

152

GAA

# GAELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

FEBRUARY, 1977

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## TEXACO STARS HURLING



TONY DORAN  
FOOTBALL



JIMMY KEAVENEY



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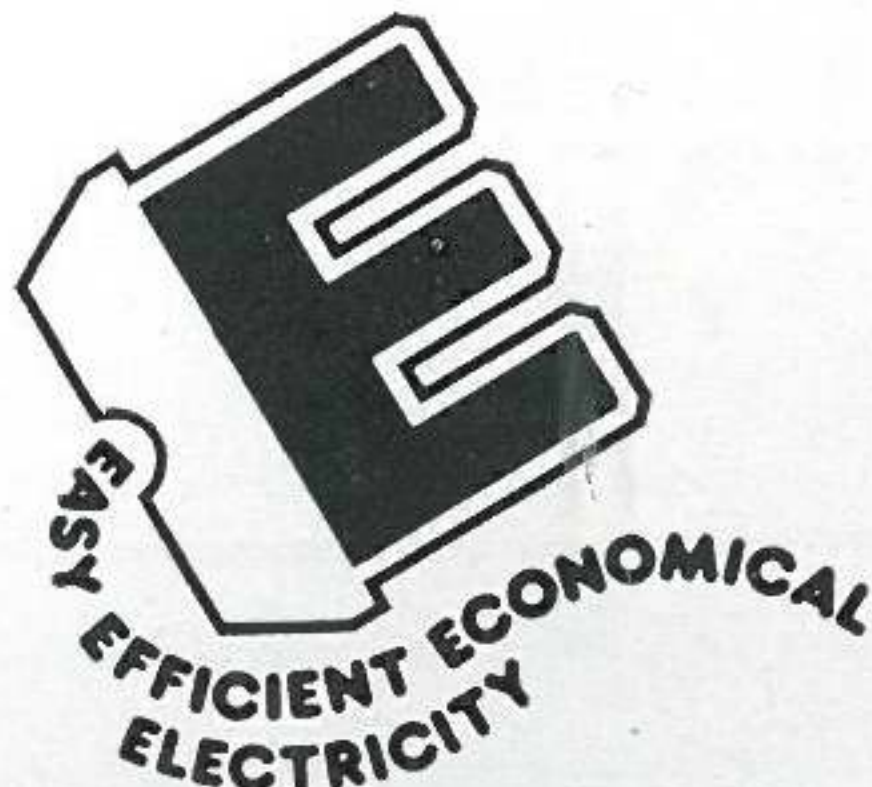


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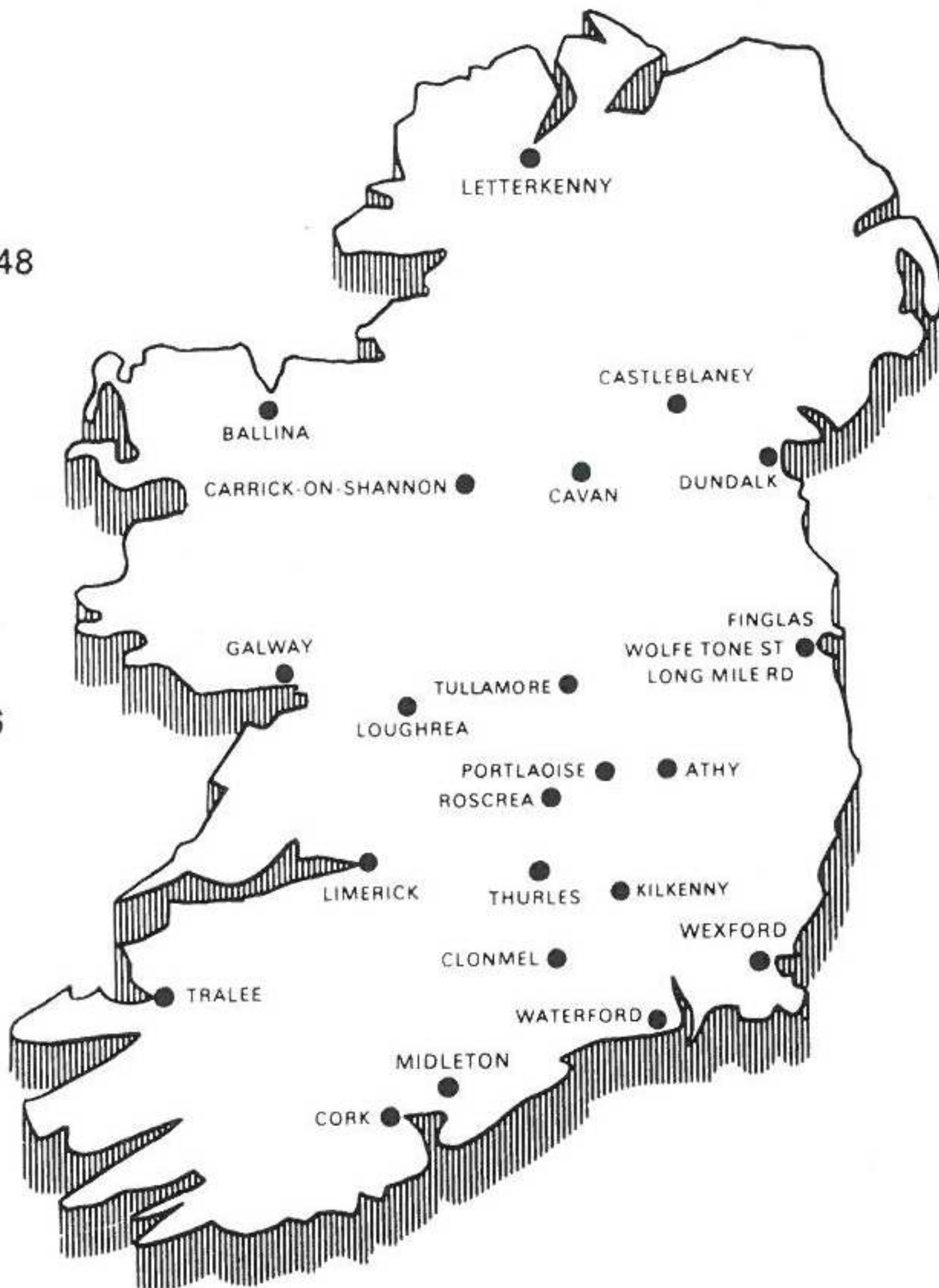
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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 20. No. 2. February, 1977

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

IT is becoming more and more fashionable at this time of year to call for the scrapping of the Railway Cup competitions. And, the old arguments are trotted out as well with monotonous regularity—falling attendances, a lack of interest among the players, and the over-crowded fixtures' list.

It is surely time that this negative outlook was replaced by a much more positive approach.

Granted, attendances have slumped alarmingly from the golden days of crowds of 30,000-plus at the finals. It is too easy, though, to argue that this is a valid reason for scrapping the competitions.

One must bear in mind that in recent years colourful parades have become attractive features of the St. Patrick's Day scene in many cities and towns throughout the country. And, the local parade is a compelling reason nowadays for the family man to remain at home with the children instead of journeying to Dublin for the inter-provincial games — especially with the finals televised live.

Then, television coverage had also ensured that the deciders, despite the fall-off in attendances, are being brought to a wider public than ever.

It is hardly fair, either, to the players to say that they have lost interest in the Railway Cup tests. Many, in fact, are on record as saying that they favour the continuation of the series.

Moreover, the fact that provincial teams have been putting in special training sessions in recent times is hardly an indication that the footballers and hurlers are not prepared to make the effort.

Another reason why we favour the positive approach is that the Railway Cup games provide players in the weaker counties with their only genuine opportunity of winning a national medal.

Last year we had a number of innovations on finals day, including step dancing, instrumental music and an athletic event. All very praiseworthy, no doubt, but we still much prefer to see the emphasis exclusively on the games.

In this regard, an interesting point was made by Dr. Donal Keenan, the immediate past President of the G.A.A., in a recent chat with GAELIC SPORT features writer Owen McCann. It was to the effect that it might prove worthwhile to avail of the Railway Cup to try out experimental playing rules under actual match conditions.

We see plenty of merit in such a move. It could enhance the spectator appeal of the Railway Cup tests, and lead to beneficial results for football and hurling as well in the long term.

At any rate, now that the Railway Cup games have survived fifty years — next month's games are the Golden Jubilee finals — let's try and give them a new lease of life. Scrapping the tests would be the easy way out.

## COVER PHOTO

ON our front cover, this month, we spotlight the Texaco Award winners, for hurling and football, of 1976 — Tony Doran (Wexford) and Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin). On pages 29 and 31, in this issue, Owen McCann takes a closer look at the careers of these two outstanding marksmen, who by their consistently wholehearted endeavours have not only brought honour and glory to their native counties but, also, have set a shining example to all the youth of our country.



# ANDY CROAK

The writer with the rasping comment

## Pub talk and how I saw the light

THEY say that when you listen in to a conversation you never hear a good word about yourself. I have evidence which denies part of that old saw, and verifies the rest of it.

I was sitting in a public house in Castlebar one night a few weeks ago, being in those parts to pay a visit to distant relatives and offer them the compliments of the New Year, and hoping at the same time that I might not go back to Dublin empty-handed, though dear knows it's not easy to travel by train with four or five stone of spuds, a few heads of cabbage and a dozen or two of eggs.

Anyway, as I was saying, I was sitting in this pub and it being next door to deserted, thanks to the man Frank Hall calls Richie Ruin, I couldn't help picking up snatches of conversation which floated down the counter from a wee snug at the end of the bar.

"He's nothing but a crank and a cribber with nothing favourable to say about anywan or anything" one voice said.

A second voice replied: "All I can say is I never miss buying GAELIC SPORT to read him because he's not afraid to speak his mind and show up things others are too bloody cowardly to show up. More like him we need and we'd have better games and better people running them. Did you see that bit he wrote about . . ."

"I saw everything he wrote" said the first voice, "and it made me puke. All he's out for is slaggin' and knockin' and sensation."

"Why do you read him so?" the second voice queried.

"Because," the other said, "Hi, Matt, give us two pints here. Because I'm a glutton for punishment, that's why so. And the worst of it all is the way he goes on about himself. 'I told you so, I was right again and all the others were wrong. Mr. Croak is the Greatest.' Mr. Croak me ass."

◇ ◇ ◇

I HELD my peace, of course, as any sensible man should do in a strange town. It was nice to know I had one fan but the exchange of opinions set me thinking. I decided to write a complimentary letter to the officials of the G.A.A. This is the text of it.

Dear Officials, — I hope you are all keeping well as this leaves me. I want to say how much I admire you all and to tell you how delighted I am that the association continues on the up and up, going from strength to strength.

Football was never better in all the provinces. The rules of the game are perfect, and for that you must take a well-deserved bow. The standard of refereeing all around the country was never at a higher level and I hear players and fans everywhere praising the way the perfect rules are perfectly interpreted.

It just shows that it pays to recruit, instruct and train referees in a professional way. They have done a great job stamping out persistent personal fouling, thanks to the firm way they've applied that grand rule you brought in a couple of years ago.

It is a great pleasure also to note how you've struck at those

miscreants who use bad language on the field. If I've one teeny fault to find with you on this score it's that you're a bit soft with foolish mercy and understanding. You should have booted the hoboos out for life, instead of suspending them for a few months.

Do you remember those regulations you brought out a while back, the ones about punctual starting of matches, proper attire of players, properly prepared pitches and the printing of programmes? Well, they're going great guns. I now hear of games that are starting so punctually they're getting under way a quarter of an hour and more before the advertised time. I'm told this is to give referees a better chance to detect bad language before the followers of the teams come in and make noise.

Is it true that referees are doing a course in lip-reading?

Speaking of programmes, I want to say that you're much too generous at most grounds. With my own eyes I've seen four-page "programmes" selling for only 15p. At that price you're quite right to have so many of the players' names misspelt.

I can't say enough in praise of the way you plan your fixtures. It was a stroke of genius to get the National Football League practically finished before Christmas, so that all the teams knocked out would have a good, long rest and plenty of time to think about their first (and in many cases only) outing in the championships next summer.

You are doing the right thing,



too, with the club championships. Those competitions are a dead loss and deserve no better treatment than they are getting. It's a pity the weather and pitches aren't worse at the time you play them.

Oh, and by the way. Don't forget to put on some more dancing and singing and running before the Railway Cup finals on St. Patrick's Day. It was a roaring success last year; knocked the games completely into the shade. In fact, you could scrub the games altogether. A couple of hours of the kind of sprinting we saw in '76 would bring forty thousand crowds back to Croke Park in no time.

There is a lot more I want to say, but I don't wish to take up your time. Before I close, however, I want to ask one favour. If you see any of the Carrolls All-Stars selectors will you convey to them hearty congratulations from me? I know I mentioned their marvellous work in GAELIC SPORT a couple of months back, but one can't say enough in praise of the teams they picked for 1976.

Yours truly,

**Andrew Bartley Croak.**

P.S. — Maybe you'd also tell the readers of GAELIC SPORT that I got the spuds and other stuff from the relatives in Mayo.



● **GERALD McCARTHY** (Cork), suspended for three months for using "bad language".

## CROAKETTES

**A**T this time of the year I like to look ahead and make a few predictions. Old Moore (of the Almanac) was my great-grand-uncle on the mother's side.

**MARCH** — The papers will be full of stupid comments about the imminent demise of the Railway Cups and many suggestions will be made to cure the disease that is threatening to kill. 12,468 people will attend the finals on St. Patrick's Day, and next day the Dublin evening papers will come out with proposals for alternative fixtures (all flogged to death many times before).

**APRIL** — Angry storms will erupt about the inadequate pocket-money being given to All-Star players for the American tour, G.A.A. officials will comment that the players have a cheek to protest—they should feel proud to be travelling and spending their own money.

**MAY** — Journalists from all the Dublin papers and R.T.E. will tour with the teams and tell us how important the games are, while some journalists back home (dogs barking in the manger) will run down the tour and point up how the loss of playing dates cripple competitions in Ireland.

**JUNE** — Ten players will be suspended for saying "Hell, ref., that's a damn bad decision."

**SEPTEMBER** — Dublin will not retain the All-Ireland football crown — if they get so far at all.

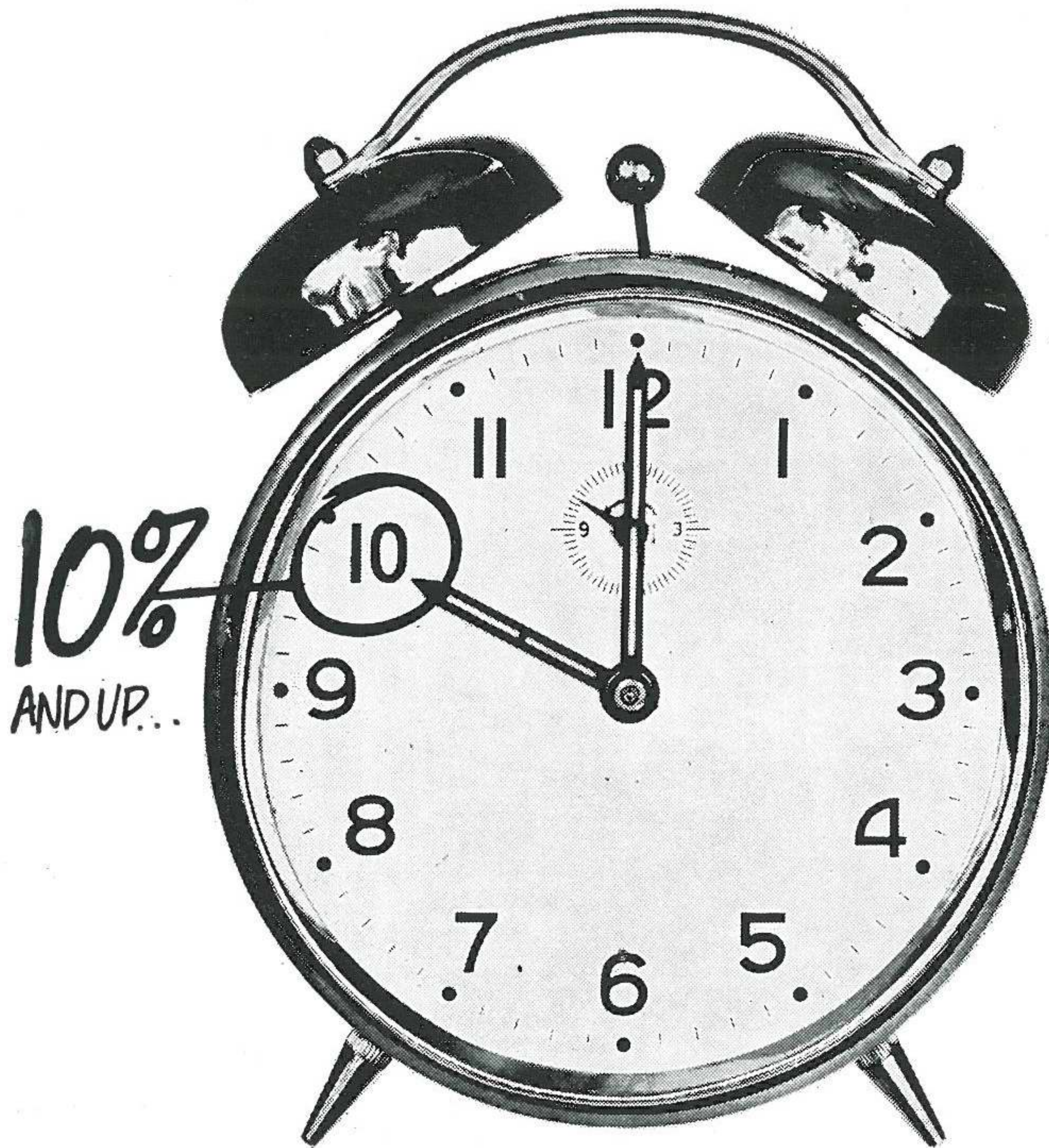
**NOVEMBER** — The selectors will make another botch of the Carrolls All-Stars teams.

