



TIOBRAD ARANN

1970

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THIOBRAD ARANN
1970

Editor—GERRY SLEVIN

**A TIPPERARY COUNTY BOARD
PUBLICATION**

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REAMHRA

Seo dhíbh Bliainiris Thiobrad Arann. Is dó liom gurb é an chéad iris dá leithéid a d'fhoillsigh Cumann Luthchleas Gael sa chontae. Bhí irisí eile ann cinnte go leor ó am go céile a bhí dírithe ar ghnóthaí so chontae. Agus bhí siad go breá fóna ach ar chaitheamh níor mhair siad ré fhada. B'éidir gurb é sin atá indán do irisí go h-iondúil.

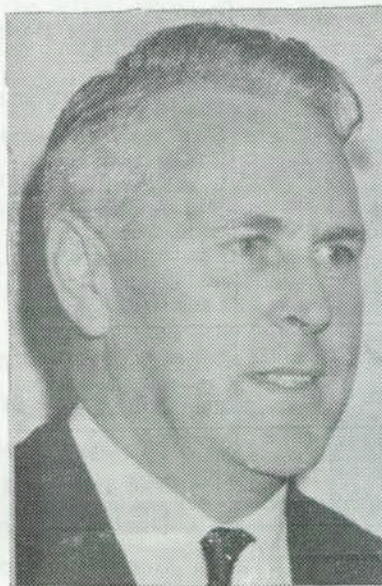
Bíodh sin fíor nó ná bíodh táinú ag dul san iomaíocht anso le h-iarracht nua agus dóchas againn go mairfidh an gasúr nua seo. Mar measaimid go bhfuil áit dá leithéid i saol an Chumann. Creidimid go mbainfidh a lán daoine sásamh as agus iad ag dul siar ar eachtraí na bliana. Agus ina theannta san go gcoimeádfar é mar bhuan-chúntas chun tagairt a dhéanamh do amach anso, nuair a bheidh na gnáth díospóireachtaí agus aragóintí ar siúl mar is dual dúinn, nuair a thagaimid le céile.

Ní h-amhlaidh go gceapaimid go bhfuil gach ní anso mar ba chóir. Is cinnte go bhfuil tuairmí ag ár léitheoirí a chuirfeadh feabhas ar eagrán na bliana seo chugainn. Cad chuige ná chuirfeá aon smaointeamh dá leithéid chughainn. Bheadh fáilte roimhe.

In these pages we try to recall to our readers the highlights of the G.A.A. year in Tipperary. We have spread the net as widely as possible in the hope of including something of particular interest to every reader. Tastes differ and are influenced more or less by what the local club or hero achieved during the year. We would not all agree in our choice of the most stirring events of the year or the most outstanding performances. It would be a pity if we did. But we can all agree that the year was remarkable for the number of small junior clubs which won championships for the first time in many years. Clonmore won the mid-divisional junior hurling championship; the north divisional junior hurling title was won by Templederry; and Aher-

low won the West Divisional junior football. All credit to these when there is so much talk of rural decline, and their success should raise the hopes of similar small clubs.

Other events which could be included amongst those which gave me personal satisfaction were the rousing display of our county senior hurling team when they came to within a few gasping



Seamus O Riain

inches of the Munster crown; that never-to-be-forgotten Oir-eachtas Final win over Cork; the marked improvement in the standard of our senior football team as shown in the championship game against Cork, and in withstanding the challenge of a good Dublin team in the "Bloody Sunday" anniversary game; the fight-back by Boherlahan minor team in the second half to win the county title

from Clonoulty; a wonderful second half display in the senior hurling final when Roscrea barely held off the challenging Sarsfields; the inauguration of a new competition for all post-primary schools in the county for the Canon Fitzgerald Cup presented by the Tipperary Association in London; the variety of the entertainment at the Talent Finals in the Premier Hall, Thurles; the completion of a splendid community hall cum dressing-rooms in Cloughjordan's McDonagh Park; the decision of the Sarsfield Club to build a community centre in Thurles; the high standard of hurling in the juvenile and minor competitions, especially in the finals won by Silvermines and Eire Og, Nenagh, in the North, and Upperchurch for the county title under seventeen; the splendid response to the club development investment scheme in the county and also by Tipperary people resident in Dublin.

The list could be extended. The contributors to this Annual will recall the many games and stir the memory of exciting days. They also give us a record of the year which will have permanent value.

This Annual could not have been produced without the willing co-operation of many people. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge here that such co-operation and help and advice were readily forthcoming wherever they were sought.

On behalf of the County Board I offer grateful thanks to everyone who gave us articles, photographs, statistics, or technical help; and also to those who gave us advertisements. They all have a part in producing this first Annual. We trust it will be well received by you, our readers, and that it will become established as a regular annual publication.

SEAMUS O RIAIN,
Cathaoirleach.

Coisde Cho. Tiobraid Arann,
C.L.G.

BROLLACH

ONCE UPON A TIME I proposed that there should be a competition called the "Parish Brag." The thing was tried and found to be highly unsuccessful; there need be no

illusion about its value as a practical proposal. The name was too crude and the sub-title, "Buileam sciath" too frank. Perhaps the manner was too light-hearted, and there was an underlying something directed at what is done by people and institutions with more prestige than the parish.

The other side of the story is that the knocking of parishes and other native things is successful and even competitive. It may well be that when somebody's sacred cows are being flayed, somebody else's little "bán" of sacred calves is waiting to take their places.

Le linn dúinn aghaidh a thabhairt ar an saol nua—agus níl aon dul as againn—ní móide an meas a bheidh orainn annseo amach gur thugamar cúl le dúchas. Go maire dúchas Thiobrad Arann; go maire Cumann Luthchleas Gael lena chaomhnadh.



Ardeaspog Tomas O Muiris

✱ Tomas O Muiris,

Ardeaspog Chaisil agus Imligh

JOHN O'GRADY casts his eye over the inter-county hurling scene
and reviews a year in which—

TIPPERARY

SAW RED

SURVEYING the hurling world as 1970 faded out, a Tipperary eye was apt to see red. There was little else to see. On every continent of the hurling scene a sanguine pennant could be seen fluttering in proud possession. Our forty-year boast of being the game's only Triple Crown winners was surpassed by Cork's 1970 quadrilateral of senior, under-21 (hurling and football) and minor.

Everyone, it is true, was awarding us the runners-up honours. "No one gave them a run bar Tipp" was a common comment after the All-Ireland. It was a bitter-sweet compliment, prompting wishful mental replays of the Munster Final and, in particular, giving a happier ending to Flanagan's luckless late snap-shot.

To many counties a narrow League defeat on away ground at the semi-final stage, plus an even narrower Munster Final loss with fourteen men for a third of the hour, would have been acceptable prominence. Not so in these parts. The Tipp-tinted Sixties were too close at hand to make anything less than victory at all tolerable. So we fumed helplessly at what we liked to regard as lack of luck.

Other targets were hit, too. On-field tactics were bad at Limerick, said some. Choices of personnel and the timing of changes also drew critical fire. And, of course, the refereeing. That was—and and maybe is—a sore point. It prompted our authorities to a formal notice to the Munster Council that the same official was not going to be welcome again where Tipperary were involved. This may be emotionally satisfying to us in

view of the controversial "de-thronement" of our King and several frees and non-frees in course of play, but it is questionable from the larger aspect of the good of authority in general. The same object could have been achieved without laying down a well-publicised law on it.

Irritation and Frustration

The year will go down as one of irritation and frustration in our outside endeavours. Convention-time philosophy about the virtues of competing is fair enough, but it doesn't erase the sting of so near and yet so far. Having been used to the winner's circle we are not content at number two.

The senior grade is what makes or breaks. All the rest is complementary. Even in the absence of trophies, however, there are nice things to be said about our senior year. For one thing, there was nothing lacking in the mental or moral approach of the team. For that the new selectors deserve real credit. Their predecessors had done great things, but after the death of Paddy Leahy there seemed less cohesion in the camp and lower-grade management on the field.

One unfortunate legacy from the previous administration played a significant part. That was the Cork venue we had to accept for the League semi-final, the less pleasant end of a gentlemanly agreement. There seem good reasons for thinking a friendlier venue could easily have led to another result—and set a different tone for the championship. Cork

thrive, like everyone, on success. Better than anyone, indeed, because they are able to marshal a vocal following that seems to do part of the hurling for them. Cork did not beat us very convincingly, depending on some late points to do it with, but the crucial thing was that they won at all.

Jimmy Doyle's Retirement

A second legacy of that Cork game was Jimmy Doyle's announcement of his retirement as he left for America with the Munster panel. Jimmy had given wonderful service in a golden period, and given marvellous entertainment with his uniquely skill-based feats. The timing of the retirement was not the best from our point of view. It was done on the very brink of the championship, when there was neither time to absorb the blow to morale or give adequate scope for experiments to fill the gap created. This is not to question the player's perfect right to follow his own wishes—we have no shadow of reason for anything but gratitude to him. But as the Munster Final ran, especially with frees not being fully availed of, there was good ground for being sorry that Jimmy hadn't been prevailed on to function as a surprise last-minute recruit. His fine form with Sarsfields in the county championship increased such regrets.

Yet there was satisfaction in taking part in a Munster Final that regained the real atmosphere of such things. The crowd, in the 35,000 range, wouldn't have been counted remarkable ten years ago,

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but was impressive by the meagre standards of attendances earlier in the series. The game's character was stamped on it by Tipp's resistance after Liam King had been put off and Cork had scored two goals which resulted dramatically in the arrival of Peter O'Sullivan in goal.

The selectors took a breath-taking gamble here and must be credited with courage for doing it. Who, going to the game, would have foreseen our honoured 'keeper, John O'Donoghue, on the line before the finish? Yet there he was, stretched out on the side line grass in the illustrious company of Keating, withdrawn earlier from the opposite end. At time of writing neither has got back onto the team and, the longer they are off, the poorer their hopes of doing so.

Post-classic Period

Our present situation bears the signs of a post-classic period. We are challengers rather than the targets for challenge. We are struggling to get a settled side together. In particular, we seek an attack with method to match what we had in 1964-65 when the Doyle-Devaney-Nealon-McKenna-Keating-McLoughlin group were hurling like a machine.

The defence has, if anything, improved over what we fielded in 1968-69. Lane, Kelly and Gleeson are a lot closer than the defence that gave away frightening goal-totals in that spell, despite having O'Donoghue in fine order behind them. John Kelly, one would venture to say, gets stronger all the time under growing experience with Tipp. and in good-class Cork hurling.

At half-back we are quite reasonable, too, as King comes to the fore with hard hurling that only needs the preservation of a cool head to be of great service to us. King's arrival lets Roche return to midfield, where Michael Jones was winning a reputation as the year declined. Gaynor continues to prove what wiry, durable stuff he is, on the Finn model. O'Connor has

perhaps not so firm a grip on the right flank but has his days of quite adequate form.

In the score-seeking department we look a bit haphazard and hopeful by contrast with former flair. The older masters could slow it up cleverly to create openings. With poorer material we have to fall back on dash and fury a bit too much. Flanagan, O'Dwyer and Loughnane are probably the only settled tenants. A full-forward is the prime need, the more recent trialist having more brawn than science. One would expect Keating to regain a place if he shows enough eagerness in the Spring. Is there even a wild hope that Doyle could be seen there again?

Long-term View

The long-term advance view of the hurling world is, one would have to confess, more hopeful for Cork than for Tipperary. While we are searching about hopefully for what promising individuals we can pick up, Cork material seems

to be stacked to the warehouse roof. Their minor and colleges supremacy stretches back a good few years. They had done as well at Under-21 as younger success would lead one to expect, and logically they've got to show the benefits at the highest grade of all.

With that in mind, the biggest tragedy of 1970 was the way Tipp. failed to stop Cork's minors. If ever a game was there to be won! We sought goals long before there was clear need to seek them. They didn't come, and Cork, suitably encouraged, broke away for a goal of their own. Even then we had fine chances and had the misfortune to hit the cross-bar, but at the end of it all it was still Cork in the minor ascendant. How we could have used the boost of our first minor title in some eight barren years!

Let's finish, however, with the not unpromising senior position. We should be Cork's main, perhaps sole, serious rivals in the province next season.

AT LAST, AT LAST—VICTORY OVER THE "OULD" ENEMY

WHAT A WAY to end the year, a year that saw so much frustration and disappointment. Yes, December 13th saw that Cork hoodoo broken, and with it the Oireachtas title is back in Tipperary once more.

After a year clouded in red, what a shot in the arm it was to see victory coming our way over our greatest of rivals, and where better that it should happen than in Thurles Sportsfield.

warts like these Tipperary and

It was a game that for fervour, dedication and spirit, belied its

time of year appointment and proved to all that this great game of hurling need have no worries as to its future as long as stal-Cork men can continue to infuse such a life into it.

From a Tipperary point of view it made up, and indeed more than made up, for so many recent defeats by Cork, and gave new hope for the future.

With a new year commencing, and six points in the League, through victories over Kilkenny, Dublin and Galway, safely tucked away, we have reason to look forward to a bright 1971.

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A FIRST FOR MOYNE-TEMPLETUOHY

SEAN RYAN (Mid Board Secretary) looks at happenings in the Mid Division, and puts the Spotlight on new Champions

MOYNE-TEMPLETUOHY made history by winning the S.H. title for the first time after a thrilling final with old rivals Sarsfields. Drom-Inch justified their being rated favourites early in the year by taking the No. 1 J.H. grade easily in the final against Upperchurch. Boherlahan took the Minor Hurling title after eleven years and this was the most popular win of the year. The Under-21 hurling title was retained by Sarsfields only after close calls from Upperchurch-Drom in the semi-final and against Boherlahan in the final. Clonmore also made it an historic year for their parish by taking the No. 2 J.H. title after 38 years. The No. 1 J.H. grade provided us with our best games due to the return to this grade of Thurles Kickhams, Upperchurch, Drom-Inch and Gortnahoe. Thurles Fennellys availed of the new by-law to remain in this grade after winning it in 1969. Their withdrawal from the closing rounds, however, took some of the glamour from the finish.

Loughmore-Castleiney retained the S.F. title after a close call from Moneygall in the final. Templemore retained the minor football crown easily enough. The junior football title went to Moycarkey-Borris who retained their title.

The general standard of our games was higher than the previous year and financially it was also more rewarding to the Board. The conduct of our players and mentors also left little room for criticism which adds up to a healthy state of G.A.A. games in Mid Tipperary.

Moyne-Templetuohy

There has been a strong hurling tradition in Moyne since the club first affiliated to the G.A.A. in 1885 and many fine hurlers appear in the records as playing with county teams in various grades. The "United Sons of Toil" were represented on Tipp's first All-Ireland winning team in 1887 by Tom Carroll of Moyneard. The club went senior for the first time in 1897 but went down to the powerful Horse & Jockey team of Tom O'Grady. Bud O'Keeffe, Templetuohy, was a playing member of the great Tipp. teams from 1910 to 1916. He was an outstanding forward among some legendary players of that time.

The townland of Kilclooney, a breeding-ground for hurlers up to today, actually fielded a team in Mid in 1914. Moyne won the Mid J.H. title for the first time in 1917, beating a great Borrisoleigh team in the final on score 3-1 to 2-1. Outstanding Moyne players in this team were: Bud O'Keeffe, Tim O'Meara, Pat Butler, Willie O'Grady, Jack Quinn, Peter Fogarty and Jim Cullagh. On the Borrisoleigh team were: Bill Matthews, Bill Small, Jack Hammond and a youngster, Martin Kennedy, later the pivot of Toomevara fame.

In 1919 Moyne contested the Mid senior final against Boherlahan. The game was played at Shanbally, and Moyne put up a great display against such a notable combination and were beaten 7-3 to 4-3. The Moyne team was: Tom O'Meara (capt.), Peter Fogarty, Willie O'Grady, Jim Cullagh, Jack Quinn, Tim Burke, Davy Minchin, Joe Brolan, Martin

Shelly, Tim Scott, Bud O'Keeffe, Pat Doyle, P. Butler, Martin Ryan, J. Pollard.

Tom O'Meara, Moyne, was a member of the Tipp. S.H. team in 1920, and in 1924 Joe O'Keeffe and Tom Quinlan won the County J.H. title with Mid Tipp. selection. On the Mid S.H. team the same year were Moyne men Paddy Doyle, Tom O'Meara and Jim Cullagh. Some Moyne men were playing with Thurles in 1925. Moyne took the Mid J.H. title in 1930, and on this team were: Martin Troy, Jim O'Meara, Pat Butler, Pat Shelly, Martin Ely, Jim Quinlan, Bill Ryan, H. Gannon, John and Billy Liston. They beat Inch in the final. In 1932 Moyne won the Mid intermediate title, beating old neighbours, Moycarkey, in the final, which was a thriller, on the score: Moyne 3-4; Moycarkey 2-6. The same year Mid selection won the county minor hurling title, and Moyne had Jim Travers, H. Craddock, Mick Everard and Tim Gleeson on this team. In 1934 Templetuohy took the Mid J.H. title, beating Thurles Kickham at Moyne, 5-1 to 4-3. This year also Moyne captured the Mid intermediate grade, ousting Thurles Sarsfields at Littleton 6-1 to 2-2.

In the decade 1945 to 1955 Moyne fielded some great senior teams but met outstanding Sarsfields in that period and could never get over this obstacle. They had fine hurlers in the Everard brothers, Mid, Ned, Tom and Johnny, the Ryans, and Tom Russell, and big Jim Travers, who played many fine games on the county senior team, partnering Jimmy Cooney. John Everard won an All-Ireland and National Hurl-

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ing League titles with Tipperary in 1950.

The present team matured from juvenile ranks, nurtured by Johnny Everard and Father Tom O'Keeffe, a former All-Ireland minor hurler from Moycarkey. Moyne entered senior ranks after taking the No. 1 title in 1965. This youthful team, built around the Fogarty families and the O'Grady's, should take a county senior crown in the next year or two as they possess great spirit and youthful enthusiasm and have speed in abundance as well.

Under the capable guidance of Bob Manton, Mick Everard, John Travers, and Phil Blake, Moyne teams should be heard of in the years ahead.

Clonmore

Clonmore made history in 1970 by taking the J.H. title for the first time since 1932. There has always been a G.A.A. tradition in this small parish. Con Maher and the Tierneys were the men to be feared on the great Templemore football team of 1887. In the late twenties and thirties the Mock-

lers, Quinlans, Mahers and the O'Byrnes kept the flag raised for our games in Clonmore. In 1932 Clonmore beat Two-Mile-Borris in Mid junior final on score 7-1 to 6-1. The Clonmore team was: Andy and John Maher, Phil, Joe and Mick Mockler, Charlie and Peter Byrne, Phil Hackett, Bob Lee, James Keeshan, Jack Brien, Bill Smith, Tom Ryan, John Delaney, Pat Sheedy, and Pat Bergin.

Mick Mockler, son of Phil, a Moycarkey man with a great hurling background, won two minor hurling All-Irelands with Tipperary, in 1933 and 1934. Mick Everard of Moyne was also on the 1933 minor team.

From this period up to the present year Clonmore had some fine individual players in the Bohans, Walshes, Martins and Egans, but could never knit them into a championship winning unit, despite the untiring efforts of men like Phil Mockler, Paddy McCormack, Paddy Fogarty and the Guideras.

The rather meteoric rise of the present young team may be traced to the coming to the parish of Denis Noonan from Bansha. Denis was an experienced player and

club administrator in West Tipp prior to this and he instilled into the youth of Clonmore the spirit and enthusiasm necessary to win. He got the services of another Bansha man, living in Templemore, to train the boys. This man was the late P. J. O'Brien, who was an ex-County and Sarsfields hurler. These younger players had proved themselves in juvenile grade against such opposition as Moycarkey and Boherlahan. Therefore when they had matured somewhat, it was not to be wondered at when they beat such fancied teams as Drom-Inch and Moycarkey-Borris to take the first Mid title after 38 years. The late P. J. O'Brien died suddenly on the sideline during their semi-final game with Drom-Inch, and so it was a fitting tribute to his memory that the team should take the title in such convincing fashion against Moycarkey in Thurles. The winning team was: Tom, John and Paddy Bourke, Seamus Quinn, Pat Whelan, W. Bergin, Michael and Andy Maher, Tom Ryan, Tom Kavanagh, Pat Egan, John Fitzpatrick, John and Pat Egan, Jas. Maher, T. Deegan, D. Noonan, Phil Bourke.

