

MEET TONY DORAN - THE WEXFORD HURRICANE

171 GAA

GAELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW
INSIDE




GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

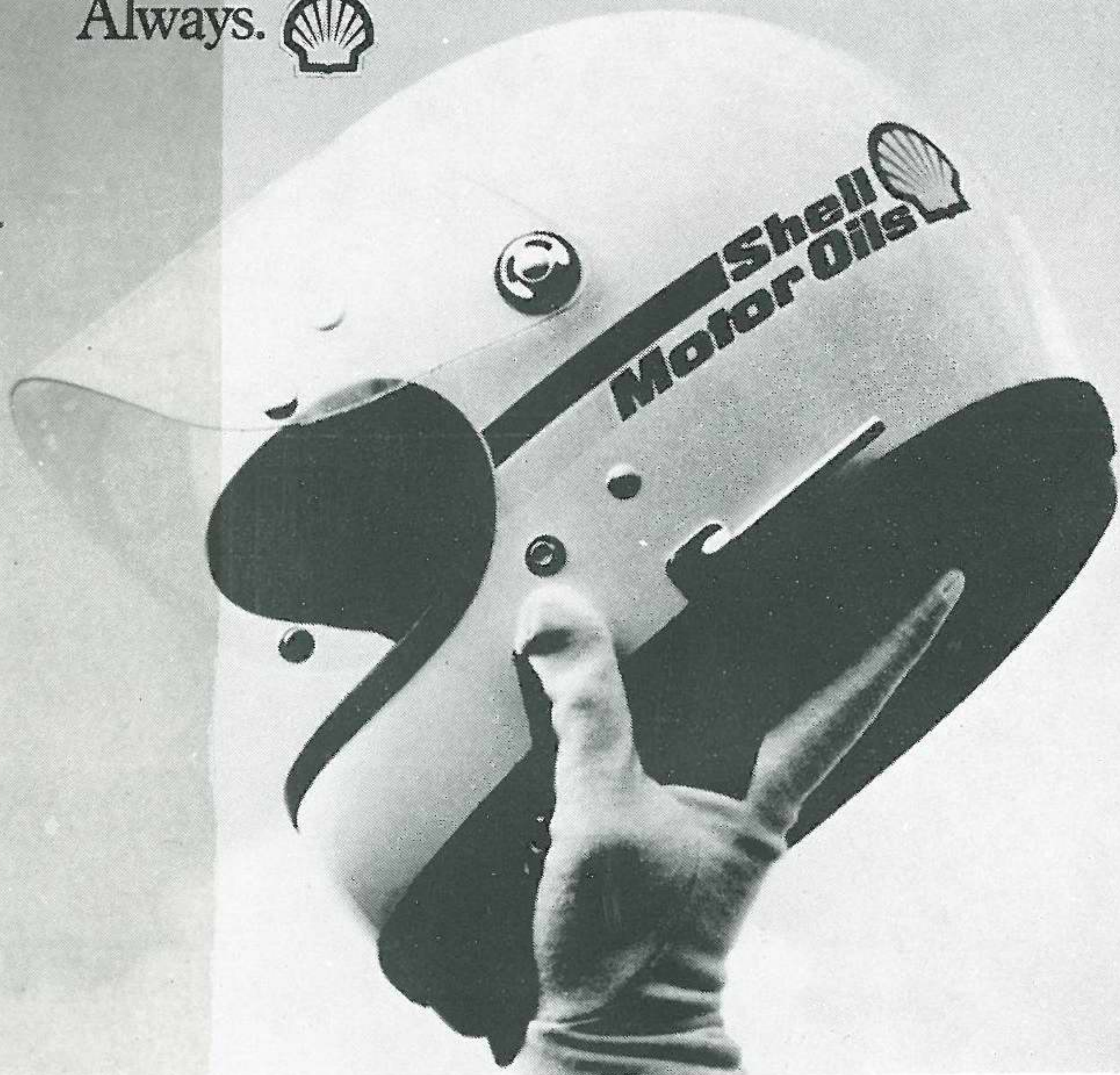
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IT was hardly surprising in the light of past experiences that hopes expressed here in the last issue that the conservative approach to new ideas that has been the hallmark of Congress over the years would be replaced by a spirit of adventure were not realised at the gathering at Newcastle.

There is little to be gained now in arguing whether or not the delegates lost another chance to bring a fresh wind of change to the G.A.A. scene. They discussed the issues involved, and took the decisions, and that is as it should be.

Only time will show if the meeting at the County Down venue will exercise a major influence on the development of the G.A.A. and on the games, in particular.

But in the on-going day-to-day running and promotion of Gaelic Games there are moves that officials can and must take without having to walk in the shadow of any Congress. Take, for example, the playing of the Galway-Waterford National Hurling League quarter final replay at Croke Park early in April.

Not a move out of the ordinary on the face of it. But the fact is that the match brought something of big-time League hurling back to headquarters after a lengthy interval.

It is hard to credit that although Croke Park is the national stadium, and the G.A.A. prides itself on being a truly all-Ireland organisation, a National Hurling League final — and the points competition is the second most important in the code — has not been played in Dublin since 1973.

Many arguments can be put forward for the fact that every final in the meantime has had a Munster setting. The game is at its strongest in the South and South-East; a Munster venue is more convenient for the general bulk of supporters, and venues like Thurles and Limerick have atmospheres all their own on big hurling days.

But what about the over-all health of hurling? The game in and around the capital — where it is struggling for survival — and in parts of Leinster and Ulster is not helped by this practice of making the Hurling League decider a strictly Munster preserve.

Enthusiasts in these under-developed areas need the stimulus of regular big matches at Croke Park if their enthusiasm is to be maintained — let alone stepped up. They are just not getting enough top matches in the code at Croke Park just now.

This is a vital point in favour of playing the final at the national stadium from now on as a matter of course. The sport of hurling would receive a welcome injection as a result where it is needed most — and any move in that direction deserves to be encouraged.

As for staunch hurling enthusiasts from the strongholds, they are not involved in long distance travelling generally because of the geographical positions of the top hurling counties. Certainly, the travelling is not on the same scale as in the Football League.

It is true to say that Croke Park gives any final a prestige or status unequalled at any other venue.

But over-all it is the general welfare of hurling that we are concerned with. And, a Croke Park setting each year for the National League final has much to recommend it in the drive to further the cause of our most ancient game.

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Tyler

Top Ten

Clarke and Moriarty take early lead

A PATTERN is beginning to form in the TYLER TOP TEN charts. The latest review covers matches played between March 2 and April 13 inclusive, and results in two players, Iggy Clarke and Paddy Moriarty, forging out ahead of the field generally in impressive fashion.

Clarke had a splendid game when helping Connacht to their Railway Cup hurling final win on St. Patrick's Day. He also contributed many vital touches to Galway's National League quarter final draw with Waterford, and to the replay victory.

As a result, he collects 34 points, but this still only earns him third place in the current chart. Nevertheless, as the Galway left half back led the way in February-March on 38 points, he now takes a commanding lead over-all in hurling with 72 points.

Top billing in the code in this edition goes to Eamonn Cregan. He was a bright match-winner for Limerick in their play-off win over Offaly at Thurles in the League in March, and highlighted a good all round showing in the quarter final win over Wexford at Kilkenny by scoring two crucial goals.

Another bright star for Limerick against Wexford was Ollie O'Connor, who also proved very accurate around goal, finishing with 1-5. But Cregan still gets the edge in the chart over the two games, winning 38 points in all, with O'Connor in second place two points adrift of the Claughaun club man.

Paddy Moriarty is over-shadowed to some extent in the football review by John Egan. The Sneem man had a major say in Kerry's League quarter final victory over Roscommon at Limerick, and it was his ability to pop over vital points that did so much to enable the All-Ireland champions to eventually snuff out the brave challenge of a gallant Armagh outfit in the Croke Park semi-final.

Consequently, he makes his entry this year on a top of the chart rating with 36 points, two more than Moriarty, who was another star of the League semi-final.

His splendid work in that game, coming after his earlier good performances in the Railway Cup final win by Ulster and in Armagh's two meetings with Wexford in the League, see Moriarty add a noteworthy 34 points to the 28 that put him in third place in football in February-March.

The Northerner thus moves to the lead position in the code for the year so far with 62 points. So, Iggy Clarke and Paddy Moriarty are already staking strong claims for ranking as the GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN award winners of 1980.

The leading quartet in each chart over-all are:

Hurling: 72 points: I. Clarke (Galway). 38: E. Cregan (Limerick). 36: S. Silke (Galway). O. O'Connor (Limerick).

Football: 62: P. Moriarty (Armagh). 47: K. Kehilly (Cork). 36: J. Egan (Kerry). 33: D. Allen (Cork).

The latest charts are:

HURLING

38	E. Cregan (Limerick)	38
36	O. O'Connor (Limerick) .	36
34	I. Clarke (Galway)	72
32	Joe Connolly (Galway) ..	32
30	T. Cashman (Cork)	30
28	P. McGrath (Waterford) .	28
26	N. Lane Galway)	26
24	D. Coughlan (Cork)	24
22	J. McKenna (Limerick) .	22
20	S. Kinsella (Wexford) . . .	20

FOOTBALL

36	J. Egan (Kerry)	36
34	P. Moriarty (Armagh) . . .	62
33	D. Allen (Cork)	33
30	Mick Spillane (Kerry) . . .	30
29	J. Barry-Murphy (Cork) .	29
27	M. Connor (Offaly)	27
26	C. McKinstry (Armagh) .	26
25	K. Kehilly (Cork)	47
24	E. Liston (Kerry)	24
23	T. Dalton (Cork)	23

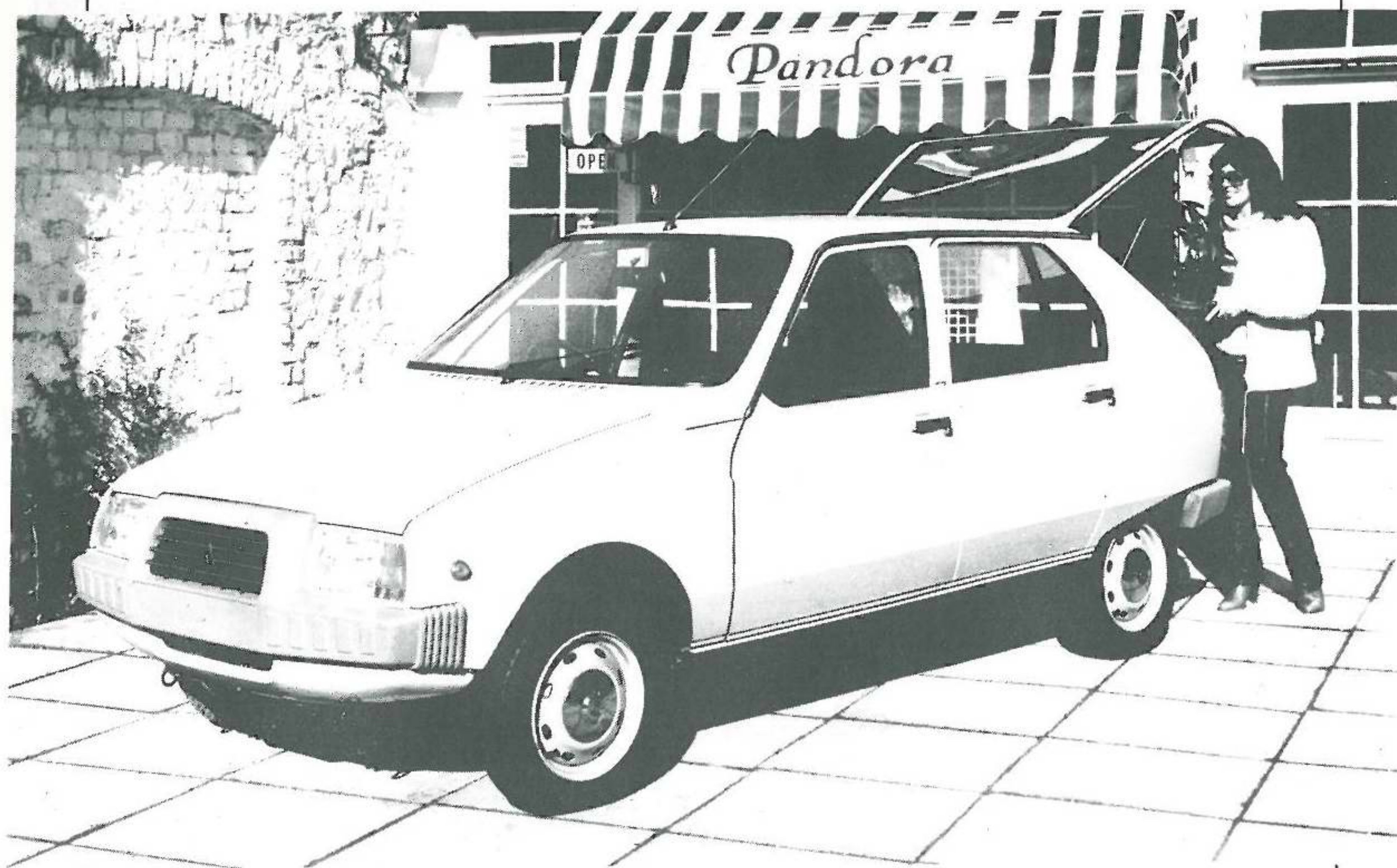
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CITROËN 

The G.A.A. should get on with its primary task

I WAS tempted to make the trip to the lovely town of Newcastle in Co. Down for the annual Congress of the G.A.A. I had expected it to be a lively affair but, according to all accounts, it was almost the opposite — dull.

Wasn't I lucky I changed my mind and sat at home listening to my phonograph!

Even the "political" debate scarcely got off the ground, all the reports implied. One thing that came through to me from those reports was that politics, has virtually pushed hurling and football off the stage as far as most of the G.A.A. administrators are concerned.

That has happened, notwithstanding what the President, Paddy McFlynn, said in his address to the delegates.

The G.A.A. could yet rue the day it took the turn it has taken. The first paragraph in the Official Guide (the Charter) states that the purpose of the Association is to preserve and promote Gaelic games in a 32 county Ireland.

There is no ambiguity there. The G.A.A.'s support for the objective of a unified nation is clearly expressed in the words "a 32-county Ireland".

Jimmy Gray, the Dublin chairman, is reported to have stressed that point during the debate on the "non-party political" rule.

There is no further need for the Association to become involved in the political issues of this or any other day. I wonder how many delegates present secretly agreed with Jimmy Gray's statement, but were afraid to stand up and be counted?

The G.A.A. should concentrate all of its energies and talents on the promotion of Gaelic games on as wide a scale as possible, and by succeeding with that task they are fulfilling the purpose for which the Association was founded.

In my opinion, the Congress made no mistake when the delegates voted to retain the hand-pass in football. But I was sorry that they did not see the wisdom of outlawing hand-passed scores — in both games.

The major problem about the process of rule-changing is that there is no provision to experiment with proposed modifications or innovations. This was tried once, in the mid-70s, but the twelve-month experiment at that time was not handled properly. However, it was better than no trial period at all.

Congress would much more readily look at good ideas if the delegates knew that any alteration made in the rules would be temporary unless their advantages were proven in the only way to provide proof — in exhaustive trials on the field of play.

There was a motion on the agenda, tabled by Roscommon, to introduce a trial period, but that excellent idea was defeated.

It was no harm to get rid of the "personal fouls" rule, simply because it never worked. Referees are still obliged to penalise those fouls (holding, jersey-pulling, etc.) but the men with the whistle have now been relieved of the burden of watching and counting the fouls committed by a particular player.

Let me say, it seemed a good move when the rule was introduced, but in

ANDY CROAK

practice it was seen that the limit should have been two personal fouls instead of three. That would have simplified matters for the referee and I believe we would have seen the rule properly enforced if that had been the position.

As it was, the whole thing became a laugh and it was good sense to delete the rule, which had been five years in the book.

I wondered, by the way, why no county put down a motion for the introduction of the coloured card system of warning and dismissing players. Are we still scared of taking good ideas from other games?

* * *

The National Football and Hurling Leagues worked out more or less in line with expectations. There were no surprises coming up to the later stages of the competitions.

The hurlers of Waterford made a good show when they drew with Galway in the quarter-final (in fact, they should have won), but they were unable to maintain their momentum in the replay.

They are a side with some promise, however, and if their dedication doesn't slacken they could do well in the Munster championship.

I am not saying, of course, that they are yet capable of winning a Munster final, but the signs of a revival are heartening and we could again see Waterford becoming a big force in hurling over the next two or three years.

GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ



**Good to know you've
Dunlop radials on.**

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Future is bright for Tipperary

THE 'seventies did not constitute a good decade for Tipperary's hurlers. It opened brightly enough with an All-Ireland success in 1971 but the decade later failed to yield the championship glory which a county of Tipp's standing and tradition has come to expect.

