

JUBILEE

A SOUVENIR OF 50 HISTORIC YEARS OF SPORT IN THE GARDA SÍOCHÁNA



1922
1972

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Minister's Message

TAISPEÁNANN na gníomhartha lúthchleasaíochta atá faoi thrácht sa leabhrán seo chomh maith agus d'éirigh leis an nGarda Síochána a chomhaltáí a spreagadh chun bheith páirteach i gcúrsaí spóirt ó lá a bhunaithe 50 bliain ó shin. Níl aon amhras orm nó go raibh baint an-mhór ag an bpáirtíocht sin i gcúrsaí lúthchleas leis an ardmheas atá ag an bpobal ar an nGarda Síochána inniu. Abhar mórtais dúinn go léir an chaithréim sin atá bainte amach ag an bhFórsa.

Ní haon laghdú é ar na buanna atá bainte amach ag comhaltáí le blianta beaga anuas má deirim gur mhaith liom moladh faoi leith a thabhairt do na fir úd a rinne éachtaí i dtús ré an Fhórsa agus tríd sin a thug misneach do na fir a tháinig ina ndiaidh. Tá a fhios agam go ndéanfaidh na fir óga atá ag teacht go líonmhar insteach sna Gardaí anois a gcion chun cloí leis na sár-chaighdeáin sin agus tá mé lán-chinnteach go mbainfidh an Fórsa tuilleadh buanna amach, buanna náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta sna blianta atá rómhainn, chun cur lena cháil agus a ghníomh.

The athletic achievements which are commemorated in this brochure show clearly how well the Garda Síochána, since its establishment 50 years ago, has succeeded in encouraging its members to participate in sport. I have no doubt that this participation has been a major factor in winning for the Force the respect and standing in the community which it now enjoys. The record is one in which we can all take pride.

Without detracting in any way from the successes of members in recent years, I would like to pay special tribute to the men whose outstanding feats in the early days of the Force were an inspiration to all those who came after them. The young men who are now entering the Force in such numbers will, I know, play their part in maintaining these very high standards and I am confident that in the years ahead many more distinctions, both national and international, will be added to the Force's record of achievement.

Minister For Justice



Commissioner's Message

I MBLIANA, leath-chéad bliain i ndiaidh bhunaithe an Gharda Síochána, beannaímid dár lúthchleasaithe uile. Gura slán don Choiste Siamsa a rinne an clú agus an cháil a bhain siad amach a bhuanú.

Táimid bródúil as an ngaisce a rinne siad i mbaile agus i gcéin. Sa lá atá inniu ann, táimid ag brath ar chomhaltaí óga an Fhórsa chun cáil lúthchleasaíochta a bhaint amach faoi mar a rinne na seanchomhaltaí agus chun clú agus cáil an Gharda Síochána a choimeád faoi réim.

It is fitting in this Jubilee Year that we should honour the outstanding athletes of the Garda Síochána. I wish to thank Coiste Siamsa for undertaking this task and to congratulate them on the excellent way in which it has been fulfilled.

The Force has every reason to be proud of its sporting record. By its participation in many branches of sport at international level, the Garda did much to enhance Ireland's reputation in the eyes of other nations.

In recording the attainments of our more prominent athletes, we should remember also the many Gardai who did not achieve international or championship status, but who by their interest and enthusiasm contributed so much to the promotion of sport throughout the country.

To the young Gardai of today I would like to say that they owe it to the Force and to the people they serve to be fit in mind and body; this can be ensured by active participation in manly sports.

This brochure will, no doubt, inspire our young members to emulate the proud record of their predecessors and maintain the reputation of the Garda Síochána in the world of sport.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Hayes', written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner, Garda Síochána



Foreword

WHEN, in the fateful year of 1922, the old order changed and a self-governing Irish State came into being, there lay ahead a task of reconstruction and development that would affect not only social and economic patterns but the very texture of Irish life. It was a task that would surely require the unstinted zeal and energy of the whole community; and it seemed from the beginning that the *Gárda Síochána* must play a significant part in the process.

For, if the primary purpose of a police force appertains to the maintenance of public order, its influence within the society which it serves transcends, immeasurably, its immediate function. And, in those early formative years, men of vision saw that the potential of an organisation of disciplined, mentally alert, and able-bodied young men might be so exercised as to afford an enrichment of the quality of life for all our people, and especially for the youth.

The domain of sports and athletics held a special attraction. Here was an area of activity where physical fitness, prized for its own sake by the *Gardaí*, could be harnessed to the worthy purpose of promoting an ever-widening active interest in track and field events, and in games generally.

Since example is better than precept and nothing succeeds like success, no effort was spared to foster the highest standards of performance within the *Gárda* body itself. Little wonder, then, if, in the passage of fifty historic years, this sustained dedication resulted in a series of achievements of which the *Gárda* Force may well be proud.

From the mid-twenties onwards, athletic and recreational affairs in the Force were controlled and co-ordinated by the *Gárda* Athletic Association. An era of intense and spectacularly successful activity was followed by a recession during the Emergency and its aftermath. The "forward" policy was re-activated in the early sixties, when the Association was reconstituted under Ministerial patronage. To the present day, *Coiste Siamsa*, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Force, falls the honour of issuing this commemorative brochure.

We do not pretend to offer, here, anything like a comprehensive survey of Gárda triumphs on the playing-pitch, in the ring, and elsewhere, during the memorable half-century now ending. Such a project, however well worth attempting would be beyond our resources. Indeed, our major problem was one of selection. How this difficulty was faced will be obvious from a perusal of the contents and a consideration of the kind of achievement recorded. Regrettably, adherence to the criteria which we were obliged to adopt meant the omission of many well-known and deserving names: it goes without saying, for instance, that some of our most brilliant Gaelic footballers never won an All-Ireland Senior Championship medal or inter-provincial honours. Within the limites to which we restricted ourselves, every care was taken to make the record a complete one. If, despite our efforts, there should still be cases where merit is not given its due, we apologise for the omission.

It is our hope that this little guide-book to our Hall of Fame may serve also to chart, for this and for future generations of young Gardai, the way to those summits trodden by their mighty predecessors.



Chief Supt.
Hon. Secretary, An Coiste Siamsa.
June, 1972.

In this article, ex-Commissioner P. J. Carroll pays a tribute to three men who pioneered sport in the newly-formed Garda Síochána.



General Eoin O'Duffy

Triumvirate of pioneers

DURING the first years of the Garda Síochána, despite the arduous responsibility which rested on the Commissioner in the general administration and building up of the new Force, General Eoin O'Duffy was keenly aware of the necessity to foster and encourage the growth of many forms of recreation.

He formed the Coiste Siamsa to organise and control all indoor and outdoor recreational activities, with a central body and subordinate bodies in each Division and District. The Coiste Siamsa Manual of Rules at that period laid down the general aims of the Organisation as follows—

"The aim of the Coiste Siamsa is not the production of champion athletes, but to ensure that the Garda as a body should contain a high proportion of men who can hold their own with the average athlete in every form of Sport. From such participation will, in due course, spring champion athletes. Participation in athletic exercises has a moral value. The man who is training for some form of competition will be more likely to keep mind and body under control than the man with whom such incentive is lacking. Such participation in games leads to character building and the formation of good habits. The Garda owe it to the reputation of the Force to keep fit in mind and body."

As President of Coiste Siamsa he continued to exert his forceful personality on its various activities and development. By his personal attendances at Garda Sports meetings, etc., all over

the country he motivated and encouraged high standards in all such promotions.

Aonach an Gharda was organised and held for the first time in 1926 and the sporting and social events of this annual week generally brought forth the highest tributes from the Press and all sports followers in Ireland. In 1931 General O'Duffy was elected President of the N.A.C.A. as a tribute to his many years of unstinted devotion to athletics.

In the same period he was elected President of the Olympic Council of Ireland and in this capacity he led the Olympic Team from Ireland at the Los Angeles Games of 1932, when gold medals were won by Dr. Pat O'Callaghan in the hammer-throwing competition and Bob Tisdall in the hurdles. This was a fitting climax to his interest in athletics. He left the Force later that year.

* * *

From the time he was appointed Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, Major-General W.R.E. Murphy was a driving force in the development of all forms of athletics in the old Dublin Force.

When amalgamation of the D.M.P. with the Garda Síochána took place in 1925, General Murphy became Deputy Commissioner and chairman of Coiste Siamsa, where his talents as an organiser were consistently evident in its direction and activities.

As chairman of the **Garda Review** controlling committee he provided funds for the erection of the Garda Club house at Islandbridge, now the Garda Boat Club, and also for the Handball Alley at the Depot in the Phoenix Park. To assist developing athletes he produced monthly supplements with the **Garda Review**, written by experts on various sports, which explained and expounded proper techniques.

His greatest achievement was perhaps, his work as President of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association which post he accepted in the mid-twenties. In a few years he had made it one of the strongest all-Ireland sports bodies, and with great success in the international field.

He was the pioneer in the building of the National Boxing Stadium at South Circular Road, Dublin and was one of the founders of the present International Boxing Association, which controls amateur boxing throughout the world, and of which he is an Honorary Life President. He lives in Ardee and still has a great interest in boxing, in which he has continued as a Trustee of the IABA.

As a serving member of the old Dublin Metropolitan Police, in which he reached the rank of Chief Superintendent Colonel Eamonn Broy always took the keenest interest in that Force's athletic activities. He was always to be seen in its promotions and helping actively in various ways.

At the time he was appointed Commissioner of the Gardaí to succeed General O'Duffy the tide of athleticism was beginning to ebb a little with the advancing age of members, but he gave his encouragement and support to the Force's sporting endeavours during his years as Commissioner.

Colonel Broy was elected President of the N.A.C.A. in the early thirties and was also elected President of the Olympic Council of Ireland for the Berlin Games of 1936, when no athlete from Ireland competed because of the Boundary rule introduced for Field and Track sport.

He retained office and after the War he re-organised the Olympic Council for the London Games of 1948, after which he retired from active administration in Sport.



Colonel Eamonn Broy



Major-General W. R. E. Murphy



Galway-born Con McGrath, of
Cork football fame.



Liam Gilmartin, Roscommon's
All-Ireland midfielder.

Sport through the decades

NO HISTORY of the Garda Síochána would be complete without an outline of the part played by sport in the establishment, development and life of the Force.

Down the years, from the very beginning in Ballsbridge in February, 1922, sport—especially track and field athletics, Gaelic football, hurling, handball, boxing and rowing—has been a source of enjoyment, contentment, excitement and health.

In the earliest days, when facilities were of a temporary nature, the future uncertain, and when outlooks differed widely, the sportsfield relieved tension and sowed the seeds of lasting friendships.

When the late General Eoin O'Duffy was appointed Commissioner on September 18, 1922, he immediately recognised the real value of sport, both for creating true comradeship between the members of the new Force and for breaking the long-established barrier of animosity that existed between the Irish people and "policemen".

Sport, he said, would bring the people and the new 'Guardians of the Peace' into contact under most favourable conditions and thereafter the influence of true and steadfast men would establish a lasting bond of trust and friendship. Sport did all that.

