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GAA

# GAAELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

FEBRUARY, 1976

TWENTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)

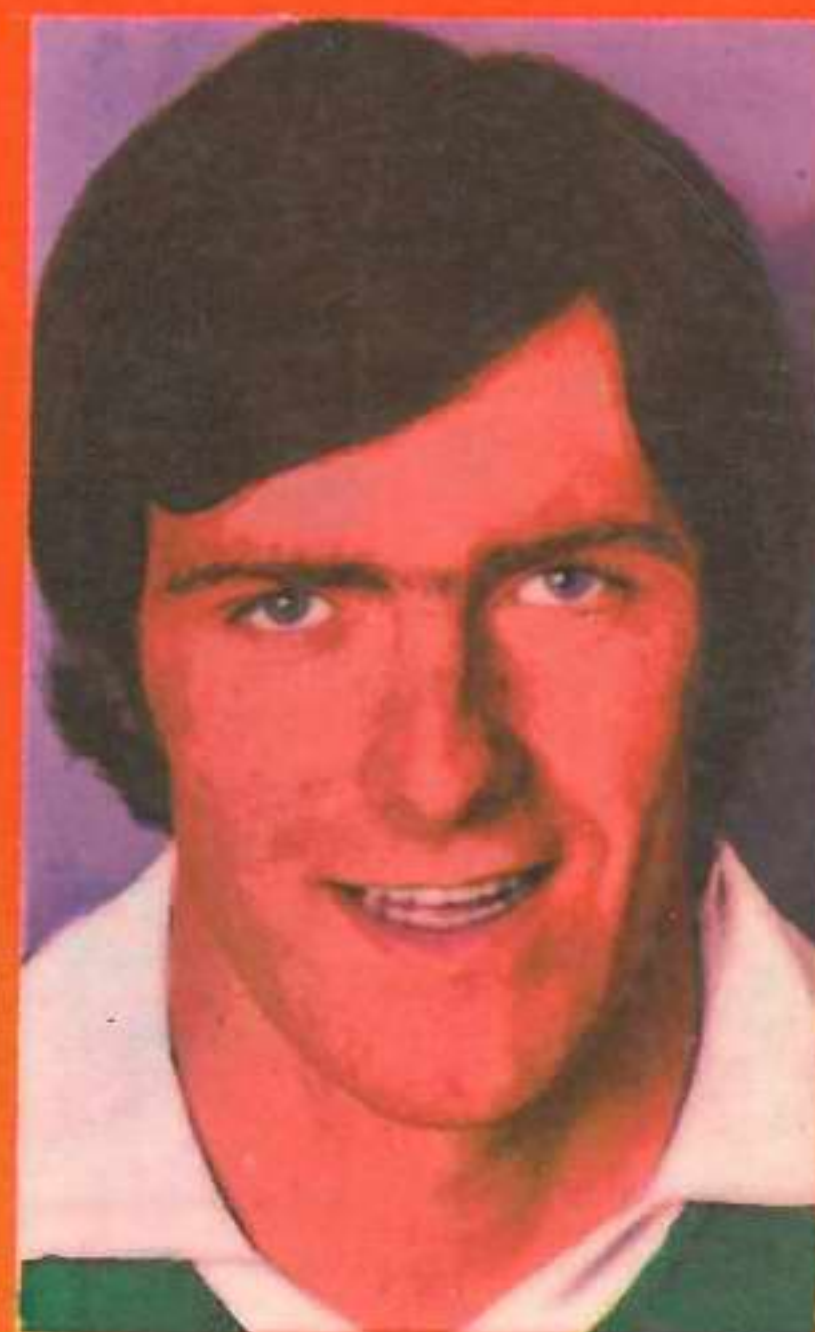


**TEXACO  
STARS  
HURLING**



LIAM O'BRIEN

**FOOTBALL**



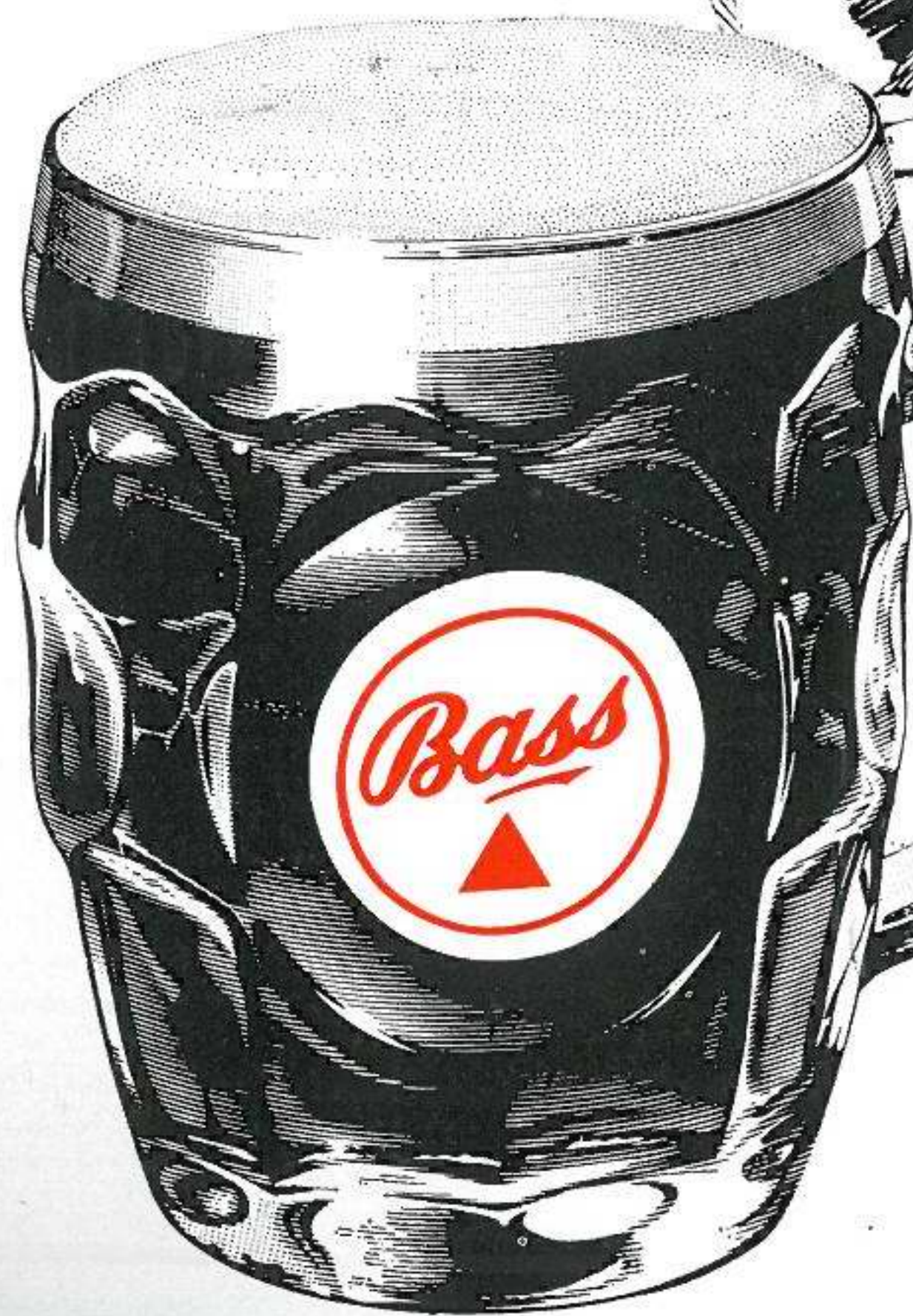
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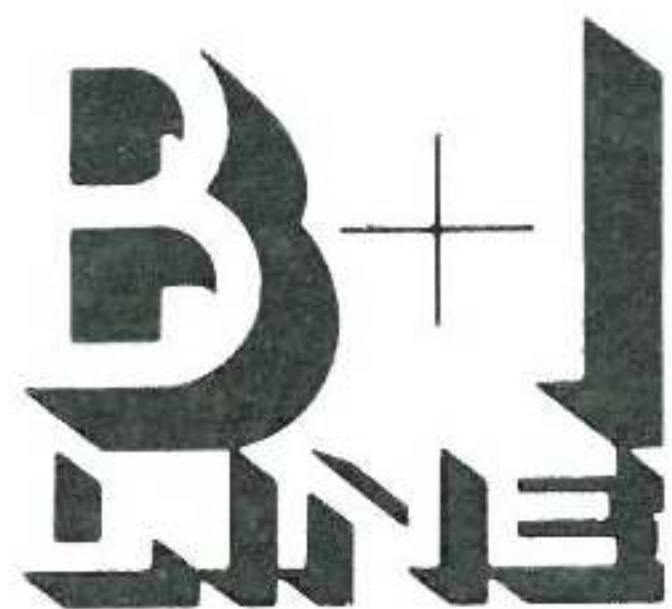
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## *g.a.a. personality of the month award*



Congratulations to recent award winners –  
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Michael Kearins (Sligo), Michael O'Sullivan (Kerry),  
Paraic Fahy (Galway), Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny),  
Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry), Bridget Doyle (Wexford).

Pat Kirby (Clare)

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

IS the pulling power of football and hurling being harnessed to anything like the degree that it should? The question is put into focus by the fact that some recent matches in the club championships have attracted splendid attendances.

Take just one example — the Munster football final second replay at Limerick in mid-January. That match had to compete in the media with a barrage of publicity fueled by the appearance the same day of two former Manchester United stars with Irish soccer clubs.

Yet, Nemo Rangers and Austin Stacks still drew close to 6,000 spectators to their third meeting. The game, in fact, had one of the biggest crowds at any sporting fixture in the country on that particular afternoon.

The size of the crowd provides a splendid example of the great potential that is there for the club championships. But is it realistic to expect that this potential will be fully realised as long as these championships are played in mid-winter?

Let's face it squarely—sport is, generally, in strong competition in the winter months with the elements. And, when the weather conditions prove uninviting, followers just can't be blamed if they prefer the comforts of the fireside and the attraction of TV to an outing to a game, no matter how appealing the fixture.

There is the added factor in Gaelic Games that these winter club engagements add to the heavy demands on the players, many of whom are in action almost all the year round as a result of club and inter-county calls.

There is everything to be said, then, from the viewpoints of the players and spectators for running off the club tests at a time of the year when the weather conditions are likely to be more favourable than is generally the case in December and January.

This brings us up against the old bogey about dates being at a premium because of an over-loaded calendar. It is a valid enough argument, especially when one considers that matches will be played every Sunday right through the current season up to at least the first week in December!

But problems are made to be overcome, and as far as the G.A.A. Fixtures List is concerned, it's time for a radical new approach.

Instead of the present October-to-September year as we know it, the campaign could start in February with the first round matches in the National Leagues, and wind up in October with the Oireachtas Cup.

The Leagues could be suspended on certain dates to leave free Sundays for the championships. A similar arrangement could be worked out as well to accommodate the club championships.

After all, other sporting organisations can run off knock-out competitions and leagues over a nine-months season, and what they can do should be well within the compass of the G.A.A.

## COVER PHOTO

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ON our front cover this month we spotlight the Texaco Award winners of 1975 in hurling and football: Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny) and John O'Keefe (Kerry) respectively. Picking one's outstanding stars can be an unenviable task at the best of times but one would find it very difficult to argue with the choice of these most popular sportsmen; not alone do they consistently excel on the field of play, but their conduct of sportsmanship sets an example for all others to emulate.

Our Action Picture is from the '75 National Football League final which featured Meath and Dublin.

# ANDY CROAK

The writer with the rasping comment

## Girls! Please don't beat up our Jack too badly

I WOULDN'T have been a bit surprised these past few weeks to have heard that Jack Mahon had been clobbered. I mean really clobbered, black eyes, bust nose, the lot.

A terrible thing to mention, or contemplate, but I know a few fiery females who'd have travelled all the way to Galway to take him on if they had read that piece in Junior Desk last month. (And they may still do so).

What, you ask, did Jack write that was wrong? Well, gentlemen, if you didn't notice, then you, too, are a male chauvinist etcetera.

But many of the ladies noticed for sure and I hope colleague Kitty Murphy will have something to say about it in her interesting column.

Yes, but what did big, bold Jack say? When writing about entries for his competition, "Know Your County", he said: "Don't forget to send on your entry and if you're in doubt about any of the answers ask your Dad. He will know the answers."

**BUT WHY** not Mum as well as Dad? Judging by the average match-crowd anywhere there are plenty of Mums, and Mums-of-the-future, following Gaelic games. Maybe they've bad memories and maybe Jack Mahon knows it and maybe that's why he advised his Junior Desk competitors to ask only their Dads.

The truth, of course, is that Jack put his foot in it. And just at the end of Women's Year, to

make his blunder worse. I wonder what the young girls who write to his "Mailbag" regularly have to say?

What must Jack do now? I don't know him personally, but from his picture I can see that he is really a gentleman deep down. But even gentlemen make mistakes at times.

**HE MUST NOT DELAY ABOUT APOLOGISING TO THE LADIES:**

★ ★ ★

**JACK MAHON** isn't the only big name in sports writing who makes mistakes. Con Houlihan of the "Evening Press" was down south for a National League match some time before Christmas and in his column next day he commented on the attire of the referee, John Moloney.

It was the first time, Con said, he'd seen a G.A.A. referee wearing a black outfit, like soccer referees. This was another breakthrough in the post-ban era, said Con.

Well, well. If Con had been visiting Croke Park these past few years he'd have noticed that a neat black outfit — or black jersey at least — has been common attire for G.A.A. referees on the big occasions.

If my memory serves me right (I was abroad at the time and only read about it in the papers from home) G.A.A. referees were wearing black before ever the ban was abolishd.

**Watch your step, Con. And if**

**you don't, I'll watch it for you:**

I'll watch it for others, too. Paddy Downey of "The Irish Times" made a hames of his report of one of the Nemo Rangers-Austin Stacks games. He said Ger Power of Stacks was Texaco Footballer of the Year.

As everybody knew then, and knows now, John O'Keeffe, a Stacks and Kerry team-mate of Power, won the Texaco Award, which was announced only a few days before Downey wrote his report.

I intend to open a special corner here and call it "Blunderland". And I promise nothing in the press or on the radio and television, will escape Croak's eagle eye

★ ★ ★

**MENTION OF TEXACO** reminds me of their presentation banquet in Dublin last month. I hear from a friend who had the good fortune to receive an invitation, that John O'Keeffe spoke on behalf of the Sports Stars and acquitted himself with distinction.

The naming of a Super-star from among the trophy-winners on the night of the presentation is now a feature of the Texaco awards. It has been in operation for a few years but a hurler or Gaelic footballer has yet to receive the honour.

The jolly sports editors confine this selection to the international scene. Perhaps Simon Behan of Texaco, a footballer of

renown himself, will remind those gentlemen this year that G.A.A. players must not be ignored indefinitely just because hurling and football are not played on the international circuit.

★ ★ ★

**THE G.A.A. ARE** getting really tough with R.T.E. over the coverage given to Gaelic games. They are perfectly right, too — although the drastic economies recently introduced in R.T.E. won't allow them to meet the association's demands, even if they had the desire to do so

**But the G.A.A. must keep on demanding.** Then they will get what they want and deserve, when the money is available in Montrose once more.

Most of the G.A.A. criticism is centred on television and the Sunday radio reports. But what about Sports Final on radio every day and the sports spot each morning? G.A.A. affairs seldom get their rightful place in either of those, although hurling and football are constantly making news.

Is this because the individual broadcasters are permitted to show their own likes and dislikes . . . that there is no editorial policy and no supervision from the top?



● "Nonsense!" writes Andy Croak in retort to "Evening Press" correspondent Con Houlihan's comments on John Moloney's new black attire which apparently the bould Con only noticed just recently. "Was Con not at last year's Derry v. Dublin Football semi-final?" asks A.C. Pictured above at the game mentioned are (from left) Peter Stevenson (Derry) John Moloney (in black) and Sean Doherty (Dublin).

## CROAKETTES

**S**T. Vincent's pulled a fast one on everybody—except their friends in the Dublin Co. Board.

They are now through to the semi-finals of the All-Ireland club football championship, by the back door.

How come? Let me jog your memory. The final of the Dublin championship wasn't played last year when U.C.D. refused to accept the dates set aside by the Dublin activities committee. St. Vincent's were then awarded the title, but wouldn't accept it.

No way, they said. And no way would they accept an invitation to play in the Leinster championship, they also said.

But, lo and behold, when the time came they were in like a shot. Because they knew very well they'd win it. So much for a promise. Next thing, I suppose, they'll turn around and accept the 1975 Dublin title.

★ ★ ★

As you've heard, Ciarán O'Neill, former secretary of the Leinster Council, is now installed in Croke Park, as financial controller and office manager.

But why did Ciarán leave the handy job he had for the difficult duties now bound to fall upon him at headquarters.

