

170 GAA

# CAELIC SPORT

THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

IRELAND'S LEADING CAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1980

FORTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)



## TEXACO STARS FOOTBALL



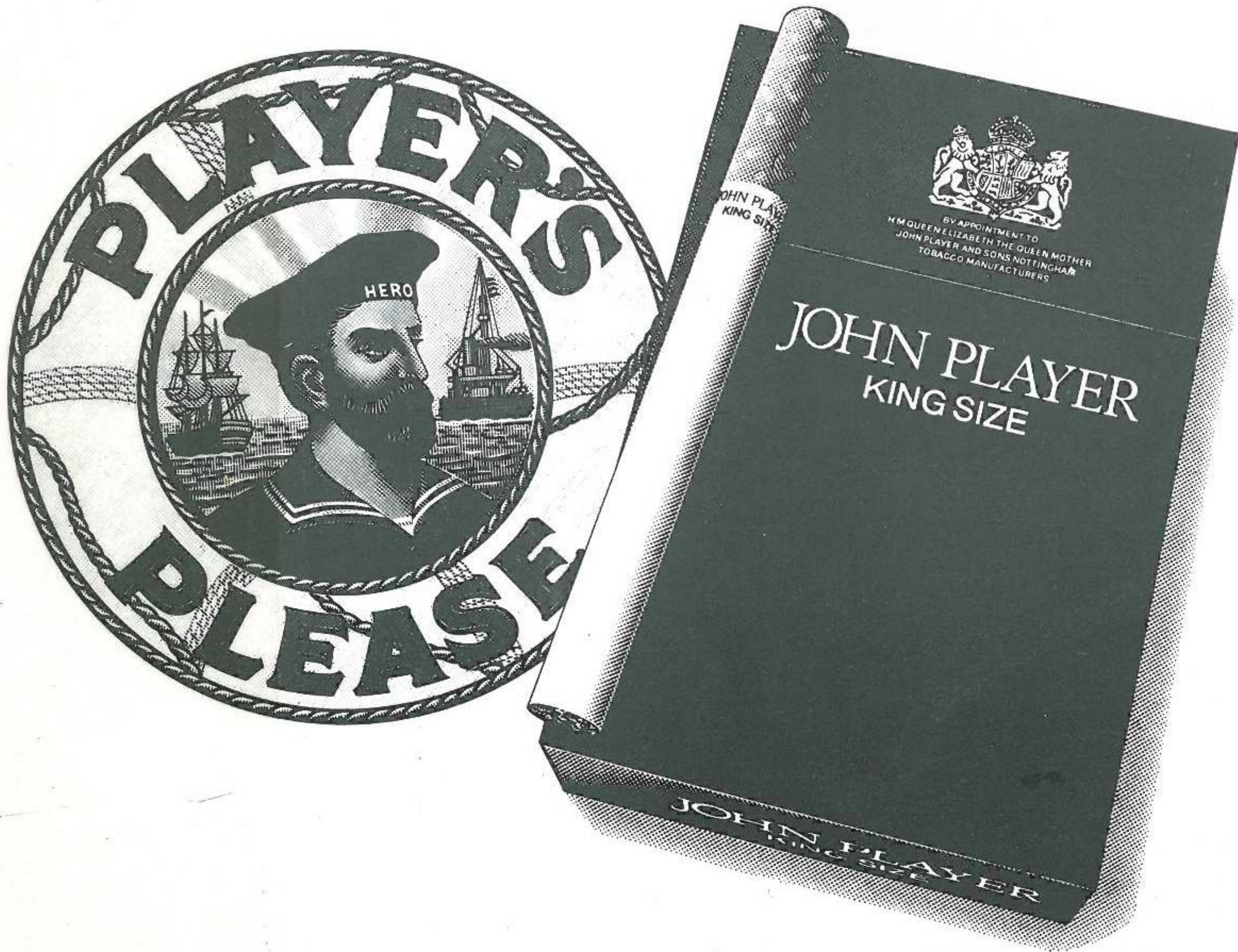
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HURLING



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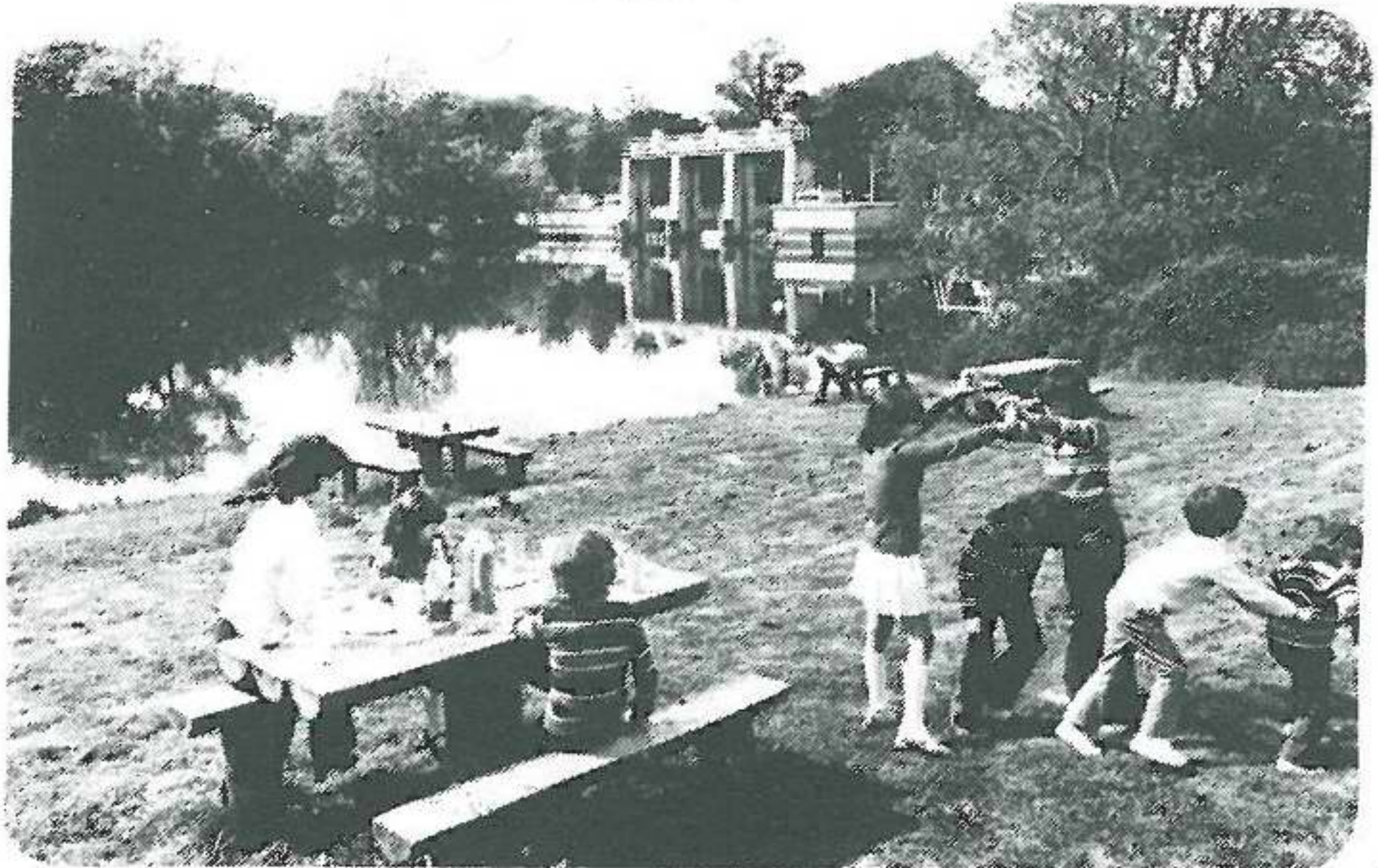
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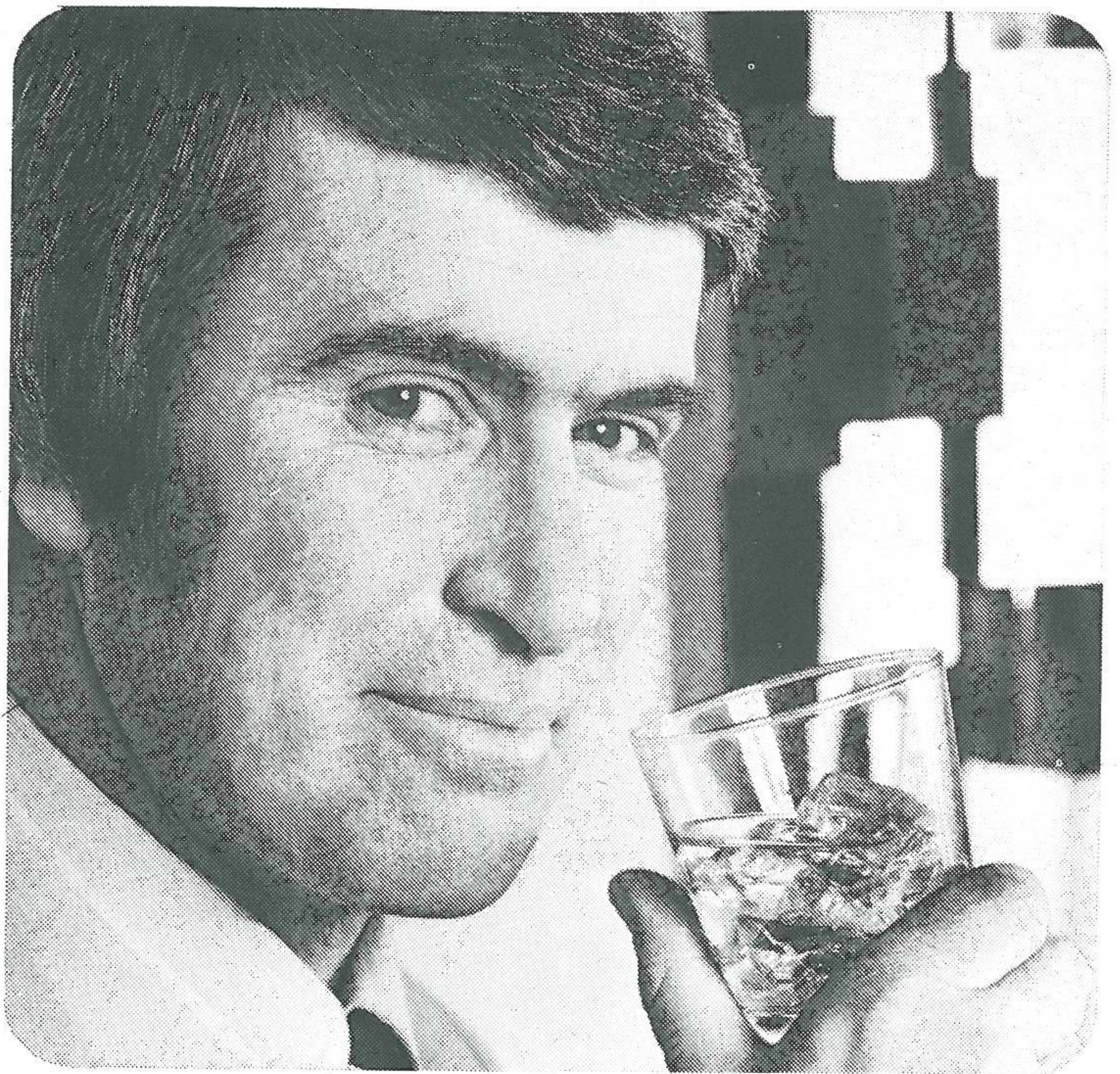
A family picnic near an ESB station.



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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 23 No. 2 Feb./Mar. 1980

Offices:  
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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS

**C**HANGE is not necessarily progress. It is to be hoped all the same that the conservative approach to new ideas that has been the hallmark of Congress over the years will give way at the forthcoming annual gathering at Newcastle to a spirit of adventure when it comes to calls for alterations in traditional structures.

Hurling and football are the G.A.A. Without them there would be no Association.

But hurling continues to be confined to the same small circle of counties with no real signs of worth-while progress elsewhere, and the general position of football leaves much to be desired as well.

The irony of this disappointing picture is that coaching was more widespread in the past decade than ever before in Gaelic Games.

Could it be, then, that the G.A.A. is not exploiting the annual inter-county fixtures schedule to the best possible advantage for hurling and football?

Regular changes have been made in the structures of the Leagues and new groupings will be introduced again in football for 1980-81. But it is only in recent months that chinks have begun to appear in the long standing fixtures programmes for the championships.

This year we will not have the traditional Kilkenny-Wexford hurling final in Leinster. The Introduction of an open-draw in the province has resulted in these great rivals being paired in a semi-final.

Then, there is the position in Munster football, which will see Kerry make their debut in the championship in the provincial final.

These moves have their critics already, but this is not the time to take sides for or against these proposals. Much more progressive is to wait and see how they work out in practice, and then assess the situation in the light of the experiences of 1980 with a view to arrangements for the future.

Similarly, with the open-draw for the All-Ireland championships. This proposal has been such a hardy annual for so long at Congress that one would imagine that all that can be said for and against has long since been argued out. Yet, the open-draw will again generate plenty of discussion at Newcastle.

Is it not time to put the issue to the test once and for all in competition at least on an experimental basis?

Only by having the open-draw in operation can we effectively judge if the move is the panacea so many believe for the games, or the step that would, as others hold, rob the championships of much of their glamour.

Hurling and football have not advanced as firmly or as strongly nationwide as one would have hoped. The welfare of the games demand that officials now put aside their own convictions against the open-draw in favour of, at least, a compromise in the form of a trial period for such a move.

**COVER PICTURE** — On our front cover this issue we pay tribute to the Texaco G.A.A. Award Winners — Mike Sheehy (Football) and Ger. Henderson (Hurling). **Action picture** is from the '79 Munster Football Final, at Killarney, in which the Texaco Star, Mike Sheehy, is shown, second from left, with colleague Eoin Liston on extreme right. Cork players, from left, are: Brian Murphy, Kevin Kehily in possession and Seamus O'Sullivan.

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# Tyler

# Top Ten

## FERMANAGH AND GALWAY ARE TOPS

**T**HERE could hardly be a more welcome or novel way to usher in the first TYLER TOP TEN charts of the 'Eighties than by paying tribute at the start to a county that has not enjoyed much success at senior football — Fermanagh. Their National League Division II North title win was the best team achievement in the code during the period under review for the latest charts, which took in games up to and including February 24.

Particularly prominent for Fermanagh was Peter McGinnity. He topped off a fine display in a win over Sligo early in February by scoring seven vital points. He had a decisive influence as well on the final win over Antrim at the end of February, and the quality of his general play and sharpshooting in those vital games send the Fermanagh interprovincial to the top of the first football table of the new season on 32 points.

McGinnity just holds off the challenge of his county-mate Aidan Lunney, who takes second position on 30 points.

It has been a good time for Ulster footballers, in fact, as Paddy Moriarty and Denis Stevenson were prominent in the matches that saw Armagh clinch the Division I title North. They fill third and fourth positions respectively on 28 points and 26.

Making an early showing is the man who finished in third place over-all last year in football on 120 points — Michael Sheehy. The Kerry sharpshooter is well down the field, however, on 24 points, but this tally could prove invaluable later in the year.

In hurling, Connacht enjoyed another glory day in the Railway Cup when they qualified for their second successive final by seeing off Leinster at Ballinasloe in mid-February.

Iggy Clarke had a splendid game in the Western defence, and was strongly supported by Sean Silke and Conor Hayes. All three were prominent earlier when Galway beat Offaly in the National League.

The Galway success story took a knock at the end of the month when Cork beat them in the National League. But Silke still had a good game at centre half, and Clarke was another to impress for Galway.

On their performances over the three games this pair dominate the hurling review, with Clarke just edging it over Silke, chiefly for his Railway Cup showing.

Clarke collects 38 points, with Silke just two points away in second place.

Next comes Conor Hayes on 34 points, and Noel O'Dwyer with a good display at centre half back, plus 1-3 (no mean feat for a defender) in Tipperary's win over Kilkenny at Thurles gains fourth position on 30 points.

## FOOTBALL

- 32 P. McGinnity (Fermanagh)
- 30 A. Lunny (Fermanagh)
- 28 P. Moriarty (Armagh)
- 26 D. Stevenson (Armagh)
- 26 J. Hughes (Galway)
- 24 S. Joyce (Galway)
- 24 M. Sheehy (Kerry)
- 22 K. Kehily (Cork)
- 22 Tony McManus (Roscommon)
- 20 G. Howlin (Wexford)

## HURLING

- 38 I. Clarke (Galway)
- 36 S. Silke (Galway)
- 34 C. Hayes (Galway)
- 30 N. O'Dwyer (Tipperary)
- 28 J. Horgan (Cork)
- 26 R. Cummins (Cork)
- 25 T. Quaid (Limerick)
- 24 S. Stack (Clare)
- 23 G. Henderson (Kilkenny)
- 22 M. Walsh (Waterford)

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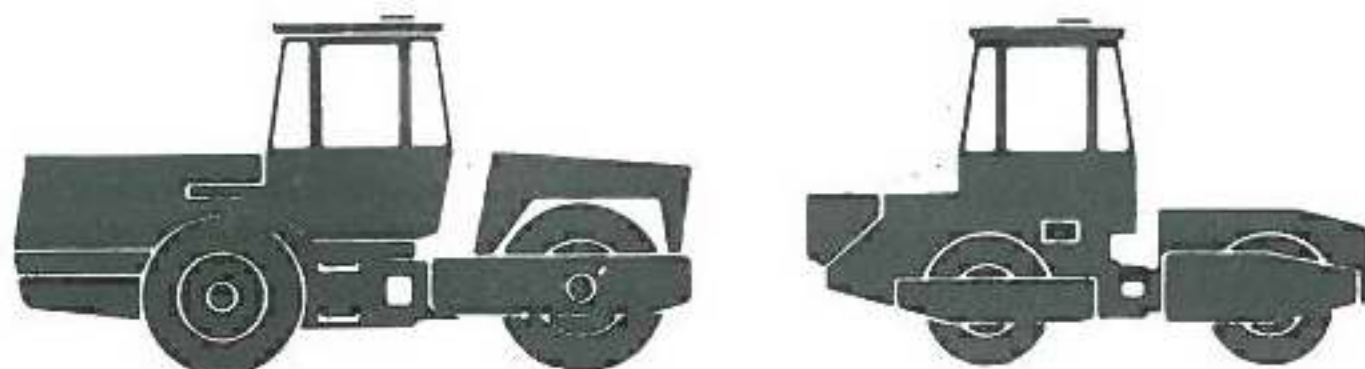


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John Connolly (Galway) second from left, and Dermot Earley (Roscommon) look pleased with the Tyler Perpetual Cups which they received from Paul Mongor (left), Director, John Tyler and Sons. On right is Tony Keegan Director of Gaelic Sport



## The two Tyler Cups go West!

By Tony Keegan

**D**ERMOT EARLEY and John Connolly, two skilled players whose exciting displays for their county teams and for Connacht over the years have established them among the great personalities in Gaelic Games history, broke new ground when they stepped up to receive the third annual GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN awards.

