WESTERN PEOPLE FEBRUARY 13 th 1897

FOOTBALL SWINFORD V. BALLYVARY:

On Sunday last at Ballyvary a match was played between the above teams under the rules of the Gaelic Athletic Association, which excited a considerable amount of interest. In accordance with arrangement, and sharp to time, the Swinford team arrived in Ballyvary at hald-past one o'clock, accompanied by a numverous contingent consisting of a brake and a large number of cars. There was no time lost in preliminary arrangements, and both teams procceded at once to the trysting ground, a field quite adjacent to the town which was very kindly placed at the disposal of the Ballyvary club by Mr. Beckett and which was most suitable for the purpose in every respect. It was well lined and laid out by the committee in charge, and the utmost credit is due to the Ballyvary club for the very excellent arrangements they had made for maintaining order in the field, which were successfully and energetically carried out. The attendance of spectators was unusually large and respectable, and their demeanour throughout was most praiseworthy and well conducted. With the appearance of success on either side, there was of course that inevitable display of enthusiasm which often gives a wanting touch of earnestness to such a meeting, but there was an entire absence of any element of unpleasantness and a most agreeable harmony seemed to prevail throughout the proceedings. Indeed it might be described as a record day in this respect, and with a few such gatherings we might venture to look forward with confidence to a revival of the fine Gaelic movement which a few years ago raised sport in Mayo to a level of which we can only speak in terms of unqualified praise. At about two o'clock the two teams entered the field, and they at once agreed in appointing Mr. Raftery, of Balla, as referee, a most admirable selection, as his decisions appeared to give satisfaction to all parties. Mr. A.J. Staunton acted as umpire for the Swinford team, and

Mr. Harry Canning on behalf of Ballyvary, and it was felt that they both acted with characteristic impartiality, Mr. Staunton's thorough knowledge of the Gaelic rules, derived from his long connection with the sport in the county, being of invaluable assistance. The Ballyvary team having won the toss for choice of sides, the ball was thrown up by the feferee without further delay. Then ensued a few minutes' brilliant play, each team putting forth their best efforts in the first struggle for supremacy, and for the first ten minutes the issue seemed doubtful. Then it appeared that the superior playing and masterful passing of the Swinford men were telling in their favour, and thy soon succeeded in placing a point to their credit, which was followed by two others in quick succession. From this forth the ball was almost continually in Ballyvary territory, and at the call of half-time it was wuite evident that the victory would go to the visitors, the score then standing 3 points for Swinford. The home team, however, appeared by no means discouraged at the result, and they resumed play under what appeared to be the slightest prospect of success, with splendid pluck and energy, and though they made several brave efforts to force the ball into opposite territory they failed to break through the almost invulnerable force presented by the Swinford backs; and when the feferee announced "time up" thwscore stood:

SWINFORD 1-6 BALLYVARY nil

SWINFORD TEAM: MR. E.H. DOLPHIN(CAPT) MESSRS O'CONNOR: McLOUGHLIN: MOORE: LYDON: :.P. GAVAGHAN: D. CAMPBELL: A. LYDON: T. LEONARD: P. SWEENEY: J. DURKAN: T. McLOUGHLIN: T. FRAHER: T. MOORE: M. CARNEY: J. CONWELL: T. KEARNS(GOAL).

We are unable to give the names of theBallyvary team, but the splendid k kicking of Mr. Foy(captain) and Mr. Joe Canning deserves to be specially mentioned. We are in a position to state that the Swinford club are making arrangements for holding a grand tournament, in which some of the crack clubs of the county will be invited to participate on an early date.

WESTERN PEOPLE MARCH 6th 1897

FOOTBALL BALLINA V. SWINFORD

On Sunday last Swinford was the scene of one of the most interesting Gaelic gatherings ever witnessed in the West of Ireland. The Stephenites left Ballina a t ten a.m. sharp, headed by the fife and drum band and a large contingent, there being two brakes and about a dozen side cars. A great cheer haralded their appearance in Swinford. They arribed with commendable punctuality and took up their quarters at the "Arch House" where they were most cordially received by the very popular proprietor, Mr. a.j. Staunton. After a short delay they immediately proceeded to the old football pitch in Brabazon Park, about a quarter mile from the town. The match had naturally aroused great interest, a large contingent crossing over from Balla, Meelick, Foxford, etc. The enclosure was an excellently appointed one, and thought the ground was a little narrow it was otherwise very suitable. The weather was fine except for a rather strong breeze which blew down the field, but as that important factor remained consistent, the toss, which favoured the home team made no difference in the end. The tedium of waiting was beguiled by the rendering of some stirring airs by the bans which played until the referee's whistle blew to "line up". At two p.m. referee O'Rafftety of Balla, threw in the ball, and after about ten minutes of even play the Stephenites scored a point to their credit. Thekick out was followed by excellent play when Dolphin (capt of the home team) got away with the leather wnd "dribbled" near the visitors' grounds, but was badly backed up. Here Flannery stepped in and took possession of the ball which he passed to Ronan, and with a determined dash the latter by a splendid kick registered the second point for Ballina. After this the Swinford men pulled themselves together and made a good r rush to visitors grounds - amost praiseworthy effort - but were put back by McManus, Kelly, and Conlon(half backs), assisted by Connor and Quigley, the latter making good play. They kept possession of the ball and after excellent play, the "passing" being here introduced, they succeeded in scoring a thirdpoint before half time. Immediately after half time being sounded the score stood as follows:

BALLINA 0-3 SWINFORD nil

So far Ballina had much he better of the game, but however on resuming the Swinford men attacked with great vigour, but a splendid defence made them soon retire fairly beaten on merits. On time being called the score was as follows:

BALLINA 1-8 SWINFORD nil

From a spectator's point of view the first half was well contested the Swinford men showing excellent play, but it lost much of Brilliancy afterwards, when the Ballina men succeeded in keeping the play to themselves. Ronan(capt) kicked fairly well but he was often in better form. Ballina was unquestionably the better team of the day, andproved themselves worthy of the name and tradition of the famous old Stephenite club which conquered on so many a field.

BALLINA: J. RONAN(CAPT) W. McMANUS J. FLANNERY M. CORCORAN H. SWEENEY P. RYAN P. CLARKE J.J. KELLY P. KELLY J. BROWN W. WALSH P. CONNOR T. QUIGLEY M.J. CONLAN P. HEFFERON.

