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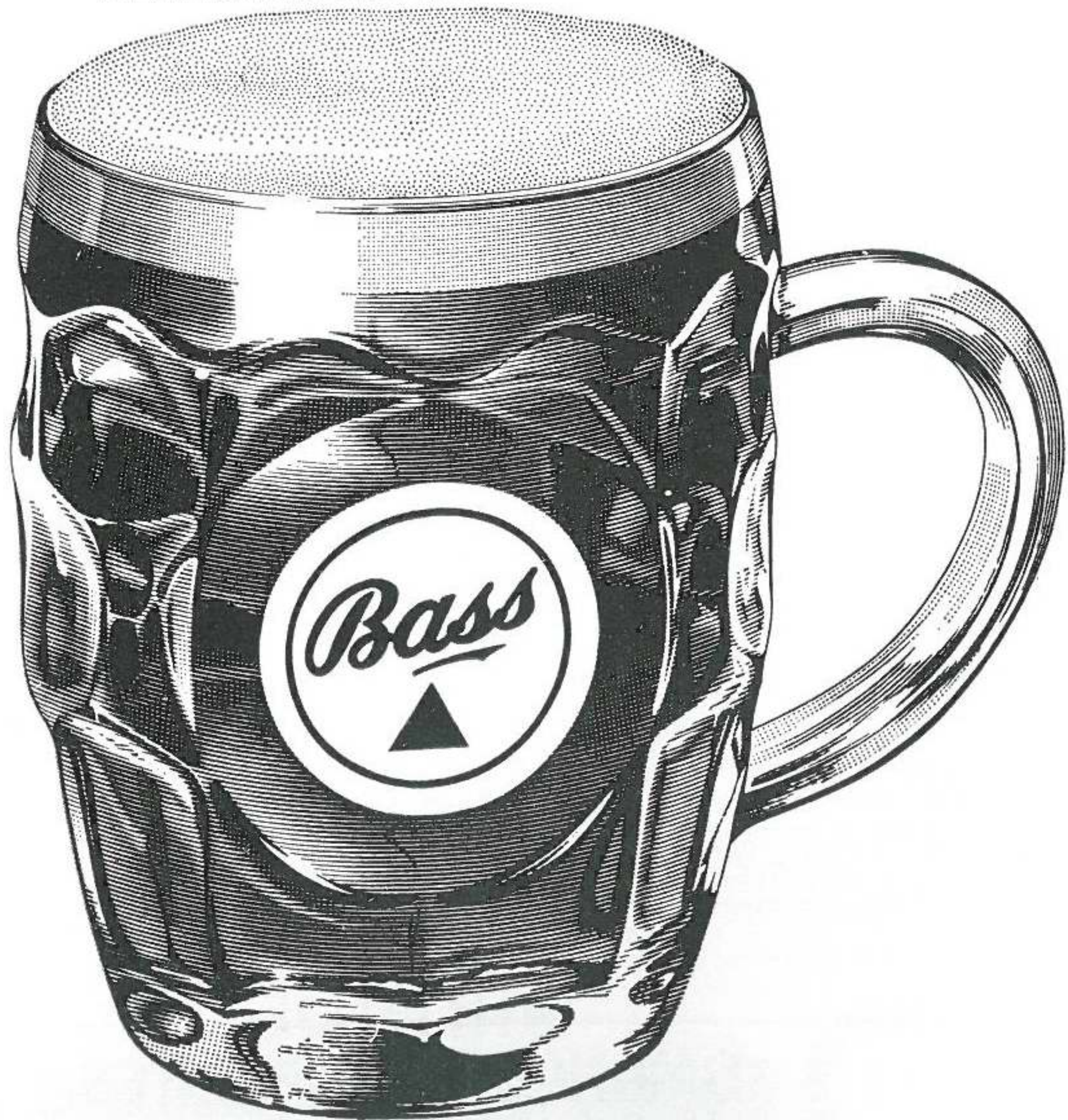
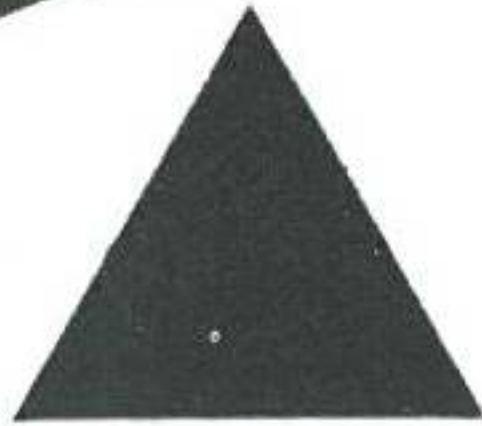


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## CONTENTS

	Page
Top Ten ... ..	5
<i>It's A Fact</i>	
—by Owen McCann	6
<i>Kevin Sees Glimmer of Hope</i>	
for Dublin—by John O'Shea	7
<i>Ulster Viewpoint</i>	
—by Dan McAreavy	9
<i>The "Century Club" is Now</i>	
Open for New Members	
—by Owen McCann	11
<i>This Is Really Madness</i>	
—says Jay Drennan	13
<i>Moondharrig's Diary ... ..</i>	16
<i>Offaly: Where Do They Go</i>	
From Here—by Mick Dunne	19
<i>Rule Proposals: Put Them to</i>	
the Test—says Mick Dunne	21
<i>Classic Case of Good Spon-</i>	
sorship—by Owen McCann	23
<i>Ladies Please</i>	
Edited by Ann Carroll	24
<i>Press Cuttings</i>	
Compiled by Neil McCavana	28
<i>Can Sligo Grasp the Big</i>	
Chance?—asks Seán Rice ...	29
<i>Handball — by Alleyman ...</i>	31
<i>B+I Award for Vince</i>	
—by Pat Mooney	33
<i>Money Matters</i>	
—by Linda Collins	35
<i>Eric Hall Talks to Seán Egan</i>	37
<i>Lack of Thrust in Attack is</i>	
Limerick's Main Worry	
—by Seamus Ó Ceallaigh	39
<i>Clare Football</i>	
—by Eamonn Young	41
<i>Camogie Notes</i>	
—by Agnes Hourigan	43
<i>Seán McCorthy</i>	
—A tribute by Paddy Downey	43
<i>Junior Desk</i>	
—Edited by Jack Mahon	45
<i>Colour Cut-out ... ..</i>	49

# Tonic for hurling

**B**BETTER late than never. That is our reaction to the news of the proposed All-Ireland "B" Hurling Championship.

Almost five years have passed since we suggested the creation of a special Championship group in hurling composed of London, Galway, Kildare, Westmeath, an all-Ulster selection and a Rest of Connacht team, with the winners qualifying for the All-Ireland semi-finals.

It would be naive to suggest that if that advice had been acted on everything in the garden would now be rosy. However, it is still reasonable to assume that this would at least have ensured that hurling was in a healthier state generally than is the case at present.

Some of the vision that we campaigned for in 1969 is reflected in the new Championship proposal. The move is one that should help the game in the under-developed counties.

But is it still progressive enough? What the under-developed counties need is more and more competitive match-play against teams of their own strength if hurling is to advance and prosper. They will not, of course, have this under the knock-out system that is planned for the new competition.

An All-Ireland series run-off on the league system would be ideal, as far as competition is

concerned, but would probably not find general favour because of the already over-loaded calendar.

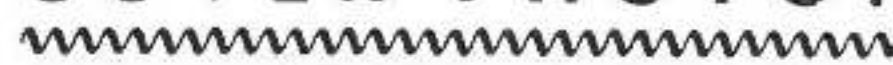
There is an alternative, though, and one that is well worth a trial. It is to play each match in the series, including the final, on the double leg system, with each tie decided on aggregate score over the two matches.

This would be practical because of the small number of teams taking part in the Championship. It would ensure more of the type of competitive fare that these counties need if their game is to make genuine and lasting progress, and in addition would focus greater nation-wide attention generally on the competition.

As a result, the Championship would have a glamour and appeal greater than one run off on the straight knock-out principle. And, accordingly the series would play a more vigorous role in the hurling drive.

It may be said that we are over hasty in taking a critical look at a Championship that has not had an opportunity to prove itself one way or another. However, this latest development, which we warmly welcome, is one that provides in itself a solid framework on which to build a progressive approach to the hurling revival.

## COVER PHOTO:



**O**UR front cover this month features a brilliant action scene from the '73 Football Final, featuring Galway's Joe Waldron and Cork's Jimmy Barry-Murphy. Ray Cummins surveys proceedings in the background.



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# Top Ten

## DUBLIN TOPS IN HURLING

**D**UBLIN'S achievement in qualifying for the National Hurling League semi-finals is reflected prominently in our first Top Ten feature of 1974. The review covers games from the start of the year up to, but not including the Railway Cup finals and the Metropolitans' march to the last four in hurling must rank as the outstanding team achievement of that period.

Sean Moyles, Mick Bermingham and Noel Kinsella share the leading position on eight points.

Undoubtedly, Dublin had many stars in the win over Waterford that finally clinched their semi-final ticket against Cork. But the solid full back play of Moyles, the expert finishing of Bermingham—he hit 1-7—and the progressive hurling of Noel Kinsella, who also set the standard with a goal inside two minutes, put them ahead of the field in our books.

Indeed, it has been a good time generally for some of the less fashionable counties in hurling. Galway take their place through the grand hurling of John Connolly in a number of ties, including a League win over Wexford, while Kildare's splendid show when going under to Tipperary in a League quarter-final at Thurles has helped the county to double representation through Johnny Walsh and John O'Leary.

In football, recognition as well for a number of counties that are not among the "big guns". Mar-

tin Doran's dependable work at full back for Wicklow brings him in on a seven points ranking, and also included in a group of seven on this rating is Sean Mul-

vihill, who has been to the forefront with Longford.

Top of the chart in football is John O'Keeffe, who clinched the position with an eye-catching display in the Kerry-Galway draw in the National League at Tralee.

The Railway Cup finals will be taken into consideration for next month's review.



★  
Denis Long



★  
Dermot Earley



★  
Tom Naughton



★  
John O'Keeffe

### HURLING

- 8 S. Moyles (Dublin)
- 8 M. Bermingham (Dublin)
- 8 N. Kinsella (Dublin)
- 7 N. O'Dwyer (Tipperary)
- 7 J. Duggan (Tipperary)
- 7 J. Buckley (Cork)
- 7 J. Callinan (Clare)
- 6 J. Connolly (Galway)
- 6 J. Walsh (Kildare)
- 6 J. O'Leary (Kildare)

### FOOTBALL

- 8 J. O'Keeffe (Kerry)
- 7 P. O'Shea (Kerry)
- 7 T. Naughton (Galway)
- 7 F. McGuigan (Tyrone)
- 7 M. Kearins (Sligo)
- 7 S. Mulvihill (Longford)
- 7 M. Doran (Wicklow)
- 7 D. Earley (Roscommon)
- 6 D. Long (Cork)
- 6 M. Sweeney (Mayo)



# It's a fact!

By Owen McCann

**I**RRRESPECTIVE of the outcome of this month's novel all-Connacht meeting of Sligo and Roscommon for a place in the National Football League final history will be made. **It's a fact** that neither county has yet appeared in the concluding round of this competition, which was introduced during the 1926-27 season.

In all, eighteen counties have won through to the decider, and eleven, plus New York, have taken the title. We have only to go back to last year's final for the last in which a county appeared at that stage for the first time. The history-makers were Offaly, and they lost to Kerry.

Roscommon's return to the national spotlight brings to mind the little known fact that one of that county's greatest-ever footballers, Gerry O'Malley, has a unique record, and one that now seems unlikely to ever be improved on.

This has not to do with the League, but with the now suspended representative fixture featuring Ireland and the Combined Universities, which was staged annually from 1950 to 1962. O'Malley, as a U.C.G. stalwart, won seven jerseys with the Universities to become the most honoured footballer of them all in the history of the series.

★ ★ ★

Brian Murphy, who will doubt-

less be putting his skills on parade with Cork hurlers in the League semi-finals, was, of course, one of the heroes of the Sam Maguire Cup win in September. But do you know what unique double he shares with Jimmy Barry-Murphy?

Brian followed up his football medal win at senior by wearing the No. 4 jersey yet again when Cork beat Wexford last November in the All-Ireland Under-21 hurling final, and Jimmy Barry-Murphy went into that game as a substitute.

They are the only players to figure on winning teams in All-Ireland finals in these grades in football and hurling in the same year.

★ ★ ★

Consistency—that is again proving the hallmark of Limerick in the National Hurling League. The county is in a special place in the series, having won a record five Leagues in succession from 1934 to 1938 inclusive. This month the Shannonsiders will be in action in a semi-final for the sixth successive year, but the titles tally is not as impressive as in the past—one win, in 1971.

The team that put Limerick's name on the trophy for the seventh time that year included Pat Hartigan, Jim O'Brien, Phil Bennis, Sean Foley, Richie Bennis, Bernie Hartigan and Eamonn Cregan.

History has a habit of repeating itself. Take, for example, Tyrone's achievement in Ulster Senior Championship football. When the county won the Northern senior crown for the first time in 1956 they were captained by Jody O'Neill, now the county team's manager. He was then 19-year-old and believed to be the youngest player ever to lead an Ulster title winning outfit in the premier grade.

Tyrone retained the title in 1957. They did not win out in the North again until last year when they were captained by Frank McGuigan. At the time he was not yet 19, so he took over from O'Neill the ranking as the youngest title winning captain.

See what we mean about history having a habit of repeating itself?

★ ★ ★

The last year Ulster was represented in a Football League final was 1970, when Down lost to Mayo. That was Connacht's last title, and the province last had an interest in the showpiece game of the competition in 1972 when Mayo lost for the second successive year to Kerry.

★ ★ ★

Finally, let's end our new **It's a Fact** feature by giving the ladies a "look in". Last year was a record-making one for Cork in that the county completed the All-Ireland senior and junior double for the first time.

Adding to the achievement was the fact that Cally Riordan, from Youghal, set a record by winning two All-Ireland medals on the same day. She was at full forward for the juniors in their win over Galway, and went into the senior game against Antrim as a substitute.



# Kevin sees glimmer of hope for Dublin

By JOHN O'SHEA (of the Evening Press)

"DON'T expect any miracles in the short term. It may take a few years to build up a championship winning combination".

**KEVIN HEFFERNAN**, famed full forward of the 1950's and '60's, and current trainer of the Dublin senior football team, commenting on his charges' romp through the Second Division of the National Football League.

"Heffo" one of the most popular figures in Gaelic games circles, believes however that there's a glimmer of hope as far as the Metropolitans are concerned. "I feel we have the makings of a good team. We have plenty of individual skill, our big problem is to co-ordinate it.

"Playing in the lower division has probably been a help as the side needed to get back on a winning streak. But it remains to be seen how much of a help it will be when we meet the 'big fish'."

Heffernan is convinced that the most urgent requirement for the side is a guiding influence on the field, such as Lar or Des Foley, Ollie Freaney or indeed a Kevin Heffernan. "We need someone on the field to motivate and inspire the lads. I suppose it's really a leader we want. Also we could do with strengthening in a few positions.

"But overall, taking our results this season into consideration, there's reason to be quite satisfied."

**ROBBIE KELLEHER**, a member of the team for the past number of years feels that the

re-introduction of Heffernan as trainer could signal the emergence of Dublin as a real force in the All-Ireland stakes.

"Quite frankly we were badly organised last year. The training was poor, the interest was at a low ebb, the whole scene was something of a joke. Heffo has changed all that. The lads have a great respect for him: he appears to be very keen to us, and the atmosphere in training is beginning to get back to what it was years ago.

"I'm pleased in a way that we sampled second division stuff as there's nothing like a win to give players a boost. Provided we can win the League—and that's our main objective, I feel we can do things in the championship.

"Offaly are to my mind, our biggest worry. And at this juncture I think it's fair to say that we must stand a reasonable chance against them. We have a lot of talented players, and if we are a bit weak at corner back and full forward, our speed and fitness could count for much in a battle with an ageing Offaly outfit.

