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GAA

# GAAELIC SPORT



IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE SINCE 1958

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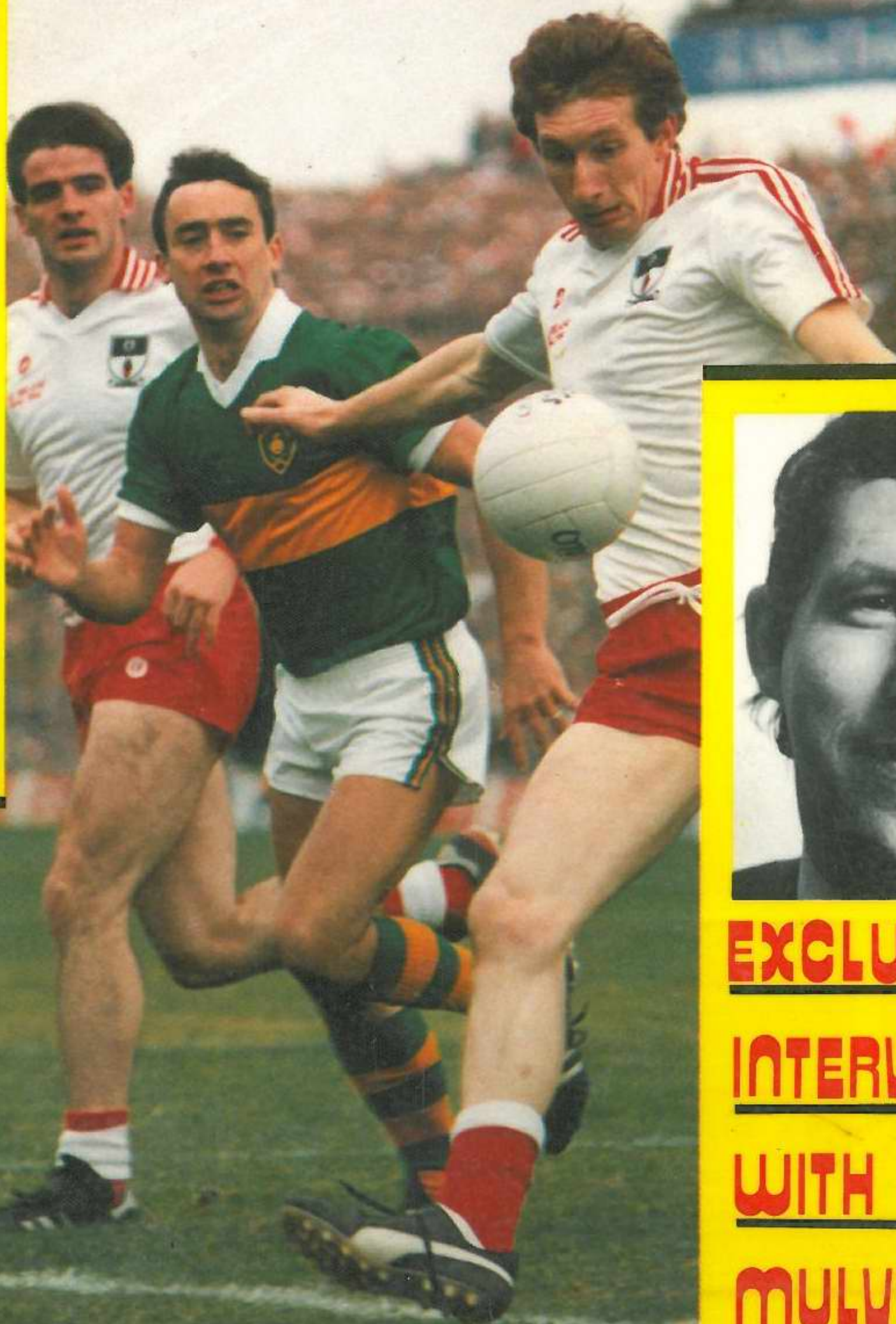
## TEXACO '86 G.A.A. STARS

PAT  
SPILLANE



ANGELA  
DOWNEY

GER  
CUNNINGHAM



**EXCLUSIVE**  
**INTERVIEW**  
**WITH LIAM**  
**MULVIHILL**



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From left: Revs Martin Kelly, Brian O'Toole, Owen Lambert, Paddy Kelly and Denis Hegarty work to prevent famine in Gema Gofa province.



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**COVER PHOTO:** The action-shot on our front cover is taken from the '86 football final and shows Tyrone's Harry McClure in possession with Kerry's "Ogie" Moran endeavouring to block.

## GAELIC SPORT

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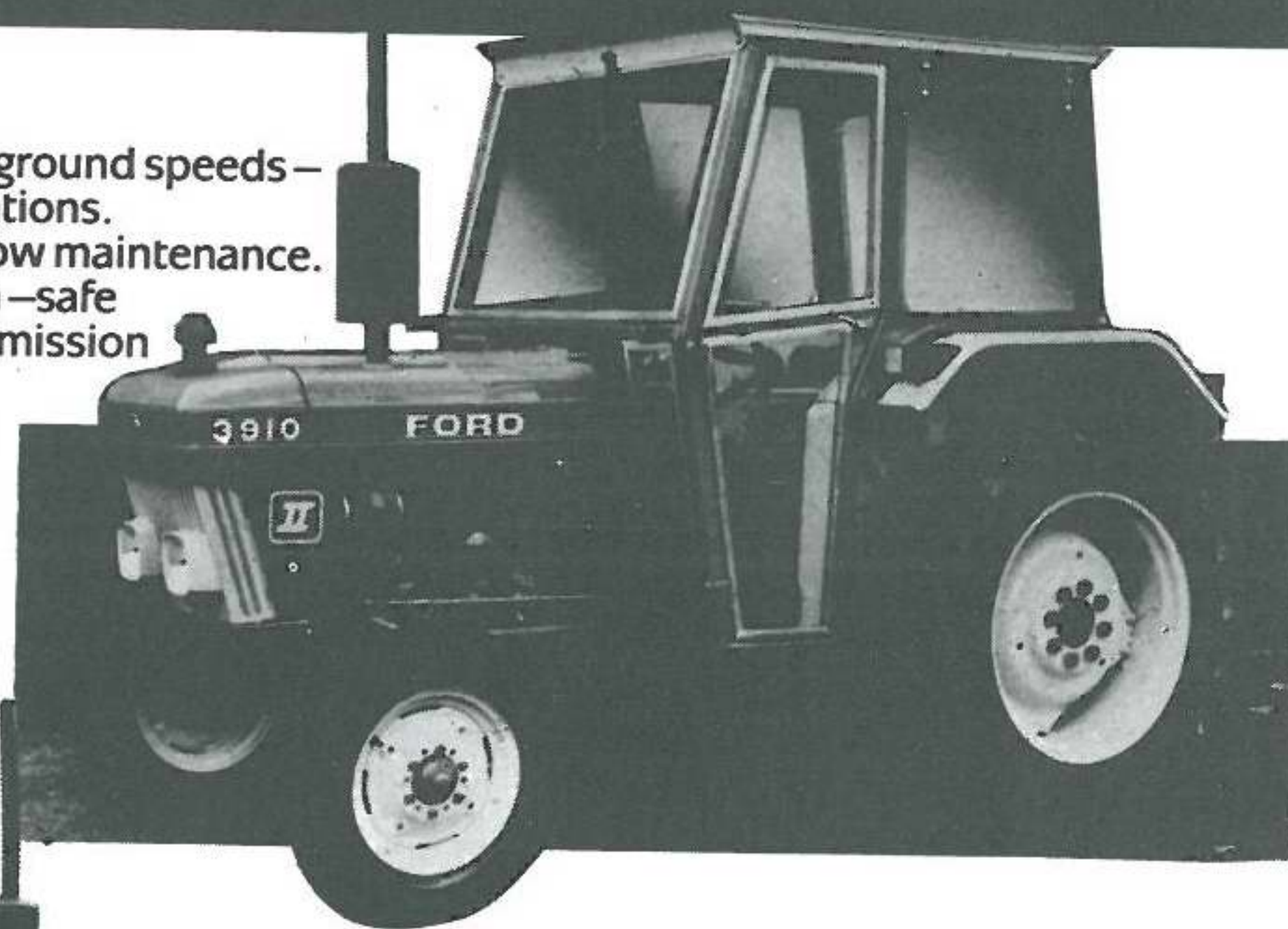
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## CHANGING TIMES

**I**T is hardly surprising in an organisation as male orientated as the G.A.A. that none of the candidates for the up-coming election for the position of President-Elect is a woman. It would appear, too, that we will still have a long wait before a lady will prove a serious contender for the position.

This is not to say that the G.A.A. is opposed to the principle of the fair sex playing a prominent part in the administrative side of affairs. Rather is it a reflection of a way of life and a general approach that has proved the norm in Ireland for so long.

But, the times they are a changing! The days when the only tangible way that women worked on behalf of Gaelic Games was by washing jerseys and providing and serving meals at functions have long passed.

Outside of sport, we have become fairly accustomed now to women in positions of importance in business, politics, the arts and social affairs. They have also been hammering home generally the point that men do not have a monopoly of the correct ideas or approaches needed for progress in the many and varied fields of life in general.

The same is true in sport. The modern, well-educated lady — and there are many around at present — can more than hold her own with the best of the male side in administrative affairs, and can frequently also set the pace. In some codes outside of Gaelic Games, women have also attained important executive positions in sports that cater for men as well as women.

The changing pattern has also been reflected to some degree in Gaelic sport. We have had some ladies selected from time to time to the position of club secretary; others have served on committees at club and county level, and a

few have also attended the Annual Congress. Moreover, at least one lady has acted as a County Board P.R.O.

The G.A.A. has benefited from this new dimension. The only pity is that so far, the influx of the ladies to the roles of officers has not been all that marked.

Surely the time has come for the G.A.A. to strive to encourage more and more women to interest themselves in running the organisation at all levels? Here is a vast potential for the good of the Association; a potential that if encouraged more strongly than in the past could yield a real dividend.

After all, many clubs these days are being hampered by a shortage of manpower. It is not uncommon to find the same small band of enthusiasts involved in all aspects of a club from holding down officerships to organising fund raising promotions and acting as mentors for juvenile and adult teams. An influx of ladies could help to ease the burdens of the menfolk.

Over the past few years more ladies than men have been entering the teaching profession. Happily, some of the female teachers are turning their attentions to coaching school teams in hurling and football. But are they doing so in sufficient numbers to offset the diminishing number of male teachers, who for the most part were fervent enthusiasts of our native games and without whose dedication the G.A.A. would not be the dominant force it now is?"

If the trend continues, whereby more ladies than men are taking up the teaching vocation, it would be wise policy, on the Association's part, to be seen to be encouraging the fair sex to play a more active role in all facets of G.A.A. activities.

## DON'T LET JACK GO!

**S**EVENTEEN year's ago Galway's Jack Mahon introduced into this magazine a special exclusive column for young readers' entitled "Junior Desk."

Many present day players and many former players grew up with "Junior Desk" and one could include many administrators and officers who have been devotees of the column for years.

The writer has, on many occasions, when talking to many of the outstanding players been told that "Junior Desk" was the item they turned to first in the magazine.

Now Jack informs us that the current edition of

"Junior Desk" is the last one. We appeal to all readers to write into Jack to plead with him to reconsider his decision.

*Tommy McQuaid*

EDITOR





**EXCLUSIVE**

## G.A.A. DIRECTOR-GENERAL TALKS FRANK TOMMY

**Q:** There is mounting pressure from players and mentors for a complete transformation of fixtures vis-a-vis the Leagues — the general consensus of criticism is levelled at League games — especially hurling — being played at a time of the year unsuited to playing conditions, with the added possibility of injuries to players. How would you reply to such criticism?

**A:** A small minority of our officials have been criticising the playing of National League games in winter for some time. The reasons given have been two-fold: (1) that the winter months are unsuitable for hurling, in particular. (2) that most County teams are idle during most of the late Spring and early Summer when the weather would be more suitable for players, officials and spectators alike. The first point I would like to make is that the National Leagues were set up as winter competitions to give inter-county teams a greater spread in the inter-county year. This decision was taken not a few years ago but as far back as 1925 and the first National League finals were played in 1926. It is ironic that this criticism of the National Leagues has reached a crescendo in the sixtieth anniversary year of the Competitions.

**Q:** Why did the findings of the recent Committee, set up to inquire into a complete overhaul of the fixtures list at national level, receive such a cold reception?

**A:** The findings of the Fixtures Work Group were very widely discussed at every level of the Association, as the findings of the Work Group had been awaited with great interest. Each County Committee discussed the proposals at length and decided on their attitude towards each of the proposals. In so far as the National Leagues were concerned, the arguments against playing the Leagues in conjunction with the Championship were:

(a) The fixture problems for Counties and Provincial Councils during the Summer months would be exacerbated by adding an extra competition to an already over-crowded time of year.

- (b) The club fixtures within counties would be diminished in status and the premier competitions for the ordinary club players, who form the bulk of the Association's membership, would be relegated to the Autumn and Winter time.
- (c) There would be a loss of revenue for County Committees and clubs as a result of the playing of County Championships in Winter time.
- (d) There would be no major inter-county games for six months of the year.

The members of the Central Council are members of County Committees and they had been directed by their counties as to what their attitude should be towards the proposals. Unfortunately, the Association was severely criticised for not debating the proposals by people who were unaware of the fact that there had been considerable discussion in each county prior to the meeting of Central Council.

**Q:** Some will argue that the summer months must be set aside for domestic county championships. Would you consider this a valid argument or is there a deeper concern, namely the importance of media coverage given to League games through the winter months and thereby combating other winter games from enjoying unrivalled coverage?

**A:** In my reply to the previous question I have noted that counties were not in favour of having a very long closed season and this has also been the majority view of numerous Congresses which have discussed the issue. The G.A.A. has as its aim the promotion of its three games and it has traditionally attempted to provide a regular programme of games for the vast majority of its players. This has always been the prime purpose and the media publicity — be it good or bad — is an offshoot, but is not the major objective of the Association.

**Q:** Could another factor be the fear of G.A.A. players crossing over to soccer or rugby if the G.A.A. had a prolonged winter break?



## INTERVIEW

# GENERAL, LIAM MULVIHILL SPEAKS TO EDITOR, McQUAID



**A:** Many G.A.A. players now play a variety of other field games and there is no objection to this as long as it does not affect their loyalty towards their club or county. The experience has been that players who leave to play other codes for a portion of the year return to the G.A.A. games for the Championship campaign, which has a special attractiveness. I am on record, through my Annual Report in recent years, as stating that many G.A.A. units are not strict enough in insisting on loyalty and commitment from their playing members and this is not a 'Ban' mentality.

**Q:** Do you see a future for the Compromise Rules games with the Australians?

**A:** There is a very exciting future for International games with the Australians on a long term basis if a small number of matters can be ironed out: (1) the Australian attitude towards discipline has to become more stable. (2) The games will need to prove more popular to the Australian spectator than they did in 1986 and (3) the Associations in both countries need to be prepared to continue to commit their time, people and resources to the ironing out of small problems which will inevitably arise. There has been a degree of criticism here in Ireland of the 1986 series and the criticism has been more strident than it was in 1984. I can understand how people would be critical of aspects of the 1986 games — I was critical myself in Australia — but I cannot understand people who attack the President and myself personally for our involvement in the venture. The whole exercise was begun as a result of a motion from a club to our Annual Congress and the motion was passed unanimously. Some people seem to think that the President and myself had a holiday in Australia, but the whole tenor of the tour was far removed from a holiday and we would have had a much easier time at home. However, I feel that the Association has committed a lot of money to the 1984/1986 experiment and it is, I believe necessary to have a further period of experiment to see if the matters I referred to at the outset can be put right. If the whole experiment proves to be a success we will have a lot to gain in terms of the

incentive being offered to our top players — and the 1986 experience has shown that such an incentive is not limited to the successful counties — and the game will inevitably become much more popular at home as a result. Even if the experiment should fail, I would claim that the benefits will be substantial. We have all been shown the value of trying out playing rules in match conditions and we have been given a lot of food for thought with regard to our own rules. In addition, it has been shown that a small number of changes could make our own game a much faster and more free flowing spectacle, if that is what we want to do. But above all else, the experiment has given, and will give us, the opportunity to compare ourselves against another Association from a playing standard and administration point of view. I believe that the long term effects of this exposure to an outside influence could be substantial.

**Q:** Apart from all other factors, would the very costly financial underwriting of future tours not spell doom?

**A:** If the games in Ireland in 1987 prove to be slightly more popular with the general public than the games in 1984 we can underwrite the cost of a tour to Australia in 1988 with a mixture of sponsorship and profit from the 1987 gate receipts. On the other hand, gate receipts are not as vital to the Australians as they have a much larger sponsorship pool to call on. Therefore, I have no major worry about the cost of tours if the games continue to prove attractive to the general public.

**Q:** Another topic currently enjoying much media attention is the way referees are chosen for major games, especially the All-Ireland senior finals. How, in fact, are referees for major games chosen?

**A:** The referees for all games under the control of the Central Council (i.e. National Leagues, Railway Cup and All Ireland Semi-Finals/Finals) are chosen by the Games Administration Committee. This Committee serves the same three year term as all other central Committees and consists

●OVERLEAF



## ●FROM PAGE 5

of a Chairman appointed by the Uachtarán, one delegate appointed by each of the four Provincial Councils and one delegate from each of the Provinces elected by Central Council. So, in effect, the Committee has two people from each of the four Provinces, a Chairman and the Secretary (P. Quigley) who does not have a vote in any of its deliberations.

Q: On the topic of referees being allowed to personally respond to criticism. Why is the Association so firmly set against such a proposition?

A: At one time the Association had no policy in this regard and some referees tended to answer back their critics — from inside and outside the Association — with the result that the issue involved had been tried in the media before the disciplinary Committee got a chance to deal with it. Such publicity was, on occasions, very unfair to players involved in such incidents and the Association decided that neither side to a game i.e. the administrators/team officials or the referee could talk out of turn until the report of the referee was dealt with officially. In recent times the Management Committee did point out that where a referee is being wronged by public criticism he could get on to the Association's P.R.O., even in advance of the hearing, and have the matter clarified, but such action is entirely at the discretion of the P.R.O.

Q: What is your attitude towards the professional sports journalists who seem to make a full time career of knocking the G.A.A.?

A: I have a very high regard for the professional sports journalists many of whom I have got to know very well during my seven years in Croke Park. The G.A.A. is sometimes accused of being over-sensitive to criticism but my experience is that we take a lot of criticism and still retain a good relationship with the journalists involved because we accept positive criticism and indeed such criticism keeps us all on our toes and is healthy for us. However, four or five newspaper columnists in recent years have been consistently critical of the G.A.A. and its administration in a very belittling and destructive fashion. I am not sure if these people are carrying out a deliberate policy on behalf of their newspapers or whether it is on their own initiative that they are taking such a line but the Association has recently decided to take the matter up with the management of the newspapers concerned. I want to stress again that I am not referring to the professional G.A.A. journalists in this regard. I also want to point out that we do not wish to make too big an issue of such constant 'knockers' because the general public are not as gullible as to take such constant criticism seriously.

Q: The Association has a full time P.R.O. whose duties include dealing with the media but at times, when some controversy arises, the response emanating from Headquarters seems to be autocratic, conveying to the man in the street, impressions of the G.A.A. being hyper sensitive. Obviously the G.A.A. is an independent organisation with its own inbuilt rules and regulations and consequently is

not obliged to explain its every move but, unlike soccer, rugby or other sporting organisations, the G.A.A. is a part of everyday Irish life, reaching into the sporting lives of 90% or 95% of our island's population. Is there not then, a greater responsibility resting on the Association to be seen to be more forthcoming with the general public?

A: First of all, I am surprised that you would consider the Association to be autocratic or seen to be autocratic in how it deals with criticism. As I stated earlier, I feel that we allow far more criticism, from within and without, to go unchallenged. The reason why we do this is because, as I stated already, we are not afraid of a bit of healthy controversy and we are well used to taking a fair amount of pretty unfair criticism. In fact, I come under a lot of pressure from people who feel that every misleading or false statement about us should be challenged or corrected. What such people do not realise is that we evoke so much discussion in the media at the height of the game season that our P.R.O. could be engaged full time in drafting replies/rebuttals, many of which would not be used by the media at all.

Where the basic policy of the G.A.A. is being attacked, however, the Association has a duty to defend itself and this is very often what leads to charges of conservatism, illiberalism or worse. The interesting thing is that our severest critics are the ones who are most offended if they are themselves criticised in any way and they always have the power of changing the subject when an argument is going against them.

