

# TIPPERARY YEAR BOOK

1977

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7<sup>th</sup> Issue

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# Tipperary G.A.A.

## Year Book

### 1977

Published on behalf of the  
TIPPERARY COUNTY BOARD

By  
'THE GUARDIAN',  
13 Summerhill, NENAGH

Editor  
GERRY SLEVIN

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# REAMHRA

CUIRIM FAILTE om chroith don Bliainiris seo, an seactu cheann ata curtha ag an mBord in adaidh a ceile. Ta athas mor orm buichios a thabhart do gach duine a bhi pairteach san eagraan seo. Obair an mhaith at deanta aca agus ta suil agam go mbeidh taithieach mor le fail daoine as ar gcondae agus in aiteanna eile as na sceala ata curtha romhainn ins an bliainiris seo.

These boys and those in charge of them find a special place in the Year Book and deservedly so. We were all extremely proud of them on September 5th when they brought back the "Irish Press" Cup after an absence of 17 years.

This was of course the highlight of our year. But there were others and one immediately thinks of the closeness of the issue when our senior hurlers fell to eventual champions Cork in the opening round; Moneygall's character in retaining the senior hurling title on a day that was unique for our county in that we were in a position to stage both hurling and football finals as one programme. We remember, too, the return of Galtee Rovers to the helm in football, something that must show results on the inter-county scene before long.

Coming to the end of my first year as Chairman, I have many happy memories and I am extremely grateful to everyone, especially my fellow Board officers, who have helped me in so many ways. I do feel that if the approach that was shown by the minors can spread itself to the teams in other grades, our future looks exceedingly bright and it will not be long before more honours come our way.

Just as our finals, our Conventions and our Scor competitions have found a special place in the hearts of Tipperary people, so too has our Year Book, the present edition of which is the 7th successive one. I am delighted to pay tribute to all associated with the venture. I know it hasn't been easy to arrive at material of a "selling" nature, without comparative lack of success on the inter-county field over the past few years, but for all that, those who have taken on the task of providing us with a Year Book have done a splendid job, a job that has been maintained this year, when, thankfully our hopes for the future rose considerably by the splendid success of our minor hurlers.

Hoibeard O Hogan,

Cathaoirleach.

Nollaig '76.



# THE MINORS— on the road to the top

As seen through the eyes of Team Coach REV. BRO. M. V. O'GRADY

EARLY LAST MARCH the Minor Hurling Selectors started the ball rolling by holding divisional trials. They were not a great success as some clubs failed to send anybody. In an inter-divisional competition the North came out easy winners.

A panel of twenty-four was immediately selected to go into training. Training took place two nights a week, mainly at Clonoulty, but a few sessions were held in Thurles and Holycross. On May 15th we made the long journey to Abbey-dorney to play Kerry in the first round of the Munster championship. We had a facile win, scoring 7-10 to Kerry's 1-3. Two weeks later we travelled to Limerick to play Cork in the semi-final. In a thrilling game Tipperary came out on top, the score being 1-13 to 2-8. Those who stayed away from the game were the real losers. At last we began to believe that Croke Park was within our reach. As most of the panel were sitting for their Leaving Certificate examinations, collective training sessions were not held for a month. On June 23 training was resumed at Thurles and Clonoulty. On August 1st we travelled to Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the Munster final and our opponents were Limerick. After a poor display we defeated Limerick by 5-10 to 5-6. Training resumed immediately for the All-Ireland. Kilkenny were our opponents and after a brilliant display we won the "Irish Press" Cup on the scoreline Tipperary 2-20, Kilkenny 1-7.

The three selectors and coach held a few meetings before the divisional trials, and a plan of campaign was drawn up. At the end of the first training session the panel was told its duties and responsibilities. Rules regarding attendance, punctuality, smoking and drinking were made. Players who moved out of line were dropped. There was a great unity between selectors and coach, and I feel this was a very important factor in our success.

Training sessions were always varied and enjoyable. About 35 minutes was spent on skill practice, 10 minutes on physical exercises, 20 minutes for a game and 20 minutes for "talk-ins."

At these "talk-ins," players were told of their faults and how they should be corrected, plans were made for a forthcoming game, or a discussion took place on a game just played. Players themselves gave their opinions and suggestions. A great spirit grew up between each member of the panel and the selectors. Attendance at each session was very satisfactory. On the way down in the train after winning the All-Ireland one player was heard remarking to a team-mate: "I don't know how I will spend Tuesday and Friday evenings from now on." Such was the happy spirit that prevailed at all training sessions.

The twenty-five members of the panel gave a hundred per cent co-operation. They were very willing to listen and learn. Each member gave of his best at every training session in spite of the very warm weather we had during the summer months. Some of the players had very long journeys to make and I know that it was around midnight when one car had finished leaving home players. The players were very dedicated indeed and it was only right that success should come their way. We may not have had the best individuals in the County but we had the best team.

Looking back now on all the activities, a few thoughts come to my mind.

(1) Isn't it a pity that selectors, etc., are not picked in September of each year so that they would have time to see the latter part of the minor hurling championship? It can be very difficult to pick or drop a player after one trial in early March.

(2) Club officers could be more co-operative at these trials. It is a great honour for any club to have one of its members playing for the County team. Some club officers don't even bother to send anybody or to attend themselves. However, if the team progresses to the All-Ireland final, then they will start coming forward with players. The selectors this year were under pressure to bring players into the panel as late as two weeks before the All-Ireland. They did not give way to this pressure and rightly so. How can a player coming









With a smile of satisfaction the Archbishop of Cashel and Emlly, Most Rev. Dr. Joe Hogan display the "Irish Press" Cup. GAA President, Con Murphy is on the right and the jubilant Tipperary players leave no doubt as to the satisfaction gained from the All-Ireland final victory over Kilkenny.



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For 'Midas' Mick:

## A TALE OF THREE TRIUMPHS

By GERRY SLEVIN

PERHAPS IT WAS just as well that Roscrea failed to dethrone Moneygall in the latter's bid for a second successive county hurling title. No disrespect to Roscrea, let it be added. It just showed that Mick Minogue is mortal after all. Up to Sunday, September 12th there was good reason to believe that Mick indeed had the Midas touch and that everything with which he was concerned turned to gold. Yet, the Knockshewanna native has more than ample reason to look back on the past year with a sense of immense satisfaction because he guided two sides to welcome and much publicised heights. Moneygall's arrival to take a well earned place among the great champions of Tipperary and the triumphant return of our minors to the All Ireland honours list after a long absence, owe a lot to the astute guidance of the former star Roscrea midfielder and while it would indeed have been a feat of unprecedented proportions had his adopted club, Roscrea taken Moneygall in the 1976 county final, Mick has certainly done enough in 1975 and '76 to earn a special place for himself in modern Tipperary hurling.

A first for Moneygall as divisional and county champions; and an All Ireland minor title at last. Mick was very much a part of all three triumphs.

Hailing from what in GAA terms can only be described as half a parish, Knockshewanna, Mick didn't get much scope to portray his undoubted playing abilities in his younger days. Knockshe' is the Tipperary half of the parish of Shinrone (Offaly) and while it has played a very fine role over the years despite its size, the club has been bedeviled by emigration and the call to more populated places. Indeed Mick's brother Murt saw many a fine hour in the blue and gold of Knockshe' before taking off for the United States.

Mick's horizons were not as broad and Tipperary hurling has good reason to be thankful for that. Roscrea became his adopted home and he soon became a vital cog in a slick moving hurling machine which after years of fruitless endeavour, at last made the breakthrough and won five county titles between 1968 and 1973. Always playing with nothing less than all out effort, his mid field performance for the dreaded 'reds' had all the hall marks of a dedicated and spirited hurler. Allied to his workrate, was his guile and ability to sum up the

abilities of other caman wielders, attributes that were to stand him in excellent stead as future events were to prove so conclusively.

His appearance in the Moneygall camp came AFTER Roscrea had bid farewell to their '75 hopes Sarsfields knocked them out of the county race and ironically it was Moneygall who put paid to their hopes of advancement in the divisional race. Moneygall men like Seamus Ryan, Fr. Paddy O'Meara and Paddy Maher were quick to realise what an asset Mick would be to their team in its bid to make an all out effort to get into the record books after so many years of frustrations and disappointments. Mick was approached and quickly accepted the challenge facing him. Immediately the spirit of Moneygall took on a new dimension. Players, who for so long seemed lacking in self belief suddenly became a serious threat to all title hunters. Not just one, but two titles were won and in all the celebration speeches, the name of Mick Minogue was listed high in the credits.

Came a change in the method of the appointment of county selectors, the unenviable task falling on the shoulders of Board chairman, Tom O'Hara. Bearing in mind the part played by Mick Minogue in Moneygall's rise to the top and conscious too of how he had guided the Roscrea minors to divisional success, in the same year, Tom asked for his co-operation along with that of Aengus Ryan and Billy Carroll with Cashel supremo, Brother Michael V. O'Grady as coach. It was a combination that couldn't go wrong, provided the necessary support was forthcoming from the minors. The triumphant return to the top culminating in what has been described as the finest performance ever by an All Ireland winning team has been spoken of and written about much since September 5th. Here again, the back room boys received due recognition and at the reception out in Matt Ryan's Grand Hotel, Malahide on the final night, the joys of success were shared equally by players and mentors.

Speaking to Mick Minogue that night, one heard nothing about his own part in the success. His emphasis was on the one hundred per cent co-operation he and his fellow mentors received from each panel member. Watching the players that day, this was easy to understand but underlying Mick's words was another obvious thing. There was a dedication and an urgency in their play reminis-

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cent of Mick's own contribution in his hurling days. His part in the success could not be mistaken.

A week later came what must surely have been a heartrending occasion for this mastermind. Lining out in the county final were his own club, Roscrea and the side he steered so successfully the previous year. Mick's allegiance was now with Roscrea. They tried hard to prevent a two in a row bid by Moneygall but it was a vain effort. Moneygall retained their title by the least of margins and Mick was the first to congratulate the champions. Obviously he was disappointed but at the same time there was the undoubted satisfaction in the knowledge that what he had imparted to Moneygall the previous season, had stood strongly to them again.

Mick Minogue's contribution to hurling over the past couple of years is something that must not be allowed to fade and die. He has shown such immense ability that his great talents must be utilised even fuller for the betterment of Tipperary hurling.

## COMMISSION AT WORK

At County Convention in January 1975, a motion from Arravale Rovers calling for the setting up of a Commission to look into all aspects of the Association within the county received unanimous approval.

Although it took some time to get the project off the ground, the selection of members was made and regular meetings are being held under the chairmanship of Tom Kirby, the Board's PRO/Development Officer. The other members are: Michael Maher, former Central Council representative and Bord na bPaire Chairman; Pat Stakeum, a member of the Tipp three in a row All-Ireland winning teams, 1949 to 1951, and captain in '49; Rev. Bro. Michael O'Grady, Cashel, Coach to the Tipp minor team this year; Jim Gill, Newtown, Nenagh, a long standing Bord na nOg official; Seamus O Riain, Moneygall, former Board Chairman and under whose Presidency of the GAA the National Commission was set up; Gerard Spain, an accountant from Thurles; Seamus Leahy, Rockwell College; Gerry Slevin, a Nenagh journalist and Year Book Editor; Eamonn De Stafort, Shannonside Regional Tourism Manager for North Tipperary; Michael Ryan, Tipperary Town, a member of the club which introduced the motion to have the Commission set up.

It is expected that all work will be completed by early summer.

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# **CORK AGAIN KILL OUR HURLING HOPES**

**By JOHN O'GRADY**

("CULBAIRE" of the "TIPPERARY STAR")

SPORT IS PACKED with unproveable speculations—and incurable speculators. The jockey whose chance disappears at the first Aintree fence walks the long trek in to tell the trainer and owner that he was morally certain of victory if only he hadn't got baulked or brought down. The first round flattened boxed insists he met a lucky punch . . .

Tipperary senior hurlers were high among 1976's list of "if onlys". There's no way of being sure that we'd have been in Cork's shoes on All-Ireland day if a post or goalie—the credit was variously allotted but perhaps was shared by man and timber—had not stopped Seamus Power's drive for victory at Limerick; but one thing is beyond doubt—Cork wouldn't have won the All-Ireland or levelled with Tipp's twenty-two titles. All Tipp brought home from Limerick was the unhelpful—and, to be frank, unusual—experience of having rabid Corkmen admitting to good luck and confessing that a draw would have been a proper result. In the days after the game a tale went round that a selector named Ring, who used to hurl a bit in his time, told his hurlers that they should play the next round in Lourdes—as insurance of another miracle. Tipperary men smiled at that, without mirth. A third year in sad succession and still no championship tie won by the county; our last victory the 1973 semi-final when we came with three late goals, against Cork.

The game at Limerick was almost the whole season's record in one capsule—when you'd seen that, you'd seen them all. Behind it lay the story of a sort of ambush that barely failed. For a couple of months before, Tipp had kept the lowest of profiles. This was by no means fully by choice; it was enforced by not getting one of the four qualifying places available in our National League section. Tipp finished a modest campaign in that series by reaching a sort of colourless limbo; we

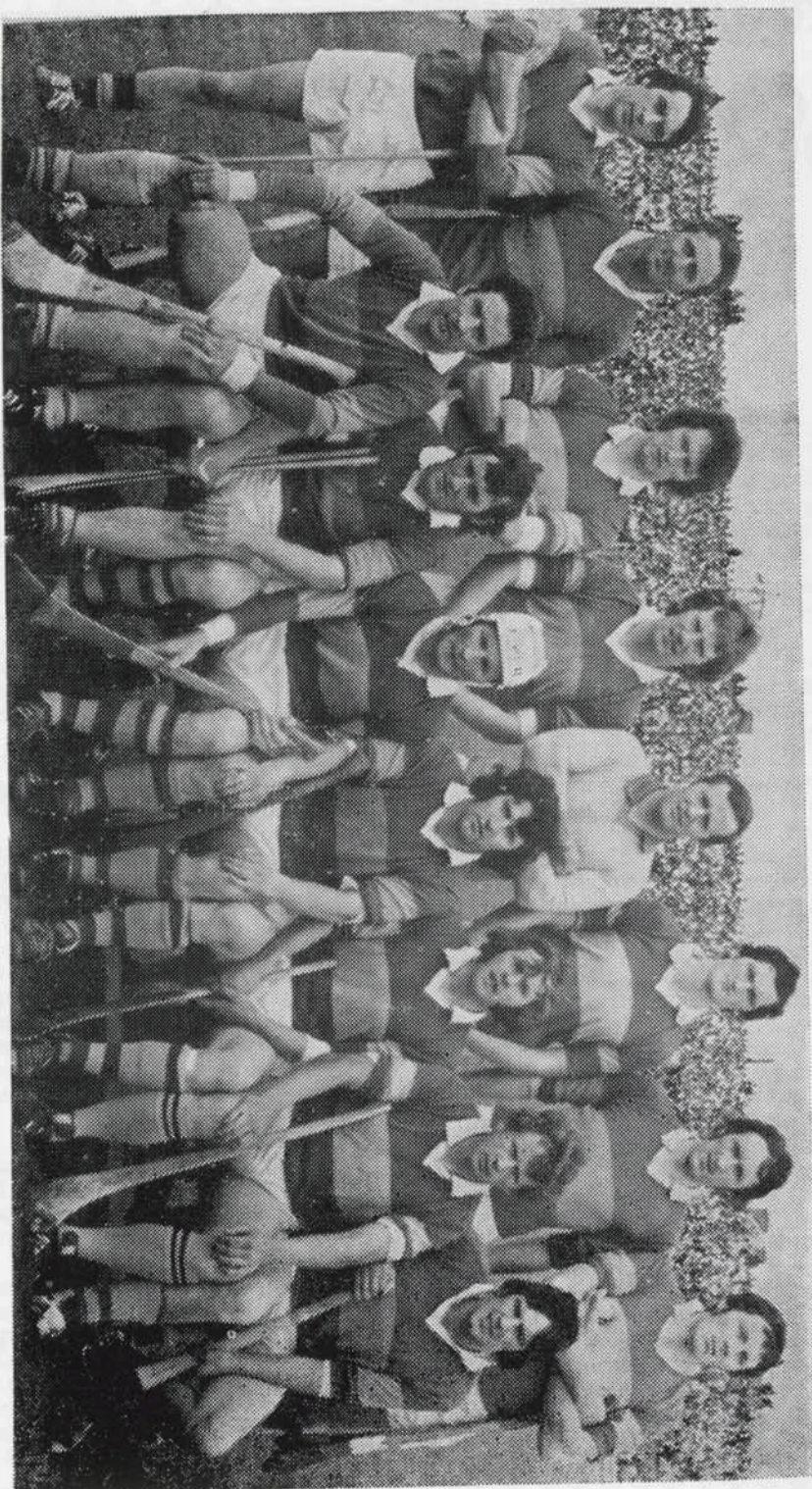
neither stayed in the race nor fell to the lower section. While the survivors fought on—and on—in the amazing, draw-strewn games which kept players and public returning to Thurles Sunday after Sunday until Kilkenny finally destroyed Clare's hopes, Tipperary were out of sight in the training camp. Rumour went about that things were going well, that the response was eager, that physical expert Boyle of the Depot was working well. The selectors, when accosted, spoke with optimism and said Cork hadn't looked wonderful in losing to Kilkenny in the League semi-final. Which was true, no doubt.

## **HOPEFUL SOUNDS**

Were there grounds for hope, or were these just the automatically hopeful sounds you get from every camp? The followers wondered and argued about the merits of the two young Cashel players, Fitzelle and Grogan, where or whether they should play. Hurlers of older pedigree in Mick Coen and Roger Ryan had been drafted in on the strength of club display. Flanagan was back there, too, in hopes that being ignored for a few months would provoke him into full fitness to extract his undeniable ability.

The selectors had a load of personal prestige depending on the result. In a county that had often changed its choosers in late years they must have known that their positions were probably at stake. There were three of them—a famous backman and a lethal forward of the same age group, John Doyle and Paddy Kenny; plus Sean Ryan of Toomevara, the sole link with previous committees and remembered as a sticky, light full-back in emergency against Limerick at Cork at the end of the forties. This trio had been the product of Co. Chairman Tom O'Hara's assignment by the County Board in the autumn of 1975 to find three men who





The TIPPERARY senior hurling team which failed to eventual All-Ireland champions, Cork, in the Munster semi-final. Standing, left to right: Michael Coen, Jim Kehoe, Seamus Hogan, Noel O'Dwyer, Seamus Shinnors, John Grogan, Tommy Butler, Jim Keogh. Front, left to right: Francis Loughnane, Jack Dunlea, Pat Quigley, Tadhg O'Connor, Billy Fanning, John Flanagan, Seamus Power.



perhaps might improve our status, find the right formula and even maybe win another championship. This novel system implied the exclusion of new county champions Moneygall from the share of influence enjoyed—if that is the word—by most of the previous title-holders.

Any new selectors, entering office in unprosperous times, have the dilemma: is our policy to be long or short term—a patient quest for new blood or an attempt to win every possible match as we meet it? The public are theoretically in favour of a slow build-up — and temperamentally anxious for prompt success. The League is a big thing in its own right, carrying perhaps half the prestige of an All-Ireland, but from the very first day out Tipperary could only forget about winning it, hope to avert the shame of relegation—and use it as an arena for trial and experiment.

