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1972**

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IT WOULD be a pity if the annual appearance of this Mayo yearbook made any of its readers take the publication for granted or dull our appreciation of the value of the yearbook and the work which it entails. Each succeeding issued (and the adjective is chosen advisedly!) is in itself a thesaurus of the history and lore of Gaelic athletic affairs in our native county and, at the same time, an on-going influence to preserve and increase those kindred traditions.

O tharla go bhfuil obair an fhoillseachain toghtha orru anois ag coiste nua, is ceart go gconneadfaoi sa gcuimhne an duthracht agus an spiorad a bhain le muintir Na Mistealach i gCaislean a' Bharraigh mair a chuir siad an leabhran ar a bhonnai den chead turas. Ni lua an diogras ata san meitheal nua, agus nil amhras ormsa ach go mbeidh an toradh acu da reir.

Os rud e gur thar cheann Choisde an Chondae ata siad ag obair ta buiochas agus moladh ball an choisde sin ag dul don eagar-toir agus da lucht cunta.

At the moment of writing, football stocks in Mayo are, by general consensus, quite low. The performance of the county senior team is often—too often—regarded as the thermometer for the well-being of the Association in the county; and this mistaken norm may well cause a sense of discouragement.

May the present yearbook recall us to our earlier glories!

Leon Ó Mórcaáin

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BALLAGHADERREEN—"The Borderers"—emerged from the darkness of football obscurity into the sunshine of success all in a few dramatic seasons.

The years of fruitless groping, tireless yearning and countless disappointments were just a memory in the flush of glory which came their way in 1972.

They blazed a chapter into the annals of the Association in the county with controlled football precision, sweeping contemptuously aside the doubts of the cynics who claim it just could not be done.

It could. And it was.

Ballaghaderreen, dormant for so long in the less demanding atmosphere of junior and intermediate grades, rose suddenly from their slumbers.

They rose on a wave of power. It swept through the county, dragging title after title in its wake.

Firstly they seized the Mayo intermediate crown, stopping Westport in a belated 1971 final at Crossmolina.

Their next acquisition was the show-stealer—the Mayo senior football title.

And to round off a record treble, their's was the county under 21 riband, even if they were guilty of a mild case of larceny, snatching the right to play Claremorris in the decider from a shot-shy Westport side in the semi-final.

But since my terms of reference in this piece are related to the senior championship it is the remarkable career of the team in the event which wins my attention.

I say 'remarable' deliberately. For few suspect that Ballaghaderreen, from their performances in the early stage of the event, could muster sufficient impact to dispute final honours.

I think any loyal 'Ballagh' supporter would be the first to concede that the team was an utter flop in the opening rounds.

The sudden transition from intermediate to the ultimate level seemed to take its toll, robbing the side of the glamour and confidence which had stamped their displays in the intermediate category.

Certainly there was little to distinguish them when they tossed in the towel against Garrymore in their debut, and even less to recommend them when pummelled by defending champions Claremorris in their second outing.

TOM COURELL recalls

The Remarkable Rise Of Ballagh'



"A Tower of Strength"

In fact it was not until the Eastern representatives were clutching at straws in an attempt to rescue their chances did they show anything akin to expected form.

Firstly they toppled Aughamore, then, guided by Morley, they inched past Garrymore. And they were into the final.

But in spite of the pre-match dramatics the big day itself was a terrible anti-climax. Claremorris, in fairness, were game to battle to the end to retain their mantle of honour. But, stricken by ill-luck when loosing Des Griffith, Tom Kean and Pat Nevin through injury, they were unable to meet the challenge at Crossmolina.

They had to succumb to Ballaghaderreen, whose true form had at last surfaced.

"MAN OF THE YEAR"

It was but fitting that towering John Morley should have been Ballaghaderreen man of the year. He guided his club from the depths of indecision to the pinnacle of achievement.

But he was not on his own. There were players like Dan O'Mahoney, Frank Burns, Christy McCann, Con Moynihan, Sean Kilbride, Johnny McKenzie, Malachy Dooney, Davey Cawley, John Duffy, to name a few, plus the help and inspiration from astute backroom aids. So how could they go wrong!

In all, eight teams took part in the competition, but unhappily for some they failed to make any worthwhile impression.

Westport, like Ballaghaderreen, had climbed from intermediate ranks to take part. But they were completely out of their depth, lacking the temperament to adjust. However, with a little more experience and craft, they might make their mark.

Another to disappoint were Castlebar Mitchels, who for so long were one of the ruling authorities in Mayo football. For the second successive year they failed to click. But with the talented crop of youngsters on the way they must have brighter days ahead.

For Ballina the 1972 championship was not a very rewarding exercise. Like Castlebar, the Stephenites are now a club with problems. Their greatest claim to fame was a sensational win against Ballyhaunis at an early stage of the championship.

HAPPY MOMENTS

There were happy moments for Ballyhaunis during the season. They always posed a threat and they firmly established themselves as contenders when accounting for Claremorris at Castlebar. Their sparkle, however,

deserted them when they required it most and they fizzled out when the chips were down.

Aughamore, the 1971 finalists, were another side to lurk behind the leaders, never fully out of the hunt, never being fully dismissed.

For Garrymore the year was but another failure in their long-standing quest to take the county title. Many times in the past the Southern club were bold campaigners. And 1972 was no different. There to contest the final rounds as usual, but always that one step short of glory.

And finally there was Claremorris who, like Ballaghaderreen, depended on a sprinkling of youth and experience to keep them on top.

They proved themselves to be worthy 1971 kingpins. They took the Connacht title and had to travel unsuccessfully to Cork for the All-Ireland semi-final.

But, true to tradition, the club was a big force in the 1972 championship. They could never be lightly dismissed. And what would have happened in the county final had they been fortunate enough to have retained their full team is anyone's guess.

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NO-HOPERS KILTANE SURPRISED ALL!

TO account for the success of Kiltane in Mayo football in 1972 the clock must be turned back to a decade—to 1962. That was when the club was formed. In the first four years of its existence the club catered for players from Ballycroy, Kilcommon and Ballycastle. But since then those areas formed their own clubs, a fact which in itself must be wholeheartedly welcomed.

by

Liam Carey

Kiltane Team Manager.

For many seasons Kiltane enjoyed only limited success. In 1965 the club won the North Mayo junior football final. A year later the divisional minor title came our way. And for the four years which followed the minor squad reached the North Mayo final, only to be stopped on each occasion.

However, the joy of 1972 more than compensated for the disappointments. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the club.

After starting the championship campaign, with no hope of qualifying for the closing stages, Kiltane surprised all and went on to win the Northern final. The side did not rest on their oars. They continued on in the winning vein, taking the county semi-final and county final in their stride.



Mr. Pat Fanning, President of the G.A.A., presents a special prize for promotion of the Association's Credit Scheme to Kiltane organiser, Mr. Liam Carey, N.T.; also in picture, Pat Canton, Financial Officer and Mr. Paddy Cosgrave, Kiltane.

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A great tribute is due to the players and indeed officials of the club, particularly since all of them are natives of the parish.

The only sad fact is that the majority of them have been forced to seek employment in other parts of the country and a few across the water in England.

In common with many rural clubs, Kiltane suffers the severe draw-back of young men in the area not being able to find employment in the locality. In fact, only three of the players on the side which won the county title have permanent secure employment in the parish.

I sincerely hope that the Industrial Development Authority and those in authority come to realise the unhappy consequence of such a situation not alone in the Kiltane parish but in so many others scattered throughout the county and the West.

DRESSING ROOMS

But on a more cheerful note: work is now in progress with the development of the club's own grounds. We intend to have it seeded in spring and to have dressing rooms, tennis courts and other social amenities laid on by the end of 1973.

The club has three units in the credit scheme operated by national headquarters and we were also responsible for getting 18 individuals to invest, making a total of £2,100 through our efforts.

We are more than grateful to those who responded so willingly to our suggestion, and the result of it all was that Kiltane was awarded a prize of £100 for the special effort made.

With success to record on the playing field and development aspect of club activities, it is also pleasant to register progress in another important sphere—the popular talent competition.

The parish has scored exceptionally well in the various events organised in the past two years and were rewarded by receiving the Patrick Devers Cup last year for being the best all-round club competing in North Mayo.

To conclude, no account of Kiltane's triumph in 1972 would be complete without paying tribute to all those associated with the junior championship win.

The club officers—Very Rev. Canon Patk. Durcan, P.P., Chairman Paddy Cosgrave, Secretary Paddy Corrigan, Asst. Secretary and Team Manager Liam Carey, Treasurer Pop Healy, Selectors J. Coyle, B. Scanlon, B. Triggs, J. N. Carey, M. Goonan, Committee Rev. Fr. O'Hora, M. Goonan, T. Munnelly, P. Devers, J. McAndrew, H. McTigue—have to be praised.

But, of course, pride of place must go to the fifteen young men who did Kiltane and Erris proud on final day at MacHale Park, Castlebar.



Mrs. Paddy McGuire presents the Pete McDonnell Memorial Cup to Kiltane team captain Paddy Corrigan.
Pic. Tom Campbell.

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"GIVE OUR PLAYERS A CHANCE!"

THOUGH being considered the poorer relation of the G.A.A., many of the achievements of the handballers in the county tend to go relatively unnoticed.

But since the late 40's Mayo handballers have been consistently bringing All Ireland titles to the county.

It is a pity really that the game has not enjoyed greater popularity but during the last few years it seems to be making great strides forward. Maybe with the advent of handball on television matters will improve further.

Another good feature is that alleys are being erected in places that have no tradition of handball for example, Killala, which has a fine roofed court; Belmullet which has recently acquired one, and Achill, thanks to the efforts of Fr. Richard Horan who was for so long a driving force behind the Newport Club.

To counteract this spreading out the game seems to be dying in the once strong clubs in the county.

Clubs like Hollymount who always had men at the top in the handball — the Hughes, Fahys and the Staggs; Ballindine, where men like Patsy Higgins, Toss Gilmore and the Kearneys in the 50's and 60's kept the flak flying.

It is sad to see this happen but it would be also a sad thing to see one or two clubs monopolise the Mayo titles. It is far better to have them spread around the county and to witness new clubs take a few medals home with them.

The state of handball in the county is best shown by quoting the number of clubs which affiliate each year. In 1972 there was a record 13 clubs taking part in the championships — Achill, Newport, Castlebar, Cong, Ballinrobe, Hollymount, Ballindine, Charlestown, Foxford, Ballina, Ballyheane, Killala, and Balla.

With a bit of luck there may be entries soon from Belmullet and Westport which was once a great handball stronghold.



Says
All-Ireland
Handballer
PETER MCGEE

The old court in the town has been repaired and is now in the process of being roofed.

This aspect of roofing brings an interesting thought to mind. A few years ago the game would be played regardless of weather conditions and players toggled out in atrocious conditions. But this did not seem to take away from the enjoyment of the game.

Nowadays no championship match of importance is played unless the courts are completely dry so the courts of the future will all have to be roofed and have adequate toilet and shower facilities, thus changing the poor image of the game to one of a better social standing.

Now a further big change is making its presence felt and this is the staging of ladies handball competitions. As yet Mayo has not taken part in these competitions but with the advent of better facilities it won't be long before this is remedied.

It would really be a boost to have lady members in any handball club and it would also benefit the ladies by keeping the 'slim, trim and brimful of energy.'

The financial state of the handball board leaves a lot to be desired and only for the sacrifices being made by some of the players in using their own transport to travel to

(Continued overleaf)

games and in taking the younger players with them, the code could not exist in the county.

We are grateful to the Mayo G.A.A. Board who always help out each year by giving a grant to cover the cost of medals for the Mayo championships winners.

I wonder would there be any chance of getting a substantial grant each year to enable the Handball Board to equip their players with proper togs and jerseys as up to this each player has had to provide his own outfit. This, I think, is a disgrace by any standards.

What other organisation would have players winning All Ireland titles and could not give them proper hotel accommodation when they have to travel for games? This may be all right in some cases but what about the young player who is just starting. He could easily get discouraged by this treatment and consequently join some of the more commercial sporting groups.

In the last ten years Mayo players have won twelve All Ireland titles and have kept the county colours to the fore. Please God the next ten years will add further lustre to the game in the county and keep the West awake.

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Le

Liam hOistin

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- (1) Craobhchumainn (no clubanna).
- (2) Coisti Contae.
- (3) Comhairli Cuige.
- (4) Ardchomhairle.
- (5) Comhdhail Bhliantuil."

