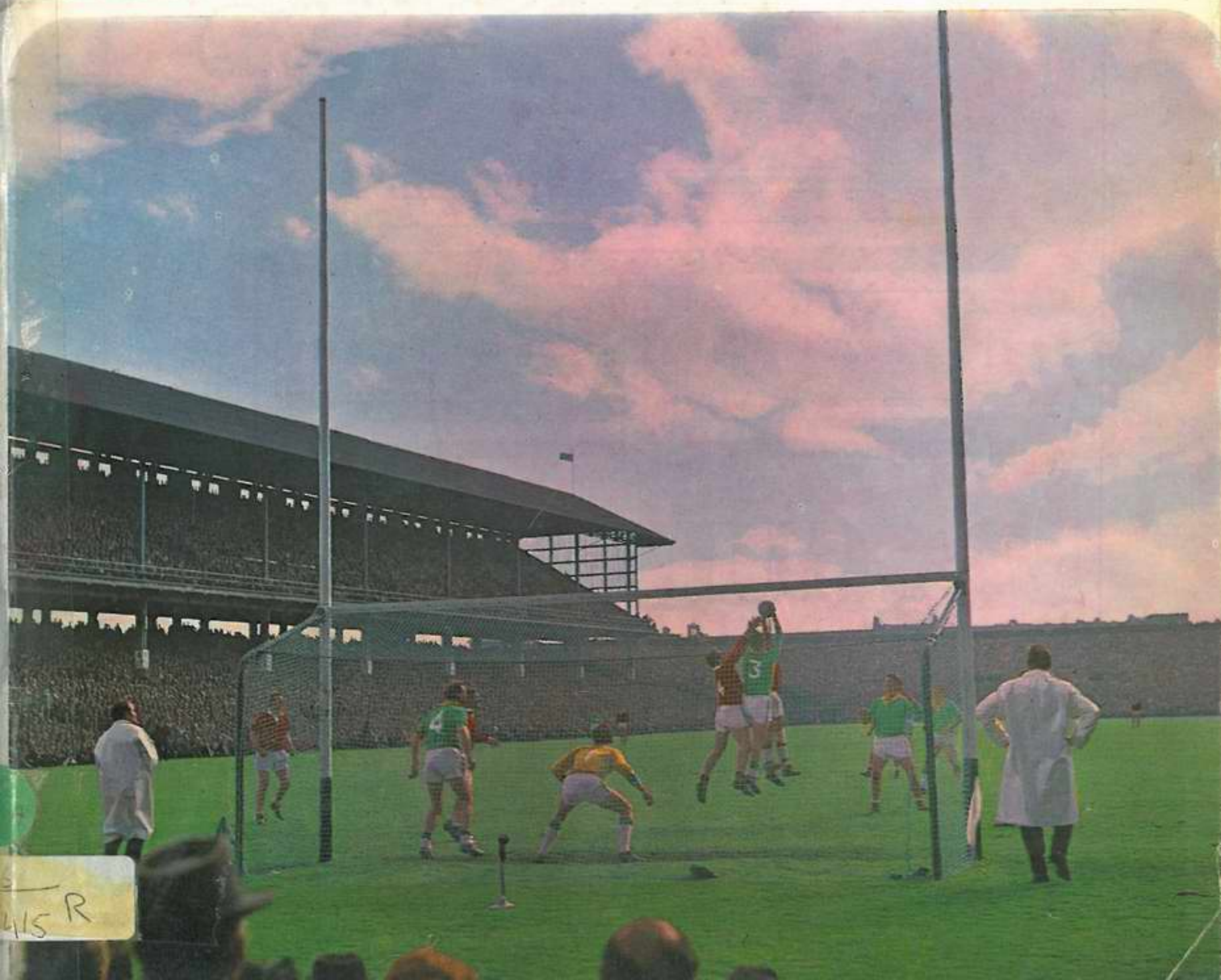


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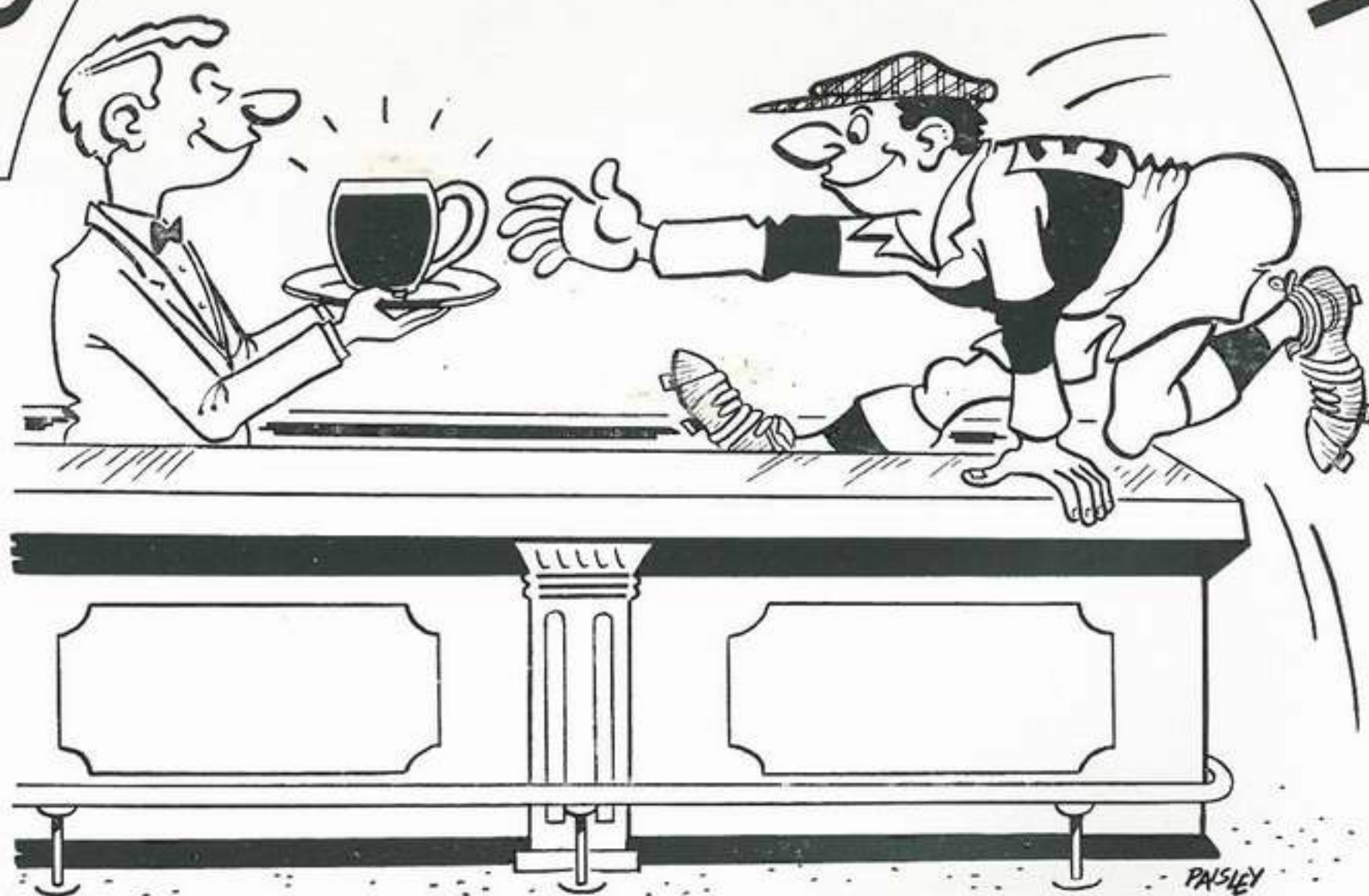
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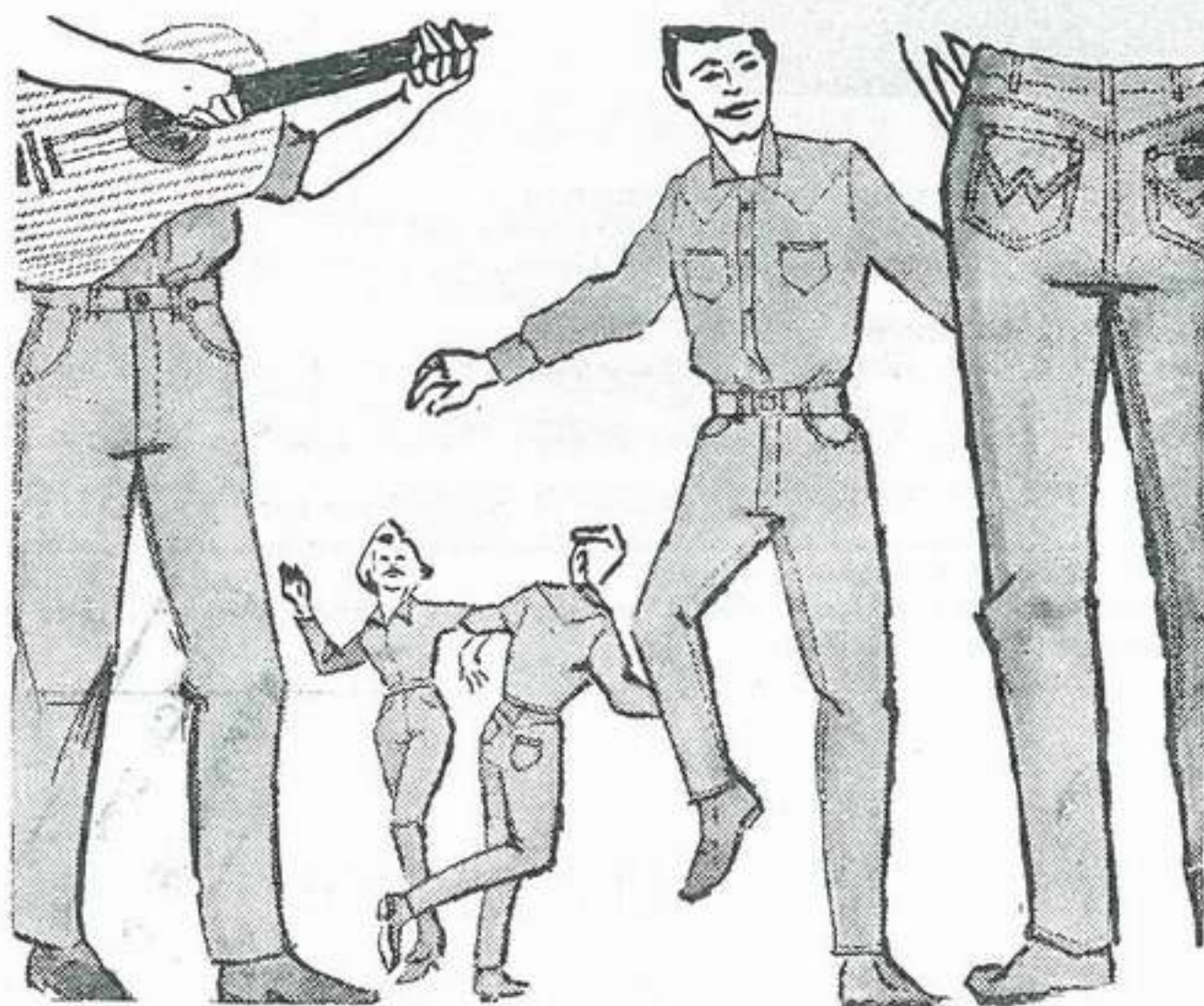
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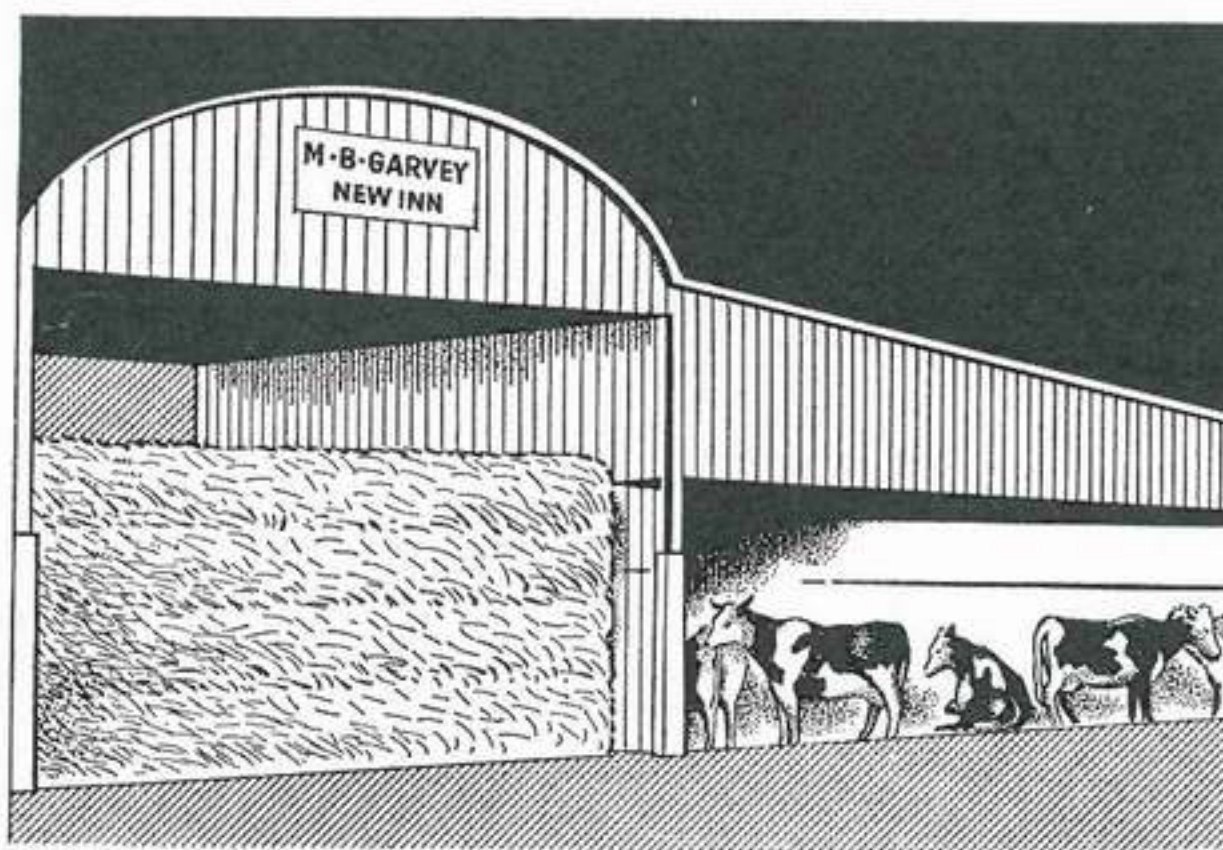
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CUCHULAINN ANNUAL, 1968

Edited by Brendan Mac Lua

Eagarfhocal

MOST thinking members of the Gaelic Athletic Association are aware of the great challenges which now confront the Association. Most of these are born from the rapidly changing social conditions and it is necessary that they be confronted and overcome if the G.A.A. is to play as significant a role in the Ireland of tomorrow as it has played in the Ireland of yester-year.

The revitalisation of the club unit; the equipment of grounds; the provision of modern dressing-rooms and clubrooms; the activating of members towards a more extensive participation in the work on hand; the building-up of long overdue lines of communication; the ending of unpunctuality — of misconduct; the raising of playing standards; the spread of hurling; the acquiring of vital finance . . . the list is immense and more than sufficient to occupy the attention and energy of all who have concern for the progress of the G.A.A.

Yet, at many forthcoming County Conventions, and at Congress next Easter, valuable time and effort will be wasted in an unproductive debate forced by a diminutive minority who have twice during the past six years had an overwhelming rejection of their proposals.

Those who are currently pushing anti-Ban motions know full-well that it is a futile, and worse still a detrimental exercise, but yet they come — forcing their petty views into a position of precedence over the whole range of urgent issues with which the Association needs to contend.

Unwilling to heed the clear-cut, democratic, affirmations of Congress 1962 and 1965, they demand extensive time and attention at the expense of the entire welfare of the G.A.A.

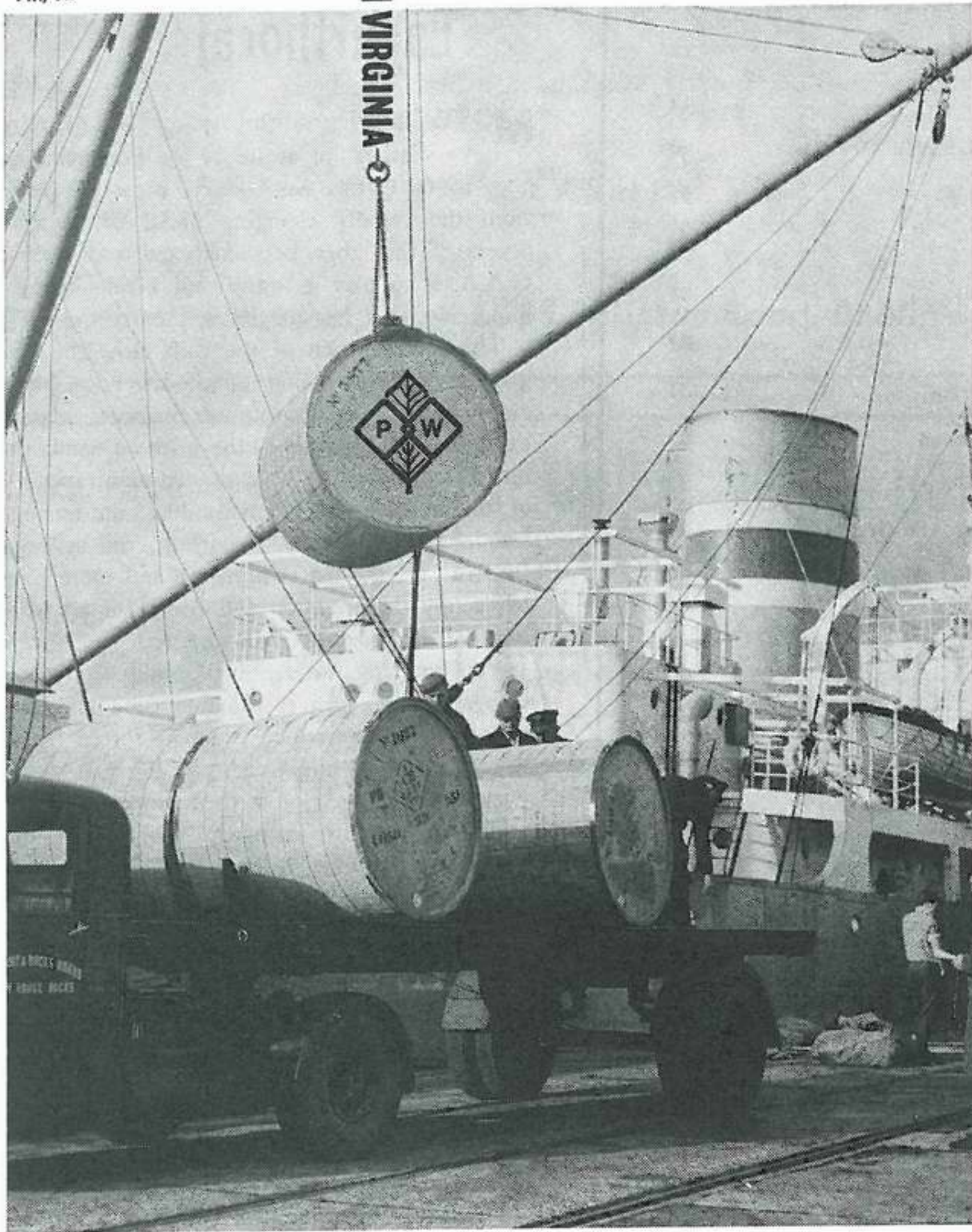
Their's is a shabby and selfish course of action and it is to be hoped that it will be widely recognised as such during the coming months.

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Réamhrá

An Uachtarán

IS breá liom an deis d'fáil chun réamhrá a scrí do "Bhliainiris Chúchulainn." Tá céim deimhneach bainte amach ag an bhfoilseachán seo anois agus tá fhios agam go bhfuil daoine, idir óg agus sean, ag feitheamh le h-eagrán na bliana seo a theacht amach. Ní h-ionadh san, mar um an dtaca seo den bhliain bíonn fonn ar dhaoine feachaint siar ar imeachtaí a tharla sna ráithí atá caite agus seal a chaitheamh ag léamh agus ag smaoineamh ar na cluichí ar na h-imreoirí ab fhearr a thaithin leo agus ar na h-éachta ba ionmholta a rinneadh. Tá siad san go leir leagtha amach go taitneamhach sa Bhliainiris seo agus is iomaí diospóireacht agus dread comhrá a bheidh ann dá bharr.

Thairis sin tá an Bliainiris ag feidhmiú ar bhealach eile. I ngach eagrán bíonn leimheas ar ghnó áirithe an Chumainn mar atá sé dá reachtáil faoi láthair agus plétear tuairmí faoi slite go bhféadfaí an eagraíocht d'fheabhsú chun go rachadh sé i bhfeidhm níos fearr ar mhuintir na linne seo.

Tá tairbhe ar leith ag baint leis an tuairmíocht seo toisc go léiríonn sé go n-aithnítear na fadhbanna atá ann agus go gcuireann sé daoine ag smaoineamh ar an gcaoi is fearr chun iad a réiteach.

Feictear dom go bhfuil sprid an chumainn le mothú go soiléir mar cheangal tríd an fhoilseachán go léir. Cuirtear an bhéim ar na bun-phrionsabail a thugainn thoir duinn san ghuaiseacht ar aghaidh atá a dhéanamh. Traoslaim le Press Chúchulainn.

I am thankful to the Editor of the CUCHULAINN ANNUAL for inviting me to write this brief foreword. It gives me the opportunity to express a few ideas which I feel are very important at this time. We are facing one of the severest tests which the Association had been called upon to meet and the methods we adopt and the course which we maintain over the next few years will decide the future shape of the Association.

