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GAA

GAELIC SPORT



IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

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G.A.A. CENTENARY SOUVENIR EDITION

Special
Articles By:
★ Paddy Buggy
★ Liam Mulvihill
★ Seámus Ó Riain



EOIN LISTON
will '84 see the
mighty man gain
his fourth All-
Ireland Medal?



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GAELIC SPORT

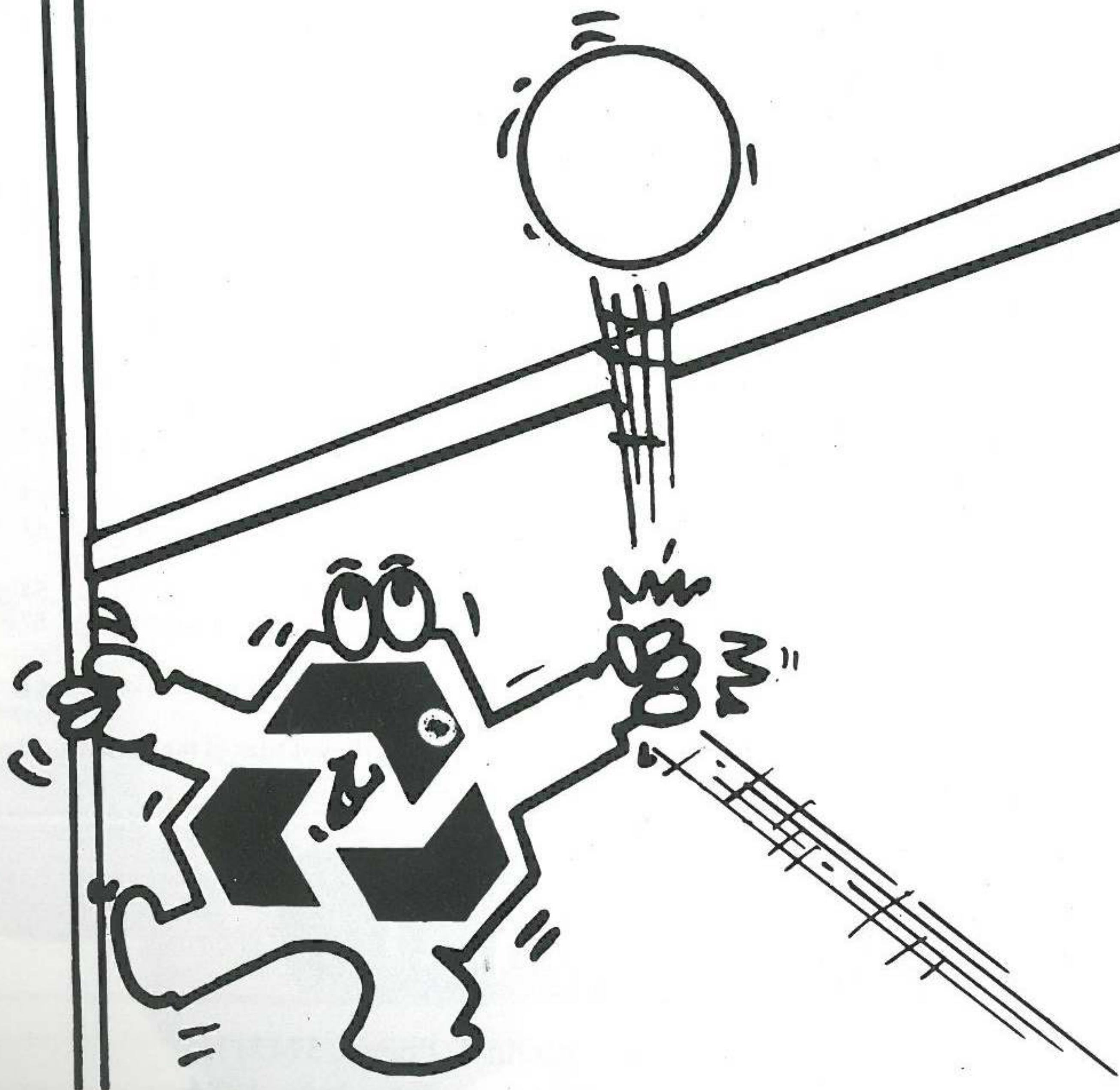
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May-June, 1984.

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SCANNING NEW HORIZONS

IT is only natural that a 100th birthday proves a time for looking back, but as the G.A.A. celebrates its Centenary Year we in GAELIC SPORT, while acknowledging the great debt owed to so many in the past, and the tremendous progress made in many fields, still prefer to adopt the positive approach, and look ahead.

What lies in store for the G.A.A. in the decades opening up before us? Only time will show but we put forward some points that we feel are well worth dwelling on at this juncture.

PLAYING RULES: These, particularly in football continue to cause confusion and irritation. Referees appear to be caught between two stools.

They can allow the game to flow, without whistling for all but really bad fouls, and this can at times result in a great match. On the other hand, when some referees adopt this procedure, things do not always work out as they had hoped.

We don't have to quote instances of games marred by rough play because referees allowed the play to flow at the start, and footballers took advantage of the lenient approach to indulge in unsporting behaviour.

Then, there is the other type of referee — the man who whistles for every single foul. He is immediately accused of being "whistle happy" and of spoiling the game, and players can become irritated and indulge as a result in unsporting tactics. So, matches become stop, go, unsatisfactory affairs that do nothing for the good image of football.

Should a referee set out to please the spectators at all costs, and so allow the game to flow regardless of the cost, or should the man in the middle adjudicate sternly on every single foul, and stop the play? The answer surely lies in a happy medium between the two, and that must be an immediate aim for the G.A.A.

FOULS: Fouls bring frees, and frees interrupt the flow of the game. But it is unfair to blame the players entirely. After all, how does a footballer get the ball from an opponent without fouling him?

This is another grey area that needs to be looked at. Similarly, it is becoming increasingly obvious that umpires and linesmen must be given more powers to enable them to help referees to deal with

off-the-ball incidents of unsporting behaviour. Happily, this is a trend that has been developing in recent times, and one that must be still given greater encouragement.

OPEN DRAW: This is a hardy "annual" admittedly but one that nonetheless still needs to be looked at again in the light of the Centenary Cup Competition.

There is a good case for the open-draw on the score of variety — the visits of Kerry to Donegal, Down to Longford and Cork to Derry in the opening round of the Centenary Cup proved that.

Equally, there are many points against the open draw. There is the cost of travel — again underlined by the expenses of Kerry and Cork incurred on their trips to the North.

We would also lose our provincial finals, which are more than mere sporting events. One has to savour the colour, the glamour, the excitement, the hawkers and the good natured banter to appreciate that a provincial final is an occasion in itself.

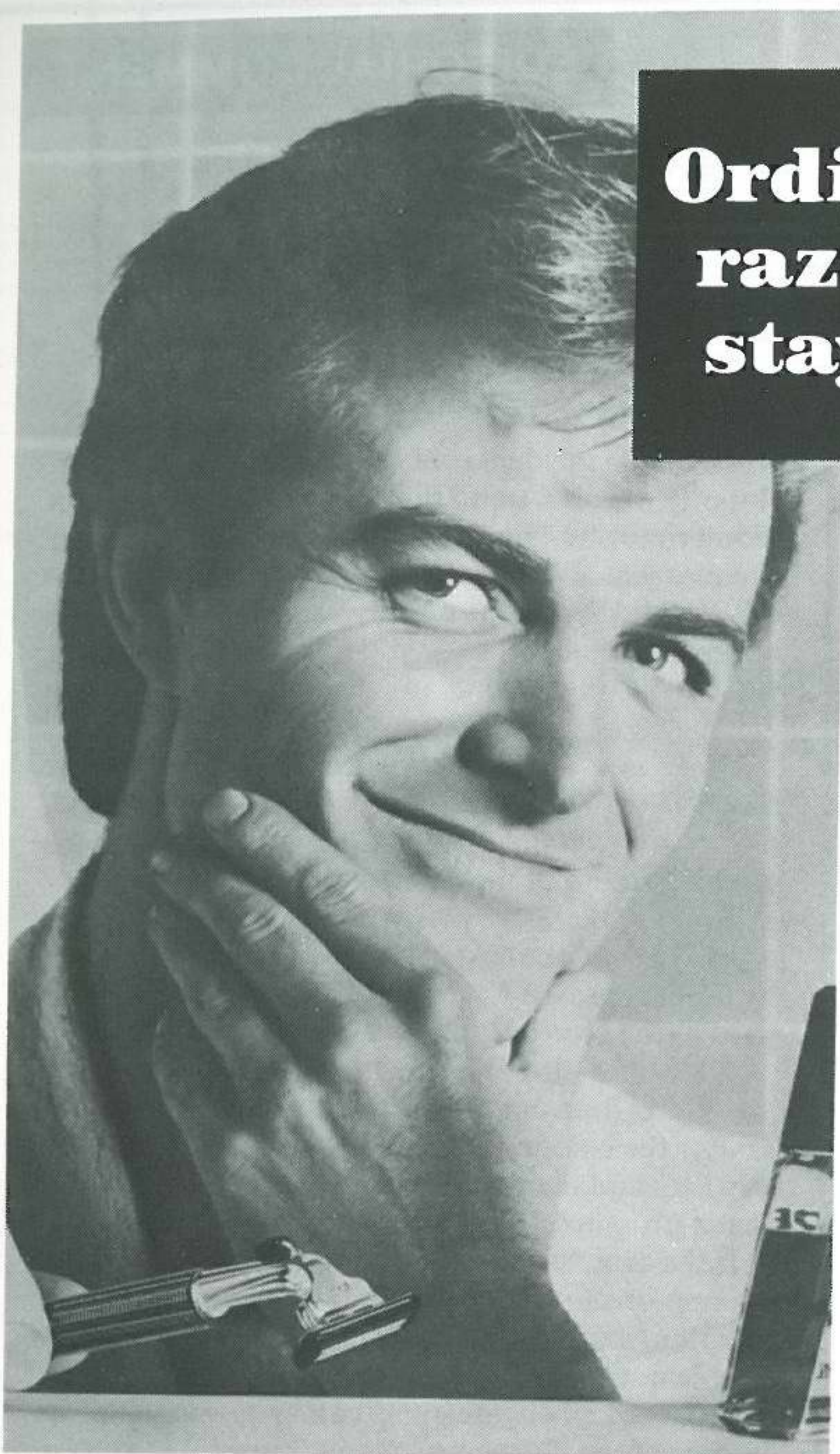
Is the case, then, for retaining the status quo in the Championship greater than the one for the introduction of the open-draw? That's another problem that will need to be looked at again objectively when the time comes to evaluate the impact of the Centenary competitions.

CONGRATULATIONS: Finally, one cannot let this historic occasion pass without congratulating all members of the G.A.A. from the President, Director-General down to the ordinary club member, and, not forgetting the great-hearted women, who watch and wait while their men folk play and attend meetings, and who also, more often than not, wash the jerseys.

Without this silent contribution by the ladies the G.A.A. would not be the vibrant organisation that it is today.

Tommy McQuaid

EDITOR

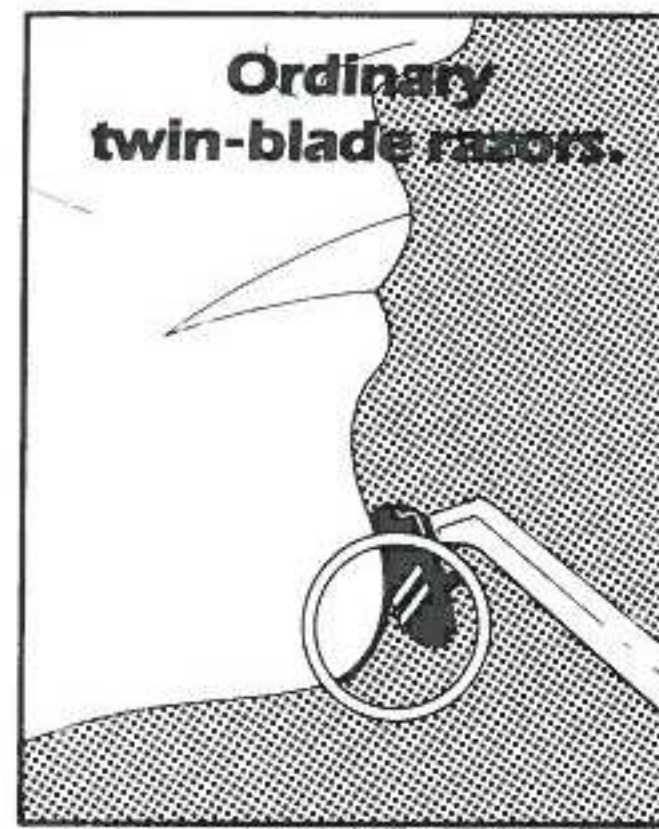


Ordinary twin-blade razors don't always stay on your beard.

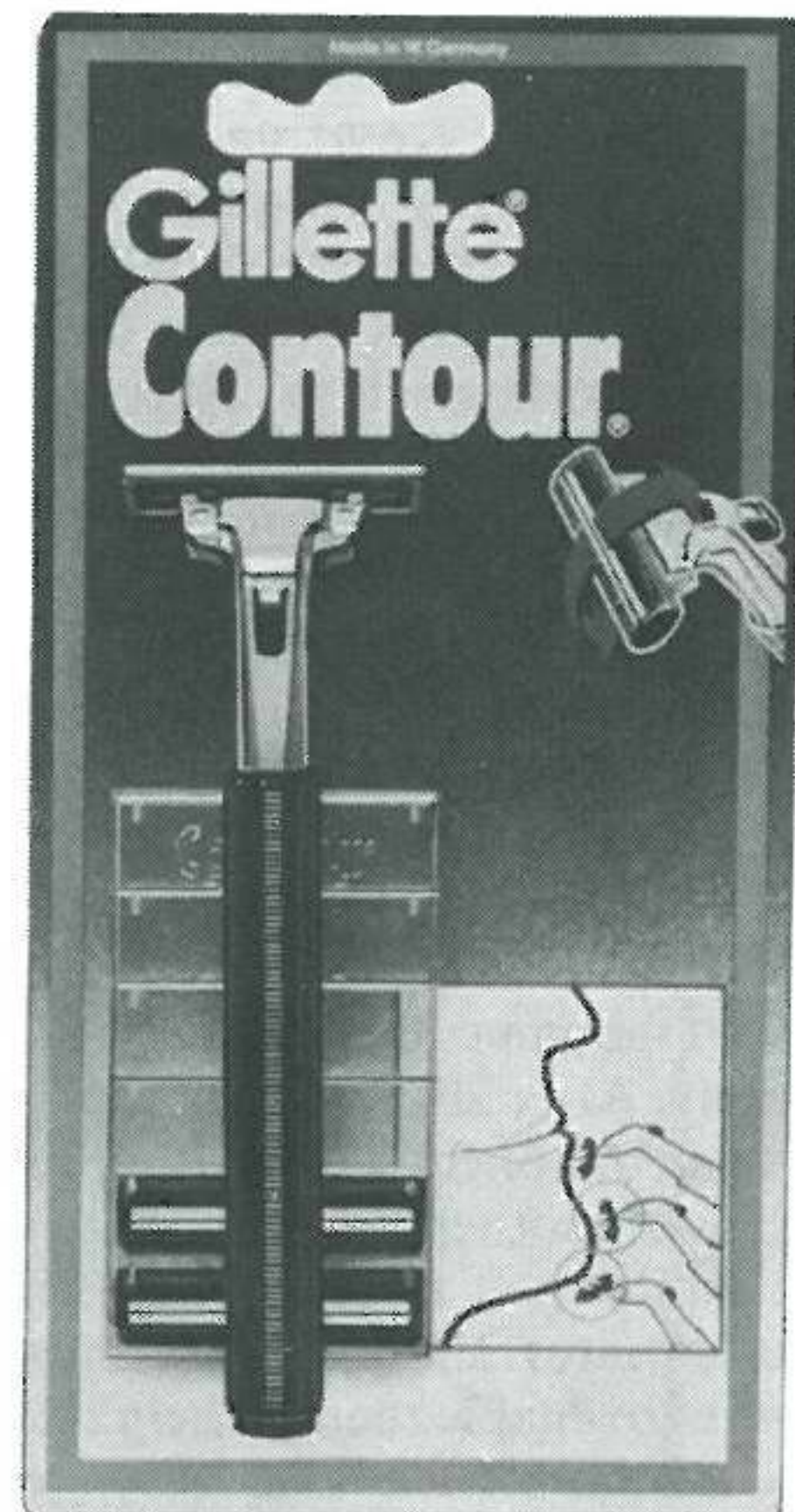
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A message from the President

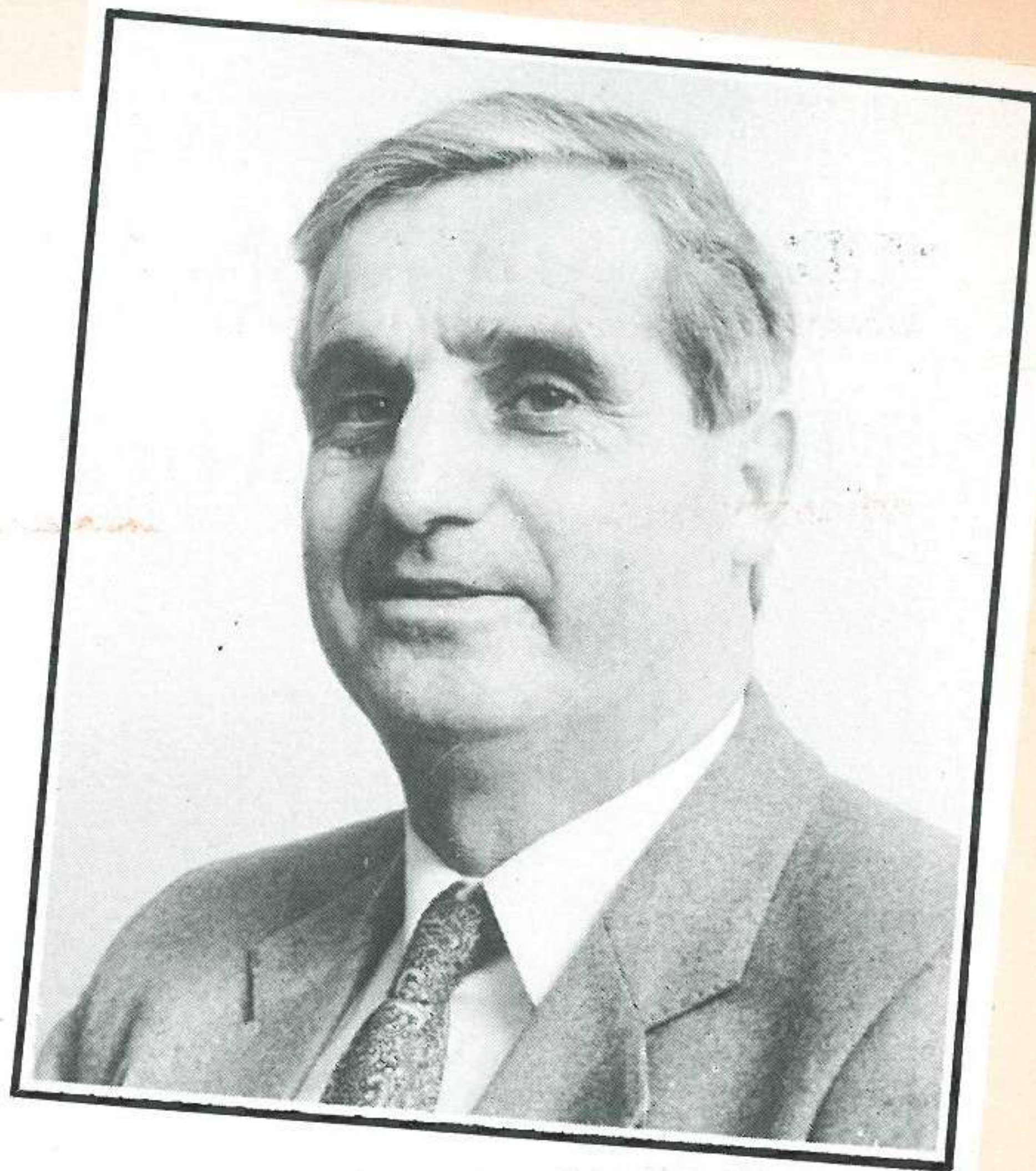
IS é seo Bliain an Chéid de Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Ní raibh ach scata beag daoine bailithe le chéile i nDúrlas Éile i 1884 ach d'fhás an Forás seo a chuaigh i bhfeidhm ar gach gné de chursaí na tire ó shoin in leith. Tá dóchas agam go spreagfaidh an comóradh seo sinn uilig chun aidhmeanna an Chumainn a chur i bhfeidhm i measc an phobail.

Our Association was founded one hundred years ago. Its history, through a century of service, is a history of the Irish people over that period. Others will assess the effect of the G.A.A. on the social, cultural, national and political evolution of our country.

However, as President, it is only fair and fitting that I should pay tribute to the founders and many thousands of officials and players who have given so much of their efforts and time to create a movement and an Association that is committed to the service of people.

The past is recalled only that we may in this, our time, prove worthy of that past and find in the example of our predecessors the courage, inspiration and the will to pass on to a new generation the traditions of which we are custodians and inheritors.

Our celebrations began in Clare on March 17th and continue until November. We dedicated ourselves to the dreams and works of the founders and all the planned Centenary events will proclaim a Gaelic



Athletic Association proud of its past and confident of its future.

In this year of 1984 we recall those visionaries of 1884 and pray that in one hundred years our successors will recall, with equal pride, the work of today's members.

The great influence of Gaelic Games over the past century makes it incumbent on us to promote our native games among the youth of today, who are heirs to pride in community service and who will carry on the work of Cusack and his colleagues.

On behalf of the Association, I thank the Editor of *Gaelic Sport*, Tommy McQuaid, for his valuable coverage of our affairs over the past 26 years and hope that the partnership will continue for many years to come.

Rath Dé ar ár obair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pádraig S. Ó Sé'. The signature is written in a cursive style with some flourishes.

Uachtarán
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

PROMOTION OF GAMES NOT THE SOLE AIM OF THE GAA'

D'IARR on tEagarthóir orm píosa gairid a chur le céile ar stair an Chumainn agus ar an méadú a tháinig ar an eagraíocht on lá gur cuireadh tús leis i nDúrlas Éile. Tá sé thar a bheith deacair léargas réasúnta a thabhairt ar an gCumann Lúthchleas Gael i mbeagáin focal ach do thugas faoin ngnó agus seo chugaibh an toradh.

The majority of people, outside the membership of the Gaelic Athletic Association, tend to view it purely as a sporting organisation, whose sole function is to organise our national games of hurling, Gaelic football and handball. Granted the G.A.A. does cater for our national games but this is not our sole aim.

The original charter drawn up at Thurles in 1884 set out the following objectives:

Promotion of Irish culture, music, language and National games. In short, to recharge and resurrect all things Irish and thereby to give back to the Irish people a pride in being Irish.

One must remember that in 1884 the morale of the Irish people had sunk to a very low level. The famine days had been a catastrophic experience, as a result of which death and emigration had decimated the Irish race and those who survived — and remained on the land — faced a tremendous challenge if Ireland was to survive as a nation.

Education, as we know it today, was non-existent. The Irish language too, was near to extinction. Irish culture lay in shreds. The only organised games or leisure pursuits were those which were open to the gentry. The ordinary people had no outlet for their sporting or cultural interests.

This then is the background that existed in 1884 when Cusack and his colleagues sat down in Hayes Hotel in Thurles. Their aim to revive the Irish pastimes and through them to give back to the Irish nation and its people a pride in their country and in themselves.

The initial years of the Association were difficult ones. If the organisation was to succeed and prosper, it was essential that discipline and conformity was observed by all its members.

The early years were bedevilled by personality clashes, controversial meetings and the departure of Cusack himself from the position of Secretary. Worse was to follow: the Parnell controversy split the Association to an

even greater extent than did the IRB or any other single episode.

Local communities and county committees did not take too kindly to have rules and regulations handed down to them from outside sources and the early GAA had to train people in the use of democracy.

It was inevitable that an Organisation with such vast potential as the Gaelic Athletic Association was bound to be infiltrated by the police—not alone to keep abreast of the progress within the organisation but, no doubt, with the added intention of sabotaging it, if needs be, before it became a source of embarrassment to the political powers of the day. It was mainly to counter this infiltration of the police that the Ban rules were introduced.