The 1979 winners were each presented with the Tyler Perpetual Cup by Mr. Paul Mongor, Director of John Tyler & Sons, at an enjoyable reception and lunch in Buswells Hotel, Dublin.

It was a double first for Earley and Connolly. They were the first winners from their respective counties, and this was also the first occasion that both awards went to the same province in the same year.

There are many important awards on offer nowadays for footballers and hurlers, but it was obvious at the reception that the GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN honours have in their short history become highly prized by the players.

Dermot Earley and John Connolly left no one in any doubt as to their delight at receiving the awards, or of the high esteem in which they hold this particular promotion.

Leading G.A.A. officials, and representatives of the Media attended the function. They were welcomed by Paul Mongor, who said that three years ago John Tyler and Sons, as a leading Irish company, decided to become involved with the popular Gaelic Games magazine, GAELIC SPORT, in this sponsorship.

The awards are in a class of their own in that they reward in a tangible way excellence in play throughout the whole season. This is because consistency, rather than brilliance in one or two games in a year, is the basis of these awards.

"The development of this sponsorship has exceeded our expectations. We know from our experience over the past few years that the monthly awards are keenly awaited in hurling and football, and that the build-up towards the annual winners excites tremendous interest among the players, officials and supporters".

Mr. Mongor went on to say that it was appropriate that Tylers should be associated with Gaelic Games in this way. Apart from the fact that Tylers have been part of the business life in Ireland for close on 100 years, the company's link with the G.A.A goes back to the early days of the century. That link is now stronger than ever.

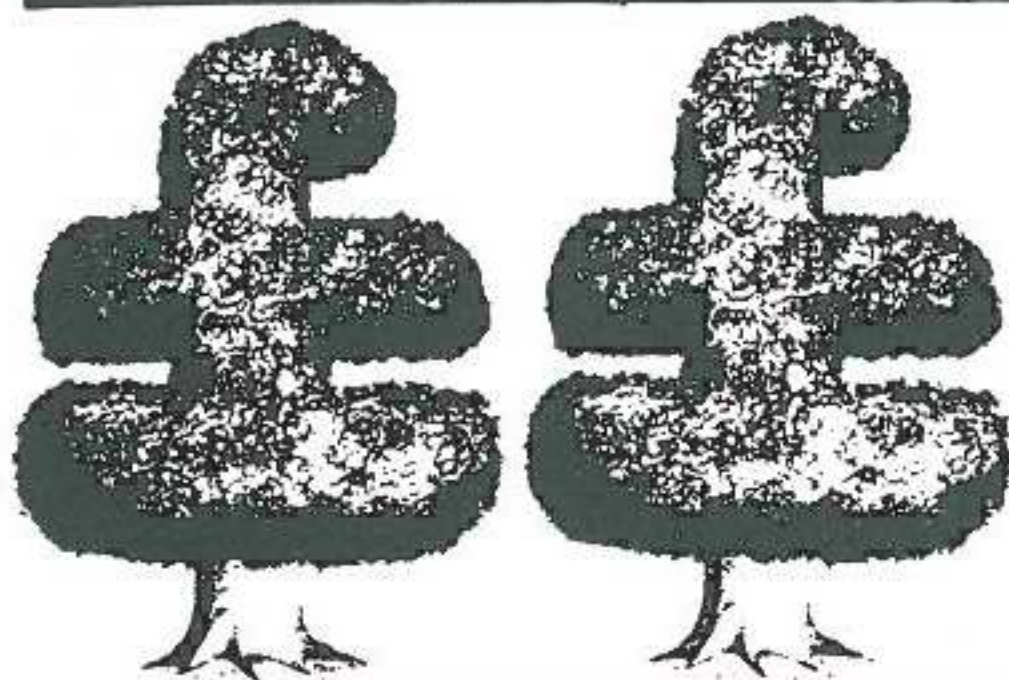
"It is a great pleasure to honour here two such splendid ambassadors of Gaelic Games as Dermot Earley and John Connolly", added Mr. Monger.

"They have given wonderful service to the games through their

● TO PAGE 9

# New Ireland Linked Funds

## Performance



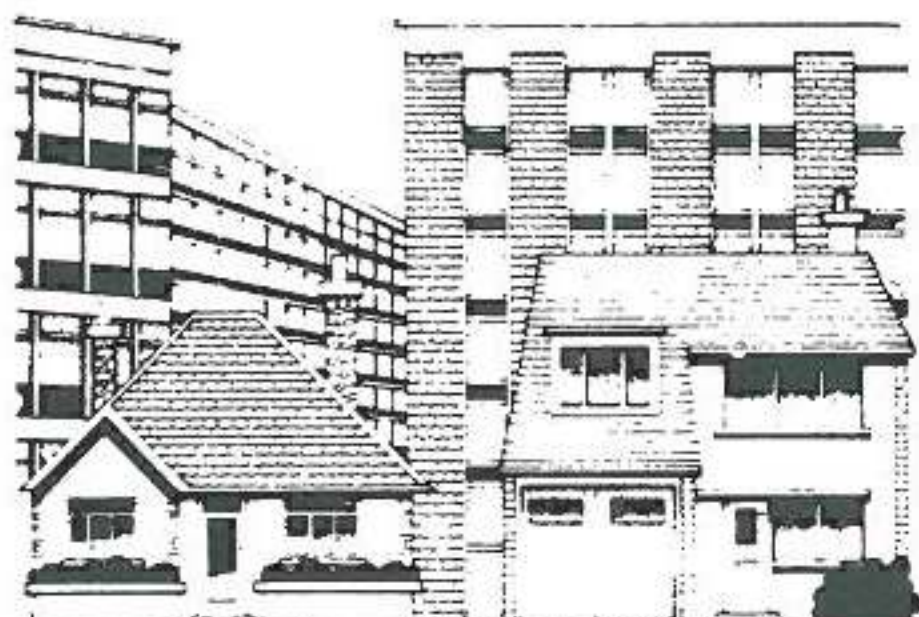
### Evergreen Fund

(January 1979 - January 1980)

+21.0%

(June 1971 - January 1980)

+158.3%



### Property Fund

(January 1979 - January 1980)

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(February 1975 - January 1980)

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### Gilt Edge Fund

(January 1979 - January 1980)

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(December 1976 - January 1980)

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**Note:** The value of the units in a Fund is directly related to the market performance of the Fund and it may rise or fall with investment conditions.  
The performance of the three Funds for the past year and since inception is shown above.



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**FOR LIFE ASSURANCE**

● FROM PAGE 7

high standard play, dedication and sportsmanship”.

“Dermot Earley is Roscommon’s best known footballer. He has been an outstanding player for some thirteen seasons, and followers all over the country rejoiced when he finally won a National League medal last year.

“John Connolly, too, commands a special place in his county. He has been a wonderful inspiration to Galway hurling with his high quality play, and one can only hope that he, like Earley, will soon gain that elusive All-Ireland senior medal.”

Among those present from Croke Park was Jimmy Smyth, the former Clare and Munster hurler, and who is now Secretary of the Central Activities Committee.

He paid a warm tribute to John Tyler and Sons and GAELIC SPORT for their work in combining so successfully in this excellent way of honouring the players. He had kind words as well for GAELIC SPORT in advancing the cause of the Association over many years in the communications field, and in congratulating the award winners, Jimmy Smyth spoke highly of the skills and sportsmanship of Dermot Earley and John Connolly.

John Connolly broke a Clare dominance of the title in hurling. Ger Loughnane was the first winner in 1977, and the classy half back was followed into the rankings in 1978 by that dynamic star of the goal-keeping art from Clare—Seamus Durack.

Leinster will doubtless be hoping to make a break through in this regard in the months ahead.

A remarkable feature of the 1979 returns is that both Earley and Connolly finished with exactly the same number of points—145!

**Jimmy Smyth (right) who represented the G.A.A. at the presentation of the Tyler Awards chats with John Connolly and Dermot Earley.**



But, while the long serving Galway man, who has been such an inspiring leader for the county, was a clear enough winner in hurling, finishing with 17 points to spare over the second placed Joe Hennessy (Kilkenny), the football issue was much closer.

Indeed, Earley only edged home in the final placings, collecting enough points with 36 in the final review to pip Des Mulligan (Monaghan) virtually on the post, by four points.

This marking system over the years as a whole is now generally agreed to be a major factor in setting the TYLER GAELIC SPORT TOP TEN awards in a class all their own. More and more have been commenting very favourably on this aspect of the scheme as the promotion has progressed, and there is the attractive and exciting added dimension that each issue of GAELIC SPORT provides an individual winner, in each code.

Dermot Earley and John Con-

nolly were both looking forward to the new season when they received their awards. They had both put the disappointment and heartbreak of the Roscommon and Galway defeats in the All-Ireland championship last year firmly behind them and were quietly confident about their counties prospects of doing well in 1980.

Dermot Earley also told us that he found his participation in the RTE TV SUPERSTARS event a very enjoyable and rewarding experience.

No doubt our 1979 winners will be prominently to the fore in the race for 1980 honours. Only time will show if either — or both — will retain their trophies — an achievement that would rank as a first-timer.

Doubtless, Connacht’s win over Leinster in a memorable Railway Cup hurling semi-final in extra time will help John Connolly’s cause. But there is a long, long way to go, and we look forward to stimulating days deciding on the rankings at regular intervals during the season ahead.

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

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# CROSSWORD

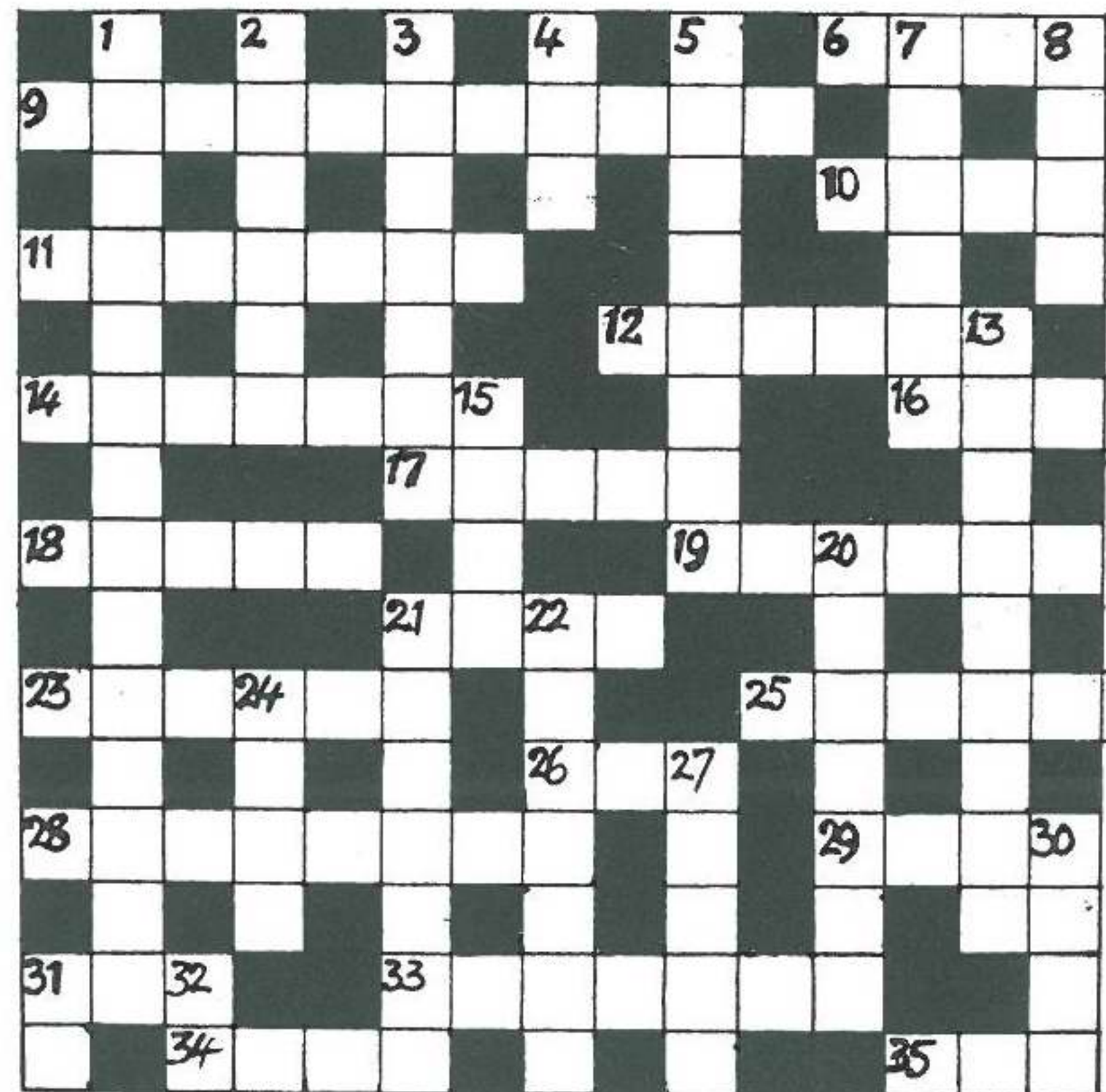
by  
Permuter

## CLUES ACROSS:

- 6—(and 8 Down) He hurls in the forwards for Galway at Christmas on minor roads. (4, 4).  
 9—Mayo's only Carroll's All-Star. (6, 5).  
 10—A forward from Mayo who enjoyed a most prominent career in UCD football. (4).  
 11—Perhaps the greatest Tipperary footballer who won honours with Cork towards the end of his career. (1, 6).  
 12—(and 28 Across) Captained Cork's 1966 All-Ireland win. (6, 8).  
 14—Consistent Sligo goalie. (7).  
 16—"A high dropping ball . . ." (3).  
 17—See 31 Across.  
 18—Dublin's famous brothers from St. Vincent's. (5).  
 19—Jersey-colour usually referred to as "gold". (6).  
 21—Briefly, the month of the All-Irelands. (4).  
 23—Dual All-Ireland star in Cork's defence. (6).  
 25—Take a river boat to hustle an opponent. (5).  
 26—Too much or too little can affect the bounce of the football. (3).  
 28—See 12 Across.  
 29—Duration of play in most games. (4).  
 31—(and 17 Across) Official Annual of the GAA. (3, 5).  
 33—Many counties have an official in charge of all aspects of team organisation. (7).  
 34—Reserves. (4).  
 35—Kick with part of the boot that is unreliable. (3).

## CLUES DOWN

- 1—Iar-Uachtaran Cumann Luthchleas Gael. (7, 1, 6).  
 2—Music just before the throw-in. (6).  
 3—Two-wheel transport that keeps you fit. (7).



- 4—(and 7 Down) One of the Dubs' medics. (3, 6).  
 5—Waterford footballer played with Munster in 1978. (8).  
 7—(See 4 Down).  
 8—(See 6 Across).  
 13—Liam O'----- is one of Limerick's most consistent forwards. (9).  
 15—Vase keeps the ball out. (4).  
 20—The real stuff for making balls. (7).  
 21—Methods and tactics, perhaps, which coaches urge on their charges to win matches. (7).  
 22—Taking part in a game. (7).  
 24—Strategy necessary for a team to plot its course. (4).  
 27—Hug or cause unruly or vigorous play. (5).  
 30—Lure into making a regulation. (4).  
 31—Great Kilkenny goalkeeper before Noel Skehan. Initials. (1, 1).  
 32—Regimental Sergeant, perhaps. (1, 1).

• SOLUTION PAGE 44

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AN ACCOUNT FOR US  
WITH THE **EBS**, MONA  
BUT DO YOU REALLY  
BELIEVE WE'LL BUILD  
A CITY?

SIGH...