SWINFORD: E. DOLPHIN(CAPT) R. O'CONNOR P. BYRNE T. CAMPBELL P. GAVAGH A. LYDON P. LYDON T. McLOUGHLIN M.McLOUGHLIN P. SWEENEY T. KEARNS M. CAENEY M. MOORE T. MOORE J. DURKAN J. HALLINAN

REFEREE: P. O'RAFFERTY, BALLA.

FIELD UMPIRE, J. CONVILLE

GOAL UMPIRE, P. KIRKPATRICK.

WESTERN PEOPLE MARCH 6th 1897

BALLINA YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY AND STEPHENS CLUB:

A mostly successful and largely attended meeting of the members of the above society was held in their rooms on Tuesday evening last for the purpose of reorganisation and electing officers and a committee for the ensuing year. Mr. T. Courell was moved to the chair, and having explained the object for which they met the following officers were elected unamimously: - President, Mr. T. Courell; vice-president, Mr. P.J. Browne; treasurer, Mr. John Howley; hon,. secretary, Mr. L. Gallagher; csptain, Mr. James Honan½ vice captain, Mr. Mat Corcoran.

All the officers suitable returned thanks for their election and promised to spare no effort to bring the club to that position of prestige enjoyed by the old Stephenite club. A good energetic committee of twelve members was then elected by ballot, and a code of rules, drafted by the president, wereunamimously adopted by the club. It was agreed that the club should extend its sphere of work outside that of footballa and that it should be known as "The Ballina Young Men's society." We beleive it is the intention of the society tho have "Penny Readings" and recitations every Sunday evening.

WESTERN PEOPLE MARCH 20the 1897

KELTIMAGH (DILLON'S) V. SWINFORD (FIRK'S)

The a bove match under Gaelic rules took place at Keltimagh on Sunday la st, on a field kindly given for the occasion by Mr. James Morrin. The event caused great excitement in Town as both teams were confident of success, the ma tch was witnessed by a concourse of people, who maintained the greatest regularity notwithstanding their enthusiasm. The teams lined up at three o'clock, and the Dillon's won the toss, and elected to play with thw eind, after five minutes hard work Kelly (one of the home team) succeeded in getting a point, from this till half time was called scoring was the order of the day for the Dillon's, as point after point was regis ered to their credit, and Mr. Burke after some splendid play succeeded in scoring a goal. The Firk's made some fine dashes to regain their lost ground but without avail.. The change of sides was not agreat improvement to the Swinford mem, as the leather was continuously kept in their ground a nd the "homers" added three more points to their creditl At call of time the final dcore stood:-

DILLON'S 1-10 FIRK'S 0-1

he Keltimagh team played a splendid hame ghroughout, as also did Lydon, Walsh, Furey and Nestor for Swinford. Mr. T. Higgins, Kilkelly acted as referee and discharged his duties in a most impartial manner. Mr. J.P. oughneen, was field umpire for the Dillon's wile Mr. T. McLoughlin, held a like position for the visitors. I do not know the names of the Firk's but the following is a list of the home team.

HOPKINS JORDAN KELLY LAVAN WALSH MURPHY LYDON McGLYNN M. BURKE J. BURKE KELLY GARVEY WALSH MULLOY.

WESTERN PEOPLE MARCH 20th 1897

FOOTBALL // BALLINA(STEPHENITES) V. QUAY

The above match came off on Sunday last ina a field convenient to the Quay kindly given for the occasion by Mr. McKenna. There seemed to be an unusua l amount of interest centred in it, as the field was thronged with spectators and it taxed the utmost efforts of the field officers to keep the side lines cleared. Mr. James Ahearn was unamimpusly chosen as referee, and we might here remark that he discharged his onerous duties throughout with very pnaiseworthy impartiallty and precision. During the first five minutes of play a foul was committed by a player on each side,, and he ordered both delinquints off the field for five minutes. This display of firmness at the outset had no doubt, the effect of preventing any further tendencies to roughness or disorder. At 2 o'clock the ball was thrown in and was immediately carried towards the Ballina goal, where it was kept for about seven minutes. The Quay men made several attempts to score, but were unsuccessfully and after a few dexterous passes by the Stephenites the venue of combat was soon changed and ere long Ballina had a point to its credit. The play from this forthe was ocntinually in Quay territory and point after point followed in quick succession, until, at call of half-time, the score stood:-STEPHENITES 0-6 QUAY nil.

On change of sides, immediately the ball was thrown in it was carried by the Stephenites towards their opponents' q uarters, and inside of a couple of minutes bhey had placed a goal to their credit. This seemingly roused the ire of the Quay team, wo literally swept the ball before them, and although meeting with a stubborn resistence from the Stephenites backs and goalkeeper, they landed the leather over the tapes thus scoring their first point. Shortly afterwards they made another determined onrush and cleverly scored a goal, and from this forward the ball was almost continually in Ballina territory. During the last quarter af an hour the Stephenites made several determinedd dashes and succeeded in adding two further points to theit score. At one time Conlan(Stephenite) had the ball almost under the Quay goal tapes, and although he might easily have scored a point still he kept

dodging for a goal with a persostency and determination that were certainly very praiseworthy but the strenous resistance of the Quay goalkeeper and backs proved too strong, and the Stephenites were ultimately rputed from their position. At call of time the score stood:-

STEPHENITES 1-8 SHAMROCKS 1-1

The referee therefore decldred the Stephenites the victors. Both teams were in good form and played a splendid game. The Stephenites showed the better training of the two, their clever passing throughout the game being greatly admired, while the Quay team left the field as fresh as when they entered. The play of the Stephenites was fast, scientific and determined; while that of the Quay team was strong and furious, and throughout the entire match it was more of a trial of skill against strength than anything we have seen for some time. We single out for special praise on the Stephenite side Messrs. Ronan(captain), Corcoran,McMamus, Flannery, Conlan, Clarke and Donnelly: While om those who kicked best on the other side were Messrs Mulloy(captain), Walshe, Howard, Egan, Conlan and Coen. This is the first victory which the Stephenites achieved over the Quay team. althouth they played them a fewtimes previously, but from their spitited and briliant play on last Sunday there is no reason to doubt that they will hold their hard won laurels.

