

Limerick Gaels remember Bracken

"GAMAN"
DO SCRIOBH

LIMERICK GAELDOM are facing into another very busy weekend and this one has particular significance in that it is the first real local involvement in this great centenary year, highlighted by the decision to honour one of the original seven that were actually in at the foundation of the association — the late Joseph K. Bracken, who spent the last years of his life in Kilmallock, and who is buried in Tankardstown Cemetery, where it is proposed to unveil a plaque over his grave this Saturday evening.

However, back to the opening events of the weekend, which is actually the fifteenth. Feile na Maigh, centred in Bruree this year, and designated to commemorate the last days of the existence of the GAA.

The official opening ceremony takes place this Friday evening at 8 p.m. and will be fittingly performed by Sean O'Siobhain, the very popular chief executive of the GAA for many eventful years. Old timers and many too old, will remember him too as a very popular entertainer on radio where his "Round The Fire" programme was a top favourite, and we in Limerick had many really pleasant evenings with him, when he was in the Savoy stage at many of the great series of Sunday night GAA concerts.

We will undoubtedly get a song or two out of him again this Friday night at Bruree, to augment the fine programme arranged by the promoters that includes a musical programme of songs by another very popular artist, Sean O. Sc., together with Aedín Ní Bhriain, who played so much on the recent Trian agus Eadrom offerings from Limerick, that fine Gaelic group Coltoiri na Cistine, and a fine galaxy of others, both local and visiting, in song and dance, surely a sight of Irish Ireland entertainment to savour and remember.

START
It will be an early start on Saturday morning for the lecture in Gaelic by Bruff born, Dr. Dáithí Ó hÓgáin on "Heroes of Sport" and he can certainly draw on many great figures of the arena from Bruree and the surrounding areas to illustrate his subject — the hurling men of Kilmallock who won All Ireland honours in the early years of the GAA, Larry Roche of nearby Dromin, who helped Commercial Van All Ireland football honours, and of course a real galaxy of athletes, men who won world and Olympic honours in profession and put Irish athletics really to the fore in the world stage in the years immediately following the GAA's foundation.

LECTURE
Another lecture with a title of compelling attraction "The GAA in the formation of Irish nationalism — 1884-1916" must throw considerable light on the real motives that prompted the formation of the Gaelic Athletic Association, and the part that the Irish Republican Brotherhood played in the same. One would have to understand the state of the country at the time to fully appreciate the fundamental changes and the real hope engendered by the new organisation that so quickly embraced every parish in the land. The lecturer is another distinguished son of Limerick — Gerard Tuohy, whose late father, Michael Tuohy, was well known to Gael-dom as president of the Limerick branch of the Gaelic League in days when it was very closely allied to the GAA in the promotion of the annual Thomond Feis hurling contests — then second only in importance to the Munster championship itself.

The next item in the crowded Saturday programme takes place at 7 p.m. at Tankardstown churchyard, where the plaque erected by an Limerick sports board GAA will be unveiled by Sean O'Siobhain to commemorate the memory of J. K. Bracken, one of the seven men who attended the meeting in Thurles on 1st November, 1884, at which the GAA was founded.

The GAA had a definite national bias from the start, a circumstance that did not come by accident. It represented the ideals of its founders, which were unambiguously national, and on these they were determined the association would develop.

A little knowledge of the background to the actual foundation will be helpful in understanding the atmosphere in which the GAA was conceived and spent its formative years.

Some think the GAA was a "brain wave" of Michael Cusack, and that he immediately issued the circular calling the foundation meeting. This is far from the case. In actual fact, the idea of a national athletic association was the minds of leading political figures for many years prior to the actual coming into being of the GAA.

Five years before the eventual meeting date, the Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood agreed to take the necessary steps to bring an organisation into being for the revival of Irish gaelic and athletics.

