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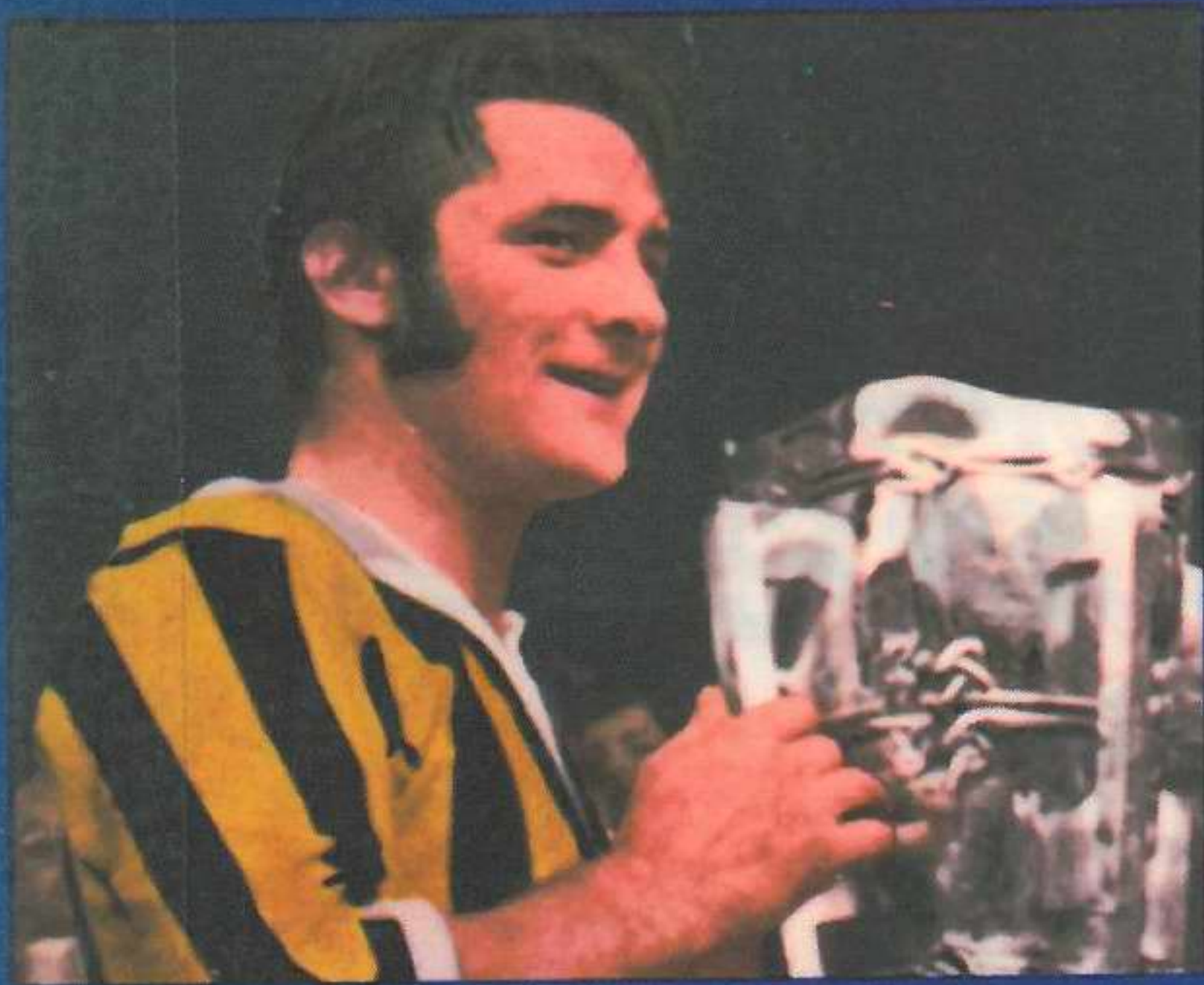
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NOVEMBER, 1974

GAEELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY



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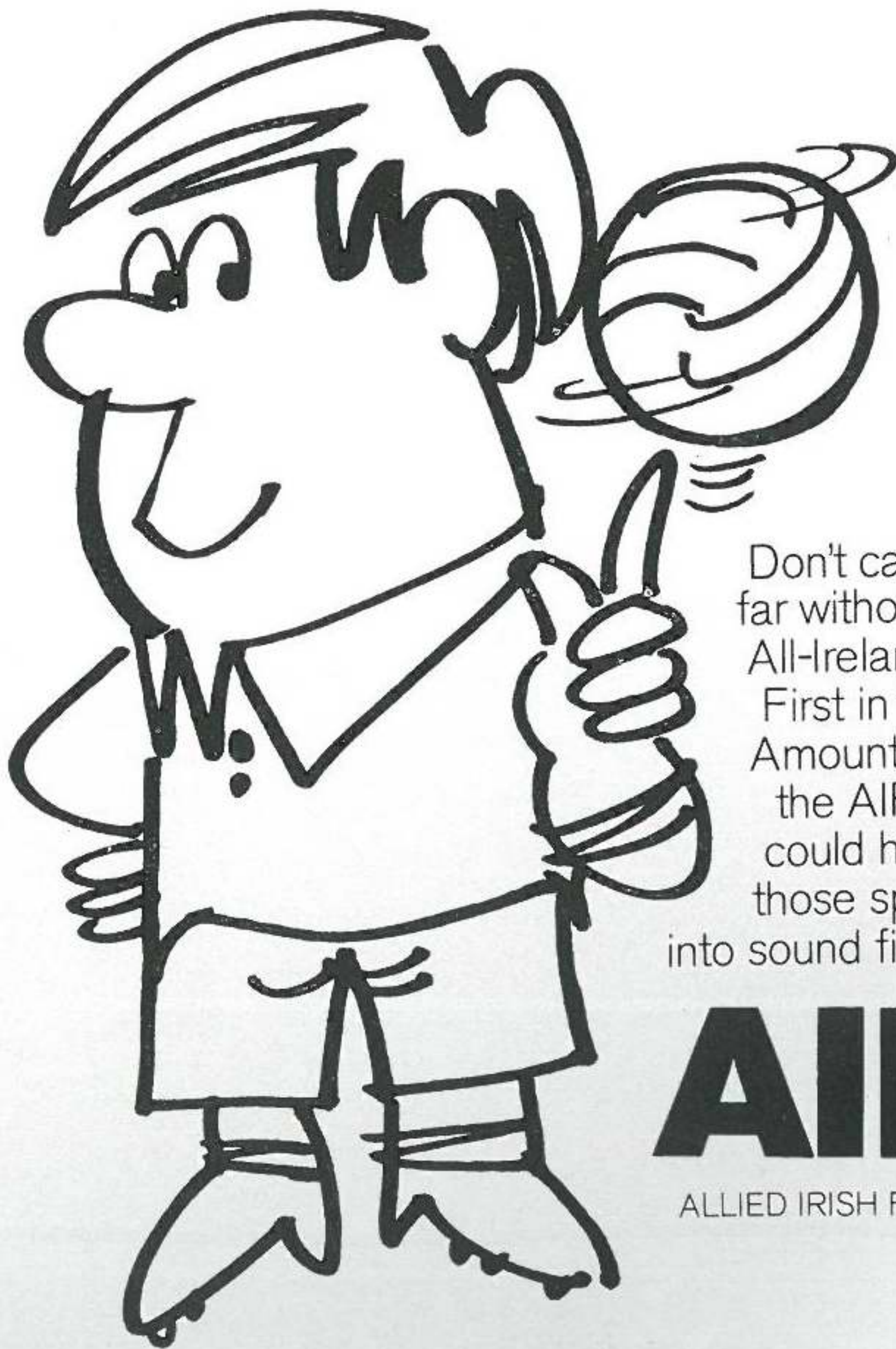
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SÉAMUS Ó BRAONÁIN REPORTS

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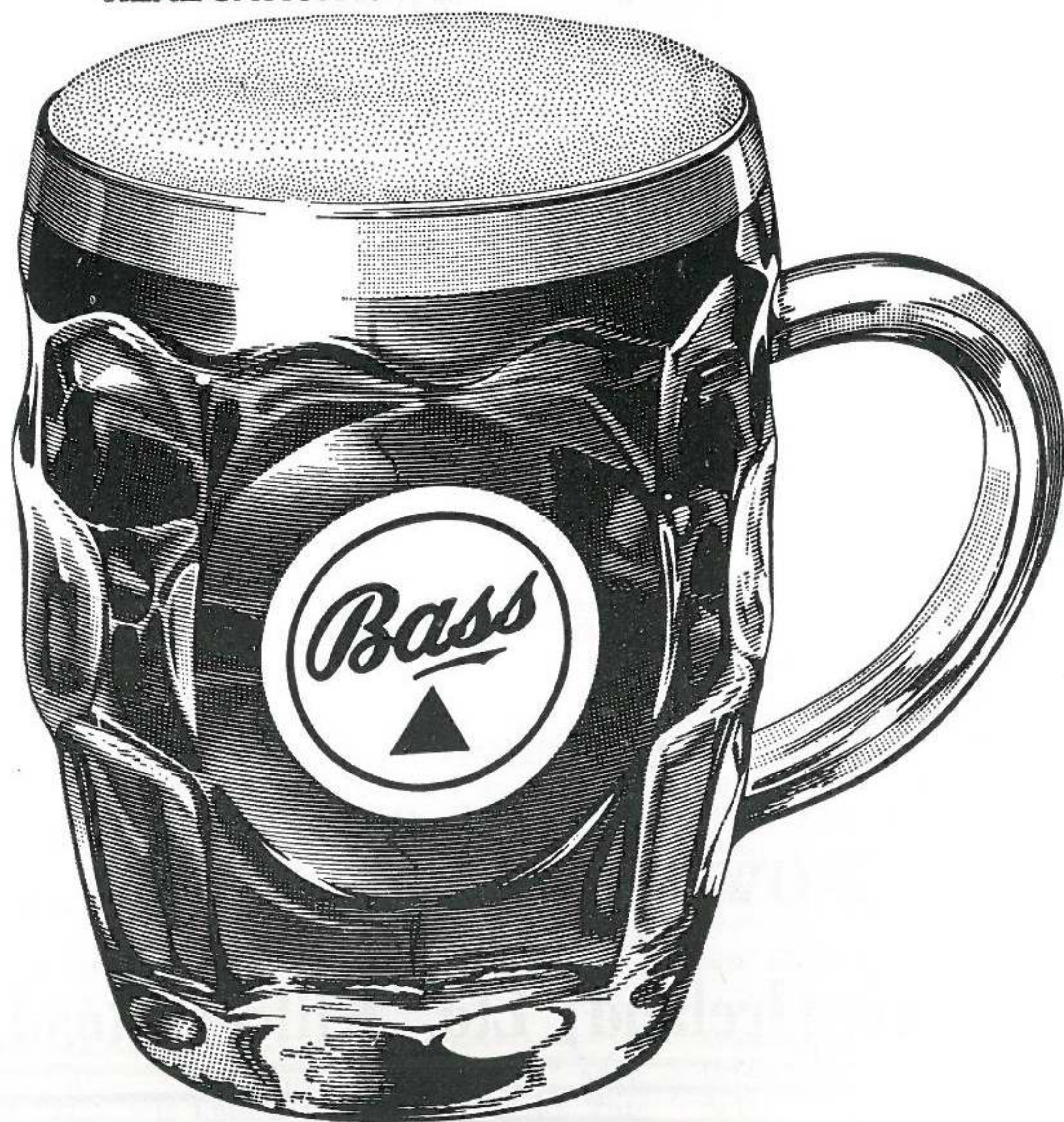
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 17. No. 11, November, 1974

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE Oireachtas Cup senior hurling tournament has made an important contribution to the advancement of hurling. Great finals in the past, particularly in the 'Fifties and the 'Sixties, helped to focus increased nationwide interest in the ancient game, and also to provide a worthwhile stimulus each autumn.

The competition's prestige and pulling power, however, are not being helped at present by the fact that there are lengthy delays between rounds. Last year, for instance, the first match was played on May 31, but the final was not decided until almost the eve of Christmas. The opening game of 1974 was played at Waterford back on August 11 — and the final has still to come.

What makes this unsatisfactory position all the more frustrating is that there are so few leading teams in hurling. If all 32 counties were up to the top standard one could appreciate difficulties arising with regard to suitable dates for Oireachtas Cup matches.

But with only a handful of counties in the elite circle, allied to the fact that so few games are needed to complete the series each year, it is hard to understand why the competition cannot be speedily run off over a period of weeks rather than months.

There is little to be gained here in pointing an accusing finger in any direction. But what is needed is to stress that steps must be taken NOW to insure that henceforth the Oireachtas Cup competition is played efficiently in a matter of weeks with the final on a fixed date in mid-October.

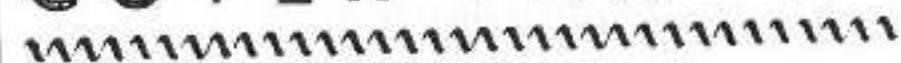
November and December are not good months for major finals in hurling.

Apart altogether from the fact that such a move would give a big fillip to the Oireachtas Cup competition, the general welfare of hurling demands such a step. The game needs as many attractive and crowd-pulling games as possible to compete successfully with football for new recruits.

One final point. All Oireachtas Cup finals should be played at Croke Park, irrespective of the counties engaged. A number in latter times have been staged at provincial venues.

The headquarters ground gives any game a status and an all-Ireland appeal that is lacking at any other centre. This is of paramount importance in hurling, which is struggling so hard in many areas to try and maintain the status quo, let alone to make anything like the advances we all so earnestly hope for.

COVER PHOTO :



ON our front cover this month, while paying tribute to a great Kilkenny team, we pose the question: **What's gone wrong in Munster?**

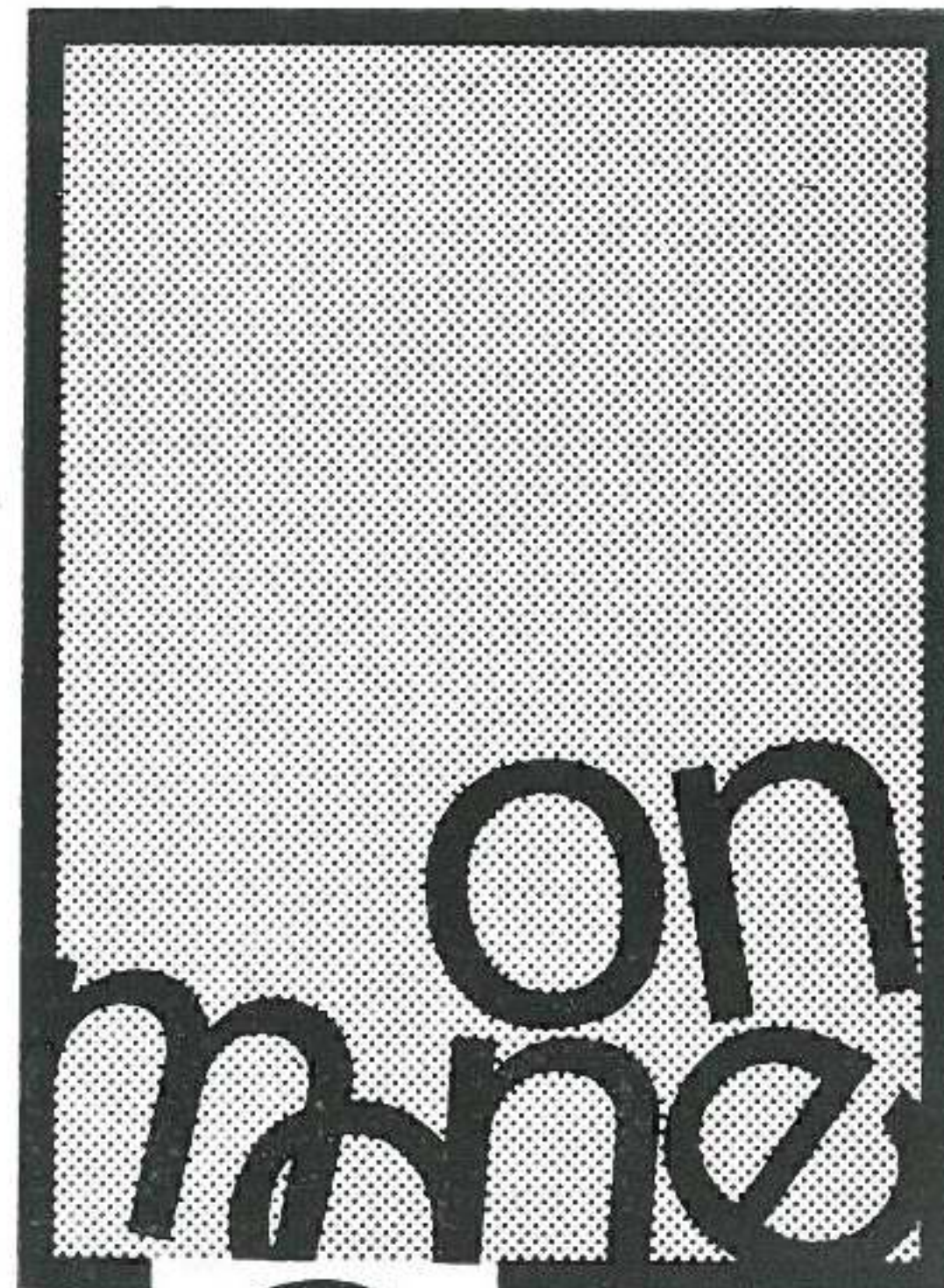
In the early part of this year hurling fans were anticipating the Munster Hurling Championship campaign with expectations of some thrilling encounters to be climaxed by a Munster Final of rare vintage. What went wrong? Or should one ask — What's going wrong?