It is a measure of the stature of Cusack, Davin and their successors that they overcame these seemingly insurmountable difficulties to sow the seeds that took root and grew and grew over the past 100 years into the vast organisation that the Gaelic Athletic Association is today.

Recalling the original aims set out by the founding members in 1884, how stands the Association today?

I think it can honestly be recorded that Cusack and his colleagues would be proud of the progress and achievements to date.

The numbers playing our games today are at a record level. The Croke Park stadium and the other major stadia throughout the country are testimony of the progress made. In addition, more than 65% of clubs now have playing fields of their own — a large percentage of which have also provided Social Centres for their members.

In the field of communications, vast strides have been made, indicative of this is the fact that the majority of counties now produce high class yearbooks. A number of clubs have published or are in the process of publishing their own historic achievements for handing on to posterity. Also, the quality of match programmes has improved considerably over the past decade or so.

As recently as 25 or 30 years ago, the G.A.A. was practically ignored by Irish commerce. In this, our Centennial Year, the list of support by way of sponsorship and other tangible means embraces a good cross section of Ireland's major commercial and industrial concerns.

'The GAA has survived many a challenge in the past. It has the resources and the will to cope with whatever the future holds'

GRATIFYING ASPECT

Another gratifying aspect that has emerged in recent times is the growth of the Association in urban areas. Great strides have been made in the larger cities and towns and the GAA now has a good spread of urban clubs which have facilities to match those provided by any other sporting organisation.

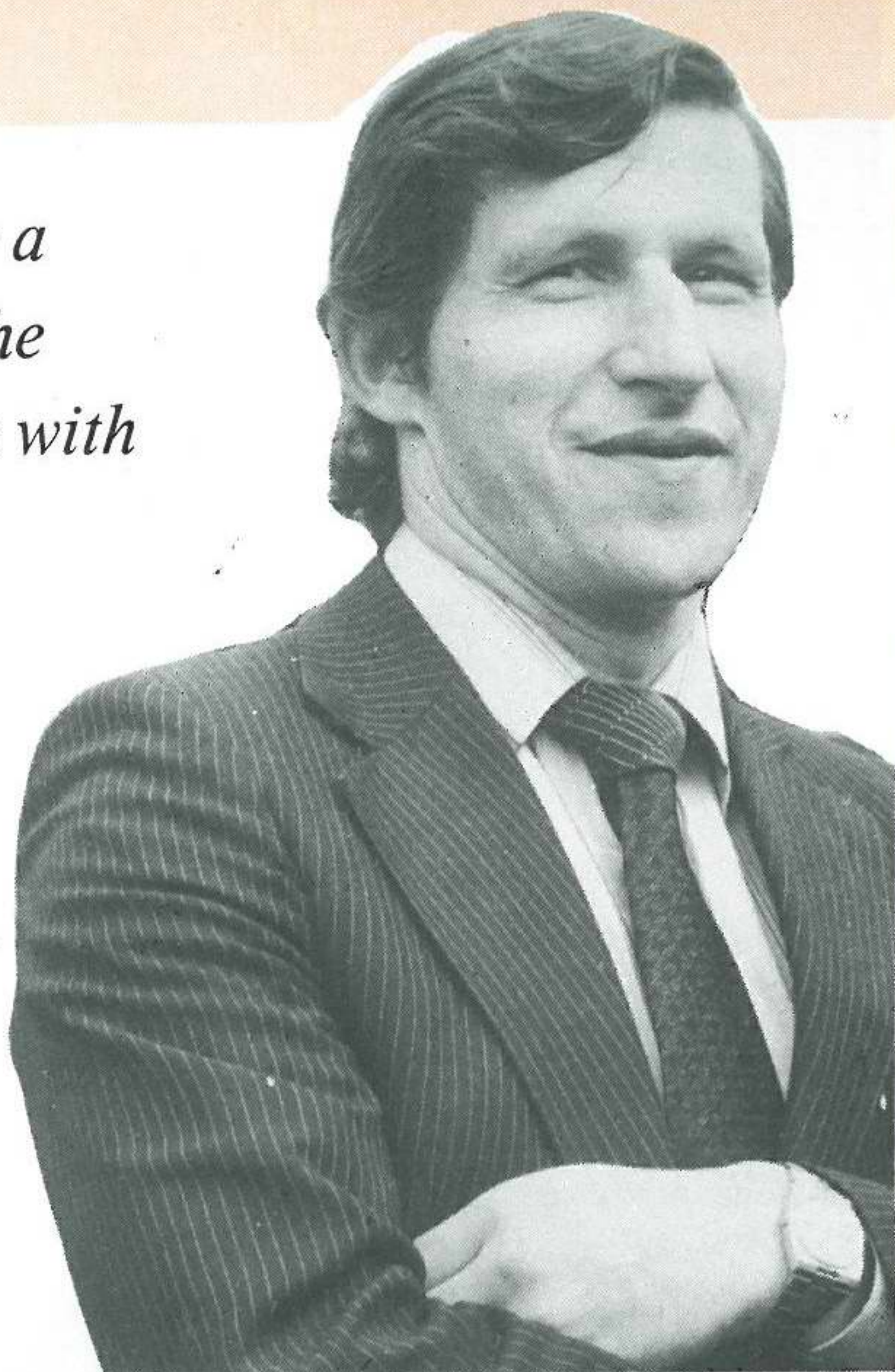
The Association owes a tremendous debt to the teaching profession for its remarkable growth. The vast majority of Irish schools, at first, second and third level give pupils an experience of playing Gaelic games. It is hoped that Centenary year will provide an incentive to those who have ignored Gaelic games to give the pupils an opportunity of playing them.

On the debit side much work still remains undone in restoring the Irish language to its rightful place in our society. More, too, could be done in advancing our native music and dancing into everyday Irish life. The Scór competitions have given a new life to social activities in GAA clubs, while they have also given an opportunity to promote our cultural aims.

No examination of the GAA, of the past present or future would be complete without some reference to the games. The development of hurling has been disappointing and, while all thirty two counties now play the game, the level of skill in some of the relatively strong counties gives cause for concern. Football has been beset by problems in recent years due in my opinion to the virtual abolition of the shoulder charge and the licence given to players to far exceed the 4 steps allowed by rule. As a result the game has become bedevilled by players running with the ball while those not in possession, having no legitimate means of dispossessing the player, resort to pulling, etc.

At the outset I said most people outside our organisation saw us as a purely sporting body.

If they but knew of the vast numbers of men, women boys and girls who devote so much of their spare time to working towards the advancement of the Association — and seek no tangible reward in return — save that of encouraging and promoting the Association's ideals among the young people of Ireland, they would be truly astonished.



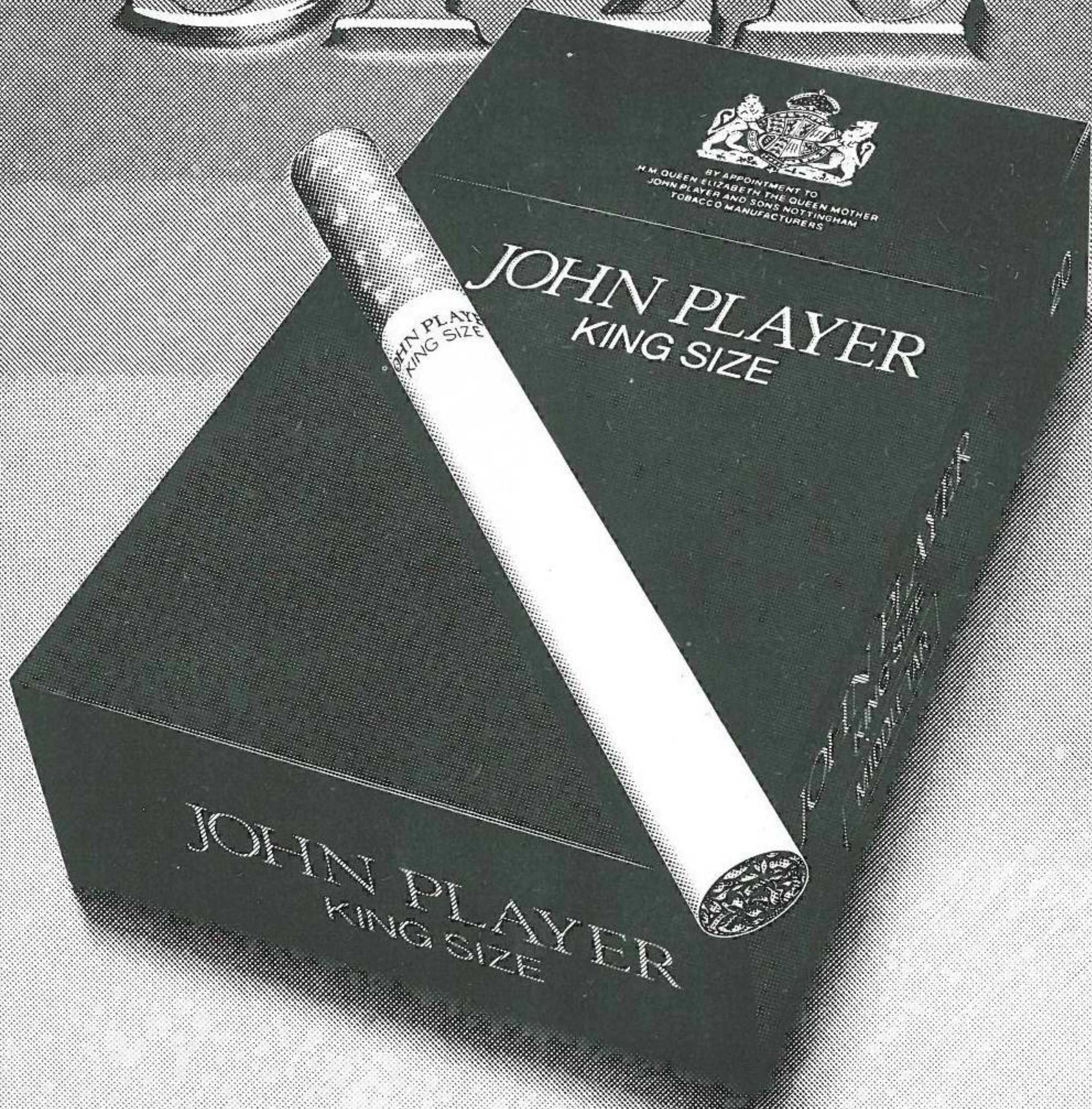
It is in the unceasing voluntary efforts of these unsung thousands of people that the true strength of the Association lies. They are, indeed, the heartbeat of the GAA. they are its future just as they were its past. They will not steer the ship but they will provide the power.

When a voluntary organisation can command such loyalty, enthusiasm and unceasing effort from so many, one can surely look forward to the future, confident that our Association will continue to progress and prosper. The task will not be easy, but the GAA has survived many a challenge to it in the past. It has the resources and the will to cope more than adequately with whatever the future may hold.

Gan dabht, beidh fadhbanna ag an gCumann amach anseo. Is féidir a lán acu a aithint anois, ach fhaid is a bhíonn suim ag muintir na hÉireann ina cluichí féin, beidh an Cumann Lúthchleas Gael chun cinn i saol sóisialta agus cultúrtha na tíre seo. Le cabhair na ndaoine daonacha timpeall na tíre tabhairfidh an Cumann pléiriúil oiliúint agus sport do na mílte Éireannaigh, bíodh siad ag imirt nó ag féachaint ar na cluichí, bíodh siad ag ar baile nó i gcéin.

Diam Ó Maolbhichil
Árd-Stiúrthóir, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

KING SIZE



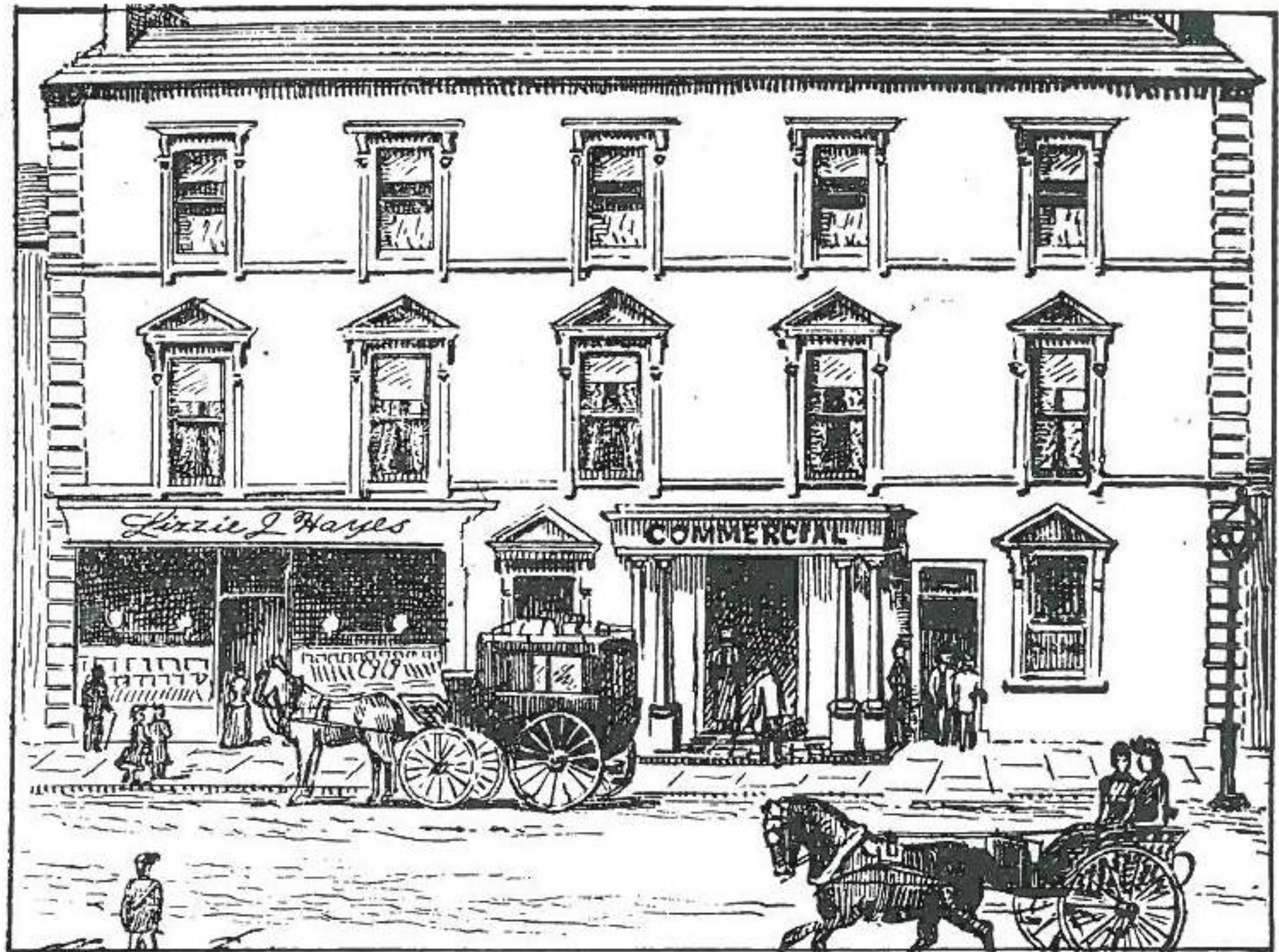
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ACORN THAT BECAME AN OAK

By Noel Banim



Hayes' Hotel as depicted in 1884.

“**G**REAT oaks from little acorns grow”. The truth of that old adage is amply borne out by the successful story that today is the Gaelic Athletic Association. From a small beginning in a room in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles in 1884, the organisation has developed and advanced over the past 100 years to the position that it stands as a powerful influence in the life of the nation today.

Many highlights mark the path to the century. So many in fact, that it would be impossible in an article like this to attempt to detail them all. Instead, I make a personal choice, with some footnotes for the reasons for my selections.

THE ALL-IRELAND FINALS: It was almost four years after the launching of the G.A.A. that the first All-Ireland finals were played in April 1888 for the 1887 titles.

I regard the finals as the heart-beat of the G.A.A. It took some time for the finals to establish themselves in the Irish scene, but football “took off” with three great games between Kerry and Kildare for the 1905 All-Ireland crown, and has not looked back since.

Hurling, too, aroused plenty of interest in the early days, but it is probably true to say that the really big crowds began in the 'Thirties, when Cork and Kilkenny generated tremendous appeal for the sport with three splendid games for the 1931 All-Ireland championship.

In the meantime the All-Ireland senior hurling and football finals have become highpoints of the year in this country — not just sportwise, but socially. The games are without doubt the major events of the

calendar, and have an appeal that transcends more than the sporting boundaries.

We have also had some stirring and memorable times associated with finals. One of the greatest of them all was the 1947 football decider when it seems as if the entire nation listened breathless to the radio as Michael O'Hehir brought news of the show-down between Cavan and Kerry at the far-off Polo Grounds in New York for the Sam Maguire Cup.

In these days of live television coverage from all parts of the world — an accepted part of the lives of most of us now — it is hard to appreciate or understand fully the excitement and the awe the Irish of the 'Forties had at the then novel experience of an Irishman bringing news from far away of other Irishmen playing their national game in a foreign city.

That was without doubt one of the truly golden moments in Irish sport.

Another was the 1953 All-Ireland senior football final, when Armagh, a county so badly hit by the unrest in the North in latter times, met Kerry.

That was another occasion when a sporting event gripped the imagination of an entire nation. Strange to recall now that Unionists united with Nationalists in cheering on Armagh in their bid to become the first county to bring the Sam Maguire Cup across the Border. It was not to be, but that was still another high point in the G.A.A.

CAME GOOD

The 'Fifties were particularly exciting times for hurling as well. Wexford, led by the Rackard brothers, Nick, Willie and Bobbie, Tim Flood, Nick

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● *Kilkenny, Leinster senior hurling champions of 1939. Back row, from left: Peter Blanchfield, Billy Burke, Jimmy Kelly, Jimmy O'Connell, Terry Leahy, Paddy Phelan, Jimmy Walsh. Front row: Bobby Hinks, Jack Gargan, Jack Mulcahy, Seanie O'Brien, Paddy Larkin, Paddy Grace, who is now Kilkenny County Board Secretary, Bobby Brannigan. In front is Jimmy Langton.*

● FROM PAGE 9

O'Donnell and Jim English, brought new life and glamour to hurling with their flamboyant style of play that made them one of the greatest crowd-pullers of all time.

It looked for a time as though Wexford would not reap the reward their efforts deserved as they shipped All-Ireland defeats from Tipperary in 1951, and Cork in 1954. But it all came good in 1955 and 1956 when Galway and Cork bowed to the might of the Wexford men in the All-Ireland finals of those years.

The 1956 clash with Cork was one of the great finals of all time . . . a match that was packed with excitement and skilled play, and saw Wexford deprive the late Christy Ring of his ninth medal. The game also drew one of the greatest attendances to a hurling final — 83,096. Two years earlier 84,856 saw Cork beat Wexford, and that ranks as the record for a hurling final.

Yes, stirring days for the national game, and then in 1960, Down finally made the break-through that many had dispaired of ever seeing when they beat Kerry to take the Sam Maguire Cup over the Border for the first time.

A year later Down and Offaly drew a crowd of 90,556 to their All-Ireland senior football final clash

for the greatest gathering ever at any sporting fixture in this country. Yes, the senior finals are the major events in Irish life, and recent games have shown that the appeal and the magic remains.

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION: The G.A.A. has never really suffered from a lack of international competition. Nor is there any real reason to believe that it will, despite the growth of this dimension in so many sports in Ireland at present, and the mass coverage of such events in the media and on television.

But for all that, the G.A.A. has still given players opportunities to "see the world". We have had trips to New York for full scale competitive games in the National Leagues and at final level. In more recent times, the All Stars tours, first under the Carrolls banner, and in more recent times under the wing of the Bank of Ireland, have given footballers and hurlers a further outlet to tour America and play local teams.

These tours have been invaluable in advancing the cause of the games at home. They have given players an added incentive and an extra prize to aim at, and perhaps most importantly of all, they have opened

● TO PAGE 13

The others see it as a perpetual challenge.



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● FROM PAGE 11

up the door to the top honours for footballers and hurlers in the weaker counties.

Players in the under-developed counties cannot hope to win All-Ireland senior medals, but at least the All Stars tours ensure that they have chances now of enjoying some of the games' other "perks".

But the greatest international dimension of them all undoubtedly has been the connection forged with Australian Rules football. An Australian Rules team visited Ireland for the first time in 1967 and played games against Meath and Mayo.

The following Spring (1968) Meath went on an ambitious tour of Australia for matches with local selections. Kerry followed on in 1970, and although the early hopes were not fully realised in the 'Seventies, the outlook is much brighter this Centenary Year. Now full scale international competition is very much on the cards, and we can look forward to further developments in this regard when an Australian Rules team visits Ireland this Autumn.

GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT: The G.A.A. has set a tremendous headline to all other sporting organisations in this country with its foresight and progressive approach to the provision of stadiums throughout the country.

Croke Park sets an impressive standard in this regard, and in all provinces will be found stadiums second to none, from the latest modern one in Cork, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, to Semple Stadium, in Thurles, now being revamped to accommodate the Centenary Year All-Ireland final in hurling.

The G.A.A.'s grounds programme has accomplished more than merely providing comfortable accommodation for patrons — it has stimulated the economy of this country by creating employment, often at times when this was needed most.

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER: The G.A.A. has been very fortunate in having had men of vision to guide affairs over the years. There has been a tendency to "look down" on legislators from time to time and label them as "ultra cautious," "traditionalists," and somewhat unkindly "stick in the mud" enthusiasts.

But the progress the G.A.A. has made over so many areas during its first 100 years is a tribute to the wisdom and the leadership of the many who guided the affairs of the organisation through the good times and the bad.

GOOD MOVE

One of the most momentous decisions of all, in my view, was the one taken at the 1971 Congress at



● Cork's All-Ireland senior hurling title winning team of 1928. This was the second side to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup to the Leaside.

Belfast. At that gathering the then 66-year-old rule prohibiting members of the G.A.A. from playing, attending or promoting rugby, soccer, hockey and cricket — popularly known as the 'Ban' Rule — was removed from the official guide.

It was a good move and one that I say has enhanced the status of the G.A.A. I make the point without casting any reflection on those who stood by the regulation for so long.

The only unfortunate feature is that some schools, that we all had hoped would widen their scope from being exclusively Rugby nurseries to include Gaelic Games have not following the end of the 'Ban' done so. But there is always tomorrow.

TELEVISION: The G.A.A. was in the vanguard in providing facilities to the then infant Telefís Éireann in the early 'Sixties, as the national television station got underway. And, thanks to television hurling and football are now enjoying greater audiences than ever, not just at home, but abroad, thanks to relays by foreign television stations, including B.B.C. and I.T.V. in Britain.

It is good too, that one can report that more and more time is being devoted by the two television stations in the North of Ireland to local Gaelic Games. Radio in Belfast is also covering our national games very well.

These, then, are the main features, as I see them, of the success story of the G.A.A.

There are many, many more, some I could reel off non stop; others that did not receive much attention at the time, but still made a vital contribution to the overall success story.

But I feel that in singling out the features I have, I have given something of the "feel" of the advancement of the G.A.A. over 100 years. A story that anyone with an ounce of pride in country, pride in our pastimes and pride on ones self, must feel like saying "Well done" to the G.A.A.

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*Man of vision,
courage and
dynamic energy*

By Tommy McQuaid



MICHAEL CUSACK must have been an exceptional man by any standard. That is the only conclusion that one can come to in attempting to look back over the years in an effort to assess the man, and the foresight, the firm resolve and the dedication that he displayed in the face of many difficulties as he created the climate for the launching of an organisation like the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Cusack grew from boyhood to manhood in the second half of the last century against a background that saw nationality, the native pastimes, culture, music and song at a low ebb. By the 1880s, in fact, pride of race had been all but beaten out of the Irish, due in the main to the ravages of the Famine and an alien oppression.

It was in such an unfavourable climate that Cusack came to realise the importance of revitalising the Irish nation through the old pastimes, particularly hurling. And, the high qualities of the man — shrewdness, courage and vigour among them — enabled him to appreciate what was needed, and also able to face up to the challenge with an enthusiasm and drive that set the G.A.A. on course for the 100th birthday we are celebrating this year.

