

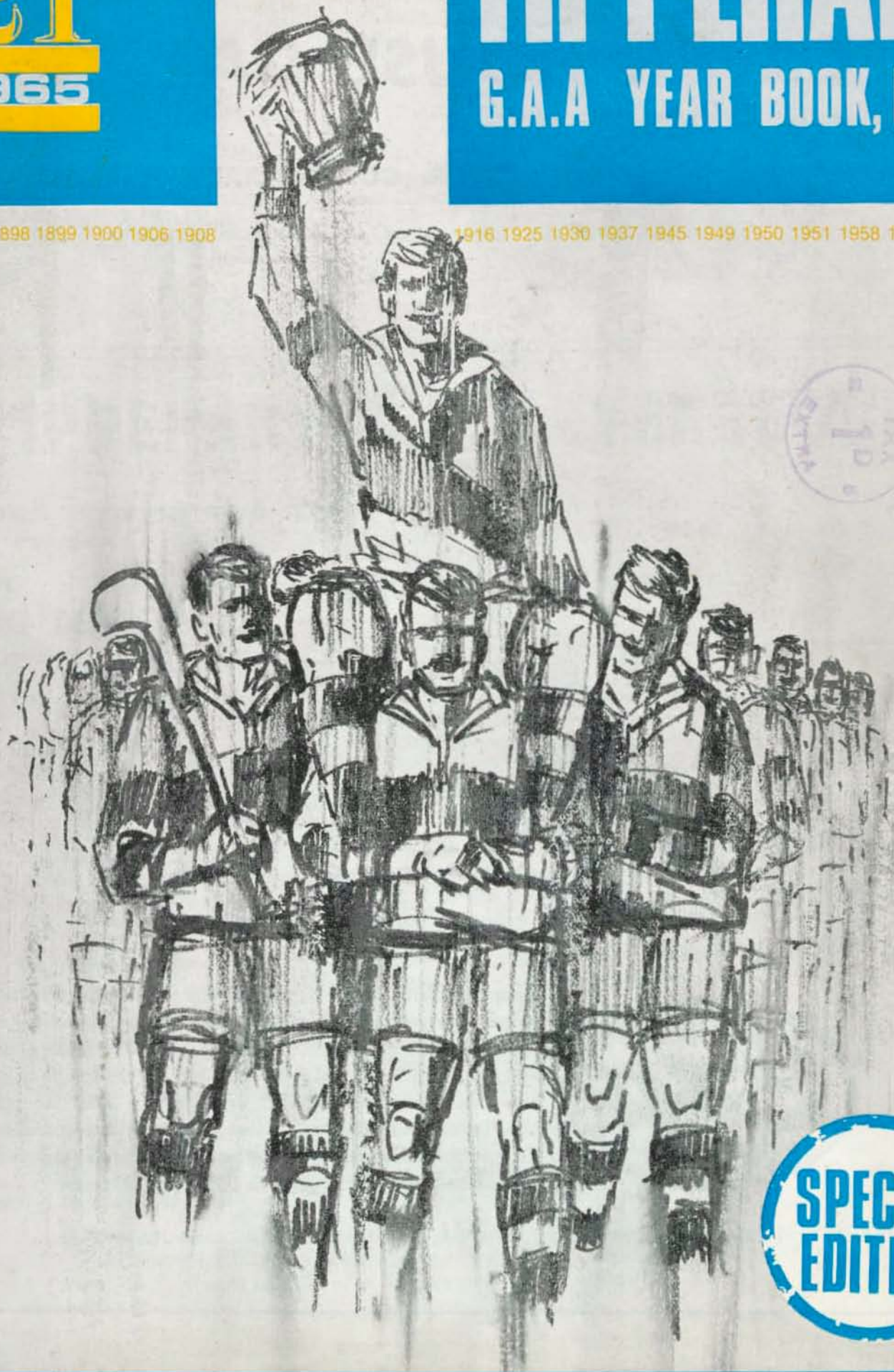
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# TIPPERARY

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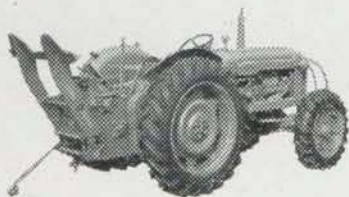
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# TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEARBOOK

A PRESS CUCHULAINN PUBLICATION. MANAGING EDITOR: Garrett McCabe. EDITOR: John O'Grady. LAYOUT: Joe Kelly. ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE: Donal McBrien. COVER AND INDEX: Bill Watson.

## editorial

**M**AR is dual don chontae inar bunaíodh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, tá Tiobraid Arann ar na contaethe is mó le rá ó thaobh na gcluichí Gaelacha de. Is oriúnach an bhliain é seo leis an gcéad uimhir de Bhliainiris Thiobraid Arann a fhoilsíú nuair atá Corn Mhic Cárthaigh buaite acu don aonú uair is fiche. Níl a sarú mar iománaithe le fáil sa tír faoi lathair, a bhuíochas sin do na bunchlocha atá á leagadh ag Bord na nOg leis na blianta anuas. Anuraidh freisin bhuaigh Séan O Dubhghaill an t-ochtú Bonn Uile-Eireann agus tá iománaithe eile ar an bhfoireann atá óg go leor leis an éacht seo a dhéanamh nó, b'fhéidir, a shárú.

TIPPERARY is a county steeped in the tradition of the G.A.A. It was there that the Association was founded and Michael Davin, the first President of the G.A.A. was a Tipperary man. Down through the years Tipperary has been famous for her hurlers and athletes and, if of late her footballers have not been outstandingly successful, they had their days of glory at the turn of the century and again in 1920.

But it is the consistent brilliancy of her hurlers that Tipperary is best known. They have been honoured literally in song and story and the pages of this Yearbook tell of some of their achievements.

It is fitting that this Yearbook should appear the year after Tipperary won their 21st All-Ireland hurling title. Some of their hurlers are still young enough to equal John Doyle's achievement of eight All-Ireland hurling medals.

Apart from being the home of the G.A.A., Tipperary has provided many legislators at all levels and, of course, the Archbishop of Cashel is by tradition the Patron of the Association.

With this 21st Victory Yearbook, Press Cuchulainn salutes Tipperary. We realise that, no matter how good the publication, it can never do full justice to Tipperary's contribution to the G.A.A. Nevertheless, we are presumptuous enough to hope that it will find eager and interested readers among the people of Kickham's County, especially the young. May it inspire them to foster the great heritage that is theirs.

As with all our county G.A.A. Yearbooks many people, outside our own organisation are to be thanked for their help in producing this publication. We are grateful to all of them but especially to John O'Grady who, as Editor, did a fine job. At least, we think so and are confident that our readers will agree.



*The whole  
family will  
enjoy...*

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# REAMHRA

ONE of the social phenomena of our times is the remarkable growth in the habit of reading. There is an increasing demand for reading matter dealing with topics of immediate interest. Paper-backs and books of the magazine type find a ready sale especially among young people.

Cumann Luthchleas Gael is becoming increasingly aware of the need for providing literature dealing with all aspects of the Association's activities. The demand is there for it. Our games enjoy immense popularity. There has never been greater need for advancing the influence of the Association as a strong national force.

Gradually the need is being supplied and Press Cuchulainn deserve our thanks and support for their initiative in this direction.

The County Yearbooks are a recent addition to G.A.A. literature and Bliainiris Thiobrad Arann is particularly welcome.

Ní gá a lua go bhfuil tabhacht ar leith ag baint le Tiobrad Arann i gCumann Luthchleas Gael agus ba choir go mbeadh an-fháilte roimh an Bliainiris seo. Is follasach go bhfuil suim thar cuimse sna cluichí ag Tiobradárannaigh. Ach thairis sin, tá spéis ag daoine thall is abhus in imeachtaí an Chumann i dTiobrad Arann agus go háirithe sa dearcadh atá ag muintir Thiobrad Arann ar na fadhbanna éagsúla atá romhainn le fuascailt.

An fhadhb is deacra agus is tabhachtaí ata againn le buascailt, baineann sí leis an teanga náisiúnta. Is tráthúil an uair í béim faoi leith a chur ar réiteach na ceiste seo i mbliana. Tá sé ar cheann de phríomh-chuspóirí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, mar eagraíocht náisiúnta, an Ghaeilge a chur chum cinn mar theanga labhartha. Is cúrsa oinigh linn é, le gach ball, le gach club, le gach coiste landícheall a dhéanamh chun céim ar aghaidh a thabhairt don teanga i mbliain seo Iubhaile an Eiri Amach.

Molaim an t-eagarthóir toisc a ndearna sé chun an Bhliainiris seo a chur le chéile agus déanaim comhgháirdeas leis faoina fhoisiú.

Beannacht leat a scribhinn,

SEAMUS O RIAIN.

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## FOREWORD

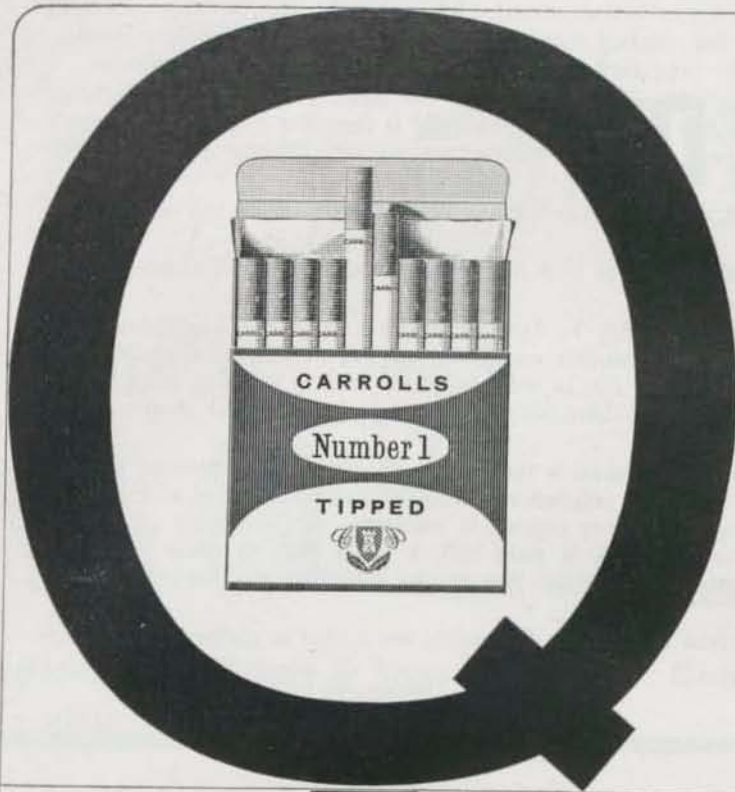
I heartily applaud the enterprise of Press Cuchulainn in publishing this "Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook". They have done our county, its players, its officers at all levels, and not least our loyal public, a great honour in singling Tipperary out for individual attention.

The past year has not only been a very great one for Tipperary by any standards, but may be looked on as the culmination of an era of success as great as our county has ever known. The winning of the twenty-first senior hurling All-Ireland has given 1965 a place all its own in our long record. In recognising the wonderful work of many people who have made this possible—our spirited, ever-loyal hurlers, their capable selectors and trainers, the entire structure of the Association within our county from the senior grade down to the essential work of Bord na nOg, on which all inter-county success is ultimately grounded, I would add my personal appreciation of the men who won and worked for the other twenty down through the years—and not less to those whom such honours eluded. They have all played a noble part.

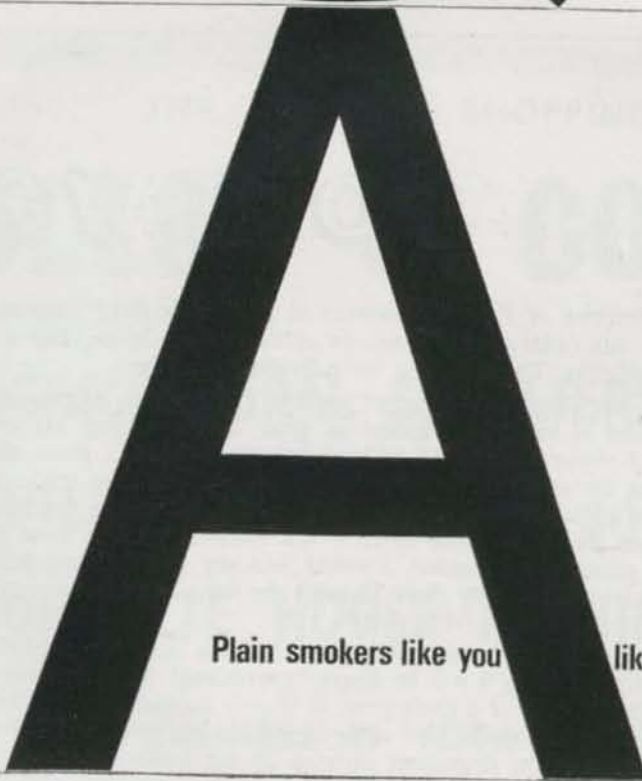
This, then, is a most timely and welcome publication. I thank both the publishers and the contributors who made it possible. I know it will be deeply appreciated by Tipperary people at home and abroad as a worthwhile souvenir of a great year. It is only natural that we should rejoice, in no vainglorious or over-boastful spirit, at the fine achievements of our own. And I would like to put on record my personal satisfaction at the prominent showing of our footballers in the present National League. May the time come when both arms of the G.A.A. in Tipperary will be of comparable strength.

With every good wish and renewed appreciation.

PHILIP CANON FOGARTY, P.P.



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# JOHN D. HICKEY PICKS HIS...

(of the "Irish Independent")

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN DOYLE	TONY REDDAN	JIM LANIGAN
JIMMY FINN	MICK MAHER	PHIL PURCELL
THEO ENGLISH	TONY WALL	TOMMY TREACY
JIMMY DOYLE	MICK RYAN	PHIL CAHILL
PADDY KENNY	MARTIN KENNEDY	SEAMUS BANNON

\*\*\*\*\*

## BEST TIPP TEAM OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS



TONY REDDAN

**W**OE is me that I ever undertook the task of selecting my team of all the talents from the twelve Tipperary sides that have won the All-Ireland senior hurling title in my period of viewing, from 1925 to 1965. So fixed had become ideas with which one had played in the privacy of the mind that it seemed a grand prospect to hail the elect of the select.

Down through the years, enchanted by performances, the skills of various great Tipperary hurlers, I have marked down what might loosely be described as my all-time side. But, my goodness, what a difference there is between rambling through the dozen sides I have seen bring the All-Ireland crown to the Premier County and picking fifteen men over every one of whom I doubtless will often have to stand in the days, even the years, ahead.

### UNPREPARED

For instance it was a revelation for which I was quite unprepared, to discover that, in the recess of the mind—in the all-time Tipperary team about which I often mused,—there were five, not two midfielders.

Thus it is that three must be dismissed before two are chosen and that circumstances, which unfortunately exist in a number of positions, make almost embarrassing what has

become a duty because of a promise given which can no longer be deferred as the editor's and the printer's dead-line has arrived.

As an illustration of my mental conflict, let me put on record that in the team of my mind or, should I say, my litany of Tipperary players, the five midfielders who crowded my side were Mick D'Arcy, Tommy Treacy, Jimmy Cooney, Sean Kenny and Theo English.

Had this task, now almost as much an examination of conscience as it is of mind and memory, revealed that there were eight or nine backs and forwards in my team. I would not have been nearly so surprised as I am to find that there are FIVE midfielders.

### AN ESCAPE

Seeking an escape, desperately trying to accommodate as many as possible, or rather to reduce the necessity to discard, I thought of placing Treacy at centre-forward. But conscious that not only sorrow but remorse would be great if Mick Ryan were omitted, the choice of two midfielders still has to be made from five.

Like most who have seen all five, I would be satisfied with any two, and, in speculating on the havoc Treacy and Kenny would wreak, the impulse is to settle for them. But

despite the fire, in this instance it could well be a lava torrent, that will inevitably descend on my pate, not now as well covered as when beginning to pick my team, I refuse to be stampeded into selecting both men, typical Tipperary hurlers though they were.

With all due apologies to D'Arcy, Kenny and Cooney, I say fie to those who will castigate me for nominating Treacy and English for the midfield berths.

Having, in a manner of speaking, taken the plunge by boldly placing Treacy, the warrior bold, and English, the midfielder with the longest service above the other three I feel fortified.

Some will say that it betokens recklessness to become daring, but so heavy must be the fire on me now that I care not if it develops into a fusillade from a modern arsenal.

Emboldened, I stress that the intention is to pick a team to satisfy myself, not choose one on a club parochial or era basis in an endeavour to court anyone.

### SELECTION

While the iron is hot let me hit it harder, with deference to no one except great men who will be felt out and name my automatic selections on the team. They are goal-keeper Tony Reddan, right half-back

(overleaf)



**THEO  
ENGLISH**  
selected at  
centrefield.

Jimmy Finn, centre half-back Tony Wall and centre-forward Mick Ryan.

What an out-cry there will be!—it will be asked in screaming voice if I remember “Skinny” O’Meara, Johnny Ryan, Pat Stakelum and John Maher, to mention but a few. Of course I do but I could not find room for them. I is that simple.

Likewise there will be lamentations that others of my team did not “walk” on to it, as the old saying has it. But before the tumult starts let me say that medal-festooned John Doyle was so closely challenged by Johnny Leahy; Phil Purcell was so pressed by Tommy Doyle; Treacy was so often “looked down” on by D’Arcy; Jimmy Doyle was so harassed by Phil Cahill, who is accommodated at left half at this reluctant expense of Jimmy Kennedy,

and finally Martin Kennedy’s danger of being “overtaken” by John (Mac-key”) McKenna was so real that none was an automatic selection.

#### HALF-BACKS

Of all the lines in the team, I like the half-back set up best of all. In the past forty years of hurling—and I am not confining myself to Tipperary teams—if there has been a better right half than Jimmy Finn, a centre half superior to Tony Wall or a surer striker on both sides than Phil Purcell, I have not seen them.

Indeed I would go so far as to say they would beat any half-forward line anyone might choose, even my own three Jimmy Doyle, Mick Ryan and Phil Cahill.

I find much more pleasure in re-

flecting on the full-forward line of Paddy Kenny, Martin Kennedy and Seamus Bannon than viewing my own reflection. What hurling men would give to see them in action against Finn, Wall and Purcell. That would be hurling about which we all dream, but the likes of which will scarcely ever be seen.

It would, I feel, be ungracious to essay the task of picking such a team without making observation that there would not have been so many great Tipperary players had it not been for the hurling genius that is Paddy Leahy.

Never, in my opinion, was there a better man behind a team, and that fact, coupled with his prowess on the field in his young manhood, causes me to rate him the best Tipperary hurling man of them all.

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*wish to extend hearty congratulations to all  
those who contributed down the years to  
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# ON THE HANDBALL SCENE

IN 1965 fourteen clubs were affiliated to the County Handball Board, a reduction of one on the 1964 figures. They were Ballina, Killaloe, Lahorna, Roscrea, Nenagh, Horse and Jockey, The Commons, Ballypatrick, St. Marys, Clonmel, 12th Batt., Coolmoyn, Clogheen, Ballyporeen and Tipperary.

The county for handball purposes follows the same pattern as the G.A.A. bodies and is divided into four divisions, North, Mid, South and West. Each has a Divisional Handball Board except West, which at present has only one club, and the County Board is composed of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, who are the Chairmen of the Divisional Boards, Hon. Treas., Hon. Sec., and two delegates from each Division. Each Division runs a championship in all grades in which they have players, and the Divisional champions meet in County semi-finals and final. The 1965 County champions are:

## REPRESENTED COUNTY

As has been the practice for a number of years the champions represented the County in all grades in the Munster Championship, except in Senior Hard Doubles in which Paddy Hickey teamed up with John Ryan.

In the Munster championships we met Kerry in the first round in all grades of softball. John Cleary won the Senior Singles and Kerry won the other five. Cleary went on to win the Munster title with wins over Cork and Limerick, but lost to Paddy Bollingbrook (Mayo) in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In handball Paddy Hickey won the Munster title in S.H.S. and with John Ryan he won the S.H.D. from Cork. J. Mullins and S. Heaphy (J.H.D.) were beaten by M. and T. McEllistrim (Kerry), and T. McEllistrim beat J. Mullins in J.H.S. W. Myles and M. Fitzgibbon (Kerry) beat A. Carey and P. Kelly

in M.H.D. and Myles beat Carey in M.H.S. These were all finals.

Tipperary players also took part in the Gael-Linn competition and Paddy Hickey reached the last eight.

Handball is essentially a player's game, and, when you have three or four players, clubs have come into existence. In some areas the game has been played for years but clubs have never been affiliated. However since the foundation of the County Handball Board in 1951 practically all the areas in which the game is played have clubs affiliated.

Gables of houses, three walled courts, four walled courts have been used for years but in 1954 Horse and Jockey made history by completing the first covered court in Munster.

The great weaknesses of handball are:

(1) That being in the main a players' game, and not having the

spectator appeal of the hurling and football, it has not the gate receipts and finances of these games. This lack of finance retards its progress and were it not for the finance assistance of Divisional and County G.A.A. Board competition, in a county as large as Tipperary handball would be non-existent. With very few exceptions the clubs in the county have memberships of only ten or fifteen. In some cases clubs have even less than ten members. This may be due in some instances to the fact that handball clubs must compete with the hurling and football clubs for members.

## SAME PERSONNEL

All three draw their membership from the same personnel in the main and the efforts of would-be members are channelled primarily into the playing and administration of the G.A.A. games which leave them little time for active participation in handball activities.

(2) Handball fixtures very often clash with hurling and football fixtures with the result that attendances suffer.

(3) The small membership of the great majority of clubs rule out the possibility of internal competition, such as tournaments etc., and lack of resources reduces inter-club competition to the County championship only. It also makes the undertaking of any major project impossible as it will be appreciated that the erection or major reconstruction of courts could scarcely be done by groups so small. In view of this, the accomplishments of rural clubs such as Ballypatrick, Ballporeen, The Commons, and Horse and Jockey who have carried out major reconstructions to old courts or have built entirely new courts are to be highly commended.

(4) Handball has been played for generations in old courts which var-

(continued on page 64)

## 1965 COUNTY TITLE WINNERS

**S.S.S.:** John Cleary (Tipperary).

**S.S.D.:** P. Hickey and J. Bredy (Clogheen).

**J.S.S.:** Pat Davin (12th Batt.).

**J.S.D.:** M. Kelly and M. Darcy (Ballina).

**M.S.S.:** John McLoughlin (Tipperary).

**M.S.D.:** John McLoughlin and S. Fitzpatrick (Tipp).

**S.H.S.:** P. Hickey (Clogheen).

**S.H.D.:** J. Ryan and T. Ryan (The Commons).

**J.H.S.:** J. Mullins (The Commons).

**J.H.D.:** J. Mullins and S. Heaphy (The Commons).

**M.H.S.:** A. Carey (Ballina).

**M.H.D.:** A. Carey and P. Kelly (Ballina).



Above: Tipperary Town A.C.—winners of the County Under-14 cross-country championship and the Clanwilliam Cup. Front row (left to right): G. Dineen, W. McBride, C. McBride (capt.), M. Clarke, J. Wilson. Back (left to right): J. Dwyer, P. Meehan, T. Hennessy, Ml. O'Sullivan, J. Cooney, J. McCormack.

*(Photo: C. J. Nugent, Tipp.)*

Coolcroo A.C.—1964 Tipperary Senior Cross-Country Champions. Front Row (left to right): Seamus Bowe, Matty Mullaney, Con Bowe (with O'Moore Challenge Cup) Willie Bowe, Tommy Healy, Pat Ely. Standing, (left to right): Tom Kelly, Paddy Coman, Ned Fanning, Michael Carroll, (trainer) John Joe Bourke, Malachy Mullaney, Stephen Brolan.



## THE LONG LINE OF GREAT GOALIES

### By Raymond Smith

Raymond Smith is author of "A Lifetime in Hurling" (The Tommy Doyle Story). His new book "Decades of Hurling Glory" will be published in the Spring of 1966. It will be the first comprehensive history of hurling and is being produced with the co-operation of the G.A.A. authorities.

# FROM 'HAWK' O'BRIEN TO TONY REDDAN

**F**AMOUS Tipperary hurler, Tommy Doyle, uncle of Jimmy, often expressed the opinion that to be sure of winning an All-Ireland crown in a normal year you must have a goalie, not alone sound in technique but capable of bringing off, now and then, a few saves of the type that spectators would be inclined to describe as "uncanny". And his courage must be unquestioned.

Tommy, when expressing this

viewpoint, was speaking with twenty years experience of championship hurling and with the knowledge of one who, in a distinguished career, won five All-Ireland and six Munster medals.

He picks Tony Reddan as the greatest goalie of all time because Reddan had that penchant during his heyday of turning the tide of some titanic Munster championship clash against Cork, for example, with saves

of classic quality when Christy Ring, Paddy Barry, Josie Hartnett and Willie John Daly were at their peak.

Tommy will tell you frankly that Tipperary would never have achieved the three-in-a-row in 1949-'51 but for Reddan's courage under fire and unsurpassed net-minding skill.

Reddan was one in a line of renowned goalies who have donned the Blue and Gold.

Down the years Tipperary have invariably shown strength and power in defence in their seasons of championship success and, mindful of the fact that you must build on a sound foundation, they have looked for reliable goalies—and have been fortunate, as often as not, to find brilliant ones.

### TRADITION

The tradition, like so many other traditions, was born back in the days of Tom Semple's famous Old Blues. "Hawk" O'Brien kept goal in that era of glory. James was his christian name but, so widely was he known as "The Hawk" and for so long, I'll wager that if I were to ask ten people in Thurles if they had heard of a famous old player named James O'Brien they would shake their heads perplexedly; I would only have to mention the words "The Hawk" however, and realisation would immediately dawn.

He became a legend in his lifetime. And you are right in surmising (overleaf)



TONY REDDAN (right) pictured with Tipperary team-mate Seamus Bannon and Des Donoghue of Lorrha.

that he got that nick-name because of his hawk-like sharpness and quick reflex actions in an age when the side posts had not yet been dispensed with and a goalie had to be fast to get the ball away in face of tearaway attackers, who took the quickest way to goal.

He gave brilliant exhibitions all along the line in the title wins of 1906 and 1908 and, especially, in those memorable Munster finals against Cork. But even the greatest must have an off day, and "Hawk" O'Brien's was against Kilkenny in the 1909 All-Ireland final in Cork—a day, however, when the conditions may have contributed to his first-half lapses.

After "Hawk" O'Brien came "Skinny" O'Meara—and he too was a legend in his lifetime. What "The Hawk" was to the Old Blues, "Skinny" was to Toomevara "Greyhounds." He kept a brilliant goal right through that 1913 season of glory.

It was the season in which Toomevara won everything except the All-Ireland final, losing in a classic match to Kilkenny.

Ten years later it seemed that "Skinny" O'Meara would get that All-Ireland medal he so richly deserved when Tipperary, captained by Johnny Leahy, led Kilkenny by seven points with less than ten minutes to go (it was the 1922 final, played in 1923), only to be caught on the post in an amazing finish.

### CONTRIBUTED

Along then came "Skinny's" brother, Tom, to win an All-Ireland medal in the "Treble Crown" year—1930—and his display against Clare in the Munster final was a major contribution to that triumph.

In 1925, when Johnny Leahy captained Tipperary to an All-Ireland victory roughly a decade after he had first hit the triumphant road with his grand Boherlahan selection, Arthur O'Donnell kept goal. What was really noteworthy about this was that in the 1916 success O'Donnell has played outfield. But then he was a natural—a man who could fill any position, the skills of the game coming easy to him without having to devote arduous hours to perfecting the arts and crafts.

In 1937 Tommy Butler of Thurles, whose sons were later to play for Sarsfields, kept a very sound goal

behind one of the most powerful back-lines ever to represent the Premier County — Dinny O'Gorman, Ger Cornally, Jim Lanigan, Johnny Ryan, John Maher, Willie Wall. Tipperary toppled Limerick in a thrilling Munster final in Cork and went on to beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final, which, incidentally, was played in Killarney.

### REDDAN ERA

The arrival of another star goalie in 1945, in diminutive Jimmy Maher of Boherlahan, saw Tipperary come out of the wilderness after being overshadowed by Cork and Limerick



CHRISTY RING

and John Maher led them to victory in the All-Ireland against Kilkenny.

Jimmy Maher was the man of the match in that final, and Jimmy Langton of Kilkenny thinks that Maher was the one player who stood between them and victory in the second half.

But the Reddan era was the greatest for Tipperary because it brought back a dominance as great as that in the Tubberadora period or the era of the Old Blues. Only in the present decade has a similar dominance again been attained.

Reddan was unchallenged right up to 1956. Tipperary even went into important matches without any sub goalie—an unthought of thing today.

It was wonderful to watch him in action — technically perfect in his method, with the courage of a lion in face of oncoming forwards. I have seen him take the flying ball on his hurley, kill it in the air, then, with a deft movement of the stick, flick

it over the head of the incoming forward, meet it before it hit the ground and clear it to safety. If others attempted this it would be disastrous because it calls for such perfect timing.

I have seen him against Cork, when Ring was in full cry and at the height of his powers, saving as many as three first-time drives in quick succession at the town end in Limerick Gaelic Grounds—and I have never seen Reddan on his knees when making a save.

### SAME MOVEMENT

The great ones do not go on their knees—they take them low down all right, flick them into the hand, move away to the right or left. Or if they are real masters like Reddan they can kill the ball and execute a clearance all in the same movement.

Jimmy Doyle, who played in goal for Tipperary in his first year as a minor—and a fine goalie he was—confided to me that it was from standing behind the goal as a young boy watching Reddan in action and getting tips from him that he learned all there was to know about the art of goalkeeping.