WONDER
Many will wonder what interest the IRB had in such a project, and a little explanation may be necessary. Following the failure of the 1867 Rising, it was agreed by many of the leaders of the movement that another attempt at rebellion had little hope of success. Many former believers in physical force as the only means of winning national independence had gone over to constitutionalism.

And in the spread of the Land League the Fenian chiefs saw the danger of the turning of young men's minds towards agrarian rather than political revolution. The IRB was a secret and oath bound society, suppressed by the British. It could not openly organise or be associated with any other organisation without great risk of seeing it killed in its infancy. The IRB wanted the GAA to exist, but having done so, to exist to others to act as sponsors.

Michael Cusack, a trusted member of the IRB, but whose association with the organisation was unknown except to a few, was given the job of launching the project.

Within a week of the Thurles meeting every branch of the IRB had been instructed to rally to the standard of the new association, as the only course left by which the interest of the youth could be retained.

The GAA was directed into the previously arranged channel separatist in outlook, national in its general aims, yet broad enough to appeal to attract to membership many who would never otherwise get the benefit of the discipline and leadership it offered.

Violent opposition to the infant GAA from all the anti-national elements, then so strong in Ireland, just played into the hands of the new organisation, which soon had control under its banner all the nationally minded men in the country.

Joseph K. Bracken, whose memory is being commemorated this evening, was not the best known of the founders, to present day Gaels. He died at his home, Ardvalley House, Kilmallock, in May 1906.

Yet J. K. Bracken was very prominent in the early GAA days, and when Maurice Davin became first president of the association "J. K." was elected its vice-president, Michael Cusack filling the post of secretary. And through the stormy initial years, J. K. Bracken wielded a strong influence on the executive, which was composed of stout hearted men, who welded in very short time an army of clubs and individuals to a well disciplined team.

When the growing strength of the organisation demanded the division into county units, for the better government of the association, J. K. Bracken played a big part in putting Tipperary into shape — work that was recognised by his appointment as first chairman of the county board there.

"J. K." was a son of the soil, who came from good farming stock, and he married a Tipperary girl — Miss Hannah Ryan of Boreenagh — and the pair made their first home in Templemore, where Mrs. Bracken made history by becoming the first woman chairman of an Irish public body — Templemore U.D.C.

The family later moved to Tipperary Town where Mr. Bracken set up business as a stone cutter, establishing the "monumental works" in St. Michael's Street, from which he supplied many public monuments, particularly around the centenary year of the Insurrection in 1798.

Mr. Bracken then founded what later became a very thriving building contracting business, coming to reside at Ardvalley House, Kilmallock, from which he directed work in many parts of Ireland.

STERLING
Old Kilmallock residents with whom I spoke some thirty years ago still remember him then as a sterling nationalist, deeply interested in the affairs of the GAA, even long after his active days with the organisation were over; and as a man "that was all the time prominent in the politics of his time. He delighted in the power of influence the GAA had become in a short spell and always tried to keep it true to the nationalist and separatist traditions of its founders.

Kilmallock and Limerick generally can be proud of its connection with one of the seven men that established the GAA, and it is indeed fitting that in this special year a plaque should be placed over his grave to remind all Gaels of a man who played such a big part in founding and developing the association.

It is back to Bruree immediately following the unveiling for what looks another compelling attraction for all deep thinking Gaels, it is a symposium on the GAA directed by Michael O'Muircheartaigh, well known as a radio commentator on Gaelic games, and a great team has been assembled for the discussion — former GAA president, Seamus Ryan; son of another former president, Rev. Seamus Gardiner, PRO of the Munster Council; well known and respected Limerick GAA hurler and worker, Jackie O'Connell; and an O'Macfaolbhuil, chief placement officer, ordnance survey and author of a book on hurling. Then an extraordinarily busy day will be rounded off with a session of traditional Irish music and song.