**DECEMBER** — A provincial club final will be played on Christmas Day and the Activities Committee will arrange 14 National League play-offs in Division 2 (d) North-North-West for the following Sunday.



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# Rough road ahead for Clare

BY MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

NO doubt Clare hurlers enjoyed a very happy Christmas with full points from their five games before the National League closed down. As they get ready to play again in the knock-out stage of the competition more than just their own supporters are wondering if they can make it a prosperous New Year.

It's a very relevant thought just now as we are about to enter the more testing and exacting, and certainly more exciting, section of the League. Before the season resumed on January 30 Clare were in a much healthier position on the points table than they had been a year previously. Then, you may remember, they restarted the League with only five points from five matches — two wins, a draw, two defeats — yet they wound up as League finalists last May. In truth, they would have become the League champions but for Matt Ruth's very late point which gave Kilkenny a replay.

Now they have twice as many points. Consequently it's fair to say they are closer to the big

break-through than at any time in the recent past. All that remains is that they maintain their pre-Christmas invincibility and we would be rejoicing over the first county to surmount the hurdle of repeated disappointments since we acclaimed Lime-

rick as new League champions in 1971. But, of course, the question must be asked: can they continue the splendid form that left them unbeaten in the first half of the competition?

In hurling, unlike football, the power and strength is restricted to very few counties; the serious challengers for the major honours can be counted on the one hand in latter times. For far too long — and much longer than is good for the game of hurling not to mention the county's own morale — Clare promised a lot more than they achieved. Too often they have flattered and then deceived those of us who devoutly wish to see the power-base spread wider in hurling.

But if we neutrals have been frequently disappointed by Clare just think of the effect a succession of set-backs must have had on their own people. It's not as if they had been so weak in modern times that their supporters might become resigned to what could appear as a destiny of defeat; tantalisingly their teams have

● TO PAGE 9



● Enda O'Connor, Clare's centre half forward, seen here leading a Munster attack during the 1975 Railway Cup series.



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● FROM PAGE 7

come far enough to raise hopes again and again just to have them shattered in a torrent of failure once more.

Over the past decade Clare were bracketed with Limerick in hurling and Kildare, Mayo and Derry in football for promising more than they accomplished. In that period Limerick won the All-Ireland championship (1973) and a National League, Mayo were Connacht champions in '69 and League winners the following year and Derry took the last two Ulster titles.

Clare, however, are without a triumph of any kind since 1954 when they won the Oireachtas

set on is the All-Ireland championship, the winning of which is the highest ambition of every player in Gaelic games.

By now Clare are mature enough, and realistic enough, to realise that things will get more and more difficult as the year progresses. They have shown themselves a team who can play most effective hurling in the winter, but are less efficient when the improving weather brings a firmer sod to our pitches.

In the first half of the League their attack has been strengthened by the return of Timmy Ryan, who had been injured, and the placing of young Enda O'Connor at centre half-forward. Jimmy McNamara

well, but it will be recalled that two years ago they had moved him out of centre half-back to play him as full-forward in the championship.

One thing is certain about 1977, if Clare do succeed in winning the All-Ireland championship it will be the most difficult championship ever won. The draw has decreed that they would have the most strenuous passage, strewn with the most intimidating obstacles, to the crown.

Assuming that they won the title this is the campaign they would have come through to get the McCarthy Cup: Tipperary on June 5, Limerick on June 26, Cork (or Waterford or Kerry) in the Munster final on July 10, most likely Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final on August 7 and then Wexford or Kilkenny (unless there are sensations in Leinster) in the final on September 4.

If we take it that Cork will be in the Munster final and Wexford again in the All-Ireland final Clare must beat counties that have a total of 57 All-Ireland titles between them, but if Kilkenny happened to be the Leinster champions the total increases to 72. It means that on the way to the crown Clare must overcome all but one (the losers of a Kilkenny-Wexford Leinster final) of the top hurling counties of the present era.

The last county that accomplished an All-Ireland triumph like this was Waterford in 1959 when they beat Galway (one All-Ireland), Tipperary (17 at that time), Cork (19) and Kilkenny (14). But Waterford did not have to play Limerick as Clare would do if they beat Tipperary in the first round of the championship.

So it's an exceedingly rough road ahead for Clare.

## **'Clare are mature enough, and realistic enough, to realise that things will get more difficult as the year progresses'**

competition. It's even further back since they captured one of the major titles: their only National League success was in 1946, their last Munster championship in '32 and their only All-Ireland title in 1914. So a success in 1977 would not be before its time . . . and most assuredly would not be begrudged them.

To start with they would, I am sure, be completely satisfied if they won the National League in May. Not only to get the long-sought break-through, but to compensate for the galling experience of last year's replayed final. I am even more certain the ultimate objective they have their hearts

will have completely recovered from injury by now and with players like Tom Crowe and Con Woods in the substitutes along with some younger newcomers, the team has a better back-up than in latter years.

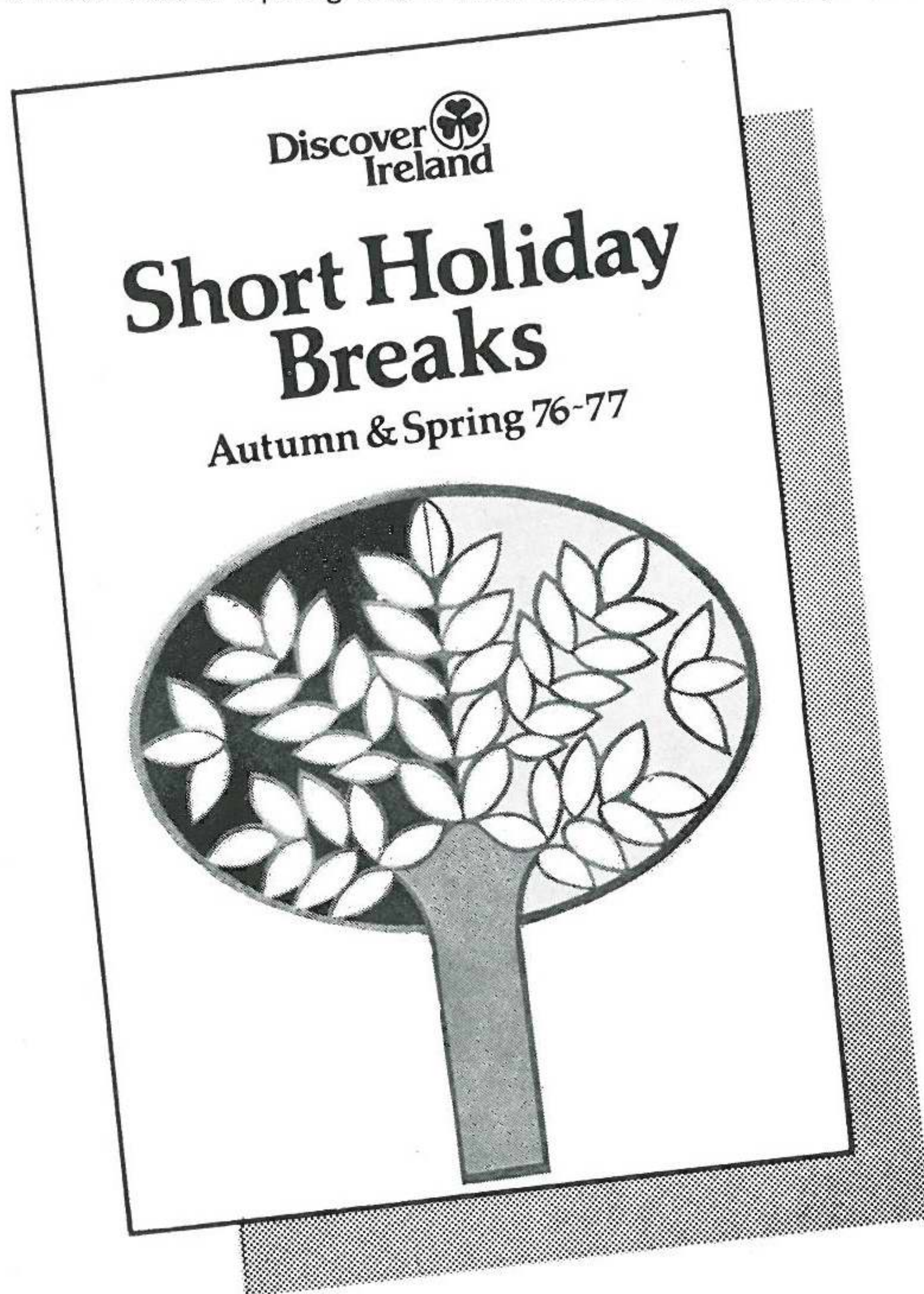
Gus Lohan's form with Newmarket-on-Fergus in the Munster club championship earned him a place back on the county side and at centre half-back he did an efficient job in the matches before Christmas. But his continued effectiveness as a centre-half must be suspect in the weeks and months to come as he meets younger opponents on less yielding pitches. Gus has served Clare

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# **MY HOPES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**

By Dan McAreavy



● Dan McAreavy

**WHAT** developments do you believe could contribute most towards improving the GAA scene for players and supporters in 1977? Along what lines should our legislators be thinking in the new year which now lies ahead?

These are the questions which I set myself over the holiday period and after a good deal of permutating I make the following suggestions as the nucleus of a new deal which I personally, would like to see realised.

- (1) That the new hurling officer for Ulster be granted reasonable access to primary and secondary schools with particular emphasis on liaison with the physical education teachers at secondary level, thus ensuring the promotion of the game where it matters most.
- (2) That the All-Ireland Hurling Final this year may include Clare; for one thing the Banner County richly deserves such an honour and secondly the continuing stranglehold by the Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford powerhouses is not conducive to the game's revival.
- (3) That the Ulster Council may appoint someone of the calibre of Jim McKeever or Sean O'Neill as a roving coach to do for football

what Seamus McGrattan is about to do for hurling. The first priority should be to force clubs to look more seriously at underage competitions. In the past too much has been left to the schools with the skills developed there neglected afterwards.

- (4) That the Ulster Council look at the social developments in the clubs. The province leads in social development but has there been a corresponding fall-off in playing standards?
- (5) That the Official Guide be thoroughly revised and not just as far as the playing rules are concerned.
- (6) That the overall revision of the Official Guide should ensure that the playing rules are closely scrutinised and obvious tidying up carried out, for example, is anyone quite sure at the moment what constitutes a handpass?
- (7) That the powers of the Activities Committee be examined preferably through a definitive motion to Con-

gress.

- (8) That the National League set-up be revised and that the open draw be again looked at by Congress.
- (9) That the Association has a care for the paying customers especially at county grounds.
- (10) That the Association — like so many other codes — produce a proper year book. With the greatest respect Our Games Annual hardly fills this void.
- (11) That our referees continue their battle at county, provincial and national level to bring uniformity to all aspects of their role.
- (12) That the media — press, radio and television — accepts its responsibility towards the Association as the organisation with the greatest playing strength and support in the country. On this point press officers should remember their responsibility in feeding information into the media.
- (13) And finally, my greatest hope of all of course is that at least some of the topics mentioned above may be considered by the appropriate authorities.



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## GROWING PROBLEM IN ULSTER

# Players must make a choice



● Dan McCartan  
(Down)

AL McMURRAY secretary of the Antrim Co. Board has called on players within his county to make a choice between soccer and Gaelic games.

The utterance by this respected official highlights a growing problem in Ulster, where the instances of 'dual' players is mounting by the week.

McMurray believes that players should give their allegiance to one sport, and one sport only. "It's impossible for players to do justice to themselves or their teams in two games on the same week-end."

He adds that in rural areas in Ulster, rugby has made inroads into G.A.A. strongholds and many players are doubling up with games of rugby and football on the week-ends.

"There's no doubt in my mind that such activity is affecting the standard of Gaelic football in the province. No player can produce an optimum performance twenty four hours after what might have been a hard soccer or rugby game."

Dan McCartan, who admits to having played soccer, rugby and Gaelic, all during the one week, many times in his youth, has this to say on the subject "We in Down have made it known that we will take stern action against any player who plays a soccer game on the day before turning out for the county team.

"We don't mind a lad playing soccer on any week-end in which he is not required by the county side.

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

"Most believe that two games on the same week-end are not on. Yet, I feel a lot depends on the fitness of the player concerned. Some can take it in their stride: others are incapable of producing their best form if they have been in action on the previous day.

"If I was to be absolutely truthful about the situation in Ulster, I would have to say that in some counties we suffer from a lack of talent. And it's for this reason, more than any other, that we are not making an impression."

Brian McEniff, the much experienced Donegal player manager believes it is "very difficult" to combine soccer and Gaelic football. "In soccer players often tend to wait for the ball: in Gaelic one is always running out to it. A player would find it difficult to distinguish himself at Gaelic if he was also heavily involved in soccer.

"Also Gaelic football has become a very fast game. Players have to be fit, and perhaps more important, fresh to give of their best. Would a player be fresh, after a soccer game the previous afternoon? I hardly think so.

"I think there is merit in all games, and I would never insist that a footballer choose one rather than the other. However

I would advise players to make a firm decision on a particular game and concentrate on that one.

"I don't think it's possible for a footballer to reach the top at both soccer and Gaelic football.

Gerry McElhinney, a player who has successfully mixed soccer and Gaelic football, believes that if the player is "fit enough", he can participate in both sports with some degree of competence.

"You learn to pace yourself, when you know you have two games at the week end.

"Naturally if you have a hard one on Saturday, it will take something from your performance on the following day.

"But I don't believe it's a significant factor in the fall in our standard in Ulster."

Frank Muldoon, Donegal official, says the problem of the dual player does not arise in his county. "The players in Donegal who play Gaelic don't appear to be interested in soccer.

I would think that the problem is found only in the big centres such as Belfast.

"The troubles, I would suggest, is the main reason why an Ulster team is not at present top of the pile."

Frankie McAtavey, reporting from Monaghan has a similar tale to relate. "We don't have those type of players in the county. Our lads stick to Gaelic football. Perhaps a bit of soccer on the side would not harm some of them."



**A**BOUT two and a half years ago a tall slim elderly man turned to his wife and said "I'll go for a stroll, and on my way back I'll call in Tom Cassidy's and look at the All-Ireland highlights on the television. It will be nice and quiet there to-night." The front door closed and Mick, one of the deadliest kickers in the game forty years ago strode off into the night. Later he sat in Cassidy's quiet lounge, glass in hand intently watching the screen. Liam Sammon was taking that famous penalty which Paddy Cullen stopped.

The programme over, Mick drained his glass, settled on the hat and rose quietly. The man from the end of the bar, the only other person there walked over.

"Excuse me," says he. "Sorry to butt in, but are you Mick Maguire, the footballer?"

Pleased at being recognised after so long and by a man with a "foreign" accent also, Mick straightened up.

"That's right," he said, "I am."

"Well," says your man, "I'm delighted to meet you at last. To my dyin' day I'll never forget the penalty you missed down in Clones in '35." Names and dates are changed; the yarn is true.

★ ★ ★

Paddy Leahy of Boherlahan was one of four great hurling brothers all of whom lived the word 'Tipperary'. Paddy, with hat at a jaunty angle over his eye, was for years guide, philosopher and tactician to the men of Tipperary and was recognised among the selectors of other counties as a man to respect and worry about. He used say to us all, when we pretended to be sad at a Tipp defeat, "Never mind. When Tipp goes down it's a great day for the Association for the winners can blow their coal about it."

One day in Croke Park the crowd roared and the sliothar was

thrown in. Paddy Leahy sat by his friend, Archbishop Thomas Morris over on the stand. It was Tipp and Wexford and the Munster chaps who had won it two years before were better now. They started well and surely the Tony Wall-led bunch with Theo English, Liam Devaney, Jimmy Doyle, Doney Nealon and the others entitled Paddy Leahy to hope for a good day.