Reddan, I might say, was fortunate to have in front of him a magnificent defence — Mickey Byrne, Tony Brennan, John Doyle, Jimmy Finn, Pat Stakelum, Tommy Doyle. I rate it the best to have represented Tipperary. Reddan's understanding with his full-back Tony Brennan was particularly beneficial to the county.

In 1956, in that famous League final against Wexford, when the Model County men came from fifteen points behind at half-time to win by four, the Tipperary supporters had to face the harsh fact that even the great Tony was human—as the fact had to be faced in the case of "Hawk" O'Brien against Kilkenny in 1909.

### PERFECTION

But I think, looking back now in sober judgment on that day in 1956, that some people were too quick to apportion all the blame on Reddan's shoulders. They had seen so much perfection for so long that they had come to expect the impossible—they even thought he could make up for obvious deficiencies outfield that day.

Reddan might have been there for at least another season, and with his

services Tipperary could have won the All-Ireland in 1957.

I did not envy any goalie following in his footsteps. The standards had been set so high that successors were sure to be judged on the Reddan standards.

John O'Grady of Moycarkey-Borris, who had been starring in Cork hurling with Blackrock but could not make the Tipperary team in the early fifties when Reddan was the automatic choice, at last got his chance in 1958. He had returned to Tipperary then and was giving magnificent displays for his club.

One save of his against Cork at a vital moment won that game for

but if they are technically sound and courageous, they will not leave you down, to my mind, by conceding soft goals at the crucial stage of a tense championship game. It is like looking at a golfer on the first tee—someone may tell you he had broken the course record in a practice round but you look at his swing and you nod your head sadly and know it can collapse when the pressure is on!

### HOODOO

When Tipperary beat Cork in Limerick in 1958 they not alone laid a hoodoo that had been haunting

he brought off in the winning of the 1961 and '62 All-Irelands.

The thing is to persevere with a man in the early trial tests and to see the potential despite the concession of a few scores.

There were those who advocated the dropping of John O'Donoghue before he had been given a fair run. But, happily for Tipperary, wiser counsels prevailed (the knowledgeable judges saw his qualities) and he has certainly proved his worth.

A goalie gains confidence from having good backs in front of him. And the backs in turn play more confidently if they know the goalie can be relied upon to save the difficult ones if well covered.

### FORTUNATE

John O'Donoghue is fortunate to be fronted by a full-back line of such strength and experience as that formed by John Doyle, Mick Maher and Kieran Carey, fronted in turn by Mick Burns, Tony Wall and Len Gaynor—maintaining the tradition of fine defences.

I think Tipperary will go on producing great goalies because there will always be youngsters who will want to emulate "Hawk" O'Brien, "Skinny" O'Meara and Tony Reddan.

But I do not think we shall see the like of Reddan again. He stood, to my mind, head and shoulders above all others, and though there are those who argue that Dr. Tommy Daly (Clare) and Paddy Scanlan (Limerick) were as good, if not better, I cannot imagine it.

For the record, here are my top five: 1, Reddan; 2, Daly; 3, Scanlan; 4, Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny); 5, Seanie Duggan (Galway).



OLLIE WALSH (Kilkenny) . . . number four in Raymond Smith's list.

Tipperary and put them on the road to an All-Ireland victory that saw the dawning of a new era of glory.

They were holding on grimly to a two-point lead when Liam Dowling broke clear, let fly with a first-time shot but O'Grady stopped it, killed it Reddan-style with the stick and sent it to safety all in the one movement as the forwards came in.

He had the upstanding style, the quick deft stickwork, the balance and the courage, the qualities I look for principally when I am trying to pick out the goalies of the future.

The best of goalies can be beaten,

them for years but proved to themselves that the Red Jersey need not hold special terrors for them. Since that day Cork have not beaten Tipperary in the championship. It was a victory of singular significance.

Tipperary discovered another outstanding goalie in Donal O'Brien but his innings in the Blue and Gold was all too brief. I liked him the first day I saw him. I knew he was one to be encouraged, that in time he would be great, for he was a natural to the position.

And his greatness was revealed by the magnificent match-winning saves



SEANIE DUGGAN, the former Galway goalie



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**ESB**

**TONY  
WALL  
ASKS**



## *Our hurling supremacy —how long will it last?*

**A**T the moment the country is full of talk about Tipperary's dominance in the field of hurling. Not alone is it admitted that Tipperary is the team of the moment but people are already talking about John Doyle getting his ninth All-Ireland medal in 1966 and I have even heard whisperers of getting him a tenth in 1967.

Thoughts like these are all right among the really rabid supporters, but a little reflection might bring a more realistic appraisal of the situation.

I would start this appraisal by drawing attention to 1954. In that year our old rivals Cork won their 19th All-Ireland title, their third title in a row, and Christy Ring won his eighth medal. Everything in the garden was "rosy." Their team was quite and even the maestro himself was far from being old.

### **SOBERING THOUGHTS**

Had anyone predicted then that Christy would still be playing inter-county hurling eight or nine years later; that he would never win his ninth medal and that Cork would fail to win another All-Ireland for at least eleven years, he would find himself laughed to scorn.

These are sobering thoughts for those who see nothing but blue and gold All-Irelands for years to come.

Then there is another aspect. The present Tipperary team is a veteran one by almost every standard. The

average age is very nearly thirty. Eight of the players are married, and it would need an accountant to calculate all the medals which the team has won.

### **REPLACEMENTS**

There is no apparent senility setting in as yet but this side just cannot go on forever. Sometime in the not too distant future replacements will have to be found for John Doyle, Mick Maher, Kieran Carey, Tony Wall, Theo English, Liam Devaney and, maybe, John McLoughlin, Mackey McKenna and Donie Nealon as well.

And where are those replacements to come from?

The Tipp team of the '49-'51 era sprang largely from the great minor teams of the mid-forties.

The present side owes a good deal to outstanding minor teams of the fifties. During that period almost every Tipp minor team was hailed as the best ever and the commonest question asked was "where are all the minors gone."

We have now reached the point where Tipp has failed to win an All-Ireland minor title for six years. This position is relieved somewhat by the great under-21 team of 1964, but it is a frightening thought that there are 45 Kilkenny youths who have had the experience of beating

(overleaf)



## OUR HURLING SUPREMACY . . . (contd.)

Tipperary in All-Ireland minor finals; as well as many Cork, Limerick, Wexford and Dublin players who were also too accomplished for their Tipp counterparts,

The cream of the beaten minor teams of the sixties—Len Gaynor, Mick Roche, Michael Keating and John O'Donoghue—has already given excellent service in senior ranks. Are there many others of a comparable standard still undiscovered?

It should also be remembered that Lady-Luck is fickle enough. And while I am a firm believer in a good team making its own luck the difference between victory and defeat can be very little.

The present Tipperary team has won five All-Irelands during the past eight years and this total could easily have been greater. On the other hand, I would draw my readers' attention to the All-Ireland Final of 1961.

Dublin were the opponents and I can still see Des Ferguson being penalised twice for picking the ball off the ground with his hand. On each occasion Jimmy Doyle tapped the ball over the bar. And Tipp won by a single point!

The ball was hopping towards

Ferguson each time and the decision whether to catch it while it was on the ground or while it was an inch or so above it must have been very close indeed.

The All-Ireland Final of 1962 is another that comes readily to mind. Tipperary won that game by two points and a worthy victory it was, too.



**DES FERGUSON**  
(Dublin)

However, those two freak, first-minute goals had a big bearing on the result. More power to Tom Moloughney and John McLoughlin for banging them in. But, oh, how fortuitous they were!

On the other side of the scale I would place the Munster Final of

Wexford's Ned Wheeler makes a vain attempt to reach this ball in Tipperary goalmouth during the 1962 All-Ireland final. Goalie Donal O'Brien is standing by.

1963. On that occasion Tipperary battered away for threequarters of the game at the Waterford goal. There is no doubt that the Waterford defenders played like men inspired, but does this account completely for the fact that a forward line of much the same formation as that of 1964 and '65 failed to score even one goal?

Finally, I would like to point out the lessons of history to those making rash predictions. Tipperary's supremacy of 1898-1900 was followed by Kilkenny's fabulous run between 1904 and '13. In those ten years the black and amber brigade won seven titles.

Cork's five titles between 1941 and '46 gave way to Tipperary's years of 1949, '50 and '51. This in turn, was followed by another Cork treble. Wexford followed Cork, and now Tipperary has taken over once again.

As sure as day follows night Tipperary, too, will descend from the summit. The present bunch of blue and gold wearers will strive with a little bit of luck, will put it back beyond 1966.



# 1965 ALL-IRELAND FINALISTS at PLAYER'S

TEAMS VISIT PLAYER'S  
DUBLIN FACTORY



Mr. E. K. Bohane with members of the Tipperary Hurling Team and Officials at Player's Factory on the day after winning their 21st. Championship.



Bosco McDermott (Galway) and Bernie O'Callaghan (Kerry) get together at Player's after the Football Final.



Mr. Bohane presents Tom Neville, the Wexford Team Captain, with a memento of his visit to Player's.



Mr. Bohane, Managing Director of Player's, and Galway's Football Captain, Enda Colleran, holding the Sam Maguire Cup.

# Bord Na nOg—Sampla Do Chontaethe Eile

**T**AR éis craobhcluiche iománaíochta 1964 bhí slua bailithe in Ostán Crofton chun an bua a chomóradh le fleá agus féasta. Bhí Alf O Muiri, Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, ag caint ar athbheochan na hiománaíochta.

“Ní mór dúinn éileamh mór a dhéanamh ar na contaethe atá láidir san iománaíocht a dúirt sé. Ní foláir dóibhsan bheith fial feasta le cúnaimh agus cabhair do na contaethe atá lag.”

Chuir sé gach duine den lucht éisteachta ag machnamh. De réir dealraimh bhíomar faoi chomáin chabhartha. Ach conas.

## AN LEABHAR

Orthusan a bhí i láthair bhí duine amháin ar a laghad go ndeachaigh an chaint i bhfeidhm air láithreach agus a dhein rud ar an Uachtaran. Thosaigh Tony De Bhál ag cur a smaointe agus a thuairimí ar pháipéar agus bé an toradh a tháinig as ná an leabhar “Iománaíocht” a bhfuil an chéad eagrán de díolta faoi seo.

## AN CURSA

Fad is bhí Tony ag scríobh bhí Donal O Niallín go fial le saothar agus ham ag reachtáil cursa iománaíochta leis an t-Athair Tomás O Meachair, ó Chill Chainnigh agus Deasún Mac Fhearghusa ó Bhaile Atha Cliath. Bhain Donal lánfeidhm as féith na múinteoir-eachta atá ann agus as a chlisteacht le camán ag an gcúrsa i gColáiste Bhaile Mhic Gormáin i rith an tsamhraidh.

Féadfaimís bheith ag tnúth le

toradh fóna ón dá ghné san den athbheochan agus ba chóir go mbainfeadh na “contaethe laga” an-thairbhe astu.

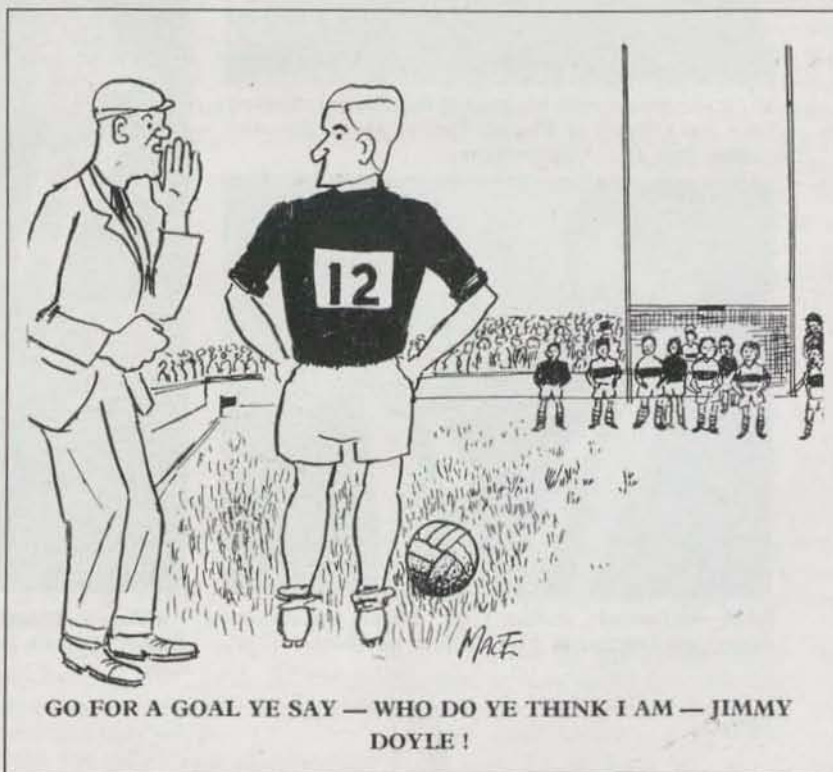
Ní nach ionadh, tá cúram mór a dhéanamh den óige sa scéim atá idir lámha ag an gCoiste Iomána, agus ní fearr rud a dhéanfadh lucht na hathbheochana ná scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an gcóras riartha atá ag Bórd na nOg i dTiobrad Arann.

Tá an eagraíocht seo i bhfeidhm le tamall fada anois agus tá sé ag gníomhú go fiúntach. Cuireadh tús le comórtas don aos óg go déanach

sna fichidí. Comórtas na scol a bhí ann do bhuacaillí faoi 15 bliana, agus is uaidh a d’eachair na foirne mionúr a raibh an lámh uachtair acu sa tír go luath sna triochaidí.

Thit an comórtas ar lár ar ábhar éigin ar feadh roinnt bliain ach tháinig beocht úr nua ann sa bhliain 1941. Cuireadh coiste ar bun a dhein sár-iarracht na cluichí d’eagrú. Chuaigh na comórtais i neart ó bhliain go bliain agus is ón iarracht seo a d’fhas Bórd na nOg agus an eagraíocht atá againn faoi láthair.

(ar lean leath 56)



# WHY THE DECLINE?

Asks  
John O'Grady

**T**IPPERARY'S minor hurling power, for so long the wonder and envy of other counties, has declined in the past few years. Obscured by the many glories of the seniors, this decline has attracted little attention.

"You can't win 'em all" has been our philosophical acceptance of the three successive losses to Kilkenny in 1960-'62 and the failure to win even a Munster title in the years since then. All for the good of the game, we say, as Limerick, with some help from Cork take over in Munster.

Yet, the minor being father to the senior, to paraphrase Wordsworth's dictum, the decline deserves some analytical probing. First we stopped winning All-Irelands; now we can't even get there on the first Sunday of September.

Good seniors do not arrive fully-armed from nowhere. Hurling, like a trade, must be learned. What better apprenticeship and introduction to the big-time atmosphere than through inter-county minor ranks?

## SATISFACTION

Though we heard the plaintive cry—"where do all the minors go"—frequently in the '52-'57 period, barren of senior All-Ireland success in 1905 we can take a better overall perspective and look back with satisfaction.

John O'Donoghue ('59-'60), John Doyle (1946-'48), Michael Maher (1948), Mick Burns ('54-'55), Tony Wall (1950-'52), Len Gaynor (1962), Mick Roche (1961), Jimmy Doyle (1954-'57), Liam Devaney (1952-'53), Michael Keating (1960-'62), Sean McLoughlin (1952-'53), Larry Kiely ('57-'59)—there is the minor background of our current



Kieran Carey holds off the challenge of Kilkenny's Joe Dunphy in the 1965 National Hurling League Home final

seniors. Only Theo English, Donie Nealon, John McKenna and Kieran Carey did not play minor for Tipp.

In addition, the minors, since the resumption in 1945, have given us Pat Stakelum, Seamus Bannon, Phil Shanahan, Paddy Kenny, Jimmy Finn, the three Keane brothers, Liam Connolly, Mick Murphy, Terry Moloney, both Tom Ryans, Paddy Doyle and many others.

We got a running start after the War, for the under-16 Rural Schools competitions, reorganised by the late Rev. Dr. M. J. Lee in the early forties, had set things moving among the youngsters.

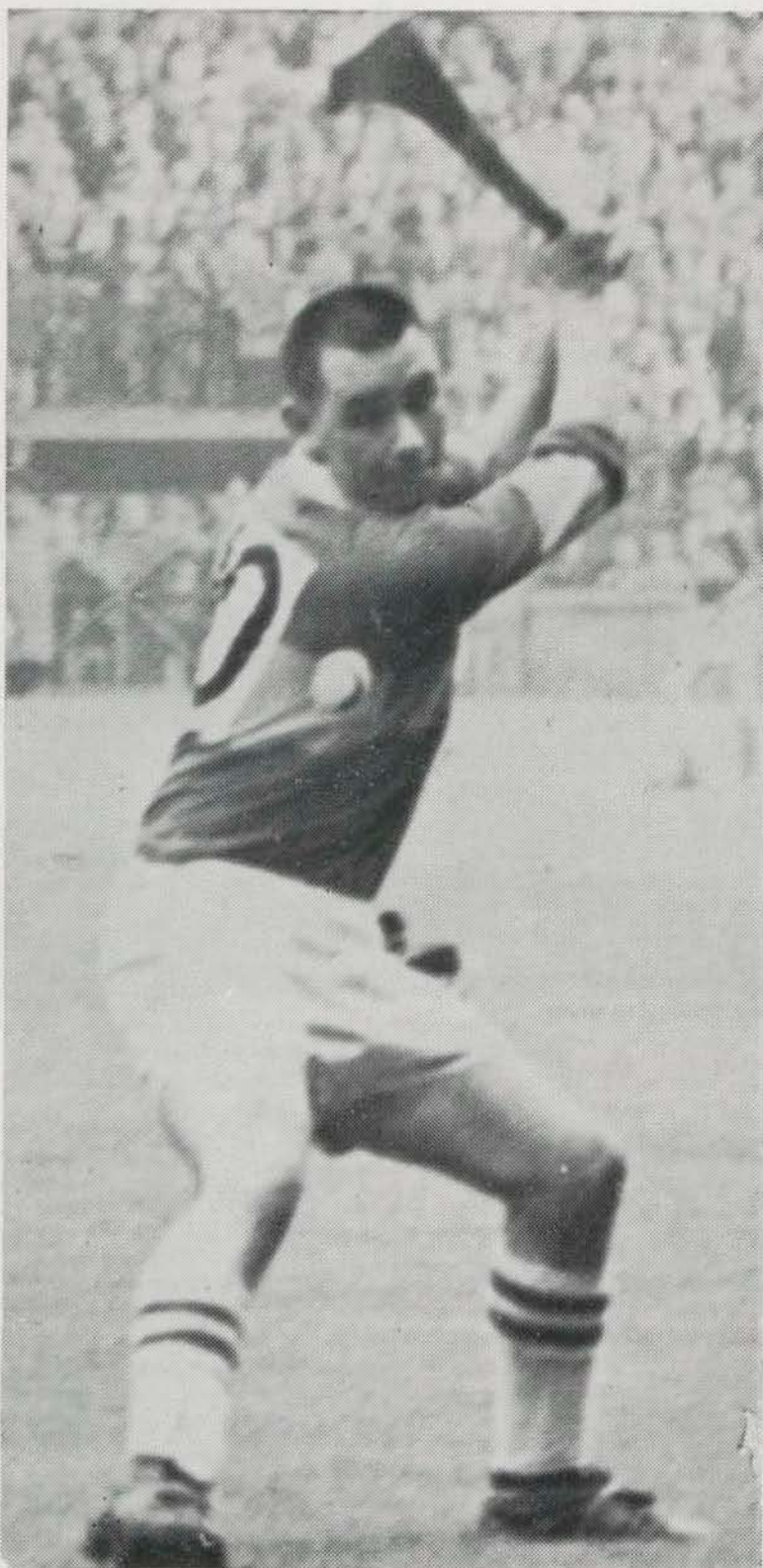
In addition—and here is a significant point—Thurles C.B.S. was producing a whole series of brilliant hurlers, providing a hard core for the county's minor team. Is it wholly without significance that neither the

school nor the Sarsfields minors have filled as prominent a role since the last Harty Cup champions of '56—Jimmy Doyle, Sean Warren, Tom Gleeson, Benny Maher and company?

The Tipp minors were helped at the start, I think, by the very feeble displays of the seniors against Limerick in the years '46-'48. The youngsters were salving wounded pride, upholding Tipp honour and brightening an otherwise gloomy scene.

There were two defeats by Dublin to start with, the '46 one a galling experience with a goalie blatantly fouled before the crucial goal, but '47 under Paddy Kenny's leadership, got the victory march going. Thereafter, up to 1960, there were but few interruptions.

(continued on Page 24)



Concentration and power are displayed in this fine action study of Jimmy Doyle, who came into the Sarsfields senior side against Holycross in 1956

# Thurles

**O**NLY Ahane, who established a stranglehold in Limerick through the thirties and after, and Glen Rovers, who did the same in Cork from 1934 to '41, have achieved anything comparable. Yet a prolonged drought preceded the flood of Thurles success.

John Maher's team had controlled the middle forties, but age caught up with John, Tom Mason, Ger Cornally, Paddy Gorman, "Whitehead" Maher, Dan Mackey, Gerry Doyle and the rest of that fine company. From '47 to '51 it was Carrick, Holycross and Borrisoleigh who reigned in turn. Then in '52 came a foretaste of what was to come.

Jack Ryan (Gallagher), Tommy Doyle, Flor Coffey, Jack Dywer, John Maguire and Tommy Ryan, of the older hurlers, were there for a last taste of glory as Sarsfields beat Borrisoleigh in the county final. Nickey Byrne was there, too, but he had no notion at all of retirement!

But "Blackie" was in goal; Tony Wall midfield; Larry Keane wing-forward . . . the nucleus of the new panel was forming.

## LAST LOSS

That success did not lead to an immediate sequence of others. The next year, though P. J. O'Brien at full-forward went on one of hurling's most amazing scoring sprees to beat Holycross in the last five minutes, Boherlahan pipped them in the Mid final. It was to be their last loss in the Mid until Moycarkey beat them last year!

There was neither victory nor defeat in '54; a controversy over the venue for the Mid final led to Sarsfields giving Holycross a free passage onwards.

Now there arrived into Thurles town a very convenient recruit indeed. Paddy McCarthy had been a great Limerick hurler back in '44. Now, big, strong and hardy, he solved a full-back problem for Sarsfields. A second newcomer at the other end was Paddy Kenny, who was prominent in a tempestuous Mid final with Holycross.

## COUNTY FINAL

By the inevitable coincidence, who should face them in the county final but Kenny's own Borrisoleigh. Given the choice, Paddy sidelined himself while Thurles overcame Liam Devaney's superb effort. This was the first of many county titles, nine out of ten in fact, for only Toomevara in 1960 interrupted their omnipotent progress.

Bobby Mockler, Michael McElgunn, "Musha" Maher, Tommy Barrett and Michael Butler were the new faces on

# Sarsfields Golden Decade

this '55 team, aided by Connie Keane, P. J. O'Brien and Tommy Ryan of the somewhat older brigade.

## BEGAN TO SHOW FORM

Paddy McCarthy had left by '56, so Byrne stepped inside to number three; Tony Wall began to show the form we know all about now; Ray Reidy came on also to start a great club career; Noel Murphy and Patsy Dorney came onstage, too; And against Holycross who should appear into action as a sub . . . a slim, dark young left-hander, one Jimmy Doyle!

Lorrha had reached the county final. Tony Reddan flashed thrilling glimpses of his best in goal, though now off the county team, but Sarsfields were too strong and too balanced.

Another new name emerged in '57. Sean McLoughlin, a good Tipp minor, joined Jimmy Doyle on the senior club team. The county final ran to a pattern often repeated during this wonderful decade—Sarsfields under pressure, perhaps even led, for threequarters of the hour and then the inexorable march to victory as the marking slackened.

It was a South combination who set this pattern, at Cashel. Among them were men later to find county fame, Donie Nealon, Liam Connolly and Tom Larkin.

## SELECTION PANEL

At this time Sarsfields voluntarily resigned their share on the county selection panel, having come in for criticism on account of Tipp's successive losses to Cork. Attending solely to club matters, they kept on winning.

Moycarkey, reviving somewhat, put up a good show in the Mid final. But it was the emerging Toomevara who ran them hardest, leading by four points with a quarter left at Nenagh. Wall went mid-field to check the control of the Hough brothers and Connie Keane, that sweet-striking veteran, came on as a sub.

These well-judged moves and a Doyle goal put them right. In a blinding finish they won by a clear eleven points. Another useful addition this season was Benny Maher, at corner-back.

John Doyle marking Tony Wall, and doing it well, featured Holycross main bid to halt them in '59. Kilruane next took on the task. And it proved to be Sarsfields' hardest test for five years.

McLoughlin slipped in a saving goal in a style to become familiar; Reidy was great at centre-back. This fifth in a row broke the old Blues' record.

Even empires fall. Can mere hurlers expect more? Bobby Mockler did not play in 1960, but the arrival of big Tim Walsh, a Corkman, to midfield, was a useful addition, while Paddy Doyle had now joined Jimmy. But Toomevara, with John Hough rampaging in the centre and Tom Ryan pointing precious frees like clockwork, brought down the five-year champions.

It augured no permanent decline. They shrugged it off and resumed the series in '61. Borrisokane achieved a gallant draw but lost heavily in the replay.



LIAM CONNOLLY

The final at Templemore was marked by marching orders for Hough and Walsh. Mockler was supreme at full-back and Toomevara handed back their crown by a four-point margin.

The Losers' Group system for the first time produced a repeat game in '62, for Moycarkey, beaten well in the Mid, came back to beat Toomevara and reach the county final. Few gave them a real chance.

## PLAYING CHARACTERISTICS

Sarsfields' form was mediocre against fit and keen opponents, for whom Mickey Loneragan, at corner-back was the star. Moycarkey got a grip on the game after the break. A goal gave them a real chance as they, amazingly led. But "Musha" Maher got to a half-cleared ball and sent in the rescuing goal. An all-or-nothing last free to Moycarkey went wide and Sarsfields were still champions.

Roscrea, on a tide of enthusiasm, were thought to have a good chance in '63 but some superbly-worked goals in the first half put them firmly in their place. Holycross fared even worse in '64, running into a team in exhibition form and suffering, perhaps, from their own heavy programme before the final.

What were the playing characteristics of these all-conquering Sarsfields teams? Sheer skill and neatness in ball-play, above all, one would say. Combination and passing of a calibre seldom matched, with Wall and Jimmy Doyle adept exponents fore and aft, come high in the ranking, too.

## PRECISE, SCIENTIFIC

They did not give the same impression of physical power as earlier great Sarsfields teams but depended more on precise and scientific methods. But beneath the science was a latent toughness that made them invulnerable to those who voted for roughing it with them.

From time to time, as in the cases of Paddy McCarthy and Tim Walsh, they made sound use of outside help not as readily available to the country parishes. The tide of success, too, kept several men hurling on who with a less powerful club, might have retired earlier.

Sarsfields never let the monotony of success dull their appetite. Each new threat saw the resources mobilised anew. Loyalty to club and colours was ever-present.

And now, with another season ended, Sarsfields have rebounded from losing the Mid title and, as they were perfectly entitled to under the system, became the first club to lose the part and win the whole in the same season. So the first stone of the next decade is on the Thurles beads.



# THE TOUR

BY MICHAEL MAHER

**W**E had read of Chinatown, Broadway, The Bowery and "The Village" and a visit to the U.S. is often in the dreams of a Tipp hurler. That dream came true for many on September 16, 1965.

The trip was won in May, but our preparations had been packed into a ten-day period since the All-Ireland final. No one was in humour to talk of or get ready for the trip until the McCarthy Cup had been secured for Tipperary for another year.

Passports, vaccination cards, travellers' cheques, dollars and personal belongings were now neatly packed. The Secretary had warned us to bring at least two hurleys each. Jerry Doyle had repaired our boots and had then suitably studded for Gaelic Park conditions. Ossie Bennett was to follow on Saturday.

Assembly point as usual was Liberty Square, Thurles. Schoolboys gazed at us with amazement and I am sure envied us the trip to Shannon not to mention New York. The adults by now have grown accustomed to Tipp teams leaving on such tours.

## CASUALNESS

Casualness prevailed at Shannon. For most it was third time off, for some of us it was fourth time and for at least one it was fifth time over as a player. Checking in was done; some duty free liquor and cigarettes were purchased; photographs were taken; last good-byes said and shortly we were on our way.

At five o'clock the plane roared into the sky and we settled down to a seven-hour journey. It was uneventful. One always wishes to have such journeys so. The Captain inspired confidence and made everyone happy. He told us we were tra-

velling at 700 m.p.h. at an altitude of 35,000 feet. The hostesses served good food and beverages and the party relaxed and enjoyed their food and occasionally slept.

Minutes and hours ticked away. We put back our watches five hours to have New York time. At Kennedy Airport we met many Irish faces and were given a hearty welcome. On our way to the city we passed the World Fair grounds. This was our first glimpse at its fantastic-shaped buildings and coloured flags.

## RETIRED WEARY

After a meal in Gaelic Park and a limited amount of speaking we retired wearily to Hotel Manhattan just off Broadway. Our hotel, in style and standard, would compare favourably with the best in Ireland. Each room had a TV set, radio, telephone, air conditioning and a bathroom. I waited until last to get my room and was assigned one on the seventh floor, sharing with Larry Kiely.

As we got to bed the traffic noise and the shrill piercing hooter of the police car reminded us of New York's many law-breaking problems. There is little chance of sleeping on in this city in the morning. I feel that we can do with much less sleep there. One seems refreshed after three or four hours sleep.

This is a city of rich and poor, of success and dismal failure. Everywhere we met men and women of Irish blood in all walks of life. Our blazers served as a means of introduction.

New York hurlers were serious. We sensed this the first night we arrived in Gaelic Park. They were leaving after training. Mick Morris-

sey, formerly of Wexford, was speaking to me. He sounded mildly confident and made no delay in getting off home to an early rest. Neither did the New York officials under-rate them.