The first Garda Sports was held in the Training Camp, Kildare, on September 24, 1922, and from that date Garda teams and Garda athletes graced the pitches and tracks of Ireland in a manner that won the admiration, acceptance, respect and friendship of the people.

During those first 10 years, the finest Garda hurlers, footballers, boxers, athletes and handball players were attached to the Depot in Dublin, where a ball-alley, gymnasium, and recreation hall were provided in addition to the playing pitch in the Phoenix Park, and afforded excellent training facilities.

While other Garda players played a prominent part in teams throughout the country, the Headquarters teams travelled to venues far and wide. Their example and performances played no small part in kindling the enthusiasm that led to the athletics revival which resulted in the great Irish Olympic victories of Dr. Pat O'Callaghan at Amsterdam in 1928 and O'Callaghan and Bob Tisdall at Los Angeles in 1932.

In those 10 years, open Garda Sports were held annually at 17 venues throughout the country. The Garda Band travelled from the Depot to play at these meetings and the Garda Sports were the most important local event of the year. In those days, athletics and cycling functioned under one Council; there was but one Athletic Association.

In 1926 the first of a series of annual sports festivals known as "Garda Week" was organised and staged in Dublin by "An Coiste Siamsa", the committee responsible for all organised sport in the Force, with the Depot, Phoenix Park, as the nerve centre.

These "Garda Weeks" were festivals in which competitions were run off in various branches of sport, and included each year an International

Police boxing competition which was held on the Depot square in the open air. The last day of the Week was devoted to an Aeriocht—competitions in Irish singing, dancing, story-telling and music. Eight such Garda Weeks were held from 1926 to 1933, when General O'Duffy's period as Commissioner terminated.

Those were glamorous, exciting and glorious years when all members of all ranks were young together. During those years members of the Force won the following events:

Athletics—44 Irish, 6 British A.A.A., and 54 Irish provincial titles. **Boxing**—13 International team contests; 15 National titles; 2 A.B.A. championships and 2 European Police titles. **Gaelic Football**—2 Co. Dublin senior championships, 2 Dublin Senior Leagues. Beat the Army in 1926, 1927—and 1928. **Hurling**—5 Co. Dublin senior championships, 2 provincial championships and the All-Ireland title for Dublin in 1927. They beat the Army in the President's Cup in 1926—'27 and 1929. **Handball**—14 county, 6 provincial and 11 national senior titles.

During that period too, other sports such as golf, tennis and rowing were popular and a permanent Boat Club was established at Islandbridge, Dublin.

Before going on from this point mention of some of the athletes and players who wore the Garda Blue and White in that first era will, perhaps, convey an idea of the standards attained.

Athletics—P.J. Bermingham (won five British A.A.A. titles), Paddy Anglim (pole vault and long jump records), Thomas Healy (shot record), Larry Stanley (high jump record holder), Con O'Connor, Bill Shanahan, Michael O'Dwyer (all high jump men), Mick Cregan, Mick McAlindin, George Magan and Andrew Nolan (relay team), Harry Twamley, Tommy Kelly, Michael Lynn (cyclists); Bill Gore, Tom Power, Leo Flanagan, George Walsh (weights-men).

Gaelic Football—Larry Stanley (Kildare), Paul Russell (Kerry), Dick Creagh (Mayo), Paddy Colleran (Sligo), Jim Smith (Cavan).

Hurling—Mattie Power (Kilkenny), Mick Gill (Galway and Dublin), Pat 'Fowler' McInerney (Clare), Garrett Howard (Limerick).

Handball—Tom Soye (Dublin), Paddy Perry and Paddy Reid, Gerry Browne, (Roscommon), John McGrath (Limerick), Martin Joyce (Kilkenny).

Boxing—Jack Chase (Dublin), Frank Cooper,

John Forde (Dublin), Jim 'Boy' Murphy and Jim Murphy (Cork), Matt Flanagan (Meath) Jack O'Driscoll (Cork), 'Billie' Blackwell (Dublin) and Tommy Moloney (Dublin), Trainer.

The teams continued to play during the 'Thirties' but with diminishing success until 1936, and Garda Week continued in a restricted form until 1938, with International Police boxing the outstanding event each year.

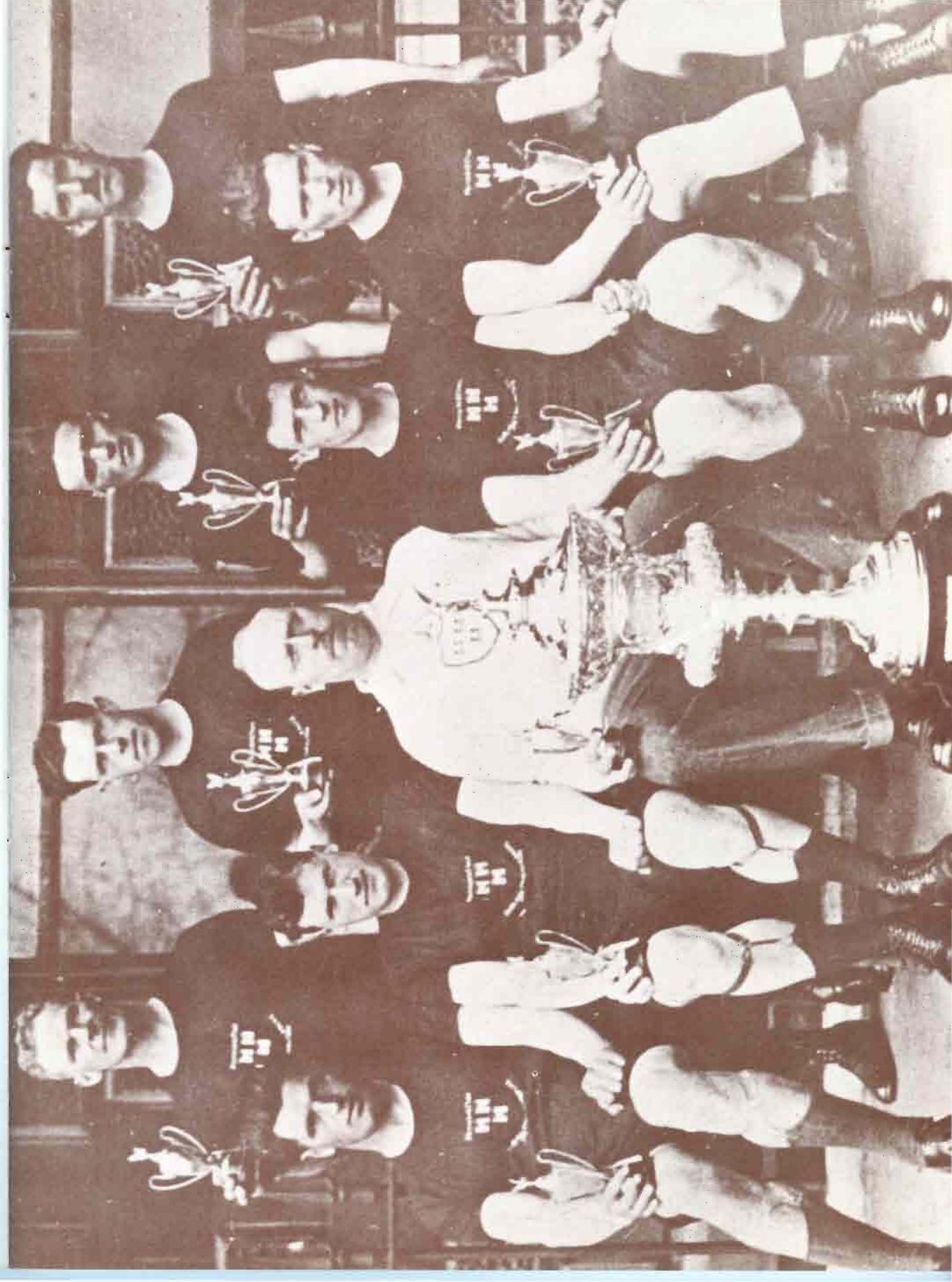
From 1933 to 1939 some 800 young men were recruited into the Force, and these included outstanding players, athletes and boxers such as George Ormsby and Peter Laffey (Mayo footballers), Michael Flynn (Cork), who won with Dublin their last All-Ireland hurling victory in 1938; Con O'Callaghan, Tailteann all-round champion and brother of Dr. Pat O'Callaghan; Edmund (Ned) Tobin (Tipperary), weight-thrower and all-rounder; Dan Sheehan, high jump and hop-step-and-jump; Dick Hearn, Gerry Mulligan, Ernie Smith and Larry Flood, all of whom won Irish senior boxing titles in the Thirties—Smith (light), Hearn (light-heavy) and Colm Breathnach (heavy) went on to win European Police titles.

Among outstanding players who joined the Force in the late 'Twenties and early in the 'Thirties and reached full power in the latter decade were George Comerford (Clare), Mick Keating (Wicklow) and Tim O'Donnell (Kerry).

These men kept the Garda colours to the forefront of Irish sport up until the outbreak of World War II. Tobin did, in fact remain in the top flight of athletics right through the 1940s and, though occupied with the promotion of sport, especially in Connacht, he contested the National championships at intervals up until 1954 and won 36 titles, including the all-round (decathlon) titles in 1936 and 1937, the latter with a record score not beaten until 1969.

In 1939 he set the Irish discus record at 152'6½" which remained unbeaten until 1970 and in 1943 he set all-time bests in the 56 lbs over the

RIGHT: The Garda tug 'o war team which won the World championship at Wembley Stadium on May 3, 1924. Back (l. to r.): W. Shanahan, M. Shaughnessy, E. Mc Donald, M. Sheehan. Front: T. Forde, J. Kirwin. D. Hurley (Coach), J. O'Driscoll, J. Fitzgerald.



bar and for distance without follow events.

To him, too, fell the distinction of winning the last Garda Athletics championship—the 56 lbs event—in 1933, and of bridging the 30-years gap between the first and present eras by winning the same title at the Garda championships in Trinity College Park on September 9, 1963.

The 1940s were the least exciting years of Garda sport. It was the decade of highest average age in the life of the Force. Garda hurling and football teams continued to take part in the Dublin senior competitions and after the end of the war, football glory returned again. During the last half of the decade and early in the Fifties, some wonderful footballers were serving in Dublin stations and played a big part in making that period one of the brightest in Dublin football history.

The Dublin Garda team won the county senior championship in 1948, and in 1949 were beaten in a memorable twice-tied final by St. Vincents.

In those years, Paddy Kennedy gave memorable displays at centre-field for Kerry and Tom Langan reached equal heights in Mayo forward lines. Bill Carlos, Brendan Lynch and Liam Gilmartin were heroic figures for Roscommon. Charlie O'Sullivan, who had emerged in the 'Thirties, was prominent for Kerry in the early part of the decade. Cummin Clancy (Galway) added the 1948 British A.A.A. discus title to his Irish collection. He later went on to Villa Nova University and won the All-American Collegiate championship.

In the 1950s great footballers such as Jas Murphy (Kerry), Con McGrath and Paddy O'Driscoll (Cork), Paddy Irwin (Mayo) and Phil Brady (Cavan), Jim Rogers (Wicklow) and Seamus Keavans (who played for Wexford, Cavan and Waterford), were joined by top-class young players who joined after recruiting on a large scale commenced in 1953 and continued right through to the 1960s.