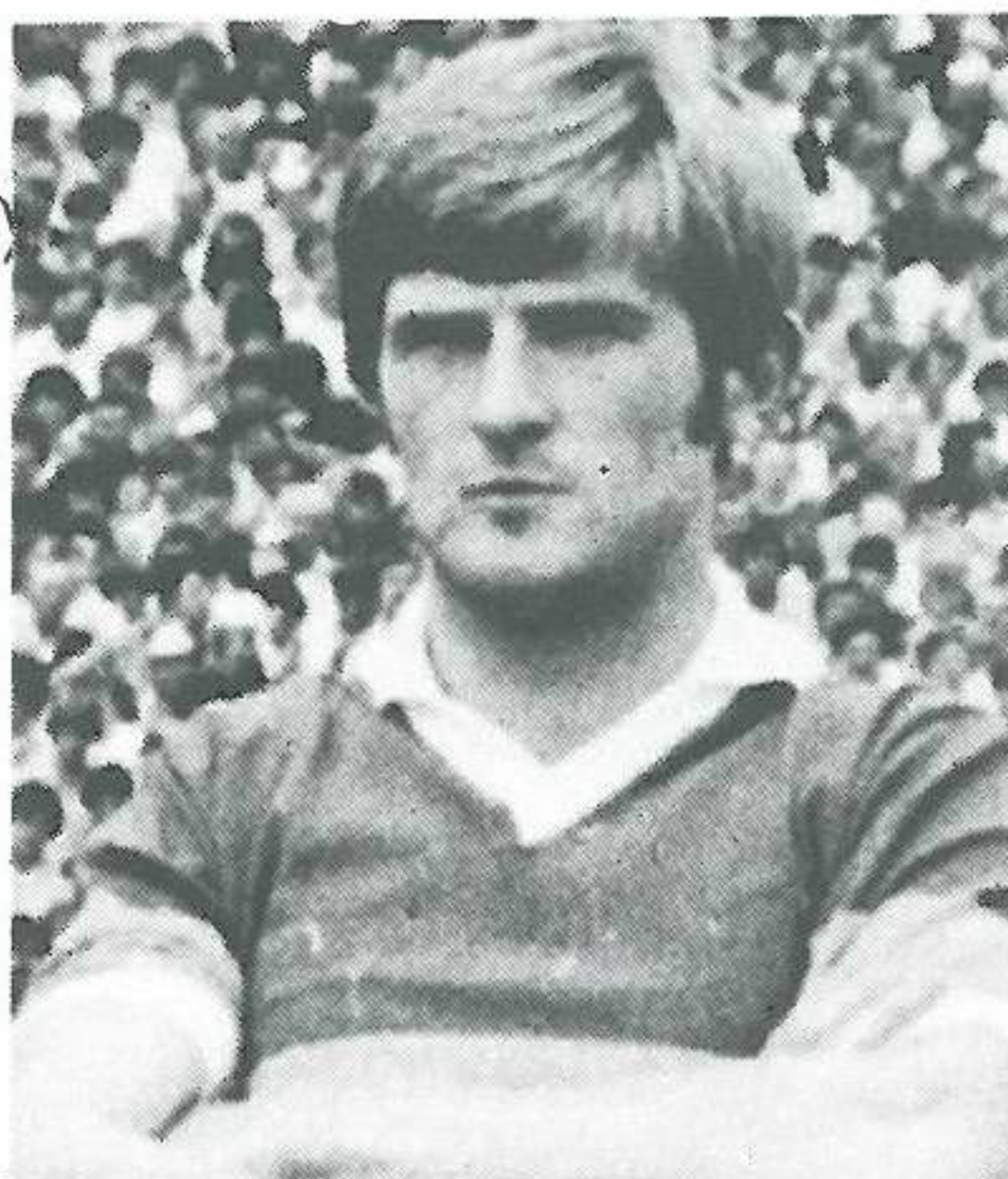


Kennys.

**By Noel Horgan**

VINCENT O'Connor soared into the air to make two spectacular catches in the opening quarter of last year's Munster football final and we all thought he was destined to dominate the southern decider.

His immaculate fielding drew gasps of admiration from the capacity crowd and earned a rare after-match tribute from no less a figure than Mick O'Connell. The



## O'Connor's catching pleased the Master

Valentia man suggested that O'Connor's fetches were as impressive as any he had seen and he castigated the match-reporters for failing to make greater reference to them.

Clearly, Mick found Vincent O'Connor's old style individualism refreshing in the modern game which has become geared to the short, low delivery and the predictable combined movement. And it may have been more than just coincidence that the style which Vincent displayed when making his impressive leaps was reminiscent of O'Connell himself in his heyday.

Unfortunately, Vincent O'Connor failed to maintain his early impact and he faded from the scene as the game progressed, leaving many Kerry folk bemused at his rather sudden demise in prominence from a game he threatened to control.

To my mind, it was principally lack of concentration which handi-

capped the blond-headed Dingle man in that game. Vincent has been on the fringe of Kerry's first fifteen since 1976 and he fully realises the strength of the Kingdom panel.

When Kerry played Cork in the Munster final of 1979, it was Vincent's first full senior decider. He was obviously anxious to do well as he was the least established of the Kerry men on duty.

All eyes were focused on him and with players like Denis Moran and Sean Walsh on the sideline, he was under severe pressure. And I would venture to suggest that his concentration may have occasionally lapsed as he strove to ensure that he would not be substituted.

Vincent lasted the full game and played again against Monaghan in the All-Ireland semi-final. However, he was demoted to the reserves for the final with Dublin and so the battle to become a first team regular began again.

His good performance against Offaly last month suggests that he could establish himself this season. In a sense, Vincent O'Connor has become a victim of his own versatility. The Kerry mentors realise that he is an invaluable man to have on the reserve bench.

He has, in the past, performed with equal effect in defence, midfield and attack. And it is a great boost to a team to know that there is a utility man ready to plug any gap which may arise during the course of a game.

It would be better for Vincent himself, however, were he to make his mark in a particular position as quickly as possible. There is much more security for the "specialist" in the current Kerry set-up than for the jack-of-all-trades, as Ogie Moran will readily testify.

It is difficult to decide where Vincent O'Connor is eventually likely to settle. The present Kerry defensive set-up of Deenihan, O'Keefe, Spillane, O'Shea, Kennelly and Lynch is a formidable unit which won't be easily disrupted.

Sean Walsh and Jack O'Shea appear to have struck up an effective midfield partnership while Ger Power, Tom Doyle, Pat Spillane, John Egan, Eoin Liston, Mick Sheehy and Ogie Moran are forwards of the highest calibre who will be battling for inclusion in attack for many years to come.

It won't be easy, therefore, for Vincent to become a permanent fixture on the Kingdom side. Yet, if he is to have any hope of doing so, he will have to be allowed to develop his talents in one particular department.

This may not suit the Kerry mentors at the moment but I feel that they owe Vincent the chance to become a "specialist". Otherwise 23-year-old O'Connor, who has won minor and senior All-Ireland honours with Kerry, may be plugging gaps for a long time.

Any footballer capable of winning the unstinted admiration of the great Mick O'Connell deserves better than that.



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Eamonn Young  
poses big  
question  
on football

# What kind of game do you want?

**T**HE fair shoulder should be allowed back into the game" Joe Keohane.

"The ball is being thrown around like snuff at a wake, and not hand-passed in the correct way" Denis Conroy.

"The game of football as we see it to-day is a cross between handball and a type of basket-ball" Paddy O'Driscoll.

"The abolition of the third-man tackle combined with our failure to show what is a hand-pass has over-refined this game" Eamonn Young.

These are opinions by four distinguished followers (whom I refuse to place in order of merit). All games change as the years go on and there are moves for better and for worse. Changes usually reflect the mentality of the people and surely people change. That is as it should be.

Time was, when half the parish turned out on one side to play half of the other parish. It must have been great gas carrying the ball over fields and ditches to cross a line in another man's bailiwick. That's a sport we could revive to-day. Then we organised the game and brought it down to 21 a-side. In more-or-less the same pitches as to-day. We had forty-two hardy fellas instead of thirty. That must have been a fairly hard game with plenty body-contact. In 1910 they were still working 17 aside and then came the fifteen of to-day. Efforts were made to reduce the number to 13 but in spite of the fact that such a competition was run successfully in Ulster Colleges at one time (is it still so?) the idea never got the seal of Congress.

Solo-running entered the game in '23 or '24. My information is that John P. Murphy of Cavan, whom I knew very well, introduced it in a game down there against Kerry. John Joe Lavin of Sligo is also given the credit but as far as I remember Roundy Landers agreed with the story about John P. Murphy. Anyway that added a lot to the game and certainly I have always liked the solo-run. The most effective player to use it in the thirties was Tommy Murphy of Graiguecullen who starred (not merely played) on the forty for Laois in an All-Ireland semi-final on his seventeenth birthday. In the thirties also came the smarter pick-up. Older players who tipped the ball up maintained this was a foul and while I didn't agree, it is quite clear to one who watches carefully that many balls are to-day taken clean off the ground for the hand gets there before the ball. Players don't mind; they get away with it. The smarter pick up reduced the skill of dribbling used in the twenties and praised by Dick Fitzgerald.

The hand-pass came with Kildare in the late twenties

and as lads in the early thirties, we were taught its use and revelled in it. We were taught carefully (in my case by my school-teacher father who was himself a good player) to toss the ball up with the left hand before slapping it with the right. We became very slick at this and of course everybody knew the difference between a throw and a foul. The hand-pass was very well used by Cavan in the mid-thirties and then the Armagh and Antrim sides of the early forties really went to town on it. Combined with the solo-run the skill became very effective and it was common to see a swift player waltz away through a defence, handpass the leather to another flying opponent who finished his own solo-run by hand-passing the ball over the bar. Needless to say as the hand-pass became slicker the edges of correctness became blurred, in the eyes not only of the player but the referee, so that in the end backs became annoyed and roughness quite naturally resulted. People got very tired of the stereotyped solo-running, ball-slinging style and Antrim achieved its abolition.

In the forties, I forgot to add, the side-line throw which allowed you to toss the ball about twenty-five yards to your own man who came flying for it was abolished in favour of the sideline kick and by the fifties I think we had a very good game. This was further improved by the introduction of the non-stop rule which destroyed our delightful trick, of tactical lying down when one's team was disorganised. We really regretted that one, though we knew quite well that the new rule was a clinker for the game. From about '55 on I saw this game of Gaelic Football as a strong manly game where brains, skill and real fitness, all based on good management carved the way to victory. It was a game that suited the people and the proof of that wasn't in Croke Park but on the echoing hillsides of a thousand valleys.

To-day's game is changed again. Why not? We're entitled to change. Since the middle of the decade the ball has begun to weave its way from hand to hand again as I knew it would. When the hand-pass returned I told a rural senior team that they should practise it day and night for it was the sure road to success. I wasn't sure that I liked it but, like all players, I wanted to exploit the rules to the full.

Anyway we all know what happened. The boys as players always will — and don't forget every player is a rogue, great or small — slung the ball around, the refs who hadn't grown up with the handpass as in my day, and didn't know a throw from a pass, left everything go and in no time the smart boys of to-day had progressed as far in

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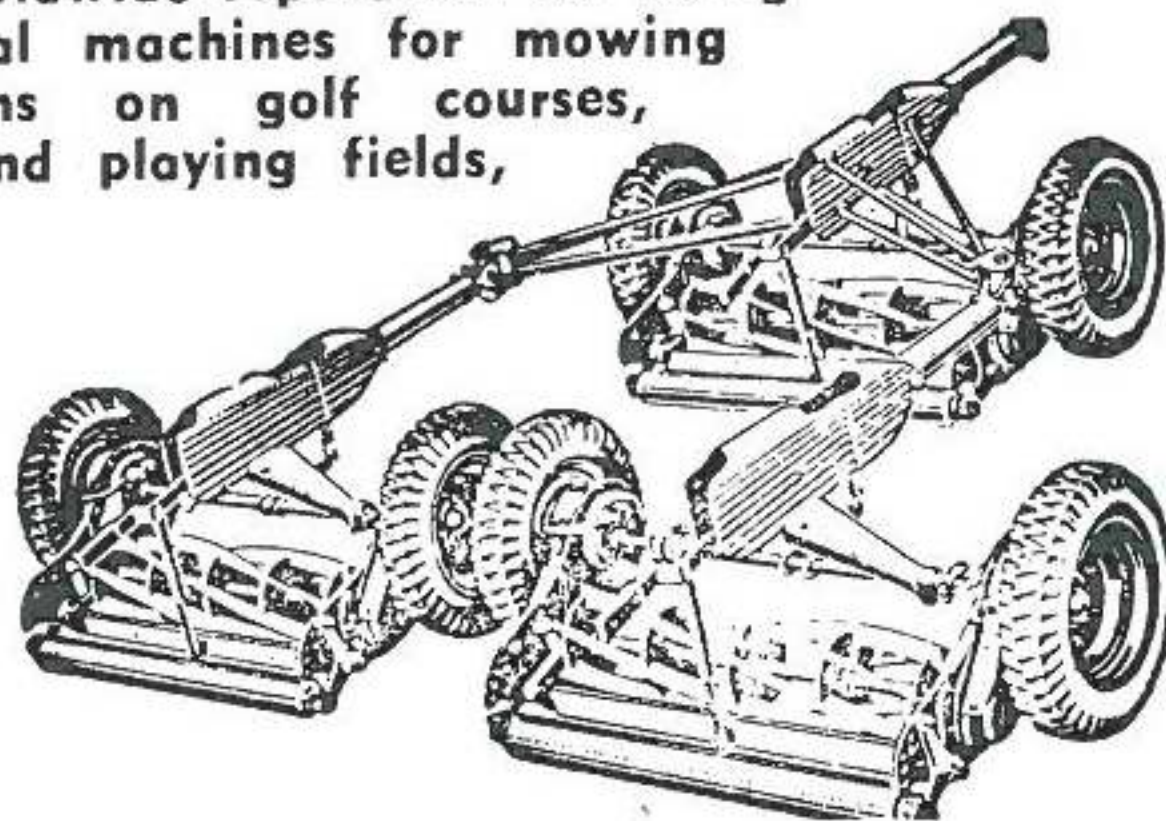
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● FROM PAGE 15

the evolution of hand-passing as the earlier men had in ten years. This isn't often noticed I think but the abolition of the third man tackle speeded up the evolution of to-days throwing style.

Once when the ball went in to the goalie the back impeded the progress of the forward. Often this was done in a foul manner causing bad blood, because the refs didn't always give the forwards fair play. When the third man tackle was outlawed a back couldn't impede his forward in any way but he didn't worry too much as the rule was also changed to wrap the goalie in cotton wool. So when the forward raced in usually in a futile manner, the back stayed outside and the goalie simply handpassed the ball out and so the throwing started right at goal, to be continued if necessary downfield. Very efficient but not one bit attractive to men who liked real football.

There has always been a type of person who fears hard physical contact. There are decent people who wouldn't hurt a fly. There are men who can't bear to see their sons get hit in a ring or bowled head over heels by a hard shoulder. There are others who think such punishment is part of character-training. Our referees have been chosen from both groups and before we give him a whistle we don't inquire too much into a man's philosophy. If he has an idea of the rules and a sense of control we're not doing badly. But the gentle ref hates the fair shoulder or any kind of shoulder. He probably feels it himself poor man. So he blows it for dangerous play as indeed for him it is, because he probably can't sleep at night after watching it.

Well if that's the kind of football we want then let's honour these refs and praise them for "cleaning up the game". If on the other hand we feel that modern man has NOT become fragile then perhaps we should allow lads to reduce efficiency by lawful punishment. Anyway the combination of ball-slinging, abolition of the third man tackle, and the unnecessary shielding of the goalie has taken some of the virility out of the game. More is the pity. But if that's the game the people want that's the game they should have. All we dissenters can do is try to point out that what is best for the strong active boys and men of to-day is a hard, brainy, game to knock the corners off, and make them better Irishmen.

It is easy to upset the balance of any game and to change its character. All one has to do is allow more emphasis on a particular skill. If, for instance, kicking were outlawed in Gaelic Football then we would see more high catching and handpassing. If we forbade the use of hands except to block or slap the ball there would be an immediate improvement in ground kicking and dribbling. It is quite easy for Congress in the years ahead to evolve a new game of football and in the wake of such changes one could see a tall basket-ball team from Alabama or a soccer team from Liverpool hammering the daylights, not out of the All-Ireland champions but a full Ireland side.

In the present atmosphere of international sport all this is possible and indeed such exposure could do us a lot of good in some ways. The question for us now is: DO WE

WANT THIS? For if we wish Gaelic Football to be a truly international game all we have to do is change the rules a little more and then join either the rugby or soccer associations both of whom sponsor worthwhile recreation. If on the other hand we consider that there is something good, something distinctive about our game then we would be wise to consider very carefully the changes made in the game, the men who suggest them, and the direction in which they would seek to lead us.

Soccer is not a good game. The best ball-players in the world are playing it but what a shame that their blinding skills and manly emotions are refined, emasculated and inhibited by the stark artificiality of a game that has only one score and denies a man the right to use limbs so essential to his being as are his hands. Soccer was the product of urban limitation which placed a similar limit on the thinking of decent men. Are we going to steer our game on the same road?

I don't like to-day's football very much but I admire immensely the man who play it. They are, generally speaking, fitter than the men of twenty years ago and though they may lack SOME of the skills they think more about the game because matches are to-day analysed in places outside of the local pub. These fine young men of to-day are capable of entertaining the crowds just as well as the men of the past and that's why I hate to see them condemned to playing an inferior game. For make no mistake about it they are not, in spite of all the publicity, admired as much by the men in the street as were the players of a manlier recreation ten and twenty years ago. So let's give them back a real game. What is it?

Cut out the hand-passing or teach everybody, especially the refs, the difference between a throw and a pass. Allow the goalie to be charged fairly from the side as he is making his way out with the ball. Allow the third man tackle back but give the forward fair play and give a penalty against the back who tries to blackguard him. Get rid of this silly rule whereby a man will be put off the field if he is guilty twice of rough play. Instead advance the ball to the twenty straight from the posts or give a penalty against him if the foul is inside twenty-one. Every time a man fouls deliberately, advance the ball to the other twenty-one or to the penalty spot if the foul occurs inside the fifty. This would finish jersey-pulling the man going through.

The last suggestion is worth trying. It's easier to tell by a story. Twenty five years ago I was playing at centre-forward in a "small" but very important game. The centre-back was a boyo and shortly proved it. The ref sent him to the line for ten minutes, for that rule had been agreed in the competition. While he sat on the line being rebuked by his friends, I worked hard on the field. I knew I had ten minutes to do something. Joe Keohane has now talked the Kerry Board into looking at the change. I hope it doesn't die there.

My final word is to point out that men of very different outlook make the rules of the game. I can only hope that the pervading atmosphere will always be one of brains, manliness and fair play.



- *The background to this midseventies All-Ireland final action between Dublin and Kerry shows just how crowded the Hogan Stand can be. Mick Dunne examines the perennial ticket problem but comes up with no easy solution.*

# TICKETS!

*A torrid  
topic for  
Congress*

*By Mick Dunne (RTE Sport)*

**D**ELEGATES to Congress later this month can be prepared for an earful of Kerry wrath over the allocation of stand tickets to the All-Ireland finalists. The anger which has been simmering since September is certain to come to the boil in Newcastle.

