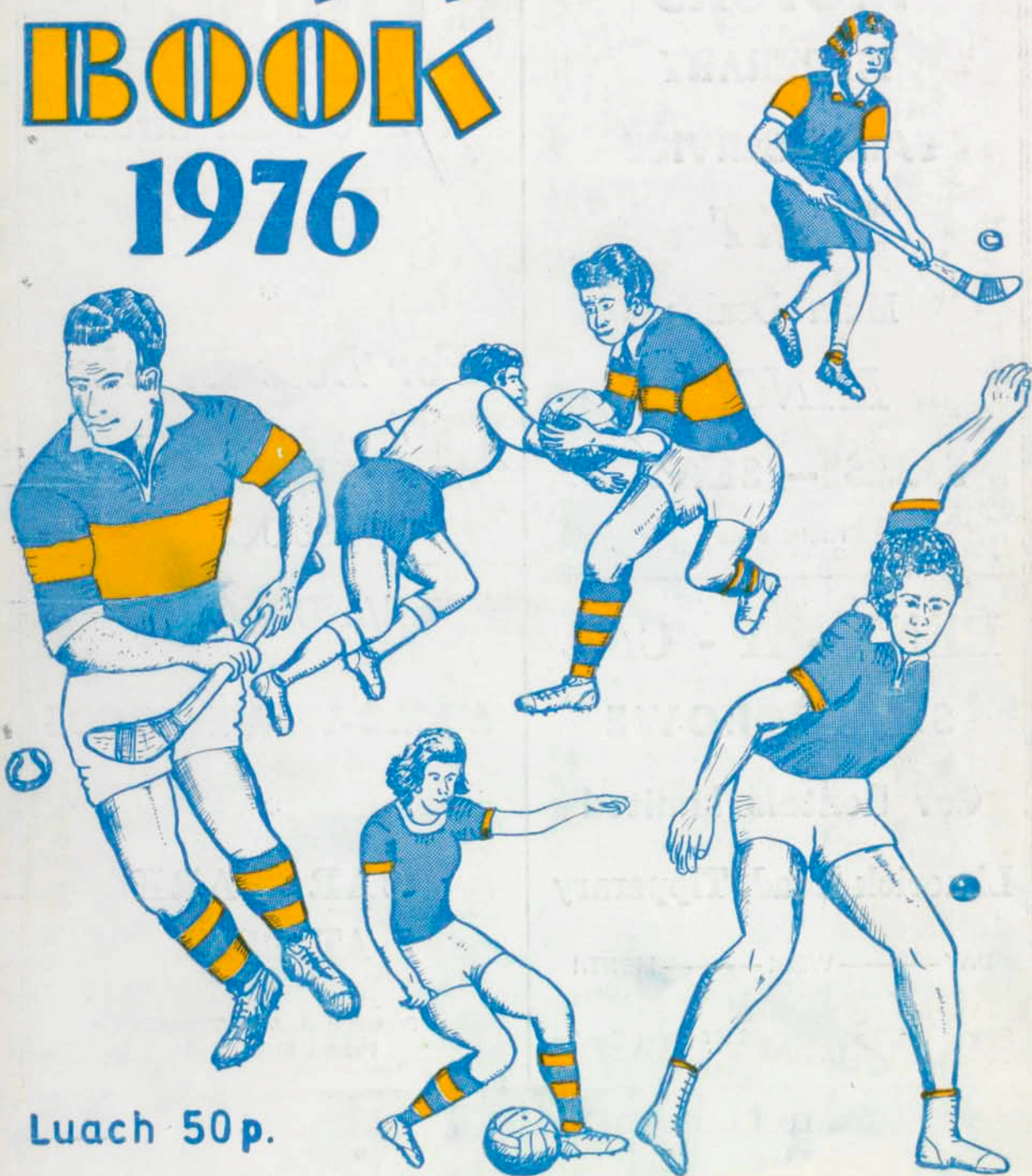


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Tipperary G.A.A.

Year Book

1976

Published on behalf of the
TIPPERARY COUNTY G.A.A. BOARD

By
'THE GUARDIAN',
SUMMERHILL, NENAGH

Editor
GERRY SLEVIN

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REAMHRA

WHEN ONE considers the lack of success on the inter-county playing fields during the past year, it is difficult to reconcile it with the amount of enthusiasm which both hurling and football engendered within the county itself. Frankly, we saw much more spirit and the traditional Tipperary fire at home than from those who wore the blue and gold.

As one who is coming to the end of my term of office as Board Chairman, I am not without my disappointments. Nothing would have pleased me more than that during my three years an All-Ireland title should have come our way. Such was not the case but as the year comes to a close, what I have seen in the playing fields of Tipperary in the past season, somehow convinces me that our comeback to the honours' list is not far off. Indeed, we need look no farther than our own senior hurling and football finals to see an admirable demonstration of the spirit that has placed the county so high in the past, the spirit of Tipperary. In January someone else will take over and the optimist in me keeps telling me that before his term ends that eagerly awaited success will be realised.

I have many memories of my three years in office. I have tried with all my might to give to the Board and to the GAA in Tipperary the service it deserves and the assistance I have received from so many people has helped immeasurably in lightening the load. I thank all of them most sincerely.

Tipperary may be down at the moment, by its own high standards, but the success the county deserves is, I feel, just over the hill again. I have seen, especially this year, an urgency to make good the failures we have

experienced and I know too that the people are there, both on and off the field, to take leading roles in securing the future for us.

The fact that this Year Book is in the shops again, is another example of the determination there is to keep the name and the deeds of Tipperary in the forefront. I thank all who have brought it to fruition. To all who provided us with many exciting hours during the past season, I also offer my thanks. Keep it up! The spirit you have shown must surely transfer itself to our county teams, and who knows, when the end of 1976 comes round, we may well have something to celebrate.

Whatever the future has in store for us, let all of us remember the duty we have to the GAA, a duty that can best be performed by diligent attention to the promotion of its aims and ideals in an age where difficulties and obstacles are countless.

The service we now give, the encouragement we show, especially to our young boys, will have lasting consequences for them and for the GAA. We are all well aware of the many attractions that are striving to pull their loyalty away. If we are sincere in fostering the GAA in our county, we must, in the age of whirlwind change and development, work very hard to keep a great tradition alive. Tipperary has never been found wanting in unearthing people who will do the job properly. The past tells its own story.

The people I have encountered in my three years as Chairman, the absolute good will there is from so many, and the determination I have seen in both young and no so young, have strengthened my faith in the GAA in Tipperary. Here, more than any success on the playing fields, is the true realisation of what the GAA is all about.

May it always be so.

Tomás O hEadhara
Cathoirleac

Coiste Chondae Thiobrad Arann,
C.L.G.
Nollaig '75.

FOCAL ON EAGARTHOIR



WITH THE APPROACH of a new year, one word would seem to dominate GAA affairs in Tipperary—CHANGE. In January, a new County Chairman will take office, while the terms of office of each of the four Divisional Board Chairmen will also come to an end. Both the County and Divisional Boards will also have to find new Treasurers and Registrars. So from the administrative end of things, new people, new ideas, new approaches will be eagerly watched and the county—and indeed the country—will cast a severe eye on the happenings in Tipperary at a time when it would seem that we are undergoing a period of barrenness on the inter-county scene.

Change has also been wrought in the method of selecting the people who will be responsible for putting our county teams on the field. Now, three men instead of the traditional five will carry the burdens and it would seem that an entire new approach to

the preparation of our teams is about to be embarked upon.

The leadership we expect from our county champions has added interest now, in that both our senior hurling and football title holders are new to the honours' list.

Yes, change indeed, and hopefully we can only see matters improving considerably on all fronts. Before we have moved too far into 1976, we should know the recommendations and suggestions of the Commission set up under Seamus O Riain, resulting from the Ar-ravale Rovers motion at Convention last January and here again change will dominate our thoughts.

So, 1976 may well be an historic year in the life of the GAA in Tipperary.

Gearoid O Sleibhin
Aonach
Nollaig 1975



MONEYGALL: County senior hurling champions and North champions, both titles won for the first time. Standing, left to right: Jimmy Treacy, Joe McCormack, Billy Fanning, Seamus Ryan, Sean Doughan, Donal Kennedy, Noel White, Donal Fanning, Phil Sheedy, Philip Ryan, Jim Guilfoyle, Mick Minoque (trainer). Front, left to right: John Joe Comerford, Seamus Doherty, Dan Guilfoyle, John Gleeson, Billy Mcleish, Mick Doherty, Pat Sheedy (capt.), Philip Fanning, Eugene Ryan, Jack Ryan, Bobby Jones, Pat Cleary (masseur).

MONEYGALL'S YEAR—AND NO ONE CAN DENY IT

By Gerry Slevin

WHEN EARLY in the year thoughts turned to the County SH championship, the names most often mentioned as possible winners were the 1974 champions, Thurles Sarsfields, and the side they beat in that final, Silvermines. Indeed there didn't seem to be any team in the county capable of beating either of them, but just to show that predictability in sport is not on, a new force emerged which caught the imagination of the hurling public and on Sunday, October 26th, new champions were named in the persons of a speedy, determined and disciplined side from Moneygall. In fact when final day came round we had two teams, both from the North division—each striving for their very first title in the grade. Kilruane who had earlier won the football title were bidding for an unique double while neighbours, Moneygall, also had double ambitions, having won the North senior title, also for the first time.

It took two games before we knew who the new champions were. When they met on October 12th in Thurles before an 8,000 crowd, they finished level after a cracking hour. Two weeks later they met again with an attendance of similar proportions to the drawn game there to see them. There was no doubt about it now. Moneygall, in the first replay since 1965 when Sarsfields overcame Carrick Davins, had seventeen points to spare, 3-13 to 0-5, and thus, a new name was added to the hurling giants of Tipperary.

But what happened to the two favourites? Well, for Sarsfields, their term at the top was short. Just as their predecessors, Roscrea, had fallen early in '74, so too did Sarsfields make an early exit—to Carrick Davins—in the first round. The mantle of favouritism now fell on Silvermines and the manner in which they disposed of West champions, Sean Treacy's, in the first round stamped them out as a side that would make a very strong bid to go all the way this time. They next disposed of Roscrea and Drom/Inch soon followed Francis Loughnane's men into the losers' enclosure. A semi-final place was now theirs against Kilruane who found little trouble

in beating Ballybacon/Grange, Carrick Davins and Carrick Swans.

GOOD START

In the other half, Moneygall started off well by beating old rivals Toomevara. They took Ballingarry in their stride but found it tough against Lorrha before emerging on top and reaching the semi-final against Moycarkey/Borris. The Mid men had earlier dashed the aspiration of Borris-ileigh.

The semi-finals were staggered. Kilruane and Silvermines met in Nenagh on August 31st. The previous week the same sides had met in the North semi-final and 'Mines won by 0-12 to 0-7. There was no reason to believe that things would change all that much in seven days. But once more predictability was shown to be folly because coming from a point down at the interval, Kilruane proceeded to pulverise 'Mines with a performance that bore absolutely no resemblance to that displayed the previous week. By the time it was all over, Kilruane were eighteen points to the good and in the final.

Moneygall's semi-final was played as a curtain raiser to the county SFC between Kilruane and Loughmore, on September 14th, in Nenagh. It was a disappointing game with the North men doing about enough to win and with their minds on the North final a week later against Silvermines, a title they won for the first time amid great jubilation.

The scene was now set for a clash of neighbours, each seeking the right to be champions for the first time. But the time between the North final and the county final was no bed of roses for Moneygall. A number of their players were laid low with an illness that interrupted their training schedule. No sympathy was forthcoming from the Co. Board who refused to grant them a postponement and when Moneygall and Kilruane lined out in Semple Stadium on October 12th, a number of Moneygall men were only a glimmer of their usual form, and they showed it too. They got off to a good start with an early soft goal and were three points up at the interval. Soon Kilruane came at them to go ahead

(Continued on Page Seven)

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How it feels to be beaten by the All-Ireland Champions

By JOHN McNAMARA

THE YEAR 1975 will go down in GAA history as being the year the Kerry footballers won the Minor, Under 21 and Senior All-Ireland titles. 1975 will be remembered by Tipperary football supporters as the year we were beaten by Kerry in all three grades.

Following three minor inter-divisional trials held in Clonoulty, a minor football panel was chosen to compete in the Munster Minor Football Special League. We had won this competition for the past three years and were hopeful of making it four-in-a-row. Alas, however, we were beaten in all our three games by Clare, Waterford and Limerick.

Following a further trial a new panel was selected for the Munster championship. After several training sessions and challenge matches we faced Limerick in the first round. We had a splendid win over Limerick, thus reversing the League result. Then on to meet Kerry who well and truly defeated us.

The under 21 team had two outings against the Garda team in Templemore. In the second game they were narrowly beaten for the Archbishop Morris Trophy. Our thanks to all concerned for resurrecting this competition.

In the first round of the Munster Championship we made very hard work of beating Clare, but were well and truly beaten by another outstanding Kerry team.

The senior team were beaten by Clare in the vital League match and thus failed to win their section and qualify for the play-off. In the Munster championship they had a resounding win over a very weak Limerick team. Injuries deprived us of some of our outstanding players for our encounter with Kerry. We led by one point five minutes into the second half but faded subsequently and Kerry went on to win. We have the satisfaction of knowing that the Tipp team were the only team through-

out the All-Ireland series to lead Kerry after forty minutes of play.

Our sincere thanks are due to all players for their services throughout the year. A new Senior Selection Committee has now been chosen and we wish them the best of luck. Our sincere thanks also to all outgoing selection committees for their trojan work throughout 1975. In preparation for 1976 we would earnestly urge our players to put an even greater effort into their training, as Kerry and Kilruane proved this year fitness and determination is the key to success.

Moneygall's Year

(Continued from Page Five)

by five points and Moneygall's dream seemed to be ending. However they fought back to regain the lead and held it until the closing minutes when evergreen Len Gaynor shot the equalising goal from a free to end the game on level terms, 3-11 each.

REPLAY

The replay was fixed for two weeks later. George Ryan from Lattin, who also had charge of the football final, was again in charge and deservedly so because his authority in the drawn game could not be disputed. Another close hard game was expected and for the first twenty minutes we were treated to some fine, fast ground hurling with little between two willing sides. Moneygall struck home for two goals to take the interval break, 2-4 to 0-3 in front, and they looked the superior side now. Straight away into the second half they reasserted their authority and gradually the gap began to widen as Kilruane found no answer to the speed, the vigour and the scoring ability of Moneygall. In the end they were a soundly beaten side by seventeen points, 3-13 to 0-5, and the red and black banners rose in defiance as the heroes from Moneygall were proclaimed county champions.

A great end therefore to a great year for Moneygall. For them perseverance had paid off and under the expert guidance of former Roscrea star, Mick Minogue, the greatest hour in the illustrious history of the club was reached.

So, a championship with plenty of upsets and quite a good deal of fine entertainment. As usual with the open draw, some of the first round games were hardly worthy of senior championship hurling in Tipperary, but once the chaff had been sifted out, a battle royal was on and at the end of it all, Moneygall had cause to shout loudest of all.



A welcome home for a Tipperary captain proudly carrying the McCarthy Cup. No marks for guessing his name—Matt Hassett—but can you say what year it was? Also there were TWO rather significant things about Tipperary's victory that year. What were they? Turn to page 72 and see if you are correct.

REVIEWING THE INTER-COUNTY YEAR

By JOHN O'GRADY

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL, so it is proverbially said. Is the hope springing less elastically in the hearts of those to whom Tipperary's inter-county status is their yardstick of hurling's health; to whom each year is happy or sad as Tipperary do well or poorly?

It is true that the games may be doing quite well, on an over-all survey of club interest and competitive temperature, without the added bonus of inter-county success. Yet Tipp has never aimed at that low target. We are uneasy whenever the blue and gold can't trouble, or beat, the best; when the years of failure begin to form the character of an entire decade. The sixties were so good, with the county either winning or running-up, that the seventies are beginning to look like a barren period. They started well enough with the '71 All-Ireland, the rest is uniform failure.

Talking to followers, you hear two basic versions of the situation—and often, with unconscious illogicality, from the same talker. View number one gets such expression as: "we're only a shade behind any of them". The second sentiment is less cheerful: "they're just not there", 'they' meaning hurlers good enough to win something for the county. "Where could they come out of, anyway, when our minors make no impression, and the under-21s are just the same?" That is often the follow-up, by way of expanding the theme.

As 1975 ended, the current position bore many similarities to the way the season began in the autumn of 1974. Again we have a new selection committee starting off, with general good-will, like a new government. The criticism-free honeymoon seldom lasts longer than the first couple of matches; then followers—and maybe the writers—begin to talk as if only acute myopia was stopping them from picking an All-Ireland team.

SELECTORS—CONTROVERSY

A year ago the selectors' entry to office had the bad omen of controversy attending it. County Board decided to look for three names from each Division, the Board to pick one out of each trio. If this way was designed to safeguard some theory of Board authority, it was hardly compatible with giving the county champion club the right to nominate a single name. Anyhow, the Mid, acting on a domestic decision to allow the local champions to appoint a man, held tough for a month or so

until all got tired of a sterile controversy and the affair was peaceably resolved.

The new Committee's regime saw the moderate achievement of reaching the League final. The failure to pass the first round of the championship cost them their position. Had Tipp held firmer in the last ten minutes against Galway in Limerick; or scored more while they had Galway under pressure, we'd probably have had no revolutionary move at all. So narrow is the gulf that separates success from its unpalatable opposite.

In the League you are affected by the fortunes of others to a degree that makes it rather a lottery; the championship is strictly within your own control. Tipp worked out luckily enough to qualify for the later stage of the League. The day we beat Clare at Nenagh, all the other results of the group co-operated to elevate us towards qualification.

Earlier, things were problematical. Taking their first look at resources, the selectors decided to forget about several who had played in the 1974 championship loss to Clare; Roche, Keating, P. J. Ryan and Kelly were the main casualties. Later, much later, all but Roche were to find in their post invitations to come back. In the interim, a League title was sought, and missed by a younger crop. The bulk of these new trialists emanated from county champions and runners-up, Sarsfields and Silvermines; Duggan, Doyle, Murphy from the one; Keogh, Dunlea, Quinlan from the other. It is a measure of the way things eventually went that at time of surveying the scene, only Keogh seems solidly in a county place; Shinnors has displaced Duggan from goal.

THREE DRAWS

The early League matches revealed a rare propensity for taking half the two points at stake. We did it with Cork, Wexford and Dublin, and lost to Kilkenny. Cork had come to Thurles short about one-third of prime strength, so the draw was no great feat for us at a home venue. Moneygall's Sheedy slapped in so good an early goal as to raise hopes of him, but these didn't survive the New Ross trip. In the meantime Kilkenny came and won in Cashel, where Jimmy Doyle and Johnny Bourke of Sarsfields got a run, as did Quinlan. The forward pair made less impression on those knowledgeable

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Kilkenny backs. That day, too, Jack Bergin appeared at left-back. He was to last longer than most, hurling the whole League campaign before Kelly was recalled for the championship. In this, Bergin paralleled the fate of goalkeeper Duggan.

The visit to Croke Park seemed, in pools terms, a banker for Tipp. The final reckoning of 1-11 each came as a reverse, with a lead let slip and no glory for the forward division, of whom Byrne later fell out of contention with a troublesome foot. By this time, too, Loughnane had become more or less permanently a corner man; hardly the place for him in his best mood or form.

One more game was on the pre-Christmas list. It proved to be perhaps the most enjoyable thing we witnessed all year. It is true that Limerick were both experimental and in bad shape; but Tipp hammered them soundly, 4-15 to 2-7. Recalling how close all games between the counties had been for years, this prompted visions of permanent improvement. Drom's Tom Butler came in affectively at centre-forward on Cregan; Bergin had a good second half; Keogh stood manfully up to Ned Rea; Noonan of Knockshegowna did quite well in place of Flanagan; Dunlea hurled solidly; Power snapped a few good goals.

In the New Year, the win over Clare at Nenagh gave us a real chance of qualifying, but it was disturbing to see nearly all the scores come from one man, Loughnane—though it was heartening to have Francis again scoring freely. He was on the wing that day; maybe we should have taken the hint and

left him there till he worked back to steadier form. The defence at Nenagh declined from their Limerick steadiness, and Noonan, taken off, fell out of the reckoning.

The next outings, against Waterford and Kildare, were uninformative, non-testing affairs. The serious business recommenced in the semi-final with Clare. We won, but it was a class-less, score-missing day for both counties. Only Flanagan, hurling at that time better than ever and taking the frees accurately, shone in our attack. Mick Coen got a one-day recall to the corner. Another, newer face was that of Phil Fanning of Moneygall, not deemed a success either.

SUPPORT FOR GALWAY

Came the final. Galway had exhibited pace and striking against Kilkenny in Thurles; the sentimental support was all behind them—and the sentiment was satisfied. Here was Tipp's turning point of the season. A win would have lent prestige, built us up for the championship. We got to the brink of victory, but lost it when we had the play to clinch it. The failure of such as Quinlan and Murphy in attack, the misjudgments under high balls in front of an unsettled Duggan; the fatal loosening of marking in the outer defence; these prepared the path for Galway's sudden swoop. Two goals broke Tipp. So there we were, beaten by the popular Tribesmen, and facing the championship with many places unclaimed.

In the two-month interval, selectorial thinking



The Tipperary team which drew with Limerick in a magnificent Munster SHC game in Thurles. Standing: Liam King, Jim Keogh, Noel O'Dwyer, John Kelly, Seamus Shinnors, Roger Ryan, Tommy Butler, Seamus Hogan. Seated: Francis Loughnane, P. J. Ryan, Jack Dunlea, Francis Murphy (capt.), Michael Keating, Tadhg O'Connor. John Flanagan.

came round to the view that maybe some of the old favourites were a better bet than several of the freshmen. Jim Kehoe met with a farm accident. Back came Keating, P. J. Ryan and Kelly. The first hurdle was Limerick in Thurles. The visitors had a far worse League than ourselves, declining fast from their September disappointment at Kilkenny hands; but the championship revived their admirable zest. For just over half the game, though, Tipp looked sound and safe to get to a final against Cork. Keating came back as if he'd never been away. The swerve, the amazing touch and control, were on instant display for points and for a goal. The defence, though, crumbled after half-time, Limerick made particular progress though O'Donoghue and Nolan up our left flank. In mid-stream, Dunlea went into the corner for Kelly, and Doyle came on at wing-back. In the desperate end, another Keating goal and point restored a lead, only to have it levelled again. A wonderfully thrilling second half indeed, but the outcome involved a return visit to the Ennis Road. "Advantage Limerick", in Wimbledon language; and serve us right for again being unable to preserve a winning position.

REPLAY

The wind blew fresh and strong for the fateful

replay. Doyle was retained at wing-back, Dunlea in the corner. By half time the objective seemed already half-achieved; a few points arrears should be easily erased. If we expected the elements to do the work, we were gravely in error. A slow but definite change came over the atmosphere. Limerick grew in confidence and surged towards the Clare end. Our midfield, still lacking Kehoe due to his unlucky accident, could not cope. Changes multiplied, to no avail. Confidence drained out, the forwards closing co-ordination. Again the half-backs weakened. The result, a Limerick victory that was grounded in deadly earnestness that used to be a Tipperary trade-mark. After Limerick, we were discontented onlookers for the rest of the series and could derive no satisfaction from a sequence of results that, taken literally, would put Tipp at the bottom of the form-chart.

How is our team to be "remoulded nearer to the heart's desire"? The new selectors have intensive testing to do, looking for the marginal improvement here and there that just might bridge the gap. The question is whether the gap has widened as the core of experienced men begins to crack and lose the finer edge of fitness and interest. Both the mentors and the followers may as well adopt an attitude of hopeful patience.

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A BRIGHT HANDBALL FUTURE IS CONFIDENTLY EXPECTED

By MICHAEL TYRELL

IT HAS BEEN quite an eventful year for our handball ambassadors. The highlight of course was the regaining of the All-Ireland Senior Handball Doubles in the persons of the ageless Paddy Hickey from Clogheen partnered by John Cleary from Tipperary town, who came on in the absence of the injured Connie Cleere, Nenagh. They defeated Dublin in Ballyporeen. Also, three minor, four junior and one senior provincial title were won.

Our minors surprised us above all when they cut a clean sweep in the championship and reached the All-Ireland finals in singles. Gerry Kenehan of Tipperary and the doubles pair of Noel Ryan and Larry Fitzgibbon gave a first class display and as two of these boys are under age next year, with an extra bit of training they might collect our first ever minor doubles title.

Our juniors really came to light during the year and a player here who must come in for special attention is Billy McCarthy from Clogheen. He collected two handball titles at provincial level, contested the All-Ireland singles against Kilkenny, and even though beaten this young man surely must follow in the footsteps of his club mate, Paddy Hickey, in the very near future.

