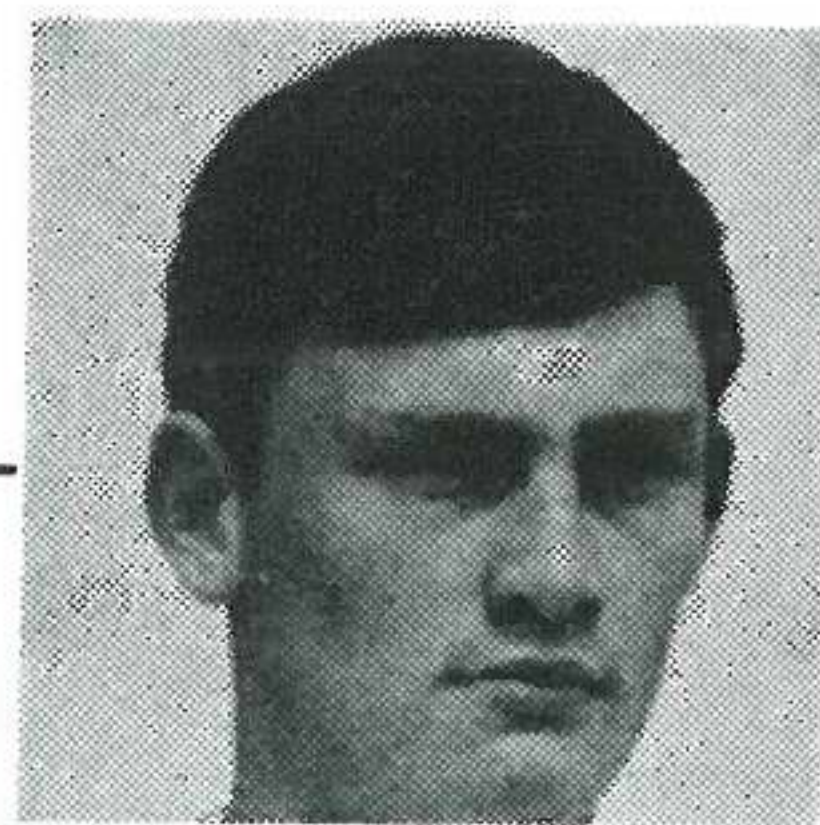
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# JIMMY DUGGAN

*talking to SEAN RICE*



IT is nearly six years since the spotlight first fell on Jimmy Duggan. He had been training only two nights when he was selected for the Connacht final. He was only 18 and had just finished school.

In that final Jimmy Duggan won his first Connacht championship medal and two games later his first All-Ireland. It was a dream beginning.

But for Galway it was the end of an era. And no amount of promise or endeavour has brought the county back to the top. Experiments have continued and their mentors have worked feverishly, moving players backwards and forwards like a great game of chess. A winning blend may soon be uncovered.

But all of it has taken somewhat from Jimmy Duggan's promise . . . and the dizzying glories of his early days with Galway. And now, at 24, he is beginning to feel old.

"I am now one of the oldest members of the team, and I was the oldest on the side that beat Mayo in the Gael-Linn final last month. It seems ridiculous but I think it is the constant newness of the team that has made me feel this way. Following the winning of their third title in 1966 most of that team had retired a couple of years later and I found some difficulty in adapting to the new players' style.

"Along with that players were being switched constantly in an effort to find a proper blend. Even at the moment there are

four players on the team with midfield experience and no two of them have been together in that position for more than three consecutive games.

"I myself have played in five positions over the past year or so and I have not commanded any single one. But I expect to be placed at centre-half forward for coming games and maybe for the championship as well."

For a player whose idol was another great Galwayman—Sean Purcell—Jimmy Duggan may find the "40" an ideal position. He will not be wanting in skill. But whether he meets with the success of his immediate illustrious predecessors will depend on many other factors, mostly outside his control.

He acknowledged this fact. "For one thing I have just emerged from an uncertain period. No matter how hard my preparations since last year's All-Ireland final I could not get properly fit. Something on which I failed to put my finger was missing from my preparation, and I would not last the hour. In recent games I have had better success.

"But if I am to succeed on the "40" the half-back line must help me by kicking low and methodically like the half line of the old team. There is a tendency in the present side to clear aimlessly from which no forward line can hope to benefit.

"I have been told too that I do not travel direct for goal when in possession. With that I agree.

I have a tendency to travel in an arc and for me to correct this will be a problem. I have not the physique of Mattie McDonagh who could burst through a defence because of his great strength.

"But I think that being able to kick with both feet will give me an advantage to turn in any direction, and if I am left long enough in that position I think I can develop this."

All this, however, will depend on the rest of his colleagues. And there are signs that an All-Ireland winning side is once more emerging. Young players like Maurice Burke, Michael Walsh and Jim Tobin have begun to impress and may well be the Leydons and the Dunnes of tomorrow.

"At the moment there is an abundance of talent between the age of 18 and 22 in the county. There are about 21 players fighting for 15 places and it means that the more established players must give their best all the time to retain their positions," says Jimmy.

"I do not think Galway were seasoned enough last year to take the title. A team rarely wins at the first attempt and for most of the Galway players this was their first attempt.

"The big problem will be to get out of Connacht. If we accomplish this, and we are well aware of the magnitude of the task, I think a lot more will be heard of Galway in the following months."

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# SCORESHEET

By Owen McCann

THERE have been some noteworthy individual scoring barrages in both football and hurling this year. Michael Kearins (Sligo) put up the best tally in years in Railway Cup football when he shot 0-13 against the Combined Universities; Paddy Coady helped himself to 4-1 in a National Hurling League appearance with Waterford in February, and Eamonn Flynn equalled a Dublin hurling record when he landed 3-5 against Wexford in the National League at Croke Park in March.

So, this is an appropriate time to put the SCORESHEET spotlight on the outstanding individual scoring spectaculars in both football and hurling.

First of all, that Kearin's haul for Connacht at Roscommon last February. This is not a record for Railway Cup football, nor is the score a new peak as regards points scoring. But we still have to go back over ten years for a better Railway Cup football tally. It was put up in 1962 at Tullamore by John Timmons (Dublin), who shot 1-10 for Leinster in a win over Munster. This is the tops for the series.

The man with the points scoring record is former Tyrone great Frankie Donnelly, who was knocking in the goals and points in the 'Fifties and for some years during the 'Sixties. In May 1963 he put 0-14 after his name in a challenge with Monaghan at Augher, Co. Tyrone.

Back to Railway Cup affairs, and leading the way in hurling is former Kilkenny ace Billy Dwyer, who had a celebrated hour against Ulster at Cavan's Breffni Park on a February day in 1962. His contribution to the

★  
*Michael Kearins,  
Sligo's ace Rail-  
way Cup star,  
scored thirteen  
points against the  
Combined  
Universities,*

★  
Leinster tally was 6-1, the best for the series since these records were introduced back in 1954.

Coady's 4-1 was achieved against Kilkenny in a challenge at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny. It is the highest score by a Waterford hurler since Tom Walsh recorded 3-5 on October 13, 1968, in a National League tie at Waterford, also against Kilkenny.

Before Flynn's big day out against Wexford only two Dubliners achieved a 14 points tally in a hurling match. The first was Mickey Bermingham, who is still

proving the talented marksman with the county and province, and was also among the goals for the Carrolls All Stars in San Francisco some weeks back. In May, 1965, he banged in 4-2 against Kilkenny in a Walsh Cup final at Kilkenny.

Then, in February, 1969, Fran Whelan returned from a League outing against Cork at Cobh with 3-5 to his credit.

But these Dublin bags still fall far short of the National Hurling League record. Indeed, last

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## *Reflections on Cong*

# WELL DONE.

**T**HERE have been many more memorable Congresses than we had at Cork this Easter; many that had more important work to deal with and dealt with it far more expeditiously, many that produced better and more telling speeches from the floor of the house, but none that has ever proved more enjoyable, and I have been attending G.A.A. Congresses for more than a quarter of a century.

We expect the Cork people, when they undertake something of this nature, to do it well. But this time the arrangements, the organisation, the staging, and the facilities provided, far surpassed any expectations and were as near to perfection as anyone has any right to expect in this imperfect world.

As for the Social Occasions, Saturday night's Banquet in the Imperial Hotel was surpassed only by the Cork County Board's Buffet, Cabaret and What-have-you on Sunday night in the St. Finbarr's Club Premises in Togher. But, of course, it was that 'Barr's Social Centre that really sent the rest of us home properly humbled.

The Togher Centre, from any and every angle, is every G.A.A. Club's fondest dream come true. Every amenity one could possibly ask for is there. The Barr's banner proudly states that the Club is eight years older than the Gaelic Athletic Association. But, in all fairness, from all the evidence presented in glass and bricks and mortar, and playing facilities, out there at Togher, St. Finbarr's

are now eighty years ahead of the vast majority of our present-day clubs.

But, while the Social occasions played a bigger part this year than ever before, and while the Barr's Centre must have provided more talking points than any other Congress matter for very many of the delegates when they got home, it is high time to say a word or two about Congress itself.

We had what was, all in all, a very quiet opening session on the Saturday afternoon, the only early spark being struck by Secretary O Siochain's criticism of the win-at-all-costs mentality which, he felt, was lowering the all-over standard of the games.

Some thought the Secretary's strictures were too sweeping, but Kerry's Central Council representative, Michael O Ruairc, retiring after 25 years service, was even more outspoken than Sean O Siochain.

The experienced O Ruairc did not put a tooth in it. He said the standard had plummeted, that they were playing a lot of stupid football especially at club level,

even in Kerry, and unless coaching was quickly brought in to teach the rising generation to develop to the utmost the undoubted skills that can make Gaelic football such an attractive game, we stood in grave danger of losing our youth to another code.

Nor was the Kerryman the only one to support the Secretary's contention that obstruction and win-at-all-cost tactics were leaving many games far short of the entertaining and exciting affairs they should be.

Indeed one delegate stated quite flatly that we just were not giving the spectators full value for money, and that until the over-all standard of entertainment improved, the crowds would not come back.

Those were sobering statements but, oddly enough, except for the passing reference to coaching, there was no constructive suggestion made from the floor as to how the position might be improved.

We moved on then to Communications and, as usual, considerable discontent was expressed with the coverage, or rather lack of coverage as some maintained, of G.A.A. events, by Radio Telefis Eireann, with particular emphasis on Television. The irrespressible Denis Conroy from Carrigwohill wanted no dithering, he announced that, next morning, he would call for the setting up of a Committee "to tell Telefis what we want and what we

# CORK



*Padraig O Caoimh, the late General Secretary of the G.A.A., in whose native city of Cork this year's Annual Congress was so successfully held.*

By MOONDHARRIG

must get, and to see that we get it."

By Sunday morning, however, even the Conroy temperature had cooled, and, like so much else at this Cork Congress, the whole matter of television coverage was

...serving members of Central Council, Michael O Ruairc (25 years), Dublin's Bob Freeman (25 years), and former President Padraig McNamee (42 years). And, to the older one amongst us, the most touching few words

referred back to the Special Congress in the Autumn.

But, to hark back to Saturday evening. It is a constant source of surprise to me that what is, to my mind, one of the most important items on the entire Congress Agenda, the consideration of the financial reports, is so skimpily debated. One wonders if any other organisation whose annual turnover (taking the Provincial Council returns into account) is well in excess of a quarter of a million pounds, treats its financial matters so sketchily at its annual meeting? There were a few delegates who worried about the big debt on the International Fund, almost £8,000, but nobody cared enough to move a motion demanding any remedial action.