I am not aware of any major issues on which we have not been forthcoming with the public. The difficulty is that we are going to be branded as conservative and outdated unless we agree with the issues being pushed by a small number of 'liberals'.

Q: There have, in recent times, been some bad, one might even say outrageous, incidents, both on and off the field, which have disgraced the good name of the Association. Granted one could argue that in relation to the hundreds of matches played every week, the ratio of "dirty" incidents is not high but unfortunately it's the few ugly ones that capture the media headlines. Does this embarrass you and if so, do you see any way such unwanted news items could be aborted, possibly by life bans on guilty parties?

A: Discipline, or rather lack of discipline on and off the field, is our greatest weakness as an Association and it is one of the weaknesses which should be easiest to eradicate. I do feel embarrassed when serious breaches of discipline occur, but I feel even more embarrassed when I see responsible officials, at every level, put up a fight on behalf of the person or persons guilty of very serious misdemeanours. As you are aware the trend in recent years has been towards a major clean up in our games and the abolition of the charge on the goalkeeper and the 'third-man' tackle did a lot to clean up our games. Hand in hand with this trend the penalties for breaches of the disciplinary rules were made less severe on the grounds that referees would be more inclined to report people for serious incidents.

**"THERE IS A VERY EXCITING FUTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL GAMES WITH THE AUSTRALIANS"**



## ●CONTINUED

While it is true that we now have a very small number of serious incidents relative to the number of games played, we could do without the very serious cases of indiscipline which you are referring to and I hope we will be able to eradicate them through better use of the full team of match officials and the imposition of stiffer penalties. The imposition of a life ban would be a very serious step but it may be necessary to consider it, if the incidence of serious assaults continues.

Q: Everyone admires the great achievements of Kerry's footballers over the past decade or so, but does the continued supremacy of one county concern you in the long term leading perhaps to apathy in other footballing counties, especially affecting youngsters who could be stricken by a virus of despair?

A: I am not in the least concerned by the Kerry domination of the Football scene as the present Kerry team is an outstanding team with a marvellous backroom team led by Mick O'Dwyer. The achievements of this Kerry team will go down in history and will be a bench mark for comparing all great teams in the future. Such an exceptional team, in my opinion, raises the all round standard of the game and encourages other counties to seek to match them. Success, thankfully, goes in waves and I would be heartened by the rise of Laois and Tyrone in recent years. I would also love to see the traditionally strong neighbouring counties of Louth, Meath and Cavan coming back to prominence, while Galway and Mayo are overdue success and bring their own particular style to the big occasion.

In my experience young people will not despair as long as there are heroes that they can live up to. The great thing about our games is that despite the statistics which show that only a relatively small number of counties have a realistic chance of achieving the ultimate success in any one year, the majority of the counties approach the Championship each year with an air of hope and expectation. For some counties the hope may be only to win the Provincial title, others may be less ambitious still in hoping for what is euphemistically called 'a good run', while others still may be hoping to win one game.

I have only dealt with Football in this reply because the question referred to Football, but the position is basically the same in Hurling although there has not been the same domination by any one county in recent years.

Q: Up to quite recently the All-Ireland finals were contested on the 1st and 4th Sundays of September — now the format has been changed to the 1st and 3rd Sundays, leaving only a fortnight between both finals. Speaking as a publisher, and I'm quite sure this applies to personnel in Croke Park in charge of producing the Final Programmes and those in charge of ticket distribution, the extra week made a great difference regarding printing deadlines and trying to be as up to date as possible with coverage content. Could I ask you why the change was made and is it irreversible?

A: The change was made because playing the Football final on the third Sunday in September leaves an extra Sunday available for counties to complete their inter-club championships, which enable the All-Ireland Club Championship competition to be played off earlier. I would, obviously, be in complete agreement with you on wishing to go back to the old system, as the present system requires me to distribute the Hurling and Football tickets in advance of the Hurling Final and this year a considerable amount of my time in the week before the Hurling Final was taken up with queries concerning the Football game. If an extra week was available, I would certainly be much happier.

Q: Another contentious issue is the controversy arising from the leasing out of Croke Park for pop festivals. Many people, both inside and outside the Association, find it difficult to reconcile the staging of pop concerts in Headquarters with the avowed aims of the G.A.A., which are to promote the Irish way of life through out National games, language and culture. If the reason is simply one of generating revenue, some will say that the G.A.A. could earn considerable amounts by leasing out Croke Park for the playing of major soccer games, backing up their arguments by pointing out that soccer, once seen as a purely British game, is now the biggest and probably the most popular international team game, due no doubt to the massive T.V. coverage of the World Cup tournaments. How would you reply to such critics?

A: It appears that the G.A.A. can not win on this issue. As you are aware the G.A.A. imposed a ban over the years to protect its members from the influence of the games, music and dances which were seen as being in competition with those which it sought to promote. When the ban was removed, the Association decided to adopt a positive attitude in attempting to help and give support to the Irish music, Irish dance and the Irish language. The former two items were promoted through the Scór competitions while the Irish language was promoted through the establishment of a Coiste na Gaeilge and Irish language officers at club and county level. However, the Association is not now in the business of imposing bans on its members who differ from it with regard to music, dance or culture, but seeks to positively promote what is traditional and Gaelic. I believe that we can adequately fulfil our cultural obligations with regard to Irish music and, at the same time, allow those of our members who enjoy other music to enjoy it on our property. It we did not do this, we would be accused of turning our backs on the wishes of the vast majority of our youth members.

My only disappointment in all of this is that we can not have an Irish music concert to equal the ones held at present and if an Irish promoter takes on such an undertaking he will get a very sympathetic hearing from us.

The use of our grounds for Soccer is a different issue as Soccer is a game which is in direct competition with our games while we are only lending support to other organisations which are involved in the music and cultural field.

“... LACK OF DISCIPLINE ON AND OFF THE FIELD IS OUR GREATEST WEAKNESS ...”





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achievement  
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field.*





# SENSATIONAL SPILLANE!

By JOHN O'REILLY



**\*PAT SPILLANE  
IN ACTION**

**A**S the football pulse quickens just now with the Ford League gaining in Momentum, and the promise of some great matches in the offing, it adds considerably to the keen anticipation of what is to come that we will again have opportunities of admiring the special gifts of one of the true greats of the game — Pat Spillane.

He celebrated his 31st birthday in December, and so must now be in the winter of his playing career, I doubt, though, if this will prevent the lion-hearted Templenoe club man from taking on the best defences yet again this season with the confident approach and the ceaseless endeavour that have kept him at the top for so long.

The quality of Spillane's football last year did anything but suggest that he was ready to move over and allow someone else step into his shoes in the Kerry team. Remember, for instance, the show-down with Tyrone for the Sam Maguire Cup?

If ever a footballer stamped his personality in brilliant style on a

national decider it was Pat Spillane in that game. The left half forward was here, there and everywhere.

He helped out his own defence time and again, did much useful work around the midfield areas as well, but for all his efforts away from his own area of operation, he still did not neglect his duties as a forward. Time and again Spillane tormented the Northern back division, and he also hit the defending champions' opening goal.

What a grand score it was! Ger Power sent a clever chip across the Tyrone goal from the left wing under the Nally Stand, and there was Pat Spillane in the right place at the right time thanks to good positional sense. Where many another attacker would have gathered the ball in front of goal, he demonstrated a keen brain and quick reflexes by fisting it home for a first-rate score, and one that set the Kingdom squarely on the road to another All-Ireland crown.

**By the end of the match the man in the No. 12 jersey had 1-4 to his credit, and even though Kerry were a masterful team, and had many bright stars in all departments, Pat Spillane still shone out like a beacon as the "man-of-the-match". His was one of the best one-man displays in a football final in any era.**

Small wonder that he saw out 1986 by gaining his second Texaco trophy as the footballer of the year. All this at a period in his playing career when many would have had us believe that he had left his best days behind him.

Added merit was given to Spillane's showing last September by virtue of the way that he battled back bravely from serious ligament trouble a few years ago that threatened to end his career prematurely.

However, with the same unconquerable spirit that has earned him such a proud ranking in football, the Kerryman took a serious operation and a long and painful period of rehabilitation doggedly in his stride to rebuild not only the injured limb, but his football career. That says much for the character of the man.

Even more a tribute to the man is that he has not settled for second best. Far from being a shadow of his former self since his comeback — and that would have been understandable enough in all the circumstances — he has played some of the best football of his career since returning to active fare.

Those of us who follow the game, however, will not need a review of the trophies won over the years to appreciate the special talents of Pat Spillane.

He has already provided a rich store of golden memories . . . memories of high-powered displays of non-stop matching-winning football and of sportsmanship of the highest order.

There are those who say that Pat Spillane is the greatest footballer of all time. Others will argue that it is not possible to compare players of one period with those of another as styles change all the time, and pressures have increased greatly in the modern game.

I am not going to get into that argument. Suffice here to say that Pat Spillane has proven his right to walk tall with the best of them, and that the point should be hammered home time and again in 1987 as he and Kerry bid to keep the title winning squad on the rails to another four-in-a-row of All-Ireland senior championships.



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# QUIZTIME

BY VINNY MOORE

**T**HE start of another year in Gaelic Games is upon us, and let's hope that it will prove one of exciting matches, sporting play, good individual performances, and a generous quota of upset results just to give that added competitive edge and touch of variety to the campaign.

I am not in the business of attempting to forecast where the major titles are likely to go during 1987. I leave that to other people. What I will say, though, is that on the evidence of events last year we could be in for some stirring days indeed in the months ahead, both at club and inter-county level.

My aim here in QUIZTIME is to try and help whet the appetite for the fare ahead by looking ahead and also looking back in a series of questions that I hope will get YOU in the mood for the new season on the playing fields.

The emphasis in the first exercise is on looking forward to the coming programme, not only in hurling and football, but in handball and camogie.

That all games trend is maintained in the second exercise, and the QUIZTIME in general caters for followers of all aspects of the national games. I think that is as it should be, because handball and camogie are vital links in the scene.

Just as in past features I am again linking a points scale with the questions because the reaction of readers' has clearly shown that this aspect helps to make the QUIZTIME that little more interesting.

At the same time, the scoring of points is not the chief aim. Enjoyment, a little information gleaned along the way perhaps, and the reviving of old memories will, I hope prove the reward for all who accept the friendly challenge of QUIZTIME. If that proves the case then I will have started the New Year off on the best possible foot.

Now, let's get under way with the series of ten questions that will help to put the spotlight on some future happenings in a section that I call:

## LOOKING AHEAD

1. The Railway Cup competitions, usually played in the spring, will have new dates this year. Will these games now be played in August, September or October? .....
2. What county will defend the All-Ireland under-21 football title this year? .....
3. The Irish Handball Council will welcome a new President at the Annual Congress in March when the official chosen as President-Elect last year, will take over the post. Who is he? .....
4. Where will the Annual Congress of the G.A.A. be held at the end of March? .....
5. Laois, who won the Ford Football League title last year, will be

striving this summer to lift their first Leinster senior crown in the code in how many years — 38, 41 or 43? ...

.....  
6. Dublin have been regular contenders in All-Ireland senior camogie finals in recent times. This year they will be striving to reach their sixth, third or second successive final. Your selection? .....

7. Feile na nGael is the youth festival of hurling, camogie and handball, promoted each year during the summer. Last year's Festival was in Ennis, but where will the 1987 Feile be staged? .....

8. What major games will be played on St. Patrick's Day next? It may help you to know that two finals will be staged that day. ....

.....  
9. There will be an unusual dimension to this year's All-Ireland senior football final, irrespective of the counties engaged in the concluding round. Any ideas what this unusual dimension will prove to be? .....

.....  
10. What county will be defending the Dr. McKenna Cup in the all-Ulster knock-out senior football tournament later this year? .....

.....  
Five points on offer here for each question answered correctly, except Question 7. This one carries a five points bonus for the correct answer, with the result that the possible tally for our first section stands at 55 points. YOUR RETURN .....

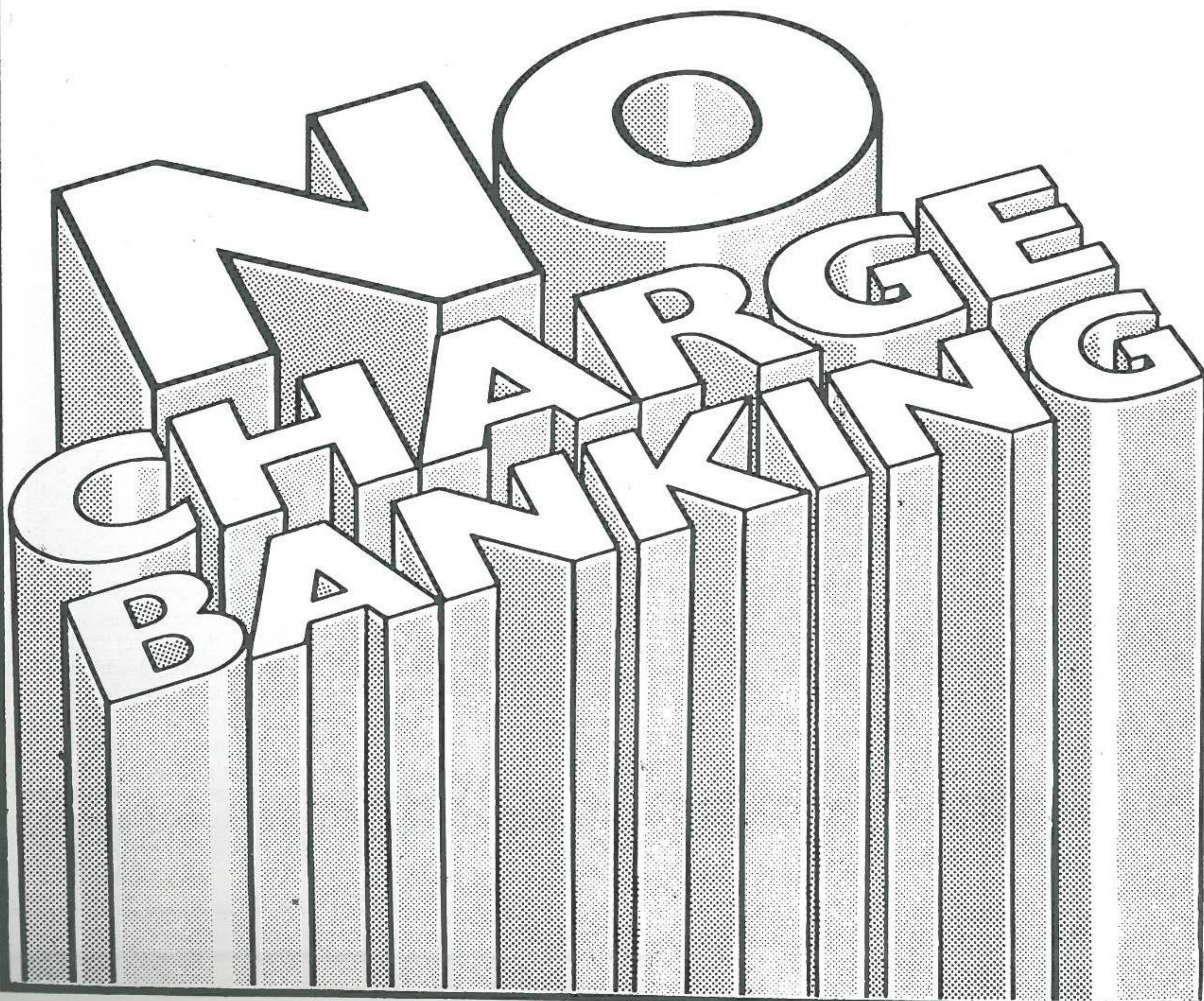
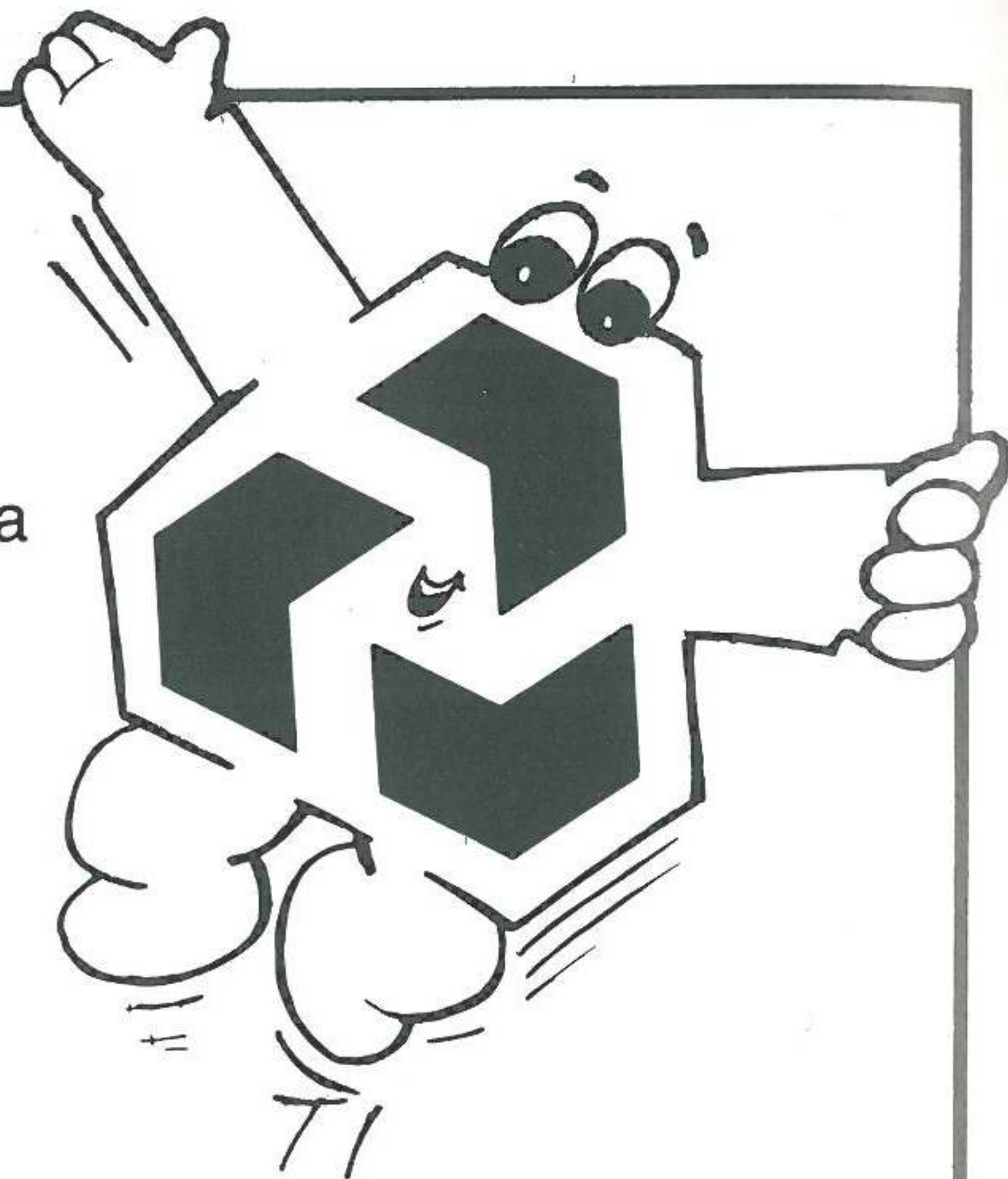
Now, just to test your memory of past events, here is a short, snappy exercise of five questions dealing with happenings in the decade so far, which I entitle.

●TO PAGE 13



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●FROM PAGE 11  
**EIGHTIES' LOOK-BACK**

1. Who was in goal for Galway when they won the 1980 All-Ireland senior hurling title? .....

2. The Texaco Award winners of 1986 are featured in this issue. But who won the title in Camogie in this promotion in 1981? Careful now! ..

3. Two World Championships have been staged so far in this decade in handball. Name the venues for each championship .....

4. Who captained the Kerry team sensationally deprived in 1982 of a record five All-Ireland senior football crowns in succession by a last gasp Offaly goal? .....

5. Dermot McNicholl, one of the heroes of last year's successful Australian tour, captained Derry to an All-Ireland minor football title earlier in the decade. In what year was he presented with the winning team trophy? .....

Again each question carries five points, with a bonus of five for No. 2. This section, then, could improve your points total by 30 points. **YOUR SCORE** .....

Another short exercise and a follow up to one in the last issue of Quiztime in the Winter edition, which

apparently went down really well with readers.