The concluding item of this great festival on the Sunday night is another real treat for all Gaels — a lecture by Ciarán MacMahon on "Hurling and Football in Song and Story" — no better men for such a subject, a figure deep rooted in Limerick Gael-dom, for we saw Ciarán in his youth win playing field renown with some great St. Patrick's club teams of the time.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINAL AT PAIRC NA nGAEIL
Limerick has landed one of the great big fish of the Gaelic football world — the national league final which has place at Pairc na nGaeil next Sunday, with the contestants Kerry and Galway — a great pair in modern football with the reputation of providing some of the most colourful games the championship has known in recent years.

In the early days of the present century it was Kerry and Kildare that first drew the huge football crowds. Later it was Kerry and Louth, and it was the massive patronage they attracted that gave the GAA cash to purchase Croke Park. All that, however, was before the time of all present day followers of the game. True, Kerry and Kildare played a few very attractive finals that many of us really enjoyed in the late 'twenties, and we saw Louth win a splendid All Ireland title several years later, but they were spasmodic affairs, and for many of us it fell to the lot of Kerry and Galway to give us some of the last glimpses of the real old Gaelic football as played by the great masters of other days.

Meanwhile, all the supporters of Limerick's hurling fortunes will head for an unusual venue on Sunday — the fine pitch, conveniently situated at Boreenagh, Osoy, where the Shamrocks take on Laois in their opening tie of the centenary cup hurling competition.

Limerick are fancied by many for high honours this year following their sweeping win in the recent hurling league final. However, one swallow never made a summer and similarly one great win does not ensure a season of mastery displays leading directly to further national renown.

We must take every game as we meet it and meet every challenge with the same resolve and determination. Laois have demonstrated the ability to topple champions from their throne by the manner in which they recently disposed of the Kilkenny obstacle and on home territory they must be treated with the utmost respect. Only in that way can another victory be secured.

THE IRISH LOCAL SCENE
The week gone by was another extremely busy one on the home front and many important games were decided that resulted:

Inter-county hurling — Europe 3-6, CIE 3-3.
Senior hurling — Bohernabreena 3-9, Kesh 2-4.
West centenary cup — Killybegs 1-14, Tournafulla 2-5; Ballingarry 5-7, Newcastle West 3-5; Feohane 2-9, Ardagh 1-10; Adare 1-15, Clough 2-12, draw.

Senior football — South championship — Knockmacy 1-4, Croom 0-5; Garryspic 3-5, Hospital-Herbstown 1-9.
West centenary cup — St. Mary's 1-9, Askeaton 1-7.

Under 21 hurling championship — East Liberties 4-5, South Liberties 3-4; Fedamore 2-4, Caherline 2-3; Cappamore 2-12, Murrone 2-7.

City junior football league — Ballinacorney 2-2, Creora 1-4; Cloughmash 2-9, Landowne 1-5; Na Piarasigh 1-2, Kildimo 0-2.

Minor hurling — City league — Patrickswell 3-10, Cloughmash 1-2; Ballinacorney 2-12, Patrickswell 1-11; Cloughmash walk over, Old Christians scratch (late fielding full fifteen).

South championship — Killynane 8-11, Galbally 1-10; Glenroe 1-10, Eflin 0-2; Dromin-Athlaca 5-6, Garryspic 3-7; Castleknock 3-7, Banogue 2-1; Knockmacy 3-8, Croom 0-2.

Minor football — City championship — Treaty Sandfields 3-6, Mullingra 1-5; St. Patrick's 1-11, Ballinacorney 1-2.

City league — St. Patrick's 3-8, Kildimo 1-2; Ballinacorney 2-12, Mullingra 1-1; Cloughmash walk over, Old Christians scratch.

County Fife no match on 14th; under 14 hurling — Adare 2-0, Dromin 0-2; under 14 football — Wicklow 3-11, Louth 0-4.

Parteen
John Wall and Paul Mannion were the chief contributors in the under 14 hurling victory over Kildimo, on the first trip to the new grounds on Sunday, both sides served up some good play throughout the hour.