Sunday morning was marked by an excellent Presidential Speech from Pat Fanning, who was preceded by the Bishop of Cork, Most Rev. Dr. Lucey, and the Lord Mayor of the Leaside City.

Then we had a very touching ceremony when presentations were made to the three longest

of the Congress came in the tribute by Padraig McNamee to his old friend and colleague former General Secretary Padraig O Caoimh.

Although it is all of eight years now since we laid "PaddyO" in his grave one weeping Whitsuntide, his memory was very much with us at this the first Congress in Cork, but then that was very much as it should be in Paddy O'Keeffe's native city.

Although most of the Congress motions were debated on Sunday afternoon, the main interest was centred on the matter of those 20-year £100 ticket sales.

A big number of the delegates were by no means happy about the scheme while a number of others were just as unhappy at the way the scheme had been introduced in the first place, at Central Council level.

In the end, the decision taken may not have pleased everyone, in fact I met quite a few people who were far from happy about it, but to the unbiased observer it seemed a fairly reasonable compromise. Congress agreed to

the advance sales of tickets in principle, and the County Boards will consider the new scheme, and let their Central Council delegates convey back to the Council such modifications as they, the Boards, may think fitting.

What exactly that solution will produce in practice remains to be seen, but at least it has the merit of being a commonsense approach.

As for the other motions passed, the most important was the one from Derry calling for a complete examination and, where necessary, rewriting and even revision of the whole set of playing Rules. And I suppose the people that were happiest of all at the end of Congress were the delegates from Britain who had fulfilled a dream by having their minor footballers admitted to the All-Ireland championship.

And from the long-term viewpoint that could prove the best bit of work Congress '72 did for the future of our games.

● FROM PAGE 25

October R. Melia reached a total of 19 points when he broke through for 5-4 for Meath in a win over Louth at Navan in Division II of the League.

However, for the purpose of this review we are concentrating exclusively on the top-rank. Nevertheless, the record-holder, that legendary son of Cork, Christy Ring, still has a comfortable advantage over Melia. He turned on the style on a November day in 1959 when he shot 6-4 (22 points) against Wexford at Cork.

The football finishers of the present-day have also a League record stretching back to the 'Fifties to aim at. In fact, the

top two scores are standing since that decade, and it is something of a coincidence that both were recorded in the now suspended Dr. Lagan Cup, which was then Division I of the League, and in which all the Ulster counties, except Cavan, competed.

Once again it is that man Frankie Donnelly. In September 1956 he had whopping 5-8 for Tyrone against Fermanagh at Pomeroy, and virtually two years later Jim McCartan dazzled for Down with 5-4 against Antrim at Newcastle.

With the Championships now moving into gear, the targets to be improved on are also very impressive. In fact, it is going to take some sharpshooting to erase

the long standing hurling No. 1 of 7-7 by Nick Rackard for Wexford against Antrim in an All-Ireland semi-final in August 1954, and also football's splendid 5-3 by Johnny Joyce in a Dublin win over Longford at Mullingar in May 1960.

Tournament games? Here again an extra special effort will be called for from to-day's stars. As far back as June 1957 Tom Errity, of Offaly, shot 7-0 in a challenge with Galway at Tullamore in hurling. His goals haul that day is also the best for one match in either code, for challenge games and tournaments.

The football flag was hoisted in more recent times by Jack Berry, that dual Wexford performer, who, happily, made a comeback to the playing fields earlier this year after having been out of action for some months because of a leg injury.

Berry shot 3-9 for Wexford in an O'Byrne Cup football encounter with Kilkenny at Gorey in April 1968.

To wind up, here are a few more noteworthy achievements:

2-11 by Eddie Keher (Kilkenny) against Tipperary in 1971 for the best recorded total in an All-Ireland Senior Hurling final;

2-12 by Michael Keating (Tipperary) against Galway in the All-Ireland Senior Championship semi-final at Birr last August for the best score by a Munster man since Jimmy Smyth (Clare) shot 6-4 in a Southern clash with Limerick at Ennis in June 1954;

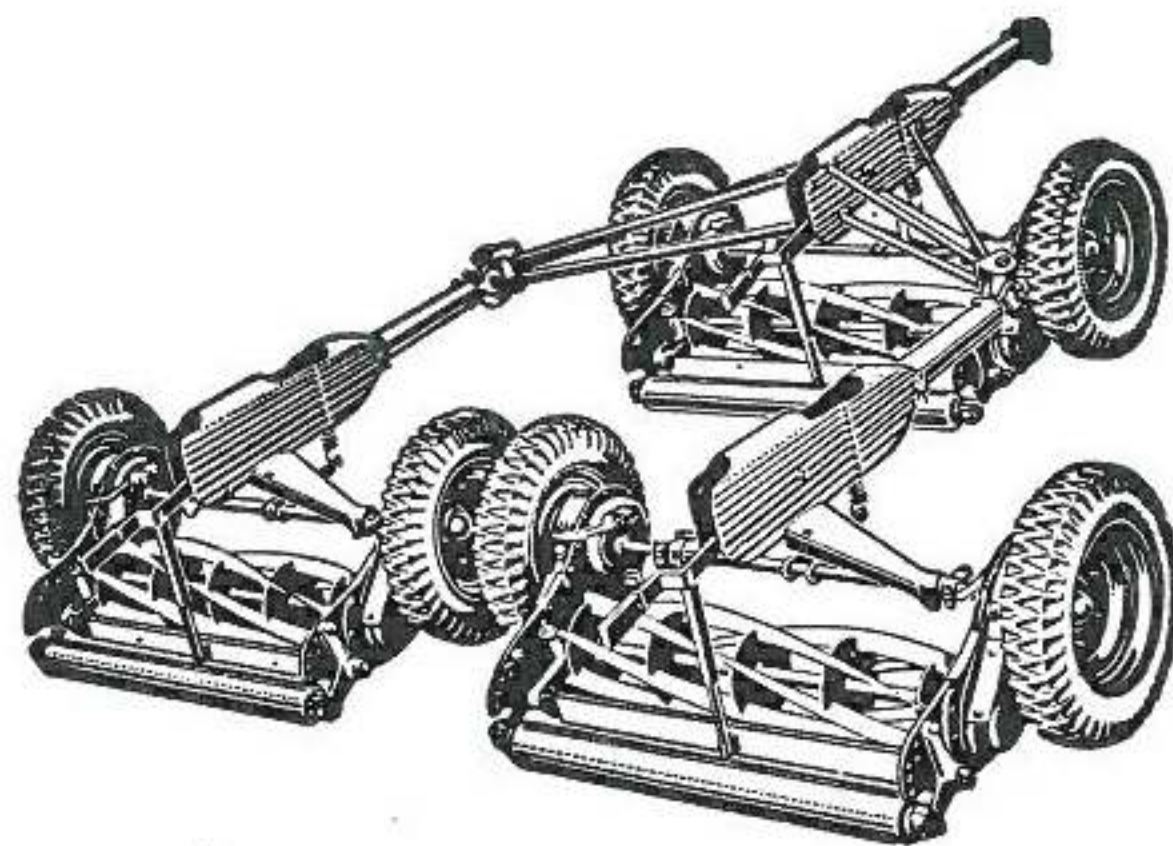
2-8 by Enda Condrón (Laois) against Carlow at Athy in a Leinster Senior Football Championship tie last May for the best score in Championship football in ten years;

3-5 by Tom Ryan for Galway against Wexford in the 1970 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship semi-final at Athlone for the tops in a Western county jersey,

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ADEIR SEÁN Ó DUNAGÁIN

**T**HAINIG Tuarascáil an Choimisiúin ar an gCumann Lúithchleas Gael amach cúpla mí ó shoin agus, i dtosach báire, is mian liom chomhgáirdeas a dhéanamh le baill an Choimisiúin as éacht a dhéanamh. Tá snas ar an dTuarascáil féin mar leabhar agus tá raidhse moltaí agus tuairmí curtha ar fáil.

Ina dhiaidh sin tig liom a rá go bhfuil nithe conspóideacha sa tuarascáil agus ar an ábhar sin is baolach go mbeadh an claonadh ag duine dísbheagach a dhéanamh den iomlán and dearmad a dhéanamh ar na rudaí fóna atá ann; tá súil agam nach ndéanfar an tuarascáil a dhamnú de dheasca na tuairmí conspóideacha. Ná déantar dearmad gur moltaí atá sa tuarascáil agus ní teoracha.

Glacaim chugam féin moladh amháin le cáineadh, is é sin, an moladh faoi na craobh-chomortais faoi 21 bliana a chur ar cheal. Deir an moladh . . . "go n-éireofaí as na Comortais Pheile agus Iomána faoi-21. Is iad na Comortais sin is mó a chuireann rudaí ar mithreoir, de bhrí go bhféadfadh imreoirí Sinsear, Sóisear agus Mionúr a bheith i dhreis dóibh uile go léir le chéile. Rud is tábhachtaí fós ná sin: is beag a gcuireann na Comortais sin le líon na n-imreoirí a bheadh i dtreis do chomortais idir-chontae . . ." (9. 7. 7.).

Ní aontáim leis an méid atá ráite sa mholadh sin thuas. Ar an chéad dul síos is ionadh liom nach bhfuil borradh faoin Chumann Lúithchleas i bhfaid ó shoin chun na tréimhsí imeartha sa bhliain a leathnú mar a mholadh ar "Gaelic Sport"

cheana go háirithe go mbeadh cluichí go fóirleathan ar fud na tíre gach Satharn. Ag an am a luaigh An Scríbhneoir seo a leithéid cheana bhí "Riall 27" i bhfeidhm; os rud é go bhfuil an riall sin ar ceal anois agus cluichí eile ag mealladh chuchu ogánaigh na tíre go háirithe ar na Sathairn is mithid smaoineamh ar dhul san iomaíocht leo. Is iad na hóganaigh idir 16 agus 20 is mó atá faoi ionsaí ar an mbealach seo.

Tuigeann gach éinne go bhfuil fadhb an-mhór ag Clubanna toisc nach mbíonn go leor Comortas ag a chuid imreoirí go háirithe má theipeann orthu go luath sa Chraobh-Chomortas Chontae. Is fíric é go mbíonn leath na bhfoirne gan cluiche ar bith taréis an chéad bhabhta in aon chraobh-chomortas. Cinnte bíonn comortais eile ann i gcontaethe áirithe ach is iad a locht a laghad. Le blianta beaga anuas bhí imreoirí ag imirt i ngan fhios le clubanna sacair agus rugbaí de dheasca na faidhbe thuas. Cén fáth mar sin nach leathnófaí na Comortais atá ar fáil in ionad iad a laghdú?

Ceapaim gur leasc leis na hudaráis aon mholadh faoin Chomortas Sóisear idir-chontae toisc go bhfuil imreoirí den chaighdeán seo go tiubh i Sasana agus nach bhfuil ógánaigh go leor acu thall chun foirne faoi bhun 21 bliana a chur ar an bpáirc. An ceart amharc ar an scéal ar an mbealach seo? Nach bhféadfaí socraithe ar leith a dhéanamh d'imreoirí thar lear? Ar chóir na hóganaigh sa mbaile nach mbeidh riamh in inmhe

imirt ar fhoireann Shinsear a fhágaint gan comórtas tar éis dóibh an 18 mbliana a shárú?