All that is necessary is to find the common denominator shared by the players featured in each question based on 1986 happenings:

**IN COMMON**

1. Paul Hayes and Adrian Brennan .....
2. Kevin McCabe and Brian O'Donnell .....
3. John Henderson and Eugene Coughlan .....
4. Michael Walsh and Billy Bourke .....
5. Maura McNicholas and Miriam Malone .....

This section also has each question worth five points. However, if all questions are answered correctly, then, I award a bonus of 10 points. Possible marks, then, 35 points: **YOUR HAUL** .....

Finally, memories of the past will be revived by our Team Picture Exercise. It is of a squad that contested an All-Ireland senior hurling final not all that long ago, and from a county that has slipped back somewhat in terms of the ratings in recent seasons.

See what you can remember of this team that helped to provide many bright highlights in the year in question.

**PICTURE QUIZ**

1. This is a selection from what county? .....

2. If you get that right you may find it easy enough to give the year that this selection lost the All-Ireland senior final .....

3. Who captained the team? He is fifth from left in the front row .....

4. Who is the hurler on the immediate left in the back row? .....

5. Who was in goal with this selection? .....

6. This selection scored three goals in the concluding round. True or False? .....

Five points once more for every correct answer — and a bonus as well for the perfect return. If you get all six questions right, then add on 15 points to your score. Possible tally: 45 points. **YOUR SCORE** .....

**HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP**

Total points on offer in Quiztime: 165 points. A score of 130 points plus adds up to a really excellent rating. 110 to 130 is very good, and 100 to 130 good. Below that? Well, don't worry very much; you can always keep a close eye on happenings in the coming months and try again in QUIZTIME.



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# Ireland **OUR** land of breathless physical beauty.

**E**X President of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy once said, on referring to the natural beauty and splendour of Ireland, "If only you realised that your country possesses something that most other countries can only dream about". When His Holiness Pope John Paul II visited our shores in 1979 it is reported how utterly amazed and taken-aback he was by the warm welcome which greeted his arrival.

Ireland has indeed some of the most breath-taking scenery one could ever wish to see and the traditional "Irish hospitality" is by no means a myth either, as evidenced by the influx of tourists each year to The Emerald Isle. But do we as a nation appreciate her?

It could be argued that we don't, when one looks at the number of Irish people who holiday abroad each year, encountering such difficulties as language barriers, currency changes, driving on the right-hand side of the road and insurance costs for medical cover.

A holiday in Ireland throws up no such barriers and what better way to take in all she has to offer, than a stay in one of the many conveniently located hotels throughout the country. All hotels provide meals as well as sleeping accommodation and some provide meals and refreshments to non-residents also, thereby ensuring ample opportunities of meeting the local people as well as other holiday-makers.

BY  
COLIN CLARKE

Many of Ireland's hotels are ideally situated for touring the surrounding countryside and also provide numerous facilities such as golf, fishing, horse-riding, tennis and swimming, to name but a few of the wide range of pastimes available.

Ireland's countryside is a land of breathless physical beauty, wild untouched scenery, profuse in historic sites and colourful lore. It is a lovely land of unpolluted air and water, quiet winding ways and blessed peace. If Dublin is the gateway to the East, then Knock is the gateway to the West, the rebirth of which has been made possible by the recent opening of Connaught Regional Airport. Standing on the runway itself, on a clear day one can



**\*The famous Lakes of Killarney.**

behold a magnificent view of the five counties of Connaught and also Donegal in the North West, Leitrim the lake-land county and Sligo the "Yeats Country" with its beautiful Ben Bulbin.

Further South one can experience the Corrib County, Galway and the Burren, land of exotic flora, abbeys, archaeology, castles and beaches. With its wild Atlantic border, this area boasts some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in Europe. And what of Kerry — an area steeped in Irish tradition and a haven for the sightseer, the famed Lakes of Killarney or the eighth wonder of the world, as someone once said, the Ring of Kerry and the Blasket Islands. A Céad Mile Fáilte awaits everyone in the South-West.

Cork is the biggest county in Ireland and it comes as no surprise therefore that the Rebel County has plenty to offer by way of hotels from which to survey the many splendid beauty spots of the South coast.

Waterford and Wexford, often described as the Riviera of Ireland, are fringed with miles and miles of golden sandy beaches and Wicklow, with its famous Meeting of the Waters in Avoca, is lost within its own majestic piece of country, yet is situated but 30 miles from the Capital.

Hotel prices in Ireland are extremely reasonable and facilities available are ideal for family holidays. In addition to the obvious attractions of a holiday at home, rather than going abroad, one is adding to the wealth of the economy by so doing. The writer, having travelled extensively throughout Ireland, was not surprised at the Pope's reaction!

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# SOME YOUNG MEN OF HURLING AND F

by  
Peter O

At this time of the year many indulge in the always entertaining practice of selecting the county teams they believe will win the top titles in the up-coming League and Championships. My own weakness when it comes to this type of annual "crystal ball gazing" exercise is to concentrate on the young men of hurling and football

who made an impact in 1986 and an attempt to select some of those likely to make an impact in the hurly burly of competitive senior games in the offing.

Top of the list must surely be that bright young hero of the Australian tour last October, John O'Driscoll. At only 19 he set a brilliant headline

to his older colleagues with play of the highest possible quality in the Ireland jersey.

The young Leesider seemed to be almost an ever present on our television screens with his polished play and scoring skills every time the cameras brought us the Test action from so far from home.

O'Driscoll is a very accomplished footballer, sure in his fielding capable of creating opportunities for his colleagues up front, and who obviously knows where the goals are. There can be little doubt that he will have a big part to play in Billy Morgan's plans to bring the Rebel County back to the top this year.

From a minor of 1985 to an under-21 star of last year — David Regan, of Birr. What a year he had in 1986! Colleges, minor and senior hurling all in the same season, and a bright light as well in shaping not one, but two historic national championships.

Regan got a goal for Birr Community School as they beat that famed Cork nursery, North Monastery, in April to take the All-Ireland Colleges' senior championship for the first time. Later in the year he was consistently on the scoring target and also very influential in general play at centre half forward as Offaly marched to their first national minor crown in the ancient code.

Then, with the start of the 1986-87 Ford League, David was called up to the Offaly senior side in a bid to bolster up the attack. Certainly, a year to remember for the Birr youth.

Regan played four games with Offaly before Christmas, and showed up really well. He also displayed his scoring touches in those matches to good effect.

The young man from Birr is very talented with plenty going for him and has much to offer the game and Offaly. I confidently look to him to capture plenty of headlines not only this year but in the future.

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# FOOTBALL WHO MADE AN IMPACT IN '86

Leary

Another minor finalist of last season who is already moving up in the senior grade is Donal McCarthy, of St. Sylvesters, Malahide. One of the high points of under-age competitions in 1986 was McCarthy's inspired showing at full forward as he blue-printed Dublin's Leinster football final win over Meath.

McCarthy undoubtedly looked a senior star in the making during that under-18 campaign, and like Regan he had not long to wait for his big chance. It was a baptism of fire, too, the full forward position against the might of Kerry in the League in Tralee at the end of November.

However, the Malahide teenager came through with flying colours, and did more than enough to suggest that he can make a vital contribution to the Dubs recovery mission over the coming year. He is a smart-mover, distributes the ball well, and can blossom into a top class target man.

David Beggy is only 19 and was playing in just his third competitive senior inter-county game when he won a Leinster senior football medal as Meath's left half forward last August. He has continued to be prominent with the county side, and is another who is doing an excellent job for the rising stars.

Gerry McInerney, Galway's polished left half back in hurling, is older than the players I have spotlighted so far, but he still qualifies as one of the bright young men of Gaelic Games. After all, he won an All-Ireland under-21 medal last September.

Gerry has certainly come a long way since he was at left half back as Galway made history by winning their first All-Ireland minor hurling title by beating Dublin in 1983.

Teddy McCarthy, who had the distinction of winning an All-Ireland senior hurling medal on his first senior championship appearance as he sparkled in attack for Cork against

Galway last September and later won an under-21 football medal . . . Ray Murphy, a dashing attacker in the Wexford team beaten by Galway in the 1986 under-21 hurling decider . . . Michael Hogan, who coloured his superb centre half back play with long range points scoring when leading Offaly to the minor hurling

title . . . these are just some other young men who I believe will be to the fore in the coming years in keeping Gaelic Games ahead of their competitors.

Yes, indeed, the national games are rich in rising personalities; young men with what it takes to write the legends boldly in the future.



Let the big  flow



# IN 1839 WHEN THE DUBLIN & DUN LAOGHAIRE RAILWAY FIRST CAME INTO SERVICE, JACOB'S WERE MAKING IN-ROADS IN IRELAND.

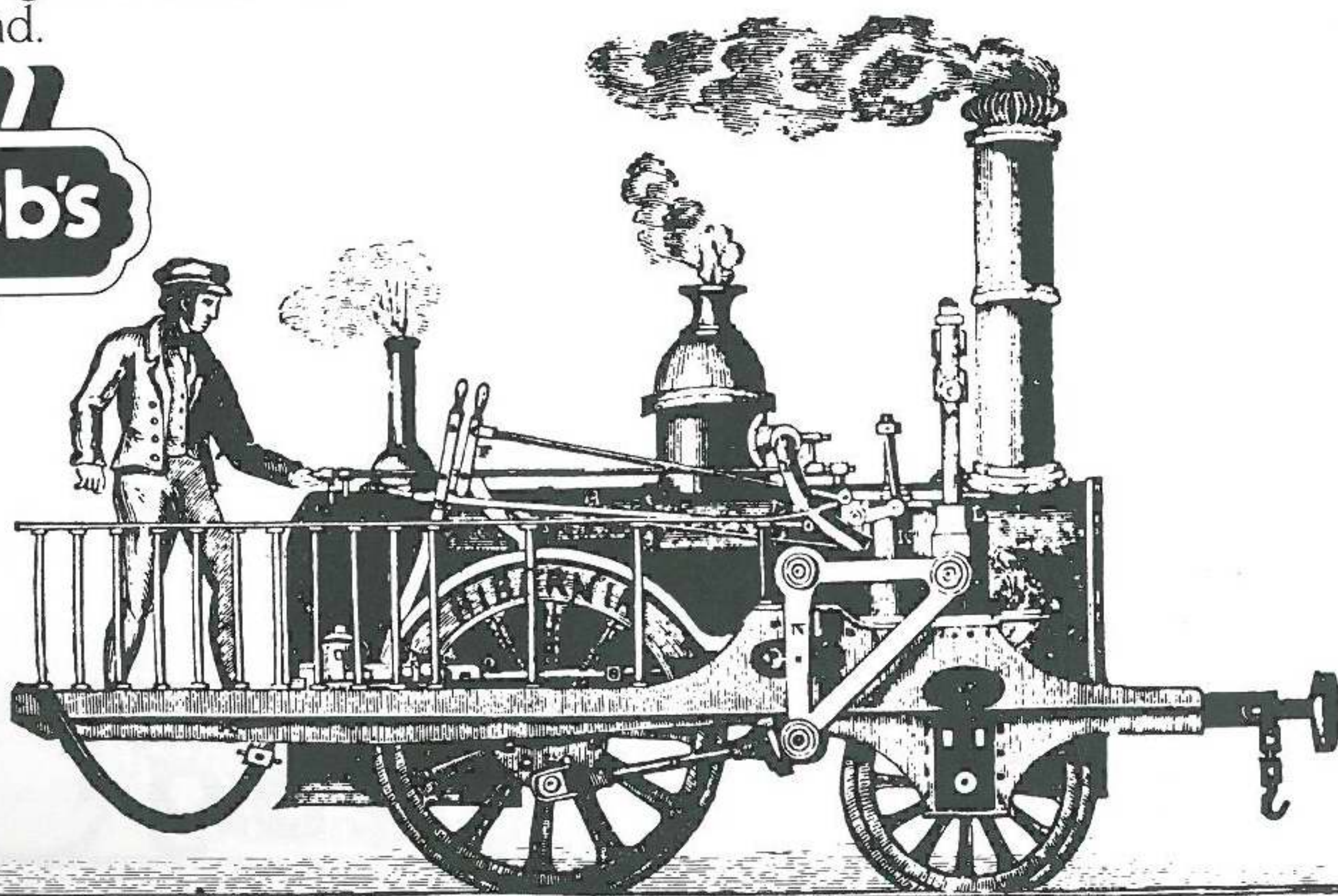
When William and Robert Jacob inherited a family business in 1839, they put their good name on the line.

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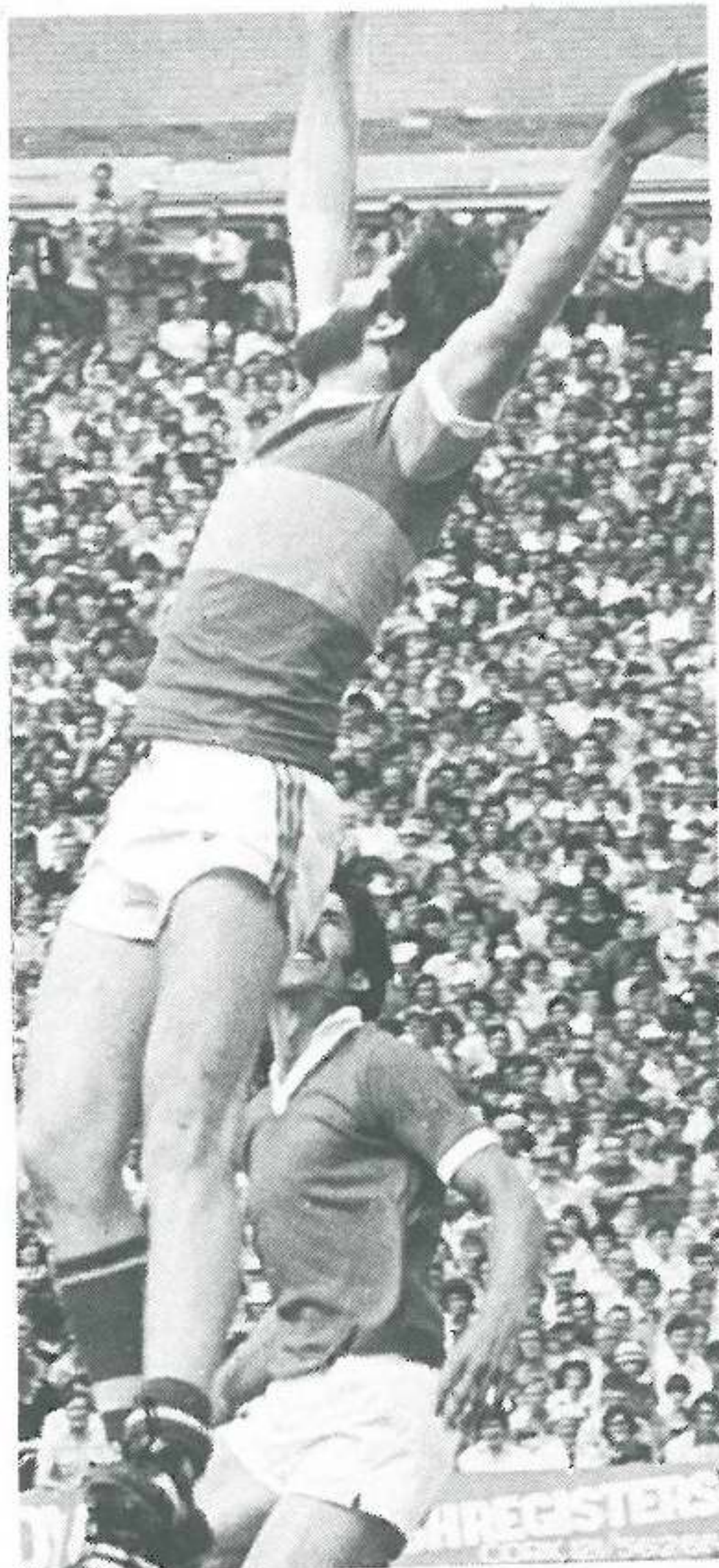
# KERRY'S DOMINANCE:

## - stop moaning, go out and beat them!

says Eamonn Young

**WE'RE** all jealous of Kerry and no wonder. The other day they got six on the All-Stars, without Jack O'Shea and Eoin Liston. They have, over the last ten years, won game after first-class game until footballers are as tired of them as the hurling fraternity is of Cork. That's the most natural feeling in the world.

An old man said to me when I was eighteen, "When they're jealous of



*you, shout for joy... because you're a success. There are enough failures".*

Competition is essentially fair and indeed very desirable, and if one man or one team dominates competition we become fed-up but we really mustn't complain. Excellence earns its own reward and the champions in any game are away up there for everybody to imitate and dethrone.

In Kerry's case there's only one way to beat them: improve our own standard for although over the years the Kingdom has fielded weak teams the lads they have just now, are pretty good even though many a loyal Kerryman says there isn't a lot coming up to replace them. Please God, they're right.

Is Kerry's dominance bad for the game? Yes and no. Certainly their example in skill, manliness and realistic estimate of opponents all leading to diligence in training is a very fine lesson to players everywhere, and they have shown again and again, that morning training spins on Dublin golf courses or on lonely Banna Strand earn their own just regard which won't be won by the softie who thinks a combination of T.V. and the few pints at the end of the day will help him to win matches. The champions in any game (and to be precise the heroes of our football scene) are not only a credit to their own community but a headline to our youth everywhere. I'm sure that Eoin Liston's coaching in the clubs and schools of four great

Munster counties is injecting new life into the game organised by wonderful lesser-known men from Miltown Malbay to Gaultier.

I suppose we'll have to admit that the champion who bestrides the narrow world like a Colossus does have some bad effect. But that is only on the spirit of lesser men, men who have an inferiority complex anyhow. In such cases there is, in fact, no



*Pictured above are two of Kerry's greatest stars, Eoin Liston and Jack O'Shea, in action. A measure of Kerry's dominance in recent years is that they received six Bank of Ireland All Star Awards this year - but "The Bomber" and "Jacko" were not among those selected!*

●TO PAGE 21



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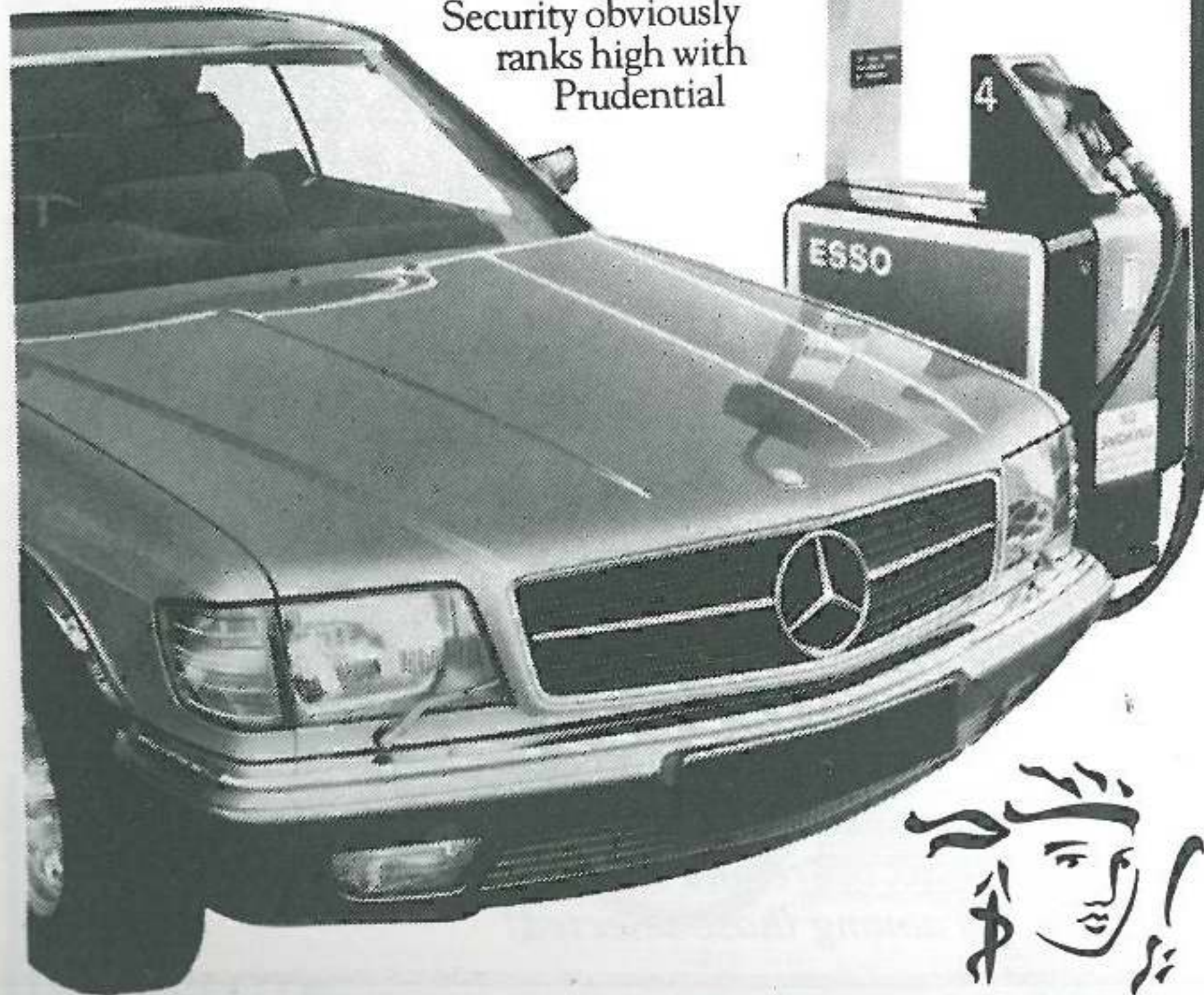
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## A new driving force

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and investments like Mercedes and Esso combine an exceptional quality of investment with a proven growth pattern.