MID TIPPERARY FINALS, 1970

Senior Hurling Final:	Moyne-Templetuohy	2-11	Sarsfields	3-7
Senior Football Final:	Loughmore-Castleiney ...	2-3	Moneygall	0-6
No. 1 Junior Hurling:	Drom-Inch	8-15	Upperchurch	0-4
Under 21 Hurling:	Sarsfields	2-9	Boherlahan	3-4
Minor Hurling:	Boherlahan	4-8	Sarsfields	2-6
No. 2 Junior Hurling:	Clonmore	4-8	Moycarkey	1-6
Minor Football:	Templemore	0-13	Templetuohy	1-3
Junior Football:	Templemore	0-4	Moycarkey	1-9

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Moyne/Templetuohy, who won the Mid Tipperary senior hurling championship by defeating Thurles Sarsfields in the final.
Photo: Eric Campbell, Templemore

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SILVERMINES & TEMPLEDERRY STOLE THE LIMELIGHT

By Gerry Slevin ("Guardian" Staff Reporter)

TWO EVENTS more than any others made the year, one to be remembered in the North, Silvermines first ever minor hurling championship victory and Templederry's annexing of the junior title, the first to go to the parish since the won the intermediate title back in 1932.

It matters little that both teams suffered subsequent defeats; the 'Mines at the hands of the eventual county champions, Boherlahan; and Templederry by Burgess in the play off for representation in the county junior championship. Their victories were greeted with enthusiasm throughout the division. The real victory of course was for the Association in these parishes as for many years they had toiled without success and their supporters must have often felt that is was all hardly worth while.

Perserverance prevailed however and both clubs can now hold their heads high in the division and look forward to a bright future. There is plenty of young material in both clubs and with new forces always welcome, we can look out with confidence on the future prospects of both Silvermines and Templederry.

Both Roscrea and Burgess retained their senior and intermediate titles, respectively. For Roscrea, led by Patsy Roland, it was their fourth successive title won with conviction, the toughest opposition coming from Lorrha in the second round, while the expected strong challenge from Newport, who had held them to a goal in the county championship, failed to materialise. Moneygall

were their final opponents, and in a game that also failed to live up to expectations, the champions got there rather easily.

One of the big disappointments of the senior season was the failure of Toomevara to make any worthwhile impression on the scene. They were humbled by Roscrea in the first round, thereby qualifying for the losers' group, and here they were beaten by a young Eire Og (Nenagh) side which went on to take losers' group honours, by defeating Kilruane, who had earlier accounted for Borrisokane.

Satisfactory

By far the most satisfactory competition of the season was the intermediate grade. Seven teams: Burgess, Kildangan, Knockshegowna, Ballina, Portroe, Shannon Rovers, Silvermines, competed, and it was run on a league basis, thus ensuring that each team had a minimum of six games. When the series was completed, there were still five teams in the running, Rovers and the 'Mines being the eliminated ones. Burgess, Portroe and Kildangan were through to the semi-finals and Knockshe' and Ballina had to play off for the fourth place.

Knockshe' got there handsomely enough and after Burgess had reached the final by disposing of the Portroe challenge, some late scores enabled Knockshe' to fight another day against Kildangan. The latter got through at the second attempt and they then lined out against their neighbours, rivals, and indeed allies

(both clubs are combined for senior and under 21 grades) in the final. Burgess, ably marshalled by Donie Nealon who had a long lay off because of illness proved too good and they took the Murphy Cup for the second successive year with a team that included no fewer than nine under 21 players.

The minor championships were dominated by Silvermines and Kilruane with the latter getting sweet revenge for the defeat in the hurling final, by taking the honours in the big ball game.

In the under 21 grade, holders and county champions, Borrisoleigh, backboned by a number of their 1969 side fell at the first hurdle to Moneygall whose joy was short lived, as they met defeat at the hands of Naoimh Padraig (Burgess/Kildangan) in the quarter final. In the other section, 1969 runners-up Eire Og went to a replay with Roscrea before giving up the ghost, and Roscrea then went on to defeat Kilruane and reach the semi-final where they met St. Flannan's (Lorrha/Shannon Rovers). This game did not finish and Roscrea were eleven points to the good when the referee, Stephen Liffey, Knockshegowna, called a halt. The matter was afterwards decided in the Board room with the game being awarded to Roscrea.

An interesting conclusion to this competition seems assured.

Newport emerged as junior football champions, defeating Lorrha in the final. The surprises here were the defeat of fancied Silvermines by Inane Rovers and Rovers subsequent defeat by

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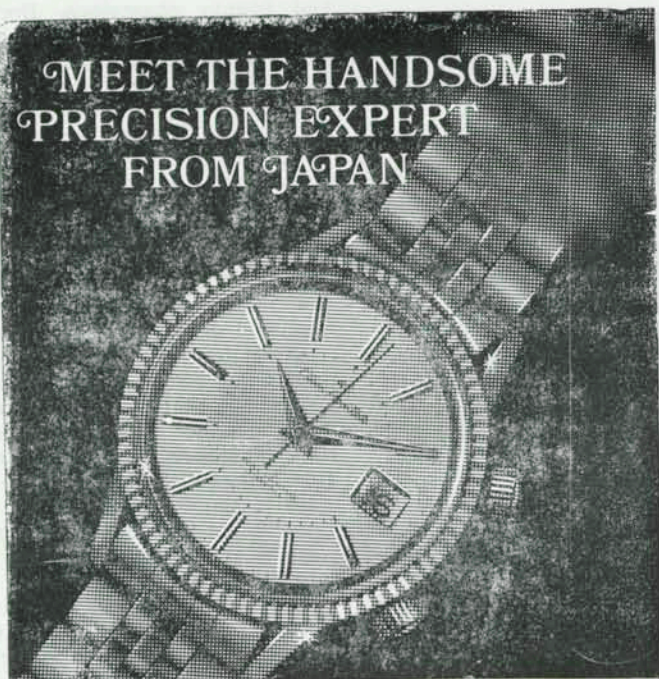


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Lorrha. The under 21 football championship didn't get going and will be held over until the Spring.

Things to Remember

While most competitions were run off smoothly, there was not a great deal in the year over which one could enthuse. Yet some things stand out, such as Lorrha's great stand against Roscrea; the 'Mines do or die effort which brought them from defeat to

victory in the closing seconds of the minor final; the tremendously exciting hurling of Eire Og and Kilruane minors who had to have a second hour to reach a decision; the ease with which Templederry took the junior title, defeating Roscrea in the decider, to mention but a few.

The standard of play generally was good, if higher in the under 21 and minor grades than the more exalted categories, and looking to the future, one can

readily foresee quite a year ahead, with senior teams all out to take the scalps of Roscrea, and patrons eagerly awaiting Templederry's prospects in intermediate grade. There are signs also of good futures for Moneygall, Burgess, Silvermines and Kilruane, so lets hope that 1971 will bring the crowds out in good numbers and that the fare supplied will live up to the very high standard one has come to expect from North Tipperary.

NORTH TIPPERARY FINALS

Senior Hurling:	Roscrea	3-9	Moneygall	3-3
Intermediate Hurling:	Burgess	4-11	Kildangan	3-4
Junior Hurling:	Templederry	6-10	Roscrea	1-3
Under 21 Hurling:	Naomh Pdraig ...	3-13	Roscrea	2-4
	(Burgess/Kildangan)			
Minor Hurling:	Silvermines	6-5	Kilruane	6-4
Junior Football:	Newport	0-10	Lorrha	0-7
Minor Final:	Kilruane	1-7	Silvermines	0-8

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Minor hurling champions from the North—Silvermines, who took their first ever title in this grade.

Photo: Patrick Stephens, Nenagh

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The Junior Hurling Championship of North Tipperary went for the first time ever to Templederry who are pictured above. Standing (left to right): Jim Kennedy, James Hogan, Patrick Murray, Joseph Kennedy, Tony Gleeson, James O'Leary, Tim McLoughney, Jack Ryan, Tom Hayes, John Ryan, Willie Collins. Front (left to right): Nicholas Ryan, David Brosnan, Jerry McGrath, Tom Kennedy, Ned Powell, Mattie Crowe (captain), Jerry Ryan, Tom Ryan, Dick Shanahan, Michael Ryan.

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NOT THE BEST YEAR FOR CHAMPIONS

TO WRITE a relatively short article on the highlights of the G.A.A. year in South Tipperary is quite a task, more particularly since the year now drawing to a close has been outstanding in so many respects.

Gate receipts in the Division reached an all time high and there was a tremendous entry of 143 teams for the thirteen competitions. It speaks volumes for the work of Secretary Jerry O'Keeffe that, at the time of writing, eleven of these competitions have been completed, and the remaining two, Junior Leagues in both codes, have reached an advanced stage.

On the field, the year will be remembered as an unlucky one for title holders as only two clubs, Ballyporeen in Junior Football and Carrick Swan in Minor Hurling, succeeded in retaining their titles. For three clubs, however, the year was particularly memorable. Kilsheelan, Slievenamon and Ballingarry each won two championships and each can hold strong claims for recognition as club of the year.

The year began with the conclusion of the 1969 competitions. Clonmel Commercials gave an impressive performance in winning their first ever under 21 football title at the expense of Ardfinnan and then took the Junior Football League, also at the main expenses of their great rivals.

The 1970 Senior Football League was divided into two groups and played on a double round home and away system. The competition proved very successful and after many exciting games Commercials took the honours in Group A. In Group B Moyle Rovers were successful, accounting for

Mullinahone and Cahir in good style.

The Minor Championship, as usual, got off to an early start, and in football two group teams—Galtee Rovers (Ballyporeen/Fr. Sheehys) and Slievenamon (St. Patricks/Mullinahone) provided most of the excitement. Slievenamon showed great form in accounting for Fethard and Clonmel Commercials, whilst Galtee Rovers surprised the holders, Ardfinnan. Both sides met in the final at Clonmel and, after an entertaining hour, Slievenamon came out on top to bring the title to an area that had been out of the honours for some time.

In hurling it was Carrick Swan all the way. Reinforced by Kilsheelan's James Kehoe, they outclassed all opposition and ran up a very big score against Fethard in the final.

As so often before the Senior Football Championship provided many of the years' highlights. The early rounds saw Fr. Sheehys go under to Commercials and Fethard (holders) succumb to Kilsheelan after a game which produced a fantastic finish with Fethard losing a five point lead in the last two minutes. Both semi-finals were played on the one day in Clonmel and as expected Commercials accounted for Moyle Rovers with something to spare. Kilsheelan upset the odds once again, however, by comfortably defeating fancied Ardfinnan. Kilsheelan housed the final and before a record attendance took the title for the first time since 1932. Goalie Johnny Dempsey, Dick O'Gorman, Dick Strang, Willie and Cyril Robinson, and James Kehoe were the

key men in a victory that was richly deserved.

Marlfield's Year

In Senior Hurling the year belonged to Marlfield and Theo English. Rank outsiders in the semi-final against Ballybacon/Grange, Marlfield, assisted by Austin English, just back from the States, came through in good style after a hard game and then faced County finalists Carrick Davins in the decider. Mick Roche was a Carrick absentee and his loss was keenly felt as Theo English lorded it in the middle of the field. Marlfield swept to a victory that owed much to Theo and Austin English, Paddy and Mick O'Connell, Michael O'Connor, Timmy Ryan, Mick Egan, Pat Davin and John McNamara.

Kilsheelan's double was achieved in the Intermediate Hurling Championship, in the final of which they comfortably accounted for the holders, Cahir, after having defeated a St. Mary's fifteen in the semi-final. The club had high hopes of adding the Junior Hurling crown to their tally but proved no match for a useful Ballingarry side which had very good hurlers in Jim and Michael Ivors, Martin and Matty Brennan, Milo Molloy and Dinny and Joe McEniry.

Ballingarry's double came in less satisfactory fashion for the under 21 hurling decider between themselves and Carrick Swan was abandoned some minutes from the end with Ballingarry in front by four points. At a subsequent Board meeting the game was awarded to Ballingarry.

The Under 21 Football Championship produced some good

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games and many surprise results. Holders Commercial had a very experienced fifteen in action but went under to what looked a very useful Ardfinnan side. The latter in turn failed against Slievenamon who fielded quite a few of their successful minor team. Slievenamon went on to take the title by defeating Fionn Mac Cumhaill in a very entertaining final. Paddy Bo'ger, Dick Egan, Willie O'Brien, Paddy, Lorcán and Seamus Hickey, Michael Boland and Eddie Clancy are the

players who shone for Slievenamon.

The final championship to be decided was the Junior Football and in the final keen rivals Ballyporeen and Ardfinnan drew a record crowd to Clogheen. After a very hard game in which both defences were on top, Ballyporeen came through by the narrowest of margins.

The Junior Leagues are continuing with three clubs, Ballingarry, Ardfinnan and Kickhams

(Clonmel) in contention in football, and three, Ballingarry, Kilsheelan and Cahir still in the running in hurling.

The games are in a healthy state in the Division and the success of clubs like Kilsheelan, Slievenamon and Ballingarry during the year shows what can be done if the hard work and effort is forthcoming.

Their achievements should prove an inspiration to other clubs in the year ahead.

The following table lists the number of entries for each competition and the scores in the finals:

Senior Hurling	(6)	Final: Marlfield	3 10	Carrick-on-Suir	2 8
Senior Football	(8)	Final: Kilsheelan	1 7	Commercial	0 7
Intermediate Hurling	(7)	Final: Kilsheelan	6 9	Cahir	3 6
Junior Hurling	(17)	Final: Ballingarry	7 14	Kilsheelan	2 0
Junior Football	(17)	Final: Ballyporeen	1 2	Ardfinnan	1 1
Under 21 Hurling	(9)	Final: Ballingarry	3 5	Swans	2 4
Under 21 Football	(11)	Final: Slievenamon	2 10	Fionn MacCumhaill ...	1 7
Minor Hurling	(9)	Final: Swan	12 12	Fethard	0 1
Minor Football	(10)	Final: Slievenamon	1 8	Galtee Rovers	1 7
Senior Football League (A)	(5)	Winners: Commercial			
Senior Football League (B)	(3)	Winners: Moyle Rovers			
Junior Football League	(17)	Semi-Final: Ballingarry v. Ardfinnan			
		Final: Kickhams v. Winners			
Junior Hurling League	(24)	Semi-Final: Ballingarry v. Kilsheelan (Int.)			
		Semi-Final: Cahir v. Winners			

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HOW THE WEST WAS WON

By WILLIE O'DONNELL

THE SENIOR Hurling Championship, chief money-spinner in the Division, got off to a shock start with newly promoted junior champions, Lattin/Cullen, giving the strongly-fancied Sean Treacys, a sixteen point lead and beating them well at the final whistle. A little-thought-of Kickhams side had another surprise for Eire Og in their opening game, coming out on top by a couple of points at Golden. Champions Golden/Kilfeacle went to Cashel where, after a slow start, they conquered an earnest Clonoulty/Rossmore fifteen. Cashel King Cormacs found little difficulty in putting away Suir Rangers, a combo of juniors from Galtee and Rockwell Rovers, while Arravale Rovers got it tough enough over in Emly in their game with another combo of juniors from Solohead and Cappawhite.

For the right to contest the semi-finals, Kickhams were drawn against Lattin/Cullen. A dispute, due to the failure of Lattin/Cullen to turn out on the date appointed, arose, and Kickhams were awarded the game.

Semi-finals

The semi-final pairings were:—

Kickhams v. Arravale Rovers.
Golden/Kilfeacle v. Cashel King Cormacs.

The Cashel King Cormacs v. Golden/Kilfeacle tie was played at Clonoulty in excellent conditions early in August. The lads from the ancient city were completely on top in the opening quarter but failed to translate their superiority into scores. The champions gradually wore them down and finally emerged victors by a margin of seven points. Their heroes that day were Liam O'Sullivan,

Mick Ryan, Ned O'Donnell, and Willie Blake, who played a fine game in goal. Cormacs had great triers in Peter O'Sullivan, both at full back and between the posts, John Darmody, Pat O'Connor, Conor Davitt and Aengus Ryan.

The second semi-final was played in Golden in mid August. This was a game Arravale Rovers were expected to win easily, but such was the fire and resistance put up by Kickhams that Rovers found themselves two points behind close to the call of time. They forced a 70 and you could have heard a pin drop as John O'Donoghue faced up to the crucial shot. His effort dropped dead on target and forward Murray pounced on a defensive hesitancy to slam the ball to the net for a Rovers' victory. They had great hurlers that day in John O'Donoghue, Dick O'Halloran, Dermot O'Connor, Larry Kennedy, Tom O'Donoghue, Andy Lacy and Peter O'Dwyer, while those most in evidence is a surprisingly good Kickham side were Christy Ryan (goalie), Willie Morrissey, Donal O'Dwyer, and Mick Cleary.

Thus the stage was set for a repeat of the 1969 final played at Sean Treacy Park, when Golden/Kilfeacle won their first and only title. This time, by agreement, the game was played in Golden in the presence of a large crowd.

Hot Favourites

From the opening whistle, the champions, who were hot favourites, never justified the rating and few, if any, touched the form of which they were capable. Rovers played fast and confident hurling all through and when time was called were ahead by seven points on the score: Arravale Rovers, 1-13; Golden/Kilfeacle, 1-6.

Chief architects of victory were the half forward trio of O'Dwyers, with Petey in sparkling scoring form in centre, Tom O'Donoghue, Larry Kennedy, John O'Donoghue, Willie Cross, Dick O'Halloran, Christy O'Dwyer, and Joe Delaney, while Willie Blake, Mick Ryan, the O'Donnell brothers, Liam Walsh, Liam Sullivan and Joe Fogarty had their moments for the losers.

Senior Football

Eire Og, by reason of their six point victory over Kilsheelan, in the county championship, were installed favourites to win their first senior football title. They had but two points to spare over a young Arravale Rovers lot, while Emly beat Galtee Rovers and Lattin/Cullen came through against promoted Clonoulty/Rossmore. Solohead, with a bye in the first round, were drawn against Eire Og in the opening semi-final with neighbours Lattin/Cullen and Emly contesting the second. Both games were played in Emly on the last Sunday but one in August.

Emly, handicapped by an early injury to star performer Patsy Dawson, put up a terrific fight before going down by three points to the champions. The winners owed quite a lot to the deeds of Mick Maguire, Mick Byrnes, Eddie Morrissey, Georgie Ryan and Tommy Carroll, while Emly were best served by Sean McManus, Mick Burke, Mick Dawson and Patsy, while on the pitch.

The second game saw Solohead surprise the favourites by a margin of two points in a hard-fought game. Eire Og, who had to field out without right corner back, Noel Ryan, were always struggling and never once touched the form that surprised Kilsheelan,

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their forwards being particularly inaccurate.

Solohead had the tonic of an early goal and were always that bit sharper in their movements. Butch O'Dwyer, Pat Verdun, Con Redican, Mick Hadnett and John Kirby were their big men, while in a disappointing Eire Og side, Thomas Carew, Eddie O'Loughlin, D. J. Gleeson, Seamus Hanley and Liam Riordan were best.

Bidding for First

The final, played at Sean Treacy Park, was watched by a fair sized crowd in pleasant enough conditions. Solohead, bidding for their first title in many years, were on their toes from the beginning and gave the defending champions quite a run around, winning well at the final whistle.

Con Redican, Mick Hadnett, Pat Verdun, and Butch O'Dwyer were in top form for Solohead that day while Mick Byrnes, John Condon, Mick Maguire and Georgie Ryan never gave up trying for Lattin/Cullen.

Junior Hurling

From a five team entry in the No. 1 Junior Hurling Championship, Solohead came out on top, beating Emly well in the final.

The No. 2 Junior Hurling Cham-

pionship, mainly confined to clubs with a senior hurling team, was won by Sean Treacys, at the expense of Clonoulty/Rossmore in the final.

Sean Treacys also took the under 21 hurling title, leading well against Suir Rovers in a final, abandoned five minutes from time.

In minor hurling, Clonoulty/Rossmore, defending champions, beat Suir Rovers, a combo side from Golden/Kilfeacle and Galtee Rovers.

Junior Football

Aherlow battled their way through three tough games to take the junior football title, beating Golden/Kilfeacle in a one-sided final.

Under 21 Football

Arravale Rovers and Rockwell Rovers got through to this final and after a pulsating game Arravale came out on top by a slight margin. The Rovers from Rockwell objected and the Board, on hearing the evidence, ordered a re-play. This was won by Rockwell Rovers by the minimum, after one of the most exciting games of the year.

Minor Football

The Solohead club took its third West Tipperary title when their

minor footballers, a talented lot, beat St. Ailbies pretty well in the final.

Aherlow

No report of activities in the West Division would be complete without reference to gallant Aherlow's feat in winning the junior football championship after a lapse of eighteen years.