### MARDYKE DEFEAT

The worst and the best of the League came early. At the Mardyke a team picked by the outgoing selectors, under some difficulties, contained several new players who must have been amazed to be playing at that level at all—and were unlikely to repeat the experience very soon. It was no match; just quiet humiliation, with Tipp followers wisely few in strength. The best show of the early fixtures, and a mild boost to the new mentors, came in heavy mud at Nowlan Park. We led by an unlikely margin at one time and dogged defence nearly preserved it, till Keher hit a great one-handed goal to spur Kilkenny. In the heel of the hunt it was a huge point by Ger Henderson out of half-back which drew a game in which the pair of Fannings and cousin Jack Ryan of Moneygall, with O'Callaghan of Carrick in the right-back place, got their opportunities to stake claims.

Against Wexford at Carrick old favourite Keating came back, rather heavy in build. Sarsfields' young wing-back Gleeson was a new face but he got a leg injured and had to struggle. So had the team as a whole; Wexford came along with the winning moves, especially through Tony Doran's toss. In this game Benny Ryan (Boherlahan) made a respectable impression. Another on inconclusive trial was Martin Butler (Holycross) with Kieran Hough (Lorrha) also a probationer.

Cloughjordan on the sharpest of east-windy days saw a victory over Galway's All-Ireland runners-up. Efforts to discover good new forwards concentrated on Jim Williams (Kilruane) after his county final display, and on Jimmy Ryan (Ballinahinch) a son of the immortal Timmy of Lime-rick. The latter seemed to do fair enough against Niall McInerney. At the other end O'Callaghan lost some marks and was not to hold a place.

In the New Year Tipp went to Tulla and registered not a flag from play, losing dismally. Now the Dublin game became very important. A win at

Thurles could normally be automatic but Dublin had done some excellent things against good teams and might be in a mood to bother us.

At this stage the selectors looked to Cashel. They named Pat Fitzelle, a slender, wiry lad, for centre-back, and another of high stature, John Grogan, for midfield. The game was won readily enough but views on the new players were mixed. Some thought Fitzelle a bit adventurous in his advances; others saw this as a positive merit. Grogan's impact was not the kind to prove anything. After this, Tipp quit the stage and got into private rehearsal for the great drama set for the following June. A few tournaments intervened, in which Pat Quigley, the Dublin player from Sean Treacy's, was tried at wing-forward. One daring experiment was undertaken against Limerick in a CBS game—Grogan at full forward on Pat Hartigan; the modern style and rules seemed to justify it.

Cork had played a thoroughly bad second half in losing their League semi-final, and their prestige was not as high as often before, but neither was there warm confidence generally behind our team, which was featured by Billy Fanning at corner back, Coen at centre, Quigley at wing-forward and Grogan at full.

### LOW KEY

The rather low key of the occasion was symbolised by the lack of band or parade but for nearly all the first half Tipp followers had welcome pleasure as the team hurled keen and sharp, Grogan's roving puzzling McDonnell, his frees reliable. A dent was put in our 1-8 to 0-5 lead with a sharp Charlie McCarthy goal just on the break. Already Cork had put on Jimmy Barry-Murphy as a sub. but his influence only became apparent when switched to the "forty" in the second half.

There, alas, lay a key. Jimmy's smooth speed and cool head began to bother Coen. A Fenton free from a long way deceived Shinnors; Cummins and O'Leary had goals to mar the picture further. O'Connor, none too well beforehand, retired. Fitzelle came on at centre-back. We replaced Quigley by Jack Ryan, whose speed told and won the free lashed home by Grogan to equalise. A free to lead slipped outside. Came the crisis which all but produced the laurels. Coleman in goal had earlier stopped Power's palmed ball and Butler's overhead deflection. Now, as Loughnane broke and passed to Power, the goalie, against all odds and the rising roar of Tipp throats, diverted Power's drive onto the post. Straight from the clearance, O'Leary broke clear to stroke the winner. Defeat, after all the effort and the chances, was Tipp's fate; the least generous of rewards for players or selectors. And so ended the championship for us, seventy minutes after it had started. The world knows how Cork kept going on to ultimate success. For us, only the glory won by the minors, and the job of re-starting in the next League, "still nursing the unconquerable" hope of getting back to the status of the sixties.



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# A LEAN YEAR FOR TIPPERARY FOOTBALLERS

By JOHN McNAMARA

THE YEAR 1976 was perhaps the poorest year Tipperary footballers ever experienced.

The seniors' chances of qualifying for a place in the closing stages of the League had almost gone by the beginning of the year. However in their game against Clare at Emly on Sunday, 1st February they showed their one and only true flash of form by holding a very much fancied Clare team to a draw. It was a game that Tipperary deserved to win. Clare finished up winners of the group and Tipperary had the distinction of being the only team in the group to take a point from them.

With the inclusion of teams from Kerry and Cork in the Munster Special Minor League there were two groups instead of one. Tipperary were in a section with East Kerry, North Cork and Waterford. While showing a certain amount of promise they were still unable to collect one point in this group. The eventual winners being East Kerry who beat the other section winners Clare in the final. It was a pity this type of league was not in being three three or four years ago when Tipperary had that very good minor team. This type of league which afforded more matches is of great benefit to a strong team. Still the effort was kept up and we were very unlucky to be beaten by a very strong Waterford team in the Munster championship at Dungarvan.

On surveying the Munster minor championship one can see that there was very little between any of the six counties. A better effort at school level would be a big help to promote the efforts of the the Minor Board.

The under 21 team was the only team to win their way past the first round of the championship. The bulk of this team was made up of the very successful minor team of three years ago. Having beaten Clare they gave the eventual All-Ireland winners Kerry a great game of it at Listowel before eventually going down by seven points. This team showed wonderful fighting spirit and were a credit to the county. The only future for football in the county is to produce more footballers of this calibre. The coaching effort that was put into them as

minors could be seen in their team work and general play.

The promise shown by the seniors in the league game against Clare and in a challenge against Clare and in a challenge against Laois at Portlaoise was misleading, for in a best forgotten game against Waterford at Dungarvan the team hit rock bottom and were beaten four clear goals. Training sessions I must say in preparation for this match were very poorly attended and the results of this were very much in evidence.

In spite of the poor showing Tipperary found themselves promoted to a stronger division, in the new league system. Included in the section are Tipperary, Laois, Offaly, Clare and Limerick.

Mindful of the humiliating defeat in the championship the selectors made a number of changes for the league. They introduced a number of the successful under 21 team.

Having beaten Laois at Clogheen, Tipp went under to Offaly at Tullamore and Clare came out on top at Emly. Hope of advancement was now gone but a good victory over Limerick ended the year on a winning note.

Initially I would like to see better liaison between divisional Boards, County Board and selectors to ensure that the county teams would be at full strength when playing either league or championship games.

The appointment of a qualified coach and or a physical trainer would be of great benefit. A hundred per cent dedication by all players at all times either for training sessions or matches, challenge or otherwise is most desirable. The success of our minor hurling team was the greatest example of all times as to what can be achieved by dedication, coaching, training and discipline. As I said at the outset 1976 will not be remembered by football followers for very long, but who knows maybe 1977 will produce that eagerly looked forward to success.

In conclusion I wish to thank all players, the County and Divisional Boards and selectors for their co-operation throughout the year.





Tipperary Minor Hurling Selectors, Aengus Ryan, Billy Carroll and Mick Minogue

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# MONEYGALL STILL CHAMPIONS AFTER NEW LOOK CHAMPIONSHIP

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By GERRY SLEVIN

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TOWARDS THE end of 1975, the Moneygall club held a victory function in Roscrea. The club was celebrating its first ever divisional and county title victories in senior grade and the occasion was graced by the presence of the Director General of the GAA, Sean O Siachain. It was a night for speeches, back-slapping and presentations but the tenor of the night was best summed up by team captain, Pat Sheehy, when he said "1976 cannot come quickly enough for us."

1976 has come and gone and Moneygall are still champions. They have shown themselves as real champions by coming back against all opposition and with the pressures that being champions automatically bring, they now hold their heads high and with good reason.

When the year began there was much speculation as to which side would eventually win out the Dan Breen Cup. In other words who would be successors to Moneygall. Except in Moneygall itself, little consideration was given to the fact that the title might be retained and indeed it was hard to blame people for thinking that this was not on, because the champions did not look like a side that would provide much by way of championship winning skills or determination.

They came to Nenagh to take on Sarsfields in the Mogul sponsored competition for divisional champions, or Paddy Kenny's (Davins) competition as it has become known. They went home defeated and severely chastened and a number of tournament outings failed to resurrect the spirit of '75. Nor was much improvement to be seen as they came along to defend their divisional title. Lorrha beat them deservedly in Borrisokane and after they had overcome Shannon Rovers, their interest in this championship ended through defeat by Roscrea. Not very good prospects, one must admit for a team with a County title in mind. A one year team, Moneygall

were generally described as, but soon many were to eat their words.

Not much notice was taken of their opening County championship win against Moyne/Templetuohy but when Silvermines fell and fell heavily on the last evening of July in Nenagh, we saw for the first time a new determination. This was a team that could not be written off. Next to fall were Sarsfields in the semi-final and the fact that Semple Stadium was the venue did not prevent Moneygall from handing out a lesson to the Thurles men. Not alone was the spirit returned in full, it was a Moneygall team with added grit and skill. A sweet victory indeed, the reward being a final meeting with neighbours and old rivals Roscrea in the Stadium's double senior final setting. Not a great final, admittedly, but at the end of the hour Moneygall had cause for celebration. The title was theirs.

Thanks to an Eire Og (Nenagh) motion at Convention the championship had a new look about it. Thirty-three teams were entered and of these, twenty were put into what became known as the weak group. Gradually this was whittled down before the championship proper began and the Mid combination of Boherlahan and Upperchurch, entitled Oliver Plunkett's, won out to enter the championship at the quarter final stage. The strong teams now came on the scene and in the top quarter Moneygall beat Moyne while Borris-Ileigh lost a big lead to Sarsfields and bowed out. Silvermines reversed the previous year's semi-final decision against Carrick Davins. In the bottom quarter, Roscrea had the better of Drom/Inch and Moycarkey put out the second Carrick side, Swans. Sean Treacy's, who in a preliminary round had beaten Cashel, accounted for Toomevara but fell to Oliver Plunkett's in the quarter final. Plunkett's great run came to an end when they were knocked out by Roscrea in the semi-final but when all was over, Moneygall still had possession of the Dan Breen Cup and that's what the game's all about.





**MONEYGALL**—County SH Champions for the second successive year. Standing, left to right: Seamus Ryan, John Gleeson, Billy Fanning, Pat Sheedy, Philip Ryan, Mick Nolan, Donal, Kennedy, Sean Doughan. Front, left to right: John Ivors (trainer), Jim Guilfoyle, Jack Ryan, Bobby Jones, Mick Doherty (capt.), Eugene Ryan, Philip Fanning, Noel Whyte.



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# WEST TIPPERARY AFFAIRS

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THE BYE-LAW ordained that Mick Frawley vacate the West Board chair at Convention time last January. He did so to an ovation seldom seen after a three-year span of brilliant administration. His was a term of devoted dedication to the ideals of the Association during which the Treoraí Oifigiúil was his Bible. When faced with problems he met them fearlessly and never

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By **BILL O'DONNELL**

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once shirked his duty no matter how unpalatable. Thus it was, that although there were times when his rulings were none too popular, they were accepted because the man's knowledge of the Association was second to none and because of his blatant sincerity and integrity.

Into his shoes at the top, stepped Senator Willie Ryan, who had been his understudy for nigh on twenty years. In his address of acceptance the Senator promised to do his best to be worthy of the high office and to endeavour, in so far as he was capable, to emulate the dedication of his predecessors.

Highlight of the year hereabouts was undoubtedly the return to Bansha parish of the County senior football title, last held there at the turn of the fifth decade. As a matter of fact the end of the fourth and the early years of that decade were the golden years of Galtee Rovers' footballing. During this era they reached four County finals, winning two, losing the 3rd and withdrawing from the fourth. This latest victory came as the result of dedicated attention over the years to the juveniles and teenagers of the parish. And as if to fill the Division's cup of pleasure Galtee Rovers' opponents in the decider were Arravale Rovers, their neighbours and keen rivals from the across the parish boundary. Both teams proved themselves in the home championships also with Galtee Rovers beating their great rivals in the final at Golden to hold on to the title they captured last season.

And while we are on football, Galtee Rovers

still have an interest in the under 21 championship, having reached the decider in which they meet Cashel King Cormacs. They went down before that same opposition in the minor football final.

King Cormacs, the glamorously successful club of the season, have also taken the intermediate football title, defeating Emly in the decider.

The junior tilts brought us some great games with a better than usual standard among the teams. Reaching the final were holders Golden/Kilfeacle and near neighbours Rockwell Rovers. Their game in Cashel in the early days of November was one to warm the cockles of the heart. The holders won but only barely, after as fine an exhibition of the code as one could wish for.

King Cormacs have made a clean sweep of the hurling championships decided so far. Eight teams faced the starter in the senior championship, run on a league system. Nearest Cashel came to defeat was when they were held to a draw by great rivals, Sean Treacy's, in an exhilarating game at Dundrum. Helped by one or two goals of the fortuitous variety, they beat Cappawhite in an excellent final, played at Emly.

With a fair sprinkling of their premier side, including senior inter-county players Pa Fitzelle and John Grogan, they had a rather facile victory over a disappointing Kickhams in the u-21 final. Against pretty strong opposition all the way, they held on to their Divisional title in minor hurling.

Here again is an example of what care and attention to juvenile players can do. The vast majority of their players, in both hurling and football, have come to their present stage of development through teenage competitions.

The O'Donoghue Cup, a competition for senior football run on the league system, has yet to be concluded. Senior hurling had its now prestigious Crosco Cup, played on a knock-out basis this year. After an interesting series of games, Cashel King Cormacs also won this one after an exhilarating game in the final at Golden.

All in all, 1976 will have proved to be a successful year in the Division's history. We did not do too well in the open draw, with few of our fifteens making the second round. It was rather unfortunate

(Continued on Page 29)





CASHEL KING CORMACS—West Tipperary SH Champions



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# SOUTH TIPPERARY REVIEW

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By MICHAEL O'MEARA

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1976 PROVED YET another very successful year for the South Division with very keen competition in all grades and fine all round co-operation from the clubs—a factor that resulted in the completion of all championships in record time.

Once again the senior finals dominated the year's activity and attracted very large attendances. Davins retained their hurling crown in yet another all Carrick decider, whilst in football Fethard came back from a spell in the wilderness to score a well-merited win over Kilsheelan.

Regrettably, the Division again fared badly in the open draw County championships with our footballing performances proving particularly disappointing.

The sincere thanks of the Division is due to the referees, umpires, linesmen, gate checkers, ticket sellers, stewards, club officials and players for their dedication and service during the year.

The following is a club by club account of the year's happenings:

**CARRACK DAVINS:** Affiliated teams in the following competitions: under 12, 14, 16, minor, under 21, junior and senior hurling together with junior football. The highlight of the year for Davins was, of course, their senior hurling success at the expense of their great local rivals Swan. The club affiliated in football for the first time in a few years and have qualified for the League semi-final.

**ST. MARY'S:** Teams: two in under 12, two in under 14 and one each in under 16, minor, under 21, junior and senior hurling. The Cloanmel club did not enjoy the same success as in 1975 but still took the under 14 u/r title. They performed creditably in their first year in senior grade and there was great rejoicing at the contributions of Vincent Mullins (goal) and Billy Carroll (selector) to Tipperary's All-Ireland minor success.

**BALLYBACON/GRANGE:** Teams in under 12, 14 rural and urban/rural, under 16, minor, junior and intermediate hurling. They returned to the limelight with a great win over Ballingarry in the

intermediate final and then just got the better of Marefield in a replayed play-off against the junior champions.

**BALLINGARRY:** Teams in under 12, under 14 rural and urban/rural, under 16, minor, under 21, junior and intermediate hurling as well as the same grades of football with the exception of junior. This strong hurling area got a tremendous boost with the success of the under 16 hurlers in the County championship—a success that came against all the odds. Their under 12 hurlers won the South title whilst at Senior Board level the minor and intermediate hurlers were both defeated finalists.

**COMMERCIALS:** Teams in under 12, 14, 16, minor, under 21, junior and senior football. The club had a wonderful year at underage level, winning South titles in under 14, under 16, minor and under 21. The under 14 and under 16 teams went on to take the County titles and there are high hopes that the minors and under 21s can follow suit.

**KILSHEELAN:** Teams in under 12, under 14 rural and urban/rural and under 16 hurling and football as well as S.F., J.F., I.H. and J.H. Kilsheelan caused a great surprise by winning the under 14 rural hurling title but disappointed in failing to Fethard in the senior football decider.

**FETHARD:** Teams in under 14 rural and u/r and under 16 hurling and football, minor, junior and senior football and junior hurling.

The senior football success crowned a pretty good year which saw the minor footballers narrowly defeated in the South Final and the junior hurlers successful in the 1975 hurling league.

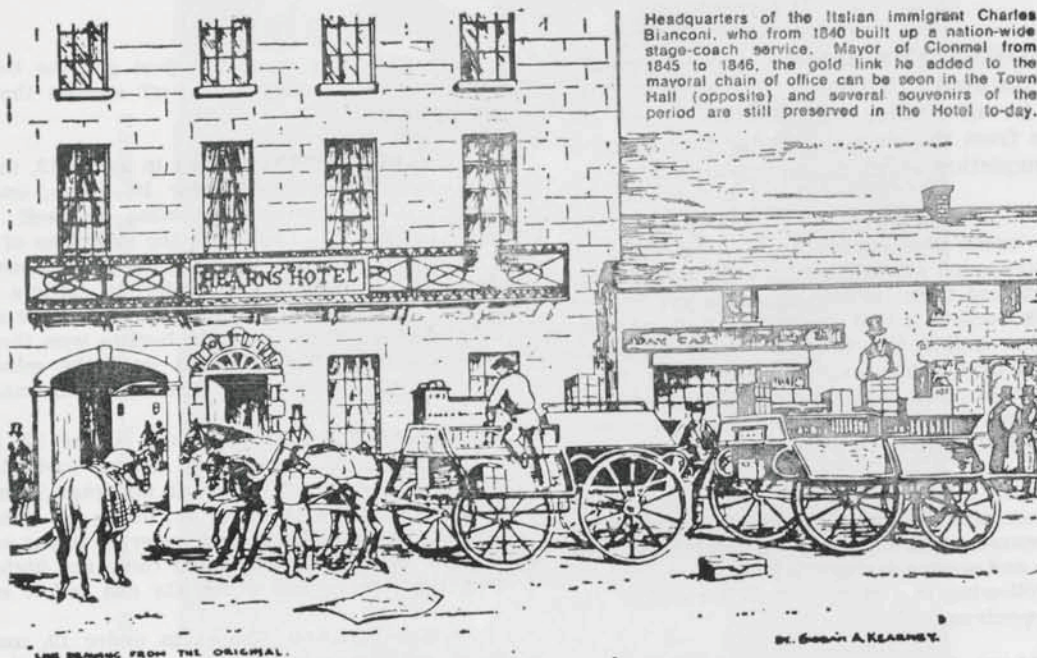
**FR. SHEEHYS:** Teams in under 12, under 14 rural and urban/rural, under 16 hurling and football, S.F., J.F. and J.H. Not a particularly memorable year on the field but the year was noteworthy for the official opening of Fr. Sheehy Park with a S.H. Tournament, Tipperary v. Waterford, and the staging of a N.F.L. tie v Laois.

**BALLYLOOBY:** Teams in under 12, under 14



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urban and under 12 and under 16 hurling and football, 21 F., I.F., J.F. and I.H.