In this issue, on pages 13 and 24 respectively, Seamus O Braonáin and Raymond Smith take a look at the situation and try to unravel the mystery.

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TOP TEN

DUBLIN MONOPOLIZE FOOTBALL RATINGS

THE All-Ireland senior football final, and some of the early games in the new season's National Leagues provide the basis for this month's Top Ten review. Naturally enough, Dublin men dominate the football chart, with three, Paddy Reilly, Steve Rooney and Anton O'Toole, also improving their positions in the over-all points table.

Pride of place, however, must go to Paddy Cullen. His splendid goalkeeping qualities, which he highlighted by that dramatic and so vital save from Liam Sammon in the second half, had a decisive influence on the outcome of the Sam Maguire Cup game, and, as a result, he leads off this month's list with nine points. This is his first month in the review.

Next comes Paddy Reilly, a tower of strength at right half, and now up to 22 points over-all, and Robbie Kelleher, who wins his spurs in the table for the first time. They are bracketed on eight points.

Steve Rooney is close on the heels of Reilly with 21 points over-all, while O'Toole has boosted his position up to 14 points.

One Galway man also improves his position — Willie Joyce, whose score of six points brings his tally to twelve.

In the period under review Armagh scored their first competitive win in football in a long time (this was in the National League) and the clever play of centre half forward Sean Daly did much to set the scene for

that long awaited triumph. So, he earns a place in the shake-up.

In hurling, it is impossible to keep Kilkenny men out of the picture. However, while Frank Cummins and Liam O'Brien assure the county of a prominent place yet again, there are five new faces — as far as the present year is concerned.

A special welcome here for Cork's Pat McDonnell, who made a splendid return to the big-time at full back at the start of the National League campaign. Pat's career was interrupted about two years ago by a serious knee injury.

FOOTBALL

9	P. Cullen (Dublin)	9
8	P. Reilly (Dublin)	22
8	R. Kelleher (Dublin)	8
7	S. Rooney (Dublin)	21
7	A. O'Toole (Dublin)	14
7	D. Hickey (Dublin)	7
6	W. Joyce (Galway)	12
6	M. Rooney (Galway)	6
5	J. Hughes (Galway)	5
5	S. Daly (Armagh)	5

HURLING

8	F. Cummins (Kilkenny)	16
7	L. O'Brien (Kilkenny)	30
6	P. Hegarty (Cork)	15
6	N. O'Dwyer (Tipperary)	13
6	P. McDonnell (Cork)	6
6	L. King (Tipperary)	6
6	S. Hehir (Clare)	6
6	J. O'Gorman (Clare)	6
6	P. J. Molloy (Galway)	6
5	J. Walshe (Kildare)	11



ROBBIE KELLEHER



LIAM O'BRIEN



STEVE ROONEY

Kilkenny have depth of reserve talent

IT'S said that the real strength of a team is signified by the quality of its subs. If this is so, then Kilkenny shouldn't have many worries over the next few years.

There have been many examples over the years of teams coming into prominence, but failing to stay there because their first-choice players weren't backed-up by a solid panel of substitutes. This was one of the causes of Wexford's failure when they initially hit the top in 1951: they had a sound team, but little or nothing of quality among the reserve talent. Therefore it took them another three years to broaden their panel sufficiently strongly before they could establish themselves as a real force.

It was also true of Longford when they won their first and only Leinster football championship in '68. The talent was there to take them to the forefront, but it wasn't spread wide enough through team and subs' panel to keep them there.

Similarly Cork's hurlers won the All-Ireland championship in 1966 because they had the men to do it, but they quickly slid down the slippery slope again

because they didn't have good enough reserves to step into the team when they were hit by that succession of injuries in the following winter and spring.

So not only were Kilkenny smiling all the way home on the evening of September 2 because they had regained the Liam McCarthy Cup, there was cause for even greater satisfaction when they considered the reserve pool that could be provided by their under-21s and minors.

If proof were needed, surely the performances of under-21s Tom McCormack and Billy Fitzpatrick provided it on All-Ireland Final day against Limerick.

And talking about subs., what about two who were only reserves when the under-21s won out in the final of that grade against Waterford. The introduction of Pat Mulcahy and Bobbie Sweeney in that Thurles game contributed very significantly to the county's first under-21 title.

Many considered Brian Cody, that splendid minor of 1972, a disappointment when he was given the big responsibility of playing in last year's senior final, but his tremendous performances as centre half-back on this year's under-21 team suggested that he may have been rushed into the senior ranks. He has now confirmed the great promise of his minor days.

Kevin Fennelly has had so many splendid displays in goal as a minor and now as an under-21 that the selectors will have no cause for concern if, on any occasion, Noel Skehan is unavailable for the senior team. In addition, Ger Fennelly, Ger Woodcock, Nicky Brennan and Jim Dowling look all set to step onto the senior team whenever they are needed.

At no stage in their history has Kilkenny been lacking in celebrated goalkeepers and young Tony Murphy, who played so magnificently in this year's minor final, is surely one in this great tradition. John Marnell, John Costelloe and Kieran Brennan are others from that minor side who are going to be competing for places on the senior team very shortly.

There's another aspect to having such a strong reserve panel. With so many good hurlers challenging for places it ensures that those already on the senior team cannot afford to be indifferent about maintaining their form.

Over the next few months some of Kilkenny's longer-serving players may take a well-earned rest, so the League matches will give the younger players a heaven-sent opportunity of showing their worth. Because of this Kilkenny will be very difficult to beat in the league and maybe they may win it next May . . . at long last.

DEATH OF A GREAT FOOTBALLER

TOM LANGAN, who died on All-Ireland football final day, was one of the great football forwards of his own—or any era. His ability to flick home vital scores with his hand was one of the chief weapons in a repertoire of

skills that marked him out as a personality-plus player, and a full forward of rare ability.

Tom was a giant in the powerful Mayo side that won the All-Ireland senior football titles of 1950 and 1951. He also helped Connacht to a

Railway Cup title win in 1951.

He was one of only five players to play five times for the Ireland team against the Combined Universities in the now suspended representative games.

Suaineas siorrai da anam cneasta.

VIEWS ON THE LEAGUE

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

FEW will dispute that the balance of hurling power lies very definitely with Leinster at the moment. The All-Ireland series, proved that Kilkenny and Wexford, were out and away the most effective teams in the land.

But can these sides emerge on top in the National League? Or will we see another blitz from Cork, or perhaps a Waterford comeback.

The signs point to a Leinster representative taking the honours, but what do officials and players from that province feel about it?

MARTIN QUIGLEY (Wexford) :

Luck plays a huge part in the League. At the final stages it's usually the better teams which come out on top, but in the early rounds practically anything can, and does happen.

Consequently I could not say with any degree of confidence that the competition will be dominated by Leinster. Certainly Wexford and Kilkenny have the

material to do well, but both teams are capable of being knocked off their stride early on.

However if they get to the semi-finals—then watch out.

Cork, as a result of that brilliant display in last year's decider could rise again, but I think we may not hear from Limerick this season.

I would like to think that it will be a Leinster team . . . but there's a long way to go yet.

PADDY GRACE (Kilkenny) :

It has to be a Leinster county. Let's be honest, the standard of Munster hurling is going down—and has been for some time.

Munster teams cannot be entirely ruled out. They have the incentive to rise again, but for me, it's Kilkenny or Wexford. Both are pretty useful combinations.

If you want an outsider, try a few bob on Clare.

MICKEY BIRMINGHAM (Dublin) :

It's Kilkenny for me. They have

the experience, the skill, the will to win. It's all going for them: They are the team of the moment and they will want to remain so.

They will not have forgotten their appalling performance in last year's campaign and I reckon they will be mighty anxious to make amends.

While I'm convinced the All-Ireland kingpins can do it, I nonetheless expect it to be an interesting League . . . and a surprise winner cannot be ruled out.

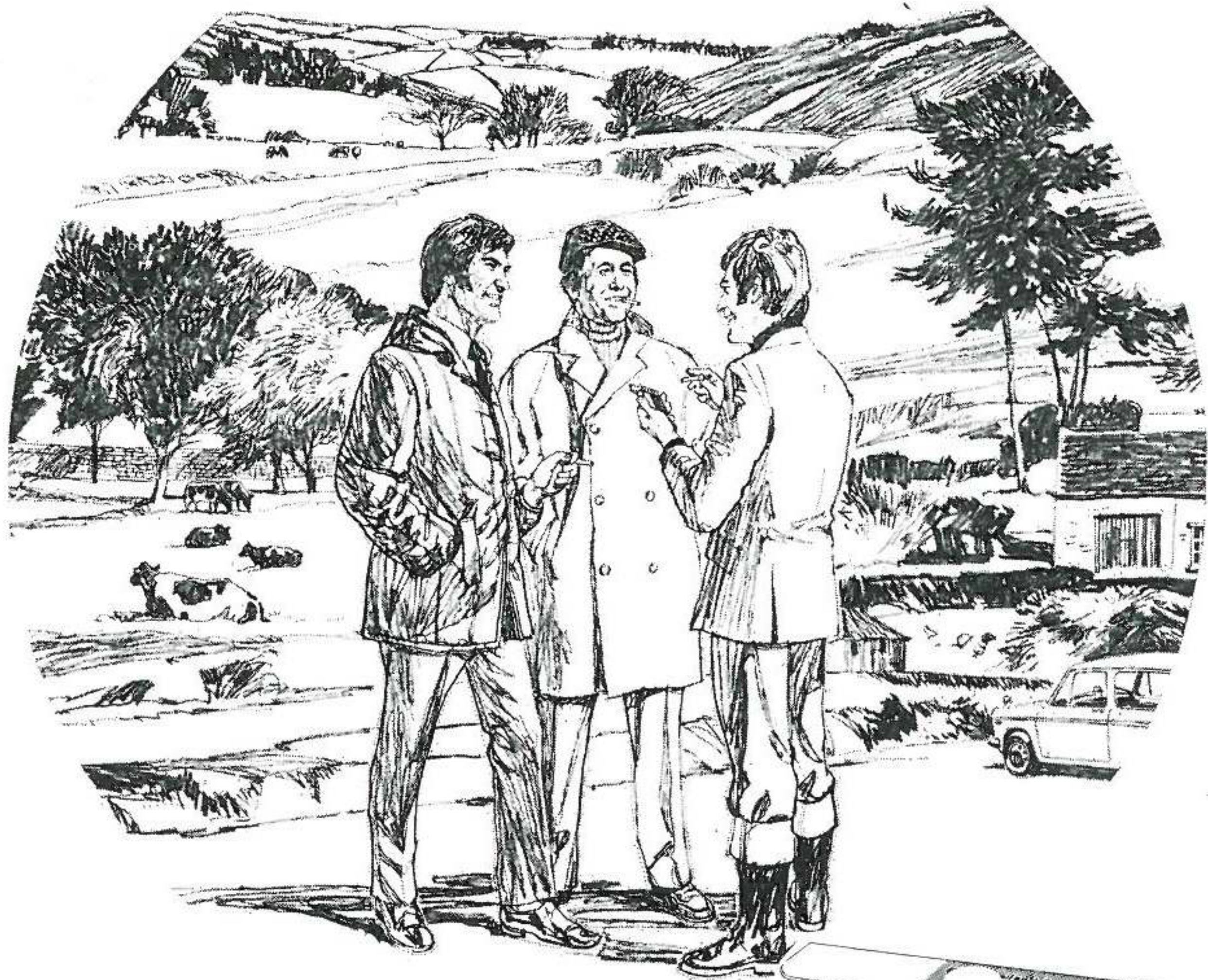
But for me, it's another Leinster triumph in the form of Kilkenny.

TOM NEVILLE (Wexford) :

I have never regarded the League as being much of a guideline for the championship. It's a fact that some of the top teams take it easy during the League, so it's quite a task sorting out who one feels is going to be involved in the final shake up.

Kilkenny will be the fancy of many, but personally I believe it

● TO PAGE 41



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DUBLIN GREAT... BUT

FOOTBALL A LOSER

Says **DAN McAREAVY**

DUBLIN'S Title But Football The Loser". Those were my sentiments as I left Croke Park following the frustrating, anti-climax of the most publicised All-Ireland final in years.

Dublin won and deservedly so —let there not be a shred of doubt about that — but for my money the real losers were not Galway, who will surely come again, but rather the game of football itself which may take longer to recover.

Yes, as far as I was concerned the annual "big day" proved as disappointing as that. After a pedestrian and entirely undistinguished opening half, the game came to life only in fits and starts on the turn-over. Far from living up to its "clash of the century" billing the national show-piece did not merit a "game of the season" oscar.

Maybe the prematch ballyhoo took its toll; maybe both sides were smitten with the tension which enveloped Headquarters to a degree I have never before experienced; maybe that swirling wind was one of the villains of the piece.

Whatever the reasons this was not the game we had anticipated; this was not the fare of which both sides are capable.

It was not a dirty game nor a bad tempered one (let that fact go firmly on the record) and yet those 80 minutes were pock-marked with 56 frees, 24 wides

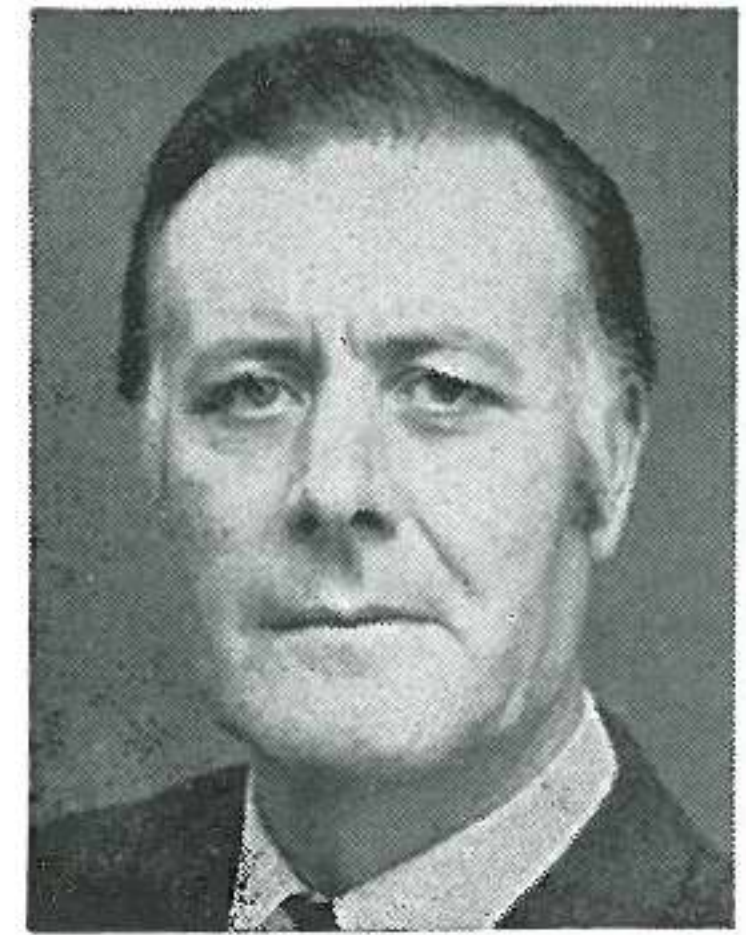
and 11 sideline kicks. Add to this eight 50's and 21 scores and we have a total of 120 stoppages which works out, on average, that play was interrupted every 40 seconds!

So much then for all the hopes raised by the introduction of that radical reform of the playing rules last Easter. Continuity of play was then a top priority in the deliberations by the law-makers. On the evidence of September 22 will they not have to think again?

Nor can I exempt Patsy Devlin from shouldering a share of the blame for the mediocrity of it all.

No one is more conscious than I am of the contribution which Patsy has made to the game over the past 25 years but on this occasion the Armagh-born, Tyrone-domiciled man seemed to me to be caught up in the overall tension. His performance suffered accordingly and we had tug-o-war instead of football; dragging, tripping and holding which riddled the tie as a spectacle. Clearly that long awaited marriage between the playing rules and refereeing has not yet been solemnised.

But having said all that, it should not be thought that I am taking away from Dublin's claim to the most prized trophy in the game. Such as goal-keeping hero Paddy Cullen, Jimmy Keaveney, Steve Rooney, Brian Mullins,



● Dan McAreevy

Bobby Kelleher and Dave Hickey with, of course, Kevin Heffernan himself—to mention but a few members of the famous army—richly merit their laurels.

Any team which can play as the Dubs did against Cork in the semi-final is worthy of a "Sam Maguire" accolade. What a pity they allowed us to taste the good wine first.

PART II

"Mayo's Title But All Were Winners Here." That was my reaction exactly a week later as I again left Croke Park after another All-Ireland final, this time the Under-21 replay between Mayo and Antrim. The basic setting was the same of course as for the Dublin-Galway contest but there all similarity between the two events ended.

The huge attendance had dwindled and with it most of the atmosphere; the banners and the slogans were missing; the knowing ones had not yet made up their minds about the merits of the under-21 grade; the general feeling among the neutrals was that this was just another game which had to be slotted in.

But those heroes from Mayo and Antrim had different ideas and I will be very surprised if we see a better game for a long time. This was a real faith restorer if ever there was one.

● TO PAGE 44

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BRAVE JIM TREACY



DEFIES ALL THE ODDS

THERE was so much to admire in Kilkenny's triumph on the first Sunday of September that a listing of all the splendid aspects of their victory could turn into a litany. But for me one of the more pleasing features of the final was the fact that it climaxed a very courageous fight-back by Jim Treacy, one of sport's true gentlemen.

The decision of the Kilkenny selectors to pick Jim for his accustomed left full-back position on the All-Ireland final side was frowned upon by many who con-

By MICK DUNNE
of RTE Sport

sidered it an undue risk. Indeed Treacy himself knew—and admitted to me when we chatted before the final on my visit to Kilkenny's training—that his retrieval during the Leinster final convinced a lot of people that he was finished with top-class hurling.