Enough has been written on the games themselves. Suffice to say the New York team played well and manly, and the standard of sportsmanship was without questioning. Paddy Egan of Galway and Kirby of Clare struck me as their best forwards. Half-backs Hennessy, Dowling and Murphy impressed, and Custy seemed more than useful on the full line. Croke in goal excelled on high balls.

Gaelic Park is a wonderful congregation centre for many of our Irish. There they come to see the games but just as much to meet each other, talk on their happenings for the week, have a drink, eat a meal or dance. A day at the Park starts about one o'clock and finishes late at night. You can stay as long as you please, for the matches only or for the full show.

## INNOVATION

Two innovations at the field impressed me. Time keeping is no problem with the presence of the Bogue Clock. It relieves the referee of this onerous duty, and spectators and players seem happy with it. And a resident doctor is present for the games. He attends to all medical problems and is quite helpful.

This is a pleasant change to trying to get to a hospital for medical attention that can easily be provided on the field. Such an arrangement might be explored, at least for our major games.

Controlling the ball, I thought

# THE TOUR

(continued)



presented a problem to all our Tipp team, but especially to our forwards. They always need better ball control than backs to notch up scores. The heat and the hardness of the ground did not help either.

However, it was the New York hurlers themselves that were the greatest obstacle to Tipp's victory. They tried zealously but legitimately, and of all the New York teams I saw this one seemed the best. For a real test we would like to see them play in Croke Park.

The question at the moment is should their admission to the All-Ireland championship be considered. On the score of merit they would appear just as entitled to be there as many of the present competitors. We should, however, be slow to alter representation in our All-Ireland. The provinces are holding on dearly to their provincial championships and perhaps we should confine entry to All-Ireland competitions to Ireland only. Perhaps an intermediate championship is the answer, and if the teams live up to expectations this competition could be very coveted.

## CONTROVERSY

A further point of controversy is the playing of the League Final on an aggregate score for two games. To be a success financially, and this is important, it appears there is no alternative at the moment. However, it does not give the visiting team the best chance of playing well in the second half if they have to spend half-time on a holiday spree in New York. When the game can attract a bigger attendance in New York, I feel it would be wise to revert to a single game contest. This year's game should help in this direction. Half-time in the two-game idea is also too long for the spectators.

The World Fair was a must for visitors to New York. It is virtually impossible to describe it for it covered an area of over 600 acres. Practically all the States of the U.S. and

about fifty other nations sponsored exhibits.

Naturally we made it a point to visit the Irish Pavilion. It was not too easy to find. There was no tricolour displayed and the word 'Ireland' was written in gold letters in a rather secluded position. It was near the Oklahoma Pavilion.

## MILLIONS

The theme of the Irish Pavilion stressed our historical and cultural heritage rather than the economic. Being an age of economics, many were disappointed with it but for the job it undertook I thought it did it well. I believe it cost a million dollars. If it did some of the other pavilions must have cost fifty times that. I have in mind particularly "Progressland" as shown by the General Electric Company and also the exhibit of Ford Motor Company.

The Vatican Pavilion attracted many visitors, the main attraction being Michaelangelo's 465-year-old masterpiece "The Pieta", representing the body of Christ in the arms of His Mother. The late Pope John gave special permission to have it brought to the Fair, the first time it left the Vatican.

Father O'Meara, our Chaplain, had the privilege of saying mass at the Vatican Pavilion.

While in New York I decided a trip to Washington was a must if at all possible. Accordingly, I succeeded in getting Larry Kiely to accompany me for a full day's tour of this historic city. We went by non-stop bus, a four-hour journey, passing thro' Delaware and Baltimore. The Washington visit gave us an opportunity of seeing the White House, the Capitol Buildings, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and Arlington Cemetery, with the simple but lonely grave of the late President Kennedy.

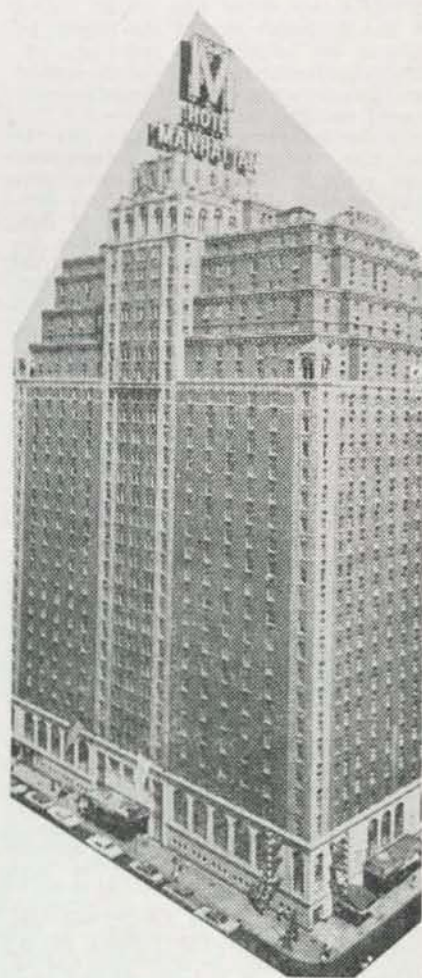
Five days of our tour still remained. We flew to Chicago, a distance of one thousand miles, in one

and a half hours. The Irish there made a big effort to receive us and entertain us. Sean Quigley, of Kilcommon; Tom Crowe, Hollyford; Jim McCormack, Knockavilla; Seamus Quinn, Bansha; Jack Cody, of Mullinahone, and many others did more than their share to make the visit very pleasant for us.

The attendance at the game between New York and ourselves was not too rewarding, but the Harry Boland Hurling Club of Chicago seemed to know not the word failure.

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

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



Home from home in New York . . .  
Hotel Manhattan



# MOL AN OIGE

By  
**TADGH  
O MEACHAIR  
O.S.**

**T**HERE are many who would regard the thirteenth day of the month an unlucky one on which to begin any undertaking. But judging by the success of juvenile competitions in Tipperary the reverse would appear true.

It was on January 13, 1940 that the inaugural meeting for the competitions took place in Thurles. Was it the presence of such men as the late Very Rev. J. J. Meagher and the late Very Rev. M. J. Lee that broke the hoodoo, or, was it their forward-looking policy and encouragement that gave the assembly the required impetus to move onwards and upwards?

Eleven years previously a start had been made, but, for various reasons, notably lack of proper organization and want of general support, the juvenile games had fallen by the wayside. However, the good idea was not allowed to die.

## STILL THERE

Many of those originally associated with the youth movement have passed to their eternal reward, but some are still there as unobtrusively enthusiastic as ever despite their greying hairs.

In 1928, Most Rev. Dr. Harty, Patron of the G.A.A., presented the Dr. Harty Shield for schools competition in hurling and in the same year Very Rev. J. J. Meagher presented a cup for juvenile football. These trophies were there and the new start made in 1940 was crowned with success, giving Tipperary a 25-year lead on many of the counties that are but now embarking on such competitions.

It may well be that the present high standing of the Premier County on the hurling lists can be attributed in no small way to the emphasis on youth training down the years. Hurling grows with the boys of Tipperary, but it takes competition to produce fleetness of foot,

skill with the caman, and craft on the field. What a pity that football does not seem to benefit as much from the attention it receives among the boys.

For a number of years the competitions have been run on the same pattern as the senior championships. The divisions, North, South, West and Mid, are followed right through on a knock-out basis. Each division has its own working committee; the chairman and secretary with two representatives from each division form the Co. Bord na nOg (Juvenile Board). The County Chairman, County Secretary and County Treasurer complete the Bord, which has regular meetings during the year.

At the beginning of each year there is the Annual Convention, to which every club taking part in the previous year's competitions has the right to send two delegates. A report and balance sheet is presented and plans for the coming year are laid.

## STRICTLY ENFORCED

Bord na nOg has drawn up its own set of regulations or bye-laws, which are printed and distributed to the clubs. These are strictly enforced in conjunction with the Official Guide and Co. Bye-Laws and may be amended or added to only at the Convention.

Each team is under a team manager and players have to be fully registered with the divisional secretary, for divisional games, and with the county secretary, for the inter-divisional games.

1965 was a most successful one for Bord na nOg. A total of 47 teams of boys under fifteen years of age on January 1, 1965 took part in the Rural Hurling Competition for the Dr. Harty Shield and medals, while 48 teams engaged in the Urban/Rural Competition for the Millar Shield and medals.

A new competition for boys under 16½ years was also played and 46 teams

took part. The trophy for this is a fine silver cup, kindly donated by Ciste na Banban, and named Corn na Banban.

Moyne/Tempeltuohy took the Dr. Harty Shield but lost to Roscrea in the final of the Millar Shield. Thurles Sarsfields were the first holders of Corn na Banban.

Moyne/Tempeltuohy is a vigorous and well-organized club which has figured very prominently in both hurling and football for a number of years. Their skill and craft in hurling is equalled by their ability at and adaptability to the "big-ball" game, and their progress in both codes is beginning to reflect in the minor and under-21 grades.

The energetic Moyne/Tempeltuohy committee receives wholehearted and generous support from parents and people and there-in lies much of the reason for their success.

Roscrea very deservedly won the Millar Shield for the Urban/Rural Championship. Their team was very well balanced and had some excellent individual performers. This was their first win since the inception of the competition although they have long been prominent in minor ranks and look like continuing to be so.

## PROUD NAME

The winners of Corn na Banban in the under-16½ competition bear one of the proudest names in club hurling — Thurles Sarsfields. These lads hurl in the sunshine of their mighty seniors and show much of the skill and craft of the older players. They, too, should make their presence felt in the minor competitions of the next couple of years.

A high standard of hurling was seen in all these championships, and it is noteworthy that the boys seem to have no difficulty in adapting themselves to the full-sized pitch.

Many players scored points from





**THE TIPPERARY** team who won the inaugural Under-21 All-Ireland hurling championship crown in 1964. For the record the side which beat Wexford in the final was: **P. O'Sullivan** (Cashel); **W. Smith** (Clonakenny), **N. O'Gorman** (Newport), **M. O'Meara** (Lorrha); **O. Killoran** (Roscrea), **C. O'Dwyer** (Borrisokane), **L. Gaynor** (Kilruane); **M. Roche**

(Carrick-on-Suir Davins), **J. Fogarty** (Golden-Kilfeacle); **N. Lane** (Lorrha), **M. Keating** (Ballybacon-Grange), **F. Loughnane** (capt., Roscrea); **J. Dillon** (Roscrea), **T. J. Butler** (Clonoulty-Rossmore), **T. Brennan** (Ballingarry). **Sub.—** **F. J. Ryan** (Carrick-on-Suir Davins).

'seventies,' and goal-pucks often reach centrefield. Accuracy from close-in frees is another feature of these games, while ground hurling and "lift and strike" are employed to advantage.

The fitness and staying-power of the players show how well they dedicate themselves to training. And the skilled team-work and positional play reflect the utmost credit on the coaches.

Football competitions run on the same basis as hurling are equally successful. The Fr. Meagher Cup was won by Galtee Rovers, a club which narrowly failed in the 1964 final. They fielded a carefully-coached team and had five or six outstanding footballers who would match the best in any county.

Clonmel Commercials won the Urban/Rural final, thereby taking Corn na Mainstreach. They also won "Turas na nOg" when they beat Galtee Rovers in a play-off.

"Turas na nOg" is provided by the Tipperary Senior Board, and is awarded in alternate years to the overall champions in hurling or football. It consists of 25 Hogan Stand tickets plus a grant of £20 towards expenses. The senior Divisional Board of the winning team also gives a grant of £20. This is a magnificent prize eagerly sought after by every club, and provides a wonderful incentive to teams.

An under-16½ football championship was also played.

### HIGH STANDARD

A high standard of football was witnessed in these games and many fine players were on view. And the teams displayed ability to equal any in the land in their own age-group.

Observers from leading football coun-

ties have stated that they have seen as high a standard among juvenile players in Tipperary as in any other county. Why then does this not hold true in the older grades? Is all so well with football in general that it, too, is not in need of a promotion plan?

As well as the championship competitions already outlined, parishes, towns and schools throughout the county run leagues in both codes, with almost an equal number of teams takes part. A rough estimate of these would amount to about one hundred and forty, which means that in hurling about three hundred teams take the field. In football the number of teams in championships and leagues would be about two hundred.

In addition, there are two competitions for urban schools and colleges, the Dr. Croke and Bro. Rice Cups. The Croke Cup is for schools within the county and five teams took part, the winners being Templemore. The Rice Cup is not confined to the county but five teams from Tipperary schools participated.

### FULL SUPPORT

The Premier County has given whole-hearted support to the Five-Year Plan for hurling, and the County Board appointed Bord na nOg en bloc as the Coiste Iomana for the county. This is evidence of the trust and confidence which the senior board has in the work of Bord na nOg.

Hurleys have been obtained under the scheme and, though fault has been found with the quality, they have been a help. When given time to meet the demand, I am satisfied, the manufacturers will improve the quality. It is almost equally certain that they will give only as good as are demanded.

Many do not agree with this method of providing "the ash" but then most good schemes have their critics. Whatever the method, the important thing is to provide hurleys for boys, thereby giving them the incentive to play the game for which there is no equal on earth.

It might be a good idea, too, if footballs of good quality could be provided at reasonable prices, (subsidised if necessary). And while at it why not boots, togs and jerseys as well?

The Rural champion team, Moyne/Templetuohy, travelled to Spiddal in August to play a Galway selection and a right good game was seen, in which the Tipperary boys were victors. This challenge took place at the suggestion of the Galway Coiste Iomana and seems an idea which may eventually lead to bigger things.

Practically all games under the auspices of Bord na nOg are played on week evenings during the Summer and Autumn months. Hurling and football get equal attention and similar support. Almost the same players field out in both, except in the North Division, where no football competition is run.

### WHAT REASON

What is the reason for this omission? Have the boys of North Tipperary not got hands and feet too?

No division holds a monopoly of either the hurling or football trophies, which have a happy knack of travelling around. And no doubt this is a great help to keeping interest at a high level. "Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh sí" is a true saying but unless the opportunity is provided the oige might easily slip away or lie dormant.

# WHY THE DECLINE? (continued from Page 17)

Only three Munster titles were lost out of twelve, and five All-Irelands. Yet here's an odd thing: eight minor All-Irelands and eight seniors since '47, but only one double-victory year—1949.

So it does appear that the minors thrive best in their own limelight, without competition from their big brothers. No one would care to imply that there is any conscious slackening by the mentors when the seniors are doing well, any less thorough picking or less enthusiastic preparation. Yet the competition for attention must, on the evidence, be to the detriment of the minors.

The diversion of public interest must have its effect also. The young fellows may sense that they are getting only cursory support from the terraces, where thoughts of the big match are predominant and the curtain-raiser but idly attended to.

Having good minors is not an automatic guarantee of good seniors later on—but it is much more promising than not having them.

## ENJOYING

Tipp are still enjoying the benefits, while one fears that Waterford's ineffective minors, since the great '47-'48 teams gave them Grimes, Power, Flannelly, Whelan, Cunningham and others, are a poor augury for what may happen now that these are close to the retiring age.

Cork, with so many fine schools, have been less prominent, and far less regular in their challenges, than one would expect: their present senior poverty needs no further analysis.

Limerick should see some tangible

return in the next few years. Clare have suffered from the fact that St. Flannan's has always been as much a nursery for Tipp and Limerick as for the home county.

Tipp's concession of Munster superiority to others is no disaster, unless we wished for utter monopoly. There used to be sly, not quite serious, whisperings of irregularities by Tipp where minors were concerned—a relic of the legendary tale of the early thirties, according to which a fellows hirsute limbs were shaved on one occasion to give him the youthful look desirable!

## ORTHODOX

Whatever the truth of that story, our modern success has been based on orthodox methods! Tipp's predominance stemmed from good attention as well as to good material. Earnest trial games, conscientious selection and astute management all played their part in building up the winning mentality and setting the tradition of excellence that is only now showing signs of losing impetus.

In the early years after '45 there was no county club minor championship and, therefore, no club title-winners to claim a place on a selection committee. The committee then consisted of a representative from each Division and one from Thurles C.B.S. I have personal experience of the thorough work of Sean O'Dwyer (West), Jerry O'Dwyer (West), Mick Moylan (North), Paddy Kenny (South) and Bros. Hutton, Giffney and Doody of the C.B.S.

Specific club representation has never seemed to me a good idea at

any level. I think our senior experiences since '58, when a non-club quintet took over management—there was Toomevara representation in '61—have conclusively proved that there is less inclination to bickering and more confidence in impartial choosing when an independent panel does the job. There is also more continuity in membership, allowing for the implementation of consistent policies.

Part of our recent troubles, too, may be a less dedicated approach by the minors themselves, for they do not seem to value the honour of selection quite as highly as some of their predecessors, or go about getting ready to give their best quite so thoroughly. At least, so a current selector told me lately. But then, isn't that an oft-heard tale where the young lads of today are involved?

## RECOMPENSE

Whatever the underlying reasons, we have not won an All-Ireland since Tom Ryan of Killenale crashed a late free into the Kilkenny net in 1959. Kilkenny deserved recompense for that rather unlucky defeat and have got it trebly in the meantime. But it is the failure to come out of Munster that really troubles. It may be just the natural rise and fall of hurling fortunes.

We have an excellent Bord na nOg carrying on the work among the juveniles. Yet another minor All-Ireland in the near future would not only be good insurance for the future but comforting evidence that there is rich ore still in the golden seam that was uncovered just twenty years ago.

## I.N.T.O.

# BUY IRISH

*The Central Executive Committee of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation appeal to members to give their maximum support to the campaign "Buy Irish" initiated by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, and urge them by talks to their pupils, to bring the importance of buying Irish Goods to the notice of their parents.*

D. J. KELLEHER,  
General Secretary.

## A TALE OF TWO FINALS

**W**HATEVER unseen power operates the law of averages seemed to have abdicated as far as Tipperary's county hurling final was concerned: not since 1945 had there been a draw. So there should have been no great surprise when Carrick Davins and Thurles Sarsfields finished level at Clonmel to break the long sequence.

No one ever forecasts a draw, or so it seems. In this case the preview opinions were very diverse indeed, but a draw did not figure prominently among them. It was probably the first time since Toomevara in the '59-'61 period that a challenge to Sarsfields was widely conceded an even chance, or better.

For the candid truth was that Sarsfields had got to Clonmel by a very circuitous route. Others, Moycarkey-Borris and Holycross, had in late years got

By JOHN O'GRADY

contesting their eleventh successive county final. The Mid title was gone, held by Moycarkey-Borris, who now had to be sadly content with it.

From the sides that had operated in the Mid with so little conviction there was one very vital change. Mickey Byrne, no heavier and just as full of spirit as when he had won the first of 13 medals, had acceded to pleas and came back to number three in front of "Blackie". The two of them had helped very largely in that desperately close semi-final with Kilruane, when only McLoughlin's debated goal had saved the day.

The sanguine red of Davins covered a fifteen who had attracted little enough attention until they beat Mid champions Moycarkey-Borris on this same ground. Killenaule and Marlfield both insisted they could and should have stopped them earlier; and Lorrha in the free-scoring quarter-final at Cashel, had led them right up to minutes of the end before Roche's free and Arrigan's point from play got them home.

A combination of the best of the Swans and the Davins, they had Mick Roche and P. J. Ryan at midfield, one established as English's county partner, the other a youngster of vast promise.

### DIVIDED OPINION

Opinion was divided between two extremes. The very name and the experience of Sarsfields, with every man a county winner, would be enough, even in a non-vintage year; the drive and zest of the challengers, with their great midfield, would test the champions beyond their present ability: so the public mind was divided.

Almost 8,000 were on hand. The day was as bad as could be, the pitch in a dreadful state and not assisted by a minor final unwisely played.

Unwilling to avail of the wet seats, the sideliners stood on them or advanced onto—and later beyond—the linesman's mark.

Yet, against this disorderly back drop there was a very fine game. Carrick showed no nerves whatever and made the running. Mick Roche, cool and unflinching, had an hour that was not, one would say, surpassed in this hurling year. Ryan was all but as good beside him. As a pair they overcame the tall Cork-

man, Walsh, and Paddy Doyle for the bulk of the hour.

"Tuckey" Ryan and Roche had goals in the first half; the Carrick lead reached seven points when Roche's free went in. Tim Walsh now had a good spell; the Blues responded and knocked over five points economically, while Carrick's forwards were driving some fateful wides from good positions.

The five minutes after the interval were crucial. Carrick resumed full of aggression. Four precious chances came, four went for nothing. A lone point by T. Ryan was little reward. Sarsfields seldom let such prodigality pass unpunished. Gerry Hogan slapped in a smart grounder as two defenders got entangled: level pegging.

Yet it was now that Carrick won their greatest laurels. Rejecting the doom that



Sean McLoughlin



Jimmy Doyle

there by the same backdoor, via the Losers' Groups that operate now in Mid and North to the considerable mystification of outside observers. "Weren't Sarsfields beaten by Moycarkey-Borris?" They were, but . . . . So the mystery is queried, and explained to the uninitiated.

From a very early stage of the season it was apparent that the power of the '64 final was eluding Sarsfields. The new Munster club championship had seemed well within their normal capabilities. But an away game at Ferrybank against Mount Sion found out weaknesses that were not to be cured by keener training alone.

On that June evening they got to half-time within a few points of their Waterford counterparts as title-takers. It seemed the perfect position from which to surge home. But they did not do so. Chances were missed of an immediate good lead; Mt. Sion got back into it against the low sun, the wind and the lie of the land; and their attackers, Grimes and Power especially, found the Thurles last line vulnerable to a determined push.

But now, walking onto the muddy, rain-sodden Clonmel pitch, they had got to their customary end-of-season spot,

terrace observers were freely accepting, they responded. Jimmy Ryan, giving Wall plenty to do, hit one that dipped past Keane. Back they swept at once. An attacker seemed to have a sure point but went for bigger things; it slipped wide on the goalies right—a significant miss.

Patsy Butler earned a free. Jimmy Doyle took it—goal! Amid fevered tension Roche and Doyle exchanged easy points off frees, Doyle's being poor compensation for a "goal" already scored but rather disadvantageously replaced by a free. Referee Philly Ryan called the closure as the weakness of the stewarding led to spectators advancing onto the pitch and a minute, perhaps, of official time remained.

So there we suddenly had it. Tipp's first drawn decider since the young Mick Ryan, of Roscrea, brought himself to notice in '46. Sarsfields had won that replay. Was it an omen? Clonmel had forfeited title to the second game by ineffective stewarding and Sarsfields were in any case probably due some place nearer home. So Cashel got the nod.

Very effectively they and their Work Division helpers rose to the job, girdling

(Continued overleaf)



Mick Roche

## A TALE OF TWO FINALS

(Continued)

the arena with stakes and wire, an imposing barrier. The day was different also, clear, crisp and sunny. Public opinion now veered more to the South champions on the basis that they could perpetrate no such hasty shooting errors this time with the feat of holding Wall, Doyle, McLoughlin and company to help them.

And against the argument that Sarsfields would find something more like their old form was the hard fact that they had done no such thing in the replay with Moycarkey-Borris. Then, too, Carrick's defence, regarded as probably unequal to the demands of marking Thurles' inter-county stars, had done it very well at Clonmel.

### HARSH FACTS

Yet there were doubters. The harsh facts of hurling history tell that if you fail to take your opportunities you get no marks for creating them. It appeared unlikely that a man of Tony Wall's quality would fail to rise to an urgent demand and remain as relatively inconspicuous this time. And could any man find the blend of form and fortune that go to make a sustained display like that of Michael Roche at Clonmel?

The second school of thought was soon vindicated. The game was immediately seen to be of a different character. The better conditions underfoot seemed to direct a quota of the hurlers' attention to the man. At Clonmel the difficulties of dealing with the ball had absorbed all their capacities.

Still, the first ten minutes was good and even, Roche replying readily to two Thurles points. "Blackie" got to two rather dangerous balls and cleared mightily. Patsy Butler, victim of a head injury was carried off. The Sarsfields defence was playing it harder and tighter by far than at Clonmel.

### COMING FORWARD

Wall and Matty Dowd were coming forward into the midfield sector and the Roche-Ryan duo was far from enjoying the same supremacy over Walsh and new partner "Barton" Dorney. Paddy Doyle had been put into his old wing-forward place and delivered the first heavy blow, sending in a long one that the Carrick goalie only got half a stick to.

This goal was a lethal one, for it put to Carrick a searching question: how would they do facing an early lead? Jimmy was nominally at right corner but actually roving freely, and in general

the Carrick defence was far less assured than in the first game. Indeed but for a few unlikely misses by Sarsfields things would have been worse.

The early vociferousness of the 12,000 onlookers became more muted through the second quarter, for the bulk of them as ever, wished the underdog well.

Four points down at the break, could Carrick force themselves back into contention? When Con Broderick finished a fierce attack for a third-minute goal the answer seemed affirmative. But fate and Jimmy Doyle had other ideas. Rather against the expectations of most he went for a goal off a close free—and, as at Clonmel, he got what he sought. How Carrick will regret these two failures by a crowded goal-line!

### FIRM GRIP

Mick Roche then stepped up to an easy free and hit it wide. One could sense that the point of no recovery had been reached for the Carrick boys. Sarsfields' grip was a firm one, the Doyles insuring against trouble by helping at midfield, swinging the leather downfield

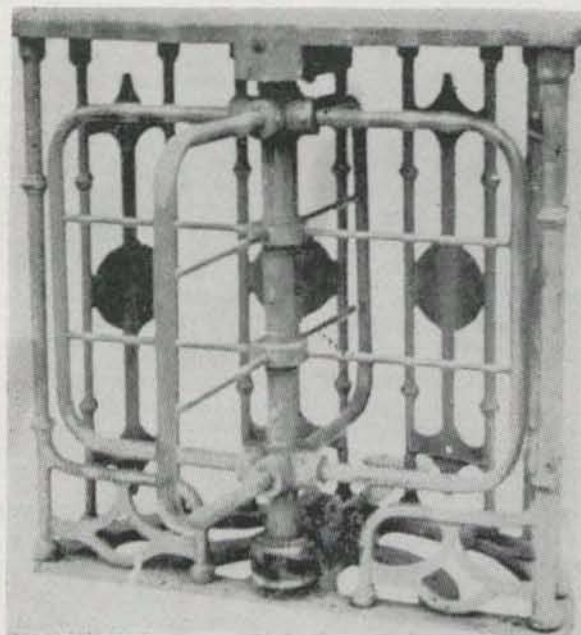
first-time. One wide-open miss was made up for by captain Patsy Dorney when goalie Ryan did not complete a save.

### BRAVE RALLY

A late brave rally and another goal for Broderick stopped those who had begun to move for the exits but it was only a stay of execution. Soon McLoughlin tossed a typical point. Seven points was the comfortable measure of Sarsfields' tenth county title of eleven since '55. They had pulled themselves together at the very last opportunity.

Another title had come off a production line that has run on farther than one could have expected in view of the lack of good minor or junior talent for a number of years past. Mickey Byrne had won number fourteen, a tremendous record for the great veteran whose comeback may well have been the years most influential move.

The crucial question for the champions now probably is: Can their present material keep going long enough for good youngsters to join a winning rather than a struggling team?



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# CAMOGIE REVIEW

By Press Officer, Cumann Camogaíochta  
Thiobrad Arann

## "A YEAR TO REMEMBER"

**T**IPPERARY camogie players, unlike the hurlers, will not regard 1965 as their year of all-conquering success. Certainly at one stage there was a distinct possibility that we might "sweep the boards" but on a September day in Croke Park all our dreams were shattered when we fell dismally to the mighty Dublin "machine" in the All-Ireland final. So that elusive trophy, The O'Duffy Cup, which has become the bane of the Tipperary camogie players' lives, remained in the Capital for another year.

However, in 1965 we at least broke the All-Ireland barrier when our county champions, St. Patrick's, fought their way magnificently past formidable opponents and took the title of All-Ireland club champions.

These were the highlights of 1965, but one of the most encouraging and most heartening aspects of the year was the tremendous upsurge of enthusiasm and interest in the game throughout the county. Attendances were never higher and the support the county team brought with them to the All-Ireland confirmed this enthusiasm.

### NEW CLUBS FORMED

In addition, new clubs were formed in many districts, and of these the Thur-

les team, from the home of hurling, shows signs of been a really formidable force within the next few years.

The season opened in March, when, before a big attendance at Littleton, St. Patrick's and Roscrea served up brilliant camogie in the Ann Frazer Cup final, which St. Patrick's won.

The senior championship run on a league system, then commenced, and, before the biggest attendances for years at camogie fixtures, some great passages of play were seen. Undoubtedly the outstanding clashes were the exciting tussles between St. Patrick's and Clonmel. After two tense-close games St. Patrick's won and retained their county title.

### JUVENILE KINGPINS

The intermediate championship, also on a league system, reached a really exciting climax, with Fethard, the holders, and Thurles neck and neck at the top of the table. And Fethard won a thrilling play-off by a goal, the only score of the game.

Cashel again emerged as "juvenile king-pins" and what a marvellous little team they had. Their teamwork and ball control were a joy to watch. If they can be kept together and coached well some future Tipperary stars are now on view. Cahir and Cappawhite were their closest

rivals in the championship, and the talent in these teams is also very promising.

### REACHED ALL-IRELAND

On the inter-county field Tipperary had a very good year. The No. 1 team reached the All-Ireland final; the No. 2 team, which consisted of players not holding Munster medals, gave a magnificent performance against eventual winners Limerick; and St. Patrick's won the All-Ireland club championship.

First to make an exit from the championship was our No. 2 team. They were unlucky from the start, as they were drawn against Limerick, who had given the seniors plenty of trouble in the first round, and added to that was the fact that they lost many good players because of the seniors winning the Munster championship.

The intermediate players then got a chance to show their form, and in simply atrocious conditions in Cashel the Tipp girls amazed everybody, including their own supporters, with their display. In fact, it was only the last puck of the ball in injury time that saved Limerick from defeat, when Eithne Neville goaled to give them victory by the minimum of margins.

