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GAA

# GAEELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAEELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
TWENTY PENCE (INCLUDING TAX) AUGUST 1974



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FRANK McGUIGAN, Tyrone ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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in senior and minor football

18 AUGUST, 1974 — ULAIDH v. CONNACHTA

in senior and minor football

4 AUGUST, 1974 — ALL-IRELAND HURLING SEMI-FINAL

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# PLEA FOR COACHING

WHAT, if any, are the lessons to be learned by the G.A.A., in general, and the players, in particular, from the World Cup?

Probably the outstanding feature that came across on the television screen was the sheer professionalism of the teams and the players.

This is understandable, of course, because World Cup soccer is big business, and the players have the resources, the motivation, and the time and opportunities to perfect and polish their skills, and to develop teamwork and match-winning tactics to a high degree.

Obviously, it would be unfair to expect amateurs like Gaelic footballers and hurlers to reach the pinnacle achieved by the highly paid full-time players who held the World Cup stage. But the important point that can't be overlooked is that the expertise that was projected on the television screen from Germany during the summer helps to create a more discerning public for all branches of sport here at home.

If Gaelic Games are not to lose out, the standard of play in the years ahead will have to show a vast improvement on that which featured many of the matches in the just concluded Provincial Championships.

On World Cup final day, for instance, the Roscommon-Sligo semi-final replay in Connacht produced 55 frees. In other games, some players looked well below peak fitness, and others appeared to lack the dedication and the drive that one would expect from any footballer or hurler wearing a county jersey in a senior championship game.

In short, football and hurling are not developing as they should; the games are not becoming more sophisticated with the passing years. As a result they are losing out as spectacles.

It is some years now since Joe Lennon began championing the cause of coaching in Gaelic Games. If his thinking had been matched at the time with boldness and imaginative effort at Central Council and county level, hurling and football would now be much better equipped to compete successfully with other leisure-time activities.

Much valuable time has already been lost. Now it is up to officialdom to meet the new challenge with foresight and vigour.

A welcome pointer in this regard is the current trying out of experimental rules under actual match conditions. But there is still a great need to place more of an emphasis on improving the skills of the game, on the need for producing progressive play, rather than looking to the rules as scapegoats for low standards.

The emphasis must be on greater attention to coaching at club and county level, and on discipline, as well as on positive leadership from the top, backed up by financial support and help in the coaching schemes.

## COVER PHOTO:

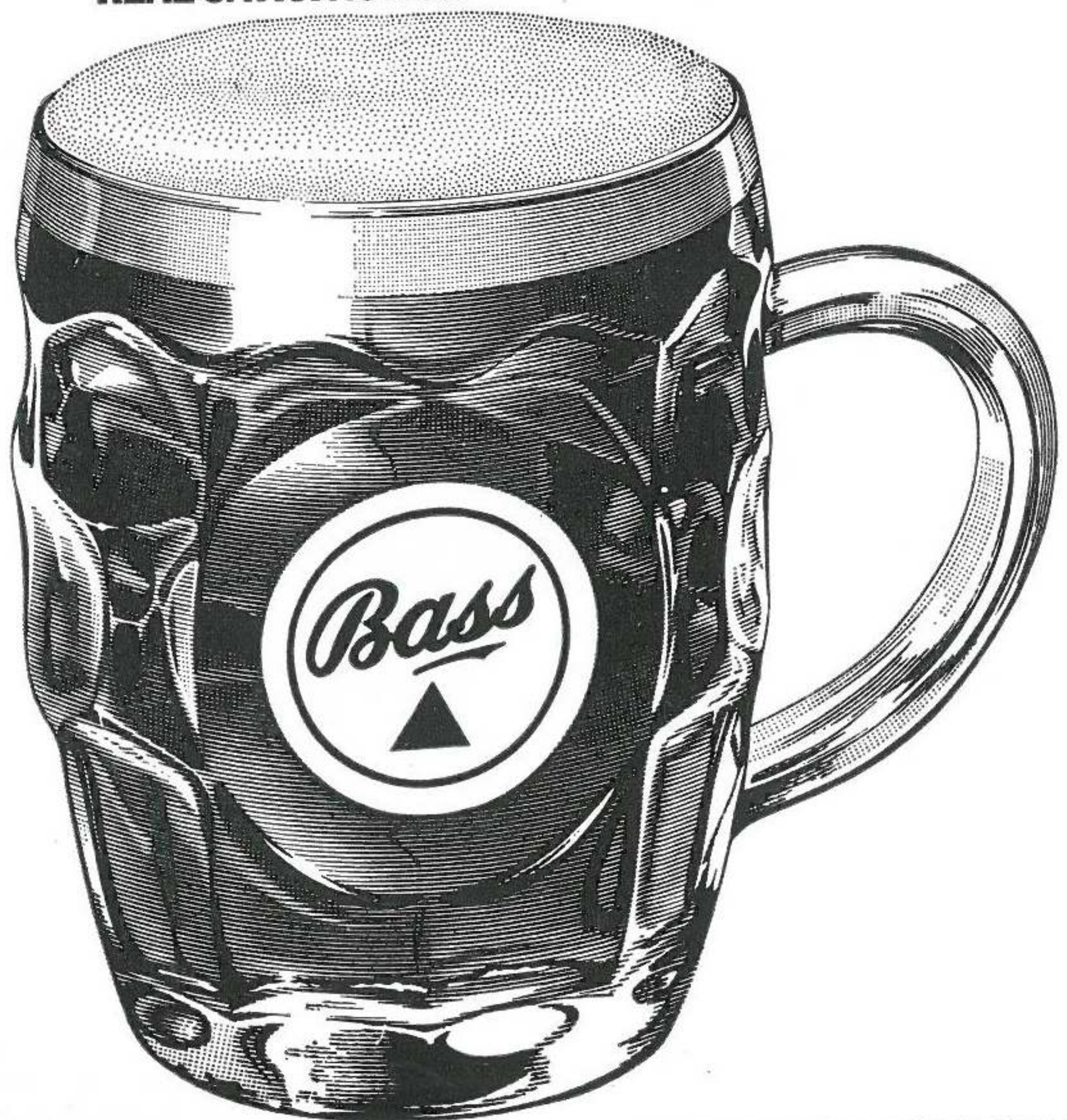
OUR front cover star this month is Tyrone's Frank McGuigan. Frank is one of the most brilliant footballers to emerge in recent years, still in his very early twenties he has the potential to become one of the all-time greats of Gaelic football. On page 13 in this issue Mick Dunne takes a close look at the young Tyrone man's career to date.

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# TOP TEN

## DONEGAL AND CLARE TO FORE

SEAMUS BONNER'S great feat in cracking home four goals in Donegal's decisive win over Antrim in the first Ulster Senior Football Championship semi-final at Clones is prominently reflected in this month's charts. However, sharing equal billing on eight points with the Dublin-based Garda are Anthony Gallagher, also of Donegal, and Gerry Beirne (Roscommon).

Bonner may have captured most of the limelight with his spectacular goals barrage against Antrim, but his dazzle could still not hide the fact that Gallagher made an equally major contribution to the victory with football at centre half back that was assured, dependable and progressive all through.

### BEIRNE OUTSTANDING

Likewise, if the Roscommon-Sligo semi-final replay at Roscommon failed to produce the football expected, Gerry Beirne still stood out brightly. He was an outstanding and commanding figure in the home win with his high quality work in the middle of the park.

The second semi-finals of the Leinster and Ulster Senior Football Championships, as well as the provincial finals will all come into the reckoning for next

month's rankings.

In hurling, pride of place must inevitably go to Clare after their shock win over the Championship specialists Tipperary in the Munster semi-final at Limerick. And, as a result, Seamus Durack and Colm Honan, those talented hurlers in contrasting positions, come into the picture.

Durack featured his valuable work in the Clare goal with a crucial and vital save in the closing stages.

### CLARE'S ACE

At the other end of the field, Honan pulled his weight in fine style, both in general play and in his finishing—he was Clare's ace scorer with six points. So, this pair lead off in hurling on eight points.

Only two players improve their over-all positions this month—Martin Quigley (Wexford) and Martin Hickey (Waterford).



Colm Honan  
(Clare)

Seamus Durack  
(Clare)

### FOOTBALL

8	S. Bonner (Donegal) .....	8
8	A. Gallagher (Donegal) ...	8
8	G. Beirne (Roscommon) ...	8
7	G. Mannion (Roscommon)	7
7	M. Turley (Down) .....	7
6	P. Reilly (Dublin) .....	6
6	M. Kerrigan (Meath) .....	6
6	D. McCartan (Down) .....	6
6	S. Rooney (Dublin) .....	6
5	B. Murphy (Sligo) .....	5

### HURLING

8	S. Durack (Clare) .....	8
8	C. Honan (Clare) .....	8
7	M. Quigley (Wexford) .....	14
7	T. Ryan (Limerick) .....	7
7	P. Hartigan (Limerick) ...	7
7	L. O'Brien (Kilkenny) .....	7
6	M. Hickey (Waterford) ...	13
6	J. Kirwan (Waterford) ...	6
5	Ger Henderson (Kilkenny)	5
5	J. Connolly (Galway) .....	5

# YOU CAN'T IMPROVE

## HURLING BY THE

## STROKE OF A PEN

By JIM BENNETT

**I** AM a believer in structures up to a given point; and a total disbeliever in them beyond that point. How exactly to define the point it is not all that easy to say. Quite obviously you need a structure of organisation and authority; you need a general structure of competitions. But, after that . . . . ?

Perhaps, in the circumstances, the best way of putting it is that I am a great disbeliever in efforts to make structures an end in themselves; to make them do something which should and can only be done by some honest hard work and a large slice of dedication.

The case which causes such thoughts is that of hurling. The institution of a "B" All-Ireland championship appears to be a prime example of endeavouring to improve the game of hurling by the stroke of a pen, or rather by the theory of the debating chamber.

The theory is that, if you institute a "B" All-Ireland championship for the weaker counties you will help them to raise the standard of their game so that they will, eventually, reach a point when they can oppose the better class of hurling counties in the "A" championship.

How would this happen? By playing with added enthusiasm in an All-Ireland championship in which they have, at last, some hope of success. That the hope of an All-Ireland medal may be a sufficient incentive in itself (however devalued that medal, since calling a piece of metal an All-Ireland medal does not make it so).

The initial cut-and-thrust of the "B" championship is calculated to have the effect of sharpening up the winners to the point that they will be able to step out with a modicum of confidence in the real All-Ireland—their other prize of success.

The last variation apart, it is mighty difficult to see the difference between this new championship and the old junior and/or intermediate. And certainly it would be more realistic and truthful to call it one of those names rather than one which it

does not justify.

Structure away to your heart's content, by all means, but, for goodness sake let us not run away with the idea that this will prove a magic formula for the revival of hurling.

This particular idea is fraught with all kinds of doubtful assumptions anyway. One such is known to all who have participated in any sport—that you do not improve by playing in the company of those who are less accomplished than yourself, but rather against those who are, at least, equal to or more skilled. The manner best geared to improvement in any sport is playing opponents who are better.

Of course, that alone will not do it. It will only set up the method by which you can measure your improvement, pick up tips, observe niceties. But, unless you are willing to work on what you have observed, practice the newly refined ideas you have picked up and perfect the more demanding skills you have seen operated to cause your discomfiture, even playing against better opponents will mean nothing.

On that basis, it is extraordinary to presume that establishing a ghetto will bring the best out of the inhabitants of that ghetto. Even the champions of the ghetto when they emerge to do battle with the outer wide world will hardly be that greatly improved. And since their acquaintance with higher accomplishments will be brief, the lessons will hardly be learnt.

Another presumption is that a championship with a knockout style to it is the best for such an improving competition. I would have thought it self-evident that it is not. A league obviously is the type of competition for all who want to get the best chance of improving themselves. But, apparently the league situations in which the second grade counties have been



participating have not profited them sufficiently. What can a championship add is the question—even a pseudo-senior one. A rose by any other name.

How then can hurling be helped. I'll tell this for free, at any rate—not by structures. Not by sitting and planning nice paper solutions and nice economic models. Much more likely by getting up off bottoms and stripping off the coats for work.

This is sometimes a funny old world where Sharp Alecs get away with something for nothing; but, in the overall, you earn what you get and you sweat in the achievement.

There is an object lesson for all in what Waterford have done, for instance. Two league seasons back, they were beaten by Kildare by almost three goals; they could only draw with Antrim in their own Walsh Park; they could only scramble to miserly victories over Kerry and Westmeath. And where are they now? The argument going on in hurling circles just now is whether, if Lady Luck had not shown her most meretricious side, they might now be on their way to the 1974 All-Ireland.

How? Work, dedication, sweat, toil and a lot of tears. Like them a whole lot of other counties could pull themselves up by the bootstraps if they wanted to badly enough; if they had the fire and intent of Waterford.

But, you say, they had a tradition. Indeed, and it was as much a burden to them as an incentive. Had Offaly a tradition in football? But, at the same time, there is a point in that argument; and this is where it is so disturbing to find the better counties too anxious to keep themselves to themselves. If they are not careful, inbreeding will drive them mad. And whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad.

## FACTS and FIGURES

ULSTER has been experiencing a lean spell in the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship semi-finals for some years past. The last Northern success was carved out by Down as far back as 1968, when they beat Galway by 2-10 to 2-8, and went on to account for Kerry to take the Sam Maguire Cup for the third time.

Since then, Munster have been represented in every final, other than that of 1971, Leinster have had a direct interest in four deciders, and Galway contested the summits of 1971 and 1973.

What was the first Ulster county to appear in an All-Ireland senior football decider? Most followers would answer "Cavan" to that question, but it's a fact that the distinction belongs to Antrim.

They gained that unique ranking at the expense of, believe it or not, Kilkenny. The counties were in opposition in the 1911 Championship, and Antrim won by 3-1 to 1-1.

The All-Ireland final was played in January 1912, and Antrim lost to Cork by 1-2 to 6-6.

The Northerners' qualified for the 1912 final with a resounding 3-5 to 0-2 semi-final victory over Kerry. They lost that decider to Louth.

Every All-Ireland senior football semi-final has been played at Croke Park since a 1941 replay at Tralee. In that match Kerry beat Dublin by 2-9 to 0-3, after having drawn at Croke Park. The last drawn semi-final featured Offaly and Cavan in 1969. The Leinster county won the replay by 3-8 to 1-10.

The important games in the weeks ahead in the Championships will naturally do much to help fashion the composition of

the Carrolls All Stars selection of 1974.

But will the coming selections, which will be the fourth in each code in this so successful promotion, result in any new records?

In an extra special place is Ray Cummins with four awards—two in each code. His hurling awards were gained in 1971 and 1972, and those in football in 1971 and 1973.

Next in line to the Cork dual star are Eddie Keher, Francis Loughnane and Pat Hartigan, each of whom has three awards in hurling.

A further interesting fact. The goalkeeping position in football has rotated on a provincial basis so far—Connacht in 1971 (Galway's P. J. Smyth), Leinster in 1972 (Offaly's Martin Furlong) and Munster (Cork's Billy Morgan) in 1973.

Will this year see the circle completed by an Ulster man

When Donegal gave Tyrone the k.o. in the Ulster Senior football Championship in mid-June they ensured that a remarkable new trend that has developed in recent years would be maintained for at least another season.

No county has made a successful defence of the Northern title since Down took two Championships in succession in 1965-66. Changed times certainly from the days when Cavan used to come out of the North with almost monotonous regularity.

Let's end on a historic hurling fact. Tipperary's All-Ireland Senior Championship win of 1971 was their 22nd, and one with a unique dimension. Tadgh O'Connor captained the county from the right half back position, and became the first Roscrea hurler to lead Tipperary to hurling's top award.

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## MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

**L**AST St. Patrick's week-end, Leinster brought home both Railway Cups and thus completed the inter-provincial double. In fact the green-shirted hurlers set up a new record by taking the hurling trophy for the fourth successive year.

Over the same two days, and at the same venue, Leinster clubs played drawn games in the final of both All-Ireland club championships. Moreover, if Rathnure were subsequently foiled by late Blackrock goals in the hurling replay at Dungarvan, U.C.D. had a clear-cut victory in the football decider at the second attempt.

Judging from these results, the all-round standards might seem to be higher in Leinster than in the other provinces at the moment. But other statistics would seem to prove the contrary. In the National Football League, for instance, no Leinster county managed to qualify even for the semi-finals of Division One. True there were three counties from the Eastern province in the semi-finals of Division Two, which was won by Kildare from Dublin, but it must be remembered that this is the lower grade. And if Kildare, Dublin and Meath all gained promotion, Westmeath and Longford were relegated.

Nor was Leinster's record any better in the National Hurling League. No county from the province even reached the play-offs from Division 1 A. Kildare and Dublin came through to the quarter-finals from Division One and Dublin deservedly reached the semi-finals. Subsequently they gave a very brave showing against Cork, a display that aroused bright hopes of a Dublin hurling revival. But that illusion was shattered when, six weeks later, Offaly swept the Dubliners out of the Leinster championship.

Nor did this turn of events prove that there was a general upward trend in hurling in the province. Offaly, in turn, failed to make any impression at all, on Kilkenny when they met the Noremen at the semi-final stage. Nor did Laois cut any ice at all against Wexford in the other semi-final, so, in the heel of the reel, we had yet another old-firm final between Wexford and Kilkenny.

Now, don't mistake me. In recent years—Leinster finals between those two counties have provided better entertainment, better hurling and more excitement than the average Munster hurling final over the same period. I am not saying that Kilkenny and Wexford do not give the Leinster hurling public value for money. They always do when they meet in a provincial final.

What I am saying is that all the senior hurling power in Leinster is now, as it has been for the past dozen years, packed into the South-Eastern corner

# THE G.A.A.

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of the province and that does not tend to the spread of the game.

On the other hand, at a somewhat lower level, it must be also pointed out that there is more hurling in the province, and good hurling at that, than has been the case for many years.

Although partisans of other counties will have differing opinions to the neutral observer, Kildare, Dublin, Laois and Offaly are now all well matched with Wicklow not too far behind and Westmeath well capable of improvement.