The issue is a momentous one which concerns our whole national character. It is clear that we are at a crisis in our national life where cosmopolitan influences are threatening to erode the values which have been our



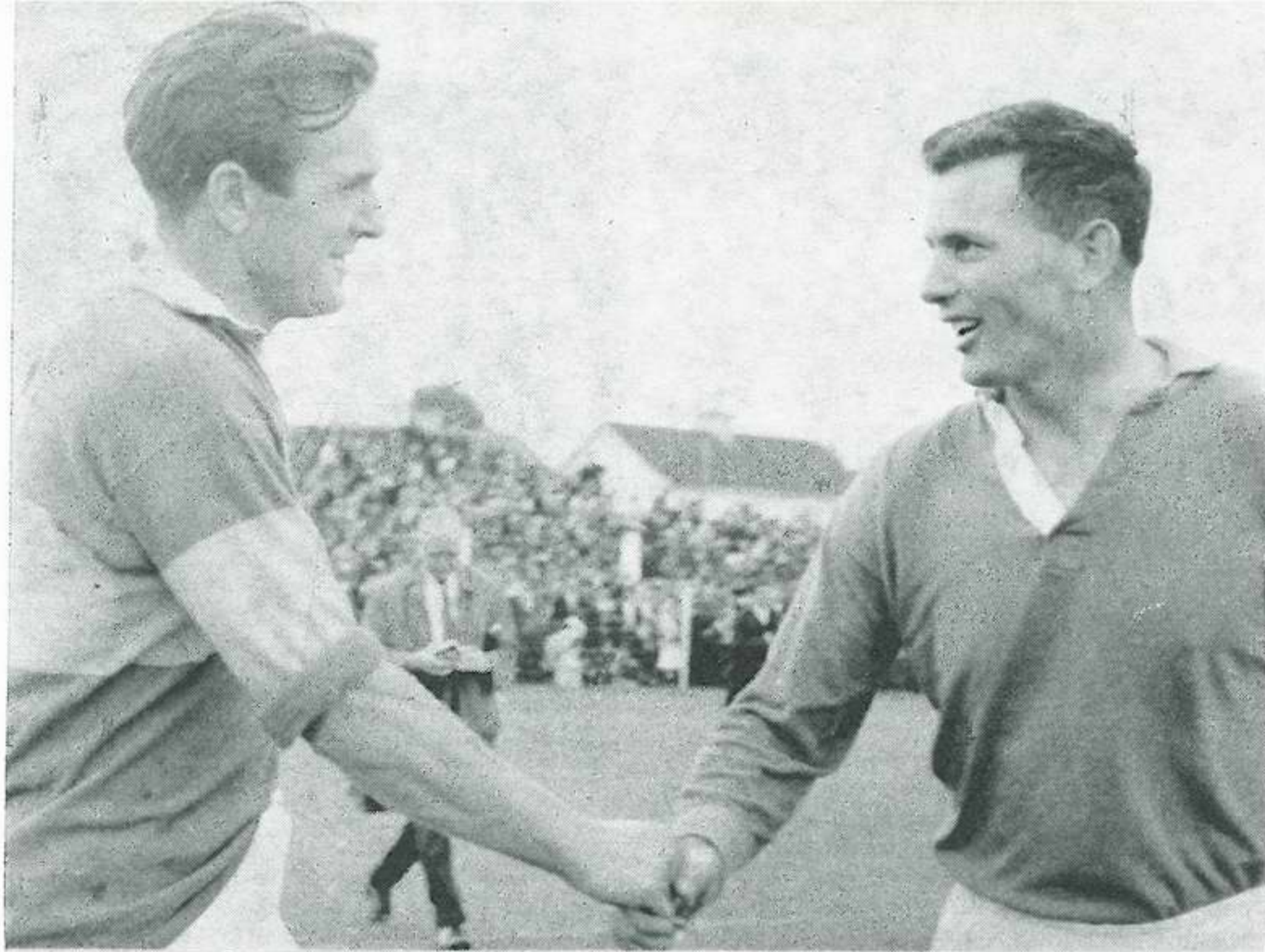
Séamus O Riain Uachtarán C.L.G.

main strength as a people. Cumann Lúthchleas Gael has been a strong bulwark of those values in the past and today, more than ever, there is need for a renewal of spirit and a firm declaration of purpose so that our advance will be motivated by a spirit of service to a cause.

The advance will need to be concentrated mainly in the clubs. The whole structure of the Association is dependent on strong virile clubs where every member will feel he has a part to play and that the club provides him with the activity which he needs. Championship games alone do not provide sufficient playing activity for most clubs in either urban or rural areas so other games need to be arranged in order to have a full schedule of activity for all the playing members.

We realise today the need for taking account of the new aspects of society and the new influences which are at work. It is important to provide social and cultural activity within the framework of the club if we are to continue as a strong influence on the daily life of the people. This is a call for energetic and wholehearted effort on the part of leaders. The time provides a splendid opportunity for initiative and a sharing of responsibility with those who show that they have the ability and the eagerness to take a leading part.

This is not the time for pessimism or despondency. Once we have recognised the seriousness of the problems and challenges which confront us we are halfway on the road to overcoming them. Rather is it a time for optimism and hope, for this Association is rich in resources. It has untold spirit and courage and these are our greatest assurance for ultimate success.



Long-serving rivals, John Doyle and Jimmy Smyth, warmly shake hands at the conclusion of the Munster final. Both came to senior prominence in far-off 1949. For Smyth this was the end: for Doyle one hour remained.

'Twas A Year For Being Young

BY PADDY HICKEY

THE year that has just closed was a hard one for the veterans. One most readily thinks of the long-serving men of Tipperary and particularly of John Doyle whose long career stretched all the way back to 1949 and who, for one hour last September, stood on the edge of hurling immortality only to find that the years rested too heavily on him and his teammates.

Doyle, Wall, English, Carey, McLoughlin . . . Father Time proved their master in 1967.

Then there was Jimmy Smyth. He came back dramatically in the League, scoring a golden goal which sent Clare into the semi-final. But it was the Munster final which counted. At half-time a dream long dreamed appeared to be at last a reality . . . only to flutter away in a somewhat inexplicable second half. It was the end of another truly great career.

The absence of Christy Ring on Sunday, October 8, when Glen Rovers played St. Finbarrs in the Cork senior hurling final may well have also marked the end of a career — the greatest career of them all.

In football too 1967 was not kind to the long servers. One recalls Charlie Gallagher's heroic kick for the equaliser in the semi-final against Cork — inches wide and so another dream had to be shelved away.

Then there was Paddy Doherty — the greatest forward of the decade — tragically at war with the Association which facilitated his greatness . . . And Packy McGarty—gallant, never-say-die McGarty—in a Connacht final which somehow never should have been: Con O'Sullivan, Johnny O'Mahony, Mickey Whelan, Mick Ruane, Greg Hughes and more. In short, it was a year for being young.



In the Meath-Mayo semi-final . . .

IMPERSONATING Jack Quinn

By Brendan Mac Lua

THE producing of big-game Croke Park programmes can be rather a harrowing affair — mainly because of the fact that the competing teams are usually not selected until three or four days before the game. Most of the contents of the programme is, of course, subject to the selections and once these are available there is considerable haste to get the programme to press.

It was in the course of such haste that I included the above photograph in the programme for this year's Meath-Mayo All-Ireland semi-final. My intention was to feature photographs of the two full

backs, Jack Quinn and Ray Prendergast, on opposite pages and to comment on the fact that they had much in common in that they were both one of three brothers who had played for their respective counties and also that they had played at midfield prior to moving to full back.

The photograph of Ray Prendergast was a fine one taken in the Connacht championship against Galway. It showed him soaring high and holding fast. The above photograph went in for Jack Quinn with the caption: "The safe hands of Jack Quinn."



Bertie Cunningham and Jack Quinn — in "real life"

I remember noticing at the time that he appeared to be smiling and I wondered why this should be. As well as that, what was Sean McCormack doing reaching into the corner of the net? But there was no time for speculation or seeking what appeared to be unimportant answers. A printer was waiting and every hour counted.

So the programme went to press and everybody seemed quite pleased with it when it appeared on the following Sunday. I forgot about Jack Quinn's smile until I read Jack Mahon's comments on the programme in the *Gaelic Weekly* a week or two later. He thought it an excellent programme and went on to refer to the fine photographs of the two full backs which "showed their respective styles of fielding a ball."

Having been reminded again of the Quinn photograph, I had another look at it and became quite intrigued by it. What was Jack smiling about — and what was Sean McCormack up to?

I sought out the photographer who took the shot and asked him. He had a very simple explanation — the photograph was taken just as the last note of the final whistle sounded. So Jack Quinn had every

reason to smile . . . except that it wasn't Jack Quinn who was in the photograph, it was Bertie Cunningham!

Well, I suppose if Jack Quinn was to be impersonated who better to do it than Bertie Cunningham!

A FALSE ALARM

The thousands of Meath supporters at the 1954 final received quite a shock during the interval in the minor game when, over the public address system, they heard an urgent request for Paddy Dixon, one of the heroes of the '49 team, to go to the Meath dressing-room. Rumour spread like a forest fire — Paddy O'Brien could not play and was being replaced by Dixon.

However, half an hour later there came the announcement that both teams would play as selected. There were audible sighs of relief.

There was a simple explanation for it all — Patsy McGearty, the Meath goalkeeper, had left his kit in Paddy Dixon's car.

Never before or since has a kit caused such apprehension to so many.



It is 1.45 on the afternoon of Sunday, October 29, 1967. The Australians have just come on to the field and begun a warm-up lap. A none too large crowd watches somewhat dubiously. Ahead lies an Australian Rules game against a Dublin selection and a very problematic challenge to All-Ireland champions, Meath.

The Year Of The AUSTRALIANS

By Frank Dolan

I have no doubt at all that, more than anything else, 1967 will be remembered as the year of the Australians. There had been talk of them coming for a number of years and when it was finally decided that they were on their way few — with the possible exception of the *Gaelic Weekly* — took it seriously.

And so they came — tall, bronzed and handsome men and they conquered all before them. The trouncing of Meath and the manner in which it was done rated the greatest G.A.A. talking point in years.

All in all it was difficult to conclude whether the visit was a blessing or a curse. Overnight it gave birth to a mass hysteria for rule change and there was a very definite deflation of the native code.

Then within a week the Australians were back and it was lucky for us that they did return for the game with Mayo brought a balance to things. Mayo showed that with more fitness they would have probably beaten the visitors. We still had a lot to learn from the Aussies but we ourselves were not too bad after all. Most people now concluded that either



It is 4.25 on the afternoon of Saturday, November 4, 1967. Six days have passed since Croke Park got its first glimpse of the Australians. They now lap the field in final farewell — followed by a huge throng of young admirers. Over 20,000 people — the largest crowd ever to view a non-holiday Gaelic game — are on their feet applauding. A new era has begun.

Galway or Down, at their best, would beat them.

Were it not for the return visit — and, of course, the subsequent defeat in New York — the Australians would have left Gaelic football in a very poor state indeed. But all turned out well and we can now look to the future in which they will no doubt appear again — not as giants against whom the Irish will play pygmy but as a great challenge to a home team to rise to the occasion and exploit its game to the full.

Yes, it was the year of the Australians. They came, conquered, made friends and taught us a thing or two.

They will be welcome back whenever they care to come.

RON BARASSI ON IRELAND

SHORTLY after the Australian footballers returned home their captain, Ron Barassi, was interviewed on Australian television. Speaking of their visit to Ireland he said:

"It is a wonderful country and they are a wonderful people. The hospitality which was shown to us was most lavish. We were made feel at home from the moment we arrived and the games against the Irish teams were great games. The Irish teams were models of sportsmanship and wonderful fellows. We made many friends among them.

"Yes, Ireland is a really great country to visit."

The Red Collier

A SYMBOL OF HOPE

By Séamus O Braonáin



ALL ye want, now, is the 'Red' Collier, and ye'd be rightly equipped," roared some self-appointed commentator on a team playing rugged stuff one Sunday in Croke Park. It was no compliment to the team on the field. And, it was no compliment to Pat Collier, either. It gives a fair enough picture of one set of reactions to the ebullient Meath half-back. They are the reactions of a group of people who are not too well-up in the game; they have seen a game or two in which Collier captured their imaginations, and about whom they took away the wrong impression — a superficial impression based on non-essentials.

Two reasons make casual watchers form an opinion of Collier as a symbol of thuggery, neither of them more than skin-deep. The first, the more obvious, is his appearance in togs. He looks so different in togs from the well-groomed, well-spoken, delightful companion in everyday clothes. Short and powerful, hairy-chested and tough-looking, his wings of scant red hair flying wildly in the breeze, he looks the sort who might be a tough guy. Then his whole-hearted, never-pull-back approach to the game leads him into an unfortunate skirmish or two where his appearance again makes some people think that he has been the aggressor and the villain.

And, it is all so unfortunate, as Meath people and

anyone who has watched Collier over a considerable length of time or even once with discernment, can verify. It is a pity that wrong impressions should get abroad; it is hard on the player himself; and, in justice, they must be corrected.

There was that clash with Mick Burke in the All-Ireland final, for instance, when pure instinctive reaction, unavoidable and with totally unforeseeable consequences brought Collier into the tackle just too late. As Burke swung away he caught Collier's challenge, falling heavily, on the running turn, over his leg or hip, and landing fatally on the point of his shoulder. It is impossible to deny that this may have had a significant influence on the trend of the game subsequently; but, for anyone with eyes in his head, it was also the purest accident, unintended, and heartily regretted. Collier, in fact, had a quiet enough game afterwards, and probably this was a large part of the reason.

That is typical of those little unlucky episodes in which some players seem to become involved as though some malign fate were guiding their destinies. It gets them a bad name. The sad thing is that there are nearly as many real blackguards who get away with it, unnoticed.

Collier, if a mistaken symbol of ruggedness for

some, is a symbol of hope and renewed confidence for Meath people. He has qualities of rousing a crowd behind himself and his team by the heroic effort which brings a team to life. Ollie Walsh has the quality; so had James McCartan for Down, Tom Cheasty for Waterford, and, of course, Christy Ring for Cork.

Electric qualities that communicated themselves to others — players and spectators. Collier has, in match after match, by a spectacular catch, interception or block-down halted the opposition and then charged away on those short legs of his, to open up a forward move or to solo right upfield himself and chance a pot at goal.

There are many qualities to admire about Collier, and his tenacity is surely the best and most admirable of all. He simply does not know the meaning of the word defeat, either in individual struggle for possession of a ball, or in the overall condition of a game. I will always remember the magnificence of spirit with which he played the last twenty minutes of the All-Ireland final of 1966 against Galway — who were then home and dried. His constant breaks from his own danger area right upfield to try to rally tired and dispirited colleagues was really hurling the gauntlet at defeat.

At first it is startling to be told that Collier is such a young man; from the stands he could be anywhere in his middle thirties. It is also startling to find that he is such a handsome, fine-skinned young fellow, for from the stands he appears unkempt and ruddy-complexioned with the hard-blown features of a mountainy man. His build is thick-set and short, but he adds speed to his natural qualities, both in reaction and in running, and a depth of chest which shows his stamina. As a wing-half back he has almost an ideal combination of talents, though he would probably prefer another inch or two in height.

With the passing years Pat Collier has developed more into the attacking type of wing-half back than the purely defensive. The dedicated and safe play of Bertie Cunningham and Pat Reynolds, his colleagues in the half-back line with Meath, have enabled him to concentrate more on carrying the play forward to the attack.

There are few challengers to this line of Collier, Cunningham and Reynolds. They blend well together; they have the individual consistency and each has the flair to produce the burst of brilliance which turns games in his team's favour. Cunningham is the solid one; Reynolds the tough hardy trier who makes the best possible use of a moderate talent; Collier is the terrier, who seals off the gaps in defence with the same zest as he carries the game to the opposition when the pressure slackens. All in all, Pat Collier is one that I would like in my side.

MACR



Get ready to duck again—I dread the "Red" Collier's boot!

The Road to a Title

En route to their All-Ireland crown Meath beat:-

Louth by 2-9 to 0-3 at Croke Park on May 21.

Westmeath by 0-12 to 0-6 at Tullamore on July 9.

Offaly by 0-8 to 0-6 at Croke Park on July 23.

Mayo by 3-14 to 1-14 at Croke Park on August 20.

Cork by 1-9 to 0-9 at Croke Park on September 24.

The county's leading championship marksmen were: Noel Curran 2-11; Tony Brennan 1-13; Mick Mellett 0-8; Paddy Mulvaney 0-6; Matt Kerrigan 0-5; Pat Collier 1-1; Peter Moore 1-1; Oliver Shanley 0-3.

How Rates Your G.A.A. I.Q. ?

READ ON AND WIN A PRIZE

HOW rates your G.A.A. I.Q.? The following test will give you an indication and it could also win you a prize — so read on:

Here are four football selections, each of which has a marked individual characteristic. For example, Team A consists of great players all of whom retired without winning a senior All-Ireland medal.

But how about Teams B, C and D. Can you spot the distinctive feature attaches to each of them? If so it could win you a free copy of the new **Gaelic Weekly** posted to your address each week for the twelve months beginning Saturday, February 3.

This prize will be awarded to each of the first five correct entries opened. Entries should be sent to "Team Competition," **Gaelic Weekly**, 58 Haddington Road, Dublin 4, to arrive not later than Wednesday, January 17.

TEAM A

A. Brady		
P. Driscoll	E. Boyle	J. McKnight
G. O'Reilly	W. Goodison	G. O'Malley
J. McKeever	J. Rogers	
K. Armstrong	A. Murray	P. McGarty
N. Crowley	M. Casey	R. Gribben

Yes, all great players none of whom won a senior All-Ireland medal. Now go on to notice the

somewhat similar characteristic of the following teams:

TEAM B

J. Mangan		
J. Barrett		S. Flanagan
J. Higgins		J. J. O'Reilly
M. O'Connell	J. Dunne	
J. J. Sheehy	M. Higgins	J. Murray
P. Doherty	K. Heffernan	P. McDermott

TEAM C

J. Culloty		
N. Sheehy		P. Darby
G. O'Malley		D. Coughlan
D. Foley	M. J. Keane	
C. Dunne	B. Smyth	D. Ferguson
P. Dunny	M. Tynan	K. Heffernan

TEAM D

Willie Young		
P. Prendergast		K. McConnell
J. J. O'Reilly		B. Beggs
M. O'Connell	P. Murray	
S. O'Neill	P. Carney	P. Doherty
P. Meegan	T. Langan	P. McDermott

The results of this competition will be published in the **Gaelic Weekly** of Saturday, February 3.

LONDON

WANTED A NEW DEAL

By Eugene McGee

THE amount of time and attention devoted in this country to the affairs of the G.A.A. in the United States has very often tended to overshadow the great work being done by the various units of the Association much nearer home, but still overseas, in Britain.

Anybody who has ever spent any length of time in England could not but be impressed by the work being done by the clubs there and also by the various county boards. Therefore the suggestion made at the time of last years Wembley Tournament that London should be allowed to compete in the National League or in the All-Ireland championships should have received more consideration than it did, especially when it is remembered that similar suggestions made by New York were the subject of lengthy discussion on more than one occasion.

The saying that distance only lends enchantment to the view must seem especially true to the British-based G.A.A. people for it is very difficult to reconcile the amount of time spent on New York affairs with the number of people actually participating in the games there. Why should the G.A.A. in England not be given at least equal status with their American kinsmen.

At the moment London has intermediate status in hurling and junior status in football. Their record in these grades has been by far the most consistent of all the teams participating in such secondary competitions. This year, for example, in hurling London won the intermediate title by defeating Kilkenny in the semi-final and Cork in the final with both games being played in this country. The fact that London could beat such strong hurling counties proves that they are capable of holding their own in any company. Next year, however, the Londoners may find themselves out on a limb for they are no longer eligible to compete in the intermediate grade and at present they are not allowed to play in the senior grade.

This was the situation which obtained in London football circles early this year. Having won last years All-Ireland junior title, London applied to the Central Council for either regrading or to be allowed to play in senior grade. Both demands failed and so last years winning team found themselves debarred from all intercounty football just because they were

good enough to win the previous years junior competition!

Yet, despite having to field a completely new team London put up a very good show in this years junior final against an above average Kerry team. The junior grade in football has never been a very stimulating one but surely its existence is no longer justified when the winners are denied the opportunity of promotion to a higher grade?

The obvious answer to all this seems to be to give the champions of Britain full senior status in either the National League or All-Ireland championships.

Going on the record of London alone, there is little doubt but that they would more than hold their own and, indeed, they would not be very hard pressed to be as successful in these competitions as, for instance, the following have been in the past decade: Waterford, Clare, Tipperary, Fermanagh, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Leitrim, (football), and in hurling all but the top ten counties. If the British champions were to be given senior status it would be a great boost for the promotion of the games in that country. More players would declare for their counties of exile instead of flying back and forth almost every weekend as at present. This in turn would raise the standard of the games by making more good players available. Most important of all, senior status would give counties like London a new self-respect and a sense of belonging in a very real way to the parent Association. It would lead to an improvement in this country of the public image of the games as they exist in Britain today. And few will deny that this image is a bad one for the only time we seem to hear anything about the G.A.A. over there is in connection with illegalities of one kind or another.

To anyone who knows the true situation this false impression is even more regrettable because the amount of good done by the G.A.A. clubs among our emigrants is very substantial indeed. New Eltham, the headquarters of the Association in London, is in many ways an example to other units of the Association being as it is one of the first attempts at a community centre in a G.A.A. ground. In many other ways too the sacrifices made by players and officials in London deserve a more dignified ultimate reward than participation in a secondary grade championship.

The problem of distance may seem at first to be an obvious objection to the granting of further participation in home competitions by teams from Britain. But, of course, distance is no longer the problem it once was and in fact a team could now get from London to Croke Park much faster than from say Kerry or Donegal. So really there does not seem to be any logical reason why the champions of Britain should not be given the opportunity of playing in the senior grade if they so wish.

*Newcomers—
Liam O'Neill,
Miko Feerick and
Tom Brennan—
Galway are blending
old and new for the
great comeback.*



galway will be back with

SOME NEW FACES

By Jack Mahon

IT seemed the end of a glorious era for Galway football that sunny Sunday last June when Mayo, bouncing and eager, hammered the All-Ireland champions in their own back garden. Galway were tired and leg-weary. Poor Enda Colleran hadn't a gasp left in him and I felt sorry for our gallant former captain. Only John Keenan, Noel Tierney and Bosco McDermott (second half), and Johnny Geraghty in the first quarter, showed any fire. This form just couldn't be true!

