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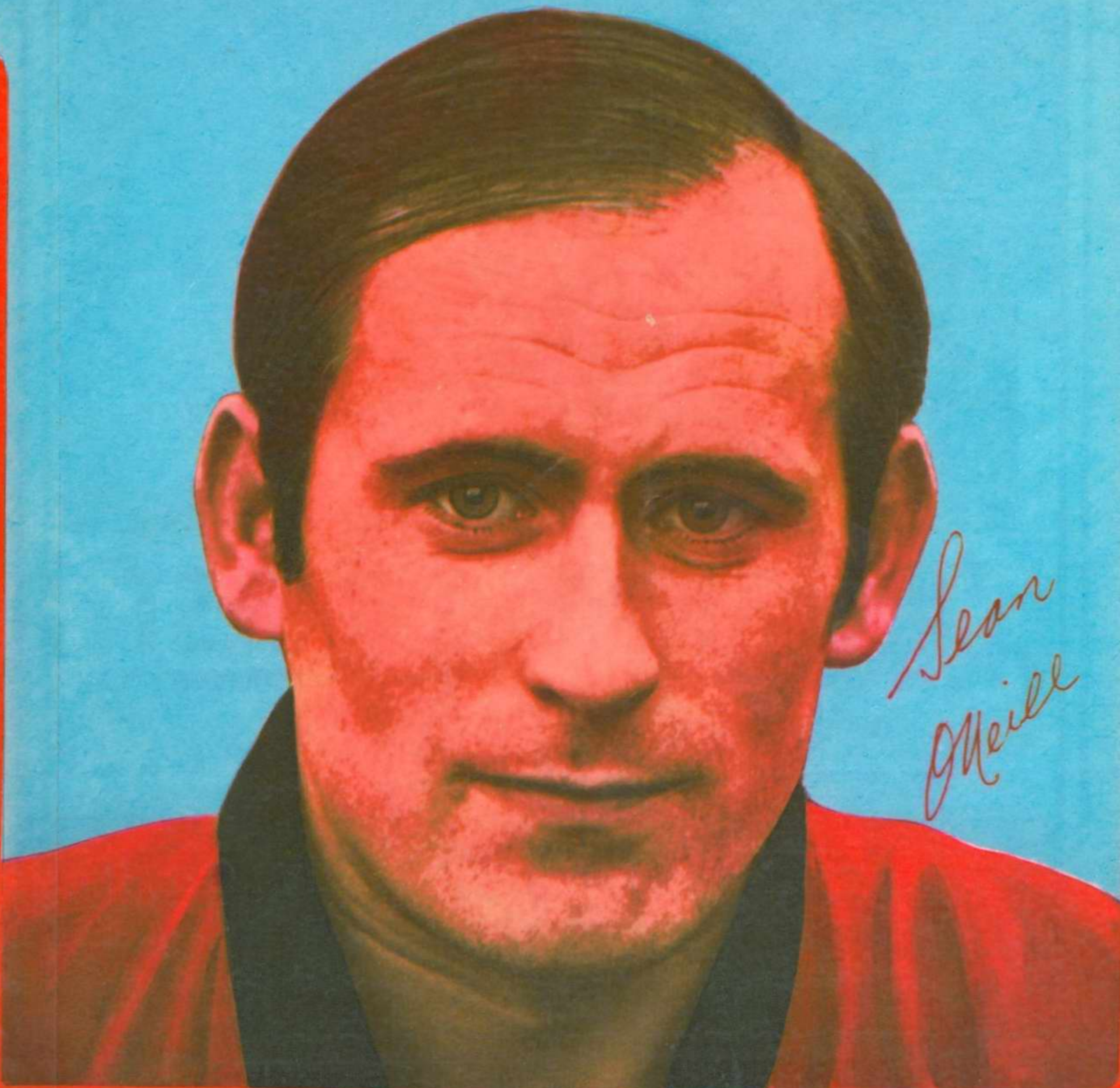
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# Gaelic Sport

APRIL, 1973

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IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY



*Sean Meill*

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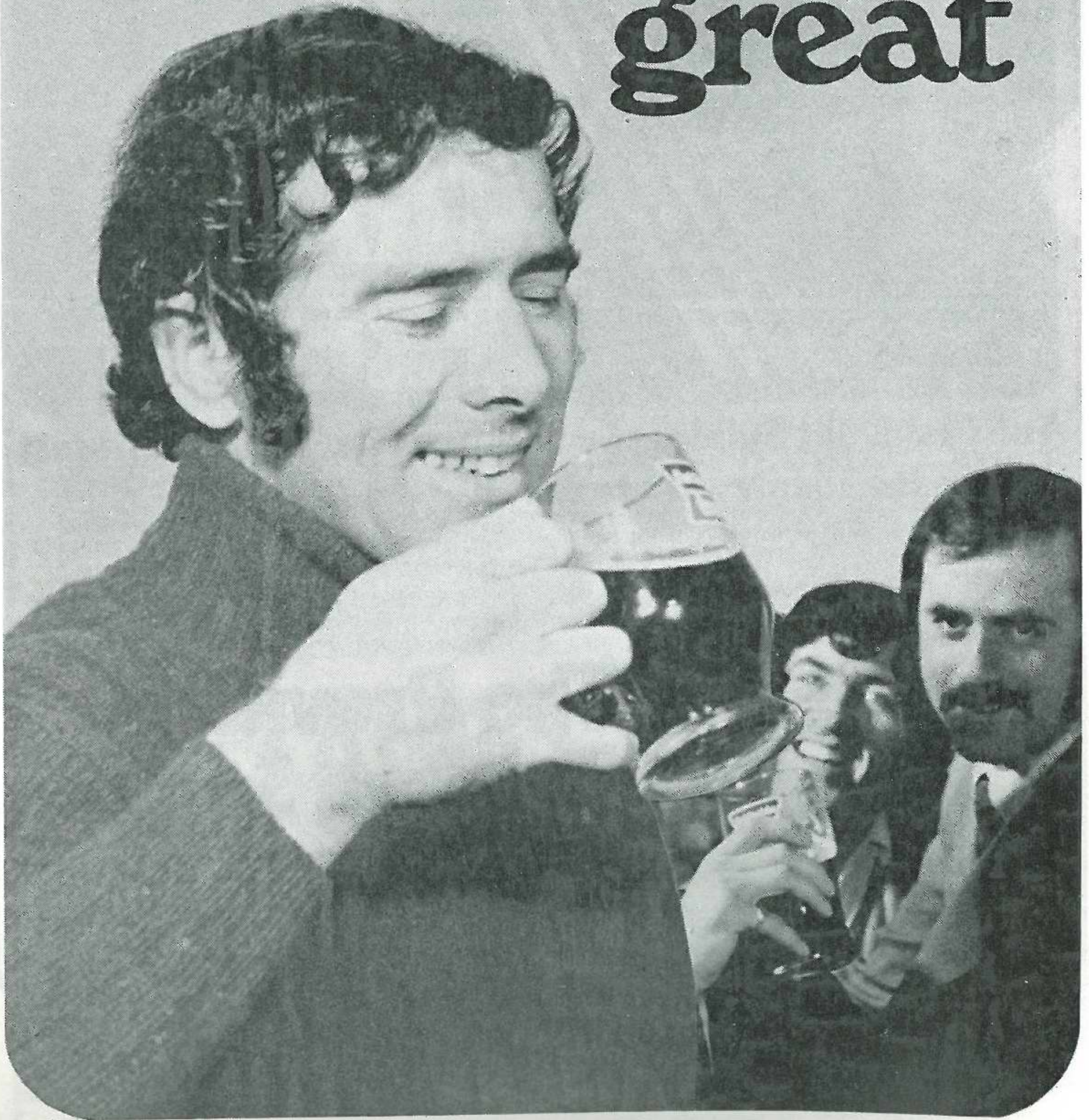
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# HE COULD RETURN

**P**AT Fanning's three-year term as President of the Gaelic Athletic Association ends at Easter. Tributes are paid to him in a number of articles in this issue. They are richly deserved and probably inadequate: only the passing of time and the perspective of history will expose his true stature. Although contemporary events sometimes tend to obscure our vision of the people who shape them, much of the out-going President's stature is already well known. Perhaps we have only seen the tip of the iceberg.

Tradition decrees that a President of the Association may serve only for a maximum of three years. There were exceptions in the past. Alderman James Nowlan was in office for something like 21 years; Pdraig MacNamee served part of a second term, because of necessity, in the early years of World War II. Those deviations from the norm could not happen now.

As a general principle, that is a good thing. Nobody is indispensable, no matter how able, how brilliant he, or she, may be in any sphere of human activity. New ideas, new approaches, are always welcome, sometimes revitalising, especially in an organisation like the G.A.A.

And yet, there is a tragic

aspect to Pat Fanning's passing from the Association's chief seat of power. He is too able, too important in the realm of ideas, energy, and, not least, idealism, to be forever lost to the G.A.A. at the highest level of its administration.

He will cherish his rest after three years which were both physically and mentally demanding to the point of exhaustion (yet, he has never shown exhaustion). But there is no rule in the book which states that a former President may not, after an interval, stand and be elected again. Nothing more binding than tradition—which is not of ancient vintage—ordains that it is not the thing to do. Tradition, like rules, can be broken.

After one year as *ex-officio* President, Pat Fanning will continue to work for the G.A.A. in his own county, in the province of Munster and, probably, on one or other of the committees which now proliferate at the top level of administration. His ability will not be lost.

But there is nothing—except his own choosing—to prevent him from standing again for the Presidency in three or six years' time. This journal will watch the play and will remind him of these words when the time is opportune.

### COVER PHOTO:

**O**N our front cover this month we feature the man who, in the opinion of many sound judges of Gaelic Games through the years, is considered the greatest full-forward in the history of Gaelic football—the great Sean O'Neill. On page 42 of this issue John O'Shea discusses with the peerless Downman the potential of the current Down team and their chances of coming out of Ulster in '73.

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As he  
prepares to  
vacate office  
Pat Fanning  
remembers  
the events of  
his term as  
President  
of the  
Association

*An interview with*  
**MICK DUNNE**  
*(of R.T.E.)*

**BY** the time the next issue of "Gaelic Sport" is published the G.A.A. will have a new president—its 24th. Now, I have no idea who he will be, but I am certain of this: each of the candidates (at the time of writing there are seven nominees) would agree that whoever takes over at the helm faces an enormous and unenviable task in having to follow Pat Fanning.

Let me say straight away that Pat Fanning does not need me, or anyone else, to chant the praises of his presidency. The energy and enthusiasm he brought to the office—indeed the degree of exhaustion to which he frequently seemed to be driving himself; the mixture of diplomacy and tact on the one hand and the firmness and rigidity on the other which he displayed during his term of office have resulted in very definite fruits and benefits to the Association. They stand as striking testimony to his being one of the very greatest of presidents.

Of course, the dignity and determination of the man as he faced the 1971 Congress in the Whitla Hall in Belfast steadfastly resolved to see that the will of the Association was carried through by abolishing the Ban—even though it was something that ran counter to all his own feelings and beliefs—will remain as his greatest moment. But, then, there were many other highlights of his three years in office, as Jay Drennan pointed out in last month's magazine.

Recently I had a long chat with the outgoing president. As I found on the many occasions he was my guest on television and radio programmes he spoke with complete frankness.

We talked about the day the Ban was removed. I asked about his feelings since he was noted as a strict adherent of the Ban.



● PAT FANNING

"That is true," he agreed. "This was for me, for Congress and for the Association generally, a traumatic experience, a traumatic moment in the history of the Association and of all connected with it. But here I must make a point I have made before: that is the remarkable ability of our Gaelic Athletic Association to adapt and to live with the situation as it exists, or as it is created for it."

"This," he added, "is a terribly important thing and is, I think, the inner strength of the Association. I tried to make the point at Congress—and made it sincerely—that we were changing a rule, but we were not sacrificing one whit of principle."

I put it to him that the thought of Pat Fanning as president made many sincere G.A.A. people nervous—when he was a candidate—

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● FROM PAGE 5

and I asked why this was so. "I don't know really," he replied. "I suppose I had a certain image in the old days, an image possibly of being intractable and all that, but I'm not certain that people were all that nervous about it.

"Naturally I was a person in a controversial field, and I was in many of those at Munster level and at county board level, but I do think that while people felt I mightn't be the man for the job, as it were, I don't think anybody believed that I was other than sincere in what I was attempting to do—and I would be very hurt if it were otherwise."

The president continued: "I don't mind people believing or saying that I shouldn't be, or shouldn't have been, president, but that's neither here nor there. But once it's done, I must say this: from all people and from all sides I got nothing but co-operation all the way and I tried to cultivate this co-operation to the best of my ability.

"I did to some extent, to a considerable extent, go out of my way at times to ensure that those people who might be estranged from me, or divorced from me, would see to it that I recognised them as G.A.A. people and hoped that they would so recognise me."

Did the office change the man?

"No, I was my own man and the same man always. I don't want to be facetious or unctuous about this, but I tried to work according to my principles and work always from conviction. I took decisions only as I saw them and in the firm conviction that it was the right thing at the right time."

Many people admired Pat's tenacity and perseverance in

seeking the presidency three times—1964, '67 and successfully in '70—others looked on his repeated candidacy as evidence of huge ambition. Did his two defeats give him any cause for reconsideration. "It did, of course," he confessed. "There is this terrible feeling of, not despondency—that wouldn't be true because as far as I'm concerned once it's over it's over—but there was a feeling that it wasn't for me and I had, as I said at Congress in Galway, set before me that, if the G.A.A. wanted it, I was willing to serve as President and given the opportunity I did serve.

"So yes, after the second defeat particularly, I suppose the idea was in my mind that, well, it wasn't for me—but it didn't so turn out."

Could it be said he enjoyed those three years? His reply: "Absolutely. I said at the very beginning it was something I wished to do. And it has been a remarkably fulfilling operation, a fulfilling experience, and something I wouldn't have missed for worlds, even though pressures are hard and it was difficult at times. It was terribly time-consuming, making great demands on stamina as well as on other things, but it was a wonderfully fulfilling experience."

Midway through Pat's term in office there was speculation—indeed suggestions—that, in some way, his presidency could be extended beyond the three-year limit. What was his reaction to this? "I was aware of those rumours, and people were kind enough to say it and were kind enough to talk about it. I not only would, but did, discourage any talk along those lines. I believe that the rule which requires a president, particularly, to vacate his office after three years is a good one. It is a very demanding office, but that is not the main

point. When a president goes into office he knows he has a period of three years in which to commit himself totally to the job at hand. I believe that the edge might go off. And I do believe that other people have the right, as I held I had the right, to offer themselves and I think it would be wrong for the Association to depart from this."

What of the future? Does Pat Fanning take a well-earned rest and retire into the background? His answer: "I came into the Association very young—a player and official at every level—and I remain a member of the Association at whatever level I'm permitted to serve. I will continue, I am sure, to be in the centre of things in so far as I remain a member of the Management Committee for a period of one year and I am always available to serve in whatever capacity is afforded me.

**"But I do think there will be a certain feeling of, almost, loss at going out of the office of president because it has been a tremendous experience to be at the very heart of things and to be responsible for, if I may say so, in some measure some of the most dramatic changes in our Association's history.**

"But in the matter of effort or participation or sharing in the running of the Association it's all a matter of degree. As long as I'm in the world I'll be a G.A.A. man, and as long as I'm able to serve at any level, I will be prepared to serve. I can never imagine myself feeling completely divorced from the centre of things having experienced it. And even if as an elder statesman—and I don't feel all that old—I feel I have something to contribute I will . . . and, of course, given the opportunity I will be very much back up to my head, up to my ears, in my club work



# TOP TEN RATINGS

By OWEN McCANN

**T**HIS month we break new ground by adding to the dimension of our popular Top Ten ratings, that long-running feature that, it is now generally accepted, calculates in the best possible way the stars of each year on consistent performances, rather than on one or two spectacular games late in the season.

More space for the ratings, more details on how the individual points totals are assessed, and a new look chart showing, in addition to the usual monthly ratings, the total number of points gained by each player concerned for the campaign so far. These are some of the innovations that have been suggested by many readers in recent months and which will be incorporated in the feature from now on.

And, we will welcome further views from readers. So, if you have not already written to us on this subject, now is the time to put pen to paper.

Meantime, on to this month's ratings, and one of the most impressive displays in the period under review was turned on by Kevin Kilmurray in Offaly's win over Galway in the National Football League at Galway in early March.

Understandably enough, Offaly men are doing well. John Cooney bagged 2-1 in the win over Galway, and in the process he did

much to earn for himself an eight points rating. This leaves the clever Erin's Rovers club man just a single point behind Kilmurray in the over-all table, as he was another on the seven mark last month. The All-Ireland champions gain further representation in the current Top Ten through Mick Ryan.

Leading the challenge at the top to the Offaly attackers are Kerry and Combined Universities star Paudie Lynch, and Connaught's Railway Cup team skipper Dermot Earley.

Lynch's consistent football is underlined by the fact that he goes in at seven points for the second month in succession. Earley, on eight points last month, drops a little this time, but still commands a good overall rating at 14 credit marks.

In hurling, it is proving a fine year for the back men. Seamus Horgan was a bright star in goal for Limerick in their early March win over Cork in Cork, and a week later he brought off some superb saves in a polished

all round exhibition that did much to power the Shannonsiders to the National League semi-finals at the expense of Wexford at Enniscorthy.

Prominent for the second successive month is Jim Treacy, whose solidarity for Kilkenny was a high-point of his team's League win over Clare in early March, and who was also in action with Leinster in the Railway Cup. A tally of eight for the second month in a row leaves him sharing over-all leadership in the code with Francis Loughnane (Tipperary).

In our new look chart, the figure before each player's name indicates this month's points score, and that on the right the total for the season so far, based on the March and April charts.

## FOOTBALL

9	K. Kilmurray (Offaly) ...	16
8	S. Cooney (Offaly) .....	15
7	P. Lynch (Kerry) .....	14
7	J. O'Keeffe (Kerry) .....	7
7	M. Ryan (Offaly) .....	7
7	M. Kearins (Sligo) .....	7
6	D. Earley (Roscommon) ...	14
6	L. Sammon (Galway) ...	13
6	C. McAlarney (Down) ...	6
6	J. Duggan (Galway) .....	6

## HURLING

9	S. Horgan (Limerick) .....	9
8	J. Treacy (Kilkenny) .....	16
7	F. Loughnane (Tipperary) ...	16
7	P. Hartigan (Limerick) ...	7
7	R. Bennis (Limerick) .....	7
7	E. Keher (Kilkenny) .....	7
7	J. Walsh (Kildare) .....	7
7	F. Cummins (Kilkenny) ...	7
6	T. Byrne (Wexford) .....	6
6	S. Greene (Waterford) ...	6



● Jim Treacy (Kilkenny)



● Sean Cooney (Offaly)



● John O'Keeffe (Kerry)



● Frank Cummins (Kilkenny)



## THE DERRY ENIGMA

**S**PARE a thought for their supporters! That was my immediate reaction when Derry once again clinched their National League semi-final place after what was undoubtedly another convincing gallop through Division 1B.

For the fourth successive year therefore, the Oak Leaf county will be carrying the main Ulster hopes into the league big time with, among its other incentives, those attractive financial rewards which go with a "top four" placing.

But will it be heart-break once again or the final for the first time? That's the question which is exercising the minds of everyone connected with the Derry cause and not least those loyal supporters who need no reminding at all about how many slips there can be between the cup and the lip.

In 1970 their favourites lost to Mayo by a point; in 1971 it was precisely the same story against Kerry and the only difference last year was that the Kingdom increased the winning margin to four points.

For good measure—if that be the appropriate phrasing—throw in the 1970 All-Ireland semi-final beating—missed penalties and all—by Kerry, and it's not hard to appreciate that Derry people feel they are well overdue a break.

My voice was in the chorus which cheered the Northerners home against Kerry in that memorable All-Ireland semi-final in 1958 and I had genuine sympathy for them in their abortive attempts to capture the supreme prize when taking on Dublin that same year.