In the 10 years, 1953–1963 a total of 3,893 recruits were trained at the Garda Depot, Phoenix Park. The policy of assisting sport among the civilian population, rather than having specialised Garda teams, was still favoured and during those years, under the guidance of the Training Officer, Chief Superintendent Halloran, the young Gardai were given the best possible assistance to develop their talents in the sport of their choice.

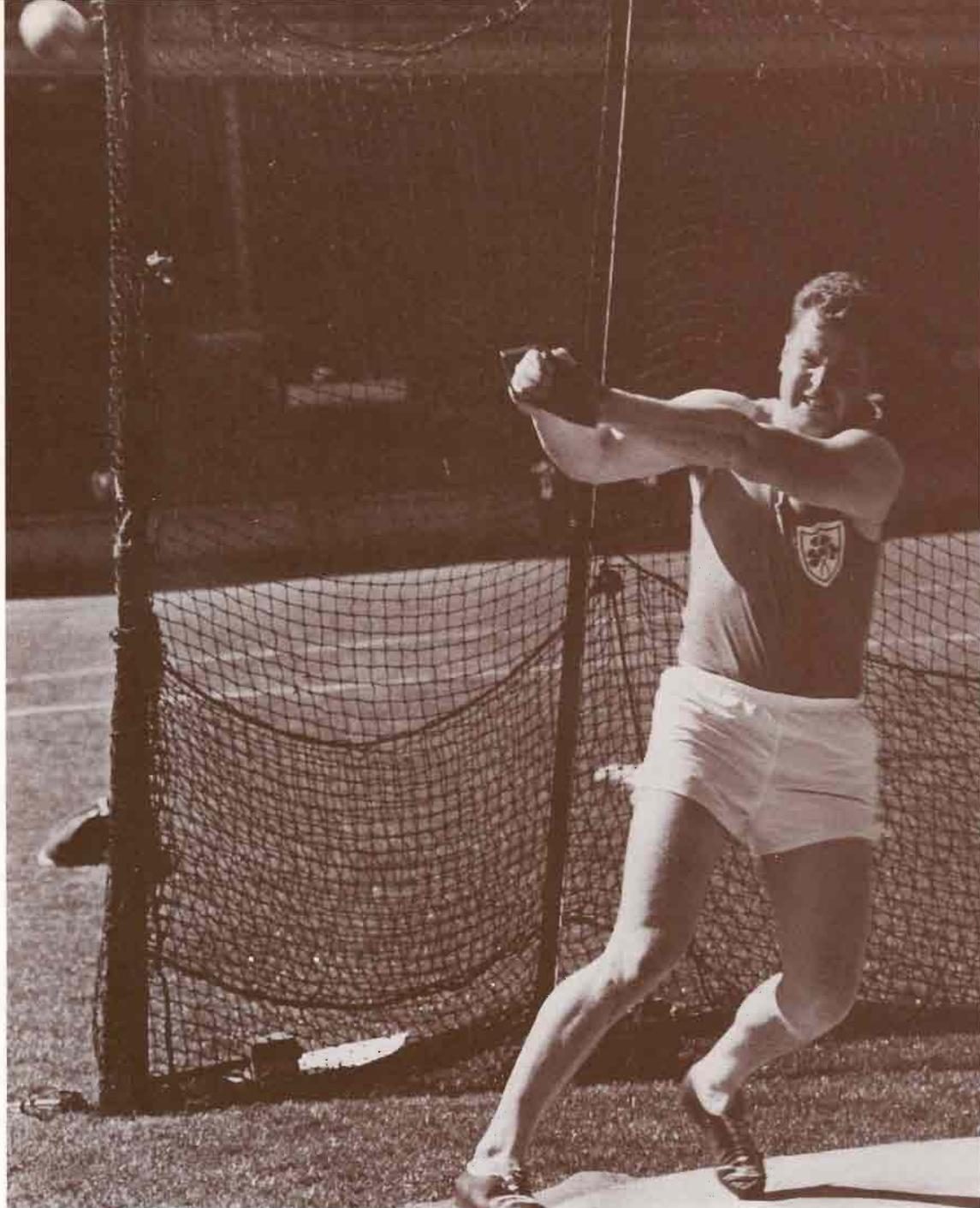
A record was taken of the sports activities of recruits before they joined the Force and the figures make interesting reading. Of the 3,893 who joined, the numbers shown below had participated some degree in:—athletics—(870), badminton—(175), basketball—(300), billiards—(430), boxing—(230), football—(2,040), golf—(85—25 members of golf clubs), handball—(440), hurling—(1,300), life-saving—(70), rugby—(140), rowing—(120), soccer—(400).

Among them were men who attained the highest standards in Gaelic games—Frank Evers, Gerry Daly (Galway), Paddy Harrington, Eric Ryan, Mick O'Loughlin (Cork), Dan O'Neill (Mayo and Louth), Tom Maguire, Tom Lynch, J.J. O'Reilly (Cavan), Mick Carolan (Kildare), Paddy English (Roscommon), Sean Ferriter (Donegal), Oliver Shanley (Meath), Tom Browne (Meath and Laois), Greg Hughes (Offaly), P. J. Kennedy (Clàre), John Keating (Tipperary), Peter Roberts (Wicklow), Kieran Brennan, Michael O'Donnell (Laois), footballers all. In hurling, there came Terry Kelly, Mick Reagan (Cork), Seamus Quaid, John Mitchell (Wexford), Tommy Conroy (Galway), Willie Hogan (Carlow), Nick Power (Waterford) and many more. Outstanding among the athletes were Sean Gormley (Louth), who set new records in the 880, mile and two miles, and Brendan Coughlan, shot putt record-breaker.

In the latter years of the 'Sixties, fine footballers like Pat Griffin and D.J. Crowley of Kerry emerged, while such as Johnny Carey, John Morley and Willie McGee of Mayo, Jack Cosgrave of Galway, and that fine Kilkenny hurler, Frank Cummins, carry the banner proudly into the 'Seventies.

In 1962, "Coisté Siamsa an Garda Síochána", successor to and on the same lines as the body of the 1920s was set up to promote sport and encourage participation by members of the Force in all branches of outdoor and indoor recreation. Assistant Commissioner P.J. Carroll (later Commissioner) was the first chairman of the Ard Chomhairle appointed to exercise control throughout the Force; Chief Superintendent E.P. Garvey was first honorary secretary, a position he still holds with distinction; and each branch of sport was represented by one member.

The first senior athletics championships of the present era were held at Sundrive Road grounds, Dublin, on Saturday, September 22, 1962, and on



A fine action study of hammer-thrower John Lawlor – fourth in the event at the Rome Olympics in 1960.

that night there was a grand re-union dinner for past and present Garda champions in Jury's Hotel.

In 1963 the wheel turned full circle and "Garda Week" was organised again. This time, team championships took the place of An Aeriocht.

The revived Garda Week staged competitions in Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, rugby, handball,

basketball, golf, pitch and putt, tennis, and Garda v Army in football and hurling for the President's Cup. Judo, angling and clay pigeon shooting have since been added to the programme. The Training Centre for recruits was transferred to Templemore in 1963. Sergeant Seamus Keavans was appointed Gamesmaster and every facility was provided there for the promotion of sport.



J. Cosgrave (Gaillimh)



J. Carey (Maigh Eo)

Cáilíocht na nImreoirí

Nuair a fhéachann duine ar imeachtaí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael ar feadh an caoga bliain atá imithe rómhainn, is so-fheicthe na h-athraithe atá tagtha ar imirt na gcluichí go h-áirithe, agus fiú amháin dearcadh Muintir an Chumainn ar fud na tíre.

Tá sé i bfad níos furasta na h-athraithe seo d'fheiscint ná na cúiseanna a bhí leo. Deireann daoine go bhfuil níos mó spóirt agus pléisiúr le baint as na cluichí sa lá atá inniu ann ná mar a bhí triocha bliain ó shin. Bíonn daoine ag déanamh comparáid de shíor idir gaisce fioreann amháin agus gaisce foireann eile, tréan iarracht imreoir amháin le cluiche breá fear eile. Ins na h-argóintí go léir a bhíonn ann, agus is dócha a bheidh go deo, tá síl as i dtreo nach dtugtar masla dó aon taobh, agus is é seo é, tá sé fíor nach féidir comparáid cinnte a dhéanamh idir maitheas fear amháin le fear eile nuair a bhíonn deich mbliana eatartha. Is iontach an rud é an aigne chun árdú céime a thabhairt do ghníomh a thárla, fiú amháin, bliain amháin roimhe sin. Dhá bhrí sin, tá an chontúirt i bhfad níos mó nuair atá achar fiú deich nó fiche bliain i gceist.

Glacann na saineolaithe go raibh peileadóirí ins na triochadaí agus ins na daicheadaí ag imirt le caighdeán níos airde ná imritheoirí an lae inniu. Deireann siad go raibh na h-imreoirí níos láidre, an cluiche níos tapúla agus go raibh na h-imritheoirí níos gasta chun an liathróid a sciobadh san aer. Freisin, is fíor a rá go raibh siad níos fearr chun ardchaighdeán luas agus imirt ar feadh an chluiche

iomlán gan stad gan staonadh ach ina aghaidh sin is fíor a rá go raibh bhí i bhfad níos mó ama le fáil do na daoine seo chun a thabhairt do thraenáil agus an dul ar aghaidh leis na scileanna imeartha. Chomh maith bhí an teacht le chéile sna tráthnónaí níos taitheamhaí agus níos nádúrtha. Tá sé le tuiscint againn, mar sin, go raibh imirt an chluiche níos taitheamhaí ag an am sin. Ní raibh an oiread sin rudaí ag cur isteach air i gcomparáid leis an lá atá inniu ann nuair atá sé chomh deacair sin imritheoirí a fháil chun cluichí eadarchlub a imirt. Is féidir an locht a chur ar theacht na teilifíse gurb é is ciús le níos lú aird a bheith á thabhairt ar Chumann Lúthchleas Gael. Tá caighdeán ard-taispeantas á thabhairt ag Telefís Éireann do na cluichí móra ó gach páirt den domhan. Is féidir leis na daoine an-taitheamh a bhaint as na cluichí seo i gcom-póird a dtithe féin. Tá sé soiléar go bhfaigheann na h-imritheoirí seo ómós mór ón lucht féachaint. Dhá bhrí sin faigheann iománaithe agus peileadóirí níos lú cáil agus moladh ó na daoine ná mar a fuair

Garda football team of the 1920s: Standing back row (l. to r.) — F. Wedick (Wicklow), hon. sec; J. Forde (Depot); J. Mullen (Laois); F. Benson (Cavan and Galway); T. Teeling (Dublin); P. Kevlin (Depot). Standing, second row (l. to r.) — C. O'Connell, J. O'Toole (Dublin); J. Lynam (Kildare); M. McCoy (Sligo); J. Reilly (Kildare); L. Stanley (Kildare); J. Kirwan (Galway); J. Healy (Depot, hon. sec. I.A.B.A.). Sitting (l. to r.) — J. Sherlock (Dublin); P. Flynn (Sligo); G. Magan (Kildare); P. Colleran (Sligo, capt.); J. Smith (Cavan); J. J. Scanlon (Clare); J. Kirwan (Wexford); J. Keilt (trainer).



cheana, roimh teacht na h-imeachtaí seo go léir. Táim cinnte nach d'aon ghnó a thárlaíonn sé seo ach is é an ard-chaighdeán taispeantas agus ulmhúchán is cúis le seo.