Rumour has it that an increase in salary was not the reason. The Director General,

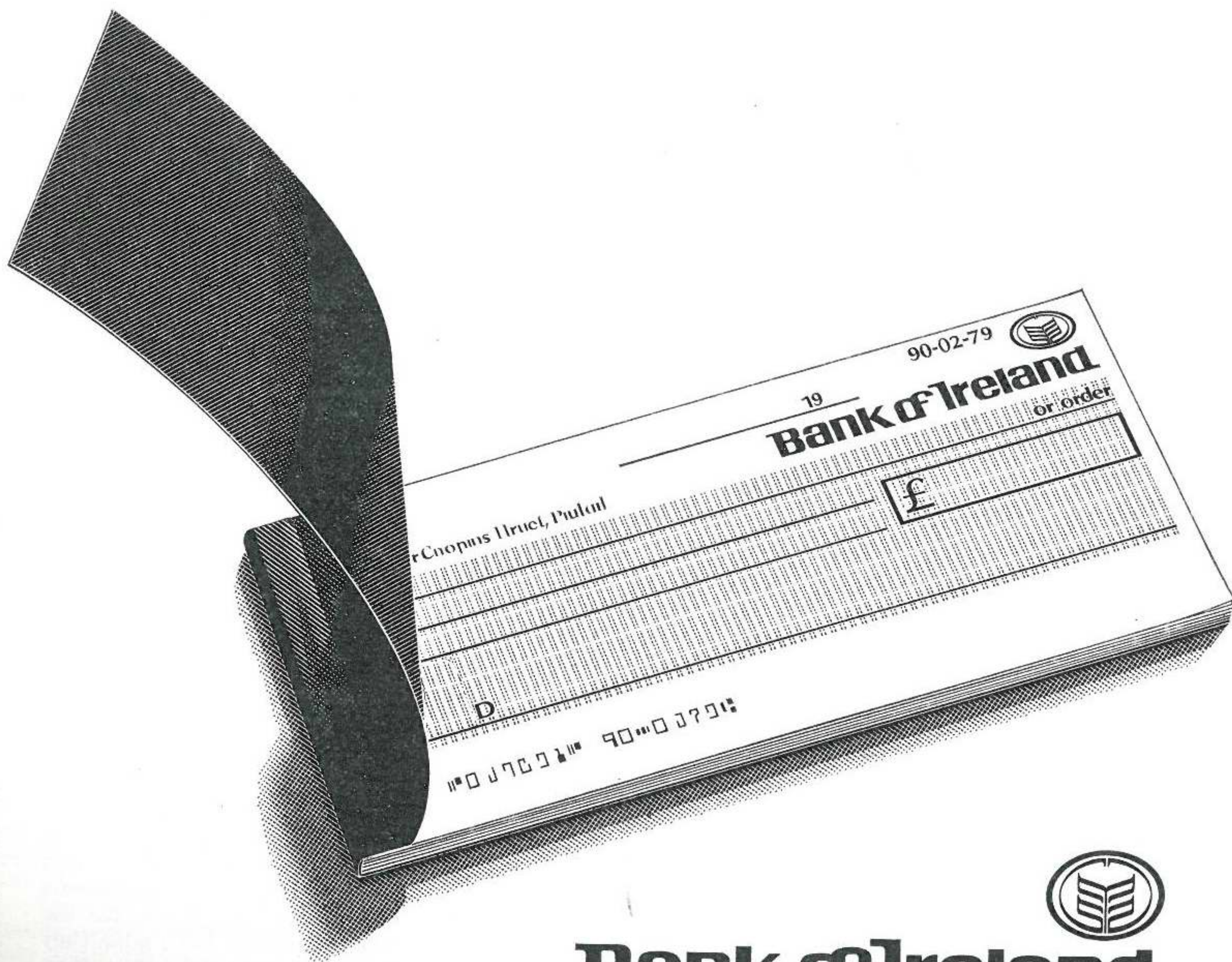
Seán Ó Síocháin, has turned sixty years of age. It won't be that long before the association starts to look around for a successor.

And when that time comes, Ciarán O'Neill will be nicely placed—riding along smoothly, hugging the rails, and hoping that nobody has slipped in a dark horse to pip him at the post.

★ ★ ★

The Carrolls selectors will be meeting some time this month to name replacements on the All-Stars teams for the American tour. Let's hope they make a better job of it than they made of the original teams.

# A very important book for sports fans.



  
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# Elite group at the top in both games

**WHO** do you fancy for the All-Irelands of 1976? In football, perhaps Kerry, Dublin, Cork or maybe Galway or Derry. Are there any other live candidates?

In hurling you probably favour Kilkenny again or Cork, maybe Wexford or just possibly Limerick, Galway or Dublin.

The point is, however, that the choice of really outstanding counties in either hurling or football, who, therefore, have a strong realistic hope of taking the McCarthy or Sam Maguire Cups is distressingly small. There seems to be a certain concentration of power in smaller and less numerous areas and a consequent weakening over a large section of the country. And if this is so, is it a true, traceable trend? Is it likely to continue, and will it evolve in a kind of "rich gets richer and poor gets poorer" spiral?

One is put in mind of parallels in other sports. A notable development in Scottish soccer brought about the recently constituted Premier League; in England, the concentration of power in large, massively supported clubs in large catchment areas of population has tended to choke the life out of the smaller, weaker brethren — Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, etc. provide the great powers of the game and the spread of smaller clubs in their shadow have to eke out an existence with no realistic hope of

shifting the balance in their own favour.

Some of our counties have long been placed at a tremendous disadvantage because of serious population movements outwards — especially in the age groups which are the strength of the games. Building teams of promise has been interrupted time after time by the break-up of the side before it can reach anything like its potential as some of the players have to face the hard economics of making a living.

Even in more recent years when actual emigration was not so draining of playing strength, the price of this was a distinct shift in the pattern of living — movement to large city or urban areas to the proximity of industrial development, whether that meant moving outside the home county or not. It has entailed a change. And such change brings a disturbing period of adjustment, a coming to terms with new work and new patterns of life. Mostly, however, the result is greater pressures and, therefore, less time for devotion to football or hurling in the single-minded way of other generations.

Most of all, probably, the basic tribal loyalty loses its effect as far as players are concerned: either they live away and go back

"home" for matches, their pulse-beat not quite in tune with the local people; or they play in their new environment which can never have the same deep meaning for them as pulling on the jersey of the club in the parish in which they were born. Generally, there is a dissipation of the fervour and concern for performance and fitness and training in that generation when the movement of population takes place.

Perhaps the sons of that generation will have settled in to absorb their own basic loyalties from their dwelling places. Meantime, however, the weakening of the rural clubs goes on. There are few of them now left who can command respect in the top ranks of inter-club competition unless they are those who are lucky enough to be within easy commuting distance of substantial regions of employment.

The tendency is expected to become further accentuated rather than balanced, so it may be concluded that things will not get better. Some counties like Leitrim have been almost completely crippled by the outward drain; it is a significant factor in the fall from power of Cavan; Mayo have often been unable to keep young teams of promise together. But, against that, Kerry has never been over-inconvenienced by the fact that their players are often spread out, though it should be pointed out that improved employment opportunities in the county in more recent years has had an effect on the build up of strength at all age levels lately.

Dublin, of course, has benefitted — the number of rural-born or first generation Dubliners you find active in every aspect of the games is the indication of that. Yet, it is hard to be dogmatic about gains and

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

losses, for it could be instanced that Waterford has been even better facilitated than, say, Kilkenny or Wexford in recent years,

but they have made little impact while the health, strength and solidarity of Kilkenny hurling needs no proof.

The inter-county situation

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as it is just now appears to be perpetuating itself because of the various economic and social factors of which we have outlined some. Unless there is change it will be even more difficult than ever for Leitrim to hope for that All-Ireland win; for Cavan to make their comeback; for Fermanagh, Longford, Wicklow, etc. to justify their ambitions. Clare and Limerick should remain solidly in contention; Galway should not find it so hard to maintain hurling and football challenges; Cork should be always powerful in both games; Kilkenny should not fall on lean times; Waterford should improve; Meath, Kildare and Louth should be prominent enough.

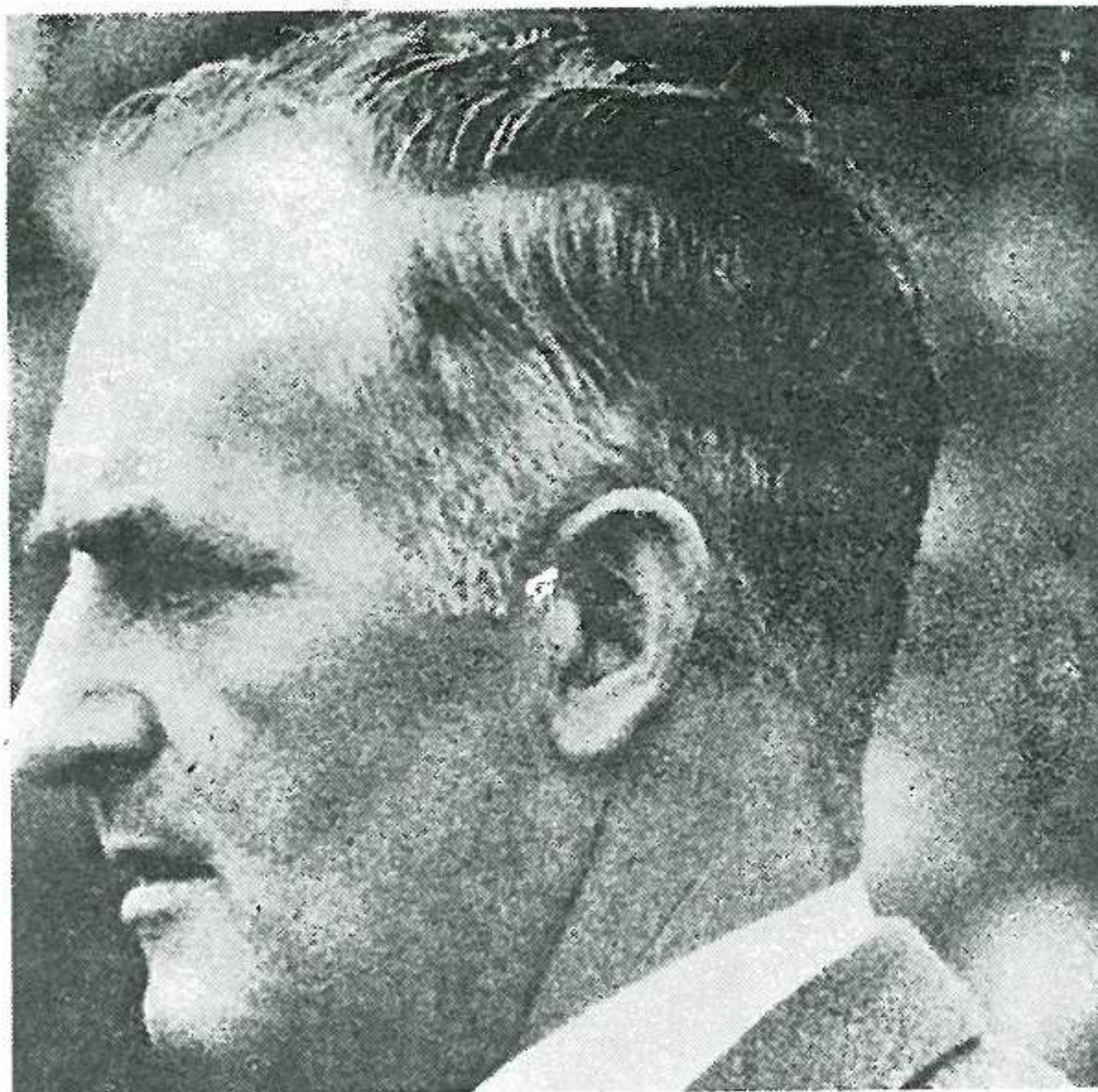
But all that is still subject to possibilities and imponderables. What is more clear is the movements in club strength. Here the forces we have outlined must take a much more firm and inexorable effect. Everything points to the emergence of the powerful club firmly based in a large area of population offering a wide range of facilities because of its very strength and gaining further strength from its broadened scope. The Commission certainly did not give much thought to anything but the bigger club; most recent trends and tendencies and schemes have been clearly to the benefit of the club of that size.

Club Development, the ideal of the larger club and assisted by major financial schemes, puts all kinds of bar, handball, badminton, squash, etc. facilities within the range of the larger club. But it places it outside the scope of the smaller (particularly the rural) club which could not afford and would not require such facilities. The difficulty is that what is proper and reasonable for the little club — its dressing-

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# CREEDON CARRIES A PROUD FLAG

By Eamonn Young



● Donie O'Donovan, Cork's football coach, is happy with the county's new centre half back.

THE town of Macroom never reared a fool, they used say in my young days and whatever about the other aspects of life the progressive cluster of houses nestling between the waters of Sullane and Lee has given great footballers. God rest you, Thade Murphy, you dropped out last year after a lifetime of affection for the game when you had stood four-square in the goal for Cork in our successful final against Antrim in 1911. Men like Knocky Cronin, Frankie Healy, Mick Gould, Niall Fitzgerald and Johnny Creedon are only a few of the many who followed and now the man whom Macroom hopes will carry the flag is Tom Creedon.

Over six feet and thirteen stone, twenty-one year-old Creedon has stood at centre-back for Cork footballers in the last three games of the League. Against Roscommon, Kildare and Kerry he showed a steady sense of position, a fine drive off the ground and sure hands. Though Mick Sheehy was a little too slick for him in the first half in Cill Airne the Tralee centre-forward was still flying after a great season and it was no disgrace to be

beaten by him. What I liked about Tom Creedon was his steadiness and a sensible policing of his own area, as it is fatal for a centre-back to leave his position in the middle and thus allow a broad path right to the goal. In these days where the over-lap and the build-up are overdone very often, especially in the back line when accurate kicking, either high or low, is often more effective, the centre-back who refuses to run madly out the field to join in the attack is a very sound man. I'm not saying that a centre-back should always refuse to attack and it's a long time since I saw Bobby Beggs of Dublin and Galway do it, while one doesn't easily forget that splendid solo-run and point which Tommy Joe Gilmore crashed over in the '73 All-Ireland. But the test of the shrewd centre-back is his success when attacking. It's worse than useless to tear away out the field and then fail to get back in time for the ball that has been lost and driven back in!

After his years in the national school at Macroom farmer Tom Creedon and his wife Majella sent young Tom, one of seven, to the boarding school at Baile

Mhúirne which shelters under the woods and heathery slopes of the Doire na Sagart mountains along the rocky curtain between Cork and Kerry. There his natural love for football threw him right into the delightful hurly-burly of colleges competition whence he emerged as a good corner back in the final of '71. Training with men like Seamus O'Sullivan of Dohenys, now also making the grade with Cork and under the eye of Willie Cooper of Valentia who played for South Kerry and Carlow and who taught football and academics as Brother Jerome, helped to make our young man from Macroom.

What an inspiration Tom Creedon must have got from Brother Eugene Crowley of Dunmanway is easy to guess, and I for one, won't forget his artistry at left wing for Dublin in the 'fifties when his name was Mick Murphy.

In class the vice-principal Paid Murphy of Beantrai tells me that Tom Creedon was very good at maths and physics an ability which sent him on to U.C.C. whence he hopes to emerge next June with an engineering degree. Earnest and dependable, both in

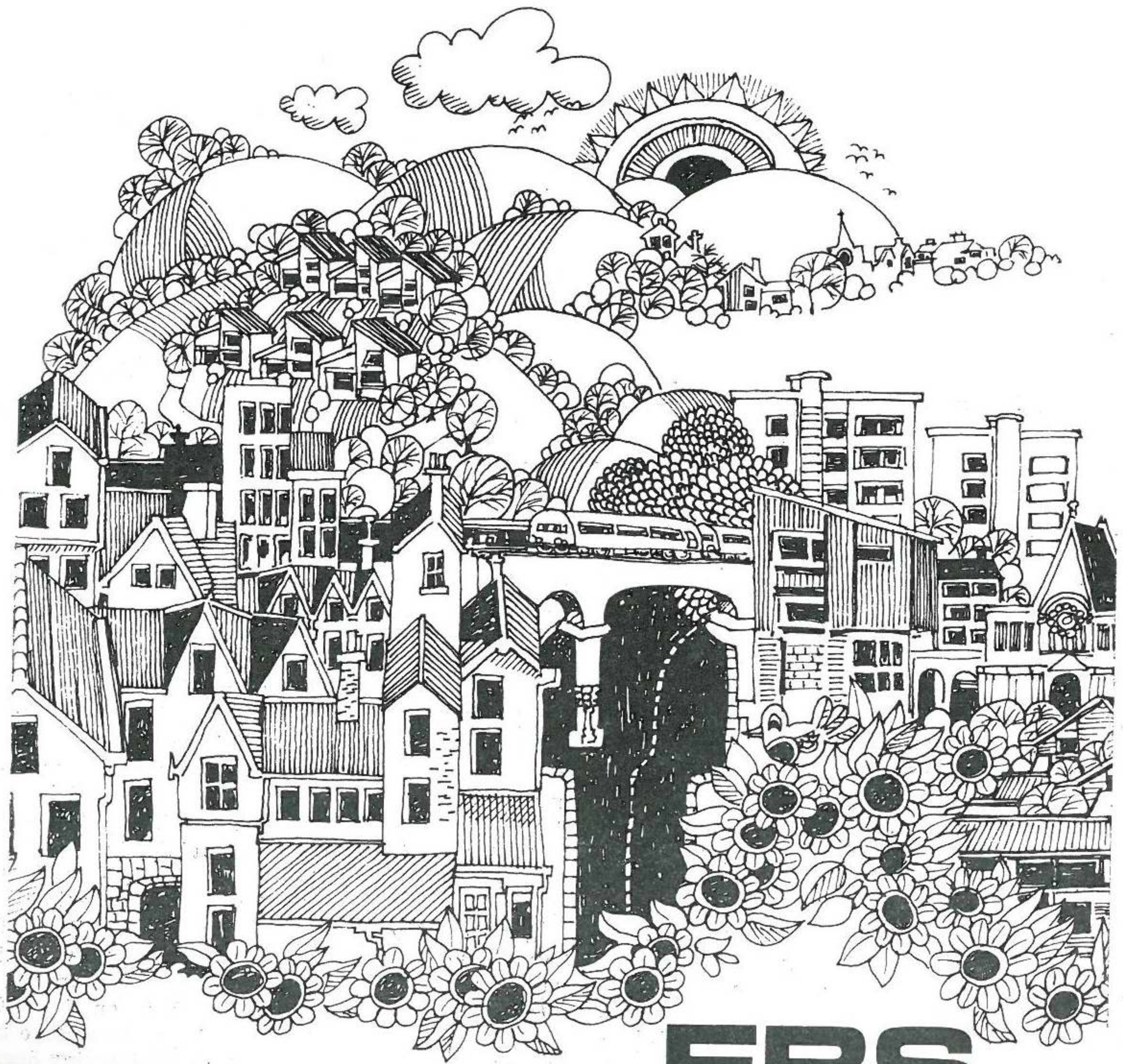
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# SCORESHEET

## No bets on new names in the 'Ton Up' Club

THERE is little doubt that the inter-county season stretching out before us will provide its generous quota of important scoring feats, and impressive individual achievements. But although demands on leading county teams are increasing each year match-wise, I would still not be prepared at this stage to take any bets on any footballer or hurler making 1976 the year of a first-ever century of points (goals and points combined) for the full season's programme.