Apart from these performan-

ces, however, I have seldom been satisfied with Derry's showings outside Ulster despite the fact that inside the Province they have been, more often than not, the equal of the best.

Someone has suggested that in a computerised All-Ireland Derry would take the title nine times out of ten and there's a great deal of merit in the theory.

The county is steeped in a proud tradition of loyalty to the GAA; it has produced many of the finest players the game has seen; in recent seasons the side seemed — and indeed were — equipped with all the talents, physically and technically. However, they remain our great enigma with that vital, indefinable quality which measures the difference between national titles and the consolation awards, seeming always to desert them at the moment of truth.

"If only the players have absolute faith in themselves all will be well," I have written in many a preview of a headquarters appearance by the Derrymen. Today I would be inclined to make the same forecast about their 1973 league semi-final.

But that is an outsider's view. What is the position in the camp itself as Derry once again prepare for the rocky road to Dublin?

Dedicated county secretary Pat Mullan believes that this year things will be different. "Previously far too much pressure was put on the players," said Pat. "Too much emphasis was put on the fact that reaching the final could mean a difference of several thousand pounds to the county."

"Contrary to numerous rumours and reports we are not in dire financial straits although we have the problems that all counties have to face."

This year the team would go to Croke Park not feeling that they had to win to save Derry from financial ruin but feeling, instead, that they owed it to themselves to win.

And the county secretary added: "There's a much more relaxed air about the team now and I think their performance in that last game against Fermanagh was proof of that. Another advantage this year is that most of them are that bit more experienced and Croke Park itself is nothing like as formidable a proposition as it was before."

Manager Harry Cassidy the man who took over the job nobody wanted two years ago and has impressed friend and foe alike with his sincerity and ded-

ication agreed that previous failures were due in large measure to undue pressures.

"Goodness knows there is enough pressure on the players out there on the park without additional strains," he remarked. "I'm happy with the way things have gone. In our last 14 National League games we have won 13 and lost one—that can't be bad."

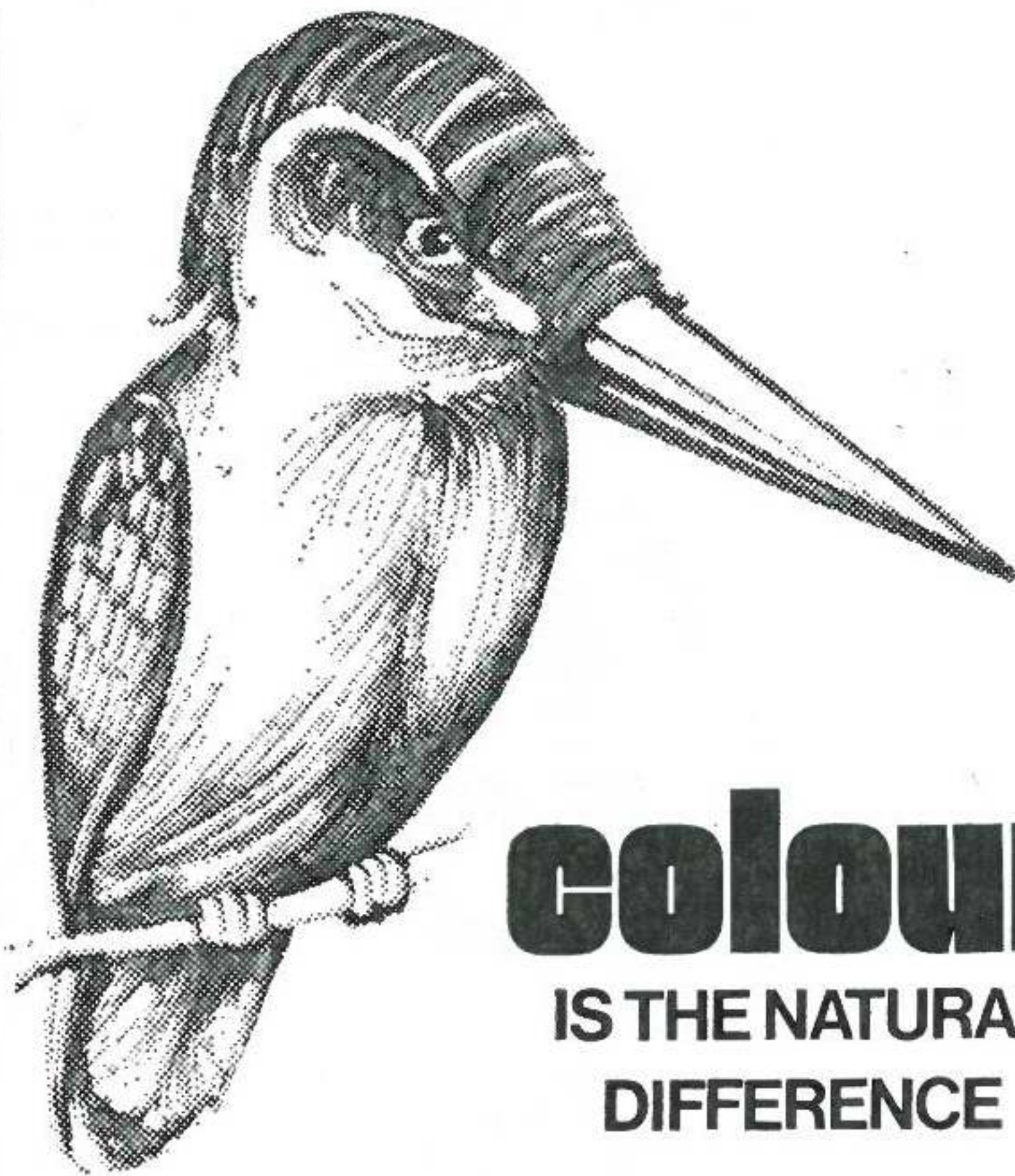
I then turned to quite-spoken chairman Patsy Breen — himself a former Derry star—and it was easy to detect the confidence which he feels as leader of the county.

"Derry have come through the present League campaign in very convincing style and are looking forward to yet another encounter in Croke Park," Patsy told me. "Our supporters have seen some real honest home displays by the team at Magherafelt and are preparing for another enjoyable Croke Park weekend.

Despite defeat everyone was well pleased with the display against Kerry last year. We were beaten narrowly and everyone played to their full capability. The fans got value for their money."

In a tribute to Harry Cassidy, the team manger, and Denis McKeever, the trainer, the county chairman stressed how good a job these officials had done in whipping the players into shape. "Both men seem to have imbued their own fiery qualities into their players and I am certainly looking forward to a display at Croke Park of this flair combined with their abundance of avoirdupois and of course above all—skill," the county chairman added.

The county had suffered a tremendous loss in Colm Mullen who was seriously injured coming from the late Brendan Dolan's funeral, but Patsy Breen is convinced that the team will play harder now "if only for Colm's sake."

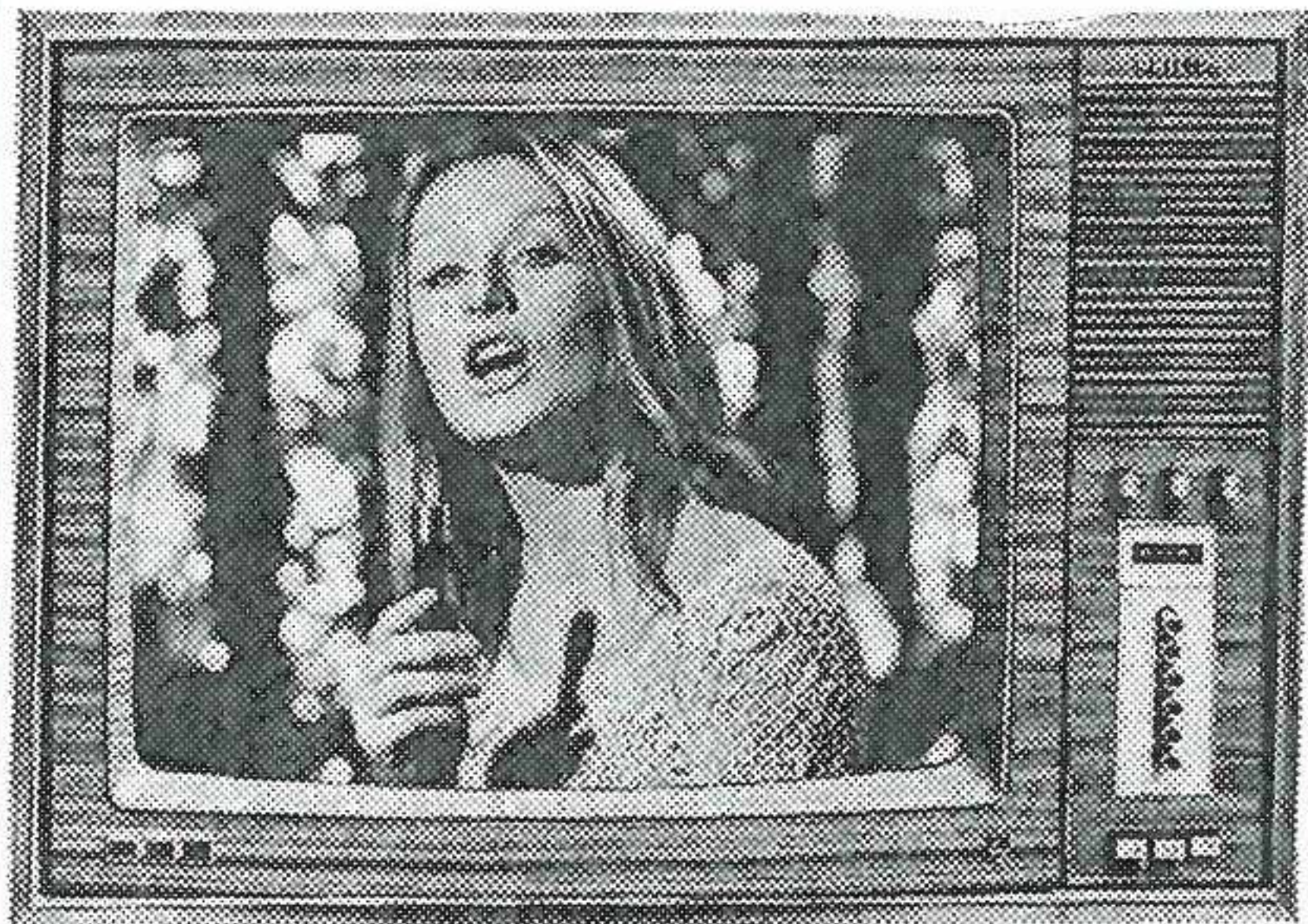


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● Paud O'Donoghue of Kerry, former pupil of De La Salle.

# DE LA SALLE APPROPRIATE SETTING FOR CONGRESS '73

made as De La Salle has played no small part in fostering the traditions of Gaelic culture throughout the country.

More presidents of the G.A.A. have come from the teaching profession than from any other walk of life, and seven of those presidents received their training as teachers in De La Salle. Amongst them were Sean McCarthy (1932-35), Dan O'Rourke (1946-49), Michael Kehoe (1949-52) and Seamus Ryan (1967-70). So it can be seen that De La Salle College has earned an honoured place in the annals of the Association.

The record of the college has not been confined solely to administration because the students of the college formed their own team and won the Waterford County Senior title in hurling and football: Senior Hurling 1913, 1914; Senior Football 1933, 34, 35, 36.

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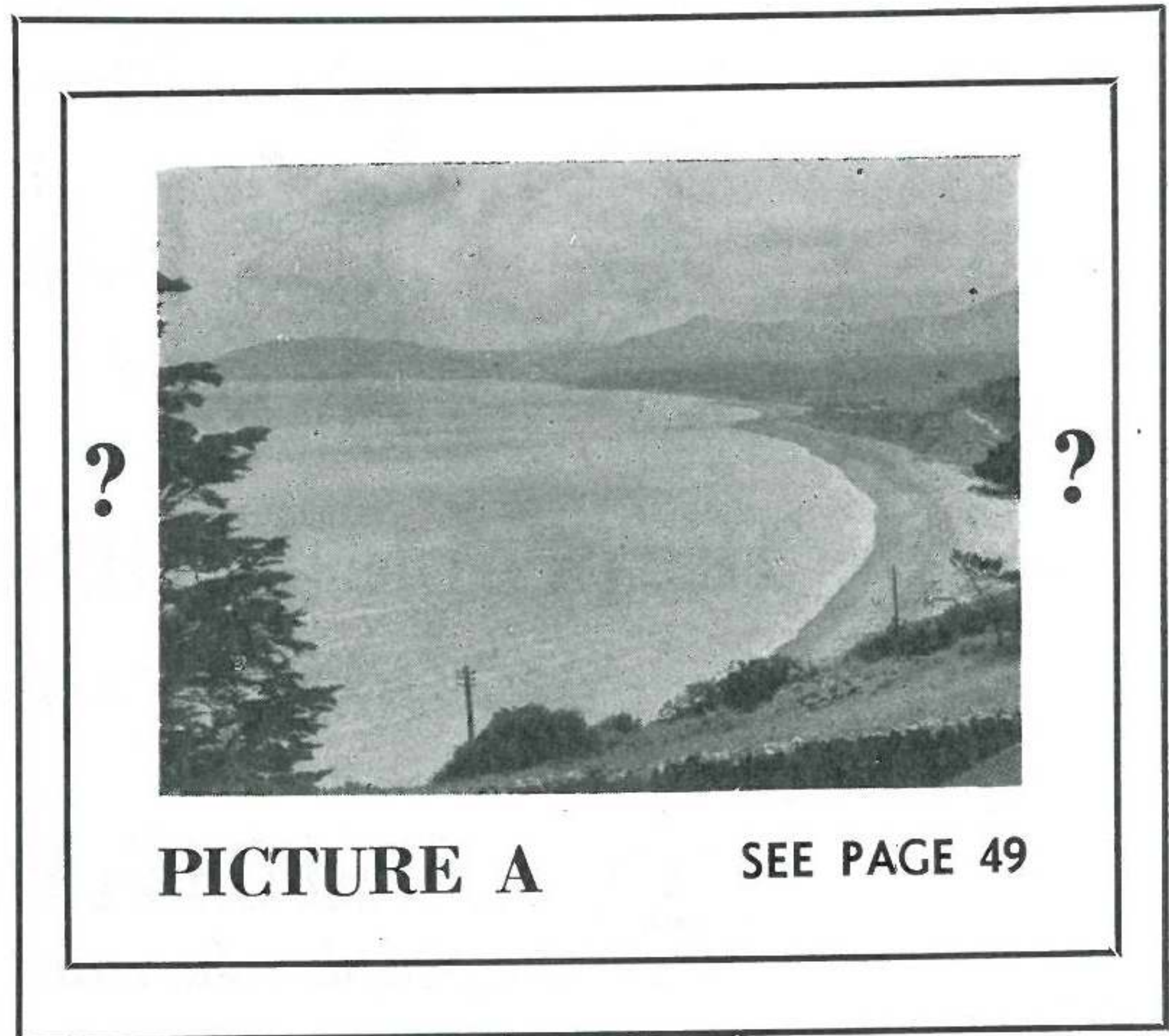
**W**ATERFORD will be the Mecca of the Gaels at Easter, as the Annual G.A.A. Congress will be held there, and delegates from each of the thirty two counties, as well as from Britain and America will converge on the Decies Capital on Easter Saturday, April 21st.

Many will wonder why Waterford has been chosen as the venue for Congress '73, as neighbouring Cork was the '72 venue, it would seem that Waterford has jumped the queue. The reason however is that Central Council has in this way paid a signal tribute to the outgoing President Pádraig Ó Fainín, whose term of office will end in his native Portlairge on Easter Sunday — a very fitting tribute indeed to a man who held the office with great distinction.

As Pat Fanning vacates the highest office in the Association, it is opportune to mention other Waterford men who have played their part in making the G.A.A. the great organisation that we know to-day. I refer to Dan Fraher, Liam Breathneach and Vin O'Donoghue, men who never

spared themselves in furthering the aims of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The venue for Congress will be De La Salle College, and no better choice could have been



# Team spirit



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● *Stephen Greene, whose scoring feats have been such a big factor in Waterford's unbeaten run in Division IB of the National Hurling League. Stephen's brother, Jim, has also played a leading part in the county's resurgence.*



## How far can Waterford hurlers go?

**M**UCH has been written recently about Waterford's improvement in hurling. A certain amount of it must be called overstatement, because, though the county team has shown remarkable interest and great determination in reaching the top Section of Division I in the National Hurling League, they are far from a complete team ready to trade strokes with Kilkenny or Tipperary or Cork in their best championship form.

Having watched some of Waterford's recent games, one cannot but be impressed with many of their competitive qualities. They never give in, that is clear enough, and some of their best spirit was shown in a game they did not even win, against Dublin. It seemed as though Dublin surprised them with their fitness and willingness to fight all the

way. Yet, having been caught on the wrong foot, the young Waterford team gave an encouraging display of grit in forcing themselves back into form and pressing on for a draw.

More interesting, at the moment, since the team has not reached its potential yet, and since it is difficult to say what level they will eventually reach,

is to have a look at some of the players who must be largely unknown to many hurling followers.

Blood is certainly thicker than water in the Decies county: John Kirwan, long-established as a hurler of real quality and now the senior member of the county side, is now joined by his brother Martin who spent some time across-Channel and was the pillar of the London team in two All-Ireland semi-finals.

Captain of the team, and of Cnoc Sion, the county champions, is Jim Greene, centre-half back for most of the League but recently switched to centre-forward in an effort to find an even better blend, is accompanied on the team by his brother Stephen, this year a Munster Railway Cup player and a highly dangerous poacher of goals from corner-forward.

Both boys are nephews of one of the original "greats" of Waterford who played in their first All-Ireland team — the one that lost the 1938 final.

Captain of that 1938 side and right-half back on the side that won the county's first title ten years later in 1948, was the immortal Mick Hickey, His son Martin is now one of the most dependable members of this present side, a player of fire and daring, skill and speed who often falls in to fill problem positions in rescue operations.

Another son of a 1948 man reigns in midfield in the present side: John Galvin, son of Billy, and nephew of the other brothers in a great hurling family of the forties. John played minor and senior with Waterford last year and, at nineteen, seems the best young prospect that we have seen in recent years.