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## Sound investments

Naturally, we seek out sound, safe investments for Grobond. We also look for growth/profit potential, and we watch our investments closely to ensure that they are performing well. When Philips introduced their revolutionary new compact disc, it was a classic case of a technological giant pioneering new profit opportunities.

Progress & profitability; that's what we look for in Grobond. If you are interested in being in great companies, if you are looking for long term growth potential, as well as a proven track record, ask your insurance broker for details of Grobond from Prudential.

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	<b>NETHERLANDS</b> Akzo Algemene Bank Heineken Philips Royal Dutch Petrol Unilever	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> Ciba Geigy Union Bank Swiss Bank Corp. Zurich Versicherung
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# PRUDENTIAL

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## ●FROM PAGE 19

complex: they are just downright inferior anyhow, and I never cease to stand back and admire the shining silver spirit of men from Leitrim, Carlow, Waterford, Fermanagh and many other counties who seldom see Croke Park except from the stands and still carry on organising the games in valley and glen of stoney grey soil with the bright light of community spirit shining in their eyes. After all, those are the men who form the broad firm base of the pyramid where the Croke Park finals are the golden top.

The counties that seldom win anything are not the poor neighbours that many of us, fed on the juicy meat of Croke Park excitement, think. The club championship in West Clare is as fervent as in Dublin (and indeed there have been days when it was far more so). The fun and excitement we enjoy isn't always directly related to the public importance of the event and the game between Kilmichael and Drimo League in West Cork may be the locality's own All Ireland. Enthusiasm like hope springs eternal and we would be a poor race indeed if the supremacy of Kerry or any other county sent us scurrying into the rat-holes of pessimism. When Kerry go down some other county will rise. Here's to an All-Ireland for Antrim. Does anybody remember Kevin Armstrong and Harry O'Neill?

And then there's the question they're always asking me — the one I'm trying to answer for forty years: "What is wrong with Cork football? Sure ye have plenty talent as ye have shown in the minor and under-21 football. There must be something wrong".

Yes there is, and no doubt about it. What's wrong is we have in the same province a crowd of blackguards over the county bounds whom I have already discussed earlier on. If we could sever the rocks, rivers, stony fields, the golden beaches, the shimmering lakes and sharp-witted

towns of the Kingdom from the rest of Ireland and push them gently but firmly out to sea where the warm Gulf Stream might coax them along to the coast of France and thence perhaps to Northern Borneo, all would be well. But until that happy day we've got to stick it out, **so what do we do?**

In Cork the players are still all around us. There are parts of the county where they wouldn't give one football All-Ireland for half a dozen in hurling. At the funeral of a great player named, Dick Harnedy, an old friend called me away from a group where as you can expect games were the subject, "Come on away with me" grated my friend "Them fellas are only hurlers".

But there's more to winning than simple enthusiasm and affection. Our trouble is that the young footballers in Cork are not practising a good style of play. They have the most dedicated trainers and coaches I know in the clubs but I fear the lads don't always listen. I don't think they train hard enough even though the county is full of track-and-field teams who place more store on running and sweat than coolness, accuracy and skill.

I watched two teams kicking the ball around a few weeks back warming up they were before the game. The carry on nearly made me vomit. They tipped it along the ground; they half-dribbled it in a way that would make any third rate soccer player smile, they disdained catching the ball as it came out of the air feeling quite clearly that trapping it was a far more effective Gaelic football skill. When the odd man did catch a high ball he did so by letting it fall into his open arms. All he needed was a bucket. Leaping two feet off the ground and catching the ball over head was probably regarded as stupid. It probably was for most likely they wouldn't hold it. In the game itself where many men of allegedly good standard were playing, there was almost no fetching

and one point from forty yards. There was plenty of running off the ball and (not so much ON the ball) and miles of swivel-assed solos, many of them to the corner flag where you couldn't score with a rifle. These faults are the errors of youth and in spite of them Cork will win under-age games while great men train, coach and send out fit intelligent young fellows schooled in fervent college competition and the manly club series.

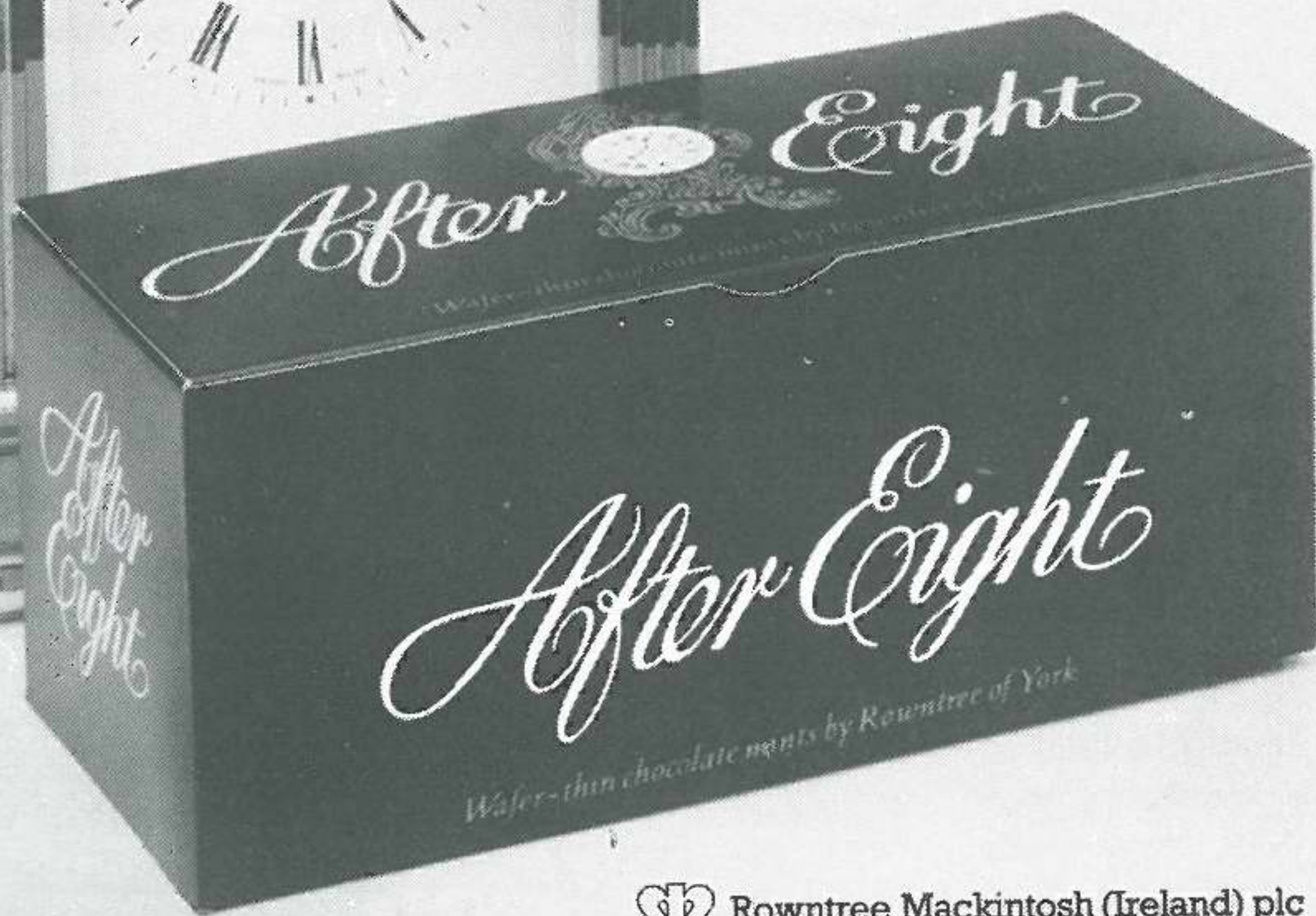
But from eighteen on, we must continue the football education of the young men. That's not always easy: it's admitted that for the last ten thousand years the man under twenty knows it all. When I was eighteen I thought my father was an awful fool; when I was twenty-one I was amazed to find out what he had learned in three years. Our young men in Cork must prove to themselves, and to us, that they can snatch that ball out of the sky, that they can kick over four out of five from thirty-five yards in play and that they can add those two vital skills to the solo, the hand-pass, the ground shot, both in play and from the dead ball. They must listen and learn. Man's greatest gift is his ability to think and as Frankie Byrne of Meath said to me recently after a Meath-Cork friendly game: "*There's only six inches between winning and losing — the distance between your ears*".


I'm very happy that a good selection committee down here has chosen Billy Morgan to train our senior footballers. This dedicated teacher-player-psychologist-coach is a hard man, by which I mean he always set himself a high standard, in fitness skill and thinking.

The big date is July in Pairc Uí Chaoimh with Seán Walsh, Ger Lynch, Ogie Moran, Mick Spillane, and the boys, all gently led on to the green pastures of the Marina by the gentle shepherd from Waterville. **Let's stop moaning about Kerry. Go out and beat 'em.**



**Time  
for a  
treat.**



 Rowntree Mackintosh (Ireland) plc



## BORRISOLEIGH CARRY MUNSTER'S HOPES INTO THE ALL-IRELAND CLUB HURLING FINAL

**B**ORRISOLEIGH will carry the hopes of Munster when they bid to keep the All-Ireland club senior hurling title in the province on St. Patrick's Day. They face a daunting enough task against that famed Wexford club, Rathnure, but the Tipperary champions have a lot going for them, and must be in with every chance in a match that has the

makings of a memorable decider.

Borrisoleigh are making their debut this season in a final. This will also be the second successive appearance by a Tipperary club in the concluding round, Kilruane McDonagh's having won the national title in 1986.

That is a strange statistic in view of the lack of success of Tipperary senior teams in national hurling competitions for some years now.

Borrisoleigh beat Kilruane in the Tipperary final, and that says a lot for the strength of the side. The county

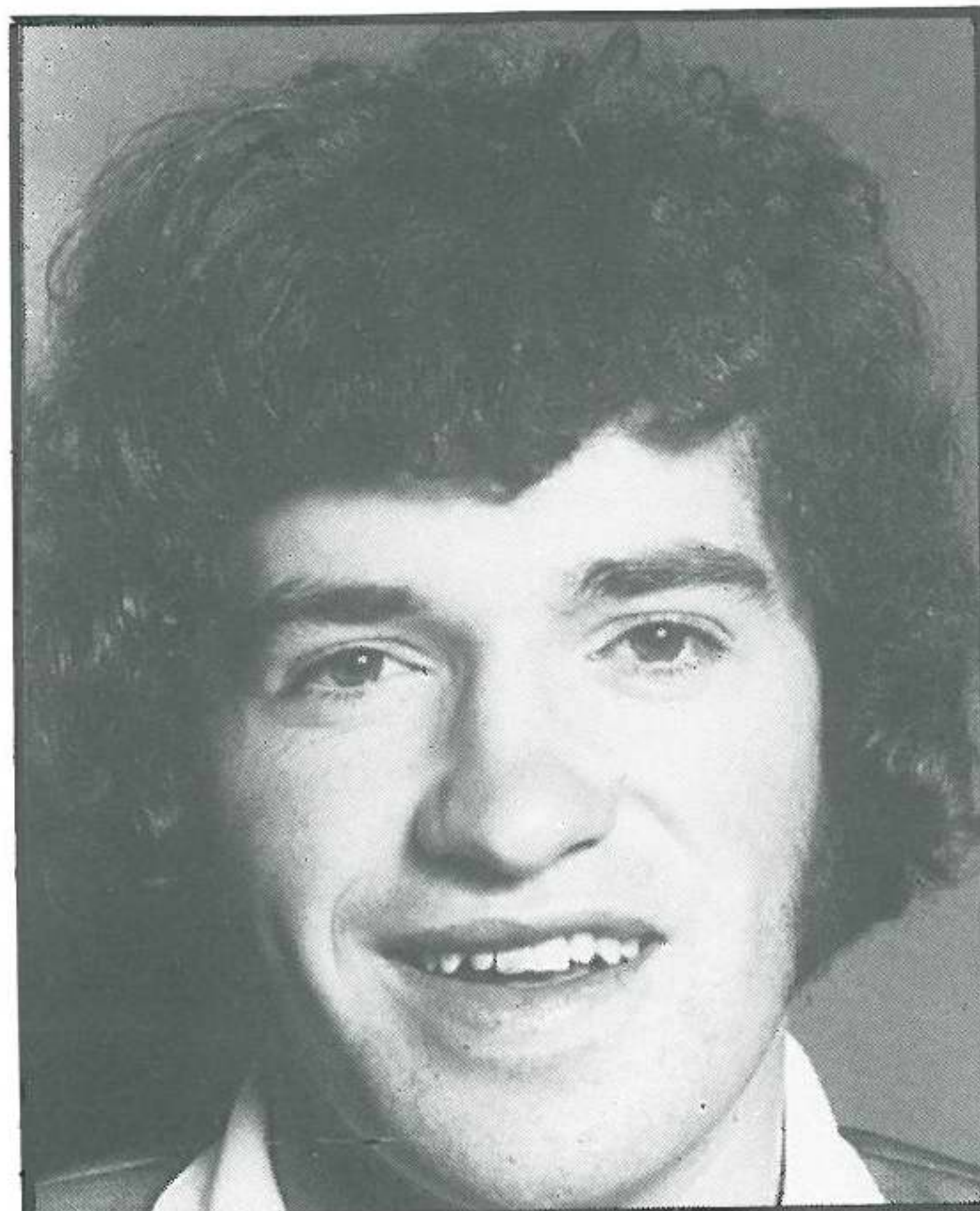
title triumph was followed by some good displays in Munster, and then came a very workmanlike showing when seeing off Ballycastle, of Antrim, by eight points in the semi-final.

One of the big men of the team is Noel O'Dwyer, who punished the Northerners dearly for fouling by

**\*TO PAGE 27**

**MIKE SHEEHY**

**LIZ HOWARD**



**MIKE SHEEHY . . . a chance next season of capturing the one major prize that has eluded him thus far in his checkered career, that of captaining Kerry to an All-Ireland victory.**



**LIZ HOWARD . . . showing the way for other lady's in the association as P.R.O. for the Tipperary County Board. A position Liz has held for some years now. She will also be remembered as a former panellist on "The Sunday Game".**



# 1986 BANK OF IRELAND

## FOOTBALL



H. Keegan  
(Roscommon)



T. Doyle  
(Kerry)



R. McCarron  
(Monaghan)



M. Sheehy  
(Kerry)



C. Nelligan  
(Kerry)



M. Lyons  
(Meath)



T. Spillane  
(Kerry)



E. McKenna  
(Tyrone)



D. O'Hagan  
(Tyrone)

## PEILE



J. Lynch  
(Tyrone)



C. Browne  
(Laois)



L. Irwin  
(Laois)



P. Spillane  
(Kerry)



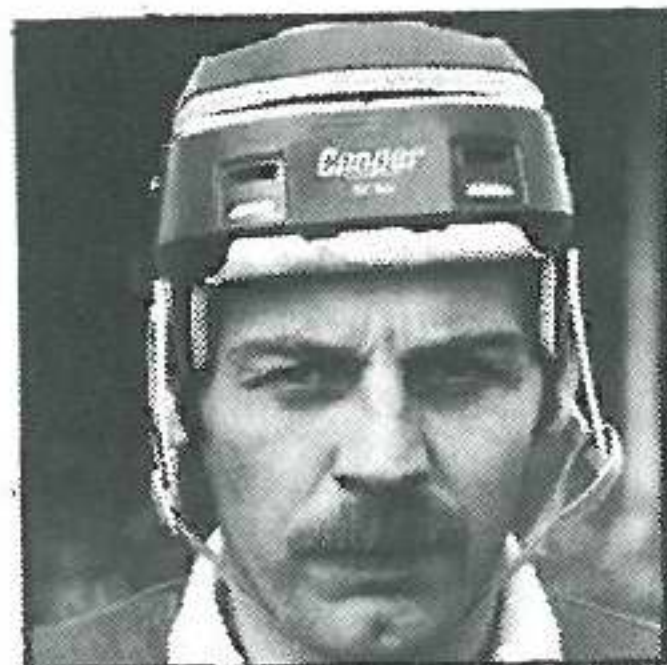
G. Power  
(Kerry)

COMPLIMENTS OF GAELIC SPORT... IRELAND'S LEADING



# LAND ALL-STARS

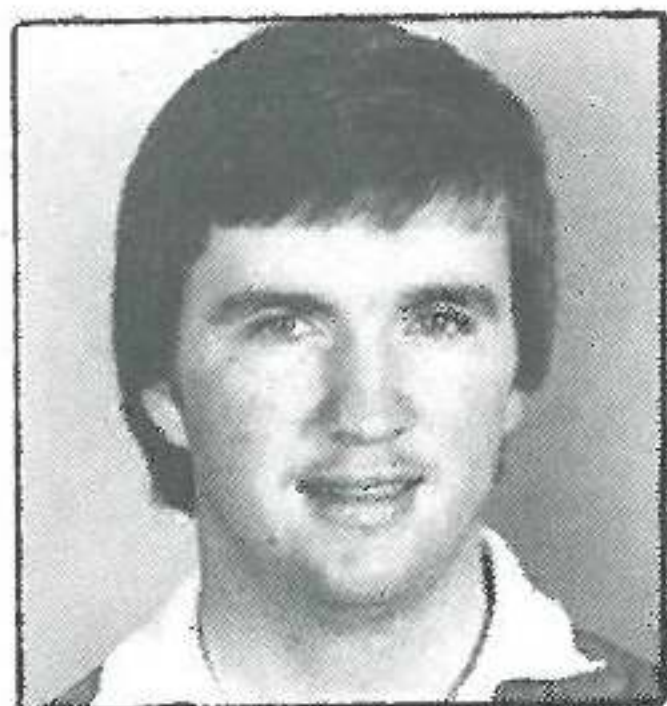
## HURLING



D. Mulcahy  
(Cork)



P. Finnerty  
(Galway)



T. O'Sullivan  
(Cork)



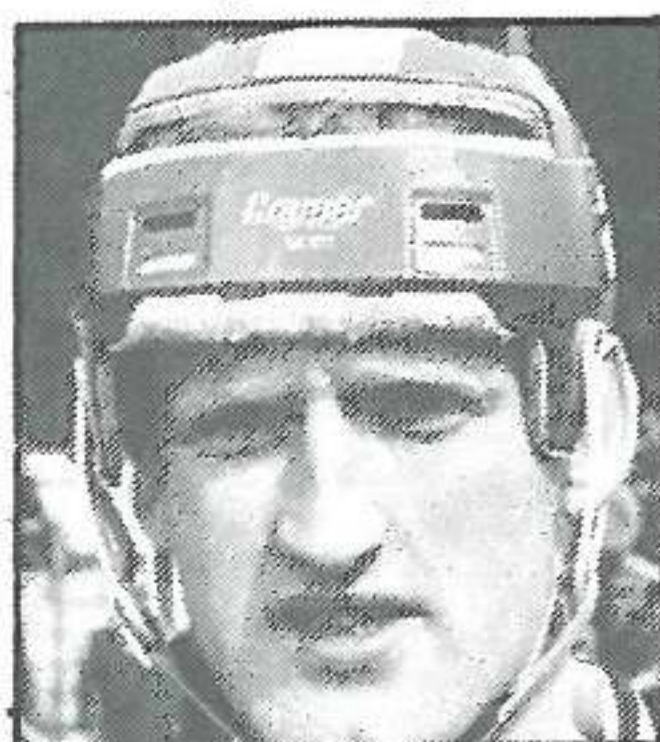
D. Kilcoyne  
(Westmeath)