Feictear go soileir uaidh sin go dtugtar tus aite don chraobhchumann—no an club, mar a thugtar de gnach air—in eagraíocht no i gcomhdheanamh Cumann Luthcleas Gael. Ta se seo intuigthe, dar lom, mar is ona clubanna tarraingtear baill na nudaras uile eile a luaitear sa riail thuas.

Braitheann na hударais seo uile ar an gclub, an foinse ona siolraíonn siad. Is do reir abaltacht na mball, a n-eolais ar ghnath-dheacrachtaí, a dtuisceana ar fhadhbanna coitianta, a gcumais i reiteach na ndeacrachtaí agus i bhfuascailt na bhfadhbanna seo, a n-eifeachta i gcursai riarachain, i gcosaint aidhmeanna agus cuspoiri an Chumainn agus i sainmhíniú polasai agus idealacha an Chumainn a thomhaistear dul chun cinn no titim siar na nudaras sea..

Tuigtear dom mar sin go mbraitheann seamsamh no titim Cumainn Luthcleas Gael ar eagraíocht na gclubanna agus gurbe an gnaith chlub bunchloch an chumainn. Feictear dom, da bharr, go bhfuil geargha le club-eagraíocht chun a chinntiú gur aonad eifeachtach, dea-eagraithe gach club a thuigfeadh a thabacht i bhfoirgníocht an Chumainn agus a ghlacfaidh lena dhualgais agus lena fhreagracht go fonnmhar, tuisceanach, eifeachtach. Ba mhaith liom, sa dreacht seo, roinnt tuairimi pearsanta a nochtadh ar conas is fearr teacht ar an dea-eagraíocht seo a fheictear dom bheith chomh bunúsach, tabhachtach, tairbheach sin, ní amháin don chlub fein ach do Chumann Luthcleas Gael uilig.

ALT e seo o scriobh Liam O hOistin i rith na bliana sar a bhfuair se bas. Beanacht De leis! Cuirtear i gcló anseo e, den chead uair, le chaoinhead a mhna-cheile, Maire. Tugtar chun chuimhne gur ioma athur ata tagtha ar Chumann Luith-Chleas Gael o shoin i leith; agus is sontasach an meid a thagann an t-alt seo leis na h-athraithe sin..

This article, written so long ago, shows how forward-thinking Liam O hOistin was; and how much of the seed of later improvements for the G.A.A. was already in his thinking.



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Bion ga le club in aon cheantar, i mbaile mor no faoin dtuaithe, no i nduiche ar bith nach mbionn freastal cui a dheanamh ar aidhmeanna, cuspoiri agus idealacha Cumainn Luthchleas Gael. Se gno agus dualgas an Choiste Contae an cheist a iniuchadh agus breith a thabhairt.

Se gno club gach gne dar n-oidhreacht dachasach a chaomhnu, a chotu agus a fhorbairt, ag cur beime agus treise faoi leith ar an geluichi dachasacha.

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Ar dhualgais club airítear.

(a) Spiorad an naisiunachais, suim in ar n-oidhreacht dachasach agus meas ar gach gne di a chotu in a bhaill no comaltai agus ins an aos og ach go hairithe.

(b) Diliuint a chur ar na baill, feinsmacht rialta a chleachtadh agus glacadh le displin mar a leagtar síos e ins na rialacha mar a chuirear in eagar iad ag udarais cui an Chumainn.

(c) A chur in lui go laidir ar a chomhaltai gurb iad an cothrom agus an fhearulacht agus ní claon-iompar no feall-imirt, treithe bunúsacha, riachtanacha, oiriúnacha ball an Chumainn.

Is coir, anois, ag an bpoinnte seo tagairt eigin a dheanamh do cheist achrannachais ballraíochta i gCumann Luthchleas Geal.

Faoi lathair, ta coras ballraíochta sa gCumann an-scaoilte—ro-scaoilte b'fheidir,—agus airi tear mar bhaill, imreoiri, oifigigh agus lucht tacaíochta. Dar liom, ba chiallmhairi aireamh mar bhaill iad seo amhain a chlaraitheoir a bhfuil chuige sin a chuireann gach club chuig an gClaraítheoir Contae agus gach bliana. Sa chaitheamh seo, bheadh teach orthu siud a ealaíonn o phionos nuair is ciontach iad de mhi-iompar agus uile a chaitheamh droch-chail ar an gCumann ach nach bail chlaraithe iad d'aon chlub a bheadh freagracht astu mar chomhaltai no baill. Fadhb i seo a dheanann buairt agus trioblóid do lucht riartha ag gach leibheal sa Chumann agus sin mo thuairim laidir i nach bhfuil ach fuaiscail amhain uirthi mar sceal agus an fhuaiscail sin—ballraíocht chinnte, dearfa.

D'aireoinn mar bhall duine a dheanfaid iarrtas cui ar bhallraíocht, a dhearbhadh gnglacadh se ina n-íomlan le cuspoiri, aidhmeanna agus rialacha Cumainn Luthchleas Gael agus a gheobhadh moltair agus cuiditheoir da iarratas. Clarofai a leitheid a chlar an chlub agus cuirfi an clar chuig an gclaraítheoir contae sa ghnath-shli. Sa chaitheamh seo, bheadh og agus aosta, imreoiri agus iad imreoiri, oifigigh agus uile ar aon sheasamh o thaobh ballraíochta de agus suim agus aontacht níos mó le sonru in obair agus i bhfeidhmiú an chlub. Rud níos tabhachtaí fós bheadh a fhios ag lucht riartha ce hiad cinnta baill an Sumainn.

Ceist achrannach eile i ceanntar an cluach arís is gno agus dualgas an Choiste Contae e seo. Gan amhras, si an rialail phar oisteach an treoir is idealai agus is oiriúnach de gnach, ach ba chor cursaí geografacha cursaí síosialta agus cursaí eile a bhfuil dluth-bhaint acu leis an gceist a chur sa aireamh, freisin, agus beart da reir a dheanamh chun breith oithrom, coir a thabhairt. Agus e sin deanta go macanta, bheifi ag súil go mbeadh an club mar phointe comhtheangmhála don chlub-cheantar.

Glacfaí le club mar **chlub cleamhnaithe** do reir rialacha sa Threorai Oifigiúil ach i gcas nua, nior mhor don Choiste Contae (no don choiste ceantair) an cas a iniuchadh go gear, macanta ar eagla go ndeanfaí eagoir ar aon chlub eile agus breith da reir a thabhairt san nglacfaí leis mar chlub cleamhnaithe.

Cinntefai **tionchar**, **leanúnachas** agus **sochmhainneacht** (solvency) an club tri thogh-adh coiste **dúthrachtach freagrach** gur dual-gas do pleanail a dheanamh, ar bun daingean, d'imeachtaí eagsula an chlub, idir imeachtaí naisiunta, cursaí luthchleasaíochta, cursaí cultúrtha agus soisialta. Sa chaoi seo, cinn-teofai go dearfa go gcoimhlíonfaí aidmeanna dúchasacha an Chumainn, go ndeanfaí freas-tal cui ar riachtanais gach aicme agus gach aois-ghrupa agus go riarofaí ar eilimh an chlub anois agus feasta. Ar ndoigh, bheadh ga le ciste chun cuidiú le dul chun cinn agus fobairt club. Chuige sin, moltar imeachtaí mar cheilithe, coirmeacha ceoil, dramaíocht, cluichi cartai, scauibini, comortaisí cluici mar shlíte oir oiriúnacha, fiuntacha, ní amháin chun airgead a chnuasu ach chun cursaí soisialta a chur ar fail, freisin.

Is gne an-tabhachtach agus an-bhúnúsach e de chlub ar bith **imeachtaí soisialta** a eagrú chun baill an chlub, a ngaolta agus a gcairde a dhlúthu le cheile agus chun **gneithe eagsula eile** dar gcultúr dúchasach a chur cun cinn freisin. Ar imeachtaí soisialta d'aireoinn ranganna dramaíochta, rinne agus ceoil, ranganna agus leachtaí Gaeilge, ceilithe, din-near bliantúil, cluichi cartai, turais, aeríoch-tai, feiseanna, oilithreachtaí.

Chun freastal ar roinnt mhaith de na himeachtaí soisialta thuasluaite, bheadh ga le **club-theach no club-ionad seasmhach** de chineal eigin. Ba choir do gach club trean-iarracht a dheanamh chun a leitheid d'ionad da chuid fein a fhail mar, leis an bhfirinne lom a insint, ta riachtanach

- (a) chun club-chruinnithe a thionol;
- (b) chun aiseanna oideachasula no sugartha a chur ar fail ann do na baill;
- (c) chun saol soisialta na mball a fhorbairt;
- (d) chun meanna na mball a mhuscailt agus a choimead ar cheim níos airde.

Ar ndoigh, ní ceart go gceapfaí gur chlub soisialta amháin ata i gceist agam. Is iad

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caomhnu agus forbairt ar geluichi dachasach príomh-churam an chlub i gconai agus chuige sin, ní coir go mbeadh aon chlub sasta fein in a sheilbh agus nua-aiseanna an lae go mbíonn páirc imeartha fhiúntach da chuid innui ar fail ann. Tá deontais le fail o ard-udaráis an Chumainn cun pairceanna a chean-
nacht agus a fhorbairt agus caithfidh an club fein tromlach an airgid a bhailiú. Ma tá an club eagraithe mar a mholtar thuas, ma tá an club-cheantar go daingean ag tabhairt tacaíochta doibh, mas i an club pointe comh-
theangmhala an chlub cheantair, ma fheach-
tar chuig riachtanais agus eilimh eagsula na mball, ní fada go mbeadh an tacaíocht agus an tairgead ar fail chun a leitheid de chlub-
pháirc, maraon le aiseanna cui, a chur ar fail. Bheadh an club sin sa chead line ingach a mbainfeadh le maitheas agus dul chun cinn an pharoiste no an cheantair, agus an naisiúin.

Ar chomhair a cheile a mhaireann na comharsana, a deirtear agus se a fhearacht teangmhail dluth a cheangal agus a choimead e ag na clubanna. Ba choir do gach club le clubanna eili de chuid an Chumainn sa chomharsanacht agus le clubanna eile go

bhfuil aidhmeanna gaolmhara acu—i craobh-
acha de Chonnradh na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann, na Teaghlaigh Gaelacha, agus rí. Beifi ag suil le tacaíocht o, agus comh-oibriú le clubanna de na cineálacha sin i gcurai spoirt, i gcurai culturatha agus i gcurai sóisialta i com-
ortais cluichi, cluichi dushlana, diospoireach-
tai, ranganna no leachtai Gaeilge, ceilithe coirmeacha ceoil no a leitheid sin.

Is docha go bhfuil me ag suil lena lán b'fheidir leis an iomarca, on ghnath chlub-
ach ma aontaíonn tu liom gurbi an club bun-
chloch an Chumainn, gurbi foinse na nudara-
uile eile, caithfidh tu geilleadh freisin do-
tuairim go bhfuil gear-gha le eagraíocht
bhfad níos fearr an na clubanna chun
chinntiú nach dtiocfaidh aon disciú ar a
bhfoinse sin ar a seasann comheagraíocht
uile Cumann Luthchleas Gael.



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TONY HENRY'S success in hurling is convincing proof of the heights one can reach—if the heart is willing.

In the football stronghold of Mayo, Tony, a Tooreen man, has been honoured by the Connacht Railway Cup hurling selectors.

Hurling is to Mayo men what football is to Kilkenny. And it is for that reason that his success is so meritorious.

by

by Sean Rice

He is not the first Mayo man to have played hurling for the province. In 1937 Tommy Hoban, of Westport, was chosen—the only other player to have made the grade.

The difference between the two is that Tony Henry is a hurler exclusively. He dropped football to concentrate on hurling. Tommy Hoban had already won an All-Ireland football medal with Mayo when he played hurling for Connacht.

Tony Henry was eleven when a hurling club was established in his native Tooreen, a few miles from Ballyhaunis. His brother, Michael, was the man behind the new club.

"He had played the game in Dublin and was anxious to have it organised in our parish," said Tony.

"Like every new club, there were many difficulties. We were reared to football and we knew when we started that hurling was second choice among the people. I used to play with my brothers in a field near our home, batting the ball about.

"Gradually, our skills developed and broadened, we got to like it—so much so that we stopped playing football altogether and concentrated on hurling."

But nowhere in Mayo had hurling caught on as in Tooreen. There were other clubs in the county, but nearly all were dual clubs. They organised hurling teams more from a sense of duty to the Association than from love for the game. All the effort was centred round football; hurling was hit and miss, and enthusiasm was certain to wane.