WESTERN PEOPLE MARCH 27th 1897

G.A.A. FOOTBALL / SARSFIELDS V. PARISH OF BEKAN

A match between the above teams was played at Bekan on Sunday last, and was witnessed by a vast concourse of people from the surrounding districts. The Sarsfields winning the toss chose to play with a slitht breeze in their favour. The Bekans from the commencement played an excellent game, keeping the leather for the most part of the time mid-field; but the ball dropping twiceto the left wing it was passed each time to the Sarsfields' forwards, who scored. The play during the last half hour was of a rather violent na ture, the forwards charging each other fiercely. However, the Sarsfields, after a series of splendid passing, succeeded in scoring twice a against the wind; and when time was called the score stood:-

SARSFIELDS 2-2 BEKAN nil

The following deserve to be applauded for the excellent game they played:

Bekan - FARRELL MURRAY BYRNE FORDE WALDRON GROGAN DARCY McHUGH BURKE.

Sarsfields: FEELEY NYLAND JUDGE. McGEE REGAN TORMEY WALDRON BYRNE O'MALLEY MORLEY.

Mr. B. Mitchell acted as referee.

WESTERN PEOPLE APRIL 3rd 1897

FOOTBALL / BALLAGHADERREEN FAUGH-A-BALLAGH'S V. BALLYMOTE ROUND TOWERS

The above match, under the rules of the G.A.A., took place in Ballymote on Sunday week and as was generally admitted was the most keenly contested one ever played in the old football field of Carrownanty. The morning dawned bright and glorious, contrasting favourabley with the previous rainy weather, and was hauled by the Ballaghaderreen men as an omen of success. Starting at lla.m. in two brakes followed by a large number of side cars, the Ballaghaderreen men made an imposing entrance into Ballymote, where they arrived at . o'clock and were greeted by a rousing cheer by the numbers assembled too witness their arrival. Immediately after dressing they proceeded to the field, which was already thronged with spectators and were followed shortly after by the Round Towers. The field being too short occasioned a slight delay, during which a pretty stiff breeze sprung up, blowing directly from goalto goal. The preliminaries being arranged, and the toss being won by the home tea, who chose to plah with the wind, the ball was thrown up by the referee at 2.35. The Faugh-a-ballaghs went to work at once, and ere the first minute elapsed had succeeded in scoring a point. From this out until half-time the play continued with unabated vigour, but owing to various causes, thw eind being one important factor, and half-hearted play on the part of the visitors' backs being another w whenthe referees whistle sounded the home team had 4 points to their credit three of them veing scored by 50 yards kicks. On play being resumed the wnd with remarkable comsistency suddenly veered round and blew steadily, butwith ever-decreasing strength, directly across the field, which, together with the fact that the ground ascended from the Ballaghaderreen to the Ballymote goal, greatly interfered with the play of the visitors. Never-

theless they made gallant fight, and would have undoubtedly scored again had their forwards veen properly packed up or even had their players returned to the places assigned to them, the result might, nay, would ha ve been entirely different. As it was they who kept the ball nea rly hall the time in their opponents territory. When time was called the result was Ballymote 5 points; Ballaghaderreen 1 point.

A Ballymote correspomdent sends us the following account of the match:- The Ballymote team having won the toss chose to play towards the hill, h having a slight breeze in their favour. Both teamshaving their ups and the referee having given his caution, the ball was thrown in and was met by one of the Round Towers who succeeded in getting it onto the ground of their opponents but it was soon swnt back and the visitors forward getting possession of it pressed hard and Connaughton with a well-directed kick scored a point for the viditors. After the k ick from goal some very good play was witnessed the visitors pressing hard again. , but the backs of the home team kicked well , and their forwards getting a run brought the ball to the other goal, where it was kept till T.J. Henry. of the home teqm succeeded in scoring their first point. After this the home team was awarded a free fifty yards kick, which was taken byF. Chambers, who scored another point, the play of the Faugh's after this was splendid, several fine dashes being made to add th their score fut failed. After some time the ball was again brought to the centre, where it was kept until the Towers pressing their opponents hard were awarede another free fifty yards which was made a point of. Soon after this another point was scored by P. Henry, of the home team so that when half-time was called the score s tood:-

ROUND TOWERS 0-4 FAUGHS 0-1

After a short time the teams lined up again, and the visitors showing up well and striving with all their might to add to their score, but the backs of the home team having to be dealt with they failed in scoring. Some play of a very scientific character was displayed by both teams at

this period, the Round Towers succeeding in getting the ball off their ground and their forwards getting possession of it made things look dangerous for the visitors, whose backs were kicking with great judgement, but the home forwards kept up the attack, and B. Henry getting possession of the ball sent it over the goal line. After this the spectators were much amused by the passing and dribbling indulged in by some of the players on both sides, the visitors pressing the ball up the field and trying hard for to score, but only to be repulsed atain by the others backs. One of the men playing on thel left wing got a splendid run and passed to the centre when O'Connor by a good shot added another point to the credit ot the home team. During the remainder of the play things were partly even, the ball being kept in the centre of the field, so that when full time was called the score stood:-

ROUND TOWERS 0-6 FAUGH-A-BALLAGHS 0-1

WESTERN PEOPLE APRIL 10th 1897

FOOTBALL / BALLYHAUNIS EXILES V. SHAMROCKS

The return match between the above teams was played off on Sunday last There was a great deal of interest manifested on both sides. The Shamrocks won the toss and elected to kick with the wind. The play was very exciting for the first fww minutes until the Exiles scored their first point, after which the Shamrocks put forth an effort and kicked with unabated vigour but were unsuccessful, the Exiles scoring continually. At caoo of time the result read -

EXILES 2-1 SHAMROCKS 0-1

WESTERN PEOPLE APRIL 24th 1897

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT BALLYHAUNIS:

At the tournament held in Ballyhaunis on Sunday week only three clubs attended - Ballyhaunis(Celts), Miltown(John O'Kanes) and Ballaghaderreen (Fa ugh-a-ballaghs) who arrived at 3.30p.m. It was arranged that Ballyhaunis and Milltown wold first enter the field and whichever team proved victorious to be pitted againstthe Faugh-a-Ballaghs, but when the first match was over, owing to some of the O'Kanes objecting to play secondly, a slight change had to be made in the arrangements.