Tucked away in the Western end of the Division and split in two by the Sliabh na Muc hills, the parish has had a chequered G.A.A. history. Out of commission in the early sixties, a specially convened Convention brought them back into competition four or five years ago. Fortune smiled on their efforts this season, when after beating such clubs as Cashel King Cormacs, Lattin/Cullen, and Sean Treacys, they had a run-away victory over Golden/Kilfeacle in the final. A link with the 1952 winning side is provided by Mike O'Sullivan, who is one of the team's most valued and respected players. On the side also is Pat Moroney, a member of the Tipperary fifteen doing so well in the present National League.

If enthusiasm and dedication to the game of football can do the trick, then Aherlow will be heard from in the higher grade before very long.

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Many years of brilliant service to the G.A.A. in Tipperary was given by a man who retired last January. His successor, SEAMUS RYAN, looks back on

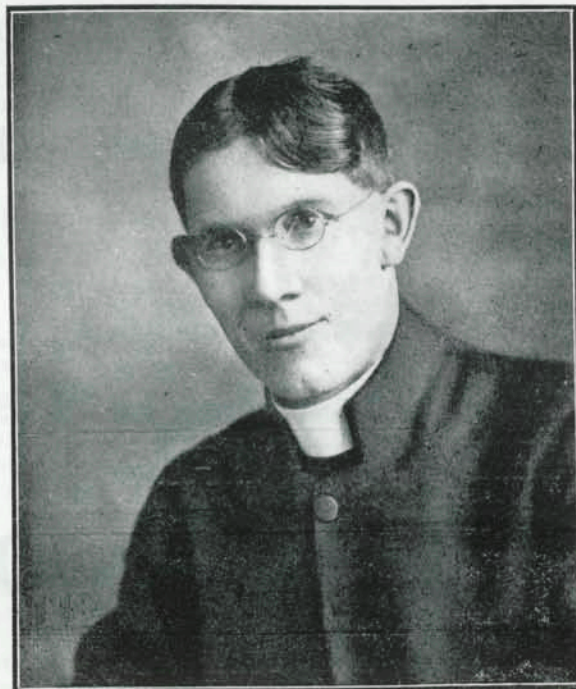
THE GREATNESS OF CANON FOGARTY

CANON FOGARTY, P.P., Templemore, retired from the chair of Tipperary County Board last January, bringing to an end a long term of active involvement as a senior official in the county. Having been elected Chairman of the Mid Divisional Board in 1929 he guided the affairs of that division for nineteen years.

When Fr. John Meagher died in 1917 leaving a vacancy in the chair of the county, Fr. Fogarty was the unanimous choice to succeed him. The twenty-two years he served as Chairman were particularly outstanding years in Tipperary hurling and produced a rich harvest in honours. Eight senior All-Irelands were won, seven minor titles, two under-21, two intermediate, and a junior championship, as well as a dozen National Leagues and several Oireachtas victories. For one so deeply dedicated to promotion of hurling these were satisfying rewards.

Canon Fogarty is a native of Holycross parish and was a skilful hurler in his youth. After ordination in Maynooth, he served for a short period on the English Mission. Returning to Cashel he became actively engaged in promoting club hurling in the parishes to which he was assigned.

He constantly emphasised the importance of building and maintaining active club units and the great need for properly equipped grounds. During his term in Thurles he threw himself into the organisational drive to develop the Gaelic Sportsfield through its various stages.



Historian

A keen historian, he undertook the colossal task of research for a history of the G.A.A. in Tipperary and the book was published in 1950. It is a monumental work giving a detailed account of activities in the county from the foundation of the Association down to 1934.

Canon Fogarty's addresses to Convention each year were marked by meticulously detailed

accounts of the year's events, and usually covered some feature of history dealing with clubs in the county. The addresses will be a major source for some future historian who will have a far easier task in taking up the story from 1934.

The Canon has earned the esteem of all Tipperary Gaels who join in wishing him well, and expressing appreciation for his devoted service to our Association.

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PATRICIA FEEHILY ("Guardian" Staff Reporter) throws a strictly feminine glance at the G.A.A.

A WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

THE G.A.A. is probably one of the last male strongholds in the world, one of the few organisations relatively ignored by the rapid advance of feminism. Most of the ladies whom I approached in order to obtain a cross-section of feminine views, knew nothing at all about the organisation, and I suspect that the contempt which some of them affected, stemmed from the fact that they have failed utterly to make any worthwhile impression in the G.A.A. scene.

So I can only present one woman's views of the G.A.A., based on a very vague idea of the aims, the ideals and the organisation of the Association. My views are somewhat distorted by past experiences with the G.A.A. and particularly by the painful memory of a punch in the nose from a small boy in a certain village school, years ago, when I had dared to offer some encouragement from the sideline.

I haven't forgotten the valiant efforts of the camogie players. They went on to the field, waving their hurleys and proved that a woman can run and score goals, and at least sometimes resist the murderous urges which the feel of a hurley can produce. But ironically they have only provided the lighter side of the G.A.A. scene. They started at the wrong end, and only when

those determined pioneers see the way to the Presidency of the G.A.A. will they have proved themselves true followers of feminism.

Experiences

My own experiences with the G.A.A. are enough to make Fanny Pankhurst turn in her grave. The only time I ever felt part of the Association was at an All-Ireland final in Dublin, once, when Tipperary flags and hats were flying and the excitement was reminiscent of D-Day. But even this was spoiled for me by the glares of males in my vicinity every time I shouted, and because I wasn't quite sure when to shout, what to shout, or even who to shout for.

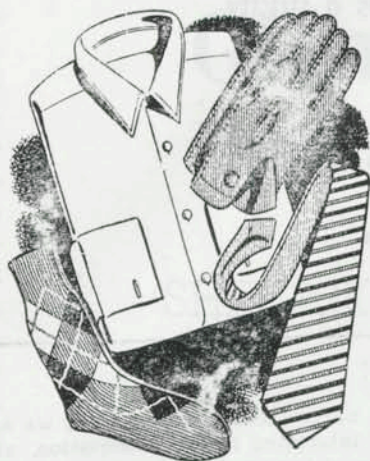
No doubt you males are well aware of what it's like to sit alone and ignored, in a conversation dominated by the other sex. Imagine the trial of a woman listening to a match hurled over and over again, in incomprehensible statements borrowed from Michael O'Hehir and others, and not daring to give an opinion because she wouldn't be heard and anyway, what does she know about it?

Most of us women have adopted a dignified aloofness from G.A.A. affairs, because there is no alter-

native, and yet deep down we are interested in the Association, and not for the superficial reason that interest us in rugby players. What with false teeth missing and long hair tied back with hair bands, the team line outs are becoming more like pantomime casts rather than good vetting stages. No, we are interested in the G.A.A. from a sociological point of view, and no doubt you are surprised to learn that we have such a point of view. The great asset to rural society which the G.A.A. has proved over so many years is obvious even to an aloof onlooker, and we might be even more impressed if we knew a little of what goes on behind the scenes.

The Needs of the Day

The G.A.A. has promised to continue to adapt its methods to the needs of the day. From a female point of view, I suggest that the sporting need of today is a broad and cosmopolitan attitude. The G.A.A. in my opinion is in grave danger of becoming insular and narrow-minded. Finally female representation on various boards would not be a disaster, but rather a great asset to your administration, and don't worry that some day in the future, somebody might be tempted to define G.A.A. as Girls' Athletic Association.



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GROWING IMPORTANCE OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS GAMES

By TOM CONNOLLY

TIME IS HISTORY. In the late 1950's Vocational Education was taking on a new emphasis and was becoming a very important branch of our educational system. It was developing and growing in student numbers. It was, at that time, too, our teachers and fellow Gaels saw the need to organise our national games on a firm, more competitive basis than heretofore. These same teachers saw in those games a valuable exercise in character training, physical fitness training, and a learning of team-spirit to strive for victory, but not victory at any price.

Games up to 1957 were played, more or less, on a friendly inter-school basis. Though excellent in themselves, the healthy competitive spirit was lacking, nevertheless. The fact that such games were played made it all the easier to establish a competition on a permanent foundation.

True, Tipperary had a strong tradition of hurling, which made the task of organised games an easy one. Early teething troubles were inevitable, but gradually these were overcome, and now in 1970 we are said to be the best organised unit in the country.

The year 1958 saw the first inter-county games in Munster, and North Tipperary was there in the draws. Our hurlers fell to Cork at Limerick on 1st May, the score being 3-6 to 5-9. Our footballers made the journey to Newcastlewest on 17th May to face Kerry. Fate was not kind to us, a minibus had left some of our players behind and North Tipperary fielded with thirteen players against Kerry's fifteen. The spirit indeed was strong, and this gallant 13 failed by only 2 pts: 4-3 to 3-8.

On the home-front, all our vo-

cational schools were organising their forces and the first inter-schools championship was played.

Hurling Trophy

The then Chief Executive Officer, Seamus O'Donnada, and the Vocational Education Committee subscribed, and presented, a beautiful trophy for our Hurling Competition. Since then, this trophy is much sought after and the competition is keenly contested annually. Football was also a passion within our schools, and although we have not hit the highlights, it is indeed a well-fought competition. The Tipperary Men's Association in Dublin presented North Tipperary with a fine trophy for the senior football competition. Our competitors have grown from strength to strength and have nipped a record all their own in vocational schools games.

On December 3rd, 1960, at Nenagh, the first All-Ireland Body to cater for our national games on a national basis was selected. This in effect meant the integrating of the separate provincial groups which had operated up to then on a regional basis.

Official G.A.A. sanction was sought and given, and ever since the games organisation has grown, due mainly to the official support of the G.A.A., national and local, and to the unstinted, unselfish work of our vocational teachers throughout the country.

In 1961 the first Hurling All-Ireland was played at Templemore, and Limerick City duly beat Kilkenny in a well-contested game. North Tipperary had earlier in the season fallen to Limerick City at Newport, on a score of 2-5 to 5-8. The year 1962 really saw North

Tipperary emerge. The home inter-schools championship was complete and all was in readiness for the Munster and All-Ireland series. Clare, Limerick City, and Cork were all brushed aside by a high-scoring Tipperary team. Galway fell at Nenagh and Kilkenny faced us in the All-Ireland Final. The venue for this final was decided by a toss of a coin—home and away, and fortunately we had a home venue—Thurles. This was played on 24th June 1962, and after a great game Tipperary came out champions on a score 5-7 to 3-5.

Since that date in Thurles, success seemed to smile favourably on Tipperary. In 1963 we fell at the first hurdle, but we were back again in '64 to beat Down, '65 to beat Kilkenny at Kilkenny, '66 to lower Wexford, '67 to overcome Offaly, '68 to stop Antrim, and again in '69 to foil Offaly's second attempt. This year, 1970, saw a slight damping of enthusiasm and our lads fell to Cork at Fermoy in a hectic Munster Final. It was no mean achievement during the sixties to win seven All-Ireland titles (six of them in a row, '64 to '69 inclusive).

That is a short account of the more glamorous and publicised side of our games activities, but there is another less well known one.

Inter-Schools

School competitions in Senior Hurling and Senior Football (under 17 yrs.) have continued each year, and in 1966 a second competition for the under 15 yrs. was initiated, in both hurling and football. This latter competition is becoming a keenly contested one, as

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the majority of our pupils fall into this age-group.

As the growth of vocational schools continues, it is vital that our national games be kept to the forefront. The spirit and enthusiasm is there, just to be tapped, and Gaelic games are as much sought-after by those youngsters as ever. Games provide an outlet for their energies of the purest and healthiest form, and as long as they exist our society need not worry with such problems as juvenile delinquency, drugs, hippy cults, etc. Indeed there are many unsatisfied needs within our society and it is only a deep understanding of their overall nature and implications that can set them right. Very many of our social ills stem from our inability to cope with free time at our disposal. Our teachers are assuming the responsibility for creating the opportunity and the environment to participate in our national games. Our pupils appreciate it and indeed many parents appreciate it also. I do see justification in having our national games in their rightful place on our school curricula.

N. Tipperary Championships, 1969-'70

Senior Hurling: Borrisokane 4-4. Newport 4-3.

This game was a real gem, hard knocks were given and taken, and interest was electric right up to the last puck of the game. Borrisokane scored the winning point in the last second of the game, as a result of a slip in the Newport defence.

Senior Football: Newport 5-4. Roscrea 2-3.

Newport made amends in this football final, and made sure of victory by trouncing Roscrea, to take their first title ever to Newport School.

The game was a hard fought one, over robust at times, but nevertheless sporting.

Junior Hurling: Borrisokane 3-6. Roscrea 2-2.

Borris, short two of their usual team, had to fight hard to overcome a determined Roscrea side to win this final. There was no doubt whatever, that fitness played a major part in this victory. It

was a clean, sporting and exciting junior final.

Junior Football: Borrisokane 5-3. Roscrea 4-5.

This was perhaps the most entertaining game of the year. Scores flowed freely and the lead changed sides several times, and amid a welter of excitement Roscrea sought an equalising point right up to the end. However, it was not to be, and Borrisokane returned with three titles to their credit for 69/70.

The series for 1970/71 got under way early in October, and is, at the moment, shaping up to a very exciting final.

A new venture this year also was the introduction of a new Post-Primary Schools' Hurling Competition, The Canon Fitzgerald Memorial Trophy.

Some twelve schools have participated (5 secondary and 7 vocational schools).

To date it promises to be a wonderful success, and the semi-final stages are reached. It is hoped to play the final early in 1971.

ROLL OF HONOUR IN VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SERIES

	Senior Hurling	Senior Football	Junior Hurling	Junior Football
1959/60	Thurles	Thurles		
60/61	Thurles	Roscrea		
61/62	Thurles	Thurles		
62/63	Borrisokane	Nenagh		
63/64	Borrisokane	Thurles		
64/65	Nenagh	Borrisokane		
65/66	Thurles	Roscrea	Thurles	Roscrea
66/67	Nenagh	Roscrea	Borrisokane	Templemore
67/68	Nenagh	Thurles	Newport	Roscrea
68/69	Borrisokane	Nenagh	Thurles	Templemore
69/70	Borrisokane	Newport	Borrisokane	Borrisokane

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CHAMPIONS ALL



1969-70 will go down as an outstanding season for the hurlers and footballers of Borrisokane Vocational School. They won the North Tipperary S.H., J.H. and J.F. titles and are pictured above with their three trophies.

Back row (left to right): Tom Donnolly, Sean Carroll, William Hourigan, Ml. Greene, Seamus Hennessy, Sean Hogan, Sean Hogan, Denis Cahill, Joachim Hogan, Kevin Dorlon.

Centre (left to right): Seamus Hackett, Michael Waters, Michl. Tierney, George Ryan, Murt Dwyer, Pat McLoughney, Edward Egan, John J. Hogan, Jimmy Ryan, Jim Maloughney.

Front (left to right): Joe Nevin, William McCoy, Alfie King, Tim Killackey (J.H. capt.), Brendan Egan (J.F. capt.), Noel Killackey (S.H. capt.), Seamus Hill, Tom Ryan, Tom Whyte, Billy Fox.

Photo: Patrick Stephens, Nenagh

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"CUILIN" looks back on the year of the great break-through.

CAMOGIE INTEREST INCREASES RAPIDLY

CAMOGIE-WISE the cailini of Tipperary have had an active and interesting time during the past season, with an increase in interest and awareness being readily evident on the playing fields, in the boardrooms, and at the many social gatherings. Indeed the 1970 season might well be remembered as the year that club camogie in County Tipperary made the great break-through, after many years of struggling and scratching at the surface as it were. A short few years ago we had three clubs in South Tipperary and only Roscrea fielded a team in the northern half of the county. Now North Tipperary boasts of thriving clubs: Lorrha, Cloughjordan/Kilruane, Knockshegowna, Roscrea, and Newport/Kilcommon, while Shannon Rovers, Borrisoleigh, and Portroe have recently formed clubs. South Tipperary has also increased its quota of clubs to six, viz. Thurles, Clonmel, Ballytarsna, Ballingarry, Drom & Inch, and Carrick-on-Suir. From this it can be seen that a remarkable rise in interest in camogie has taken place throughout the county, and it is hoped that all remaining parishes will soon get their ladies organised also.

Administration is handled by the County Camogie Board with able assistance from its two Divisional Boards in North and South. Three championships have been run this year, viz. Senior, Junior, and Juvenile, while the South and North Boards also ran off their own championships independent of the county competitions.

In our county senior semi-finals, Knockshegowna played Thurles, and Clonmel opposed Lorrha in what proved to be two exciting games brimful of top-class camogie bringing forth Lorrha v. Thurles for the county final. This was played at Roscrea before a record attendance who saw the more experienced Thurles girls, brilliantly led by Margo Loughnane and Margaret Cleary, emerge victorious after a hard fought, evenly contested game.

Our junior championship games were indeed little behind the senior in class, attendance or tension. Ballytarsna won through in South Tipperary, but before doing so had to survive a replay with a gallant Ballingarry team in the South Final. McDonaghs (Cloughjordan/Kilruane) are champions of North Tipperary and have yet to meet Ballytarsna in the county final. McDonaghs, led by Ann Minogue and Sadie Myles, played wonderful camogie in the North final and will probably start slight favourites, but can take nothing for granted against a very strong Ballytarsna team powered by Mary Gleeson, Bridie Heffernan, and Julia Gleeson.

COUNTY TEAM

Our county team, however, did not live up to expectations this year. Having won through Munster and gone very close to victory in the All-Ireland semi-final in 1969, hopes of an All-Ireland win were high when this year we again qualified for the Munster Final

with a good win over Waterford. However, the task of tackling the Rebel County in Cork proved too much for our girls, who had to line out without a number of last year's team, including Ann Graham and Sally Long—both interprovincial stars. Due mainly to some great work by Bernie Dowd, Kathleen Treacy, Beatrice Lawrence, and Josephine Marshall, Tipperary stayed with Cork until the closing stages of the game, and this, together with the fact that Cork, now All-Ireland champions, found this their hardest game of the campaign, has encouraged the Tipperary girls to look forward to next year with confidence and renewed determination.

Surprisingly enough, activity will not stop during the winter months, for the winter club league for the Ann Frazer Cup will be run off. Also, of course, many clubs will hold their annual socials and the North and South Board's ceilidhes will attract their usual large attendances. Player of the Year has also to be selected and should should cause much speculation with each camogie fan having his or her own favourite. In my book, however, it should lie between Mgt. Cleary (Thurles), Deirdre Lane (Lorrha) and Margo Loughnane (Thurles).

The County Board asked me to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted during the year, including hurling clubs, field committees, and all who supported the various functions and fundraising activities and who helped in any way to make 1970 such a successful year.

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BLOODY SUNDAY

By GERRY SLEVIN

DEATH INTERVENED

MY FIRST VISIT to Croke Park was on All-Ireland Hurling Final day in 1949, when as a lad of 10 I sat on my father's knee in the Cusack Stand, pent up with emotion and anticipation. My first All-Ireland Final, with Tipperary participating for good measure. It was the beginning of a great era for hurling in the Premier County. The 17 points victory that day our Laois was but the first of three successive All-Ireland titles to come.

But while the game itself did not leave any worthwhile impression on my mind, either because of its huge disappointment as a spectacle, its one sidedness on the scoreboard, or because of my own youthful years, it was an occasion, nevertheless, that I shall always remember because of a simple question I asked of my father during the hour:

"Why is that Stand called the Hogan Stand?" I asked him. Because of his own interest in the game in progress he made a very short answer, though an impressionable one nonetheless. His reply was: It's called after a Tipperary footballer, Michael Hogan, who was shot by British soldiers in 1920, over there under Hill 16, just to your right.

No doubt my father felt he had done his part in answering my question. But I was far from satisfied. Croke Park to me meant only one thing—the All-Ireland finals — and to suggest that anyone could meet his death in such an arena was, to me, beyond belief. Here was the place, which for me and every other young boy, was the culmination of all dreams; the place where only the best hurlers and footballers played and amid all the publicity of the radio and the newspapers. It didn't seem just right to me. However, my father had said so, and that was that.

Travelling home that night in

our Ford Prefect and experiencing an unforgettable thunder storm, I brought up the matter again, and there and then learned the full story. To say I was stunned is putting it mildly. Visions of what happened flashed across my mind. I tried to piece the whole picture together: a football challenge, the proceeds of which were to go to the dependants of Republican prisoners; upwards of 15,000 people present; ten minutes from the throw in, indiscriminate firing on the crowd from the Canal End; a scene of confusion and terror with people in an effort to escape throwing themselves on the ground or being walked on by others in a mad rush for the exits; Tipperary corner back Michael Hogan dashing up towards the Railway goal and falling to his death just under Hill 16.