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Tooreen Hurling team winners of the Mayo senior hurling championship.

Pic. D. Slater

Tooreen succeeded because football was abandoned. But the fact that no one in Mayo was fired by that by that success did not bother them. They went about their work quietly, and to this day hurling is the only game played there.

"The club's policy is to concentrate on local players. Other clubs with players from hurling counties who were residing in the county often beat us, but we were not interested in winning. Promotion of the game is what we sought," said Tony.

But despite their best efforts the game has not progressed much in Mayo. And activity within the county is generally confined to one competition. No worthwhile attempt has been made to promote hurling at juvenile level.

"I believe there are plenty of hurlers in Mayo capable of producing a good team. The trouble is that many of them play football and are not available for selection for hurling matches.

"Despite the fact that Mayo has not been successful as a team, our club has played many challenge games with teams in Sligo and Leitrim and has beaten most of them mainly because of team effort," he said.

Tony says that top-class competition is essential for progress if dedication is maintained. "I never played in a premier national competition until I was first selected for Connacht last year.

"Practice is what counts. We at home practised continuously among ourselves. And when I was selected I did not feel out of my depth."

Now that he has been successful, the 27 years old Mayoman intends to strive hard to popularise the game in his native county.

His success against many pillars of despair stands out like a beacon.



A GLOOMY FUTURE?



Breaffy Star Mary Clarke

By
Vera Mannion
Vice Chairman Mayo
Camogie Board



Camogie Star Josie Ruane

WITH six clubs participating in the county championship in 1972 and, from what I hear, only four to participate in 1973, the future for camogie in the county looks very gloomy indeed.

This is a sad reflection on the vast number of girls we have in our county and is a far cry from the happy position we found ourselves in during the 50's, when the county team reached the All-Ireland final. It was then our proud boast that the game was played in most towns and villages, and teams from all four corners of the county took part in the various county championships.

Now the game is played in the western division only, and with only six—or even less—teams in the county I wonder just what span of life is left to camogie in the county.

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Several attempts have been made to put the game on a firm footing in Mayo during the past number of years. We started off by getting four clubs in North Mayo — Ballina, Ardnaree, Moygownagh and Knockmore—and formed a North Mayo Board, but despite our efforts the interest was not there and the campaign fell flat on its face.

But while feeling despondent about this lack of interest we are encouraged by the fact that we have girls in Breaffy, Turlough, Tourmakeady and Ballintubber fighting to save what looks very much a dying cause.

What started the rot? I believe that nowadays young girls have too much on their minds to worry about playing camogie. There are too many distractions at the moment and the dance halls are winning over the healthy recreational pastime that is camogie. Girls don't even have the time now to attend meetings.

I see no reason why a town with a population as big as Castlebar could not produce two camogie teams. Every now and then we have a team popping up there, but when the novelty wears off the club ceases to function.

This is very mysterious considering the number of girls in the town, and there seems to be no reason why the town could not boast at least one team that could be an example to the rest of the county.

If there was a genuine interest in the G.A.A. in the towns throughout the county we could rest assured that all branches of the Association would be well catered for. However, there is not enough interest taken by the members and officials of the G.A.A. in the national game for girls.

We have not won a Connacht championship title for seven years, and when it comes to selecting a team for inter-county competition we find it very difficult to pick a team that is worthy of donning the red-and-green because of the low standard.

Camogie needs a vital shot in the arm. I appeal to the great players we had in the 50's, many of whom may be able to revive the old spirit, as well as to all G.A.A. clubs in the county to come to the rescue of camogie.

If they succeed in putting Mayo at the top again, then their efforts will have been well worth while.

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TRAINING FOR THE MATCH

by

**Una Ni
Ghabhlain**

What's this? What's this? A female going to lay down the law on pre-match training! What on earth could she know about those heart-straining laps around MacHale Park, those energy-sapping press-ups, those mentally exhausting strategy-planning sessions? Relax, dear male readers. The "training" I have in mind is of an entirely different nature.

Readers of last year's "Mayo G.A.A. Year Book" will recall that I discoursed at some length on the G.A.A. Rule Book, which seems to exist unknown to us females, and which regulates the behaviour of all male attenders at football matches. Since writing that article I have done some more espionage work among the ranks of the G.A.A., and have discovered the existence of another little rule book which lays down the procedure to be adopted when travelling by train to a football match. As the Mayo team has been involved in the closing stages of the League in the last three years I have had an opportunity of deducing the contents of this little book. I think it is divided into two sections—the first section for boy fans in the 14-18 age group and the second section for seasoned G.A.A. followers. Due to lack of

space I am going to devote my remarks in this to the contents of the first section only.

Step 1—Try to give the impression that in order to catch the train you missed Mass. This gives a tough-man image to the lads. The truth of the matter is, of course, that you were in the church ten minutes before the special early Mass was due to begin, since the excitement had you awake two hours before you needed to get up. If, through some mischance, you did really miss Mass, you sweat in silence all the way up in case the train will arrive too late for you to catch Mass in Dublin, and you wonder frantically how you are going to sneak off to church without the "tough lads" seeing you.

Step 2—Never admit that this is either your first trip to Croke Park or, worse again, to Dublin. There are ways of giving the impression that these trips to the City are really quite a bore. But how are you going to find your way, not alone to Croke Park but even out of Amiens Street station? Does one go down that flight of stairs or go out the other door? The answer, of course, is simple. Let most of the crowd go on ahead while you follow behind with your pals, carrying your coat over your arm and, every now and then, just to show how relaxed you are, making loud remarks to your pals like: "This is better than a day in the bog anyway." And so you stroll along, quite at home among the scurrying Dubliners. Isn't it strange, all the same, how the colour-sellers approach you? How did they know you were up for the match?

The matter of a meal arises. If the lads in front have discovered a cafe and the general intention seems to be to have a feed of chips, then you must conceal the fact that your mother spent ages the previous night preparing sandwiches for you. It might, in fact, be no harm to take the first opportunity to throw them away for fear of their eventual shameful discovery.

So, on to Croke Park, all the time stealing surreptitious glances around, trying to locate landmarks in case you might have to find your own way back. And the awful complexity of the entrances to Croke Park! Again, you follow the fellows in front, hoping that some chance remark will indicate to you the name of the stand on which you eventually find yourself and that someone else will ask which is the Canal End. But, oh, the insignificance of all these uncertainties compared to the great surge of joy when you first behold spread out beneath you the beautiful green sward of Croke Park and see the Artane Boys Band swirl out just the way Micheal O Hehir always described them, and, O Lord, when our own boys trot out in the familiar red and green—it's nearly too much for the heart!

Step 3 concerns the home coming procedure. If Mayo have won then card-playing is the order of the day, with much flashing of "big money," which can be ill afforded from the allowance doled out that morning. There will also be quiet, proud discussions of the match and little clusters around transistors to hear "Sports Time." But if Mayo have lost, you must show at all costs just how little you care. This can be done by drinking as long as the money will last, spilling as much on the floor as you drink, by announcing all you have just learned about the Facts of Life to any girls present, by fighting murderously with anyone and everyone and (a particularly hilarious trick) by pulling the communication cord at regular intervals. Thus must heart-break be staved off.

Oh, you men who have the honour to play in the red and green, please never forget the hopes of thousands of young (and not so young) hearts pinned on you. If you feel tempted to skip training for a night or two, remember that a lack of sharpness in your reflexes on the Big Day can result in heart-broken tears in many a young lad's bedroom after he has endured that hilarious nightmare journey home.

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THE scenes which followed the playing of the drawn semi-final of the Connacht senior football championship in Roscommon between Galway and Roscommon resulted in the referee being attacked.

In a special article for the Mayo Yearbook the referee, former Mayo football star, **MICHAEL CONNAUGHTON** (Claremorris), expresses his disgust, because he feels the Connacht Council failed to take proper action to deal with the contents of his report on what occurred.



Mick Connaghton

WHY I QUIT!

Having played for my club, Claremorris, for a number of years, and for my county as a minor for three and for four years as a senior I was struck by injury and had no option but to give up the game I loved.

I was then only 22 years old—really too young to finish with the game which had given me so much pleasure. So I decided to devote my time and energies to refereeing, a decision which, I must now honestly say, I regret.

During my career as a referee I handled more than 450 games at all levels.

But I have now decided to quit, due to the

disgusting and deplorable method adopted by the Connacht Council in dealing with my report on the incidents at last year's Connacht senior football championship game between Roscommon and Galway in June.

A lot of comments have been made on my refereeing of this fixture, and I must add that a number of the things said were not very nice, to say the least. I don't mind criticism as long as it is fair. In fact, I think a referee can learn a lot from it.

But in this instance, however, much of the criticism levelled at me was totally unjustified.

Personally, I felt I did a good job—as good as I possibly could. At all times during the course of the hour I was right up with the play. And for that reason I had a much better view—and a closer view—of what was happening than anyone at the game.

As I said in my report: “if the same things were to happen over again, I would make the same decisions.”

So I just don’t understand what I did to deserve the abuse I received after the game.

My report was read on the Thursday night following the match when the date for the replay was fixed. However, no action was taken until some ten weeks later, and then the action taken was really negative.

The Connacht Council decided to get Roscommon County Board to hold an investigation and to name the players involved. The Board was to report their findings back to the Council.

“UNSATISFACTORY”

This took four months to complete and the findings were, to say the least, totally unsatisfactory from my point of view.

So the Connacht Council decided, for shame sake, to fine Roscommon Co. Board £50—or so it seemed to me.

This did not surprise me. For it seemed to me from the Connacht Council’s antics right from the beginning that they were going to do a ‘whitewash job.’ And that is exactly what they did.

The delay involved in carrying out the investigation was an attempt to find the easy way out for themselves rather than trying to identify the culprits.

“Not enough evidence” was the verdict. And this was put forward by some of the people who were right beside me when I was assaulted.

They saw the assault take place and they knew the three Roscommon players responsible. And yet these same officials claim they are leaders of our Association.

I know I was not the first referee to be assaulted in Roscommon. And if this is an example of the protection which referees can expect from people who are supposed to be their guardians then I fear it won’t be the last.

I read where Sean Purcell, Galway, recommended that referees take action against players who assault them.

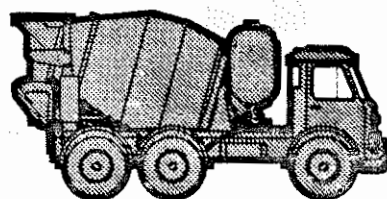
If this is the only worthwhile proposal which can be put forward to ensure that referees are safeguarded then the day is fast approaching when the Association is going to be faced with a major problem in finding referees to take on what is a most thankless task.

Surely it is about time that the Association looked at the manner in which referees who officiate at soccer fixtures are protected?

But then, of course, soccer referees have their own association. And if they are not totally satisfied with the action taken on any particular complaint then they are free to take whatever action they deem necessary.

I feel that the time is right for those who officiate at Gaelic games to form their own organisation and to insist that this association be granted certain powers and functions.

One of the courses which should be open to such an organisation would be to have the right to appeal a case—such as mine—to a higher authority to ensure that justice was done. A referees’ association could also deal with matters relating to coaching, standardising the interpretation of rules, etc.



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CLAREMORRIS MINORS MAKE AMENDS

By T.P.C.

The most genuine hard-luck story of the Mayo under 21 football championship can be told by Westport, a club which has been established of late as a new force in Mayo football. They were pitted against Ballaghaderreen, the East Mayo title-holders, in the county semi-final. Westport did everything but score and they had to pay the price.

(Continued from Page 26).

The rules, for instance, as they stand at the moment leave a lot to be desired, in my opinion. The new rule on petty fouling is stupid as drafted. The first offence merits a caution and the second infringement the expulsion of the offending player.

How can a referee be expected to keep a tally of the players cautioned? He would need the services of a bevy of secretaries.

And if referees were to carry out the rule according to the letter of the law there would be, in my opinion, very few players left on the field at the end of the hour in most games.

Yet I believe that the rule could prove useful if implemented in another way. If referees were to take the names of the players who committed such fouls and to report the facts to the authority responsible for the fixture, then it would be a matter for the respective club, board or council to deal with the wrongdoers. In this way it would help to eliminate a lot of the silly fouling which persists at present, and which is doing so much to reduce the attractiveness of our games.

But to revert back to the need for greater protection for referees, I think that authorities will have to accept, sad thought it is to relate, that police protection will have to be laid on at venues where the playing area is not fenced off from the public.