Where was all the resilience that used to nip so many attacks in the bud, when young O'Dowd set out on the long run to an over-exaggerated goal? It was so hard to explain this very obvious fatigue to the happy Mayo followers. One had to be gracious. There seemed no point in telling that Noel Tierney collided with Coleen McDonagh in his effort to seal off the gap. No point at all. It was Mayo's day. Deep down we knew though that Galway would be back. We wished Mayo well and we rested and waited.

At this stage the expected announcement of retirement by some half a dozen of the old guard just did not come. True Sean Meade bade his farewell to his team-mates in Salthill and it was freely rumoured that Martin Newell would never play again. The much deserved rest came to all and many of the team scattered far and wide in pursuit of work, pastime and pleasure. So nice to be free again after four years at the top.

But the much longed for rest was something of an

anti-climax. The limelight had been lost to Mayo. It was all right for a while but with the football fatigue now abating, there came the desire, the hunger and the ambition to restore the shattered pride and to return to the limelight. During the summer Galway engaged in a number of challenge games, inflicting a notable defeat on Kerry in their own Tralee and defeating Dublin at Rush.

Many of the old firm were rested and newcomers Liam O'Neill of Ballinasloe, Miko Feerick of Milltown and Johnny Kelly of Dunmore took their places. Frank McLaughlin showed what a fine substitute goalkeeper he is. Tom Brennan of Milltown began to re-assert his worth. The newcomers were fitting in. Tom Sands of Ballygar seemed more assured than in his substitute days. Then the summer was over and the 1967-'68 League was upon us. Mayo re-affirmed championship form in the Gael-Linn Cup final, game at Tuam. Here only Tom Brennan of the newcomers impressed. Young Liam O'Neill showed promise but seemed too intent to play the man and Joe Corcoran made him pay for his folly.

Much of Jimmy Duggan's old form returned in a good tournament win over Cavan at Ballinasloe. The old firm were still being rested, one noticed, although there was no announcement of retirement from Mattie McDonagh, Bosco McDermott and John Donnellan, who seemed to be enjoying himself playing golf. One, of these, I do know, is dying to be recalled. If I know all three as well as I think I do, they feel the same way.

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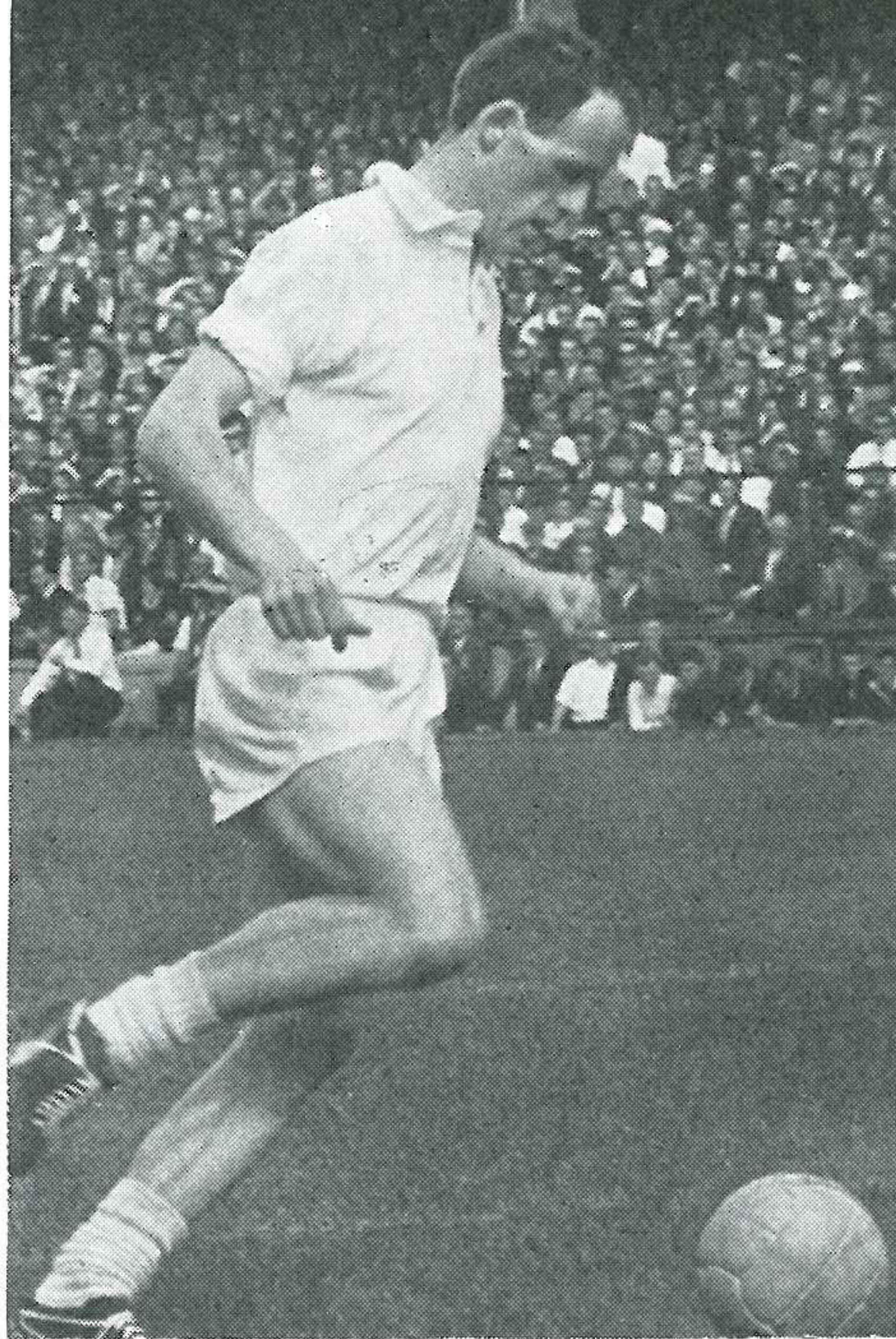
Guthán 2289, 4524

But on the strength of Galway's League win over Mayo at Castlebar in October they are going to find it hard to return. The newcomers fitted in very well. Liam O'Neill reversed the issue with Joe Corcoran, played the ball at all times and in the first quarter especially was truly magnificent. Johnny Kelly, at right corner forward, proved a very difficult proposition for Seamus O'Connor, was very fast on to the ball and showed distinct promise. Inclined to be on the light side, he makes up for this with any amount of courage and a nice sense of ball control. Tom Brennan, though inclined to fumble the pick up in the wet conditions, shows all the strength of his first cousin Noel Tierney and is developing into a fine midfield partner for Jimmy Duggan. Miko Feerick of Milltown, at left corner back, is tough as nails, has a fine pair of hands and tends to improve with experience.

Noel Tierney shows that the married state has not affected his zeal. Johnny Geraghty has rid himself of his pre-championship jitters. Enda Colleran is eager again. Pat Donnellan is better than any time in the past year. Coleen McDonagh showed what a complete footballer he is against Mayo. Jimmy Duggan is growing up even in the football sense. Cyril Dunne, Seamus Leydon and John Keenan are as good as ever. Sean Cleary, too, has recovered much of his old assurance but I wish he'd score more. Then there are Liam Sammon, Jimmy Glynn, Noel Colleran, Christy Tyrrel and the "retired" men of yesteryear. Watch out too for Ray Niland of Fr. Griffins.

I'm not saying Galway will win the League or next year's championship. I do think that Mayo and Galway should qualify for a Divisional decider in the League in early Spring at a Galway venue and what a game that will be. Here Galway should win again. If they do they'll be back in Croke Park again far sooner than anybody (outside of Galway) expected.

It was only when the team was beaten last Summer that we here in Galway came to realise how much the champions meant to people outside the county. I had letters of condolence from supporters (now Galway-



Seamus Leydon

men) throughout Ireland. Just today a young fellow from New Ross wrote his delight to see Galway on the way back. This has meant much to us. We wouldn't mind an old game with Meath at all but we'd need a few more games to help us on the way. Galway intend to be back.

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HANDBALL

a year of major progress

By Clarach Mac Eoin

IF I was a betting man I would have lost a packet on this year's All-Ireland championships. This was particularly applicable in the senior grade. At the start of the season, my sights were firmly set on a clean sweep by the McEllistrim brothers. Tom and Murty from Kerry.

In point of fact, I was pretty certain that they would win all the four senior titles. They had made a clean sweep in last year's junior championship and, on entering the senior grade, continued to display the same brilliant form. Victory in the Tailteann Games; a magnificent effort by Tom to win the Gael-Linn Trophy, and the capture of the four Munster senior titles really proved their worth.

But then came a fateful day in Ballymore-Eustace when the Ballymacelligott boys faced the home opposition of Matt Purcell and Paddy Winders in the semi-final of the hardball doubles. They were beaten decisively and that started a slump, that, the McEllistrim brothers have hardly arrested, as yet. Thereafter the destination of senior honours was wide open.

Séamus McCabe, the Monaghan ace, excelled himself. He won the senior softball singles for the second year running and, for good measure, won the trip to Toronto as Ireland's representative in the singles section of the World Championship.

The doubles honours went to Liam Molloy and Dessie McGovern (Meath). This was somewhat of a surprise for, outside their own county, they were given little chance of ultimate victory.

Peter McGee, the Newport star, could be termed a bit unlucky that he did not win his way to representation at Toronto in either singles or doubles. He won the hardball singles and partnered the Castlebar player Paddy Bollingbrook to victory in the doubles. However, in the trial matches for the World games, they failed narrowly.

The junior championship was a series of surprises. Marcus Henry and John Gaffney upset the experts and the odds by taking the junior softball doubles. Henry also made a valiant effort in the singles but had to yield to Limerick's Pat McGarry.

This young Munsterman gave some excellent displays in the course of the season, during which he also won the under-21 section of the Tailteann Games.

Mark O'Gara, the young Garda from Ballintubber in Co. Roscommon, was the sensation of the season. He had the distinction of winning an All-Ireland title in his very first match. He was not chosen, initially, to represent his county in junior hardball but when Joe O'Brien, the regular player, defected prior to the All-Ireland final, O'Gara was given the spot. In a thrilling game with Kildare's Tom Geoghegan, he came from behind to take the title.

However, Geoghegan's former minor partner — Greg Lawler compensated by winning the junior hardball doubles and the minor hardball singles and doubles. A noticeable feature about young Lawler's wins, which incidentally was the first time a player won minor and junior hardball titles in the same year, was the fact that he partnered brothers in both doubles wins. Robin Winders helped him in the junior, while Cecil partnered him in minor.

It was an historic season for Dublin at minor level. Pat Murphy brought the county a first-ever in singles and, in partnership with Paul Domigan, won the doubles also to breach a thirty year gap. It was a boost that will be appreciated by the industrious Minor board in the county.

Perhaps, one of the greatest innovations in recent years has been the introduction of "over forty" competitions. Besides, their obvious benefit to the older age group of players, they have also been instrumental in luring many of the stars back to the game, both as players and administrators.

It is unnecessary to say that the top man in the over forty grade is Micky Walsh, the great veteran from Charlestown. Indeed, he can hold his own with the best in the country, under or over forty, as he has shown in the past year. He is now forty-four and I have little hesitation in saying that he has many years of playing left in him still.

Juvenile competitions also hold a special place in the cycle of competitions. It is good to see more senior members take such an interest in them for they are the grass-roots on which future progress is based.

All in all, it was a year of major progress for handball and the indications are that the New Year holds even greater promise.



Action in the 1967 Cavan—Down Ulster final at Clones

ULSTER FINALS IN A STRANGE LAND

By Séamus McCluskey

TO suggest that the Ulster final be played at any Northern venue other than Belfast, Clones or Cavan would cause quite a furore in Northern football circles. To suggest that the final be played outside the province would cause more than a furore — it would cause consternation, and that's putting it mildly!

Yet, several Ulster finals have been played outside the boundaries of the Northern province and very

little significance was attached to it at the time. In fact, on a couple of these occasions no other alternative was feasible and the transfer of the showpiece of Ulster football to another province caused little concern in the area bereft of its final.

Leinster was usually the province chosen for the game on the occasions that the Ulster Council decided not to stage the final within their own boundaries and, in practically every instance, the attendance

showed an increase on those of the previous years — a tribute indeed to the Ulster followers who were willing to travel even outside the bounds of their own domain to witness the provincial decider.

The first recorded Ulster final was that of 1888 and this was played outside the province — at Drogheda in Co. Louth. The main reason for this was that there was not, then, in Ulster a single ground capable of staging even an inter-county game, much less a provincial final. The G.A.A. was, almost, an unmentionable name at that time in the North and the few clubs in Cavan, Monaghan and Armagh, who had the courage to field teams, were indeed running a considerable risk. But this they did and on a scorching hot June day in 1888 Monaghan, represented by Inniskeen Grattans, and Cavan, represented by Maghera-Mac Finns, played their historic Ulster final on Leinster territory, ending a titanic struggle all-square at two points apiece.

That first Ulster final played outside the province received very little publicity from the press but one report stated that "big crowds from both the competing counties" travelled to Drogheda for the game. The meagre gate-receipts were but a very pale shadow in comparison with those of three-quarters-of-a-century later, but the start had been made and even though those early Ulster finalists had to seek shelter from a neighbouring province, the saga of the Ulster final never afterwards looked back.

With the establishment of the games in the North and the acquisition of new grounds by the various County Boards, Ulster finals were brought back to the 'home' province and Cavan, Belturbet, Armagh, Castleblayney and other Northern towns played host to the greatest game of the year in the North. Sometimes — as in 1907 — no final at all was played but the game lived on and gradually more and more people turned their eyes to that late summer day when the Ulster championship would be decided.

In 1931, one of the greatest Ulster finals ever played, was staged outside the province. Cavan and Armagh were the contestants and the game was played at Dundalk — but then, many Ulster folk still regard the Northern part of Louth as part of Red Hand territory. Before a record attendance for an Ulster final, these two great Northern counties battled for supremacy and with only a minute left for play the sides were on level terms. In the dying seconds Cavan notched the winning point to take their 24th Ulster crown and Armagh were thwarted in their effort to capture their third senior championship title.

Eight years later, in 1939, Cavan and Armagh were again in opposition in the Ulster final and the venue was Castleblayney but this turned out to be a very tempestuous encounter which never even reached concluding stages. A replay was ordered and the venue

chosen was Croke Park, Dublin. For the first and only time in history an Ulster final was to be decided at G.A.A.'s Headquarters. As in 1931, however, this trip into Leinster territory brought no better fortune for the Armagh men and again Cavan won. Like the unfinished game, it was a close encounter with Cavan narrow winners on the score — Cavan 2-3; Armagh 1-4. This was Cavan's 31st Ulster crown.

World War II brought new travelling hazards to the G.A.A. especially in Ulster where, with two-thirds of the territory "at war," every conceivable means of transport was requisitioned by an occupying army which had no love either for the G.A.A. or its kindred organisations. Competitions were cut to a minimum but even to these travel was most difficult. The tremendously central venue (from the Railway aspect) of Clones was still not available and a few more years were to elapse before the gates of St. Tiernach's Park would be open to the Ulster final crowds. The championship of 1942 saw Cavan and Down reach the Ulster decider and once again the Ulster Council decided on a Leinster venue.

Because of its proximity to both counties Dundalk was again chosen and the 56th Ulster final was staged there — Cavan looking for their 34th Ulster title; an up-and-coming young Down fifteen looking for their first ever provincial triumph. But the fans were disappointed as this turned out to be a very one-sided final with Cavan proving too strong for the inexperienced Downmen and running out easy winners by 5-11 to 1-3.

This 1942 final was the last Northern decider played outside the province. The new Clones park was quickly taking shape and fifteen of the next eighteen Ulster finals were played there. Also taking shape was the new Casement Park in Belfast and the reconstructed Breffni Park in Cavan with the result that Ulster has never since been compelled to export the greatest game on its G.A.A. calendar. Nevertheless, the North has fond memories of those games that were played outside her borders and is deeply grateful to Leinstermen for providing a home-from-home when such a course was found necessary.

Champions of Ulster

Cavan: 1887, 1889, 1891-'99, 1905-'06, 1908, 1915, 1918-'20, 1923-'26, 1928, 1931-'37, 1939-'45, 1947-'49, 1952, 1954-'55, 1962, 1964, 1967 (total 46).

Monaghan: 1888, 1907, 1914, 1916-'17, 1921-'22, 1927, 1929-'30, 1938 (total 11).

Antrim: 1900-'02, 1904, 1909-'13, 1946, 1951 (total 11).

Down: 1959-'61, 1963, 1965-'66 (total 6).

Armagh: 1890, 1903, 1950, 1953 (total 4).

Tyrone: 1956-57 (total 2).

Derry: 1958.



The Mayo team which brought home the Connacht senior title for the first time since 1955.

MAYO

BONFIRES WILL GLOW IN THE SEPTEMBER DARKNESS

By Tom Courell

THE new year of 'sixty eight presents an intriguing challenge as far as football in Mayo is concerned. What is in store? New riches and the regaining of long lost fame; or is it back to the cold lonely days of defeat and despondency.

I naturally, in common with all Mayomen will plump for the former thought. Too long the men of the West have had their talents hidden. They are overdue a chunk of the championship cake. Who knows, this may be the year. I sincerely hope so!

At last Mayo followers can look out on a brighter horizon. Their senior representatives had, for the greater part of a decade, been stymied by the gallantry of Galway, who ruled their domain in the province with majesty and elegance. Their empire was secure and impregnable for years. But it crumbled last season, and Mayo, who had been rapping at the door of opportunity for so long, had their chance. A quick win over Leitrim in the Connacht final and then on to Croke Park on semi-final day.

They were up against Meath and what happened on the sunny August Sunday is now housed in history books. The Royal Countymen went marching on to the national decider and became a title the richer. Mayo? They went home and began to plan another assault.

There was much to be learned from that meeting. Fresh, young ideas are fine, but are no match for cast-iron experience. Mayo were beaten. They accepted their failure with traditional sportsmanship and swore to do better next time up.

Yet, that brief episode did a lot to repair the ego of the county, which, to say the least, had become deflated. There was, throughout the campaign, spirit and unbridled determination not experienced since the happy days of the late 'forties and early 'fifties. This was a vital element which had been lacking for some time. It was evident not alone in senior circles, but also with the junior and under 21 sides who also won provincial ribbons. The under 21 fifteen later went on to take All-Ireland honours following two tussles with Kerry.

All this is interpreted as indication that Mayo are on the way back to the big time. The success of the younger set was most welcomed. It showed that many of the prominent minors of the past had flowered into fine footballers.

There is no denying the brilliance of players like Burrishoole's Willie McGee, Eugene Rooney (Kiltimagh), Tom Fitzgerald (Ballyhaunis), Jimmy Ryan (Burrishoole), Tom Cafferky (Achill), James Smyth (Claremorris), Christy Loftus (Burrishoole), Des

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Séamus O'Dowd, Joe Langan, Johnny Mulvey (Co. Secretary), Séamus Daly (Co-Trainer) and John Morley following Mayo's triumph over Leitrim in the Connacht final.

Griffith (Claremorris), and J. J. Cribben (Ballyhaunis).

Then, of course, other members of that title-taking team: Willie Loftus (Ballina), John Gibbons (Louisburgh), Seamus O'Dowd (Ballina), Joe Earley (Ballyvary) and Martin Flatley (Claremorris) were included on the side which fell to Meath.

It is little wonder then that Mayo can be counted on to fight to the last to retain their precious Connacht senior crown—the first to have come their way in twelve years of trial and error.

It is, however, impossible to think of a Mayo success in the west without first of all assessing the strength of their near neighbours, Galway. For years the counties have been the keenest rivals. They have bickered over honours time and again. Up to the recent past, the Tribesmen three-in-a-row team had the better of the argument. Needless to say they will

be back in the coming year. From the salvo they sounded at Castlebar in the early days of the League, they will have to be respected and feared.

Five times Galway played Mayo in 1967, and three times they had the upper hand. Their first triumph was at Castlebar where they experienced a rather close-call in the play-off in the National League. They followed this with another, in a challenge game at Tuam.

Then it was Mayo's turn. They toppled the reigning All-Ireland champions in the provincial semi-final at Galway and confirmed that form with a victory some months later in the Gael-Linn Cup competition. The score was even at that stage. However, shortly afterwards I saw the Corrib-county tatter the form-book by scolding Mayo in no uncertain terms in the first phase of the current League. There was an obvious truth to be gleaned

from this display: there is plenty of fight left in Keenan, Donnellan, Dunne, Leyden, Tierney, Geraghty and company.

Despite that slight embarrassment, I still believe 1968 could be Mayo's year. They have blooded players whose capabilities are beyond question. With a sprinkling of promising stars in the proper places they could present a combination which would be difficult to subdue. Their defence looks solid. Malachy Gallagher will have to be on his toes if he hopes to retain the number one jersey now that he has Eugene Rooney breathing down his neck. He has kept his charge well during the past year, and it will take a lot of persuading to have him voted from office.

Likewise Johnny Carey and Seamus O'Connor—the corner backs who have served the county well. In front of them John Morley is an ideal pivot. At the time of writing the powers that be have been carrying out a series of experiments in an effort to find the wing backs with the brightest future. But, by championship time, I would not be the least surprised to see Willie Loftus and Jimmy Ryan firmly established.

Centre-field was another section receiving an

amount of attention. P. J. Loftus has had several partners in recent times. Who his companion will be in June is anyone's guess. It could be Johnny Farragher, John Gibbons, Jimmy Langan, or his brother Joe.

Competition for a position in attack should be equally keen. Joe Corcoran, Johnny Farragher, John Gibbons, John Nealon, Willie McGee, Tom Fitzgerald, Seamus O'Dowd, M. J. Ruddy, Mick Ruane, J. J. Cribben and James Smyth — to mention a few — should all be in the running. With such a reservoir of talent at their disposal and backed by the experienced gained in the Grounds Tournament, I am confident the selectors will come up with the right players for trainers Willie Casey and Seamus Daly to mould into a winning side.