What a fearsome story! What an impressionable story on the mind of a ten-year-old boy. I was silent for a long time as we drove along home. Leaving Portlaoise, we were suddenly brought to a halt with a huge flood under the railway bridge. We hung around for a while in the blind-

ing rain and watched fellow supporters, all in a cheerful mood, trying to push a car that had come to a halt right in the middle of the flood. I thought of the supporters who had travelled to Dublin on that fateful November day, 29 years previously; the same type of people; out for a day's enjoyment to cheer their side to victory; a truly sporting crowd, a crowd with nothing in mind but the interest of their team. It didn't make sense.

My probing mind demanded further investigation into all this, and gradually from talks with revered elders, I got a grasp of the whole situation—the terrible happenings that made Croke Park a sacred place, a consecrated place. I tried to find some literature on the happenings, some think I could always have to look back on and refresh my memory. Then my luck took a turn for the better. My grandfather unearthed a copy of "The Nenagh Guardian" for the week after Bloody Sunday. In my huge schoolboy writing, I noted the entire report, under a single column headline on the back page of the four paged worn out paper.

It was as follows:

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY AT CROKE PARK

Football players and spectators fired on

Scenes of bloodshed on a football field, unparalleled in the history of the country, were exacted at Croke Park, Dublin, on Sunday, by Armed Forces of the Crown.

About 15,000 spectators had

gathered to witness a football match between Tipperary and Dublin, when suddenly, the game being in progress, shots rang out, fired by the Armed Forces, and Michael Hogan, a prominent

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We take this opportunity of thanking
our supporters for their kind patronage
during 1970 and we look forward to your
continued support in the coming year.

DATES TO NOTE :

**County Convention—Scol Ailbe, Thurles,
January 31st, 1971**

**"Scor '70" (Talent Finals)—Premier Hall,
Thurles, February 4th, 1971**

**National Football League—Tipperary v.
Wexford, at Clonmel, February 14th.**

Wishing all Clubs the success they deserve
during 1971

TOMAS O BAROID, Runai.

member of the Tipperary team, fell dead, shot through the mouth. Many of the onlookers were also seen to fall, dead or wounded. A woman is among the killed.

The casualty list, the extent of which has not been definitely ascertained, is a long one. It is estimated that 13 or 14 persons are dead and from 80 to 100 wounded in varying degrees of seriousness.

The Armed Forces, according to many of the onlookers, gave no warning to the spectators to disperse, beyond a preliminary volley of shots in the air. The bullets came as thick as hail, dealing out death in their swift passage. A wild scene of panic ensued and women and children were knocked down and walked upon.

A priest who was a spectator of the tragic occurrence says "I found poor Hogan lying on his back in a pool of blood. His feet were on the playing pitch and his body on the gravel walk."

The Dublin Castle official report which gives the number of dead at about 10 and the number of

wounded and injured about 45, states—"It was believed that a number of gun men came up today under the guise of wishing to attend the Gaelic football match between Dublin and Tipperary, but that their real motive was to take part in the series of murderous outrages which took place in Dublin this morning."

Military enquiries on Tuesday in the case of the other 12 victims were held in private and adjourned after evidence of identification and medical testimony were given.

Counsel and solicitors representing the Corporation and the relatives were informed that the Presidents had instructions to conduct the proceedings as closed courts, but before withdrawing, they were told they would be informed later whether the first sittings would be open to the public."

Fifty years late, on November 22nd, 1970, to be exact, in the company of hundreds of others, I stood around that fatal spot as tribute was paid to Michael

Hogan and those who died. Earlier I stood at the entrance to the "new" Hogan Stand and watched G.A.A. President Pat Fanning unveil a memorial to these great people.

I met survivors of that Tipperary team, something I shall never forget. I spoke with them and was amazed at their accuracy of vision of what happened. I remembered that All-Ireland final day in 1949 when the whole story was first revealed to me, and as I glanced up at the Cusack Stand I remembered that simple question I had asked my father—Why is that Stand called the Hogan Stand? I know the answer now and I felt privileged to have been present at the 50th anniversary of that unforgettable day. An unforgettable—yes indeed, though not one of happy memories. I thought of the intimacy of the G.A.A. with the life of the nation, rejoicing in its victories and triumphs, suffering in its misfortunes and ailments.

Is it any wonder that this nation owes so much to the Gaelic Athletic Association.



The Tipperary team which lined out against Dublin on November 21st, 1920. Front row: J. Doran, T. Powell, B. O'Shea (captain), J. Brett, G. McCarthy. Back: J. Ryan, A. Carey (Co. Secretary), W. Barrett, J. Kickham, M. Hogan, J. McNamara, R. Lanigan, J. Shelly, F. Butler, W. Ryan, T. Ryan, M. Nolan, T. O'Connor, J. Egan, T. Ryan (South Board Secretary).



G.A.A. Board Chairman and Bloody Sunday Survivors

Four surviving members of the Tipperary senior football team who lined-out against Dublin in Croke Park on November 21st, 1920, pictured with County Board Chairman, Seamus Ryan, at the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Ceremony in November. Left to right: Willie Ryan, Castleiney; Jim Ryan, Castleiney; Tommy Ryan, Castlegrace; the Chairman, and Mick Nolan, Mullinahone.

Photo: Devaney Photo Service, Athlone

FOOTBALL HOPES BURN WITH INCREASING BRIGHTNESS

By MICHAEL O'MEARA

ON A dismal Thursday evening last February, Tipperary footballer wound up their 1969-'70 National League campaign when going under to All-Ireland title-holders Kerry at a water-logged Sean Treacy Park. The points table for their League Group showed them anchored firmly at the bottom without a point to show for the six games played. Not a very encouraging start to a New Year and a new decade, one might say. Yet, I firmly believe that the same League campaign, which saw the team in action against three 1969 Provincial Champions in Kerry, Mayo and Offaly, was mainly responsible for the new confidence and fresh enthusiasm which was to grip the County later in the year.

The team performed well enough in these games to convince both players and mentors that there were possibilities of a good championship run. The players at last began to have confidence in their own ability and the Football Committee undertook to make every possible effort to bring about further improvement. All were conscious of the fact that the County had not reached the Munster Final since 1944 and with the draw for 1970 regarded as favourable, it was felt that, at last, the twenty-six year gap might be bridged.

The County agreed to participate in a Supplementary National League for the beaten teams, and in March had their

first outing against Cork who won by virtue of two soft goals in the closing stages and later won the competition.

The opening championship tie against Clare was listed for May 10th and five weeks' training was granted by the County Board. Former Mayo star James P. McGowan, County Engineer for Tipperary S.R., developed a keen interest and agreed to coach the team. The training sessions exceeded all expectations. The players responded magnificently to Mr. McGowan and confidence soared. In this period Supplementary League games against Carlow and Kilkenny brought easy wins and showed that the players were deriving great benefit from the coaching.

The Cork Game

The game against Clare was played and after some anxious moments the team got on top to win well. Now for Cork. Clonmel was to be the venue for this vital semi-final and July 6th was the date. The training continued as before and the Committee arranged attractive games against Galway, Kildare and an All-Ireland Garda Selection. A key player, Denis Burke, left for the States for the summer and was lost to the team. Enthusiasm never waned, however, and 8,000 fans turned out in Clonmel for the Munster semi-final. The game will long be remembered. Tipperary got off to a dream start

and led by 2-1 to 0-1 inside eight minutes, but Cork fought back to be only two points, 2-5 to 1-6, behind at half-time. The home county had played with a stiff breeze, however, so at this stage their prospects were none too bright. Cork drew level after five minutes of the second-half and seemed well on the way to victory. But, what a transformation. With tremendous spirit Tipperary fought back, went a point ahead, and then with fifteen minutes remaining Michael Keating scored the goal of the year beating Billy Morgan from twenty-five yards with an unstoppable shot. For eight thrilling minutes, Tipperary held their four points lead. Then tragedy struck and a rather soft goal was conceded. Four further minutes went by before Cork forced the equaliser from a disputed free. Tipperary lost a chance or two in the closing minutes and Cork came again to get on top and force victory.

Understandably, reaction in the camp was one of keen disappointment. The game was relived over and over again. In the days following the game, however, public reaction to the display was most favourable and it became apparent that even in defeat, something was achieved. J. D. Hickey, of the 'Irish Independent' summed it up—"All that we have been hearing about the upsurge of Tipperary football is no idle chatter."

Wisely, it was agreed to keep



Tipperary—Bloody Sunday Commemoration Victors

Tipperary footballers completed a highly satisfactory year with a two-point win over Dublin in Croke Park on 22nd November—to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday tragedy. Standing (left to right): John O'Donoghue, Dick Strang, Michael Keating, Mick Burns, Eddie Webster, Sean Kearney, Willie Robinson, Michael McCormack. Seated (left to right): Dinny Burke, Davie Fitzgerald, Pat O'Connell (capt.), Liam Myles, Dick O'Gorman, Paudie Blythe, Paddy Moroney.

Photo: Devaney Photo Service, Athlone

the team together. An invitation came from Kerry to play in Cahirciveen in August and this was gladly accepted though it was not possible to field a full strength side. New National League pairings were announced and whilst there were high hopes that the County would secure a place in the top sixteen, this did not materialise. Tipperary were paired with Carlow, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Clare, Wicklow and Kilkenny, in Division 2A, and whilst some were disappointed with this grouping, it is generally

felt that the new system will be a good one. Tipperary must now prove themselves by at least getting promotion. At the time of writing the team has full points from games against Carlow, Limerick, and Waterford, and hopes are high that the early months of 1971 will see the county strongly in contention for Division II honours.

Seeds Sown

1970 may not have been a best ever year for Tipperary football,

but it was certainly a good year, and the seeds sown may yet reap a rich harvest in the coming twelve months.

In other grades the County met with little success. On a bitterly cold April afternoon in Emly the under 21 and junior teams went under heavily to Kerry and Cork respectively. The minors were beaten in a replay by Clare in the special competition but later reversed the result in the Championship. They proved no match for Cork, however, in the semi-final at Clonmel.

HOW OUR FOOTBALLERS FARED

SENIOR FOOTBALL

January 18th at Crossmolina	TIPPERARY	.....	0	4	MAYO	.....	3	3
February 1st at Clonmel	TIPPERARY	.....	1	4	OFFALY	.....	2	5
February 15th at Tipperary	TIPPERARY	.....	0	10	LIMERICK	.....	1	5
February 19th at Tipperary	TIPPERARY	.....	0	4	KERRY	.....	4	11
March 15th at Fermoy	TIPPERARY	.....	0	6	CORK	.....	2	5
April 21st at Kilkenny	TIPPERARY	.....	4	10	KILKENNY	...	1	6
April 26th at Templemore	TIPPERARY	.....	2	14	CARLOW	.....	0	9
May 10th at Limerick	TIPPERARY	.....	2	12	CLARE	.....	1	7
June 1st at Clonmel	TIPPERARY	.....	1	13	GALWAY	.....	1	11
June 11th at Templemore	TIPPERARY	.....	1	10	GARDA SEL.	...	1	14
June 21st at Clonmel	TIPPERARY	.....	1	13	KILDARE	.....	1	11
August 5th at Clonmel	TIPPERARY	.....	3	9	CORK	.....	2	15
August 2nd at Cahirciveen	TIPPERARY	.....	1	7	KERRY	.....	2	16
September 27th at Dublin	TIPPERARY	.....	2	7	LOUTH	.....	1	0
October 18th at Carlow	TIPPERARY	.....	2	15	CARLOW	.....	0	5
November 1st at Tipperary	TIPPERARY	.....	1	8	LIMERICK	.....	0	10

OTHER GRADES

April 5th at Emly	TIPPERARY	.....	0	4	KERRY	.....	2	10	21 F.
April 5th at Emly	TIPPERARY	.....	0	5	CORK	.....	4	14	J.F.
February 22nd at Clonmel	TIPPERARY	.....	1	5	WATERFORD	0	8	M.F.	
March 8th at Dungarvan	TIPPERARY	.....	5	8	WATERFORD	2	5	M.F.	
March 15th at Limerick	TIPPERARY	.....	0	10	CLARE	.....	2	4	M.F.
April 11th at Limerick	TIPPERARY	.....	0	4	CLARE	.....	2	4	M.F.
May 28th at Limerick	TIPPERARY	1	8	CLARE	1	6	M.F.
July 5th at Clonmel	TIPPERARY	0	4	CORK	4	13	M.F.

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Former Tipperary full-back **MICHAEL MAHER** from Holycross (now the county's representative at Central Council) has paid many visits to the U.S. with Tipperary teams. Here, he takes a general look at the relations between both countries and in addition gives a brief account of the history of the U.S. trips.



Michael Maher

WE'LL GO NO MORE

A' ROAMING

ON RETURNING from America in 1965 I wrote: "One returned from the U.S.A. with impressions of a very friendly Irish people in Chicago doing their utmost to promote Gaelic games because they remind them of home, of a New York of teeming millions with a small population of Irish in a Gaelic Park on 242nd St. off Broadway doing exactly the same thing.

"The tours must continue if only to help them but it will need a lot of goodwill on both sides of the Atlantic to make them the success we would like them to be."

There have been changes since culminating in the President with the unanimous approval of Central Council putting an end on October 24th last to all tours to America until the very soonest, January, 1971. Should it have to happen many will ask.

On the resumption of the American visits after the last war organisation at the other side seemed to be better. We then had access to a first class pitch i.e. the Polo Grounds. Here accommodation was good for the players and spectators. Organisation seemed at least as good as at home. The people who owned the ground rented it on a purely business-like basis. They had no attachment to teams and this led to a healthy situation. Teams played there from the Football Final of 1947 to

Brendan Cup Games of 1957. Then for building purposes it was sold and accordingly unavailable anymore.

Up to then Gaelic Park had not housed any major games and on seeing it for the first time I thought it very unsuitable for very important games. The surface is usually rock-like, the goalmouths very dusty and the pitch itself is very small. Furthermore, the crowds are very near the playing area. All those conditions give rise to a charged atmosphere on occasions. A few such occasions have not been helpful, although in fairness one must say that some very good and exciting games have been played there.

Differences of rules and their application between Dublin and New York has further complicated the matter. New York competing in League Finals with no representative on the Central Council has led to poor understanding. Personal misunderstandings have arisen over small matters, ending in lack of good will which is so essential for arranging games at such long distances apart.

New Attraction

The New York tours no doubt added a new attraction to the National Leagues and the trips were much sought after, particularly before excursion fares to

America became so popular as they were to come in recent years. The trips in 1950 and 1957 were very attractive. Teams and officials went out by air. The vacation lasted three to four weeks, including a return trip by sea. Farewells at Shannon were large, long and enjoyable. In 1957 after the plane had returned to Shannon due to an unreliable engine and having been out for five hours the farewell parties were still enjoying airport drink and food. Within more recent years air travel both ways made the holidays much shorter, less ceremonious and with a greater air of casualness.

Players going for Cardinal Cushing games and of very recent years for club games in New York brought the traffic of players very high and needed a high degree of co-operation to have success.

Tipperary more than any other county will miss the American games. Each time they went there it was as a result of winning a competition to qualify. Their contacts were many, hospitable and friendly. They also sent their quota of players for Cardinal Cushing games and last year many went on invitation to play in New York Championships. Many will miss this entertainment but all will agree that every effort must be made to have good relations restored again but present methods of conducting these tours could not continue.

A colleague pays tribute to a man whose untimely death shocked the hurling world during the year

TOM RYAN FROM TOOMEVARA WAS A MAN AMONG MEN

IT WASN'T all that unexpected. We knew things weren't going too well, but this did not lessen the impact in any way when the inevitable news was spread throughout the land. Tom Ryan is dead. Looking back now it is difficult to imagine that this giant of a man, a player who gave sterling service to his club and his county throughout the '60's, will never more grace McDonagh Park, Croke Park, Limerick or Thurles. He has answered the call that must come to all of us, and while a very young man, he live to the full.

Many memories of Tom spring to my mind; some of them that have no connection at all with the G.A.A. I well remember when we were in the U.S. back in 1964 and Tom purchased a magnificent rifle. He had a great love of shooting and he was extremely proud of his purchase. Needless to say, he was the object of a bit of "slagging" from myself and our team mates. We told him he would have us all arrested by daring to bring such an implement into the country. He succeeded in getting it past the custom officials which made his joy all the more complete, and with his own easy going manner he was a very proud man as he left the airport terminal en route to his native parish, where, no doubt, the gun was put to excellent use.

Tom Ryan was one of those players who caught the eye right up along from juvenile grade. At the time, back in the mid '50's, his displays earned for him the commendation of all, and in many books he was termed as the greatest juvenile of all time.

Promise Fulfilled

As he progressed, his promise was fulfilled. He advanced to minor grade and was a member of the Tipperary team which won its last All-Ireland title in that grade in 1959. At midfield he partnered his namesake from Killenaule, who has since togged out in the jerseys of Clare and Galway. The following year he achieved what was probably his greatest ambition when he helped to break the

and his general all-round play were a joy to watch, and if memory serves me rightly, he scored no fewer than nine points in that never to be forgotten county decider.

Having graduated to the Tipperary senior team, he played in numerous positions: corner back, centre back, midfield, and all forward positions; and who will ever forget the noble part he played when introduced as a substitute in the 1962 All-Ireland final again Wexford. Two years later a trip to the U.S. came his way, and in the first leg of the games with New York he was introduced as a substitute at a time when things weren't going too well. He literally revolutionised the Tipperary team in that game and was an automatic choice for the second leg. On the same trip he played a great game at centre back in Chicago.

Tom was not a man to dominate company. Indeed he was anything but. He had a shy but most approachable manner and when he took you into his confidence you knew you had a friend for life. He had a magnificent physique but never over used it on any opponent and there was no fairer man on a field of play.

Death has now overtaken him and his loss to Tipperary and particularly to Toomevara is tremendous. The huge number of club and county hurlers who congregated at his funeral and the expressions on their faces showed clearly what his passing had meant.

Go ndeanadh Dia trochaire ar a ainm.



The late Tom Ryan

Photo: "Tipperary Star"

stranglehold Thurles Sarsfields had on the senior championship, in helping Toomevara to win the title. This final was Tom Ryan's game. His magnificent free taking

A BUSY YEAR FOR BORD NA nOG

The future of hurling and football in Tipperary looks very bright indeed, if one is to judge by the under age activities within the county during the year.

LIAM RYAN, Holycross, County Bord na nOg Secretary, and TOM KIRBY, Kilruane, who holds the secretarial post in the North Division, look back upon the past year.

In the North

THE JUVENILE SCENE in the North was dominated by Kilruane McDonags and Eire Og, Nenagh. Nine competitions were held, involving 17 clubs and a total of 91 teams, making a grand total of games played the staggering total of 120.

Eire Og won the Under 15 Hurling (Urban/Rural), Under 17 Hurling; while Kilruane won Under 15 Hurling (Rural), Under 13 Hurling and Football; Under 15 Football; and it is interesting to note that these great rival clubs met in no fewer than four finals during the year.

Apart from the important role these two clubs played in the running of the Bord during the year, there was a notable contribution from other clubs such as Burgess who reached the Under 15 Rural Final and showed signs of making great strides in that grade. Borrisokane, after a lapse of 17 years, came back with a bang to take the Losers' Group Competition in Under 15 Hurling, while their victims in that decider, Ballinahinch, also brought a ray of hope for the future.

The top game of the year in the Division was the Under 15 (Urban/Rural) Hurling Final played

in Borrisokane between Eire Og and Kilruane. These two teams, who were later on to serve up such scintillating fare in the Turas na nOg Final, gave a tremendous exhibition of hurling on the August Bank Holiday evening. Every ball was fought for with a fierceness and a determination that had the large crowd on its toes throughout. It was a game the fans relished, and what a pity that either side had to lose. The Nenagh boys came out on top in the end by a slender margin.

Undoubtedly the past year was one of the most successful for some time in the Division, attendances were up, the standard in both hurling and football was a big improvement, and we can look forward to better things in the Division as a result.

In the Mid

Juvenile competition in Mid-Tipperary provided some of the highest standards to be seen for years, especially the hurling competition. With the higher standard of competitions, the attendance at the games also increased, and if this favourable trend continues then we can look forward with confidence to the future.

1970 will also be linked with the

unfortunate juvenile happenings in Thurles town. Bad management led to the suspension of two under 13 teams and later to the suspension of their under 17 teams. However a move is now in progress to right the situation.

The year began with the playing off of last year's Under 17 Hurling Competition. Upperchurch-Drombane were victorious over Thurles in a replay. The men from the "church" continued on to win the County title, beating Nenagh in the final.

The first of the 1970 competitions started in May with Under 13 Years Hurling. This competition was introduced to the Division for the first time in 1969. Drom-Inch were the first winners, beating Holycross in the final. This year Holycross won the competition and the team was captained by John Doyle, son of the famous John. The team beat Carrick in the County Semi-final, but were not strong enough for Cashel in the County Final.