Because, surprisingly enough, only three new names in football, and four in hurling, have been added to the exclusive "Ton Up" Club during the 'Seventies so far.

**SEAN O'CONNELL** was the man who ushered the decade in on an impressive note when he became the thirteenth footballer since these records were introduced in 1955 to reach three figures with a haul of 10.96 (126 points) in 25 games in 1970, a total that still stands as the Derry county record.

At that stage I certainly did not think that we would have to wait until near the end of 1974 for the next new entry in the football line-up — **DERMOT EARLEY**. He finished that season as the ace marksman nationally in the code, and Roscommon's first-ever All-Ireland chart topper to boot with 10.96 (126 points)—amazingly enough exactly the same scoreline as O'Connell in his big year, and what's more, Earley

By  
**OWEN  
McCANN**

*Michael Kearins  
who has topped  
the century mark  
six times since  
1965.*



also climbed to that peak in 25 games!

Last year only one footballer reached three figures, and here again is a case of a new county record. **JIMMY KEAVENEY** was the man impressively on the target, and on the way to ranking as the country's leading scorer in football for 1975 with 8.95 (119 points) in 20 games he became only the second Dubliner to reach three figures.

Previous to that the Dublin record stood at 101 points to the credit of **OLLIE FREANEY** with

a scoreline of 5.86 in 17 games in 1959.

But if there have not been many newcomers to the elite circle of scorers in football in the decade, some earlier members proved prominent headline-makers in the "shooting for century" stakes.

Take, for example, **MICHAEL KEARINS**, who first broke the barrier in 1965, and bettered the points century again in 1968. He reached three figures in 1971, 1972, 1973 and 1974, and this run

● TO PAGE 37

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## More winners from Tipperary

**S** EAMUS Ó RIAIN, a past President of the G.A.A., has come up with a winner—and a brilliant headline as well for the other clubs—with his excellent book, "Moneygall Hurling Story 1885-1975."

This attractively produced forty-four page publication superbly traces the history over the years of a small rural club that has kept the flag flying consistently, and which finally reached an outstanding milestone last October by winning the Tipperary senior hurling title for the first time.

The author tells the story in an interesting and very readable manner, and the book is set off by a series of excellent team photographs.

It is a worthy record of a great club, and a credit to Seamus Ó Riain. Other clubs could profitably follow this example from Moneygall.

### TIPPERARY YEARBOOK

Also to hand from Tipperary is the "Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book 1976", edited by Gerry Slevin, which runs to 100 pages, and is excellent value at 50p.

The past inter-county year is reviewed by John O'Grady, while there is a comprehensive feature spotlighting the "Ups and Downs of Tipperary's Clubs in 1975."

Jim Kennedy reports on the achievements of the Tipperary ladies football team, while handball, minor hurling, club grounds

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# THE LEAGUES ARE FULL OF INTEREST AS PLAY RESUMES

By MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

**T**HE only forecast to make with any safety about the second half of the National Leagues is that Galway and Meath won't retain the titles. Even that prediction isn't a certainty since Meath are still possible, although very improbable, qualifiers for the quarter-finals.

This is, of course, ironic in the case of Meath. Last season they came out of "nowhere" to win the League after capturing the honours in Division 2. Now that they are in the premier division their chances of keeping the title are so slim that only a combination of major upsets in form would get them even to the knock-out stage.

They would need to beat Tyrone in Pomeroy, have Mayo overcome Derry at a Derry venue and then beat Derry themselves in a play-off for the runners-up spot in Division 1B. And on what we have seen in the first half of the competition all that is unlikely to happen.

Judging on the results of the first four rounds of the League the likely qualifiers for the knock-out stage from Division 1B appear to be Galway and Derry. But, with Dublin already straight through to the semi-finals, the battle for the runners-up position opens up several

possibilities in Division 1A. Although Kerry dropped three points—as have their neighbours Cork—the All-Ireland champions must be favourites to go through to the quarter-final to meet the Division 3 winners. But let's examine the alternatives. If Cork beat Offaly in Tullamore and Kerry overcome Kildare away then it will be a Kerry-Cork play-off. If one of these Munster counties loses, then the other goes through. But if both Cork and Kerry both lose on February 1 and Roscommon happen to beat Dublin—and that's in Hyde Park—then Roscommon would pip the southern pair for the quarter-final place.

Therefore it's not all over yet, even though only one round of the divisional matches remains to be played. This is particularly so in the lower divisions. In Division 2 Antrim are two points ahead of joint second-placers Down and Cavan, so an Antrim defeat at Castleblayney would



● John Connolly, who led Galway to their National Hurling League victory last year.

cause a play-off between the winners of the Down-Cavan tie at Newry and Antrim.

In Division 3 there's no doubt about Clare getting to the divisional final again, but the big question is who qualifies to meet them. Armagh are two points better than Donegal and Laois and Longford are two further behind. If Laois beat Armagh in Portlaoise when the competition re-opens and Donegal are successful at home against Westmeath it will be a three-way tie at the top of the table. (And then the Congress delegates, who so unwisely voted back play-offs, would see the errors of their ways because two Sundays would be needed to sort that lot out).

Bearing all those possibilities in mind I hesitate to think about quarter-finalists, let alone do as the Editor demands and predict the likely winners of the title. But let's take a chance and anticipate these (?) pairings: Kerry v Clare (or Armagh), Derry v Antrim. If they are to be the quarter-finalists, I would be somewhat more confident fore-

● TO PAGE 39

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**GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ**

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# L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E

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Edited by **KITTY MURPHY**

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**H**ELLO everybody and welcome once more. Have any of you noticed how fashionable it has become to have a phobia about something. The fear of flying, for instance, seems to be affecting just about everybody who is anybody at the present time. That's a far cry from the days of my childhood — 1908 to be exact! Then I spent the hours dreaming and longing, with all the longing that the heart of a child can endure, of that great day when I would join all those lucky people up there in the far-away sky. Day after day I watched and admired that glistening silver piece of metal. There it was in all its glory, floating through the clear air, bringing people over mountain and sea to some far away place. My heart leapt and danced with joy at the sight of a jet trail. I followed its course and then watched it gradually fade and melt away to become part of the distant heavens.

Many years later I went on my first jaunt into space. The build-up went on for months and excitement reached fever pitch. My well-meaning funny-humoured friends helped me greatly, through their insistence in telling sagas concerning the lone survivor who was found dangling from a branch on some deserted island. Could I be intimidated? — no, never. I had my mind well and truly

made up and I was going to fly for my very first time. I arrived two and a half hours ahead of schedule, labelled my new luggage bags several times and then enjoyed the company of my friends for the remainder of the time. Then came the moment of truth. I waved goodbye — dubious though it was — to my companions and walked up the steps with all the assurance of one much travelled. I took my seat, fastened my seat-belt and courageously acknowledged the charming hostess's emergency procedure with a smile that escaped somehow from between my chattering teeth.

**Take-off was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.** The rev of the engine, the picking up of speed on the runway and finally the lift-off — my childhood dream come true.

**I was just beginning** to browse through one of the many magazines I had brought with me when all of a sudden something began to happen. There was a sickening lurch and I decided this is it. The captain told us we were approaching the coast of France and not to worry as we were experiencing slight turbulence. He could have fooled me but his interpretation of the word slight didn't tally with mine. Faces all about grew pale and wan. I said my Act of Contrition with all kinds

of extra promises and resolutions thrown in for good measure. There was still no improvement. I began to recall all those dreadful stories about lone and not-so-lone survivors. But why should it happen to me? After all, this was my very first flight. I grew weaker and weaker as I watched the streaks of lightning light up the hitherto black sky. My God, there was no hope. Everyone was strangely quiet, but then I figured that was the quiet of fear. Why, I asked myself, did I choose this unnatural mode of conveyance? Couldn't I have stayed in my own land as I always had done? But no, I wanted so badly to get up there. Now I wanted so badly to get back down. I promised the Lord that if I got back this once I would never, save on a swing, venture above ground-level again! And apart from standing on a chair to change the light bulb in my flat I don't think I've ever been more than two feet off the ground since. "Better to be a live coward than a dead tourist" I always say.

**Recently I watched** a TV programme which featured four very interesting business people, each of whom had a phobia about flying. To make matters worse, flying was an integral part of each one's livelihood. Facts had to be



faced and a cure had to be found. No. 1 came three hours ahead of schedule, joined several friends in the lounge and overcame his dilemma by having just another one for the sky. No. 2 arrived armed with his Book of Crosswords and applied himself with the concentration of John Newton. No. 3, a lady traveller, brought along her embroidery and gave that her undivided attention. No. 4, the last of the phobiasts, couldn't face the moment of truth and left it so late that he had to sprint the length of the tarmac to catch his flight.

**Have any of you** ever spared a thought for the sportsman who might be phobia smitten. What about the usually brilliant full forward who one day stands stuck to the ground as his counterpart picks every ball out of the sky? We shouldn't point the finger. Maybe the poor fellow is suffering from vertigo and has been fighting a losing battle all those years.

**What about the goalie** who might suddenly be stricken with claustrophobia. The confines of the goal prove too much for him. In a moment of new-found freedom he sees his escape and strolls a few paces outfield. Suddenly the whole world is "agin" him. The ball out-hops him in return and rolls on its ominous course into the un-guarded goal.

**Did you ever spare** a morsel of pity for the unfortunate who suffers from agoraphobia. He gets the ball and finds that there is no one near him. Suddenly the open space proves too much. He starts running like a March hare in the direction of the crowd. He gets rid of the ball — usually quickly and to a fellow on the other side. The "enemy" doesn't look

a gift horse in the mouth and being phobia-free makes a very profitable foray into the open space!

**I suppose everyone** suffers from a phobia of one kind or another. I know somebody for whom the dread of heights is such that the cliff walk at Howth has proven too much! For others it's the fear of going underground — they just about survive the railway tunnel in the Park. I must admit my own phobia is very definitely a fear of the dark, and couple that with an over-active imagination and you'll understand why

*It takes all the strength that  
my spirit can muster  
Just to keep jogging along.*

**It may all sound** very amusing but what I "see" in the dark just isn't funny. If the door of the wardrobe happens to be open, a being gets into every coat and jacket therein and prepares to walk out into the room. The curtains begin to bulge and there are at least two people behind each one. What are they doing? The very least I can expect is that they are waiting to deprive me of my life's savings — all sixty-five pence! The ray from the street light gives poor solace. Every few minutes something dark passes by. So I am right, there must be someone in the room. Here goes, I can't bear it any longer — I'll scream. Some know-all solves the mystery — every now and then a leaf is seen to fall in the path of the light. Well at least something did cause it.

**So much for the dark** of the city but you haven't lived till you've walked a few hundred yards at night in the country. The strangest things happen. Every bush takes legs and begins to walk. Every cow

decides to play you along, making life all the more fretful, before giving her meo of recognition. The horse lying contentedly inside the ditch decides to throw a tantrum — his idea of giving you a nightmare. And that's nothing to the jump the body takes when a bird decides to flutter his way out from between the branches of a tree. Ah, yes, all these creatures contribute very handsomely to make night life miserable for the likes of me. However, despite everything, morning still follows night and with the break of day

*Heaven smiles, and faiths and  
empires gleam*

*Like wrecks of a dissolving  
dream.*

**And now, my friends,** I must away. **Jack Mahon**—thank you very much for your kind comments recently. Indeed, you yourself, Jack, have succeeded in a very fine way in communicating with our young boys and girls all over the country. The best of luck to you.

## TIPPERARY WINNERS

● FROM PAGE 12

and youth and the G.A.A. are just some of the other subjects covered in this very comprehensive and well presented book.

The year book is well illustrated throughout, and all in all makes a bright and welcome addition to the G.A.A. library of publications.

*Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book 1976. Published on behalf of the Tipperary County G.A.A. Board by "The Guardian", Summerhill, Nenagh. Editor Gerry Slevin. Price 50p.*

**GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ**

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# COACHING

G.A.A. SHOWN UP IN  
BAD LIGHT  
BY F.A.I. INITIATIVE

By MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

AN item in the newspapers before Christmas set me thinking about how backward the G.A.A. still is in the matter of coaching. As the leading sports organisation in this country it is away behind the times — and much behind all others — in providing a comprehensive coaching scheme for its games.

These thoughts were prompted by the report that John Jarman, the Welshman who has been National Coach for soccer in the Twenty-Six Counties, made at the end of his first 18 months in office. Among other things, he has travelled 22,000 miles organising coaching courses, film shows and matches for boys — and girls, too, mind you — to promote soccer at juvenile and youth level.

This is Jarman's full-time occupation. His salary is paid by the F.A.I., a body whose financial revenue even in the best years is nowhere comparable with the income of the much better-off G.A.A. Yet, the G.A.A., with far greater resources, still hasn't got around to the appointment of a national coach — either part-time or full-time.

Around the same time I read the report of Jarman's activities I saw a clip of television film showing the soccer coach presenting coaching certificates to a group of boys at St. Eunan's College in Letterkenny. This strikingly underlined for me the success of the F.A.I.'s national coach because, in my days as a young journalist when I was concerned with the coverage of colleges' football and hurling, St. Eunan's was one of the great nurseries of Gaelic football. Under the tutelage of former Cavan star John Wilson, it was one of the powers of Ulster colleges' football. Times, indeed, have changed.

For far too long coaching was a dirty word in the G.A.A. even though sport, in modern times, recognised all over the world the need for it. That attitude has changed, thank Heaven. But the change was so slow coming that it was only in December 1974 that the Association set up a national coaching advisory council with members nominated by president Donal Keenan.

This is still only an advisory council and so far they have not reached the stage of actually organising nationwide coaching courses for youngsters. That day, in fact, is still some way off, although

certified coaches are now about to be rated qualified to conduct such courses. But in 1976 this is at least five, if not ten, years too late.

Intensive coaching for hurling was advocated as far back as November 1964 when the Hurling Commission issued its Revival Plan. But these recommendations were put into effect only in limited fashion by holding the annual Gormanston course; the necessary follow-through of local coaching courses was never implemented on a country-wide basis.

Even then coaching for football was still frowned on and Congress 1967 voted 124 to 113 to reject a Meath motion calling for a national coaching course. Now the wheel has turned full circle and the man who was so bitterly criticised when he proposed that motion — former Down player Joe Lennon — was one of Dr. Kennan's nominees to the advisory council.

This council, under the chairmanship of Frank Lynch, the ex-Louth and Leinster footballer, has been working assiduously over the past year and we must hope that the time is near when they will organise worthwhile courses for our juveniles. They do, of course, labour under the handicap of having to deal with two games — unlike any other sports body in the world — and whatever they do for hurling must also be done for football. It must never be forgotten that football has many weak counties, too.

No matter what the cost, the G.A.A. has an obligation to conduct such courses for young hurlers and footballers if it is to carry out its primary aim, which is the "preservation and promotion of Gaelic games". The most important word in that excerpt from the charter is "promotion" and, as soccer coach John Jarman and many others have discovered, one of the best means of promoting the games is through the coaching of youngsters.

The Irish Handball Association found this out over the past few years. The work of their national coach, Pat Kirby, who has travelled the length and breadth of the 32 counties to conduct courses, has been responsible — as much as anything else — for the current tremendous boom in the game of handball.

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# Retirement of Gerry Arthurs great blow to Ulster Gaels

By  
DAN  
McAREAVY

**T**HE Ulster Council, which has held the fort so superbly well for the Association in the good times and the bad over the years, will never be the same again.

After 40 years as secretary, Gerry Arthurs has given notice of his intention to retire at the Council's Annual Convention which will be held in Belfast on March 6.

Although there has been speculation for some time that Gerry's decision was imminent, the actual confirmation of his resignation has come as a shock to his tens of thousands of friends throughout the country. For Keady (Co. Armagh) born Gerry Arthurs was more than secretary to the Council; he was in many, many ways the Council itself.

Already the hunt is on for a successor who faces the enormous task of following in the footsteps of an official whose contribution to the growth of the Association throughout the North will never be fully appraised.

Gerry Arthurs came to prominence as a legislator while still a stripling as secretary and treasurer of the Armagh County Board (in fact, he was county secretary for some 16 years and treasurer for 40).

But it was in 1934 that he officially burst on to the provincial scene when he was ap-

pointed Ulster Council treasurer in succession to McNaghan's Eoin Duffy. Some months later he was to become secretary, carrying out the duties of both offices until the following year's convention.

Although officially secretary ever since, his finger has rarely been out of the financial pie and it is accepted by all that the Council's sound standing today is a lasting monument to his business acumen.

The growth of the Association under his administration has been phenomenal, despite the fact that he was also clerk to Keady Urban District Council until Local Government was reorganised in the North a few years ago. How he combined both positions so successfully will remain a mystery.

Ground development in the province has leaped beyond even his wildest dreams, while the number of clubs has doubled to around 600, progress which would have been regarded as so much pie in the sky away back in 1934.