"I agree with Heffo in that we lack an inspiring figure. We need a Mick O'Dwyer or a Sean O'Neill, but where can we get one"

**GAY O'DRISCOLL**, the side's stalwart defender, believes there's still much work to be done before Dubliners start thinking in terms of All-Ireland victories. "It's all very well winning a few games in the Second Division, but it will take quite a bit of concentration and deter-



● KEVIN HEFFERNAN

mination before we are a match for the best.

"The attitude of the lads in training is fabulous, but for some reason there's still something missing when we go on to the field. It may be interest, I'm not sure. I think if we win the League it will make a big difference in this respect.

"To date we have not really been tested, and we must remember that Clare, hardly the nation's top football county, beat us. Our main problem is to convince ourselves that we have the ability to become a great team.

"Individually our lads would probably get on any inter-county side. Collectively we have yet to play to our potential. Aim? I would be more than pleased to see Dublin coming out of Leinster this year".

**MICHAEL HANNICK**, one of the comparative newcomers to the team, sees this as a live possibility. "Offaly have gone back a bit. If we hit form we could surprise them. This team has what it takes, I think, to achieve something. The lads have realised this and it has been reflected in our training.

Kevin Heffernan has of course been a tremendous influence,

● TO PAGE 10



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## Ominous silence

**M**AYBE I am creating doubts where none should exist, but I cannot help feeling genuinely concerned about the fate in store for the Rules Revision Committee's proposals at the Easter Congress in Sligo. Certainly I am not alone in thinking that the current lack of discussion on these much-needed reforms bodes ill for any possible swing to real change.

Remember the fate of the 1970 proposals which were sunk without trace at the Galway Congress that year in what I still maintain was the most retrograde step ever by the Association's supreme governing body. Surely the ultra conservatives are not to be given the opportunity of continuing their not-an-inch policy?

My fears about the survival of the rules package are heightened by the apparent dearth of interest in the changes coming up for ratification—for a one-year trial period—on April 14.

How many counties have had special meetings to debate the proposals? Has any group of congress delegates come together to hammer out a common line? What of the plans to hold trial games which would have given such useful, practical demonstrations of the new dispensation? With so little news breaking on any of these fronts, the Press, a very good friend of the Rules Revision Committee, has, quite understandably, gone cold on the subject.

In my experience Congress is a very conservative gathering which requires a great deal of convincing before admitting change even along the most

modest line. Unless I am greatly mistaken delegates, who would be in favour of rules reform, are leaving themselves precious little time to prepare their briefs.

Commentators too have been quick to point out that even that much-heralded seminar on the strategy and science of Gaelic football organised by the Maynooth club proved a disappointment in at least one respect—none of those superbly qualified guest speakers made any reference, either for or against, the proposed rule changes. (I was not present at the seminar but reports indicate that this was the case.)

Nor apparently did any of the questions from the floor refer to the radical proposals of the Revision Committee and they are radical compared with any previous reform in this area.

"Irish Times" expert Paddy Downey has summed up the general climate admirably when he states: "In the discussion of the proposals which one hears among officials and players from time to time, it seems to be overlooked that the Rules Revision Committee merely asked for the acceptance of one year—the cur-

rent season—of experimentation in all competitions. At the end of that full-scale trial, Congress '75 would have the right to endorse or reject the modifications, having witnessed their efficacy, or otherwise, during a fair period of trial."

And Paddy urges: "What is needed now, perhaps, before opposition hardens into total intransigence, is some form of compromise, a middle way, which would satisfy the conservatives and still leave enough room for a searching test of the committee's ideas for restructuring and improving the game."

Most disappointed man at the present silence on the rules front must surely be President Donal Keenan, who played such a key role not only in initiating the Rules Committee but also in its work. Both he and his colleagues deserve a fair trial for their efforts but I need not point out that apathy can be a very dangerous disease.

I sincerely believe that the general membership—both players and spectators—would welcome a radical re-appraisal of many of the existing rules. But they will have to make their voices heard—and soon. As I say it is only a very short time until Easter and after that it will be too late.

Meanwhile history has been made at the Ulster Convention with the appointment of popular

● OVERLEAF



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### ● FROM PAGE 9

Fermanagh secretary Malachy Mahon as president.

Malachy's elevation—he is the first man from the county to be so honoured—is a richly deserved one. A real progressive it will be interesting to watch the many innovations which he will introduce during his term of office. I don't think we will be disappointed with his efforts.

On the playing front too it has been a generally good month for the North with Tyrone qualifying for a tilt at Kerry in the National Football League semi-final and with Antrim winning promotion back to the big time. Coupled with the news that Casement Park will soon be in use again we could well be seeing the beginning of a real revival by the Saffrons, something which could do nothing but good for the Association up here.

There is, too, of course the most open championship ever just round the corner but crystal gazing here—with the first game not due until June 2—can wait for another day.

First it's that report from Sligo on Easter Sunday that I'm really looking for.

## DUBLIN HOPE

### ● FROM PAGE 7

and provided we are kept together, we could be celebrating something at the end of the year”.

JIM KING, secretary of the Dublin Co. Board says that the county's hurlers have shown what can be done with effort. “If the footballers can get more confidence we could go places. It's important though that the selectors persist and give the players the opportunity to show what they can do.

“I'm fairly confident that we can take the Leinster title this summer”.



# **THE 'CENTURY CLUB' NOW OPEN FOR NEW MEMBERS**

**W**ILL the present campaign see a new name added to the list of the scoring elite, that exclusive band of players who have scored more than a century of points (goals and points combined) over a full season's programme?

The football club, in particular, is becoming very select. Although players in the code have generally been much more active than those in the hurling game, a new name has not been inscribed on the "ton up" chart in football since Sean O'Connell earned his place in 1970 with what now stands as the Derry county record at 10-96 (126 points) in 25 games. In the same period four hurlers have won their spurs.

It is much too early at this stage of the year, of course, to speculate on the chances of football's barren spell being ended during 1974. However, it is interesting and revealing at this juncture to put the spotlight on the outstanding high-points in the "shooting-for-a-century" stakes in hurling and football.

## **RECORD-MAKER SUPREME**

Eddie Keher has this distinction, and what a truly amazing record goes in after the name of the Kilkenny stylist. Last year he scored 100 points-plus for the

**By  
OWEN  
McCANN**

ninth successive season . . . a run that is not even remotely approached by any other hurler or footballer.

Nor does this tell the full story, as Keher has passed out the magical figure ten times in all, having shot 103 points in 17 matches during 1963.

Keher's nearest rivals in this regard are the now retired Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary), and footballers Tony McTague and



● *Michael Kearins, one of the great scoring men of recent years, will carry much of Sligo's hope in their National Football League semi-final meeting with Roscommon on April 28.*

Michael Kearins.

The Leinster hurler's great run is further embroidered by the fact that it is highlighted by the outstanding individual scoring achievement for a full year in hurling and football. He achieved that distinction in 1972, when he put up the mammoth score of 194 points (20-134) in 21 appearances.

● **OVERLEAF**





● FROM PAGE 11  
**FOOTBALL FIRST**

Tony McTague became a footballer apart during the Leinster senior final last July. In that game he passed out the magical century barrier for the fifth year in succession—the first in football to achieve such a distinction.

The Offaly sharpshooter reached three figures for the first time in 1969, while in 1972 he ran up a 135 points tally at 2-129 in 18 games, a bag that now ranks as the best for a Leinster footballer.

Michael Kearins equalled

McTague's run of five centuries of points during a National League game with Derry at Magherafelt last October. However, the Sligo inter-provincial took much longer to achieve that noteworthy feat than McTague in that he first passed out the barrier in 1965.

Kearins had his best year score-wise in 1972 when he hit 4-130 (142 points) in 19 games, and this ranks as the No. 1 tally for Connacht.

**GAMES RECORD**

Christy Ring, probably the

greatest hurler of them all, took fewer games than any other player to reach the target in a single year. On his last engagement of 1959, the dynamic Cork man boosted his record up to 22-35 (101 points) from only ten matches.

Two years later he made thirteen appearances and finished with 22-38 (104 points), the Cork county record. Since then the only hurler or footballer from the county to join the club is Charlie McCarthy, who took his place in 1972 with 13-64 (103 points) in 15 ties.

**No. 1 IN FOOTBALL**

It's that man, Michael Kearins, showing the way again. He had the quickest route of any footballer to the "ton" when he pushed his way up to 3-92 (101 points) in 13 games in 1972 on the way to his provincial record.

**A PROUD PEAK**

Mick O'Dwyer sets the standard for the South in football with four entries in the table—the only man in the code, other than McTague and Kearins, in fact, to better three years in this regard.

More than that, his spot-on finishing in 1970 was such that he added up the tremendous score of 13-122 (161 points) in 26 matches, and this stands as the national record in the code.

**NEWEST MEMBER**

Tom Byrne (Wexford) joined the elite during the past year on the way to a personal best of 124 points (16-76) in 20 ties. He was the first from Leinster to make it since, surprisingly enough, 1964, while in the same period four Munster hurlers joined the ranks.

Byrne is the second Wexford representative. In 1956, Nick Rackard, with 35-50 (155 points) in 19 games, and Sean Clohosey (Kilkenny), who scored 19-50 (107 points) in 20 games, opened the club.



● *Eddie Keher, Kilkenny's scorer extraordinary who last year topped the hundred points mark for the ninth successive season.*





## The agonies of watching thirteen-a-side football

# THIS IS REALLY MADNESS!

**R**ECENTLY, I have watched some Colleges' games and, to make a long story very short, I was anything but impressed by the standard. The games which came under my notice were mostly in football, and whatever might be said in extenuation of whatever shortcomings the hurling games contained, there was nothing that would explain away some of the poor play and lack of skill in football.

The experience went a long way to confirm a view which has been borne in on me for some time, that football has deteriorated and continues to deteriorate far more than hurling and that it stands in more urgent need of therapy.

This is a dangerously broad subject and one could get lost down boreens in it for hours. So, lest temptation lead us into such byways, we shall concentrate on the one principal point which struck most forcefully into my consciousness. The games were unfamiliar, in some strange way, until I realised what it was all about. They did not seem to be the same kind of matches at all as those in which I had taken part in my schooldays (now faded into the middle distance) or at any time afterwards.

The explanation came with the realisation that they were play-

ing 13-aside. It makes for a very different game and a most unhappily different game it is too in most aspects. On occasions you get passages of fluid movement and play of the ball through the field. But, in general, it is an overuse of their function by some players and a cause of frustration to others.

One was astonished, for one thing, to note the cold-blooded and summary manner in which players racing through were chopped down where they stood with comparatively little effort to outmanoeuvre or outflank them.

Another aspect that was sub-standard was the catching: it was cruelly bad. The use of possession in an intelligent way was little in evidence as everyone seemed to believe it was contained in the rules that they should run and solo with the ball absolutely as far as possible—most times further than was pos-

sible. It goes, therefore, without saying that the standard of kicking was also grim since everyone seemed dead set on "seeing the whites of the goalie's eyes" before trying a shot even for a point.

One can only wonder whether there is a danger of over-exaggerating the part played by 13-aside football in this massive deterioration. It is some years since I have watched schools and colleges games and it seems to me that junior football in those days was far better than senior to-day—by and large. In case you think I am generalising from the worst kind of game, I have watched mostly senior games and base my comments on them.

I ask myself what other changes have occurred to cause this change. The rules of the game of football are the same; the boys seem the same in stature and general demeanour; the object of the game seems the same; the keenness may be somewhat blunted, for when I went to see a recent game in a country town and found a group of scarved lads walking along a street I thought I must surely have come too late until I asked them and was told that the game had just about started by then—and when I asked if they were not going to miss the game they said they didn't intend going to see it anyway.

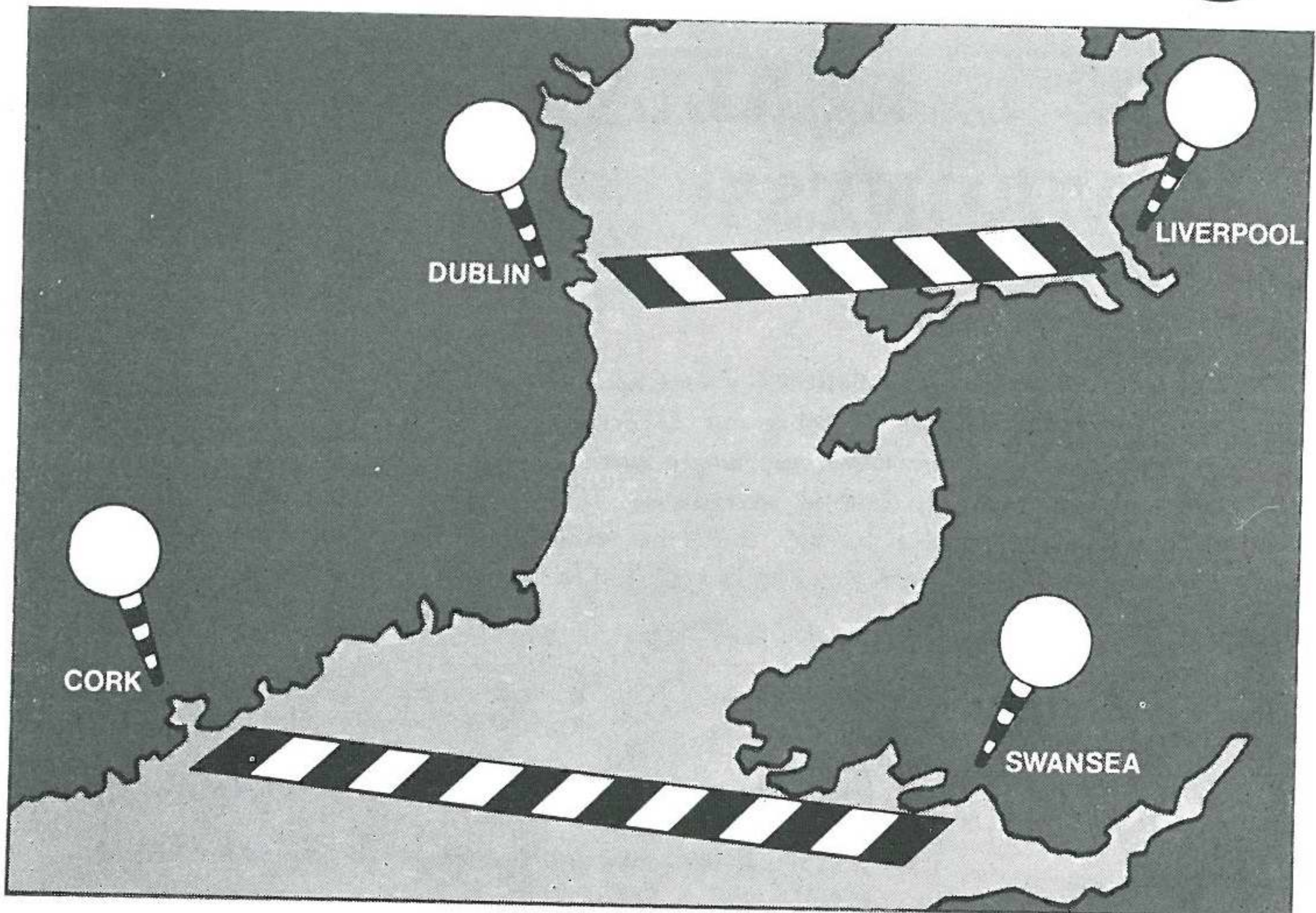
Tactically, the concept of teamwork has deteriorated. Too many players want to do it all themselves and only when finally and irrevocably blocked in that intention do they pass on the ball to another—any other whether well positioned or not. This is not invariably the case, of course, but it happens so often that it is a serious blemish.