G. Cunningham  
(Cork)



C. Hayes  
(Galway)



T. Keady  
(Galway)



J. Fenton  
(Cork)



Tomas Mulcahy  
(Cork)



J. Barry Murphy  
(Cork)

## IOMÁINT



S. Linnane  
(Galway)



B. Ryan  
(Tipperary)



J. Cooney  
(Galway)



K. Hennessy  
(Cork)

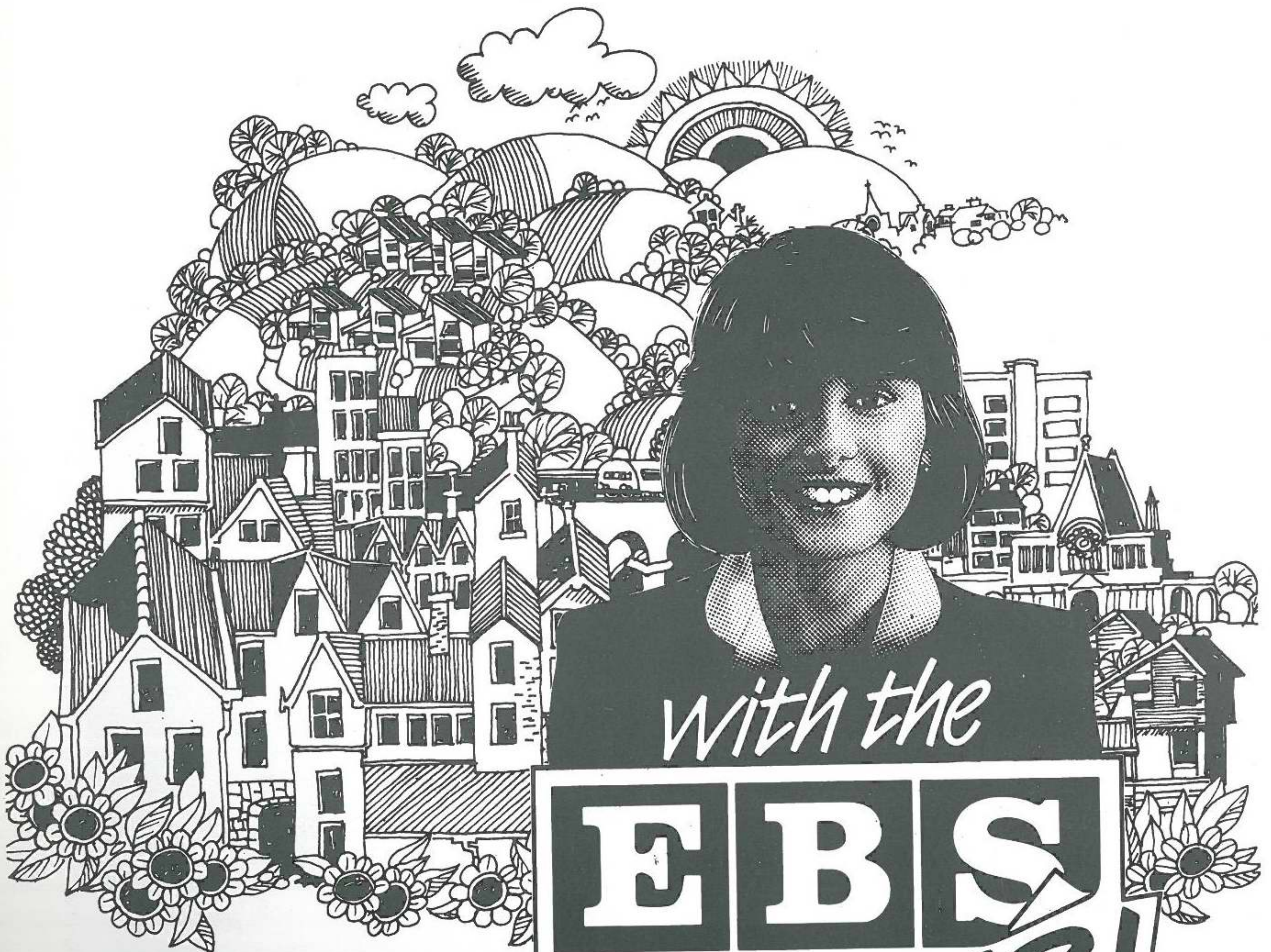


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**YES!**



## \*FROM PAGE 23

popping over points from frees. Yes, this is the same Noel O'Dwyer who was in the Tipperary team that last brought the coveted McCarthy Cup to the county as far back as 1971.

It would certainly be a great day for

## ★ MUNSTER MEDLEY ★

O'Dwyer if he followed on now, after so many years, by collecting a national club medal. I've a hunch that if Borrisoleigh make history, O'Dwyer will have a major say in creating it. He has been in great form all through with the club, and has been regularly putting away the scores in impressive style.

## AUGURS WELL

What a great start Kerry have made to the current Ford Football League! Those who had started to write them off — yet again! — after the All-Ireland final win over Tyrone in September must start to reconsider their views.

This Kerry team has still not reached the end of the road. All of which augurs well for the prospects of Mikey Sheehy clinching the one major distinction that has still to come his way — that of captaining the Kingdom to an All-Ireland crown.

The popular Austin Stacks club man will take over leadership of the team at the start of this year's knock-out series. He has given so much to the Kingdom and football that more than Kerry natives would like to see Sheehy earn the last great honour.

## ★ MUNSTER MEDLEY ★

Seven All-Ireland senior medals... League and Railway Cup souvenirs... All Stars trophies... goals and points in plenty and some spectacular scores at that... yes, Mikey Sheehy has enriched the game no end.

There are many who would like to see a change of football champions next September, but if Sheehy leads the Kingdom to their fourth title in a

row, then the honour could hardly befall a nicer man!

## PERMANENT MEMORIAL

How fitting that there is now a permanent memorial in Cork City to the Leeside's hurling legend and one of the greatest exponents ever of the national game... the late Christy Ring.

Not that Ring needs any tangible

memorial. His name will be revered as long as hurling lives, and people talk about the game, the stars and the giants of yesterday. Nevertheless, it is still wonderful to know that the memory of Ring is now commemorated in a permanent way as a result of the opening of a new £7 million bridge project over the Lee. The new bridge is known as Christy Ring Bridge, and was officially opened in mid February.

●OVERLEAF

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VOCATIONS DIRECTOR,  
ST. JOHN OF GOD BROTHERS,  
ST. RAPHAEL'S,  
CELBRIDGE,  
CO. KILDARE.**



## \*FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Christy was the first man to win eight All-Ireland senior medals, a distinction he earned in 1954 when Cork beat Wexford in a cracking hurling final. He was also Cork's captain that year and became the first and only man to receive the Liam McCarthy Cup three times. His other years as winning captain were 1946 and 1953.

Ring won an amazing total of 18 Railway Cup medals, and that is a feat that will never ever be repeated,

let alone beaten. He died suddenly early in March 1979.

## THE LADIES

The Editor tells me that he makes a case for a more active role for the ladies in Gaelic Games in his Editorial Comment in the current issue. Like you, I must wait until I receive the magazine to find out for myself what he has to say.

No criticism here from me, though, about encouraging the ladies to step

into executive roles in Gaelic Games. I'm all for that!

And that leads me nicely in terms of my Munster Review brief to record that the Limerick City Board na nOg has a lady secretary for the first time ever. She is Yvonne Murphy, who has been involved with SCÓR, the G.A.A.'s annual adult winter talent competition.

I'm told by those who know that Yvonne is the first lady to hold an

## ★ MUNSTER MEDLEY ★

executive post in County Limerick. Good luck to you Yvonne in your new role.

Here, perhaps, Munster is showing the way to the other provinces. After all, Liz Howard is not only the Tipperary County Board P.R.O., but has held down that position for some time now.

## TIPPERARY GREAT

How pleasing it was to see one-time Tipperary great Tommy Doyle honoured with the All Time Award for hurling at the Bank of Ireland All Stars awards late in January.

## ★ MUNSTER MEDLEY ★

Tommy, of Thurles Sarsfields, commands a special place in the annals of the game for his amazing feat in holding the legendary Christy Ring scoreless for 150 minutes in the Munster senior championship in two games in 1949 — the second went to extra time. Doyle wore the No 7 jersey in those games.

The great defender went on to make it three All-Ireland senior hurling medals on the trot in 1951. That was also the year of his last national championship souvenir, and his fifth in all. The first was won in 1937 as a forward.

He played minor with the county, and made his debut with the Tipperary senior team in the National League in 1936. It was to be the beginning of a great career, one that has ensured Tommy Doyle of Thurles of the proudest possible place in the annals of hurling.

# LOOKS LIKE

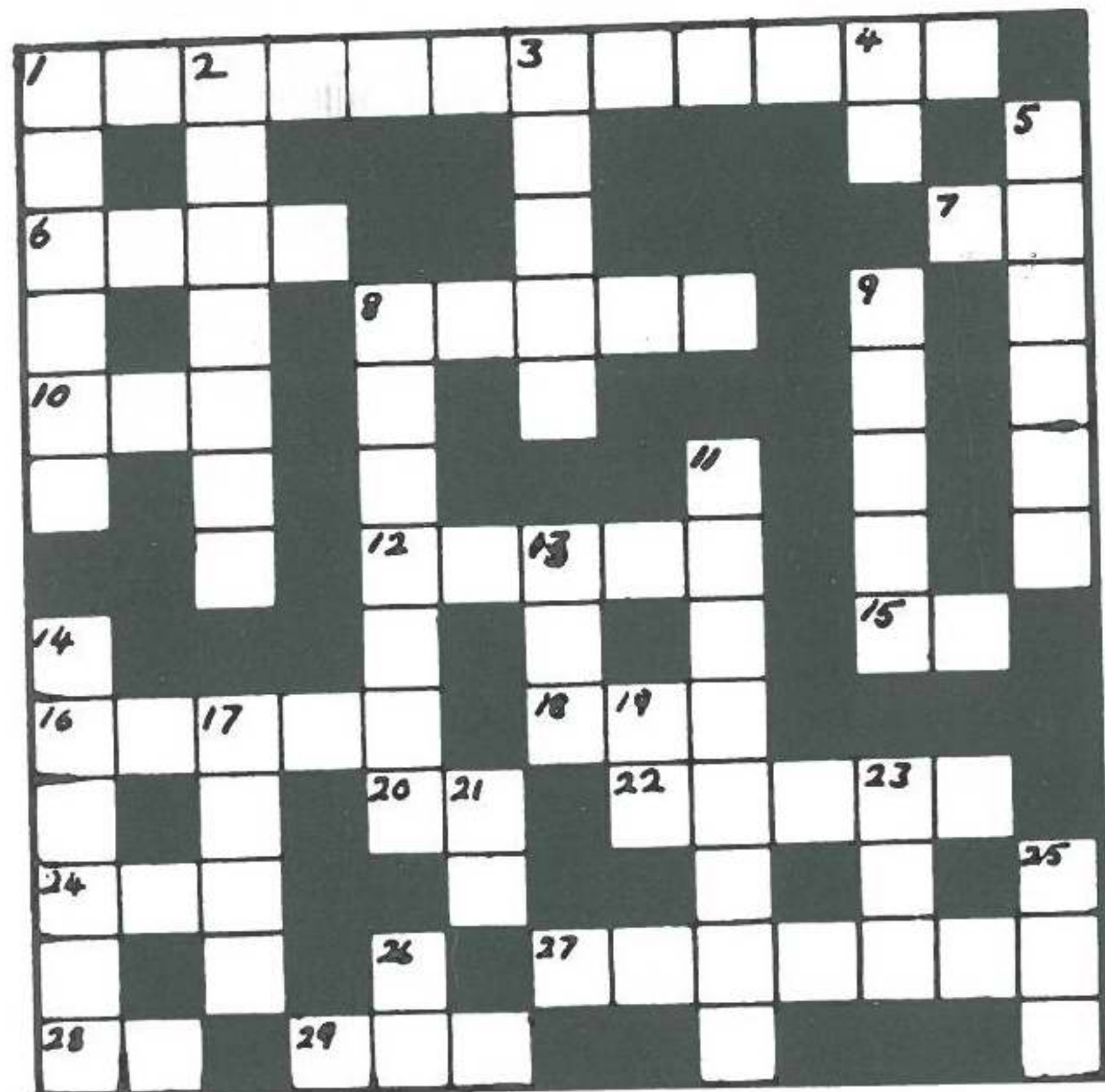


# TASTE TELLS



# CROSSWORD

devised by Peter Moloney



## ACROSS

1 — This forward won an Ulster senior football medal last July, and was also in the Ireland squad on the Australian tour. (6,6).

6 — Christian name of one of twin sisters who helped Kilkenny to retain the All-Ireland senior camogie title last September. (4).

7 — Initials of Offaly's right full-back from St. Rynagh's in their historic All-Ireland minor hurling final win in 1986. (1,1).

8 — Surname of Tom and John, brothers from Limerick, who last year regained the All-Ireland Coca-Cola senior doubles title in handball. (5).

10 — Many argue that Kerry already look this to win another All-Ireland senior football title this year. (3).

12 — Meath is often called this county. (5)

15 — An All-Ireland final captain from the West last year. Initials (1,1).

16 — No team likes to ..... in any match. (5).

18 — Tyrone's points total only in the All-Ireland senior football final last year. (3).

20 — Initials of a short version for the forward who wears the No. 10 jersey. (1,1).

22 — Christian name of one of the Dubs of the 'Seventies, who made a successful comeback to win a further All-Ireland senior football medal in 1983 in attack. (5).

24 — Initials of a former star of inter-county senior

hurling and an All-Ireland medalist who won a Munster club medal before Christmas. (1,2).

27 — Brendan wore the No. 11 jersey for Galway in the All-Ireland senior hurling final last year. (7).

28 — Initials of one of Connacht's leading stars and one of the game's top defenders who was in the final three for the Bank of Ireland All Stars selection at right full. (1,1).

29 — Cork's goal tally against Derry in the All-Ireland under-21 football semi-final last August. (3).

## DOWN

1 — Cork's left half back in the 1986 All-Ireland senior hurling final. (1,5).

2 — Runners-up for the Railway Cup in hurling last year. (7).

3 — Popular form of a Christian name that revives memories of a former goalkeeping great from Kilkenny in hurling. (5).

4 — Initials of the St. Thomas club man who captained Galway to last year's All-Ireland under-21 hurling final after playing in the senior decider a week earlier. (1,1).

5 — Captain of Kilkenny's All-Ireland senior camogie title winning team of 1986. (1,5).

8 — Galway and Kerry met at this stage of the final stages of the 1986 All-Ireland hurling championship last July. (7).

9 — Christian name of a footballer very much in the penalty spotlight in two games in last year's All-Ireland senior football championship, and who scored a history-making goal as well. (5).

11 — Right full back in Galway's unsuccessful All-Ireland senior hurling final outing last September. (1,7).

13 — Donegal have . . . to win an All-Ireland senior football title. (3).

14 — Left full back for Tyrone as they lined-up against Kerry in the 1986 All-Ireland senior football final. (1,5).

17 — There are still no favourites at this standard for the All-Ireland senior hurling title. (4).

19 — These initials will suffice here for "Early Arrival". (1,1).

21 — Short for the match interval. (1,1).

23 — Derry is often referred to as the ..... Leaf County. (3).

25 — It is generally agreed that a goalkeeper in football and hurling needs a keen this. (3).

26 — Initials of Galway's left half forward in the 1986 All-Ireland senior hurling final. (1,1).





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•ANGELA DOWNEY

**A** Texaco Award is the highest honour to which a camogie player may aspire. The recipient is assured of a special place in the annals of the game.

Texaco Awards have been few and far between where camogie players are concerned. Twenty years ago, the legendary Una O'Connor joined the elite band as the first representative of the sport. A year later, Antrim captain, Sue Cashman extended camogie's winning list.

For nineteen years, camogie followers scanned the short list of selected sports with disappointment. Deserving candidates quickly sprung to mind but they had been passed over.

When camogie featured in the 1986 series, one name was on everybody's lips. It had to be Angela Downey. In company of Sean Kelly, Pat Spillane, Claire Hourihane and Ger Cunningham, Angela at last received the special distinction.

As a fifteen year old student from

Presentation, Castlecomer, Angela was introduced to the camogie public in the 1972 All-Ireland Senior Final. Too young and too light to upset an experienced Cork defence on that occasion, she was soon to make all opposition sit up and take notice.

**Kilkenny and Cork played a heart-stopping draw in the 1974 decider. Brilliant passages of play marked the replay. The match marked the arrival of Kilkenny and Angela Downey.**

Angela has won six All-Ireland and three National League medals in the Kilkenny colours. Such has been Angela's contribution that it is safe to say that her county's tally would be somewhat less without her services. The semi-final at Nowlan Park last August is a case in point.

Her lightning solo runs, quick acceleration on the turn, masterly ball control and blistering shot create havoc in any defence. Add to that her extremely competitive approach and hunger for success and it is easy to see why she is the game's top performer.

## CAMOGIE

# TEXACO AWARD, THE CROWNING GLORY FOR ALL-ROUND ATHLETE ANGELA

---

by MARY MORAN

---

**Angela is an all-round athlete.** At Gradam Tailte, she has displayed her prowess at sprinting, basketball, gym tests and, of course, camogie skills. Undisputed winner of camogie's superstar competition for the past three years, she gave a matchless exhibition in 1985 when she amassed a staggering 64 points.

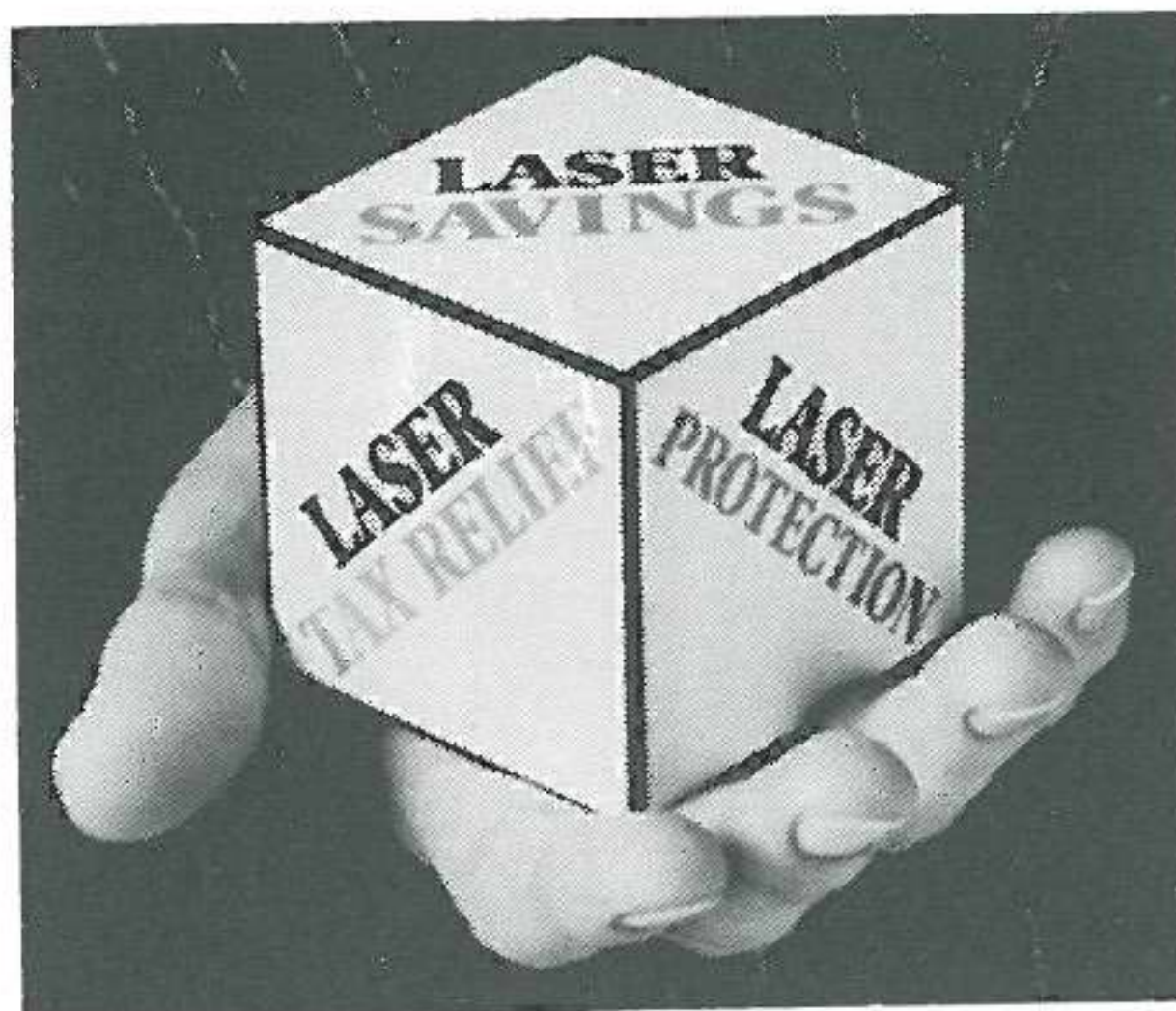
Daughter of Shem Downey, who won an All-Ireland hurling medal in the great final of 1947, Angela has achieved almost everything that the game has to offer. Side by side with her in those victories has been her twin sister Anne.

