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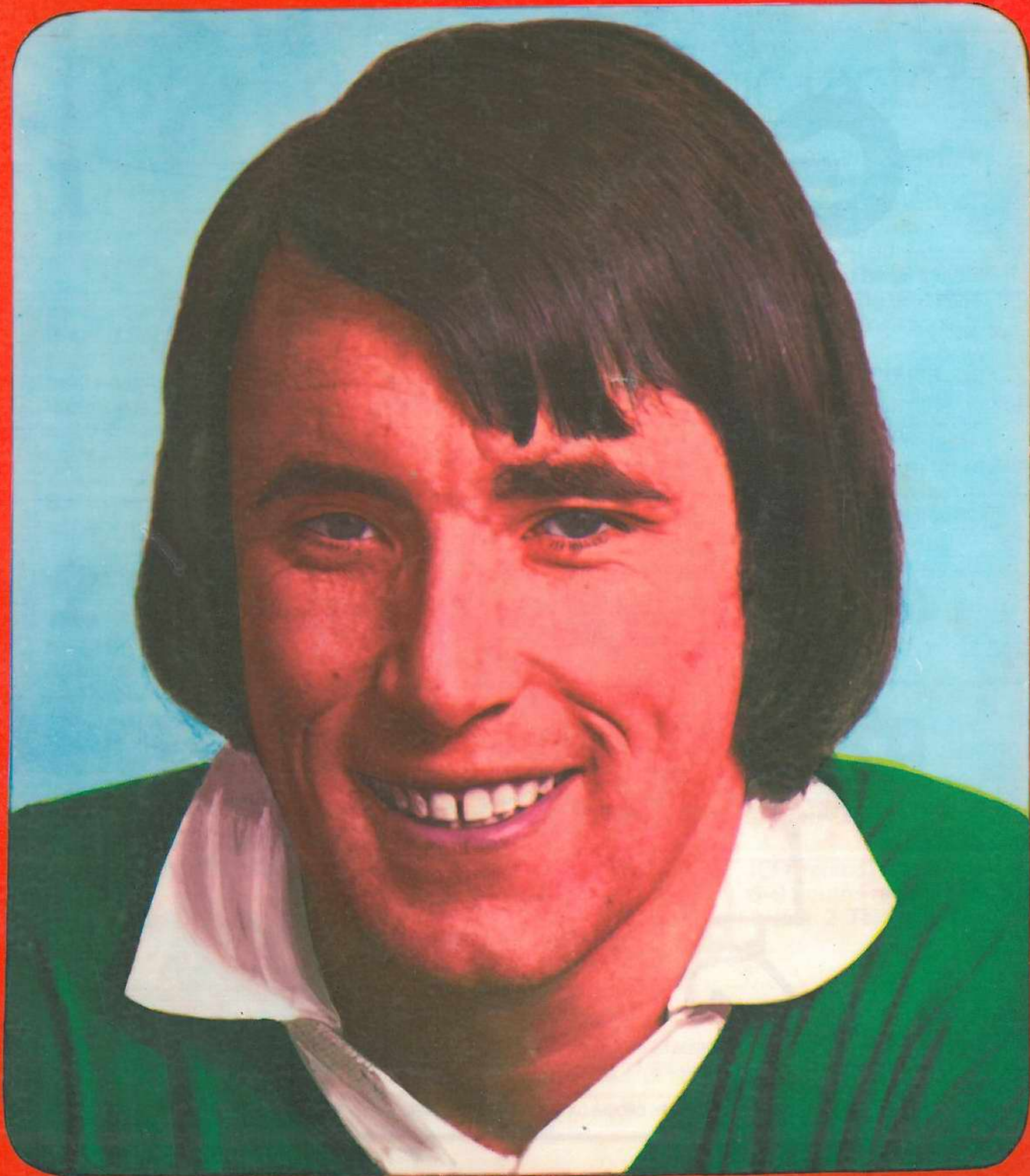
GAA

# GAEELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

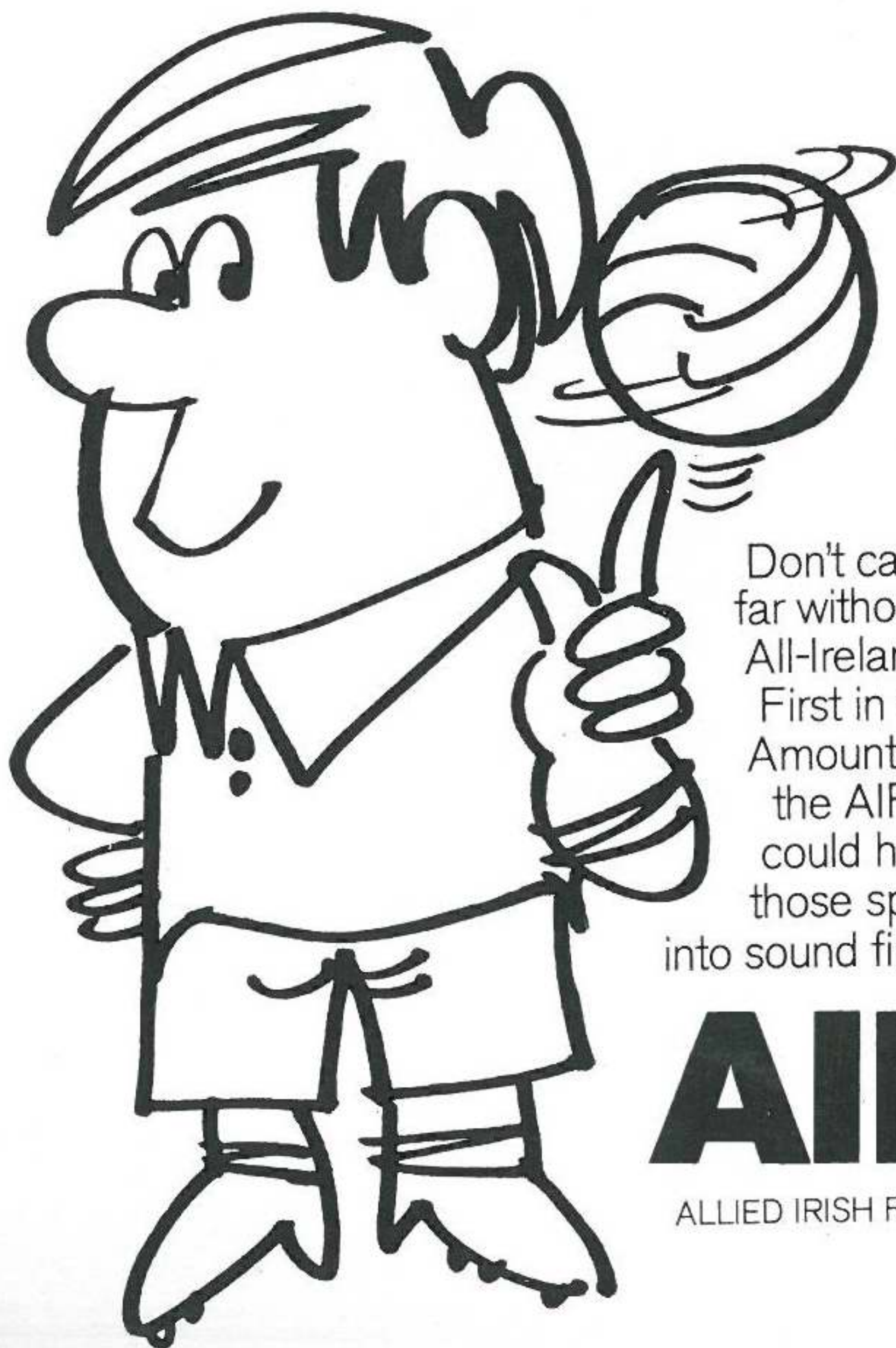
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# Worms in Pigs:

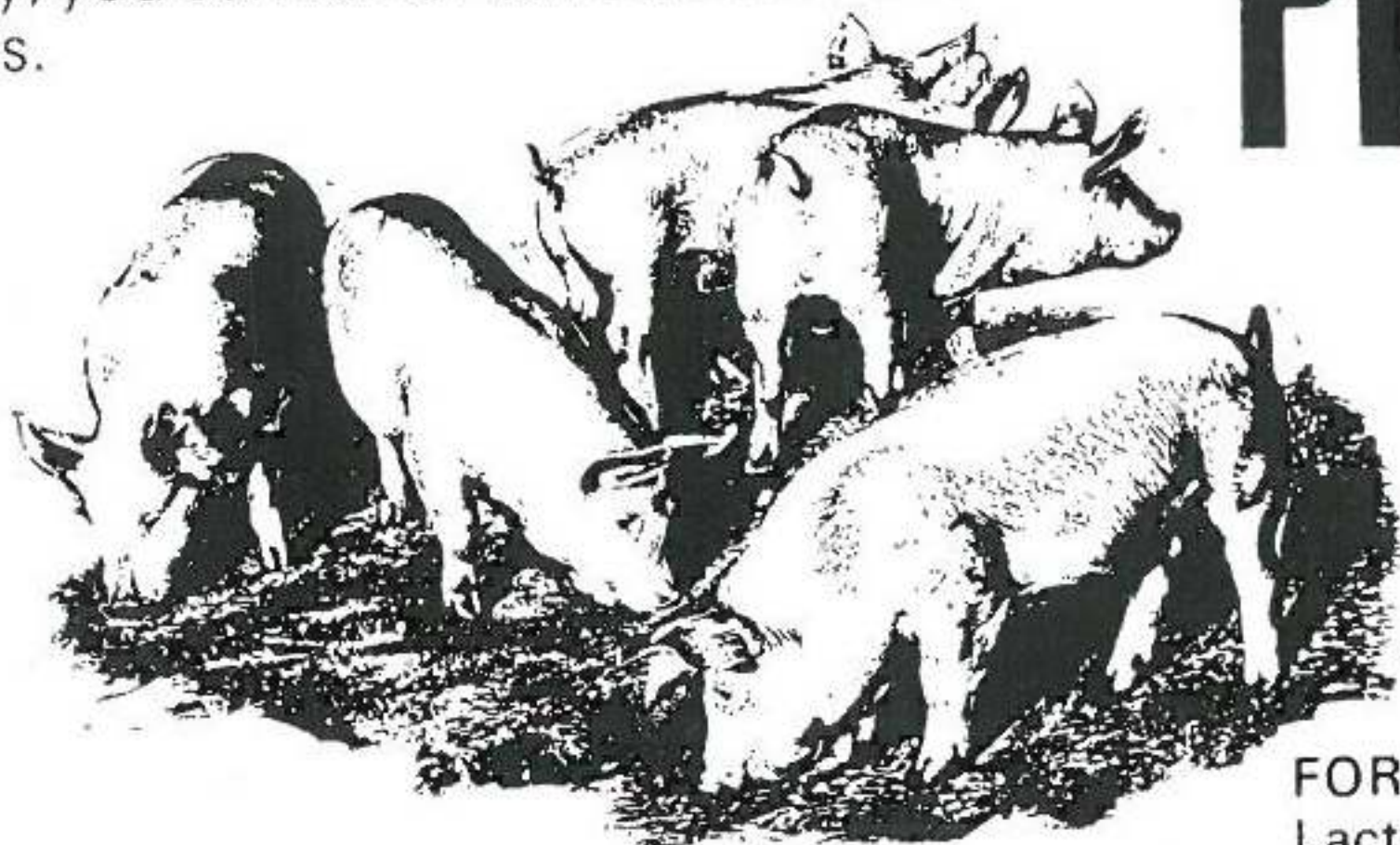
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## RIGHT APPROACH

WE have said it before, but it is worth repeating again—hurling and Gaelic football are among the finest field sports in the world.

The month of July is an ideal one to present the games to the best possible advantage. The concluding rounds of the interest-packed Provincial Championships, big crowds, colour, glamour, excitement . . . the basic requirements are there to ensure that hurling and football come across in a way that earns the admiration and respect of all.

Players, officials and supporters all have their roles to play.

The approach of the players in fact is the most vital of all. Many are prone to persistent fouling, and this is hitting the games as spectacles. A greater emphasis on intelligent, skilful play all round would work wonders for both hurling and football.

At official level, good public address systems, well-appointed scoreboards, programmes, punctual starts and the strict enforcement of the ten minutes interval rule are among the details that, attended to in an efficient way, add to the enjoyment and the status of the major Championship fixtures.

Spectators can strike a further bright note by co-operating with the stewards, and displaying a balanced sense of fair-play.

In short, let's have the right approach from all concerned in Gaelic Games and so help to ensure that the '74 championships campaign will reflect credit to the Association, officials, players and spectators.

## HOMER NODS . . .

ONE of the difficulties facing a monthly publication like GAELIC SPORT is that sometimes due to printers' deadlines we are faced with a situation that prevailed last issue. Cork, after their brilliant display against Limerick in taking the League title, were fixed to play Waterford in the first round of the Munster Championship, coinciding with our printing of the magazine.

We had requested Mick Dunne to survey the Munster hurling scene and how he saw the '74 Championship working out in the months ahead. Mick, knowing that our June issue would be on sale after the Cork v Waterford game had been decided, presumed that Cork would beat Waterford, and wrote his article in anticipation of a Cork victory.

But just as in the world of racing where the so-called certainties sometimes get beaten, similarly in hurling the same situation can apply.

To all our readers we apologise for making a wrong presumption.

## COVER PHOTO:

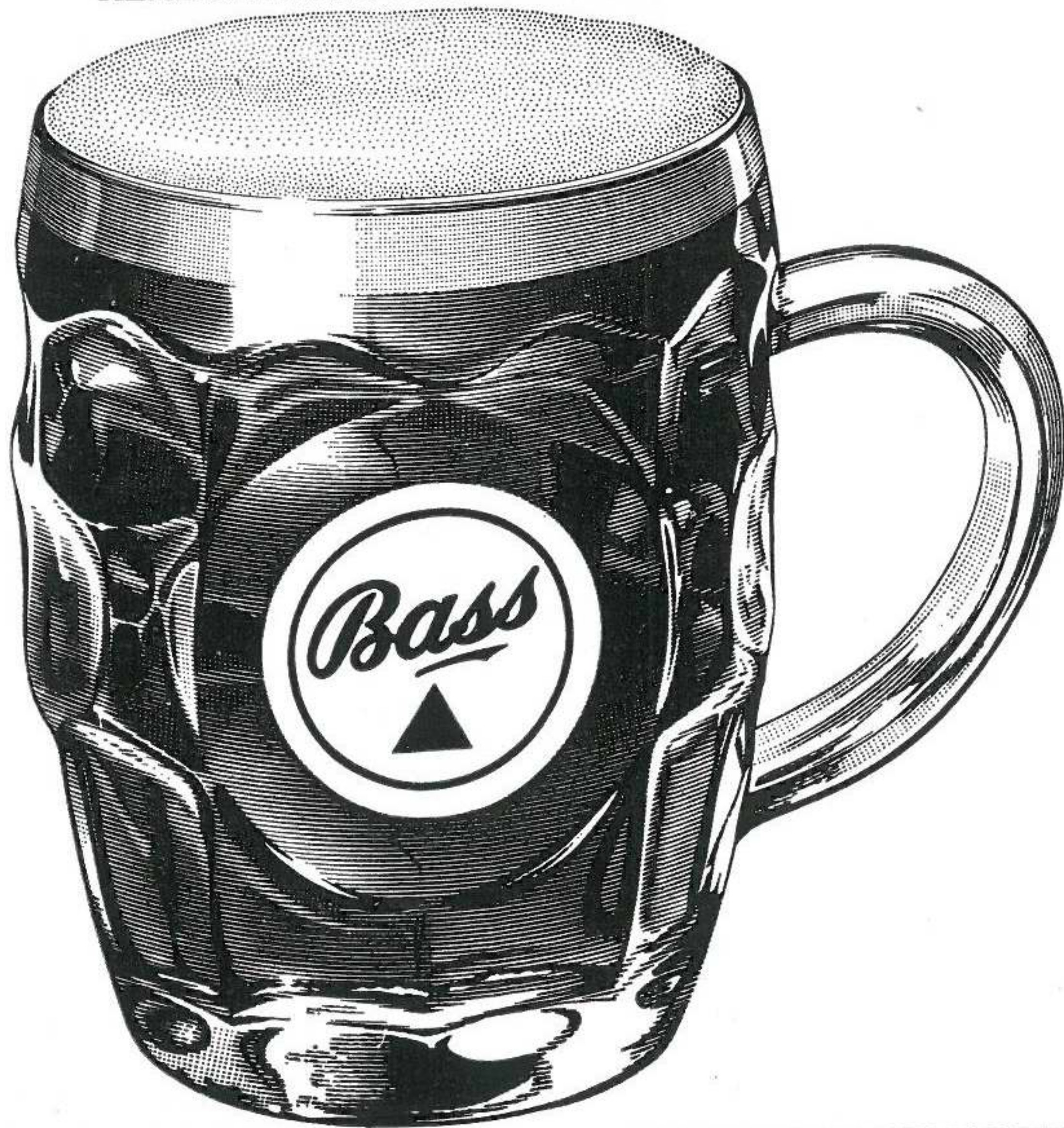
"SEAN Foley is close to being one of the great hurlers of the age," writes Jim Bennett on page 9 of this issue. Jim spotlights the career of the great Limerick hurler whose outstanding displays in the green jersey played no small part in the great Limerick victory march through 1973.

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# Top Ten

## Pat McGrath outstanding

\*\*\*\*\*

**PAT McGRATH** (Waterford), Ger Power (Kerry) and Michael Laffey (Sligo) share top billing in this month's charts, in which all four provinces are represented in an unusually wide line-up of counties. What's more, the tables present a refreshing "new look" in that only two of the men rated—Eddie Keher and John O'Keeffe—collected points earlier in the year.

Pat McGrath is out on his own in hurling. Waterford had a number of bright stars in their shock Munster Championship win over Cork at the end of May, but the roving McGrath's quality hurling was one of the best features of that success, and earns for him a narrow lead over a four-man squad that includes two of his county-mates—Pat O'Grady and Martin Hickey.

Declan Hanniffy was a star of another of the upsets of the current Championships — Offaly's win over Dublin hurlers. His non-stop work in the middle of the park did much to fashion that upset win.

The new B Championship in hurling may not be capturing the headlines in a big way, but there have been some good individual displays, nonetheless. Among three of the men who have been active in this Championship and who now find favour is Terry Cleary, a stalwart at left full back for Hertfordshire in their draw with Antrim in the semi-final at Casement Park.

In football, the dominate feat-

ure of the period under review was Kerry's resounding win over Roscommon in the National League final replay. The transfer of Ger Power from the half back line to the attack proved a shrewd Kerry move for that

game, as the Austin Stacks footballer did much to pep up the Southern scoring division.

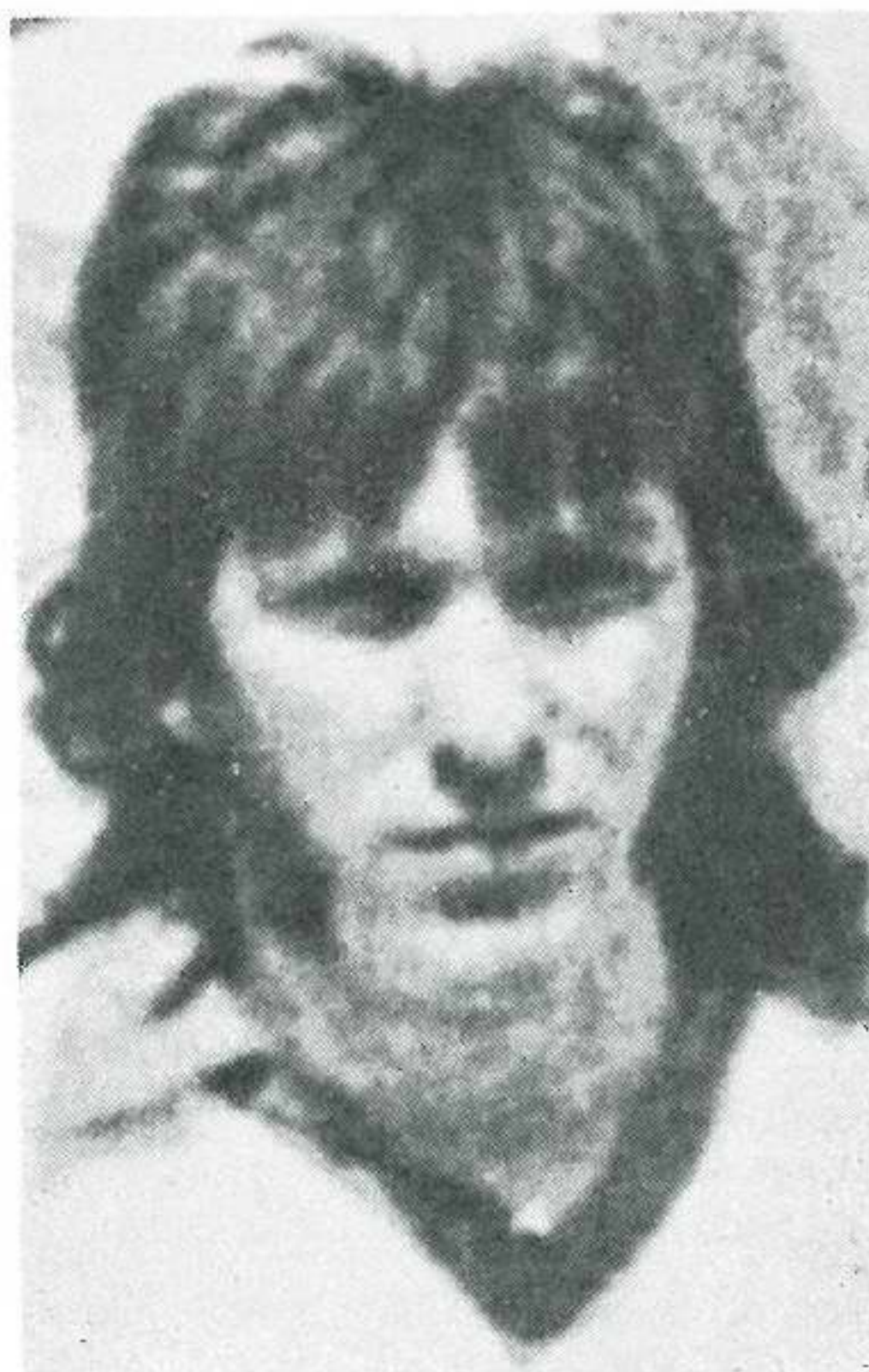
It is changed times to see a Sligo forward, other than Michael Kearins, grabbing the spotlight in a big way. But a splendid show by Michael Laffey at No. 10 in the Connacht first round win over Leitrim and which he highlighted by scoring 2-4, sends this Sligo man up to join Ger Power on top of football's exclusive list.