Anyone who thinks that the most hotly-debated subjects at the Congress are to be the football handpass and the proposed introduction of the yellow and red card system has not been paying attention to the rumblings coming out of the Kingdom. Kerry's officials made no secret of their dissatisfaction with last year's allocation — slightly less than 2,000 tickets when they had both senior and minor teams engaged in the football finals. Since then they have been very forthcoming in their declarations of trying to get the system altered.

In a county so passionately

devoted to football 2,000 tickets amount to a mere drop in the ocean, but the situation is aggravated for Kerry because they are committed to guaranteeing All-Ireland tickets, whenever the county qualifies for the final, to two groups of people. Each holder of an All-Ireland medal is entitled to receive two tickets from the county board — in Kerry All-Ireland medalists are a very sizeable group — and the board must also ensure that tickets go to people who contributed financial loans to the cost of building the pavilion at Austin Stack Park in Tralee.

It should be emphasised that

Kerry are concerned only about the finals for which they qualify. They have no complaints about the ordinary allocation of tickets — based on club affiliations — for years in which the Kerry team does not reach the senior final. They are, however, indignant about the size of the supply that goes to the competing counties in the senior finals and they insist that this allocation must be increased substantially.

Since last autumn Kerry have had a special committee of officers — including chairman Frank King, his immediate predecessor Gerald McKenna and former county player Dave Geaney — looking after this problem for the county board. They have been trying to put pressure on the upper echelons of the Associa-

tion and they had hoped that a sub-committee which examined the whole subject of ticket allocation would rectify the situation.

But the ire of the county reached the level of fury last month when a proposal from that sub-committee to increase the allocation of tickets for the finalists was rejected ever so narrowly (14 votes to 12) by the Central Council.

Now Kerry take their case to Congress. If they fail there, the question as we come away from Newcastle must be: how far are the All-Ireland champions prepared to go to get their way?

There has been loose talk about withdrawing from the National Football League or, indeed, from this year's championship. But irresponsible talk is all it may be. The first would cost the county considerable loss of revenue that goes directly to the League semi-finalists and finalists; the second would happen only in the unlikely event of Kerry's mounting anger surpassing the pride in their marvellous football achievements and their obvious desire to accomplish a third successive All-Ireland title.

One thing is certain: Kerry are sensible people and they are certainly not unrealistic enough to ignore the fact that their problem is the age-old one of demand outstripping supply. As long as football — and Kerry's great contribution to it — remains the most popular game in Irish sport the number of people seeking All-Ireland tickets will be greatly in excess of the stand tickets available. Just slightly less than 32,000 seats are available in Croke Park, but for any All-Ireland final — hurling as well as football — more than double that number of people want tickets.

That number is further reduced over the next few years for the football final to a greater extent than for the hurling decider. Some 9,000 tickets are tied-up in the Ten-Year ticket scheme in football, but only about 5,000 committed to the same scheme for the hurling final.

Not so long ago Frank King was

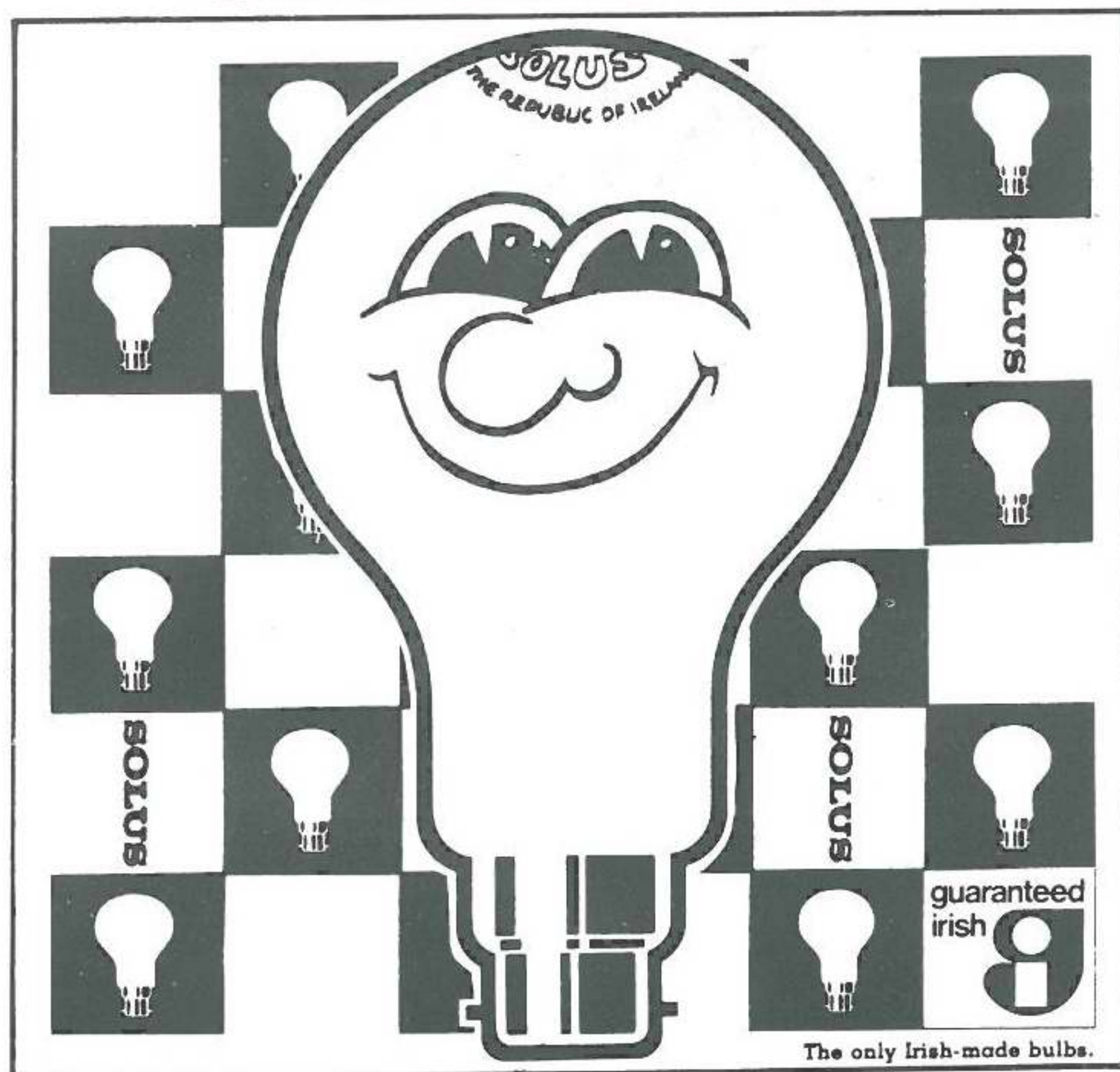
quoted as emphasising that Kerry were not fighting for themselves only, but for all counties who qualify for the All-Ireland final. But therein, I suggest, lies the biggest obstacle to Kerry having their way: the number

of counties who do NOT get to the All-Ireland football final is much, much greater than the ones who do.

When the problem is reduced to its simplest terms it means that the

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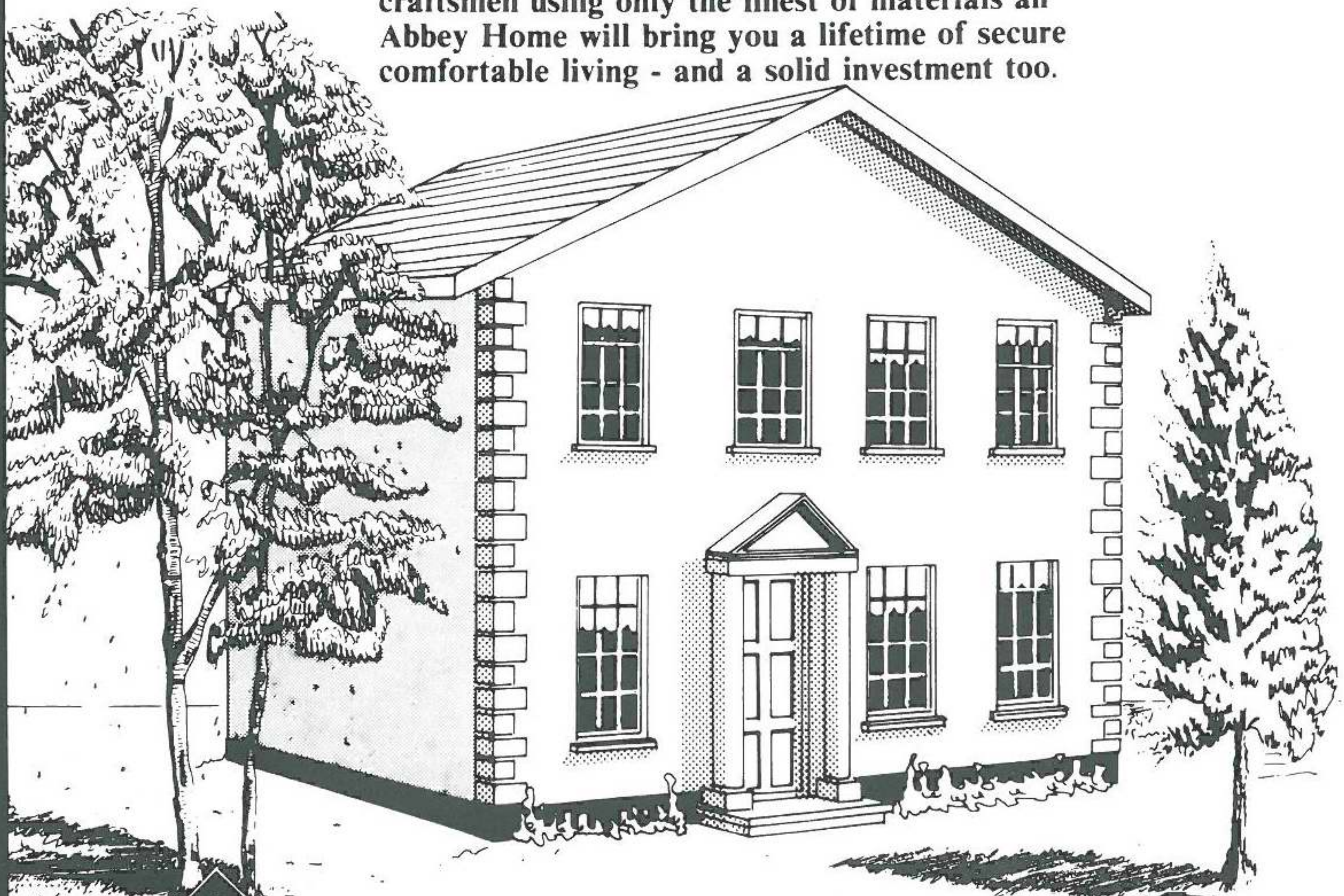
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# AIB Club of the Year Awards

ONE of the best stories in Gaelic Games in years — that's the Allied Irish Banks G.A.A. Club of the Year awards, which were inaugurated back in June.

So successful, in fact, that 456 clubs from all over the country entered. Munster led the way with 185 clubs, followed by Leinster with 144. Connacht came next with 69, while 58 clubs from Ulster took part.

The Adjudication Panel, under the patronage of the President of the G.A.A., Mr. Paddy McFlynn, and headed by the immediate past President, Mr. Con Murphy, recently completed the preliminary examination and assessment of the entries. The overall winner for 1979 is Erins Isle of Finglas while Na Fianna another Dublin club won the Category A award.

There are three main cate-

gories of club, classified on a membership basis. Two main prizes will be awarded in each category, as well as supplementary awards for different aspects of a club's activity.

The total prize fund will not be less than £7,000, but the Board of Assessors reserve the right to reallocate the supplementary awards in the light of the entries received in various categories.

In all, there will be over 30 prizes, the top award being a specially designed A.I.B. Trophy and £1,500.

Mr. Tom Moriarty, recently appointed A.I.B. Area General Manager for the West of Ireland, and who is a former Kerry All-Ireland star, told us:

"The response to the A.I.B. G.A.A. Club of the Year awards has been quite extraordinary and far greater than we had anticipated in the first year of the scheme. This is

tremendously gratifying to Allied Irish Banks and our initial success will, I am certain, lead to even greater things in the years to come."

Mr. Con Murphy, Chairman of the A.I.B. Awards Committee, paid a handsome tribute to all the clubs who submitted entries and presentations for these awards.

"There has been a magnificent commitment by every club and I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to all the clubs for the wonderful co-operation and enthusiasm they have shown right from the beginning."

Obviously, then, this ambitious new promotion has got off to the best possible start, and already seems assured of becoming the most far-reaching and beneficial scheme ever for the clubs, the basic units of the Association.

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## TICKETS ————— by Mick Dunne (RTE Sport) FROM PAGE 19

counties who never — or rarely get to the final — see it as a clear case of "them and us". Those who do not appear in the All-Ireland final know that for every extra ticket that goes to the finalists one less is available to the remaining 30 counties. The very pointed message spelled out by the vote at the February Central Council meeting was that the majority of the counties are not prepared to sacrifice any tickets to the All-Ireland finalists.

Unpalatable though it may be, Kerry must face up to the fact of life that, although they are not fighting for themselves alone, they are crusading on behalf of themselves and others in a very elite group of counties; a minority so elitist that their appeals are not likely to bring forth tears of sympathy from the vast majority of counties who see themselves as being outside a very

exclusive club.

In modern times qualifying for the All-Ireland football final has become almost a monopoly of a handful of counties. It is a very select company, into which most of the 32 counties rarely if ever gain admission. To satisfy this very restricted group, the majority are being asked to sacrifice tickets. Most of those counties realistically cannot visualise themselves ever qualifying for the final and thus being entitled to the additional tickets that go to the finalists. Therefore they are not willing to cut-back on what is already a very limited supply of All-Ireland tickets.

Look at it this way: in the 35 years since World War II ended, only 13 of the 32 counties have reached the football final. In more recent times, even these have been further reduced because Louth, Cavan nor Derry

would not be very optimistic about reaching the final in the foreseeable future. On the other hand, Kerry have been in 18 finals in that time, Dublin and Galway nine each. So it is a very, very exclusive club indeed.

During the last two decades (1960-'79) only nine counties got to the football final and two of them — Armagh and Roscommon — just once in that period. Kerry qualified 12 times in those 20 years, Dublin and Galway seven each, Offaly in four years, Down and Meath three each and Cork twice. Add Kilkenny, Limerick, Tipperary and Wexford who, as hurling finalists over those same two decades, would favour an increased allocation to the All-Ireland finalists, and you have what may be the full extent of the support Kerry can expect at Congress. At the very most less than half the 32 counties.

*By Owen McCann*

**D**EFENSIVE hurling of the highest standard . . . forward play and lethal finishing of the same class . . . these are among the qualities mirrored among the talents of the men who have just taken their places among the ranks of the Texaco Stars of Gaelic Games — Ger Henderson and Michael Sheehy.

This pair were not only two of the leading lights in the Gaelic Games firmament in the past year . . . they have been champion competitors for some seasons now in the top grade. Players whose skills and expertise have served their county teams well, and kept Henderson and Sheehy very much in the limelight.

Their careers have also much in common. They got among All-Ireland under-21 medals, lost no time either in winning the game's top awards, and have struck gold as well on the interprovincial front. And all the time they have produced play of the highest possible grade . . . a joy to watch, and an important plank as well in building top title wins for Kilkenny and Kerry.

Ger Henderson, of course, is maintaining a family tradition, as can also be said of his brother John, who was left full back in the side that won Kilkenny's 21st All-Ireland senior crown last September.

No serious student of hurling will need reminding of the brilliance of their older brother, Pat, who proved such a mighty bulwark of the Kilkenny senior hurling team for so long, and helped to fashion five of the county's national senior championships between 1967 and 1975.

Ger was a substitute in the Kilkenny team panel for the victorious Liam McCarthy Cup tie with Galway in 1975, but he did not play in the decider. About a year earlier he was "in" on history as right half back in the Kilkenny team that won the All-Ireland under-21 championship for the first time, and his play in the no. 5 jersey was source of much of the power that kept the title by the Noreside the following year.

Ger had not long to wait to collect his first national senior medal at inter-county level, however. It came only months after his inclusion among the 1975 All-Ireland substitutes panel. He was on the left of brother Pat, the right wing back, in the side that beat Clare for the 1976 National League title.

Ger Henderson led Kilkenny in their unsuccessful Liam McCarthy Cup bid against Cork in 1978, but he had much better fortunes last September. Many, in fact, made him "Man of the Match" for his magical hurling at centre half in the win over

*Ger and  
popular  
for Texaco*

Galway — hurling that was all the more remarkable for the fact that he had been ill just two days before the game. It was great stuff undoubtedly from the Johnstown club man . . . hurling that did so much to blunt the challenge of the gallant Galwaymen.

The past year, in fact, was a particularly successful one for Ger Henderson. As a midfielder he won his only Railway Cup medal so far

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# Mike were choices to awards



● Ger Henderson of Kilkenny (left) and Mike Sheehy of Kerry, popular Texaco award winners for 1979.

when he starred for Leinster in their success over Connacht in a unique decider at Thurles last April. Like Michael Sheehy, he was included in the first Bank of Ireland All Stars selections in the autumn — as centre half in hurling — to add to his trophy a year earlier under the Carrolls banner.

Sheehy must rank as the most exciting sharpshooter to arrive in

football in years. When it comes to creative forward play at its most devastating, and also to turning chances from play and frees into scores, the Tralee club man, in fact, walks tall with the very best the code has ever seen.

He was only 19 when he won his first All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1973, and even then was displaying the accuracy around goal that has

consistently characterised his play in the top grade. His incisive skills and finishing powers saw him do much to sink the ambitions of Dublin not once but twice in 1975 in the All-Ireland deciders at senior and under-21.

Some of his scoring exploits at All-Ireland final level against the Dubs must forever form part of the folklore of football. There is little doubt that his quick-thinking goal from a free three minutes from the interval of the 1978 All-Ireland final against the Metropolitans will be talked about and argued over as long as football is played.

Then there was that celebrated outing against the Dubs last year when Michael Sheehy demonstrated every facet of forward play at its brilliant best.