Má's amhlaidh go gcreideann an Coimisiún an mhéid adúirt siad "nach gcuireann na Comortais sin le líon na n-imreoirí a bheadh i dtreis do chomórtas idir-chontae." Tá siad ag dul in aghaidh gach teoiric spóirt atá sa leabhar. Cén taighde a rinne siad leis an ráiteas láidir sin a bhreacadh? Nach eisceachtaí iad na himreoirí a roghnaítear ar fhoirne sinsear idir-chontae agus nach raibh ar fhoireann mhionúr nó ar fhoireann idir-choláiste ina nóige. Is íontach go dtáinig an ráiteas sin amach sa bhliain gur bhuaigh Uíbh Fáilí craobh sinsear na hÉireann don chéad uair ariamh.

Ar fhoireann Uíbh Fáilí 1971 bhí naonúr den fhoireann fíor bhun 21 a d'imir sa Chluiche Ceannais i 1967 agus bhí ochtar den naonúr sin ar an bhfoireann mionúr a bhuaigh Craobh na hÉireann i 1964 (bhí an duine eile ina fhear ionaid); bhí triúr eile den fhoireann sin 1971 ina mbaill d'fhoireann faoi bhun 21 i 1970 agus 1971 chomh mhaith. Agus deirtear linn, "gur beag a gcuireann" an Comórtas leis an líon imreoirí sinsear!

Fágtar an Comórtas mar atá sé adeirim ach cuirtear chuige chun Comortais den uile chinéal a chur ar siúl ar na Sathairn—tá an oiread sin daoine saor anois ar an Satharn agus iad uilig ag lorg deiseanna chun an tam a chur isteach. Baintear leas as sin agus níl cluichí is fearr chuige ná an Comórtas faoi bhun 21 bliana.

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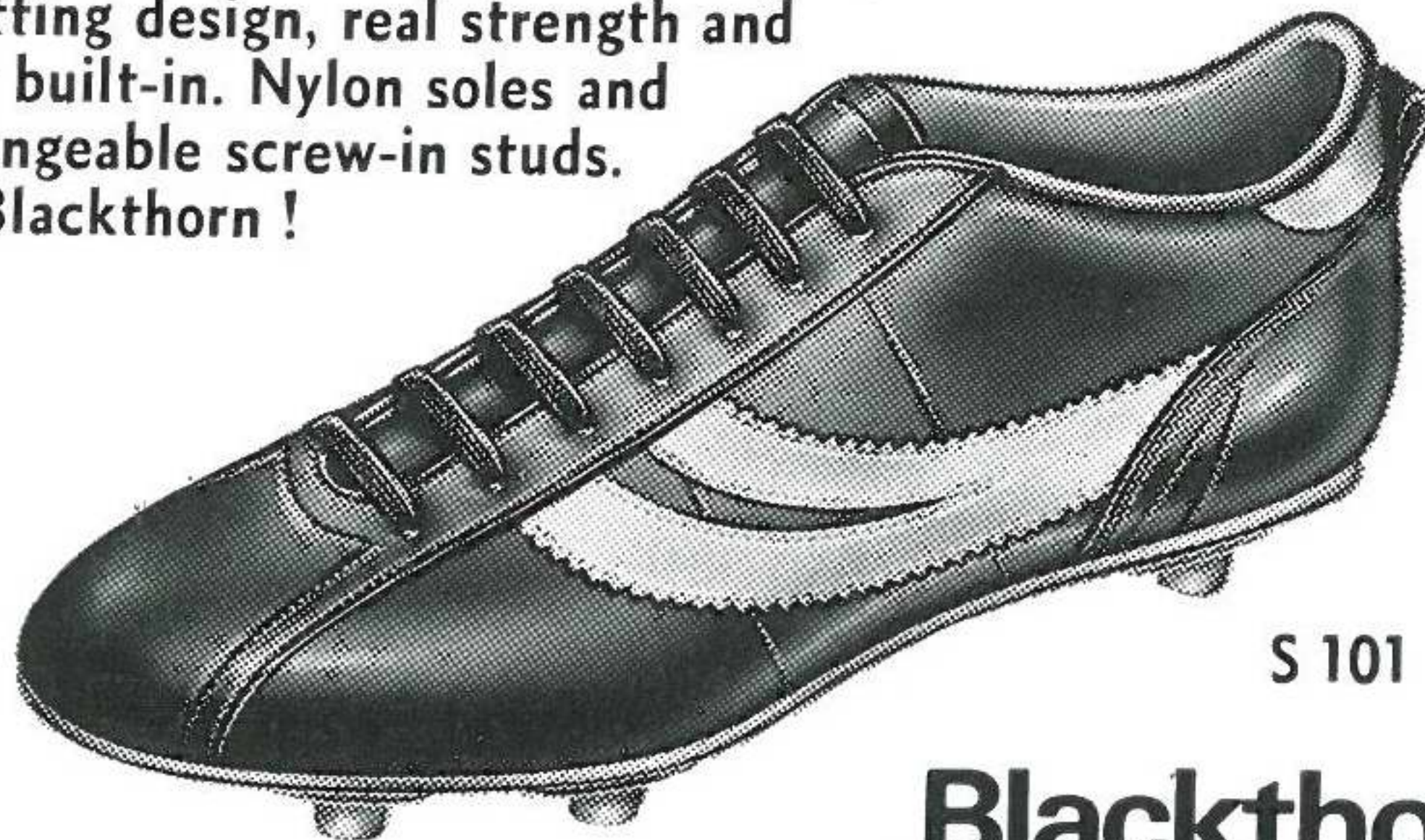
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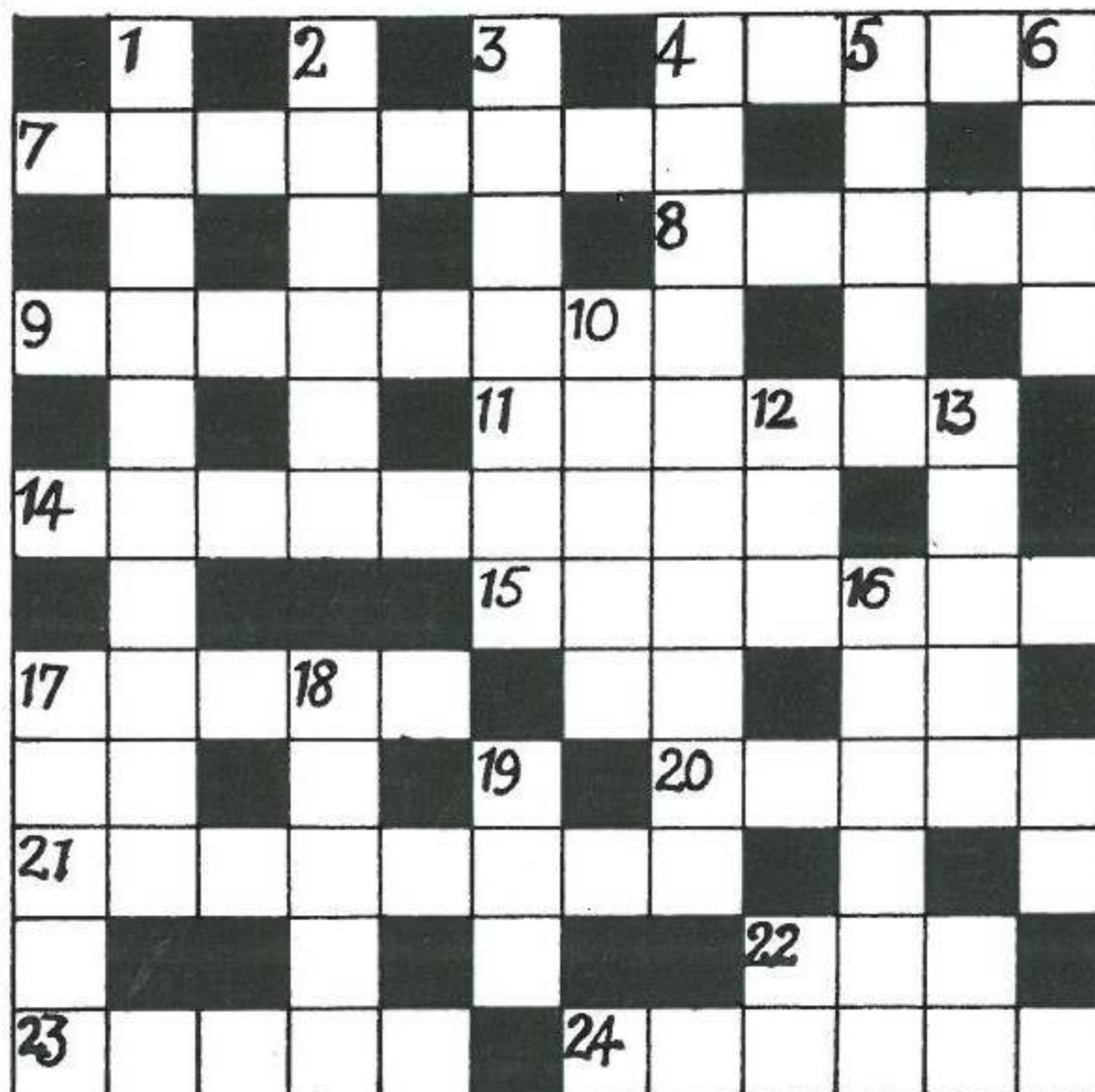
(No. 63) ————— By *PERMUTER*

## CLUES ACROSS

- 4—Unit F renders player unprepared to play. (5)  
 7—Official Annual publication of the G.A.A. (3, 5)  
 8—Not altogether to select—rather to do so by open vote to all. (5)  
 9—Player has to go almost entirely as far as the Continent to prove he is blameless. (8)  
 11—Condition of the most vociferous supporters which could also be achieved on a horse. (6)  
 14—Ten unable to sustain hopeless case for the motion. (9)  
 15—Winter inter-county competition which appears shortened in the beginning and full-length in the second-half. (1, 6)  
 17—Aha! You end in the north-east in search of a famous Limerick club, often county champions. (5)  
 20—Monaghan forward keeps an Ave in his heart. (5)  
 21—A sun mill can produce a Kildare footballer. (1, 7)  
 22—There seems a shortage of water in most of Ryde. (3)  
 23—Excellent all-rounder from Kildare—duel Leinster interprovincial. (5)  
 24—“The Flying Doctor”. (6)

## CLUES DOWN

- 1—Waterford player who represented Munster both in hurling and in football. (10)  
 2—Another Waterford man in the news—hurler-footballer who recently retired after 33 years as his county's secretary. (1 5)  
 3—“Red” was hero of Louth winning side



- of 1957. (1, 6)  
 4—Get the best possible return from natural gifts. (3, 7)  
 5—Unrestricted penalties for fouls. (5)  
 6—Adding things up leads one to think of little children (4)  
 10—Elbow in reverse, almost, yet it did provide people of high birth. (5)  
 12—Are you looking for Carlow and Leinster corner-forward of the '40s? (3)  
 13—Slip away cleverly and avoid duel E. (5)  
 16—Rove from G to N so as to rule, as Kilkenny's Mc. used to do from half-back or centre-forward. (6)  
 17—Aid me so that I may have properly directed my stroke. (5)  
 18—Wexford 'keeper of long-standing. (5)  
 19—Outswinging, at heart, is to gain the victory. (3)  
 22—Good young newcomer on Tipperary team in 1970 championships. Initials. (1, 1).

Solution on page 52

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CAMOGIE CONGRESS

# FAR-REACHING DECISIONS

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE recent annual Camogie Congress took decisions that are going to affect the entire future of the game.