In May the seniors started preparing  
(continued overleaf)

The St. Patricks (Glengoole-Ballin-garry) team . . . Tipperary and All-Ireland Club champions.  
Front row (l. to r.): M. Heffernan, A. Long, R. Scott, J. Kiely, M. McBride, P. Graham, L. Scott, E. Cronin.  
Back row (l. to r.): A. Graham, M. Ryan, A. Carroll, M. Gleeson, M. Maher, A. Morris, S. Long, M. Graham (capt.).



for the championship when a panel of 24 went into training in Boherlahan. From the beginning it was apparent that the talent was good, and that the team was capable of taking the highest honours.

In the first game, against Limerick at Cashel, the victory margin was impressive enough, but everyone agreed that there was room for improvement. So no fewer than three challenge matches were played before the Munster final with Cork. These games, against Galway, Offaly and Waterford, sharpened up the team, and with some brisk training sessions behind them as well they went out fully fit and eager at the Mardyke.

### HARDEST GAME

This was Tipp's hardest game of the year. From the moment the ball was thrown in until the final whistle the pace and the tension made the atmosphere like an inferno. Tipp started well, with a very heartening goal in the first few minutes, but from that on Cork were fighting back and it took every bit of Tipperary's spirit and skill to keep their slender lead. The half-time score was 1-4 to 0-4, proof positive of the closeness of the play.

Tipperary started the second half determined to consolidate their lead and in one great drive up the field they slammed the ball into the net again. This was just what they needed and from then until the end they held out magnificently and retained their Munster title.

Plans were made immediately for the All-Ireland campaign, and with training

headquarters now in Thurles the clash of the ash was ringing two, and sometimes three evenings of the week. The schedule was upset somewhat by our All-Ireland semi-final date been changed by Central Council, but despite this setback the team played brilliantly against Galway and ran up a handsome total for an easy victory.

### ALL-IRELAND DAY

Then came All-Ireland Day, and the question is still being asked: "What Happened?" It is history now that we were beaten 10-1 to 5-3. The team played well in the first half. The backs held the Dublin forwards; the midfielders were outplaying their opponents and the forwards, while scoring, were most unlucky not to have increased their total.

There was confidence at half-time that a more settled Tipp team would move ahead in the second half. Instead, they seemed to lose complete confidence in themselves, panic set in and golden chances were let slip. It was unbelievable that a team could score 5-3 and still lose an All-Ireland final. But perhaps the main reason why Tipp did not bring home the honours is because it does not pay to panic when Dublin are your opponents.

### ONLY TEAM LEFT

The only team left in the championship at this stage was St. Patrick's, who were carrying Tipperary's banner in the club competition. In the first round they overcame Waterford representatives Gaultier quite easily, and then came the titan-

ic battle with the Cork champions, Glen Rovers, in Bruff one very wet August evening.

Exchanges were very close in the first half, and at half-time St. Patrick's were two points to the fore. In the second half they piled on the pressure and moved into an eleven point lead. Glens rocked them near the end with two goals, but time was up and St. Patrick's were the new Munster club champions. An easy win over St. Rita's, Galway, then put them into the All-Ireland final against Deirdre, Belfast.

Despite the long journey North and the absence of some regulars, St. Patrick's gave their greatest display. Holding their own in the first half, they played their usual sterling second half and, keeping exceptionally cool and calm, ward off attack after attack and proudly brought home to Tipperary the county's first All-Ireland camogie title. It was a thrilling and fitting climax to 1965.

The Honours List (runners-up in parentheses):

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS: Dublin, (Tipperary); All-Ireland Club Champions; St. Patrick's, Glengoose; Ballingarry, (Deirdre, Belfast); Gael Linn Cup: Leinster, (Ulster).

MUNSTER CHAMPIONS: Senior—Tipperary (Cork); Junior — Limerick, (Waterford); Club—St. Patrick's, (Glen Rovers, Cork).

TIPPERARY CHAMPIONS: Senior—St. Patrick's (Elmville); Intermediate—Fethard, (Thurles); Juvenile—Cashel (Cahir); Mayor's Cup—St. Patrick's (Elmville); Anne Frazer Cup—St. Patrick's (Roscrea).

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# DR. CROKE—PATRIOT BISHOP AND ATHLETE

**M**OST Rev. Dr. Croke could be described as a truly great man. His mother was Isabella Plummer, a Protestant; his father, William Croke, was a Catholic, so he was a son of a mixed marriage. But the wonderful thing was that the five children of that marriage, three boys and two girls, all became priests and nuns.

Dr. Croke was born in the parish of Ballyclough, Mallow, on January 6, 1823. Having attended the local school first, Thomas William Croke went to the endowed school at Charleville in 1836. He, apparently, was a fine hurler, boxer and athlete while in school.

## FINE FIGURE OF A MAN

Anyone looking at the full length portrait of Most Rev. Dr. Croke in the library of St. Patrick's College, Thurles, would describe him as a fine figure of a man, with strong eyes, a strong nose—a strong face, but his hands are gentle and fine.

In 1839 he went from Charleville to the Irish College in Paris and remained there until 1844. Apparently, he decided to become a Cistercian, for he spent some time at the famous La Trappe Monastery of that Order in France.

It is interesting to note that one of the most energetic and active archbishops of the last century, at one time, thought of becoming a monk vowed to silence. However, he went on from La Trappe to the Irish College in Rome in November 1845, to continue his studies for the priesthood.

He quickly won distinction as an outstanding student, and it is said that he became the favourite pupil of one of the great theologians of the church in those days, Cardinal Franzelin.

He gained his Doctorate in Divinity at the age of 23 and received the highest reward, namely, a gold and silver medal. These were presented to him in July, 1846; but his theological learning was

ever at the service of Ireland, for he sold the medals and gave the monies received to the fund for the relief of famine in Black '45 and '46.

## THEOLOGIAN

He was ordained priest on May 28, 1847, returning to Ireland when the Young Irelanders were active. He visited Gavan Duffy in Newgate Jail in July, 1848. During this time he was teaching in St. Patrick's College, Carlow.

Dr. Croke returned to his own diocese of Cloyne some time after that and was active in promoting the Tenant League. He was curate, successively, in Charleville, Midleton and Mallow and then became the first president of St. Colman's College, Fermoy. In 1865 he was appointed parish priest of Doneraile and Chancellor of the Diocese of Cloyne.

His abilities as theologian were recognised by his Bishop, Dr. Keane, and when the First Vatican Council began in 1870 Dr. Croke went with Bishop Keane as his theologian. While in Rome he was appointed Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand and was consecrated in the Church of St. Agatha, on July 10, 1870, by Cardinal Cullen.

Among those attending the consecration was the great Archbishop of Cashel and eminent figure of the First Vatican Council, Most Rev. Dr. Patrick Leahy. Under the providence of God, Dr. Croke was to transfer from Auckland to succeed Dr. Leahy as Archbishop of Cashel in 1875.

## NATIONAL FIGURE

His work as Archbishop of Cashel endures in the archdiocese; churches and presbyteries built, culminating in the great joy of consecrating the magnificent Cathedral of the Assumption at Thurles, in 1879.

Around this time Dr. Croke became a national figure. This was the period of evictions, when tenants could be evicted at will by land-lords. Dr. Croke, ever courageous, stood boldly for the oppressed Irish farmers.

Indeed, referring to his defence of Michael Davitt, Charles Kickham said of him: "The Archbishop is a most remarkable man; there is no other ecclesiastic in the country who would have the courage to write such heroic statements."

In 1881 Dr. Croke again came before the public in defence of the Land League, and for his defence, and because of his endorsement of the Land League, was summoned to Rome to appear before the great Pope Leo XIII.

## DR. CROKE IN ROME

Michael Davitt in his book, "The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland," says: "Dr. Croke gave me an interesting account of his experiences in Rome after his arrival back in Ireland. His Holiness, Pope Leo, had received him in a most unfriendly fashion," but this account undoubtedly referred to the early part of the interview.

The Freeman's Journal for that same year, reporting the return of Dr. Croke, quoted him at the various receptions as saying: "The Pope understands Ireland and loves Ireland." He pleaded always for loyalty and devotion to His Holiness.

In passing, it is worth noting that it was at Paris that Dr. Croke used the famous phrase: "I am returning to Ireland unchanged and unchangeable, unconquered and unconquerable."

The G.A.A. was established on November 1, 1884, at the famous meeting in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, and Dr. Croke accepted the invitation to become patron of Cumann Luthchleas Gael in a letter of December 18, 1884. This letter is

(Continued overleaf)

sometimes described as the charter of the G.A.A.

In passing, one may recall that, while the promotion of football and hurling was among the aims of the newly-established association, the fostering of athletics and the revival of the national spirit was also desired.

### CYCLING ASSOCIATION

At that time athletics were, until the foundation of the G.A.A., organised by an English body known as the Amateur Athletic Association. The executive of the A.A.A. consisted of 104 members, two of whom were Irish and these were members of the Belfast Cricket Club. There was also in Dublin the Irish Cycling Association (I.C.A.).

On January 21, 1885 a meeting of the I.C.A. was held in Kildare Place. Mr. R. Johnson, Trinity College, presided at this meeting, which had been called to discuss "a meeting which had been held in Thurles the other day at which the attendance numbered seven, and certain rules were adopted which if competed under by Irish athletes would disqualify them from competing in England."

### NEW ORGANISATION

By February, 1885 a new organisation, called the Irish Amateur Athletic Association (I.A.A.A.) was formed, with membership drawn largely from around Dublin and including representatives from Cork, Limerick and Drogheda. Members of this association were forbidden to compete under G.A.A. rules and Michael Cusack who was present at this meeting, was expelled. However, to be quite accurate, Cusack remained under plea that he was a reporter on the staff of United Ireland.

Meantime, the G.A.A. grew extraordinarily rapidly — championship sports were held in Cork, Tralee and Tramore. By 1887 football and hurling championships were under way and the rivalry between the I.A.A.A. and the G.A.A. grew.

The I.A.A.A. banned its members from competing at G.A.A. sports, and in March, 1885 the G.A.A. retaliated by declaring "that any athletes competing at meetings held under other laws than those of G.A.A. shall be ineligible for competing at any meeting under the G.A.A."

### SECOND LETTER

It was in this context that Dr. Croke wrote the second letter, which recently has been much quoted as if he would oppose Rule 27 of the Official G.A.A. Guide. Rule 27 was introduced in rudimentary form in 1886 and more fully stated in 1901. Dr. Croke's SECOND LETTER was written on October 31, 1885, so it is obvious that it has, and can have, no reference whatsoever to the existing Rule 27 of Cumann Luth-chleas Gael.

There is no doubt that Dr. Croke was clearly biased in favour of our native games of hurling, football and Irish sport. He did not ever favour an "absolute denunciation and denouncement of



Padraig O Caoimh (R.I.P.)

sports and pastimes of other countries." Neither does the G.A.A. in its official attitude today.

The G.A.A. is concerned with promoting its own games, the native games of hurling, handball and football. Indeed, the President, Mr. Alf Murray, in his address to Congress, 1965, referred to the necessity of continuing to promote hurling and handball so that every parish in Ireland will be playing these games.

Dr. Croke, too, realised that the establishment of the G.A.A. was necessary to arouse the national spirit of the country, then being violently attacked on many sides. It is hard for us on the eve of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of 1916 to realise the difficulties and the opposition faced by Cusack, Davin, Archbishop Croke and many others in the sad times of the 1880's.

It called for an almost super-human effort of the national will to overcome this opposition and to bring the weakened spirit of the nation to the full vigour and strength that resulted in 1916 and in the measure of freedom we now enjoy.

Dr. Croke in March, 1886, declared



Sean O Siochain

"that we have no reason to be anything but Irish, we were becoming strangers in our own country to the sports that we saw when we were young, that our fathers and grandfathers before us excelled in—leaping, casting and hurling were becoming things of the past; Irishmen were becoming ashamed of those manly native sports; everything was imported.

### SPREADING LIKE FIRE

"There was a meeting of the Association the other day in Thurles at which there were representatives from three provinces in Ireland, they told me that the Association is spreading like fire through every part of the country. I have no doubt we will have beaten our other friends, we will beat them out of the field of manly exercises as we have beaten them out of the field of politics."

The condemnation of the Plan of Campaign and the crisis of the Parnellite Split saddened the remaining years of Dr. Croke's life, but his fiery spirit remained as courageous as ever. He gave £50 to the evicted tenants of Murroe who were on the hill-side for twelve years. He gave financial help in the establishment of the Gaelic League and helped Fr. O'Growney to publish his early books on Irish. He encouraged and assisted Douglas de h-Ide, first President of Ireland, and Padraic Pearse in their work for the national language.

### FAILED SLOWLY

He had the joy, however, of celebrating his Silver Jubilee as a Bishop in 1895, when Cardinal Logue referred to his "twenty-five years of zealous, unselfish and fruitful service." By 1900 he was given the privilege of having a coadjutor, Most Rev. Thomas Fennelly, later his successor. His health failed slowly and his final illness came.

His last letter was to his great friend, Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin. It read simply, "I am holding on. Pray for me. God bless you." He died on July 22, 1902 and is buried in the mortuary chapel of the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles.

Dr. Croke realised that Cumann Luth-chleas Gael was not merely a sporting organisation; it was also an arm of the national movement, a means of fostering the national spirit and promoting Gaelic culture. These may be described as the social aims of the G.A.A.

### REALISE NECESSITY

Mr. Alf Murray and the late great secretary of the Association, Padraic Uasal O Caoimh, ar dheis De a anam, and the present secretary, Mr. Sean O Siochain, realise the necessity of Cumann Luth-chleas Gael playing an important role in the furtherance of our national culture and spirit.

No one will deny that, at the present time, the national spirit and our cultural heritage need to be preserved and fostered. In carrying on this, Cumann Luth-chleas Gael is following the noble lead of its first great patron, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas William Croke, Archbishop of Cashel.



# TONY BRENNAN

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I first knew Tony as a schoolboy attending the C.B.S. in Thurles. For seven years we would meet each morning at the Green in Holycross and part company at the same place each evening. Naturally, hurling competed with school subjects for our interest as there was great enthusiasm for the game in the school under the keen direction of Brother McCaw.

There were many excellent colleges hurlers there at the time. Jimmy Smee, who later went to America and played so well there, had just left. But I remember the Lanigan brothers, "Douse" Maher, (brother of John of Killinan), Jack Russell, Willie Ryan of Galloola, Mick Kennedy of the Ragg (later the Limerick full-back) among many others who played with the school teams when I was too young for them.

Tony Brennan was a big, strong lad from the start, his three years on the Tipp minor selection are an indication of how good he was at sixteen.

We made a great effort at winning the Harty in '32, beating the Mon. in a game that led to controversy over a Thurles goal, but we lost to Limerick in the final. The next year, '33, brought the C.B.S. its first Harty title, and Tony at full-back, his usual place, was a key-man in the victory.

Tony finished his schooling at Rockwell and did well on their hurling sides. The two of us next played together on the Tipp minors of 1934 and we beat Laois in the All-Ireland. Tony had a minor medal already from the previous year, but missed one in '32 because he was not available.

We were team-mates again on the junior side of 1937, which lost to Cork, but after that his hurling career shifted to Galway, for he joined the Army, being a member of the Cath Gaelach at Renmore. Galway were then, in the early forties, a powerful team—with Duggan, Thornton, Gantley, Flaherty and the rest—and they ran Cork very close in '43 and '44, when Cork had one of their most brilliant combinations. Brennan's place with Galway was usually full-back.

In 1945 he put on blue and gold again. Attack had been our perennial problem so Tony was placed at centre-forward. In any case Ger. Cornally was the established full-back for many years. It was only for the final with Kilkenny that Brennan went to full-forward and won the first of four senior medals. He stayed there for the next two years, unsuccessful ones for Tipp, who lost heavily to Limerick at Cork. He was off the panel in '48, when our fate was similar.

The best was yet to be. After Tipp had lost the '48 League final to Cork the team for the next League match was chosen. Clare were the opponents, and in goal was Tony Reddan, who had

come on after Lorrha's county final tussle with up-and-coming Holycross. Full-back, taking over from the great veteran Willie Wall of Carrick, was Tony Brennan. It was the start of one of hurling's finest goalman-full-back combinations.

They suited each other very well. Brennan was cool, easy going and not at all excitable. He supplied great strength and solidity, giving Reddan the room and the space any goalie needs. Reddan's part was of equal value. I do not think that there has ever been a finer 'keeper.

The '49 League final against Cork at Thurles was, I suppose, the turning-point for Tipp. Some of the older men, like Mutt Ryan, Tommy Purcell, Tommy Doyle and Jim Devitt, shared in it, but it was the coming of Pat Stakelum, Mickey Byrne, Phil Shanahan, Seamus Bannon, the Kennys, Jimmy Kennedy and others that pointed the way ahead. And Brennan had established himself.

They won the All-Ireland against Laois. And this game marked the second meeting for Tony with the unusually named (for a hurler) Paddy Ruschitzko, who had played against him in the '34 minor game.

So they kept on with few changes—Jimmy Finn, for Flor Coffey, was one of them—for a wonderful spell of victories until Cork beat them in 1952.

Brennan was a strong and reliable part of it all. I can see him still in my mind's eye parading round Limerick or Croke Park, invariably last of the fifteen in line. He was never ambitious for the spectacular but concentrated on safety, though now and then he would hit a fast, long one that indicated skill as well as strength.

Stopping Nick Rackard's headlong rushes in '51 was one of his best achievements. Reaching the county final of the same year with Clonoulty was another thing that pleased him very much.

He kept on for Tipp until after the '53 Munster final defeat by Cork. We found it hard to replace him, and indeed had to use Jimmy Finn's talent on the square before Michael Maher came along to provide us with another regular in the position. So he went into honoured retirement.

I had been very close indeed to him for the three years 1946-'49 when I was teaching at Clonoulty. It is painful for me now to realise that death, in sad and tragic circumstances, has taken him away. But I am glad to get the opportunity of honouring his memory and recalling his fine record as a great and sporting hurler.

And I know full well that I speak for all the Gaels of Tipperary in expressing the most sincere sympathy to his bereaved wife and young family. May he rest in peace.

BY PHILIP O'DWYER, O.S.

**T**HE year is dead—let him die: for '65 served his turn well and prosperously for Tipperary. As the hurling year is stowed away for Springs awakening blast and the initial "backs back" of a brand-new season, the hurling world combines appreciation of our 1965 achievements with an anxious eye on the horizon for a white hope to beat us. Like a Colossus of old Tipp strides the hurling world, a foot apiece on the twin pedestals of championship and League and a hand firmly clutching the Oireachtas.

The happiest of endings, repeating '64 successes. But the year's beginning presaged not quite so much conquest. Coming onstage as favourites for everything, we fluffed the opening lines of the drama. It was May before Tipp began to look like themselves. The opening half against Waterford in the League semi-final was the first real token that suspicions of decline were unjustified. Before that we had three separate indications that all might not be well.

To begin with, the Railway Cup was lost for the second year in a row. To be sure this is a mixture of the exhibition and the serious and one in which of late Leinster's Kilkennymen, especially Ollie Walsh, have tended to brilliance. But O'Donoghue, John Doyle, Carey, Wall, English, Roche, Jimmy Doyle, Keating, Devaney and McLoughlin were on a

beaten side—two-thirds of Tipp's roster—and few of them played particularly well.

Next came the Rest of Ireland. At Thurles, for the third time, we did not beat them. Jimmy Doyle and Carey were off as the Rest won by a goal. The first mutterings began to be heard. Hadn't Tipp been decidedly fortunate to get out of the Athletic Grounds last Autumn with two League points?

Coming up on the agenda now; Tipp v. Kilkenny, at Thurles in a League game that had already lost its main raison d'être, for both counties had by now enough points to be sure of semi-final places. Yet it carried its own built-in ancestral interest. Kilkenny came and conquered: We did the unbelieving seeing, for seven green flags were raised against a backline always credited with an infallible recipe for Kilkenny.

Noel O'Gorman had held Mick Maher's place since the county final and, naturally, drew a lot of the blame for the vulnerability of the defence. Considering what tightness returned with Maher it seems a reasonable deduction. Yet 5-3 out of 7-10 came from Walsh and Dunphy in the corners.

John O'Donoghue, under heavy fire from outfield, drew some verbal missiles too. Looking back now it would appear that light, possibly deliberately light, preparation in the Spring left Tipp vulnerable defensively at this period.

It was a pleasant day for Kilkenny folk, taking Tipp scalps out of our own camp. Could the decision be reversed? The steely character of this Tipp team is not its least virtue, but it was a lot to expect. The first step was to sound Mick Maher on the prospects of a return to the keystone berth, so nerve-racking for a youngster.

Waterford had been our major problem in Munster since '59 and needed wary watching. Maher was back for this League semi-final. For half an hour he got little activity. This first half may have been Tipp's most fluent of the whole year. Nineteen points was the lead at the interval after forward-play of pure brilliance in co-ordinated moves.

Waterford fought the hopeless issue well, reduced arrears to an ultimate twelve, and pressed hard and often enough to let us appreciate the stolid calm of Maher and the tidy, unambitious, yet infinitely safe, nudge to safety of the Holycross man. It was now, too, that Len Gaynor began to settle at left-wing under the tutelage of the matchless Wall.

The League Final, now — and ridiculously in some minds — carrying the limiting appendage of "Home", had a U.S. trip tied to it as a bonus prize. Kilkenny's incentives were even greater, as even against Tipp, and they made a gallant try for glory.

A hard first half; Tipp two points up and doing well to be so. There followed

## THE MEN WHO BROUGHT THE 21st S.H. TITLE TO TIPP.

STANDING (from left):  
 GERRY DOYLE  
 JOHN O'DONOGHUE  
 MICHAEL KEATING  
 MICK BURNS  
 MICK MAHER  
 TOM RYAN  
 SEAN McLOUGHLIN  
 KIERAN CAREY  
 MICK ROCHE  
 TONY WALL  
 JOHN DOYLE  
 OSSIE BENNETT  
 KNEELING (from left):  
 LIAM DEVANEY  
 NOEL O'GORMAN  
 LEN GAYNOR  
 SEAMUS MACKAY  
 LARRY KIELY  
 DONIE NEALON  
 PETER O'SULLIVAN  
 JIMMY DOYLE (Capt.)  
 THEO ENGLISH  
 JOHN DILLON  
 PADDY DOYLE  
 JOHN McKENNA



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a quick-exchange of McKenna and Carroll goals. Ollie Walsh next stretched high for one, brought it down to old foe McLoughlin, who, cracked it in. Carroll got a Kilkenny goal. It was their last resisting effort, for Nealon flashed in from Hill 16, beat the tackles with a shortened grip and beat Walsh, too, for Tipp's third.

At the close 3-14 overcame 2-8 and all the good of Kilkenny's Thurles victory had evaporated as Tipp booked another American journey.

But the championship, even in our expanding programme, holds its ancient place. Keating, injured for the League final and destined to be so again, was on for Larry Kiely, similarly unlucky, when Clare threw out the first challenge to the champions. Retrospectively, Clare's was at least as good as anyone's in a less than wonderful title series. After half-time O'Shea and Pyne rocked us with good goals before the ship steadied and McLoughlin and Keating raised green ones to clinch it.

Among Munster finals last year's has no exalted place. The crowds and the banners arrived from Cork in profusion. A wave of optimism had been generated by the win over Waterford in a replay whose toughness made the publicised misbehaviour of the League final seem positively mild.

There were ten even, uneventful minutes before Theo English drove in a spec-

ulative one that Cork's young 'keeper O'Neill did not arrest. The Marlfield veteran soon repeated, as McLoughlin's presence helped. That ended Cork, and the day's excitement, but Tipp played out the hour on a slackening rein, 4-11 to 0-5, with Cork rudely sent back to square one for further rebuilding.

One likes a climactic final to apply the stamp of greatness. We did not quite get it. Wexford had not been expected by many to be there at all, but they caught Kilkenny on August Sunday.

Paddy Doyle had been promoted for the Cork game, when neither Keating nor Kiely could field out. Glengoole's Kiely was first to recover, for Keating had added a broken arm to earlier ills. Wexford began well and with spirit, and so did the game before an uncountable audience of viewers at home, in Britain and in America.

Midway through the half the lanky, gangling but score-prone Sean McLoughlin delivered two hammer-blows to both the game and to Wexford. Devaney centred to the ten-yard mark, Jimmy flicked it onward and McLoughlin guided it past Nolan. The Hubbub had hardly died when Theo English hit a long one. McLoughlin darted out from O'Neill, grasped it right handed and hand-balled in again.

Yet for forward honours Sean had keen competition from Mackey McKenna, stamping his name forever on the great

occasion with five points superbly fought for and taken.

The impregnability of the Doyle-Maher-Carey line, the utter sureness of Tony Wall, the stern midfield battle of Roche and English against good men, and unselfish forward work—all were features of Tipp's twenty-first and John Doyle's Ring-matching eighth.

After that it should have been, musically speaking, diminuendo to the close. But the League had to be won, or won, on the cramped and dusty Gaelic Park arena in New York, where the unusual two-game aggregate system saw Tipp home narrowly in strange circumstances and without reaching their Irish best. Chicago and a successful exhibition ended a great tour.

Back to Ireland and the crescendo that ended all on the highest note. The Oireachtas drew out all the admirable character of this modest and likeable group of players. Kilkenny, harder than usual in tactics, had swept through them for a seven-point interval lead, and wiped out three quick resuming points. Surely this was it—some belated recompense for the Noremen—but no.

Back whipped Tipp for McLoughlin and Doyle goals and re-assuring points from marksmen all over the attack to master Kilkenny, who missed the injured Coogan and absent Keher, and prove to the hurling world that no team was ever more deservedly champions.



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# Commercials Capture Crown

**C**LOMDEL COMMERCIALS and Carrick-on-Suir Davins were the outstanding teams in South Tipperary during 1965. Commercials climaxed on the most successful years in their history by taking their first county senior football title for nine years, and Davins won their first divisional senior hurling title and came within an ace of adding the county title to it.

The general standard in all games was higher than in 1964 and sportsmanship was exceptionally good. The Divisional Secretary, Jerry O'Keeffe (Clonmel), received the fullest co-operation from all teams and the championships were run off as quickly as possible.

The hurling "show-piece" of the year, the senior final, was a thrilling affair. Reigning champions Marlfield put their title on the line against the Carrickmen and a hectic game ended in tremendous excitement as Mick Roche snatched a two-point win for his side with a last-minute goal from a 21-yard free.

The big names that day as far as Carrick were concerned were Roche, Ritchie Walsh, Noel Waters, Tom Arrigan, Stevie Cleary and Pat Arrigan.

Marlfield's Theo English tried every trick he knew to swing the game, as did Timmy Ryan, John McNamara, Pat Davin, Mick Egan and Conor O'Dwyer.

The football final was rather disappointing. Commercials, still smarting from their defeat by Fethard in the Tipperarymen's Cup final, were determined

to turn the tables on the "Blues" and succeeded, but only after a great rally by Fethard had just failed.

With 15 minutes to go Fethard had reduced a big half-time deficit to a solitary point, and exchanges became really exciting as they fought valiantly to get on terms. The Clonmel defence held out, however, and defied all their efforts to get the all-important point.

Paddy O'Connell played a leading role in Commercials win. So did Mick Egan, Brian O'Callaghan, Conor O'Dwyer, Anthony Burke and Liam Boland.

Gus Danagher was the man who sparked off the Fethard fight-back, and he was ably supported by Liam Condon, Sean Moloney, Timmy O'Dwyer and Chris Mullins.

Though Fethard failed in their attempt to win the divisional title, their success in the Tipperarymen's Cup provided some compensation. In the final of this competition they were trailing Commercials, but a sudden spurt saw them snatch a shock win over opponents who seemed to be coasting to an easy victory.

Ardfinnan, for so long the top dogs of the game in the county, did not figure in the final of either of the major competitions, but they fielded a very strong under-21 football side, which defeated Commercials in the final. Spearheaded by Michael "Babs" Keating, this team included a number of senior players together with some excellent minors. Their most consistent performers, apart from Keating, were Freddie Quinn, John

Cummings, the two Ryans and Mick Norris.

Commercials were disappointing in the final, but in the earlier rounds showed that in players like Tom Pollard, Kieron McGrath, Kevin Hackett, Anthony Burke and Roger Quirke they have strong reserve talent.

The strength of Carrick-on-Suir's reserves was shown in the under-21 hurling final, in which they defeated Killenaule by two goals. This game was a credit to both sides and to referee John O'Callaghan, who kept the play moving smoothly at all times, and Carrick's P. J. Ryan, Jack Walsh, the Graces, Tony Blackmore, Noel Butler and the Dennys all lived up to the promise they showed in the 1964 minor championship.

Had Killenaule triumphed they, too, would have represented the division with honour. And it was a pity, in one way, that Michael and Stephen Nash, Sean Cooke, Pat Ryan, Pat Cleary, Paddy Hennessey and Frank O'Meara had to be on a losing side.

Mullinahone won the newly-introduced intermediate football competition, and later beat the junior champions, Carrick-on-Suir, in a play-off to decide who would represent the division in the county junior championship. Mullinahone accounted for some useful teams on the way to the final and their progress next season will be closely watched.

The intermediate hurling crown was

(Continued overleaf)

The 1965 Commercials team which brought the fourth S.F. title to Clonmel. Back row (l. to r.): Denis O'Donoghue, Ml. O'Connell, Liam Boland, Tom Pollard, George Collins (sub.), Kieran McGrath, Mick Egan, Nial O'Donnell (sub.), Tom Fennessy (sub.), Anthony Burke, Brendan O'Keeffe. Front row (l. to r.): J. Ryan, Peter Archibold, Conor O'Dwyer, Tommy Williams (goal), Brian O'Callaghan, Timmy Ryan, Paddy O'Connell, Brendan Dunne (sub.), Pat McDonagh (sub.), Ollie Mathews (sub.).