Our junior softball players, P. Myers and J. Walsh of Ballyporeen, and T. Morrissey (St Mary's) gave their best on provincial final evening against Kerry and Limerick but just weren't good enough. Myers and Morrissey who are still developing must surely be heard of in future years, and Jim Walsh at forty-three years of age surprised everyone with his speed and stamina. We hope he will be around to lend advice to all of these players.

This year saw the introduction of an under-16 league at provincial level and Tipperary became the first holder of this beautiful trophy.

At this year's Congress a motion was tabled from our near neighbours Clare that a new competition, the 40 x 20 championship, be introduced to our All-Ireland series. This game is becoming very popular in other counties and at home, and one of the finest courts is built in Fethard with a maple floor complete with a ceiling, which complies with American rules. It was in Fethard the first ever All-Ireland series took place and here to a packed gallery Tipperary became the first county to win the junior doubles represented by Tom Morrissey and Ed Farrell who now step up to senior grade. They are a young pair about whom we will hear a lot in years to come. So the future looks bright, and when we come around next year who knows the titles we missed this year may well be ours.

MINOR TITLES FOR CASHEL AND COMMERCIALS

Having made history last year by winning county titles in both minor hurling and football, Cashel King Cormacs came back this year to retain one of them, the hurling title, by defeating Roscrea in the final. The efforts of the North champions were made to look very poor in comparison with the power packed display of Cashel whose future in hurling looks bright indeed.

Clonmel Commercial won the football title defeating Lattin/Emly in the decider and to do it they had to come back from an eight point interval deficit.

Commercial last won the title in 1968.

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THE UPS AND DOWNS OF TIPPERARY'S CLUBS IN 1975

MID

THE FIELD ACTIVITY among the clubs in Tipperary can be gauged from the fine number of teams which participated in the various competitions throughout the year. In each of the four divisions there has been no let up whatever and hereunder the reader can see just what was achieved by each of the clubs that make up the GAA in the County.

Our deepest thanks for compiling the list is due to Michael O'Meara, Jim Fogarty and Michael Maguire.

THURLES SARSFIELDS

Highlight of the year for Sarsfields was the winning of their 33rd senior hurling Mid title. Their junior and minor hurlers made early exits from the championships. Their under 21 team reached the Mid final but lost to Moyne-Templetuohy.

Sarsfields also fielded teams in football but enjoyed little success. The big disappointment for the senior hurlers was their defeat in the first round of the County S.H. Championship at the hands of Carrick Davins. Most memorable happening off the field was the successful trip by seventy club members to America in September. The trip, a most successful one is something players and supporters who travelled will cherish for many years.

THURLES KICKHAMS

Successwise it was not a great year for the boys from the east end of the town. Their junior footballers contested the divisional final against Drom while a much vaunted No. 2 hurling team bowed out to Holycross in the semi-final. Kickhams with a proud tradition are sure to be back in the not too distant future.

THURLES FENNELLYS

By Fennellys' own standards 1975 will not rank as one of their most auspicious seasons. Their teams were dismissed in the early stages of all competitions.

THURLES FOOTBALL

This club is composed of an amalgamation of Sarsfields, Kickhams and Fennellys for senior football purposes. They reached the quarter finals of

the County SF Championship, beat Templetuohy but lost to Loughmore and Templemore in the Mid championship.

MOYNE-TEMPLETUOHY

A resurgence of spirit was the key factor of Moyne's fairly successful year on the domestic scene. With the emphasis on youth, the senior team reached the senior hurling final only to lose most narrowly to Sarsfields. The No. 2 team reached the semi-final and the under 21 hurlers won the Mid championship, beating Sarsfields by 0-5 to 0-2.

Underage games are still strong in the parish.

MOYCARKEY-BORRIS

The club's minor hurling side won the Mid title. The No. 2 hurlers were knocked out in round two. The senior hurlers, while unimpressive in the division, reached the semi-final of the County. It may be some consolation for Moycarkey the fact that both minor and senior sides were beaten by the ultimate County champions, Cashel and Moneygall respectively. The under 21 side went out to Moyne in round one. Off the field, the club carried out improvements on their playing field and built dressingrooms. A successful inter-club tournament was promoted but has yet to be finished. The club's junior, minor and under 21 football teams had little success.

BOHERLAHAN-DUALLA

When Boherlahan reverted to No. 1 JH status this year they had many fanciers to win the grade. But after good early season form in championship and tournaments they reached a very low ebb in the semi-final to succumb to Gortnahoe. Their lower grade juniors did better and reached the final. In the minor and under 21 grades defeat was their lot early on. The club acquired a new playing field in 1975.

DROM and INCH

When Drom won the Mid senior hurling title for the first time in 1974 they were expected to be a force again this year but they were decisively beaten by Moyne-Templetuohy in the semi-final. In the County championship they put up a brave fight before going out in the quarter final to Silvermines. The junior and underage teams gained little success.



Though knocked from their pedestal as County champions in the first round, Thurles Sarsfields bounced back to regain the Mid senior title, the evergreen Jimmy Doyle (not in picture) making a late appearance and proving, as he has so often in the past, to be the match winner.

Oddly enough for such a great hurling area it is in football that Drom and Inch can gain championship medals this year for they have qualified for the Mid final against Kickhams.

HOLYCROSS/BALLYCAHILL

After the euphoria of a County junior hurling championship in 1974 Holycross returned to senior ranks this year. In the Mid they had a creditable victory over Moycarkey and it took a last second goal from Sarsfields to defy their efforts in the semi-final, after a great hour's hurling. Their No. 2 and minor teams reached the finals in their grades. Defeat was also the lot of Holycross in the concluding stages of the junior and minor football championships. Overall, a successful year even if no major trophies were won.

LOUGHMORE/CASTLEINEY

The past year was another successful story for Loughmore/Castleiney. In all grades they enjoyed a fair measure of success. They reached the County senior football final only to lose to Kilruane. They annexed the minor football title and reached the semi-finals in the No. 1 JH only to lose to Clonmore, the eventual winners. For a traditionally football stronghold the upsurge of hurling in the parish is now well established and they are most competent in both codes. In senior football they are seeking their 11th Mid title in a row.

TEMPLEMORE

The Templemore club this year concentrated solely on football and qualified for the junior semi-final and senior finals. In the county they made a brave effort before losing to Mullinahone. A number of players from the town have helped the sister clubs of Clonmore and Killea in hurling. They meet Loughmore/Castleiney in the Mid SF final.

UPPERCHURCH/DROMBANE

After playing so consistently in the No. 1 championship for the past few years it was a disappointment for the club not to reach yet another final in their quest to win the title. In their last outing against Clonmore a draw was not sufficient to get them through (this competition is run on a league system). Teams in the other grades though putting up good performances were not strong enough to win any trophies.

TEMPLETUOHY

After winning the Mid junior football championship for the last two years the club was forced to gain senior status this year. They had little success in the higher grade. Their under 21 side have reached the football final.

CLONMORE

1975 will long be remembered in Clonmore. When the final whistle sounded in the No. 1 final they were one point ahead of Gortnahoe and made history by winning the competition for the first

time. It was a memorable occasion for this small club. Though outsiders in most of their games they showed a great will to win and this added to fitness saw them take a place in history. The success story of 1975 can be traced back to the club's efforts in juvenile games over the past few years. The current team is a young one and in many people's minds have still to reach their true potential.

KILLEA

Another offshoot of Templemore parish, this club concentrated mainly on No. 2 hurling but went out in the opening round to Moycarkey/Borris.

SUIR VIEW

This club caters for football in the Boherlahan-Dualla parish but got little to cheer about in 1975.

GORTNAHOE/GLENGOOLE

After returning to No. 1 hurling status after a brief sojourn in senior ranks, Gortnahoe/Glengoole failed by the narrowest of margins to Clonmore in the decider. After an indifferent opening to the season they can be considered a trifle unlucky not to have earned at least a replay in this final. Teams were also fielded in all other junior and underage events.

CLONAKENNY

This club fielded in No. 1 junior hurling but failed to Loughmore in their opening game. Amalgamated with Clonmore for senior hurling purposes, they were beaten by Moyne but put up a fine performance before losing to Holycross after a replay. Clonakenny also competed in junior football and combined with Clonmore for under 21 hurling, losing to Moyne/Templetuohy.

KNOCK

Before ever hitting a ball this club made plenty of headlines in 1975. They were the subject of a prolonged wrangle at all levels of the association before eventually making their Mid exit against Holycross in No. 2 JH. They defeated Gortnahoe/Glengoole in their initial outing.

NORTH

BALLINA

As in the past few years, chief hopes rested with the intermediate hurlers but after a fairly successful run in the league section of the competition, they were edged out of a semi-final place.

BALLINAHINCH

The long sought break through in the honours list was foiled only at the final hurdle in the intermediate championship. Two big defeats in the opening rounds did not give out much hope, but then came the revival, culminating in a very game performance in the final before failing to reigning champions, Shannon Rovers.

BORRISOKANE

A season in which the juveniles took the top

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honours in all age groups. Four divisional titles were won by the under 12 footballers, under 14 hurlers and footballers and under 16 hurlers (special). The inter. hurlers reached the semi-final and the under 21s (with Knockshewona) were beaten in the final.

BORRIS-ILEIGH

The expectations of the senior hurlers were not realised. Defeats by Silvermines and Roscrea put paid to divisional honours while Moycarkey/Borris knocked them out of the county race at the second hurdle. A team was entered for the County SFC but Ardinnan dashed their hopes in the first round.

BURGESS

Back in the inter. grade after a few years in senior ranks, a semi-final place was reached, defeat being their fate by eventual champions, Shannon Rovers. The junior footballers have reached the final but the most rewarding feat for the club was the purchase of a long sought playing pitch.

EIRE OG

The stranglehold on juvenile competition was loosened somewhat, but there was much pleasure gained from county success in under 16 hurling—a title that always seemed to elude the club.

INANE ROVERS

The only "all football" club in the division. The minor title was retained and the juniors and under 21s are still in the running for honours.

KILDANGAN

While the senior hurlers may not have set the world on fire, a definite hope for the future came via the minors, who with the assistance of boys from Shannon Rovers reached the divisional final, the under 21s going one step less.

KILRUANE

Best season ever. County SF honours for the first time; divisional honours for the junior hurlers, the under 21 hurlers, and, of course, the senior hurlers reaching the North semi-final to be followed by defeat only after a replay in the County final.

KNOCKSHEGOWNA

While an encouraging start to a spell in inter. grade—after annexing the junior title the previous year—was made by drawing with Borrisokane, things dipped from there on. However, it was in the company of Borrisokane that most satisfaction came in the juvenile successes of the combined clubs.

LORRHA

No titles but a great deal of satisfaction nonetheless. The seniors put up a great show before failing to Moneygall in the North semi-final, while a similar fate came their way from the same opponents in the quarter final of the County championship.

MONEYGALL

Years of frustration ended when the North senior title was won for the first time. Then came the greatest achievement of all, a County senior title to crown what was for Moneygall their greatest ever year.

And just to show that the future is also bright the under 14 hurlers won the "weaker section" competition and also reached the final proper before bowing out to Borrisokane.

NEWPORT

The feat of the previous year—reaching the North SHC semi-final—was not equalled this time. In fact, a victory over Lorrha was the only worthwhile achievement, while in the county race, a first round victory in a replay was followed by elimination in the next round.

PORTROE

A late burst almost brought a semi-final place in the inter. championship but Ballina dashed their hopes. The under 16 hurlers gave many a thrill before losing out in the final to Eire Og, the eventual County champions.

ROSCREA

By their own high standards, it wasn't such a successful season although the minors retained their divisional title. The seniors, however, failed to make a semi-final place and in the County championship Silvermines dealt a blow to hopes by winning their second round tie.

SHANNON ROVERS

The inter. title was retained; so it's up to senior ranks for the Shannonsiders next season. The juniors reached the semi-final as did the under 21s, and combining with Kildangan, the minors got to the final.

SILVERMINES

The great promise of '74 was not fulfilled. Retaining the senior divisional title proved beyond their abilities this time and though scoring a five-point victory over Kilruane in the semi-final, the scene was reversed, and decisively so, seven days later in the County semi-final.

TEMPLEDERRY

Only a solitary point stood between them and a junior title, Kilruane coming out in the end. The club in fact entered two teams, Kenyons and Mitchels and the former also put in a good showing, before falling to Shannon Rovers.

TOOMEVARA

First round defeat by Moneygall in the County championship was the fate of the senior hurlers, who, however, recovered well in the divisional race to force a play-off with Lorrha. Lorrha won well in the end though to reach the semi-finals. In juvenile grade, things were more hopeful with success in the under 12 competition.

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COMMERCIALS

Teams: SF, JF, 21F, MF, 12F, 14F, 16F.....

Honours: Won South senior and minor football championships. Beaten finalists junior football championship and strongly fancied to win 21F championship for which they have reached semi-final. At Bord na nOg level they won out in under 12 and under 16 and were beaten finalists in under 14.

MOYLE ROVERS

Teams: SF, JF, IH, JH, 12, 14, 16 F & H. Joined with Cahir in 21 and minor H & F. Joined with St. Mary's in senior hurling.

Honours: Beaten finalists in intermediate hurling, they are live contenders for league honours in this grade and in junior football.

ST. MARY'S

Teams: IH, JH, 21H, MH, three teams in 12H, two teams in 14H and one team in 16H. Joined with Moyle Rovers in senior hurling.

Honours: Won intermediate and minor titles at divisional level. In juvenile were defeated in 14 final and went under by a single point to eventual County champions, Swan, in 12H. Had compensation by winning 16 title

ST. LUKE'S

Team: IF.

Honours: Beaten finalists in championship. Fancied to compensate in league.

NEWCASTLE

Teams: JF, JH, MH, 16H 16F, Joined with Ballybacon in 21H.

Honours: Brought off a unique double by winning both South junior titles, thus making 1975 the most successful year in the club's history. Outsiders in both finals, their fitness, spirit and skill won them many friends. Their large enthusiastic band of supporters were a feature at all their games.

FR. SHEEHY'S

Teams: SF, JF, JH, 12F, 14H & F, 16F, 21 and minor H & F with Ballyporeen.

Honours: Beaten quarter finalists in the County senior football championship, they made a bold bid to capture the South senior title for the first time but went under to Commercials in the decider.

BALLYPOREEN

Teams: IF, JF, 12, 14, 16 F. Joined with Fr. Sheehy's in 21 and minor H & F.

Honours: Scored a notable win over Ballylooby in intermediate league but disappointed in the championship. Beaten finalists in 16 football.

SKEHEENARINKA

Teams: JH, 12, 14, 16 H.

Honours: Beaten finalists in the 1974 junior hurling league, they disappointed in league and championship this season.

ARDFINNAN

Teams: SF, JF, 21F, MF, 12, 14, 16F.

Honours: Lost their South and County titles in a rather disappointing year for the club. Highlights were the performances of their under 14 side who took both rural and urban/rural championships.

BALLYBACON-GRANGE

Teams: SH, JH, MH, 12, 14 and 16 H., 21 hurling with Newcastle.

Honours: A good run in junior hurling championship ended at hands of Swan in Clonmel.

BALLYLOOBY/CASTLEGRACE

Teams: IF, IH, JF, JH, 14 H & F, 21 F.

Honours: Lost their intermediate football title and also disappointed in hurling. Hopeful of taking the league titles.

CAHIR

Teams: IF, JH, 12, 14, 16 H & F. Joined with Moyle Rovers in 21 and minor F & H.

Honours: Beaten finalists in junior hurling, they were also beaten by the eventual winners (Swan) in intermediate football.

BALLINGARRY

Teams: SH, JH, 21H, MH, IF, 21F, MF, 12, 14, 16 H & F.

Honours: The club can look back on a successful season which yielded divisional honours in 21 hurling, 14 rural hurling and 14 urban/rural hurling. Have also qualified for South 21 football decider.

MULLINAHONE

Teams: SF, JF 21F, MF, 16H, JH, 12, 14, 16 F.

Honours: The junior football side has qualified for the league semi-final.

FETHARD

Teams: SF, JF JH, 12, 14 16 H & F, 21 and minor H & F with Kilsheelan, SH with Killenaule.

Honours: The senior football team went under to eventual champions Kilruane at County level. The under 21 hurling group team held Ballingarry to a draw in the final but went under by three points in the replay. The 21 football group side has qualified for the divisional semi-final.

CARRICK SWAN

Teams: SH, JH, 21H, MH, IF, two teams 12H, 14H, 16H. Combined with Davins in minor and 21 football.

Honours: Although Swan lost their senior hurling crown to Davins they can still look back on a successful 1975. Highlight of the year for them was their success in the intermediate football final whilst at juvenile level the winning of South and County under 12 hurling was a great achievement.

CARRICK DAVINS

Teams: SH, JH, 21H, MH, 12H, 14H, 16H.

Honours: Regained their senior hurling crown at the expense of local rivals Swan. Ousted holders Thurles Sarsfields from County senior title race. Finalists in junior hurling league.

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KILSHEELAN

with Marlfield. 21 and minor H & F with Fethard.

Honours: Narrowly beaten by eventual winners Kilruane in the County senior football semi-final.

GRANGEMOCKLER/BALLYMEALE

Teams: Senior Football, under 21 and minor H & F with St. Patrick's. Junior Hurling, Int. and Junior Football, 14 and 16 H, 12, 14 16 F.

Honours: Good run in 21 hurling in which their group team were beaten semi-finalists.

ST. PATRICK'S

Teams: IF, JH, 12, 14 16 F, SF, 21 and MF & H with Grangemockler/Ballymeale.

Honours: 21 hurling semi-finalists.

MARLFIELD

Teams: IH, JH, SH group team with Kilsheelan.

Honours: Unable to field against Killenaule in intermediate championship.

KICKHAMS

Teams: J.F.

Honours: Beaten by Moyle Rovers in championship.

KILLENAULE

Teams: IH, 21H, MH, JF, 12, 14 16 H. SH with Fethard.

Honours: Lost their intermediate hurling title to St. Mary's. Concerned in final stages of '74 and '75 inter. leagues.

ST. JOSEPH'S

Teams: School teams in 14 and 16 Football.

WEST

AHERLOW

This is a successful club with a small number of members. They were unlucky in this year's championships. However, they have qualified for the Divisional semi-finals in Junior Hurling II. They are now giving great care to players at juvenile level.

GALTEE ROVERS

A very successful club in all grades. They paid good interest to their juveniles for sometime past and now the rewards are being reaped.

They also have a fine playing pitch, community centre with dressing rooms, referees' room, showers, toilets incorporated.

ROCKWELL ROVERS

This is a very small parish near Cashel. However, they are pulling their weight as a unit of the Association. Success on the playing fields did not come their way in 1975.

CASHEL

One of the top clubs in all grades. They look after their juveniles to a great extent and are now

enjoying tremendous success, their most recent being the retaining of the M.H. Co. Championship which they won in 1974. They also captured the West SHC title this year.

CLONOULTY/ROSSMORE

This is an energetic club looking after most grades, particularly juveniles which soon must show its rewards. They also have a fine playing pitch.

GOLDEN KILFEACLE

This is a strong hurling club, especially in senior championship but more recently they have been making their mark as footballers, having this year won the JFC. They have one of the finest playing fields in the West.

EIRE OG

This is the only parish in West Tipperary with a senior hurling and senior football team. The football teams play under the name of Multeen Rovers. They are a strong club and have enjoyed a reasonable amount of success in both codes, being the only club in the Division to win a County senior hurling championship in 1943.

CAPPAWHITE

This is a strong hurling area but have also good football ability. They are doing a very good job for their juveniles.

They have purchased a playing field recently and it is now nearly developed.

SEAN TREACY'S

This is a very strong hurling area, situated at the far end of the Division. They have had numerous successes in championship, leagues and tournaments and have supplied many inter-county players at all levels.

KNOCKAVILLA KICKHAMS

This is an active club in both codes situated in the middle of the Division. They have had great success in all codes of hurling. They look after their juveniles very well which in the years ahead should gain them further success.

They have almost completed a fine community centre, and have a first-class field.

SOLOHEAD

This is a strong, active club in both codes. It has been paying good attention to juveniles for many years and now the senior club is having the success it deserves.

Most of the senior players are still playing under age competitions, which ensures that many more honours are on the way.

ARRAVALLE ROVERS

This club represents Tipperary Town and rural areas. It is strong in both codes and has had

numerous honours to date. They are also very dedicated at juvenile level.

They have a fine playing field which this year was the venue for the All-Ireland Under 21 Football Final.

EMLY

This club is in the west end of the Division. A very active club in both codes, it has been concentrating very much at juvenile level for some years now and are back in the top bracket again.

They have a first-class playing pitch and can

now feel proud of being the first grounds in Ireland with the exception of Croke Park of having a stand the full length of the playing field.

LATTIN/CULLEN

This is an active club where football is played more than hurling, especially in the underage and juveniles. The club has won many honours in both codes but more in football where they have won the Divisional senior championship many times.

A good effort is now being made to promote both codes at juvenile level.



To mark his ordination to the priesthood and his departure to the African mission fields, the St Mary's hurling club, Clonmel, through its Chairman, Mr E. O'Shea, made a suitable presentation during the year to Fr Joseph Purcell, club manager.

FINANCES AND THE G.A.A.

By JIM FOGARTY

LITTLE DID the founder members of the Gaelic Athletic Association over seventy years ago think at the time of its conception that it would one day grow into one of the biggest money spending organisations in the country. In those far off days the promotion of our national games as a pastime and the ideal to foster a love for our native traditions and customs was utmost in their minds. But in 1975 the GAA is big money business.

The greatest amateur organisation in the world can today compare favourably with big manufacturing and commercial firms in terms of expenditure. It is perhaps a clarion indication of its amateurism that only few gain full time employment from it such as the administrative and office staff at its headquarters in Croke Park; other officers at provincial and county level are on an "honorarium" and indeed most will tell you that they could be more gainfully employed in their spare time.

In Tipperary alone upwards of 200,000 pound notes will change hands in pursuits of the interests of hurling and football in 1975. Mind you this is only a very conservative figure for clubs in the process of field or clubhouse development will spend additional thousands.

The GAA has now or is about to become such a streamlined and modern organisation that it could or would not survive without the voluntary unsung heroes, the club secretaries, chairmen, other officers and committee men. Those dedicated men who spend so much of their leisure hours, about 10,000 hours, in Tipperary, are an internal vital heart throb of the Association. At times they get little compensation for their work. Ask any of their wives and they will tell you the great inconveniences they have to put up with while the men of the house are on GAA duty. For most it can mean up to three or four nights a week during the peak playing months. Yes, the lady folk play their part unobtrusively to keep the free flow of administration.

Our figures do not take into consideration the depreciation on cars, the enormous bill paid for petrol, travelling to meetings, training sessions, and chauffeuring players to matches.

On the social side too there is a big expenditure on beverages, meals, etc. Few of those who partake of a "jar" will go home directly after a game without calling to their favourite tavern. There the joys

of victory can be toasted, the sorrows drowned, and indeed the post mortems always seem easier to swallow in such establishments.

Big match days in any town are in the words of the publicans and hoteliers "their harvest". Petrol filling stations do a roaring trade, coach, bus and train proprietors also cash in on such occasions. Many other firms benefit too from GAA finances, printers, jewellers, stationers, the post office, chemists, photographers, sports outfitters, banks and financial concerns, fuel suppliers and the various construction trade sections.

Where does all this cash come from to keep the GAA ticking over efficiently in Tipperary? Gate receipts bring the best part for the Boards, both county and divisional. But its when it comes down to the club breakdown figure that the variety of gathering can be broken down into diverse intakes. The old traditional methods of forecast cards, raffles, limited draws, still bring in the lion's share, but dances, sales of work, the old reliable church gate collection, sponsors, and what became very popular in 1975 — inter-club tournaments — make up the bulwark of the total collected by clubs, rural and urban. Yes, the man in the street plays his part by putting his hand in his pocket so often.

But paradoxically this gent seldom complains, he even takes a pride in throwing out his few bob to the local club. GAA clubs based on the parish boundary re something for every true son of a parish to take pride in. When he follows that same club in their championship exploits he pays his cash at the turnstiles to see them compete. If they lose, the club officers and selectors will become the butt of his anger. Soon it is forgotten and he is looking forward with interest to seeing the club's next team competing. And so the circle continues rotating for the benefit of the Association in general.

It is to the credit of Irishmen for ninety years that they have by their support of the GAA helped to build it into what it is today, a great national organisation. It is fired by the spirit of the immortal names and the zest which behoves its fast moving games of football and hurling.

Inflation, economic recession, or whatever the next ninety years will bring, the Gaelic Athletic Association in Tipperary will not be let down by the men and women who pay their cash, cheer their local club and enjoy themselves. It is a tradition with them and they enjoy every minute of it.