● TO PAGE 15



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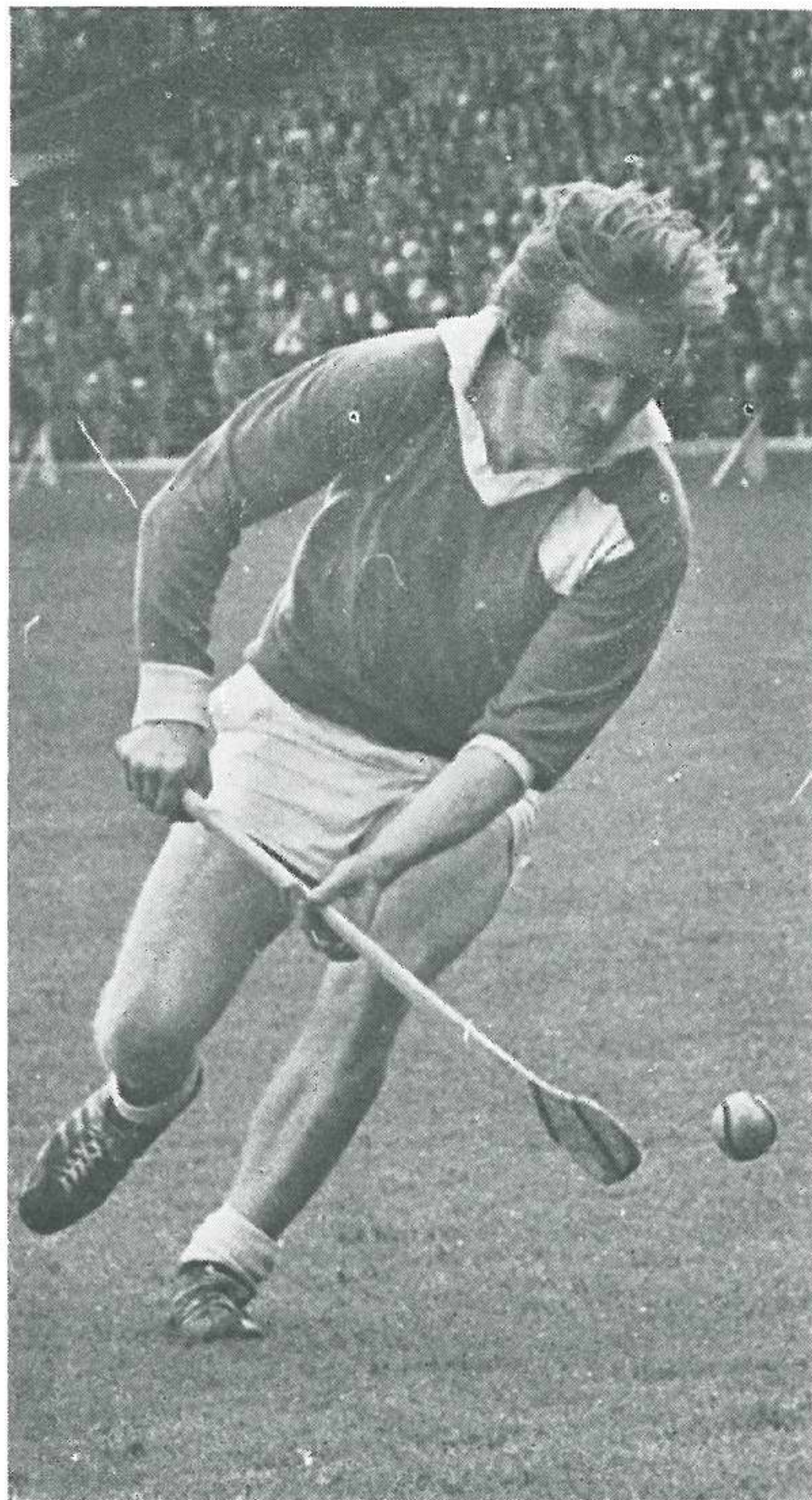
● FROM PAGE 13

This running with the ball suggests a game something more like rugby at times (excluding the scrums), for it implies a fixation with getting there with the ball. As one old footballer of long ago said to me once: "I never saw a man yet that could travel as fast as a ball". By refusing to part with it or kick it, many of the modern youngsters are succeeding in proving the old fellow wrong.

I cannot honestly find any major factor which could account for this change except the change of 15-aside to 13-aside. That this was accepted and allowed in so many cases with such careless ease is incomprehensible. Can you imagine youth or school rugby being played by 13-aside while all senior games had 15-aside; or soccer for youngsters at 9-aside before graduating to 11-aside at all higher levels? Yes, you can imagine it, but can you imagine that the ruling authorities of these sports would so casually and so silently allow such a thing to happen?

Where you have too much space in the field of play the tendency is to carry the ball along through the open spaces. The original introduction of the solo-run was to bridge those big gaps that sometimes come about when a team is driven back on defence and when a kick will not cover the distance up to the advance forwards let alone give them a chance of getting possession.

There is too much space in a Gaelic field for only 13 aside, especially so at younger age-groups where the players may be shorter in the leg and not so well able to cover large areas as, say, senior club or county players. This spaciousness also de-emphasises the need for clean, firm, high-catching, and even gives plenty of chance to recover from



● *Eamonn Grimes who will have a vital role to play in Limerick's National Hurling League semi-final clash with Tipperary.*

sloppy handling in any part of the play.

Needless to say, when a player does make a clear break past his opposite and races towards dangerous position near goal, the radical remedy is easily reached for. Backs go for their guns with ruthless abandon and ask questions afterwards (of themselves—concerning whether they might not have been able to avert disaster by more conventional methods).

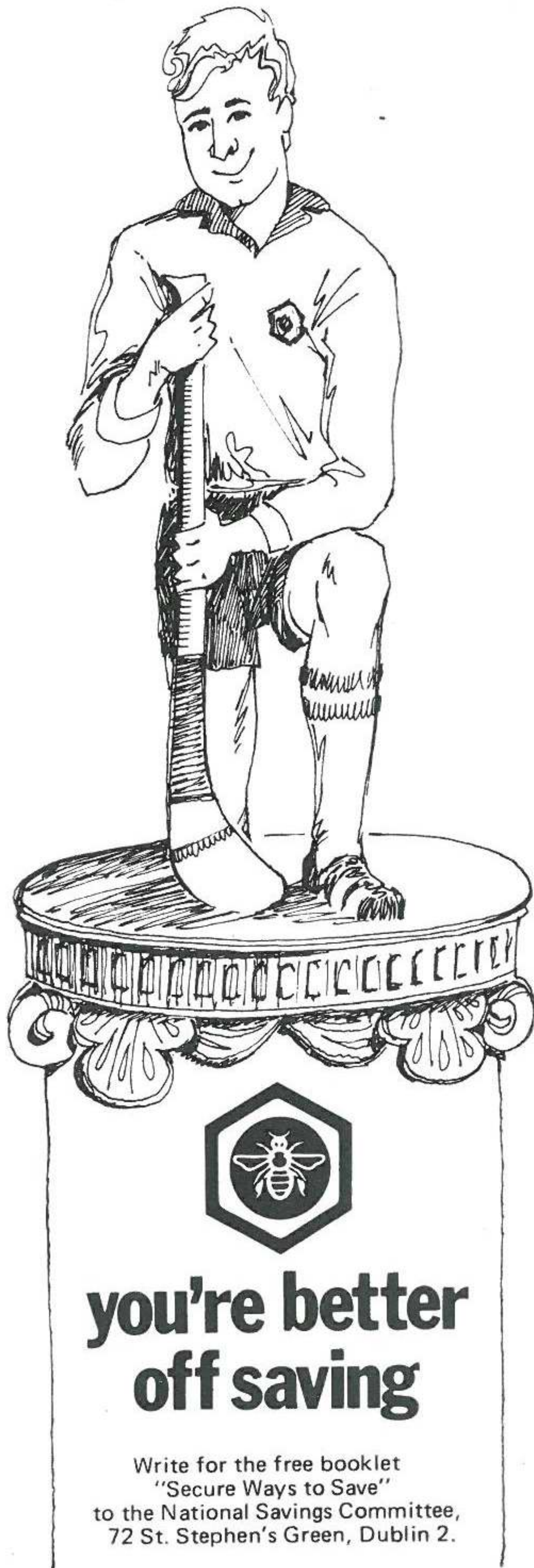
Finally, the simple point which

would be valid even if all else I have said in this article were untrue or biased: how is it reasonable to have the vast majority of young players gaining their experience and forming their football habits in a 13-aside game when they will play for the rest of their playing lives in 15-aside games?

There are some odd things that happen from time to time in the G.A.A. which cause you to raise an eyebrow, at least, but this is really madness.



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## **MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY**

### **Some vital matters for . . .**

**W**ITH the exception of the Jubilee Year of 1934, the Annual Congress of the G.A.A. was held in Dublin without exception for more than 60 years. It was no fault either of the officials or of the delegates that, down the decades, the Congress became something of a routine affair. With many of the delegates only coming to Dublin on the Sunday morning, and going home again that evening, the Congress itself was, except for the really dedicated delegates, something of a hit and run affair. There was little sense of occasion and even less socialising, maybe an hour or two in the evening in Tommy Moore's and that was about the size of it. Now the Congress alternates between venues in the respective provinces and has become by custom a two-day affair.

Ever since Congress switched to the Provinces, the social side of the annual event has begun to assume a more and more significant role. Indeed the Congress festivities now tend to extend almost over the full week-end, and very enjoyable this social side is too. One can look back with happy memories to festive gatherings in Galway, Belfast, Dublin and Cork.

And I, nor am I the only one, am already looking forward eagerly to equally pleasant meetings with old friends and new in Sligo come Easter. This social side of Congress has, in my opinion, proved of almost inestimable value in helping to establish closer bonds of friendship between Gaels from widely separated counties, and the fact that an ever-increasing number of delegates tend to bring their women-folk with them, adds to the occasions and helps extend the ever-growing circle of friendship even more widely.

But Congress, during its working hours, will have many serious matters to deal with this year. One of its chief tasks will be to take a long hard look at the playing rules, and the suggestions for change put forward by the Rules Revision Committee. On this subject I have already given my views and there is no point in repeating them at this stage, but I still maintain it would be a crying shame if Rule Revision is put on the long finger once again.

To what extent the matter of the Playing Rules will engage the attention of Congress remains to be seen, but an even more important and more fundamental topic for discussion is inevitable



# Congress '74 to resolve

And that is obviously going to be the question of the Chain of Command within the Association. The new structures, Activities Committee, Management Committee, Development Committee, Communications Committee, have really only got into full working order during the year past. Very obviously the new set-up has had its growing pains, but, while one may reasonably expect most of the anomalies to be adjusted and the difficulties to be smoothed out with greater experience on all sides, one fundamental matter must be clarified once and for all. What exactly are the powers of Central Council and where and how does it stand in relation, particularly, to the Management Committee?

There is no point in the Official Guide stating that Central Council is the Supreme Body of the Association between Congresses, adding on the next page that the Management Committee is subject to the over-riding control of Central Council, when the very next sentence in the Guide says that the Management Committee shall have complete discretion to decide on any matter, not otherwise provided for or not adequately provided for in the rules, "and shall be the only body to deal with these matters".

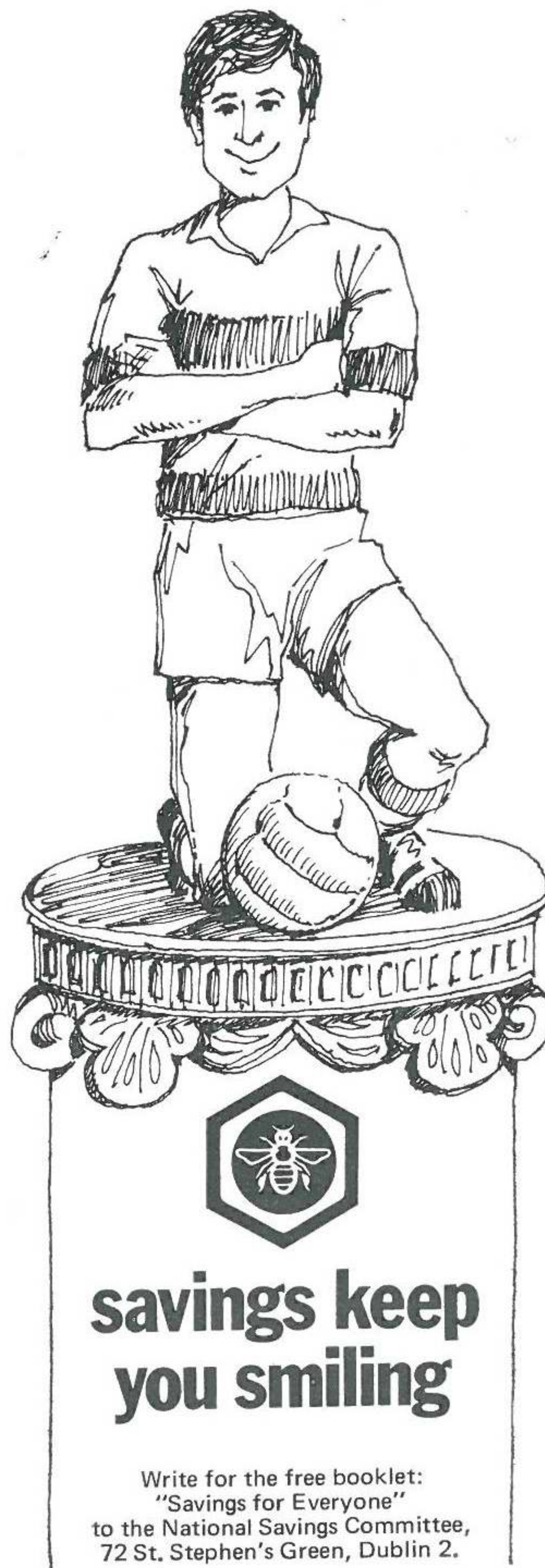
What is the point in stating that Central Council is a kind of final Court of Appeal if there is, in practice, another Body within the Association over which, in certain matters, Central Council would seem to have no jurisdiction, and from whose decisions there can be no appeal at all? So this Congress has a bounden duty, as I see it, to define, clearly and unequivocally, the respective powers and prerogatives of Central Council, of the Management Committee, of the Activities Committee, and even, if necessary, of such bodies as the Development Committee and the Communications Committee.

The entire Association must know beyond yea or nay which Body has the power to do what, and where the final right of appeal rests. The present problems may seem tricky enough, but surely they are not insuperable? What is essential is that we face up to these problems fairly and squarely, and that we do so right away. Otherwise we could face continual dissatisfaction, and, eventually, dissension within the Association, a situation that can be avoided if we honestly evaluate the entire position at the coming Congress.

The second contentious matter that I want to see

● TO PAGE 21

## win, lose or draw



The illustration shows a man with short hair, wearing a light-colored sweater with dark horizontal stripes on the sleeves and light-colored shorts. He is standing on a decorative pedestal with a scalloped edge and a central emblem of a bee inside a hexagon. He has his arms crossed and is smiling. A ball is on the ground next to his feet.

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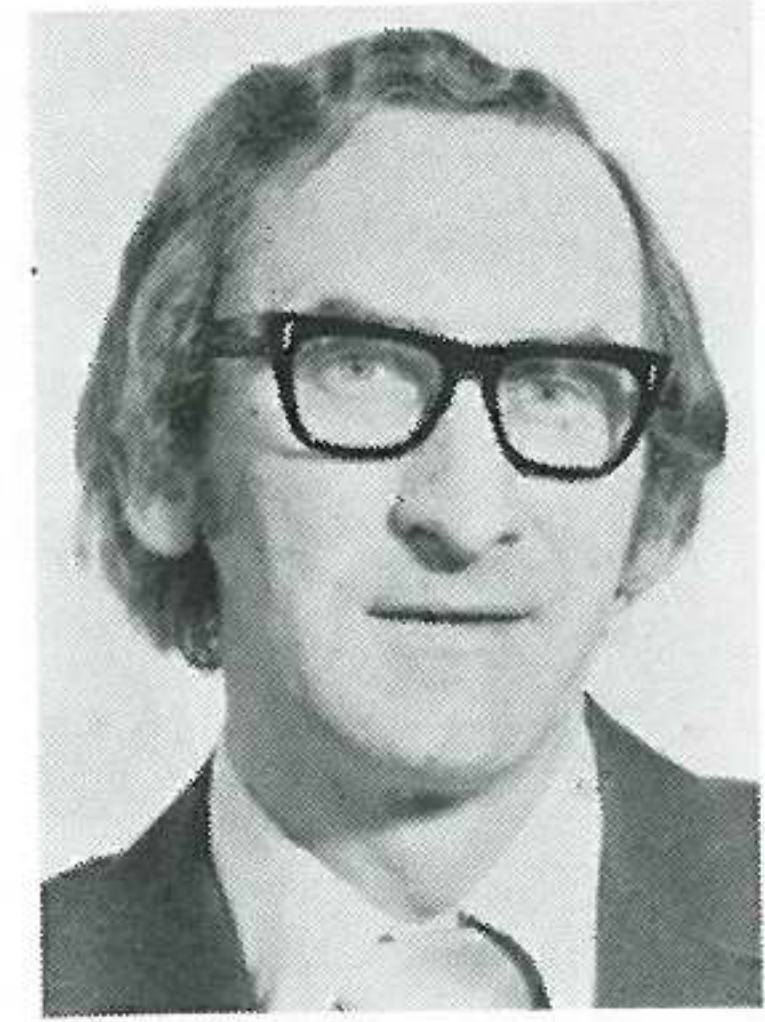
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PACKETS CARRY A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING



# OFFALY

Where do they  
go from here?



