

TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEAR BOOK

BLIAINIRIS THIOBRAD ARANN

1971



ALL-IRELAND HURLING CHAMPIONS

Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book 1971

Bliainiris Thiobrad Arann



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MEET THE CHAMPIONS

Our cover features the heroic Tipperary senior hurling team which captured All-Ireland honours on September 5th by defeating Kilkenny 5-17 to 5-14.

Standing, left to right: Michael Keating, Roger Ryan, John Flanagan, Liam King, John Kelly, Seamus Hogan, Mick Roche, Noel O'Dwyer.

Seated, left to right: John Gleeson, Francis Loughnane, Dinny Ryan, Tadhg O'Connor (capt.), Len Gaynor, P. J. Ryan, Peter O'Sullivan.

REAMHRA

THE FIRST number of "Bliainiris Thiobrad Arann" got to the book shops early in 1971 after a struggle. I suppose it is only by such laborious efforts that there can be any new birth. At any rate the experience has been useful in getting out this second number, although it must be said straight away that it would never have seen the light of day but for the willing co-operation of many hands.

We are fortunate that our contributors have been so helpful and it is a pleasure to thank them for the articles which are included here. Others went to great trouble to provide the photographs and they must also be thanked as well as the advertisers who have given their support and who in turn deserve support from us.

"The Year Book" is the result of combined efforts by a number of people under the co-ordinating direction of the Editor, Gerry Slevin. It aims to command a definite place in the G.A.A. year in Tipperary, recording the activities of the year and acting as an easy reference to past events. More than this, some of the pages are given to human interest stories or some of the outstanding characters and events of today and yesterday.

The year 1971 has been good to us, and will be classed amongst the most memorable years for Tipperary. In football, handball and hurling there have been outstanding achievements in intercounty competitions as well as on the home front, and the story of these is told in the following pages.

The county senior football team earned promotion to the elite division by their remarkable consistency in the National League. Paddy Hickey

regained an All-Ireland senior title in handball. But no doubt the crowning glory of the year was bringing home the All-Ireland senior hurling title for the twenty-second time. The county has shown its appreciation by the most sustained round of celebrations ever experienced here. For good measure the Intermediate All-Ireland was added, bringing back memories of 1930 and raising the question "What about our minors?"

The question is no sooner raised than our Bord na nOg officers are planning a coaching and training programme for



minor hurlers during the winter months and the newly established Minor Football Board have arranged an inter-divisional minor league. These praiseworthy efforts should result in an improvement in the fortunes of our county minor teams in both games during the coming years.

The keen interest taken in youth was also indicated by the wonderful response to Féile na nGael in the parishes throughout the county and that story also has a place in this Annual. For the future our Association must pin its faith in youth, give them the full opportunity not alone to play our games but to excel in them, and help them to appreciate their significance and their relevance to these times.

Táthar ag súil go léighfidh sean agus óg an Bliainiris agus go mbainfidh siad taithneamh agus tairbhe as. Ní féidir a shéanadh go mba bhreá léim sium na nóg a mbuscailt. Ba mhór an chabhair chuige sin dá mbeadh cóipeanna de i ngach scoil sa chontae. Is ionnholta an eisioniláir a thugann ár n-imreoirí móra a bhain clú agus cáil ar na páirceanna imeartha. Is mór an trua é go bhfuil deire a ré ar fhoireann an chontae tagaithe do Shéamus O Dúill. Ach má leanann buachaillí an chontae a shampla ní rachaidh siad amú. D'imir sé go clisté agus go macánta i gcónaí pé acu don chlub nó don chontae agus tá gradam bainte amach aige a mhaífidh go buan i gcroithe lucht leanúna na h-íomána. Tá trácht anso ar imreoirí eile a bhain ardghradam amach agus a ghnóthaigh meas agus urraim ní h-amháin sa chontae ach ar fuaid na tíre. Laochra an lae inniu is ea iad san agus tá a ngníomhartha á riomh anso i dtreo go spreagfar an t-aos óg chun aithris a dhéanamh orthu.

Má déanfar san dob fhiú an Bliainiris a fhoillsiú.

Seamus O Riain,
Cathaoirleach,
Coisde Cho. Thiobrad Arann
C.L.G.

BROLLACH

ARDEASPAG CHAISIL AGUS IMLIGH

THE DAY after the senior hurling county final, I find myself giving as much significance to the first win of Moyne-Templetuohy as to the county's twenty-second. There is no special satisfaction in the defeat of Ros Cré, who bravely came in from the cold three years ago, but the entry of Moyne-Templetuohy on the roll of champions was as dashing as it was for many of us, unexpected.

There will be a match to be remembered, and something more besides. When the parish has recovered its voice again after Sunday's cheering, something must be spoken in praise of those who kept alive the tradition and the hunger for achievement in that community. Our visitors from Scotland envied the strength of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael but they too are people whose courage matches their pride.

Mat the Thrasher had a word for it: "For the credit of the little village." Making light of little villages has gone on long enough to become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Some say that Knocknagow is gone and that in any case it never was. That is only half the truth. The picture in our local novel was idealized but for all the talk about communities nowadays there is little enough understanding of the many strands which are needed to bind people in a community.

Parish groups, such as drama groups, clubs, parish councils, have their vicissitudes. Easily the best survivors among them are the G.A.A. clubs but they should heed the signs of



the times, the current of cultural change which flows deep and swift and silent. The strength of the clubs imposes a responsibility for the general state of the local community, as a community that cares for its people and its corporate reputation.

Cúis bróid dúinn a fheabhas is d'éirigh le Féile na nGael. O bunaíodh an Cumann annso is dual sinsir dúinn beart a dheanamh ar mhaithe le leas phobail na hEireann uile.

Rath agus beannacht ar an obair.

✱ Tomas O Muiris

Ardeaspag Chaisil agus Imligh.

Lá Samhna 1971.

TIPPERARY'S 22nd. WAS A VICTORY TO CHERISH

By GERRY SLEVIN

"What's all the hulabaloo about, you'd think ye never won an All-Ireland before." It wasn't said by a Tipperary man but by a man from another county and when I heard these words minutes after that glorious Croke Park victory on All-Ireland final day, September 5th, 1971, I began to wonder if there wasn't something in what he said. Sure, we had won many a title in the past, but somehow or other, this one seemed to bring out all the heart, all the fervour that only Tipperary people can experience. We are a proud people in Tipperary. We are proud of what we have contributed to the G.A.A. since its foundation in Thurles in 1884. All-Ireland titles have been no bother to us. In the past we have walked through the best opposition that the country can offer and even though there were times when things looked precarious, yet, that Tipperary drive and dash seemed to rear its head and was a signal for all out effort that brought the supreme award.

That same pride and unwillingness to surrender came to the fore this year too. We hadn't the best team we ever had. No doubt there are many comparisons going on between it and the great team of the '60's but it must be remembered that in the '60's, we got things easier. This year it was different. The team which brought the county ahead of Cork in the honours list had to fight an uphill battle all the way and that was no easy task against such teams as Limerick and Kilkenny.

1965 was our last final victory in senior grade. We were thwarted in 1967 and 1968 and had been in the doldrums since. Then came 1971. Could that break-through be made at last? Could Tipp with the inspired leadership from Roscrea as county champions bring it off? Limerick were regarded as the team of the year and indeed they had every right to be,

especially as far as Tipp were concerned. Any team that could chasten the Premier County thrice in a matter of weeks had to be respected, and after these victories, including one at the final stage of the National League, we weren't given much hope when we lined out against them in the Munster final in Killarney.

The Banner Men

But before that there was the Clare game, and mind you, the Banner men were confident of upsetting the odds. They had good credentials after their defeat of Wexford in the league and their fine showing against Limerick in the semi-final of the same competition. Tipp got there handsomely enough, but not all that convincingly, or so the critics said. Limerick were the next targets and after the way in which they had dethroned the All-Ireland champions, Cork, they were odds on favourites in damp Killarney. Colleague John O'Grady fills you in in another page on that game and on the entire Limerick/Tipp saga, suffice it to say here, that the game proved that craft, sideline management and the will to win can overcome even the best efforts of an up and coming eager side.

The Munster title was again Tipp's and while Galway were tough enough in the All-Ireland semi-final in Birr, there was no denying that Tipp had an All-Ireland title in mind and they set about preparing for it as never before.

The enthusiasm in training was unbelievable. Donie Nealon, Gerry Doyle and Ossie Bennett threw everything they knew into the making of a fit team, that above all had confidence in their ability to bridge that six year gap. The response they received was warm and equally enthusiastic, but Kilkenny were tried and trusted rivals. They were the only side to

beat Limerick during the league campaign and while against Wexford, they didn't receive anything like the hard game Tipp had received against Limerick, they were confident they could emulate their feat of 1967 when John Doyle's first attempt at outstripping Christy Ring's medal collection failed.

Tipp were installed favourites for the game, not the best thing in the world to be, but when you defeat a team like the Limerick team of this year, it is something you have to put up with. Tickets were scarce as usual but this didn't prevent Tipp supporters from making the journey. When the finalists became known, the big regret in most places was that it wasn't to be a Limerick/Kilkenny final. Another Tipp/Kilkenny meeting didn't seem to hold out much prospect of anything stirring but somehow as the day approached an enthusiasm for the final was generated. Maybe it was due to the press previews and interviews but whatever the reason, there was an anticipation about this final that was as keen as for any decider.

The Final

Tipp began well enough but it wasn't until Noel O'Dwyer shook the net with a probing shot from far out that things began to take shape. Half time came and Tipp were still ahead and they deserved their lead too. But the real threat didn't come until mid way through the second half when Kilkenny stormed back; drew level, and then went ahead. Had Tipp shot their bolt? Kilkenny were now going abomb and looked the part of champions, but it was from here on that Tipp's true mettle showed itself. All the hard hours training; all the talk and discussion and most important, all the spirit of the Premier County men

(Continued on Page 6)

COMMERCIALS ARE BACK

ON TOP AGAIN By MICHAEL O'MEARA

TIPPERARY'S 22nd

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

FOR THE THIRD YEAR in succession, arch rivals, Ardfinnan (holders) and Clonmel Commercials, the 1969 champions, met in the county senior football championship final.

Both sides had given impressive displays in earlier rounds and their meeting on November 7th at Clonmel was expected to produce a thrilling final. A controversy which arose in the South Division as to whether or not a side-line should be in operation had kept the teams apart in that Division, and the fact that they would be in opposition for the first time since the 1970 decider added to the appeal of the game. The 1970 clash between the sides was far from remarkable and a lack of sportsmanship on and off the field had not reflected great credit on the teams concerned. However, the memory of an epic and sporting 1969 decider was still fresh and it was felt that both clubs would rise to the occasion and produce a final that would be worthy of the county's new football status.

Pre-match opinion had Ardfinnan installed as pretty strong favourites. The holders had faced a tough opening tie against Fethard but had come through comfortably and in impressive fashion. In the quarter final they had nine points to spare over Moyle Rovers and they then came up against Father Sheehys in the semi-final. The Burncourt/Clogheen men had shown great ability in earlier games and were fancied by many to oust the champions. They failed to rise to the occasion, however, and Ardfinnan, who played some fine football, were not flattered by a good sized winning margin.

Meanwhile Commercials had experienced little difficulty in accounting for Solohead in their opening game and whilst they were comfortable enough winners over Templemore in the quarter final, they were far from impressive. Loughmore/Castleiney provided their semi-final opposition,

but playing against a near gale-force wind the Clonmel side notched four first-half goals which put the issue beyond a doubt.

Record Attendance

This, then, was the build-up to the final and by the time referee John Moloney threw in the ball to start the game, a record attendance was present in Clonmel Sportsfield. Unfortunately a strong wind and heavy rain spoiled the day and conditions were very difficult. Commercials had wind advantage in the opening half and right from the throw-in they took up the running. Their forwards, however, failed badly to take their chances and it took a great soloed goal from midfielder Mick Ryan to give them supremacy on the scoreboard. Ardfinnan fought back in great style, however, and up to half-time had much the better of matters. A succession of points from John Cummins enabled them to be on level terms (0-6 to 1-3) at that stage and it seemed as if they would not have great difficulty in retaining their title.

In the second half, however, Commercials were a completely transformed team. Two points from Pat Sullivan and a goal from Paddy O'Connell gave them an inspired start to the half but they then had to withstand a terrific rally from the champions. A shot from John Cummins was deflected to the Commercials net and only a point separated the teams entering the last quarter. The Clonmel team came again in the closing minutes. Then came a last ditch effort from Ardfinnan which narrowly failed and Commercials were champions.

This was a final, however, from which both teams emerged with added reputations. They played it hard and tough but there was a high degree of sportsmanship and the football served up was of a very good standard in spite of the conditions. A fitting finale then to a good year for football in the county.

exerted itself in a fashion that delighted the hearts of all. This was a comeback to be remembered. Roger Ryan doubling on an incoming ball; Dinny Ryan shooting past a helpless Ollie Walsh, substitute Paul Byrne tapping over a beautiful point; they were all to be savoured but nothing more than the dynamic display of Francis Loughnane at wing forward. Four real beauts of points had emerged from his stick in the first half and when the chips were now down he was on the trail again, probing, rooting, snapping up the ball and setting his colleagues in motion. Then there was the leadership and strength of his clubmate Tadhg O'Connor on no less a man than Eddie Keher. Tadhg, captain of the side and a hurler of spirit and stamina, stamped himself out as one of remarkable qualities. Peter O'Sullivan between the posts cool and efficient, in front of him a solid line in Liam King, John Kelly and John Gleeson with Len Gaynor completing the back line, along with Noel O'Dwyer whose switch with Mich Roche in the second half was to prove the really decisive stroke. P. J. Ryan at mid field never letting a ball go to waste; Seamus Hogan trying for all he was worth, and Babs, that schemer in chief, adding his weight and power to an efficient display; Jimmy Doyle coming on to play his part in winning his 6th All-Ireland senior medal, Mick Roche hurling with such precision and courage when moved to mid field; John Flanagan, the daredevil of the side, always in the fray.

A team of real heroes; a team of determined men set on bringing that title to the county; a team that succeeded and belied the many criticisms that were thrown at them such as lack of power in attack and lack of ability in defence. All-Ireland final day proved to all that here was a team that refused to die.

COMMERCIALS—TIPPERARY'S TOP FOOTBALL TEAM



Clonmel Commercial who regained the Tipperary S.F. title after a year's lapse, pictured prior to their final match with Ardinnan. Standing, left to right: Kieran McGrath, Mick Egan, T. J. Corley, Seamus Fitzgerald, Jimmy Hewitt, Mick Ryan. Front, left to right: Pat O'Donoghue, Mossy Patterson, Pat Sullivan, Jimmy Harney, Mick O'Connell (capt), Paddy O'Connell, Tom Pollard, Liam Kane.

Photo: W. J. Boland, Clonmel

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**We are happy to be associated with
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in 1972.**

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An inter-county minor star at 14, Jimmy Doyle has won every honour the game of hurling can bestow. Fellow Thurles man, MICHAEL DUNDON, in this article gives some insight into the greatness of this renowned player, one who can rightly claim to be

A LEGEND IN HIS OWN LIFETIME

THE STYLE was unmistakable. The ball had come floating over the left, a harmless looking, speculative pass, or so it seemed, until out of nowhere, he surged effortlessly forward. Without checking his stride, he had the ball under control on the hurley, and in another instant, the umpire was raising the white flag — yet another score to his credit.

"Hey! That's Jimmy Doyle." The voice behind me was obviously American. "Man, can he play. I seen that guy 'over' and boy he sure is a winner."

All the above happened during a Mid Tipperary championship game at Holycross some years back, when Jimmy Doyle and Sarsfields were winning county senior hurling championships with a monotonous regularity that suggested invincibility. To me, it emphasised the uniqueness of Jimmy Doyle, that an Irish-American, after seeing him play once, could immediately identify him by the character of his play.

Jimmy Doyle had a style all his own. For one thing, he held the hurley in a peculiar right-hand-under fashion, with a left-

sided swing, which had none of the awkwardness or ungainliness one usually associates with the grip. His ball control was mesmerising, and his co-ordination in striking was perfection. His accuracy from anything up to eighty yards, stemmed from regular practice, mostly on his own, and a dedication to the game that was second to none.

I can remember as a young schoolboy at Thurles C.B.S. back in 1956, cheering myself hoarse as he helped our Alma Mater to its last victory in the Dr. Harty Cup, Munster Colleges senior hurling final. It was the first occasion that name Jimmy Doyle registered with me, and ever since, Jimmy has been a big name in hurling circles. Two years later he was to win his first senior All-Ireland medal at left half-forward on the Tipperary team that defeated Galway in the final, and this year, he collected his sixth senior medal.

Jimmy Doyle loved hurling, and the real proof of this lies in the fact that he was prepared to suffer for it, and did. Nobody ever went through all he did, and had such a long career. From the very time he became established



Jimmy Doyle

as one of the country's leading forwards, he was always the focus of the attention of opposing defenders. At times opponents were not too scrupulous as to how they curbed him, and the injuries started to come. In May of last year, during the Munster Railway Cup team's American trip, the news of Jimmy's retirement came.

This was a well-kept secret for more than a month beforehand and I was one of the very few he had taken into his confidence. Jimmy's timing of the announcement was perfect, in that, while in America, he would be away from those who would be anxious to persuade him to reconsider, and he hoped that by his return, the surprise, and indeed incredulity, that greeted the announcement of his retirement, would have died down.

Jimmy wanted to get out because he was getting too many serious injuries. A married man, with three children, he could not afford to miss work through injury, and he was determined not to. Tipperary lined out in the Munster championship, and went under narrowly to Cork. The forwards wasted lots of chances,

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many of them from frees, and the cry went out "If only we had Jimmy Doyle." It gained momentum when Cork went on to take the All-Ireland, and with Tipperary still troubled by the inadequacy of their attacking power, Jimmy was pressed to come back.

His loyalty to the county caused him to reconsider, and so he entered the League campaign. He was gradually warming to the task, and keeping an eye on the forthcoming championship. In the final game in the league series against Limerick, he wrenched his back, the injury bug had hit him again. It didn't seem very serious at the time, but when Tipperary lined out against Kildare in the league quarter-final, and many of the established Tipperary men were not available, the selectors pressed Jimmy into service. Unfortunately the injury was aggravated, and to such an extent that he was virtually sidelined for the whole championship.

It had cleared to a degree by the Munster final against Limerick in Killarney, but he told me after the game that he felt caught in the back all the time and couldn't shake it off. It clearly affected his game, and he had never been as inconspicuous as he was on that occasion. The selectors did not play him in the semi-final against Galway; nor was he chosen on the first fifteen for the All-Ireland, but when he came on in the second half against Kilkenny, the psychological importance of his inclusion was obvious to all. Jimmy Doyle was on, Kilkenny backs beware. He didn't get a score himself, but his presence took the pressure off his colleagues, and scores came.

After the game came the news that Jimmy had definitely called it a day. This was fairly well-known beforehand, and it was fitting that he should bow out as a

member of an All-Ireland winning team. He had given so much to the game that he deserved at least that.

But what did hurling mean to Jimmy Doyle? In his own words: "It was like a religion. I loved it. I was in the field day and night. I lived from match to match; it was everything to me. I began as a goalkeeper and played county minor for four years. It was while at school that the late Brother Doody, Superior at Thurles C.B.S., brought me out the field and began to play me as a wing forward. I never looked back after that."

Jimmy Doyle played his first senior game in 1955 with Thurles Sarsfields, while still a minor. He had the distinction of winning minor, junior and senior county medals that year, coming on to the senior side after Sarsfields had won out the junior championship. Jimmy loved hurling with Sarsfields. "It was great. We had a great team with men like Larry and Blackie Keane, Mickey Byrne, Musha Maher and Mick McElgun. The standard of play among that Sarsfield team was far higher than with many an inter-county team," he said.

Latterly, however, Jimmy was feeling the wind of change blowing through hurling. A new generation of hurlers was coming up, and with them they brought a different style of play. Says Jimmy — "They don't make the ball work anymore. Everyone wants to run with it. No one is inclined to throw it around. Donie Nealon, Liam Devaney, Larry Kiely, and Sean McLoughlin, they knew how to open the game up. Nowadays everyone works for himself. It is becoming less and less a team effort."

With a career spanning the best part of twenty years, Jimmy has many memories of the game. He

rates the Tipperary team of 1964 the best the county fielded in a long time and that All-Ireland win over Kilkenny was a memorable one for him, perhaps even more so than the victories in '62 and '65, when he captained the team. He regards Michael Maher of Holycross as 'the' full-back of his time and his retirement was an awful blow to Tipperary. When Theo English, Tony Wall and Mick Burns called it a day, they too were badly missed.

To the inevitable question, Jimmy replied that the best back man he ever played against was Martin Coogan of Kilkenny. He described the Kilkenny man as a very brilliant player of great strength but absolutely fair. Jimmy Duggan of Galway, Tom McGarry (Limerick) and John Nolan (Wexford) are also high on his list.

Jimmy has won every honour the game has to offer, and he now feels it is time to get out. His doctor has advised him to do so because of his back. He makes no secret of the fact that if he were back again, he would go through it all, and more. Now, though he has officially retired, he intends to maintain an active interest in the game, and would like to have a go at training teams. He will, of course, maintain his interest in Thurles Sarsfields, and though he has firmly declared that this is the end, one can imagine that he will be under a lot of pressure at that level to reconsider yet again.

During his time, Jimmy Doyle gave a lot to hurling and was one of the personalities of the game. Despite the success and fame he attained, he remained unaffected by it all and was always approachable. He made many friends and they all join in wishing him a happy retirement.

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THE STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS

By

REV. THOMAS MARSH, D.D.

OF TIPPERARY

FOOTBALL

SUNDAY, MAY 16th, 1971, was a red-letter day for Tipperary football. On that day in Clonmel Sportsfield Tipperary defeated Waterford in the Division II final of the National Football League. In so doing the county won its first national football title since a similar competition was won in 1937-38. This was, indeed, an encouraging start to the 1970s.

It would be idle to deny that this League victory has meant quite a boost for Tipperary football and raises hopes for a much brighter future in the years ahead. One should note not only that Tipperary won this 16-county competition outright but the decisive manner in which this was accomplished. In the League section of the competition Tipperary not alone won maximum points but had an average winning margin of eight points per game! The ingredients of this success are easy to identify. There was, first of all, a panel of players available with good football ability. But more than that they possessed that dedication and determination on and off the field without which mere ability will never bring success.

Finally, building on these foundations there was the coaching of Mr. J. P. McGowan which gave a sense of purpose and a sophistication to the team's play which are absolute essentials for success in modern football.

All this suggests that Tipperary belongs in Division I of the Football League and that they should maintain their position there. If this is so, then the county must also be expected to make in the immediate years ahead a strong challenge even for the major honours, the All-Ireland championship. On the evidence this assessment cannot be devoid of merit. But to base a forecast of the future solely on the basis of present performance would be foolhardy.

In this age of systematic planning one is accustomed to the principle that to assess future performance one must look beyond the present to the resources which are available. It is one's resources which hold the key to the future. It should be instructive to apply this principle to the present state of football in Tipperary.

The Resources

A county football team is like the top of a mountain: it rests on and is supported by a solid broadly based mass. Within a county this mountain mass is represented by that numerous body of ordinary club players from whom the county panel is drawn. This body must be able to supply up to forty players of at least near inter-county standard if a good county team is to be maintained constantly in the field. Above all, there must be a continuous flow of promising young players to take the places of those who through circumstances or the passage of time retire from the county scene. If a county has got such resources success will not be automatic. It will still have to develop its resources, to harvest the crop. But it possesses the raw material for future success and is entitled to consider its future bright.

Can Tipperary football command such resources? A look at the county's recent record in minor, under-21 and junior football and at the strength of club football in the county should give an indication of the true answer to that question.