They retained their intermediate crown by defeating Cahir in a good final.

**SWAN:** Teams in under 12, under 14 (2), under 16, minor, junior, 21 and senior hurling. This was an unlucky year for the Carrick Club who won the minor title but were defeated in the under 12, under 16 and under 21 and senior finals.

**KILLENAULE:** Teams in under 12, under 14 urban and urban/rural, under 16, junior and inter hurling, under 12, under 16, minor and junior football. Joined with Mullinahone to form the Young Irelanders under 21 hurling team which swept all before it in taking the South crown. The junior footballers have advanced to the League final.

**ARDFINNAN:** Teams in under 12, under 14 rural and urban/rural, under 16, minor, under 21, junior and senior football. Highlight of an otherwise disappointing year was the success of their under 14 footballers in the South urban/rural football. The under 21s contested the final but were well beaten by Commercial.

**SKEHEENARINKA:** Teams in under 12, under 14 rural and urban/rural, under 16 and junior hurling. Skeheenarinka is one of the clubs who deserve great credit for persevering with little success over the years.

**MOYLE ROVERS:** Teams in under 12, 14 and 16 hurling and football as well as senior and junior football and inter. and junior hurling. Defeated by four points by Kickhams in a great junior football decider, the men from Powerstown/Lisronagh were later awarded the game in the boardroom. The club was honoured in having its "Pillar" Michael McCarthy elected as South Board Chairman.

**Newcastle:** Teams in under 14 rural and urban/rural hurling and football, intermediate, junior and minor hurling and football. After the great successes of 1975 the past year proved disappointing. Nevertheless, the two great games against eventual champions, Ballybacon/Grange, showed that the club is a match for the best in the intermediate hurling grade.

**ST. PATRICK'S:** Teams in under 12, 14 and 16 hurling as well as under 14 rural and urban/rural football, intermediate football and junior hurling. The inter. footballers have enjoyed a good league run and hope to figure in the concluding stages.

**MULLINAHONE:** Teams in under 14 rural and urban/rural hurling, junior hurling, under 12, 14, 16, minor, under 21 and junior football. Rather an unlucky year for the club who were beaten in three finals—junior, rural and urban rural hurling. The junior hurlers hope to gain compensation by winning the junior league.

**CAHIR:** Teams in under 12, 14 and 16 hurling and football as well as inter and junior football and junior hurling. An unlucky year as the club failed in four finals—inter football championship and league (1975) and the two under 14 football championships.

**BALLYPOREEN:** Teams in under 12, 14, 16, intermediate and junior football. Defeated holders and hot favourites Swan in the first round of I.F.C. but later failed to Cahir. Enjoying a good run in 1976 I.F.L.

**GRANGEMOCKLER/BALLYMEALE:** Teams in under 14 and 16 hurling, under 12, 14 and 16 football, inter football and junior hurling. The under 16 footballers qualified for the final but were well beaten by eventual County champions Commercial.

**MARLFIELD:** Team in junior hurling only. Won the South title after a thrilling game with Mullinahone and lost the play-off with inter champions Ballybacon/Grange by the narrowest of margins in a replay.

**KICKHAMS:** Junior football only. Won the championship by defeating Moyle Rovers but lost the game in the boardroom. Have since qualified for the League final against Killenaule.

**ST. LUKES:** Intermediate football only. Lost to eventual winners Ballyloobey in the championship.

## SOUTH TIPPERARY FINALS 1976

Under 12 Hurling—Ballingarry 3-0; Swan 0-3  
Under 12 Football—St Nicholas 4-6; Commercial 1-2  
Under 14 R.H.—Kilsheelan 4-5; Mullinahone 2-3  
Under 14 U/R H.—St Mary's A 9-5; Mullinahone 3-2  
Under 14 R.F.—Ardfinnan 2-6; Cahir 2-4  
Under 14 U/R F.—Commercial 3-12; Cahir 1-1  
Under 16 Hurling—Ballingarry 3-13; Swan 1-2  
Under 16 F.—Commercial 5-6; Grangemockler 1-3  
Under 14 H. Feile na nGael—St Mary's A 5-11;  
Swan 2-2

Minor Hurling—Swan 5-9; Ballingarry 1-9  
Minor Football—Commercial 2-4; Fethard 1-4  
Under 21 H.—Commercial 2-9; Ardfinnan 0-1  
Under 21 Football—Young Irelands 5-9; Swan 1-6  
Junior Hurling—Marlfield 4-8; Mullinahone 5-1  
Junior Football—\*Kickhams 0-9; Moyle Rovers 0-5  
I.H.—Ballybacon/Grange 9-5; Ballingarry 4-9  
Intermediate Football—Ballylooby 0-9; Cahir 0-8  
J.H. play-off (replay)—Ballybacon/Grange 2-11;  
Marlfield 2-10  
Senior Hurling—Fethard 2-6; Kilsheelan 0-7  
Senior Football—Davins 4-7; Swan 1-5

\*Moyle Rovers awarded game on objection.





The South Senior Hurling title was retained by CARRICK DAVINS



# NOT A YEAR FOR GREAT MEMORIES IN THE NORTH

By Gerry Slevin

ONE OF THE big talking points in North Tipperary hurling circles during the year was about something that didn't take place at all! As the junior semi-finals approached, there was a strong possibility that two teams from the same club, Templederry Kenyons and Mitchells, would advance to the final. Kenyons—the side generally described as the weaker of the two—made it. Mitchells didn't.

Such interest in what transpired to be a non-event (a pity really!) reflects the lack of other things with which to concern oneself because in truth it was not a memorable year in the division. Close, exciting games were few and far between. There was a lack of bite in the senior championship which Borris-Ileagh eventually won in a final that was symptomatic of the malaise that seemed to hit most teams in their approach to the championship.

The year began on a sad note with the death of Board joint President and former GAA President Seamus Gardiner, on the eve of Convention. Convention ended its deliberations early to enable delegates to attend the removal of the remains to Borrisokane.

The same system as in previous years obtained with the senior championship. It was run on a league system with two groups. Kildangan sought and after some tough boardroom battles, were granted permission to move back to Inter grade. Shannon Rovers came up from Inter grade to restore the ten teams, but this was reduced when Newport having received a trouncing from Roscrea opted out. So we were left with a lopsided situation, Roscrea, Moneygall, Lorrha and Shannon Rovers in one group, Kilruane, Borris-Ileagh, Eire Og, Silvermines and Toomevara in the other. The big upset of the first series was the defeat of champions, Moneygall, by Lorrha. Borris-Ileagh accounted for Silvermines in the other group. With Shannon Rovers falling to both Lorrha and Roscrea, a three-way struggle emerged here and after Roscrea had accounted for Lorrha in one of the season's best games, all now rested on the clash between Roscrea and Moneygall. In a game from which so much was expected, the champions bowed out of contention and Roscrea and Lorrha had found places for themselves in the semi-finals.

Back in the other group, Borris-Ileagh's march

through was temporarily halted when they were beaten by Toomevara but victories over Kilruane and Eire Og assured them of a place in the semi-finals. Silvermines were expected to repeat their County championship victory over Kilruane but didn't so the pairings in the semi-finals were, Lorrha v Kilruane; Roscrea v Borris-Ileagh. Although these pairings were decided by mid August, the competition didn't come to a conclusion until late October. Lorrha reached the final on August 27th but the Borris/Roscrea clash ran into difficulties and wasn't played until much later, matters being complicated further by a draw. The final had been fixed for October 10th, but the replay had to take place on that day so Lorrha found themselves just two months out of action when they eventually lined out against Borris on October 24th. Lorrha's lack of appetite contrasted with Borris-Ileagh's two hard games against Roscrea (the second one going into extra time) showed clearly in the final and Borris had nine points to spare at the end of an uninspiring hour.

Two groups were made of the Inter championships. Burgess and Kildangan came through in one of them, as did Ballinahinch and Kilruane in the other. The final turned out to be a Burgess/Kildangan clash and a replay was the order of the day here, Burgess getting through by a point in the replay, thereby avenging a rather heavy defeat suffered in the league section of the competition.

In the junior grade the two Templederry teams moved ahead, neck and neck in the struggle for supremacy. Mitchell's, regarded as the number 1 team, faltered at the semi-final to Roscrea, who in turn had to submit to the rampant Kenyon's side in a good final. Youth and skill these Templederry lads had in abundance but when they met Burgess for the right to represent the division in the county junior championship, they failed. There were only two points in it and Burgess, who later dashed the high hopes of Upperchurch, were considered very lucky to have survived the Templederry game.

Roscrea had matters much their own way in minor grade, winning the title for the second successive year. Kilruane made it five in a row in Under 21 and Newport won the JFC title.

To end the year, Moneygall became holders of the MacDonagh Trophy, as the Club of the Year.



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# THE EARLY DAYS IN TIPPERARY

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**"Tipperary Star" journalist MICHAEL DUNDON delves into the history pages to give readers a glimpse of the clubs, the people and the attitudes which lay the firm foundation for the GAA in Tipperary**

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CROKE PARK on All-Ireland day—teeming with colour, pageantry, excitement, atmosphere—tradition come alive, the thing that has the adrenalin pumping in the heart of every Irishman worthy of the name. It's a great occasion for Ireland from a sporting, national, social and cultural viewpoint, and no matter in what part of the globe destiny may place him, an Irishman is in Croke Park, at least in spirit, on All-Ireland day.

Amidst all the glamour and ceremony, it is hard to fully contemplate and appreciate the humble origins from which this magnificent spectacle sprang, but one thing is certain, the spirit and sense of Irishness that All-Ireland day generates, was very much the motivating force in the thinking of those who gathered in Thurles in 1884 to form Cumann Luith Chleas Gael.

It is not always realised that hurling did not begin in 1884, that it was an integral part of Irish life long before that memorable day in November of 1884, but it was in that year that the game as we now know it took some shape and organisation. Previous to this, Irish sports, particularly athletics, were controlled by English interests, and Michael Cusack, writing in the "United Irishman" at the time, stated—We want volunteers to bring back the control of Irish pastimes into Irish hands.

Before this, clubs flourished in the county in Moycarkey, Thurles, Ardmayle, Clonoulty, Youghal, Toome, Lorrha, and Portroe, but following Cusack's call in the months after the formation of the Association, the "Cashel Sentinel" reported the following clubs affiliated — Nenagh, Silvermines, Carrigatoher, Youghal, Portroe, Ardcroney, Rapla, Kilbarron, Borrisokane, Lorrha, Templemore, Castleiney, Moyne, Loughmore, Two-Mile-Borris, Thurles, Moycarkey, Holycross, Killenaule, Mullinahone, Cloneen, Fethard, Kilcash, Carrick, Ballyneale, Clonmel, Gambonsfield, Moyle Rangers, Bancha, Aherlow, Rosanna (Tipperary), Rossmore, Golden and Ballydine.

Maurice Davin of Carrick-on-Suir was to the fore in the drafting of rules along with Cusack and

Nenagh's Michael Gleeson, as the national revival swept the country. The first game in Tipperary under the new rules was at Riverstown between Silvermines and Nenagh Mitchells, which was won by Silvermines. A year later, 1886, the first inter-county game was played in Dublin in February between a Tipperary selection and South Galway, with Michael Cusack refereeing.

Tipperary won that game and it is worth recording the selection that did duty—John Walsh, James Hanly, Pat O'Meara (all Nenagh); Martin Gleeson, Pat McGrath, Dan Gleeson (Silvermines); Matt Costelloe, Pat Gleeson, Matt Hayes (Knigh); both Pat O'Mearas of Lorrha; John Ryan, Pat Guinane, Pat Buckley (Youghal); Mike Grace, Pat Reidy, Pat O'Brien (Carrigatoher); John Kennedy, James Clarke (Ardcroney), and James Brooder (Kilbarron).

Hurling was now the recognised pastime, and in his book "Tipperary GAA Story", the late Canon Fogarty tells of the organisation of a monster tournament organised by five Thurles men, Hugh Ryan, Andy Callanan, Jim Stapleton, James Butler and John Gleeson, which was held at Turtulla on lands owned by Hacketts. Thousands attended and enthusiasm ran riot during the many tussles for supremacy. Hurling and football games were played on a day which proclaimed to all and sundry the well-being of the GAA. At the conclusion of the day's play, the throngs marched through the streets of Thurles to meet the Patron of the Association, Dr Croke, who in an emotional address told them—You have today planted the GAA and your magnificent tournament will ever constitute the premier page of Irish Gaelic history.

The success of the Thurles tournament inspired the establishment of clubs in Roscrea, Ballina, Birdhill, Newport, Toor, Ballinahinch, Killoscully, Lattieragh, Toomevara, Killea, Borrisoleigh, Upperchurch, Drombane, Clonoulty, Anacarty, Hollyford, Cappawhite, Donohill, Knockavilla, Donaskeigh, Solohead, Lattin, Emly, Cullen, Tipperary Shamrocks and Commercials, Boherlahan, Moyglass, Glengoole, Gortnahoe, and Grangemockler.

Many men in many parts of the country







played their part in the fostering of the national spirit through the games revival, and among those to the fore in Tipperary in the early days, according to Canon Fogarty were—Pat Cullen, Loughmore; John Laffan, Drom; Tom Flynn, Templemore; Michael O'Meara, Moyne; Tom Hayes, Ned Hackett, Two-Mile-Borris; John Manning, John Molumby, William Fogarty (Moycarkey); Phil Dwyer (Holycross); Denis and Tom Maher (Boherlahan); Hugh Ryan and Pat Leamy (Drombane); Tim Ryan, NT, Denis Dwyer and James Hammersley (Clonoulty); Pat Moclair, Dick Dwyer, Pat Ryan (Racecourse); Tom and Danny Devitt, J. J. Connolly, John Skehan, J. Stewart (Cashel); Tom Shanahan (Kilcarney); John P. Fox, Ned Morris, Micksey Tobin (Grangemockler); Tommy Kelly, John Power (Kilcash); Dick McCarthy, Redmond Burke (Fethard); John Cooney, Tom Dee, Pat Dalton (New Inn); John Fogarty (Kilfeacle); Matt Hickey (Kilmoyler); Mike Donnelly (Cahir); John Tobin and Pat Ryan (Ardfinnan); Con McGrath, Tim Crowe, Morgan Burke, John Guerin (Emly); John Conway (Cullen); Tom Kennedy, William Hefferman (Lattin); Jerry Frewen, P. Doherty, NT, Tom Stapleton (Solohead); William Ryan (Shronell); John Power (Donohill); James Coughlan (Latteragh); Joe Hayes (Birdhill); Joe Dillon, Michael Ryan (Nenagh); Jim Darcy and Jim Dwyer (Kilbarron).

The above list does not include the stalwarts in such places as Thurles, and Nenagh, nor does it mention the Association's first Vice-President, J. K. Bracken of Templemore.

Tipperary was recognised as the strongest county in the Gaelic games revival with 130 clubs affiliated in 1887. The first County Board was appointed in December 1886, when J. K. Bracken, Templemore, was elected President; Pat Hoctor, Nenagh, Vice-President; E. M. Walsh, Nenagh, Secretary; and F. R. Moloney, Nenagh, Treasurer. On the Committee were Pat O'Brien, Nenagh; Hugh Ryan, Thurles; John Cullinane, Bansha; and John Hackett, Fethard. The south of the county was not seeing eye to eye with the powers that be at the time, and this explains their absence.

This apart however, the Association went from strength to strength until political considerations intervened in the person of the Parnell split in 1891 which threw the Association into chaos. This lasted through the following year, but in 1893, with the Association at a very low ebb, a meeting was held in Dobbyn's Hotel, Tipperary, in an effort to heal the divisions that had rent the Association asunder.

The meeting was an outstanding success, and once more the clash of camans was heard throughout the Premier County. In his book Canon Fogarty says—Yes, proudly, nobly, Tipperary came back with a grandeur splendid in her sad decay.

The storm had been weathered; the ship, after faltering, was once more afloat, and ten years after its inauguration, the Gaelic Athletic Association was once more a driving and unifying force in Ireland.

The first hurling championship played in 1887 was fittingly won by Thurles, who, having beaten Two-Mile-Borris and Borrisoleigh, went on to account for North Tipperary in the final, the semi-finals and final being played on the same day at Borrisoleigh. The Thurles team that day was—Denis Maher (capt.), Andy, Tom, Matty Maher, Jim Stapleton, Ned Murphy, Jer Dwyer, Jack, Dinny, Ned and Matty Maher, Con Callanan, Tom Bourke, Dan Davern, Jim Sullivan, Pat Ryan, Stephen Purcell, Dick Butler, Ned Flanagan, Martin McNamara and Jack Bannon.

Football affairs were not so clear-cut, and Fethard and Templemore were due to play the final, but Fethard objected to travelling to Holycross to play Templemore because of the short notice of the game. The right of representing the county in the inter-county series was awarded to Templemore by the Board. The Templemore team at the time was—Jack Hynes (capt.), Jack Davern, Dinny Cahill, Jim Dee, Steve Grant, Mick Meagher, Richard Quinn, Ned Kevin, Jim Rohan, Paddy Harrington, Pat Murphy, William, Jack and Mick Ryan, Paddy Carroll, Con Maher, John Cormack, Jimm Sergeant, Dan Tierney, Will Cullen and James Keogh.

Those were striking times in the history of both the country and the Association and while it is difficult for the present generation to appreciate the difficulties their forefathers had to surmount, we should realise that they have handed on a tradition of which we can be truly proud, and which we in turn, must pass on to the coming generations.

It is a great responsibility, and one not to be taken lightly.

## WEST TIPPERARY AFFAIRS

(Continued from Page 19)

that Sean Treacy's and Cashel King Cormacs were fated to meet in the first round. This was one Treacy's won but they went out in a later clash.

It will also go down in history as the year in which the Division lost such exceptional Gaels as Tone Doherty, Jim O'Connor and Conor Ryan. Tone and Jim have been mentioned in another part of this book.

If any man ever deserved the title "Mr Kickhams" it was Conor Ryan. The Board's trusted gatechecker, until failing health caused him to relinquish the post, Conor devoted his energies, and for a man so frail, they were enormous, to the work of seeing that his beloved Kickhams club had amenities worthy of its great traditions. He watched the present structure grow from the floor and whenever there was a job he could do, it was gladly and willingly undertaken. As a matter of fact, he was doing a job on the premises a short time before the Great Referee blew full time for him. As dheisláimh Dé go raibh a nanamacha uasail.





The Tipperary team of 1887, winners of the first All-Ireland final (photograph taken about 1910). Back row, left to right: D. Maher, J. Sullivan, E. Murphy, J. Ryan, M. Maher, E. Leamy, T. Burke, C. Callanan, D. Davoren, M. Maher. Centre, left to right: P. Ryan, D. Maher, J. Stapleton (capt.), T. Maher, G. Leamy, J. Ryan, J. Dwyer. Front: M. Carroll, M. McNamara, T. Butler.

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# REFLECTIONS ON SCOR

By

**PADRAIG S. MacCAOILTE**

SCOR IS A social pastime, providing clubs with entertainment throughout the non-playing winter season, aimed at a strengthening of the National Identity in a 32 county context.

The Scór competitions, therefore, are designed to achieve this objective through the active support of Irish culture be it our language, music, song or dance, and by friendly rivalry developing a community spirit, to foster and promote an awareness and love of the National Ideals in our people.

While these aims have been enshrined in the Charter of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, the Association unfortunately, up to the advent of Scór, has always been identified with field games and unintentionally through this involvement placed the other aspects of Irish culture in dormancy, contributing mere verbal support at appropriate occasions.