The one person who never accepted this was Jim himself. And in setting out to disprove it he showed valour of as high a degree and as much tenacity as he ever displayed in all his memorable performances in Kilkenny's defence.

It was, of course, a long road back. And an arduous one. Indeed it was often disappointingly

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WHAT IS WRONG IN MUNSTER?

By SEAMUS Ó BRAONÁIN

WHAT is wrong in Munster? Your Editor certainly sets tough questions and demands answers that are not easy to give. That probably means that the questions are all the more worthy of being asked. We can all answer the facile questions and if we differ it matters little since the affairs are slight.

Well, what is wrong in Munster? The question appears to presuppose that there is something. But one could be pardoned for making a short answer—Nothing! One could then point to the records in proof. The fact that there were two senior All-Ireland championships for Leinster this year does not make a Munster winter nor does it declare a permanent Leinster summer.

In 1973 the two crowns were laid on Munster brows; and the subsequent National Leagues were captured by two Munster counties. Furthermore—since Munster suggests hurling pre-eminently despite the presence of Kerry within its borders—it might be pointed out that Cork won their League after play-off stages which contained Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford.

Nor is it unique to have Munster unmapped in the All-Ireland senior title country. It is not even unusual. In 1963, 1967 and 1972 Leinster counties again took both titles; and in 1968 and 1960 Munster were again deprived of both championships.

One could further point to the minor football and hurling double by Cork in 1974—a considerable achievement, indeed. And the excellent showing of the under-21 footballers of Cork and hurlers of Waterford.

The inter-club hurling arena has been Munster's almost mon-

otonously; and the football has not been entirely unsuccessful. Seven-a-side football seems to have become a Kerry speciality; and the hurling of that type of competition is up with the best.

Powerful evidence. Not easy to overturn. So, too, is an attendance of 50,000 in unclement weather at the Munster football final, powerful evidence. And so is the consistently strong support for all stages of the hurling championship.

On the surface, therefore, there is nothing wrong in Munster. Then why ask the question? Because it is a question which should always be asked everywhere. Because, however fine the outward appearance, the seeds of decay are always within and should always be suffocated by improvement. Indeed, where someone is not always asking what is wrong, it is a sure sign of future shock.

But, why should it occur to the Editor to pose the question just at this time? It is an obligation on all Munster officials and the officials of Munster counties to ask it and keep asking it. But, something must have moved the Editor to ask it—he must have perceived some chinks through which disturbing light is emitted.

What chinks were they? Perhaps the unfamiliar pattern which the 1974 hurling championship took on? Or the consistent

lack of balance in the football picture?

Yet, is it not true that what 1974 showed was a levelling of hurling power with Waterford and, to a lesser extent, Clare pushed up among the traditionally strong Cork and Tipperary and the recently stabilised Limerick?

Mmmm . . . ! The disturbing thought is: How far did they have to climb. While the immense talent of Cork is unmistakable and was shown to perfection in the League final against hapless Limerick, its application is inconsistent. You get the impression from time to time that Cork could wipe the field with all opposition. They do now and again; but they so seldom string their good performances together. They fail when they look most certain to win.

There is a vast change in the Cork hurling image. There were teams in the '50s certainly which (Christy Ring and a few others apart) were far less naturally talented and lacking the star build up through the under-age ranks that recent teams have had. But they won matches which the present generation would not have thought of winning.

The Cork badge was that of a gritty wildcat rampant on a field of blood-and-bandage. The grit is less evident now; the display depends too much on how the spirit moves. In other days the spirit was sharply ordered to deliver the goods whether it felt like it or not. Today the temperament seems more brittle than it used to be. Why?

Hard to say? Perhaps players have already reached some kind

● TO PAGE 35

tournament but we need a bigger boost from them".

With Stasia Clerkin at the helm I feel there is a great future ahead for Ladies Handball, indeed her enthusiasm is so infectious I'm looking forward to having a "go" myself.

STAR OF THE YEAR

The curtain has come down on another championship cam-

paigned and as we settle down to the quiet of winter and anticipate the Christmas festive season my Editor thought it would be a good time to invite readers to write in telling me who they choose as their outstanding G.A.A. Star of 1974 (camogie, hurling or football). There will be three £1 prizes to the senders of the three most interesting letters re-

ceived on or before the 10th November next.

Send your letters to me at this address:

Ladies
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Ann Cancell

★ READERS LETTERS ★ READERS LETTERS ★ READERS LETTERS ★

Dear Ann,

Is there anything you can do to get the G.A.A. to let ladies football teams join the Association.

All the girls in my locality are interested in football and some travel up to five miles for training.

Last year our team played ten matches at eight carnivals and won them all. This year we've had only one match and that was at our own carnival which we won.

The name of our team is St. Enda's and if they were in the G.A.A. they would have championship and league games like the men. The local G.A.A. team allow our girls the use of their playingfield and pavilion as well as giving them tremendous vocal support.

I would like to hear the views of other people on this matter through your very interesting column.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN O'CALLAGHAN

Castletown,

Enniskeane, Co. Cork.

- John, you did not tell me how many different teams you played against in your carnivals. Why don't you organise a series of friendly matches against these teams and then follow these with a league or championship among yourselves?

I must admit that I have never seen a ladies Gaelic Football match but I'm hoping to rectify this shortly and will probably be writing more about it in the coming months.

★ ★ ★

Dear Ann,

Our recent County Hurling Final prompts me to write. It is with regard to the varying scant support clubs get.

This year our seniors qualified for the County Final against St. Rynaghs and were unlucky to be pipped. On the day there was tremendous support for both teams. However looking back on the series of games leading up to the Final, support for many clubs, particularly our own, was almost non-existent. For Birr, the same "few" cheered the team on from the start of the Championship to the end, with hundreds of newcomers on Final Day. Rynaghs on the other hand have the same great following, be they winning or losing.

Surely a team's supporters makes the team? Without encouragement no team succeeds. Support is vital and readily available, but too rarely visible. Birr is quite a big town and should provide hundreds of supporters, but never does, except for Finals. Banagher (St. Rynaghs) on the other hand is less than half the size of Birr, yet one always knows from the attendance, when they

are playing. For a small town their support is admirable and envious, as is that of many "small" clubs, where supporters clubs have been formed.

It is high time that all Gaelic fans came out and gave some encouragement to their club—it's needed. Needless to say criticism is always in abundance, mainly from the numerous "hurlers-on-the-ditch", who usually haven't seen the team play more than once. The G.A.A. can do without this support. Loyal supporters male and female are needed. This is a golden opportunity for ladies to become involved in club activities. So come on girls get out and be heard. You're all needed—both on and off the field! Keep up your good work Ann and how about some type of quiz or crossword?

Yours sincerely,

MARY BREEN (18½)

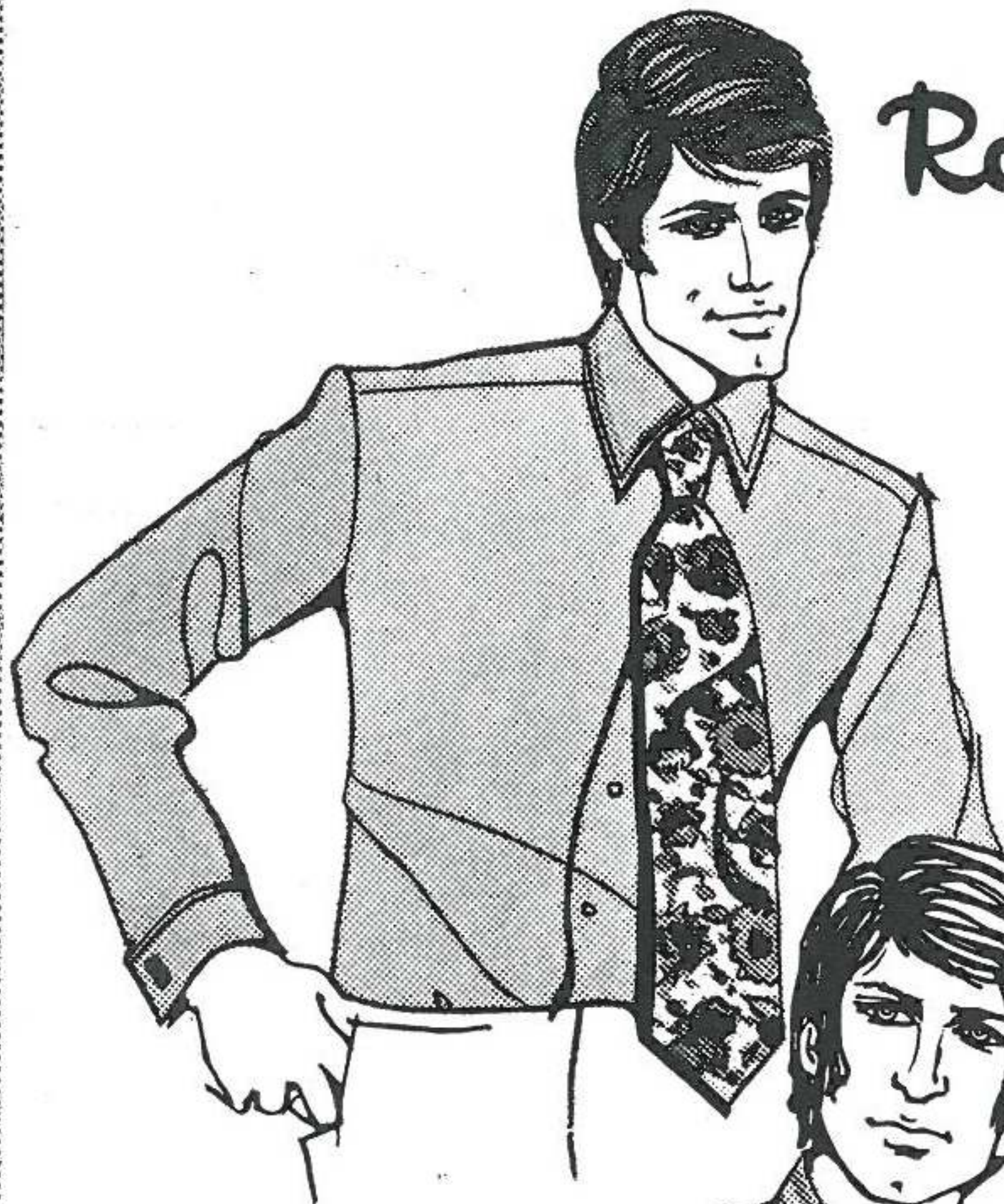
10 Newbridge Street,

Birr,

Co. Offaly.

P.S.—Thanks for giving me the address for getting ties, scarfs and kit bags.

- Agree with you all the way Mary and I really liked your comment "golden opportunity for ladies to become involved in club activities". Any of you readers got ideas on how to whip up enthusiasm among supporters?



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What does defeat (third in four years) mean to Galway?

IT is unlikely that Croke Park will experience for many years to come the mass of jubilant humanity that blackened the pitch at the end of the final.

Eleven years of pent-up frustration broke loose as the Dublin thousands gave their footballers the honour which is reserved only for heroes.

And the part which those thousands played in bringing the title to the Capital was openly manifested in the gesture which Sean Doherty paid to those on Hill 16 after he received the Cup.

That was the Hill from which throaty roars emanated earlier in the year when Dublin were still struggling for recognition at a time when recognition seemed as far away as the eleven hungry years that had gone before.

But with each success in the Leinster championship there came more and more people . . . building pillars of confidence throughout the team as they progressed.

There can be no doubt, now, about the involvement of the team's supporters in their success. They, Kevin Heffernan and the team must all be bracketed together for none would have been effective without the other.

That, of course, is not to dismiss the abilities which Dublin displayed in winning the title. What I am saying is that these abilities were achieved and executed through the confidence instilled in each player by the supporters, as well as by Heffernan.

And when the team found the proper rhythm in the second half the superior strength and determination of the players was more than Galway could match. They ran strongly, tackled ferociously

By
SEAN RICE

and in the final minutes seemed so much fitter than Galway.

More than anything else, it was the desire to run and to keep running that brought the title to Dublin. Men like George Wilson, Paddy Reilly, Anton O'Toole and David Hickey ran strongly into open spaces, dovetailing methodically with their colleagues, and eventually wore down a less sprightly opposition.

Had Liam Sammon scored that penalty I doubt if the outcome would have been any different, for they did not seem to possess the strength to push home any psychological advantage with which they might have been presented.

Dublin's victory has been welcomed in many places as having been a good thing for Gaelic football. It will, they say, stir the Dublin youth into taking up the game in an effort to emulate the members of this year's successful team.

It may have that effect if Dublin can manage to remain among the top teams for the next couple of years thus drawing on the support which contributed so much to the build-up and drama of this year's All-Ireland final.

But if success has been good for Dublin what effect has defeat had on Galway? Three defeats in four years in All-Ireland finals is something which a county would well do without.

Can Galway push themselves that bit farther next year or must

John Dunne begin a new process of team building which would take the county back to the pinnacle of success it enjoyed during the Sixties.

It is not a problem that will be solved overnight. It is very doubtful if players like Jimmy Duggan, Liam O'Neill and Liam Sammon can call on any further resources.

All of them will still be young enough next year to win a title . . . even though Duggan and Sammon were members of the team that last won the title in 1966. But what they need now is a greater commitment from their younger colleagues.

No great ocean of talent has appeared in Galway over the past couple of years. The minors were conquered by Mayo in the first round of this year's Connaught championship . . . by ten points. And the only player to emerge with distinction for Galway was midfielder Kevin Clancy.

Nor did the Under-21 team, on which considerable hopes had been pinned to take the All-Ireland title, produce any noteworthy talent when they were beaten by Roscommon.

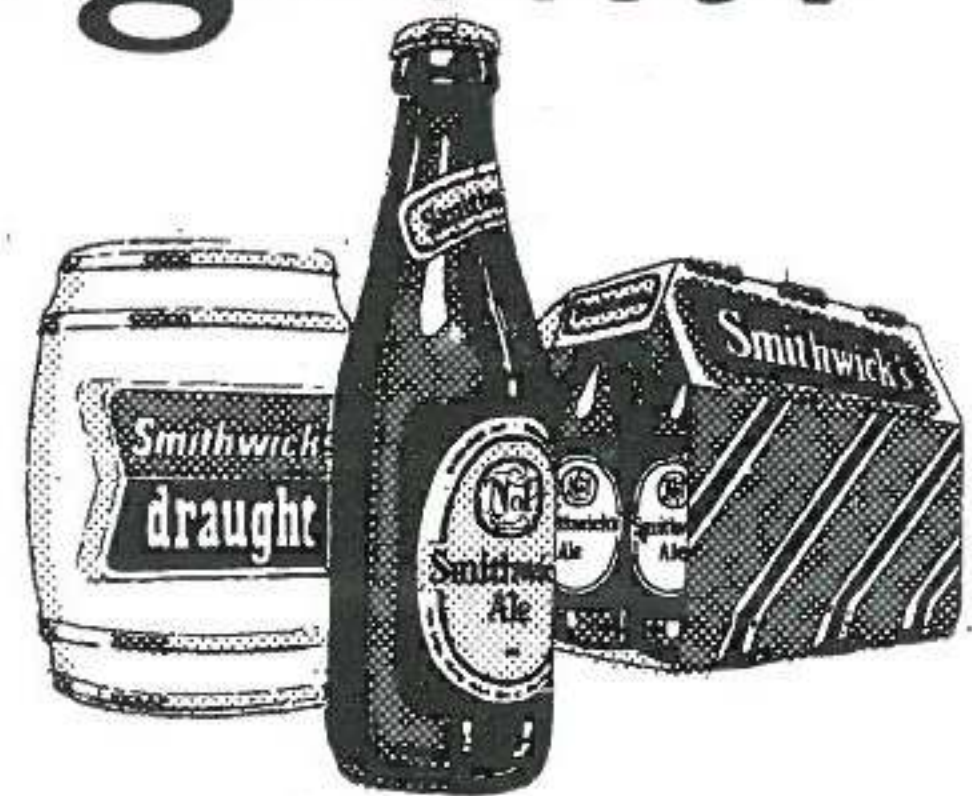
So in fact it has been a pretty barren year all round for Galway and apart from one or two changes it seems just now that the same team will again be seeking All-Ireland success next year.

That means that something better will have to be produced if they are to hope to take the title. The older players can hardly be expected to do much more than they did during the games just gone. The onus will, therefore, rest with the younger men to come up with a formula. Their progress will be worth watching.



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SCORESHEET

KEAVENEY SET RECORD FOR DUBLIN

By OWEN McCANN



● Jimmy Keaveney

THE SCORESHEET spotlight this month is shared by Jimmy Keaveney and Dermot Earley, who have charted their way into impressive new fields in the inter-county scoring scene. The Dubliner has crowned his comeback to the big time this year with a new individual scoring record for a senior football championship campaign as a whole, while Earley has erased a near thirteen year marker from the chart.

Let's start with Keaveney's new ranking. Prior to the All-Ireland senior final the best score for a Dublin footballer in a full senior championship series stood at 33 points to the credit of Ollie Freaney with a haul of 2-27 in five games in 1959. That was five points behind the then All-Ireland record held jointly by Charlie Gallagher (Cavan) and Tony McTague (Offaly).