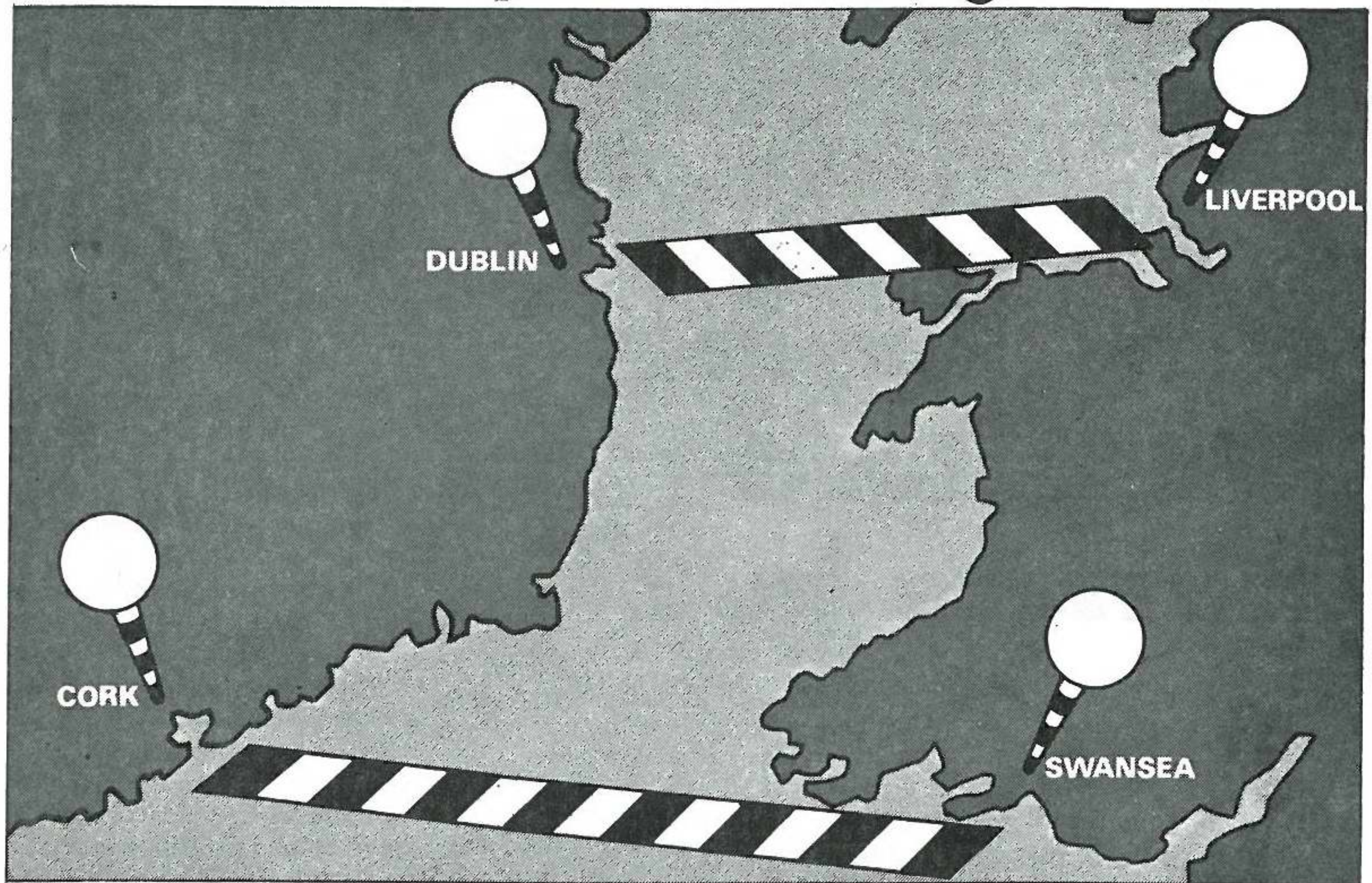
One thing about him is his old-fashioned style of play — honest,

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By  
**ROGER  
O'MAHONY**

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## The pedestrian crossing



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straightforward, strong, overhead power being a notable mark of his play in an age when most youngsters find the overhead ball an embarrassment.

Young Galvin hurls the overhead game in midfield with great power, and even when he cannot win the pull, the power of his swing makes sure that the opponent gets no advantage. He is an excitingly developing hurler of whom we must hear a lot more.

Partnering Galvin one finds Andy Heffernan usually, though a recent finger injury has laid him off temporarily. Another player with a background tradition: uncle Jimmy was a great Kilkenny player of 1947 vintage; and another had the unique distinction of playing with Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford, and representing both Munster and Leinster. Young Andy has probably improved more during the past year than any of Waterford's youngsters and now is a complete midfield player.

It gives much pleasure to supporters of the game to see Paddy Coady and Sonny Walsh in such rejuvenated form in the full-back line; and to see the splendid loyalty of Mick Foley, now willing to act as a stand-by goalie even though he was himself considered among the two or three best in the country a few years ago.

Gritty, tight-marking Davy Duggan has built a big reputation over the persons of some of the best forwards in the game who have been unable to get an inch or a score off him. And, of course, he has been the fill-in choice at half-back for the All-Stars.

Finally, strong and forthright young lads like Shamey Hannon and Liam Canning, Martin Geary and Pat McGrath make this a team with prospects. But, just how far they can go remains to be seen.

## FIXTURES WANTED

**T**HE Erin's Own club in Waterford is almost 50 years old, and last year gained an outstanding distinction by winning the Club of the Year award in the county. Congratulations, Erin's Own!

This club fields teams in all grades in hurling, and in all the grades of football, other than senior.

Michael Dowling is the club secretary and he tells us that Erin's Own would be delighted to arrange matches with clubs from outside Waterford. Write to him at "Fanagown", 212 Lismore Park, Waterford.

And, from one of the oldest clubs to one of the youngest. The Kilmore club was launched less than three years ago to cater for hurling and football from under-11 years up to minor in the newly-growing areas of

Artane and Coolock on Dublin City's Northside.

Already teams from the club have visited Limerick, Cork, Wicklow and Wexford, and officials are now busy arranging fixtures for 1973.

Club secretary Eddie McCann would welcome enquiries at 56 Ardlea Road, Artane, Dublin 5.

How about your club? Now is the time to make plans for the bright days ahead. Why not avail of Fixtures Wanted to let clubs throughout the country know of the type of games you are anxious to arrange?

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## **Moondharrig's Diary**

### **more committees, please!**

**A**T Waterford this month the delegates will gather for what is, in effect, the fourth G.A.A. Congress in twelve months. We had the annual Congress proper at Cork last Easter. Then the delegations gathered again at Aras na Fianna in Dublin for a Special Congress to deal with the Recommendations of the Special Commission.

They failed to get through this mammoth task in a day and a half, and had to come back to the same setting early in January to try and finish the job. Well they finished the job all right, but what exactly they decided I doubt if even the delegates themselves could spell out for you. So now it must be natural to ask, is this current Easter Congress really necessary?

**My answer is simple—of course it is. This is the annual Congress, the yearly stock-taking by the entire Association. It is as different from the special Congresses as chalk is from cheese.**

This is the time when delegates can query everything that has happened since last Easter, and an awful lot has happened since then.

The delegates are also entitled to query decisions taken by the Special Congresses, and alter them if they can mount a sufficient majority to do so. It will be a difficult Congress this time in some respects, because the delegates will be caught mid-way between the old Official Guide and the new Guide and Rule-Book that will have to be re-written

with all those approved Recommendations of the Commission included.

Since so many of the Recommendations seemed to me to have been accepted en bloc without having been fully worked out, I have a feeling that quite a number of delegates are going to have a few surprises in store for them when they see exactly what their decisions at Aras na Fianna entail.

But, for heaven's sake, delegates, whatever you do in Waterford don't set up any more Committees! The Special Congress agreed to set up so many Committees at so many levels that, if we continue at this rate, we will have to call another Special Congress to set up a Special Committee to try and work out how many Committees we have elected already.

**But the Annual Congress is still the most important event in the entire Gaelic Year, and the delegates must always remember that they are the supreme power in the Association.**

It is they who delegate authority to the Management Committee, and the Central Council, and of course to the Officers of the Association, to run the G.A.A. in their name from Congress to Congress.

And if I were a delegate to the Waterford Congress, what I would really go in quest of is information and clarification. I would want to know when those Activities Committees, and Youth Committees and all the rest of

the Committees, at all levels, are going to be in action, and who is going to service them all, and exactly what their powers are going to be?

Because it seems to me that the decisions of the Special Congress got off to a mighty bad start when at the first crux that arose there was a disagreement as to whether the Management Committee or the Central Council was the final power on certain matters.

We need to get all such discrepancies clearly defined here and now, and Annual Congress is the final authority and the final Court of Appeal on all such problems. So clarification may well be the key-note. Otherwise we will all get bogged down in a succession of fruitless arguments. But this time, of course Congress will also have another most important duty to fulfil.

The delegates will have to elect a President, and one does not envy the man who will have to succeed Pat Fanning, who, through the past three years, has proved time and again, that he can rank with the greatest of those who have held before him the highest office within the gift of the members of the Association.

**Come another day, I will, please God, try to summarise what the man from Mount Sion has achieved during his years in the Presidency, but now, when Congress is gathering to nominate**

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# Got a party travel problem? Or social driving worries?



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his successor, is not the ideal time to sing Pat Fanning's praises.

Neither is this the time nor the place to speculate about his possible successor. Suffice to say that all the men who have been nominated are true Presidential material, irrespective of Province or County, all of them men who down the years have proved their dedication to the games, to the Association and to the ideals for which it stands.

So much for the serious business of Congress, but Congress-time is also a joyous occasion when old friends foregather and new friendships are established.

Even in the years when Congress was held in Dublin, the social side was not entirely neglected, even if it meant that harassed County Secretaries, when an important vote was at hand, might have to go haring from the Aberdeen Hall in the Gresham to round up some of their delegates from what was then Tommy Moore's in Cathedral Street.

But since the Congress has started to move round the country at Easter time, the social side has become organised and makes the entire event far and away more enjoyable and more memorable. Galway set the pattern three years ago. Belfast defied almost impossible difficulties to make the 1971 week-end entirely memorable, while, not to be outdone, the welcome and hospitality in Cork last Easter had to be experienced to be believed.

What is more, the general development of the social side has meant that delegates now tend to bring their women-folk and the result has been to brighten the entire occasion, and to soften the relatively few controversies.

And one warning to Waterford. They have their work cut out for them to equal the standards set by Galway, Belfast and Cork.

# Glamour of soccer will fade

IS there a danger that young players will lose interest because of Cork's lack of success at senior level and switch to soccer? That's what the man asked me.

Of course there is. In fact some of them have already switched to soccer. And I hope some of them will stay there. Soccer is a good game but it hasn't done much for us. Apart from the delightfully affectionate kissing of the scorer and the clenched fist salute when the score is made, it gave our players some ideas which will take us years to change. Like playing around with the ball just to make it look good and comparing goalkeeping of a twenty-four foot line with one three feet shorter which can be assailed by hungry forwards. Yes soccer is a good game but some day the boys will have to take time off to see what the differences are between it and Gaelic football. I like the skill of soccer but give me any day the virility of rugby.

The soccer glamour for Gaelic players will soon fade and men are already being asked to name their priorities anyhow.

The day is already gone when club leaders are going to be sat-

isfied with the eager chap who plays hard rugby or skilful soccer on the Saturday and pulls on the Gaelic games sweater on the Sunday. It isn't fair to anyone. And it's twenty years ago since a relation of mine who was a very good performer was dropped off a rugby team because he insisted on defending his boxing championship on the night before. Hard to blame him, or them. But priority there must be.

Cork city never played Gaelic football very seriously. There was a county final once between the Rockies and Barrs on a cold November afternoon. The crowd had gathered and it was going to be a great match. The curtain-raiser saw two junior football teams in action mainly because the boys wanted to see the hurling game. It was cold and wet. A footballer kicked a free wide; another fella had his name taken for pretending to fight; a big fat fella fell on the ground winded and the ambulance man attended to him (it being the days of the two-minute stoppage).

The shawlie (they're gone, God help us) had sold her fruit and chocolate. Weary and bored she sat on the timber seat looking with baleful eye at the jamboree on the field. Then another fella

kicked the ball into the river. She looked around at the crowd, swung the shawl across her ample bosom and said, "Ah for de luvva God, turn 'em in outa dat and lave out de Rockies." And only a year ago I heard a Barrs supporter who arrived for a hurling game looking at the curtain-raiser in which his club's intermediate team was playing football.

"Oh God," he says, "look at Tom Kirby an' all in dere at dat ting." So if half Cork city turn to soccer so what. The country style is the Gaelic football we want, and the city men who play that style won't be content with soccer anyhow.

As for success, which is so important, the public have been waiting so long they will probably wait a bit longer. The wait won't be quite so long if we stop telling the players how good they are and how many dual All-Irelands we are going to win in the next ten years. Already I'm glad to say there are signs of sanity returning. The seeds of common-sense may eventually grow provided they are watered consistently by shrewdness, humility, dedication and good management. It takes a great pair of legs to carry a big head.

I wish Cork people would shut up about winning football All-Irelands. Anyone with a brain as big as a caraway seed knows that it takes ability, hard slogging and hard work and luck. If Corkmen provide all this in time a championship will come . . . maybe ten years . . . maybe five. In the meantime you just keep working away at it, using your head and steeling a heart against inevitable disappointments. Let those who cannot measure up go to soccer—or to blazes. We're better off without them.

# Player-Wills, too, are keen supporters.



But in the exciting world of Gaelic sport Player-Wills are more than just spectators. Over the years they have played an active part in the fostering of our national games . . . By the donation of trophies for competitions throughout the country. By the sponsoring of films and books on football, hurling and famous G.A.A. stars. And by contributing to many other Gaelic sporting and cultural activities. Today, Player-Wills join with the many thousands of keen supporters who look forward to more thrilling chapters in the annals of Gaelic sport during the years ahead.

**Player-Wills**

PWI/28a

# Knocking around the provinces

with Neil McCavana

"PLAYERS wash after 'mud-bath,'" was the heading over the front page picture in "The Clare Champion" that at first glance I thought was a throw-back to the "bad old days" when our fathers togged out beside the ditch. The picture showed a group of players washing mud off their legs at a street pump.

But the piece under the photograph quickly left no doubt that this was a right up-to-the-minute scene. It was captured in Miltown Malbay the previous Sunday after a National Football League game between Clare and Wicklow, and the picture was taken approximately 100 yards from the G.A.A. pitch.

"The Clare Champion" piece went on:

"Wicklow players were seen washing themselves in a pool of water in a field adjacent to the pitch.

"Is it any wonder that many of the youth in the country today are not playing our Gaelic games but turning to rugby and soccer where they will have proper facilities? It is high time that the G.A.A. provided proper facilities for its players in the line of dressingrooms and showers. Lest anyone think that this is directed at the Miltown Malbay G.A.A. Club let me hasten to point out that this is the situation at most of the G.A.A. pitches in the county at the moment. In West Clare there is but one field, Doonbeg, which is adequately equipped with dressingrooms and showers. Every

G.A.A. pitch in the country should have these facilities and unless something is done about this in the very near future, then the number of young people playing Gaelic games will get smaller and smaller.

"Club officials will say that it is almost impossible to raise money to have these amenities. There are grants available from the Co. Board and from the Munster and Central Councils for the provision of these amenities and the remainder of the money can be raised if the G.A.A. is interested in having these amenities. Sooner or later players will refuse to play in these conditions, so it is in the G.A.A.'s own interest to provide these. So how about it Clare? By this time next year every pitch in the county should have these amenities or be on its way at least to having them."

## HOTCH-POTCH TEAM

After that I can't help wondering yet again if the G.A.A. has its priorities right money-wise. Take the hurling revival. There is no keener lover of the game than me, but I still wonder if the Association is not throwing good

● *Seamus Flood . . . a fine Cavan goalkeeper of the not-too-distant past (See "Cavan's Decline" next page).*



money after bad in sponsoring some hurling fixtures. Take, for example, a National League Division II tie in which Meath beat Louth by 8-13 to 0-2 at Knockbridge earlier this year.

"Ferdia" in "The Argus" wrote:

"For the handful of Louth supporters present, this was more of a penitential exercise than anything else, and the same indeed must have been the case for the officials and the hotch-potch team which was eventually fielded several minutes after the official starting time."

He went on to report that no fewer than seven of the selected

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# *Power Brings Prosperity and Progress*

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● FROM PAGE 21

side were missing for a variety of reasons, that the 14-man team in operation in the opening half included a selector, and that another official brought the team up to strength numerically speaking for the second half.

"But by then of course, this was no longer a contest in the accepted sense of the word.

"One could in fact say that it was just a question of playing out another 30 minutes in conformity with the regulations. Meath, with the wind at their backs, added 5-8, but, one felt that had they been pushed, they might well have doubled that figure."

Further on in his report "Ferdia" said: "At last week's Co. Board meeting there was quite a lot said about the declining standards of Louth hurling, and if any lingering doubts remained as to the actual position, then Sunday's debacle must be accepted as conclusive evidence."

One wonders what was the entire cost of that "debacle" And, what useful purpose, if any, it served in the interests of hurling.

#### CAVAN'S DECLINE

Over now to the decline of once so mighty Cavan as a football power. The county has a new team manager, Fr. Benny Maguire, who trained the St. Patrick's side that brought the All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Football Championship to Cavan last year for the first time.

I take the following extracts from *Sports Page Arena* in "The Anglo-Celt":

"The whole question of training and preparation will be taken up by the new team manager, Fr. Benny Maguire, and he has put it on record that he and his assistant managers will stick strictly to a prepared programme of training. If this is not acceptable to any of the players, Fr.



● The legendary Phil ("Gunner") Brady of Cavan (left) in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1955. Kerry's full-forward, Mick Murphy, shoots for goal.

Maguire has made it perfectly clear that reputations will count for little. If co-operation is not forthcoming from the players and the officials, he will give up the post.

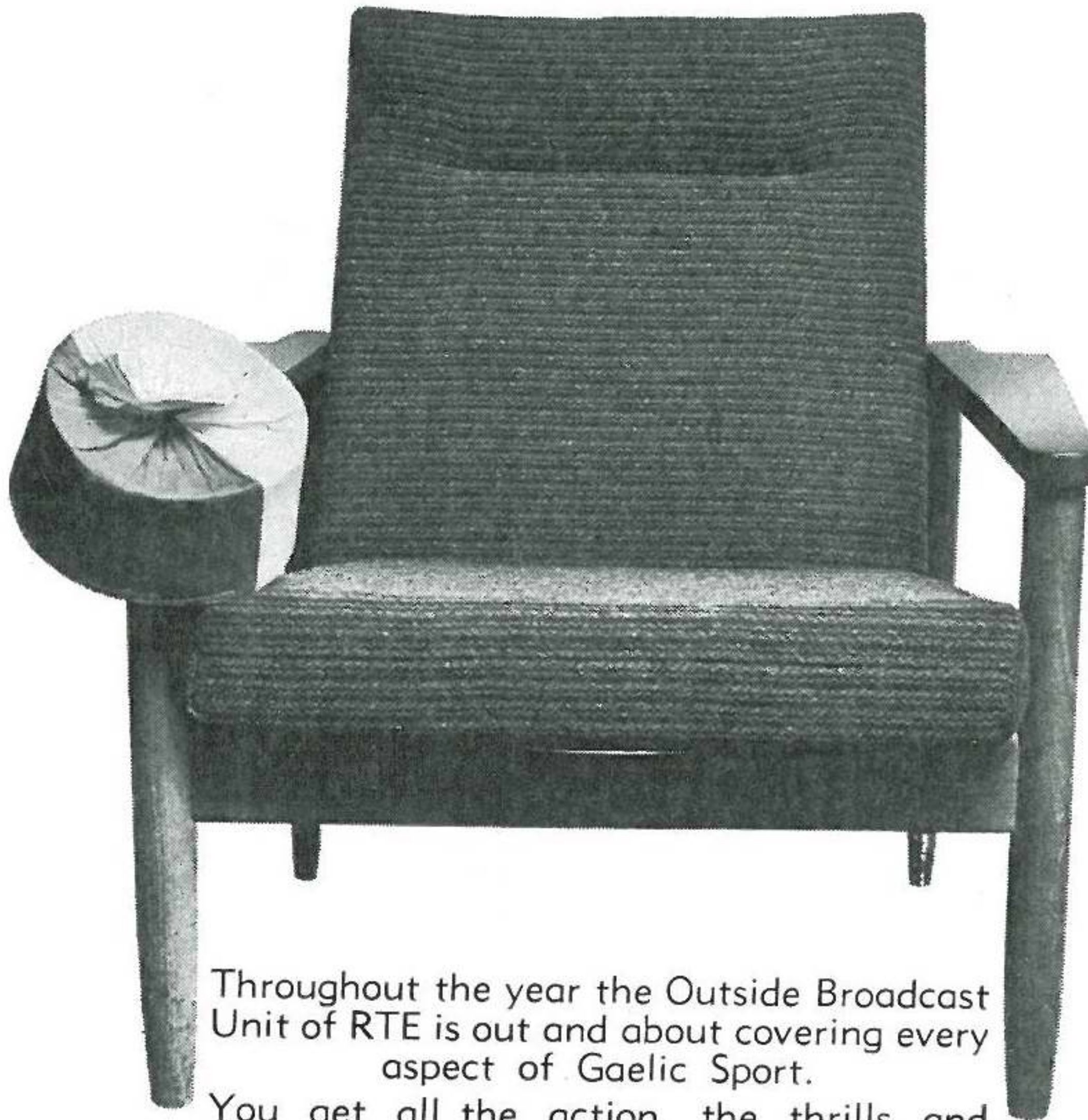
"If past experiences are any criterion, many will not envy Fr. Maguire's task. In an interview during the week he spelled out clearly his intentions, but he prefaced that by making it clear that his success depended on full co-operation. It is essential in any organisation that to be successful everyone must share the determination. It would be fair to say that Fr. Maguire's task with the under-21 and senior teams will be fully undertaken without fear, or favour, and no player, he contends, will be immune from censure for either off-the-field conduct or loss of form in the team."