I should like at this stage to ask one or two questions such as—"Does Scór matter in the modern Ireland? Is it relevant? Does Scór make a significant contribution to National Ideals?"

There could be no doubt about the answer to these questions. Scór is relevant; it does matter and it does contribute to National Ideals.

It is important to appreciate that Scór involves thousands of men and women, boys and girls, throughout the length and breadth of Ireland and when one thinks of the immense potential of same in maintaining our traditional and cultural heritage, particularly now that we are part of the greater European community, one begins to visualise the tremendous organisation and hard work that lies behind the running of the competitions.

One of the most significant facts about Scór is that it has widened the area of participation in GAA activities, particularly to non-playing members, thus involving all age groups and also giving women, for the very first time, an opportunity of playing a role within the Association.

Reflections on Scór since its initiation it is possible to gauge the popularity and success of same, year by year, so much so that we are now facing a situation that we cannot accommodate all our patrons. While this augurs well for the future of the competitions no effort must be spared to ensure that their presentation is of a reasonably high standard to maintain continued audience participation and acceptance.

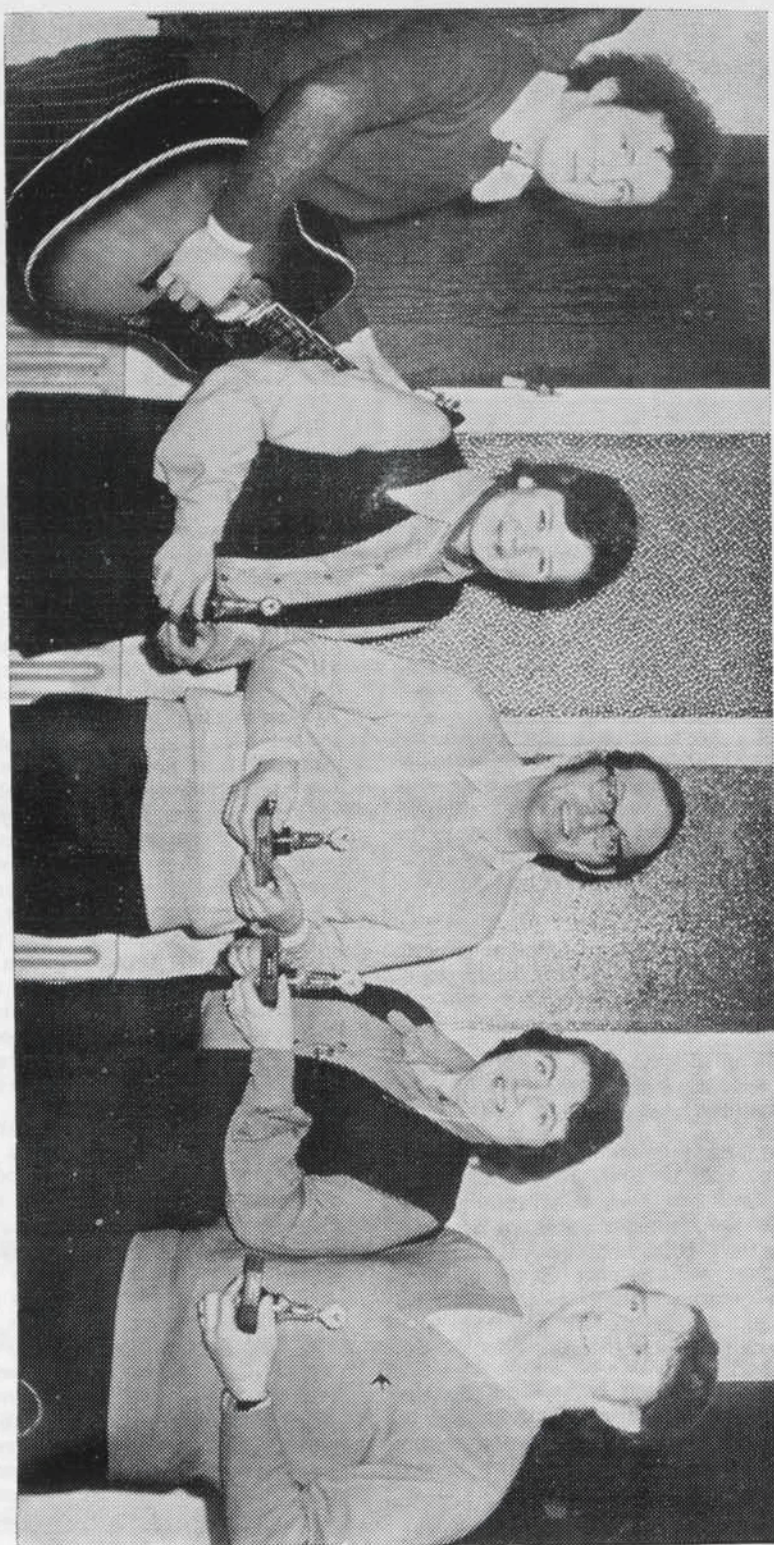
## AREA OF ADJUDICATION

If we are really serious about raising the standard of the Scór competitions we must first review the area of adjudication. It is surely the right of everyone who enters a competition to be judged fairly, impartially and competently. This last word is most important as competence is the key to the whole area of adjudication. While most adjudicators try their best to be unbiased and fair in their decisions the fact remains that many of them simply do not have the qualifications to judge all the different aspects of a performance. One may be an excellent singer oneself, but this alone does not fit one for the task of judging the singing of others. Neither do academic qualifications alone suffice for the judging of recitations and novelty acts. Knowledge of the writings and styles of Synge and Yeats are fine but are of little benefit in judging the speaking and performance of their work. Also it is not enough to engage competent adjudicators for the finals and semi-finals while dismissing the preliminary rounds with an "anybody will do" attitude. Anybody will not do and by the finals stage the damage has been done and wrong and unfair decision are irreversible.

Another area which bears looking into is the attitude of the competitors themselves. We all know how easy it is to be good winners. How many of us can accept defeat with equal graciousness? A well-known personality once said and I quote "If you try to please all the people all the time you are either a Fool or a Politician". No matter how fair a decision is there is always somebody dissatisfied. One of the saddest trends in the last two years of the Scór competitions is the "win at all costs" attitude. This has expressed itself in various forms of irregularity, in both the juvenile and senior competitions, including abusing the adjudicator(s). This trend must, I feel, be discouraged if Scór and Scór na nOg is to continue and grow.

Now let us look at the competitions themselves. I am very glad to note the amendment to Rule (1)





The Borrisokane Group singing members who won Munster honours in the Scor competitions—Donat Quinn, Marie Lawlor, Gerry Sleavin, Phil Quigley, Junior Quigley.



of the Recitation Section. Recitations by Irish authors, which may not necessarily be Irish in character, are now acceptable. This rule prior to its amendment had been one of the bugbears of the competition, especially for adjudicators, as poems such as Colum's "Old Woman of the Roads" and "Pearse's "Wayfarer" should have been unacceptable, if the rules had been strictly adhered to. The amendment is therefore to be welcomed as it increases the range of recitations which can be chosen.

## GROUP SINGING

A similar amendment should, I believe, be made to Rule (1) of the Group Singing section. Up to now it has been left to the discretion of the adjudicators to decide what is meant by Irish in character. There will have to be a clear-cut definition. It should also be brought to the notice of competitors and adjudicators alike that there is a difference between the competition as it is now (Group Singing) and the original title (Ballad Groups) and also that the contrast in the two songs they are obliged to sing is to be in "tempo".

The Novelty Act is the one competition where the standard rarely, if ever, exceeds mediocrity and I feel that the few changes and amendments which have been made in the rules of this competition do not go far enough. Here again, however, Rules (1) and (4) are contentious. What is meant by "Entirely" Irish in character? And the disqualification for not complying with the Time Rule is both self destructive and ludicrous, and will definitely cause a lot of headaches. It is obvious that the brains behind this addition to the rule know nothing about drama or its presentation. One is also prompted to ask why such a penalty does not apply to Recitations where there is also a time duration.

Adjudicators and competitors alike regard the words "entertainment" and "humour" as synonymous, which of course they are not. The chief purpose of the theatre, whether it be Greek tragedy, "Hamlet", or a Hugh Leonard farce, is to entertain.

Because of this misinterpretation many entrants in the Nuachleas section of the Scór felt that they had to be funny in order to accumulate sufficient marks to win. The result was, in most cases, either pathetic or embarrassing, or both. Many of the acts consisted of little more than a vague idea held together with a string of contrived and hackneyed jokes. The use of microphones, costumes, make-up and properties is an area which requires some scrutiny.

Consideration might also be given to having the Novelty Act competition placed No. 1 on the Scór programme. This would surely help competitors in the Solo Singing who are obliged to suffer unlimited interference and annoyance, due to stage preparations, while they are performing.

The Rince foinne and Instrumental Music com-

petitions have, as always, proved the most artistic and classical items on the Scór Clár. The former is graceful and specialised, while the latter generally commands a high degree of skill and musicianship. The addition of Rule 8 to the Figure Dance competition viz., dancing groups shall not be allowed dance in school of dancing costumes. Penalty—disqualification; is fraught with suspicion. To me there are innuendoes therein that groups from dancing schools have or can complete in the Scór, under club nominations. Surely this defeats the purpose of the whole competition which is to encourage club members to learn participation in and promote ceili dancing.

Solo Singing is and has always been an adjudicator's nightmare. One must know the score and have the ability to analyse and pass fair judgement on the various contributions. How does one set about comparing a really sean-nós singer with a good trained voice if one lacks the competence to do so? Generally speaking this competition has excellent merits.

Question Time, while unpredictable, can be a success or a complete flop, depending on how the audience reach to the presentation of the questions by the Question Master and the standard of answering by the competitors. The cutting down of the allowed time from 30 to 20 seconds will help to speed up the running of the competition. It is arguable whether Question Time, as it is now presented, has an entertainment value for general audiences, particularly in Scór na nOg, and the time allotted might be usefully utilised to renew the Step Dancing and Motion Speaking competitions.

## HIGHLIGHT

The highlights of the Scór is the Set Dancing and this has a special appeal to the older generation. However, the big problem for an adjudicator in this competition is the interpretation of what is "Traditional Character", an item which carries 40% of the total markings. In my opinion, what would add to the competition is the elimination of Rule 5 viz., Groups may dance traditional set dances traditional to their own areas if they so wish. This would help to clear the air and an understanding of "Traditional Character" would hardly be necessary if the specified "set dances" only were acceptable. I make this remark in the knowledge that in recent times concoctions have come to light which are only glorified ceili dances and have been presented as representing Set Dances traditional to their own areas.

In conclusion, let me say, that it is to be regretted that we still have in Tipperary some major clubs who, unfortunately, have adopted a negative approach to Scór. To them I say, that you cannot be a good and loyal member of the Gaelic Athletic Association merely by promoting or playing our games alone and ignoring the other aspects of our national culture. To think so is fallacious. Now is the time to make a start. Better late than never.



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# THE QUIET MAN FROM BALLYDONOUGH

By BILL O'DONNELL

ON JULY 7th LAST in the middle of the long hot summer, Tone Doherty, the quiet man from Ballydonough, Donohill, passed from this vale of tears to his eternal reward. About his duties in the usual way the previous day, his unexpected death came as a shock to the whole neighbourhood.

From the broad confines of his native county, as well as from the hills and valleys of his beloved West Tipperary sportsmen of every class and creed but especially GAA people, came to bid farewell to this gentlemanly Gael. For not alone was he a GAA personality, first, last and always, but he was a sportsman in every sense of the word.

Forty-six years ago, when the late much lamented senior officers of the County Board, Very Rev. John Meagher and Captain Johnny Leahy, with others, decided to form the West Board, Tone, then a young man, was at the inaugural meeting. He was, at the time, a playing member of the Cappawhite-Donohill team, later in that same year destined to win the divisional junior hurling title. With him on that team, were such excellent hurlers as Mick Kelly, the Heffernans, Din and Jack, the Hanley brothers, Paddy and Tim, Pat Furlong, Jackie Ryan (Jerh) and Mick Ryan (S). A little stooped and somewhat slower of gait, they came to say goodbye to the comrade they respected and loved so well.

During his hurling days he was a well known athlete, taking part in the many sports events that were a feature of his day and age. When I asked him once if he had a favourite race he said he hadn't but enjoyed trying his hand at them all. He must have been a pretty useful long-distance runner for it is on record that he was among a bunch of athletes to finish close on the heels of J. J. Ryan, then the long-distance king of the land, after six gruelling miles run over the Junction racecourse. He neither drank nor smoked and kept himself at peak fitness, through daily training stints on his farm.

He was a lover of greyhounds and horses, owning

some pretty useful specimens of the former. His was a familiar figure at coursing and track meetings and he seldom if ever missed the Tipperary and Clounana Cup runnings. Reared almost a stone's throw away from Limerick Junction's fine racecourse Tone was one of its greatest patrons. He was partial to a little flutter but contended that if the bookmakers travelled in big cars, none of them was bought with his money.

As the passing years took toll of his speed and stamina, Tone turned his attention to administration. On the death of the great Ballagh Gael, Dan Kennedy, for years a pillar both of the GAA and South Tipperary County Council, in the early 40s, he was the almost unanimous choice of the divisional Board for the post of Vice-Chairman. Thus began a quarter of a century of apprenticeship to the legendary Sean O Duir, who was then the Board's top executive of almost ten years standing.

Coinciding with his appointment to the Vice-Chair, was the rise of Eire Og, a promising senior hurling combination in his native parish. He was called in to represent the Donohill end of the area on the selection committee and his wise counsel was appreciated both by the players and the men in charge of the team's preparation. He made it his business to be present at all the training sessions and when the time came for choosing the final fifteen, his was the voice that carried quite an amount of weight. When the team beat Moycarkey on the first Sunday in October 1943, to bring the first ever senior hurling title to the Division, Tone permitted himself a slight smile of satisfaction.

When Sean O Duir, because of advancing age and ill health, decided to call it a day, Tone was not opposed as his successor, a tribute to the respect and popularity in which he was held by his fellow Gaels. With his usual aplomb he became deeply involved in the affairs of the Association, letting all and sundry understand that everything savouring of boat-rocking was anathema to him. There were times when the going got rough and he had to take



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action that was foreign to his makeup. Because he was Tone Doherty, he did not shirk his duty, making it plain to offenders that their great Association did not permit anything savouring of unsporting behaviour. And yet, and again because he was Tone Doherty, he felt for the offender and one instinctively knew that he wished he didn't have to hurt him. In his own quiet way, he gave the impression that on all occasions during his administration, he was in command of the situation and when he handed over at Convention in 1973, the Board's prestige was enhanced and the ship was on an even keel.

Of a shy, retiring and gentle nature, his voice was seldom raised in anger. When he did contribute to debate at County Board, his words carried weight and the patient sincerity of the man often swung the issue in his favour. He shall be missed by all whose good fortune it was to know him, but especially by his wife, to whom he was a loving and devoted spouse.

In ithlainn De go gcastar sinn.



Mary Peters, Kilruane, runner-up in the Recitation section in the Munster Scor finals

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# CONSOLIDATE THE TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLDS AND HURLING WILL SURVIVE

—says JOHN D. HICKEY

IMMINENT AS IS the season of goodwill, Christmas-tide and its benign tolerance, I confess, maybe imprudently, that there is some iron in my soul. It stems from avid acceptance of a request from County Secretary Tommy Barrett to contribute to the Tipperary Annual.

Asked if he had any specific subject in mind Tommy replied: "How about something on the lines of 'My Wishes for Hurling'! I did not give him time to offer me an alternative, such was my eagerness to get down to the GAA task dearest to my heart.

I am being deliberately provocative at he outset when asserting that if all counties had done even a particle of as much as my native Tipperary to nourish the game it would not today be in the impoverished state we find it in the majority of counties throughout the land.

Censured I may be by interests that are almost vested, for expressing my sentiments on a matter that cries out for concerted and concentrated effort, but I am damned if I will be censored about the lip service that is paid in many quarters to the greatest game in the world.

Michael Cusack's motivation when he founded the GAA was "To bring the hurling back to Ireland." There would be red faces in many places, even in ranks of the elite of the Association, could he return to survey how faithfully his designs have been carried out by some, if not most of the men and councils which set themselves up as his heirs.

Mention of Michael Cusack reminds that about a score of years ago when in Kingscourt (Co Cavan) gathering data for a series "Masters At Midfield" for the Irish Independent I called on the great Breffni star Victor Sherlock, an automatic selection on my list.

My main task with Victor completed, we turned to talk about hurling and I was shocked when he informed me that in the yard of local traders there was a supply of hurleys that would put a caman in the hand of half of the juveniles in the country.

Naturally I sought information on the matter. The outstanding Cavan footballer replied, "You see as far as I know when the kids' hurleys started coming to the county way back someone directed that they should be stored in a shed in that shop-keeper's yard and that's where they have been going ever since.

"There must be thousands of them down there in that shed right now", added the brilliant footballer. It would in no way surprise me to learn that there are many Kingscourts throughout the country. Someone has so say so, and such is my love of the game that I made no apology for querying the goodwill which exists towards it in many quarters where it is considered something of a distraction.

In my opinion people in high quarters stand accused for not having done all that might have been done to popularise the game throughout the entire country. It is positively far more a badge of our nationhood than is football, yet it has been neglected in many quarters to a degree that might cause one to doubt the sincerity of the many who profess to be great Gaels.

What rewards, if any, have attended Central Council, Leinster Council, Connacht Council and Ulster Council endeavours to bring the hurling back to Ireland? Precious few I suggest. The reason it seems is as plain as a pike-staff in the bog of Allen. There was not a sufficiency of commitment to bring about the Association's vindication of itself.

The apathy about the sorry state of the code was over the years demonstrated in the indifference to the cry of former Association President Michael Kehoe (Wexford) at Congress after Congress about the country's dwindling supply of the game's raw material—ash.

They heard but they did not listen and now we find ourselves in the land of bunkum. We are waiting for the plastic or synthetic hurley which, I suppose, will be followed by a plastic or synthetic version of the great game.

Things have come to such a pass that someone has to holler stop the nonsense and face reality before it is too late. Forget completely about the areas where there is not a deeply rooted affection for the game and cease pouring money into such



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districts in the pious hope that we will one day bear witness to a miracle.

There are vast regions in the country in which it would be no more difficult to change the religion of the population than to impose hurling on the youth and on men who have no feeling, other than a feigned one, for the code.

Money is being poured down the drain in endeavouring to popularise the game in tracts as barren as the Sahara desert. How much more sensible it would be to spread it over areas that would give a bountiful return for the outlay.

In days when hurling is being assailed by games which are not nearly as expensive to play, ordinary common sense demands that it be succoured where it is strong in order to preserve it. Let there be an end to the folly, and that it is, of lavishing money where it is most unlikely to have any discernible reward.

Let us pour money into Cork, Kilkenny, Tipperary and all the other accepted hurling strongholds for the purchase of sticks and other items of equipment, make the game so alluring to youth that they cannot past it by for some other pursuit.