Cusack was a versatile athlete in his own right. He made his mark at handball, football, hurling and athletics, and he was also a capable oarsman. In addition, he played cricket.

Rugby football and athletics were well established in this country by the last quarter of the 'Eighties, but were controlled, in the main, by those whose outlook was wholly Unionist rather than Nationalist. Cusack knew that scene really well, as he was associated with athletics in Dublin on and off as a competitor, and also as an administrator and judge.

As time went on, however, Cusack began to appreciate more and more that the native games were slowly but surely in danger of extinction. It was a situation that many a lesser man would have accepted as inevitable given the conditions of the times — but not Michael Cusack! He was spurred to set in train events that led to the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association in November, 1884.

When the organisation finally came into being at Thurles, Cusack was just over 37 year old, having been born in the parish of Carron, in the Burren country of County Clare, on September 20, 1847.

His parents were Irish speaking farmers, and he grew up in a tradition of Irish culture and games. As a boy he saw much hurling, and came to love the game.

Cusack left home in November, 1864 to become a pupil-teacher in the Model School in Enniscorthy. Later he trained as a teacher at Marlboro' Street in Dublin, and in December 1866 he became teacher of Lough Cutra National School, near Gort, in Galway.

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LEFT:
Michael Cusack, first Secretary of the Association. His short-lived weekly newspaper, "The Celtic Times" is now unobtainable, even in the National Library.



RIGHT:
James Nowlan, President of the Association, 1901-1921. He presided at the Central Council meeting of June 20, 1918, which replied unequivocally to the British authorities' ban on Gaelic Games.

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Later he moved to teach Mathematics and English at St. Colman's College, Newry. Subsequently, he taught for three years at Blackrock College, Dublin, then went to St. John's College, Kilkenny, and also had a spell at Clongowes, Kildare. Next came a position at a private school in Dublin, and after that Cusack decided to form his own private school in the capital.

The Clare native was a powerfully built man, good humoured, a deep reader, and tireless in his pursuit of the Gaelic ideal.

A MILESTONE

Cusack took a major step in the bid to re-establish hurling when he was associated with the foundation of the Dublin Hurling Club in 1882 and this proved to be an important milestone. Saturday afternoon practice games were staged in the Phoenix Park.

At this time, Cusack was still associated with athletics and, as time went on, he became more acutely conscious of the need for a movement to unite the youth of Ireland in a national organisation for the promotion of all things national. So, as the months advanced, he determined to work for the re-organisation of athletics, generally controlled then by outside interests, on a democratic basis, and the revival of hurling.

Cusack continued to strive to achieve this aim, and eventually, he issued what was to become a vital circular from his school on October 27, 1884. This was

also published in the newspapers, "The Freeman's Journal", the "United Ireland" and the "Irish Sportsman".

The circular was signed by Cusack and Maurice Davin, and took the form of an invitation to attend a meeting at Thurles on November 1 to launch a "Gaelic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes, and for providing national amusement for the Irish people during their leisure hours".

The circular revealed that the proposed movement had been approved by Michael Davitt, Justin McCarthy, M.P., William O'Brien, M.P. and T. Harrington, M.P., as well as "other eminent men who are interested in the social elevation of the race".

Cusack and Davin had not long to wait to learn that there was a warm welcome for the steps they were proposing. Many replies were received, and the seed had been sown. It finally took root in the Billiard Room of Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, on All Saints Day, 1884, when the "Gaelic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes" came into being.

Cusack wrote later that the "Association swept the country like a prairie fire", but even he, for all his foresight and vision, could hardly have dreamed that come 100 years later, the G.A.A. would be the vibrant power that it is today, or command so much respect far outside these shores.

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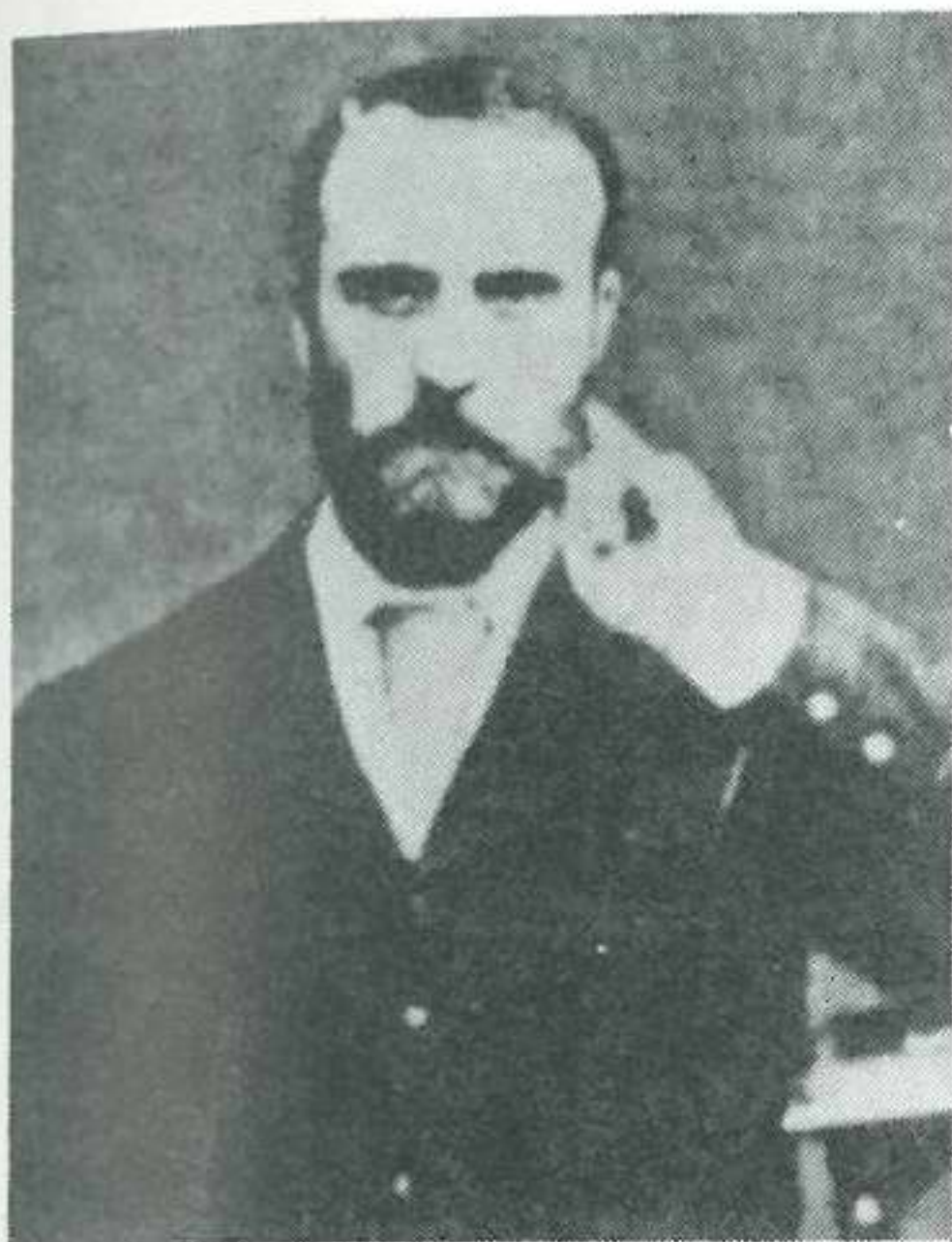
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LEFT:
Charles Stewart Parnell: his rising star split the Fenians.



RIGHT:
Maurice Davin: his contribution was vital if the Association was to have any credence as an athletic organisation.

● FROM PAGE 17

Maurice Davin presided at the foundation meeting. The others in attendance, in addition to Cusack, were John Wyse Power, a Fenian journalist from Naas; John McKay, a Cork journalist, John K. Brackën, a monumental sculptor and builder from Templemore; P.J. Ryan, a solicitor in Callan; Sgt. George McCarthy, a district inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

SECRETARIES THREE

Davin was elected President, and Cusack, Wyse Power and McKay were chosen secretaries.

In the early days the Association was concerned mainly with athletics and not games. But the games were still played, and in 1887 came the start of the inter-county championships, or more correctly, inter-club tests. Club sides represented their counties in the initial year. Since then, the G.A.A. has not looked back, despite many difficulties, many setbacks and dissensions, until today it is without question the greatest Amateur sports organisation in the world.

Archbishop Croke, of Cashel, from his residence, The Palace, Thurles, wrote on December 18, 1884, in response to a letter inviting him to become a patron, accepted the offer — the G.A.A.'s first patron.

Ironically enough, Cusack, the real founder of the G.A.A., the motivating force behind the moves that brought the organisation into being in the first place, was dismissed by the Association from his post as chief secretary less than two years after the inaugural

meeting. Matters came to a head at a special meeting in July 1886, when Cusack was accused of neglecting administrative work, among other matters, and a motion asking him to resign was carried.

But Cusack's support for the national games and the language did not flag at any time during his lifetime. A weekly paper, "The Celtic Times", edited and owned by Cusack, was launched and survived over a year. Cusack was an unsuccessful contender for the position of Secretary in 1901, and in January 1906, the Clare man received tangible recognition for his efforts from the G.A.A.

This took the form of a gift of £50 to reward Michael Cusack for his "services to the Irish National Pastimes and to compensate him to some extent for his outlay in time, energy and money while establishing the Gaelic Athletic Association on an enduring foundation".

AN ENDURING FOUNDATION

Michael Cusack provided that all right. He more than anyone else was the rock on which the organisation was built . . . a man of dynamic energy who worked tirelessly for the G.A.A., suffered for the organisation in many ways, but always retained his love and his devotion to the ideal and the aims of the G.A.A. He died on November 27, 1906.

It is fitting that he is remembered in a special way by the Cusack Stand at Croke Park. Cusack was a great Irishman with the qualities of leadership we so badly need today.

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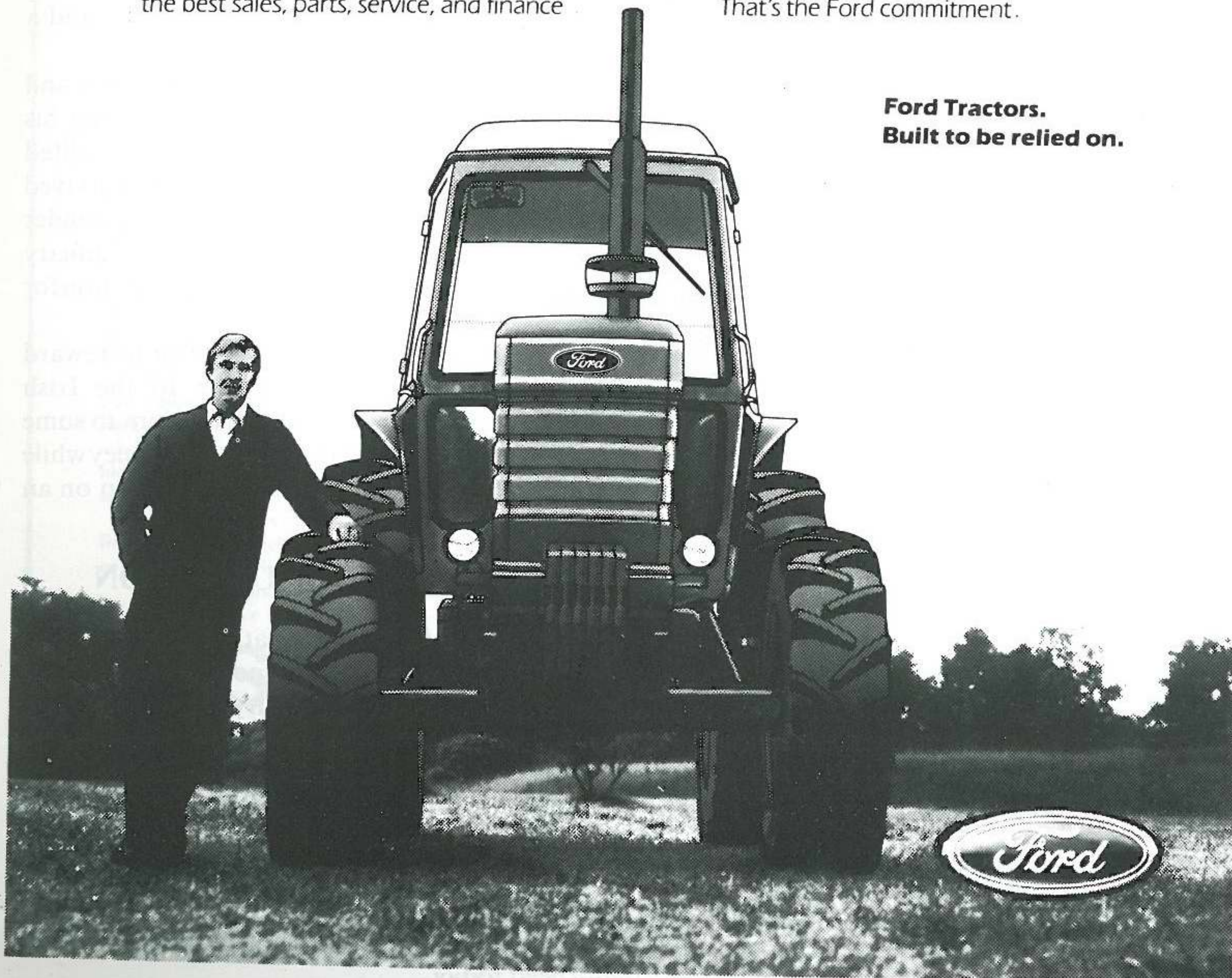
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THE NEED FOR COACHING IS NATIONWIDE

Says Eamonn Young

A FULL time coach in football for Munster! This is the decision taken some time ago by the Munster Council and since then nothing has been heard about it. There are two people qualified to write on any subject: the man who knows everything and he who knows nothing. So quite happily, having qualified under the second heading, I proceed.

What the Munster Council does is its own business and when I remind myself that they're saying nothing further about the appointment it seems to me that they have some more thinking to do about it. My contribution to the magazine will therefore concern the matter of coaching in such an area as Munster in such times as the Centenary year of a great Association is likely to bring upon us.

Is the appointment of a coach in Munster a retrograde step? Not at all.

I am so much in favour of training in any area that I can see in it nothing but good — until I deliberately switch off my enthusiasm and set out to find the faults. They do exist. But to start off on an affirmative note the good that education does in any area is so obvious as to insult the intelligence of the reader by emphasising it.

Man learns as he goes along. The speed of his learning depends firstly

on himself and secondly on the help he gets. In games which are our immediate concern it is clear that the sooner a young lad progresses to a satisfactory standard of performance the better, for apart from the joy he, himself, will find in the correct performance of skill his ability to display it will add to the enjoyment of the spectator.

By the way I want to say here (in this year of our Lord where the women are more vociferous than ever) that when I say "he" I also mean

Trendsetter . . . Down's Joe Lennon who pioneered Gaelic football coaching in the 'Sixties in the face of much opposition.

"she". In fact it's a case of man embracing woman.

So in Munster is there a need for coaching? Of course there is. In fact while I know nothing about the appointment of coach I am not so modest in a display of opinion about coaching in Munster.

Some years ago a decent man named Mick Frawley of Tipperary who was then Uachtarán of the Munster Council asked me if I would give a hand in the coaching of footballers in the province with a special nod towards the lads in the



weaker counties (of which, as we all know, too well, there are four . . . with the fifth in trouble far too often). Under the guidance of the Munster Council and particularly Mick Frawley, Tadhg Crowley and Doney Nealon who called together some fine men like Doney O'Donovan, Fr. Diarmuid MacCarthaigh, Micko Connell, John Culloty, Doney O'Sullivan, John MacNamara, Michael Griffin, Joe Conway, Tim Ryan and many others I simply

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*An annual
tribute to
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hurlers and
footballers
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achievement
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Never set bounds to the onward march of playing ability

● FROM PAGE 21

pushed a button and these men all put their shoulder to the wheel because they loved both football and the players of their own province.

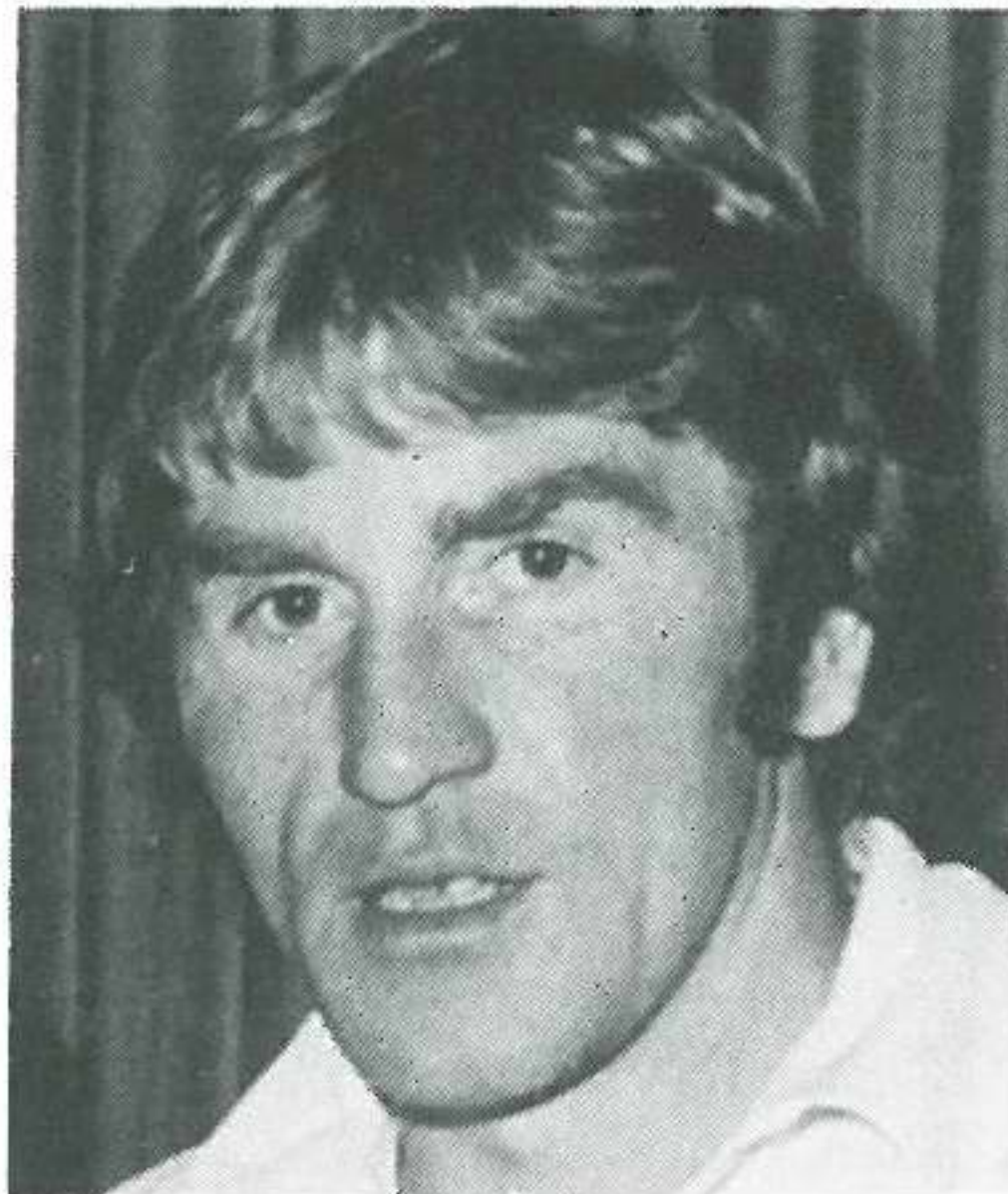
There were Saturday schools in each of the counties and about 40 lads under 20 years came in to learn, discuss and practice under the eyes of skilled and experienced men. I think the scheme went well and one of my own personal regrets is that I, myself, let the side down somewhat by pulling out after a year to concentrate on a small job of my own.

THE BELIEF

As a soldier for over thirty years my main interest was in training. Before that, as a boy, I was trained in school and on the field by a father who, God rest him, was competent in both. The fact that I didn't become a lot better in each field wasn't his fault and that early training plus the army years, leading to the guidance of young men in a secondary school just now confirms me in the belief that there is nothing (outside of the home) as important as wise and philosophical guidance.

So I applaud the appointment of this Munster Council coach. He can do great good in the province, not so much by his own efforts, but by attracting the many great sportsmen and women who are able to help and just as important, ready to do so.

I see his work as a progression of the embryonic yet effective activity done by the men named above and supported by fine players like Ger Power, Sean Walsh, Jim Deenihan, Ogie Moran, Gene MacCarthy, Con O'Sullivan and others. I see him refining the thinking that, as always, abound in the back-rooms of Gaelic football and remember that old French philosopher told us that man's greatest gift is his ability to think. I see the young lads coming to know earlier what is right and what is



JIMMY DEENIHAN

The Kerryman is doing fine work, in coaching, among the youth.

wrong in everything connected with Gaelic football — the skills, the physical training and the general behaviour both on and off the field.

I see Gaelic football taking a determined step forward and upward in the six counties of my province and especially in the Fragile Four.

Tommy McQuaid wanted to know about the possibility of a hurling coach. Without a doubt all that I have said above about football applies to hurling except the standard generally is much higher and here it is with satisfaction we see that in the great Kingdom the use of the caman has become progressively more expert, all because of the work the hurling men of the Munster Council have also done in recent years, allied of course to the dedication of these Kerry men who would give their right arms for a Munster senior hurling championship.

Of course a hurling coach would do wonderful work and we would have more young lads playing the game with a higher standard in a few years. Let us never set bounds to the onward march of playing ability, the

attainment of which, in itself, is a human aspiration worthy of the best of us.

THE ANSWER

The next sensible question this man McQuaid asks me is: should there be a coach in the other provinces? The answer from me comes with equal conviction: yes.

Now the snags. The first is the flaws in coaching. We have all seen the man who stands in the middle of the field pontificating at length to a group of fellows whose boredom is in direct proportion to the snapping cold on half-naked limbs. Some of these trainers are completely oblivious to the diarrhoea of words springing from a constipation of ideas by which the suffering audience is assaulted.

Others restrict and circumscribe the natural skill of players who do not execute skills in what is considered to be the correct way, forgetting that this beautiful machine they call a body motivated and directed by this brilliant thing called a mind, has its own lovely way of doing everything. The real coach will mould and guide.

The final point which we must consider is professionalism. The hallmark of this is class not money and while that point is kept firmly in mind perhaps the greatest danger may be avoided. But we must remember that Cumann Luthchleas Gael remains an amateur organisation or loses the character that has enabled it to get out in front in the sporting life of Ireland and stay there.

Professionals we must have simply because all the work cannot be done by men who spend their energies on the treadmill of life. But let's keep an eye on it. The day the G.A.A. becomes a professional organisation will be the day of defeat.

So, to sum up: I'm all in favour of coaching. The need is great in some areas and it is there they should be appointed. I'm convinced that under the supervision of wise men dedicated to the proposition that the G.A.A. is great enough to deserve greater we will yet have mature, official coaches in council debating how we can continue to improve the greatest games in the world.

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And that's encouraging for us too.



Putting our energy into Ireland's future.

Octogenarian Jim says Ring was the greatest

By NOEL HORGAN

JIM McLOUGHLIN resides on the Ballinlough Road in Cork and he loves hurling. A sprightly octogenarian, Jim is eagerly looking forward to the All-Ireland championship and he hopes to see the Rebel county regain the McCarthy Cup in this Centenary Year. Concern creases his brow as he ponders on this prospect.

"Limerick are well-balanced and full of steam". "They will be hard to beat". "If our lads can resurrect the spirits they showed at Páirc Uí Chaoimh against Kilkenny, they might do it." If we overcome Limerick, we will not be stopped this year."

Jim oozes enthusiasm when hurling is the topic and invariably his observations are both interesting and accurate. But Jim McLoughlin is no ordinary follower and he has carved a special niche for himself in the GAA world.

He is, in fact, along with fellow Corkman, Sean Brennan, who later became chairman of the Dublin County Board, a founder member of the Civil Service club in Dublin which, since 1923, has had its colours donned by many outstanding hurlers including Cork's Jack Lynch and Jim Young and Clare's Mick Falvey. It continues to flourish today.