An forann-Kerry Ryan, Pat Prendergast, Maureen O'Sullivan, Paddy Power, Tom Bridgeman, Tom Buckley, Pat Conway, John Wall, Tony Pierce, Johnny Quaid, Gerry O'Sullivan, Kevin King, David Ginevan, Ray McMahon, Paul Mackey, sub. Mary Loneran.

D'im na cailín go h-náisiún in aghaidh Trust in Oileán an Róim an Luan seo caite. Fui go raibh a lán do an imreoirí as láthair, ach aoi go raibh.

An forann-Jennifer Martin, Hilary Neill, Maureen O'Sullivan, Catriona Byrnes, Annette Flanagan, Tara Flynn, Mary Martin, Jayne Barrett, Ann Marie Ryan, Jacqueline Ginevan, Treasa Ryan, Christina McLaughlin, sub. Mary Loneran.

Local girl Caroline Geraghty is making a big name for herself in swimming. She received a gold medal with Linsay School and silver in 25 metres relay.

The junior A hurlers will have their stiffest encounter since the league final when they face neighbours Meelick on Saturday night in Limerick for the Centenary Cup. The locals will be slightly disadvantaged by the absence of some regulars.

Noel Cusack and Tony Markham made a big impact on their return to the scene in the B-S league outing to an O'Donoghue at Limerick on Saturday night.

An Ahane jubilee medal recently found in the Parteen area by Sandra Quilligan was later discovered by the same person in possession of Mrs. Kitty Mackey of Ardacrusha.

Coming events-Saturday, Centenary Cup, A and B v. Meelick and Quins, 12 noon, under 14 v. Clonlara, Sunday, 7 p.m., under 16 camogie v. Knockmacy, Monday, under 14 v. Limerick L.D., Friday, minor league v. Crusheen. All games at Limerick.

Limerick Canoe Club
This weekend over 150 of the countries top canoeists will descend on Limerick for what must be the most important canoe race on the home circuit. The Limerick Long Distance Canoe race.

It will start at the Blackwater Bridge at Ardacrusha Power Station at 1.05 p.m., the shorter start will be at O'Brien's Bridge one hour later at 2.05 p.m. All canoes will finish in Castlemoyle.

Leinster junior football championship — Kildare 1-11, Westmeath 1-7; Louth 0-8, Meath 0-5; Wexford 1-7, Kilkenny 0-5.

Munster minor hurling championship — Cork 1-18, Kerry 3-4; Clare 0-26, Waterford 2-0.

Ballygarvan senior hurling tournament final — Cork 3-11, Kilkenny 0-10.
Slán agus Beannacht De agnibh go leir, a chaidé Gaeilche!

Under 21 Hurling
All too easy for stylish Shamrocksiders

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY
LIMERICK 9-9, KERRY 1-5.

LIMERICK MAY have hammered unfashionable Kerry by a massive 25 points in this Munster under 21 hurling first round game at Abbeydorney on Wednesday evening, but manager Eamonn Cregan was still not impressed.

"We have a couple of problem positions and will have to iron them out over the next fortnight," said a cautious Cregan.

Certainly, it was difficult to assess the Shamrocksiders' true potential, so weak was Kerry's challenge, but any team that can record such a huge win must needlessly command respect. It may have taken them six minutes to register their first score—a point from marksmanship Shane Fitzgibbon of Adare—but gaining confidence they went on to lead 4-6 to 0-1 at the third whistle, and tucked on 5-3 on the changeover, a further 1-4 from the home side.

The well appointed Abbeydorney pitch suited Limerick, who held the whip hand throughout. While Cregan was probably speaking with tongue in cheek when he said they had problems to sort out, he must have been referring to the many walled channels over the hour, particularly by the half-forward line.

But with a lead of 2-4 to 0-1 after 20 minutes, one could hardly blame the Limerick men if they took their foot off the pedal at different stages.

It was all so embarrassing for Kerry who, in fairness, had some fine hurkers and hardly deserved to lose by such a wide margin.