Scores from play, including a goal and three points, scores from placed balls, including a penalty and frees, and efficiency in build-up and distribution . . . all these aspects of forward play were demonstrated by Michael Sheehy at the highest possible level and in the best possible manner as he powered his way to a share in the individual scoring record for an All-Ireland senior football final at 2-6.

Without doubt that was one of the best individual performances in an All-Ireland final in the code.

Sheehy, who went on to finish top scorer in the nation-wide chart for all games in 1979, has been one of

● TO PAGE 25

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*Bravo,  
Bernard!*

## **BROGAN OFF TO THE SUN**

*By Mick Dunne  
(RTE Sport)*

**I**F the trend of latter times continues this month we can expect the weather on St. Patrick's Day will not be very conducive to watching — whatever about playing — football. Therefore those who go to Croke Park for the Railway Cup finals will probably have good reason to envy Bernard Brogan, the Dublin midfielder who seems to be guaranteed, at least, some sunshine over the holiday weekend.

He will be far from home and taking part in the World Superstars competition in the sunny Bahamas climate after his magnificent feat in winning the Irish Milk Superstars competition earlier this year. Without question he will carry the best wishes of all followers of Gaelic Games when he goes abroad to represent this country against

opposition, which Pat Spillane discovered last year will be totally professional in approach and attitude.

The second Irish Superstars competition underlined what many of us have known for a long time: that the level of fitness attained by the top performers in Gaelic Games over recent years has gone up immeasurably. Victory for Brogan, coming after Spillane's success last year, as well as the high proportion of G.A.A. sportsmen who reached the national final, speaks volumes for the standard of fitness of our leading teams and players in hurling and football.

Those who were most closely connected with the Irish Milk Superstars competition were loud in their praise of Brogan's achievement. His

victory in the 100 metres, in a time well up to Irish national championship standard, and in the steeplechase reflected immense credit on his ability as an athlete and on his competitive determination. His defeat of Fanahan McSweeney, who had been specialising in track events in the latter years when Bernard concentrated on Gaelic football, was one of the most notable sports accomplishments of the year.

Of course, in a sense the Irish Superstars gave Brogan the opportunity to return to sports he had excelled at during his schooldays. He had won a BLOE high jump championship at 15 years of age, was a very promising sprinter at St. Declan's C.B.S. and he was, too, very proficient at basketball in his earlier years.

Bernard, 26 last September, has many years ahead of him in Irish sport and I know one shrewd judge who believes that he could still be an Irish champion runner if he gave the time to track events. But at 26 he is one of the still relatively young, but vastly experienced, players Dublin look to as the hope of the future.

His triumph in the Milk Superstars was all the more commendable when it is realised that, as recently as last October, there were fears we might not see him again perform on a sportsfield. Injured in the first game of the American tour last autumn he arrived in Chicago on crutches and the future appeared very bleak. Medical advice he got in Chicago was not very encouraging, yet when Dublin lined-out against

Monaghan a few weeks later in the Ceannarus semi-final Bernard was in the side.

The grit and resoluteness he showed in getting back into football

so quickly will, no doubt, stand to him in the Bahamas. He knows that, although we will be many thousands of miles away, we will be rooting strongly for him.

## TEXACO AWARDS

• FROM PAGE 23

the great interprovincial players of modern times. In fact, he has had a big say in the revival of Munster's fortunes. Cool and confident, he played in three of the South's victorious teams in their record-equalling four in a row run from 1975 (the Kerry ace was not in that side) to 1978 inclusive.

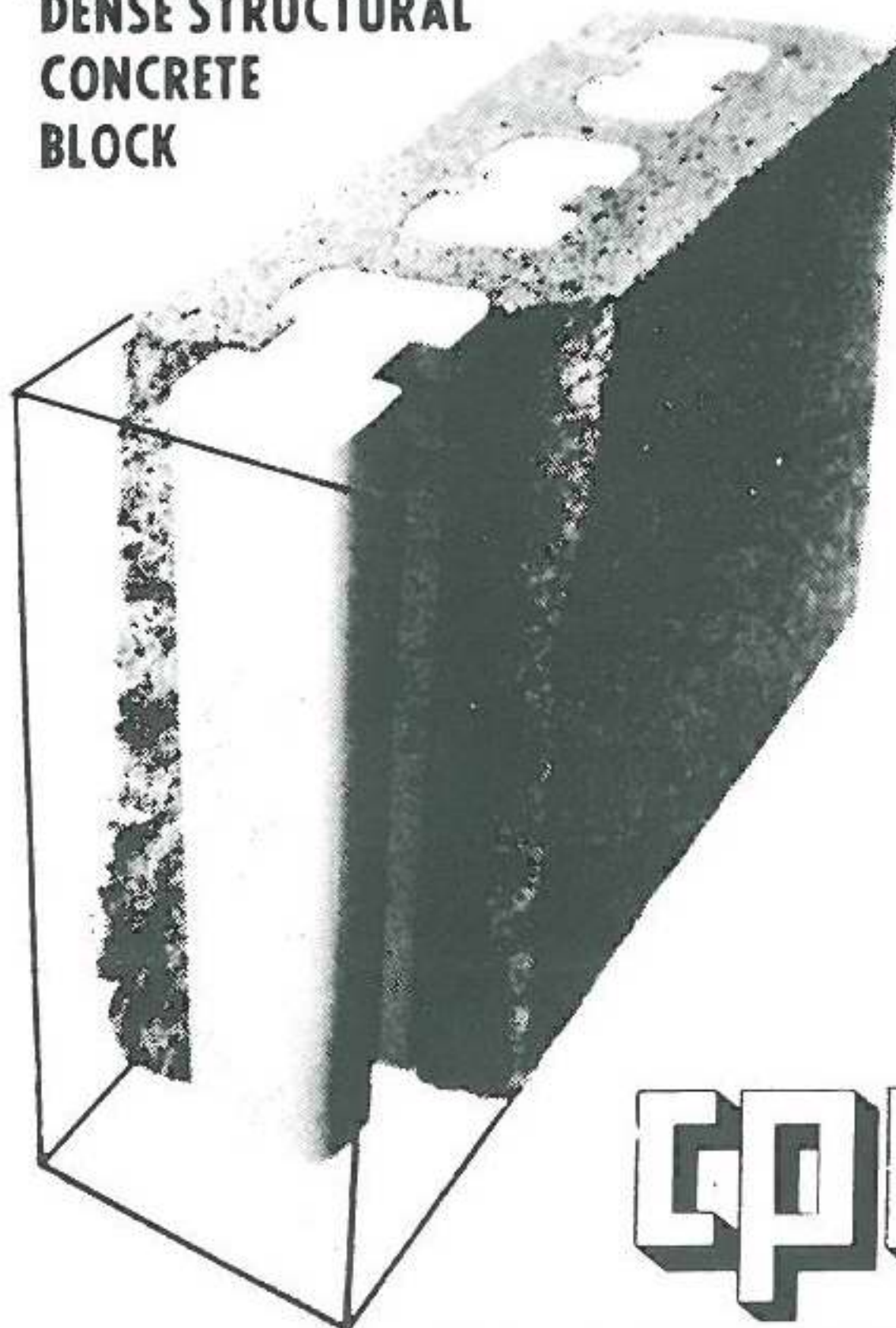
He is also an All-Ireland club medalist with Austin Stacks (1977), holds two National League medals, and before finding favour in the Bank of Ireland team, he had won All Stars awards in 1976 and 1978.

At only 25, then, Michael Sheehy has already had a memorable and unusually successful spell in the top grade of football.

Ger Henderson is also 25 so that the Texaco Stars of 1979 for Gaelic Games have still an awful lot to offer as seniors in the future. That's a very exciting prospect for followers, particularly now as the season picks up momentum, and already we are beginning to look forward to the championship season and the efforts of Kilkenny and Kerry to retain their national titles.

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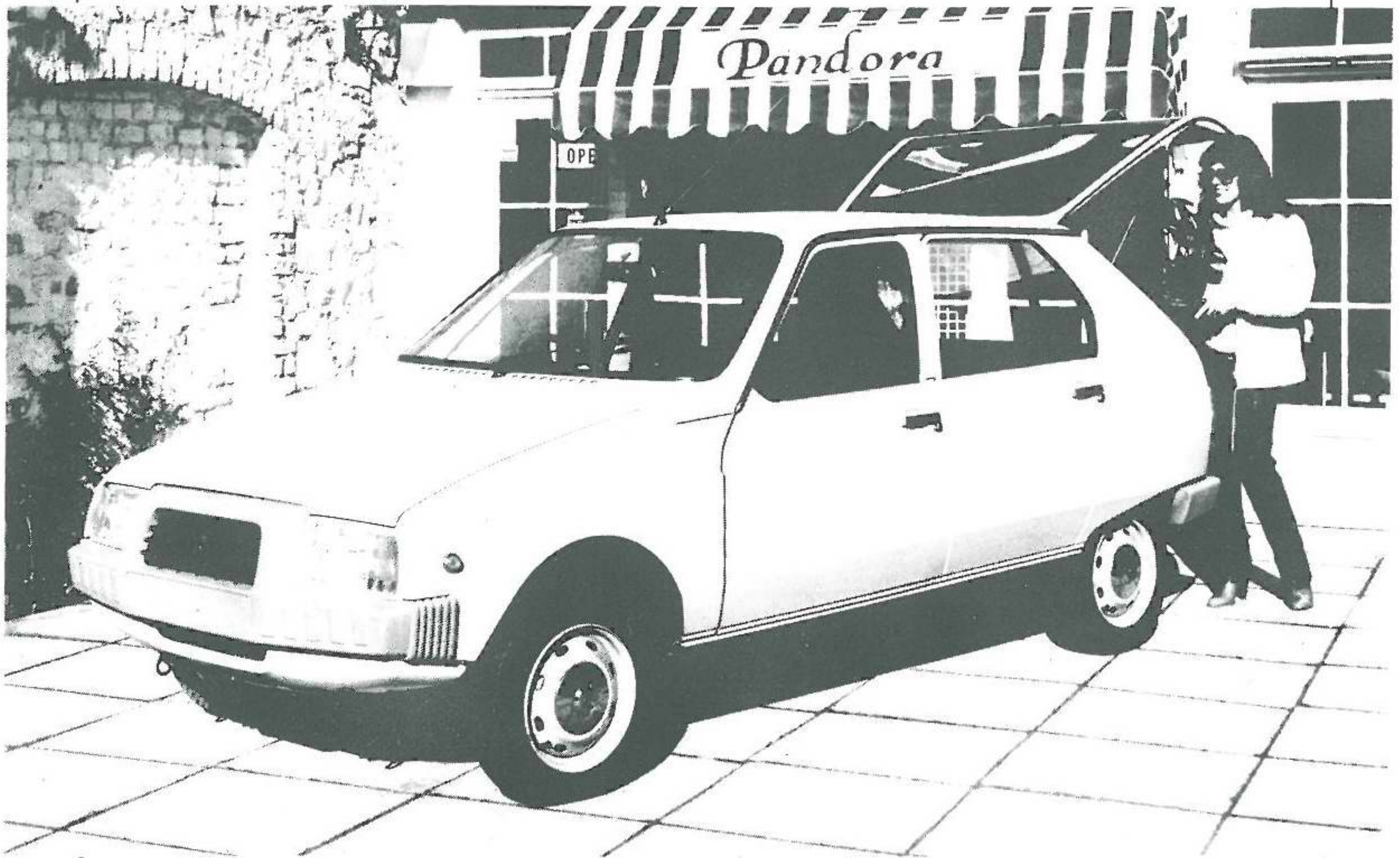
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**CITROËN** 

# TOP AWARD GOES TO PAT MCGARRY



• PAT MCGARRY

**T**HE most pleasing event in handball circles recently was the selection of Pat McGarry from Limerick as the Player of the Year, an honour that carried with it the prestigious B&I Personality of the Month G.A.A award.

Nobody with a semblance of interest in handball could quibble with the choice, for McGarry has carried the handball torchlight proudly over a long span of years.

He ranked with the very best players over the past decade and while he won numerous titles, his ambition of a senior singles victory was not achieved until last year.

It was probably that famous victory over Peadar McGee in the Handball Final that clinched his handballer of the year spot. That win was achieved against all the odds.

It will be recalled that McGarry lost the two opening games but he made a dramatic come-back to win the next three.

That was some achievement against a player of the calibre of McGee. McGarry's win was also significant in so far as it was only the third time a Limerick player has been honoured in the B&I scheme.

Pat who hails from a well-known sporting family had an equally famous handballing brother, Tom, who, besides being an expert in the now dormant Gael-Linn Competition also represented Munster in handball, hurling and football.

McGarry's lone ambition now is to win the softball singles title,

currently held by Tom O'Rourke of Kildare.

This event, which is sponsored by Coca Cola is really the blue riband of Irish Handball and presently our top players are gearing themselves towards full fitness for the start of it in a couple of months time. One player who is unlikely to be in the line-up at the start of it is one time great Joey Maher.

He played recently in the Leinster 40 x 20 championship against Macartan Brady of Dublin and was but a pale shadow of the star who once graced our courts.

Though a tribute in more elaborate terms will be a priority in the near future, I must, at this stage recognise the part Maher has played in the promotion of the game.

At the present time administrative activities are to the forefront as County and Provincial Conventions dominate and are placed in perspective by Annual Congress which is held this month.

It is predictable that the Council's Administrator Joe Lynch will present a favourable report of the year's activities on the financial, development and administrative fronts.

He will be particularly complimentary to the Administrators in Ulster who have striven defiantly over the past couple of years to put the game on a sound footing. This happy change for Ulster is a far cry from the position that obtained a few years ago when the game was at a low ebb in the Province. It can be attributed to the initiative of a few.

Father Seán Nolan from St. Macartans College, for instance set the acorn when he had two conventional and two American Style Courts built.

Then there was the upsurge of the Kingscourt Club and its new facilities, not to mention the impact of the Antrim resurgence with particular reference to Belfast where many clubs are well organised and competitive activity is at a high level.

However, the equilibrium would be incorrect without the dissenting voice which in this instance comes to us through the pen of Matt Purcell, the well-known Kildare player and administrator. He is not happy that the three games of handball which are in existence, namely softball, hardball and the 40 x 20 code are getting equitable attention.

He is of the opinion that the 40 x 20 game is getting preferential treatment as a result of which the other two codes will eventually become dormant.

Matt sees the solution in the alteration of existing structures to the extent that each code would get equal recognition. This is a complex problem that cannot be answered in simple fashion.

Purcell deserves credit for bringing it to the forefront and may set our top Administrators thinking as to whether Handball as an entity has the capacity to cater for three different codes.

This timely intervention by Purcell could have profitable repercussions for the game.

# THE GREAT IRISH TAKE-AWAY



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ANGELA

DOWNEY

By Agnes Hourigan

## Officials sort out fixtures problem

**S**ECOND and Third Level Councils have been very busy before and since Christmas coping with postponements due to bad weather and finding new dates for refixtures. However all councils appear to have managed admirably.

The Third Level Championships are both completed and the Munster Council has new champions in Post Primary. The semi-final stages are at hand, at the time of writing, in the other three Provinces.

The Ashbourne Cup, inaugurated in 1915, for a championship series each year between Camogie teams of the Universities is the oldest Competition in the Association. The recent games at Belfield were the 65th time that the series was played, an almost continuous sequence with only one break, in 1943, when the competition, due to be played at Queens, was called off, because of the Second World War.

The competition to-day has a much wider interest since the Seven Universities are now competing in it.

In 1972 the Camogie Council for Higher Institutes was set up. That Council caters for all interested Third level Colleges. It runs two championships, the Ashbourne Cup for Universities and the Purcell Cup for all other Colleges. A League embraces all the Colleges and is divided into regional zones up to semi-final level.

A highlight of the year is the Representative game between the Combined Universities and the

Combined Colleges for Corn Uí Mhaolagáin which was presented by their Uachtarán, Bridín Bean Uí Mhaolagáin.

Looking through the recent Ashbourne Programme, I noticed that twenty counties were represented on the seven teams. The selected Combined Universities side contains many well-known stars such as Angela Downey of Kilkenny, a winner of three All-Ireland senior medals, Maeve O'Hagan, who won a senior All-Ireland medal with Antrim last September, Edel Murphy and Catherine Doherty, member of the Dublin Senior National League winners Noelle O'Driscoll of the Cork County team and Chris Silke of the Galway team which won the Junior All-Ireland.

Indeed the Combined Colleges Selection also has its star county players which include Carol Blaney, the brilliant goalie of the Antrim All-Ireland winning team. Sarah Ann Quinn, the star of many Derry and Loreto Coleraine victories, Marion McGarvey of Down and three Dublin Junior county players, Frances Murphy, a sister of Edel's on the Universities side, Fiona Ní Shiochain and Toni O'Byrne.

This game will be played in Dublin on April 19.

The Senior National League now in its fifth year has been won by Tipperary (1976), Wexford ('77), Kilkenny ('78) and Dublin ('79). The strongest challengers have been

Limerick, runners-up in '78 and '79.

Last season for the first time the competing counties were divided into four zones. Since there were only three counties in some of the zones many of those participating felt that the number was too small so it was decided to have three Zones of four counties each this year.

Zone A: Antrim, Derry, Dublin and Monaghan.

Zone B: Down, Wexford, Clare and Tipperary.

Zone C: Kilkenny, Galway, Cork and Limerick.

The competition begins on March 23. Limerick are at home to Kilkenny and Down entertain Clare. There is also a change in the organisation of the League this season. It is arranged so that most of the games will be played before the championship begins, thus ensuring that all counties will get their teams well organised for the championship which does not start until June 8.

A Junior National League was inaugurated in the fall of last season. About half the games were played before Christmas. It is due to start again on March 9 and be completed by May 11. The Table looks like this: Armagh and Louth, who have played two games each have full points to date. Kildare and Waterford have collected three points each from two games. Roscommon and Carlow have two points each from two games. While Mayo, Meath, Kerry and Offaly did not succeed in collecting any points.

If one is to judge from the advantages that the Senior Counties gained from their League in the four years, great progress is anticipated both in standard, interest and administration inside the participating Junior Counties.