Now for another theme. While I would laugh

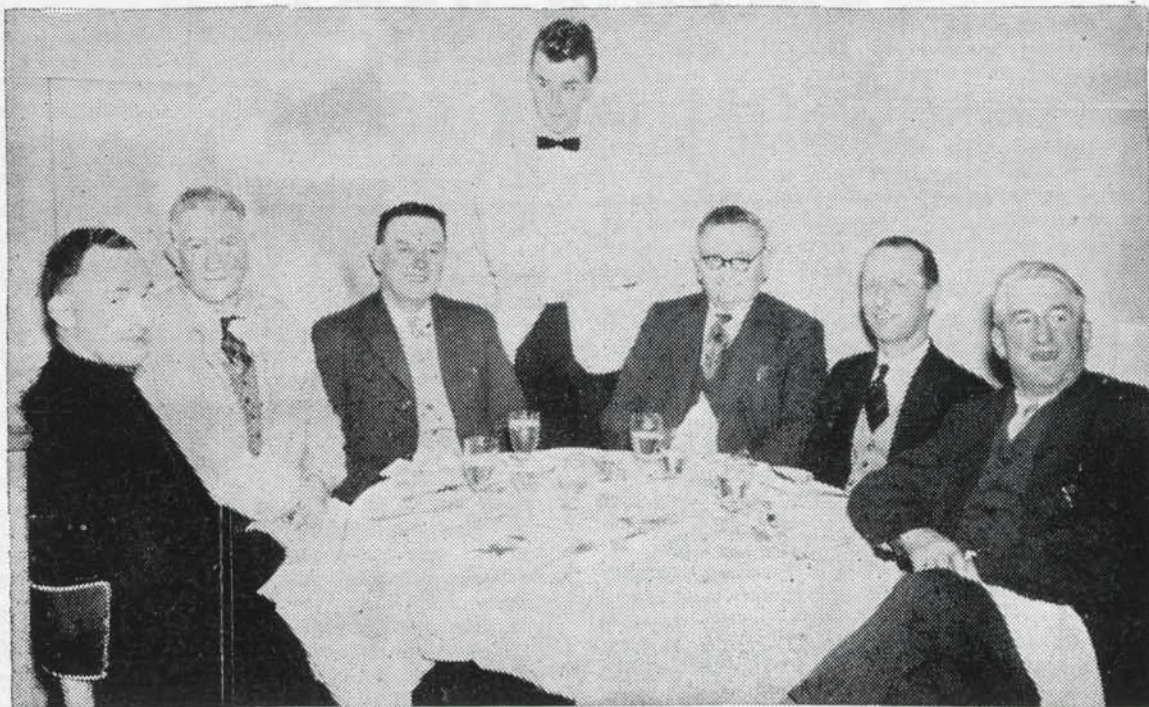
to scorn anyone who suggests that hurling is a dangerous game, I would have no hesitation in pandering to squeamish mothers, and fathers too, by making it known—I am sure the local press would oblige—that helmets would be freely available to anybody whose parents considered the game presented an undue risk to youngsters.

Hurling is about the most injury free game that man has conceived but I see nothing wrong in allaying the fears of guardians of children, utterly unfounded though their concept of the game may be. In such a case my motto would be that the customer is right no matter how mistaken his or her outlook about the sport supreme.

Having for long conned myself that I had many years ago rid myself of all taint of parochialism I am elated to find that remoteness from the homeland has not caused the leopard to change his spots.

As eagerly as if I were still resident in Thurles, I hope that Tipperary will soon blaze a glorious trail that will be the envy of all and that Sarsfields will be the inspiration of a radiant crusade by the blue and gold.

One final thought—how lucky I was to have been born in Tipperary.



A happy hurling group on board the SS 'Ryndam' returning from the U.S. with the Tipperary team, back in 1950. From left, the present Bishop of Waterford, Most Revd. Dr. Russell; the late Jim Ryan, Loughmore; the late Phil Purcell, Co. Board secretary; the late Willie Hough, Limerick, former Munster Council treasurer; former "Irish Independent" GAA writer, John D. Hickey, and the late Paddy Leahy, Boherlahan.



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# MATCH OF THE DAY

## —in the good old days

THERE WAS always an affinity between the hurlers of Waterford and Tipperary. Maybe not in the way the respective County Boards would encourage. But that was many years ago and much water has flowed down the Suir since then. Parish rules and County by-laws and boundaries were not too clearly defined at the time. Sure wasn't Mick Roche's Carrickbeg in Co. Waterford and Clonmel's Old Brigade GAA Club across the Suir in Co. Tipperary for GAA purposes. Players and spectators were not too fussy about inter-county protocol—the game was the thing. As Paddy Leahy used say apropos of any facet of hurling "Sure its all for the good of the game"

For the chosen few in Killenaule the annual pilgrimage southwards to Deise territory was a well-kept secret. It was known only to the hurlers directly concerned. The host club in Waterford would issue on S.O.S. through one of their officials who was a creamery manager in South Tipperary. "Could ye manage four good hurlers for the West junior final in Cappoquin on Sunday?" Nowadays in the jet-age they would be euphemistically referred to as guest players and a benevolent eye cast on their activities. As Killenaule was a senior club there was no great difficulty about lease-lend arrangements. Nevertheless, strict secrecy had to be observed as any loose talk could have disastrous results. Two backs and two forwards would do nicely, they said. The car would be met at the border near Ballymacarbery and escorted over the Nire rícer through Sliabh gCua territory to a pre-arranged hotel in Cappoquin.

### SHORT BRIEFING

After a formal introduction to team mates there would be a short briefing as to individual roles, the danger men in the opposition and the need for caution in talking to anyone. Like other apostles of old "even thy speech doth betray thee" might apply. To obviate the possibility of a slip of the tongue new names would be inscribed on the hurleys as memory aids in case any over-zealous official might question players' authenticity. Names like Ryan, Maher, Kennedy or Dwyer might raise eyebrows in Waterford and sow the seeds of suspicion. On that account a form of conditional baptism was hastily performed in the dressing room. New names like Power, Hallinan, Fitzgerald and Flynn were

By JACK O'DEA

formally adopted. A short pep-talk would follow and then out to the field.

Soon the opposition appeared, flexing their muscles and cutting ground balls goalwards in a pre-match puck about. Waterford always had fast sweet striking hurlers but lacked the Killer instinct of other Munster counties. The referee's whistle sounded and the thirty players lined up for the old fashioned count-down. Then came the first shock of the day. The referee was a Thurles man from the teachers' training college in Waterford and had more than a nodding acquaintance with all the hurlers in Mid Tipperary. But this initial shock was mild in comparison to the second. Lining out with the opposition were four senior players from the adjoining parish of Moycarkey. The referee showed no external signs of recognition. Possibly he had other things on his mind. Smiles of camaraderie all round but nothing more. Hurling men have their own code of honour and the game was what mattered.

### A DRAW

Very soon the game was on and the big crowd settled down to the harsh realities of a final. It was open spectacular fare not usually associated with junior games. Excitement was at fever pitch. It was score for score to the finish. The "guest" players on both sides caused no little stir. Selectors duly noted their adopted names hopefully for Inter-County Junior honours. In a welter of excitement the game ended in a draw. Everyone was happy, players, clubs, Board and followers. Sure there would be a record crowd at the replay. Hospitality was of typical Deise quality, "rogha gach bí is seana-gach di". Tentative arrangements were made for the replay. "Could ye manage five hurlers the next day?" "Certainly, no trouble at all". "Slán agus go n-eirigh libh abhaile". Part of Waterford was a breac-Gaeltacht at that time.

On the homeward journey the first stop was

(Continued on page 57)



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# THE SPECTATOR'S GOSPEL

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the Referee's and Spectators' viewpoint

MANY BOOKS have been written from time to time on the skills of hurling and football—updated edition of *Treorai Oifigiúil* published by the Central Council of the Association, Croke Park 1973, and current edition 1976 *Lamhleabhar do Reiteoiri agus Imreoiri* published by the National Referees Advisory Council. All these are available, but to my knowledge no such booklet or article has been drafted up specifically for the benefit of the spectator; possibly because it might generally be assumed that all spectators are either ex-players and should therefore have a good basic knowledge of all the playing rules, or that the women-folk would not find such a booklet interesting enough to digest.

However, I feel that if all spectators had a better knowledge of the playing rules and their interpretation, they might enjoy the game that little bit better. To spell out a detailed explanation of each rule and its correct interpretation would most certainly require a far more experienced and more authoritative voice than mine. Since I am merely expressing a personal viewpoint, I therefore stand subject to criticism or contradiction. Unqualified though I may be, I am prepared to have a “go” so to speak, but I would like to point out that I have sought neither assistance nor advice from anybody connected with the Gaelic Athletic Association. My viewpoint, therefore, is directed principally for the benefit of the “hurler on the ditch”.

In relation to hurling and football—if the eleventh commandment were to read “Thou shalt not commit a foul”—there would be no need at all for a referee, provided no player broke this commandment. The spectator would have no target to heckle, nobody to blame if the game is lost and the witty sayings such as “put on a jersey ref.” would no longer be heard. I don't mean that all “losers” shout or criticise referees, but we have the exceptions. Other famous (or infamous) aspersions—such as “Hey, Ref., open your bloody eyes” or

“Ah, Ref!, ya saw that one, but ya didn't see d'other one”. Of course one should always bear in mind that the referee's view is at a different angle to that of the spectator; that the quickness of the hand can deceive the eye, so for good measure, don't believe anything you hear and only half of what you see. If the referee could see the fouls through the eyes of the spectator, what a wonderful game it would be. To be fair to all spectators, even those who are wrong but who firmly believe they are right, there certainly is a lot of fair comment during and after a game, but I believe unjust comment may simply arise from lack of knowledge of the rules and their interpretation.

Since the foundation of the GAA the basic rules have remained intact, except for a few alterations and interpretation, elaboration or modification which require updating periodically in order to keep pace with modern times. All the rules are clearly written and explained in “*Treoiri Oifigiúil 1973*” pertaining to the games, clubs penalties, etc., and the playing rules for the benefit of referees are outlined in the “*Referees and Players Guide*”—the 1976 edition is the current edition. Every Gaelic follower should read and study these booklets for his own benefit and while I agree that there would not be complete unanimity in the interpretation of each rule, nevertheless the vast majority of spectators would agree with the same interpretation. The “*Referees and Players Guide*” is commonly referred to as the “*Referees Gospel*” and while the rules are clearly written and explained, not all referees interpret them in the same manner. Of course the experienced and sensible referee will apply the unwritten advantage rule at all times but occasionally the application of this rule will not always work out as intended. The National Referees Advisory Council and Provincial Referees Advisory Council have a programme underway which will ensure that the application and interpretation of each rule will be applied with consistency by all referees. It is written that “the just man falls seven times a day” therefore it would be correct to assume that even if every player on the



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Back, left to right: Purdy Loughnane (Roscrea), Pat Looby (Drom/Inch), Gerry Phelan (C  
(Boherlahan), Tommy Grogan (Cashel), Ger Stapleton (Borris-Ileigh), Pat Ryan (Borris-  
Tim Floyd (Newport). Front, left to right: Seamus Kennedy (Lorrha), Ger O'Connor (Ros  
Clonmel), Michael Stapleton (Templederry), Michael Murphy (Templederry), Joe Hog  
(Kilruane).



# R HURLING CHAMPIONS 1976



Carrick Swans), Michael Griffin (Eire Og, Nenagh), Michael Doyle (Holycross), Pat Power (Killeshin), Eamonn O'Shea (Kilruane), Joe O'Dwyer (Killenaule), Tony Slattery (Cashel), John Sheedy (Portroe), Ber O'Dowd (Sarsfields), Vincent Mullins (St Mary's), Enda Hogan (capt.) (Roscrea), John Stone (Roscrea), P. J. Maxwell (Clonoulty),

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team knew the rules thoroughly, it would be an impossibility to have an all-perfect player. The same holds for the referee—even though he may be blessed with an abundance of common sense—he also has his imperfections. At the very mention of the word “Referee” the name John Moloney automatically comes to mind and more than once I have heard John say “The perfect Referee is not yet born and his mother died years ago”. My own personal quote could read “Judge me not on my manner of expression but on what I would like to demonstrate, for the truth is often bitter”. Take for example the ardent supporter who braves all weather to attend a match in order to “root” for the home team (fair dues to him for that). During the game he sees only the “rights” of the home team and turns a blind eye to the “wrongs”, he fails to recognise the fact that some of the key men do not strike good form in this particular match and refuses to admit that the best team should win. The home team is once more in the lead—there are thrills, there is excitement, there is the clash of the ash, there is a goal for the opposition, there is the sound of the final whistle. The home team have lost by a point, two points, a goal!—the margin does not matter now. The supporter is grieved and his only means of self-satisfaction is to pick on the defenceless, unprotected referee. As far as this particular follower is concerned, the referee—even though he may have done a very good job—has done him wrong. There may have been one incident in this game where the referee's decision made him “sore”. The referee's decision was correct but the supporter, not knowing the rule interpretation, turned anti-referee; however, I have yet to hear of a sore winner. All the blame, of course, must not be borne by the spectators. It is amazing but true that many players, including some inter-county players, are not familiar enough with the rules of the game. It is a severe handicap for any player not to have a good basic knowledge of the rules, especially in the case of dissension with the referee's decision which involves a further ten yard penalty. The team as a whole can therefore suffer from the dissension of one player.

I do not for a moment mean to be over-critical but only good can come from criticism, provided it is of a constructive nature. If a referee makes a mistake, and he is bound to sometime as he is not infallible, or if a player breaks a rule he is seen by almost everyone and punished for his misdemeanour. However, if a spectator steps out of line, little or nothing is done by way of penalising such an offence. The type of offence I refer to would be a breach of rules, if such were drafted up and possibly entitled “Park Etiquette”. In everyday life a person can easily be judged by his or general behaviour in public, and thus earn the title “Lady” or “Gent”. Such a well-behaved and good mannered person must be seen to abide by the rules of etiquette when say dining in a restaurant—the knife will not be put in the mouth instead of the fork; the soup will not be made to sound better than it

tastes; or waves will not be blown on a saucer full of tea—no—all that is required is ordinary, good table manners.

Now imagine you arriving at a venue and it is only a matter of minutes before the throw-in. You are rushing to get a good seat or a good position on the bank or terrace but in so doing you step out of line, for example, you jump the queue—in fact some men would as soon walk through you as around you—others stroll casually up the sideline even though the feature game may be in progress. How grand it would be to have the late arrivals move quietly and unseen behind the back seats or wall in venues where this is possible, thereby causing less annoyance to everyone. So let all of us make up our minds to become better spectators and let our motto be “do unto others as you would have others do unto you”. Be more considerate with that umbrella, please! General admission to our games is expensive these days so the ardent supporters would like to get full value for money without any added inconveniences—a little politeness costs nothing.

## STANDARDS AND RULE ADJUSTMENT

There are far more competitions in our present day games than we had say ten or twenty years ago, especially at under-age level. In all probability there are far more venues too. There might appear to be smaller attendances at our games now but one must realise that there are many other attractions nowadays, transport more readily available to travel further afield may account for some decline in attendance. Despite all this, the annual average attendance is really good. During the course of a discussion with an old-timer recently regarding the standard of present day hurling, I was inclined to agree with him that the general standard may have dropped somewhat in recent years—true or false, in your opinion? Well; everybody has his own reservations. Take one example—I would ask the more advanced supporters to cast his memory back say ten to twenty years. In those days a county minor hurler or footballer could excel when playing with his local parish hurling or football team. Nowadays even the most prominent county minor finds it difficult to get a place even on the first fifteen. Therefore, judging by this it would be correct to assume that the standard is even higher now.

The whole pattern and style of the game has undoubtedly changed in recent times. It has become faster and more scientific. Recent minor adjustments have certainly “cleaned up” the game and while hurling and football are chiefly spectacle sport, those rule changes have made the game far more enjoyable for the player. Some people agree with these changes, others disagree and simply say “weren't they all right as they were”. This may be so but again, for those who are old enough to remember, it was a courageous step to reduce the number of players initially from twenty-one to seventeen and then to fifteen. Success or failure can only be proven when the change is implemented.



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I personally compliment the "powers that be" who had the courage to introduce the current "new rules". The only problem for the spectators (and indeed for referees too) arising out of these new changes is their failure to grasp the full and correct interpretation. Take for example the third man tackle, the player attempting to challenge the man in possession may not himself be tackled while attempting such a challenge.

Example: A and B are team-mates. A is in possession or about to get possession. C is the challenger. B may not interfere (bodily contact) with C.

The Gaelic Athletic Association has been operating so successfully since its foundation that it was not necessary to make any major adjustments until recent years. To 'up-date' certain facets within the Association became not alone desirable but absolutely essential. A more professional-like approach to the manner of reconstruction got underway. Well thought-out plans were drafted out and put into motion. One of these plans resulted in the recent rule changes. While everyone may or may not agree with all the recent changes, I am sure he will welcome at least the change relating to the goalkeeper. Before this change it was common practice to "bury" the goalie in the net, whether or not he was in possession of the ball—at least it is much appreciated by all goalkeepers. The goalkeeper may still be challenged but not charged. The distinct difference between one and the other is—to charge is to engage in actual bodily contact; to challenge is an attempt to dispossess the goalkeeper of the ball by way of blocking down his stroke or kick or tapping the ball away as he attempts a clearance—provided the challenge does not result in deliberate bodily contact.

## ENCOURAGE RATHER THAN CRITICISE

A spectator attends at a game for the purpose of enjoyment. A player participates in a game for the same reason. I particularly refer to "undog" teams where a word of encouragement rather than criticism of a particular player might be far more helpful. Far too often we hear remarks hurled out at juveniles from the sidelines, such as "Ah, you bloody idiot, what did ya do that for"? Any player can only do his best and such remarks can have a far more damaging effect, not alone on a particular individual, but on the team as a whole. A good player does not always make a good spectator and while it is generally accepted that good players are not born but are made, I also believe that a good spectator can be made. Since there are far more competitions nowadays, especially at juvenile grade, most matches have to be played on week evenings and most spectators have access to the sideline. It is very unfair to the teams' officials to have over-enthusiastic spectators moving in over the sidelines and crowding around the goal area.

Rather than sounding over-critical, I would like



to think that by pointing out simple faults and failings, we all might try to rectify them. Next to the player, the spectator is the most important person attached to the Gaelic Athletic Association for on his shoulders rests the very preservation of our national games, which are such a part of our Irish heritage and culture. The chief architects—the ones who carry the heaviest burden—are the men I wish to compliment for their time, patience and effort and these are: (I) secretaries at club level, (II) divisional level and (III) county level. Their work is endless and apart from job satisfaction, their reward is very little.

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viour at our national games, you, the spectator, are playing a significant role in the upkeep of the Association and demonstrating your willingness to preserve that which is the most cherished part of our Irish culture and tradition. Some Gaelic enthusiasts have over the years collected pictures and paper cuttings and built up a scrapbook of some of our "greats" in hurling and football. What better pass-time than to sit down and re-live memories of big names of the golden eras. We have had many great games in the past and we will have games in future years which, I believe, will even surpass the greatest of the big game days. The game of the present day is skilful and scientific and our future games, hopefully, should continue to improve.

Once again, may I reiterate that, although I am by no means the voice of authority, I would hope that some small suggestion or explanation of a rule might help you to enjoy your game of hurling or football that little bit better.

For most of us, to attend at a game of hurling or football on Sunday has become so much a part of our lives that without it we would be lost—not knowing what to do with our Sunday leisure-time. May I say on the same lines as the late John F. Kennedy might have said: "Ask not what the Gaelic Athletic Association can do for you, but rather

what you can do for the Gaelic Athletic Association".

If any loyal supporter feels that there is something drastically wrong with either the running of the Association, the administration or rule interpretation, he should always feel free to make suggestions in his club's boardroom. In due course, if his suggestion is worthy of justification, I feel certain that it will receive the fullest consideration at the highest level—after all, do not the very roots of the entire Association stem from the clubs? This stem is nurtured at divisional and county level and the fruit which it bears forth is the top level administration which we ourselves select and harvest.