Jim's employment caused him to reside in each of the four provinces at some stage and his active involvement in GAA circles enabled him to form close and enduring friendships with hurling immortals such as Lynch, Young, Con Murphy,

John Quirk of Cork, Waterford's Dave Walsh, Clare's Dr. Tommy Daly, Limerick's Mick and John Mackey, Jackie O'Connor and Dinny Lanigan and Tipperary's Paddy and Tommy Leahy and Jimmy O'Connell.

Prominently displayed in Jim McLoughlin's sitting room is a picture of Clare legend, John Joe "Goggles" Doyle and his family.

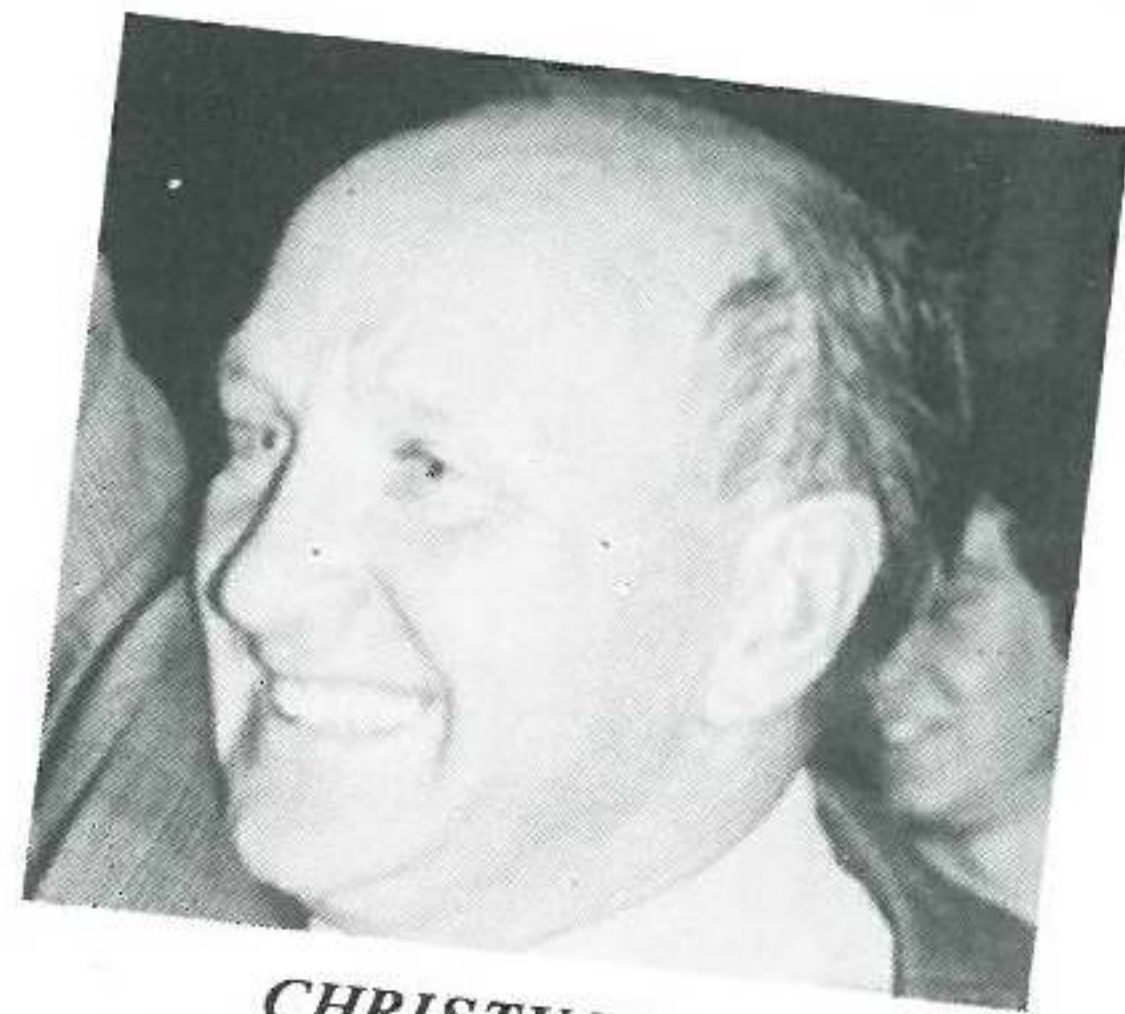
"A very great friend and a thorough gentleman, he was a highly skilled and a very clean hurler," says Jim.

A tale told to Jim by John Joe and involving Cork's Seán Óg Murphy is well worth recounting. Clare were playing Cork in the Munster championship and "Goggles" a comparative newcomer at the time, was taking some severe off-the-ball treatment from his seasoned Cork opponent. The subtle intimidation continued until Seán Óg decided to intervene and reprimand the Corkman.

"Cut it out," barked Seán Óg sharply to his startled colleague, "Shure he's only a young fella". Seán Óg, says Jim, was a hard, strong hurler and a fine sportsman.

Predictably, perhaps, Jim rates Christy Ring as the greatest hurler of all time.

"There was only one Christy. He was the master, crafty skilful and unpredictable. He could make the ball talk. Mick Mackey, too, was a magnificent hurler but, built like a tank, he relied a lot on his physical strength to make an impact."



CHRISTY RING
"He could make the ball talk"

On today's hurlers and hurling itself Jim comments:

"The present day players are fitter but the game was faster before. In olden times there was much more crisp ground stroke-play and hurlers preferred to let the ball do the work. Most of the modern performers need to get the ball in the hand. On a wet surface this persistent picking leads to much sloppy play. The ball was never long in the same area in the old days."

Facts, figures, dates, stories and anecdotes pour profusely from Jim McLoughlin's lips as he warms to the conversation and the hours flew by while we talked. Eventually I pressed him into picking a team comprising the best hurlers he had seen. After much deliberation he came up with the following fifteen:

Paddy Scanlan (Limerick), John Doyle (Tipperary), Sean Óg Murphy (Cork), John Joe Doyle (Clare), Jackie Power (Limerick), Paddy Clohessy (Limerick) Paddy Phelan (Kilkenny), Lory Meagher (Kilkenny), Jim Hurley (Cork), Mick Mackey (Limerick), Jack Lynch (Cork), Christy Ring (Cork), Charlie McCarthy (Cork), Martin Kennedy (Tipperary), Jimmy Barry-Murphy (Cork).

An interesting selection indeed from a man who, born in 1898 and with over seven decades as an astute enthusiast behind him, is better qualified than most to pick an All-Time-Best hurling team in the Centenary Year.

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Column

THE eighth National Senior League campaign is well advanced. It is an opportune moment, therefore, to question the success of the competition. To answer that query it is necessary to reflect on the reasons why the competition was inaugurated.

There was a time when a player was launched from the club scene into the championship arena. It was a make or break situation. Several players did not match up to the required standard and were discarded. A means of bridging the gap between club and county levels had to be found.

Relieved of the pressures of championship camogie, a player was able to adapt to her new surroundings and prove over a few games that she possessed the ability to make the grade. The team as a whole was given an opportunity to settle, develop teamwork and iron out weaknesses. Selectors were able to experiment and assess the progress of the side.

The attitude to the National League varies from county to county. Some see the competition as an end in itself. Others use it as a preparation ground for the more serious business of the Open Draw Championship.

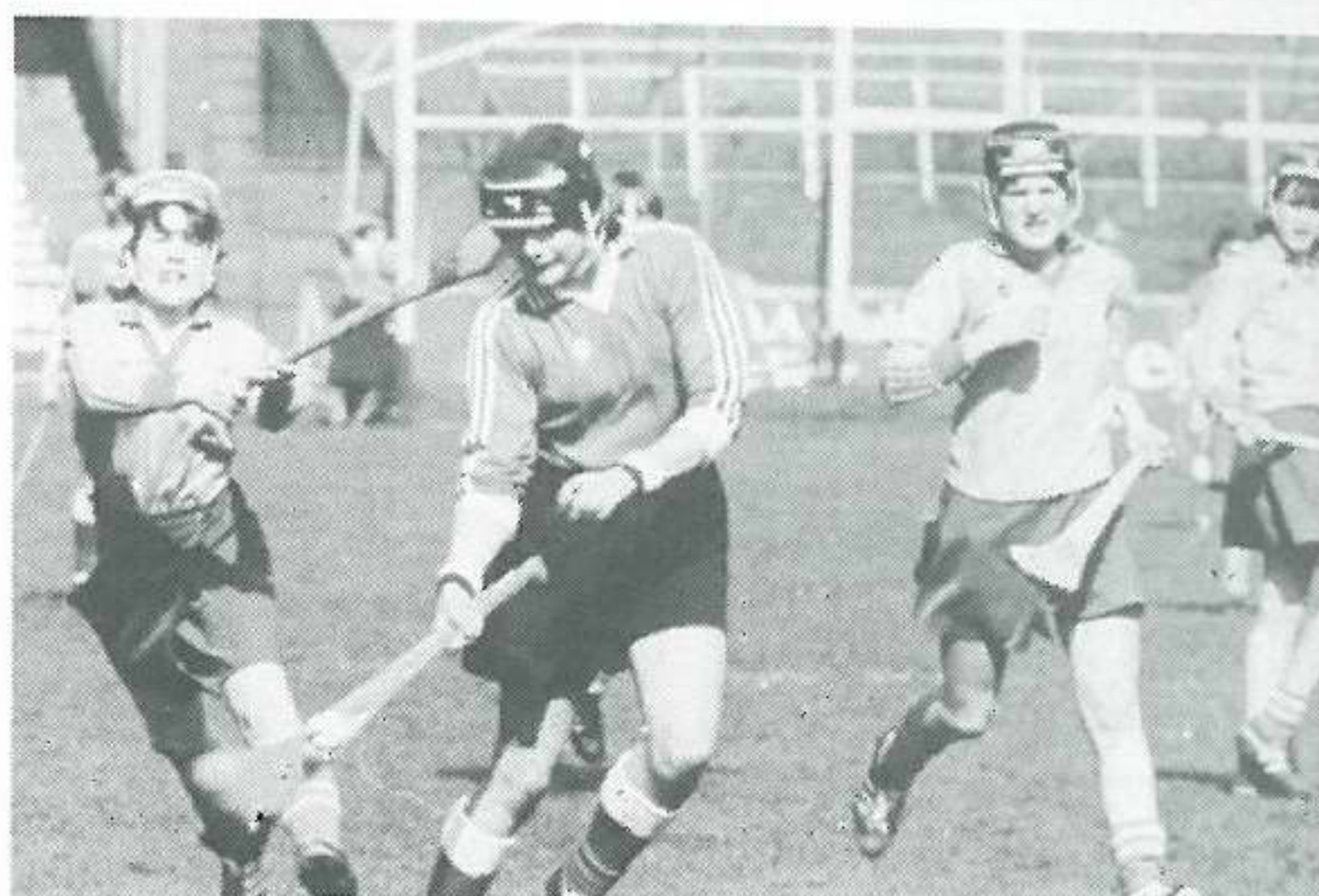
Dublin field their top players in every League match. With their local scene in full swing, the standard of fitness of their side is high. Consequently, their success rate is impressive with three National League titles to their credit.

Cork, on the other hand, use the League to try out new talent and to work on the strengths and weaknesses of the team. As a result, they have yet to engrave their name on the League trophy.

But this approach has paid rich dividends for them. In the period which the League has been in operation, they have won four All-Ireland Senior Championship titles.

THE BENEFITS

The League has not raised the standard of the counties which do not use it properly. It is important



A touch of class . . . Deirdre Costello, St. Raphels, guides the ball out of reach of Tara Magee (St. Patricks, Shannon) in All-Ireland Colleges junior final. Eavan Drysdale (Shannon) arrives too late to tackle.

that the players reach a certain level of fitness before their first match. Otherwise, the benefits will be greatly reduced.

A very successful colleges season has drawn to a close. Many games played were of exceptionally high standard. A new batch of skilful players has emerged and is ready to make an impact on the inter-county scene.

The newcomer who impressed me most was Deirdre Costello. She captained St. Raphael's Secondary School, Loughrea to win the All-Ireland Colleges' Junior Championship. A gifted player, she delighted the attendance at Croke Park when displaying superb stickwork she notched three goals and six points in the junior decider.

Right through the senior campaign, Maryfield forward, Carmel O'Byrne stood out. An unrestricted player, she exhibited the full range of skills. Her Maryfield team-mates Denise O'Leary, Patricia Clinton, Pauline Strutt and Cheryl Whittaker may look back on a great season.

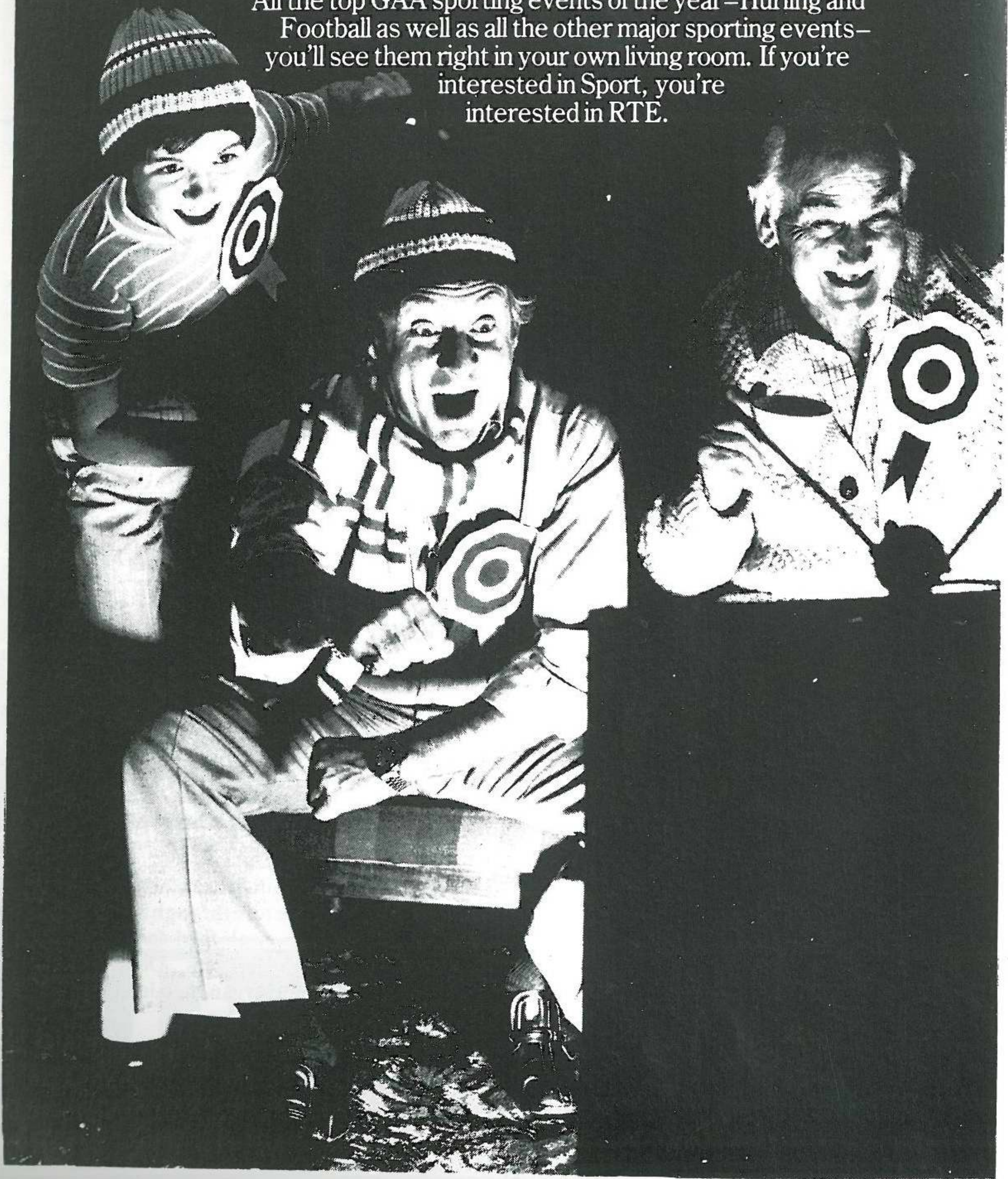
Irene O'Leary set Pairc Ui Chaoimh alight in the Munster final when she tore through the St. Patrick's defence to score two goals and four points. Her North Presentation colleagues, Deirdre O'Shea, Evelyn Healy, Paula Morgan and Jean Paula Kent had their moments.

Apart from those mentioned, Brid Stratford (St. Raphaels), the Shannon youngsters, Lorna O'Flaherty and Mary Higgins and the Clady forward, Margaret Stockman caught the eye.

RTE

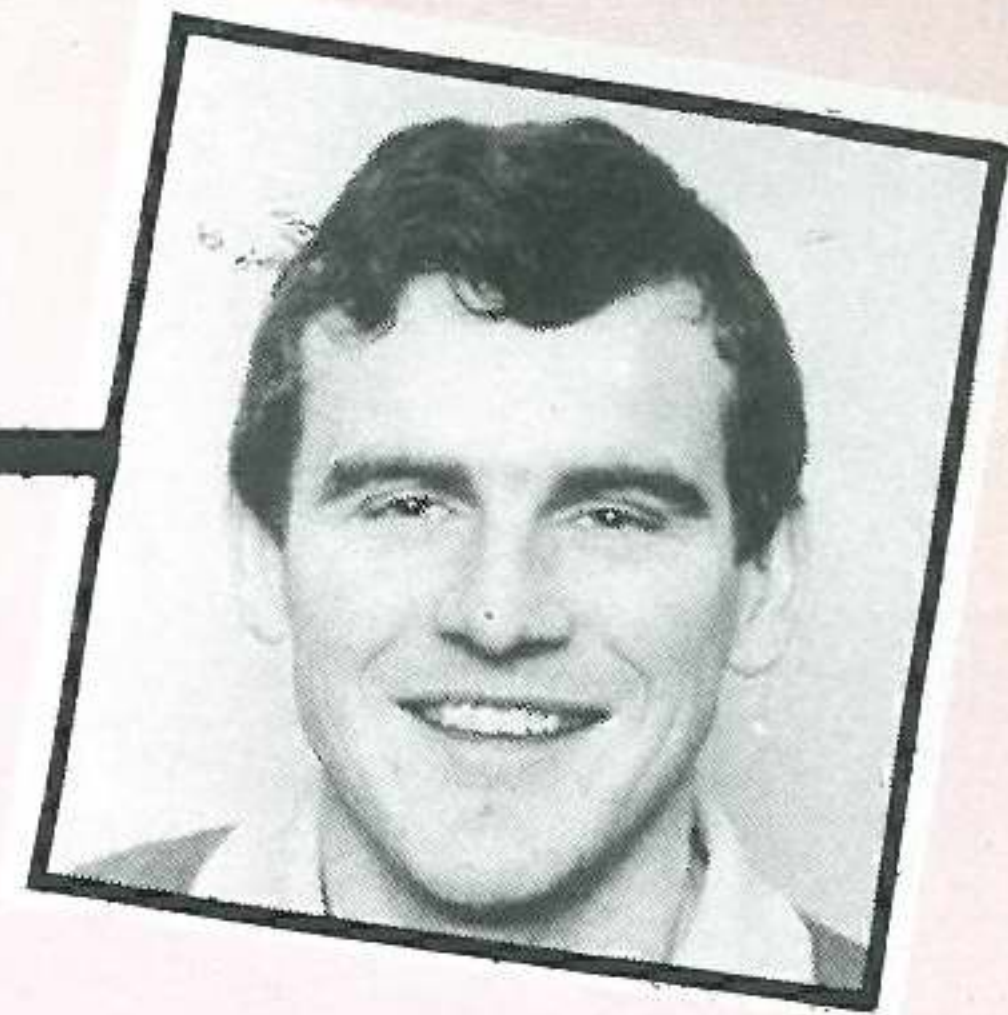
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COLM O'ROURKE

A profile: By Tom McGrath



THERE are those who argue that football and hurling have not today the exciting personalities to compare with the men of the past, who repeatedly set the pulse racing with their individual brilliance and match-winning qualities. One young man who is doing much to debunk that line of thought is Colm O'Rourke, the tall, free-striding football full forward from the Royal County of Meath.

O'Rourke has not been showered with the game's top honours so far, but this has not prevented him from leaving his mark on football to a high degree. He is one of the biggest names in the game, in fact, and that says a lot at a time when Meath have been walking in the shadows of such as Dublin and Offaly in Leinster, and Kerry on the national scale.

The tall Skryne man's football is always thoughtful. He leads by example with clever, purposeful play, and he can also take his scores well. It is true to say, in fact, that O'Rourke has become the rallying force in Meath, the man most likely to provide that vital touch of genius as the county strives to regain lost glories.

So far this is proving a real uphill battle for Meath. There were many who earlier in the year felt that the Royal County would come out on top in Leinster this season in the championship, and that feeling was given credence as Meath led Galway a merry dance early in the League semi-final. But the Leinster men failed to maintain the momentum and their chances of coming out in the East this year look a lot less bright after the loss to Galway in the League semi-final replay.

Granted, Meath were only beaten by a point, but that was still a setback. A win would have been invaluable in the quest for a climb back to the top in Leinster.

But all is not yet lost for Meath. They have a useful side, with some very accomplished players, and O'Rourke with his silken skills to orchestrate matters is a mighty ace.

The Meath full forward has been playing so well in recent times, that many overlook the fact that his standing in the game today as one of the leading figures is a tribute not only to his football ability, but also to his strength of will.

Nearly eight years ago, O'Rourke sustained a knee injury in a club game that for long threatened to end his career prematurely. He had a major operation, and the indications were that he would not play football again.

However, O'Rourke refused to give up hope, and early in 1978 he stepped back into the football arena with UCD. It was to prove the start of one of the best comeback stories in the annals of the game.

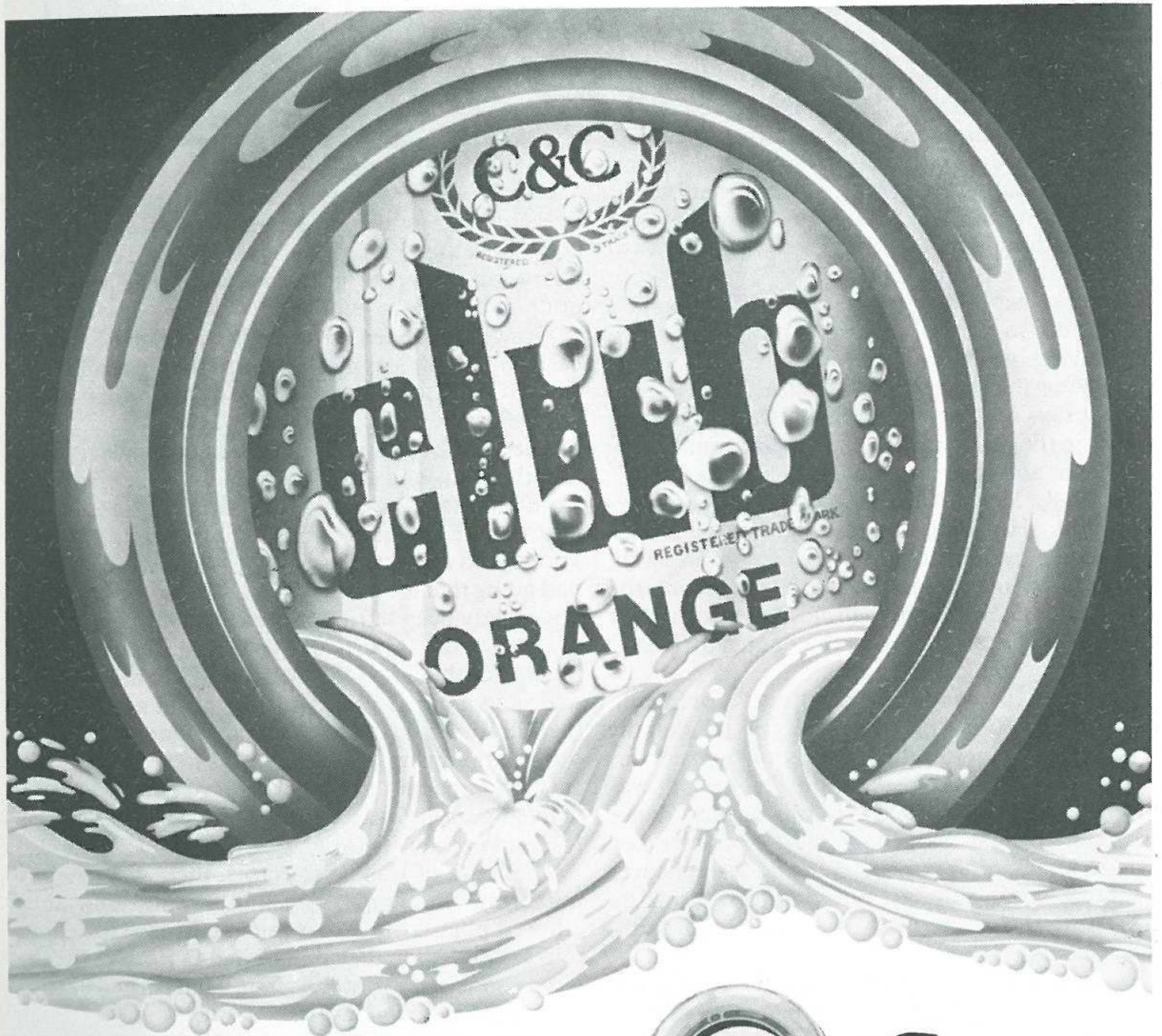
The returning star quickly regained his place in the Meath team, and since his comeback he has gone from success to success, and at the same time carved out a niche for himself in the game that has him known and respected in every corner of the land. Not bad going that for a man with a county team that has not exactly been setting the scene alight!