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GERRY SLEVIN looks back on a year that saw a new footballing force emerge from an area where hurling has always held the limelight

KILRUANE TOP THE REST TO ENTER HISTORY PAGES

WHO WOULD have believed it? Kilruane McDonaghs, County senior football champions in 1975. Indeed who would have believed they would get over the first round because their opponents when they set out were no less a team than famed Clonmel Commercials? And yet, even though the North men had a convincing win over their more vaunted southern opponents, those "in the know" were inclined to regard it as a flash in the pan sort of result. What Kilruane continued to do throughout 1975 showed not alone that a new force was emerging but that a dedication to football, beginning in the juvenile days of the players, would pay off handsomely.

For it was at juvenile level the football seed was sown in Kilruane. It has demanded an approach to the game that calls for greater interest and perseverance than, say in the West or South, because Kilruane has always been a hurling district and it is no easy matter to keep both games moving along smoothly and to bring it to a pitch as was witnessed this year. It wasn't a case of football overshadowing the efforts of the hurlers or vice versa. Both worked hand in hand and while fulfilling double fixtures was quite a strain on players during the summer months, the tremendous sense of possible achievement and the boundless will to persevere saw something unique for a Tipperary club.

Yet, if those "in the know" had been fully conversant with the happenings in Kilruane's football endeavours over the past years, no eyebrows should have been raised in surprise that an eventual senior title should have come their way. They had fared very well in minor and under 21 grades and once the Kilruane lads began to believe in themselves and this they did, thanks to the continued promptings of such men as Paddy Quinlan, Hughie McDonnell and Frank Brady, nothing was going to stop them taking the top honours in the county.

Having overcome Commercials in the first

round, Kilruane then faced the 1974 runner-up Fethard. Another extremely stiff hurdle to get over but it was bounded with a confidence that was increasing all the time and at the end of the hour, Kilruane had put yet another South side out of the way. Then fell Fr Sheehy's and before many people knew what was happening, the no hopers from the North were through to meet Kilsheelan in the semi-final.

Both semi-finals were played on the same Cashel programme, Kilruane and Kilsheelan opening the proceedings. A controversial goal towards the end put Kilruane through but it was a deserved final entry nonetheless. Loughmore, the famed bastion from the Mid put out Ardfinnan in the second semi-final and for the first time since their campaign began, Kilruane were facing non South opponents.

Nenagh was the venue. It was decided on a toss with Thurles, and for a area that had been starved of the football spotlight, this final took on a new interest that was reflected in the big attendance that came along. Not many senior titles had come to the North. In fact the only club as such to win out ever had been Nenagh back in 1915, although amalgamated junior sides had come through in 1958, 1959 and 1961. Putting in a great opening spurt, Kilruane failed to capitalise fully on their chances and it did seem their goose was cooked at the interval when they were behind. However the second half was a completely different story. A new spirit seemed to permeate the Kilruane men and they got down to their task with an eagerness and a determination that was just too much for a gallant Loughmore side.

In an exciting and nail biting game, Kilruane were on top by two points and the scenes following such an historic win were wild indeed. The impossible had been achieved. A new name could proudly go on the O'Dwyer Cup and Denis O'Meara's men had carved for themselves a very special niche in the history of football in the county.



KILRUANE: County SFC in their very first final. Standing: Phil Reddan, Gilbert Williams, Brian O'Reilly, Tom Killackey, Jim O'Meara, Donnchadh Minogue, Noel Killackey, Sean O'Meara, John Kelly, John Sheppard. Kneeling: Seamus Hennessy, Jim Williams, Denis O'Meara (capt.), Paddy Williams, John Quinlan, Denis Cahill, Bunny Keogh.

THE LATE COLONEL JIMMY COONEY

By BILL O'DONNELL

WITH FULL military ceremonial, and in the presence of a huge throng of mourners, that included many of his former comrades on the Tipperary All-Ireland winning team of 1937, all that was mortal of Jimmy Cooney was laid to rest in the little churchyard of Fangheen outside Carrick-on-Suir. For Jimmy was a member of the army of this land and had attained the rank of Colonel in charge of engineers, some years ago.

Jimmy Cooney was born in Carrick-on-Suir in April 1914. From an early age he was interested in sports of all kinds and spent quite a lot of his spare time in the local park with youngsters of the same age, either kicking a football or belting a hurling ball about. For those were the pre World Cup and television days and the game of soccer, so widely played by youngsters today, was not then all that popular.

Hurling was Jimmy's first love and the caman seldom left his hand. He became proficient in the swinging code with the CBS in his native town. At the age of seventeen, while playing with the CBS team, he found himself a member of the Carrick-on-Suir senior side. The following year he made the Tipperary minor football and hurling teams. The minor football side met with little success, being narrowly beaten in the opening round at Dungarvan by Waterford. The hurlers met with better fortune, travelling all the way, to beat Kilkenny at Waterford in the final, by 8-5 to 5-1. That team incidentally, was captained by Dinny O'Gorman of Holycross, later to become, with Jim Cooney, the only Tipperary men ever to win All-Ireland medals in minor, junior and senior hurling on the field of play. The junior title was won in 1933 when Cooney was but a slip of a lad of nineteen.

The following year the senior county selectors recognised the worth of this tall well-built Carrick lad when they called him to the senior panel, preparing in Thurles Sportsfield for a tilt with the "Red Devils" from the banks of the Lee. It was there the writer got to know Carrick's pride and joy, to start a friendship that was to defy the passage of time. The selectors in their wisdom did not think either of us worthy of any singlet lower in number than sixteen. Incidentally that game was played in Walsh Park, Waterford, and with three-quarters of the game gone, Cork were trailing by no less than ten points. Incredibly, they won by five points.

Over the next couple of seasons Jimmy blossomed as he met and generally held his own with

some of the best centrefield men of the day, men like Timmy Ryan of Limerick, Harry Grey of Laois, Jack Barrett of Cork, Terry Leahy of Kilkenny, and "Fad" Browne of Waterford.

Two Munster finals were lost to Limerick before the great breakthrough came in 1937. Limerick were well and truly beaten in the decider at Cork and Jim Cooney had arrived. His deeds in the All-Ireland final at Killarney, as he ranged the length and breadth of Fitzgerald Stadium, are now legendary. And by the way, the reason why the All-Ireland final of 1937 was played in Killarney was because the Cusack Stand was being erected at headquarters.

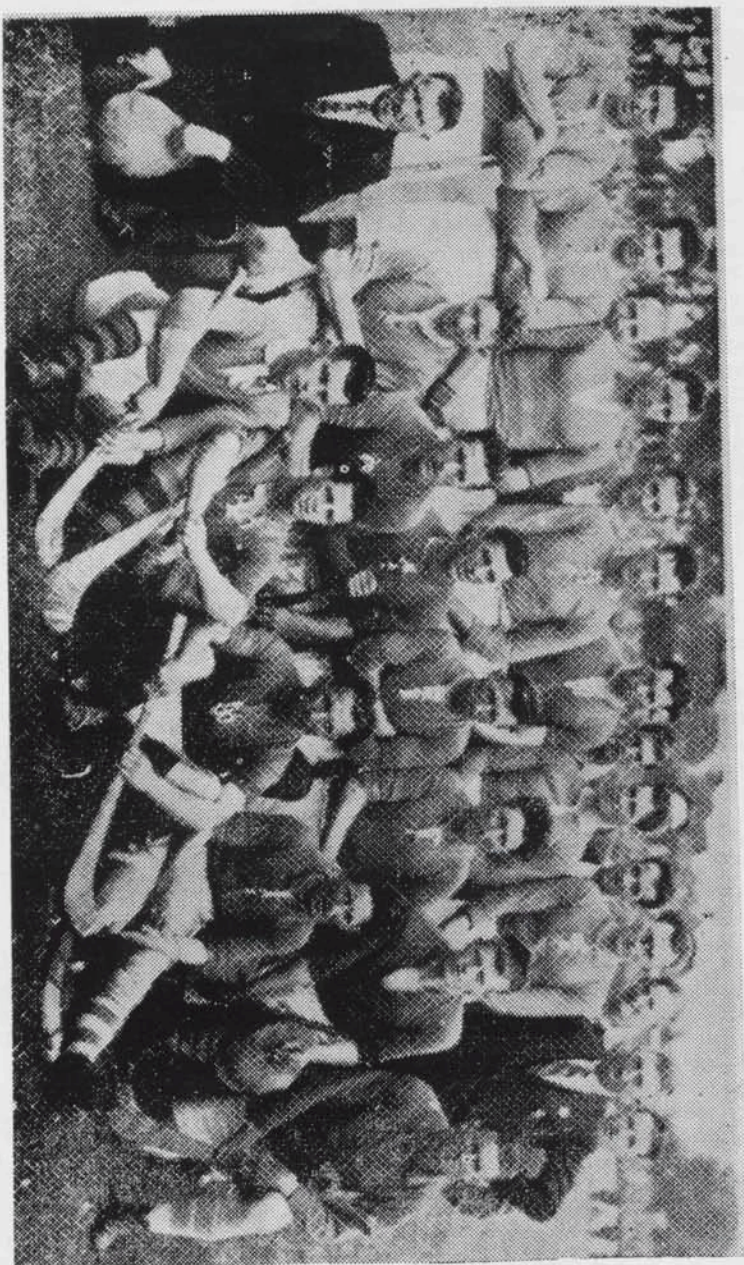
Seldom before or since, has the result of a game been more embellished by the performance of one man. Tipperary won their thirteenth title that day, and the seventeen points margin in their favour was compiled largely because of the dominance of Jimmy Cooney at midfield. From placed balls and from frees, straightforward and awkward, the lad from Carrick was the master, and he swung that stick as if it was part and parcel of himself.

After that game he was being hailed as the logical successor to Lory Meagher, for years the maestro of midfield play. A rosy hurling future appeared in prospect for the twenty-three year old lad from the lower reaches of the Suir, then a valued member of UCD, where he was following a course in engineering.

THE COONEY CASE

With every member of the champion team available and others of merit knocking at the door, prospects looked good for the '38 All-Ireland. But clouds were gathering on the hurling horizon. The writer remembers being asked to referee the 1937-38 Fitzgibbon Cup final between UCD and UCC at Belfield, on Sunday, February 13th. Among those playing for UCD was friend and county team mate, Jimmy Cooney. In a chat after the game, Jimmy told me that he had seen his first rugby game, with a priest relative home on holidays, the previous day. In those days, a look at "forbidden fruit", like Irishmen playing a foreign game, carried a square old punitive tag, I can tell you. We agreed that "a shut mouth collected few flies".

Some time later, when the Munster Railway Cup team was being selected, a verbal complaint was made by the Clare representative that Cooney



Two members of the 1937 panel passed away during the year, Jimmy Cooney and Gerry Doyle. That final was played in Kilkenny when Kilkenny were soundly thrashed by 3-11 to 0-3. Standing: D. Gorman, W. O'Donnell (who has penned a tribute to Jimmy Cooney in this issue), W. Wall, Jim Lanigan, J. Maher, J. Gormally, JERRY DOYLE, D. Mackey, J. Leahy. Centre: W. Leahy, J. Coffey, JIMMY COONEY, J. Ryan, B. Murphy, T. Treacy, P. Ryan, M. Maher. Front: P. Ryan, T. Doyle, J. Gleeson, T. Butler.

had been at a rugby International. On being written to, Jim, being the man he was, admitted the offence. He was not played on Munster's team that St Patrick's Day, and because of his admission only, according to rule, he was automatically suspended for three months from 12th February. When in due course, he applied for reinstatement, the Dublin County Board recommended it to the Leinster Council and the suspension was removed. Tipperary then played Jimmy against Limerick in the Monaghan Cup competition in London.

The night before Tipperary were due to play Clare in the Munster championship at Limerick, players' declarations came before the Central Council. Cooney's was ruled out of order by President McNamee on the grounds that it had been received in the period when Cooney was an automatically suspended member, that he was illegal to play in the game in London and thereby suspended himself for another six months.

The Tipperary case was: (1) That Cooney was not a suspended member when he declared, as his declaration to play with Tipperary was made on February 2nd. That, I can personally vouch for, because I was present when the declaration was signed. (2) That even if Cooney were a suspend, he was still entitled to declare by reason of ruling by the Chairman of the Central Council in September 1935 (when Tipperary objected to Jim Smith, Cavan, on the ground that he was a suspend when he declared for Cavan). The then Chairman, Mr Bob O'Keeffe, ruled that a suspend could declare and so Smith was allowed to play for Cavan, and incidentally, beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland senior football semi-final, at Croke Park. (3) That Mr McNamee's ruling that a declaration was not in order (no matter when signed) until it was in the hands of the Secretary, had no support from the rules.

The appeals were tossed out and the late Canon Hamilton's Clare County Board's objection upheld. In a comment to the Press, Canon Hamilton said they felt bound, in the interests of the public name of the GAA, and the high sense of discipline it stood for, to make the only protest at their disposal, against what seemed to be an apparent illegality. He desired to emphasise that they were objecting "not because we were beaten in Limerick, but because the authority of the Association seems to be openly flouted". There was little use in telling him at the time, that the Clare team Tipperary played on that day, included a lad who had been at the foreign game with Jim Cooney on February 12th.

BRILLIANT FUTURE

As I have said Jim Cooney appeared to have a brilliant future before him as a hurling midfielder. He was only twenty-three but the injustice of it all hit him, more so than the rest of us. He had an intense love of the games of hurling and football and had never played any other. Seeing another, who had committed the very same offence, getting

away with it, had a profound effect on him and left him a little disillusioned. Although he continued to play, the spark was gone and Jimmy was never again the hurling genius of that day in Killarney. I have no doubt in the world but that he would have developed into the greatest midfielder of all time, had he not been so upright.

Jimmy was an extraordinary chap, being particularly well endowed. To hear him sing from "Tales of Vienna Woods" was a delight. Those of us privileged to hear his tenor voice in impromptu soirees after games, will never forget his richness and the quality of tone and the intense feeling put into every note. He possessed an All-Army championship medal for handball and was All-Army champion for four successive years at golf.

To his army duties he brought a dedication and intensity of purpose and his brilliant mathematical mind won for him the rapid distinction that put him in charge of army engineering at the turn of the decade. He had two periods of service in the Congo with the United Nations and many were the yarns he had, for he was a born raconteur. He served under an Abyssinian, who was C. in C. of the UN forces. This man took up golf with caution from Jimmy. He became so good so fast that Jimmy asked him if he had ever played any game with a small ball. The C. in C. then described their national game, played with a crooked stick and ball. It was as near to hurling as made no matter. I actually saw the game on a television travelogue some time ago and I can truthfully say that the much-vaunted, tough Munster finals of thirty or forty years ago were but kid stuff by comparison.

He was immensely popular with his team mates and he never forgot the fact that they and the County Board stood by him, during all the period his name was on everybody's lips. He was possessor of a most infectious grin which, together with a roguish pair of eyes, was calculated to charm. He loved the company of hurling men and would talk for hours on the deeds of the great players of the past. His idol was the inimitable Mick Darcy, Tipperary's great midfielder of the mid-twenties, whose influence on the young Cooney, while the latter was a member of the UCD team, was considerable.

Around about the year 1940 Jimmy married Angela Egan, the proud possessor two All-Ireland camogie medals won with Dublin. It is rather significant, I think, that none of his sons ever bothered a whole lot about the game of hurling. They were however, more than successful at the game of golf, with eldest son, Seamus, winning two successive Leinster boys' titles and being runner-up in the East of Ireland championship.

The above few words are an attempt to parade the man Jim Cooney, by one, who from a very early time, fell under the spell of this most likeable of characters, a man who was described by Viscount Castlerosse, then writing for the Sunday Express and whose knowledge of the game of hurling could be said to be somewhat limited, as "a born athlete".

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COURSING COACHES

By Sean O'Dea

IT IS GENERALLY accepted that most people go to hurling matches to enjoy the game, to shout for their team and bask in the reflected glory if they win. For others, the antics of well-wishers and supporters are often a source of amusement and distraction from the main issue. It all depends on one's affiliations. If you are a neutral you have time to observe the trivia, to digest the arguments and pass judgement on the fundamentals.

The Cork supporters are adept at embellishing and savouring the big occasion. They place great emphasis on the trappings and trimmings. Multi-coloured hats, umbrellas and mascots are regarded with tribal veneration. They have a happy-go-lucky approach—not merely here for the beer but here to cheer. Long before the action begins they congregate in festive groups and sing their ritual rebel songs. When the inner man is sufficiently fortified for the rigours of the game they issue forth with banners and battle-cries. They proceed to systematically intimidate the opposition who regard them with awe and suspicion. They feel, perhaps, that their new-found exuberance may well rub off on their team. While they naturally relish a win, their spirits are by no means dampened by a defeat. After all, they console themselves, the footballers will more than make up for the temporary lapse of the hurlers.

Tipperary supporters, on the other hand, are more practical, pragmatic and prone to be pessimistic. They are desperately in earnest. Hurling is a serious business. Their pre-match conversation is muted, their assessments cautious and general outlook apprehensive. They quote the misgivings of "Culbaire", the reservations of "Poc Saor" and the cautious optimism of "Divot". Even the sight of Christy Ring in the stand is a bad omen. The need to win is urgent—the saving of the hay can wait. And, unlike Cork, bitter experience has taught them not to rely too much on the footballers.

RARA AVIS

But the dedicated club supporter is becoming something of a rara avis. He has never heard of coaching courses. He is not to be confused with the

mere mentors and selectors whom he suspects of laziness, ineptitude and laissez-faire. He is easily recognised, a bundle of hurlers tucked under his armpits, the magic bottle protruding from one pocket and assorted medical supplies in the other. He has a mission in life. He does not stand idly by—even in a doomsday situation. His stock-in-trade consists of well-worn clichés, but to him they are original words of wisdom specially tailored to the task in hand. His is a roving commission. With a nice sense of timing he ranges the full length of the sideline, keeping abreast of the ebb and flow of play, and exhorting his men to deeds of valour above and beyond the mere call of duty. He makes due allowance for their ignorance of the basics by judicious advice to "get a man apiece", "watch the break" and that most profound of all admonitions "face the ball". If goals and points are coming freely he is happy his advice is being reflected on the scoreboard for all to see.

Hope springs eternal. I once saw an enthusiastic Cashel supporter, Willie the Thistle, rush on to the field in the second half after his team had registered their first point, and triumphantly announce to friend and foe alike, "Come on, lads, ye have 'em now".

On another occasion in a Killenaule/Ballingarry set-to with the former winning comfortably, a high ball sailed in over backs and forwards. The Killenaule keeper made an optimistic swing at it, missed completely and the ball dropped harmlessly into the net. The magic bottle-man appeared at his elbow as if out of Aladdin's lamp, took the startled goalkeeper aside and admonished him sternly, "Jack, I don't mind you missing the odd point but you wouldn't want to let in any more of them".

Psychology is often used by the dedicated "coach" to undermine the morals of opponents, in the hope that if you repeat a thing often enough people will believe it. Like the day the same two teams were in contention in a junior game. Killenaule had a youngish team and were in the lead. Their guide, philosopher and friend—the late Ned Maher, God rest him, kept up a non-stop barrage of "Show 'em how to hurl lads" to the chagrin of the Ballingarry supporters. In the second half, however, the seasoned Ballingarry men forged ahead and were coasting along nicely. Ned decided that in the

altered circumstances a verbal change of tactics was called for. Instead of "Show 'em how to hurl, lads", he adopted the more subtle "Come on, the schoolboys". But his Ballingarry counterpart, Dan Hanrahan, wasn't impressed with the subtlety and effectively silenced him with "Begor, Ned, if them are schoolboys they must be awful dunces". But Ned had the last word. After the game a Ballingarry supporter teased him, remarking, "Ye met ye'r match to-day, Ned, sure there are great hurlers and wits in Ballingarry". "Ye can call them wits", retorted the indignant Ned, "but I'd call them a lot of half-wits".

"STEADY THE NERVES"

Once in a Boherlahan-Killenaule confrontation in a South Tipperary final, the Killenaule goal-keeper, obsessed, perhaps, by the big occasion, had a swig too many from the potent cocktail bottle "to steady his nerves". When his net fell for the second time, the bottleman rounded on him sternly: "Look here Tom, steady yourself up, sure a child would stop

that one". "Begor, then, he wouldn't Ned, nor Tom O'Meara with him. Sure I saw five balls coming together. I cleared four of them and now you're grumbling at the one that slipped in".

Perhaps the ultimate in self-justification was in a hard-hitting game between Coolmoyne and The Swans. The Coolmoyne full-back, not noted for standing on ceremony, was blown for a late tackle on the Swan full-forward. The referee, pointing an accusing finger at him awarded a close-in free, adding by way of warning: "Paddy, sure there was no ball there when you pulled". Says the ever-present bottleman, innocently, "Ah, sure ref., twasn't so long gone".

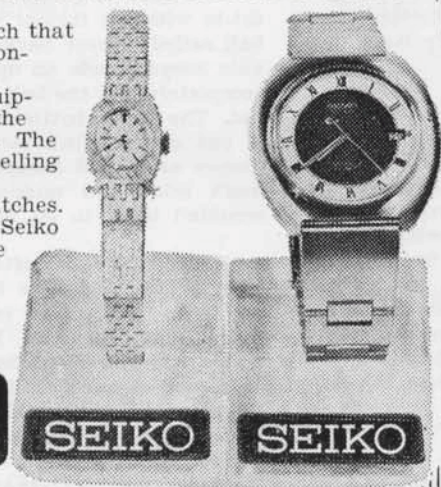
But times have changed and rules have tightened. Sidelines are fast disappearing. With them have gone the wits and the well-wishers who added a bit of spice to the occasion. Very soon, like romantic Ireland, they will all be with O'Leary in the grave.

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HOW THIS ONE RULE IS SPOILING THE GAME

By Raymond Smith

I CAME AWAY from the drawn Munster senior championship semi-final between Tipperary and Limerick at Semple Stadium, Thurles, on Sunday, July 6th, 1975, saying to myself that I had seen Munster hurling at its magnificent best through the last twenty minutes. It made the season for me.

We did not dwell on the ill-luck of that last stroke by "Babs" Keating when he hit first-time at the town end and swept a rising ball inches wide of the upright. Yes, it would have been the winning point—a point to balance that winning effort by Richie Bennis from a 70 into the same goal two years earlier and "Babs", who had already scored 2-4 off his own stick would again have been the despair of Limerickmen as he had been at Killarney in that dank second half in 1971.

Our emotions were still running so high that it would have been churlish to talk of misfortune. You had to agree that a division of the spoils was the only fitting result to a game that had compressed so much into twenty minutes.

Now and then in Munster one happens upon a game, perhaps portion of a game, when all the pieces seem to fall into place in the jig-saw at a given moment in time. At such a moment the spectators are completely out of themselves, they become one with the players as the match moves to its climax. In the flow of battle, you forget everything only that indefinable something that makes Munster hurling at its peak strike at the very roots of one's soul. And when the final whistle sounds, you can find yourself standing there, drained, and you exchange with friends beside you on the embankment a passing glance that shows that they too have discovered what you have found—the ever-repeating glory of the art form of hurling.

I believe that in such moments as at Semple Stadium on July 6th 1975, one needs to be on the embankment and not in the stand. Purchase the fruit and get a few minerals on the way in and pick

your spot before the minor game, or half way through it, opposite the new stand—though some prefer to go right down to the back of the Killinan goal and others will invariably be found at a vantage point behind the town goal. A sense of camaraderie, the companionship of true hurling followers alone can find, is discovered in the expressions of opinion, the pretended hates of friends from rival counties who have driven down together from Dublin maybe, the admiration of the individual feats of stickwork, the close duels that reveal courage in the unconsciousness of going into the pull first-time, the way a wing-back or corner-back comes clear with the ball on the stick or the manner in which a forward hits a point maybe on the drop or from the hand with only a half-glance at the posts.

THURLES ANY DAY

Give me Thurles any day, especially when the sun shines, for a Munster final, but if it must be Limerick, then I like to go down low in the sideline seats to be close to the action at eye-level. When the sun makes the tar boil up on the Ennis Road, only a brave man will go in among the press of spectators on the terraces on Munster final days here and those who remember 1951 or 1961 (a crowd of 60,177 saw the Tipperary v Cork decider in 1961) would be slow to risk a repeat on the terraces.

Croke Park on All-Ireland day is an occasion, a gathering of the clans, a national festival irrespective of whether the match is good or bad—something very significant indeed evoked always and unchanging in the singing of the National Anthem.

But for those from the South, the seasons call them back again and again, come summer days, and for those domiciled outside the province there is a sense of pilgrimage—they go to worship at the shrine of what Munster hurling means to men who understand and appreciate its depth of meaning. After the game they gather in the bars and lounges to argue and sing and recall men and teams of other decades and you can marvel at the knowledge of the game these gatherings throw up—and the voices.