I seem to be preoccupied with financial matters this month. I'm concluding now in this vein with

some points from Gaelic Survey by "Deiseach" in the *Waterford News and Star*. From that feature I learn that Most Rev. Dr. Russell, D.D., Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and Patron of the Association in the Decies, has invested in the G.A.A. Club Development scheme.

"Perhaps," wrote "Deiseach," "Dr. Russell's very practical and very appreciated recognition of the importance of the scheme will stir clubs and individuals throughout the country to similar action. This great scheme has already brought about a drastic transformation in the development of facilities within the G.A.A. £300,000 has been subscribed and development projects in all parts of the country has been assisted. The success of the scheme has been fantastic and has provided dramatic evidence of the ability of the G.A.A. to attract financial support on a massive scale."

# Your grandstand seat

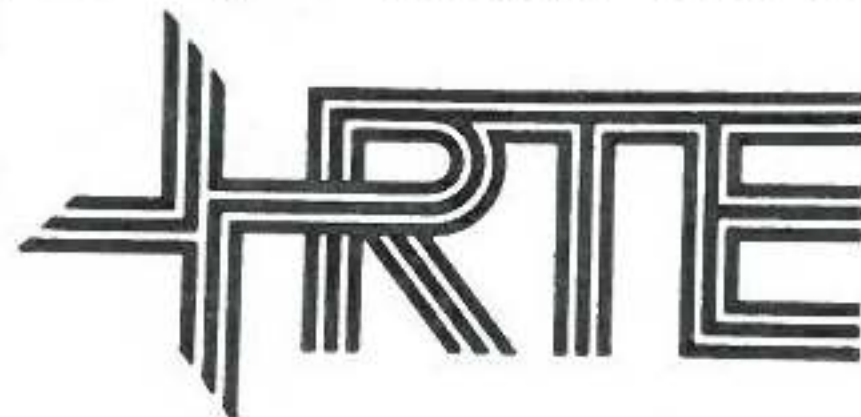


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Jay Drennan outlines:

# THE QUALITIES NEEDED IN THE NEW BOSS

**WHAT** of the next President of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, what manner of man should he be—and we say “man” because, as yet, it would appear that no lady candidate is even beginning to make a serious challenge, or even give the position serious thought.

To begin with, and as something of a portmanteaux description that covers most of the requirements, he should be one of those men who immediately create an impulse in one to say: “He should have his head examined.” For to the ordinary fellow like myself, nothing in the world seems so unreasonably demanding of the energies of the body and soul as the position of President of the G.A.A. And all has to be given voluntarily, while at the same time earning one’s daily bread by whatever sweat is left to drip from one’s brow.

As I said, he should be such a one as moves us to say: “He should have his head examined.” If it is found sound and solidly based on material matters, with a healthy concession to self in all monetary matters and those which concern time and effort, then he is simply not the man. He may have some pushing ambition that urges him to drive for

the position of highest attainment, but it is only for his own good.

There are fewer and fewer of the “fools” of the world left, these days. Those who put other things before self at some time or other. Those who can find it in them to devote time and energy and a considerable amount of their personal opportunity to acquire wealth to the service of some ideal—whether of the spiritual or the human order. Yet, such a one is what we must have in the G.A.A., and more especially now after the standards set by Padraig O Fainin.

It would be a great advantage—indeed, perhaps, a prerequisite—that he be a man of robust and vigorous physical condition. He will have to undergo a physical strain in the term of office which is no small consideration in its undertaking. It would be wonderful if he were possessed of some of that super-dynamic energy which was such a characteristic of O Fainin—but everyone is not gifted with that bounce and unquenchable fire.

Granted the adequacy of the physical equipment, we come to the qualities which the new man would require to work within that physical mould. It is easiest to say that he would require a

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**G.A.A. PRESIDENT**

mental energy equal to his physical. Quick, untiring and consistent: always willing to weigh and never to rush headlong. Always he must be confident in his ability to take the front position for the Association; he must be ready at the drop of a hat to make the right kind of convincing statement to press or television—for one never knows when a major matter suddenly comes within the Association’s orbit. It could be a national matter, a question of Association principle, a matter of grave Association business.

He must never be found wanting when he should speak: this is the age of instant communication and we must not miss the opportunity, nor must we be found to fear to grasp it.

Pushed constantly into corners and always harried on matters of Association policy and attitude, he must, above all, have the most complete appreciation of his own personal views of the G.A.A. and its role. Whatever of the question of differing in details with even a majority of the members, it is far worse for the President to appear to have no particular convictions one way or the other on questions of major import even outside the strict realm of the games’ playing Association.

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# NO NEED FOR PANIC

By  
**EAMONN YOUNG**

A twelve-point hiding by Limerick; we got two points off play and the game was over in the first quarter. We have been hammered by Tipp., beaten by Clare and scraped through against Offaly — at home. Some people are wondering is this Cork. Is this the bunch that lost a dazzling All-Ireland?

Yes it is the same bunch and apart from the fact that I was about the only one who didn't light candles at the shrine of the 1972 Cork team let me say that fundamentally the same bunch is available again.

This time twelve months they were coming back from the morass of defeat just which they are in to-day: People then told them they could afford to let the other fellas off and still catch up. The people were right or near it insofar as this bunch won the league and went a long way in the championship. What is the position to-day?

They are lower in the competitive scale and there is no chance of a League come-back. All that is left is the championship. And they have been beaten by Tipp., Limerick and Clare. Dosen't sound so well does it apart from the fact that Wexford who couldn't win a Leinster title last year beat Cork well at home.

So it is like this: Cork are away down as competitors and yet they have the same men and a few to replace anyone who doesn't measure up. The obvious thing to say then is: get these chaps into shape and surely they

will be as good as last year anyway, though that wasn't quite good enough.

So if the answer lies in preparation and management we must turn to the men in charge. There's Willie John Daly training them and I make no secret of the fact that he was one of my all-time favourites as a hurler. Full of guts and spirit, this fellow could hurl also and he trained like a deer, going to bed very early, practising his hurling skills at all sorts of odd hours and running in the morning if he felt that was necessary.

Then there's a selection Com-

mittee of Fr. Bertie Troy, Paddy Cooney, both of whom were also there last year, the new secretary, Jack Barrett, the county chairman who played a lot of hurling and Christy Ring who is more or less in the same boat. Helped by Willie John Daly if these men can't get a lot out of a side I'm not a scribbler of optimistic lines.

The facts are that of last year's beaten team there are left Pat Barry, Tony Maher, Brian Murphy, Frank Norberg, Con Roche, Denis Coughlan, Gerald McCarthy, Mick Malone, Charlie

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**PICTURE B**

SEE PAGE 49

# The brightest shine out any

**I WAS** not really surprised to find the Tyrone teenager, Frank McGuigan, figuring prominently in the popular "Gaelic Sport" Top Ten feature last month. I saw him in action last year in both the minor and senior inter-county championships, and he impressed me as no budding starlet has in years.

All the same, it is a tremendous achievement for one so young to gain such a high vote from the GAELIC SPORT panel — he was placed out on his own ahead of the field in football, in fact, with a rating of nine points. But it is a well-deserved honour, because young McGuigan was very prominent in the march that has brought Tyrone through to the Division II semi-finals this month, and back into the premier division for next season.

Frank is a vital reason why I am looking forward with more than the usual interest to the Division II semi-finals. It will be good to see the young Tyrone midfielder in action again, and other players I shall be keeping a keen eye on are Sean Kearney (Tipperary) and Peter Clarke (Wicklow).

But back to McGuigan. Many,

of course, will argue that young players should not be rushed, but there are always outstanding exceptions to every rule, and this Ardboe player, who was only 18 last November, is just that.

**He has a tremendous potential for the future. His fielding is superb, he is mobile, and his**

**kicking is long and well-directed. Furthermore, Frank has also displayed a refreshing willingness in every grade to give 100 per cent in every match.**

The young Ulster man has already packed a tremendous amount of football into his short inter-county career. He first at-

tracted my attention as a midfielder with the Tyrone minors in 1971, during which he won an Ulster medal, and was on duty in the unsuccessful outing against Mayo in an All-Ireland semi-final.

However, last year was a truly memorable one for McGuigan. He captained the talented squad that retained the Ulster minor title, and following his under-18 medal win he went in as a substitute during the senior decider with Donegal.

He had played senior inter-county championship football be-

fore that limited appearance against Donegal, though. In fact, he was a hero for Tyrone in their shock semi-final win over Derry.

Frank collected his second Ulster medal of the year with the under-21 side, and it was not his fault that Tyrone failed to take

By OWEN McCANN

# stars where



● Frank McGuigan

the All-Ireland minor title against Cork in the decider.

Since then he has been one of the brightest stars of the senior scene in the North. Not only has he been turning on the style with his county team, but he fully justified the faith the Ulster selectors placed in him with a fine display at centre field in the province's Railway Cup quarter-final tie with the Combined Universities in Cavan last January.

The history of football in studied with tales of bright young stars who blossomed and bloomed brightly for a time, and then faded into the shadows. Frank McGuigan, however, has too much natural talent and genuine class for him to join that company.

His achievements, in fact, remind me very much of the early days of that brilliant Roscommon centre field man Dermot Earley. In one memorable campaign in the mid-'Sixties, he impressively marched through the various grades from minor right up to Railway Cup competition in the same season.

That proved a splendid overture to enduring greatness for Earley. I have no doubt that in the years to come we will also be able to record the same about the achievements during 1972 and early 1973 of cool and talented Frank McGuigan.

And, what of Sean Kearney? Well, an important fact that appears to have gone virtually unnoticed is that this Tipperary football finisher is showing the recognised leading marksmen a thing or two these days in the vitally important matter of out-gunning goalkeepers.

Kearney had a field day against Carlow in the National League tie last December when he bagged 4-1—one of the best individual totals in the current National Football League. Then, in January in a challenge with Kerry at Tralee he twice found his way through to the net, and in February he rewarded the Munster selectors for promoting him from the reserves for the semi-final with Connacht at Roscommon by shooting a further brace of goals.

In fact, in six games immedia-

tely prior to press time, the Tipperary forward hit no fewer than ten goals. And, that's some going, especially when we consider that the goal record for a full year's programme stands at 17 to the credit of Willie McGee (Mayo)—and he took no fewer than 27 games to put up that high-point.

Clarke will be a key figure for Wicklow in their novel Division II semi-final with Tyrone. He is another forward showing a nice line of work in the firing line.

In six appearances with this fast-improving Wicklow outfit, Peter has helped himself to an impressive score of 3-17 (26 points), which works out at 4.33 points a game, and marks him out as a danger to the Ulster side.

So, while the Division I boys will grab most of the League spotlight in this month's semi-finals, McGuigan, Kearney and Clarke are just three talented players who can do much to ensure that the Division II battles also provide much to enthuse over.

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## Cusack was the master builder

By Seamus O Ceallaigh

ON Easter Sunday the rules of the G.A.A. ordain that we part with another President and elect a new man to take over the leadership of our Association. Pat Fanning, like many of his predecessors, has found his own niche in the annals of the Association, and only time can really evaluate his great work.

The G.A.A. could never have grown to the stature it did but for the grand service it got from its builders, the men who laboured unselfishly to put the Association on the sound foundation which made all subsequent progress possible.

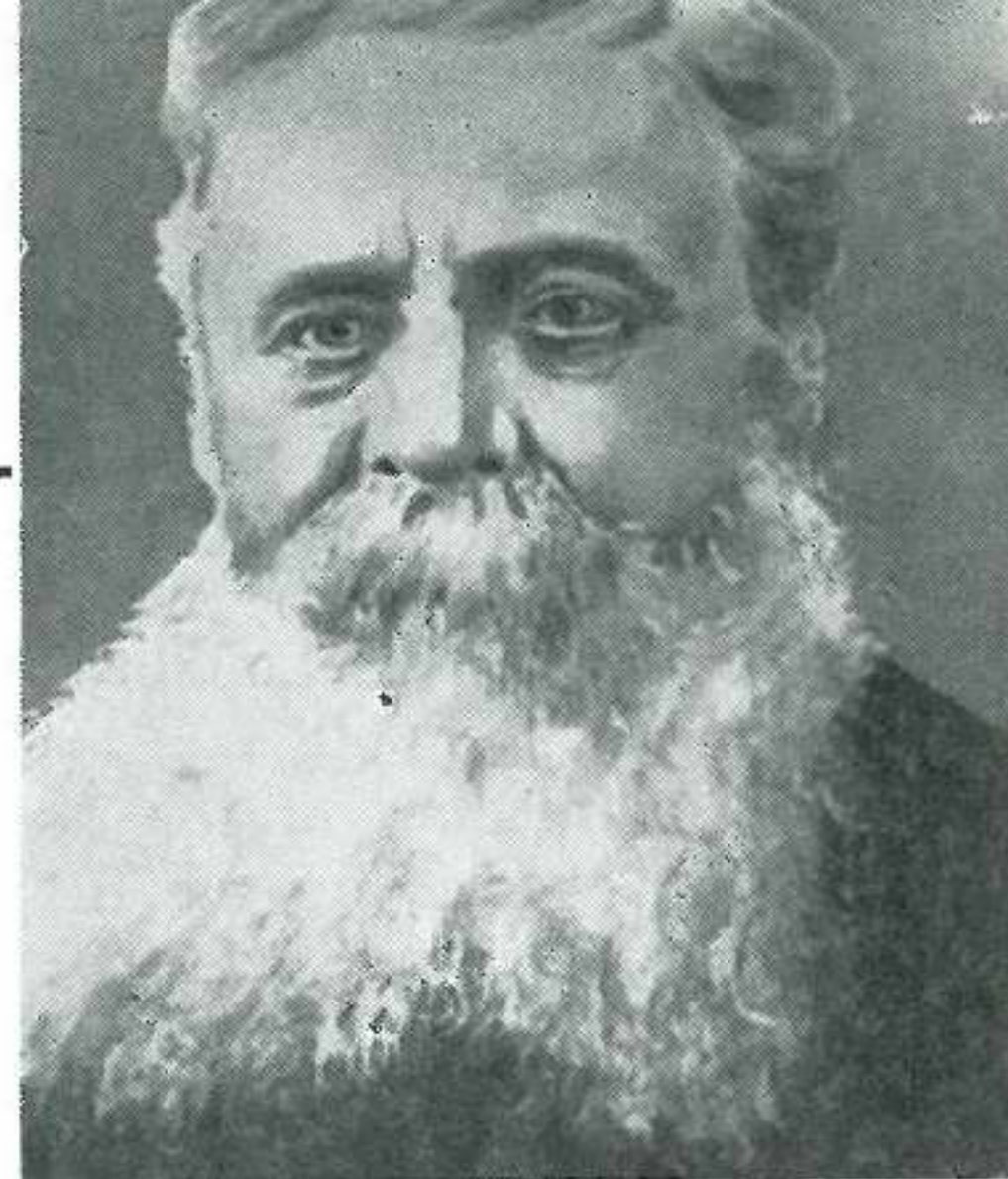
First to bring the founding of a national athletic association to a practical stage was Michael Cusack "the schoolmaster from Clare", a great bulky figure of a man with his glowing bearded face, his fine head and large shining eyes. Cusack saw the necessity for such an association, and it was his driving power and personality which was mainly behind the initial efforts to launch the G.A.A., backed of course, by the Supreme Council of the I.R.B., who, however, remained completely behind the scenes—so much so that even Cusack was not completely aware of the influence they wielded towards establishing the G.A.A.

The first big move regarding

its establishment was made at Loughrea on 15th August, 1883 when a deputation, which included Cusack, visited Most Rev. Patrick Duggan, D.D., Bishop of Clonfert, who gave his blessing and every encouragement to the project and suggested that Most Rev. Thomas W. Croke, D.D., Archbishop of Cashel, be approached and asked to act as Patron.

A fortunate circumstance for the G.A.A. was the manner in which Maurice Davin became interested, resulting in his decision to throw in his lot with the Association. In addition to ranking amongst the world's best athletes at the period, the Davins were very popular figures, and Maurice, who was first President of the G.A.A. attracted to that body some of the country's best athletes, who might otherwise have remained aloof — or worse still have given their support to the rival organisation set up with the avowed intention of smashing the G.A.A.

Most Rev. Dr. Croke was everything a patron should be—and much more as far as the G.A.A. was concerned. As a youth he was deeply impressed by the principles of the Young Irelanders, and in his more mature manhood he worked earnestly for the re-establishment of our native Parliament. He was quick to support the G.A.A.—his famous letter of 18th December, 1884 being one



● Michael Cusack

of the most important factors in developing the infant organisation. From that moment he lost no opportunity of propagating the Association, defending its aims and objects, composing its differences, presenting it with cups for a competition, and identifying himself with it in every possible way.

Another of the Patrons, Michael Davitt, took a very active interest in the Association, and was one of the prime movers in the American "Invasion" of 1888, in connection with which he advanced £400 (a very large sum then) to pay the expenses of the teams. Later, he refused to accept a refund stating that the money had been paid for a good national purpose.

Belfast born John McKay, then resident in Cork, acted jointly with Michael Cusack, as Honorary Secretary of the G.A.A. during its formative years. A journalist by profession, he played a leading part in gaining valuable publicity at a period when few newspapers were interested in chronicling the affairs of the new organisation.

E. M. Bennett, of Newmarket-on-Fergus, who succeeded Maurice Davin as President, took over at a critical period in the affairs of the G.A.A., following the "Stormy" Convention. He resolved many difficulties and differen-

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 31

ces of opinion by his tact and administrative ability and set the Association on solid ground.

Peter J. Kelly of Loughrea, who succeeded Bennett as President, was a member of the deputation that waited on the Bishop of Clonfert, Most Rev. Dr. Duggan, that memorable August day in 1884, to explain the aims and objects of the proposed new association. During his presiden-

cy the "Parnell Split" threatened the existence of the G.A.A., and it was mainly through his wise leadership that the organisation weathered the storm.

Frank B. Dinneen of Ballylanders was the only man to hold the two main offices of the Association. Elected President in 1895, he resigned three years later to become General Secretary, a post he held until 1901. A noted athlete and later official handi-

capper to the Association, he was Chairman of the Athletic Council for many years. He will be best remembered, however, as owner of the Dublin City and Suburban Sports Ground, which he sold to the G.A.A., and which is now Croke Park.

Frank was succeeded by another Limerickman — Michael Deering, then resident in Cork, and Chairman of the County Board there. A man of sterling character and true national principles, Michael Deering's name figures prominently among the pioneers in the G.A.A. scroll of fame. He was the only President to die in office.

The 1901 Congress saw the selection of a great pair, who were to work together for twenty years, and see many fundamental changes in the affairs of the Association. Alderman Jim Nowlan of Kilkenny must hold a foremost place amongst the great administrators and he played a leading part in making the Association the national force it is to-day. Wicklowman, Luke J. O'Toole, who held the position of General Secretary from 1901 to 1920, saw stirring days in gaelic history, and the inauguration of many features now an accepted part of the G.A.A. programme. Dan McCarthy, who became President when Alderman Nowlan retired in 1921, had participated in the 1916 Rising and saw during his term of office the revival of the Ancient Tailteann Games and the inauguration of the first big development scheme at Croke Park.