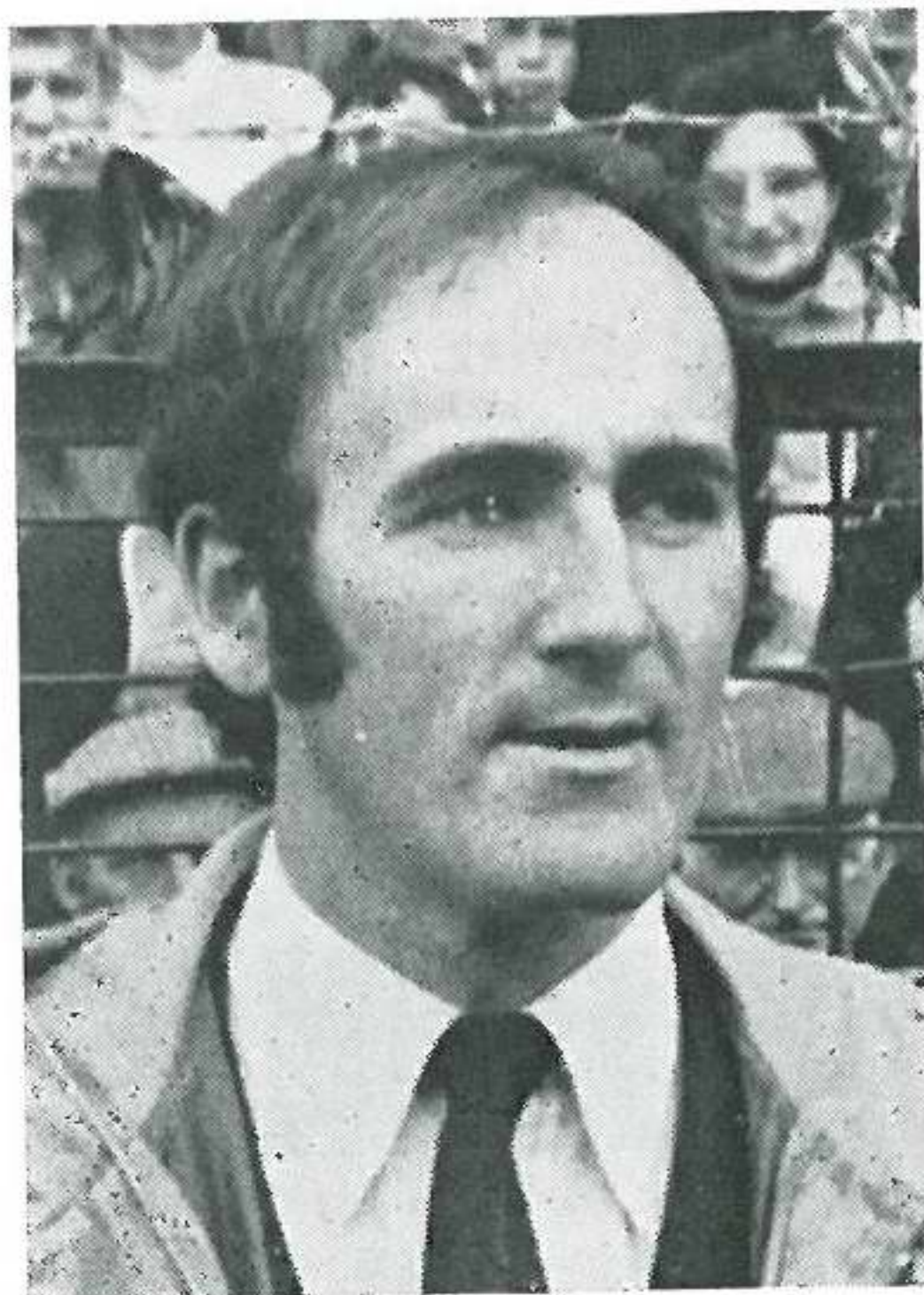
Gallagher set the standard in 1965 at 3-29 (38 points) in five games, and McTague took his place on top of the table in 1971 when he, too, had five engagements and scored 1-35.

Jimmy Keaveney just edged his way into the record book by shooting exactly the eight points necessary against Galway in the showpiece game to achieve a new high point. That score brought his bag for the series up to 1-36 (39 points) in six games, at the noteworthy average of 6.50 points.

The six-foot tall Dubliner, who is 29, had his most successful game scorewise in the Leinster final, when he helped himself to 1-8 against Meath. He scored 29 points from frees.

Keaveney is the first Dublin footballer to lead the way nationally since Mickey Whelan headed the chart in 1963 with a moderate enough 1-20 (23 points) in five games.

And Earley's achievement? Well he started a senior football challenge against Donegal at Ballybofey at full back, and finished up shooting his way into a proud place on the county scoring record sheet.



● Eddie Keher

During the match the great Roscommon midfielder-cum-forward was moved up to the attack, and almost as though matters had been perfectly stage-managed, he hit four points to bring his total for the year to 93 points (5-78) in 19 games.

As a result, he passed out by just a single point the Roscommon county scoring record for a full season's series of games embracing National League, Championship, challenge and tournament games, and Railway Cup ties. This had resolutely stood the test of time from 1961 at 92 points (3-83) in 22 games by Don Feeley.

So, Earley not only improved on that peak, but he achieved the feat in fewer games than the pace-setter played in 1961. The match averages, in fact, make interesting reading—4.89 points a game by Earley, as against Feeley's 4.18 points an outing.

This year is now destined to go into the charts as a doubly noteworthy one for this Michael Glavey's club man in that it will also be remembered as the one in which Earley took his place among the scoring elite—that exclusive band of players who have hit more than a century of points (goals and points combined) over a full annual programme.

Surprisingly enough, the "ton up" club in football is proving

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SANDEMAN
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very select. Who, for instance, would have been prepared to bet that when Sean O'Connell took his place in 1970 with a new Derry record of 126 points (10-96) in 25 games that the membership book would not be brought out again until 1974?

But back to activities in recent weeks. Ulster was the setting for another of the year's outstanding scoring achievements so far. The game in question was the Dr. McKenna Cup football final at Monaghan, where Derry snatched a dramatic win over the home county with two goals in the last three minutes. Frankie O'Loane was bang on target in that game, finishing with 3-3 for Derry, and in the process he achieved the best individual score for a major inter-county football final during 1974.

Next in line is Jimmy Keaveney with that 1-8 in the Leinster final; the best in a provincial decider last summer.

More than that, the Dubliner equalled the Leinster record for an 80 minutes decider in football. A year earlier, Tony McTague had pioneered the way with 0-11 in Offaly's win over Kildare. This pair now take second place nationally to Michael Kearins, who shot 0-13 in a Sligo draw with Galway at Castlebar in 1971.

Richie Bennis had the best score in a provincial hurling final at 2-8 for Limerick in their win over Clare at Thurles. But last year Francis Loughnane shot 2-10 against Limerick, and the Thurles man leads the way with that score.

The All-Ireland senior finals did not produce anything new either. Eddie Keher had a good score against Limerick at 1-11, but his own 1971 bag of 2-11 against Tipperary still sets an intimidating headline.

In football, Frankie Stockwell still holds sway with 2-5 in a win by Galway over Cork for the 1956 All-Ireland crown.

By

Tony

Reid

SELDOM has the fickle finger of fate played such a prominent part in one year's sport as that which was perpetrated in the year under review this month. Ask anybody from Carlow, Kilkenny or Tipperary and they will curse the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease that disrupted the championships that year and also changed the course of Gaelic games history.

It was of course the year that saw the war in Europe entering its seventeenth month, the war that certain politicians said in September 1939 would be "over before Christmas" that year. Instead it was now only beginning to "hot-up" and gain momentum. Bombs fell in Dublin, Cork and Drogheda and also in the mountains around Wexford and in isolated parts along the coastline.

In his address to the annual Congress the president of the Association, Pdraig McNamee of Antrim, said that the year gone out had been remarkable in that the Association's programme had been carried out in full. However, he doubted if the present year would go so smoothly. How right he was but for a different reason.

It was not the war but the outbreak of the dreaded foot-and-mouth scourge that posed a most serious threat to the country's economy. As a result of the grave danger caused by the disease the Association had to cooperate in an effort to contain the spread of the plague and to this end three counties suffered more than any other, the two in Leinster and one in Munster already mentioned.

The Railway Cup finals were not played on the traditional St.

Patrick's Day date because of the travel restrictions then in operation because of the Emergency situation. Instead they took place on the 16th of March and Leinster had a one point win over Munster in a fine hurling encounter while the football final went to a replay and extra time before Munster gained a hard-earned victory over Ulster by a one goal margin.

The next big events on the calendar were the National football League semi-finals, Dublin causing a big shock in beating Kerry, 2-7 to 1-4, while Mayo went north to Newcastle and beat Down by four points. The final was a let down as Mayo eventually won easily against Dublin, 3-5 to 0-7, after the Metropolitans had enjoyed an interval lead. In the second half Mayo played at will with the Dublin defence and could have won by a far bigger margin.

The hurling League final never attained memorable heights as Cork coasted to a 4-11 to 2-7 win over Dublin. The Dublin side faded badly after a bright opening fifteen minutes but once Cork got the measure of the opposition the game was as good as over by the interval.

Incidentally, for those statisticians who collect and compile records of large scoring games it will no doubt interest them to know that, in a Cork county championship senior hurling first round match, Avonduh beat Carbery, 14-6 to 2-1 in April of 1941.

The Ulster championship in football threw up the old familiar face of Cavan as title holders. They experienced no difficulty in brushing aside the challenge of Monaghan and Tyrone, while Down caused a right old sensation

by beating Antrim in the provincial hurling final. However they did not play in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In Connacht, Galway and Mayo played a thriller before the final whistle left the Galwegians winners by two points, thanks to a stronger and more accurate attack than that which Mayo could turn out. In the provincial final Galway had only a point to spare over Roscommon and had the losers been more accurate in their finishing they would certainly have ended up the victors.

In Leinster the football scene was extremely lively and splendid wins were recorded by Wexford over Wicklow, who staged a wonderful finish that almost swung the game their way. Kildare beat Offaly and Dublin defeated Louth and the title holders, Meath. Kildare then had a fine win over Longford in a game in which both sides played exceptionally good football. It was the Wexford-Carlow clash however that was destined for the record books and no wonder. The two counties had to meet **four** times, with extra time in the last match, before a decision was reached.

The first game would have done justice to an All-Ireland final as both sides battled heroically to a draw, Wexford 4-7 Carlow 3-10. In the replay Wexford were eight points down with fifteen minutes left but a storming finish saw the two teams level at the call of time, 2-7 each being the score. Even extra time failed to part the two sides in the third meeting and the large Croke Park attendance were witness to yet another thrilling game. Wexford scored 3-6 and Carlow replied

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Worms in Pigs:

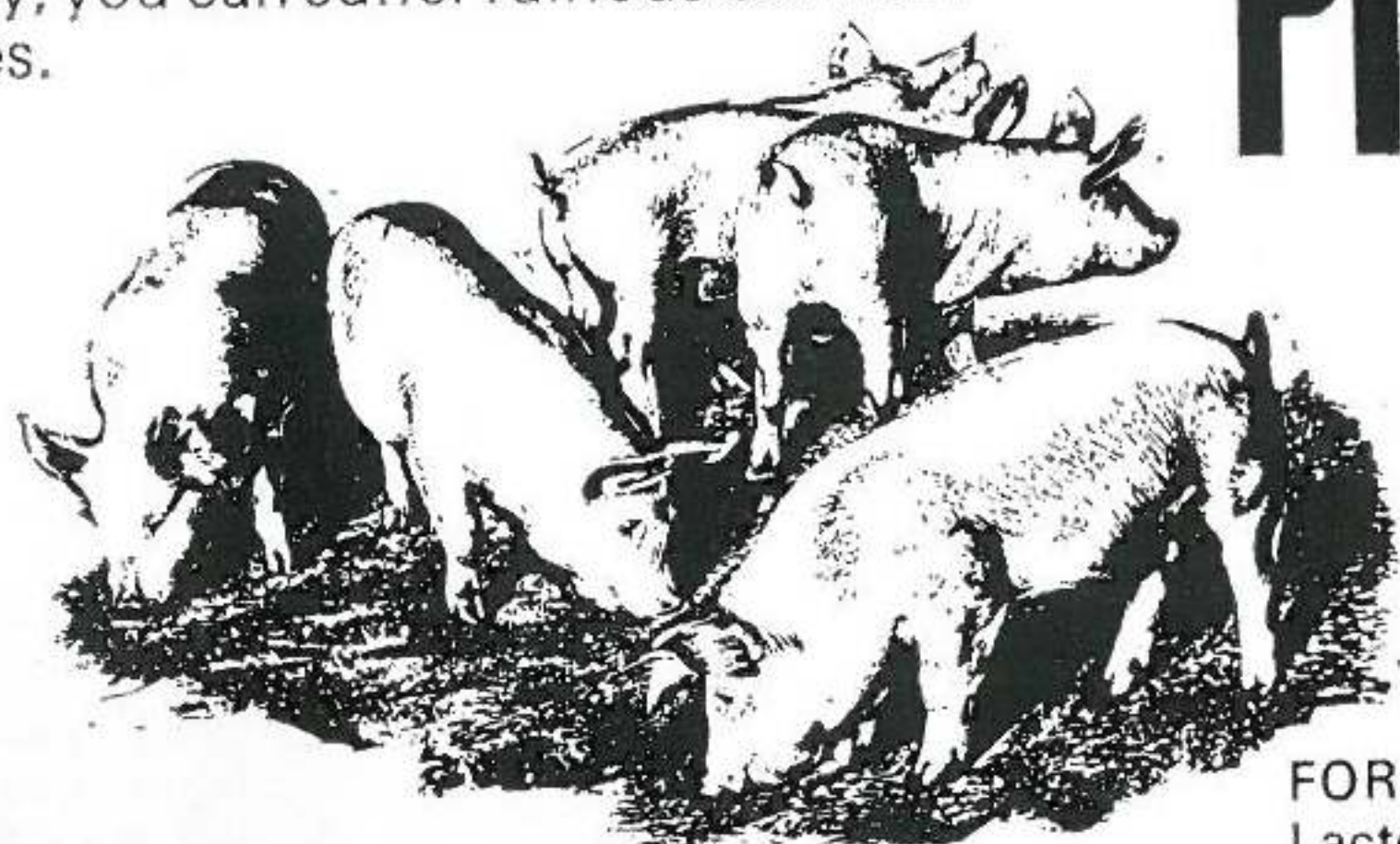
Do you know these basic facts?

1 There are four types of worms. Most pig farmers are well aware of the harmful effects of large roundworm (ascaris). But stomach worm (*Hyostromylus*), nodular worm (*Oesophagostomum*) and lungworm (*Metastrongylus*) dangers, are not so well known. Today, these three worms are probably more important than the large roundworm as a major cause of loss in productivity. In recent years piperazine has been used to control roundworm, and has been combined with other drugs to control stomach and nodular worms. **But none of these preparations control lungworm.**

2 Long before worms show, they can cripple herd performance. Sows can eat greedily, but fail to make proper use of the food. So infected sows rarely produce enough milk to suckle bonhams properly. Result? Growth rate reduced and needless expense on extra feeding incurred. And if infection becomes heavy, you can suffer ruinous bonham losses.

3 Most pig farms show infestation by two or three worm types. Use a wormer which copes with *all* types of worm. Irregular dosing with outdated preparations may not only endanger herd health, but can be largely ineffective. If you are going to dose at all, then it makes sense to do the job properly.

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with 1-12 and both teams had a fair share of "hard luck" stories to relate.

The fourth game between the sides was a great anticlimax. Carlow, playing more methodical football, crushed Wexford. Their forwards displayed a turn of speed that baffled the Wexford defenders and the score at full time was, Carlow 2-8 Wexford 0-3, a fair reflection of the trend of the game. In winning this marathon semi-final duel Carlow made history by qualifying for their first-ever Leinster senior final. But it was then that fate turned on the gallant men of Carlow. The worsening foot-and-mouth situation led to the county being excluded from further participation in the championship. It was a shattering moment in the county's football history.

Eventually, after much sorting out it was Dublin who went forward to represent Leinster in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Meanwhile the province's hurlers were not idle although Kilkenny were another victim of the foot-and-mouth ban. Dublin won out at the expense of Meath and Offaly, and beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final. Later in the year, in November, Dublin justified their position as Leinster hurling king-pins when they beat Kilkenny, 2-8 to 1-8, in the delayed Leinster final.

Kerry footballers carried off the Munster crown once more and the only real talking point of the championship was the feat of Clare in beating Cork, 1-8 to 1-3. Clare prevented the Cork team from registering a single score in the second half of the game.

In hurling Limerick scored a resounding 8-3 to 1-5 win over Clare and a highly promising Tipperary side beat red-hot favourites Waterford by six points. Cork, Limerick and Tipperary were left to fight out the final stages of the provincial championship but this time Tipperary were the next victims of the plague and they had to withdraw from further play in the competition. Instead the semi-final between Cork and Limerick was selected as the game that would

decide the county that would go forward to the All-Ireland final with the proviso that the Munster final would be played, if possible towards the end of the year. Cork's superior speed and stamina proved far too much for Limerick and the final score of Cork 8-10, Limerick 3-2, in no way flattered the Rebel County men.

The All-Ireland football semi-finals took place without hindrance. Galway coasted to the final against a very poor Cavan selection by eight points. Never at any time did the Ulster team look remotely like upsetting the Galway machine.

Kerry, on the other hand, were fantastically lucky in their game against Dublin at Croke Park. A low scoring game that should have been tucked away, lock, stock and barrel, by Dublin, was snatched from the jaws of defeat in the very last minute by the completely outplayed Kingdom fifteen. With the score standing at four points to three in Dublin's favour Murt Kelly took a free for Kerry from far out and sent the ball high into the Dublin goal. His shot appeared to be drifting wide but dipped, glided off the upright and then slipped over the bar for the equaliser with seconds only to spare.

In this game Dublin had six Kerry men playing for them against their native county and they were Murphy, Falvey, Holly, O'Dowd, Coughlan and Joy.

Both teams decided to toss for choice of venue for the replay. Dublin lost and the match went to Tralee. If Kerry were blessed with good fortune the first time round they were a transformed team in their own back yard. Dublin never put in a serious challenge and 15,000 disappointed Dublin fans saw Kerry walk off with the match by 2-9 to 0-3.