A man will suddenly break into "Silevenamon" and all the Tipperary voices will take it up and then a man will answer with "The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee" and the voices of Rebel Cork will be heard. The intense rivalries on the field that make "enemies" of spectators for seventy minutes are forgotten in what followers of the national game find in such moments. Then they are hurling followers—not just Tipperary, Cork, Limerick, Clare, or Waterford supporters. The seasons keep calling them back, irrespective of victory or defeat.

As I said, we discovered the glory of it all again in twenty minutes of the drawn game between Tipperary and Limerick in Thurles in 1975. We discovered it too in the second half of the Munster final between Cork and Limerick at the Ennis Road Grounds in Limerick. The long, hot summer of '75 imprinted in mind memories that will never fade.

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NEVER AGAIN

It must never happen again that the Munster Council will in a dictatorial manner force a county to play a Munster final the Sunday following a game as intense as the Tipperary v Limerick replay at Limerick. Supposing Tipperary had beaten Limerick and lost to Cork in the same circumstances as Limerick—lost because of leg-weariness in the last quarter as much as anything else, would there not have been an outcry in the homes of Tipperary? And rightly so.

Limerick rather meekly, I thought, accepted the dictates of the Munster Council (had they any other option?), thinking perhaps that the surge that carried them to victory over Tipperary might be maintained and that they would "take" Cork also. But Eamon Cregan, so heroic with Pat Hartigan in the drawn game against Tipperary at Thurles, pulled a muscle in the first ten minutes and was not ordered out of the game as the Tipperary selectors moved so swiftly when pulling Tony Wall and Jimmy Doyle out of it in the 1961 All-Ireland and in switching Liam Devaney to centre-back.

Cregan was gone for pace—and Willie Walsh did the damage through the centre and two of the big name forwards should also, of course, have been replaced. Names are meaningless in the fire of a fierce Munster final. What is being given in the colours matters everything on the day. There can—and must—be no sympathy, ever.

Was it essential to observe the rule-book and force Limerick to finish the championship in July while Wexford and Kilkenny could finish the Leinster championship on August 3rd (normally the Leinster final is played before the Munster final?)

Would the Croke Park authorities have cast an accusing finger at the Munster Council if they had let two weeks elapse between the Tipperary v Limerick replay and the Munster final? Certainly not—with a "gate" of £28,000 at stake! And the Munster Council would have had to think again, for that matter, if Limerick had dug their heels in and made it clear that they wouldn't be rushed into a Munster final the Sunday after a semi-final—to keep a fixture schedule that made no allowance anyway for drawn games . . .

Would Cork have gone like lambs to the slaughter? I doubt it. But the way the Munster Council acted in this situation must have pleased the Cork County Board highly. And tradition already favouring them against Limerick.

THE FINAL

We were heading for the sea at Brittas and other points along the east coast, those of us domiciled in Dublin, when we might have been heading for the Munster final on a Sunday in early August. The man who was chiefly responsible for forcing Limerick to play two Sundays in succession should hang his head in shame. The memorable



Some of the hurling all-time greats seen here with Raymond Smith at the launching of his "The Clash of the Ash" book. Pictured are: Eddie Keher, Kilkenny; Martin Kennedy, Tipperary; Raymond Smith; Michael Keating Tipperary; Jack Lynch, T.D., Cork; Mick Roche and John Doyle, Tipperary.

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matches I saw in Munster in 1975 would have left an even greater imprint but for the new rules and the manner in which they have spoilt the game in certain respects. I am principally concerned here with the rule that prevents the goalie being charged inside the small square. It is all right for gaelic football—but I am not alone, I am sure, in saying that it has no place in hurling. Frankie Nolan, for example, was denied a very cleverly-taken goal—when he flicked the ball out of Martin Coleman's possession—because he was apparently adjudged to have "tackled" or hampered the goalie in the small square.

It is disturbing these days to see a high ball dropping in under the cross-bar and forwards unable to go near the goalie at all—until he is already outside the small square and making his clearance. The swinging action around the goal that was one of the most exciting aspects of the game, as forwards chased the ball in and goalies eluded them on the right and left, is now a thing of the past. Was Tony Reddan ever badly injured? Can you ever recall him being taken off injured? They tell a story of Reddan taking the ball on his stick in a Railway Cup match, as Nick Rackard came in, tapping it over the incoming forward, regaining possession before the ball hit the ground and striking it clear—all in the one movement. Artistry and fearlessness—unmatched.

I am all for protection of goalies and I will confess that before the rule was changed, there were instances where forwards did not always distinguish between hair harrying and rather dangerous and unfair tackling. But it should have been possible by firm refereeing (send a man off after one warning) and proper definition of a "fair tackle" on a goalie, to curb and eliminate this practice while still retaining the essential element of forwards being able to move freely around the goal without having to be conscious all the time of giving away frees because of the small square and the goalie.

HURLING IS DIFFERENT

Football men should not have been allowed to have had anything to do with the changes in the hurling rules. They may have thought it necessary to create a situation in gaelic football that would give the goalie the same freedom of movement as he gets in soccer—but hurling is different. A ball comes flying across the goalmouth and if you say that the forward cannot move at all while the goalie plucks it out of the air with all the time in the world and clears at his leisure while remaining inside the small square, then you are dictating that the forwards must remain well-nigh motionless and that the backs have no longer any function in giving the netminder the protection of those vital few seconds to clear before he can be harried—forgetting all about a small square. Memories of Michael Maher or Tony Brennan for Tipperary in 149-51 or 1964-65.

Without many people knowing it or observing it, the game has changed.

The ball must now be worked in from midfield or down the wings, almost like a soccer movement, to ensure that there will be no question of just lobbing it in high and hoping for the best. That may be good in one sense in that it will force teams to set up movements and will remove the static full-forward, who just waited close-in and got goals through almost standing on the goal-line beside the goalie, and it leaves little room either for a static full-back. But once you make hurling a predictable pattern-style game like soccer, you kill the one feature that distinguished it from all other games. It never has been and should never be a blackboard game—its appeal has been in its fluidness, the swift end-to-end swing of the ball, and the spectacle of continuous movement, the patterns being hidden like a great painting that seems without form and yet has essential form because the artist has moved on to newer heights. Kilkenny have moved with the times and the new rules quicker than any other county, especially in attack.

In the old days there was a pattern, something beautiful and exciting in the blur of Green and White and Red and White as Limerick forwards (Mackey's era I am talking about) ranged in around the Cork goal or the Cork attack was in full cry around the Limerick goal at the town end in Thurles. Cork forwards going in on Scanlan and Scanlan coming out amidst the forest of sticks to clear. Dust flying in the square in the sun as forwards dived full length maybe to try and turn a ball going just wide of the posts into the net. Perhaps they went in too hard at times, perhaps it was brutal in its intensity on occasions—but it etched in the mind something that has not faded for the old-timers.

IN BETWEEN

Somewhere in between the intensity of the forties and the need to give greater protection to goalies in these times, we could have found a formula, I am sure, that would not have necessitated a small square or a semi-penalty in hurling. It should not be discarded at the first opportunity given to Tipperary and the other hurling counties. If not, there will be a need for the hurling counties to press for a clear definition of the kind of personal foul that demands a penalty (not every foul should bring this penalty, seeing that stars like Eddie Keher can goal so many of these penalties).

And if the small square is to be retained it should be possible to allow some form of harrying—a fair shoulder perhaps—of the goalie while ruling out a dangerous or bodily charge (use of elbows or handle of the stick) that can injure. The kind of goal that Frankie Nolan scored in the Munster final, resulting from sharpness of reflexes and ability to take the half-chance, should never be disallowed—if he was going in after the ball and not intending (as he has emphasised more than once) to touch the goalie.

Coiste Contae Tiobrad Arann CLG
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DATE TO NOTE:

County Convention

THURLES

January 25th, 1976

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during 1976

TOMAS O BAROID, Runai

TOM O'HARA—DEDICATION AT ALL LEVELS HAD ITS REWARD

By Michael Dundon

FROM THE comparative obscurity of secretary of a small rural club, to the leading position in the Association in the County—that has been the rags to riches story of County Chairman, Mr Tom O'Hara of Gortnahoe/Glengoose who this year winds up his three-year term of office.

After three years at the helm in Mid Tipperary, Tom O'Hara was the unanimous choice for the county "hot-seat" in 1973, succeeding former President of the Association, Seamus O Riain, Moneygall. His rise to the highest office in the county was no overnight success, but the climax of years of dedicated service to the GAA. Tom played with his native Gortnahoe/Glengoose for seventeen years, during which time he earned county recognition at minor and junior level. He won an All-Ireland Colleges medal with the Munster Selection in 1937; Dean Ryan Cup medal and a Harty Cup medal with Thurles CBS in 1938.

He had the distinction of leading his club to its first ever hurling title, the Mid No. 2 junior hurling championship in 1952, and the following year they annexed No. 1 junior hurling honours in the division, reached the County final, but were beaten in a replay.

He was secretary of the club from 1939 to 1960, during which time the club secured and developed a playing pitch. He still found time for juvenile affairs, and was team manager and trainer of the club team that won the Mid title in 1957 and was beaten in the County final.

With such a background, it is not surprising that during his term of office as County Chairman, great emphasis was laid on the clubs, and club development. Looking back on his term, which he concedes will not be linked with the most memorable years of the Association in Tipperary, he says: "I am quite satisfied that the Association is in a vigorous state of health within the county with a large number of well-organised clubs, top class administrators, and some splendid and well-equipped playing pitches that are a credit to all concerned".

To the inevitable question, Tom replies: "One of the most memorable moments of my term of office was to see our minor hurlers regain the Munster title in 1973, after eleven years out of the honours' list, and my greatest disappointment was,

not that we failed to win the All-Ireland of that year, but that the promise of that Munster final day has not been fulfilled in the past two years".

Tom finds it difficult to pinpoint the reasons for Tipperary's failures at minor level over such a long period, but suggests that the decline in hurling standards at Thurles CBS, once the famous nursery of Tipperary hurling, is a major factor, and that everything possible should be done to restore the school to its former glory.

He adds: "I feel also that our young players are possibly having too much competition at juvenile level, which in turn results in too much success for many of them at a very early age. As a consequence, the appetite for the game and the urge for further success has diminished by the time they reach minor level. Our participation in the special Munster league and five county league is no help either towards a championship team and this opinion was endorsed by a number of players on the minor panel with whom I discussed the matter".

Tom continues: "Whilst fully realising that plenty of competition is a must for players at all levels, I feel that our programme is much overloaded both at juvenile and senior board level and personally I would like to see a restructuring of our championship system at all levels. Under our present structure at divisional County Board level, I feel we have far too many games that are of absolutely no value to the players and clubs concerned and of no appeal or importance to our ever-loyal supporters.

"Of course a change in our championship system may not be any help to our waning fortunes on the inter-county fields, but I do feel that our present arrangements are not the ideal ones. Whilst realising that the winning of All-Irelands is not the be-all and end-all of the Gaelic Athletic Association, a county like Tipperary, with its glorious tradition, cannot afford to remain too long out of the honours' list".

Looking to the future, Tom is not at all pessimistic, and hopes that the enthusiasm, dedication and discipline shown in the County hurling and football finals this year is carried on by the wearers of the Blue and Gold in the year ahead.

If this spirit prevails, Tipperary will once again be back in its rightful place as the Premier County, he says.



KILRUANE: County SHC runners-up. Front, left to right: Mackey Waters, Len Gaynor, Paddy Williams (capt.), Jim O'Meara, Gilbert Williams, Seamus Hennessy, Tom Kiliackey, Sean Hyland. Back, left to right: Ned Fogarty, Tony Sheppard, Mackey Keogh, Jim Williams, Denis Whelan, Liam O'Shea, Jim Malouhney, Denis O'Meara, Ossie Bennett.

A FITTING MEMORIAL TO A GREAT KILRUANE SON

AS ONE APPROACHES the village of Kilruane from the Nenagh side just in off the road to the left is a building which in bygone years was known as the "floating ballroom". But that's another story. It's more proper title would be Kilruane Hall but in recent years what was once a very popular dancing venue with patrons for many a mile around, had become delapidated, the only group to use it to any great extent being the young drama enthusiasts from the parish, the Kilruane Players, who strove with the limited facilities available to rehearse their plays there.

By GERRY SLEVIN

Despite the unimposing look of the place, the Kilruane MacDonagh's club was quick to spot its potential and last June the building was purchased and renovated, the aim being to convert it into a social centre. In a few short months, a transformation took place that defied belief, and when it came to giving the place a name, the club had no trouble whatever in coming up with someone to whom it might be dedicated because only last March the parish, and the GAA in Tipperary, lost a man whose contribution to the GAA and whose love for his native Kilruane knew no bounds. Fr Niall O'Meara, a true son of Kilruane, passed to his heavenly reward after a short illness. Tributes of an unprecedented nature were paid to this great man who at the time of his death was Vice-Chairman of the North Board. Tipperary had no greater enthusiast, or critic for that matter, but his criticism was never less than constructive and was always accepted in that spirit.

Fr Niall loved hurling and he loved Kilruane. The people of his native parish loved him and when his earthly remains were laid to rest in the cemetery adjoining the church in Clonakenny, his last port of call, the people of Kilruane were there in huge numbers to pay their last respects. He was the only priest who was extremely active in Board matters in the division and his words carried a lot of weight. This wasn't just because of the fact that he was a priest. It was much more than that. People were quick to realise his tremendous ability, his love for justice and fair play. In him Kilruane had no finer

son. He was never more proud than when the black and white clad lads were in action. The type of competition didn't matter, nor the grade. He loved Kilruane with a fervour that bordered on an obsession and it would seem that, mindful of what he meant to Kilruane and what Kilruane meant to him, an extra special effort was put into the activities of the club this season, with the great victories achieved which have made 1975 possibly the greatest season ever for the club.

A man who saw the GAA pass through many phases, Fr Niall was not one to welcome all the changes that have taken place over the past few years. He had some harsh words to say at times about the cup filling tendencies of champion teams and deplored the lack of sense and indeed control in many players and officials, who allowed celebrations to get out of hand. Nothing would have pleased him



The late Fr. N. O'Meara

more than the move of his native club to purchase the building in Kilruane. He loved a chat, especially if it was about hurling, and one could easily visualise Fr Niall being a frequent visitor to the new centre, meeting all his old friends, chatting with them, and maintaining his strong link with the place of his birth.

The Fr O'Meara social centre will forever remain as a fitting tribute to probably the greatest ambassador Kilruane or any other club could have. The date of the official opening of the Centre had



Very much in the thoughts of hurling enthusiasts this year are the achievements of the Tipperary team which won the 1925 All-Ireland final, the first to bring the McCarthy Cup to the county. A member of the panel was Mr Paddy Collison ('Major') who died last year. He is pictured here with Moneygall club men, Jack Ryan and John Gleeson, two of the stalwarts of the team which brought the first ever county title to Moneygall this season. The occasion was the triumphant visit of the Tipperary 1971 winning team to Moneygall with, of course, the McCarthy Cup. Jack and John were the first Moneygall men to win All-Ireland senior medals since the great days of 'Major' and for his outstanding contribution to Moneygall's great season, John was recently selected as 'Guardian' Player of the Year.

been fixed for October 26th. This had to be postponed for the very good reason that on this day, the Kilruane senior hurlers were replaying their county SHC final with neighbours, Moneygall. Fr Niall didn't live to see a county senior title come to the club. He wanted nothing more and Kilruane well knew that. But to his memory is now dedicated a centre, truly worthy of the man, a centre which will always remind those who visit it, of a man who lived for everything that was national and Gaelic, a man who set an example to all in dedication and enthusiasm for the things that stamp us out as a people apart.

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FOLLOW THE GIRLS—It's paying off!

By Jim Kennedy

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS again beaten but once in five years—in a challenge game by Offaly—that's the proud boast of the Tipperary ladies' football team who on September 21st became undisputed national champions when they defeated Galway in Athy.

Interest in the game is definitely rising and in Tipperary there are nine clubs, mostly from the southern end of the county. In addition to a senior inter county team, we have an under 16 team, which will participate in a new All-Ireland competition next year.

Those concerned with the game are often asked about the rules and their comparison with Gaelic football rules. For the most part the same rules apply, but there are five changes: (1) the ball can be picked clean off the ground; (2) the ball can be hopped twice; (3) a 50 is taken thirty yards out from the opposing goals; (4) the kick out after a wide is taken from the fourteen yard line, and (5) a penalty is given for a foul committed inside the five yard line.

The main aims in Tipperary now are twofold. A hat trick of All-Ireland titles to be completed next year, and a spreading of interest in the game throughout the county. So what about it Nenagh,

Roscrea, Thurles, and those hurling strongholds of Kilruane, Moneygall, Toomevara, Holycross, Kilcommon and the rest?

The excitement throughout this year's campaign, not to mention the aftermath of the All-Ireland victory, has clearly shown the great spirit entered by the girls into a game that gives so much enjoyment.

Here is the team that won this year's final: Margaret Carroll, captain (Ardfinnan), Sally Clohessy (Moycarkey), Anne Croke (Mullinahone), Katherine Keane (Mullinahone), Crissie Byrne (Ardfinnan), Tina Flynn (Ardfinnan), Betty Luby (Golden), Katherine Treacy and Josephine Stapleton (Loughmore), Cait O'Dwyer (Morcarkey), Eleanor Carroll (Ardfinnan), Josephine Keane (Mullinahone), Lillian Goery (St Bridget's), Bridie Ryan (St Bridget's), Mary Power (Mullinahone).

Subs.: Kitty Savage and Susan O'Gorman (Ardfinnan), Breda Webster (Loughmore), Mary Burke (Emly), Alice Morris (Morcarkey), Josephine Murphy (St Bridget's).

Well done, girls, and here's hoping the title is yours again next year,—in Croke Park and with the television cameras there to show the country your splendid team work and ability.



The members of the Tipperary ladies' football team and supporters after their All-Ireland final victory over Galway in Athy.

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MY INTRODUCTION TO A HURLEY

By John D. Hickey

MINE HAS BEEN a hurling life, both of revolting distaste and exquisite delicacy. So revolting was my first "taste" of the game that the wonder is that I came so to cherish it. My introduction to a hurley came during the first world war in Woodlock's bog a couple of miles up the road from the Turnpike, just beyond Two-Mile-Borris.

There one morning all of 59 years ago, at an unearthly hour when the dew still glistened on what vegetation surrounded our bank, I had my "baptism" in the code. The memory of it remains so obnoxious that it causes me to long, as I then did, for a bull's eye—sweets that came by the gallon and possessed of quite astonishing "stamina" no matter how one sucked or crunched with grinding molars.

The previous day had been a glorious one for me. It was the day preceding our summer holidays from school and all the while nine pence burned in my pocket. Where I came by it I have not the faintest idea. That mattered not at all. The significant thing was that it was the purchase price of a hurley.

Released from school, I ran helter skelter to Mickey Gleeson's in Parnell Street—we then called it the New Road—Thurles, and there to the proprietor, a famed hurler and father of Eddie Gleeson, a star of Tipperary 1945 All-Ireland victory, I traded my nine pence for a hurley.

Gleefully, I careered home to display the badge of my individuality, caress the insignia that I knew would establish me among brothers my seniors and the lads of the neighbourhood. I was now a hurler. No longer an unwieldy weilder of a "crook", a gruesome replica of a hurley cut out of a hazel tree.

My delight was short-lived. Almost instantly I had my first cruel, conscious shattering of the enormity of the pitilessness of young boys. While I was still gloating to my mother, God rest her, about my proud possession, Jimmy, a brother two and a half years my senior, bounded in from school rejoicing in the freedom of the summer holidays.

ENVIOUS STICK

I proffered my hurley for his expert inspection, he being the possessor of a stick that was the envy

of even Frank Dwan, in my book the best hurler of all the famed Dwan hurling clan of Beakstown, the Mahers—Paddy, Jim (R.I.P.), Timmie, later Principal of Pouldine N.S.—the Birminghams, Paddy

Early next year, a great era in GAA reporting will come to an end with the retirement of JOHN D. HICKEY, who takes a well earned rest from a scene he has adorned through the sports pages of the "Irish Independent" for many years.

A man of forthright comment, who has never been afraid to speak out his mind, John, despite the need to be objective and unbiased, has never lost his love for and his interest in his native county. As one who has sat beside him at many a game in which Tipperary were involved, I have come to know his feelings for his native county and while these might not have been expressed in print the following day, this has in no way reflected his elation or his disappointment on the performance of the men in the blue and gold.

In this article, John takes us back to his early boyhood days and his introduction to a hurley.

Tipperary joins in congratulating him on his retirement and in wishing him many years in which to enjoy the games he loves so devotedly.

EDITOR

(R.I.P.) and Tom, the Donnellys, Paddy, Sonny, Willie and Jack, and my eldest brother, Teddie.

"What kind of an ejit are you", shrieked Jimmy. "That's not ash. 'Twas cut of a Sinclairs (American) bacon box, and it won't last one skelp from

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Paddy Bermingham's, even then a fiercely competitive hurler and later to flail his way to respect with Thurles Sarsfields.

The nakedness of the judgment of one I regarded as an expert, corroborated by the sympathy of my mother, was just too much, I burst into tears. Eventually I was partially consoled by her assurance that if it did not stand up to a pull by Paddy Bermingham she would give one 1/6d for "a real good one".

Having slobbered over our dinner of spuds, bacon, which turned my stomach because it bore the brand "Sinclairs", and cabbage, I asked Jimmy to "come out for a few pucks". He was now not only thoughtful but tender.

"There's no use", he replied, "in testing your new hurley with an old sponge ball, we'll have to get something like a tan".

I was duly despatched to Mickey Bowe's licensed premises—in Thurles it was venerated as the best known pub in all Ireland—to get four corks that had never been used.

The trip I must have made in near Filbert Bay time, so anxious was I to begin "manufacture" of the ball. On my arrival home we cajoled my mother to give us a few old socks to provide the wool. Fortunately they had been home knit and the ripping proved no problem.

A. BEAUTY

All the while I was ripping, Jimmy was fondling his hurley and greatly to my annoyance each time he exclaimed "Isn't it a beauty".

The thread ready, he turned from his goading admiration. He bound the four corks together with tea twine, a very thin but now unknown fibre and wound the wool around them to produce a ball of wondrous symmetry.

That done, he commanded me to get more tea twine and the packing needle, an outsize needle used in the repair of sacks, to sew the ball he had fashioned. Twine and needle should have been in a drawer of the kitchen dresser. The twine was, but there was not a trace of the all essential needle.

It was dusk long before the needle was found, not in a hay-stack, but stuck in a horse's straddle which my father (R.I.P.) had been repairing in the barn on a preceding wet day.

By the time the ball was securely stitched it was almost dark and I was downcast that it was now too late to try out my hurley.

"Don't worry", said Jimmy, "when we are going to the bog in the morning we'll bring the hurleys and the new ball. You can pretend you have a pain and cannot help in the turning of the turf. Then you can ramble off and I'll skip away, get the hurleys and ball out of the trap—for the benefit of the younger generation a horse-drawn mode of conveyance.

The subterfuge worked ideally. As far as father was concerned we were away on the horizon when we set about testing my new hurley. But damn it, although I was by no means unaccomplished with my "crook", I could make no hand of the hurley, could not hit the ball out of my way.

Disconsolate, I slumped to the grass and it was then that my innocence was starkly revealed. Eventually tired out from hitting the ball, and believe me what we used to call a sock ball was a very good substitute for a sliothar, Jimmy sat down beside me to sympathise with me, but with devilish design.

THE SECRET

Fingering through the sparse grass, he produced a tiny greyish-brown sphere and said: "I'll let you in on a secret; it is because Johnny Leahy eat hurling bog berries that he became such a great hurler, and you will never be any good unless you do the same".

Despite countless previous deceptions by him, I eventually began to believe that there might be something in what he said, and, remember, I wanted more than anything else in the world to be as proficient with a hurley as I was with the "crook".

After his repeated assurances about the mystical powers of the hurling bog berries, I began in my childish way to think there might be something in what my loving brother stated.

Parental admonitions, I suppose, about deadly-nightshade and other dangers to rural children made me circumspect about something unknown and I suggested giving my new hurley another chance.

Utter frustration was the outcome and I was ready for any remedy, even the hurling bog berries. As I suspiciously surveyed one on the palm of a hand, my beloved brother placed two other berries there, saying at the same time "Johnny Leahy told me you have to take three a day for six weeks".

The taste, it was horrific, indescribably worse even than castor oil and I spat it out and vomited until it seemed there could be nothing but a vacuum inside.

But such was my will to make it with my hurley that I was prepared to do anything and, believe it or not, I chewed and ate the other two berries! Even now I can feel my stomach turning, but I got them down.