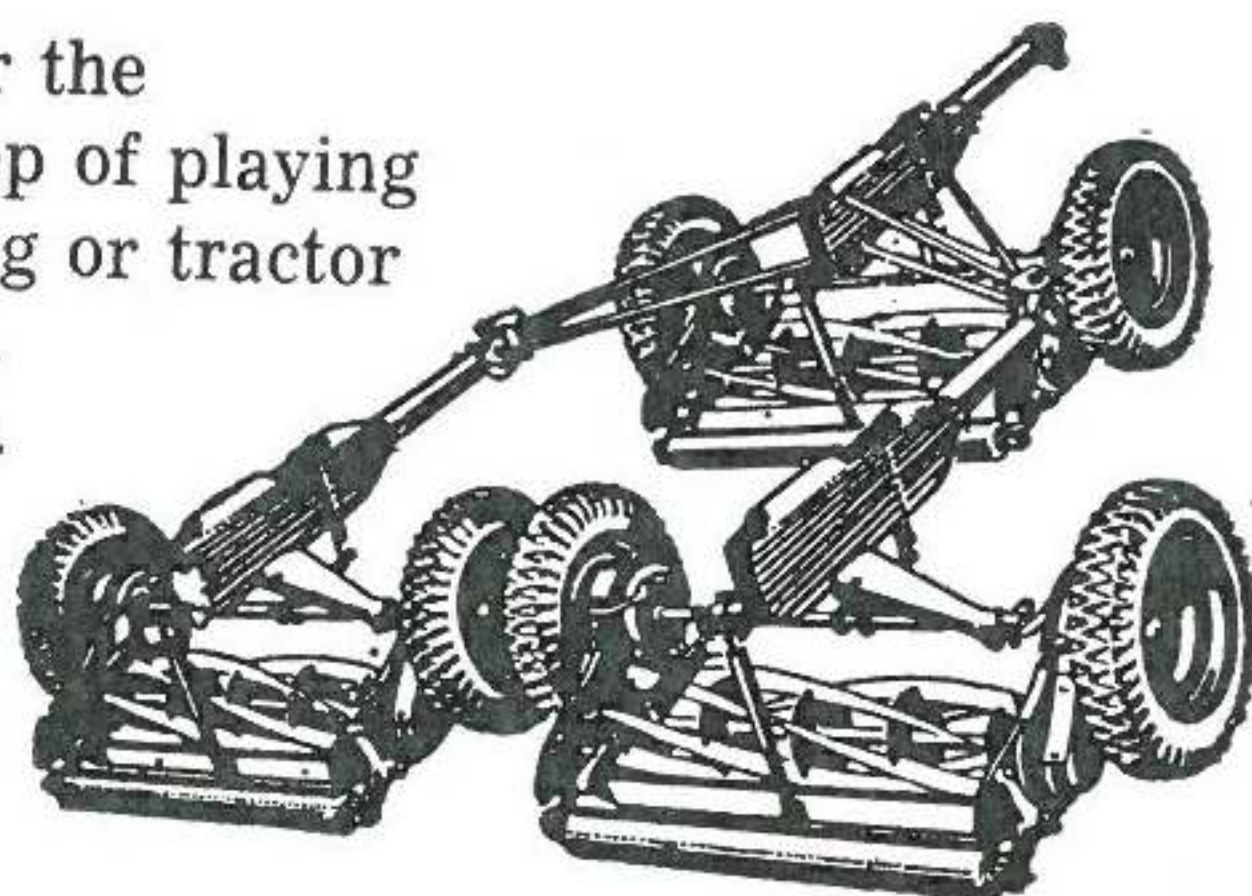
Paddy Breen of Wexford was the first All-Ireland medal winner to become President of the Association, an honour he richly deserved. Although his term of office was short, Paddy can claim an active connection with the Association extending over more than fifty years.

William P. Clifford of Limerick saw the inauguration of both Nat-

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ional Leagues and Railway Cup Competitions on a permanent basis during his Presidency, and it was under his direction that the first moves were made towards encouraging clubs and boards to acquire and develop their own playing fields.

Tipperary man, Sean Ryan, continued the policy of field development, and when his term as President was over, he retained for many years his connection with the Association as legal adviser, in which capacity he "vetted" the conditions under which almost every G.A.A. field in the country is held.

It was during Ryan's period in the chair that Pdraig O'Keeffe, of Cork, was appointed General Secretary of the Association, a position he held until his death, thirty five years later, when he was succeeded by the present occupant—Seán Ó Síocháin. In the long years of Paddy's administration the G.A.A went from success to success and extended its influence to become the great link binding the scattered legions of the Gael.

Sean McCarthy, who succeeded Sean Ryan, was the first native born Corkman to achieve the highest honour of G.A.A. President. It was during his term that the Insurance Scheme for injured players was instituted. He travelled widely spreading the gospel of the Gael and during his presidency he addressed Gaelic gatherings in places as far apart as Liverpool, London, New York, New Jersey, Boston and Philadelphia.

Bob O'Keeffe, although traditionally associated with Laois, with whom he won an All-Ireland Senior Hurling medal in 1915, was a native of Kilkenny and came from the famed nursery of expert hurlers, Mooncoin. A very wise administrator he piloted the Association through a very diffi-

cult period of party political infighting that in other circumstances could have caused a major split in G.A.A. ranks.

The first Ulsterman to attain to the office of President was Pdraig McNamee of Antrim, and his term was so successful that he had the distinction of being the only one to have it extended by the unanimous decision of Congress.

The other Presidents might be

said to belong to our generation, so we leave them to posterity to really evaluate their achievements. They were Seamus Gardiner of Tipperary; Dan O'Rourke, Roscommon; Michael Kehoe, Wexford; M. V. O'Donoghue, Waterford; Seamus McFerran, Antrim; Dr. J. J. Stuart, Clare; Hugh Byrne, Wicklow; Alf Murray, Armagh, Jim Ryan, Tipperary and the present occupant, Pat Fanning of Waterford.

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# **R.T.E. boost for handball**

BY ALLEYMAN

**T**HE decision of the R.T.E. Sports Division to film a special series of handball games has provided the game with its greatest ever boost. The series, in the form of a tournament called

"top ace" had a running term of seven weeks and, already, it is evident that handball has acquired a widespread enthusiastic following.

The handball movement, over an indefinite period is going to gain impetus, so that immediately there is an onus on handball administration in its broadest sense to be in a position to deal with it, in progressive modern style.

I know it is only co-incidental, but the decisions taken at the recent special G.A.A. Congress, will be a major lever in furthering the handball cause.

The basis of these decisions was derived from the special commission on G.A.A. activities, and the implementation of them should give the game a modern outlook

One of the most important, in my view is the decision to adjust the administration of the game from provincialism to regionalism.

It has long been recognised in handball circles that the present system of organising the game through provincial councils is inadequate

The numerical discrepancy in counties between the various provinces has often tended to produce lop-sided competitions, not to mention the overburdening of some officials with administrative duties.

The Handball Council must now face the problem of initiating regional councils and, in this regard, it is hardly likely to take the easy way out by evenly dividing the country into four councils with eight counties in each.

Obviously special consideration

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must be given to densely populated areas like Dublin and Cork.

In addition a real opportunity is now provided to have the game put on a sure footing in counties where it is withering at present.

Another major development is that the International size ball-court (40' x 20') is to be adopted by the Irish Handball Council as the standard court to be built in the future.

★ ★ ★

The smaller courts do, in effect, answer the argument that the main consideration is the involvement of the greatest possible number of people in the game.

They are much more economical to build than the larger courts, lend themselves ideally to the present attitude of the alley complex, not to mention the secondary consideration of international competition.

Another relevant point is that the old code of hardball is to be phased out. Here again, this is a vital decision and, in my view, a correct one when an objective appraisal is made of the role and general popularity of the particular code.

★ ★ ★

As a means to popularise handball in the broadest sense, handball has been a passive particle, and, while conceding the definite art of the few who play it, I have no hesitation in saying that its demise is timely. For the new charter on the game a major emphasis will be on development.

The game has now been placed under the orbit of the development officers of the G.A.A. and the basis of this decision is that G.A.A. administration is certain there is a great future for handball.

They base their argument on the enjoyment it affords as a game in its own right and the fact that it is an ideal means of keeping fit.

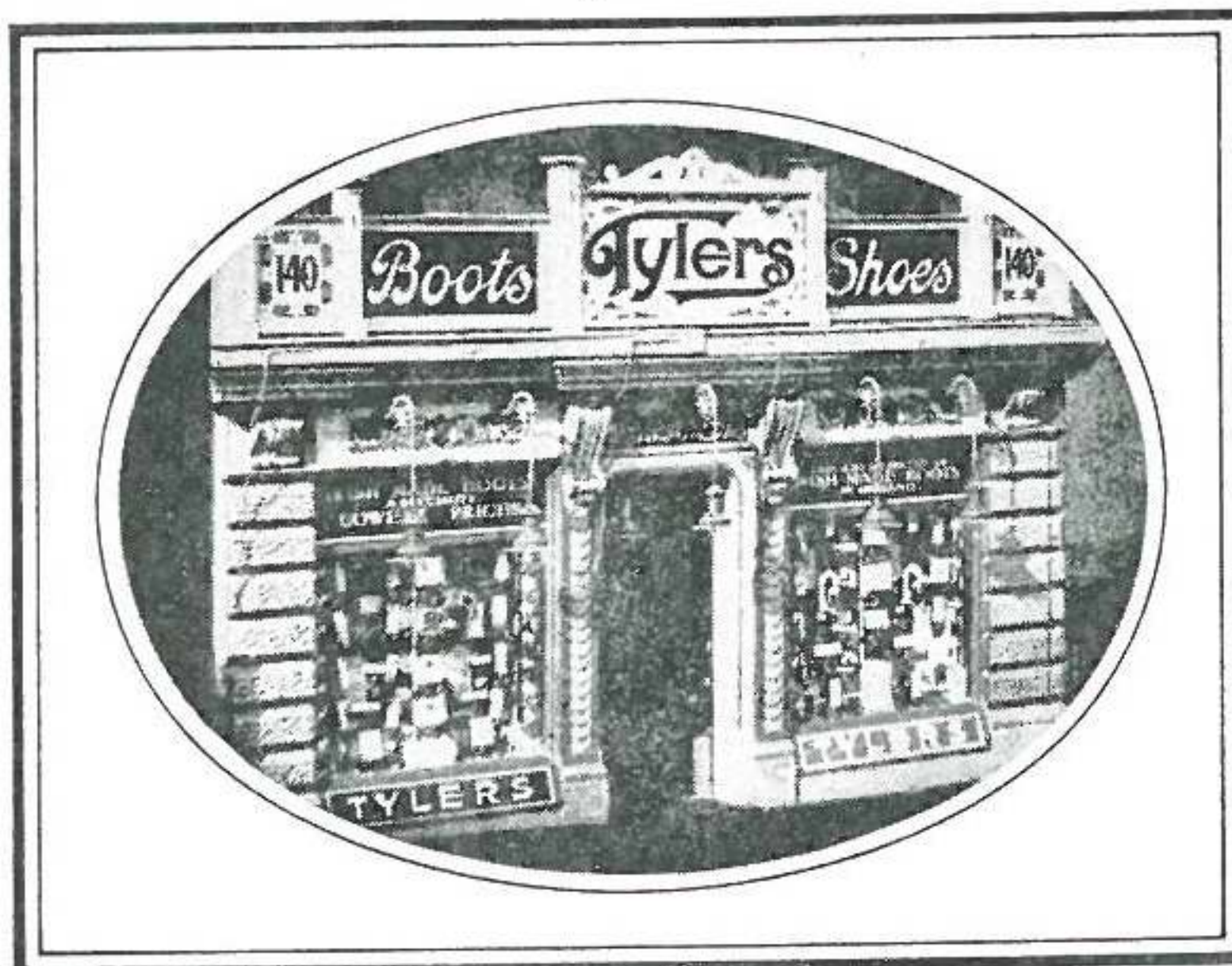
By the same token it caters for those who do not wish to participate in a bodily contact game.

An important feature taken into consideration is that it can be played by all age groups and by both sexes, while roofed ball-courts ensure that the game can be played at all times despite the vagaries of the weather.

It can be seen that the combined efforts of R.T.E. and the G.A.A. have contrived to give handball a very special status.

In the next few years it is going to demand a lot of hard work and dedication by those who organise handball, but for the sake of this great old game it will be well worth it.

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John Mackey  
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The only difference from John Mackey's time is that nowadays we don't give away nicknames with our boots!

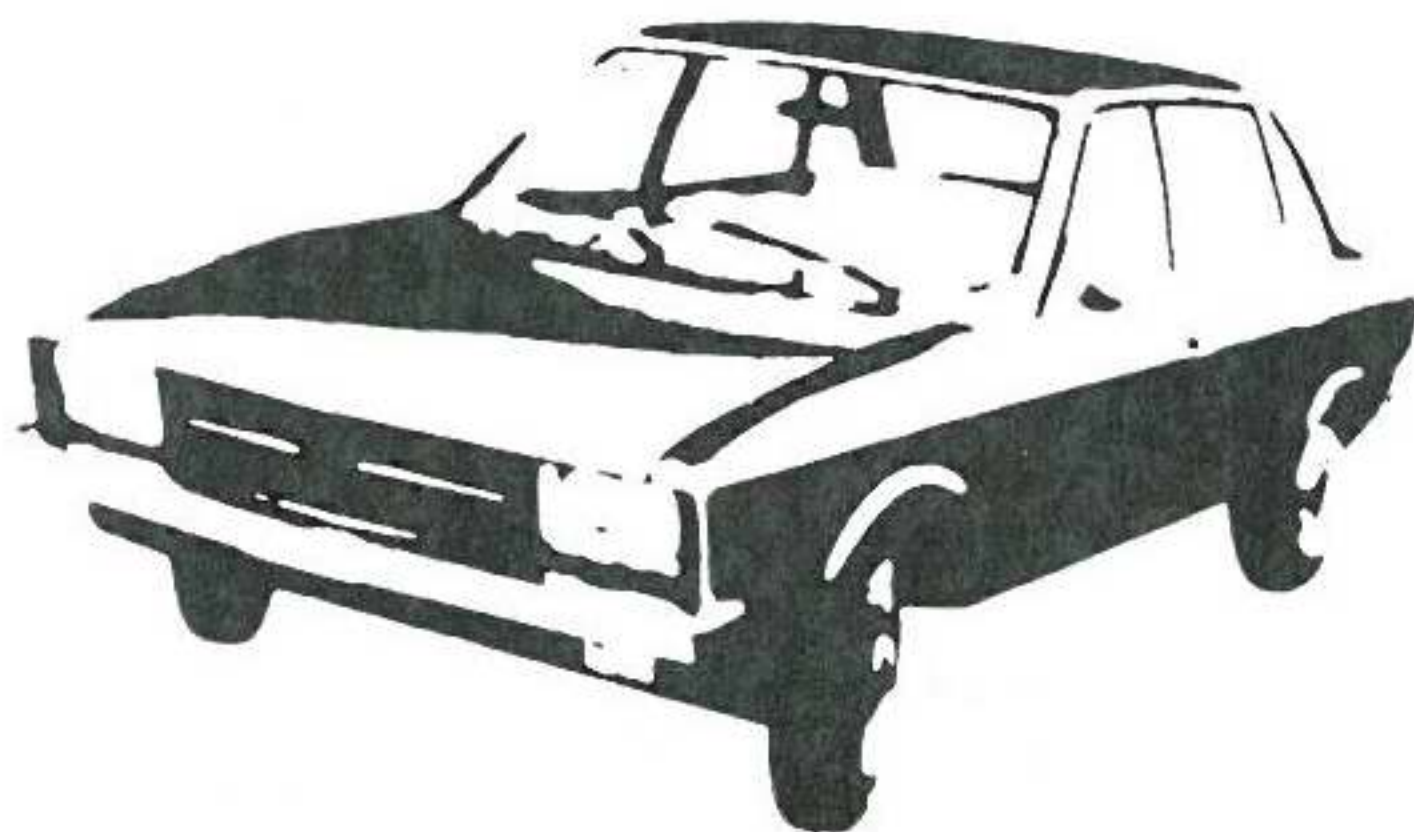
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# LOOK AFTER THE PENCE...

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IT'S an open secret nowadays that we are all assessed on our credit-worthiness sometimes without even being aware of it. Your credit-worthiness is rated on how you stand with your bank manager and your past record of paying debts—did you settle them promptly when due, or did you need to be given extra time? A bank is a good place to start getting a reputation for credit-worthiness and these venerable institutions are now more friendly and informal places than they were even five years ago. One man's money is as good as the next man's, even if there isn't as much of it, and a small man might well turn into a big financier sometime—so his account is valuable. This is how the banks and finance houses look at things now.

If your main gripe about banks is the hours they keep, then consider the Dublin Savings Bank. They put themselves out to meet their customers' convenience and even remain open until 7 p.m. on Friday nights—paynight for so many people—so that you can take your salary cheque or wages envelope right to them then and there and avoid the temptations of Saturday shopping. Brisk comings and goings of citizens on a Friday night around the Abbey Street area in Dublin have often been noticed by visitors—who have then realised that the focal point is the Dublin Savings Bank.

Whilst this bank built its re-

putation with good service on deposit accounts, it now offers the sophisticated services necessary for today's lifestyle, including current accounts (they open new ones at the rate of 50 a month), personal loans and medium and long-term savings plans at satisfactory rates of interest. Payment of your outgoings by standing order, credit transfers, direct debits, sales of travellers cheques and foreign currency are also undertaken by D.S.B. This bank was established originally in the early 19th century and it has always succeeded in holding the confidence of Dubliners.

While it maintains its reputation for integrity and 'a safe place to put a few bob' however it has moved with the times and is now as modern and up to date and competitive, if not more so, as any of its rivals. With seven offices now situated throughout the city, (and the late-night opening on Fridays operating in all of them) Dublin Savings Bank is finding its business expanding at a sure and steady rate.

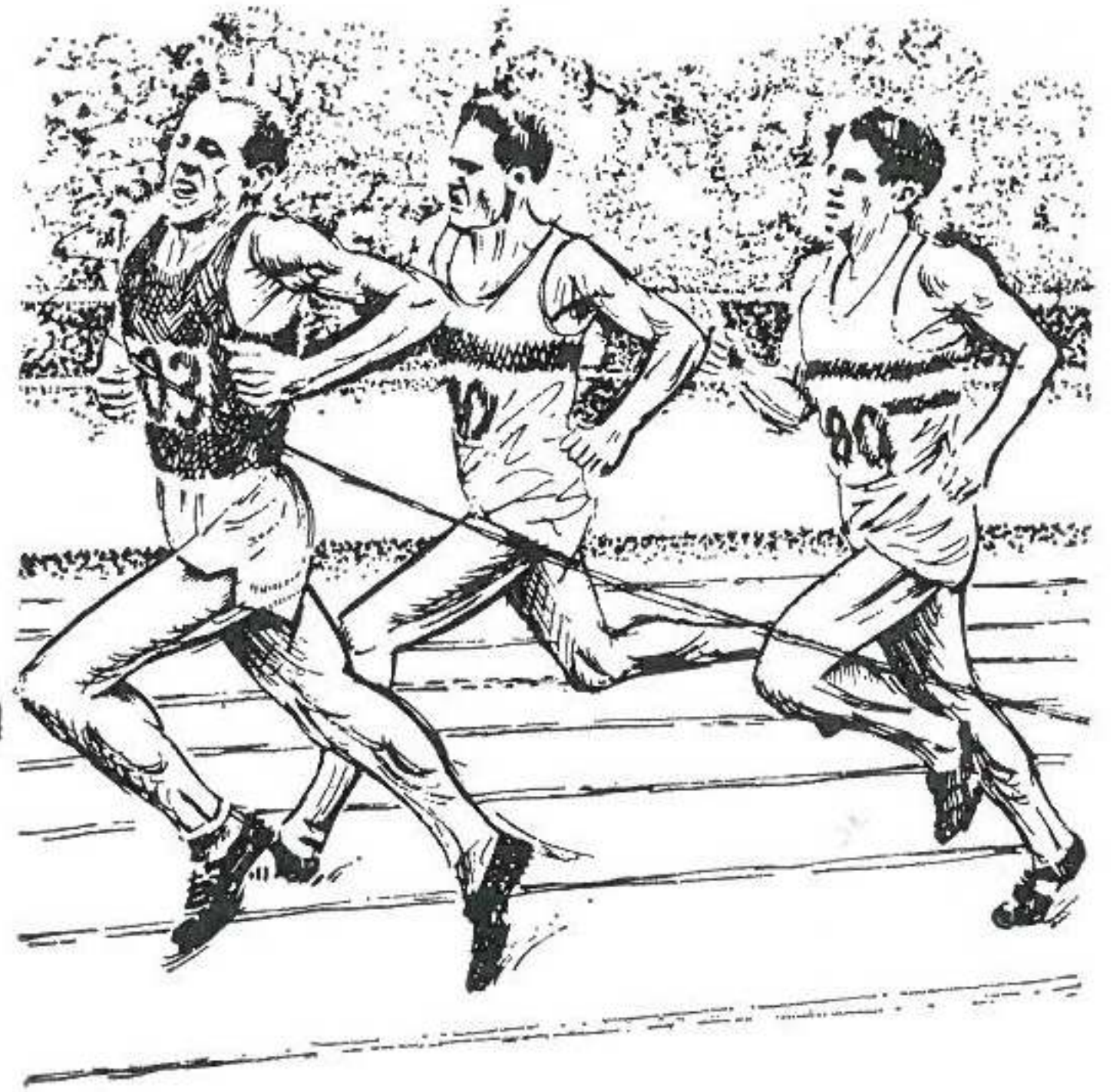
The building society remains the place to put your money if you are in the process of saving up for a home of your own. In common with the other societies, the Irish Civil Service Building Society makes it clear that depositors get preference when it comes to mortgages. Even though rates may go up, the pill is sweetened when you realise that the value of your property is increasing at an ever-faster rate. For

those people, even, who already own their homes or who have no immediate plans to make an investment in property, the I.C.S.B.S. is a useful place to know about. Security for your money is of course guaranteed—that goes without saying. In addition to this you get a very simple method of operation, with your money there to be drawn on demand, and your business transacted in strict confidence. Add to this the highest possible interest rate consistent with security and it totals up to something worthwhile.

