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WESTERN PEOPLE - 13TH FEBRUARY, 1892

THE G.A.A. IN MAYO

TO THE EDITOR WESTERN PEOPLE, THE SQUARE, CLAREMORRIS.

Dear Sir - Is it not about time some practical efforts should be made to re-establish the G.A.A. in Mayo on a sound and permanent basis and thereby restore it to the very creditable position it attained some few years ago. If an effort were now made to revive the association in this country, I am absolutely certain that that effort would be attended by success, because from what I can judge all seem anxious to have the G.A.A. once more established in a flourishing condition. It is most deplorable to find the association almost extinct in Mayo, and it behoves every lover of our ancient games to assist in raising them from the slumbers into which we have allowed them to fall.

What I would suggest is this, that a meeting of the prominent gaelis of the country be immediately held for the purpose of electing a committee that would take into its hands the work of organisation; the meeting to be held in some central place, so as it would be convenient to all delegates wishing to be present. Now, all those desirous of seeing the G.A.A. established on a firm footing in this county should come forward as men and do their part in resuscitating from oblivion the games of our forefathers. Delegates wishing to be present would do well to make known their intention to Mr. Thomas B. Kelly, Arthur Sgreet, Ballina, who can then fix the date of the preliminary meeting.

I have the greatest hopes that the "thud" of the football will be heard again all over Mayo, and the men of our county once more engage in friendly rivalries on the gaelic field. Relying, Mr. Editor, on your characteristic courtesy for the insertion of this letter.

I remain yours etc,
Conor O'Kelly.

WESTERN PEOPLE - 20TH FEBRUARY, 1892

THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

TO THE EDITOR WESTERN PEOPLE

Dear Sir - Permit me through your columns to raise my voice with others in calling on the gael of Mayo to resuscitate the gallant old movement. A sure sign of national decay is the voluntary neglect of our pastimes. Surely the gael of Mayo, will not lag behind when they see the rest of Ireland developing its courage and endurance through the medium of the games of our forefathers.

Four years ago, when the gaelic trumpet was sounded, our country was in the midst of a demoralizing and prostrating tide that was rushing to our very doors, through ill-conceived channels, threatening at every moment our chief racial characteristics with destruction; but thanks to the manhood of Mayo who came forward to foster the physical culture and pastimes of our forefathers, the tide of English imported amusements was stopped and the few adherents of cross-channel games to be found in Mayo to-day are but rotten branches of the tree called "Nationality".

Let not the present deplorable crisis under any circumstances prevent the revival of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Mayo. No matter what our domestic quarrels may be, show that we are still Irishmen determined to support and honour the ancient games of our country.

And now as a "means to an end", I will offer the following suggestions: -

- (1) A convention to be held in Castlebar, or some other central place on Wednesday, March 9th, for the election of officers and Co. Committee.
- (2) Members of late clubs should hold meetings immediately and appoint two delegates to attend said convention.
- (3) Prominent gael who live in places where clubs existed heretofore should organise same in the following places: - Ballina, Castlebar, Westport, Ballyhaunis, Ballaghaderreen, Claremorris, Charlestown, Ballyglass, Balla, Kilkelly, Kilcommon (Erris), Kilmore (Erris), Moygownah, Kiltimagh, Lacken, Foxforn, Newport, Killala, Kilfian, Crossmolina, Bunneconlan, Ardagh, Ballycastle, Attymass, Ballycroy, Meelick, Kilmovee, Ballysokeery, Backs and Ballinrobe.
- (4) All ex-officers and members of the County committee from the initiation of the movement in 1888 to have the power to attend and vote at convention.
- (5) Names of delegates and others who propose attending convention be forward to Mr. Thomas B. Kelly, Arthur Street, Ballina on or before the 9th prox.

These suggestions can be put into working order immediately, and in the meantime every true gael should put his shoulder to the wheel and show that he is not indifferent to the exhilarating field sports for which Ireland of old was famous.

The time is now opportune for a thorough reorganisation of the G.A.A. The principal of mens sana in corpore sano demands of every man who loves his country to fall into the association immediately and give such practical assistance as will make the movement worthy of the sons of Mayo.

I am, dear Sir, A Gael.

WESTERN PEOPLE - 30TH APRIL, 1892

FOOTBALL

WESTPORT v. CASTLEBAR

A very well contested match was played on the grounds of the latter by the above-named juvenile teams and resulted in a well-deserved victory for the visitors. The trysting-ground, quite convenient to the town, was placed at the disposal of the young folk by Mr. M. O' Malley of Castlebar St. Notwithstanding the very unfavourable weather that prevailed, a goodly number of spectators thronged the ground. A marked interest, from start to finish, was shown by the spectators during the progress of the game. Great credit is due to Master Peter Heraty, the captain of the Westport team, for his very successful scoring, his manner of playing being the subject of general admiration. The play of Masters McCoy, Moffitt and Arthur Byrne deserved special words of commendation. It is a pleasing duty to remark that throughout the game there was a total absence of that ill-feeling and rancour which are so peculiarly a characteristic of football. Westport were deemed the victors, winning by one goal and one point.

WESTERN PEOPLE - 21ST MAY, 1892

CASTLEBAR v. WESTPORT

The return match between the juvenile teams of the above clubs came off on Sunday last on the Castlebar ground before a very large number of spectators. The delightfully fine weather that prevailed during the day was an inducement to many to witness the sport of the youngsters who would not otherwise have been there and, consequently, there was a number of spectators present which is not alway to be seen on a football field. Pigeon Park - kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. M. Quinn - was the scene of the contest- and a pretty scene it was - the appearance of the players, with their parti-coloured jerseys being very picturesque, and the bright summer costumes of the ladies present lending to it additional charms. During the progress of the game it seemed evident to those present that Westport would be beaten, as the young athletes seemed to lack that verve which distinguished them on all former occasions, although it would be unjust to say that Masters Byrne, Moffit, Jeffers McGreal, McCoy and young Captain Heraty did not play with their usual spirit. In the Castlebar team special words of praise are due to Masters Kelly (Captain), Garvey and Hennelly, who were very successful in their scoring. The utmost good humour prevailed, and after the game was finished the band played the visitors to the Reading Room in LinenHall Street, where they were hospitably entertained by their youthful competitors. Westport was beaten by 3 goals, which puts the two teams on an equal footing and necessitates the playing of a final, which may be shortly expected. Mr. B. S. Walsh was umpire for Westport, and for Castlebar Mr. Hughes. Mr. L. Garvey acted as referee.