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6	M. Fennell (Laois) .....	6
6	K. Rennicks (Meath) .....	6
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PAT McGRATH  
(Waterford)

## LOUD LAUGHS AND CRIMSON FACES

**I**F we weren't able to laugh at ourselves now and then, it's said, it would be a very, very dull life. If that's so, my life was brightened enormously when the June issue of GAELIC SPORT popped through my letter-box. But I'm certain my laugh couldn't compare with the guffaws that greeted last month's issue of the magazine in

Waterford.

The joke was well and truly on me. Imagine a magazine which contained my article dealing with Cork's prospects for the championship double. And the postman delivers that eight days AFTER Waterford dismiss Cork. I tell you, life was never as hilarious.

Sorry for under-estimating

you, Waterford. But when I wrote that article away back on May 6 your championship prospects didn't look all that bright—to the outsider, that is. Anyway it will give my friend Pat Fanning and Seamus Power and his men many a good laugh throughout the summer. I know they will forgive me . . . in time!

MICK DUNNE

### THANKS TO THE EDITOR . . .

## I'm a Waterford watcher

By JAY DRENNAN

**Y**OUR Editor is a most perspicacious fellow. Twice in the last six or seven months he issued directives to me to get down there and see what is happening in Waterford; once he wanted me to search out and write about the recovery of hurling quality in the county and how it was being brought about; the other time he wanted to know what their chances were likely to be in the closing stages of the League and the 1974 championship.

He kept on adding footnotes to these directives to the effect that he had a distinct impression that Waterford were about to do something big. You will recall, if you are regular readers, my efforts to convey the impression of extraordinary dedication which I found among the Waterford hurlers and the philosophy of Seamus Power, their trainer and the shoulder-to-lean-on being staunchly provided by large numbers of former great hurlers in the county colours.

You will also recall, perhaps, that when I tackled the job of assessing what they might do I

was not quite so confident in predicting great things immediately, though willing to stake my reputation that Waterford was back in the first rank of hurling counties without any doubt.

The Editor seems to have been thrown into some slight confusion, right enough, by the extraordinary performance in the League quarter-final against Dublin. But he stuck doggedly to his convictions and, in due course, the directive arrived to make sure I had a full petrol tank on May 19th, so as to get down to Waterford for the Cork-Water-

ford first round — it could be the story of the year.

It was, of course. And thanks to the Editor, I find myself now in something of an expert position on the matter. There can be no doubt that one had to yield in total admiration of the effort which was being devoted to hurling in Waterford right from the start of the 1972-73 League. At that stage they were in Division II, playing pretty putrid stuff, with the county's reputation lower than it had been at any time since 1920.

Under-age hurling had not given the hoped for return in output of promising or dedicated young players — a situation which appears to be true even now, if one is to judge by the showing of the present year's minors against Cork. So, the



long-term view of things was set aside and Seamus Power and his assistants set about collecting a senior squad who were willing to give everything they could in an effort to succeed.

Previously, I wrote of my reactions to this quite unique phenomenon: an attitude to hurling revival that seemed heretical by normal standards. Nearly all these players had been in and out of hopelessly unsuccessful teams often before they gathered in September 1972 to launch the great campaign. From that point they raised their game through hard practice and single-minded intent to win the Division III championship and later to beat New York in the play-off.

Without pause they went straight on to Division I and, by December, stood clear on top of that League. The defeat of Wexford at New Ross was the real eye-opener, for it showed that dedication had now been backed by an impressively improved skill and style. The same against Kilkenny; then the pressures of the situation got hold of them and they went under substantially to Limerick trying desperately for goals when easy points would have made the gap very narrow.

It was the most cruel ill-luck, on a Tipperary-made day, that they just lost at Thurles; the defeat by Cork was by a mere two points in a tight game which, I suppose, they might also have won. The luck was against them just when the pressures of possible success were weighing on them in those three games against three of the top hurling counties.

It was something like an anticlimax against Dublin, and obviously the earlier efforts of concentration and devotion produced a reaction and the worst game they had played since their bad days.

For Cork in the championship they were back again in their

favourite Walsh Park. As one of the players said afterwards: "We had to win this one: we had worked too hard for too long and we couldn't wait any longer for the big break. We knew that if we didn't beat Cork all the sweat and self-denial would probably have gone for nothing."

That was the key to the game. For the rest, it is enough to mention that it was a heart-warming display of all that is good in hurling — as only the Munster championship can provide it.

There was the Paddy Barry incident, but the score then was 3-4 to 1-3 and it would probably



● Frankie Walsh . . . among the giants of Waterford's Golden Era.

have been enough of a cushion to win anyway.

What has the win meant? Well, of course, to the players and team officials it has meant exactly what the player quoted above said. A justification; a proof to themselves that their efforts have not been in vain and may be more fully rewarded.

To hurling, in general, in the county it must be a great boost. One notes that already the U-21 side has reached the Munster final — a communication of the spirit of their seniors; this further thrust by the seniors may inspire the U-21 team even further.

It will be hoped that it communicates itself to the schools and the minors, because it is clear that these are weak areas still.

Overall, there is a buoyancy among Waterford people at home and away from their native sod with the expectation of having their men once more striving on equal terms with Ireland's best hurling men.

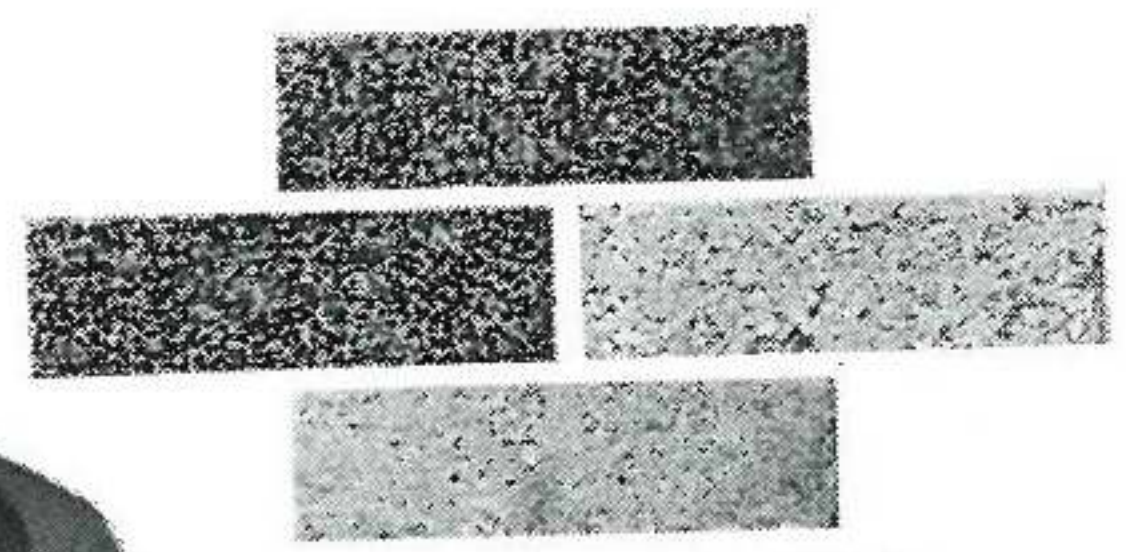
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Their semi-final clash with Limerick looks just like the Cork-Waterford game all over again. The form, and the achievement would seem to make Limerick favourites. But, the heart and the determination and the little extra confidence of their victory over Cork must make Waterford exciting challengers.

There are some imponderables, however. Andy Heffernan was carried off three minutes after half-time against Cork — a blow to Waterford that was not far behind the dismissal of Barry to Cork. His leg injury is serious enough and it will be touch and go if he is ready. Without him John Galvin never plays so well: they are really good for one another as midfield partners.

Martin Kirwan — a tremendous hurler this who could dominate the field anywhere if he could be done without at corner-back, but he cannot — has received an injury in a club championship game. It is a bad cut needing a lot of stitching, will take time to heal and may affect his form and confidence.

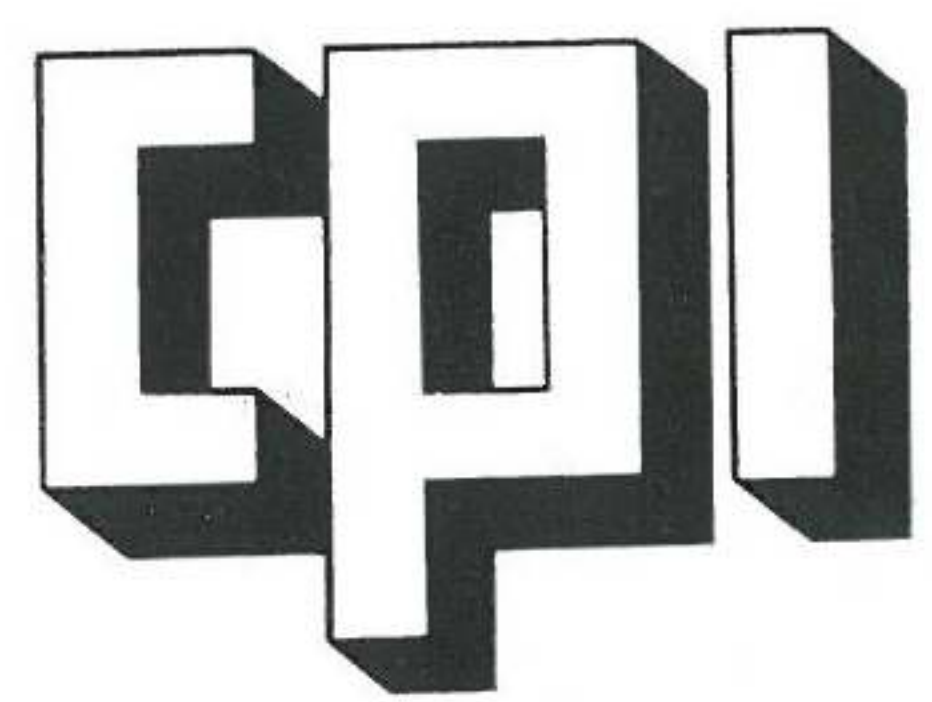
Mossie Whelan who missed the Cork game through a shoulder injury received in a tournament game is getting back into action slowly. The county is holding its breath that no other injuries occur and that those which are causing concern will cure. It would be dreadfully hard luck if ill-luck struck just when the big break has been made.



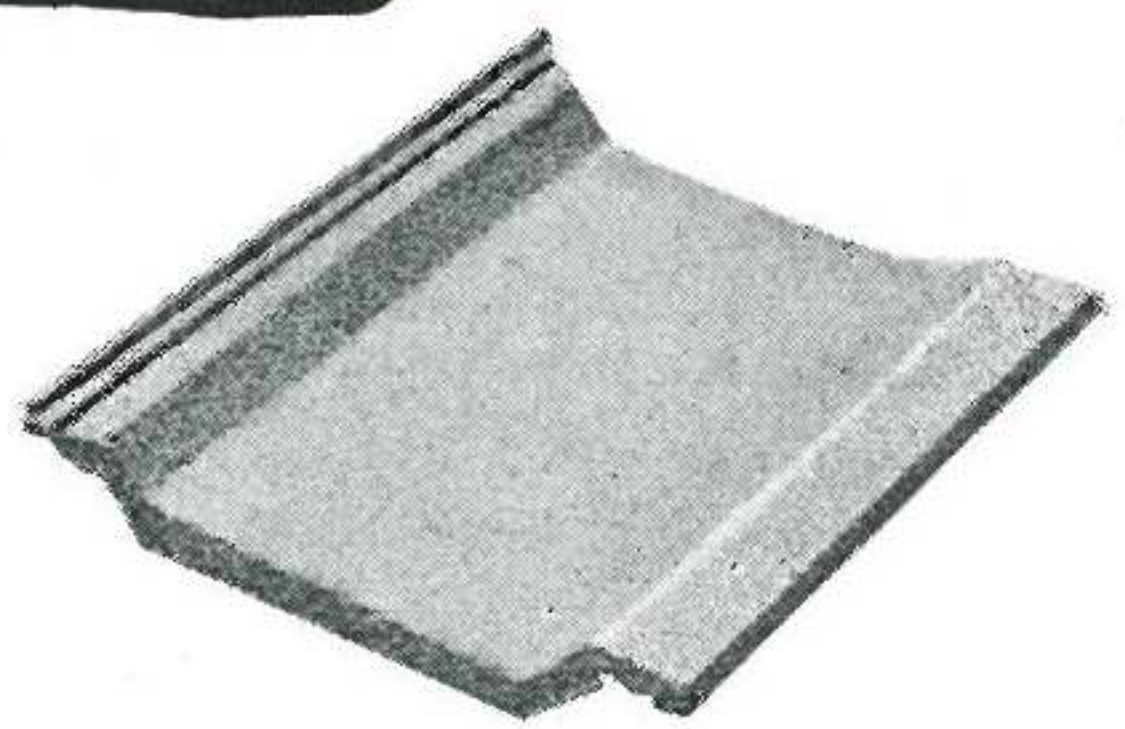
**BESSER BRICKS**

# A GREAT MATCH

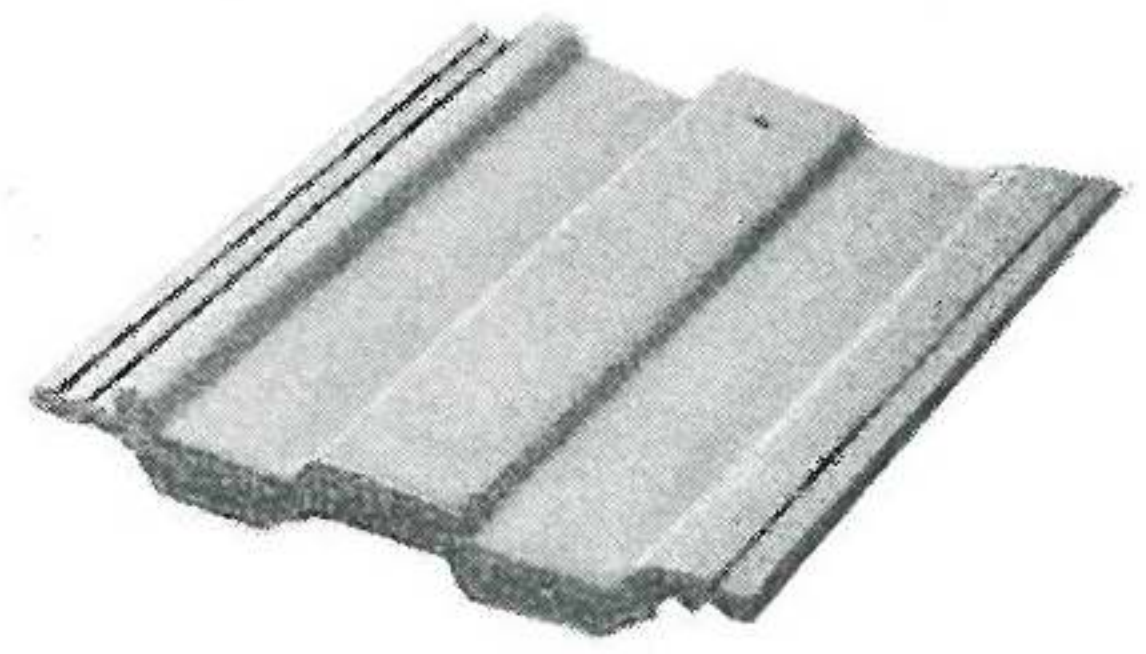
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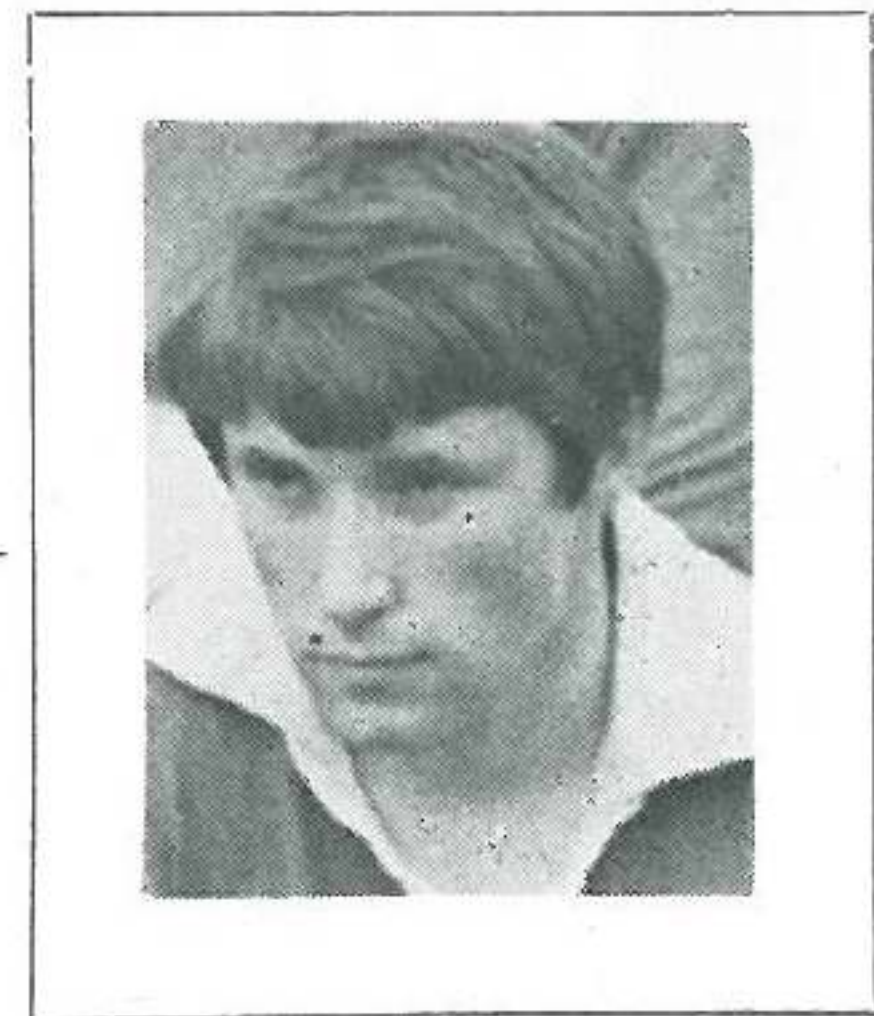
**LUDLOW**



**PANTILE**

# SEAN FOLEY

A profile by JIM BENNETT



● Seán Foley (Limerick)

IT is sometimes pleasant to be reminded of one's own words written some time before. More often one would heartily wish them unwritten. Therefore, it is with some satisfaction that I turn now to an article written in the December 1971 issue of GAELIC SPORT titled: "John Foley's Value to Limerick" and composed at a time when John had been less than year as a regular in the Limerick team, was by no means acknowledged as one of the really significant hurlers of his time and nobody's choice but mine as Hurler of the Year 1971.

In the present day climate of Foley's acceptance as a very fine hurler, star of the All-Ireland final of 1973 and many people's choice as Hurler of 1973, the piece reads well. And on the principle that one might never strike oil again, it is as well to make use of the opportunity of saying "I told you so."