● MICK DUNNE

By MICK DUNNE (Of RTE Sport)

THE spice of sport is its unpredictability—the swing of power from one side to another, the varying fluctuations in teams' fortunes. This is particularly true in football and hurling and Offaly and Kilkenny are prime examples in the last six months.

Let's examine Offaly. In the past half year their fortunes have swayed with dizzying rapidity. They have been down, then up and . . . now? They may not be quite down again, but their supporters are certainly in a state of puzzlement. A very large question-mark hangs oppressively over them as our thoughts, at this time of year, turn from the league to the championship.

Six months ago Offaly was a depressed county following the collapse of their ambitions for a third successive All-Ireland title. The defeat by Galway in the semi-final was something they didn't anticipate. Yet, they bounced back with wonderful spirit—and, it must be said, renewed determination—to catch Cork in the experimental rules Grounds Tournament semi-final. Just to emphasise that it wasn't a fluke they beat Cork again—this time under normal rules—eight days later in the National League.

Next they looked impressively powerful as they won the Grounds Tournament, the first county to take it three times in a row, and they were blazing a path of glory as table-toppers in Division 1A of the League.

I'm sure they would dearly like to forget the rest of the League.

Their December game with a very short-handed Kerry team was a disaster and their February clash with Galway also a failure. The worst part of all this—from their supporters' point of view—was that these defeats were inflicted at home on their own O'Connor Park.

So what happened the team that was looking like making the winning of the league a mere formality? It can't be completely explained away by saying that there's a hoodoo over them in the National League, the only major competition they haven't won.

It is a truism to state that every successful side suffers the inevitable break-up. Winning two All-Ireland titles imposes an enormous amount of strain, necessitates a tremendous dedication. So much success—and, in Offaly's case, two journeys to California—dulls the sharp edge of appetite for the game as unavoidably as a couple of sumptuous feasts kills the craving of even the most hungry.

Moreover, the passage of time increasingly underlines the fact that Galway's mid-Sixties side of three-in-a-row was an exceptional team, for Roscommon, Cavan, Mayo, Down and Kerry have all failed to capture the third successive championship.

Therefore allowance must be made for a natural decrease in the power of this Offaly team after their recent great triumphs. The question is: where do they go from here?

They still hold the Leinster championship and many of their supporters must be wondering what has to happen if they are to retain it. Offaly have two months to sort themselves out, for they will be called upon to defend their provincial championship on June 16 against the winners of a preliminary group, which includes Kilkenny, Carlow, Louth, Dublin and Wexford.

Of course, it would be unthinkable that the Offaly selectors would completely banish all the men who helped in the capture of the 1971 and '72 championships. That certainly wasn't their intention when they included only six of these players in their final match of the League—the March 3 tie against Tipperary. However, it was an indication that they are on the look-out for replacements, that places may be going a-begging on the team for the championship.

This is a good thing. Nothing undermines a team more quickly than complacency and if players feel they will be picked on past reputation—or ever get to the stage that they come to regard selection as their right—the team they are members of will win little or nothing.

It strikes me that the first thing Offaly's players—and indeed their selectors—must do is forget 1971 and '72. Those were marvellous times for Offaly and its rejoicing people, days of heady wine and adulation. But

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### ● FROM PAGE 19

it's all history now—merely grey statistics in the record books. None of us can live on memories. So Offaly must quickly wake up to the realisation that they have been superceded by Cork . . . and even they, for the moment at least, have had their thunder stolen by the teams who fought through to the latter stages of the league.

For Offaly it must all begin again. The onerous, difficult climb to the top commences at the bottom. They and their selectors must make up their minds that those who aren't prepared to tread that hard path again must fall by the wayside.

Offaly, of course, still have lots of football talent. But have they still got the spirit for the work that's needed? Have they the itch for success still? This is the time to decide.

One thing becomes more and more obvious as time goes by: the tremendous loss Paddy McCormack—the player rather than the selector—was to Offaly. No one player makes a team but the Rhode clubman, by example, dedication and defiant spirit, was a huge asset to his county in '71 and '72—a lot more valuable then than at any time previously in his long playing career.

As the re-building of the team takes place the forwards would do well to recall their best years when they swung the ball around freely and as a unit could be devastating. In the past year it has become all too noticeable that some of them appear to be hell bent on winning matches on their own; a few have become so selfish that they seem oblivious of the other five beside them.

What I'm really saying in all of this is that Offaly's future depends, to a great extent, on their attitude to the game. They, above all people, don't need me to tell them that you get out of it just as much as you put into it.



# PUT THEM TO THE TEST

Says MICK DUNNE (of RTE Sport)

IT'S ironic, in a way, that this year's Congress may be remembered at the "Playing Rules Congress" when, in reality, this isn't a rules revision year at all. According to the five-year sequence that has been the procedure now for many decades 1975 is the next year for the revision of the playing rules. Delegates to Sligo this month shouldn't forget that very important fact.

At this year's Congress, playing rules—more football than hurling—will be reviewed, but whatever changes the delegates are asked to make will be in force **only for one year**. It is on Easter Sunday 1975 that they would be called upon to decide whether or not these alterations should go into the official guide for a period of five years.

The delegates to Sligo will be asked to put the suggested changes into practice for only twelve months. In other words, to give them a fair and extensive trial in actual and important competition.

Up to now the recommendations made by Dr. Donal Keenan, John Moloney, Paul Kelly, Des Ferguson and Patsy Devlin haven't had a worthwhile trial. The football changes were put to the test on a limited scale, the hurling proposals got no try-out. So there is a lack of real knowledge about the practicality of the recommendations.

They need the test of use in all serious competitions and at all levels, for the suggested year. And that shouldn't be too hard to stomach.

In this magazine some months back I suggested that the recommendations deserved at least this year's try-out. Now I make it a plea to the delegates. They must remember they will commit themselves only to 12 months, any change-back at the 1975 Congress can be made by a simple majority. Since 1974 will be regarded as a trial-period the usual two-thirds majority needed to change playing rules would not be required on Easter Sunday '75.

It is now recognised that football particularly is riddled with too many fouls—and that our hurling goalmouths are producing dangerously explosive situations as full-backs and full-forwards "confront" each other rather than try to outhurl one another. Anyone who suggests this isn't so has his head buried in the sand and won't face-up to the realities of present-day hurling and football. The statistics of all major football matches clearly show that the games are disrupted by too many mean, niggling fouls. There have been several examples even in the past year of violence in hurling goalmouths.

It is to eradicate these undesirable elements from our games that most of the proposed changes have been devised.

But in football too many people are concentrating their attention on the pick-up. Their worries about this blind them to the benefits of the other recommendations.

To my mind the pick-up recommendation is the least important of them all. Proposals that would reduce the "tactical" fouling—the jersey-pulling, the nasty tripping and the blatant obstruction—are the ones that deserve the serious consideration at Congress.

I beg the delegates who are going to Sligo: accept these recommendations for the suggested year's trial. Since they will be operative in every competition they will be as good for the goose as the gander. Then we can all go to Congress in 1975 with full and complete and first-hand knowledge about their feasibility. We'll know, then, whether they work or not; we don't know now. Please let's put them to the test and find out.

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## MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

● FROM PAGE 17

Congress face up to is the burden of too many competitions at certain levels. Nor is this particular problem going to be got rid of merely by dropping the poor old junior football championship, or by abolishing the Railway Cup series.

We have more than enough championships at All-Ireland and inter-county level. What we have not enough of are many, many more competitions for the average player, even for the mediocre player. The stars, or many of them, have more commitments than they can cope with. The average player has not nearly enough.

But I don't think they need long-drawn-out championships. Would not local tournament games, at club level, overlapping county boundaries where necessary be just what the doctor ordered? Plenty of these already exist in certain areas. They deserve to be extended, not curtailed. But for heavens sake, ensure that these competitions are confined to the average clubs and the average players. The stars are never short of practice or competition.



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# Classic case of good sponsorship

A CLASSIC example of how sponsorship and Gaelic Games can successfully go hand in hand to the best interests of all concerned was provided by the recent Sigerson Cup seminar and Championship. The seminar, the first of its kind in the history of the Universities' Championship, and the football test proper were both sponsored by the Ulster Bank, and there can be no doubt that this generous support was vital in bringing an exciting and welcome new dimension to the promotion.

Maynooth College hosted the Championship for the first time, and displayed commendable enterprise in marking the occasion in an extra special way through the seminar. The highly successful manner in which Maynooth carried through the ambitious double-event also sets a high standard for the future.

In short, more of the type of go-getting approach displayed by Maynooth, and of the financial backing that was provided by the Ulster Bank, could do so much to enhance the prestige of many a competition, and at the same time brighten the image of the games.

A word of praise as well to the

RTE Sports Department. Sunday Sport on radio has included recordings of the footballers reading their papers at the seminar, and this has helped to bring the views to a much wider public. In this regard, it is good to learn also that it is intended that the seminar papers will be published in permanent form.

As for the Sigerson Cup series itself, the campaign proved another glory one for U.C. Dublin, who brought up their first double since 1957, a year that saw the Dublin College land a hat-trick of wins.

The Cup campaign started at Newmarket-on-Fergus, where U.C.G. scored an 0-10 to 0-6 win over U.C.C. in a quarter-final. Naas was the venue for the semi-finals, and those games provided good fare.

Maynooth threw down the gauntlet to U.C.D., and were only a point in arrears at the interval. However, early in the second half Kevin Kilmurray put Jackie Walsh through for a vital Dublin goal, and the holders went on to triumph by 2-9 to 0-7.

U.C.G. and Queen's University had to go to extra time to settle the other game. The Western representatives finally got

through by the minimum margin on a score line of 3-2 to 0-10.

So, the stage was set for the big show-down at Newbridge. Galway, who at the Sigerson week-end were out in front in the Universities' League with five wins from five games, were bidding to end a long spell out of the Blue Riband list by taking the title for the first time since 1963. Dublin, of course, were equally bent on holding on to their laurels.

It was still all to play for at half-time, when the score was tied at U.C.D. 0-7, U.C.G. 1-4. However, the second half saw the Dublin champions stamp their authority on the final, and in the end they pulled away for a good win—0-14 to 1-5.

A major factor in that success was the high powered work at centre field of John O'Keeffe (Kerry) and Mick Carty (Wexford), who were in command all through. Jackie Walsh, of Kerry, who wore the No. 12 shirt, was a constant threat to the Galway rearguard, and he coloured a splendid all round show by finishing the top scorer of the day with an impressive haul of eight points.

Bernie Jennings (Mayo) at full back, centre half Eamon O'Donoghue (Kildare) and left half and captain Paddy Kerr (Monaghan) were others to catch the eye prominently in a good all round and well-drilled Dublin outfit.

Martin Carney (Donegal), centre half back and captain, Paud O'Mahony (Kerry), in goal, centre half forward Michael McNamara (Roscommon) and Ger Ahern (Cork) at top of the right were the pick of the Galway side.

This latest win was the 28th success by U.C. Dublin since 1915.



**GREAT NEW  
FEATURE  
FOR  
GIRLS OF  
ALL AGES**

# L★A★D★I★E★S

**M**Y congratulations to Gaelic Sport Editor, Tommy McQuaid on his initiative in introducing this new ladies' section into the magazine and I am delighted that we have got this opportunity to express the female viewpoint on G.A.A. affairs. I suppose what we have here is a recognition that ladies have been participating in G.A.A. life and that perhaps awareness of our potential is beginning to dawn in Gaelic circles.

There are many areas of G.A.A. activities in which ladies can make a positive contribution. For a start the G.A.A. is making a massive investment in club development and the success of this will not be judged financially but socially. Each centre must add to the quality of life of the whole surrounding community. This will only be achieved with the total participation of the ladies.

What can the female enthusiast offer to a club whether or not a social centre is attached? Should there be more lady secretaries, lady treasurers, or even chairmen? Why not? Already there have been a handful of female club secretaries as well as participation through ladies social committees. But I am more interested in you yourselves writing

and telling us what you think about the whole topic.

Coming back to other aspects of G.A.A. activities a very welcome trend in recent times has been the number of G.A.A. clubs making provisions for camogie. This development must surely be boosted after that recent historic meeting between the G.A.A. and the Camogie Association. Just as a topical talking point some camogie players might like to write in and describe what their ideal G.A.A. cum Camogie club would be like.

So this column is going to be for and about you girls. I want your ideas, your opinions and even your criticisms about the G.A.A. I would also welcome your G.A.A. experiences. In coming issues I will propose various topics for discussion but I am

hopefully looking forward to hearing your own suggestions. Also do not let the topic put you off. Write to me about anything at all, of G.A.A. interest.

For the next topic I would like to hear your views on "How The G.A.A. Treats The Lady Spectator". We cannot argue but that men are in the majority at all games but the percentage of females at most venues is also quite considerable. However judging from the facilities at a lot of G.A.A. grounds it wouldn't cause surprise if a "men only" sign was posted on the turnstiles. In fairness a lot of grounds are excellent and others have been improving rapidly in recent years. However one can't help thinking but that it would be worthwhile, in terms of attendances to woo the ladies through a little bit of extra attention to the right facilities within grounds. What do you think? Your replies will appear in our June Issue.