But as the second half wore on Nick O'Donnell's men, Willie Rackard, Tim Flood, Padge Kehoe, Ned Wheeler and the rest relentlessly screwed down the lid on Tipperary hopes and when the whistle blew the score was 2-15 to 0-11. After the usual manly congratulations Paddy Leahy and his friend, patron of the G.A.A., stepped down from the stand and made their way sadly, silently, across the field to the Tipp dressing room leaving in their rear the hilarity of Wexford's joy. A Tipp man rushed up to Paddy with tears in his eyes.

"Oh God, Paddy, 'twas awful," he moaned. "Not at all," says Paddy. "'Twas a great day for the Association." On they went, the two silent heart-sore men. Another man grabbed Paddy by the hand. "Ah, what about it?" says Paddy. "'Twas a great day for the Association." Nearer they came and nearer, to the haven of refuge which was the tunnel to

# Stories true and nearly true

BY EAMONN YOUNG

the Tipp dressing room. As they had almost escaped a man rushed up to Paddy, threw an arm around the shoulder of old warrior, "What harm, Paddy," said he. "'Twas a great day for the Association." Mute for once, Paddy returned the handclasp, moved on, paused for a moment, raised his eyes to heaven and whispered through set teeth. "Sweet Jesus, look down on us in our agony!"

★ ★ ★

Hugh O'Reilly, who passed away not so long ago was a great trainer of Cavan teams. They trained hard and they analysed scientifically the merits of the opposition. For this final they were more diligent than ever in their discussions. Each man was expected to contribute and it was expected that a complete dossier would be prepared on each of the opponents. Under the O'Reilly chairmanship the examination started on this, the last night of training. "Right," says Hugh, "now what about the goalie?" and in five minutes there was more said about the man's abilities and failings than he knew himself. And so they went on steadily, carefully, relentlessly, until they had moved out the field a bit.

"Next man," says O'Reilly, "is 'Jimmy Duggan' (let's call him that)." The voice spoke up "Ah don't worry about him. My aul' grandmother would mark him."



In the silence you could hear a spider spin. The speaker was the man who would be marking 'Jimmy Duggan.' Well what could they do only carry on. "Next man," says O'Reilly, 'Tommy Joe Gilmore' . . . " and they finished the job. On the Sunday it was a great game but Cavan after a mighty hour went down. Needless to say hero of the hour was the Western player I call 'Jimmy Duggan.' Sick at heart a great Cavan player turned his back on the rapture of the Hogan Stand and plodded his weary via dolorosa to the dressing-room. Sitting inside with his head bowed was 'Jim Mac Donald' (let's say). Too sick to utter a word the two sat and almost wept. Next man in was the man who had spoken the famous night, the man who had been marking 'Jimmy Duggan'. Neither of the two passed a greeting but after a moment 'Jim Mac Donald' raised a face filled with sorrow and anguish. "Begor, Tim," he said evenly. "Your grandmother must have been a great bloody footballer."

★ ★ ★

Once there was a big burly man playing for a junior club in Cork city. He started with them at eighteen and over the years hurled on with fervour and dedication. The club won nothing and Timmy Joe won nothing. But both club and player hurled on. Heavier a lot at thirty-five he went in full forward for he had a murderous pull on the ball. They scraped their way to the city junior final. Here they had no hope but four of the opponents went down with 'flu. "Nothing trivial, I hope," said one of Timmy Joe's selectors.

On the day the favourites crashed and our men forged on to play the best of the country teams. In the final with blood-pressure going up like a rocket the no-hopers hurled well but the



● Nick O'Donnell (left), who with Wexford team-mates Willie Rackard, Tim Flood, Padge Kehoe, Ned Wheeler and the rest, 'screwed down the lid on Tipperary' in the 1960 All-Ireland final by 2-15 to 0-11.

rural side was good. Then just before half time Timmy Joe went on fire. He swung over a fast point and a minute later drove a few backs, ball and all, half way through the net. In the second half early on, he lashed on a falling ball with hilarious abandon and it took them minutes to fish it out of the rigging. A few minutes to go and he did a Tony Doran to finish by palming it over the bar. Before the crowd had stopped cheering at this levelling point the sliothar was back in the country square and a dozen men bumping one another and swinging like fellas trying to kill a rat, until Timmy Joe whipped that ball through a forest of sticks to the back of the

net. The city team that never won anything went mad. In the dressing-room after there were tears of joy and there under the lights sat the hero of the hour, Timmy Joe (three goals and two points) with rivulets of sweat running down his high forehead and a half-pumped tyre of fat dripping over his knicks. Tearfully two of the followers embraced him "Good aul Timmy Joe, the greatest man on the field . . . Good on ye, Tim boy. Glory." Silently Raza, the chief selector watched the delirium, moved over quietly and touched one of the men on the shoulder. "Lave him alone, for God's sake," he growled, "or he'll go senior on us."



# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS LINGUS





# Let's halt the armchair theorists—now!

**FOR** more years than one cares to remember now there seems to have been an unquestioned acceptance up and down the country that as far as hurling and football, in particular, are concerned "More means Better".

Each year that passes the remedy for everything lacking in quality or the improvement thereof has been the suggestion of more games, more competitions, more championships, B competitions, losers' groups, and goodness knows what else. All this, incidentally, has been happening not alone at one level but at both club and county levels, and at the very same time that the Higher Education Council and the Inter-Firms Committees have been multiplying their competitions and games by geometric progression.

More means better is accepted all along the line; not once have we seen serious debate as to whether or not the increase in the number of available games for a county or club would automatically mean improved performance and enhanced standards. It has been taken for granted.

It must be admitted that when all this began a good number of years ago, one of the primary considerations in the suggestion

of new competitions, leagues, championships and grades was the filling of a vacuum. For one thing the Ban existed in those times and interested clubs were anxious to provide more games to keep their members occupied so that they did not stray beyond the boundaries during their empty hours.

Even that was a practical enough reason even if it was rather shapeless in its precise aims beyond the general and somewhat ignoble one. Slowly the want was filled partially; then the view of things gradually changed and the filling of the gap has long since lost its significance.

In some ways Hurling Plan schemes may have been somewhat to blame in giving the whole thing a start, when numerous special and extraordinary competitions were begun at inter-county level for such as weaker counties, and even those with gradations of weakness. The success of all these varied

schemes must be self-evident—their main result having been to devalue the currency of All-Ireland medals.

That was merely a structure, not a remedy. It could have been used as a structure within which to employ all the intensive work which is the only possible remedy. Unhappily many of the armchair planners and critics who thought up the structures so cunningly were surprised that they did not have an immediate and magical result — at least, those of them who bothered to look over their shoulders at the results were surprised.

No doubt, they had turned their "flow-chart" minds elsewhere, planning, perhaps, how the weaker football counties could all be brought up to the level of the strong ones by pushing of a computer button.

At least it is on this particular line that the present raft of suggestions for more competition are based. Clare were active in seeking further competition for the counties knocked out of the football league around Christmas because they had not played well enough to stay in contention.

The question nobody wants to ask is why extra games would improve the teams who had failed to survive. Considering the closely arranged groupings of teams according to merit, there is hardly so much between the teams in any section to cause any team to feel in despair of their chances of a qualifying place. One would imagine, therefore, that the incentive is there for their best efforts: manageable opposition, and the reward of progress and knock-out competition for stirring themselves.

If such incentive has not lifted teams, or only lifted them a little, what reason is there that

● OVERLEAF



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they will make such marked progress in a competition for such as themselves who have been unable to raise their game.

However, the idea and others

in a similar vein will have widespread attention at the Conventions and will be a major subject at Congress, too. Louth, for instance, have made a suggestion that an inter-county competition

take the place of the Railway Cup, to be run on a home venue basis until towards the close and with the final on St. Patrick's Day.

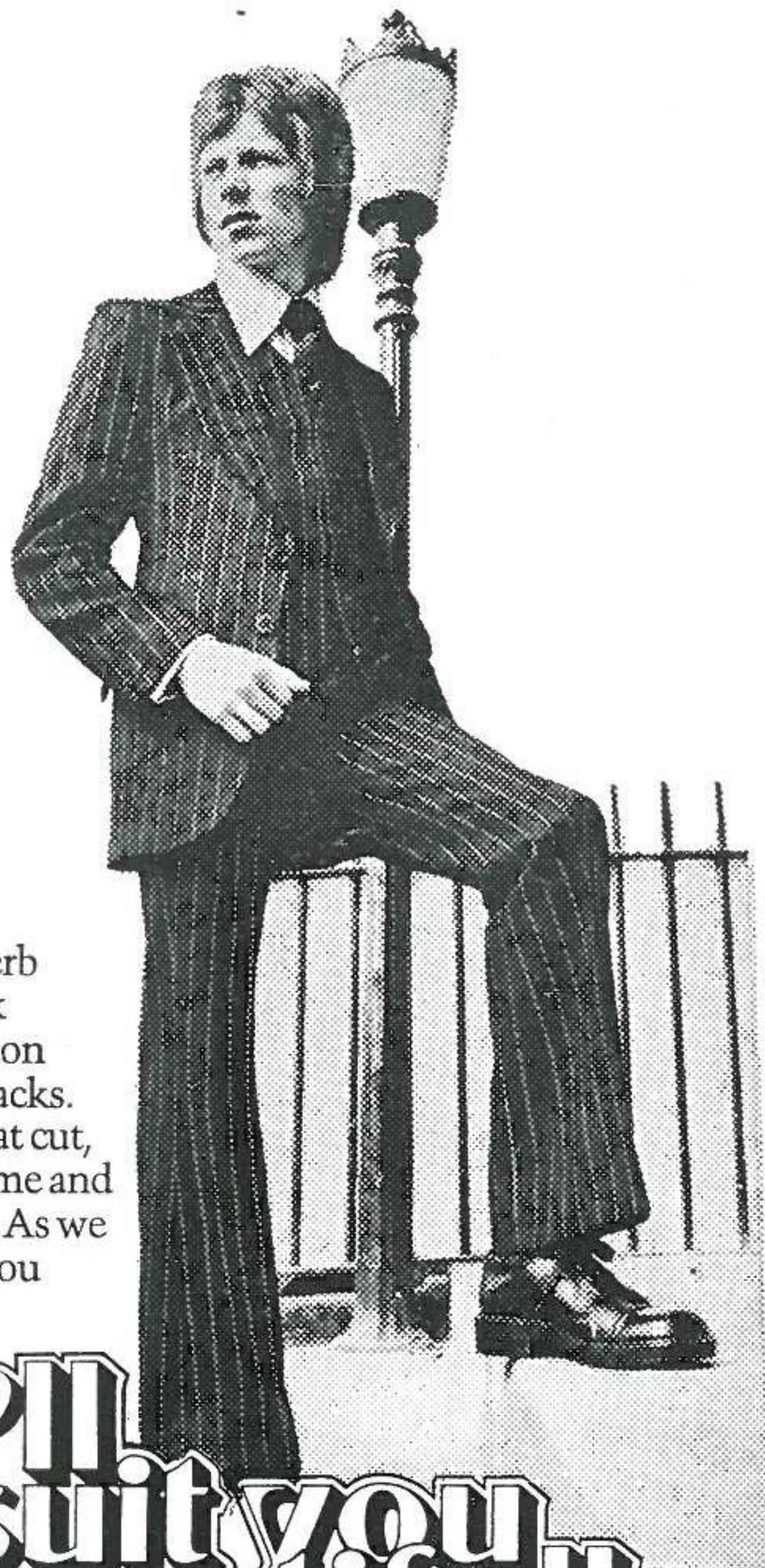
One thing that should be required of any new suggestions for competitions is that there should be a clear indication of how it is to fit in. With the present fixture chaos, that could only be done by indicating what competition would be dumped in favour of the new one.

In this respect, Louth's idea is along the right lines: it says the new competition should replace the Railway Cup. But, it certainly does stretch our imagination to wonder how such a competition could be fitted into the place of the Railway Cups which after all only take up one other day as well as March 17th.

What other purpose does it serve? The League is still intact, no doubt; and the All-Ireland competition still stands? Will someone then say what precise reason there is for such a competition, unless it is meant to drain the last energies from the players and drive all the club officials into lunatic asylums. But it was suggested by a club so there must be some reason for it.

Westmeath debated an All-Ireland B competition on the same basis of the Hurling B competition which has, indeed, been something of a success. But, in this case the counties would have competed in the All-Ireland championship proper first. A kind of losers competition, in fact.

Unhappily, the same kind of motion is on the cards at several other Conventions. It all looks terribly much as though we have been here before — the pattern is so familiar that we are almost fatalistically pencilling the new style competition in our books for next season. The impetus of the armchair theorists seems to be almost irresistible.



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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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**A**TTENTION Please. The train now standing on Platform Number Five is the 14.10 Ballymacpháidin train which will serve stations ———. You are no doubt familiar with announcements of this nature even though you may not necessarily be bound for Ballymacpháidin. I don't go to that spot too often myself but I have spent quite a lot of travelling time on trains. There's nothing wrong with that you might well say and neither is there, but it's the catching of the train that kills me. Now I know lots of people who have to catch a train every other day of the week and it doesn't knock a feather out of them. I envy them but I'll never be like them.

**A fortnight ago** two friends and myself had to go to Cork and we decided to travel by train. I was delegated the duty of finding out the train times. I got a time table and after fumbling through several pages I found the Cork trains. I got out my red biro and put a fine circle around the relevant information. This I had done at least a week in advance. My unfortunate suspicious nature however compelled me to phone Enquiries who did confirm the written word.

**You see deep down** I don't trust trains. I always think they're there puffing nonchalantly away while at the same time plotting on how to sneak away

without me. What's more they did get away twice and left me looking after them. To rub salt into the wounds 'twas the last train each time which meant waiting over 'till the following day. That's not a pleasant experience and I'm sure now you can understand why I have an anxiety complex for weeks in advance of catching a train.

**By city standards** I live within walking distance of the Station. This walk takes half an hour and ten minutes. I know that because on a previous occasion when the buses were on strike, I went to the station on foot and I timed myself. Now I didn't sprint but I wasn't dilly dallying either. By the time I reached the station I was completely exhausted. I resolved there and then that I would not walk that distance carrying an awkward case ever again. Funny too the short life span of some resolutions. No doubt some of you are by now finding that out for yourselves.

**I could get a taxi** but I've no faith at all in these fellows. What if he didn't turn up — I'd be left sitting high and dry. Maybe then if he did come he'd be drunk and take me to the Airport instead of the station. Even if he did intend taking me to the station he may not know the way. What if he kept going around in circles and ended up getting lost. No, I

wouldn't call a Taxi — I could not live with all these dreadful possibilities. My friend assures me that she often takes a taxi and never has had any such experience. That's fine for her but she isn't burdened with an imagination like mine.

**The bus** was the only other option and I settled for that. Give yourself plenty of time and you can't be caught out, I advised myself. I packed my case the night before. I always do — I forget fewer things that way. There is of course the disadvantage that clothes packed tightly overnight into a small case are likely to be very creased. However, I meet that situation by compromise — I pack the case but I don't close it. You can't win them all but sure if you win half of them you'll be doing pretty well.

**I got up early** next morning even though my train wasn't going 'till the afternoon. I had agreed with my travelling companions that I would meet them on the train. They just asked me to hold seats for them. I said I would — not realising what that involved. The morning passed quickly, I did a little tidying around the place and listened to the radio. Eventually the time came for me to go. I gave myself a clear hour to get to the station. The

● TO PAGE 21



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● FROM PAGE 19

clouds overhead promised little other than rain. I thought about bringing my umbrella but by the time I got down the stairs it had become such a nuisance that I was glad to hang it behind the front door. My case was awkward but it wasn't too heavy. I made my way to the Bus Stop.

**I stood and I stood.** There was no sign of a bus. Ten minutes passed, a quarter of an hour went by and nothing happened. There's a big clock on the spire of the church behind where I was standing and I kept a regular eye on the working of the hands. Time was moving on but I wasn't. I still had enough time to walk but 'twas going to be rough. I could move on to the next stop which was all of three hundred yards away. What then if a bus came when I was between two stops. Perish the thought — I stood my ground. At this stage the queue was stretching well back. The two women immediately behind me told each other that there had been a lightning strike that day week. Lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place, I consoled myself and still stood.

**All kinds of ideas** went through my head. I could walk towards the next stop and chance sticking out my thumb. I didn't particularly want to do that because 'twas most unfair to expect someone to stop amid the flow of traffic. Still what about it, I'd take a chance and half stick out my thumb. I did and lo and behold! a car pulled up twenty yards in front of me. I began to move quickly but a woman with two children and three bags of groceries beat me to it. You see I always said it — opportunities are never lost; the other fellow takes those you miss. I was left looking on.

**Nothing for it but to continue on.**

I kept walking and every now and then I looked back over my shoulder just to keep au fait with what was happening behind me. I was about fifty yards from the next stop when what did I see coming at great speed but my bus. I knew I wasn't going to make it but I also knew I couldn't afford to miss it. There was a young fellow kicking a can along the footpath. I went up to him. See that bus, I said — would you run on to the next stop, put out your hand, stop it and tell the driver I'm coming. He looked at me as if I had six heads. Then he gave the can another kick and proceeded to walk away. I'll give you two bob I said. That worked. I handed him 10p and off with him like a March Hare. As the bus came towards me I tried to communicate verbally and non-verbally that I had sent the boy ahead and that I was on my way. Everyone in the street got the message but the driver kept looking straight ahead. In my own best interests I stepped up my pace and hoped for the best.