The following Sunday, the match made on a field of our "ranch", Jimmy said to his team-mate Jim Maher, my opponent: "Watch that fellow, he has become as fast as lightning from eating hare-droppings".

Instantly the penny dropped for me. I vowed vengeance swift and crushing, and gave effect to it. In a pile-up in our goal area, I pulled with all my might on his magic wand and broke it beyond repair with what he had called my bacon box.

The hare-droppings? They worked! To the astonishment of myself and all our pals, I out-spied him to the sanctuary of my mother's arms. The agonies and the ecstasies of hurling!

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ROUNDERS—

The forerunner of Baseball?

asks JOHN DOLAN

ROUNDERS is an unique game, decried by some because it is seen to be a slow game when compared with the polished performances visible in television coverage of hurling football and other pastimes.

Players participating in rounders nowadays display necessary alertness and attention to play at all points on the field, run like good sprinters in their dashes from base to base and develop wrist and hand action to match those of a hurler.

The excitement of a batter sprinting in a home run is equivalent to an Eddie Keher mid-match goal. A last innings catch brings a response similar to a last minute levelling point in hurling or football. So, as in any other sport, the standard of play depends on the participating teams.

What about the history of the game? Well a lot is not yet known about its history but in 1650 an English tourist made written reference to a "type of rounders". This reference is very important because up to now baseball historians have considered English rounders their ancestral game so there is just as good a chance, if not better, that Irish rounders was the forerunner of baseball, especially when one considers Dr Croke's letter of patronage to the Association where he states that rounders, amongst other pastimes, was a favourite game before the forming of the Association. That being the case it is very likely that the game was popular amongst many of the Irish that emigrated to America, so the game may have continued in the USA and finished up as the game which we now know as baseball.

FIRST OFFICIAL GAME

The first official game on record was played in June 1958 when the Erin's Own GAA club from Toome, Co. Antrim, organised a mixed tournament, with medals for the winners, in their annual Gaelic Games Festival. Up to that time in the Toome area the game was popular amongst schoolchildren as it still is in many places around the country and throughout Co. Tipp. I remember as a child watching other young lads playing rounders in "The Plots" in Tipperary town. Pdraig O Puirseal has written an account of rounders as it was played by the Suirside in his youth and every time I visit Killarney my friends remind me of an unusual rule

that they have. I must say that it does make the game very interesting. They play the game on the road and if the batting team have the bad fortune to bat the ball in through someone's window then the fielding team are awarded the game even if the batting side was winning at the time!

In August '73 a committee was formed to help promote the game and now there is an All-Ireland ladies' competition (Gael Linn Trophy) which brings entries from SW. Antrim, S. Derry, E. Tyrone, Belfast, Dublin, and last—being the modest people that we are—Tipperary. This competition was run on an open draw system this year and the only representative from Munster, Arravale Rovers, were drawn against Randalstown from Andersonstown in Belfast in their first game, whom the Rovers beat by twenty-two runs to twenty-one after staging a dramatic recovery in the fifth innings. Rovers' next game saw them up against a team from Toome, Co. Antrim (Moneyglass) and after having a very disappointing start they were unable to recover sufficiently to take the day, being beaten by sixteen runs to eleven.

RECOGNISED

As you may have noticed Ulster is the undisputed home of the present revival and there are now two school competitions in which twenty-four school teams take part.

The National Rounders Committee is recognised by the Central Council of the Association as the body responsible for looking after and promoting rounders. The Association also gives an annual grant to the NRC and have the game under debate and reportedly at development committee level.

I suppose it is only fair to ask the question, why should we promote rounders? Probably the most popular answer is that the game may be played by girls as well as boys and indeed by mixed teams. The game is one that suits many youngsters that are not strong enough to compete in other field games that entail physical contact. But for me the best reason for promoting the game is that it gives us a chance to get across to the young players the proper ideas that should go with playing Gaelic games.

At the moment there is only one team in the county, and if I say so myself they were very

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unlucky not to be contesting the final this year. This side built a special training area this season, the first of its type in Ireland.

An article on rounders is not complete without mention of the man that made all this revival possible, a man from Toome, Co. Antrim, where that first official game was played in 1958. He is Peadar O Tuatain, the present Secretary of the NRC.

I should also mention the unflagging support given by Gael Linn.

I'll conclude by saying that if you wish to receive further information on the games, rules, etc., you can contact: Peadar O Tuatain (National Secretary), c/o P. J. Hagen, Keenaghan, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, or John Dolan (National Chairman), Crogue Hill, Tipperary, 062(51442).



JOHN DOYLE—player, administrator and now a member of a three-man team appointed to play a vital role in Tipperary's hurling fortunes.

There could hardly be a man better qualified for the position, and while no one needs reminding of the hurling feats of the great Holycross man, these lines, penned after his retirement, are well worth inclusion here.

JOHN DOYLE of HOLYCROSS

By PADDY POWER, DRANGAN

Air: Sean Treacy

In a crowded Croke Park
He last played, on a bleak September day.
His story will be told with pride
While Gaels in Erin stay.
And now that he has reached the end
To us he'll be a loss;
His name I'll tell, you know it well,
John Doyle of Holycross.

In forty-nine, John Doyle did shine
Though he was but nineteen.
'Gainst Cork that day, he showed the way
On Limerick's sod so green.
For two more years we gave loud cheers,
And they did not let us down;
Those gallant men, from hill and glen,
Who won the triple crown.

In fifty-eight, sure it was great
to see them back once more.
Tipperary won the All-Ireland
And John Doyle had number four.
But then came sixty, the black year
When to Wexford we went down,
But we were back in sixty-one
To beat old Dublin town.

In sixty-two sure it was true
We had a wonder team.
With their great display on final day
The likes we'd seldom seen.
When Mackey tore like the star of yore
Through Wexford's flashing sticks,
And he placed Tom Ryan, who hit the twine
To win John Doyle his sixth.

In sixty-four, as oft before,
Some thought they were too old,
That gallant band, from Kickham's land,
Who wore the blue and gold.
And in sixty-five they were much alive
And stood the test just great.
Sure they played the ball, both one and all,
To win John Doyle his eighth.

In years from now, they'll read of how
John Doyle, he made his name,
That stalwart man from Holycross
Oh! how he loved that game.
'Twas not for fame he kept on playin'
Sure that we know by now;
'Twas for the honour of Tipperary
And the sake of Knocknagow.

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Hubie Hogan—

CHAIRMAN FOR SEVEN YEARS AND NEVER MISSED A MEETING

By GERRY SLEVIN

WHEN CONVENTION DAY comes round in January, the delegates from the clubs in North Tipperary will have the task of electing to office a brand new chairman. Consequent to a bye-law passed a few years ago, all Board officers with the exception of the Secretary must retire after three years.

For the guiding light behind the affairs of the GAA in the North, Hubie Hogan, that three years will have ended, but more. Hubie has held office since 1969 and it must surely constitute something of a record that in that seven years, he has never missed one meeting. This is all the more meritorious when it is seen that the Board meets twice monthly and despite the distance to Nenagh from his native heath, down in Rathcabbin, near the Galway border, Hubie has given nothing less than total commitment to the job which the delegates from the nineteen clubs in the division imposed upon him seven years ago.

Yet, those who know this big hearted man, know only too well what to expect from someone whose life has been wrapped up in the GAA and who, as a player, referee and club secretary, was a model in efficiency and dedication. No, it should not come as a surprise to learn that no Vice-Chairman of the Board has ever had to take over and preside at a meeting. Hubie has been built that way. He has seen his role of leader and guide as one that cannot be skimmed in any way. He has shown that dedication and a strong sense of duty must always accompany any responsibility which Hubie has brought to the Board over the past seven years. When elected to office first, it was not a case of being cast to the wolves. Hubie had a deep knowledge of the working of the Board through his presence at meetings as secretary of the Lorrha club. For years he watched his predecessors like the late Fr Niall O'Meara, the late Canon Murphy, Seamus Ryan, and Fr Willie O'Donoghue, and one might say that in coming to office he brought with him something each of these great men possessed, as well as

his own many fine qualities.

He built up a relationship with all the clubs and their officials over the years that gave him a wonderful insight into their problems and their aspirations. There were times, just as is the case with any person in an office, when he had to hurt someone or some club. Yet there was never anything vindictive about his rulings. He had a job to do and those on the receiving end respected this and his rulings too.

In his own playing days, Hubie had the distinction of leading Lorrha to victory in the North final of '48 and when they later went under to Holycross in the county final. His term as referee was also distinguished and many inter county games, including the All-Ireland semi-final between Cork and Galway in Limerick in 1952 came his way. He gave the same dedication and industry to his own club as its secretary for a number of years and in the past seven years has given a new dimension to the North Board by his handling of all matters and the real sense of business like approach he has brought with him to the chamber.

There is no doubt that, but for the passing of the bye law some years ago, Hubie would continue to reign in the North division. At the same time he will be glad of the rest but it can be taken for granted that he will continue to be intimately associated with a Board which he has grown to love and cherish so much.

The clubs of North Tipperary owe Hubie a deep debt of gratitude. He has led the Board with distinction over the past seven years and his dearest wish as he now bows out would be that the man to replace him will receive the same kindness and co-operation from the officials of the division and the clubs, as he did. Whoever takes over can be assured that every assistance possible will be given by Hubie but he must also well realise that in taking over, he is following a man whose services to the Board and to the GAA in general have been the ideal service for one who seeks nothing more than the furtherance of the GAA, its aims and ideals.



Well done, Hubie! Having been elected to the Chair, Mr Hubie Hogan, Lorrha, receives the congratulations of the then President of the GAA, Mr Seamus Ryan, in 1969. On the left is Mr John Joe Maher, Roscrea.

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 1976

THE ROLE OF SCOR IS A RELEVANT ONE

By Padraig S. MacCaoilte

NACH IONTACH fadradharcach a bhi Michéal Ó Cíosog agus a chomhbhunaitheoirí de Cumann Lúth-Chléas Gael nuair chuig siad go raibh dluth-bhaint idir gluaiseacht an náisiúnachais agus aithbheochaint chultúr na tíre, beagnach céad bliain ó shin. Níor imir cumann ar bith eile páirt níos suntaisí i dtír eile is d'imir Cumann Lúth-Chléas Gael i saol cultúrtha na h-Éireann. Is trua áfach gur ligeadh le faillí gnéithe fe leith den chultúr sin. Da bhrí sin tá sé thar a bheith tabhachtach do udaráis an chumainn go mbeadh comortaisí Scór chomh torthúil is atá ár geluichí páirce. Mar a deir an sean-fhocal "Ní neart gur chur le chéile".

"Let no one forget that he who saves an air, a relic of antiquity, a tradition, an old custom, from loss; he who makes a band play, or a friend sing, an Irish instead of a foreign tune, does his duty, and does what the half of us must do, or Ireland cannot be a nation". Thus wrote Thomas Davis and what greater incentive and encouragement need we have to ensure that the Scór Competitions be a success locally and nationally. As is the case with our field games, we can boast of a literary and musical heritage to rival any.

For so long the GAA has been derided for its lack of social amenities. The Scór Competitions have gone a long way to filling some of this void. Throughout the winter months these competitions become the focal point for many a club and parish. Besides bringing all GAA followers into closer contact in a more conducive atmosphere it also shows that the desire to sing our native songs and dance out native dances is a vibrant and progressive one. Through the auspices of Scór many facets of Irish culture have emerged from the slumbers of oblivion to which they seemed permanently doomed.

In County Tipperary An Scór has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 1970 and one is prompted to ask what has made it such a success. Briefly, the answer can be summarised as follows:

- (1) Club participation
- (2) Enthusiastic competitors

(3) Competent adjudicators

(4) Appreciative audiences.

While most clubs in the county are keenly interested in the promotion of Scór some major ones unfortunately have adopted a negative approach to them. This is to be regretted in view of the fact that it defeats the primary purpose for which it was initiated i.e., the provision of winter activity in the clubs. However, this apparent lack of enthusiasm has in no way detracted from the competitions all of which were contested in a determined but light-hearted and sporting manner, bringing credit to the individuals involved and the association, to which the large audiences reciprocated with admiration and applause.

GRACEFUL

The Rince Foirne competition is the most graceful and specialised item on the Scór programme, necessitating highly qualified and competent adjudication. Since all the dances are selected from and run in accordance with the regulations set out in An Rince Foirne Book 1, 2 or 3, a thorough knowledge of the rules can only be acquired by constant study of or participation, where possible, in these popular figure dances. Although the adjudication card is so designed for marking as to cover most contingencies, nevertheless, characteristics such as THE RISING STEP which has two forms viz., "Rise and Grind" and "Sink and Grind" and the ability to determine whether the dances are performed properly to a single or double jig time, are essential qualifications for competent judging.

While every effort should be made to promote these dances I feel that the competition should be confined strictly to mixed groups.

The Instrumental Music section is one which had a generally high standard of musicianship. While this competition is always an adjudicator's headache, trying to compare a talented violinist with an equally talented accordionist or flautist, the variety of the entertainment is invariably enjoyable. It is marvellous to see that the old styles of playing have been preserved and passed on and I think one of the

great things that this competition has encouraged must be the comeback of the humble concertina which had sadly fallen into disfavour beside music boxes of varying size and sophistication.

Solo Song or Ballad, again much like the instrumental music section, is, from the adjudicator's point the most difficult to pass judgement on. How does one set about comparing a really good sean-nós singer with a good "trained" voice? I believe that some distinction or definition will have to be made or this competition will meet an untimely death. The past year's competitions saw the emergence of many fine voices and in this competition perhaps more than any of the others, it was always difficult to pick the winner.

The most enjoyable and popular of all the competitions was undoubtedly the Novelty Act. I suppose being constantly brainwashed by slick imported television "plays", we often find it hard to appreciate the efforts of our local Laurence Olivers. Certainly many of the productions were lacking in sophistication and technical know-how, but I think we must look beyond this (I am in no way advocating a lowering of standards) and appreciate and encourage the efforts made by the competitors many of whom, especially in the *Scór na nOg* section, may be making their stage debut. To those contemplating entering the forthcoming competitions I would say—Pick a suitable and original piece, borrow, from your library, a book on stage technique and make-up and most important—practise, practise, practise.

UNPREDICTABLE

The Question Time is always unpredictable. It can be a huge success or a complete flop. Its capacity to entertain and hold the audience depends entirely on the quality of the competitors and their co-operation with the Question Master. Here, the latter plays a leading role and his selection of questions, clarity of voice and delivery, coupled with a pleasing personality, should project an image of efficiency so that speed and entertainment value are given prime consideration for successful audience appreciation. The only real criticism I have to make about the Question Time Competition is the leaving of the "6" mark team question to the last round. This tends to take the excitement out of the proceedings because, as has happened in the County *Scór* Final, the winners were already known without recourse to the last round. The re-arrangement of questions so as to leave the individual "6" mark question for the final round would, in my opinion, enhance the exercise and keep the audience spell-bound to the last, rather than having them undergoing an endurance test.

The recitation section brought to light some of the most interesting new talent. Although very few of the competitors adhered to the strict definition of the competition, it was no less enjoyable for all that. These competitions could perhaps be named "Mini, One Man (or one woman) Shows", and it is indeed a compliment to all concerned to say that many of



Four young men from the Burgess club—Tommy Kearns, Declan Nealon, John Quigley and Martin McCarthy—provincial winners in the Novelty Act in *Scór na nOg*.

the performances could compare favourably with those of Ulick O'Connor or Niall Toibin or of any of the many others who have jumped on the "One Man" wagon.

The momentum with which Set Dancing has gained in popularity over the past five years is unbelievable, even outside the ambit of the Scór competitions. Prior to Scór these "Country-House" Set Dances were rarely performed except at house-dances in isolated rural areas or at scoraiochtanna in the mainly Gaelic speaking districts but now, thanks to the initiative of the GAA every cock and bull-fight, parish field-day, festival, call it what you like, have cashed-in on the revival. While this may be a good thing the fact that monetary awards are offered as prizes to winners in these competitions, it could well overspill and ruin the amateur status of the Scór Rince Set.

The big headache for an adjudicator in this competition is the interpretation of what is "TRADITIONAL CHARACTER". The origin of the sets appear to be unknown but hearsay has it that they are adaptations of dances performed by the British settlers and other foreign invaders and improvised and speeded up to suit our traditional music. In can, I understand, be ascertained that the "POLKA SET", similar to an old Austrian country dance, was danced in the early eighteenth century by seamen trading between European countries and the ports of south Cork, but here I have to leave the matter in the hands of the folklorist for verification.

BALLAD BOOM

The Beatles, Muhammed Ali, the Middle East War, the mini-skirt will be remembered elsewhere as events and personalities of the Sixties, but in Ireland we will surely remember the Sixties as the time of the great ballad boom. Every Tom, Dick or Harry worth his salt was the possessor of a guitar, it mattered little whether he could play it, and mothers all over the country worked themselves to a thread (literally) knitting Aran jackets. There was never such a run on bainin wool. No self-respecting hotel or public house would be without a few minor talents to belt out a few bars of "The Ould Women from Wexford" or "James Connolly". Well, like all good things it came to an end and the few really good groups left to us are little more than a coterie. Scór has striven to preserve and foster some of this talent. However, I feel we have a long way to go yet. The musical standard of the groups, although it has improved since the commencement of the competitions back in 1970, still leaves a lot to be desired, particularly in the area of harmony, arrangement and presentation. However, there are many budding talents, as we could see from last year's competitions, so let's hope that they will be back in even better form this coming year. The success of the Scór is in our own hands so remember the old sean-fhocal—WHERE TIPPERARY LEADS IRELAND FOLLOWS.

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The Tipperary 1925 team which brought the McCarthy Cup to Tipperary for the first time. Front, left to right: P. Power, M. Kennedy, P. Leahy, W. Ryan, M. Flanagan. Centre, left to right: Tom Duffy, S. Kenny, J. Power, Frank McGrath, J. Leahy, J. J. Hayes, P. Dwyer. Back row, left to right: J. McLoughney, W. Quinn, A. O'Donnell, M. Mockler, S. Hackett, J. Hickey, R. J. Nealon, Wedger Meagher. Insets: M. Darcy, P. Cahill, J. Darcy.

SALUTE THE HEROES OF '25

By Gerry Slevin

EACH OF THE twenty-two All-Ireland senior titles won by Tipperary over the past eighty-eight years has its own special significance. Those associated with the various teams down the years have had particular memories of some facet of that championship season. Yet, some are more special than others, not indeed that all of them have not added glorious pages to a history book full of merit and splendour.

1925; what was so special about that year? Well, in reaching the top of the ladder, Tipperary were taking their tenth title. They had appeared in thirteen finals before that, winning nine of them but it was nine years—1916—since the previous one was won. It was therefore a very welcome return to the honours list for Tipperary but more than that. 1925 saw the Liam McCarthy Cup come to the county for the very first time, the proud acceptor of the trophy being Johnny Leahy who also had the distinction of leading his county to success over Kilkenny in the 1916 decider.

Fifty years have now passed since that historic occasion and thankfully some of the men who figured in that 1925 team are alive and well. To mark the occasion they were recently feted by the County Board and no doubt the great deeds of that wonderful year were recalled with pride as they poured out on younger ears from such people as Martin Kennedy, Tom Duffy, Roddy Nealon, John Joe Hayes and Paddy Dwyer. Johnny Power resides in New York since a short time after the Tipp team's travels there in 1926.

The McCarthy Cup is of course the one trophy every hurler wants to get his hands on. It fell to Limerick captain, Bob McConkey, to be the first recipient when on March 2nd, 1923, he led his county to victory over Dublin by 8-5 to 3-2 in the '21 final. The following year, it made its way to Kilkenny, then over to Galway for the first and only time, before settling in Dublin in 1924.

IN LIMERICK

The 1925 campaign opened for Tipp in Limerick's Market Fields on May 29th. Before they lined out against Kerry, the junior footballers from both counties began the day, Kerry having a point to spare, 1-2 to 0-4. Nothing much was expected from the Kingdom's hurlers and the final score

gives ample substance to this. 9-2 to 5-1 was the score, Tipp having led by 3-2 to 2-0 at the interval.

Then followed a rather lengthy period of inactivity on the inter county front, though at club level there was plenty to whet the appetite of the enthusiasts, especially with the thrilling clash of Boherlahan and Toome in the county semi-final, which Boherlahan — then attached to the South division—won by 5-4 to 2-3.

As provincial champions in 1924, Tipp were nominated to represent Munster in the '25 All-Ireland semi-final in Croke Park. Antrim were the Ulster champions, but victory here did not assure Tipp of a final place. One can only assume that the game was by way of encouragement for hurling in the North and a victory for Antrim was hardly anticipated. Nor indeed did it materialise. But before this match took place quite a controversy raged in the Board room and it concerned the County final.

Boherlahan and Thurles were the finalists and the game was fixed for July 19th. Frank McGrath from Nenagh presided over a special meeting of the Board in July where a letter was read from the Thurles Secretary, John Joe Callanan, announcing his club's withdrawal from the final, as a protest against the Board's action in postponing it. "At a previous meeting of the Board", the letter stated, "the fixture was definitely made for July 19th and this meeting was specially called for the 7th to fix the venue. The Board converted that meeting into a general one and by eight votes to three postponed the fixture, thereby disregarding the previous meeting, fixing the 19th for the match. The only excuse which the Board had to offer was that there were too many matches before they meet Cork. It would be no harm to add that the more practice they have, the better for the name of the county. The only fixture which intervenes is an inter-provincial one with some Northern county and which should not be imperative on them to play as their own county championship should receive their first consideration".

Members at that meeting agreed the Board had indeed erred in the decision it had taken regarding the deferment of the final. Thurles were appealed to, to reconsider their decision, but to no avail and Boherlahan became champions by default.

ANTRIM GAME

The way in which the Thurles Secretary referred

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to the inter-provincial fixture, probably sums up the feelings of a lot of people to this fixture, especially as there was no question of an all-Ireland final place, should Antrim be defeated. The Antrim match was played in Croke Park on July 26th and attracted a very small attendance. Jack Power led the Tipp team and his team mates were Arthur O'Donnell, Martin Mockler, Mick Darcy, Phil Cahill, Paddy 'Major' Collison, Martin Kennedy, Willie



Willie O'Dwyer, Boherlahan, Secretary of the Boherlahan club which had the selection of the Tipperary 1925 All-Ireland winning team.

Ryan, Stephen Kenny, Paddy Leahy, Paddy Power, Jack Darcy, John Joe Hayes, Tom Duffy and Rody Nealon. With Duffy, Kennedy and Nealon crashing home goals almost at will, Tipp had the easiest of victories, 12-9 to 2-3.

The road through Munster which, it was hoped, would eventually lead to an All-Ireland final place was still to be traversed and a major obstacle in Cork was the next cause for worry. The venue was the subject of quite a heated debate in the provincial council chamber. An impassioned plea for Tipp and Cork to go to Dungarvan was made by Dan Fraher. Cork, Thurles and Limerick were also proposed but there was no seconder for the Cork proposal and the voting on the other three was, Thurles—2, Dungarvan—4, Limerick—9.

"One of the most thrilling and strenuous struggles for supremacy seen in the hurling arena in recent years, should be witnessed in Limerick on Sunday (August 2nd) when Tipperary (holders) meet Cork in the Munster SHC semi-final". That

was how "The Guardian" opened its preview of the match. Cork had defeated Limerick by fifteen points but when Tipp led 4-2 to 1-0 at half time, it did seem that victory was assured. Cork came back in typical Cork fashion and entering the final quarter, Tipp were in deep trouble. With five minutes remaining, only two points divided the sides and Cork went all out for the goal that would edge them ahead. The Tipp defence was now in defiant mood however and when Limerick's Tom Hayes brought the proceedings to a close, Tipp had survived, 5-3 to 5-1. The team was: A. O'Donnell, M. Mockler, M. Darcy, P. Dwyer, M. Kennedy, S. Hackett, J. Power, P. Leahy, P. Power, J. Darcy, J. J. Hayes, P. Cahill, T. Duffy, P. Quinn, J. Kennedy.

In Tipp eyes, the Cork game was the Munster final in all both name. Waterford were the final opponents, and the fact that Tipp were willing to travel to Dungarvan for the final, and not do so for the Cork game, shows what the feeling was for the decider with the Decies men. At half-time Tipp were ahead 5-3 to 0-2 and while the home side finished well, their efforts were not sufficient to deprive Tipp of a handsome win, 6-6 to 1-2. Johnny Leahy was back to lead Tipp in this victory with



Still hale and hearty 50 years after his membership of the Tipperary panel which won the 1925 All-Ireland title—Rody Nealon from Newtown, Nenagh.

the following team: A. O'Donnell, J. Leahy, M. Mockler, M. Darcy, P. O'Dwyer, M. Kennedy, J. Power, W. Ryan, P. Leahy, P. Power, J. Darcy, T. Duffy, P. Cahill, W. Quinn, S. Kenny. Subs.: J. J. Collison, P. Collison, J. Kennedy, J. J. Hayes, S. Hackett.