In closing let me say this. Gaelic Sport and Editor Tommy McQuaid has given us this opportunity to speak out. Let me hear from you. What I want is, lots and lots of letters—on any relevant subject—after all if Jack Mahon and his merry band of youngsters can do it—surely we Ladies can do equally well. So now put pen to paper and write to me at:

**LADIES PLEASE,  
GAELIC SPORT,  
80 Upr. Drumcondra Rd.,  
Dublin 9.**



● Kay Keher

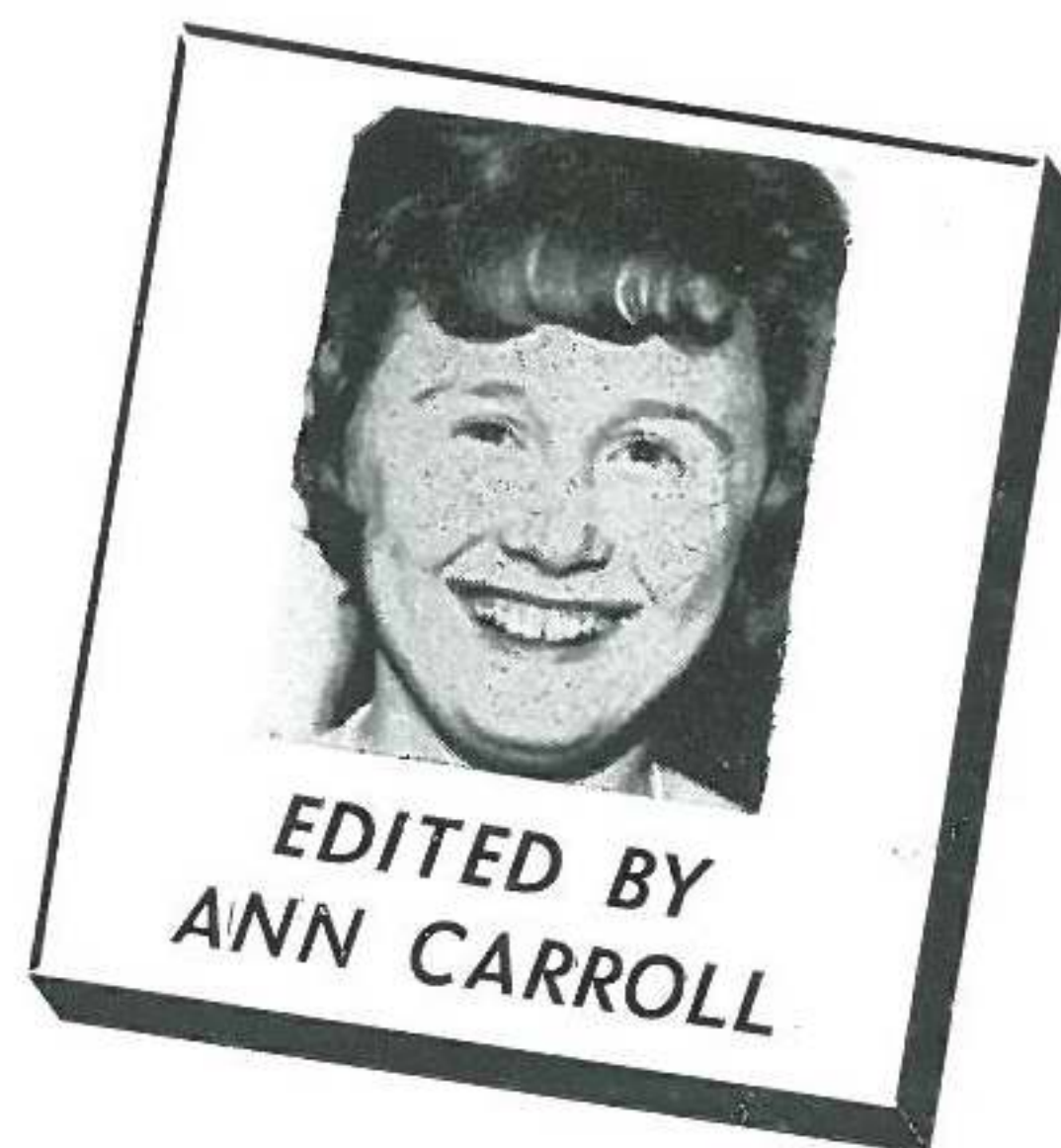
*Ann Connell*

Prize winning letters

appear on page 27



# P★L★E★A★S★E



**Y**OUR comments on whether you would marry a G.A.A. star were both varied and interesting. My own reaction to the question was trying to decide whether or not I could stick it—because I get so paralysed just watching the Kilkenny hurlers playing in an All-Ireland final that I would doubt my ability to last the eighty minutes if my husband were playing. To get the other side of the story I asked Margaret Coughlan and Kay Keher what it was like to be married to a G.A.A. star and if their answers are anything to go by, G.A.A. stars should go to the top of the list as ideal husbands!

QUESTION	MARGARET	KAY
<i>Players generally find training demanding, but how do you feel about it from your point of view?</i>	<i>It's pretty demanding on home and family, but come September, if the team is successful, all that is forgotten.</i>	<i>For me it's a way of life really probably because it has always been this way. Training (except before an All-Ireland) only takes up one to two hours a few evenings a week. Eddie likes to come home after training to relax so I'm sure of him being home instead of "off with the boys"! !</i>
<i>What is the atmosphere like in the house during All-Ireland week?</i>	<i>We don't talk much of the coming match. Denis grows more and more quiet and absent minded and I take my "chatting" elsewhere. After the match we talk and talk!</i>	<i>I try to keep the routine the same as any other week, and make Eddie rest as much as possible. We don't discuss the actual match very much. I make sure to have all his hurling gear ready. It's usually a busy week for us, but this helps calm our nerves.</i>
<i>I'm sure you attend a lot of G.A.A. functions. Do you enjoy them or have you any ideas that you think would make such occasions more memorable?</i>	<i>Yes, I find these functions very enjoyable. At first it was nice to meet people I had heard Denis speak of, but now I've made some friends and look forward to meeting these when the opportunity arises.</i>	<i>I always enjoy the functions. It's a nice opportunity to meet all the players and their wives. I'd like to see more functions within the county as well as an annual dinner dance.</i>
<i>Overseas tours have become very popular in recent years. Are you in favour of them?</i>	<i>Yes. The players put such a lot of hard work and dedication into the games throughout the year, it is good to see their industry being rewarded. The opportunity to travel abroad is welcomed by everybody, I think.</i>	<i>I am very much in favour of overseas tours. It's a lovely reward for the players to get away together after a hard year's hurling. As a result, of course, I've been to the "States" twice and I'm sure I would never have got the opportunity if it were not for hurling.</i>





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## ★ PRIZE WINNING LETTERS ★

Dear Ann,

Being a regular reader of "Gaelic Sport", I was delighted to read that at last, you were introducing a "Ladies' page".

Up to the present day I think that the role of women in the G.A.A. is almost non-existent. As I see it, women are the ones who can be relied and called upon to look after arranging and serving teas to visiting teams, for tournaments etc. I'm not complaining about this, but for my part the women's role should be just like the man's—to play! Yes, in some counties—like Cork, Kilkenny and Antrim there are active camogie teams and in Offaly and Kerry there are football teams. But out of 32 counties, such a small representation of the ladies is pitiful. I feel that it is up to every Club in the country, no matter how big or small, to engage the ladies in active participation at all levels of the G.A.A. As a note of interest, at the recent Offaly Convention a Banagher woman—Mrs. Emily Horan made national history, in that she is the FIRST lady ever in G.A.A. history to be elected to a County Committee. She's on the Social Activities Committee.

Now before I ramble any further—WOULD I MARRY A G.A.A. STAR? Straight away I say, yes. I suppose at first, it is all the glamour that is attached to G.A.A. Stars, that prompts my answer. But even when I think about the nitty-gritty details I still stand by my decision. I know that there are very many calls on star players—training, injury, long journeys and overseas tours. But then, isn't that what being at the top is all about? To be at the top a player must work hard, and so too must his family and his wife. And my firm belief is that behind every

good player there is a good woman!

Yours Sincerely,

MARY BREEN (18),  
10 Newbridge St.,  
Birr, Co. Offaly.

P.S. Can you publish where I can get a tie and scarf in Offaly colours?

● "Get in touch with C.T.C. Ltd., 23 Drury St., Dublin 2 and mention Gaelic Sport" (Ann).

★ ★ ★

Dear Ann,

I am delighted with the news that at long last we have been given the opportunity to speak out. For too long we have been treated with what amounts to indifference by the powers-that-be in the G.A.A. hierarchy. The attitude seems to be, as far as ladies are concerned, we are only good for "making the tea". The sad feature is that, given any encouragement, we could do a really worthwhile job in helping to promote the G.A.A. You know the old saying "the hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world"

I hope our new column is a resounding success and I, for one, will be an active participant.

Regarding your question "would I marry a G.A.A. Star", in my case it is not relevant because I am already married and as you quite rightly point out, if this column is to be successful it is important that it be taken seriously, so I would not like to be factitious and start to engage in day-dreaming.

Fond wishes to you and keep up the good work.

Yours Sincerely,

IMELDA KEEGAN,  
20 Woodlands Street,  
Hither Green,  
London S.E.13.

Dear Ann,

First of all let me say that I am glad to see a column for the ladies in "Gaelic Sport", a magazine eagerly awaited in our house every month.

With regard to marrying a G.A.A. star, one cannot generalise on such an issue. But if I were asked if I would consider any disadvantages in marriage to a G.A.A. star, I would say "yes". I would say the same, however, about a rugby or a soccer star.

To be happily married to a G.A.A. star one must have a definite interest in Gaelic sport, otherwise it would be the same as being married to a wandering minstrel.

Being a member of even a club team makes demands on the player's time. There are the training sessions and the following discussions of style at the local, the week-night matches and the Sunday matches. In the weeks before a big match the G.A.A. player's wife will be lucky to see her husband at all.

If a wife follows her husband to his matches she must bear the cold and discomfort on wintry days and try to be enthusiastic all through. And if she chooses to stay at home, her loving football star husband may wander in in the early hours of the morning after a celebratory booze-up with the team and supporters.

So for me I'd rather a golfer or a rower! There are probably numerous disadvantages in these sports also, but as they say "ignorance is bliss".

Yours Sincerely,

MARIANNE McGOUGH,  
Brownes Hill Rd., Carlow.

★ ★ ★

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to pressure on space we can only reprint the three prize winning letters. We would like to thank all those who wrote to us, sorry you didn't win on this occasion but thanks for your letters and please keep writing.



# PRESS CUTTINGS

Compiled by NEIL McCAVANA

**S**LOPPY attire was one of a number of factors that rightly came in for criticism in last month's Gaelic Sport editorial. However, it looks as if there will be no cause for complaint in this regard in the future—at least as far as Mayo clubs are concerned.

The Connaught Telegraph reported in a recent issue:

"Mayo G.A.A. clubs will be 'putting on the style' this year.

"A motion from Knockmore was passed asking that all members of a team wear similar stockings and shorts as part of club colours.

"Mr. Sean MacEil said that the idea of the motion was to improve the image of the game. Football was being closely watched now and comparisons were being made with other codes.

"'Young people are impressed by a team's colours and clubs should take pride in seeing that their teams are well turned out', he said".

And so say all of us!

Were Limerick hurlers a little over-confident before they faced up to Tipperary in that memorable match at Thurles recently, in which a last gasp point from Michael Keating earned the home team a win and a place in the National League quarter-finals?

We can't say, but the defeat did invoke some interesting remarks in the Sporting View column of the Limerick Leader. We quote:

"While Sunday's defeat by Tipperary has had more serious consequences than many thought, the narrow reverse may yet turn out to be a blessing in disguise. It just may have been that our hurlers were becoming a little bit over-confident and that some had

a slightly exaggerated opinion of their own ability.

"If so, they must now think again, for Sunday's wonderful and absorbing match demonstrated that even some of our more established stars cannot afford to rest on their laurels. Furthermore, Limerick had quite a talented looking reserve panel standing by on Sunday, so the pressure on the established players to maintain their form is present all the time.

"We stress, however, that we in no way 'knock' the great hurlers who have brought such enjoyment and excitement into the hitherto dull sporting lives of too many Limerick sportsmen. No county, not even Cork, can boast of the following at present cheering on Limerick. People who knew little or nothing about hurling are supporting the side now, and hurling gates are of very impressive size wherever and whenever Limerick are in action.

"The serious consequence of defeat last Sunday is that Cork leapt over us in the points table, and so face the probably easier semi-final clash with Waterford or Dublin. Limerick, on the other hand, will almost certainly meet Tipperary, whose quarter-final clash with Kildare must be a formality, for a place in their fifth successive league final. It promises to be quite a battle!"

Still on a Munster hurling theme, The Clare Champion looked on the bright side of the county's failure to reach the knock-out stages of the League. The following are some of the comments that were made in the paper's Gaelic Forum feature:

"What a pity we didn't get

there! It would have meant valuable experience for this young team, not to mention the welcome finance it would earn us. However, let us look at the bright side of the situation. We finished above Galway and Kilkenny and level with Wexford on points. Valuable and much experience has been gained and we should be able to mount a formidable assault on this year's Munster Championship. Tipperary, of course, are giving timely notice that the going will be tough. Going back to last Sunday's game I was pleased to see that the team has begun to play as a combined unit. There were some good movements with the players hurling intelligently and backing up one and another with a fair quota of nice passes. If this kind of play can be maintained and improved upon, then taking into consideration the youth and promise of the players, we can go places. Not everyone, naturally enough, will agree with the full composition of the team, but even so, I believe that Fr. Bohan and his men are making progress towards the achievement of that very elusive ambition.

"Maybe it's significant that we have won all our League matches in Dr. Daly Park, which was incidentally in fine form on Sunday. It might suggest, as indeed does our record down the years, that we have a psychological barrier to overcome when we venture outside the county. Finally we are still very prodigal of scoring chances and with a little more economy our winning margin could have been doubled".

To which all we can add now is: "Roll on the Munster Senior Hurling Championship of 1974".



# CAN SLIGO GRASP THIS BIG CHANCE?

By Sean Rice

**S**O Sligo have made it again. Not that there ever was much doubt about their qualifying for the semi-finals of the League for the second year in succession. But having made it, can this Kearins-guided team now fling off the shadows of the past? Can they argue themselves out of their suspicions and self-doubts about their ability to win the county's first League title?

It is a mammoth task and all Ireland will be watching . . . and perhaps hoping that Sligo can do it. And if they do win through no one will be cheered louder than their star forward and team manager, Michael Kearins. And everyone knows why.

But win or lose Kearins will be accorded homage. And long after he has hung up his boots he will be remembered as the greatest player the county ever produced. This poses the question what of the others? What of the Caffreys, the Brennans, the Collearys?

There can be no doubt that all of them have been playing in the shadow of Michael Kearins. But since the present Sligo resurgence began a couple of years ago the other fourteen players have begun to knit together into a well balanced and sturdy outfit.

True, all of them have been fired by the enthusiasm that emanated from their leader, but it is equally true that they have succeeded in moulding a team of fifteen wholehearted players replacing the one-man show that for so long used to be Sligo.

Each is now playing his own game and carving his own niche. So that if the master is off form there are others to take over his one time role of saviour. That, of course, is what Kearins has been aiming towards since he took over the position of team mana-

ger. And it ensures for him more freedom on the field to concentrate on his own game and on the weaknesses of the opposition rather than those of his own team.

All through the campaign of the league that is now ending there have been instances of individual stars other than the master. And perhaps the brightest of them all has been John Brennan at full back.

He has become one of the strongest pillars in the team's defensive lines. And many who saw him play against Cavan in February equated his performance to that of two other greats . . . Paddy Prendergast of Mayo and Paddy O'Brien of Meath. That performance ensured his selection at full back on the Connacht team at the exclusion of Galway's Jack Cosgrove.

For a couple of games before Christmas Brennan had moved out to centre-half while Barnes Murphy was out through injury. And he was equally efficient in that position. But when Murphy returned and Brennan resumed his old position the defence was strengthened to a much greater degree.

John Brennan is one of three members of the present team who were on the Sligo minor team pipped in the All-Ireland final in 1968. The other two are

Robert Lipsett and Jimmy Kilgallon. Goalkeeper Tom Cummings had been on the minor team too up to the final.

Lipsett has found a permanent position at right corner of the defence and Kilgallon was a very useful half-back until he was converted into an even more useful forward following a cartilage operation.

Sligo's greatest strength at present is right down the middle. John Brennan at full back; Barnes Murphy at centre-half; midfielders Tom Colleary and John Stenson; Michael Kearins on the "forty" and Peter Brennan at full forward. Kearins himself is probably the smallest of this sextet which lacks neither courage nor skill.

But if they are to win through to the final and indeed win the final, those players on their own could not bring about success. The full commitment of men like Aidan Caffrey, Matty Brennan and Jim Colleary will also be necessary. There is no one who has watched Sligo throughout the campaign who can say that any of those men has failed in that commitment all season.

Still, even that will not ensure success. For above all Sligo must maintain the confidence that has brought them this far. No amount of physical commitment is sufficient if the mind is not also suitably geared to the challenge with which they are now faced.

Their hour has now come. They have beaten some of the best teams in the country this season. They have the skill to win the semi-final. And the final. But have they the confidence?







# Milestones of fifty years

By Alleyman

**A** NNUAL Congress this year was unique in so far as it marked the Golden Jubilee of the Irish Handball Council.

General Secretary Joe Lynch availed of the opportunity to document some of the important aspects of the game during that period.

1924—The first major undertaking of the newly established Council was the promotion of the Tailteann Championships. Trials were held in most counties to select representatives for the competition proper. In addition to the Irish representatives, three players travelled from the U.S.A. to compete and they were successful in winning three events.

1925—The first All-Ireland Championship, under G.A.A. Rules, were staged in Senior Softball Singles and Doubles and Senior Hardball Singles.

1926—The Handball Council affiliated to the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Mr. Sean O'Hanlon was elected President of the Court Handball Commission, the main function of which was to present rules and conditions acceptable to all countries for the playing of court handball. Unfortunately, nothing really developed to establish international handball on a firm basis. The first All-Ireland championship in Senior Hardball Doubles was held.