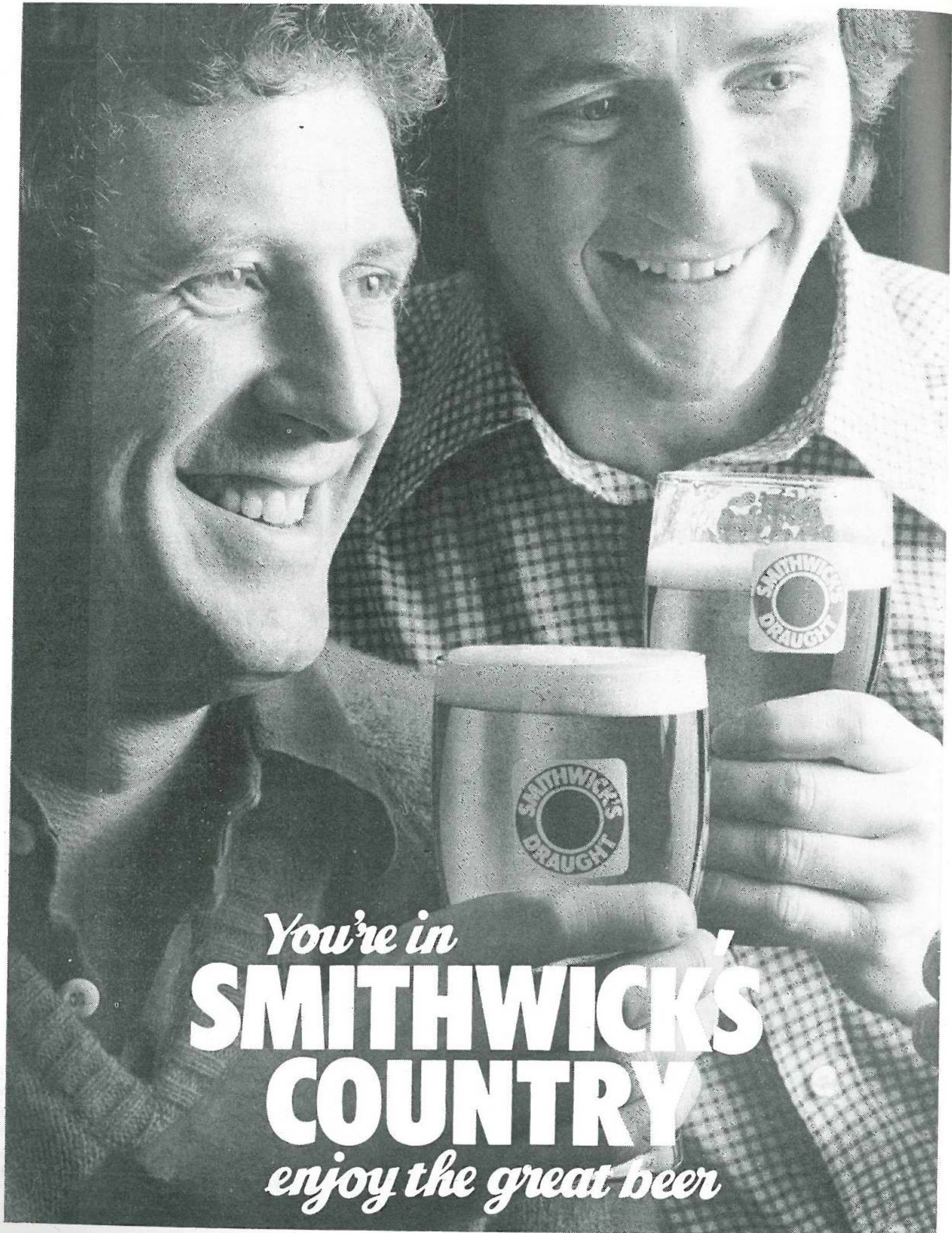
Gerry's single big regret is that hurling has not yet made the really significant break-

through. However, he cites Derry as a good example of how dedication and effort "can bring back our oldest and greatest national game".

While he will always be regarded as among the country's most able legislators, Gerry Arthurs was a footballer and hurler of well above average ability. He started playing for his local club when he was 14 and a few years later, in 1924, he was leading the reorganisation of football in the county.

This revival campaign bore fruit two years later when Armagh had the honour of bringing the first All-Ireland title — the junior football — to the province. In fact, Gerry was captain of the team which won the Ulster championship and played against Sligo in the semi-final but was a reserve for the historic final with Dublin. For years afterwards he was a member of the county side.

I have said that the Ulster Council will never be the same again after March 6 next. However, many a match has been won from the sidelines and it is heartening to know that Gerry Arthurs will be there to help to guide the destiny of the organisation which he has done so much to fashion.



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# Eddie Keher: King of the hurlers

IT says much for Eddie Keher's dedication, drive, enthusiasm and unique skills that he has emerged as the GAELIC SPORT hurler of 1975, based on the all-the-year-round rankings. It's a noteworthy achievement for any player to gain this proud distinction; it is something extra special, however, to climb to the position at 33 years of age, and at a time when there is such a strong emphasis on sport being "a young man's game."

Yet, no one will seriously deny that the master craftsman from Kilkenny continues to marshal his great skills in a way that marks him out as one of the most dynamic match-winners and colourful personalities in any branch of Irish sport. Despite his long innings, an innings that has brought him every possible major honour in hurling, he continues to torment defences with those flashes of real genius, and spot-on finishing that have kept him such a commanding figure nationally for so long.

One can recall many exciting

By  
**NEIL  
McCAVANA**

instances of Keher fluently displaying his great repertoire of skills to telling effect at the highest level in the past year. Indeed, it is a splendid tribute to his dedication and expertise that, although the Railway Cup final of last March was his first game of

1975 due to injury, he was still able to mark the occasion with some splendid points scoring in a fine general display that made him one of the stars of Leinster's successful defence of the title.

Then, again, one remembers

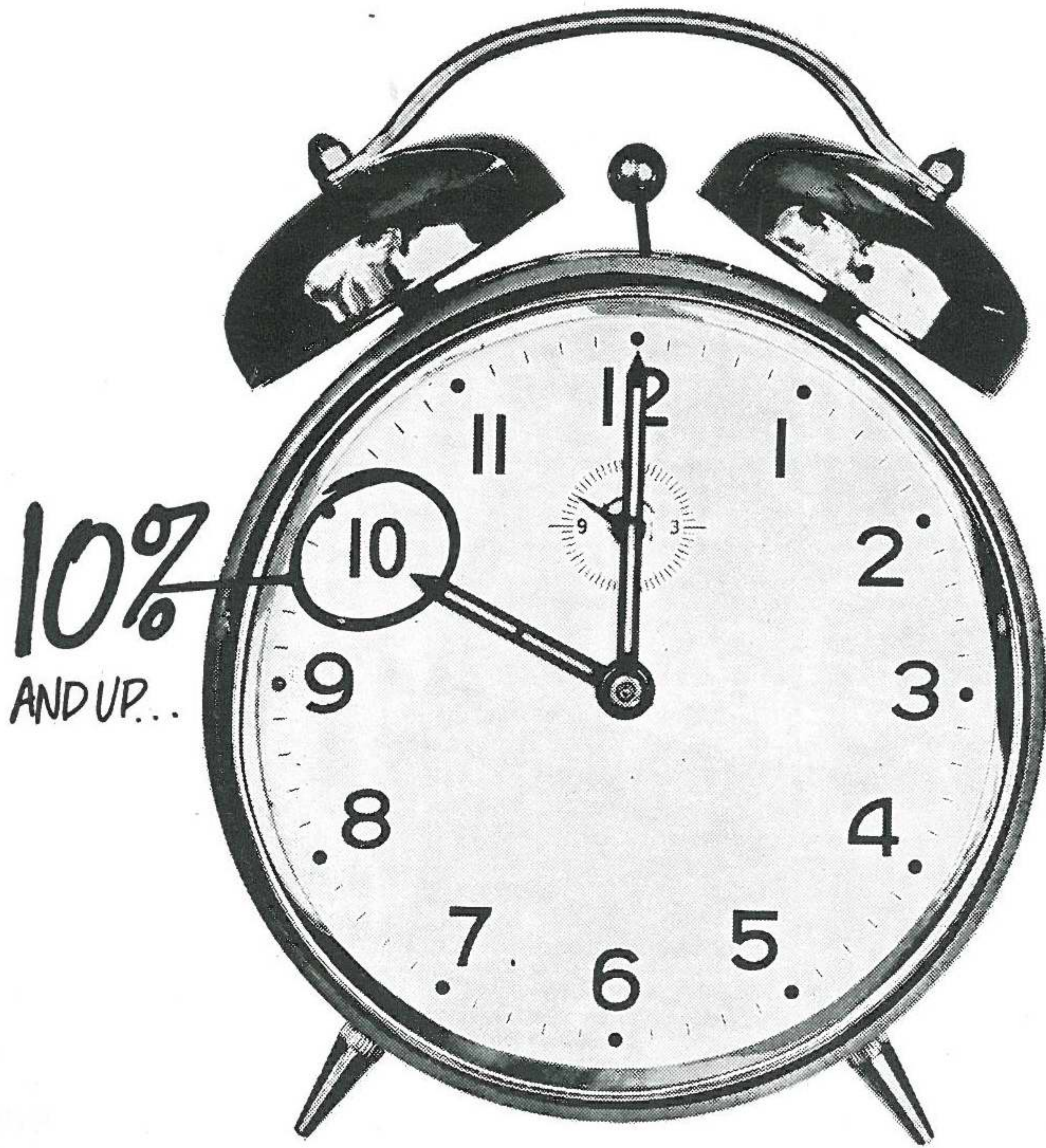
● TO PAGE 23



● Eddie Keher, who scored 2-7 in Kilkenny's victory over Galway in last year's All-Ireland Hurling final.

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● FROM PAGE 21

the flashes of Keher magic in the Leinster final win over Wexford, while his contribution to the All-Ireland final victory over Galway, which included a splendid haul of 2-7, cannot be undervalued either.

These are just some of the many golden moments in the past year that helped the Rower-Inistioge hurler to finish clear of the field in our Top Ten hurling chart . . . memories that give a further exciting dimension to a career that now leaves Eddie Keher, more truly than ever, a brilliant star apart.

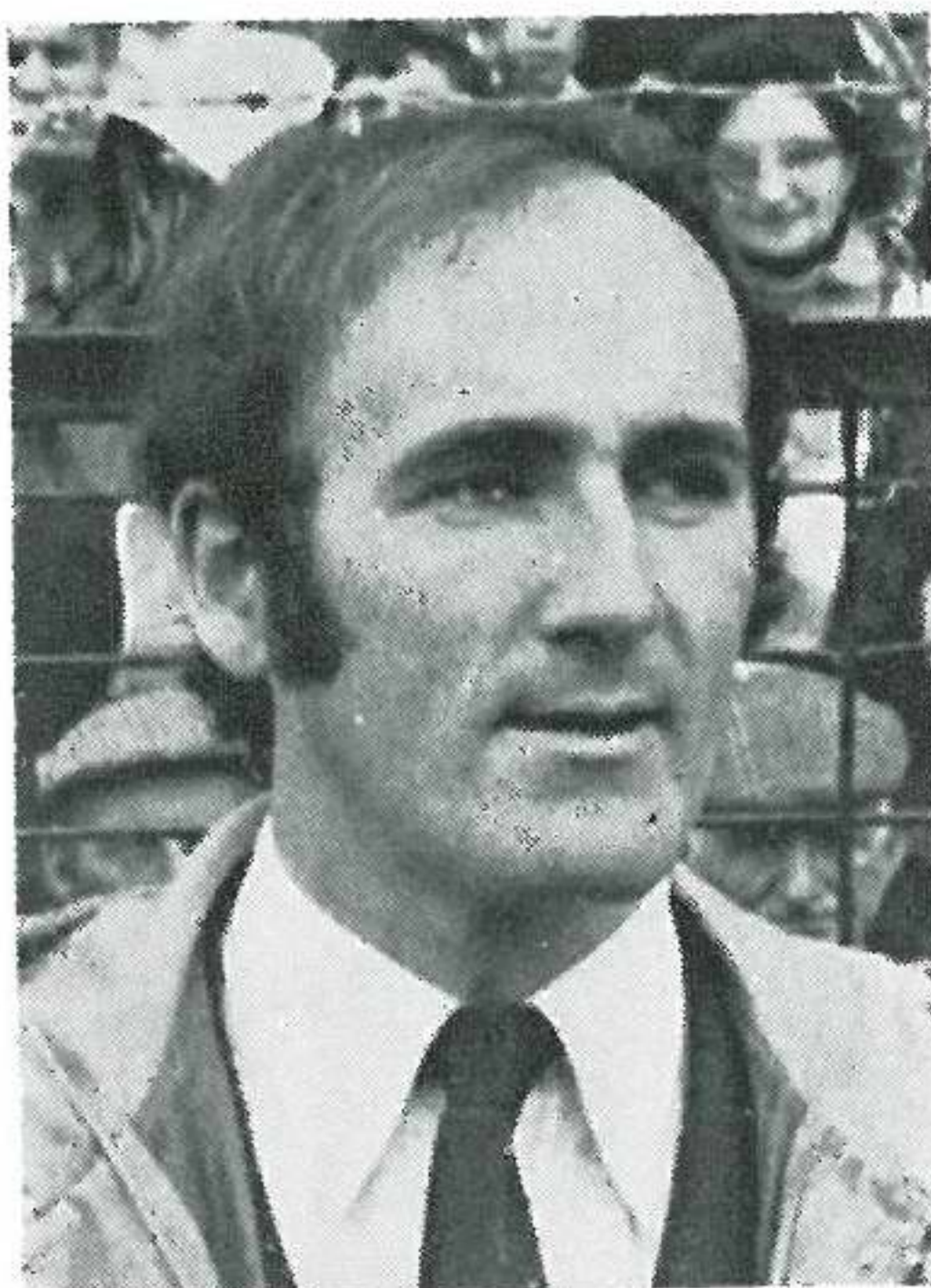
The great career of the Kilkenny ace in the senior inter-county grade stretches as far back as 1959, and like so many before him—and since—he preceded his entry into the big-time by making his mark in minor and Colleges' competitions.

In fact, he won two All-Ireland Colleges' medals and four Leinster minor awards among the schoolboys.

Less than three years after his entry to the premier inter-county ranks came the elegant Kilkenny sharpshooter's first national medal in the grade — for the League final of 1962. The following year when adding an All-Ireland senior souvenir to his collection, he left an indelible mark in the final win over Waterford by shooting 0-14, ten points from frees.

Another important milestone in the sparkling career of the hurler extraordinary was passed out in May 1966 when he played a big part in helping Kilkenny to a first major final win over Tipperary in 43 years. That was for the League title.

It is a remarkable tribute as well to the consistently high standard of hurling that he has turned in year after year that Keher has shared in every one of Leinster's eight Railway Cup final wins since 1964, and that he also brought his total of All-



● Sidelined by injury Eddie anxiously watches the play in the 1973 All-Ireland final between Kilkenny and Limerick.

Ireland medals to six last September.

This facility for keeping on top in seasons of almost non-stop effort is further mirrored by the fact that he has been included in every single Carrolls All-Stars team since the initial selection of 1971.

And, of course, all the time

Eddie Keher has been banging home the goals and points with a fluency that has rarely, if ever, been seen in the history of hurling and football.

There was that remarkable day in 1971 when his razor-sharp finishing technique yielded another handsome dividend in an All-Ireland decider. In the clash with Tipperary he scored 2-11, the highest recorded individual total in an All-Ireland senior final.

Then, how about this for a scoring spectacular? 194 points in a single year's programme! Yes, that's what Eddie Keher bagged in only 21 games in 1972 when he headed the national chart that year with a score of 20 goals and 134 points. A record that will take a deal of beating in the years ahead.

Co-ordination, balance, the ability to effortlessly turn on the skills at the highest level, and under the most intense of competition, razor-sharp technique and sportsmanship par-excellence are among the characteristics that help make Eddie Keher unique.

Long may he continue to thrill us!



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● *Liam O'Brien, tireless midfielder from James Stephens in Kilkenny.*

# O'Brien, O'Keefe worthy winners Texaco trophies

**WE** all have our views as to the players who could stamp their personalities prominently on the inter-county season that swings into top gear with the resumption this month of the National Leagues. However, one appears on firm ground in forecasting that two of the heroes of 1975, John O'Keefe and Liam O'Brien, will again capture many of the coming headlines.

I'm not just saying this because the pair started the New Year in the best possible manner last month by stepping up for the coveted Texaco trophies for Gaelic Games.

The awards gave an added and well-deserved emphasis to the prominent roles O'Keefe and O'Brien played in creating the mood for the All-Ireland senior title wins of Kerry and Kilkenny. The trophies are also further splendid tributes to the high qualities of the mighty full back from the Austin Stacks club in Tralee, and the tireless midfielder from James Stephens in Kilkenny.

But, while the Texaco trophies must inevitably mark important high points in the careers of John O'Keefe and Liam O'Brien, it is their now well proven ability to turn on the style regularly — and

at the top level as well — that has them already ahead of so many in my book as men likely to provide many of the new programme's most memorable talking points.

One does not have to turn to the record books for bright examples in this regard, even long before the dawn of the campaign that was climaxed by those recent Texaco awards.

Indeed, I can recall from very early in the career of O'Keefe a powerful display at centre half back when leading St. Brendan's, Killarney, to the 1969 All-Ireland Colleges' senior football title — the only occasion as yet that the trophy went to Kerry.

And, a bright memory that comes down through the years from the 1972 All-Ireland senior hurling final is of the progressive midfield play of O'Brien, complemented by splendid long range points scoring, from frees and play, that yielded five valuable scores, in Kilkenny's win over Cork.

One could go on and on in this vein, but it is sufficient now to add that over the years this pair have grown in stature with play of a standard that has been brimful of intelligence and inspiration.

It is interesting, too, that John O'Keefe and Liam "Chunky" O'Brien have much in common. Each made his senior inter-county debut in 1969 after having played earlier in the inter-county minor and under-21 grades.

O'Keefe was the youngest player in the final when he made his first appearance in an All-Ireland senior decider in 1970, and it was a winning outing as well, as Kerry beat Meath that year. Then, in 1972, O'Brien was the youngest member of the Kilkenny side that mastered Cork — and that was also his first experience of the tension of an All-Ireland senior decider.

The six-footer from Kerry has, of late, carved out such a big reputation for himself as a full back that we tend to overlook the fact that he is a versatile young man who has also won major honours in a number of other positions.

Take centre half back. It was there that O'Keefe, who is now 24, won his first All-Ireland senior medal in that 1970 game with Meath. There, too, he collected Railway Cup medals with Munster in 1972 and again last March.

Then, there is the accomplished Southerner's powerful football at

# ...effer were ...ners of ...phies

midfield. It was in the centre that he helped the Combined Universities to their only Railway Cup title win in 1973, and later in the year he collected the first of his two Carrolls All Stars awards as a centre field player.

Since settling in at No. 3 for Kerry at the start of the 1974-75 National League, John O'Keeffe has exercised his many exciting qualities — coolness, dependability, sure-fielding and intelligently placed clearances among them—to such telling effect that he is without doubt not only a great asset to the county side, but one of the most accomplished players in the position today.

The Tralee man, who has won county senior championship medals in Dublin (with U.C.D.) and Kerry, and collected a second Carrolls All Stars award last December, is at present on a post-graduate course in England. His studies there may curtail his appearances in the coming National League games, but he will be available for the Kerry bid to retain the Munster and All-Ireland crowns.

One way or another, then, John O'Keeffe, a mighty master of the full back art, should again prove

**By**  
**Owen**  
**McCann**



● John O'Keeffe (right), mighty full back from the Austin Stacks Club in Tralee.

a dominant figure in the crunch games of 1976.