(Photo—Boland.)



won by St. Luke's, and they then defeated Carrick Swan in the play-off for entry to the county junior championship. If their 1965 form is any criterion, St. Luke's will trouble many senior teams in the new season.

Commercials completed a double by winning the minor football title, beating Fethard easily in the final. Their best players were Billy Butler, Kieron McGrath, Kevin Hackett Larry Fagin and Joe O'Brien.

Davie Fitzgerald, in the Fethard colours, looked a really outstanding prospect, while Ger Leahy, Pat Barrett and

Cyril Robinson gave him sound assistance.

Carrick's narrow defeat of Marlfield and their subsequent great run in the county tests set most people talking about the present county championship arrangements, whereby the North and Mid finalists qualify whereas in the West and South only the champions get through.

The Southern champions' display gave ammunition to those who claim that all divisions should get the same treatment. Carrick-on-Suir demonstrated that hurling in South Tipperary has improved

considerably in recent years. Their game against Lorrha at Cashel proved their determination; that against Moycarkey showed their skill. While the two games against Sarsfields exposed some limitations, they are mainly a young side and may yet bring the county title South.

### WORTHY OPPONENTS

However, Carrick will face very still opposition in their own division. Many people thought Marlfield were unlucky to lose last year, and Theo English and Co. will be determined to turn the tables on their conquerors. Killenaule will also be very worthy opponents, for they will be re-inforced by the introduction of some of their under-21, and with the other teams also out to upset the form book a thrilling championship is in prospect.

Last season Commercials' strongest challengers were in the South. Fethard won the Tipperaryman's Cup and beat

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Ardfinnan and are good enough to hold their own against any opposition. And it would be unwise to write off Ardfinnan, who still have the nucleus of a championship-winning side. The re-entry of Mullinahone to senior ranks is very welcome and the men from Kickham's country may yet make their presence felt.

The following are the South Champions for 1965: S.F.—Clonmel Commercials; S.H.—Carrick-on-Suir; Inter. H.—St. Luke's (Clonmel); Inter. F.—Mullinahone; J.F.—Carrick-on-Suir; J.H.—Carrick Swans; Under-21 F.—Ardfinnan; Under-21 H.—Carrick-on-Suir; M.F.—Clonmel Commercials; M.H.—Killenaule.

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## NORTHERN HAPPENINGS

By Gerry McLoughlin

# Kilruane McDonagh Take Title In Topsy-Turvy Championship

**I**N 1965 North Tipperary had its most topsy-turvy senior hurling championship for many a year and not until Donie Nealon's last blast on the whistle on final day could anybody be sure where the Frank McGrath Cup was destined for. It finally rested in the home of Len Gaynor, the 20-year-old captain of Kilruane McDonagh.

Twelve teams entered and the antepost favourites were the champions,—Eire Og. Not alone had the Nenagh Club the team that won the championship in 1964, but new signing included the dynamic Tom Ryan, from Killenaule, the stylish Sean English, from Roscrea, and their own Michael Hynes, back again with his old club after a year with Kilruane McDonagh.

On paper Eire Og looked a stronger side than that which won the title in

1964 but in practice this was not the case. In their first outing they went down to Borrisokane by a single point, 4-6 to 2-11. Ironically, Eire Og were beaten by one of their own folk, for Noel McDonnell, who scored the winning point in the last minute, is himself a Nenaghman and played with Eire Og until he transferred to Borrisokane two seasons previously.

That was the first shock of the championship. But worse was to follow for the champions. In the Losers' Group they met a Moneygall team only three seasons back in senior ranks. Moneygall had given a spirited display before going under to Roscrea, but Nenagh were not expected to have any difficulty in getting back on the winning trail. What a surprise awaited them, however.

Moneygall, with five Gleeson brothers,

Gerry, John, Timmy, Jimmy and Bobby, three Collisons, Jack, Jim and Bob, two Ryans, Philip and Jack, a Tobin, Boland, McLeish and Condrón on their line-up, played with a daring, dashing, will-to-win that left Eire Og trailing by 2-11 to 3-4. Scenes of enthusiasm and excitement normally associated with a championship final greeted the victors, while the vanquished trooped off St. Cronan's Park, Roscrea wondering about their latest collapse, their second defeat in six weeks and one that deprived them of a title they had captured for only a second time in almost half a century.

Meanwhile, other first-round games had gone as expected (and through to the area finals were Roscrea, Lorrha, Borris-Ileigh, St. Flannan's and Toomevara. In the Losers' Group were Kilruane, who were later to turn the tide on their conquerors in the final, Burgess, Kiladangan, St. Patrick's and giant-killers Moneygall.

The weeding out continued in the Losers' Group until only Kilruane and Moneygall remained; Roscrea came through their area final with St. Flannan's (Continued overleaf)

**The 1965 North Tipp team which beat Kilkenny to retain their All-Ireland Vocational Schools title. Front Row (left to right): Jimmy Tucker, Sean Quigley, Michael Ryan, John Cummins, Joe Tynan, Paddy ('Bowler') Williams, Martin O'Sullivan, Liam O'Shea, Paddy Benton, Eamonn Powell. Back: Francis Murphy, Jimmy Butler, P. J. Hough, Tom Fox, Paddy McEvoy, Paddy Quigley, Liam Moloney, Eamonn Burke, Liam Hackett, Denis Casey, Oliver Quinn, Sean Nash and Ray Guest.**



nan's and looked nicely poised to put in a challenge for the title they held in 1963; but Borrisokane, although they had twelve points to spare over Borris-Ileigh were never impressive.

They had shown great spirit in ousting the champions but against Liam Devaney and his men they lacked this earlier urgency and had they not been made presents of four goals in the opening ten minutes could well have found themselves in trouble.

The area final between Lorrha and Toomevara aroused tremendous interest. Toomevara made no secret of the fact that they wanted to regain their place in the sun and Lorrha were equally determined to repeat their sensational win of the previous year. In a game of thrills and tension, Lorrha's all-important goal came in the closing stages to give them a 3-4 to 0-10 victory.

Toomevara's giant midfielder, Tom Ryan, gave such a display of hurling that day that he was recalled to the county selection. But his efforts were in vain, for the 'Greyhounds' attack lacked guile and penetration. They moved their forwards all over the place but the sought-for cure never arrived and the malady that had effected them earlier on remained to the end. Of their ten points, eight came from the hurley of Tom Ryan, seven of frees.

#### SAME SIDE

Kilruane and Moneygall clashed in the Losers' Group final. Moneygall fielded unchanged in personnel and positions from the side that shocked Eire Og but never played with the same speed, dash and fury. Indeed, they were never allowed to by a Kilruane team who were fully aware of their physical capabilities.

It was a hard hour's hurling, hall-marked by a number of fine passages of play and some brilliant individual exhibitions. Des Gaynor, Paddy Dwyer and Liam White were the winners' brightest stars; goalkeeper, Harry Condron, corner-back 'Spike' Nolan and midfielder Bob Collison did everything possible to achieve victory for Moneygall. The final score read 3-10 to 3-4 in favour of Kilruane.

Roscrea and Kilruane were the popular fancies to win through to the final. Roscrea came up for their semi-final clash with Lorrha minus inter-county stars Kieran Carey and John Dillon and their chance went in the first half, when they shot thirteen wides. And when the Lane brothers, Jim and Noel, found their form after the interval Lorrha were never in danger of defeat and won readily by 3-7 to 2-4.

#### HURLING 'INFERNO'

The second semi-final, between Kilruane and Borrisokane, was a hurling inferno that tested the courage and reserves of strength of many players. Unfancied Borrisokane got away to a whirlwind start, with four goals in the opening twelve minutes, and led at the interval by 4-3 to 1-2. Kilruane whittled away at this lead with five points in succession. Then, in a little over a minute, Gerry McCarthy had the ball twice in the Borrisokane net and Kilruane were in front for the first time.

A game that was already an inferno now blazed even more brilliantly, and at the end two superbly-fit teams were still locked in battle with the scores level, Kilruane 3-8, Borrisokane 4-5.

After the game it was said that Borrisokane had missed that metaphorical bus. And, as events proved the following Sunday, they had. In the replay Kilruane were not to be caught off balance



Donie Nealon . . . .  
refereed the final.

a second time and by the end of the first half it was crystal clear who was going to win. They were ahead at the interval by double scores, 2-8 to 1-4, and though Borrisokanes hopes were twice revived with goals Kilruane answered both almost immediately and at the call of time were clear winners by 4-12 to 3-5.

There were 4,000 people present in

McDonagh Park, Nenagh, for the final on August 22. It was a game that had its ups and downs but it was the closing minutes that dictated the final impressions. For these minutes brought heart-break to Lorrha when they appeared to have victory achieved and gave the championship to Kilruane when it looked as if they had let it slip out of their grasp.

Kilruane outplayed, out-maneuvred, and out-smarted Lorrha in the first half, but after having 75 per cent of the play were only in front by 2-9 to 3-0. This situation arose more through their own errors rather than to Lorrha's efforts. Lorrha improved in the second half and with ten minutes to go had moved into a one-point lead. And as Kilruane were reduced to fourteen men after one of their players was sent to the line fortune was now favouring Lorrha.

However, this handicap put new life into flagging McDonagh hearts. Left corner-forward Gerry McCarthy slipped unnoticed over to the far side and almost up to the seventy-yard line. Len Gaynor swung suddenly to life and flashed the ball low and hard to McCarthy. Away sped the fair-haired corner-forward, flicked the ball inside to Tom Moloughney, who promptly shoved it on to Sean Williams. And the right corner forward outpaced the defence to move right in and bang the ball to the net from close range. It was a great goal and one that gave Kilruane the championship they deserved to win but almost did not. The final score: Kilruane 3-10, Lorrha 5-2.

#### QUIRK OF FATE

A strange quirk of fate was that in 1964 Michael Hynes moved from Eire Og to Kilruane and Eire Og won the championship. In 1965 he returned to Eire Og and Kilruane took the title. Still, Michael is the proud possessor of a North senior medal won with Eire Og in 1957.

Football continues to be the poor relation of the division. The senior championship was won by Moneygall. Almost to a man they fielded the team that did duty in the hurling championship and it was the same fire and fury that brought them to the county final, where they finally bowed the knee to the South champions Clonmel Commercial.

The North junior hurling title went to Borrisokane, after a great battle with Ballina, and they would hardly have succeeded only for some brilliant goalkeeping by their captain, Seanie 'Scrapper' Phelan. Ballina were seeking their first title and, inspired by the play of Tony King, Ger. Keogh and Tom King, almost brought it off.

#### THE WINNERS

Championship winners with runners-up in brackets.

S.H.—Kilruane McDonagh (Lorrha); I.H.—Newport, (Knockshewgowna); J.H.—Borrisokane, (Ballina); M.H.—Roscrea, (Kilruane McDonagh); Juvenile H. Borris-Ileigh, (Kilruane McDonagh); S.F.—Moneygall, (Inane Rovers, Roscrea).

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## MID-TIPP REVIEW

# Topple Of Thurles The Season's Sensation

**T**HE conformity that had been the Mid Tipperary senior hurling championship for over a decade was disrupted in glorious fashion at Holycross last August, when Moycarkey-Borris toppled the divisional champions of ten years standing, Thurles Sarsfields. That the issue should require two meetings to decide the winners made success all the sweeter for the victors, who had close to achieving this long-awaited triumph on several occasions.

Not for 22 years had Moycarkey won a senior hurling title and, appropriately enough, their last success was also over the Thurles men. The result was as welcome as it was surprising to followers of the game in the Mid, where attendances, because of Sarsfields' monopoly, had noticeably dwindled.

### SURPRISE RESULT

It was a surprise result because Moycarkey's form earlier in the year had not augured well for their prospects of a title. They made very heavy weather of beating Drom-Inch in the first round, and even Drom supporters will admit that their side is far from a good senior combination. Indeed, had the losers had a more liberal slice of luck on that occasion, they would have won. As things turned out, two goals in the last five minutes helped the eventual Mid champions over the first hurdle.

The apathy that had characterised Moycarkey's play that day was again evident for their semi-final encounter against Holycross-Ballycahill, who had disposed of Thurles Kickhams in unconvincing fashion in the first round.

This pairing was generally acclaimed as 'the best you'll see in the Mid' and though Holycross were favourites, the fact that Moycarkey had a home venue, Littleton, balanced matters. Memories of

their epic meeting in the Losers' Group final the previous year, when it took three games to separate them, had whetted the appetites of followers, and a thrilling encounter was anticipated.

What an anti-climax the game proved! It was a dull lifeless affair, which Moycarkey won 1-8 to 1-5. Seldom have John Doyle, Michael Maher and Company from Holycross been in such subdued mood, and despite driving nineteen wides, Moycarkey deservedly qualified for the final. With Sean Carroll at centreback, Murt Duggan in goal, John Flanagan and Billy Nolan in attack making a return to the Moycarkey colours, the winners did look capable of better things.

Sarsfields, meanwhile, has disposed of the previous year's junior champions, Clonakenny, in a facile manner that gave little indication of their form, and was useless as a guide to assessing their capabilities. They had a bye to the final, and so the stage was set for the meeting that was to produce one of the biggest upsets in the form back for some time.

Moycarkey reached heights hitherto thought to be beyond their capabilities and, while it was not a great game, the fact that there was little between the teams engendered excitement. They were level at the interval, and with ten minutes to go Moycarkey were three points clear. Jimmy Doyle, however, urged Sarsfields to greater effort, and Doyle himself (2) and T. J. Semple pointed to leave them level: Sarsfields 4-6; Moycarkey 3-9, at the finish.

### REPLAY REQUIRED

A second hour was required, and Holycross was again the venue. On this occasion there was an obvious increase in the number of spectators, and the support given Moycarkey as they fought

their way to victory, was deafening. Sarsfields opened well, but Moycarkey soon settled in and, as on the first occasion, the teams were level at half-time.

Moycarkey, with Pat Ryan showing no ill effects after a long absence through injury, pressed home their advantage in pace in the early stages of the second half, and, when the inevitable Sarsfields rally came near the end, the winners had sufficient in reserve to stave off the forays of the Thurles men, and record a thrilling and well-deserved victory.

While this defeat ended Sarsfields interest in the Mid title, they still had a county title to defend, and were paired against Holycross in the Losers' Group final. Holycross had beaten Clonakenny with little difficulty and then repeated their first round victory over Kickhams, who had earlier beaten Drom-Inch in a veritable thriller, in which enthusiasm and effort compensated for lack of polish and skill.

### CRUDE, RUGGED

Holycross were outsiders for their meeting with Sarsfields, which was at Holycross. On a cold wintry day the Thurles men qualified for the county quarter-finals by having six points to spare (3-7 to 2-4), after a game that was rugged to the point of being crude.

Holycross depended too much on John Doyle and Michael Maher. And well though these performed, they could not match the balance of Sarsfields, for whom Tony Wall, Tim Walsh, Jimmy and Paddy Doyle, Sean McLoughlin and Patsy Butler impressed. This game also marked the return of Michael Murphy, the former county wing back who had been on the injured list for almost twelve

(continued overleaf)

months. He played at full-back and had a quiet hour.

On the football front, Templemore's bid for three-in-a-row was foiled by a youthful Loughmore-Castleiney team, whose teamwork and fitness were the deciding factors in their favour.

The champions to be, had little difficulty in disposing of Moycarkey in the first round at Gaile, being in no way flattered by a nine-point victory, 2-7 to 0-4. They were again well in command in the semi-final against Thurles Crokes, and it was appropriate enough that their stiffest task was in the final.

### MAIN ASSET

Templemore got to the final without playing a game, having got a walk-over from Templetuohy in the first round, and later a bye into the final. The experience of two previous finals was their main asset, and when the day came this was all they had to offer.

Loughmore, with Sean Kearney and county minors Jack Walshe and Eddie Webster in top form, were clearly the masters, and not all Benny Keating's and Billy Kelly's good work could prevent them from capturing the Ryan Cup (which they themselves had presented in 1964) for the first time. This was Loughmore's first Mid senior football success since 1959.

### FOUR TITLES

While Moycarkey's toppling of Sarsfields was undoubtedly a great feat, surely the most laudable achievement was Moyne-Templetuohy's winning of four divisional titles. And the fact that some players figured on all four teams made their successes all the more remarkable.

Few fancied the Moyne boys in the No. 1 junior hurling at the early stages of the competition, but they became firm favourites when they routed a Sarsfields team, that many had regarded as the likely champions. The winning margin of 5-13 to 1-2 served due notice that they fully intended regaining senior status, which they had relinquished two years previously.

Their final opponents, Boherlahan-Dualla, had shown good form against Upperchurch-Drombane in the semi-final, scoring a 3-5 to 2-2 victory, and their tougher, closer type of game was expected to upset their more stylish opponents. For 45 minutes it was anybody's game, but then, as had been the case on many previous occasions and was the case in all the finals Moyne contested, superior fitness began to tell. When Boherlahan began to feel the effects of their efforts, Moyne kept up the pressure to win by 1-7 to 0-4.

### EXCITING MATCH

On the same day that they won the No. 1 title, Moyne-Templetuohy also captured the No. 2 junior hurling crown, having three points to spare over Moycarkey-Borris in a most exciting match.

The junior football championship also resulted in victory for the Templetuohy lads, who were in fact retaining the title. They beat a poor Templemore fifteen by 3-10 to 0-3 in a dull semi-final, but their form did not augur well for their future prospects.

Thurles Kickhams, their rivals in the final, won much support in defeating a highly-fancied Loughmore - Castleiney team 1-8 to 1-5. The final went on similar lines to the junior hurling decider, with Kickhams making the running for threequarters of the game, and Moyne, aided by a soft goal, pulling out in the last quarter to win 2-10 to 1-8.

In the minor and under-21 grades, Moyne-Templetuohy were amalgamated with Loughmore-Castleiney, and together they captured county honours in both the minor hurling and football in 1964. With eight of those teams still eligible, the combination was fancied to repeat their successes.

### QUICK GOALS

In minor hurling, Sarsfields provided the opposition for the final, but Moyne came through by four points, 4-5 to 2-7. Two quick goals immediately after the restart paved the way for this triumph.

Drom-Inch were holders of the under-21 hurling title, and they fully intended to keep it. The final, between themselves and Moyne, provided thrills aplenty for a fair attendance at Holycross, and had Drom made the most of their chances, they, and not Moyne, would be the champions. Moyne capitalised on a weakness in the Drom full-back line, and got through for major scores, and victory by 5-4 to 3-7.

### EASY PASSAGE

The combination played as Loughmore-Castleiney in football, and had the easiest of easy passages in the under-21 competition, getting a walk-over from Moycarkey in the semi-final, and being similarly obliged by Thurles Crokes in the final. While Loughmore would, in all probability, have taken the title, it is a sad reflection on the other clubs, and their efforts for the revival of football in the county, that a championship could be won without ever having to kick a ball.

The final of the minor grade has not been decided as I write. Here Thurles Kickhams provide the opposition for Loughmore.

### THE WINNERS

The following then is a brief summary of the title-winners and runners-up: H.—Moycarkey-Borris (Sarsfields); No. 1, J.H.—Moyne-Templetuohy (Boherlahan-Dualla); No. 2, J.H.—Moyne-Templetuohy (Moycarkey-Borris); Under-21 H.—Moyne-Templetuohy (Drom-Inch); H. Moyne-Templetuohy (Sarsfields); S.F.—Loughmore-Castleiney (Templemore Eire Og); J.F.—Templetuohy-Moyne (Thurles Kickhams); Under-21 F.—Loughmore-Castleiney; M.F.—Undecided.

Away from the playing fields, the most important event was Paddy "Sweeper" Ryan's intimation to the Mid Board that he had decided to retire from the position of secretary, which he held for 18 years. Pressure of business forced the popular Moycarkey man to relinquish the office, which he had filled with efficiency and courtesy.

CASHEL KING CORMACKS winners of the 1964 Under-21 West Divisional Championship. Kneeling (left to right): M. Joy, G. Corcoran, M. Perdew, P. O'Donoghue, M. O'Sullivan, P. O'Sullivan, P. Walsh, J. O'Sullivan, T. McCormack, A. Ryan, C. O'Dwyer. Standing (left to right): W. Ryan, J. Dermody, J. Moloney, J. O'Connor, E. Marshall, Bro. Noonan (trainer), D. O'Connor, M. Leamy (Vice-Chairman), C. Davitt, J. McGrath, J. Byrne, J. O'Sullivan, P. O'Sullivan.



## SCOIL NA mBRAITHRE, DURLAS

# Ce Chuir Tiobraid Arann Ar Barr?

**S**IN ceist a phléann daoine to mion minic anois, ní amháin i gCo. Thiobraid Arann ach i ngach áit in Eirinn—nó ar domhan, dá n-abrainn é—ina gcuireann daoine an iománaíocht trí cheile: Cad is cúis le Tiobraid Arann a bheith chomh fada sin chun tosaigh le blianta anuas? Má scagann duine na cúiseanna go léir, is dóigh liom go dtiocfaidh sé ar fháth amháin a bhfuil níos mó tabhacht leis ná aon cheann eile. Sé fáth é ná Scoil na mBráithre, Dúrlas.

Cad eile a mbeithfeá ag siúil, leis, dar ndóigh, ó scoil atá i gcliabhán féin Chumann Lúthchleas Gael? Bhí Scoil na mBráithre ar oscailt roinnt blianta nuair a bunaíodh an Cumann i dTeach Osta Uí Aodha. Le fada siar bhí dlúth-bhaint idir an scoil agus cluichí na nGael.

Nach as “an Mhainistir,” mar a thugtar air go ceanúil, a tháinig Jim Stapelton, a bhí ina chaptaen ar an bhfoireann a bhuaigh an chéad chraobh do Thiobraid Arann sa bhliain 1887? Agus nach sa scoil chéanna a hoileadh Jimmy Doyle, captaen Thiobraid Arann, curáí na hÉireann arís, 1965? Idir eatarthu b'iad buachaillí Scoil na mBráithre, Dúrlas, a bhí ina gcaptaein ar dheich bhfoirne chontae Thiobraid Arann a bhain Corn Sam Mhic Uidhir amach.

### GAISCIGH

Ba liosta le háireamh na gaiscigh iománaíochta a chuaigh ar scoil ann — Pat Stakelum, Seán Kenny, Jimmy Finn, Tony Wall, Michael Murphy—gan ach na captaein eile ó 1949 anuas a lua. Chómh maith leo sin tá ainmneacha cáiliúla eile ar rolla na sean-scoile, ainmneacha ar nós Paddy Kenny, Tony Brennan (go ndéana Dia tróchaire air) Tommy Doyle agus, dar ndóigh, cá bhfágfá John Doyle ó Mhainistir na Croise.

Cuid acu sin, bhain siad amach cáil sular fhág siad an scoil in aon

chor. Cuirtear an-suim i gcónaí i gCorn an Artaigh i nDúrlas. Ba sa bhliain 1933 a chéadbhuaigh siad é nuair chriog siad an Mhainistir Thuaidh, Corcaigh. Cúig uaire ina dhiaidh sin a bhuaigh an corn cáiliúil seo, an uair deiridh sa bhliain 1956.

### DOCHAS

Is minic ó shin a bhí dóchas ag leantóirí na scoile go mbainfidis amach an chraobh. Bhuaigh siad Corn an Rianaigh (Iomáint faoi 17) ón Mhainistir Thuaidh sa bhliain 1960 agus bhí siad i gcraobhchluiche an Artaigh an bhliain dar gcionn i gcoinne na Mainistreach céanna. Ach bhuaigh na Corcaigh an lá le dhá chúilín. D'éirigh le Dúrlas na cosa a thabhairt leo ó fhoireann Chorcaíoch eile anuraidh, nuair bhuaigh siad Corn an Rianaigh arís—ó Choláiste Bharra, Fearann Phiaraís an turas seo.

### MI-ADH

Bhí foirne maithe ag an scoil i gcónaí, fiú amháin sna blianta nach raibh an t-ádh leo. Agus creid uaim é nach raibh ann ach an mí-ádh a bhuaigh orthu go rí-mhínic, go mór-mhór nuair chasaidis le Coláiste Fhlannáin, Inis. Ach i mbliana creideann siad go bhfuil casadh tagtha sa taoide. Tá Colaiste Flannáin as an gcomórtas. Bhuaigh an Mhainistir Thuaidh orthu. Tá Dúrlas sa leathchraobh arís. Creideann siad gurb í seo an bhliain dóibhsean. Nach é seo cuimhneachán 150 bliain a mbunaithe? Tá an sean-sporad beo arís.

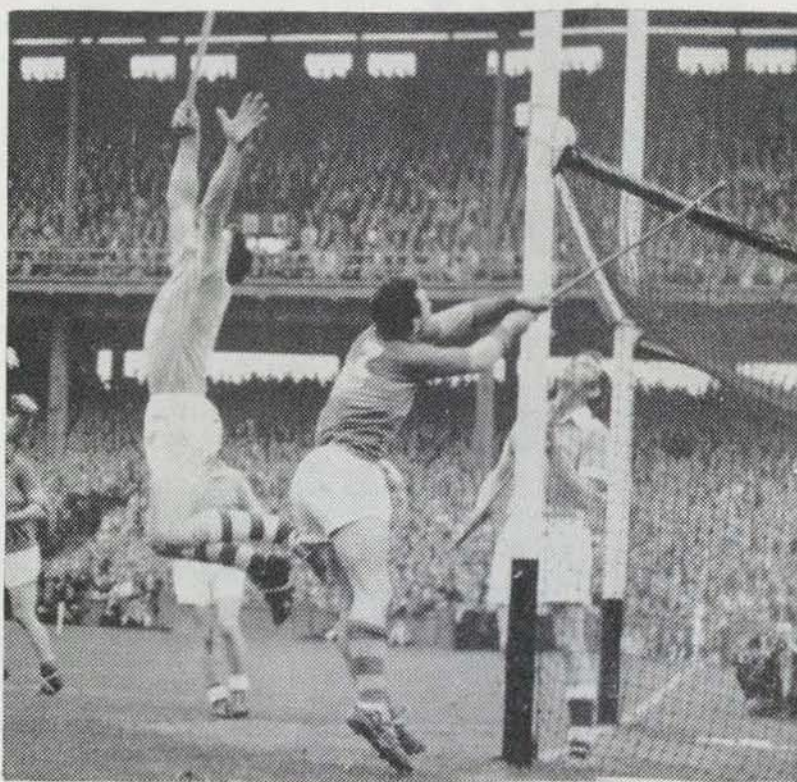
Tá foireann mhaith acu—sár-mhaith, adeir daoine airithe. Fanaim le h-am. Sé a neosfaidh scéala. Ach pé toradh a bheidh ar na comórtais i mbliana fanfaidh an iománaíocht chómh láidir riamh i cliabhán chluichí na nGael Dúrlas Eile Uí Fhógartaigh agus i Scoil na mBráithre a thug oiread sin gaiscíoch don chluiche is ansa le Gaeil.



## TIPPERARY—DEFENDING ... AND ATTACKING

Above: JOHN DOYLE takes on Wexford's NED WHEELER and MARTIN CODD in this race for possession during the 1965 All-Ireland final.

Right: LAR FOLEY, the Dublin full-back, makes a vain attempt to save this Tipperary point while John McKenna is on the spot just in case.



# THE MAGIC OF 'MOYNE'

**S**UCCESS stories in sport, as indeed in most walks of life, are 'two a penny,' yet, each has its own distinctive magic, which familiarly or even regular retelling cannot fully diminish. A case in point is the achievement of Moyne-Templetuohy Club, which last year won three Mid-Tipperary divisional titles; amalgamated with Loughmore-Castleiney for the under-21 and minor grades, to carry off three more championships; and qualified for the final of the minor football competition, which they won in 1964.

The titles won include the No. 1 and No. 2 junior hurling, minor hurling, under-21 hurling, junior football and under-21 football. And they are firm favourites to defeat Thurles Kickhams and retain their minor football crown.

These successes were no 'flash in the pan,' or overnight victories, but were the result of dedicated effort over a period of years. Moyne-Templetuohy figured regularly in the honours' lists of Bord na nOg, the board in charge of juvenile games in Tipperary, and one did not have to be a sage to predict that this devotion of time and effort to the juveniles would produce its own reward in due course.

Of course, all this effort would have been in vain had the players not possessed the ability. 'You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear,' you know. Club officials carefully and meticulously coaxed, coached and groomed their boys through the difficult early juvenile stages, so that now, with many of the team that brought them their first juvenile success in '59, maturing into players of more than average ability, the club seems certain of a generous quota of trophies annually, for several years to come.

## ALL BUT TWO

The only championships that Moyne-Templetuohy did not win, were the senior hurling and senior football. Being a junior hurling club they could not take part in the senior hurling competition, but as 1964 junior football champions they were entitled to play in senior football.

They did enter a team but the club's officials, quite rightly felt that, as many of their players were eligible for minor fare, it would not be fair to thrust them

into the top rank, at least not for another year.

Though they had been regular title-holders in the juvenile championships over the years, and though they won both minor hurling and minor football county championships in 1964, few followers of Gaelic games in Mid Tipperary expected Moyne-Templetuohy to make the clean sweep they did. Sarsfields' dominance of the senior hurling scene, both at county and divisional level, tended to shove into the background the achievements of the country club.

Moyne did win county junior hurling honours in 1961, but two seasons of rather indifferent performances in senior ranks prompted their return to junior fare. There was little indication here of the triumphs in store during 1965.

## SIXTY FOUR PLAYERS

In winning so many championships, Moyne-Templetuohy had a panel of about 64 players. And if one omits the Loughmore-Castleiney contribution to the age-group teams, one finds that roughly 50 parishoners made up the various teams. Any country club that encourages so many to actively take an interest in the national games deserves whatever comes its way in the line of honours. Would that there was more 'Moyne-Templetuohys' in Tipperary and throughout the country.