The 'Civil Service' has been in existence since 1864 and continues today to help people own their own homes, the purpose for which it was originally founded. Last year it lent the impressive amount of two million pounds—mostly to people who had saved something first with the society, and wanted house loans. These days, when money can earn huge interest rates just sitting in a bank, building societies maintain that they are providing more of a social service than anything else—and they have a point you know. When we complain about the repayments we have to make we forget that at the end of the borrowing term we'll still have a property worth considerably more than what we paid for it, including interest.

Banks have developed a with-it image these days, while still re-

● TO PAGE 39



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# LOOK AFTER THE PENCE

● FROM PAGE 37

maining the symbol of unshakeable stability. It's interesting too to see how banking groups have developed 'personalities' of their own. If one were to describe the personality of Allied Irish, the image of a culture conscious, socially-conscious, sports-loving place would emerge. This group recently sponsored the first Hurling/Shinty International, held between Ireland and Scotland which took place some months ago. The venue was Inverness and the winning team was Na Fianna from Ireland. The Allied Irish National Poster Competition for children attracted six and a half thousand entries and the children's theme was 'Discover Ireland'. And the group made headlines last year when it presented a premises in Sligo to the Yeats Society to be used as a Yeats Museum.

Did you know that there's now very little difference between the interest percentage you have to pay on a straightforward loan from your bank manager and the same amount of money borrowed from a company like Foster Finance, the outfit associated with the Bank of Ireland? The differential is only something like two per cent which is absolute peanuts these days' so sighs over the good old days are a bit wasted these times. Tax advantages are built in to most of the schemes administered by Foster Finance and you know exactly what your commitments are—and what your repayments will be—from the word go. Now that EEC entry has made most farmers more than anxious to take advantage of markets opening up there, a package deal with Bank of Ireland can be most advantageous. You get the money to buy stock, either dry cattle or milch cows or maybe pigs—and you don't repay

until such time as your stock begins to produce for you. This works for both the big operator and the small man. Foster Finance have a scheme which they run in conjunction with one of the big bacon companies—the bacon experts recommend a man for financing whom they think has the capacity to expand, and he is accepted by Foster Finance as a client.

A bank which has been forging ahead at a great rate is the Ulster Bank—we've already referred to their special children's money boxes. For those who've gone past the piggy-bank stage it may be interesting to know that Ulster Bank have opened new branches in Clonmel, Mallow, Tralee, Castlebar and Shannon, and a sub-office in Croome, Co. Limerick. Also big news is the Ulster Bank's unique dispensing unit. If

you have a current account with them, you can slot a card, which they'll provide you with, into a special opening on the outside of the bank wall and it will obligingly dispense two crisp fivers, one crisp tenner or ten singles into your waiting hand. These dispensers operate only at some outlets at the moment but they'll be going into others shortly. For those who might be worried that unauthorised persons might get hold of their cards and help themselves to tenners without permission, the bank has it planned so that you can carry your code separately, and then punch it into the machine when you insert your card. Since this is a round-the-clock service it has obvious advantages and is bound to catch on like wildfire with customers. The money you remove via your card is of course automatically debited from your account later.

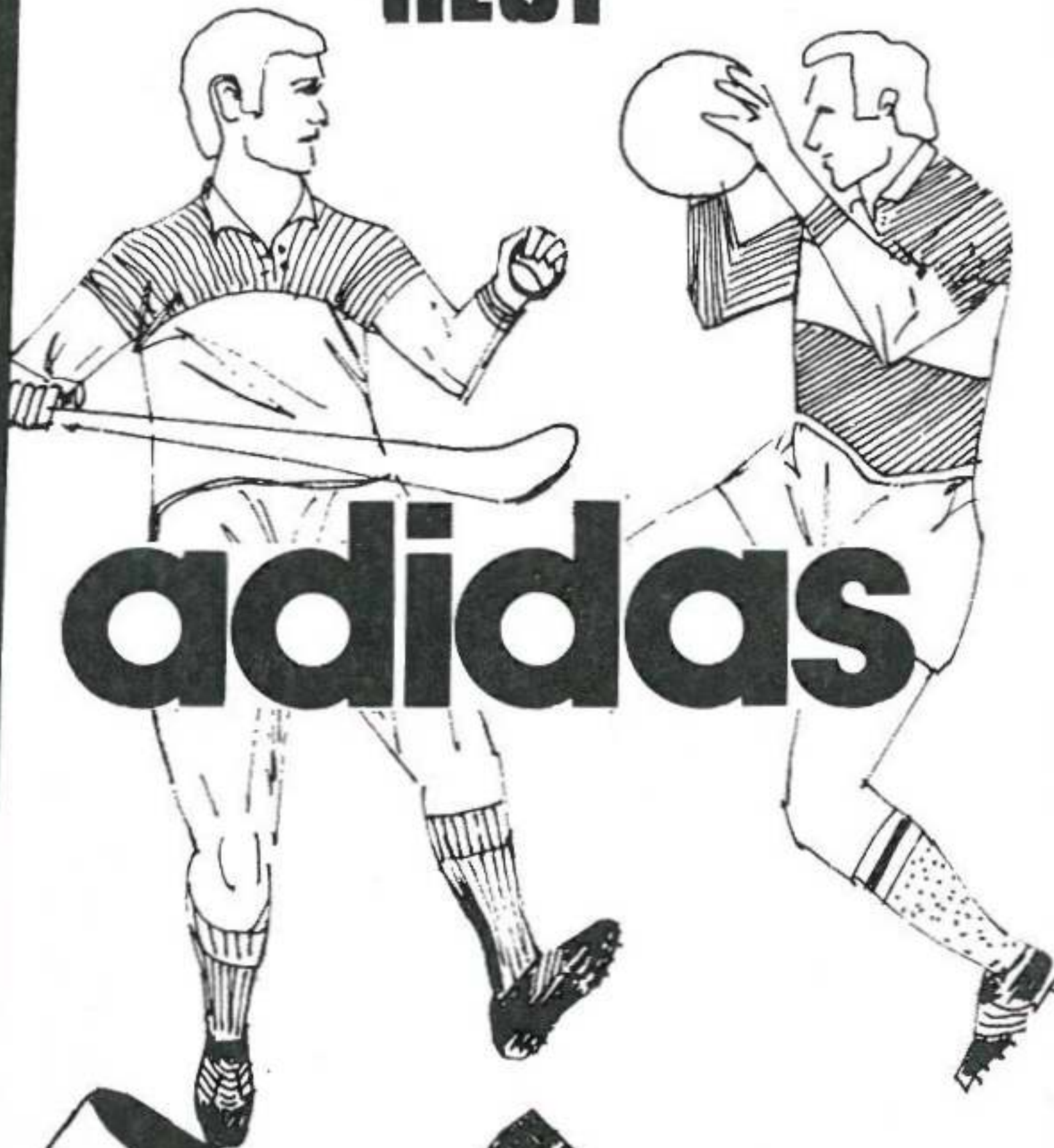
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# THE CAMOGIE SCENE

Observed by AGNES HOURIGAN

**B**Y the time this appears in print the Annual Camogie Congress in Galway, the first time ever out of Dublin, will be over and the Camogie Association will have geared itself for another year's work. Progressive work it is bound to be, and progressive work it has to be at club, county and provincial level.

Because the difficulty that the Camogie Association is facing at the moment is that it is in some respects expanding more rapidly than its own organisation is structured to cope with.

For instance, last season we only had six teams in the entire senior All-Ireland championship, whereas 27 of the 32 counties took part in the junior championship, which needless to say proved a far more interesting competition.

The position will be slightly improved this season, with Galway back into senior ranks, but the fact remains that Galway and Antrim are still unlikely to have any senior competition within their own provinces, and there will only be one senior match in Munster, the provincial final between Cork and Tipperary.

But, while it would be wonderful to see as many counties in the senior championship as well as in the junior competition the solution to the problem can only be a long-term one. One might easily suggest that the provincial winners in junior grade each year should have to go senior in the following season. But I do not think that would really achieve

anything, since some of these teams might not match up to senior standard. The junior standard is, admittedly, steadily improving, and the team that wins the All-Ireland title in this grade must certainly be a good one. But only the All-Ireland champions go up to senior.

At that rate of progress it will take another decade to make the senior championship a real All-Ireland event again, but if the standard is even, such a wait would prove well worth while.

Indeed, I believe that the standard may well have levelled out at the top long before then, for the very good reason that the standard has levelled out where it really counts, further down the scale at schools level. For those who have been studying the Colleges scene over the past few seasons this fact has been glaringly obvious. Look at it this way.

In the last three years the winners of the Leinster senior Colleges championship have been Presentatin, Kilkenny, Presentation, Mountmellick and Mercy, Enniscorthy, three schools from three different counties. This year Presentation, Castlecomer oppose Mountmellick in the final.

Presentation, Oranmore are All-Ireland Colleges champions. Their predecessors were Sacred Heart, Newry and Presentation, Kilkenny. Last season, Newry had to yield to St. Louis, Kilkeel, while in the West Oranmore had little to spare over Glenamaddy.

In the South, St. Aloysius have

failed to win the Munster senior Colleges crown for the first time ever. And all that proves that on the Colleges scene the standard is rapidly evening out. And when one considers the numbers of College players on inter-county sides, who is to say but that the standard at inter-county level will also become uniformly high through the country, perhaps far more quickly than any of us anticipate at the moment. The Ashbourne Cup series is now history, but there is no point in letting it pass without recording that it was won by one of the best teams I have ever seen wear the U.C.C. colours, and I have seen every Ashbourne side since the late 1930s.

It was a series that marked the return to her brilliant best of Liz Garvan who incidentally was winning her first inter-varsity championship, as through injury she was missing from the Cork side that regained the trophy a year ago.

At Belfield, especially in the first half of the final against University College Galway, Liz gave an exhibition of stylish and effective camogie that one felt deserved to be recorded on film and used as a coaching film on how to score from play and from frees.

And to round off a great ten days, U.C.C. who had earlier defeated Old Aloysians in the League final, then flew out with Old Als. to Holland to give the first-ever exhibition of camogie in the E.E.C.



# O'NEILL TALKS ABOUT DOWN'S FUTURE

By **JOHN O'SHEA** (of *The Evening Press*)

"WHEN this side gets a little more experience they will be a match for any opposition"—Sean O'Neill, on Down's prospects in the forthcoming All-Ireland championship campaign.

The player, who, perhaps more than any other, is identified with Down's performances since they hit the 'big time' in 1960, is convinced that he will again play on a great county team.

"This Down side have been working hard and seriously for quite some time. If they can maintain this interest, our prospects must be viewed in confi-

dent vein.

"In personnel, we are stronger and more talented than the 1968 team, the only question is — the team still has to knit as a unit. The potential is undoubtedly there, it just remains to be seen how soon it will be realised."

O'Neill believes that the new team manager, Jackie Fitzsimons, has had much to do with the revival: "Jackie, like the selectors, is concerned about the team. And more important, he shows this concern. The result is that we have a near one hundred per cent turn out for training."

Discussing the poor form of 1971, O'Neill says: "We were in a skid, and as anyone knows it's not easy to get out of a skid. But the slump has been arrested, and we are now determined to do really well."

How will they do this year? "It's hard to say how far we will go. What I can predict is that we have a very keen bunch of lads here who are full of confidence. Yes, I think we will have something to offer when the championship comes."

When asked if Down were too dependent upon Sean O'Neill, the player rated by many as the most effective full-forward of all, replied: "Down players are not encouraged to be understudies. When they come into a Down team they come in on their merits. Nobody is told 'feed O'Neill or McCartan'. I have missed some League games and the lads have done very well."

For other views on Down's likely run this year we asked:

## **DAN McCARTAN:**

The only thing not in our favour is time. We are a team on the up and up. It's just a matter of when we hit the top. It usually takes a team such as ours a few years to mature. We are

hoping naturally that we can come quicker than most.

There is no doubt but that we are over our bad patch. There were signs of this even last year when we were losing games only by the odd point. The spirit now is fantastic; the selectors, back-room lads and players are now more interested in their objective. As for Sean O'Neill and I being important figures in the team, I would say they can get on very well without us. Overall there is more talent in this team than in our All-Ireland winning side of 1968. I think we can give the championship a right shake, not like last year when we were caught on the hop."

**TOM O'HARE** (former star, who is bent on a come-back):

"I like the look of the present Down side. There are some vastly experienced players and a number of up and coming lads. O'Neill and McCartan are, of course, the big names and these can have a great effect on the less experienced members.

"Their fine run in the National League will also stand to them well. However I have a feeling that it may take them about two years to fulfil their potential."

**T. P. MURPHY** (Down Secretary):

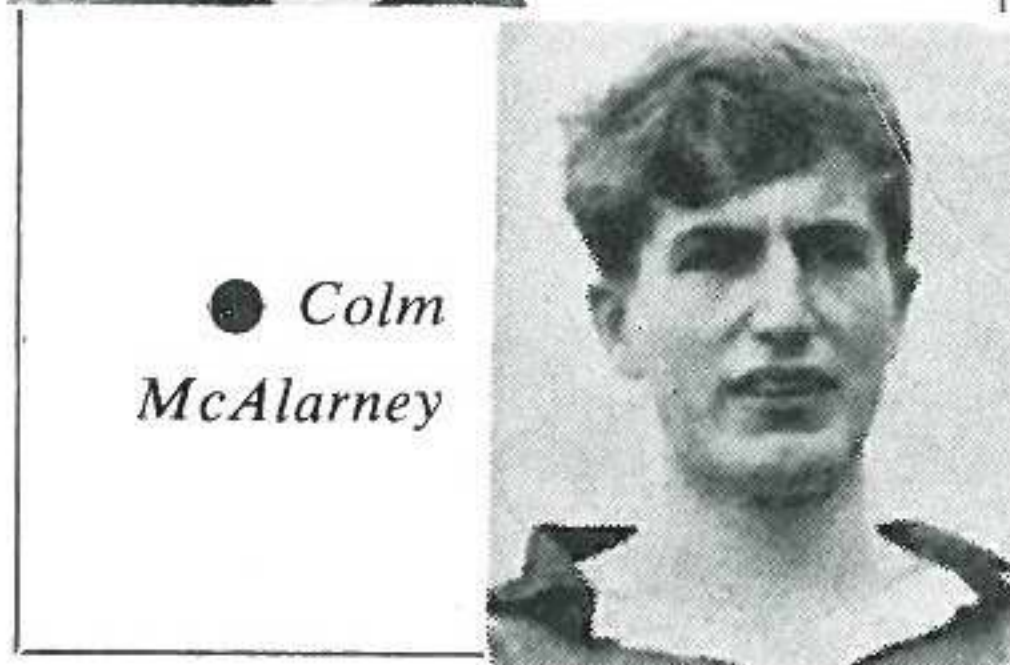
"We have the nucleus of a fine team. The return of Colm McAlarney has meant a big difference, while some of the younger members of the side are developing rapidly.

"Sean O'Neill and Dan McCartan are of course a huge influence on the side, especially in their attitude towards training. But it's significant, I think, that our whole attitude has changed. There is now far more urgency about our play. Make no mistake we want to get back to the top.

"It's difficult to say if we can achieve our ambition in 1973, it may take another year. Nevertheless we won't be 'easy meat' for any team come championship time.



● Dan  
McCartan



● Colm  
McAlarney

"Down no longer is beset by internal problems such as team manager; players going to the

United States and so forth.

"We have also the advantage of a useful draw in the championship. We are at home in the first round to Armagh, and at home to Cavan in the second."

**BRIAN DENVER** (former team manager):

"I must admit I'm not too optimistic about their prospects this year. There are too many fine teams in Ulster, and I think Down would have quite a job beating either Donegal, Tyrone, or Derry.

Another factor is Sean O'Neill. When they won in 1968 Sean was still at his peak. Now he is on the wane and there does not seem to be a suitable replacement. I doubt if they will emerge from Ulster."

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DOHERTY

# CORKMEN ARE JUST ORDINARY GUYS

(Until you measure their heads)

By **PATRICK CARVER**

**S**OMEONE, and you can bet your last shilling that it was either a Tipperaryman or a Kilkennyman, once said that a Corkman with an inferiority complex was a Corkman who thought he was only just as good as everyone else.

This, of course, is totally malicious. I can vouch for it, for I am a Corkman and I can assure you that all those stories that Corkmen are a superior, arrogant, overbearing, boastful, proud race of people, are absolutely and totally without foundation.

We are, in fact, the nicest people in Ireland and as for being superior or arrogant or overbearing, well that's just a load of old rubbish.

Most of the stories, I suppose, stem from the fact that we come from the biggest county in Ireland and Cork, of course, is

also the most beautiful county in the country. If you've been there, you'll know what I mean.

The people who come from there are quite ordinary, exactly the same as you and me. Pick anyone of them at all and again, you'll see what I mean.

There's Jack Lynch, who won a record six All-Ireland medals in a row and subsequently did not do too badly at all in politics.

There's Christy Ring, who won eight All-Ireland hurling medals and did it without any fuss or excitement.

And there's Eudie Coughlan or Dinny Barry Murphy . . . or Jim Young, or Paddy Donovan, or Tony O'Shaughnessy, or Con Murphy or Willie Murphy or Matt Fouhy or Jerry O'Sullivan, or Justin McCarthy or Gerald McCarthy or Denis Coughlan or Ray Cummins.

Like all the other men who



● *Eudie Coughlan*

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ever wore the Cork jersey in hurling, they just happened to turn out to be the greatest hurlers this land of ours has ever known.

But, take it from me, they were all just ordinary people like you and me.

It wasn't their fault that they happened to be involved in the greatest All-Ireland finals ever played — like 1941, '42, '43, '44, '46, 1952, '53, '54, and again in 1966 and 1970.

You'll have to agree that no matter who ever writes a detailed history of hurling, he will just have to name those particular All-Ireland finals as the greatest.