The most publicised, as one might well expect, was the acceptance by the Congress delegates of the alternative uniform suggested by the Special Uniform Committee; the most far-reaching was the abolition of the Ban on hockey and football, and the most important was the agreement, arising from the General Secretary's Report that, if feasible, a Youth Congress be held.

Certain newspapers latched on the alternate uniform, as though the decision to allow divided skirts and bobby-socks meant that the change was going to transform the camogie fields into an open-air version of the Folies Bergiere. Not one of them, although they were informed of the fact, bothered to point out that not alone had other sports for women been long using similar uniforms, but that blouses, divided skirts and bobby-socks had been allowed in Colleges games for a couple of seasons past, and no great revolution had resulted, except the one that had been contemplated from the start.

Many teams looked neater than they used to do, and that, of course, had been the object of the exercise.

As regards the Ban. Like the G.A.A. Ban, the Camogie one had outlived its utility. Indeed, it had over the last few years become a hindrance in so far as it had meant that hockey-playing students at the physical training Colleges were getting no training in camogie, and yet some at least

of these girls were being appointed to schools where camogie was played. I do not think relaxing the ban on hockey will make any great difference at higher levels, though it will undoubtedly help camogie among the secondary schools and the Institutes of Higher Education.

Incidentally, in this regard, there were two very important announcements made at Congress.

- (1) That camogie will be a recognised subject when the new National College of Physical Education is opened in Limerick.
- (2) That the Camogie Council for Institutes of Higher Education has now been officially constituted and will now take over the organisation and popularisation and control of the game at competitive level in all Post-secondary Colleges, including the Universities.

The Ashbourne Cup series, the oldest competition in Camogie, will of course continue—all Irish Universities are now competing—but it is evident that other competitions, at various levels, will be organised in which all the Higher Colleges and the Universities will compete.

But most important of all is the question of a Youth Congress.

For years I have been stressing the fact that we must win the young people, since very obviously the young people of to-day are the adults of to-morrow.

Now the County Boards are to be asked to consider a Youth Congress, and let us hope, for the future of the game and the Asso-

ciation, that they will come to a quick decision.

If the County Boards hesitate to act, I believe that the people who deal with Youth should go ahead and hold a Youth Congress of their own. There are four busy Colleges Provincial Councils catering for almost 150 schools, there are the Ulster Secondary schools, and there is the new Higher Education Council with already 14 Universities and Colleges under its wing.

If all these Councils were to call together a delegate from every one of their affiliated Schools and Colleges we would have a ready-made Congress of Youth, and of articulate Youth at that, who would be surely able to let us know exactly what kind of Association these young people want when they themselves come to maturity in a very few years time.

Another important announcement at Congress was that the script is now being prepared for a full and detailed film on coaching and that all that now remains to be done is the actual shooting of the film.

So the future looks bright, but to my mind it will be even brighter if we can get this Youth Congress together before the Summer is over. The need for a clear look at the present position of the Association and the even more pressing need to plan for the future is a matter of extreme urgency.

Let us start with the Youth, and from there let us plan the future taking their ideal into account. But, for the sake of the game and the Association, let us make a start NOW.

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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.

## THE LADIES ARE EARLY BIRDS ON THE COURTS

A NEW phenomenon has emerged in handball: our playing courts, once the sole preserve of men have been invaded by the ladies and believe it or not, the game has caught on.

If you want proof, drop into the old Croke Park court any Sunday at 8 a.m. or even a little earlier. You will see the ladies in full swing with their butts, dolly lobs and cut-off shots—indeed all the variations that are part and parcel of this great game of handball.

But many of us male folk have not become acclimatised to the idea as yet and we are not short of arguments to prove our point. We claim that handball is a virile game that robs a woman of her femininity and anyway why should they be depriving us of our valuable playing time.

I wonder can we really sustain the latter argument at 8.00 a.m. on a Sunday? No, let us be fair and say that the old adage of a "woman's place is in the home" doesn't apply in handball.

Maybe the real kudos should go to the handful of men who short-circuited the Liberation act some eighteen months ago and started organising handball competitions for the ladies.

The organisers of the World Championships in October, 1971, really kindled the ember by inviting them to participate in a couple of exhibition games.

Since then the ladies have never looked back. They formed their own organisation—the Irish Ladies Handball Society.

They ran successive under- and over-18 singles and doubles competitions and, at present, are in the process of spreading the handball message to all parts of the country.

Ladies handball, though, is not something revolutionary in this country. From my enquiries I gather that for centuries the smack of the handball in the ballcourt has captivated many an Irish girl.

During the World Championships, for instance, an old lady

told me she had once been a handball champion.

Apparently, over half a century ago, a group of girls ran their own competition in Wicklow, but further events did not meet with general approval and ladies' handball in Wicklow faded.

My new-found friend, the uncrowned Queen of Wicklow Handball, had never lost the taste for the game and had come to the new court to see the world stars in action.

Mavis O'Toole, the young Dubliner who would hold her own with many a male competitor, has played handball for more than a decade.

She picked up the game in the tradition-steeped ballcourt at Green Street, which nurtured such able exponents as All-Ireland champions Paddy Munroe and the Roe brothers.

Handball for ladies is quite a popular sport in America, and a New York City Recreation Department report shows that each year about 600 women enter the City handball tournaments. And this figure is steadily on the increase.

Ann Gannon, a Roscommon girl is President of the Ladies Handball Society. She has shown a keen interest in the game for many years and is quite an accomplished player. Dorothy O'Shea is Secretary and she hails from Wexford, though based in Dublin. Treasurer is Stasia Clerkin, while Ann Bryan from Kilkenny completes the Committee.

Without doubt, there is an upsurge of ladies handball in this country at the present time and it must be welcomed as something that will not only benefit handball but the entire G.A.A.

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## LOOKING AHEAD

# FEILE NA nGAEL IN WEAKER COUNTIES?

By NOEL COOGAN

"IT was a great breakthrough on the national level for juvenile hurling and it undoubtedly gave the game a tremendous impetus, especially in the weaker counties", said Mr. Seamus O Riain, Chairman of the Tipperary County Board and former President of the Association, referring to the success of last year's inaugural Feile na nGael. Mr. O Riain went on to state that last year's Feile was such a stunning success that it was felt it would have to be an annual event.

At the time of writing it has just been announced that this noteworthy G.A.A. festival organised to promote juvenile hurling and the spirit of the Association will be repeated this year, again in Tipperary from July 21st to July 23rd. Centre-piece of the week-end attractions will be the All-Ireland hurling competitions in which more than 1,200 juvenile caman weavers from all parts of the country will join in combat.

The various finals, the culmination of a mammoth hurling festival, will bring into opposition the cream of the nation's under-14 teams at Semple Stadium, Thurles, on Sunday, July 23rd.

This year the organisers have decided to reduce the age limit by one year from 15 to 14 years, but in all other aspects, the competitions will retain the successful format of last year. Thirty-one counties will send their champions to compete in the four graded divisions and in Tipperary Bórd na nÓg will nominate thirty three teams from within the county to play hosts to the visitors and also to provide opposition at the games. During the week-end all visiting clubs will be accommodated and catered for by the sponsoring Tipperary club.

The first round games in the four competitions will be played at 11 a.m. on the Saturday with further rounds in the afternoon and evening. The four finals will be played in Thurles on Sunday



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afternoon. A colourful highlight of the festival will be the parade of the teams prior to the finals. The 64 teams will assemble in Semple Stadium at 12.30 p.m. before starting the parade half an hour later. The parade, which will start and finish in the Stadium will go through the town of Thurles. For the parade all teams will be togged out in club colours and will carry their hurleys.

All participating clubs have been requested to make a club banner, 6 ft. by 2 ft., which should be borne on two poles by two officials. There will also be a third official marching, who will bear a flag of the county colours. Special emphasis is being placed on all teams togging out neatly to present an attractive image.

There will be numerous attractive awards in all four grades. A cup will go to the winning team in each division as well as trophies to the winners and runners-up. An attractive pennant will be presented to all 64 teams taking part and also a set of hurleys to each team from Coiste Iomaint. There will also be additional prizes for the best turned out team, for the most attractive Tipperary banner and for the most attractive banner outside of Tipperary.

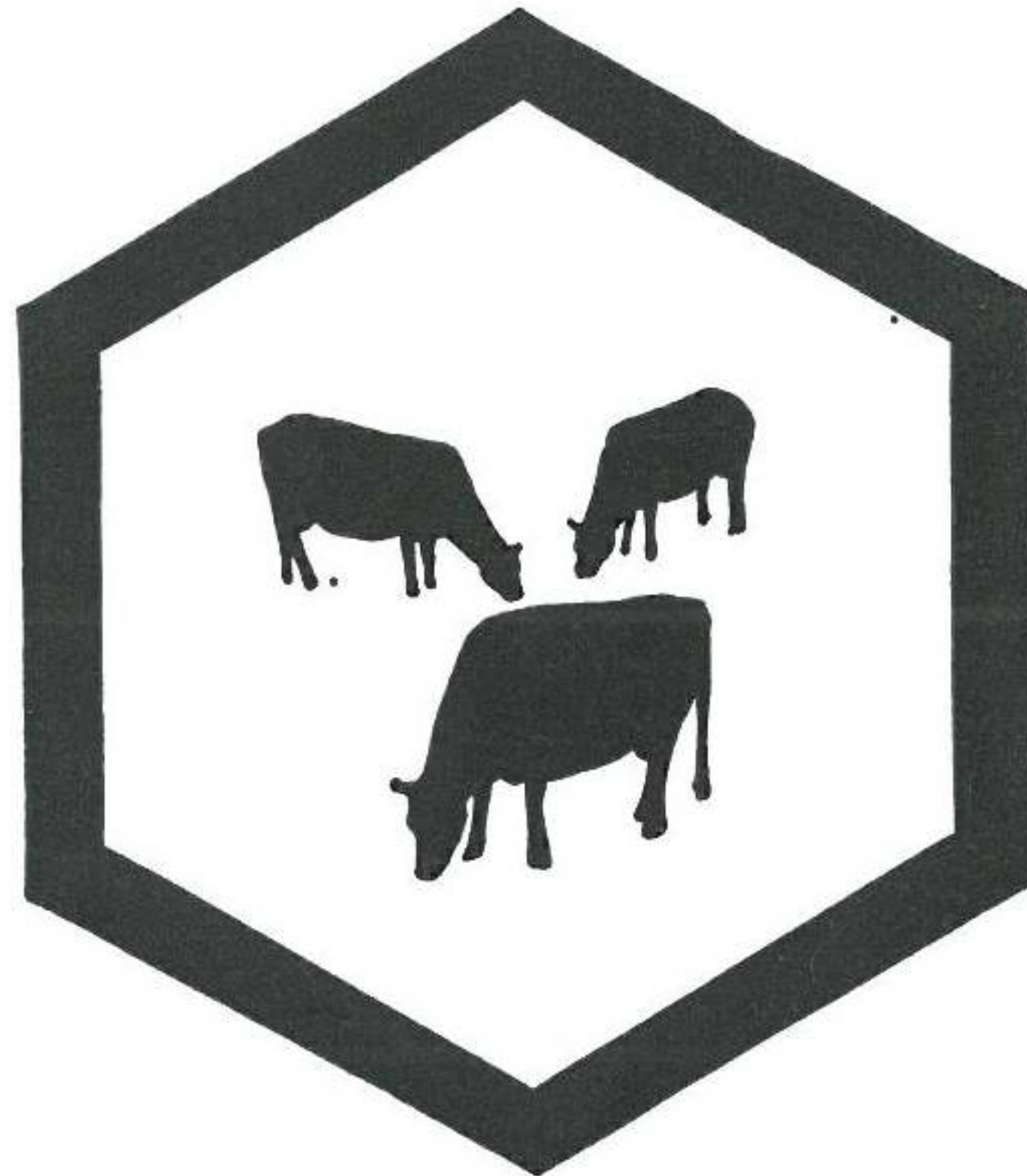
So, the stage is being set for what should be a tremendous couple of days' hurling. The introduction of Feile na nGael has filled a most noticeable void in the Gaelic calendar. Last year's competition was a huge success and the coming festival should be even bigger. Feile na nGael can play a very significant role in the revival of this great sport and an annual setting for it is surely a must.