Dá réir sin, níl an t-suím chomh dírithe ag oifigí agus imritheoirí agus is ceart dó a bheith. Tá rudaí fágtha ar lár, rudaí tabhachtacha nuair nach bhfuil siad ann, bíonn laghdú ar maitheas an taispeántas. Ag cur na nithe seo i gcomparáid lena chéile tá sé tábhachtach dúinn, na h-athraithe seo go léir a choinneáil inár n-aighe i dtreo go mbeidh breithiúnas cinnte againn ar ghaiscíthe na laethanta siúd. I dtearma caoga bliain, is mo de na h-athraithe seo atá taréis tarlú agus cuid mhaith de na h-imritheoirí seo, baill den Gharda Síochána, a ba chúis le cuid mhaith den dul chun cinn céanna.

Bhain baill agus iar-bhaill den Gharda Síochána cliú agus cáil amach in iomáint agus peil, ach ba mhó go mór an slua fir a bhí tugtha don pheil, ná don iomáint. Cuid mhór díobh suí freisin thug siad cliú agus cáil dá gContaethe agus dá gCúigí de bharr a ngaisce i bpáirc na h-imeartha.

Ní féidir tosnú le cuntas ar cailiúlacht na bhfir seo gan tagairt a dhéanamh don pheileadóir iontach sin Larry Stanley a gnóthaigh Craobhacha na h-Éireann le Cill Dara 1919 agus Átha Cliath 1923 agus a bhí ar ais arís le Cill Dara 1926 nuair a buach ortha le Ciarraí sa Chraobh Clúiche — fear thar an gcoitinne ab ea Larry agus dhá bhárr sin gnóthaigh sé meas agus cáil don cluiche peile. Sna blianta céanna bhí cliú agus cáil ar fud na tíre dhá bhaint amach ag Ciarraíoch áirithe gur dheacair a cháilíocht a sháru am ar bith ag imreoir ar bith (fiú Ciarraíoch eile) sa pheil nó san iomáint fiú — Paul Russel is ainm don duine seo agus bhuaigh sé boinn Craobh Na h-Éireann sna blianta mar leanas — 1924, '26, '29, '30, '31, '32. Níos mó ná sin fiú bhuaigh sé dhá bhonn Corn an Bhóthar Iarainn le Cúige Mumhan 1927 agus 1931. Bhí sé mar Chaipitean ar fhoireann na Mumhan ach níor bhuaigh siad an Chorn de bhárr eachtraí neamh-gnáthach.

Fear ársa eile as an dream cáiliúil seo ab ea George Comerford as Contae an Chláir. Cé nach raibh foireann Contae níos fearr ná an gcoiteanna ag an gContae, bhain sé a chailíocht amach le foireann na Mumhan nuair a bhuaigh siad Corn an Bhóthar Iarainn sa pheil 1931. Rud spéisiúil faoi an

bhfoireann seo ná gur imir George Comerford le ceathar déag Ciarraíoch chun an corn a bhuachaint agus ina measc siúd bhí daoine cailiúla mar — Paul Russel, Bob Stack, Dan O'Keeffe agus Con Brosnan.

Peileadóirí clúitacha eile a gnothaigh cáil le na Chontae nó le na Chuige arabh iad Joe Fitzgerald Atha Cliath, an bheirt leath-thacaí cliúteach sin ó RosComáin, Bill Carlos agus Brendan Lynch, Paddy O'Driscoll Corcaigh, George Ormsby agus Dick Creagh Maigh Eo, na Caipiteanaí siúd Mick Higgins ón Chabháin agus Paddy Kennedy Ciarraí, Paddy Collieran Sligeach, Liam Maguire Cabháin, agus roinnt mhaith eile Gárdaí chomh maith a bhain cliú is cáil amach sa pheil.

Ní raibh an oiread céana ná gar leis i gcompráid leis an uimhir thuas luaite a chiudigh go mór le dul chun cinn an iomáint sa téarma céana. Is é Mick Gill an duine is cailiúla a thagann chun cuimne i measc na h-Iománaíthe seo. Bhain Mick cáil amach le Gaillimh, Átha Cliath agus Laighean. Bhuaigh sé Craobh Na h-Éireann le Gaillimh i 1923, agus, i 1924 bhuaigh sé Craobh Na h-Éireann le Atha Cliath agus arís i 1927. Nuair a bhí sé mar Caipitean ar an bhfoireann bhuaigh sé bonn 'Corn an Bóthar Iarainn le Cúige Laighean, ach nuair a bhí sé mar Caipitean ar foireann Cúige Laighean 1928-1929, ní raibh an t-ádh leis mar gur bhuaigh Cúige Mumhan an Corn don dhá bhliain.

Is mar an gcéanna an eascothromácht san lá atá inniu ann, mar is mó go mór an méid imreoirí atá tugtha don pheil ná don iomáint. Tagann ainmneacha na peileadóirí cáiliúla atá ina nGárdaí chun cuimne go héascaí mar Mick Carolan Cill Dara, Pat Griffin, D. J. Crowley Ciarraí, Willie McGee, John Morley, Johnny Carey Maigh Eó, Jack Cosgrave Gaillimh agus mar sin de. San iomáint tá daoine mar Frank Cummins Cill Choinnigh, Brian Cooney Atha Cliath, Gus Lohan an Chláir ag iarraidh cuidiú leis an cothromaíocht. Mar dream is féidir a rá go bhfuil mór chuid tugtha don cluiche ag na daoine seo agus daoine eile nach iad, gur chóir do Chumann Lúth Chleas Gael a bheith buíoch dhá bhárr. Táimid ag siúl go mbeidh an méid céana ar fáil ó fhir atá sna Garda Síochána ag cuidiú le Contae agus Cúige sa leath chead bliain ata le teacht.



Ex-Commissioner P. J. Carroll

Profile of P. J. Carroll

BACK IN 1926, when Major-General W.R.E. Murphy was organising the first "Garda Week", he invited a young Laois man, then stationed in the Depot in Dublin, to lend a hand with the planning and preparations.

From that moment, P.J. (Paddy) Carroll, who had resigned his commission in the Army to join the new Garda Síochána, was inevitably committed to a lifetime in sports administration.

Parallel with a distinguished career in the Force which carried him right to the very top, he also developed over the years as probably the most capable, most exacting and most meticulous sports official that this country has known.

Having firmly established himself as the dedicated power of Garda sport, Paddy Carroll got national recognition in 1939, the year of the first European Boxing championships in Dublin, when he was elected to the Presidency of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association.

This is a position he still holds proudly and under his inspiration and drive, the I.A.B.A is one of the most efficiently run organisations in Ireland.

During the war years, he was invited to join the Olympic Council of Ireland and, nowadays, he is recognised throughout the world as one of the most thorough officials in the international Olympic movement.

Throughout his life, Paddy Carroll, the young man who rose from the ranks to become a Commissioner of the Garda Síochána—and yet

found time to qualify as a barrister—has always demanded that everything, even the smallest item, must be done well or not at all.

This he has demonstrated quite clearly in his long association, both as treasurer and secretary of the Olympic Council of Ireland.

Back in 1948, when the Games were revived in London, for the first time since 1936, he had his first taste of Olympic participation and it was quite an experience for him.

Ireland's Olympic Council was not a thriving body at the time and, indeed, by the time the Games in London were over, the Council was seriously in debt.

Paddy Carroll realised that a lot of hard work had to be done—and quickly at that. He set about it with the same intensity that had marked everything he had done in sports administration up to then.

Within two years, the Olympic Council was free of debt and well on its way to becoming the efficient force that it is nowadays.

The years since then have been rewarding ones for Paddy Carroll and he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has played a major role in Ireland's collection of medals since that first venture to London in 1948.

Four years later, he was at Helsinki to lead the Irish party and he was at the ringside to see Belfast's John McNally win a silver Olympic medal in the bantamweight division.

In 1956, there was to be a far greater honour

for Ireland at the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

This was a major undertaking for the Olympic Council of Ireland but Paddy Carroll achieved the major task of raising the funds to send a representative Irish team across the world.

His efforts and those of the other members of the Olympic Council, had their reward down under.

Ron Delaney won the Olympic gold medal in the 1,500 metres, Fred Teidt took the silver medal in the welterweight boxing division and Freddie Gilroy, John Caldwell and Tony Byrne also won bronze medals in boxing.

It was Ireland's finest achievement in the

Olympics since Dr Pat O'Callaghan and Bob Tisdall won gold medals at Los Angeles in 1932.

In 1964, Paddy Carroll was in Tokyo to see Jim McCourt of Belfast win an Olympic bronze medal in the lightweight boxing division.

One Olympic gold medal, two silver medals and four bronze medals in 20 years must represent a major honour for a country the size of Ireland.

In helping to bring this about—and his role must always be remembered as a major one—Paddy Carroll has ensured his own special niche, not only in Garda sport but also in the sport of our country.



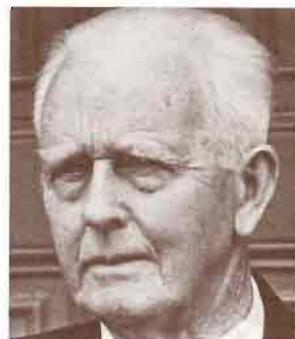
Members of the Garda and Nottingham City Police boxing teams, pictured together before a tournament in 1928.

HALL of FAME

THE FOLLOWING PAGES are devoted to Garda sportsmen who have won signal honour and recognition over the past 50 years. Of necessity, the lists in the various sports are confined to those who won national titles, at senior level, All-Ireland senior medals, or who represented Ireland in the field of international sport. Space decreed that the pen-pictures of these men should be shorter than we would have wished them to be. It should be noted that the names are not listed in any order of priority — all are equal within the Garda Hall of Fame.

We are aware of the possibility that sportsmen entitled to inclusion in this section may have been omitted. If that has happened, after the most painstaking research, we beg forgiveness and suggest that the omissions, if any have occurred, should be noted for the assistance of those who may undertake a similar work in the future.

There were, and still are, Garda sportsmen who attained standards as high, and in cases higher, than many of those whose names appear in these pages. We regret that space was the final arbiter in this matter.



L. Stanley (Athletics and Football)



E. Tobin (Athletics)



J. Lawlor (Athletics)



G. Magan (Athletics and Football)

Athletics



LARRY STANLEY: Elected to the Texaco Hall of Fame in 1971, the only Garda sportsman to be so honoured. Stanley, one of the legendary sportsmen of the early 1920s, captained Kildare when that county won its second All-Ireland football title in 1919. Also won an All-Ireland football medal with Dublin in 1923. A magnificent fielder of impeccable style, he is regarded as one of the greatest centre-field players that the game has known. Also a superlative athlete, he won the Irish high jump championship of 1924 and 1925 and the British A.A.A. high jump championship of 1924. First man to carry the Irish flag in an Olympic Games, at Paris in 1924. (For full record, see special article, page 54).