Templemore won the Under 13 Football and were beaten by Kilruane in the County Semi-final.

Moyne-Templetuohy won the Brother Doody Cup this year, after a lapse of three years. The biggest attraction in the Under 15 Rural Hurling Competition was the drawn game and replay between Moyne and Moycarkey.

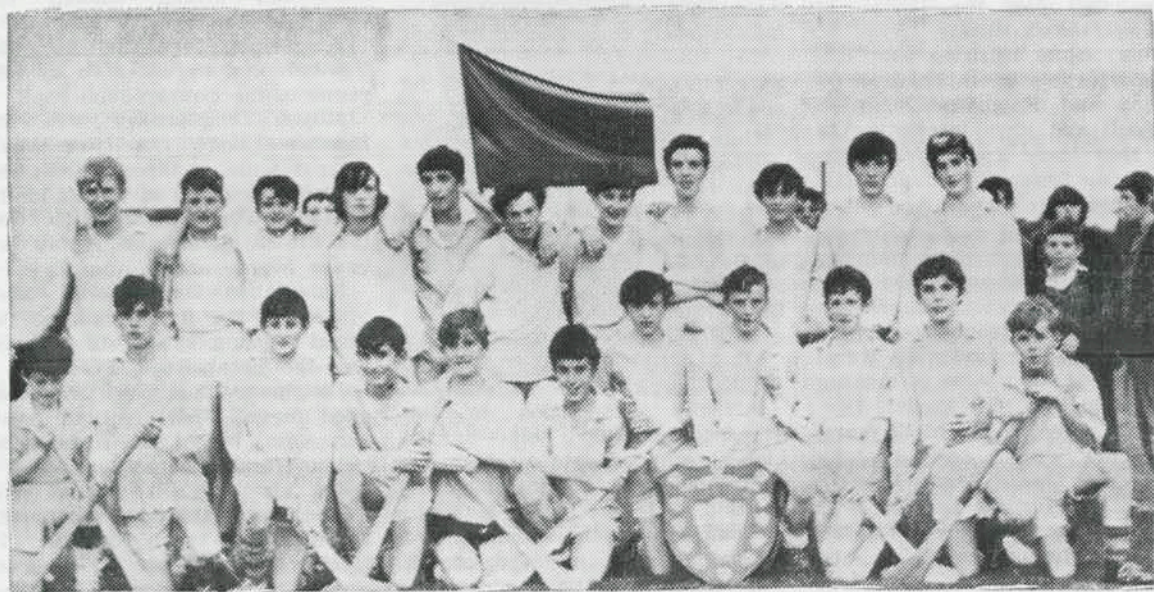
Boherlahan-Dualla who were beaten in the first round of the Rural Hurling sprang to life and won the Urban Rural Final.

Loughmore-Castleiney were too good for all their football rivals and won both the Rural and Urban/Rural Competitions.

The shock result of the year was the defeat of Upperchurch-Drombane in the 1970 Under 17 Hurling Competition. With practically the same team as last year they went down to a spirited Moycarkey team in Holycross. This competition has yet to be finished,



Upperchurch/Drombane who won the 1969 County Under 17 title in July 1970 by defeating Eire Og (Nenagh).



EIRE OG (NENAGH)—County Urban/Rural Under 15 Hurling Champions.

Photo: Patrick Stephens, Nenagh

as has the Under 17 Football Competition.

All in all the Mid Juvenile Bord i. satisfied the standard of juvenile competition in the Division is on an upward trend.

In the West

Sean Treacy's won both the Rural and Urban/Rural Hurling Competitions — this was for the first time, beating Cappawhite easily enough in the Rural Final, but in the Urban/Rural their task was more difficult, narrowly beating a very good Cashel team.

Cashel beat Clonoulty in the Under 13 Hurling Final and went on to win the County Championship. Here we must congratulate Brother Noonan for the wonderful work his is doing for juveniles in Cashel.

Arravale Rovers are the Urban/Rural Football winners and look like winning the County title. Galtee Rovers, Bansha, won the Rural Football title and then went on to win the County Football title. Cappawhite won the Under 17 Hurling Final, while Arravale Rovers took the Under 17 Football title. All in all our Reporter says it was not a great year in general. The young fellows are as keen as ever to play Gaelic games, but they must be properly organised.

In the SOUTH

IN the South a record entry of 86 teams took part in the eight championships in South Tipperary. Chief honours went to Fethard

who captured both Rural Competitions in Under 15, Ballingarry being the defeated finalists on both occasions.

The Under 13 Competitions were run for the first time in the Division and the winners were Carrick Davins in Hurling and Clonmel Commercial in Football. The Hurling Final produced the best game of hurling of the year between the two Carrick clubs. In the Urban/Rural Hurling Carrick Swans emerged victorious. The Urban/Rural Football Competition still remains to be completed.

A very successful Under 14 League was run for the weaker clubs and in a very exciting final Fr. Sheehy's emerged victorious, but later lost the match on an objection.

The Under 17 Hurling and Football Competitions still remain to be completed.

Inter Divisional Level

At Inter Divisional level a very high standard was recorded in all competitions. "The best games of the year were to be seen at juvenile level." (Tipperary Star). With the standard so high—the crowds followed a crowd of 1,300 people watch Clonoulty and Upperchurch play in the Under 17 County Semi-Final at Holycross. But the best game of the year was the play off for Turas na nOg between Nenagh and Kilruane at Borrisokane. The referee for that game was John Moloney. The following is an extract from his report:

"No game that I have refereed this year has given me so much pleasure than this one and I congratulate all the players on a remarkable exhibition of hurling. My faith in the game has been restored completely."

In the Under 17 Hurling Semi-Final (1969) the two neighbouring parishes, Clonolty and Upperchurch, met, but after an hour of great hurling the teams ended on level terms. A fortnight later the teams met again at Holycross. Another great game followed with Upperchurch getting through to the Final.

The Final was contested between Nenagh and Upperchurch-Drombane—Nenagh were the favourites, but at the final whistle "the church" were triumphant.

In the Rural Hurling Kilruane won the County title with Nenagh winning the Urban/Rural. Both titles went to the North. The County Under 13 Hurling Final was contested between Cashel and Holycross, with Cashel emerging victorious. The Under 13 Football title went to Clonmel Commercial. Solohead took the 1969 Under 17 Football title. The Urban/Rural Football and Under 17 Hurling, with the Under 17 Football Competitions still remain to be completed.

At juvenile level hurling is still very strong. Some clubs need better organisation with a separate committee to look after juveniles. The youth of the county are as keen as ever to play Gaelic games.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

By
SEAMAS O RIAIN, N.T.
(County Board Chairman)

THE Club Development Scheme was launched last January. It was given widespread publicity through various media. Special explanatory brochures have been widely distributed and newspaper articles have covered the purpose of the scheme and explained the details of it.

Each County Board set up a Special Committee to deal with promotion in the area and to make the public aware of the reasons for setting up the scheme and what it was aimed to achieve.

So it comes as a surprise that so many people have not a clear understanding of it and that there are, in fact, misconceptions about it.

Let us have a look at the reasons for establishing this scheme in the first place. The Association has always been a developing body with the main emphasis in one direction or another. At one period the main purpose was to form more clubs, and to create more competition in the different grades. At another time the acquisition of a playing field for each club was the chief aim. Except in areas of very large population, we have probably reached saturation point in the number of clubs, and many clubs have their own playing fields. Progress must continue, of course, is acquiring fields where this need has not yet been met.

In recent years we have become more conscious of another great need. The changing times, the increase in leisure time, the call of other attractions, all of these point to the necessity for meeting-rooms which will be the focal point of the club activities off the playing field. The club is expected to provide a variety of activities in addition to the actual playing of the games and complementary to them. In other words, it should give a service not alone to its playing members but also to its

supporters and even beyond this to the whole community.

This brings us to the broader question of the community centre. The need for such centres is so obvious that it hardly requires to be emphasised. It is particularly urgent in the growing population centres where large numbers of young people, some still school-going, others just started in a job, are asking for a place where there are amenities that they can enjoy, physically, mentally and morally. This desire is not confined to the young only; people of all ages want a central community place. Neither the State nor the local authorities are in a position to provide such centres or to look after them. It is part of the G.A.A.'s service to the community to undertake this type of development. There are two major requirements:

- (1) Local initiative, support, and organisation.
- (2) Financial assistance.

The first depends on an understanding and appreciation of the need, and dedication to meet it.

To provide the second, the Association devised the Club Development Scheme.

The Programme

The first target is to establish a Central Fund of a quarter of a million pounds, and from this, clubs have invested, some taking a number of units. Many individuals have also seized the opportunity of joining in this community development. They deserve the thanks and appreciation of the County Board and their names will be recorded in books of the loans at a low interest rate will be made to clubs for the purpose outlined.

The fund will be built up from investments made by clubs, in-

dividuals or companies. Investments are in units of £100 for at least five years and investors will be rewarded by being included in a monthly draw for £500. An investor may make more than one unit investment.

The type of development undertaken by a club will depend on the needs of the area. What suits an urban area would be out of place in a rural district, and of course the cost should be related to the expected income and capacity to pay over a limited period.

Progress in Tipperary

The response to the scheme has been very favourable throughout the country and some very large investments have been obtained from firms. In Tipperary no such large investments have been forthcoming but we are not without hope that there are six companies operating in the county whose managements will appreciate the value of this programme and the benefit it will be to their staff members, and that they will participate to a substantial amount. Such an investment would bring returns far superior to any material interest.

So far Tipperary has been mainly dependent on clubs and individuals and they have responded splendidly. The great majority of county. A special word is due to the Tipperary people in Dublin who have given their support so generously.

As a result Tipperary figures amongst the leading counties in investment returns. This is a position we must maintain and so there is much work yet to be done. The divisional committees are pushing ahead with their efforts to obtain additional investments in order to reach the county's target for 1970. Every new unit invested brings us a step nearer.

ROSCREA—

STILL THE SENIOR HURLING KINGPINS

By WILLIE O'DONNELL

THANKS to the Moneygall Club's motion at the 1969 Convention, we now have an open draw for the senior hurling championship. Although but two years in operation the change has proved an unqualified success.

This year, 28 teams from all parts of the county participated. The draw—with the previous season's divisional champions: Roscrea, Sarsfields, Golden/Kilfeacle, and Carrick Davins being awarded a bye into the second round, was made as follows:

Holycross 4-3 v. Ballybacon/Grange 3-9; Marfield 2-6 v. Moyne/Templetuohy 3-7; Arravale Rovers 0-5 v. Newport 6-4; Cashel King Cormacks 4-6 v. Moneygall 5-6; Na Piarraig 3-11 v. Eire Og (Nenagh) 1-3; Lorrha 3-1 v. Sean Treacys 4-10; Erin go Brath 1-5 v. Toomevara 6-8; Wild Rovers 0-9 v. Kilruane McDonaghs 3-8; Eire Og (Anacarty) 3-2 v. Moycarker-Borris 6-10; St. Augustine's 2-1 v. Borrisoleigh 5-12; Knockavilla-Kickhams 3-2 v. St. Brendan's 6-7; Clonoulty/Rossmore 2-8 v. Borrisokane 5-8.

All games were played on May 3rd with double features at five venues. Divisional representation left in contention, including respective champions, was: North 9, Mid 3, South 3, West 2.

The second round pairings were: Borrisokane 4-9 v. Moycarkey 1-10; Kilruane McDonaghs 2-9 v. Moyne/Templetuohy 0-10; Toomevara 6-19 v. Golden/Kilfeacle 4-7; Thurles Sarsfields 10-8 v. Na Piarraig 6-5; Ballybacon/Grange 3-13 v. St. Brendans 2-6; Carrick Davins 1-12 v. Moneygall 1-10; Roscrea 4-5 v. Sean Treacys 1-14;

Newport 2-11 v. Borrisoleigh 3-7. **Replay:** Roscrea 2-16 v. Sean Treacys 0-10.

Highlight of Round 2 was the great fight put up by Sean Treacys against the champions, Roscrea, who, however, made sure of victory in the replay. This round saw the elimination of West Tipperary from the competition. Sole Mid contender left was Thurles Sarsfields, with South sporting two, while North continued to dominate with 5 teams standing.

Games in the quarter finals resulted as follows: Ballybacon-Grange 5-10 v. Borrisokane 5-10; Carrick Davins 2-23 v. Kilruane McDonaghs 3-7; Thurles Sarsfields 5-16 v. Toomevara 3-5; Roscrea 2-8; Newport 1-8. **Replay:** Borrisokane 7-19 v. Ballybacon/Grange 3-10.

The line-up for the semi-finals saw Thurles Sarsfields drawn against Borrisokane, with the champions (Roscrea) down to meet South champions, Carrick Davins.

Both games were played in Thurles Sportsfield on Sunday, 20th September.

Mammoth Totals

Sarsfields and Borrisokane had both put up mammoth totals in the quarter finals and the Northern team was installed favourites with the fans. Reasons for this were the in and out displays of the Mid representatives and the fact that, a short time previously, they were beaten by Moyne/Templetuohy in the Divisional final. They were, however, a law unto themselves on the Thurles pitch

and especially when in sight of a county championship title.

We saw vintage performances from the experienced Jimmy Doyle and Sean McLoughlin, backed up by creditable displays from the Doyle cousins, Paddy and Jimmy (jun.), Michael McElgun, T. J. Semple, and Murt Collins, which saw them through by four points (2-11 to 1-10) despite heroic effort by Borrisokane, for whom Mackey and brother Tony McKenna, Tom, McGarry, Mick Murphy and Vincent Duff put up better than average displays.

The game between the champions and Carrick Davins was a repeat of the disastrous county decider of the previous season. A watering-down of the Roscrea standard—they got it tough from Newport—and an apparent upsurge in Carrick's games—they scored 2 goals and 23 pts. against Kilruane—gave rise to hopes that this was going to be the game of the year. Alas! for hopes, for this game turned out to be a bigger anti-climax than was last year's encounter.

Davins were but a pale shadow of their once powerful selves and one could scarcely credit the sub-standard displays given by such established hurlers as P. J. and brother Jimmy Ryan, Brian Kenny, Jack Walshe and Mick Roche, although to be fair to the last-named, he was severely handicapped by a shoulder injury. By comparison, such players as Francis Loughnane, Kieran Carey, Tadhg Murphy, Patsy Roland, Tadhg O'Connor, Donie Moloney,

Joe Tynan and Jack Hannon looked world beaters.

Thus the stage was set for a confrontation between doughty battlers and many-times champions, Thurles Sarsfields, and Roscrea, holders of the title for the past two seasons.

The Final

A goodly crowd turned up for the game, which was played at Thurles on the 4th October. Conditions, although somewhat cold, were pleasant enough for hurling.

Favoured by a breeze which blew into the town goal in the opening half, the champions put up a fine show and, thanks to the fine play and accurate marksmanship of Francis Loughnane, who was dominating the midfield area, Roscrea were in complete command and at the short whistle

were some seven or eight points to the good.

When that lead stretched through the addition of a fine goal shortly after the re-start, it looked as if Sarsfields' goose was well and truly cooked. Thanks to some fine work by the Doyles, Jimmy, senior and junior, Paddy and that wily forward, Sean McLoughlin, Sarsfields began the long haul back. T. J. Semple began to hurl Loughnane of the game and McElgun and goalie Duggan put up the shutters. Semple and Jimmy Doyle whittled the lead with a succession of points. A goal from a 21 yards free and a typical palmed one from McLoughlin brought Sarsfields right back into the game. They mounted incessant pressure on the Roscrea defence and only the wizardry of Tadhg Murphy kept them out. Came the closing minutes and Roscrea a

bare goal ahead. Sarsfields were awarded a free on the 21. Jimmy Doyle, realising that the hour was almost up, shot for the roof of the net but the ball travelled that fraction too high and Roscrea had taken their third title in a row on the score: Roscrea 3-11; Thurles Sarsfields 2-12.

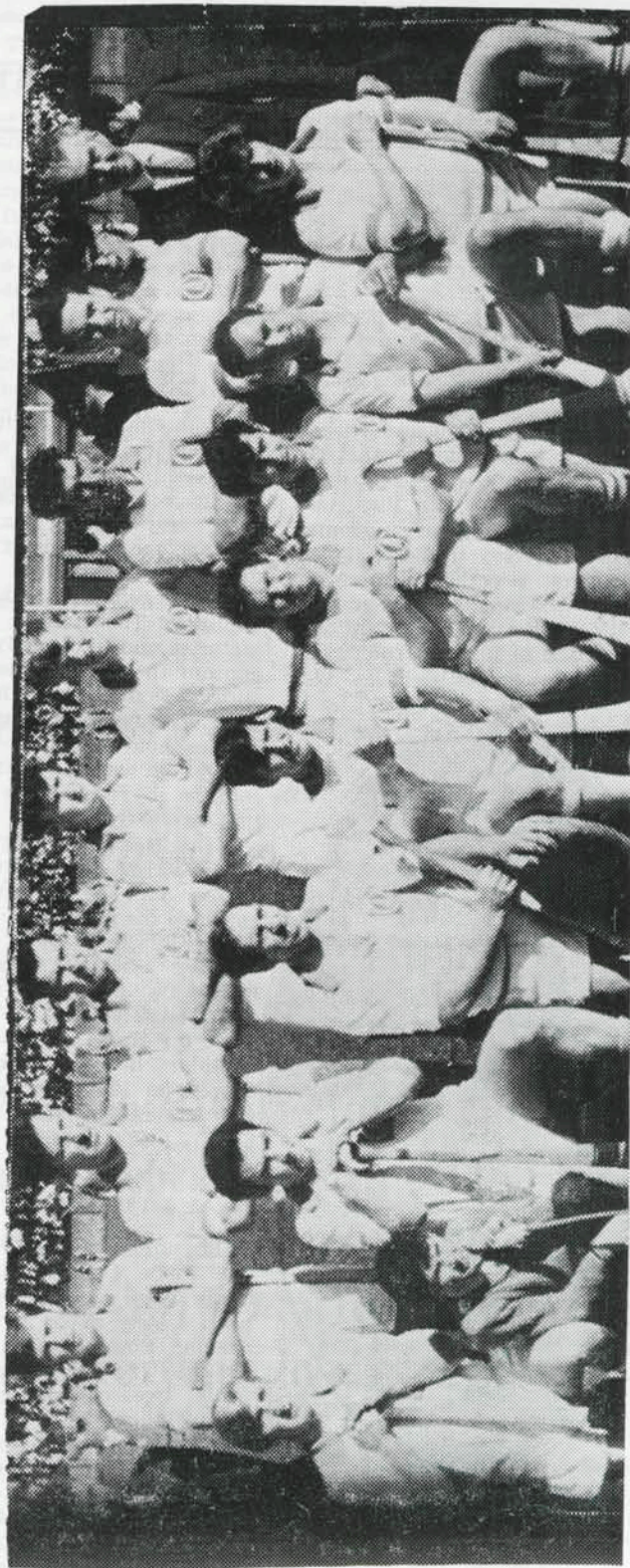
This was a final that will be remembered. It will be remembered for the fine goalkeeping of both Murphy and Duggan, the fine defensive work of Carey, Roland and O'Connor on the one side and that of McElgun and the Doyles on the other, the cut and thrust in respective halves of both Loughnane and Semple, and the all-out assaults by such as Tynan, and Hogan and Hannon on the one hand, and on the other the do or die efforts of Jimmy Doyle, McLoughlin and, at times, Paul Byrnes.

WHEN IN ROSCREA VISIT THE

GAELIC BAR

FOR ATTENDANCE AND COMFORT

J. J. MAHER
GAELIC BAR
ROSCREA



Roscrea—Tipperary S.H. Champions

ROSCREA—Co. Champions for the 3rd successive year and North Divisional Champions for four consecutive years. Standing (left to right): Jackie Hannon, Kieran Carey, Mick Hogan, Jimmy Crampton, Tadgh Murphy, Harry Loughnane, Mick Minogue, John Joe Maher (secretary). Front (left to right): Joe Tynan, Francis Loughnane, Patsy Roland, Donie Maloney, Barney Hogan, Tadgh O'Connor, Mick Nolan, Brendan Maher.

Photo: Patrick Stephens, Nenagh

1970 saw a County title return to famed Boherlahan after many years in the wilderness. A former stalwart from that noted club takes a look at—

BOHERLAHAN'S PROUD RECORD

THE VICTORY of Boherlahan in the 1970 Minor Hurling Championship reminds us of the proud record of the parish in Tipperary hurling. The first appearance of a Boherlahan team in a County Senior Final was in 1888, when Clonoulty were victors in the second County decider to be played.