For a good number of years now Tipperary have come nowhere near winning even a Munster championship in minor, under-21 or junior football. The most seri-

ous failure here has been at minor level. Current minor standard is a good indication of what the general standard will be in five years' time. The performance of Tipperary minor football teams in recent years has been frankly poor. For a number of years we have not been able to win even the Munster Minor League for the four weaker counties. Even more alarming is the fact that our minor players seem to lack knowledge of the basic essentials of Gaelic football. Judging the resources of Tipperary football by the performance of these teams does not suggest a rosy future.

Turning to the general standard in senior football competition other disquieting facts emerge. There are around twenty or more senior football clubs registered in Tipperary every year. One would imagine that this number would provide plenty of good competition. Yet in the ten years between 1962 and 1971 two clubs, Ardfinnan and Clonmel Commercial, have between them won nine of the ten championships played. There is no indication at the moment of any change in this pattern. Moreover, over these years only two or three other clubs have shown themselves capable of competing with these two. More than half the senior clubs in the county are way below the standard of the top half dozen. This has meant most uneven and most uninteresting competition in the county championship.

Many of the games between the top clubs and the others have been nothing short of farcical so indifferent has been the standard of the teams. Such competition is good for no one and bad for everyone. But it does show that the



Newport, County Football Champions for 1970 (the final was played in early 1971). Standing, left to right: Michael Collins (official), Noel O'Gorman, Denis Ryan, Ned Ryan, Christy Heffernan, Noel O'Shea, Michael Larkin, Bill Mahoney, Tom O'Rourke, Christy Moroney, John Ryan (Bawn), Tim Mannion (official). Front row, left to right: Denis O'Brien, club secretary; James O'Brien, P. J. Moroney, Joe O'Brien, Martin Moloney, Fr. O'Connell, C.C., club president; Seamus Shinnors (capt.), Michael 'Neighbour' Jones, James O'Rourke, John Ryan (Boala), Martin Moloney, Harry Ryan (official). Seated, in front: John McDonnell, John Larkin.

ourably with any of the strong mass which supports the summit in Tipperary football would appear to be below standard and, what is worse, suggests that the present club system is a hindrance rather than a help to improvement.

No Rosy Future?

Despite the present performance of the county team, therefore, this examination of the resources of Tipperary football would not suggest a rosy future for the game in the years ahead. The general standard of club competition does not appear to be high enough nor the influx of promising young players numerous enough to maintain a county team of top standard. Yet alongside these depressing factors one must also bear in mind a number of other positive factors which ultimately prevent one from taking a pessimistic view of football in Tipperary. Above all a realistic assessment and recognition of our problems should only act as a spur upon us to tackle and solve them. The first essential step in solving a problem is to know what it is. The real tragedy, indeed I think the only tragedy, which could confront Tipperary football would be if we did nothing.

Of the positive factors which must be taken into account when one is assessing Tipperary football the first is the power of survival which the game has always displayed in the county. The weakness of football in Tipperary has been a bye-word for many, many years, yet it survives and every now and then surprises us with the vitality it can display. The performance of the present county team is a case in point. One must never underestimate this power of survival. Then there is the football tradition of Tipperary. For we have a football tradition and in large parts of the county football is the traditional game. This tradition is a force of incalculable worth for it means the fire is still burning and our problem is simply one of fanning it into flame. Finally one must point to the large numbers which play football in the county. Here we compare fav-

football counties. We have at least the basic raw material.

The football tradition of Tipperary, its proved power to survive, the numbers playing the game, these are powerful positive factors which will not allow one to be pessimistic about the future. Tipperary football has the basic resources to renew itself. The problem is how to develop these resources, how to tackle and counteract the weaknesses already mentioned. These weaknesses can be summarised as a weakness in general standard and a weakness in the structure of our club competitions which seems to hinder an improvement in standard.

How are we to approach these problems? Only broad suggestions can be made here suggesting the general direction that our efforts should take.

Tackling the Problem

First, clubs will have to be much more conscious of the demands of proper standard in modern football. Modern football does not consist in simply kicking the ball around. It is a methodic team game. Our clubs must realise this as clubs in other counties already have and try seriously to develop this approach in their teams. This brings up the question of coaching, which I believe is a must in present day football. Clubs will have to take the question of coaching seriously, especially for younger players, and the county will have to provide a coaching service which the clubs can use.

Then, a definite effort is needed to develop the game at minor level. Here the existence of the Minor Football Board should be a big help. This Board only came into existence in the course of 1971 and it is still too early to judge its efforts. It is clear that minor football needs something more by way of competition than the championship. The possibility of wider amalgamations, regional groupings, might also help to develop better standards. An effort to organise competition among the post-primary schools is also needed. It is above all at minor level that a coaching system is necessary and would pay best dividends.

There remains the whole problem of senior club competition, especially the County Championship. One must bluntly admit that the present structure of the county championship is depressing standards and keeping them depressed. Some hard thinking needs to be done in this area and some experimentation tried. The ideal solution will scarcely emerge overnight. One thing is obvious—there are far too many senior football teams in the county. An intermediate grade should be introduced to cater for the better junior teams. Perhaps then some form of regional groupings might be tried at senior level. There is a prejudice against group teams in Tipperary because, I suppose, so many of them have been failures. But this only means that the matter was approached the wrong way and probably that the teams which grouped were too weak anyway. But many other counties have taken this step successfully. And even in Tipperary there have been successful efforts here. One remembers in particular the fine group teams from the North Division some years ago. Certainly, fewer but better class senior teams, obtained by regional grouping if necessary, would put a new face on Tipperary club football.

Moving into the 1970s, then, Tipperary football has its problems. But this is nothing new. In its long-standing football tradition, its proved power to survive and large body of players, the county possesses the basic resources. The question is how to develop these resources. In the immediate future the present county team can be expected to give a good account of itself. The problem is to ensure that as this side needs to be renewed the necessary talent will be available. It is a question of the general standard of football in the county. Here hard thinking is necessary and perhaps even radical developments. What we need now is wisdom and courage, wisdom to decide what kind of developments and courage to go ahead with them. Tipperary football has already taken itself off the floor. With a further effort it can yet take a place at the top table.

MOGUL OF IRELAND

CONGRATULATE

*Co. Tipperary on
winning their 22nd
senior hurling*

All-Ireland Title

and also

Co. Intermediate Team

1971 All-Ireland

Champions

AN ALL-IRELAND FOR THE "MIDDLE" MEN WAS WHAT THE TEACHER ORDERED

By GERRY SLEVIN

IT'S MOVING ON towards 3.30 p.m. on Sunday, September 19th. In a pensive mood, members of the Tipperary intermediate hurling team shuffle around a Nowlan Park dressingroom. From outside, continuous cheering can be heard as two local junior teams fight out a thrilling end to a Kilkenny championship tie. People walk up and down the corridor outside and more shuffling, this time two doors down, indicates that the opposition is taking the field.

Suddenly from the midst of the apprehensive and nerve ridden atmosphere, a man jumps up on a seat and immediately a hush descends. The man, Donie Nealon, N.T., has been through it all before. How often has he stood around in the midst of colleagues preparing to hear those commands given by others in charge. Yes, even in that selfsame dressingroom.

For a while, the sorrow the players might have felt for themselves is cast aside. The man of the moment is about to speak and what he has to say has to be heard, but not only that, it has to be put into action too. They are words of wisdom, they are words uttered from a knowledge of what these players are capable of achieving; an achievement that they themselves, possibly, do not feel is in their power.

But Donie knows it. Why wouldn't he? Didn't he along with Tom O'Hara, Tom Everard, Jimmy Hogan and Paddy Verdun see them on the path to the final. He saw them on the Saturday evening, some months before that, when in Tralee's Austin Stack Stadium they had dashed the high hopes of the Kingdom in a game that was to receive as much unfavourable publicity as any game could receive.

He knew when the team strolled off that Kerry field that there was an All-Ireland title in them. They had shown courage, had thrown everything into a tremendous second half that sent Kerry reeling. Maybe the players themselves didn't realise it, but then what experience had they of winning national titles. Unlike other counties, Tipp could not select their second best team for the Intergrade. Only players in junior and intermediate grade were eligible as well as men who were in their first year in senior inter-club competition. Was it any wonder that the "middle" men were wary and took each game as it came.

Increased Confidence

No doubt confidence increased after that victory. To beat the best that Kerry could put out, in their own backyard, was a fine achievement. Only Limerick now stood between them and a Munster title. Psychologically, Tipp were conditioned for this game. It took place just a few days before the senior final between the same counties. They could show their "elders" the way, even at a Limerick venue, and this they did, once more turning on the heat in the second half. Victory was theirs, just one more game between them and All-Ireland final appearance.

Donie knew it? Of course he did. By now the players were really in earnest. But Galway were always a tough nut to crack, and for their third successive game, fate decreed that they travel to play in their opponents' territory. Portumna it was this time. In the first half things went along smoothly enough. Galway weren't coming all that well. It might have been better for the blue and gold jersied men if they had because the dan-

ger of complacency was there. Some positional switches at half-time saw the Tribesmen emerge with a new confidence. No, they would not let their own supporters down and they proceeded to knock Tipp off their stride and get back into the game with a vengeance.

Were those great displays against Kerry and Limerick, all to go for nought? Was it to be thus far and no further? No, Tipperary are made of sterner stuff than that. The Galway come-back is checked. Tipp are off once more and are not to be conquered. Victory again and a chance to emulate the fate of the seniors.

All-Ireland final day in Kilkenny. Donie Nealon, with a hurley firmly gripped swinging it as he emphasises every word.

"Boys, you are in an All-Ireland final. You can go out and win that final. I know you can but you will only win it if you play determinedly for the full hour. You can do what the seniors did in Croke Park just a couple of weeks ago. Go out and play as you have played up to this and give Tipperary another All-Ireland title."

David v. Goliath

The opposition? Wicklow. David against Goliath one might say. Tipperary, the kingpins of hurling since the foundation of the G.A.A.; Wicklow, luckless Wicklow trying for that deserved break-through but confident nonetheless, despite the name of the opposition. In addition, their juniors have already won the "home" section of the junior championship. Of course, they deserve results for their efforts but it's not going to be today!

The pre match spiff is over. Eamon Butler from Drom/Inch leads his team out on to the field, not in the familiar blue and gold this time but in the provincial blue. The game gets under way and before Tipp have a chance to settle down Wicklow have shot two goals past a helpless Willie Barnaville in a dust filled goalmouth. Never in any of the games up to this, have things taken such a bad turn so early on. Gradually Tipp began to get into their stride and that lead is not alone snatched



The Tipperary team which won the All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Championship when defeating Wicklow in the final in Kilkenny on September 19th. Standing, left to right: Sean Cahalan (sub.), Pat Quinlan, Jim Carey (sub.), Pakie Hogan (sub.), Seamus Butler (sub.), Jim Barry, Gerry Keogh, Oliver Quinn, Willie Barnaville, Pat Kennedy, Gerry Doyle. Kneeling, left to right: Donal Ryan (sub.), Jimmy Noonan, Brendan Teehan, Martin Brennan, Eamonn Butler (capt.), Phil Lowry, Denis Crowe, Seamus Power, J. P. McDonnell, Jack Dunlea.

away but overhauled. Phil Lowry, Seamus Power, Eamon Butler and Jimmy Noonan are teasing the Wicklow defence with cute scores.

Ten minutes to go before the interval. Tipp are moving very well but Wicklow are staying in touch. Oliver Quinn incurs the wrath of the referee, Noel Dalton from Waterford, and Tipp's complement of players is reduced by one. Is this the end? A side line huddle and a switch. Seamus Power drops back to aid the in-form J. P. McDonnell, and as the remainder of the first half passes, Tipp manages to stay in front.

Thirty minutes to go against a side that is imbued with confidence. It's fourteen against fifteen but what's going on in that Tipp dressingroom?

Another swift jump up on the seat. Donie is in action again. Now the chips are down. It will now take a tremendous effort to pull it off. Can it be done? Some have doubts, but remember that second half against Kerry? Remember the determined way in

which Tipp came out and brushed aside the Kingdom. Yes, boys, you can do it. Back to action once more and soon it becomes clear that Wicklow are rather puzzled about their extra man. How should they use him? He isn't the asset they imagined he would be.

Into Action

Meanwhile Tipp are moving into action. Young Power at midfield is playing with all the confidence of a seasoned senior. He's making inroads through the Wicklow defence, and Martin Brennan and Jim Barry now begin to shine. Behind them an over worked defence is showing its true mettle. Denis Crowe, Pat Quinlan and Brendan Teehan are erecting the stop signs and with strong intelligent hurling repulsing all that gallant Wicklow can offer. The rearguard of Jack Dunlea, Pat Kennedy and Gerry Keogh, fully restored after those opening minutes lapse are on hand to help out in front of a brilliant Willie Barnaville. Tipp are holding out. The

final exciting moments are upon us. Realising their fate, Wicklow come again. They have the stuff, these Garden County lads, but Tipp are not to be denied their hour of glory.

It's over. Referee Dalton's long blast brings a welcome sigh of relief. A hard game, won in truly solid Tipperary fashion. Supporters rush forwards to congratulate their men. Eamon Butler proudly holds the trophy aloft and eventually makes his way to the dressingroom. The scene now is a far cry from what it was just over a half hour ago. The excitement knows no bounds.

Then into the midst of the happy throng comes that man with the magic voice and those words of wisdom. As he throws his arms around each of the players, he doesn't have to say anything. It's all clearly written on his face. Eventually he stands back and takes in the entire scene. "Didn't I tell ye, ye'd do it lads!" How right he was.

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With so much emphasis this year on Tipperary's All-Ireland hurling successes, the wonderful achievement of PADDY HICKEY from Clogheen in winning the All-Ireland Senior Hardball Singles final seems to be overlooked by many. Here, Paddy, interviewed by Gerry Slevin, gives his impression of the game and his hopes for it.

TIPPERARY'S HANDBALL KING

Q—Apart from yourself, Tipperary handballers have not figured too prominently in top class competition in recent years. Is there any particular reason for this, or do you feel you yourself put more into the game than others normally do?

A—It's true that Tipp handballers, apart from myself, did not fare too well this year. It is hard for me to give a reason for this. I honestly think that some of them did not push themselves too hard in training, but then again others did.

* * *

Q—How much training do you do and what does it consist of?

A—I play handball about two nights a week from April on, and when you are going well in championships you have games on Sundays and they would keep you going. I also play hurling and football and I go to the field with the lads any night they are training.

* * *

Q—In G.A.A. circles it is still felt that handball is the poor relation within the Association. This year the Tipperary Co. Board decided to put a levy on each club which would go to the Handball Board. Do you think that money is sufficient or if there is any other

way in which the Board can foster a more widespread interest in the game?

A—I know that handball is felt to be the poor relation in G.A.A., but I think that Tipperary County Board is one of the most generous in the country as regards grants, and has been down the years. It is very hard for a Co. Board to generate interest because I have always noticed that there is no notice taken of winning county titles, even Munster titles. You must reach All-Ireland semi-finals or finals before any notice is taken.

* * *

Q—How did you first become interested in handball? Did the presence of a court in your area influence you in any way?

A—I think that the presence of a court locally is essential to have any interest at all, and if there was not one in Clogheen I probably would never have played the game.

* * *

Q—Having won All-Ireland titles you have reached the high point in your career. Do you feel that you and others like you have anything to offer the game or if sufficient interest is being taken in the matter of coaching by people like you?

A—I think that an All-Ireland winner can have a great influence on players in his own locality, and players who are training with good players are bound to pick up good shots to play. That is, provided they have enough interest.

New Alley

Q—What do you think of the new handball alley in Croke Park? Does it meet the needs to some extent or would it be better if more attention were paid to the erection of suitable courts in other centres?

A—As regards the new court at Croke Park, I think that the game needed a showpiece like it. The drawback about it, of course, is that you cannot play handball in it. As you know, it has a glass-back and sidewalls and requires a lot of getting used to. I also think that Dublin players in particular, and indeed Leinster players, have a big advantage when it comes to playing finals there. I know that I would not like to bring a couple of "green" minors up there for the first time and put them in there in completely strange surroundings, against players who are used to playing there. I think that is one of the things that will have to be ironed out over the years ahead. I also think that it must do the game a lot of good as it is a tremendous court and can hold really big crowds comfortably and the game must surely benefit from that.

* * *

Q—What awards have you won in handball?

A—Minor Hardball Singles, 1957; Junior Hardball Singles, 1961; Junior Hardball Doubles with Liam Breedy, 1962; Senior Hardball Singles, 1966-1971; Tailteann Games Softball Doubles with John Cleary, 1966; Senior Hardball Doubles with Con Cleere, 1968; several Munster and county championships.

* * *

Q—What advice would you give to a young boy who is interested in taking up handball?

A—I would advise him to take

up the game at as early an age as possible and to concentrate on trying to have two good hands.

* * *

Q—Have you interests in any other sports and have these helped you in any way towards becoming a better handballer?

A—I have always played hurling and football as well and I think that they certainly did not do me any harm. Hurling and handball go very well together, and I think that more hurlers should play handball for training purposes.

* * *

Q—What would you suggest by way of improvement in interest in the game, not alone within the county but in the country at large?

A—I would say that covered courts are essential and I would like to see more mid-week handball games where possible. I think that in that way you could avoid clashing with big inter-county and football games and even local hurling championship games and might get better crowds.

* * *

Q—Are there any young lads in Tipperary that you feel will blossom into potential All-Ireland champions in the years ahead?

A—I think that in players like Willie Fitzgibbon (Tipp town), Sean Morrissey (Ballyporeen) and the Morrisseys (St. Mary's, Clonmel) Tipperary has plenty of potential.

* * *

Q—How long do you intend playing?

A—I suppose I will continue to play for another couple of years anyhow.

* * *

Q—Finally, to whom do you attribute as being the greatest influence on your game and who do you consider to be the best men you have met?

A—I think that John Ryan of Wexford was the finest player I have seen and I would say that he had the greatest influence on my game, though I never played against him. I think that Paddy Downey, Kerry, and Joe Maher, Louth, were the best players I met in handball. I would say that Mick Griffin of Tipperary and Cork was the cleverest player I ever played against.

TIOBRAID ARANN ABU

(Air—Kelly of Killane)

This ballad was composed by Tom Keating, to celebrate Tipperary's Triple Crown victories in 1930.

Tiobraid Arann abú! Tiobraid Arann abú
That's our watchword and war-cry for aye;
For Tipperary's brave men from the hill and the glen,
Are the champions of Ireland today.

Chorus

Then hurrah, boys, hurrah! 'Tis our glory today,
That the seniors and brave minors too,
Led the juniors the way to win fame in the fray
With the cry: Tiobraid Arann abú!

Chorus

Fling the news on the breeze, let it ring o'er the seas,
On the moorland and wild mountain blue,
That the boys on the field forced all rivals to yield
With the cry Tiobraid Arann Abú!

Chorus

In the land of our birth—purest gem of the earth,
Writ in bright flashing gold of the dawn,
Is Tipperary's fair name, and her far-flowing flame
In the swing of the Irish camán.

Chorus

Let the bright blue-and-gold of our banner unfold,
And we'll swear to be loyal and true,
To the men of renown who won victory's crown,
With the cry Tiobraid Arann abú!

Chorus

Tiobraid Arann abú! Let it ring loud and true,
Till it shakes heather crowned Sliabh na mBan;
For no power could e'er smash Tipperary's swift dash,
With the clash of the ash sweeping on.

Chorus

While of victory we boast, let us now drink a toast,
To the brave men, the tried, and the true,
Who so oft in the past nailed our flag to the mast,
With the cry Tiobraid Arann abú.

Chorus

In the games of the Gael, may our men never fail
To be faithful to Eire's fair name:
May they ever march on like the men who are gone,
True to Tipperary's great fame.

Chorus

Yes, with Ireland's camán, and the speed of the fawn,
And the blood of the Gael thro' and thro',
Feeling proud of the past, they will fight to the last
With the cry: Tiobraid Arann abú!

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One of the greatest boosts to young hurling in Tipperary in many years, came last year when the Tipperary Association in London presented to the Tipperary County Board a trophy in memory of a former President, V. Rev. Thomas Canon Joseph Fitzgerald who died on February 24th, 1968, aged 73 years.

As a result, a new competition was inaugurated, the participants being the post primary schools of the county, secondary and vocational. Borrisokane Vocational School became the first winners and in this article MICHAEL McCORMACK, President of the Tipperary Association in London, gives an insight into the character of a man who described himself as:

THE ORIGINAL PHONEY TIPPERARY MAN

"I am the original 'phoney' Tipperaryman and should not be here at all" was the usual roguish introductory sentence with which Canon Tom Fitzgerald burst into the many witty, humorous and rumbustious speeches which he made at the London Tipperary dinner during his eleven years as president of the Premier County Association. Canon Fitzgerald was ceremonial head of the Tipperarymen's Association from its foundation in the early fifties up to his retirement, due to ill-health, from his priestly duties in 1964. It is his name that is commemorated in the cup which was presented by the exiles to the Tipperary Co. Board for post-primary schools competition this year.

Canon Fitzgerald jokingly queried his right to be called a Tipperaryman because he was London born and had a Cockney accent but he never left anyone in doubt of his great love for Tipperary and in particular for Boherlahan where he spent his annual holidays.

Thomas Joseph Fitzgerald was born on 2nd November, 1894, the son of Michael Joseph Fitzgerald (of Synone, Cashel, family) and Caroline Amy (née Streatfield). He was educated at St. Ignatius' College, Stamford Hill, St. Edmund's College, Ware, and St. Sulpice's College, Parish. He was a curate in Cadogan Gardens, Chelsea, in his early days as a priest and he often reminded his listeners, when expounding his deeply held theory that there was good even in the worst of men, that on returning late to his Chelsea Presbytery one night, he found that a man, whom he later discovered to be Sir Edward Carson, had been waiting over an hour to request him to make a sick call to his manservant who had suddenly become gravely ill.

Ministered to Casement

Later, he was curate in Holloway and during that time he was visiting priest to Pentonville Prison. He ministered to Sir Roger Casement and was chaplain to

Tom Hales and all other Irishmen detained there during the 'trouble.'

He was appointed curate-in-charge of Willesden Green in 1929, and was later made Diocesan Rector of that parish. It was in this part of north-west London that Father Fitzgerald first displayed the administrative and organising ability for which he became a legend in Catholic circles in his own time. Through the transfer of population from distressed areas and a huge emigration of boys and girls from the West of Ireland, for building and factory employment and domestic service, his congregation doubled in a few years and the parish debt was halved. In 1934 he decided to take the plunge and build a new church. He broke with tradition in having his new building modern and industrial in design—a flat-roofed structure 135 feet long, 56 feet wide, and 28 feet high. It was linked by a lobby to a campanile 69 feet high, and having a commanding position, the new church to this day is a landmark in the area. It is dedicated to Our Lady of Compassion but its first rector said to me on one occasion that it was better known locally as "Fitz's Gassworks" because of its plain design and because he talked so much there.