O'Brien is out of step with O'Keeffe in one regard at least. Although the Kerry man numbers National League medals among his collection, this is now the only major award that has so far eluded the lightly built and artistic Noresider.

However, the 26-year-old Leinster man of the great artistry, pace and competitive spirit, has reaped an extra rich harvest in other directions. When Kilkenny retained the Liam McCarthy Cup in September he brought his haul of All-Ireland senior medals to three. Later came another proud treble with his selection for the

third year in succession at centre field in the Carrolls All Stars hurling side.

O'Erien, who, it will surprise many to learn, is a former county minor goalkeeper, has also been pulling his weight in fine style in Leinster's greatest era ever in the Railway Cup. Last March he gained his second interprovincial medal.

On the club scene, too, this exquisitely balanced midfielder of the superb ball control and limitless energy, has made a big impact. One of his most important successes here was in November last when he helped James Stephens to their first Kilkenny county senior title win since 1969.

## SEARCH IS ON FOR NEW LEADER OF G.A.A.

**T**HE Easter Congress in Ennis will have the task of electing a new President to succeed Dr. Donal Keenan whose term of office ends this year. The names of a number of potential candidates have long been in circulation. At this early stage it is impossible to estimate how many of these will actually face the electors, but certainly all of those who have been mentioned are worthy of the highest honour the Association can bestow.

However, there is one point that worries me. Are we asking too much of our Presidents nowadays? It seems to me that there is scarcely a G.A.A. occasion from one end of the country to the other to which the President is not invited. It is not humanly possible for any man to fulfil all those engagements. Yet all Presidents in recent years have attempted to attend as many functions as they possibly can, and not always with the best of consequences for their health.

In addition, since the G.A.A. is so completely democratic an organisation, its democratically elected Presidents are people who in their private capacity have

to work for their livelihood. Is it fair, then, to ask them to drive perhaps a couple of hundred miles of an evening to present medals, and then drive back all those miles again to snatch a couple of hours sleep before turning out to their work or profession again at the normal time next morning?

**Is that being fair to our Presidents?**

I do not think so, especially when one considers the greatly increased number of Croke Park meetings he has to attend since the administration of the Association was diversified in accordance with the findings of the McNamee Commission.

So I believe it is high time that we gave our Presidents a better deal by cutting down the calls upon them to much more reasonable limits. Who is to decide what is reasonable and what is not I do not know. Perhaps the Management Committee. But surely it all boils down in the end to a matter of common-sense.

If we cannot do that, there seems to be only one logical alternative and that is to elect a far younger man than any we have seen in the chair of the Association for at least 20 years.

On the other hand, it has always been traditional to elect as President a man who has proved his worth in long and steady years of apprenticeship as Chairman of County Board or Provincial Council, and County Board chairmen in their thirties, not to say in their twenties, are the exception rather than the rule. All the men whose names have been thus far mentioned as probable Presidential candidates are well-seasoned already. T. P. O'Reilly, Jimmy Gray, Ger McKenna are all past or present County Board chairmen, as is Tom Loftus. Loftus, Mick Feeney and Paddy McFlynn are past chairmen of Provincial Councils. All of them are within the age group from which every President for the past 20 years has been drawn.

Oddly enough only one of them is a former star of the playing fields who has won All-Ireland medals. That is T. P. O'Reilly, who holds All-Ireland and Railway Cup trophies won with Cavan and Ulster.

Jimmy Gray, of course, kept goal for Dublin in an All-Ireland hurling final and he too holds Railway Cup medals won with

Leinster, but then the possibility of his candidature is, as I write, no more than a rumour.

As I have said, all the candidates mentioned thus far are fully qualified for the post, all are able men, and whichever of them does become President will have plenty of work to do, even if he were never to open a new field or present a set of medals.

The activities of the entire Association have become so widespread, so complex and yet so interlocked that any part-time Presidents (and there is no way under the present Constitution that we can have any other kind) is going to find himself hard-pushed to keep himself fully posted with the progress being made by the multiplicity of committees and schemes that are at present going full blast.

Indeed, if present trends continue, the remark I made as a joke a year or two ago, that we would have to set up a special committee to keep track of the multitude of committees, may be a joke no longer but a matter of necessity.

Whoever is elected President of the G.A.A. for the next three years will not have an easy task, any more than Pat Fanning and Donal Keenan, the two Presidents since the Commission, have had easy tasks. He too will have the problem, as they have had, of leading the Association in a changing world, adapting to meet changing conditions without changing the principles on which the G.A.A. has stood so steadfastly since its foundation.

It is not an easy task. It will not become any easier with the passing of the years. It is a task that calls for dedication, determination, and perhaps nowadays especially, diplomacy above the ordinary.

In the future, possibly even more than in the past, the President of the G.A.A. will need more

than a fair share of courage.

He will also need clearheadedness, coolness and, above all, the complete co-operation of the Association at every level. The difficulties that have been posed in the past few years by too much affluence may be succeeded by financial difficulties as the economic pendulum inexorably swings the other way. Indeed, finance could well be the major problem that will have to be faced during

the term of office of whoever is elected at Ennis.

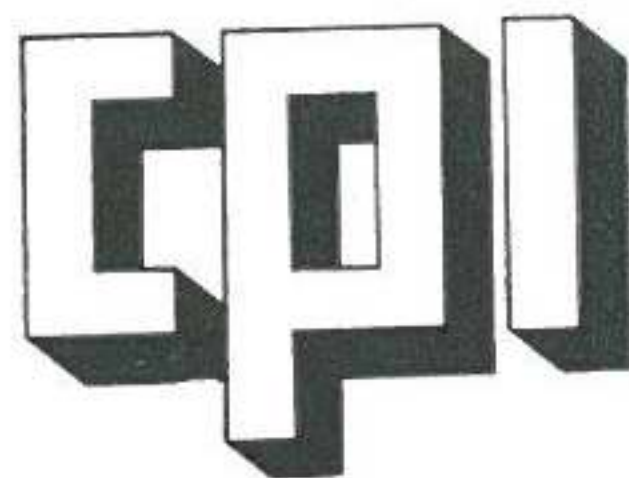
But the G.A.A. has come through many a financial and economic crisis before. There is no reason to believe that this one, too, cannot be successfully surmounted.

So I wish all the best to whoever the new President may be, and the best of luck as well, in the confident hope that luck will be the least of his needs.

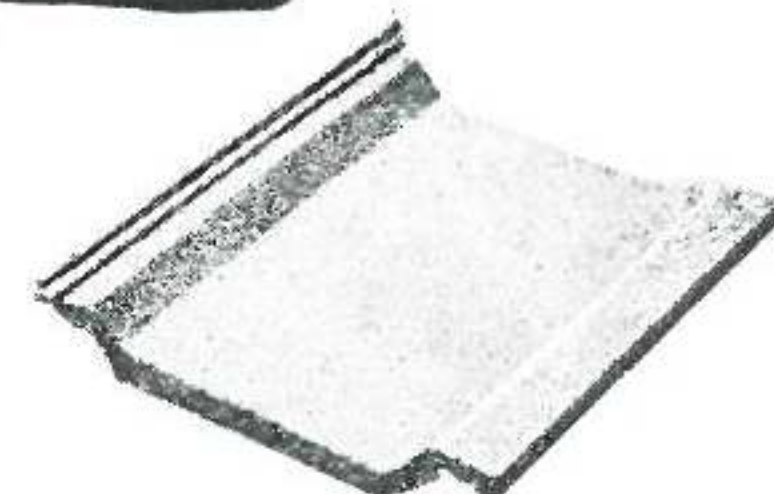


# A GREAT MATCH

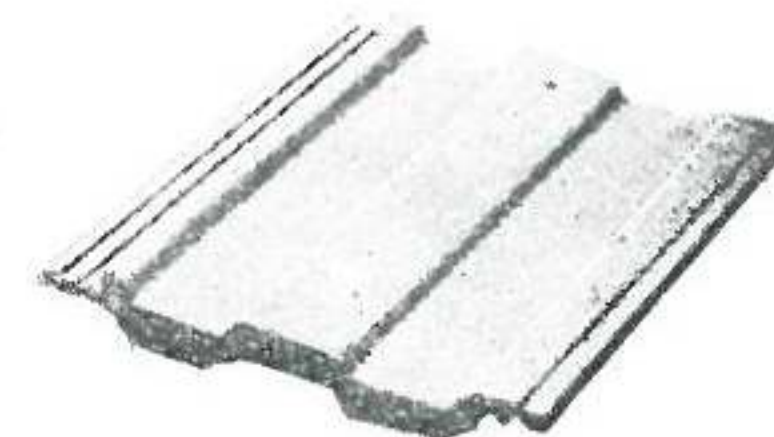
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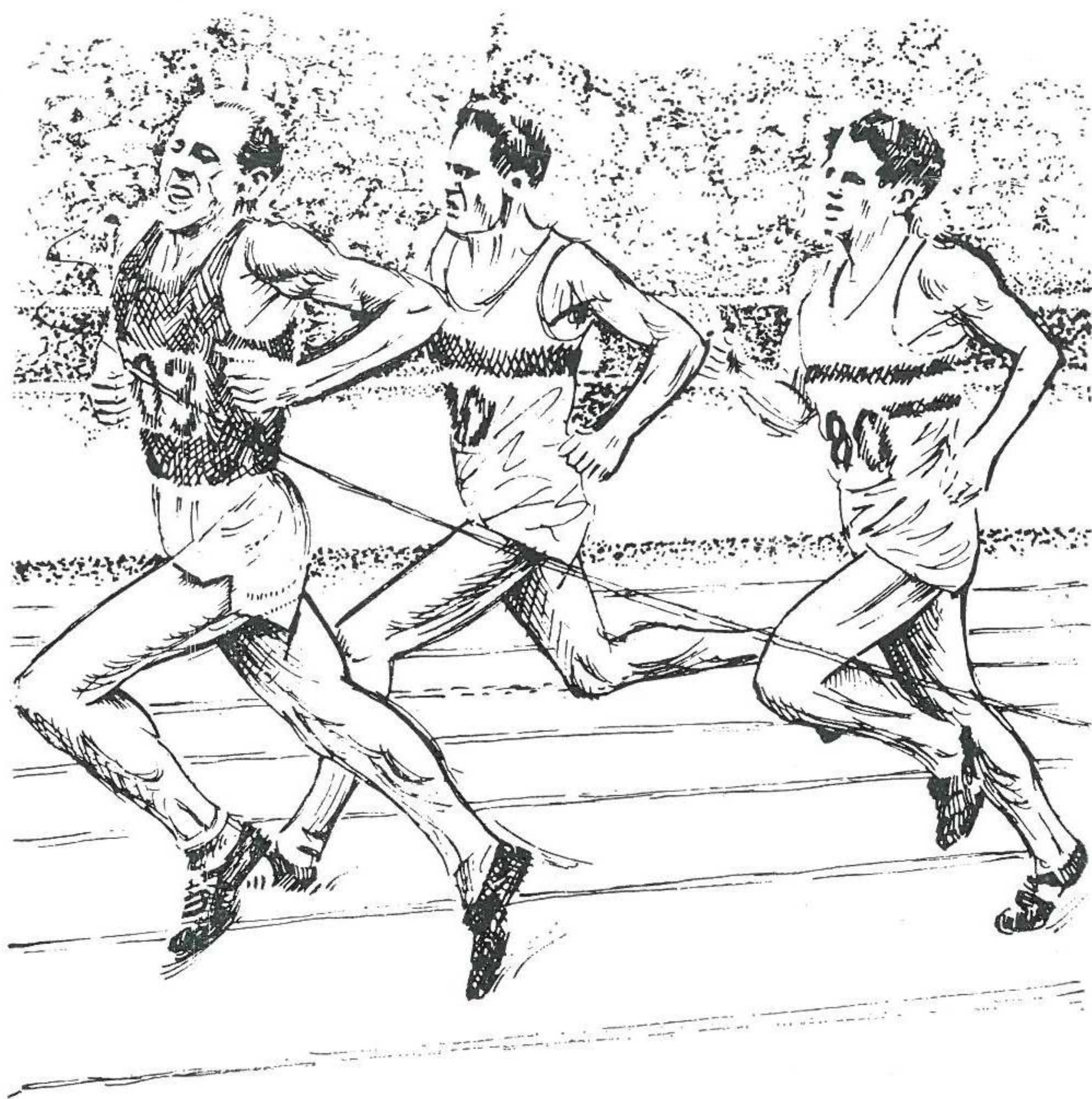
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# MICHAEL BOYCE, HANDBALL CHIEF

A PROFILE by SEAN CLERKIN

LITTLE has been said or written about Michael Boyce, the reigning President of the Irish Handball Council, who was elected to that position at last year's Annual Congress.

This is hardly surprising either, for Boyce is of that make-up, that shuns the glare of publicity, but would rather be judged on the results of constructive work.

Born in Scariff some thirty-eight years ago, he went to the local school and later to the now defunct St. Senan's Secondary School in Killaloe.

With a flair for handball from an early age it was in the natural order of things that he should become connected with the Tuamgraney Handball Club which is only one mile from Scariff. He played there, as one of the club's most consistent competitors until he was 18 when his employment took him to Limerick.

He was absent from handball affairs then for nearly ten years until he rejoined the Tuamgraney Club around 1965 and, subsequently was elected Chairman, a position he has held ever since.

It was during his term of office that the old court at Tuamgraney was renovated, roofed and floodlit.

Further administrative duties fell his way — Treasurer of the Clare County Board in 1967, Chairman in 1968 and Secretary in 1969.

During his term of Secretaryship, which continued until his election as President, Boyce was also the Clare delegate on the Munster Handball Council and the province's delegate to Central Council.

His credentials for the onerous post of Handball President hardly need any further exposure. I like the compliment paid to him

by Secretary Caimín Jones at the Convention of the Clare Board this year.

Jones described the election of Boyce to the Presidency, as a fitting tribute to Clare Handball and, to a man whose devotion and contribution to the game at club, county, provincial and Central Council levels can never be fully assessed.

And, when one further realises the rate of handball development in Clare itself, it becomes evident just how active Boyce has been within the county.

In Ennis, the two international sized heated courts being built by the Christian Brothers Past Pupils' Union are nearing completion and should be officially opened shortly.

There has also been the equally satisfying development by the O'Callaghan Mills G.A.A. Club at Kilkishen.

This took the form of a 40 x 20 court, incorporated into the recreational facilities of the club.

In recent weeks, too, the foundations for a new 40 x 20 court have been laid in Tulla, in the grounds of the National School, while plans are also advanced for the construction of three small courts, adjacent to the school grounds, at Toonagh, Ruan.

With similar plans envisaged for Clarecastle, Cooraclare and Tuamgraney, and with signs of a revival in Ogonelloe and Inagh, it is obvious that wonderful progress has been made in Clare.

Boyce must take his due share of credit for these developments, not to mention his words of advice and encouragement for the many projects which have commenced at national level since his election.

Resident in Limerick, and married with three children — Mary

13, Thomas 12 and Kieran 10, Michael is well aware of the part he can play, during his term of office, in the further promotion of the game.

He holds some very specific views. He reckons, for instance, that a G.A.A. Club, without an indoor handball court, no matter how good a club it may be otherwise, is only flying on one wing.

Without the handball court it is inactive for too much of the year and therefore cannot hope to retain the loyalty of its members if counter attractions are available.

Michael also reckons that Ciste Gael is the best fund-raising method available to Clubs, and that every effort should be made to expand the present system.

On the 40 x 20 game, the President feels that it will attract many people who wish to play the game for recreational purposes and would not be physically fit enough to play in the 60 x 30 court.

Ideally, he says, the two games should operate side by side with one supplementing the other.

And, as a parting reminder, Boyce stresses the importance of having the game promoted in all educational establishments. This would involve an exercise in salesmanship — that of proving the benefits of handball to the teachers in these establishments.

With one year of his three-year term as President completed, it is apparent that Michael Boyce, from Scariff, has made his mark. A man of progress and vision and with youth on his side, one has no fears for the continued expansion of the game.

We wish him success during the remaining years of his Presidency.

# GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey in THE IRISH TIMES



**Paddy Downey**, Gaelic Games correspondent, writes with knowledge, insight, sound judgement and a flair for capturing the colour and thrills of the big occasion and big occasions are many in Gaelic Games. His reports and comments are balanced and fair but then, you'd expect all that from a writer who has won the **Gallagher Award** for the best National Sports Story of the Year — not once but twice in succession — and that's the highest prize there is in Irish Sports journalism. Read **The Irish Times** and judge for yourself. Of course it's not just a one-man team. You'll like the rest of them too.

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# FRANK VIEWS ON WEMBLEY GAMES

Compiled by  
**JOHN O'SHEA**  
(*Evening Press*)

**T**HE annual Wembley Games have been beset by a series of problems this year, making their future somewhat uncertain. Discussion on the Games has been widespread, and we thought you would be interested in the views on the matter from some top personalities.

## SEAN O'NEILL

The organisers will have to examine the format of the Games. In recent years they have done too much chopping and changing. Let them decide exactly who they want, and then impress upon them the importance of sticking to that decision.

I'm not sure that I would like to see the Railway Cup exported—unless as a last resort. The Games have a future if some thought is given to its organisation.

## JIMMY DUGGAN

I wouldn't like to see it scrapped. But if it's to continue, big changes will have to be made in its format and organisation.

You mention moving the Railway Cup finals to London. I would have no objection to it. And if it helped swell the crowd at Wembley, then it would be marvellous.

The counties can help too, by accepting the invitations to send teams to London. These days County Boards are too quick to tell London that they can't accommodate them.

## PAT HENDERSON

It's unfortunate that the dates

on which the games are staged, follow so soon after the All-Stars trip to San Francisco. It's a bit much to expect the All-Ireland champions to play in Wembley each year after returning from such a tour. And yet these are the teams who would probably attract the biggest attendances in London.

If a new date was found, I think the games could have a great future. After all more people watch them, even nowadays, than see the All-Stars games in the United States.

As for the players, in my experience, the lads have always enjoyed the trip, and I know they would hate to see them finish.

## GER O'KEEFFE

"For the sake of the followers of the games in England, I would like to see them continue. The crux has arisen over the dates. Maybe the move to October will help matters, I sincerely hope so.