PADDY BERMINGHAM: A native of Clare, the genial Bermingham was the dominating personality of Irish discus throwing for a quarter of a century. An Olympic competitor at Paris in 1924, he was unfortunate to foul his best throw which would have placed him in the first six. Won his first Irish title in 1919 and his 10th in 1933 and was still a regular competitor until just before the outbreak of World War II. The supreme discus thrower in these islands in his time, he also won the British A.A.A championship on five occasions between 1924 and 1934. He set an Irish record of 151'6½" which was to remain unbroken until another Garda, his team-mate, Ned Tobin, threw 152'6½" in 1939. Bermingham also won four Irish titles in the 56 lbs for distance and four more in throwing the 56 lbs over the bar.

PAT FALLON: A sound performer in the javelin, but a contemporary of the great Mick Waters, Fallon was a prolific prize-winner at open sports meetings throughout the country during the 1930s and created more than a mild sensation when he came through to win the National championship in 1935 with a throw of 154'11".

HALL of FAME



W. Shanahan (Athletics)



B. Connaughton (Cycling)



B. McKenna (Cycling)

SEAN McGETTIGAN: Another of the great Garda javelin-throwers of the 1930s, he won his only National championship at Killarney in 1937 when he beat Mick Waters with an outstanding throw for the time of 162'4".

MICK O'HALLORAN: The first man to popularise the javelin event in the Garda club, Mick had the distinction of winning the first National championship event to be held under N.A.C.A rules in 1923.

BILL GORE: A fine all-round weights event competitor, Bill Gore was one of the most popular athletes in Ireland in the late 1920s. He was unfortunate that his best came at a time when men like Paddy Bermingham and Pat O'Callaghan dominated weight throwing. He did, however, manage to win the Irish championship in throwing the 56 lbs for distance in 1929.

GEORGE WALSH: Although he failed to win an Irish title, George Walsh was the first of the great Garda hammer throwers and set a remarkable performance in representing Ireland against France at Croke Park in 1931. In winning the hammer event with a Garda record of 178'1½", he defeated Pat O'Callaghan who had won the Olympic title in 1928 and was to win it again in 1932. On the same day against France, Walsh won the discus with 135'4¼" and took second in the shot putt to O'Callaghan with 43'0½". His only championship win was in the hammer at the British A.A.A championships in 1932.

CUMMIN CLANCY: A native of Oughterard, Co. Galway, Clancy came under the coaching of Ned Tobin in the early 1940s and later went on to win National discus championships under the N.A.C.A and the I.A.A.B. Won the British A.A.A title in 1948 and also represented Ireland in the Olympic Games in London that year. In 1951, before leaving to take up a scholarship at Villanova University, he set an A.A.U record of 152'6½" and in America, he became the first Irishman to throw the discus over 160'. Now an insurance broker in New York, Clancy was also a rugby interprovincial with Connacht.

JOHN LAWLOR: The first Irishman to throw the hammer over 200', Lawlor was pipped by just an inch for a bronze medal in the Olympic Games at Rome in 1960. He was placed fourth with a throw of 213'10½", just a foot short of his National record. Lawlor, who also represented Ireland in the Tokyo Olympics of 1964 and in a number of European championships, won several Irish championships and took the British A.A.A title in 1961. He left the Garda to take up an athletics scholarship at Boston University and is now a doctor of geology in that City.

BILL SHANAHAN: A native of Ballinure, Bill Shanahan was one of the most durable of Garda athletes. He won his first Irish high jump championship, under G.A.A. laws, in 1918 and was still a regular competitor in the championships until the middle 1930s. Shanahan

never had the benefit of good coaching and throughout his career jumped with a self-taught "scissors" style. Despite that he reached a magnificent peak of 6'2" in 1927 when he tied with his clubmate, Con Connor, for the National championship at Croke Park. Shanahan won or shared in seven National championship wins in the high jump and was also the Irish 120 yards hurdles champion in 1925.

ANDY NOLAN: One of the first impressive hurdlers produced in Ireland, he set a Garda record of 15.6 seconds for the 120 yards hurdles in winning the National championship at Croke Park in 1929 and later was on Ireland's short list for the Olympic Games at Los Angeles in 1932. He failed to make the team but played a major role in helping the famous Bob Tisdall to an Olympic qualifying time in the 400 metres hurdles at Croke Park in 1932.

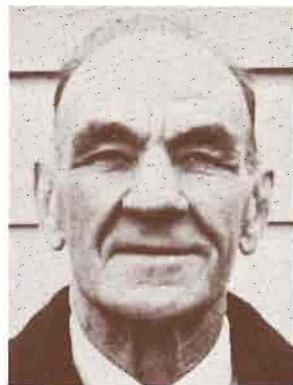
JACK GUINEY: Made his first international appearance when he represented Ireland in the high jump against France at Croke Park in 1931. One of the Garda's most versatile sportsmen, he later went on to win National championships in the high jump, triple jump, shot putt, discus, javelin and decathlon. He was also a prominent rugby player with Clontarf and Leinster and during World War II was selected on two occasions to play for an Irish XV against the British Army.

PADDY ANGLIM: Still the Garda record-holder, Anglim was probably Ireland's greatest broad jumper since the days of the legendary Peter O'Connor. A consistent 23' jumper, he beat 24' on many occasions and was National champion seven times between 1928 and 1936. In the Olympic trials of 1932, he had the distinct misfortune to fall back after clearing the qualifying distance and was unfortunate not to make the trip to Los Angeles, where he would, almost certainly, have reached the Olympic final. He was also an outstanding pole vaulter, with six Irish titles between 1929 and 1934 and set a National record of 11'3" in the event.

DAN SHEEHAN: Injury prevented Dan Sheehan from developing into an international performer in the triple jump. Little more than a novice in the event, he took the National championship at Killarney in 1937 with 45'2" and retained his title in 1938 at Drogheda with 44'7" under appalling weather conditions.

TOM HEALY: Another highly promising Garda competitor who disappeared from the athletic scene much too soon. Won National titles in the shotput, discus and javelin and was Garda record-holder in the first two. Took the Irish shotput title in 1928 with 42'5½" and again in 1933 with 44'0". Won the discus title twice, in 1928 and 1929 and in the latter year set a championship record of 145'8". Had a hat-trick of Irish championship wins in the javelin, 1929, 1930, 1931.

MICK WATERS: Remained in top-class competition for almost 20 years and was probably the first Irishman to add some respectability to our performances in the javelin. He set an Irish record of 168'8" at Fermoy in 1934 but subsequently beat 170' on several occasions only to lose the record on technical grounds. Took his first Irish title in 1934 and his 10th in 1945.



Frank Cooper (Boxing)



Jim Branigan (Boxing)



W. J. Murphy (Boxing)

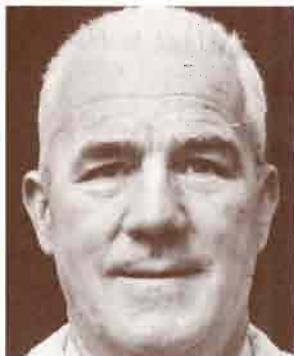


G. Mulligan (Boxing)

HALL of FAME



J. Healy (Boxing)



R. Hearn (Boxing)



J. Chase (Boxing)

NED TOBIN: Holder of world records in throwing the 56—pounds weight for distance and over the bar and also a holder of the Irish record in the discus, he was one of the most durable of all Garda athletes and appeared in competition over a span of 30 years. Has the proud record of winning five National championships on the one afternoon at Thurles in 1939. A winner of the Irish all-round championship on several occasions, his total of championships, in county, inter-county, provincial, interprovincial and National events is a record for the Force. (For full record, see special article, page 52).

CON O'CALLAGHAN: One of the first of the great Garda all-round athletes, he represented Ireland in the Decathlon at the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 1928 and was placed 28th in a large field, despite the fact that he was injured and was able to complete only six of the 10 events. Subsequently was National champion in the shotput in 1936 and 1937. Was still an active and successful competitor until the middle 1940s.

TOM POWER: Holds unusual Garda records in the standing long jump with 9'10½" and in the standing triple jump with 30'8½". Won Irish titles in these events in 1928 and 1932 and qualified to compete in the Tailteann Games of those years. Also holds the standing high jump record with 4'10½" which gave him a silver medal behind Harold Osborn (U.S.A.) at the Tailteann Games of 1928.

KEVIN GORMLEY: A National champion in the middle distances, he holds four Garda records, in the 880 yards, mile, 1,500 metres and two miles. His outstanding performance was 4 minutes 12.5 seconds for the mile at Cork in 1960.

JOHN KEATY: A national champion, he set a Garda hammer record of 175'8" at the Curragh in 1960.

P.J.FITZPATRICK: Has won National N.A.C.A championships in the 220 yards and relay and in the Decathlon (1969, 1970, 1971). Between 1962 and 1971, has taken over 20 Garda championships and also holds over 30 medals in the Ulster championships.

TIM SMITH: One of the outstanding runners of the late 1920s and early 1930s, Tim Smith has an unique claim to sporting fame in Ireland. At Baldoye, in 1931, he won the International Cross-Country championship and still endures as the only Irishman to take first place in that event.

MICK McALINDEN: The first member of the Garda A.C to clock 10 seconds for the 100 yards, which he did at Belfast in 1930 in the Lord Londonderry Trophy event. Mick McAlinden's only National title success was in the 220 yards, which he won in 1933 with 23.4 seconds.

CON CONNOR: A native of Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, Con Connor was a brilliant athlete in an era when the Garda Siochana produced many of the country's greatest performers. He was Irish high jump champion in

1926 and joint holder of the title in 1927, 1929 and 1934. He won the event at a height of 6'1" in a triangular international of 1927. He achieved a personal best of 6'5½" at Abbeylax on August 22, 1926. but, unfortunately, that great achievement was not ratified, because the jump was not measured with a steel tape.

GEORGE MAGAN: One of Ireland's top athletes in the 1920s, Magan was also an outstanding footballer and won an all-Ireland football medal in 1919 when Kildare beat Galway in the final.

ANDREW KILFEATHER: A native of Sligo, he was a member of the 4 x 100 metres team which won for Ireland at the Catholic Student Games in Belgium in 1958. Finished third in the 200 metres at the same meeting. National junior sprint champion in 100 and 220 yards in 1959 and his record for the latter distance (22.5 secs.) still stands. In 1960 he equalled the Irish record of 10.1 secs. for the 100 yards. In the same year he won the national senior 220 yards championship and finished second in the 100 yards race.

BRENDAN COUGHLAN: Represented Ireland in the shotput in Internationals against Switzerland, in Dublin, in 1969, and against Spain, in Spain, in 1971. He is also holder of the Garda record in this event, at 50'0¼".