With the participation of more and more players in the various competitions and grades another successful year is anticipated for 1980.

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	Thursdays	9.30 am - 4.15 pm
	Fridays	9.30 am - 4.15 pm
	Including lunchtime.	
<b>Cork Centre Clinic Times</b>	Tuesdays	12.00 noon - 3.00 pm including lunchtime
	Thursdays	5.00 - 8.00 pm
	Fridays	10.00 - 12.30 pm

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# JOHN ALLEN — A DUAL STAR IN THE MAKING

By NOEL HORGAN



WHEN John Allen made his debut with the Cork footballers against Dublin last October he completed the lengthy list of dual players which the Rebel County produced during the 'seventies.

In that decade Ray Cummins, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Brian Murphy, Seamus Looney, Ted O'Brien, Denis Coughlan, Denis Crowley and Martin Doherty were just some of the names that did duty as senior players in both hurling and football for Cork.

The fact that Cummins, Barry-Murphy and Brian Murphy were the only players to achieve lasting success at the same time in both codes illustrates how demanding the role of the dual purpose performer can be.

Even Ray Cummins eventually found the strain too severe and he confined his activities to hurling after 1975 although he made a brief re-appearance for the Munster football final three years later. Many Cork folk believe that the Blackrock star's decision to quit football was vital to the county's great success on the hurling fields in the latter part of the decade.

Indeed, it has been contended that many Cork players failed to realise their full potential in the 'seventies

because of dual commitments at the top level. Much more could possibly have been achieved by certain players had they been allowed to develop their talents in a single code. Specialisation, it is felt, could have reaped an even richer harvest for both Cork teams.

Whatever the merits of that claim, it cannot be denied that the demands made on the dual player must take some toll. One might expect, therefore, that a county like Cork — large in size and rich in player-power — would be inclined to shy away from the dual performer. Yet, almost yearly, the Cork officials add a new name to their list of dual performers.

Established footballer, Christy Ryan, became the latest recruit when he lined out with the Cork hurlers against Limerick last month but it is John Allen who must surely qualify as the county's most likely dual star.

John never played minor with Cork in either code, although he was a substitute with the county minor hurlers in 1973. When he left his native Aghabullogue to live and work in the city, St. Finbarrs won the race of the city clubs for his signature.

He joined the 'Barrs in 1977, having represented Aghabullogue on the victorious Cork senior

hurling panel the previous year, and in his final season with the Lough club he won a county and an All-Ireland club medal. Prior to his joining the 'Barrs, John had also an All-Ireland under-21 medal to his credit.

It was no secret, then, that the 'Barrs had sought Allen's services principally for his hurling prowess. After all, his native Aghabullogue hold an esteemed place in Cork's hurling history, having brought the first All-Ireland title to the Leaside county in 1890.

The fact that John Allen played football was merely an added bonus to the 'Barrs. But he diligently developed his football skill when pitted against the cream of Cork

• OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 31  
football in the county championship.

He quickly earned a reputation as a goal-scoring full-forward and he began to attract the attention of the Cork selectors. His call-up to the Cork team became inevitable when he played a major role in helping St. Finbarrs land the 1979 county football crown.

John made a dream debut on the green sward of Croke Park last October when he scored two goals

and three points as Cork drew with the far-famed Dubs. He has maintained his promise in all of Cork's subsequent outings.

The most refreshing aspect of John Allen's football is his direct approach when near the goal. He is not hesitant in shooting when presented with even a half chance and he has put the finishing touches to many well-worked Cork movements in helping the county to qualify for the quarter finals of the current league.

Ironically, John's hurling fortunes have slumped in recent times. He played poorly against Dermot McCurtain in last year's county final and is currently out of favour with the Cork hurling selectors. As hurling is his first love he will be keen to re-establish himself this season, having made his championship debut as a substitute in Cork's narrow first round victory over Tipp four years ago.

Clearly, John Allen has both the character and ability to win a place on Cork's hurling panel for 1980. The future seems bright for the Aghabullogue man, Cork's unlikely dual player, who may yet prove more durable in his new role than many of his predecessors. At any rate, having by-passed the minor grades in reaching senior status in both codes, John Allen cannot be underestimated.

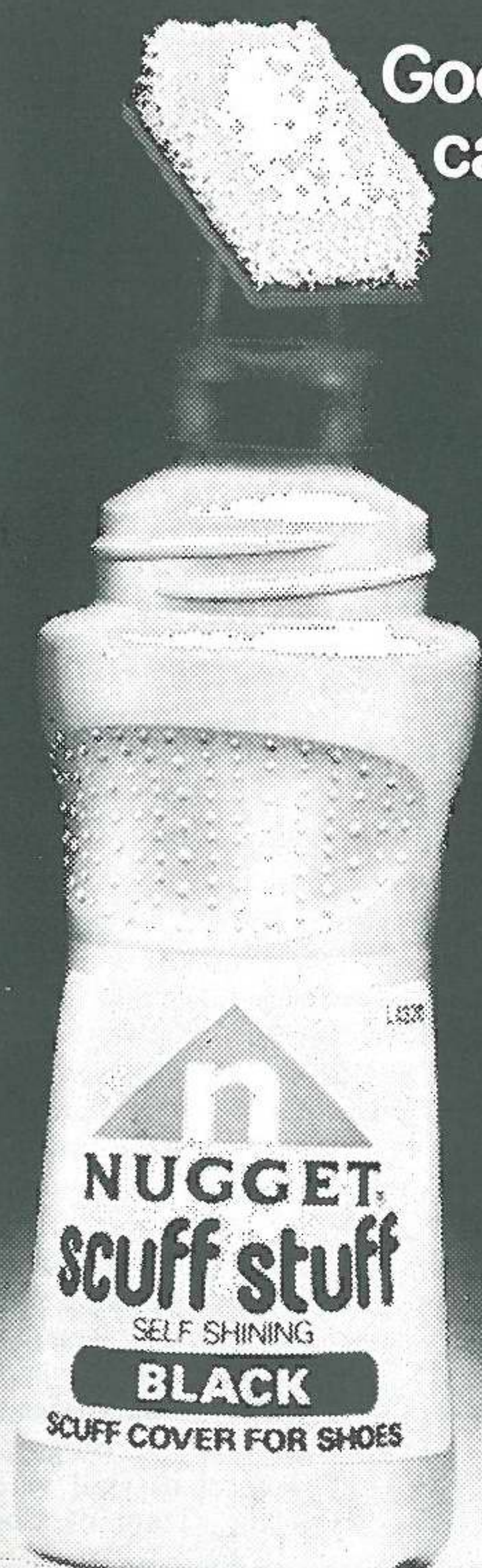
## SPONSORED CLIMB

MARINO Cerebral Palsy Clinic, Bray, are holding their Annual Sponsored climb of the Great Sugarloaf on Sunday, June 1st. They are particularly anxious to make a success of this venture as the clinic is being extended at a cost of £115,000. All G.A.A. players (Dubs. and others!) and fans are welcome to what could be a very enjoyable day out — the climb takes about 1½ hours. Full details are available from John O'Reilly, Hon. Secretary, Friends of Marino Clinic, Miramonte, Killough, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow. Tel. 862279.

## BACK NUMBERS

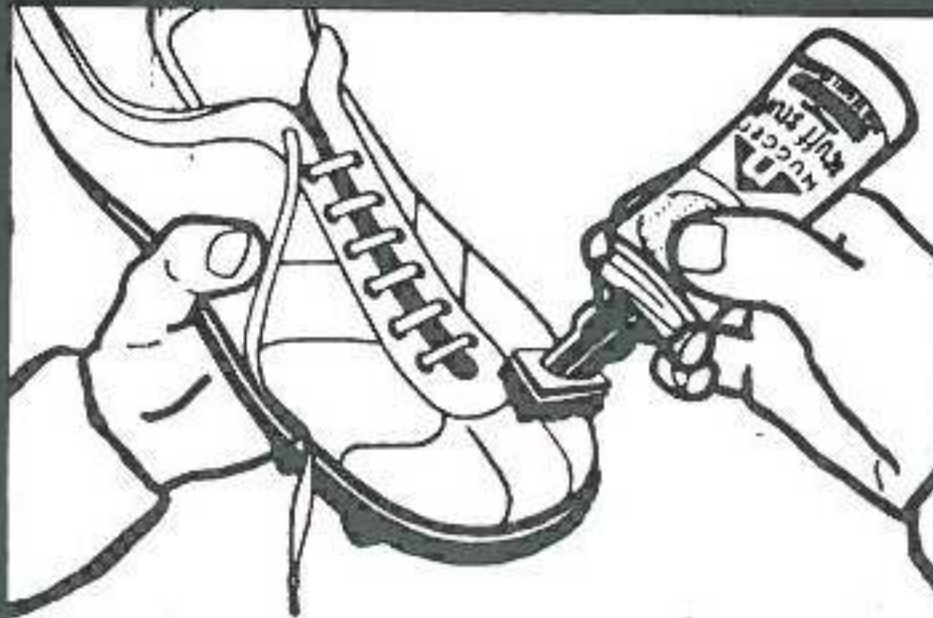
There are some back issues of Gaelic Sport available from the 1970s. Readers who want details of the issues should write to "Back Numbers", Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.

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# CITROEN VISA: Car for the 80's

By Joe Grace

**T**HE first "new arrival" on the Irish motor market for 1980 is the new Citroen Visa - and what a fascinating newcomer it is!

### THE VISA MARKET

The new Visa is a spacious 5-door family hatchback saloon which comes into the Citroen range between the Dyane and the G Special.

As such it provides Citroen with a highly attractive and economical challenger in this increasingly competitive sector of the Irish motor market.

### VISA SPECIFICATIONS

Of the two Visa models produced only one version - the Visa Club - will be marketed here initially.

This is powered by a new 652 c.c. flat twin cylinder air cooled engine. A feature of this new engine is the introduction of a fully computerised electronic ignition system which calculates the exact moment the spark should be produced.

Worked by sensors which monitor engine speed, it results in optimum power output and improved performance, reduced fuel consumption, no deterioration of ignition components, easy cold starting, minimum pollution



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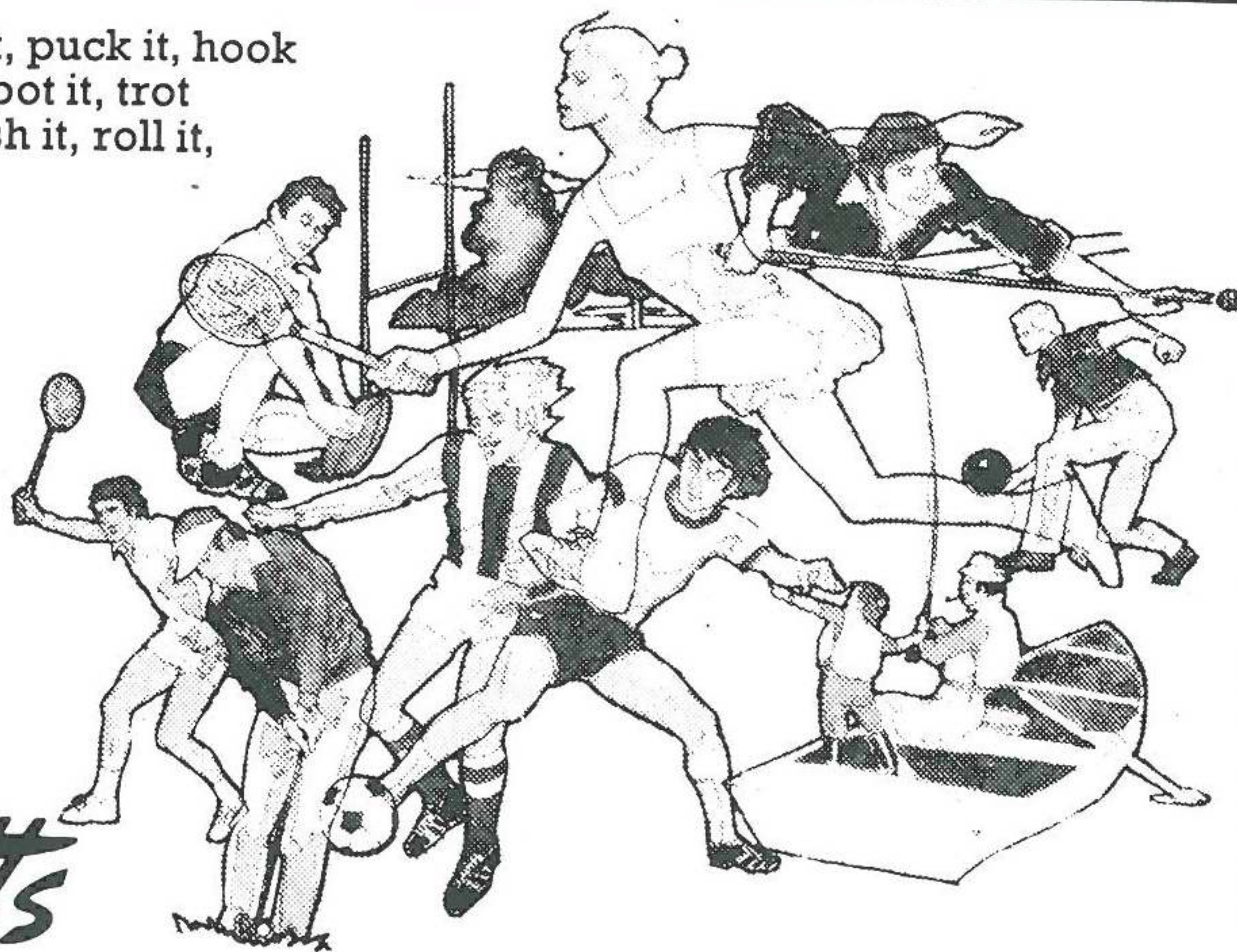
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## RAILWAY CUP FINAL

2.00 HURLING MUNSTER v CONNACHT

3.30 FOOTBALL MUNSTER v ULSTER

# GRACIOUS LIVING WITH ABBEY

By LINDA COLLINS

**A** COUPLE of years ago we wrote about the good value being offered by Abbey Homesteads at Grange Road, near the foot of the Dublin mountains.

This time we went to see the "KILCREA" at Rocwood near Galloping Green, Stillorgan. Incredible as it may seem, the value offered by Abbey in these detached houses, is as good at £46,000. Abbey must be the most experienced house-builders and this experience is exemplified by the careful planning within a landscape setting that results in attention to detail and a lot of gracious old world charm in a Georgian style setting.

The bright entrance hall has the study, cloakroom (with W.C. and washhand basin) on the left; on the right is the lounge and diningroom, which running the entire width of the house, is over 28 feet long. Access to the attractively laid out kitchen is gained through either the diningroom or the hall. Plenty of power points, plumbing for a washing machine, with split level cooker and easy to clean hob top. There are as many fitted presses in the kitchen as any family could need and the clever layout makes this a very easy room in which to work.

Upstairs - all four bedrooms have built in wardrobes and the master bedroom has the ultimate luxury of a bathroom en suite. The main bathroom has a very elegantly coloured suite with a telephone shower. The upstairs is completed by a spacious hot press with a dual immersion heater.

In these energy conscious days, it is good to know that the "Kilcrea" is fully insulated with 4" thick insulation in the roof space. The outside walls and floor slab perimeter are insulated to the requirements of the Department of the Environment.

We visited the "Kilcrea" on a cold February day and the comfort of the central heating was immediately evident. The beauty of the central heating system is that it is an oil fired one linked to a solid fuel back boiler system.

Today, more than ever before, good value for money is all important - Irish owned Abbey are specialists in providing just that.

Any further details on the "Kilcrea" can be had by phoning Eamonn O'Carroll at 689800.

## COMHAIRLE NA MUMHAN C.L.G. Munster Senior Championships 1980

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| June 1st  | — S.H.C. — An Clár v Portláirge at Thurles.                                |
| June 15th | — S.H. Semi-Final — Luimneach v An Clár nó Portláirge at Limerick or Cork. |
| June 22nd | — S.H. Semi-Final — Tiobraid Árann v Corcaigh at Thurles.                  |
| July 20th | — Cluiche Ceannais Iomána.   |
| May 11th  | — S.F.C. — "A" — Tiobraid Árann v Portláirge at Dungarvan.                 |
| May 11th  | — S.F.C. — "B" — Luimneach v An Clár at Doonbeg.                           |
| May 25th  | — S.F.Q.F. — "C" Tiobraid Árann nó Portláirge v Luimneach nó An Clár.      |
| June 8th  | — S.F. Semi-Final — "D" — Corcaigh v "C".                                  |
| July 6th  | — Cluiche Ceannais Peile — Ciarraí v "D".                                  |

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL  
COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN

## LEINSTER FINALS

Hurling-13th July  
Football-27th July

★ REMEMBER THESE DATES ★



# GOALIE TIM

*Rising star  
in the  
red jersey*

**By EAMONN YOUNG**

**T**HERE he sat perfectly relaxed ready, like all players to talk about himself and the game he loved, cool, alert devoid of affectation. The dark hair sat smoothly on the pale forehead and the calm, expectant eyes looked on a world which held no great difficulties, and already many successes for a young man who has proved himself capable of winning them. The tall slim body was a mansion clearly in harmony with a goalie's mind for there he sat ready to deal with every shot as it came.

'My mother is an O'Keeffe from Blackrock but my father was Kennedy Murphy from Blarney Street, so there's a lot of Northside blood in me. I was born in the Rockies area however and that's where my loyalties lie. I have four sisters and a brother, the twin girls younger than I being the babies of the family.' Thus, Tim Murphy Cork and Rockies goalie.

To Sullivan's Quay the parents sent the young Murphy and it was there he caught the eye of a great Tipperaryman, Brother Moloughney who loved hurling and especially the Tipp variety. Tim, about ten at this time, was delighted with the good Brother's encouragement and soon he and his pals Pat Casey, Eamonn O'Donoghue, John Rothwell, Pat Kavanagh and the brothers

Tony and Andy Creagh were hurling away with the abandon of youth guided by the man whose patronage they'll never forget.