Mayo is generally linked with the aristocrats of Gaelic football. Despite amazing achievements in the National League in the past, the county has but three championship titles to toast. But there is a crop of talented youngsters whose immediate aim is to alter the statistics.

Give them the breaks and bonfires will glow in the September darkness.



The All-Ireland winning Mayo under-21 team.



Sean O'Neill—Ulster's defeat in the Railway Cup final deprived him of a record.

RECORDS MISSED

By Owen McCann

G“GLORIOUS in defeat” . . . it’s a cliché as old as sport. And, if it has to be defeat, then, what better way to go down than with all flags flying proudly. But, this still cannot cloud the fact that victory, alone, is concrete . . . it’s what a battle is all about. A win in any competition, even if it is not the end product of a particularly outstanding performance, is still likely to be remembered with more delight by participants than any defeat, no matter how glorious.

Yet, for all that, some defeats sustained by a number of teams in 1967 had a special something that will ensure. Take, for instance, New York’s League final win over Galway in New York last May—and Jimmy Duggan.

From colleges competitions to a complete sweep of every major honour in competitive senior inter-county football in just over a year! That was the record distinction within Jimmy’s grasp as he lined-out against the exiles. The Corofin native won an All-Ireland colleges’ senior football medal with St. Jarlath’s, Tuam, in 1964, and he was an inspiring

captain and clever centre forward in the team that regained that national title for Jarlath’s in 1966. Then, came promotion to the premier grade.

He made his debut against Mayo in the Connacht final, and won a senior provincial medal at the first attempt. Later it was another ‘first’ — the All-Ireland senior decider — in which Galway beat Meath. A Grounds’ Tournament medal, and a Railway Cup souvenir were later added to his collection, and then came a trip to New York. But, the final link in the chain was foiled in that League final defeat. Still, Jimmy has plenty of time to complete that medals collection!

Then, there was Antrim’s win over Dublin in the All-Ireland senior camogie final replay. In that game the wheel turned full cycle for Una O’Connor. In 1966 she won her tenth successive All-Ireland senior medal — a record for any team game — and her 13th memento in all. Last July she improved on her own Leinster championship medals-record, set at 14 the year previous and, starting the All-Ireland final against Antrim she had never played on a losing side

in an All-Ireland intercounty or inter-club championship final.

The September clash of Antrim and Dublin gained Una another distinction — her first drawn game in a national final. Came the replay in October and, for the first time, Una figured on a losing team. Dublin's defeat, of course, had another important aspect. It was the county's first in any championship game since losing a 1956 All-Ireland semi-final at Casement Park to Antrim. It was also Antrim's first All-Ireland final win over Dublin since a 2-4 to 2-1 success in 1947.

A week after the All-Ireland final Una O'Connor figured again for the first time on another losing side. She was in the scoring division in the Leinster team that, after five wins in finals with Ulster, lost by 5-1 to 5-4 to the North at Parnell Park, Dublin, in the Gael-Linn Cup decider. That was Ulster's first final win, but not the first time that Una O'Connor was on a defeated team in the final of this particular competition.

Ulster's defeat by Connacht in the Railway Cup football final closed the door on a number of distinctions that would have made St. Patrick's Day 1967 a red-letter one in the annals of Northern football. Victory would have left Ulster the first province to win the football trophy five years in a row, and Sean O'Neill the first Ulster player to figure, from the start, on six final winning teams. He won the first of his five medals in 1960, and he and Gabriel Kelly were the only players chosen by Ulster for all ten games in that five-in-a-row bid. The Cavan defender played in the finals of 1960, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1967. But he had to stand down for the 1966 decider, although he still got a medal.

Jodie O'Neill also played in the six finals under review. He was chosen for the 1960, 1965 and 1966 games, and went in as a substitute in the 1963, 1964 and 1967 deciders.

So, Ulster's defeat also foiled the two O'Neills of ranking as the first Ulster players to appear in six successful Railway Cup finals. Paddy Doherty and Tom Maguire also played on five final winning teams, and the Down sharpshooter holds the provincial record with six medals, having won his first as a substitute in 1956.

That defeat also meant that Antrim did not bridge a now unique almost eight-teen year gap. In that game Tony McAtamney was the first Antrim footballer to play in a final since Kevin Armstrong and Sean Gallagher figured in the 1950 win over Leinster, and Antrim's long barren spell out of the "medals stakes" is the longest by any of the Ulster counties.

Galway lost more than their provincial and All-Ireland senior football titles when they crashed to Mayo in the Connacht semi-final. In 1960 they

equalled Mayo's record of five Connacht senior football titles in succession (completed in 1910) but the following year they failed to blaze a new record trail by losing the provincial final to Roscommon. Had they beaten Mayo last June, and went on to retain the provincial crown, Galway would have achieved another five in a row run of titles and would thus have been poised for a new Connacht record in the coming year.

Then, there was that shock defeat of a Mayo minor team powered by six of their 1966 All-Ireland title winning side. They lost to outsiders Roscommon in the Connacht decider at Roscommon. A subsequent Mayo win over Roscommon in the under-21 decider meant that the minor defeat had deprived Mayo of the distinction of the first clean-sweep of all football titles (senior, under-21, minor and junior) in any province in the same year.

Still, in the under-age competitions! Kildare's failure to Kerry at Tralee in the under-21 football semi-final was a first-timer. This championship was inaugurated in 1964. Kildare gave Leinster a direct interest in the 1965 and 1966 finals, winning in 1965.

That Kildare defeat at Tralee, deprived the Lily Whites of ranking as the first county to appear in three finals.

Then, in under-21 hurling, a goal by Eugene Davey for Dublin, less than a minute from time in their Leinster semi-final with Wexford at Kilkenny was an historic score. It knocked Wexford out in the Leinster championship for the first time — the Slaneysiders contested the All-Ireland finals of 1964, 1965 and 1966.

Down's defeat by Cavan in the Ulster senior football final at Clones was also a first-timer. They met the Breffni County in Northern finals at Clones in 1959, 1960 and 1965, the only deciders between the counties at the Monaghan venue until 1967, and Down won all three.

Wexford lost a share in an All-Ireland minor hurling final record when they lost to Cork. That was their first defeat in three finals: 1963, 1966, after a replay, and 1967.

Waterford, who won in 1929 and 1948, now are the only county with an unbeaten record in the minor hurling final.

Another defeat that was notable in its own way was Mayo's in the All-Ireland senior semi-final. That was the first semi-final since the start of live telecasts in 1962 that the Connacht champions failed to win.

I have left to the last the defeat that smashed the most notable record-making bid of all — Tipperary's in the All-Ireland final. So much was written about John Doyle and that record ninth All-Ireland medal that there is little need for me to add any more. Suffice to say now that this is a record which will that establishing.



Meath, All-Ireland senior football champions 1967.



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Anseo

agus

Le Sean O Murchu

Ansiud

NI dócha go ndeanfaidh Uistín Mac Cárthaigh, an fear ón bPasáiste Thiar, a imríonn i lár na páirce do Chorcaigh, dearmad go deo na ndeor ar 1966. An bhliain sin, fuair sé an cúl cothromaíochta dá chontae sa chéad bhabhta de Chraobhchómortas na Mumhan i gcoinne an Chláir.

Ansin, bhí sé ina bhall d'fhoirne Chorcaí a bhain craobhacha na Mumhan agus na hEireann amach san iománaíocht shinsearach agus faoi bhliain is fiche, agus bronnadh gradam Caltex air don iománaí is fearr. Ach cad mar gheall ar 1967? Cuireadh ionadh an domhain ar gach duine nuair nar roghnaíodh Uistín ar shárfoireann, an "GAELIC WEEKLY." Ní raibh ar a chumas imirt i gCraobh Chorn an Bhóthair Iarainn inar buadh ar a chuige, agus ní fhéadfadh sé ach teacht isteach ar feadh tamaill bhig sular chríochnaigh an cluiche tabhachtach i gcoinne Phort Láirge.

* * * *

B'éigean don réiteoir cáiliúil úd, Séamus Hatton (Cill Mhanntáin) seisear a chur den pháirc mar gheall ar imirt dháinséarach nuair a chas Ua Fáilghe agus an Iarmhí ar a chéile i dtús Chraobh Laighean san iománaíocht shinsearach is mbliana. Ba bhrónach an rud é a leithéid a tharlú. Ba náireach an rud é freisin.

* * * *

Ghnothaigh an leath-thosach clúiteach, Eamonn O Ceithir, dhá chúl agus deich gcúilín nuair a bhuaigh Cill Choinnigh ar Ua Fáilghe sa tsraithchómortas go luath sa bhliain leis an scór: 2-15; 1-9.

* * * *

Bhí Oilibhéar Breathnach sásta a dhul isteach mar réiteoir do chraobhchluiche iománaíochta i gCill Choinnigh idir Droichead Bheinéid agus Caisleán an Chumair. De réir cosúlachta, ar aon chuma, ní raibh roinnt daoine sona na sásta leis an gcaoi inar láimhseáil sé an cluiche céanna agus dá thoradh sin rinneadh ionsaí ar an gcúl báire cáiliúil nuair a séideadh an

fheadóg dheireanach. Is aisteach an rud é ach is docha go raibh na daoine céanna thuasluaite ag moladh ghaiscí an Bhreatnaigh tar éis Chraobh na hEireann.

* * * *

Tá sé deimhneach go mbeidh cuimhne chruinn go héag ag clann Uí Choigligh ó Loch Garman ar an seachtú lá de Bhealtaine na bliana seo. Cén fáth nach mbeadh? Ar an ócáid sin, d'imir Donal agus Pádraig do



Eamonn O Ceithir — 2-10 in aghaidh Ua Fáilí

shinsir an chontae a bhuaigh go heasca ar Luimneach i gcluiche leathcheannais an tsraithchómortais, agus bhí Seán, Séamas agus Máirtín ar fhoireann Choláiste Naomh Peadar a bhris ar Scoil na mBráithne (Luimneach) san aithimirt de Chraobh na gColáistí.

Dearthaireacha is ea an cúigear thuasluaite, agus b'fhéidir go dtiocfaidh an lá a mbeadh siad go leir in eineacht le chéile ar fhoireann Loch Garman a bhuaíodh Craobh na hEireann.

Ar lean leath. 85



Cork, All-Ireland senior football finalists 1967.

The Steadfast Rule

MY immediate conclusion on reading Brendan Mac Lua's book, "The Steadfast Rule," was what a pity the G.A.A. waited until now to tell this story. It is a great story and one which had the G.A.A. told it years ago would have seen to it that much of the triviality which is currently spoken and written about the Ban would never have been.

"The Steadfast Rule" gives a basis and a historical context to the Ban which I, for one, never knew that the Rule had. Of course, I understood what the Rule meant and why it was there but I had not realised that there was such a deep tradition and significance which gives the Rule a completely new dimension.

This book is not a case made on behalf of the Ban. It is simply the history of the Rule. It tells of how it came into being and why. From there the story moves on touching and weaving through the entire history of not alone the G.A.A. but of Ireland during the last eighty years: the Ban being debated in the British House of Commons; the various efforts of the British Government to have it removed; the Ban and I.R.B. opposition to it at the time of the Treaty; how the Treaty itself reflected on the Rule; the Ban and the Athletic Split; the Ban being debated at length in the Dail with many prominent political figures such as De Valera, Sean McEntee, Ernest Blythe and a host of others voicing their views on it; the Ban and Dr. Douglas Hyde — when the President of the State is removed from the position of Patron of the G.A.A. because of it; the Ban versus Oscar Traynor and the Army . . . and so on.

Who would have ever thought that this Rule could have involved itself in so many events — and the above listed are only a random selection.

Certainly this book has been a revelation to me and in a purely academic sense it raises the Ban from being simply a G.A.A. rule which we often hear debated at our own internal level to something else

altogether with a much wider and a much more important national significance.

Anyone who has views on the Rule, and who is given to expressing these views, simply must read this book. It may or may not change your views. This is not so much the point. What this book does is to give a deep understanding of the Rule and its effects, both past and present, which none of us could have had before.

The author has been most clinical and painfully accurate in all that he has written. It can be gleaned that he favours the Rule but personal views have very much taken a back seat. The story is told in full — fact after fact and date after date. It is not until the concluding pages of the final chapter that Brendan Mac Lua moves from the cold historical facts to express personal views and even then it is only to perform an academic analysis.

Without doubt, this is the most important G.A.A. book ever written. It establishes clearly that the G.A.A. has been a most significant force in modern Irish history. It also shows that the G.A.A. and the Ban are inseparable.

Take away this Rule and you may have a less criticised G.A.A. — maybe even a more successful G.A.A. . . . but you certainly won't have the same G.A.A.

The G.A.A. which was founded by Michael Cusack, and which blazed forth like a great forest fire to change the whole face of rural Ireland, cannot be separated from the Ban. The Ban was, and is, what it is all about.

If we want a Ban-less G.A.A. then let us do it in the only way in which it can be done. Let us scrap the present Association and form a new one.

Certainly the G.A.A. we know — and which some of us love — cannot be divorced from the Ban . . . It must be until death do they part.

The Steadfast Rule

By Brendan Mac Lua

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An Dualgas Ata Orainn

Le M. O S

TA sé mar nós ag lucht gnótha, siopadóirí agus daoine nach iad, feachaint siar ag deire na bliana, chun fháil amach, conus mar a d'eirigh leo i gcúrsaí gnótha, i rith na bliana atá imithe thart. Déanann siad é seo, ó bhliain go bliain, d'aon gnó amháin chun aon laige, nó aon locht a bhí ag teacht isteach 'na gcúrsaí gnótha do leigheas. Ní h-amháin go bhféachann na daoine seo siar ar obair na bliana, ach féachann siad rómpa agus ceapann siad scéim eigin a dhéanfaidh deimhin de ná tharlóhadh sé arís.

Más rud ciallmhar é, agus más rud riachtanach é don bhfear gnótha fhéachaint isteach go curamach is go rialta 'na chuid gnótha, tá sé gach aon phíoch chomh riachtanach do gach club, is do gach coiste Contae fé churam Cumann Luthchleas Gael an ní céadna a dhéanamh. Gluaiseacht is ea Cumann Luthchleas Gael go gcaithfidh gach bhall de a bheith ag gluaiseacht chomh maith. Duine go bfuil a chroí iomlán sa Chumann, agus a thuigeann an saol atá ann fé láthair, tá's aige go dian mhaith go bfuil gear gádh le dílseacht gan roinnt.

Tá míle constaic ann anois, cinn ná raibh ann ar scor ar bith blianta ó shoin. Tá siad so ag cur isteach

ar chuspóirí an Chumann. Tá an dualgas orainn iad seo a leigheas.

Ba chóir do gach club a beith mar lóchrann Gaodhalachais don cheanntar timcheall air. Is linne-ne an tír seo, gach fhód de, thuaidh is theas agus is cúis náire dhuinn é ma tá cluichí eile i bfad rómhainn amach in aon ghnó a bhaineann le cluichí.

Nílímíd gníomhach go leor. Táimid ró-chlaonta chun a rádh "Fágaimís siúd mar atá sé." Ní meon an ghaischigh é sin. Saighdiúirí in arm an Chiosógaigh sinn-ne. Dúisímís a cháirde. Bímis gníomhach. Luighímís isteach ar an obair atá rómhainn amach.

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THE intention here is not to pay tribute to the trafficking player but rather to draw further attention to the fact that he, not alone exists, but thrives. The article which follows is authentic — as is the accompanying photograph — except that they do not relate to the same game. For obvious reasons the author wishes to remain anonymous — EDITOR.

A week in the life of a

COMMUTER



THE letter arrived on Wednesday. It was short and to the point. There was a vital championship game on Sunday in New Eltham. A few of the lads were doubtful because of injuries and some help was badly needed. Could I oblige? There was no danger this time because the other side also have some "guest players." Tommy, the ever efficient secretary of the London club in question, would ring at 10.30 on Wednesday night for my answer.

This gave me a day to think about it. My own county team of which I was a member had been beaten in the first round of the championship in May, and it was now late July. In the meantime my club had also departed from the county championship scene and, as I watched many players whom I knew to be worse than I getting all the publicity, I wished dearly for some opportunity, any opportunity, to get back into action again.

I had often heard vague rumours about players going to England for games but this was my first time to be given such an offer. True, I had played in London a couple of years earlier but that was when I was working there and some of the boys on the job who were members of a club got me to play a few games.

I had always noted that it was usually good players from weak counties who were brought out for such games and I admit that I was flattered to some extent to be asked. As well as that, we all, I suppose, seem to get a kick out of doing something which is against the rules — provided the consequences aren't too harsh.

The result of all this was that when Tommy rang

at 10.30 to the dot he had an easy task in getting my acceptance of his offer. He explained subtly, that they could only afford to bring over one player and that therefore they wanted a good one. As I suspected it was some countymen of my own, who were members of his club, who had suggested that I should be the one.

The arrangements were very simple. I would have my return air ticket in Saturday's post in time to fly out on that afternoon. I would be met at Heathrow Airport by one of my fellow countymen from the club and he would fix me up for the night.

And so on Saturday night I found myself in Hammersmith where I met the other players and officials who were all obviously delighted to see me. Their hospitality towards me was really genuine and I was, therefore, determined to do my best in return the next day.

We played the game, a hard tough one, and won by five points. I scored two points and "made" a goal and was satisfied.

The sense of pride and achievement among all the others after the game seemed to me an adequate reward for my trip. I had brought joy to the hearts of a bunch of Irish exiles and to me that was something greater than I could ever do at home, where it is the local newspaper that decides your reputation rather than any genuine feelings of supporters. In London there was no adulation — just sincere appreciation for a job well done.

A very enjoyable Sunday night in London completed my weekend and I flew home on Monday morning having promised to oblige again if necessary.

WHERE THIS YEAR'S TITLES WENT

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

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I.H. — LONDON	CORK
U.-21 H. — TIPPERARY	DUBLIN
U.-21 H. (Special)—ROSCOMMON	WICKLOW
J.H. — WICKLOW	LONDON
J.H. (Home) — WICKLOW	KERRY
M.H. — CORK	WEXFORD
M.H. (Special) — WICKLOW	DOWN
U.-16 (Special) — DOWN	WICKLOW
S.F. — MEATH	CORK
U.-21 F. — MAYO	KERRY
J.F. — KERRY	LONDON
J.F. (Home) — KERRY	MAYO
M.F. — CORK	LAOIS

CONNACHT CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F. — MAYO	LEITRIM
U.-21 F. — MAYO	ROSCOMMON
J.F. — MAYO	GALWAY
M.F. — ROSCOMMON	MAYO
J.H. — MAYO	SLIGO
M.H. — ROSCOMMON	LEITRIM

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U.-21 H. — DUBLIN	OFFALY
J.H. — WICKLOW	MEATH
M.H. — WEXFORD	DUBLIN
M.H. (Special) — WICKLOW	MEATH
S.F. — MEATH	OFFALY
U.-21 F. — KILDARE	WICKLOW
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M.F. — LAOIS	DUBLIN

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DR. McKENNA CUP (F.) — DONEGAL	DOWN
WALSH CUP (H.) — WEXFORD	DUBLIN
GROUNDS' TOURNAMENT (H.) — WEXFORD	WATERFORD
WEMBLEY TOURNAMENT (H.) — CORK	KILKENNY
WEMBLEY TOURNAMENT (F.) — CAVAN	GALWAY
CORN NA CASCA (F.) — DUBLIN	OFFALY
PLAYER CUP (F.) — DUBLIN	MEATH
McKEEVER CUP (F.) — DUBLIN	LOUTH
DOYLE CUP (F.) — KILDARE	DUBLIN
O'HANRAHAN CUP (F.) — DOWN	CARLOW
REPRESENTATIVE GAME (F.) — LONGFORD	COMBINED UNIVERSITIES
GOLD MEDAL TOURNAMENT (H.) — TIPPERARY	WATERFORD
DR. KINANE CUP (H.) — WATERFORD	WEXFORD
O'BYRNE CUP (F.) — DUBLIN	OFFALY
GAEL LINN CUP (F.) — MAYO	GALWAY
OIREACHTAS CUP (H.) — KILKENNY	CLARE
FITZGIBBON CUP (H.) — U.C.C.	U.C.G.
McKENNA CUP (F.) — U.C.D.	QUEEN'S, BELFAST
GAELIC WEEKLY CUP (F.) — DOWN	KERRY

COLLEGES' G.A.A.

ALL-IRELAND S.F. — ST. COLMANS, NEWRY	ST. JARLATHS, TUAM
ALL-IRELAND S.H. — ST. PETER'S, WEXFORD	LIMERICK C.B.S.
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' (F.) — NORTH TIPPERARY	OFFALY
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS' (H.) — TYRONE	KERRY

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THESE

By Moondharraig



Des Foley

IT is odd how the memories of a year that is gone may, in the end, have little to do with what may well be called the "State Occasions." Because, out of 1967, I carry with me some very happy memories which are far removed from the big games and from the big teams.

Indeed, two of the most vivid come from O'Toole Park in Dublin, which I admit is my favourite Metropolitan pitch outside of Croke Park. The first of these memories comes from the early spring when I went up there on a Wednesday afternoon. The crowd consisted of, perhaps, a couple of dozen school-boys, a handful of clerical advisors, and the three or four journalists, most of them free-lances who cover the lesser sporting events in the Metropolis.

The reason I was there was because it was the first chance I had got of seeing Blackrock College field a team in Gaelic competition for more than thirty years. And it was tied up with memories of long-gone days, when I had played my own small part in helping the Blackrock hurling teams that had taken the Leinster title.

I had been a young, and somewhat hungry, university student then, and I admit that one of the reasons we turned up at Williamstown to help Blackrock get fit for their Leinster games was that we were always treated to an excellent tea afterwards, and that was an important consideration if you were a student living in a Dublin flat in the mid-'thirties.

Anyway, I was glad to see the hooped jerseys of 'Rock on a Gaelic field again, and maybe the occasion lingers in my mind because there was the first promise of spring on the refreshing breeze but I think it was because I was rather surprised at the brand of football these Blackrock boys played. It was forceful and direct, and they won well. I thought that victory a rather bright day for the G.A.A. on a bright afternoon, and the hope I brought away with me was that I would soon see a Blackrock hurling team on a Leinster colleges field again.