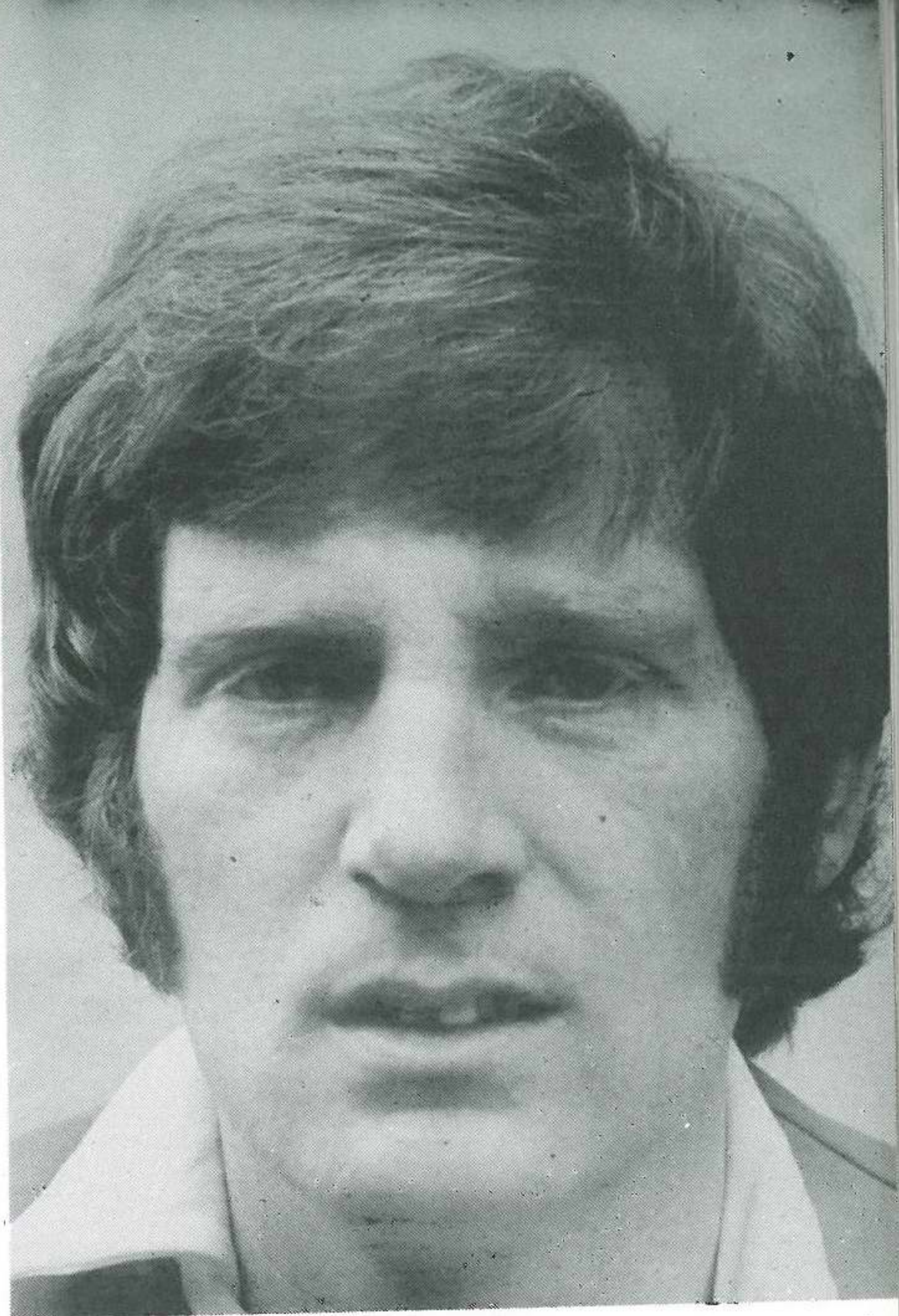
Tipperary are generally good for at least two or three All-Irelands per decade but since 1971 the hurlers from the Premier County have failed to capture as much as a Munster title. Indeed, one has to go back as far as 1973 and a Munster semi-final meeting with Cork to recall Tipp's last championship victory.

A bleak period it certainly has been for proud Tipperary, one of the worst in their history. So bad in fact that some observers have suggested that Tipp would never recover from it.

"Tipp are finished" was the fashionable comment in the 'seventies and when the county dropped to the lower section of the National League in 1978 the pessimists really had a field day.

Last year, however, Tipperary showed that they are far from finished. With a nicely blended side of youth and experience they took the League title and got within a point of the then reigning All-Ireland champions, Cork, in a thrilling championship clash at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

**BY
NOEL
HORGAN**



• Noel O'Dwyer who has give unstinting service to Tipperary through the lean years of the 'seventies.

Many people felt that the defeat by Cork might dishearten the younger players and hinder Tipp's recovery but by qualifying unbeaten for the league semi-finals this year the Premier men have shown that they are more determined than ever to return to the top.

Three survivors from Tipp's '71 success have soldiered gallantly through the dark days of the 'seventies, Tadhg O'Connor, Francis Loughnane and Noel O'Dwyer and these are still among the county's key figures.

Tadhg O'Connor, who captained the '71 side and Francis Loughnane have received some reward for their dedicated efforts with recognition

by the All-Stars but the sterling hurling of Noel O'Dwyer has largely gone unappreciated.

A youthful Noel played at centre-forward in 1971 and contributed his share to Tipp's success, but it was only when moved to centre back with the county team that the Borrisoleigh man began to mature into a player of star quality.

Ironically, Tipp began to slide at the same time and Noel never got the chance to parade his defensive talents in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day. Such lack of exposure caused many observers to overlook his qualities as a pivot. And while Pat Henderson, Eamonn Cregan,

• TO PAGE 11

Quiz

Action from a recent important NFL game. Can you identify the match, the players and the final score. First correct entry received will win a years free subscription to Gaelic Sport. Entries to Quiz, Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.





● *The Tipperary team that last brought the Liam McCarthy Cup to the County by defeating Kilkenny 5-17 to 5-14. They are: (back row, from left): Michael Keating, Roger Ryan, John Flanagan, Liam King, John Kelly, Mick Roche, Seamus Hogan, Noel O'Dwyer. (Front row, from left); John Gleeson, Francis Loughnane, Dennis Ryan, Tadhg O'Connor, Len Gaynor, P. J. Ryan, Peter O'Sullivan.*

● **FROM PAGE 9**

Mick Jacob, John Crowley and Ger Henderson were being lauded as the outstanding centre-backs of the 'seventies, Noel O'Dwyer hardly received a mention.

Yet Noel had been turning in flawless displays for Tipp throughout the decade even though Lady Luck hadn't been very kind to him during the 'seventies.

I remember the anguish on Noel's face after Tipp's single point defeat by Cork in the 1976 championship. Tipperary were the better team on the day and Noel was brilliant at centre-back but a great goalkeeping display by Martin Coleman saved the Leesiders who were also fortunate to see a Seamus Power rasper rebound from the woodwork in the

closing minutes.

History repeated itself last year when Tipp again lost by a point to Cork and Noel O'Dwyer starred in the Pairc Ui Chaoimh thriller. And once more Tipp missed a vital chance when Pat O'Neill was narrowly off-target as he shot for the equaliser from a good position in the final minute.

While the fates have been unkind to both Noel O'Dwyer and Tipp in the recent past, the future appears to be considerably brighter. Tipp have a solid team now and the experiences of last year will stand the younger players in good stead as they again tackle Cork in the championship on June 22.

Favoured with home advantage Tipp are in with every chance of ending Cork's five year reign as

kingpins in Munster. Should Tipperary fail, it will not be the end of their world as the side is backboned by youth and hurlers such as Pat Fitzell, Eamonn O'Shea, Michael Doyle and Gerry Stapleton have yet to reach their peak.

Should Tipp win the game against Cork they will be strongly fancied to make it to the All-Ireland final. And in the Croke Park arena Noel O'Dwyer's defensive talents would be guaranteed the exposure and recognition which they so richly merit.

Certainly Noel O'Dwyer, who has given unstinting service to his county through a lengthy bleak spell, deserves to finish his career as it began — on the top of the All-Ireland ladder.

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League loss may be spur to championship success

IT took Roscommon so long to win their first National Football League title that their disappointment must have been understandably grievous when it was taken away from them in March after only eleven months. There was no attempt to conceal the dejection as they came away from Limerick and the defeat by Kerry. Yet, on reflection, it could work out to have been all the better for them in the long run; in the words of the cliché, a blessing in disguise, perhaps.

It's never easy to accept defeat, less so when you are champions, but particularly difficult as in Roscommon's case when they had been struggling for so many years to win their initial League title. It was especially galling to them that possession of the league lasted for less than a year.

Nevertheless not too long after that defeat by Kerry I met a Roscommon man close to the side and he was able to look on the defeat without any real misgivings, maybe, even a little gratitude. It was not, I believe, and attempt at self-consolation — less so a matter of sour

BY
MICK
DUNNE
RTE SPORT

grapes — when he made the case that a second League triumph did not matter significantly to his county.

He could very well be correct, especially in relating the recent defeat to the coming championship. Retention of the league would have, in the long run, achieved nothing more for Roscommon than convincing some doubting Thomases that the 1979 success had not been a fluke. This is something that Clare hurlers know very well, and with rueful memories, understand. They won the league in 1977 and retaining it the following year demonstrated



● Roscommon captain Pat Lindsay proudly holds aloft the League trophy following his team's defeat of Cork in last year's decider.

nothing more than that they were good enough to keep it. To their detriment it built up very false championship hopes for them and their supporters; ambitions which were soon afterwards smashed to smithereens as they went through the painful experience of learning yet again that the undeniable, but not always recognised, truth that the championship is a much different business from the league.

Roscommon do not have to start all over again, but they will begin the championship in more sober disposition than they might have had

● TO PAGE 40



These distinctive and expressive Bank of Ireland GAA Allstar trophies have been designed by Dublin-born sculptor, Rowan Gillespie.

They are awarded to Ireland's finest hurlers and footballers in recognition of their superb playing abilities and for the manner in which the recipients exemplify a true spirit of competitiveness and sportsmanship.



THE HOUSE OF IRISH SPORTS

SCÉAL na hIOMÁNA le Liam P. Ó Caithnia

IS é atá sa leabhar seo, taighde ar stair na hiomána in Éirinn ó thosa ch aimsire anuas go dtí 1884, an bhliain inar bunaíodh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Chuir an t-údar roimhe gach aon bhlúire faisnéise atá fós ar marthain i dtaobh na hiomána a chnuasach is a chur amach chomh fada agus ab fhéidir sin inniu. Is suarach a raibh de réamhthuairimíocht le sárú aige é ag díriú ar an obair, ach aon aidhm amháin: gnéithe uile an chluiche a chuntas agus a chíoradh go mion. Gheofar toradh an taighde sin sa leabhar seo.

Scéal an hIomána is a history of

hurling from the earliest times down to the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884. The author has attempted to unearth all the available evidence about the game and he has approached the task of synthesis with a completely open mind.

Br. Ó Caithnia begins with the "golden age" of hurling — the 17th and 18th centuries — and he shows how the landlord class cultivated the game during that period. He then examines in detail the many varied aspects of the game including rules, hurleys, playing areas, hurling balls, spectators and captains. The author

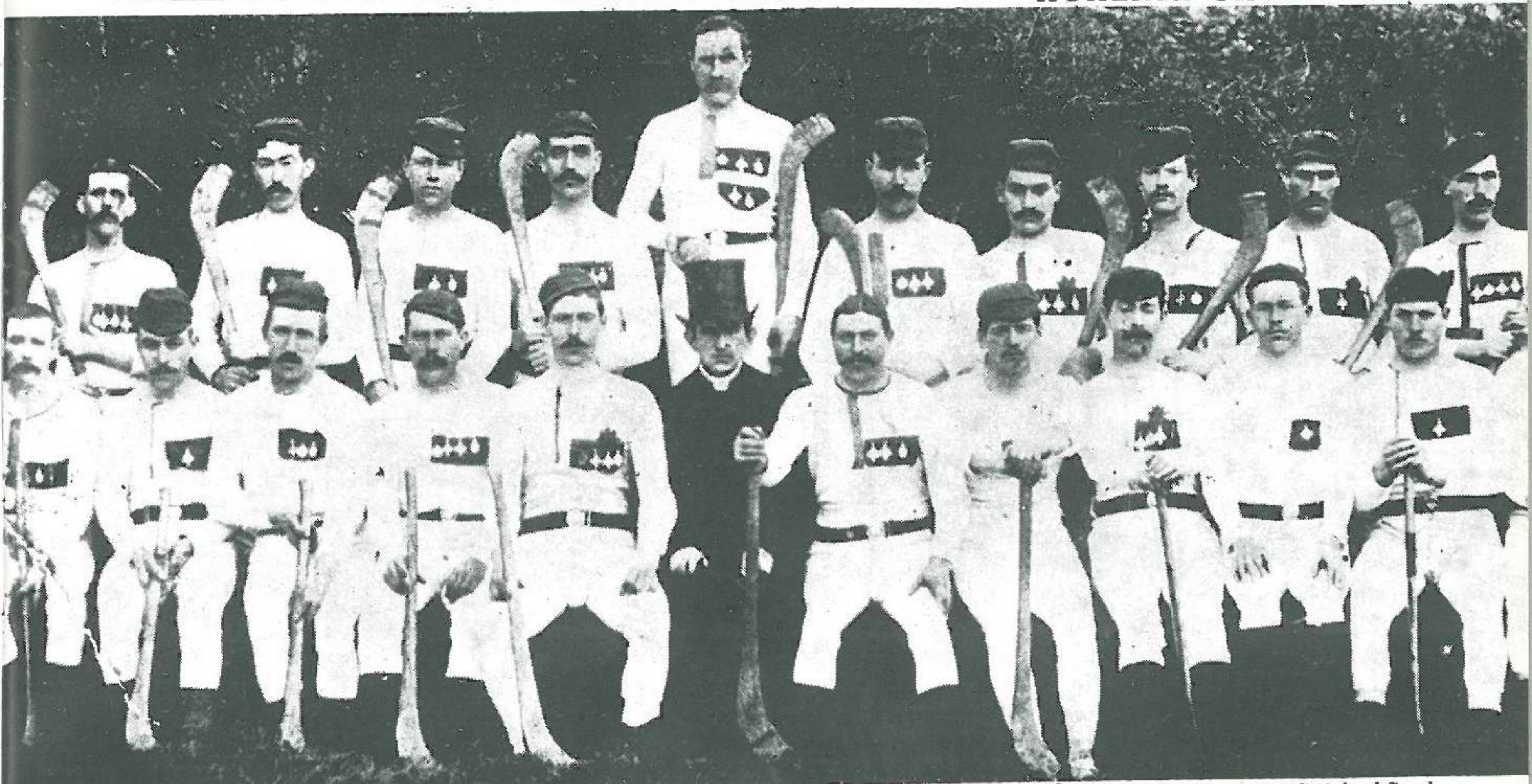
analyses the evidence in its contemporary and historical context and gives us his considered conclusions. The stamp of learning and scholarship is evident on all of its 826 pages.

It is doubtful if any other game in the world has had its background, its history and its characteristics examined in such depth and completeness. This book represents almost twenty years of research and is one of the most significant books ever published in the Irish language.