But Seamus O Riain has expressed a wish that some other county would undertake the organisation of the Feile in 1973. It would surely benefit the Association and hurling in general to

change the setting of the Festival from year to year. Indeed one can't help feeling the immense benefit that could be gained by staging it in some of the weaker counties.

Think of the finals being played in venues like Casement Park, Belfast; Breffni Park, Cavan; Pairc Tailteann, Navan, and Fitzgerald Stadium, Killarney. Think also of the many young boys who would see hun-

dreds of young, talented hurlers in action. The staging of the Feile in weaker, undeveloped hurling areas could be responsible for many youngsters becoming interested in the game and thereby new clubs could spring up. My suggestion that future Feilí na nGael be held in weaker counties is only an idea, but it is surely one worthy of consideration. Hurling could only benefit from such a move.



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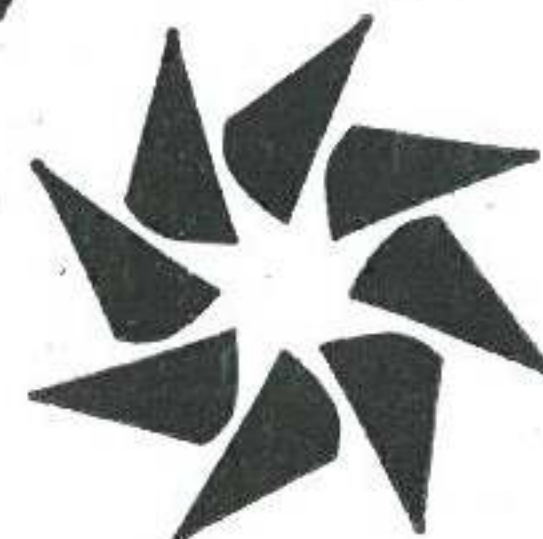
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# BIRTH OF THE G.A.A.

## MANY ATTEMPTS PRECEDED 1884



● MICHAEL CUSACK

IT was a noted Northern Nationalist, Jimmy Hope, well known for his part in the insurrections of 1798 and 1803, who first made a public appeal for the revival and spread of Irish sports and pastimes.

That was close on a hundred years before the G.A.A. was founded—and he repeated his call many times over. He enlisted the strong and enthusiastic support of other members of the United Irishmen, in particular Lord Edward Fitzgerald, William McNevin and John Sweetman, but despite their best efforts no worthwhile or lasting response was forthcoming.

It was fifty years later when the next great concerted move was made by another noted national figure—the silver-tongued orator of the Young Ireland movement—Thomas Francis Meagher.

He launched a powerful drive to organise the youth of Ireland into an association for the playing of Gaelic games during a big election campaign in his native Waterford in the Spring of 1848.

He made elaborate pleas for the revival of hurling, which he described as the world's greatest field game, and concluded every

---

By  
**SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH**

---

address with a few lines of his own composition:

“You have the Irish dance as yet  
Where is the hurling gone?  
Of two such lessons why forget  
The nobler and the manlier one.”

Other leading members of the Young Ireland movement, notably John O'Mahony, Terence Bellew McManus and Michael Doherty, rallied to Meagher's support, and soon quite considerable public interest was aroused, with the result that on the historic hill of Ballybricken, overlooking the city, a great gathering assembled for what must go down in history as the first hurling game of modern times under organised rules—even if rough and ready ones.

Meagher and Doherty marched at the head of the teams—21 a side—to the field of play where the big crowd thoroughly enjoyed the fare provided and were loud in their praise of the hurling code, as a game well suited to the Irish temperament.

Soon after, unfortunately, the failure of the Young Ireland

movement and the transportation of many of its leaders threw a damper on the revival effort and little more was heard on the matter until almost a decade had passed.

Then another effort to re-introduce the game was made, again in Waterford, this time by Denis Cashman, who again had the strong support of another great national movement—the Fenians, some of whose members actively engaged in the work.

A number of games were played, again mostly in the Waterford area, and a great hosting at Knockhouse, near the city, witnessed a particularly attractive match, arranged with the object of attracting further teams and spreading the influence of the game to other areas.

In this match a 21 from Kilmacthomas opposed a like number of city men, and the result was a magnificent game of terrific intensity that aroused both players and spectators to a high degree.

Fenian leaders, and John O'Mahony in particular, while anxious to see everything native flourish, had another motive in supporting any move to organise the youth of Ireland.

● TO PAGE 41

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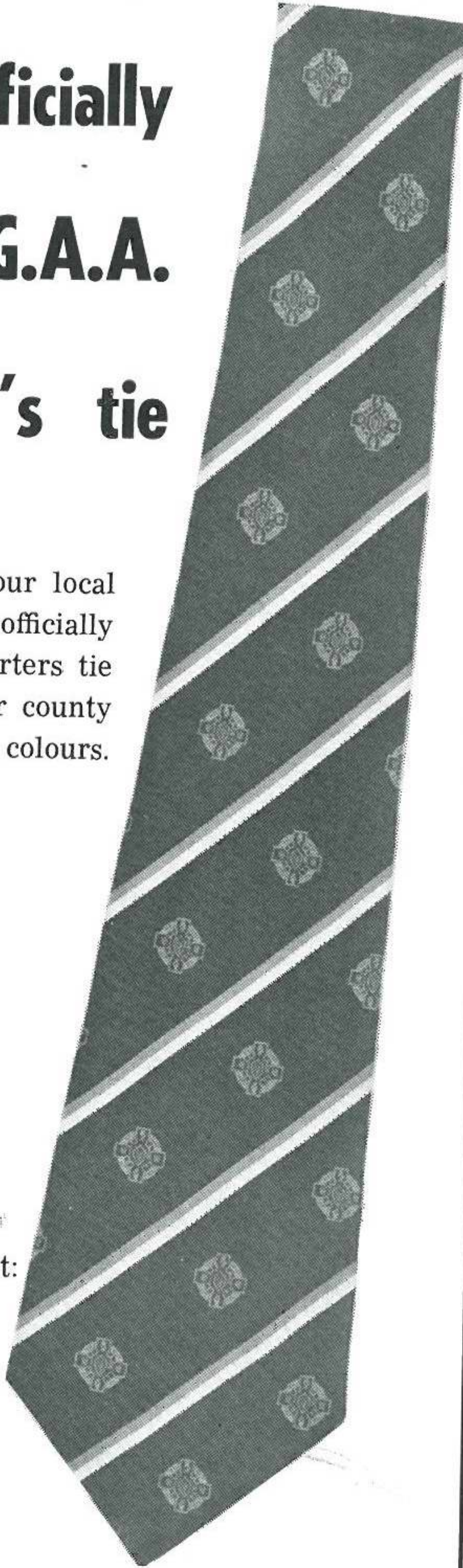
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## County Ties

YOU may remember just over a year ago at the 1971 Congress held in Belfast that Pat Fanning, President of the Association spoke of the need to project the image of the G.A.A. in the best possible way. Perhaps when you heard this, while you agreed in your own mind that this was a laudable and indeed praiseworthy object to be attained, you thought that the effort needed to achieve this objective didn't concern you. One man who thought differently was John MacMenamin.

John, who runs the Central Tie Company founded by his parents and an uncle in 1909 thought that he could offer something to enhance the image of the Association. An appointment with Sean Ó Síocháin was readily arranged and official approval was given to the production of the official G.A.A. tie.

The tie itself, which is made of terylene, has the crest of the Association in gold, on a black background with the individual county colours in diagonal stripes  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch wide. There is a tie for every county and with orders of over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  dozen, John MacMenamin would be able to put even your own club colours on the tie.

The sentiments of the President, Pat Fanning, expressed at Congress '71, have been repeated many times during the past year. The G.A.A. as an organisation has taken steps to up-date its image. You, the ordinary club member can help too. Buy your county tie and show publicly your commitment to the Association by wearing it.

If you are unable to obtain your official tie from your local men's outfitters the Central Tie Company at 23 Drury Street, Dublin 2, Tel. 773966, will be glad to advise you of your nearest stockist.

# BIRTH OF THE G.A.A.

## ● FROM PAGE 39

The latter envisaged hurling matches and athletic meetings as the best means of rousing the spirit and re-awakening the national pride, as a first step towards winning the youth to the Fenian cause. He convinced the leaders, notably Devoy, Kickham, Ruby, O'Donovan Rossa and O'Leary of the soundness of his policy.

O'Mahony urged the immediate founding of an athletic association, separatist in its political outlook, national in its general aims but wide enough in its scope to attract as members many who would never otherwise be found under the Republican banner or influence.

The leaders were, however, convinced that a solution of the problem would be achieved through open confrontation with the ancient enemy and most of their energies were bent in this direction. But as hopes of successful revolution gradually faded and died, O'Mahony's plan was resurrected and the clarity of his thinking better appreciated.

Actually, its usefulness was soon more apparent than ever when the swing to constitutionalism became a reality. A further striking factor was the success of the Land League—with its emphasis on purely agrarian rather than political revolution. It was the latter which really forced the I.R.B. to take their long delayed action—and the compelling reason was to maintain and strengthen their contact with the young men—and prevent them giving their support to less nobler pursuits.

It was at this stage that a new and very powerful voice was added to the clamour for a

national athletic association. It was that of Patrick William Nally of Balla, Co. Mayo, a born leader of men, with a tremendous Gaelic background—a man with the reputation of getting things done despite the obstacles.

The purely national advantages of establishing a youth athletic movement were uppermost with Nally. It was purely by chance that he met Michael Cusack early in 1879, and learned that the latter had a short time earlier got groups of youths to play hurling in the Phoenix Park; after failing in his efforts to get those who ruled sports and games in Ireland at the time interested in helping in the revival of the native codes.

Immediately the idea of founding a great national athletic organisation found its birth. Nally enlisted strong support from fellow members of the I.R.B., particularly P. N. Fitzgerald of Cork, Thomas Brennan and James O'Connor, and the plans got wide publicity from the official organ of the movement, "The Irishman."

Cusack was too bound up with his ideas on reviving hurling to bother overmuch about the political activities of those supporting his project. Whether or not he knew it at the beginning the arrest of Nally and Fitzgerald a little later could have left no doubt in his mind regarding their Fenian activities.

And this latest project looked all set for another upheaval as Cusack was not to meet Nally again, for the Mayo man died in prison at the hands of his British jailers. That was a real tragedy, as otherwise he would have exercised a great and far reaching influence on the affairs of the

Gaelic Athletic Association.

Political dissensions that arose shortly afterwards appeared to sound the death knell of the whole project but the I.R.B. were now thoroughly convinced of the necessity for some such movement and in 1883 the Supreme Council decreed that immediate steps be taken to initiate an athletic movement which would attract the young manhood of Ireland.