The matches were played in the following order Ballyhaunis Celts v Miltown John O'Kanes.

The toss being won by the Celts (who elected to play with thewind), and both teams having lined up, the ball was thrown in by Referee Waldron, of Balyhaunis, at 4.30p.m. After a few minutes lively play, the Celts got the ball well into their opponents territory, wherre theirforwards, a with a splendid rush, succeededin scoring the first point. Play continued pretty evenly for awhile until the O'Kanes, settling down to work, went one better, putting two points in rapid successjon to their credit in spite of the splendid defence made by the home "backs". This closed first half-time.

After a short cessation of play, the ball was again thrown in, and the Celts playing well forward, made things hot for their opponents, whose "Backs" defended well, till Morley, with a splendid kick, scored the second point for Ballyhaunis.

During the rest of the second half-time both teams played with great vigor and resolution, and though the O'Kanes succeeded in scorong twice it was mainly due to the home "backs" getting too far in front. When the referee's whislte sounded the result was :-

MILTOWN 0-4 BALLYHAUNIS 0'2

JOHN O'KANES V. FAUGH-A'BALLAGHS

Both teams agreed to play for 15 minutes each way, but when the Faugh-a-Ballaghs lined up some of he O'Kanes refused to play and referee Waldron throwing in the ball, awarded the match to Ballaghaderreen.

BALLYHAUNIS CELTS V. BALLAGHADEREEN FAUGH-a-BALLAGHAS

The Celts agreed to play the "Faughs" for half an hour, and the latter t team winning toss the ball was thrown in at 6.10. The home team playedw well, and ere long succeeded in scoring apoint, but the skill and prudence of their opponents rendered a repetion a very difficult achievement and gave them more than they could do to defend their own goal. After 15 minutes play sides were changed and though the Celts played well and skilfully, they "wereNot init" when pitted against the "Faughs" who true to eheir name, swept everything before them scoring point after point rapidly. Even the magnificent defence made by Rattigan (goal keeper) and thehome"backs" was of no avail against the splendid rushes of the "Faugh" forwards - Cassidy, McGeoghagan, Feeny, Connaughton, Coleman, Tigue and McOowan, who by their splendid play, kept the ball consianlty in front of the Ballyhaunis goal, w ile their "backs" O'Connell. Burke, O'Donnell, Creighton and Quinn presented an impregnable front to the repeated char ges of the Celts" "forwards", Glavey, Morley, Delaney, the Kellys and co, who played remarkabley well and would undoubtedly have scored had the Ballyghaderreen goal been less ably defended. After half an hour's excellent play the result was:-

Ballaghaderreen 1-4 Balyhaunis 0-2

As I do not know the names of all the players in the Miltown and Ballyhaunis teams, I shall only give the names ot the Ballahaaderreen taam, which are CREIGHTON CRONIN CONNAUGHTON O'DONNELL TIGHE BURKE O'CONNELL McGEOGHAGAN COLEMAN McGOWAN CASSIDY FEENEY QUINN McDERMOTT(whose play on the wings could not be excelled) CUNIFF AND MORRISROE.

Mr. M. Waldron who acted as referee deserves great credit for the able and impartial manner in which he discharted the by no means pleasing task imposed on him. Although connected with the Ballyhaunis club, his impartiality in handling every dispute during both matches was beyond all praise - Con.

WR APR 24, 1897

Soccer

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL / BALLAGHADERREEN "YOUNG IRELANDS" V "ROVERS"

The above match took place in Ballaghaderreen on Sunday last, and was, from the time the ball was first kicked off until the referee's whistle sounded last half time, a most exciting and well contested match. The "o Rovers having won the toss, the ball was kicked off by McDermott at 2.10 p.m. Some excellent play ensued, the dribbling and passing on both sides being very scientific. When half-time was called neither side had any advantage but when the ball was again kicked off Burke and Mahon played it very cleverly along the left wing when Burke with a capital kick, passed to Coleman who, shooting quick as lightning scored the first goal for the Young Irelands. From this till time was called the game went on very vigorously, the repeated attempts of the Rovers to score bein g held off, w ile the splendid shots of Burke from t he right wing and Coleman from centre were as ably warded off by the Rovers goal-keeper. When Referee P.J. McDonnell called time the result was :-

YOUNG IRELANDS 1-0 ROVERS nil

G.A.A. FOOTBALL:

A tournament undre avove rules will be held in Ballaghaderreen to-morrow (Sunday) 25th. The members of the Faugh-a-Ballaghs club are leaving nothing undone to insure the success of the meeting and if the weather clerk is in any sort of good humour and favours them with a fine day (which is alll they require at his hands), there is not the slightest doubt that this tourney will be the event of the footballing season in May o. The following teams are expected to attend:-

BOYLE BALLYMOTE BALLYHAUNIS (TEAMS) SWINFORD GURTEEN KELTIMAGH FRENCHPARK AND ANNAGH

WESTERN PEOPLE MAY 8th 1897

THE CLAREMORRIS "P.W. NALLY'S

A meeting of the members of the above team was held on Sunday evening for the purpose of organising the club for the coming season. The following were present - JOHN TUCKER(CHAIRMAN) THOS. MORAN(TREASURER) JOHN GRIFFITH(CAPTAIN) JOHN McDONNELL(HON. SEC) JAS. GRAHAM PATRICK KILLEEN M. LOWRY M. MULLINS M. GAVIN THOS. BOYNE. It was decided that membership be limited to no particular number and that a practice match be held each evening at 8 o'clock in the fair green. In reply to Mr. Kileen, the secretary stated that in the course of a fortnight the club would be prepared to accept challenges; he was sure the Milltown, Ballaghaderreen and other surounding teams would be anxious to meet them.

WESTERN PEOPLE MAY 8th 1897

FOOTBALL:

Under the auspices of the John O'Keane G.A.A. a tournament was held at M Milltown on Sunday last. The only teams that attended were the Dunmore John McHales and Irishtown Young Irelands, although teams were invited f from Claremorris, Ballyhaunis and Belclare. The first match that took place was between the Dunmore McHales and Milltown O'Keanes. The home team having won the toss for choice of sides, the ball was quickly put in motion. The O'Keanes taking advantage of thw wind quickly succeeded in placing 2 points to their credit. There as no further scoring during the first half time. After change of sides, thewind having abated a little and the McHales playing with their usual determination acored a goal and a point. At the close of play the scoring stood - McHales, 1-1; O'Kenaes 0-2. Mr. Mullarkey acted as referee.