But then, I suppose, they will have to wait even another decade or two to find a leader like Frank Lahiffe was in the 'thirties. I count Frank Lahiffe

one of the best hurlers I have ever seen, who failed to win fame. The only reason for that was because he gave up hurling before he was much more than into his twenties in order to concentrate on his dental studies. But he did not go without an All-Ireland medal, as far as I recall he won a junior one around 1937.

My second memory of O'Toole Park was another rather unique G.A.A. occasion, but one of a very different nature. It was the opening of the pitch and putt course on the ground. Various people had a few words to say, as well they might, because this was the first time a County Board had ever officially installed such an amenity on a county ground to my knowledge. Then came the crucial moment of the day when Des Foley, acting I suppose in a triple capacity as hurler, footballer and Dail deputy, had to drive off the first ball. We all held our breaths, but Des was unshaken by his responsibilities and dropped that ball neatly on the green. Feeling that we had all to show our good-will, I then decided to play a few holes myself.

I set off with a few youngsters who were around, and then suddenly found we numbered six, of whom two were French, one was Spanish, while the young lady came from Switzerland. Since only a couple of them knew what pitch and putt was all about, you can well imagine the difficulties in which we found ourselves, and that did not count looking for the ball.

Eventually, after we had taken more than half an hour to play four holes, we gave it up, due to linguistic difficulties, and then we all sat down, and watched the second half of a hurling match on the main pitch. And as I made my way home after it all, I came to the conclusion that there might be some future after all for a united Europe, as long as we could keep all that is best of our own traditions, of course.

And now, to come back to greater occasions. Well, the most poignant memory I have from Croke Park dates back to the final of the Railway Hurling Cup on St. Patrick's Day. Leinster were cruising to victory and no one had done more to achieve that happy

Clár Laidéan, 1968

SOCHRUIGHTHE AG

AN CRUINNIU 11/11/'67

IOMÁINT MIONÚIR (Spéis.)

- (1) Cill Dara v. Cill Mhantáin—D. Nua, June, '68.
- (2) An Mhí v. Lúbhaí—Ardee, June, '68.
- (3) Iar-Mhí v. Ceatharlach—June, '68

IOMÁINT SINSIR agus MIONÚIR

- (1) Laois v. Iar-Mhí—Tullamore.
- (2) Ua bhFáilí v. (1)
- (3) Loch Garman v. Áth Cliath—Kilkenny
- (4) Cill Choinnigh v. (2)
- (5) (3) v. (4)

Finals — 14-7-'68

IOMÁINT IDIR-MHÉANACH

- (1) Ceatharlach v. Cill Mhantáin—Aughrim*
- (2) Cill Choinnigh v. (1)
- (3) Loch Garman v. Áth Cliath—Gorey
- (4) Cill Dara v. Ua bhFáilí—Tullamore
- (5) An Mhí v. Laois—Tullamore

(Draw for Semi-final)

All First Round Games 21-4-'68 except *

IOMÁINT SÓISEAR

- (1) Ceatharlach v. Cill Dara
- (2) Cill Mhantáin v. (1)
- (3) Lúbhaí v. An Mhí—Ardee
- (4) (3) v. Iar Mhí

Dates and Venues in June, 1968

IOMÁINT FÉ 21 BLD. (Speis.)

- (1) Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí—M. Cearr.
- (2) Lúbhaí v. (1)
- (3) Cill Dara v. Cill Mhantáin—D. Nua.
- (4) Ceatharlach v. (3)
- (5) (2) v. (4)—An Craobh

N.B.—This is special C.C. Competition

IOMÁINT FÉ 21 BLD. (Championships)

- (1) Loch Garman v. Laois—Portlaoise
- (2) Cill Choinnigh v. Ua bhFáilí—Birr
- (3) Áth Cliath v. (1) no (2) (Draw for Bye)
- (4) (3) v. ? (An Craobh)

On 31-3-'68 or 7-4-'68

Corn Breathnach—Idir (4) Foirne a gabh páirteach leath-craobhacha 1968 (Iomáint Sinsir) agus na gcluichí i Mhí Lughnasa.

PEIL MIONÚIR agus SINSIR (Roinn Spéis.)

- (1) Laois v. Loch Garman—Ceatharlach, 28-4-'68
- (2) Ceatharlach v. Cill Mhantáin—Áth Í, 21-4-'68
- * (3) (1) v. (2)—12-5-'68

PEIL MIONÚIR agus SINSIR (ar Craobh)

- (1) Longphort v. Áth Cliath
 - (2) Iar-Mhí v. An Mhí
 - (3) Cill Dara v. *(3)
 - (4) Lúghaí v. Ua bhFáilí
- Semi-finals : (1) v. (2); (3) v. (4)
Finals : (1 no 2) v. (3 no 4)—21-7-'68

PEIL SÓISEAR

- (1) Lúbhaí v. An Mhí—Ardee
- (2) Áth Cliath v. (1)—An Uaimh or Drogheda
- (3) Iar-Mhí v. Longphort—Longford
- (4) Ua bhFáilí v. (3)—Longford or Mullingar
- (5) Cill Mhantáin v. Ceatharlach—Aughrim
- (6) Loch Garman v. (5)—Enniscorthy
- (7) Cill Choinnigh v. Cill Dara—D. Nua.
- (8) Laois v. (7)
- (9) (2) v. (4)
- (10) (6) v. (8)
- (11) (9) v. (10)—An Craobh

PEIL FÉ 21 BLD.

- (1) Lúbhaí v. Cill Dara—Dunleer
 - (2) An Mhí v. Áth Cliath—An Uaimh no Páirc an Chrócaigh
 - (3) Laois v. Longphort—Longford or Portlaoise
 - (4) Iar-Mhí v. Ua bhFáilí—Tullamore or Mullingar
 - (5) Ceatharlach v. Cill Mhantáin—Ceatharlach
- All games (1) to (5) inclusive on 14-4-'68
- (6) Loch Garman v. (5)
 - (7) (1) v. (2)
 - (8) (3) v. (4)
 - (9) (6) v. (7) no (8)
- (Draw for Bye)
- (10) (9) v. (7) no (8) (Bye). An Craobh

CORN UÍ BROIN

- (1) Longford v. Laois—Longford
- (2) Offaly v. (1)—Tullamore
- (3) Westmeath v. Carlow—Mullingar
- (4) Dublin v. (3)
- (5) Wicklow v. Kilkenny—Kilkenny
- (6) Wexford v. (5)
- (7) Louth v. Kildare—Droichead Nua
- (8) Meath v. (7)

Round 1 on 24 or 31-3-'68

state of affairs for the men from the Eastern province than Offaly's Paddy Molloy.

Just after a Leinster score, Offaly's star had run back towards mid-field. The puck-out was short, and dropped right into his hand, and he put the sliothar dead straight back between the posts for the most certain point of the hour, as far as we in the press-box could see. But what happened? The umpire on one side cheerily waved wide, and was promptly followed by his colleague on the other side. The crowd on the Canal Terrace hooted in derision, and while I myself would not dream of querying the umpires' verdict, all I can say is that, from where I sat, if that was not a point I doubt if I ever saw one.

I had binoculars with me and I focussed them on Paddy Molloy, and I never saw such a look of disappointment on any man's face. And, heaven knows, I did not blame him.

Of course, I suppose the outstanding memory from Croke Park in 1967 should be the penalty which referee Eamonn Moules had decided was fouled at a moment when Donegal, had they scored from it, might well have advanced to victory over National League title-holders Galway.

I felt it must be a free out the minute the Donegal man touched that ball after the whistle had gone for the kick to be taken. And I still think referee Moules was completely right.

But that was not the most unusual Croke Park incident. For me that came just before the presentation of the Cup after the camogie final. In the first place I had been delighted to see the Dublin team come up on the rostrum and applaud the Antrim side that had defeated them, as they too came up a little later, having naturally been delayed by excited and delighted supporters. And then, just before the trophy was presented, one of the Dublin players came up and embraced the Antrim captain. I have not seen a greater demonstration of sportsmanship (there would be no point in calling it sportsmanship) in my time.

And what memories of the All-Ireland hurling and football finals? Well, the most remarkable thing from the hurling final to my mind was the gradual realisation by both sides around the start of the third quarter that Kilkenny must win and Tipperary must lose.

Then there was the fact that, quite suddenly, in the last quarter the years seemed to catch up with so many of the Tipperary players at the same time. Even John Doyle, with that ninth All-Ireland medal slipping from his grasp, could not drive the once willing flesh to a last supreme effort, and the dear knows but the great Holycross man tried hard enough, for the veins on his legs were standing out like whipcord as he made a few last tremendous efforts to roll back the black and amber tide.

For Kilkenny my sound man of the year was Martin Coogan. He never played a bad game from the start of the season, and for me, crowned it by a really immaculate display against Clare in the Oireachtas final.

From the football final, there was the amazing transformation in the Meath forwards. At the end of about twenty minutes, after some faulty misses, they seemed to be reduced to the state of nervousness that they were afraid to do anything at all, in case they did something wrong.

And then, once they got that first score, they were men transformed. They came out for that second half and you could almost see the confidence flowing back into them. Soon they were picking off those long-range points and there was nothing at all Cork could do about it.

For my footballer of the year, without a doubt, Bertie Cunningham! The Ballivor man to my mind was the keystone of that All-Ireland victory, and he grew in stature with every passing game.

One last memory of how I played a major part in an important function, entirely by accident. In the midst of high summer I went up to the Phoenix Park one Sunday morning to watch the opening and blessing of the new camogie pitch. Now, I was nothing more than an interested spectator, but when it came to the blessing of the grounds, there were only one or two other men present and they all had some function or other to perform, so I was the only one available to carry the Holy Water stoup for the officiating priest.

It all went off very well, indeed Sean O Siocháin, who was one of the speakers, was kind enough to say afterwards, as we watched our daughters march past in the parade, that I must have a rather late vocation, but I did feel rather pleased with myself because I remembered all the Latin responses that I thought I had forgotten forty years ago.

But the real joke came later. A young photographer from one of the newspapers came dashing up to say he had an excellent photograph of the priest and myself, and what was my name and what was my function. Well, I gave my name, but my function was a bit of a poser. So I said, 'Put me down as an acolyte, or if you like, just the priest's boy' and off I went to where I should be, among the spectators at the game that followed.

That picture never appeared in the papers, of course, for they quite properly confined themselves to those who really had something significant to do on the occasion, but I have a copy, and I am very proud of it. After all, without an acolyte, they might not have been able to get through the proceedings at all.



TRIUMPH

By Jim Bennett

It is one of the profound sadnesses of life when the sweet smell of hard-earned, long-yearned for success is turned rancid in the moment of its savouring by an overlay of tragedy. For Kilkenny the day of final fulfillment was anti-climatic, the basking in warm self-satisfaction chilled by the grim accident to their centre-forward, Tom Walsh. The hurling year is typified always in the memory by the All-Ireland final, and 1967 will mark its niche in history with the name Walsh: it marked the unusually serious accident to Tom, and the great — perhaps last — grandstand show by Ollie.

All other aspects of the year and the final having been done justice in the more proximate aftermath of the occasion, and the other participants in Kilkenny's self-justification having each earned a due measure of praise, it is not unfair to concentrate now on the two enduring features.

Tom Walsh's accident was a double tragedy: one — his loss to the game — which we may fairly and without indelicacy probe, and the other, greater, which is personal, posing an heroic and almost Jobian test of character and mental resilience. This second is Walsh's own lonely fight, which he alone will win; but, it must be seen clearly as the obligation of the Association that all assistance — re-

habiliatory and psychological — is made available to him. But unobtrusively.

The loss of Tom Walsh to the field of play is not one hurling could ever afford without flinching, but it is worse than ever at this time. He had certain qualities of approach to hurling as a game which, apart entirely from the impact of his considerable skills, made him an important example to all. His enthusiasm for hurling was devouring, his dedication to the full sixty minutes of play without slacking or ever admitting defeat, his courage and vivid personality as a factor in maintaining team-spirit. You cannot re-create these qualities at will.

At 23 only the green years were behind him; ahead lay hopefully fruitful years of maturity when finely-honed basic skills could be smoothed off with the crafty manoeuvres native to Kilkenny's men of hurling destiny. Two All-Ireland senior medals might have been supplemented to make an historic bag; a name well-imprinted in the game's pages might have been emblazoned among the few of the elite. We, rank and file followers, would wish Tom Walsh to remember and to keep in the sharp focus of memory, when he is recalled because of his injury, that he would equally universally be recalled for his hurling, injury or no. He had the quality that stores pictures

& TRAGEDY



in the memory; of a brilliant fair-haired youngster in the minors; of the jet-speed of his darting and first-time shooting in his first senior final in 1963; of his more recent fight against lost form with the end of the years of natural fitness and the beginning of the hard-working years of training for form; his triumph over this crisis was achieved in the moment of tragedy.

And it was through hard application to the job of worrying out possession, chasing every chance, stretching out the Tipperary defence to the limit that Walsh played such a vital role in the functioning of the Kilkenny attack in the final. The constant buzzing around of that attack eventually tormented the Tipperary defence of old veterans into conceding the scores for victory.

At the other end of the Park, the other Walsh was playing the vital role bolstering and buttressing a staunch defence; and mind you, those who saw the final will ever remember the fact that, without some of Ollie's sorcery, the best of that determined defence could never have kept the impact of Tipperary's big throw without the scores they so urgently needed. There were many forces driving that Tipperary onslaught: native pride, a proud record, John Doyle's ninth medal, and particularly, that indefin-

able urge to defeat the clock which seizes all mortals at one time or another. All their energies were concentrated in that first half.

In the teeth of the storm of attack Ollie Walsh kept grabbing lobs or shots indiscriminately, tangoing his way through rushing forwards and struggling backs. One, two-three, to the left, . . . one, two-three, to the right. The swish of the bullfighter's cape could almost be heard over the roar of the crowd; but the swing and the crack and the follow-through that sent the sliothar soaring back into Tipperary territory was pure hammer-thrower.

The secret of Ollie's Walsh's brilliance as a goal-keeper is not a single talent with which he was endowed, but a whole complex of inter-related talents: the eye of a fowler, the hand of a juggler, the nerve of a knife-thrower, the feet of a dancer, the arms of a blacksmith. A seldom found combination; a singular man, indeed.

Of course, there have been occasions — big occasions even — when Ollie has been out of form (you must put it that way since his habitual performance has been so consistently brilliant). On some of these occasions he has been blamed for defeat, as though the man could and should always be able to produce the superhuman. But, in this lies the great achieve-



Tom Walsh helping Leinster win the Railway Cup title on March 17.

ment of Ollie, and the secret of his occasional failures, because his influence on the team as a whole and its success or failure, if not total, was determining. It is the universal curse of brilliance, for the brilliant have an effect by their own form alone on the result; and when they fail to produce that brilliance, they lay bare weaknesses in other team members which were unsuspected in good days.

That has been Ollie Walsh's role with Kilkenny over a decade in the highest quality. **He has been so good** that he has been a symbol to fellow-players and to supporters. On his good days nothing will beat them as players and supporters rally to his tune and its rhythm. When he found the tune unharmonious, then his fellow countymen as a whole seemed to accept it as a symbol of ill-fortune and surrendered to defeat. He had to carry on his back over that decade the responsibilities of the leader of an orchestra, who though still a member of the orchestra can still destroy the performance of the whole orchestra by his own poor playing.

That kind of responsibility is a severe burden on any man; but, it becomes worse when the player in question comes to realise it himself. Ollie Walsh, I am sure, has realised the nature of this burden in the later years, if not throughout his senior career; he came to know that on his shoulders rested not

merely his own salvation. In this light one must salute him as a man of rare character as well as one endowed with a singular combination of natural hurling qualities.

Ollie Walsh stands as a legend in his own active games' lifetime. No little contribution towards this has been his extroverted flamboyance which drove him so often not merely to be satisfied with the near impossible save but to embellish it with the goal-mouth jitterbugging which enabled him to free himself from the crush, the occasional solo to get a good clearing position, and the colossal drives to safety. This was no mean part in his contribution to Kilkenny's performance, for it meant that not merely did he save goals, but reversed the whole run of the game towards his goal. It encouraged and rallied his own men as much as it dismayed the opposition. It won many a match.

Ollie seems doubtful if he will play regularly after this year; in the circumstances it is easy to see why he might conclude that this is as good a time as any to call it off. He knows that 30 may bring the fractional slowing in eye and reflexes and that slight involuntary tendency to take a little more care of oneself. If he should call it a day, it will have been, in all the circumstances, highly appropriate that he finished on his best note — a very fine note, indeed.



Jim McNamara and Bobby Buckley—the loneliness of the long-distance runners

A YEAR TO BE REMEMBERED

By Jim Fogarty

IRRESPECTIVE of whatever view one takes of it, there can be no denying that the most noteworthy athletic event of 1967 took place on Sunday, April 16, when a majority of the N.A.C.A. and the A.A.U. joined hands to form Bórd Lúthchleas na hEireann. The merger also proved to be the most news-worthy of the year's athletic happenings and it rated banner headlines in the daily press.

Certainly, Irish athletics will never be the same again following that Sunday evening of last April.

The 1967 track and field season was highlighted by many fine individual performances. Rather than feature any special fixtures it seems far better to re-

view the year in chronological order. On April 23 the first championship went to Dick Hodgins, that fine Cork runner in the Donore colours, when he romped to victory in the 15 miles road race held in his native county.

The annual triangular match between the Army, Universities and President's selection took place at Santry in May, resulting in a convincing win for the latter. Revelation of this meeting was the brilliant sprinting of 17-year-old Ciaran Coakley who beat a class field to take the 100 yards in 10.2 secs. In the furlong he was even more conspicuous when finishing second to Iggy Moriarty in 22.1 secs. (both

Continued on page 73.

REMOULDS

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The Greatest Of Them All

By Frank Dolan

UNLIKE athletics, where the stop-watch and the measuring tape provide an accurate means of comparing the present with the past, Gaelic games have no such precise yard-stick. We, therefore, have had to rely on the fallible minds and fading recollections of men to assess the past and measure the present by its standards. In the main, we have been told that the past is king . . . when men were men.

But is it really so — and have we not, in our acceptance of a system of mental assessment, overlooked a more reliable measure — photographs?

Quality photographs, of the kind displayed throughout this publication, are a product of recent years, but photographs of one kind or another there have been back to, at least, the turn of the century. I came on a collection of these a few weeks ago and some of them were of sufficiently good quality to allow reproduction. The above is one of them.

These photographs, as I saw them, told a story. It was that the standard of the "golden eras" was not quite that golden. Take the above photograph for example. How would you rate the football being played in that game? Yes, have a good look at the photograph. To put it mildly, the standard being displayed is not high. Yet, who are these men?

Believe it or not but on view is the great Kerry team of 1926. The photograph is from their Munster championship meeting with Tipperary. Kerry went on to win the All-Ireland title and the following Spring an all-Kerry Munster team won the first Railway Cup football title. It has often been suggested that this was the greatest team of all-time.

I am not for a moment suggesting that old photographs tell the entire story — or provide a wholly reliable criterion between past and present — but they



do give a still glance into the past and what they show does not, to say the least of it, up-grade the past in one's estimation.

The above photograph is not an exception. It is a fair representative of the thirty old photographs which I have in front of me as I write — and they include hurling as well as football. All of them reflect poorly on the standard of the mid-'twenties and early 'thirties — the years, many of our elders would tell us, which saw the peak of Gaelic games.

A scrutiny of old photographs would certainly prompt an opposite conclusion. It would suggest, if not prove, that, like measurable athletics, Gaelic games have continued to reach a higher and higher standard with each passing decade . . . that, like progress in all fields of human endeavour, the young men of the 1960's are supreme and that they will remain supreme until surpassed by the young men of the 1970's.



ABOVE and RIGHT: Seanie Barry and John O'Halloran of U.C.C. in different 'fields'.

University Challenge

By Sean Daly

THERE are now more males of games-playing age attending Irish universities than there are in the whole of Connacht. There are 418 G.A.A. clubs in Connacht — as well as five county boards and one provincial council. The five Irish universities have between them a total of five clubs. Herein, surely, lies a great imbalance.

Adding to it is the fact that the population of Connacht is on a downward trend while, on the other hand, the population of the universities is rapidly increasing. It appears certain that both trends will continue — the former regrettably so and the latter a very welcome development.

It all, though, adds up to a somewhat obvious conclusion — that the Association is not currently equipped to cater as it should for the number of Irish youth who are attending our universities.

There is something much wider required than adding an extra competition for the universities or allowing students the facility to play with their home clubs as well as university clubs. All such measures are but drops in the urgently required ocean.