The Garda tug 'o war team won the World championship at Wembley Stadium on May 3, 1924. The members of the team were: W. Shanahan, M. Shaughnessy, E. McDonald, M. Sheehan, T. Forde, J. Kirwin, J. O'Driscoll, J. Fitzgerald. Coach: D. Hurley.



J. O'Driscoll (Boxing)



M. Flanagan (Boxing)



T. Maloney (Boxing)



M. Reid (Boxing)

Boxing



DOM LYDON: Regarded as one of the most exciting heavyweight prospects of the immediate pre-World War II years, Lydon came into prominence in 1935 when he won the Connacht junior championship. A year later he became Irish senior champion and subsequently won international vests against Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, the United States, England and Wales. Was persuaded to turn professional but the war years ended what might have been a very lucrative career in the paid ranks.

JIM BRANIGAN: An international referee of distinction, Jim Branigan is one of Ireland's best known sporting policemen. Although he failed to win a National title, he took the Leinster championship heavyweight crown in 1938 and boxed internationally for Ireland against England, Germany and Wales.

JACK CHASE: The outstanding middleweight in Ireland in the late 1920s and early 1930s, and many of those who saw him in his great years claim that Ireland has never had a man in this division to equal

HALL of FAME



J. Casey (Boxing)



J. Forde (Boxing)



J. Farren (Boxing)

him. Jack Chase took his first Irish title in 1926 and retained it successfully until 1932. Represented Ireland in the Olympic Games at Amsterdam in 1928 and took three International Police championships in 1927, 1929 and 1930. Won the European Police championship in 1930 and in his long career, he represented Ireland in international matches against England, Wales, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and the United States.

PADDY HENNELLY: Although he failed to win a National title, Hennelly came through with one of the major surprises of 1932 when he won the Tailteann Games middleweight championship. A Connacht champion in 1933-34, he also represented Ireland internationally against Norway, Sweden and the United States.

JACK O'DRISCOLL: The first of the great Garda heavyweights, he won six National titles between 1924 and 1933 and crowned a remarkable career by taking the British A.B.A. title in 1928. Represented Ireland against England, Scotland, Italy and Germany.

W.J. MURPHY: Known affectionately to everyone as Jim "Boy" Murphy, he was Irish light-heavyweight champion in 1928, 1929 and 1932 and also represented Ireland in the Olympic Games at Paris in 1924 and again at Amsterdam in 1928. He took the Tailteann Games title in 1928 and defended it successfully in 1932. One of the most stylish boxers of his time, he fought for Ireland against Germany, Scotland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

JIM MURPHY: He and his namesake Jim "Boy" Murphy dominated the light-heavyweight division for many years. Won the Irish title in 1927 and 1930 and was British A.B.A. champion in 1929. Represented Ireland against England, Scotland, Belgium, Germany and Sweden and travelled to Los Angeles in 1932 with Ireland's Olympic team.

MATT FLANAGAN: Began his championship career by winning the Irish light-heavyweight title in 1925 and 1926 and then moved up a class to the heavyweight division to win four more National titles in 1927, 1928, 1929, 1931. His greatest year was 1928 when, against a strong international entry, he won the Tailteann Games gold medal, and also took the British A.B.A. title. Represented Ireland against Germany, Denmark, England, the United States and Norway.

ERNIE SMITH: One of the most famous of all Irish amateur boxers, the late Ernie Smith won his first National title in the featherweight division in 1932. Moving up to lightweight the following year, he won the Irish title and defended it successfully until 1938. He returned in 1940 to take the championship for the seventh time. A unanimous choice for the Irish Olympic team in 1932, he put on a remarkable display at Los Angeles in the first series against Carlos Robledo of Argentina, who subsequently went on to take the Olympic gold medal. Robledo later said that his hardest fight of the Games had been against Smith and that, in his opinion, the Irishman was unfortunate not to get a medal. Smith was also a talented football player and made several appearances for Drumcondra in League of Ireland football.

JOHN FORDE: Won the Irish middleweight title in 1925 and six years later, came back to win the National light-heavyweight title. Represented Ireland against Germany, England, France and Scotland.

LARRY FLOOD: Winner of the Irish welterweight championship in 1932 and a little unlucky not to have been nominated for Ireland's team to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles that year, he was also Irish middleweight champion in 1937. Represented Ireland against England, Wales, Germany, Italy, France and Norway.

DICK HEARNS: Holds the remarkable record of having won 173 of his 198 major amateur fights. Won his first National light-heavyweight championship in 1933 and retained it successfully until 1937. Won the British A.B.A. title in 1935 and also took the International Police championship that year. Represented Ireland against England, Germany, Norway, Italy and the United States. Also a versatile footballer, Hearns was a substitute on the Mayo team that played Kerry in the 1932 all-Ireland final. During his football career, he also played inter-county football with Roscommon, Longford, Donegal, Cork and Dublin and was for a while trainer of the Mayo team.

BILLY BLACKWELL: One of Ireland's best middleweights in the early 1930s, Blackwell won provincial championships in Connacht and Leinster but failed in his bid to win a National championship. He did, however, win recognition from the Irish selectors in matches against England, Scotland, Germany, Norway and the United States.

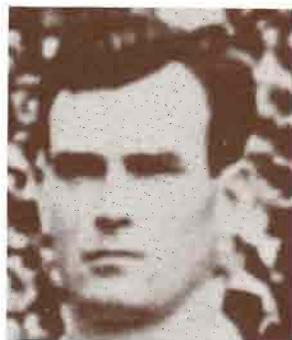
JIM HEALY: One of amateur boxing's most able officials, he was honorary secretary to the I.A.B.A. from 1931 to 1938 and took over office again in 1951. He reached the final of the Open Police middleweight championship in 1927 but was to win a far greater distinction as an international referee. Has participated in Olympic and European championships and was also invited to officiate in the first Mediterranean Games in 1951. Became a member of the Olympic Council of Ireland in 1928.

EUGENE WALSH: The outstanding Garda heavyweight of the post-war years, Walsh was runner-up in the National heavyweight championship in 1948, 1950, 1951, 1953 and 1954. Won the European Police championship in 1950 and took the British Police title in 1953. Represented Ireland against Spain, United States, Scotland, Netherlands, England, France, Denmark, Germany, Italy and Austria.

GERRY MULLIGAN: Took the Irish heavyweight title in 1932 and was on the short list for Ireland's team at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Regained the National title in 1934 and represented Ireland against Italy and the United States.



P. Kennedy (Football)



P. Brady (Football)



P. Russell (Football)



C. O'Sullivan (Football)

HALL of FAME



J. Smith (Football)



P. Griffin (Football)



M. Higgins (Football)

TOMMY MALONEY: An outstanding boxer during his service in World War I and subsequently as a professional, Maloney, one of the great personalities of Garda sport, became coach and trainer of the memorable Garda teams of the 1920s and 1930s. Was named by General Eoin O'Duffy to travel to Los Angeles in 1932 as trainer and masseur to Ireland's Olympic team. Both of Ireland's Olympic gold medal winners at that Games, Dr. Pat O'Callaghan and Bob Tisdall, subsequently paid generous tribute to Maloney for the great part he played in their successes.

FRANK COOPER: Winner of three International police championships in 1927, 1929 and 1931 and Irish welterweight champion in 1925 and 1926, Cooper also represented Ireland against Germany, Denmark, Norway, Scotland, England, Wales and France. Was named as trainer of Ireland's Olympic teams at London in 1948 and again at Helsinki in 1952. In 1954 he was chosen to train the European team which met the Golden Gloves champions of the United States. Also recognised as an international referee of the top order, he travelled to Tokyo in 1964 to officiate at the Olympic Games.

ANDY SHARKEY: Although he failed to win a National senior heavyweight title, he represented Ireland internationally against England, Scotland, Norway, Germany and Belgium.

TOM TROY: A winner of the Irish junior heavyweight title in 1946, Troy represented Ireland in contests against England, Scotland and Italy.

MARTIN MURPHY: Runner-up in the Irish senior heavyweight championship of 1927, he represented Ireland in an international match against Norway.

JOHN FARREN: A Connacht light-heavyweight champion in 1932, 1933 and 1934, he boxed internationally against England, Wales, Sweden and Germany.

MICK REID: A National light-middleweight champion, he was the first Irishman to box at the Rome Olympic Games in 1960 and did so just after midnight on the opening night of the Games. Came through the first series with a fine win over Crescencio of Brazil but failed to find form in the second series and lost narrowly to Dampc of Poland.

JOE CASEY: The National heavyweight champion, he represented Ireland at the Olympic Games of 1960 at Rome and had to go into the ring for his first bout at 1.15 in the morning. Lost a controversial decision to O Sretenovic (Yugoslavia).

Cycling

BERNARD McKENNA: Meath-born Ben McKenna has been one of the great figures of Irish cycling over the past 20 years. First hit the national scene in 1957 when he finished third in Ras Tailteann. Finished second in the following year and achieved his ambition when he won the prestigious event in 1959. Also finished second in 1961 and 1964, won the first stage of the gruelling eight-day race in 1971 and has been a member of the victorious Meath team on six occasions. McKenna has competed in and finished Ras Tailteann 16 times and represented Ireland in France in 1959 and in Holland in 1961. He has won more than 50 races in the course of a brilliant career.

BRIAN CONNAUGHTON: An international cyclist, he had his greatest season in 1969 when he won Ras Tailteann. Took Ras Mumhan and Ras Uladh stage races in 1972 and was on the Irish team that competed in France in the International Grand Prix Humanite in 1970.



T. O'Donnell (Football)



W. Carlos (Football)

Gaelic football

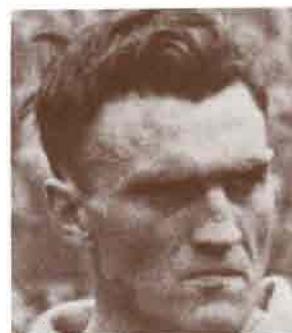


D.J.CROWLEY: A native of Rathmore, Co. Kerry, Crowley put on his greatest football performances in two successive All-Ireland finals. In 1969, his outstanding second half display inspired Kerry to a great victory over Offaly and in 1970, his golden goal shortly before the end wrote finis to a Meath revival that, at one stage, threatened to deprive Kerry of a second title.

PAT GRIFFIN: One of the most effective and stylish centre half forwards in the history of Kerry football, Griffin won All-Ireland medals in 1969 and 1970 and also represented Munster in the Railway Cup competition. A native of Glenbeigh, he started his senior inter-county career with Kildare and quickly caught the eye of the discerning Kingdom selectors.

JIM SMITH: One of the most famous of all Ulster footballers, Smith led Cavan to a memorable victory over Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1933, when the Kingdom were bidding for an unprecedented fifth All-Ireland title in a row. Subsequently that year, he captained Cavan to their first All-Ireland triumph—over Galway. Two years later, Smith won his second All-Ireland medal when Cavan beat Kildare. Smith, who played in the Tailteann Games of 1928 and 1932, also represented Ulster in the Railway Cup competition of 1928.

LARRY STANLEY: See "Athletics" for the great Kildare all-rounder's Gaelic football record. Special article, page 54.