1928—Players from England and Scotland travelled to compete in the Tailteann Championships. Lack of proper organisation and facilities was a big deterrent to the development of the game in these countries. All-Ireland Junior Championships in

Softball and Hardball Singles and Doubles, were staged for the first time.

1930—The most retrograde decision ever taken was that of the 1930 Annual Congress when it was decided to abolish the Provincial Councils and control handball from the Central Council. This decision was largely responsible for the decrease in affiliations in the succeeding years.

1933—Introduction of All-Ireland Minor Softball Doubles.

1939-45—Due to war-time conditions, the softball, when available, was of very poor quality. In fact no softballs were available from 1943 to 1945, and as a result no softball championships were held in these years. As the emphasis during this period was mainly on hardball, there was a big falling off in participation.

1949—The introduction of All-Ireland Minor Softball Singles.

1950—The Provincial Councils were re-established, and in the light of the progress made since their revival, it is all the more difficult to understand the decision to abolish them in 1930.

1953—All-Ireland Minor Hardball Singles and Doubles introduced. Gael Linn competition introduced with an initial entry of 160 players.

1957—As the result of negotiations by Very Rev. Canon Carroll, a U.S.A. team of three players, accompanied by Charles J. O'Connell, Chairman of the A.A.U.E., visited our country and played matches at eight venues throughout the Four Provinces over two weeks. A total of twenty matches were played, of which

the visitors won ten, with one match ending in level scoring, and our representatives winning the other nine.

1964—The first Official World Handball Championships were held in New York with five countries competing. Ireland finished in fourth place.

1965—The National League was inaugurated.

1966—Willwood Tailteann Championships for players under 14 and 16 years of age in both singles and doubles, also senior doubles were introduced.

1967—Second Official World Handball Championships were held in Toronto with four countries competing. Ireland finished in third place. Under 21 singles and doubles, and Masters, over 40 years of age, were included in Willwood Tailteann schedule of championships for the first time.

1969—Inter-club Championships inaugurated.

1970—First ever Handball Court with three glass walls—built at Croke Park. Third Official World Handball Championships held in Dublin with five countries competing. Ireland represented by R. Lyng and S. Buggy of Wexford, won the doubles. The U.S.A. represented by Pat Kirby, won the singles. Under-12 singles and doubles included in Willwood Tailteann championships. A completely new development and one with great potential, was the introduction of Ladies' Handball, which is controlled by its own Handball Council.

1972—Inter-club 40 by 20 championships held for the first time.

● OVERLEAF



● FROM PAGE 31

Lynch feels that within the period 1950-1973 handball made steady progress and the sport is now catering for a much wider range of activity than ever before. Competition is available at national level for all age groups from under-12 years of age to the over 40 group players. In addition, the sport as a team game has emerged with competition at national level for both county

and club teams. The introduction of Ladies' Handball as an ideal means of recreation should lead to a greater involvement by the ladies in both the administration and social life of clubs and thereby result in much more active and progressive clubs.

International handball has become more firmly established and he foresees developments in this field in the years ahead. The fact that handball is truly inter-

national has never really been appreciated by the G.A.A. as a whole, and he is sure if this was sufficiently impressed on all units there would be a much greater appreciation of the sport.

Another new development was the introduction of the smaller type of international court which is proving very popular, especially as it is now possible for clubs, with limited resources, to provide a roofed alley with proper facilities. In most cases these clubs would never reach on the larger Irish standard court with the same facilities. The increase in the number of these courts should not cause any undue worry to the clubs with the larger courts, as he feels both courts can live side by side, and the future should see the Council promoting championships in both types of courts. "We must always remember that our basic objective is the promotion of handball as the ideal means of life long recreation and to achieve this we must avail of every facility if we are serious in our efforts to promote what we feel is one of the finest games in the world", states Lynch.

The acceptance of handball as an ideal sport for television was indeed a big breakthrough and this can largely be attributed to the foresight of those officials at G.A.A. and Handball level who were responsible for the building of the new glass court at Croke Park. Without it there was no possibility of the game being televised in a manner that would do justice to it. The feedback from the Top Ace television tournament has exceeded all expectations, and the Council are indebted to Fred Cogley, Michael O'Carroll and Mick Dunne for the very fine service they have rendered to handball. The extent of this service can be measured in the number of enquiries reaching the Handball Council almost daily re facilities etc.

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SAT. AUGUST 17th

SAT. AUGUST 31st  
SAT. SEPTEMBER 7th  
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## B + I award for Vince

AT 15, Vince Mazurek has literally the sporting world at his feet. For the second successive year this Watford born goalkeeper has been selected "Gaelic footballer of the year in Britain", amidst stern competition from all parts of the Island. Vince will be honoured at the April 2 function where he will be presented with the B+I award for the second year running.

His performances for his Hertfordshire club, Glen Rovers, led him into the ranks of the county minor team. In the first round of the British provincial championship Herts were drawn against firm favourites for the title, London, and were expected to be well beaten. But thanks mainly to the majestic display of Mazurek, Herts not only beat the stylish London outfit, but gave them a hammering to the tune of 2-10 to 1-2.

Not unexpectedly Vince and Herts went on to win the championship and become the first British side to compete in the All-Ireland series.

But Mazurek is one star that the G.A.A. will hardly hold on to. It is most likely that it will be on the soccer fields that fame and fortune will give Vince the chance to reach his full potential. For even before he started to play Gaelic, he had been a highly competent goalkeeper with his local school team, St. Michael's. He has also been playing Sunday league with Hollywell for many years and in fact was chosen as player of the year for 1972/73.

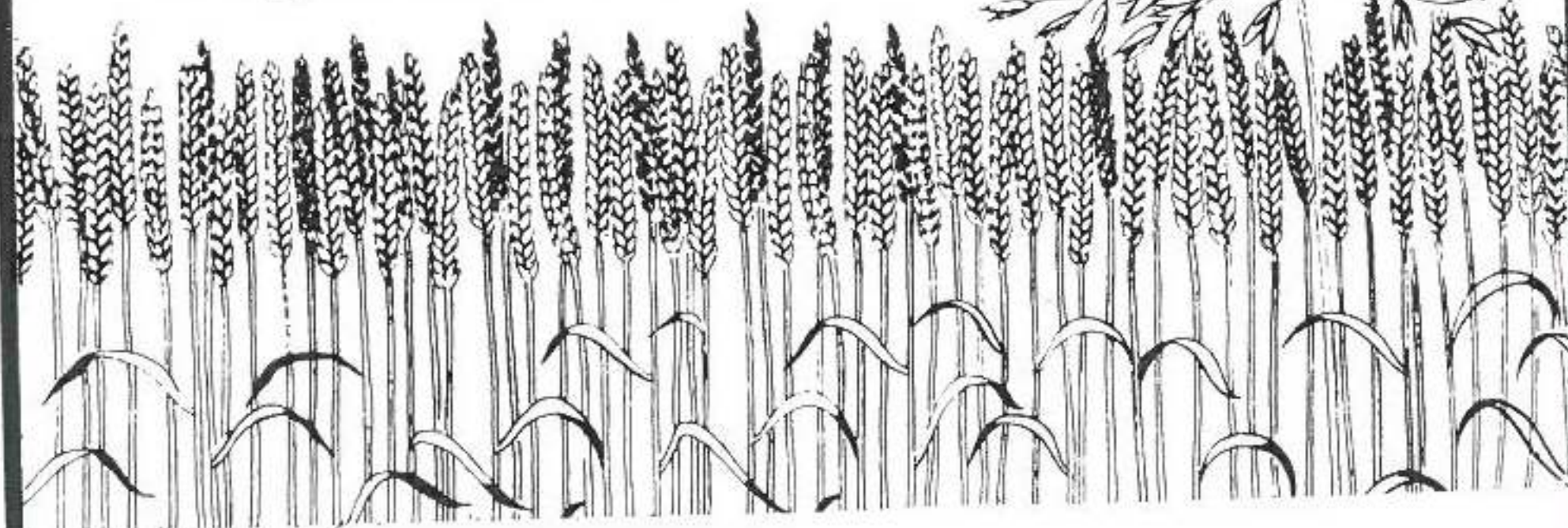
No less than five leading clubs have expressed interest in him. Watford, West Ham, Southampton, Brentford and Liverpool. In fact Vince has had a week's trial

with the famous Mersey side academy, just to see what professional football is all about.

But B+I award winner Vince is in no hurry to make a snap

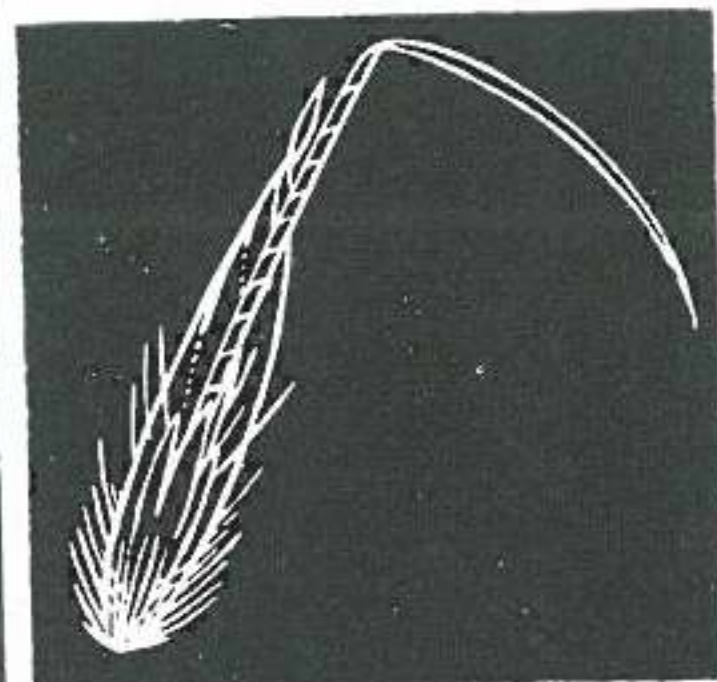
decision. He is still at school and enjoying life not only playing both codes of football but athletics as well. He is the school's champion runner and in fact finished a creditable fifth overall in last year's All-Britain high jump.

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# MONEY MATTERS

By LINDA COLLINS

IT does, you know. When you haven't got it you can't spend it. More and more these days one hears the view expressed that saving money is a fairly pointless operation, the rate of inflation being what it is. While rising prices do eat away at our living standards, the argument goes, it's better to spend every penny as you get it, rather than wait and accumulate some money which by the time you want to lay it out on something, won't buy that article for you anyway. The argument is a bit fallacious, especially when one is thinking of smalltime savers—you, me and the fellow down the road, putting something by out of a salary cheque every month or banking part of the creamery money. We're not capitalists, we're not going to lose millions from our personal fortunes every time a Sheik sneezes in Arabia or Government Ministers change places.

For us, it still makes sense to save. The reason is because we are mostly saving for a particular purpose, not just for the pleasure of the saving itself. And whether inflation comes or goes, it is still always cheaper to put the money by, rather than borrow when you want to buy something. The housewife who scrimps for six months so she can pay cash for a new washing machine doesn't need to be told this. The difference between cash terms for the machine and hire-purchase spells it out for her. And while one can admittedly put down a payment on a holiday these days, it's cheaper to buy your package deal in advance, cash down. As Eric Hall, Chairman of the National Savings Committee has

put it, "If we didn't save there would be things we could never have, or never do. And the rate of inflation doesn't come into it. It's better to have something than to have nothing." And so say all of us.

As evidence that the general public is getting very clued up about saving and the advantage of a good interest rate, take the figures we got from the Dublin Savings Bank after they had carried out an analysis of one month's new accounts. In January this year, no less than 1,386 new investment accounts were opened and 1,260 ordinary savings accounts. They also opened more current accounts than in the same month the previous year.

The Dublin Savings Bank has a place in the lives of many Dubliners but these days, of course, with the city's population growing so rapidly, many clients who are only Dubliners by adoption are making use of its services. And just how extensive these are is something worth discovering. For one thing, there are now seven branches throughout the city as well as head office in Abbey Street. New branches open in Grafton Street and Finglas shortly. Offering all normal banking facilities, one of the major advantages from the customer's point of view of an account with the Dublin Savings Bank is that it remains open on Fridays until 7 p.m. For people who find it impossible to get to a bank during "normal" working hours this is a huge advantage.

Trustee Savings Banks like the Dublin Savings Bank operate solely for the benefit of depositors. They are not profit-oriented.

In other EEC countries, similar banks are empowered to give house mortgages and surely the Dublin Savings Bank will be offering this facility fairly soon—and at the lowest possible interest rates too. Their group savings scheme are operating in many concerns and have been described by employees as a painless way to save—the money is collected by the firm on behalf of each individual and passed on to the bank, who then credit individual accounts.

Allied Irish Banks, who have set the pace for other large concerns in the matter of enlightened and constructive sponsorship, have done it again. This time they are providing a shot-in-the-arm to Irish games in Britain, by setting up "facsimiles" of the All-Ireland Finals between Limerick and Kilkenny and Cork and Galway at the Wembley Games annual event in the UK. The occasion is bound to cause a fantastic stir and seeing the teams take to the field of play for the second time, and wondering what the form will be, is going to preoccupy a lot of people. It's all happening on May 26 and this is the first time anyone can remember that games were played at Wembley on Sunday.

All the signs are that there will be a record attendance and it certainly provides an opportunity for London-based exiles to immerse themselves once more in the thrills of the Finals—nearly as good as being in Croke Park.

The only thing on the market which is rising in value faster than the inflation rate is housing—and even when you're put to the pin of your collar to get the deposit together, or find it hard going meeting the repayments, you can comfort yourself with the thought that the house itself is worth more money with every year that passes. There is no better investment for a young

● TO PAGE 37



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# Eric Hall talks to Sean Egan

**SEAN EGAN:** Does the NSC just promote savings schemes?

**Eric Hall:** Not at all. The Committee which is a voluntary promotional body set up by the Minister for Finance in 1956 with the general aim of making people more savings-minded promotes the "idea" of saving rather than actual savings schemes as such. It has special responsibility for setting up savings groups in offices and factories; operates an educational thrift programme in over three thousand national schools and also in secondary and vocational schools around the country; and has a free budgeting booklet available. The NSC is also issuing booklets on spending wisely and providing for retirement in the next couple of months.

I'd make the point, by the way, that the Committee does not set up school savings schemes to get young people to save just for the sake of saving. Our aim is to see school savings used as a basis for teaching children about managing money. The idea is that teachers can use the practical exercise of the school savings scheme as a

background for talks, discussions and projects on money management.

**Sean Egan:** I take it that since the NSC is a State body you tend towards promoting the State savings schemes.

**Eric Hall:** We do, of course, emphasise the services of the State savings agencies, but we encourage all forms of saving through all channels, as long as the money is used for the good of the Irish economy.

**Sean Egan:** What exactly are the State savings services in the context of "small" savings?

**Eric Hall:** The Post Office Savings Bank, Trustee Savings Banks, Savings Certificates, Investment Bonds, National Instalment-Saving, Prize Bonds, the Agricultural Credit Corporation and the Industrial Credit Company.

**Sean Egan:** Can you tell me the best method for short term saving; say for a holiday or to pay things like rates and so on.

**Eric Hall:** Your local Post Office or one of the Trustee Savings Banks in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Monaghan.

**Sean Egan:** And for invest-



Eric Hall, Chairman National Savings Committee.

ing a bigger sum; say £1,000?

**Eric Hall:** I would not like to advise you on that specifically; there are too many options open depending on too many things; like the length of time you want to invest it for, and so on. What I would advise is that you study our booklet "Secure Ways to Save" which goes out with every request for "Savings for Everyone" which is the NSC free booklet on how and where to save for particular purposes. These booklets, like the budgeting publication, or details of group savings schemes, are available free from the Secretary of the National Savings Committee, 72-76 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. And you don't even need to stamp your envelope when writing in for the booklets.

## ● FROM PAGE 35

married couple than their own home—and many of them have found that the Irish Civil Service Building Society was instrumental in helping them to achieve it. A spectacular growth record in recent years does not obscure this society's commitment to

solid progress, with the emphasis on security. And its depositors' are behind it all the way. There is an unusual degree of personal contact between the ICS staff and the over-the-counter customers who save with the society. It all started originally when the society in its early days operated on a very small scale but expan-

sion hasn't changed anything. Obviously, people want the best return for money saved—and an eight per cent interest rate with all taxes paid ensures they get it—but also it's nice to feel you're a person rather than a number on a deposit book. And at ICS, the person comes first.