Indeed Kildare, in a remarkably short space of time, have become the standard-bearers for Leinster hurling in what we must call for the moment the "secondary" ranks. They caused a big surprise to Thurles patrons by their good showing against the might of Tipperary back in the Spring when the counties met in the League quarter-final at Semple Stadium, and proved that display was no fluke by subsequently winning the inaugural senior "B" championship.

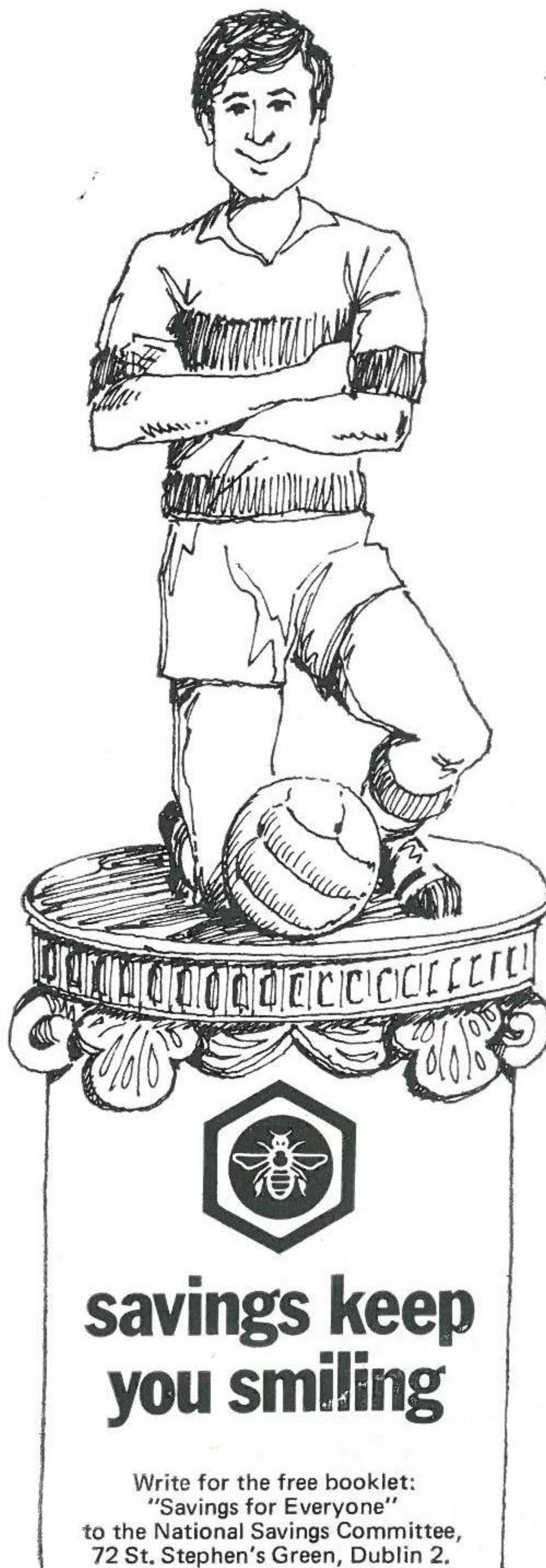
If Kildare, Dublin, Offaly and Laois could raise their hurling standard just a few further notches to provide real competition for Kilkenny and Wexford, then Munster hurling supporters would really have cause to worry.

On the football fields in the last six or seven years, however, only Offaly have kept Leinster's flag flying high. The Midlanders did the province proud with two successive All-Ireland victories, but the overall standard in the province seemed to fall during Offaly's reign. That was not the fault of the O'Connor County men.

The prime reason would seem to be that Kildare, who, with Meath, were the only counties to challenge the Offaly men during the years of their greatness, always seemed to suffer from an inferiority complex when they faced their near neighbours in a championship game, while Meath have, for the past few seasons, been in a transition period. But there was a secondary reason, and that was the decline of Dublin. When Dublin are down, something is lacking from Leinster football, which is all the more reason why the Dubliners' recent revival

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## Formidable task ahead for Handball Commission

THE Irish Handball Council took an ambitious step recently when it authorised the formation of a Development Commission on Handball. Obviously, the terms of reference of such a Commission must be rather loose, hence, when the members of this august body issue a report sometime in the future, one can foresee some interesting, perhaps revolutionary suggestions as to the road handball should take in the future.

Members of the Commission, who include such as Michael O'Carroll and Mick Dunne of R.T.E., Brother D. P. Ó Fearghail from Coláiste Mhuire, who has already left many indelible worthwhile imprints on G.A.A. policy, Séamus Ó Riain, Former President of the Association, Liam Doyle and Liam Marren, both well-known handball administrators, are all of a calibre who will not cease to probe until they present what is considered the ideal for handball.

The G.A.A. itself will come under scrutiny, not merely in the context of its analogy with handball, but rather in the classification of how a parent has nurtured its child. When a report is eventually published, much of the blueprint work will have been done by Phil Murray, who is Secretary of the Commission and, indeed, despite the fact that he is a first-rate player, gives an amount of time to administrative duties.

Before the Commission was formed Murray actually wrote a thesis on handball and I am of

the opinion that many of his suggestions therein will have a bearing on the work now in progress. He has shown that he commands a deep insight into the game and suggests that, in forecasting the state of handball in Ireland in the decades to come, inevitably involves a multiplicity of factors. Some of these factors are within handball and some, very powerful ones too, are external.

In the broadest sense, the state of the nation's economy influences the money available for sport and recreation, not only in the pockets of individuals, but also in the coffers of the Government and various other bodies which sponsor sport.

On a narrower scale the success of sports in competition with handball will act as a barometer for the likely future of our game.



● Séamus Ó Riain

—A member of the Development Commission on Handball.

In this latter context the progress of the commercially-backed squash game is viewed with apprehension by many.

On the handball front itself the future will depend on how our present organisation and structures are geared to develop handball in the context of our modern society.

The position of handball within the G.A.A. is an important consideration. Many facets of this mutual relationship according to Murray are rather nebulous and were it not for certain personal relationships built up over the years, the position would probably be even more vague than it actually is. However personal touches are no substitute in the long term for the institutional procedures which are necessary to ensure continuity of progress.

Many would argue that the G.A.A. has reneged on its stated objective of promoting handball equally with other national sports.

Murray reckons that the future of handball as a National game may well be decided in the greater Dublin area. With a population of 1,000,000 already in prospect, the general lack of facilities is becoming glaringly, more obvious.

If handball can step in to breach that gap the battle will be an easy one. Murray also takes a hard look at central organisation which has the responsibility

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### ● FROM PAGE 11

of determining and interpreting general policy and guiding the men doing the invaluable work at the famous "grass roots" level.

The path indicated by those at the top will decide the future of handball and irrespective of how much effort is expended or how closely that path is followed by those near the bottom if it is the wrong one the result will be the same.

He suggests that for several reasons, a review of the game's organisational structures might be carried out. The vast work of public relations, promotion and development of the game in a changing society cannot be attempted with stereotyped structures or approaches. Constant review and updating is vital.

The proliferation of new competitions had indicated a new need. Arrangements of entries, fixtures, venues, travelling expenses, etc., is becoming a major workload in itself. Activities Committees at various levels are the obvious solution to this problem.

Murray also suggests that Provincial Councils should be used to much greater effect than at present and, a prime example in this instance is the Leinster Council, which has shown a marked degree of activity over the last two years.

It is interesting to note that Murray is, in fact Treasurer of this Council at the present time. His study of Irish Handball certainly indicates a decisiveness and maturity of thought and there is no doubt that many of his suggestions will be thoroughly sieved by the Commission.

It was an enlightened move on the part of the Central Handball Council to initiate such an analytical exercise on the development of the game. Time may prove that it had a distinct bearing on the course of Irish Handball.

# FRANK McGUIGAN

## TYRONE'S 'BLONDE BOMBSHELL'

By Mick Dunne RTE Sport

IT looks as if Donegal and Tyrone are bent on playing their own private game of "turn and turn about" in the Ulster football championship. In 1972 Donegal won their clash in the provincial final, last year Tyrone dethroned them in the first round and now Donegal have delivered a similar blow to Tyrone this summer.

It remains to be seen, of course, if Donegal can make their first-round victory the stepping-stone to recapture of the title—as Tyrone did 12 months ago. It does mean, though, that we won't be seeing Tyrone back in Croke Park for some time. Let's sincerely hope that they won't have to wait 16 years again before they become Ulster champions.

I regretted Tyrone's dismissal because it deprives them of an opportunity soon of doing themselves justice in Croke Park. Each time they appeared there in the past year they have done themselves less than that. Whatever the reason they never played in Croke Park as they could elsewhere. Their All-Ireland semi-final against Cork was a disaster, the National League semi-final against Kerry last spring not much better and their joy in the Grounds' Tournament in November was very short-lived.

Furthermore, Tyrone's fall takes their outstanding midfielder Frank McGuigan out of the spotlight — temporarily, we hope. That's a pity because the

young Ardboe blond has been one of the most exciting newcomers to appear on the football scene in recent times.

Frank first made a real impact in the summer of '71 when he helped Tyrone win the Ulster minor championship, but the following year he was the young sensation of the championships. Again he took his county to triumph in the minor grade in his province and immediately after Tyrone had beaten Cavan in the Ulster final he took his place on the substitutes' bench at Clones for the senior final against Donegal. Although Tyrone were beaten that day he did enough when sent in as a replacement for Hugh Crawford to suggest that we were going to hear a lot more of him.

As indeed we did. In the All-Ireland semi-final against Meath he played a true captain's part, scoring 1-2, starting many of his side's sweeping attacks and, then when Meath forced Tyrone on the defensive in the second half, helping out courageously in defence. Tyrone lost the final to Cork by a goal—Jimmy Barry Murphy's penalty goal in the 47th minute—but it was through no fault of McGuigan's that they failed. He was everywhere: dominant at midfield and linking up perfectly with his forwards as well as scoring three good points himself.

In fact, that summer of 1972 was a particularly busy one for Frank for he was also a member



● Frank McGuigan (Tyrone)

of the under-21 team that took provincial honours. Last year he gave so many superb performances that Tyrone could never have won the senior title without him.

In the spring of last year Frank was in San Francisco as a replacement with the Carroll's All-Stars and when he went in as a replacement in the match against Offaly for Brian McEniff he more than justified his selection with a confident all-round display that was capped with two good points. This year he again travelled to California and he has been chosen on the Ulster Railway Cup team for the last two years.

As a footballer he seems almost ideally equipped: tall, very sturdily-built and with lots of determination and heart. He has a keen sense of judgment and his catching is safe and sure and his almost constant movement as linkman between defence and attack is intelligent, rather than aimless, running.

Still in his very early twenties McGuigan has loads of football ahead of him, if he continues to have a serious-minded, dedicated approach to the game and the rigorous preparation and training now demanded for football at the highest level.

# L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E



Edited by ANN CARROLL

**“WOMEN should not be let next or near the G.A.A.! The men have managed to make such a complete mess of the Association already that there is no point in reducing the poor old G.A.A. to utter and complete chaos”—might well be the reaction of a good percentage of the public to any attempt on the part of the female population to play a more active role in the G.A.A. Old traditions die hard, and to many the only useful contribution a woman can make to the G.A.A. is that which can be evaluated at the turnstile. As we are living in a world of rapidly changing attitudes it is becoming more important for us to define our roles in society both as individuals and as members of a group. It is of the utmost importance that an Association such as the G.A.A., with its links with the national identity, should examine its position in society, be aware of its influence on the national character and of its potential to improve the quality of life, and should accept the necessity to involve women in the work of the Association in order to preserve the balance.**

That certain members of the G.A.A. are thinking along the right lines was evident from some remarks made by Dr. Dónal O Cianáin when he spoke at the recent Administration course run by the Camogie Association. He expressed the desirability of co-operation at all levels of the Associations and of having the ladies represented on G.A.A. administrative committees from Central Council down. He emphasised our responsibility to the youth and our obligation to lead them into a more disciplined society. “Together we could contribute in no small way to the future good of the country”, he stated. The invitation—or challenge—has come from the President of the G.A.A. to those men and women with the best interests of the Association at heart to work together for the good of

that Association and of society in general. Only time will tell how good the response has been.

The really big problem is of course whether women are to take part in the G.A.A. as members of that Association, or whether the good work that women can undoubtedly do for the G.A.A. should be done directly or through Camogie clubs, which would be part of the G.A.A. clubs but primarily members of the Camogie Association. There are examples of girls who are club secretaries, and good ones! There are women club chairmen, and there is even a local Board somewhere in the G.A.A. which has a woman Chairman. The even more important fact is that the women have always done a tremendous amount of work for the G.A.A. at most levels without being formally or

officially members of that Association at all. It may be telling tales out of school, but there is many a G.A.A. County Secretary who could not possibly get through the amount of work he accomplishes without the able assistance of his wife. Besides, who washes the jerseys and togs of most country teams which are beyond the range of laundrettes? Not the players, nor the male club officials, I can say with certainty.

The G.A.A. is turning more and more to the social activities approach to win and keep support. This cannot be done without the full co-operation of the womenfolk. Unless clubs are more wealthy than any G.A.A. Club I have ever heard of, they cannot afford to pay staff to make tea and sandwiches for social occasions or to attend to the washing-up afterwards. They must have the willing and well organised help of women's social committees to do so. However it seems ridiculous to have simply a Ladies' section as part of a G.A.A. Club. Why not have a Camogie Club? Hand over the arranging and preparation and tidying up of the social end of things to a Ladies' Committee drawn from the Camogie section of your Club, and maybe they will give you a hand with the secretarial work as well. Moreover, if you want people to sell programmes or raffle-tickets, the girls will do far better than the usual small boys. In return, dear Gaels, you will just have to give the girls that camogie Club, a pitch and a fair share of financial



assistance. Maybe after a few years we could have that principle of co-operation continued right up the line, with even such august bodies of the G.A.A. as Central Council and the Management taking advice and seeking help in certain matters from corresponding Councils and Committees of the Camogie Association.

The G.A.A. and the Camogie Association need not confine themselves to the running of their games and to the social life directly connected with them. Throughout the country the G.A.A. club is in many instances a very important part of the local community but it unfortunately limits itself to the promotion of Gaelic games. The possibilities for extending its influence on the community are legion, from involvement in social services to using club premises, where such exist, for social evenings for the community in

general. Surely there are individuals within the club who in co-operation with the local talent could get a dramatic or musical society off the ground. There must be club members who would be interested in having an Archaeological Society in their area, or a branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóiri. There must be teachers, for instance, who would be willing to give Irish classes, or indeed classes in any subject, to those young and old with an interest in furthering their formal education. Those same teachers might perhaps be interested in taking groups of children to the Gaeltacht during holiday time. Needless to say, these areas afford as much scope for the women as for the men.

The G.A.A. was not founded solely to promote Gaelic games but the vast majority of its members show little or no interest in the other aspects of our culture. If the G.A.A. is to have any

credibility as a nationally-minded organisation it cannot ignore the ideals of its founders, and neither can it ignore those who have supported the Association since its inception—namely the women of the country.

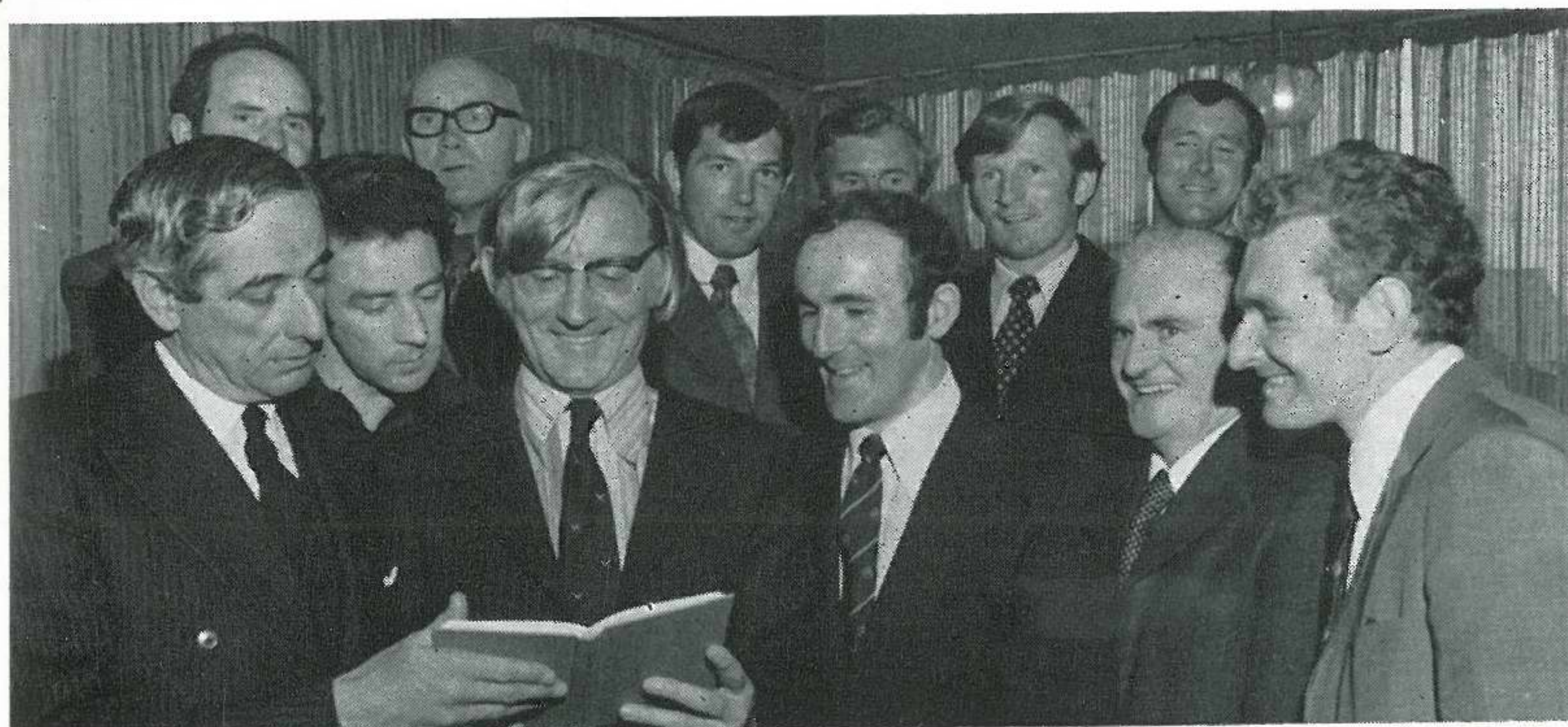
Well, readers, these are my thoughts for this month. Please write and let me have your personal suggestions as to how you visualise the role ladies can play in G.A.A. affairs, both at Club and County level. For far too long we, ladies, have kept our silence. For heavens sake let us all speak out—and begin now by writing to me:

**ANN CARROLL,  
"LADIES PLEASE",  
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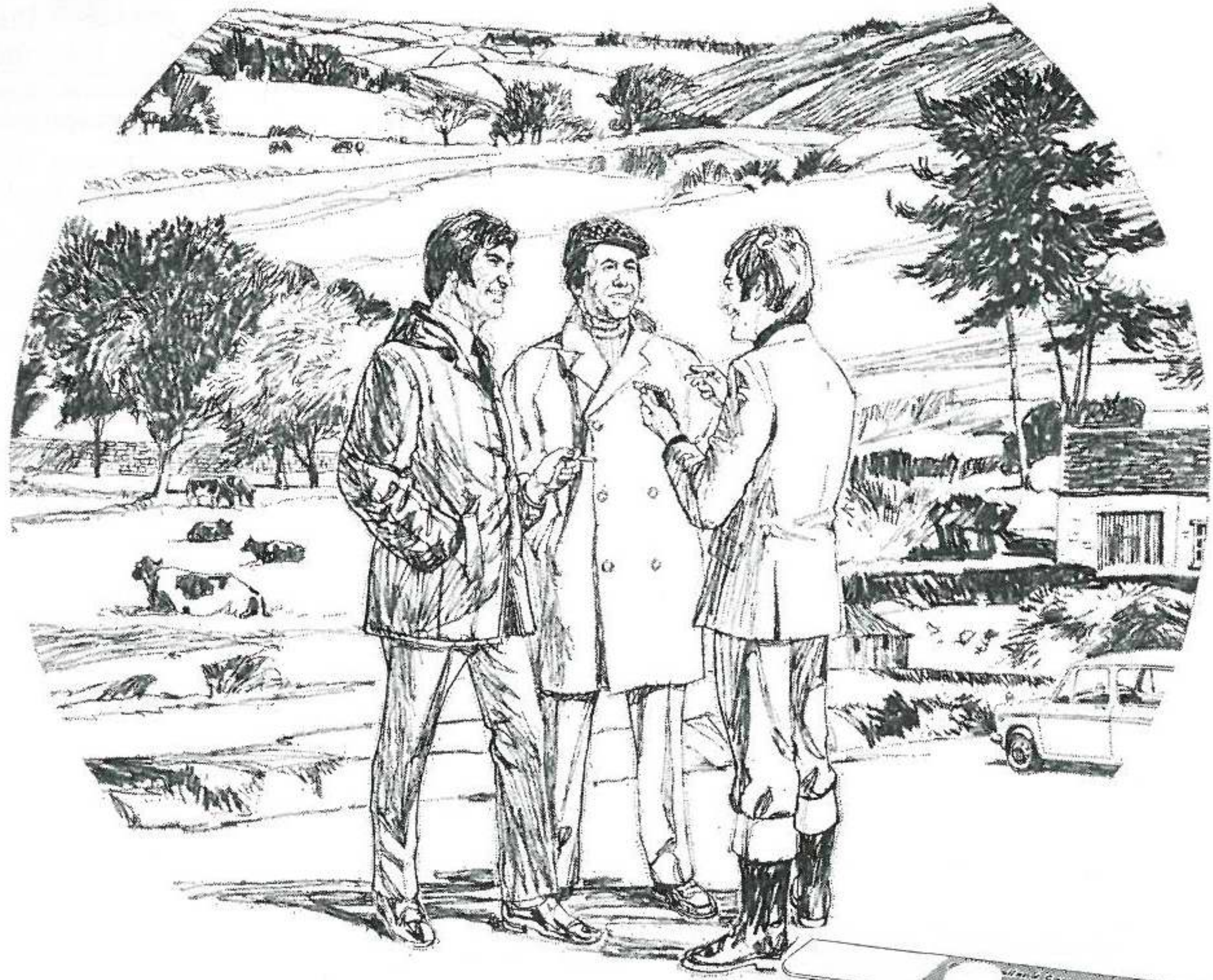
In the meantime to all of you going on holidays—have a wonderful time and may the weather be kind to you.

God bless for now!

## G.A.A. PRESIDENT LAUNCHES NEW HURLING BOOK



● Pictured at the recent Player-Wills reception to launch "Players No. 6 Book of Hurling" by Raymond Smith are Dr. Donal Keenan, President of the G.A.A., F. J. O'Reilly, Chairman, Player-Wills, and author Raymond Smith. Also included are Francis Loughnane, Tipperary; Eddie Keher, Kilkenny; Eamonn Grimes, Limerick; Con Roche, Cork; John Keane, Waterford; Dermot Kelly, Limerick; "Babs" Keating, Tipperary; Rory Kiely, Chairman, Limerick County Board and Pat Henderson, Kilkenny.



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THREE  
GAMES  
IN  
ONE  
DAY**

**L**AST Month the GAELIC SPORT editorial stressed the need for the right approach by all concerned to ensure that the '74 Championship games came across in a way to ensure that they earned the admiration and respect of all.

I could not help thinking about the general sentiments of that editorial when I came across some comments in the Sports Page Arena in "The Anglo Celt". The game in question was the Ulster Senior Football Championship clash of Down and Cavan at Breffni Park, Cavan.

I quote :

"There has been criticism of the preparation of Breffni Park for the game on Sunday last. The game attracted more than 8,000 people and one of the main causes for concern was the lack of stewards both inside and outside the park and the absence of sufficient ticket sellers. The present deplorable situation of hundreds of people crowding the four pay boxes to gain admittance is an intolerable situation and action must be taken immediately to erect proper pay boxes to cater for a big attendance. It transpired that many gained free admittance when a section of the galvanise surround collapsed leading to the park. Also a bone of contention was the condition of the goalposts at both ends. They have certainly not seen paint for some time and the difference in height of the uprights is also to be deplored.

"Also criticised was the action of the spectators congregating along the sideline and obstructing the field of play for players and the view of those seated in the sideline.

"It is high time the Breffni Park plans were unfolded—they are out for tender at the mom-

ent—and work should start as soon as possible on proper facilities for both players and spectators".

Who said that the players of today are not keen? Certainly, this is not a criticism that can be made down Meath way. There, Ronan Giles had a particularly busy day recently on the Gaelic Games front. This ace goalkeeper played not one, but three matches on the same day—and also travelled somewhat to fulfil the engagements -

Here is the full story, published over the initials, N.S., in a recent issue of "The Drogheda Independent."

"It is often considered a bit of a feat to play two games in the same day. But on Sunday last the Navan O'Mahonys and Meath goalkeeper, Ronan Giles went one better when he played in three matches—two in football and one hurling—all between the sticks.

"To start a very busy day Giles lined out for his club at 2 p.m. in an I.H.C. tie at Athboy and although Kells won the game, Ronan kept his goal intact. Then a quick dash saw him play for Meath at Seneschalstown at 4 p.m., and again the Kerry forwards failed to find the net.

"A couple of hours after this game had ended Giles was back in action for O'Mahony's at Martry in a Coogan Cup S.F. tournament tie. And although Ronan conceded his only goal of his hectic day in this game it also brought him his only win of the day.

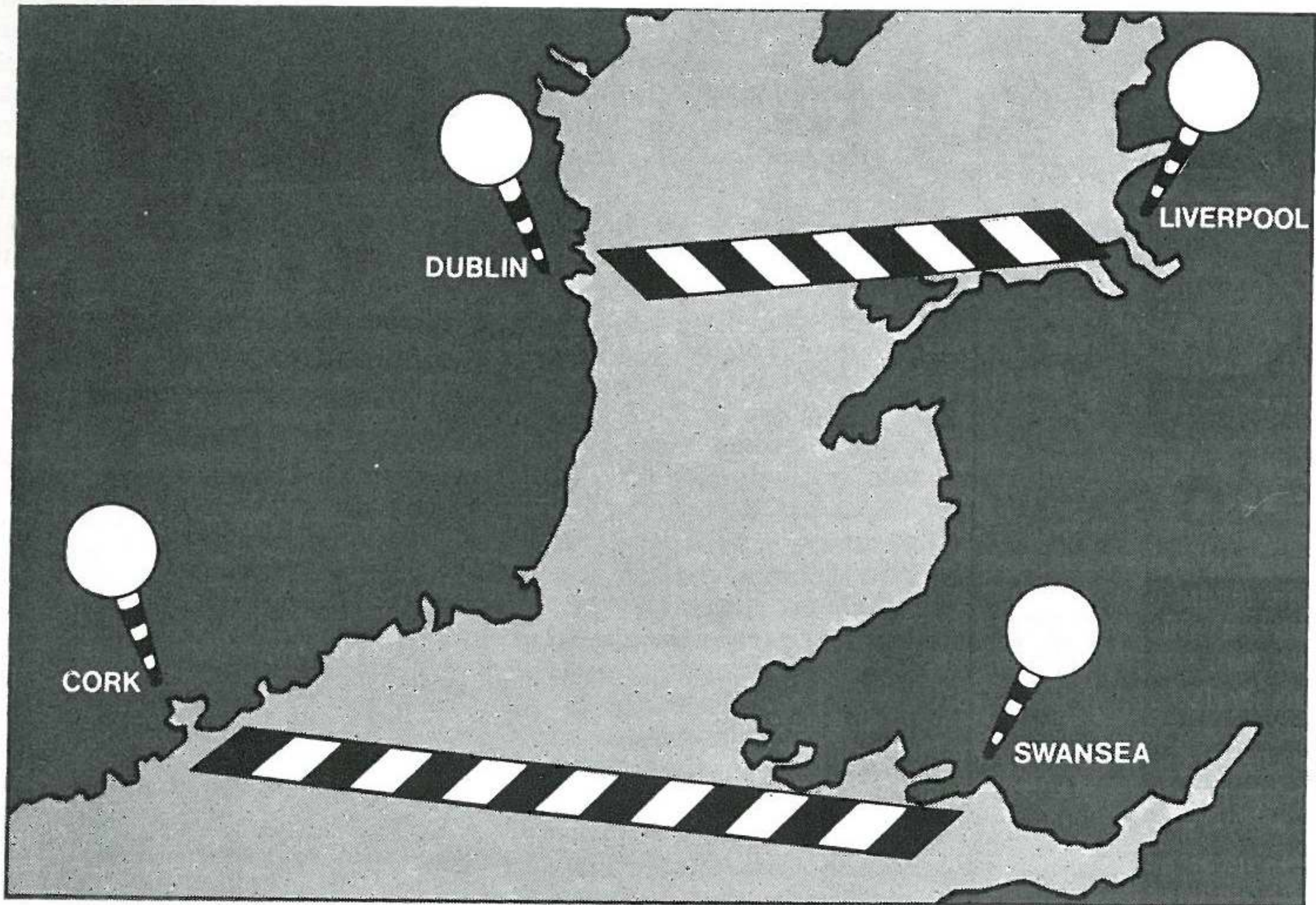
"Such a story surely indicates the enthusiasm of Ronan Giles, a brilliant goalkeeper and a dedicated sportsman."

To which all I can add is "And so say all of us!"

**By Owen McGann**

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# McDonagh comeback could inspire Galway



● Coleen  
McDonagh

By Sean Rice

**S**TRANGE how some counties can find new, successful positions for players thought to have long gone over the top! Stranger still how these players manage to adapt to these roles and how the old spirit seems to emerge anew when they are once more entrusted with a county jersey!

It hardly speaks well for young players when one who was great in another position in another era can re-emerge from oblivion and command a position on a team which a younger player should have made his own.

The most successful of these transplants in recent times has been that of Mick O'Dwyer who had given such sterling service as a half back before he was eventually given a forward role in which he was even more successful.

He was not the first Kerry player to have been converted in recent times. Before him Johnny Culoty had been a useful forward before he took over as goalkeeper. And even to-day Kerry people have marvelled at the success of Seamus Fitzgerald at full forward since he was moved there from the full back line.

Perhaps it was the success of these operations in Kerry as much as the dearth of talent in their own county that prompted Galway to bring back Coleen McDonagh to the present team, not at left half back where he served for so long, but at right half forward.

Not a big man by any standard, McDonagh made up in courage and grit what he lacked as a defender in inches. He was one of those defenders a forward could never brush aside, for he tackled ferociously and clawed and clasped irritatingly. He never tried to catch a ball when he was unsure of holding onto it, or to pick a ball when to kick was safer.

His success lay in his boundless enthusiasm and in his quick and active mind which gave him an enviable advantage over an opponent. But such abilities were not out of place on the team that won the county's last All-Ireland title in 1966.

Inevitably McDonagh lost his lustre and his position on the team until early this season when he was resurrected . . . as a forward. And in the games he has played since then has shown some of the old flashes of brilliance.

The re-actions don't come as quickly now, and the speed and tackling are not what they were. But the mind is alert as ever. And against Mayo in the Connacht championship semi-final his

positional sense and coolness in scoring Galway's first goal of the game proved how useful a man he is around the square.

He is fortunate to have playing alongside him a player of the calibre of Jimmy Duggan who along with Liam Sammon were team-mates on the last victorious Galway team. For each knows so much about the other's play that movements among them spring up almost automatically.

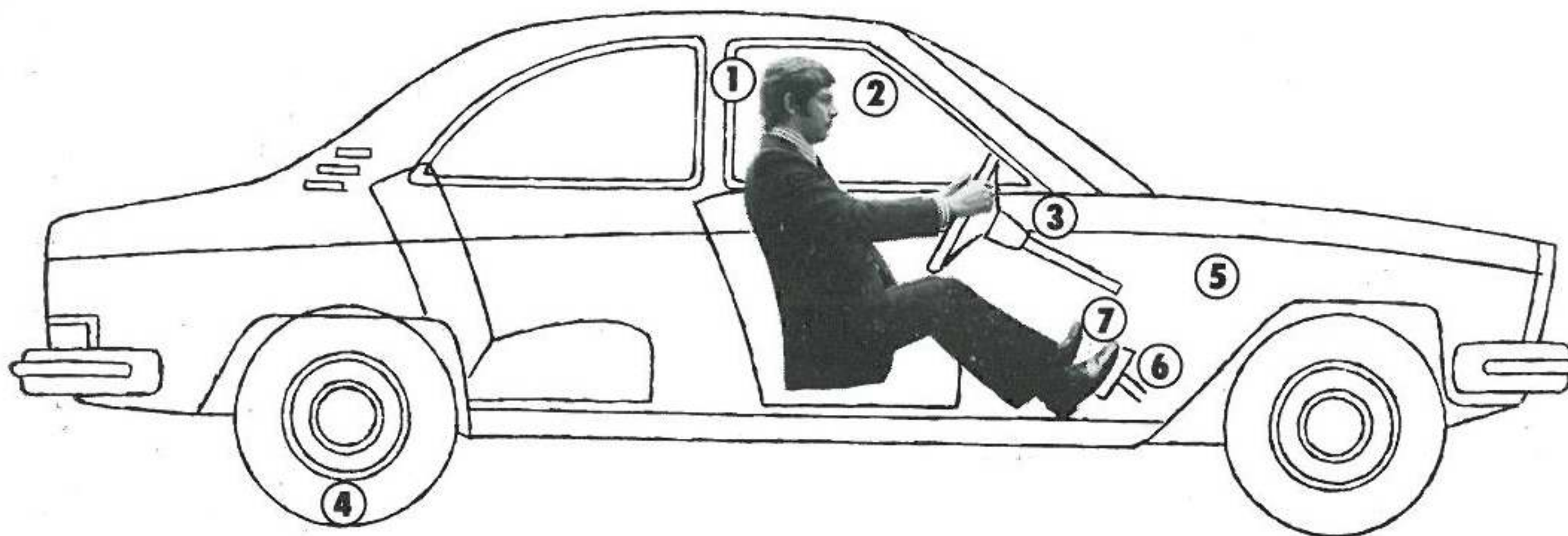
McDonagh still has some of the old adventurous spirit, but the opportunities to display it do not present themselves so often in his new position which demands the same technical skills to be executed differently.

He may never emulate Mick O'Dwyer as a forward but he has become an ideal link-man between his midfielders and his full forward line and his experience has had a steadying influence on the younger members of the team.

That perhaps more than anything else is what Galway is in need of. Apart from Jimmy Duggan there has been a tendency among the younger forwards towards nervousness and hasty shooting. The inclusion of Coleen McDonagh may be the very move that will carry Galway eventually to yet another success.

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50 years in Ireland



*The Munster Football Team that emerged victorious in the 1972 Railway Cup Final after a lapse of 23 years. Front row (from left): Seamus Fitzgerald (Kerry), K. J. O'Sullivan (Cork), Eamonn O'Donoghue (Kerry), Donie O'Sullivan (Kerry), John O'Keeffe (Kerry), Michael Keating (Tipperary), Donal Hunt (Cork), Tom Prendergast (Kerry). Back row (from left): Ray Cummins (Cork), Frank Cogan (Cork), Mick O'Connell (Kerry), Billy Morgan (Cork), John Wall (Waterford), Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry), Denis Coughlan (Cork).*

# DONAL HUNT

... A MAN  
FOR ALL  
SEASONS

BY EAMONN YOUNG

**T**HEY put him in at right corner forward against Tipperary. It was a wet winter's day in Croke Park and the Tipp rear-guard was as usual both determined and competent, in the manner of all real Tipperary outfits.