**I watched the young fellow** stop the bus and splutter out his story. The conductor craned his head around the door. He was looking in my direction so I waved and shouted 'Wait, Wait'. To give him his due he waited. I ran onto the steps, puffing and panting. Thanks very much I said and was just about to tell him what happened when he took my case and said "Sit down." I was just about comfortable when I heard someone behind me say "That's typical, she couldn't wait at the stop like the rest of us but she doesn't mind delaying everyone else now." I never batted an eyelid — maybe that comment was meant for someone else!

**I got to the station** and believe it or not I had fully ten minutes to spare. I sidestepped my way past bags, boxes and cases and on up to the ticket desk with me. There I was given my ticket and designated a platform. The train, long and large, was standing waiting. I got in and went through five carriages before finding three unoccupied seats together. I deposited my case on one, myself on another and half hid the third. There was great demand for them. I kept smiling and succeeded in holding on to them 'till one of my friends arrived. She wasn't a great help since she merely deposited her case and off with her to get a book for the journey. I warned her not to delay but from previous experiences I should have known better. You see, when she goes into a bookshop she forgets what day it is. Now to give her credit she did get to the station in good time and her case at least was sure of getting to Cork. But where was she now? Time was running out on her. There was one minute to go when I took a last look out the window. She was strolling down along the platform accompanied by the third member of the party. I sat down and was looking the other way just in case they might think I was getting worried about them.

**The pair of them** calmly walked in and sat down. They weren't even remotely surprised that firstly they caught the train and secondly that they had seats. I didn't say yes, aye or nay. I waited but they proceeded to talk about everything and anything. Eventually, as the train pulled out I said "Do you realise what I've been through to-day?" They didn't know what I was talking about. What is worse they never will and more luck to them.

**Good bye.**



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# The Mac Giolla Bride Cup!

**T**RADITIONALLY February remains what it has been for more years than anybody cares to specify, the month of the Ashbourne Cup inter-varsity competition. Nowadays there cannot be too many people who can recall the rather unusual figure of Lord Ashbourne himself, a Peer of the Realm who always wore the kilt, spoke Irish, and preferred to be known as Mac Giolla Bride.

Always ready and willing to assist any movement that was culturally Irish, it was he who, back around 1914, presented the Ashbourne Cup for annual competition between the three constituent Colleges of the then recently instituted National University. That competition has continued ever since, but on a very different scale nowadays.

The first advance was made as far back as 1934 when Queen's University, Belfast, was admitted to the series, but it took another quarter of a century before there was any further additions. In recent years, however, Dublin University, St. Patrick's Maynooth, and the New University of Ulster in Coleraine have all joined in, so that now all seven Universities in the country take part.

This February will see yet another new development when Dublin University will host the Ashbourne Cup for the first time with the semi-finals and final being staged at the Trinity College Grounds in Santry.

One hopes, of course, that February 1977 will not add any more unusual weather lore to the legends of the Ashbourne Cup. In the past a final was played at

Corrigan Park in Belfast on a ground so soft that towards the end the ball sank in the mud and was never found again. Also in Belfast another famous Ashbourne game was played on a pitch transformed into a sheet of ice, by an overnight fall of snow. This was rolled out when a slight thaw came in the morning, but was transformed into smooth ice by a sudden freeze-up just as the game began. The girls played on. Not all that long ago a volunteer male student of U.C.D. shifted more than a hundred tons of snow off the Belfield pitch to allow another Ashbourne game to be played.

However, the Ashbourne series has in the last few years been favoured with Spring weather, and let us hope that this will be the case again. Meanwhile the other Higher Education Institutes, who have joined the Universities in the C.C.I.A. League will this year have a championship all their own which will be played next month with St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra, hosts to the inaugural competition.

It is early days yet to start assessing the prospects for the forthcoming All-Ireland, but it is already obvious that the four counties that have been top contenders in recent years, Kilkenny, Cork, Dublin and Wexford will again be very much to the fore. In addition, last year's junior champions, Down, now will have a team in the top grade, while Tipperary, who have reached the March final of the National League must also

come into the reckoning.

Kilkenny will be for the first time in years without the services of their great star Ann Carroll who has retired from the inter-county scene but continues to serve the game she loves. In collaboration with her former U.C.D. team mate Veronica McAteer, she is turning out remarkably good schools teams from Loreto Convent, Letterkenny, and if the game continues to make such progress in the North-Western County, we must expect Donegal to be a formidable force on the inter-county fields in a couple of years time. But if Kilkenny have lost Ann Carroll they have promising youngsters all but ready to come up from minor ranks.

Wexford have their junior team of last season, unlucky in the final, on which to draw. Cork of course have great resources, while Dublin have the determination and dedication that laid the foundation of the many successes of sides from the Capital in the past.

Clare have not thus far fulfilled the promise they showed when winning through to junior All-Ireland honours a couple of years ago, while Galway have the talent but have not yet managed to apply it, so that Tipperary may prove the best prospects from that area. In the North, Down may prove better than a somewhat dislocated Antrim. But there will not be a great deal between any of the nine counties mentioned, so that a really exciting championship campaign must be on the cards.



# KERRY ANSWER THE CRITICS

## MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

WHEN Kerry went down to defeat at the educated feet, and hands, of Dublin in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park last September the land was full of prophets of wee who suggested that the Kingdom's recapture of the Sam Maguire Cup just a year before had been no more than a flash in the pan and that we would hear little more of Water-ville Mick O'Dwyer's young champions.

The wiseacres who proclaimed

such opinions were just as mistaken as all the hurling prophets who had proclaimed after the Leinster final that Kilkenny the 1975 champions in the caman game were also finished and done with. Kerry have since given the ideal answer to their championship critics by finishing unbeaten at the head of Division One South of the Football League and thus marching straight into the semi-final. What is more, Kerry achieved that feat of top-

ping their section of the League though dogged by injury to several key players and loss of form by some others.

It is a pretty safe bet that, with their full panel available again by the time they have to get back into the League competition in late Spring, Kerry are going to be the team that everyone has to beat. And, remember, they are now only two hours away from that League title. To emphasise the continuing strength of Kerry football, the county champions Austin Stacks from Tralee recaptured the Munster club championship and must now be very strongly fancied to take the All-Ireland crown for the first time.

But, as I said last month, that League title is not going to be easily won. Dublin are going to be harder to beat the farther they go, and they are still the holders, while at the other side of the First Division the claims of the 'North' representatives, Mayo and Roscommon, must both be respected although, to be quite candid, I would not back either against the All-Ireland winners or runners-up.

But among the other counties still concerned with the League there are others who could emulate Meath's 1975 feat of win-

spite his lack of inches he has the stamina and energy to make a very effective mid-fielder and he has already won an All-Ireland at centre-forward. But then that is a position in which Pat Spillane, as he matures, could prove a sensation, although, as of now, I would prefer to play him on the wing, leaving him free to roam when and where he willed.

As for Sean Walsh, he was, I think, a trifle unfortunate in gaining that reputation of being a 'super sub.' and was also maybe a bit unfortunate in achieving such telling results whenever he was called in at full-forward. To me he is a natural mid-fielder, and the sooner the Kerry selectors decide to groom him for a permanent centre-field post, the better for himself and for Kerry.

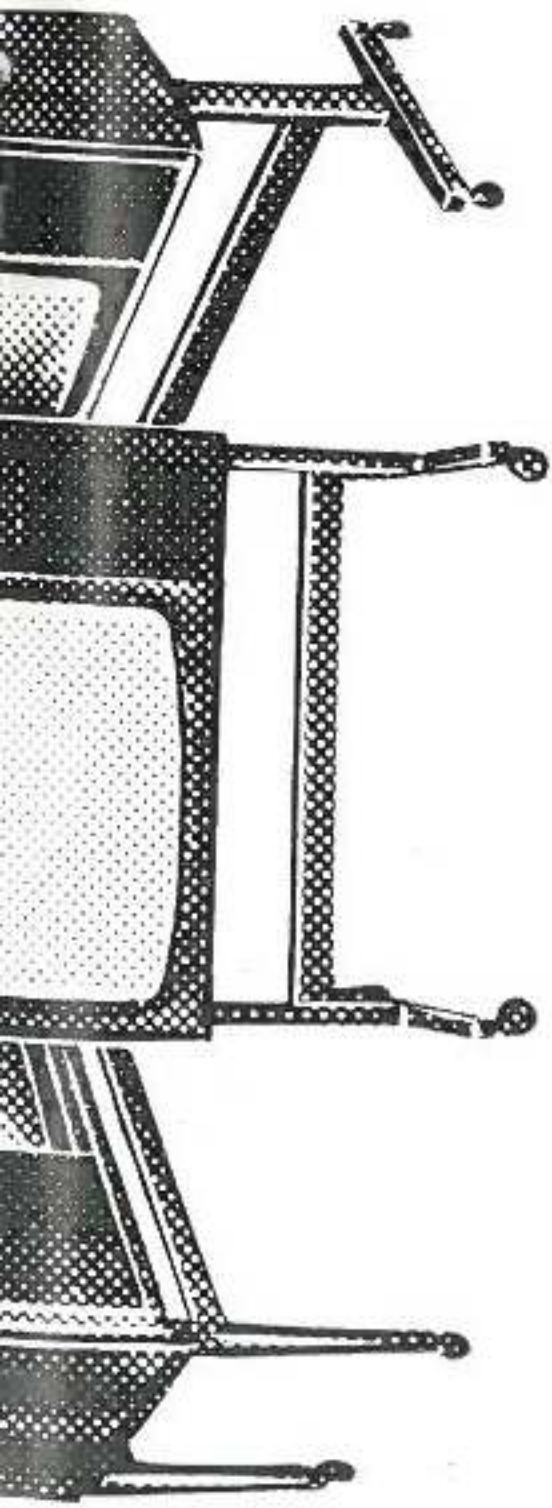
**So, as of now, I make Kerry my pre-play-off favourites to get back onto the League's roll of winners, but I would not care to make any championship predictions for them just yet.**

Meanwhile, the month ahead will be a real testing-time for the Railway Cup competitions in both hurling and football. Already, as I write, the Northern and Western provinces have appointed Supremos to take sole charge of the selection and train-

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ning through to the honours from the Second Division.

Offaly have not lost a competitive game since Eugene Magee, the man under whose management U.C.D. became invincible, took over control. Leinster neighbours Laois are not far behind them. I do not expect to see Watford, Wicklow or Armagh in the last four, but it would be a great thing for the game in those counties should they succeed in doing so, and the same applies to gallant Leitrim.

But Down, Cavan and Donegal could be very live contenders yet and I expect to see some great games before these 1976-77 Football League medals are won.

Yet at the end of all the preliminary speculation, one's thoughts come back to Kerry. The return, fully fit, of Ger O'Keefe and Paudh O'Shea will do more than bring the defence back to full strength. It will release Denis Moran to be utilised somewhere else.

Indeed it is on three youngsters, the lively 'Ogey,' Pat Spillane and Sean Walsh that I believe Kerry have every reason to base bright future hopes, for all three are obviously only at the very start of what promises to be brilliant careers.

The problem about Ogey Moran is where to use him to best advantage. He is potentially a great attacking half-back, but Kerry have a brace of youthful attacking half-backs already. De-

ing of their football teams, and it may be that Munster could well follow suit to a partial extent at least by appointing a team-manager.

Leinster, like Munster, has retained the system to entrusting team selection to Committees, but both Leinster and Munster are planning to get their teams together for training sessions.

With so much more serious an approach evident in most provinces, the public will rightly expect a higher standard of performance and dedication on the part of the players. Surely it will be forthcoming. If not, what hope can there be for the future of these interprovincial competitions?

By now, of course, with the vast majority of the annual conventions over we should have a pretty fair idea as to how the counties feel about the hand-pass, both in football and hurling. But I do hope that in any subsequent efforts that may be made to deal with the hand-pass, at whatever level, the players will be consulted.

It is ludicrous, to say the least of it, that everybody seems to have a big say in making rules for our games, except the people who actually have to play under these self-same rules. Would it not be a very wise step, if we are to have another Rules Revision Committee, that a panel of senior and seasoned players be asked for their views and advice, before any further vital alterations or revisions are made?



# HANDBALL TOPICS

By SEAN CLERKIN

**T**HIS year promises to be yet another milestone in the forward march that seems to hurl handball to new horizons in its own context as a game in its own right, and, equally import-

ant, in its capacity to increase the stature of the G.A.A. — its parent body.

Certainly, 1977 was ushered in triumphantly for handball when, on New Year's Day, R.T.E.

saw fit to include the first of its Top Ace games on Sports Stadium. This was a thrilling tie between John Kirby (Clare) and Paddy Reilly (Kilkenny) and, produced the first shock of the series when Reilly, who won out last year, was knocked from his pedestal.

In succeeding weeks, we have seen the elimination of Pat McGarry (Limerick) by Richie Lyng (Wexford), Murty McEllis-trim (Kerry) by Joe O'Brien (Roscommon) and Peadar McGee (Mayo) by Pat Kirby (Clare).

The semi-final pairings will see Lyng in opposition to John Kirby and Joe O'Brien against Pat Kirby. These promise to be enthralling affairs and viewers will, no doubt, have much deliberation as to the likelihood of an All-Kirby Final.

This is the fifth tournament specially organised by R.T.E. for television purposes and the previous winners have been Pat Murphy in 1973, Pat Kirby in 1974 and '75 and Paddy Reilly last year. Again, it must be stressed that this involvement by R.T.E. in bringing the arts and crafts of handball into our living rooms has been of immense value to the game, not to mention the expertise and finesse so expertly applied by Michael O'Carroll and Mick Dunne from Montrose Headquarters.

Meantime, of course, the Gael-Linn Competition has been providing its own share of excitement, as one might expect from an initial entry of 1,184 players. Since early December, the competition has been in full swing



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with an average of 148 matches per week being played in the various courts throughout the country. This month will see the completion of the Area and Group Finals and then the stage will be set for the grand finale which, as usual, will be staged, in conjunction with Annual Congress on Saturday March 26th in Croke Park. The present holder of the title is Pat McGarry of Limerick who spreadeagled an impressive array of talent on last year's Final Day.

One hopes that this year's tournament will present us with some budding stars in the final run-in, players of the calibre of Tommy O'Brien (Kerry), Michael Maher (Louth) or Meath's J. McGovern and F. Carroll who have been prominent in underage competitions during the past twelve months.

Another topic of interest at the present time concerns the team of four players which will be travelling to the U.S.A. with the All-Stars at the end of April.

In addition to playing matches in Los Angeles and San Francisco the team will also compete in the American Championships which will be held in St. Louis from the 8th to 15th May. It is only in the correct order of things that Pat Kirby, the 40 x 20 All-Ireland Singles and Doubles Champion should be an automatic choice. He is also well-versed in the hard grind of American competition as was evidenced by his fine performances last year when he won the Southern California Open Singles Title in the Long Beach Athletic Club.

It is also encouraging to note that handball is geared to make progress also in the area of development during the coming twelve months.

Clubs have plans afoot either to reconstruct their existing courts or to build 40 x 20 courts.

The message in this regard is relayed loud and clear. It indicates that the era of shabby courts and uncomfortable accommodation for spectators is over and that buildings of the future will bear the brand of professionalism.

It also looks likely that the 40 x 20 court will take precedence over the traditional 60 x 30 court. This situation will arise through the simple rudi-

ments of economics and while all of us will drop an emotional tear at the gradual demise of the big court, we will console ourselves, on the other hand, that the new trend will bring with it more exponents of the game and better opportunities for our players at international level. Handball is certainly in the grip of a major upsurge and this current year will obviously elevate it to an even higher plain.