Limerick, realising that goals were as easy as get as points, concentrated to a large extent on green flags and hit eight in the 40 minute spell between the 20th and 60th minutes.

EMERGED
Ballygarvan's Mick Quaid emerged as top marksman with 2-2, and Shane Fitzgibbon and Niall Sheehan, Cappamore, were next on the list with 2-1 apiece.

The scores were evenly distributed. Ray Sampson, who showed fine form with Limerick minors over a couple

of years, found time to notch 1-2, with a similar contribution from John Hegarty, Old Christians, one of only three city men on the side in any view was that scored by substitute Pat McCarthy, Kilmallock, early in the second half. His was a spectacular effort and his contribution thereafter must have been noted by Cregan.

Mid-fielders Brian Finn and Pat Cramer saw to it that Limerick held the advantage. The defence was never tested and it wasn't until ten minutes that Kerry got inside the Limerick goal area.

Cloughmash's Matt Graham looked the part at corner back and his club mate Aidan Moloney also played well in the centre of the half-back line.

Goalkeeper John Quaid, brother of Tommy's, must have wondered was his journey worthwhile. Except for the shot that beat him he did have practically little else to do over the hour.

Kerry, who must be feeling dejected as a result of this hammering, had some fine hurkers, notably centre back Jerome O'Sullivan and flanker Tim Palmer. While their colleagues put in plenty of effort, they were short in class and seldom matched their opponents.

On the night, Limerick did quite well and must have gained in confidence. Their next outing is against Waterford on May 9, probably at the Gaelic Grounds, and manager Cregan must be hopeful of their chances of taking the provincial crown for the first time.

Limerick-John Quaid, Feenahugh; Ger O'Reilly, Ballybrowne; John Daugherty, Newcastle West; Matt Graham, Cloughmash; Liam Tobin, Kilmallock; Aidan Moloney, Cloughmash; Michael Mulcahy, Newcastle West; Brian Finn, South Liberties; Pat Cramer, Cappamore; Niall Sheehan, Cappamore; Richard Quigley, Doon; Ray Sampson, Garryspic; Shane Fitzgibbon, Adare; John Hegarty, Old Christians; Mick Quaid, Ballygarvan.

Sub., P. McCarthy for Hegarty.

Scorers—M. Quaid, 2-2; S. Fitzgibbon, 2-1; N. Sheehan, 2-1; J. Hegarty, 1-2; R. Sampson, 1-2; P. McCarthy, 1-0; P. Cramer, 0-1.

Kerry—John Walsh, Peter

in rapid succession the ball was to score again. In the fourth minute of injury time a goal forward move was carried on by Ger Cloughy who in turn passed to Kieran Considine and the young lion from Richmond was over the line for his first Munster senior cup try.

As the teams left the field, the Young Munster players were carried shoulder high by their jubilant supporters while Waterpark received a standing ovation from the sporting and knowledgeable Limerick crowd.

Maybe it is a sign of the times but one of the biggest cheers of the day came when the president of the Munster branch, Mr. Brian O'Brien, prior to presenting the cup to the Young Munster captain, introduced Mr. Dom Grimes, Australian Minister of Social Welfare, to the crowd.

THE JUNIOR FINAL
The final of the Carling Munster Junior Cup was something of an anti-climax. While we did not have the exciting running rugby of the previous day it was nevertheless a hard, mainly forward struggle.

Both sides made a nervous start and as early as the first minute Declan Cusack conceded a scrum for not playing a penalty over the mark. From that scrum Frank O'Donnell was scuffed offside. Although the ball fell over twice, Mike Benson missed the kick from a favourable position.

While the tactics of both

Members of St. Munchin's Boxing Club, who will take part in the Irish Championships in Dublin next week. Hughie Ryan (trainer), Pat O'Halloran, Gerard O'Halloran, Brian O'Halloran, Philip Power and Pat Cox (trainer). The three O'Halloran's are brothers, and it is thought this is the first time that three members of the same family have qualified for the national finals. They reside in Thomondgate.