His next assignment was in 1941 to the great East End parish of SS. Mary and Michael in Commercial Road—one of the great arteries of the British Capital, and it was here that Canon Fitzgerald was to remain as pastor until he retired and was succeeded by Monsignor Warlock, now Bishop of Portsmouth. The church, which dates from 1762, was destroyed in the anti-Catholic Gordon riots of 1780 and was damaged by air raids during the war but the main walls stood in good condition despite bombing. Canon Tom undertook reconstruction with his usual zeal after the war and had it adorned and beautified as well, especially with four new stained glass windows, one of which depicts St. Patrick and another two priests martyred in adjacent Stepney Green in the penal days. War damage payments covered about half the cost of this undertaking, but in those post-

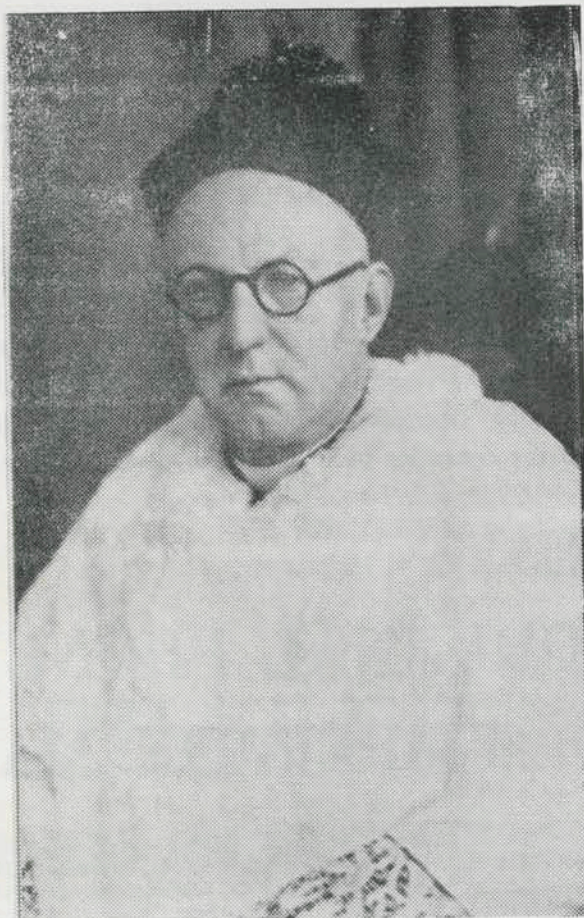
war days of controls and licences for everything, the Cardinal-Archbishop ruled that rebuilding could only start when money became available and then in order of necessity. In the contest to establish priorities with the diocesan authorities, the parish priest of Commercial Road was using all his strength and vocal power to get his church top of the list. The Archbishop decided to make a visitation to get visual confirmation of the condition of the East End Church which was being brought to his notice so forcefully and so volubly.

Pray for Rain

In announcing the episcopal visit Canon Fitzgerald asked his parishioners to pray for a down-pour and he promised to do his part by moving the pulpit to a spot where the leaking roof would allow God's good rain to wash away lingering resistance from the Cardinal's head. The weather was inclement and rebuilding started immediately.

A new organ was built in the church, a presbytery for five priests, three new secondary schools, and a nursery annexe for toddlers aged 3-5. A new sacristy and a parochial administrative office were completed in the post-war years, and at his retirement, Canon Fitzgerald had no fewer than forty-three teachers working in his parish's five schools. An amazing accomplishment in twenty years, but the humble pastor said at his farewell presentation, "I had nothing to do but steer reconstruction through, it is the people who have done it."

It is difficult to believe that this great Churchman, who was also in constant and popular demand for diocesan retreats all over England and Scotland, could find time for social and public service. But such was the calibre and personality of the man that he was just as well known in secular and controversial affairs. Long before Vatican II he was creating bridges between his congregation and his separated brethren and Jews in the East End. The down-trodden and oppressed were always his friends and he was ever ready to fight their battles.



Canon Fitzgerald

In his student days, he was to be found helping the suffragettes and he boasted of lassoing a mounted policeman from his horse at one of their stormy meetings in Trafalgar Square. He was first treasurer of the Irish Self-determination League and when the London County Board of the G.A.A. needed strong leadership in the twenties, Canon Fitzgerald was appointed chairman. Under his guidance, the Woolwich Stadium was booked for exhibition games and county teams were brought from Ireland. At that time the Stadium was part of Woolwich Arsenal and under the control of the British Army. The general officer in charge refused to allow the tricolour to be flown for the occasion but Canon Tom

would not accept the officer's decision and insisted that the Irish flag would be flown as of right. He threatened diplomatic action and got his many friends in high places working for him with the result that the army ruling was reversed. To this day, the older generation of Gaels in London recall with joyous satisfaction the boost to Irish morale this flag-flying incident produced, particularly at a time when the Irish in England were not popular and many employment advertisements carried the admonition "No Irish need apply."

Trade Union Connections

Outside Catholic and Irish circles, Canon Fitzgerald made a

(Continued on page 77)

ROSCREA CONTINUE TO CHASE TOOMEVARA'S

By GERRY SLEVIN

"Guardian" Staff Reporter

FINE RECORD

FROM 1925 UNTIL 1931 the roost in North Tipperary hurling was ruled by the famed Toomevara Greyhounds. They literally 'owned' the scene in the division and in those years set up a record of seven titles on the trot, a record that many people felt to be impossible to catch, not to mind, outstrip. The nearest any club came to it was from 1950 to 1955 when Borrisoleigh reigned supreme and won four titles in a row. 1967 saw the emergence of a new force in the division. Roscrea had come, and in that year they began a run that has since continued without flaw, and this year in taking their fifth senior title in a row, they find themselves but two short of Toome's record, and, make no mistake about it, the men in red will make a bold bid to equal if not surpass it.

It was Roscrea's year in the North. They retained their title with all the confidence and craft that has made them a truly great championship side. They were the targets for every other club, and while they found their path to glory difficult at times, they came through it in the end as thoroughly deserving champions.

As the centrepiece of the division's activities, the senior championship commanded quite a deal of interest. Gates were up on the previous year and this could probably be attributed to the fact that this year the competition was run on a league basis because of dissatisfaction expressed about the losers group. Ten teams in all participated, and these were divided into two groups. In with Roscrea in the first group were the 1970 finalists, Moneygall, Borrisoleigh, Newport, and the promoted inter-

mediate champions, Burgess. A stiff group certainly. Paired off in the other section were Lorrha, Toomevara, Kilruane, Eire Og (Nenagh), and Borrisokane.

1970 Final Repeat

The opening encounter in Cloughjordan was a repeat pairing of the 1970 final and once again Moneygall failed to come up to the mark. They were decisively beaten by the champions, who had thereby overcome one of the stiffest hurdles in the group. Roscrea received something of a setback when Borrisoleigh held them to a draw at the same venue but the champions had no trouble whatever in disposing of Burgess and Newport. The big question, of course, was, which side would accompany Roscrea into the semi-finals, and the answer to this rested with the clash of Moneygall and Borrisoleigh. Moneygall seemed to have the Indian sign on the Borris men and earlier in the year disposed of them in the winter league final (from which Roscrea were exempted because of their Munster club championship commitments). Borris, this time, came out on top and put paid to Moneygall's hopes for the year.

Meanwhile the other section was moving along just as smoothly, with Lorrha the pace-makers here, closely followed by Toomevara and Kilruane. Kilruane opened their campaign well, but in defeating Eire Og and Borrisokane they flattered only to deceive. They met defeat at the hands of Toome, a big surprise this, and Toome in turn drew with Lorrha to advance both sides to the semi-finals.

The semi-finals saw Roscrea pitted against old rivals Lorrha,

and Toome drawn against Borrisoleigh, and both were played on the same day in Nenagh. Toomevara did everything in their game but score sufficiently and Borris were considered fortunate to reach the decider, whereas Roscrea confirmed the form they had shown when defeating Lorrha some weeks previously in the county championship. Neither game was anything to write home about and Roscrea were installed as firm favourites to take their fifth successive title.

Final day was October 3rd; the venue was Nenagh, and the attendance was fitting for the meeting of two such renowned teams. The day, too, was glorious, and the players joined in the spirit of the occasion by giving of their best in one of the best finals in the division for many years. It was a seesaw struggle with the winning score, a Roscrea goal, coming in the closing minutes, to leave the champions in command again by a three point margin.

Worthy Champions

The long road had been travelled successfully by the 'reds.' They were worthy champions once more and both Tadhg O'Connor and Francis Loughnane had yet another divisional medal to add to those precious ones won in Croke Park on September 5th.

Apart from the final, the remainder of the games in the competition could be regarded as being sub-standard. There was a lack of urgency on the part of many of the teams, and while the league system did help to infuse more life into the competition, the overall impression was one of a championship that had something missing. What was it? Was it that Roscrea were certs. before the competition started at all and the other teams felt their efforts would all be in vain? Was the duplication of the competition with the county championship which saw a number of repeat games, such as Roscrea and Lorrha, Roscrea and Borrisoleigh, Borrisoleigh and Burgess, the reason?

Roscrea can feel happy with their achievement. Borrisoleigh cannot be too downhearted either, and there were signs that teams

ROSCREA . . . NORTH DIVISION AND MUNSTER CLUB CHAMPIONS



Even though defeated in the County final, 1971 could not be termed as a bad year by any stretch of the imagination for Roscrea. They took the North senior title for the fifth successive year and also took two Munster club championships (1970 and 1971) during the year. They are pictured here prior to their unsuccessful defence of their County title.

Standing, left to right: John Joe Maher, club secretary; Frank Dooley, Liam Brussels, Barney Hogan, Liam Stapleton, Jody Spooner, Tadhg Murphy, Mick Hogan, Kieran Carey, Jackie Hannon, Jimmy Crampton, Michael Shanahan, Mick Mingue, Jack Moloney and Martin Loughnane (officials).

Kneeling, left to right: Willie O'Reilly, club chairman; Joe Tynan, Donie Maloney (capt.), Tadhg O'Connor, Patsy Roland, Brendan Maher, Liam Spooner, Joe Cunningham, Francis Loughnane.

Photo: W. J. Boland, Clonmel

like Lorrha, Moneygall, Toomevara and Kilruane will be major threats again next year.

But what of Newport and Borrisokane? Newport were semi-finalists last year; this year they failed to win a game. Borrisokane were county semi-finalists last year and they too failed to win a game this season. There is certainly cause for worry here, as indeed there is in Nenagh where Eire Og failed to make any impression and could scarcely muster a team for most games.

What of the other grades? Once more the intermediate championship proved to be a most popular competition, with seven teams again seeking the honours. In the league section, Silvermines came through unscathed, followed by Kildangan, Portroe and Shan-non Rovers. Ballina and Temple-derry had fallen by the wayside, and Knockshegowna, experiencing their worst year ever, had to pull out of a number of engagements. In the semi-finals the Rovers had two points to spare over Portroe and Silvermines lost their unbeaten status when going under to Kildangan. Last year Kildangan were beaten in the final by Burgess. This year they compensated for that defeat in a big way when winning well against the Rovers in the final and thus became first holders of the Father Hewitt Cup, presented by the Kilruane Club in memory of the late president of the club and president of the Board.

Ballinahinch Emerge

The junior championship saw Ballinahinch emerge from the wilderness after many years and in the final against Moneygall they showed themselves to be a team apart and worthy qualifiers for the intermediate grade.

Kilruane atoned for their minor final defeat of last year by taking the title at the expense of a combined Borrisoleigh / Temple-derry side, Naomh Cualann, but they lost their minor football title to another set of allies, Newport/Ballinahinch, Sean Treacys.

As usual, the under 21 competitions and the junior football championship came at the tail end of

When Sean O'Dwyer retired in January 1970 after 35 years as Chairman of the West Divisional Board, the G.A.A. within the county lost an admirable administrator. At a function held to honour him County Board Secretary, Tommy Barrett, was asked to second a toast to "Our Guests," proposed by Fr. Jim Power. Rather than rely on the time-worn cliches Tommy proceeded in verse to pay his tribute to a great Gael.

SEAN O DUIBHIR AR CHARA

Tonight we gather here as guests,
To honour one of Ireland's best,
A Rebel once, he fought with zeal
To rid our land of foreign rule.

2
The deeds of Tone and Pearse he honoured,
Their clarion call he quickly followed,
He worked, he lived for, and yet has hope
Our land we'd free from the British yoke.

3
In the G.A.A. he pledged his pride
This noble call, he ne'er denied,
An administrator without parallel
A prince amongst gentlemen.

4
My words are few but yet sincere
And as we toast and say good cheer,
Eirigi, olagí agus molaimid slán
Do Seá O Duibhir ár chara, he is a model for
us all!

the season and have not been completed.

1971 may not have been the best year ever in the North division. Nevertheless it had many bright moments and the interest in most clubs seems to have little to fear. Roscrea reign supreme and will once more be the main targets for the rest next season. It adds spice to the 1972 prospects that their position is the main target in the senior grade. Will they be toppled? They may well be, but win or lose, John Joe Maher's brigade can be assured of a treasured place in the annals of the G.A.A. in North Tipperary.

50 YEARS A GOING

Did you know that this year the Liam McCarthy Cup celebrated its Golden Jubilee? Yes, it was first at stake in the 1921 final played in 1923 when Limerick beat Dublin 8-5 to 3-2. The Limerick capt., Bob McConkey, was therefore the first man to receive the trophy, which now rests in Tipperary for the 13th time.

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PERSISTENCY PAID OFF FOR MOYCARKEY AND BOHERLAHAN

1971 SAW persistent effort finally rewarded in Mid Tipperary, when Moycarkey-Borris' senior hurlers, and Boherlahan-Dualla's No. 1 junior hurlers carried off their respective championships after many years of near misses and failures. In fact these two clubs, neighbours, dominated the hurling grades in the division, winning two titles each.

Seniority deserves priority, and Moycarkey's retaining of the Leahy Cup and senior crown they last held in '67, tops the honours list in the division. With so many newcomers in their side, and with so many of them under-age players, Moycarkey-Borris were certainly long-shots for the title, and even when they opened the championship run on a league system this year, with a win over the reigning champions, Moyne-Templetuohy, they were still not considered as serious contenders.

Sarsfields and Moyne-Templetuohy were the favourites, but the latter were to rue their early defeat by the champions-elect. Thurles scored wins over Na Fianna (Upperchurch - Clonakenny - Clonmore), St. Michael's (Boherlahan-Holycross) and Drom-Inch, and Moyne-Templetuohy followed suit. Moycarkey-Borris dropped a point to Na Fianna, but otherwise kept their sheet clean.

The draw ordained that Sarsfields meet Moyne-Templetuohy before they met Moycarkey-Borris, and on this game depended the champions' continued defence of their crown. Moyne had to at least draw to stand a chance of a play-off to get into the final, and even then, they would have to rely on Sarsfields to defeat Moycarkey, to have a Moyne v. Moycarkey play-off, with the winners meeting Sarsfields in the final.

Last year's finalists drew a bumper attendance to Semple

By MICHAEL DUNDON

"Tipperary Star" Staff Reporter

Stadium, and there was plenty of atmosphere about the occasion. Thurles were short several established players, and the early exchanges went very much Moyne's way. Two players, one from each club, were sent to the line towards the end of the first quarter, and then, apparent disaster struck for Sarsfields when they had another man sidelined by referee Liam Ryan of Holycross. They held on to the interval, keeping in touch with handy scores.

The second half saw Sarsfields at their best as they bewildered Moyne with a scintillating display that carried them to a tremendously satisfying victory.

The Final

This set the stage for the final, as both Sarsfields and Moycarkey decided to dispense with the league game, and let the championship hinge on the one game. Again Semple Stadium was the venue; again the attendance was good, and again there was a big upset. Moycarkey's unrated side, inspired by a magnificent John Flanagan, hustled the Thurles boys out of their stride and produced a fine brand of hurling that swept them to a convincing 2-20 to 3-8 win. The triumph was richly deserved as Moycarkey's young hopefuls, seven of them were on the successful under 21 side, justified the faith placed in them by their selectors and turned in a display that would have toppled far stronger opposition than the Sarsfields of that day. While Flanagan was the star, Donal Ryan, Willie Ryan, Mickey Loner-

gan, Dan Hayes, Bill Gooney and Michael Clohessy also distinguished themselves.

If ever a club deserved to win a championship, Boherlahan - Dualla were worthy of their junior hurling No. 1 success. For as long as I can remember, they have been on the verge of winning the championships, but year after year seemed to fail when success seemed imminent. This was their year, and they made no mistake about it. Drawing on last year's minor team, winners of county honours, and this year's under 21 side, they fielded a grand combination with veterans Seamus Leahy, Mick Barry and Mossie Tuohy supplying the experience. They came through the Thurles section of the draw undefeated, and they made short work of the challenge of Clonakenny in the semi-final.

On the other side of the draw, Upperchurch - Drombane emerged as No. 1 contenders from the Templemore area, and in their semi-final they accounted for a very useful Holycross-Ballycahill side in a lively game. The final was keenly anticipated but proved the most disappointing game of the whole competition. Upperchurch-Drombane, for the second year running, failed dismally in the final, and Boherlahan sauntered on to the championship, winners by 1-19 to 0-2 in a game that's best forgotten.

Power the Hero

Boherlahan's hero was Seamus Power, who won an intermediate All-Ireland and also played in under 21 for the county. His display in this game earned him a senior jersey. Thomas Carey, Willie J. Dwyer, Jim Keane, Mick Barry and John Walsh also were prominent.

Boherlahan-Dualla also won the

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minor hurling championship, retaining the title by defeating Moycarkey-Borris, but Moycarkey-Borris had, a week earlier, won the under 21 championship at Boherlahan's expense, a fair division of the honours.

Templemore continued to dominate the minor football grade and they retained their title by out-playing old rivals Loughmore-Castleiney in the final, having earlier overcome Templetuohy.

The remaining hurling championship, the No. 2, resulted in a triumph for Loughmore - Castleiney, traditionally a football area, and in the final they accounted for a fancied Thurles Kickhams in a thriller at Holycross. Five points down at the interval, Kickhams went seven in front midway through the second half, but were caught at the finish by a very game Loughmore-Castleiney side, which should be a considerable addition to the No. 1 Competition next year.

Templemore followed up their success in the minor championship by adding the under 21 title to their honours for the year. They were easily the most impressive side in the championship, and in the final defeated Moycarkey-Borris by a considerable margin.

The senior football competition presented many problems and the league system did help matters. At the time of writing, the semi-final stage has not been reached, but Loughmore - Castleiney are through to the final.

Loughmore went to the county semi-final, and should be good pionship despite the challenge of enough to hold on to their cham-such as Moneygall and Templemore.

In the junior grade in football, Templetuohy-Moyne emerged victorious, accounting for a strong Templemore side.

Finally, it would be wrong to close a review on the Mid competitions without a special mention of Moyne-Templetuohy's historical first county championship. It was a triumph richly deserved by a club that has made a very notable contribution to the G.A.A. down the years. May it be the first of many.

DON'T FORGET YESTERDAY'S STALWARTS

Says PATRICIA FEEHILY

HURLING, IN the closing years of Queen Victoria's reign, would have opened her eyes if she ever had the privilege of seeing a display. In fact one glance at those dour-faced, moustached and cloth-capped hurlers, would very probably have evoked in her mind strong fears for the future of her empire. She remained, however, unaware of their existence, because women, regardless of rank, were most unwelcome when the "holy terrors" of Curreney and their contemporaries were in action.

The G.A.A. though apparently unconcerned to any great extent about the views of its female supporters, has long since brought the game of hurling to a degree of sophistication, which even the ladies can enjoy, without having to abandon their femininity. We are inclined to think, however, that the G.A.A. leaders were too progressive, and Women's Liberation came too late, because the fair sex missed out on all the fun.

Moustaches and cloth caps will probably return in that now almost predictable circle of fashion, but the thrills and excitement of the nineteenth century hurling matches, from which women were warned by the clergy to stay away, can never be recaptured. Some years ago an old man who hurled with the victorious Silvermines team in 1886 said that they sustained their stamina with plenty of porter, and added that he didn't have much time for the mineral drinking hurlers of today.

They worked harder too in those days and apparently were so wound up on a hurling day that the Sahara Desert could scarcely hold them.

To Thrill a Woman's Heart

There was, according to song and story, an element of danger that would have thrilled any woman's heart. The determination to win often displayed a resourcefulness that was as entertaining as any of the brilliant displays of

hurling which came after. The avid supporter who ran off with the goalposts when his team were losing, in a forgotten match of eighty years ago, deserves a place somewhere in the annals of the game. So does the genius who straightened a crooked goalpost, just in time to allow a ball through, in a fierce battle for a set of bicycles in the early days of the G.A.A.

"Rush 'em boys," the common war cry of nearly every Tipperary parish hurling team, before the sting went out of the battle, would have left any woman weak; and not with fear either, but with excitement at the prospect of what the rush might entail. The friendly, sportsmanlike approach adopted later was enough to take the edge off any fierce battle as far as a female is concerned.

The old time hurler, who ignored the referee as much as possible, and made for fewer interruptions, would have attracted more female fans than any of his successors. After all, rules have to be waived in a fierce emergency, and women wouldn't even hear the whistle at such a vital stage of intense concentration.

The Referee

In fact, some women find the referee's presence more of an inconvenience than anything else. Apart from interruptions, there is always that uncomfortable feeling that he will blow the whistle out of spite, just before the ball enters the net.

Things have changed a lot in the eighty-seven years since the G.A.A. was founded. Hurling has emerged in the twentieth century a disciplined game, which still remains one of the most exciting in the world. But the unknown stalwarts of yesterday should not be forgotten. They laid the basis for the standard which followed, and they hurled with a spirit that was so typically Irish and a fearlessness, which makes some of us regret the fact that we were born too late to have known them.

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MOYNE/TEMPLETUOHY WIN HURLING'S HIGHEST PRIZE

By GERRY SLEVIN "Guardian" Staff Reporter

WAS THERE ANYTHING to stop Roscrea? That was the question bandied about during the season, and throughout the county S.H.C. campaign it did seem as though the North men would once again remain as kingpins of Tipperary hurling. Indeed as the competition progressed there was little to give anyone cause for doubting that the Reds would not take their fourth title in a row. They got the tougher end of the draw and there was that spirit of determination about their victories over Lorrha and Borrisoleigh. Yes, Roscrea seemed to be heading for ultimate victory alright.

Meanwhile in the other section, Moyne/Templetuohy were quietly moving along; they weren't causing any major upsets; indeed the way in which they bowed out of the Mid championship didn't give any cause for alarm to the champions. Nevertheless they reached the final and Roscrea were odds-on to take the Dan Breen Cup back home again.

What a big surprise was in store for the big hosting in Semple Stadium. What a game was also in store; a really tremendous occasion, one befitting the status of the county in this All-Ireland year. Here, the Mid men showed their true worth with a scintillating display right from the throw in. The champions were reeling, but they were playing the game like true champions. Up and down the field flowed the ball and the play. It was great stuff; plenty of first time pulling and ground hurling. It was what we all had wished to see for so long and here it was in the showpiece of the county's endeavour. Moyne / Templetuohy turned over one point to the good

at the interval, 0-4 to 0-3, and with a quarter of an hour to go there was still only a point between the sides, 0-6 to 0-5. It was great stuff indeed. Would Roscrea make that break for which they were so noted? Not this time, the Mid men were about to have their day and it could not be denied them. Murt Troy's goal, after a defensive slip by the Roscrea full back, Kieran Carey, heralded that victory, and from here on the new champions let it be known in no uncertain fashion that they were the masters. Another goal followed, this one from Martin Grady, and the champions had fallen. 2-8 to 0-6 was the final score; a convincing victory indeed and even more so when remembered that Roscrea scored but two points from play.

History Made

History had been made. Moyne/Templetuohy, in their first ever senior final, had taken the honours. They had dethroned the mighty Roscrea and had shown themselves to be a team of boundless spirit, energy and determination. From Tom Russell between the posts to left corner forward Paddy Sweeney they were supreme and chastened were such vaunted men as Francis Loughnane, Jackie Hannon, Kieran Carey and Jimmy Crampton. Russell did all that was asked of him in goal, while the full back line of Tom Grady, Jim Fogarty and Tom Fogarty, was soundness personified. Perhaps it was the half back line that really set the Mid supporters' hearts aflame. Here Martin Esmonde eclipsed Francis Loughnane to such an extent as to make his contribution minimal, and Jim Fo-

garty in the centre offset the best efforts of Liam Spooner, with Ml. Coen in brilliant form on the other wing. In Moyne/Templetuohy's eyes, Loughnane was the big danger man but Esmonde didn't yield an inch and this performance was surely a headline for his colleagues which was emulated in the remainder of the field.

Full marks, too, to the mid field pairing of Ml. Grady and Martin Grady. They ruled the roost here and Roscrea had no answer whatever. Then in attack, there was the contribution of Willie Fogarty and of Tom Egan, the opportunism of Murty Troy, and inside them the snappy Willie Grady and the menacing Tom Quinlan and Paddy Sweeney. Yes, a team of heroes indeed and worthy champions.

The Fallen Champs

Roscrea fell like true champions. They were as illustrious in defeat as they had been during their long reign. It was no fault of Tadhg O'Connor or Patsy Roland that their defence had to give way. O'Connor played his heart out in a manner befitting the captain of the All-Ireland winning team, and while Francis Loughnane was well held in attack, he needed to be, because he threatened danger all the time and but for lack of adequate assistance might well have succeeded in bridging the gap if not closed in entirely.