Last year was a particularly memorable one for the Meath footballer. He captured the attention of the nation in a big way with his intelligent approach to the full forward role. Meath did not advance far in the championship race, but O'Rourke still created such an impact in the series, and over the year as a whole, that he was most peoples choice as full forward in the All Star team.

The Bank of Ireland selectors, then, were merely mirroring the popular feeling — not that they allowed popularity rather than ability to sway their selection — when they nominated O'Rourke for the No. 14 spot in the football team. That earned him his first major national award.

Colm O'Rourke has come a long way since he made his courageous comeback to big-time football. He deserved better fortune from the game, but then sport is no respecter of individuals or talents. Many outstanding players passed through a lifetime in the game without capturing the top awards, or drinking at the cup of national success.

It would be a tragedy if Colm O'Rourke failed to get among the provincial or All-Ireland medals before he finally hangs up his boots. He deserves better than that.



Let the big  flow

LISTON TO FORE IN KERRY PLANS

By Liam Deevy

AS THE build-up for the Centenary Year All-Ireland senior football championship continues apace, Eoin Liston is one of the players Kerry look to in their bid to regain the Sam Maguire Cup. And small wonder, for while much water has flowed under the bridge since the tall Beale man stamped his personality on the 1978 All-Ireland senior final win over Dublin in a big way with three golden goals, he remains one of the best match-winners in the country.

Liston came quickly on the Kerry senior scene, and he also lost no time in finding his feet, and then in carving out his own special niche in the general pattern. He was not there in 1975 when, it can be said, the great Kerry team of the second half of the 'Seventies and early 'Eighties took shape with a shock win over Dublin in that year's All-Ireland final.

But after winning his place in the senior team in the 1977-78 National League, the tall Liston did much himself to spark off a comeback bid — Kerry lost to Dublin in the 1976 All-Ireland final and again in the following year's semi-final — that ended with the return of the Sam Maguire Cup to the Kingdom in 1978.

Like so many of his colleagues, however, "The Bomber" as he is widely known had made his mark on the lower grades of championship football. He was centre field in the Kerry team that completed a treble of All-Ireland Under-21 titles in 1977 — his only national souvenir in that grade — and his colleagues in the

final win over Down included quite a few players who were also to go on to star in the glory run of four-in-a-row at senior.

Not many forwards, however, can point to as memorable an All-Ireland senior final debut as the bearded 6ft. plus Liston.

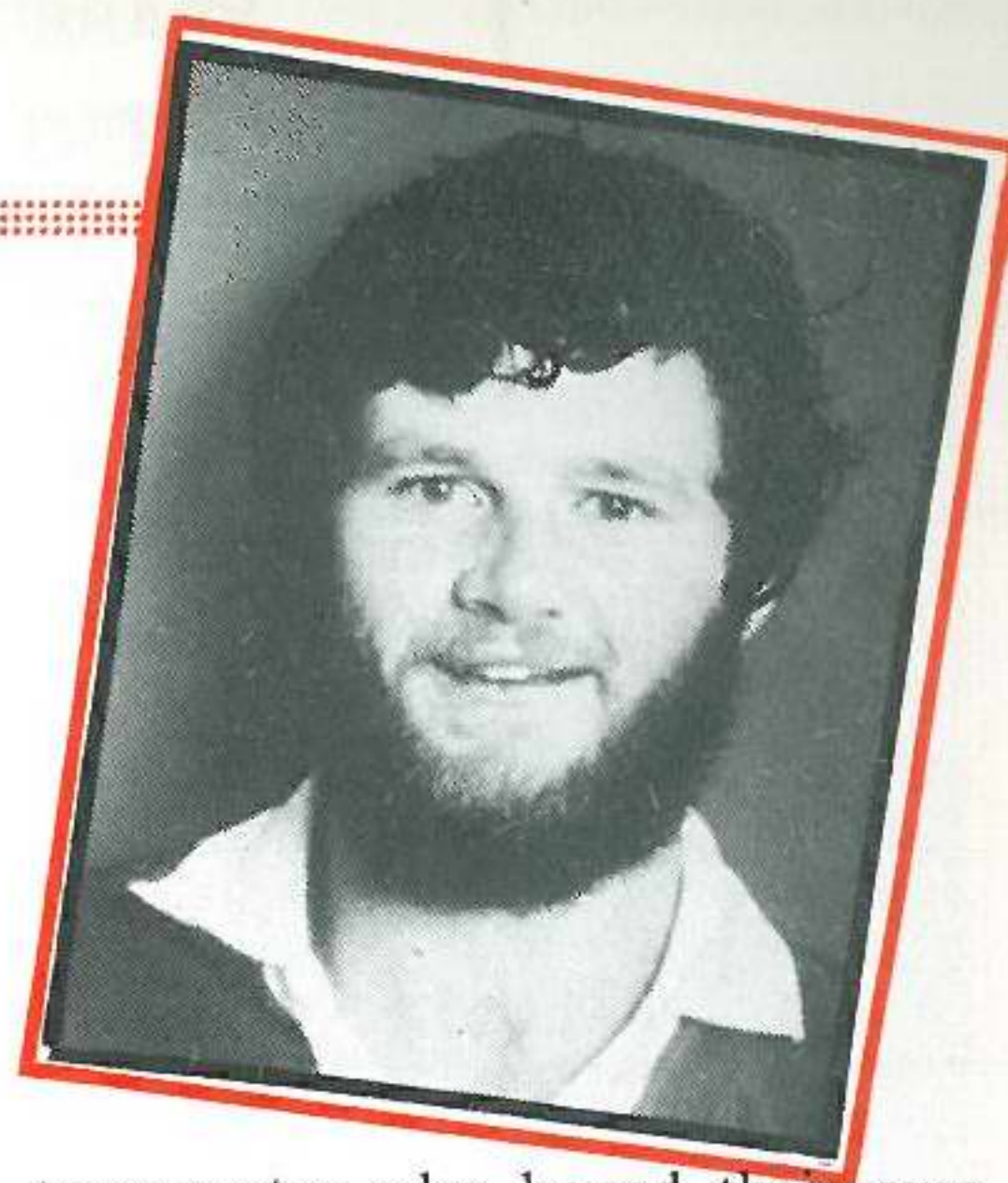
In 1978 he had an outstanding game, especially in the second half, when he found the target so majestically that he became the first man in 22 years to bag three goals in an All-Ireland final. For good measure he tagged on two points, and his return of 3-2 ranks as one of the best individual returns, naturally enough, in the history of the All-Ireland senior finals.

Yes, Eoin Liston, who at that first All-Ireland senior medal winning day was still a few weeks short of his 21st. birthday, had arrived in a big way in senior football championship fare.

TARGET MAN

Liston went on from there to become Kerry's ideal target man in attack. His excellent fielding, deft touches and distribution, and that ability to knock in the scores soon had him as a real destroyer of defences as Kerry carved out the most glittering era ever in the annals of the county.

Liston, like his Kerry colleagues, came in for criticism time and again regarding the hand-pass. Many argued that the Kingdom's football was more a brand of basketball than football, but that was hardly fair to the full forward and his talented



team-mates who honed their own special brand of football to a peak of perfection that has hardly ever been seen on a Gaelic football field.

The Kerry forward giant had a bitter sweet day in 1980 when the Kingdom completed a treble of All-Ireland senior titles at the expense of Roscommon.

An operation for appendicitis kept him out of that game, but the full forward was back to prove a glittering star as Offaly were beaten the following September — a win that gave Liston his third senior medal.

This mastery of the full forward role that Liston has displayed over much of his career as a senior, and his subtle skills in general, just had to be honoured by the All Stars selectors. He found favour with the Bank of Ireland selectors for the first time in 1980, and such was his consistency that he went on to make the position his own over the next two campaigns, collecting three awards in all.

Liston, like the other members of the Kerry side, has packed much football at the highest level over the past seven years or so — almost non-stop it seems now looking back over the period. He has captured every possible honour as well, having first joined the ranks of National League medalists back in 1982 when Kerry beat Cork in a final replay.

But in all that time he never failed to give anything but 100 per cent effort in every game, and it is doubtful if Kerry, for all the wealth of talent they possessed, would have achieved quite all that they did, had not Eoin Liston been around.

By
Seamus Ryan
former
President

*The secret of the GAA's success lay
at a time when there was a rising tide*

MILESTONES OF A

WHEN a small group of men sat around a table in Miss Hayes' Hotel in Thurles 100 years ago on November 1st, 1884, their stated purpose was to set up a Gaelic association to preserve and cultivate national pastimes and to provide national amusement for the Irish people during their leisure hours. There was a crying need for such a body. Traditional feats of skill and strength as well as hurling and football were gradually declining because there was no system of organisation to look after them.

At least seven men attended the

first founding meeting and although claims had been made that a few others were present the seven are generally accepted as being the founding fathers. Michael Cusack, a teacher from Co. Clare who ran a successful tutorial academy in Dublin was the driving spirit behind the movement.

Maurice Davin of Carrick-on-Suir was the eldest of four brothers who had won nationwide fame as outstanding athletes.

J.K. Bracken, a stone mason from Templemore was interested in athletics and was a member of the

IRB. There were two journalists, John Wyse Power of Waterford, also an IRB man, who was with the "Leinster Leader," and John McKay from Belfast who was with the "Cork Examiner." The remaining two, Joseph O'Ryan, a solicitor of Thurles and Callan, and St. George McCarthy, an RIC man from Kerry who was stationed in Templemore, attended the meeting but took no further part in the GAA afterwards.

Though the meeting was small the response that followed it was remarkable. The executive moved fast in adopting a constitution and a

Congratulations to the Gaelic Athletic Association on its

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Sunrose Marg

From

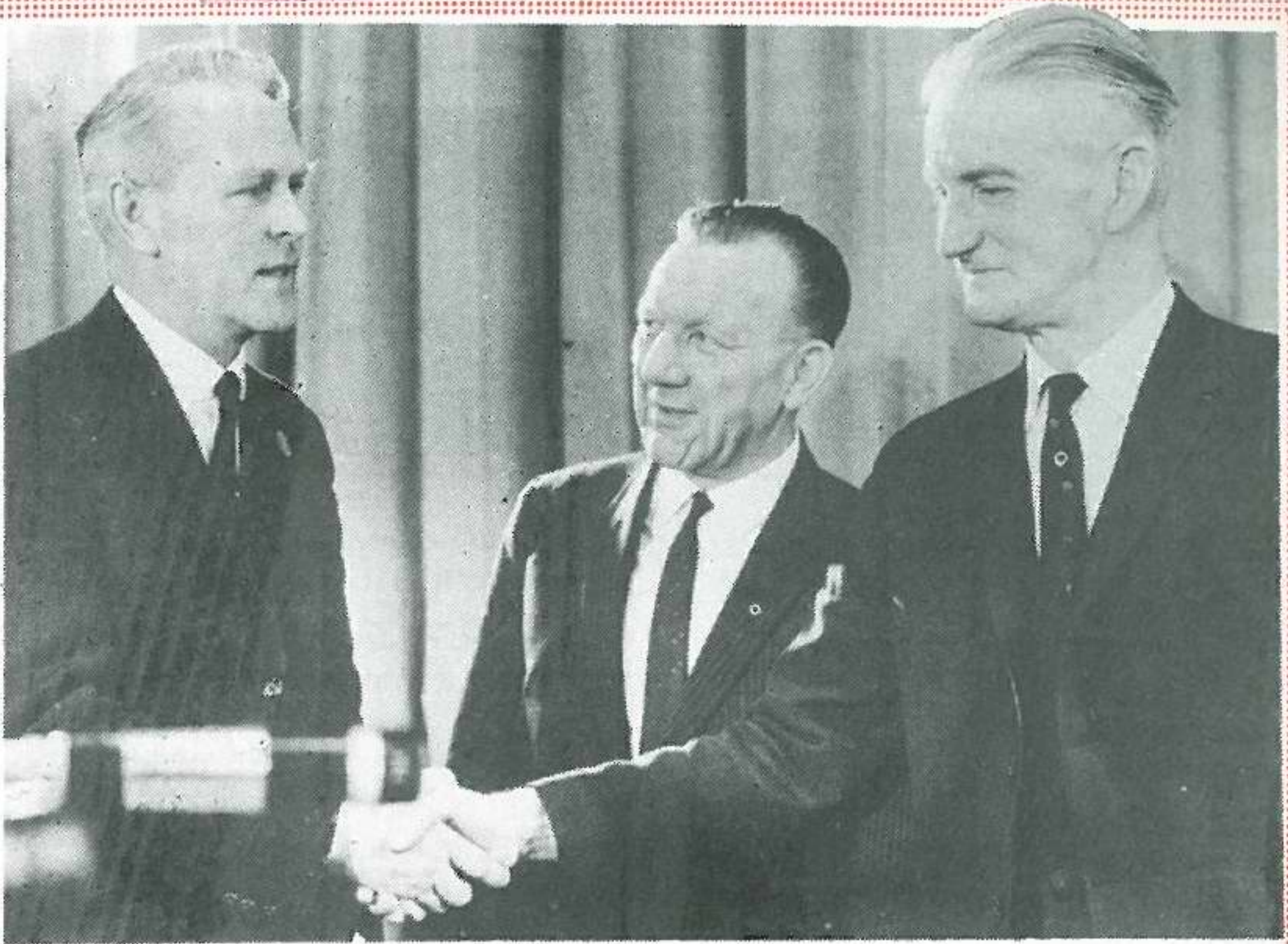
KRAFT

makers of the very best things to eat.

*in its patriotic appeal
de of national feeling*

CENTURY

In 1967 Seamus Ryan was elected President of the G.A.A. The outgoing President, Alf Murray (right) is seen here wishing him well. In centre is the former Director General, Seán Ó Siochain.



code of rules for hurling, football and athletics. Within a few months the GAA message swept through the country "like a prairie fire" and Gaelic activity was in full swing with clubs springing up and events being organised in many places. The secret of its success lay in its patriotic appeal at a time when there was a rising tide

of national feeling and the people were confident that Home Rule was on the way and that the land agitation was heading for success.

MASTER STROKE

Above all the founders pulled a master stroke in their choice of patrons. Archbishop Croke not only

gave full support to the association but in accepting the invitation to become a patron he articulated the GAA philosophy in a letter which was to become acknowledged as its charter, and his influence in later critical times was vital in preventing a permanent rift. The approval of the

● TO PAGE 34

Centenary

arine



Struggle for control at stormy Convention

● FROM PAGE 33

national leaders Parnell and Davitt assured the support of their following.

But troubled waters lay ahead. Cusack, spending much of his time and energy in controversy and organising events, was accused of neglecting the routine business of secretary and was dismissed from the post after less than two years in office. The highly emotive issues that occupied the minds of nationalists made it difficult for the GAA to avoid being involved in the political scene. The physical force advocates of the IRB gradually gained control of the executive over those who favoured constitutional agitation for



*Padraig Ó Caoimh
who guided the Association so ably for
four decades.*

Home Rule, and when they forced through new rules contrary to the constitution, Maurice Davin resigned in protest. The struggle for control between the two political wings came to a head at the stormy Convention in Thurles in November 1887 which split the Association in two.

The differences were patched up through the efforts of Dr. Croke, Michael Davitt and Maurice Davin and the GAA was set on course again at a reconstruction Convention the following January with Davin returning as President. More trouble followed when the 'American Invasion' of 1888, which was expected to make a financial profit, ran up a heavy debt and Davin retired from the presidency early the following year. Before there was time to recover from these setbacks the Association went into a long period of decline during the years of the Parnell split when it came out strong on the side of 'The Chief.'

The early years of the new century saw a remarkable recovery. The number of clubs increased, the games grew in popularity at all levels and the All-Ireland championships attracted increasing crowds of spectators. The acquisition of Croke Park in 1913, made possible by the foresight of Frank B. Dineen, a former President, who purchased the property privately in 1908, provided a permanent headquarters to be developed over the years into the finest stadium in the country.

In the great upsurge of national consciousness which led eventually



*Most Reverend Doctor Morris, Patron
of the G.A.A.*

to the Easter Rising and the War of Independence, the GAA's part in promoting native games and culture placed it in a prominent role alongside the Gaelic League and Sinn Fein as an influence on the course of events. Players and administrators who had gained prominence with their clubs and counties were the natural choices to lead the local companies and battalions of volunteers in the guerrilla war, during which club and county activities were seriously disrupted.

TROUBLED WATERS

Full scale programmes were not resumed until 1924 but the following years were marked by a great revival of interest and support. It is a measure of the Association's appeal and of the loyalty that it commanded that men who had fought on opposite sides in the bitter civil war could come together in the council rooms to plan for its recovery, and play side by side on hurling and football teams for club or county, so soon after laying down arms.

No wonder the Jubilee Congress in Thurles in 1934 was marked by

expressions of confidence and enthusiasm in facing the second half-century. They were justified as far as the All-Ireland championships were concerned because they continued to break attendance records. Officials recognised that the real strength lay with the clubs and that each should aim to get a ground of its own, and develop it. As the big estates were broken up the Land Commission looked favourably on an application from the local club and many acquired a pitch in this way. For others there was a delay until land came on the market but by this year up to 80% of clubs own a ground with suitable amenities, a remarkable achievement for a voluntary association.

During the last fifty years the GAA was not called on to face the kind of crisis situations which threatened to destroy it in its first half century, yet it was not without its controversial issues. The long and sometimes acrimonious debates on what was known as "the ban on foreign games" took up a lot of time and energy before it was finally abolished quietly and in a dignified manner in 1971. Competition from other codes as well as the challenges of a changing

society made new demands on the resources of the Association.

NEW APPROACHES

Following the publication of a special commission's report in 1971 major structural changes were adopted, a fresh emphasis was placed on club development and in general new approaches were planned to meet modern needs.

While many changes have been made over the years it is interesting to note how much of the early thinking has stood the test of time. From the beginning the club was based on the parish, commanding local loyalty and having a strong influence on the community.

Cusack's appeal "to encourage in every possible way Irish manufacturers, Irish music and Irish song and history as well as Irish sports" gets a response in the activities promoted by Scór, which



Tom Semple . . . famous Tipperary hurler after whom the magnificent Thurles Stadium is named.

New approaches planned to meet modern needs

have done a lot to enliven the winter period and bring people together in the social atmosphere of the club for enjoyment and amusement. The enormous contribution which the GAA, has made, and continues to make to the welfare of our country socially, culturally and even economically, is fairly well acknowledged although there is a residue of earlier suspicions because of the close ties it had with nationalist movements in the past.

It is tempting to speculate on what the founders would think of the GAA as it is today. Cusack would be surprised and maybe disappointed, to learn that football is played on a wider scale than hurling.

Davin would wonder what had happened to athletics, especially the

field events in which he achieved many honours.

Archbishop Croke would be happy with the progress made in recent years in his favourite game of handball. Cusack might be heard musing to himself: "Why did I not think of camogie when I was trying to find a place for the ladies in the Association?"

All three would be astonished, and not a little embarrassed by all the honours being accorded to them during the Centenary celebrations, in view of the rebuffs they had to endure during their living days. Their special wish would be to go to Thurles for the All-Ireland hurling final on September 2nd. Doubtless they will be present in spirit and three seats should be reserved for them in the VIP section of the new stand.



Padraig MacNamee, former President of the Association and Chairman of the Commission whose report was published in 1971.

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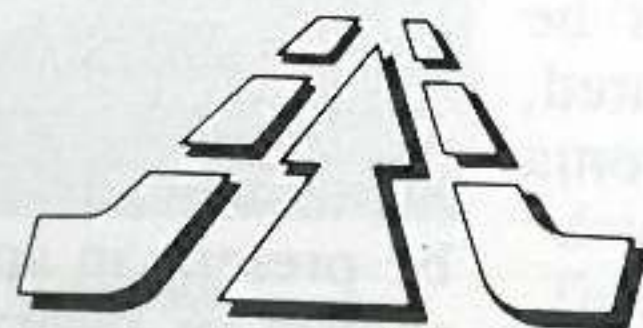
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Cork to retain

Munster

Hurling title!

LIMERICK'S impressive League triumph over Wexford, Tipperary's encouraging form against the Shannonsiders at the penultimate hurdle and Cork's drab display at the semi-final stage have prompted many observers to re-appraise their judgement regarding the outcome of this year's Munster hurling championship.

Prior to those developments, it was generally felt that the southern tourney would, essentially, be a two-horse race between holders Cork and Limerick, the counties that have controlled the competition since 1972. And Cork, principally because of a stirring display against Kilkenny in their last sectional outing, were regarded as slight favourites to oust Limerick in the opening round.

The Leesiders' lustreless form against Wexford has severely jolted their followers' confidence, however, and it was a despondent Cork contingent that emerged from Semple Stadium on April 1, last. Some Corkonians drew consolation from the fact that none of the four teams on that double-decker semi-final programme had looked particularly impressive but Limerick's sparkling efforts subsequently have all but eliminated that source of solace.

Others recalled that when Wexford conquered Cork at the same stage two years ago, the Rebels proceeded

Says NOEL HORGAN

to win the Munster title with style before being shocked by an unfancied Kilkenny squad in the All-Ireland final. It must be stated, however, that circumstances were entirely different then.

In 1982 Cork's weaknesses were glaringly apparent in the league, their main problems were being confined to the central positions on the team. With players of proven pedigree like Ray Cummins and Martin Doherty waiting in the wings, Cork had the potential to plug the gaps and a strong team was moulded for a successful provincial campaign.

This year, however, Cork's problems in the Wexford game seemed far more extensive and the Rebels were not especially convincing in any sector. And there are no ready-made replacements to take over from the players who performed so poorly in the league semi-final.

John Blake, Dermot McCurtain, Tony O'Sullivan, Francis Collins,



John Blake is ready to be recalled for Cork's first championship outing. He is seen here streaking away from Kilkenny's Billy Fitzpatrick in the '82 All-Ireland final.