T. Langan (Football)



F. Benson (Football)

HALL of FAME



J. Murphy (Football)



F. Evers (Football)



L. Maguire (Football)

PAUL RUSSELL: A native of Killarney and one of Kerry's most versatile sportsmen, Russell was one of the Garda's most famous sporting personalities in a glorious career that lasted for almost 15 years. Made his first appearance in the All-Ireland final of 1923, when Kerry were beaten by Dublin. He came back the following year to Croke Park to win his first All-Ireland medal. He was later to win further All-Ireland medals with Kerry, in 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, and 1932. Also a Tailteann Games competitor, Russell represented both Munster and Leinster in the Railway Cup and appeared on the winning Munster team in the inaugural year of the competition in 1927. The following year he won with Leinster and took a third medal with Munster in 1931. Trained several teams, including his native Kerry, and Meath.

BILL CARLOS: A superb all-round athlete. Carlos chose to devote most of his sporting career to Gaelic football and was, of course, one of Roscommon's great men—at centre half—in their rise to fame in the 1940s. A magnificent centre half back, he won all-Ireland medals in 1943 and 1944 and made his third and last appearance in the 1946 final when Roscommon went down to Kerry after a replay. Also played for Connacht. He later played with New York and visited Ireland with the exiles' team.

PADDY KENNEDY: Regarded by many as the most stylish midfielder in the history of football, Kennedy from Annascaul, Co. Kerry, was one of the dominating figures of the game between 1937 and 1947. Barely more than a schoolboy, he played in the All-Ireland final of 1938 for Kerry, when they lost to Galway and then went on to win four All-Ireland medals, in 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1946 when he captained the side in the replayed final against Roscommon. Made his first appearance with Munster in 1937 in the Railway Cup and won medals with the province in 1941 and 1946.

TIM O'DONNELL: Another of Kerry's greats from the late 1920s right up to 1940. Won his first All-Ireland medal with the Kingdom in 1929, a second in 1930 and was a substitute in Kerry's other wins in 1931 and 1932. Came back onto the Kerry team in 1937 to win yet another All-Ireland medal against Cavan. Tim is a brother of John Kerry O'Donnell, who was elected President of the New York G.A.A. Board at the beginning of 1972—a post he had held previously in the 1950s.

MARTIN KELLY: Won his first All-Ireland football medal when Galway defeated Dublin in the final of 1934. One of the outstanding forwards of the 1930s, he won a second in Galway's win over Kerry in the famous replay of 1938.

SEAMUS O'DONNELL: A first-class forward, O'Donnell won his All-Ireland football medal when Louth defeated Cork in the 1957 final. Also played minor and senior with his native Mayo.

BRENDAN LYNCH: Played a major role in Roscommon's remarkable break-through in Gaelic football in the 1940s and was a regular member

of the side throughout its great years. Made three All-Ireland final appearances, in 1943, 1944 and 1946 and won All-Ireland medals in 1943 and 1944. Brendan's brother, Batt, was an outstanding member of the Roscommon team in the 1950s.

FRANK CUNIFFE: Made his first All-Ireland appearance with Galway in 1938 when they defeated Kerry in a replay. Subsequently appeared against Kerry in the finals of 1940 and 1941, but was on the losing side on both occasions.

OLIVER SHANLEY: Made his first All-Ireland appearance in 1966 with Meath but was on the losing side against Galway. A free-scoring corner forward, he came back to win an All-Ireland medal in the following year, when Meath defeated Cork. Shanley has also played with great success as a half back with his county team.

CHARLIE O'SULLIVAN: A Munster interprovincial and regarded as one of the finest corner-forwards of his time, O'Sullivan won his first All-Ireland football medal with Kerry in 1937 and collected three more in Kerry's three-in-a-row between 1939 and 1941.

LIAM GILMARTIN: Made three All-Ireland final appearances with Roscommon and won All-Ireland football medals in 1943 and 1944 and was on the losing side against Kerry in 1946. Gilmartin was one of the finest and most stylish midfielders of his time and, with Eamonn Boland, formed a partnership of rare ability. Ill-health curtailed his brilliant career.

GERRY DALY: Won an All-Ireland football medal in 1956, when he was full-back on the Galway side that beat Cork in the final.

JIM (JAS) MURPHY: Took over the captaincy of the Kerry team in 1953 and led them to a great victory over Armagh in the All-Ireland football final. Started his career with Tralee C.B.S. and played for Munster Colleges. Assigned to Cork City after his Garda training, he played with the St. Nicholas Club and quickly won a place (at right full back) on the Cork senior team, with whom he had a few distinguished years before declaring for his native Kerry. Played for Munster and Rest of Ireland.

LIAM MAGUIRE: Played his best hour of football in 1952 with the Cavan team that beat Meath in the replayed All-Ireland final. His brother, Des, also played for Cavan in that final while a third brother, Brendan, was a member of the Meath team – a unique happening in Gaelic games. Liam has been in the top flight of inter-county football referees since his playing career with Cavan ended.

JOE FITZGERALD: A native of Dingle, Co. Kerry, and one of the great men behind the revival of the famous Geraldines club in Dublin at the beginning of the 1940s, he captained the Dublin football side to their All-Ireland final win over Galway in 1942.



D. O'Neill (Football)



J. Sherlock (Football)



T. O'Sullivan (Football)

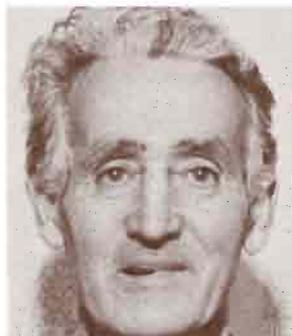
HALL of FAME



D. J. Crowley (Football)



O. Shanley (Football)



P. Perry (Handball)

PHIL BRADY: One of the legendary personalities of Gaelic football, "The Gunner" Brady was on the Cavan team that beat Kerry in the All-Ireland final of 1947 at the Polo Grounds, New York. He went on to win two more All-Ireland medals, in 1948 against Mayo and 1952 against Meath. A distinguished midfielder in the early part of his career, he later became an outstanding full back with the county and played in that position in the All-Ireland final of 1952. Played Railway Cup football for Ulster.

FRANK EVERS: An outstanding midfielder, he won an All-Ireland medal with Galway, against Cork, in 1956 but is better remembered for the fine display he gave on Galway's beaten team in the 1959 final against Kerry. Played Railway Cup football for Connacht. Shortened his career when he joined the U.N. peace-keeping force in the Middle East.

MICK HIGGINS: Will always be remembered as one of the truly great personalities of Cavan and Ulster football. Was on the Cavan side that won the All-Ireland final of 1947, in New York, and again at Croke Park in the following year. In 1952 he captained Cavan to their All-Ireland win over Meath. Was also a regular on Ireland teams at that time and won Railway Cup medals with Ulster in 1947 and 1950. Regarded by many as the most astute centre forward the game has known. Refereed extensively after his retirement from the inter-county playing scene. Trained Cavan and Longford.

DAN O'NEILL: As a midfielder played an outstanding role with Louth in their All-Ireland football final win over Cork in 1957. Also played with distinction in the green and red of his native Mayo.

RALPH GRIFFIN: One of a company of outstanding footballers who brought Galway to the summit of football fame in the 1930s. Member of an attack that was brilliantly led by John (Tull) Dunne, Ralph Griffin won All-Ireland medals in 1934 (against Dublin) and 1938 (in a replay against Kerry). Also won a Railway Cup medal with Connacht in 1936. Included in the Hall of Fame although he didn't join the Force until 1939.

GEORGE ORMSBY: One of the most stylish Gaelic footballers of the 1930s, he won an All-Ireland medal with the Mayo team in 1936 and was also a member of the Mayo side that set up an all-time National League record by taking six successive titles between 1934 and 1939. Also played on two winning Connacht Railway Cup sides.

PETER LAFFEY: One of the great names of Gaelic football in the 1930s. Peter Laffey won an All-Ireland medal with Mayo in 1936, against Laois, and also won six successive National League medals with the county in their unprecedented run between 1934 and 1939. Also played with Connacht in their Railway Cup wins of 1937 and 1938.

TOM LANGAN: Generally regarded as one of the finest full-forwards in the history of football, (many good judges will still argue that he was

the finest). Tom Langan won two All-Ireland medals with Mayo in 1950 and 1951. Played on Connacht's winning side in the Railway Cup Final of 1951. A magnificent opportunist, his punched scores were a speciality, but he also had a powerful shot which many goalkeepers learned to rue.

JOHN SHERLOCK: Won an All-Ireland football medal in 1923, when Dublin beat Kerry in the final.

FRANK BENSON: Won an All-Ireland football medal in 1925 when Galway were declared champions. Kerry and Cavan were declared illegal that year and Mayo, nominated by the Connacht Council, went on to beat Wexford. Mayo subsequently lost to Galway in the Connacht final and Galway were declared All-Ireland champions.

PADDY IRWIN: It was a measure of Paddy Irwin's football ability that he won a place on the Mayo team which retained the All-Ireland football title in 1951; for that company of players was among the most talented that ever graced the game. Paddy won his medal at right half forward, but he was also a fine midfielder, as he demonstrated many times in the following years.

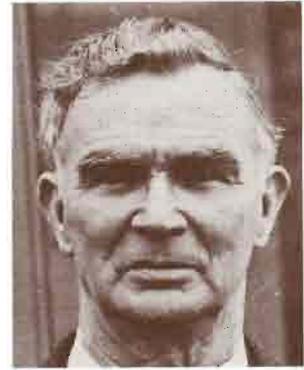
JACK MURPHY: One of the greatest backs to emerge from a county celebrated for the quality of its football defenders. Jack Murphy won an All-Ireland medal when Kerry beat Dublin in the final of 1924. Played in the drawn final against Kildare in 1926 but, tragically, he contracted pneumonia soon after that match and was dead before the Kingdom won the replay.

PADDY KIRWAN: An outstanding footballer in a decade of great players, he was a member of the famous Dublin team which won three All-Ireland titles in a row — 1921, 1922 and 1923. Joined by two other members of the Force, Larry Stanley of Kildare fame, and Jack Sherlock, on the Metropolitan side on the latter occasion. Also played for his native Cavan and Wexford and helped to found St. Vincent's in Dublin.

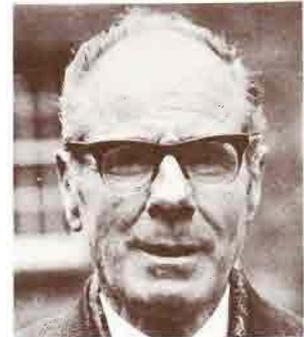
TOMMY SANDS: A back of top-class ability, he won three All-Ireland medals as a substitute on the Galway team which captured the Sam Maguire Cup in 1964, '65 and '66.

P. CARRIE: When Meath beat Kerry to win the county's second All-Ireland football title in 1954, the name P. Carey appeared amongst the medal-winning substitutes. This, in fact, was an error which became current in newspaper reports of the time. Since then, the player's correct name, Carrie, has gone into the records.

TOM KEOGH: A powerful forward who played with the Kildare team which won the All-Ireland football titles of 1927 and 1928.