A magnificent end, therefore, to the year. It was a worthy ending to the championship and to referee John Moloney must also go a debt of gratitude for the unobtrusive, but highly efficient control he exerted.

Apart from the final, there
(OVER TO PAGE 35)

MOYNE-TEMPLETUOHY S.H. CHAMPIONS



The Moyne-Templetuohy team which won the County S.H.C. final for the first time by defeating the holders, Roscrea. Standing, left to right: Martin Grady, Tom Russell, Mick Coen, Billy Grady, Tom Grady, Tom Quinlan, Michael Grady. Kneeling, left to right: Willie Fogarty, Martin Esmonde, Martin Troy, Tom Fogarty, Jim Fogarty, Paddy Sweeney, Jim Fogarty, Tom Egan.

Photo: W. J. Boland, Clonmel

HONOURS WERE WELL DISTRIBUTED

By MICHAEL O'MEARA

WITH EIGHT of South Tipperary's nine championships decided at the time of writing, seven clubs have shared in the honours.

Dual success came to the Carrick Swan Club who were successful in both under-age hurling competitions. Indeed, the highlight of the year was the tremendous contribution made by the town of Carrick to the game of hurling. Swan and Carrick-on-Suir met in both minor and under 21 finals at the local Davin Park and though Swans were successful in both competitions they were very hard pressed to win the titles and were actually brought to a replay in under 21. The three games between the sides drew big crowds and yielded plenty of good hurling and excitement.

The Carrick-on-Suir Club had some compensation for these defeats by taking the divisional senior title. They were given a fine game by Ballybacon/Grange in the first round and proved too strong for Pierce McCanns (St. Marys/Newcastle) in the semi-final. In the final they faced another combination team, Fionn Mac Cumhaill (Kilsheelan/Grangemockler) who offered stiff resistance for three-quarters of an hour but finally yielded in the face of good performances by Mick Roche, P. J. Ryan, Jackie Walsh, Mick Hassett and company.

The intermediate hurling championship was perhaps the best competition of the year. Some very fine games were witnessed before Ballingarry and St. Marys won their way to a final that was in keeping with the overall standard

of the competition. Sterling displays by Matty and Martin Brennan, the Ivors brothers, Milo Molloy and the McEnirys just carried the day for Ballingarry who went on to defeat junior champions, Newcastle, rather comfortably in the play-off to decide the county junior championship contenders.

Newcastle's junior success was achieved by a side that showed a good blend of youth and experience. The Hallinans, the Cullinans, Mick Nugent and Tommy Sweeney were the top performers in their final defeat of Ballylooby.

Football Scene

On the football scene, controversy surrounded the senior championship, and the first round tie between Ardinnan and Commercial, originally fixed for early July, was never played. The game was awarded to the Clonmel team, who went on to defeat Moyle Rovers in the semi-final. On the other side of the draw Kilsheelan had a goal win over Fethard, whilst Fr. Sheehys had John Moroney to thank for their victory over Slievenamon. The winners met at Clonmel and played an exciting draw. The replay went to Clogheen where the home side made no mistake and qualified to face Commercial in the final, Commercial adding the title to their county victory.

New champions were crowned in minor, junior and under 21 grades. Ardinnan produced a very promising minor side, and having ousted favourites, Commercial, in the semi-final, they were worthy winners over neighbours, Galtee Rovers, in the final.

The junior championship produced a number of good games before St. Lukes, St. Patricks, Grangemockler and Moyle Rovers got through to the semi-finals.

The final was a battle of 'Saints' and produced a most exciting hour of good quality football. St. Lukes were the victors, but this was one game that did not deserve to have a loser. Eddie Anderson, Jim Moloney, Paddy Moran, John Mcmenamin, Tommy Lawrence and Jim Fitzgerald played big parts in St. Lukes success, whilst Eamonn O'Connor, John Egan, Paddy Gleeson, Eddie Clancy, and Seamus Hickey played their hearts out for the losers.

Commercial regained the under 21 title but they had some tough tussles in the process. Very impressive winners over Ardinnan, they were held to a draw by the holders, Slievenamon, but triumphed in the replay. In the final at Clogheen they faced a good Cahir fifteen and just got through by a narrow margin. Jimmy Harney, Pat Sullivan, Garry Smyth, Seamus Fitzgerald and Mick Burke made big contributions to the Clonmel Club's success.

Leagues in junior, intermediate and senior grades are well advanced and it is anticipated that all competitions, with the exception of the senior football league, will be completed by the end of the year.

Overall the past year was a good one for the division and at the time of writing a record total of over 180 games have been played.

MOYNE'S PRIZE

(FROM PAGE 33)

wasn't all that much to shout about in the championship. Surprises generally were few although in the very first round, newly promoted junior champions, Drom/Inch, caused something of an upset when they disposed of Carrick Davins. The games were played on schedule which was commendable in view of the many inter-county commitments during the year.

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A MAMMOTH PROGRAMME

POLISHED OFF

The West Division put up a pretty crowded programme of games during the season just ended. Beginning with the minor championships as far back as Easter last, a hard-working Fixtures Committee, headed by chairman Senator Willie Ryan, availing of

By WILLIE O'DONNELL

every opportunity, and at times lacking the co-operation of some clubs, got through the competitions to such purposes that by the time these notes appear in print, the year's work will have been being completed.

Eighty-eight teams in all faced the starter and they were graded as follows:

Senior Hurling	9
No. 1 Junior Hurling ...	7
No. 2 Junior Hurling ...	8
Under 21 Hurling	12
Minor Hurling	12
Senior Football	9
Junior Football	11
Under 21 Football	10
Minor Football	10

The senior hurling championship certainly provided its quota of spills and shocks. The championship opened with the clash between Golden-Kilfeacle, confidently expected by many to go far in the competition, and Kickhams. Spectators were leaving the field with Golden-Kilfeacle well in the lead when Kickhams staged a whirlwind rally and scoring freely, belted their more fancied opponents out of the race.

A whole chapter could be given to what one could describe as the

Cashel/Sean Treacys saga. Briefly Treacys beat Cashel by a goal, scored while a Treacys player, already put off, was still on the pitch and apparently taking part in the game. The West Board ordered the game to be replayed. The replay was on, off, on-again, —until finally a dissatisfied Treacys club withdrew from the championship.

Eire Og were lucky to beat an under strength Arravale Rovers, holders of the title, and Lattin-Cullen, who at one time contemplated withdrawing, came up against Kickhams in the quarter-final. Nobody gave them a dog's chance against Kickhams. Their first encounter ended in a draw and Lattin-Cullen won the replay by half a dozen points.

Semi-Finals

The line up for the semi-finals was: Cashel King Cormacs v. Clonoulty-Rossmore; Lattin Cullen v. Eire Og.

Golden was the venue for the first mentioned. Clonoulty-Rossmore had shown fine form both in their draw and replay with Cap-pawwhite in the opening round, and they were installed favourites to reach the final. They looked to have the game sewn up shortly after half-time when they were six points up, but brilliantly led by Peter O'Sullivan, the Cashel lads came back so strongly that they were in complete control at the end of the game and won well.

Eire Og had done so well in the county championship, beating Marlfield and Toomevara, before going down to Moyne-Templetuohy in the quarter final, that many felt their game with Lattin-Cullen to

be a matter of form. After twenty minutes they were trailing by no less than eleven points. Inside ten minutes of the second half they had wiped out that lead and were a point ahead. Lattin-Cullen, chiefly through the efforts of Eddie Morrissey and Mick Maguire, came again and eventually beat their opponents, who sadly disappointed their supporters by a matter of two points. Thus the Cinderella team of the year found itself in the final for the very first time.

The game, played at Golden, brought a huge attendance, all anxious to see how the unbounded enthusiasm of the Lattin-Cullen lads would fare against the calculated hurling of the King Cormacs. What an anti-climax this game proved to be. Most of the opening half was spent in a sizing-up exercise, with the result that the standard of hurling suffered. The Lattin-Cullen lads, fore and aft, seemed a bundle of nerves and they never produced the hurling that accounted for Kickhams and Eire Og. King Cormacs were little better and when the break came Cashel were ahead by a bare two points. They were helped considerably to this lead by a pair of fortuitous goals, conceded early on by a rather jittery defence.

Came a 21 yard free to Cashel early in the second half. Peter O'Sullivan travelled the length of the field and blasted the placed ball to the net. From there on, there was only one team in it, as Lattin-Cullen crumbled and finally collapsed, to the huge disappointment of their legion of supporters.

King Cormacs owe a lot to the brilliance of Peter O'Sullivan and the confident hurling of brother "Twin," centre forward Tierney, Angus Ryan, John Darmody, and Pat O'Connor. Only member of the Lattin-Cullen team not to lose face in this final was Mick Maguire, who played his heart out. He received but token assistance from such as Eddie Morrissey, brother Jodie, Jimmy Hannon and Terry Byrnes, all of whom had played huge parts in bringing this surprise team to the decider.

Galtee Rovers—West Tipperary Junior Hurling Champions



Standing, left to right: L. Quinn, club vice-chairman; John Loneragan, Pa O'Brien, B. Murnane, J. J. Grace, J. O'Connell, Larry Roche, P. White, M. Quinlan, Vincent O'Donnell. Front row, left to right: Ed. Loneragan, T. O'Brien, J. J. Darcy (capt.), P. White, R. Roche, J. Murnane, B. Darcy.

During the Feile na Gael in Thurles, an item in the museum that commanded a great deal of attention and favourable comment was the Croke-Fennelly Cup. It's a trophy with a fascinating history and here JOHN LANIGAN from Thurles, a member of the hurling selection committee and one of the county's outstanding Gaels over many years, tells the history of this magnificent trophy as well as giving some insight into the man who was its first recipient, Dr. Croke.

A GIFT TO "THE UNCHANGED AND UNCHANGEABLE ARCHBISHOP AND PATRIOT"

MOST REV. DR. T. W. CROKE was born on 19th May, 1823, near Buttevant, Co. Cork. He was one of a family of three boys and two girls, all of whom entered the religious life.

He received his early education at the Endowed School, Charleville, and later studied for the priesthood at the Irish College, Paris, from 1839-1845. He completed his theological studies at the Irish College, Rome, and was ordained priest on 29th May, 1847.

After ordination Dr. Croke spent a year teaching at Carlow College and was then appointed to teach theology at the Irish College, Paris. He returned to Ireland in the Autumn of 1849 and served as a curate in Charleville, replacing his brother William who had just died. He later served in Mallow and Middleton before being appointed the first President of St. Colman's College, Fermoy. He was parish priest of Doneraile from 1866-1870 and was appointed Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand, in 1870, a post which he held until raised to the See of Cashel in 1875.

For more than a decade he became a controversial figure in the country's struggle against the Ascendancy who held it for the English. Through their control of

the land they exercised a stranglehold over the people and tenants were evicted at will by landlords, native as well as foreign. Perhaps the year 1883 was the most eventful in the life of the great churchman. Early in that year there was a by-election in Mallow caused by the resignation of William J. Johnson, a Liberal M.P. It was presumed that his seat would be taken by one John Naish, also a Liberal and recently appointed Solicitor-General for Ireland by Gladstone's Government. However, the Nationalists put up William O'Brien, editor of "United Ireland" and a supporter of Parnell, as their candidate. Few people thought that O'Brien had any chance of being elected until Dr. Croke interfered and threw his weight behind the Editor of "United Ireland."

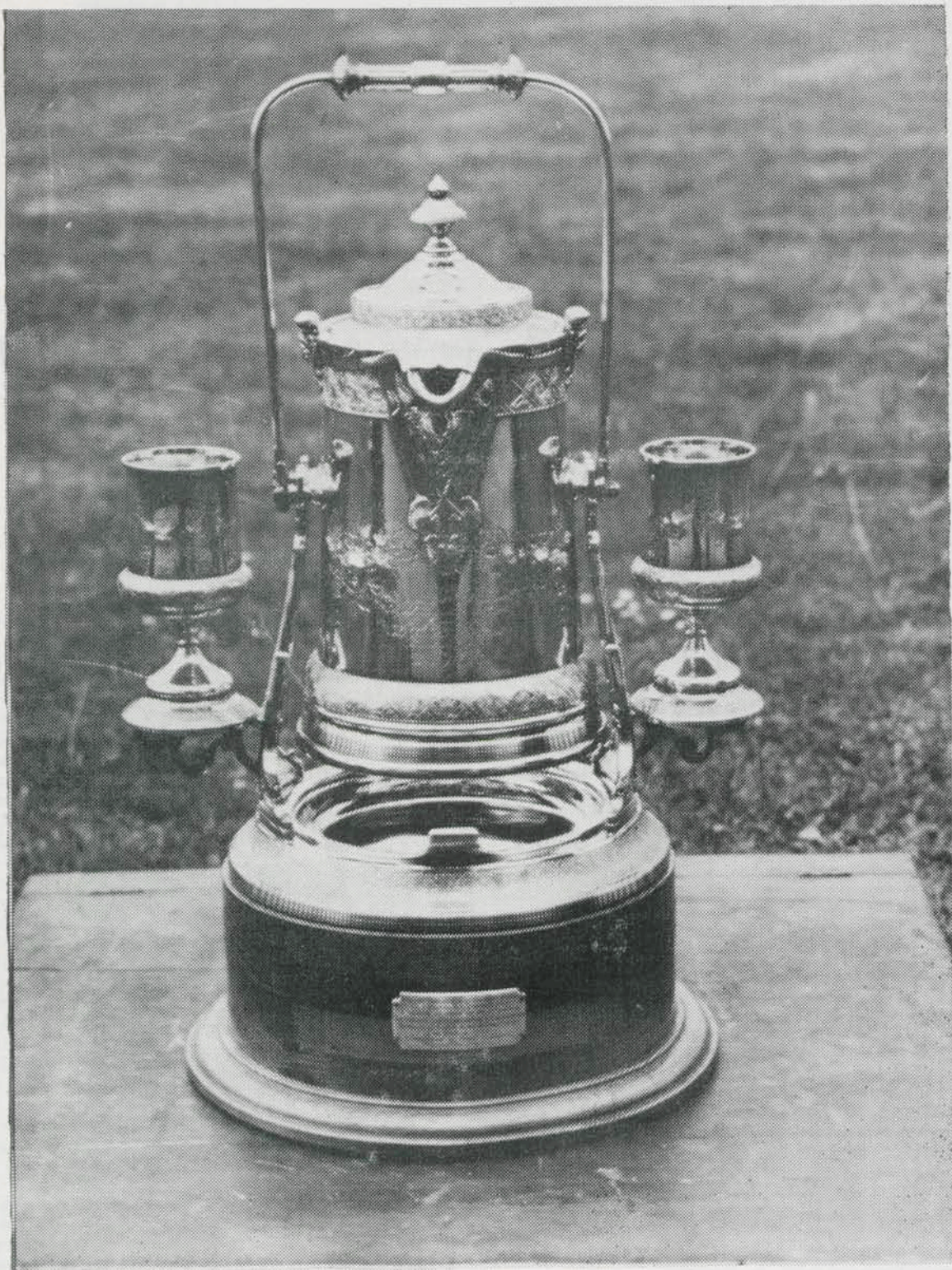
A Dr. Croke letter, written to the "Freeman's Journal" turned out to be a sort of political manifesto for O'Brien. He wrote: "Were I connected with the borough either as an elector or a non-elect I should most assiduously exercise every legitimate influence that I possessed to secure the triumphant return to parliament of the gifted, fearless patriotic Editor of 'United Ireland.'"

Mallow Election

The Mallow election took place and O'Brien was elected with an almost two to one majority. When O'Brien took his seat in the House of Commons Dr. Croke was seen sitting in the distinguished visitors' gallery. The Archbishop of Cashel had clearly thrown himself into the arena of political controversy and the English, through all sorts of agencies, clamoured at the Vatican doors against Dr. Croke. A second stage in the events of 1883 came about in that year when it became known that Parnell was in financial difficulties and it was decided to organise a testimonial in his favour. The testimonial did not make much headway until after the publication of a letter from Dr. Croke, dated "Thurles, 17th March, 1883," he having waited until the National feastday of St. Patrick before launching an appeal on behalf of Parnell.

Dr. Croke sent a personal subscription of £50 to the Parnell Testimonial Fund. Reactions to this appeal were immediate. A veritable tidal wave of documents descended on the Vatican, mostly in the form of anti-Croke letters.

Pope Leo XIII, having been made aware of the grave unrest, ordered that Dr. Croke be summoned to



Rome at once to explain himself. Thus a letter was dispatched from Rome on April 14th informing Dr. Croke that "the Holy Father expresses his wish to speak with you on Irish affairs" and begging him to come to Rome to confer on these matters.

Dr. Croke crossed to Rome on April 23rd. The Parnellite paper "United Ireland" told its readers that "Dr. Croke is to get a Cardinal's hat," which was being as optimistic as could be. All Nationalist Ireland awaited his return. Apparently the Pope had received him in a most unfriendly manner and examined him with reference to his advocacy of the movement led by Parnell and ended by saying that Dr. Croke had been complained to him as "a kind of Irish Garibaldi!" Dr. Croke was stung by this remark and replied: "Well, Holy Father, all I need say in that connection is this: If Garibaldi had the same amount of support from the priests and people of Italy behind him that I have had in the stand I have taken against Irish landlordism and English injustice in Ireland it no longer surprises me to find Your Holiness a prisoner in the Vatican." After this outburst the Pope invited Dr. Croke to state his views on the Irish situation and it seems that the Archbishop of Cashel succeeded in convincing Pope Leo that the Roman authorities were relying too much on anti-Irish propaganda.

Dr. Croke returned from Rome and when questioned about his interview with the Pope, exclaimed with outstretched hands that he was "unchanged and unchangeable."

G.A.A. Patron

The year after his return from this interview in 1884 Dr. Croke acceded to a request from the newly formed Gaelic Athletic Association and became its first Patron. His interest in Irish affairs never wavered and in 1886 a group of Irish American admirers presented to Dr. Croke as a token of the esteem in which he was held the beautiful Solid Silver Cup depicted here and which bears the following inscription:

*the unchanged and unchangeable
Archbishop and Patriot
the joy and pride
of
the sea-divided Gael
this slight tribute
from
three of them
1886*

No information is available about the "three of them."

A few years later Dr. Croke's health began to fail and in 1901 Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop. Dr. Croke died on 22nd July, 1902, and the cup passed into the possession of the new Archbishop. Dr. Fennelly succeeded Dr. Croke as Patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association and in 1908 he gave the cup to Archdeacon Innocent Ryan, P.P. of Fethard, for the purpose of a hurling tournament organised to pay off a parochial debt. Tipperary (Thurles Blues Selection), Kilkenny, Limerick and Cork participated. Tipperary and Limerick contested the final and so anxious were the Blues to get possession of the historical trophy that they strengthened their team with T. Gleeson (Holycross), J. Bourke (Two-Mile-Borris), and the Fitzgeralds of Glengoole. The cup came back to Thurles on the score 1-11 to 1-7. The Blues won the Cup the following two years, thereby winning it outright.

The following inscription was then made on the lid:

*Presented by Most Rev.
Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of
Cashel, to the best Hurling
Team in Ireland. Played for
at Fethard, Co. Tipperary.
Won by Thurles Blues
1909-'11.*

Anthony Carew, the Blues full-forward, was also the Thurles Club's Secretary at the time and he became the new custodian of the trophy which for the purpose of the tournament was renamed the Croke-Fennelly Cup.

The Fire

In 1930 a fire occurred in Carew's licensed premises in Lower

Main Street, Thurles. Fire fighting equipment was not on a par with that of the present time and the Carew premises which adjoined those of Messrs Flynn's drapery establishment, was gutted. During the course of the fire Mr. Eddie Flynn, perturbed for the safety of his own business, was in the ruins of his neighbours' and noticed the famous trophy engulfed by flames in an attic and was successful in rescuing it in a tarnished condition.

The base had been completely burned away. Knowing the history of the Cup, Mr. Flynn informed Mr. James Maher, well-known Thurles Gael and Treasurer of the Thurles Club, who immediately visited Mr. Flynn's premises and in the presence of Garda Laurence Kinsella the Cup was handed over.

The late Tom Semple, captain of the team that won the Cup for Thurles, was instrumental in having it restored to its original condition. It remained in Mr. Maher's custody until 1934, the year of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the G.A.A. which was celebrated in Thurles, when it was put on display in the Presbytery, Thurles, at the request of Rev. J. J. Meagher, Chairman of Sarsfields Club at the time. At a later period a decision of a full Sarsfields Committee to return the Cup to the Archbishop's house was accepted by Most Rev. Dr. Kinane, and the following inscription was made on the wooden plinth:

*Coiste Chumann Iomána
agus Peile na Sairséalach,
Dúrlas Éile, a bhronn an
corn so ar an Ghrásta An
Dochtúir Sáoirmhídeach O
Cuinnéáin, Ardeaspag Cais-
eal agus Imleach Iúir, a mí
Feabhra 1948. Coiméad an
Corn sa Phalás Dúrlas Éile
feasta.*

It is now held by his successor, Most Rev. Dr. Morris. It is eagerly sought for any historical exhibitions held in the town and was a source of great interest at the recent Feile na nGaedheal week-end. The trophy was at one time valued at £1,000. Its present value must be greatly in excess of this sum.

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THE TIPPERARY-LIMERICK

1971 SAGA

By JOHN O'GRADY

PARTICULAR RIVALRIES have always been an important element in raising the temperature of sport. A pair of combatants can build up from contest to contest a character and a flavour which distinguishes their contention and gives it edge and personality above the general ruck. Thus, Arkle needed the presence and the challenge of Mill House; Tunney needed a Dempsey to put the seal of greatness on his achievements.

The relatively confined circle of serious and regular hurling contenders has inevitably built up inter-county rivalries in the course of some eight decades of conflict. The most distinct, because the most commonly experienced, of these are found in the various permutations of the Tipperary-Cork-Kilkenny triable. Games between these never seem to be played in strict isolation but always as new links on a lengthening chain of connected events. The public and the press can legitimately talk of revenge—in its mildest sense—making amends, reassertion of supremacy, and all the rest. The historical background lends depth. At times this sort of approach lends itself to overdone and automatic cliché, but I think that any hurler with some feeling for tradition would like to think of himself as a member of a distinguished company extending back to the start of organised hurling competition.

In these great rivalries it is all the better if the counties are geographical neighbours. Nothing sharpens the issue better than a common frontier that enables the partisans to meet, argue, tease and place wagers that often derive as much from county pride as from cool judgment. "I couldn't let it go with him," is often the rueful

epitaph to a pound note lost as the outcome of a hot argument.

The Rivalry

The rivalry of 1971, beyond a doubt, was that between Tipperary and Limerick. Which came out of it the better is a question best left to a neutral adjudicator. Perhaps a fair, if un-neutral, view would be that Limerick took it on quantity, and Tipperary on quality. Your Shannonsider will not let us forget the number of their triumphs achieved within two months. The Tipperary retort will have to be that the most prestigious prize, contested on their fourth collision, went the other way—and was a preamble to our twenty-second All-Ireland.

And, curious as it may sound, probably the keenest argument would be about their fifth meeting—the one which never took place at all. This was the Oireachtas, which never came to pass because we decided, very properly and with excellent reason, to put our delayed club affairs first, rejected the middle course of fielding a second-string team and took no part in the Oireachtas. This led to some "hen or the egg" arguments about whether we withdrew or were pushed out. It also drew some Limerick hints that we were avoiding them—legitimate enough talk among followers in pub or street-corner or at the creamery, but rather tasteless when heard from official sources. The plainest answer is that Tipperary aren't emigrating en masse and will still be there in 1972 to win or lose as the day's merits and fortunes decide.

Limerick's tremendous trinity of victories lifted their status to its highest point in many years, and culminated in their League title

at Cork. They kept the momentum and won an almost equally valuable victory over Cork in the championship, setting up the Kilkenny Munster Final.