Little came to Donal Hunt's side in the first half and being the outfield player that he was—and is—the Bantry man moved out a little only to be told firmly by the men on the line to move back in. In the second half the ball began to run more freely to the Cork scorers and Hunt came into the play fetching well and driving it across the goalmouth. Suddenly a fast ball came in low from the centre of the field and careered away towards the right corner position. Big body hunched and powerful shoulders bent the big lad from the west raced after it, whipped it stylishly off the ground and turned outfield. He would screw it over for a point, I thought but not this time. With a sudden acceleration Hunt raced away with the ball on his toe, around his man on the outside, dashed right across the goal-area about twenty yards out, hopped it on his toe again and with power and swerve and speed swung past another pair of hardy backs who now saw the obvious intention of the ball-carrier. In a flash Hunt was coming right in, another toe-tap and then a whipping shot which thudded that ball

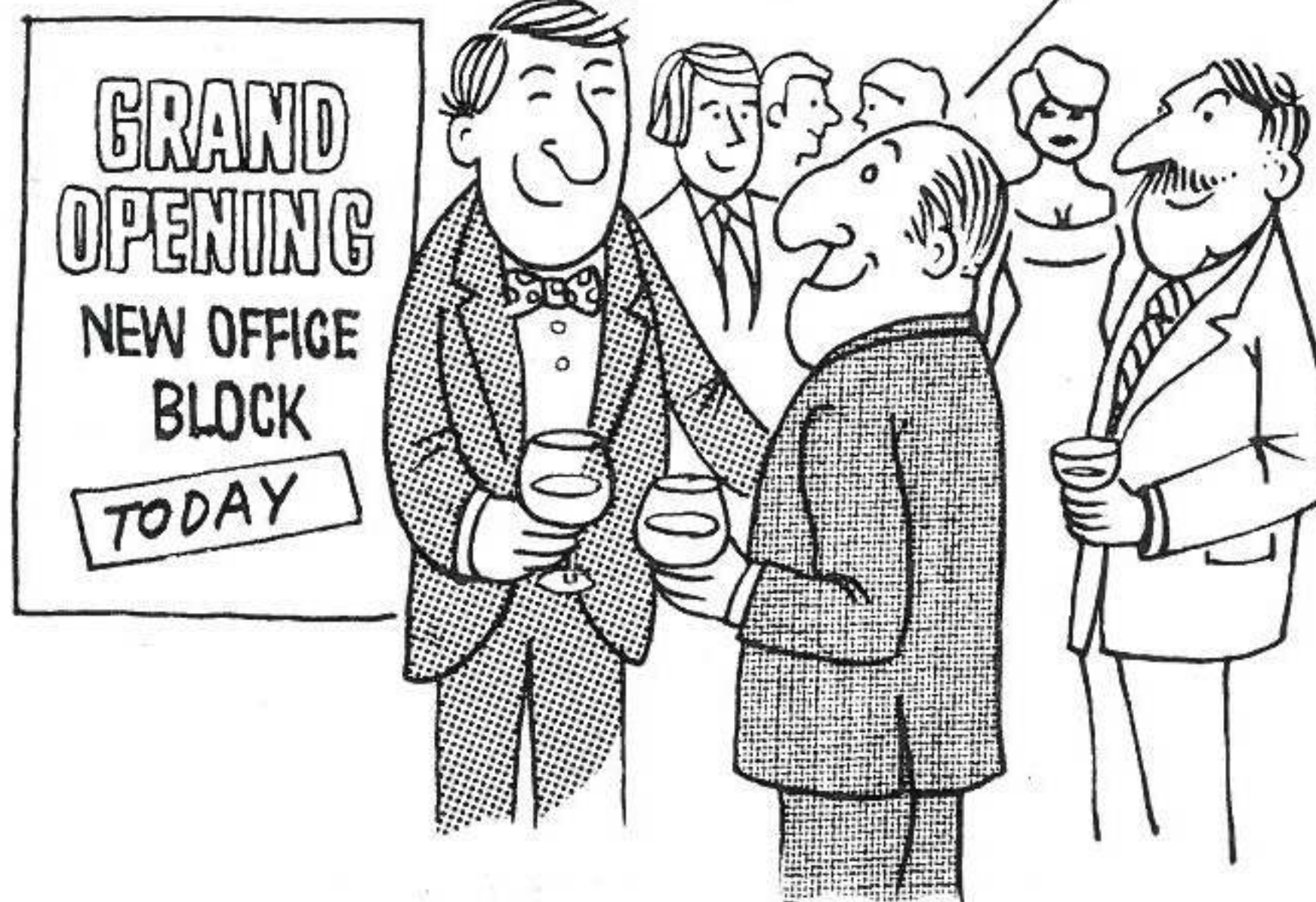
past the hands of a goalie who never had a chance. The net belied where it struck. That's the first time I saw what football this man could play. And just in case we were not convinced Donal Hunt ten minutes later gave us a splendid twin brother of that great goal. We were delighted. Right corner is the place for him, we said.

That's half a dozen years ago, and what has happened since? I have seen Hunt kick half a dozen wides from left half forward . . . one after the other up in the air, when scores were badly needed. I have seen him and Denis Coughlan mess up a vital penalty shot against Kerry. I've seen both him and Coughlan play grand football in the middle of the field and have applauded the stylish leap, fetch, and mighty kick of this man Hunt from half back positions where he has driven it right to the opposing square. I have often thought that his field of play is too small for Hunt just as it was for a lad named Pat Mac Andrew, six feet four of Mayo manhood who kicked a ball seven-

● TO PAGE 23

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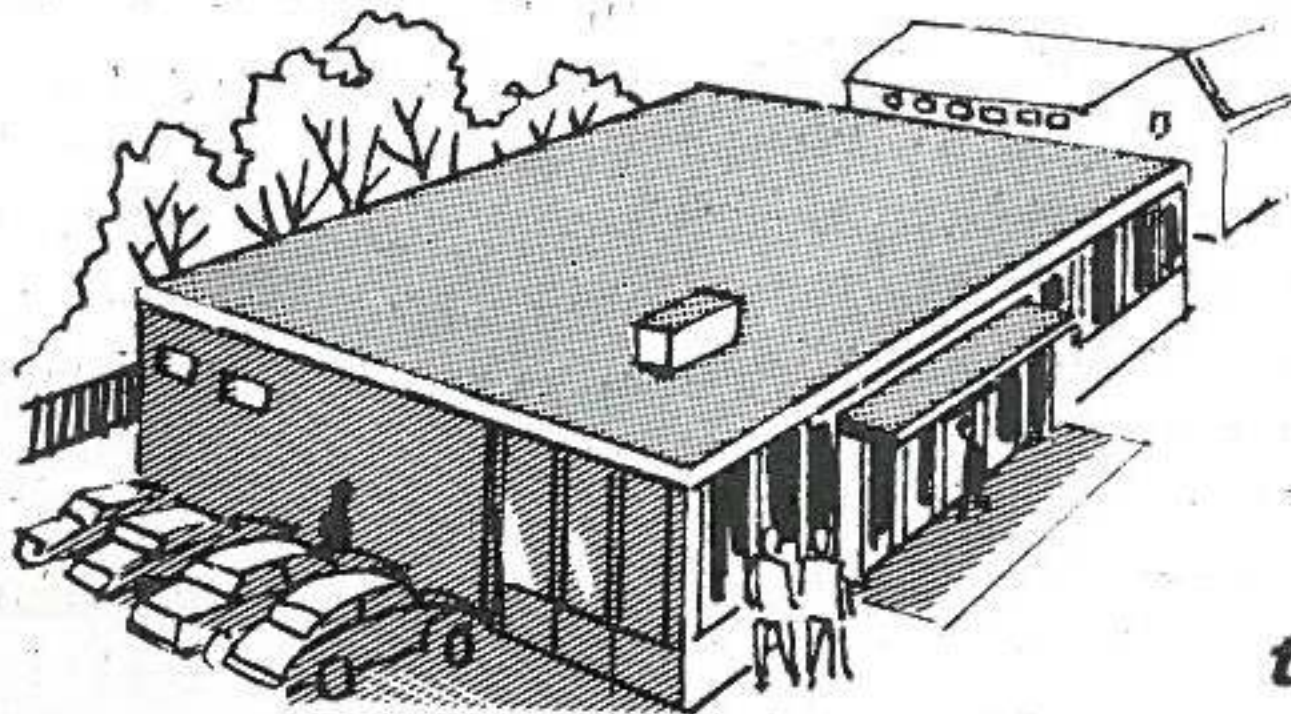
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● FROM PAGE 21

ty yards long to the Railway goal in Croke Park one day when even we players stood and watched.

Donal Hunt, big, black-haired, bad on the right foot and deadly on the left, a great ball-carrier, kicker, fetcher, and dedicated player, star of his club team along with Declan Barron, is a man who has never been the success which so many expected. He has played everywhere almost for Cork and something which his great physical and ball-playing ability allows him to do with success. Last year in a tussle with Humphrey Kelleher in a club game Hunt was knocked out and this finished his chances of winning a spot on the side which subsequently won the All-Ireland. Manfully enough he opted out of the training when there was some doubt. He did this well in advance, and very regretfully. But at least he told us all where he stood.

Since then I have been hoping more than ever that he would make it but only fifteen can play. Then came the Tipperary game in the Munster championship and Brian Murphy's absence on Border duty. When Dr. Paddy Fitzgerald, the selector, told me a few nights before this game that Hunt was on at left-corner back instead of Brian Murphy, the first reaction was a doubt about the player's marking ability, which as

everyone knows is simply part of a man's personality. That's why some become forwards and more spend their lives as backs, with a few roaming delightedly around the centre of the field.

Anyway against Tipp who on the day were poor, so poor I was sorry for a bunch of great-hearted men, Hunt at left back fetched, tore out past his man and drove the ball sixty yards down the field. We didn't take that much notice for this was what we expected. But in the second half when Cork were playing against a gale another weapon in the Hunt arsenal showed its value. In the first half a strong Tipp full back hunched up his body, tore up to the kick-out and did very well to belt it out forty-five yards, such was the strong summer wind. In the second half Hunt stood well back, ran up with normal speed, without any great evidence of effort and then hit that ball a vicious belt that sent it whizzing out low and hard over the heads of the nearest men. Gradually it rose and unbelievably carried on without failing even at the last second, before it dropped fifty-five and sometimes sixty yards out well clear of the goal. I remember Joe Keohane's mighty kick-outs, and the almighty, thunderous wallops which P. J. Kennedy of Kilrush used hit and Doney O'Sullivan still hits a great ball but never

have I seen a more controlled and accurate opening kick than that day in Fermoy by Donal Hunt.

When telling the boys about it next day I was interrupted by Ned Roche the ex-Kerry full back: "He'll get plenty practice in Killarney," says Roche with a big grin delighted at his own wit. As I write, wondering slightly, I'm hoping.

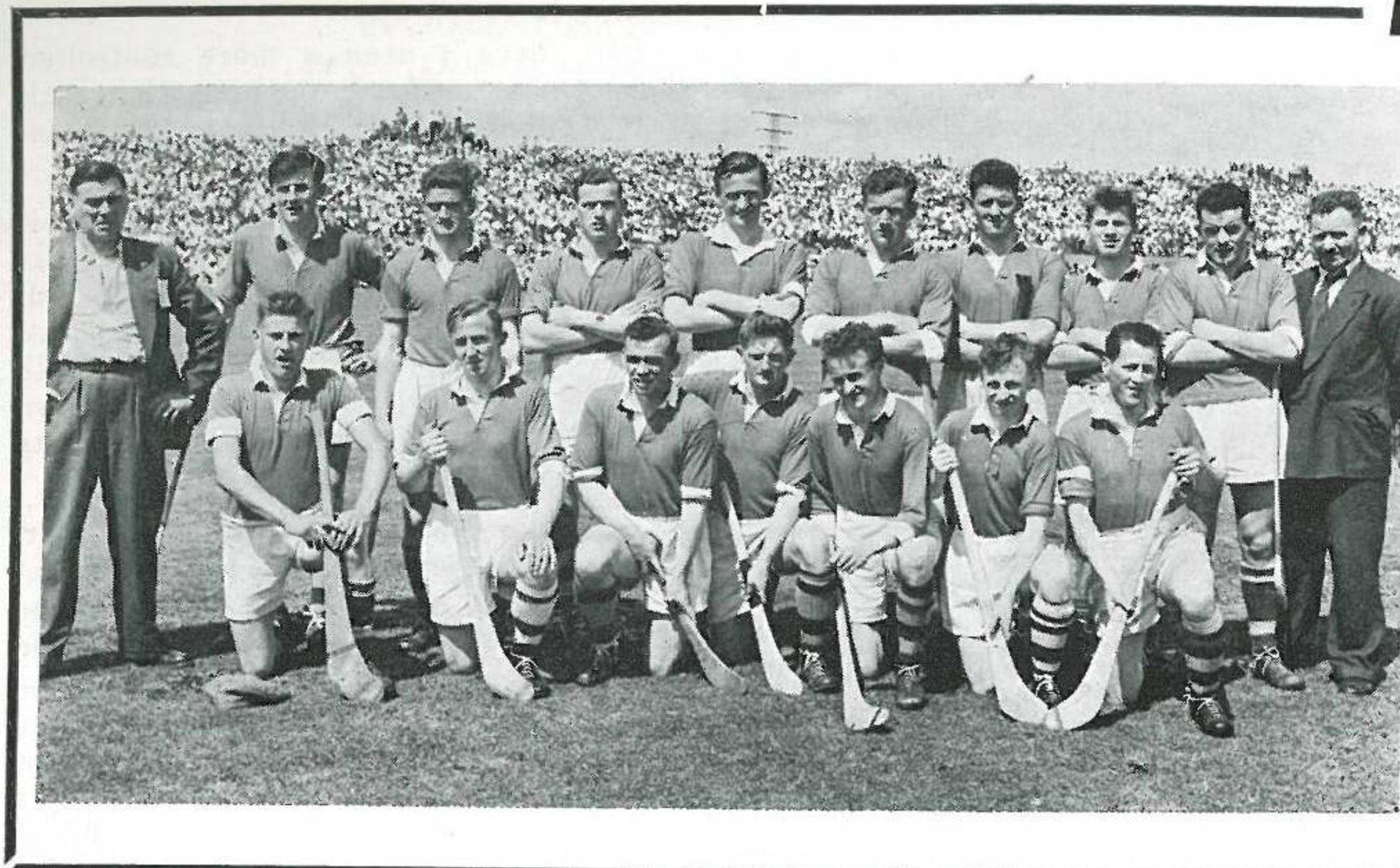
Rain soaking through his jersey and mingling with the sweat of a hard-working half hour he stood talking to me at half time in a Derry-Cork evening game and Kid Cronin, masseur to the Cork side and once a fine boxer, said as he passed: "Listen to him Donal", thinking it was I was doing the talking. Hunt does listen and Doney Donovan the trainer tells me that in the match analyses, which he regards as a vital part of training, the big Bantry player uses his head off the field to improve performances on it.

"I train as carefully as I can," he said to me," because I know that the only way to show anything you have is to be very fit and properly rested on the day. I do prefer an outfield position around the centre of the field or in the half forward line but a man must be ready to do his best where he is asked" That's fair enough for anyone.



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● **LIMERICK 1955:**  
*Back row—Mick Mackey (trainer), J. Keogh, T. Case, Jim Quaid, S. Ryan, Jack Quaid, S. Leonard, R. Prendergast, D. Kelly, J. Butler Coffey (former Tipperary hurler). In front—P. Cunneen, D. Broderick, P. Enright, E. Noonan, L. Ryan (capt.), V. Cobbe, G. Fitzgerald.*

By **SEAMUS**

**T**HAT drama packed day late last July at Thurles, when Limerick beat Tipperary with the last puck of an exciting hour, was my fiftieth Munster final, and it certainly was one of the most thrill packed of a long line, with scenes of wild excitement at the finish the most fantastic I remember.

The first Southern decider I witnessed was also at Thurles. Limerick and Tipperary again were the contestants and it, too, was a pulsating struggle that ended in a draw. The replay at Limerick Markets Field was of very different pattern—a rough and tumble affair which the Premier County boys won.

A Munster Final played on the eve of St. Patrick's Day was my first introduction to Cork Athletic Grounds. The contestants once more were Limerick and Tipperary, and this time it was the Shannonsiders' turn to claim victory.

Similarly, my first glimpse of the storied Dungarvan pitch was for another Limerick-Tipperary confrontation, and my outstanding memory of that day was the commanding presence of Tipper-

ary's Mick D'Arcy, who hurled a great hour. Tipperary won, 3-1 to 2-2, after a most exciting game.

The Cork-Tipperary saga opened for me in 1926. The Premier County lads had just returned from their great coast to coast tour of the United States, and they travelled to meet the Leesiders at the Athletic Grounds.

The crowd exceeded all expectations, the entrances were inadequate and the big game was barely in progress when the pressure of those still seeking admission caused the outer galvanised sheeting to collapse and hundreds trooped in over it. Those inside, in their efforts to avoid the crashing iron, pressed towards the pitch as their only avenue of escape. Before that great surge of humanity, the wooden pailing around the pitch gave way and was smashed to atoms.

As the playing space grew smaller and smaller I can still see referee Denny Lanigan striving valiantly to keep play going. He had to give up however five minutes before half time, for at this stage the ground was in a shambles.

The game was refixed for

Thurles—it ended in a draw, but Cork won the replay, also at Thurles—the only occasion three meetings were necessary to decide a Munster Final.

Clare came very much into the picture in the late 'twenties and in 1932 a great side propelled by Tull Considine took Munster honours. The next four finals were won by Limerick. It was their golden era, but the actual deciders were too one-sided to arouse any lasting memories.

Waterford took their first crown in 1938—it was a notable final in that their opponents were Clare—a most unusual final pairing.

Limerick were back to beat Cork, in a replay, in 1940—two great games; and the mid 'forties saw further exciting and spine tingling meetings of Lee and Shannon.

The Cork-Tipperary saga came really into its own in 1949 and this occasion saw Limerick come fully into the picture as a great gathering place of the Gael, to rival Thurles and Cork.

The 1950 final moved to Killarney and it was an extraordinary affair—the crowd en-



● CLARE 1955:  
 Back row—M. Hayes, W. Stritch, J. Smith, D. Sheedy, D. Dillon, J. Purcell, N. Deasy. In front—J. Carney, M. Nugent (capt.), J. Ryan, M. Leahy, D. O'Grady, J. Greene, D. McNerney, M. Donnellan.

## O CEALLAIGH

croached on the pitch until it was reduced to two-thirds of its original size, and it was only very great work by referee Bill O'Donoghue that allowed a decision to be reached.