"Who then was the Hurler of the Year?" (Numerous possibilities are then considered) "To me the best thing of the year was the upsurge of Limerick and the proof in their consistency right through the year that this is no flash in the pan. I ask myself what element of their side has most contributed to this success and new found consistency. Due

*credit must be given to Pat Hartigan at full-back; to Cregan as I said before; to Bennis of the frees. But, when you look through the players you wonder all the more why on earth they could not have done it before now. The sameness of the names is striking.*

*"But, there is one who has appeared and made, in my mind, all the difference in the world to the side: Sean Foley at midfield. This chap has added to Limerick the stability (without showmanship) that they have so long lacked. Foley has settled to reading the game with shrewdness; to keeping up the same steady jog the whole hour. This was just what Limerick needed. Now they have not whole periods of being dominated, and they do not, therefore, lose heart and throw the game away almost."*

Of course, it is quite a while since December 1971, yet there is still a good deal of truth in those words even in July 1974. Except that now Foley has made himself known to everyone, and after last year's All-Ireland final even the casual hurling followers were fully aware of his quality.

There has been a change, of course, in that confidence in his own ability to make an impact on the game has enabled Foley

to give full rein to his hurling prowess. We have, therefore, become familiar with a brilliance in stickwork, power in sealing off whole segments of the field, incisiveness in pressing the balance of play forward in Limerick's favour.

Sean Foley did not really suggest his present sharp, powerful, dominant hurling when he began in the Limerick colours. Who does give of his best at once in a county team? But, even then, he had a great quality which made him an invaluable part of Limerick's break-through—constancy and straightforward earnestness.

Nor did he ever seem to think that he should feel the other man might beat him; perhaps, he would for a while, but that never bothered Foley. He kept going as before putting in his best effort—not giving up, or allowing his form to fall to pieces as had been a characteristic of Limerick teams for years before that.

To quote from the 1971 piece referred to above:

*"... he is a kind of anti-star. He is no great master of the arts of the hurling game, no eye-catching displayer of what he does possess. Rather he keeps working*

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### ● FROM PAGE 9

*away on the quiet to keep the ball flowing to the attack; if you ever notice anything it is the annoying number of times that one glimpses without registering a mental note of the chap in blue stockings who may not often be the figure of glamour but is nearly always the servant of that figure."* (Note: At that time Foley was easily picked out because he wore blue stockings).

Today, you would have to revise that view, of course. But, then that is exactly the degree of maturity and development which has been by this time imposed on the framework of 1971. However, without the basic framework that was then visible and altogether admirable, even if not very spectacular, there would be no development.

Just now, it is difficult to see where the future lies. Sean Foley is close to being one of the great hurlers of the age. If he is to firmly print that impression on the minds of hurling followers—who are already in a receptive mood for the imprint—he must have the vehicle in which to do so. That vehicle, of course, is the Limerick county team. But, since he has played so noteworthy a role in lifting that team from a pre-1971 side of unfulfilled promise to one of likely winners of everything, it is, no doubt, something of a vicious circle.

He will have to continue to inspire Limerick to retain their rank of "winners" rather than "losers", so that he may establish his own status as one of the finest hurlers of our time. The two go hand in hand; the achievement of the one will be synonymous with the achievement of the other. A falling away by Limerick would hinder his personal impact; a falling away in his personal form might very well hinder Limerick's effort to hold the lead position among hurling counties.

# MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

THE proposals for the reorganisation of the National Leagues will, one presumes, have been accepted by Central Council by the time this article appears in print, with minor modifications to accede to complaints from the West that too many Connaught counties have been grouped together in one section of the football competition.

Generally speaking I believe that the Activities Committee did a reasonably good job in circumstances that were bound to draw some criticism no matter what solution they came up with. All of us, being local patriots, tend to believe that officialdom gives our own particular county a raw deal, and this applies in particular where counties are rated lower than we think they should be. In this respect, the Activities people certainly did an excellent job on the Hurling League, and their grading of the football counties was, to the neutral observer, not all that bad of a job either. Besides, all football counties, theoretically at least, will now have an equal chance of bringing home the supreme honours.

However, I still think the ideal football League set-up would be one that I first suggested nearly 20 years ago, four graded Divisions with eight teams in each and promotion and relegation between all four. I know the top Divisions would have to subsidise the bottom ones, but I do believe such a system would give us keen competition in all Divisions. If needs be, there could be a play-off between the winners of Division One and Division Two for the title of League champions.

Perhaps this game could be played at Wembley to satisfy the London demand for really competitive games, although, personally, I am against such a development.

Certainly I am all for the further popularisation and boosting of the annual Wembley Tournament from this side, as I happen to believe that the Gaels in Britain have too often down the years been treated as something of poor relations with all the publicity and all the glamour being reserved for trips to America. But I do not agree that the answer to greater interest in Britain is the export of our own competitive games. For the finals of competitions played here in Ireland the home fans must have first consideration.

The people who follow their county sides from League venue to League venue through the depth of winter are surely entitled to be able to see the final, without having to travel to London to do so.

It is all very well to say that excursions could be easily arranged to Wembley at a reasonable rate. That is true enough, perhaps, for people resident close to Dublin or Cork. But take this year's football League final. It is a long road from much of Kerry to Cork or Shannon Airports, and an even longer road from Boyle and Castlerea to Shannon or Dublin. Add on the trip to London and back, and, for the ordinary follower, the absurdity of the excursion idea becomes obvious, without taking the probable expense into account at all.

A week-end in London would, of course, be an attraction to many people. But another problem immediately arises here. The Whit Holiday week-ends are not the same in England and Ireland and indeed are very unlikely ever to coincide again in the immediate future. So, if the games are held during the English Holiday week-end, the Irish fans cannot stay over, while if they are played at the Irish Holiday week-end, the Exiles from outside London would be in the same position.

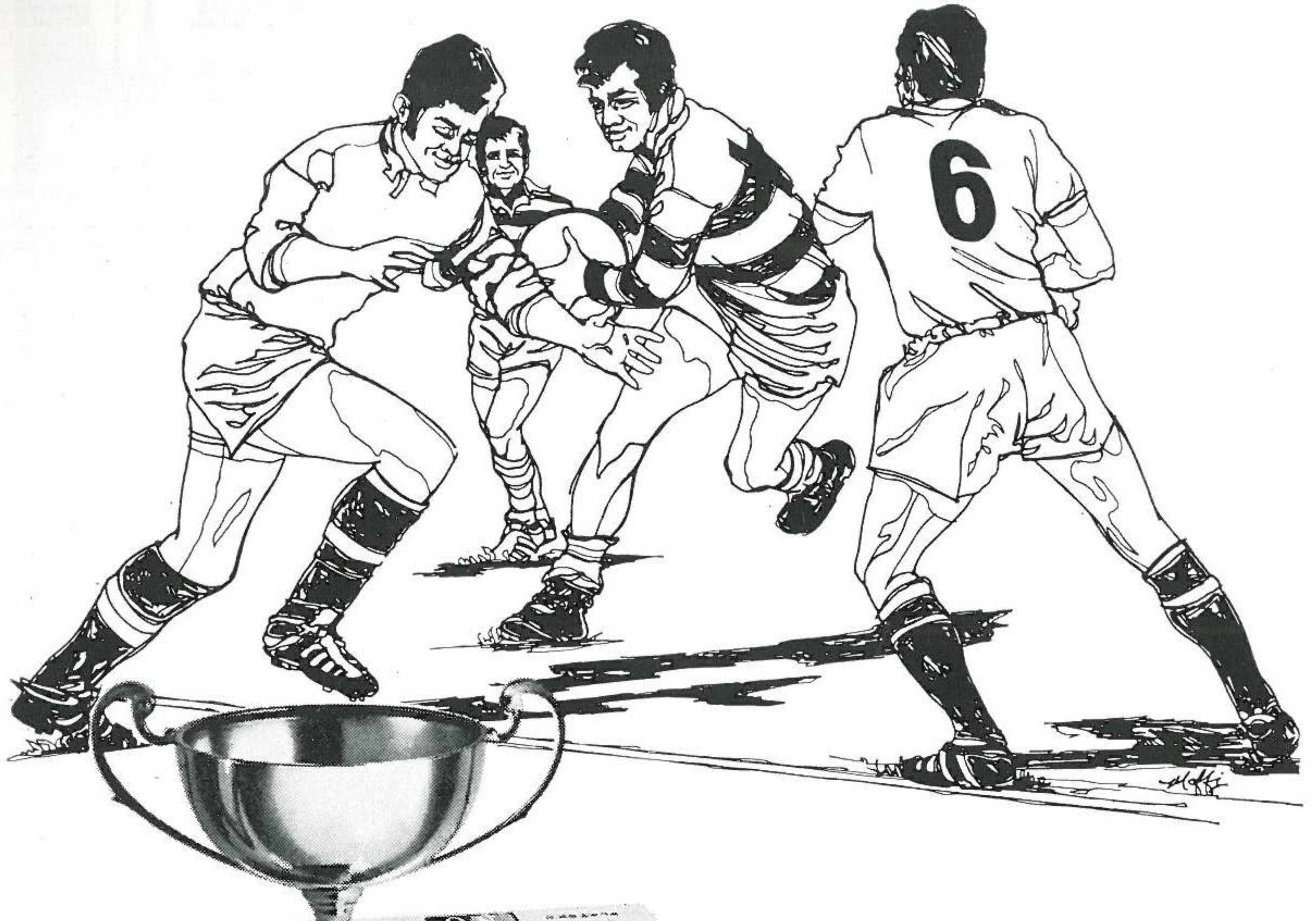
This year the experiment of shifting the games from Saturday to Sunday proved a tremendous success, but it did suggest, I think, that the maximum crowd that can be hoped for will never greatly exceed 20,000 to 25,000.

Whether the "replays" of the All-Ireland finals are the ideal games for this Wembley event remains a talking point. This year could not give a really fair idea, as the pre-match publicity here at home for the Wembley games was, of necessity, completely over-shadowed by the replay of the National Football league final between Kerry and Roscommon. Personally I would like to see another experiment tried, possibly replays of the National League finals, which would be far fresher in the public memory. If, as is quite possible in the future, these games are televised "live" here and were also screened on British Television, these League final "replays" would be even more topical.

Another idea would be for hurling and football matches between the Carrolls All Stars and Rest of Ireland teams chosen by, say, the President and Director General of the G.A.A.

These matches are merely suggested in order to give the Wembley games some kind of competitive element, and I realise that representative games are unlikely to have the same appeal as inter-county matches. But I still feel that the maximum crowd

● TO PAGE 35



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# SCORESHEET

Compiled by OWEN McCANN



● Denis Coughlan (Cork)

THE announcement recently by Denis Coughlan that this is to be his last season in inter-county hurling and football brings into focus the fact that this great dual star has a unique ranking in the top-scoring charts . . . a ranking that, furthermore, saw him erase one of the oldest records in the book.

Appropriately enough on the eve of another Munster senior final it was in a Southern Football Championship decider that Coughlan assured himself of that special place in the scoring lineup. The game was the 1971 clash of Kerry and Cork at Cork, and it was an occasion of contrasting fortunes for the dashing St. Nicholas footballer.

For one thing, he was sensationally omitted from the Cork side. Then, after fifteen minutes he was called up from the substitutes bench, and went on not only to prove a bright star of a big Cork win, but he also finished with an impressive haul of 0-10 to his credit.

That boosted Coughlan's scoring record for the year up to then to 52 points, and well and truly smashed the Cork county scoring record in football that at that time was the oldest in the table. This had resolutely stood the test of time at a moderate enough 47 points (4-35), scored in 15 games by Niall Fitzgerald in 1956.

By the end of 1971 Denis Coughlan has pushed his scoring tally up to an impressive 92

points (6-74) from 15 games, and this now stands as the target that finishers from the county have to aim at in the big ball game.

Coughlan had some of his most celebrated scoring displays in Championship football. In 1970 he hit 1-10 against Tipperary in a provincial semi-final at Clonmel, and followed on with 2-4 against Kerry at Killarney in the decider. Those impressive tallies earned the Cork man an average that season of 11.50 points, and this still sets the pace in the averages chart.

These are only some of the achievements that help to underline Denis Coughlan's proud rating in the top-scoring stakes. We shall miss his talents, skill and cultured play on the inter-county scene. So, here is a well earned "Thanks for the memories, Denis".

From one record-breaker who is bowing out of inter-county games to another who is shooting his way in fine style to new targets . . . Dermot Earley.

The National Football League final replay is not a game that will long be remembered in Roscommon, but it still marks a proud high point in Earley's scoring run. He helped himself to 0-7 in that second game with Kerry, and in the process charted his way into new scoring fields.

Up until the final replay, the Roscommon man's best score for a full season's programme stood at 5-53 (68 points) in 20 matches

last year. That unsuccessful outing against Kerry was Earley's 13th game of 1974 and brought his scoring bag up to 70 points (4-58).

Since then he has been building on that total, and the odds must now be very firmly on a new county record for the Michael Glavey's club man during the current year.

The county peak is an old one, having been put up as far back as 1961 by Don Feeley at 3-83 in 22 games. So, Earley may also get the record in fewer games.

Another footballer who is already firmly established this year as one apart is that man of many scoring distinctions from Sligo, Michael Kearins.

He headed the 1973-74 National Football League chart with a score of 0-64 from nine games, at the top match average in the panel at 7.11 points.

Finally, back to Championship play, and a couple of major targets for forwards to shoot at in the coming provincial senior finals.

One is 0-13 by Michael Kearins in Sligo's draw with Galway in the 1971 Connacht final draw, for the No. 1 individual total in football for all provinces, and 2-10 by Francis Loughnane for Tipperary in their unsuccessful joust with Limerick hurler's last July. This is one that will take beating in either Leinster or Munster in the weeks ahead.

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# L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E

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Edited by ANN CARROLL

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**O**NE of the phenomena of recent Irish sporting history has been the development of ladies football. I'm sure that ten years ago the number of ladies playing football would not have amounted to more than a two digit number. Then five or six years ago, a ladies soccer league started in Dublin and now there are two very strong leagues in the capital involving about sixty teams. Other strong centres are Dundalk, Galway, Limerick, and Kilkenny.

On odd occasions I had read about ladies participating in a Gaelic Football match and until recently these seem to have been just a feature of a carnival, festival or such event. But two years ago the Offaly men's Association in Dublin and the Kerry men's Association organised a challenge ladies Gaelic Football match which got quite a lot of publicity. Offaly played Kerry in Tullamore, a match which I remember rightly Offaly won well and one of their stars was Fr. Nicholas Clavin's sister.

Developments in the game have seen a thriving league in Tipperary and a successful Macra no Feirme competition in Kilkenny. It is also worthwhile mentioning that the girls have been out playing with the oval ball as well. U.C.D. field a ladies rugby team and have played matches against Trinity College and some other teams.

**What do you ladies think of females playing football? Do you think it is unladylike, robust, not the thing to do or do you think that the G.A.A. should promote Gaelic Football for ladies in a more refined form? Why don't you write and tell me what you think. The Editor tells me I can give a prize of £1 for the three best letters received.**

From my own point of view I enjoy playing football with a few reservations. Until 1972, camogie players were bound by rule not to play football in any form and when the restriction was lifted a group of us from several camogie clubs in Dublin got together to play in a Dublin league. We were attracted by the challenge of a new team game and the team work and tactics involved proved stimulating to us.

The competitions we played in were run very efficiently but for various reasons only a few of us continued playing into the following season.

My principal dislike was the physical contact involved and that is something that is hard to prevent in any form of football. My other footballing experience is confined to five or six-a-side games at training, which introduce variety into training, particularly at night under lights when it is not possible to play camogie.

It is interesting to note that ladies soccer has attracted quite a number of camogie players into its ranks. Notables are Nano McHugh, who was captain of the Irish team last year and also captained the Oranmore team which won the All-Ireland Cam-

ogie Club Championships last March, and Ursula Grace who is also on the Irish team and plays for the Kilkenny Junior Camogie team. She is of course a daughter of Kilkenny County Secretary Paddy Grace.

I haven't seen any ladies Gaelic Football matches although, from reports, I believe, the games can be over robust and I would imagine that by using the men's rules that this would be a natural occurrence. The only way to avoid this snag as far as I can see would be to introduce the camogie rule of no bodily contact and possibly a severe restriction on the distance the ball can be carried.

The men do a lot of pulling and dragging, but I'm sure we could adapt the game in some way to ensure open play, which is one of the main attractions in my opinion of a good camogie match.

**What way can the rules be adapted?**

I'm open to your suggestions, particularly those of you who play. Apart from my previous points I would like to see the direct pick-up, and since no bodily contact would be allowed in my proposed rules, the player in possession would have to play or pass the ball when the ball is touched by a tackling opponent. The releasing of the ball is something I liked about Australian Rules Football.

The number of players and their positioning could be an interesting problem to grapple with. Thirteen a side without the



full back and full forward has had a certain degree of success in colleges football and hurling. It would no doubt have possibilities in this game. But what about using the camogie positions which enhance the possibilities of wing play with three players playing wide on both sides of the pitch. These are but two of many possible computations.

A shortened pitch would also be in order but these alterations apart the men's rules could be adhered to and we would have a very attractive game which I myself would not be slow to play in.

It seems to me judging from the not too little increase in numbers playing ladies football that there is a demand for this game among the fourteen to twenty-one age group. Judging the sport on its success in the Tipperary, Kilkenny and Offaly areas, Gaelic Football has great

potential in rural areas. So by encouraging the game, G.A.A. clubs could attract more lady members. It is yet another possible way for clubs to integrate more of the community into their activities and make a significant contribution to community life.

I probably could be accused here of encouraging football to the disadvantage of camogie but surely the two games can compensate each other. Accepting that there is a problem with dual players, I contend that the possibility is also there of introducing one game through the other, which would result in beneficial results for both games in the long run.

Remembering the football games that we, the team of camogie players played a few seasons ago, we overcame dual problems without too much bother. The rule was accepted that camogie training and of course games

came first and by having a big panel we were always able to field a team. The benefit as we saw it was that the weekly game provided those of us, most of the team in fact training for inter-county matches, with extra work which did us no harm at all.

So I'm for Ladies Gaelic Football. I accept the fact that there are snags, but careful rule-making could alleviate these problems. Don't forget that there are £1 prizes for the three best letters received, on the pros and cons of Ladies Football.

Please send your comments to reach me by July 18th. The prize-winning letters will appear in our September issue. Write to me:

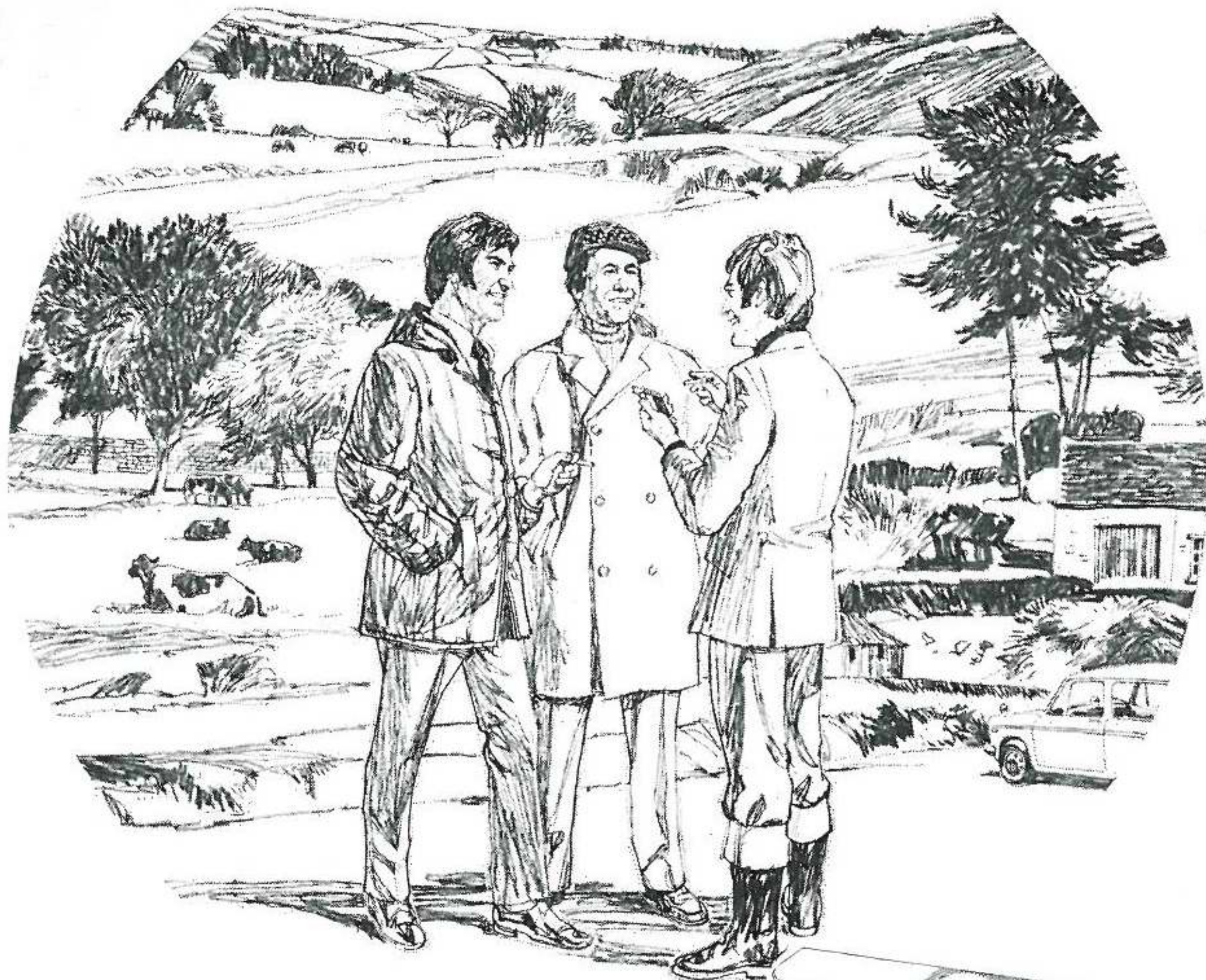
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# A memoir of Cork-Kerry rivalry

## FRIENDS AND FOES

By EAMONN YOUNG

"WHO'S that fair-haired divil fightin' with Connie Murphy?" asked the man on the line over in Killarney as he watched Cork and Kerry footballers in those days when the Kingdom was almost new to the game, having won its first championship only seven years before under Jack Myers in 1903. Connie Murphy became a great ploughman afterwards and the fair-haired divil was my father. As he dug the spuds for me to pick, one day long ago he told me all about it. It was my first victory over the Kingdom.