Constantly in the news, Angela has won top honours with her club, county and province. She captained Kilkenny to win the All-Ireland Senior championship in 1977. She has been honoured with two B & I awards and now the crowning glory, the Texaco Award.



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*President, Dr. Mick Loftus, his successor will be chosen at the Annual Congress, but his term of office still has a year to run.*

## ***President elect to be chosen at Congress in March***

By PAT MOLLOY

course, not due to step down just yet from the chief executive post. His term has still a year to run, but his successor will be chosen at the Annual Congress in Wexford on March 28-29 with the selection of the next President-Elect.

One name immediately sprang to mind when I began to give the matter some thought — John Dowling. He has given tremendous service to the G.A.A. over many years in a variety of roles. A long tenure as Offaly County Board secretary, plus a three-year stint as Leinster Council chairman means that he has a wealth of the type of administrative experience that can prove so invaluable for the role of President.

As a result, Dowling has had his "ear to the ground" for a long spell. He knows the G.A.A. inside out, from county right up to national level, and is rightly very highly respected throughout the country.

This was strikingly in evidence at the last contest for the position of President-Elect at the Centenary Year Congress in Belfast. Dowling was only beaten by Loftus on the third count by 146 votes to 125. Experience has shown over the years that an unsuccessful candidate at one Presidential election can gain the ultimate honour at a subsequent contest.

I understand that Dowling will be a contender again this year, and I have little doubt that he will be very strongly supported. Many would say that he must start favourite. I would not dispute that fact too strongly, but at the same

**T**HE waters keep changing; the river is eternal". That is an old proverb that came vividly to my mind the other day when I suddenly realised that the G.A.A. was on the threshold once more of electing a new President. Officials come and go in the position, but the G.A.A. goes on and on.

It seems like only yesterday that Paddy Buggy handed over the reins of office to Mick Loftus. The Mayo man is, of

●TO PAGE 35

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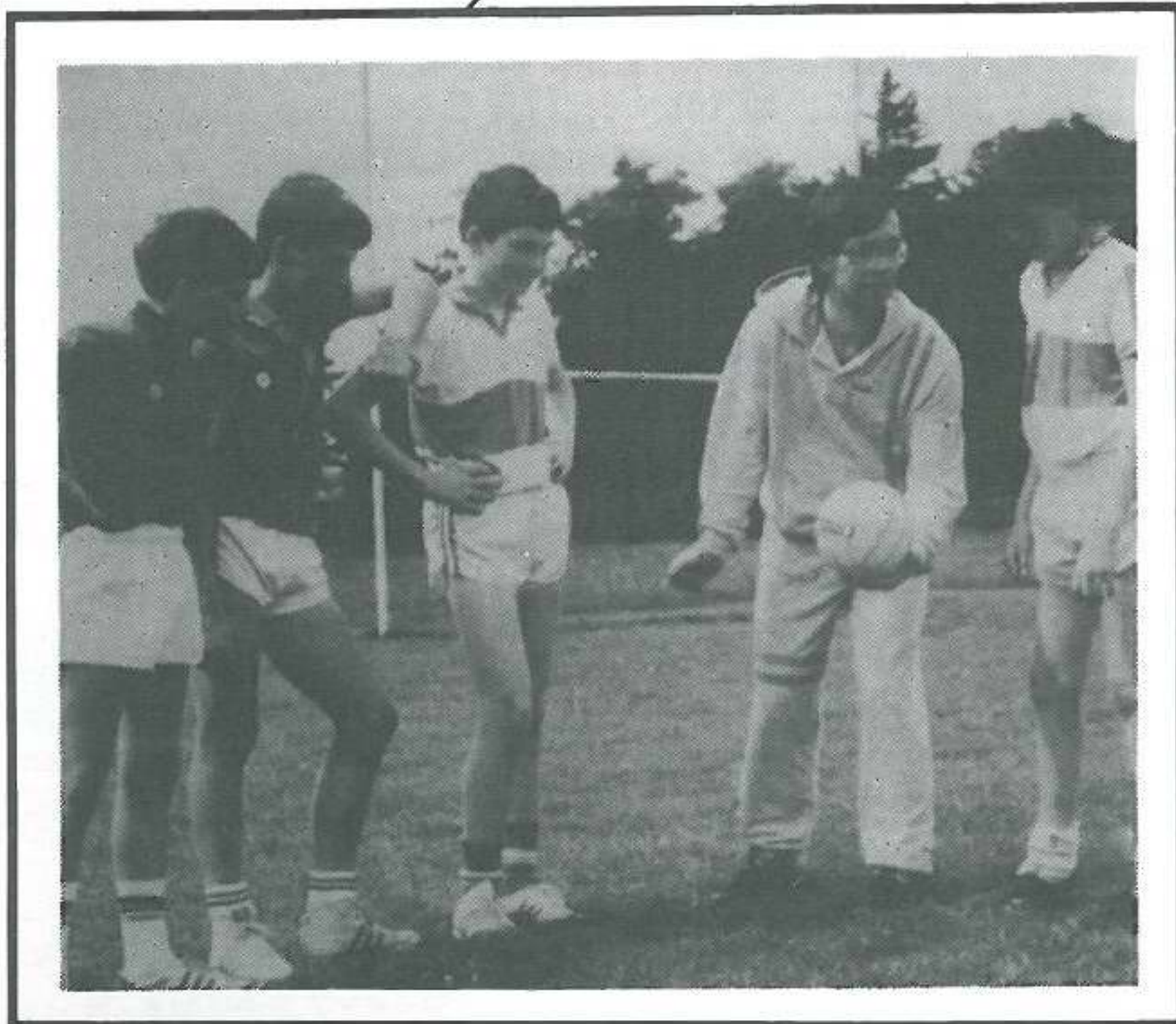
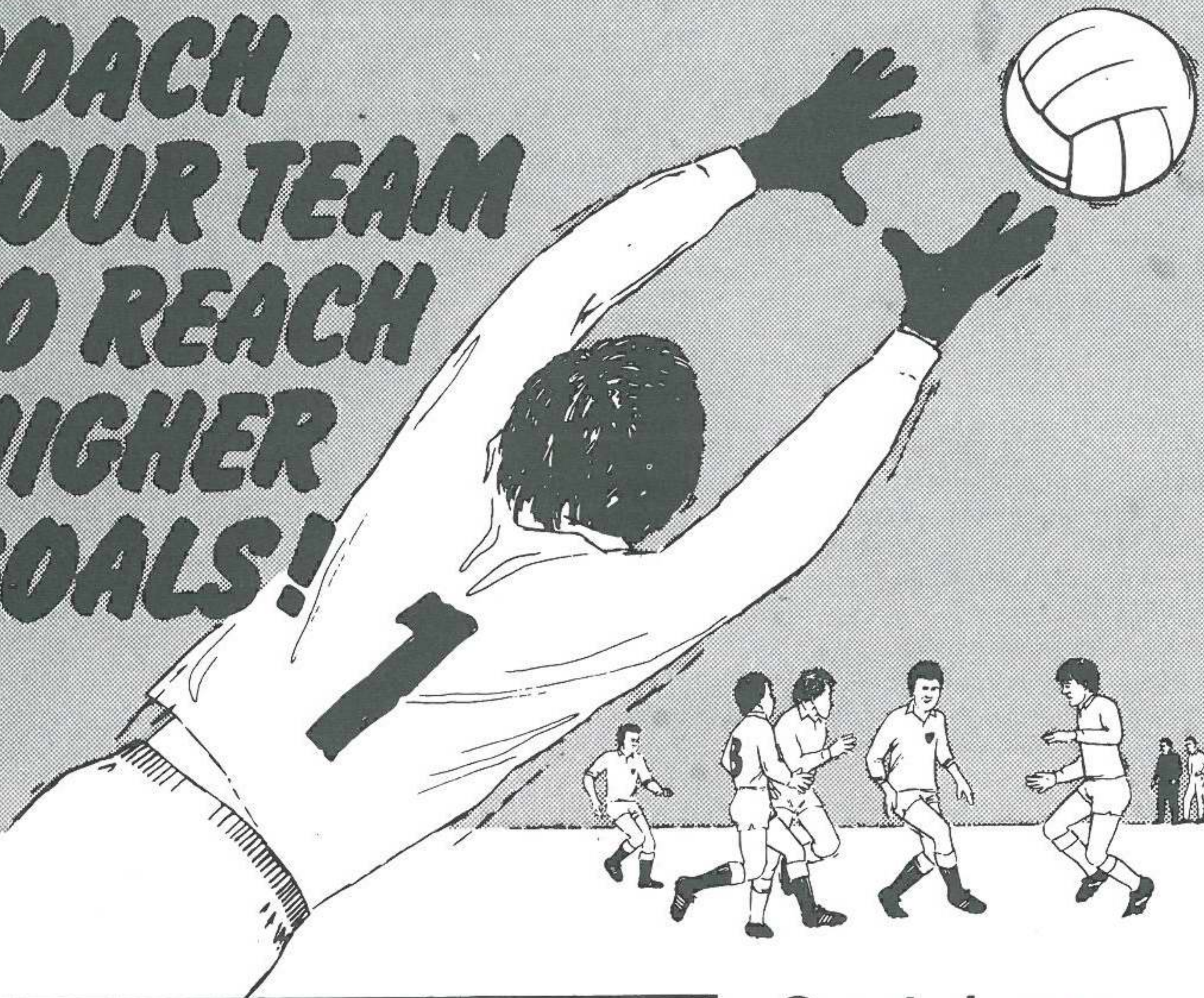
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## ●FROM PAGE 33

time, soundings I have made of late lead me to believe that the up-coming election will prove an unusually keen one.

An interesting dimension has been provided by the decision of Peter Quinn, of Fermanagh, to join the chase. He is the current chairman of the Ulster Council, and many of the Northern counties are bound to row in behind him. I have heard it said, as well, that some of the Connacht counties are likely to back the Northerner.

Quinn, 43, is a very able G.A.A. official, and like Dowling he appreciates fully just what is needed to keep the organisation moving out confidently into the 'Nineties. No man in a position as important as a Provincial chairman at this time could fail to have his finger on the pulse as far as this is concerned.

However, Quinn will not be the North's lone standard bearer. Cavan have nominated their own Jim McDonnell for the position.

McDonnell is one of the all-time greats of Breffni football. He will always be remembered in a special way for a classic one-man show as Cavan went down very heavily to Kerry in an All-Ireland senior semi-final replay in 1955. He sparkled first at half back and later at midfield, and really stole the show that day.

Jim went on in later years to serve as Cavan County Board Chairman for a number of seasons, and he has been active in other administrative posts as well. Then, he was also in the news nationally last year as an administrator in the touring party of the successful visit to Australia for the Test football series.

The Breffni man is bound to have many supporters at the Wexford ballot.

### ANOTHER BID

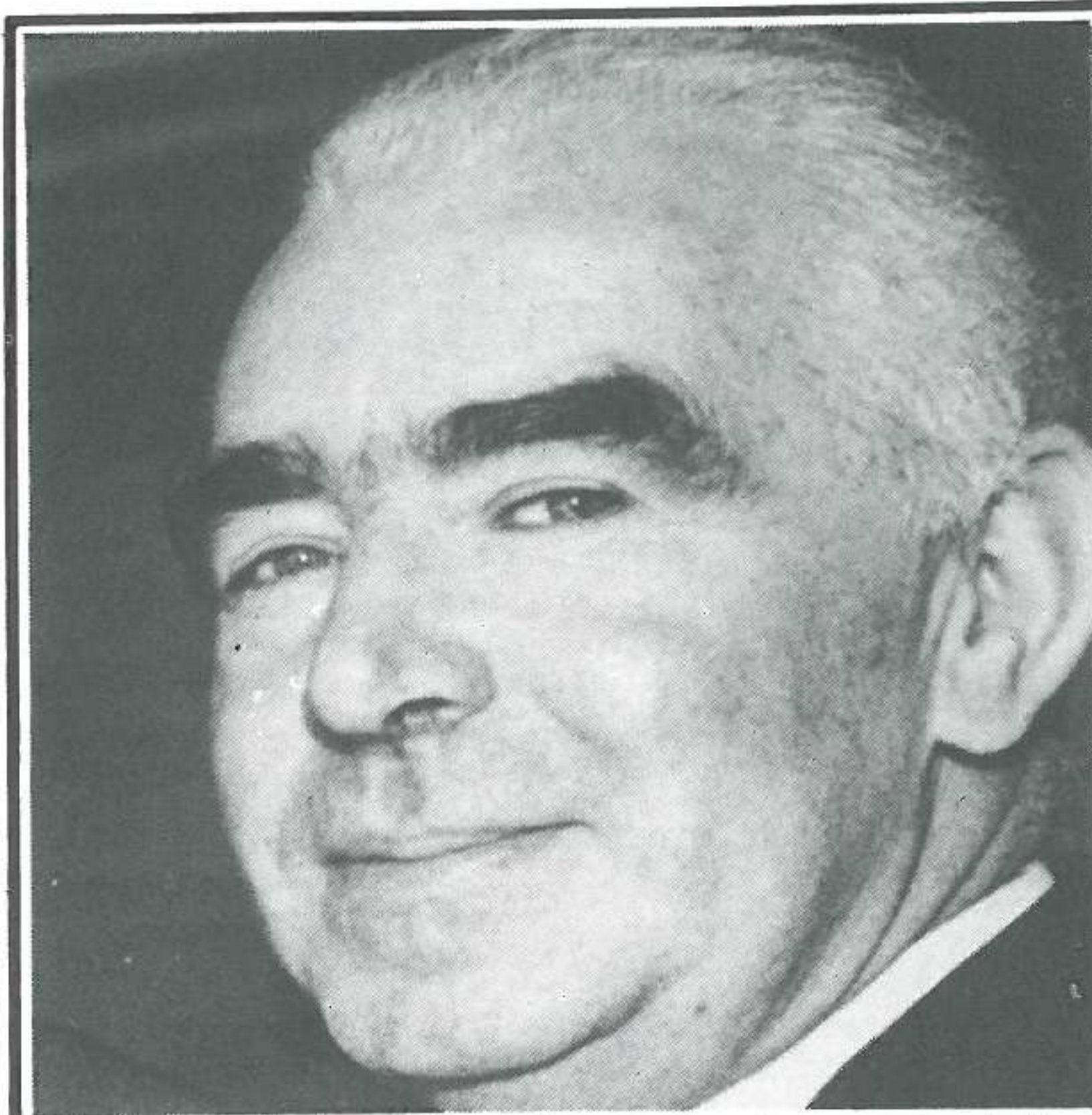
Brendan Vaughan (Clare) will be making another bid for the job. He was one of the unsuccessful candidates at Belfast three years ago, and has been nominated by his own County Board.

Vaughan is another well qualified for the position. He has been actively involved in Gaelic affairs, and is a former chairman of both the Clare County Board and of the Munster Council.

The Banner County official's chances cannot be lightly dismissed. The same can be said of Michael Frawley, of Tipperary, a former chairman of the County Board and currently a Trustee of the G.A.A.

Then, the indications at press time were that Frank King, who was surprisingly beaten in a contest for the Kerry chair at the convention in January, will also be in the field. He was one of the Kingdom's most successful in the position of Chairman of the County Board, and many would undoubtedly be pleased to see him become the first from the county to attain the highest executive office.

A somewhat late entry was that of long-serving Kildare official Gearoid O Tiernan, a former inter-county hurler in the 'Fifties. Although not perhaps as well known on the national scene as most of the other candidates he still has sound credentials for the job, having served as Kildare



*John Dowling, who has given tremendous service to the Association over the years is bound to be a strong contender for the Presidency.*

Hurling Board Chairman for some five years, and secretary of the Board for a lengthy spell. He is also Kildare's Irish officer.

But with Dowling also carrying the flag in Leinster, the odds may be just that little too heavily stacked against the Kildare Town man. His entry, nonetheless, gives added interest to the contest.

It is very encouraging that despite the tremendous demands on time and energy that the office of the President places on the man chosen, so many able officials in the G.A.A. are still prepared to go forward in quest of the job. This is the type of unselfish approach that is so badly needed now more than ever in all walks of life in Ireland if the country is to soon emerge from the depression that has hung like a dark and depressing cloud over our land for so long now.

The men in line for the Presidency are all able, determined officials of proven ability in a variety of roles. Who ever is chosen, it is comforting to know even at this stage that he can be depended on to measure up to the task.

Now, I must "throw my hat in the ring", and make a forecast.

I have a hunch that Quinn could make a really serious bid on his first attempt. My reading of the picture is that the contest will even out into a "three man affair", with Dowling, Quinn and Frawley the pace-setters.

As far as I can judge, each is in with a genuine chance, and the issue is sure to be close right until the final votes are counted. However, I will take my stand with John Dowling. Having come so close to the position three years ago, I feel that the popular Tullamore man will capture the necessary support this time to go all the way.



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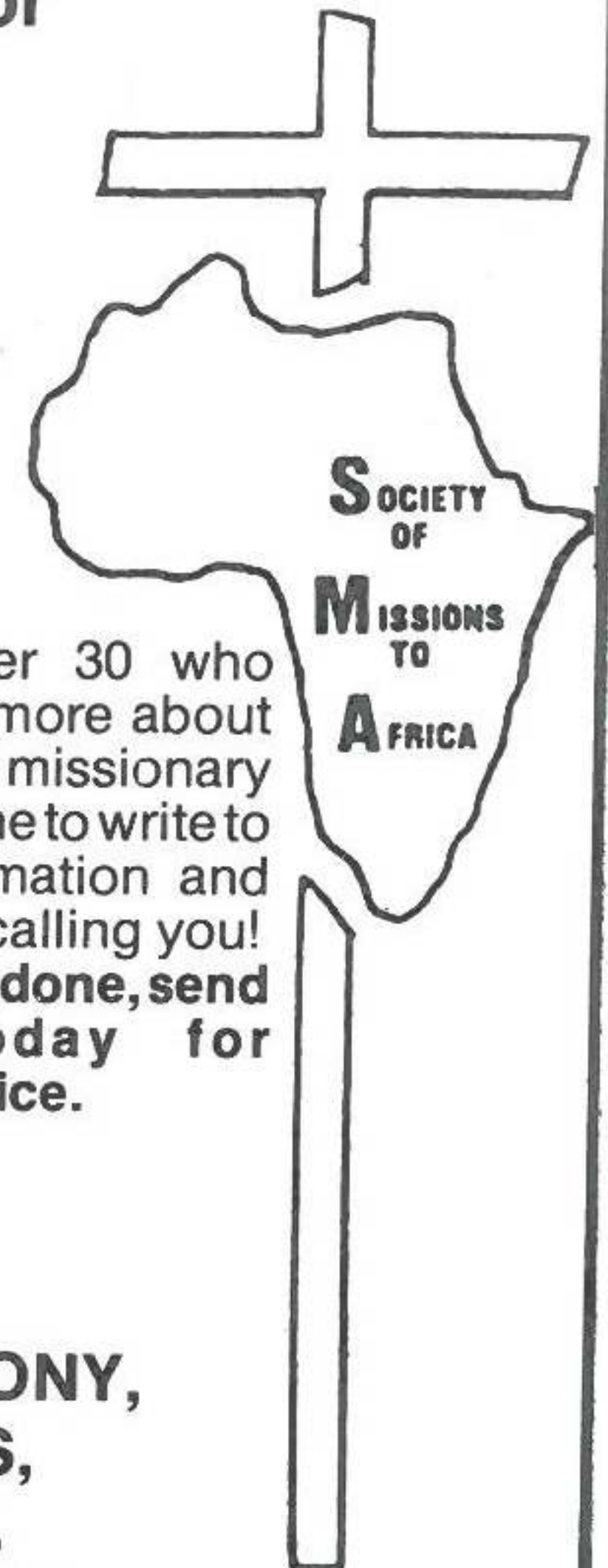
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## The handball court is now the Mecca in many G.A.A. clubs — thanks to out-going President O'Brien

says Sean Clerkin

**T**OMMY O'Brien should be asked to stand and take a bow.

That is the least recognition that can be given to the reigning President of the Irish Handball Council, who in a very short space of time, will be handing over the position to Mick Tyrell from Tipperary. O'Brien has completed his three year term of office and he can leave it with an easy conscience, in the knowledge that he served handball well.