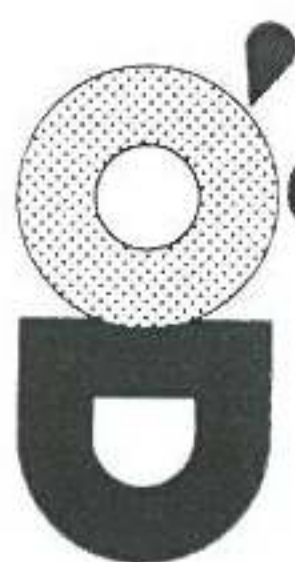
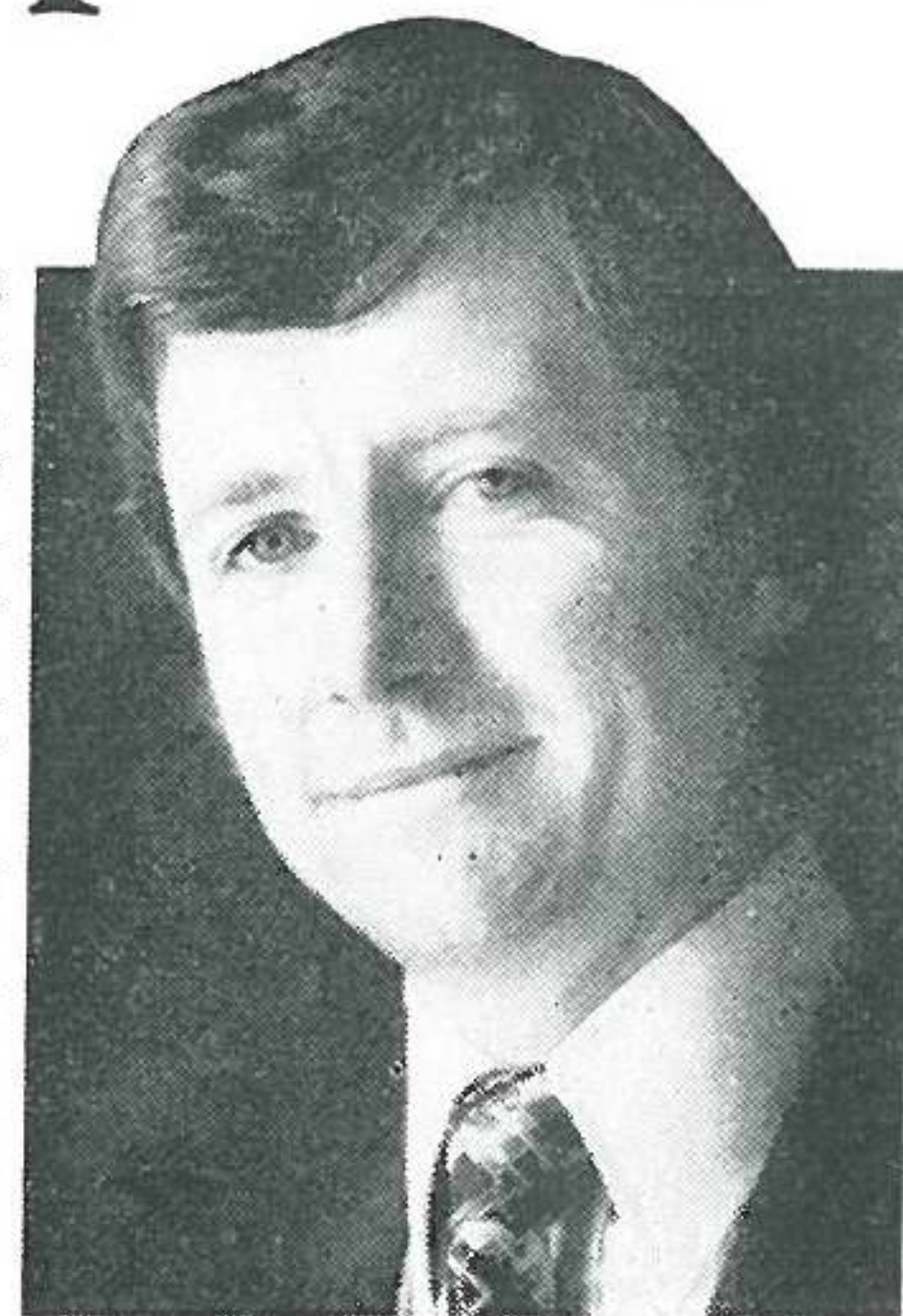
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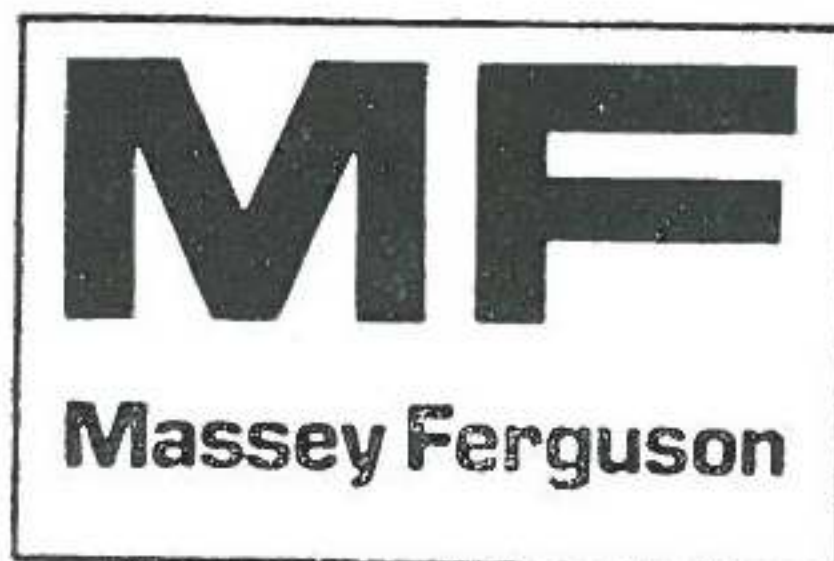
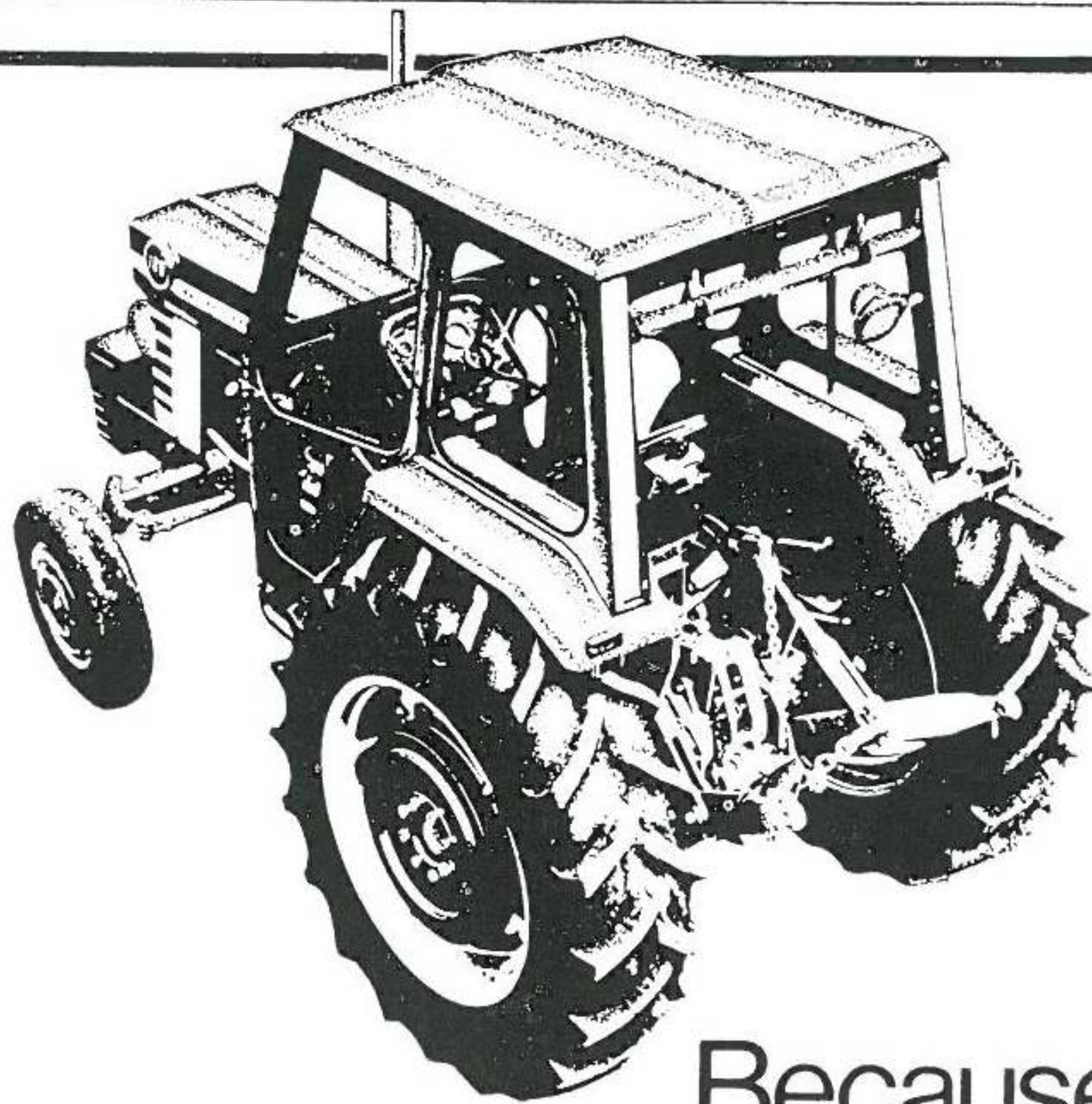
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● FROM PAGE 29

ning achievements, Keaveney was among the goals as never before last year. In all, he found his way through to the net 14 times, the best record by any footballer last year, and he also hit 59 points. That adds up to a total of 101 points from 17 games at the splendid match average of 5.94 points; a tally that left Keaveney top scorer of the year in football. He finished with a comfortable lead of twelve points over his nearest rival in the code.

This ace of free-takers has won county senior medals with his club in hurling as well as football, and has played with the county in this code, too. The one major award now missing from his fine collection is a Railway Cup medal, but Keaveney, who was in the Leinster team beaten by Munster in last year's final, will have another chance to set that right this spring.

If Jimmy Keaveney is still seeking a first Railway Cup medal, Tony Doran has a rare distinction in this regard. He is one of only two hurlers (Kilkenny's Pat Delaney is the other) to have played in every game on the way to Leinster's run of five titles on the trot from 1971 to 1975 inclusive.

Doran's uncanny gift for knocking home the goals, which was an important factor in that great Leinster run, has been one of the most exciting qualities of his play all through the various stages of his inter-county career, minor, under-21 and senior.

He got one goal when Wexford won their only All-Ireland under-21 title in 1965 at the expense of Tipperary. The big Buffer's Alley club man cracked home two golden goals in 1968, when once more Tipperary were on the receiving end in a match that saw Wexford win their last All-Ireland senior championship.

Then, there was another two goal barrage from smart-moving Doran that helped in no small



*Tony Doran,  
Wexford's captain,  
in characteristic  
action.*



way to foil the challenge of a gallant Limerick side in the 1973 National League final; also the last year that Wexford won the competition. And in all those matches he was among the points as well.

In one respect, however, Tony Doran, who has won county senior medals with his club, trails Jimmy Keaveney. He has not as yet headed an annual nationwide scoring chart, but understandably enough his great goal-scoring exploits have still kept him up there with the leaders. He had his best annual bag so far in 1972 when he chalked up 17-24 (75 points) in 15 outings.

Last year, Doran took fourth place nationally with 17-21 (72 points) in 15 games.

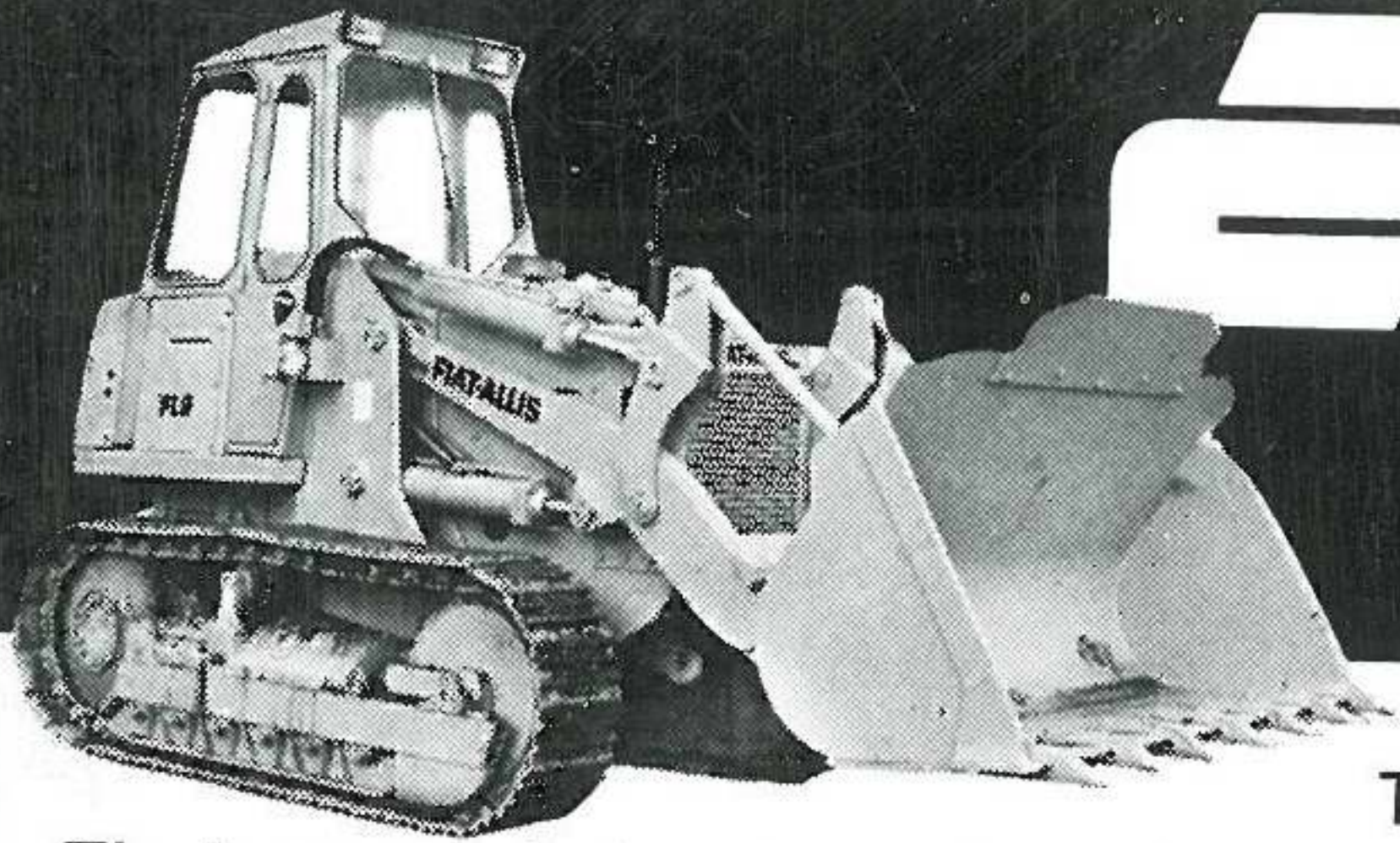
The goal-grabbing full forward won his third Leinster senior hurling medal last July. But

probably the most surprising aspect of all is that it was not until as recently as last December that he gained a Carrolls All Stars award for the first time.

But if this honour was some time in coming, it complemented one of Doran's most memorable campaigns; a season in which he underlined his right to rank among the great leaders in hurling, even if his wholehearted efforts were not crowned by a Liam McCarthy Cup win on the code's big day of 1976.

Jimmy Keaveney and Tony Doran have set brilliant headlines throughout their careers with their wholehearted and skilled play, and above all their excellent sportsmanship. As long as football and hurling produces men of their outstanding qualities, we need have no fear for the future of the national games.





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# PLANNING FOR 1977

By TONY KEEGAN

**R**ECENTLY I spoke with Paul O'Doherty, Fertiliser Development Officer with I.C.I. Ireland. He told me that if a farmer is to realise the full potential of his land, he must always plan ahead and at this time of year, he should be giving serious consideration as to how best to manage his grass in 1977 for full production.

For the milk producer a system of intensive grassland management to obtain the greatest possible return from his land, is essential. With costs still rising, maximum returns must be aimed at. To be successful, the system should cost little to set up, be flexible in its use and simple to operate from day to day.

Paul recommends the Two Sward System. In this, a given area of land is divided into two blocks (1) a grazing sward and (2) a cutting sward. The grazing area is stocked with two cows per acre and this land is then divided into 21 paddocks. Each paddock is grazed in turn for 24 hours. This gives the grass three weeks of growth before the herd returns for grazing. One of the benefits of this system is that cows will have fresh grass each day. This helps to reduce the daily fluctuations in milk yield which most producers experience.

The system is flexible, because

in periods of good grass growth, not all paddocks are needed for the cows and a number of them can easily be closed off and cut for silage. The prudent farmer will always be looking ahead of the herd to see that the grass is not 'getting ahead of the cows.'

The success of the paddock system depends on adequate fertiliser use. Two bags per acre of Pasture Sward should be applied six weeks before turn-out in the Spring. It is important that regular fertiliser dressings are applied and experience has shown that 1½ bags per acre of Pasture Sward after each paddock is grazed, will provide ample grass for the next grazing.

Planning for silage is another important aspect. Having asked himself "how many animals will I have next winter and how long do I reckon the winter will be?" each producer can then decide how many tons of silage are required. A good 'rule of thumb' is that 1½ tons of silage per month per cow is required. Using this formula, each producer can calculate how much silage he will require to carry the stock over the winter.