There will have to be better facilities provided. The day of expecting referees to change in the back of their cars or in a store which is used for housing lime for marking the field is gone.

Those charged with responsibility in the Association should now realise that referees are most important personnel. They deserve better treatment. And the type of action adopted by the Connacht Council certainly will not do in future.

In a remarkably low-scoring encounter Ballaghaderreen sneaked through with a point to spare (0-4 to 0-3), but it was only after Westport had shot themselves out of the reckoning.

The gross inaccuracy displayed must have been heart-rending for game Westport players Mick Higgins, Paddy Cunningham, Kieran Jennings, Michael Gannon and Martin Halpin.

The second semi-final brought together Claremorris and Knockmore at Charlestown. Claremorris established that they still retained the form which carried them to the top in the previous season. They had a comfortable 1-12 to 0-8 win.

While Knockmore were humbled, the North Mayo club can still recall with pride the performances of Seamus Barrett, Michael Langan, P. J. Flynn, Tommy Ward and Gerry O'Hora on that day.

PULSATING

The final between Ballaghaderreen and Claremorris excelled all expectations. It was a pulsating contest.

Ballaghaderreen sneaked into a winning vein with two early goal and then they were thrown into deep defence to keep Claremorris at bay.

The Easterners again stood the test. They pipped their old rivals, having two points to spare (2-5 to 0-9), to push Claremorris under for the second time in a final in 1972.

Fortunes were different for the Southern club, however, in minor grade.

Claremorris harvested some consolation for their failure at senior and under 21 levels by taking the minor crown in sweeping fashion.

Their victims in the final were Castlebar, a team which seemed at one stage capable of carrying off a remarkable hat-trick in under age football. However, they were denied the minor title to add to the under 14 and under 16 championships, which came their way when stopped by Claremorris at Kiltimagh.

It must be admitted that the winning margin by Claremorris (1-14 to 1-3) does not do justice to the control which the winners exercised.

There were no visible weak links on the side. John O'Brien, Charles Morley, Tom Griffin, Mick Higgins, Patrick Keane, Seamus Connaughton and Sean Moran were but some of the players who fashioned the success.

NORTH MAYO

by Ivan Neill

KILTANE-

The Magnificent!

EARLY in 1972 the race for the North Mayo J.F.C. title was believed to be just a formality. Not alone would Belmullet win the title on the trot, it seemed, but they would also go on to take the county title for the second time in the history of the club.

At least, it was said, no club on the Ballina side of Bellacorick's "musical" bridge looked capable of whipping up a tune to curb the 'Mullet's march to North Mayo honours.

And the amalgamation of Bangor, Geesala and Doohoma to form the Kiltane club didn't seem likely to generate enough power to bring about Belmullet's downfall.

Fourteen teams took part in the championship, set out in four divisions.

All interested parties kept close watch on hot favourites Belmullet to see how they performed in their opening game. The result was a crushing win for the 'Mullet.

And whatever confidence some Gaels had in Kiltane they were given a frightening setback when the amalgamated side were whacked by Lacken in their first outing.

Belmullet continued to demolish the opposition and long before the knock-out stage the seaside town had qualified for the semi-finals.

Four other sides, Ballycroy, Kilcommon, Kiltane and Lahardane, battled it out for the remaining three places, with the three Erris teams coming through, leaving it an all-Erris affair.

On semi-final day Belmullet were pitted against Ballycroy with Kiltane facing Kilcommon.

Along with Belmullet, Kilcommon were fancied to reach the final, for earlier in the season they showed plenty of promise when beating Ballycroy in the final of the Erris league.

OUT OF THE RACE

After the first hour's football the form book took a beating when Kilcommon were pushed out of the race.

In the early part of the game it did appear that Kilcommon had the measure of Kiltane. But a second-half goal by Kiltane's Mickey Carey was all that was required to alter the trend of play.

And before the attendance had recovered from the first upset came shock number two when the mighty Belmullet bit the dust.

The defeats of the two fancied teams became the main topic for discussion for days afterwards. To add further excitement there were rumours of objections to be lodged both by Kilcommon and Belmullet. But only the latter did so on the legality of a number of the Ballycroy players.

With the final fixed for the Sunday after the semi-finals the North Mayo Appeals Board met to discuss the Belmullet objection. They decided to go ahead with the playing of the final at Crossmolina and to hear the objection at a later date.

This decision, I thought, could have produced all kinds of problems if matters didn't turn out as they did, with Belmullet withdrawing their objection when the case eventually came up for hearing.

But back to the final. Ballycroy were favourites to grab the honours, due to their splendid performance against Belmullet. It wouldn't be to Kiltane's benefit, it appeared, to have five or six members of their team in England having to travel home for the game.

But Kiltane rose to the occasion magnificently. They completely pushed the challenge of Ballycroy aside. At one stage they were six points ahead, but a late rally by Ballycroy reduced it to 2-9 to 1-9 at the call of time.

What Kiltane achieved later is well known, and if the same team can be kept together they may well make a bold bid for this year's intermediate championship.

KILTANE- JUNIOR CHAMPIONS



—Pic. Liam Lyons

KNOCKMORE- INTERMEDIATE CHAMPIONS, 1972



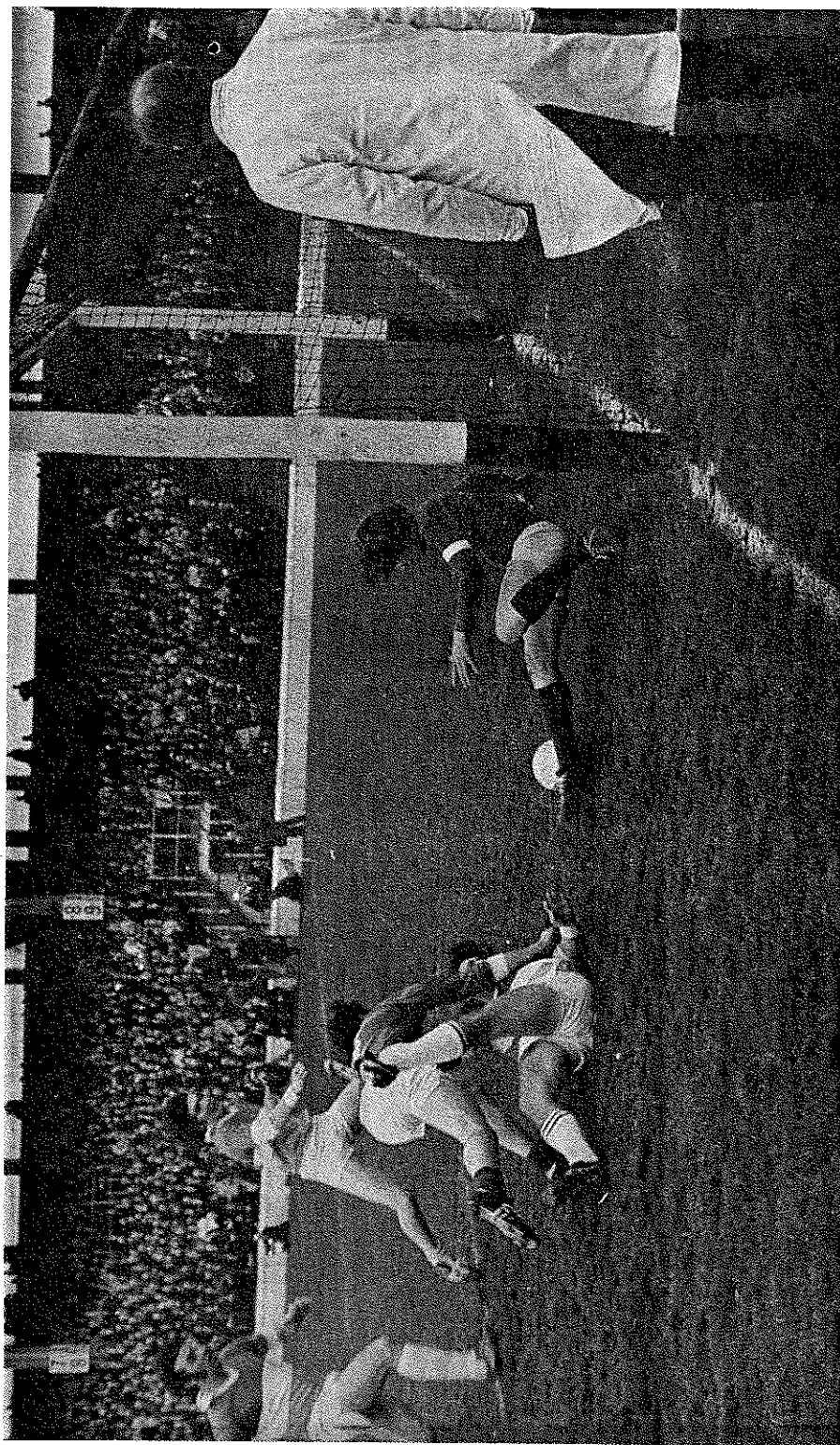
—Pic. Liam Lyons

THE CHAMPS!



Senior Champions Ballaghaderreen (back row, left to right)—M. Hannon, D. O'Mahoney, C. Moynihan, S. Kilbride, F. Burns, J. McKenzie, J. O'Mahoney, J. Morley. Frone—S. Quinlan, G. Coleman, M. Dooney, S. McGoldrick (captain), D. Cawley, J. Duffy, C. McCann.
Pic.—Tom Campbell.

FLASHBACK!



Mayo goalkeeper, J. J. Costello, dives to prevent an Offaly score in the National League semi-final. Mayo qualified for the final but lost to Kerry.
Pic.—Tom Campbell.

GARRYMORE- JUNIOR FINALISTS



—Pic. Liam Lyons

CLAREMORRIS- SENIOR FINALISTS



—Pic. Liam Lyons

Terry Reilly . . .

The career of the inimitable

ANOTHER chapter in the glorious history of one of Mayo's greatest footballers was added recently when that doyen of the thirties, Paddy Moclair, was presented with the Hall of Fame award at the "Western People" dinner in Ballina.

Holder of every top honour the game could offer and now president of the County Board, he is one of the legends of Mayo football—one of the pioneers of Mayo's breakthrough into big-time football.

And now, behind the once massive frame which earned unmitigated respect from friend and foe alike, beats the gentle heart of a man always quick to come to the aid of colleague—or indeed a complete stranger—in distress. His generosity knows no bounds in such cases, but anything he does is done behind the scenes.

Born in Rehins, Castlebar, Paddy made his debut for the county in 1930, and from then on until he retired twelve years later at the age of 31 he was an automatic choice.

Moclair was an innovator, the first man to assume a roving full-forward commission, and he was a deadly finisher. He was a goal-taker supreme and in one year recorded 33 goals, a tremendous feat at a time when bodily contact with much more readily accepted than at present.

His first taste of success at national level was in 1934 when Mayo won the first of its six-in-a-row National League titles. Ironically, Moclair was at full back on that team! That same year he was on the successful Railway Cup side, and went on to win medals with his province in 1936, '37 and '38, when he had the honour of captaining Connacht.

With League successes in '34, '35 and '36 Mayo yearned for an All-Ireland title. They had had their set-backs in the championship already: in 1931, for instance, Moclair was on the team beaten by two points by Kerry; again the following year the men from the West reached the final, only to drop a 2-7 to 2-4 verdict to the famous Kerry side of that era.

But now, with three League titles under their belts, Mayo were confident that they could take on and beat the best, and in 1936

PADDY MOCLAIR



committed themselves to winning the Sam Maguire Cup. They got a fright when, as Connacht champions, they were held to draw by Galway in the provincial final, but overcame the challenge in the replay and advanced to meet Kerry in the semi-final, which was played at Roscommon.

TENSE GAME

There was no stopping Mayo that day, and though the scoring was close Mayo won 1-5 to 0-6 in a tense game. With the Kingdom bogey out of the way Mayo were hot favourites for the title, and they duly obliged by beating Laois.

(Continued following page)

Paddy Moclair took over the captaincy from Seamus O'Malley in 1937 and held that position right through to the end of the 1939 championship. After winning the League and championship in 1936 Mayo were expected to retain their crowns in 1937. The first half of the double was achieved in the League, and the side duly reached the All-Ireland semi-final in impressive style.