Summer evening sunlight in Dunmanway and footballers training hard. Half the Cork side under my school-teacher father at home and the other half in a place we faintly despised called Cork city. The final was on Sunday week in Clonakilty and we knew that these men, Tim Cotter and Tim Harrington and Small Danny MacCarthy from Bantry, who could swerve through the eye of a needle, even with a camel on his back, Frankie Healy, John Dullea and "Champ" Murray the boxer from Dunmanway were fine players. Tocher Casey of Macroom was a minor then and, two years younger, I fancied myself able to take a ball off him. Tocher thought it was cheek to try; it was, I knew we'd beat Kerry because my father said we would. Snag was, he forgot to tell characters like Johnny Walsh, Joe Keohane, Murt Kelly, Mick Doyle, Billy Myers, the two Landers. It's hard to get a message across to a Kerryman, especially if he doesn't want to hear it. We had Miah Murphy and Dick Harnedy that day in Clonakilty, men as good as ever I've seen but we didn't have enough of them.

Then I met large sandy-haired Dab Sullivan the railwayman in Cork. A good neighbour he was; this I knew for I was calling on the girl next door. But the atmosphere changed abruptly every July and it had nothing to do with Orange parades. Call it a green and gold one if you like. They still tell the yarn about the spuds my late father-in-law threw one by one, to hit the chap who kept on sticking his head out and shouting "Up Kerry". Half a weight of spuds gone west and none for the dinner.

I know I'd beat the socks off Teddy O'Connor in Killarney for we had played together on army teams for a few years. So that day in '46 under the Killarney sun I felt just great. But they did a dirty trick on me for the fella they sent out wasn't O'Connor at all. He looked like him, but somebody, Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan, John Joe Sheehy, perhaps, had transformed the Killarney man from a good player into a human jack-in-the-box that drove me

mad. The only time I saw the ball he had it. After quarter of an hour I got it at last only to hear a loud hiss and as sure as Laune and Lee flow different ways from the same mountain the ball sagged to a limp lump of leather in my hands. O'Connor stuck a knife in it but he's too hardened in sin to admit it now.

Billy Casey, a great centre-back was knocked out and they were taking him off in Cork in '47. A point down but we had forced a penalty and Jim Ahern who would drive it through an inch of timber was taking the kick. If Danno Keefe got in the way he'd be stitched into the net. The Park in Cork that day was so soft the ball rebounded at a maximum about three feet . . . the drainage system was out of order. Standing beside the placed ball Joe Keohane talked to Jim Ahern while Bill Casey was getting attention. Then came the whistle and all lined up beside the kicker ready for the charge. Jim Ahern ran up and kicked; to our amazement and dismay the thing trundled along the ground to the delighted arms of Danno who kicked it sixty yards downfield. But it's hard to drive a ball that has been sunk two inches into the soft ground by a boot like Keohane's. That's the year they went to America for the final.

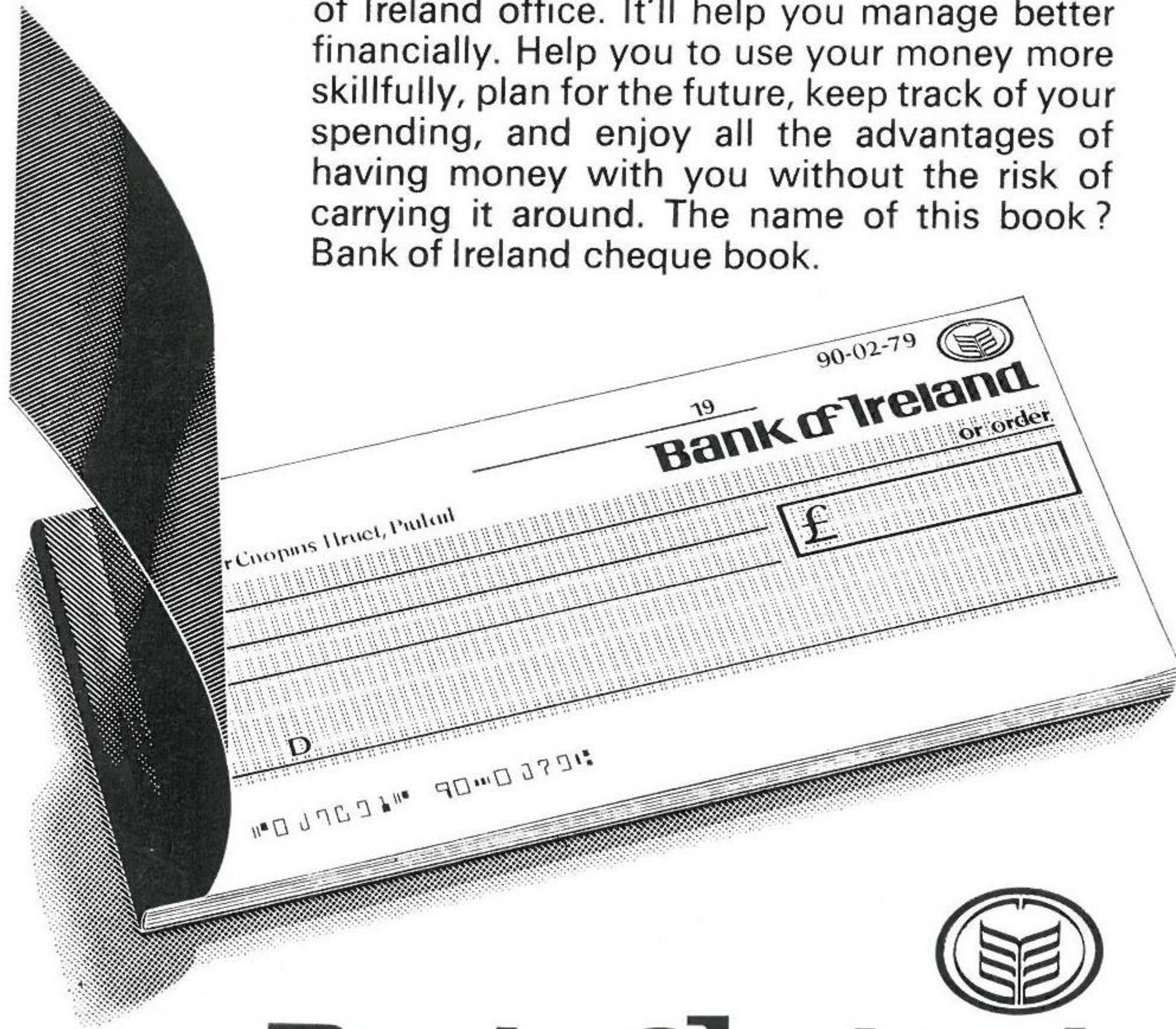
In '48 Tadhgo Crowley at centre-back for Cork was our best man. Bruddy O'Donnell the Kingdom centre-forward was one of the most stylish and on his day effective men of his time. Tadhgo and Bruddy got wound up in each other over in Killarney and both were put off. To this day some maintain Bruddy was put up to it by the Kingdom selectors. Rubbish; but you try to convince some chaps I know.

A rainy winter's day at the Mardyke in '52 and they're at it again. Paddy Bawn, Jim Brosnan and Paud Sheehy were flying in this League game and at the end they were leading by two points. John Cronin of Milltown playing for Cork drove in a free that was going wide until a tall man named Jim Galvin clawed his way up an invisible ladder and hauled it back. From where he landed at right corner on the end line you wouldn't shoot a point with a rifle so instead he hit a bullet that wound up in the top of the net. Cork won our first league and champion hurler Jim Hurley ever after referred to "Jim Galvin's £5,000 kick". That year we beat them by eleven points to two in the Munster final and a gallant Kerry player refused to come up from the pitch in the Kerry cars. "What had I outside

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● FROM PAGE 17

me," he asked in loud disgust, "only a crowd of cattle?" It wasn't true but you know players after a game.

In '56 with far more play Cork were almost beaten by a Jim Brosnan rocket in Cork park. It hit off an iron stanchion and rebounded about thirty yards outfield so fast we tried to believe that it wasn't a goal. In the end Cork drew luckily and Teddy O'Connor (who never had the good word anyway) grinned all over his face with "We'll destroy ye in Killarney."

At the end of the replay with the sides level the green terraces and even the blue mountains seem to lean over us in threat and Paddy Driscoll sets the ball down for a free from right half back. Time is now being counted in seconds. Why is he taking so long to place the ball? He's fixing it again. God in heaven what's wrong with him? Carefully Paddy stepped back, trots up and drives a long high ball downfield. Half a dozen tear up and a man named Fitzgerald decides he's not coming down without it. When he does it is plain there's no time for fooling so off he goes with the ball on his toe and about six paces between each toe-tap. Kerry men hanging on to him as Niall Fitz stumbles . . . comes on balance again . . . another toe-tap, a shoulder, a swerve and then a deliberate effort to catch his jersey . . . and he's falling anyway. Before he goes down he taps the ball high and the white leather goes over the bar like a spit and lands in the back of the net. We all go mad.

Marcus O'Neill the goalie could say nothing for ten minutes except "Fitzie ran a mile". Sure the man was right. Talking to Bishops Denis Moynihan and Cornelius Lucey, his face wrinkled in a comic mixture of sadness and sportsmanship Jim Brosnan says to his countyman: "Begor my lord, Dr. Lucey must have more power than you."

Ned Roche stood at full back in front of Marcus O'Neill with John Cronin at centre half. Ned and I lived in the same barracks, served in the same unit, and anything he might know about soldiering I taught him. At the time I was training a Cork side and had the habit of wandering quietly around the field whispering mild words of encouragement to the players. No one knew better than Ned the steadying effect of these words of wisdom. One day in Cork park where the blades of grass used to stand up straighter to say "hello" to me, I was kneeling about fifteen yards from the Kerry posts speaking a few quiet words to Toots Kelleher the corner forward and preparing to move over to the man on the other side, Johnny Creedon. Suddenly big Ned screams "Ref. . . . Ref. . . . hey, Ref. . . ." in a Knocknagoshel accent, wild with dire calamity and pain. Down rushed the ref. thinking there was a riot.



★  
*Jim Barry, Cork's trainer for many, many years—  
 "Many a game he won for Cork in honest sweat of preparation but he never wanted a rival humbled."  
 writes Eamonn Young.*

★  
 "Look at that man there," shouts Roche waving his arms. "He's annoying us, ref. . . . all the time. . . . He has no right to be there." I moved off before the ref. spoke. Bad enough to lose an argument but to get kicked in the stern just for luck. . . .

In '66 we hadn't much of a team, or so we thought, but at the end as a result of good football played by Con Sullivan, Gene McCarthy and the rest in Killarney, we were breathing down their necks. Seamus Fitzgerald ran into a spot of bother, innocent enough, and got the line. The signal flashed and Cork went on fire. Johnny Crowley of Dohenys ran up the field from right half back soloed along the line and swung a fast one across to the other wing where flying Johnny Carroll his club-mate collected, soloed goalwards and stitched it. We're laughing yet. . . .

And then there's last year when Cork felt we had scored enough goals after twenty minutes. Pdraig Purcell asked me had we ever done that before and I said we hadn't, but gave notice that henceforth our attitude might be changed.

You see there was a very gentle sporting man named Jim Barry who trained Cork teams since the eighteenth century. He loved all players, even Kerry men as Dan Ryan of Tralee can tell you. He lived to see Cork winning, but like all Corkmen he never wanted to hog the show. White wavy hair, and tanned virile face, he wore a white woollen sweater with the "Bainisteoir" emblazoned in bold blue letters across the chest. The blue was a gesture to Tipperarymen whom he also loved, and the gold of his heart was both for them and the Kerry men. In either county he never lacked a man to stand him a glass of port or ask for a song. Many a game he won for Cork in honest sweat of preparation but he never wanted a rival humbled. Often since his death when people ask me why Cork teams seemed to take it easy in the second half I turned away mumbling something ineffectual. How could I tell them of the gentle spirit of Barry which whispered at half time not to rub it in? God rest him; sure he was quite right.

So now over to Killarney to add yet another link to the golden chain of glory that binds together (just barely) the sportsmen of this region. I don't want to give Kerry a hiding . . . a few points will do fine. And when it's all over we'll listen to their hard luck stories like the true gentlemen we are, reminding them that next year there's another championship.

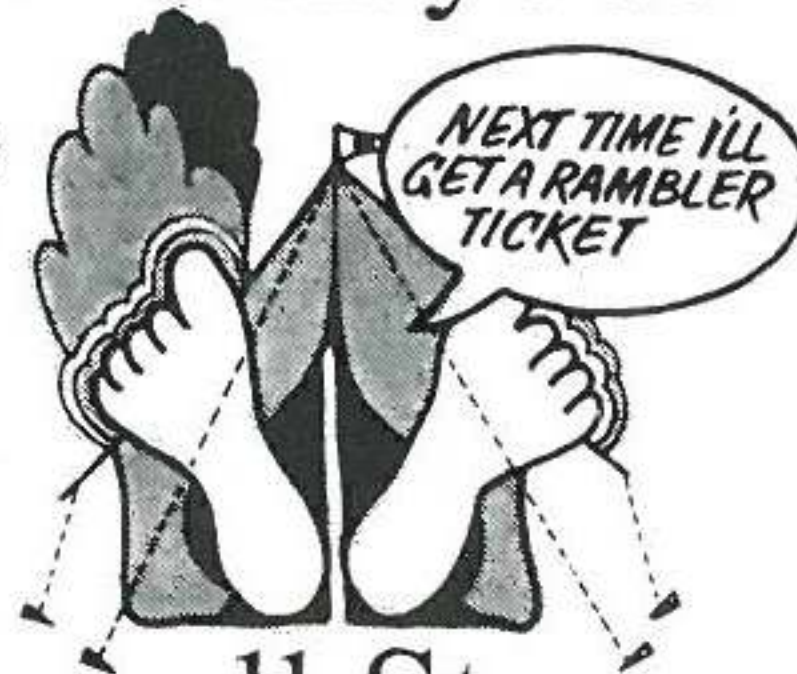
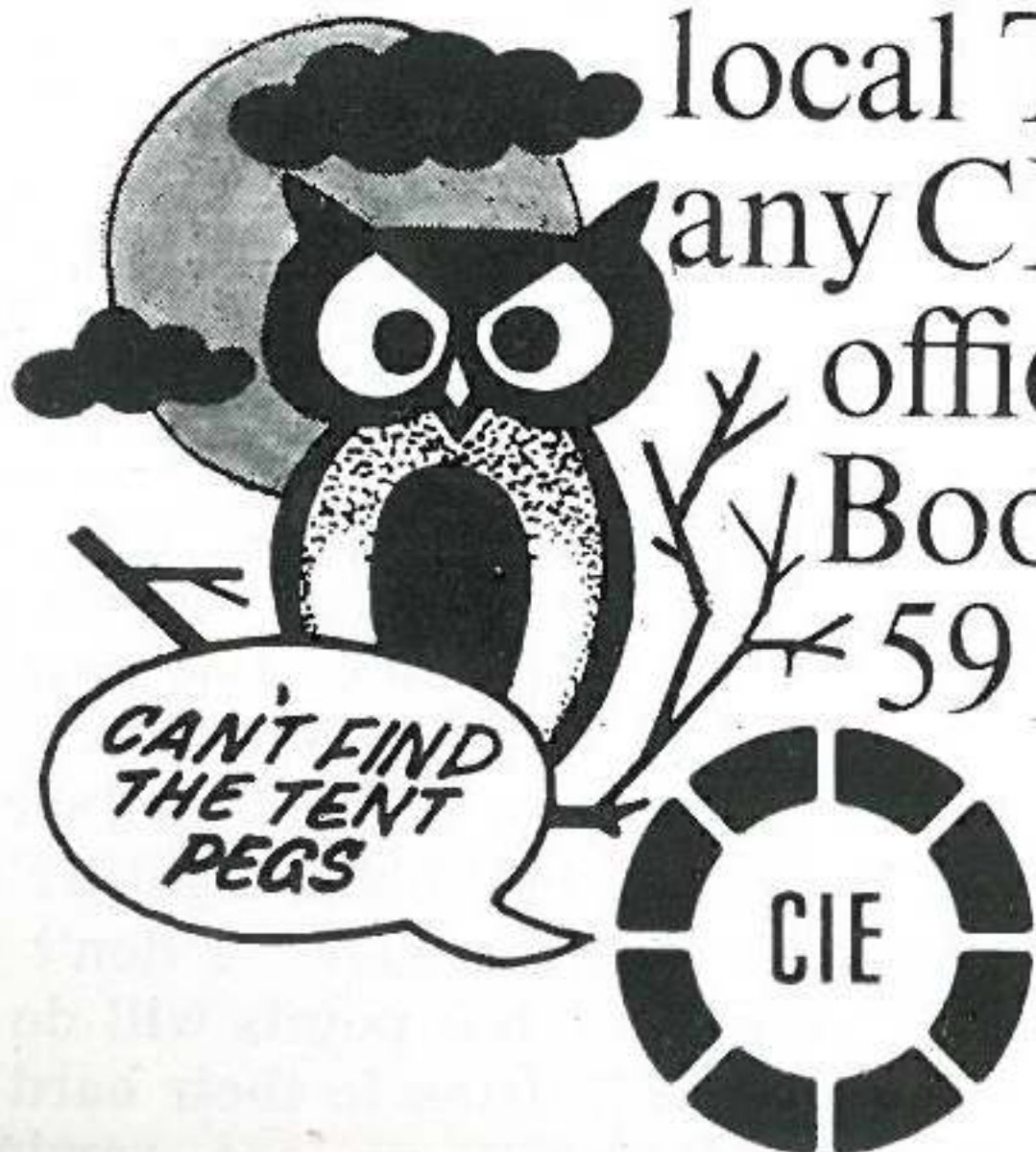
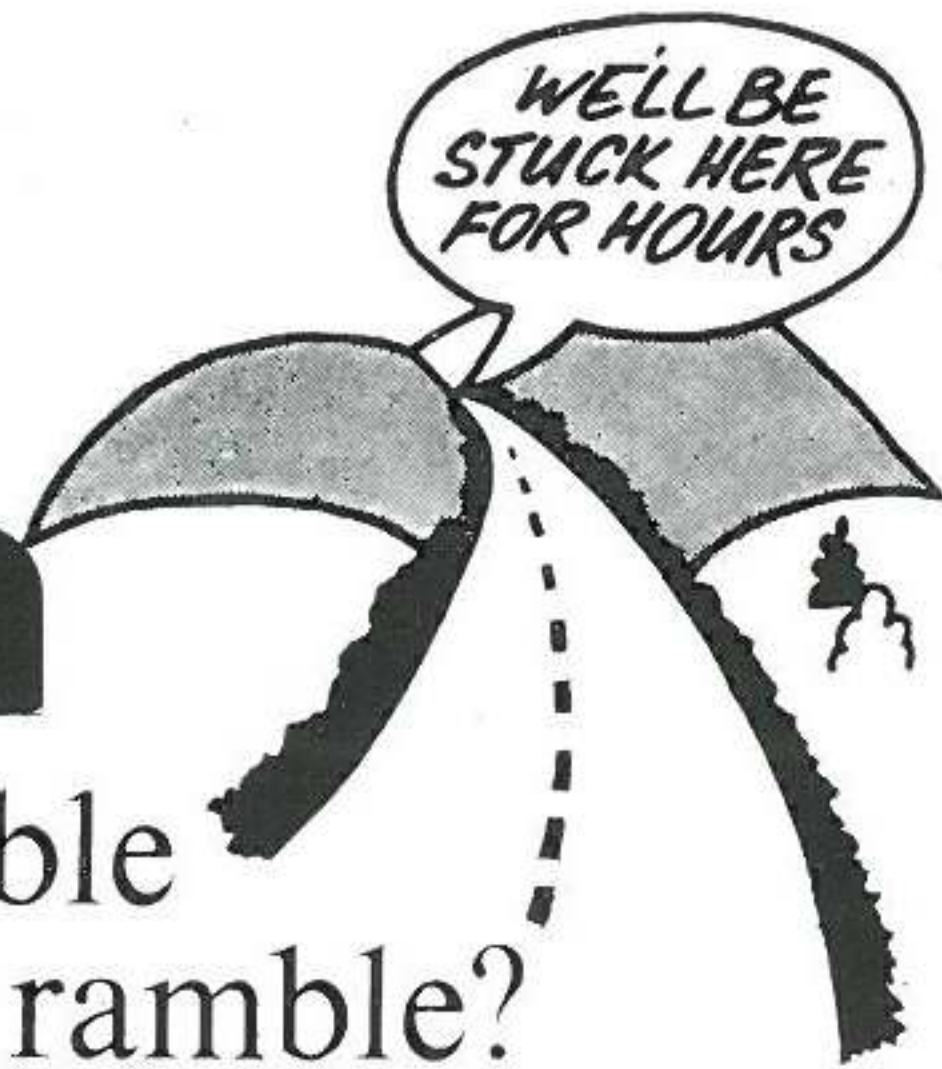
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# QUIZ TIME

# ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

**T**HIS is the month of the provincial finals, and "ON THE SPOT . . ." returns again to give you a chance to test your knowledge on happenings on these key Championships down through the years. The quiz covers two sections of ten questions each this month — one section placing the emphasis on the counties, and the other on individual achievements.