And, even in football, it's the same. The greatest All-Ireland final of modern times must surely be the 1945 one.

And men like Eamonn Young, Derry Beckett, Tadgo Crowley, Jim Ahern and the others on

that team . . . well, they were the best footballers we have ever had in the game.

But you can't fault them for being that. These are things that happen and again I can assure you that they were just very ordinary people like you and me.

Take Eamonn Young in particular. Nothing unusual about him, if you except the fact that he is a great writer, one of the best conversationalists I have ever heard, probably the finest authority we have on Gaelic games and unquestionably one of the world's greatest footballers.

Why, that man never raised even a word of objection when the Munster selectors asked him if he would mind 14 Kerry men playing on the Munster football team with him. That showed the humility in the man.

I'm a Corkman myself and Eamonn Young would be the

first to tell you that I'm no different from anyone else.

He would tell you that I am brilliant in everything I do, good-looking, young for my years, fit as a fiddle, devastating to women and never conscious for a moment of my regal Cork birth.

In other words, he would tell you that I am just another very ordinary fellow. Great but humble like himself.

We want only the simple things in life. Like moving the Government to Cork where it should be, carrying our own flag in the Olympic Games, renaming O'Connell Street to Small Patrick Street and having the Cork accent declared the official tongue of the country.

So, don't believe anything you hear about Cork from other people.

Mostly they're nothing else but just plain jealous of us ordinary people.

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# Gaelic

# SCRAPBOOK

1887

By  
Tony  
Reid

**M**Y scrapbook this month is opened in the year 1887, at the very beginning of the story of the G.A.A. and many absorbing facts of those early days are revealed in the dusty, yellowing pages.

Those were the days when you could buy your favourite journal for a penny but the sports pages were anything but elaborate when compared with to-day's sophisticated editions.

History, as always, was being made in those nineteenth century days. The estimated population of the world was said to be 1,240 millions, and the rulers of the two large world powers were the Democrat, Grover Cleveland in the U.S.A. and the Marquess of Salisbury headed Britain's Conservative ruling party. The research of two German engineers, Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz, two years previously was still the sensation of the day. They had, in fact, achieved practical results in the design of what was to become the internal combustion motor car.

Here in Ireland, other men were engaged in trying to organise the Gaelic Athletic Association and to get things moving in the direction of some form of competition that would firmly establish the game throughout the entire country.

It was with this in mind that the first ever All-Ireland championship tournament came into being and the draw for the 1887 campaign was made on the "open draw" basis, a system that has been advocated by many people in recent years.

Naturally, there were no such things as provincial championships with the result that each county was represented by its

champion club who were well trained for the competition due to the large number of carnival tournaments that were a feature of the late eighteen hundreds.

The draw resulted as follows:  
Wicklow v Clare;  
Louth v Waterford;  
Galway v Wexford;  
Meath v Limerick; and  
Tipperary v Dublin.

All counties were obliged to compete in both hurling and football. Making the draw was easy. Getting the contestants onto the field was another matter. Objections, protests and plain general confusion almost totally ruined the hurling contests. In fact only one first round match took place and that was between Meelick (Galway) and Castlebridge (Wexford), the westerners winning.

In the next round Thurles (Tipperary) scored two easy wins over Smith O'Brien's (Clare) and, in the semi-final over Tullaroan (Kilkenny).

Despite the numerous little problems that cropped up the standard of hurling was exceptionally high and the attendance at the games was entirely satisfactory.

The big day arrived on April 1, 1888, with the playing of the first ever All-Ireland hurling final, at Birr. The contestants were Tipperary and Galway and a most even game ended in a narrow win for the Thurles side by 1-1 and a forfeit point to no score. The game of hurling was now truly established and the spectators at the first final went home well pleased with what they saw.

The football contests more than compensated for the lack of numbers that afflicted the hurling and the first round games went on on Sunday, July 24,

1887. Two of the matches, Limerick (Commercials) v Meath (Dowdstown) and Louth (Dundalk Young Irelands) v Waterford (Lower Ballyduff) being played at Elm Park, Merrion, in Dublin, were decided on the property of Lord de Freyne who was a good friend of the G.A.A. in the early years. In fact, 10,000 people turned up at the venue to witness the games and got tremendous value for their entrance fees.

In the match between Limerick and Meath a highlight was the fantastic goal scored by Malachi O'Brien for Limerick. He kicked the ball almost the entire length of the pitch and it deceived the Meath defence completely to sail between the posts.

Louth scored an easy victory over Waterford and on the same day at Dungarvan, Kilkenny (Kilmacow) beat Lees of Cork in an exciting tussle. Clare, Tipperary and Wexford received walkovers.

The second round matches were played at Goldenbridge, Inchicore, and Louth had a narrow win over Wexford. Limerick and Kilkenny, on the other hand, could only manage a draw and in the replay at Bansha it took the Limerickmen all their time to eventually emerge victorious.

Louth were lucky enough to receive a bye to the final but the match between Limerick and Tipperary had to be replayed after the Limerick officials objected against Tipp. playing ineligible men. Tipperary had won but when the two sides met in the re-fixture at Bohermore the Shannonsiders won by a comfortable margin.

The stage was set for the first football final and the venue selected was in Clonskeagh. The

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Many great players wore the college jersey among them Johnny Walsh, Murt Kelly (Kerry), Henry Kenny (Mayo), Jim Regan, C. Vaughan (Cork) and these men and many more went on to help their native counties to All-Ireland victories. However, in 1939 changes in educational policies, caused the closing of the college as a training centre for lay teachers, and with it came the end of an era.

In 1949 the college re-opened as a Boarding and Day College, and to-day continues to flourish

# SCRAPBOOK

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match did not take place until April 29, 1888 and after Louth had gained a half-time lead Limerick stormed back to snatch a well deserved win. The names of those first football champions of Ireland were: Denis Corbett (Capt. and goalkeeper), T. Fitzgibbon, W. Gunning, R. Breen, J. Hyland, T. McNamara, W. J. Spain, P. J. Corbett, M. Slattery, J. R. Kennedy, M. Casey, J. Mulqueen, M. O'Brien, P. Kelly, T. Kennedy, P. Keating, W. Cleary, R. Normoyle, P. Reeves, T. Keating and T. McMahon.

Limerick not only survived on an objection against Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final but the club that represented them in the final, Commercial, only managed to do so also by surviving on another objection after being beaten by Templemore and St. Michaels in the Limerick championships.

No other club in the entire history of the G.A.A. can claim to have lost not just one, but three matches, and still became All-Ireland title holders!

The year 1888 saw what has become famous as the "American Invasion" when Ireland's top athletes left the country to perform in the "promised land". As a result of this the championships were never completed that year, but the good work of 1887 could never be undone.

and it has 752 students on the roll (241 boarders). To meet the increasing educational demands, and to accommodate extra numbers, the building of a new extension is at present underway, and when completed will give the most up-to-date facilities for study and sport.

As in the past the college is still playing a prominent role in G.A.A. affairs and the college teams have been to the fore in all grades of hurling and football in Munster Colleges competition. The Munster Senior Colleges title has been annexed five times in all and I well remember the very wet day in Lismore when the team, trained by Br. Brendan, won Corn-na-Mumhan for the first time after a ding-dong struggle, with Farrenferris. To-day, as in yesteryear, many former pupils are bringing honour to their native counties, the most prominent being Paud and Eamonn O'Donoghue, Dan Kavanagh (Kerry) and Dave McCarthy (Cork).

Athletics have also been very much part and parcel of the College's activities. Br. Athanatius, in his time, turned out many

national champions, Mick Langan, presently trainer of the Kilkenny team, was one of the best and was Ireland's first ever gold medal winner (120 yds. hurdles) in the Catholic Students Games, others were Cecil Roddy, Cyril O'Regan and only recently a student of De La Salle, Gerard Deegan, won the National Junior Cross Country Championship. And so the great work continues and long may it continue to be so. And the long list of academic successes are also worthy of acclaim, what a record for a college that first opened its doors in 1894.

So it can be seen that no more fitting venue for a G.A.A. Congress could have been selected than De La Salle College, where for well nigh on eighty years all that is best in Irish traditions have been handed down to all who have attended the college. Waterford is justly proud of its part in the forward march of the Gaelic Athletic Association from Meagher of the Sword to Pat Fanning. The Gaels of Waterford will extend a Cead Mile Failte to the delegates who will be attending Congress.

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## QUALITIES NEEDED IN THE NEW BOSS

● FROM PAGE 25

This is very much the public image which we have been sketching in: and it is important because the President is, in general, the frontal part of that image—that picture of the Association which daily strikes the public eye. In the inner workings of the Association, too, there are qualities which are so tremendously desirable: a man of strength and decisive action, who runs his meetings with discretion and apparent looseness, but underneath which lies a ruthless firmness and intent to avoid flabby time-wasting.

He must above all be a man who has established his bona fides and done so independently of any pressure groupings or pushers; "his own man" as the phrase goes, owing nothing to anyone and, therefore, bound to

no one in returning favour.

This paragon must be cool—or he must have learned coolness. He must have learned that ability to stop, count two or three or even ten, and then begin to lay down his thoughts in words. It would be best if he were a man with a wide appreciation of the Association and its differing variations in different parts of the country, knowing the little nuances of rule or arrangement which bother most in one county, or the little troubles that most beset another.

Finally, with all that packaged up in a neat, but unostentatious figure, neither over-polished nor simply uncouth, a man of the people who has made good, he should speak neither with exaggerated profundity nor apple-barrel simplicity, and his accent should not be brutal in its emphasis. What a man!

● FROM PAGE 27

McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Seanie Leary. Pat Hegarty is out of action; Justin McCarthy and Seamus Looney are hurling and Pat McDonnell should be back later on after his injury though I doubt if he will be on for the championship. Instead of the men who may be missing there are John Buckley, Martin and Pat Doherty, John Horgan and Jack Russell so there's no need to panic.

There are half a dozen more also to fill the places for Cork is certainly not short the names whatever about the quality of the hurling. As it looks to-day to any realist Cork will not get outside Munster mainly because Tipp. and Limerick both of whom were very bad last year have improved. For that matter so have Clare and Waterford so we must assume that the men who were heralded last year as All-Ireland champions before they played the first round are really up against it. And they may not get outside Munster. The recent difference of opinion in Thurles will be no help either I think for Tipp. will be very urgent this year. All 'his goes to say: forget about Cork this year.

And yet hope springing eternal and being buttressed by the fact that so many good hurlers are available one cannot but feel that with a grind of hard preparation, a spot of luck and a lot of expert guidance from the sideline Cork might put the best in Munster to the pin of their collar. And if that happens they might win out in Munster; and if that happens they might go into the All-Ireland series proper feeling this time for a change that the game isn't won until the final whistle.

Ringey said to me three months ago "Maybe what we need is a few good hidings", Maybe he's right. Maybe!



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The decision of the Editor of "Gaelic Sport" is final. There is no age limit and there is no restriction on the number of entries you can send in, but each entry must be on the official entry form. Results will be published in next issue.

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**PICTURE (B)**

Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare,  
or  
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Antrim,

**PICTURE (C)**

Upper Lake, Killarney,  
or  
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**PICTURE (D)**

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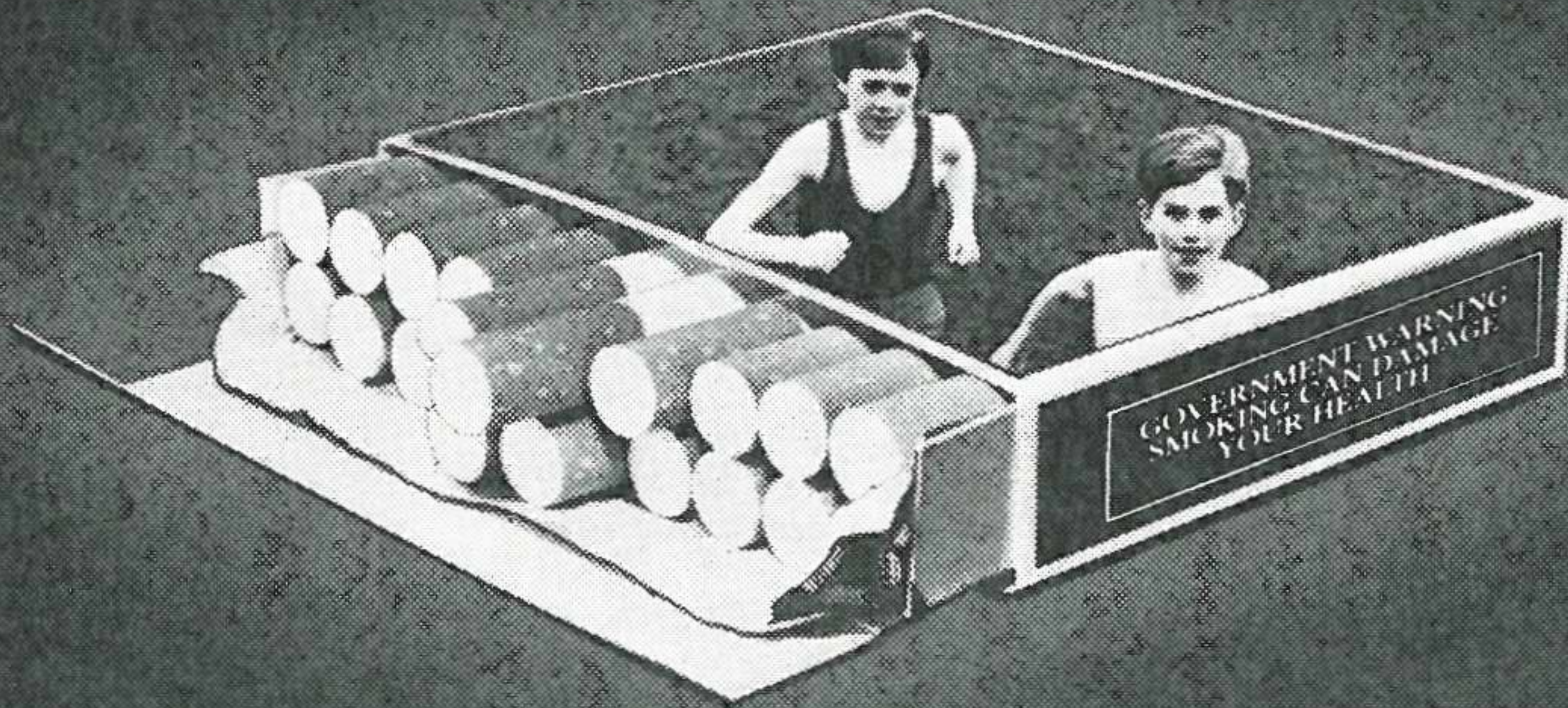
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# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**W**E are almost 3 years old. Junior Desk, I mean. Time flies. May 1970 Junior Desk was born. How did it begin? Like so many G.A.A. men, I wrote an article in GAELIC SPORT criticising the fact that the G.A.A. itself was doing nothing for the young G.A.A. fan by way of bright publications with which the young G.A.A. could identify.

A walk through Easons bookshop in O'Connell St., Dublin, one Saturday morning in 1970 really disillusioned me. The flood of English soccer periodicals side by side would lead one to believe we had no national games of our own.

So instead of attacking the G.A.A. again I said to myself "What can I do?" A 'phone call to Tommy McQuaid (GAELIC SPORT'S Editor) asking his opinion on my idea. Tommy says "We'll give it a try." The name for the column? My good wife, Eileen, supplied the title. She'll blush like hell when she sees this in print. After that, it was you young readers who created the format of the column. It has become bigger—the Mailbag grows every month. So obviously we are reaching more young fans. The stars themselves all admit that they read your views avidly. So there it is.

## **T. J. GILMORE**

Our Cut-out this month is Galway's old-style centre half back, Tommy Joe Gilmore, whose performances in 1971 really set him off as one of the finest centre half backs in football.

Tommy Joe hails from the great footballing village of Cortoon near Tuam and not too far away from my native Dunmore (the greatest little football town in Ireland). Cortoon produced many great footballers like Frank Quinn, Sean Treacy, Johnny Dunne, the Connelly brothers, Billy Gilmore—all great-hearted players.

Galway's Michael Rooney is another Cortoon man. But Tommy Joe beats them all and is a great favourite in Galway. Principally, I think because he is such a sporting fellow and a relic of the traditional catch-and-kick style.

Injuries have hampered him recently but as recently as last November he really scintillated

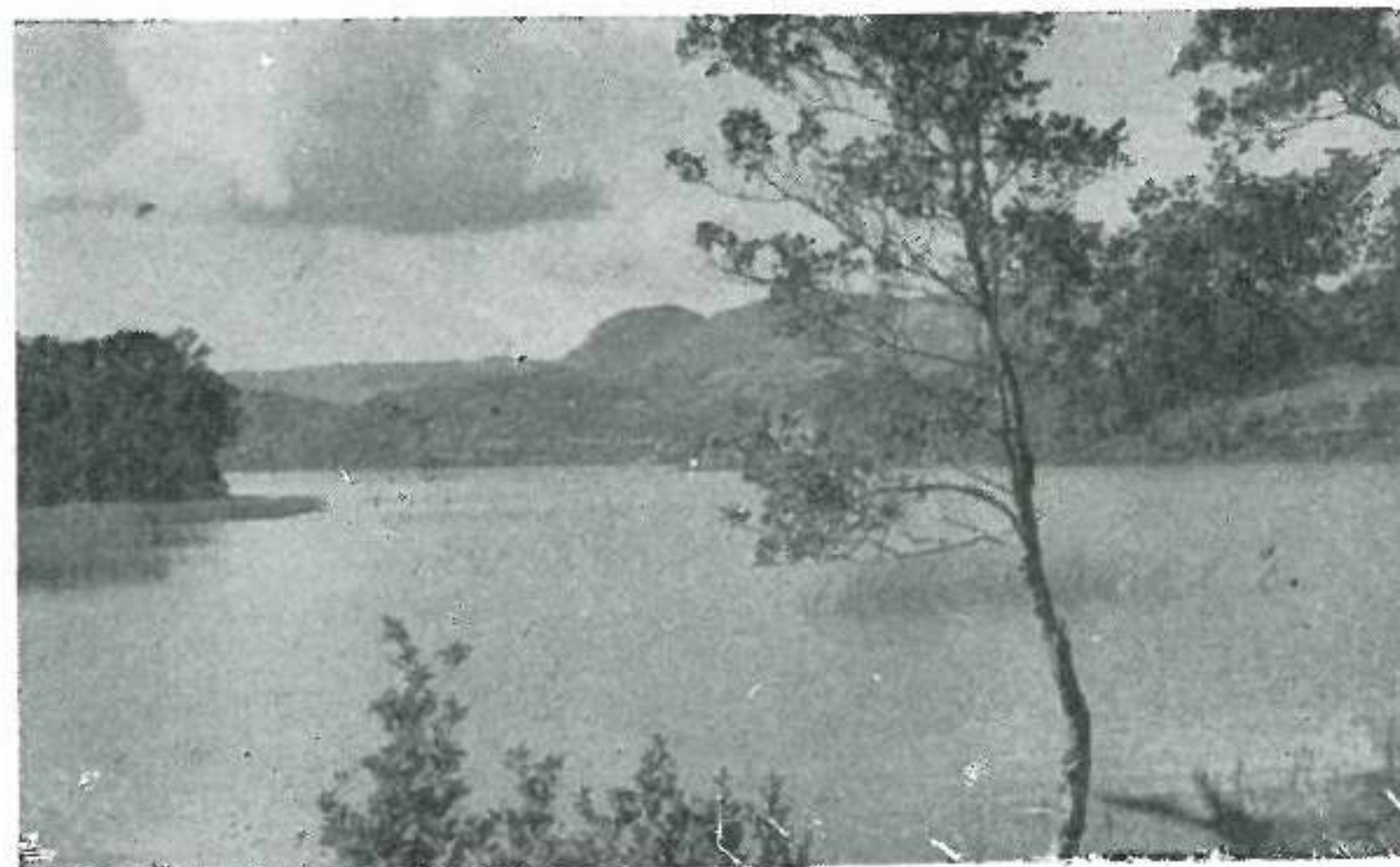
when helping Galway to overpower Roscommon in the League. Need I add Tommy Joe is a warm favourite of mine, too. His Cut-out should be pasted on every young G.A.A. fan's bedroom wall. One tip—paste them on neatly!