One final quip, to the young and not so young players who contribute so much to the Association by their interest in playing the game I would say—"keep up the good work while you can and as long as you can. I once heard a story concerning a young Kerry footballer who had represented his county in minor grade and was an absolutely brilliant player, at 19 he was chosen on the senior football team and showed great promise but at 20 he had hung up his boots—was a spectator for the next ten years and then decided to make a comeback but failed. He then said "once I could, and I would not. Now I would but cannot". He is now the footballer on the ditch like you and me.



**BORRIS-ILEIGH**—North Senior Hurling champions. Standing, left to right: Timmy Stapleton, Joe Kenny, Timmy Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, Matt Stapleton, Tommy O'Dwyer. Front, left to right: Rory Kinnane, Des Kennedy, Pat Maher, Michael Coen (capt.), Noel Maher, Brendan Kenny, Gerry Stapleton, Pat Ryan, Timmy Delaney.



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# REMEMBERING THE FIRST FEILE NA nGAEL

By EAMONN DE STAFORT

NOTHING EVER happens we are told—it is caused to happen, but yet there are times when we have seen events mushroom to success without any apparent creation, and perhaps Féile Na nGael is one such an event. However, on closer examination of every success we do find a creation—a preparation, which without warning begins to manifest itself into a success story. I think Féile Na nGael is such a success story and has certainly surpassed the expectations of those associated with its foundation. I have often wondered why the Féile got off to such a healthy start and on examination, especially of the six weeks prior to the event, I begin to realise the amount of work that was poured into the preparation from various sources.

As for the idea of running the Féile it evolved from a discussion between Seamus Ó Riain, Tomás Ó Baróid and myself, when we chatted rather than discussed the running of something new under the auspices of the Association. For my part, I recall meeting Tomás Ó Baróid in early March and learning that Seamus Ó Riain and himself had been chatting about the idea of something new. I suppose the start came when the three of us met in the Ormond Hotel, Nenagh, in March of 1971 for initial discussions. I recall Tomás Ó Baróid suggesting that each County send a juvenile hurling team to Thurles for the week-end, which to me at the time seemed an impossible task. Other suggestions were less ambitious i.e. the running of a parade, concert, céili, etc. I think the 'big break' came when the three of us met with Mr Joe Fitzpatrick, Public Relations Executive with O'Kennedy-Brindley, and Mr Robin O'Sullivan of Irish Bottlers of Coca Cola at a meeting in Cashel on Wednesday, June 9th. The former had been contacted by Seamus Ó Riain and a meeting arranged. At this meeting we learned that Irish Bottlers of Coca-Cola would subvent to Féile na nGael up to £600 and Shannonside Tourism would also give financial help and organisational assistance.

With the participation of teams from each

County it meant straight away that the Féile would be a national one, even though for the organisers it meant the active involvement of over 1,200 boys who would have to be accommodated and fed. The visiting teams would be hosted by teams from Co. Tipperary and each visiting team would play its host team in the first round on the Saturday morning. Even at this stage the Féile was only six weeks away, and there was much to be done—contacting of home clubs and selling them the idea of hosting the visiting teams, which Bord na nÓg did with great efficiency, and contacting the County Boards of all other counties, which was done by Jimmy Smith from Croke Park. Then there was much to be done locally also—a week-end programme to be planned—official opening, parade, céili, concert, exhibition, printing of souvenir programme, invitations, accommodation arrangements, meals (how and where to feed over 1,200 boys in one afternoon), special stars of the past game, trophies, invited guests, etc. Unfortunately and probably due to the short time available for recruiting support the numerical involvement of the organising committee was quite limited at this stage and even up to a few weeks before the event, but the great capacity of the County Chairman Seamus Ó Riain and County Secretary Tomás Ó Baróid to delegate efficiently and effectively could then be seen. It was obvious that they had close contacts with all aspects of the Association and between them they were able to solicit co-operation from all areas. No doubt the brunt of the work at this stage was borne by Bord na nÓg and the Bord led by Chairman Liam Ó Riain and Secretary Tom Kirby who proved to be a real credit to the Association.

So on Friday, June 25th, 1971, it was a happy group if a little apprehensive who travelled to Dublin to meet and brief the press at a special conference organised by Seán Ó Siócháin, and so tell the nation that another "founding" would be recorded in Thurles on July 16-18.

As for the week-end itself, it certainly did surpass our expectations, but on reflection was the result of a great deal of hard work by so many people. Naturally some of the events stand out





With banners held by Willie O'Reilly, Jack Pyne and Ned Treacy, the Roscrea Under 14 Hurlers participate in the Felle na nGael parade in Cork in July.



more vividly than others—the magniácent parade of over 1,200 boys well toggged out with appropriate banners projecting an image fitting of the very Association which sprung from the very same town ninty-two years ago; and now as this great colour spectacle marched from Semple Stadium and turned left into Liberty Square, Thurles, it must have drawn a smile from the great bronze statue of the Association's first Patron, Dr Croke, as he looked down on such a spectacle. Also the formation of all the teams in Semple Stadium and as they turned and faced the tricolour reminding us that here were the men of to-morrow the youth of to-day, or to reflect on the interest which 'exploded' around the museum organised and directed by Liam Ó Corbáin (which included over-nighting in Scoil Ailbe) when word got out of the contents of the museum which included old hurleys, photographs now being viewed by the sons of those featured in them, the jersey worn by Michael Hogan who was shot dead by the British in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday 1920. All-Ireland medals by the score, scrap books, trophies, etc., or to reflect over the glimpse of former greatness from the Stars of the past game, or the jubilant Derry team after they had won their division, and so many other aspects of the week-end which helped to launch Féile Nn nGael. Yes, Tipperary can be proud of its youth—lean siad lorg a mhuintire.

## MATCH OF THE DAY

(Continued from page 43)

made at an open-air dance platform at Grallagh between Ballinure and Horse and Jockey. And for the second time that day there was a social confrontation with the Moycarkey guest players. The four were dancing a Cashel Set as fresh as the proverbial daisies. The game was discussed in some detail, the replay was not even mentioned. All were agreed on one thing—no questions would be answered back home.

But all good things come to an end. But it wasn't the kind of end anticipated. A couple of weeks later at a County Board meeting one of the Killenaule guest players applied for a transfer to Moycarkey, stating that he now resided in the parish. But at the end of the application came the bombshell. P.S. "Also I wish to be reinstated as I took part in the Waterford championships". Whether his conscience or his club was pricking him was not too clear. There was a mystified silence. But justice had to be seen to be done. An investigation was ordered but no evidence of involvement by any club or clubs could be established. And things rested so. But the warning lights were switched on in both counties. The annual hurling safari southwards had ended for all time.

But from that far off day to this, we never heard who won the replay in Cappquin!

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# WHY FRANZ LEHAR CAME OUT BEST IN A CLASH WITH SCOR!

By Gerry Slevin

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WHAT THE DICKENS is Slevin at, I can hear you say. Is he trying to say that someone had the nerve to introduce a Viennese waltz into the Scor competitions—and got away with it? Indeed no. Nothing as “profane” as that, do I speak of, but rather do I endeavour to put on paper for the first time an account of certain events which took place in the Spring, events that left yours truly in a bewildered state, culminating in decision-making entirely beyond my control and my inability to be part of a great occasion, the All-Ireland Scor Finals in Leisureland, Salthill.

OK, Slevin, get on with the job and tell us what Franz Lehar has to do with all this. Some of the more knowledgable ones among you will probably point to the fact that the bould Lehar is long dead and couldn't possibly have any connection with Scor. True, true, but like all great men, his work lives on after him and in the world of musical comedy there comes no better than “The Merry Widow,” those delightful tunes for which were written by Mr Lehar himself.

Well, back in January as a member of Nenagh Choral Society, I (in the wisdom or otherwise of the casting committee) was handed a leading role in the production that was to be staged in the Scouts Hall, starting on Sunday, April 4th. Around the same time the adult Scor competitions were getting under way and Slevin being the chancer he is, became part of a singing group in Borrisokane that set out with nothing more in mind than trying to erase a rather dismal memory of twelve months previous when in the North divisional final nothing seemed to go right. With Phil and Junior Quigley, Marie Lawlor and Donal Quinn, we won through in the Nenagh finals and before we realised what was happening we had taken County honours as well. Rehearsals for “The Widow” were going ahead in Nenagh and I managed to concern myself with both events without ever really throwing my mind too far ahead. Oh yes, I knew the All-Ireland Scor finals were an April 4th fixture. “The Merry Widow” was also scheduled to open the same night, but as coming out of Munster was still a major hurdle, I refused to think of the consequences.

On the night of the Munster Scor final in Thurles, we performed well. All five of us knew that, but at the same time with the tremendous opposition facing us, we were not thinking in terms of a provincial title and a place in the All-Ireland finals. We sat back in the wings awaiting the results at the end of a long and exhausting night's programme and I will never forget the feeling that came over me when Fear a Tighe, Donie Nealon, announced that the group singing title was won by Borrisokane and Tipperary. In all the excitement that followed with our faithful fans storming around us, my mind refused to face up to the inevitable. The clash was now a reality and what was I to do about it?

With the noise of cheering and shouting still ringing in my ears, I drove silently back to Nenagh. My colleagues in the group had no qualms whatever. We had gone so far. We had to see it out together. Of course I agreed with them. It had been a great season and at the end of it was a chance to win an All-Ireland title. I knew my allegiance lay with them and I dearly wanted to appear in the final. Who wouldn't? I realised too that I had an allegiance to the Nenagh Choral Society, so what was I to do?

Then it hit me. Why not try to get someone to take the part of Baron Zeta for the opening night of “The Merry Widow,” someone who had done the part previously? A great idea, but who? Talking it over the next day with members of my family, I remembered seeing the show in Monaghan just a few years before. My sister who was there and who resides in Monaghan remembered it too and knowing Billy McDonald who had played the Baron in that production, she said she would suggest it to him.

With baited breath I waited for a few days. Then the telephone tingle from Monaghan revealed that all was well. Billy would be glad to step in. What a relief. All was resolved or so I thought. Soon I was to know different.

As opening night approached and producer Kevin Byrne from Dublin began to instill a great sense of urgency into our activities in Nenagh, I stopped him in his tracks one night when I casually and indeed confidently informed him of my problem and how I had resolved it. The way he looked at me





A Senior All-Ireland Scor title came to Tipperary in 1976 through the Arravale Rovers Novelty Act group, pictured here



told its tale. All was not as rosy as I had worked it out to be. Oh, no, and in a few short crisp sentences my 'ingenuity' and plans for a compromise were shattered beyond recognition. Impossible, that was what the man said. The part I was playing in "The Widow" was a very big one. In rehearsal I had been part of a team, fitting into a production devised by him and while he had nothing whatever against Billy McDonald or anyone else either, it was out of the question that in one rehearsal Billy could knit into the production. It would not be fair to the other members of the cast. So like a chastened schoolboy, I walked away, wondering how I was going to tell my Borrisokane colleagues. Time was not on their side. I broke the news and it was accepted, as I felt it would be, in a dignified and understanding way. Thankfully, a sub. was soon found in the person of Denis Gardiner. Denis, son of former GAA President Seamus Gardiner, was one of our most faithful followers at all our successful Scor outings. A man of immense musical and singing talent, he burned the midnight oil with the other four, rehearsing and readying himself for the big occasion.

"The Merry Widow" curtain went up in Nenagh as the All-Ireland Scor finals were underway in Galway. For my part it was a mechanical performance. My thoughts were in Salthill and I thought the show would never be over until I could get in touch by telephone to find out how things had gone. The group didn't win but it was no blame to them. They performed splendidly and a tape recording of their performance which I subsequently heard

brought this home to me very convincingly.



Denis Gardiner

That's it. I suppose when Scor comes round again we will be off once more. While each stage has to be taken as it comes, I am glad to say that no clash will exist next season. Dates for both the All-Ireland Scor finals and Nenagh Choral Society's next production have been announced. They do not clash. Only time will tell if it makes any difference or not.



ROSCREA Under 14 hurlers, County Champions and Tipperary representatives at Feile na nGael in Cork. Standing, second from the right is the late Timmy Bergin, whose lamented death occurred a short time after this photo was taken, thereby depriving hurling in Roscrea and among the youth in particular of a great driving force.



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# THEY CLAIM A SPECIAL PLACE

By  
Seamus O Riain

AMONGST THOSE called to their eternal reward during the past year three lay claim to a special place in our memory, because of their long and distinguished service to the Association and to the county in particular. The following brief notices, inadequate though they may be, are nevertheless a sincere tribute to these men whose labours and example exerted a powerful influence in shaping the advance of the GAA over the last fifty years.

## SEAMUS GARDINER

Born in Lisdoonvarna in 1894, Seamus Gardiner completed his teacher training in 1916. Having taken a B.Sc. degree in UCD he was appointed principal teacher in Borrisokane Boys' NS in 1924. Already he had established a reputation as a brilliant footballer in the back line, and had led UCD to victory in the Sigerson Cup.

His keen interest in Gaelic Games and his undoubted ability as an administrator won recognition when he was appointed Chairman of the North Tipperary Board in 1930. During his term in that office the parish rule was introduced and he urged the need for each parish to have its own playing field. By the time he relinquished office in 1939 a number of clubs in the division had been successful in acquiring grounds, including Roscrea, Dolla, Moneygall and Clonakenny.

He was elected Vice-President of the Munster Council in 1939 and became President of that body two years later. In 1943 he was accorded the highest honour in the Association when Congress elected him President of the GAA. He guided the Association with dignity and honour through the years from 1943 to 1946 when travelling was made more difficult owing to war-time restrictions.

After his arduous term in the presidency he returned to the North Tipperary Board and served that body without a break until his retirement in 1973 brought to a close a long and distinguished career of service to the GAA. The Board honoured

him by appointing him a joint Honorary President with his long-serving colleagues Rody Nealon and Denis Costello.

One ambition that remained to him in later years was to secure firmly the Gaelic grounds in Borrisokane and in achieving this aim he has earned the gratitude of the parish he served so well as a teacher, and in addition, has established a lasting memorial to his memory.

## CANON FOGARTY

A native of Holycross parish, Canon Fogarty was a skilful hurler in his youth. After ordination in Maynooth he spent a short period on the English mission, before returning to Cashel diocese. He became engaged wholeheartedly in promoting club hurling in the parishes to which he was assigned and he put forward as a priority the development of strong, active parish clubs with properly equipped grounds.

In 1929 he was elected Chairman of the Mid-Tipperary Board, and this event launched him on a remarkably long and fruitful term as an administrator in the county which lasted over forty years until his retirement in January 1970. When Fr John Meagher died in 1947 Fr Fogarty was the unanimous choice to succeed him as Chairman of the County Board. The twenty-two years which he served in that position were particularly outstanding ones for Tipperary hurling and brought a rich harvest in the honours won. Eight senior All-Ireland titles, two under 21, seven minor, two intermediate, a junior title, a dozen National Leagues and several Oireachtas victories were won. These achievements were very satisfying indeed for the Canon and a reward for his dedicated service.

During his time in Thurles Canon Fogarty took a special interest in the development of the stadium there and was a member of the Sportsfield Committee which was responsible for bringing about vast improvements to the ground.

Perhaps the Canon's greatest and most lasting achievement was the production of the "Tipperary GAA Story", a monumental work which entailed



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long and painstaking research in the files of old newspapers, old documents and through interviews with people of a passing generation. Thus he has preserved and placed in printed form detailed knowledge of the early days of the GAA in the county and how it developed down to the 1930s.

He spent many years at this task, amassing mountains of material from various sources and transcribing it in to neatly written note-books. But it was for him a labour of love and in the accomplishment of it he has bequeathed to us an invaluable and unique volume which is referred to with a sense of loving gratitude as Canon Fogarty's History.

### FR. JOHN CLEARY

Fr Cleary was born in Annameadle in Toomevara parish and he grew up during the exciting days of the Greyhounds' dominance. While still a student he displayed outstanding talent at centre field with the Toomevara team and he was chosen in that position on the county team for the 1922 championship campaign, and he played in the All-Ireland,

postponed until September 1923, when Tipperary went down to Kilkenny in a sensational finish.

Ordination brought an end to his active playing career but his keen interest in hurling remained and his great joy was to help young boys to improve their game. In the parishes where he served as a priest he devoted his wide experience and keen hurling sense to training and coaching juvenile teams with remarkable success. The victories of Shannon Rovers and later on, of Lorrha in juvenile championships at divisional and county level provide a measure of the extraordinary effectiveness and efficiency of his influence and guidance. He was an active member of Bord na nOg in North Tipperary for many years.

Few could read a game or judge the merits of a player as accurately as Fr Cleary and his advice on tactics was always worth having. His interest in hurling and especially in the fortunes of the Tipperary team remained even when the ageing years prevented him from attending matches and he had to accept the radio or television as a substitute.



The late Seamus Gardiner, Borrisokane, making presentations to two Borrisokane members of the Tipperary panel which won All-Ireland senior honours in 1962, Ronnie Slevin and John 'Mackey' McKenna.



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# PROGRESS OF THE "CANON FITZGERALD" CUP

IN 1970 The Tipperary Association in London, wishing to perpetuate the memory of a great Tipperary priest who spent his priestly life ministering in a London parish put forward a trophy for a hurling competition between all post-primary schools in Tipperary.

The then Chairman of the County Board, Seamus O Riain, called a meeting of all post primary schools in Tipperary and at that meeting arrangements were made for the running of the competition. It was decided to have it as an under 17 competition, hoping that it would in some way help to provide some players who would eventually bring back an All-Ireland trophy to the Premier County.

**By JOHN COSTIGAN**

In the first year of the competition twelve schools took part and the first final was played at Semple Stadium in March '71 between Borrisokane VS and Carrick-on-Suir CBS. Borrisokane fielding a very strong and skilful team were the victors. Following the game both teams were entertained by the County Board in the Anner Hotel and Michael McCormack having travelled from London to represent the Tipperary Association presented the trophy to the Borrisokane captain Tom Killackey and so Borrisokane had proved themselves the premier school of the Premier County for 1970-71.

Since then the competition has gone from strength to strength. The following year saw Thurles CBS and Cashel CBS contest the final and in a tremendous final played as curtain raiser to a Limerick/Kilkenny league game we got the first glimpse of the brilliant Cashel resurgence which afterwards left its mark on Munster Colleges and Tipperary competitions. After a great game Cashel emerged victorious with a last minute John Grogan free 1-10 to 2-6.

The following year Cashel and Thurles again contested the final and Cashel were again victorious.

In 1974 it was Templemore's turn to break the Cashel monopoly. That year the final did not take

place until May and after a very exciting game Cashel and Templemore played a draw. The replay was another exciting affair and after a great hour's hurling Templemore CBS with great displays by Tim and Seamus Bourke, Pat Ryan and Matt Shortt brought the trophy to Mid Tipp for the first time. The Cashel stars that evening were players of whom we have heard much since, Pa. Fitzelle, Tommy Grogan, P. J. Maxwell, Tony Slattery and Joe Minogue.