Remember, five points for each question answered correctly, and the maximum total is 100. A score of 80 points or more puts you right at the head of the class, while 60 points to 80 points is very good. A total of 50 points to 60 points is not bad.

Now, to start off with the spotlight on:

## COUNTY RECORDS

1. Name the year that a new name was last inscribed on the Leinster Senior Football Championship, and also the county that made the break through?

.....

2. Three counties have still to win a provincial senior title in football. Can you list them here?

.....

3. Galway regained the Connaught Senior Football Championship last July by beating Mayo. Was that their 20th, 29th, or 36th title?

.....

4. Roscommon last won out in the West in senior football in 1972. They beat Galway in the final that year. True or false?

.....

5. Offaly won the Leinster Senior Football Championship for the third successive year last July. Is this a record for Leinster?

.....

6. Cavan are the Ulster Senior Football Championship specialists with 47 titles. But what was their last glory year?

.....

7. When were Cork last successful against Kerry in a Munster Senior Football final at Killarney?

.....

8. Waterford last appeared in a Munster Senior Hurling final in 1967, when they lost to Tipperary. True or false?

.....

9. Kilkenny and Wexford have contested every Leinster Senior Hurling final since 1965, except that of 1969. Who were the finalists that year?

.....

10. How many Ulster Football Championships went to Tyrone last year?

Over now to the players and

## INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Offaly won the Leinster Senior Football Championship for the first time in 1960. Were they captained to that history-making win by Paddy McCormack, Donie Hanlon or Greg Hughes—

.....

2. Brian McEniff was a bright star for Donegal in their first Ulster Senior final win in football in 1972. He also captained the side. True or false?

.....

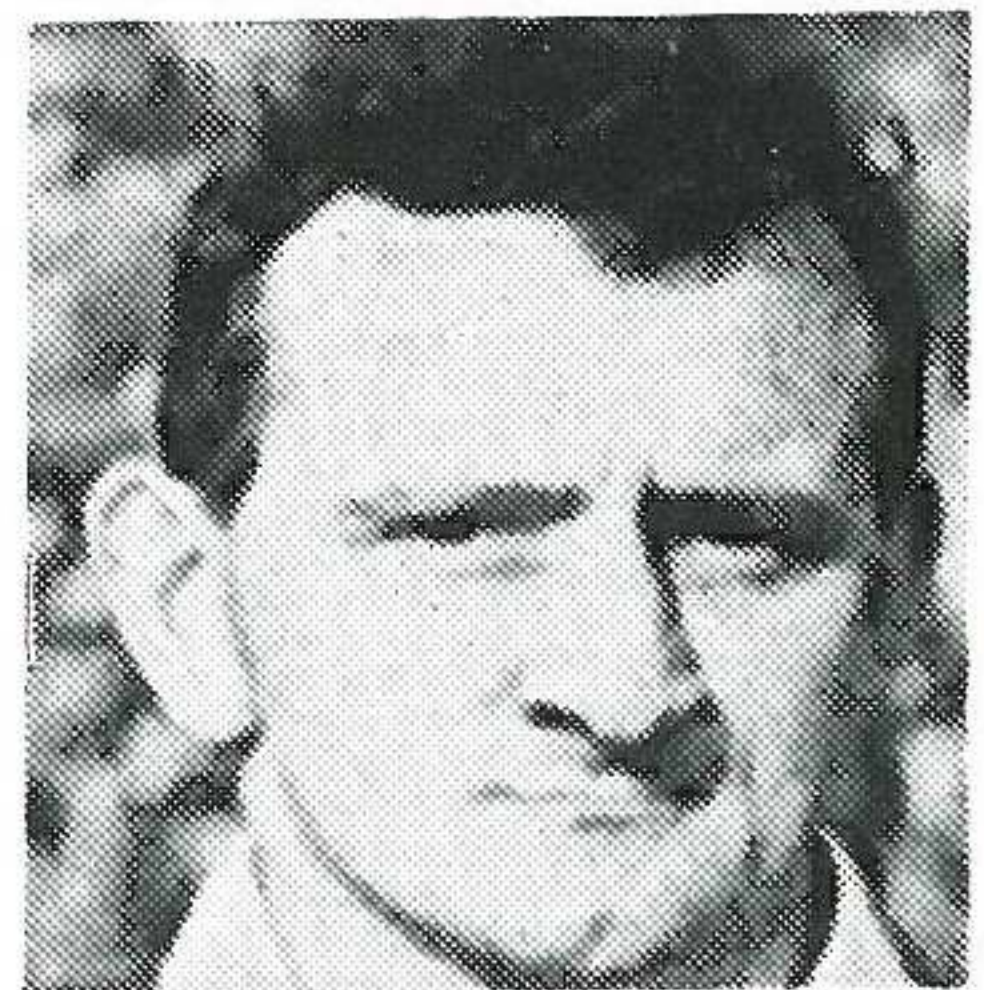
3. Billy Morgan, of Cork, conceded a goal in last year's Munster Senior Football final at Cork. What was special about that

score? .....

4. This hurler scored a whopping 2-10 in a provincial senior decider last July, but was still on the losing side. Who is he?

.....

5. Kilkenny's left half back in their Leinster Senior Hurling final win over Wexford just about a year ago? .....



6. Recognise these former stars? They are ex-hurlers, and to complete the exercise, list their clubs .....

.....

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© TO PAGE 36



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## Limerick again the venue for Feile na nGael

**F**EILE na nGael was the brain child of Tipperary Gaeldom, and for two great years it was nourished in the "Cradle of the Gael", with the result that it was a lusty infant on its arrival in Limerick last year, where it continued to grow at a rapid rate under the guidance of the enthusiastic Shannonside workers, who extended its influence from the original two days to a complete week.

The idea of having the hurling representatives of each of the thirty-two counties coming together not only to play the native game but to live with Limerick families is the real key to the success of the venture, and friendships were cemented last year between the parishes of Shannonside and their visitors from the four corners of the land that will endure for many a long day.

Tipperary laid the groundwork of the Feile, and Limerick added its own distinctive features last year. These included the special Sean O'Riada Mass that opened the proceedings, the carrying by relays of runners of the Feile Bronze Hurley from Michael Cusack's birthplace at Carron,

Co. Clare to the Feile headquarters for the raising of the specially designed Feile flag; the civic reception by the Mayor; communal Irish song and dance; band recitals and an inter-firm hurling competition; which were all packed into the crowded week that reached its climax with the arrival of the representatives from all the other counties on the Friday evening.

The visitors were royally entertained by the host clubs and on Saturday morning games at thirty-two venues throughout the county provided a feast of hurling that would be hard to surpass, and play continued at intervals throughout the day, the aim being for each team to have three games.

The grand parade through the city streets on the Sunday morning of the sixty-four competing teams, all in togs, with banners waving and carrying their camans, complete with bands, was a memorable sight and a unique one, in that it was probably the first occasion all of the counties marched down historic O'Connell Street in any parade.

The competitions were played in four sections, graded accord-

ing to the expertise of the participants, and the quartette of finals plus an exhibition match in which great stars of the past appeared provided the grand finale at Pairc na nGael—a memorable feature of which was the perfect timing that saw the entire programme completed exactly as planned. The specially designed Feile medals, which were presented to the four winning sides, were too a welcome new innovation.

A G.A.A. Museum was organised in connection with the Feile, it contained many striking exhibits and was a centre of much interest.

The Feile is once again set for Limerick this year, and will run on this occasion from 14th to 21st July. A special feature of this festival is the formation of a National Steering Committee, which includes G.A.A. President, Dr. Donal Keenan and his two immediate predecessors — Pat Fanning and Seamus Ryan, with Director General Sean O'Siochain—indicating the importance the top brass now attach to the event.

All the 1973 features have been retained and a further dimension has been added by the inclusion of under fourteen Camogie and Handball on a National scale. An Art Competition is also being organised; the selection of a "Feile Queen" is included amongst the social events, and a Seminar is being arranged at which leading players of the past will participate in a "This was my Life" feature.

All this activity must strain the field and accommodation resources of Limerick City and County but knowing the men who piloted last year's venture to the huge success it was one can only conclude that another great triumph will crown their efforts on this occasion.

# NEW SERIES WITH AUSSIES IN THE OFFING

By MICK DUNNE (of RTE)

**H**OPES for a renewal of the games between Gaelic footballers and Australian Rules players were raised again last spring when a minister in the then Australian government expressed his support for these sporting get-togethers. So, once more, there's talk of international competition in G.A.A. circles.

The top G.A.A. administrators are enthusiastic and some of them would like to see the day when our footballers, touring the globe, would take in San Francisco and New York on their way to, or from, Australia. It would be a wonderful experience for the players—as Meath and Kerry know—and it's equally certain that the Australian players would be welcome back in Ireland.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing a planned world tour by two Australian teams, sponsored by their government, does not include Dublin. But, of course,

there could be a change in their itinerary before they reach Europe in the autumn.

The possibility of the matches against the Australians is revived at a time when the future of contacts with New York and the continuance of the annual Irish Festival games in San Francisco are under consideration. So it might be no harm if the G.A.A. undertook a comprehensive examination of trips abroad, their benefits to the organisation here at home and the good they do for the New York G.A.A. and our people in San Francisco who are under the umbrella of the United Irish Societies.

The first thing that must be faced up to is that real international competition is not possible in hurling or football. For the very simple reason that no other race but the Irish plays these games. And we're not the

only ones in this position. There are three codes of football which can't have true international competition—ours, American football and Australian Rules. Unlike soccer, and to a lesser extent rugby, played by several countries, the three sports I've mentioned are played only by the Irish, the Americans and the Australians—and no two races play any one of the three.

So the most we can hope to achieve is a compromise—as in the case of the previous matches between Gaelic footballers and the Australians or as has been happening in recent years between our hurlers and the shinty players from Scotland. In these cases the rules of each game are relaxed—or put aside—but this sort of competition, pleasant and enjoyable though it may be, is merely artificial. It is neither Gaelic football nor Australian Rules; neither hurling nor shinty,



## Sport)

but a bastardised version of each of them.

It is this aspect that must be carefully considered by the GAA when any future games with the Australians are being arranged.

At the beginning the novelty value alone of the games with the Australians made them an attraction. Similarly when Meath visited Australia in 1968 sheer curiosity brought big crowds to the matches. But novelty soon wears off, consequently the second team of Australians in 1968 weren't nearly as big an attraction as the first tourists and when Kerry went to Australia two years after Meath their matches were sparsely attended.

It's worth listening to the people who have first-hand experience. Father Paddy Tully, who was Meath's county chairman on that '68 tour, has gone on record in Peter McDermott's excellent account of the trip **Gaels in the**

**Sun** with this statement: "If you wish to have a successful tour, you need finance. The tour itself should clear the greater part of the expense. In other words, you must draw the crowds to the games. The crowds go to the game they know and like, not to the game they do not know or understand. That is why I say it was a wise business decision to play our game here in Ireland. The Australians claim that their game is the greatest in the world, but they do not try to ram their game down anyone's throat."

Fr. Tully adds: "Teams going from Ireland to Australia must play Australian Rules football. It's as simple as that. It's possible, but by no means easy; in fact, it would be very difficult. But in those days of intensive coaching our best twenty players would make a pretty good job of it."

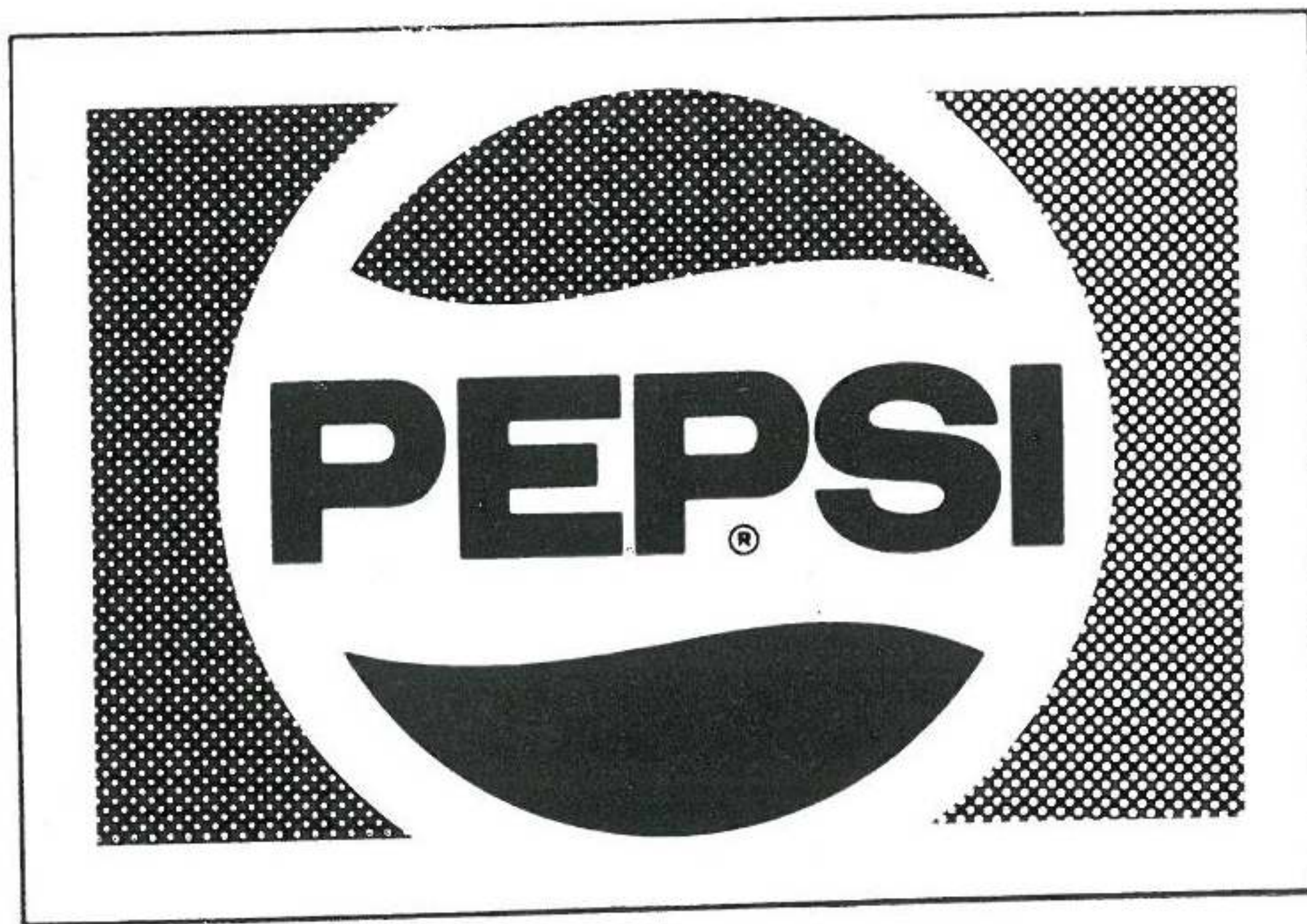
Jim Brosnan, the former Kerry

● *The Australian team that played Meath at Croke Park in 1967 parading before the game.*

chairman, is in complete agreement. "The Australian public," he says, "aren't interested in seeing people play Gaelic football, which they believe is an inferior game to theirs. But if our teams travelled out to challenge their best at the Rules game it would create enormous interest. Our players would have to be coached in Australian Rules for weeks before they travel, but that's the only way a tour would succeed. At the same time, the Australians

● **TO PAGE 27**

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● FROM PAGE 25

would undertake to play Gaelic football, with no bending of the rules, when they come here."

Which is all very well, if we're thinking only of trips for the players . . . no matter what the game. Remember, the ambition of any worthwhile soccer or rugby player is to play his game for Ireland. Would it mean the same gratifying fulfilment for Gaelic footballers if they were picked to play Australian Rules for Ireland? Or would the trip to Australia be the only thing they would value?

Here's another consideration: if these trips to Australia became a reality what about our hurlers? There wouldn't be any place for them in this globe-trotting future since only our next-door Scottish neighbours play a game akin to hurling. Could we run the risk of having our hurlers disenchanted and dissatisfied as poor relations while the footballers circled the globe? That wouldn't be the way to encourage hurling.

As I keep on saying, handball is the only Irish game in which we can have real international competition, since it's the one game of ours that's played by others—Americans, Canadians, Mexicans and Australians. As far as hurling and football is concerned maybe we ought to forget dreams of internationalism and concentrate on playing these games among ourselves — and by ourselves I mean the Irish, whether they are in New York, Britain, Boston, San Francisco or wherever.

I have never been convinced that having New York or London in the All-Ireland championship or the National Leagues was the correct way of doing it, but I shall always be a strong supporter of New York's and London's claim to some form of playing contact with the teams here at

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● Ron Barassi captain of the Australian team that visited Ireland in 1967 posing with one of the pretty Australian girls who travelled from London with the team.

---



home. The thing to be worked out is to find the best method of meeting those claims.

So I propose again something I—and others—have often suggested in the past: the pick of our players against the best hurlers and footballers in America. In the past that always meant New York, since, with only very few exceptions, the best hurlers and footballers were in Gaelic Park. But now that the GAA in the American cities has been so sadly hit by the immigration restrictions this might be a good time for Boston, Chicago, Cleveland and other cities to get together with New York to field teams against the best from Ireland. Those matches might be worked-in on the way back from San Francisco.

And Britain must be brought into it somewhere . . . on a more rational basis than having London enter the senior championships. Moreover, there's now so many Irish in Canada, especially Toronto, where they have no im-

migration barriers, that very soon the clubs there are going to ask for a place in the sun.

The annual trips to San Francisco are coming up against the big barrier of finance. With air fares spiralling as a result of the dearer fuel the cost of these trips will increase enormously. Since 1972, when the Carroll's All-Stars became involved, these trips are subsidised solely by the United Irish Societies and P. J. Carroll & Company.

They provide a most enjoyable 12 days for over 80 of our best players. But AT NO COST, WHATSOEVER, TO THE G.A.A. IN IRELAND. The people in San Francisco are determined that they will continue—and April 6 and 13 are the dates in '75—but with the cost going up in thousands, rather than hundreds, of dollars each year expense could kill them. But they will die only if the G.A.A. lets them. That's the harsh fact the Management Committee must face in the next few months.

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# REVOLUTION COMING

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THE recent Administration Course in Howth, following fast on the heels of the lively Congress debate on the motions calling for Finance, Fixtures and Communications Committees, will I believe lead in the very near future to a kind of administrative revolution within the Camogie Association.

The vast and welcome expansion of the playing membership through the country in recent years has meant a far greater demand for experienced officers to take charge. That demand will surely be met by the Administration Course, at which I was very glad to see so many of the leading members of the G.A.A. give so freely of their time and advice. This is exactly the kind of support, co-operation and assistance which the Camogie people has asked vainly for from the G.A.A. for so long, and it is wonderful to see this being supplied at last, and just at the right time, for both Associations, for co-operation between them at all levels was never more essential since both are striving to attract the youth not alone to the playing fields but to the social side of the Gaelic movement.

Another difficulty caused by the recent increase in Camogie's competitions and country-wide popularity has been the vastly increased amount of work thrown on Central Council. Motions at Congress sought to lighten the burden on Central Council by setting up a Committee which would look after fixtures and referees, another to deal with Finance, principally from the viewpoint of fund-raising, and a third to look

after Communications and Publicity.

Had these been proposed, either direct or separately I think some of them at least would have been carried. As it was presented both as an addition to a rule and as a package deal, they needed the change of but one vote to have secured a two-thirds majority.