While their championship-winning spree was helped considerably by the fact that many of various panels of players had been regularly together since their juvenile days, the tremendous spirit and atmosphere of comradeship that pervades the club, both at official and player level, was also a vital factor. The influence of the Loughmore-Castleiney was felt mostly in the minor and under-21 football competitions, but the adaptability of the players was an important asset, that helped carry the club to victory in both codes.

Many of the players figured on hurling and football teams. Michael Coen, for example, was a member of all six winning teams, and was also on the minor football team. Four other lads, Martin Esmonde, Paddy Sweeney, Paddy Troy and Jack Finn, all minors, won five medals, and are in line for a minor football medal as well. Michael Shelley and

Jimmy Cullagh figured on four of the teams, and are likewise eligible for minor football. Don Grady and Dinny Dunne, the under-21 hurling captain, also won four medals.

With such a wealth of talent, it is not surprising that the club had players representing the county at different levels. On the minor football team that lost to Kerry in the Munster final were Paddy Sweeney, Michael Buggy, Jack Walsh and Eddie Webster, the last two hailing from Loughmore-Castleiney.

Sean Kearney (Loughmore) played on the junior football team beaten by Clare and on the under-21 football team beaten in the Munster final by Cork. He later got promoted to the senior team, and has made a number of league appearances.

Paddy Sweeney and Eddie Webster also played on the under-21 football team in the later stages of the competition, and Big Billy O'Grady manned the right half-forward spot on the county's junior hurling team, that lost to Cork in the first round. All played with distinction and helped bring Moyne-Templetuohy Club more and more to the notice of the public.

## RARE FEATURE

A rare feature in any sport is a father and son playing together on the same team, but Moyne-Templetuohy had such a combination, with the Sweeneys, Billy and Paddy, both members of the No. 1 junior hurling team.

Billy, who is a well-known referee and now at the veteran stage, was one of the mainstays of the No. 2 hurling team and a sub on the first team. After helping the No. 2's to divisional honours over Moycarkey, later in the same afternoon he went on at full-forward for the No. 1's, and showed that age had not impaired his quick eye, or swift effective pull. Though still a minor, Paddy has already built up a big reputation and seems destined for great things in the future.

## THE COMMITTEE

Moyne-Templetuohy are a successful club, and behind every successful club is a hard-working committee. In this respect Moyne-Templetuohy were fortunate, in that they had men of the calibre of Johnny Everard, Tom Purcell and Billy Sweeney to take charge of the teams. Heading the Committee with indefatigable enthusiasm, is Fr. Tom O'Keeffe, C.C., Templetuohy, whose interest in the club never wanes, in good times or bad, and who is a constant source of encouragement to the players.

Perhaps the busiest man on the Committee is secretary Mick Troy, but he makes light of his onerous task, his gay, lively conversation never betraying the fact that he puts such a lot of time and hard work into his job. Keeping track of the affairs of so many winning teams is no easy job but Mick takes it all in his stride.

Moyne-Templetuohy's achievements during 1965 are sufficient to ensure honourable mention in any history on the G.A.A. in Tipperary. But if indications are correct, last year's accomplishments are only the beginning of what may well prove a 'golden era' in the club's history.

Raymond Smith  
Asks . . .

## Does John Doyle Belong

**T**HE last tense, dramatic moments of an old-style Munster final between Cork and Tipperary tick away. The hair sweeps down in an unruly lock over his forehead, the sweat glistens on his brow and now his socks are down around his ankles.

He stands there firm as a rock, broad shoulders squared to the struggle, going in powerfully to the tackle, flesh meeting flesh in a bone-crushing clash and the crowd roars, a full-throated roar from Munstermen who know the full significance of a moment like this. And then he sweeps the ball away in a long relieving clearance and the blood goes tingling in the veins.

### MAN'S GAME

This is hurling. This is what makes hurling "a man's game," as John Keane, the old Waterford star, will tell you.

And the man who makes it thus in the sixties is John Doyle, the player who has been described as the "Matt The Thrasher" of Tipperary hurling, "The Modern Colossus" of the game, the "Rock of Cashel" of the Tipperary defence.

Pick whichever nomenclature you will, he belongs to an age that is past. And for old-timers his hurling is a throw-back to those days in Thurles in the forties, when there was a power and a glory in the meetings of Limerick and Cork.

I smile when I hear the squeamish express the opinion that John's brand of hurling is too tough. They should have been around in the days when the frontal charge was in vogue and the man in possession could, in going through, hit the opposing defender a hefty shoulder—and was sure to be met with a heftier one himself. Mick Mackey revelled in this type of game.

"I am sorry to say that hurling is

losing much of its appeal through over-strict refereeing," said John Doyle to me one day. "In fact, it is becoming too much of a kid-glove affair for my liking. Nowadays if you give a man a manly shoulder after meeting him in a hip-to-hip clash, some referees immediately blow the whistle and they will almost take your name if your opponent is knocked off his feet. I sometimes think that I belong to the wrong era. I should have been around in the thirties or early forties when men were men, so to speak, on the hurling field."

Now I hasten to add that this is not to be taken as advocating a rough and tough type of game. There is a world of difference between a fair, manly shoulder and a dangerous charge—the point is that some referees do not seem to be able to distinguish between the two and the game suffers as a result.

### IMPRESSION

The impression John sometimes gives on the field is completely foreign to the man he is off the field. I know him well, and if he was not such a likeable personality with a ready wit and keen sense of humour, he would not be so popular with Tipperary supporters — and with hurling followers everywhere.

You see, when John goes on the field wearing the Blue and Gold of Tipperary, he realises the tradition behind the jersey (a famous Tubberadora hurler, Ned Maher, was related to John's father). And his dedication to the game and to the task of seeing that Tipperary retains its place in the sun is so great that he gives every inch of his powerful frame in forging victory for the county.

I met him in Limerick after the

1965 Munster final against Cork and remarked to him: "I suppose you are tired of beating Cork, now?"

He looked at me almost with surprise and a determined glint came into his eye. "We knew enough of defeat in the fifties. There is no pity in the Munster championship between Cork and Tipperary. We will go on winning as long as we can."

### UNFINISHED

Earlier in the 1965 season I was discussing with him Tipperary's prospects of winning the League and earning a trip to the States. "We will win, no matter who our opponents are," he said. And then added jocosely with that mischievous gleam in his eye: "We have some unfinished business on Broadway!"

That is the kind of defiant purposefulness that some people cannot understand, and it explains why Tipperary have never lost when there is a trip to the States at stake.

They rise to it when the challenge is greatest, and when they set their hearts on winning a particular trophy or particular game, the odds are very short indeed that they will achieve their aim.

John Doyle was playing minor for Tipperary when he was sixteen, and made his senior championship debut against Cork in 1949, at the age of nineteen.

Once he arrived he came to stay. But in a career as long as John Doyle's, there must naturally be ups and downs.

In 1957 he knew how the mood of supporters can change after a disappointing game on Paddy Barry, then at his most dangerous. In one other game Cork had sent in a minor, Pat Healy, on him in the second half and it was a shrewd move, as John could not really get

# To The Wrong Era?

to grips in his normal manner with such a young, fast player. You can't tackle a minor as you could a senior.

But it is proof indeed of his greatness that, just when people were thinking his career had ended, he found a new spring in 1958 at left wing back.

I have seen him give better displays that season than he has ever given, and I think the switching of Doyle to the half-back line contributed more than anything else to the title success. He was glorious against Cork, forming a powerful bulwark of defence with Jimmy Finn and the captain, Tony Wall.

Had he been playing at wing back instead of corner back in some of those earlier games in the 1954-'57 period against Cork, things might have been different for Tipperary. He could have moved out to take over the left wing back position on Tommy Doyle's retirement and a replacement would have been more easily found in the corner.

## AMAZED

It has always amazed me how John Doyle manages to keep so fit. He farms 120 acres at Holycross, about four miles from Thurles.

I met him at the reception given by the Tipperary Association in Dublin after the 1965 All-Ireland against Wexford. He was so composed about the whole thing, you would not imagine for a moment that he had won his eighth All-Ireland medal that day to equal Christy Ring's record. People were coming up all the time to shake his hand and to get his autograph.

And the next morning he was back as usual on his farm; and he had gone to the creamery before city dwellers had shaken the sleep from their eyes. If he is a dedicated hurler, he is also a dedicated worker.

He is married to Anne Rejdy, whose brother, Ray (now a missionary priest) was one of Tipperary's most outstanding minors and also played senior for Sarsfields and for the county. Some day John (junr.) may follow in his father's footsteps.

## BURST OF SPEED

John has a quicker burst of speed than is generally realised. Indeed, he can keep pace with, and even outmatch, the fastest of his team-mates in training sprints. This has helped him to stay at the top for so long, and when people talk in terms of his being caught for speed, they overlook this vital factor.

Will he go for the ninth? It is the question of the moment — the big question. Naturally I broached the subject to him on the day he had won his eight.

John is non-committal at this stage

and will not reach a final decision until the Spring—before the commencement of the New Season. In fact, we may not know definitely until the start of the next championship season. "A year can make a lot of difference," he said.

Seventeen years at the top—and still going strong. What an amazing man. Even if he wanted to retire now, he would find it hard to do so. All Tipperary wants him to continue, and his team-mates too.

I asked Jimmy Doyle, the captain, after the defeat of Wexford if Tipperary had anything left to win, to spur them on to greater heights of endeavour: "We are now setting our sights on John getting that ninth medal to create a new record," he replied.

And if Tipperary set their hearts on it and John Doyle comes out again next season, it will not be easy to see them fail.



# Semi-final, final scores and teams . . .

## TIPPERARY'S TWENTY-ONE

1.—1887: Tipp (Thurles) v. Clare "O'Briens," 1-8 to 0-4; v. Kilkenny (Tullaroan), 4-7 to nil; v. Galway (Meelick), 1-2 to nil.

**Final team:** Jim Stapleton (capt.), Tom Burke, Ned Murphy, Pat Leahy, Jack Dunne, Andy and Matty Maher, Ned Bowe, John Mockler, Tom Stapleton, Jer Dwyer, Tom Carroll, Mick Carroll, Tom Maher, Dan and Jer Ryan, John Leamy, Tommy Healy, Tim Dwyer, Ned Lambe, Martin McNamara.

2.—1895: Tipp (Tubberadora Sel.) v. Limerick, 7-8 to 0-2; v. Kilkenny (Tullaroan), 6-8 to 1-0.

**Final team:** Mikey Maher (capt.), Denis and Johnny Walsh, Ned Maher, Jim and Tim Flanagan, Jack Connolly, Jack Maher, Ned Brennan, John Maher, Bill Devane, Phil Byrne, Peter Maher, Will Kerwick, Paddy Riordan, Jim Gleeson, Fergus Moriarty.

3.—1896: Tipp (Tubberadora Sel.) v. Clare (Tulla), 5-1 to 0-1; v. Cork (Ballyhea), 1-3 each, match unfinished; v. Cork (Ballyhea), 7-9 to 2-3 (replay); v. Dublin (Commercials), 8-13 to 0-4.

**Final team:** Mikey Maher (capt.), John and Denis Walsh, Phil Scanlan, Ned Brennan, Jack Connolly, Phil Byrne, Tom Ryan, Ned and John Maher, Jim and Tim Flanagan, Bill Devane, Tim Condon, E. D. Ryan, Paddy Doherty, Jack Maher.

4.—1898: Tipp (Tubberadora Sel.) v. Cork (Blackrock), 3-0 to 2-3; v. Cork (Blackrock), 1-13 to 1-2 (replay); v. Kilkenny (Tullaroan, Mooncoin, Three Castles), 7-13 to 3-10.

**Final team:** Mikey Maher (capt.), John and Denis Walsh, Watty Dunne, Jack Connolly Bill Devane, E. D. Ryan, Ned Brennan, Phil Byrne, John and Ned Maher, Tom Ryan, Jack Maher, Tim Condon, Jim O'Keefe, R. O'Keefe.

5.—1899: Tipp (Horse and Jockey Sel.) v. Clare (Tulla), 5-16 to 0-8; v. Wexford, 3-12 to 1-4.

**Final team:** Tim Condon (capt.), Jim, Joe and Dick O'Keefe, Mike Wall, Billy, Jack and Bill Gleeson, Jimmy Ryan, Jack Flanagan, Jack Maher, Watty Dunne, Mikey Maher, Phil Byrne, Denis and John Walsh, Tom Ryan.

6.—1900: Tipp (Two-Mile-Borris Sel.) v. Cork (Redmonds), 0-12 to 0-9; v. Clare (Tulla), 6-11 to 1-6; v. Kerry (Kilmoyley), 6-11 to 1-9; v. Kilkenny (Mooncoin), 0-14 to 1-8; v. Galway, 6-13 to 1-5; v. London-Irish, 2-5 to 0-6.

**Final team:** Ned Hayes (capt.), Matty Ryan, Billy Maher, Tom Allen, Matt Purcell, Paddy Maher (Best), Paddy Hayes, Mike Wall, Bill Jack and Billy Gleeson, Jim O'Keefe, Mikey Maher, Ned Maher, Johnny Walsh, Tom Ryan, Tom Semple. Subs.: Tom Kennedy, John Hackett, Tom Whelan, Paddy Stapleton.

7.—1906: Tipp (Thurles Sel.) v. Limerick (Caherline), 2-12 to 0-4; v. Clare, 5-10 to 0-7; v. Cork, 3-4 to 0-9; v. Galway, 7-14 to 0-2; v. Dublin, 3-16 to 3-8.

**Final team:** Tom Semple (capt.), Jack Mockler, "Hawk" O'Brien, Hugh Shelly, Tom Kenna, Jer Hayes, Paddy Brolan, Tom Kerwick, Martin O'Brien, Paddy Riordan, Paddy Burke, Tom Allen, Paddy Maher (Best), Jimmy Burke, Jack Gleeson, Joe O'Keefe, Tim Gleeson.

8.—1908: Tipp (Thurles Sel.) v. Waterford, 7-16 to 0-5; v. Cork (Blackrock), 2-11 to 3-7; v. Kerry, w.o. Kerry withdrew; v. Galway, 5-15 to 1-0; v. Dublin (Kickhams), 2-5 to 1-8; v. Dublin (replay) 3-15 to 1-5.

**Final team:** Tom Semple (capt.), Hugh Shelly, Paddy Brolan, Jack Mockler, Jack Mooney, Tom Kenna, "Hawk" O'Brien, Martin O'Brien, Tom Kerwick, Joe Moloughney, Paddy Burke, Anthony Carew, Mick Dwyer, Tim Gleeson, Pat and John Fitzgerald, Jimmy Burke.



**DONAL O'BRIEN . . . kept goal in 1961 and '62**

9.—1916: Tipp v. Kerry, 4-2 to 0-1; v. Limerick, 4-4 to 2-4; v. Cork, 5-0 to 1-2; v. Galway, 8-1 to 0-0; v. Kilkenny, 5-4 to 3-2.

**Final team:** Johnny Leahy (capt.), Dick and Denis Walsh, Hugh Shelly, Paddy Leahy, Jimmy Murphy, Joe Fitzpatrick, Jack Power, Tom Shanahan, Jer Collison, Willie Dwyer, Willie Dwyer, Arthur O'Donnell, Jack Doherty, Tom Dwan. Subs.: Jack Gleeson, Joe Nagle, Dan Brien, Mick Leahy, Ned Croke.

10.—1925: Tipp v. Kerry, no score available; v. Cork, 5-3 to 5-1; v. Waterford, 6-6 to 1-2; v. Antrim, no score available; v. Galway, 5-6 to 1-5.

**Final team:** Johnny Leahy, Paddy Leahy, Arthur O'Donnell, Paddy Dwyer, Jack and Paddy Power, J. J. Hayes, Bill Ryan, Martin Mockler, Martin Kennedy, Stephen Hackett.



**SEAMUS BANNON . . . medal winner in 1949, '50 and '51.**

Mick and Jack Darcy, Tom Duffy, Phil Cahill, Bill Quinn, Stephen Kenny, J. and P. Kennedy.

11.—1930: Tipp v. Waterford, 2-5 to 0-1; v. Clare, 6-4 to 2-8; v. Galway, 6-8 to 2-4; v. Dublin, 2-7 to 1-3.

**Final team:** John Joe Callanan (capt.), James Harney, Martin Kennedy, Tommy Leahy, Michael Cronin, Phil Cahill, Tommy Treacy, Jim Lanigan, Tommy Butler, Phil Purcell, John Maher, Mick Ryan, Paul McKenna, Jimmy O'Loughlin, Tom O'Meara, Jimmy Heeney, Jack McKenna, Jack Donovan, Jack Stapleton, Tommy Butler, Mick Maher.

12.—1937: Tipp v. Cork, 4-3 to 3-5; v. Limerick, 6-3 to 4-3; v. Kilkenny, 3-11 to 0-3.

**Final team:** Jim Lanigan (capt.), John Maher, Ger Connolly, Tommy Butler, Denis Murphy, Tommy Doyle, Johnny Ryan and Paddy Ryan, Dinny O'Gorman, Tommy Treacy, Jimmy Cooney, Willie Wall, John Gleeson, Willie O'Donnell, Jimmy Coffey.

13.—1945: Tipp v. Waterford, 3-6 to 0-3; v. Cork, 2-13 to 3-2; v. Limerick, 4-3 to 2-6; v. Antrim, 5-9 to 1-6; v. Kilkenny 5-6 to 3-6.

**Final team:** John Maher (capt.), Jimmy Maher, Jim Devitt, Jer Connolly, Flor Coffey, Mick Murphy, Tom Purcell, Tom Wall, Henry Gouldsboro, Murt Ryan, Tommy Doyle, Eddie Gleeson, John Coffey, Tony Brennan, Paddy (Sweeper) Ryan.

14.—1949: Tipp v. Cork, 3-10 to 3-10; v. Cork (replay), 2-8 to 1-9; v. Limerick, 1-16 to 2-10; v. Antrim, 6-18 to 1-4; v. Laois, 3-11 to 0-3.

**Final team:** Pat Stakelum (capt.), Tony Reddan, Mickey Byrne, Tony Brennan, John Doyle, Flor Coffey, Tommy Doyle, Sean Kenny, Phil Shanahan, Tommy Ryan, Mick Ryan, Jimmy Kennedy, Jack Ryan, M. "Sonny" Maher, Seamus Bannon. Subs.: Paddy Kenny.

15.—1950: Tipp v. Limerick, 4-8 to 0-8; v. Clare, 2-13 to 3-7; v. Cork, 2-17 to 3-11; v. Galway, 4-7 to 2-6; v. Kilkenny, 1-9 to 1-8.

**Final team:** Sean Kenny (capt.), Tony Reddan, Mickey Byrne, Tony Brennan, John Doyle, Tommy Doyle, Pat Stakelum, Jimmy Finn, Phil Shanahan, Ned Ryan, Mick Ryan, Jimmy Kennedy, Paddy Kenny "Sonny" Maher, Seamus Bannon. Sub.: Paddy Kenny.

16.—1951: Tipp v. Waterford, 2-10 to 1-10; v. Limerick, 3-8 to 1-6; v. Cork, 2-11 to 2-9; v. Wexford, 7-7 to 3-9.

**Final team:** Jimmy Finn (capt.), Tony Reddan, Mickey Byrne, Tony Brennan, John Doyle, Pat Stakelum, Tommy Doyle, Phil Shanahan, John Hough, Ned Ryan, Mick Ryan, Tim Ryan, Paddy Kenny, "Sonny" Maher, Seamus Bannon. Sub.: Sean Kenny.

17.—1958: Tipp v. Limerick, 2-10 to 1-5; v. Cork, 2-6 to 2-4; v. Waterford, 4-12 to 1-5; v. Kilkenny, 1-13 to 1-8; v. Galway, 4-9 to 2-5.

**Final team:** Tony Wall (capt.), John O'Grady, Mickey Byrne, Mick Maher, Kieran Carey, Jimmy Finn, John Doyle, Theo English, John Hough, Jimmy Doyle, Tom Larkin, Donie Nealon, Larry Keane, Liam Devaney, Liam Connolly.

18.—1961: v. Galway, 7-12 to 5-6; v. Cork, 3-6 to 0-7; v. Dublin, 0-16 to 1-12.

**Final team:** Matt Hassett (capt.), Donal O'Brien, Mick Maher, Kieran Carey, Mick Burns, Tony Wall, John Doyle, Matt O'Gara, Theo English, Jimmy Doyle, Liam Devaney, Donie Nealon, John McKenna, Billy Moloughney, Tom Moloughney. Subs.: Tom Ryan, John Hough, Sean McLoughlin.

19.—1962: v. Limerick, 3-12 to 4-9; v. Limerick, 5-13 to 2-4 (replay); v. Waterford, 5-14 to 2-3; v. Wexford, 3-10 to 2-11.

**Final team:** Jimmy Doyle (capt.), Donal



# And other honours too . . .

O'Brien, John Doyle, Mick Maher, Kieran Carey, Matt O'Gara, Tony Wall, Mick Burns, Theo English, Liam Devaney, John McKenna, Tom Ryan, Donie Nealon, Tom Moloughney, Sean McLoughlin. Sub.: Tom Ryan (Toom).

20—1964: v. Clare, 6-13 to 2-5; v. Cork, 3-13 to 1-5; v. Kilkenny, 5-13 to 2-8.

Final team: Mick Murphy (capt.), John O'Donoghue, John Doyle, Mick Maher, Kieran Carey, Mick Burns, Tony Wall, Theo English, Mick Roche, Jimmy Doyle, Larry Kiely, Mick Keating, Donie Nealon, John McKenna, Sean McLoughlin. Subs.: Liam Devaney, Mick Lonergan.

21—1965: v. Clare, 5-8 to 3-3; v. Cork, 4-11 to 0-5; v. Wexford, 2-16 to 0-10.

Final team: John O'Donoghue, John Doyle, Mick Maher, Kieran Carey, Mick Burns, Tony

Wall, Len Gaynor, Theo English, Mick Roche, Jimmy Doyle, Larry Kiely, Liam Devaney, Donie Nealon, John McKenna, Sean McLoughlin.

National Leagues (12): 1927-'8, 1948-'9, 1949-'50, 1951-'2; 1953-'4, 1954-'5, 1956-'7, 1958-'9, 1959-'60, 1960-'61, 1963-'4, 1964-'5.

St. Brendan Cup (4): 1955, '57, '59, '60.

Junior Hurling All-Irelands (7): 1913, '15, '24, '26, '30, '33, '53.

Minor Hurling All-Ireland (12): 1930, '32, '33, '34, '47, '49, '52, '53, '55, '56, '57, '59.

Under-21 Hurling All-Irelands (1): 1964.

Intermediate Hurling All-Irelands (1): 1963.

Oireachtas Hurling Cups (7): 1945, '49, '60, '61, '63, '64, '65.

Senior Football All-Irelands (4): 1889, '95, 1900, '20.

Junior Football All-Irelands (2): 1912, '23.

Minor Football All-Irelands (1): 1934.



JOHN O'GRADY, Co-ordinating Editor of this Yearbook, was in goal on the 1958 side.



SEAN McLOUGHLIN . . . played on the victorious teams of 1961 (when he came in as a sub.), '62, '64 and '65.

## County Senior Champions

### HURLING

- 1887—Thurles
- '88—Clonoulty
- '89—Moycarkey
- '90—Toomevara
- '91-'93—None
- '94—Drombane
- '95-'96—Tubberadora
- '97—Suirview
- '98—Tubberadora
- '99—Horse and Jockey
- 1900—Two-Mile-Borris
- '01—Ballyarsna
- '02—Nenagh De Wets
- '03—Two-Mile-Borris
- '04—Thurles
- '05—Two-Mile-Borris
- '06-'09—Thurles
- 1910—Toomevara
- '11—Thurles
- '12-'14—Toomevara
- '15-'18—Boherlahan
- '19—Toomevara
- '20-'21—None
- '22—Boherlahan
- '23—Toomevara
- '24-'25—Boherlahan
- '26—Moycarkey
- '27-'28—Boherlahan
- '29—Thurles
- '30-'31—Toomevara
- '32-'34—Moycarkey-Borris
- '35-'36—Thurles
- '37—Moycarkey-Borris
- '38-'39—Thurles
- '40—Moycarkey-Borris
- '41—Boherlahan
- '42—Thurles
- '43—Eire Og, Anacarty
- '44-'46—Thurles
- '47—Carrick Swans
- '48—Holycross
- '49-'50—Borrisoleigh
- '51—Holycross
- '52—Thurles
- '53—Borrisoleigh
- '54—Holycross
- '55-'59—Thurles
- '60—Toomevara
- '61-'65—Thurles
- '91-'93—None
- '94-'96—Arravale Rovers
- '97-'98—Clonmel Shamrocks
- '99—Arravale Rovers
- 1900-'01—Clonmel Sham.
- '02—Tipperary Town
- '03-'07—Grangemockler
- '08—Cloneen
- '09—Grangemockler
- '10—Tipp O'Leary's
- '11—Nenagh
- '12-'13—Mullinahone
- '14—Castleiney
- '15—Nenagh
- '16—None
- '17-'20—Fethard
- '21—None
- '22-'24—Fethard
- '25—Templemore
- '26—Mullinahone
- '27-'28—Fethard
- '29—Mullinahone
- '30—Kilsheelan
- '31—Grangemockler
- '32—Kilsheelan
- '33-'34—Clonmel Sham.
- '35—Ardfinnan
- '36—Templemore
- '37—Clonmel Shamrocks
- '38—Fethard
- '39—Ardfinnan
- '40—Loughmore-Castleiney
- '41—Arravale Rovers
- '42—Fethard
- '43—10th Battalion
- '44—Clonmel Commercials
- '45—10th Battalion
- '46—Loughmore-Castleiney
- '47—Drangan and Cloneen
- '48—Clonmel Commercials
- '49—Templetoohy
- '50—Galtee Rovers
- '51—Ballingarry
- '52—Old Bridge, Clonmel
- '53—Cloneen
- '54—Fethard
- '55—Loughmore-Castleiney
- '56—Clonmel Commercials
- '57—Fethard
- '58—Loughmore-Castleiney
- '59—North Tipp Selection
- '60—Thurles Crokes
- '61—North Tipp Selection
- '62-'64—Ardfinnan
- '65—Clonmel Commercials

### FOOTBALL

- 1887—Fethard
- '88-'89—Bohercrowe
- '90—Grangemockler

# Tipperary Association In Dublin

## Kept Busy— By Success

By Joseph F. Foyle

(Chairman, Social  
Sub-Committee)

IT is generally agreed that the victory celebration on the night of September 5, attended by the Tipperary hurlers and officials who had brought the 21st. senior hurling All-Ireland championship to the county, was one of the most enjoyable ever held. This is not to be wondered at, since its organisers, the Social Sub-Committee of the Tipperary Association in Dublin, are "old-hands" at this business. For it was the ninth time that they had laid on a dinner-cum-reception to honour those who had brought All-Ireland honours to their county.

The Association has always been proud to be identified with the county's All-Ireland triumphs—and, indeed, with anything that brings honour to Tipperary. It had its beginnings in 1934, when a group of Tipperary people in Dublin got together to help the athletic revival in their native county. They did good work in the 'thirties, though the holding of the 1937 All-Ireland final in Kilmarnock deprived them of the opportunity to honour the winners of the 12th. hurling title for Tipperary.

### THE SIGNAL

The return of the county's hurlers to Croke Park for the 1945 final was the signal for a reorganisation of the Tipperary group in Dublin, and the present association was born to arrange the victory celebration of that year. Since then, it has never looked back, and must now rank as the strongest, in terms of both numbers and money and, need it be said, quality, of the county associations in Dublin.

While Tipperary officials, hurlers and other followers are the first to admit that they are greatly indebted to their fellow-countymen in Dublin for making their trips to the capital city so enjoyable—receptions are organised for other matches, especially National League games, too—the Association members would also insist that their growth in strength owes much to the stimulating

effects of the teams' victories. There are, indeed, very few county associations in Dublin who can depend on their county being in Croke Park for important matches almost every year.

Though the Association gets especial prominence from organising the All-Ireland reception—which is always a sell-out—it has other activities of which it can justly be proud. Following up on the work done under past-presidents Pat Conway, J. J. Holloway, Paddy Bourke, S.C., Sean Fitzpatrick, Capt. J. J. O'Carroll and Liam Kenny, the Association under the leadership of president Fr. Hilary, C.P., and secretary J. J. O'Carroll, is still expanding its activities.

### FINANCIAL HELP

The original interest in athletics, which was especially evident in the receptions organised for the famous All-Ireland-winning cross-country teams of the 'forties, is maintained in the form of annual grants to the Tipperary N.A.C.A. Board. Financial help is also given annually to the county's camogie team, for which receptions are also organised on its frequent visits to Croke Park in search of All-Ireland honours—a quest which must surely bring its reward before long.

With the hurling position of the county firmly secured, the Association is now playing its part in encouraging the Tipperary football revival. After years of effort, the dream of a Dublin-Tipperary senior football match in Croke Park, to commemorate the glorious Bloody Sunday tragedy, was made a reality—the Association presented a beautiful perpetual challenge cup for the occasion—in 1965, in co-operation with Cumann na Sean Gael. Experience of playing in Croke Park against top-class teams, is generally recognised as being of great value to the promising footballers of any county, and the Association is doing all in its power to secure more of such experience for Tipperary.

Members of the Association, especially the ever-vigilant, indefatigable Capt.

O'Carroll, are forever watching for county-standard prospects among Tipperary talent active in Dublin, and not a few such men have been found in this way.

Friendly relations have been established with corresponding Tipperary groups in London and New York. And in conjunction with the visit of Capt. O'Carroll to New York in September, 1965, the county coat-of-arms—discovered after research by Capt. O'Carroll himself—beautifully set out in poplin—was presented to the New York Tipperarymen's Association.