Back to Limerick the following year with Cork opening another great era, and we had three thrilling Cork-Tipperary finals in successive years—possibly three of the greatest finals in a row in the history of the championships.

One of the great turn ups in a Munster final was the Limerick win over a strongly fancied Clare fifteen in the mid 'forties. The following year late and rather sensational scores by Cork's own Christy Ring cut the Shannonside reign short.

The Tipperary-Cork final of 1960 was a real thriller and a most exciting day, and when the same teams met again the following year all attendance records were smashed. In fact, the real extent of the crowd on the unforgettable occasion will never be known.

Well over sixty thousand had passed through the stiles at Limerick when it was decided in the interests of safety to throw

open the exit gates. This happened before the commencement of the big game, and it is reckoned that several thousand more got into the field without being recorded. It was the greatest crowd ever at a sporting event outside the Metropolis, and has not been nearly approached since.

Eleven years ago we had the only Munster final ever in which no goal was scored, when Tipperary beat Waterford, 0-11 to 0-8.

The 1970 final was another thriller in which Cork beat Tipperary, 3-10 to 3-8; and the following year at Killarney we saw rising Limerick hopes frustrated by a full blooded Tipperary last minute surge.

Naturally, I saw many great players down the golden years but space only allows reference to the really outstanding ones — Jim Hurley, Jim O'Regan, Denny Barry Murphy, Eudie Coughlan, Johnny Quirke, Alan Lotty, Jack Lynch, Willie Murphy, Jim Young and Willie John Daly (Cork); Johnny Leahy, Martn Kennedy, Phil Cahill, Phil Purcell, John Maher, Tommy Doyle, Tom Treacy, Tony Reddan, Pat Stake-

lum, Jimmy Kennedy, Tony Wall, John Doyle (Tipperary); Billy Hough, Jack Keane, Billy Gleeson, Mickey Fitzgibbon, Paddy Scanlan, Timmy Ryan, the Mackeys, Mickey Cross, Garrett Howard, Paddy Clohosey, Jacky Power, Dick Stokes (Limerick); Charlie Ware, John Keane, Christy Moylan, Declan Goode, Martin Og Morrissey, Phil Grimes (Waterford); Tommy Daly, John Joe Doyle, Jim Houlihan, Larry Blake, Jim Smith (Clare).

I have often been asked to compare Mick Mackey and Christy Ring, and to say which was the greater. They were two great glamour players but there the similarity ends. Mackey was the great playboy of the arena who never failed to entertain the crowds, and he had strength and stamina to burn. Ring was in a completely different category — the magnificent schemer capable of turning defeat to victory with one flash of genius.

I saw some great days in Munster hurling and they have left fragrant memories that I share with the many that regard a Munster hurling final as the great event of the sporting year.

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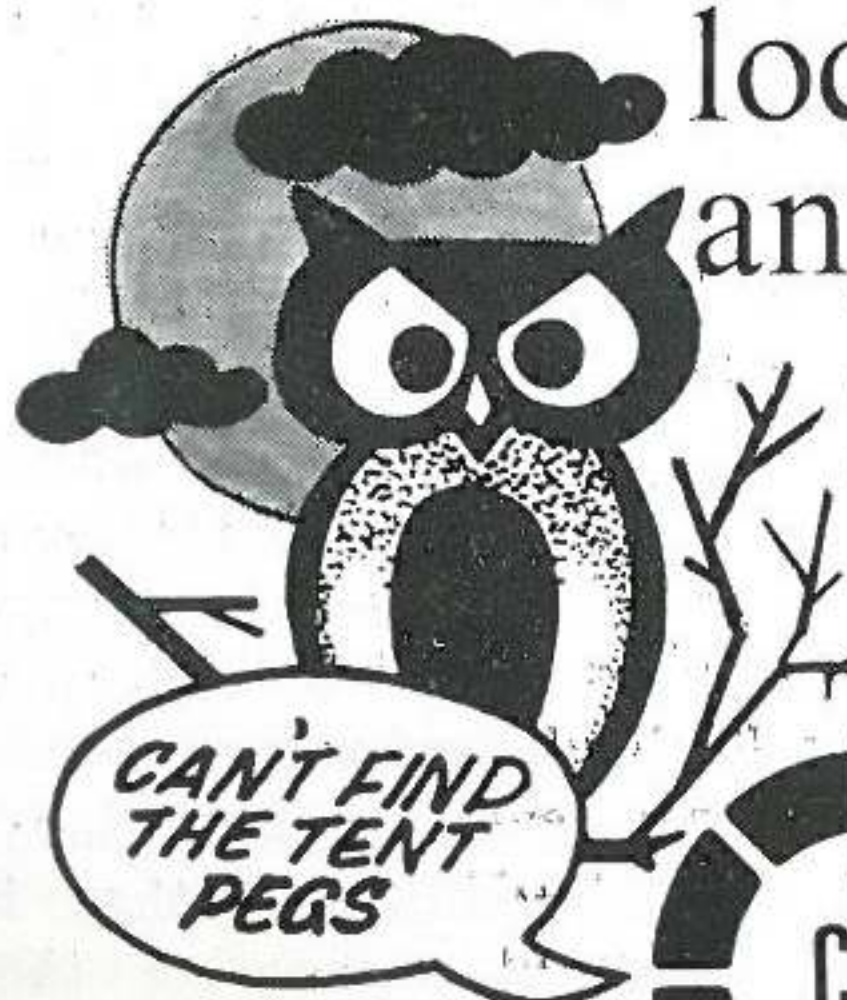
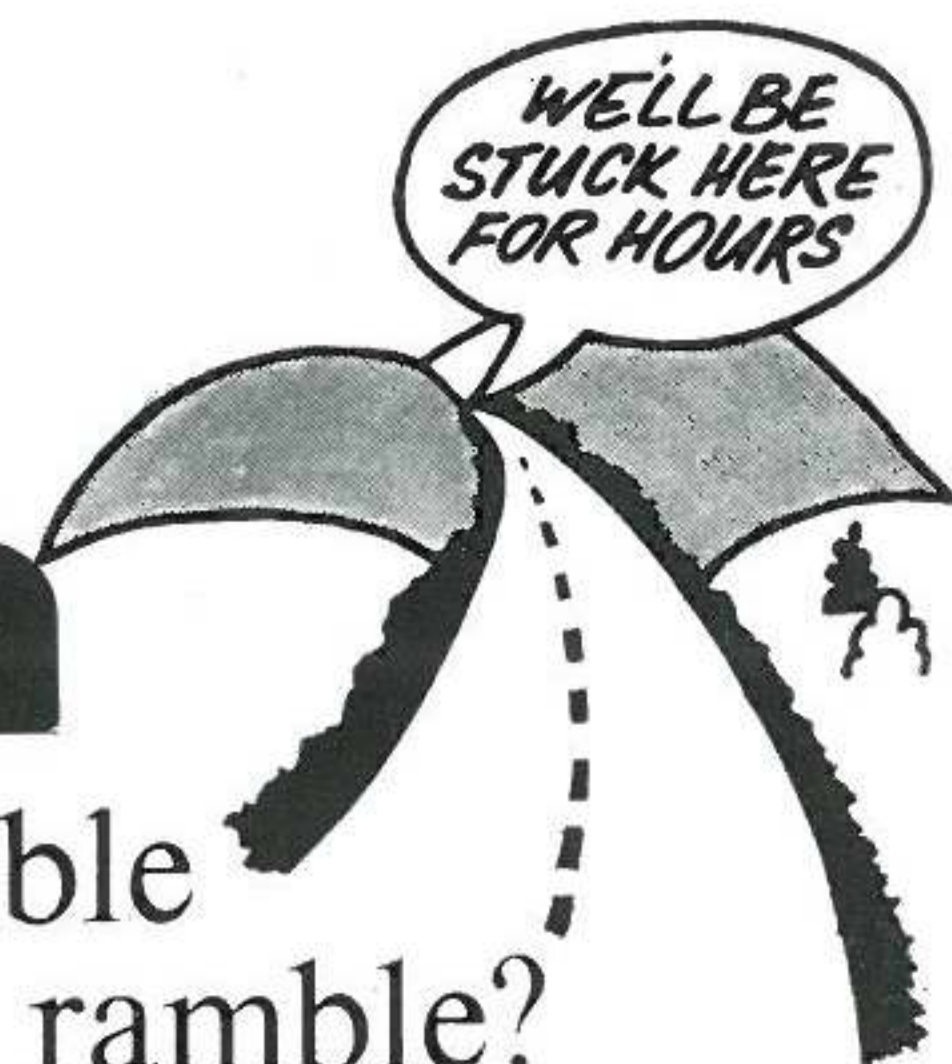
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# Championship campaign clicks into top gear

THE newly inaugurated All-Ireland minor championship is as yet in its provincial stages, but from the games I have thus far seen, this innovation looks likely to give the game its greatest boost among younger players since the Colleges competitions were first properly organised.

Indeed, I was very much impressed by the standard set in the Leinster championships, and, assuming that the standard in the other provinces is of a similar calibre, we should have some magnificent displays at All-Ireland level.

In Leinster I was very, very pleased with the showing of Wicklow, who ran Dublin very hard indeed in the opening round, while at that same stage Louth led Kilkenny at half-time and were, perhaps, a trifle unlucky to be overhauled and beaten in the closing stages.

In the semi-finals Kilkenny really showed their power when racing away from a well-fancied Kildare side, while Dublin and Wexford served up a real thriller in which Dublin just survived a magnificent Wexford rally in the closing stages.

But the provincial final made all the good games that had gone before seem pallid by comparison. It was nip and tuck all the way between two really excellent young sides from Dublin and Kilkenny, and, as a neutral spectator, one was sorry that Kilkenny snatched victory with the second last puck of the match. It would have been worth travelling a long

way to see those two teams meet again.

Anyway Kilkenny are now Leinster's first minor champions, and, if they can hold their side together, must be a force to be reckoned with in the later stages of this competition.

They have a particularly promising player in Mary Purcell from Johnstown who performed some amazing scoring feats in the semi-final against Kildare and was again the match-winner against Dublin.

Peculiarly enough, she attends a school where the game is not played, Ursuline Convent, Thurles, but perhaps she may manage to get the game going there. It is surely remarkable that the great hurling county of Tipperary is one of the weakest in the country as far as the playing of Camogie in its secondary schools is concerned.

But, apart from Kilkenny, the high standard from Dublin, Wexford and Wicklow at minor level speaks very well for the future of the game in the Eastern province and I was tremendously pleased to see the Wicklow youngsters play so well.

Indeed, I can pay no greater tribute to the minors than to point out that the final of this grade at Kilkenny was far faster, more stylish and more entertaining than the Leinster senior semi-final between Wexford and Kilkenny that preceded it.

Wexford won that game, but with very little to spare, and Kilkenny, though now out of the

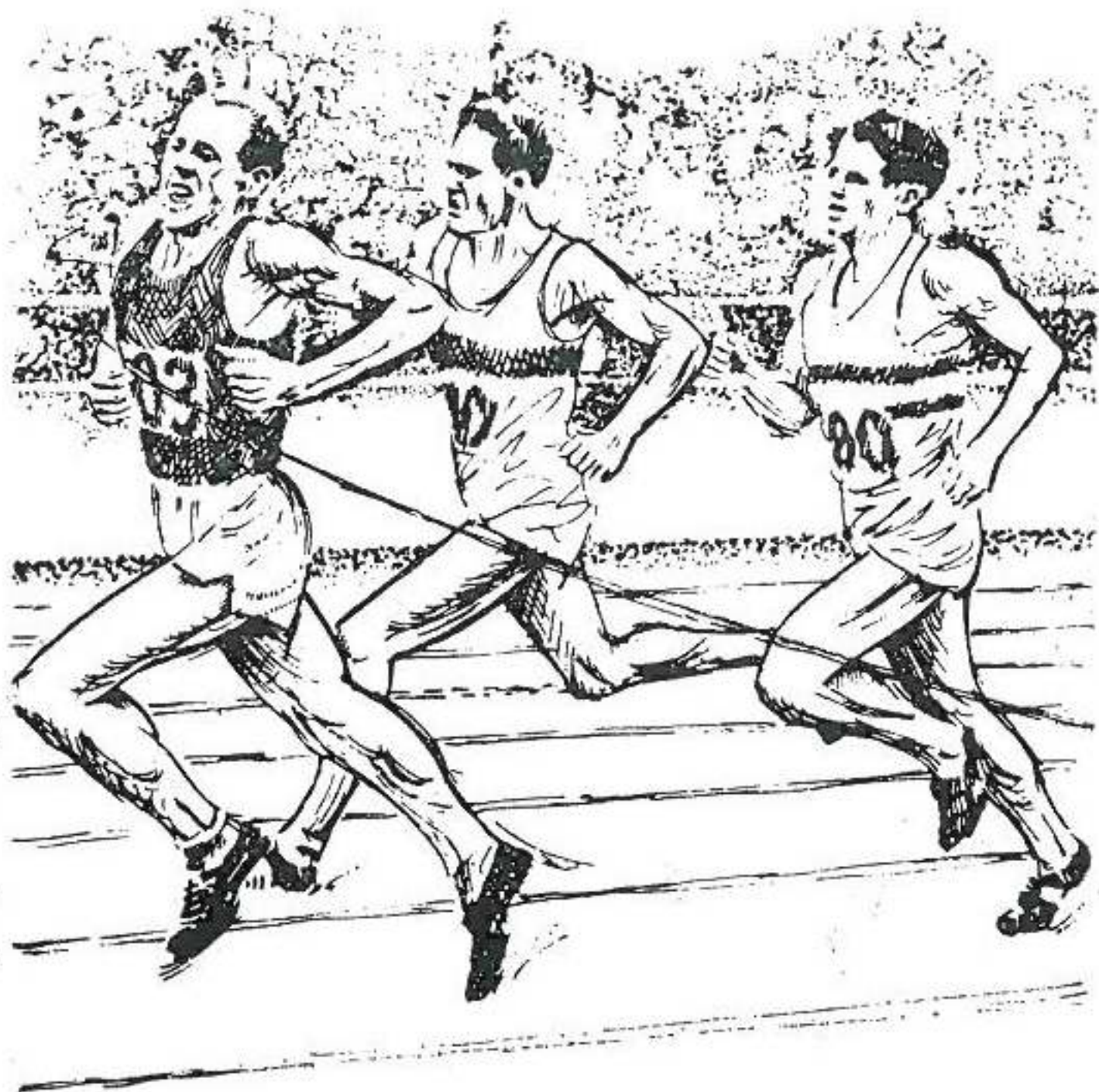
provincial series, will, I think, be a much stronger force when the All-Ireland championship opens.

After all, colleague Ann Carroll was then only two days home from a long term of study in Loughborough where she was unable to devote any time either to practice or training, and yet showed much of her old style and skill, especially when she moved to centre half-back after the interval.

As I write, only one team is through to the All-Ireland semi-finals, last year's defeated semi-finalists, Antrim, who had a very facile victory indeed over neighbours Derry in the opening round at Bellaghy. Antrim, unlucky in last year's decider against Cork, will be hopeful of going one better and recapturing this time the title that has so narrowly eluded them more than once in recent years.

With Bernadette Dixon, Chris O'Boyle and Nuala Havelin all in top form and that most effective of stylists, Mairead McAtamney, still a dominating force around mid-field, the Antrim girls could well defy all the almost insuperable difficulties they have to surmount, and take the O'Duffy Cup this season.

Cork, of course, present the obvious danger, especially if they get past that first round clash with Galway, while the best team I have yet seen in the junior grade is Dublin, though I believe Galway hope to have a powerful side at this level in the West.



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# SCRAPBOOK

## 1936

By  
Tony  
Reid

"WHAT will we do for an encore?". That surely must have been the question uppermost in the minds of G.A.A. officials and players as 1936 got the competitive season under way in February of that year.

The previous year had been by far the most successful in the Association's history. Record crowds and gate receipts and thrilling duels had been the order of the day everywhere. Clearly only another similar year would continue to whet the appetite of the game's followers.

As usual the Railway Cup games provided the first big news of the year in G.A.A. and the game between Ulster and Leinster at Dundalk in football ended in a draw of two points each! It was the first time a Railway Cup encounter ended in stalemate. The replay also made another piece of history as Ulster, at Breffni Park, beat Leinster in the replay, 1-7 to 1-5 and this was the first time that the Northern province ever beat Leinster in a Railway Cup game. The match was a grand affair with the scores level three times in the hour and it was thanks largely to a magnificent display by the Down player, J. McCullagh, at right-half back that the Red Hand triumphed that day. The Connacht and Munster football clash also provided spectators with a classic exhibition of the code with Connacht winning by two points despite a great display by the Munster backs.

The finals of the competition fell a great deal below expectations, Connacht once more deny-

ing Ulster the football prize and Leinster's hurlers taking the cup from Munster in what turned out to be a dour struggle with only a few flashes of real hurling. Matty Power, playing in his tenth Railway Cup hurling final starred for the winners and was the subject of much adulation from the crowd.

The National League competitions then took the stage and some really fine hurling and football was dished up by Limerick, Kilkenny and Cork in hurling and Cavan, Mayo and Kildare in football. Of course in this year the winners of both hurling and football League titles were decided on a league table basis and judging from the closeness of the deciding points placings the idea might be worth another try out in future seasons, instead of engaging in a knock-out system, which is included to reward teams who have not picked up enough points in the actual league table, by allowing them to perhaps win the title over the heads of counties who have gained full points from all their engagements.

All this of course is by the way. With only two games to play Limerick hurlers and Kilkenny met in what proved to be the deciding match and after a scintillating display of hurling's arts and crafts the Munster side beat Kilkenny, 6-1 to 1-2, and it was a four-goal salvo in the first ten minutes that enabled Limerick to win the League title for the third successive year.

In football the position was exactly the same for with but two

games for each side to play Mayo and Cavan clashed at Breffni Park and a splendid game was confidently predicted. It did not work out quite like that as Mayo, playing a brand of football seldom equalled in the game's long history, tore the Cavan defence to shreds and won by fourteen points and thereby equalled Limerick's feat in hurling by taking a third successive football League title. Harry Kenny and Patsy Flannelly were the men who helped to power this great Mayo team from midfield.