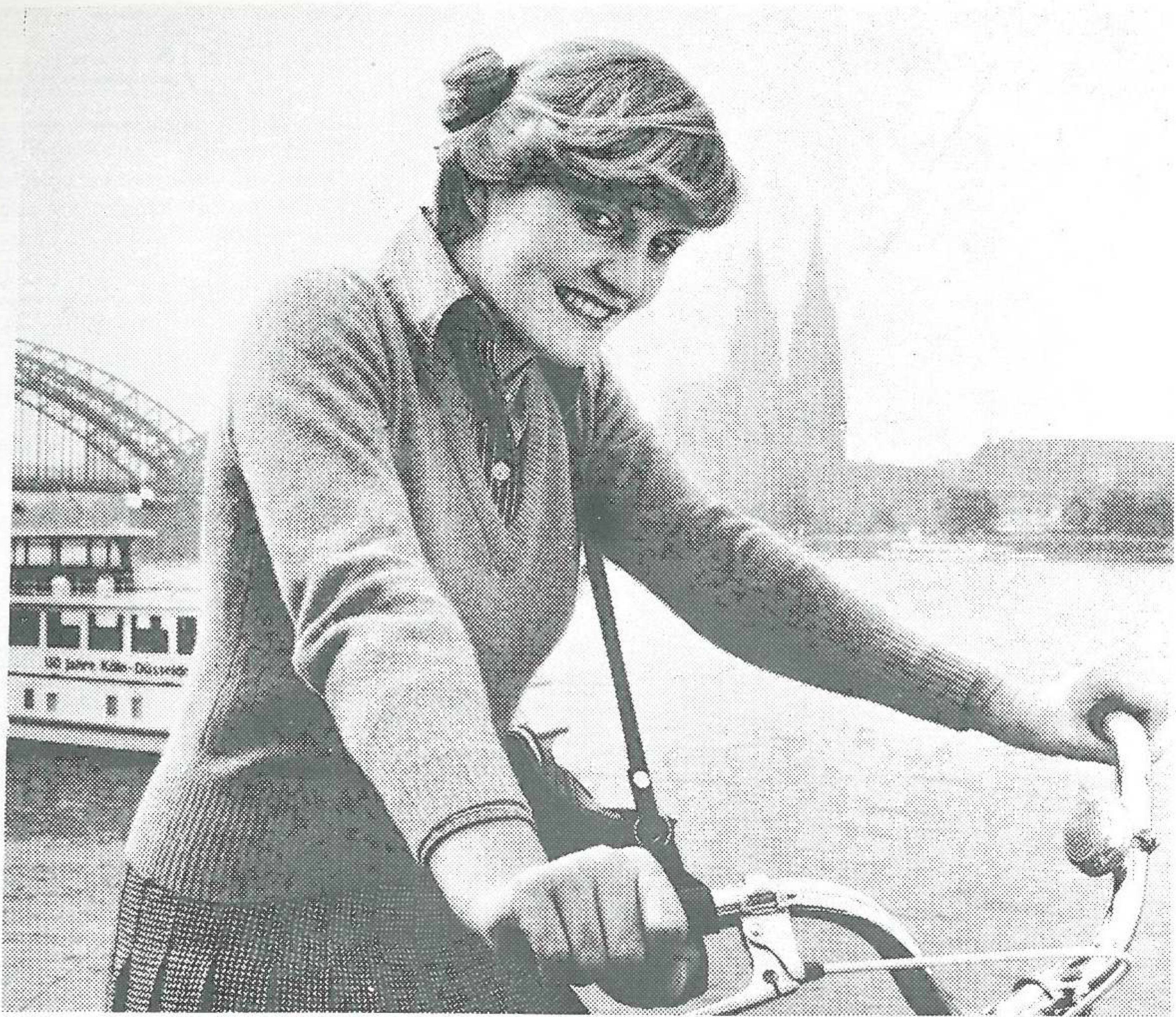
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ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS

AHABULLOGUE 1890



• The Ahabullogue team that, representing Cork, were awarded the 1890 All-Ireland Hurling title after an unfinished final at Clonturk against Castlebridge (Wexford). The score in the twenty one-a-side game was 1-6 to 2-2. All of the team would have begun their hurling before the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884 and thus are probably representative of the best in hurling at the end of the period covered by Scéal na hIomána (See above). They are Back Row (from left): J. Buckley, D. Linehan, D. Looney, D. Drew, D. Lane (capt.), J. Henchion, J. O'Connor, T. Twomey, M. Horgan, P. Buckley. Front Row: P. O'Riordan, J. Reilly, T. Kelleher, D. Sullivan, T. Good, Rev. A. O'Riordan, D. Horgan, E. Reilly, J. Linehan, J. Kelleher, J. Sullivan, P. Riordan.



**Gabriele Lüttmann, Amsterdam Strasse 2, Düsseldorf.
At home with Kerrygold.**

Gabriele Lüttmann has commuting down to a fine art. She lives in Düsseldorf and works in Cologne. And where Gabriele goes, her bicycle goes too - in the boot of the car.

"I'm really a country person," she said. "And I like to spend as much time as I can in the open".

She likes Kerrygold butter and cheese because they have a country fresh taste.

"I know they're Irish and Ireland is still

one country that's unspoilt".

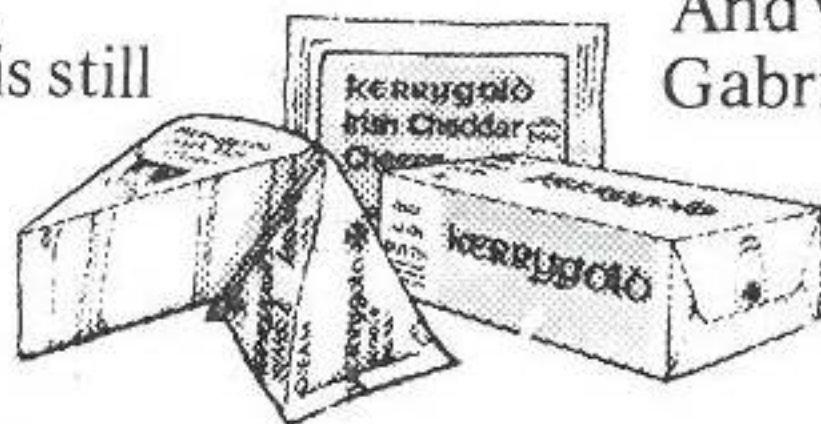
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Eamonn Cregan

one of the

all-time stars

of hurling

LAST month Limerick scored a narrow victory over Offaly to qualify for the quarter finals of the National hurling league and Eamonn Cregan emerged as the star of the game, notching 2-4 of the Shannonsiders' total of 2-6.

Nothing unusual about that, one might say, as Cregan has been scoring freely for the best part of two decades and has stamped indelibly his name among the all-time greats of hurling.

The significance of Cregan's latest scoring feats and general sharpness only becomes apparent when it is recalled that at the start of the year County Board officials in Limerick were prepared to entice the Claughaun veteran into premature retirement. Eamonn was appointed a county senior selector for 1980.

His playing career became threatened when Limerick officials seemed determined to enforce a by-law which prevented a person from filling a dual role as player-cum-selector with the county seniors. It seemed a ridiculous rule but Limerick folk could have accepted it without undue fuss if Eamonn Cregan had even hinted that he was prepared to bring the curtain down on his illustrious career.

After all, Cregan had given great service to the county team and it would have been understandable if he believed that after fifteen years or so in top flight hurling he had

By
NOEL HORGAN

contributed enough as a player. But Eamonn made no secret of the fact that he wished to remain on as a player and his enthusiasm seemed as fresh as ever.

It seemed absurd that Limerick were prepared to dispense with Cregan's services especially as the county was still suffering from the enforced departure of mighty full-back Pat Hartigan. With due respect to the county, I think it fair to say that in recent years Limerick hasn't been overflowing with top-class hurlers.

Occasionally, they can produce a fine team like that which took All-Ireland honours in 1973 but generally they have not the strength of counties like Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny. And rarely, in the recent past, have they managed to produce a hurler of Eamonn Cregan's calibre.

Yet the Shannonsiders were pre-



Eamonn Cregan of Limerick.

pared to let the hurling star out to pasture regardless of the fact that Cregan believed he still had something to contribute. Fortunately for Limerick, sanity prevailed and Cregan was allowed to resume his hurling for the latter part of the league. His impressive form against Offaly confirmed the wisdom of that decision.

It must be obvious by now that I have great admiration for Eamonn Cregan as a hurler. I make no apologies for that. I regard him as the most accomplished Limerick player I have seen since I first began to take a serious interest in hurling as a youth in the early 'sixties. And were I asked to pick a team consisting of the best players of the past two decades I would automatically include Cregan in attack.

He has had a tremendous career, gaining prominence firstly as an All-

• TO PAGE 19

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Limerick's captain Eamonn Grimes leads his team into history in the parade before the 1973 All-Ireland final in which Limerick beat Kilkenny (seen in background) 1-21 to 1-14.

● FROM PAGE 17

Ireland colleges captain with Limerick CBS and as a county minor star. During a lengthy senior career which brought him every honour available, Eamonn provided many memorable moments for hurling purists everywhere.

A few highlights immediately spring to mind. There was that breath-taking attacking performance from a youthful Cregan which helped unfancied Limerick to provide the hurling shock of the decade when toppling Tipperary in the Munster championship at Cork in 1966.

Tipp were heading for three All-Irelands on the trot and John Doyle was seeking to break Christy Ring's record of eight gold medals but while the men in blue and gold were regarded as almost unbeatable at the time, the electrifying speed and skill of Eamonn Cregan as he winged his way repeatedly through the Tipp

defence inspired Limerick to great heights.

Not even such legendary names as John and Jimmy Doyle, Liam Devaney, Theo English, Tony Wall and Donie Nealon could save Tipperary that day.

Then there was 1973 when Limerick had moulded a strong panel of players but had a weakness at centre-back. Cregan was a star forward at the time but he had such natural hurling ability that the selectors felt he was the only player to solve the vital pivotal problem.

Into the breach stepped Eamonn and he played a major role in the No. 6 jersey as Limerick took the Liam McCarthy Cup for the first time since the great days of Mick Mackey and his men.

And what of Cregan's display of lethal opportunism when grabbing four goals as Limerick succumbed to Cork in the 1976 Munster final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. And the icy

coolness he displayed when slipping over an equalising "seventy" in the last minute of the 1975 Munster semi-final against Tipperary. And the . . .

One could go on and on recalling the heroic deeds of this great Limerick player. Admittedly at thirty-four, one must concede that he is probably past his prime. The craft and skills are still there, but, naturally enough, he no longer possesses the speed of his youth. But Eamonn's experience will be invaluable in complimenting the exuberance of young forwards like Ollie O'Connor and Brian Carroll.

Even if Limerick fail to win another major honour before Eamonn Cregan retires, his guidance now could help lay a foundation for the Shannonsiders in the 'eighties. At any rate, Limerick stand a greater chance of success this year with Eamonn Cregan in the side rather than on the sideline.

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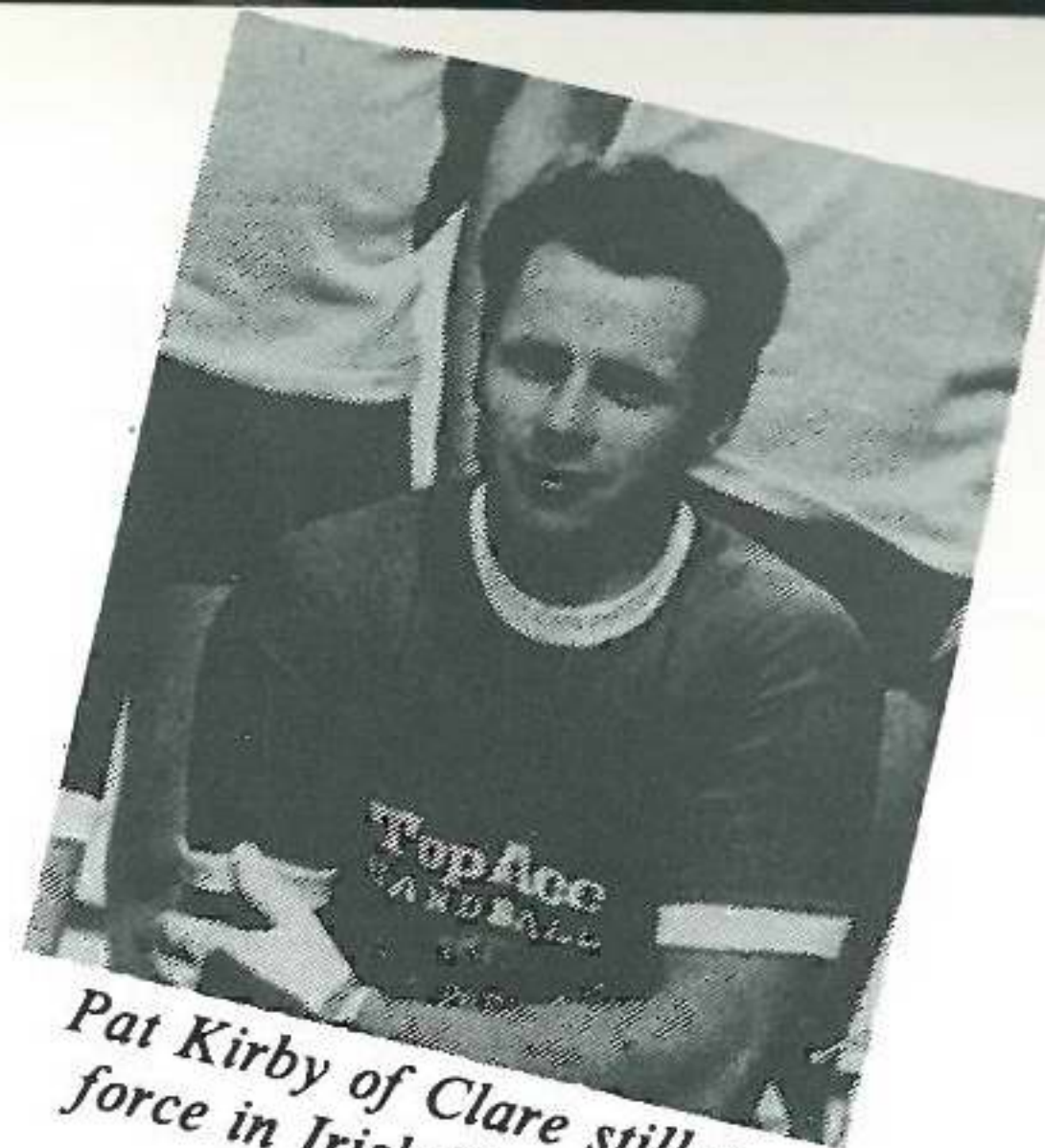
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Working for You!

LOOK OUT, TOM!

By Sean Clerkin



Pat Kirby of Clare still a force in Irish Handball.

HOW fickle we are in the assessment of human endeavour. When the Champion is crowned the notion, generally, is to consider his fortress impregnable and when he falters we readily lay claim to the defects we had always evidenced in his armoury. The handballer who climbs to the top of the tree is no less susceptible to the vagaries of our views.

In the fall of last year, I joined those who, having witnessed the rise of Kildareman Tom O'Rourke to the higher echelon of the playing stars predicted that he would be our National Softball Champion for many a year.

Now I am not so sure. Not that O'Rourke has lost any of the skills or crafts that lofted him to the top but that a couple of players are emerging who may seriously challenge him for the blue riband of Irish Handball.

Enter the veteran Pat McGarry from Limerick, who, since winning the handball singles title last year has acquired a new impetus in the associate fields of confidence and determination. I spoke to him a few months back and he made no excuses for indicating that he was going to make a last ditch stand this year to win the Softball Title.

His achievement some weeks later in giving champion O'Rourke a roasting in the final of the Railway Cup was more proof of his determination to achieve his only unfulfilled handball ambition.

Watch for the scorching exploits of McGarry in our ballcounts during the coming months.

But he is not the sole challenger to O'Rourke's superiority.

It would be folly to dispense with the hopes of Tipperary's Tony Ryan from Ballypatrick who is developing into a mature handballer and seems set, ultimately to win the blue riband.

Last year, with not a little help from his brother Noel he was the star of the junior grade and the opening months of this season saw him re-emerge, no less enthusiastic, armed with a few new techniques and geared for the big entry into senior ranks. I doubt if he has the capacity, just yet, to win outright, but, those who do beat him will have earned their spurs the hard way.

Indeed, Ryan could make his senior mark in doubles where he will be joined by his brother Noel or even in the 40 x 20 code at which he is equally proficient. But then Pat Kirby lurks in the background and that tells its own tale.

With the Kirby brothers, Pat and Mick out of the senior 40 x 20 doubles championship, an event they monopolised for the last five years, the way is clear for the installation of new champions. In the process, we should witness some top quality games, a fresh approach by prospective champions to the important facets of techniques and standards and, thereby, a general upgrading of the 40 x 20 code.

Watch out in the next few months for some rare handballing feats from the younger players. There's Billy Bourke the Kilkenny Dynamo who plays the traditional or American style game with equal efficiency, the Downey Brothers from the same

county, Pat Cleary and John Fleming of Wexford. Ger Coughlan from Clare or Francis McCann who carries the hopes of Sligo Handball.

It would be a dis-service to them if I signed off this month without complimenting the Cork delegates who came to the Handball Congress this year and ably sponsored a successful motion to the effect that the Irish Handball Council call on the G.A.A. Central Council to issue a clear directive to all units of the Association to ensure that handball is promoted in keeping with the aims of the Official Guide. They also requested that the construction of handball courts be given priority over facilities for games which are presently being promoted by G.A.A. Clubs in contravention to the aforementioned aims.