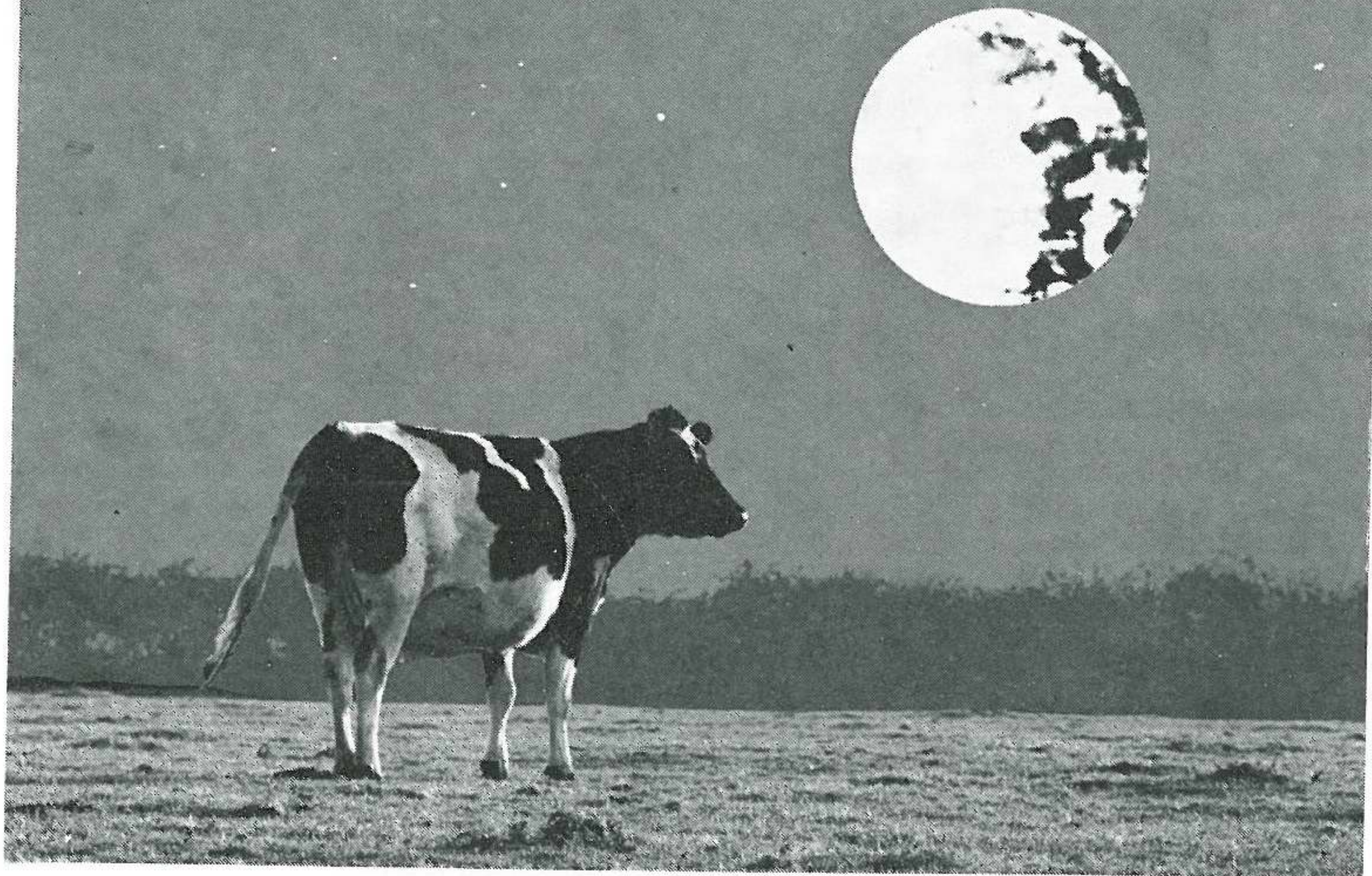
In furtherance of this project they appointed a small committee consisting of Jim Boland, Dublin, P. N. Fitzgerald, Cork; Pat Hector, Birr, and John Menton, Wicklow, to investigate the possibilities.

This quartette first met in a private house in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, and later at other venues in the city and reported back to the Supreme Council that it would not be in the best interests of the organisation that any well known member of the I.R.B. should be openly associated with the establishment of the proposed new national body for the propagation of national games and athletic pastimes.

The Council agreed, but urged its members to give every possible support and encouragement to the new body. They further chose Michael Cusack for the organising job. He was acceptable to the I.R.B. in thought and outlook, yet was not suspect of actual Fenian associations. He belonged to the well-to-do class, but was of the people and knew the people, and had a down to earth knowledge of prevailing conditions. He was also closely associated with sporting activities and his previous efforts to revive hurling were still fresh in the public mind.

So the seeds were set for the launching of the Gaelic Athletic Association—the actual founding of which will be recorded in the next article in this series.

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*And that makes for a gigantic leap forward for Ireland. And for the nation's export trade!*



# BORD BAINNE

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## and the E.E.C.

By PAUL  
HUSSEY

WHEN Ireland's application for membership of the E.E.C. was revived in early 1970, the Department of Agriculture, in its "Brown Book" on the prospects for Irish Agriculture, issued at that time, referred to the changes that membership of the European Community might entail for An Bord Bainne. The hope was expressed that An Bord Bainne would continue as a central marketing co-operative, drawing its powers and ideals from the banding together of Irish producers for their common good (encouraged and, indeed, facilitated by the Treaty of Rome) rather than from the existing powers conferred on it by the Act of the Oireachtas (frowned on, if not expressly outlawed by the same Treaty). It should not be thought, however, that this suggestion originated in the "Brown Book" — in fact many organisations connected with agriculture, and dairying in particular, had already been discussing the ways and means of keeping together, in a legitimate way, the centralised marketing function then and now been exercised by An Bord Bainne. No support seemed to be forthcoming for a return to the situation prior to the foundation of the Board when individual companies and co-operatives sold often directly in competition with each other, to their mutual disadvantage, on an individual and somewhat haphazard basis. With such a fund of goodwill, therefore, for the idea of the Board continuing its central role, it was only a question of deciding the framework to be adopted and the

steps to be taken to bring the idea into reality.

The first concrete steps were taken in the late summer of 1971 by which time it had become apparent that the entry negotiations of both Ireland and the United Kingdom stood a better-than-even chance of success. Some time previous to this, a body known as the Dairy Organisations Council (D.O.C.) had been set up, grouping various bodies involved in the dairy industry at different levels i.e. the two main farming organisations — the I.C.M.S.A. and the N.F.A. (now the I.F.A.), the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society (I.A.O.S.), the Irish Cream Exporters Association, the Agricultural Institute and An Bord Bainne. This body originally set up for a completely different reason, undertook, on its own initiative to discuss the problem and to draw up a set of proposals which would form the basis for discussions with those most vitally interested — i.e. the producers as individuals and as shareholders and suppliers to co-operative creameries and factories throughout the land.

The D.O.C. met at frequent and regular intervals. No less than 9 draft documents were drawn up before all the Organisations involved felt they could give the document their unqualified support.

Basically, the document proposes that An Bord Bainne shall become a Co-Operative Marketing Society whose object shall be "to improve and develop the marketing of milk products . . . as will insure that milk is put to

the most profitable uses." Membership is open to and is invited from all creamery co-ops and milk processing concerns, on condition that they are prepared to market all their export-destined dairy products through the Society. It is further proposed that at some (as yet undefined) future date the Society will take over such functions, assets, liabilities and contracts of the existing Board as is agreed by the Society and by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. (On this point, it is worth recalling that all the Board's assets have been built up out of the producer levy paid on all milk delivered to creameries since 1963. Government monies have only been used to cover export losses.)

The D.O.C. thought long and hard about the Board of Directors of the new Society. It was obviously important that as many different interests as possible should be represented, but it was recognised that the Board would still have to be small enough to operate efficiently. Finally it was agreed that the best proposal would be a Board of 13 elected members.

- (a) Six members, one from each of the Six members with the highest annual valuation of milk and milk products.
- (b) One member from the Dairy Disposal Co.
- (c) Six members, to be elected by all the members other than those covered in (a) and (b) above. For the purposes of election, the country is to be split into two regions, each

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● **FROM PAGE 43**

region electing three members, of which at least two of whom shall be primary producers.

The Board may co-opt to membership up to two other Directors, one of which, it is proposed, shall be nominated by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

The proposal lists a number of activities which the Society may or shall engage in and two are of particular importance —

(1) In order to promote and co-ordinate the marketing of milk and milk products it is considered necessary that the members should permit the Society to direct the total "pool" of members' milk into the quantity and type of products best suited to maximise total returns to the producers. This power, which is akin to the present Board's "allocation" of milk to particular products, is intended, as far as possible to avoid the production of unsaleable surpluses. It is envisaged that the Society will contract with its members for specific quantities of products.

(2) The Society will provide the maximum information to its members on market trends and manufacturing possibilities. This will also serve to increase the returns to the producer from milk sales.

The total of manufacturing milk in Ireland represents only about 4% of the milk pool of the enlarged E.E.C. and it is clearly advisable that this small amount should be marketed in a unified manner.

The D.O.C. consensus is that the welfare of all interests in the Irish Dairy Industry will best be served by a central and national marketing agency established on a co-operative basis which will retain and utilise to the best effect the knowledge, expertise, standing and assets which An Bord Baine has built up over the past 10 years.

● FROM PAGE 17

many good young fellows who just didn't make it when the play was hard, fast and a lot at stake.

There's Willie Walsh, the centre-forward who was certainly a very good player at centre-forward or centre-back. Walsh got very interested in car racing and the hurling suffered. Getting married just now, he is not being considered—not because of the marriage but because of his obvious lack of interest in hurling. If he ever comes back he's young enough to re-make an impact and then, there's red-haired Tomas Ryan of Inniscarra who hurls with the tremendous fire that in championship is half the battle. Ryan, a dedicated player, lost his form because he hadn't time to train. A farm and an injured brother (who, I'm glad to say, recovered) put paid to Tomas' efforts, but any man who drives from Dublin on Sunday morning just to see Cork play Tipp in the League in Cork and at the last moment goes on to play well, has the stuff that is needed in the really hard hour.

So there are 22 players, all of whom have had a fair bleeding. They can hurl and they can run. They are well studied by a keen bunch of selectors and the training is done by Jim Regan and Father Coakley of Fermoy, who passed a physical training course in the Vincentian College at Strawberry Hill in London.

The day of reckoning is May 21 at Cork when they play a Waterford side which I'm glad to say is coming back on the rough championship trail once again. I can't wish them too much luck in this joust against Cork, and indeed if they improve on their form a little they may not need it. Cork will be favourites and the manner in which they play will, I think, add emphasis to my contention that Cork aren't back: they really never left.

# NICHOLAS CLAVIN

## TALKING TO JACK MAHON

**N**ICHOLAS CLAVIN is probably the most underrated footballer in Ireland. A brilliant colleges player, he is an equally brilliant senior star. Adaptable, not over stylish, strong, clean as a whistle, he has served his county admirably over the past few years and will be sorely missed when his vocation calls him away to other lands.

Nicholas is a clerical student in All Hallows College, Dublin. Times were when clerics weren't allowed to play during the school year. Good job for Offaly that this rule no longer obtains. Nicholas is one of the most versatile footballers in Ireland and his sportsmanship is on a par with his skill.