The All-Ireland hurling final between Cork and Dublin drew a crowd of 26,150 and they saw a fit, competent and well trained Munster side cut the "out-of-sorts" Metropolitan team to ribbons. Dublin's strong, experienced hurlers all seemed to pick the same day to have an off period. Apart from their captain, Wade, the rest were always

struggling against the wiles of Alan Lotty, Jim Young, Con Buckley and the new "boy wonder" of hurling, Christy Ring, playing in his first final. The only other Dublin players to make any sort of impression were Charlie Downes and Harry Gray. The full time score was Cork 5-11, Dublin 0-6.

The football final was also something of a let-down with Kerry beating Galway 1-8 to 0-7. While the game was strenuous and hard fought throughout there was an amazing lack of the higher skills of the code. This was due mainly to the sturdy opposition which Galway provided. And yet the second half had moments that thrilled the crowd as the Connaught representatives tried in vain to create a winning approach. In the first twenty minutes of the match Kerry dominated the exchanges to such an extent that they should have, by all accounts, been home and dried long before the final whistle. The Kerry midfield of Sean Brosnan and Paddy Kennedy ultimately proved too good for the harassed Galway defence.

After the battles for the All-Ireland crowns were over Cork and Tipperary met in the delayed Munster hurling final. The game took place at the Ennis Road Grounds, Limerick, and the Blue Riband winners, Cork, were systematically taken apart by a brilliant Tipperary side. Playing hurling of an inspired nature Tipp won by 5-4 to 2-5 and were always streets ahead of Cork. The All-Ireland champions simply had no answer to the speed and caman craft of the winners.

The Tipperary win cast serious doubts on Cork's claim to the All-Ireland champions' tag. But a few weeks later the same two sides met again in the Thomond Shield final and, although Cork were under-strength, they beat a Tipperary team short only two of the Munster title winning fifteen by 4-7 to 3-3. In Cork eyes at least this victory endorsed their right to claim the title of "All-Ireland champions". It was on this somewhat confused note that the competitive year drew to a close.

Munster needs

IT was the Munster senior hurling championship season that had promised to be one of the greatest on record—but in the end it faded out like a damp squib.

Before it all began there had been the prospect of two major confrontations—Limerick v Cork in the semi-final and more than likely, Tipperary taking on the winners in the Munster Final.

But the first upset was the defeat of Cork by Waterford in Waterford, leaving the Leesiders to wonder if some gremlins operate there, for they finished with fourteen men in 1967 and again this year and on each occasion they were hot favourites to advance to the next round.

The biggest sensation of the championship, of course, was the defeat of Tipperary by Clare and looking back on it now in cold retrospect, it was the result that finally knocked the bottom out of it, as ultimately there was not even a Munster Final of real drama to compensate for earlier disappointments.

And after the All-Ireland Final, Limerick came to see that while Clare's defeat of Tipperary provided them with a very easy passage to Croke Park, it was far from being a blessing in disguise. Indeed, talk to any of the Limerick players and you will quickly realise that 1974 proved to them beyond doubt that you need to get over either Tipperary or Cork in a really tough tie in Munster to become battle-hardened to win an All-Ireland.

That is not to disparage Waterford, who ran Limerick desperately close in the Munster semi-final at Thurles and, to my mind, were undoubtedly the unlucky team of the Provincial championship this year. Limerick should never have beaten them and I am convinced they would not have done so if Waterford had been wise enough — when they had forged a winning lead—to have closed up like a clamp in defence and pulled one of the forwards back to act as a third midfielder.

As it was, a freak goal let Limerick back into the game and once they got the smell of victory there was no denying them, though afterwards one could not but reflect that the Decies men are a great team in front but once things begin to go against them, they have not the penchant of Tipperary or Cork to hold on to a point or two points' lead in the cauldron that a tense Munster championship occasion can become.

But still everything pointed at that stage to a tremendous battle against Tipperary in Limerick—a repeat of the pulsating clash of the previous year, with only the venue changed. Imagine the hordes pouring out the Ennis Road, the blaze of colour, the thousands of followers from city and county that Limerick would

have mustered and how the real Tipperary followers, who normally wait for the "big ones", would have been there on the embankments — and Limerick wanting to tame "Babs" again and Mick Roche after the weeks of extra training not far off peak fitness. Yes, this could have made up for the fact that we had been denied a Cork-Limerick semi-final at Thurles that would have promised much, it could have "made" Limerick as a team and have been the means of steeling them mentally and physically to retain their All-Ireland crown.

Analysing how easily Limerick beat Clare in the end in the Munster Final, it will never be explained how Tipperary allowed themselves to toss away the Munster semi-final — and maybe the chance of a Munster title and an All-Ireland crown too. But it happened, as it happened in 1955 and when the spirit is wrong in the Premier County, strange things can happen, very strange things indeed.

The bringing back of Mick Roche and the controversy aroused in the county itself by the naming of two different teams undoubtedly created a mood in the camp that was not calculated to provide the springboard for championship success. Those who had played in the wind and the muck of winter days in the League may have felt let down by the selectors in a way but should "player power" — of

Tipperary

which so much is being written these days in English soccer — decide the composition of a team or should the selectors have the final say?

If the selectors believed in their hearts that, whatever his attitude to playing hurling in the winter (an attitude often expressed publicly in interviews and certainly not hidden) Mick Roche was required at centre-back if Tipperary were to win out in Munster, then had they not the right to choose him? And if from the sideline in the Munster semi-final itself Donie Nealon, the manager of the Tipperary team signalled certain instructions that I and everyone else sitting in the sideline seats just behind him could plainly see, should those signals have been ignored and should Donie have been seen turning away and shaking his head, almost in a gesture of despair?

In Paddy Leahy's day, there was only one boss and every player knew who was boss. In 1961 when Tipperary, having gone into the All-Ireland with Tony Wall and Jimmy Doyle nursing injuries, suddenly found themselves facing defeat against Dublin, Leahy moved and putting the Blue and Gold above every other consideration, he pulled out Jimmy Doyle first and then Tony Wall—in front of the eyes of thousands—and one of the most inspired moves ever made by sideline mentors followed—Liam Devaney, natural hurler,

By
**Raymond
Smith**

and born sticksman, was moved back centre-back and plucked a few saves out of the skies that made all the difference between defeat and victory.

We never talked about player power in Paddy Leahy's day. The crisis of confidence of hidden discontent, of frustration and near-rebellion that hit Tipperary in 1974 would never have happened. The cycle of events would not have been nurtured to begin with, to create the seed of defeat. I mean if Mick Roche was going to be picked, Mick Roche would have had to play in some crucial League tests. He would have had to begin to get himself match-fit in the Spring and he would have been given a



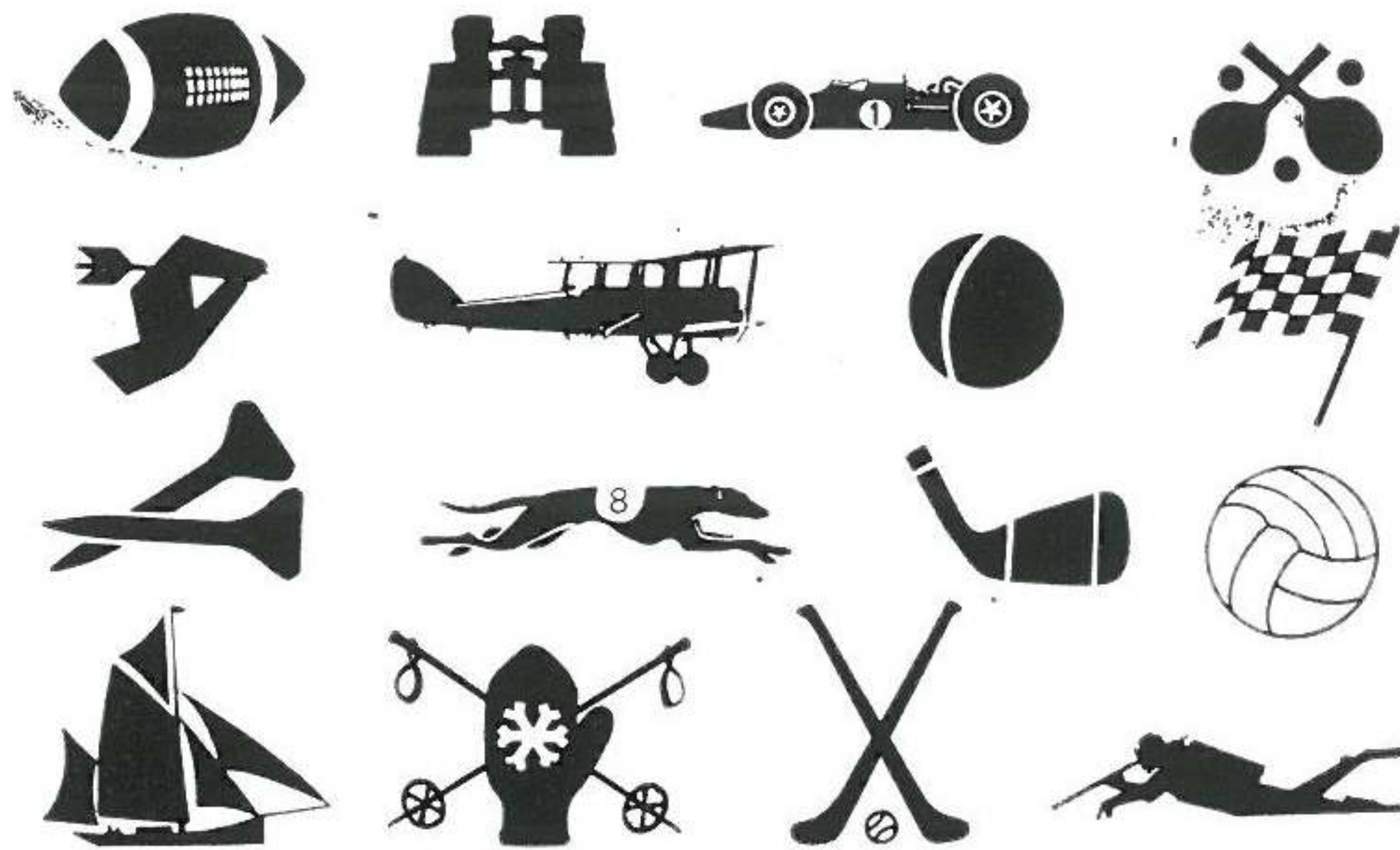
● LIAM DEVANEY . . . his inspired display against Dublin in the '61 Final made all the difference between defeat and eventual victory.

choice—if you wear the jersey, you must be fit enough, that is match-fit enough, for Munster hurling to do yourself full justice, for no one can deny that you have the talent. . . .

But the final choice was not put to Mick Roche by the Tipperary Selection Committee at the start of this year. It seemed to other players, who had given their all, through winter and summer, for whom pride in the Blue and Gold was everything, that the same rules did not dictate for all. That could not but lead to discontent in the camp.

What Tipperary player said to

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**Here's to
enjoyment**



Slainte Mineral Waters 45 Montpelier Hill, Dublin 7.

● FROM PAGE 25

me not so very long ago—"when Tipperary get the spirit right, they can win an All-Ireland with a moderate team. They have lost All-Irelands with far better teams than 1945 and 1958 because the spirit was not right in those seasons."

In the homes of Tipperary, they will remember 1974 as the season when the chance of reversing the 1973 defeat by Lime-



Michael Keating (Tipperary) Noel O'Dwyer (Tipperary)

rick was tossed away by lack of the right team spirit, by absence of the burning ambition that Tipperary can muster when they want badly to get back on top.

They were too long on top in the 'sixties and 1971 is still too fresh in the memories for them to be really hungry yet. But that hunger will arise in their hearts again and from the County Board right down through the Selection Committee to the most inexperienced player, there will be an edge of steel to be seen that was there when they went into Killarney in the rain in 1971 and won the one that Roche and Keating, Loughnane and Flanagan and the others wanted so much to win and it took more than hurling to beat Limerick that day. It took the guts and the courage and the fierce determination that was conspicuous by its absence this past season.

Munster hurling needs a fighting-fit Tipperary for without that do-or-die spirit of the Blue and Gold the Munster championship is about as exciting as a ten-day cricket match. 1974 proved that.

COME ON TIPP! ROLL UP THOSE SLEEVES, PULL UP THOSE SOCKS — HURLING NEEDS YOU.

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championship series as that witnessed in the 1974 campaign, a campaign that can be filed away in the G.A.A. records under the heading "The Great Let-down".

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By the nature of its origin, handball rings of romanticism. The Celts brought it to this country, apparently fibred with their own romantic tendencies, while history proves that Irishmen have been highly successful in promoting the game in countries to which they emigrated.

A wholesome position indeed, not only for the game itself, but for the G.A.A. as a unit, since handball is the one sector that can justifiably mirror the image of the Association at international level. This was really brought home to me on a trip to the U.S.A. last year where I found a fanatical and growing interest in the game.

It is generally accepted as an integral part of the huge American framework of recreation, be that in the context of University, College or Club. Those who play it are counted in millions, hence, it is not surprising to find it being lured into the trap of professionalism.

A similar situation is unlikely to evolve here, though money is certainly going to be the determining factor in marking the future destiny of the game. We must admit that the projection of image is a priority of the modern age, which, when translated into handball language, means well-appointed courts with all the ancillary facilities demanded by both the player and spectator.

It does appear, too, that a definite policy must be outlined for the future as to the size of our courts. There is a difference of 1,000 sq. feet in floor area between the small American and our own court, and this makes international competition virtually impractical. I gauge that a small court policy in this country would be beneficial in many respects.

STRONG CASE FOR THE SMALL COURT

It would open the gate for us into the international field, it would be a boon for our youth and ladies, while experience has shown that the small court player can continue playing well into his sixties.

In the progressive trend that Irish handball travels today, there have been a couple of innovations which have helped the game considerably. Pride of place in handball promotion must go to R.T.E. for their initiative in presenting the "Top Ace Handball Tournament". It belied the contention that handball was not a suitable medium for television. After the first two games, which were not on a par with the rest, both the flight of the ball and the movement of the players were readily discernible.

"Top Ace" was instrumental in introducing to television for the first time "frontal" shots of handballers. This was made possible by the Irish Handball Council, who had a small glass panel inserted in the front wall so that a camera could be placed there to show the players playing towards the front wall. Since the series was produced in colour, an experimental red ball was used, and this was the first time since World War II that balls, in colour

other than black had been used.

The competition which in the last two seasons has been played off amongst eight of the country's top players, has aroused considerable viewing interest and will be staged again in the coming winter series.

Equally important has been the evolution of ladies handball over the last couple of years. This movement deserves full support and it must be, at least, part of the answer to the propounders of theories that the ladies' contribution, both actively and socially, is badly needed at this point in the Association's history. It would be a pity if this new-found initiative were allowed to lapse.

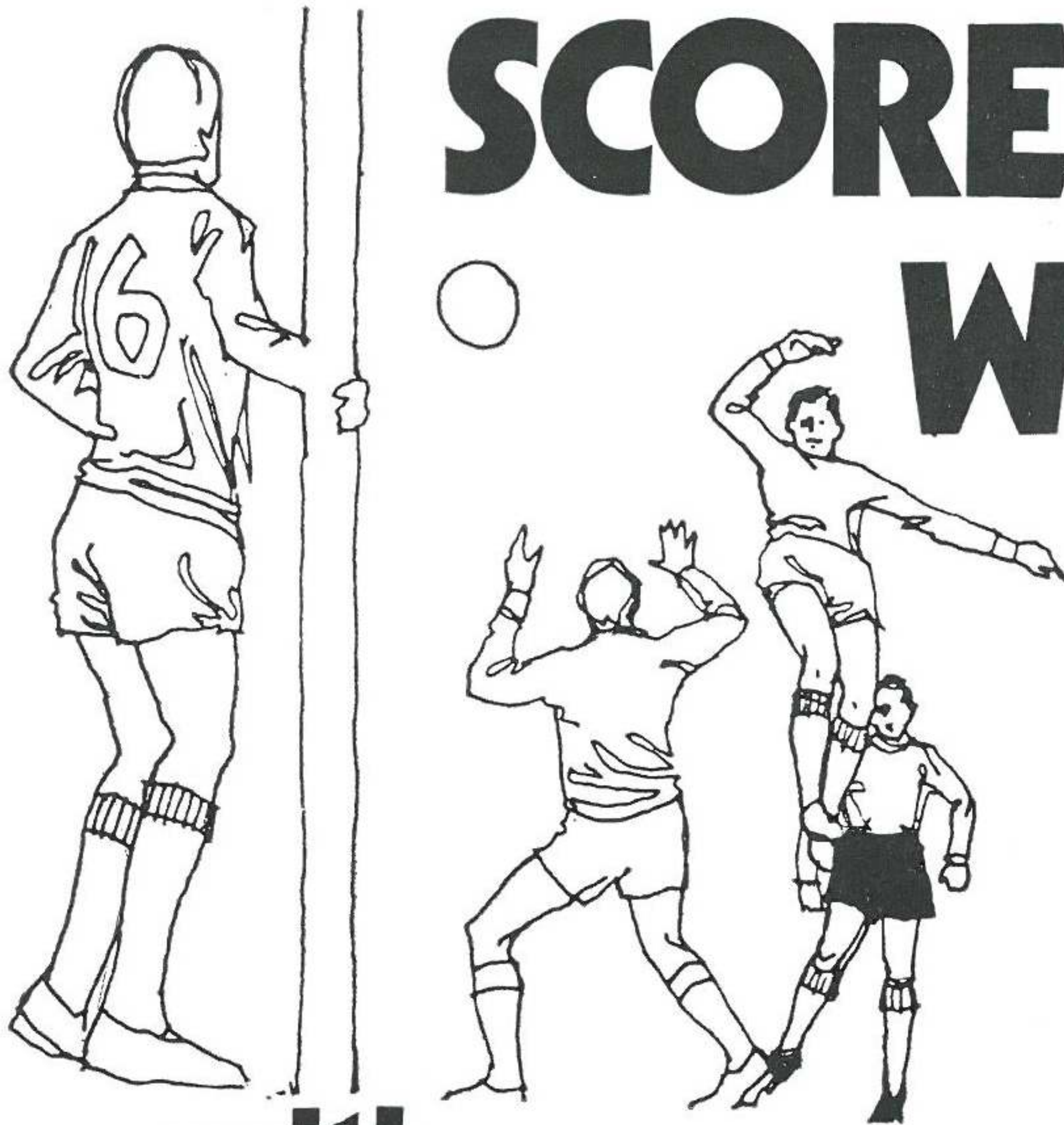
Last month the Ladies Handball Society ran off very successful championships in all grades from under 12 to Senior. It was encouraging to see a dramatic improvement in the standard of play, while some new clubs entered for the first time. This is obviously an indication that a concentrated move is afoot by Handball Clubs throughout the country to involve girls in a playing capacity.