No other team putting in an appearance, the McHales had to toe the line against the Young Irelands, who indeed seemed no match fof the sturdy Dunmore men, whom I may mention were champions of Connaught for two successive years. The McHales won the toss and played their best during the first half time, but still itavailedthem nothing, as there was no scoring on either side. During the second halftime the Young Irelands registered on the behalf 2 points, much to the surprise of the spectators as well as tothe McHales themselves, who almost expected a walk over. An especial amount of praise is due to Mr. Lavelle, captain of the McHales, Mr. Fitzmaurice, captain of the Young Irelands, and although last not least, Mr. Gilmore, captain of the L'Keanes who maintained splendid discipline in their respective teams during the progress of the matches. Mr. A. Sheridan refereed the match. The play stood:-

IRISHTOWN 0-2 DUNMORE nil.

WESTERNP PEOPLE MAY 22nd 1897

FOOTBALL / BALLINA STEPHENITES V. QUAY SHAMROCKS:

The return match of thea above teams was played on Sunday in the Stephenites grounds and resulted in a tie. The day was gloriously fine, and this added to the interest centred in the match, drew an immense crowd o to witness the game. Owing to the absence, through some unavoidable cause, of Molloy(captain), Keane and Walsh fro the Quay team they could only bring together fifteen players. The Stephenites objected to play with fifteen men aside, but after some time they were prevailed upon to meet the Shamrocks, and the preliminaries were at once proceeded with. At the instance of the Quay team the match was played without points. Mr. John Caffey was chosen to act as referee and discharged the duties to the entire satisfaction of both sides. Immediately that the ball was thrown up it was carried off by the Shamrocks and after a tough struggle at the Ballina posts they succeeded in sending the leather just outside the goal post. From this forth the game wasone fast, fierce and determined struggle for supremacy. Sometimes the ball would be kept for several minutes in the Quay territory, then the order would be reversed, and the Ballina backs and goalkeeper would get a warm ten minutes of it defending their quarters. The general order of the play, however, was a rapid passing of the ball from one end to the other½ and while the Ballina men generally accompaished this by a scientific use of the hands, the Shamrocks depended largely upon the use of their nether extremeties to force the leather towards the enemies lines, and were seldom unsuccessful. Towards the end of the first half-hour, by a series of very clever passes between Timlin, Ronan and McManus, the ball was shot through the Quay posts, the Stephenites thus scoring first blood. At change of sides the Shamrocks assumed the aggressive and made several determined onslaughts on the Ballina goals, but were effectively repulsed at each effort. During the last quarter of an hour Dwyer got possession of the ball towards the sidelines, and notwithstanding the able defence made by the Stephenites, he ducceeded in

shooting it through the Ballina goals. This equalised matters and although for the remaining five minutes there were many attempts made by both sides, there was no further score. The match throughout was one of the best contested seen in Ballina for some years; the play was very fast and spirited and there was an entire absence of the discerned bad feeling, which mar the pleasures of an many matches. Amongst those who distinguished themselves were Messrs Ronan, McManus, Timlin, Flannery, Sweeney.

29th May, 1897 - Western People:

FOOTBALL

BALLAGHADERREEN 'FAUGH-A-BALLAGH' V. KI BALLINA 'STEPHENITES':

The above match, under revised G.A.A. Rules was played in Swinford on Sunday last the 23rd inst. The match was played in a victory for the 'Faughs'. The match was played in a field near Brabazon Park, the property of Mr. A. J. Staunton, all arrangements for the match having been made by the Swinford club.

The 'Faughs' having won the toss; Referee: O'Donnell of Foxford threw in the ball at 4.40 p.m. Neither side securedany advantage from the throw in, but after a few minutes brisk play the 'Faughs' succeeded in scoring a goal by a splendid dash of the forwards, actually sending ball and goal keeper through the 'Stephenites' goal posts. The ball being kicked off was played briskly to the 'Faughs' half backs who, as quickly returned it to the centre of the field, where the 'Faughs' got possession and keeping it, added a point to their score which then stood; -

'Faughs' 1-2

Stephenites 0-1

Play was resumed after a short interval and continued briskly for about eight minutes, when the Stephenites right forward kicked the ball between the 'Faughs' point posts and behind the line. The ball was played back and was caught by Timlin who being unable to kick ti threw it towards another Stephenite thereby committing a foul and entitling the 'Faughs' to a free kick. A scrimmuaghe ensued during which the ball went between the goal posts almost without resistance from the 'Faughs' to a free kick. whose goal umpire called to them to let the ball pass. The Stephenites vehementaly demanded a goal which the others justly disputed, claiming a free kick for the foul commintted by Timlin in

throeing the ball. The 'Faughs' did not dispute the point scored; but admitted the fairness of the score and were quite willing to allow the 'Stephenites' a point.

Ultimately both teams agreed in the referee's presence to resume play on the distince under standing that the Stephenites were to accept the point scored and forego all calima to the disputed goal. During the remainder of the play the Stephenites made desperate efforts to score and succeeded in getting two points one the 'Faughs' got away with the ball and scored a point against the wnd wind. At the expiration of full time the scoring stood; -

'Faughs' 1-3

'Stephenites' .....0-4.

Names of the Ballaghaderreen team are:

Creighton;(capt); Burke;vice catp; Cronin goal; O'Donnell, McGowan; Richards; Feeney; Dowd; O'Neill; Cassidy; McGeoghegan; Quinn; Coleman; Tighue; Murray; Cunninghan; and Crighton.

The 'Faughs' a have been victorious in all the matches they have played this season, with the exception of one played in Ballymote? in which the the latter team won.

From a Ballaghaderreen correspondent.