However, from the feeling of Congress, I think it is obvious that some such sub-committees will make their appearance within the next year at the most. There is a crying need for them, and after the Administration Course, the personnel to man them should be available. But dedication and enthusiasm will be needed in addition at every level.

Meanwhile, back on the playing fields, the draw for the Senior championship has proved of absorbing interest as it was again on the Open system. And it was surely ironic that Cork, the county that has held the title and the O'Duffy Cup for the past four years should have been drawn at home against the team that was expected to be their sharpest challengers, Galway.

It may seem a shame that Galway, first time out should have to travel to Cork to face the champions. But Galway have a great deal going for them. After all they have met Cork three times within the last twelve months at senior level. Galway lost by only a single puck of the ball in the All-Ireland senior semi-final at Ballinasloe last August. Then in October Galway, representing Connacht, met Cork's

full All-Ireland side in the Gael-Linn Cup semi-final at Castleconnell and held them to a draw. What is more in the subsequent replay at Ballinasloe between unchanged teams, Galway scored a good victory. So these Galway girls will have no particular fears about travelling especially as the game in the Western County received such a tremendous boost in winning both All-Ireland Colleges titles.

That unique achievement was brought off by Presentation Convent Athenry who made further history by winning both finals at Croke Park on the same afternoon, with four girls, Bernie Duffy, Noreen Treacy, Olive Coady and Eileen Hynes playing on both senior and junior sides, a wonderful feat by any standards.

So Galway not alone have a fine team at the moment, they have some wonderful replacements coming up, and one thing seems certain, if in that opening game they can end the long reign of this great Cork side they will then be firmest favourites to take the title and the trophy to Connacht for the first time. The other first-round pairings should provide some entertaining games, for, while Antrim will be firm favourites to account for Derry, there will be very little between Kilkenny and Tipperary, or between Dublin and Wexford.

As Cork who won both titles last year will have to find an entirely new junior side, I rather fancy Galway, last year's defeated finalists to recapture the title in this grade.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

COMHAIRLE MUMHAN

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# ANALYSING THE OPEN DRAW

**T**HE system of running the All-Ireland Singles and Doubles Championships on an open draw basis is now two months old and it seems an opportune time to analyse its effect on the game.

My immediate impression is that it has brought about a very impartial method of determining our champions.

The open draw, in one instance, has given counties with a surplus of first rate players an opportunity of entering them in the competitions, as distinct from pitting them against each other in internal county trials, to determine one singles and a doubles partnership.

This was particularly applicable in Leinster, with special reference to Wexford, where the right of county representation entailed a mini All-Ireland in itself.

On the otherhand, the Open Draw has made it a lot more difficult for players in Ulster to reach the final stages. With a sparsity of senior players in the Province, it was nearly automatic that such as Séamus McCabe (Monaghan) and Lewis Gilmore (Cavan) went through to the All-Ireland Semi-Finals.

In this regard then the Open Draw scores heavily, not to mention the fact, that the innovation of meeting a varied type of opposition has appealed to the players. It can be assumed also that the concluding stages of the Open Competitions, will produce consistently productive and exciting handball.

In an attempt to find the deficiencies of the Open Draw, we make the comparison with the effective erosion of Provincialism and, indeed, question the role of Provincial Councils in the future.

With the administration of the Open Draw now under the control of the Central Council, the role of Provincial Councils will become stagnated, in so far as their main responsibilities will concern subsidiary competitions, hence, there may be a distinct difficulty in filling positions of administration.

Allied to this argument is the equally authentic contention that the Open Draw will place a heavy financial drain on the Central Council, and with a continual financial deficiency in handball, this factor must be a prime consideration.

Indeed, it is possible that time may prove the Open Draw system less effective than anticipated.

My own opinion is that the eventual destiny of handball may be determined through regional councils, who will enjoy effective delegation of authority channelled through the Central Council.

At present, speculation is rife as to the eventual winners of the Singles and Doubles Competitions, a well-nigh impossible task, even, when these were run on a provincial basis. It is only natural that one should vouch for Pat Kirby in the Singles Grade.

I, of course, made the same prediction last year and Kirby duly fell in the Munster Cham-

pionship to Pat McGarry of Limerick. Nonetheless, in the past twelve months, Kirby's sheer brilliance could not be tarnished, and he finished the season, with a series of super-charged performances in the American Championships. He had the distinction of being in the top eight in that particular event, and those who saw the games, suggest that with a little luck he could have reached the semi-finals.

Kirby is the complete handballer, indeed, reckoned by many as the best in the world. His gentlemanly decorum inside and outside the court, puts him in a special category as a sportsman.

Kirby makes no secret of the fact that he has a driving ambition to win a senior title, and that he is going to make the break for it this year.

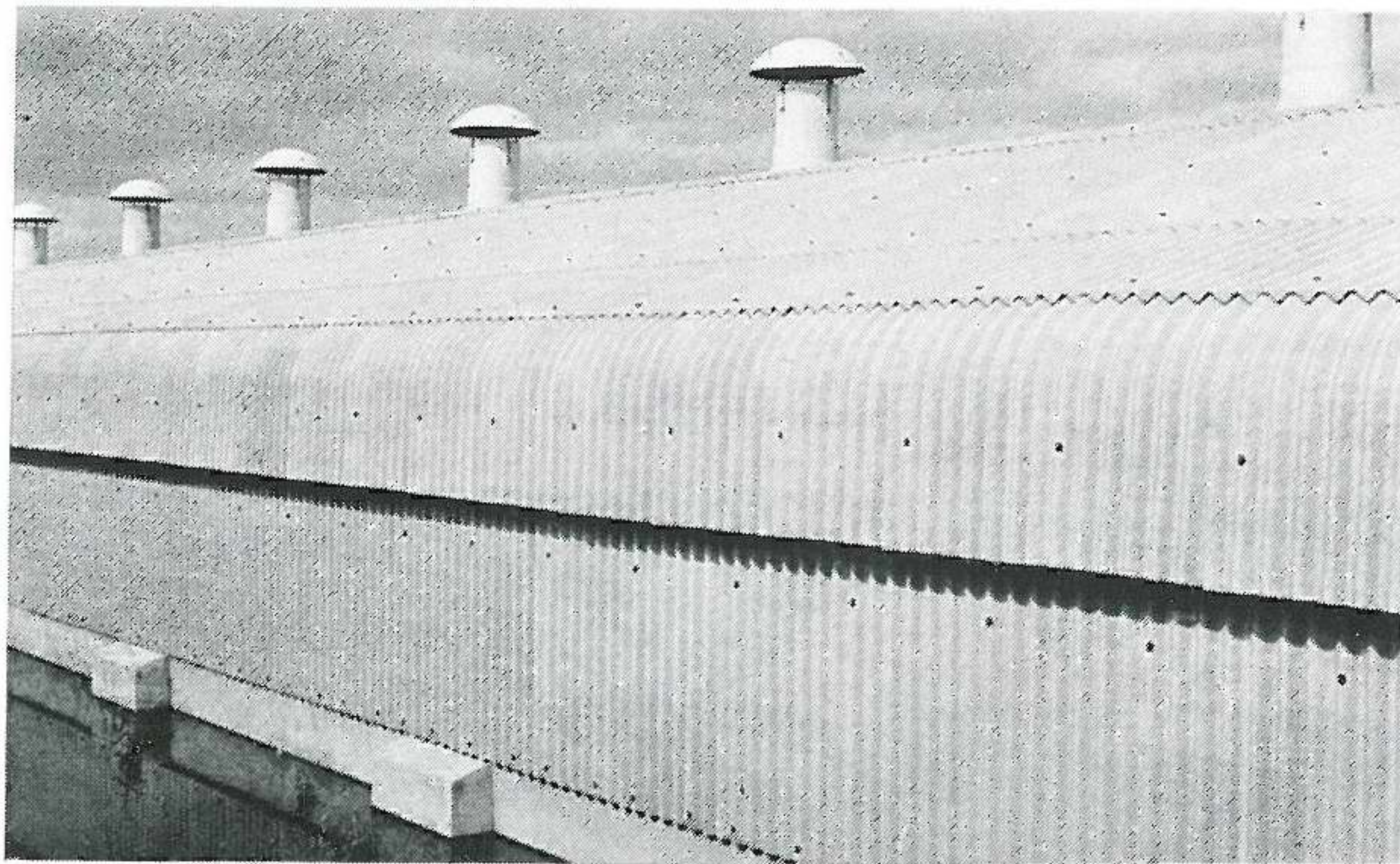
The coming months will unfold the story and, while, I fancy Kirby to land the title, one cannot envy him the rugged path he must traverse to get there.

He faces some really outstanding opposition, including the veteran Drogheda ace Joey Maher, who had the distinction of winning the American Masters Championship this year.

The Doubles Championship is so evenly balanced that I am at a loss to even hazard a guess at a winner.

I am, however, eagerly looking forward to many attractive matches in this year of experimental open draw handball.

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By 'DECLAN GREHAN, B.Arch., of Asbestos Cement

WHATEVER the farmer may think, E.E.C. entry has completely changed the aspect of agriculture in Ireland. Anything to do with agriculture is now front page news. Whether it is an alleged disaster in some area of selling or guaranteed pensions and purchase schemes for retiring farmers there is a new dynamism in agriculture today.

This new dimension means that traditional attitudes must of necessity change and be adopted on a wide scale. Where traditional attitudes are still valid this must be encouraged and developed.

There are factors in Ireland which are of great benefit to farmers, amongst the outstanding of which must be the availability of information from such as the Agricultural Institute (An Foras Taluntais) which is in the forefront of world agricultural research. It is of great value to the Irish farmer that the results of many years of hard work and high quality research are now readily available at this time. To anybody interested in agriculture it is quite clear that greatest changes have taken place throughout the farming community.

### HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO FARM BUILDINGS?

Beginning with the farmhouse, can anybody doubt the sweeping changes in recent years in the whole concept of the average dwellinghouse on the farm. The farmer's wife now rightly insists on the same standards of comfort as her city sister and the farmer himself appreciates this comfort as well.

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demand for Thrutone Asbestos Cement slates and we know that many slates are finding their way on to the roofs of new and renovated farm houses throughout the country.

When it comes to farm buildings, here obviously, the new mental attitude is again evident. Thought in planning and layout to ease the labour content are now commonplace and lead to specialised building units. For every different aspect of agriculture there are specialised buildings. Asbestos Cement can offer top quality products for all these situations. One of the main requirements must be that the product is conceived with Irish climatic conditions in mind. The one single factor of being maintenance free can be a vital ingredient when total cost is being considered. Similarly, Asbestos Cement is not affected by condensation, a problem which bedevils Irish farm buildings. It is easy to provide highly insulated roof and walls with different cladding of Asbestos Cement materials.

It must also be noted that recent dramatic price increases in building products have not been reflected to any similar degree in Asbestos Cement products which must be among the most economic on the market today.

It is worth noting that flat sheets of Asbestos Cement may serve as wall linings or pen divisions through piggeries or calf housing. Here again the fact that it is not adversely affected by moisture and its easy cleaning characteristics make the product of real value to farmers.

Like many other countries in Western Europe the farm build-

ing of the future in Ireland will have a good deal of Asbestos Cement products and Asbestos Cement have now available in Ireland, a basic product which has seen extensive use in Western Europe, particularly Denmark. This is a through colour blue black corrugated sheet factory mitred which is called Coratone. There is no doubt but that this product can have wide application in rural Ireland in any position where the farmer wishes to ensure that any building being erected will be handsome and add to the local scene.

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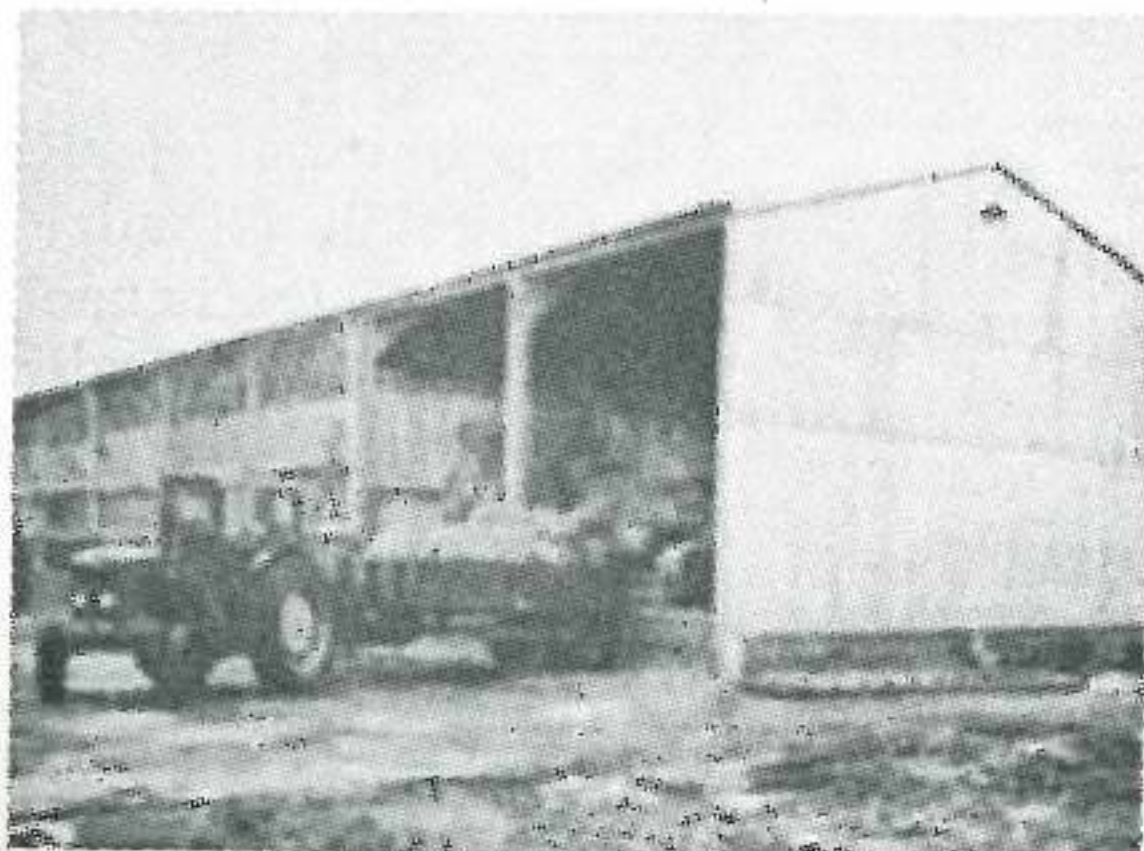
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# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE — IN CONCRETE

By DES O'DOHERTY of Galway Concrete

CONCRETE, as is well known to all farmers is the most useful and durable material available for building. It is used extensively by farmers for floors, yards, silos and slurry tanks. It is also used in the foundations for steel framed buildings and in concrete blocks for the walls of the buildings. However, very little use has been made of concrete in the actual frame of the building. The main reason for this is that up to very recently no economical precast concrete frame has been available. This situation has now been rectified and Galway Concrete Ltd. has introduced the Galway Crendon Portal Frame to the farming community.

Concrete frames have tremendous advantage over frames of other materials in their durability and maintenance-free quality. The concrete used in precast concrete frames is poured under factory conditions, using high frequency vibration to ensure maximum strength and resistance to damage by mach-

inery. The finished product is not liable to rotting like timber or cannot deteriorate due to rusting like steel. The appearance is therefore first class and will remain so for the life of the building. Due to these qualities the building will have a much longer life. There is no maintenance required so the job of painting which can be very time consuming is completely eliminated. The other advantage all concrete buildings have is their resistance to fire which can destroy a timber or steel building very quickly. Another factor which should be taken into account is that concrete is made from all Irish material and therefore in building concrete buildings instead of steel or timber ones the farmer is helping the economy generally because these other materials are imported from abroad.

The price of concrete buildings is now competitive with steel due to the increased cost of steel. However, in relating these prices one must compare like with like

and while certain types of steel buildings are cheaper they do not compare in design quality or durability with concrete. This is especially true where larger span buildings are concerned. There are indications that larger livestock production units are going to be far more important than the initial capital investment.

The concrete portal frame has been used extensively in Great Britain and on the continent for a considerable number of years where it has proven itself under much more severe weather conditions than we experience in Ireland. The Crendon frame in particular has been in great demand in Britain. The flexibility of the design of the system means that it can be used in virtually any type of building the farmer may require including accommodation for cows, beef cattle, pigs or storage for silage, hay, potatoes, etc. Provision can be made for future extensions, lean-to's, etc., as required.

Therefore looking to the future which despite the present setbacks holds great hope for increased production of farm commodities the farmer is going to demand bigger and better quality buildings. This demand is going to be met by precast concrete buildings.

## ● FROM PAGE 11

to be hoped for at Wembley at Whit will be unlikely to exceed that 25,000 mark, no matter how good the bill of fare may be, in present circumstances.

Such an attendance is of course in itself a remarkable achievement, presumably very satisfactory from a financial viewpoint. The financial returns can, of course, be further boosted by Television coverage, though I am not too clear as to how far the British T.V. people will go in providing sport "live" from their own cameras on Sundays. I know they do cricket on B.B.C. 2, but hurling and football "live" from Wembley might well draw something more than comment from the Lord's Day Observance Society.

But, in the final analysis, all this is strictly short-term. The ultimate view must be a long one, and in the end the answer to the Wembley Fixture problem can only be provided by the Gaels of Britain themselves.

Through the last few years, I have seen several excellent performances by London under-16 foot-

ball sides against their Dublin footballing counterparts. Surely it should soon be possible to advance the age-limit in these games to minor level, perhaps to have a game between a minor side representing All-Britain play one of our county minor sides as a Wembley curtain-raiser?

The ultimate aim must be to produce a team of native-born "British" Gaelic footballers good enough to challenge us here at home. Congress agreed a couple of months ago to allow Britain representation in the senior football series. Whether this decision was premature or not remains to be seen, but, at the very least, it should prove a valuable stepping stone towards the day when a football side representing the pick of Britain will be good enough to take on not, perhaps, the pick of Ireland but certainly our National League or All-Ireland champions.

And when that day comes, when the Wembley games begin to attain something like true international status, then, surely, there will be no further need to worry about the size of the attendance.

● FROM PAGE 21

7. That last gasp point by Richie Bennis that won the Munster Senior Hurling Championship for Limerick last year is still a vivid memory. Two years earlier,

however, Tipperary beat Limerick with a point 30 seconds from the end of a Munster final. Who notched that winning score?

8. Jimmy Duggan, of Galway,

won an All-Ireland Colleges' senior medal and his first Connacht senior souvenir in the same year. What year was that?

9. Who scored Galway's solitary goal in last year's Connacht Senior football decider — Michael Rooney, John Tobin or Liam Sammon?

10. This footballer was the youngest player to captain a Provincial Senior Championship winning squad in the past year?

# ANSWERS

(Printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

1. Donie Hanlon; 2. False. Frankie McFeeley captained Donegal in that final; 3. That was the first goal against Morgan in a Munster Senior final at Cork; 4. Francis Loughane; 5. Eamonn Mossissey; 6. Nick Rackard, of Rathnure and Wexford, and Paddy Barry, of Sarstfields and Cork; 7. John Flanagan; 8. 1966; 9. Michael Rooney; 10. Frank McEugan, who led Tyrone to their Ulster Senior Football Championship win. He was not then 19.

## COUNTY RECORDS

1. 1968, Longford; 2. Fermanagh, Westmeath, Wicklow; 3. 29th; 4. False; Roscommon beat Mayo in the 1972 final; 5. No. Wexford won six in succession (1913 to 1918 inclusive) and Kildare also took six in a row (1926 to 1931 inclusive); 6. 1969 when they beat Down by 2-13 to 2-6 at Casement Park; 7. 1966 — Cork 2-7; Kerry 1-7; 8. False. Waterford's last final was in 1966 when they lost to Cork by 2-9 to 4-9; 9. Kilkenny and Offaly; 10. Three — Senior, Under-21 and Minor.

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# Host of memories

By MICK DUNNE  
(of RTE Sport)



● Tommy Murphy (Laois)

**T**HE distinguishing feature of the Leinster football championship has always been its great variety. The province has the largest number of counties and, usually, no significant variation in the standard or strength of most of them. Consequently the absolute unpredictability of the competition makes it the most exciting of all four provincial football championships.

At the start of each summer there's a huge uncertainty about which counties will be Leinster finalists in July. There's no such doubt in Munster where the Kerry-Cork monopoly is very rarely interrupted. There was only a brief spell in the 1950s when it wasn't Mayo or Roscommon who qualified for the final with Galway. It's only in recent times that Cavan's recurring presence in the Ulster final has been halted.

In Leinster no two counties have ever dominated the football final. There have been patterns, but they never lasted for too long. In the late Twenties it was Dublin and Kildare, but by the end of the Thirties there was a change to Laois-Kildare finals. In the 1940s we never had the same pairing in successive finals—there was, in fact, the changing pairings of Dublin-Carlow, Wexford-Offaly, Louth-Laois, Louth-Wexford and Meath-Laois—and this continued until the late 1950s when Dublin and Louth clashed in two. Came the Sixties and it was Offaly-Dublin giving away to Meath-Offaly and this pairing, in turn, was replaced by Offaly and Kildare. So the Leinster championship is not the place where betting men make money.