The provincial championships then took pride of place and in Leinster Kilkenny and Laois encountered little difficulty in reaching the final with token resistance from Dublin and Offaly respectively. The Leinster final had a high quota of thrills and excitement as both sides went all out for a convincing victory. Victory eventually went to Kilkenny but not before they had suffered many anxious moments.

Down Munster way Limerick and Clare battled their way to the final and of the provinces championship clashes the most sensational was that involving Clare and Cork. The two sides met at Thurles and the game was a tense, nail-biting thriller from start to finish and the final result was a draw, Clare 4-4, Cork 3-7. But what a turn-around the replay provided. It took place a week later and no one could have foreseen the dramatic upheaval that was to take place. The Limerick venue was agog with excite-

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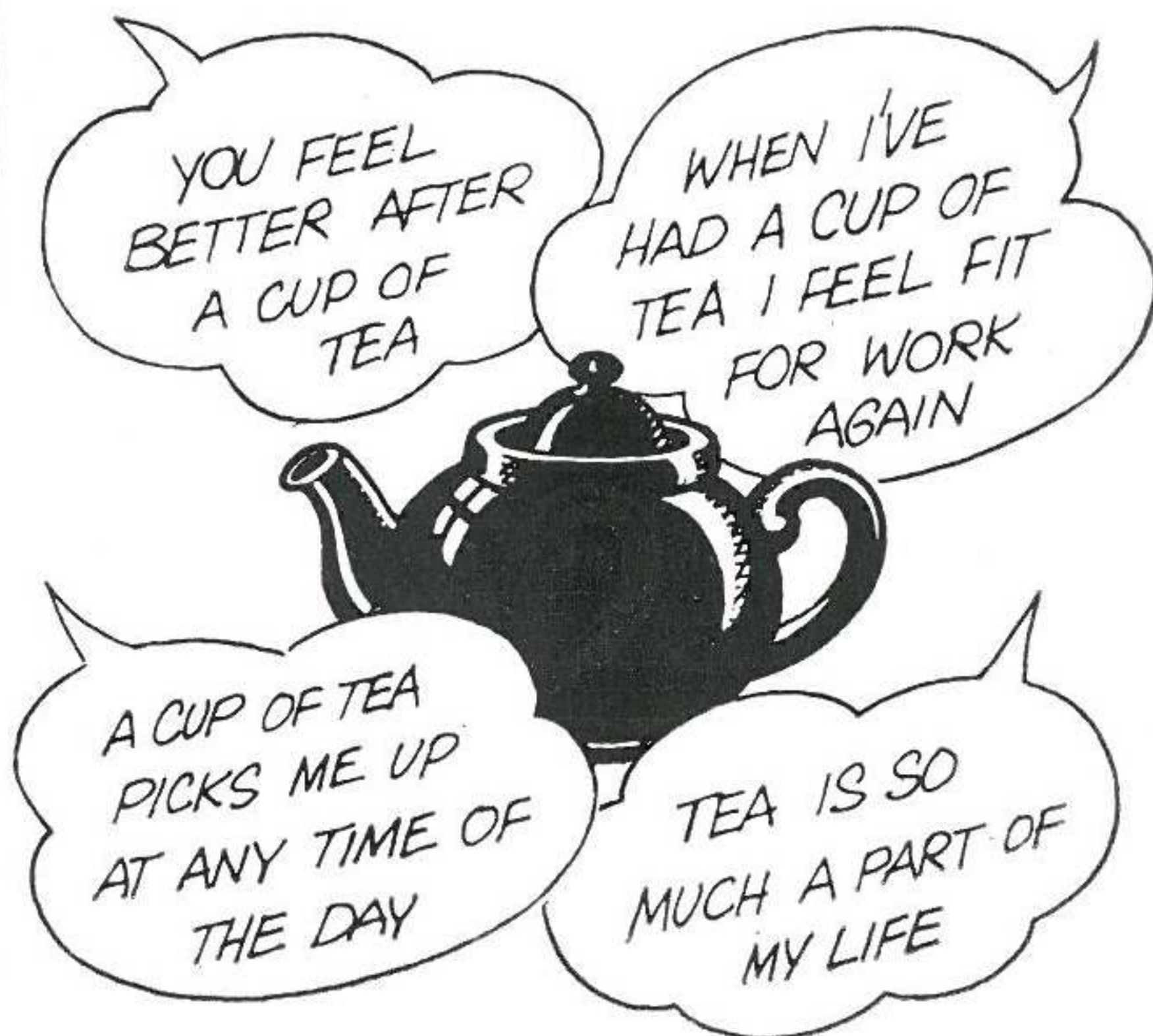
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# Limerick

## All-Ireland

## Hurling

## Champions

### 1936



● Back row (from left): P. Clohessy, T. McCarthy, J. Roche, D. Clohessy, P. O'Carroll, P. McMahon, M. Mackey (capt.), G. Howard, Sergt. Major Browne (Trainer). Second Row: T. Ryan, M. Cross, J. Mackey, M. Kennedy, P. Scanlan. In front: J. Close, M. Ryan, and inset: J. Power.

#### ● FROM PAGE 29

ment and anticipation. The final score? Clare 9-1, Cork 2-3! Yes, the mighty Rebel County side were crushed in one of the greatest upsets in hurling history.

And it was a switch that brought Mickey Hennessy from centre-field to attack that finally crushed Cork as Mick banged in no less than **four** goals in **four** minutes! Alas, both Clare's and Mick Hennessy's dreams of further glory were shattered by Tipperary in the semi-final as the Banner County side were out-classed in all departments by the blue and gold brigade.

Limerick then removed Tipperary from the fray and their inspiration was Mick Mackey who went on the rampage in this, his first game as captain of Limerick.

There then followed a sensational All-Ireland hurling semi-final when Limerick and Galway faced each other. The game was never at any stage entertaining with much fouling and spoiling tactics taking precedence over good hurling. Sixteen minutes after half-time the tensions that

had been building up among some of the players finally exploded and following an incident between two players from each side a Galway player was seen to fall to the ground injured. The crowd then decided to take a hand and they invaded the pitch which was eventually cleared with the help of the Gardai and stewards.

After order was restored the Galway team, to a man, walked off the pitch in protest alleging that the referee should have sent a Limerick player from the field of play. So the game ended and following a subsequent investigation Galway were suspended for six months from the Association.

The final between Limerick and Kilkenny brought a new record crowd, 51,235 to Croke Park and they witnessed a most beautiful display of skill, dash and vigour from Limerick which proved far too much for the older Kilkenny side. The final score was 5-6 to 1-5 in favour of the Munster men and the total eclipse of the Kilkenny midfield pairing of Lory Meagher and Terry

Leahy was a major factor in their defeat. Limerick's stars were many that day particularly Mick Mackey, Paddy Clohessy, Mick Kennedy and veterans Mick Cross and Garrett Howard, with Tim and Mick Ryan majestic in mid-field.

The big news at the start of the football campaign in the provinces was the return of Kerry to the championship race. In their first game they annihilated Limerick at Foynes, 7-7 to 1-4 but looked decidedly rusty despite the ease of their win. They eventually reached the final where they met a spirited Clare side and the Kingdom footballers only just survived a late Clare rally to win the Munster crown by a six point margin.

Leinster provided all the thrills in football as fine sides like Kildare, Louth, Offaly and Laois brought out the crowds and did not disappoint them. The semi-final clash at Navan between Kildare and Louth which the Lilywhites won by four points established record receipts for

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# IRISH SPONSORS

## are doing a worthwhile job

Says LINDA COLLINS

THE theoretical for-and-against of sponsorship have been thoroughly discussed ever since somebody first conceived the idea and today in Irish sporting circles at least, the picture is a fairly settled one with most people involved reasonably pleased with what they get out of sponsorship whether they are on the giving or the receiving end. Sponsorship can involve anything from the laying out of thousands of pounds on a major promotion to the casually-extended fiver, in response to an appeal for help in a "good cause". The tendency, however, is for sponsorship today to have a much more formal structure than previously and it must be admitted that this works to everybody's benefit. Good sponsorship can be instructive, creative, practical—and help to raise standards in the area in which it operates. It involves the sponsor, usually, in the expenditure of time, imagination and expertise as well as money, but this is considered worthwhile as compared to the piecemeal system of sponsorship which one executive describes as "Blackmail and grey-mail—we prefer to work on whitemail". The "whitemail" type of sponsorship which brings benefit to all concerned is what everybody aims at today.

Most Irish firms seriously involved in sponsorship can be commended for their willingness to make an investment which may only incidentally bring benefits to their company. It is doubtful, for instance, that fewer

bottles of Hennessy's Brandy would be sold if Hennessy's didn't underwrite the Hennessy Literary Awards annually in conjunction with the New Irish Writing page in the "Irish Press". What the Awards do is offer substantial rewards and encouragement to young Irish writers, thus encouraging—it is hoped—more young writers to come forward and indirectly benefitting our whole cultural climate.

The best-known Hennessy sponsorships are of course the Hennessy Handicap at Leopardstown. (In England Hennessy's sponsor the Gold Cup at Newbury). While Nigel Beamish who is personally responsible for much of the administrative work on both projects, says he wouldn't ever dream of comparing creative authors with race-horses, he makes the point that already some of the young writers who have won Hennessy Literary Awards have gone on to distinguish themselves in creative writing, and the Hennessy Handicap has over the years introduced many horses which later became famous winners. Hennessy's latest sporting venture was the Mad Hatters' Race in Leopardstown on July 13th—where they underwrote the expenses so that the entire proceeds could go to charity.

Beamish and Crawford's nurturing of an Irish Olympic sailing team has often been described in GAELIC SPORT. At the moment four of the team on whom our Olympic hopes will probably rest are training, cour-

tesy of Beamish and Crawford, on the Continent. Robert and Peter Dix are on a Carlsberg grant which will enable them to train and compete for nine weeks at events in various venues, ending in Naples for the World Championships. Another two have gone from Cork (David Gay and Fintan Lydon) and will also compete at Naples. Later Carlsberg will be sending an Irish team to Kingston, Ontario, in Canada for the big Olympic trials.

"Uncle Arthur", otherwise known as Guinness, sponsor so many functions that they have to divide the country up into regions like Bord Failte. From Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann to Galway Races to the Oliver Goldsmith Bi-Centenary celebrations, Guinness is involved. From the Shannon Boat Rally to the Castlebar Song Contest, to the Guinness Oaks at the Curragh, to Tramore Races and the Greyhound Leger in Enniscorthy, to angling on Lough Mask; The Dundalk Festival, Dublin Coarse Fishing, the Festival of Kerry, the Festival of the Shannon, Killybegs Sea Angling, are just a few further aspects of the extent of Guinness sponsorship. The rest of them are literally too numerous to mention and company policy has always been to structure sponsorships in a way which endeavours to make a creative contribution at community level.

B. & I. do their bit towards helping the Irish in Britain to

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retain their sense of identity and some of their sponsorship schemes also are obviously very good for Irish tourism, attracting not just our own emigrants but English and foreign tourists too. B. & I. were the first to work out sponsorship schemes with the G.A.A. three years ago, and they have worked closely with the Provincial Council in Britain. They sponsor the Clubs Football Championship and Clubs Hurling Championship of Britain. Clubs in Britain don't normally have their own grounds so besides providing all the trophies, medals, etc., B. & I. present them with programme covers, which can be filled with club material and sold at normal charges to cover costs of hiring grounds. Seven-a-side and nine-a-side Championships are also sponsored now by B. & I. in Britain—winning teams get a prize of a trip home to see the Hurling or Football Finals in Croke Park. Long-term, B. & I. feel they're helping to breed a new generation of Irish players in Britain.

At home, B. & I. have underwritten the National Senior Amateur Boxing Championships in association with the Irish Amateur Boxing Association. They have brought competent clerical golfers from 10 dioceses in Britain to play against their peers at home, they have brought the Johnny McEvoy Showband to venues in the Midlands and invited Irish audiences to come along and hear it—free. They have run an Angling competition with fishing holidays in Ireland as the prizes and they have sponsored a tourist film. Their promotions executive Dominic Mulvey commutes between Ireland and Britain as if he were crossing and recrossing the Liffey.

One of the most famous and looked-forward-to sporting occasions of the year is the date when the Carroll's All-Stars awards are announced. Everybody gets in-



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**SANDEMAN**  
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volved in this since the country-wide selection is made by G.A.A. journalists and an award is considered an accolade. This year's All Stars will travel to San Francisco next March where they will play the All-Ireland football and hurling champions.

The Ulster Bank are the sponsors of the Sigerson Cup Universities' Championship. Earlier this year the Ulster Bank underwrote a seminar held in Maynooth College in conjunction with the Championship and for the first time players and supporters had an opportunity to listen and learn while the theory of football was discussed, as well as seeing and playing in the test itself. This is another instance of enlightened financial backing providing an opportunity for discussion which otherwise mightn't have been possible.

Players Wills were probably first in the field with sponsored films on Football and Hurling when they made themselves responsible for costs on Gael-Linn's "Peil" and "Christy Ring" both directed by Louis Marcus. Since they were made both films have been shown on a worldwide basis and interest in them at home has intensified over the years, if anything. Besides being immensely entertaining for general audiences, they cover concisely the finer points of each game for students and have great educational value. Their backing has made it possible for Raymond Smith's "No. 6 Book of Hurling" to be sold to the public at the very reasonable price of 90p. There is a centrespread of eight pages in full colour and over a hundred and fifty black-and-white photographs, including some fine action shots and some unique historical photos that have never been published before.

The thinking behind the Bank of Ireland Group's involvement in sponsorship is firmly anchored in the community it serves. Whether the event be a national

one such as the Students Project competition or a local festival the idea is to foster the development of community spirit. "When we consider an event for sponsorship" says Sean McQuaid of the Bank of Ireland Group, who is involved in this work "we need to be sure that that event will be good for the community".

An excellent example of this is the Students Project competition, open to post primary schools throughout all Ireland. By this competition students are made more aware of the economic and

social conditions in their own area. Last year six hundred projects were fulfilled from one thousand entries which, allowing for the group nature of the work, means that about five thousand students were involved. The group offers prize money of £1,000 to the participants while the Group's thirteen County Development teams along the western seaboard from Donegal to Kerry add an extra £250 each for projects from their respective counties. All in all this is a prime example of sponsorship at its best.

## REMEMBER— SPENDING WISELY IS SAVING

**T**HE National Savings Committee has published a guide to consumer spending called "SPENDING WISELY" which is available free from the National Savings Committee at 72-76 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

Asked why the NSC published a "spending" rather than a "saving" book, Eric Hall, the committee's chairman said "Because good spending IS saving".

"The National Savings Committee's function must, obviously, go beyond merely providing information on saving and encouraging people to save. Before saving anything, a person must be in a position to be able to AFFORD to save. In other words, one must have a margin for saving", quotes the NSC chairman.

"SPENDING WISELY" gives some very useful hints and information on the weekly shopping since, as the book says, "families spend about one-third of their incomes on food and general household items. And that's a big slice of your money!"

Sales are covered too. And the terms used by shops at sale time—like "shopsoiled" and so on, are gone into as a guide to recognising genuine bargains. Speaking of bargains, "SPENDING WISELY" repeats the good advice, "a bargain is NOT a bargain at all unless it's something you really need."

"SPENDING WISELY" finishes on this note ". . . the message is that you CAN save by spending wisely and having realised that, and put it into practice you can more easily provide for yourself and your family by having definite short term and long term savings plans. Remember . . . spending wisely is saving. And you ARE better-off saving."

# A SOUND FUTURE

IT'S the final day of the Leaving Certificate, Jim and Tom are seated as usual fifteen minutes before starting time. Both are quite confident of doing well after all they came through the last three weeks pleased with themselves.

"What are your plans now?" commented Jim.

Tom replied, "as soon as this exam is over I'm going to pack my rucksack and hitch round the country for a month, maybe, I will even hit London for a spell, I believe the action is great over

there man. What about you?" continued Tom.

Jim answered "I am taking a few weeks rest then I'm applying to the National Electronics Institute in Cork. You know, I have examined countless careers, and none of them equal Electronics as regards pay, security, variety, and advancement. I was completely ignorant about Electronics until I wrote to them two months ago, and they sent me on their free booklet on the subject. Did you know, they have courses designed to qualify you as a **Radio Officer, Computer Technician, Broadcast Engineer, Colour Television Engineer**, and also courses in **Studio Techniques**, and **Radar**. Their night classes

include **Computer Operation, Colour Television Servicing and Computer Programming**. The courses only last an average of fifteen months, and on completion of a course you are guaranteed immediate employment with a starting salary as high as £2,250, and in some cases £2,700."

Tom suddenly interested said, "but how do you know that you will get a job when you are finished."

Jim replied, "As I said before the N.E.I. guarantees you a job, you see, their placement service which operates with the biggest electronics companies in the world have 1,300 vacancies on their books at the moment. You also get a written guarantee of a complete refund of your fees if you don't get a job."

Still a little doubtful, Tom asked, "Could this Electronics business die out in a couple of years?"

"No way", replied Jim, "cause I've read the statistics which show its the fastest growing industry in the world and is expected to hold this position into the foreseeable future."

"How much does a course cost," asked Tom.

"£140," answered Jim, "and you can do as many courses as you like on the one fee. They also have a football team, hurling as well, good ones I hear too. Oh yes," continued Jim, "my sister Mary found the booklet and now she is applying too."