He was born in Rahan on December 3rd, 1948. His home club is St. Carthage's and he also played with U.C.D. He weighs 13st 6lb. and is six feet tall.

**Favourite player?** — I don't think I could limit it to one as some have it for the class fielding, others for accuracy while others for the attacking play. It takes all three to make the game a spectacle.

**Favourite opponents?** — Galway.

**Most difficult opponent?**—Pat Griffin of Kerry.

**Most memorable game?** — All-Ireland Senior final replay against Cavan, 1969.

**Biggest thrill?** — The final whistle in the All-Ireland against Galway last year.

**Biggest disappointment** — Defeat in the All-Ireland colleges final by St. Jarlath's in 1966, by 0-1, in the last minute.

**Miscellaneous likes?** — Films,

sport, traditional music—especially O Riada.

**Miscellaneous dislikes?** — A player who does not try to give his best in a game.

**Favourite T.V. shows?**—Late, Late Show, Top of the Pops, Seven Days, "Isteach Leat" in particular.

**Favourite singers (pop, folk, anything)?**—Seán Ó Sé with Ceoltoirí Cualann, Paddy Reilly, the Dubliners, Joan Baez, Cliff Richard.

**Best friends?**—My fellow students in All Hallows College, the lads at home and players on the team.

**Biggest influence in sporting career?** — The advice which my father gave me, drawn from his own knowledge of the game, was invaluable. Of course, the "Alma Mater"—St. Finians, Mullingar.

**Personal ambition?** — To become a good priest.

● TO PAGE 49

## Summer School at Gormanston

**G**REAT news for Inter. and Leaving Cert. students, boys and girls. Commencing on the 2nd July next, a two-week course, embracing Irish, English, Maths., and French, will be held at Gormanston College, Co. Meath.

Apart from academic subjects, the course will also include numerous sporting activities — tennis, swimming, football, basketball, etc.

As the number of students that can be accommodated is limited, we advise interested students to contact our good friend, Eamonn Young, Roisin Dubh, Woodleigh Park, Baile 'n Easpaig, Corcaigh, for fuller details — immediately.

● FROM PAGE 15

goal and the Rebel County were winners by 4-3 to 3-4. A classic struggle that few fans would forget.

Dublin and Kilkenny cruised through Leinster and met in the final, Kilkenny winning by 2-12 to 4-3, at Portlaoise. In the All-Ireland semi-final at Roscrea, Kilkenny did not encounter any real difficulty in removing the Galway challenge, winning by 1-16 to 3-1.

The scene was set for one of the all-time classics of hurling. The match was played on the 3rd of September, the day already mentioned as being the one on which war was declared, but the fans making their way to Croke Park were oblivious of the European situation.

Almost 40,000 spectators were in Croke Park when the two teams lined out. The bright sunshine gave no hint of the dramatic change that would come over the weather near the end of the match.

The game was soon under way and the crowd was enthralled as both these great hurling counties gave a magnificent exhibition of hurling skills. Up and down the field the ball was moved at

lightning speed. Solo runs, ground hurling and stickwork of a high order was commonplace during the sixty minutes. J. Buttimer, A. Lotty, J. Barrett and C. Buckley gave their all for the red jersey of Cork, while Jim Langfón, Terry Leahy, J. Mulcahy, and Paddy Phelan played like men inspired for the black and amber. Then twenty minutes from the end, the skies darkened. Big drops of rain spattered across the faces of the spectators. Suddenly, a torrential downpour spilled from the heavens and thunder and lightning crashed and flashed all round the stadium. Rain ran down the backs of those who could not find shelter. The dye ran from the referee's jersey and turned his shorts a pale green. Yet the conditions at that moment seemed more than suitable to the titanic struggle taking place out on the park that was fast becoming waterlogged. Then Cork equalised with time running out. The score was 2-6 to 3-3 when an incident occurred that changed not only the course of the match but perhaps made this final unique in being the only All-Ireland final, hurling or

football at senior level, to be decided by a juvenile!

Young Matty Power, the nephew of the famous Matty Power himself, ran on to the pitch during a break for an injury.

He ran from one Kilkenny player to the other handing out resin which enabled the players to gain a proper grip on their hurleys. When play was resumed it quickly became obvious that Kilkenny were considerably better in their handling of their hurleys while the Corkmen's hurleys were as slippery as eels. The resin had done the trick and just on time, a glorious point from Jimmy Kelly of Carrickshock brought the title to Kilkenny for the twelfth time.

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# ULSTER VIEWPOINT

## ● FROM PAGE 13

of every five, it was referred to the Special Congress.

Sadly I have to report once again that automatic suspension remains on the statute book. Candidly I will never understand how Congress can be so consistently certain that the present system is best without at least giving the alternative a one-year trial.

Leaving Congress and turning to the local front I would commend the very successful new style dinner recently organised by the Armagh County Board.

At this function a whole series of special awards—covering practically all G.A.A. activities in the county—were handed over to individuals and teams selected

by a small sub-committee acting on a motion approved by the county convention.

The event proved a popular success and at a time when increasing emphasis is rightly being placed on the social side of the Association's activities, counties which have not already done so might profit—and not only financially—from the idea.

In all, 15 trophies were presented ranging from a Hall of Fame award to the nominations for the hurler, footballer, handballer, referee, official and camogie player of the year as well as the player and team of the year in each of the four divisions of the county football league.

Not unexpectedly Armagh's first Hall of Fame winner was

Jim McCullough, generally regarded not only in Armagh and Ulster but throughout the land as among the greatest players of all time.

Armagh's absence from the All-Ireland scene deprived many of seeing this famous player in action but his exploits for the province's Railway Cup sides made him a household name. Incidentally his first appearance in a Railway Cup final was against Connacht away back in 1936 while he was also on the team which won the 1947 final against Leinster.

Kerry followers—and especially members of the 1949 minor side—will be interested in the fact that Armagh's handballer of the year is Liam McCorry, who won an All-Ireland medal against the Kingdom that year and who has done so much both as player and official for football and handball since. The footballer of the year was the very talented 19-year-old Pat Moriarty whose father Ando was born in Kerry.

Incidentally the purchase of the 15 trophies involved no drain on the county coffers—an anonymous donor stepped in with a cheque for £100 to cover the outlay. The year has started well for Armagh.

## THAT TICKET SCHEME

### ● FROM PAGE 11

should also be those with the least spectator appeal . . . the type of matches that are normally supported only by the genuine enthusiast. Fans with completed cards could then qualify for the right to buy tickets for both All-Ireland finals.

This would fill an important void in the scene to-day. It would also help to boost gates during the winter months, for it would provide an added spur to supporters to take in more matches.

I consider myself as keen a supporter as anyone, but there were occasions in past winters when the fireside won out over League or club games at Croke Park. But there would be no contest in this regard if every such visit each winter meant a step nearer to an All-Ireland final ticket.

No doubt there would be some abuses—no system is foolproof. However, it seems to me that all

round the idea I put forward is a sound one, and a move that would be in the best interests in every way of both the G.A.A. (think of the good public relations job such a move would prove for the Association) and the man whose support is wholeheartedly that for the national games.

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AN ROINN SLAINTE

● FROM PAGE 45

The person in the world you'd most like to meet?—Some day I hope to meet the Pope.

The Irishman you revere most in history?—Padraig Pearse.

The Irishman of today you admire most?—Gay Byrne.

Can you speak Irish?—I speak a little with an effort. I had lost interest in speaking Irish until I went down among the people of Dunchaoin.

Do you intend to become a referee?—Definitely not!

Will the G.A.A. go professional?—I should not think so.

Your favourite sports writer?—They all give good coverage to Gaelic games and try to do it in an unbiased way.

Your favourite authors?—Walter Macken, Anthony Bloom.

Advice to young players? — Don't smoke and on the field be a good sportsman as this contributes to your own standard and that of the game.

Do you favour long hair? — I like the modern styled, medium-length hair style.

Are Irish people becoming less Irish?—Yes. And this increases as you go West to East. Irish culture is being cast aside in favour of a foreign one. I think it's a pity.

What identifies you most as an Irishman?—I should say accent is the primary characteristic by which you would identify an Irishman. For my own part, I have a great interest in Irish culture and customs. That's why, say, "Siamsa" takes my fancy.

# JUNIOR DESK



## With Jack Mahon

WE are two years old. Happy birthday 'Junior Desk'! Bet you all forgot our birthday. Have we improved in two years? Certainly we have got bigger. Please say we have got better.

Some readers have written asking me why I don't write articles myself anymore. Truth? I'd prefer this. This, as I said before, gives me greater pleasure than anything I've ever written. But that's enough.

### THE G.A.A. TIE

THE G.A.A. is really moving at last. Hot foot on the kit-bag comes the official G.A.A. tie, which is on sale in all counties for all G.A.A. supporters. Special ties for younger G.A.A. fans are being prepared. I have bought one of the Galway G.A.A. ties and it is fab. Ask about it in your local drapers. The manufacturers are C.T.C. Ltd., Dublin. They are sponsoring a competition for us in the June issue.

Which reminds me, the winner of our March competition for the All-Star jersey was **Maurice O'Connell (13½), Garda Station, Main St., Ballincollig, Co. Cork.** The correct answer was Leydon (Seamus). Seamus, by the way, is

now working and living in Cork.

HOPE you liked the Micheál Ó hEithir interview. This month we have Nicholas Clavin. Next month it is Eamonn Cregar. Then Paddy Downey. Who would you like after that?

### CUT OUT

OUR CUT-OUT this month is Michael Kearins of Sligo, Ireland's sharpshooter supreme. Well, one of them anyway. A gentleman from head to toe, his football looks so effortless. To score 13 points in a Connacht final is some feat. To repeat it in wintry weather on a muddy pitch seven months later for Connacht is unique. It gives me great pleasure to include Michael in our cut-out series.

I'd love to see him win an All-Ireland medal. It's hard for a team to crash the barrier, but the dauntless courage of Michael Kearins will help Sligo to have one more crack.

Now as well as being Captain, he is the team manager with absolute control on the field. It's an onerous task. We wish Michael every success (provided Sligo don't beat Galway!).

### ● OVERLEAF

WHAT  
HAVE  
THEY  
IN  
COMMON?



Jody Gunning



Jack Cosgrove



Pat Delaney



Kevin Kilmurray

THEY  
ARE  
ALL  
NON-  
SMOKERS

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



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **MICHAEL KEARINS, SLIGO**

## From the Mailbag

**Maurice O'Connell (13½), Garda Station, Ballincollig, Co. Cork,** the winner of the All-Star jersey in the competition we held in the March issue, writes—  
“I think Paul Kelly is a great referee. Give us a cut-out in colour. My favourites: Mick O'Connell, Johnny Culloty and Ray Cummins.”

● *It is nice to have praise for a referee. Without them we would have no games and we should respect their decisions always. (J.M.)*

**Joseph Doyle, Lansdowne Lodge, Kenmare, Co. Kerry** — “Kenmare have a very good senior football team. Their stars are Michael O'Sullivan, P. J. McIntyre, M. Murphy and Jamesy Murphy. P. J. McIntyre is the juvenile team trainer. He has started school leagues and under-16 leagues. P. J. is a native of Offaly. Our football pitch is called the Fr. Breen Memorial Park. I would like a pen-pal—a boy about 11 years. The idea of kit bags in county colours is very good.”