Their semi-final opponents were Cavan, who were to gain another controversial win over the Westerners in another era, and Mullingar was full to overflowing for the clash. With five minutes to go the champions were five points up and playing cool, calculated football. Victory seemed inevitable. Then disaster struck: the pitch was invaded and by the time it was cleared Cavan had had time to regain some of their composure. The Ulster men found the net on the resumption, but once again poor stewarding resulted in the pitch being invaded three minutes from the end.

These interruptions knocked the rhythm out of the Mayo side, and Cavan, sensing an upset, stormed back to score the winning goal. Mayo had the chance to equalise, but a close-in free, which would have been converted in normal circumstances, was muffed and the county's 57-game run without defeat was brought to an end.

The year 1938 was another frustrating one: again they reached the All-Ireland semi-final and, yet again, the opposition was Kerry. In a tough, uncompromising game the issue was in the melting pot right to the final minute with both teams level at four points all. With the seconds ticking away the ball was passed to Paddy Moclair, who was up-ended before he could get in a shot. Everyone expected that a free would be given, and Tommy Hoban placed the ball in front of the posts; it was a 'sitter' and would have been a dramatic winner for Mayo. But fate was

not that kind: in rushed two Kerry officials, they consulted the referee and to the amazement of the vast Mayo support the referee hopped the ball!

Mayo lost the replay that should never have been by 3-8 to 1-4 and once again Moclair and his colleagues were denied another Sam Maguire presentation.

Apart from his All-Ireland medal, four Railway Cup successes and six National League triumphs Moclair is the holder of nine Mayo senior championship medals. Five of these he won with Castlebar Mitchels, the remainder with Ballina Stephenites. He toured the U.S. twice with Mayo—in 1932 and again in 1937 as captain—and he remembers to this day the hospitality shown by Gæls on that side of the Atlantic.

He played his last inter-county game against Sligo in the championship in 1942. He travelled to the game as a spectator, having more or less decided to quit the previous year. "When a car-load of players failed to arrive in Sligo in time I was asked to turn out. I borrowed a rig and I recall that I scored 2-2," he told me.

His last club game was in 1943 when he helped Ballina win the championship. This final success gave the great-hearted Mayo man his 118th medal in a fantastic career which he enjoyed to the full. Of him it can truly be said that he took on the best and emerged with enhanced reputation. He was not slow to castigate colleagues for missed chances, but he could inspire them, too, as he tore through massed defences to crack the ball to the net. There was always a buzz of anticipation from followers when he got possession and he rarely disappointed.

They were palmy days for Mayo football, and no one yearns more for success for the beloved green and red than the lion-hearted Paddy Moclair, a legendary figure on the field and the doer of great deeds off it.

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EAST MAYO

by Mick O'Connell

KILTIMAGH SCORE AGAIN

SWINFORD, who have not won an East Mayo junior football championship for quite some time, were considered to have an excellent chance of ending their bad spell in this division, having regard to the fact that all other teams with the exception of Ballyvary had to field second string teams for the East Mayo junior football championship.

The pairing for the divisional semi-finals at Kiltimagh was Swinford v. Charlestown and Kiltimagh v. Aughamore. Swinford had to fight every inch of the way to overcome a resolute Charlestown side, and Kiltimagh had a more or less comfortable win over Aughamore.

In early September at Charlestown, Kiltimagh rather surprisingly beat the strongly fancied Swinford team which, according to Mr. Michael Higgins, chairman of the Kiltimagh G.A.A. Club, was no mean achievement considering that it was a second string fifteen.

Kiltimagh were roundly beaten by the eventual county title winners, Kiltane, in the county semi-final.

Players who contributed to the Kiltimagh Eastern title win included Johnny Lydon, Michael Charlton, William Mallee, Gerry Keegan (goal), Anthony McNicholas and Michael Walsh.

Other East Mayo title winners were:—
Minor league: Swinford (Ballaghaderreen);
minor championship: Swinford (Ballyhaunis);
under 16: Swinford (Charlestown); under 14:
Charlestown (Swinford); primary schools
league: Charlestown (Kiltimagh).

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CLUB AFFAIRS-1972

We wish to thank the various club officials who responded to our request for details of their club's activities in 1972, Ed.

BALLAGHADERREEN (White) — President, Rev. J. Lafferty; Vice-Presidents, Denis Egan, S. O'Mahoney; Chairman, Rev. John Doherty; Secretary Pat Dooney; Assistant Secretary, Sean McGolderick; Treasurer, Jack O'Donnell. Played Senior (County Champions), Under 21 (champions), Intermediate, Junior, Minor. Objective: To raise funds for Park Development.

BURRISHOOLE (White) — President, Very Rev. Canon Killen; Chairman, Christy Loftus; Secretary, Michael Costello; Treasurer, Seamus Kelly. Played Intermediate, Junior, Minor, Under 14. Seventy players took part in 17 games. Objective: To complete and pay for dressing rooms.

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS (Red/Yellow) — President, Gerry McDonald; Chairman, Sean Reilly; Secretary, Michael Devaney; Treasurer, John Hanley. Caretaker, M. Flynn. Highlight was the success of the underage teams: Under 14 and Under 16, County Champions; Minor—runners-up; won three West under age titles, the Under 16 tournament at Tourmakeady and the Juvenile Question Time (Score '72).

The club arranged for the Connacht final and semi-final replay at MacHale Park. Produced Mayo Year Book and transported 60 juveniles to All-Ireland final.

Objective: Further progress with the proposed Community Centre.

Swinford (Yellow/White) — Patron, Very Rev. Dean Collieran; President, John Bollingbrooke; Chairman, Tom Kavanagh; Secretary, Bernie O'Hara; Minor Secretary, Vincent Walsh; Treasurer, Owen Roe O'Neill.

Won the East Mayo Minor League and Championship; Mayco tournament (Ballina); East Juvenile; local Primary Schools Championship—Killasser. Objectives: Formation of Bord na nOg; improvements at playing field.

EAST MAYO—President, John McGoldrick (Ballaghaderreen); Vice-President, Dominick Heneghan (Aughamore); Chairman, John Creighton (Kiltimagh); Vice-Chairman, M. O'Connell (Ballyhaunis); Secretary, Bernie O'Hara (Swinford); Treasurer, T. Kavanagh (Swinford).

LAHARDANE McHALES (Red/White)—President, Very Rev. Canon W. Caffrey, P.P.; Chairman, Stephen Cagney; Secretary, P. J. Loftus; Treasurer, Brendan Coyne.

Parish League: Winners, Lahardane village. Played in North Mayo Minor League and Championship; Under 21, divisional finalists, junior divisional finalists.

Objective—Provision of own ground.

BALLINA STEPHENITES (Green/Red)—President, Gerald Courell; Chairman, Terry Reilly; Secretary, Stan Rowe; Treasurer, Jim Murphy.

Catered for Senior, Junior, Under 21, 18, 16, 14. Competitions within the club provided for 100 players. Won Crossmolina tournament and North Mayo title (Under 14), North Mayo N.S. champions. Organised three tournaments plus Mayo minor tourney. Organised All-Ireland trip for juveniles. Score successes.

Objectives: To implement £16,000 development plan at James Stephens Park.

ISLANDEADY (Green/White) — Presidents, Rev. P. Greally, C.C.; Vice-Presidents, Very Rev. Canon Blowick, P.P., Henry Kenny, T.D.; Chairman, S. Rice; Secretary, Enda Kenny; Assistant Secretaries, R. Conaboy, J. Diffley; Treasurer, Sean Moylett.

Participated: Junior, reached semi-final West Championship.

Objectives: Pitch development and raising the necessary funds.

ARDNAREE (Green/Gold) — President, Walter O'Donnell; Chairman, Sean Duffy; Secretary and Treasurer, Willie McCaffrey.

Activities: Intermediate, Junior, Minor, Under 16, 14, 12. Winners Ballina Under 14 competition. Group winners Intermediate Championship and North Mayo Minor finalists for the third consecutive year.

Club's Community Centre opened by Mr. Sean Flanagan, Minister for Lands, and blessed by Most Rev. Dr. McDonnell, Bishop of Killala, on St. Stephen's Day. Two basketball courts and a tennis court erected.

Objectives: Completion of club rooms, complete with showers.

CROSSMOLINA (Maroon/White) — President, Jack Judge; Chairman, Dr. Mick Loftus; Social Secretary, Robert Marsh; Football Secretary, Paddy Cawley; Treasurer, Tiernan Reilly.

Participated: Intermediate, Junior, Minor, Juvenile. Footballers: 98 took part in 16 games. 76 players took part in 14 local league games.

Objectives: To plan a new pavilion for grounds; to open new tennis courts.

BALLINROBE (Maroon/Yellow) — Patron, Monsignor G. Mitchell, P.P.; President, Rev. C. Scallan, C.C.; Chairman, Noel Hughes; V. Chairman, Brother Murray; Secretary, Tommy O'Malley; Assistant Secretary, Noel Gavin; Treasurer, Christy O'Haire; Assistant Treasurer, Eamonn McDermott.

Activities: Played Intermediate, Junior, Under 21, Minor, Under 14, 16 and in O'Mara Cup. 127 players played in 32 matches. Reached County Intermediate semi-final. Under 14 reached divisional final. Won Gaeltarra Eireann and Cavanagh Cups. Browne Memorial Street League winners—High Street.

ACHILL (Green/White) — President, Very Rev. J. Collieran, P.P.; Chairman, Padraic Joyce; Vice-Chairman, Joe Armstrong; Secretary, Brendan Gallagher; Treasurer, Josie Healy.

Played Junior, Minor, Under 16, Under 14.

Objective: Develop grounds.

KNOCKMORE (Blue/Yellow) — President, Very Rev. Joe Harte, Adm.; Vice-Presidents, Rev. J. Flynn, Rev. S. Dufflynn; Chairman, Des Farrell; Vice-Chairman, Jack McNeely; Secretary, Joe Clarke; Treasurer, Paddy MacHale; kan, Rev. Fr. Lavin, J. W. Morrison, P. Assistant Treasurer, J. W. Morrison.

Competed: Intermediate, Junior, Under 21, Minor, Under 16, Under 14, Schools Championship. Won County Intermediate, North Mayo Under 21, reached North Mayo Minor League final, won Shannon Medals (Ballina), Ennis-crone Tourndament and were finalists Teoranta Cup (Knockmore), E.S.B. (Crossmolina), Naughton Cup (Bangor) tournament.

Objectives: Win County Senior title, develop field with community centre, etc.

PARKE (Black/Amber) — President, Very Rev. M. Jennings, P.P.; Vice-Presidents, Rev. M. Comer, C.C., Paddy Jennings; Chairman, Jim Clarke; Secretary, M. Connor; Treasurer, Tom Rowley.

Competed: Junior, Under 21, Minor, Juvenile, Under 14 (69 played in 29 games).

Objective: Greater involvement of youth.

CLAREMORRIS (Blue/White) — President, Dr. J. F. McHugh; Chairman, Sean Fitzpatrick; Secretary, Jack Duggan; Treasurer, Henry Cleary.

Participated: Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Under 21, Minor, Under 16, Under 14. Won 1971 and 1972 leagues (minor) minor championship; reached county finals Senior, Under 21 and Under 14. £3,000 spent on dressingrooms at pitch and development of social centre.

Objectives: Facilities for young and old in social centre.

WESTPORT (Sky Blue)—President, M. Moran; Chairman, P. Muldoon; Joint Secretaries, J. Gibbons and J. Groden; Treasurer, D. Carroll.

Activities: Participated in Senior, Under 21, Minor, Under 16 and Under 14. Won West Mayo Minor League and Under 21.

Completed work at a cost of £5,500 on dressing rooms at grounds and reduced club debt to £2,000. Aim to clear off outstanding debt by end of '73.

Continued page 37

CHARLESTOWN SANSFIELDS (Green/White)—President, Very Rev. Arch. O'Connor; Vice-President, P. J. Honan; Chairman, Bobby O'Connell; Vice-Chairman, E. Walsh; Secretary, Charles Daynes; Registrar, Ernie Salmon; Treasurer, Tom Gavaghan.

Won East Mayo Primary Schools and Under 14 title. Teams in Under 14, Under 16, Minor, Under 21, Junior and Intermediate (120 players in all).

Opened new dressingrooms and press box at O'Hara Memorial Park.

Objective: To continue park development.

SHRILE (Blue/Gold)—President, Very Rev. Canon Kyne, P.P.; Chairman, John Muldoon; Secretary, Jack Reilly; Treasurer, Jimmy Martyn.

Played Junior (nine competitive games) reached divisional final. Staged 28th annual seven-a-side; took part in Scor—two representatives qualified for county finals.