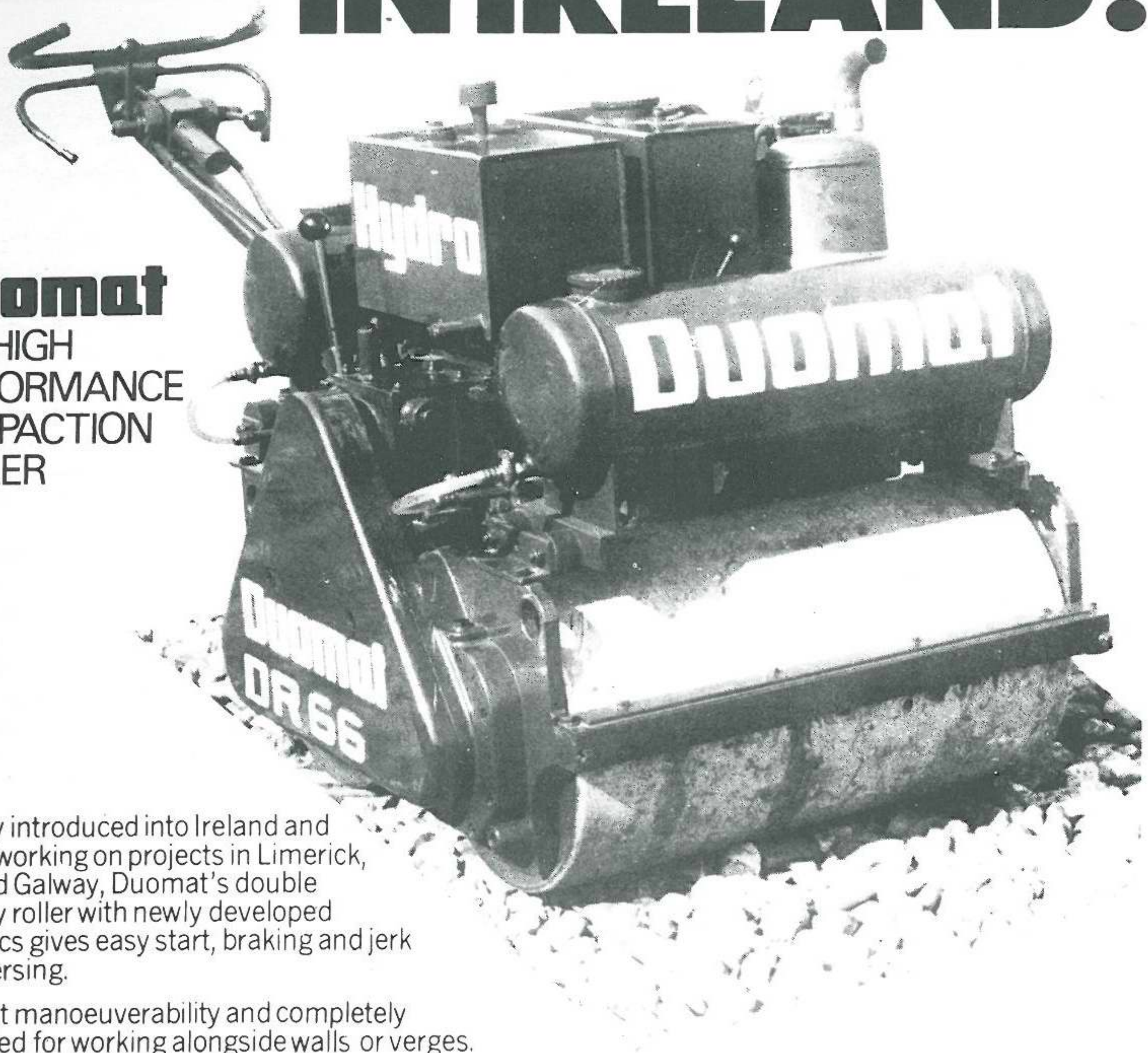
The Cork representatives were, of course, giving vent to their feelings in relation to the number of Clubs who build squash courts in preference to handball courts.

This is a hobby horse which I have ridden through the pages of "Gaelic Sport" for a decade or more and am still mystified as to why clubs decide to promote a sport with no relevance to their Parent Organisation in preference to a game that has been in the charter since the early days and has few equals in terms of sheer skill and health giving properties. Kudos to the Cork Boys for bringing the issue to the forefront.

I will be disappointed if the Principals of the G.A.A. do not act and enlighten all units of the Organisation where their responsibilities lie in relation to the promotion of games.

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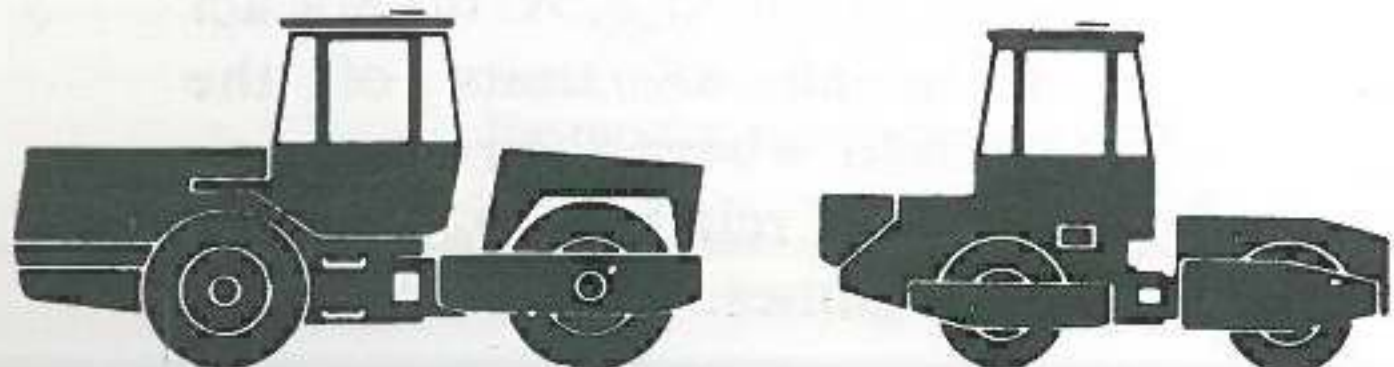


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O'Hara's star shines again

BY JIM BENNETT

ONE of the great prospects of the time, in the second half of the seventies was, surely, Dick O'Hara, the upstanding young fellow from Kilkenny who seemed cut out to make one of the best full-backs or corner-backs of his day. And all seemed to be set fair for his progress when he went straight from minor ranks through a rapid transition in under-21 to the senior county team.

A strong young man of the land, he was better equipped than most for a quick promotion, for he had the physique and the strength to go with the skill which most good minors have. Come to think of it, it is not unconnected with the lack of physical readiness of minors that there is a large fall-off of potential players at that stage. The successful minors have the taste of that rarified quality in the air at the top; they are reluctant to have to back-track into the obscurity of, perhaps, junior club hurling.

Yet, they are physically unequal to the harder play in the senior grade at inter-county competition. Patience is usually all they require to have a near-certain future in the senior ranks. But, often, they do not have that patience, and when their turn would have come, they are either rusting away and not half the players they were, or else they have lost the interest they used to have (for one or other of dozens of reasons).

Dick O'Hara personified the rural hurler in his natural physical advantage over the urban one — though once upon a time it was thought that the young town lad always had a head start on his country cousin because he was thought to have

learnt hard-sense and cunning in his urban environment. To-day, if anything, the pattern has reversed itself. Indeed, the progress of young Kilkenny hurlers indicates that this is, indeed, the case.

Earning experience and his spurs in the senior side looked to be a matter of time for O'Hara. In game after game he was seen to effect, dropping from corner into full back berth which needed filling at that time for the senior team. Admittedly there were lessons to be learnt too at some cost, such as what could happen as a result of only very small miscalculations or hesitations in a big game, like the League final against Clare in 1977.

Then, last year, we were distressed to hear suggestions that young O'Hara would have to retire from the game. Previously he had a prolonged string of unlucky accidents of one kind or another, on and off the field, an eye injury being the culmination.

It has been with great pleasure we have seen him return to the game after a suitable rest and steadily pursue a recovery of form and confidence. The old talents were unimpaired; it was not long until the confidence came back. Then the



Dick O'Hara of Kilkenny.

appetite was reawakened. Realisation soon dawned that the spell of ill-luck was just one of those black spells in which life seems to be aiming all its accidents at you.

This spring it can have brought fresh impetus to O'Hara's drive to establish his name in the game when he was selected for Leinster. Admittedly the defeat by Connacht was not the happiest of conclusions to that part of the story, but that was not what really mattered. The renewal of a fine and promising career has been brought about and we shall not be deprived of the pleasure of watching it develop.

The Editor, Tommy McQuaid . . .

TALKING WITH TOM DORAN

MASTER OF THE PALMED GOAL

TONY Doran has scored some great and telling goals in hurling over the years. He must rank, in fact, as one of the best exponents ever of the palmed goal.

Tony has been a regular with the Wexford senior team since 1967. He won his only All-Ireland senior medal in 1968, and was in Wexford's National League title winning side of 1973.

In a wide-ranging interview with GAELIC SPORT Editor Tommy McQuaid, Tony talks about hurling, palmed scores, the Railway Cup, and Wexford prospects for 1980 among other topics.

THERE has been much talk about doing away with scores from the hand in hurling and football. As one of the greatest exponents of the palmed goal, what are your views on this matter? Would the game lose out by such a move? Would it prove a case of handicapping forwards to the benefit of defenders and goalkeepers?

Tony Doran: I think we should allow palmed scores. Hurling, in particular, would lose out a great deal if this rule was changed. A forward positioned in front of goal who could have his hurley knocked or pulled from him or, unknown to the Referee, held by a defender, must have an alternative means of scoring. I think being allowed to kick a score would not be a satisfactory alternative as it is much sloppier and with hurleys flying — rather dangerous.

Ed.—Wexford have not won the National Hurling League since 1973. Can you put forward any special reason for the poor record or is it a case that Wexford are not treating the League seriously?

T.D.—Wexford have prepared reasonably well for the League in recent years and have been a little bit unlucky, narrowly losing two semi-finals after re-plays and extra time, to Clare in 1976 and Kilkenny in 1978, respectively.

Ed.—Many contend that Wexford play better with the sun on their

backs. Do you go along with this theory? You might also like to give me your views in this regard on the closed season. Is it long enough?

T.D.—It is true Wexford play better on a firm and dry sod as their style of play is better suited to these type of conditions. A closed



Nicky Rackard — "really something apart".

season extending from about mid-November to mid-February would be ideal. However, we must be realistic and understand that with so many games, at all the different levels, this would be very difficult. I would not like to see a closed season any longer than that suggested above.

Ed.—What are your views on the Open Draw? As you know, it was introduced in Leinster for 1980 and we will have Wexford and Kilkenny meeting in a Semi-final. Some maintain the Leinster Final will lose much of its glamour as a result. How do you feel about this?

T.D.—I would not like to see an open draw which would mean doing away with Provincial Championships. I don't think any open draw pairings could match the glamour and excitement of Provincial Finals. Wexford-Kilkenny Leinster Hurling Finals have been very special to both counties, since

NY



Tony Doran sweeps the sliothar past Cork's Martin Doherty in the 1977 All-Ireland final.

the early fifties and also have very often provided the outstanding game of the year; nevertheless I think with this new system we will still have an outstanding Provincial Final in July next.

Ed.—You have had a great innings in the Railway Cup. Many say the competition should be scrapped because of falling attendances. Are they important to the hurlers?

T.D.—Railway Cups I think must continue. It is a great honour for the top players from the different counties to play together at Inter-provincial level and it must surely help the weaker counties to have their top players chosen to represent their province.

In Leinster, any hurlers with whom I have had any contact over the years, regard the Railway Cup as a very important competition.

Ed.—What is the Club scene like in Wexford? There have been some rumblings from there concerning recent championship matches. How is the game progressing in the County?

T.D.—I think overall Club hurling in Wexford is as strong as ever it was. It may have fallen off a bit in some areas but then against that new areas have emerged as strong forces. However, among the youth, I think too much emphasis is placed on having competition at an early age and not enough attention given

to practising the various different skills.

Ed.—While on local matters—how is Wexford placed for young talent just now? Have you seen many rising stars with the ability to get Wexford back into the top bracket?

T.D.—I think Wexford are reasonably well fixed for young talent just now. If it can be put together properly — I think there is enough of it to put Wexford back in the top bracket.

Ed.—Referees and refereeing provide plenty of talking points. Do you feel that Referees generally are as well versed in the Rules as they should be? Have you any thoughts on the methods of appointing Referees for Leinster and All-Ireland Finals?

T.D.—I think we should try to get more general application of the Rules by the Referees, as different

Referees may apply a certain rule in a different manner. The top Referees should continually be chosen to referee the top games.

Ed.—No doubt you admired many hurlers in your youth as the Wexford revival was then in full bloom. Who were your boyhood heroes?

T.D.—Wexford had so many heroes when they hit the top in the "fifties" — it is hard to single out any. However, I think the late Nicky Rackard was really someone apart.

Ed.—Finally, Tony, what of Wexford's prospects in the coming Championship?

T.D.—I think Wexford's Championship chances are just about as good as the rest of the counties and with a bit of luck going our way, you'd never know — anything could happen.

RTE

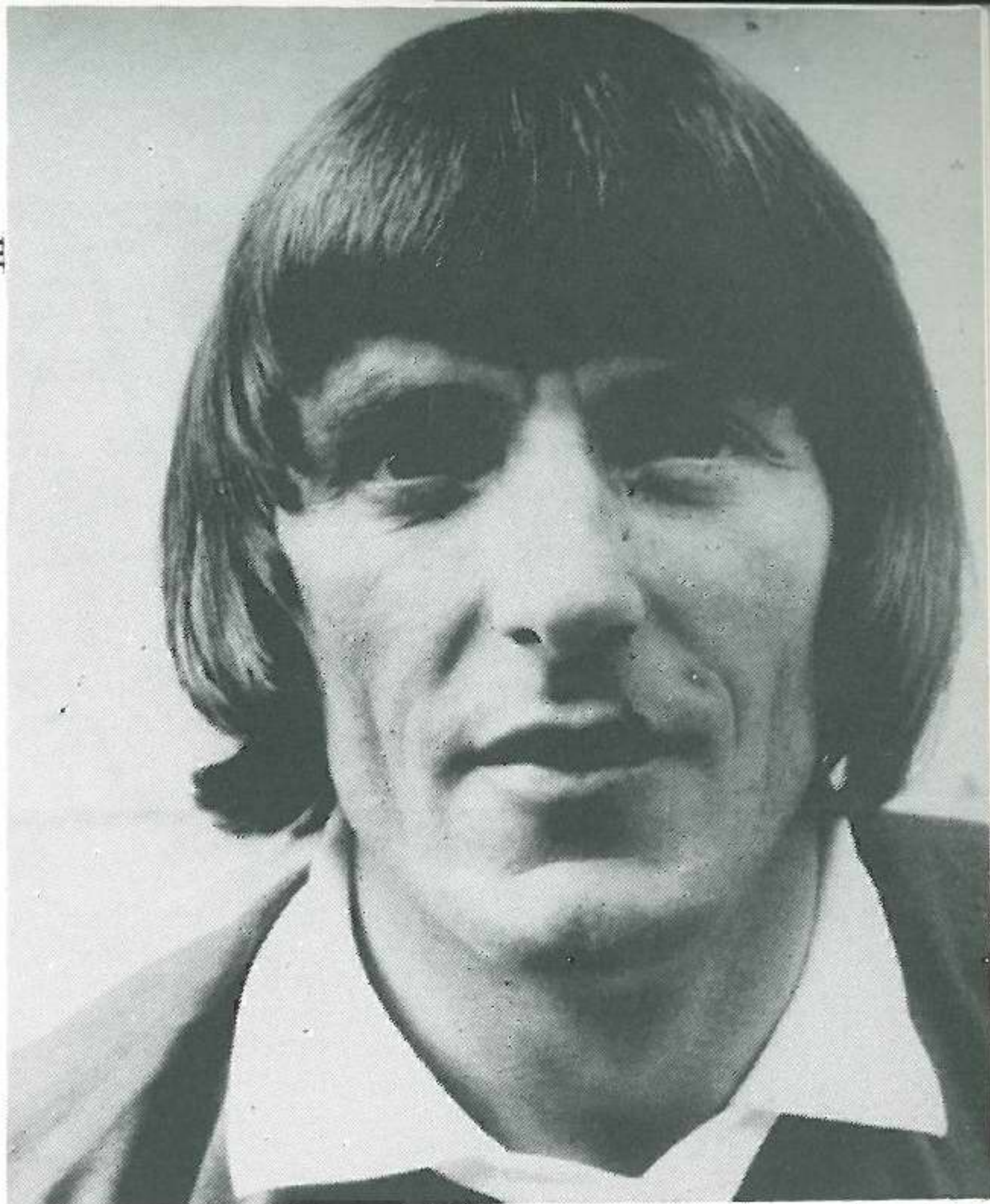
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Billy Joyce's worth shines like a jewel

BY JAY DRENNAN



Billy Joyce (Galway) "big and strong . . . long in the leg, strong in the hip, a workhorse . . ."

IT is, as near as makes no difference, a decade since Billy Joyce came upon the scene with Galway footballers, big and strong, high in the shoulder, long in the leg, strong in the hip, a work-horse he looked even then, but who would have thought he would have exerted his efforts in the county's interests all this time?

If one could see into the future so as to know that Galway would have comparatively little success in that spell (and that would have taken a special kind of crystal ball to prove since Galway seemed to be the team most likely to keep slicing off hunks of success for itself throughout the seventies) who would think that any man could be found to carry the burden of the midfield toil so long?

A decade in the ascendant is quite reasonable to expect but not one during which a greatly successful county went into a long decline. Of course there were the occasional tantalising fruits of success seen dangling near to hand, but snatched away again in disappointing results in All-Ireland semi-finals.

The end of the three-in-a-row era brought in Jimmy Duggan for the last of the medals and the years immediately afterwards. Joyce is associated in the minds of followers as the good right hand — the honest collaborator, the strong bearer of

the brunt of the day and the heats — who seemed to foreshadow a new era in which Duggan's full potential might be fully released as craftsman rather than labourer.