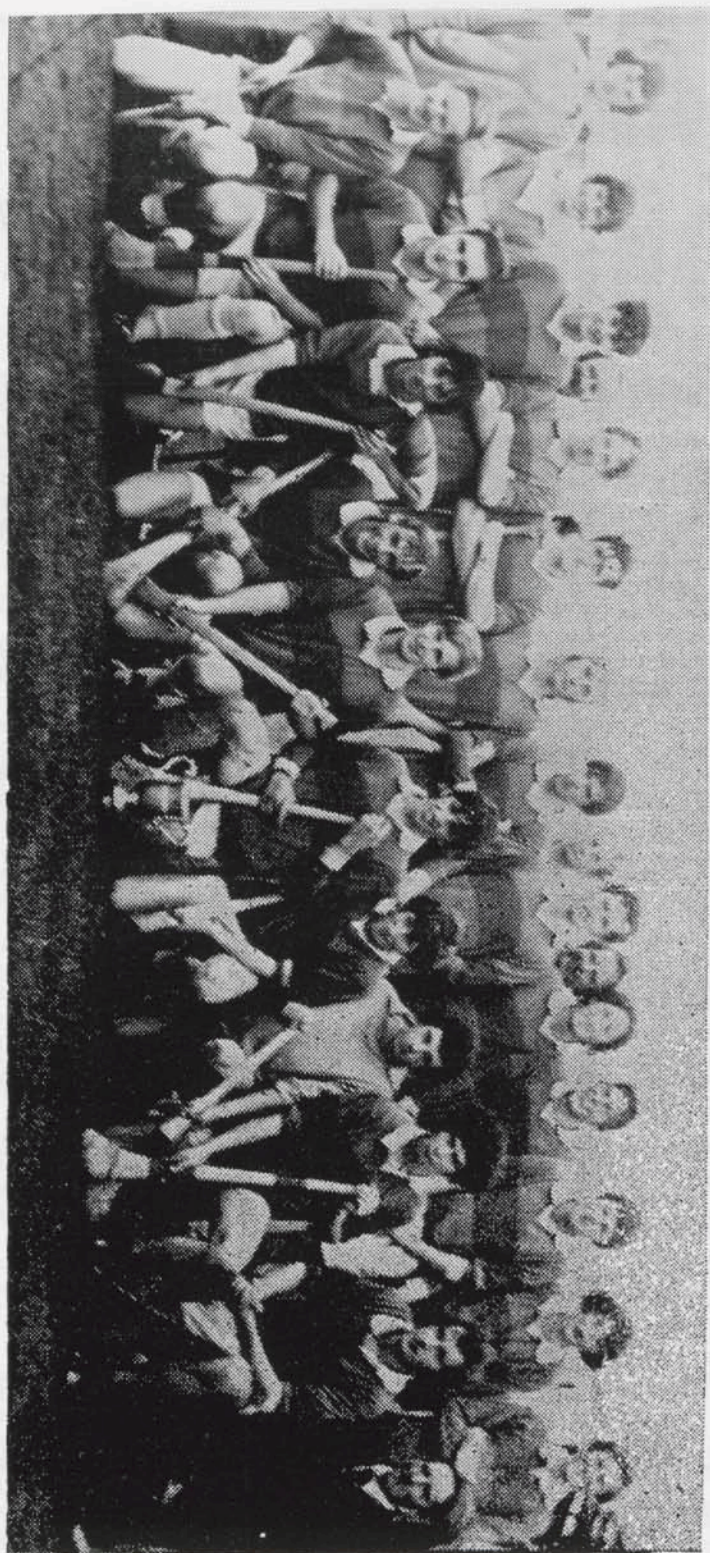
In 1975 it was Thurles CBS who took the trophy to the famous nursery for the first time. In the final they defeated old rivals Templemore CBS, 5-2 to 1-8, after an exciting final. One of the memorable factors about that game was the tremendous duel at midfield between Pat Ryan and Michael Doyle, both of whom this year went on to play big parts in bringing back the All-Ireland minor trophy to Tipperary after almost two decades.

The 1976 final brought old rivals Cashel and Templemore CBS into opposition. Again it was a very entertaining final with Cashel emerging victorious and so P. J. Maxwell took the trophy back to the Cashel school for the third time in all. The stars in the Cashel victory were Pat Power, P. J. Maxwell and C. Bonner, while Templemore's best were Mick Murphy, Willie Butler and Eamon Brennan.

We can say at this stage that the competition is established and each school takes great pride in it and value winning it very much. Our only hope is that the competition will continue to flourish. Our regret with the organisers at the moment is that some schools do not participate. I would like to take this opportunity to exhort such hurling strongholds as Roscrea CBS and Roscrea VS, Nenagh VS, Clonmel CBS, and Carrick-on-Suir, to come into the competition. Tipperary post-primary hurling is all the poorer without you.

To conclude I would like to thank the London Gaels for showing their concern for Tipperary youth and I hope the competitions will continue to produce youth players who will wear the blue and gold with pride and distinction. Most of the minors who did us proud in September were blooded in this competition during their school days.





A new hurling force emerged during the year with LOUGHMORE'S entry to the big time. They won Divisional and County honours, defeating champions Cashel in the minor final.



# BORD NA nOG

## Le MICHEAL O FUIRISTEAL

"Lá Nollag agus aimsir na Nollag chiodh comortas báire ar siú agus an baile go léir ceangailte isteach insa chluiche leáire sin."

Sa tagairt dúinn ar eachtra as saol muintir pharóiste amháin le Tomás Ó Criomhthain ina leabhar "An t-Oileánach" caithimid bheith buíoch nach eisceacht a leithéid i saol an lae inniu. Mar thachíocht don ráiteas seo níl le déanamh ach áiteanna mar Mhuine Gall, Cnoc A' Bhaile, Caisleán Aoibhne, Beál Athe an Gharraí agus Atharla a ríomhadh. Muna raibh gach mac máthar agus iníon athar i láthair ag na cluichí in ar ghlac gasúir óga na n-áiteanna seo páirt iontu ní raibh fagtha sa bhaile ach fíor beagán.

An spioraid abhí chomh Gaelach agus bríomhar sin i rith míosa an tsamhraidh nach bhféadfai i a choimeád ar lasadh an Nollaig seo trí bronnantaisí mar chamáin agus sliotair, liathróid péile de dhéanamh ár dtíre féin agus irisí féin ár gcluichí féin a scaipeadh i measc ár bpáistí. Taispeánadh an dílseacht fíor-ghaelach in ár gcomórtaisí páirce agus Scór agus go raibh sí againn go deo.

No GAA club is complete without its juvenile section because our juveniles are the life-blood of our Association. In these days of the continual indoctrination of our youth to forsake their national games, culture and language for those of an inferior quality, every true Gael must play his part. It is imperative, however, that our underage members be properly catered for. It is to be regretted that on occasions we find people in charge of juveniles who are not suited either temperamentally or conduct-wise. Our juveniles should be taught by word and example to be true sportsmen, both on and off the field of play.

1976 will be a year that will often be recalled for the high standard of the games played. The rivalry between Loughmore and Roscrea brought out the very best in both teams when they clashed on a number of occasions in Under 14 Hurling Championship. If the expertise, enthusiasm and

sportsmanship displayed by those youngsters could be imbibed by our senior players All-Ireland honours would soon become a reality. Clonmel Commercial continue to dominate the Under 16 Football Championship and their proud record of having captured the title every year since the competition was inaugurated must be an incentive rather than a deterrent to others.

Although every club was not favoured with success at County level, all who participated helped create the healthy competitiveness that made the title of County champions a title of honour. How far and wide those titles were carried to Carrick-on-Suir by the Under 12 Footballers of St Nicholas, to the Northern division by Moneygall's Under 12 Hurlers. Ballingarry's Under 16 Hurlers made it a first for their parish and gave hurling in the Southern division an enormous morale booster.

The high-point of a Tipperary boy's career would be to participate in "Feile na nGael" or enjoy "An Turas" to Croke Park on All-Ireland day. For the Under 14 Hurlers of Roscrea this was bonanza year as they were our worthy representatives on both occasions. Next year it will be the privilege of some U/14 Football team to attend the All-Ireland Football Final and what a day it would be for them if they could applaud a team onto the field clad in the Blue and Gold of Tipperary.

During the year we had the enjoyable task of making presentation to two retiring officials of the Board. Liam O Duibhir, O.S., who has been associated with juvenile affairs since '39, retired as Board Treasurer. Thankfully, his vast experience and concern has not been lost to the Board as Willie now holds the position of Honorary President. Tom Kirby who resigned as Secretary to take up the position of Development Officer with the Senior Board was the other recipient. It is the dedication and generosity of men like these that make the GAA the thriving organisation it is. Go raibh a leithéidí in ár measc coíche.

### TITLE HOLDERS AND RUNNERS-UP FOR 1976

U/12 Hurling	— Moneygall —	Ballingarry
U/12 Football	— St. Nicholas —	Cashel
U/14 Hurling R.	— Loughmore —	Knockavilla
U/14 Hurling U/R	— Roscrea —	Loughmore
U/14 Football R.	— Loughmore —	Ardfinnan
U/14 Football U/R	— Commercial —	Inane Rovers
U/14 Hurling Blitz	— Roscrea —	Loughmore
U/16 Hurling	— Ballingarry —	Loughmore
U/16 Football	— Commercial —	Aherlow



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# THE INTRODUCTION OF JUVENILE HANDBALL COMPETITIONS

By MICHAEL TYRELL

THE GREAT REVIVAL of interest in handball throughout the county in the past 10 or 12 years may be attributed to many factors: publicity, improvement of amenities, more efficient club administrators and above all the GAA and its interest in handball. But the most important factor in my opinion is the introduction of juvenile handball and the subsequent growth of inter-club, inter-county and All-Ireland juvenile competitions.

This year in our juvenile competitions, saw the introduction of two more under age grades u-13 and u-15. So now the game is catering for players from the ages of twelve to sixteen. Of course juveniles become adults in time and many will ask what has become of the outstanding juveniles of former years, but like most amateur sports some will drift away, but most will continue to play the game as a pastime, a leisure activity, a keep-fit exercise which they enjoy.

Some will take the game more seriously, train two or three nights per week and now especially where clubs are providing first class ballcourts such as Ballina and Lahorna in North Tipperary, Horse & Jockey in the Mid, Cashel in the West of the county, Fethard and Ballyporeen in the southern part, with the aid of Clonmel who in the near future are providing another court.

Some of these up and coming players will rank with many of the outstanding players in Tipperary's proud past, such as Connie Cleere, Pat Hickey, John

Cleary, the Collins and Hassett Brothers, John Ryan, Mick Shanahan and Joe Bergin, RIP. All of these hadn't the modern facilities that today's youth have, for in their time in handball being beaten in the first round of the championship saw no more competition for twelve months. Now handball has become an all the year sport and thanks to the hard working officers involved we see many fine competitions for players today such as inter-club competitions, National League, All-Ireland Open Senior Gael Linn, and many well organised tournaments.

We now look to the future and young players like Tony Ryan from Ballypatrick, Michael Kelly from Ballina, young Woodlock, O'Donnell and Nevin from Fethard, Michael Dwyer from Roscrea, the Cormacks and Ryans from Rosegreen, and the McCarthy brothers from Clonmel, with quite an amount of youth from other clubs such as Cashel, Horse & Jockey, Newport and Ballyporeen. These are players who will in the future become the handballers on whom Tipperary's hopes for success will be based.

Now that juvenile competition has been introduced let's hope that the stars of the present make themselves available and show the young boys the skills of handball. Opportunities should be given to juveniles to use our courts. If a school is within walking distance of a ballalley a teacher interested in the promotion of games in his school should have the right to take boys that are interested in handball there, where under supervision youth will take notice and gain experience for the promotion of handball





Having taken their fifth successive North Under 21 title, KILRUANE were held to a draw in the County final by Cashel. Standing, left to right, Gerry Burns, Michael Quinlan, Enda Hogan, John Quinlan, John Cahill, Eamonn O'Shea, Tom Hogan, Jim O'Meara. Front, left to right: Gerry Williams, Brendan Ryan, Tony Sheppard, Seamus Hennessy, Michael Hogan, Joe Hutchinson, Mackey Waters.



Members of Clonmel Handball team with some of the trophies they won during the year



# IN 1976

By MICHAEL MAHER

WE ASKED you last year what is happening at your Ground? During the year it was remarked by a sympathetic outsider that the entrance to a particular pitch in the County indicated an inactive GAA unit in that parish. In fact that parish concerned was quite active but its grounds and surrounds could be much better. The development of the games in the parish was very good but no one seemed to notice or to have time to observe the condition of its principal advertisement point.

There were many areas in which progress was made during the year. Clogheen opened its new grounds early in the year. It was neat and trim, beautifully laid out with a compact elevated bank at one side and dressing accommodation of a very high standard. It was a worthwhile job completed by an active committee.

Cloneen have been progressing with their field over the years, sometimes slowly but this year they have made a notable advance with a new building to provide dressing room accommodation, and a meeting room.

Cappawhite were ready to reseed their newly acquired pitch in Spring but ran into drainage problems. This retarded its progress. Local drainage experts Tom Tully and Joe Supple gave of their spare time and their expert opinions make the difference between success and failure. This service can be sought from similar officers in other areas and though it's an extra burden most local officers

employed in land drainage will give it very willingly. Any ground with doubt in drainage should not proceed with any levelling, etc., without expert advice.

Sean Treacy's now have acquired their pitch at Kilcommon. The purchase price at the time seemed formidable. They have done well with financial support from the parish. They have been passed for grants at Croke Park—£1,000, and Munster Council—£1,000, and now seem set for further development. Burgess too succeeded in acquiring their own pitch at Kilcoleman and a concerted drive by club members as well as a ready response from the public has seen the debt almost wiped out.

Boherlahan, Moycarkey and Holycross have made progress at their grounds in 1976. Moycarkey are improving entrance conditions, Boherlahan are working on a small embankment and Holycross have renewed their sideline enclosure, a sizeable job but with a good deal of voluntary local effort.

Moneygall have had a good year with establishing themselves in the field of play and in providing their parish with suitable GAA Headquarters. The complex consists of a function room which can be divided into three dressing rooms by means of two sliding partitions together with washrooms, toilets, etc. Central heating is included. In addition there is a 40' x 20' tiled roofed handball alley. The building is well under way and is expected to be in operation by early New Year. You should hear of Moneygall's efforts and success at fund raising varying from forecasts on All-Ireland senior hurling to a sheep rearing project.





GAA President Con Murphy, Cork, with Michael Maher, Bord na bPaire Chairman, pictured at the All-Ireland Under 21 Football Final in Clonmel

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# JIM O'CONNOR—an outstanding son of Bansha

I am sure to the younger generation the name of Jim O'Connor meant very little but to those of us who knew him since his childhood days we looked on Jim as a hero of the playing field. His record as a player for almost twenty years is something that very few other Tipperary men have achieved on the football field.

In the early days of the West Board we had neither senior nor minor football competitions and the only team we had at that time was Arravale

reckoned with is in itself a proof of his great drive and courage. When his club was going through its lean years, as all clubs must from time to time, Jim kept its competitive spirit alive and ensured that it would again become a power in the football world

---

By SENATOR WILLIE RYAN

---

Rovers who used to compete in the South division. He commenced his career as a minor with Arravale Rovers and in 1934 he had the honour of helping Tipperary to win its first and only All-Ireland minor football championship. In that year also he won a junior football medal with Galtee Rovers.

## ON TIPP TEAM

From then until the mid forties he played with Arravale Rovers and during those years he was a member of the Tipperary senior team and on a few occasions that team only lost the Munster championship by a narrow margin.

In 1939 he won a special Munster senior championship medal with Tipperary. In 1941 he helped Arravale Rovers to win the South and County final. After that he returned to his native Galtee Rovers and his record there reads: 1946, West and County junior medals '47, '49, '50. West senior medals, 1949 and 1950 County senior football honours.

Just two weeks ago he attended his last match and although an ill man on that occasion he travelled to Golden to see his team defeat Arravale Rovers in the under 21 championship.

When Jim retired from the sportsfield in 1950 as a player, he devoted his great energies to the administrative side of the GAA. The success of his efforts to make the Galtee Rovers a team to be

of Tipperary. We all know how much he was looking forward to the day when Galtee Rovers would win through to the County senior final. How he hoped to share with his club the pride and satisfaction of this achievement especially since their opponents are his old club, Arravale Rovers, but it was not to be. God in his wisdom decided otherwise.

## BOARD RECORD

Jim O'Connor will always be remembered as



The late Jim O'Connor





FETTERD—South Senior Football Champions. Front, left to right: David Morrissey, David Williams, Noel Sharpe, Sean Moloney (capt.), Jerry Fogarty, John Keane, Michael Healy, Joe Keane. Back, left to right: Sean Alward, Patrick Kenrick, David Fitzgerald, Joe Allen, Noel Byrne, Jerry Harrington, Michael Kenrick, Michael O'Riordan, Philip O'Connell, Aidan Maher, Danny Kane. Missing from photo Liam Connelly.



one of Bansha's most outstanding sons. He was a delegate to this Board for the past thirty years and his record of attendance was something to be proud of. He scarcely ever missed a meeting and when he did so it was for a very good reason.

As I have already said, Jim could have been an officer of this Board but he was a quiet man who always made a sound and helpful contribution at the meetings. He did not seek honour from the GAA for the work he did on its behalf. He was content to play his part as an ordinary member.

We shall miss him greatly and for me personally our meetings will not be the same without him. Furthermore, I feel that people of Bansha have a duty to know his memory in some special way. Although their splendid stadium of which they are justly proud is named after the great Canon Hayes, they might perhaps in a fitting manner associate the name of Jim O'Connor with it also. It would be an obvious way of perpetuating the memory of Jim O'Connor for generations of Bansha people yet unborn. It would be wrong for me to give the impression that Jim's interests and activities were confined to GAA affairs only. He devoted himself also to the promotion of any idea or project involving the welfare of his parish. When, for example, the late Canon Hayes was appointed parish priest of

Bansha in 1946, Jim was one of the first people he approached with a view to the formation of a guild of Muintir na Tire. There is no need for me to spell out the many successes of that guild. Perhaps one of the most important achievements of the guild was the establishment of Bansha Show which celebrates its twenty-first anniversary this year. Jim O'Connor was one of its founding members and its hard-working secretary down through the years. Bansha Show is now regarded as one of the most important, not alone in Co. Tipperary but in the country as a whole. It is a prime example to all of us of the sterling results of dedication and hard work by Jim and the Bansha committee and we pay tribute for a job well done. We deeply regret that Jim cannot be with us to commemorate this twenty-first anniversary.

The huge attendance at his funeral on both days was a true indication of how popular and highly respected he was, not alone in his native county but all over Munster.

Men like Jim are few and far between; he can never be replaced. May the green grass of his beloved Bansha rest lightly on him. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.