I would not be in favour of allowing the Railway Cup final go across the water. Fans in London appear to identify with counties: I don't think they would be too keen on Railway Cup sides.

Perhaps the G.A.A. should try and ensure that the All-Ireland finalists play in Wembley each year. No doubt there will be problems, but they could be overcome.

## PHIL GANNON

I feel it's very important for the London G.A.A. that the games are kept alive. It would

be a great pity if they were to die.

It's not easy to find a suitable date or suitable arrangement for the Wembley Games, and perhaps taking a Railway Cup final there might be worth investigating.

The Wembley Games are in dire need of a boost, wherever it is to come from.

## MICK RYAN

I see a very bleak future for the Wembley Games. The players and the counties seem to have lost interest.

And let's face it, a weekend trip to London is not like winning the Sweep. The organisation at London's end is not good and if it's to be saved they will have to pull up their socks.

I wouldn't recommend staging the Railway Cup in London—it would serve no useful purpose in my opinion.

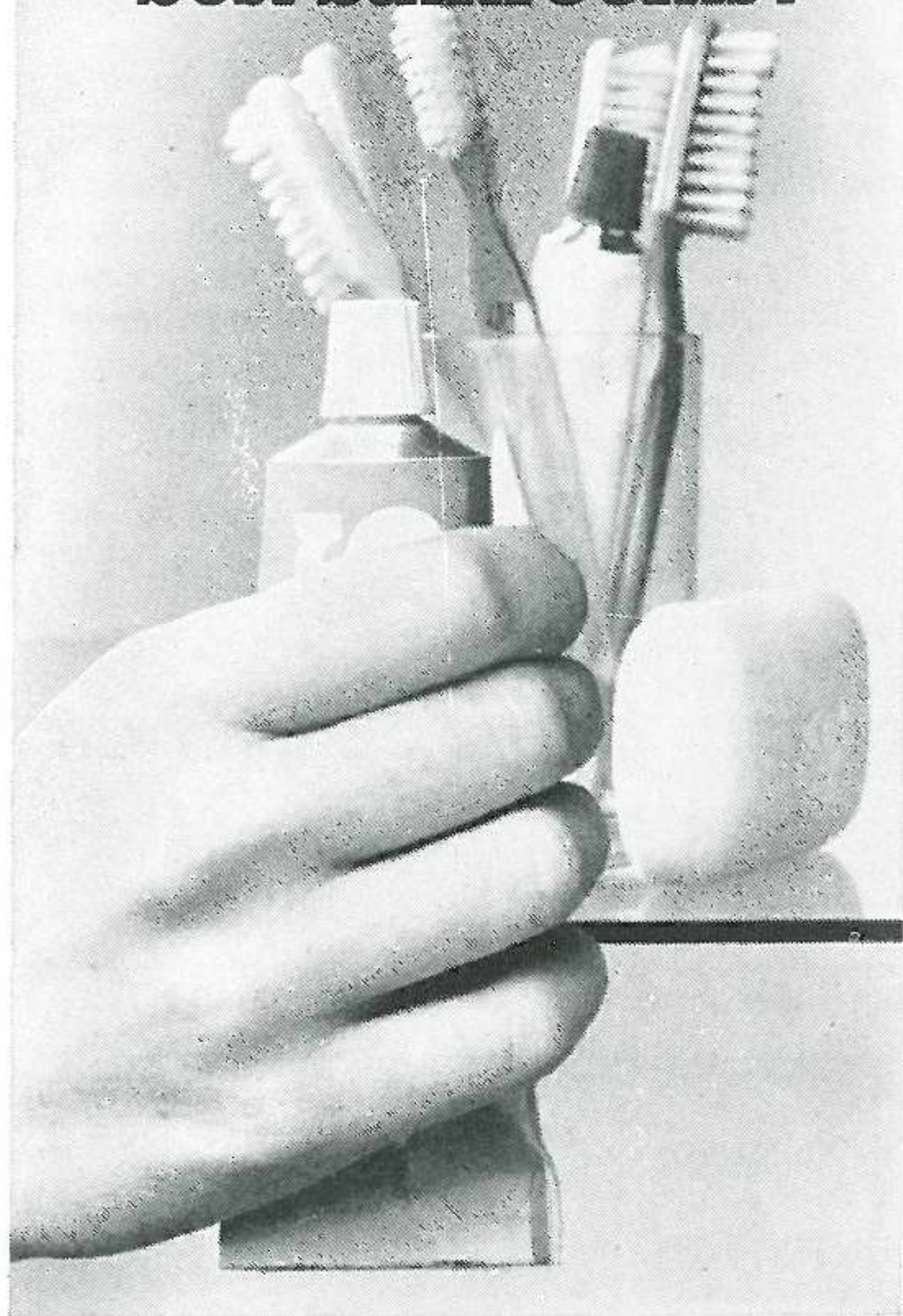
## GAY O'DRISCOLL

It's a perk for the players and as such must be a good thing. But I realise that it's losing a lot of its glamour.

I have doubts that it has much crowd pulling appeal, and efforts to improve this are obviously needed.

I don't honestly feel that taking the Railway Cup to London will solve their problem. This competition is having its own worries at the moment, and it would need to be improved before one could think of "exporting" it.

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By LINDA COLLINS

# SPRINGTIME

*When the cobwebs of Winter's gloom  
are gently unspun  
To reveal a glittering new world,  
as yet unsung.*

**T**HERE is nothing like Spring for getting one's energy levels rising. The days of 'flu, sniffles and dark evenings are being left behind and from now on we'll be feeling better, looking better and life won't require the effort that it takes to live it fully in winter.

There are many practical and sound expressions of the mood of spring and most of them can be summed up in those two words Spring Cleaning but why limit ourselves to that aspect? When the house has been refurbished most of us turn attention to ourselves, and a new outfit can make a fantastic difference to morale, put us in the all's-right-with-the-world mood. In fact if you get yourself a series of morale-builders, brighten up life with a few little treats, almost spoil yourself for a bit, then the tasks of Spring will be all the easier and the cleaning, painting, or stripping down the car engine or whatever task comes highest on your Spring list of things to be done, will be zipped through by the new you in record time.

If something new to wear is top of your Spring priority list, you could by investing in the sort of garments made by Ideal Mens-

wear, actually beat the current rate of inflation and stay ahead of it for years. This is because Ideal Menswear ranges at the moment feature some of the best cloths in the world, tailored to the highest standards. The company moves with the times when it comes to styling, but refuses to compromise on quality and anything bearing their label is remarkably good value for money in to-day's terms. For the man who wishes to look well dressed in a sophisticated or casual but always unobtrusive way, this is one range very well worth seeing. Ideal Menswear suits come in various fittings to streamline all types of figure and their range of sportscoats is superb. Whether you want the best of Irish tweeds or a smooth worsted, Ideal Menswear can provide it for you. The company regularly exports its merchandise to prestige shops in Europe, Canada and other far-flung places. It is only when you come across a sports jacket by Ideal Menswear in a most exclusive menswear shop in Paris—and your mind boggles at the price they're asking for it—that you realise just how lucky Irishmen are to be able to buy goods

like this at home at a fraction of what they cost abroad. Look for the Dunloe label next time you are shopping and you have an Ideal Menswear quality garment.

Spring is also a good time to invest in labour-saving equipment for the house. Getting it installed frees the householder, in many cases, from boring chores and adds immensely to general family comfort. A really modern washing machine which takes the guesswork out of dealing with all those new synthetics and mixture fabrics, a dishwasher that will truly clean a greasy pot, not just wash up the easy cups and plates, or an electric cooker that practically thinks for itself, is the sort of thing that can enhance the quality of life. Siemens, the world famous firm (responsible, did you know, for the Shannon Hydro-electric scheme in the old days and the supply of all equipment at the E.S.B.'s huge Turlough Hill plant today) make all these items. And they make them to last, which is important in these days when too many gimcrack items are on the market.

We haven't space to go into detail about Siemens equipment but a visit to any Siemens stockist—and they are to be found in all parts of Ireland—will quickly put you in the picture. Superb quality is Siemens prime consideration, of course. All their products are designed and built to do an efficient job of work over a long period. It is a comfort, however, to know that if and when anything does go wrong or a machine needs spare parts, a service is available which will ensure that your machine is back in working order within three days. Twelve Siemens service vans throughout the country are fully equipped with stocks of spare parts which can be fitted immediately where needed, and fourteen Siemens technicians, all highly qualified and experienced men, will travel anywhere in Ireland so that all repair work can be carried out in your home. This superb

● OVERLEAF

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### ● FROM OVERLEAF

Siemens service is available completely free during the twelve month guarantee period and after that you can opt to keep on availing of it, on payment of a reasonable charge. Remember, this applies also to the terrific colour TV sets produced by Siemens. Colour by Siemens, even to the eye of the lay person, is amazingly good and signs on it, sets are sold as fast as Irish workpeople can assemble them.

Magee of Donegal are an Irish company whose product, despite free trade, can compete with its international peers. Look at their elegantly styled suits, sports jackets and slacks. They have suits to fit any man, Magee's range of styling caters for the young executive who wants a modern, "with-it" styling, as well as the middle aged man requiring a more classically styled suit. The price of Magee clothes, despite the incredible increase in wages and factory overheads, has been kept at a reasonable level. The way they have been able to do this is by investing heavily in new machinery and by using the latest techniques in order to obtain greater productivity.

As a result of all this, Magee clothes have carved out a bigger share of the market, both at home and abroad; and the quality of their cloths is winning new friends everywhere.

When you look at Magee, and the efforts they have made and are making to maintain their quality and sales (and, indeed, to keep up employment) you will understand why I feel the Guaranteed Irish symbol has come at a most opportune time. They are an Irish firm which, by constant thought and inspired by extensive foreign travel on the part of all executives, is determined to survey and compete with anything other countries may do. Designs and techniques are up to the minute, and the cloths used are as Irish as we are. They have done, and are doing, their best to give their customers a magnificent product — a product they are proud to stand over and guarantee.

Doing some Spring decorating,

whether you tackle the job yourself or call in the decorators, is a Spring tonic in itself. What holds many of us back however, is not our lack of expertise with the bucket and brush and the scraper and filling knife—but the fact that we don't trust our own instinct when it comes to choosing colours and patterns. One of the best and most helpful ideas to have emerged for a long time from a paint company is the "Colourmatch Dial a Colour Ready Selector" by Crown. To my mind it seems absolutely foolproof and I was immensely impressed with the range, variety and effectiveness of the colour schemes it makes available. Here at last is a way of working out a scheme that will actually look as though it was put together by a professional decorator. And Crown also supply all sorts of useful tips on how to go about making your choice. Ask at the paintshop if they have a copy of the Crown Book of Colour and

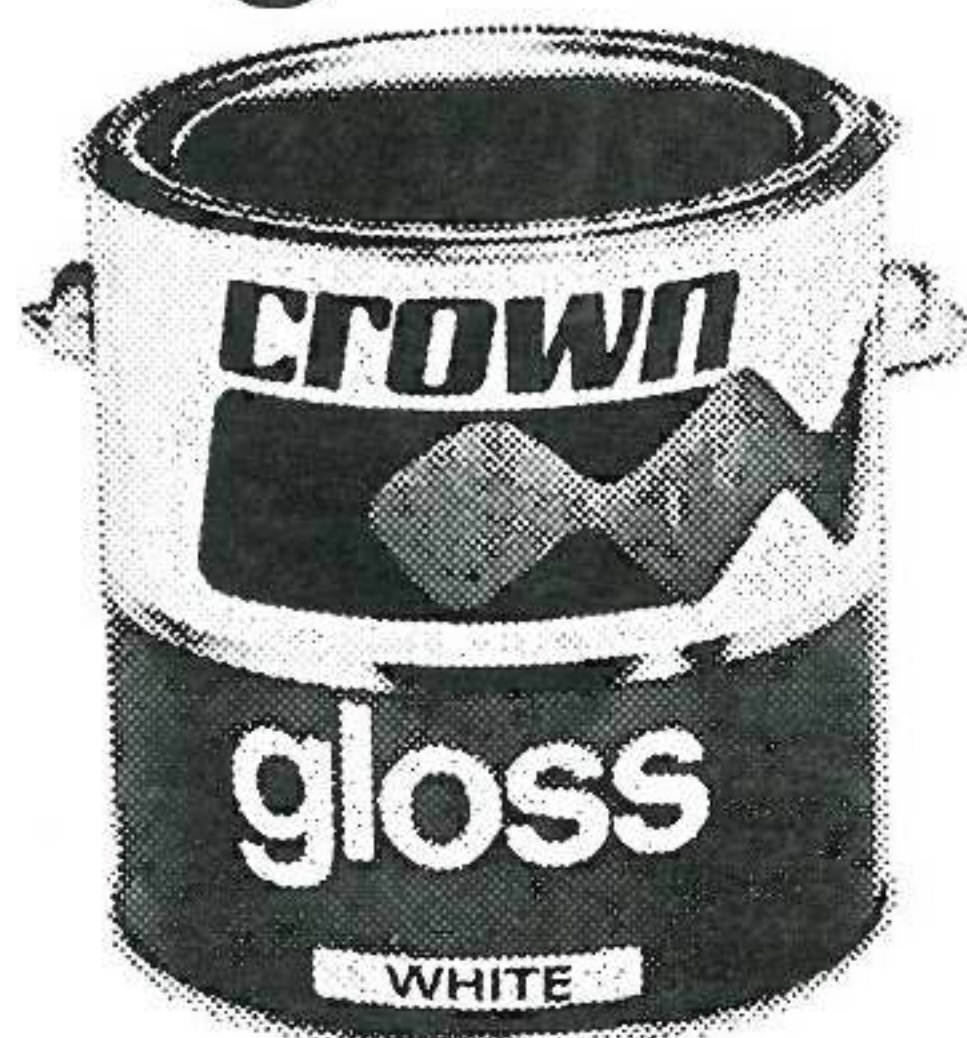
Design and a look through it will tell you all you need to know about how that wallpaper you fancy can be hung so as to look its best.

Crown wallpapers can be seen in shops throughout the country. The Crown paints range is fabulous too and contains those sophisticated subtle shades that are such a joy to use. The Company tell us that most Irish people still buy far more white paint than any other colour—and in itself that indicates a sensible

choice. But maybe this Spring is the year when we'll become adventurous. And to come down to earth for a moment, you can still buy that marvellous Walpamur Degreasing Liquid to clean down heavily soiled surfaces before you start work. You may have to ask your stockist to order it but it is worth waiting for. Nothing else shifts all that impacted grease off the wall behind the cooker with such ease, as Degreasing Liquid.

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● FROM OVERLEAF

The shop for all your requirements for home decorating is Monsell Mitchell, Pearse Street and Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin. They cater specially for the do-it-yourself handyman and

their experienced staff can be relied on for expert advice and assistance.

There are going to be more well-dressed Irishmen around this Spring than ever before and a lot of them will be dressed by Dub-

tex. John and Peter White, the young men responsible for the success of this firm, say that one of the best things that ever happened to Irish menswear was the establishment of so many modern menswear shops in every art and part of the the country. Many of these are small but all of them are go-ahead — and in most of them you'll find Dubtex merchandise. For Spring, Dubtex are presenting a classic, classy image, something that is going to be a novelty for many young men who have spent their lives up to now in jeans. How about looking at their slimline Shetland sports jackets, to take just one instance? The woolly cloth has an attractive fuzz to the surface and the colours are newly subtle. But that's just one idea among many. To team up with a jacket Dubtex present many different styles of slacks. In fact when it comes to slacks you'll find Dubtex do practically every colour, style and fitting in the book. They make the ultra fashionable flares and baggies, the more restrained versions of these and to complete the picture they also do straight-line pants — these we are told may be enjoying a comeback pretty soon as a major fashion trend.

Communion and Confirmation outfits by Dubtex dominate the market this time of year. In 1976 the youngsters are going to be delighted because the young chaps of today are by no means satisfied just to be bundled into a grey suit for the big day and no questions asked. Dubtex give them a chance to use their initiative—without wrecking the family budget in the process. For instance a checked jacket is made to team with plain pants, or vice versa. The co-ordination is really subtle and another advantage is that the items can be bought separately. At the Communion stage lots of lads aren't, strictly speaking, a stock suit size—this idea from Dubtex lets one exercise a bit of mix 'n match so the final outfit is perfection itself. And one settles for nothing less than perfection on this particular occasion in a boy's life.

...With our superb range of Dubtex Young Generation suits, jackets, slacks. Great cloth, great cut, great prices. Come and see for yourself. As we said, we'll suit you beautifully.

We'll suit you  
Beautifully

YOUNG  
GENERATION  
BY DUBTEX  
MADE IN  
IRELAND

# SCORESHEET

● FROM PAGE 11

of six centuries of points is the peak in football.

The Sligo man had his most rewarding year in the scoring stakes in 1972 when he shot 142 points (4-130) in 19 engagements; the Connacht record.

**TONY McTAGUE** passed out the century barrier for the fifth year in succession in 1972 and in the process the Offaly man helped himself to the Leinster record score of 135 points (2-129) in 18 ties.

**MICK O'DWYER** scored 100 points-plus for the fourth year in a row in 1972. The Kerry ace had his record season in 1970 when his expert finishing yielded a whopping 161 points (13-122) from 26 appearances, and this stands understandably enough as the national high-point in football.

In all, then, only six players in the big ball code got among the centuries in

the first six years of the 'Seventies.

**RICHIE BENNIS** bridged a four-year gap in hurling when he became only the eighth member of this small and exclusive company of ace marksmen by shooting 6-95 (113 points) in 16 matches in 1971.

The following year was a rewarding one with both **FRANCIS LOUGHNANE** and **CHARLIE McCARTHY** earning their spurs. The Tipperary hurler landed 16-65 (113 points) in 16 games, and the Cork man notched up 13-64 (103 points) in 15 appearances.

The last year that a new name was written into the hurling membership was 1973. **TOM BYRNE** was the player in the spotlight, and in the process he became the first Leinster hurler to gain entry since surprisingly 1964. The Wexford man finished in second place nationally in 1973 on 16-76 (124 points) in 20 engagements.

**BENNIS** had his second century-plus campaign in 1973, and

his bag of 114 points (9-87) in 17 outings is now the Limerick county record.