Not until 1915 does the name of the parish appear as County Champions, but in between five titles had been won in the names of Tubberadora (3), Suir View and Ballytarsna. Tubberadora (called after a townland in the north of the parish on the bounds of Holy-cross parish) achieved their first County title in '95 by beating their neighbours, Suir View (from the Ardmayle end of the parish) in the County Final at Cashel when extra time had to be played.

This game was the first in the county for which a charge was made (2d.) and receipts were £40. These two teams met again for the '96 Final, with victory again going to Tubberadora. The latter withdrew from the '97 championship, and Suir View made no mistake in winning the County title. Tubberadora appeared again in '98 to record another victory, and have the great record of never being beaten in championship hurling at club or county level for the three years in which they competed. Their only defeat was at the hands of Tulla (Clare) in the Croke Cup.

Same Colours

The Boherlahan team which won nine County Championships in the 'teens and twenties sported the

same colours as Tubberadora and when their selection won the All-Ireland in 1916 wore the same peaked caps as their illustrious predecessors. Tipperary adopted its present jersey in 1925 when a Boherlahan selection again won National Honours. When the County won its first National League title in 1927-28 (the second of the series) Boherlahan was

again in charge of operations. The last County Final at senior level was won in 1941 and it is interesting to recall that from 1915 to 1941 every winning team included at least one member of the Leahy and Power brothers.

The legendary Mikey Maher captained Tubberadora in all their victories and is the only Tipperary captain to have led his county to three national titles. When the gallant Johnny Leahy skippered his men to their second All-Ireland win in 1925 he was the first Tipperary captain to receive the McCarthy Cup, a distinction he also holds for the National League Trophy. Denis Walsh was a member of all Tubberadora's champion teams and collected his fifth Celtic Cross with Boherlahan in 1916, 21 years after winning his first. Watty Dunne helped Tubberadora to County and All-Ireland honours in '98, did the same for Horse and Jockey in '99, captained Ballytarsna to a County success in 1901 and lent his hand to Boherlahan for a further County medal in 1915.

Links

Old timers may like to learn of the links between the present Minor team and the teams of the past. I have space for only a few. Seamas Power (captain) is nephew of Jack and Paddy Power, while two of his grand-uncles, Jack Maher (Jack of the Fields) and John Connolly helped Tubberadora in all their victories. The latter was also a great-grandfather of Jim Keane. Peter Maher, a Suir View stalwart who helped Tubberadora to All-Ireland honours in



Boherlahan's most famous son
—Johnny Leahy

Photo: "Tipperary Star"

'95 was a great-grand uncle of Jim Maher, son of the present club chairman, Tim Maher. The famous Arthur O'Donnell was a grand-uncle of the same player. Timmy Coffey is nephew of John and Flor Coffey, both All-Ireland medallists of the forties. Christy Croke is a great-grand nephew of Jack Doherty, full-back on the 1916 championship side. Jack Maher, who helped Tubberadora to their last All-Ireland success in '98, was a brother of Captain Mikey and grandfather of Kieran, John and Billy, the latter two being sons of Sonny of the three-in-a-row championship side in '49-'51. Wm. O'Dwyer (Lisloran), a member of the '16 stalwarts, was the other grandfather of John and Billy. Tommy

Walsh is standard-bearer of the great hurling family of that name. His grandfather Johnny and grand-uncle Denis helped Tubberadora in all their triumphs and aided the 'Jockey to highest honours in '99. Johnny also assisted Two-Mile-Borris in 1900, while Denis (already mentioned in this article) was helped by brother Dick in winning the '16 championship.

In conclusion, let us express the hope that this present victory is but the forerunner of many more for club and county.

Incidentally, it's worthy of mention, before I finish, that four Leahy brothers won All-Ireland senior honours, a record still unbroken. Jimmy Maher, goalkeeper

with Tipp's championship side in '45, was son of Ned Maher, culbáire in all of Tubberadora's triumphs, who was a backman with Two-Mile-Borris champion side of 1900.

Out of some 60 parishes in the county only 12 have won county titles in senior hurling, four of those winning one each. Four parishes have won ten or more championships each, namely, Thurles, Boherlahan, Moycarkey and Toomevara which together account for 80% of the 79 played. On a divisional basis, one parish has brought three titles to South Tipperary; two parishes two titles to West Tipperary; four parishes 17 titles to North, and five parishes 57 titles to Mid.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Mean)

We wish to take this opportunity of expressing our deepest gratitude to all who helped the Board in the successful running of its affairs during 1970, and extend best wishes to all for good fortune in 1971



Boherlahan—County M.H. Champions

The resurgence of Boherlahan has been welcomed in all parts of the county. Here is the side which won the club's first ever minor title in 1970: Front row (left to right)—Tim Maher (chairman), Michael Moloney, Joe Sweeney, Phil Coman, Tommy Walsh, Seamus Power (captain), Christy Croke, Willie Patterson, Seamus Manton, Jim Coman, Liam Ryan, Philip Heffernan (secretary). Standing (left to right): Benny Ryan, Billy Maher, John Maher, Pakie Ryan, Jim Maher, Willie Gleeson, Timmy Coffey, Billy Hassett, Jim Keane, Kieran Maher, Noel Browne, J. O'Connor (trainer).

Photo: W. J. Boland, Clonmel

MICHAEL O'MEARA paints a rather gloomy picture of the County football highlights, in a year which saw

ARDFINNAN'S OVERDUE SUCCESS

THE 1970 County Football Championships will be remembered more for unsporting behaviour than for quality football. The finals in both senior and minor grade were spoiled by unruly scenes resulting from the involvement of spectators on the field of play. Happily, it was possible to play out the hour in the senior final, but unfortunately the minor decider had to be abandoned eight minutes from time.

Highlight of the year was, of course, Ardfinnan's overdue success in the senior championship. Runners-up in 1968 and again in 1969, they made no mistake on this occasion and were highly deserving of their first title since 1964.

A total of nineteen teams entered for the "open draw" championship and three preliminary games were played to reduce the number to sixteen. Fethard, Moyle Rovers and Mullinahone were the survivors and the first round proper was then run off speedily. Ardfinnan were none too impressive in disposing of Cahir, but Commercials, Fr. Sheehys, Moyle Rovers and Fethard all shaped well in accounting for Mullinahone, Clonoulty, Rossmore, Thurles and Emly, respectively. A big sensation was the decisive victory of unconsidered Eire Og, Anacarty, over 1968 title-holders, Kilsheelan. Moneygall, who defeated Lattin/Cullen, and Galtee Rovers, who just got through after a few games with Moyne/Templetoohy, were the other clubs to advance to the last eight.

Here Commercials and Ardfinnan seemed to have little to fear against Eire Og and Galtee Rovers and so it proved. Both sides gave impressive displays in securing their semi-final places. In the

other games Fethard only survived against Fr. Sheehys by the narrowest of margins and Moyle Rovers just edged out Moneygall.

Semi-finals

The semi-finals were not held until late October when Commercials faced Moyle Rovers and Ardfinnan clashed with Fethard in a double bill at Clonmel. After a tough, hard-hitting game, which saw two men from Commercials and one from Moyle Rovers get the line, the Clonmel side came through by a six point margin.

The second game provided much better football and Ardfinnan, inspired by Mick Keating and showing their best form of the year, staked a firm claim to the title with an impressive win.

Conditions were far from ideal for a final which promised much, but which proved very disappointing. On the day Ardfinnan proved much the better team and having taken an early lead they never looked back. Once again Mick Keating was their hero, having a hand in the majority of scores. He got invaluable assistance from Jim Healy, Patsy Ryan, Pat Carroll, Mick Hynes, Liam Myles, John Cummins, Pete Savage and Tommy Ryan.

The losers never showed the form of which they are capable, but they had a good run in the previous years and can have few regrets.

Minor Grade

In minor grade the Divisional titles went to Slievenamon, Solohead, Templemore and Kilruane McDonagh. The South and West teams clashed in the first semi-final at Cahir and after a very enjoyable game the Mullinahone St. Patrick's combination came out on

top. Kilruane caused something of a surprise by ousting Templemore in a replay, and went out to face the South combination in the final at Thurles. The North champions got off to a great start with two goals in the first three minutes. Slievenamon staged a fine recovery, however, and piled on the pressure to go 2-6 to 2-2 ahead at the interval. They increased their lead in the second half and were in front by 3-7 to 2-2 when the referee, following several encroachments of the pitch, was forced to abandon the game eight minutes from time. Slievenamon owed much to the efforts of Michl. Boland, Jim Fitzgerald, Paddy Hickey, Jim Boland, John Brett, John Fitzgerald, Lorcan Heikley, and Paddy Bolger.

The junior and under-21 championships have yet to be decided as I write. Slievenamon have advanced to their under-age final, where they will face the Mid or North, whilst in junior the Inter-Divisional line-up is Ballyporeen v. Aherlow, and Newport v. Moycarkey.

Early in the year Clonmel Commercials gave a fine performance by taking the 1969 under 21 title at the expense of Silvermines.

The Finals

County S.F. Final:

Ardfinnan 1-11
Clonmel Commercials ... 2-2

Co. M.F. Final:

Slievenamon 3-7
Kilruane 2-2
(Abandoned with 8 minutes to go). Slievenamon awarded the game.

Co. U-21 F. Final:

Not yet played.

Co. J.F. Final:

Not yet played.



South Tipperary senior football champions—Kilsheelan.

Photo: W. J. Boland, Clonmel

County Board Secretary LIAM O'REILLY from Clonmel reviews the history of what has so often been called the poor relation of the G.A.A.—Handball—and discusses its development down the years

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE STATE OF HANDBALL

AS TRADITIONAL as the game of hurling and played in many different forms throughout the world, it is, perhaps, surprising that handball does not enjoy a more eminent position in Irish sporting life.

While the game had been played in Ireland long before it was first recorded in the early 19th century, it was not until 1922 that an effort was made to organise and control it with the formation of the Leinster Handball Council.

Handball had, of course, been included in the Charter of the G.A.A. in 1884.

In 1923 the first handball championships, sponsored by the G.A.A. were played in both hardball and softball.

1925 saw the inauguration of the first handball all-Irelands, which were, and still are, run on the same basis as employed by the G.A.A. in hurling and football.

County Handball Boards were set up in the various counties and, while these Boards conduct their affairs independently of the G.A.A. Boards, they are, in most cases, dependent on the G.A.A. Boards for financial support.

Hardball and Softball

Those not closely associated with handball may be confused by the expressions "hardball" and "softball."

The original game of handball was played with the present-day hardball—this ball resembles a golf ball with the difference being that it is covered by goatskin or sheepskin. The playing rules for

hardball are exactly similar to those for softball with one exception.

Senior hardball matches are decided on a "rubber" of five games. Not too many years ago the hardball "rubber" was seven games.

In comparison with softball there is very little play in a hardball match as most of the points are scored directly off serving.

This is one of the reasons why hardball is played on a rapidly diminishing basis, plus the fact the actual balls are becoming increasingly difficult to come by.

The demand is not sufficient enough to render the manufacture of the balls profitable.

The recent World Handball Championships held at the new court at Croke Park could well sound the death-knell for hardball.

International handball is being played with a softball and as the Irish game is being geared towards set international rules it appears that the old game of hardball will eventually die out.

World Championships

Although international handball has been played since 1887 it was not until 1964 that the first World Championships were played.

These championships were held in New York with entries from the U.S.A., Canada, Mexico, Australia and Ireland.

In 1967 the championships were held in Toronto and in Dublin in 1970.

While the game as played in the different countries varies some-

what, the World Handball Committee are working towards standardising the rules.

The greatest remaining obstacle is the courts themselves.

An Irish handball court measures 60 ft. long, 30 ft. high, and 30 ft. wide, with a back wall not less than 9 ft. high.

The American, Canadian and Mexican courts are much smaller, measuring 40 ft. long, 20 ft. high, and 20 ft. wide, with a back wall 12 ft. high.

These courts are often incorporated in sky-scraper blocks.

Down through the years the main principle adopted was to engage as many as possible in playing the game. In addition to the original championships, extra competitions, such as the Gael-Linn Cup, the National Handball League and the Inter-Club Championships were introduced.

In fact there is almost a surfeit of games on the handball calendar and, as a result, officials' time is spent to a large extent in running the various championships, leaving them very little scope to consider other avenues of promotion.

New Ideas

Recently, however, new ideas have been propounded and two of them at least should be given careful consideration.

The first suggestion is that handball championships should be played on a regional basis rather than on the present provincial lines.

This might appear a radical idea, involving as it does the aboli-

tion of provincial boundaries. On the other hand it opens up a whole new pattern of ideas and should be explored to the fullest.

A second suggestion involved the staging of Handball Blitzes. The latter was adopted for trial by the Munster Handball Council in 1970 and proved very successful.

On Whit week-end, the six Munster counties came to Cappagh, Co. Limerick, played first round matches and semi-finals on the first day and the finals on the second day.

It was a novel experience and was enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

To further the above idea covered courts are a necessity. Indeed Leinster would appear to be the ideal testing ground, having thirteen covered courts to Munster's three.

In addition to the foregone suggestions, there is one very important role handball can play in providing entertainment.

Adapted

It is not economical to construct covered courts and use them solely for handball. Covered courts could, in many cases, be adapted for use by other indoor sports such as squash and badminton.

Also, when a club is considering building a covered court, they should, where finances permit, plan for suitable club-rooms, etc.



Sixteen-year-old Willie Fitzgibbon, Tipperary Town, winner of the Tailteann Games (singles) in Croke Park, one of the brightest prospects in Tipperary handball.

A premises built on these lines would form the nucleus of an ideal social centre.

Many such centres might well have been incorporated beneath stands at leading Gaelic grounds.

As a handballing county, Tipperary is very much to the fore, lying second in the honours list with 46 all-Ireland titles to Kilkenny's 69, and followed by Kerry who have won 44 titles.

The county boasts of the largest number of affiliated clubs in the country, 18 in all, and hopes to improve this number in 1971.

Notable "Firsts"

A number of notable "firsts" have been scored by Tipperary handballers, these include J.S.B.D., J.H.B.S., and J.M.B.D. titles, all of which were won in 1928.

No record of Tipperary handball would be complete without mention of the famous Hassett brothers (Nenagh) who ruled the S.S.B.D. scene unbeaten from 1934 to 1938. This pairing has been classed among the greats of doubles handball.

Then there was Joe Bergin, from Nenagh, who in his playing days, collected six all-Ireland medals. A host of others who brought honours to the county include such household names as Paddy Ormonde, Tom Shanahan, the Collins brothers, the Kennedys, and present-day king, Paddy Hickey of Clogheen, who to date has five all-Ireland victories to his credit.

JOHN MOLONEY from Bansa is one of Ireland's top referees and in this article his advice to up and coming men in the middle is:

BE STRICT: IT PAYS OFF IN THE LONG RUN

WHILE the Gaelic Athletic Association came into being in Thurles in 1884 it wasn't until four years later that a referee's whistle became a reality. To-day, a referee may think he has problems but consider the plight of a man back in those far-off days, trying to control a game involving twenty-one players on each side—and all that without a whistle!

But one cannot escape from the fact that to-day refereeing is a very serious business indeed. The G.A.A. is now going through a very critical period; we are living in the age of challenge; an age in which every thing is questioned. Never has the proper control of our games been so important. It is my own firm conviction that bad refereeing is turning away quite a number of youngsters from our games, particularly hurling, and so to all our referees I say: stamp out anything which you feel is even remotely dangerous. In the wrong hands nothing is more lethal than a hurley, but used properly it is a thing of beauty.

From my own experience, I have come to realise that strict refereeing earns a lot of respect. I have just completed my 11th year as a referee and to tell you the truth, when I started out first I thought I knew it all. This notion was quickly changed, however, with an experience that altered my entire outlook on refereeing. I well remember one certain Sunday in Cashel. The occasion was the West Division junior hurling final and I was given the job of taking charge. I ran into trouble that

day and I can blame no one but myself. Such a display of downright bad, careless refereeing. I allowed late tackling, early tackling, high and low pulling, and because of my laxity the game had just about everything it shouldn't have. How players escaped without serious injury I do not know—all because of my failure to let it be known from the start that such incidents would not be tolerated. Yes, I thought I knew it all.

And to add fuel to the fire, the watch I was using (which was not my own) was broken into smithereens!

Do it—or quit

When my behaviour was brought home to me after that game, I made up my mind that I should either do the job properly (provided, of course, any one would have trust in me to take charge again) or else quit.

I didn't quit but I quickly changed my method of controlling games and the years that have passed since have been the most memorable in my life. A really unforgettable period, a time which has brought me into contact with many fine people, at home and abroad. Places I will never forget are Skibereen in Cork; Doonbeg in Clare; Hilltown in Down; Wexford, Bermingham, Ballina, Tuam, Castlebar, New York, Boston and many others, and I make no boast of the fact that all this good fortune has come my way because I am a strict referee, who tries to

make our games safe for those who want to participate.

So Moloney has an opinion of himself, you say. I agree all this may sound boastful, but the point I am trying to bring out, and drive home, especially to our young referees, is that a wonderful career awaits you if you show just a little moral courage. Get out there and do the job as it should be done; you may not be too popular for a season or two, but as long as you are sincere in which you are doing, and have a good knowledge of the rules, it will pay off. Be assured of that.

To the public and team officials I would say: Give the ref. a break. Put yourself in his boots, out there in the midst of thirty enthusiastic players, and mind you, things look an awful lot different. Gaelic games are fast, very fast; so many problems arise; when to blow, when not to blow, that is the question. The decision made is his alone and there is no going back. You are sitting there snugly in your seat. If you are a keen supporter of one particular side, there isn't much point in talking to you, you can only see one side of things anyhow. But you'll shout and let your feelings be heard in no uncertain fashion and I'll bet an awful lot of you wouldn't have the courage to take a flag at one of the goals. You know what decision to make; of course you do. Like me when I started out, you know it all, but there is one mighty big difference. Your decision, or what you feel should be done doesn't affect the players, the game or anything else. The poor

ref. is stuck with it, whether he likes it or not.

Fair Minded

I can tell you that most of the refs. I know are honourable men. They are fair-minded and not given to making deliberate mistakes. At least give us credit for that.

You know, a good one happened to me one evening last summer, when in the company of a few of the lads I was on my way to Clonmel to referee a match for Gerry O'Keeffe. En route, I was

"thumbed" by a reverend gentleman (he turned out to be Scottish), on his way to Waterford. We chatted and talked along the way and when he eventually found out my mission and the hazardous pastime I dabbled in, he became very interested.

Wise man Moloney, travelling with only three umpires and always on the look-out for suckers, saw his opportunity. Would the reverend gentleman care to tag along and complete my team of officials? I even guaranteed him safe passage to Waterford after the game. His refusal was em-

phatic but he didn't leave it at that and like all the clergy he began to give me a lucid and I suppose a satisfactory explanation for his decision. It seems he had been in Cork the week before and he was at a match. It was a most exciting one but what really stuck him about the set up was the huge crowd of referees that were there!

How right he was. We have some whopping great players and officials on the fence, so please gentlemen and LADIES too, when next you feel like shouting—Hey Ref.! hold your tongue; he's only human too, you **know**.



John Moloney with two of his highly efficient umpires, Jim O'Connor and Michael Moloney (brother)

THE GOOD OLD (G.A.A.) DAYS

Reminiscences of a trip to the U.S.A. in 1926

HOW glad and proud I felt in March, 1926, when told that I had been selected as one of the Tipperary hurling team to tour America—probably the first of its kind since the "Invasion" of 1888! I do not know if I deserved such an honour; but in the 1925 senior championship I had played fairly well with Duharra who were beaten by Toom in the final. In addition, I had hurled with Waterford versus Limerick in 1918 (while a student in De La Salle); and, while teaching in Mullinavat, I got my place on the Kilkenny senior team of 1922 (till politics intervened). Later, when back home a few months, the '22 final was played in '23. There was, I think, only one change on the Kilkenny team, i.e. "Roundy" Lawlor of Threecastles for myself. I'm rambling a bit—as many prominent writers and public speakers do—but I'm not raving! Also, I had been Chairman of the North Board for a year or so—and perhaps the selectors for the touring party may have thought that I might make up with the tongue for what I lacked with the stick.

Before I proceed further I wish to mention that many dear old friends—members of the team, organisers, officials and friends—whose names I will mention, have by now passed away; and to avoid praying for them individually as their names occur I'll pray that God will grant all their souls eternal rest.

Anyway, I visited my P.P. (the School Manager) who readily gave me permission to travel. But I was somewhat disappointed with my friends in our new Government who allowed me leave of absence only on condition that I should resign and forfeit salary for three months. It was worth

it all, I said to myself, and so I decided to depart—but not in peace (see later). I visited Mr. Paul Flynn, Nenagh, to have my "likeness" snapped for passport purposes—indeed, many besides myself did not think it did me justice (I was really photogenic nearly fifty years ago!)—but it did well enough to get me past the Statue of Liberty and through the Golden Gates of California.