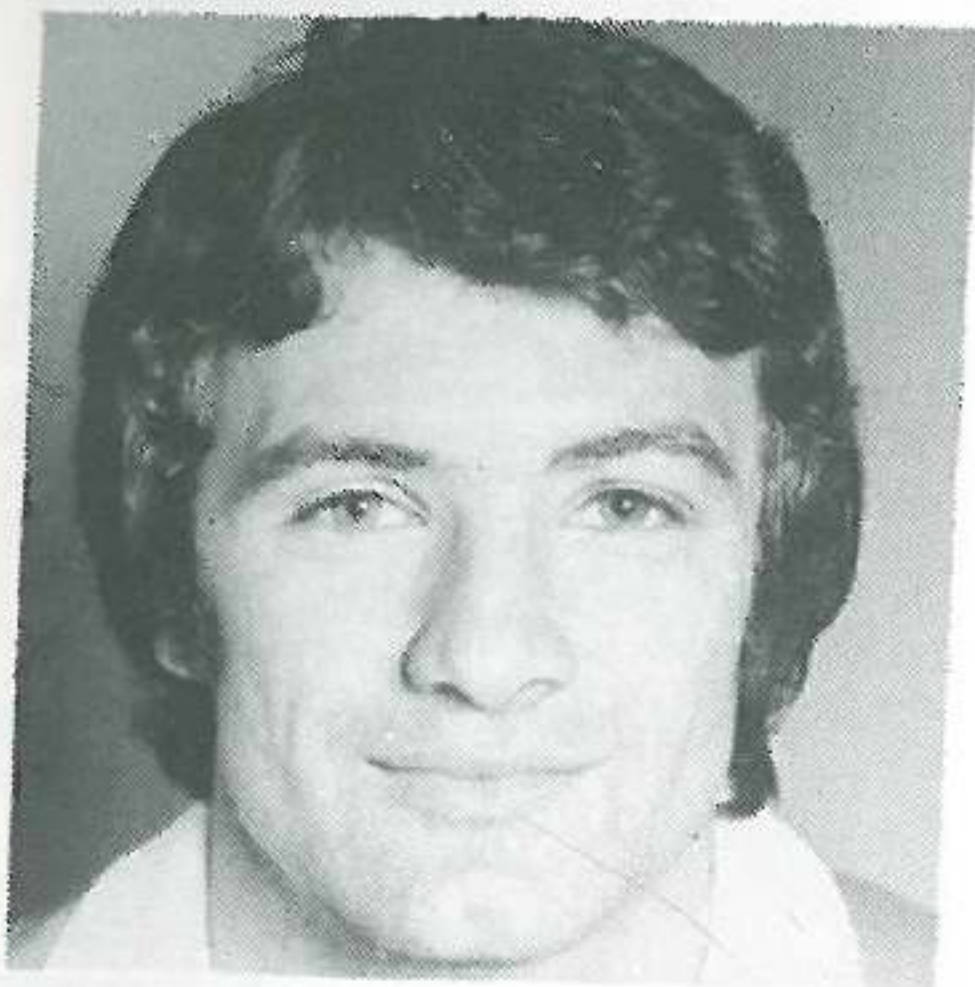
Christy Ryan, Eamonn O'Donoghue and Pat Hartnett might provide some solutions to Cork's current ailments. Blake enjoyed a good championship campaign in '82 but lost form subsequently and dropped out of favour.

REMEMBERED FONDLY

His display against Billy Fitzpatrick in the 1982 All-Ireland final is remembered fondly by Cork fans especially since Fitzpatrick, with Blake watching helplessly from the reserves bench, did so much to torment the Rebels' rearguard in last season's decider.

The vastly talented McCurtain is bound to be restored somewhere in defence while Tony O'Sullivan, superb in the provincial series in '82 but lacking the experience then to do himself justice on All-Ireland day, will have to be strongly considered for a place in attack. Largely inactive

● OVERLEAF



JIMMY BARRY MURPHY

NOEL HORGAN

• FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

due to illness since that national decider, Tony is back to peak fitness now and remains a tremendous prospect.

Injury plagued Francis Collins whenever he previously promised to establish himself and he has invariably shown potential when pressed into service. Christy Ryan of St. Finbarrs' has been an effective attacker at club level for several seasons now while Eamonn

O'Donoghue's immense experience might justify his recall to the panel.

Pat Hartnett is a strong, stylish half-back who has contributed considerably to Midleton's recent triumphs. It is obvious, however, that Cork's formation is far from settled at the moment and perhaps the Leesiders most concrete cause for hope is that the team can only improve on its dismal showing against Wexford.

Needless to say, Cork's mentors will strive diligently to restore the dented morale before the championship and cock-a-hoop Limerick would be foolish to underestimate the holders' challenge. Indeed, the present situation is very similar to that which prevailed at this point last year.

Then, Limerick had hurled heroically before failing narrowly to Kilkenny in the league final while Cork, who had been trounced in the All-Ireland and insipid in the subsequent League, appeared to be in the doldrums. Come the championship and Cork emerged transformed to topple the Shannonsiders after two epic struggles.

At the risk of over-simplifying the issue, I feel that the result of the Cork-Limerick clash could depend on the outcome of the duels between the respective full-backs and full-forwards. Last year, Jimmy Barry-Murphy roasted Leonard Enright and Joe McKenna bettered Donal O'Grady and the teams finished level. In the replay O'Grady put the shackles on McKenna and Enright minimised the threat of Barry-Murphy but the latter managed to pounce to grab the goal which decided the match.

SILKEN SKILLS

It must be a grave source of concern to Cork folk that both Barry-Murphy and O'Grady performed so poorly in the League semi-final. Barry-Murphy, however, seldom plays to his peak in the League and his silken skills almost invariably blossom in the major competition.

Operating at corner forward against Wexford the Cork attacking ace seemed to lack the appetite for the fray but one suspects that on his

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restoration to full-forward, which seems inevitable, he will proceed to function with his familiar flair.

O'Grady has been sufficiently consistent since becoming established in the No. 3 shirt last season to suggest that he merely struck an off-day against Wexford. Certainly, if Barry-Murphy and O'Grady fail to deliver the goods against Limerick, then the Rebels must forfeit their crown as both Enright and McKenna are potential match-winners. On the other hand Limerick's power will be severely diminished should Enright and McKenna be subdued.

Much has been made of Tipperary's spirited performance against Limerick in the League semi-final but one feels that the youthful combination, for all its determination lacks sophistication and is not ripe to make a major break-through.

Tipp should account for either Clare or Waterford — counties that have done nothing recently to warrant confidence — but one doubts if they possess the experience or style to cope with either Cork or Limerick in the white heat of a Munster final, although the return of seasoned Noel O'Dwyer and polished Pat Fitzelle should boost their prospects.

With all due respect to the participants, there is no great team in the Munster championship this year. The current Cork squad, for instance, pales in comparison to the three-in-a-row Leaside combination of the mid 'seventies while Tipp's representatives are hardly in the same class as their fellow-countymen who dominated the hurling world in the early 'sixties.

This provincial campaign, therefore, will be mainly about courage, confidence and commitment. Limerick abound in such qualities at the moment but Cork — with that magnificent motivator, Fr. Michael O'Brien at the helm — will no doubt be amply endowed with same when they tackle the League champions on the first Sunday in June.

Perhaps it's a case of the heart ruling the head but I'm sticking with Cork to retain their Munster title.

SOME FENCES TO MEND

Fr. Michael O'Brien who shares the coaching of the Cork Senior Hurling team with his fellow selector Justin McCarthy. Limerick will provide a stern test for the Cork duo on June 3rd at Ennis Road.



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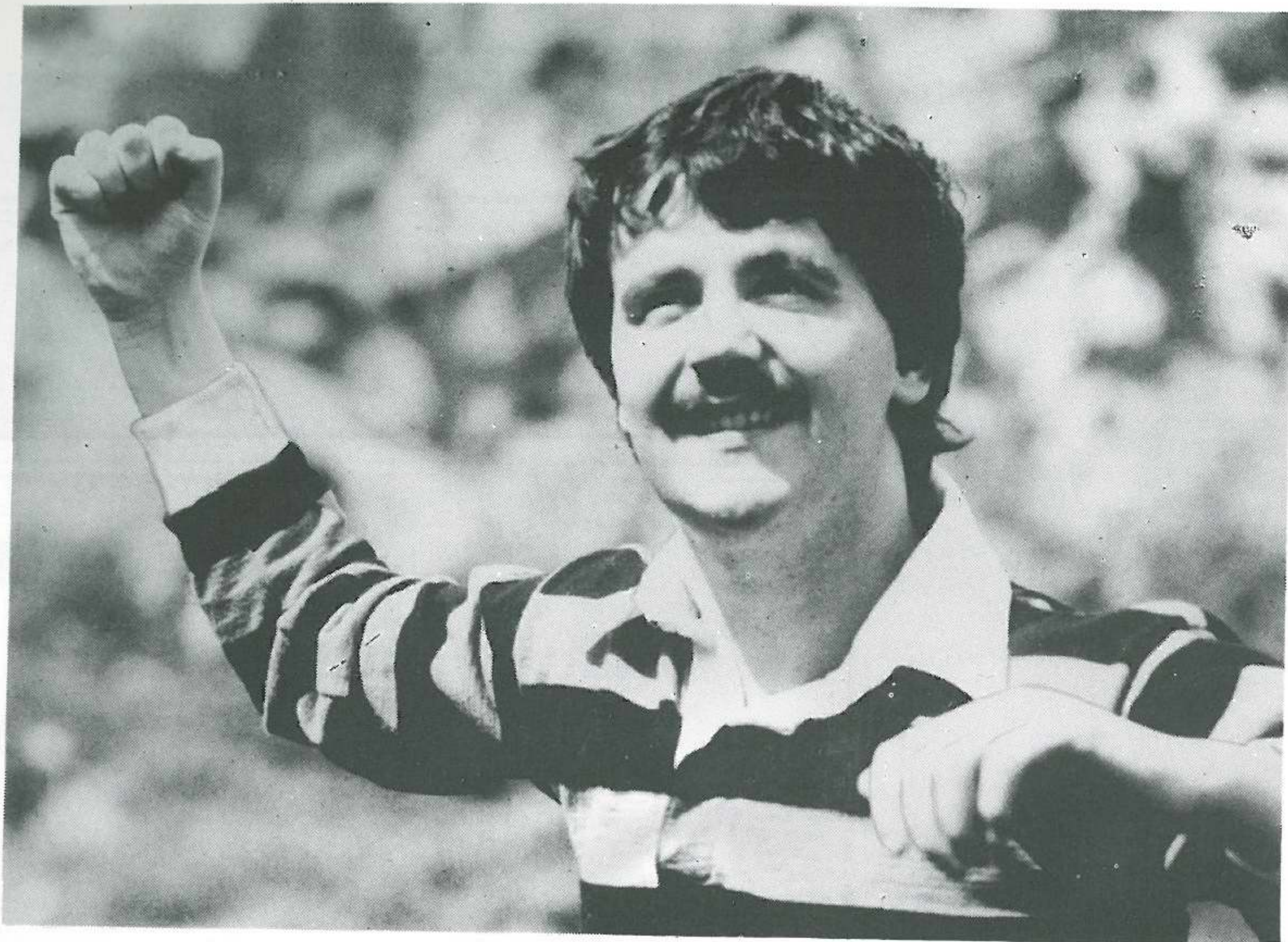
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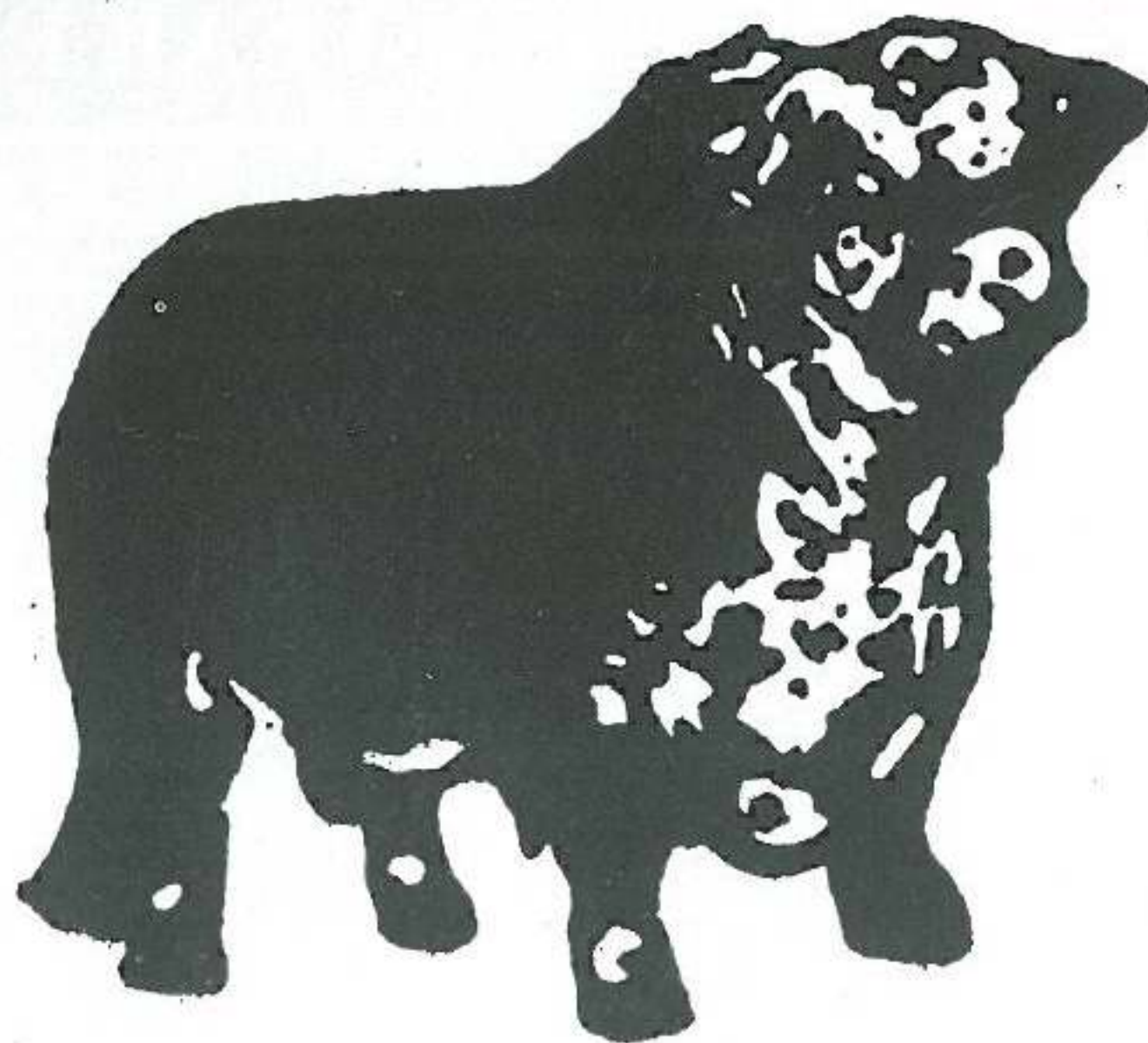
CROKE PARK CENTENARY YEAR RECEPTIONS



●Pictured at the recent Ford press reception at Croke Park are (left to right) Con Murphy, Hartmut Kieven, Director, Ford of Ireland, Paddy Buggy, Liam Mulvihill and Donald Clifford. The occasion was to announce Ford's sponsorship of the Centenary Hurling and Football Cup Competitions. Also announced was Ford's sponsorship of Siamsa Cois Laoi covering the next three years.



●Abbey Life Insurance Co. and Jim Hegarty Insurances Ltd., donated the two magnificent trophies, shown here, for competition, in both Hurling and Football, between the Army, Gardai, Combined Universities and Advanced Colleges Annual series. Pictured at the Press reception in Croke Park are (left to right); Garda Deputy Commissioner Michael Enright, Seamus Creedon, Executive Director, Abbey Life Insurance, Paddy Buggy, Jim Hegarty, Garda Assistant Commissioner Eamonn Doherty and Lt. Col. Tadhg Leyne.



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IN 1884 FEW WOULD HAVE FORESEEN AN ATTENDANCE OF 2000 AT A HANDBALL FINAL

By
SEAN CLERKIN

HANDBALL

HANDBALL has played a significant role in the development of the G.A.A. over the last century. While some might tend to disparage the analogy between it, hurling and football, it must be recorded that it is extremely doubtful what progress, if any at all, the game would have made, had it not been taken under the banner of the Association way back in 1884.

Before that time it was technically a professional game that thrived on the side bet between the players and supporters. In that context, one must conclude that handball of this early era was confined, in the main, to the more skilled players, capable of providing the necessary bait for punters.

However, on accepting patronage of the newly established Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884, Most Rev. Dr. Croke laid emphasis on the quality of handball as a game and the part it could play in the revitalisation of a new Ireland.

Between then and 1924, the game, as played under new rules drafted by the G.A.A. made commendable progress, with various championships being completed satisfactorily.

However, it was really after January 1924, when the Irish Handball Council was formed under the Presidency of John Lawlor that handball took a firm grip in Ireland.

Obviously, the interest shown by the founders of the G.A.A. had a spectacular effect. In the intervening years, the G.A.A. has guided the Handball Council along a systematic

course which must have contributed in some way to the solidity of the latter organisation, as it is today.

There are many interesting signposts along the route of handball in the intervening years.

RETROGRADE STEP

The Administrator of the Handball Council, Joe Lynch, in a book which he issued recently, refers to the abolition of the Provincial Councils in 1930, only six years after they were initiated and gauges that this was the most retrograde step ever taken by the Council.

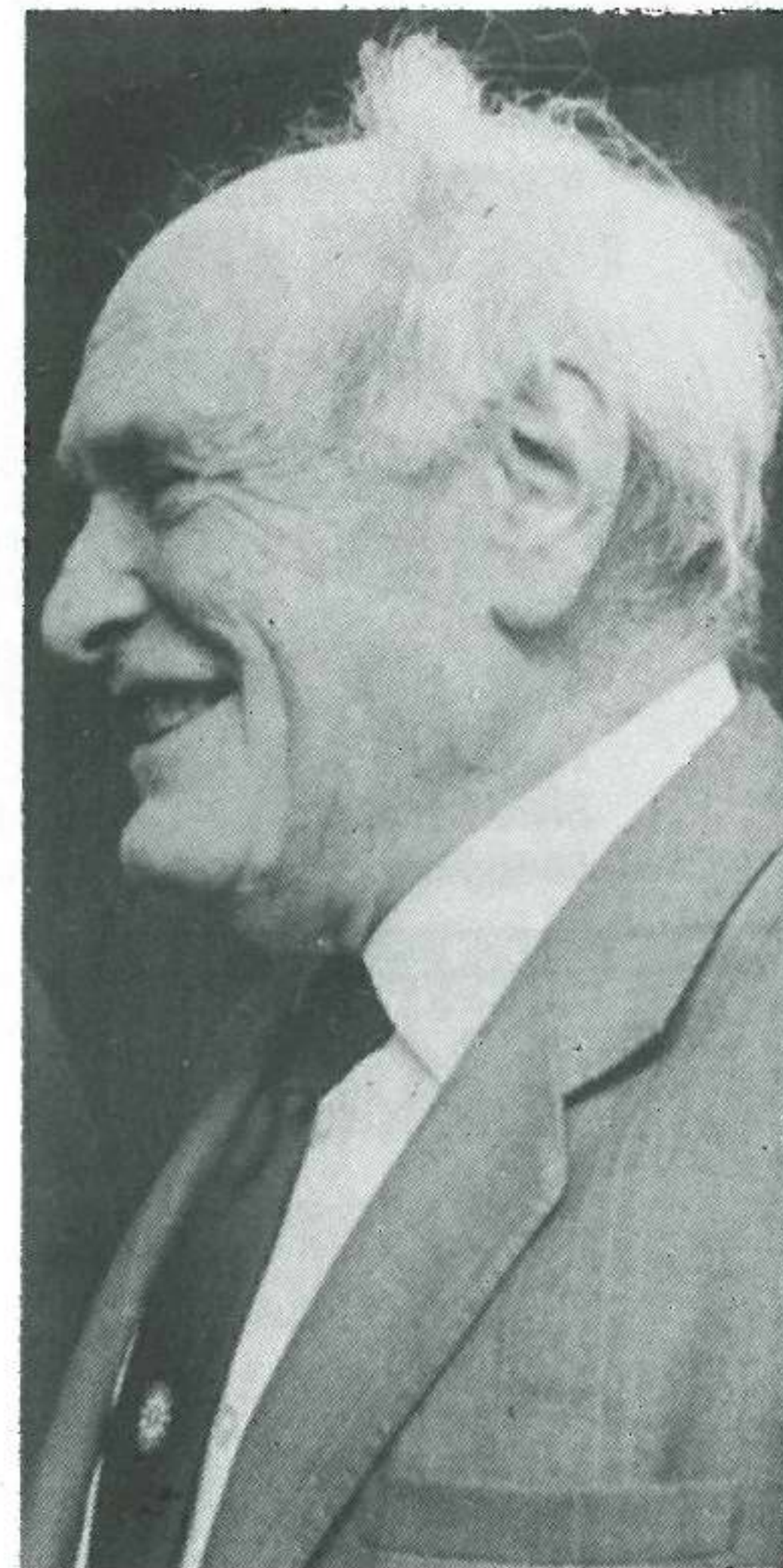
It was not until these councils were reviewed in 1950 that handball really began to make steady progress.

A significant innovation in 1932 was The Tailteann Championships, in handball and soft ball, which attracted two players from Scotland and one from England.

Two years later, on the occasion of the G.A.A. Golden Jubilee special competitions were organised and these were won by J. Fermey (Meath), P. Perry and A Mullaney (Roscommon).

In 1938, it was decided to cater for the younger players for the first time by staging an All-Ireland Junior Softball Doubles Championship and this was won by J. Doolan and G. Brogan of Dublin.

There was a lull in activities in the early 'Forties due to the unavailability of softballs, but in the early 'Fifties the handball scene was illuminated with the advent of the Gael-Linn Championships.



JOE LYNCH

Handball Council Administrator

In its initial year it attracted some 160 players but by 1974, this had grown to a record entry of 1240 players.

It was a pity, really that this competition had to be shelved in 1980, due to the advent of many new championships and competitions.

WORLD TESTS

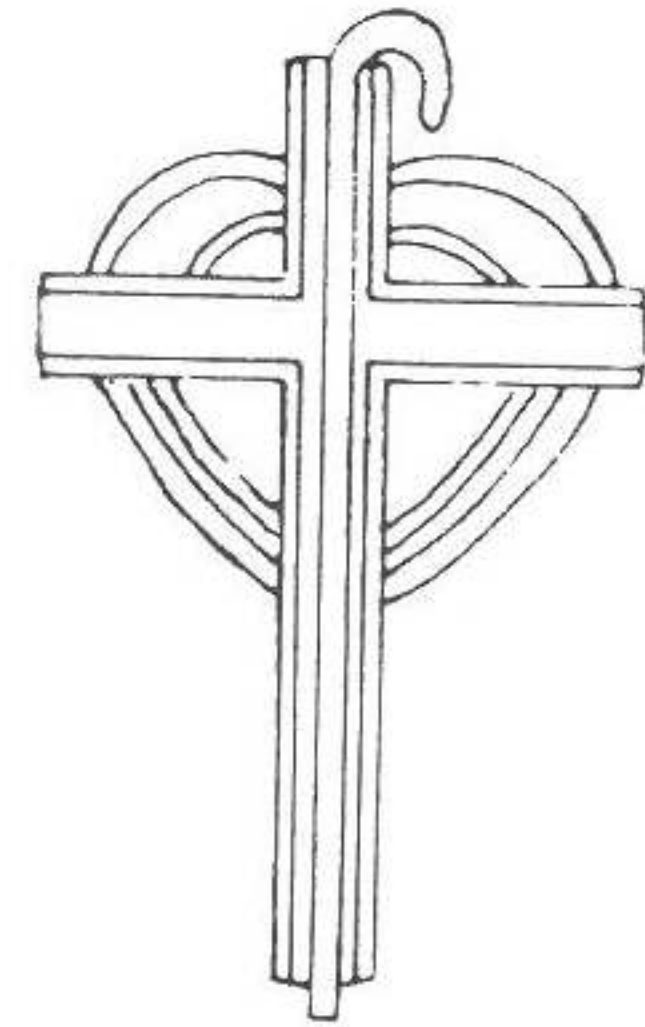
Internationalism, which now reflects handball as a very important section of the G.A.A. was placed on a definite footing in 1964 when the first

● TO PAGE 45

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ever officially sponsored World Championships were held in New York. Our representatives in those games were Joey Maher and the late Des Dillon, who were at a distinct disadvantage in so far as they had never previously played in the small 40 x 20 courts.

However, there were a number of beneficial results from that particular trip.

Maher was so infatuated with the American game, that, shortly afterwards, he returned to Canada and made his mark as a champion player. So prominent did he become that, when the second World Handball Championships were held in Toronto in 1967, Maher won the singles title from Carl Obert of the U.S.A.

At that time, the impact of internationalism was also the motivator for Rev. Fr. E. T. Neville, a Former President of the Handball Council to build the first 40x20 roofed court in Ireland at the North County Dublin village of Oldtown.

I have often referred to the impact of the third official World Handball Championships which were held in 1970 in the plush Ceannarus Headquarters, specially built for the occasion.

On the final night of the games a crowd in the region of 2,000 attended and R.T.E. televised handball for the first time when covering the singles final which was won by Pat Kirby.

THE LADIES

The aftermath of those Championships has, in recent years, been reflected in the formation of the Ladies Handball Council, the major breakthrough for the game into television, and particularly the Top Ace Television Competition organised by R.T.E.