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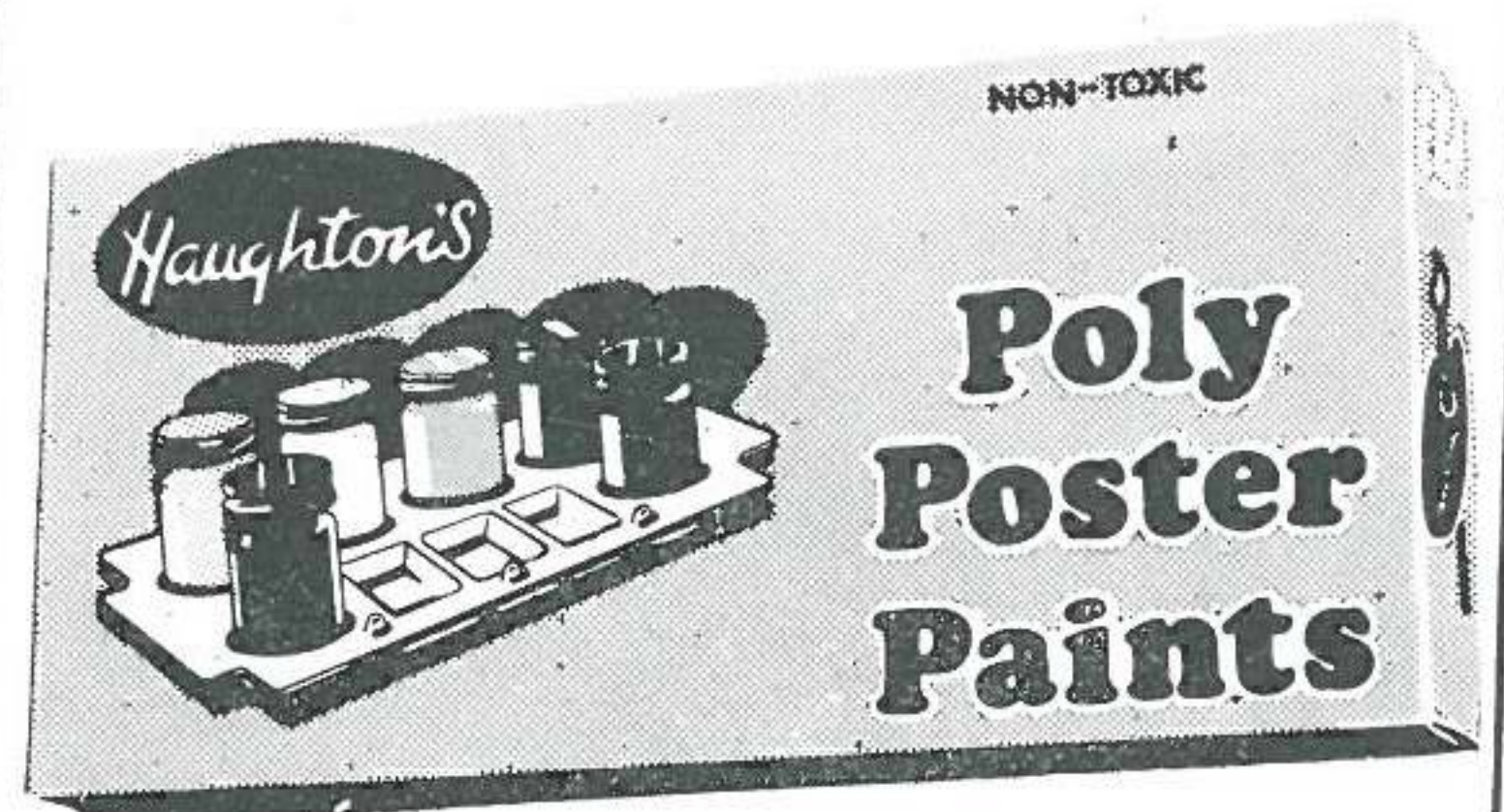
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# Lack of thrust in attack is Limerick's main worry

By Séamus O Ceallaigh

THE All-Ireland senior hurling triumph of Limerick last year was the blood transfusion the caman game needed. The sporting public had wearied of the monopoly exercised by the Cork-Kilkenny - Tipperary - Wexford quartette, which was threatening to strangle the game, and they welcomed with open arms the Shannonside break-through — a triumph that gave new life to all the hurling counties.

This was evidenced in the recent National Hurling League campaign, when seven of the eight teams in the top grade were there with a chance of figuring in the play-offs when the final round was played. And the eighth team—Galway—came with a late flourish to upset a lot of calculations by defeating All-Ireland runners up, Kilkenny and National Hurling League holders—Wexford in successive games.

Adding further interest to the hurling scene is the fact that All-Ireland Champions, Limerick, have not proved invulnerable, as their defeat by Tipperary and drawn games with Cork and Kilkenny indicate.

The Shannonsiders are shortly due back from their trip to San Francisco, where they played a brace of games with the Carrolls All Stars, and their big spring test is to really prove their worth by adding the National Hurling League title to their All-Ireland championship crown.

Limerick have contested the last four National Hurling League finals, but they only won one of them (in 1971 against Tipperary) and that only be a solitary point.



● Eamonn Cregan . . . whose move to centre half back has robbed Limerick's attack of scoring power.

So they are due another success in this competition, in which the great Limerick team of all the talents of the 'thirties were such masters—winning five League titles in a row, thus setting a record that still remains unchallenged.

Big concern of the Limerick mentors at the moment is the lack of thrust in their attack, and the fans are beginning to talk, and compare the number of "saves" the Shannonside goalie, Seamus Horgan, is called upon to make in a game, in comparison to the rather easy time the opposition net minders have had in

recent engagements, notably Paddy Barry of Cork and Seamus Shinnors of Tipperary.

This situation has started the search for suitable replacements, with the credentials of lads like Pat Herbert, Matt Ruth, Willie and Paudie Fitzmaurice now under careful examination.

A great muster of twenty-seven teams for the County senior hurling championship gives hope that when the competition gets under way further worthwhile material will be unearthed—all adding up to a much improved Limerick performance certainly before championship times come round.

The necessity for this is self evident, for there is absolutely no doubt that the struggle for the 1974 Munster title is going to be one of the toughest in the long history of that competition.

The Limerick selectors made some extraordinary and at times controversial decisions during the course of the run-up to the 1973 All-Ireland success, and were proved right in almost all instances. They will, undoubtedly make further experiments during the closing stages of the League in preparation for the Championship.

The formation of a second Limerick string has been suggested and there is strong support for the idea. Its main function would be a training ground for likely aspirants to the premier fifteen.

For the immediate future the men destined to rejuvenate the side are as already mentioned—

● TO PAGE 40



● FROM PAGE 39

Pat Herbert, Matt Ruth, Willie and Paudie Fitzmaurice.

Pat Herbert is a very worthy addition to the side, representing as he does the great club of the 'thirties — far famed Ahane. An army officer, he comes from great Gaelic stock, as his father, Sean; his uncles, Tony and Mick; along with their father and uncles have all played for Limerick—wearing the county jersey in each instant with real merit. Pat is following in very distinguished footsteps, and could eventually be joined by his younger brothers—Ciaran and Sean Og, already showing great promise in under-age ranks.

A good deed that misfired deprived Matt Ruth of a possible place on the Limerick side that won the All-Ireland title. Matt, a Kilkennyman, is now attached to the Christian Brothers in Lim-

erick. Whilst resident in Tipperary he had helped the county in Intermediate Hurling Championship ranks.

Shortly after Matt's arrival in Limerick, his native Kilkenny were visitors to Limerick for a National Football League encounter. Matt went to the Gaelic Grounds to see them play, only to discover that some mishap left the Noresiders short a player to complete their fifteen. He volunteered to fill the gap under the mistaken impression that Kilkenny had conceded a walk-over, only to find after the game that this was not so. Thus, he unwittingly suspended himself—and although the incident was treated sympathetically by the powers—that-be his re-instatement did not come in time to allow his inclusion in the All-Ireland line-up.

The surprise packet of the 1973 Limerick County Senior Hurling Championship was an almost un-

known club—Killeedy, who had earlier been reluctant entrants to premier hurling ranks. Beaten by Tournafulla in the West Limerick final they nevertheless qualified for the play-off for the County Championship, and created an early sensation when defeating the championship holders, South Liberties. They eventually reached the County final, in which they lost to Kilmallock after a fine match.

These games brought to the front the Fitzmaurice brothers—Paudie and Willie, sons of a former Chairman of the West Limerick Board and County Board Vice-Chairman—the late Liam Fitzmaurice, N.T.

The Fitzmaurice boys came to the hurling fore when students in the Diocesan College of St. Munchins, and later shone in Maynooth, where they helped in bringing the Fitzgibbon Cup to the College for the first time. Paudie is still a clerical student at Maynooth, but his brother, Willie, was ordered to the priesthood last summer and is now C.C. in the Limerick Cathedral parish of St. John's.

Another player who may be called to the County Senior Hurling colours within a short period is Pat Kelly of Kilmallock, who captained the county minor hurling side; the South-East Limerick selection, first winners of the special Munster minor hurling competition; and the Kilmallock team that won the County minor hurling championship last season. He was also a member of the Kilmallock fifteen that won the 1973 County Senior hurling championship title. Pat is presently a student of the National College of Physical Education.

Hurling in Limerick has got a big boost from the Blue Riband triumph and the great endeavour now will be to consolidate the position and remain at the top. That is what the lads in green and white will be striving for in 1974.

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# CLARE FOOTBALL

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**By Eamonn Young**

**T**HERE'S a big Clareman named Kennedy from Kilrush who means business. For several years he stood full back for the county, kicked the ball so hard it just wasn't fair and now regrets deep down—though he never said it to me—that he isn't a few years younger for he would be in there again like a shot.

But fifteen-stone Patrick Joseph Kennedy can do more for Clare football on the line now than even he could perform inside it. As team manager the Kilrush man whose timber-representative job takes him around quite a bit, has been given the job of resurrecting football in a county where they really are mad about it. At least in the western half where men like Tommy Kelly and Christy Browne will discuss it with you from dawn till dusk . . . or the reverse perhaps if the circumstances were right.

To help him in the job P. J. Kennedy called on Tommy Mangan the Kilrush publican. Tommy used to jump his own height in the centre of the field for Clare and the last time I met him he nearly jumped over the counter in enthusiasm while we talked football. James Griffin a sound judge and Mick Moloney last year's full back whose really gallant play was as grim as Moher's cliffs in the face of Cork attacks in the '72 championship. With the ball running Cork got no goal in the second half, a restriction placed on a smart set of scorers which eluded every other opposing team last year. So Moloney, Mangan, Griffin and Kennedy for Clare. What happens next?

First let's look back. In the League Clare lost to Wexford at home. Mistakes in defence opened a few gaps that the Leinster lads slipped through. In Doonbeg home of the county champions Kildare came down to play. As we all know the Short Grass men play good football and I look forward to the day when I see the cup in Naas and Newbridge. But Clare held the Lily Whites to a draw and now the men of Corca Bascinn have travelled to the Mecca to play Dublin. The result 4-9 to 2-9 is more eloquent than words. Dublin may not now be the strength "that in the old days moved earth and heaven" but nobody pushes them around in Croke Park, so one must salute the Claremen on their latest win.

The important appointment for Clare will be in Limerick on May 26 when they take on Tipp. in

the championship. Last year Clare beat Waterford and Tipp. having snuffed out Limerick's challenge went down to Kerry while the Claremen travelled to Cork and defeat on a sunny day in the Park. This time the chaps from the western seaboard will be flat out to beat Tipp. for then they will receive Cork at home in Doonbeg, out of which football cauldron many a good team came scorched.

Anthony Burke looks the likely man in the goal and Teddy Murphy, very sensible, stands at full back with twenty-two-year-old Jer Crowe and Paul Dillon in the corners. Captain Senan Downes of Doonbeg is due back from United Nations duty in Jerusalem one of these days and if he's fit will probably reclaim his place in the full back line. Strong as a young bull and a polished footballer Downes will, if he recovers the alert fitness of two years ago trouble the very best of forwards.

At centre-back where stylish Pat Begley operated you now may have Sean Murphy due to Begley's injury and the wing halves show tidy enterprising footballers in Martin Murphy and Brian O'Reilly. Bert McMahon of Doonbeg and Peter Dillon of the good hands or Paudie Nealon should be on the halfway line and leading the forwards is a twenty-two-year-old Garda Ciaran McGann who last year was only finding his feet. A good player this man. Sean Moloney a fast reactor has moved out from the corner to the wing where he is more at home and on the other side there's Michael Greene another stylist. John McMahon who picks up a goal when most needed, striker Martin Keogh who hits them well, and David Donnellan another scorer complete a selection which shows football ability, eagerness, and attention to the job.

Enthusiasm and material are the ingredients but there's a lot of work to be done. The Claremen will I hear ensure that the best footballers are all seen on one day in a highly competitive atmosphere before a critical crowd and the result will be the selection of the best panel for training.

They will divide the county into four divisions and play two semi-finals with the final on the following Sunday. Plenty notice will be given and each man will know that in these encounters the chips will truly be on the table. In addition such contests should draw a fine crowd in an area which loves football and if the players get ready for those games I could see a bright Clare team emerging for the game against Tipp.





*Planting-out, watched by eager young anglers.*

## **A Question of Caring**

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# CAMOGIE NOTES

By AGNES HOURIGAN

I CAN give nothing but praise to the people through the country who run the Colleges camogie competitions. They overcame the almost impossible weather conditions of almost incessant rain and unplayable pitches, and yet got all their competitions finished on time. But it was remarkable in the process that three of the schools which have been so much in the picture in recent years, Mercy Convent Enniscorthy, Presentation Convent and St. Louis Convent Kilkeel, have won their way through to the semi-final of the senior All-Ireland championship from Leinster, Connacht and Ulster respectively. What is more interesting still is that while Athenry and Kilkeel have both reached All-Ireland finals and Enniscorthy have been in a semi-final before, no school of the three has ever won through to supreme honours, and the title now would be a fitting reward to teachers, pupils and supporters alike for the great work they have done in promoting the game in their respective provinces. But even more interesting still is the fact that we have new senior Colleges' champions in Munster, a province that until last season had always been dominated by that great Cork nursery of Camogie, St. Aloysius.

Even when, last season, St. Al's were finally deposed, that feat was achieved by the sister school in Cork City, Mount Mercy. But now for the first time the title has gone outside Cork to the girls of Rosary Hill, Castleconnell, who have given this Munster senior Colleges' championship a

new dimension by winning and bringing the title to Limerick for the first time.

Munster junior champions for the last two seasons, they have certainly made their presence felt on their first venture into senior ranks. What a great triumph it would be for them if they went on to win the All-Ireland title and An Corn Sceilge in their first senior year.

But All-Ireland victory would be nothing new to the family of Rosary Hill captain Vera Mackey who is daughter of former Limerick and Ahane hurling star John Mackey, and therefore a niece of the legendary Mick, or to the O'Briens who are sisters of current Limerick All-Ireland defender Jim O'Brien.

An interesting fixture that is more or less on trial at the moment is what it is hoped will be an annual game between the Combined Universities and the All-Ireland Club champions.

Last year the Students played a Dublin Selection and won, but that was no more than a challenge game, and interest is bound to be keener in the new fixture.

At the moment, the Universities with four or five Cork All-Ireland players should be well up to the standard of any club side, though they may well lack the combination in actual play that a club side will possess. So this should prove an interesting game, but one that, I fear would not be of any great spectator attraction outside the immediate locality of the club champions themselves.

## SEAN McCARTHY

— A TRIBUTE

By PADDY DOWNEY  
of The Irish Times

THE death took place recently of Sean McCarthy of Cork, the G.A.A.'s oldest past-president and one of the most distinguished holders of that office in the association which he served with deep loyalty from a very early age. He was 85.