Enquiries on ladies handball can be made to Elizabeth Nichol at 5 St. Joseph's Place, Dublin 7.

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PRESS CUTTINGS

By NEIL McCAVANA

TIME was when the Oireachtas Cup senior hurling final was one of the major attractions of the year, but unfortunately, the games has lost much of its old glamour in recent years for a variety of reasons. This is a great pity, because hurling has too small a quota of attractive and crowd-pulling finals at present.

These few thoughts are prompted by a report I came across in "The People", of Wexford:—

"Wexford G.A.A. Board reluctantly accepted a belated invitation from the Oireachtas Committee to Wexford to take part in this year's Oireachtas Hurling Tournament when they met in Murphy-Flood's Hotel, Ennis-corthy.

"The invitation, which came over the telephone to Co. Secretary, Mr. Paddy Roche, on the previous Friday from Mr. Donal O'Shea, is to fill the vacancy created as a result of Kilkenny's crowded fixture list following their trip to the United States.

"Mr. Richie Blake (Gorey) proposed that they refuse to take part. 'They ignored us at the first of the year', he said. 'We were not good enough for them then and it is only as a last resort that we were asked. They have been pegging us around for some years so let us show that we have no love for them either.'

"The Co. Secretary said the Oireachtas semi-final would be played against Cork at Croke Park on 20th October—the date provisionally fixed for the county football final.

"Mr. Pat Ffrench (Wexford) said that he was also against accepting the invitation. He said it would disrupt their own fixture list. There was little use

in playing in the tournament if they were not going to put out their best team and if they did that two available Sundays could be lost on the county championship.

"New senior hurling team manager, Mr. Syl Barron, said that if Wexford accepted the invitation they would be entering to win. If St. Anne's-St. Patrick's qualified for the county final against Kil-nerin there would be no effect on the senior hurling side.

"Mr. Oliver Murray (Gorey) said Wexford and Galway had 'made' the Oireachtas competition, and that body of people had been less than kind to Co. Wexford in recent years.

"Following further discussion, it was agreed that Wexford would play in the event—provided it did not interfere with domestic competitions."

Now, on an entirely different plane, I take the following from a report of a Kildare-Clare senior football challenge game published in "The Nationalist and Leinster Times", of Carlow:—

"Why Kildare play these challenge games is a mystery—for apart from the fact that they serve no useful purpose for the Lilywhites, they are a positive insult to the visiting team.

"In Newbridge on Saturday was a team that had travelled almost a hundred miles, only to find that the home side could only muster thirteen players. This is not the first time for this to happen, in fact it is probably the fourth time in the past two years."

To which all I can add is: What, indeed, is the point?

Over now to another aspect of the Gaelic Games scene that is only rarely in the spotlight. I quote from the unsigned Gaelic

Forum feature of "The Clare Champion":—

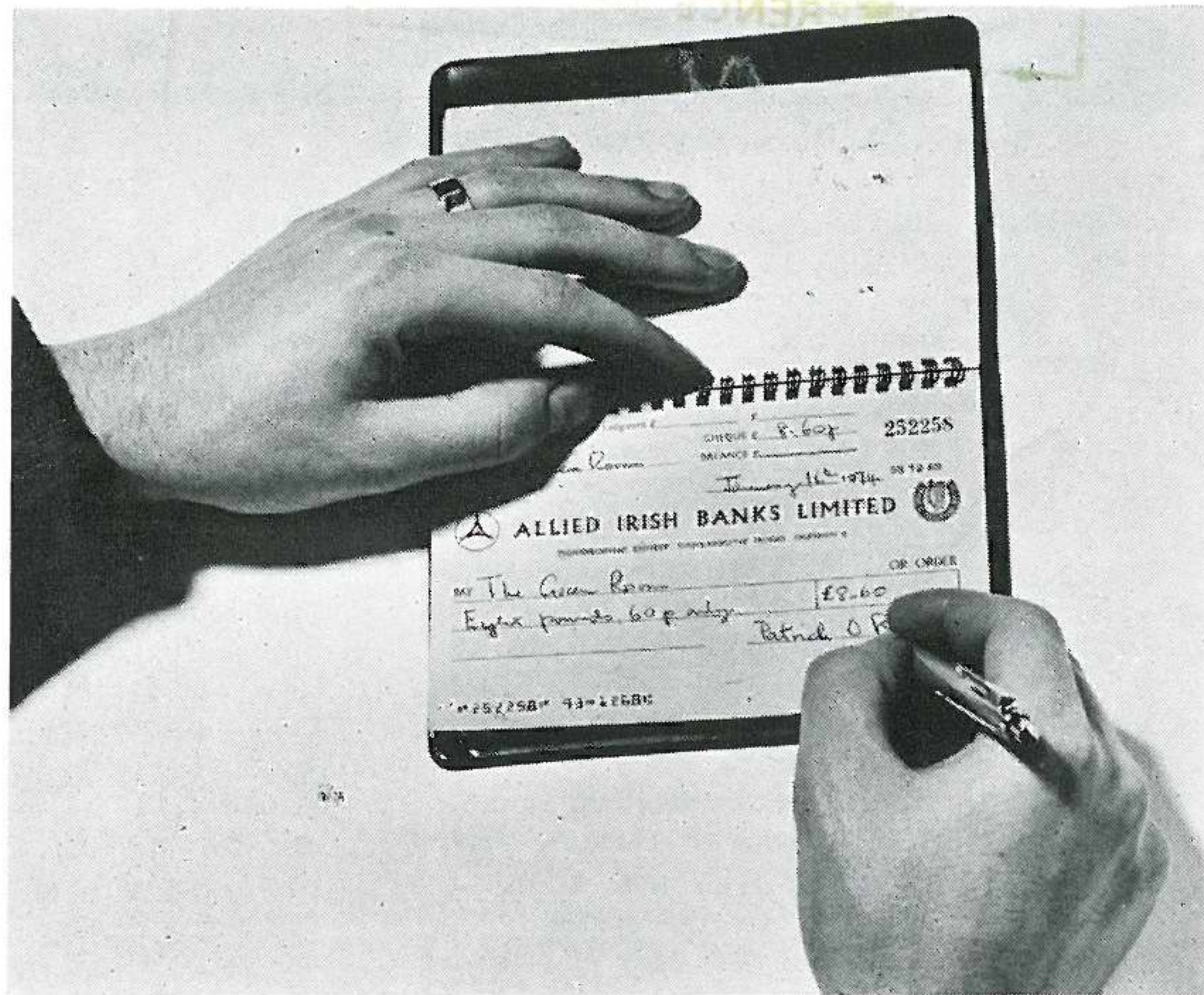
"I note that Tralee Urban Council has called on the Department of Local Government to abolish rates on voluntary sporting organisations as they are providing facilities for the youth of the country. Refreshing news this and it would be nice to think that other and indeed all our local authorities would follow suit and thus pressurise the Government to revoke this penal sanction on the sporting facilities we already are lucky enough to have.

"Surely if the Government cannot find the finance to help organisations such as ours, who do such valuable work for youth, then it should at least refrain from collecting rates. The de-rating of sports facilities would be at least a gesture by the Government, if it is serious and sincere in the lip-service it so eloquently pays to the value and benefit of sport to the community. Rhetoric is no use to pay the bills. So what about a small start in this direction. Our local authorities in Clare should support the Tralee motion."

Finally, I like the footnote to "The Clare Champion" report on the All-Ireland senior football final:—

"It is interesting to note that Clare defeated Dublin in the Div. Two football league last February in Croke Park, by two goals, Clare 4-9 to Dublin's 2-9. Eight members of the All-Ireland winning team were on that team which lost to Clare!"

Seems to me that there is a lesson here somewhere for Clare—and the other struggling counties.



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What must we do to attract the big crowds?

Camogie

**By
Agnes
Hourigan**

THE only disappointing aspect of the Camogie year was exactly the same as I have been stressing for years, the relatively poor attendance. This was especially disappointing on the first "final day" because Clare had brought a special train from Ennis to support their junior team, on the occasion of the county's first Croke Park appearance.

Yet despite the presence of so many enthusiastic Clare supporters the attendance was still far below what we would all wish it to be. How this barrier is to be broken, and how we are going to get to Croke Park at Camogie finals the attendance that these games so richly deserve, is a problem which I have raised many times before. It seems no nearer to solution.

It seems that the ten-thousand-plus crowd which Camogie finals should be capable of attracting just do not come. Before the regular senior final, which was played in conjunction with the junior decider a particularly strong effort was made to attract the public.

The amount of pre-match publicity in the majority of the National Newspapers was greater than in other years. The event got for once "exposure" in advance on both radio and tele-

vision, there was that special train from Clare, Dublin were directly involved, and yet the crowd was not appreciably better than in other recent seasons.

Quite frankly, why this should be so, nobody seems to know. The interest in Camogie was never greater in many counties. There were never more players actually playing the game at every level, while the number of players in schools and colleges has increased at least ten-fold in the last five years.

Surely, if all the Camogie people supported the finals we could muster a wonderful attendance, without having to rely unduly on others. I know the school-girls may not be able to afford the trip themselves, but surely their schools could be persuaded to subsidise such a trip. What better excursion could they have in Camogie than to see the top stars of the game in competitive action?

I have suggested before that clubs could also benefit from organising excursions to Dublin for the finals. Some few have done so, but they were very few.

The killing part of it was of course that the September final day was one of the greatest Camogie has ever seen. First we had that wonderful junior game between Dublin and Clare, and

then that tense and exciting clash in the senior final between Kilkenny and Cork, with a draw a very fitting result. This senior final was one of the great Camogie games. The pity of it was that the great Irish public just were not there to see. However, it may well be that the attendance figures for the replay will have shown, when analysed, a satisfactory upward trend. Meanwhile, of course, the outstanding feature of the championship campaign was the resurgence of Kilkenny in senior ranks and the remarkable uprise of Clare.

Clare's junior victory means much more than the just reward for the endeavours of the hard-working enthusiasts who brought about the great upsurge in the Banner County.

What it means is that in addition there is a new Camogie force in Munster and that must be all for the good of the game.

Kilkenny's return to power will also be a welcome event, and also patently proves the effectiveness of the Open Draw system, as under the old dispensation, Kilkenny, beaten in the first round of the Leinster championship, as they were by Wexford, would have been out of the competition, and would not now be All-Ireland champions.



A family picnic near the ESB hydro-electric station at Leixlip.

A Question of Caring

Where the ESB has built generating stations on such rivers as the Shannon, Liffey and Lee, new amenities have been created. New lakes have been formed which, as well as being beautiful provide facilities for sailing, rowing and fishing and, of course, are pleasant places for walking and picnicking.

Landscaping, trees and flower planting at ESB stations; planting-out young salmon and trout in rivers and lakes —these are just some of the ways in which the ESB cares for the environment in which it serves.



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of peak on their way through the under-age grades. Constant success at that age may also have lulled them just when the real thing is only beginning. For Cork the return for rich veins of minor strength and their near monopoly in school and college competitions is not sufficiently profitable. Some doubts must persist about the motivation of the adult sides.

Tipperary's gradual descent from a position of dominance has been punctuated with occasional rushes back up the slope so that the descent was less evident. But the continuance of outstanding veterans beyond their allotted span and the emergence of few new men to challenge their overstay has been clear for some time. It reached crisis point when they lost to Clare in the championship this summer.

New players are already being tested in the League. But the very sources for which Tipperary was famous — outstandingly strong and mature minors and a flow of talent from Thurles C.B.S. — have been ominously absent over the last decade. For a long productive period the question in Munster minor hurling was: Who can beat Tipperary? The absence of jostling for places in the county senior side in recent years cannot be unconnected with this drying up of talent.

In fact it is a worrying situation for all Munster counties other than Cork that they so seldom produce minor sides of skill and some little hurling fieldcraft. Besides that Cork have also been producing as many as five of the best six teams in the Harty Cup for many years past. (The progress of Cashel C.B.S. last session, signs of revival in Thurles, and the pushing of Cork to a replay in the provincial minor hurling final this year may be indicators of a shift back towards a more even spread.)

Waterford and Clare with distressing minor records seem to have used the U-21 grade with great success over the last couple of years in substituting for the absence of a minor nursery. That is a good trick if you can manage it, but it remains difficult to understand how it could be done consistently without previous minor form.

Tracing sources is not an irrelevant exercise—you cannot make bricks without straw. Limerick's team of the recent past, for instance, traces a clear lineage to Limerick C.B.S. in the Harty Cups of the early '60s and the contemporaneous county minor sides.

Aside, however, from the particular considerations in individual counties there must be overall concern at the standard of minor championship hurling. Excellent Cork teams have shown fine All-Ireland form, but the quality of the provincial championships has fallen light-years behind what was normal in the fifteen or more years after the Second World War.

Many of those interested in the question express concern about the place of hurling (and football) in the educational picture. Academic pressures tend more and more to dominate school life, time-tabling games out of the day or staggering them by classes.

An increase in numbers continuing in school does not necessarily mean more playing. There has been a considerable shift of emphasis towards the day school as against the boarding school and the day school is pinched most painfully for time. Buses ready to depart after the school class-day make it difficult to hold back even team members.

Stress on teaching staff by heavier demands has reduced the numbers available and keen to have a part in coaching or training boys. The decline in the numbers of religious as against

lay teachers tends to tighten the supply further.

The absence of the school influence to the same degree in formation of young players would not be, in itself, of any great significance but for the fact that the clubs have never been geared to take up the slack that is left. They have always left it to the schools and were delighted to do so. Where the schools fail, they will not be able to fill the gap. At least, they will not until they have first realised the want, and then geared themselves to dealing with it. That would mean an enormous commitment in time and an acquiring of many skills in coaching and motivating youngsters. Not many clubs are ready for that or could be ready for it in the foreseeable future.

Yet, despite all we have said of hurling (because Munster hurling is a special thing and precious to the G.A.A.) it is football which is the more critically ill. Cork, of course, burst past Kerry last year and took the All-Ireland; they repeated their Munster win but collapsed before Dublin this year. The Cork win last year was good, but to say that it was due return is the understatement of all time.

For years Cork have white-washed Kerry at minor; for long before that they have had an abundance of fine football talent. One All-Ireland since 1945 is little short of prodigality on their behalf.

But, of course, Cork and Kerry are established and soundly based in football. There may be some who bemoan the modern Kerry as not a patch on old-time greats, but they are still in the short-list for every championship and league. It is in the other four counties the problems lie. Whether they are entirely dominated by hurling or not, it is little short of laziness on their behalf that they have not mounted any

● OVERLEAF

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serious challenge at all to Cork or Kerry since Cork's emergence in the early 1940s.

Not alone in senior, but in all grades, there is hardly a movement. Even the prominence of De La Salle, Waterford, in college competitions for nearly twenty years does not appear to have had any spin-off in that county. The teams are still predominantly made up of Cork and Kerry boys, but one would have

expected some local development by osmosis.

It is strange, too, (and this is true of hurling as well and on wider than provincial basis) that there is so little spilling over of county boundaries. Limerick is close enough to Kerry after all to expect that there would not be a Siegfried Line between them through which even imitation could not pass.

Cork and Kerry in football have this in common with the top

Munster hurling counties that so much of the burden of maintaining the game's standards depend on them simply because they alone have the standard. It is sometimes frightening to think of either football or hurling depending for its rich quality on the continued high standard of too few. What if they should have a bad turn?

It may mean easier passage to the All-Ireland series in football for Cork or Kerry, but in the long run it would be better for them and for the game's lasting excellence if Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford were as dangerous to them as they are to one another.

It seems that those who have must, of their storehouse, distribute among others. In the end it will be their own best protection, even if, as a result, the pupils sometimes beat the masters.

Yet, when you look for a strand through all the problems and possible failings in the Munster scene there is only one requirement which could go a long way towards curing them all. Workers!

More keen followers who come forward and offer to do whatever they can for the games. There are never enough; maybe there are fewer now than ever in Munster, just when more than ever are needed.

CLUB NEWS

JAMESON & Co. Ltd. the diamond ring specialists and official agents for Omega, Tissot and Jaquet-Droz watches invite club officials and members to view their large selection of sports medals, trophies and cups for club events and other occasions at 33 Lr. O'Connell St., 40 Henry St. and 75 Grafton St., Dublin, Tel. 747874.

The advertisement features a central vertical line. To the left of the line, there are two caps: one white with a dark band and the word 'BRICKS' in black, and another white with a dark band and the words 'ROOF TILES' in black. To the right of the line, there are four different types of roofing tiles, each with a label below it: 'BESSER BRICKS' (a cross-shaped tile), 'WESSEX' (a rectangular tile with a raised edge), 'LUDLOW' (a rectangular tile with a raised edge and a different profile), and 'PANTILE' (a curved tile). At the bottom of the line, the 'CPI' logo is displayed in a stylized, blocky font.