Then there was a major breakthrough in 1981 when a juvenile team travelled to the U.S.A. to compete in the Junior Championships. Our young players now travel

out every year and this, needless to say, has given a fantastic uplift to the younger players.

Handballers are extremely proud that their code has made such progress in the past century, thus making a valuable contribution to the growth of the G.A.A.

The game is widespread through the country with courts dispersed in

village, town and city. But the legislators of the game are not yet fully satisfied. They see a lot of untapped potential, particularly in Dublin and amongst the country's G.A.A. clubs with their own grounds, who have the potential to build courts and promote the game.

They are hopeful that this year's World Championships, played once again in Dublin, will provide the incentive, as they did in 1970 for a big push forward.

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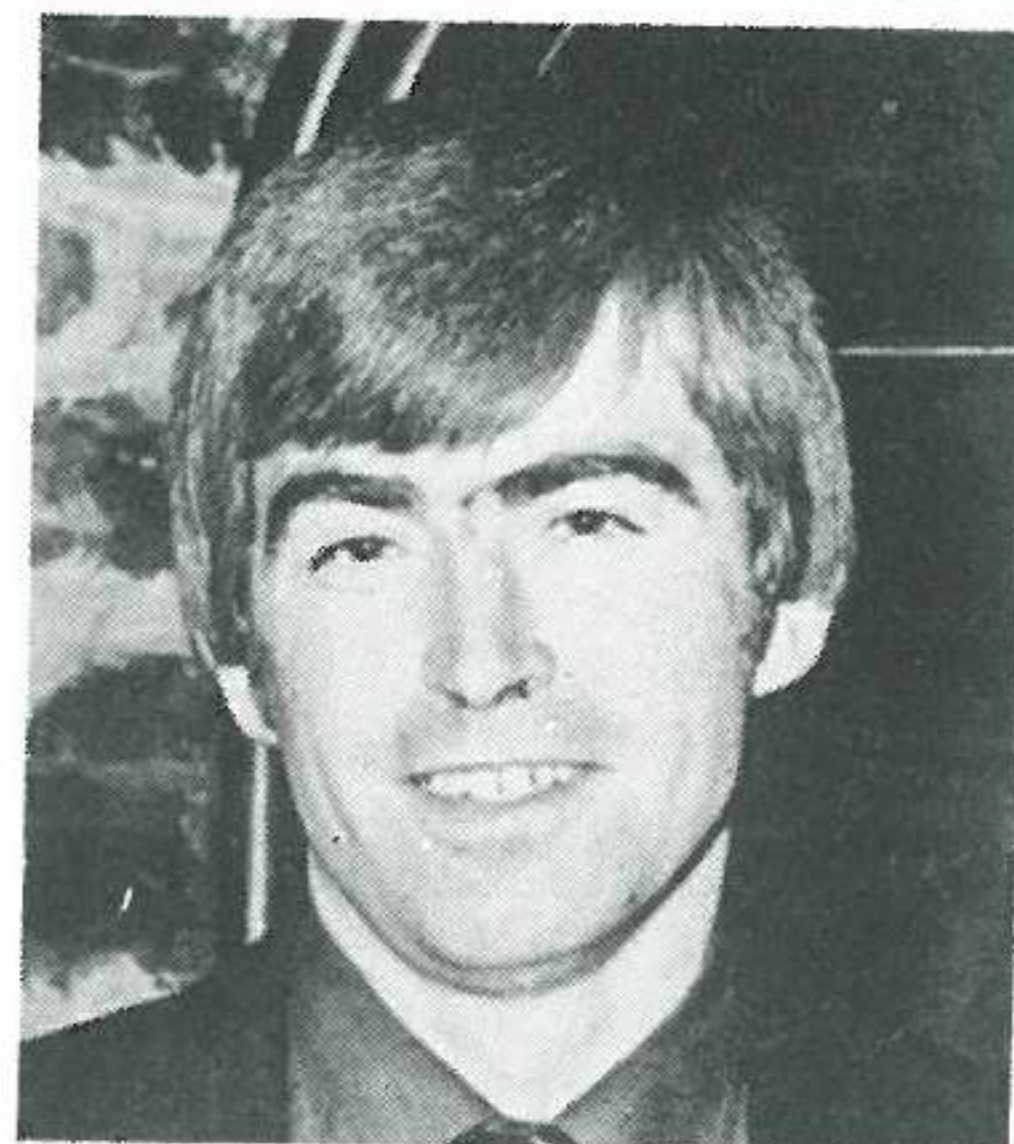
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LIMERICK HURLERS ON THEIR GREAT WIN

LIMERICK MEN COME IN FROM THE COLD AFTER THIRTEEN LONG YEARS



A proud Leonard Enright holds aloft the League Trophy.

LIMERICK'S hurlers of the present era have finally "come in out of the cold." The memorable win over Wexford in the National League final at Thurles in early April has at last earned today's heroes a place with the giants of yesterday.

Starting that game Limerick had the unenviable record of five defeats in League finals stretching back to their then last title win of 1971. It was becoming more and more a case of always the best man, and never the bridegroom. In the same period, too, Limerick lost All-Ireland finals to Kilkenny in 1974, and to Galway in 1980.

All in all, then, a dismal backdrop to the journey to Thurles to meet the Wexford men. But Leonard Enright and his sparkling crew finally brushed away the dark clouds with a power-packed display when

forging out a comprehensive 3-16 to 1-9 victory.

Limerick are back where they belong, on top. This was as good a win as the county had recorded in years, and was built on a very successful League campaign, which saw them lose only once in nine outings. That was to Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh back in October of last year.

BY SEAN CLANCY

Once more, then, Limerick are adding proudly to a wonderful record in the National League. The men of today have a long, long way to go to approach the remarkable record of yesterday's heroes, but for now it is encouraging for those along the Shannon that a new beginning has been successfully made.

Remarkable record? You better believe it! In the 'Thirties,

Limerick proved such a power in the competition that they set a record that is unlikely to ever be remotely approached in the future let alone surpassed.

John Mackey, Mick Mackey, Garrett Howard, goalkeeper Paddy Scanlan and Mick Ryan were some of the brightest lights in a galaxy of hurling talent that exploded on the scene in 1934. Limerick met Dublin at Páirc na nGael, Limerick in the 1933-34 League final, and with a majestic display of hurling they swept to a 3-6 to 3-3 win to bring the National League title to the county for the first time.

GREAT ERA

Even in the glory of the Limerick performance few could then have seriously envisaged that the county was on the brink of a great era, one of the most

● TO PAGE 51

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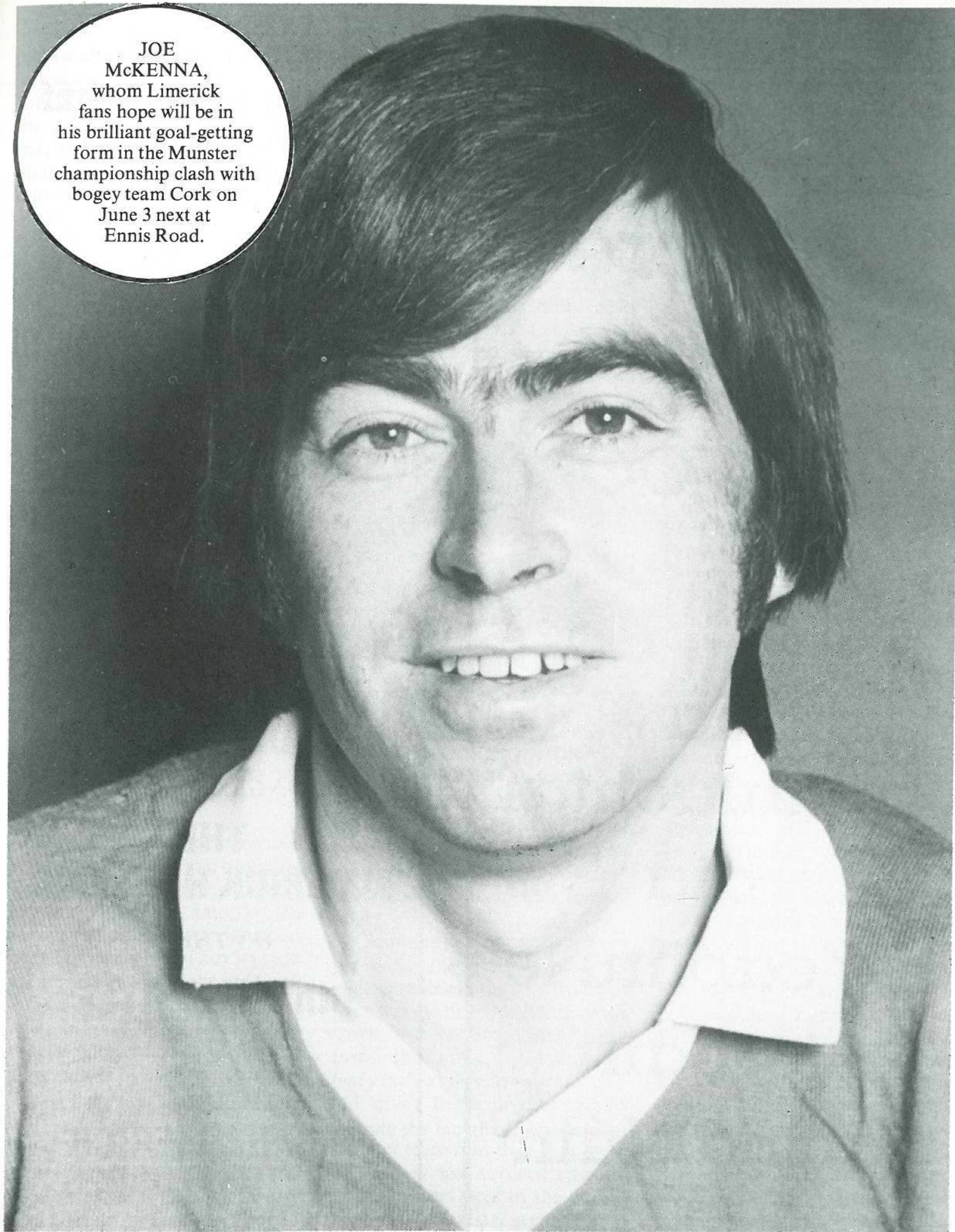
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● FROM PAGE 47

memorable ever in the history of any county. True, Limerick had some of the best match-winners in the game at the time, but for all that he would have been a bold man who would have forecast that the Shannonsiders would go on from there to make it five successive League titles with a 5-2 to 1-1 win over Tipperary in 1938, at Thurles.

Yet, that was the feat the men of the 'Thirties achieved. In itself it would have been sufficient to stamp the Limerick hurlers of that period men of exceptional ability, but let's not forget that they added immensely to the League record by winning the All-Ireland senior championships of 1934, the Golden Jubilee Year of the G.A.A., by the way, and 1936.

It is not surprising that the achievements of more recent times have paled in comparison with those heady days of the 'Thirties, but even so, Limerick have still had their bright moments.

After losing the League title in the 1938-39 season, it took them until 1947 to regain the crown. In the final that season, Limerick beat Kilkenny by 3-8 to 1-7 in a replay.

There followed some lean years after that until a smart-moving side that included current county captain Enright among the substitutes as deputy goalkeeper, beat Tipperary by 3-12 to 3-11 in a memorable game at the old Cork Athletic Grounds. Richie Bennis was a bright star for Limerick on that golden May day, scoring eight points of his team's total.

Just over two years later came further joy when Limerick swept away many years of disappointments in the championship by regaining the Liam McCarthy Cup after an amazing break of 33 years with a 1-21 to 1-14 victory

over Kilkenny.

Pat Hartigan, Eamonn Cregan, Eamonn Grimes, who captained the side, Richie Bennis, Liam O'Donoghue, Joe McKenna — both still turning on the style — and Eamonn Rea were among the stars of that team.

But the bad days returned in 1974 when Limerick failed to Kilkenny in the concluding round in their bid to retain the trophy, and while hopes have flickered in the meantime in the League and also in the championships these were cruelly extinguished by defeats.



LIAM O'DONOGHUE
Limerick Half-Forward

Now Enright and his merry men have not only rekindled the flame; but have raised hopes sky-high again for the up-coming Munster championship — and even further afield.

Granted, Limerick have probably the most difficult of tasks possible in the first round in Munster with a meeting with Cork, but remember they only lost to the Leesiders in a replay in last year's Southern series.

I don't think anyone would dispute the fact that Limerick are a better team now than they were when they last crossed camans with the Leesiders in the white-heat of the Munster scene.

Look at the many plus factors

in their favour. Confidence is one. Now that they have found again the title winning way their morale has been boosted no end, and this is sure to be reflected in assured play.

The poised, confident approach that is so essential in the make-up of any team with designs on getting right to the top in the championship.

There is Paddy Kelly, whose matching-winning flair was so strikingly demonstrated again in the National League final. This Kilmallock club man tormented the Wexford defence with his darting runs, his elusiveness, his creativity and, above all, his lethal finishing edge.

Kelly finished the game with a dozen golden points, eight from frees, and with a forward of that calibre in their side, any county must have a great chance of turning scoring opportunities into goals and points.

Liam O'Donoghue and goal scoring expert, Joe McKenna are other giants in attack. The Carrols, Jimmie and Brian, who are not related, have much to recommend them in midfield.

Limerick have other inspiring figures as well at the back. Tommy Quaid remains one of the most efficient goalkeepers in the game, and Leonard Enright brings a wealth of experience as well as hurling skills to his double job as full back and captain. Mossey Carroll can also be a commanding figure at centre half.

I'm not exactly a betting man, but the more I look at the hurling scene in all provinces the more I feel that Limerick have a stronger chance than most of walking off Semples Stadium with the proud ranking of Centenary Year champions come early September. Don't say I did not warn you!

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● *The Yoplait/Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland Hurling Sevens takes on a new dimension this year with teams from Australia, Britain and the United States and possibly a team from the Middle East giving the event an international flavour to coincide with the "Welcome Home Week" planned by the GAA for exiles as part of the Centenary celebrations. The tournament will take place on August 18th next. Pictured here at the reception to announce details of the tournament are (left to right): Brian Milton, General Manager, Sales and Marketing, Dairyland Ltd., Laura McDermott, and Tom Rock, Chairman Kilmacud Crokes Hurling Committee.*

BOOK REVIEW

By TOMÁS Ó MURCHÚ

"Vintage Carbery" makes Vintage reading

SEAN Kilfeather, the popular *Irish Times* sports journalist, has left his stamp on the G.A.A. Centenary Year in an impressive way with his work, "Vintage Carbery," a 200 page plus book composed of the writings of P.D. Mehigan, who for many years was an authority on Gaelic Games, and wrote for the *Irish Times* and the *Cork Weekly Examiner*.

Mehigan was more than a journalist, or writer of Gaelic Games affairs. He was an institution, a man who built up a great following with his excellent analysis in such papers as *The Irish Times* and *Cork*

Examiner. His column in the *Cork Weekly Examiner*, Carbery's Column, as it was known, was widely read not only at home but abroad.

Paddy Mehigan had a style and flair all his own, and this comes through in the latest collection of his works. Kilfeather has chosen wisely and well, and the book is particularly topical for the Centenary Year in that it ranges over many events from as early as the All-Ireland "Home" final of 1903 to Down's great victory in the 1960 All-Ireland senior football final.

The publication is grouped into three sections. "No Better Man", the

opening section, tells us much about Irish life in the early part of the century.

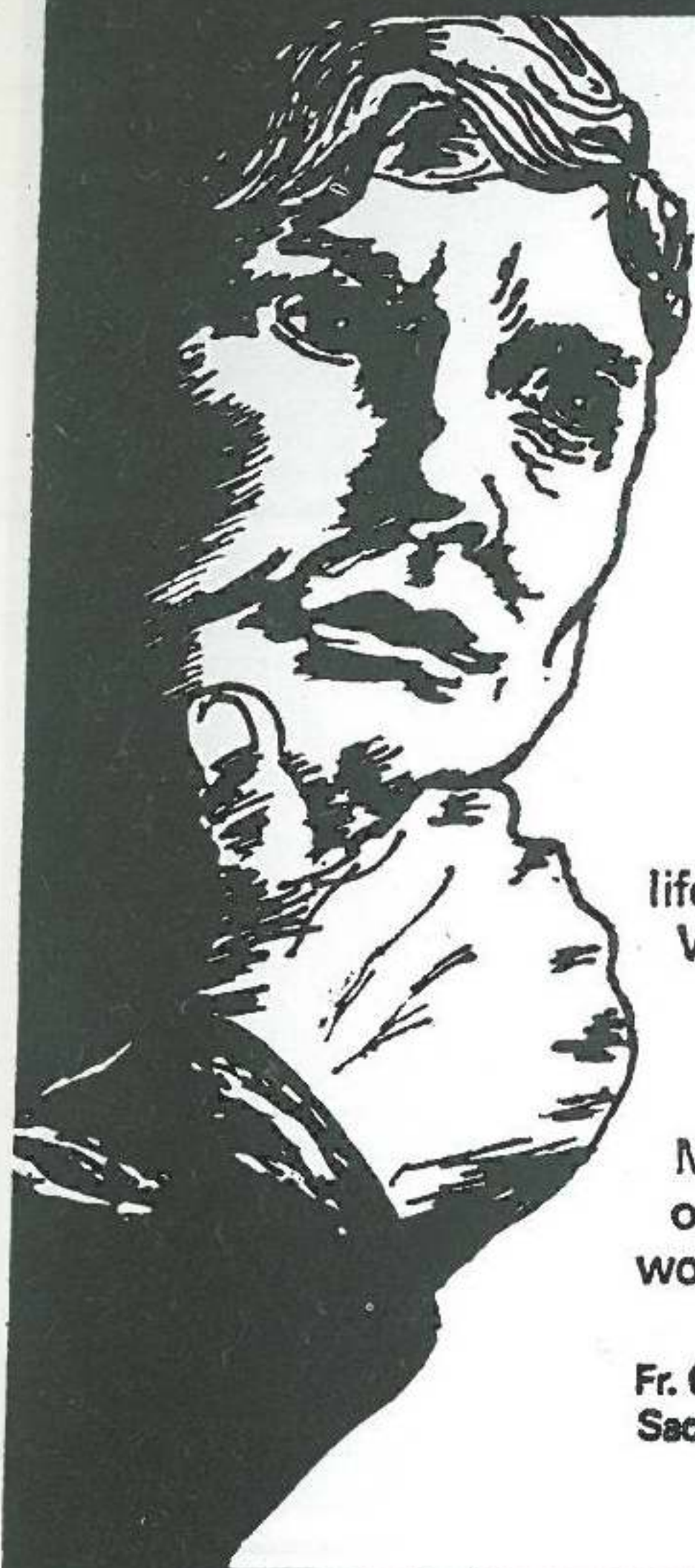
The second section, Hurling Highlights, opens with Cork's first successful hurdle in their unique run of four All-Ireland titles in succession, 1941-44 inclusive, and ends with the "fierce excitement" of Dublin's last All-Ireland final outing in 1961 against Tipperary.

The concluding chapter is Football Favourites, again starting in 1941 and running through to the 1960 Down win.

Mehigan's graphic style helps to

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E.B.S. poster competition creates national interest

A national poster competition for young people to celebrate the Centenary of Ireland's most famous sporting organisation — the G.A.A. — has been launched under the sponsorship of the Educational Building Society.

The competition is open to persons under the age of 20 years and entry forms have been circulated to four and a half thousand schools throughout the country as well as to art and design colleges and other educational institutions.

Young designers are being asked to create poster designs on the theme of '100 years of the G.A.A.' Any aspect of the organisation's past or present, whether sporting, Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, handball, or cultural (Irish music and dance) may be selected.

There are many other possibilities — the G.A.A.'s role in Irish affairs and the Organisation's foundation and development, are just two that spring to mind. Each poster design should include the wording — **100 YEARS OF THE G.A.A.**, in Irish or English —.

Over £1,000 in prizes is being offered in three age categories — Under-12, 12 to 15, and under 20, as well as a special category for children confined to hospital.

The closing date is Friday June 22 next and the winning entries will be displayed at the G.A.A. Centenary functions from August onwards.

Entries should be sent to Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Croke Park, Dublin 3, or handed in to the local E.B.S. office.

The final judging will be by a panel of experts and full results will be available from Educational Building Society offices from the middle of August.

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VINTAGE CARBERY

● FROM PAGE 53

make compelling reading. Take these few paragraphs from the 1956 Football Final as an example:

"I have often seen some sparkling openings, but Galway were like greased lightning. Beating back Cork's first raid which Mangan cleared. Galway forwards got away and then we saw the wizard-like pair — Purcell and Stockwell blaze into action. These white-clad forwards seemed to be on wires; they flashed here and there".

Paddy Mehigan was a native of County Cork, and was born on March 17, 1884. He liked, we are told, to claim he was older than the G.A.A. He died in 1965, after having contributed enormously to the writings of the G.A.A. He provided histories of football, hurling and athletics, and his Carbery's Annual, published each year from 1939 to 1965, was always a high point of the year for followers of the national games.

Mehigan was a keen observer as well of the Irish countryside, and a lover of nature, and this comes through time and again in his writings.

Many will be "meeting" Carbery for the first time through Sean Kilfeather's book. I have little doubt but that they will be just as charmed by his lively and evocative style as were so many in the past. And, those who remember Carbery, will be enriched again through reviving old

memories with this book.

Sean Kilfeather has done an excellent job, and has also been very well served by his publishers and the printers. At £5.95 paper, and £9.95 cloth, this is a "must" for anyone with any interest at all in Gaelic Games or the Ireland of bygone days.

VINTAGE CARBERY by P.D. Mehigan. Edited by Sean Kilfeather, Published by Beaver Row Press, Dublin.

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QUIZ TIME

**PRESENTED BY
VINNY MOORE**

Our family quiz is divided into two groups in this issue. One group follows our usual pattern of questions under separate headings, and the other consists of 15 questions arranged in a special section to mark the Centenary Year.

So, let's not waste any time, and get right under way with the quiz, and our first chapter dealing with events this year on the playing fields so far in:

'84 STYLE

1. Ulster footballers and Munster hurlers won the Railway Cup finals at Ennis. But who captained the successful teams?

2. The Leinster Colleges and Senior football championship has a new name on the Roll of Honour as a result of this year's campaign. Name the school that won the title for the first time at the end of March?

3. How many Munster counties were successful in the first round of the Centenary Cup football competition?

4. Limerick beat Wexford for the National Hurling League title in

April. What was their winning margin in the final at Thurles?

5. Name the winners of the Universities Championships for the Fitzgibbon Cup (hurling) and Sigerson Cup (football)?

Ten marks for each question answered correctly making 50 points in all available here. If you can name only one of the players concerned in No. 1, and only one of the Universities championship winners, then help yourself to five points in each case.

YOUR SCORE

PICTURE PARADE



Pictured here are two personalities who have been in the spotlight this season already. See what you know about these players.

1. Who is the personality pictured on the left?

2. What is his club side?

3. He won a Railway Cup medal last March. True or False?

4. Name our personality on the right of this duo

5. He completed a big double earlier this year. One was an award in an annual promotion, and the other on the field of play. Can you list the double?

6. Has this personality won an All-Ireland senior medal? Simply answer "Yes" or "No".

Five points for each question, except No. 5, which carries a five points bonus. This section then could boost your return by 30 points.

YOUR SCORE

Now, let's conclude this particular section of the quiz with an exercise once more on some of the:

LEADING PERSONALITIES IN THE G.A.A.

1. Who is Secretary of the Munster Council?

2. Noel Skehan won a record number of All-Stars awards in the

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QUIZTIME

● FROM PAGE 57

1983 promotion. Has the Kilkenny man, six, seven or eight, trophies? . . .

3. This footballer is one of the leading scoregetters in the country, and rifled home 1-2 as his team had a shock first round win in extra time in the Centenary Cup. Who is he? . . .

4. Who kept goal for Connacht in the 1984 Railway Cup football final? . . .

5. Paddy Kelly had a stellar game for Limerick as they beat Wexford in the National Hurling League final. What did he score in that game? . . .

6. Damien Barton plays senior inter-county football with what team? . . .

Again five points on offer for each question, making 30 points in all. **YOUR SCORE** . . .

The total number of points available in this particular section of our quiz over-all is 110. An excellent rating for 100 points or more. 80-100 qualified for a very good rating, and 70-80 is good.

CENTENARY YEAR SPECIAL

THIS section of the quiz marks the Centenary Year with a special

section of questions dealing with important events over the history of the G.A.A. Some of the questions may be a little hard for our younger readers, but, then, again, they may not.