WESTERN PEOPLE MAY 29th 1897

(FROM A SWINFORD CORRESPONDENT)

On last Sunday Swinford was the scene of a well contested football match under the revised rules of the G.A.A. Ballina - as in the old days of '88 and '89 - mad a magnificent turn out with about 20 cars and two h heavily laden brakes, accompanied by its sweet sounding fife and drum band, which materially assisted in making the pageant a pleasing one. Ballaghaderreen also came with a large number of vehicles and a respectable contingent to witness the teams in friendly rivalry. The trysting ground on this occasion was a protion of the Brabazon Park Demesne, kindly given by Mr. A.J. Staunton, the great football organiser of the '88 and '83. In this month the Park looks its best, with its verdant fields, full foliage, and blooming hawthorn. Although there was scarcely any public notice, still a gigantic crowd assembled to enjoy the day. Both teams lined up at about 4 o'clock, fearless of the dazzling splendour of a hot summer 's sun. As one who earnestly witnessed every manoeuvre of the game I must say both teams were very good, and exhibited a fine display of passing and dribbling. There were too many outsiders interfering, and with less of that, and less waggling of the members, it would have wound up a enjoyable day. To say who won is now the rub, and a s an impartial observer I must print it in capital letters - NEITHER OF THEM - and my verdict, backed by the feeling of the public is, let them meet and kick it off again. Both teams left under the impression that they were victorious, but I satand by what I say, and, like the Corbett-Fitzsimmons f fight, we must ask them to meet again.

WESTERN EPOPLE JULY10th 1897

CHARLESTOWN SARSFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB:

On Monday evening 5th inst, a meeting was held in Charlestown for the purpose of organising a football club. At first the task seemed almost impossible, owing to the lateness of the season and the scarcity of fields in the vicinity for practice. The meeting, however, far surpassed expectations, and dispelled all fears regarding the starting of the club. Numerous subscribtions were handed in and officers elected. The team is notyet ready to compete, but when it is notice will be duly given through the columns of this paper. After transacting some routine business the meeting adjourned. - Cor.

WESTERN PEOPLE JULY 24th 1897

CHARLESTOWN SARSFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB:

A meeting of the above club was held on Saturday, 11th inst. Amongst other matters for consideration the election of chairman took place. Mr. Michael O'Hara was unanimously voted to the position, and anyone who knows Mr. O' Hara will agree in saying that a better selection could not be made. Another very suitable appointment was the election of Mr. P. Collins as treasurer. It is scarcely necessary to say anything in favour of the secretary, Mr. D. J. Raftery, who is now so well known as the 100 yards champion. Indeed under the guidance od such capable officers we can safely day that the time is nof far distant when the Sarsfields will be able to prove themselves worthy bearers of their glorious name. A great number of subscriptions were handed in at the meeting from new members, which adjourned after a vote of thanks had been passed to the chairman. The club will hold its next meeting on Sunday. 1st August, when a full attendance is requested; and it is hoped that a good number of new members wil be enrolled.

WESTERN PEOPLE JULY 24 th 1897

HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD:

WON BY A SWINFORD MAN

On the 4th inst William Carney (Battie) late of Swinford, who for the past few years has been a resident of Chicago, met James Fitzgerald, of Tralee, County Kerry, at Brooklyull S., America, in the final half of the rubber of fifteen games which decided the world's championship at handball. Three weeks previously they met in Chicago when Carney won six of the seven games played. Carney then only wanted two games to become the victor and he succeeded in winning these and in gaining the much coveted champion of the world. When the victory vecame known in his native town on Friday last the greatest enthusiasm prevailed amongst the people and a cablegram was dispatched to the champion congratulating him on his victory. Later on in the evening the town was illuminated and tar barrels lighted, and up to a late hour the streets were crowded and groups of his acquaintances could be heard discussing his merits as a ball player and recalling his local victories befbre he left the country. We understand that the people of Swinford have decided to take steps to have the ball court where "Battie" as a juvenile first practiced the game repaired to commemorate his victory.

WESTERN PEOPLE SEPTEMBER 4th 1897

BALLAGHADERREEN FOOTBALL CLUB:

At a meeting of the Ballaghaderreen Football Committee, held on Sunday last, Mr. Thomas McDermott in the chair, it was resolved that practice be commenced immediately; and "That all persons desirous of joining the club are requested to hand in their names on or before the 1st October next, as no names will be received after that date." The officers for the coming season are :-

MR. JAMES CUNNIFF ..... PRESIDENT

EDWARD KELLY ..... TREASURER

J.A. JUDGE ..... SECRETARY

D. CREIGHTON ..... CAPTAIN

P. BURKE ..... VICE-CAPTAIN

together with a representative committee. All challenges will be accepted.

WESTERN PEOPLE OCTOBER 16th 1897

FOOTBALL / LACKEN:

The grand old game of football has been recently revived in Lacken parish and the club - all young bbood - hads afopted the same name as the old, "Lacken Sarsfields". The members of the new association promise to sustain the name and fame of the old, of which the parish had no cause to feel a ashamed. They have already given a good account of themselves in a match wit a neighbouring club, and they showed the latter that they simply "were not in it" with the Sarsfields.

WESTERN PEOPLE NOVEMBER 20th 1897

SWINFORD V CHARLESTOWN: (juniors)

On Sunday last, 14th inst, a junior club from Charlestown visited Swinford to play a match with a club from the latter town. The day was very rough, but still the young boys from Charlestown braved both storm and rain and arrived in Swinford at about 2.30 , the time arranged for the match, and found the Swinford men quite unprepared. Still the visitors waited till 3.30, and when the arrangements were complete and they lined up to meet their opponents they were quite unpropared to see such men as Patrick Gavaghan and Michael Doherty (men who kicked for the Mayo Championship seven or eight years ago) appear, ready to do battle against them. On the refusal of the Swinford club to dismiss those men, the visitors left the field and returned home - CHARLESTOWN CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN PEOPLE OCTOBER 30th 1897

CHARLESTOWN SARSFIELDS V BALLAGHADERREEN FAUGH-a-BALLAGHS:

The above match took place in Ballaghaderreen and resulted in nil. This was chiefly due to the day which was veryinclement. From early morning to continuous downfall of rain inan irritating drezzle brought the hopes of those who expected to witness a good football match down to zero, and rendering the chances of the Charlestown team turning up very small indeed, But, with the indomitable pluck and resolution of the hero whose name they bear and whose deeds they strive to emulate, the "Sarsfields" determined to brave the elements, and scorning to be deterred by such a trifling m matter as the certainty of a thorough wetting they sallied forth from t the club room mounted the vehicles awaiting them and started for the scalps of the "Faughs", arriving in Ballaghaderreen at 3p.m., (on just such a day as that which gloomed down on Rory O'Moore during his memorable ride on the datge coach when he brought the services of the griddle into reqeuestion) amongst the cheers of the few football enthusiasts who ventured out of doors to greet them, notwithstanding the sanguinary intention on which the came. Alla

All arrangements for the match having been concluded, both teams accompanied (despite the miserable day) by a good sized crowd, walked out to the field which, thougj in other respects a fairly good one, had been converted by the rain into a dirty yellowish puddle, that gave every promise of a busy week for the club laundress. As white knickers etc. were rather plentiful, and everyone knows how difficult it is to preserve one's equillibrium on the football field during the course of a match in fine weather, is it any wonder that the laundress should be liiking forward to a high old time.