No one—at home or "abroad" among my neighbours—expressed any sorrow or concern over my intended departure. And so I was happy, that is, till the bomb fell! As not many nowadays (or even then) are aware of the circumstances I must briefly relate same. A few days before we were due to leave, the Bishop visited my parish and during his address at the Confirmation ceremony he made a very unexpected and (to me) startling statement, namely: "And they are going out to America now to hurl and make funds for the I.R.A.; and if there's anyone going from this parish he's going with his eyes open." Some time previously a "guy" had been caught at Cobh with dispatches round his waist and was supposed to be on a visit to our captain, Johnny Leahy. Very few present in the church had probably ever read about it—and the sad part of the story was that all my family were the strongest supporters in the parish of the Bishop's political views. All eyes in the congregation were focussed on misfortunate me—but a convert (an old "butty") beside me whispered: "Keep cool, keep cool!"

When all was over word was despatched to Nenagh for the Tour Manager (Mr. Frank McGrath), asking him to call out to the parochial house where his Lord-

ship was being entertained. On arrival there the P.P. refused to allow Frank meet the Bishop to discuss the matter. My view has always been that he (the P.P.) was not in the least anxious to have the Bishop hear that he (P.P.) had given me permission to travel on such a mission. After many sessions of advice from friends (and otherwise) re to go or stay at hime, I was quite determined to go as I had previously been given permission by my Manager to travel; and, also, because I did not believe we were going to tour America for the purpose stated by his Lordship. On the night previous to departing I settled my affairs (not a big job) and visited the P.P. to say "Good-bye." It needed some courage to face the ordeal—but in spite of all sorts of threats and warnings, such as never to teach a day in Youghalarra again, etc., I kept cool, repeated my excellent qualifications on leaving college, and stated how welcome I would be in many a parish or county, etc. There was no farewell—but on going out the gate I heard a call and "Come back"—a handshake and "Good luck!" A great relief; but something of a damper on my departure. I've always realised what a predicament the P.P. was in—but why should not our Manager have been allowed to interview the Bishop.

Having relieved my memory of so much, I feel like saying no more. It would take a long time and much paper to relate all my reminiscences of what was probably the most wonderful sporting tour ever undertaken—all praise and honour and thanks to the organisers of same. But to please some good friends who asked me (a busy and serious-minded fella)

to do so I must tell a few "yarns" of what happened during the tour — though I'm sure many Gaels and others have read all about it in Tom Kenny's grand book "Tour of the Tipperary Hurling Team in America, 1926."

From Cork to Cobh

After leaving our homes and dear ones on May 10th we converged on Cork; then on to Cobh where my neighbour, Johnny Hogan from Portroe, showed us around the town. Next morning down to the ship; and then an amusing incident happened. As we walked down a passage to the tender a head appeared over the fence. It was Jim Kennedy, that hard man and great forward from Carrigtwohill, who had travelled in with a "message." I had met him at the Tailteann Games in 1924, where he had earned the displeasure (or worse) of the Yanks after "rolling" their dainty little goalie, Jimmy Kelly (Mooncoin) a few times into the net; and later he (Kennedy) had to hop it home before they could get him. He shouted "Come here, Naylor; tell the boys to kill 'em when ye get over!" A tough man to the last! We had a great trip and good sport travelling (1st class; but more often down in the 3rd class area) on the German ship, The Bremen. The very best of food, and great, strong, cheap "Light or Dark" German beer. I still recall the barman in the 3rd class, when being quizzed by a couple of us about the previous war, saying: "We will rise again—and we will win." It was too bad that on our first day and night out the weather turned very bad; the rough sea did not agree with a lot of our lads' insides—luckily, my experience on the breakers of Youghal Bay and Lough Derg saved me from any discomfort or loss of appetite. When down for a "light" snack that night there were trays of most appetising meat; Kennedy and myself found no trouble in partaking thereof—but it was sad to see Tom look at it, hold his stomach and exclaim: "... lads, I wouldn't mind but all the fine mate; we might never see it again." Some days later when

down at lunch facing a glorious repast I managed purposely to distract Tom. As I expected, he left down his knife and fork on his plate; and while arguing with me the black waiter whipped away Tom's dinner. Imagine his consternation on turning round to find his grand dinner gone! When told he had forgotten his table etiquette by laying down his "gear" he exclaimed "Where's that — black so-and-so till I — him?"

It was too bad that both Tom and I were suffering from injuries received on the field. Tom's leg was sore (I forget the exact location) and I had a bad shin. The doctor on board did a good job for me, so I had to bring him to see Tom who was ordered to remain in bed for massage. Next day when the doctor was due I was asked by Tom to be present to act as interpreter as Tom could not know a — word the — fella was saying. Later when doc came we lifted out the "wrong" leg to be rubbed. But, in spite of our aches, we could manage to dance a "buck" set on deck and amuse our fellow-passengers, many of whom were German and poor Polish refugees. I remember some of the latter chatting or walking the deck with us just to learn a word of English that might help them in their new home. I am glad to say it was fun and games and tricks all during that lovely sea-trip; and one must remember we were just a crowd of plain, mostly country-bred fellows; very harmless and innocent compared with those of present-day standards.

Our Purpose

In connection with what I stated happened just before I left home, I was glad to see (on once again reading Tommy's book at page 14) that at the farewell ceremony after our boarding the Bremen our Manager (Frank McGrath) stated among other things that the team travelled solely in the interests of the G.A.A. with a view to the revival of the national games of the Gael, and as a help towards making hurling international. Let me quote also from Tommy's book (page 6): "There seemed to have been some understanding among

certain people at the time (before our leaving) as to the nature and object of the tour. Those who believed those false rumours without bothering to read the terms of contract, etc., etc., had not the interests of our National Games at heart. We went in no sectional or political interest, and the members of the team were selected because of their merit as hurlers, alone. That team embraced men of every shade of political opinion, but we never spoke politics. No, we were just a little bunch of Gaels, well officered by tried and true Gaels, with a noble object in view, and we succeeded." Well and truly said, old pal, Tommy!

I think I was rather lucky to have escaped a ducking in the mighty ocean on a few occasions for pranks played on my comrades; but I can't forget the evening (it was rather stormy again on that day) I left our berth (with no good intention) to announce to my chums that my poor fellow-bunker, Tom, was rather sick—and I secretly suggested a cure. After my rushing back to comfort the patient, the lads began to arrive to "sympathise" and soon started their fags and pipes filled with good Irish, strong tobacco (which we were soon to miss). The patient growled and coughed and ordered me to lock the door. The late-comers assembled outside and blew in their share of smoke through the keyhole. Arthur, my old friend and chief sympathiser, coolly said: "He's done lads. Go and tackle the ass, and we'll go for the wake goods." Tom's "prayers" and scathing descriptions of his hypocritical sympathisers could scarcely be published. But thank God he recovered and is hale and hearty with us still. On the morning of May 20th in a foggy dawn we awoke to find our good ship sailing up past the Statue of Liberty. Our sea voyage was over, and we had reached the fine city of New York in the land of the Stars and Stripes.

It seems a long time ago now; and, being old and feeble-minded after all those years, I'm feeling tired from trying to recall what happened during those happy days

of long ago. But should anyone like to hear about what happened later during our tour I may at some time tell it. Oh! for my great diary (a black folding note-

book with elastic band), written-up every night or, if not feeling too well, then next morning—it was lent to many and then lost or "lifted." God rest my dear ,de-

parted team-mates; and may God bless my fellow survivors of those great days! Slán is beannact; agus go mairidh Cumann Luth-Chleas Gaedheal le fada an lá.

RUAIRI O NIALLAIR.



Munster final victims by just two points. The Tipperary S.H. team which lost to Cork 3-10 to 3-8. Kneeling (left to right): P. J. Ryan, Michl. Keating, Roger Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, Dinny Ryan, John Flanagan, Tadhg O'Connor, Francis Loughnane. Standing (left to right): Gerry Doyle (trainer), John O'Donoghue, Len Gaynor, Mick Roche, John Gleeson, John Kelly, Noel Lane, Liam King.

Photo: Devaney Photo Service, Athlone

GERRY SLEVIN had more than a passing interest in the G.A.A.'s. inaugural look into the formal social scene. He was a competitor in the recitation section of the Winter Social Activities and reached the All-Ireland decider.

WHEN LIBERTY HALL SHOWED G.A.A. MEMBERS IN A NEW LIGHT

SUNDAY NIGHT, March 22nd, 1970, was an All-Ireland final night. There was no hurling or football title at stake and the newspapers didn't herald the occasion with any great splash or pomp, as is wont with All-Ireland finals. It was a night to remember, nonetheless, a night in which history was made; a night in which representatives from the entire country gathered in Liberty Hall, Dublin, to display their talents in various ways in the G.A.A.'s first Winter Social Activities finals.

Eighteen counties were represented in the finals, six from Leinster, and four from each of the other provinces. Along with Down, Sligo and Armagh, Tipperary contributed the most entrants, three; but unlike those counties, they failed to get among the prizewinners. Nevertheless, it was an occasion that those of us who were privileged to represent our county will ever remember. It showed the Association in a new light, and as then President Seamus Ryan described it—it was a night of integration, the integration between young and old, between male and female, between north and south in a veritable feast of entertainment.

Singers, dancers, motion speak-

ers, recitationists, quiz experts from eighteen counties—all of whom had come along the hard road through club, divisional, county and provincial levels—participated; a feast indeed and how it was appreciated. The atmosphere was charged; there was a sense of national pride, a sense of a new awakening in the life of the G.A.A., and a feeling permeated which made light of those who, from time to time, like to proclaim that the G.A.A. does nothing but promote the playing of hurling and football. Here were competitors, all members of G.A.A. clubs all clearly revealing their various talents and winning the respect and admiration of all. Competition was extremely keen, not to mention the exceptionally high standard which abounded.

Tipperary's Contributions

We were represented in three competitions: Austin Crowe from Knockavilla Kickhams doing the honours in the solo ballad singing; the O'Dwyer brothers, T. K. and Eamonn, along with Pat Ryan, keeping the flag flying in the question time section; and myself in the recitation category. It was an awe inspiring experience and I know I speak for my four col-

leagues when I say that it was an occasion of which we all felt extremely proud. Winning didn't really matter. We felt we had played our part in this new break through and our contributions had added some small thing at least to the occasion.

From a Tipperary point of view, one of the most satisfactory aspects of the occasion was the compering of Donie Nealon, whose expert handling of the events and who skilled and practised manner showed this fine hurler and official in a new light. In the Tipperary finals earlier in the year in Thurles, we all saw his capabilities and it was little wonder that he was honoured with taking charge of the finals.

The new season's competitions will be on their way very soon. The name now ascribed to them is Scor '70. The undoubted success of the initial venture is bound to ensure even keener competition and greater participation this time when the new dawning will receive an even higher response. Let's hope that when All-Ireland final night comes along on March 17th the Premier County will add yet another niche to the versatile and highly talented record that has been part and parcel of Tipperary down the years.

A THIONNCHAR AR AN NAISIUNTACHT

Le EAMONN A' CHNOIC

BHÍ NAISIÓN na hÉireann an-lag nuair a tháinig Cumann Lúthchleas Gael ar an saol. Bhí misneach Gael briste, bhí a ndóchas cailte, beagnach, bhí a spioradh ag saothrú an bháis.

Bhí gaill i réim sa tír. Bhí feallsúnacht Shasana á craobhscaoileadh go cliste fórsúil; bhí cultúr Shasana á leathadh go dian éifeachtach; bhí teanga Shasana ag marú na Gaeilge.

Agus níor thuig Gaeil cad a bhí i ndán dóibh. Bhí siad gan taoisigh, gan cairde, gan meas acu orthu féin ná ar a dtírín bocht dúchais.

Agus ansin rugadh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Chuir an Cumann nua cnámh droma i muintir na hÉireann, chuir sé anam nua iontu. Chuir sé cuspóir iontach uasal idéalach roimh Gaeil; agus theaspáin sé dóibh an slí chun an cuspóir a bhaint amach.

An Cuspóir

B'é an cuspóir a chuir Cumann Lúthchleas Gael roim muintir na hÉireann a gcluichí féin a chaomhnadh is a chleachtadh, a gceol féin a chur faoi mheas is beatha nua a chur ann; déantúisí na hÉireann a cheannach d'fhonn obair a chur ar fáil do mhuintir na hÉireann, agus d'fhonn daoine a spreagadh chun monarchain a bhunú anseo.

Bígi Gaelach, an manna a bhí ag lucht an Chumainn. Bígi Gaelach, ní hamháin a bhfoclaibh béil ach i ngníomh chomh maith.

Is féidir a rá gurbh é Cumann Lúthchleas Gael a chuir siol na saoirse a bhláthaigh go glórmhar sa bhliain 1916.

Tionnchar

Creidim féin gur ullmhaigh an

Cumann nua an bóthar do Chonradh Na Gaeilge. Ar ndóigh, dear-madhtar go minic nár tháinig Conradh na Gaeilge ar an saol go dtí 1893—naoi mbliana i ndiaidh bunú Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Agus creidim go láidir gur ullmhaigh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael an bealach da laochra na Cásca, 1916.

Gan Oiliúint Ar Threorú

Sul ar bunaíodh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael bhí ag éirí thar barr le seiribhísigh Shasana a raibh de pholasaí acu Gaeil a fhágáil gan ceannairí dá gcuid féin a bheith acu. Bheadh baol mór ann dá néiríodh le Gaeil ciliúint i gcúrsaí ceannais a fháil. Bhí na mílte Gaeil ciliúint i gcúrsaí ceannais a fháil. Bhí na mílte Gaeil éirimiúla misniúla in Arm Shasana—ní raibh a mhalairt de phost le fáil—ach má bhí gaelachas ag roinnt leo, cuireadh faoi chois iad, agus coiníodh faoi chois iad.

Agus i gcúrsaí caitheamh aimsire is spóirt ba mhar a chéile an ide a tugadh do Ghaeil. An t-oifigeach airm, nó an sáirsint ar na póilíní a bhíodh i mbun agus i mbarr gach uile ní ina mbeadh slua páirtearh. Agus ar ndóigh, tugadh tús áite do imeachtaí gallda. B'iad a b'fhearr chun Gaeil a smachtú.

Ceannairí Ag Éirí Suas

Ach le bunú Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, tháinig athrú bunúsach soisialta chun cinn. Hoileadh fir óga le dul i gceannas ar imeachtaí móra. Hoileadh sluaite le bheith umhal dá muintir féin. Hoileadh daoine chun rialacha iompar a cheapadh is a chur i bhfeidhim.

Cuireadh croí nua i nGaeil. Lasadh tine an dochais iontu. Cóthaíodh misneach mór do-

smachtaithe a sháraigh deacrachtaí móra millteacha, is a thiomáin Gaeil amach ar pháirc an chatha chun buille éifeachtach a bhualadh ar a son féin agus ar son a dtíre.

Deirtear, agus ní gan chúis, gur ar pháirceanna imeartha Eton a buadh cuid mhaith de mhórchathanna Shasana. Is cinnte gur ar pháirceanna imeartha Chumann Lúthchleas Gael a buadh roinnt mhaith de chathanna móra Gael le Gallaih.

Cumann Iontach

Is iontach an Cumann é Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Ar ndóigh is é an cumann deonach is éifeachtaí agus is tábhachtaí ar domhan anois é—sampla agus ábhar éada in aon turas.

Cá mbeimis gan é? Cad a dhéanadh na fir óga a chaitheann am is dúthracht ag cleachtadh na gcluichí, ag stiúrú imeachtaí an chumainn, ag baint aolbhnis as na gcluichí Dómhnach i ndiaidh Dómhnaigh ó cheann ceann na bliana?

Cad é an treoir a bheadh ag na daoine óga gan Cumann Lúthchleas Gael? Cad a dhéanadh an tír?

Lochtanna

Cé gur éirigh go hiontach le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, ní féidir a shéanadh go raibh lochtanna móra ar an gcumann, go bhfuil lochtanna móra air fós. Ach is cosúil go dtuigeann lucht stiúrtha an Chumainn an scéal go maith, agus go bhfuil siad á ngléasadh féin chun na lochtanna a leigheas chomh tapaigh agus is féidir.

Na Daoine Oga

Creidim féin gurb é an locht i mó atá ar an gcumann ná tugann sé dothain cabhrach is treorach

dona daoine óga. Ní féidir na cluichí Gaelach—go mór mór an iománaíocht—a imirt gan cleachtadh is slor-chleachtadh, gan oiliúint éifeachtach, gan eagrú foirfe. Ní thugtar an cúnamh is gá don daoine óga, agus is minic a thosaíonn siad ar chluiche gur féidir é a imirt le taitneamh gan mórán dua. Ní bhíonn ag teastáil ach neart, is spéis.

Go dtí go mbíonn daoine óga oílte go maith ar na cluiche gaelacha, ní féidir dóibh iad a imirt go sásúil, ní féidir dóibh taitneamh a bhaint astu mar fhéachadóirí—agus is tábhachtach an ní é seo.

Múinteoirí oílte. Treoraithe foighneach éifeachtach. Tá a lán díobh ag teastáil go fear agus gan mhoill.

Cultúr Gaelach

Locht do-mhaite ar an gCumann an fhaillí a deineadh i gcultúr na nGael. Ceapfadh duine go mbeadh an Cumann ar bis chun na rinncí Gaelacha a fhorbairt agus a leathadh measc na mball. Tá ár rinncí féin ar fheabhas, fíor-oiriúnach dúinn, ó thaobh anamúlachta dhe, ó thaobh grástúlachta dhe, ó thaobh caidrimh dhe. Cén fáth nár chuir an Cumann spéis chuí iontu riamh?

Agus, ar ndóigh, dá ndéantaí na rinncí a chaomhnadh, bhéadh an ceol slán, mar is páirtithe do-scartha iad. Tá neamh-shuim an Chumainn ins na rinncí gaelacha agus sa cheol gaelach do-thuigthe. Gan iad a bheith mar spreagadh is mar cheangal is mar cnámh droma ag an gcumann ní bheidh sé chomh láidir is ba mhaith linn.

An Teanga

Agus ansin, tá ceist na teangan, anam na tíre. Ní dhearnamar i gCumann Lúthchleas Gael ár gcion ar son na teangan. Dá ndeanadh, bheadh an teanga á labhairt ar fud Éireann anois, agus bheadh idir tír is Cumann Lúthchleas Gael níos láidre, níos sláintiúla.

Síl aon leathscéal anois gan dul ar aghaidh le Gaelú an Chumainn. Tá dóthain Gaeilge ag na Gaeil óga go léir chun í a úsáid ar an bpáirc agus i seomraí na gcuinthe. Tá a fhios agam go bhfuil

(Ar aghaidh go Leathnach 77)

THE MEN WHO GUIDE TIPPERARY'S G.A.A. AFFAIRS

County Board President: V. Rev. Philip Canon Fogarty, P.P., Templemore.

Chairman: Seamus Ryan, N.T., Moneygall.

Secretary: Tommy Barrett, Thurles.

Treasurer: Gerry O'Keeffe, Clonmel.

Central Council Representative: Michael Maher, Holycross.

Munster Council Representatives: Michael Frawley, Emly; Donie Nealon, Burgess.

REPRESENTATIVES

MID: Senator John Doyle, Holycross; Michael Small, Thurles Sarsfields; Tom Everard, Drum; Philip O'Dwyer, Boherlahan; Wm O'Dwyer (Hon.).

NORTH: Hubie Hogan, Lorrha; Donie Nealon, Burgess; Denis Costello, Shannon Rovers; John Lawler, Eire Og; Niall Williams, Toomevara; John Joe Maher, Roscrea; Michael Moylan (Hon.).

SOUTH: Jim Gleeson, Drangan; Phil O'Shea, Cloneen; Theo English, Marfield; Mick Egan, Clonmel; P. J. Kenny, Carrick; Michl. McCarthy (Moyle Rovers).

WEST: Jimmy Hennessy, Dundrum; T. J. Caplis, Sean Treacy's; Anthony Doherty, Donohill; Jim Stapleton, Solohead; Gerry O'Dwyer, Knockavilla Kickhams; Senator Wm. Ryan, Golden/Kilfeacle; Sean O'Dwyer (hon.), Knockavilla Kickhams.

Vocational Schools' Representative: Tom Connolly.

Handball Board Representative: Liam O'Reilly.

Rural Schools' Representative: William O'Dwyer.

NORTH BOARD OFFICERS

Hon. President: Michael Moylan, Nenagh.

Chairman: Hubie Hogan, Lorrha.