Rowing
Anglo Irish Bank Inter-firm Tennis

Most of the firms in the Limerick region have been received details and entries in connection with the Anglo Irish Bank Inter-firm tennis tournament. The event takes place at Catholic Institute between the 21st and 26th of May. This is the biggest tennis tournament held in Ireland since increases in popularity each year.

At about this time each year inter-firm tennis fever hits most of the firms in the region. All potential tennis players are encouraged to return to the tennis fold and indeed many attempt to play this great game for the first time. The key to the success which the tournament enjoys is the fact that it caters for all standards. In any of the four divisions it is impossible to find a player who is not a winner and this naturally adds to the enjoyment of the event. This was illustrated very clearly in Division 1 in 1981 when the event commenced for O'Reilly Motors, complete outsiders, won the top section and this gave the tournament a new dimension.

There are many other items which make the tournament unique. The impeccable organisation adds greatly to the enjoyment — since cancellations are strictly adhered to, long delays are avoided. The videoing of the various matches, which are shown later in the clubhouse adds greatly to the social side of the event. There are a variety of unusual awards, e.g. most punctual team, best dressed team, etc., which means that everyone is in line for a prize.

The teams consist of 4 players — 1 guest is allowed and direct relatives or employees are also invited. The easier that most firms, however small, have an opportunity to participate. The social side of the event is extremely enjoyable also.

Anglo Irish Banks are sponsoring the event and perhaps their popular manager, Johnny McDonnell, may return to tennis. Johnny, better known for his many achievements on the rugby field, was a very promising tennis player in his school days at Crescent College.

There is certain to be a huge entry for the tournament and all firms, wishing to participate, should enter as soon as possible. The closing date for entries is 4th May and entry forms are available at the Catholic Institute Clubhouse.

Institute
Squash Notes

The finals of the Sean Carrin Club Championship will be held on Saturday, 28th, to be followed by a social evening in the club. The following are through to the semi-finals:

Men's A: B. Croke, T. Kelleher, J. J. O'Leary, J. O'Dea.
Men's B: T. Kelleher, S. J. Keane, P. Mitchell, M. McGrath or P. O'Dea.
Men's C: B. Hession, T. O'Dea, N. Butler, S. Langley.

Ladies A: J. Ryan, P. Cummins, M. O'Sullivan, T. Ryan.
Ladies B: H. Downey, J. Quish, A. N. O'Brien, D. Harrahan.

Old Crescent
win Blake seven-a-side

Old Crescent, playing an exciting brand of rugby, won the Blake seven-a-side trophy in Galway at the start of the Quincentenary celebrations. In all sixteen teams took part and the Limerick representatives were Garryowen, Old Crescent and Shannon. Garryowen made it through to the quarter finals but were beaten by Galwegians. Shannon beat Tuam in the first round but were eliminated in the next round by Palmerstown. Old Crescent, who had the two most outstanding players in the competition in Bobby Roche and Niall Hogan, beat Corinthians in the first round, Cork Constitution 12-10, Michaelians in the next round 24-6, and met Lansdowne in the final. The teams were locked in combat and the match ended at 10-10 with Old Crescent having tries from John Hogan and Jim Keane and a convert from John Hogan. The final went then into a sudden death play off and Niall Hogan sprinted from inside his own 22m, to score under the posts to lift this prestigious trophy.

Old Crescent v. Corinthians, 30-6; Old Crescent v. Cork Con, 12-10; Old Crescent v. Galwegians 24-6, semi-final; Old Crescent v. Lansdowne, 10-10, final (Old Crescent won in sudden death play-off).

GREAT RESULTS
Atlantis had 7 ladies teams in the Limerick League, and the results are very impressive:

Atlantis 1 won the 1st Division; Atlantis 2 were runners-up.
Atlantis 3 won its league; Atlantis 4 ended up half-way in the league.

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