There were numerous occasions when Joyce and Duggan seemed set fair to make a great partnership. They may have been a great partnership unknown to us, because the rest of the team which Galway fielded always seemed to spring leaks which distracted attention from the midfield and, perhaps, clouded over great work in the overall team failure.

Billy Joyce, however, works on with an enthusiastic heart. Perhaps, he must feel, there is some reward for long allegiance in the end of all. Perhaps this year may be the year; this new combination may be the team that will do it; perhaps, even, the management vacuum which occurred after too many had failed to weld an assorted bunch into a strong team unit will be the best

thing, taking the responsibility and laying it where all "bucks must stop" — at the players' feet.

Strength and durability must be part of any player who goes through a decade of inter-county football, much of it in the highest company. Joyce was strong; he had good hands; big heart; was a man who could yield several points of his own advantage to the overall good of the team — something, perhaps, that not all Galway players of the decade just past have been willing to do.

Gainly he was not; gainly he is not, even now. Elbows jut and knees likewise. Some expenditure of starting fuel is needed before he gets into full flow . . . but in motion he is a formidable force. None will accuse him to his face of over-accurate kicking, and sometimes he has chalked up scores that suggested the same amount of coincidence as when "the cow killed the hare".

But, good servants and hard-workers are rarer these days than ever before and Joyce's worth shines like a jewel in that context. He would richly deserve any major honour should Galway stir themselves to win one in the next year or two.

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QUIZ TIME

ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

THE tempo in Gaelic Games is beginning to quicken just now, as the National Leagues build up to an exciting climax, and the championships generally also get under way. So, ON THE SPOT . . . returns in this issue to give YOU a chance to judge just how expert YOU are on recent events in hurling and football.

The quiz has three separate sections, each of ten questions. One features the Hurling League, another the Football League, and the quiz winds up with a look at some happenings in the various championships.

As usual points are awarded for each question to give that little extra competitive edge to the quiz. Mark in your score in the spaces provided, and so learn how YOU measure up all round.

I start with the:

HURLING LEAGUE

1. You will probably remember that Tipperary beat Galway in last year's national final. But where was that game played?
2. Galway did not score a goal in that game. True or false?
3. Tipperary's win was their first in a final since 1968, 1970 or 1972?
4. When did Galway last win the National Hurling League?
5. The two hurlers pictured here played in last year's final. Who are they?



6. The last title win by a Leinster county was in 1976. Name the successful county?
7. Tipperary have won more Hurling Leagues than any other county. Help yourself to a five points bonus if you list their tally of titles correctly
8. When did Cork last win the Hurling League?
9. Who was in goal for Galway in last year's decider — Seamus Shinnors, Michael Conneely or Frank Larkin?
10. Name the finalists in 1978?

Five points for each question, other than that bonus at No. 7, which makes that particular one worth ten points. Thus, a total of 55 points on offer here. YOUR SCORE

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1. You will doubtless recall that Roscommon's win over Cork in last year's final gave them their first title.

But how many times have Cork won the points competition?

2. Only one goal was scored in that game. Was that score notched by Roscommon or Cork?

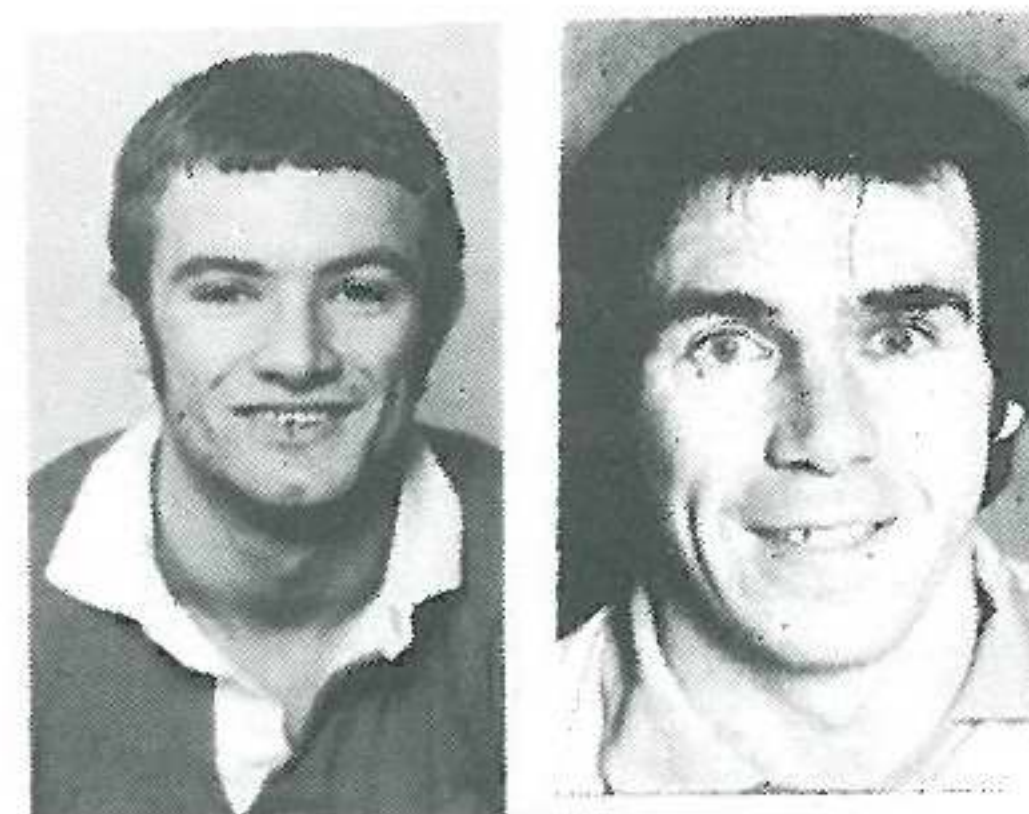
3. When did Kerry last appear in a League final — 1978, 1977 or 1975?

4. Kerry are the specialists as far as title wins in the competition. They head the list with ten, thirteen or fourteen successes. Your selection?

5. First Final winners from Ulster?

6. Who captained Roscommon to last year's historic breakthrough?

7. The two footballers pictured here were in action in the 1979 final. Name the players and help yourself as well to a bonus of five points if you also list correctly the clubs of both footballers



• TO PAGE 31

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● FROM PAGE 29

8. A tricky enough one this, and so a further five points bonus is on offer. Derry have the distinction of being the last Ulster county to appear in a final. But can you name the year of that last direct interest for Northern enthusiasts?

9. Dublin's bid for the Championship and League double were smashed in 1975 by what county?

10. Cork had five of their 1973 All-Ireland senior football title winning side in action in last year's final. Name two of the players in question?

Again five points on offer for each question, except those bonus teasers at No. 7 and No. 8. The section then carries a bag of 60 points. YOUR SCORE

Now, to conclude, let's see what you recall about last year's Championships, and not in the main at senior level, just to make the exercise a little more demanding.

CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Who won the Connacht under-21 football title?

2. What county lost to Dublin in the provincial minor football final?

3. What was unique about a provincial minor hurling final in 1979? It may help you to know that there was a Northern involvement

4. What county eliminated Wexford in the All-Ireland under-21 hurling semi-final?

5. Kerry's bid for a fifth successive under-21 football title was ended by Cork. But, careful now, at what stage of the series did the Leesiders outscore the Kingdom?

9. This talented footballer played under-21 and senior inter-county

championship fare last year. Who is he?



7. A whopping fifteen points bonus for this one as it has to do with schoolboys competitions. Mayo and Derry played a draw in the All-Ireland Vocational schools football final last May. But who won the replay?

8. Who won the Leinster under-21 football crown last season?

ANSWERS

9. Now to senior affairs: Name the referee of the All-Ireland senior hurling final?

10. And who had charge of the football counter-part?

With five points on offer once more for all questions other than No. 7, this section, for an all correct card, will boost your markings by a thundering 60 points. YOUR SCORE

HOW DID YOU MEASURE UP?

Total marks possible 175. If you scored 145 or more you know your Gaelic Games in a big way. 120 to 145 shows that you are very good in your knowledge of the games. 100 to 120 is good, and anything under that, may we suggest that you place a regular order with GAELIC SPORT and keep abreast of what is happening?

(Answers printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

Faithleach's and Roscommon). 8. 1976 when they lost to Dublin. 9. Meath. 10. Billy Morgan, Brian Murphy, Declan Barron, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Dave McCarthy were the All-Ireland senior medalists in action with Cork. **CHAMPIONSHIP**
1. Galway. 2. Meath. 3. Antrim contested the Leinster minor hurling final in which they lost to Kilkenny. 4. Galway. 5. Cork beat Kerry in the first round. 6. Liam Austin (Down). 7. Derry, who won at Sligo by 1-5 to 0-6. 8. Offaly. 9. George Ryan (Tipperary), 10. Hugh Duggan (Armagh).

HURLING LEAGUE
1. Limerick. 2. True. 3. 1968. 4. 1975. 5. Francis Loughnane (Tipperary) and Noel Lane (Galway). 6. Kilkenny, who beat Clare in a replay. 7. 14. 8. 1974. 9. Frank Larkin. 10. Clare and Kilkenny.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE
1. Twice—1952 and 1956. 2. Cork 1-3; Roscommon 0-15. 3. 1977, when they beat Dublin. 4. Thirteen. 5. Derry, in 1947. 6. Pat Lindsay. 7. Jimmy Barry-Murphy (St. Finbarr's and Cork), Pat Lindsay (St.

GAELIC SPORT THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

SEAMUS O'SULLIVAN

A pen picture by EAMONN YOUNG

THE steady look out of the serious blue eyes revealed a quiet and earnest personality. The small beads of perspiration had begun to reappear on the forehead for even the after-match shower in that Bandon dressing-room didn't stop the glorious sunshine of that Easter day making young blood course freely again. It was such a lovely contrast with the spot where we last had met. Then it had been a grimly cold Sunday afternoon about half a mile from Croke Park. The icy rain chilled me to the marrow and the only consolations were that Cork had beaten Down in the League and the heat of a Cork-bound carriage awaited me at Heuston. Strong, happy and glowing with health Seamus O'Sullivan bade me a cheery farewell that wintry day and sprinted across the Dublin traffic to meet his new wife.

This bearded 26-year-old stands about six feet and is neatly but strongly built. Since he was a child at home in Dunmanway the hometown of Sam Maguire he has been fond of football, an affection shared by his tall slim brother Vincent who is currently a loss to his team because of an injured arm. At the age of thirteen Seamus moved to the Coláiste Iosagáin in Baile Mhuirne where he immediately got dug into the game.

"I was encouraged a lot by Brother Eugene Crowley" he told me "and of course he being a Dunmanway man himself, took an interest in me I suppose".

Brother Crowley was a flying winger himself on the Dublin teams

of the early fifties when Kevin Heffernan, Des Ferguson, Mick Moylan, Jim Crowley, Olly Freaney, Cathal O'Leary, Johnny Boyle, Jock Haughey and the rest were on top.

One day Cork were playing Dublin in the League Home final and Brother Eugene Crowley was at left wing playing, as far as I remember, under the unusual name of Murphy. Paddy O'Driscoll was to be on him and what ever about Paddy (now the Cork chairman) I was afraid of my life, for what the reverend Brother would do to us. Before the game at Barry's Hotel I was delighted to meet him as I hadn't seen him for years since we both were very young at home in Dunmanway, though he is a lot younger than I. Anyway Denis Conroy happened to be with me when the three of us met and immediately after I had introduced them Denis set about "slagging" the quiet cleric about his assistance to Dublin and his act of treachery to the county where he was born and bred and from which the Crowleys in general had earned a good, living over a thousand years. Terrible thing to think that a descendant of the men who marched from West Cork to Clontarf and hammered the Vikings would turn against his own. Denis kept it up and as we were getting into the bus that would take us to Croke Park I could see that the brother was getting a little embarrassed. So I invited him into the bus so that he could go down to the pitch with us. We continued the ragging on the way down to the delight of the

other players and when we got off outside the Cusack our sporting opponent was, I think, happy to get shut of us so that he could join his own outfit. Denis Conroy came out of the bus with the bag of Cork jerseys in his hand. Obviously he was going to carry them to the dressing room. Then he saw that Brother Crowley hadn't escaped so over he goes "Look Brother, do me a favour will you? I've more stuff to carry in. Give me a hand please". The gentleman of the Dublin side couldn't say no and grasped the bag. He had taken about four steps towards the dressingroom when he suddenly caught himself on. With a bright smile to show that even his usual politeness would go only so far, he said "Good luck lads. I'll see ye soon" dumped the bag on the ground and off he went. "It was worth trying anyway" says Conroy "and now Paddy Driscoll you look after him inside". To finish the story (and get back to Seamas O'Sullivan) it was a terrific game where Weesh Murphy, goalie Danno Keefe, John Cronin, John Joe Henschion, Cormac Dineen, Tom Moriarty, Jim Cronin and the others fetched, handpassed and drove with the Dublin chaps for the hour. At the end Dan Ryan put the ball down for a Dublin fifty yards free to the Canal goal. Kevin Heffernan came up to take it; Dublin one point down. Dan spoke to Heffernan. Being of a naturally inquisitive nature I trotted over. "It's the last kick of the game" says Dan. Heffernan nodded, looked carefully at the ball and paced pre-

●OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**
cisely back. He hadn't a great chance, I thought. Up he ran, hit it well and off it sailed. To my joy it seemed to be a few feet off target to the right. Then it struck the upright five feet above the crossbar and rebounded into play. Olly Freaney grabbed it

and in a flash about six madmen in red jerseys began to tear the poor man to pieces. But Dan Ryan just signalled all over and to a chorus of metropolitan howls we walked calmly off the field pretending we weren't mightily relieved.

It was during those years at Baile

It was during those years at Baile Mhuirne that Seamus O'Sullivan became a footballer. He grew in height and girth, played well in the centre of the field, dropped back to centre-back where he fitted in like a glove and later in the full back line where his naturally quick sense of anticipation, sure fetch and quick steady drive allowed him to develop a quick precise style which is his hallmark today.

He won his place on the Cork minor football team of 1972 and it was a day of delight when they went all the way in Dublin. He forged on to the county under-21 side and though they didn't go all the way it was a sound effort to get outside Munster. He has been rather unlucky on the Cork senior side for cartilage trouble has cost him a place but just now he seems to be surely in command of the corner back position where he has met the best of corner forwards in the country.

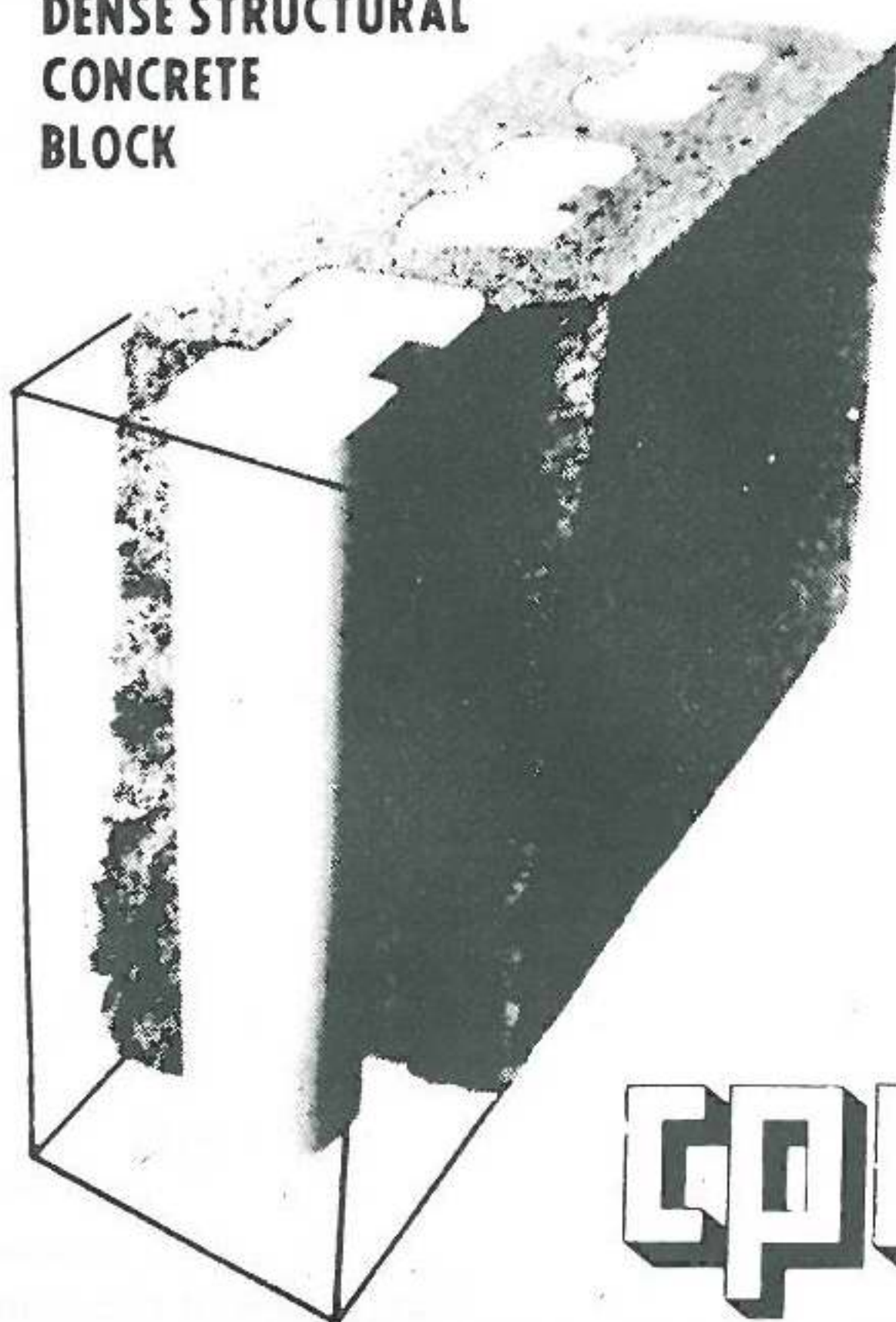
Seamus who is an engineer and currently working in Athlone for a Limerick-based firm says that at the moment he doesn't have as much time for training as he would like. However being on the job at eight in the morning and staying there until seven at night makes a long day and when a man is on his feet all that time checking work, supervising and estimating the legs stay strong. The man who is on his feet for long hours working the brain in addition to the body has to be fit to carry the load, and that work in turn helps him to retain the fitness which can be tuned up by regular training as often as possible in the week.