**LOUGHNANE** shot 106 points in 1973 and reached a personal best in 1974 on 114 points (13-75) after 16 matches.

But, of course, the man who has consistently dominated the membership chart is **EDDIE KEHER**. He has not, in fact, failed to reach three figures in any single year since 1965 — a truly remarkable run of eleven campaigns in succession, and one that hammers home very strongly yet again just what an amazing score-getter the great Kilkenny hurler is.

**KEHER** first reached the century of points barrier in 1963, and naturally enough he is now far ahead of the field in both codes in this regard.

**MICHAEL KEARINS** takes second place with those six campaigns in football, while **KEHER** is followed in hurling by **JIMMY DOYLE**, of Tipperary, who had five enteries in the chart between 1960 and 1969.

## CREEDON CARRIES A PROUD FLAG

● FROM PAGE 9

class and on the sporting field, young Creedon won championships at the javelin and might have gone a long way had football not taken over. He showed a sound analytical sense as distinct from the stimulated and vivacious and this characteristic shows plainly in his game.

Now what of the player's future? At twenty-one with only a few games in senior inter-county and those in secondary competition it's early to say. But what is to be seen gives confidence. The man has size, strength, a fine ground kick, a steady delivery off the hand, a sure fetch and good positional play. Whether he's alive enough to be always close to a fast moving centre forward is something we must

look for. Men who look slow are not always so, and indeed in a fair run for the ball Creedon can move. Quick reaction born of fast eyes and lightning reflexes is another thing however, and some players especially at centre-back depend more on shrewd analysis and waiting rather than impetuous driving forward. This ability to analyse, Creedon seems to have.

I asked Doney O'Donovan, Cork selector-coach, what he thought. "So far," said Doney quietly, "he's satisfactory. It's early yet to say how he'll get on and I'm not sure he wouldn't be a better full- than centre-back but then Humphrey Kelleher is going strong there. I'm happy enough with Tom Creedon as he is and

he will improve. He has a lot going for him."

So, let's leave it there and hope that he'll make it for Cork because the centre-back position has been a worry for some time though capably filled on occasions by wing half-backs John Coleman and Kevin Kehilly.

"He's a good sound man on the field anyway," I said to Majella Creedon, his mother and not having seen him a lot she was very pleased. "He should be," she replied with a smile, "for he's a very good lad at home. And they say he takes after me." Tom Creedon senior who hurled in St. Coleman's, Fermoy, grinned and said nothing. It's a good man knows when to hold his tongue.

# Travel without a hitch

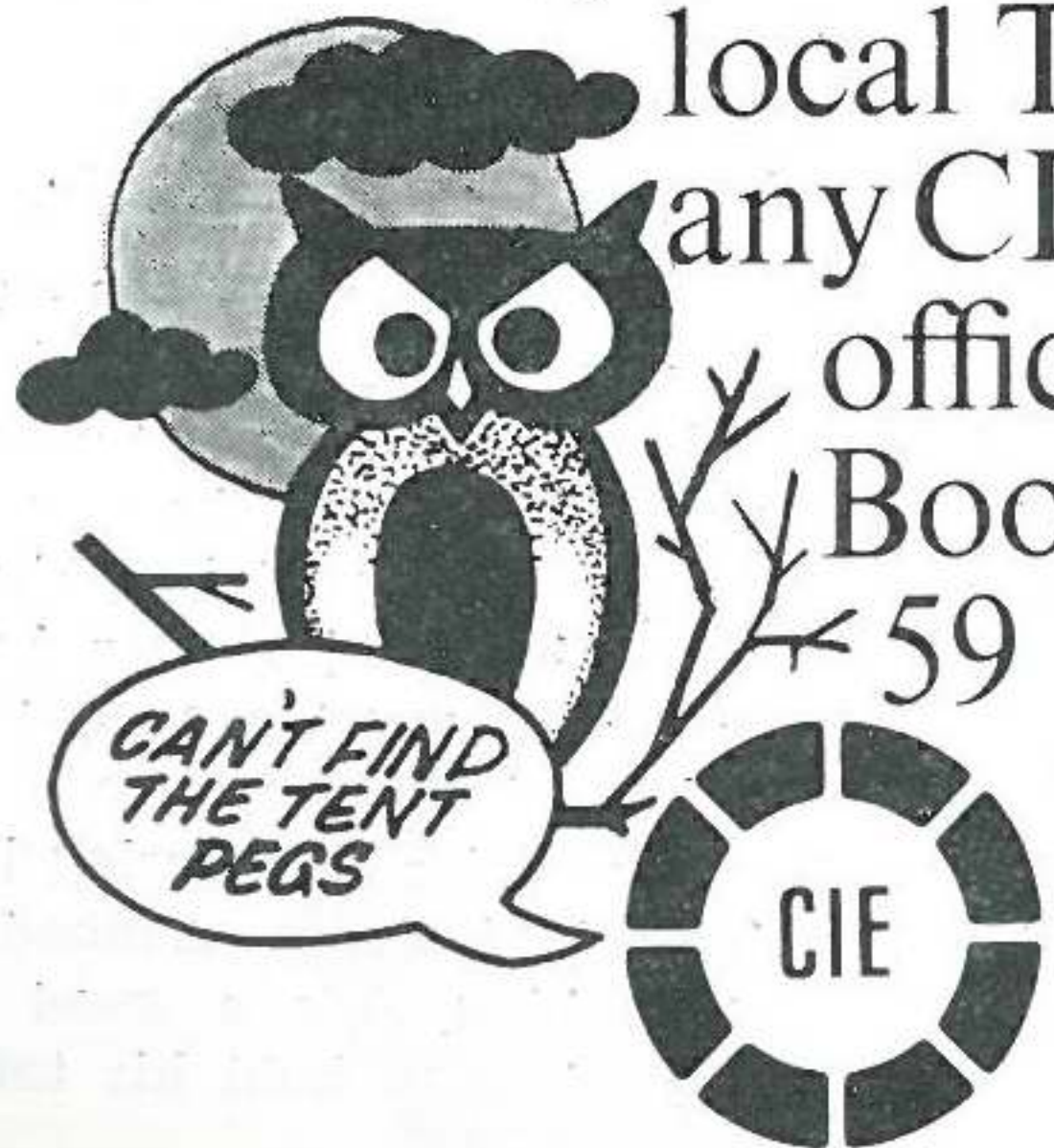
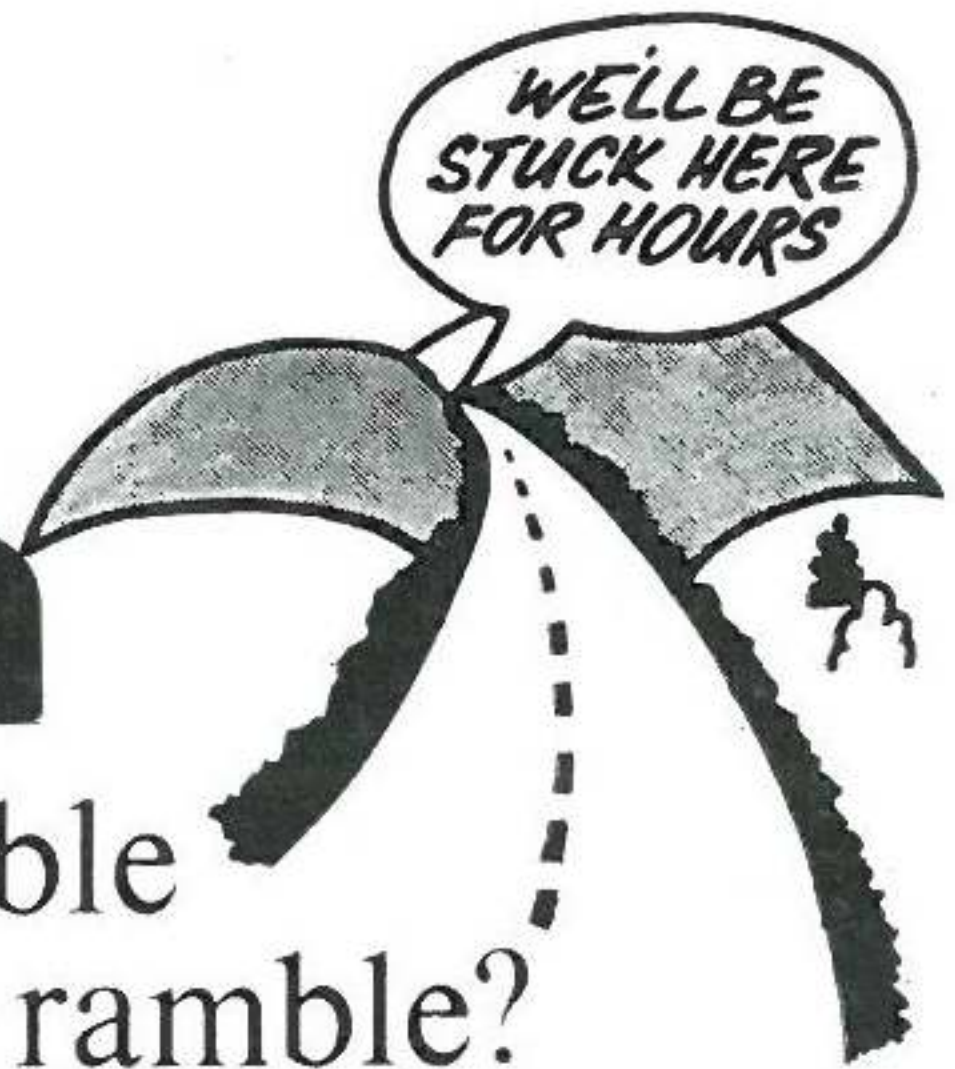
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● FROM PAGE 13

casting Dublin-Derry and Galway-Kerry semi-finals.

The destination of the title depends on a lot of factors. One thing, though, will not affect the issue—the trip to America—since the League will be over before Kerry set off for the U.S. A major consideration must be whether Kerry are as hungry for League success as they were for championship triumph last September. Many of their players have league medals and they surely have made up their minds that retaining the Sam Maguire Cup must be the primary objective in '76.

That's not to say, of course, that they will take their league engagements casually, but I have the feeling there will be no intense preparations for the remaining league matches as there would be later for the championship ties. Unless, that is, they qualify for a league final with Dublin; then we could take it they would be just as anxious to win as they were in September, especially since they have already gone down to the Dubs in the current league. Facing Dublin, Kerry's motivation would be different.

The sad feature of the hurling league is Galway's decline. We must hope—for their sakes and the good of hurling — that it's only a temporary slump. But who takes over the title? So few Kilkenny players—Pat Henderson and Eddie Keher, in fact—have league medals that we can expect the All-Ireland champions to make extra efforts when the competition resumes. They have won so many hurling honours that they want to round off their collection by taking the League for the first time in ten years to the Nore.

Although they have only four points from four matches they have Cork at home in Nowlan Park on February 8 and if they were to beat Wexford in Ennis-



● Ken Rennicks, an inspiration in Meath's march to National Football League victory in '75.

corthy they would be safe to get to the knock-out part of the league. Clare complete their programme against Tipperary and since they are not in the habit of losing at home in latter seasons we can take it seven points would take them through, too.

These may be the quarter-finals (but only after a set of play-offs to sort them out): Wexford v Waterford, Cork v Limerick. The semi-finals could work out like this: Kilkenny v Cork

and Clare v Wexford.

Before the 1976-'77 National Football League commences next October the groupings will be changed again (yes again) according to suggestions from the Activities Committee which are approved by the Central Council. We are to have Division 1 (North and South), Division 2A (North and South) and Division 2B (North and South). There is probably a ready explanation why there has to be two sections in Division 2 and not in the other division, but I must admit the logic or consistency of it, escapes me.

Why not simply create Divisions 1, 2 and 3 with north and south sections in each division instead of the confusion of Sections A and B in one division and not in the other. I hope the Activities Committee will have a change of mind about this before October.

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● Galway, the National Hurling League winners of 1975, will continue to be a power in the game.

● FROM PAGE 8

rooms, field, meeting room, perhaps — must stand comparison and competition from the fully developed large club nearest to it.

It seems to me that there is an ominous inevitability about this: the large will get larger, the small will get more and more outplayed and outmatched in what they can offer. The gobbling up process must follow. The only way to withstand the attraction of the larger unit is to band several smaller ones together into a club of equal size. So, one way or the other, it appears to be a concentration of the clubs into much larger ones and very many fewer.

Naturally, the sense of county

identity will grow smaller as the number of clubs involved grow fewer. Preferences will be for one's own club rather than a sharing of power with three or four others in a county team.

Thus the inter-county championships would have to go, and the inter-club All-Ireland would replace it. County championships would then be a limited or non-existent thing — probably replaced by National or Regional Leagues to back up the All-Ireland knock-out.

The next step after that would be that some of these clubs would become weaker than others; finances might not bear up to the load imposed on them. Others, meantime, go from success to success.

That way, it could all work out into the old story of the few powerful units dominating and the many struggling ones fighting on though bound by heavy limiting chains.

Should such a thing happen it will not be the same G.A.A. which has earned the success of almost a century. It was always — and still is — based on the club which was the natural growth of some community, whether of residence (like the parish) or of work (like the firm or vocational group) or interest (college, university, friendship). And, of course, if that basis is cracked, it is my opinion that it will be a bitter day for the G.A.A. and for the people to whom this outlet for communal pride is denied.



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● An indication of the worldwide recognition of adidas is the envelope pictured above. Posted in Ireland and simply stating the name adidas and "World famous for quality, Germany" it arrived safely at the adidas headquarters in Herzogenaurach, Germany.

## B+I AWARD FOR PAT KIRBY



● Mr. R. P. Quinn, Publicity Manager, B+I Line, presents the B+I Line/GAA Personality of the Month Award for November to Pat Kirby (Clare), Handballer of the Year 1975.

# THE CAMOGIE SCENE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

AS usual, the Ashbourne Cup competition, as it has done for more than half a century, provides the first big event of the new camogie season. Again, all seven universities in the country will be competing, and if Maynooth, who have the assistance of Kilkenny and Leinster star Angela Downey, succeed in winning the title for the first time, that would be a great landmark in the history of camogie's oldest competition.

Certainly if Maynooth continue to play as well as they have been doing in the Higher Institutes League they must travel to Galway for the February 14-15 weekend with reasonable hopes of success.

The Maynooth girls were unbeaten in the pre-Christmas stages of the C.C.I.A. (Higher Institutes) League, a competition which includes the Teacher Training Colleges as well as the Universities. The other unbeaten team in the Eastern zone was St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra.

St. Pat's have the assistance of three noted players, Nuala Jennings (Cork), Dorothy Walsh (Wexford) and Midge Poniard (Galway) and the meeting between themselves and Maynooth should be a clash worth travelling a long way to see. If the Drumcondra side is the most successful, all the Training Colleges, including the National College of Physical Education in Limerick, now possess thriving camogie teams, and the fact that Primary teachers, who are themselves active camogie players, will now be taking up positions through the country will give a much-needed boost to the efforts being made to spread the game amongst the Primary schools.

A Council set up by last Con-

gress to deal with organising the game in the Primary schools has already done much good work. There were already several counties in which Primary school competitions have been organised, and that number is increasing steadily. At present Dublin has some 18 Primary schools active. Many of these have been playing friendly games between themselves, and a competition will get under way later in the Spring.

Commensurate progress has been made in other centres, but a difficulty has been that a number of teachers had very little direct interest in promoting the game. The enthusiasm in the Training Colleges at present, however, is a very hopeful development. When those student-players become teachers themselves it is obvious that they will bring their enthusiasm for the game with them into their schools.

Leinster Convention decided to play the senior championship on an open draw system this year, and again there will only be three counties in that competition. Of course until recently Leinster was the only province with a proper senior championship, but this competition was revived in Munster in 1973 and 1974, and in 1975 four counties took part.

However, the difficulty in Leinster has been that the counties dominating the junior provincial championship are those with teams in the senior grade already.

However, on all the evidence we saw in 1975, both at inter-county and inter-club level, Kildare should be good enough to move up to the top grade during the months ahead.

There is no great hope of see-

ing full-scale senior championships restored in Ulster and Connaught in the immediate future unless, of course, there is some move to end the present open draw system of running the All-Ireland senior competition.

The open draw was only adopted for an experimental period but has proved so successful that, as I see it, there is very little to be gained by reverting to the old system.

Meanwhile, after the Ashbourne we will have the concluding stages of the All-Ireland Club championship for which Athenry, Newry, Buffers Alley (Wexford) and the Munster champions, Croagh (Limerick) or Drom and Inch (Tipperary) are in contention. In my opinion Buffer's Alley look the most likely to win through.

## JUNIOR DESK AWARDS —1975

Congratulations to all concerned, especially Paddy Downey (*Irish Times*), winner in the G.A.A. Journalist of the Year section for the fourth successive year. Almost as good as Eddie Keher and Pat Hartigan.

### 1975 JUNIOR DESK AWARDS

**Top Footballer:** John O'Keeffe (Kerry).

**Top Hurler:** Liam "Chunky" O'Brien (Kilkenny).

**Top Camogie Star:** Bridget Doyle (Wexford).

**Top Handballer:** Pat Kirby (Clare).

**Top G.A.A. Journalist:** Paddy Downey (*Irish Times*).

**Top Referee:** John Moloney (Tipperary).

**Top G.A.A. Official:** Sean Ó Síocháin and Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry).

**Score of the Year:** John Egan's goal for Kerry v Dublin in the 1975 All-Ireland S.F. final.

# JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON



AS always nowadays, we have a very full Mailbag. So I'll have no chance to say anything myself. Still, this is your forum not mine. Earlier on, I had plenty of time and space to air my own views on everything and anything. There are some regular readers who enjoy the list of G.A.A. books I include. This month's list is as follows:

**1. Westmeath G.A.A. Yearbook 1976** — A first-class production and an absolute credit to editor Gerry Whelan and the Co. Board generally. Well up to previous years' standards. Its high points are a G.A.A. Quiz (better than the usual and well researched), a fine interview with Fr. Leo Morahan on "Drink and the G.A.A.", a very fine tribute to Carmelite College, Moate, and to Fr. Cremin, known affectionately as "Joe", by a former student, Noel Daly; the best Westmeath team from 1950 to 1975 (how could they have left out my former team-mate Paddy Dunne of Kinnegad, regarded highly by the mighty Mick O'Connell for a marvellous display once in Tuam?); a fine pictorial centre-piece . . . I find it hard not to mention everything.