The "Sarsfields" having won the toss for choice of goals, and then discovering there was no choice of wind and rain the decidedly impartial, referee, Gilmartin threw in the ball at 4.30p.m. and play was commenced in the teeth of a shower of rain, which was momentarily increased in weight and

a nd humidity. For fifteen minutes there ensued such a scene as could hardly be designated football playing. Both parties did their best, the "Faughs" playing desperately on their fight wing in sending the ball several times into Feeney's hands, who on every ocasion by some faux pas failed to score anything either losing his footing at the critecal moment and testing the hardness of the ground, or losing his head and sending the ball behind. On the lfft wing Tighe made one gallant attempt to score but being badly backed up it failed and he never got the ball again. At lengthh the elements triumpjed, and the match had to be abandoned without any advantage on either side, if we except the quantity of yellow clay carried off by thep players on different portions of their gamments. They had scarcely reached the town when the rain ceased as if by magic, and the "Sarsfields" had a beautiful evening for the drive home.

The return match came off in Charlestown on Sunday 14th inst., in a field kindly given by Mr. Moffitt for the occasion. The "Faugh-a-ballaghs" having won the toss played with a strong wind and hill intheir favour, and pressed theri opponents very hard, but met 3with a sturdy opposition from the "Sarsfields" who kept the ball repeatedly in their territory. However the visitors registered 3 points, and the home t eam failed to score owing to the very strong wind against them. The last half hour lighted the hopes of the "Sarsfields" who anticitates an easy vitcory over their opponents, for scarcely had the ball been thrown up when a tremendous shower shower of rain deluged both spectators and players. Though it was plainly seen that the rain would only last a few minutws. The "FAughs" left the field not even waiting for the decision of the referee who wished the match to be finished. A messenger was despatched with the decision and on their refusal to play the "Sarsfields" kicked a goal, which was allowed by the referee, who declared the match a draw. The Sa rsfields are anxious to meet the F ughs for a final match in either Kilkelly or Tubercurry, those being considered neutral grounds. - Cor.

WESTERN PEOPLE NOVEMBER 27th 1897

BALLINA STEPHENITES V FOXFORD:

The above great match which was looked forward to with no little interest came off on Sunday last at Foxford. Ballina with its unbroken record and high repute was considered a formidable opponent, and naturally the Foxford men felt some what nervous as to the result of the match. Beautiful weather an enormous crowd, a splendid field, and the inspiring music of the Foxford brass band, all contributed to urge both sides to the utmost exertion in the contest for supremacy. At two o'clock the teams lined up, and the ball was shot into the air by Mr. P.J. Jones, who acted as referee. The vast crowd watched the play in which great judgement and science was displayed throughout with the most intense interest, and on the result the Foxford men were declared victors by a goal and two points, against four points for Ballina. Mr. Jones proved a most impartial referee and gave mutual satisfaction whilst the splendid music discoursed by the band was a matter of delighted surprise. Cor.

WESTERN PEOPLE DECEMBER 4th 1897

SWINFORD V KELTIMAGH JUNIORS:

The above match took place on Sunday week at Kinaffe, on grounds kindly given by Mr. John King, and ended in a bictory for Seinford by two points to nil. Mr. T. Brabazon acted as referee.

BALLINA V. CROSSMOLINA JUNIORS:

A very interesting football match was witnessed by some hundreds of spectators on Sunday 21st ult. The contending parties were the local juveniles and their confrees from Ballins. The play throughout was of a very lively descriotion. During the first half-hour a goal was secured by Murray for the local team, and a point by Ward. The goal was disputed, the allegation being that the player carried the ball before kicking it, but Mr. Ryan, the r eferee, awarded the goal. After change of sides the Crossmolina boys scored an additional point, leaving, the total one goal and two poimts to nil. The play wasoof a far more even character than the score would indicate.

WESTERN PEOPLE DECEMBER Z 18th 1897

BALLAGHADERREENS "FAUGHS" V BALLINAMEEN(CO. ROS.) WILLIAM O'BRIENS:

On Sunday, 28th Nov. the match, which for some time past had been arranged between the above teams came off at Ballaghaderreen on a field kindly given for the occasion by William Clarke.

Unfortunately, the clerk of the weather as usual seemed to frown on the Faughs, as on Sunday it blew a regular huricane and at the time the teams were lined up a shower of hail came on and left the field covered with a white mantle. Nothing daunted, the Faughs who had won choice of sides began the game in rattling spirit with the wind in their favour and soon succeeded in placing a point and goal to their credit. The O'Briens at this time defended their goal for all they were worth, and a short spell of up and down followed. The Faughs however were not denied and again pressing they added 3 more points to their score. Immediately afterwards half time was half time was sounded and as it was getting late no time was lost in getting under way again. The O'Briens without seemingly much trouble notched a point in the first ten mintutes, and this put the Faughs on their mettle as their team on the occasion was what may be called a " "scratch" one. Owing to the fact of the morning being so severe the Faughs never dreamt that the O'Briens would put in a n appearance. In the remainder of the play the Faughs defended so gallantly that the O'Briens got no further score. At the sound of the whistle the score was: Faughs 1-4 ; O'Briens 0-1: Mr. J. O'Donnell refereed in a most imprrtial manner.