Objectives: Development of playing field; concentration on youth.

GARRYMORE (Red/White)—President, Vincent Nally; Chairman, T. J. Farragher; Secretary, J. P. Lambe; Treasurer, Pat Connolly.

Participated in Senior, Junior, Under 21, Minor, Under 16, Under 14. Won divisional Under 16, Junior championships; Goodfellowship competition (Ballyhaunis) and five tournaments (seven-a-side). 100 players took part in 65 games.

Objectives: Win County Senior title and park development.

BALLYHAUNIS (Red and Black)—Chairman, Paddy Waldron; Secretaries, Michael Murrin, John Cleary; Treasurer, Hugh Curley.

Participated in Senior, Junior, Under 21, 18, 16, 14 and national schools football. Won All-Ireland Scor '72 (Ballad Group), Connacht (Recitation).

Objectives: Implementation of youth policy and completion of dressing rooms.

AUGHAMORE (Red/White)—President, Andy Durkin; Chairman, Rev. J. D. Flannery; Secretary, Seamus O'Dubhthaigh; Treasurer, Padraig O'Dubhthaigh.

Played Senior, Junior, Minor, Under 16, 14 and primary schools competition. Won Goodfellowship Cup. In 42 games 153 players took part.

Objectives: Development of playing field.

BELMULLET (Red/White)—President, Rev. J. Mulhern; Chairman, Eddie Devers; Secretary, Brendan Padden; Treasurer, Noel Reilly.

Participated in Junior, Minor League/Championship, Under 21, 16, 14 and schools competitions. Record seven teams fields, three (minor league/championship, Under 16), won divisional titles.

Objectives: To raise funds for pitch development.

BONNICONLON (Light Blue/White)—President, Very Rev. Canon Henry, P.P.; Chairman, Tommy Mullarkey; Secretary, Jimmy Foody; Treasurer, Dinny Langan.

Played Junior, Minor, Under 16 and Under 14, involving 60 players.

Objective: Park Development.

KILTANE ST. PATRICK'S (Blue/Gold)—President, Very Rev. Canon Patk. Durcan, P.P.; Chairman, Paddy Cosgrave; Secretary, Paddy Corrigan; Treasurer, Patk. Healy.

Participated: Junior, Minor, Under 21, Under 16, Under 14, Schools. Won North and County Junior title; Naughton Cup 9-a-side. 60 players in 37 games. Scor: Juvenile—5 North Mayo and 1 County awards; Adult—3 North Mayo and 1 County awards. Won Patk. Devers Cup for best all-round club North Mayo Scor finals. Awarded special prize of £100 from G.A.A. Development Scheme.

Objective: Provision of better playing facilities.

KILTAMAGH—President, Ml. Carney; Chairman, Ml. Higgins; Vice-Chairman, Larry McElin; Joint Secretaries, Johnny Lydon, Tom McNicholas; Treasurer, Tom McNicholas.

Participated: National Schools, Under 14, Under 18, Under 21, Minor League, Junior, Intermediate. Reached County Junior and Intermediate semi-finals, Canon Henry Cup final. Played 53 games. Completed fencing of pitch and reseeded sections of same. Organised county senior and juvenile Scor finals.

LOUISBURGH (Yellow/Black)—President, Rev. L. Morahan; Chairman, G. Gibbons; Secretary, M. Lynch; Treasurer, G. Gibbons.

Activities: Participated in Junior, Minor, Under 16 and Under 14 competitions. Won both the West Mayo Junior title and a special competition for Junior B teams.

KILMEENA (Black with White stripe) President, Rev. J. Gullane; Chairman, P. Keane; Secretary, P. Quinn; Treasurer, W. Quinn.

Activities: Took part in West Mayo Junior championship and also in the divisional Under 16 competition. Hope to meet with greater success, particularly in the junior championship in '73.

MULRANY Minor Club (White)—President, Very Rev. Canon T. Killeen; Chairman, Rev. P. Gill; Secretary, N. Joyce; Treasurer, S. Kelly.

Activities: Participated in Minor League and Championship and reached West Mayo minor championship final.

MAYO G.A.A. BOARD OFFICERS

President—Mr. Paddy Moclair.

Chairman—Rev. Fr. Leo Morahan.

Secretary—Mr. Johnny Mulvey.

Treasurer—Mr. Paddy Basquill.

Registrar—Mr. John Healy.

Assistant Secretary—Garda Gerry Henry

MINOR BOARD

Chairman—Mr. Paddy Waldron.

Secretary—Mr. Sean Reilly.

UNDER 21 BOARD

Chairman—Mr. Jackie Gibbons.

Secretary—Mr. John Kenny.

HANDBALL

BALLYHEANE—President, Walter McEvilly; Chairman, Johnny Fadden, Secretary, John McGovern; Treasurer, Frank Moran.

Participated: Gael-Linn tournament; Minor, Junior, Intermediate.

Objective: Development of own alley.

CASTLEBAR ST. VINCENT'S (Blue/White)—Chairman, Dick Geraghty; Secretary, Willie McNamee; Treasurer, Ml. O'Malley.

Activities: Junior, Minor, Intermediate and Juvenile. Won Co. Intermediate (A. Brest) and Co. Juvenile doubles (Ivan Moran and John Collieran) championships.

Objectives: Provision of floodlit ball court.

ACHILL (White)—President, Edward Lavelle, Cashel; Chairman, Rev. Richard Horan, C.C., Keel; Secretary/Treasurer, Kieran Sweeney, Achill Sound.

Activities: Played Juvenile, Minor, Intermediate and Junior. Staged doubles and singles league and vocational schools league.

Objective: To raise funds for the covering and lighting of the Cashel ball court.

CAMOGIE

BREAFFY (Blue/White) — Chairman, Martin Walsh; Secretary, Ann Clarke; Captain, Geraldine Jordan; Vice-Captain, Anna Hopkins; Treasurer, Mary Clarke.

Activities: Played in Winter League, Junior and inter-county club competitions. Won third in a row County Junior title. Eight players on Mayo team; one on Connacht side.

Objective: Stimulate interest in the game at local and county level.

TURLOUGH (Green/White) — Captain, Teresa Camell; Secretary/Treasurer, Emily Potter.

Played Junior, reached county final.

Objectives: Provide adequate funds for club activities and assist County Board financially.

LOUISBURGH- WEST MAYO CHAMPIONS



—Pic. Liam Lyons

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DR. PAT McANDREW won neither an All-Ireland football medal nor a National League medal with Mayo. Yet his name is linked with the great Mayo team of the early fifties. For he was a member of the side which, in 1948, reached the now 'famous' final against Cavan, and from which sprung the team that was to bring a brace of titles to his county.

This he could be described as one of its founding fathers.

Big Pat they called him. And big he was, standing well over 6ft. and towering above everyone in the Mayo defence. He made his name in the All-Ireland semi-final against Kerry that year at centre-half back. The Kerry style suited him and he revelled in the high fielding and long kicking of the game.

"We won the Sigerson Cup in 1948. We had a strong, dedicated team, the central figures of which was the late Billy Kenny. There was a great spirit among the players and we won because we trained seriously for the games," he said.

"I think it was that type of spirit also that was the launch-pad for Mayo's success in the following years. There was spirit and drive behind the team and it was these traits more than anything else that stood to the team, particularly at times of defeat."

Last October Dr. Pat returned to his native Bangor to take up practice after many years in England. His family is living in Dublin, where his wife is studying medicine. He himself is also a psychiatrist and he is not sure that he will remain in Bangor.

"BIG PAT, they called him!"

by Sean Rice

What happened in the final that year is history now. But Pat McAndrew, unlike most of his colleagues that day, was never to be compensated for Mayo's one-point defeat by Cavan. For he left shortly afterwards for the United States.

He played with New York, with whom he won a National League medal in 1950 at Croke Park. Ironically, it was also the year the Mayo team he had helped rise to stardom was to win their first All-Ireland title.

Pat McAndrew is a Bangor man. But it was at school he learned his football. And it was while playing with U.C.G. Sigerson Cup side that he was first noticed by the Mayo selectors.

He has noticed changes in the playing of the game since his days, but the game itself, he says, has not improved or benefited greatly from the changes.

"I think the game has been speeded up and I notice players trying to bring in some soccer movements. This could be a great asset and would lift the standard of Gaelic football considerably if the players were fit enough and had the necessary drive.

"But they have not, and that is the great fault with Mayo football to-day. The players simply lack drive and I have a feeling that drive is also missing from members of the County Board.

"Mayo have won two All-Ireland minor titles and an under 21 title in recent years. A senior title should have come from this material. And I think the players of those teams who left the county or the country should have been followed up by the County Board and encouraged to continue where they left off."

Dr. McAndrew feels that the G.A. is not professional enough in its approach to games and that qualified physical education instructors should be appointed to train players.

"This is something, of course, that should also be done in all schools, but it is essential that players be given the chance to benefit, as they undoubtedly would, from this instruction.

"Club facilities have also been lacking. I have a young lad in Dublin who is now playing rugby, mostly because of the facilities which the club had to offer him.

HONOUR

"This type of approach would, I feel, bring back a new commitment from the players to the game. I know there are many more distractions to-day than there were in my time, but I think players could be made

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realise the honour bestowed on them when they are chosen to wear the county jersey.

"Offaly seem to be aware of this. One can notice how they give the game everything they have. There's steel and drive in their performances not alone the fifteen players but the substitutes also.

"The present Mayo team have not got that. There is no doubt that the framework for a very successful team is in the county. It needs to be developed physically, and young players brought into the team for the first time should be given a reasonable chance of showing whether they possess the potential to make the grade. They cannot do this in one or two games.

Dr. McAndrew has been taking a keen interest in the Kiltane club since he came back. And if he remains, hopes to take an even deeper and more active interest in the club.

"I have noticed a great spirit in the club, and one man in particular—John Noel Carey—typifies the winning spirit about which I have talked. I think if all members of the County Board possessed that type of spirit and drive Mayo would be second to none in Gaelic football to-day," he said.

THE GOLDEN YEAR OF BALLAGHADERREEN FOOTBALL

by Mick O'Connell

THE year 1972 will go down in annals of the Mayo G.A.A. as the golden year of Ballaghaderreen football.

The winning of the premier Mayo title—the senior football championship—as well as the winning of the Mayo “under 21” title in the same year was indeed a remarkable achievement, and was a fitting reward for the many years of endeavour by club officials.

There has been a G.A.A. club in existence in Ballaghaderreen since shortly after the founding of the Association, and while the club has over the years performed with vigour and determination, the big prize always eluded the club, though they had the assistance of many outstanding players.

One is often asked why such a prominent Roscommon town is in Mayo for G.A.A. purposes. This was explained to me by Mr. Sean Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Lands, the former Mayo All-Ireland captain of 1950 and 1951, a former Ballaghaderreen player.

Mr. Flanagan indicated that Ballaghaderreen was originally in County Mayo, but that when the county boundary was changed, and Ballaghaderreen put into Co. Roscommon, the then club elected to remain in Mayo for G.A.A. purposes.

This position obtained for a number of years until the Ballaghaderreen club applied to be allowed to play in Roscommon. The request was granted, but the Ballaghaderreen club proved so successful that the West Roscommon Board successfully applied to have Ballaghaderreen put back again into Mayo. It is for this reason that it now needs a two-thirds majority at the Connacht G.A.A. Council to have Ballaghaderreen revert back to Roscommon for G.A.A. purposes.

POWERHOUSE OF TALENT

Ballaghaderreen's dual victory in 1972 set the football world in Mayo agog. It was well

known that Ballaghaderreen possessed a powerhouse of talent, but it just could not be got to function as smoothly as the club officials and supporters wished.

It seemed as if it would be the same old story as Ballaghaderreen set out for their first championship outing. They were unable to field a full side, but gave some idea of their potential when they pushed Garrymore to the limit at Kiltimagh, the Southerners winning by a solitary point—0-12 to 1-8.

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In their next outing Ballaghaderreen had again a number of defections, and were below strength when they crashed badly to Claremorris at Crossmolina on the score 3-14 to 0-5. Anyone watching this performance who would predict that the Ballaghaderreen side would emerge as county senior football champions would certainly be given a deaf ear.

Whatever happened when Ballaghaderreen returned after this debacle the team from then on began to show marked improvement and the players seemed to have gained an air of determination not evident in their play in the early rounds.

They travelled to Castlebar for their third round encounter against Ballina Stephenites, and a purposeful Ballaghaderreen team finished on level terms. The fact that they had gained their first championship point in this game seemed to have a heartening effect, and they began to realise that, even at that stage, the winning of the county title was not beyond their grasp.