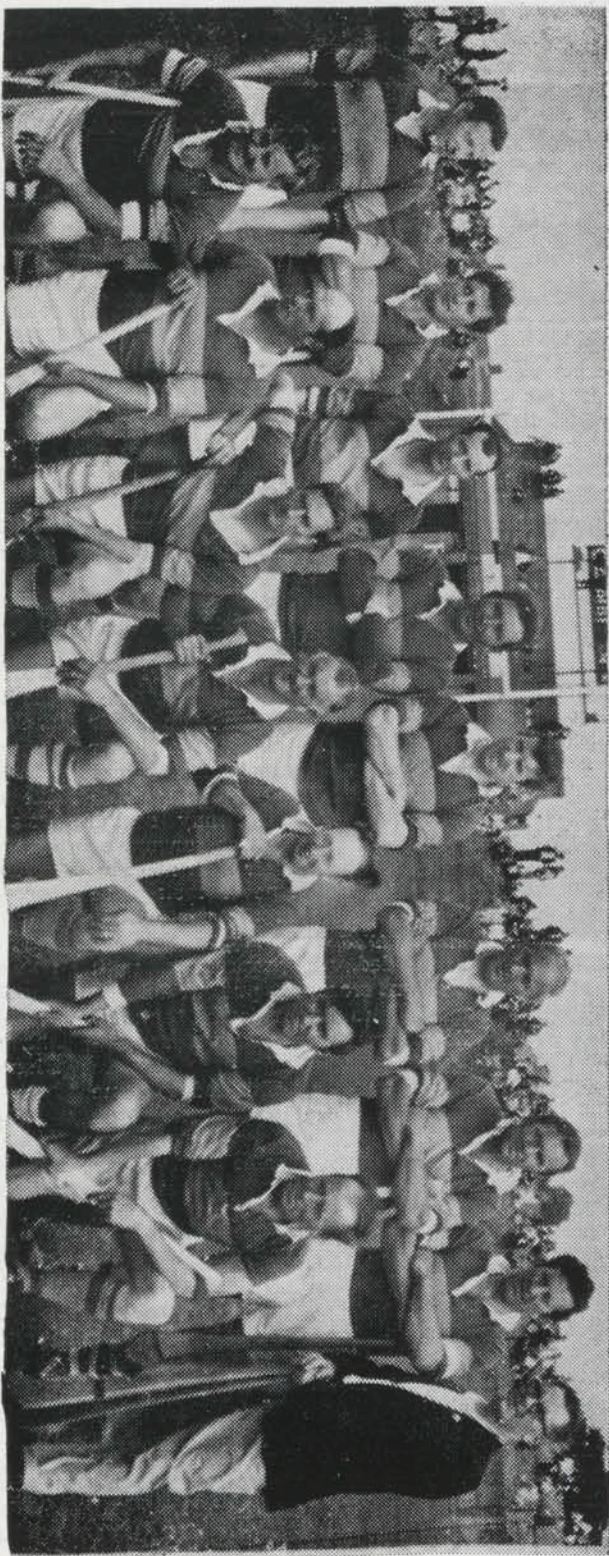
Closeness

The closeness of Tipperary and Limerick in talent and class is visible in the margins of victory—never more than a goal between them. Thus, the first game, a routine League match at Ennis Road Grounds, finished at 0-13 to 1-8. The Croke Park play-off ended 2-15 to 1-15. The League final and the Munster final saw only a point deciding the destiny of the spoils. A personal opinion is that the cream of all this hurling was in the second half at Croke Park. It was a sort of transplanted Munster duel, full of fire, desperately severe in its pulling and its tackling—and still finishing up in a spirit shown by Pat Hartigan hugging Jimmy Doyle and little Christie Campbell, off near the end after a collision with Noel O'Dwyer, running onto the field to meet and shake hands with his rival, John Flanagan, though their pulling had been hectic.

Willie Moore won that Dublin game for Limerick by turning Eamonn Grimes' great centre to our net. So for the second successive time they had fought a winning second half after looking in dire trouble according to the half-time reckoning of scores.

A source of comfort and hope for Tipperary, despite the defeats, was that we had come awfully close without some important players, whereas Limerick had no shortages. At Limerick we'd been without P. J. Ryan all the time and O'Dwyer and Loughnane at starting. In Dublin we had, controversially and maybe foolishly,

Tipperary's Hurling Stars of the Past



A highlight of the Feile na nGael was the exhibition game between the Tipperary stars of the past and an All-Ireland stars of the past line-out. The winning Tipperary team is pictured here. Kneeling, left to right: Tom Larkin, Pat Ryan, Donie Nealon, Theo English, 'Mackey' McKenna, Paddy Kenny, Pat Stakelum. Standing, left to right: Phil Shanahan, Billy Hayes, Billy Moloughney, Tom Moloughney, Sean McLaughlin, Michael Maher, John Doyle, Kieran Carey, Gerry Doyle.

allowed Keating to sit idle on the line ready to play football in the following game. In the light of the year's later history, he had to be counted a serious loss.

Keating in Excel'sis

The Croke Park defeat put Cork in our path but fortunately Keating was there for this one—not only there but absolutely in excelsis against Pat McDonnell, supported by a team full of resolution to alter the gloomy trend of Cork-Tipperary results. So it was encore for Tipperary and Limerick in the League final with Cork the rather disputed venue. "Third time lucky": the phrase gave us hope. And lucky indeed we were—not to have been solidly hammered instead of going down by a minimum margin which left us visualising ways in which it could have been won. Among such ways would have been to have played King instead of the absent Gleeson, to have left Flanagan, regularly among our few consistent forwards, on the field till the finish, and not to have expected miracles from the unfit Jimmy Doyle. But, to be frank, Limerick let us off the proverbial hook by looking three early gift goals in the mouth, overrunning or miscueing balls that lay inviting clean contact. They escaped the penalty for such errors, and Richie Bennis drove the final free calmly across to end Tipperary's late equality.

One always regrets losing, but there was general appreciation in Tipperary that Limerick deserved their great triumph, which would certainly benefit the game in general by a wider distribution of glory. They had shown admirable dash and fitness and a capacity for disturbing Tipperary's rhythm by ceaseless pressure. A purist might feel that they were rather short of the relaxed poise and class of the very best, and might be in difficulty on a day when they met a Tipperary team fully ready and forewarned.

Killarney's grand natural amphitheatre was the chosen backdrop to the Munster Final. Limerick's earlier successes had raised county fervour to heights of optimism

and confidence. Green favours were everywhere, with blue and gold badly outshone. It was to be an eighty-minute game, for extra and expanded value and a more sustained test of worth. Limerick began with swift and instant assurance as Hartigan pointed from the narrowest of angles. Soon a goal was shoved through out of our square. That was a daunting start, but not long afterwards Cregan got to a high lob which bore no signs of menace till it was let rebound a fatal yard or two. These goals were the basis of a rampant Limerick-flavoured first half in which we had reason to appreciate P. J. Ryan's shot which poor Jim Hogan turned sideways to the far inside netting. Our forward work was way off key, the shooting deplorable. Doyle was obviously still unable to do himself or the team justice and did not re-appear.

The Welcome Change

As Limerick had proved themselves strong second-half finishers at least twice, Tipperary's position was bad indeed—and grew apparently worse when O'Dwyer was felled without ceremony as he bore in on goal. But before that Tipperary voices were beginning to sound and Tipperary colours to wave. For a glorious and welcome change had come over the play. It derived basically from half-back. Roche, troubled earlier by Graham, was settling to one of the finest spells of his life; O'Connor and Gaynor were backing him up. They let little through for a full half-hour. P. J. Ryan and Hogan improved also at midfield, but an even more vital lift in form had appeared among the forwards. Little Dinny Ryan, now at left-wing, started to leap, catch and dash in a fashion that upset Campbell. Flanagan, newly arrived to face O'Donnell in the middle, was shooting from long distances and finding the mark. Loughnane, roving out towards midfield, was carrying the ball through on the right. Keating, finding scope and room in left corner, was at last doing the sort of thing and getting the sort of scores which made him one of hurling's prime heroes for the year. Roger Ryan's size

and strength were checking Pat Hartigan from delivering with any great relief.

The general picture was one which did our eyes good to see—Tipperary coming with flair and inevitability on the day they were most ardently needing to come. After the three reverses it was a sweet sight. The happiest of endings seemed assured until Hartigan hit a long one to a remarkably untenanted right flank. Grimes took it swiftly in, with no one in reach of him, and put it to Peter O'Sullivan's right. The anxious tensions of this late period are still fresh in memory—the Gaynor frees, the famous matter of the dry ball Nealon slipped him, Richie Bennis missing one and converting a second free to level it all again—and lastly Flanagan holding possession, absorbing two solid tackles and taking determined aim above Hogan's crossbar for the point of our year. It concluded, on the happiest of notes, the Tipperary-Limerick saga of 1971.

CLUB INACTIVITY?—

DEFINITELY NOT!

With the fixtures problems brought about in the main this year by the late conclusion to the 1970-71 National Leagues and the county's involvement in the senior and intermediate All-Ireland finals, it is interesting to note the number of senior hurling championship games played in Tipperary in 1971.

The amazing total was 79 games, a record for the county, and it was made up as follows:

County Championship:	
(Open Draw)	30
Divisional Championships:	
North	23
Mid	12
West	9
South	5
Total	
79	

Clubs suffering at the expense of inter-county activity? This total speaks for itself.

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THE G.A.A.'s. COMMITMENT TO HANDBALL

Is the G.A.A. falling down in its attitude towards handball? If so, what can be done to remedy the situation. Here LIAM O'REILLY, County Handball Board Secretary, gives his views on the situation and suggests how the imbalance might be righted.

Question—What relationship has handball got with the G.A.A.?

Answer—"The Association shall foster, promote and control the national games of hurling, football, handball and rounders and such other games as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress."

—(Rule 2—G.A.A. Official Guide)

THE QUESTION arises because of the apparent apathy of County G.A.A. Boards and clubs throughout the country towards handball, this despite the very definite wording of the above rule.

By tradition, every county has a predominant interest in hurling or football. Very few are concerned mainly with both, and fewer still are catering for hurling, football and handball in a way that they should.

Thus it might be said, that in a county where hurling is a dominant sport, football and handball become the poor relations and vice versa. Handball, however, remains the outsider in all cases.

Handball, by its nature, has got to give way to the field games of hurling and football. Field games involve more, both actively and in a spectator capacity.

This being so, handball is still not enjoying the type of liaison as set out in Rule Two of the G.A.A. Official Guide.

In an organisation such as the G.A.A., wherein there are three

major and distinct games, each with their own championships etc. it is obvious that one Board cannot organise and promote all three games equally.

Therefore, three subsidiary Committees are necessary, each of which would be responsible to a central governing body, this body to be the County G.A.A. Board proper.

This would enable County Boards to operate as they are intended to, to give their time to such items as youth involvement, facilities, social environment and a host of other matters which arise in running such an association.

Ironically, there is a much closer relationship at Central Council level, between handball and the G.A.A., than there is at county and club level.

The Central Council of the G.A.A. are always aware of the problems of the Handball Council and have on numerous occasions given wholehearted aid, both morally and financially.

People, like Sean O Siachain,

Seamus O Riain and Pat Fanning have always been aware of handball's position within the structure of the G.A.A.

Seamus O Riain, in an address, given during his time as president of the G.A.A., said, "In any (G.A.A.) club development the alley should be prominent in the plans, and in school building, whether primary, post-primary or university, there can be no excuse for omitting a handball alley."

New Lease of Life

We are indeed lucky to have a man of the calibre of Seamus O Riain as present chairman of the Tipperary County Board. It is no coincidence that during his tenancy handball in Tipperary is enjoying a new lease of life at Co. G.A.A. Board level, which I hope will work its way down to club level.

Handball will have to be given definite status at County G.A.A. Board level throughout the country. It is absurd to give handball representation at County Board meetings without the right to vote on matters of general interest. It should at least be given the same status as a G.A.A. club. The same position obtains at provincial level.

At Central Council level, the handball member has full voting powers.

The value of handball to G.A.A. clubs can never be stressed enough. Hereunder are some of the advantages of handball to the G.A.A. club. Points similar to these were included in a special Report, made to the G.A.A. Special Commission, by Joe Lynch, secretary of the Irish Handball Council:

(1) A player can have a much longer playing life than in either hurling or football.

(2) It is a two handed game

and leads to harmless development of the body.

(3) Handball can be played at a pace to suit all age groups. It can be vigorous enough to tax the power of your muscles and sustained enough to bring healthful fatigue.

(4) Medical opinion in America holds that it improves the action of the heart, blood circulation and breathing function.

(5) It caters for members who are not anxious to take part in bodily contact games.

(6) The game can be played with the minimum of two players.

(7) With the increased number of roofed courts it can be played at all times despite the vagaries of the weather.

In addition, handball as a method of training would be of im-

mense value to hurlers and footballers.

It is my belief that the G.A.A. has within its structure an ideal form of indoor recreation and should endeavour to ensure its wellbeing by giving all the help possible to Handball Committees.

In America, where handball was introduced by Irish emigrants, there are now approximately 10,000,000 playing the game. Unfortunately we do not appear to value what we hold to the extent that it should be valued.

No Equivalent

At present, hurlers and footballers wishing to participate in indoor sport have got to turn to games such as squash and bannington and while these games are excellent in their own right, it is a pity that G.A.A. players have no equivalent within their own organisation.

While on the topic of indoor re-

creation it is interesting to note that there is a move afoot to promote ladies' handball and that very real progress has been made in a number of centres.

When this movement becomes established it will be possible to organise mixed competition such as exists in squash and badminton.

To achieve this, more covered courts are necessary and it is with this in mind that Handball Committees would be most willing to "play ball" with their G.A.A. counterparts.

An existing example of this development is the Na Fianna G.A.A. club in Dublin. This club caters for football, hurling, handball and camogie. In addition they conduct part of their weekly meetings through Irish and also hold a weekly ceilí.

This would seem to be the model to plan all future development on.

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TIPPERARY'S FIRST ALL-IRELAND TITLE

In conjunction with Feile na nGael, the Organising Committee decided to run an Essay Competition on Tipperary's first All-Ireland victory. The following, submitted by MICHAEL COLLINS, High St., Newport, was adjudged the winning effort:

TIPPERARY'S NAME is indelibly written in the annals of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The county gave birth to the G.A.A., nurtured it in its tender, childhood years, and remains today one of its most loyal and steadfast supporters.

Of the famous seven who met in Miss Hayes' Commercial Hotel in Thurles on that never-to-be-forgotten day—the first of November 1884—four were Tipperary men: Maurice Davin of Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir, first President of the Association; G. K. Bracken of Templemore, first Vice-President; G. McCarthy, also of Templemore, and P. J. Ryan of Thurles.

Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, became its first Patron and remained its lifelong friend for the thirty-odd years he sat on Cormac's throne. Indeed, his illustrious successors have since favoured the G.A.A. with their patronage and friendship.

Was it not fitting then, that the Premier County should be the first to annex the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship?—Ireland's national pastime, the most ancient and traditional of all her games.

For the first three years, the Association's activities were confined to tournament and challenge games. From the beginning Tipperary emerged as a hurling force, winning matches against Galway and Dublin.

Michael Cusack said, "If you want to see the new Ireland that

has arisen, go and look up Tipperary and hear the big drums of Knocknagow."

The Tipperary County Board was formed in December 1886 under the Presidency of J. K. Bracken. Eight teams affiliated for the County Senior Hurling Championship of 1887. Thurles were victorious in the final, defeating North Tipperary by three points and two forfeit points to nil.

Twelve counties entered for the All-Ireland series but only five contested the championship. Meelick of Galway beat a Wexford selection and were through to the final. Thurles overcame Smith O'Briens of Clare and Tullaroan of Kilkenny to reach the decider.

As often happened in those early years of the G.A.A., the championships overlapped the year and it was not until Easter Sunday, April 1st, 1888, that the men of Thurles and Meelick came together to decide the destiny of the first All-Ireland hurling crown.

By Train to Birr

The Tipperary contingent came by special train to Birr. At the station, to greet them on their arrival, was Patrick Ryan, Vice-President of the G.A.A. From there they marched to Cunningham's Hotel and then both teams stepped, two-abreast, to the playing field, in the first ever All-Ireland parade, the forerunner of present-day parades which are so

much a part of the colour and tradition that is Croke Park on the first Sunday in September.

Meelick were led on to the field by a non-playing captain. This was something which was quite in vogue in those early days, and in the next All-Ireland final in 1889, John Considine of Tulla was a non-player when he led the bare-footed Banner County men against the Dublin Kickhams.

Thurles were led by James Stapleton, a noted athlete and a member of the team which took part in the "American Invasion" of Irish hurlers and athletes in September 1888.

The fates were kind to the infant G.A.A. on that historic day in Birr. A brilliant sun shone brightly and a great host of people turned out to give the teams a rousing welcome.

It was 21-a-side in those days. In 1892 teams were reduced to 17 players and finally in 1913 to the present-day composition of 15.

The generation of today would find it odd, no doubt, if they were to see the formation of those teams. They lined up with goalkeeper, eight defenders, six centres and six forwards. The technique of the period was, that the centres and forwards should advance upon the opposing goal in the form of a wedge. Patrick White of Birr threw in the ball (which was almost as large as a turnip) and the game was on.

From start to finish it was fought at a furious pace—no quarter asked and none given. The ball was whipped up and down the field with lightning speed. Thurles led at the interval by a solitary point to nil.

When the game re-started, Meelick led a fierce onslaught on the Tipperary citadel, but to no avail. One of the Thurles players stopped a mighty Meelick swing with his nose and was carried off. Nobody replaced him. However, shortly afterwards, a Meelick man was sent to the line for tripping an opponent and the sides were evenly-matched again. Then Tommy Healy from Coolcree, Twomileborris, father of the famous runners of the '30's and '40's, collected a pass from his captain

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and shot home the only goal of the game.

Meelick failed to register a score and the match ended with the result:

Thurles: 1 goal, 1 point and 1 forfeit point.

Meelick: Nil.

At that time no number of points could equal a goal. In 1892 when new rules came into force a goal equalled five points. A forfeit point was awarded when a defender put the ball over the end line—the equivalent of today's "seventy." This was abolished later in the year when it was also recommended that the referee be given a whistle.

The team credited with winning the All-Ireland was as follows:—

Jim Stapleton, Tom Burke, Ned Murphy, Pat Leahy, Jack Dunne, Andy Maher, Matty Maher, Ned Bowe, John Mockler, Tom Stapleton, Ger Dwyer, Tim Dwyer, Ger Ryan, John Leamy, Tommy Healy, Ned Lambe, Martin McNamara.

This team, however, is at variance with a photograph of the champions, taken about twenty years later. It seems likely that

those who appeared in the photograph but not in the official team did take part in the earlier rounds of the championship. They were: Denis Maher (Red), Denis Maher (Long), Matthew Maher, Dan Davern, J. Sullivan, Paddy Ryan, Tom Butler, J. Ryan, E. Maher.

Perhaps, the most noted of that famous team was Tim Dwyer of Ballyvinane, Littleton. He was one of Ireland's greatest athletes. In the championship events in Dublin in 1878, he won the mile event by 30 yards in a time of 4 minutes, 39 seconds, and this despite the fact that he took time off to unlace his boots and finish barefooted. For the next decade he made the event his own, although he never bothered to train, something which prompted the great Pat Davin to say, "What would the man have achieved if he had trained properly?"

Vice-captain of the team was "Long" Dinny Maher of Killinan. His brother Ned was also a member of the team, and yet another brother, the late James Maher of Parnell St., Thurles, was a member of the Selection Committee of

Tipperary's All-Ireland winning teams of 1930, 1937, and 1945.

Ned Lambe, the Carrolls, Jim Ryan, and John Leamy were natives of Drombane; Dan Davern hailed from Ballycahill, while Two-Mile-Borris was represented by the Ryans, Jer Dwyer and Tommy Healy. Tommy Butler, the last surviving member of the team, passed to his reward in 1954.

Tipperary is indeed proud of those men, for it was their achievements that inspired their successors, down through the years, to bring so many honours to the Premier County, and when on the 15th of August, Tipperary, once again, comes face to face with Galway, in famed Birr, her sons will, in the words of the immortal Tom Keating of Cloneen:—

"Chant their praises, loud and strong,
O'er mountain, moorland, hill and glen;
And keep their memory green in song,
Tipperary's fearless hurling men."

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Newtown, Birr and Kinnitty**

PUPILS PREPARED FOR SCOR '72



Three former officials of the South Tipperary Board who have given a life-time of service to the Association were the recipients of presentations during the year to mark their retirement. They were Mr. Jim Gleeson, former Chairman of the Board; Mr. Gerry O'Keefe, former Secretary, and Mr. David Maher, another former Chairman. They are pictured here with the magnificent presentations each received, along with the President of the G.A.A., Mr. Pat Fanning; the Bishop of Waterford, Most Rev. Dr. Michael Russell, and the present Chairman of the South Board, Mr. Phil Shea.

THE G.A.A. CLUB DEVELOPMENT SCHEME IN ACTION

IN MANY PARISHES throughout Ireland at the moment buildings are rising where green sward was before. These overlook or adjoin our G.A.A. fields and the busy beat of the hammer and putt putt of

the clubs and supporters. Over £23,000 had been invested in the fund at the end of September.

Our investors may like to know what has been accomplished through this fund and the immediate answer is "more than we could ever have imagined."

By PAT CANTON

the mixer indicate that the work of construction is going rapidly ahead and will soon be completed.

Such buildings usher in a new era for our games and supporters, representing, as they do, the first generation of community centres within the G.A.A. developed through the Club Development Scheme.

It is now history that in February 1970 the G.A.A. launched a scheme for the provision of short-term loans to clubs at reduced interest rates, aimed at stimulating the provision of greater social and sporting facilities for the community, young and old, female and male alike.

The scheme depends on investments made by County Boards, clubs and supporters of all kinds. Such investments are in units of £100 (although people can obtain through their club a part share) and each named investor receives a certificate of investment which entitles him to partake in a monthly draw for £500. Investors are asked to leave their investment in for at least five years although naturally in cases of necessity the Trustees will repay the investment on request before that time.

The scheme was an immediate success due to the hard work of many counties, committees and individuals and the generosity of

Projects

Statistically of 45 projects put forward, 18 have been approved for loans totalling in all £136,700, but the total cost of such assisted developments is £308,000. In other words, for every £5 advanced by the scheme the local community has put up a further £6. This has enabled communities and clubs to undertake development which otherwise would be too onerous. The need was great, the enterprise and willingness were there, in abundance, but the high cost of building was a factor which few committees were anxious to face.

The Club Development Scheme changed all this as it provided a source of finance additional to that which the local community could muster and also a valuable source of encouragement and support. It was a catalyst from which projects could emerge, be examined, cross-checked, and thought-out to reduce and, one would hope, to avoid completely the "white elephant" project.

A wide range of projects has been catered for—the city centre community and sporting complex and the small rural club are both included in the 18 passed so far—and the Trustees have in difficult circumstances been as fair as is humanly possible in determining where the loans should go in relation to the projects before them and their responsibility to the in-

vestors who have enabled so much good work to be done. Loans have averaged £7,500.

Projects continue to come in, and this has raised the question of the size of the fund required for the type of modernisation programme the G.A.A. has undertaken.

The State has its own priorities—roads, housing, factories, hospitals and public buildings, and in many areas the provision of social amenities has been neglected or has been pushed out by other needs. The G.A.A. has shown its interest and drive in ensuring that community facilities and sporting facilities will be available in a suitable atmosphere and through out clubs for everyone. A target of £660,000 is aimed at and can be achieved if all clubs and supporters give the support the scheme deserves. We ask those who can to "come again" if possible with a further investment in the scheme.

The Great Occasions

We are all aware of the great occasions which the finals, county, provincial and All-Ireland, provide. The players and the national games deserve suitable facilities and a proper setting. The love of these games and their place in the community, even the European Community, depends on our attitudes to them, how much they are a part of the country's fabric and how closely the youth of the country, North, South, East and West, involve themselves in them.