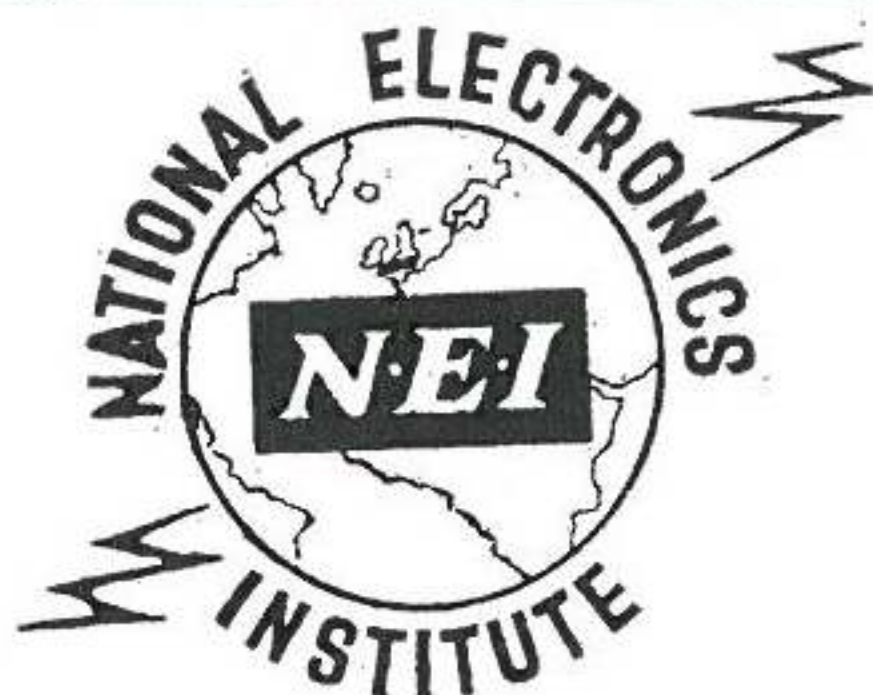
"How do you get in contact with them," asked Tom.

"Just write to the **National Electronics Institute, Tivoli, Cork** or if you like, call **Cork 52570**. But I thought you were going to London," quipped Jim.

"London can wait," said Tom.

"You better hurry, classes commence the first Tuesday in October, oh yes, and also on the third Tuesday in January of each year. You better turn around Tom, the supervisor is watching us."

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# FRANKIE NOLAN

A right  
handy  
man to  
have  
on your  
side!

Says

JAY DRENNAN

I HAVE often said that when all the great performances and fine scoring efforts of Limerick in last September's All-Ireland final are recounted, that people often tend to forget the most significant score of all. To me it was the first minute point by Frankie

Nolan, as he moved out of his corner to snap up a ball that slipped through the half-lines, turned in to avoid a tackle and steered the left-handed stroke clean between the posts.

Off-hand I cannot remember that he scored again in the match, but that was a golden score. It will be recalled that the big question mark behind Limerick's chances of winning the championship was because of the doubts that their forwards could manage to get enough scores. Eamonn Cregan, the chief scorer of the line for years, had suddenly been extracted to play at centre-half back; Richie Bennis and Eamonn Grimes, next best in the scoring lists over the previous few years, were manning the midfield. The six up front had a doubtful reputation at that time, to say the least: Rea might have been a one-game wonder for all everyone knew; Joe McKenna had proved nothing of his ability; Mossie Dowling had been an in-and-out performer reckoned to be a defender earlier in the year; Liam O'Donoghue might be too young and inexperienced; Bernie Hartigan might have one of his bad days.

I have often tried to picture what it would have been like had Nolan missed that first shot. Now a few more wides might have followed in the absence of that first score. By the fact that it was tucked neatly away, the whole team had their confidence lifted and their expectation of scores firmly fixed in minds that must have been equally open to the suggestion of the likelihood of missing.

Not for the first or last time, Nolan's tidy skill, alertness, and most of all his determined, combative temperament had come to Limerick's aid. Most recently, we saw him prove himself all over again when he kept pulling and tearing at the Waterford defence at a time when his col-

leagues had almost lost even the faintest vestiges of hope. Eventually, he not only prised out openings but roused his own team into a realisation that the game could still be won.

It matters little that, in fact, the rest of the Limerickmen—for the most part—had the more realistic attitude, because at that stage they were beaten. Nolan was wrong, but he didn't believe himself wrong. And, as so often, fortune favours the brave. In this case, it was not just ordinary luck, but the most incredible combination of individually lucky events.

It began with the injury to Heffernan in the Cork game — weakening the Waterford midfield; it continued with the injury to Mossie Whelan who was doing nicely as replacement for Heffernan; was brought near fulfilment by the unfortunate blow that knocked out Mossie Walsh; and trumped by the astonishing goal that bounced into the net from O'Donoghue's boot when that worthy did not even think the ball was coming that way at all.

And all of a sudden, the impossible had become possible. And the little bohoreens which Nolan and McKenna and, now and again, Bennis had been opening in the Waterford defence, and finding all of them ending in dead-ends, suddenly turned into fine roadways with only a few dangerous turns here and there.

Needless to remark the first man to put the boot down on the new roads was Nolan. He pulled the defence across to let Grimes in for the second goal—Waterford defenders still suffering from a sense of grievance in their belief that O'Donoghue had been in the square illegally for his accidental goal.

Next Nolan leaped in the air to grab a travelling ball 50 yards out, fell as he held it, and arose going fast in the opposite direction in a split second, wrong-foot.

● OVERLEAF

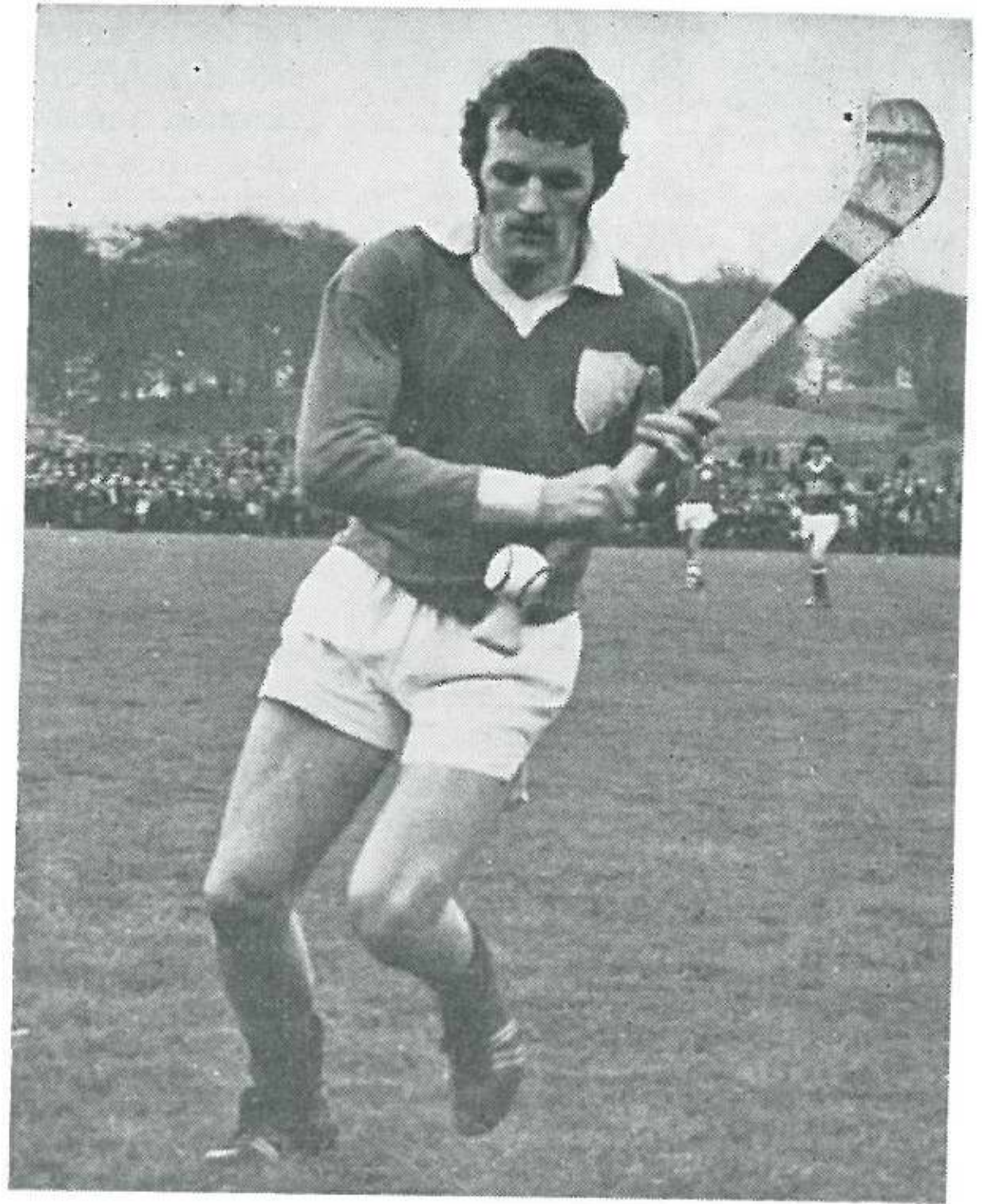
● FROM PAGE 37

ing the covering defender and racing in close before under-handing a scooped high lob that was the equaliser.

One remembers Nolan first when thrown into the deep end of the League final in Thurles between Cork and Limerick—that in which Cork gave Limerick a terrible hammering in the first baptism of fire.

A small, tidy man, with good reactions, a good game-reading eye, speed in the those vital first few strides, and a technical hurling competence that allows him to give effective expression to his fiercely determined nature. No star in the sense of the spectacular (as a result he was not even nominated as an All-Star last year), but the sort of player who will still be turning in the hard-working, gritty, sound performance when the stars have lost their sparkle. A right handy man to have on your side.

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# ULSTER VIEWPOINT

By DAN McAREAVY

YES, I'll take Donegal and Down to qualify for the big day, but it would be less than honest on my part, however, not to have reservations about the prospects of the Ulster champions when they take on Connacht representatives in the All-Ireland semi-final on August 18. Our performances at this stage make dismal reading with only 18 successes in almost 90 years of trying.

And played off against the backcloth of the continuing trouble in the North there is perhaps some excuse for this year's disappointing standard so far. For one thing training schedules have been badly upset but it is the general tension of living itself which has taken a good deal of the traditional zip out of our games.

On the other hand could it be that the problem of falling quality is not confined to the North?

Without in any way subscribing to an alarmist lobby I must con-

fess to a great deal of sympathy for those who believe that football has reached a dangerous crossroads, with the problems which have bedevilled hurling for years now looming ominously over the big ball game.

Certainly I cannot recall a year when the early stages of the provincial competitions revealed such an alarming drop in playing standards coupled with such startling gaps between what someone has rather pungently described as the haves and the have-nots.

The recent National League campaign threw up some amazing discrepancies in quality and the trend has clearly been followed in the championship. Far too many games might, in boxing parlance, have been stopped as "no contests" long before the end.

Hurling has for years been forced to confine its senior championship to a few select counties because of lack of suitable opposition in the others. Surely football is not to be faced with a similar drastic cut in the number

of teams good enough for the Sam Maguire challenge.

But make no mistake about it the signs are not encouraging and 1974 could prove the worst year yet competition-wise.

I go all the way with the commentator who has suggested that the bulk of the teams already eliminated have gone into the championship with a totally defeatist attitude, with the displays by many of the players involved far removed from that produced in their club jerseys.

Of course it is not hard to pinpoint a disease; prescribing a remedy is a different matter and quite frankly I am in the dark as to the steps which should be taken.

The Association has, I believe, far too many committees, especially at the top, but if a special body could positively and quickly answer the "SAVE FOOTBALL" cry it would have the sincere thanks of all.

Of course my forebodings may well be answered with an Ulster success on August 18 and a 1974 miracle on September 22. If that happens I'll not mind paying £6 for my Hogan Stand ticket. But I have my doubts.

## Moondharrig's Diary ● FROM PAGE 9

has been so welcome. How far the present surge will go remains to be seen, but one thing is certain, this Dublin side has at last begun to bring the once-faithful fans of the "Dubs" streaming back to the too-long-empty Croke Park terraces. Indeed it has in recent years, been one of the great tragedies of Gaelic games to see Dublin senior football teams playing at Headquarters before a couple of hundred spectators. The entire G.A.A. needs Dublin, and Leinster football needs Dublin most of all.

The Capital houses one-fourth of the entire population of the country. If the game continues to decline in Dublin, a great part of the battle to maintain our native games and our native culture will have been lost. That is why the present Dublin football revival is so important, and that is why it

is good to see Dublin back in the top Divisions of both Leagues.

This means that full interest will be sustained through the winter, irrespective of the county's championship fate. And that is a really important factor, to keep the interest of the supporters aroused.

To those, and there are thousands, who remember Dublin's halcyon football days of the 'fifties and early 'sixties, it is obvious just how much the "Dubs" mean to the game, to the Association and to Ireland.

For those of us who can look farther back to the days when Dublin hurling teams, albeit they were powered by non-natives, could tackle with confidence any side in Ireland, it is obvious why there was need for a Commission to look into the state of the caman-game in the Capital, and even more obvious why the Recommendations of that Commission should be acted on immediately.

● FROM PAGE 31

the venue of £1,080. In the Leinster final Laois shocked fancied Kildare and won the eastern crown for the first time in forty-seven years. It was a well merited win too after an hour of rugged football and Tom Delaney

in the Laois goal brought off two brilliant saves from point blank range as his contribution to the record-breaking event. No fewer than six Delaneys played in this Leinster final for Laois!

Mayo meanwhile were making impressive progress in Connacht

but Galway gave them a rare fright in the final by holding them to a draw, a great goal from Brendan Nestor inspiring the Galway side to raise their game to great heights. The replay was a strenuous affair and it was a display of brilliance from Patsy Flannelly that swung the match Mayo's way by six points.

In a hard-fought game in the Ulster final a steadily declining Cavan had only three points to spare over Monaghan.

Kerry's big test came when they met Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-final and they pushed Mayo all the way before that man again, Patsy Flannelly, scored a wonder goal that swung the match his team's way.

The second semi-final saw Laois reach the final for the first time since 1889 by beating Cavan, 2-6 to 1-5 after Cavan had led by five points at one stage. Tom O'Reilly was at the top of his form for Cavan but it was not enough to save the day for the Ulster champions. Willie Delaney was in brilliant form for Laois and with Tom Keogh ably assisting him the Leinster standard bearers marched on to meet Mayo in the final.

The All-Ireland decider was a disaster from a Leinster point of view as Laois were swept aside by Mayo who gave one of the greatest displays ever in a final. They exhibited brilliant team-work, dream football and catching and kicking of the utmost perfection. Their speed was almost beyond belief. Among the men who stood out for sheer genius in this Mayo combination were Paddy Moclair, Patsy Flannelly, Henry Kenny, Paddy Quinn, Tot McGowan and Purl Kelly. And Tom Burke, in goal, must have established an all time record as he had only four shots to deal with in the entire match! The final result, 4-11 to 0-5, was the biggest score in a final for thirty-six years.

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# SCORESHEET

By NEIL McCAVANA

**P**RIDE of place in SCORE-SHEET this month must go to Johnny Walshe, who chartered his way into history when he cracked over ten vital points for Kildare in their win against Antrim at Croke Park in June in the first All-Ireland "B" Hurling Championship final. That spot-on finishing earned for the Kildare hurler ranking as the outstanding marksman nationally for this new competition.

In the decider, Walshe boosted his over-all record to 0-20 in four appearances at the good average of five points an hour. He just edged the premier spot ahead of Eddie Donnelly, of Antrim, who shot 3-10 (19 points), also in four outings, or 4.75 points a match.

Walshe has been one of the most prolific of marksmen in hurling in recent seasons. In 1971 he smashed the Kildare record by no fewer than 44 points when he finished in fifth place nationally for all competitions that year

## ● OVERLEAF

- **TONY McTAGUE . . .**  
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● FROM PAGE 41

with a highly noteworthy bag of 6-70 (88 points) in twelve games. That still stands as the county peak.

Previous to the Walshe barrage, Tommy Carew had led the way in the county with 9-17 (44 points) in only five appearances in 1969.

Although Eddie Donnelly was pipped for the premier scoring distinction in the "B" Championship, the game with Kildare still proved an important milestone for the Antrim hurler. He scored 0-5 to bring his record for all competitions for the year up to

then to 6-19 (37 points) in seven engagements.

This ensured that the year 1974 will stand out as a record-making one for Antrim hurling. Up to this season Andy McCallin had set the county standard with a score of 4-24 (36 points) in eight matches in 1970.

So, in passing out that high-point Donnelly achieved a better match score at 5.28 than McCallin, who averaged 4.50 points in each of his appearances in 1970.

McCallin, however, still holds the county senior football record. He established this in 1970 also when he played twelve games, and scored 9-36 (63 points). Until this year he ranked as the only player to lead the way in any county in both hurling and football.

A feature of the football scene that so far this year has not generated a great deal of general interest is the splendid success Gerry O'Loughlin has been making of his transfer by Derry from defence to attack.

O'Loughlin's command of defensive play has been such that he gained four jerseys at No. 7 with Ulster between the 1971 semi-final and last February's unsuccessful outing by the North against Connacht.

For some months past, however, he has been playing regularly in the half forward line with Derry, and he has been proving so adept at finding his way through for scores that at press time he had the distinction of being Derry's ace marksman for all competitions this year.

From a newcomer to the SCORESHEET to a footballer who is, uncharacteristically missing from the headline-making performances this year . . . Tony McTague. Offaly's early elimination from the Leinster Championship, coupled with the fact that he was not very active in the early part of the year, ensures that the Ferbane man will not be

knocking around at the top when the final figures are compiled for 1974.

McTague has been one of the most consistent of finishers in either code over the past five seasons or so. So consistent, in fact, that he has led the way in Leinster football each year for all competitions since 1969 up to and including 1973.

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# OPEN DRAW ONLY CURE

By JOHN O'SHEA  
(Evening Press)

**A**LMOST as far back as the time when Michael Cusack and his colleagues were setting the seeds of their great association, Kilkenny and Wexford were putting the finishing touches to yet another meeting in the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship final.

The pair have been particularly inseparable when it comes round to provincial final time each year. There have been the odd spirited charge from Dublin, Kildare or Laois, but by and large the honours ultimately found a resting place with one of the "big two".

What can be done to unlock the grip which these counties have on the title? Little on the face of it. Kilkenny and Wexford are steeped in hurling tradition: they each have a substantial reservoir of hurling talent, and they play with fire and determination.

Yet, one wonders if the game as a whole in Leinster is progressing as it might. Perhaps it would be more beneficial for a "new face" to emerge at the decider stage.

Certainly the hurlers of Laois, Dublin, Kildare and Offaly must at this juncture be getting just a trifle tired of seeing their hopes hammered into the mud by the might of Wexford or Kilkenny each year.