There was a famous man over in Ballinlough called Derry Cremin. Derry was a cripple but the poor deformed body held a mighty soul, one that loved young lads and as Derry would sit on the wall outside of O'Driscoll's supermarket he would call to the lads as they passed by. "Will you be all right for Saturday? That's the stuff. You're coming on fine". He had nicknames for all the lads for he called Ray - Cummins "Rasher" and Ber Hurley the goalie was never known by anything except "Ollie" because of a dancing Kilkennyman called Walsh who was driving half the forwards of the country mad at the time by depriving them of glory. There was a building called "Jock's House" over in Ballinlough and Derry seemed to be in charge of it. There were pictures of all the Rockies teams on the walls and the lads loved to sit there and listen to Ned Kidney, Noel Flaherty and Ger Leary who was himself a good player not a lot older than themselves. "We were very fond of them" said Tim Murphy "and our respect for them came out of their respect for us".

Twenty-six year old Tim remembers how he came along a few

years behind John Horgan, Brendan Cummins and Eamonn O'Donoghue who were members of the great Rockies three-in-a-row sides and his big day came when at nineteen they put him between the sticks on the senior side. It had always been his ambition to be a goalie though as a lad he did play corner forward when they had somebody more talented between the sticks. At about the age of seventeen he had settled down to the task of stopping sliotars and nothing else worried him.

Why does a man stand goal? Tim doesn't quite know. There is a great thrill in blocking a fast shot and a wonderful sense of achievement when he dovetails with his backs. He has a great view of the field and the whole match becomes very enjoyable. If he lets in a goal as a result of a personal mistake, well that one is gone and there's only one thing to do: forget it. The next one will be blocked. If a goalie is relaxed, poised and alert he will block most balls for that is his natural bent and he wouldn't be in the goal if he didn't have the mental and physical qualities necessary.

Confidence in oneself and an ability to bounce back after a mistake are essential qualities and if a man can concentrate for the full hour and keep control of his temperament then Tim feels he must

make a success of the job. He is amused to hear, even still, fellows say that a goalie doesn't have to be as fit as the rest. Even though he may not strike many balls over the hour from the puck-outs he finds that at the full time whistle he is very glad of a rest.

In the '78 semi-final against the Glen in the Cork championship and the resultant final against the Barrs where the Rockies won a great game Tim had a terrific responsibility for in addition to having the job of keeping the green flag on the ground he was also captain of the side and helped Joe MacGrath with the training. After the final Tim admits to being quite exhausted and he was never in his life so happy. That was the big day of his life.

1973 was the real start of the road for Tim Murphy, for on that day he was in the goals down in Cobh for the Rockies Intermediate team against Cloughduv. When the game was over he was surprised and happy to be told by the selectors to stay in his togs for he was going on the senior side against Youghal in the absence of Ber Hurley. He kept the score in the two games down to three goals and was happy enough about it. That year a two-point win over the Glen in the county final capped a wonderful season. In the following year they were beaten by the Barrs in the final but in '75 they took the Sean Og Murphy cup to Blackrock, once again at the Glen's expense. In that year Tim Murphy was on the Cork under 21 panel when Frankie O'Sullivan of the Glen, and extraordinary goalie on his day, stood at the posts. In '76 when Tim made the Cork underage side they were beaten and the county final brought no joy either for this time the Glen got their own back.

It was in '77 he was going into his final year in Thomond College where he loved the life so he hopped across to Chicago during the summer to make a few bob for the fees. While there, he had a great year's hurling playing with the Limerick side in the goal and Tim remembers with satisfaction that they won the

American League championship. In '78 he graduated from Thomond College and it was a joy to him that the foremost adviser and enthusiastic father of the College side was the Rockies All-Ireland player John O'Halloran. In that year Rockies won another Cork championship by beating the Glen, and last year came the great day when the club retained the championship with Tim as captain.

Tim likes training and he feels lucky to be in with such a talented bunch down in Blackrock. "They train hard", he says, "They're committed to getting fit and staying that way. We set a real target for ourselves and there's great joy in attaining it. We don't give excuses and all the lads turn up for training unless there's something really wrong.

"The training is very realistic and players tussle hard for the ball. When I'm in the goal Eamonn O'Donohue, Eamonn O'Sullivan and Ray Cummins work very hard to score and they don't have any mercy on me. That's the best plan, for it's the only way to recreate the match situation. We don't have any injuries for the lads are usually pretty fit—something we can thank Joe MacGrath for. He's a smashing character and his enthusiasm is a wonder. He comes down from Limerick regularly to train us."

The Rockies now on the crest of the wave — and God knows they were in the trough long enough — have won five Munster championship club titles, three All-Irelands and were beaten in one. They are in the quarter final of the present club championship where they beat a fine Dunhill side. The firm purpose of every Rockies man just now, Tim says, is to win as much as they can while the team is good. "We know enough about the Long Wait", says Tim. That was between '31 and '56 when the Rockies almost hung crepe on the club doors. In the end a great side with Mick Cashman standing at centre-back cut off the ball from Christy Ring and his full forwards

and Blackrock went mad with delight.

"Martin Coleman had to wait his chance to get between the Cork sticks and in the same way I had to be patient. However I'm there now and at the moment I'm in fairly good form. I'll train regularly and hope to keep stopping them. My ambition is to win three in a row with the Rockies and of course the All-Ireland with Cork."

Cork he feels have enough talent to go all the way this year always providing that each game is approached in a very earnest way knowing that a slip may be the end. Pat Horgan is a smashing hurler and could be the man of the future. Danny Buckley is like a hare in the open spaces and this small resolute ball-carrier could be very dangerous if the other forwards run wisely, thereby clearing the way to goal for him. Ray Cummins moves out and creating space, gives the small fast fellow room. Tadhg MacCarthy is another fine young player, Tim says, but he may need another year. It's good to have the young fellows edging their way on to the senior side for gradual inclusion is best.

The pet bellyache of all players, the long season finds quiet but firm comment from the Rockies goalie. They finished on December 16 and they start again at the end of January. the cold wet days of deep winter do nothing for hurlers and hurling, he says, and the fixture list must be telescoped. For instance the club championship could be run on the blitz week-end. On March 27 the Rockies will be out in the quarter-final against London and the winners are up with Castlegar on April 5. The merry-go-round will have started by that time and there will be no rest until nearly Christmas.

Players are often blamed for not showing enthusiasm in certain matches but the long season does drain enthusiasm. Dual playing is a serious handicap to any man and he feels that players should have more say generally in the making of fix-

● TO PAGE 39

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# Club Championships

By Neil McCavana

**T**HE All-Ireland senior club hurling and football championships, which are now building up to an exciting climax, are filling a long-felt void in Gaelic Games. Until their introduction in 1971 players not up to inter-county senior standard — and they have always been in the majority — had no opportunities of winning national medals.

The club championships have changed all that, and in the process they have helped to give a worthwhile new dimension to the county senior championships.

This year's All-Ireland finals should be blessed by much better weather conditions than the football decider last year.

The meeting of Nemo Ranges, of Cork, and Scotstown, of Monaghan, was played in a snowstorm at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day — one of the most uninviting of days in the harsh winter of 1979.

But if the weather conditions were severe, the support for Scotstown, who were making their debut in a final, was in sharp contrast. It was really heart-warming as the Ulster champions' big and enthusiastic following loudly encouraged their heroes.

Scotstown failed to make it a winning first appearance, but long after the outcome and other details of the game are forgotten, the strong and enthusiastic support the Monaghan champions enjoyed will remain as a glowing memory for many. The fact that so many made the journey south on such a day surely is an outstanding advertisement for the club championships.

Monaghan football in general received a big boost from the Scotstown march to the final. It would probably be stretching the truth to say that the club campaign set the scene for the county's splendid climb back later in the season to a first Ulster senior championship since 1938.

But there can be little doubt that Scotstown's achievement did help to generate new interest and a new pride in Monaghan football, and provide a splendid platform on which to launch the bid for inter-county glory.

Ulster teams have not enjoyed the best of fortune in the series. Bryansford, of Down, lost the first final in 1971 to East Kerry, but Bellaghy set Northern eyes smiling happily on a week evening in 1972 when they beat U.C. Cork to bring the title to Derry.

Since then, it has been disappointment after disappointment for the North. Clan na Gael, of Lurgan, in Armagh, lost in a replay in the 1974 final, while Ballerin, of Derry, had an unsuccessful bid in 1977.

A year later, St. John's, of Belfast, were well beaten by Thomond College, Limerick, and then came Scotstown's defeat.

In contrast, Leinster have had plenty to celebrate. U.C. Dublin brought the championship to the East in 1974 and 1975, and St. Vincent's kept the crown by the Liffeside in 1976.

Austin Stacks, Tralee, became the first Kerry club side as such to win the title in 1977 — East Kerry were a divisional selection — and Nemo Rangers won their second championship in that meeting with Scotstown. In 1973 they beat St. Vincent's (Dublin) in a replay.

Thomond College brought the first All-Ireland football crown to Limerick since the last century by beating St. John's. in the 1978 showpiece match. Connacht have still to win the championship.

In hurling, it has been Cork clubs very much to the forefront. Blackrock set the pace with wins in 1972, 1974 and 1979.

Glen Rovers were champions in 1973 and 1977, and St. Finbarr's won out in 1975 and 1978.

That leaves two championships shared by Roscrea, Tipperary, (1971) and James Stephens', of Kilkenny (1976).

## ● FROM PAGE 37

tures. Here I pointed out that players enjoying the great prestige they have, should make their views known at club meetings where surely the audience would be sympathetic. "But", says Tim, "hurling is our hobby and we would do anything to stay playing it".

So there he is, this tall dark twenty-six year old whose slim body exudes a pliant strength. He loves hurling, he loves life and he likes teaching in the Bandon Vocational

School of 400 boys where Mick Spillane the Kerry back is a comrade on the twenty-five strength staff. Tim gets into the handball alley often but with a hurley in his hands (just like Tony Wall) and the practice tunes up his timing. He admires his uncle Liam O'Murchu of Telefis Eireann, whose enthusiasm for an Ghaeilge is so commendable, and the younger Murphy when he stands goal for Rockies of Cork, can handle it trom agus eadtrom just as it comes.

And in any case if life frowns on

this pleasant young man there's always a Ballingarry basket-ball player down in Middleton named Kay Hearne, who has been keeping an eye on our goalie since their days as students together in Thomond College. The Cork and Rockies selectors will be happy to hear that he seems in safe hands.

As the lithe erect young man walked out of the pub after his glass of orange I couldn't help feeling that sincerity and emotional steadiness were wonderful parts of a man's kit for the travelling travel-bag of life.

# Results Summary

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

January 20: Lahinch: Clare 2-9; Limerick 1-3.

February 3: Cavan: Tyrone 0-12; Cavan 0-8. Kiltoom: Roscommon 2-10; Mayo 1-9. Newry: Down 0-6; Armagh 0-3. Cork: Cork 2-8; Kildare 0-8. Tullamore: Kerry 1-9; Offaly 1-5. Croke Park: Galway 1-6; Dublin 0-8. Ardee: Derry 1-9; Louth 0-8. Castletowngeoghegan: Westmeath 0-7; Antrim 0-7. Killybegs: Donegal 3-3; Longford 2-6. Tubbercurry: Fermanagh 0-13; Sligo 1-4. Lahinch: Meath 1-10; Clare 1-4. Templemore: Laois 4-6; Tipperary 1-4. Callan: Kilkenny 0-14; Carlow 1-3. New Ross: Wexford 1-10; Waterford 2-5.

February 10: Coalisland: Armagh 0-10; Down 1-4. Division 1 North play-off.

February 24: Division II North Final: Coalisland: Fermanagh 2-6; Antrim 1-4.

## NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

January 27: Ardfert: Kerry 1-6; Kildare 1-5.

February 10: Galway: Galway 2-6; Offaly 1-6. Limerick: Limerick 0-11; Cork 0-10. Nowlan Park: Kilkenny 3-9; Clare 1-12. Corrigan Park: Waterford 0-9; Antrim 0-2. Croke Park: Dublin 0-20; Kerry 0-5. Athy: Wexford 4-9; Kildare 1-10. Keady: Armagh 3-8; Down 5-2.

February 24: Thurles: Tipperary 3-10; Kilkenny 1-8. Tulla: Clare 1-11; Limerick 1-7. Pairc Ui Chaoimh: Cork 1-12; Galway 0-5. Borris-in-Ossory: Laois 3-12; Kildare 2-7. Gorey: Wexford 4-11; Dublin 2-11. Ardfert: Antrim 0-9; Kerry 1-3. Aughrim: Westmeath 2-15; Wicklow 0-8. Athleague: Carlow 1-10; Roscommon 0-6. Leitrim (Down): Meath 1-8; Down 0-5.

## RAILWAY CUP

Hurling: February 17: Ballinasloe: Connacht 1-13; Leinster 1-10. Croke Park: Munster 4-16; Ulster 1-10.

## GAEL-LINN CUP (FOOTBALL)

February 17: Ballinamore: Galway 1-9; Leitrim 1-2.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Connacht Football

February 10: Final Replay: Ballinasloe: St. Grellan's Ballinasloe, (Galway) 0-9; St. Mary's, Sligo, 0-8.

## CAMOGIE

### Ashbourne Cup

#### (Universities' Championship)

February 10-11: Belfield, Dublin: Semi-finals: U.C.D. 2-4; Queen's Belfast, 2-1. U.C.G. 3-3; Maynooth 0-3.

Final: U.C. Dublin 3-4; U.C. Galway 3-1.

## COLLEGES' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Connacht Football: February 24: Claremorris: Tuam C.B.S. 1-11; St. Colman's, Claremorris, 1-6.

# International Handball

By Tony Keegan

**H**ANDBALL has long been recognised here as an ideal sport for television. The popular TOP ACE annual tournament on RTE, launched some years ago, has consistently provided excellent television, and has brought handball to a wider public than ever.

Interest in this popular and nation-wide sport is sure to accelerate even further as a result of the latest addition to the TOP ACE calendar, the first ever 40 x 20 international tournament, which is currently being screened weekly by RTE.

This special and ambitious knock-out series featuring four leading American handballers against top Irish exponents, is the ideal vehicle to ensure a valuable insight into the different styles of the Americans and Irish players.

Vernon Roberts, Fred Lewis, Terry Muck and Gordy Pfeifer, who travelled from America to Dublin some weeks back to take part in the telerecordings, all came over with the strongest possible credentials. They have enjoyed outstanding success on the American circuit, and Lewis and Muck are, in fact, both former national singles champions.

The Irish handballers who took

on the Americans, enthusiasts at the actual games at Croke Park or who have been watching the matches on television, and coaches must learn many lessons from the Americans. These lessons are also bound to benefit the sport generally standard-wise in this country, and give a new awareness to the special features of the 40 x 20 games as compared to the traditional Irish 60 x 30 standard.

While they were in Dublin, the American party, which included Bob Peters, Executive Director of the United States Handball Association, were entertained to a special luncheon by the Bank of Ireland, who are now, of course, sponsors of the All Stars selections. When the All Stars party visits the U.S. nowadays they are accompanied by four handballers, who engage in competitions with American based stars.

The American handballers were welcomed to the Bank of Ireland reception by Mr. Frank O'Rourke, Chief General Manager of the Bank of Ireland. He paid tribute to the qualities of the visiting players, and to RTE and the Irish Handball Council for their enterprise in launching this ambitious new promotion in Irish sport.



## JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON

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**A**ND so we are into the 80's. Conventions are now over. It's time for playing games. As the evenings grow longer we yearn for the Summer. But before that we have the Railway Cups (though interest in these has dwindled to an all-time low), the Colleges and Vocational Schools Finals, the club All-Irelands and the N.L.'s. It's an exciting time. Congress is in Newcastle, Co. Down. Not to mention Scor.

### CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Kerry's dependable and versatile Paudie Lynch, brother of Brendan. Paudie is a solicitor by profession and is a fine sporting player who has served Kerry so well in so many different positions for many years.

### BOOK REVIEWS

**Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 1980** costs £1, has an attractive cover in the county colours, is a bulky wide-ranging annual and includes in its list of contributions John O'Grady better known as "Cúlbaire" of the **Tipperary Star**, and one of my favourite columnists, Michael Dundon, Fr. Seamus Gardiner, Paddy Kenny, the footballer not the hurler, Bill O'Donnell, Mick Roche, Pat Stakelum, Seamus O Riain, and Br. Perkins. The centrepiece spread of the year's G.A.A. results etc. is an example for other annuals. Co-editors John O'Grady and Bill O'Donnell have done a fine job. Top articles are Fr. Seamus Gardiner's tips for the club P.R.O., Pat Stakelum's tribute to Ringey and John O'Grady's review of the county's inter-county senior scene. The annual should sell very well in Tipperary.

**Clash** (Christmas issue of Cork Bord na n-Og production) is great value at 30p. Its 48 pages really reach out to the youth of Cork with

articles from Martin O'Doherty, Kevin Kehily, Pat Hartigan, Dermot Earley, Frank Murphy and Jimmy Barry-Murphy. The latter contributes a regular column which is very readable and includes a letters section. There is an interesting interview with Michael O'Hehir and an account of Don McLean's impact on Siamsa Cois Laoi. There is a Cork souvenir autograph sheet for 1979 and a centrepiece calendar with the Cork hurlers in full colour. Philip Egan, the editor, deserves credit. Too few counties have productions like this one. In fact Limerick (The Treaty Gael) and Down (Scor) are the only others. The Jimmy Barry-Murphy column is an example to all our top stars.

(From Philip Egan, **An Priomh Shraid, Lios Cearruil, Co. Chorcaí**).

The fame of such well known trainers as Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan, John Dunne, Kevin Heffernan, Mick O'Dwyer . . . is well known. Their life story, methods, opinions, style have been chronicled over the years. Others not so well known contributed just as much to the G.A.A. One such man was Fr. Sean Manning, who first came to prominence as trainer of successive champion college teams in St. Mel's College, Longford where he taught in the 30's and 40's. He may never have achieved the national headlines of to-day's great trainers but his name will never be forgotten by the many college players he guided to successive triumphs, most of whom came from the counties Longford and Leitrim both of whose county boards he served loyally as Chairman for years in the 40's, 50's and 60's.