On the day in Bandon when he played at full back for his club Dohenys of Dunmanway he was in really smart form and his quick sure fetching was the prelude to fast dainty clearances which not only nipped in the bud the attack but often set his own men moving aggressively forward.

Seamus gave his usual sound efficient performance in the League Semi-final against Galway. It should be a grand game against Kerry in the Final at Pairc Uí Chaoimh at the end of April.

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BY JOE GRACE

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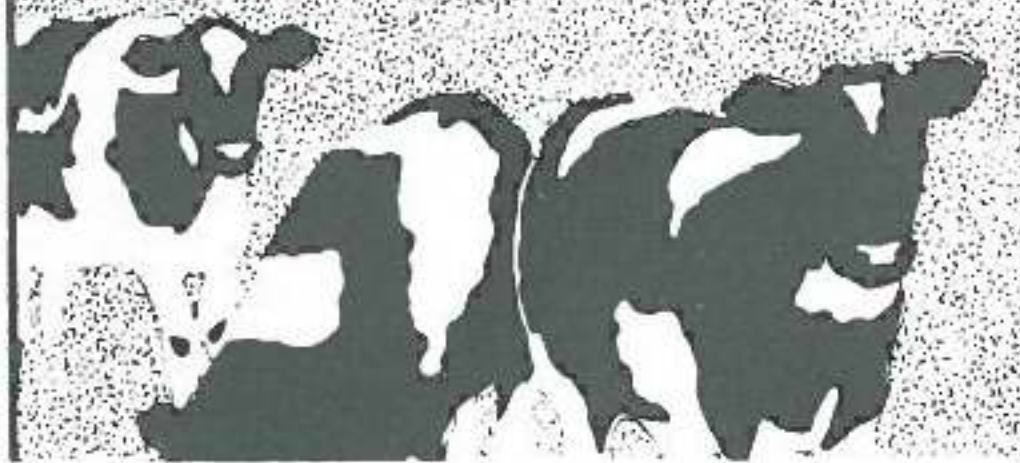
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MODERATION AND FITNESS FOR MAY 4

By Finbarr Mason

FOLLOWING on the success of previous ventures, COSPOIR – the National Sports Council, are organising their National Sports for All Day on Sunday, May 4th, this year. The Day is being organised through the local Vocational Education Committee and the emphasis will be on each locality organising their own events.

There are over forty individual sports catered for and there is really something for everyone, whether it is Angling, Archery, Canoeing, Netball, Mountaineering, Golf, Hill walking, Tug-o-War, Weight-lifting or Yachting – your sport is there. Camogie, Football, Hurling and Handball are among the most popular activities undertaken by people of all ages throughout the country and National Sports for All Day is no exception. Your local G.A.A. Club will have details of the events for that day.

May 4th – is a day on which everyone is encouraged to take a little exercise. After a long winter it is prudent of course to take care not to overdo matters and medical advice in considering undertaking specially strenuous sports is essential.

We must remember that one's heart, which pumps the blood around the body, is just like any other muscle and care must be taken, when contemplating unusual activity, to think of your heart.

MODERATION

All things in moderation is very good advice even when it comes to exercise – and what is right for one may be all wrong for another.

Cognisance must be taken of the individual's approach to overall living. Matters such as weight, smoking, intake of alcohol and food must be taken into account. Basically we are what we eat – habits over a life-time are not easily broken, but it is a fact that a lot of us do not take sufficient account of the necessity for a regular healthy diet.

However, if we want to eat our way whole-heartedly to a healthy heart – then Flora have published an ideal little booklet under that very heading. You may have noticed from time to time that we have included articles from this excellent booklet in "Gaelic Sport" and the booklet itself is available from:

FLORA INFORMATION SERVICE,
1 Holles Street,
Dublin 2.

GOOD RECIPE

Flora is made from Sunflower Oil and as the book shows, this can be part of a recipe for happy living.

The general idea is to guard against a high cholesterol level in your blood by using appetising Flora where ever possible – informed medical opinion backs this up by facts and figures. As Dr. Ristead Mulcahy, Head of the Heart Disease Research Unit of St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, says in his recent book "Beat Heart Disease":-

"Cut down substantially on your intake of cholesterol-rich and animal-fat foods. This includes eggs, all the dairy foods and red meat such as steak and pork. It also includes rich processed foods such as pate, canned meats and savouries. Try to eat more high-fibre foods such as vegetable, fruit, bran, unrefined cereals and wholemeal bread."

Look out for the local announcements on May 4th and even if it is only to walk to the National League Final on that day, exercise can do you a world of good.



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ON CAMOGIE FIELDS

By Agnes Hourigan

THE Annual Congress in Castlebar marked the end of the old season and heralded the beginning of the new Camogie season.

All units of the Association represented at the Mayo venue reported continued progress; al-

though some anxiety was expressed about the rising costs of travelling expenses and sticks. Nevertheless no county was advocating a reduction in the number of competitions, rather, more and more counties were keen to gain a place at Féile na

nGael.

An interesting feature of the Post Primary Colleges Provincial Winners was that seven new Schools emerged victorious. Only Mercy Convent, Roscommon retained their title, the junior cup, but failed to survive the junior semi-final in order to contest their All-Ireland crown.

The increase in the number of Competitions for the underage players is a healthy trend in the Association. The Galway County Board has certainly been organising their under 14 section in preparation for the Féile which is arranged for Galway 5-6 July this year. The Board hopes to equal Kilkenny's record of eighteen home teams achieved last year.

So another successful competition is anticipated, and in conjunction, the skills competition, which is arousing more interest and attracting more competitors each year, is improving the standard of the game at this early age — a most desirable trend.

Can Antrim retain their All-Ireland Senior title in 1980. If not who looks the likely successor. Very often in the past the counties, which survived the first round games, improved as the competition progressed, but with the National League now becoming an opening competition, all counties should be in keen contention.

What are Tipperary's prospects after their favourable showing in last years final. Their panel of players is still the same and from what I can gather they are determined to make a brave bid to capture the title which they feel they could and should have won last year, were it not for Carol Blaney's brilliant display in goal for Antrim.

The League finalists, Dublin who took the Cup and Limerick who

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were runners-up will also approach the senior championship with a certain amount of hope. Cork, Wexford and Kilkenny have the talent, skill and power to be in contention also.

The first round games which are not scheduled until June 8 and 15 bring Limerick and Down into opposition at Limerick and Dublin at home to Clare. Limerick and Dublin look the likely winners from those two games. The Wexford-Kilkenny and the Cork-Antrim clashes could go either way. Tipperary, Galway and Derry are not due to perform until July in the quarter finals. After the League gets underway this month, form should be easier to assess and a clearer picture should be available next issue.

Two coaching courses are again arranged for the Summer. Both will be held at Gormanston College. A course for teachers and senior players in the Post Primary sector is fixed for the end of June (27-29). It is hoped that teachers will avail of this course before they take off on their holidays. The National Course for all units of the Association is organised for July 25-27.

According to the Coaching Committee report to Congress the Coaching Plan begun four years ago completed its first cycle last year, right on target. There are now seventy-three Grade C coaches, who are all qualified to train club and schools teams. Five Grade B coaches, who are capable of training up to County Team level. Two Grade A coaches qualified last Summer so the original team of top coaches is increased to four which is a great step-forward.

The plan, according to the Secretary, Mrs. Rosina McManus, is to press ahead with the work of getting more and more people to qualify as

BACK NUMBERS

There are some back issues of Gaelic Sport available from the 1970s. Readers who want details of the issues should write to "Back Numbers", Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.

coaches and her maxim is "that as we improve our skills, the standard of play will improve and the game of Camogie will be more enjoyable for the player and become more attractive for the spectator.

For those already qualified as coaches it is proposed:—

- (a) to form an Association of Coaches.
- (b) hold a Refresher Course.
- (c) have an A.G.M. to define policy etc.

Sixteen counties have availed of the Plan. It may be of interest to the readers to know which counties could supply a coaching need.

Cork top the list with ten. Wicklow and Cavan come next with eight each. Down have seven, Antrim and Donegal have five, Limerick, Dublin, Kildare and Derry have four, Tipperary have three, Fermanagh have two, while Meath, Kilkenny and Galway have one coach. The Leinster colleges have in addition two coaches.

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● FROM PAGE 13

they beaten Kerry and enjoyed again ultimate success in the league. There will be no false illusions thanks to that Limerick defeat.

Not even when they play their first round game against London on June 1. Certainly not, if they get over that initial hurdle and qualify for the semi-final in Connacht against Galway whose team showed signs of immaturity in their league semi-final against Cork, but against their keen western rivals can be much more formidable.

But before Roscommon set out in quest of a fourth consecutive Connacht championship, previously achieved by Galway in 1963-'66, they must do some serious reflection on their football. Indeed I will be surprised if Tom Heneghan, corner back and team-manager, has not already brought the message home to them in unmistakable language — if his team-mates have

not already realised it without prompting.

Quite simply put: the Connacht champions must return to the direct, forcing style of football which won them the league, and a lot of new admirers, in 1979 and stop fiddling around with the ball in a manner akin to a child playing with a fascinating new toy it had received as a Christmas present.

Against Offaly and Cork in the closing stages of last year's league, Roscommon played strongly and thriftfully, making the ball do the work. Their kicking was long and accurate to colleagues whose running-in-depth got them into perfect positions to carry on the movements smartly and swiftly. Furthermore, once they got within sight of the posts they were devoid of wastage and punted some beautiful long-distance points. In this respect, both they and Offaly, were a delight to watch in the first half of the 1979 league semi-final.

Now recall what happened when the Connacht champions encountered Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. They appeared to change their tactics to a degree that suggested the direct football of a few months before had been wiped from their memory cells as effectively as the messages are erased during a match from the electronic scoreboard we now have in Croke Park.

Physically Roscommon are big, strong players, but they have shown also that they can be fast, incisive and adventurous. In that All-Ireland semi-final, but even more so against Kerry in Limerick, they appeared to hold back in circling short-passing sequences and seemed to be devoid of inventiveness. This was all the more disappointing to watch when they had earlier shown that they could do better.

Therefore, maybe the loss of the league may not have been so much a tragedy if the lessons of that defeat are well learned.

THINK



QUALITY



Results Summary

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Football: March 2. Division II South Final: Croke Park: Wexford 1-14; Clare 0-7.

March 23. Quarter-Finals: Croke Park: Armagh 1-8; Wexford 2-5. Draw. Cork 3-6; Down 0-6. Limerick: Kerry 1-8; Roscommon 1-5. Carrick-on-Shannon: Galway 1-12; Fermanagh 0-10.

March 30. Quarter-Final Replay. Croke Park: Armagh 0-12; Wexford 0-5.

April 6. Semi-final: Croke Park: Kerry 1-11; Armagh 1-6.

Hurling: March 9: Tullamore: Cork 2-9; Offaly 1-10. Ballinasloe: Galway 1-15; Clare 1-9. Limerick: Limerick 0-11; Tipperary 2-5. Dungarvan: Waterford 0-16; Kerry 1-7. Loughgiel: Wexford 1-13; Antrim 1-9. Croke Park: Dublin 1-13; Laois 0-11. Delvin: Westmeath 0-14; Down 0-10. Trim: Meath 2-11; Roscommon 1-7.

March 30: Quarter-Final. Thurles: Limerick 2-6; Offaly 0-10.

April 6: Quarter-Final. Thurles: Galway 1-12; Waterford 1-12. Draw.

RAILWAY CUP

Football Semi-Finals

March 2; Cavan: Ulster 0-17; Connacht 1-3. Newbridge: Munster 2-10; Leinster 1-11.

FINALS

March 17: Croke Park: **Hurling:** Connacht 1-5; Munster 0-7. **Football:** Ulster 2-10; Munster 1-9.

UNIVERSITIES' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fitzgibbon Cup (Hurling)

March 1: Semi-finals: Athenry: U.C. Cork 2-8; Maynooth 1-6. U.C. Galway 2-8; U.C. Dublin 1-9.

March 2: **Final:** Pearse Stadium, Galway: U.C. Galway 0-10; U.C. Cork 1-5.

Fitzgibbon Shield Final: March 2: **Pearse Stadium: Queen's, Belfast,** 1-7; Dublin University 1-2.

SIGERSON CUP (Football)

March 7: Coleraine: U.C. Dublin 4-7; U.C. Cork 1-10. Maynooth

1-12; Queen's University 0-7. U.C. Galway 1-14; Dublin University 0-5.

March 8. Semi-Finals: Coleraine: U.C. Galway 1-7; Maynooth 0-3. U.C. Dublin 2-11; New University of Ulster 1-6.

March 9: **Final:** Bellaghy: U.C. Galway 1-8; U.C. Dublin 0-7.

Sigerson Shield Final: March 9: Bellaghy: U.C. Cork 3-16; Queen's University 1-9.

TRENCH CUP

Higher Education Football League Final: March 9: Croke Park: N.I. Polytechnic 1-6; St. Patrick's T.C., Dublin 0-8.

Higher Education Hurling Final: March 12: Cashel: U.C.D. 2-10; U.C.C. 1-6.

Hodges Figgis Football Final: April 6: Croke Park: N.I. Polytechnic 2-11; U.C. Galway 1-6.

O'BYRNE CUP

Senior Football

March 9. Aughrim: Dublin 2-8; **Wicklow 1-4. Drogheda: Louth** 1-11; Westmeath 0-5. Navan: Meath 6-9; **Longford 1-9. Carlow: Laois** 1-17; Carlow 0-5. Kilkenny: Offaly 4-11; Kilkenny 1-5. Wexford: Wexford 3-8; Kildare 1-5.

March 23: Castletowngeoghegan: Westmeath 3-8; Meath 3-8. Longford: Louth 1-4; Longford 0-6. Allenwood: Kildare 4-7; Wicklow 1-6.

March 30: Rhode: Offaly 4-14; Carlow 2-8. Dundalk. Louth 2-6; Meath 1-8. Portlaoise: Laois 5-13; Kilkenny 1-2.

April 6: Longford: Longford 1-11; Westmeath 2-5. Carlow: Carlow 7-6; Kilkenny 0-4. Portlaoise: Offaly 1-10; Laois 1-6. Newbridge: Kildare 2-6; Dublin 2-4; Wexford: Wicklow 0-16; Wexford 0-5.

DR. McKENNA CUP

Senior Football

March 30: Ballybofey: Antrim 3-12; Donegal 0-5. Newry: Fermanagh 0-9; Down 0-5. Ballybay: Monaghan 2-5; Tyrone 0-9.

GAEL-LINN CUP

Senior Football

March 30: Galway: Galway 1-11; Clare 1-2.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Leinster Hurling

March 2. Semi-finals: Kilkenny:

41

Camross, Laois, 3-10; Rathnure, Wexford, 2-12. Crumlin, Dublin, 1-13; Kinnity, Offaly 0-9.

March 23: **Finals:** Athy: Hurling: Crumlin, Dublin, 3-5; Camross, Laois, 0-11. Football: Walsh Island, Offaly, 3-2, Portlaoise 1-6.

Ulster Football

March 9. **Final:** Coalisland: Scotstown, Monaghan, 0-9; Carrickcruppen, Armagh, 0-8.

Connacht Hurling

March 30: **Final: Athleague:** Castlegar, Galway. 1-16; Tremane, Roscommon, 1-9.