Having got the quantity right, the next important consideration is that of quality. This can be defined as how much milk or

beef the silage will produce without the addition of meals. Silage quality is determined primarily by the stage of growth at which the grass is cut and although inputs are higher when two or three cuts are taken, these cuts will be more than repaid in the long run by the extra production achieved with a first cut in mid May, the second in early July and the third in late August. Approximately 25 tons of silage producing maintenance + 1½ gallons or 1½ lbs of beef per day can be expected. High yields of silage can only be got where adequate fertiliser is applied and I.C.I. (Ireland) recommends that along with the slurry or farmyard manure, the high nitrogen content fertiliser Cut Sward be applied for all silage cuts with four bags per acre for the first cut and three bags per acre for each successive cut.

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● **FROM OVERLEAF**

and for keeping the good grasses and clover growing in the pasture. In acid land, the good grasses and clover die out rapidly and the poorer grasses take over unless the land is limed. This is the reason why many new leys look poor and weedy and graze poorly.

Old pastures which are short of lime often cover over with a mat of dense wiry grass or moss.

The underside of the mat is made up of tough withered and partly rotted plant roots and stems. This mat prevents air and water penetrating to the growing roots. Such pastures are disliked by stock because the grasses are unpalatable and their feeding value is low. Cattle and sheep thrive badly on these pastures and cows milk poorly.

Liming an old acid pasture makes the grass grow better and

lengthens the grazing season. The lime helps the better grasses and clover to grow and smother the poorer grasses and weeds. The quality of the sward improves, its feeding value improves and stock graze it better. Cattle, sheep and other grazing stock need a full supply of lime in their diet if they are to thrive well and produce well. This applies particularly to milking cows, ewes and young growing stock.

The amount of lime land needs depends on how sour the soil is and how heavy it is. A heavy sour soil needs more lime than a light sour soil. A clay loam may need twice as much lime as a light loam. Many of our soils need a dressing of 2 to 4 tons of ground limestone per statute acre. Some sour heavy soils may need more.

Laboratory and field tests answer quickly and accurately how much lime is needed. The local Agricultural Instructor will, if necessary, have the soil tested. The test ensures that lime is applied only where it is needed and at the correct rate.

Lime is continuously being lost from the soil so a repeat dressing will be needed. How soon the repeat dressing is needed depends on the type of soil, the location, the cropping, the manuring and so on. It also depends on the amount applied in the previous dressing. If a light dressing is given, a repeat dressing will be needed after a shorter period. Re-liming should be undertaken as soon as soil tests indicate a serious reduction in pH. Weeds thrive on acid soils. In tillage land, spurry and sheep's sorrel are often plentiful when lime is low. A good or fairly good crop of oats or potatoes followed by a poor or very poor crop of barley or beet is a sign that the soil may be short of lime.

In pasture, clover is scarce and poor grasses take over in acid soils. The pasture looks "white" for most of the year and stock dislike it.

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# SUCCESS AND QUALITY

## ... go hand in hand

IT is said that good news does not make the headlines. Unfortunately this is true. Still, at a time when this country is beset by serious factory closures and rising unemployment, it is a refreshing change to be able to report that at least one Irish company is doing well. Even more remarkable is the fact that it is the story of a company in the footwear trade — an industry which has been particularly vulnerable to the pressures of foreign competition. It is the Kilkenny firm of shoemakers, Padmore and Barnes.

In the past few years production has grown from 3,000 to 22,000 pairs of shoes per week. 90% of production is exported, the value of which amounted to £6 million in the year just ended. As production has grown the labour force has been increased from 80 to over 500 permanently employed workers, as well as over 1,200 outworkers.

How has this growth been achieved?

Padmore and Barnes were originally manufacturers of welted and cemented footwear but, in the late sixties, the company decided to concentrate their entire production on handstitched moccasin-type shoes. This decision was made because the company felt that the manufacture of traditional styles would be seriously threatened by the free trade conditions when Ireland entered the E.E.C. Research also showed that there was a need for a quality casual shoe in the huge North American market. Subsequent events have shown that Padmore and Barnes were correct in their forecasting.

The casual shoe developed for

the export market became known as the Wallabees. There are over six different styles within the range which has received such acclaim that they are now on sale in 24 countries around the world — in markets as diverse as Sweden, Japan, Saudi Arabia and North America.

These shoes are of genuine moccasin-construction, made just like the Indians made their footwear; the leather goes right around and under the foot. Made on a Nature Form last and incorporating a cushioned arch-support, Wallabees are cut from a soft but heavy substance leather and have a crepe leather or latex rubber sole.

Another range of shoes made by Padmore & Barnes are the men's Imperials. Again the emphasis is on comfort and there are some 12 styles in the range.

★ ★ ★

It's difficult to define quality, but for most people it means that a product lives up to the salesman's promises — that it is reliable and operates according to specification — for a long time. With the firm of Tandberg Ltd., of Norway, quality is almost an obsession — so much so that "Tandberg quality" has become a concept for millions of satisfied customers throughout the world — proof of the public trust enjoyed by this great name . . . And now it comes to Ireland.

Tandberg is pleased to be represented in this country by Siemens Ltd., the great international firm that has done so much for Ireland in the field of engineering both in the home and at national level. The new Tandberg colour sets come to the Irish

market in two sizes, three models. All are backed by Siemens comprehensive guarantee. Sets are encased in a Scandinavian styled cabinet with teak or rosewood finish and are fitted with bass and treble sound control with extra large loudspeakers for better quality sound. Included are extension sockets for earphones and loudspeakers for when you wish to use the set for your own personal viewing. There is also a sensor channel control and provision is made for a video tape recorder.

All in all Tandberg are colour television sets that provide for everything you may feel you need in the future. And they do it exceedingly well.

And now good news for all you wash weary ladies. A range of new washing machines designed to make the chore of washing clothes the easiest thing in the world is currently being marketed by that firm so famous for domestic electrical appliances, Siemens Ltd. They're all fully automatic. You simply put the dirty clothes in, set your programme—the easiest thing in the world—and press the ON button. The machines do all the rest including spin-drying — automatically — without your attention.

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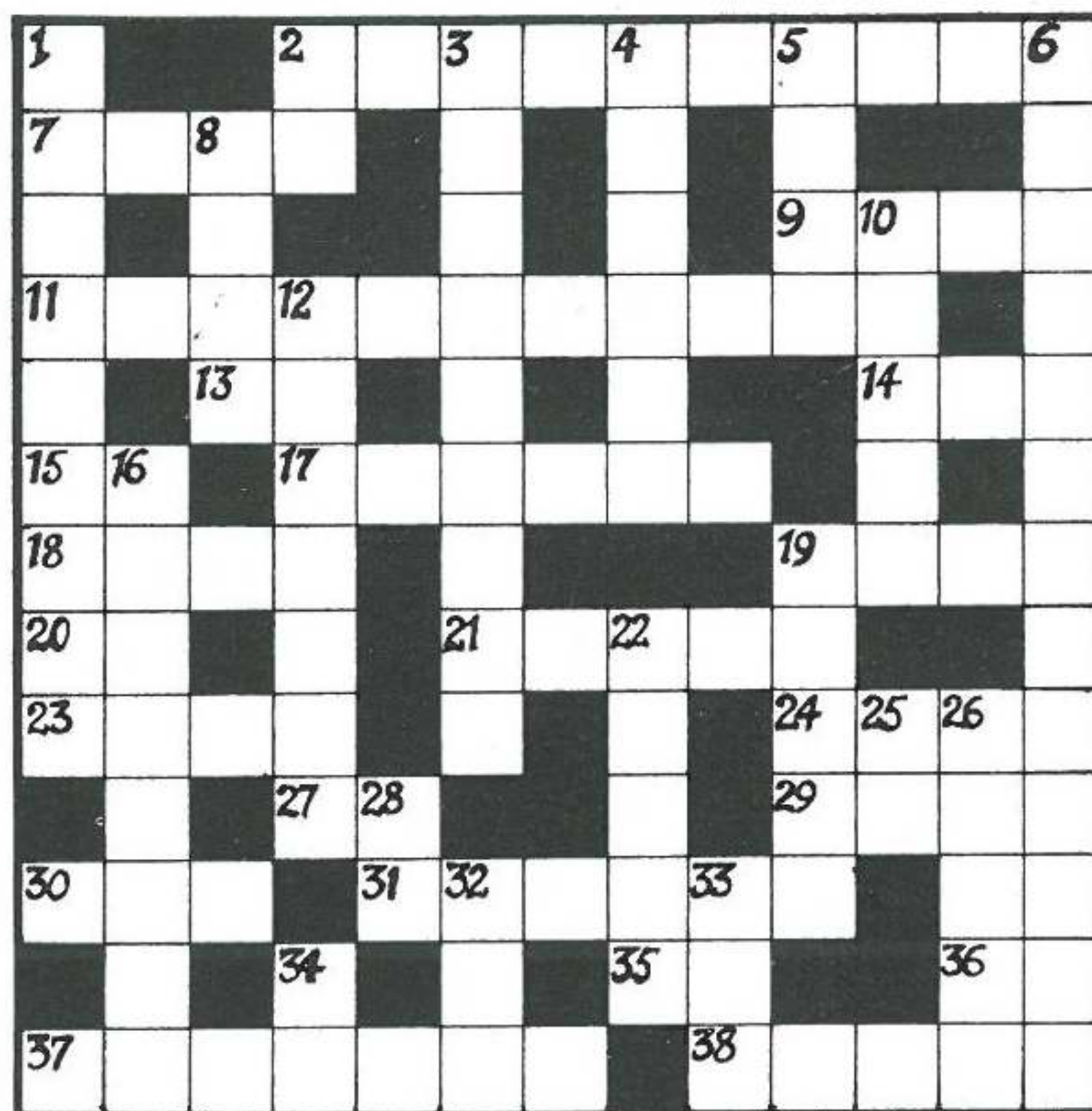
By PERMUTER

## CLUES ACROSS:

- 2—Dublin's centre half back in 1974 All-Ireland title winning team, (4, 6)  
 7—Hale again — injury has had time to cure. (4)  
 9—Mel's almost manage a smile in one's absence. (4)  
 11—Heiney shall have appeared in the No. 3 position for Kerry. (5, 6)  
 13—Half a "comeback" toy. (2)  
 14—Glide the centre of the cover (on the Cup). (3)  
 15—"... backing south-east ..." — like the brother of Limerick selector who was also a good county hurler. (1, 1)  
 17—This Cork full-forward is no 'Barr. (6)  
 18—You would need to be "bats" to knife a player because of some dispute. (4)  
 19—I was sure before you confused me. (4)  
 20—Past-President of G.A.A. — Tipperary man. Initials. (1, 1)  
 21—Outstanding Kilkenny camogie star. (5)  
 23—Almost no way you can suppress sleepy reaction to dull, and boring game. (4)  
 24—Form of hunting (popular in Cork, especially) carried out in female clothing? (4)  
 27—Prominent former wing half-back for Dublin. Initials. (1, 1)  
 29—Cheers resound and almost choke. (4)  
 30—A poem to celebrate victory, perhaps. (3)  
 31—Donegal man who bagged a lot of goals in 1974. (6)  
 35—Massive Kilkenny corner-forward of a few years ago. Initials. (1, 1)  
 36—Rugby League, initially. (1, 1)  
 37—All-Ireland hurling star whose twin daughters won All-Ireland honours in 1974. (1, 6)  
 38—Veteran Wexford hurler still playing well for Rathnure. (5)

## CLUES DOWN:

- 1—Outstanding young Waterford footballer at midfield. (1, 8)  
 2—Lovely Cork hurler of the 40s sadly deceased. Initials. (1, 1)  
 3—May be Antrim star of to-day, or his father of 30 years ago. (9)  
 4—Looter in a certain convent. (6)  
 5—Concerted charge — favourite old-time tactics. (4)



- 6—Former chairman of the Activities Committee, a well-known Dublin hurler in his day. (4, 9)  
 8—Games that prove most difficult in the League for all counties. (4)  
 10—Tipperary footballer to whom, by the sound of it, distance is no object. (5)  
 12—Sending in high, dropping balls. (7)  
 16—Sad trend to find a team left high and dry. (8)  
 19—Horseman in reserve with Dublin. (5)  
 22—Member of the Wolfe Tones club can make amends. (5)  
 25—The supreme Cork hurler seems to be confused this time. Initials. (1, 1)  
 26—Fr. Jim — a fast and fierce-shooting Clonakilty and Cork forward of the 40s. (5)  
 28—Top midfielder in Offaly's reign. Initials. (1, 1)  
 32—Number of football All-Irelands — any grade — won by Laois. (3)  
 33—County's fortunes on the way down — like the tide. (3)  
 34—Beautiful striker at midfield for Kilkenny minors in 1973 and 1974. Initials. (1, 1)