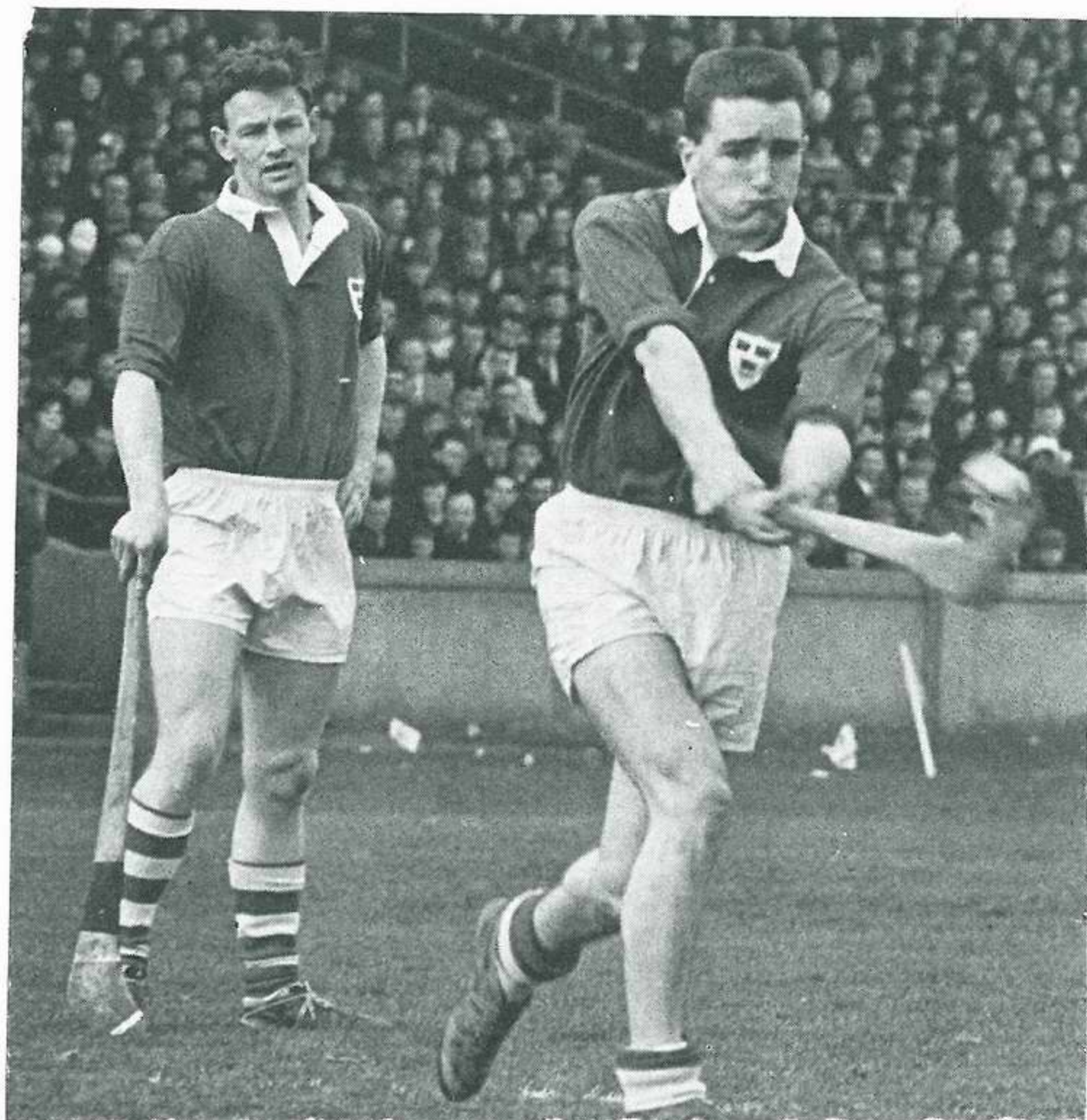
What is really needed is a complete new deal for the universities — a major scheme which would raise Gaelic games to a position of complete predominance

in the five colleges. It appears obvious that such a development should be based on inter-varsity lines rather than on operating the universities as clubs within their respective county board structures.

The academic year is such that university clubs simply cannot fully participate in the normal G.A.A. year. Furthermore, this participation has been the cause of major friction in Cork and Galway in recent times and of minor friction in Dublin and Belfast. As well as this, real enthusiasm for any game in any university is only aroused when the opposition is provided by another university.

Inter-varsity competition is the solution with, probably, a complete withdrawal from county board competitions. A completely new form of administration is required — a Universities' Council which would administer all inter-varsity competitions and develop them to their full potential.

Yes, the G.A.A. is confronted with a new and worthy challenge in our rapidly growing universities. It is a challenge which must be met, and satisfactorily so, if the Association is not to lose out heavily in the changing social pattern of modern Ireland.



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In this humorous reconstruction of a memory, Brian Geraghty pays tribute to two men — Paddy 'Bawn' Brosnan of Kerry and the late Mick Flanagan of Mayo — whose distinctive styles marked them as among the great players of an era.

"LAVE 'IM TO DE BAWN BOY"

"LAVE 'im to de Bawn boy, for God's sake lads
lave 'im to de Bawn . . . lave de Bawn get at
'im just once . . ."

The Fainne geal an lae brogue was unmistakable. Not even the friendly Ballybunioner or the Bord Fáilte groomed jarvey from round de Lady's Vou in commercialised Killarney had been blessed with such a magnetic, all-conquering, captivating talent. He could only be a Knocknagoshel man. Unique and undehydrated! Having taken the rocky road to Dublin for the semi-final, against the advice of every normal Kerryman, who would have waited for the final, this disciple of "de Bawns" was not going to let the side down.

And his lung sweeping service was needed now more than ever, because the invincibility of the men from the Kingdom was being challenged. Their king-sized sovereignty was not only being challenged, it was being usurped by a hoard of heretical narrow leafed, filter-tipped youngsters from Cromwell's purgatory. Mayo! And Mick Flanagan. Like a super-sonic capsule in a number thirteen shirt he was everywhere, and the long-sufferers from the West were in the lead. "But if only de lads would clear de blinken way and lave de Bawn get at 'im. Kill 'im Bawn, Kill him man." Another score, and Flanagan was the architect once more. Something must be done!

"De Bawn" awoke from his afternoon nap and shook himself like a great St. Bernard. Surely something would have to be done to put a halter on the wanderings of this intimidator, who did not seem to realise that he was getting too much freedom. After all if this pretender was left unattended there would be others. And what's more it was expected of the Bawn to do the needful. Were there not 70,000 people out there in the eerie darkness of the stands, who by their every pregnant silence told him that they believed? The time had come.

The ball came up along the wing to Carney, who sidestepped sweetly and punted ahead for Kenny to collect. He was tall and lithe and his fuzzy fair hair

made him stand out above the others. He was an intelligent one. He found the free-running Mongey with a fisted pass and ran into position for the return pass. The Kerry men were in fives and sixes. Mongey cut through on his own, suddenly changed direction and with a delicate touch sped the ball right across to the right wing. There he was—Flanagan. The chant that greeted his confident approach to the ball left no doubt but that he was the crowd's hero. He collected, and started his fluttering, jinking run towards goal. The crowd rose with his every step.

"Lave 'im through lads . . . in heaven's name lave 'im get as far as de Bawn." The voice from Knocknagoshel was audible above all others. "The Bawn" moving in low gear came out ponderously to meet his prey. An Andy Capp-like Dubliner who had been waiting for "de Bawn's" effort shot into action, wiggling himself up a nearby support pillar. This was it, and like Zacheus he was going to miss just nothing. Halfway up the pillar he opened his account verbally. Pointing at "de Bawn" he shouted "It's moving fellas . . . the Bawn . . . its moving."

Flanagan continued on his way to the goal. He must have seen "de Bawn," but then he was not one to show fear. He was not one to change direction and the crowd knew it. They gave him all. "Kill im Bawn . . . kill 'im Bawn . . . for God's sake kill 'im."

And then it happened. The collision! Mayo's idol ran straight into "de Bawn." And the chanting crowd, like the forward, stopped in their tracks. The stunned silence told the tale. One could hear a pin fall as Flanagan, sprawled in a crumpled heap, never stirred a limb. "De Bawn" having cleared to touch returned to the scene of the crash. He had guarded his lines manly, for that was his job, like it was Flanagan's to break through them.

The Knocknagoshel man knew this well, none more so than he. And even though "de Bawn" was his living idol, like every Kerryman he gave honour where it was due. The sound which had been clamped in his throat at last escaped, translating the silence of the stunned spectators into words. "Lads, . . . japers lads he's kilt him."



Kilkenny, All-Ireland senior hurling champions 1967.

Handball

Results

1967

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS AND RUNNERS-UP

S.S.S.: S. McCabe (Monaghan) — T. McEllistrim (Kerry).

S.S.D.: L. Molloy and D. McGovern (Meath) — M. Walsh and P. McGee (Mayo).

S.H.S.: P. McGee (Mayo) — P. Sheeran (Offaly).

S.H.D.: P. Bollingbrook and P. McGee (Mayo) — M. Purcell and P. Winders (Kildare).

J.S.S.: P. McGarry (Limerick) — M. Henry (Sligo).

J.S.D.: M. Henry and J. Gaffney (Sligo) — T. Fitzgerald and N. Kearns (Kerry).

J.H.S.: M. Ogara (Roscommon) — T. Geoghegan (Kildare).

J.H.D.: G. Lawlor and R. Winders (Kildare) — J. O'Brien and M. Ogara (Roscommon).

M.S.S.: P. Murphy (Dublin) — S. McHugh (Roscommon).

M.S.D.: P. Murphy and P. Domigan (Dublin) — Sean and Seamus McHugh (Roscommon).

M.H.S.: G. Lawlor (Kildare) — E. Rabbitte (Galway).

M.H.D.: G. Lawlor and C. Winders (Kildare) — E. Rabbitte and G. Curley (Galway).

MUNSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: T. McEllistrim (Kerry).

S.S.D.: T. and M. McAllistrim (Kerry).

S.H.S.: T. McEllistrim (Kerry).

S.H.D.: T. and M. McEllistrim (Kerry).

J.S.S.: P. McGarry (Limerick).

J.S.D.: T. Fitzgerald and N. Kearns (Kerry).

J.H.S.: P. McGarry (Limerick).

J.H.D.: P. McGarry and M. McAuliffe (Limerick).

M.S.S.: P. Moane (Limerick).

M.S.D.: P. Moane and P. Bennett (Limerick).

M.H.S.: M. O'Connor (Kerry).

M.H.D.: B. McCarthy and M. Holley (Tipperary).

(continued on page 55)

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HANDBALL RESULTS

(continued)

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

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S.S.D.: L. Molloy and D. McGovern (Meath).
S.H.S.: P. Sheeran (Offaly).
S.H.D.: P. Winders and M. Purcell (Kildare).
J.S.S.: J. Howlin (Wexford).
J.S.D.: A. Byrne and J. Moloney (Dublin).
J.H.S.: T. Geoghegan (Kildare).
J.H.D.: R. Winders and G. Lawler (Kildare).
M.S.S.: P. Murphy (Dublin).
M.S.D.: P. Murphy and P. Domigan (Dublin).
M.H.S.: G. Lawler (Kildare).
M.H.D.: G. Lawler and C. Winders (Kildare).

ULSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: S. McCabe (Monaghan).
S.S.D.: L. and J. Gilmore (Cavan).
S.H.S.: S. McCabe (Monaghan).
S.H.D.: L. and J. Gilmore (Cavan).
J.S.S.: B. McEntee (Monaghan).
J.S.D.: M. Conway and J. Curran (Tyrone).
J.H.S.: M. Conway (Tyrone).
J.H.D.: L. Lawler and S. Vallely (Armagh).
M.S.S.: S. Moore (Armagh).
M.S.D.: J. Kelly and S. Moore (Armagh).
M.H.S.: J. Kelly (Armagh).
M.H.D.: E. Cassidy and E. Nicholl (Monaghan).

CONNAGHT CHAMPIONS

S.S.S.: M. Walsh (Mayo).
S.S.D.: M. Walsh and P. McGee (Mayo).
S.H.S.: P. Magee (Mayo).
S.H.D.: P. Bollingbrook and P. McGee (Mayo).
J.S.S.: M. Henry (Sligo).
J.S.D.: M. Henry and J. Gaffney (Sligo).
J.H.S.: J. O'Brien (Roscommon).
J.H.D.: J. O'Brien and M. Ogara (Roscommon).
M.S.S.: S. McHugh (Roscommon).
M.S.D.: Sean and Seamus McHugh (Roscommon).
M.H.S.: E. Rabbitte (Galway).
M.H.D.: G. Curley and E. Rabbitte (Galway).

NATIONAL LEAGUE (1966)

Winners: Sligo (M. Henry, D. Walshe, J. Finn and E. Hannon).
Runners-up: Clare (J. Kirby, P. Ryan, S. O'Neill and D. Kirby).

GAEL-LINN CUP

Winner: T. McEllistrim (Kerry).
Qualifiers: J. Doyle (Dublin), P. Hickey (Tipperary), S. McCabe (Monaghan), T. McEllistrim (Kerry), A. Byrne (Dublin), E. Rabbitte (Galway), M. Walshe (Mayo), J. Clery (Wicklow).

(continued on last page)

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Tipperary, All-Ireland senior hurling finalists 1967.

CORK

A Year of Progress

By Michael Barrett

THE average Cork G.A.A. follower assesses the strength of the Association within the county by a reliable answer to his query: "What chance have we of the All-Ireland?" The question is directed to Cork's hurling prowess, as hurling is still more popular than football, despite the advances at intercounty level in the big ball game. A county hurling final can be assured of a 20,000 attendance, while the average for football is about the 12,000 mark.

We will try to answer the opening question, as the first part of our looking at the state of the games within the county. Cork's chance of winning an All-Ireland senior hurling title next year are excellent. Most of the successful team of 1966 are still available. Almost all are hurling well enough to merit a place. True, they crashed to Waterford this year. To those of us at that first round Munster game, reasons for the defeat were apparent.

The selection committee of three newcomers and two of the 1966 group could be termed inexperienced. Their choice of a few newcomers in vital positions, and their failure to immediately attempt to counteract Tom O'Donoghue's dismissal, helped to spell defeat for the county. The complacency of the team itself did not help. They were playing well enough to win by a narrow margin, and were unable to gear themselves mentally to playing with 14 men—even for a short period.

Charlie McCarthy soars high





The Cork minor football team—All-Ireland champions 1967.

Efforts have now been made to strengthen the sideline mentors by appointing five very experienced men. The names of Jack Barrett, Jim Regan and John Quirke are household words wherever hurling is mentioned. Jim was a star of the 1920's and a Tailteann games choice. Jack and John were on the record making four in a row team in the 1940's. Jack Barrett, of course, was finishing his intercounty career then and did not play in all these years.

Johnny Clifford of Glen Rovers was a brilliant minor in 1951, and a fine senior three years later. Though he retired from active playing at an early age, his name will rank with the greats. The fifth member is Derry Maher, the popular Hon. Secretary of the City Divisional Board. Derry had games with Cork in goal and sees every game of any importance in the county. Our hopes for 1968 can safely be entrusted to these selectors.

Up and coming players swell the ranks of those competing for places on the senior team are Mick Kenneally of Glen Rovers, the best forward in the county final, and a minor star of 1964. Donal Clifford of U.C.C. and Cloyne is another former minor star who must get recognition soon. These two, with Paddy O'Sullivan of Midleton were the pick of this years Cork under-21 team.

Denis Coughlan, the football captain, seems likely to be in the running for a place on the hurling team, if he can serve two masters. He was one of the successes of last year's under-21 team. Of the current minors, the man most likely to succeed is Brian Tobin, the Blackrock and Farranferris College full back. I would not care to say in what position he will make his mark, but he has a touch of class. He reminds me of brilliant Alan Lotty of Sarsfields, who was a star of the 1940's.

It is very difficult to forecast what minors will become good intercounty players later, but those watching the All-Ireland minor final this year would certainly come up with the name of Jimmy Barrett of Nemo Rangers and Paddy Ring of Cloyne, a nephew of Christy's. Tomas Buckley, the Glen Rovers corner forward, also has class and centre back John Horgan of Passage seemed at one stage to be going to be the minor of the year. Due to over-confidence, apparently, he suffered a set back in form. He is a minor again next year, and it may be possible then to give a better forecast of his prospect.

The overall picture for Cork hurling is bright. There is plenty of talent available, and on the way up. It seems likely that the players will be well managed. Cork should stay near the top.

The footballers hit the headlines again this year, but lost the All-Ireland title by three points. Their scores in the three tough matches, against Kerry, Cavan and Meath are all revealing. This is the only weakness in Cork football. To win ultimate honours, greater scoring ability must be shown. This weakness must be tackled at club and county level. An argument against Cork was that enough intercounty games were not played. A further argument could be that enough inter-club games were not played.

The day must come when hurlers and footballers pursue their separate ways. At present, the man who plays only one of the games at club level is neglected for the dual performer. With Eamon Young back from Cyprus, may we hope for a continuation of the upsurge of football enthusiasm and success. I think we can. Our team is young enough and there will be replacements in a short while from this year's brilliant minors. How many of them will make the grade! Centre forward Donal Hunt of Bantry has



The Cork senior football team—All-Ireland finalists 1967.

already been given his chance, possibly a little too early. Full forward Ned Kirby of Glanworth is a great footballer, while many thought Jerry Horgan of Kilshannig the smartest forward they saw.

Internal championships are well contested in the county, but I wonder is the best value being got from secondary competitions. County Secretary, Con Murphy, has great organising ability and is most thorough in everything he does. Has the time come when a man of even Con's dedication will find that the job cannot be done on a part time basis? In fairness to the present official, I am sure that he finds it increasingly harder to make sufficient leisure time for himself and his family. This is most unfair to him. If a full-time official is not to be appointed, could there not be a reduction in the number of calls on his time? The County Board meets weekly. This is largely a traditional arrangement. There is no necessity for the Board to meet more often than once a month. In the first few months of the year, meetings tend to drag due to arguments about and re-arrangements of secondary competitions. A monthly meeting should be sufficient with the General Purposes Committee and the secretary attending to matters in between.

The development of the new Stadium at Model Farm Road in the near future will be time demanding and time consuming. Would it not be a good idea to appoint one man (not the County Secretary) solely responsible to a committee for the development activities?

Though one might think that the national Hurling Revival would exclude Cork, that is not so. Two areas, previously weak in the game, have taken to it in a big way. Duhallow and Beara divisions in the North-West and extreme west of the County may yet produce hurlers of All-Ireland standard. Games among the youth are catered for in all areas. While shortage of suitable grounds in the city is a difficulty, this may be eliminated in time.

The overall picture of G.A.A. activities in Cork is a healthy one. Senior intercounty teams are in the first flight, under-21s and minors are potential winners every year. Internal organisation is good. The wholehearted support of the clubs for the Ciste na Banban pools is providing for them a source of finance by their own efforts from within the Association. The major stadium, with secondary pitches and handball alleys should be in the course of construction soon. Cork can look to the future with confidence.

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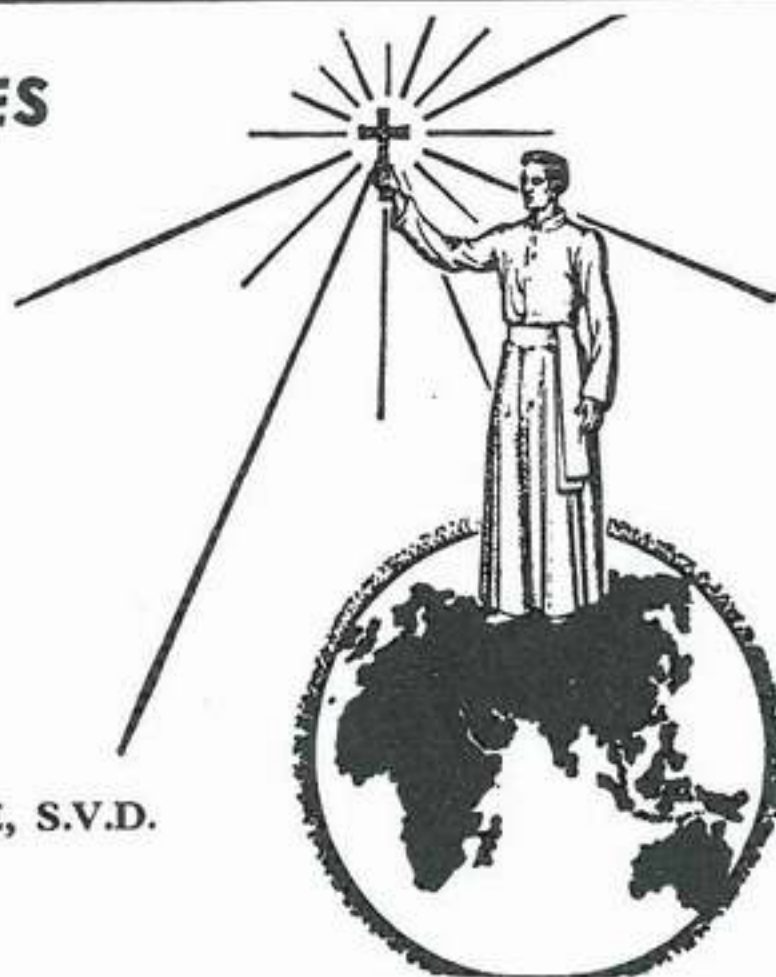
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Charlie Gallagher, ace marksman of 1967, with the Anglo Celt Cup.

In search of

Scores

by Owen McCann

THE year 1967 was not a truly vintage one on the scoring front in inter-county competitions but it was still marked by a number of notable achievements with Cyril Dunne blazing two new impressive trails for a Connacht footballer. When he lined out against New York in the National League final second leg last May in New York, he needed only two points to become the third footballer, and the first from the West, to score more than 400 points, as distinct from goals and points combined, in top-class senior competitions.

The Ballinasloe sharp-shooter got six minors to join Paddy Doherty and Charlie Gallagher in that select group of footballers who have bettered four centuries of points. Here, special mention must also be made of John Timmons, who, while he did not better the four centuries total, still had exactly 400 minors, as well as 25 goals, from 135 games, when he dropped out of the top-bracket last year.

At the end of that second outing against New

York, Dunne also boasted 31 goals as a senior for a combined total of 498 points from 122 games. So, it was virtually a foregone conclusion that in the championship game with Mayo he would become the first Connacht footballer to pass the half thousand mark since I first started keeping these records in 1955. And, so it proved, Dunne just got over the barrier with three minors. He has still quite a way to go, however, to catch up on Doherty and Gallagher, who have both bettered 700 minors.

Indeed, Doherty was within grasp of his eight century of points when he dropped out of the big-time. He had an impressive 62 goals, the best in football, and 612 points, also a record for the code, or 798 points from 164 games.

Another record-maker was Sean O'Connell. He scored 1-5 against Down at Newry in Derry's first round championship exit to become only the sixth footballer to reach 400 points. Those eight points brought his total to exactly the four centuries at 32-



Terry Kearns of Ardcath. He sent home the most vital score of the year.

304 in 102 engagements. Then, in a challenge at Celtic Park in mid-October the Dungiven schoolteacher well and truly smashed the county scoring record that he himself hit in Derry's All-Ireland senior final year of 1958 at 4-51 (63 pts.) in 17 ties at an average of 3.70 points. O'Connell racked home 2-3 against Donegal in that challenge to bring his figures for 1967 up to then to 10-38 (68 pts.) — and this in six games fewer than he took to total that 1958 figure! In subsequent outings the cultured Derry inter-provincial kept pushing his returns on to a new high for the county.