**He continued to inspire the upward spiral of the game as it seals a place in the major sports category.**

The acorn that was sown at the World Championships in 1970 continued to grow into a healthy oak, and O'Brien provided further nutrition for it, with his deft administration of the 1984 World Championships.

These were held in Ireland to mark the Centenary Year of the G.A.A. and heralded outstanding victories by Tom O'Rourke in singles and the Quish Brothers, Tom and John in doubles.

On a broader base, though, O'Brien mirrored handball in that Centenary Year with a new image. He crystallised the efforts of the previous fifteen years into a compact package.

Handball was now standing four square in relation to hurling and football. The handball court was now the Mecca in many G.A.A. clubs and those who had provided for other sports to the exclusion of handball realised that they were the losers.

What a far cry, indeed from the unhappy days when handball was squealing for protection under the G.A.A. banner.

Thankfully, the handballers have emerged from their self imposed

isolation and have become active members of the G.A.A. and there has been reciprocations from the parent body.

**It was easy for O'Brien to be part of that integration since his ideology is that of the G.A.A.**

He has been an active member of it since his youth, whether that be in the role of player or administrator. As Tommy steps aside from the pivotal position in Irish handball, he will continue to promote the game with no less determination.

He is, after all, still the Secretary of the Leinster Council, and this is quite an onerous task in its own right.

He is a member of the Talbots Inch and O'Loughlins Clubs, sufficient testimony of his deep-rooted interest in the handball and G.A.A. activities of his native county.

It was third time lucky for Mick Tyrell when he won the contest for the Presidency at last year's Congress. That is probably the best insight one could get into the make-up of the Tipperaryman. Determination is one of his big characteristics and it has been very much in evidence, whether his role was applicable to club, county or province.

He was very much to the fore in the development of his own club in Clonmel, which ranks with the best in the country, and he has also given the benefit of his expertise to the Tipperary County Board and the Munster Council.

Presidents of the Handball Council, invariably pin-point their own areas of priority and Tyrell will probably divulge his plans at Congress.

He has been ever conscious that

there is a certain deficiency in handball circles relative to publicity and public relations.

In this regard he was in accord with Handball Administrator Joe Lynch in decrying the decision of R.T.E. to discontinue the Top Ace series. This had proven extremely popular, not alone with handballers, but amongst the sporting public.

The decision of R.T.E. to televise part of the senior singles final of the Coca Cola Championship was not accepted as a real alternative.

Perhaps Tyrell would be well advised to enter into negotiations with R.T.E. in conjunction with the G.A.A. with a view to getting a package deal to cover all games.

On the other hand, while handball officials might often decry the failure of the media to perform adequately, it transpires that in many instances, they hide their activities under a bushel and nobody knows anything about them except themselves.

This comes under the broad heading of public relations, which could well be taken as a key area for action by the incoming President.

I would like to think too that he would give priority rating to the promotion and development of the game in Dublin. In relation to the size of the population, the number of participants in the capital is minimal, hence a major promotional drive is urgently needed.

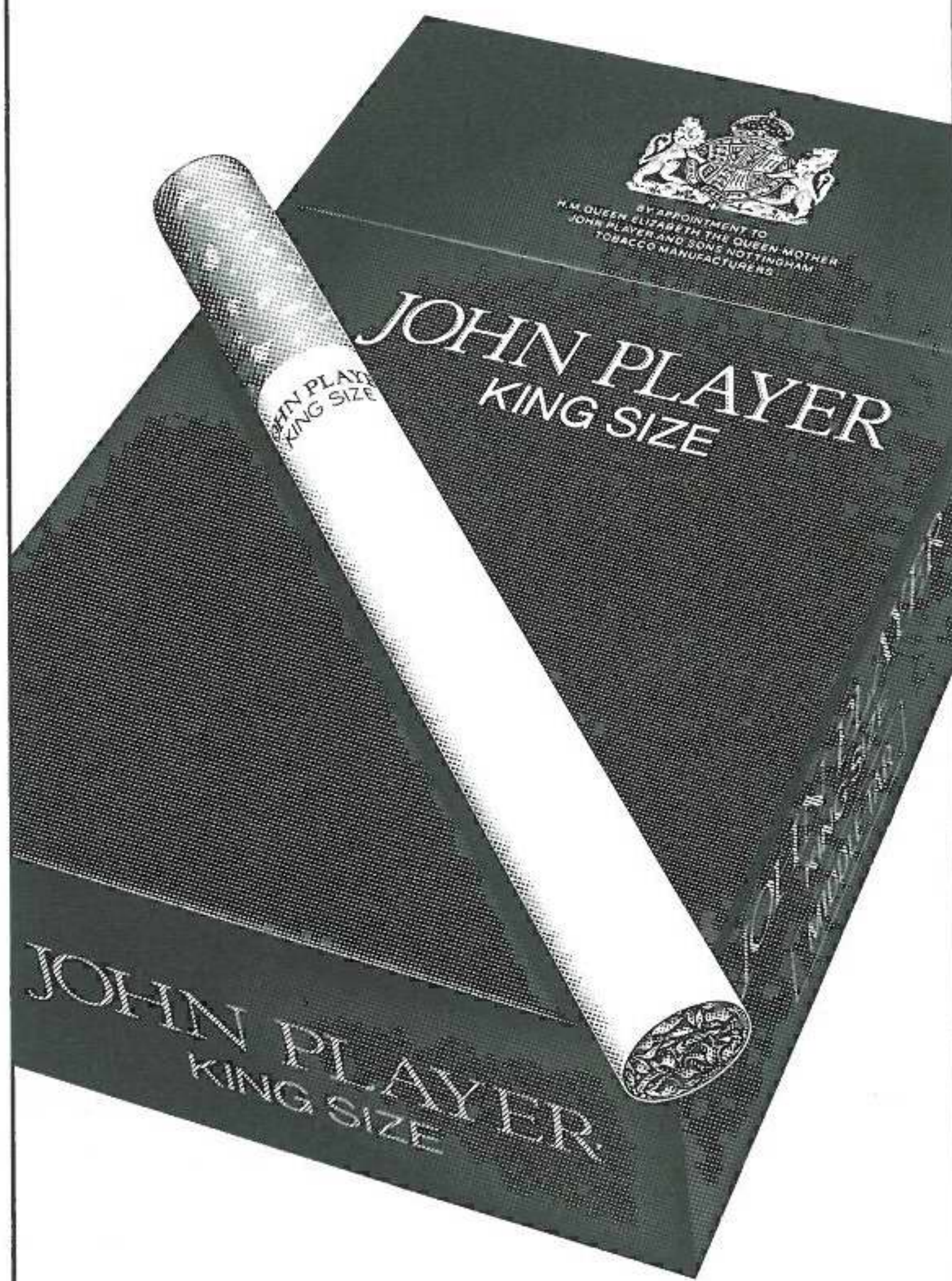
As Tyrell gears himself to accept the Presidency, he will have defined his own priorities, and they must get the respect and attention of handballers.

**We wish the new President every success.**



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.....



## NORTHERN SPOTLIGHT WITH PÁDRAIG O'BAOIGHILL

**I**N the North many followers feel that Monaghan should have been in Croke Park on All-Ireland day both in 1985 and 1986 and as they now progress satisfactorily in the Ford National League there is much speculation that 1987 will be their year. Their success so far in the Ford League was achieved without the services of nearly half their championship team. Kevin Carragher, Fergus Caulfield, Brendan Murray, Hugo Clerkin, David Byrne, Mick Dowd and Eamonn McAneaney were all on the injured list. Mick Dowd has already recovered and was impressive against Mayo. Hopes are high that Clerkin, Byrne, Murray and McAneaney will be back for the remaining games in the League. Caulfield after an operation hopes to be back for the championship. Gerry McCarville after a rest in the Autumn is playing better than ever and is a vital player in Fr. McQuaid's plan for success. Monaghan played some lovely football against Roscommon and Mayo but the introduction of Clerkin, Byrne or Carragher at centrefield will give a better ball supply to the forwards. Undoubtedly all the players who substituted for the regulars kept Monaghan in the limelight and competition for places will be very keen. Sean McKenna of Scotstown who played at corner back against Mayo was impressive. Similar to McCarville in defence. Monaghan require McAneaney in attack to send over the long distance frees as he did in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1985. During the year no player contributed to Monaghan's success more than Ray McCarron and we congratulate him on his All Star award.

While they talked of the success of Fr. McQuaid's county team in his own parish of Truagh, they mourned a great

Monaghan player of the past Fr. Don Trainor of Carrickroe who went to his eternal reward at the beginning of the year. An outstanding forward he won a championship with Emyvale and starred for the county in the forties.

**Pat Mullan:-** Down Derry way where hopes are high for the championship they lost a great Gael before Christmas in the person of Pat Mullan of Portstewart who was county secretary from 1965 to 1980, a period that Derry won the All-Ireland minor title (1965), St. Columba's College the Hogan Cup (1965), the All-Ireland under 21 title (1968), and an All-Ireland Junior Hurling Championship (1975). He was a native of Glenullen from where present Derry star Dermot McNicholl comes and he was a brother of a founder of the G.A.A. in Derry Sean Ó Maoláin who was instrumental in forming the first County Board in 1926 before emigrating to America.

In Derry's Ford League games to date midfielder Plunkett Murphy of Dungiven has turned in some great games and will be challenging Tyrone's Plunkett Donaghy for Ulster's top midfield place. With so many players missing through injury Tyrone were not too impressive in the early stages of the league. However with Kieran McGarvey back, McCabe and Lynch ready to return they will be a more difficult proposition in the concluding stages of the competition. Art McGrory will also ensure that his players are well prepared for Casement Park on June 7th when they take on an improved Antrim team under former county player Eamonn Grieve.

**Donegal:-** The new Donegal Chairman Charlie Faulkner of McCumhails Ballybofey comes from Carrowmeena in

Inishowen an area not too prominent presently in Gaelic games. Along with his brothers he played with the local team and while working in Wicklow in 1948 he won a junior football championship with the Kilmacanogue team. Back in Donegal he spent short periods with St. Eunans and Tamhnach a' Mhullaigh, Donegal Town before he joined McCumhails in 1971 where he did great work as an administrator. He has been vice-chairman of the County Board since 1982.

He feels that it is necessary to get more players from Gweedore and the Rosses on to the County Team for added grit and determination. In fact the standard of football in the Gweedore/Dungloe games of the fifties was the highest I have seen in any county. Since they ceased at senior level in that division Gaelic football has been on the decline.

**Dungloe:-** However a very encouraging sign of improvement in 1986 was the performance of a very young Dungloe team who won the Gaeltacht Inter Club Championship in Downings and the County Intermediate Championship. Gweedore under manager Hughie Green captured the Junior Championship. If manager Tom Conaghan can get experienced players like Martin McHugh, Michael Carr and Des Newtown into action with the present well drilled county squad, they will be a formidable team. McHugh is a vital cog in the Donegal forward machine if he can get a good supply from midfield. Although veteran Martin Griffin has played some good games here, Donegal now have no men like Jim McFadden, Mickey Rua Gallagher, Sean Ferriter or Frank McFeeley to name but a few. They are not alone with this problem.

•TO PAGE 41



*Pictured left are the 1985 N.F.L. champions, Monaghan, many Northern folk believe that this team should have contested both the 1985 and '86 All-Ireland Finals.*



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## ●FROM PAGE 39

**Railway Cup:-** When Alf Murray of Armagh stepped up to receive the All Star award at the Bank of Ireland presentation in the Burlington in January it reminded us of his dazzling displays on the forty for Ulster in the Railway Cup competition. The names of Murray, Armstrong, Maguire, McCulloch and Hudy Beag Gallagher gave a status to this competition that flourished through the fifties and sixties until it began to decline in recent years. We will miss the Railway Cup on St. Patrick's Day this year but we hope that the change of date to the Autumn will ensure that this great competition which gave recognition to unknown players will continue. Comhgháirdeachas duit Alf. Bhí sé tuillte agat.

**Cavan Convention:** Donegal was not the only county to get a new chairman. Tyrone and Armagh did likewise while down Cavan way Peter Brady from the Ballymachugh club was chosen instead of Phil Brady, Arva, at a well attended county convention in Ballyjamesduff. Former Cavan player Tom Maguire was elected vice-chairman while former star Jim McDonnell is central council representative. It was appropriate that the convention was held in Percy French's, Ballyjamesduff for it was here in 1887 in McGoldricks Hotel that the first Cavan Convention took place. The Castlerahan club helped to organise this major event. There was no great optimism at the convention and like many other counties it was evident that emigration was having a deteriorating effect on clubs. However the County Board have the minors already in training in order to improve the standard of play of the county team in this grade.

And recently in Slough Berkshire, the Cavan jersey with the tricolour was on the coffin of a former Cavan star of the twenties, Louis Mallon at the age of 81. A native of Cavan town he played with Cavan Slashers, the senior county team and won an All-Ireland junior championship in 1927. He was also a talented musician and spent most of his life with his family in the Slough area of England.

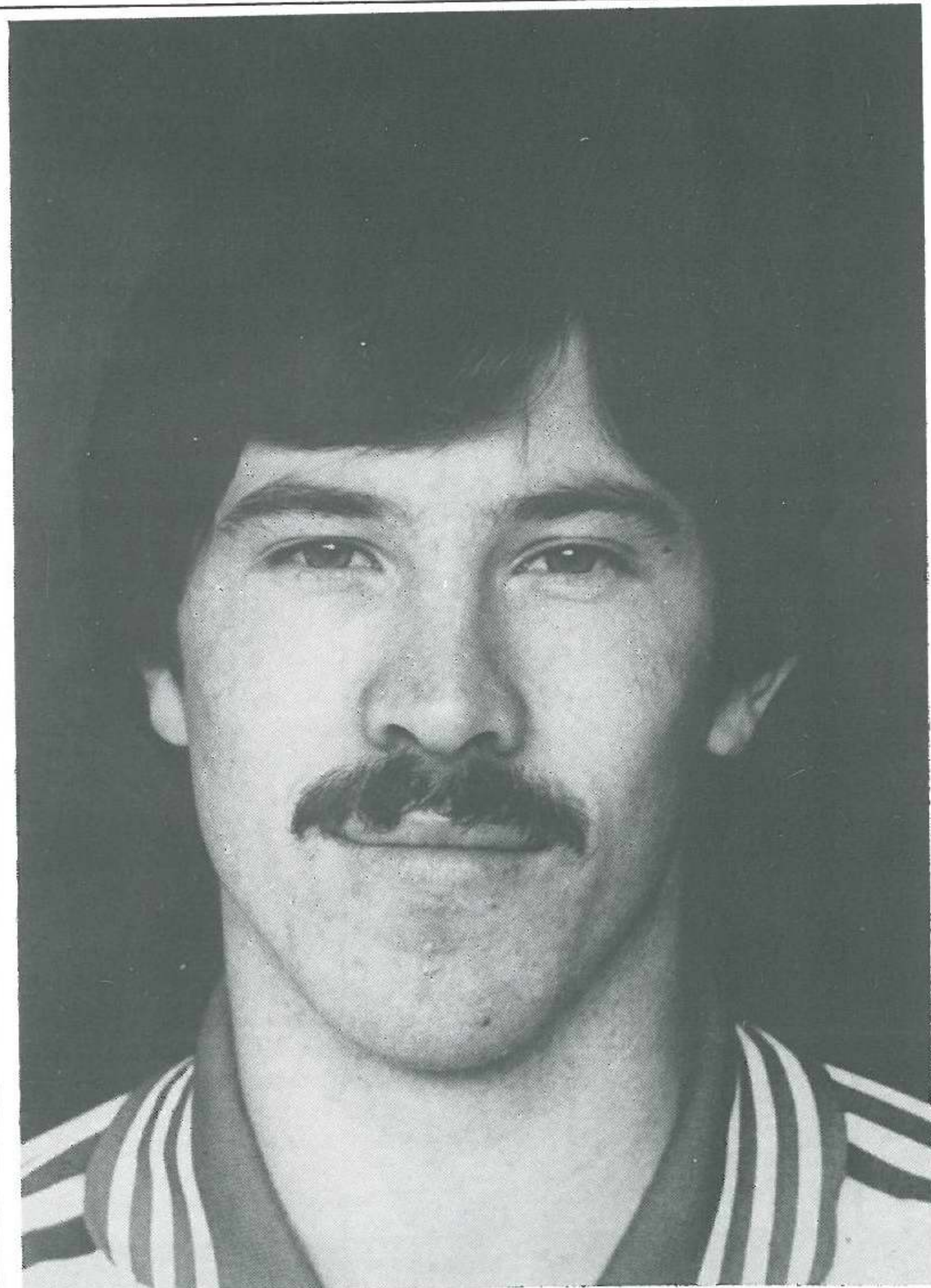
Go ndeanaidh Dia trócaire ar anamnacha na n-imreoirí uilig atá imithe ar shlí na firinne.

**Shinty:** With so much discussion presently about the compromise rules with the Australians it will be very interesting to see the renewal of international games between an Irish hurling team and the shinty players from the Camanachd Association in Scotland. Douglas

McKenzie president of the association paid a visit to Dublin while the President of the G.A.A. and the Director General were in Inverness recently for a meeting with officials of the Camanachd Association. It is hoped to restart the international series in 1988.

Up until recently we had shinty teams coming to Killarney to play against local hurling teams as part of the Pan Celtic week while school teams from Scotland have played Scoil Uí Chonail and Queens University, Belfast. Edinburgh University always had a strong shinty team and I remember playing for the O Growney hurling team in Glasgow against this college at the University grounds at East Fettes in 1952.

We always had close links with the Scots. From the available sources it would seem that the first shinty/hurling game between a Camanachd selection and the London Irish team was played in London in 1896. In 1899 there was 40,000 present in Stamford Bridge for a similar game. They played again to big attendances during the Tailteann Games 1924 and 1932. Shinty is played on the ground. Only the goalie touches the ball. The shinty stick is much stronger than the camán. A set of international rules were agreed in the past so it should be much easier for C.L.C.G. to get an entertaining international game going here than to get acceptable compromise rules with the Australians.



★KEVIN McCABE . . . set to strengthen the Tyrone team when he returns from injury.



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**C**LAN na nGael, Roscommon, must rank as one of the most consistent teams in club football in recent years. After all, they have been prominent nationally in the club championship for the past five years, and on St. Patrick's Day will make their second appearance of the decade in all All-Ireland decider.

The Roscommon club lost their final debut in 1983 by six points to Portlaoise. The Clanns did not win out in the West in 1984, but have dominated the provincial scene in the meantime.

Clann na nGael lost in a replay in the 1985 semi-final to Kerry's Castleisland Desmonds, who went on to win the title. They were beaten again in a replay last year — once more by Castleisland Desmonds — in the All-Ireland semi-final.

However, there are those who feel that the wheel is about to turn full circle for the Roscommon club on the national festival. Certainly, Clanns' credentials are impressive, as they did well to beat Ferbane, whose stars included Offaly sharpshooter Brendan Lowry, by five points in the semi-final.

**The Connacht champions have a good all round side, powered, of course, by the famed McManus clan. And, two of the clan, Tony and Eamonn junior, were prominently on the scoresheet in the win over the Offaly champions.**

Another who found the target impressively in that game was Eamonn Dorney, who hit five points, and has also been showing a nice line in the scoring stakes with the county senior team.

The All-Ireland club title is proving a most elusive one for Western teams. Indeed, the province is the only one that has yet to win this championship, which was launched as far back as 1971.

Roscommon Gaels (1976), Balinasloe (1980) and Clann na nGael (1983) all appeared in the concluding round, but still we wait for a first title.