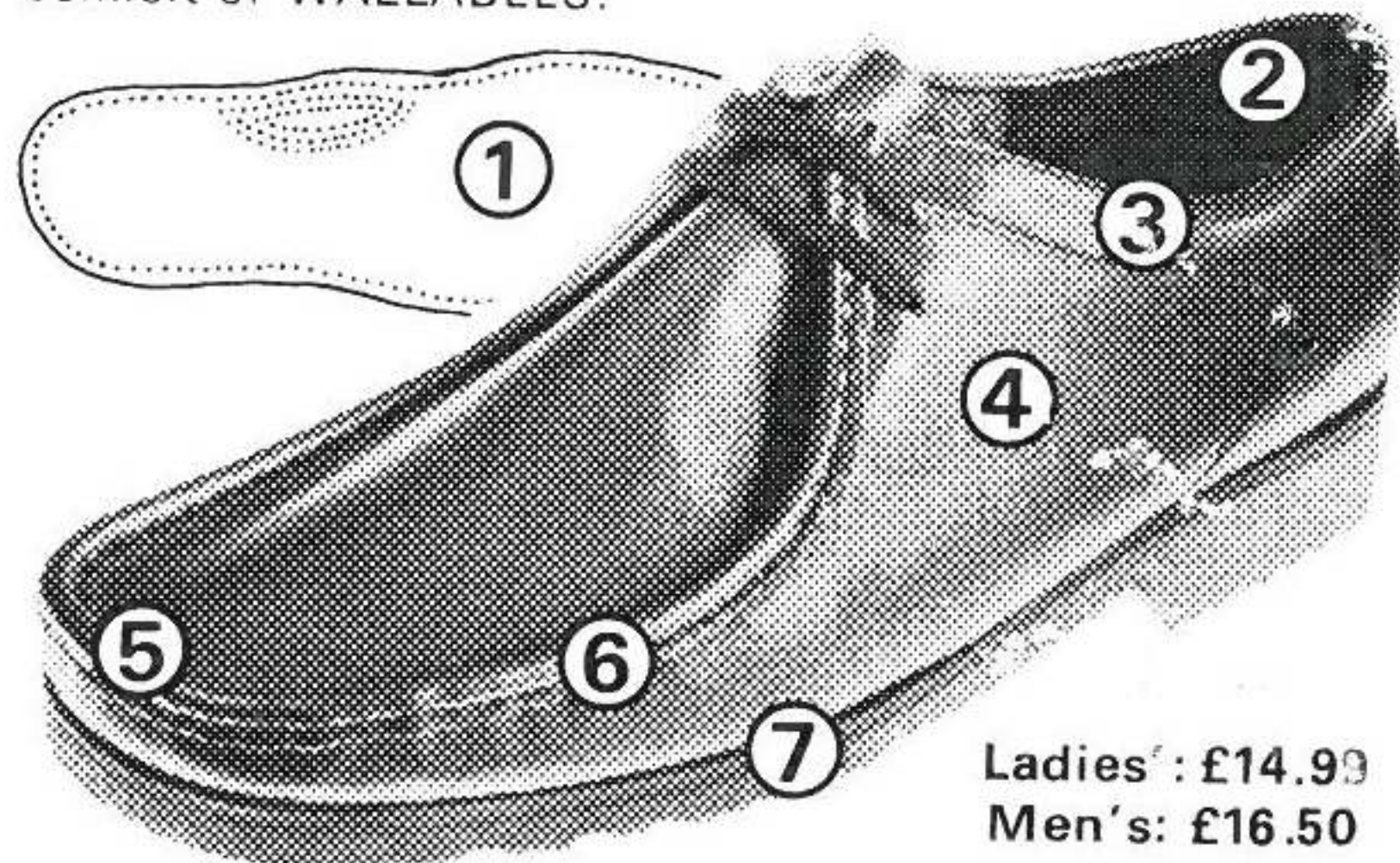
SOLUTION ON PAGE 41



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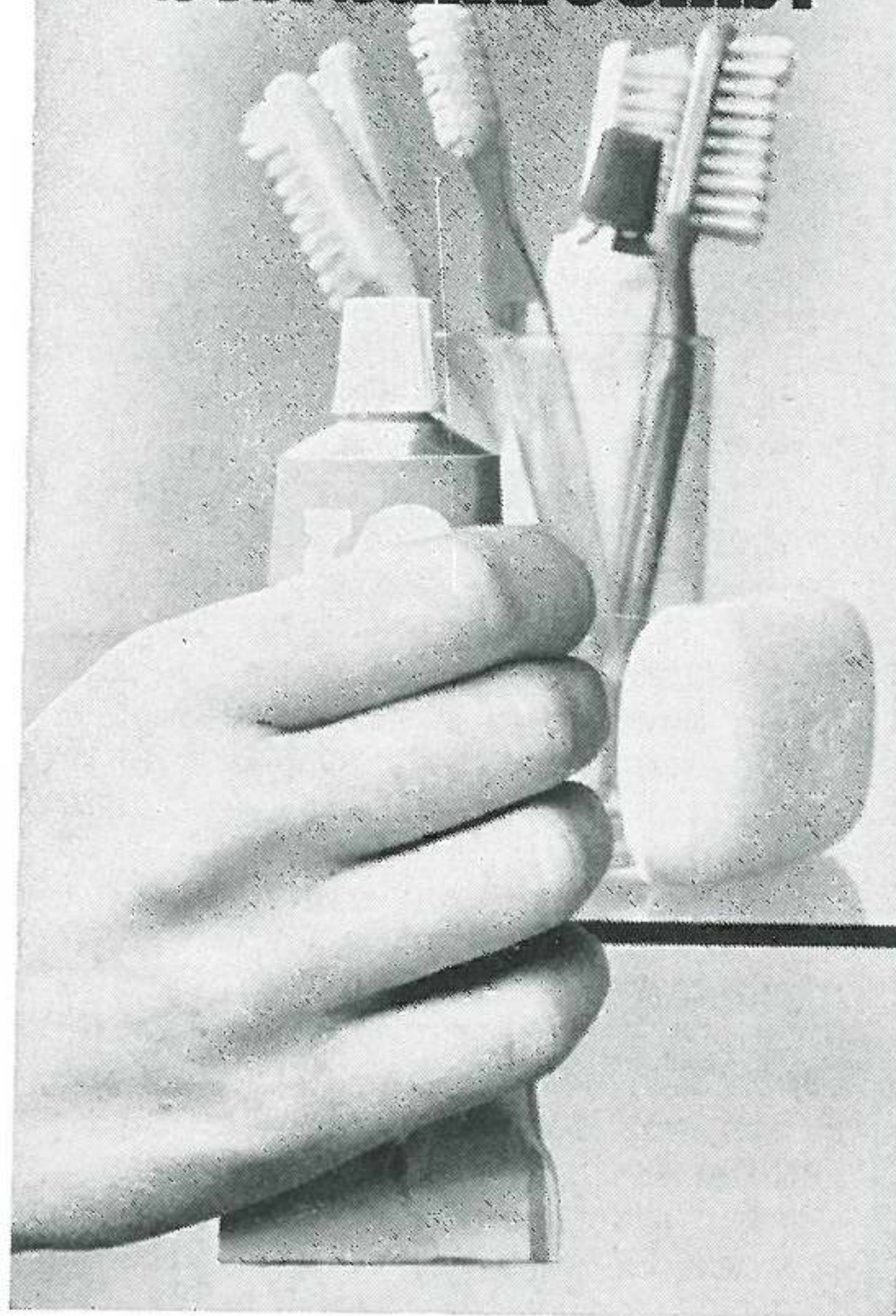
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# Interesting talking points at county conventions

By Neil McCavana

THE County Conventions over the past six weeks or so provided some interesting talking points, as well as a number of intriguing proposals for the annual Congress in Dundalk at Easter. One of the most thought provoking motions I came across was a proposal agreed at the Louth Convention which, if adopted by Congress, would result in a radical "new look" for the Railway Cup in football.

What the "Wee County" move calls for is that the counties, rather than the provinces, compete for the Railway Cup from next year. Their novel motion also seeks to have all 32 counties included in an open-draw for each round, with the first drawn team having a home venue, with the exception of the semi-finals and final.

The final would continue to be played at Croke Park as usual on St. Patrick's Day, and another feature of the Louth motion is that the draw would be made next May.

This is certainly an imaginative venture, but whether or not all the counties would be interested in taking part is another question. Then again, dates might prove a problem, but one way or another, the move is undoubtedly worthy of serious consideration.

The point was also made at the Louth Convention in Drogheda — and it was a very valid one — that the competition proposed would afford an opportunity to

assess the merits of an open-draw for the All-Ireland senior football championship.

An aspect of the Dublin scene for some seasons now is an annual blitz competition in football for Rugby playing colleges. But is this competition really serving any useful purpose?

That's a question I have heard asked time and again in recent years, and that issue was put into focus at the Dublin County Convention. Some delegates questioned the future of this experimental competition.

Jimmy Gray, who was returned unopposed as Chairman, was quoted as saying with regard to this matter:

"In truth, there's no direct benefit to the Association from these competitions. Our efforts have not been reciprocated in these colleges as many of them have not entered the colleges' championships."

"But I'm of the opinion that we maintain our support for the Blitz."

Now, hands up all who can tell me what is significant about the year 1984 in terms of Gaelic Games? Well, the G.A.A. will be 100 years old that year, but if you think it is still too early yet to start talking in terms of Centenary Year celebrations and plans, then read on.

At the Longford Convention the Chairman, John Fay, who was re-elected, said that already the Ard Choiste Forbartha was

involved in long range planning for the proper celebration of the event.

A draft programme for club developments had been presented for discussion to County and Provincial officers at a seminar held in Dublin.

Said Mr. Fay at the Longford Convention:

"Everyone recognised the need for such a development programme in County Longford. The aim of the Ard-Choiste Forbartha is that every club in the Association should have its own ground by 1984.

"We are confronted with a mammoth task in County Longford. We may not have the resources and talents of the bigger counties at our disposal but we can match this with our industry and dedication.

"Let the call go out from this Convention that there is work to be done which will require the efforts and sacrifices of all those who profess allegiance to our Association which has made such a significant contribution to our Irish way of life."

At the Cavan County Convention, P. C. O'Donohoe, who was unanimously re-elected Chairman, criticised the fact that no Cavan referee had been appointed for a game of importance in Ulster in the past season.

He said this attitude reflected a continuation of an outlook

● TO PAGE 41





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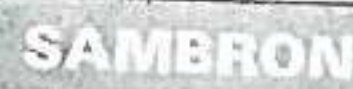
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# WILL 1977 BE A RECORD-BREAKER?

IT may only be the beginning of February, but already the brand new ledger for the scoring achievements of 1977 is beginning to take on a well-used look. An earlier than usual start to the competitive inter-county season, and a good number of challenge games have ensured a fuller entry than is generally the case at this time of the year.

But will the season prove more rewarding than 1976 as far as county records are concerned? Last year was somewhat lean in this regard, but one man who did put himself in a special ranking was Eddie Donnelly, that talented Antrim and Ulster hurler. He set a new annual peak for Antrim for the third year running.

Donnelly finished in third place in the All-Ireland hurling line-up with 77 points (11-44) from twelve games, at the splendid match average of 6.41 points. This total upped by an impressive haul of 35 points his own previous best of 4-30 (42 points) in nine outings for a then new Antrim peak in 1975. A year earlier, Donnelly scored

37 points, which was then also an Antrim record.

Another Ulster man to stamp 1976 with a county record was Peter Loughran, who notched 2-50 (56 points) in 14 games at the rate of four points a match. This improved by nine points on the Armagh county record that he established in 1971 when he scored 3-38 (47 points) in twelve games.

Tyrone's surprise elimination from the National Football League just before Christmas must inevitably hit at the chances of the county's long-standing record being improved on over the next eleven months or so. This is one of the premier scoring exercises in the chart at 117 points by Frankie Donnelly in 1957, when he had 22 games and finished with 5-102 to his credit.

And, there will have to be some impressive finishing in the other counties as well if the Ulster record is to get a knock. Back in 1960, which was a golden year for Northern football, with Down taking the Sam Maguire Cup over the Border



● PADDY DOHERTY  
... his score of 13-97, in 1960, still stands as an Ulster record.

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for the first time, Paddy Doherty was finding the target in impressive style with the Mourne County.

The brilliant Ballykinlar man, who was to the fore in that All-Ireland senior football championship break-through, shot 13-97 (136 points) in 24 outings, or 5.66 points a match.

The nearest any Ulster man came to that was in 1970 when Sean O'Connell reached an impressive new high for a Derry man with 10-96 (126 points) from 25 engagements.

And, what about Galway football? The county has been so much to the fore over the past seventeen years, and has contributed so much to the game (not to mention that great run of three All-Ireland senior titles in a row from 1964 to 1966 inclusive) that it is hard to credit that no footballer has improved on Sean Purcell's score of 107 points (11-74) in 22 games in

1958.

Indeed, only two Galway men, both now also out of inter-county football, reached the magical century of points since that Purcell county spectacular.

In 1964, Cyril Dunne went very close to the Tuam man's high-point when he scored 3-96 (105 points) in 21 games. Then, in 1969 John Keenan notched 5-88 (103 points) in 21 games.

Finally, on the football scene, the national record is also going to take a deal of beating. Mick O'Dwyer is the man who sets a blistering headline here with a thundering 161 points (13-122) in 26 games in 1970.

The great Kerry footballer scored 4-92 (104 points) in 19 games at home, and put up 9-30 (57 points) in seven games on a world tour with Kerry.

Back to hurling and 1976 achievements, and special mention must be made of the achievement

of Pat Moriarty in scoring 7-18 (39 points) in eight games for a new Kerry hurling record. He has, of course, been included in the Munster attack for this month's Railway Cup hurling semi-final with Ulster.

With Galway shaping up so well in the National Hurling League, could 1977 prove a record-making year for the county in the code? John Connolly finished their top marksman last year with 10-35 (65 points) from seventeen games. That total was just seven points short of the county peak put up in 1971 by Padraig Fahy at 9-50 (77 points) in 13 games.

So, all in all, there are some exceptionally high targets for the hurling and football finishers to aim at in the coming year. And, who is there to say that somewhere along the line the year will not produce at least a few markers in the record book?

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Mr. Ignatius Buckley, Regional Tourism Manager, Cork/Kerry Tourism, will be only too happy to book your accommodation for the match—telephone Cork 021-23251 and Killarney 064-31633.

**T**HERE are at least three centres in Ireland East which would make ideal venues for visiting G.A.A. groups. Newbridge,



**PADDY LONG,**  
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Navan and Dundalk have the twin advantages of a central location and excellent stadiums and facilities. Being busy towns, they offer a good choice of accommodation (bed and breakfast from £2.40) and a wide variety of evening entertainment. All three have cabaret shows, dinner dances and singing pubs, while Dundalk also offers jazz sessions and professional theatre. They are good centres for sightseeing with a large number of interesting things to see and enjoy nearby. Add to this an exciting match and you have all you need for a most enjoyable weekend.



**P**ICTURE shows a FIAT-ALLIS AD 14B Angledozer, 150 h.p., with full powershift, prior to delivery to the Department of Lands Forest & Wildlife Service. The machine was modified with twin-tilt cylinders with single lever control for tilting the blade on each side as well as the normal blade angle adjustment mounted on the C-frame. This is the first Fiat-Allis machine so modified anywhere. Another modification was the adaptation of an existing ripper to the machine. All these modifications were designed and carried out by McCairns Motors Ltd. Industrial Division under the direction of Sean Hogan, Manager of the Division. This is the 36th Fiat-Allis to be delivered to the Department of Lands. A further two machines are being modified by McCairns before delivery.



# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

FROM time to time readers ask for details regarding current G.A.A. books. Some Yearbook editors send in their publications for review. Others don't. I haven't seen the Meath Yearbook, Cork '77, History of Beara, Dunhill History or Kerry Yearbook as yet. Perhaps next month I'll be able to tell you about the above and maybe others too.

The following G.A.A. books have been published for the Christmas and New Year scene. I now review them all and include price and address of publisher in each case for the benefit of the reader. All are also available at your local bookshop (save the Diary, possibly).

## OUR GAMES — 1977

Marvellous value for a pound. Great colour photos. Tremendous interviews with Pat Moylan, Heffo, Con Murphy, Fr. Tommy Maher, Eddie Keher and Paddy Cullen. Dave Guiney pays a lovely tribute to his great friend, Nicky Rackard, the modern "Kelly of Killanne". Michael O'Hehir tells how he gets to know all the players. Justin Nelson talks about the trials and tribulations of a TV man eager to get his film back to Dublin in time for transmission later that night from places like Cork on the day of a Munster final. Another great interview with well known referee John Moloney and of course the two true stories. As one of these true stories is my own, I'll ask you to read it and tell me what you think of it. The other, "The Resurrection", by Colm Keane is a pure gem. The story is set in the small village

of Curry in the Co. Sligo and pays tribute to people like Fr. McManus who got football going again in the village and to the great inspiration of a club team man like Johnny Doyle who never gives up and soldiers on forever. There is a touch of sadness to this story, for it is shadowed by the image of the emigrant ship that takes away the Johnny Doyles of this country and leaves it at the loss of some of its finest men. But it isn't all sadness, for life in another country doesn't kill the Johnny Doyles. They continue to inspire and the story ends thus: "I haven't seen him for ten years now but when last I heard of him he was 'togging out' with some junior team in the English midlands".

**Our Games — 1977. Price £1, from Sean Ó Laoire, G.A.A., Croke Park, Dublin 3, or from any newsagent.**

## Westmeath G.A.A. Yearbook—1977.

Its cover is excellent — a full colour photo of the All-Ireland S.F. Colleges champions from Carmelite College, Moate. Layout improves every year. Covers the whole G.A.A. scene in Westmeath very comprehensively. Has a lovely pictorial centrepiece section of 12 pages of old and new. It's printed on quality paper. The best article for me was Fr. Cremin's account of how his college team from Moate did it. It is a yearbook that should be studied by all counties not yet producing their own.

**Westmeath G.A.A. Yearbook—1977. Price 75p (not including**

postage) from Editor, Gerry Whelan, The Westmeath Examiner, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

## G.A.A. DIARY

This, the third successive Dialann, is the best yet. Pocket-size, it has a nice plastic holder and carries much information, like the 1977 fixture list, details of Ciste Gael, Scór, Handball, the G.A.A. Shop, addresses of officials, First Aid, all details regarding N.L. groupings, as well as all diary essentials. For years we clamoured for a G.A.A. diary. Now that we have it let us buy it.

**G.A.A. Pocket Diary with cover. Price 60p, from G.A.A. Shop, Croke Park, Dublin 3.**

## DUBLIN '77

This was reviewed in the December issue and is selling like HOT CAKES. It is an excellent publication that does credit to Editor Tommy McQuaid and Paddy Downey's layout is superb. It is colourful, classy and a gift for 50p.

**Dublin '77 published by Gaelic Sport Publications, 80, Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin, 9. Price 50p.**

So much for annuals and books of all kinds.

## CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Gerry McElhinney of Derry. Gerry may be going through a lean spell at the moment. What great player doesn't sometime? But in the short time since he came to the top he has given

● OVERLEAF



● FROM OVERLEAF

more hope to Ulster counties than any other single player of the moment with the possible exception of Anthony McGurk. McElhinney is a fine Gaelic footballer and I hope he doesn't mess up his great ability by taking part in too many sports (he is a boxer and soccer player of talent as well). His catching is superb and although his kicking of the ball in the game v Kerry last year was to say the least wayward, his general play is exciting and if he maintains his interest he should be one of the big names in the game for years. We welcome a Derry Cut-Out, and wish them well in the future. And talking of Ulster isn't it nice to see Cavan on the comeback trail and wouldn't it be nice to see someone from Cavan writing into Junior Desk. We have a huge Mailbag so let us roll on with it.

MAILBAG

Patrick Glynn (Jr.), Derrybrien, Loughrea, Co. Galway wants Cut-Outs of Liam Sammon and Pat Spillane and thinks Sean Silke is a brilliant hurler.

● One of your requests will be granted soon! (J.M.)

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork feels Kevin Moran earned his All Star award, even though Andy Croak made a good case. Donal liked the Tony Hanahoe and Brendan Hayden interviews in the December issue of GAELIC SPORT. He looks forward to Scór '77.

● So do I, especially Final night. I was at the Carrolls All-Star banquet and it was a marvellous occasion. Most efficiently organised. Nothing spared. A wonderful G.A.A. atmosphere and an absolute credit to Carrolls' P.R.O.. Mr. Pat Heneghan. (J.M.)

Brian Casserly, 1, Westbourne Tce., Lower Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork tells how Crosshaven U-14 team got into the S.E.C. final and lost but were presented

with hurleys at a party afterwards. He asks for a handball Cut-Out.

● And we should have one too. At our table on Carrolls All-Star night was Pat Kirby. Isn't it time we honoured this superb player? (J.M.)

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly is delighted Tipperary hurlers beat Limerick. He tells us Philip Fanning got the Guardian Player of the Week for his second time, his first time for football in 1975. Paul was happier still to see Tipp. beating Cork.