All-Ireland Championships

April 6: Quarter-Finals: Cork: Football: St. Finbarr's, Cork, 3-17; Kingdom, London 1-3. Hurling:

• TO PAGE 48

AN GÚM

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

I SUPPOSE I should be getting sense now! But after ten years of Junior Desk I'm not one bit less keen. Before starting this ten year commemorative article — or this special TEN YEAR issue of Junior Desk — I had a peep at all previous issues of Junior Desk. Being a scrapbook fanatic this was no problem. So then let us have a peep back.

FIRST EVER

The first ever issue of Junior Desk appeared in May 1970. Our CUT-OUTS then were small head and shoulder pics and we used two per issue. It was appropriate that we chose as our very first honoured subjects Christy Ring, the late Cork hurling maestro and Mick O'Connell the Kerry football king. Well anyhow that was the start and I asked young readers to write to me about any G.A.A. topic and suggested they start a G.A.A. scrapbook. And so on to the June 1970 issue. As yet there was no letter section but I asked younger readers to send on photos of themselves for inclusion in the column. The June CUT-OUTS were Willie Magee the Mayo footballer and Donal Clifford the Cork hurling half-back and the first hurler to wear a helmet in Croke Park.

FIRST LETTERS

The first letters arrived for the July 1970 issue — eight in all. I'll give their names here and let's call them the Pioneers of the Junior Desk "Mailbag" section which has been the lifeblood of the column during the ten years. They were:

Philip Egan, Main St., Liscarroll, Co. Cork.

Martin Grealish, Frenchfort, Oranmore, Co. Galway (Photo

included).

Michael Collins, St. Vincent's College, Castleknock, Co. Dublin.

Noel McInerney, 1 St. Joseph's Tce., Clarecastle, Co. Clare.

Tom O'Connor, 21 Slaney St., Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

John Murphy, Mohill, Co. Leitrim.

Muriel Boyd, St. Nicholas's, 14 Cove St., Cork and

Dennis O'Connor, Water St., Juvenile Hurling Club, 8 South Parade, Waterford.

How good to see Iggy Clarke as our Cut-Out this issue. His selection could hardly come at a better time after his great game for Connacht in the Railway Cup hurling final.

Iggy has given wonderful service over the years to Galway and hurling. He is an outstanding player, and a tremendous worker. And, he did really well, too, in the recent RTE TV Superstars series.

An All-Ireland medal for Iggy in September? We will have to wait and see, but that would be a distinction his talents and efforts well merit.

Let us all now salute this octet. At the time I hoped, prayed for this response. I knew then the column was going to be successful — a forum for our young G.A.A. fans, the kind of column I longed for myself when I was a young G.A.A. fanatic. Readers will be interested to know that the Philip Egan — the very first young writer to join our "Mailbag" series is now the editor of the Cork G.A.A. Juvenile Board's publication entitled "CLASH" — a young man completely devoted to G.A.A. affairs in his native county and actively involved in G.A.A. admini-

stration at juvenile level. The CUT-OUTS on the occasion were Sean O'Neill of Down and Pat Henderson of Kilkenny both of whom were subsequently featured many times in the column and both of whom have long since recognised the value of the column.

COMPETITION

In August 1970 we introduced our first competition, a simple one asking readers to identify Charlie McCarthy and John Quigley (how youthful they looked then) and our two CUT-OUTS were Pat Dunne of Kildare and Gerald McCarthy then with short back and sides the modern term for the old-style haircut. The Mailbag had become bigger and included the following:

Francis Costelloe, 2319, Morris Ave., New York 10468.

Joseph Mulligan, The Grove, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford (photo inc.).

Donncha O Concubhair, 8 South Parade, Waterford and

Doanie Hanrahan, Coracumma, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork.

The September issue included letters from:

Joseph Byrne, Beragh, Mayo-bridge, Newry, Co. Down.

Anthony Ryan, 3 Lucan Road, Palmerstown, Co. Dublin.

Leo McGough, Brownes Hill Road, Carlow.

Donal McGettigan, River St., Killenaule, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Liam Jones, Derryoran, Mountshannon, Co. Clare and

Francis Costelloe from New York (photo included).

The winners of our first competition were:

Padraig O Misteil, Knockroe,
● OVERLEAF

Attymon, Co. Galway. and Gerry O'Shea, Glengarriff Inn, Glengarriff, Co. Cork.

I don't intend to list every letter writer but just like in the case of Philip Egan, the name Leo McGough is equally well known in the Carlow area for his great work in helping to produce the history of Carlow hurling entitled "CARLOW HURLING MEMORIES" early in 1978. Subsequently Liam Jones was one of the winners of our biggest competition sponsored by National Saving when Muiris De Prionnbhiol (always a great friend of Junior Desk) was its chief instigator.

PADHRAIC O FAININ

We had a message from the then President of the G.A.A. for the October issue. One of the things written by Padhraic O Fainin was "Junior Desk is an innovation in G.A.A. journalism. It deserves to succeed and it will succeed if you young people continue to make it your very own, your open forum in which you can express your views and your needs and — THIS IS IMPORTANT — give us older people young ideas." One of our

CUT-OUTS that month was Pat Reynolds of Meath who retired from club activity recently. And so the months rolled by and one began to notice the names of regular contributors like Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare who won his first prize in October 1970 along with Maria Cronin, Curragh, Aghadoe, Killarney, Co. Kerry, who was attending the Mercy Convent, Killarney then (where is she now?), and Gerard Murray, Main St., Charlestown, Co. Mayo. In December 1970 there was a special Junior Desk interview with Mick O'Connell, the first of a series to be followed by the Charlie McCarthy, Eamonn Cregan, Michael O'Hehir interviews to mention but a few.

Other names to pop up include:

Joseph Doyle, Lansdowne Lodge, Kenmare, Co. Kerry (how well I remember meeting him and other members of his family on my return journey from Killarney to Drimoleague where I was on holidays on the night of the 1972 Munster S.F. final — the warmest day I ever remember), Tommy McDonagh, Knock, Lettermullen, Co. Galway,

Peter O'Hare, Ryan, Mayobridge, Newry, Co. Down, Agnes Brogan, Bofeenaun, Ballina, Co. Mayo, Jarlath and Austin Macken, Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Thomas Langtry, Drimbane, Curry, Co. Sligo.

Jimmy Keaveney was one of our CUT-OUTS in March '71, a very trim and boyish-looking Jimmy. Other Mailbag names to pop up now include Oliver Brady, Corcachel, Redhills, Co. Cavan, Liam Farrell, Mulhuddart, Co. Dublin, John Hahessy, Carrick-on-Suir, Anthony Clancy, Knockroe, Ennistymon, Co. Clare, Declan Molan of Mitchelstown, Kevin Gallen, Lough Gill, Sligo. (In May '71 we had that wonderful photo of the Lynch brothers Brendan and Paudie in the U.C.C. jerseys — skull, cross bones and all. Both were students then. Now Brendan is a doctor and Paudie a solicitor).

The CUT-OUT feature became full-page black and white in July '71 with Mick O'Dwyer of Kerry the first choice. Pepsi Cola sponsored a competition for Junior Desk the following month and among the prizewinners was John Murphy, "Moyadda", Tubbercurry, Co.

G.A.A.

April 27
National Football League Final
at Páirc Uí Chaoimh
Cork v. Kerry

May 4
National Hurling League Final
at Páirc Uí Chaoimh
Cork v. Limerick

Sligo then 13 years old, heir to a great family G.A.A. tradition and currently the U.C.D. Sigerson Cup Captain and Sligo and Tubbercurry footballer.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

National Savings sponsored our next competition for which there were two great prizes of a trip to the All-Ireland S.F. final for the lucky winners with a Dinner on the eve of the final in the Central Hotel with the stars of their choice namely Mick O'Connell (Kerry) and Ray Cummins (Cork). The two lucky winners were Liam Jones of Mountshannon and Patrick O'Sullivan of Kinsale and what a night we all had. The President of the G.A.A. Padhraic O Fainin and the Ard Runai Sean O Siochain called in to honour the occasion and this gesture was really appreciated by the two young and happy prizewinners.

And so we moved on into 1972. More interviews with Jimmy Duggan, Liam Sammon, Dermot Earley and Nick Clavin. Names of new correspondents appear like Pat O'Mahoney of Killarney, Junior McGovern of Ballyconnell. Aidan Murphy, Tulla, Co. Clare.

We started reviewing G.A.A. books in April '72 and this is now a regular feature of Junior Desk. Noel McInerney from Clarecastle, Gerald Trainor, Edenderry, and the first letter from Gerry Pender, Ballymorris, Aughrim, Arklow. Co. Wicklow appeared in the same issue as a very interesting Tony McTague interview regarding placekicking. The first letter from Rounders enthusiast Peadar O Tuatain of Cookstown, Co. Tyrone appeared that month too.

We had that month too a letter from the Managing Director of O'Neills, P. V. O'Neill himself telling us of the new laceless O'Neills Football. And now we take laceless footballs so much for granted.

Letters too from Denis Coughlan, Ray Cummins regarding the new G.A.A. Kit-Bag and well known writer Raymond Smith among others. But I have to come back to Gerry Pender who is still our most loyal and regular contributor to Junior Desk. Feile na nGael was now beginning to get honourable mention in Junior Desk. And more names continued to appear like

James Caffrey of Glasnevin and W. F. Carberry of London now living in Waterford and Joseph P. Thompson of Mountrath, Co. Laois and Tom Moore, Walshtownmore, Midleton, Co. Cork. And the official G.A.A tie produced by the McMenamin Brothers of C.T.C. Ltd. appeared around this time (1972).

The special Junior Desk Awards (scrolls) appeared for the first time in 1972. These have been discontinued now. Two new Wicklow scribes namely Harry Kavanagh and Terry Doyle appeared in print now. Also Martin Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath, Martin Orr of Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, Sean Gaughain, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan, Kieron Murphy, Greystones, Oliver Conneely, Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway. (I told a story concerning Ollie in the Down



Padhraic O'Fainin Uachtarán C.L.G. 1970-1973 a good friend to Junior Desk and Gaelic Sport.

magazine SCORE some years ago and perhaps Tommy McQuaid will reprint it elsewhere but if any young man deserves an award for courage then it should go to Ollie. It was an occasion too when the generosity of Junior Desk readers showed itself), Mattie McDermott, Ahane, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Gerry Cullen, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh, John Naughton, Brackagh, Horseleap, Moate, Mortimer Kelleher, Cork City, Michael Kirby, Rosbrien, Co. Limerick, Michael McGrath, Ox Park, Cloughjordan, Patrick Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly, Tim Murphy, of Rathmore, Co. Kerry (another very loyal contributor to this day) and John Keane of Youghal. Our first Colour CUT-OUT appeared in July '73, with John Quigley as subject followed by Tipperary's Mick Roche the following month. July '73 also

carried an interview with Kerry's Brendan Lynch.

G.A.A. PROGRAMMES

The G.A.A. Provincial Final Souvenir programmes were beginning to make their mark now. And new names continued to appear as some others disappeared from the Junior Desk scene. We met Harry Gormley of Lurgan, Co. Armagh, Anne Fitzgerald of Islandeady, Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare (a very loyal scribe for many years afterwards), John B. Murphy, Ballymac, Kilmallock, Sean Furlong, Dunmore East, Padraig Mannion, Toomard, Ballinasloe, Seamus Burke of Finglas, Seamus - Woulfe, 11, Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5. (another boy to make a great mark on Junior Desk), John Fitzpatrick, The Bronx, New York, James Jackman of Arklow, Tommy Maher, Urlingford, John Colclough, Rathnure, Tom Gleeson of Illinois, who wanted tapes of games, Liam J. Savage, Cork City, another young man of sound ideas for the G.A.A., Michael O'Hara Mountrath, Seamus Byrne, Aughrim and so on.

JIMMY BARRY MURPHY

Now we had begun to introduce PEN-PAL SECTIONS as well as Tape-Swopping arrangements. Interviews with stars from questions sent in by Junior Desk readers. And Jimmy Barry Murphy had now emerged as the darling of Junior Desk fans — the type of POP hero loved by sports lovers everywhere. And now too came the DUBS. New scribes too like Ronan MacGearailt, Salthill, Tim Sexton of Mallow, Sean Rourke of Carrick-on-Shannon, James McCarthy, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork, Eoghan Corry, Luslia, Straffan P.O., Co. Kildare (another great Junior Desk boy who will soon be a fully fledged sports journalist and already has contributed greatly to the current Kildare G.A.A. Yearbook among other things). It was Eoghan who first suggested the Programme Collector's Club now in operation from Croke Park and Dermot McCarthy of Bath another great Junior Desk fan over the years helped on the idea no end. From

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Ten Years of Junior Desk

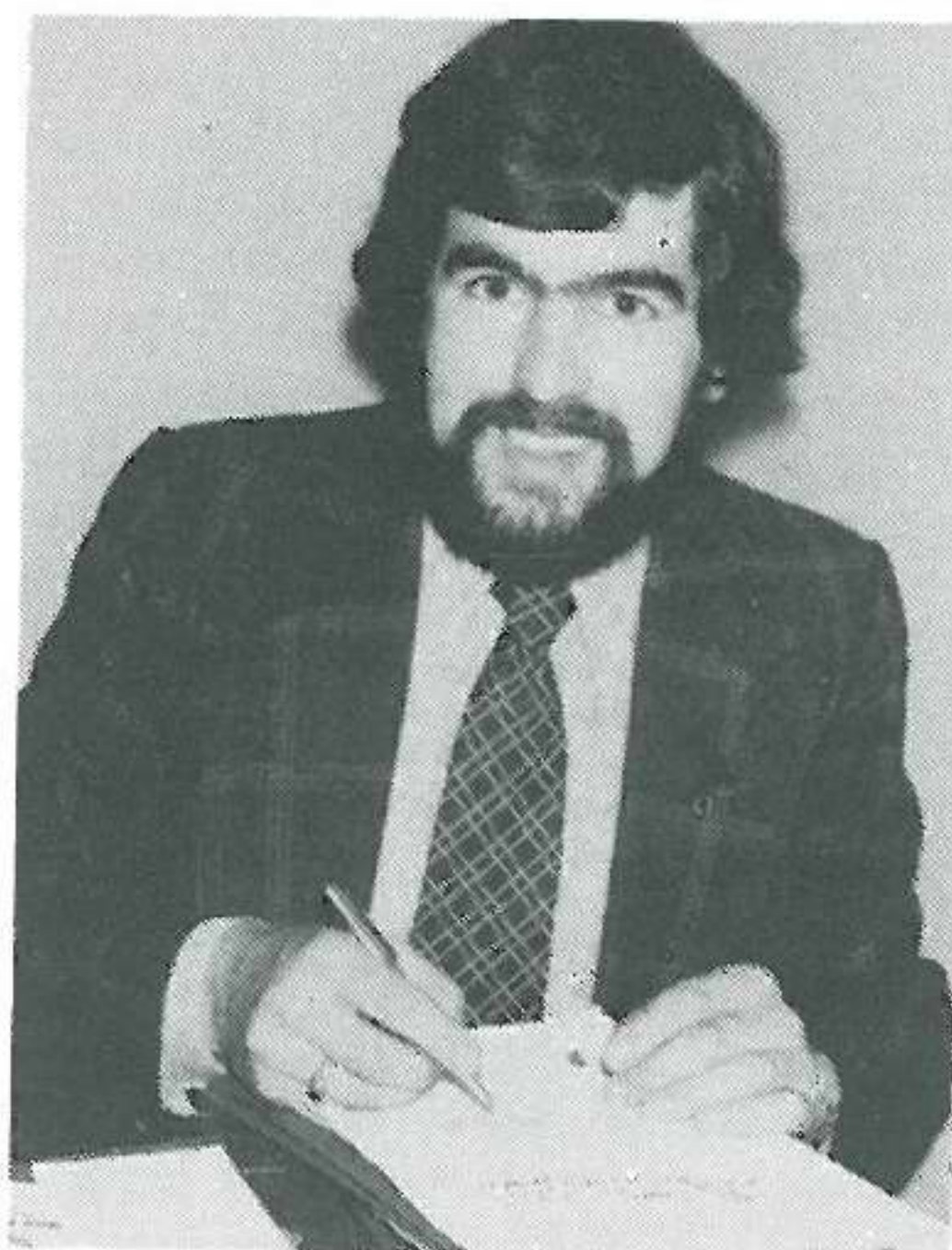
WHEN I first wrote to Junior Desk ten years ago I was a fifteen year old student at Sacred Heart Collège, Carrignavar in Cork. Like every young boy I had my own ideas about the G.A.A. and one thing that I did complain about at the time was the price of hurleys. I think that my letter was one of the first ever printed on Junior Desk. In it I said that my favourite players were Charlie McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Mick O'Connell. Little did I think at that time that 10 years later I would be interviewing some of these players for our Cork Youth magazine called Clash, of which I am Editor.

Junior Desk did a lot for me and still plays an important role for our younger members in G.A.A. It made me feel important at that time when my letter was printed. After all, I was just a boy and yet my views were expressed in a top level G.A.A. magazine like Gaelic Sport. The point that I made in the letter at that time concerning hurleys was just the idea of a child but how relevant it still is to-day. Hurleys it can be said are still dear. It goes to show that letters from young boys in Junior Desk should be taken seriously by the powers that be in the Association as they can contain many relevant points.