## CONNACHT



## COMMENT

By KEVIN MALONE

Go to, it, Clanns! It is about time that this dismal record was improved. Connacht football could do with just such an early in the year boost.

### OFF TO U.S.

Still on Roscommon . . . and good wishes go to Dermot Earley, one of the county's greatest-ever footballers, who is taking up a post with the United Nations in New York on a two-year stint.

Dermot, who won every honour in the game, except the coveted All-Ireland senior title, has been one of the backroom boys with the county senior football team in the Ford League.

But the Earley tradition is being maintained by his younger brother Paul, who is playing good football up front with the county side.

Incidentally, Dermot won a Kildare county senior football medal with Sarsfields, of Newbridge, last autumn.

### ONLY ONE

It is hardly a good advertisement for the standard of Connacht football that Harry Keegan, the long-serving Roscommon defender, who was honoured at right full back, was the province's sole representative in the recent Bank of Ireland All Stars football selection. He well merited

the selection, too.

I suppose we cannot complain too much that Connacht's representation was so low, but I must say that I fully expected at least one more footballer from the province to find favour — Seamus McHugh.

**I have the height of respect for John Lynch (Tyrone), who was chosen at No. 4, but I still feel that McHugh was the outstanding player at left full back over the past year, and I am surprised that the Galway man did not get enough votes for the job.**

On the hurling front, a sharp contrast was provided with the selection of as many as five Galway hurlers. They all deserve congratulations, and for two, Tony Keady and Conor Hayes, the occasion was special in that each was chosen for the first time.

### BRIGHT AUGURY

Let's hope that this will prove the forerunner for a bright season for Galway in hurling. An All-Ireland senior title on a third successive final appearance next September would prove a just reward for the county's efforts in recent years, and also compensation for the defeats by Offaly in 1985 and Cork last year in the McCarthy Cup ties.

Still on hurling, and how good it was to see Leitrim and Sligo playing their parts in making the third Sunday of February a day apart in National League play in the code. That was the first day that all 32 counties were engaged on the same afternoon in hurling in the League.

Who said the ancient game is fading away? Maybe the standard in Division IV leaves a lot to be desired, but it is certainly encouraging that counties are fielding teams in the code and competing with enthusiasm and determination.

That's the spirit that breeds success in time. Leitrim opened their Division IV programme with a big win over Sligo. Maybe they will go on to cut a dash in the code in the weeks ahead.

**"All-Ireland club title yet to go to Western team".**





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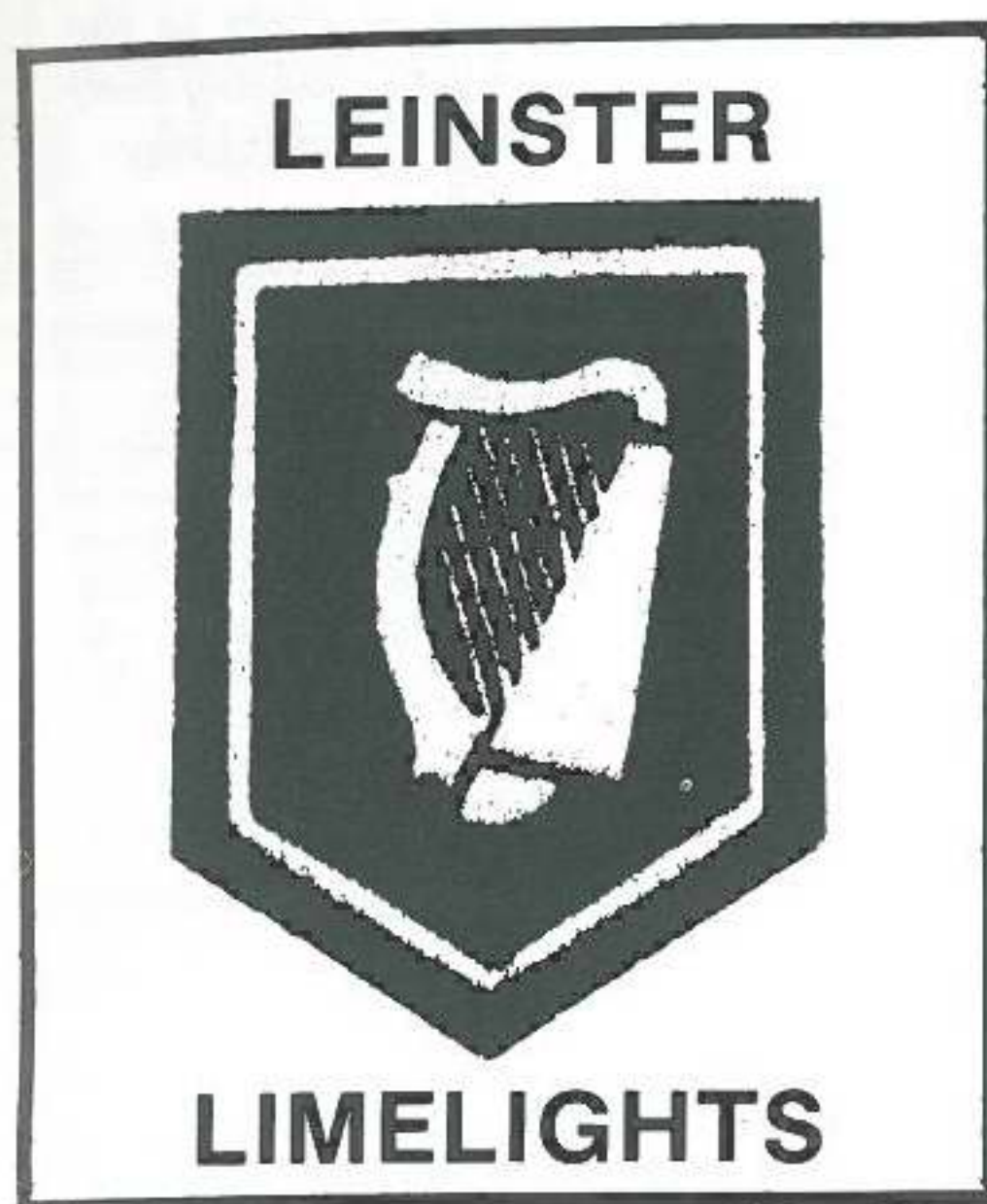
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# **ELECTRICITY**

**It's here for good!**





By Paul Fay

**A** MANAGER'S task can be a daunting one in football and hurling at the best of times, but spare a special thought for Nickey Brennan, a man whose hurling artistry has won him every major honour in the game. He has just taken over probably the most daunting role of all in Gaelic sport at present — that of manager of the Kilkenny senior football team.

The Noresiders have languished at the bottom of the football ladder for more years than most of us can remember. But even in the light of their performances of the past, Kilkenny still hit a record low at the start of the current Ford League when they failed to score at all against Clare at Ennis, and conceded a thundering 6-25!

They did improve on that performance in subsequent games in the competition, but it is still very clear that Brennan faces the most uphill task in Gaelic Games in his new role. Still, he is a man who is used to the sweet smell of success at the highest level, and so knows just what is needed in terms of commitment, skill and drive to get to the top.

Nickey is now 33. He was a half back in the Kilkenny teams that won the All-Ireland senior hurling championships of 1979 and 1982, and was in the official panel of substitutes when the McCarthy Cup was retained in 1983.

He did not make an appearance during that final win over Cork.

We wish him well in his new post. Nothing could be better for the game than to see Kilkenny cut some sort of a dash in football in the not too distant future. After all, it is not as if football success is something that Kilkenny has not savoured.

Back in the early years of championship play, the Noresiders won three Leinster senior titles: 1888, 1900 and 1911.

### THE FIRST

Here is a question that may well appear in quiz books of the future: Who was the first Beann Eadair, Howth, club player to appear in competitive senior hurling with Dublin?

The answer is Bernard Farrell, who guarded the net for the Dubs in their Ford League tie against Kerry at Croke Park in mid-February.

Bernard earned his place in the record books following a somewhat strange route to the top. He was substitute goalkeeper for Dublin's minor Football team in their Centenary Year All-Ireland final win over Tipperary. He also played that year with the under-18 county hurlers — but as a forward.

With the passing of time, Farrell powered his way to the senior grade in hurling in the role of goalkeeper. He got his big chance when called on to deputise for regular goalkeeper Declan Feeney, who was on the injured list, for the clash with Kerry, and had a very good senior debut as well.

So, keep an eye out for Bernard Farrell, and if you are a Quiz buff, remember the name as well, and the unique ranking he earned in hurling.

### STILL WAITING

The Quigley brothers, Martin and John, who helped Rathnure to their recent All-Ireland club senior hurling semi-final win over Killimoredaly, of Galway, were both on duty when the famed Wexford club contested their first national decider in 1972.

Rathnure lost that game to Blackrock, of Cork. They have appeared in



**Westmeath hurling star David Kilcoyne . . . the first man from his county to win a Bank of Ireland All Star award.**

two All-Ireland club finals in the meantime, but are still waiting for that elusive first title win.

Will St. Patrick's Day bring a change of fortune? Rathnure have a tough hurdle against Borrisoleigh, of Tipperary, but on their good showings in Leinster and in that All-Ireland semi-final win they must be in with a great chance.

Another famed member of their side is Jimmy Holohan, who hit nine golden points against Killimoredaly, and has been, of course, regularly in the scoring returns with the Wexford county senior team.

No review of the Leinster scene just now would be complete without paying tribute to David Kilcoyne for bringing the first Bank of Ireland All Star award to Westmeath in hurling or football.

David was honoured late in January with selection at right full forward in the latest hurling side. He has been very prominent with the county in recent years, and well merits this unique honour.

These are proving somewhat heady days for Westmeath followers, who over the years have not had a great deal to celebrate. Prior to the

\*OVERLEAF

**"Uphill task faces Nickey Brennan as manager of Kilkenny football team".**



# BIG DAY FOR BLENNEVILLE

St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club, Blennerville, Tralee, has won the Cospoir/Cantrell & Cochrane Munster Club Development Award for Co. Kerry. Commenting on the activities of the Blennerville Club, Maurice Dorney, Managing Director of C & C Munster said, "St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club is a fine example of the major contribution a successful sports club can make in a small community. Whilst being a committed G.A.A. club, it plays a vital role in other areas of community life, from Community Games to providing recreational facilities for the old folks in the area. For its commitment to the community and the valuable work it is doing, St. Patrick's is clearly a deserving winner. I would like to thank the Sports Advisory Committee of the Kerry V.E.C. for adjudicating and administering the Club Development Award scheme in its area".

The Club Development Scheme has been in operation since March 1984 when Cospoir and C & C Munster joined forces to provide cash injections to selected clubs for capital projects. The adjudicating for

the most deserving club is made by the Sports Advisory Body of the V.E.C. in each county. Their judgment is based on such

things as the contribution of clubs to the development of facilities for youth and their involvement in the community as whole.



Pictured here at the presentation ceremony are (left to right): Maurice Dorney, Managing Director of Cantrell & Cochrane, Munster, Ronnie Delaney, Chairman, Cospoir and Joe Foley, Chairman, St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club.

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### \*FROM PAGE 45

All Star award win by Kilcoyne, we were still talking about the exploits of another native of the Midland county — Mick "Spike" Fagan. His contribution to the Ireland triumph in the Test Series against Australia last October was one of the real success stories of Gaelic Games in 1986.

I hear that Wexford-born Dave Synnott, who captured many hurling headlines as a goalkeeper with the unlikely county of Mayo, is likely to be seen in action in club games in the Model County.

Dave's brilliance as a goalkeeper with Mayo earned him inter-provincial recognition with Connacht, and he guarded the net for the West in their Railway Cup final wins of 1982 and 1983. No mean achievement that. He was also an All Star replacement on a U.S. tour, and won a B + I LINE G.A.A. Personality of the Month award.

I understand Dave is back again in Wexford, and will probably be seen in action in local games with Oylegate-Glenbrien. Could we yet see him in the Wexford jersey?



## JUNIOR DESK BY JACK MAHON

FOR some time now I have been toying with the idea of ending Junior Desk. It came into being in May 1970, went from strength to strength almost immediately, became the G.A.A. forum for younger G.A.A. folk, introduced competitions, interviews, was responsible for inaugurating the Programme Collectors' Club in Croke Park, and introduced many future players and writers in its Mailbag Section. This is the last Junior Desk.

When it came into being first, the foreign soccer scene had begun to dominate the sporting magazine scene with its "Shoot" and other magazines. Junior Desk was my answer to all that, a column that would relate to young G.A.A. boys and girls and I became very engrossed in it and excited by it. Now the challenge from the English soccer magazines has been largely met, but this sporting media domination of Irish youngsters continues with the American football propaganda machine which has begun to compete for the interest of Irish youth.

### HAPPY MEMORIES

Junior Desk is full of happy memories for me. The Cut-Outs. The simplicity and innocence of many of the letters. The many friends I made. The Gerry Penders who grew up on Junior Desk. I'm sorry it had to end.

The sad economic times of today have killed Junior Desk. Let us hope they don't kill *Gaelic Sport* which should get back to being a monthly as soon as possible. To everyone who ever wrote to Junior Desk I say a million thanks. Thanks for the memories.

I have some regrets. One is that in our existence we were NEVER honoured by the G.A.A.'s McNamee Awards Committee. Sometimes in life it is nice to see some recognition

of a service. During the existence of Junior Desk (17 years) we never once received an unsolicited letter from the G.A.A. Oh, yes, we did receive verbal tributes in speeches and in casual talks. But NEVER an official letter of commendation. This I regret. I regret too that the G.A.A. has allowed the situation to arise whereby *Gaelic Sport* appears as irregularly as it does now. It may be too late — it is too late — to save Junior Desk. But *Gaelic Sport* should be saved NOW. And let's stop considering it as being solely a commercial venture for Tommy McQuaid who owns it. Tommy must live too. *Gaelic Sport* since he launched it nearly thirty years ago has been his livelihood and has also given employment to others over the years. The powers that be should not stand idly by and let the longest running G.A.A. publication ever, now become extinct.

The Cut-Outs will I'm sure continue. It is fitting that my final one is for a Galway hurler — in this instance Peter Finnerty. What can I

say of Peter, other than that he is a great right half back. I hope he wins an All-Ireland senior medal soon.

One thing I hope is that I was always fair in Junior Desk. I'm a Galwayman — a very fervent one. Above and beyond that I'm a G.A.A. man. I love hurling and Gaelic football. All-Ireland day is the big day in my year — every year. The roar of the crowd, the clash of the ash. The sound of a football being kicked. Summer days. "The Sunday Game." I miss the voice of Michael O'Hehir, a voice I grew up on. It was so nice to see him on telly again recently.

### THE MAILBAG

This is the final letter to Junior Desk:- 22.1.87

Dear Jack, — First of all I must wish you a very Happy New Year. It is All Star time again and as usual we will have surprises. I would say that one will be that Jack O'Shea will not get one this time. I must say that these matches should be stopped against the Australians. There is too much money spent on these tours, that could be put to better use in our

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games and pitches at home. Also the refereeing standards in our games are very poor indeed. Even the All-Ireland final standards of refereeing were very poor. It must have been a terrible let down to Jack O'Shea when Kerry did not allow him play in the Kildare county final last year. I think the G.A.A. should bring in some of the rules from the Australian game, free from hand by player fouled, mark and a quick kick out from hand also. Also the advantage rule in basketball and the foul rule when a player would commit two fouls he should be replaced. What about a Cut-Out of Offaly's Eugene Coughlan?

Yours sincerely,  
Kieran Rosney,  
181 Grotto View,  
The Batteries, Athlone.

[Thanks Kieran, J.M.]

No, I'm not going to stop writing on G.A.A. affairs. You'll find me in "Gaelic Sport" in some other niche.

Once again, a sincere go raimh mile maith agaibh go leir. Slán.

### G.A.A. Books

Coaching News Spring '87. Price £1.50 incl. postage from Croke Park, Dublin 3. A must for all clubs.

Kerry G.A.A. Yearbook '87. Price £3.50 incl. postage from Michael Lyne, B.A. Valentia Island, Co. Kerry. A must.

Galway G.A.A. Yearbook '86. Price £2 incl. postage from G.A.A. Office, Dominick Street, Galway. 90 pages. Good value.

Down G.A.A. Yearbook '86. Price £3.50 incl. postage from Jerry Quinn, 50 Spelga Park, Hilltown, Newry, Co. Down. "As the Months Went By" is superb. Top class as usual.

Young Tradrai (Newmarket-on-Fergus G.A.A. club magazine) from Sean ÓDonaile, Editor, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare. This is worth getting, for it has an emphasis on youth. Price £1.50 includes postage.

Slán arís.

Jack Mahon.

## QUIZ ANSWERS LOOKING AHEAD

1. October will prove sufficient for a correct answer. The actual dates are Hurling: October 10-11 semi-finals and final; Football: October 17-18 semi-finals and final. 2. Cork, who beat Offaly in the final. 3. Michael Tyrell (Tipperary). 4. Wexford. 5. 41 years. They last won the title by beating Kildare in the 1946 decider. 6. Sixth successive final. 7. Ennis will be the venue once more this year. 8. The All-Ireland club senior hurling and

football finals. 9. A new trophy will be awarded to the winners this time, but will still be known as the Sam Maguire Cup. The original Sam Maguire Cup was first presented for the 1928 final won by Kildare. 10. Armagh, who beat Antrim in the final at Corrigan Park, Belfast, last May.

## EIGHTIES' LOOK-BACK

1. Michael Conneely. 2. A catch-question this. There was no award for Camogie in 1981. Indeed, the 1986 award in Camogie was the first in the code since 1967. 3. Ireland and Canada will win full marks here. The 1984 championships were staged at Croke Park, with some games in County Clare, and the 1986 tests at Kelowna, British Columbia. 4. John Egan. 5. 1983, when Derry beat Cork in the final.

## IN COMMON

1. Goalkeepers in the 1986 All-Ireland minor football final — Hayes for Cork and Brennan for Galway. 2. They were the only goal scorers in the Tyrone-Galway All-Ireland senior football semi-final. 3. The respective full backs in last year's Leinster senior hurling final. 4. They shared the All-Ireland senior singles titles in handball in 1986. Walsh won the 40x20 and softball titles, and Bourke the hardball crown. 5. Captains of the All-Ireland junior camogie final teams last September. McNicholas led winners Clare and Malone captained Kildare.

## PICTURE QUIZ

1. Limerick. 2. 1980, when Galway were successful. 3. Sean Foley. 4. Joe McKenna. 5. Tommy Quaid. 6. True. Limerick scored 3-9 as against Galway's 2-15.

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

### 1987

#### IOMÁINT

<b>First Round:</b>	24/5/87 Tiobraid Árann v. Ciarraí 24/5/87 Luimneach v. Portlárige
<b>Semi-Finals:</b>	7/6/87 Clár v. Tiobraid Árann nó Ciarraí 7/6/87 Corcaigh v. Luimneach nó Portlárige
<b>Cluiche Ceannais</b>	5/7/87 Sinsir agus Mionúir

#### PEIL

<b>First Round</b>	17/5/87 Tiobraid Árann v. Luimneach 17/5/87 Clár v. Portlárige
<b>Semi-Finals</b>	21/6/87 Corcaigh v. Tiobraid Árann nó Luimneach 21/6/87 Ciarraí v. Clár nó Portlárige
<b>Cluiche Ceannais</b>	19/7/87 Sinsir agus Mionúir.

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REFERENCE DEPT.





**PETER FINNERTY**  
**Galway**

**P**PETER has appeared with Galway in All-Ireland hurling finals at minor, under-21 and senior, and is a versatile hurler who has turned out in a number of positions in defence in the

top-rank.

He was full back in the minor team beaten in the 1981 All-Ireland decider, and won a national under-21 medal two years later at right half back.

A member of the Mullagh club, Peter will be 23 in March, and stands over six foot. He was at right half back for Galway in their unsuccessful senior

finals against Offaly in 1985 and Cork last September.

The gifted defender has been honoured by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors, and was right half back for Connacht when they regained the Railway Cup last March — his first interprovincial medal. He made his Railway Cup final debut in 1985 at right full-back.



# BENSON and HEDGES

## Irish Masters Snooker

Competitors:

Terry Griffiths  
Tony Knowles  
Steve Davis  
Eddie Hearn  
John Higgins  
Alex Higgins  
John Flanagan  
John Parrott  
Dennis Taylor  
John Surin

Goffs, Co. Kildare. March 24th - 29th 1987

Competitors listed above appear circumstances permitting.