(Price 70p does not include postage from Mr. Gerry Whelan, Editor, The Westmeath Examiner Ltd., Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.)

**2. The Days of the Little Green Apples, by David Guiney** — A 120-page collection of Guiney's best. Dave is a man of many interests and his stories or fables are racy, spicy, interesting and at times funny, indeed hilarious. He has travelled widely as a sportsman and journalist and has made many friends. I may be wrong, but I suggest that the G.A.A. is closest to his heart

and this is reflected in his "Little Green Apples".

(Price 70p does not include postage from Gaelic Press Ltd., 21 Great Denmark St., Dublin 1.)

**3. Mayo G.A.A. Yearbook 1976.** The cover is the best to date. The standard is higher than in previous years — photos are produced better. Layout is better too. I would like to have seen an editorial, also details of previous issues for the benefit of new readers. The tributes to the late Henry Kenny are first-class and richly deserved. Tommy O'Malley's article, like John P. Kean's last year, is well worth reading. Terry Reilly's tribute to Paddy Greham, popularly known as Paddy Bluett, will be read far and wide and will have a deserved place in Mayo football folklore. The club affairs section, 1975, should be part of every Co. G.A.A. Yearbook and for this alone ALL other counties should study the Mayo Yearbook.

(Price 50p does not include postage from Mr. Tom Courell, Editor, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.)

**4. An Choinneal — Ninth edition of Louisburgh, Co. Mayo, Parish Magazine.**

This is not a G.A.A. magazine but it is the best parish magazine I know. Any parish in Ireland with any ambitions in this direction should get a copy. It abounds with ideas. The layout is superb. Its letters section — a regular feature — usually from Louisburgh exiles, is as well presented as in *Time* magazine. But then need I tell you that the editor is that man of many talents, Fr. Leo Morahan.

(Price 50p does not include postage from Mrs. Clementine Lyons, N.T., Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.)

**5. Our Games Annual—1976.**

I've listed this last month. Its colour photo section is great. The *piece de resistance* of the Annual is Justin Nelson's explanation of how R.T.E. gives us the All-Ireland finals. The coaching charts are in handy form, though not in colour. I must praise the Quiz Scene, compiled by You Know Who!

(Price 80p does not include postage from C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrócaigh, Ath Cliath 3.)

At the time of writing I haven't yet received the Solo Annual, Kerry or Offaly G.A.A. Yearbooks. When I do I will review them here. Or, indeed, any other G.A.A. publication I receive.

## CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Fermanagh's Peter McGinnity from Roslea Shamrocks and St. Joseph's Training College, Belfast. The lanky left-footer is a brilliant fielder and a great man to cut through and score. Trouble is we see too little of him. I'd like to see the Railway Cups go in most ways, but then without them would we ever see men like Peter McGinnity or would we ever have seen Gerry O'Reilly or P. T. Treacy, Jobber McGrath or Paddy Molloy? Keep the old Fermanagh flag flying, Peter.

## MAILBAG

LAST month's Mailbag (our biggest ever) couldn't include all letters received. So I have picked out the best points from the letters not included and give them pride of place here.

● OVERLEAF

# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

## ● FROM OVERLEAF

**"Kerry Gael", Valentia, Co. Kerry (name enclosed)**—"I don't rate John Moloney as highly as you do. He is scrupulously fair alright but a bit 'finicky'. My own favourite is Paul Kelly."

● *I still think John Moloney is great. For that matter I like Paul Kelly too. Both are fit, honest and obviously think deeply about refereeing and perform a difficult task well. (J.M.)*

**Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly**—"Moneygall had a great year. We had a great time in the parish when they won their first Tipperary S.H.C. final by 3-13 to 0-5. We lit a fire at our gate as the team passed from Thurles to Dunkerrin and on to Moneygall. On Monday Pat Sheedy, Philip and Séamus Ryan, Billy and Philip Fanning came to the school with the Dan Breen Cup. We got orange and crisps again and a free day. Pat Sheedy brought the Cup to our home too. He is a teacher in Moate Carmelite College."

● *A great letter Paul. You must be thrilled. (J.M.)*

**"Wexford Fan", Ballyrue, New Ross, Co. Wexford**—"Tony Doran should have been selected for the All-Stars."

● *I hope he gets an All-Star Award before he retires because he is a great hearted player. (J.M.)*

**Stephen Higgins, 89 Baker's Road, Cork City (aged 9)**—"I think Martin Coleman is a great goalkeeper. I also like Paddy Barry and Charlie McCarthy."

● *Every young lad in Cork likes wee Charlie. (J.M.)*

**"Cork Fan", 6 Liam Var Grove, Bishopstown, Cork**—"I enjoyed your Quizbook. So did my father. My club won the Bishopstown U-11 hurling Street League final. I want a Cut-out of John Crowley and Denis Burns".

● *There is great excitement at a Street League final isn't there? (J.M.)*

**John Sweeney (aged 13), 71 Valley Park Road, Finglas South,**

**Dublin 11**—"This is my first letter to Junior Desk. I have just started collecting programmes and want a copy of this year's S.F. All-Ireland Final programme. I would like a Pen Friend in Kilkenny and I want a Cut-out of Liam O'Brien or Tony Hanahoe. Junior Desk gets better all the time."

● *Kilkenny fans please note John's Pen-Friend request. (J.M.)*

**Kevin Beary, 3 Shanrath Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9**—"My favourite Dublin players are Anton O'Toole, Paddy Cullen, Alan Larkin, Brian Mullins, Dave Hickey and Bobby Doyle. Junior Desk is very good".

● *Thanks Kevin. You must know Jim Crowley the former Dublin star who lives near you. (J.M.)*

**Brendan O'Sullivan, Coomerkane, Glengarriff, Co. Cork**—"My favourites are Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Billy Morgan, John Egan, Martin Coleman, Eddie Keher and Charlie McCarthy."

● *These Cork fans never forget Charlie or indeed Jimmy Barry-Murphy. (J.M.)*

**John Coyle (aged 15), Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**—"I want a Cut-out of Ray Cummins, J. Barry Murphy, P. J. Qualter, Charlie McCarthy or Christy Ring. Could you give us 2 Cut-outs per month. I am a new writer to your column."

● *A Cut-out of Christy Ring is due again. He was a fantastic hurler. I will tell you more about him in a future column. (J.M.)*

**Séamus Woulfe, 11 Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5**—"I think the method of selecting the All-Stars must be changed. I would entrust the job to Dr. Donal Keenan, Sean Ó Siocháin and the 4 Provincial Secretaries. Two that deserved selection were Eamonn Cregan and David Hickey. I have done some research on the All-Stars and the clubs with the greatest representation since the start are South Liberties (9) in hurling and Nemo Rangers (5) and Austin Stacks (5) in football. The pro-

gramme for the Dublin v Kerry N.F.L. game was a disgrace. I can't agree with Andy Croak in saying the All-Ireland programmes are over-produced. They were great and worthy of inclusion in anybody's collection. The All-Ireland club championships should **not** be scrapped. In fact they should be played in June.

London are being badly treated. All 4 All-Ireland finalists should replay the All-Ireland finals in Wembley. I was glad to see Jimmy Keaveney honoured as a Cut-out. On Saturday mornings he coaches a team of young lads from St. Vincents and sometimes on Sunday mornings too. He is a great clubman and is an example to others. I would like to swop a copy of this year's All-Ireland S.H. final programme for any other final programme (H. or F.) prior to 1974 with the exception of the 1973 S.H. programme. Why don't GAELIC SPORT bring out an Annual?"

● *As usual a great letter, Seamus. I can't agree with your All-Star selection suggestion. The present system has its faults but it is a good one. They should have at least ONE Connacht representative though. I think too that John D. Hickey (Irish Independent) is being very childish and predictable in his criticism of the selectors' choice. (J.M.)*

So much for all those forgotten in last month's Mailbag. Let's move on with this month's post.

**John Fallon (age 10), Clybawn, Knocknacarra, Galway**, thinks Jimmy Barry Murphy has great style and wants a colour Cut-Out of Tom Naughton or Frank Burke.

**Billy Igoe, Kelleter, Killoe, Co. Longford**, wants a colour Cut-Out of Longford's Jimmy Hanniffy.

**Tom Moore, Walshtownmore, Midleton, Co. Cork**, wants a Cut-Out of Eddie Keher or Fan Larkin.

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co.**



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

Wicklow, visited Croke Park on nine occasions in 1975 and thinks the games of the year were the Cork v Galway S.H.C. All-Ireland semi-final and the Dublin v Kerry N.F.L. game in Croke Park on November 9, and he was lucky enough to see both games.

● *That's better than myself, Gerry. Hope you see as many good games in 1976. (J.M.)*

**Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis Street, Edenderry, Co. Offaly** hopes Junior Desk will get even more space in 1976.

● *I hope so too. (J.M.)*

**Anne Walsh, 6 St. Stephen's Park, Castleisland, Co. Kerry** wants a Pen Pal anywhere in Limerick (photograph of Pen Pal wanted).

**Kathleen Curtin (age 17), Dromin, Listowel, Co. Kerry**, who has read Gaelic Sport since December 1969 and is writing for the first time, wants a Cut-Out of Ogie Moran, John O'Keeffe, Mickey Sheehy or Mickey O'Sullivan.

● *Fáilte romhat, Kathleen. (J.M.)*

**Christy Clancy, Ballytrasna, Fermoy, Co. Cork (age 11)** wants a Cut-Out of Billy Morgan, Ray Cummins or Gerald McCarthy. He loves Junior Desk and hopes R.T.E. shows more G.A.A. matches.

**Ronan Cogan, Beechcrest, Crosshaven, Co. Cork**, wants a Cut-Out of Micky O'Sullivan, Paudie Lynch, Paudie O'Mahony or Jimmy Barry-Murphy. "There is too much about Dublin in Gaelic Sport".

● *Still, Ronan, isn't it great to see Dublin back in both football and hurling? (J.M.)*

**Tommy Maher (age 14), Main Street, Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny** wants to know if the G.A.A. have any films on hurling or football.

● *The only films made to date were Peil and Christy Ring. Both were made in the early 'sixties and were sponsored by Gael Linn and Player Wills (Ireland) Ltd. It is past time that the G.A.A. themselves entered this field. (J.M.)*

**Frank McQuaid, 63 St. Fintan's Crescent, Sutton, Co. Dublin**, writing for the first time, wants a Cut-Out of Paddy Cullen.

**Willie Denihan (age 10), 30 St. Michael's Tce., Cappamore, Co. Limerick** wants a Cut-Out of Ray Cummins or Gerald McCarthy.

**Patrick League (age 17), Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly** is very critical of R.T.E.'s treatment of the G.A.A. He feels Dr. Donal Keenan deserves a "Cut-Out" as a fitting tribute to his service to the G.A.A. as President.

**Peadar Ó Dónaile, Baile an Fhuascaí, Cora Caitlín, Co. an Clár** is another Junior Desk fan who wants a Cut-Out of Dublin's Paddy Cullen.

**John F. Lyons, Creggane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway** is proud to write that he shook hands with Galway's John Connolly when Galway played Kilkenny in Ballinasloe.

**Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford** is disappointed that the Munster selectors didn't include a Waterford hurler on their hurling team. He would like if the *Irish Press* introduced a Player Of The Match for G.A.A. inter-county games as in their reports of soccer games.

Finally a letter from **Mattie McDermott, Ahane, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway**, who tells us the sad news that an old Junior Desk fan, **Oliver Conneely, Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway**, lost one of his legs in a motor accident. Remember Oliver? Well, he is doing his Leaving Cert. this year and has spent the last few months in hospital. He had a burning ambition to play for Galway and was developing into a fine footballer. "And you know," wrote Mattie, "what that right leg meant to Ollie."

● *Well, I have been up to the hospital more than once to see Oliver and I can tell you he is full of life and isn't going to lie down*

*under a heavy cross. Nor is he going to lose interest in the G.A.A. or in Junior Desk. But here is where you come in — ALL OF YOU. Sit down tonight and drop a note to Ollie. Because if Junior Desk means anything, it means fellowship and friendship and encouragement. We all need a wee bit of support at times. Indeed, if you were to meet Ollie and his elder brother Joseph, who lost one of his hands in the same accident, you would be given a lesson in how to meet adversity with a smile. Remember the address, **Oliver Conneely, Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway**, and write to him tonight.*

Mattie selected his best Ireland teams since 1970. I'll give you both.

**Football:** M. Furlong (O.), M. Ryan (O.), J. O'Keeffe (K.), D. O'Sullivan (K.), K. J. O'Sullivan (C.), T. J. Gilmore (G.), P. Reynolds (M.), D. Long (C.), W. Bryans (O.), S. Cooney (O.), K. Kilmurray (O.), M. Kearins (S.) (capt.), J. B. Murphy (C.), R. Cummins (C.), M. O'Dwyer (K.).

**Hurling:** N. Skehan (K.), F. Larkin (K.), P. Hartigan (L.), J. Treacy (K.), T. O'Connor (T.), P. Henderson (K.) (capt), C. Roche (C.), L. O'Brien (K.), G. McCarthy (C.), F. Loughnane (T.), J. Connolly (G.), E. Keher (K.), M. Quigley (W.), K. Purcell (K.), E. Cregan (L.).

Two good teams. I have to hold over some letters till next month. The Mailbag gets bigger all the time. Keep writing, though — on any G.A.A. topic you like — to:

**Junior Desk,  
Gaelic Sport,  
80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,  
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*Jack Mahon*

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leaves you breathless!





**Peter  
McGinnity  
Fermanagh**

**Age:** 22  
**Height:**  
6 ft. 2 ins.  
**Weight:**  
13 st. 6 lb.  
**Club:** Roslea  
**Position:** Midfield  
**Senior Inter-  
County Debut:**  
1971

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Peter was a bright teenage star of the Fermanagh team that won the Ulster Under-21 football title for the first time in 1970, and he also helped the county to a second Northern crown in this grade a year later. Winner of a county minor League medal with Roslea in the early 'Seventies, he has been prominent with St. Joseph's, Belfast, in the Universities' competitions, and he has made four appearances with Ulster in the Railway Cup. Peter will have a new role in the Ulster team as full forward in this month's semi-final with Munster.

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2 Coote Street  
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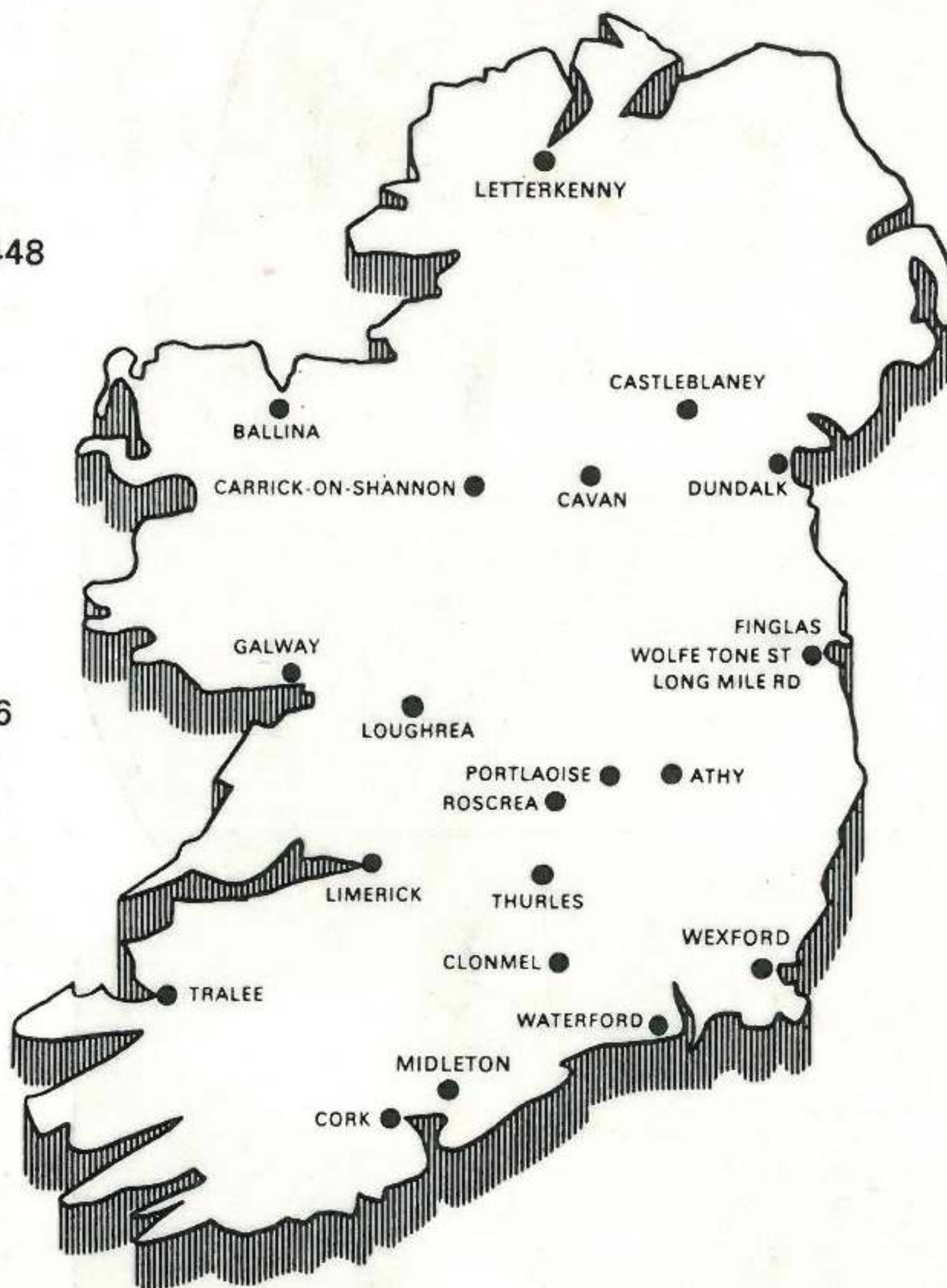
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