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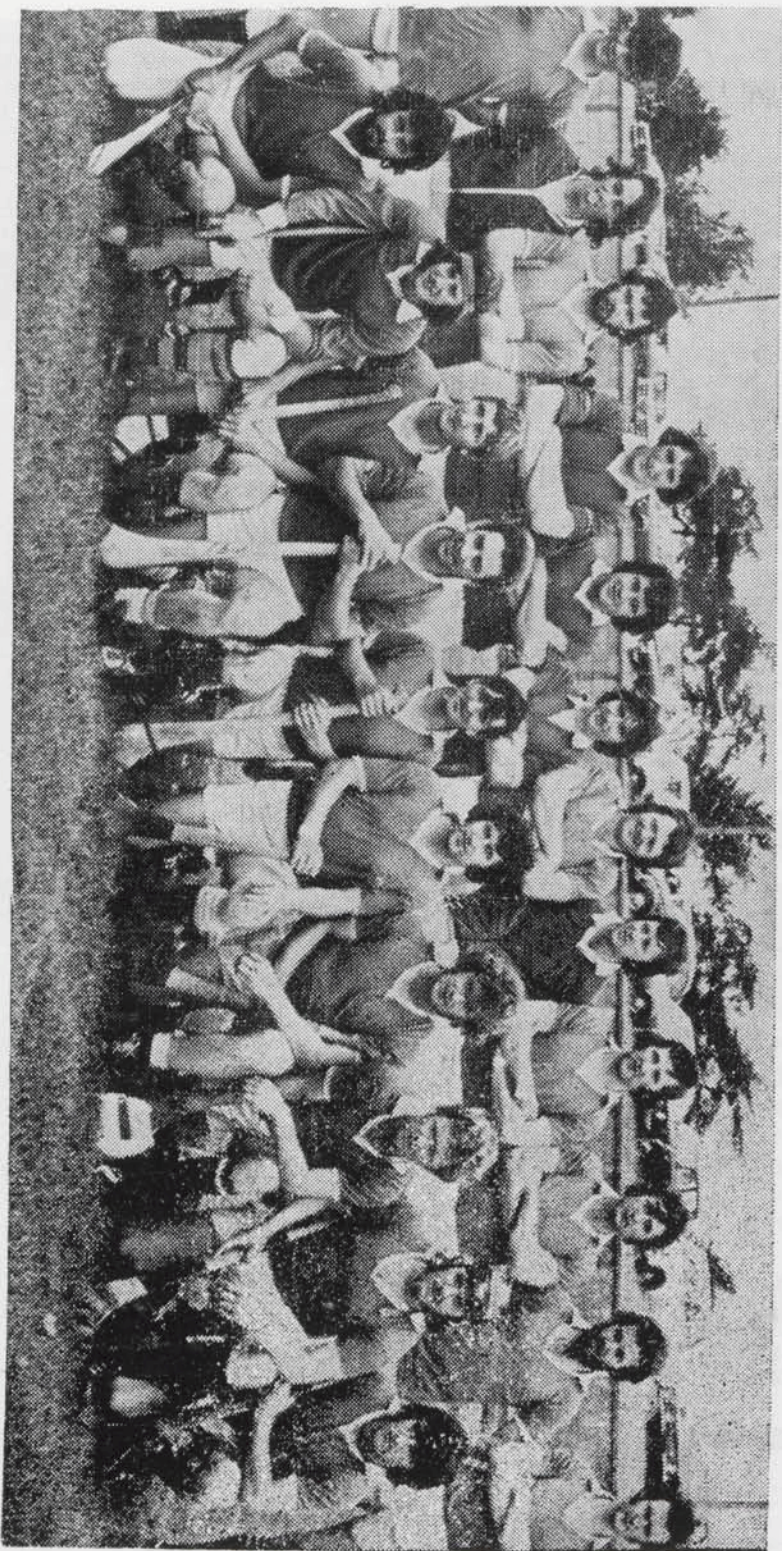
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ROSCREA—defeated in the County SHC final by Moneygall and in the North semi-final after a replay by Borris-Ileigh



# The Minors Give Food For Thought

NO TROUBLE pinpointing the highlight of the year in Tipperary. Some might feel that the regaining of the *Irish Press* Cup was poor consolation when one considers our great past in

By Gerry Slevin

senior grade. But any Tipperary man, with an ounce of savvy will not consider it in that light and for several reasons.

There was a time when the winning of a minor title was just another achievement. It was almost taken for granted. Seventeen long years had intervened between Larry Kiely's team back in 1959 and the lads led by Joe Hogan who on September 5th set Croke Park abuzz with the splendour of their hurling and in doing so, threshed Kilkenny and won for us our thirteenth title. Those seventeen years had been the source of much frustration and indeed

annoyance. Some of the teams that wore the blue and gold were poor representatives indeed. They had neither the Tipperary guts nor the Tipperary do or die approach. Oh there were near misses at times alright and not all the teams deserved to be tarred with the same brush.

Because of the return to the traditional Tipp grit, we were glad for what happened on All-Ireland final day and while, with the exception of the Munster semi-final game against Cork, we might have had doubts about the ability of this team to win national honours, there was no doubt whatever on All-Ireland final day that here was a team, bearing all the hallmarks of greatness, playing with a confidence and a skill that recalled those golden days of yore, making us long to see a return to such splendour by our seniors.

This Tipp minor team moved as a unit. Teamwork was evident in everything they did. Some of the points taken against Kilkenny were a pure delight to watch and throughout the team there was a composure and at the same time a determination to succeed under an equally determined group of men in Brother O'Grady, Mick Minogue, Billy Carroll and Aengus Ryan.

We are proud of them, all of them. Is it too much to hope that some of what we saw on September 5th will rub off on the other wearers of the blue and gold? The lead has been given. We anxiously await the results.

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# **GERRY DOYLE**

**A Tribute by County Secretary**

**TOMMY BARRETT**

I FIRST GOT to know Gerry when he was in goals for the Sarsfields in the 30s and 40s and later became a team mate with him in 1950. At this stage he had won eight Senior Hurling County Championship Medals and a Senior All-Ireland one in 1937.

When his playing career ended he became an active member of The Club Committee and when the late Phil Purcell (R.I.P.) became Co. Secretary he immediately solicited the help of Gerry for the many, many jobs little known to the public but nevertheless most helpful to a Board Secretary.

His many tasks included the care of at least four sets of jerseys, having them clean and dry at all times for our hurling and football teams. For training sessions, which are almost nightly in the early part of the year, he too was available with them. He also kept a watchful eye on the hurleys and balls and was always at hand with his last and hammer to replace or add a stud or peg to a player's boot when required. These services are invaluable in a dressingroom; few know it, but I did and appreciated it. He was, too, a very keen judge of a hurler and whilst he was in the midst of everything he never interfered in any way, but you could be assured that Gerry's opinion of a young player could be relied upon.

He was a devoted husband and a great and kind father, and there is no doubting the fact that he

took great pleasure in the prowess of his son Jimmy.

With these few words I say Go ndeana Dia trochaire ar an anam, and may the green sod of Tipperary, which he loved so much, rest lightly on him.



A familiar sight prior to the throw-in. Co. Secretary, Tommy Barrett, and the late Gerry Doyle, Thurles



## *Cumann Luith Chleas Gael*

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thiar)

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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 1977

## *Cumann Luith Chleas Gael*

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Thuaidh)

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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 1977 will bring rewards in some shape or form to all clubs.





The survivors of the 1925 All-Ireland winning team were feted during the year both by the Co. Board and the North and Mid Divisional Boards. One of them, Roddy Nealon, Newtown, Nenagh, is seen here with his son Donie on extreme right, Jacksie Ryan, Upperchurch, and Michael Small, Thurles.



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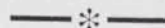
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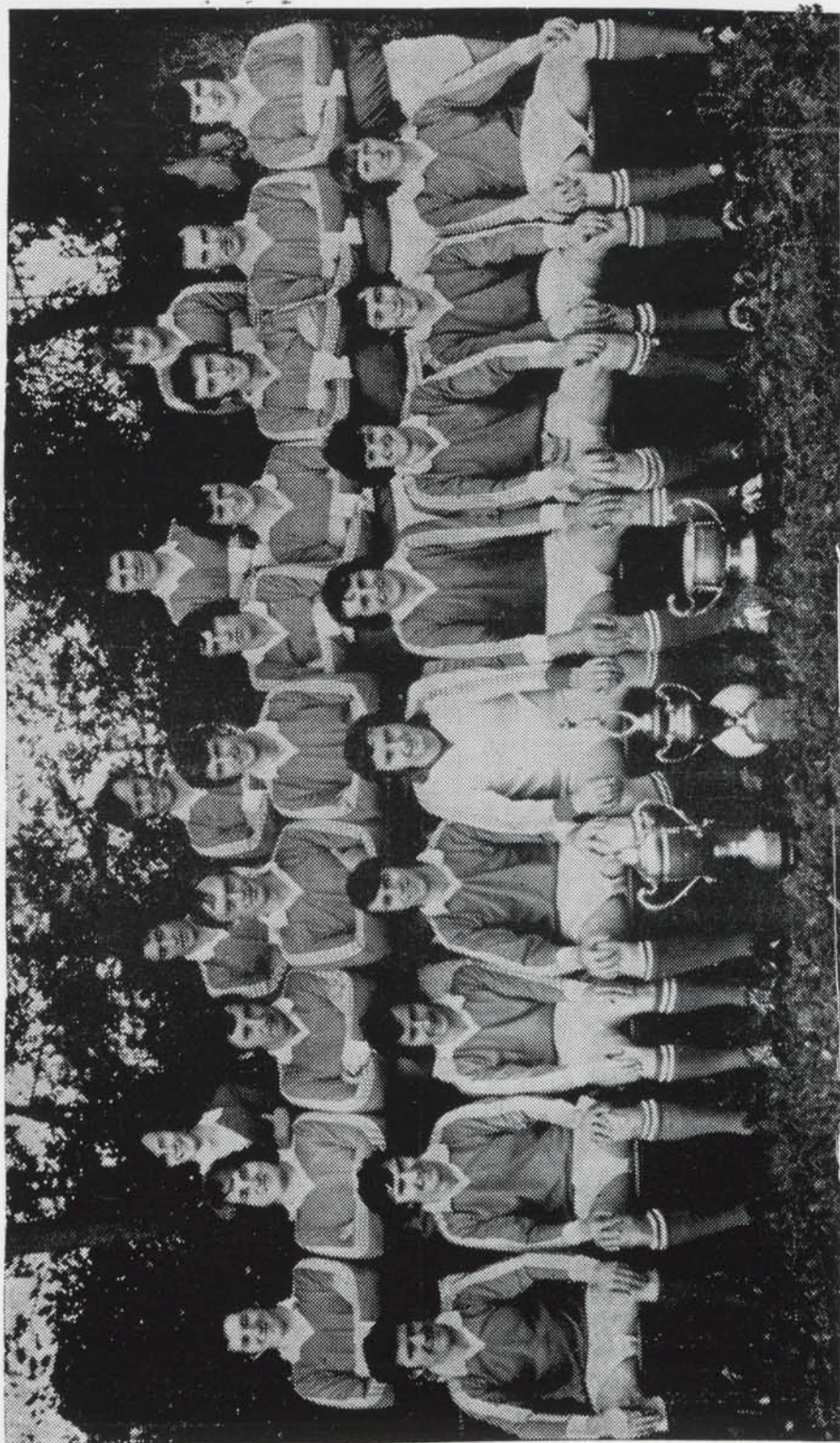


## **THURLES**

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The GALTÉE ROVERS team which won the West and County Football championships 1976. Front row, left to right: Bill Darcy, Jerrox Connell, Liam Bergin, Mick McCarthy, Jim Ferris (capt.), Seamie Grogan, Paddy Morrissey, Jim Lonergan, Paul Hanley, Middle row, left to right: Eamon Hickey, Michael Hickey, Jim Gallagher, Vincent O'Donnell, Seamus McCarthy, Eamon McCarthy, Billy Whealen, Niall Fleming, Paddy Lonergan, David Moloney. Back row, left to right: Bernard Ferris, Seamus Byron, Michael Quirke, Jim Darcy, J. J. Hayes.



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South Intermediate Hurling Champions, BALLYBACON/GRANGE. Back row, left to right: Michael Prendergast, J. Browne, Michael Burke, Liam Myles, John (Buddy) Maher, P. Ryan, P. Quirke, William Condon, John English, R. Boyle, J. Moran. Front row, left to right: J. Carrigan, J. Condon, Michael O'Mahony, E. O'Gorman (capt.), Jim Duggan, C. Browne, A. Dillon, P. Savage. Missing from photograph, Michael (Babs) Keating.



# *Cumann Luith Chleas Gael*

Coisde Thiobrad Arann (Theas)

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

*With sincerest wishes to all for success in the New Year*



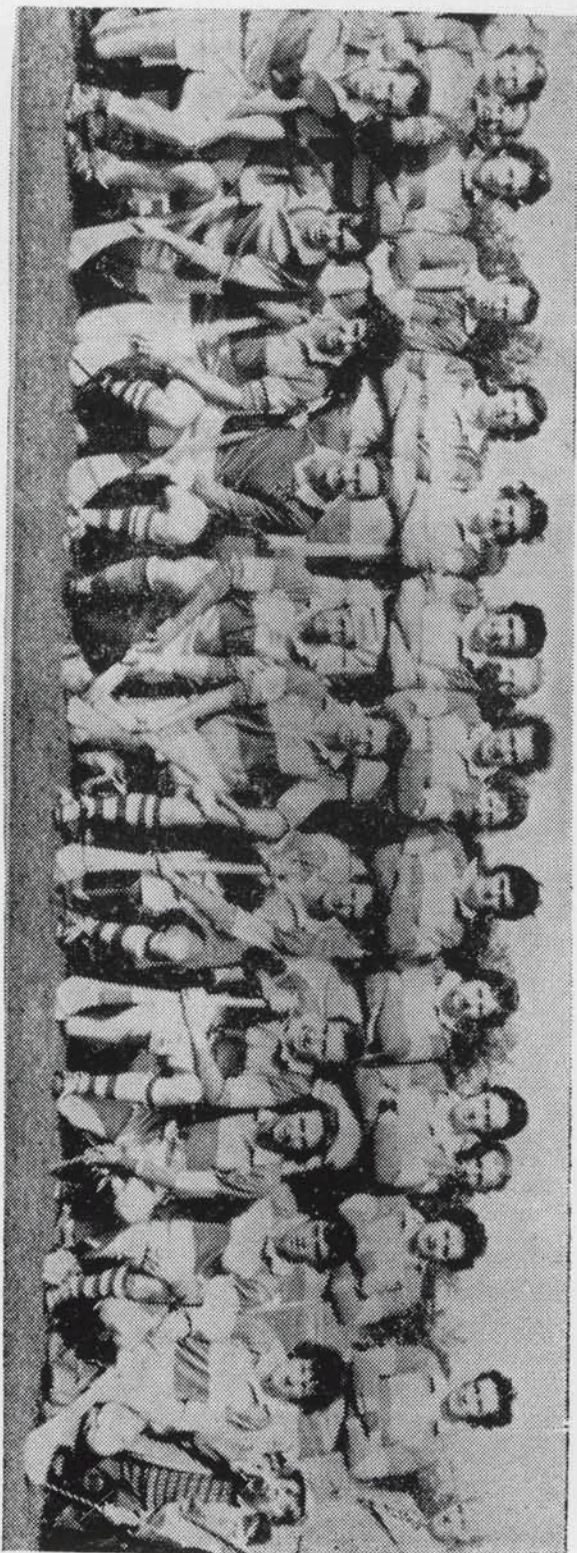
Four boys from Burgess whose Novelty Act won for them All-Ireland honours in Scor na nOg—Martin McCarthy, Declan Nealon, Tommy Kearns, John Quigley





THURLES SARSFIELDS—Mid Under 21 champions





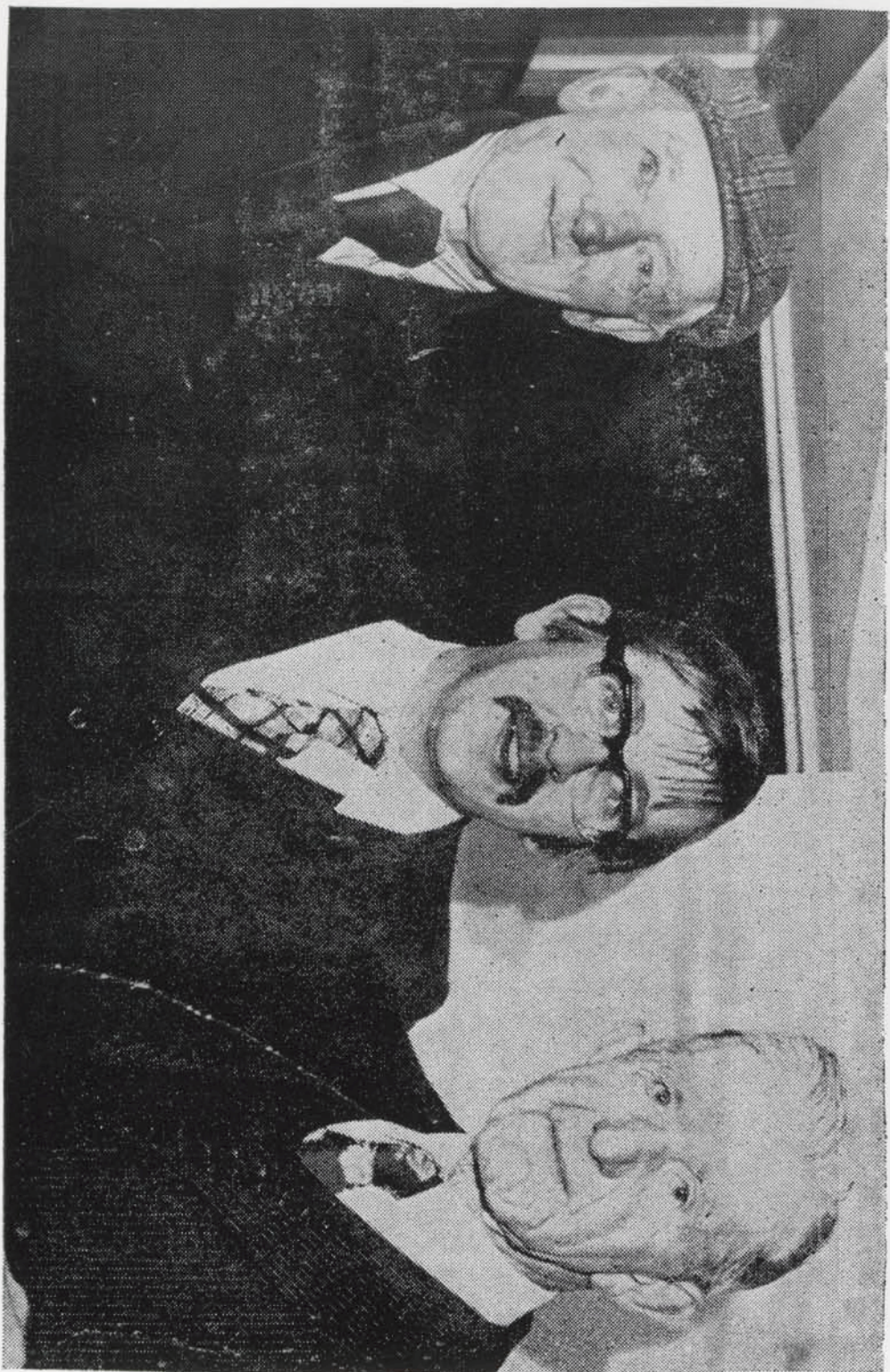
BURGESS—County JH Champions. Standing, left to right: John Reilly, John Kennedy, Michael O'Donnell, John Maher, John Hogan, Pakie Hogan, Denis Maher, Jim Barry, Johnny Flynn, Joe Morkam, Paddy Grace, Roddy Kennedy. Front, left to right: J. P. McDonnell, Liam Hogan, Robert Gill, Donie Nealon, Mackey McKenna, Garry Howard (capt.), Pat Mulcahy, Martin Kennedy, Dan Quigley, Pat Gleeson, Johnny Mulcahy.





UPPERCHURCH/DROMBANE—Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling champions





Survivors of the Tipperary 1916 All-Ireland winning team, John Joe Hayes and Tom Dwan, seen here with former Mid Board Chairman and current Youth Officer, Michael Small.



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