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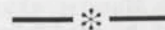
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THE FINAL

Tipperary were now in the all-Ireland final, and striving to win their first since 1916—the longest period ever without a title. Arthur O'Donnell, Jack Power and Johnny Leahy (who had given his county over 15 years of first class hurling service) were survivors from the 1916 team. In 1917 Dublin beat Tipp in the final and Tipp were back in the final in '22 only to be sensationally beaten in a thriller by Kilkenny, 4-2 to 2-6. Johnny Leahy, Arthur O'Donnell, Martin Kennedy, Jack and Pat Power, John Joe Hayes, Stephen Hackett and Jack Darcy played in that '22 final and ten of the '25 team were in action in the '24 semi-final when beaten 3-1 to 2-3 by Galway. Mick Darcy was on the Dublin side beaten by Limerick in '21.

Galway, Tipp's 1925 opponents, were appearing in their third final in a row, and on the Sunday prior to this game eight of the side were in action against Tipp in the All-Ireland junior final, which Tipp won by 5-5 to 1-2. This was the '24 final. It was the golden era of Galway hurling, but Tipp were favourites and they justified the confidence placed in them. A crowd estimated at over 20,000 were in Croke Park on September 6th. Prior to the game there was a gymnastics and drill display by six hundred boys from Artane, and of course, the famed band from the same place was also there. The weather was brilliant and spectators "were given the scores on a recording board at the end of the goal". It was a stubbornly contested final, not remarkable for brilliant or scientific hurling, but a dour struggle throughout, punctuated by flashes of

Darcy, Phil Cahill, Tom Duffy. Sub.: Stephen Kenny.

Now, fifty years later, the thrills of that year have been recalled and fittingly rewarded by the County Board. Six are still with us. So too is Willie O'Dwyer from Boherlahan, who at the time was secretary of his club, which had the selection of the Tipp team that year. Their contribution to Tipperary hurling has earned for them a treasured place in the annals of the county. Today's hurlers owe them a deep debt of gratitude. The inspiration given fifty years ago, when the county was for so long out of the honours list, should help the present wearers of the blue and gold to rekindle the flame that has been flickering, and bring Tipperary back to its rightful place as the Premier County.

high grade hurling. Matters were even enough in the first quarter. Then Tipp showed their supremacy to take an eight point interval lead.

Though fighting with tremendous fervour Galway found themselves outhurled and outclassed and in the end went down by 5-6 to 1-5. Johnny Leahy bore the McCarthy Cup high as Tipp supporters shouldered him around the field. The nine year gap had been bridged. Tipp, wearing for the first time in an All-Ireland final the blue and gold jersey so well known today, were champions again.

HISTORY MAKERS

The members of that history making team were Johnny Leahy (capt.), Arthur O'Donnell, Martin Mockler, Mick Darcy, John Joe Hayes, Paddy Dwyer, Martin Kennedy, Stephen Hackett, Jack Power, Paddy Leahy, Paddy Power, Bill Ryan, Jack

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thuaidh)

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

We hope that 1976 will bring rewards in some shape or form to all clubs.



The Moycarkey SHC team which reached the County semi-final for the first time since 1963 only to fail to eventual champions, Moneygall

HANDBALL IS MOVING FORWARD

Says
Seamus O'Riain

WHEN DID YOU last play a game of handball? To old perhaps? Not at all. Millions of Americans well past their prime are regular handballers. Handball is an ideal pastime for keeping fit and this is being realised more and more in these times when lack of fitness brings so many ailments in its train. Here in Ireland we are coming to see that handball is not for championship competitors only but that it is a recreation to be enjoyed through life, bringing good health and general well-being to those who take part. So there is a remarkable increase in the popularity of the game and many courts are unable to fit in all the people who are looking for a half-hour's play.

You may say there is not a suitable court near at hand for you. This is unfortunately the case with many who would love to play a few shots. The open-air three-walled alleys that were so common throughout the country have more or less fallen into decay and at any rate do not meet modern demands. They served their purpose well in times when tastes were simpler and the gable-end of a house or barn was looked upon as a God-send of an evening when skills were matched and aces chalked up in squares before the local crowd.

But those days have gone. We now look for something better. The Irish Handball Council have been very much aware of this need and some years ago adopted a far-seeing development policy to provide indoor courts, fitted with dressing rooms and up-to-date amenities. If an existing open alley was suitable and able to bear the strain it should be roofed. Plans were drawn up for new courts and these are available to anyone who is interested in building either the traditional 60' by 30' type or the modern 40' by 20' one which has international recognition in the US, Canada and Mexico.

GRANTS

A scheme of grants was laid down as an incentive to clubs to tackle the work, and although the central fund is rather low, and as a result the grants must be on a small scale, remarkable pro-

gress has been made in providing new courts throughout the country. This speaks well for the growing popularity of handball and the enthusiastic spirit of those who are promoting the game.

This renewed interest is due in no small measure to the vision and drive of the guiding spirits who planned and erected the splendid new court in Croke Park and owes a lot to the televising of RTE's Top Ace competition, as well as to the World Handball Championships which were staged there a few years ago.

Tipperary has not been behind in this new advance. It is no surprise that this traditional stronghold of handball should be shaping a new course for the future of the game in the county. New courts have been built or are in course of completion in Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel and Fethard. Clonmel are also moving while Ballyporeen and Ballina have been roofed and work is under way at Lahorna. Other clubs are making plans and raising funds to meet the cost.

NEW POSSIBILITIES

The new 40' by 20' court presents new possibilities to the GAA club since it can be readily accommodated in plans for dressing rooms, pavilions or social centres, where it will prove to be a valuable asset as a place for indoor training in winter time and can be, in addition, a source of income for the club. This type of development is proving to be very popular and is worthy of consideration by any club committee that has a building project in mind.

In view of the popularity of handball and its acceptance as an exceptionally healthy form of indoor recreation one finds it hard to understand that few local authorities have done anything to provide suitable courts. Likewise not many of the splendid new school buildings at any level include accommodation for handball, although there are, of course, some fine exceptions. Even the National College of Physical Education in Limerick as yet has no handball courts but while they are promised for the future they don't appear to have been included in the original plans.

One wonders why this is so. The area required for a site is small, the cost of erection is not very high and if properly run it is capable of paying for itself over a reasonable number of years. And no doubt there is general good-will for the game which has been expressed time and again. I recall an occasion when the late Eamon de Valera, then Uachtarán na hEireann, spoke highly of the attractions of handball and its value as a health sport, and asked that special efforts should be made to promote it. His successor as Uachtarán, Erskine

Childers, wrote: "I hope that through the coming years this popularity (of handball) will increase still further, the game, as in the past, always appealing to your youth and to those not so young, as a game difficult to surpass". No doubt the views of these eminent Irishmen carry a lot of weight and they are reflected in the regard in which the game is held by most people. But this must be translated into action in helping to provide the essentials for the game by supporting those who are engaged in doing so.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Mean)

We wish to take this opportunity of expressing our deepest gratitude to all who helped the Board in the successful running of its affairs during 1975, and extend best wishes to all for good fortune in 1976

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT YOUR GROUNDS?

asks

BORD na bPAIRC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL MAHER

EACH YEAR some improvement should be done at your grounds. It can vary from just pure maintenance—the rub of paint, the hanging of doors and gates, putting glass in windows—to installing water or providing covered accommodation for regular patrons. To ensure some such work is undertaken you should have a small Grounds Committee elected at your club convention. Your Division has a Grounds Committee now since the beginning of 1975. It should have regular meetings at which you can discuss common problems.

There are a variety of grants available for purchase and developments of grounds. They are given by Central Council, Munster Council and Tipperary County Board. You should be aware of what is available. Most of them are listed in "Notes on Dressing Rooms cum Social Centre". Grants are but an aid and financial encouragement. Most of the funds required will have to be collected locally. There is a host of goodwill in all parishes but people must be asked to do or to give.

There is quite an amount of activity going on throughout the county and the following are notes on some of the work completed or in progress.

A glance around the main grounds of the county give some idea of what has been done and is contemplated for the future. My sincerest thanks to the four Divisional Board Secretaires: Liam Ryan (Mid), Donie Nealon (North), Michael Maguire (West), and Michael O'Meara (South) for the trouble they have taken in compiling the lists.

MID DIVISION

Boherlahan Sportsfield: Their field at Gaile has been sold principally due to its not being in a central position. The Club has now purchased a very suitable pitch right beside the village of Boherlahan. A solid boundary wall has been built. Their Sportsfield Committee is elected on a three year basis and has got considerable financial support in the parish. It's a seven acre site. Entrance, exists, sideline seating and clubroom are still to be undertaken.

Moycarkey-Borris: Playing field is at Littleton. It was for long a rented field but now it's under a ninety-nine year lease. Their Committee is elected annually at Club Convention. They were hesitant to have field vested in the GAA but have now done so and have enjoyed considerable grants for their development work and dressing rooms.

Upperchurch-Drombane: Their field purchased in 1970 has been considerably developed and reseeded and promises well for the future.

Holycross-Ballycahill: Progress in this pitch was



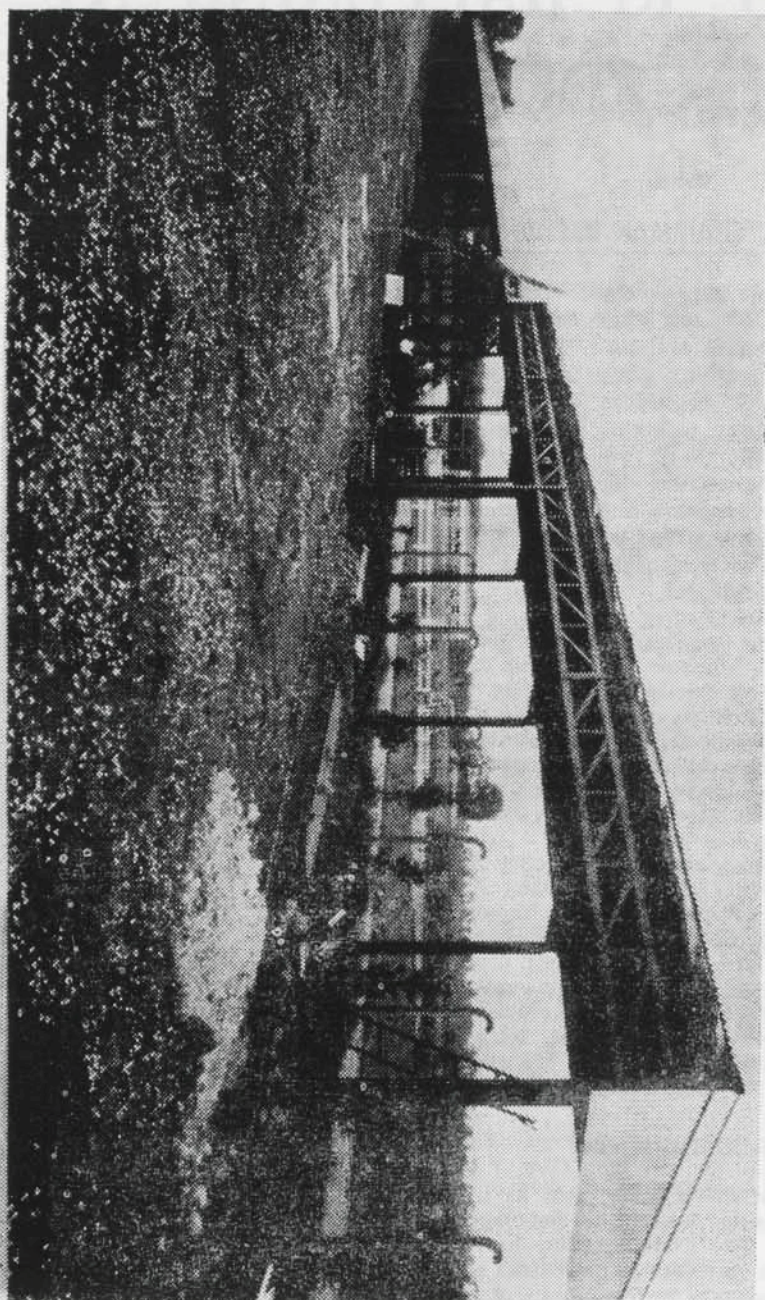
Michael Maher, Bord na bPáirc Chairman

very good early on. It has its pitch enclosed and has dressing rooms provided. Fencing around the pitch needs renewal, dressing rooms need improvement and toilets need to be added.

Templemore: Club rooms need to be finished. Pitch is enclosed with good spectator accommodation.

Thurles Sarsfields have started building their Social Centre and Thurles Sportsfield has had a new scoreboard erected during the year. Its dressing rooms were improved and accommodation has

New stand, dressing rooms and toilets being erected at the picturesque Emly grounds



been provided for the Press and officials and team substitutes.

NORTH DIVISION

Enagh: County grounds; enclosed; sideline accommodation 5,000; standing 15,000. Four dressing rooms and water and showers; new Press box; two stiles to sideline; eight stiles being installed at road entrance; new road from main entrance to sideline. Referees' room and office; scoreboard.

Cloughjordan: Pitch fully developed and enclosed; sideline 3,000; standing 12,000. Four dressing rooms and toilets and showers; sliding partitions so that dressing rooms can be converted into a Pavilion. Two or four stiles to be installed this winter. Full facilities for catering for teams in the Pavilion. Scoreboard.

Borrisokane: Pitch fully developed and enclosed; sideline accommodation 1,000; standing 3,000. Four dressing rooms and toilets and showers almost completed and will be convertible into a pavilion. Scoreboard.

Roscrea: Pitch developed and enclosed; sideline 2,000; standing 8,000. Scoreboard. Two dressing rooms but no water; hope to build new dressing rooms near road entrance.

Newport: Pitch developed; enclosed with wire and timber fencing; no sideline accommodation; standing 1,000; two dressing rooms with water laid on.

Toomevara: Pitch developed; not enclosed; two dressing rooms and water; tennis court. Standing accommodation 1,000. Outer wall and entrance completed.

Moneygall: Pitch developed and enclosed; no sideline accommodation; standing 2,000; new dressing rooms cum social centre to be commenced very shortly.

Borrisoleigh: Pitch not developed; no dressing rooms.

Lorrha: New field vested about three years ago; fenced off; no development.

Portroe: Field being vested at the moment; not developed; plans for dressing rooms.

Ballina: New field vested; has been levelled and drained; not ready for playing purposes as yet.

Templederry: New pitch vested three or four years ago; no development at present.

Dolla (Silvermines): Pitch not developed; two new dressing rooms and water nearly completed.

Burgess: New pitch (nine acres) bought this year

(£10,000); no immediate plans for development until purchase price has been cleared off.

Puckaun (Kildangan): Pitch not developed; two dressing rooms and water.

WEST DIVISION

Cappawhite: New grounds purchased in 1974; old grounds sold; developing of pitch now nearly completed including drainage of field. Pitch will be enclosed; also sideline accommodation and dressing rooms.

Dundrum: Pitch developed; four dressing rooms; showers, toilets, now nearly completed. New entrance and scoreboard also planned. Seating capacity 3,000; embankments standing 4,000.

Golden: Pitch developed; two dressing rooms built; two more dressing rooms, showers, toilets, entrance, and scoreboard planned. Seating accommodation 3,000; standing 7,000.

Bansha: Pitch developed and embankment nearly completed; outside toilets being built. Handball alley planned for the near future. Tennis courts already laid down. Social centre developed. Intend to erect scoreboard and stand. Seating accommodation 3,000; standing 4,000.

Sean Treacy Park (Tipp): Pitch developed; two dressing rooms, showers, toilets. Scoreboard. Seating accommodation 3,000; standing 15,000.

Aherlow: Field purchased 1974 now enclosed with cement posts and wire netting.

Emly: Pitch developed; extending and developing embankment. Stand erected 475 feet long, 14 feet wide. Four dressing rooms, showers, toilets; referees' room; shop and ladies' toilets being erected at present. Seating capacity 2,000 (erected), 1,500 being erected at present; standing accommodation 10,000.

Clonoulty: Pitch developed; two dressing rooms. Seating accommodation 3,000; standing 3,000.

SOUTH DIVISION

Clonmel Sportsfield: During the year the boundary wall at Western Road has been renovated. There is a stand erected since 1974 and it has to be completed with terracing. Sideline is enclosed. Dugouts are provided for the Press and teams. It has four dressing rooms with showers and central heating. The Committee and the four clubs of the town are now planning a social centre.

Clogheen: Its field is in good order. There is a very good committee in charge. It has dressing rooms for teams and referees. It also has toilets and

a scoreboard. It contemplates the erection of a stand.

Newcastle has a well laid out pitch and is proceeding with the erection of dressing rooms and toilets.

Fethard has purchased its field and it is now completely a GAA property. It's a well kept pitch and enjoys suitable dressing rooms. It envisages some covered accommodation for spectators as its next improvement.

GUESS THE YEAR

It was 1961, Tipperary beating Dublin 0-16 to 1-12. It was the first time a Toomevara man had led Tipperary to victory in an All-Ireland final. Also it was the only title won by Tipperary in which they failed to score a goal in the process.



Bansha's fine club rooms adjacent to their playing pitch

SEAN O'DWYER OF THE WEST

By SEAMUS O RIAIN

I FIRST MET Sean O'Dwyer nearly forty years ago. It was at a County Convention, my first, and it was my first introduction to the men who were guiding Gaelic affairs in the county at that time. The impression was entirely favourable. It was easy to accept these men as leaders, their sincerity and dedication so clear to be seen that young people could not fail to be influenced by them. These were true men, steady to the principles they had so well examined, neither disguising them through temerity nor parading them to gain applause. Certainly they were idealists but they were also men of action who had a part in two revolutions, the first in the troubled years of the armed struggle, and now in the silent social one the GAA was bringing about.

Sean O'Dwyer was a man amongst those. Admiring and respecting him first at a distance, later I came to know him as a colleague, working with him, enjoying his friendship and gaining his support and help. The qualities of leadership sat lightly on him. No need for him to raise his voice or his hand to command a hearing and when he spoke he always had something to say that was worth listening to. He thought no labour or fatigue too much in the cause he had so much at heart and he was eminent for the length of service which he gave us an official, spanning nearly half a century.

In the parish of Knockavilla Sean was born and there he grew up at a time when young men had a dream of living free and Gaelic and were bent on making that dream come true. It was a new dawn and Fr Matt Ryan was the sun that stirred young hearts to love the Irish language and learn to speak it in the classes and on the farms, and whenever people met the new phrases came easy to them and there was no cynical voice to ask "what's the use"? Sean took to the language then and kept his love for it all through his life.

Then when the hills called his answer was ready

and he took the way that led him over two years in jails here and in England, and twenty-two days' hunger strike in Wormwood Scrubs. Back home in quieter times he hurled with teams in his native parish until he took over the chairmanship of the West Division in succession to his brother Bill in 1935, and under his guiding hand the division grew in strength. During his period of office new playing fields were acquired by many of the clubs and county championships in every grade came to the West. So that when he came to retire in 1970 he could look back with simple pride in what had been achieved. Many tributes were paid to him at the time but none more apt than what his friend Bill O'Donnell wrote in the first issue of this Tipperary Year Book:

"Sean's monument is not cast in bronze or stone but in the hearts of the grass roots of the GAA whose interests he served so nobly and so well for nigh on half a century".

One has many warm recollection of Sean. His annual address to Convention was always looked forward to since he was a gifted orator who could always hit on the right phrase to bring home a point, so that he never failed to rise to the occasion. In debate he was simple, clear and direct, cutting through the non-essentials to get to the heart of the matter, and whenever heat came into the discussion he was in with a pun and a touch of humour to restore calm.

Many times he acted as mediator between parted colleagues ironing out difficulties and bringing about a reunion with deft diplomacy and good timing. Whenever he was called upon at a social gathering it was usual for him to recite "The Choice" which he did with great feeling.

But the memory of Sean which many will recall was the oration which he gave in Holycross Abbey at the graveside of his life long friend Paddy Leahy, when no one who was present could fail to be stirred by the moving tribute which he paid to his departed comrade.

When Sean himself was laid to rest it was fitting that one of his successors in the chair of the West Board, Michael Frawley, should deliver the oration and pay this last tribute to him: "He was enlightened, just, courageous and gifted with those qualities and temperament which were needed to carry to success the work that had to be done. His indomitable character commanded respect and esteem. Everything he did was done with supreme confidence. His coolness in times of agitation was infectious. We who humbly come after him with the task of maintaining his standards will be inspired by his memory. Go ndeána Dia trócaire ar a anam".

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SCOR

MAINTAINING A FAMILY TRADITION

By GERRY SLEVIN

"WHEN YOU CLAIM an illustrious name, to the family traditions you must cling". These words penned by composer Kallman for one of his characters, Prince Leopold, in the musical *Gypsy Princess*, certainly apply to the McKenna family in Borrisokane. Sport has figured prominently in the life of this great family and on the hurling fields and greyhound tracks, the McKenna name has had a magical ring about it, a name indeed that places it in the top rung of sporting names in Ireland.

Yet another member of this family made a big impression on the GAA scene in the past season. No, not another hurler, not an addition to the enthusiasm

for greyhound training, but a lady whose great run in the recitation section of the Scor competitions endeared her to a host of people. The programme showed her to be Philomena Quigley, but Phil is a member of the famous McKenna clan and she upheld their brilliant tradition in a fine run with success coming her way at divisional, county, provincial, semi-final and final levels. Yes, to the family tradition she clung and with the same fervour and determination that has hallmarked so many members of her family in the past, she got to the top in her field.

Phil—her husband, Michael 'Junior' is a former Borrisokane hurling star—might well be described as a most reluctant competitor. Possessing a very fine singing voice, she, along with her husband, two others and yours truly, entered in the ballad group section for the Scor competitions. The area finals were held in Borrisokane when when we had our team assembled we found we had no one to represent the club in the recitation section. Because of my own particular interest in this section, I was unhappy about this but I remembered that any small success I myself had achieved in recitation in the past was mainly due to a composition called "The Choice" which in fact I received from Phil. When I broached the question to her, she wasn't too happy but I eventually got the message through and without any preparation whatever she coolly went on stage and poured out the plaintiff words of "The Choice". The adjudicators had no choice. She was declared the winner and on she went to the North final where success again came her way. I should mention that the ballad group having got over the area final hurdle didn't quite come up to scratch in the North final! Even yet, Phil was not convinced that what she was doing was right. The competition was becoming keener and greater preparation was needed. This was undergone in true McKenna style and county final honours were hers before she really had time to think about it.

Like wise in the Munster semi-final in Caherconlish and in the provincial deciders in Thurles, Phil was a winner all the way.

The example of this Borrisokane lady is one that can be emulated by so many. There is an amount of talent in the country as yet untapped. It takes courage of course to get up before an audience and display your talent whether it be in recitation, singing, or playing a musical instrument. But



Philomena Quigley

when the talent is there, and the great pity is that so much of it is there but as yet is untapped, it should be encouraged to the best possible extent.

Scor has worked wonders in unearthing talent throughout the country and Tipperary has played a major role in its organisation of Scor. Success doesn't really matter. It's the effort that is put into it that does matter as well as the enjoyment so many people can derive from listening to what you have to offer. Success will come though with concentrated effort and just as Phil Quigley proved this in 1975 so too did those brilliant figure dancers from the Keenahan school in Thurles who took provincial honours in Scor na nOg and tied for top honours in the All-Ireland finals (senior) in Leisureland in Galway. Also in Scor na nOg, we must not forget those starlets from Burgess, whose novelty act gave hundreds of people a continuous laugh en route to provincial success. The coolness of the Roscrea young question time team cannot be forgotten either. They won provincial honours. These were the people who gained some measure of success during the past year. There were thousands more who didn't but yet gained an amount of personal satisfaction and were encouraged to carry on the good work for the future.

Scor is about to become a much more polished competition. A national Congress earlier this year

cleared up a number of points which should help in the smoother running of Scor. Those who initiated Scor in the first instance did a great day's work and though only in existence since 1970, the competitions have reached a status that cannot be ignored. Regrettably, RTE has seen fit to ignore it as a programme worthy of screening. This cannot continue either. The message must soon reach the authorities in Montrose. But whether it does or not, the impact of Scor in the community will not be lessened. It has proved itself to be a winner and because of the highly organised manner in which it is now conducted plus the earnestness of the clubs and the officials throughout the country, it can only increase in popularity, thereby bringing to the fore, more and more people whose God given talents have a right to be heard and whose interest in allowing them to be heard ensures hours of pleasure for thousands of people during the winter nights.

Leading the Tipperary team out of the tunnel and on to the Croke Park sward for the 1971 All-Ireland final again Kilkenny is Tadhg O'Connor. For his great performances throughout that successful campaign, Tadhg received a Carrolls Allstar award and he has followed that by selection again in this year list.