To perpetuate the memory of the county's freedom-fighters, the Association made a grant of 100 guineas to the Kilmainham Restoration Fund, to restore the cell of Thomas MacDonagh, Tipperary's man among the heroic 1916 signatories. The Association is also represented annually at the Sean Treacy commemoration at Killeacle, and it has striven continually to have Talbot Street, Dublin, re-named after the great Tipperary man who shed his blood there.

### OTHER FUNCTIONS

The Social Sub-Committee, besides organising the monthly socials, the proceeds of which finance the Association's activities, especially the heavy expenses of the All-Ireland receptions, arranges other functions for the entertainment of Tipperary people in Dublin. It stages an annual Palm Sunday Night concert; it has organised plays; and it has formed "Question Time" teams to represent the county. Interesting lectures and discussions have been put on and more are planned.

Yet, when all is said and done, the Association, and all Tipperary people in Dublin, enjoy most the visits of the victorious hurlers. Like the hurlers, their appetite for success is never satisfied. They look forward to many more All-Ireland victories, and the day when the footballers, camogie players, handballers and athletes will emulate the hurlers in this respect.

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**THE PROUD TRADITIONS OF TIPPERARY  
FOOTBALL HAVE DEEP AND STRONG  
ROOTS AND IT DOES NOT EASILY DIE.  
IT DID NOT DO SO IN 1912—**

It was suggested that I write an article on "The Problems of Tipperary Football," but to me this title seems too negative and pessimistic. I do not believe such pessimism is warranted; neither do I mean that Tipperary football has not got its problems. Indeed it has. But I believe these problems admit of a solution and that the present situation holds out real hope. The task I set myself here is to give my own views on how that hope may be realised.

I would like to start by examining the image which Tipperary football has at the moment among the public of the county. There is no doubt this image is pretty dismal and seems to consist of a conclusion drawn from the following facts.

Tipperary has not won a senior football All-Ireland for 46 years, nor a Munster championship for 31. It has not even appeared in the Munster final since 1944. It is regularly beaten in the first or second round of the championship, often by lowly-graded counties such as Clare or Waterford. Its record in the League is even worse.

#### **ONLY CONCLUSION**

The only conclusion one can draw from this long and regular list of defeat is that the standard of football in Tipperary is the lowest of the low. Every effort of improvement has failed. Despair seems the only reasonable attitude.

I think this is a fairly accurate presentation of the general feeling about football in the county. And it is due, as I have said, to a conclusion drawn from facts.

Now with these facts no one will, or can, quarrel. But the conclusion drawn must be contested, for I believe the facts are not as simple as they seem and the conclusion is not justified.

The facts mentioned suggest a re-

## **WHY SHOULD IT DIE NOW?**

**ASKS REV. THOMAS WALSH**

gular pattern of defeat for Tipperary footballers and they make defeat seem inevitable. But every now and then down the years Tipperary footballers put up displays which contradict this pattern. The years '43, '44, '45, '58, and '60 are random examples. On each of those years Tipperary were on the threshold of major achievement. And one could add other examples to the list.

#### **LIFE AND ABILITY**

These facts show that Tipperary football has life and ability which the public image does not admit. And they make one suspicious of the validity of this image.

These occasional good displays suggest that Tipperary football has talent which is indeed latent but which is nonetheless real and which could be developed if we could but find the right measures to adopt. Now this conclusion should not really surprise us.

Football is not a new game in Tipperary. It has a proud and honourable past and the record book bears witness to its quality. Tipperary has won football All-Irelands in every grade except the very recently formed under-21 championship. It is one of the few counties with four senior All-Irelands. Football in Tipperary

is a game with a tradition—an unbroken tradition—extending back to the foundation of the Association and beyond and is not a game which Tipperary youth must start to learn all over again.

It does not need to be "revived" in any real sense of the term—like hurling in so many counties today. In the football areas football is the game the youth are brought up on. They develop as natural footballers in the same way as in other football counties. And the football areas of Tipperary are quite extensive. They include practically all the South, a large part of the West and a number of areas in Mid and North.

#### **BIG NUMBER**

In 1964 there were 22 senior football teams in the county, 56 junior, 20 under-21 and 24 minor. By any reckoning this shows a sizeable number of footballers in Tipperary. Statistics alone suggest that this number should be able to provide a formidable county team. The fact that it continues to produce footballers of the very top class reinforces the argument.

All this suggests that the public image of Tipperary football is not as well founded as is generally thought.

(overleaf)

# WHY SHOULD IT DIE NOW?

(continued)

Good material is available, material of inter-county potential. We have young and enthusiastic players. The

question is: Why, if this is so, does not Tipperary fare better in inter-county competition? This is the vital

question for Tipperary football and the key to progress lies in the answer.

Now, Tipperary's failure in inter-county competition is a complex thing and, no doubt, many factors contribute to it. But my personal belief is that the major factors are simply two: (a) lack of confidence in themselves on the part of the players; (b) team preparation that is insufficient when judged by present-day standards.

## DAMPENING EFFECT

Taking first the question of lack of confidence, it is obvious that Tipperary's long list of defeats has, inevitably, had a dampening effect on the morale of our footballers. They have lost confidence in themselves and in their ability. This condition is a serious handicap to the team and is worth a few scores to the opposition before any match.

The players are fully conscious of this but, unfortunately, one cannot restore their confidence simply by telling them they are much better than they think. They can only regain their confidence by their own achievements on the field of play.

A committed and sympathetic public would be an enormous help to them here. But their poor standing with their own public has only aggravated the condition. It is, I suppose, inevitable that the majority of one's supporters will be fair-weather followers. They will be with you when you are doing well, but not when you are doing badly.

## LACK SUPPORT

Every team needs a group of committed followers with sufficient interest to stay with them through bad times as well as good. They are a tremendous encouragement to a team and the contribution they can make is both immense and vital. Unfortunately, Tipperary lacks a sizeable group of such committed supporters.

There are, it is true, a few faithful followers whom one meets at nearly every game. But their number is pitifully small. However, small as they are, we are very grateful for their support. Believe me, they are a real encouragement,



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Tipperary footballers photographed before the game in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday. Front row: J. Doran, T. Powell, E. O'Shea (captain), J. Brett, Gus McCarthy. Middle row: Jim Ryan, A. Carew (County Secretary), W. Barrett, J. Kickham, M. Hogan, J. McNamara, R. Lanigan, J. Skelly, F. Butler, W. Ryan, T. Ryan, M. Nolan, T. O'Connor, J. Egan, T. Ryan (Secretary, South Tipperary Board). Back row: (Supporters). Ed. Cuddihy, John Touhy, Ed. Dalton, T. Ennis, P. Kelly, Sean Ryan (former President G.A.A.), T. Carey.

But the attitude of the general public, even at a home venue, seems to me to leave much to be desired. This seems to be one of condescending tolerance and they give a strong impression that they do not expect much and that they are prepared for the worst. The players sense this and it does not help them.

### POSITIVE APPROACH

If Tipperary football is to regain its lost prestige, a much more positive and committed approach is required of the county's football public. They must let the players know that they are behind them all the way. I believe that if the players felt they had this support, they would accomplish much greater things.

In helping to restore the player's confidence and in helping to arouse public support for them, the local Press can undoubtedly play a most important role. But so far, I am afraid, this has merely reflected public opinion on Tipperary football rather than informed it. It seems to share the general attitude and thus, in its own way, has added to the players' difficulties. One expects greater insight than that.

A more positive approach by the

local Press, by which I mean an approach committed to encouraging Tipperary football, is very necessary and would be very valuable. Such an attitude would help and encourage the players and would also inform and encourage the public.

This need not involve any abandonment of a critical attitude on the part of the Press, but it would channel that attitude in a constructive direction.

### NEEDS TRAINING

But, perhaps more than anything else, Tipperary football needs team training and development. It must be obvious that club fare does not prepare a player for inter-county competition. The two levels are very far apart.

A player develops and improves his ability by competing against others as good as or better than himself. Club competition does not provide that kind of opposition, certainly not in Tipperary, where the club structure is based on the small parish unit.

If a player is to step successfully from club to inter-county level, he must be specially trained for it. In all the counties where football is

taken seriously this is regarded as axiomatic. It is certainly no coincidence that the counties which have been most successful in recent years are those which go in for intensive team training — Dublin, Galway, Down. If these feel they need such effort to stay at the top, how much more does a county like Tipperary need it to advance from the bottom?

What does team training and development involve? A number of things.

Firstly, it involves ensuring the physical fitness of the players. An inter-county man must be far fitter than the ordinary club performer, and few clubs bring their players to that pitch of fitness. This must be done at county level.

### TACTICAL GAME

Secondly, tactics suited to the team must be worked out during training. Football today is a very tactical game, as Galway, Dublin and Down have again emphasised. Any county hoping to make progress must play the tactical game, and these tactics must first be developed in the quiet of training.

Thirdly, training involves match  
(overleaf)

# WHY SHOULD IT DIE NOW? (continued)



practice against good opposition. This is the essential and best preparation for any team. It enables players to develop as inter-county footballers, to develop tactical play, to blend together as a team.

## WALL'S WISDOM

Anyone with experience of team management will, I think, admit the wisdom of Tony Wall's remarks in his book "Hurling" when he writes: "One of the best ways of training is to get the team playing matches. A team is tested in competition, and only in matches can test conditions be obtained. There should be a match of some kind at least once a fortnight."

Ideal though a match every fortnight might be, it will not be possible for a county team. But a regular series of games sensibly spaced through the year is necessary if the team is to make progress.

## PSYCHOLOGICAL VALUE

Fourthly, team training has a very important psychological value as it helps players to develop a true team spirit. They cease to be a group of individuals and become a team. It boosts their morale and thus builds up confidence. Above all, perhaps, it helps them to enjoy their football, something which is absolutely essential if the team is to be successful.

I believe Tipperary football needs a training programme which would cater for these values. And such a programme should be an annual feature of the county's football effort. It is no use adopting it for a year or two and then abandoning it. It should be persisted with. If it is, it must, I think, eventually pay dividends.

If one is to adopt a positive and serious approach to Tipperary football, then I am convinced this is the only way to do it. No doubt such a programme would have to be ac-

commodated to the resources of the county, financial and otherwise, but these administrative problems could be successfully resolved.

## STARTED IN HOPE

This type of training programme obviously requires a service at county level. Four years ago the idea of the Football Committee was introduced in the hope of providing such a service. The policy of this Committee has been along the lines suggested, an effort to build confidence and to develop ability through training.

It is not my place to pass judgment on these efforts. That they have achieved something I sincerely hope; that they have been inadequate I am well aware. But my very personal



opinion is that the basic idea of the Football Committee does present a reasonable machinery for providing that kind of service which Tipperary football needs at the moment and to which, I think, it will sooner or later respond.

The idea of the Committee is very adaptable. Only experience will reveal its best form. The last four years have been experimental and, in the light of that experience, one can see adjustments which would be very useful. With the aid of such adjustments, I believe the Committee idea has much value to offer.

## PERSONAL OPINION

But, I hasten to emphasise, this is a very personal opinion.

While these lines were being written, Tipperary footballers began their effort in the new National League grouping. Previous form gave little reason for hope and disaster

was the pretty general forecast. Yet against the highly-regarded opposition of this group, Tipperary came through with colours flying.

The past few years have been years of team building. There now exists a team which combines experience with youthful enthusiasm and all-round football ability. The initial indications are that it is the best team for sometime. Now, more than ever before, effort is required at every level in the county to push ahead and grasp the opportunities fortune may offer. It is certainly no time for slackening.

I conclude with a moral. Canon Fogarty in his Tipperary G.A.A. Story records how Tipperary footballers lost to Clare in the first round of the 1912 championship. That defeat followed a number of similar defeats in the preceding years. The situation looked so bad that a correspondent to a local newspaper was moved to write: "Football in the county compared with the past is a lost art and each year the prospects of a national title are vanishing like so many previous attempts in the same direction."

## SURVIVED SHOCK

Six years later, in 1918, Tipperary won through to the All-Ireland final to lose to Wexford by a point. Then, surviving the shock of Bloody Sunday, they went one better in 1920 to become All-Ireland champions! The pessimist of 1912 teaches us, players and public alike, a useful lesson today.

The proud traditions of Tipperary football have deep and strong roots and it does not easily die. It did not die in 1912. Why should it do so in 1966?



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# Future Will Do Justice To Its Historic Past

THURLES Town is synonymous with the G.A.A. and hurling. Not alone was the Association founded there in 1884, but some of the most memorable encounters in the history of hurling were played on the lush sward of the local sportsfield, reckoned by many as the finest pitch in the country, even better than Croke Park.

Prior to 1926 few important inter-county games were played in Thurles. True, the Dublin-Kerry football All-Ireland of 1906 was played there, and the Munster senior hurling final between Limerick and Tipperary in 1923 attracted 20,000 spectators to the venue, but these were isolated cases. The town at that time was of only minor significance as a setting for major G.A.A. games.

After 1926, however, things changed very much for the better. In that year, it will be remembered, the Munster senior hurling final between Cork and Tipperary was fixed for Cork City, but such was the attraction of the pairing that some 27,000 fans turned up. The Cork ground was hopelessly inadequate on the score of accommodation for such a throng, and the game had barely started when gradual encroachment on the pitch forced the referee to abandon it.

## MUCH WORK

It was refixed for Thurles, and the local Sportsfield Committee left no stone unturned to ensure that there would not be a repetition of the Cork fiasco. Much work was put into the preparation of the field. And just how well they succeed may be gauged from a press report on the game which stated that: "Thurles today ranks higher than ever in the records of the G.A.A., and justly so. Last Sunday was an achievement any provincial town might be proud of . . . an achievement which has added lustre to the glory of our grand old Gaelic pastimes, and demonstrated magnificently the organisational ability and energy of the townspeople."

For the record, the teams finished level, Cork 3-4, Tipp 4-1, at their first Thurles meeting, and the replay was again fixed for Thurles. Despite all the craft and genius of the late Mick Darcy, Cork triumphed in the replay by 3-6 to 2-4, before 27,000 people, all comfort-

ably accommodated. These games 'made' Thurles as a venue, and since then important provincial clashes have become an accepted thing on the local sporting calendar.

## TIMES CHANGE

Times change, however, and men must change with them. Attendances, that in the twenties and thirties would have been labelled 'record,' have, through improved transport facilities, become commonplace. And in order to cater for the swelling numbers, at games, accommodation at grounds must be correspondingly increased. Not alone must the accommodation be increased, but the standard of facilities must also be improved, and this applies to amenities for players as well.

With this in mind, Central Council, through Bord na bPaire, chose a number of provincial grounds for development, in order that each province would have at least one ground with facilities comparable to those of Croke Park. To the delight of Tipperary folk, Thurles field was chosen in Munster, and at present developments to cost £90,000 are in progress.

The main item is the erection of a new stand, with seating accommodation for 16,000. Land adjoining the Sportsfield was purchased to allow for an extension of the grounds on the stand side. This was necessary for the erection of the new stand which will be on the site of the old one. There will be no side line on this side of the field, as the space formerly devoted to a side line will be incorporated in the new stand.

On this side also there will be dressingrooms with all modern conveniences, hot and cold showers, etc.

The teams will enter the playing pitch through a tunnel under the stand. Up-to-date accommodation for Press, Radio and TV, together with facilities for a public address system, will also be provided.

The boreen on the southern side has been incorporated into the new ground, and a new thoroughfare, already open but not fully completed, will considerably ease the problem of getting to and from the field. The Urban Council and the Sportsfield Company co-operated excellently in the provision of this new

road, and it can now be said that no other ground is so well equipped with a network of roads from all sides.

The new road will be particularly beneficial to those arriving at the grounds from the South, as it provides a direct link with the field from the Holycross Road, so that traffic from this side need no longer come into the town.

To meet the cost of the improvement scheme the Central Council are granting £45,000, the Munster Council £30,000, and Tipperary County Board must provide the remaining £15,000. This is a heavy commitment for a County Board, but it is hoped to avail of the Ciste na Banban pools to alleviate the burden of the development costs.

Work began on the stand in May, and it is hoped that it will be ready for this year's championships. At first only one third will be roofed, but it is intended that the remainder will be covered as soon as possible. The contractors are Messrs Malachy Burke, Ltd., Galway.

## INTERESTING

While Thurles Sportsfield has been the setting for many historic occasions, it has a history all its own, which at this stage may be of interest. Very Rev. P. Canon Fogarty, P.P., Chairman of the Tipperary Co. Board, in his book "Tipperary G.A.A. Story," says that the sportsfield first belonged to a local shopkeeper Mr. Joe Molloy, who in 1901 sold it to the Horse Show Committee for £300.

The Show failing, the Grounds were put up for sale early in the year 1910, and, at the wish of the late Canon M. K. Ryan, they were purchased by local Gaels and their supporters for £900.

To meet the purchase cost an issue of shares was subscribed by the townspeople.

It is well to note here that ever since the above purchase was made, no games other than Gaelic games have been played there.

In 1912 the landlord—Mr. Daly of Galway—offered to give the grounds as a public park free of rent for ever—the annual rent up to that was £37. The Working Committee, elected on the

(continued on page 56)





\* \* \* \* \*

**FLASHBACK—1**

The Tipperary team and officials pictured on arrival in New York for the 1965 National Hurling League final.

\* \* \* \* \*



## TIPP'S PATH TO GLORY

**L**ISTED here are details of Tipperary's all-conquering march to their 21st All-Ireland senior hurling success.

Tipperary 2-16, Wexford 0-10. (Half-time 2-5 to 0-6).

Scorers: S. McLoughlin (2-1), Jimmy Doyle (0-6), J. McKenna (0-5), L. Kiely (0-2), L. Devaney, T. English (0-1 each).

J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, L. Gaynor, T. English, M. Roche, Jimmy Doyle (captain), L. Kiely, L. Devaney, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, S. McLoughlin.  
Referee—M. Hayes (Clare).  
Attendance — 67,498.

Tipperary 4-11, Cork 0-5. (Half-time 2-4 to 0-4).

Scorers: T. English (2-1), J. Doyle (0-7), S. McLoughlin (2-0), D. Nealon J. McKenna, P. Doyle (0-1 each).

J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, L. Gaynor, T. English, M. Roche, Jimmy Doyle, L. Devaney, P. Doyle, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, J. McLoughlin.  
Referee — J. Smith (Clare).  
Attendance — 40,000.

Tipperary 5-8, Clare 3-3. (Half-time 2-4 to 0-1).

Scorers: S. McLoughlin (2-0), M.

Keating (1-3), D. Nealon (1-1), M. Roche (1-0), J. McKenna (0-2), J. Doyle, L. Devaney (0-1 each).

J. O'Donoghue, John Doyle, M. Maher, K. Carey, M. Burns, A. Wall, L. Gaynor, T. English, M. Roche, Jimmy Doyle, M. Keating, L. Devaney, D. Nealon, J. McKenna, S. McLoughlin.  
Referee — A. Higgins (Galway).  
Attendance — 15,000.

Altogether 122,498 spectators were present at these matches, while 159,276 saw Galway's championship triumphs.

Riaráíonn Bord na nOg don chontae iomlán agus tá fo-bhord i ngach ceann de na ceithre ranna atá againn.

## DHA GHRAD

Tá comórtas ar siúl i ndá ghrád acu, faoi 15 agus faoi 16½ bliana, agus tá dhá roinn i ngach grád acu; roinn amháin do pharóiste tuaithe agus an roinn eile do pharóiste tuaithe agus paróiste baile fré chéile, ceithre craobhchomórtas ar fad.

I dtosach báire bhíodh sócrú eile ann. Is amhlaidh a bhíodh craobh do paróistí tuaithe agus craobh eile do na bailtí. D'éirigh that barr leis an gcéad cheann acu ach ní raibh an rath céanna ar an gceann eile, toisc ganntanas foirne. Roinnt bheag blian ó shin deineadh an t-athrú agus tháinig feabhas ar an sceal.

I ngach fo-roinn den Bhórd bronnar boinn ar na buathóirí i chuile ceann de na ceithre comórtas, agus fós bronnann Bord na nOg boinn do chraobh an chontae i ngach cas.

Mar cheann scríbe tá duais eile a spreagann suim agus díograis sa chomórtas faoi 15 bliana. Gach dara blian cuirtear an fhoireann is fearr, idir bhaile agus tuath, go dtí craobhchluice na hEireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh, agus ticéid acu don ardán. Bórd sinsir an chontae a chuireann na ticéid sin ar fáil.

Tá caighdeán an-ard sna cluichí agus suim neamhghnách ag an bpobal iontu. Ní hionadh san toisc go raibh muintir Tiobraid Arann tugtha dom iománaíocht ó thús. Ach ní hé sin iomlán an scéil.

Tá díograis agus dúthracht ar leith ag baint leis na fir atá i mbun cluichí na n-óg, pé acu feidhmeannaigh iad ar cheann éigin de na bóird, nó bainisteoirí ag obair sna paróistí. Nuair atá daoine sásta am a chaitheamh agus dua a ghlacadh orthu féin ag ullmhú foirne agus ag traenáil buachaillí óga, ní saothar in aise é. Bíonn a shliocht orthu.

Níl áireamh ar an méid is féidir le fear amháin a dhéanamh má bhíonn an dúthracht, agus an inniúlacht ann. Féachaimis siar ar thorthaí na mblianta agus feicimid gur éirigh leis na paróistí go ndearnadh an obair iontu. Fiú amháin paróistí nach raibh an-láidir riamh, nár rug craobh sinsir iomána leo aon uair,

bhí rith an ráis leo nuair a bhí fear no coiste fiúntach i gceannas ar fhoireann na nóg. D'fhéadfaí daoine mar sin a lua ach is daoine iad nach n-iarrann aon chúiteamh agus gur fearr leo go bhfágfaí iad gan ainm niú. Ní gá a lua ach paróistí mar Tír-dhá-ghlas, Ceapach na bhFaoiteach Lothra, Cill Ruan, Maighean, Teampall Tuaithe. Tugann sé tac-aíocht don tuairim nach bhfuil traidisiún láidir iomána sárriachtanach, nach ón gcliabhán a thugann iománaíthe an calaín. Tá eisceamláir anseo go bhfeadfadh contaethe laga a lorg a leanúint le tairbhe dóibh féin.

Taobh amuigh de na cluichí faoi Bhórd na nOg cuirtear léag na n-og ar siúl ina lán paróistí, go háirithe sna bailtí móra mar Dúrlas Eile, Ros Cré, agus Aonach Urmhumhan. Bíonn toradh faoi chéad ar na h-iarrachtaí san agus is mór an chreidiúint atá ag dul do na coistí a bhíonn i gceannas orthu.

## AN TEANGA

Si an bhun-chúis a spreagann daoine mar iad na gurb é an iománaíocht an cluiche is fearr don aos óg againne. Sé ár gcluiche féin i, cuid dár ndúchas agus dár dtraidisiún

náisiúnta, chomh maith chéanna is atá an teanga. Dob ionmholta an rud é an teanga a cheangal níos dlúithe leis na cluichí sna coistí agus ar na páirceanna imeartha. Ní mór mar shampla tagairt a dhéanamh don léag iomána a eagraíonn club Eire Og do bhuchaillí in Aonach Urmhumhan gach blian. Sé an duais ná mí sa Ghaeltacht don 20 buachaillí ar an bhfoireann an chraobh leo.

Ar mhaithe linn féin fiú amháin le chóir dúinn féachaint chuige go leathnófaí an iomáint go forleathan agus go n-árdofaí an caighdeán sna contaethe atá lag. Dá mhéid chontae a bheidh ullamh chun áit a ghlacadh i gceannchomórtas sinsir na hEireann is amhlaidh is mó an clú agus an onóir a ghnóthóidh foireann i ngeall ar an chraobh a bhreith leo.

Tá Tiobraid Arann faoi réim i láthair na huair. Tá sé de dhualgas orainn a chur in a lú ar an bpobal agus go hairithe ar an aos óg, gur cluiche í an iománaíocht atá ní hamháin ealaíonta agus fearúil, ach go bhfuil macántacht agus cothrom na Féinne ag baint leis. Cé déarfaidh nach bhfuil san a dhéanamh go rí-mhaith ag an bhfoireann sinsir na laetheanta seo.

# THURLES SPORTSFIELD

(continued from page 54)

issuing of the shares, invited the Urban Council to avail of the offer, but, while the latter were willing to do this, the Local Government Board would not advance them the money required—about £1,000—to buy out the interests of shareholders and pay debts due to the bank.

As a result, the grounds remained in the hands of the shareholders and from 1936, by title-according to the goodwill of the landlord—they were to be held free from rent for ever. With the title secure, the problem of developing the field remained.

To bring matters to a head, a delegation from the Munster Council, of which the late Frank McGrath was chairman, travelled to Thurles for a discussion with the Sportsfield Committee. An agreement was reached, according to which the townspeople put up a sum of £2,000 against a like sum for the Council. Improvement plans were prepared and carried out, bringing the capacity of the ground to 45,000.

The next chapter in the field's history commenced with a meeting in Thurles in 1965 between representatives of the Cen-

tral Council, Tipp County Board and the Sportsfield Committee, at which it was pointed out that the Central Council would not invest money in a ground unless that ground was completely under the control of the G.A.A. or a subsidiary body.

To meet with this requirement, the local committee had to face the long and tedious task of contacting all the shareholders or their heirs. Some of these were scattered all over the world and it was quite a job to locate them all. It was eventually accomplished, however, and the ground taken over. Control of the field was now in G.A.A. hands, and it was the property of the Thurles Gaelic Sportsfield Company.

The Central Council scheme for the development of provincial grounds is the latest chapter in the history of Thurles Sportsfield. The new stand, the new road, and the better facilities will all contribute towards making it the best equipped outside of Croke Park for the staging of big games. And when one considers it, it is only fitting that the town in which the Association first 'saw the light of day' should have one of its most modern stadia.

## WESTERN REVIEW



BY JIM  
HENNESSY

(Board Secretary)

# Cashel, Cappawhite The Years Best

**S**EAN O'Dwyer, our respected Chairman in the West for a good many years, was moved at the 1965 Convention to wonder aloud at the continued failure of our division's champions in the inter-divisional field. There was reason for his puzzlement as several West teams that had played hard, keen hurling and football at home, lost their edge in disappointing fashion when the scene of battle was changed and unfamiliar opposition arrived.

Could it be put down, he asked, to something of an inferiority complex, a nagging feeling of "no hope" and contentment with having justified themselves before the neighbouring parishes?

### SATISFACTION

Is it therefore with some satisfaction and not a little pride that I record one significant reversal of this trend in 1965. Cappawhite minor hurlers showed no loss of purpose or form when they marched out to represent the West.

Conditions were dreadful at Clonmel when they met the Mid's powerhouse of good youngsters, Moyne-

Templetuohy with their "combination" allies from Loughmore-Castleiney, in the final but the lads from the West had no reason at all for thinking in terms of inferiority. They, as Bord na nOg boys two years before, had been the only team in the entire county to call a full stop to the all-conquering Mid boys, handing them their only defeat out of the four county finals they contested in the various hurling and football competitions. Could they repeat that feat?

### FINE SPIRIT

In the rain and mud of that awful Sunday they stuck to their task and their men with fine spirit. They started a little unsurely, but gradually gained a definite all-round control, and then held out grimly into the teeth of the elements, to win convincingly, by 5-6 to 3-3.

The sure, steady hand of John Ryan at centre-back and his remarkably mature sense of position, were very valuable, especially towards the end when he relieved time and again. But it was no one-man show, for he had great help from them all, par-

ticularly Buckley, McDermott, Coughlan, Breen, O'Neill, Kelly and goalie Barry. What an eloquent testimony to the worth of attention to the juveniles! And how happy were Fr. Power and his colleagues!

Cashel's senior hurlers did the West proud, too. Taking the City of the King's first West title for seven years by beating champions Anacarty they shot points in profusion, nineteen in fact along with two goals, and quite ample to beat Eire Og's 5-3. Peter O'Sullivan, county sub to the West's John O'Donoghue hadn't quite enough cover, which explains the five, but the switch of John Darmody to centre-half steadied them in time.

### SLACKNESS

Defensive slackness looked a poor augury for facing the glammers, vastly-experienced Thurles Sarsfields, with Doyle and McLoughlin in attack. Yet Cashel held them for a full half-hour, and played good confident hurling in doing so. Darmody marked Doyle very solidly; the Sul-

(overleaf)

livan brothers helped to check McLoughlin, while Aengus Ryan at midfield and Derry O'Connor at wing-forward, with another Sullivan opposite, kept play upfield for long periods.

Alas, the insides couldn't make a real impression on Mickey Byrne and company, and when McLoughlin, typically, snapped a few goals, the Cashel effort had failed, despite a spirited finish with Ivers' and Peter O'Sullivan's goals. Yet it was a brave try and an improvement on recent attempts. Cashel's great Under-21 effort the previous year, when they really ought to have beaten Roscrea in the final, has borne fruit, and will again.

Lattin-Cullen's senior footballers kept their title comfortably and are clearly our best at the moment. But their hopes of a county title, which looked good at half-time against Clonmel Commercials, faded disappointingly when they got the aid of the wind. And to underline the lost opportunity Commercials had little trouble in taking the spoils against Moneygall.

Golden-Kilfeacle went very close

to beating Newport, the North champions, in the No. 1 junior hurling semi-final. After leading into the final quarter they were overtaken by a more experienced team, who had county senior O'Gorman in their ranks. Nor were Cashel minor footballers at all disgraced against Commercials. The county championships in Under-21 hurling and football have yet to be finished. Cappawhite and Solohead carry our banner and good wishes into the semi-finals of these.

**WISH FOR '66**

My keenest wish for '66 would be to see Cappawhite's success arouse new interest in the Primary Schools competition, which has flagged a bit and was contested by too few clubs last year. Cappawhite have shown what can be built on these foundations.

The senior leagues have run up against the problem of public boredom with an over-exposure of the same faces and the same repeated pairings. We have not sufficient variety to keep public enthusiasm, or

that of players, either. The Crosco Cup deserves better. We have some thinking to do at Convention on this matter.