The late Mr. McCarthy—who served five separate terms as Lord Mayor of Cork and was also a T.D. in the Fianna Fail interest—first came to prominence as an administrator in the G.A.A. when he was elected chairman of the Cork Co. Board in 1917. He was to hold that office for 20 years, until 1937.

He was president of the Association from 1932 until 1935, a term which gave him the honour of leadership in the organisation's golden jubilee year of 1934. On his retirement from the Cork chair at the convention of 1937 he was elected deputy honorary president of the county board and succeeded the late J. J. Walsh as hon. president in the late 1940s. He held that post until his death.

With the exception of his three years in the president's chair, he was a member of Cork's delegation to the annual Congress of the G.A.A. for almost half a century and his contributions to the debates in those assemblies were always thoughtful, measured, pertinent to the matter in hand, transparently sincere—and often oratorically brilliant.

His manner was grave and austere, but beneath that exterior there was wit and humour, and above all the kindly nature and courtesy which identified a gentleman.



# Remember, with cigarettes you just can't win!





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## JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



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## DEVOTED TO THE VIEWS OF OUR YOUNGER READERS

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ONE of our young writers suggests we have a Junior Club in **Gaelic Sport**. It is more or less a club with many familiar names isn't it? This month I ask all **Junior Desk** readers to introduce one new member to our so-called club. Get him/her to write to me on any topic he/she likes. Just one remember.

Isn't it great that Ann Carroll is editing a Ladies page. Ann is an architect as well as a brilliant camogie star. Her enthusiasm for camogie reminds me of John Nallen's or Denis Ferguson's enthusiasm for all things G.A.A. Wherever Ann went a brilliant camogie centre developed. Is there any greater testimony of her dedication. I have not met Ann and look forward to the occasion. From **Junior Desk** we wish Ann every success. We still want our **Junior Desk** girls to keep writing to us. Womens' Lib being what it is, we'd hate to have segregation of any kind in our club. Wouldn't we lads?

### CUT-OUT

I hope you are still pasting the Cut-Outs on your bedroom walls. Since we went full colour, this will help to decorate the place! Our Cut-Out this month is Kilkenny All Star goalkeeper Noel Skehan. For a man to have been hidden in the shadow of Ollie Walsh's brilliance for so long and to burst forth so brilliantly on Ollie's retiral is a great tribute

to this wonderful Cúl Báire. Followers will not easily forget his spectacular display in the 1972 All-Ireland final v. Cork or his equally brave effort as he sallied out from goal against Limerick in the '73 final.

### SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Sometimes one hears of a very nice gesture that reminds us that while we do our very best to win, over and above this great rivalry that animates the G.A.A. lies a great feeling of comradeship among the greatest of rivals. This was shown in so many ways on the occasion of Weeshie Murphy's death. But none surpassed the wonderful tribute from Kerry to their old rival and friend on the occasion of the Kerry v Cork N.F.L. game in Killarney last November. A special souvenir programme in memory of Weeshie was presented free to every spectator at the game. Furthermore it was a superb production—a great tribute to the late Weeshie who spent many happy school-days in St. Brendan's, Killarney, and an equally fine tribute to the generous hearts of all footballing Kerry men.

### FOOTBALL SEMINAR

The football seminar organised by the Gaelic football club in Maynooth and held in the very fine G.A.A. centre in Naas may not have attracted the crowd expected. Still it was the first time I have heard a number of star

footballers analyse their respective positions and their approach to the game. It is hoped to publish all seven lectures in booklet form at a later date. I'll keep you informed about this. Nice to renew acquaintance with Mick O'Connell, Seán O'Neill, and all the speakers at the Seminar. What a great personality is Antrim's Paddy O'Hara? His lecture on coaching generated the most discussion. The whole exercise was due to the industry and foresight of Fr. Malachy O'Rourke of Fermanagh (Roslee) and Maynooth.

### G.A.A. PUBLICATIONS

A welcome addition to the list of current G.A.A. publications which we included in Junior Desk in February is:

"A Proud Past" (Highlights of the Newmarket-on-Fergus Hurling and Football story 1885-1973). Price £1.10 from The Editors, c/o Newmarket-on-Fergus Hurling Club, Co. Clare.

This 190-page documentary is a tribute to the club and a model for all other clubs with similar histories. I congratulate the Editors on a great job—a real club effort.

### COMPETITION

This month we have another competition. The senders of the 3 best replies to the question—"Who should select the Carrolls G.A.A. All Stars?" (in not more

● OVERLEAF



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## ● FROM OVERLEAF

than 50 words) will receive a special Carrolls G.A.A. All Star Kitbag 1974 each. These have been given to me by the 3 Galway All Stars Liam Sammon, Liam O'Neill and Tommy Joe Gilmore and is yet another indication of the stars' interest in Junior Desk. The competition is open to all readers under 19 on 1/5/74 and entries will not be accepted after April 20. At the end of the article you will find the forwarding address for entries. Be sure to enter. The kitbags are lovely and have been specially inscribed.

## JUNIOR DESK INTERVIEW

Our February competition of a Galway G.A.A. scarf to the senders of the 10 best questions addressed to Galway star Liam Sammon took some selecting. I narrowed it down to 15 and with the help of two other G.A.A. personalities (who shall be nameless) finally combed it down to 10. They are:—

(1) **If you had magic power to become another great football player, what person, past or present, would you like to become?**

*From Tomás Ó Ruadháin, Cearn Mór, Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe.*

L.S. — Sean Purcell. He had all the skills and was able to execute them all so stylishly.

(2) **Please describe what it's like in a loser's dressingroom after an All-Ireland Senior final. Is it all despair after all the fruitless preparation?**

*From Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare.*

L.S.—It is and it isn't. Getting so far is a great achievement in itself. Of course there is no comparison with an All-Ireland winning dressingroom. The real despair doesn't sink in for

a day or two. In the dressing-room the excitement and tension are still there. You just can't switch these off.

(3) **Why do you think that great teams like Sligo, Kildare and Derry fail to win League and All-Ireland honours?**

*From Anthony Clancy, Knockroe, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.*

L.S.—Basically I think because of a lack of self-confidence in tight situations. This reflects itself too in the attitudes of their supporters who **hope** rather than **expect** a win. One of these days a team like Sligo will make the major breakthrough.



● Liam Sammon

(4) **In your opinion do some county selectors pick players past their prime because they are afraid to leave them off?**

*From Tony O'Connor, 48 Highfield Road, Limerick.*

L.S.—Generally I don't think so. There may be exceptions but I think the reverse is true. We tend to get rid of our players too quickly.

(5) **What person (just name one) has most helped and encouraged you during your career?**

*From Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford.*

L.S. — Hard to pick on one. But I think of the men who started me off with St. Augustine's (an offshoot of Fr. Griffins, my present club). The men were Paddy Higgins, Jimmy Kilroy, Tommy Higgins and Sean Turke.

(6) **Does football ever interfere with your private life?**

*From Michael McGrath, Ox Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.*

L.S.—It does in ways but you tend to include it in your way of life. I find it a great outlet and my wife, Rosaleen, puts up with me being away on so many Sundays.

(7) **How would you involve more ladies in the G.A.A.?**

*From Deirdre Nic Gearailt, 20 Rockbarton Park, Salthill, Galway.*

L.S.—I'd love to involve them, as the new G.A.A. Social centres or complexes spring up everywhere I'd involve ladies much more in doing "their own thing in their own way." All sorts of women's clubs could emerge within this new type G.A.A. social structure. As a result of their involvement more youngsters would become involved too. This is developing slowly—not fast enough—the participation by ladies I mean.

(8) **Does your profession as a teacher of Physical Education help your training in any way?**

*From John Maxwell, Goolds Cross, Cashel, Co. Tipperary.*

L.S.—Oh it does, yes. P.E. has made me think more about the game. My attitude to fitness has changed. Now I'm better able to assess my own fitness and capabilities.

(9) **Whom do you regard as the most promising young player on the inter-county scene?**

*From Patrick Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly.*

L.S.—That's a hard one. My man is Martin Carney of Donegal and U.C.G. He is intelligent, fast off the mark, a great man to move on to a ball and come through with it. Furthermore he looks good.

(10) **Nuair a bhíonn tú ag**



imirt i gcluiche tábhachtach an mbíonn tú ag cuimhniú go bhfuil Muinntir na Gaillimhe ag brath ort le gaisce a dhéanamh?

*Ó Micheál Ó Sionnacháin, Cearn Mór, Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe.*

**L.S.** — Nuair a bhíonn mé amuigh ansin i lár an chatha is deacair bheith ag smaoineamh i gcónaí go bhfuil na mílte ag brath ort. Tá deifríocht mór maidir le Craobh na hÉireann áfach. I gcás na Gaillimhe ar aon nós, tá an oiread sin cainte agus ullmhuchán agus cur tré chéile i dtaobh an chluiche go

mbeadh sé deacair gan bheith ag smaoineamh go bhfuil na mílte Gaillimhigh taobh thiar duit agus iad uilig ar chipíní.

Well that's it. I'd love to have given more prizes but we have a budget to keep to. Other competitors who sent in searching questions were: Aine Ní Ruadháin, Michael King, Martin Fox, Mary O'Grady and Michael Darcy. Our thanks to Liam Sammon for his patience and keen interest in Junior Desk. We wish him a happy second trip to San Francisco.

So ends the Mailbag for another month. Keep writing. Don't forget the Carrolls All-Star competition. If you want a Pen Pal let me have the details. Write about just anything to me at—

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

Until next month slán agaibh and don't forget — each one of you is to introduce a new friend to Junior Desk.

## From the Mailbag

**Paul Devlin, 38 Gortmore Park, Omagh, Co. Tyrone**—“Donal Donnelly (Tyrone) is a great team manager.”

**Noel Dwyer, Mt. St. Joseph's, Passage West, Co. Cork** — “I never read the Top Scorer Lists for 1973 in football and hurling. Would GAELIC SPORT please print them?”

● *Would Owen McCann, statistician supremo, please oblige. (J.M.)*

**Mattie McDermott, Ahane, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**—“One interesting thing I found out from the Connacht Gaelic Games Annual '74 was that Jimmy Duggan is exactly 10 years older than me—22nd Dec. '47 is his date of birth. So roll on Sept. 1976!”

● *Hope you realise your ambition Mattie. (J.M.)*

**Thomas Byrne, Wyckham Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin**—“Please give us a Cut-out of Pauric McShea (Donegal).”

**Michael Robinson, 34 Penrhyn Ave., Alkington, Manchester.**—“The Connacht Annual '74 and the Our Games were excellent Christmas reading.”

**Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe**

**North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare**—“I wonder will Mick O'Connell play for Kerry this year.”

● *Mick keeps everybody guessing. (J.M.)*

**William Murtagh, 49-17-216th Street, Bayside, New York 11364**—“Looking forward to the Connacht Gaelic Games Annual '74.”

**Patrick Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly**—“When is there going to be a Junior Club in GAELIC SPORT.”

● *Couldn't we call this a club? (J.M.)*

**Terry Doyle, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**—“My favourite player is Mickey Freyne (Roscommon).”

**Gerry Pender (same address)**—“Give us a Cut-out of Benny Gaughran (Louth).”

● *Benny was featured in colour on the front cover of the August '71 edition of GAELIC SPORT. Copies are available from the Editor. If writing enclose 15p (incl. postage). (J.M.)*

**Des Kelly, Ballycoogue, Wood-enbridge, Avoca, Co. Wicklow**—“My favourite player is Mickey Kearins of Sligo.”

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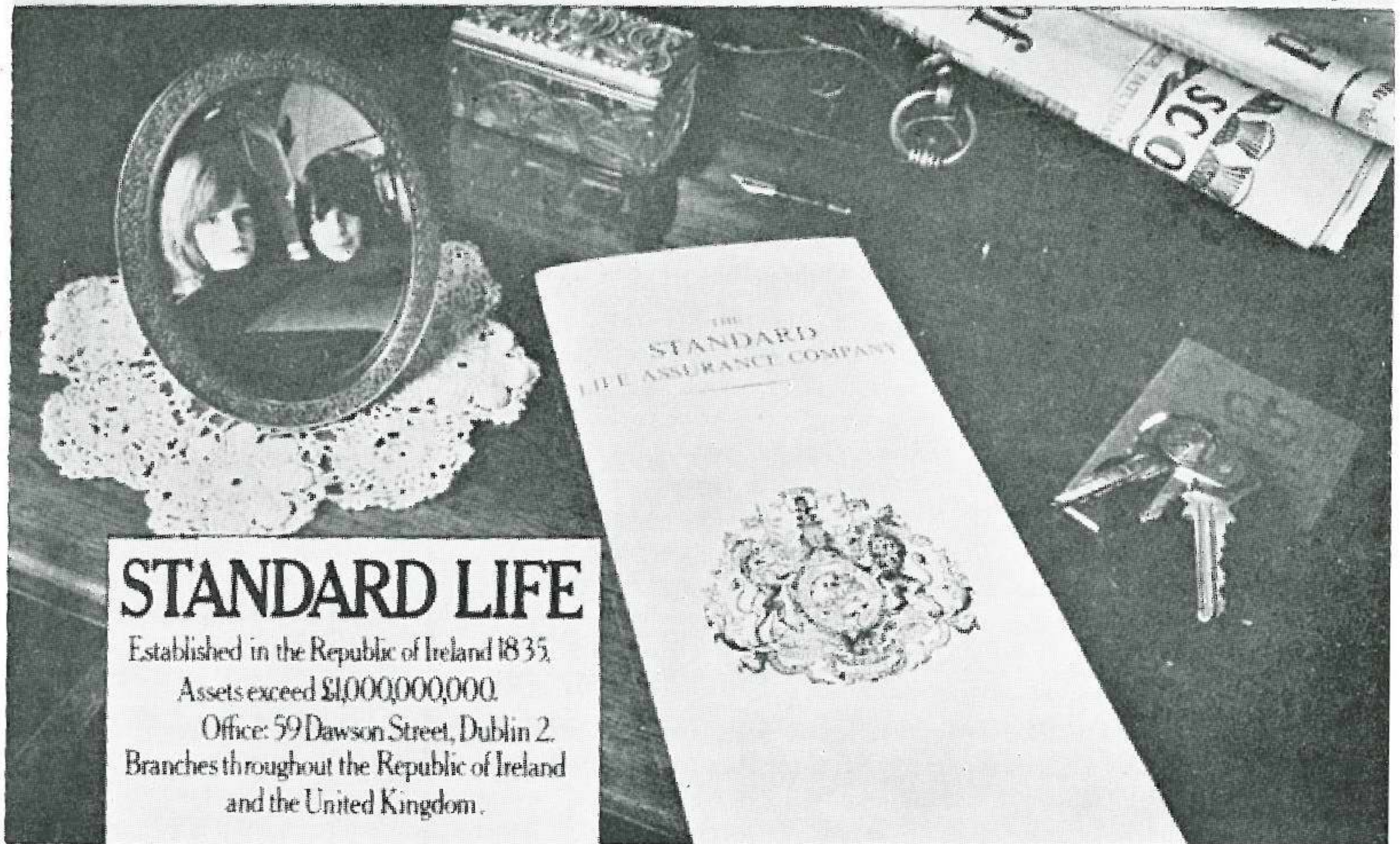
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**Noel  
Skehan  
Kilkenny**

**Age:** 28  
**Height:** 5-7  
**Weight:** 11-7  
**Club:**

**Bennettsbridge**  
**Position:**

**Goalkeeper**  
**Senior Inter-  
County Debut:**  
**1963**

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS:**

Noel won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal in 1962, but for much of his senior inter-county career he walked in the shadow of the great Ollie Walsh. However, after filling a substitute's role to Walsh in the All-Ireland senior finals of 1967, 1969 and 1971, he had the distinction of captaining Kilkenny to their Liam McCarthy Cup win over Cork in 1972. Last year he became the first goalkeeper in either code to win two Carrolls All Stars awards, and he has also got among the Railway Cup and County Senior Championship medals.





## Our Sports Team

Our Sports Team hasn't scored a goal or broken a record for years. Yet it's always a winning team — because it's selected from the most experienced and talented sports commentators and writers in the country. Whenever and wherever the big sports events are on, you'll find our team tirelessly at work. To add to your enjoyment of your favourite sport. On RTE.