Vice-Chairmen: Martin O'Connor, Eire Og, and Patrick Hogan, N.T., Kildangan.

Hon. Secretary: Donie Nealon, Burgess.

Hon. Treasurer: Seamus Gardiner, Borrisokane.

Registrar: Thomas Cleary, Nenagh.

MID BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman: Tom O'Hara, Gortnahoe.

Treasurer: John Joe Hayes, Moycarkey.

Hon. Secretary: Sean Ryan, Templemore.

SOUTH BOARD OFFICERS

Chairman: James Gleeson.

Vice-Chairmen: Philip O'Shea and John Fleming.

Treasurer: Edward O'Shea.

Secretary: Jeremiah O'Keeffe.

WEST BOARD OFFICERS

Hon. Presidents: Rev. Fr. J. Power, C.C.; Rev. Fr. J. Walsh, C.C.; Rev. Fr. M. O'Dwyer, P.P.; Rev. Fr. Mullally, C.C.; Rev. Fr. Stritch, C.C.

Chairman: Mr. A. O'Doherty.

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Ml. Frawley, Senator W. Ryan, M.C.C.

Secretary: James Hennessy.

Treasurer: Mr. Jerry O'Dwyer, Registrar: Mr. W. Hayes.

HOW THE G.A.A. STOOD IN TIPPERARY 80 YEARS AGO

By MARCUS BOURKE

ARE ANY of the men named in the Table below related to you? If so, you have reason to be proud of them, because the list represents the handful of G.A.A. officials who stuck by the Association when it was at its weakest in Tipperary 80 years ago. The names come from — of all places — the police files of Dublin Castle, and are taken from the records of the Special Branch of the Crime Department of the R.I.C. for 1890 — now available in the State Paper Office, Dublin Castle.

From the time of the attempted take-over of the G.A.A. by the Fenian organisation at the stormy annual Congress held in the old courthouse in Thurles in November, 1887, the police kept an eye on the activities of the Association all over the country. Despite the failure of the 1887 coup, the G.A.A. was soon afterwards infiltrated at all levels by Fenians, most of them motivated by a sincere desire to ensure that the Association remained Nationalist in outlook.

But to the priests and bishops it looked as if this was an attempt by the Fenians to capture what had previously been a non-political body catering solely for Irish games and athletics. So they no longer supported the G.A.A., and advised their flocks to do likewise. Faced with clerical opposition, members left in their thousands in 1889 and 1890. There was worse yet to come, for when in 1891 the Parnell Split broke, the G.A.A. — like every other Nationalist body — was divided into two bitterly opposed camps, so that by 1892 or so it had almost become extinct.

Opposed

"The clergy as a body (in North Tipperary) are entirely

opposed to the Association, except in one place only, Moycarkey, where the club is under clerical control." So runs the police comment accompanying the material in the Table below. Similarly, "the clergy of South Tipperary are quite opposed to the G.A.A." and — an indication of what was to become widespread in 1891 — "club No. 4 (New Tipperary) is a Parnellite club with a marked I.R.B. element."

Comparison with the previous year shows how the G.A.A. declined in Tipperary in 1890. At the end of 1889 there were 47 clubs with 2,556 members in North and South Tipperary — 18 club and 1,457 members in the North, 29 clubs and 1,099 members in the South. By December, 1890, only eleven club (six in the North and five in the South) remained, with a total membership

at 543 — 312 in the North, 228 in the South. These are the clubs that figure in the Table.

Although no convention was held in South Tipperary in 1890, all five clubs there are recorded as affiliated to the G.A.A. Executive; but Clubs 1, 2 and 3 in North Tipperary are described as unaffiliated. James Butler, the Secretary of the Thurles Club, was elected Secretary to the County Committee at North Tipperary Convention held in Thurles on November 27th, 1890. Andrew Callanan (also of Thurles) was elected Treasurer, and both were appointed delegates to the annual Congress. Patrick McGrath and John Bourke of the New Tipperary club later became, respectively, Secretary of the Munster Council and Secretary of the Tipperary County Board.

A THIONNCHAR AR AN NAISIUNTACHT

(O Leathnach 76)

daoine ann a sheas an fód nuair a bhí obair dian, obair chontúirteach le déanamh, agus go bhfuil a gcúnamh fós ag teastáil uainn, cé go bhfuil siad gan Gaeilge.

Sí gá iad sin a chaitheamh ar leataobh — rud a deantar go minic lena leithéid. Nach féidir don Chumann gléas aistrithe a chean-nach is a chur thart de réir mar is gá.

Dá ndéantaí sin, bheadh againn spiorad na hóige is misneach is stóinseacht, is dílseacht na haoise snadhmtha le chéile chun gléas a dhéanamh a bhéarfadh bua ar an domhan mór.

Ar Aghaidh Linn

Tá obair iontach danta ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, in ainneoin na lochtanna a bhí air — agus ar ndóigh, ní bhíonn saoi gan locht. Anois an t-am chun dul chun cinn mór tábhachtach a dhéanamh. Tá ar sprioc le feiceál go soiléir. Cruinnimis ár neart. Cuirimis faobhar ar ár néifeacht. Glaoimis ar ár misneach, agus ní baol dúinn.

Tormán na bhfuinneog ar pháirc ghlas fhéarach;
Sceinneadh éadrom-chos ar urlár mín;
Ceol Sioréachtach ag misniú Gaela;
Is Ghaeilge mhillis mar aoibhneas coíche.

TIPPERARY G.A.A. CLUBS 1890

NORTH TIPPERARY

No.	Name of Club	Officers	Position	Approx Mem'ship
1.	Ardcroney	Darius Hogan Dan Ryan Con McDonagh	Captain Treasurer Secretary	35
2.	Knigh	Patrick Carroll John Hayes John Sattery	Captain Treasurer Secretary	30
3.	Moycarkey	Rev. N. Duggan Tom Fogarty John Corcoran John Molumby Tom Grady	President Vice-President Treasurer Secretary Captain	50
4.	Drombane and Upperchurch	Patrick Ryan William Ryan Hugh B. Ryan	President & Treas. Secretary Captain	40
5.	Foildamon	Michael Spillane Michael Kennedy Patrick Crowe John Ryan	President Treasurer Secretary Captain	30
6.	Thurles	Hugh Ryan D. H. Ryan James Butler Andrew Maher	President Treasurer Secretary Captain	130

SOUTH TIPPERARY

1.	John Mitchel (Young Ireland Society Branch)	Michael Dowdall James Hearne Patrick Conroy Wm. P. O'Keeffe	President Sec. & Treasurer Captain Umpire	90
2.	O'Brien's	James Reidy Tom Tobin James Dwyer Maurice Power	Captain Treasurer Secretary Umpire	12
3.	Grangemockler	Michael Kearns James Lyons James Fox Michael Reilly	Captain President Vice-President Secretary	50
4.	New Tipperary	William J. Ryan James J. Ryan Patrick McGrath John Bourke	Captain President Vice-President Secretary	36
5.	Rosanna	John Quane John Ryan William Condon Jeremiah Mahony Wm. Thompson	Captain President Vice-President Treasurer Secretary	40

WILLIE O'DONNELL looks back on the career of SEAN O DUIR, one of the county's most forceful administrators

A LEADING LIGHT FADES FROM THE SCENE

THROUGH the resignation of Seán O Duir from the chairmanship of the West Division Board last January a link with the past was broken. For Seán had occupied the top executive spot for nigh on thirty-six years, having been first elected to the post as far back as 1935.

The Division at that time was but a toddling infant, having come into being a bare five years previously. With his brother Bill, Fr. John Maher, then Chairman of the County Board, Johnny Leahy, and other G.A.A. notabilities of the time, Seán played no small part in its formation.

When Bill, an All-Ireland medal winner with Tipperary in 1916 and the Division's first chairman, went to farm in historic Boherlahan, Sean was elected to succeed him.

The choice could not have fallen on more worthy shoulders. Born into a Nationalist tradition, he was, from an early age, an ardent admirer of his parish priest, the great Father Matt. Little wonder, then, that we find him involved in things Irish and his was a familiar figure at language classes and feiseanna all over the area.

When his country called, although a youth in his late teens, he answered willingly and knew two and a half-years' sorrow in Irish and English prisons, suffering the pangs of hunger for twenty-two days in Wormwood Scrubbs.

Useful Hurler

He was no mean exponent of the hurling code, being a pretty useful forward in his day. He had the unusual distinction of playing in three of the four divisions. In the twenties he was a valued member of the Dundrum team, then operating in the Mid Division. He was on a Ballydine side that stretched its selection web into the lower

reaches of famed Boherlahan, and when the West Division was formed, he played with his native Knockavilla.

When called into the administrative field, he bent all his energies towards the task of guiding the faltering feet of the infant Division. His executive ability and liberal outlook were telling assets in those difficult days and his advice and encouragement were readily available to club and fellow officers.

During his long term of office, he saw teams from the division bring county honours in all grades of hurling and football and players from many clubs wear the county singlet with distinction. He officiated at the opening of such well-appointed playing fields within the division as those at Golden, Clonoulty, Cashel, Tipperary, Dundrum and Emly. He was a gifted speaker and never was this more in evidence than when delivering a moving oration over the grave of

his lifelong friend, the late, much-lamented Paddy Leahy.

Highlights of the annual conventions were his addresses, in which, time after time, he laid G.A.A. policy on the line, castigating players who would besmirch its fair name and pleading for a greater use of the mother tongue among members.

Tributes

Failing health caused him to relinquish the post he had adorned so well. At the farewell dinner in his honour last February, tributes were paid to his soldierly qualities in his early years and to his dedicated youth for the Association he so dearly loved, by the country's and county's highest executives.

Seán's monument is not cast in bronze or stone but in the hearts of the grassroots of the G.A.A. whose interests he served so nobly and so well for nigh on half a century.

Gura fada buan slán a fhan-faidh sé 'nár measc.



Sean O'Dwyer pictured with the late Jim Barry, Cork

THE G.A.A. AND IRISH INDEPENDENCE IN THE 1880's

By

FR. MARK TIERNEY, O.S.B.

IF YOU OPEN any Irish newspaper in the 1880's and compare it with one of today, you will find they have many things in common. Both have a few pages of advertisements, personal columns, a leading article or two, reports on political and social affairs, and, of course, detailed accounts of crime. But you will notice one striking difference: there are no sports pages in the old newspaper. One gets the impression that sport played a very small part in the lives of people a hundred years ago. Any reports of matches were tucked away in the corners of provincial newspapers and they were extremely brief. The national newspapers (*The Nation*, *Freeman's Journal*, *United Ireland*) took some note of sporting associations, but were more inclined to report on their committee meetings than on particular matches played between rival teams.

First of all it is necessary to remember that few people in the 1880's enjoyed the leisure which we have today. Nearly 80% of the population in Ireland lived in rural districts. Farm labourers and domestic servants worked a twelve-hour day and a seven-day week. Dances and other evening amusements were more common than day-time sporting events. If we were to rely on the newspapers for our information, we would come to the conclusion that the Irish people did not play many games. This was, of course, not so. Hurling, handball, athletics, horse-racing, hammer-throwing and other sports were common in Ireland throughout the nineteenth century. But they were not organised on any large scale. There were few real clubs or associations, and rules and regulations

were haphazard. There did not seem to be any need for an organisation on the national level, or at least there was no incentive to have one. We can only conclude from this that prior to the 1880's Irishmen did not have any incentive to assert their **independence** and **national outlook** on the sports field. It is significant that in the early days of the G.A.A. its members were always called simply "the Gaels." It was as if observers said "These young men are asserting their Irishness through the medium of sport."

Nationalism

Irish nationalism in the 1880's was a many-sided thing:

(i) It was partly **political**, and received a strong impetus from Parnell and his fellow-members of the Home Rule League;

(ii) it was partly **economic**, and received a tremendous boost from Michael Davitt and the Land League;

(iii) it was partly **cultural** and **social**, and received a very significant uplift from the Gaelic Athletic Association when it was founded in 1884.

Not that anyone saw these actual differences in as clear a light as we can one hundred years later. Each had some contribution to make towards furthering the national effort. But all were agreed that they sought independence from England: The Home Rulers fought for an Irish Parliament; the Land Leaguers fought to wrench the land of Ireland from the hands of English landlords; the G.A.A. fought for the right of

Irishmen to play Irish games in Ireland.

I have often tried to imagine a conversation between Michael Cusack and Archbishop Croke in the early days of the G.A.A. Dr. Croke would have done most of the talking and as patron of the Association he had followed its programme with keen interest. He would have clapped Cusack on the back and said: "Well, Michael, you have done a great job for Irish games. You have brought independence into our national sports and pastimes. We now have an all-Ireland organisation we can be proud of."

But Dr. Croke would not have stopped at that. He had for a long time, prior to 1884, contemplated such an organisation as that founded by Cusack, Nally and Davin. And he saw it chiefly as a means of keeping young Irishmen at home. He had spent four long years as an exile in New Zealand in the 1870's and had met Irish men and women in far distant lands. As he wrote on his return from New Zealand to the editor of the *Freeman's Journal*:

"I have seen the scattered children of our race in almost every land that the sun shines upon, and after a fair experience in the great Republic of the West (i.e. France) and in the numerous dependencies that own the sway of Great Britain. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that an Irishman's fittest and happiest home is in Ireland The simplest and scantiest fare beside one's household goods, is sweeter than roast and boiled amongst strangers."

It was in his travels that Dr.

Croke became conscious of being Irish. Especially in America, which he visited on his way to and from New Zealand, he found this **race** consciousness which became an important part of his political philosophy. The 1880's witnessed an awakening of Irish race feeling all over the world. Conventions of the Irish race were held in America. We have to see the rise of the G.A.A. within the context of such a movement. The Irish language, Irish games, Irish dress and even the Irish brogue, were all looked upon as precious things, to be preserved. Dr. Croke spoke with a slight brogue and in his spare time he wrote doggerel verse. The following lines from his pen in the mid-1880's retain all the signs of the times:

"Said the Bishop of Cashel, renowned for his learning
It's meself that is pleased to be
after returning
To this elegant island that's always onasy
Bekase of them Saxons who're driving me crazy.
But ere long she'll be freed both
from bondage and sorrow
For we'll soon have our parliament back here begorra."

Independent and Free Ireland

The founders of the G.A.A. longed for an independent and free Ireland, where Irishmen could live as they wished, unhampered by English control of their political and cultural lives. Prior to the founding of the G.A.A. all that the young men of Ireland could do was to dream of the day when they would be off to England or America or one of the colonies. The heart had gone out of them and they had ceased to have any hope for the future of their country. Into this picture of hopelessness stepped the men of the G.A.A. They provided an incentive to keep Irish men at home. Their organisation fostered Irish games at local level, basing its competitions on parish or county boundaries. Furthermore it introduced a **democratic** spirit into Irish rural life.

Previously the lives of most

young Irishmen had been dominated by the landlord or his agent. The G.A.A. demanded more allegiance than even the Land League had done. The Land League was a **Defensive** movement, directed against the landlord system. The G.A.A. was an **Offensive** movement, in that it taught the young men to go out and play, to do something: to assert their Irishness. It provided more than just a healthy spirit and enthusiasm, it demanded **LOYALTY**. It taught young Irishmen for the first time that they could owe allegiance to a club, or a captain, or a trainer, without losing their own independence or their own manhood. And it was not a far step from this to giving allegiance to their country.

The climate of the 1880's was such that it was impossible to establish a society of any kind which could be kept free from politics. Although the G.A.A. had been founded as a sporting association, it very soon became a powerful force for the revival of Irish nationhood. Fundamentally, the G.A.A. was a **separatist** movement: it sought the exclusion of English games from Ireland, or rather, it sought to discourage Irish men from playing English games. And it did this by applying the principle of the "boycott" to sport.

The 1880's in Irish history are dominated by two major political issues: The passing of the Land Act of 1881 and the failure of the Home Rule Bill of 1886. It is significant that the G.A.A. was founded mid-way between them: it came to birth on the crest of the political wave which seemed certain of bringing Home Rule to Ireland. And so long as there was a hope of obtaining Home Rule, the leaders of the G.A.A. were able to keep control of their members. But when the Home Rule Bill was defeated in 1886, other forces began to assert themselves, not least being the Irish Republican Brotherhood, or Fenianism. The I.R.B. had survived, despite many setbacks, but it was a very insignificant organisation in the mid 1880's. It was an under-ground movement, and its leaders were sworn to setting up an Irish Republic by force of arms. 1887 is the year

when the Fenians made an all-out attempt to take over the G.A.A. and use it for their own purposes. As one of the Dublin Castle agents reported to his superior in November 1887:

"The Fenian purpose combining the muscular youth of the country into an organisation, drilled and discipline. . . Under the guise of hurling, football, etc., the youth of the country are brought together, disciplined, drilled and taught their power, while kept thoroughly in hand and subservient to one ruling authority."

Political Aspect

The political aspect of the G.A.A. became evident in the appearance of two newspapers in 1887. One of them, entitled **The Gael**, was the official organ of the Fenian executive, which set out to control the G.A.A. It was owned and edited by P. T. Hoctor, assisted by Stephen Dunleavy. The literary side of the newspaper was conducted by John O'Leary and his poet sister, Ellen. No complete file of **The Gael** is in existence—at least in Ireland or England. Some issues are available among the papers of the Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle. **The Gael** was controlled by the I.R.B. and the Castle authorities kept a close watch on its progress.

The second paper was called the **Celtic Times**, which was the organ of Michael Cusack and the nationalist members of the G.A.A. There was a great deal of mudslinging between the two rival papers. At one stage Dr. Croke tried to make peace between them but was taken to task by **The Gael** in the following words:

"We do not want one or all of the patrons as judges. We wish them to remain in their high and dignified position of honour, from which they should only descend to countenance, support and protect us, but certainly not to judge and sentence us . . ."

The G.A.A. could not escape from the divisions in Irish life which

were so evident as the 1880's drew to a close. The situation became so serious that Dr. Croke considered severing his connection with the G.A.A., saying that he "was the enemy of every species of needless strife and estrangement between our people." The Thurles Convention of November 1887 was the parting of the ways. This division in the ranks of the G.A.A. was further deepened and embittered during and after the Parnell "split."

The 1880's saw Ireland on the verge of entering the promised land of Home Rule and independence. Hopes were very high, but a whole series of factors intervened to prevent Home Rule becoming a reality. The landlord opposition, especially as exercised through the House of Lords, the Ulster Unionism crisis of 1886, the fact that Irish politics had become the play-thing of the rival British parties in the House of Commons, the divisions in the ranks of the Irish and their failure to agree on what kind of Home Rule or independ-

ence they wanted. These were but some of the factors which complicated Irish life at the end of the 1880's.

The lesson we learn from the fate of the G.A.A. in the years 1884-90 is this: it helped in no small way to assert the rights of Irishmen to **independence**, but because it fell prey to the divisions and factions which bedevilled Irish political life at the time, it failed to make its proper contribution to the **unity** of Irishmen among themselves. When the G.A.A. was revived in 1895, it continued to strive for Irish independence, and, indeed, it sought to offer itself at a platform on which all Irishmen could join in the national struggle. But there were forces outside which kept Irishmen from joining together. Already by the end of the 1880's it was evident that the people of north-east Ulster would not come willingly into an Irish republic. And thus when in 1921 the seal was set by the compromise of Partition, the twenty-six counties won

independence but lost out on the issue of national unity.

Historian's Task

It is the task of the historian to tell the story of the past as he thinks it happened. He is not called upon to be a prophet. No one can tell what lies ahead for our country. But we are reminded in reading the history of the Gaelic Athletic Association, that they set out to provide a service for all Irishmen, that its members still come from both sides of the border, that the setting in Croke Park each year for the All-Ireland finals provides an atmosphere which is not found elsewhere, at which Irishmen from all over the world gather and rejoice in their common nationality.

It is not so very far away from the centenary year of the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association. When the year 1984 comes along, then will be the time to tell the full story of an organisation which has played no small part in the national life of modern Ireland.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thuaidh)

A very sincere thanks to our Clubs, players, officials, park committees, gate men, stewards, and of course our supporters for your co-operation and goodwill during the past year.

We hope that 1971 will bring rewards in some shape or form to all clubs.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thiar)

It is our pleasure to thank everyone associated with the successful promotion of our games within the division during the past year. Your loyal and generous support has been deeply appreciated and here's wishing you all you deserve during 1971.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Theas)

The above Board through this medium extend to all players, referees, members and supporters sincerest thanks for loyal support and help in the past.

With sincerest wishes to all for success in the New Year

MOGUL OF IRELAND HURLING TEAM

Winners of All-Ireland Inter-Mines
Hurling Championship, 1970



Mogul desire to be associated with and
wish Tipperary Co. Board every success in
their promotion of this Year Book.