Turning now to individuals: We are very glad to have had a share in the county's record-making, hurling year in the persons of John O'Donoghue and Peter O'Sullivan, the goalkeepers on the panel. They are maintaining the remarkable series of West 'keepers began by Terry Moloney in '59 and continued by Donal O'Brien. I wish O'Donoghue a quick recovery from the leg injury received with the Tipp footballers at Clonmel.

And we have a live interest, too, in the zealous efforts of the Football Committee to raise us to the status of serious contenders in that code, with our own Fonsie Condon, also a great hurler, and Patsy Dawson, the Munster Railway Cup player.

The year had its sadness, too. Tony Brennan's death has not yet sunk into our consciousness, so utterly tragic were its circumstances. Still a young man, the memory of his wonderful contributions to Tipp and Clonoulty remain very green. We will mourn him long and sincerely.



The Thurles Sarsfields team which defeated Two-Mile-Borris-Moycarkey in the 1962 Tipperary county final. Kneeling (from left): M. Byrne, Kevin Houlihan, P. Dorney, P. Doyle, M. ('Musha') Maher, M. McElgunn (capt.), M. ('Blackie') Keane, R. Mockler. Standing (from left): J. Connors (official), Noel Murphy, L. Keane, S. McLoughlin, T. Walsh, T. Wall, B. Maher, M. Murphy, G. Doyle (official).



## Season of satisfaction— rather than success

THE year 1965 may not have been the most auspicious season in the history of the NACA in Tipperary as far as winning major honours was concerned, but it was a year that gave hope for brighter days ahead in the large number of athletes in the juvenile and youth grades who competed at one or other of the many under-age championships. Since the County NACA Board was formed in Clonmel in February 1924, Tipperary has been one of the strongholds of athletics in the provinces and hopes are high that the immediate future will see Tippmen again challenging the best in the land. The fact that we did not win many prizes at National and Provin-

cial level is a sign of the present high standards of athletics throughout the country rather than an indication of low standards in Tipperary.

### CONVENTION

At Convention last October two officers of the Board aptly summed up the year in their addresses. Our esteemed President, Father James Meehan of Thurles said: "Convention marks the end of a strenuous year of activities in field and track and cross country; it was a year of wonderful expansion and success, particularly in the sphere of youth athletics." Yes, indeed, it is on the youth that Tipp can look to regain

lost prestige. Chairman, Mr. Philip Blake said: "We can look back on the year as one of satisfaction rather than achievement. All major honours eluded us, but we are still challenging the best in Ireland. It is good to have the honours rotate. We will be down in cross country only as long as we must. Mick Hickey, Liam Gleeson and Billy O'Dwyer gave many great individual performances, and I hope they will remain in form until the up and coming athletes are there to help them out."

Both speakers rendered sentiments all too true. The juvenile and youth grades are flourishing, while the foundations of future winning squads are there, too. Championships promoted by the NACA Board numbered sixteen: eight cross country, two road running and six field and track. Medals won by Tipp athletes totalled eighty four Munster and thirteen All-Ireland. Quite a satisfying total in the red heat of present day competition.

### OUTLINING EXPLOITS

Before outlining the exploits of the various teams and domestic championships I would like to pay tribute here to a gallant band of runners who won ten senior All-Irelands for the county in cross country between 1945 and 1955. These successes were as amazing as they were numerous. The national inter-county c'ships commenced in 1945 and Tipperary, consisting of a scoring six of John Joe Barry, Mick Blake, Jimmy Sweeney, Jerry Kiely, J. Fitzell and Patsy Carroll, were the first to write their  
(overleaf)



COOLCROO A.C.—1965 Tipperary Senior Cross-Country Champions. Front row, (left to right): Michael Carroll (trainer), Pat Ely, Seamus Bowe, Matty Mullaney, Willie Bowe, Timmy Bowe, Donal Maher, Tom Kelly. Back row (left to right): Joe Coman, Paddy Ryan, John Joe Bourke, Tommy Healy, L. Woodlock, Con Bowe, Malachy Mullaney, J. Coady, Jerry O'Dwyer, Larry Phelan, Paddy Coman, Robt. O'Hara.

names on the honours list. That winning sequence continued until 1956 when, funnily enough, it was on home ground, Powerstown Park, Clonmel, that our victory march was halted. But in between some of the greater athletes to don the county colours made it a memorable episode. It may seem hackneyed to be dwelling on the past but surely from it the present generation can find some inspiration to again aim at the highest honours in the association.

In chronological order we will follow the fortunes of the Tipp teams over the 1965 cross country circuit. In Dungarvan on January 17 our scoring six of P. Phelan (Upperchurch), M. Kavanagh (Dundrum), J. Scott (Ballynonty), M. Mullaney (Coolcroo), P. Ely (do.) and Liam King (Lorrha) gained the runners-up awards to winners Cork and failed only by a five ponts margin, thus giving the Leesiders their toughest

and closest run of the year. In the inaugural under-14 c'ship Tipp was again second. Tulla, Co. Clare was the next outing on February 14 and again a pair of runners-up trophies. Tipp, making her debut in the national 1965 c'ships—the junior c.c. at Thomastown — gave only token opposition. The team ran very poorly and came fifth. Meanwhile F.C.A. athletes, Dundrum team-mates Hickey and O'Dwyer, were honoured with a trip to Spain for the Military C.C. International C'ship. A well earned trip to both.

SUCCESSFUL OUTING

On March 14 we went on a long spin to Kenmare, Co. Kerry for one of the most successful outings of the cross country year. Mick Hickey, giving a five star performance, captured the senior individual medal and Con Bowe gained the bronze one by

finishing third. Inspired by the running of their two colleagues up front, Billy O'Dwyer, John Bourke, Pat Ely and Paddy Ryan raced gamely to gain the second team medals. County champions, Coolcroo A.C., beat the best of the country's title laden clubs to bring the Provincial senior inter club championship to Tipperary for the first time. The youths side had to be content with third team place.

The inter-county itinerary ended at An Uaimh on April 4 when Mick Hickey again gave of his best in a strong challenge for senior supremacy to Sean O'Sullivan, but the Limerickman held just that little too much for Mick who came a very fine second. Billy O'Dwyer came eight and thus qualified for the green singlet which is the honour for the first nine finishers in this annual senior test. Team 5th. Our youths had to again be content with third place behind Munster rivals, Cork and Clare.

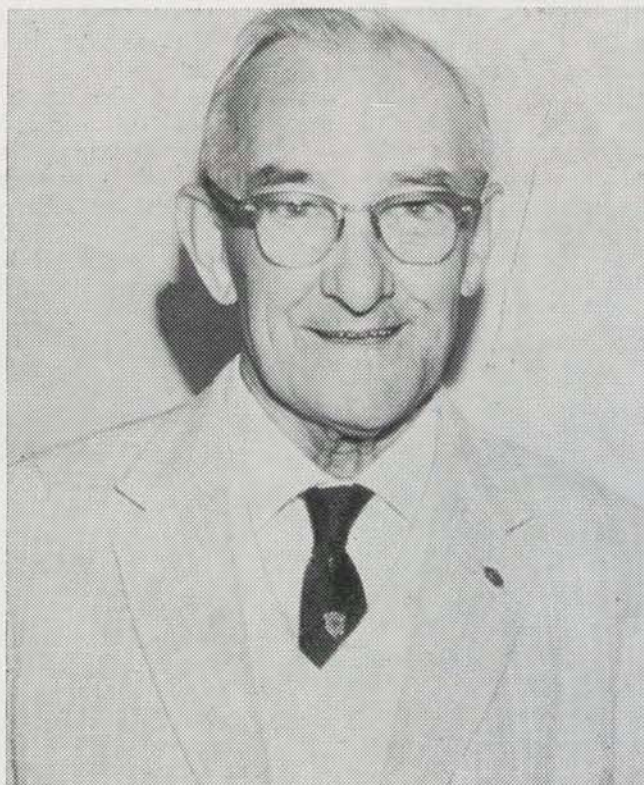
During the Summer in track and field championships the following spoils were gained by a small but select squad of Tipp athletes: Munster senior c'ships—Liam Gleeson a first in the Pole Vault with Billy Gaffney second; Hugh O'Callaghan of Premier A.C. had four firsts with shot, discus, javelin and hammer; another of the O'Callaghan family, Brian, had seconds in the shot and discus, with Gleeson taking a third in the javelin also.

TEST AT BANTEER

In the national tests at Banteer it was the same men chalking up successes: O'Callaghan four wins (shot, discus, javeline, hammer) with seconds in the 56 lb. w/f and 56 lbs. o/b. Gleeson retained his pole vault crown with Gaffney another third. To Liam Gleeson went the distinction of setting up one of the NACA records of the season. At the Curragh in June he vaulted to 13' 0 $\frac{1}{8}$ " to become the second Irishman to accomplish this feat. Mick Hickey completed the five miles flat, Munster and Irish double. Juveniles and youths to win Munster and National field and track titles included J. A. Ryan (Coolcroo A.C.) 6 Munster firsts under-14 years, M. O'Sullivan (Tipp); J. Healy (Coolcroo), J. Purcell (Thurles Crokes), M. Kelly

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The late Johnny Hayes, of Nenagh, who won the marathon title at the 1908 Olympic Games in London. Johnny is but one of the athletes featured in David Guiney's book "Ireland's Olympic Heroes" which is available from the publisher—Philip Roderick, "Duhallow," Dublin Road, Sutton, Co. Dublin (5/6 post free).

\* \* \* \* \*

and W. Morgan, G. Hayes and M. Quigley (Nenagh Olympic). Many others gained second and third placings.

In the local county cross country scene four clubs shared the major championships but without any doubt it was Coolcroo's year. The Mid boys retained the county senior, regained the novice and won the first ever boys under-15 years championship; they rounded off the run of successes by taking Munster inter-club honours. Ballynonty, a club drawing strength from the Killenaule-Glengoole area, another traditional stronghold of the sport, won the junior six miles and made it two youths team titles in a row. Coolcroo also had three individual wins to boot; with the Premier A.C. and the now defunct Shannon Rovers (Terryglass, Nenagh) preventing them from a nap success.

### BIG CROWD

Toomevara housed a big crowd for the opening "meet" on December 13, 1964. The biggest field ever to compete in a Tipp novice race lined up, almost two hundred starters. Coolcroo's Jim Halloran led through the tape, the first individual novice victor for the club since around 1943, and had the honour of captaining the winning team. Lorrha A.C. member Liam King was second and Borrisoleigh man Michael Carey, sporting the Premier colours was third. His team was second.

Next on the agenda, the junior six miles at Ballynonty on January 24 was a team triumph for the promoting club with John O'Meara (Premier) first home from Timmy Rowe (Coolcroo) and John Flynn (Moyne). It was a return to a place in the sun for another once great stronghold, Ballincurry, who came second. Holycross was the scene for perhaps the most exciting individual battle of the year on the day of the youths, under 18 years, three miles as Matt Mullaney (Coolcroo), John Scott (Ballnonty) and Eddie Hefernan (Holycross) gave us a see saw race which was keenness personified. The trio finished in that order. Ballynonty retained the Canon Hayes Cup for the team race.

Senior day at Two Mile Borris on February 21 was robbed of an anticipated great championship as some of the leading exponents of the game had to cry down through illness and injury. Coolcroo had six in the first



**FONSIE RYAN** (Coolcroo A.C.) with the plaque he received as best Tipperary juvenile athlete of 1965. 14-year-old Fonsie, a native of Killenaule and a pupil of Thurles C.B.S. won seven Tipperary titles and five Munster titles during the track and field season. He also won East Munster and Munster Colleges titles and was runner-up in the All-Ireland Colleges sprint championship.

seven to leave them champions for the second successive year. Con Bowe cantered to the easiest of wins from team mates Bourke and Ely. Ballynonty again proved best of the opposition. The under-15 years individual medal went to Prout (Shannon Rovers) from Ryan ((Moycarkey-Borris). Coolcroo were team victors.

### MOST SUCCESSFUL

Due to the emergence of many athletes in the juvenile and youth grades, the field and track season was one of the most successful on record.

Numerous competitions under 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20 years were held, all very interesting. From those events many stars should emanate in the years ahead to bring high honours to their clubs and county. Nenagh Olympic captured the trophy for the best of the juveniles, and Rockwell College emerged best in the junior section. In an effort to improve standards a number of people attended the Summer School of athletics in Dublin and will be on hand to coach the younger generation.

A first ever get together of juveniles was held in October when films

(continued)

# Where the honours went

on athletics and some practical demonstrations were given to almost a hundred boys.

Highlights of the senior field and track championships in Thurles on June 20 were the Pole Vault success of Liam Gleeson (12' 6"); O'Callaghan's four; Nigerian born Hecksher (Rockwell student) jumping 5' 9"; Billy O'Dwyer mile and three flat track double. Rockwell College A.C. retained the Ned Tobin Cup for the best all round club having 12 points in excess of runners-up Dundrum.

Selected Tipp NACA stars of the year for specially sponsored plaques by the local newspapers were: Juveniles: Fonsie Ryan (Coolcroo); Cross Country: Mick Hickey (Dundrum); Field and Track, Liam Gleeson (U.C.D. and Olympic A.C.).

Cycling in the county is controlled by the County Cycling Board. Tipp competed with much lustre in Ras Tailteann to finish well placed. Johnny Lonergan, Clonmel A. and C.C. won two stages and was subsequently voted Tipp cyclist of the year by 74 pts., to 63 for his great rival Patsy Wall, Carrick.

Athletics still holds much appeal in Tipperary and the future seems reasonably bright. This sport provides a great medium to all to keep in a healthy physical condition and simultaneously to discipline the mind and body. I make my exit on a note that storied Slievenamon will again take her place proudly as one of the great athletic counties and that the deeds of the great names of a bygone age such as the Davins, Kiely, McGrath, Hayes, Mitchell, etc., etc., will be retold in the light of future success.

## COUNTY BOARD OFFICERS

**President**, Rev. Father James Meehan C.C. (Thurles); **Vice-President**, Rev. Father P. J. Leonard, C.S.Sp. (Rockwell College); **Chairman**, Mr. Philip Blake (Moynes); **Vice-Chairman**, Mr. Aidan Dempsey (Thurles); **Hon. Treasurer**, Mr. Thomas Holmes (Nenagh); **Hon. Registrar**, Mr. Denis Ivers (Cashel); **Hon. Sec.**, J. Fogarty (Two-Mile-Borris); **Executive Committee**: Messrs. David Ryan ((Dundrum), Joseph Mernagh (Thurles), Peter Ronayne (Cahir), Jack Fogarty (Cashel), William J. Gaffney (Nenagh), Daniel Hogan (Toomevara).

## GROSS COUNTRY

**Novice 4-Miles Championship: Individual:** 1, James Halloran (Coolcroo); 2, Liam King (Lorrha); 3, Michael Carey (Premier). **Team:** 1, Coolcroo (1, 4, 5, 13-23 Pts.); 2, Premier (3, 8, 10, 13-34); 3, Ballynonty (7, 9, 14, 22-52).

Scoring members of Coolcroo team: J. Halloran, T. Bowe, T. Healy, R. O'Hara.

**Junior 6-miles championship: Individual:** 1, John O'Meara (Premier) (34 m. 5 secs); 2, Tim Bowe (Coolcroo); 3, John Flynn (Moynes). **Team:** 1, Ballynonty (9, 12, 13, 17, 19, 21-91); 2, Ballincurry (4, 14, 22, 24, 25, 27-116).

(Ballynonty scorers: Pat Hanly, Tony Kirby, Michael Nolan, John Scott, Pat Ryan, Paddy Croke).

**Senior 7½-miles championship. Individual:** 1, Con Bowe (Coolcroo), (40 mins.); 2, John Joe Bourke (Coolcroo); 3, Pat Ely (Coolcroo). **Team:** 1, Coolcroo (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7,-22); 2, Ballynonty (15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27-126). (Coolcroo's scorers: Con Bowe, Pat Ely, J. J. Bourke, Paddy Ryan, Malachy Mullaney, Matthew Mullaney).

**Youths 3-miles championship: Individual:** 1, Matt Mullaney (Coolcroo); 2, John Scott (Ballynonty); 3, Eddie Heffernan (Holycross). **Team:** 1, Ballynonty (2, 8, 9, 13, 26, 28-86); 2, Coolcroo (1, 6, 12, 21, 45, 52-137).

(Ballynonty scorers: J. Scott, P. Croke, P. Hanly, A. Hackett, P. Healy, M. Heaphy).

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FINALS

**Under-15: Individual:** 1, L. Ryan (Thurles); 2, T. Ryan (Thurles); 3, M. Ryan (Thurles). **Team:** 1, Thurles (L. Ryan, M. Ryan, T. Moore, L. Ralph) (23); 2, Thurles "B" (29).

**Under-17: Individual:** 1, P. Troy (Thurles); 2, M. Harty (Thurles); 3, K. Barrett (Cahir). **Team:** 1, Nenagh (S. Gorman, T. Meagher, S. Tucker, S. Meagher). 2, Thurles.

**Juvenile Under-15 1-mile championship: Individual:** 1, P. Prout (Shannon Rovers) (5m. 58 s.); 2, Liam Ryan (Moycarkey-Borris); 3, Thos. Healy (Coolcroo). **Team:** 1, Coolcroo (3, 5, 9, 14, 20, 31-82); 2, Moycarkey-Borris (2, 4, 19, 25, 33, 36-119). (Coolcroo scorers: T. Healy, G. Bowe, T. Ryan, P. Healy, J. Costello, T. Hayden).

## ROAD RUNNING

**Novice 4-miles championship: Individual:** 1, Conor Davitt (Cashel and U.C.C.); 2, John O'Meara (Premier); 3, Liam King (Lorrha). **Team:** 1, Premier (2, 10, 14, 26, 34, 65-151); 2, Ballynonty (5, 15, 38, 42, 43-180). (Premier scorers: J. O'Meara, J. Gleeson, T. Whelehan, J. Whelehan, J. Hackett, B. Cummins).

**Senior 6-miles championship: Individual:** 1, Michael Hickey (Dundrum); 2, Billy O'Dwyer (Dundrum); 3, Con Bowe (Coolcroo). **Team:** 1, Coolcroo (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-33); 2, Ballynonty (9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20-87). (Coolcroo scorers: C. Bowe, P. Ely, P. Ryan, J. J. Bourke, W. Bowe, T. Bowe).

## FIELD AND TRACK

**Junior Under-20 championship: 100 yds.**, J. Purcell (Thurles Crokes); 220, John Purcell, 440, Joe Mernagh (Thurles Crokes); 880, Tony Kirby (Ballynonty); **Mile**, Pat Ely (Coolcroo); **High Jump**, P. Hecksher (Rockwell College) 5' 2"; **Long Jump**, G. Lively (Rockwell College) 19' 4"; **Triple Jump**: Jim Ryan (Thurles Crokes) 40' 7½"; **Pole Vault**, P. Hecksher, 10' 1½"; **Hammer**, Michael Kelly (Nenagh Olympic) 122' 8"; **Shot**, Phil Conway (Rockwell College) 47' 6"; **Discus**, P. Conway

135' 6" **Best all-round club**, 1, Rockwell College; 2, Thurles Crokes; 3, Nenagh Olympic.

**Senior Championships: 100 yds.**, P. Dunne (Rockwell College) 10 secs.; 220, P. Dunne 23.3 secs.; 440, Michael Clancy (Ballynonty) 54.2 secs.; 880, M. J. Ryan (Rockwell College) 2 mins. 5.5. secs.; **Mile**, William O'Dwyer (Dundrum) 4 mins. 34.1 secs.; 3 miles, W. O'Dwyer, 14 mins. 57.8 secs.; **Mile Walk**, S. Gleeson (Nenagh Olympic); **High Jump**, P. Hecksher, 5' 9"; **Long Jump**, G. Lively, 21' 2"; **Pole Vault**, L. F. Gleeson (Nenagh Oly. and U.C.D.) 12' 6"; **Triple Jump**, John Moroney (Clogheen) 41' 8"; **16 lbs. Shot**, H. O'Callaghan (Premier) 49' 1"; **Discus**, H. O'Callaghan 134' 3"; **56 lbs. W/F**, H. O'Callaghan 24' 5¼"; **Hammer**, H. O'Callaghan 169'; **440 yds. Hurdles**, M. J. Ryan 63.4 secs.; **Inter-club Relay**: Rockwell College; **Ned Tobin Cup (Best all-round club)**: 1, Rockwell College (27 pts.); 2, Dundrum (15); 3, Nenagh Olympic (13); 4, Premier (11); 5, Thurles Crokes (8); 6, Ballynonty (4).

**JUVENILE: Under-12: 220 yds.**, John Kennedy (Ballynonty); 880, J. Kennedy, 100, M. O'Sullivan (Tipperary Town); **Hurdles**: J. Kennedy; **Long Jump**, G. Dineen (Tipperary Town); **Triple Jump**: G. Dineen; **High Jump**, M. Connolly (Premier); **Shot**, J. Maguire (Nenagh Oly.); **Relay**: Tipperary Town.

**Under-14: 100 yds.**, 220, hurdles, long jump, triple jump, discus and shot, J. A. Ryan (Coolcroo); **Mile**, C. Ryan (Cashel); **Pole Vault**: Pat Healy (Coolcroo); **High Jump**, John Healy (do.); **Javelin**, L. O'Brien (Nenagh Oly.).

**Under-16: 100 yds.**, R. Cummiskey (Rockwell); 440, T. Healy (Coolcroo); **Mile**, P. Collins (Tipp Town); **Hurdles**, P. Hecksher; **High Jump**, B. Savage; **Triple Jump**, B. Savage; ½ **mile Cycle**, G. Bowe (Coolcroo); **Long Jump**, T. Healy, **Pole Vault**, T. Whelehan (Premier); **Discus**, T. Whelehan, **Javelin**, M. Quigley (Nenagh Oly.); **Shot**, P. Hecksher.

**Under-18: 100 yds.**, Jim Ryan (Thurles); 440, O. Kehelly (Rockwell College); **Hurdles**, G. Lively, 3-Miles, Eddie Heffernan (Holycross); **Triple Jump**, Joe Bernaghe (Thurles Crokes); **Long Jump**, A. Condon (Rockwell College); **High Jump**, P. Hecksher; **Pole Vault**, Michael Kelly (Nenagh Olympics); **Discus**, P. Conway; **Shot**, Ed. Ryan (Nenagh Oly.); **Javelin**, M. Kelly; **Mile Cycle**, Ed. Cahalan (Shannon Rvs.); **O'Dwyer Cup**, 1, Nenagh Oly. (61 pts.), 2, Tipp Town (59), 3, Coolcroo (50), 4, Rockwell College (43).

## SUMMARY OF MEDALS WON BY THE VARIOUS CLUBS

Club	Munster	Irish	County
Ballincurry	1	0	6
Ballynonty	4	0	39
Cahir	2	0	0
Cashel	0	0	4
Clonmel	1	0	1
Coolcroo	28	0	53
Dundrum	4	2	14
Holycross	0	0	5
Shannon Rovers	0	0	4
Moycarkey-Borris	3	0	8
Moynes	0	0	1
Nenagh Olympic	17	5	29
Rockwell College	0	0	35
Thurles Crokes	3	0	14
Lorrha	1	0	2
Upperchurch	2	0	0
Tipperary Town	13	0	25
Premier	5	6	21





Sean McLoughlin palms the ball to the Wexford net for his county's second goal in the All-Ireland final.

# McLOUGHLIN—GOAL POACHER

**M**AYBE he will never get a Caltex Award, because the Sports Editors do not seem attracted to his brand of unspectacular yet thoroughly effective hurling, but I yield to no man in nominating Sean McLoughlin as one of the most vital cogs in the Tipperary machine that has swept to victory after victory in the past five years.

Indeed, there are some who claim that McLoughlin is not a hurler at all; that his very presence on a championship-winning team is a negation of all that is best in the ancient pastime of the Gael. But in the long run it is results that count. And believe me, there is no county that would not welcome the Thurles Sarsfield forward with open arms.

## ADMIRER

I am one of the few non-Tipperary men whose admiration for the big top of the left is unbounded. After all, it takes scores to win matches, and while points are all very welcome in themselves it is goals that break the hearts of the opposition. And like him or detest him, no one can deny McLoughlin's claim to the title of ace goal-poacher supreme of modern hurling.

Dealing with the year gone by, when Tipperary came of age in the

## SUPREME BY JACK POWER

All-Ireland Roll of Honour, wasn't it McLoughlin's two goals in the space of minutes that made the result a foregone conclusion long before half-time and reduced Wexford to a collection of helpless individuals rather than a team geared to capture the Blue Riband of hurling?

## DEFENCE

Defences know only too well the latent danger that lies in the burly rather awkward man who hugs the fringe of the opposing square and refuses to budge even when the opposition resorts to tactics not exactly in accordance with the rules laid down in the Official Guide.

If for no other reason than his nuisance value McLoughlin is worth a couple of goals to Tipp, for he requires careful watching for the full 60 minutes and also tends to have an unsettling effect on opposing goalkeepers.

This was only too evident in last year's Munster final when those two long shots from Theo English wound

up in the back of the Cork net and finished the match as a spectacle. Though he never touched the ball either time, it is generally agreed that Sean McLoughlin's presence on the edge of the square distracted the Cork custodian's attention and contributed largely to scores which virtually sealed the challengers' fate.

## TOM CUNNINGHAM

How to counter McLoughlin is a problem that very few present-day corner-backs have solved. Waterford's Tom Cunningham has had more success than most in this respect, yet he too failed to contain the Thurles man when they clashed in a League game last October.

True enough, Cunningham did a lot of hurling that day and effected many clearances, yet McLoughlin came off the field with three goals to his credit. And though Waterford folk may claim that one was a fluke, you cannot argue with positive results. The record books will forever tell that Sean was the man who delivered the body-blows to a game Waterford fifteen and sent them home wondering how best, short of shooting him, to cope with the McLoughlin menace.

The most feared trait in the Tipp  
(overleaf)

man's make-up is his ability to score goals even when his hurley is on the ground or securely gripped by his opponent.

Thurles Sarsfields and Tipperary have good reason to be thankful for the fact that he is, if anything, more dangerous with his right hand than with his hurley. Though purists and traditionalists may cry to high heaven that this isn't hurling but a modified form of handball, the fact remains that goals count in the long run. And McLoughlin's record proves that he is the man to get them.

This is why I admire him, for I have always been a firm believer in effective rather than spectacular hurling.

## RAISE GREEN FLAGS

Give me the forward any day who can raise green flags with the minimum of effort to the man who can captivate the crowd and earn rave notices for his stylish play yet come off the field with no tangible proof of his prowess on the score-board.

In any field game it's scores, particularly goals, that count. And Sean McLoughlin has proved that in this department he has no superior in modern hurling. Maybe many of his goals convey the impression that it requires no outstanding ability to get them. Yet how many other forwards can point to a comparable record in the years I mentioned?

Give McLoughlin credit then for being always in the right place at the right time to finish off movements. Give him credit also for rarely if ever failing to turn to account the simple chances that crop up in every game.

Most of his goals result from a flick of hand or wrist from close range. Many are registered by swinging the hurley with one hand while the other is "tied up" by a defender. There is nothing spectacular about them and opposing supporters are prone to classify them as lucky. But could all the goals he has scored in the past five years be attributed solely to luck? If you are honest, the answer must be no.

To my mind Sean McLoughlin has brought to a fine art the ability to extract the maximum of effect from the minimum of effort.

Rarely do you see him racing to



**TOM CUNNINGHAM**  
(Waterford)

the wing to get possession and centre the ball. For he is no speed merchant and gives the impression on the field of being most ungainly.

## HOVERS

He just hovers near or on the edge of the square waiting for the chance which is bound to come. And when the opportunity does present itself the ball is promptly despatched to the net with the minimum of fuss.

Yet my earliest memories of Sean McLoughlin are of a lithe, flying half-forward whose dashes down the left wing caused many a heartbreak for opposing defences. Tony Wall was also a forward in those days and I recall the pair of them teaming up most effectively for Thurles C.B.S. and the Tipp minors in the early 1950's.

McLoughlin was a match-winner in his own right and many a hard-fought Harty or Dean Ryan Cup match of that period was decided by one of his flashing solo runs and scores. Today few would credit that he was once a "flyer", yet he retains the old match-winning penchant and is probably the most feared individual in the Tipperary and Thurles attacks.

## SCORELESS

There have been days when each of his colleagues in turn has been held scoreless or out-hurled, but I for one cannot remember when Sean McLoughlin failed to "make" the scorers' list in an important game. And as well as that, the number of frees resulting from the opposition's over-anxiety to prevent him from getting the ball have presented

Jimmy Doyle with numerous opportunities to notch goals and points from frees.

People will tell you that Sean McLoughlin is not a hurler. Yet in the same breath they will laud to the skies any defender who can contain him even reasonably well. What further proof is needed of the respect that Tipperary's left corner forward commands?

## THE HANDBALL SCENE

(continued from page 7)

ied in length, breadth, height and general lay-out. They were erected at a time before handball came under the jurisdiction of the G.A.A. and before standard specifications for courts were set out. All courts erected in recent years are standard and are capable of staging championship fixtures. This standardisation has been a major development.

## FUTURE

It appears that the future of Handball is in the provision of covered courts at a number of centres throughout the county and arranging fixtures for times when they are least likely to clash with G.A.A. fixtures. The weather is a big factor in all out door games, but bad weather rules Handball out completely. The covered courts would make it possible to have the game played throughout the entire year, and games at night under lights would no doubt help to popularise it.

The advent of T.V. should have boosted Handball but no other sport has received such little coverage on that medium, and few other sports are so suitable for it.

Since Handball came within the jurisdiction of the G.A.A. in 1924 Tipperary have won the following All-Ireland titles:

2, S.S.S., 7, S.S.D., 3, S.H.D., 3, J.S.S., 5, J.S.D., 7, J.H.S., 7, J.H.D., 2, M.S.D., 3, M.H.S., 2, M.H.D., and has reached many other finals. It has also won innumerable Munster championships.



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