SEC. FAUGH-a-BALLAGHS

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A neeting of the Kiltimagh G.A.A. (John Dillon) football club was held in Kiltimagh on Tuesday night last in a room kindly given by Mr. James Burke. The club are about to practice for the coming season, and in a few weeks were expect they will be able to meet any of the local teams. All members requested to aattend in field on Sunday

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With reference to the challenge issued by the Sassfield F.C. Charlestown, to any te
to any team in Mayo, the Faugh-a-ballaghs, Ballaghaderreen, offered to meet them in Carracastle, which is midway between both places and neutral ground. The Charlestown team has declined to meet them there, but suggest Bunninadden, where it is probable the match will come off to-morrow.

WESTERN PEOPLE DECEMBER 25th 1897

BALLAGHADERREEN FAUGH-a-BALLAGHS V. CHARLESTOWN SARSFIELDS

Arising out of the challenge recently published by the Charlestown Sarsfields to kick any team in Mayo, the above clubs met on Sunday, 12th inst, at Buninadden, Co. Sligo, to decide onee and for all which was the better team. It will be remembered that they had both met on two different occasions this season, but owing to weather difficulties the matches were not finished. When the Sarsfields challenge appeared the Faughs accepted it, and asked that the match be played at Carracastle, a point midway between both teams, and perfectly neutral. The Sarsfields refused this offer, and chose Bunninadden as the trysting place. The Faughs, confident of their ability to win the ma match, offered no objection to this proposal, and on Sundaylined up in the pink of condition. Mr. John O'Dowd, of Bunninadden, was appointed referee on the proposal of the Sarsfields captain. On the toss being won by the Sarsfields they decided to play with the hill in their favour. About ten m minutes after play began the Faughs, playing atainst the hill, succeeded in placing a point to their credit, and immediately afterwards added another. Centrea play followed for about ten minutes, and then the Sarsfields scored a point. There was no futther score during the half-hour, at the end of which the score stood - Faughs 0-2; Sarsfields 0-1:

On resuming the Faughs at once pmes ed and succeeded in putting up two more points. An objection was raised to the last, and on the referee giving it to the Faughs, some of the Sarsfields said they would leave the field, and would probably have done so were it not for a few members of their team, who said they would remain and kick out the match alone. A short time after play was recommenced and the Sarsfields scoreda a goal. This seemed to give them new hope, but the Faughs were still to be reckoned with, and again registered another point, and shortly after a goal, the latter being objected to, and on the referee allowing it to the Faughs, the Sarsfields left the field fourteen minutes before time, the Faughs then having been kicking with thehill for sixteen minutes only. The referee then gave his decision.

BALLAGHADERREEN 1-5 CHARLESTOWN 1-1

Another cor espondent writes us regarding the match as follows:-

The third match between the above clubs was played on Sunday week in Buninadden, and resulted in a victory for the Faughs. Owing to heavy rain the two former matches had to be abandoned unfinished, in consequance of which the Sarsfields got the idea into her head (by some means or other) that they were able to beat the Faughs. The result of this mistaken idea was a challenge issued to any club in the county to meet them on the 5th inst. In an evil hour for the Sarsfields the Faughs accepted this challenge, leaving choice of ground to the Sarsfields. They chose Buninadden and the 12th inst was agreed on for the meeting. The Faughs arrived about 2p.m. followed as usual by a large contigent from Ballaghaderin on side-cars and bikes. After some time the strains of thefife and drum band were heard, and a brake and some cars were seen approcahing from the direction of Charlestown. In a fewminutes more: "The Sarsfields swept down like a wolf on the fold

In a van gleamed a banner of greenand of gold,
And their drums thundered forth, bidding all mortals know
They had challenged the best football club in Mayo"

Mr. John O'Dowd, of Buninadden, having been chosen referee, and all other arrangements completed, both teams lined up and the ball thrown in at 3.30p.m. Owing to a thick mist which enveloped all, the players could hardly to distinguished from each other, but the ball could be seen passing swiftly through the fiedd. The match was keenly contested, the Sarsfields making a desperate fight for the victory, but ehty had to contend with men who knew not defeat, and although they considered themselfest fit to cope with any club in Mayo they soon discovered their mistake. Before time was fully up the Sarsfields left the field, and the referee gave the result as follows -

FAUGH-a-BALLAGHS 1-5 SARSFIELDS 1-3

So the Sarsfields went home, and their drums gave no sound,
While round the tall flagstaff their banner was wound,
And sadly they thought that they never should dare
To challenge Mayo while the Faughs were still there"

HILL -STREET REBELS AND CHARLEMONTS ARDNAREE

A football match between the Hill-street Rebels and the Ardnaree Charlemonts took place on Sunday last at Ballina and resulted in a win for the Rebels by 2-11 to 2 points. The match was well contested through out, each side trying to gain first laurels. During the first half-hour only one point was scored by each team. At the beginning of the second half-hour the Rebels, having the wind in their fabour, sooh brought the ball to the Charlemonts goal and succeeded in scoring. After the kick out some brisk play ensued between both teams, but as thewind at the time was blowing very strong it was impossible for the Charlemonts to bring it to their opponents' quarters, and P. Sweeney with a brilliant run and a splendid shot succeeded in placing the first goal to the Rebels' credit. From this forth the Rebels had matters all their own way, and point after point was scored by them. Quinn as full back, played a splendid game, as also Mash, Conlon, Hefferon, Ruane and Coppinger. Scanlon, Hanick and McLoughlin (full-back) on the other side behaved themselves splendidly. By inserting the above you will kindly oblige (yours truly)

HALF-BACK

BALLYHAUNIS WOLF TONE FOOTBALL CLUB:

A meeting of the Ballyhaunis football clubs was held in the club rooms recently for the purpose of amalgamating both clobs - namely, the Celts and Emmets. It was proposed by Mr. William McManus and unanimously adopted - "That this club take the name of the Wolf Tone Football club". The following officers were elected for the ensuihg year- Mr. JT Smyth, president; Mr. T. Kelly, vice-president; Mr. T. Murray, treasurer; Mr. William McManus, captain; Mr. T. Caulfield, vice-captain. Committee - Messrs. O'Malley, Stanton, Logan, Coneely, Muldoon, Flately, Murray and McHugh. After a few practices, we intend to play some friendly matches with the neighbouring clubs.

JOHN TIERNEY,

Hon. Sec.