At any rate, let's see how YOU fare out!

1. Hardly any need to say that the G.A.A. was founded in 1884. But can you give the exact date of the inaugural meeting . . . the day the organisation came into being in Thurles in 1884? . . .

2. The G.A.A. was 50 years old in 1934. What counties won the All-Ireland senior hurling and football titles that season? . . .

3. Where was the first All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1887 played? . . .

4. What was out of the usual run of things about the 1937 All-Ireland senior hurling final? . . .

5. Down brought the All-Ireland senior football trophy, the Sam Maguire Cup, across the Border for the first time in the history of the championship. But can you list the year of that history-making win? . . .

6. Limerick were the first winners of the Liam McCarthy Cup, the trophy for the All-Ireland senior hurling championship. In what year did they carve out their own brand of history? . . .

7. Who ranks as the last Connacht man to hold the position as President of the G.A.A.? . . .

8. The following players all captained All-Ireland senior title winning teams: Seamus Cleere (Kilkenny), Des Foley (Dublin) and Charlie McCarthy (Cork). List the year of their successes . . .

9. In what year was the Sam Maguire Cup first presented as the prize for the All-Ireland senior football championship? . . .

10. Sean O'Siochain became General Secretary of the G.A.A. in what year? . . .

11. The G.A.A. broke new ground on a grand scale in football championship fare in 1947 with a unique promotion. What was that presentation? . . .

12. Limerick won the first All-Ireland senior football championship of 1887. True or false? . . .

13. A forward in the Ulster team that won the Railway Cup for the first time in 1942 later became President of the G.A.A. Who is the personality concerned? . . .

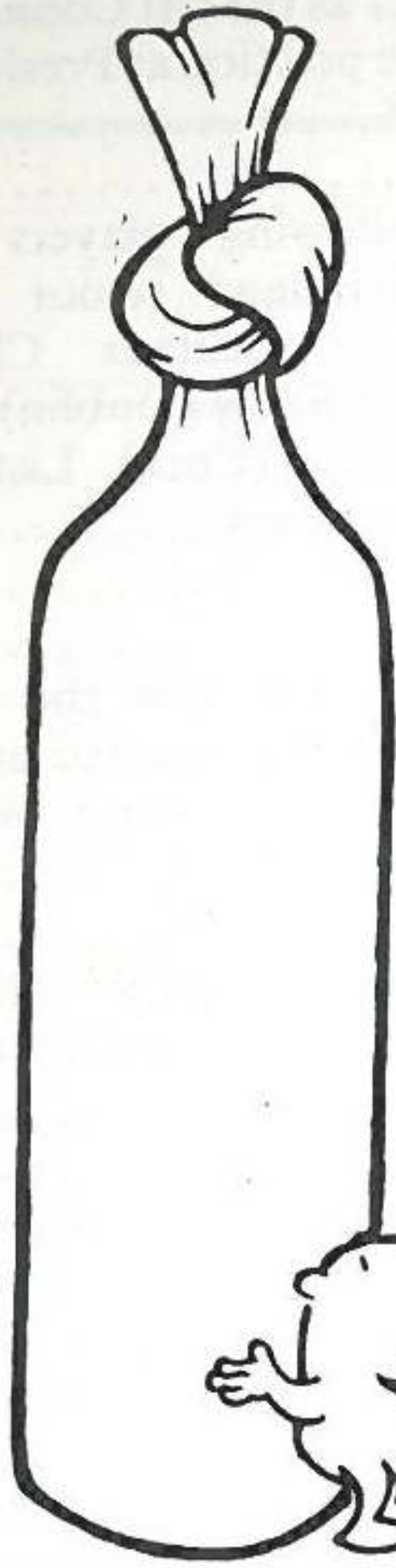
14. How many times have Kerry won the Sam Maguire Cup — 15, 20 or 21 times? . . .

15. Our final question of the quiz. Cork is the only county to win four All-Ireland senior hurling titles in succession. Can you list the years of that unique four-timer? . . .

A five points marking for each question, making 75 points in all. But you can boost this particular return by 15 points to bring your record to 90 points by answering ALL questions correctly, and so gain a bonus marking.

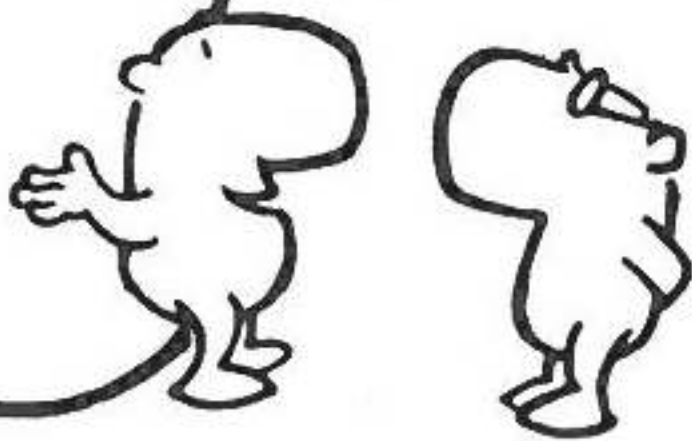
YOUR SCORE . . .

FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 64



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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

I'M told this is the edition of GAELIC SPORT dedicated to the G.A.A. Centenary. Centenary Year is beginning to make its impact. But the days and events I look forward to particularly this year are:

1. **July 29th — Lá na gClub.** Every club should really put on a big show that day. It is a day to give honour to the men and women from each club who have brought honour to their clubs. There are many fine special G.A.A. centenary presentations that can be made like Medallions, Crystal, China etc. In fact Clarenbridge Crystal Ltd. have shown me a fine array of G.A.A. Centenary items and they have advertised in this issue of GAELIC SPORT.
2. **Welcome Home Week** August 11-19 centred in Ballina should be a great week and I look forward to it.
3. The All-Ireland S.H. Final in **Thurles** is an occasion I have looked forward to for years. I intend to spend the entire weekend in Co. Tipperary and know well the whole weekend will be an unforgettable experience.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Fermanagh's Peter McGinnity, one of the best fielders in the game.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Peter some years ago when I was doing a series of profiles for the now defunct *Sunday Journal*. For some years now Fermanagh football has been on the up and up and Peter has been in the van of this advance. He

has been too one of the top men of winning Ulster Railway Cup teams, for years past. I spent a year teaching in Enniskillen and even then (1954-'55) there was a great interest in Gaelic football. The big men on the club scene then were Kevin Sreenan and Frank Maguire and the top Officials were Tom Fee, J.J. McElholm, Malachy Mahon and Des Cox among others. Since that time the county had the Tracey brothers from Devenish, Mick Brewster, Des O'Rourke among others. It would be great if Fermanagh were to win an Ulster Senior title.

CENTENARY BOOKS

"**The Rockies**" (History of Blackrock, Cork S.H. Club Cost £6 includes postage from Jim Healy, 8, Páirc Lourdes, Baile an Locha, Corcaigh), like "*The Spirit of the Glen*" this club history conveys the spirit of Cork Club and county hurling. The Rockies have a hallowed history, having won 3 All-Ireland S.H. club, 5 Munster and 28 Cork titles at senior level. What a remarkable record. Marvellous Cork hurling names leap out of the book, men like Eudie Coughlan, Jim Hurley, John Quirke, Mick Cashman, Jimmy Brohan, Ray Cummins, John Horgan, Frank Cummins of Kilkenny, Eamon O'Donoghue, Pat Moylan, Tom Cashman and Dermot McCurtain. What a galaxy of stars and these are only the few. Get this book and you'll capture the spirit of the Rockies. It is a fine publication. A very worthwhile addition to Centenary literature like

Tullaroan's reviewed in the last issue.

Limerick G.A.A. Yearbook 1984 (Price £2.80 incl. postage from Sean Murphy, Villa Maria, Lower Park, Corbally, Limerick) keeps up the very high standard of previous Limerick publications. Has plenty of photos and gives every club an interest. Is huge. It is little wonder that it sells so well in Limerick.

Ballerin G.A.C. 1944-'84 (History of Co. Derry Club. Price £3.50 from Bernie Mullan, 146 Ringsend Road, Drumrammer, Limavady, Co. Derry).

I mislaid the first copy of this I received but I got a second one and have enjoyed it. The best known man from this club is Sean O'Connell, one of Derry's greatest ever footballers. It includes a camogie and boxing section. Another great club member who had a hand in the history is Colum Mullan, now confined to a wheelchair after a car accident cut short his football career some years ago while Colum was studying for the Priesthood in Maynooth.

Lorrha and Dorrha G.A.A. History. The history of Lorrha and Dorrha G.A.A. club in County Tipperary was launched at the end of January. The book is entitled: *Lothra agus Doire: Iomáin agus Peil 1894-1984*. It was published by the Lorrha and Dorrha G.A.A. club and printed by the Brosna Press, Ferbane, Co. Offaly. The author is Seamus J. King a teacher at Rockwell College, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, who is a native of the parish and a brother of Liam King and Noel Lane, who

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with Tipperary in senior hurling in 1971.

Although the parish of Lorrha is small, containing about 1,400 people, the book is long, in all 448 pages closely packed with the contribution of all, great and small, who played Gaelic games in the place for a hundred years and more. The book is a hardback production in a limited edition and sells for £10. It is available from club treasurer, Liam King, Ballymacegan, Lorrha, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Tel. No. Lorrha 18. Postage is £1 extra.

So much for reviews of books. I hope we have not a glut of publications all coming together. It is a very special year and what we want is quality not quantity. Those clubs and counties producing histories are asked to send on copies for review. Con Short of the Ulster Council who

is in charge of the compilation of the history of the G.A.A. in Ulster tells me he hopes to launch it on Ulster Final Day. Here in Connacht we are producing a special Connacht Final Centenary Souvenir programme which will incorporate a mini Connacht G.A.A. history. It will retail at £1 and will be on sale hopefully in the week before the Connacht Final, certainly on the weekend of the Western decider.

THE MAILBAG

Tim Murphy, Tureenclas-saugh, Knocknagree, Mallow, Co. Cork. "My teacher gave me the Pioneer magazine for March 1960 and you were the Sports Star for that month. I did not know that you were in St. Jarlaths. On the 18th

March in the film "The Flight From the Snipe Grass" I saw you marching out for Galway v Roscommon.

(Yes I'm a Jarlath man true and true. Myself and four brothers went to school there. Three of us played in the royal blue of Jarlaths, two of them being senior captain. And my late brother Fr. Paddy taught there for almost 20 years. Jarlaths is very much part of me. Today my nephew John is on the "40" in the school juvenile team. So there is still a connection J.M.)

Thomas White, Ardcahan, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, age 9. "Dom Creedon of Cork is my 2nd cousin. I want you to print



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his photo. I think he is great".

(So do I. How about a photo of Dom editor? J.M.)

Anthony Doyle, 16, St. Joseph's Tce., Clareabbey, Clarecastle, Co. Clare is anxious to get club and county G.A.A. histories. In particular he wants the following when they are published:- St. Finbarrs (Cork), Castlegar (Galway), Tuam Stars (Galway), Turloughmore (Galway), Toomevara (Tipperary), St. Vincents (Dublin), Mount Sion (Waterford), St. Rynaghs (Offaly), Rathnure (Wexford), Thurles Sarsfields (Tipperary) and County Histories such as Tipperary and Kilkenny.

(Some of these have already been published in one form or another J.M.)

Seán Ó Nualláin, Keadeen, Irishtown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, would like a feature done on Martin Furlong the Offaly goalkeeper who won an All-Ireland medal in 1964 and is still going strong. "There is a great story in those 20 years and many a penalty save too".

(There certainly is and if the editor agrees I'll do it myself. Maybe during the Summer OK? J.M.)

Delores Murphy, 37 Washington St., Cork City tells me her favourite footballers are Matt Connor and Dermot Earley and in hurling Brian and Jimmy Barry Murphy. "In your Spring edition on page 25 you say the Cork player is Kevin Kehilly. I think it is Brian Murphy".

(Editor please check this one

out for Delores and how about a photo of one of her pin-ups! J.M.)

Martin Daly, St. Mary's Boys Primary School, Rostrevor, Co. Down. "We have a G.A.A. Committee in our school. It has 14 members and this is our 2nd year. Three of our present members are sons of Down stars of 68 namely Michael Cole, myself and Ronan McGrath sons of Mickey Cole, Michael Daly and Hilary McGrath".

(Thanks Martin for the Yearbooks and programmes. As always Down G.A.A. is well organised. You win for your school a G.A.A Kit-Bag J.M.)

Séamus Ryan, 6, Orchardstown, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.

I got a great response to my last letter, I'm enclosing another list of swops and wants, but first I would like to ask you if you could print a list of 'Colour Cut-Outs' which would be available to anyone interested in buying them (if there are any)"

SWOPS:—

Tipp Yearbook '73; All-Ireland F. Finals — '82 and '83; Sigerson '75 Programme; Leinster H. Finals — '82; Connaught F. Finals — '80; Munster H. Semi-Final '83 — Tipp v Waterford; All-Ireland F. Semi-Final '83 — Dublin v Cork; All-Ireland H. Semi-Final '83 — Cork v Galway; N.F.L.:— Final '83; Semi-Final '80 — Cork v Galway; Fitzgibbon '76 programme; All-Ireland H. (B) Final-'80 — Kildare v London.

Wants:—

All-Ireland H. Finals '73; N.H.L. Finals — '79 — Tipp v Galway; '80 — Cork v Limerick and Replay.

Munster S.H. Championship:— '76 Tipp v Cork; '77 Tipp v Clare

and Replay; '78 Tipp v Limerick. Any All-Star posters except '75 or '79 or Sláinte calendars and any World of Gaelic Games or Gaelsport Annuals (except '84).

(How about the Colour Cut-Outs editor? J.M.)

My next letter is from a man who wrote a fantastic article about programme collecting in the Down Yearbook reviewed in the last edition of this magazine. Michael Anderson, Andalucia, Federnagh, Poyntypass, Newry, Co. Down is very critical of the way the Programme Collector's Club is run from Croke Park. He usually sends 3 subscriptions and sometimes has to write to Croke Park 3 or 4 times per year to get his full supply. The Wants and Swops list is irregular too. "I would much prefer to pay more and get better service".

My list of wants and swaps are:—

Wants:— All-Ireland S.F. Final: All before '56; All-Ireland S.H. Final: 1969, '61, '59, '58 and before '57; All-Ireland S.F. Semi-Final: 1960 Down v Offaly (draw).

Swaps:— All-Ireland S.F. Final: '56, '58-'66 incl., '69 and '71-'83 incl; All-Ireland S.H. Final: '59, '62, '63 and '72-'83 incl.

(Michael as I was responsible for getting the Programme Collector's Club set up some years back, I'm sorry to hear of this. There are problems with some provinces not co-operating. Maybe the whole mechanics needs a rethink. I'd be happy to help, even go to a meeting in Croke Park re: same. How about yourself too. People like yourself and Tom Morrison down in Cork would have a great input. J.M.)

Kieran Rosney, 181 Grotto View, Battery Heights, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, selects his All-Star teams as follows:

Football: J. O'Leary (D); J. Hughes (G); K. Kehilly (C); P. Lyons (M); P. Fitzgerald (O); T. Drumm (D); J. Kerrigan (C); J. O'Shea (K); J. Caffrey (D); B. Rock (D); T. Conroy

● OVERLEAF

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(D); M. McHugh (D); M. Connor (O); C. O'Rourke (M); J. McNally (D).

Hurling: N. Skehan (K); D. McCurtain (C); E. Coughlan (O); D. O'Hara (K); J. Hennessy (K); G. Henderson (K); T. Cashman (C); F. Cummins (K); J. Fenton (C); P.J. Molloy (G); K. Brennan (K); H. Ryan (K); B. Fitzpatrick (K); J. McKenna (L); L. Fennelly (K).

(Hope you win the Offaly J.H. title with your club Southern Gaels, J.M.)

Kevin Toner, 55, Ballynease Road, Ballaghy, Magherafelt, Co. Derry. "I am writing to congratulate you on your article, *Galway are not bad sports*. I was talking to former Bellaghy and Derry players, Tom Quinn, Larry Diamond, Tom Scullion and Chris Brown among others and everyone of them all agreed they loved playing in Galway and against Galway teams at all levels. But I must also stress that no one said they disliked Dublin either. In my opinion Dublin played the best football by any team up to the final in 1983 but since that, being relegated from Div. One and knocked out of

the Centenary Cup, perhaps Dublin have got their just deserves.

On the Centenary Cup I would like you to congratulate Cork on travelling to Derry and staying overnight. As the "Rebel County" they are well named. They lost part of their playing gear in Dublin but still travelled North. Derry Gowan, the Cork chairman, officially opened the Derry County Centenary Year prior to the match but this is where the hospitality ended as Derry won 0-7 to 0-6. Finally as a teacher and referee I was appalled by Ciaran Duff's attitude to being sent off. His excuse was "the referee didn't see me," thus setting a very bad example to young players. I think the All-Star selection system has now been proved correct not to elect anyone sent off during the year."

(Kevin, thanks for your comments and I'm glad that the Derry players you mentioned loved Galway's sporting play. Dublin aren't a bad old crowd either but they will have to start playing good football again now or we'll very quickly forget this team. And as you say, Cork are a great old crowd

entirely. When the G.A.A. is dying elsewhere it will be alive and well in Cork. I have no doubt Cork is G.A.A. county No. 1. J.M.)

That's the end of the Mailbag but two more items. Just today I received an historical document—the G.A.A. from the National Library of Ireland, Kidare Street, Dublin 2. It is one of a series and is an absolute credit to Noel Kissane, the Education Officer for same. It has 50 pages in all and should be got.

One book I forgot to review earlier is **The Annuals of the G.A.A. in Galway by An tAthair Pádraic Ó Laoi — Volume I**, Luach £4 not including postage, from Galway G.A.A. Office, Dominick Street, Galway. It covers the period 1884-1901. The research that went into this is immense. It is full of anecdotes and gives a great idea of the time in Irish life. There will be two more volumes before this work is complete. Galway is lucky in its historian. That's it for another month. Keep writing to: Junior Desk, c/o GAELIC SPORT, 80 Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin 9. Slán agaibh Jack Mahon.

ANSWERS

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'84 STYLE

1. Ulster were captained by Eugene McKenna (Tyrone) and Munster hurlers by John Fenton (Cork). 2. Portarlinton C.B.S. 3. Kerry alone survived from Munster in the opening round. 4. 13 points — 3-16 to 1-9. 5. Fitzgibbon Cup: U.C.C. Sigerson Cup. U.C.G.

PICTURE PARADE

1. Ger Cunningham (Cork). 2. St. Finbarr's. 3. True. 4. Leonard Enright. 5. He won his third Bank of Ireland All Stars award, and led Limerick to the National Hurling

League title. No. 6.

LEADING PERSONALITIES

1. Donie Nealon, the former Tipperary hurling forward. 2. Seven. 3. John McCormack, of Longford. 4. Pádraig Coyne (Galway). 5. 0-12. 6. Derry.

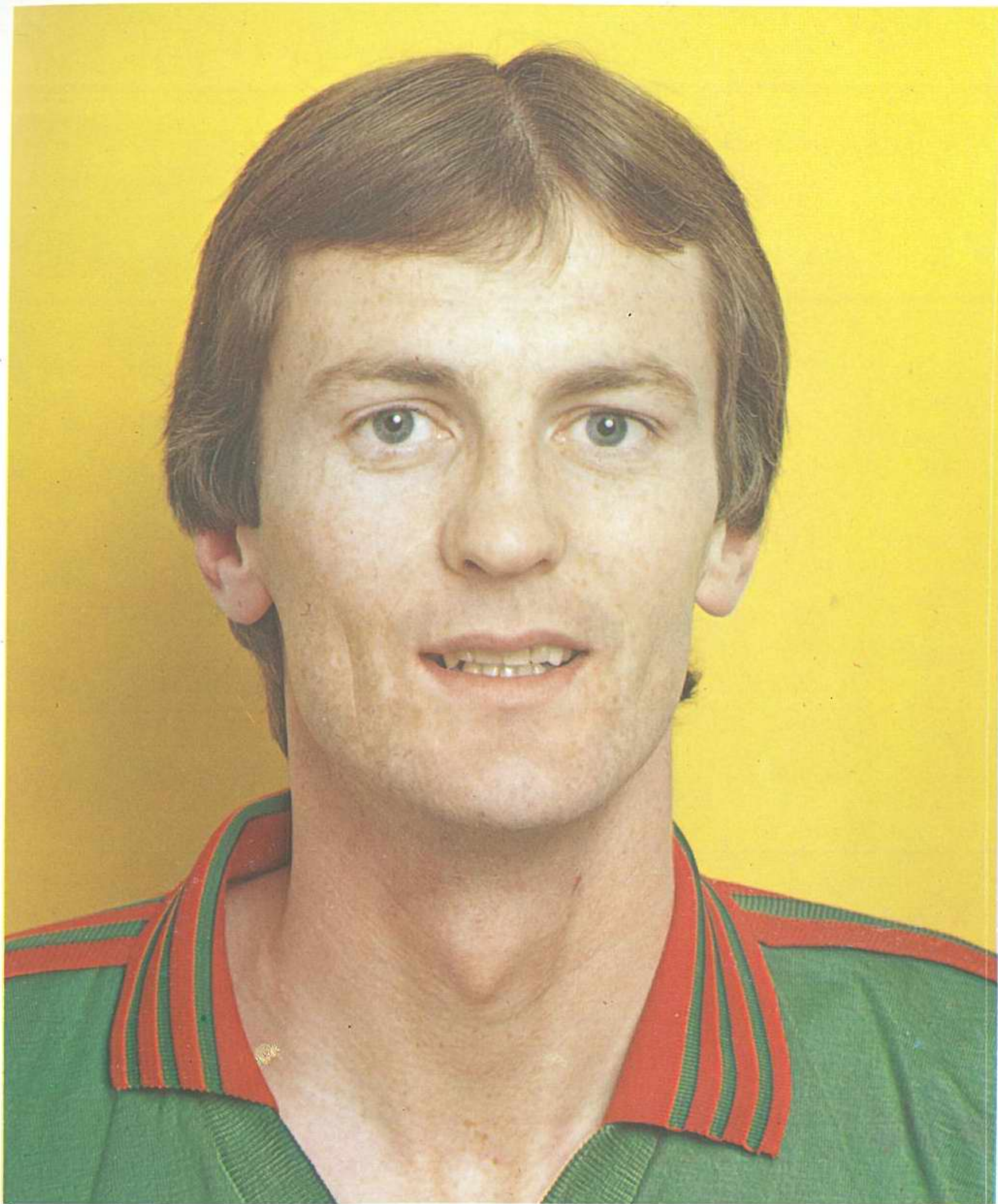
CENTENARY YEAR SPECIAL

1. November 1. 2. Limerick in hurling, and Galway in football. 3. Birr. 4. The final was played that year at Killarney as Croke Park was not available because work was in progress on the construction of the Cusack Stand. 5. 1960. 6. They won the Cup in 1923, but the game was the

1921 final. 7. Donal Keenan (Roscommon), President from 1973 to 1976. 8. Cleere (1963), Foley (1963), McCarthy (1978). 9. 1928, when Kildare beat Cavan for the trophy. 10. 1964. 11. The final was played that year at the Polo Grounds, New York, the only senior All-Ireland decider played outside of Ireland. 12. True. 13. Alf Murray (Armagh), who was President from 1964 to 1967. 20. 1941-44.

HOW DO YOU RATE OVER-ALL?

The total number of points possible in the combined quiz is 190. 175 to 190: You certainly know your G.A.A. and go to the head of the class. 150 to 175: Very good, indeed. 130 to 150: Good.



PETER MCGINNITY
Fermanagh

Peter added another chapter to a unique interprovincial football record when he helped Ulster to retain the Railway Cup in March to

collect his fourth medal since 1979. The Roslea club man captained the title winning teams of 1980 and 1983, and he is the only native of his county to lead the North in the series.

McGinnity was only 16 when he won the first of two Ulster under-21 medals in 1970, and he joined the county senior team in a League title that year as well.

The Fermanagh man, who stands 6ft. 3ins., won a Dr. McKenna Cup medal in 1977, and was at midfield when the county made a rare Ulster senior final appearance in 1982, losing to Armagh.

Peter, who has shone as a midfielder and a forward, became Fermanagh's only All Star as right half forward in the 1982 team.

Grab hold