Whether it be a rural pitch in Louth, a children's play area in Limerick, or a recreation hall in Roscommon, the Clubs Development Scheme is there to assist worthy, practical schemes which are suitable for short term lending. That way more people can benefit and those hammers and mixers can continue to work for a richer sporting and community life.

A DEAR GAME

At Thurles Petty Sessions in June 1909, a 10-year-old boy, charged by an R.I.C. member with hurling in a back streets, was fined 10/6 or 14 days in jail.



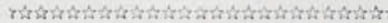
TADHG O'CONNOR
(Roscrea)

"For captaining Tipperary in their recapture of the All-Ireland championship. His qualities of leadership and great-hearted spirit were repeatedly in evidence throughout the season."



FRANCIS LOUGHNANE
(Roscrea)

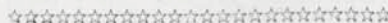
"For his quick incisive forward play. His scoring ability was one of the factors enabling his county to become All-Ireland champions in 1971."



TIPPERARY SALUTES ITS CARROLLS ALL STARS

Four members of the victorious All-Ireland senior team have been honoured by inclusion in the Carroll's G.A.A. All Stars hurling team and we salute them and congratulate them on their award. The team will travel to San Francisco in March and the four Tipperary men will then foresake their new status as they come back to the Tipperary side and assist the All-Ireland champions in a series of games against the All Stars. Four other players, to be nominated soon, will take their place on the team.

Tipperary's visit to San Francisco has been welcomed throughout the county and it is indeed due recognition for a fine team with tremendous spirit and we wish them well in their endeavours in that noted city.



MICK ROCHE
(Carrick Davins)

"For his memorable performances as one of the hurling perfectionists of his era, his true brilliance comes to the surface when the competition is at its hottest."



MICHAEL KEATING
(Ballybacon-Grange)

"For his exemplary performance in recovering his county team place and then becoming the inspiration of his team's many fine achievements during the year."

MCDONAGH PARK AND PAVILION, CLOUGHJORDAN

A model in expertise, enthusiasm and perseverance

EVERY NEW PROJECT has its growing pains and the new Thomas McDonagh Memorial Park in Cloughjordan has been no exception. Some readers may remember the early games in the Park, or the official opening on Easter Sunday 1966, when everything was, or seemed to be, set and ready for the big occasion; the

By T. R. McUILLIAM

spacious green sward surrounded by new pre-cast concrete seating and strong boundary walls, the sloping banks capable of accommodating large crowds, and the imposing entrance with its inscribed railings and plaques.

But there was one snag. The rains came, and with them the proof that the pitch was not capable of draining any great volume of water. The cast of Brian McMahon's pageant, "Seachtar Fear, Seacht Lá," performed heroically despite the sodden underfoot conditions, but the inaugural game, which was to have been between Tipperary and Wexford, had to be postponed. When the teams did line out about a month later, Jimmy Doyle and company were sloshing around among the pools of water, so that the remarks of the spectators and the general public were rather disparaging, to say the least. "Thank God we're surrounded by water" became the popular song of the moment.

The Committee, naturally, were disappointed and had no option but to close down the Park, but

undaunted, they sought a remedy. A thorough drainage system was installed, which had the desired effect. The following season the pitch was in tip-top condition, firm, dry and lively, and able to withstand the rigours of the worst weather conditions. Its reputation was quickly restored and players and teams got to like playing on it. "A field second only to Thurles in the county" and other complimentary remarks gave a boost to confidence.

Dressingrooms

The next step in development was the provision of dressing-rooms. Teams were stripping in halls, schoolrooms and private houses, sometimes without proper facilities, and at too far distance from the Park. At this time Séamus O Riain, as President of the G.A.A., had laid down policy guidelines, stressing the need for the Association to assume an expanding role in the social life of the community. With this in mind it was decided to erect a building which would serve both purposes — its primary function being as a dressing-room, and secondly as a centre for social events for the organisation and for the community.

Plans for such buildings had already been drawn up at the behest of the Central Council, and these were obtained from the General Secretary, Seán O Siócháin. A deputation from the Park Committee visited Ballygriffin, Co. Dublin, to inspect a building which had been erected there according to these plans, and saw for themselves what the building would be

like. So a scheme was drawn up, a contractor was appointed, and the work was soon under way.

The building, now known as the Pavilion, is a simple structure. To the front is a room, 60 feet long, 22 feet wide. Across this are folding timber partitions, which, when pulled across, give four dressing-rooms, each with a large window overlooking the pitch. Heating is provided by gas wall brackets.

Behind these are two wash-rooms, each containing toilets, showers with hot and cold water, footbaths, washhand basins and mirrors. A small general purposes room completes the building.

Players from visiting teams appreciate the facilities provided; while the Kilruane McDonagh's hurling and football teams and camogie teams use the pitch and Pavilion regularly for their training sessions.

The uses of the Pavilion as a social centre are varied. Meetings of the Park Committee and of the Hurling and Camogie Clubs are held in it, and a number of other local organisations hold meetings there also. A feature of the past two winters was the holding of Irish dancing classes and céilíthe under the guidance of members of Roscrea branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri, and these were followed each night by a half-hour of P.T., with the local Gardai acting as instructors. In its two year existence it has reverberated to discotheques and senior citizens parties, to camogie dinners and get-togethers with visiting clubs; while last Christmas it seated 160 at a celebration dinner organised by the successful Junior Club, with the catering in the hands of the I.C.A. ladies.

These are some of the activities which have been carried on up to the present time in the Pavilion and which have made it a focus for social life in the parish to some extent. There is no doubt that it will be used even more widely in the future and will serve as a place of enrichment in the lives of the people of the area.

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FEILE MUSEUM—SHOWPIECE OF TIPPERARY TRADITION AND ACHIEVEMENT

By MICHAEL DUNDON

"Tipperary Star" Staff Reporter

THE IDEA of a G.A.A. museum was nothing new, but the conversion of the idea into a reality, as happened during Feile na nGael in Thurles in July, must have left everybody wondering why it hadn't been done before. That just about sums up the general reaction to the G.A.A. museum, held at Scoil Ailbe Hall, Thurles, during the Feile, and which stole the show as highlight of the Feile.

The organisers, under their very capable director, Mr. William Corbett, N.T., Drombane, put a tremendous amount of effort into the project. Items were gathered from the four corners of the county, and country, and the end product was a credit to all concerned.

Mr. Corbett said that the purpose of the museum was to portray in a tangible form, Tipperary's part in the growth and development of the G.A.A., and it succeeded beyond even perhaps their wildest dreams.

I must confess that I had misgivings about the museum idea. On paper, it was all very well, but in practice, it was another matter. Where were all the items going to come from? Who'd be that interested in them anyway? How would you lay out such an exhibition? These and many more questions immediately sprang to mind. Previously, a museum conjured up visions of dark, pokey corners, with musty antiques, but nothing could be further from reality.

Beforehand it was known that the museum would contain photographs, literature, trophies, and

other items of interest, with the special emphasis on Tipp's part in the formation and development of the Association. It would be difficult to put into words how well and how successfully this was done.

Spirit of Knocknagow

The President of the Association, Mr. Pat Fanning, put his finger on it by describing the museum as representing the spirit of Knocknagow, and capturing a living tradition. Photographs of the G.A.A. invasion of America in 1888 recalled the first American trip, and one wondered did those pictured then realise the precedent they were establishing.

Another episode in the history of the Association, "Bloody Sunday," was recalled by the presence of the jersey worn by Tipperary's Mick Hogan, shot by Black and Tans in Croke Park on that day. The hole made by the fatal bullet can still be seen in the jersey.

The magnificent Croke Cup was also on display, and that too has a great history behind it, dealt with in another place in this book.

Mr. James O'Donoghue, N.T., Tipperary, made a wonderful contribution to the museum with some of the earliest literature on the games. Mr. Jerry O'Keeffe, Clonmel, also had some very valuable material at the exhibition, and the individual collections of medals and trophies reminded one of the deeds of great men like the late John Joe Callanan, Thurles; Christy Ring, Cork; Bobby Rackard, Wexford; the Leahys of Boherlahan; Dick Walsh, Boherlahan; "Wedger" Meagher, Toomevara; Mickey Byrne, Thurles; and

The first ever inter-provincial game under G.A.A. rules was played in Stamford Bridge, London, on Whit Monday, 1896. Two teams representing the hurlers of Leinster and Munster made an historic journey and Munster won the game.

The following Tipperary players were on the Munster team: Michl. Maher, Toberadora (capt.), P. J. O'Riordan, Drombane; D. Walsh, Toberadora; T. F. Kiely, Grangemoekler; W. Ryan, Arraville Rovers; M. Ryan, Cashel; P. Donovan, Templemore, and E. Cummins, Golden.

Jimmy and Tommy Doyle, Thurles.

The Great Men

If the museum did nothing else but remind us of the great men who made the Association what it is, then it served a very useful purpose. As Mr. Fanning said, "I think it is uplifting for people to come here and see this exhibition. It would shock and amaze me to think there might be people in Tipperary who would say this has no significance, no meaning for them. Such people are not worthy of the Tipperary heritage and cannot appreciate what went into forging it."

That the museum did have meaning and significance for Tipperary people was borne out by the huge attendance that thronged Scoil Ailbe Hall during the hours it was open. Even on the closing night, when some of the people who donated items were taking them away, the crowds were still flocking in, and at 12 midnight the hall still hadn't closed.

Such interest demands a repeat of the exhibition at some future date, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that when Semple Stadium is developed to its fullest potential, that a room would be made available to house exhibits of this nature, permanently.

TIPPERARY N.F.L. CHAMPIONS 1970'71, DIVISION II



The highlight of the football world in Tipperary during the year was the capturing of Division II honours by our gallant men, who in doing so overcame the opposition provided by Waterford (twice), Clare, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Limerick and Fermanagh.

Our picture was taken in Croke Park after the semi-final game with Fermanagh and in it are as follows: Standing, left to right: Pat O'Donoghue, Dinny Burke, Eddie Webster, Willie Robinson, Mick McCormack, Sean Kearney, Richie Strang. Seated, left to right: Paudie Blythe, Pat Moroney, Davy Fitzgerald, Michael "Babs" Keating (capt.), Paddy O'Connell, Christy McElwee, Jimmy Harney.

UNBEATEN RUN IN N.F.L. GAVE GREAT SATISFACTION

By MICHAEL O'MEARA

FOR TIPPERARY FOOTBALL, fifty long years of high hope, frustration and failure came to an end at Clonmel Sportsfield on May 16 last, when the county's senior fifteen captured the National Football League Division II title and with it the county's first National trophy in half a century.

It was an occasion that was the cause of no little celebration, for in a campaign that started from the previous October, the team went through a total of nine successive games without defeat and showed a determination, grit and skill that won the admiration of many.

It was a success story that began back in August, 1970, when the players and selectors gathered in a Clonmel hotel to review what had proved an encouraging championship campaign and to plan a programme for the new League. Their sights were immediately set on the winning of this League and on promotion to the First Division. A training programme was embarked upon, and the players, given a chance to prove themselves, responded wholeheartedly.

The first game came in Carlow in early October and the result was an easy and impressive win for Tipperary. Limerick, in Tipperary town, provided the next objective but here the team did not perform so well and were quite lucky to come out on top by the narrowest of margins. Waterford provided the opposition in Dungarvan in mid November and in a fine game played under perfect conditions the Premier County men gave one of their best displays and impressed in a comfortable win.

The victory march continued in February at Lahinch where a tremendous second half perform-

ance overcame Clare. In the same month Wexford were visitors to Clonmel and whilst Tipperary were not impressive, they still won comfortably. Wicklow suffered defeat at the same venue in March, and then came the final game of the group, against Kilkenny. This game was won again rather comfortably, though the manner in which victory was achieved earned little praise from visiting Pressmen.

Next on the list was the semi-final against Fermanagh, which was played in Croke Park, and which saw Tipperary triumph in a hectic finish.

The Final

Eight wins in eight matches was the tally then as Waterford, who had surprised by defeating Laois, provided the opposition in the final at Clonmel. It was rather a pity that the first half of this game was played in a downpour and as a result the players had difficulty in holding their feet and in coping with a greasy ball. In spite of this, however, the game proved very entertaining and the standard of football was high.

Waterford had two points and very nearly a goal in the opening minutes before Tipperary opened their account with a long range point from a Denis Burke free. It was the turn of the Premier County men to take command in

the second quarter and largely due to the efforts of Dick Strang, Paudie Blythe and Denis Bourke, they led by 0-7 to 0-4 at the break.

Waterford came back strongly on the resumption and a goal from a penalty levelled matters. The final minutes were hectic and fittingly it was the Tipperary captain, Michael Keating, who got the decisive score—a great punched point from over thirty yards.

Though Keating proved the key man in the victory, it was essentially a team success, and every man on the field, every substitute, the team coach, Tot McGowan, Mick Frawley and his fellow selectors, all played their parts. The winning of the League title was the result of the combined enthusiasm, spirit and whole-hearted effort of all concerned.

Line Out

The winning line-out was:—

John O'Donoghue (Aravale Rovers), Jimmy Harney (Commercials), Eddie Webster (Loughmore-Castleiney), Mick McCormack (St. Finbarr's, Cork), Davy Fitzgerald (Fethard), Dick O'Gorman (Kilsheelan), Pat O'Donoghue (Commercials), Denis Burke (Fethard), Sean Kearney (Loughmore-Castleiney), Paudie Blythe (Fr. Sheehy's), Michael Keating (Ardfinnan), Paddy O'Connell (Commercials), John Cummins (Ardfinnan), Dick Strang (Kilsheelan), Christie McElwee (Moyle Rovers).

Subs.: Pat Moroney (Aherlow), Liam Moyle (Ardfinnan), Jack Ryan (Moneygall), Vincent O'Donnell (Galtee Rovers), Patsy Condon (Ballporeen), Kieran McGrath (Commercials), Seamus Shinnors (Newport).

October 18, at Carlow ...
Tipperary 2-15; Carlow 0-5
Tipperary 2-10; Fermanagh 0-13

Results

October 18 at Carlow ...
November 1 at Tipperary ...
November 15 at Dungarvan ...
February 7 at Clonmel ...
February 14 at Lahinch ...
March 14 at Clonmel ...
March 28 at Tipperary ...
April 25 at Croke Park ...
May 16 at Clonmel ...

Tipperary 2-15 Carlow 0-5
" 1-8 Limerick 0-10
" 2-10 Waterford 2-4
" 2-10 Wexford 0-8
" 1-10 Clare 1-2
" 1-12 Wicklow 0-7
" 1-10 Kilkenny 1-3
" 2-9 Fermanagh 0-13
" 0-10 Waterford 1-6

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CUIMHNEOD AR 1971

AR MHORAN cúiseanna, bliain mhór do ea 1971 de Thiobrad Arannaigh. Fanfaidh an bhliain seo inár gcuimhne. Beidh a chuimhni cinn fein ag gach éinne, agus anso thíos cuid de na rudai a fhanfaidh im chuimhne-se.

Cuimhneod ar Fhéile na nGael i mí an Iúil. Ní raibh a leitheid riamh cheana ann. Bhí se cosúil ar shli leis na tournamenti a eagraíodh i dtosach re Chumann Luith-Chleas Gael; mar shómpla an la mór do bhi i dTiobrad Arann

Le CHORMAC

i dtosach na Bealtainne 1887, raigh agus thug i gcrích é tá gach peile in aon lá amháin, ar an aon láthair. An duine do bheartaigh an fheile ollmhór seo imbliana, tá sé le moladh. Na daoine do eagraigh agus thug i gcrích é tá gach moladh agus buíochas tuille acu. Bhí an t-eagrú gan lucht agus is mór an focal é sin agus an oiread oibre agus bhi, i gceist.

Bhí samlaíocht ag roinnt leis an bhfeile. Measaim nár tuigeadh tábhacht, agus fiúntas, agus meidh na h-iarrachta go raibh sé beagán déanach. Cuimhneod ar an Satharn san, 17 ú la d'Iúil. Thosnaigh sé gan morán spéodair ach do réir mar do bhi an lá dá chaitheamh bhi obair an lae ag fáilt greama ar shamhlaíocht na ndaoine. Bhí ráflai agus cúntais ag teach ón ionad so agus ón ionad siúd, faoin gcluiche iontach seo faoin gcluiche iontach siúd. Bhí stair agus glóir ag baint le ainmneacha na bhfoirne, an Charraig Dhubh, Dun Géibhinn, Ath Fhirdia, na hEoin Ruadhaigh agus mar sin dóibh gan trácht ar ainmneacha ar bhfoirne féin. Do réir a chéile, do bhi an tuisceant ag fás don rud mór Naisiúnta do bhi ar bun.

Cuimhneod ar an Domhnach agus ar an radharc álainn cor-

raitheach do chonac nuair shroiseas droichead an Bhothair Iarann i nDúrlas. Bhí an mór-shiúl ag teacht im choinne amach. Agus cad é mar mórshíúl é, dhá fhoireann is seasca ag suíl i ndiaidh a chéile, gach foireann gléasta go glan córach; meirge, brat, no suaitheantas, go bródúil roimh gach foireann acu, céolbhuíonta ag spreagadh poirt máirseala. Bheadh sé gan croi gan anam an té ná corródh an mársiúl sin.

Bhí radai maithe móra romhainn sa pháirc leis. Níor éirigh liomsa ach cluiche amháin a fheiscint agus ba cheann math é gan amhras ar bith: an Charraig Dubh v. Eoin Rua. Cuimhneod ar an bhfear o Inis Cáithleann a bhuail liom agus an fear on Iar Mhi agus chómh togtha agus do bhíodar. Bhí díomá ar fhearr Inis Chaithleann nuair ná raibh na mílte de lucht fheachanna ann.

Cuimhneod ar an Musaem iontach do bhi i scoil Ailbhe. Cheal spáis ní feidir cur síos air mar is ceart. Bhí sé thar bárr. Chuimhneod ar an oráid bhreá do thug an t-Uachtaráin uaidh agus beidh cuimhne agam ar an gcomhrá fada do bhi agam ann le Déiseach eile, an Sean Laoch Pádraig O Faolain (Pax), Dún Garbháin, gura fada buan é.

Beidh cuimhne fhada agam ar an lá a lionadh Ardán Uí Chuineáin don chéad uair, an lá fuair Luimneach an lámh uachtair ar Chorcaigh. Is cuma cé bhuaidh. Is deimhin go raibh bua ag an gcluiche féin, an iománaíocht. Ba dheas a bheith ann, ba dheas a bheith ag féachaint ar na sluaite ag bailiú—sluaite a mheasamar na feicfimis aris. Bhí na sean laethanta thar nais. Má bhi ár n-umhall ar an gcluiche, bhi ár n-aighe ag cosadh siar, leis, chun laethanta Jackie Power, Mick Mackey, Paddy, Scanlan, Willie Murphy, Fox Collins, Christy Ring agus a leithéidí. Bhíos ar an mbanc

agus na slóite im' thimpeall. Mheas mé go raibh an cine Gael ar fad im' thimpeall, an chine nar cláíodh agus ná clóifear. Bhí scata Chorcaíoch gar dom. Mheasas gurb iad na daoine ceannan céana, iad a chonac ann triocha bliain o shin.

Cuimhneod ar lá Chill Airne: an Turas Treanach, na sloite ag an stáisiún ar dtúis, an traen plódaithe, meidhir agus spleódar ar gach taobh. Gach rud go díreach faoi mar do bhíodh ins na sean-laethanta a measadh a bheith imithe go deó. Ní dhéanfad cur síos ar an gcluiche féin. Ní gá ach a rá gur fada an lá ó bhi a leithéid ann. Daoine a bhuail liom ó shin ní faca cluiche maithe iománaíocht roimhe sin, táid faoi iontas fós faoin gcluiche sin, a fheabhas do bhi sé. Bhuamar, ach buíochas le Dia go bhfuil fóirne ann mar fhoireann Luimnigh. Gan feabhas ár gcéili cómhraic, bail o Dhia ortha, lá leamh do bheadh ann. Cuimhneod ar stáisiún Chill Airne an tráthnóna san, an brú agus an sáthadh, daoine fluach agus tuirseach, ach gach éinne sásta. Go deimhin ba shó dhom an tanró, ba chuid den lá mór é. Ba poetic iustice é go gcaithfidh rud eigin a fhulaing i ndíol ar a bhfuairamar de phléisiúr an la iontach san.

Ar ndoigh cuimhneod ar an gcuigu lá le Mheán Fomhair. Cuimhneod ar díograis ar dhiongabhaltacht agus ar fhearúlacht ar geuid fear. Ba chosúil gur bheartaigh an fhoireann seo i dtosach na bliana go raibh Thiobrad Arann fada go leor sa gclaspsholus, gur mhithid go mbeadh Thiobrad Arann aris san áit is dual do—chun tosaigh. Bheartaíodar an craobh do bheith leo, tagadh a dtiocfadh. Bhí an diongabhaltacht seo le sonnrú ortha i gCill Airne, bhi sé aris ann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Dá mbeadh bratach agam le bronnadh ar an fhoireann seo sé manadh do chuirfinn air "Riamh níor ob!"

Cuimhneod ar 1971 mar bhliain in ar tháinig ar bpríomh cluiche náisiúnta, an iománaíocht, thar nais in a sean ionad. Cuimhmis áfac nach Thiobrad Arann amháin atá a bhuíochas san ag dul, ach do na fóirne fearúla fiúntacha eile leis, nár rug an bua leo, ach len a bhfeabhas do chuir blas ar ár mbuaidh fein. Beidh lá eile acu.



To mark Tipperary's All-Ireland Intermediate win a victory dinner, sponsored by the Ballina club was held in the Lakeside Hotel, Ballina, in November, and pictured here with the Munster and All-Ireland trophies are, left to right: Jimmy Noonan, Knockshegowna; Gerry Keogh, Ballina; Eamonn Butler, Drom-Inch (captain); Jim Barry (Burgess), Seamus Ryan, Co. Board Chairman; Donie Nealon, team trainer; Martin O'Connor, Nenagh, North Board Vice-Chairman; and Tommy Barrett, Co. Board Secretary.

WHERE DOES ALL THE MONEY GO?

By MICHAEL MAHER

ANOTHER GATE for the G.A.A. A phrase said many times, half jokingly and whole in earnest. A picture of an organisation very rich in money is conjured up by many. This attitude is very noticeable when thinking of the Association at National level.

To many it would come as a surprise to think that Croke Park, which is taken so much for granted by most patrons has a rates bill of the order of £7,500 per annum and its annual up-keep and depreciation costs twice as much more.

The only financially worthwhile games each year under the auspices of Central Council are the two All-Ireland Finals, and the two Football Semi-finals. The income from the latter has gone down considerably since television broadcasting. Each All-Ireland Final has a gate receipt of £50,000 approx. and the two Semi-finals together take £30,000 approx. on the gate. Some of the money for the All-Ireland Finals has already been taken in as cash for the Five Year Ticket Scheme.

Due to its rather full investment in grounds the Association at National level is continuously carrying an overdraft of anything from £20,000 to £150,000. This demands high interest charges to service it. Team expenses, hotel and car hire for all competitions sponsored by Central Council together with special allowances to those participating in the All-Ireland Semi-finals and Finals came to £28,000 for 1970. Rent of grounds cost the best part of £20,000. Grants to the extent of £16,800 were paid out for the promotion of games; the most notable one here would be £7,500 to Coiste Iomana. Most of this goes towards subsidising hurlers.

Grants for the improvement of grounds in 1970 amounted to £28,000. £7,180 was paid through Central Council to the Accident Fund and a special allowance to Dublin County Board from all

Croke Park gates comes to 3,534. After all these payments together with other running costs, any surplus money goes to reducing the perennial overdraft. This surplus over the past five years has varied from £12,000 to £50,000, depending on attendances, attractive team pairings and the occasional replay of major games.

Several County Boards regularly find themselves in financial difficulties. Only a few like Tipperary, who usually do well in the National Leagus and also have reasonably

good Club Championship games and Cork who are in a high population centre interested in G.A.A., have surplus cash at the end of each year. In turn both of these have invested their surplus cash and much more with it in grounds. Tipperary has contributed £18,000 to Thurles alone and Cork have recently spent £30,000 buying grounds in newly built-up areas.