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Moondharrig's Diary

NOW that the 1974 championships are all over and done with the time has come for a bit of stock-taking on the entire campaign. While, except for the amazing victory march of Dublin on the football fields it was not an outstanding year, it must also in fairness be added that it was an encouraging one, and, the most important factor, there was a welcome resurgence of public interest and in general, I should imagine, an improvement in attendance figures.

The hurling championships were, in the senior grade a trifle disappointing, but as an antidote for that, there was a considerable increase of interest in the under-21 grade. The senior series got off to a truly sensational start, with that remarkable victory by Waterford at Walsh Park over the Corkmen who had crushed All-Ireland champions Limerick in the National League final just a fortnight before.

That result ensured a huge hosting for the game between Waterford and Limerick at Thurles in the Munster semi-final, and marked the real return of the Decies men as a major hurling force.

Waterford lost that game, but gained immensely in hurling stature that day, and interest was further enhanced in the Munster final when Clare defeated Tipperary in the second semi-final at Limerick. But though this was again a most exciting encounter, the overall standard of hurling was poor.

Moreover, the provincial final at Limerick was not up to the standard of performance expected, with Limerick cruising to victory against a Clare side that seemed to be shattered by some early disasters.

In Leinster, where the majority of the weaker counties had been absorbed into the Senior B All-Ireland competition, the standard in the preliminary games was again no higher than it has been in many recent years, but Kilkenny showed us the first hint of their forward power when suddenly coming to life to swamp Offaly in the second half, while a somewhat lethargic Wexford were never in any real danger in their semi-final against a Laois side that had caused an early surprise by eliminating Dublin.

Once more it was left to the Leinster final to provide the biggest thrills of the year, with Wexford horribly unlucky to lose to Kilkenny in the closing stages of a thrill-packed second-half. But that was a game that had an effect on everything that came after, as it may, perhaps, have given a false look to the form book. Kilkenny, their sights on the All-Ireland, did not indulge in all-out training for the Leinster decider, probably for fear of

over-working their older men too early in the campaign. So a fitter, faster and sharper Wexford outfit were the better side on the day and must have won had they fifteen men in the second half.

But, not alone had Kilkenny scraped through. They now knew to a nicety their own strengths and weaknesses, and they also had the advantage of a semi-final in which to experiment.

● TO PAGE 39



David Hickey
(Dublin)



Paddy Cullen
(Dublin)



Paddy Reilly
(Dublin)

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Meanwhile, of course, the first Senior B Championship had been played without setting the hurling world on fire either as regards quality, attendance or public interest, with the predictable result that Kildare won. However, Kildare were unable to match Galway in their quarter-final.

Galway in turn gave Kilkenny exactly what the Noremen needed to sort out some of their remaining problems, a lively training spin over 80 minutes at Birr, and then Kilkenny really got down to hard graft for the final, a game which failed to live up to expectations. This time Kilkenny had the drive and dedication which Limerick had possessed in 1973 . . . and they had Eddie Keher.

But the disturbing thing about the 1974 championship campaign is that with the exception of Kilkenny, Clare and Waterford it gave us little hope of stars for the future. Kilkenny have now got Tom McCormack, Willie Fitzpatrick, Nick Brennan and Gee Murphy to step into the gaps if the older men begin to think about retiring. Waterford's John Galvin and Pat McGrath took a long step towards the top class, while Clare's Ger Loughnane and Colm Honan looked very promising indeed. But, with the exception of Jim Kehoe, Tipperary, Cork or Wexford failed to unveil any impressive new talent, particularly in the Under-21 competition which was dominated by Kilkenny and Waterford who drew a

remarkable crowd to their Thurles final.

On the football fields, the feature of the year was, of course, the Dubliners' victory march. Heffernan's Army, almost incredibly, improved with every outing, and the finest tribute that can be paid to him as trainer and Manager is that they were just as sharp and just as eager in the final as they were in the earlier rounds. By comparison with Dublin's achievement all the efforts of their rivals fade into insignificance, even Cork's clear-cut demolition of Kerry at Killarney, and Galway's impressive steamrolling of their Western opposition.

That Dublin victory has, as nobody gets tired of saying, been a wonderful thing for the game and for the G.A.A. in Dublin City and County. I do not place all that reliance on the thousands of new supporters who turned up for the concluding games, although, heaven knows, they were welcome. Many of them of course are bound to remain. Some are bound to prove merely fairweather friends. Some few, a very few, will not be missed. But the biggest impact has been in the schools and among the juveniles.

These youngsters now have home-grown heroes of their own to idolise, a welcome change from the pin-ups of the professional English soccer-players. But, and this is a big assignment for Kevin Heffernan and his victorious Dubliners, they are now faced with the necessity of living up to the high standards they themselves have set, if only because they cannot afford to let these young lads down. I have no fear that they will.

● FROM PAGE 12

frustrating. As I mentioned in the Hurling Final issue of this magazine Jim appeared a forlorn figure on crutches when we journalists visited Nowlan Park for the pre-final training last year. It was a long time before those crutches could be dispensed with and then the greatest battle—uphill all the way—to regain match fitness began.

As he revealed when I spoke to him in late August, there had been times early in the summer when he felt he wasn't improving as quickly as he would have wished. But he continued with the struggle and wasn't deterred even when he had to be taken out of the Leinster final.

Those early minutes of the All-Ireland final, during which Limerick's whirlwind appeared cap-

able of sweeping Kilkenny before it, seemed to confirm the suspicions that Jim hadn't really succeeded. Yet, when the 80 minutes had ended it was seen that will-o'-the-wisp Liam O'Donoghue, who has inflicted many an afternoon of misery on corner backs, hadn't been given much leeway. Even at 31 years of age Treacy had recovered enough of his form to keep an eagle eye on the Limerick man and Jim's keen judgment and crafty resourcefulness enabled him to come through that final with a great deal of honour.

When an RTE Sport crew filmed preview interviews at Nowlan Park Mick Lanigan, the Kilkenny trainer, paid a magnificent tribute to Jim Treacy for his persistence and bravery. Said Lanigan: "Jim had the type of injury that would have put many

men, in any sport, out of the game for ever."

Mick, who had been observing the Kilkenny players so carefully in the run-up to the final, made a significant point when he stated that Treacy's bravery had a very beneficial effect on the rest of the team. "They've seen how hard he's worked, so they've taken inspiration from his courage and they've trained even harder themselves".

Jim has won all the honours available in hurling since joining the team in 1964 for a match against the Rest of Ireland—five All-Ireland medals, Railway Cup medals and Carroll's All-Star awards. But it's fairly safe to say that none gave him as much satisfaction as the joy of being back in that familiar No. 4 jersey for this year's All-Ireland victory.

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ROBERT WALLACE RECEPTION FOR DUBLIN TEAM



● Pictured at the recent Robert Wallace shirt manufacturers reception in Arnotts, when members of the Dublin team were the recipients of these renowned shirts, are (from left): Sean Doherty, Brian Howard, Sales Manager, and Jimmy Keaveney.

VIEWS ON THE LEAGUE

By JOHN O'SHEA

● FROM PAGE 9

imposes a lot on players to expect them to retain a peak for such a period and you might find that the All-Ireland champs will struggle.

As for Wexford, they have everything to play for after going so close in the Leinster final, and provided the approach is right I think they could do things.

Asked to name a winner at this juncture, I would stick my neck out and go for Waterford—despite that narrow loss to Wexford. They have promised much in recent years without having anything tangible to show for it. Perhaps this year

MICK O'NEILL (Kilkenny) :

I'm fairly satisfied that Kilkenny can add the League title to

their All-Ireland success. If we fail, it will not be for lack of effort.

We intend to really have a go for it this year. Remember that it's nearly eight years since we last won this competition and I know most of the lads would like to add to their medal collection.

It's never easy to predict how a League will turn out, but naturally I expect Wexford and ourselves to be there or thereabouts at the closing stages. After that who knows?

PADDY ROCHE (Wexford) :

It's a very open League and at this stage I would not like to forecast a Leinster triumph, although I expect Kilkenny and ourselves to go well.

We will be taking it pretty seriously because we feel that a

good League run is an important preparation for the championship. We will be setting our sights on getting to the final stages. Quite frankly I don't think we will be too concerned about winning.

The main thing is to provide the lads with competitive hurling for as long as possible. If we made an early exit from the League, we might find it hard to get the lads interested after Christmas.

Kilkenny will, I believe adopt a similar approach. They will be keen to "blood" some players and they may not be quite as determined as if an All-Ireland title were at stake.

Despite their shaky start, I like the look of Waterford, and if the honours are to go out of Leinster, then it could go to Seamus Power's men.

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A LOOK AT LIMERICK'S FUTURE

Selectors refuse to rush for the chopper

By JAY DRENNAN

IT was a big disappointment to Limerick supporters and to many who have been pleased with their success that they failed so badly in the All-Ireland final. That was a game which brought spectres of some of the old failings that had kept a highly talented bunch from realising their potential until quite recently.

The main failing was the great bugbear that they have only overcome for a period in 1973 and early 1974—concentration. It was clear that they allowed their minds to wander from the job in hand and the pattern which they must have known would have to be persevered with if they were to defeat Kilkenny. They began well with the thought fresh in the mind, but no sooner were they faced with a little adversity than the concentration cracked and they began to scramble and pick and try to overdo the work with the ball so that they fell straight into the yawning jaws of the trap Kilkenny had set for them.

Subsequently, they were like the fly caught in the spider's parlour. In the process, they did not do themselves justice; looked much less than the good hurlers

they are. That was the pity of the All-Ireland final from a Limerick point of view.

It is good to see that there is no panic. This is not the time to throw players on the scrap heap. There are many of the players in the team who have a great deal more to offer and there is every reason to think that they will be able to offer it again once the pressures are off and normality has again been reached after a year and a half on cloud seven.

The style they needed to persevere with in order to beat Kilkenny—and that would have been a mighty task even if they played at their best and to the best plan—was basically the fast and simple game, keeping the ball flying, pulling on the ground and refusing to allow Kilkenny to settle.

To play that kind of game a special brand of fitness is needed which they reached for the 1973 final and not since. It was the original recipe which Mick Mackey fed to his greyhounds of the 50s. It maximises the possibilities for hurlers who are either slightly less skilful than the best opponents or lacking in confidence in their own ability. It helps frustrate the superior skill of

opponents and it allows no time or opportunity for doubts to raise their questioning heads.

The formula was right when Mackey used it with racing speed. And it was still right in 1973 when Mick Cregan got the last ounce from them. It would still have been right in 1974, but the physical condition was not good enough to allow more than a half-hour of it.

The fact is, however, that Limerick were well able for most of their opponents since they won their All-Ireland and they often showed both polished hurling and the ability to survive—champion qualities—during the 1974 championship. After all Cork and Kilkenny were the only teams that could boast of having thoroughly beaten them.

Therefore, to rush for the chopper would have been fatal. Sound judgement from knowledgeable men in the selection committee assured the men that they would have every chance to re-habilitate themselves.

But, the time also was ripe for introducing some of those on the edge of the team during the year—edging them in gradually to see what they had to offer on a more permanent basis. The first game of the League was against Kilkenny once more and it provided another defeat—and one not to be argued about. But, there was consolation in that game, too, in that Limerick played thoroughly well for more than half the match, sticking to their first-time rule.

Needless to say they were not in the sharpest physical shape after the depressed aftermath of the All-Ireland, and this told in the long run as Kilkenny got a little more time and space to execute their intentions.

This was a game which showed probable weaknesses and certain strengths. In one or two cases

● OVERLEAF

A LOOK AT LIMERICK'S FUTURE ● FROM PAGE 43

the selectors may well have made their minds up now that they are hunting for substitutes for one or two or three positions. But, no more than that. It is a repair job, not a complete overhaul.

Already there was an impressive showing by Paddy Kelly to give hope of one, at least, to take over a position and handle it with skill and determination. It would appear that we shall see and enjoy a lot more of this young man who runs and strikes well and has a polished and classy concept of the game.

There are some stale members in the side still, perhaps. They will have to be given a rest and a chance to show that it is staleness and not lost ability. But there is a nucleus of high quality

hurlers outstanding in any company; an outer core of sound men; and a skin of players who seem to have shrunk a little but may again expand under good management and motivation.

Even at the worst and supposing that Limerick have shot their bolt as far as All-Irelands are concerned and supposing this team cannot be patched here and there to make some more thrilling challenges, they cannot be discarded suddenly without prospect of what is to replace them. Besides which there is another consideration: they must hold the fort until the surge of enthusiasm for hurling that was the result of their All-Ireland win makes itself felt.

It will probably arrive in waves

—young Kelly may be a part of the first wave and other immediate prospects will follow; then the greater confidence in under-age players; and finally the youngsters who have made hurling their ideal and who will, if given encouragement to persevere, prove to be the best fruit of all when they come of age.

For the present Limerick are somewhat vulnerable. The loss of this first League game may not be a real jolt seeing who their opponents were, but it will put a little more pressure on when they come to face Tipperary, Clare, Waterford and Wexford. They realise they must pull themselves together soon if they are to survive, and then there is the threat of two relegation places this winter to burn the consciences of all who lose any points at all.

FOOTBALL WAS THE LOSER

● FROM PAGE 11

I have no hesitation in going along with the unanimous acclaim—of neutral, partisan and commentator alike—which has hailed the clash with the kind of praise reserved for the really great occasion only.

It made me very proud indeed that (to quote some of the commentators) an Ulster side had contributed to the football spectacular of the year; that the critics of this particular grade had been left speechless with the magic of it all; that the clash would have done justice to any senior tie; that the rules seemed to be very satisfactory when implemented by these two sides; that the match had classical style from the opening whistle to the last when, of course, the Northerners were in arrears by that agonising two-point margin.

Obviously the faithfuls who made the trip were the lucky ones this time round but what a

pity that the television coverage was confined to RTE's recorded clip. Surely there will be a demand from clubs in both counties and, I hope, further afield for the complete film of the game.

There was, too, that significant tribute from Association President Dr. Donal Keenan who delayed the presentation of the trophy to call for a special word of appreciation for the Antrim men.

And we should not forget referee Hoey of Louth on that highly competent and unobtrusive performance.

But where do Antrim go from here? (No doubt my Connacht friends will be putting a similar question about champions Mayo). Well, I only wish that all our Ulster counties have such potential on which to build.

Immediately before the final Antrim chairman Jack Rooney told me that a more dedicated

squad had never left the county. Events proved the accuracy of the forecast.

The county boss added that it would not be the end of the world if the side went down and that he would be satisfied if they served up the fare of which they were capable. Here again Jack cannot have been disappointed for the Saffrons in fact lost nothing at all but the scoreboard verdict and with their opponents shared in adding a new dimension to the under-21 competition.

In the past I have often forecast that Antrim's turn was on the horizon only to be disappointed with results afterwards. Here and now I renew that prediction but with greater conviction than ever before.

What about a visit to St. Patrick's Park, Newcastle, on June 15 next when Antrim travel to their bogey ground to take on Down in the opening round of the senior championship? It could be very exciting. And I'll be keeping an eye out for Mayo in the West.

JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



DEVOTED TO THE VIEWS OF OUR YOUNGER READERS

THE Mailbag is so heavy this month that I'm going to be very brief. Congratulations to Dublin and Kilkenny on their All-Ireland successes, to the Cork minors and to Mayo and Kilkenny Under-21 on their successes too. Over and above all we must salute Dublin and Heffo on their magnificent achievement. It's great to have them back even if we are very disappointed still down here in Galway.

Our Cut-Out this month is Pat Henderson of Kilkenny. What a man. I'll never forget the N.H.L. final of 1965 on a windy day when Kilkenny really halted Tipperary for the first time in years. Henderson was magnificent then—the man who really caught my eye. He has been catching it ever since. In this year's All Ireland he was the rock on which Limerick perished. Pat is a model sportsman and I hope to interview him for Junior Desk in the very near future.

COMPETITION

What I would like to see on sale in the new G.A.A. shop in Croke Park.

Tim Sexton, St. Martha's, Batchelor's Walk, Mallow, Co. Cork — "Photographs of players, old All-Ireland programmes, autographs of players and pictures of old All-Ireland teams."

Liam Killeen, 30 Barry Ave., Mervue, Galway—"A small pocket Diary with the main G.A.A. fixtures listed."

Michael Gaughan, Moybridge, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan—"Large colour posters of famous players showing their skills during a game, i.e. a midfielder making a great high catch or a forward

scoring a goal like Anton O'Toole's goal against Cork."

John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork — "Coloured pictures of great games of the past. Also hurleys used by great players like Christy Ring."

Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Sligo—"Autographed monster pin-ups of G.A.A. stars in full colour. Also a shop souvenir Handbook. Hoping there is a Mail Order Service for people who can't get to Croke Park. Every large town should have a G.A.A. shop."

Dympna Darcy, 51 Parnell St., Ennis, Co. Clare—"T-shirts with pictures of famous players printed on them."

Tim J. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry—"Souvenirs of the Carrolls G.A.A. All-Stars Trophies".

Rónán Mac Gearailt, 20 Rockbarton Park, Bóthar na Trá, Gaillimh.—" (i) G.A.A. scrapbooks with the G.A.A. crest on cover; (ii) Autograph Books and have some All-Ireland stars present to sign them; (iii) Postcards (teams named left to right) and other G.A.A. scenes such as the throw-in, the march around, the presentation, Michael Cusack's home, handballers, etc.; (iv) Slides (in singles and in sets) same as (iii)."

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow—"Football and hurling jerseys in 32 county colours. A county jersey is a prize possession."