The book was obviously a labour of love by the author Des Guckian, a teacher in the same St. Mel's College, Longford which school Fr. Manning helped to make famous in colleges football and one of the thousands of young footballers who

were nurtured in the game by Fr. Sean. Fr. Manning cried leaving St. Mel's College in 1948, shortly after he had trained the team to its first All-Ireland success over St. Patrick's College, Cavan. That team included such stars as the Cox twins Eugene and Mel, Eugene Boland, Colm and Dermot Smith, Jim Faughnan and Tom Murtagh.

This is a lovely book. Very human. There are little gems in the book that resurface very easily after reading it. The thrill of the young boys of Annaduff N.S. as they waited for Fr. Sean to appear and the rise of the heart-beat as they sighted "the top of a man's head, moving steadily along, on the far side of an uneven hedge" as they waited, hoped, prayed it would be Fr. Sean. How the St. Mel's team had to wait in a line to take cod liver oil from the same spoon for weeks before a big game to keep them free of colds for the big day. The lovely story of the kindness of the man as he brought comfort to a dying parishioner on the night before the 1964 All-Ireland S.F. final — a game he attended. Later in that same week the ailing Fr. Sean died himself in Dublin. News of his death caused a stir among all the footballers he helped in so many ways. The St. Mel's senior players were out practising when the news came. Play stopped for silent prayers. The Fr. Sean Manning Gold medal is the most sought after annual award in St. Mel's. Among its winners to date are Ray Flynn, Peter Burke and Fintan Farrell. At his funeral the guard of honour was formed by the Annaduff U-14 F. team which had just won the Leitrim title. 10 years before when Fr. Sean arrived hardly a ball was kicked in the Co. Leitrim village. God Rest you Fr. Sean. Well done Des Guckian.

Cost £2.50 from Des Guckian, Ferefad, Longford.

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# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

**Limerick G.A.A. Yearbook '80** costing £1 and following as it does three successive McNamee Award winning efforts, throws a great onus on its editorial board to maintain standards. But Limerick Co. Board G.A.A. is equal to the task and over the years the editorial board has evolved into a very efficient unit comprising editor Sean Murphy, Associate Editor Liam McKenna, who has written much of this year's production, that grand old man of G.A.A. journalism himself Seamus O Ceallaigh, Michael Weekes (Advertising) and Tony Hartnett (layout) as well as active advertising and production committees.

The year's effort is much on the same lines as the last three. Big, bulky and ranging as it does over the whole G.A.A. scene in Limerick over the past year, it has a few innovations this year to set it apart. Layout as usual is outstanding and the pictorial content is wideranging and interesting. Proofing however is not up to the usual good standard. My top article in this book is without doubt John O'Donoghue's tribute to Christy Ring. This article is tremendous, on a par with Eamonn Young's tribute in the Cork Yearbook but written from a distance so to speak, yet equally interesting. There should be an award for the best article in any Yearbook. If there was, then this year's award would rest between John O'Donoghue, Eamonn Young and Kerry's Owen McCrohan with Liz Howard's contribution in the Dublin Yearbook also meriting consideration.

**Price £1.30 includes postage from Sean Murphy, Villa Maria, Lower Park, Limerick.**

**Leitrim G.A.A. Yearbook '80 — Price £1.00.**

It's that man again. Hardly had "An Reiteoir" come off the presses than he was avidly putting together the 6th successive edition of the Leitrim Yearbook. I refer of course to Leitrim official and referee, the man from Ballinamore Tommy Moran. This edition is up to last year's high standard. Layout is

superb (Kerry Yearbook — Editor Michael Lyne please note) reproduction of photographs excellent though the proofing, as with the Limerick Yearbook, is not first class. The Diary by Art O'Baoill, the Leitrim P.R.O., is a grand feature and is well sprinkled with appropriate photos. The editor himself has a fine interview with the new Director General Liam O Maolmichill and a deserved profile of Ballinamore's Paddy Dolan, who still plays club football with his native Ballinamore. Paddy played in a number of Connacht Finals against myself. In 1956 he won his first Leitrim S.F.C. medal. 23 years later he won his eighth. It is men like Paddy Dolan who keep the G.A.A. alive. Nowadays he trains with his sons Raymond and Declan. Long life to you, Paddy.

**Copies from T. Moran, Stadermot, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.**

Galway G.A.A. Annual '79 costs £1.20 and is a big improvement on last year's first official effort. The cover is very colourful and the layout is excellent. Printing is a credit to the Connacht Tribune and the photography is varied and good. The first two articles in the book reviewing and previewing the Galway hurling and football scenes by Michael Glynn (hurling) and Tom Rooney (football) are thought-provoking and to the point. Michael Glynn wonders why the selectors who brought Galway so near to success in '79 should have been dismissed shortly after the All-Ireland loss while Tom Rooney feels Galway football may be on the verge of a major breakthrough. But the top articles in the annual are the interviews with P. J. Callanan, Mick Sylver, the G.O.M. of Galway G.A.A. and Fr. Martin O'Grady. P. J. Callanan has reservations about the All-Star Junkets. In this context the seventies produced many All-Stars for Galway but no senior All-Ireland despite five All-Ireland appearances. Mick Sylver, who hasn't missed a G.A.A. Congress in 40 years, is great on old Galway G.A.A. history. Fr. O'Grady's interview is the best of all. He has

some marvellous quotes such as his quip at Videotapeitis as he calls it i.e. the belief among some people that a videotape is a guarantee of success. As he said himself "the videotape is only a very limited means to be judiciously used".

The Salthill G.A.A. Club and their able author Daniel J. O'Donovan won the special £100 prize offered for the best Club History offered for publication. I hope this prize is continued as it is a great spur to clubs to research and write their club histories. Every club should do it by 1984.

**Kerry G.A.A. Yearbook — 1980**

Special 128 page Silver Jubilee edition costing £1.50 is easily the best of the five annual productions to-date of editor Michael Lyne. It is a mammoth publication glittering with names in its huge list of contributors. John B. Keane's "After The Game" will make you laugh and laugh. His fellow townsman Bryan MacMahon's collection of ballads with a G.A.A. theme enhance the Yearbook. "A Song for Christy Ring" is particularly appropriate. The local scene in Kerry gets as much space as the county's 25th All-Ireland title. Causeway's great year in hurling gets due space in two separate articles. I had often wondered at the origins of Tralee's three club teams Austin Stacks, John Mitchells and Kerin O'Rahillys or as they are known in Tralee, Rock St., Boherbee or Boherbue (which is it?) and Strand Road but one of Tralee's most beloved sons Micheal Ó Ruairc lays it all on the line.

It is so difficult to write a short review of this annual. It is full of gems. Any club interested in compiling a club history for centenary year 1984 should study carefully how The Legion G.A.A. club in Killarney did it. All the trials and tribulations of such an undertaking are well chronicled by the editor of that first class club history Finbarr Slattery. When reviewing last year's Kerry Yearbook I selected Owen McCrohan's contributions as the masterpieces of that publication.

Why this man hasn't found a medium for his very expressive pen in the interim is beyond me. His interview with Mick O'Dwyer is compulsive reading and revealed far more about the man from Waterville than the much publicised Sunday Press series of recent times. It is a very intimate, honest, all embracing, revealing and all in all tremendously interesting interview. I'd love to quote from it. Better still buy the book and read it.

Sean Ó Siocháin's piece is very witty too. But if I have to choose the gem of this year's annual it must be Eamonn Young's beautiful funny story "Dan, Dan, The Dirty Man". All of us who ever collected for a football and got the lovely smell of the new leather as it was pumped will appreciate this story.

This special Jubilee edition is of interest not alone to Kerry people where it will be a sellout but outside the county as well. Proofing has improved since last year but still leaves a lot to be desired. Layout too has been improved considerably. Less empty spaces though the edition could have used a few interesting fillers here and there. Still he and Kerry can feel very proud of this Annual. If I were a Kerry exile, I couldn't think of a nicer present.

From Michael Lyne, Valentia, Co. Kerry. £1.50.

## Mailbag

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Road, Bath, England BA1 6JG, is wondering when Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 3 will appear. He sent on some cuttings of G.A.A. Profiles by Tom Morrison in the *Cork Evening Echo*, a marvellous poem on Christy Ring entitled "From My Father's Shoulders" written by Fr. John Buckley (Nigeria) and which appeared in the *Cork Holly Bough*. Dermot wonders when the G.A.A. will produce its own sticker magazine like "Shoot". But his best suggestion is

that the G.A.A. actively pursue the issue of a special set of stamps for centenary year 1984.

● *Quizbook No. 3 hopefully in 1981. I liked too Tom Morrison's profiles on Nealie Duggan and Jim Williams. Let us hope the G.A.A. actively pursue the stamp suggestion. Dermot you win a 1980 G.A.A. Diary for your suggestions. (J.M.).*

Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry, writes to say she loved the Kerry G.A.A. Yearbook but would have preferred if some of the players of to-day had written articles. Eileen enjoyed the articles from Owen McCrohan and John B. Keane. She is in favour of the tours to the U.S.A. being scrapped in favour of Australia. Finally she pays tribute to Mick Dunne for his GOALS and SAVES of the year on R.T.E. Her Goal of the Year was Ger Power's after a FLICK on by Mike Sheehy.

● *The Yearbook was very good. Yes, that goal of Ger Power's was great. (J.M.).*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway, writes to say he was sad to read of the death of Kerry's John Joe Sheehy who was "a great G.A.A. man who was known all over Ireland".

● *Norman your letter wins a copy of "An Reiteoir". Yes, John Joe Sheehy was a great Gael and his son Paudie, my first Croke Park opponent, was one of my greatest footballing friends and a gentleman footballer. I'm sure John Joe and Paudie are discussing Kerry's 1980 chances in Heaven. (J.M.).*

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, recalls the G.A.A. highlights of 1979 and pays special tribute to Martin O'Doherty, Matt Ruth, Tony Doran, Joe Hennessey, Mick Brennan, Conor Hayes, John Connolly, P. J. Molloy, Noel Lane, Dermot McCurtain, Liam O'Brien, Fan Larkin, Nicky Brennan, Ger Henderson, Sean Silke, Joe McDonagh, Steve Mahon, Joe Connolly, Dermot Earley, Danny Murray, Brian Mullins, Wicklow's John Lynch, Martin Furlong, Bernard Brogan, Ger Power, Mick

Finneran, Michael Hickey, Mick Sheehy, John Egan, Tommy Drumm and Fran Ryder.

● *That's a fair galaxy of stars. I couldn't include all your comments. You win a copy of "An Reiteoir" too. (J.M.).*

Declan Bonner, Derryhenny, Doochary, Co. Donegal, is very disappointed at Donegal's N.F.L. performances. He thinks Finian Ward and Seamus Bonner were Donegal's stars of the 70's.

● *Two great men. (J.M.).*

Pat Twomey, Currahy, Ballingearry, Co. Cork, thinks the Tyler Top Ten was very close in 1979. Pat tips Cork to win six-in-a-row Munster S.H. titles in 1980. Pat still wants a tape of the 1973 Galway v. Cork S.F. final and will pay for same.

● *Tape collectors please note. (J.M.).*

John Leogue (aged 14½), Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly, feels the Kerry-Dublin dominance of Gaelic Football is finally over. "Dublin seem to be gone as a football power. I expect Offaly to win Leinster in 1980." John is appalled at the incidents in Tulla after the Offaly v. Clare N.H.L. game and hopes "this sort of thing is stopped once and for all". Regarding the football All-Stars he is sorry Des Mulligan was passed over. He feels the tour is far too long.

● *Yes, Des Mulligan is a fine footballer who impressed me greatly in last year's Ulster final. I agree the All Stars tour is too long and robbed the N.L.'s of a number of fine Sundays last October. (J.M.).*

Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo, looks forward to the 80's and expects much from most of the Kerry team, Christy Ryan, Christy Kearney and John Allen of Cork, Jimmy Maughan and Adrian Garvey of Mayo, that's football. In hurling she expects a lot from Paddy Prendergast, John Henderson and Ritchie Reid. Marie wants more G.A.A. publications aimed at youth and more coverage of Camogie. The colour cut-out should also be improved.

● *Very good letter as usual Marie (J.M.).*

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● FROM OVERLEAF

Mary Drea, Blackwell, Bennetts-bridge, Co. Kilkenny, is 12 years old, loves hurling and goes to hurling games with her father, brothers and sisters. Her favourites are "Fan" Larkin, Ger Henderson and Joe Hennessey.

● *Keep going to games Mary, (J.M.).*

Liam Jones, an old fan from Clare, had this wish with his Christmas Card "Let's hope the Galway footballers and Clare hurlers bring home the Senior All-Irelands in 1980".

● *Let's hope so Liam, Thanks for the card. (J.M.).*

Tommy O'Regan, Newtown, Ballyhea, Charleville, Co. Cork, writes with great praise of "Clash" the G.A.A. youth magazine in Cork which is great value for 30p. He feels scoring with the Handpass should be banned.

● *Clash is a fine magazine. (J.M.).*

Padraig O Treasaigh, Carraig Mor, Church Rd., Ballybunion, Co. Kerry, who sent me on a nice card and tape at Christmas hopes Galway will beat Roscommon in 1980. He got a leather football for Christmas and saved every penny of the £22.75 for it.

● *No wonder Kerry has such great footballers. (J.M.).*

Catherine Bartley, 20 Watkins Square, Ardee Street, Dublin 8.

I don't usually write letters to magazines, so I hope you don't mind but I just had to answer Eileen Murphy from Rathmore, Co. Kerry. The cheek of her to say that the fans on Hill 16 are not faithful. If there ever was a way to describe loyalty it could get no better definition than that of the Dublin supporters.

I have supported them since 1975 and in all that time I have only missed one match at home or away and I know plenty of people who can better this. Every time the Dubs play, be it in Cork, Kerry, Mayo or Croker thousands of Dublin supporters travel to see them play and if this is not loyalty will someone please tell me what is.

They cheer them when they win or

lose and an example of this could be seen the night after the All-Ireland. Thousands of Dublin supporters marched to the G.P.O. and even though all the team were not there this didn't stop the supporters as it could be seen when thousands travelled from Dublin to Tralee, Tullamore and Athy since the All-Ireland. And how do I know they are Dublin supporters you might ask? Well, they are not afraid to wave their flags or cheer, win or lose.

So just because the Kerry team can't gather up enough loyal supporters (supporters who go to all the matches not just home games or All-Ireland's or semi's) to fit in a mini don't gripe at the supporters on Hill 16 because jealousy will get you nowhere. As for Kerry being invincible they have only won one or two matches since they returned from America. Sorry my letter is so long. I like the Mailbag and wish you success in the future.

P.S. My favourite players are the Dublin team, Dermot Earley and J. B. Murphy.

● *Great letter Catherine. You win copies of Dublin, Cork and Kerry Yearbooks. Keep writing. (J.M.).*

Gerald Gormley, 16 Ardmore Road, Derryadd, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, is 12 years old and won a medal in a 7-a-side competition at the local Gifford Festival and was presented with the medal by G.A.A. President Mr. Paddy McFlynn who lives near the pitch. His sister Carol takes part in the Scor Quiz and they won the Co. final. Gerald's father and himself selected the following football team as the greatest ever:

Dan O'Keeffe (Kerry), Jim McCullagh (Armagh), Joe Barrett (Kerry), Jim Smith (Cavan), Paul Russell (Kerry), John Joe O'Reilly (Cavan), Gerry O'Malley (Ros.), Mick O'Connell (Kerry), Tommy Murphy (Laois), Jack Ryan (Kerry), Sean Purcell (Galway), Paddy Doherty (Down), Paddy Kennedy (Kerry), Sean O'Neill (Down), Kevin Heffernan (Dublin).

● *That's a great team and this is the prize letter of the month. So I'm asking the editor to send on the surprise prize. Congrats - (J.M.).*

*Interesting Sidelight:* In relation to Gerald Gormley's team I'd like to tell a nice little story. A few months before Paddy Kennedy's death I met him on O'Connell St. and in the short time we were together I asked him who were the greatest footballers he ever opposed. He named two in the following order Tommy Murphy of Laois and Henry Kenny of Mayo. I thought I'd tell that story seeing that Gerald included both Paddy Kennedy and Tommy Murphy in his greatest ever football team.

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dukkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly. His favourite stars are Pat McLoughney and Mickey Sheehy. He is sorry to see so many of the Dublin team retiring "who gave us many happy moments" especially Paddy Cullen, Jimmy Keaveney and Bobby Doyle.

● *Yes, we got many great moments from Dublin. (J.M.).*

Keep writing on any topic i.e. Railway Cups — what should be done with them, the open draw etc. to:

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

*Jack Mahon*

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

FROM PAGE 11

1C	2A	3C	4D	5H	6N	7E	8L
J	O	H	N	N	Y	C	A
N	T	C	T	N	K	E	A
M	C	A	H	I	L	L	E
H	E	I	G	E	R	A	L
C	U	M	M	I	N	S	L
R	G	A	M	E	S	N	
O	L	E	Y	V	E	L	L
M	S	E	P	T	E	U	
U	R	H	Y	L	A	R	G
R	L	S	A	I	T	H	
C	C	A	R	T	H	O	
H	N	E	I	U	E	E	
U	M	A	N	A	G	E	R
W	S	U	B	S	G	H	O



# Paudie Lynch (Kerry)

Age: 27  
Height: 6ft.  
Weight: 12st. 10lb.  
Club: Beaufort  
Position: Left half back  
Senior Inter-County Debut: 1969

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Paudie, who won his third All-Ireland senior medal last year, is a very versatile footballer. He has played at half back, full back, midfield and in the attack with the county senior side.

A former minor and under-21 star, he captained the Combined Universities when they played a draw with Connacht in the 1973 Railway Cup final, but had the cruel luck to miss the replay with an injury. His brother, Brendan, led the Universities to victory in the second game.

Paudie, who won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1973, holds four National League souvenirs, and he was honoured by the Carrolls All Stars selectors in 1974 at midfield and in 1978 at left half back.



**Bank of Ireland GAA Allstars**

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.