Some of their number have consented to give their views on this seemingly sticky problem.

**ALO KELLY** (Offaly):

An Open Draw is a must for

the Leinster hurling championship. As things stand the weaker counties such as Offaly or Dublin must beat both Wexford and Kilkenny to win the title. And this does not seem a possibility.

In actual fact the weaker counties have little or no chance of making an impact in the present set up.

From the point of view of financial return, there's nothing to beat a Wexford-Kilkenny final, but then finance isn't everything. If the present set up is continued then interest in hurling within the province will wane.

I fail to see what would be lost by giving the Open Draw a trial period of say two years.

**JIMMY GREY** (Dublin):

The day is not too far off when such as Offaly, Dublin, Laois and Kildare will be knocking at the door.

It will be hard because they will have to dethrone counties who are more or less exclusively hurling ones. Most of the other counties in the province are prominent in football as well so naturally it will not be easy.

Take Dublin, the minor and Under 21 sides are very promis-

ing while Kildare are also making strides. I reckon in a few years there will be a levelling off, as has happened in Munster over the past number of seasons.

**MICKEY BERMINGHAM**

(Dublin):

As things stand it is almost impossible to break the stranglehold which Kilkenny and Wexford have exerted on the provincial championship. Therefore it must be good for the game to introduce a system whereby some new face would contest the final.

In that respect I would like to see the Open Draw given a run. Hurling in the province will get stagnant otherwise: there will be nothing to create new interest.

It should be taken into account too that certain counties have a "hoodoo" on others. Like Dublin for instance. Whenever we meet Kilkenny we seem to get close but can never quite do it. Perhaps we would do much better against other opposition. Certainly we have no inhibitions when we take on Cork, Waterford or Tipp in the League.

The stronger counties in Leinster have an advantage too in that they can call on so many former "greats" for assistance by way of coaching etc. I would like to see more ex-players from the weaker counties putting something back in. It could lead to an improvement.

**HUGH CAMPION** (Kildare):

I see an Open Draw as the only answer. The disparity between the top and the weaker counties in Leinster is too marked. Hurling will die in certain areas if the Open Draw system is not introduced.

There's no doubt in my mind that the standard in Kilkenny and Wexford is way above that per-

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taining in the other counties. Offaly came for awhile and Dublin looked as if they were going to do something, but I can't see anything but a Kilkenny-Wexford monopoly in the future.

The Open Draw would lead to a lot of opposition, but I feel it is worth a try.

**JOHN DOWLING (Offaly):**

The big problem with many of the counties in Leinster is that they lack a hurling population. And in some of them gaelic football is at least as popular.

The problem does not exist to the same extent in Kilkenny or Wexford, as a consequence this pair leave the rest behind when it comes to taking provincial hurling titles.

I admit that it is hard for the weaker hurling counties to sur-

mount the formidable Wexford-Kilkenny hurdles, but I'm convinced that shortly some county, perhaps Dublin will manage it.

Their present minor side is a fine one and if they can adopt a more positive approach, particularly when playing against Kilkenny, they could give the weaker hurling counties a boost in the next year or two.

The fact that more colleges in the midlands have taken to hurling should also help the likes of Offaly and Laois.

**LIAM BRENNAN (Laois):**

I believe more could and should be done to improve the standard of hurling in the areas where the game is popular, but not strong.

A lot of attention is being given to bringing hurling to new districts. This is a good thing, but I feel that if the emphasis was put on developing the game

in the counties where hurling is already established the scene could change in Leinster.

There's no real reason why Dublin or indeed Offaly should not be at the top of the hurling tree in the province. During the past few years both have promised much, yet have fallen away.

The talent is there but I wonder if enough is being done to develop it.

## LEINSTER FINAL STATISTICS

● Kilkenny won their first Leinster title by beating Dublin in 1888. Wexford's first was in 1890 against Laois. These countries first met in a Leinster Senior final in 1916 when Kilkenny won 11-3 to 2-2.

● Kilkenny and Wexford have contested every Leinster Senior Hurling Final since 1965 except that of 1969.

● An historic first for Wexford



Tony Doran  
(Wexford)



Fan Larkin  
(Kilkenny)

was their win by five points in 1970, the year of the first eighty minutes decider. Surprisingly enough that game did not produce any noteworthy individual scoring achievement. The top marksman in fact was Pat Delaney of Kilkenny with a moderate 1-4.

● 1971 saw Eddie Keher score 0-11 in a Kilkenny victory while Christy Kehoe was Wexford's top scorer with 1-7.

● In 1972 we had a wonderful fight-back by Kilkenny. Playing into the breeze and ten points down early in the second half, as well as being reduced to fourteen men, they battled back bravely to snatch a draw with the second last puck of the game. Kilkenny won the replay and then went on to take the All-Ireland Senior title.

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Ice, a slice of orange and a swoosh of soda.

"Do Ireland and Campari have anything in common?"

Yes.

There are definitely no snakes in either.



# JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



## DEVOTED TO THE VIEWS OF OUR YOUNGER READERS

IT is early July as I write. Limerick have beaten valiant Waterford. What a wonderful performance from Waterford and from Limerick. This is the month of all the provincial finals. I won't anticipate results. Just tell me who your stars of the provincial finals were. What you liked about them. Write a piece not more than 50 words nominating your stars. For the 5 best letters received before August 20 I will give a copy of Raymond Smith's latest book—the **Players No. 6 Book of Hurling**. Now don't forget!

### PEN PALS

I notice our Pen-Pal section is catching on. No reason why it shouldn't boom. So any Junior Desk fan who wants a pen pal in any county please let me have the particulars—your interests, where you want your pen-friend from, etc., etc. Again, don't forget. All the better if we have a mixture.

### CUT-OUT

This month's Cut-out is Galway's John Tobin so like his Tuam predecessor Frankie Stockwell in so many ways. Tobin reminds me of "Cheeky" Charlie McCarthy of Cork. Perhaps it is his short step. He has, too, his own peculiar football mannerisms. Young Galway hopefuls are already identifying with him. He was a great minor in '71 and is developing into a fine senior. Great ball control and good judgment in reading a game are hall-

marks of his play. He is a confident free-taker and can kick good points from play. A great future seems in store for him. John is a trainee Physical Education teacher and a very popular footballer in his native Galway.

### G.A.A. PUBLICATIONS

Two new G.A.A. books have come on to my shelf. (1) **Kildare '74—Kildare's G.A.A. Yearbook** costing 35p is a nice production covering all aspects of G.A.A. life within the county. It includes a Junior Quiz section which is now becoming a feature of G.A.A. books.

(2) The other book—Michael O'Hehir's **World of Gaelic Games** (a Gaelic Press publication) costs 60p and is the most colourful G.A.A. book I have yet seen. The photography is excellent and

Michael's own article entitled "All-Time Greats", is one that will be reproduced many times in the future.

### SOUVENIR PROGRAMMES

This year we expect there will be a general improvement in the Provincial final programmes prepared for these great occasions. Gerry Arthurs, as always will produce a first-class programme for the Ulster finals. Munster hope to improve their official programmes this year. Here in Connacht we hope our souvenir final programme will be up to the standard we have set before now. If any reader wishes to get a copy of this year's Connacht final programme please send in a P.O. for 15p (or three 5p stamps) and I will send on a copy. They are great souvenirs and will be priceless in the future.

## From the Mailbag

ELSEWHERE in the Mailbag we present the winning 12 questions to Michael O'Hehir for which each lucky winner receives a copy of Michael's colourful book. What a wonderful contribution the great Michael has given to the G.A.A. He is part of it. It is part of him. To achieve this success, Michael has worked hard. You don't get to know all the incidentals without doing your homework. It all appears so easy to him that we tend to take the man so much for granted.

Long life to you Michael.

**Walter Heneghan, 26 Ragoon Park, Galway**, thinks there should be more G.A.A. on R.T.E. He also wants a Pen-Pal in the Galway or Mayo area.

**Patrick Dillon, Woodlawn, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**, thinks Galway will win the Sam Maguire Cup this year.

**Michael Darcy, Cahermurphy, Cree, Co. Clare**, reads Junior Desk every month and loves the monthly Quiz.

● OVERLEAF

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## ● FROM OVERLEAF

**W. F. Carberry, 36 Cecil Road, West Croydon, Surrey, England,** feels Galway will win the All-Ireland if they serve up the same brand of football as they did in Wembley.

**Anne McGuigan, 8 Cluntoe Richardson, Coagh, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone,** who is 16 years old, would like to correspond with a boy or girl of the same age group from either Cork, Offaly or Kerry. Her favourite sport is Gaelic football. Her favourite stars are Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Willie Bryan. One other hobby is pop music.

● *Are you a sister of Frank by chance? Now lads and lassies get out your pens. (J.M.)*

**Sean Rourke, Drumany, Foxfield P.O., Co. Leitrim,** thinks the Sunday Sports Programme on Radio is great. "It is far better than the television coverage," he says.

**John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork,** would like to get past programmes. He thinks Cork will hold on to the Sam Maguire Cup and wrote an article on last year's success in his schools' Annual "An Colmánach".

● *Please send me on a copy, John. (J.M.)*

**John Dalton, Ballyphilip, Coalbrook, Thurles, Co. Tipperary,** loves GAELIC SPORT, especially the Cut-outs. He wants a Cut-out of Mick Roche or Len Gaynor.

● *We had one of Mick Roche in the August, 1973, Edition of Gaelic Sport. If you would like a copy please send a P.O. for 25p to the address at the end of Junior Desk. (J.M.)*

**Des Kelly, Ballycooge, Woodenbridge, Avoca, Co. Wicklow,** has great admiration for Waterford's Pat McGrath and is glad to see Monaghan football on the way back.

**Liam J. Savage, 6 Mallow Road, Garvey's Bridge, Cork City,** is a great statistician and likes a nice statistical presentation. He presents this nice little summary of Munster football champions:

In the past 50 years Kerry have been Munster Football Champions 38 times, and All-Ireland Champions 17 times.

Cork have been Munster Champions 11 times, and All-Ireland Champions twice.

Tipperary have been Munster Champions just once, and Limerick, Clare and Waterford are without a football title in Munster.

That's it for this month. I expect to be in Cork for a week and hope to meet old friends. May

even pay a visit to my favourite West Cork area. It's a great pity the Connacht S.F. final had to clash with the Munster S.F. final. You'd think we'd know better at this stage. Hope ye are enjoying the long evenings, getting plenty of practice. Practice makes perfect.

Please write to me about anything to:

**Junior Desk,  
Gaelic Sport,  
80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,  
Dublin 9.**

## JUNIOR DESK INTERVIEW

FOR the 12 best questions addressed to Michael O'Hehir, I am giving a copy of the recently published book **The Michael O'Hehir World of Gaelic Games.** Our thanks to Michael for his interest in Junior Desk and its readers.

(1) **Who is the best footballer in Ireland at the moment?**

*From Seán O'Dowd, 18 Parnell Avenue, Mervue, Galway.*

This is a very tough question with so many people "starring" week after week, but I feel that the most consistently sound footballer in the country is Kerry's Donie O'Sullivan. A great team man, he is my vote as number one, though Jimmy Duggan was so good against Mayo that I am waiting to see if he reproduces that brilliance.

(2) **Can you recall the first game you broadcast. Who were playing and where?**

*From Michael J. O'Brien, 10 St. Finbarr's Terrace, Bohermore, Galway.*

My first broadcast was an All-Ireland football semi-final at Mullingar on August 14, 1938. The sides playing were Galway, who won and went on to take the All-Ireland, and Monaghan who were Ulster Champions. That year I broadcast the All-Ireland football final and have covered them all since then. The following year I covered the Hurling Final

for the first time (Kilkenny v Cork) and have broadcast them all since. As I say I started talking in 1938 and have not stopped since.

(3) **Do you ever get excited before a broadcast?**

*From Seán Glynn, Killougher, Castlegar, Galway.*

The answer to this is—always, and the bigger the occasion the more excited, or built up I am. It is like going in for an exam, you feel the jitters before you start and then when things get moving they disappear. The person who says he does not feel this excitement and keyed-up emotion before any public performance to my mind is either telling lies or is no good at his job.

(4) **What is the nicest city you were ever in?**

*From Adrian Conlan, Curran-drum, Claregalway, Co. Galway.*

This is a strange question. Having travelled around the world literally and had the pleasure of sunning in Honolulu, Miami, seeing the sights of Washington, the bustle of New York, there is a great deal to be said for so many of our home towns. However the one place that really would entice me back is Perth in Western Australia. The sunshine, the people, the entire atmosphere of that city is something I will never forget — and



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the Meath team who were there when I was will agree to a man.

**(5) Why do you always get so excited at the closing stages of a horse race?**

*From Patrick Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath.*

The answer to this is simple—because that is what it is all about. Everybody looking at a race gets excited as they run to the finish and after all the commentator is representing the stay-at-home racegoer. Any commentator who remains aloof as the horses go past the post has something else but blood running through his veins — and come to think of it I cannot think of one who does.

**(6) Does commentating interfere with your social life very much?**

*From Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly.*

Doing commentaries through the summer more or less dictates that every weekend will be “the property” of hurling, football and racing and not of my family. One great thing is, of course, that the family is as interested in sport as I am but, as you ask it, doing commentaries does interfere with what other people would call “social life”. However when your social life and your business life often combine it eases the situation a little.

**(7) Do you think R.T.E. gave too much time to World Cup soccer?**

*From Rónán Mac Gearailt, 20 Rockbarton Park, Salthill, Galway.*

The World Cup, now over and done with is a great sporting occasion and because of the interest in it deserved the extensive coverage it got. I do not want to go into the pros and cons of costs, etc., but it would be desirable if more worthwhile coverage was given to events at home. The equipment available for this in R.T.E. is still, after all these years, too scarce to make coverage locally worthwhile. Filming G.A.A. matches to show after they are played, in this day and age is second rate compared with

recording these on video tape—as is done with Match of the Day and other such programmes in most countries of the world. Money has not been spent by R.T.E. to improve this whatever else it has been spent on.

**(8) Judging by the amazing amount of knowledge you have on sport one assumes that you are very curious. Is this assumption correct?**

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

Curious is hardly the right word—how about very interested. Curious to me means seeking knowledge whether it is worth having or not and this I am not. However if I am interested in something even superficially I will then explore various angles of it to know more. Before a match, a race, show jumping, reporting big boxing or anything else I will always do extensive “homework” and much of this will never be used, but I am ready for any emergency that might arise. This is not curiosity, more the tools of the trade.

**(9) What was the best All-Ireland final you have broadcast?**

*From Donal Murphy, West End, Rathmore, Co. Kerry.*

I suppose the strange surroundings of the 1947 Polo Grounds Final make it the most memorable for me. Here we were a small group of Irish folk with Ireland’s biggest sports event in New York City and I was the link between home and the U.S.A. The sides Cavan and Kerry playing in sweltering heat, Kerry dominating in the early stages but tiring against the Cavanmen who went on to win. This was the only All-Ireland ever played outside Ireland and to be the living link between the Polo Grounds and the people at home when a relay from New York was almost unheard of made this a memorable occasion.

**(10) Whom do you think is the most promising young hurler in Munster?**

*From A. Turner, Mountshannon, Co. Clare.*

With that address I am sure you have in mind some of that brilliant Under 21 Clare team—such as Colm Honan who has shown he can make it in senior ranks as well. He is but one of the up-and-coming youngsters but a very useful one indeed.

**(11) What qualifications do you need to be a sports commentator?**

*From Michael Kirby, Lisnalty, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick.*

I could write a book on this—maybe I will some day. I think the requirements are mostly a keen interest and dedication to the sport you are to cover, an awareness of the fact that a successful sports commentator must work and work hard at his job. It is not a case of going along to a good seat in the ground and just talking about what is going on, there is an immense amount of homework to be done. Those who do not do this are a flop and are so very obvious in any country. You must always be willing to learn, never think you know it all, because you do not. Knowledge, work, and a keenness to improve both plus a natural ability—that’s it in a nutshell.

**(12) What is wrong with the G.A.A. in Dublin?**

*From Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.*

There are hundreds who wish they could answer this one. Perhaps the fact that the football seniors have come out of the wastelands this year might instil more interest in football in the city. It is sad to see how it has slumped.

The publicity given the smallest happening in some sports amazes me, especially when similar things are happening in the G.A.A. every day of the week. The youngsters are being led to believe that the other games are catering for them better by an unconscious public relations campaign. Dublin G.A.A. will have to combat things like this, and not just talk about doing it.

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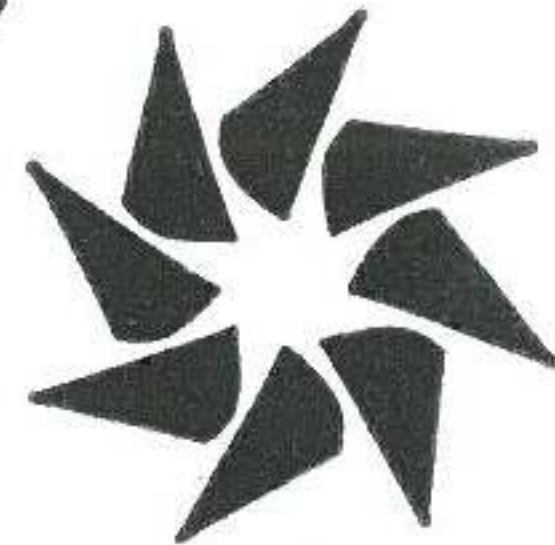
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## John Tobin Galway

Age: 21

Height: 5-8

Weight:

10 st. 1 lb.

Club: Tuam Stars

Position: Left  
full forward

Senior Inter-  
County Debut:  
1971

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

John, a student at Limerick College of Physical Education, has been playing football since he was eight and a pupil at Tuam C.B.S. He won a Connacht Colleges' hurling medal and a Connacht under 16 football award in 1968, and helped Galway to All-Ireland titles in 1970 (minor) and 1972 (under 21). A Galway All-Stars award winner in 1970, he won a County Senior League medal in 1972, a Connacht senior souvenir last year, and last April won the free-kick competition at the Carrolls All-Ireland Seven-a-Side. His father, Harry, is a former Cavan county player.

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