● It seems I met everybody on All-Star night. Well, at long last I met Gerry Slevin (Nenagh Guardian), whose G.A.A. columns are so keenly read. Tipp. seem to be on the way back, Paul. (J.M.)

Joseph McElligott, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry loves Junior Desk, now attends St. Michael's College, Listowel where they have started a football league of 3 teams. Joseph thinks Kerry will win the N.F.L. and the All-Ireland in 1977.

Pat Harrington, Curraclough, Lissarda, Co. Cork plays hurling with Cloughduv, who lost the county final to Vally Rovers. He came on as a sub in the second half. Pat wants a Cut-Out of Mick Martin of Leitrim. His favourite players are Sean Murphy, who lives near him, Billy Morgan, Donal Hunt, Declan Barron, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Ray Cummins, Jimmy Duggan, Tony Doran, Willie Murphy and Sean Silke.

● It's nice to see a Leitrim player being requested. Here is wishing them continued success in the N.F.L. (J.M.)

Jimmy Moroney (15½), 9, Lower Market St., Ennis, Co. Clare thinks there are far too many ads in GAELIC SPORT and not enough action and colour photos. He suggests using cheaper paper so as to cut out ads. Jimmy also thinks the G.A.A. should make available throughout the country the stock which they have for sale in the G.A.A. Shop at Croke Park. He likes Junior Desk be-

cause it allows people to air their views on the magazine itself and on the G.A.A. scene in general.

● Jimmy, you win a Surprise prize of Our Games, the G.A.A. Diary and Dublin '77 for your fine letter. Ads keep the magazine going. Perhaps Muiris de Prionnbhiol will follow up your G.A.A. Shop suggestion. Personally I'd like to see the G.A.A. Shop at all the Provincial finals but it should be operated in a mobile caravan or something. (J.M.)

Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork thinks that goalkeepers shouldn't be allowed to pick the ball off the ground and refers to an incident in the Cork S.F.C. final when St. Michael's should have scored a goal. He thinks referees are not as fair as they used to be and that something should be done to help Ulster football. He warns Kerry that "Cork will thrash them in July" and suggests everybody was in Kerry's favour in 1976 meaning referee, umpires etc.

● I can't go along with you, Sean, regarding referees. Maybe the standard of refereeing can be improved, but their integrity stands unquestioned. If we didn't have them we'd have no games. Still, your letter was good and you win a prize too. (J.M.)

Christopher Hannon, 1879, Kill West, Naas, Co. Kildare gives his 15 best hurlers since 1960 as follows:

O. Walsh (K); J. Doyle (T), P. Hartigan (L), J. Treacy (K); C. Roche (C), M. Roche (T), M. Coogan (K); L. O'Brien (K), G. McCarthy (C); J. Doyle (T), L. Devaney (T), E. Keher (K); D. Nealon (T), T. Doran (W), E. Cregan (L).

● That's a hell of a good team, Christopher. You win a surprise prize, too, like the two previous Junior Desk fans. (J.M.)

Fergal Walsh, Keimaneigh, Ballingearry, Co. Cork wants Ray Cummins back soon and thinks his absence is a great loss to Cork. Fergal wants a Cut-Out of Jimmy Barry-Murphy or Seanie O'Leary, his cousin.



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

Patrick Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow remembers Joe Lennon of Down once saying that Kerry's football methods were ten years out of date. "Down were tops then but where are they now? Just look at Kerry today." Patrick suggests that Down's methods are now 10 years out of date and suggests that Joe Lennon's statement has backfired.

● *Your criticism is a wee bit unfair. At the time there was a certain amount of truth in Joe's statement and it shook Kerry. But circumstances have changed in the North, haven't they, and anyhow Kerry are never down too long. I hope Down make a comeback because they enrich the G.A.A. scene. (J.M.)*

Brendan Dwyer, Scrahanagave, Sneem, Co. Kerry wants Cut-Outs of Pat Hartigan, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Gerry McElhinney, Mick Brennan, Martin Quigley and Pat Moylan.

● *The interview with Pat Moylan in the Our Games is excellent. (J.M.)*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway loves Junior Desk and plays in the Gort street leagues for The Square.

Aidan Donnelly, Annacalla, Lawrencetown, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway complains that he too sent on the money to Glen Rovers for a copy of "The Spirit of the Glen" and never got a reply.

● *Perhaps the secretary of Glen Rovers will do the needful. (J.M.)*

"Wexford Fan," Tancool House, Wexford is disgusted with the All Star selection system. The exclusion of Colm Honan, Jimmy McNamara and Gerald McCarthy is unforgiveable. He suggests one player be allowed to get three awards maximum and no single county have more than 4 representatives on a team. The football All Stars should have included G. McElhinney, A. McGurk and Steve Duggan. He finally suggests Ulster should challenge the All Stars.

● *If this fan only included his/her name he/she might have been lucky enough to win a prize. Very often readers forget to give their names.*

(J.M.)

Paul Morrissey, Ashville, Ballysheedy, Co. Limerick says his favourite club is The Liberties and his favourite stars are Pat Hartigan, Sean Foley and Eamonn Grimes.

● *Pat is only 10 and for his fine painting of Pat Hartigan in his Limerick green jersey with the No. 3, Paul wins a Surprise prize of the 3 books already mentioned. (J.M.)*

Martin Carroll, Loughawn, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly won a medal in 1976 with the Moneygall U-12 team. Martin wants Cut-Outs of Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Tony Doran, Ray Cummins, Michael Conneely, Ger Henderson and Noel Skehan.

Liam Roche, 19, Bosheen, New Ross, Co. Wexford loves reading GAELIC SPORT. His favourites are Tony Doran, John Nolan, Mick Jacob, Willie Murphy and Teddy O'Connor. Liam saw Wexford play all their games this year and wants Cut-Outs of Tony Doran and John Nolan.

● *You're a great Wexford fan, Liam. Maybe 1977 will be Wexford's year. (J.M.)*

Felix Ó Murchadha, 60, Glendar Creas., Salthill, Galway bemoans the decline in interest and importance of the once great Oireachtas S.H. competition. Teams don't seem to concentrate on it anymore. Or perhaps it is played at the wrong time of year.

● *Felix — all good points. It was a great competition. It would have been helped this year if the final was played in Galway. At least an attendance in excess of 10,000 would have given the occasion atmosphere. (J.M.)*

Michael McCarthy, Coolavokig, Lisacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork feels the Cork footballers were in very hard luck in both the Championship and League.

● *So they were. (J.M.)*

Danny Thompson (age 13), 632 Ardowen, Craigavon, Co. Armagh writing for the first time, loves Junior Desk, wants a team photo every month of great sides of the past, plays at full back for his team St. Brendan's and would like Cut-Outs of John

O'Keeffe, Ger Power, Paudie Mahoney, Tony Doran or Mick Jacob. Brian Mullins was his man of the match in the football final. His favourite Armagh players are Noel Marley, Kevin Rafferty and Paddy Moriarty.

● *You win a prize, Danny. I'm glad you praised some of the Armagh lads. They made a great comeback last year. It would be great to see Armagh win an Ulster title again. (J.M.)*

Kevin Hanrahan, 118 Raheen Heights, Limerick is a great admirer of Sean Foley and has even written a poem about him.

Kieran Griffin (aged 10), Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare thinks big Tony Doran deserves to captain an All-Ireland winning team and wants a Cut-Out of Paddy Kehoe of Gusserane, who played hurling and football with Wexford.

● *Isn't it great to have a 10-year-old ask for a Cut-Out of one of the old-time greats? I saw Paddy play and he was a great character. So was Wilkie Thorpe. (J.M.)*

Francis Kenneally, Watergate St., Kanturk, Co. Cork, writing for the first time, tells us that in the past year he won 3 football and 2 hurling plaques. His sister became the first woman Chairman of the Kanturk Juvenile Club. Francis is 14 and praises Séanie O'Leary and wants to know if any other Cork hurlers and footballers went to St. Colman's College, Fermoy.

● *Of course they did, but I want some Cork readers to give you or me a list. (J.M.)*

Michael Hussey, Ardshillane, Sneem, Co. Kerry wants Cut-Outs of Jimmy Duggan and Mikey Sheehy. He is a great fan of John Egan and thinks Con Murphy is a great President.

● *So say all of us. (J.M.)*

John Dalton, Ballyphilip, Ballygarry, Thurles, Co. Tipperary writes in praise of Noel O'Dwyer's brilliance in both Championship and League, Tadhg O'Connor too. John plays for Ballygarry, who won the South and County U-16 H titles. He also

● **OVERLEAF**



## ● FROM OVERLEAF

plays for the U-14 team. His brother Christy and 3 of his cousins were on the U-12 team that lost to Moneygall in the Tipp. final. "A lot of the credit for our successes goes to Billy Kehoe, Michael O'Donnell and Mr. O'Connor, our trainers."

● *Isn't it nice to see John paying tribute to the men behind the scenes? I've met Michael before. No better G.A.A. man. (J.M.)*

**Kathleen Curtin, Dromin, Listowel, Co. Kerry** thinks linesmen and umpires should be given power to take action in situations like "off the ball" fouling, especially when the referee is looking elsewhere at the time and she cites an example from the Kerry v. Derry game. Kathleen feels Tim Kennelly deserved an All Star before Kevin Moran and points to the fact that Tim was named Kerry footballer of the year in 1976.

● *The linesmen and umpires are being consulted much more now on this type of 'behind the play' fouling than in the past. (J.M.)*

**Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Road, Bath, England, BAT 6JG** in a most interesting letter pays tribute to the great work done in England for the G.A.A. by Paddy Byrnes of Bristol, Tom Walsh, Frank Bellew, Paddy Ryan among many others. As always he sent me on some very interesting statistical data such as the then newspaper accounts of the 1923 All-Ireland finals and photostat copies of the team pages from the 1922 and 1926 All-Ireland S.F. final programmes. All you programme

## LIMERICK CITY LIBRARY

lovers could do worse than drop a line to Dermot asking him for a photostat copy of same. You might include a 10p P.O. to cover postage (stamps would be no good). Dermot sent me on a copy of "The Holly Bough" a "Cork Examiner" Christmas publication which is good reading and nostalgic and very Christmas-like. He pays due tribute to the recently opened G.A.A. Exhibition in the West Cork Museum at Clonakilty, which recalled the proud history and tradition of this great club. Dave McCarthy the current All Star is a Clon. man.

● *Dermot, even though you're no Junior, your letter wins a prize. We thank you for your interest in us and in the G.A.A. generally. Clonakilty are to be complimented on their exhibition. This new interest in our history is something that each club should undertake for itself. (J.M.)*

**Michael Bonner (aged 12), Derryhenny, Doochary, Lifford, Co. Donegal** tells us that Paul McGettigan had a great game for Donegal v. Cavan in Letterkenny and wants a Cut-Out of Noel Crossan of Leitrim. His brother Declan is so fond of GAELIC SPORT that he'd like to see it coming out weekly.

● *Thanks, Declan. We have already had Noel as a Cut-Out in June '74. You can obtain a copy of this issue by sending a P.O. for thirty pence (including postage) to the address at the end of the column. (J.M.)*

**Eugene O'Brien, Boscobell, Cashel, Co. Tipperary**, finds it hard to get GAELIC SPORT in

Cashel.

● *Gaelic Sport is available in Cashel through either Jenkins of Main Street or Halls of Frair Street. If they are sold out they will order it for you. If you like you can become an annual subscriber for £4.80 (including postage) and it will be sent direct to your home each month on publication. (J.M.)*

**Jeremiah Horgan, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork**, is our last contributor this month. His favourite hurlers are John Horgan, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Brendan Cummins. He wants a Cut-Out of John Horgan or Pat Spillane or Charlie Nelligan.

Our prizewinners, all of whom will receive copies of Our Games, Dublin '77 and Dialann C.L.C.G. 1977 are Jimmy Moroney, Sean Hickey, Christopher Hannon, Patrick Byrne, Paul Morrissey, Danny Thompson and Dermot McCarthy (7 in all). Congrats to all.

For new readers of Junior Desk I'll just mention that in our column in May 1975 (available from GAELIC SPORT Office for 30p (incl. postage) we included a full list of all Cut-Outs both black and white and colour up to that issue. I must bring it up to date sometime in the near future.

Keep writing. **The Junior Desk Awards 1976** will be announced next month. More surprise prizes next month too. Please write to:

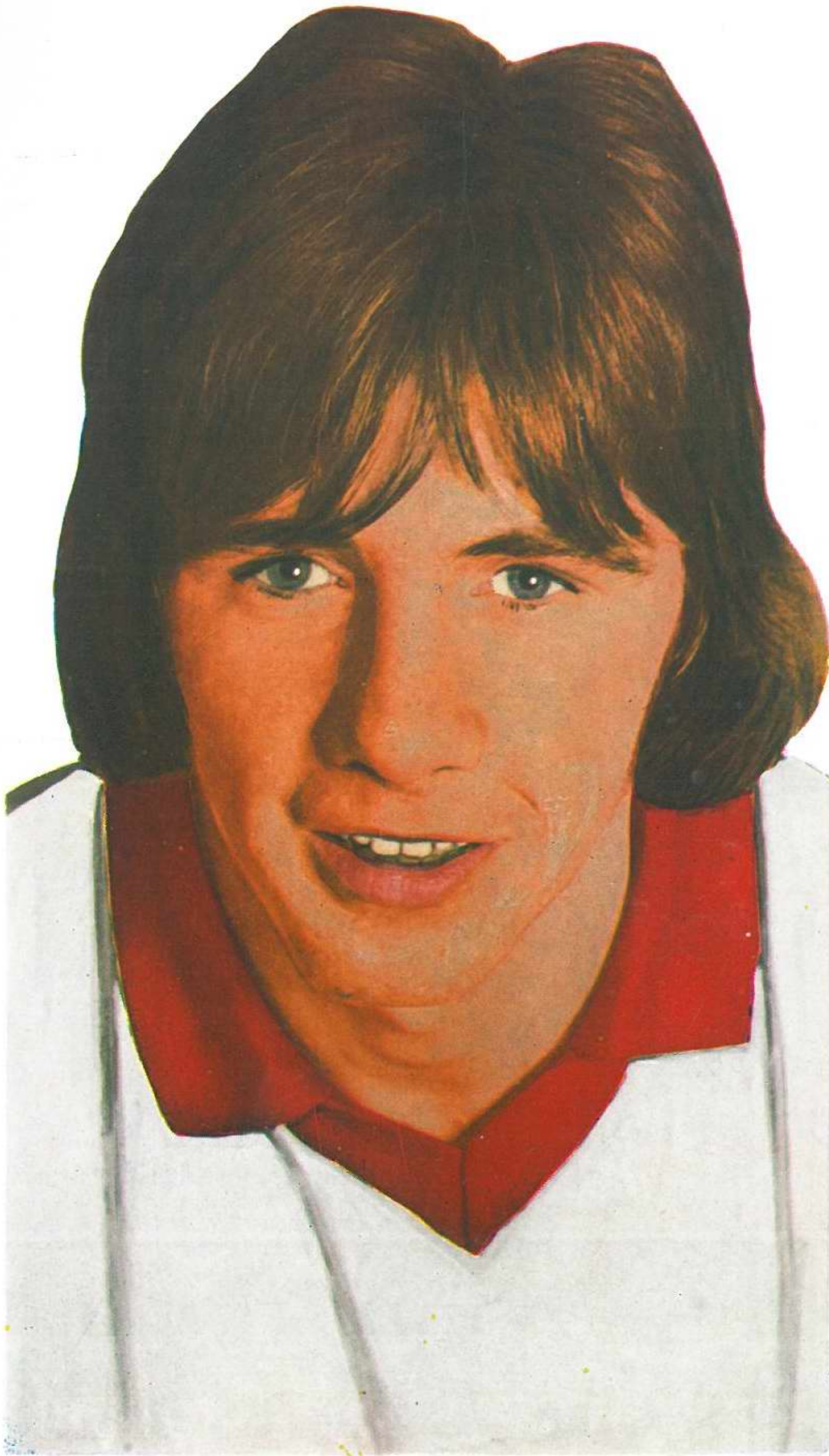
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*St. Bernard*

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## BETTER VALUE beats them all...





**Gerry  
McElhinney  
Derry**

Age: 20  
Height: 6 ft. 2 ins.  
Weight: 13 st.  
Club: St. Mary's,  
Banagher  
Position: Midfield  
Senior Inter-  
County Debut:  
1975

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS:**

Gerry, one of the most exciting prospects to arrive on the senior football scene in recent years, has been a commanding figure in Derry's run of successes over the past few seasons.

He helped the county to their 1975 and 1976 Ulster senior championship wins, and was chosen at right half forward in the Carrolls All-Stars team of 1975.

A versatile footballer who has appeared with the county senior team in a number of positions in attack, as well as at midfield and centre half back, he made his senior inter-county debut in a Dr. McKenna Cup tie in April 1975.

Gerry has also put his talents on parade with Ulster in the Railway Cup.



**look  
forward  
to the  
future...**

**...with the friendly**