● *P. J. McIntyre is certainly doing a fine job. Now any G.A.A. fan about 11 years old, who wants a pen pal has an offer. (J.M.)*

**Seán Ó Cathill, Lisheen, Ballyhooly, Mallow, Co. Cork.** — “Any hope of getting a Railway Cup final programme?”

● *Yes—write to Sean O Laoire, C.L.C.G., Pairc an Chrochaigh, Ath Cliath 3.*

**Ciarán Ó Murchú, Glen Lodge, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.** — “Could you tell me, Jack, if Seán O'Brien and Mick O'Brien — two hurlers on the Wicklow team—are brothers?”

● *I don't know, Ciaran, but I now ask Wicklow readers to send in this information. Just one will do. (J.M.)*

**Liam Jones, Derryoran, Mountshannon, Co. Clare.** — “I agree with you when you say we are terrible APES in this country. Another of our copycat attitudes is for instance: Smiths Potato Crisps have at the moment a competition going for George Best. Why George Best? Because

he is with an English club. Why not one of our own G.A.A. heroes—Ray Cummins, Jimmy Doyle, Mick O'Connell or Seamus Leydon? It is high time we—the Irish—copped on. Let us have a slogan ‘Buy Irish—Make Irish—Save Irish’. Glad to see the non-smokers in Junior Desk.”

● *Yes, Liam we would need to cop ourselves on in many ways. (J.M.)*

**Peter Monaghan, 52 Nansen St., Belfast 12, Co. Antrim.** — “I agree with what you said about boys G.A.A. outfits. These should be available not only in the Offaly colours but in all the county colours. I am in favour of the open draw. I don't think London should be allowed into the All-Ireland open draw. My fancies for this year's All-Ireland, Limerick (hurling) and Offaly (football).”

● *I favour the open draw too for a trial period. It would create great excitement. (J.M.)*

**Tomás Mac Donncha, Cnoc Leitirmealláin, Co. na Gaillimhe.** — “Tá dhá phictiúr déanta agam agus tá mé dhá gcuir chugat. Is maith liom a bheith ag tarraingt pictiúr go mór-mór faoi pheileadóirí.”

● *Pictiuri deasa freisin de Nollaig O Duibhir agus Seamus O Loideain. (S.O.M.)*

**John Connolly, Furnish, Lettermullen, Co. Galway.** — “John Connolly is the best hurler in Ireland.”

**James Tobin, Kilfeale, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary.** — “Who did you get the All-Star jersey from? I'd love to know.”

● *No secrets! (J.M.)*

**Patrick J. Doherty, Roxtown, Clonmany, Co. Donegal.** — “I was a member of the Carndonagh Technical School team which won the county under-15 championship. We beat Donegal Town by 3-4 to 2-1. I scored 1-2.”

● *Great stuff, Patrick. Keep scoring. I know Donegal Town Tech. My wife's sister teaches there. You're one of the first to write from Donegal. Cead Mile Failte. (J.M.)*

**Thomas Grant, Knock House, Gracedieu, Waterford.** — “Make big John Kirwan of Waterford a

cut-out. Better to have them in colour.”

● *Wasn't the cover picture in the April issue of Jack Donnelly great? (J.M.)*

**Seamus Heffernan, Kilcotty, Glenbrien, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.** — “I enclose the programme of the Wexford county S.H. final of 1971.”

● *Buiochas, a Sheamus, It's better than the programmes we had in Galway for our finals. (J.M.)*

**Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Sligo.** — “I am all for county scarves. Wouldn't it be great to have a special ‘Junior Desk’ scarf. Give us a cut-out from Sligo or Down?”

**Declan O'Flaherty, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.** — “I would like pin-ups of all the 1971 All-Stars in football.”

● *Write to Mr. P. Heneghan, Public Relations Manager, Carroll's Cigarette Manufacturers, Dublin. (J.M.)*

**Leo McGough, Brownes Hill Road, Carlow.** — “I enclose the Carlow S.F. final programme of 1971. I enjoyed the Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook.”

● *An excellent production, far ahead of any programme I have seen at a county final. The type of programme all counties should produce. This programme is an absolute credit to Carlow. Football is bound to be on the way back in Carlow, judging by this. (J.M.)*

**John McGough, Inagh, Ennis, Co. Clare.** — “My favourite game is hurling and I like playing in goals. I am in sixth class and I go to a lot of matches. I think the cut-outs are super.”

Finally, would “Ciarraí”, Ranelagh, Dublin who wrote such a superb letter to “Junior Desk” please write under his own name as I want him to do something for me.

That's all from this month's Mailbag. Please keep writing if you want to express an opinion on the new G.A.A. kit-bag, the new G.A.A. tie, scarves, team outfits, pen pals, games with clubs in other areas or just anything. Write on one side of the page only and as neatly as possible. But please write to: Junior Desk, c/o Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.

● **TO PAGE 52**

# COMPETITIONS

Two copies of "The Football Immortals" as prizes in each section.

**Section One (under-twelves).**  
Two copies for first two correct entries drawn from hat:

**KNOW THE COUNTIES ?**

In the spaces provided write in the name of the county after

the G.A.A. star's name in each case :—

- (1) Jim Colleary (.....)
- (2) Andy Dunworth (.....)
- (3) John Conway (.....)
- (4) Brian McEniff (.....)
- (5) Con Roche (.....)
- (6) Paudie Lynch (.....)
- (7) Mickey Fay (.....)
- (8) Tom McGuinness (.....)

## RULES OF ENTRY

1. Fill in the entry coupon in your section and attach it to your entry.
2. Send your entry to: Junior Desk, c/o Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.
3. You can send only one entry with each coupon and you can enter only ONE section.
4. Entries for this competition must reach us on or before May 15.

Our gratitude to well known journalist Raymond Smith for presenting four copies of his book for this competition. Next month—June—we will have another competition, this time sponsored by C.T.C. Ltd., the manufacturers of the new G.A.A. supporters tie. In all we will have four G.A.A. ties as prizes—two for each section as in this one. The four winners will be presented with ties in their own county colours and these will be specially made for both age groups. That's for June. After that Urney chocolate will sponsor a competition in July and August. So Junior Desk fans, stay with us. Get your friends to buy "Gaelic Sport" and tell me what you think of our competitions. Any ideas. If you have send them to me at Junior Desk, Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.

Don't forget — your competition entry before May 15.

### JUNIOR DESK COMPETITION — ENTRY COUPON Section ONE

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

School ..... Age .....

School Address .....

**Section Two (thirteens to seventeens).** Two copies of book for first two correct entries from hat.

**RECOGNISE THE DUAL COUNTY STAR**  
O'DONOGHOE  
COUGHLAN  
CREGAN

WILSON  
BERRY

Take **ONE** letter only from each of the dual inter-county star surnames in turn (in the order in which they are given above), and so spell out the five-letter surname of yet another present-day dual inter-county star. (Tip: a Leinster man).

### JUNIOR DESK COMPETITION — ENTRY COUPON Section TWO

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

The name of the dual inter-county star is .....

School ..... Age .....

School Address .....

### Crossword Solution

● FROM PAGE 31

1C	2D	3J	4U	5F	6I	7T
7O	U	R	G	A	M	E
8N	O	E	8E	L	E	C
9I	N	O	C	E	10T	E
11I	D	11H	O	A	12R	13E
14U	N	T	E	N	A	B
15G	15N	L	E	A	16G	17U
17A	H	A	18E	E	N	O
19I	A	O	19W	20A	V	E
21M	U	L	L	I	N	S
22E	A	N	23D	R	Y	
23D	U	N	N	24C	A	R

# WE COVER A LARGE FIELD



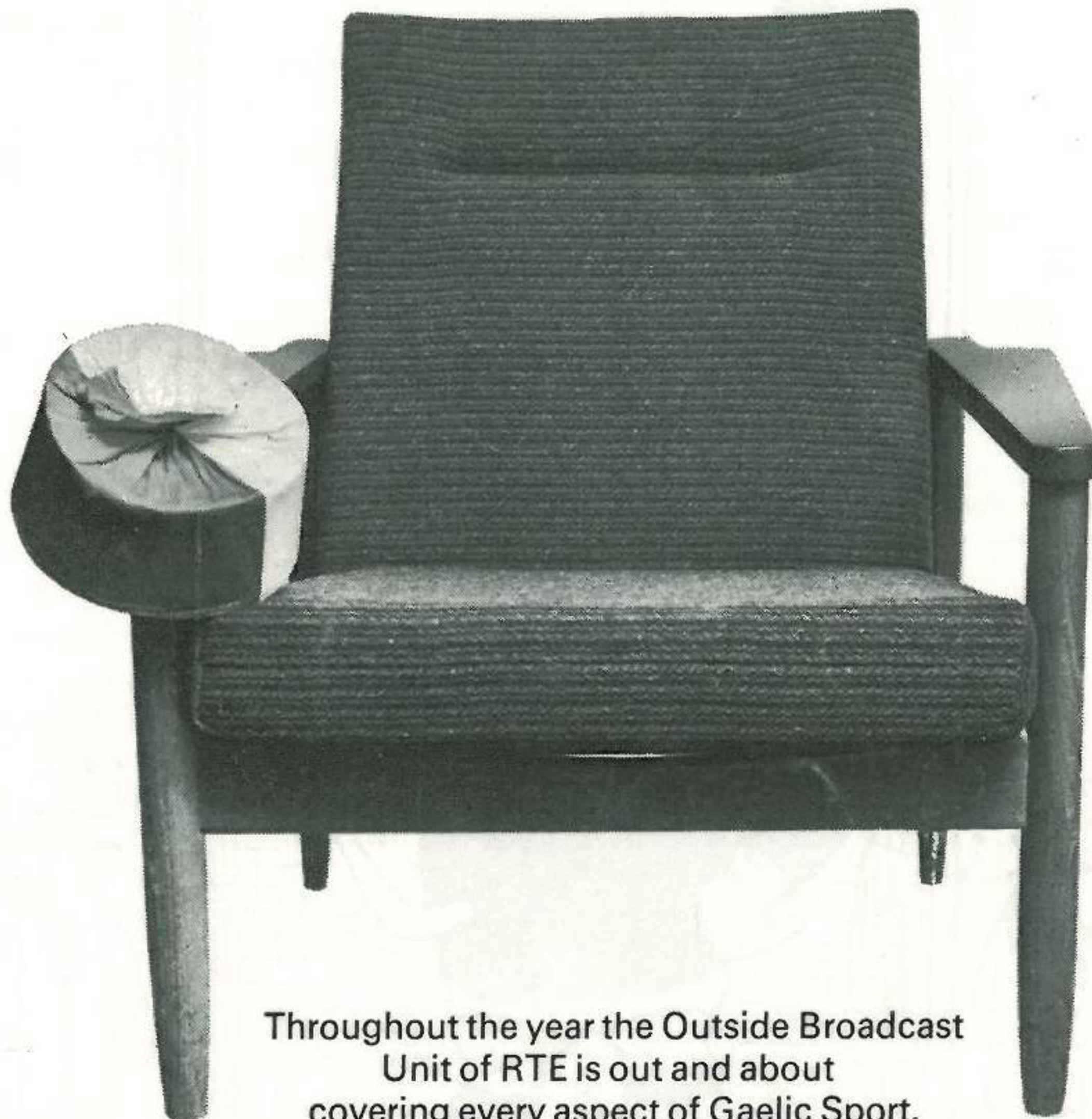
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# AIF



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Throughout the year the Outside Broadcast Unit of RTE is out and about covering every aspect of Gaelic Sport.

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All you have to do is cheer.