## **JIMMY SMYTH**

This month we have a message from Jimmy Smith, the well known G.A.A. official and former Clare star, specially for Clare Junior Desk fans.

Dear Jack,—I am glad to see that so many young Clare people write to "Junior Desk". All the great players I have been lucky to meet down the years also have a natural curiosity about other players and teams and I suppose

● **TO PAGE 53**



**PICTURE C**

**SEE PAGE 49**

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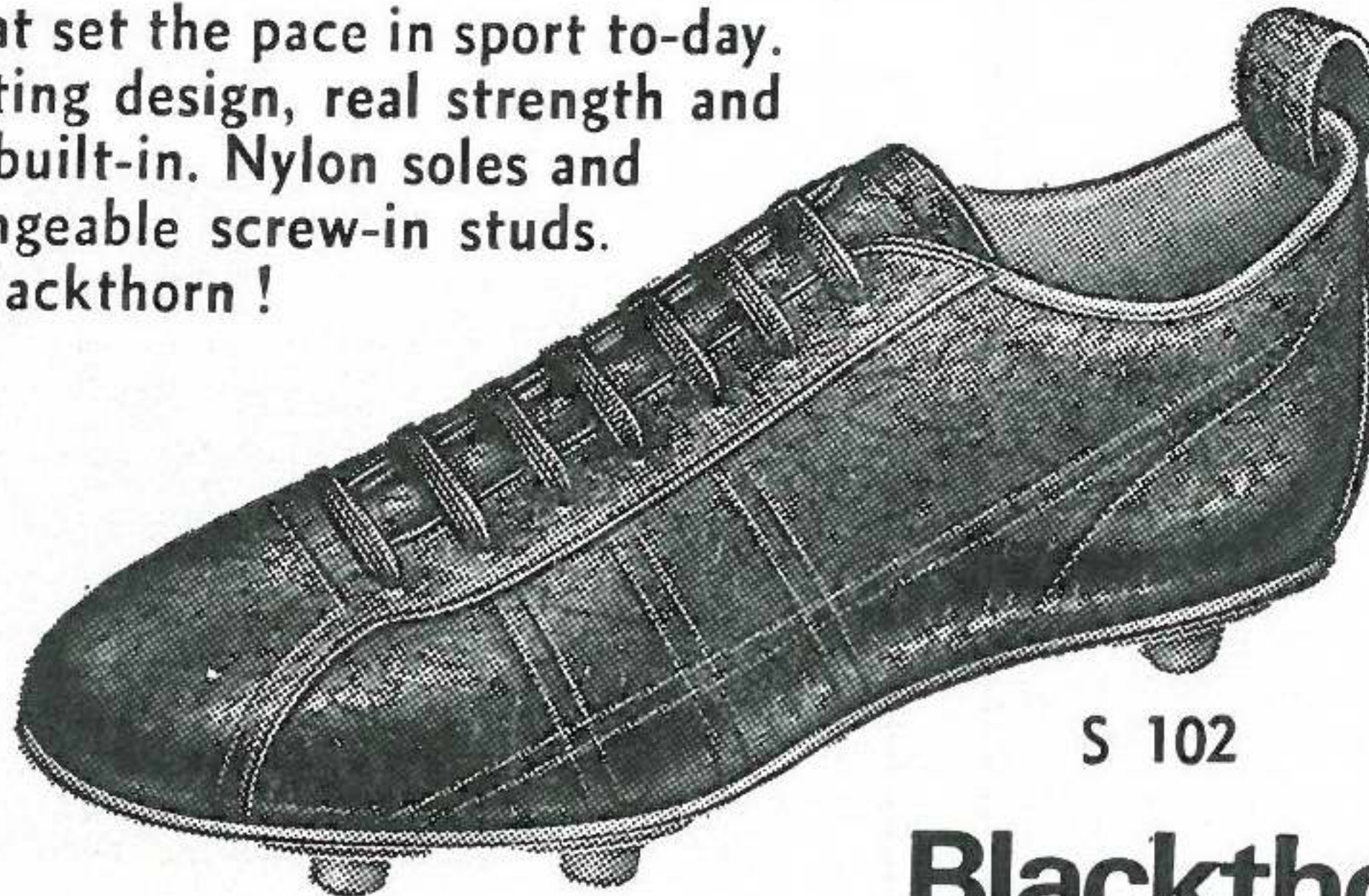
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● FROM PAGE 51

it was this interest that made them so good.

As these young people grow older, I hope they will continue to write helpfully about the county teams and players. Clare and all weaker counties, who never have the McCarthy or Maguire Cups, need the encouragement of all and especially their own supporters.

As long as you continue to hear from the young, I continue to hope for that one big day.

Sincerely,

J. Smyth.

*Go raibh maith agat, a Shéamais (J.M.).*

**CAD IS AINM DÓ**

Gael Linn on their weekly Pool leaflet have a very interesting personality poser. This month I reproduce a few of their very interesting questions, at the same time paying tribute to Gael-Linn for keeping the G.A.A. in front of their subscribers.

(1) This outstanding player is only reaching his prime, yet already he is a Carroll's All-Star award winner and has won two Senior All-Ireland titles with his adopted county for whom he had the distinction of receiving the Sam Maguire Cup for the first time.

(2) An outstanding wing back, he helped his county annex the Sam Maguire Cup on three occasions and also had the honour of captaining the Combined Universities team. He won a junior and a minor All-Ireland title also, the odd thing being that the junior success came the year before the minor one.

(3) Many believe that he was the greatest of them all. This outstanding player of the past was bred to be a champion, as both his grandfather and father had captained the county senior team before him. In all, he won three All-Ireland, five National League and eight Railway Cup medals. Such was his versatility that he also gained five senior

county championship titles and a junior provincial title in another code.

(4) Now in the autumn of his career, he made his senior inter-county debut at fullback, but he represented his province and won a National League title playing at full-forward. However, he donned the No. 3 jersey again to such effect that he has now three senior All-Ireland medals playing in his favourite position.

(5) An outstanding dual performer, he not only led his county to victory in an All-Ireland final, but had the added distinction of being the only man to win two Railway Cup medals on the same day.

(Correct answers at end of column, page 56).

**HANDBALL**

Isn't the Top Ace handball series on TV great? A credit to the game and to commentators Mick Dunne and Ray Doherty. A special pat on the back to new R.T.E. sports boss, Fred Cogley, too, for giving handball a rightful place on the screen. At first the cameras didn't seem to stay with the pace of the game but the technicians who were new to the game have caught up with it and now have mastered the butt almost. Almost all the youngsters in the school where I teach are captivated by the game. So we know now the power of T.V. as if we didn't know it already.

**OLIVER CONNEELY**

That amazing little man, Oliver Conneely, from Glenamaddy (Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway) has done it again. He has sent me on a G.A.A. newspaper he has written himself, entitled "Sports Stars Journal". Last year this fantastic little man of ideas, who is a G.A.A. fanatic, won first prize in a national project competition.

So all you Junior Desk fans interested in a Galway pen friend whose major interests are the G.A.A., writing, projects, etc., Oliver is the man.

**From the Mailbag**

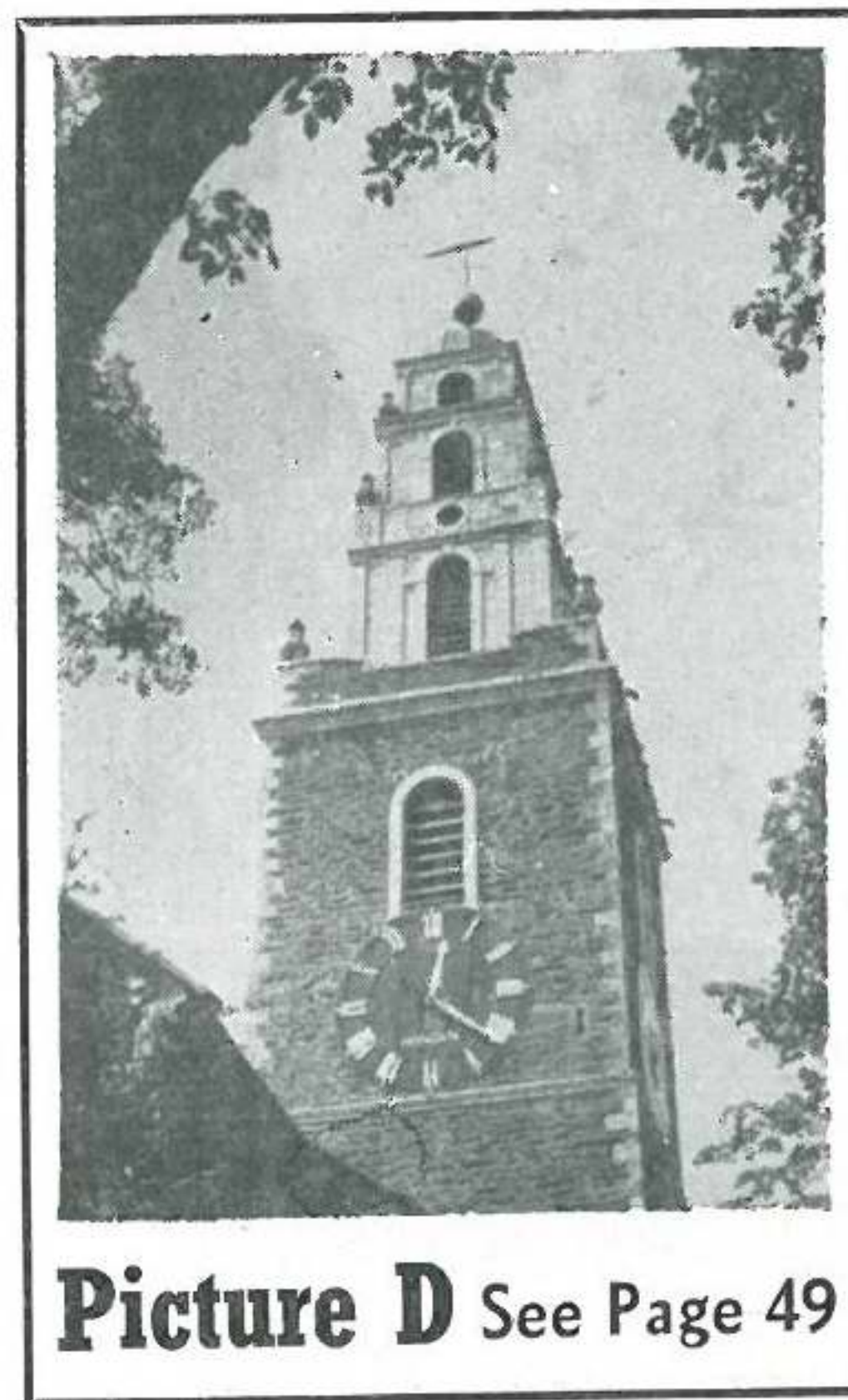
**Gerry Cullen, Acres, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh.** "My home club, Erne Gaels, Belleek, opened their own 'Gaelic Centre' in January. Most credit goes to club chairman Séamus Heron. A new playing field has also been bought. Our club is only 12 years in existence and we have a proud record. Two club men, Tommy and Gerry Gallagher, are on the Fermanagh senior team. Have colour Cut-outs soon."

● *When I lived in Fermanagh, Lisnaskea were the top club team with Kevin Sreenan and Frank Maguire their stars.(J.M.)*

**Mattie McDermott, Ahane, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.** "I like playing in goal. 1973 will be Galway's year."

● *I hope so. (J.M.)*

● TO PAGE 55



**Picture D See Page 49**

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



★ ★ ★ ★ **TOMMY JOE GILMORE, GALWAY**



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

## ● FROM PAGE 53

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Co. Wicklow.** "Wicklow All Stars of 1972 were Brian Carthy (Ashford) in football, and Mick O'Brien (Arklow Rock Parnells) in hurling."

**John O'Donovan, Lahernathee, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.** "Delighted to win the scroll. GAELIC SPORT is a great magazine. My favourite players are Eddie Keher, Charlie McCarthy, Francis Loughnane, Willie Bryan, Mick O'Connell and Kevin Jer O'Sullivan."

● *I like your choice. (J.M.)*

**Aidan Murphy, Ballyblood, Tulla, Co. Clare.** "If there is not a Cut-out of a Clareman next month all my friends are not going to buy GAELIC SPORT again."

● *That's what I call pressure! You are right, Aidan, it's past time we honoured a Clareman. So, come on, Mr. Editor. (J.M.)*

**Michael Canavan, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Co. Wicklow.** "Regarding the Carrolls All Stars I think (1) The choice should be made on a popularity poll through a coupon in the papers; (2) The teams should play the All-Ireland champions in Ireland; (3) Too many of the All-Ireland champion teams are selected, i.e., Cork and Kilkenny hurlers and Offaly footballers."

● *I think your first suggestion is very good. (J.M.)*

**Gerard Tierney, Grollagh, Carrickaboy, Co. Cavan.** "Watch Fermanagh in the championship this year. They have fine players in Phil Sheridan, Ciaran Campbell, Peter McGinity, Fionn Sherry and veteran P. T. Treacy. They will surprise a few good teams this year."

● *I have noticed their consistent improvement at all levels in the past few years. The start came with the Vocational and Secondary schools successes. (J.M.)*

**Patrick League, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly.** "I think there should be special enclosures for children at all grounds. I will give an example: my brother who is eight was standing watching a National League game recently. The only time he could see the ball was when it went high over the bar, and that didn't happen often! So you see, one end of a ground should be enclosed for

## Competition

**THE** winner of our "Picture Poser" competition in March issue was **JACK NAUGHTON, BRACKAGH, HORSE LEAP, MOATE, CO. WESMEATH.** Jack will receive a year's free subscription to GAELIC SPORT, beginning with the May issue.

**Congratulations Jack!** The correct score was Tipperary 5-6, Kilkenny 3-6. Each entry had the score correct, but Jack's was the lucky one.

This month turn to page 49 and read about another great FREE competition.

This one is sponsored by Bord Failte and readers of all ages can enter. Show this to your parents and get them to enter also. Remember you can enter as many times as you like provided you do so on the official entry form provided. Good luck (J.M.)

children. Sure isn't it towards the young people the G.A.A. should be looking.

**Sean Gaughan, Moybridge, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan.** "The attendance at provincial finals would be greatly increased if more comfortable accommodation was offered. Take the Ulster final in Clones last year on a very wet day as an example."

● *I agree more stand accommodation at the major G.A.A. (indeed at all county venues if possible) is required. (J.M.)*

**Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare.** "I was delighted to receive "The Clash of the Ash" specially autographed by R. Smith. It was a very nice gesture on his part to pay such a nice tribute to Junior Desk."

● *It wasn't Raymond's first time to pay us a tribute and it won't be his last, we hope. (J.M.)*

**Terry Doyle, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Co. Wicklow.** "Give us a Cut-out of Noel Casey the great Clare hurler."

**Anthony Clancy, Knockroe, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.** "The open draw, if introduced, would not help hurling at the moment. It would mean the end of the Munster Hurling Final."

● *Still, I'm sorry the Open Draw wasn't given a trial for 2 years at least. (J.M.)*

**Michael Kirby, Lisnalee, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick.** "My Texaco Award winners would have been Pat Delaney and Willie Bryan."

● *Still, it was hard to pass over that prolific scorer, Eddie Keher. (J.M.)*

**Paddy White, Inchbeg, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.** "Junior Desk is great. Give us the Cut-outs in colour."

● *Isn't it time we started. The front cover of the 6 All Stars from Cork last month was fab. (J.M.)*

**Ciaran Ó Murchú, Glen Lodge, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.** "I hope Wicklow qualify for Division 1 in the N.F.L. Greystones are also doing well. I scored a real flukey goal in the last game but they all count don't they, thank God."

● *You should be happy that Wicklow have qualified. Yes, flukes all count. (J.M.)*

● **OVERLEAF**

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

● FROM OVERLEAF

**Susan Condon (age 10), sister of Carmel.** "I go to Ballintotas N.S. and play camogie for Churchtown North under 15s. I have five sisters and three brothers. Four of my sisters play camogie with the big team. Nora, my sister, is Secretary of our club. We have four teams. I go to a lot of matches in Cork. They will win the All-Ireland this year. My favourite stars are Denis Coughlan, Con Roche, Donal Hunt, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Liz Garvin and Mary Salter (camogie). Mary is my cousin and was captain of the Cork junior team last year. We have 30 Gaelic Sports altogether. I hope I win a prize."

● *You do Susan—you win the G.A.A. Kit Bag and I suppose you'll want a Cork one (J.M.)*

**Willie Fenton, Cloughnadro-min, Ballysimon, Limerick.** "Congrats on Junior Desk. It's great between the Cut-outs, competitions and the Mailbag. My favourites are Pat Hartigan, Eamonn Cregan, Tom Ryan, Charlie McCarthy, Jack Cosgrave and Tony McTague."

● *It gives me great pleasure to send the good wishes of all Junior Desk readers to Jack Cosgrave who was injured in a shooting incident while on Garda duty in Cork at Christmas. We hope he is back in action soon again. (J.M.)*

**Donie Hanrahan, Corracunna, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.** "The Carrolls All Stars idea is a great one. I like the Pin-ups of the All-Stars prepared by Carrolls and I think the plaques presented to the players super."

● *Yes, Carrolls do a fine presentation job and spare no expense. This is in no small way due to their excellent Public Relations Manager, Mr. Patrick Heneghan. (J.M.)*

**Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Sligo.** "The letter competition idea is fab. Our

G.A.A. games have become noticeably "airty". Too much pushing, shoving, kicking, pulling, etc. Too many trees also. What is wrong? Is it the rules, the referees or the players? Some rules need changing. But in my opinion the referees are at fault. I know a ref's job is no easy one but it is the most vital one on the field of play. Here are a few suggestions.

First of all a Referees Association with branches around the country. All referees obliged to be members of this Association which would organise courses on physical training, interpretation of rules, etc. All referees should wear distinctive dress, i.e., all black and umpires should have power to report behind the play scenes. Persistent niggling fouls deserve the line. Too many retired players become refs. It should be a job for younger men. Lastly I'd like to pay tribute to the many dedicated referees who have made our games so enjoyable down the years."

● *Now there is a letter and a half. Would you believe the prize letter this month. Kevin deserves his prize of a new football for so many great ideas. (J.M.)*

**Carmel Condon (Age 6), Ballintotas, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork.**

"Mick Malone is the best hurler in Ireland. My brother James (age 7) is helping me to write this. Please print it."

● *Delighted, Carmel. (J.M.)*

So ends the Mailbag. The prize-winning letters were from **Kevin Gallen** (a new football) and **Susan Condon** (a Cork G.A.A. kitbag). Keep on writing but please keep your letters short and write on one side of the page only. Write about anything and we will keep up this "Prize of the Month" for the best letter received. My old team-mate Frank Evers is opening a Sports Shop in Galway very soon. It is something new to see so many

G.A.A. stars entering the sports shop business. I wish him every success. Write then to—

Junior Desk,  
Gaelic Sport,  
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,  
Dublin 9.

ANSWERS TO CAD IS  
AINM DÓ

(1) W. Bryan (Offaly); (2) Sean Murphy (Kerry); (3) Mick Mackey (Limerick); (4) Pa Dillon (Kilkenny); (5) Des Foley (Dublin).

AN GÚM

CEOL RINCE  
NA hEIREANN

Cnuasach de 214 fonn Gaelach idir Phoirt dhúbailta, shingil agus luascaigh, ríleanna agus Cornphíopaí, maille le nótaí ar na foinsí as a bhfuarthas iad, brollach agus gluais.

BREANDÁN BREATHNACH a chnuasaigh agus a chuir in eagar.

Athchló ar fáil anois.

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