Provincial Councils normally show an excess of income over expenditure but most of them spend more than they have on Grants and Team expenses.

Misunderstanding of moneys at all levels is probably due to poor communications and badly presented hard to understand financial accounts.

During the year Tipperary lost a number of men whose contributions to the Association, both within and without the county, over many years has left an indelible mark on the G.A.A. One of the greatest years ever experienced by Tipperary was 1930 when the county succeeded in bringing home the minor, junior and senior All-Ireland titles. Captain of the senior team was John Joe Callanan from Thurles and during the year the great-hearted John Joe passed to his eternal reward.

Two men resident in Nenagh, one a native of Toomevara and the other from Clare, also passed away and their contribution right up to the time of their deaths bore the stamp of utter dedication and enthusiasm. They were Tomas Cleary, a native of Co. Clare but a Tipperary resident for over 50 years and a former Treasurer and Trustee of the Board, and Padraig O'Meara, who was known throughout Ireland for his ideals and for his unbounded interest in everything national and gaelic.

Just over 50 years after that historic Bloody Sunday game in Dublin, one of the surviving members of the Tipperary panel passed on in the person of Dick Lanigan, Grangemockler. Only a year ago Dick was in Croke Park for the 50th anniversary of that fateful day and he has now joined Mick Hogan and others who have since died, in their eternal resting place.

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A WEEK-END THAT MUST HAVE UNTOLD CONSEQUENCES

VISIONS OR DREAMS can often carry one away with over exuberance. There are some men who spend their time dreaming of great feats they would like to accomplish, of great deeds they would wish to be part of. Sometimes their dreams come true; more often they fall by the way side. Feile na nGael began as a dream; the dream of two men in particular, County Board Chairman, Seamus Ryan, and his able Secretary, Tommy Barrett. These men knew exactly what they wanted; how it would be achieved was another matter. Their minds were firmly cast on youth and how the great game of hurling could be improved especially among the youth of the less well off hurling counties. In any such venture, the lead would have to come from a county like Tipperary and both Seamus and Tommy set about putting their plans into motion in a manner that had to be experienced to be believed.

What was the Feile all about? Its main aim was to foster hurling among the youth of Ireland, to give the young hurlers of tomorrow an opportunity of coming together and playing with each other in surroundings that are steeped in the hurling tradition. In the beginning it looked to be impossible because the plans included the gathering in Tipperary of a juvenile hurling team from every county in Ireland. How could it be done? How could these boys and their mentors be accommodated? Was there sufficient enthusiasm throughout the county to warrant such an undertaking?

Very soon the answer was made known. Bord na nOg, that most energetic of bodies, took on the task of arranging accommodation; of grading teams, and of winning

By GERRY SLEVIN

"Guardian" Staff Reporter

the support of clubs throughout the county for the venture. What was achieved is now history. The results may not be known for a long time yet, but the week-end, July 17th/18th, must surely have untold consequences.

Countrywide Reception

Apart from the enthusiasm shown by Bord na nOg, one of the most heartening aspects of Feile na nGael was the way in which the idea was received throughout the country. Counties arranged their own competitions to select the best team to travel to Tipperary for the week-end. They co-operated fully with the organising Committee at home and when that week-end came, there were thirty-one juvenile teams from every county in Tipperary homes and among people that spread the welcoming mat with abandon and with sincerity. They had arrived from Carndonagh in Donegal to Blackrock in Cork; from Eoin Rua in Dublin to Loughrea in Galway; all bringing with them their own specially designed and manufactured banners; all neatly togged out for the games and for the

mammoth parade in Thurles on the Sunday. To receive these young hurlers were 31 clubs in Tipperary, who would be the hosts for the week-end. The competitions were divided into four sections and grading was done by Bord na nOg in co-operation with Jimmy Smith from Croke Park. Throughout Saturday games were played at many venues and the stage was reached for the four finals, all played in Thurles on Sunday.

Before the finals, the entire 1,200 approximately players, in their club colours, assembled in the outside pitch in Semple Stadium and in as colourful a parade as could be imagined, paraded through the streets of Thurles and back to the stadium where waiting to greet them was the President of the Association, Pat Fanning, and the General Secretary, Sean O Siachain.

The finals were outstanding games, with victories going to Blackrock (Cork); runners up, Eoin Rua, Dublin; Comeda (Antrim); (runners-up, Cappawhite); Dungiven (Derry); (runners-up, Ardee, Louth); and Portroe (Tipperary); (runners-up, Knockavilla, Tipperary).

Four fine games and for Tipperary, a special importance in that Portroe took an award, the only club from the county to do so.

Then there was the game between the Tipperary stars of the past and an All-Ireland stars of the past and what a treat this was for the young boys. Here before their very eyes were many of the men they had dreamed of emulating; men who have become legends over the years and who have contributed so much to the game. The boys had an opportunity to meet them and no doubt they took away with them many ideas for the perfection of their own game.

Other Facets

But it wasn't all hurling throughout the week-end. There was a top class concert; the museum; a cello, an outdoor cabaret competition; in fact a festival in the true sense.

Thanks to the Irish bottlers of Coca Cola, a big share of the financial burden that would have

fallen on the County Board in the undertaking of such a Feile, was alleviated, while Shannonside also played its part in sponsoring the mounting of the museum and in the organisation of the concert.

Comhaile Ceile, Thurles C.B.S., Messrs. O'Meara's and Dwan's; and many others played their part too and by Sunday night that dream had become not just a reality, but an unqualified suc-

cess.

Feile na nGael is over. It has had a great beginning and must be a future event in the calendar of the G.A.A. Tipperary has given the lead.



The President of the G.A.A., Mr. Pat Fanning, addressing the gathering at the opening of the Feile na nGael Museum in Scoil Ailbe, Thurles, on Friday, July 16th. Also included are Mr. Michael McGuire, West Board secretary; Rev. J. Meehan, Adm., Thurles; Mr. Wm. Corbett, Feile Museum organiser; Mr. T. P. Flanagan, Shannonside; Mr. Robin O'Sullivan, Coca Cola; Mr. John O'Connell, Managing Director, Irish Bottlers, Coca Cola; Mr. Seamus Ryan, Co. Board chairman; Mr. P. J. Ryan, Limerick, former Munster Council chairman; and Mr. Sean Hanley, Clare, chairman, Coisde Iomana.

BORD NA nOG FLOURISHING AS NEVER BEFORE

Since its foundation, Bord na nOg has been doing some magnificent work in the interests of the youth of the county. Indeed much of what it actually does goes unheeded, but the year just ending must surely rank as one of the greatest ever in its history. Two extra burdens were thrown on the Bord during the year: the organisation of the Scor '70 under-16 competitions and Feile na nGael, and as well as coming through in flying colours in their field competitions, the Bord set an example to all in efficiency, enthusiasm and hard work by the manner in which its members threw themselves so wholeheartedly into the new onuses thrust upon them.

Here we give a comprehensive review of the field activities at inter-divisional and divisional level. Tom Kirby was responsible for the inter-divisional account and the remainder were dealt with as follows: South—M. McCarthy; West—L. O'Dwyer; North—M. O'Brien; Mid—L. McGrath.

Inter-Divisional

The year past has been an excellent one for this Board, as (1) all championships were played on a very high standard, (2) all are now finished with the exception of the U-17 football, which is nearing an end, (3) the Board's outstanding contribution to the Feile na nGael which resulted in the successful running of an enormous programme of matches, (4) the first ever U-16 Scor '70 produced wonderful talent and has been very successful in all divisions, (5) the high degree of sportsmanship was again very evident in our games, which bears out the old saying, that juvenile games paint the true picture of our Gaelic games, (6) the generous grant of £150 to be made an-

nually from the Senior Board to County Bord na nOg.

Under 13 Hurling

Carrick-on-Suir produced some brilliant hurling to overcome Cashel in the semi-final (Cashel were last year's U-13 Co. Champions), while Roscrea easily overcame Holycross. After an exciting final at Holycross, Carrick-on-Suir defeated a fancied Roscrea side. This win for Carrick should enhance the prospect of a good U-15 hurling team for Carrick next year. Also full marks to the Carrick Club for rewarding their team by taking them to the All-Ireland hurling final.

Under 13 Football

In the semi-final, Clonmel Commercials beat an under strength Thurles (A) side. (Incidentally, Rev. Fr. Meehan, manager, Thurles A, deserves great credit for putting out a very much under-strength team so as not to interfere with the Board's schedule). The other semi-final saw Emly defeat Eire Og, Nenagh, who were also under strength on this occasion. The score of this game, played at Cashel, was no indication of Clonmel's performance. Emly won by 9 pts. It was an exciting game all through, with excellent football produced by both sides, but the over-all better finishing of the Emly boys earned them their first ever county title. Congratulations to the boys from Emly and let's hope this is just the start of a long line of successes for them.

Under 15 Hurling: Rural

Kilruane McDonagh received a walk-over in the semi-final, as Moycarkey failed to turn up in Nenagh. In the other pairing, Cashel easily defeated Killenaule.

The county final, played a few nights after the U/Rural Final

between the same teams, was expected to produce a great hour's hurling, but Cashel, producing some brilliant hurling, in very bad conditions, easily overcame a lighter Kilruane McDonagh side, which never reached the heights attained a few night before in Thurles.

Under 15 Hurling:

Urban-Rural

This competition produced the best hurling in the U-15 section this year, where again Cashel and Kilruane McDonagh met in the final at Thurles. This was a game that had the crowd on its toes from start to finish, and even Cashel will be the first to admit that they were indeed lucky to win this title by a point. But this is how games run and Cashel availed of their chances. In the semi-final Cashel defeated Carrick Swans while Kilruane defeated Moycarkey.

Under 15 Football:

Urban-Rural 1970

This was one of the three competitions carried over from last year and was won by Arravale Rovers, who had to pull out all their skill to beat St. Nicholas, Carrick-on-Suir, by 6 points. St. Nicholas had defeated Loughmore and Arravale beat Kilruane McDonagh in the semi-finals.

Under 15 Football: Rural, '71

As Turus na nOg this year was for football, keen competition was experienced in all the games. Here again, Cashel emerged champions, by reason of having defeated Kilruane McDonagh in the semi-final and Loughmore in the final, who had beaten Fr. Sheehys in the semi-final. This was a game which saw Loughmore keep up with Cashel for a half hour, but then Cashel's superior skill and

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overall strength made them victorious.

Under 15 Football: Urban-Rural

In the semi-finals Cashel defeated Loughmore, while St. Nicholas were victors over Eire Og, Nenagh. The boys from Nenagh never showed the same form they had shown in their own division and if they had, the verdict might have been reversed. The final, played at Clonmel, was of a high standard and Cashel earned this title, as St. Nicholas were there with a chance to the final whistle.

Turus na nOg

As Cashel had won both Urban and Rural titles, and therefore earned the right to represent the county in Croke Park for the football All-Ireland, there was no play-off. As this stage one must feel compelled to congratulate Cashel on a wonderful year by reason of having won four county titles. To win one or two county titles in any year is an achievement, but to win four must surely be a record that will stand for many a year in the records of Bord na nOg. To the boys, their mentors, and especially Rev. Bro. Noonan and Michael Curry, and to the people of Cashel, heartiest congratulations from the Board, and in doing so, we hope that these successes are but the forerunner of many more for their remarkable teams. (A report from Rev. Bro. Noonan on Cashel's great year appears elsewhere in this issue).

Under 17 Hurling, 1970

This competition was unfinished last year and the winners here were Moycarkey, who, having defeated Cappawhite in the semi-final, met Carrick Swans, who were victors over Eire Og, Nenagh. This final again produced great hurling and in the report of Micheal O Briain, "one of the fastest, hardest and cleanest it has been my privilege to referee." Congratulations to both teams for their performances and to Moycarkey as winners.

Under 17 Hurling, 1971

The superior hurling this competition produces each year was again illustrated with Kilruane McDonaghs winning by one point from Cappawhite in a thrilling semi-final. This was a game which Cappawhite could have won, but again, like Cashel in the U-15 hurling, Kilruane took their chances. In the other semi-final, Ballingarry easily overcame the challenge of Upperchurch/Drombane. The final, played at Thurles, saw the North boys emerge victorious by 3 goals, but this in no way reflected the game. Some defensive errors by the Ballingarry men were availed of by the eager forwards from Kilruane, who quickly turned these errors into goals. Like last year's final, it was a hard, sporting encounter.

Under 17 Football, 1970

One of the three competitions carried over from last year, which was won by Clonmel Commercial. Commercial defeated Newport in one semi-final and Arravale defeated Loughmore in the other semi-final. In the final Clonmel Commercial beat Arravale Rovers in a keenly contested game.

Under 17 Football, 1971

The first semi-final ended in a draw between Arravale Rovers and Inane Rovers—this game, played in a somewhat over-robust manner, had a fair end with a draw. The other semi-final, Clonmel Commercial v. Clonmore, together with the replay of the other semi-final are fixed for mid November.

Finance

Attendance at our juvenile games was down this year and as a result, gate receipts. People will have to be made more aware of the splendour of juvenile games and of the skills and thrills that are produced in nearly all our juvenile games. Our grateful thanks to the County Senior Board who earlier this year passed a grant of £150 to be made annually to Bord na nOg to be used for the purchase of trophies, etc. This tribute from the County Senior

Board is in itself evidence of what Bord na nOg is doing for hurling in Tipperary. If people are to become more aware of the existence of these wonderful games in juvenile ranks, it is my belief that some of these games will have to be played before important senior games, where a good crowd is guaranteed, to see for themselves the value of juvenile games. Some arrangement could be arrived at regarding gate receipts without much trouble—it's a thought for Convention.

Sportsmanship

Roadstone Ltd., through Mr. James Gill, B.E., have kindly agreed to donate a trophy for the U-14 Football Co. Championship and also to provide a sum of £50 each year to this Board to be used for the promotion of juvenile games in the county. This kind gesture is very much appreciated by all in this county.

Minor Hurling

It is frustrating for Bord na nOg to see a lapse of twelve years without an All-Ireland Minor Hurling title, though each year, through its competitions, the Board keeps producing good hurlers. So this year it is gratifying and hopeful to see sincere efforts being made by the introduction in all Bord na nOg Divisions, of trials at U-17 and U-15 levels. These trials are long term (U-15) and short term (U-17) and will commence in the next few weeks, with the ultimate aim, to pick a panel of players from each Division to play inter-divisional trials. Let's hope with this renewed interest, that an All-Ireland minor hurling title will be brought back to Tipperary once again.

To conclude, we look forward to a high standard of hurling, football and gamesmanship in all Bord na nOg competitions next year. Also, some clubs are not yet fully developed as regards juveniles in their parish and this year it is hoped that all clubs will appoint a separate committee to look after juvenile games. It has been proved and if you look at the successful juvenile clubs in the county you will find that the key to suc-



Four County titles in hurling and football—That is the proud boast of the Cashel Under 15 boys pictured here with their trophies. Their achievements were in the rural and urban/rural competitions and their awards total for the year amounted to 160 medals and eight trophies.

Back row, left to right: Michael Carrie (trainer), Joe O'Regan, Tom Slattery, Jerome Whyte, John Grogan (capt.), Liam O'Neill, Tom O'Grady.

Centre, left to right: Joe Minogue, Gerry Mulligan, David O'Sullivan, Billy Irwin, Michael Murphy, Michael Byrne, Rev. Brother Noonan (manager).

Front, left to right: Don Higgins, Pa Fizelle, Liam Guilfoyle, J. J. Morrissey, Tom Morrissey, Tom Grogan, Liam Dwyer, Tony Slattery.

Photo: Peter McCluskey, Cashel

cess lies in having a separate committee for juveniles.

So, to all clubs in the county: "Look after your juveniles, it pays." They are the rock on which this Association has flourished and will continue to do so, but only if every club pulls its weight.

WEST

We can look back on juvenile competitions in West Tipperary during 1971 with pride and satisfaction. The standard in all competitions was very high, with all clubs in the division taking part, which in itself is a tribute to all clubs concerned. In a way it could be said that Cashel dominated things in our division, they won five of the eight competitions: Under 13 Hurling, Rural Hurling, Urban-Rural Hurling, Rural Football, Urban-Rural Football, and then went on to bring four county titles to the West Division. This was a great honour for Cashel and West Tipperary, and I congratulate the team manager, Rev. Bro. Noonan, for the work he put into training and coaching these great teams and I am sure that these teams will go on and bring further honours to Cashel. In Under 17 hurling Cappawhite became the eventual winners; they defeated Golden after a pretty good game in the final, and were in hard luck to be beaten by Kilruane in the county semi-final by one point. In Under-17 football Arravale Rovers won this competition, having a good win over Galtee Rovers in the final, and on that display could bring another county title to the West. In Under-13 football, Emly won out and went on to bring another county title to this division. Again I would like to congratulate Emly on a fine performance and to thank the team manager for turning out such a fine team.

MID

It's fair to say that this was not a good year for juvenile competitions in Mid Tipperary. Far

too many fixtures were not fulfilled and there were far too many walk-overs. This type of practice is not in the best interest of our youth, who inevitably are the ones to suffer most. What the division needs badly is more good team managers, with the realisation that our youth must get top-class attention if we are going to breed good hurlers.

The first competition played this year was the U-13 years football. This competition was won by Thurles. The Under-13 hurling competition was won by Holycross. Loughmore-Castleiney won the two Under-15 football competitions. Moycarkey won the Under 15 Urban-Rural hurling.

All-in-all it was not a good year in Mid Tipperary, with attendances practically nil at most games. So, as can be seen, something must be done to help the game in the Mid.

SOUTH

Tipperary again led the way by staging the first ever County Juvenile "Scor 70" Competitions. The running of those competitions started activities earlier than usual in our division. Entries exceeded all expectations and the standard in semi-finals and final proved very high and entertaining.

A record entry of 88 teams took part in the eight championships, all of which are completed except the U-17-F.

Games of a very high standard were witnessed in the closing stages of all competitions.

U-17 hurlers and footballers were first in the field. In football the usual strongholds were contesting the semi-finals: Ardfinnan v. Fethard, Commercial v. St. Nicholas, Carrick-on-Suir. Commercial met Ardfinnan in the final at Newcastle and after a fine game in which the lead changed several times, Commercial emerged victorious on the score of 3-3 to 1-6.

Hurling first rounds were also being played at this stage. Carrick Swan, St. Mary's, Carrick-on-Suir, and newcomers Skeheenarinky were the last four. St.

Mary's defeated Swan and looked good enough to take the title, but Carrick-on-Suir, having disposed of Skeheenarinky, proved superior in the final at Clonmel on the score 8-5 to 3-1.

With Turas na nOg this year being for football winners, both Rural and Urban/Rural, games got off to an earlier than usual start. The rural football provided many surprises, and the final became a real local derby, Ballyporeen meeting Fr. Sheehys at Clogheen.

The game produced some excellent bouts of football. Fr. Sheehys emerged victorious on the score of 3-7 to 1-4, which did not do justice to Ballyporeen's efforts. Both teams had some outstanding players of whom we hope more will be heard. The venue itself left nothing to be desired. Local Girls Band played the teams around the pitch and the big attendance made this, my game of the year.

Urban/Rural Football

Also had its surprises. Ballyporeen again faced Fr. Sheehys in semi-final, this time at their home ground, and failed only by one point. This game was played in a continuous downpour. St. Nicholas defeated Commercial at Kilsheelan. The final, again played in a downpour at Clonmel, saw St. Nicholas become champions, beating Fr. Sheehys by 8 pts. to 1 pt.

Urban/Rural Hurling

Eight teams entered this competition and semi-finalists were St. Marys, St. Josephs, Killenaule, Carrick Swan.

St. Marys contested the final against Swan at Kilsheelan, and after a good first half, Swan were convincing winners at the finish.

Rural Hurling

Killenaule had easy wins over Skeheenarinky and Ballingarry, St. Josephs, Ferryhouse, accounted for Moyle Rovers and Fethard in the same fashion.

The final at Fethard produced some very good hurling with St. Josephs taking an early two goal lead. Killenaule came more into the game and were worthy winners on the score of 4-6 to 3 goals.

Féile Na nGael

Carrick Swan and St. Marys

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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 1971, and extend best wishes to all for good fortune in 1972

were the only clubs in our division to play host to visiting teams. Swan beat Birr in the opening game. Abbeylax defeated St. Marys and later defeated Swan. Carrick Swan have visited Birr for a week-end.

The Féile proved an outstanding success and it is to be hoped will be continued.

U-17 H. and F.

This competition is an ideal guide to next year's minors.

St. Marys, Ballingarry, Swan, Carrick-on-Suir and Grange survived earlier rounds. Ballingarry and Carrick-on-Suir contested the final. What a thriller it turned out to be. Hurling of high standard right from the start. Carrick-on-Suir were ahead by five points at the half-way stage, and in as exciting second half as one could wish to see, Ballingarry snatched victory by a point, 5-7 to 5-6, a pity there had to be a loser.

The football competition is in the final stages. Fethard had good wins over Newcastle and Grangemoockler but lost to Commercial by conceding a last minute goal. Both sides missed a good number of chances.

Cahir accounted for a fancied Ballingarry side and added Ardfinnan to their list of victims, but failed to live up to early promise when failing to St. Nicholas in the semi-final. Commercial now meet St. Nicholas in the final.

The past year can be considered to be a successful one. The standard of games in closing stages has been as high as in former years. Gate receipts also showed an upward trend. With proper organisation at club level, especially in larger urban areas, juvenile games will continue to be the foundation stone of our Association.

NORTH

For Bord na nOg, 1971 will always be one of the most eventful years of its history. No longer can the Bord be accused of concerning itself solely with the running of its games. Granted, getting games played and championships finished did take up a lot of time both at and outside of meetings, but outside of games we find the various clubs in the division deeply involved in Scor 70, Féile na nGael, and the new minor hurling policy.

Perhaps the most significant of all was the "Scor 70." For once the "fair sex" was given a real opportunity of involving itself in G.A.A. affairs, it provided real entertainment for the long winter nights and guaranteed a future for our culture.

The North Tipperary final was held in Silvermines Hall under the auspices of the local club. With the hall packed to capacity, the competition proved to be successful personified. Seven clubs figured among the winners, they being: Burgess, Kilruane, Inane, Shannon Rovers, Borrisokane, Eire Og and Silvermines. The standard was exceptionally high and it was one of those nights where nobody envied the adjudicators their task.

Féile na nGael also proved to be another of the many highlights of the year. In spite of the apparently high standard in the division many of our clubs failed at the first round in their various sections.