Once one starts thinking along

these lines a host of memories of splendid finals come flooding back.

Ironically, one of the very great finals got a lot less coverage than it deserved. The Dublin newspapers were closed by a strike when Meath and Louth played in Croke Park in July 1952. Those were the days of near 50,000 crowds, but a thriller, which ended in a 1-6 to 0-8 victory for Meath, earned only a few inches of daily newspaper space—and that in the "Cork Examiner" which was more concerned, understandably, with what was happening in Munster.

That was a Meath team of marvellous footballers. Remember the great Paddy O'Brien? He had one of his frequent hours of brilliance at full-back, and there was the wiry little—but oh so sturdy—Christo Hand. Brendan Maguire, who two months later was to play in the All-Ireland final with his brothers Des and Liam wearing the blue and white of Cavan, had a very happy hour at midfield. It was the great Brian Smith who got the decisive goal in the second half to give Meath their winning lead and that final showed us the superb attacking talents of Paddy Meegan and Peter McDermott.

And, of course, the great Louth

names cross the memory . . . Tom Conlon, Paddy Markey, Hubert Reynolds, Stephen White and the then young Kevin Beahan.

Only Dublin fans among the 48,860 who saw the 1955 final could have left Croke Park happy because that was one of the most one-sided deciders on record: Dublin 5-12, Meath 0-7. Yet, that game was notable for the dazzling quality of the overwhelming football played by a Dublin team of eleven St. Vincent's men with Paddy O'Flaherty, Billy Monks, Jim McGuinness and Johnny Boyle, the "outsiders". (Incidentally, my last meeting with Johnny Boyle was just four months ago in London Airport before we parted company—he to check-in for a flight to Los Angeles on the way back to New Zealand after a brief visit home and I heading for the Miami check-in desk to start a journey that took me to Tennessee).

Two months earlier in '55 Dublin had beaten Meath easily in the League final, but they annihilated them in the provincial final to give Dublin the title after a 13-year lapse. With Ollie Freaney most effectively doing the engine-room work as centre half-forward they ripped through the Meath defence. Johnny Boyle had two goals, Kevin Heffernan, Cathal O'Leary and Des Ferguson one each. And, in recent years, by a queer quirk of fate that same Des Ferguson is one of the principal promoters of hurling in Meath.

● TO PAGE 42

# DIVERSE VIEWS ON SATURDAY GAMES

**T**HAT there's a perennial fixture problem within the Gaelic Athletic Association there's no doubt.

The question is can anything be done to alleviate the situation? Midweek games have been tried, but have hardly proved an unqualified success.

How about utilising Saturdays for a number of inter-county games?

We put this suggestion to some prominent members of the association.

## COLM DORAN :

If inter-county games were staged on Saturdays, counties would be fielding skeleton sides. There's no way a farmer for instance could get off to play on Saturday—and there are a lot of them in top class football and hurling.

The same would apply to supporters, and those that were free to go to a game would not, I feel, support Gaelic games on any day other than Sunday. It's what he has been used to.

Nowadays people are not too keen to make sacrifices and while the players might, if pushed, set aside their work and play, I would be surprised if the supporters took the same line.

## MARTIN DOHERTY :

I would be all in favour of it because it would give the lads a chance to enjoy themselves at the weekend. At the present time players cannot have a jar or anything on the Friday or Saturday before a big game, and since all of them will have to be up early for work on Monday, entertainment on Sunday evening is also limited.

I think it would be a good

idea. Of course there might be problems such as encouraging the fans to turn out on a day which might not suit them. But they could be conditioned to it.

## AL McMURRAY

Obviously it would be a great idea to relieve pressure on the fixture programme, but it's not on in Ulster.

Most of our lads are dual players. They play soccer on Saturdays and Gaelic on Sundays. Frankly they would not be prepared to throw aside the soccer.

Also a lot of them are students who have part time jobs on Saturdays, which allow them to turn out for local soccer games, but would leave them no time for travelling distances for Gaelic games.

## T. P. MURPHY :

Saturday football is the only way we can hope to improve the standard in Ulster. Too many of our players are playing soccer on Saturday with the result that they are hardly fit to turn out in Gaelic games on the following day.

I think it would be a marvellous idea and should be given a try. It goes without saying that it would be a blessing to those whose task it is to arrange the various fixtures.

## SEAMUS POWER

We have tried it in Waterford and found it to be a failure. It definitely did not take.

The fact was that few paying customers turned up, so the Board lost money. Consequently we would be slow to try it again.

I'm convinced that Saturday is a T.V. day in Ireland. The sporting public stay at home watching racing, wrestling or soccer. Then

on Sunday they come along to our games. I don't think this will change, despite the wishes of many.

## DONIE O'SULLIVAN

Rationalise the fixture list and there would be no need for Saturday football. If things were better organised there would be no problems.

I don't believe that Saturday football will ever be popular. The supporters would not, I think take to it, and I'm not so sure the players would either.

In Ireland it's very difficult to get people to watch games, whatever they are, with the possible exception of golf on Saturdays.

## PACKY McGARTY :

No, I would be all against it. For some counties championship and important league games are "days out" for the fans. They look forward to them for weeks in advance. You could never try and convince them to go on Saturdays instead of Sundays.

Traditions die hard in the G.A.A. and country folk would never stand for such an upheaval in their programme.

Nobody would I suppose object if less important games were staged on Saturday, but it's hard to imagine big matches being moved away from Sunday.

## ALO KELLY :

It might be a sound move in theory, but I could never see it operating. For a start Saturday is still a working day for most of the lads who play Gaelic games. Secondly, people simply would not turn out in sufficient numbers on Saturday to see inter-county football.

Perhaps it might be possible to run off certain tournament games on Saturdays, but certainly not important league or championship ties.

In any event there are too many counter attractions on Saturdays, the television being the main one.



## NEW RULES WELL RECEIVED BY ALL

I AM writing this piece on Sunday, June 2, shortly after the curtain has fallen on the latest tragic scene in the continuing tortured saga of the Fourth Green Field; by the grace and favour of those who, during the past fortnight, have crushed the most elementary facets of living I can now hope that it will be delivered.

The so-called Workers' Strike strangled life in the Six Counties for the latter half of the month of May and, of course, GAA activities suffered through the wholesale, naked anarchy which stalked the streets and countryside.

However life must go on and I have just returned from seeing Antrim putting paid to Fermanagh's championship hopes in their first round tie at Casement Park. Sadly the Erne county must wait another year at least before winning their first Ulster crown but it is good to see Antrim again hinting that they are back as serious contenders in the title race.

No doubt the critics will be justified in suggesting that this was a sub-standard affair highlighted—if that is the correct word—by some atrocious Fermanagh marksmanship rather than by any star quality in the Saffrons performance. Personally I believe any side with such as Seamus Killough in defence and Gerry Armstrong, Aidan

Hamill and Andy McCallin in attack must be reckoned with. Indeed I will be greatly surprised if Antrim's clash with Tyrone or Donegal in the semi-final on July 7 does not prove very interesting.

### A NEW GAME!

If the proof of the pudding be in the eating, the new experimental playing rules seem certain to provide a very heady diet throughout the championship season and beyond.

I have not had any personal reaction from the South but certainly both fans and players alike up here seem well satisfied with the fare served up so far under the revised dispensation.

Armagh secretary and top inter-county referee Gerry Fagan seemed to be speaking for all when he told me that the new rules in football "will give us a new game completely". Although he has some reservations about the enlarged parallelogram Fagan is delighted with the effect the other changes have had already. "In the games I have handled so far with the changes in operation I have been really thrilled and I believe that players and spectators have also been delighted with the changes," he remarked.

And Fagan added: "Referees have it now in their power to establish their control over the

game. The fact that it is common knowledge that a player can be sent off for persistent fouling should be a great deterrent and with automatic suspension now only two weeks referees should be more willing to sideline offenders.

"The third-man tackle always caused problems in the past. But I'm not all that happy about the awarding of a penalty for all fouls committed inside the enlarged parallelogram. It's a bit rough to give a penalty against a defender for picking the ball off the ground 20 yards from his own goal particularly if he stumbles and accidentally touches the ball on the ground."

Continuing his very interesting assessment of the new position Fagan suggested that referees would have to rely more on their umpires and while this would be satisfactory in county games where neutral officials were in charge he had doubts about it at club level.

I go all the way with Gerry Fagan and I have every sympathy with his reservations about the justice of awarding an open penalty for all fouls committed inside the enlarged parallelogram.

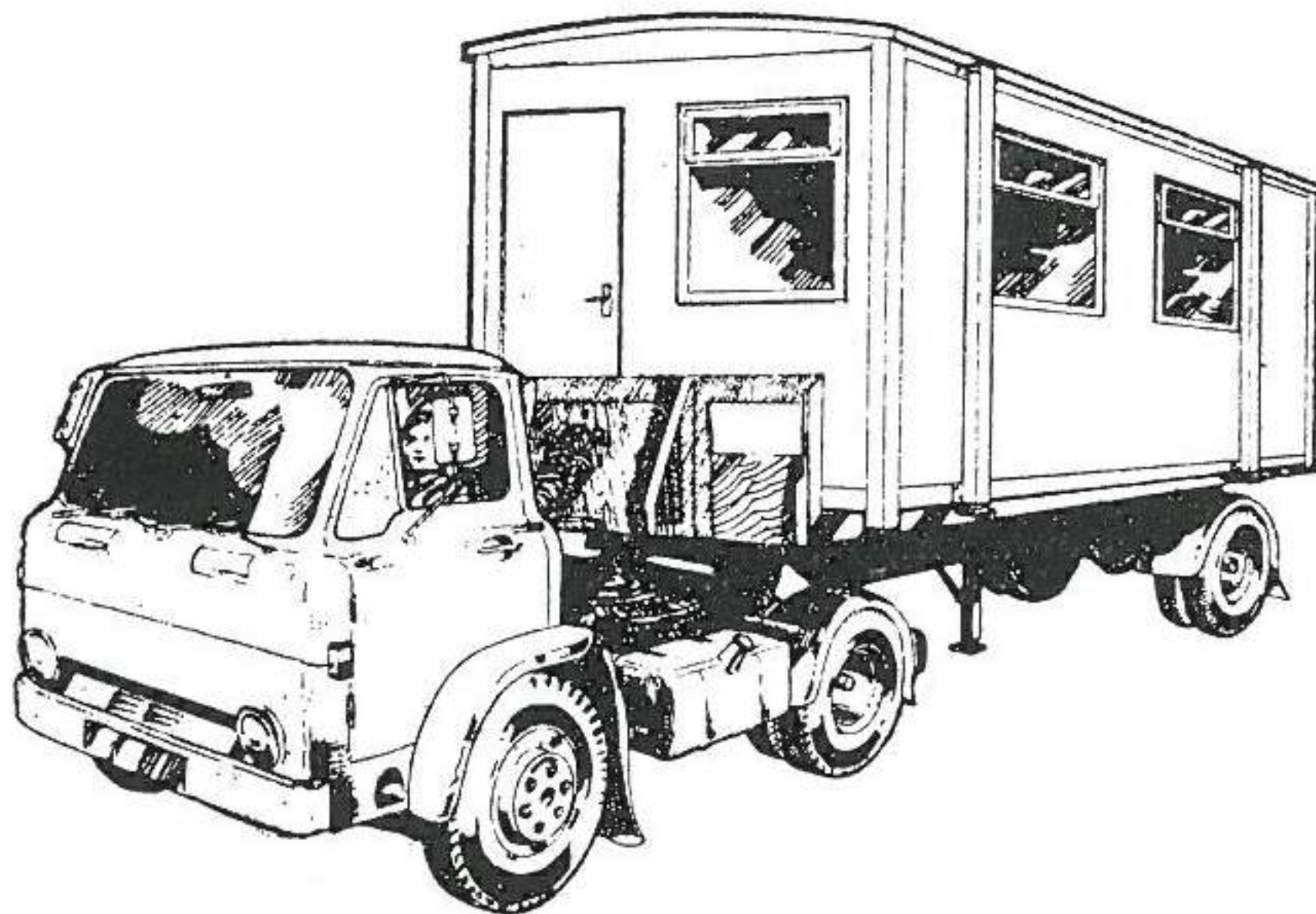
**Several local referees here are very keen on the Rules Revision Committee having another look at this particular rule.**

Many of these officials believe that the GAA should examine the possibility of classifying fouls within the new "square" with a view to having the punishment fit the crime more equitably than may be the case at present.

I do not wish to throw cold water on any attempt to investigate this problem but personally I can't help feeling that any effort to categorise fouls is doomed to end in disaster because of the additional burden it would place on the referee's shoulders.

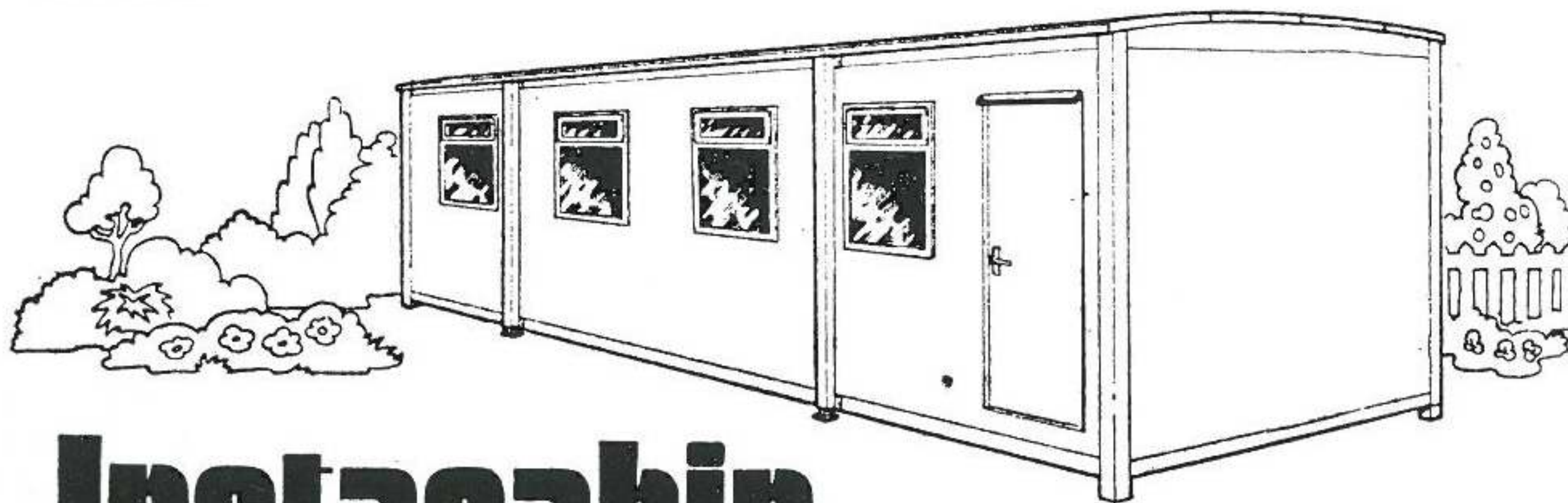
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# Club development news

by TONY KEEGAN

RECENTLY I had the pleasure of interviewing John Connolly, Managing Director of another one of Ireland's most successful companies, the Connolly Construction Co. For a number of years the three Connolly brothers, Michael, John and Bill who hail from Co. Mayo, have been building houses, schools and other prestige projects both here and abroad. They were later joined by brothers Dominick and Tom. They now employ approximately eight hundred men and last year built many hundred houses here.

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● FROM PAGE 37

Who can forget that splendid defence of Denis Mahony, Jim Lavin, Mick Moylan and the late Nicky Maher or the midfield play of Jim Crowley. Yes, Dublin — indeed the G.A.A. — badly needs their like again.

On the last day of July 1960 a new name was added to Leinster's roll of honour. And no Offaly supporter among 35,000 allowed the torrential downpours to dampen his spirits on this day of

joy. It was a long, long time coming and it was alarmingly close before Donie O'Hanlon tapped over the winning point that beat Louth 0-10 to 1-6.

Willie Nolan, Paddy McCormack, Greg Hughes, John Egan, Sean Foran, Harry Donnelly, Sean Brereton and O'Hanlon were some of the men who took part in that historic win, but only McCormack remained as a player to share in the ultimate glory when the Sam Maguire

Cup went to Offaly over a decade later.

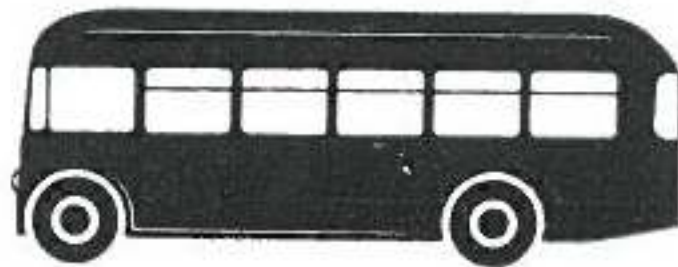
No look back at Leinster finals could omit the first one played over 80 minutes. That 1970 decider between Meath and Offaly was surely one of the most remarkably dramatic of all. Meath were five points up in 15 minutes, then John Cooney's goal set Offaly alight and they were leading 4-7 to 0-9 at the interval. For the second half Meath switched Ollie Shanley from left corner forward all the way up to right half-back and 15 minutes after the resumption Offaly led 4-11 to 0-16. Then came two goals by Mick Fay for Meath and they were fighting back with enormous courage to win 2-22 to 5-12.

One other Leinster final was outside my sports journalism career, but is still vividly recalled for reasons not entirely associated with the place of my birth. In the 1946 final I saw one of the most outstanding individual performances I can remember. By that time Tommy Murphy of Laois — the greatest of all the footballers who never won an All-Ireland medal — was nearly ten years in senior football and he had moved from midfield to centre half-back. Yet, this defender kicked eight points from frees, and was responsible for making another, when Laois beat Kildare 0-11 to 1-6.

From the time he began as a young teenage senior until his last appearance in 1953, Murphy, one of the most superb stylists of all time, played many outstanding games for Laois. But rarely did he contribute as much as in that '46 final. Moreover, as Kildare launched all-out late raids to save the game Tommy magnificently defied them with brilliant defending.

If Dublin could do with a few Freaneys and Heffernans nowadays how much more do Laois need players like Tommy Murphy, Bill, Mick and Chris Delaney and Mick Haughney.

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# PRESS CUTTINGS

By Neil McCavana

"THE G.A.A. needs a shake-up in the public relations field." That's a sentiment that has been echoed from time to time down the years, and I came across it yet again when preparing this month's review of comments from the provincial papers.

The public relations aspect was put into focus in COMMENT in the "Roscommon Champion." I take the following from the issue published after the Kerry-Roscommon draw in the National Football League final:

"Roscommon's team mentors held a 'Welcome Home' do for the lads on their return from Dublin on Monday. The function was held in the Royal Hotel and was well attended, especially by local children who heard of it at their schools.

"The G.A.A., which never ceases to scream about 'poor publicity' didn't bother to invite the local press nor did it inform the papers to give advance notice to the public so that the boys could have a real welcome from fans that were proud of their showing at Croke Park.

"On Tuesday we heard from a non-G.A.A. source that the function was, in fact, a private one for the team and officials only.

This seems odd as the team is owned by the County at large and not by the officials alone — unless the officials are going to cough up the cash this year and forego the usual Church gate begging bowls.

"This is not a new crap. Local press men covering championship and National League games, often in miserable weather, at the Dr. Douglas Hyde Park get no consideration from local officials — but let a national newspaper reporter show his nose over the skyline and the local officials are all of a dither to ensure his maximum comfort.

"We all know how those same national newspaper reporters treated Roscommon in their pre-match coverage of last Sunday's game.

"In addition, the Secretary of the West of Ireland branch of the National Union of Journalists recently wrote to local and national G.A.A. officials about the treatment of local reporters. The local bigwigs and their national counterparts didn't even have the courtesy to reply.

"The G.A.A. needs a shake-up in the public relations field, and until it puts its own house in order, it need not wail again

about 'poor publicity.' The local press does its best to foster interest in G.A.A. games and it is about time the G.A.A. recognised this fact in a tangible manner."

Finally, I go out more or less where I came in with these paragraphs from Gorey Gaelic Gossip by Sean Dwyer in "The Guardian":

"I got a surprise in St. Enda's Park, Gorey, on Sunday last—the structure that goes for a 'Press Box' had disappeared. In fact, it is not a Press Box at all but a sort of shelter with only a roof and no sides or front. Admittedly it will keep the rain off you provided the wind is blowing from the right direction. At least this crude shelter was better than nothing."

"However, that is even gone. Several requests have been made to St. Enda's Park Committee, the Gorey District Committee and Wexford County Board to provide a proper Press Box in Gorey but without any results.

"The situation has now reached the ultimatum stage — unless a Press Box is provided, appropriate action will be taken immediately and this could result in games at St. Enda's Park not being covered by the Press."