There was also the undoubted emergence of Pat Cronin as Clare's greatest score-getter since Jimmy Smyth. The Newmarket-on-Fergus man, of course, has been getting the scores for Clare for some years past, but in 1967 he reaped his greatest harvest ever, and set a couple of new peaks for a Banner County hurler, to beat.

Starting 1967, Smyth's 17-18 (69 pts.) in eight games in 1963 stood in my record books as the tops for a Clare native for all competitions.

Cronin passed out that tally by three points with

1-5 against Galway in the championship semi-final at Ennis. Subsequently, he became the first Clare man to top the championship chart in hurling with 2-19 (25 pts.) from three outings, a point ahead of Eddie Keher.

Keher had not his usual high-scoring return in the All-Ireland final — only three points, but it still meant that he had bettered 100 points for the fourth year in his senior career.

Until the All-Ireland final, Jimmy Doyle, ranked as the only hurler or footballer to reach three figures in four different years: 1960, 1963, 1964 and 1965. The other members of this exclusive "100 up" club in hurling are Nick Rackard and Sean Clohosey both in 1956. Christy Ring in 1959 and 1961, and Tom Walsh in 1964. The football century-beaters are Frankie Donnelly in 1956 and 1957, Sean Purcell in 1958, Ollie Freaney in 1959, Paddy Doherty 1960, 1961 and 1962; Harry Donnelly in 1961, and Charlie Gallagher 1964 and 1965.

Meath were not only the busiest team of the year in either code, but they also set a new playing record. Including their game with the Australian Rules



Jimmy Keaveney, Dublin's star place-kicker and one of the leading marksmen of 1967.

side, which was, remember, under our own rules, the Grounds' Tournament semi-final replay with Cavan marked their 27th appearance of the year, and thus equalled the record for the past 12 years established by Dublin in 1962. Meath went on to improve on that figure.

The outstanding individual scoring feat in any All-Ireland final in either code during the past year was achieved by Willie McGee, who celebrated his under-21 final replay outing with Mayo footballers at Ballinasloe with four splendidly-taken goals that shot Kerry to defeat. The best in hurling was Pat Byrne's 3-1 in Wexford's unsuccessful minor outing against Cork, and 2-4 by Sean Doyle in Wicklow's junior draw with London at Aughrim. In the senior provincial finals, Eddie Keher with 2-5 against Wexford, and Mick Keating, who notched 3-2 in the defeat of Clare, share first place in hurling. Tops in football is Mick Ruane's 2-1 against Leitrim. In that game too Mayo had at 20 points, the greatest winning margin in a senior provincial decider during 1967.

Sean O'Connell had a personal best for one game of 4-3 against Armagh in the Lagan Cup semi-final replay at Dungannon in March, the fourth highest by an Ulster man in one match in the past 13 years. Jack Donnelly, too, had an impressive new peak with 0-13 in the Doyle Cup final with Dublin at Bohernabreena in September — although this game went to 30 minutes extra time. Incidentally, this is just a point below the points scoring record shared by Frankie Donnelly, who pointed fourteen times against Monaghan for Tyrone in a challenge at Augher, Co. Tyrone, in May, 1963, and Eddie Keher with his 0-14 in Kilkenny's win over Waterford in the 1963 All-Ireland final.

Eamonn Scully bridged a near seven year interval

for Offaly when he helped himself to 2-7 in a challenge with Leitrim at Carrick-on-Shannon in May. Back in 1960 in another challenge, Harry Donnelly got 3-4 against Laois at Tullamore. Finally, another of football's top achievements recalls vivid memories of Frankie Donnelly, an impressive 3-3 by Kieran McElduff in a challenge against Kildare at Dungannon in September. This is the best by a Tyrone player, other than Donnelly, since 1955.

Over to hurling, and the list is not quite so noteworthy. But, as always, Eddie Keher is again to the fore with 2-10 against Offaly in the League at Kilkenny last February. One recalls too no fewer than three hurlers recording the somewhat intriguing total of 4-1. Ray Niland got 4-1 for Galway in a challenge with Offaly at Tullamore in February; Pat McNamara got a similar score in a challenge outing with Clare against Cork at Cloughduff — and again there is an unusual similarity, as despite those big personal scores, both Galway and Clare were beaten!

Early in January, Tommy Ring's 4-1 in a challenge was also not enough to ensure a win for Westmeath against Galway. Incidentally, although Westmeath got seven goals in all in that game, Ring's point was the only scored by the Leinster team.

Let's end with a brief guide-line to the future with a quick look at some figures of young "chance-snappers" of whom we are likely to be hearing a lot of in the scoring charts of the future. In his 34th game as a senior Kevin Kelly scored 0-3 against Meath in a challenge at Droichead Nua in late March to pass his first century of points at 12-66 (102 pts.). Eamonn Cregan, too, got his first century last March, when he recorded 0-5 against Clare at Limerick to bring his figures to 15-57 (102 pts.) in 23 engagements.

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Meath v. Mayo—high fielding in the shadow of the Hogan Stand

Remembering 1967

By Jack Mahon

EVERY year has its great games and its average ones, wonderful displays and mediocre ones but whether it is that we tend to become more critical as we get older, fewer games tend to stand out and the memorable moments seem to become scarcer. Or do they?

Before I sat down to write this article, I asked myself what I remembered of 1967 and what will I remember of 1967 years hence.

Other than those in which the Australians were engaged, not one game of all the games I saw during 1967 merited a truly outstanding rating. Not one. Undoubtedly our games have become foul-burdened spectacles with so much pulling and dragging that open play is out of the question, except on the rare occasion. This is particularly true of football. So seldom — do we now see — a player attempting to block-down his opponent's kick.

What can we do to remove the drag and pull mania? The rules need a rapid revision or perhaps all our school coaches would instil an "open-football-

only" motto into their teams and prevent the "win-at-all-costs" approach. Yes, I will remember the catching, pulling and dragging which became, if anything, more prevalent during 1967.

There was one game in 1967 or should I say one team — the Cork minor footballers who played football as it should be played in the All-Ireland final against Laois and left one hoping that they would never return to the play they displayed when beating Tyrone.

There was also the Meath forward lines clicking in the second half of both the All-Ireland semi-final against Mayo and their World Cup game against New York. How ludicrous to call this a "World Cup" game and while we are talking about New York, how shabbily these exiles of ours were treated by the G.A.A. in general, when Cork failed to play them in their scheduled Killarney game.

I have not always been on New York's side. They seem to have a permanent "chip on their shoulder" attitude; except all kinds of red-carpet treatment when they return home, forgetting all the time that they are

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an assortment of Irish footballers representing New York's Irish and from the very nature of their composition and location are very obviously a team without a support. Because of this conglomeration composition they will never have a support as such here at home and are at an immediate disadvantage when playing games over here.

Their opponents usually have a partisan support — over-partisan it would seem in the case of Longford last year and Meath more recently. Even in New York itself, the New York team is not the favoured one when playing a team from Ireland for the very same reason that an Irish emigrant is first and foremost a "county man."

Still a Central Council fixture bound the defeated All-Ireland finalists to play New York and Cork should have been compelled to play New York. That is if I understand the meaning of the word agreement.

But, of course, there were some wonderful feats that one can remember. High in the list were the great long-range points scored by Offaly's Tony McTeague against Longford in the championship. One in particular: The catch followed by the neat and effective side-step and then the unorthodox drop kick to land a brilliant point. There followed on one occasion the almost inevitable late tackle by a back. This is the meanest foul in G.A.A. games and as happens in most cases, poor Tony, a most sporting player who was a wonderful minor star some years back, was stretched. Here sideline men should be empowered with authority to call a referee's attention to such cowardly action. I repeat cowardly for a player after delivering a ball is wide open to a head on collision and has no defence. So many backs are guilty of this.

I'm chiding again. I will not forget Mick Burke's display of all the orthodox midfield arts in the semi-final game with Cavan and wondered why a man who played so brilliantly would involve himself in the petty act of standing too near a Cavan free-taker. It was unfortunate for Cork that he received such a heavy fall following a heavy tackle by Pat "Red" Collier in the final and had to retire injured for Mick was starting to play a Trojan game.

The Cavan man I like best is Ray Carolan — though he is becoming inclined to be over-aggressive. His early handling of Eamonn Ryan, who had a master game for Cork in the Munster final against Kerry, was to say the least of it unsporting but he subsequently played a "blinder" and his clearances were the finest of any back this year.

How can one forget Charlie Gallagher's tremendous effort to force a draw from a free almost 60 yards out in the dying seconds of the same game. Cheeky Charlie,



A stitch in time saves nine. (With apologies to John Doyle).

sleek hair, head bobbing forward in his peculiar style, almost landed it.

In hurling games the spoils went to Leinster — the League to Wexford and the championship to Kilkenny. The final was looked upon as the day Kilkenny would lay the Tipperary bogey or, alternatively, the day John Doyle would win his ninth medal. Well, Kilkenny laid the bogey and Ollie Walsh was the star of stars.

How well the *Gaelic Weekly* cartoonist Mace captured the whole message of the 1967 final when sketching Ollie Walsh sewing a stitch on his goal-net with the caption. "A stitch in time saves nine."

Moments from that game I will long recall, apart from Ollie Walsh's catching of the ball and his courageous sallies through a sea of men and hurleys, were the point of Claus Dunne's after the ball was glued to his stick; the jump of delight from Tom Walsh after he scored the winning goal, the sheer power of Pat Henderson's hurling in the first quarter; the wonderful amount of hurling played by Paddy Moran's ciotog all through and the sheer defiance which Len Gaynor hurled at the whole Kilkenny team during the last quarter.

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Nimble-footed Joe Corcoran whose 1967 displays will be remembered

Then it was over and though I wanted to see Kilkenny win, my heart went out to these Tipperary warriors many of whom we would never again see at Croke Park. There they were trudging off John Doyle, who received such a heavy shoulder charge from Eddie Keher early on, shook himself and then played on, Theo English, and Tony Wall all heroes of many great games in the last decade or more. I never saw the presentation ceremony, so engrossed did I become in the memories of all these Tipperary men, many of whom travelled to the U.S. with me back in 1957. It is good to see that Jimmy Doyle has no notion yet of hanging up the hurley he wields so gracefully.

Wexford had the sympathy of all neutrals because of their heavy casualty list for the Leinster final but there are bright days ahead for this county as there should be for Limerick too. Quite consistently for some years Limerick C.B.S. and St. Peter's College, Wexford have been in the high spots. In colleges football St. Colman's College, Newry defeated St. Jarlath's College, Tuam by the narrowest margin to win their first final and in John Purdy and centre half back, Noel Moore, had stars supreme.

In fact, Moore gave one of the finest pivoted defensive displays seen this year.

Harry Dalton the Dublin hurler; Eamonn O'Donoghue of Kerry (if only for that brilliant goal in the drawn game with Mayo), Willie McGee the

goal expert from Mayo and the wonderful fielding of the entire Derry team, were memorable events from the under-21 grade and I'll be surprised if young Tom Fitzgerald the Ballyhaunis and Mayo player, who won a minor All-Ireland in 1966 and an under-21 medal in 1967, does not become another Joe Corcoran.

And mention of Corcoran reminds me, he was surely one of the stars of the year—despite the semi-final defeat. Maybe, Joe overplays the ball, but he can play the ball and as well as that is the most complete scorer off play in the game. His points from play against Meath were all gems particularly the first one. Memories of 1967 will always include those of nimble-footed Joe Corcoran's displays of open football.

What of my own county, Galway, who lost their crown to Mayo in Pearse Stadium after earlier signs of a loss of form in New York and London? It was nice to see them bow out with all the good grace they displayed so often when winning. Indeed, their League "home" final win over Dublin in May was as fine a victory as they ever achieved. This was to be their swansong and a very fitting finale to one of the most glorious chapters in football history.

On a very wet day in Castlebar early in the year Galway showed all the craft and experience of champions in weathering a Mayo storm and one could not but admire the heart of youthful Jimmy Duggan for a very plucky and manly display. Then came Galway's downfall to Mayo, complete and decisive. Mayo played like Galway used to and the champions looked tired and tireder still as the hour progressed.

Seamus O'Dowd's goal was the real nail in Galway's coffin and strikes me now as being one of the finest individual feats of the year. For one so young he took his goal well. He, too, should make a great footballer but in Mayo they are inclined to spoil a promising footballer with undue praise and make exaggerated comparisons all too freely. It is far too early to compare Willie Loftus with the great Padhraic Carney. After six seasons perhaps the comparison might be considered in a proper light.

But you may now well ask: "How could a man who openly professed at the start of this article that there was not even one game that enthralled him" write so much about what must have been none too inspiring? You are right. On reflection I enjoyed the hurling final and the League "home" final between Galway and Dublin. Yes and many individuals too—Tony McTeague, Harry Dalton, Jimmy Cullinane that dapper little Clareman whose only faults are his unfortunate succession of suspensions—Ollie Walsh, Sean Ferritter's goal for Donegal against Galway and the brilliant fielding and kicking of his

team-mate Bernard Brady—Tom Fitzgerald, Joe Corcoran, dare-devil Pat Reynolds the best left half-back in the game—the brilliant fielding of Jack Quinn against Mayo especially (How could I wait so long to mention the Kilbride man?)—Johnny Carroll my favourite Cork footballer—Donie Nealon as always cute and clever—the entire Quigley family of Wexford—tireless Frankie Walsh of Waterford—Joe Lennon's calculated football for Down—the wing forward play of Cavan's Greenan and Duggan—the heroism of Leitrim's Joe Layden and goalkeeper McTiernan in the Connacht final. Last, but not least, the greatest individual performer in my book—the rock of Royal Meath who was my man of the hour in both the All-Ireland semi-final and final—Ballivor's Bertie Cunningham.

All-Ireland's are always won in the third quarter, John Donnellan once said to me. I believe he's right. Bertie Cunningham was never better in the final than in the third quarter. Playing honest to goodness football with no frills he beat back Cork with mighty clearances almost of the Raymond Carolan variety and coupled with Ollie Walsh is my nomination for Star of the Year. Here is a man and a half.

I think too of the passing of an old opponent, the late Paudie Sheehy, whose untimely death was received with shock throughout the country. Paudie had been a great footballer, clean as could be, a delight to watch. We all were in sympathy too with Tom Walsh of Kilkenny because of his accident in the All-Ireland final. The accident too that resulted in Martin Bergin's death was regretted by all Gaels and at this stage every club in the country with funds to spare should have chipped in a donation to a very worthy cause.

Finally, I wonder where we in the G.A.A. are going and have often debated whether the organisation is losing ground. Why are the men of tomorrow not becoming more interested in officialdom? Has the G.A.A. become top-heavy with conservative officials who live in the past and think in terms of the Ireland of their youth? Is it still impossible for a young man with ideas to make headway or is he still to be considered an upstart for saying his say in elder company.

But the thing that bothers me most about the G.A.A. is the inadequate club organisation that is allowed to exist. Only a few clubs are clubs in the real sense. Not enough games, not enough activity for club members. The intercounty calendar is overloaded, the interclub one much underloaded. Jim Brosnan is one of the more enlightened younger officials abounding in good ideas. He is keenly aware of the G.A.A.'s needs in Kerry. But I must finish. It wasn't such a bad year after all. In fact—ah let's leave it at that.



Camogie action—Kit Kelly, Antrim and Kit Kehoe, Dublin

Camogie's Wonderful Year

By Aine Meagher

THIS year of 1967 will go down in camogie history as the real *Annus Mirabilis*, the Wonderful Year in which Ireland at last woke up to the fact that we have in camogie a pastime fit to stand four-square with hurling and football on any Gaelic programme. Yet, the funny thing about it all was that, but for the weather, which we had been cursing in a genteel way all through the season, camogie might not have come into its own at all.

It was not alone at the big games, but at every one which I saw right through that the rain came down. The Leinster finals, the Antrim-Cork match at Cork,

the Mayo-Dublin match at Parnell Park, were all rain-washed, and so I was not one whit surprised when the heavens opened all over again for All-Ireland day at Croke Park.

The Camogie Central Council and the Croke Park authorities had an anxious hour trying to decide whether to play the game at all and eventually, and somewhat reluctantly, decided to go ahead.

The crowd was small, but the few who were there nearly jumped out of their seats cheering the brilliance of Antrim and Dublin, and because the day was so wet, thousands of people sat at home and, I

suppose, for the want of something better to do, listened to Michael O'Hehir's radio commentary. Fair dues to him, he seems to have got across the message, for by evening half the country seemed to be talking about the drawn camogie final. Despite the rain it came over well, too, on the television that night, with the result that there was more interest in the replay than I ever recall about a camogie match before.

Central Council had some doubts about letting the replay go on with the Oireachtas final, but they took a very wise step when they did so. It gave us the chance of really showing the public what top class camogie was like and the public could hardly believe what they saw. Indeed if anyone compared the All-Ireland final and the Oireachtas final that followed, it was not the hurlers who made the better impression.

So at last, if we are to judge by the national newspapers, camogie has attained something like the status its numbers, standard and enthusiasm has long deserved, and we are finally being recognised as possessing more significance than what the papers like to call the "minor sports."

So 1967 is the year of the breakthrough, and a good year it was by any accepted standards before the All-Ireland final came along to lift it far above the ordinary.

The year began as usual with the Ashbourne Cup series, a well-contested inter-varsity fair at Cork, which the U.C.C. girls won with something to spare over their keenest rivals Dublin. Then we saw some fine colleges games, particularly in Leinster where Holy Faith, Clontarf, retained the senior trophy, while the junior crown went to a very lively side from Presentation Convent, Kilkenny.

So it was championship time and the first surprise was the clear-cut victory of Cork over Tipperary in the opening Munster game. The Cork girls went on to regain the Munster title in convincing fashion, while Antrim, as usual, came sailing through in the North. The big shock was in the West where after long years of Galway supremacy a lively Mayo side at last recaptured the title.

In two of the Leinster championships, everything went according to expectations. Wexford took the Intermediate title once more, but once again had to give best to Dublin in the senior final. However, there was something of a surprise in the junior grade. There Wicklow, after a facile victory over Dublin, who were competing for the first time ever in this grade, were hotly fancied to take the title. However, they were well beaten by Meath, who then went down in the final to Kildare, who, having won this title in the previous season, had to field an entirely new side.

Next came the All-Ireland semi-finals. Antrim

made the long trip south to Cork, and there very deservedly scored their first ever victory on Cork soil, displaying tremendous power and combination in doing so. In the other semi-final, Dublin recorded what seemed a facile win over Mayo, but had to battle far harder to do so than the score-board showed.

The drawn final was a brilliant game with Dublin well on top in the early stages, but Antrim, coming into their own after the interval, left the impression that they were the better team. This impression was confirmed in the replay, for Antrim took an early lead, which they held for all but a few minutes when Dublin rallied briefly mid-way through the second half. Then Antrim franked their claim to the title by coming back again to make sure of victory in the closing minutes.

To round off a great year, no fewer than ten of the Antrim team were in the Ulster line-out that a week afterwards achieved a long-cherished ambition by winning the inter-provincial title and the Gael-Linn Cup for the first time when they defeated Leinster in the final at Parnell Park.

In the All-Ireland club series, holders for the past two seasons, St. Patrick's, Tipperary, were out of the reckoning so that left a gap in the proceedings. Eventually Glen Rovers of Cork regained the Munster title but went down in the semi-final to Eoghan Ruadh of Dublin, who had their closest Leinster call in their provincial final against previous holders, St. Pauls (Kilkenny). Up North, Deirdre of Belfast won the Antrim and Ulster titles for the fourth consecutive year, but then went down sensationally in the All-Ireland semi-final on home ground to the unfancied Connacht champions, Oranmore of Galway.

That left the final between Dublin (Eoghan Ruadh) and Oranmore. And now for my stars of the year. I find it very hard to rate any of the Antrim players above the others, but over the year I think Mairead McAtamney, Sue Cashman and Lily Scullion must share the honours. Next in line on my list comes a player who, whether on winning or losing teams, played superbly every time she fielded out, Margaret O'Leary of Wexford, Leinster and Eoghan Ruadh.

In fifth place I would rate Dublin's Una O'Connor who, after all her year's of service, was her county's most consistent player in both All-Ireland finals, and who played magnificently at full-back for her club through most of the Dublin season.

And a special tribute has already been paid to two who did a great deal for the game by their wonderful direction of the coaching course in Belfast, Maeve Gilroy of Belfast and Nell McCarthy of Dublin. This course may be said to be the basis on which the whole new image of camogie has been built.

ATHLETICS (Continued from page 47)

credited with the same figures) in the fastest 220 ever between Irishmen.

At the same sports, the Cork farmer Matty Murphy had the distinction of winning the first ever B.L.E. track championship, when capturing the ten miles in 51 mins. 21.4 secs.

June brought a full schedule of fixtures with international fare taking a predominant place. The first week-end of the month saw hundreds of athletes converge on Santry for the European Cup trials to select the Irish team. The marathon held in conjunction resulted in a win for Willie Dunne (Donore) with the fleet footed Galwayman, Mick Molloy (Oughterard) second.

The following Sunday Ballinasloe was the centre of attraction for the 12th annual relay meeting with the standard relay distances reverted to. The weather was kind which helped performers, resulting in six new records. The Boston University student, Phil Conway holidaying here after his first season abroad broke the existing shot figure with a fine throw of 51'-1". Hugo Duggan (Cranford), jumping 23'-0½" in the long jump, increased the old figure by ten inches and Jim McNamara (Donore), in the mile, clipped 10.5 secs. off P. J. O'Sullivan's 9 year-old record. Crusaders and St. Finbarrs relay teams also set up records in the 880 yds. x 4 and the 440 yds. x 4 respectively. Mervue A.C., Galway, completed the record-breaking by winning the medley relay in 3 mins. 44.3 secs.

The final week-end in June brought B.L.E. into opposition against Belgium and Iceland at Santry in the preliminary round of the European Cup. All round our debut was pitiful with only two winners, Noel Carroll (Civil Service) in the 400 and 800 metres and Paul Healion in the hammer. The Belgians, a well trained outfit, strolled to victory with the mediocre Icelanders third 12 pts. worse than B.L.E. Gaston Roleants (Belgium) one of the finest distance runners in the world thrilled the crowds with fine wins in graceful style in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres.