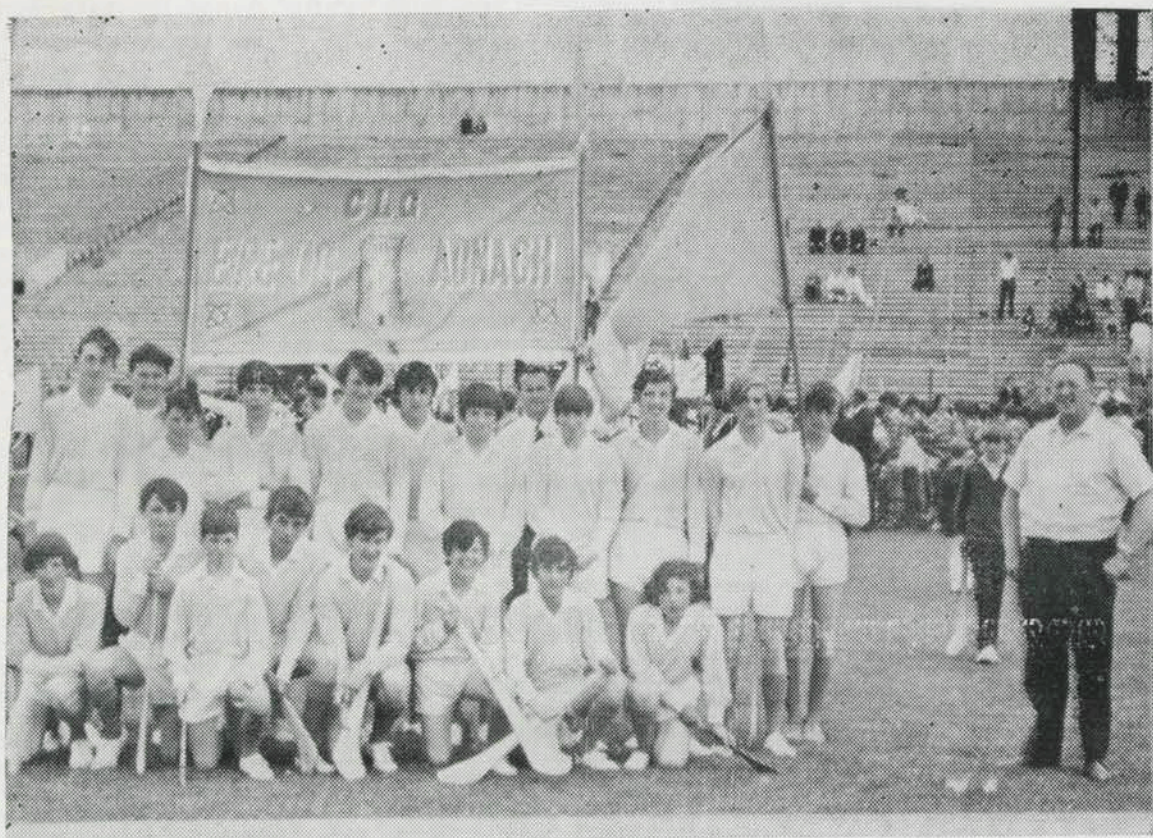
Congratulations are due to Portroe, as they are the only Tipperary team to win out their section and so becoming All-Ireland champions in section four. The Féile had further reaching effects than were ever anticipated at its outset, one of the most important

being a sense of comradeship kindled between the host and guest clubs during the Féile and set ablaze later when guests became hosts and hosts turned guests. Among the many shining examples of this are the visits of Silvermines to Keady in Armagh and Moneygall's visit to Dungiven in Derry.

The most pleasing of all in regard to our games must be the manner in which they were run. There were no objections, investigations, or suspensions. All competitions were finished in time and the total number of games played came to 152. A staggering total as the U-13H and U-15H competitions were both run on a league basis and the total also included last year's unfinished U-17 F. In spite of the late arrival of the hurleys the North Board still managed to distribute over 800 hurleys during the year.

Coming up to the end of 1971 we again find preparations being made for our winter competitions in Scor '72. Perhaps more important than those are preparations presently under way to groom minors for future county teams. Never before have Tipperary people been so concerned with the problem of winning an All-Ireland. Never before have Tipperary waited so long for one.

North Tipperary Bord na nOg have initiated a scheme whereby it is hoped to select Under 15 and Under 17 panels this year and then groom them for the future. The young players to be tried for the panel were first brought together in the C.B.S., Nenagh, early in November. Among other things they were treated to a film show which included the skills of hurling and a recent All-Ireland. It was a most enjoyable night and we hope a beginning to greater things to come.



A feature of Feile na nGael in Thurles in July was the magnificent response by all participating teams to the banner call. Each team was requested to parade under its own banner and the organising committee offered a prize for the best banner. The adjudicators under G.A.A. General Secretary, Sean O Siochain, were unanimous that the award should go to the Eire Og club (Nenagh). Also taken into consideration was the neat turn-out of the team and the Eire Og boys in their sky blue jerseys and socks made a very fine picture indeed.

The team is pictured here with Club Chairman, Martin O'Connor, on the extreme right, and the banner carriers, Noel Shoer and Tom Mulcahy.

Standing, left to right: Jim Minogue, Michael Griffin, John Slattery, Stephen Slattery, Denis McCarthy, Richard Fogarty, Michael Cooney, Timmy Gleeson, P. J. Maher, Ger Tucker.

Kneeling, left to right: Martin Morris, Anthony Moroney, John Hogan, Michl. Mannion, Ger Ryan, Bobby Shoer, Michael Gilmartin, Liam Flannery.

WHITHER MINOR

By HUGH KENNEDY

FOOTBALL?

TIPPERARY'S NAME has not appeared on the records of All-Ireland Football Champions since the Minor success in the Golden Jubilee Year of the Association, 1934, and one has to go back to 1920 to find the last senior title. It has made an occasional impact on the inter-county scene since but has not maintained it, and its failure to do so has been causing concern amongst football followers of the blue and gold. If the inter-county results are taken as the yardstick by which to measure the state of the game within the county, there is certainly no room for complacency. It is evident from the experiences of other counties over the past twenty years that a revival at minor level must be a prelude to success in the senior sphere. This consideration, together with the realisation that the existing structures of organisation with the county were already overburdened and could not give the time or attention to the question, led to the motion from Ardfinnan Football Club to the 1971 convention which resulted in the setting up of the Minor Football Board. The purpose of this Board is to carry out a complete survey of the minor football position and to implement whatever schemes are necessary to improve it.

The Minor Football Board came into existence in March 1971 at a special meeting of football clubs which was presided over by Seamus O Riain, Chairman County Board. It appointed Rev. Dr. Marsh, Ardfinnan, Chairman, and Rev. Bro. Paulinus, Fethard, Runai. It held monthly meetings since its inauguration and has organised a Special County League in which twelve minor clubs took part. It has organised in addition the usual challenge games for the county team trials, and is staging the county semi-finals and final of the Minor Championship. Bord na nOg has been holding its under-17 foot-

ball championship, which has now reached the semi-final stage and which was intended as a preparation for the inter-divisional league which the Minor Board has fixed for successive Sundays in December. From this league it is intended to select the 1972 minor panel which will be coached in February 1972. A trophy will be provided for this league and it is intended to continue this programme each year.

Over 600

Tipperary has over thirty minor clubs which means that there are over 600 players taking part in official competitions. This number compares more than favourably with the strong football counties. The clubs are scattered throughout the county and at club level they compete enthusiastically and the standard is good. The county has a good football tradition, being one of the few to have won national titles in all grades. It will be seen therefore that there is a wide base on which to build a football revival. In fact, counties with far less resources than Tipperary have made far more progress—why? Among the reasons given in the answer to that question, are the lack of adequate competition and the absence of a football college, which would act as a nursery. The greatest weakness is the failure of the clubs to transmit the interest and enthusiasm to the inter-county activities which they show at club level. This results in apathy to trials, training, and even selection on county teams. Continuous failures have inhibited their ambitions and resulted in confining their interests to internal competitions. One of the hopes of the new Board is to co-ordinate the efforts of the clubs and to ensure that nothing is lost in transmission to county level.

Bord na nOg has organised very efficiently the juvenile champion-

ships in the county. The new Minor Board hopes to work in close liaison with them and to follow up their good work by providing adequate competition. The Special County League should do this. An approach will also be made to the secondary schools and colleges and vocational schools and their views and assistance welcomed. The Divisional Senior Boards probably hold the key to the success of this new Board. Their co-operation in fixtures and in general functioning are vital because for the most part it is they and not the County Board which deals with the clubs. The County Board, the Divisional Boards, and the clubs of the county have given their unqualified support in this the first year in existence of the Minor Board, and we are confident that it will continue in the future. The Minor Board, while aware of the task confronting it, looks forward with confidence to the seventies. Could we hope for an All-Ireland success in 1974 on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of our first?

Is binne glór mo chamán féin
Ná guth na n-éan is ceol na mbárd
Sní binne fuaim ar bith faoin
ngréin
Ná poc ró-thréan ar liathróid ard.

A FIELD DAY

It is said that J. P. O'Riordan from Drombane registered all Tipperary's scores in the 1895 All-Ireland final when Tipperary beat Kilkenny 6-8 to 1-0, the largest margin between these famed rivals in the final.

THE LAST TIME

It's almost 23 years since Munster last won the Railway Cup football final, in 1949 to be exact. Tipperary had two representatives on that victorious team, Mick Cahill from Mullinahone and Pakie Brennan of Ardfinnan.

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WHEN WILL TIPPERARY WIN ANOTHER MINOR HURLING

TITLE?

By

PADRAIG S. O MEACHAIR

SOON, WE HOPE, possibly in 1973 if not in 1972. Forget about the poor display in the Munster Championship this year, when Clare beat us convincingly in the first round. Every ardent Tipp Gael was disgusted with the spineless approach of our teenagers. Already preparations have been made in some divisions within the county to remedy the minor problem.

Away back in 1959 Tipp won their last All-Ireland minor title. Up to 1962 we have won 21 Munster titles.

We have no Munster title won since 1962. Cork have fourteen Munster titles. Our record is a very proud one.

Why have we not been able to produce the winning blend since 1962? The minor team of 1970 almost broke the spell of defeats. They put up a wonderful show against Cork in the Munster final. It was the exceptional year.

There are many reasons for our failures:

(1) **Thurles C.B.S.**—a once great nursery—is no longer producing star hurlers. Their showing in the Harty Cup competitions has been poor. Tipp hurling therefore is all the poorer.

(2) **Preparation of teams** at divisional level and at county level has been haphazard—the organised trials have flopped more often than not.

(3) **Lack of interest**—the honour of wearing the blue and gold has lost its appeal at club level and at county level in the minor grade.

There are other causes, but let us forget about the dismal past.

Bord na nOg and the Senior Co. Board have given the situation much thought. The Juvenile Board

is well aware of the fine hurlers its competitions have produced and it is now hoping to coach and prepare the best of these in each division and hand them over to the Minor Selection Committee at Easter.

This short-term and long-term policy of preparation must surely pay off. It was encouraging to see 150 boys from 15 years to 17

years of age assembled in the C.B.S. Hall, Nenagh, on Tuesday, 2nd November. Each club in North Tipperary had its best talent there, where words of advice, encouragement and short films on the skills of hurling were appreciated by all. The spirit of Tipperary is alive, thanks to the clubs, who are now aware of the important part they must play in the moulding of future Tipp teams. We look to our minors to emulate our senior and intermediate hurlers.

We look to the new county champions, Kilruane McDonagh—a rural team—and the rural finalists, Boherlahan, to set a headline and awaken hope for at least another Munster title. Cappawhite and Ballingarry, other rural clubs, have come to the fore in under-17 hurling and let's hope they too will provide the tough, brawny, yet brainy county hurler.

THE ORIGINAL PHONEY TIPPERARY MAN

(Continued from page 24)

tremendous impact by his efforts to improve the lot of the working man. This was done mainly through his position as chaplain to the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists. He was also adviser to the Hierarchy on trade union affairs and was a well-known traveller to union conferences up and down the country. Many inter-union disputes were quietly settled at his famous after-Mass breakfasts to which he made a point of inviting his trade union friends. The rank and file workers treated him as their special friend and on one occasion when he lost his diary (which contained so much essential information that he could not carry on without it) the railway staff at Euston delayed the departure of an express train while the suburban train on which he made his approach journey was successfully searched for the missing diary.

The containing and minimising of Communist infiltration of the various unions was the achieve-

ment which Canon Fitzgerald best liked to be associated with. In the last edition of the Catholic Who's Who in which his name appears he gave his hobbies as "Dishing the Reds and fighting Fascist anti-Semitism within and without the Church."

Canon Tom Fitzgerald was one of those rare individuals who could lead and inspire any gathering without wanting to dominate it. His deep and abiding holiness was screened by a gay and jovial personality. He admitted to being blessed with "the gift of the gab" but few have used this gift more generously or to such good purpose. While to the sober and cautious, he might have seemed hasty and imprudent at times, none doubted that his long term aim in all spheres, was to seek that which was just and noble. Those of us who were privileged to be associated with him, cherish the memory of a lovable character whose vocation was to give and to give whole-heartedly of the many gifts with which God had so abundantly blessed him.



By winning the County minor hurling title for the first time ever, Kilruane crowned a great year for the club which had already won County honours in the Under 17 competition. The minors pictured here are as follows:

Kneeling, left to right: Seamus Hennessy, Bunny Keogh, Gilbert Williams (capt.), Ivan Austin, Denis Cahill, John Quinlan, 'Mackey' Waters. Standing, left to right: Jim O'Meara, Joe Hutchinson, John Flannery, Jim Ryan, Brendan Egan, Michael Waters, Martin Malouhney, Tom Killackey.

Photo: Pat Stephens, Nenagh

SETTING ABOUT RESTORING THE MINOR HURLING STATUS

Tuesday, November 2nd, 1971, could well be a date that will be remembered for a long time in Tipperary hurling. No All-Ireland was won, in fact what occurred on the occasion was nothing to send one into ecstasies but the events of that night in the C.B.S. Assembly Hall, Nenagh, where the first step was taken at the behest of the North Bord na nOg, towards restoring lost ground in the minor inter-county championship could very well turn out to be the injection needed to get Tipperary back on the minor hurling map once more. Not since 1959 has Tipperary won an All-Ireland title in minor grade. It's something that must be remedied and in Nenagh on the night of November 2nd 150 boys from all over North Tipperary, from each of the nineteen clubs in fact, assembled to hear from some eminent speakers and authorities on the game, many words of wisdom, words that can do nothing but infuse in the hurling hopes of to-morrow a sense of realisation of what hurling is all about and how vital it is that Tipperary should once more attain the status it held for so long in the grade.

County Board Chairman, Seamus O Riain, gave an inspiring address to the boys on the occasion and we are glad to include it in our Year Book.

"I think there is none of you here present tonight but will really appreciate fully what is being done, in order to help each one of you individually to improve your standard of hurling and to give you an opportunity of taking your place, not alone on your own parish team but on the divisional team and perhaps on the county team, and playing your part in maintaining the standard we have had in the past and that we have not achieved over recent years.

"There are some few things that

I want to talk about and I am going to talk about them as they come into my head," said Mr. Ryan. "The first thing that I would say to you is: In order to achieve greatness as a hurler, you must master the skills of hurling. You have already brought with you the fundamentals as you got them in your own parish from the hurlers in the parish, you have acquired them naturally. But having acquired them, you can perfect them. You can perfect them only by understanding the skills, and secondly by practising them. There is no use in saying what you should have done. You must ensure that you do the right thing at any given moment in a match. You don't have time to think in a match. It must come naturally to

you (as it came to the Kilruane lads on Sunday).

Constant Practice

"That can be acquired only by constant practice, and you are fortunate again that in the parishes in North Tipperary there are people who are prepared, just for the love of the game and the tradition that is in it, to spend time with you in giving you the opportunity of practising the skills of the game. I often wonder, do boys appreciate it. I don't think so. I don't think that I, when I was a young fellow, appreciated the work that was done by the older people in trying to make hurlers out of us. Perhaps it is not fair to expect you to appreciate it fully. You know that that is what is happening and there are people giving leadership in your parishes to you in order to ensure that you will continue the skills as they should be, and these people are doing that, not for any personal reward, they are doing it out of love for the game and to help you."

"There are other things also," Mr. Ryan continued. "There is the vital element of team work. Using your head and realising that you are not just an individual playing a game. There are others on the team with you. This is vital. Combination and team work are very important. Very often, the short puck is a much more effective thing than a big long puck that is going nowhere. Those are the type of things that win matches. Those are the things that make a great team. Ask any of the great hurlers of the present or past Tipperary teams about this. They will tell you that some of the most valuable moments that they spent were the moments when discussing tactics amongst themselves. Hurling is not a game where you just hit a ball. There is a lot more to it than that. It takes years to acquire the real traditional type

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of hurling which has been displayed so often on the playing fields of Tipperary.

Discipline

"Something else which is very important at the present time, is what I would cover under the general name 'discipline.' Boys often think that discipline is a question of rules and regulations that you try to avoid and surmount. That is not what I mean here in this particular context. It means, first of all, controlling yourself. This is something that only you yourself can do. You control yourselves naturally when you are acquiring a skill, because you are controlling your muscles. There is something else to be controlled also; that is your natural inclination to hit back when you are hit, or your natural inclination perhaps to hit because he races you to a ball. This is something that you must control. There is no point in any player going out on a field with anything else in his head except the idea of playing the ball and playing the game as it should be played.

"Sportsmanship, in all games, is more vital now than before. I make this point to you as the most important point that I am going to make tonight. To ensure that you will do nothing on the field of play that will tarnish your own reputation and the reputation of your family and that of your friends and parish; and also the reputation of the game which you are representing when you go out there. You must control yourself on the field.

"That is one part of discipline. There is another part also which is very important. That is, to be subject to advice. It is difficult at the present time. This is an age when young people, and indeed older people, are not inclined to be subject to advice. They are inclined to be individualistic. You scorn anything in the way of advice. That is the general reaction of people in life today. On a playing field you must accept advice. That advice comes from your mentors. It may be advice to hurl the ball on the ground. This is very important because a game

can be won by playing the ball fast and not fiddling or foolstering with it.

Awful Example

"The most awful example of lack of discipline in a team that I have ever seen was our county minor team of this year. They just refused to hit the ball on the ground. I am saying this as my own personal opinion as to what was wrong with our minor hurling team this year. There was nothing of the fire, drive and enthusiasm that you would expect to see in a team of young lads, all of whom were well able to hurl shake ourselves up. There is something wrong with our approach to the game at minor level. I am not putting the fault with the boys. The whole set-up seems to lack "something." This is an effort to

give it that "something" which it is lacking.

"The point above anything else, which is important, in my view, is discipline—being amenable to advice and taking it in training sessions and again on the day of the game. The county players have taken advice from mentors, knowing that whatever was said was for the betterment of the game. Any player doing anything foolish must accept any word that is said to him by way of advice. If I can get that message across to you from myself, I think that I will have done something of value, because it is on a foundation such as that that team work—which is necessary to win—is laid. If any mentor speaks sharply to you, that is not a personal insult, it is in the interests of the game. It is in your own interests and in the interests of your team. The mere fact that you boys have come in here tonight is an indication of your personal interest, and I am glad to see you here."

"You are all boys who can play the game and who are eager to improve. Whatever is said here tonight should be geared towards the one thing and that is to reach the All-Ireland minor hurling final and win it.

"There are two groups here, under 15's and under 17's. The under 17's are the people who will be minors next year. Some present will reach the standards of the county team. Always remember that a place on the county team is an honour, not alone for yourself, but also for your parish and always remember also that it is at home in your own parish it all starts. Your loyalty to your own parish is one of the first things that you have brought with you and that you should always guard. You can do that by improving the gifts you have got. You have talents which you should develop and I hope that in twelve months' time I will be able to say to you "Well done, you took the lessons that were given on that first night in Nenagh," the County Board Chairman concluded.

30 Minutes—1 Free

Tipperary's first post-All-Ireland game this year against Kilkenny in the N. H. L., in Kilkenny, on October 3rd. It wasn't a successful game for the newly-crowned champions. Nevertheless one facet of the game may well go into the record books.

Throughout the entire second half of that game, Tipperary conceded but one free. In all only five frees were awarded in the second half of that game, four of them to Tipperary.

but who had the wrong approach to the game. That is the reason why this gathering is here tonight and that is the reason why personally I am very appreciative of the efforts of Bord na nOg, because it is time that we began to



The Portroe Under 15 team, the only Tipperary club to win out in the Feile na nGael hurling competition. Standing, left to right: Jim Donnellan (official), Pat Hickey (captain), Matthew Shinnors (club chairman), Martin Gleeson, Jim Madden (official), Seamus Molamphy, Tom Ryan, Ger Hickey, Michael Sullivan, John Clifford, N.T. (official), Donal Dillon, Fr. Brendan Moloney, C.C. Kneeling, left to right: John Flynn, Gerry O'Brien, Martin Flood, John Sheedy, Willie Ryan, Jim Creamer, Francis Flynn, Michael McKeogh, Jimmy Sheedy, Donal Devaney.



The O'Keeffe Cup, the symbol of supremacy in junior hurling in North Tipperary being presented by Right Revd. Monsignor O'Keeffe to the captain of the victorious Ballinahinch team, P. J. Kelly.

**Coiste Contae Tiobrad Arann CLG
Tipperary County Board G.A.A.**

We take this opportunity of thanking our supporters for their kind patronage during 1971 and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

DATES TO NOTE:

COUNTY COVENTION

SCOL AILBE, THURLES

JANUARY 30th, 1972

“SCOR ’72” (Talent Finals)

PREMIER HALL, THURLES

FEBRUARY 4th, 1972

**Wishing all the Clubs the success they deserve
during 1972**

TOMAS O BAROID, Runai.

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 1972 will bring rewards in some shape or form to all clubs.

The Tipperary County Board is deeply indebted to all who contributed towards the publication of this Year Book—contributors, advertisers (to whom we invite the special attention of our readers), photographers, members of the sub-committee who worked so hard towards its realisation and indeed everyone who so willingly co-operated and assisted in the work.

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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 1972

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

KILDANGAN—Tipperary junior hurling champions



Call for a New Deal

It is time to turn our backs on the old deal and look for a new one. The old deal has failed us in every way. It has failed to create jobs, to improve our living standards, to protect our liberties, and to give us a sense of purpose. It has failed to give us the kind of leadership that we need in these difficult times. We need a new deal, one that will give us the kind of leadership that we need to move forward.

Call for a New Deal

The new deal is not just a slogan, it is a way of life. It is a way of life that is based on the principles of justice, equality, and freedom. It is a way of life that is based on the principles of the American dream. It is a way of life that is based on the principles of the American people.

We need a new deal, one that will give us the kind of leadership that we need to move forward.

KNOW YOUR G.A.A.

All-Ireland tickets for the winners

How are you on G.A.A. matters, especially pertaining to the county? Here is your chance to qualify for **two All-Ireland Tickets for both the Hurling and Football Finals in 1972**. Yes, four tickets for the lucky winner, and all you have to do is answer the questions set hereunder; fill in your name and address on the Coupon, and send the page to: Gerry Slevin, Year Book Editor, c/o The Guardian, 13 Summerhill, Nenagh, before February 29th, 1972.

The first correct solution opened at a meeting of the County Board on the following Monday night will be declared the winner. So get down to it now. It's a prize well worth winning, and, remember, all entries must be accompanied by the Coupon in this book.

The result will be published in the Tipperary papers the week after the draw.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Q—Who succeeded Dr. Croke as Archbishop of Cashel and Patron of the G.A.A.? | 1. A— |
| | |
| 2. Q—Name the Tipperary full back on the All-Ireland Intermediate winning team? | 2. A— |
| | |
| 3. Q—Last year, Tipperary's investment in the Credit Scheme was the third best in the country. Which county topped the list? | 3. A— |
| | |
| 4. Q—Did Jimmy Doyle ever captain an All-Ireland senior winning team? If so, when? | 4. A— |
| | |
| 5. Q—Tipperary won their last All-Ireland senior football title in 1920. What was the last year in which Tipperary appeared in an All-Ireland football final? | 5. A— |
| | |
| 6. Q—Name the midfield pairing on Tipp's 1965 All-Ireland winning team? | 6. A— |
| | |
| 7. Q—Munster's last Railway Cup football victory was in 1949. Name the Tipp representatives on the team. | 7. A— |
| | |
| 8. Q—"The tradition is yours to create and forge; tomorrow you will be part of Ireland's hurling men." Which G.A.A. personality uttered these words during the year and on what occasion? | 8. A— |
| | |

9. Q—According to the Official Guide, what is the maximum number of teams that can take part in (a) an inter-county tournament, and (b) inter-club tournament?

9. A—

.....

10. Q—What are the colours of the following clubs: (a) Boherlahan, (b) Clonoulty/Rossmore, (c) Kildangan, and (d) Ardfinnan?

10. A—

.....

11. Q—Name the odd man out here, and state why: Peter O'Sullivan, Tony Reddan, Donal O'Brien, and Terry Moloney?

11. A—

.....

12. Q—The "lady" on the left is not a drag artist. In fact "she" won four All-Ireland senior medals with Tipperary in the past ten years. Can you name "her"?

12. A—

.....



ENTRY FORM

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

Entries to:

GERRY SLEVIN,
Year Book Editor,
c/o "The Guardian,"
13, Summerhill,
Nenagh.

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COMMISSIONER OF THE
LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR
1880

IN RESPONSE TO A
RESOLUTION OF THE

LEGISLATURE