I left school in Carrignavar in 1973 and took with me an intense love for the G.A.A. I quickly became involved in Juvenile affairs in Liscarroll, my home club, and I have been training juvenile and

adult teams with my club ever since. I also play with our Junior hurling and football teams although some of the boys would argue that I am only just holding my place.

As P.R.O. of the North Cork Juvenile Board in 1977 I produced the Board's 25th Anniversary Book, 'Iris na nOganach'. It was an eighty page book. In 1978 I was elected P.R.O. of the Cork County Juvenile



Pilib Mac Aogain

Board and as a result editor of the Board's publication — Clash. This is a magazine geared towards Youth featuring inter-county stars writing for their young admirers, Charlie McCarthy, Kevin Kehilly, Martin O'Doherty, Denis Coughlan, Tony Hanahoe, John Egan and Pat

Hartigan are but some of our contributors. I am still editor of that magazine although commitment to our family business at night-time may force me to relinquish my position — for the present in any case. At 25 I am at an age when work during the day, bar-work at night time and my playing activities seem to clash head on and I seem lost for free time.

Nevertheless, I do hope that time will heal that rift and that in a few years when my playing days are over I can get deeper involved in county administration. In the meantime my one wish is that I am given the health and energy to help my club to win a North Cork Junior championship.

The G.A.A. to me is a tremendous organisation. It is the life and culture of our country and must continue to be so. At local level I believe that it must give even more leadership and at National Level it must be clearly seen to be an organisation interested in our Youth and interested in the welfare of our nation.

I would like to sincerely thank my good friend, Jack Mahon, and indeed O'Neills for presenting me with a track-suit to mark the 10th anniversary of Junior Desk. My wish is that it will continue to bring happiness to our youth all over Ireland for many years yet and that its leader Jack Mahon will be blessed with the health and energy to continue his great work."

Pilib MacAogain, Liscarroll, Co. Cork.

I AM naturally pleased that I am one of the nominees to be presented with a track-suit from O'Neills on behalf of Junior Desk.

I think Junior Desk helped many young people like myself to voice their opinions in a National magazine and is one in which both children and adults have an interest in their chosen section. Junior Desk made it possible for me to hear other young people's opinions on similar subjects and to see what progress can be made, if any.

I am still interested in the G.A.A. of course, and participate on a local level. One hope I would have for the G.A.A. is to see some of the honours go to counties like Mayo in future. It makes it less interesting when the same few counties take all the honours.

Wishing Junior Desk the best of luck in the future and for another ten years."

Agnes Brogan, Bofeenaun, Ballina, Co. Mayo.



★ ★ ★
*Mick O'Connell
Kerry's midfield
All Star who
was our first
Cut Out in
1970.*

★ ★ ★

THE first issue of Gaelic Sport that I read was an early 1973 issue. At the time I was only ten years old. Junior Desk stood out for me as my favourite section of the magazine and it has remained so. As I began to write in and enter competitions I began to value Gaelic Sport, but especially Junior Desk, more and more and to look forward to each issue.

I have become steadily more involved and interested in the G.A.A. because of Junior Desk. Up to now I have played football and hurling, competed in Scor na nOg, and refereed many juvenile matches as a member of St. Vincent's G.A.A. club here in Raheny.

If I have constantly called for a changed fixture-system in the G.A.A., it is because I believe it would cause a dramatic upsurge in the G.A.A.'s popularity both among players and spectators. A season running from early March to late October based on a concurrent League and Open Draw championship has astounding potential. Of course club competitions which are the soul of the Association could not be overlooked and I would see alternate weekends for county and club matches.



Seamus Woulfe

Junior Desk gives young people a great chance to reflect on and question what is happening in the G.A.A. Are we happy with facilities in G.A.A. grounds, big and small, for players and spectators? The benefit to the G.A.A. of a forum such as Junior Desk is incalculable. This youth forum would never have been possible without the fantastic work of Jack Mahon. It is thanks to you, Jack, that Junior Desk is so good and so popular. The young G.A.A. people from all over Ireland are indebted to you. May the next ten be just as good!"

Seamus Woulfe, 11 Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5.

I CONSIDER this selection a great honour, and I would like to say a big 'Thank You' for including me among your ten nominees. The launching of 'Junior Desk' ten years ago, was, I feel, the biggest thing that ever happened the 'Gaelic Sport' magazine. For very many people, both young and old, it provided them with a chance to speak their mind on topics of G.A.A. interest — a chance which before that was not present.

You ask what 'Junior Desk' did for me? Well I think it is no exaggeration to say that it had a significant effect on my entire life. When it first appeared in May 1970 I had just turned 10 years of age, an impressionable time of life, and had a great interest in sport — hurling and football in particular. 'Junior Desk' gave me the chance to 'write-in' about my favourite players, my own experiences and ideas. The thrill of seeing one's name in print, the thrill of having one's letter published and looking at one's writing on a printed page, was really fantastic — especially at the age of 10.

I remember very clearly seeing my name and letter in the September, October and November editions of the 'Gaelic Sport' of 1970. From those early experiences, I have no doubt, came my desire to be a sports writer. I had sampled the thrill of seeing my work in printed form, and like a drug, I longed to see more . . . and more . . .

I continued to write fairly regularly for the next few years and the thrill of publication was always great. If



Leo McGough

one of the letters happened to earn a reply from you Jack, it meant so much more. Those 'J.M.' initialled comments somehow signified a nod of approval from the 'Boss'.

Unfortunately I was not a regular, indeed 'wrote-in' very little, thereafter, and for that I apologise and also regret. But I always read 'Junior Desk' and it is still the highlight of 'Gaelic Sport'. The magazine has ceased to be a monthly in latter years, appearing at irregular intervals. Is this because of financial difficulties, sales (in view of mounting opposition) or lack of assistance? 'Gaelic Sport' should be kept alive at all costs, and in a strong state if at all possible. It was the lone representative of Gaelic Games communications when you made your visit to the 'soccer swamped' Dublin book shop, which prompted the foundation of 'Junior Desk'. While the emergence of two new monthly G.A.A. magazines (on a nationwide basis) is to be applauded, the long-serving 'Gaelic Sport' has still a vital role to play. Maybe things are not as bad as they seem, I sincerely hope not."

Leo McGough, Brownes Hill Rd., Carlow.

ABOUT the G.A.A.? Well, what can I say? Firstly I am proud to be an Irishman and just as proud again to be a Galwayman with their great tradition with the G.A.A. For a long time the football and hurling was my social life, until I had a serious accident as you know.

The G.A.A. did a lot for me through Paddy Cullen of Dublin. I cannot say that I have spoken to a better all-round person than Paddy. I hope to meet him again soon. I want everyone to know that Paddy is that kind of man."

Ollie Conneely, Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway.



Ollie Conneely

LIBRARY
● FROM PAGE 45

Tyrone Fergal Conlon of Augher began to write. Others to appear now were Fergal Reidy of Celbridge, Mary White of Freshford, Patrick Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Michael Keevans, New Ross, Denis Kirby, Kilmallock. And so in May 1975 we were 5 years old and editor Tommy McQuaid surprised me with the CUT-OUT of myself. It wasn't the nicest photo. Don't know where he got it but he meant well. And Junior Desk got the cover of Gaelic Sport.

REMINISCENCES

And that is enough reminiscing for this month. I'm holding over the Mailbag. Next month I'll go back on the last 5 years. I would dearly like to hear from many of those mentioned above earlier telling me where they are now, whether they still read

TRIBUTE FROM O'NEILLS TO US

As a tribute from O'Neills Sports Manufacturers and their enterprising Sales Manager, Seamus Dalton — a great fan of the Dubs — to our ten years of Junior Desk, he is offering ten Track Suit Sets to the following who in our opinion did most to put Junior Desk on its feet.

THE WINNERS:

1. Philip Egan, Main St., Liscarroll, Co. Cork.
2. Leo McGough, Brownes Hill Road, Carlow.
3. Agnes Brogan, Bofeenawn, Ballina, Co. Mayo.
4. John Murphy, Moyadda, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.
5. Oliver Conneely, Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway.
6. Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare.
7. Eoghan Corry, "Luslia", Straffan, Co. Kildare.
8. Seamus Woulfe, 11, Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5.
9. Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.
10. Martin Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath.

SUPER PRIZE:

The Super-Prize of Junior Desk's Most Loyal Member goes to our old friend Gerry Pender, Ballymorris, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow who writes into us Almost Every Month. Sincere thanks to O'Neills and Shay Dalton for the Track-Suits and the Super-Prize of an O'Neill's Voucher.

Junior Desk, how they think the G.A.A. will go in the 80's. It was very nice going down the byeroads of the first 5 years of Junior Desk. Don't forget to get next month's issue when we trace the last 5 years.

In case you've forgotten the address is:

Junior Desk,
c/o Gaelic Sport,
80, Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.

Results Summary

● FROM PAGE 41

Blackrock, Cork, 4-15; Brian Borus, London, 1-10.

COLLEGES' CHAMPIONSHIPS
Provincial Finals (Football)

Connacht: March 16: Tuam: Tuam C.B.S. 1-4; St. Jarlath's, Tuam, 0-5.

Leinster: March 16: Navan: Carmelite College, Moate, 1-5; Franciscan College, Gormanston, 1-2.

Munster: March 16: Emly: Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, 0-8; St. Augustine's, Dungarvan, 0-4.

Ulster: March 9: Casement Park, Belfast: St. Patrick's, Maghera, 3-9; Abbey C.B.S., Newry, 3-6.

Hurling

Connacht: March 19: Ballinasloe: Garbally College, Ballinasloe, 1-7; Portumna College 0-6.

Leinster: March 23: Kilkenny: Birr Community College, Offaly, 4-3; St. Peter's, Wexford, 1-1.

Munster: March 23: Buttevant: North Monastery, Cork, 3-6; St. Colman's, Fermoy, 2-9. Draw. March 30: Buttevant: North Monastery, 2-10; St. Colman's 2-5. Replay.

All-Ireland Semi-Finals

Football

March 30: Sligo: St. Patrick's, Maghera, 2-7; Tuam C.B.S. 1-9. Carlow: Carmelite College, Moate, 0-10; Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, 0-6.

"B" Championship

March 30: Sligo; De La Salle, Ballyshannon, 1-8; Ballyhaunis C.S. 1-5. Carlow: Portlaoise C.B.S. 1-7; De La Salle, Skibbereen, 0-9.

Vocational Schools

March 29: Cashel: Wicklow 0-11; Kerry 0-9. Sligo: Derry 3-8; Mayo 2-8.

Hurling

March 30: Roscrea, Garbally College, Ballinasloe, 1-4; Birr Com-

munity College 0-7. Draw. April 6: Thurles: Birr Community College 2-15; Garbally College, Ballinasloe, 3-4. Replay.

"B" Championship

March 30: Croke Park: Cashel C.B.S. 5-10; St. Mary's, Belfast, 0-6.

CAMOGIE

C.C.I.A. League

March 9: Semi-finals: Dublin: U.C. Galway 5-3; U.C. Dublin: U.C. Dublin 4-2. St. Patrick's, Dublin, 6-5; Ulster Polytechnic 2-3.

March 16: Final: Santry, Dublin: St. Patrick's, Dublin, 4-1; U.C. Galway 2-2.

National League

March 23: Adare: Kilkenny 2-5; Limerick 1-2. Attical; Clare 1-2; Down 1-1.

HANDBALL

Railway Cup Final: Croke Park: March 22: Leinster P. Ryan, (Dublin), R. Lyng, S. Buggy (Wexford), T. O'Rourke (Kildare), P. Reilly (Dublin) bt. Munster T. Morrissey (Tipperary), John and Dan Kirby (Clare), P. McGarry (Limerick) and T. Ryan (Tipperary) 122-116.

Atlas Under-22 Trials

Semi-Finals at Ennis: April 6: Group I: W. Bourke (Kilkenny) bt. F. McCann (Sligo) 31-27. J. Fleming (Wexford) bt. G. Coughlan (Clare) 31-26. Coughlan bt. McCann 31-25. Bourke bt. Fleming 31-23. Fleming bt. McCann 31-19. Coughlan bt. Bourke 31-12. Coughlan and Fleming qualified.

Group II: Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt. E. Downey (Kilkenny) 31-13. M. Dowling (Kildare) bt. J. McGovern (Meath) 31-26. Ryan bt. Dowling 31-18. McGovern bt. Downey 31-24. Ryan bt. McGovern 31-18. Dowling bt. Downey 31-23. Ryan and Downey qualified.

Gaelic Sport



Iggy Clarke (Galway)

Age: 27
Height: 5ft. 10ins.
Weight: 12st. 7lb.
Club: Mullagh.
Position: Left half
back.
**Senior Inter-County
Debut:** 1972.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

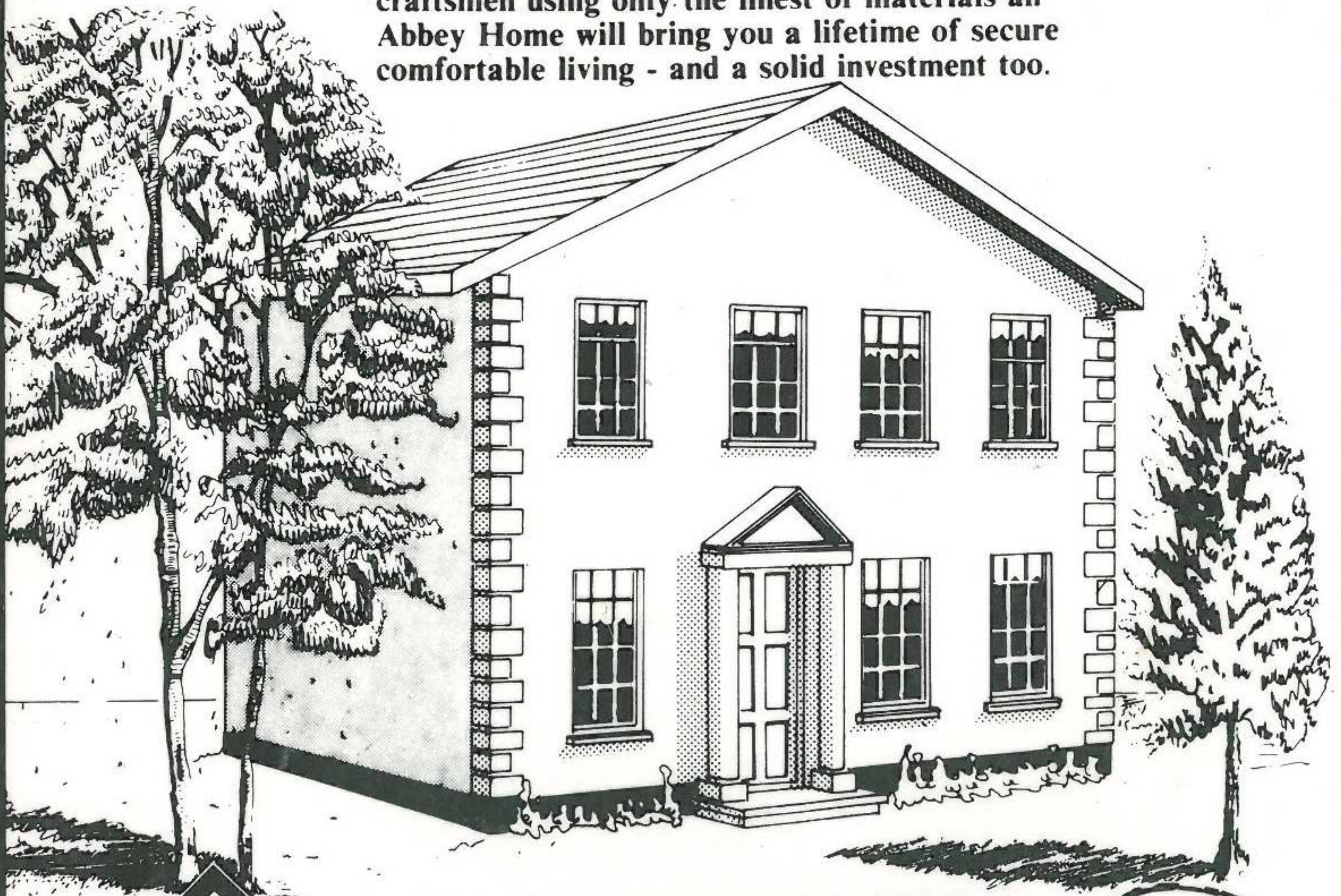
When Connacht scored a rare Railway Cup hurling final win on St. Patrick's Day, Iggy was one of their brightest stars. In 1975 he helped Galway to take the National League title, and so an All-Ireland senior medal is now the only major award missing from his collection.

A member of the Galway team beaten in the 1970 All-Ireland minor final, this accomplished defender led the county to their first national under-21 hurling championship in 1972.

Iggy, who has starred in a number of positions other than left half, won two Fitzgibbon Cup (Universities' Championship) medals with Maynooth, and collected his third All Star award last December.

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