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# JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



## DEVOTED TO THE VIEWS OF OUR YOUNGER READERS

**J**ULY is with us. High Summer. Sunny days (we hope). Provincial finals. Long lines of cars going to games. Traffic jams. Over-heated engines. The early excitement of the minor games. Future stars. County favours being sold. Ice cream being flung into the crowd. Collectors of all kinds. The old melodeon man never dies. He knows the songs to sing. There is nothing like the championship.

### HARRY KEEGAN

Our Cut-out this month is Harry Keegan of Roscommon—a courageous corner back who typifies the spirit of this Roscommon team. Everyone was sorry they missed the boat in the drawn N.F.L. final. For they played a very exciting open brand of football reminiscent of the Jimmy Murray - Donal Keenan - Frankie Kinlough - Bill Carlos - Brendan Lynch era. This team will be back. But hats off to Kerry too—they have shown remarkable consistency in the league for the past few years.

### WATERFORD

Two other things before I in-



● Stephen Greene . . . a member of the Waterford team that shocked Cork.

roduce the Mailbag. Weren't Waterford great? They have trained hard under Seamus Power and we will be hearing much more of the Greenes, Hickey, McGrath, Heffernan, Geary, Coady and Co.

Finally a treat for programme collectors. The Sigerson Cup official programme produced by the Maynooth College G.A.A. club is a masterpiece. Those of you who want it can have a copy of this magnificent production by writing to Rev. M. Ó Ruairc, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, enclosing stamps to value of 10p.

### COMPETITION

For the ten best replies to the question: "Are Corkmen Ireland's best hurlers?" I am giving copies of that wonderful club history. "The Spirit of the Glen". Here then are the ten prizewinners and their entries.

"No Cork aren't; but Munster hurling is best. All ground hurling, no picking up and a different style altogether." — (John Colclough, Ballygibbon, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.)

"They were great in the League. Yes they are great hurlers." — (Tommy Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny).

"No. They have some great players but so have other counties." — (Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly).

"I have no doubt they are. Just take a long look at their past

record. I love getting **Gaelic Sport**". — (Timothy Mulcahy, 25227 Stonycroft, Southfield, Michigan, 48075 U.S.A.)

"Apart from Christy Ring—no. Cork's great success secret is their ability to produce a galaxy of stars together". — (Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare).



● Christy Ring . . . one of the all-time "greats" of hurling.

"Yes they are. You'd need to see a game between Cork and Kilkenny to understand this. Remember the '72 final." — (Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow).

"Corkmen are great sporting people. No they are not Ireland's best hurlers but have produced great hurlers like Christy Ring and Jack Lynch." — (Seán Ó Conghaile, Furnish, Lettermullen, Co. Galway).

"No, but they are the most dedicated and enthusiastic hurlers in the country. Hurling is

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in every Corkman's blood. They typify everything that is Irish and they have a proud hurling history."—(Patrick Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly).

"Yes they are. If they fail they rise quickly. As Corkmen they believe the McCarthy Cup belongs specifically to them. Every so often they feel obliged to win it. Corkmen don't go out hoping to win. They go out expecting to win."—(Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare).

"No but they are the most dedicated hurlers you will ever find. They have great fighting spirit, determination and will to win. All Corkmen are so proud to wear the red jersey. They always hurl to the end."—(Aidan Foley, Sans Souci, Ardavan, Co. Wexford).

My thanks to all the other competitors. The above ten prize-winners were not given in order of merit. If I had to nominate the best entry I'd give the palm to Mary O'Grady with Patrick Leogue and Aidan Foley running her close.



● Dermot Earley . . . Roscommon will be looking to him, in their forthcoming quest for the Con-nacht football title.

"I feel every G.A.A. follower should have a vote in the selection of the Carrolls All-Stars. The most votes must count."—Martin Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath.

Mary O'Grady (address given earlier), in an excellent letter, among other things feels Cork will beat Kerry in Killarney because as she says: "Kerry will be worn out." She predicts Galway will scrape past Roscommon and Tyrone will win out again in Ulster. "Offaly will win in Leinster", says Mary and Limerick will win in Munster again. Mary likes the new rules, looks forward to Raymond Smith's new book on hurling. Finally Mary asks why we don't reproduce the wedding photograph of Ray Cummins and his bride in Junior Desk.

Gerry Pender (address earlier) thinks Roscommon have a lovely team and likes Dermot Earley, Mickey Freyne, Tony Regan, Dave Watson and John Kelly particularly.

Tom Ryall, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Kilkenny, was surprised to read my suggestion that the Railway Cups should be scrapped. In a long, interesting letter he says the players still want them and suggests the dates should be switched to October. It is so easy to stay at home when one can see them on TV. "No going out in the cold which seems to be at its worst every March 17". No one has written about the cost of going to Dublin. Besides most farmers are now involved in dairying and they form the backbone of the G.A.A. Tom feels the club finals are also doomed to failure if staged in Croke Park in March 17. The

## From the Mailbag

"Junior Desk is great. Give us a Cut-out of Ray Cummins or Noel Skehan" — Tom Moore, Walshtown More, Midleton, Co. Cork.

● We had a colour Cut-out of Noel Skehan in the April '74 edition GAELIC SPORT. Send P.O. for 25p to address at end of column if you want one. (J.M.)

"Give us Cut-outs of Eamonn Grimes and Richie Bennis"—Joe Downey, Spittle, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.

"Please give us a Cut-out of a Waterford hurler"—Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford.

● It's past time we honoured Waterford. What a magnificent comeback they have made in hurling. How about it Mr. Editor? (J.M.)

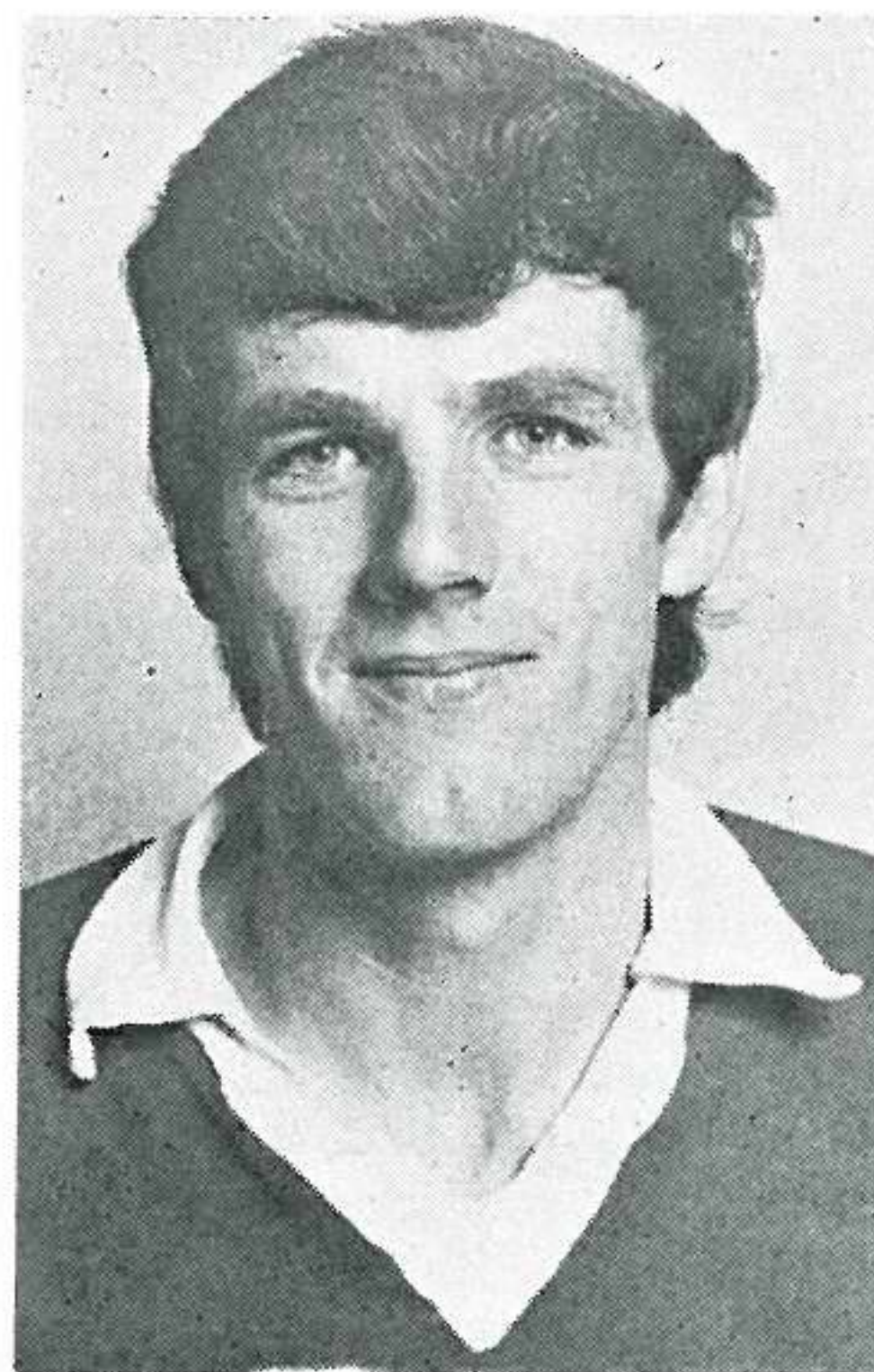
"I enjoy Junior Desk. Please keep it going"—Anthony Cogan, Beechcrest, Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

● Of course we will Anthony (J.M.)

"I will donate to your favourite charity. Could I get cassette tapes of Michael O'Hehir's recordings of Gaelic games?"—

Tom Gleeson, 15712 S. Willard, Harvey, Illinois 60426 U.S.A.

● If you wish to subscribe to Gorta, The Freedom From Hunger Council of Ireland, Aston House, Aston Quay, Dublin 2, please do. I don't think that the cassette tapes you require are available but there should be a market for such Michael O'Hehir tapes. (J.M.)



● Ray Cummins





● For Gerry Pender we include this superb action photo of Mick Malone of Cork breaking through the Kilkenny defence in the 1972 All-Ireland Hurling final. In the background are (from left): Eamonn Morrissey and Pat Henderson.

Railway Cup semi-finals should be played on the same day in the provinces. The finals should be played in the country, too. Tom feels also that the Leinster S.H. Final should also be taken out of

Croke Park and suggests that Nowlan Park, though developed as a super stadium, is starved of games.

Tom goes further and suggests that the All-Ireland S.F. semi-

finals should not be televised live and should be played at country venues like Mullingar or Tullamore or Castlebar or Portlaoise as they were in the 'thirties when they would be a sell-out. Tom finally predicts that the attendance at this year's Munster S.F. final will be an all-time high for the fixture.

● Some great points Tom. Obviously one of the great thinkers in the G.A.A. I'd agree with you on most counts Tom, and would be prepared to give a trial to the Railway Cups in October. (J.M.)

We aren't having a competition this month. There is too much to do and to see. Provincial finals everywhere. This year again we are producing a special souvenir Connacht final programme. Gerry Arthurs, as always, will have a special Ulster final programme and I understand Munster are going to do likewise this year.

If any of you want a Pen-Pal send on particulars. Tell me who you'd like to see as Cut-out. Be sure to read Ann Carroll's column—and girls get involved. Join a G.A.A. club and play as many games as you can. Tell me just anything you want to—your favourite referee, the best togged out team in the country. I like the Tyrone jersey and one of my sons is dying to get one (with the Red Hand of course). Next month I'll have another competition D.V. In the meantime Slán agaibh. Write to me at—

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*Jack Mahon*

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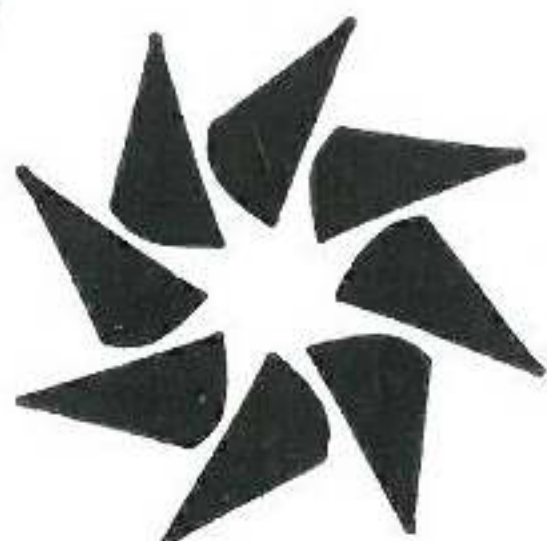
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**Sausages, rashers,  
bacon joints,  
puddings-**



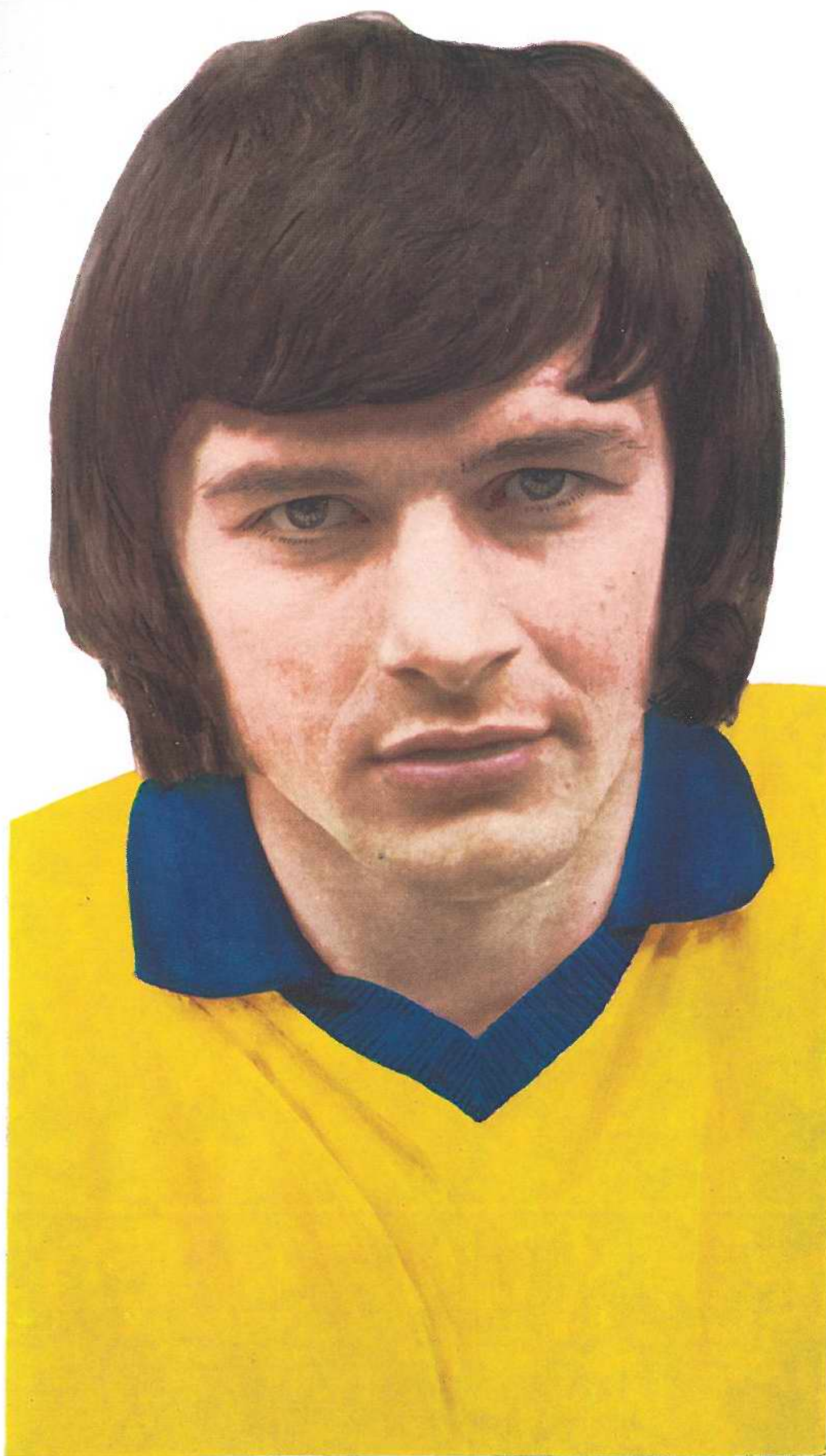
**all with that  
mighty meaty flavour**

We  
print  
this  
magazine!



**CITYVIEW PRESS LTD.**

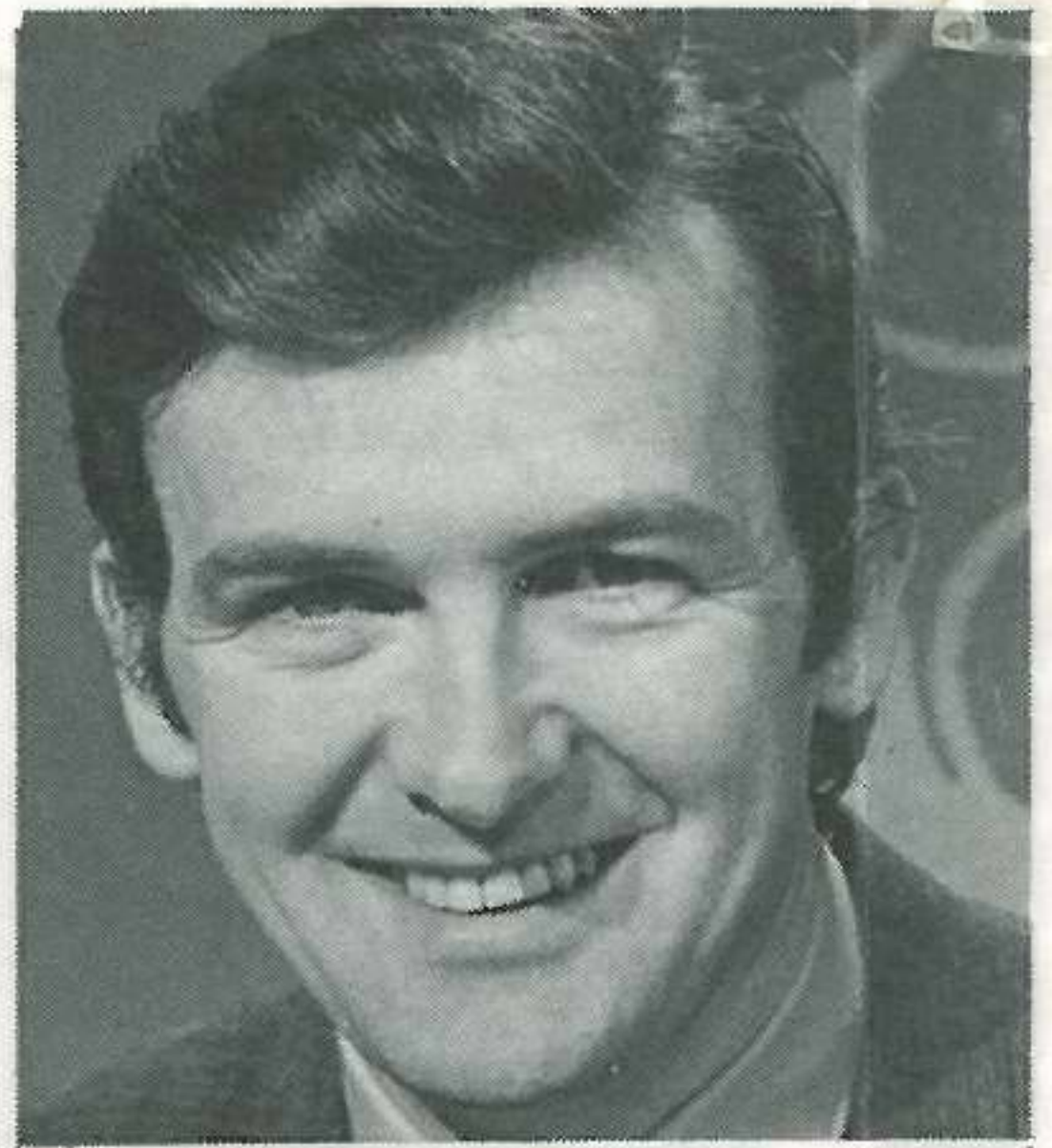
*5 Campbell's Row  
North Circular Road  
Dublin 1  
Telephone 745941*



**HARRY  
KEEGAN**  
**Roscommon**

Age : 22.  
Height : 6 ft.  
Weight : 14 st.  
Club : Castlerea  
St. Kevin's.  
Position : Right  
full-back.  
Senior Inter-County  
Debut : 1972.

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS :**  
Harry is a  
psychiatric nurse.  
He had his first  
outing with the  
county senior team  
against Kilkenny  
in a National League  
tie, and as right  
full back, was one  
of the youngest  
members of the side  
that won  
Roscommon's last  
Connacht Senior  
Football  
Championship in  
1972. That ranks as  
his only major  
inter-county medal  
win.  
Now firmly  
established as one  
of the best defenders  
in the game, he  
made two  
appearances this  
year with  
Connacht as  
left full back in the  
Railway Cup  
campaign. He has  
helped his club to a  
number of County  
Championship  
titles.



## Our Sports Team

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