CRUCIAL TEST

Ballaghaderreen next set out for Claremorris to oppose Westport and won comfortably by 3-16 to 0-9, but then came their most crucial test to date. This was their match against Ballyhaunis, who had run a series of successive victories, and who were fancied by many to win through. Defeat for Ballaghaderreen here and they were out of the race.

The game was played in Charlestown and Ballyhaunis were rampant in the opening 20 minutes, establishing a clear 7 points lead. Ballaghaderreen fought back to get on level terms before the interval and went on to record a narrow victory by 1-14 to 2-9. It was really in this game that Ballaghaderreen proved themselves the stuff of which champions are made.

Ballaghaderreen continued on their winning way by beating Castlebar Mitchels in Ballina by 4-9 to 3-7, and beating Aughamore in Charlestown by 1-9 to 2-0.

Then Ballaghaderreen travelled to Castlebar to play Garrymore in a play-off and were considered rather lucky to scrap through by a one-point margin. An objection to the Mayo Objections and Appeals Board and a

subsequent appeal to the Connacht G.A.A. Council by Garrymore did not succeed, and Ballaghaderreen were through to the county semi-final against old rivals, Ballyhaunis.

The match, played at Charlestown, was a hard, rugged encounter, but Ballaghaderreen were worthy winners on the score 4-8 to 2-8.

The final in Crossmolina was more or less featureless by comparison, Ballaghaderreen winning comfortably against Claremorris by 1-11 to 0-9.

JIM FLEMING INJURED

Midway through the campaign Ballaghaderreen were denied the services of one of their greatest and longest serving players, Jim Fleming, due to his being involved in a traffic accident while he was travelling to assist the team. It was considered that the winning of the county title would be a splendid "get well" present for Jim, and this idea spurred many of his team-mates on to greater efforts. He is now, happily, fully recovered.

The honour of captaining the side fell to the small of stature Sean McGoldrick, who seems to be the personification of the saying "There is good goods in small parcels," because his expert goalkeeping ability contributed much to the success of the side. He was elated at the success of the said, and said: "It was a great pleasure for me to captain such a fine side. I thought that our first win over Westport was the turning point, and another significant factor was the manner in which the players rose to the occasion in the first game against Ballyhaunis."

The steadying influence exerted by the Mayo and Connacht star, John Morley, was also a decided asset throughout the campaign, but the ultimate aim was achieved in the final analysis by teamwork and the will to win.

Another man who did much to pilot the team to victory was the club chairman, Rev. Fr. John Doherty, C.C., who was assisted by club hon. secretary Pat Dooney, hon. treasurer Jack O'Donnell and a hard-working committee.



LOUISBURGH TRIUMPH AT LAST

THE West Mayo junior championship provided just reward for fifteen years of hard endeavour by the Louisburgh team. It made up for the frustrations and bitter defeats of the barren period since the Cusack Cup last rested on a Louisburgh sideboard.

They won the title convincingly in the end, but the championship in the division, while Louisburgh were firmly tipped to make up for their one point defeat in the previous final, was closely contested and provided some of the best football for years.

Nine teams—Achill, Balla, Burrishoole, Louisburgh, Kilmeena, Islandeady, Castlebar, Tourmakeady and Parke—started out with high hopes of winning the most coveted prize in football in the division.

Kilmeena had just dropped back from the intermediate division and were confident of success in the lower grade. They were to find, however, that competition was fierce and honours had to be earned the hard way—by effort and ability on the field.

Their hopes of making a place in the semi-finals were kept alive for a time, but they finally had to bend the knee to superior opposition.

Louisburgh had chalked up a succession of wins to comfortably ensure a place in the last-four stage and the only blot on their record for the entire campaign was a defeat at the hands of Islandeady.

The clash late in the campaign was vital to the Islandeady side. They had to win to ensure a place in the last four. They travelled with a strong side to catch Louisburgh unprepared and won by 1-12 to 2-4.

The emergence of Parke as a force in the division had been recognised for a number of years, and it was no surprise that they should be in the reckoning for the title. They eased their way into the semi-finals without great difficulty, clinching their place with a 2-3 to 0-7 win over Kilmeena.

Parke were, however, not prepared for the power launched by Louisburgh in the West semi-final. Despite good performances from Martin Mulloy, Tommy McHale, Frank Fahy, Harry Flynn, Cyril Moran, Pdraig Dunne and Frank McHale they were swamped by a rampant Louisburgh side, losing on a score of 5-9 to 2-6.

They established control at midfield through John Keane and Michael O'Grady, and once their forwards found the range the writing was on the wall for Tourmakeady.

Rayo Lyons, Des O'Leary and Ray Lyons performed with distinction in a solid Louisburgh defence that blocked the way for the Tourmakeady attack, and up front John, Jim and Tom Gibbons and John Morahan were taking and setting up the scores for a Louisburgh victory.

Tourmakeady had to field without their key man in attack, Brian Fallon. They had good performances from Chris Darmody, Sean O'Shea, Peter Naughton, Cyril O'Donnell, Kevin Darmody, Kevin Melia, Mick Burke and Myles O'Malley, but could not match the more balanced Louisburgh side.

The second semi-final was more closely contested with Tourmakeady and Islandeady vying for a final place. Tourmakeady, on the day, had the edge. Islandeady had solid players in the Kenny brothers, Enda and Kieran; Tommy Joe Gibbons, Mick O'Donnell, John Collins, Mick Sweeney and Jacky Deffley, but despite their best efforts Tourmakeady had six points to spare at the final whistle, the score being 2-7 to 0-7.

And so the stage was set for the premier football event in the division. Louisburgh were the team with the tradition, while Tourmakeady were seeking their first ever title.

The Westerners were installed as firm favourites to come up trumps and they justified the confidence of the punters.

THE HIGH HOPES OF SPRING

by

Sean Rice

OVER the past few years hope for Mayo's footballers has been highest in the spring. Their success in the National League was the biggest factor of this springtime promise. I suppose supporters were helped, psychologically, by the season also: their emergence from the depressing months of winter; the budding trees, the scent of new growth . . . the thoughts of warmer days ahead.

This year it is different. No league success is there to inflate the optimism; no great displays on which to ponder.

It has been a campaign of trial and error . . . the only avenue open to Mayo's mentors following the team's defeat by Roscommon in the Connacht final last July.

Since then new faces have come. Some have gone and more will come again. And all the time that old enemy—the phantom gap of 22 years—stalks the minds of many.

That phantom has engendered anguish and that anguish has grown and ripened and burst many times in the form of one unanswerable question: why?

Having failed in the championship the previous year, it was decided on a less vigorous league campaign. But when the pressure was removed Mayo became more relaxed and glided into the semi-finals of that league, where they met the All-Ireland champion, Offaly.

It was a game marked by the first-half grace and rhythm of Mayo's performance and the second-half Offaly resurgence and in particular the place-kicking of Tony McTague. In the last seconds the All-Ireland champions snatched a draw.

It was said then that Mayo missed the boat. That argument was disproved in the re-play. The confidence Mayo had exuded in the drawn game was reinforced rather than shaken when the teams met again, and Mayo qualified for the final against Kerry.

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Still, league success is no great consolation for championship defeat. So there was greater determination to win the championship and fewer regrets for losing the league. Indeed the players themselves decided to forego a trip to America so that they could prepare fully for the championship.

But no great zip was noticeable when they met Sligo in the first round at Sligo. They survived a draw and were favourites to win the replay at Castlebar. They did win it—but not until the game went to extra time, and it was in this period of extra time that Mayo for the first time in the two games looked like becoming champions again.

They seemed to have a number of advantages when they lined out in the Connacht final. It was at MacHale Park and they were meeting Roscommon, a team that had not measured up too well in the league, or in championships for ten years before.

All that was shattered in one hour of football when Roscommon drew on amazing resources of energy and grit, and hammered Mayo decisively.

So Mayo embarked on a policy of change for the league which is now concluding. Young players were brought in. Some have been well tested, and look like making the grade. Others were not too well tested.

No blend has yet been found which will bring an All-Ireland title to the county this year. But the effort continues. And if young players like Christy McCann, John P. Keane, Ger Feeney and Padraic Cunningham maintain their places and improve with experience the future will not be dark.

Some of those who have left the team and were part of that occasional brilliance ought to be thanked. They played their part, and if their achievements have fallen short of their aims there were days when all Mayo was proud of them, when they showed the purity of Mayo's style and nothing could take from it.

They have few souvenirs of battles won; their legs and their hands may have many of battles lost. We should remember them.

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SOUTH MAYO

by P. J. McGrath

THE YEAR OF THE VETERANS

It was the year of the veterans in South Mayo. Garrymore, led by Vincent Nally, Martin Fitzpatrick and J. P. Lambe made the running in the junior championship. Gradually they tightened their grip and eased into the semi-finals.

There they were pitted against St. Comans (Hollymount), and although established players like J. J. Trench, S. Vahey, P. Murphy, J. Keane, R. Bell and P. Costello played their hearts out it was Garrymore who came out on top . . . rather easier than expected.

Shrule and Mayo Abbey met in the other semi-final. That is itself was a triumph for Mayo Abbey who have been trying so hard in recent years often in the face of dispiriting opposition.

They did not win this one, for Shrule's experience was greater. But Mayo Abbey, through the displays of Tom Hurst, and the Maloney brothers, spelled out clearly that the great work of Paul Judge, the club's key official, will soon bear fruit.

So Shrule were through to another final. They have been in the final shake-up for a long time. But somehow they have not been able to snatch the title. And this was not to be their year either.

Above all it militated against Shrule's style and their lighter players. Tom Payne, John Muldoon, Declan Ronaldson and Paddy Neill poured everything they had into the game in an effort to turn the tide. But it was too much for them.

The influence of Garrymore's veterans could be easily seen. Vincent Nally, Martin Fitzpatrick and J. P. Lambe had seen bigger days and were cool and confident under pressure. They controlled the play and set up the movements in which youngsters like Harry Mannix, Michael Connolly and Tony Donnelly excelled.

So Garrymore had a comfortable win and brought to a close a championship in which a record eleven teams took part.

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 MINOR S.B.S.—C. Quinn, Killala.
 MINOR S.B.D.—Final to be played between Newport and Killala.
 JUNIOR S.B.S.—T. Derrig, Balla.
 JUNIOR S.B.D. (Ward Cup)—P. J. Humbert and A. O'Hora, Ballina.
 SENIOR S.B.S.—P. McGee, Newport.
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 MINOR H.B.S.—C. Quinn, Killala.
 MINOR H.B.D.—C. Quinn and T. Cawley, Killala.
 JUNIOR H.B.S.—T. Derrig, Balla.
 JUNIOR H.B.D.—T. Derrig and S. Derrig, Balla.
 SENIOR H.B.S.—P. McGee, Newport.
 SENIOR H.B.D.—P. McGee and G. Moran, Newport.

CONNACHT TITLES CHAMPIONS:

MINOR H.B.S.—C. Quinn, Killala.
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 SENIOR S.B.S.—P. McGee, Newport.
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REFEREEING

- A Thankless Job

by Ned Flynn

SINCE the foundation of the G.A.A. many articles have been written about players, teams and the Association in general, but little or nothing has been written about the man in the middle. I refer, of course, to the referee.

Do we ever think of the time and effort he gives to the Association each year, with little or no thanks for officiating?

Sunday after Sunday he is asked to officiate at matches and to provide umpires and linesmen. He has to be on time. And when he gets to the appointed venue he will most likely end up with supporters of the playing teams acting as linesmen and umpires.

Very often he will have to start the match without the field being lined or having a flag provided with which to signal a score. He may be faced with the problem of teams wearing similar colours, (and sometimes playing without numbers). As the game progresses he is responsible for the movement of thirty players on the field. Sometimes he is expected to see every movement of those taking part.

If he does not see a foul being committed the spectators will not be slow to let him know and abuse him for not taking action. He has in addition to contend with the encroachment of spectators, the actual playing time and the scores. When the match is over he will be asked many times what was the final score.

After all that there be officials going to Board and Council meeting complaining of the sub-standard refereeing. They do so without considering the referee's viewpoint.

For these reason I would strongly recommend to the Association that it is time for a few very simple rules to be insisted on.

- That each registered club make known and be responsible for the provision of one referee.

- That every club nominates umpires and linesmen each year.

- That each year action be taken against boards or clubs which fail to make proper arrangements for any fixture given to them.