On June 27 international stars visited Cork for the annual Cork City Sports and one of the oldest records in Irish chronicles, Bob Tisdall's 440 yards hurdles time of 54.2 secs. set up in 1932, was smashed by John Cooper (England), a dual medalist in the last Olympic Games, who returned 53.7 secs. The 1,500 metres national championship, always a feature of this sports, resulted in a win for Frank Murphy (Clonliffe) who took over the lead from Bobby Buckley (Grange) at the bell to win in 3 mins. 50.1 secs.

July was chockful of sports, resulting in the clashing of many important meetings. On July 9 Dick Hodgins recorded his best time for the two miles distance when annexing the national title race at the Raheny sports in 9 mins. 1.2 secs. from Donal Walsh (Leevale) and Jim McNamara (Donore). The next

topliner and apex of the season's sports was the Clonliffe Harriers' international meeting on July 17/18.

World record-holder, Ron Clarke headed the star cast the first night. Heavy rains throughout the afternoon made the track heavy and kept the crowd down to 3,000. Clarke's main contender from early on was the fine young Scottish runner Ian McCafferty, who stayed with his exalted opponent for over two miles and at times even took the lead. Eventually Clarke in fantastic style with the crowd behind him shook off the game Scot but the chance of a world record had then gone. However, his time of 12 mins. 59 secs. was the fastest three miles here since 1958.

Noel Carroll came a cropper in the 880 yards invitation and failed to Keith Colburn (U.S.A.). Big, world class American Ed. Burke duly won the hammer, with a throw of 224 ft. 8 ins.

Conditions were better on the second evening and the meeting produced some keen fare with two local lads — Frank Murphy and Phil Conway stealing the show. Murphy, having survived a strong cross-channel challenge early on, moved away after reaching the bell in 3 mins. 2 secs. The crowd sensing a sub 4 minute mile rose to him but he just had not enough in reserve and won in 4 mins. 3 secs. Sturdy Conway though only finishing second in the discus to South African, Don Booysen set a new Irish record with a throw of 154' - 10½".

July 29/30, the date of the Irish championships, was marked by excitement, drama and incident and the biggest entries seen here for years. Santry was again the venue. Iggy Moriarty had the honour of completing a sprint treble — 60, 100, 220 yards and Noel Carroll had the expected double in the quarter and half-mile.

The three miles, contested by a mammoth field lost some appeal when Tom O'Riordan dropped out early on leaving Jim McNamara to win in 13 mins. 56.8 secs. from London exile David Quinlan and Cork's Donal Walsh. Tony Moloney (Limerick) completed a hurdles double. He was a bit lucky in the 120 yards event, as Mick Lanigan, the event specialist, from Kilkenny, looked set for victory when he had to retire through injury. But Mick won renown later in the year when he trained the Kilkenny senior hurling team that won the All-Ireland.

Conway chalked up the expected shot and discus double with Tadgh Twomey (Knocknacurra) winning the two 56 lbs. — without follow and over bar. N.A.C.A. junior cross-country champion John Cregan of Granagh, Limerick, won his first steeplechase title with the remaining gold medals going to Pat O'Shea (Millstreet) high jump; Rodney Hecksher (Rockwell) pole vault, Hugo Duggan, long jump; Denis Toomey, javelin and D. Martin triple jump.

For lady athletes it was a satisfying year with a reasonable amount of competition culminating in the first national championships at Tipperary town in September. Winners here included Jackie Spence (Crusaders) in the 100 and 220 yards; Rosemary



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Murphy from the same club — discus (122' 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " record), javelin and shot; Ann O'Brien (Clonliffe) in the 880 yards and mile.

The N.A.C.A. juvenile tests at Clonmel were supported by over 100 young athletes from several counties and the Murphy clan from Cork excelled — Finnbar and Kieran from Ballymartle taking seven medals between them. Other good winners were D. Finnegan (Kenmare), T. McGrath (Kilkenny), B. Brady (Dublin) and J. Wynne (Clonmel).

The weatherman was not very kind for the N.A.C.A. senior championships late in the season held at the Eamonn Ceannt Stadium, Dublin. Winners were:— J. Kelly (Dundrum), P. J. Fitzpatrick (Dublin), J. Greaney (Killarney), W. Neenan (Millstreet), B. Mooney (Sligo), M. Spillane (Killarney), D. Slattery (Killarney), D. Prenderville (Laune A.C.), P. Grehan (Dublin), G. O'Connell (Ennis), J. P. Fennell (Tracton).

Many other fixtures deserve mention but having expended allotted space this review must come to a close and here's hoping that 1968 will be another eventful and prosperous year for Irish athletics. With that seasonal greetings to all athletes and officials.

CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 1967

N.A.C.A. All-Ireland Senior (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles) at Tullamore:—

1, John Buckley; 2, Donal Walsh; 3, Matt Murphy (all Cork). Team: 1, Cork 42 pts.; Galway 104 pts.; Dublin 153. Winning Cork sextet:— J. Buckley, D. Walsh, M. Murphy, W. Webb, P. Riordan, J. O'Brien.

All-Ireland Youths (3 miles) at Tullamore:— 1, S. Hennessy (Cork); 2, R. Crowley (Cork); 3, P. J. Leddy (Leitrim). Team: Cork 26 pts.; Wexford 142 pts.; Meath 142.

All-Ireland Junior (6 miles) at Toomevara:—

1, John Cregan (Limerick); 2, Donal Walsh (Cork); 3, Tim Ryan (Tipperary). Team: Dublin 76 pts.; Cork 88 pts.; Tipperary 110 pts.

Inter-Provincial Junior (6 miles) at Holycross:—

1, R. Crowley; 2, Donal Walsh; 3, J. Cregan (All Munster). Team: Munster 63 pts.; Connacht 165 pts.; Leinster 187 pts.; Ulster 294 pts.

All-Ireland Ladies (1 mile) at Holycross:—

1, Ursula Kennedy (Dublin); 2, Nuala Bowe (Tipperary); 3, Kathleen Leane (Tipperary). Team: Dublin 23 pts.; Tipperary 38; Wexford 60 pts.

Boys U-14 Mile All-Ireland:—

1, D. Clancy (Wexford); 2, J. Lane (Cork); 3, V. O'Farrell (Galway). Team: Dublin; Cork; Wexford.

Boys U-14 2 Miles All-Ireland.

1, Eddie Leddy (Leitrim); 2, F. Roberts (Wexford); 3, D. O'Neill (Kilkenny).

SENIOR PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

Ulster: Indv. — Dan McDaid (Donegal). Team: Cranford.

Connacht: Indv. — Kevin Ryan (Galway). Team: Derrydonnell.

Leinster: Indv. — Noel Hendrick (Wexford). Team: Dublin.

Munster: Indv. — John Buckley (Cork). Team: Cork.

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Gura Slán le m'Óige (M. Mac Cumhaill)	6/6
An Bhinn Bhreac (B. Ó hUallacháin)	3/6

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Eagráin Nua

Dónall Ó Conaill (An tAth. A. O Duibhir)	10/6
Na Laetha a Bhí (E. Ó Domhnaill Dhonnchaidh)	5/6

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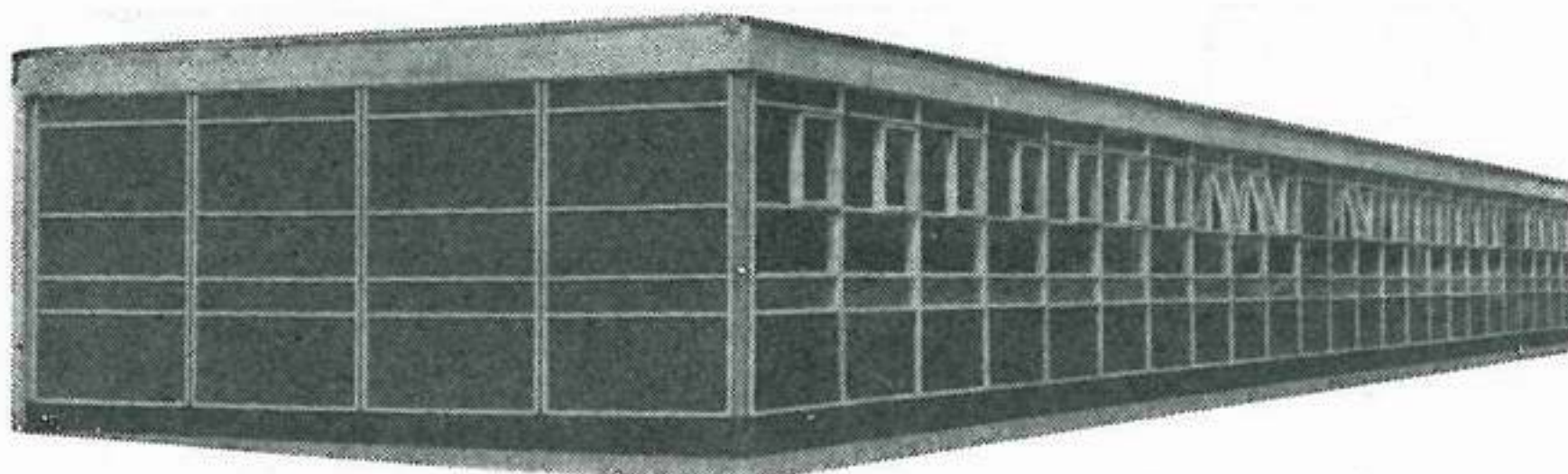
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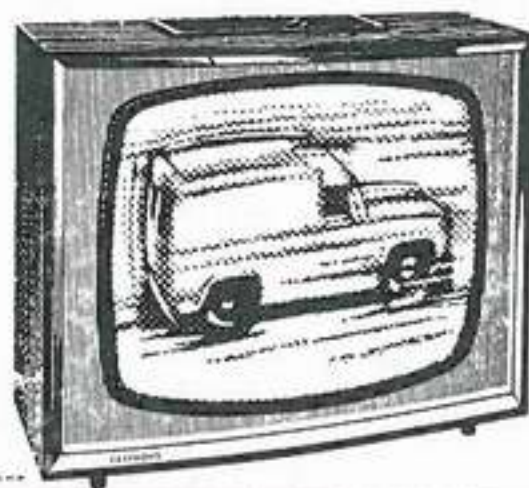
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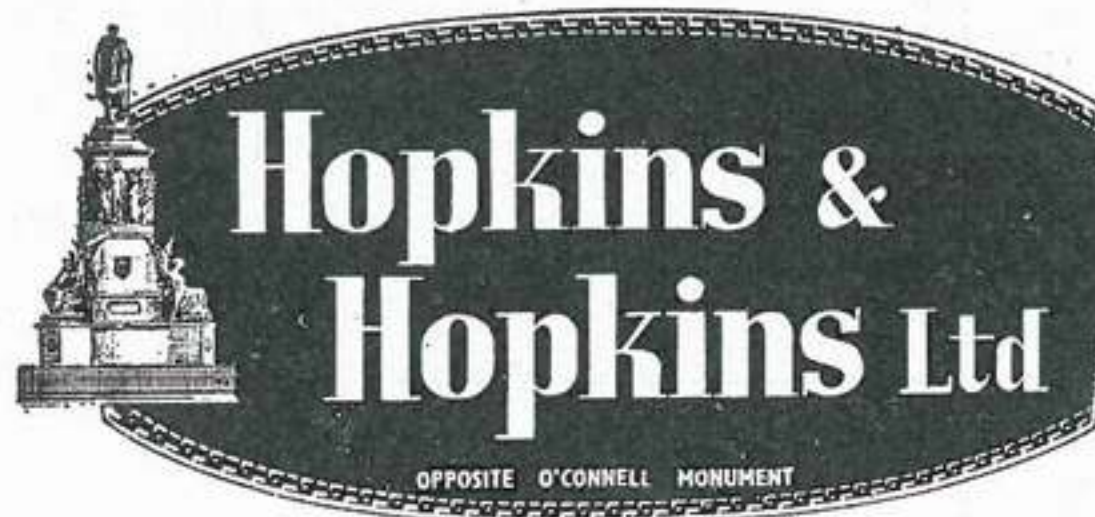
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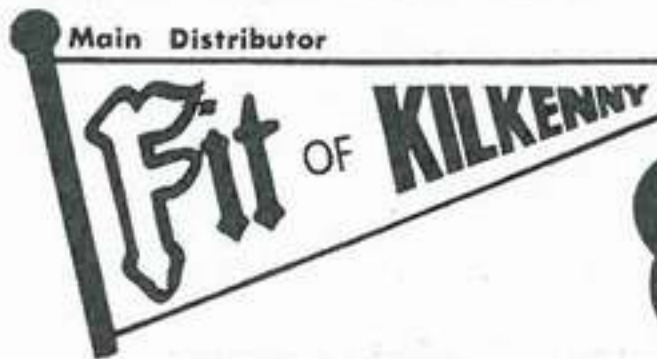


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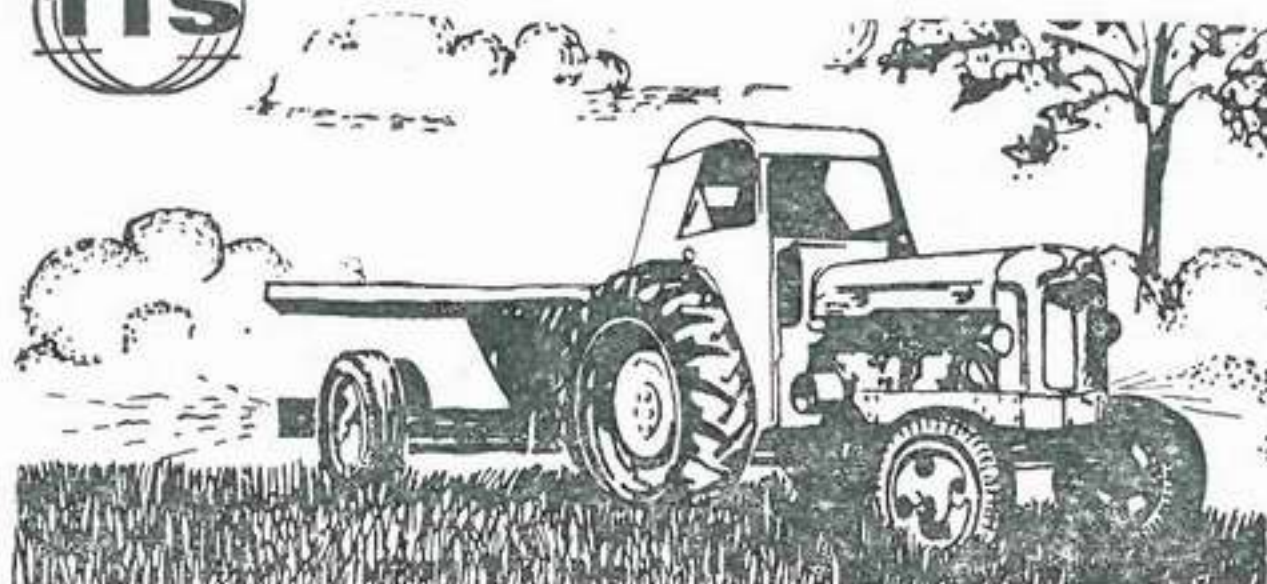
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HANDBALL RESULTS (continued from page 59)

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Under-16 Singles — Winner: M. O'Connor (Kerry). Runner-up: G. Curley (Galway).

Doubles — Winners: D. Smith and N. McKenna (Meath). Runners-up: K. Clancy and D. Mulhern (Galway).

Over-40 Doubles — Winners: Mayo (M. Walsh and J. E. Walsh). Runners-up: Armagh (H. Haddock and J. Lappin).

Under-21 Singles — Winner: P. McGarry (Limerick). Runner-up: O'Brien (Roscommon).

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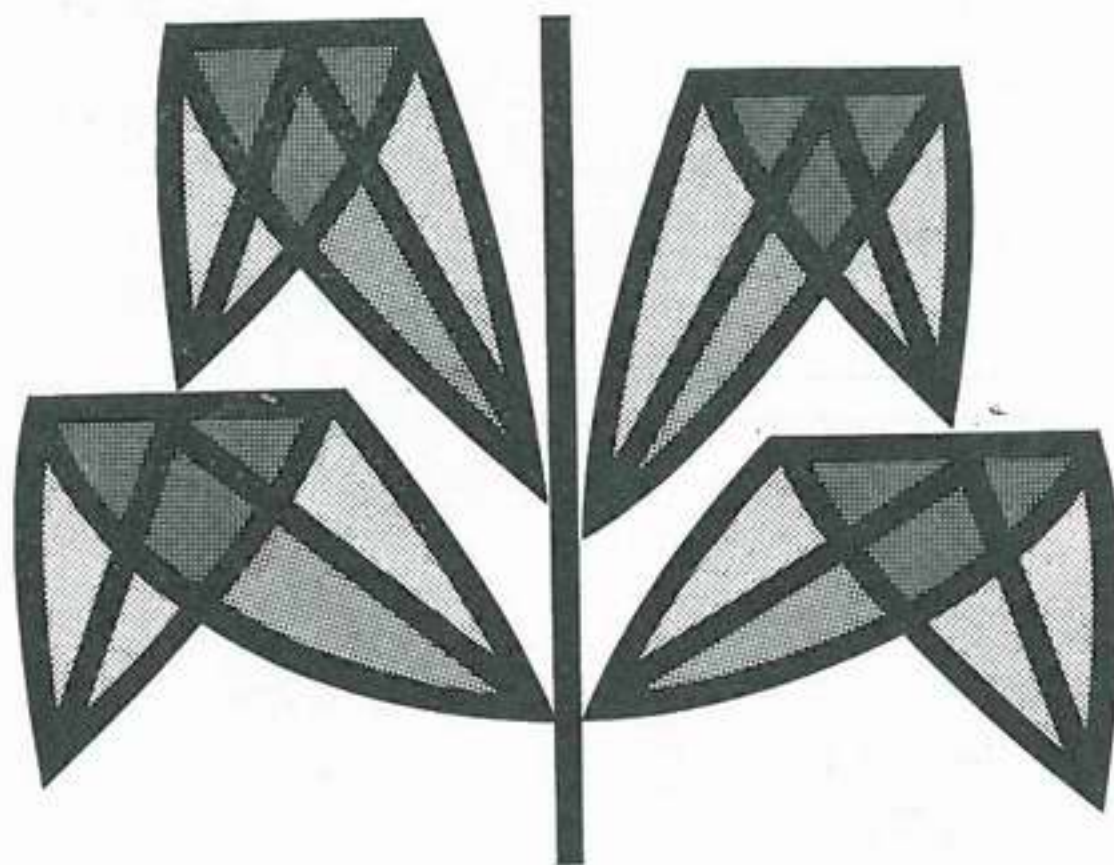
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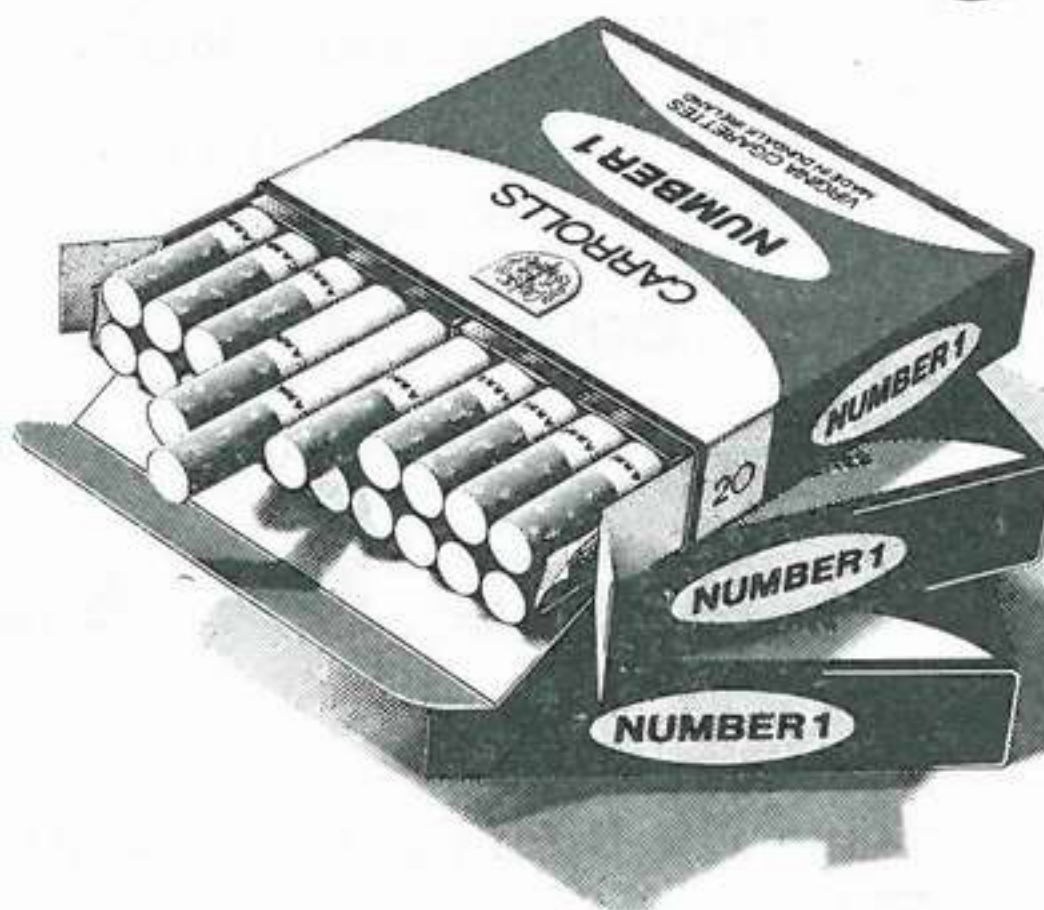
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—SEAMUS O RIAIN, CHAIRMAN, AT MUNSTER CONVENTION, 1967.

Anseo agus Ansiúd

ar lean ó leath. 35

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