TADHG O'CONNOR—THE LONE ALLSTAR

Tipperary's rather lowly position in the hurling world is reflected in the fact that only one player has been selected on the Carrolls Allstar hurling team. The green jersey bearing the Number 5 on the back goes to Tadhg O'Connor from Roscrea who repeats the success he enjoyed in 1971, the first year of the awards.

It is a popular choice, not just in Tipperary but in the hurling world because no one can deny the tremendous spirit and ability of this fine half back. He played with the Tipperary minors in 1966 and the following year was on the All-Ireland winning under 21 side which was led by P. J. Ryan. He played in under 21 grade in the following two years also and made his debut on the senior side in 1968, in which year Tipperary won the Oireachtas. Also in '68 he went on tour to the U.S. with Tipperary and won further Oireachtas awards in 1970 and '72. His greatest day was when he led Tipperary to victory in the '71 senior final and he has also had the distinction of figuring in Roscrea's five county title wins between 1969 and 1973. He also helped his club to win two minor titles in 1963 and '66.

"For the resolute and unyielding play which he demonstrated so frequently during a year that brought few successes to his county". That is the citation accompanying Tadhg's selection and it's an apt summation of this great-hearted player.



A YEAR TO REMEMBER OR A YEAR TO FORGET— in Loughmore-Castleiney

By FR. J. O'ROURKE

WE CAME TO Nenagh with a team that many considered in no danger of being beaten, we gained a fine eight point lead after twenty minutes, we couldn't be beaten, it was a County Final—it must be ours—but do we forget the rest?

We came to Nenagh with a team of boys, almost all of whom were playing in Nenagh for the first time, playing against a team for whom we all had the greatest respect, Borrisokane, they withstand early pressure and get the vital scores—do we remember and cherish the rest?

Any year in a GAA club and any year in our lives is made up of victories and defeats. It is a very poor follower of the game who will not remember both the victories and defeats. Please God no Loughmore person is saying "Ah sure it's good for the game" when we were beaten in the football county final. The only thing we must say is that there are still wonderful teams in all parts of the county and there is still plenty to be learned about football and games. It is only when all have learned what there is to know and put it into practice that we can say "Sure it's good for the game".

To have reached the county senior football final is a great honour and right through the year the men who made up that team trained and prepared for each game. In other grades the winning of championships was not coming easy either. The year started very well with the winning of the 1974 under 21 county football championship early in the year. This final against Galtee Rovers was won because the boys had the spirit of "never say die". All seemed to be lost coming near the end, but a slip by the Galtee goalkeeper was punished by a goal and after intense pressure Loughmore were awarded a penalty, scored by Martin Walsh, his

second of the day, and the victory was Loughmore's. In the Mid championships, minor football was the grade where the only success was so far achieved. The team went down in the county semi-final to a strong Lattin-Emly combination. Teams are still in the under 21 football and Mid senior football.

ON THE JUVENILE FIELDS

A bunch of twenty-five boys from the parish this year achieved a unique record for a completely rural parish. For the first time ever all under 14 competitions in the county in both hurling and football were won by the same team. This group of twenty-five boys, with almost an identical team playing in both hurling and football, won all their matches during the year against both town and country. But for what great prizes—the prize for winning out the hurling was a weekend in Cork for the Feile na nGael. The memories of that wonderful weekend and the friendship built up with the boys and grown-ups of Glen Rovers will last long with the boys. Even though the team were beaten by Glen Rovers they gave a great display. Glen went on to win out the All-Ireland Feile competition. The prize for the football was an all expenses paid trip to the All-Ireland Football Final with tickets for the Stand provided by the County Board. This was a memorable day for the boys and all who travelled with them. Nobody can say that good prizes are not provided for our juvenile games. All involved with the games in the parish are proud to have won them, and appreciate them.

Apart from the under 14 teams the other team to really do well was the under 16 hurlers. They won the Mid championship and reached the county final by beating Clonoulty. In the county final the opposition was Nenagh and we had to give best to Nenagh. The other teams also acquitted themselves very well. A word of thanks to all who helped the club in so many ways during the year.



Loughmore: Tipperary senior football finalists, whose hopes for a sixth County title were thwarted by first-timers Kilruane in the decider

FOCAL MOLTA

O Seamus O'Riain

PÁIRCEANNA IMEARTHA

An club nach bhfuil páirc dá gcuid fain acu tá siad i gcrúachas. Ceann de na cuspóirí atá ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael ná go mbeadh páirc imeartha ag gach club agus is mór an dul chun cinn atá déanta i dTiobrad Árann chun an cuspóir sin a bhaint amach. Blianta ó shin nuair de bhí talamh i bhfad níos saoire ná mar atá sé anois fuair roinn mhaith clubanna an deis chun páirc a cheannach agus ghlacadar an chaoi chun é do dhéanamh. Chuidigh Coimisiún na Talún go mór leis an gCumann nuair do bhí estáit á roinnt acu agus thugadar achar talúin don chlub mar pháirc imeartha..

Tá sé i bhfad níos deachra teacht ar pháirc oiriúnach na laetha seo toisc go mbíonn an costas an-throm agus ní bhíonn talamh ar díol ró-mhinic. Bíonn misneach mór agus dul chun cinn ag teastáil sar a ghacfhad club cúram dá leitheid orthu féin i láthair na h-uaire. Mar sin tá focal molta ag dul do dhá chlub a cheannaigh páirceanna i mbliana, **Ceapach na bhFaoiteach** agus **Buirgéis**. Ní gan dua a rinneadar é agus cé go raibh an costas ceannaithe an-ard sa dá chás ní raibh eagla orthu roimhe agus tá siad ag cur chuige chun na fiacha a ghlanadh gan mhoill. Tiocaidh buntáistí don dá chlub sin de bharr a bhfuil déanta acu agus go raibh rath orthu amach anseo.

Tá focal ar leith tuillte ag **Imleach Iúir** freisin de bharr a bhfuil déanta acu chun an pháirc atá acu a fhorbairt. Tá costas ard i gceist acu san chomh maith ach nuair a bheidh an obair críochnaithe acu beidh pailliún compórdach acu do na h-imreoirí agus ardán a mbeidh díon air agus suíocháin don lucht féachana.

Ní mór moladh ar leith a thabhairt do na clubanna seo mar gheall ar a bhfuil déanta acu i rith na bliana seo chun cuspóir an Chumainn a chur ar aghaidh.

TADHG Ó CONCHÚIR

Tadhg an t-aon imreoir ón chontae atá tofa ar

na Allstars i mbliana agus cé déarfadh nach bhfuil an onóir tuillte gu maith aige. Nuair a bhí sé in a lead óg thaispeán Tadhg luas cos, lámh agus súil agus scil neamhghnách leis an gcamán. Bhí sé ar fhoireann mionúr an chontae agus ghóthaigh sé Craobh na hÉireann leis an bhfoireann faoi 21 sa bhliain 1967. In a dhiaidh sin toghadh é ar an bhfoireann sinsear agus tá áit aige ar an line leath-chúil ó shin. Bhí sé mar chaptean nuair a bhuaigh Tiobrad Árann sa bhliain 1971 agus ghlac sé príomh-pháirt san imirt i rith na bliana sin.

Tugann Tadhg aire don oiliúint i gcónaí agus nil aon daoine is mo a bhíonn ullamh chun dul amach ar an bpáirc chun a dhícheall a dhéanamh. Bíonn a shliocht air mar is rí-annamh a theipeann air taispeántas thar barr a thabhairt. Tá focal molta tuillte aige agus ní foláir traoslú leis toisc an onóir seo a bronnadh air.

CAIDREAMH POIBLÍ

Ní féidir le h-aon cumann maireachtáil, gan trácht ar dhul chun cinn, gan poiblíocht d-fháil dá chuid gnótha agus imeachtaí. Chuige sin moltar do ghach contae oifigeach áirithe a cheapadh agus go mbeadh sé de chúram aige siúd scéalta agus eolas ar chúrsaí an chumainn a chur ar fáil do na meáin cumarsáide, na páipéir, an radio agus an telefis.

Maidir leis an contae seo sé an príomh-ghléas chun scéalta a chur ós comhair an phobail ná na nuachtáin áitiúla. Is orthu san a bheidh trácht ar chluichí agus ar imreoirí, agus ar na h-imeachtaí go bhfuil suim an phobail intu. Níl teach nach faigheann ceann éigin de na nuachtáin áitiúla gach seachtain. Mar sin ba chóir don oifigeach chaidrimh poiblí leas a bhaint as na páipéir sin, caradas a bhunú leo ionnas gur féidir leis gach eolas nua a thabhairt do na léitheoirí.

Ach ní mar sin atá an scéal againne in aon chor toisc go bhfuil ar na nuachtáin daoine a dhéanann an gnó san, a thugann cuntas ar chluichí, agus tuairisce ar gach a tharlaíonn ní h-amháin ar pháirc na h-imeartha ach ag na cruinnithe éagsúla. In a theannta san déanann siad meastachán ar chúrsaí, agus tugann siad moladh nó cáineadh de réir mar a fheictear doibh.

Is mór an tairbhe don chumann a leitheid agus mar sin tugtar focal molta do "Divot", "Cúl Báire" agus "Póc Saor". Tá an tádhr orainn go bhfuil a leitheid de dhaoine ag scríobh dúinn; tá suim acu i gcúrsaí an Chumainn agus mian acu é a chur ar bhóthar a leasa. Mar a déarfá coiméadann siad an pota ar fiacadh, cuireann siad daoine ag caint agus ag smaointeamh agus uaidh sin tagann fás agus forbairt.

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GORMANSTOWN—AN AUTOGRAPH

HUNTER'S PARADISE

By Br. John Hearne CFC

AT EASTER, through a series of defaults, I found myself in the privileged position of representing Co. Tipperary's hurling interests at the annual coaching course in Coláiste San Froinsias, Rinn Mhic Ghormáin, along with Len Gaynor.

My first impression of the course was that I was in an autograph hunter's paradise. I had never seen such a galaxy of stars, past and present, hurling and football: Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry), Sean Young (Roscommon), Joe Lennon (Down), Jim Deenihan (Kerry), Fr T. Maher (Kilkenny), Len Gaynor (Tipperary), Ned Power (Waterford), Peter McGinnity (Fermanagh), Rory Kinsella (Wexford), Inky Flaherty (Galway), Cyril Hughes (Carlow), and many others. In fact I felt slightly out of place.

Soon, in keeping with our tight schedules, lectures got under way. Donie Nealon it was who "threw in the ball" with a talk on "The Role of the Coach." Donie's terminology was not quite what I expected, especially when I heard that the coach had to be, among other things, a psychologist, a liaison between administration and players, a counsellor to new players, an interpreter of rules, a disciplinarian, a motivator, and tactician. He was really putting it up to us. In fact he was really putting up to the course directors who had to tell us how to be all these marvellous things.

Before long we had to admire these men who gave us the confidence and the know-how to be successful coaches. The instructors for the hurling course were Donie Nealon, Fr Tommy Maher, Ned Power, Fr. Michael O'Brien, Fr. Bertie Troy and David Weldrick of the NCPE. The footballers were being looked after by Joe Lennon and Jim McKeever, with a practical demonstration by Kevin Heffernan and the Dubs.

INDIVIDUALS

Ned Power reminded us that each team is made up of 15 individuals, each of whom must master a certain amount of skills—basic skills—and that all these basic skills must be practised and perfected.

One noteworthy point mentioned by Ned was the importance of each hurler having a hurley with which he is familiar, and a suitable replacement.

Fr. Tommy Maher spoke on that aspect that nowadays it seems was invented by himself and Kilkenny, namely, team-work. He made it clear that teams don't automatically click as a unit, but team-work must be worked at constantly. Fr. Maher's pet aversion seems to be the high dropping ball intended for a poor unfortunate forward. It was a revelation to watch re-runs of the 1974 All-Ireland, and later the 1975 senior and minor finals, to see how well the Kilkenny teams avoided this shot, and instead played balls which were coming shoulder-high to their forwards.

The trainer of the Cork minor hurling team, Fr Michael O'Brien, gave us the outline for a coaching session, emphasising that the training must be based on hurling, and hurling skills. Shooting from their own positions for forwards, free-taking, sideline cuts, puck-outs, etc., were as important as physical fitness.

Fr. Bertie Troy demonstrated the value of using video-tapes of big matches to show examples of team-work, the importance of recovery and covering up by defenders, and general match analysis. If the players can see themselves in action they must improve. However, due to limited availability of these tapes and the expense involved, I expect it will be some time before video tapes become common.

TRAINING SESSION

We had a practical demonstration of a training session from David Weldrick and his students from the National College of Physical Education, Limerick. Among the better known of these students were Pat Kelly of Limerick, Colm Honan of Clare and Rory Kinsella of Wexford. The session contained:

- (a) A quick practice-match for about 20 minutes with emphasis on a particular skill of the game.

using it as often as possible. In this instance the skill was "support"—or hand-passing out of trouble to a better placed team-mate.

- (b) Shooting practice over a goal in the middle of the field (so the balls would not be lost).
- (c) Practice at receiving a pass and shooting under pressure.
- (d) Practice at dealing with different types of passes.
- (e) Forwards running "at" opponents—trying to get goal side of the back—the backs trying to edge them away.
- (f) Physical training—mainly short sprints in different direction to different calls, plus high speed press-ups and jump-ups.

Conspicuous by its absence was the old idea of lapping the field. Dave Weldrick explained to us the following morning that lapping the field was great training for—lapping a field. The type of fitness required for hurling is both physical and mental. Speed of reaction and speed off the mark, sustained for an hour or 70 minutes, are required for hurling.

Before the end of the course Donie Nealon went quickly through the functions of every player on a hurling team from goalkeeper to left corner forward.

Finally, we had to sit for a written exam on what we had learned.

VALUE

What value had the course? I wonder is it a coincidence that so many successful trainers this year were present at the course. These included the trainer of Kerry football senior and under 21 teams, Mick O'Dwyer; Galway hurling trainer, M. J. Flaherty; Louth, who shocked League champions Meath, were represented by Jimmy Mulroy; Cork, Munster minor and senior champions in hurling had Fr. Michael O'Brien and Fr. Bertie Troy; and, of course, the old maestro himself, Fr. Tommy Maher of Kilkenny, was there. It is noteworthy too that both County finalists this year, Kilruane (Len Gaynor) and Moneygall (Jack Ryan, UCD), had members at the course.

Would it be possible to have a similar coaching course organised for Bord na nOg trainers and school trainers (Primary and Secondary) at County venue?



Was it or wasn't it? Tipperary forward Francis Loughnane looks with interest as referee Noel Dalton, Waterford, trots in to have a word with one of his umpires arising out of a controversial shot by the Roscrea man. It wasn't a point though and while the umpire here has the white flag in his hand, his decision was a wide ball. One of the many tension-filled moments in that breath-taking first round drawn game with Limerick in scorching Semple Stadium last June.

JOHN DOLAN from Tipperary town was one of two delegates from the county at the GAA Youth Congress this year. Youth and the GAA? John feels—

THE GAA'S INTEREST IN YOUTH IS MISPLACED

The GAA boasts of its interest in youth but I fear it is interested in youth for many of the wrong reasons. The Association supports this boast by mentioning all the different competitions and leagues it organises and sponsors for the under age players. The Association is responsible for the promotion of games amongst the youth but, as I have already stated, for many of the wrong reasons.

The GAA recognises that for the development of a good senior player it is necessary to have the players playing and taking an interest early in life when they will gain most from the proper coaching. That I feel is the reason why the Association is interested in youth—it wants the standards of its games to improve.

But let me ask—is that what the Association should be about, the kicking and hitting of a ball around a field? Where in the Official Guide will one find reference to support the idea that the Association is for the promoting of better coaching. But let me remind you what the aim of the Association is—"The GAA is a national organisation which has as its basic aim the strengthening of the national identity in a 32 county Ireland through the preservation of Gaelic games and pastimes". The aim is not the promotion of games of any sort for their own sake, which is what is happening at the present as far as I can see.

I am not suggesting that the games are not useful to the Association in the promotion of its aims but what I am saying is that their promotion is a means to an end not an end in itself.

How about this to support my point that we are moving forward unthinkingly.

GAA's AIM

Last spring there was a County Youth Convention in Thurles. All the clubs in the county were invited to send two delegates. To begin with a great many clubs had no representatives. About half-way through the night the delegates were divided into four groups to discuss various subjects and I was Chairman of one such group. I cannot recall what our subject was but I got an opportunity of asking the group a question which was very relevant to the discussion, in my opinion at least.

"By the way lads, what do you think is the basic aim of this Association, why was the GAA started in the first place"? I repeated the question a second time but still no sign of an answer. The impression that I received was one of amazement that I should connect our topic with a question like that. I followed up that question with another one. "Would you have any difficulty getting on to your respective club committees"? This time there were answers: they all gave different answers but the content was the same. They said they would have little or no trouble in getting onto their club committees, in fact some of them had been asked.

Now here was a group of seventeen and eighteen year olds that had an association with the GAA and they were discussing a topic in order that the Association might benefit from it but at the same time they did not know what position the GAA wants to be in i.e. the achievement of its aims.

What does all this mean? Does it mean that these young people are "ignorant"? No it certainly does not, the most that it means in regard to these lads is that they were uninformed as to the aims of the Association. And who is to say that that is their fault?

The Association makes quite sure that little ten year olds know the rules of the games but yet seventeen and eighteen year olds that have been asked to serve on club committees are not required to know the basic aims of the Association.

Maybe I am being too severe on the older folk, it could be that they do not fully appreciate the Association's aims themselves because they have never been properly exposed to them. But what ever the reasons we must all come together, young, old and in-between, to ensure that we are plotting the proper and best course to the achievement of the Association's aims.

AN INSTRUMENT

The games are an instrument, a very useful one, which the Association has in order to promote and forward its aims. They are, as I have already said, a means to an end and not an end in themselves. It is very unfortunate that in the past we forgot that our useful instrument could also be a very dangerous one.

The time has come for a renaissance within the Association, a renaissance where "intelligent innovation" is the dominant ideal.

"One can't teach an old dog new tricks". I suppose the same is true of people so it would be

very unfair of me to expect the GAA to turn back on to its original path without some assistance. So I shall try to suggest some help. Let's get the youth of Ireland with their imagination, courage, strength, determination and probably most important of all, their intelligence, into the struggle.

In all human institutions there is an unmistakable tendency for them to become "run down" and finally useless, but we can replace, repair and renew, so let that be the task of the legions of youth within the Association.

But youth have always been coming into the Association so why should these be successful where other generations have failed? The generations of youth gone by were equipped with hurlers and footballers but let us not fall into that trap again, but equip this generation with "crap detectors", to quote Ernest Hemmingway. Anything within the Association which they recognise as not being beneficial to the achievement of the Association's aims they will label as "crap" and do what one generally does with "crap"—throw it out.

Our "crap detectors" will tell us what they tell the writer, what is and is not relevant and why that is so. Then and only then, when such questions have been satisfactorily answered, can we take the correct course of action in the best interest of the

Association's aims.

It will lead us to question and to accept nothing for granted just because it is "standard procedure". I feel myself that this Association has unquestionably accepted the games as the best way of promoting the Association's aims down through the years. I am not suggesting that they are not the best and most relevant means, but I am suggesting that we put a big question mark behind them and indeed behind a lot of other "standard practices" of the Association.

ROLE OF WOMEN

We must now question the role of women in the Association or more correctly the non role of women. Where are young girls going to find a place in the Association? Or more relevant still do we even want them in the Association?

This is not an article that one starts and concludes, it is one that is started and we must all continue it. It has no conclusion until the Association achieves its aims and, if I may half borrow a line or two from another gentleman, whose name, I hope there is no need to monitor, let not my final paragraph be written until the Gaelic Athletic Association has achieved its aims.



With the North Tipperary SHC final staged in MacDonagh Park, Cloughjordan, for the first time this year, it was fitting that a special guest at the clash of Moneygall and Silvermines should be a nephew of the Cloughjordan-born patriot, Thomas McDonagh, Mr Art Bingham. Here he is with All-Ireland referee Sean O'Connor, Limerick, as he prepares to throw in the ball to start the game.

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR MINOR HURLERS?

asks Brother M. V. O'Grady

ALL TIPPERARY MEN were disappointed with the performance of our minor hurlers in the Munster final last July. No player on that day or indeed in the first round game against Limerick, played up to his real potential. Some of us have seen these same minors play outstanding senior club games both before and after the championship. Each one of us has his own reason for this "slump". Those who give little thought to the problem usually throw the blame on to the selectors.

However, I had the privilege of being a selector in 1975 and I can honestly say that the selectors and trainer did more than their share to put out the best minor team available. I would submit to put the blame on the "system" of selection, training, etc. I hold that a change of system will bring a change of fortune.

Our system of selecting a panel of players is not the best. Early in the year, when the weather is wet and cold and the fields are not conducive to good hurling, a trial is held in each division. Clubs are asked to bring along the players they think deserve a trial. Those in charge do their best to select two fairly even teams. Unfortunately, as there is an overabundance of defenders, some backs find themselves playing in the forwards. Needless to say, they will find it extra difficult to catch the eyes of the selectors. There is also the chance that a good player has an "off" day and consequently he loses the chance of playing for his county. Some clubs don't bring along all their good players for the trial, but later on they use all means to have the player brought into the panel.

I believe that young hurlers can be seen at their best when playing for their club. With the present system, however, selectors are not appointed until Convention time. The minor championship has been finished a few months previously so the selectors will not have a chance of seeing club games. Why not appoint the selectors as soon as we are

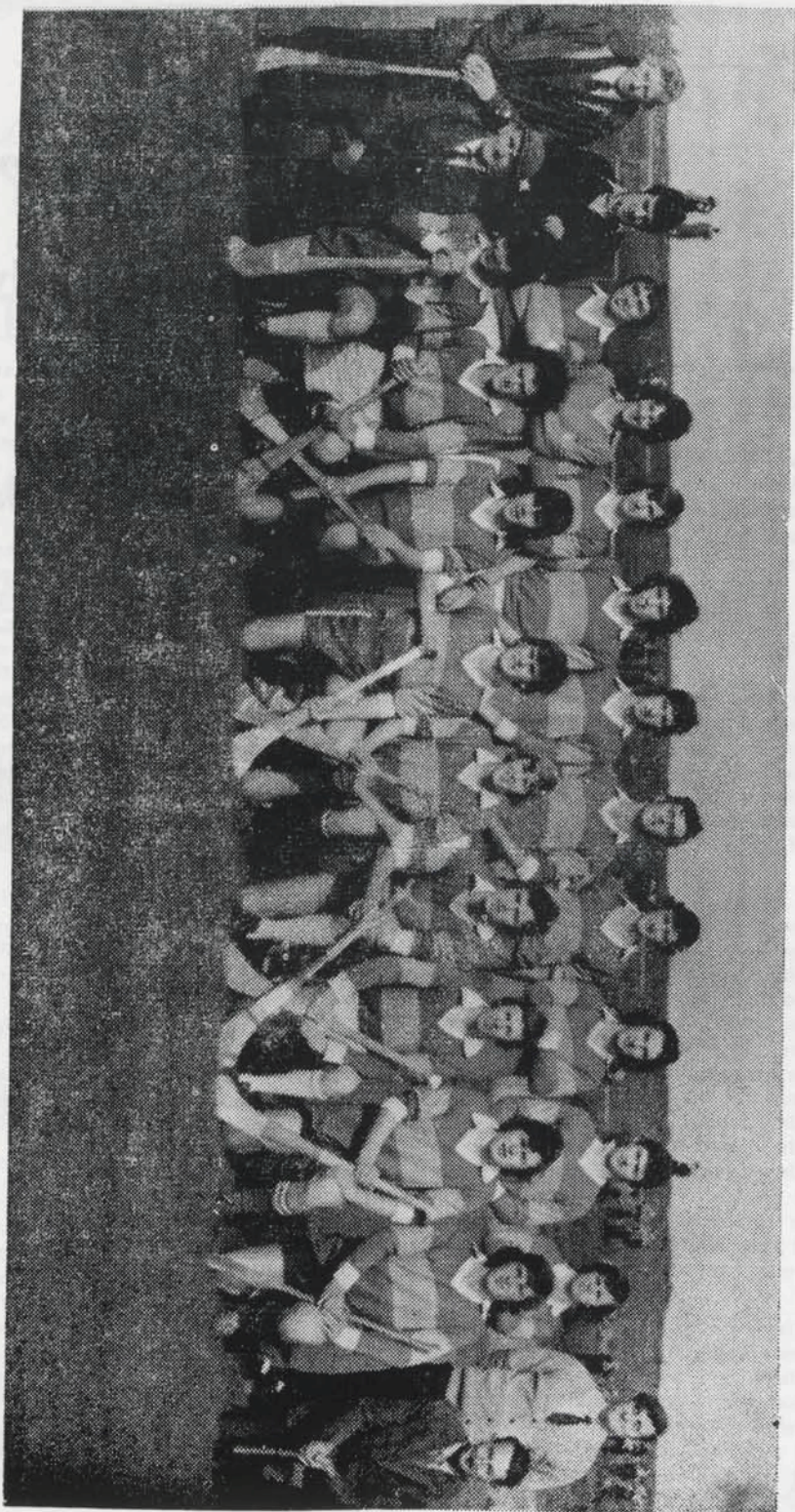
knocked out of the championship? I would also favour holding a club seven-a-side blitz in each division and all players would have a better chance of doing justice to themselves.