John Darcy, Cahermurphy, Cree, Kilrush, Co. Clare—"An information book about the players in an All-Ireland final both hurl-

ing and football. It could be an 8-page affair and cost 5p. The 8 pages could be packed with background knowledge."

Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare.—" (i) Tracksuits; (ii) Scrapbooks whose covers feature colourful action pictures; (iii) Cassette tapes of Michael O'Hehir's commentaries; (iv) Colourful photos of players suitable for scrapbooks."

Catherine Fitzpatrick, Coolmere, Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny—"Notepaper and envelopes of each county's colours with a drawing of a hurler on the paper page."

Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford—"Hurleys and sliothars in bulk to clubs. Also pennants of players and teams."

Tom Tuohy, Feakle, Co. Clare—"Togs and jerseys in county colours. Pictures of players and any G.A.A. book you want."

Donal Murphy, West End, Rathmore, Co. Kerry — "Biros with county's names and colours. T-shirts with slogans. Mugs with county names and badges. Diaries, Umbrellas and Calendars."

Joseph Thompson, Trumera, Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois—"T-shirts with G.A.A. emblem or pictures of stars or All-Ireland Cups on them."

Gerard Murray, Main St., Charlestown, Co. Mayo—" (i) Handball gloves; (ii) Scrapbooks; (iii) Past All-Ireland final programmes; (iv) Large colour Pin-ups of G.A.A. stars and teams; (v) Handball singlets; (iv) Tracksuits."

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**

John Martin Sullivan, Middle Barrow, Ardfert, Co. Kerry—“(i) Jig Saws; (ii) Pictures of All-Ireland teams on the back of Geometry sets; (iii) Past All-Ireland final programmes.”

John Crowley, 26 Ferndale Rd., Finglas East, Dublin 11 — “The shop should help clubs by selling trophies, sets of medals, hurleys, sets of jerseys, socks, etc. in bulk sale to ensure low prices.”

Patrick Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath — “Little mugs with different players faces on them. If the inside of the mug could be coloured in the county colours of the player featured.”

PRIZEWINNERS

The 3 prizewinners are:—

- (1) Rónán Mac Gearailt
- (2) Joseph Woods
- (3) John Martin Sullivan

All other competitors will receive a consolation prize from the man whose brainchild the G.A.A. shop is. I thank Muiris de Prionn-bhíol on behalf of Junior Desk and wish him every success in Croke Park and say well done. We thank him too for sponsoring this competition. Muiris is one of Junior Desk's most avid readers. So are Séamus Ó Riain and Pat Fanning, two former G.A.A. Presidents.

keery, Ballina, Co. Mayo, would like to get copies of the All-Ireland S.F. semi-final programmes. Augustine finishes as follows: “I am a crazy football fan.”

● *You must be happy with the All-Ireland U-21 success (J.M.).*

Paddy White, Inchbeg, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, another great fan of Junior Desk would like to get a Leinster S.H. Final programme of this year.

● *Would some reader please oblige Paddy? (J.M.).*

Breda Hurley, Ballyspillane, Middleton, Co. Cork, regards her stars as Billy Morgan, Michael O'Sullivan, Séamus Bonner, Sean O'Neill, John Tobin, Mick Freyne, Jimmy Keaveney, Ken Rennicks, Noel Skehan, Mick Jacob, Pat Hartigan and Séamus Durack.

● *Now there is a great gathering of stars (J.M.).*

Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford, has great admiration for Jimmy Keaveney and deplores the fact that there was no official programme at the Waterford Co. S.H. final (only a sheet of paper with the two teams named).

Michael McGrath, Ox-Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, thinks we will hear much more about Clare hurlers Hehir, Honan and Casey.

Angela Carbery, 36 Cecil Road, West Croydon, Surrey, England, is 9 years old, regards Tony McTague as her favourite, likes tennis and football, goes to Wembley every year.

Billy Keays, Kishikirk, Ballysimon, Co. Limerick, nominates Richie Bennis, Pat Hartigan, John Quigley and Eddie Keher as his stars.

Dympna Darcy, 51 Parnell St., Ennis, Co. Clare, thought the Munster S.F. final was a thriller.

Jerry Smyth, Whiterock, Middleton, Co. Cork, regards Humphrey Kelleher, Michael O'Sullivan, Pat Hartigan and Séamus Durack as his stars of the Munster finals.

From the Mailbag

OUR Mailbag this month is very heavy. So I will be as brief as possible with the extracts.

John Crowley, 26 Ferndale Rd., Finglas East, Dublin 11, writing to Junior Desk for the first time is delighted with Dublin's success, admires their enthusiasm, is a playing member of Erin's Isle G.A.A. club and suggests one writer from each province to write on affairs in the Province. He suggests more photos of players and finally thought there were too many ads in this year's All-Ireland Final programme.

Eilish Timoney, Eskeragh, Doo-leeg, Ballina, Co. Mayo, is 14 years old whose favourite sports are Gaelic football and hurling would like a Pen Pal in Offaly. Her favourite star is Kevin Kilmurray. Her stars of the provincial finals were Jimmy Keaveney, Eddie Keher, Seamus Bonnar, and referee Mick Spain.

Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, a most prolific writer, is a great admirer of Jimmy Barry Murphy of Cork, wonders why Cork have forgotten Billy Field, would like to swap a copy of “Our Games '74” with any reader for any of

the following: “Cork '74”, “Limerick Heroes”, “Cuchulain Annual '73” (not '74). Her provincial final stars were Pat Hartigan, Eamonn Honan, Billy Morgan, Noel Skehan. “Please give us a Cut-Out of Colm Honan or Jimmy Barry Murphy with his new hair style,” writes Mary. Mary would like to have decks of cards with hurlers or footballers on the back on sale in the G.A.A. shop as well as G.A.A. scrapbooks, autograph books, birthday cards, postcards and calendars. Family albums of players. Tape recordings of big games. Miniature hurling and football games like the soccer games.

● *A special prize is awarded to Mary, one of Junior Desk's most loyal supporters. Thanks Mary for all your fine long and interesting letters. Give our regards to your curate Rev. T. Tarpey, a great hurler in his college days (J.M.).*

Tommy Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny, wants a Cut-out of Liam O'Brien or Pat Delaney.

● *How about Pat Henderson? (J.M.)*

Augustine Hannick, Ballysa-

Tom Moore, Walshtownmore, Middleton, Co. Cork, wants a Cut-out of Noel Skehan and Jimmy Barry-Murphy.

"Female Junior Desk Fan", Glasheen Road, Cork, is a playing member of the Barr's Camogie club with Frances Barry Murphy (a sister of Jimmy's) and would like to arrange camogie games with other clubs in Ireland. She thinks Raymond Smith's "Players No. 6 Book of Hurling" excellent.

● *My regards to the many friends I met in your wonderful clubhouse last summer (J.M.).*

Patrick Corry, Lemenagh, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, enjoys GAELIC SPORT every month and wants a Cut-out of Séamus Durack of Clare.

John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork, who is one of Junior Desk's greatest fans, thought the "Hurling Show" on R.T.E. on Saturday, August 31st, really fantastic. John wants to find out which club in Ireland has the most members (or past members) with All-Ireland medals.

● *A good idea John but so hard to find. R.T.E. deserve credit for their two pre-All-Ireland final shows (J.M.).*

Tom Tuohy, Feakle, Co. Clare, thinks an All-Ireland final with Dublin involved should not be played in Croke Park.

● *What do the rest of Junior Desk fans think? Let me know and make suggestions (J.M.).*

Sean McMahon, Arus Mhuire, Temenagh, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, would like Cut-outs of John Tobin and Con Woods. The latter is one of his teachers and a great favourite.

Denis Fahy, Monaboula, Aherlow, Co. Tipperary, writes to say his favourite players are Francis Loughnane, Pat Hartigan, Eamonn Grimes, Willie Bryan and Billy Morgan.

Patrick Fox, Printinstown, Delvin Co. Westmeath, liked Michael O'Hehir's "World of Gaelic Games" immensely.

Sean Rourke, Drumany, Foxfield P.O., Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, liked the coloured

SPORT but wants more colour Pin-ups and a full colour centre page pull-out.

Patrick O'Leary, Upper Lissirgeen, Killarney, Co. Kerry, would like to buy G.A.A. books with all colour pictures for his scrapbook.

Old friend **Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare,** thought "The Hurling Show" on R.T.E. was very enjoyable and hopes this is repeated annually. He also praised the Radio programme "Up for the Match" presented by Tom McGurk. Joseph wants some reader to let him know what Mayo player scored the equaliser from a side line kick in Mayo's U-21 defeat of Dublin prior to J. P. Keane's winning point. Was it Ger Feeney or G. Culkin or Mick Higgins?

● *Would some Mayo reader please oblige. I'd say it was Ger Feeney myself. A good man too (J.M.).*

Kevin O'Sullivan, 7 Allendale Ave., Melbourne Estate, Bishoptown, Cork, collects programmes as a hobby.

Finally **Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly,** another old reliable thinks Junior Desk is really great now and suggests a Handball or a Camogie Cut-out. Talking about Offaly he says Jim Flaherty (Tullamore) won 6 S.F.C. and 5 S.H.C. medals which is a record for an Offaly man. Offaly's first Railway Cup medalist was Tom McEvoy in 1939.

We will end on that note. No competition this month. Just a request to you to think about our annual Junior Desk awards, which will be voted upon in a Junior Desk coupon next month. Write to me about anything to—

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Dublin 9.**

The following Colour Cut Outs have appeared to date in GAELIC SPORT:

1973

July John Quigley, Wexford.
August Mick Roche, Tipperary.
Sept. Mick O'Dwyer, Kerry.
October Billy Morgan, Cork. (Not available)
Nov. Phil Bennis, Limerick.
Dec. John Moloney, Longford.

1974

January Paddy Moriarty, Armagh.
Feb. Kevin Kilmurray, Offaly.
March Willie McGee, Mayo.
April Noel Skehan, Kilkenny.
May Bobby Millar, Laois.
June Noel Crossan, Leitrim.
July Harry Keegan, Roscommon.
August John Tobin, Galway.
Sept. Pat Hartigan, Limerick. (Not available).
October George Wilson, Dublin.

If you would like to add any of these issues to your collection (except those marked "not available") send a postal order for 25p for each edition to: "Back numbers", GAELIC SPORT, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Please state which issue(s) you require.

covers on the All-Ireland issues of GAELIC SPORT.

Jim Ryan, 153 Mayorstone Park, Limerick, likes GAELIC

Jack Mahon

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Pat Henderson Kilkenny

Age: 31
Height: 6 ft.
Weight:
13 st. 12 lb.
Club:
The Fenians,
Johnstown
Position: Centre
half back
Senior Inter-
County Debut:
1964

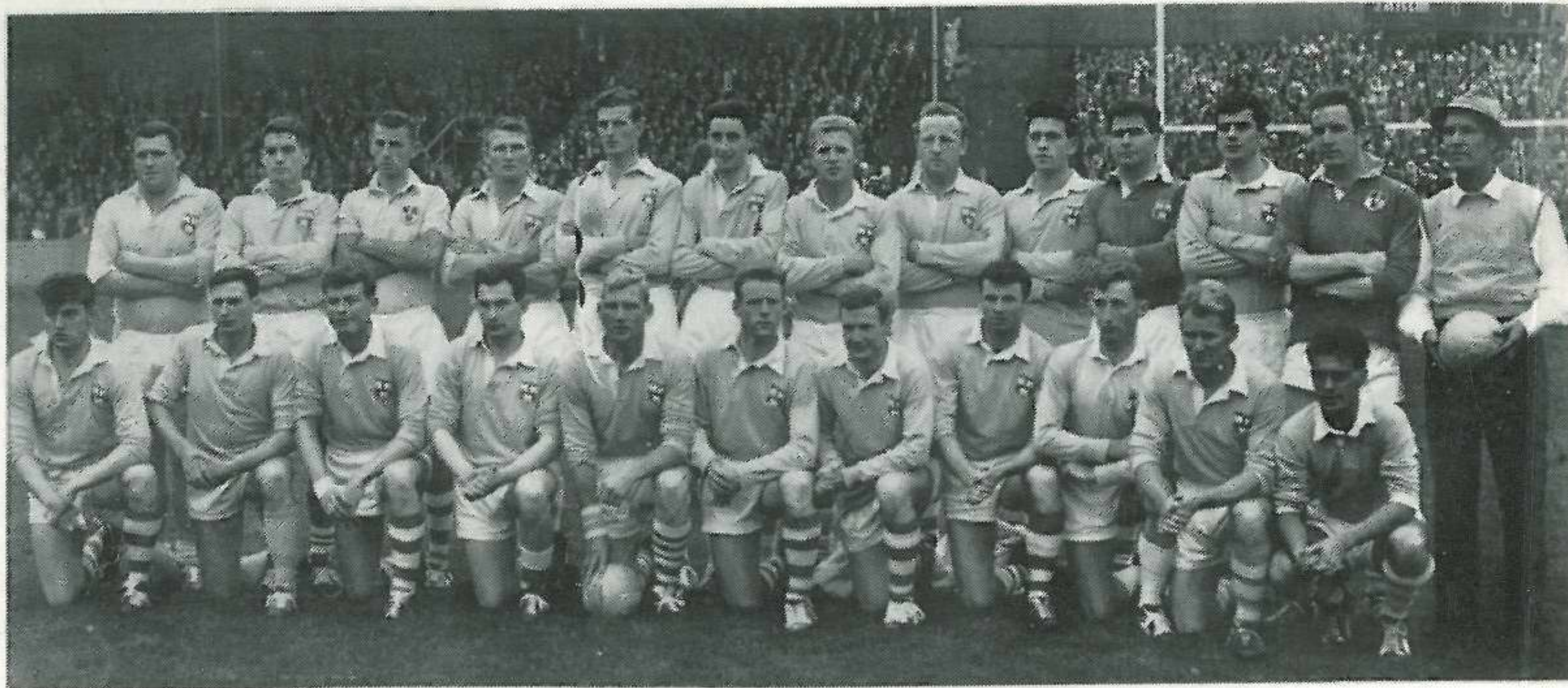
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Pat has had a memorable year. He led Leinster to their fourth Railway Cup final win in a row in March—his fourth medal since 1967—and had a magnificent game against Limerick when adding an All-Ireland senior medal to those won in 1967, 1969 and 1972.

An All-Ireland minor medallist in 1961, and a former Under-21 and Intermediate county player, his senior debut was against Wexford early in 1964, and he helped Kilkenny to the 1966 National League title.

title win in 1970,
Pat, a Carrolls All Star, is Secretary of the Kilkenny Design Centre.

Remember the team?



The victorious Dublin team – Front row, from left, Des McKane, Mickey Whelan, Paddy Holden, Noel Fox, Des Foley, Gerry Davey, Brian McDonald, Simon Behan, Pat Sinnott, Des Ferguson, Sean Coen. Back row, John Timmons, Bill Casey, Mick Kissane, Lar Foley, Leo Hickey, Aidan Donnelly, Eamon Breslin, Paddy Downey, Sean Lee, Pascal Flynn, Christy Kane, Frank McPhillips, Brendan Quinn (trainer).

The Gaelic Football scene of the 'sixties was to a very great extent dominated by the great teams of Down and Galway which between them won six All-Irelands from 1960 to '69. These were two of the counties in the All-Ireland semifinals of 1963; Kerry were there as well, defending the title they had won the previous year. And it was from this galaxy of football giants that Dublin emerged as the 1963 champions.

Dublin had lost to Kerry in the 1962 semifinal, but this time they gave a magnificent display to crush Down by 2-11 to 0-7 and reach the final against Galway, who were established firm favourites on the strength of their win over Kerry by 1-7 to 0-8 in the first semifinal.

Small wonder that the attendance on September 22 was the third highest ever at Croke Park – 87,106. And the game proved in every way worthy of the great occasion as a Dublin team, powered as usual by the St. Vincents squad and trained to the minute by former Parnells star Brendan Quinn, scored a thrilling two points win, 1-9 to 0-10.

On the winning team there were five survivors of the previous Dublin team to win an All-Ireland, the 1958 team which beat Derry. These were Lar Foley, John Timmons, Des Ferguson, who came out of retirement for the game, Mickey Whelan, who had come on as a sub against Derry, and Paddy Downey, whose record was rather remarkable. He came on as a sub for John Timmons in the '58 final, and was the sub again in '63 when centre back Paddy Holden went off with a head injury midway through the first half.

Dublin battled bravely against Galway brilliance in the first half and were lucky enough to be only two points down, 0-6 to 0-4, as the Connacht champions shot twelve wides.

But a Dublin switch that brought Mickey Whelan to partner his captain, Des Foley, at midfield, worked wonders and as both players hit peak form to end Galway dominance. Whelan himself, and then Brian McDonald, sent over points to level the scores, and in the ninth minute of the half came the only goal of the game, and the match-winner.

McDonald radar directed a line-ball to the edge of the Galway square, Simon Behan went air-borne and had a point at his mercy but saw or sensed Gerry Davey sweeping in on the left and flicked the ball on to him. Davey met it breast-high and swept it to the net.

Every Galway thrust was quickly countered by rampant Dublin and Galway could get no closer subsequently than the two points margin by which Dublin won; but there was a moment of dramatic anxiety for the winners of Wicklow referee Eamonn Moules awarded a free to Galway in the closing minutes and, before allowing the kick consulted with the goal umpires. A penalty? But no, just a free, and all Dublin breathed again.

GALWAY – Mick Moore; Enda Colleran, Noel Tierney, Sean Meade; Bosco McDermott, John Donnellan, Martin Newell; Mick Garrett, (capt.), Mick Reynolds; Cyril Dunne, Mattie McDonagh, Pat Donnellan; John Keenan, Sean Cleary, Seamus Leydon. Sub. – Brian Geraghty.

Remember the name