- That a yearly token of appreciation be shown to the team best dressed and the club making the best arrangements for matches.

- That the players have a better knowledge of the playing rules.

I have no doubt that if these few simple rules were complied with and rigidly enforced it would go a long way towards making refereeing much easier and would give spectators less room for complaints.

The onerous task that falls on so few would then be shared by all members of the Association.

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CASTLEBAR LOOKS TO YOUNG STARLETS

The seed of resurgence firmly planted two years ago blossomed with its splendour in 1972, ending Castlebar's fifteen years in the doldrums, of under age football.

Exhibiting a new and exciting approach to the game, the Castlebar youths swept through West Mayo, winning the divisional finals in all three grades and then surging forward to win the county under 14 and 16 finals.

The only blemish was the failure of the minor team at the last hurdle of the county championship.

by Tom Rowley

Behind this wave of almost instantaneous success was a band of mentors whose dedication, care and patience went a long way in installing the necessary confidence to coax the best from their charges.

There was local Garda Michael Devaney, who was the axis around which this team revolved; vocational teacher Patsy Noone, who supervised over 40 training sessions; Sean Reilly, another vocational teacher, and others who, in various ways, helped mould a most remarkable revival.

Never before in Castlebar football history has so much been owed by so many to so few.

But, of course, it was on the playing fields that the town's young starlets displayed their true grit.

(Continued next page)

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The under 14 team, first into the arena, quickly stamped their dominance on the grade in West Mayo with resounding wins over Kilmeena and Louisburgh.

Playing petite, imaginative football, the Castlebar side proved too fast for a more robust and less flexible Achill team in the West Mayo final. In a tense semi-final against Ballina it took the sharpshooting ability of Padraic Armstrong and Joe Quinn to pull them through.

CREATIVE GENIUS

The creative genius and scoring opportunism of full forward Frank Ryan was the deciding factor in their landslide 6-7 to 1-2 win over Claremorris in the final at MacHale Park in August.

A team of budding starlets, they all contributed their share and merit special mention: Sean Haugh, Michael Nevin, Michael Moran, Niall O'Shea, Liam Gavin, Martin Ludden, Matt Flynn, Vinnie Joyce, Martin Walsh, Ger Rogers, James Sweeney, Padraic Cresham, Joe Quinn, Frank Ryan and Padraic Armstrong.

The frail physique of members of the club's under 16 team would, it seemed, be a grave disadvantage in their championship campaign. But, however, after their opening games in West Mayo it was clear that what they lacked in weight and height they negated by football ability and expertise.

Two beautifully executed goals from Pat Jennings shattered Kilmeena's early hopes in the West Mayo final, and a fine second half goal from Cormac Egan sealed victory for the Castlebar side with a 3-10 to 1-6 scoreline.

Castlebar had a 20 points margin over Swinford in the county semi-final, while in the other semi-final Garrymore had an equally impressive win.

The final at Kiltimagh began at a blistering pace, but midway through the first half it lost much of its early bite. The Castlebar midfield pairing of Ray Flaherty and Michael Joyce rose to dwarf the architects of so many of Garrymore's impressive attacks—Martin Coleman and Patsy Mohan.

And for the remainder of the game the Castlebar side simply tore to shreds the Garrymore defence with telling attacks to win by 3-10 to 0-5.

Bear in mind the names of that successful team, for the last has not been heard of them

—Joe Mooney, Ger Murphy, Timmy O'Malley, Brendan O'Shea, Lar Morahan, Stephen Minogue, Padraic Cresham, Michael Joyce, Ray Flaherty, Frank Murphy, Padraic Jordan, Eamon Egan, Pat Jennings, Tom Moran and Eamon O'Boyle.

The Mitchels failed narrowly to bring off the grand slam when their minor team went under 1-14 to 1-3 against Claremorris in the county final at Kiltimagh.

After several seasons in the wilderness Gaelic football is back once more on a firm footing in Castlebar. The club's under-age squads have laid the foundations on which the future of the Mitchels club can be solidly re-established.

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Knockmore captain Pat Warde with players and supporters, jubilant after the Club's first every county title win.
Pic Liam Lyons.

KNOCKMORE WOULD NOT HEAR OF DEFEAT

says

Terry Reilly

TREMENDOUS belief in their own ability and great pride in their close-knit parish, coupled with the desire to taste success and the firm conviction that they were about to do so. These were the primary ingredients in Knockmore's county intermediate championship victory over close rivals Ardnaree in Crossmolina last September.

Having been smitten so many times previously, no Knockmore man would hear of defeat.

"No, we have had to bow the knee too many times: we won't knuckle under this time" was the kind of answer members of their team were coming up with prior to the final. There was nothing vain or gloating about their approach: they just knew they could take on the best—in this case Ardnaree Sarsfields—and come out on top.

And the men behind the team, those like trainer Paddy McHale and chairman Des Farrell (who had taken over from Fr. Sean Durkan a year earlier) were equally confident. They pointed to a thorough preparation as a sound basis for their faith, and also pointed out that the steady influence of Galway star Liam O'Neill had transformed the side from one of individuals to a solid, cohesive unit.

There was no great tradition behind the club, which was formed around 1960, but there was a spirt of perserverence which had to pay off sooner or later. In 1968 and '69 they reached the intermediate semi-finals and went within four points of beating Aughamore in 1970 final. They were back again the following year, but over-confidence cost them their place in the final to Westport.

Bouncing back again like a rubber ball, they looked good for a place in the last four and qualified for the final by beating a plucky Kiltimagh side.

The final was an all-North affair, and Ardnaree had their backers. They held a psychological edge over Knockmore in that they had already beaten them twice in the preliminary stages, but this only served to sharpen Knockmore's razor-edged determination.

True, they were rocked back on their heels by the opposition, who shot into a four-point lead seven minutes from half time.

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Equally true, they came back with a flourish and a goal by opportunist Christy Hughes gave them the scent they needed. P. J. King tapped over a free to level the scores, and as Ardnaree reeled Knockmore applied the pressure in earnest. A Liam McHale centre bobbed about the 'square' just long enough for Paddy O'Hora to crash it to the net.

Knockmore were only warming up, and in the second half they held Ardnaree to a single point while piling on nine themselves. As the minutes passed they gripped tighter and tighter on the cup and in the end were convincing and deserved 2-14 to 0-9 champions.

In winning they were the first team from Knockmore to win a county championship of any description, and it was ironic that this single success launched them into the premier grade in the county. Time will tell how they fare out in the "Big Boys League," but one thing is certain: they will give everything they have got.

They are now on the crest of the wave and they intend to stay there: the senior title is now their objective and they hope to emulate the feat of Ballaghaderreen, who won intermediate and senior titles in successive years.

They have a fine panel of players: men like Pat Warde, who captained the side; Brendan Breslin, Michael McNeely, Michael O'Hora, P. J. King, P. J. Flynn, Peter Hughes, Liam McHale and Liam O'Neill are capable of holding their own in any company. They mix a refreshing ruggedness with a dashing style which lacks inhibition, and they are going to push longer established senior clubs to the limit.

It would be inappropriate to end this article without giving the Knockmore line-out which won the title. The team was—Eddie McHale; Val Hughes, Brendan Breslin, Michl. McNeely; Joe Clarke, Ray McHale, Pat Warde (captain); Michael O'Hora, Liam O'Neill; Seamus Weir, P. J. King, P. J. Flynn; Christy Hughes, Peter Hughes, Paddy O'Hora. Liam McHale substituted for Clarke and Davy Molloy for V. Hughes.



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FLASHBACK- COUNTY INTERMEDIATE FINAL ('71)



SCRUM: Westport and Ballaghaderreen players in the tight during the 1971 Intermediate football title played April '72.

Pic. Liam Lyons.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Down The Years

SENIOR

1888—Castlebar Mitchels
 1902—Charlestown
 1903—Castlebar Mitchels
 1904—Ballina Stephenites
 1905—Ballina Stephenites
 1906—Ballina Stephenites
 1907—Ballina Stephenites
 1908—Ballina Stephenites
 1909—Ballina Stephenites
 1910—Ballina Stephenites
 1911—Ballina Stephenites
 1912—Ballina Stephenites
 1913—Ballina Stephenites
 1914—Ballina Stephenites
 1915—Ballina Stephenites
 1916—Ballina Stephenites
 1917—Lacken
 1918—Ballina Stephenites
 1919—Ballyhaunis
 1920—Ballina Stephenites
 1921—Abandoned
 1922—Abandoned
 1923—Abandoned
 1924—Ballina Stephenites
 1925—Ballina Stephenites
 1926—Ballina Stephenites
 1927—Ballina Stephenites
 1928—Ballina Stephenites
 1929—Ballina Stephenites
 1930—Castlebar Mitchels
 1931—Castlebar Mitchels
 1932—Castlebar Mitchels
 1933—Ballina Stephenites
 1934—Castlebar Mitchels
 1935—Ballina Stephenites
 1936—Ballycastle
 1937—Ballycastle
 1938—Ballina Stephenites
 1939—Ballycastle
 1940—Ballina Stephenites
 1941—Castlebar Mitchels
 1942—Castlebar Mitchels
 1943—Ballina Stephenites

1944—Castlebar Mitchels
 1945—Castlebar Mitchels
 1946—Castlebar Mitchels
 1947—Ballina Stephenites
 1948—Castlebar Mitchels
 1949—Crossmolina
 1950—Castlebar Mitchels
 1951—Castlebar Mitchels
 1952—Castlebar Mitchels
 1953—Castlebar Mitchels
 1954—Castlebar Mitchels
 1955—Ballina Stephenites
 1956—Castlebar Mitchels
 1957—East Mayo
 1958—Ballyhaunis
 1959—Castlebar Mitchels
 1960—West Mayo
 1961—Claremorris
 1962—Castlebar Mitchels
 1963—Castlebar Mitchels
 1964—Claremorris
 1965—Claremorris
 1966—Ballina Stephenites
 1967—East Mayo
 1968—North Mayo
 1969—Castlebar Mitchels
 1970—Castlebar Mitchels
 1971—Claremorris
 1972—Ballaghaderreen

1943—Belmullet
 1944—Belmullet
 1945—Newport
 1946—Mayo Abbey
 1947—Crossmolina
 1948—Killala
 1949—Mulranny
 1950—Louisburgh
 1951—Charlestown
 1952—Ardnaree
 1953—Charlestown
 1954—Swinford
 1955—Crossmolina
 1956—St. Coman's
 1957—Ballyhaunis
 1958—Ballinrobe
 1959—Ardnaree
 1960—Claremorris
 1961—Garrymore
 1962—Crossmolina
 1963—Charlestown
 1964—St. Coman's
 1965—Achill
 1966—Breaffy
 1967—Kiltimagh
 1968—Ballaghaderreen
 1969—Aughamore
 1970—Westport
 1971—Ardnaree
 1972—Kiltane

JUNIOR

1930—Claremorris
 1931—Ballina
 1932—Kiltimagh
 1933—Charlestown
 1934—Ballinrobe
 1935—Killasser
 1936—Kiltimagh
 1937—Westport
 1938—Charlestown
 1939—Kiltimagh
 1940—Balla
 1941—Ballaghaderreen
 1942—Achill

MINOR

1930—Castlebar
 1931—Claremorris
 1932—Claremorris
 1933—Castlebar
 1934—Castlebar
 1935—Ballina
 1936—Ballina
 1937—Killasser
 1938—Ballina
 1939—Castlebar
 1940—Abandoned
 1941—Castlebar

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(Continued from page 56)

1942—Abandoned	1953—Charlestown
1943—Abandoned	1954—Castlebar
1944—Abandoned	1955—Castlebar
1945—Ballina	1956—Belmullet
1946—Foxford	1957—Carras
1947—Castlebar	1958—Ballina
1948—Ballina	1959—Carras
1949—Ballaghaderreen	1960—Ballina
1950—Ballina	1961—Ballinrobe
1951—Swinford	1962—Belmullet
1952—Ballyhaunis	1963—Claremorris
	1964—Claremorris
	1965—Achill

1966—Aughamore
1967—Ballina
1968—Ballaghaderreen
1969—Claremorris
1970—Claremorris
1971—Kiltimagh
1972—Claremorris

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A—A supporter is one who supports.

Q—What does he support?

A—He supports any good team effort

—in his home

—in his parish

—in his county.

Q—What does a supporter **not** know?

A—A supporter never knows the good effect he has on his team.

Q—Is a supporter necessary for victory?

A—He is.

Q—Does he have to be a man?

A—She does not!

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