STANDARD NOT IMPROVED

Early in March we had two teams—North/West and Mid/South—taking part in the "winter" league. As far as I know this league was set up to help the weaker counties improve their standard. It has been in existence for three years now and Tipperary North/West have won it for the past two years. I don't believe that this league improved our standard very much. It would serve us better 'o withdraw from this competition immediately. Similarly with the "Four County" League, which has Tipperary, Offaly, Galway and Laois competing. By the beginning of May our minors had played nine games for their county and I feel that some of them had reached their "peak".

The North/West team turned in a brilliant performance in defeating Waterford in the final. Not one of that team, in my opinion, played as well again for the county. Indeed, a few players deteriorated so much that they were eventually dropped from the panel. Ninety per cent of these players were still attending school and they had more than enough games all during the winter. Let us not tire out our good players before the championship begins.

A panel of twenty-five was picked early in May. Training sessions were arranged and about ten were held before our first championship outing. However, the trainer and selectors were not happy with these sessions for a number of reasons. Some players did not turn up for some sessions because they had club games at the weekend. Divisional Boards made minor and under-21 fixtures right up to the week of our first round. There was no communication at all between the Boards and the selectors. As a result of such lack of organisation our training sessions suffered. Players attended without hurleys and



Cashel King Cormacks who retained their County MHC title

enough hurleys were not available to replace broken ones.

I do not agree that five selectors are needed. My preference is for a manager or coach in complete charge of selecting, coaching, team switching, etc. In the heat of a big game it is not possible for five men to always agree on changes that should be made on the field. Very often time is wasted and games have been lost while selectors discussed the "pros" and "cons" of a certain move.

One man must eventually make the final decision so why not give the authority to one man from the outset. Admittedly one man would find it impossible to see all the clubs in action during the year. I would hope, however, that he would enlist the help of others—probably one from each division—and they could always be at hand to advise him. Even from the players' viewpoint, one man in charge is a more satisfactory arrangement. Players are inclined to miss training sessions, not give of their best, etc., if they know that they are not responsible to any one man. Even though the manager may be hard on the players, they will have more respect for him and that will be seen in their approach to the game.

COACH'S TASK

You will notice that I used the word "coach"

(Continued on Page 91)

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BORRISOKANE— CHAMPIONS BY DEFAULT

By GERRY SLEVIN

WINNING A HURLING title, especially in Munster is no easy job. This year, though, the young hurlers from the Vocational School in Borrisokane had the distinction of retaining their provincial title without having to play the final. Victory in such a manner is never welcome, but that it should have happened is a reflection on the organisers within the province, who obviously did not put in the proper effort to ensure that the competition would have a happy conclusion.

This inter schools competition has taken the place of the Munster championship consequent to the introduction of the open draw last year. Borrisokane were the first winners but from the interest shown this year, its future must be far from secure.

A pity, really, and a poor tribute to the hurlers of tomorrow, who had prepared so diligently for the final, only to receive the trophy without having to fight for it.

It was as a result of their run of successes culminating with a huge victory over Nenagh in the final, that Borrisokane qualified to represent the county. The great tradition of this famed nursery over the years was maintained.

On the inter county front, North Tipp had no answer to all conquering Kilkenny in the final. It was one of the worst performances given by a Tipp team ever in the grade which was really hard to believe in view of the strength of the side on paper. However in action it was a different matter and it would seem that a tendency among so many senior players, namely to reserve their best efforts for their club, rather than the county, has rubbed on to the younger players too.

For all that the organisation of games in vocational schools continues to thrive. The teachers see to it that a proper interest in hurling and football is taken and with unstinted support from the Vocational Education Committees, the games are speedily progressing.

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR MINOR HURLERS ?

(Continued from Page 89)

frequently. A trainer's job is to have a team physically fit. A coach's task, however, is much more embracing. He has to be able to demonstrate all the various skills. There are many senior inter-county players who could become great players if they were told their mistakes and how how to correct them. Kilkenny have shown this year that coaching pays dividends. Minutes before the commencement of the All-Ireland final they were in rows practising the hand pass. Obviously it was something they had been told to do and they made good use of it during the course of the game.

Hurling is a very skilful game, but all of the skills can be mastered if demonstrated properly and practised frequently. With the introduction of the new rules a player need not be as strong as he had to be in the old days. Speed and skill are the two essentials and that's the chief reason why Kilkenny

are All-Ireland champions for 1975. There are still plenty of good hurlers in Tipperary. Coaching would help make them great hurlers. Some clubs in the county understand the necessity of this and they have been winning more than their share of trophies during the past few years.

My hope for 1976 is that all clubs could get their players to the playing field for a few evenings a week, and there coach them. If the club has not got a good coach it should go outside the club for one. Coaching sessions should be held in every division and indeed in every club. Greater use should be made of visual aids such as films and slides on the skills of the game. All our great hurlers of the past should be encouraged to get involved in this great work. Very few counties can boast of having so many great players still around. Let's not forget them now that their playing days are over. I believe that if all tackle the problem immediately, success will come our way before long.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gael

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

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LOUGHMORE AND MOYCARKEY DOMINATE MID JUVENILE AFFAIRS

By Fr. J. O'Rourke

WE USUALLY associate the activities of the GAA with outdoor events, but our story must begin indoors, with the Scor Competitions which have been run off since the last Year Book.

In the division there was good interest in the Competitions, which was borne out by an overflow attendance at the Divisional Finals in Templetuohy. Holycross/Ballycahill took the lion's share of the prizes, winning three of the nine competitions—Nellie Ferncombe in the Solo Singing and The Cashel Set Group and the Ballad Group. Thurles Sarsfields' representatives won the Figure Dancing and the Question Time. Siobhan Ryan taking the Recitation and their Group's presentation of the very moving blending in death of the Orange and Green taking the Novelty Act, were the Boherlahan winners. Caroline O'Brien of St Patrick's, Thurles, won the Solo Dancing and Mary Rose Gleeson, Loughmore/Castleiney, won the Solo Music. All the winners provided excellent entertainment also in the County Final. Thurles Sarsfields went on to tie in the All-Ireland Final of the Figure Dancing.

The middle of April marked the start of a very busy season on the playing fields. It was a hectic round of games and competitions until the last match was played in the Division, the Under 16 Hurling Final, on Saturday, 13th September. Eight competitions in all were run off. I feel one would have to go back a few years to find one club competing in all eight finals. But it happened this year. That club was Moycarkey/Borris. Their opposition in six of those finals was Loughmore/Castleiney. Their other two opponents were Templemore in Under 12 Hurling, whom they beat after a tremendous game and extra time, and St Patrick's, Thurles, in Under 12 Football. St Patrick's also put up a great fight, but went down in the second half, during heavy rain.

Apart from those two competitions it was real Moycarkey v Loughmore showdowns. There was no doubt that at Under 14 level in both hurling and football Loughmore/Castleiney were all-conquering.

In any of the matches it was a David v Goliath contest, and the Davids of Moycarkey did not seem to be able to find a suitable sling and stone, or hurley and ball, to stop the Goliaths of Loughmore.

It was at Under 16 level that most was expected and most was witnessed. The first final to be played was the football and in this Moycarkey started very strongly and got the vital scores. Loughmore came to within two points of them but could get no further, so Moycarkey were champions. It now meant that Loughmore had won four Mid Finals in 1975 and Moycarkey had won three, the deciding one was to be Under 16 Hurling. It really lived up to expectations and was typical of the sporting rivalry that has grown up between the clubs over the last couple of years. In this game it was Loughmore who set the early scoring pace and threw the challenge to Moycarkey to catch them. Moycarkey truly accepted the challenge, but Loughmore withstood the grandstand finish and won by two points amid great scenes of excitement.

Two clubs have taken all the titles in the Division, what of the other clubs? Leaving aside Under 14, which was without doubt dominated by Loughmore, the other competitions were very keenly contested. Some of the closest matches were seen in Under 16 Hurling. Any one of five teams could just as likely have been Mid champions as Loughmore. One point, however, is important, without a great deal of effort being put into home-work, by means of leagues and particularly kindly encouragement, the youth will not be able to give of their best when representing their club.

A word of praise and thanks must go to all those who organised the championships, to the referees, to those who have charge of pitches, to those who took charge of the teams, and so many others who helped. They all blended together to make our games and functions attractive and really worthwhile. We hope that the true spirit of the games and the Association will continue to be instilled into our youth.



The most honour-laden club of the year in Tipperary. Loughmore's brilliant juveniles (under 14) with the fine array of trophies which they won throughout the season: the Dr. Harry Challenge Shield (Co. Rural Hurling), Br. Doody Cup (Mid Rural Hurling), Challenge Shield (Co. Urban/Rural Hurling), Corn Liam O Dubhbir (Mid U/R Hurling), Corn Feile na nGael, Corn Phadraig Naomha (Mid Rural Football), Fr Meagher Cup (Co. Rural Football), Co. U/R Football Cup, Corn Bord na nOg (Mid U/R Football). The players for both the hurling and football teams were all drawn from the same panel, included here, having thrown aside their hurleys for the photograph. Front, left to right: Lant Carroll, Seamus Carroll, Declan Allen, Sean Og Lynch, Joe Kieley, Timmy Connolly, Timmy Doyle, Pat McCormack, Joe Sweeney. Centre row, left to right: Pat Gleason, Pat Treacy, Pat McGrath, Thomas O'Connell, Timmy Stapleton, Peter Brennan, Dick Egan. Back, left to right: John Fitzpatrick, Liam Cormack, Conor Eviston, Francis McGrath, Joe O'Connell, James Maher, Ger Geehan, John Egan, Patrick Egan.

FOUR JUVENILE TITLES FOR BORRISOKANE

THE JUVENILE SCENE in the North division throughout 1975 was dominated by three clubs, which between them took no fewer than eight of the eleven titles on offer. They were Borrisokane Toomevara and Eire Og with the Lower Ormond boys getting to the victory rostrum on four occasions. They won the under 12 football, under 14 football, under 14 (Urban/Rural) hurling and the under 16 "special" hurling, thus

By GERRY SLEVIN

making it an outstanding year for a club that was not noted for its attention to the young lads up to just a couple of years ago. Toome and Eire Og took doubles, the former coming out on top in the under 14 (rural) hurling and the under 12 hurling with Eire Og taking the honours in both hurling and football in under 16. Other titles were won by: Moneygall (under 14, section 2), Roscrea (under 12 hurling "special"), Silvermines (under 14 hurling "special").

The fact that only one county title from all of these successes eventually came and it was the Under 16 hurlers from Eire Og who brought this honour to the North, does not in any way take from the merits of the victories. Bord na nOg is moving along very smoothly in the North and much of the credit must go to the leadership given by the Chairman, Andreas Mac Domhnaill, and Michael O'Brien, the energetic and enthusiastic secretary.

Pride of place in the honours list must of course go to Borrisokane. It was back in the early fifties that they won their last juvenile title and the strength of the opposition they provided in all grades and especially in those where they came out on top, augurs well for the future of the club. Leadership is of course vital where young players are concerned and nothing but the best in this regard came from Fr Tom Seymour, Paddy Murphy, Denis Gardiner, Son Kelly and Paddy Hodgins.

Because of the "no man's land" in which the tiny club of Knockshegowna finds itself as regards

Gaelic games—it is half in Tipperary and half in Offaly—the few young lads who might not be able to develop their skills on their own, were allowed to join Borrisokane and a fine contribution to the success of the club they made.

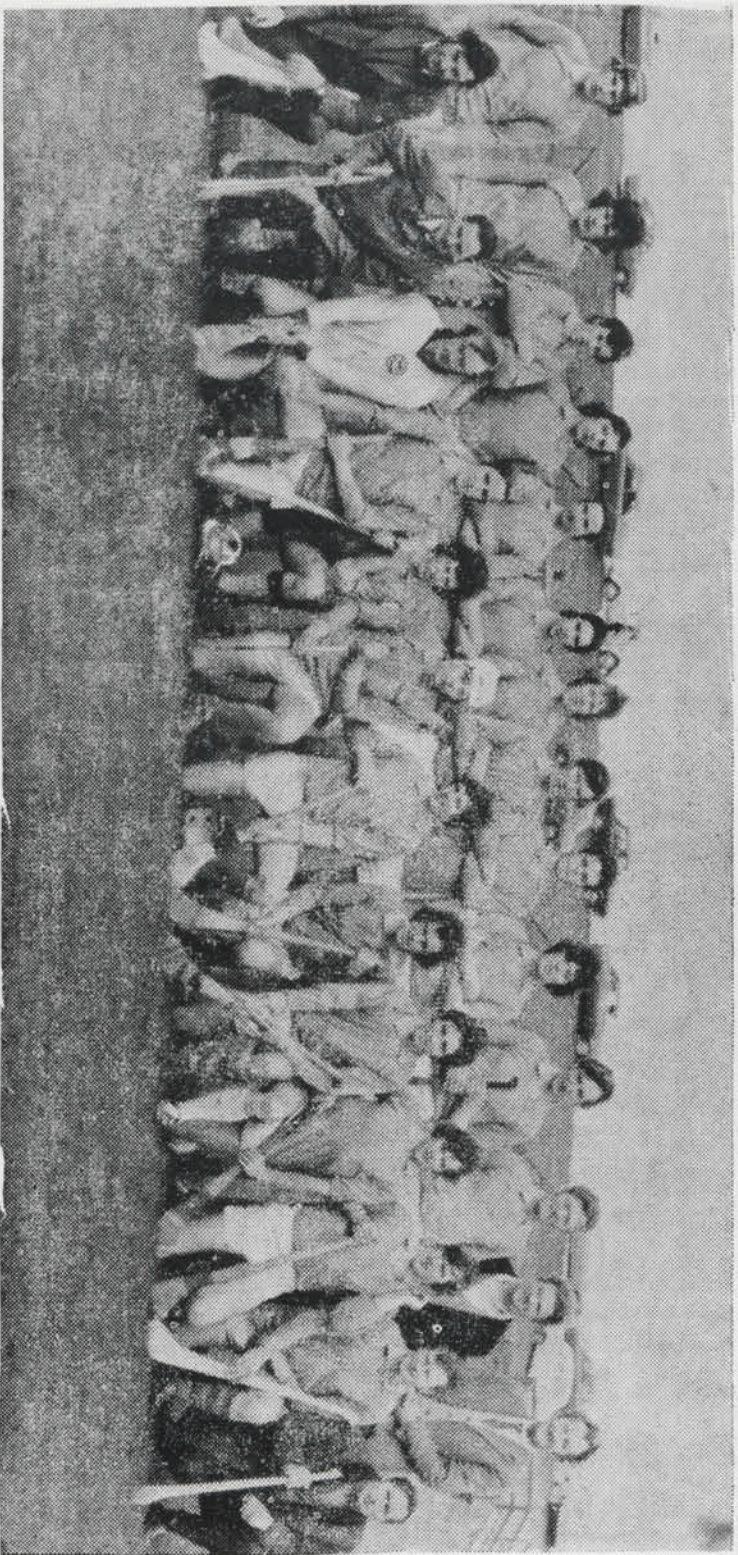
It's a sign of the times that a renowned juvenile club like Kilruane failed to leave its mark on the juvenile scene this season. It must be very encouraging for Borrisokane, Toome and the rest when they reflect on the fact that the great results that are now coming the way of Kilruane in higher grades can be attributed largely to the attention given to these men in their juvenile days, days that saw them sweep the board both at divisional and county level.

There is certainly no shortage of enthusiasm for juveniles in the North. Most clubs have a separate committee looking after them and the day when these young lads were left to their own devices and were looked after by people whose time was not all that plentiful to spare because of commitments to other grades, seems to be gone entirely. It's not before its time of course and the interest shown by so many people in juvenile affairs must be of tremendous encouragement to those who are sparing no effort in promoting the games among the young. Long may it be so.

BORD na nOG

Following are the results of the North Bord na nOg competitions for 1975:

- Under 12 H.**—Toomevara 3-0, Silvermines 1-0
- Under 12 F.**—Borrisokane 4-2, Eire Og 4-0
- Under 12 H. Special**—Roscrea 1-0, Kilruane 0-0
- Under 14 H. Rural**—Toomevara 6-3, Kilruane 3-2
- Under 14 H. Urban/Rural**—Borrisokane 4-3, Moneygall 2-1
- Under 14 F.**—Borrisokane 4-5, Newport 2-1
- Under 14 H. Special**—Silvermines 8-13, Burgess 2-3
- Under 16 H.**—Eire Og 3-9, Portroe 0-2
- Under 16 F.**—Eire Og 4-8, Inane 3-3
- Under 16 H. Special**—Borrisokane 3-10, Templederry 3-1
- Under 14 H. Section II**—Moneygall 10-4, Templederry 3-1



Clonmore: Mid Tipperary junior hurling champions for the first time, who later qualified for the County decider by disposing of Solohead in the semi-final.

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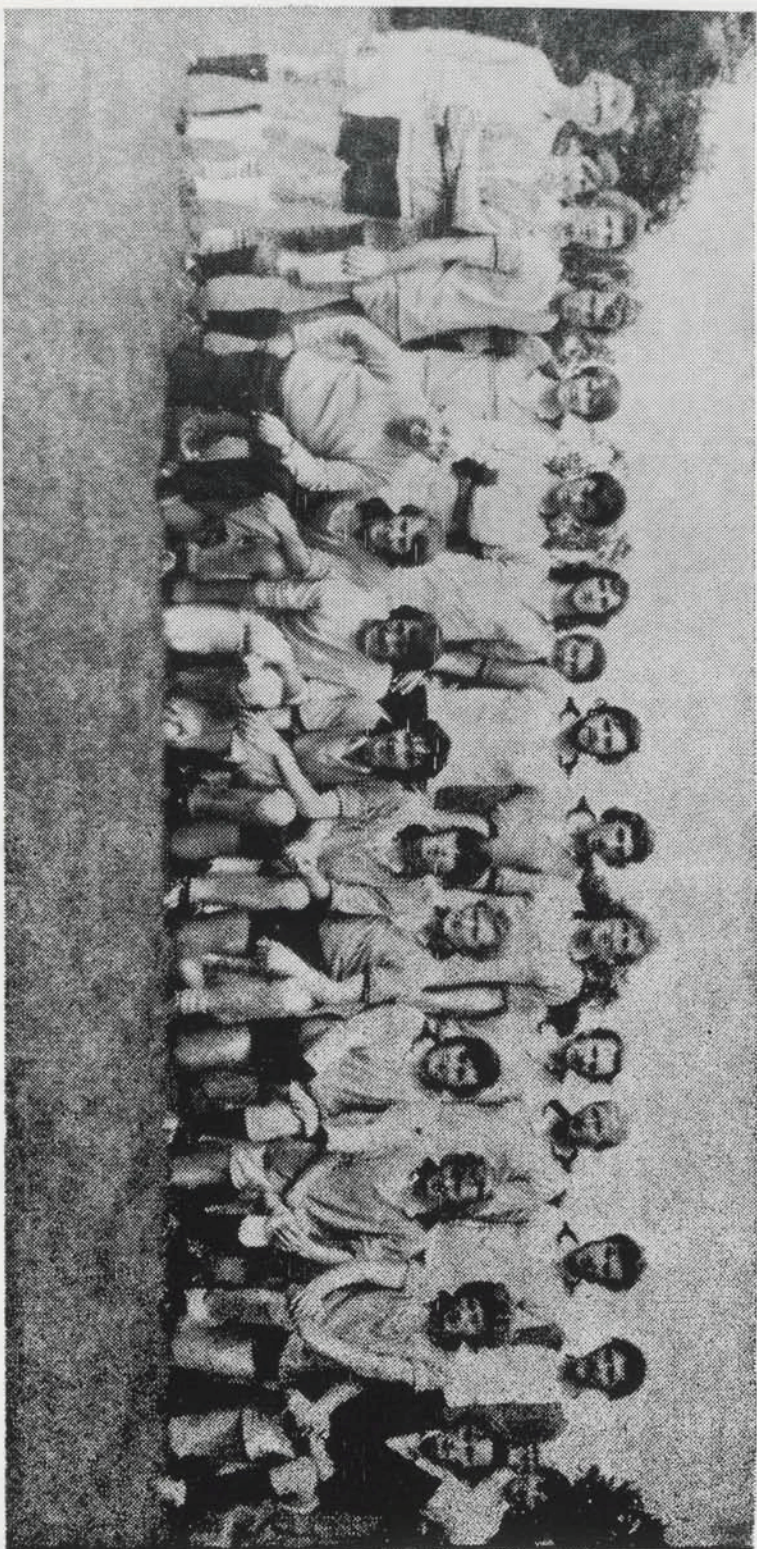
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A first for Newcastle. They won the South Tipperary junior football title, defeating Commercial's, 2-7 to 1-5.

"COME ON CONNOLLY PARK"

By Jimmy Collins

THE ABOVE HEADING was the catch-cry of one of the teams competing in the final of the St. Mary's, Clonmel, u/12 Street League run in the spring of 1975. The same Connolly Park team won that final but only after a tremendous do or die effort by Ard-na-Greine, their opponents.

Similar scenes are witnessed each year in Clonmel when the St. Mary's Hurling Club are putting in hard work in an effort to reach, some day, the highest honours to be had in Tipperary hurling. A start must be made somewhere and this is where the street league is a "must" in order to get out the young talent.

Unfortunately, quite a lot of clubs neglect this very important work. Their one and only effort is usually made for the team in the club most likely to be successful. Not alone does the street league display the talent of our young boys, but, it arouses the interest of parents, in a lot of cases, to a mad fervour, which if harnessed properly can be used by the parent club.

At Divisional or County level the team mentors on the sideline very often get very excited—even at times lose their heads completely. The sideline of every street league game is exactly the same thing to the parents. Unless the boys make a start at this level they will never make the grade.

Our street league this year resulted in us entering three u/12 teams in the South Tipperary juvenile championships, which was run on a league basis. This meant that at least 60 young boys were wearing their club jerseys at an early age in competitive games. Furthermore, their knowledge of the skills of hurling will be improving from that age onwards.

Another very important factor attached to early involvement in GAA games is the introduction to manly pursuits which remain with us long after we've left our native area to take up jobs in the city, another county or country. I don't know of any bad GAA club or a club which encourages blackguardism of any kind. It can be truly said 'we're a pretty decent lot of fellows' despite some of the old tricks we may get up to from time to time.

To get back to the subject of street leagues, it can be said that many a great intercounty player

was first noticed at that level. If we have said "Come on Connolly Park" in our town of Clonmel, and remember hurling is still claimed as the "poor relation" in the South, then other catch-cries such as "Silver Street, Nenagh", "John's Road, Carrick", "Bohernave, Thurles", "Barrack Street, Cahir", should be heard loud and clear throughout the county.

Hurling is going through a very lean time in Tipperary at the moment. Quite a lot of reasons are being put forward for this decline. Have we got a solution to the problem? To be fair about it, unless we get all of the very young boys in our towns and villages interested our lean period is going to stretch quite a lot. More attention must be focussed on juveniles in the parish. A typical example of success in this area is the Loughmore club whose successes in hurling have been outstanding over a few years now. How was it accomplished? I'm sure Fr. O'Rourke will be the first to admit it was attention to youth.

The social side of street leagues should not be forgotten either. Sets of medals or plaques are very easy to come by nowadays. More and more firms and people seem anxious to donate trophies and indeed we do owe them our thanks. A get-together on the night of the street league final for all the teams which took part in the league is a must. A cup of tea, a few sandwiches, crisps, buns, lemonade, a film or two, all really help to create the bond of comradeship which is necessary in order to build your club teams from different segments of your parish.

A formal presentation of the cup and medals—in our case we asked Noel Skehan of Kilkenny to make the presentations. We would clearly love to have a successful Tipperary hurler, but, alas, they are not as plentiful as before.

However, the street league winners of today will more than likely be the stars of tomorrow. In fact, I'm sure they will if their club nurtures and takes care and pride in them. Each club can play its part and help Tipperary regain its lost prestige by setting about organising that parish league this winter. An u/12 street league this year could mean an All-Ireland minor title for Tipperary, an All-Ireland minor medal for your son—an honour indeed for the "little village".

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