T. Soye (Handball)



P. Reid (Handball)



M. O'Sullivan (Handball)

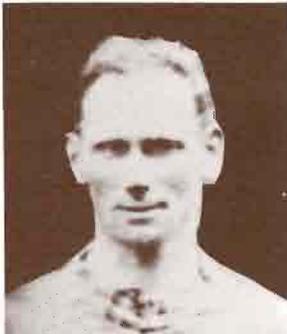


J. O'Regan (Hurling)

HALL of FAME



M. Power (Hurling)



P. McInerney (Hurling)



G. Howard (Hurling)

PADDY PRENDERGAST: One of Gaelic football's greatest full backs. He won All-Ireland medals with Mayo in 1950 and '51 and also a Railway Cup medal with Connacht in the latter year. Played for Ireland teams against the Combined Universities in 1952 and 1956.

TEDDY O'SULLIVAN: Won an All-Ireland medal as a substitute with Kerry in 1946 and played for the "Kingdom" in their historic Polo Grounds final against Cavan in 1947. Won a Railway Cup medal with Munster in 1948.

Golf



PAT MULCARE: One of Ireland's top amateur golfers and winner of the East of Ireland championship in 1971 and 1972. He is a current international. Came into national prominence in 1967 when he won his first interprovincial caps with Munster against Ulster, Connacht and Leinster. A year later he won the first of his international caps against Scotland and Wales.

Handball



MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN: A handballer of great expertise who won more renown at provincial and national level with the hardball than with the softball—though also a fine player in the more popular version of the sport. First achieved national distinction in 1954 when, representing Kilkenny and partnered by Martin Hayes, he won the All-Ireland hardball doubles. All-Ireland senior hardball doubles champion, representing Dublin and partnering Jim Doyle, in 1971. Won several national and provincial titles in other grades and had the distinction of beating the American player, Tom Ginty, in an international singles match at Clough, Co. Kilkenny, in 1957.

PADDY PERRY: Still remembered as one of Ireland's greatest handball players and also an outstanding footballer and hurler. Took the junior softball singles in 1929 and then went on to win the Irish senior softball titles in 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937. In 1932, scored his greatest triumph by winning the Tailteann Games gold medal. Other honours include the junior softball doubles shared with T. Gaughran, the Irish senior softball and Tailteann Games doubles, shared with A. Mullaney, and the Irish hardball doubles championship, shared with Garda Paddy Reid.

TOM SOYE: One of the great handball champions of the 1920s, his imposing list of titles includes Dublin, Leinster, Irish and Tailteann gold medals. Won his first title, the Co. Dublin senior hardball

championship, in 1925 and was still at the top in 1932 when an injury, which subsequently brought about his retirement, forced him to withdraw after the semi-finals of the National championship. Won the famous Dr. Harty Cup on six occasions and was also presented with the Guinness special gold medal for his performances in the Tailteann Games.

MARTIN JOYCE: Winner of the All-Ireland senior softball singles title in 1925 and senior softball doubles – partnering Charlie Ryan – in 1927.

CHARLIE RYAN: All-Ireland senior softball doubles champion of 1927, in partnership with Martin Joyce.

PADDY REID: Like Paddy Perry, a native of Boyle, Co. Roscommon. Won first All-Ireland senior medal in the hardball singles when playing for Carlow in 1934 and, in 1936, playing for his native county, won the All-Ireland senior hardball doubles in partnership with Perry. A great handballer, Paddy Reid would undoubtedly have won many more honours if he hadn't been unlucky enough to attain his peak during the glittering era of his fellow-townsmen.

TERRY O'REILLY: A fine exponent of the game, he won two All-Ireland hardball doubles titles in '27 and '28 – playing for Dublin in partnership with Tom Soye. With Barney Daly, he played for Ireland in the doubles in the Tailteann Games of 1924.

GERRY BROWNE: Member of a great Roscommon sporting family, Gerry Browne won an All-Ireland senior softball doubles title in 1930. Also a footballer of considerable ability.



W. Phelan (Hurling)



E. Tobin (Hurling)



E. Fahy (Hurling)



F. Cummins (Hurling)

Hurling



FRANK CUMMINS: Named as one of hurling's All-Stars in 1971 and a member of the side which travelled to San Francisco, Cummins, one of the finest midfield players in the game, won an All-Ireland medal with Kilkenny in 1969 and also a Railway Cup medal with Leinster. A member of the Blackrock (Cork) club, with whom he stars at centre half back.

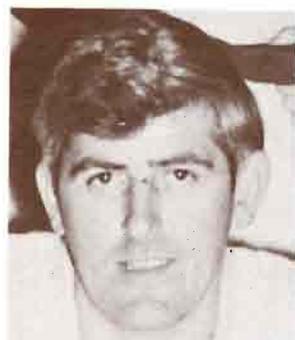
NED FAHY: A native of Clare, he won an All-Ireland medal with Dublin in 1927 and was on the first Leinster team to win the Railway Cup.

TOM O'ROURKE: Declared for Dublin when he was with the Garda club and won an All-Ireland hurling medal in 1927, against Cork. Subsequently declared for his native Clare and was on the losing All-Ireland side in the final of 1932, against Kilkenny.

HALL of FAME



P. Mulcare (Golf)



M. Timlin (Judo)



T. Dempsey (Judo)

JACK GLEESON: Formed part of the all-Garda half back line on the Dublin team that won the All-Ireland hurling final of 1927. Subsequently he re-joined his native Clare and appeared in the losing All-Ireland final side against Kilkenny in 1932.

NED TOBIN: A native of Laois, Tobin came to prominence with the Garda hurling team in the early 1920s and won his All-Ireland medal in 1927, when Dublin beat Cork in the final.

BILL PHELAN: A native of Laois, and a member of the all-conquering Garda hurling club in the 1920s, Phelan won an All-Ireland medal with Dublin in 1927, against Cork.

PAT McINERNEY: One of the most remarkable personalities of Garda hurling, Pat "Fowler" McInerney won his first All-Ireland medal in 1914 when he played with his native Clare against Laois. Subsequently, after joining the Garda, he won an All-Ireland medal with Dublin, in the 1927 final and he appeared in his last All-Ireland final as late as 1932, when Clare were beaten by Kilkenny. Was on the Leinster side that won the first Railway Cup hurling competition in 1927 and also played in the Tailteann Games.

GARRETT HOWARD: In his long and distinguished hurling career, Howard, a native of Co. Limerick, played in the championship with three counties—Limerick, Tipperary and Dublin. Won his first All-Ireland medal with Limerick in the 1921 final against Dublin and went on to win four more, with Dublin in 1924 and 1927 and with Limerick in 1934 and 1936. He was honoured twice on the Tailteann Games hurling side, in 1924 and 1928, and also had the honour of winning Railway Cup medals with both Munster and Leinster.

MATTIE POWER: Made his All-Ireland hurling debut in 1922 when he played full-forward on the side that beat Tipperary. Played on Kilkenny's beaten team in the 1926 final but was on the famous Dublin team of 1927 that shocked Cork in the final. Was still with Dublin for their losing appearance in the 1930 final, but re-joined his native Kilkenny in the following year and played in the three historic games that marked the 1931 final. Won All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny in 1932, 1933 and 1935 and was on the losing sides of 1936 and 1937. Was on the Leinster side that won the first Railway Cup hurling final in 1927 and also played in the Tailteann Games.

JOHN MITCHELL: One of Wexford's best defenders in recent years, he won an All-Ireland hurling medal against Tipperary in 1960, playing at right full back.

SEAMUS QU Aid: Won his All-Ireland hurling medal in 1960 when an unfancied Wexford side beat the hot favourites, Tipperary in a memorable final. A fast, stylish and accurate forward, his career was shorter than his considerable ability warranted.

JAMES GRACE: Won an All-Ireland hurling medal as a substitute with Kilkenny against Clare in the 1932 final and collected another in the following year when he was a reserve on the side that beat Limerick in the final.

NOEL LANE: A strong, tenacious defender, Lane won an All-Ireland hurling medal as a substitute with Tipperary when they regained the Liam McCarthy Cup in 1971, after a lapse of six years. He has also represented his county on the Munster Railway Cup team. Normally a right full back, he has also figured in the number three position for Tipperary.

TERRY KELLY: A hurler of real class, he won a substitute's medal with the Cork team which beat Wexford in the All-Ireland final of 1954, and played on the losing side against Wexford in the final of 1956.

MICK FLYNN: The only member of the Garda to win the Scott Gold Medal and an all-Ireland senior hurling medal. Won his hurling medal with Dublin in 1938 against Waterford and also won a National League medal with Dublin in the 1938-39 season, and represented Leinster in the Railway Cup hurling competition in 1939.

JIM O'REGAN: The renowned Cork hurler was a member of the Force for only a short time before he entered the teaching profession. He won four All-Ireland medals with his native county – in 1926, 1928, 1929 and 1931 – and there are good judges of hurling who, to this day, claim that the slim but powerfully-built man from Kinsale was the finest centre half back ever to grace the game.

Judo



MARTIN TIMLIN: Won Blue Belt National championship (32 Counties) in 1966, two years after the formation of the Garda Judo Club. Became light-heavyweight National champion in 1970 and in 1971 was selected to represent Ireland at the World Games in Munich. Member of Garda team which won the National club championships in 1965, 1969 and 1971. First member of the Force to be graded Black Belt. Now 3rd Dan.

JAMES CROCKETT: National heavyweight champion in 1969 and 1970. Also in 1970 became Grand Black Belt champion in competition embracing all 32 counties. Member of Garda team which won national club championship of 1970 and in that year was selected to represent Ireland. 2nd Dan (Black Belt).



A. Kirwan (Judo)



J. Crockett (Judo)



E. Meagher (Parachuting)



P. Lawlor (Rugby)



THOMAS DEMPSEY: Member of Garda team which won National club championships in 1969, 1970 and 1971. Selected to represent Ireland at World Games in Munich in 1971. 2nd Dan (Black Belt).

AMBROSE KIRWAN: Member of the Garda team which won National club championship in 1965. Represented Ireland against Wales in 1968 and won National light-heavyweight championship in 1969. 1st Dan (Black Belt).

Parachuting



M. Leahy (Rugby)

ERILL MEAGHER: Took up sport parachuting early in 1963 and became the first member of the Garda Siochana to make a free-fall jump, on March 3 of that year. Represented country as head of the Irish team at the World championships in Sport Parachuting at Leiutkink, West Germany, in 1964. Attended parachuting school at Chulen sur Saone, France, in 1966. Chairman of Irish Parachute Club from 1963 to 1968.



W. Case (Swimming)

Rugby



DAN BROWNE: Described as one of the hardest-playing forwards of his time, "Decker" Browne is one of the three members of the Garda Siochána to have been capped for Ireland at Rugby. A member of the Blackrock club, he played for Leinster and represented his country against France in 1920. He won just the one cap.

PADDY LAWLOR: A brother of the Olympic hammer thrower, John Lawlor, Paddy became one of Ireland's finest second row rugby forwards in the 1950s. Playing with Clontarf, he was capped for the first time against Scotland in 1951 and won the last of his 12 caps in 1954. His caps were won against England, Scotland, Wales, France and New Zealand. He also toured in Argentina with an Irish XV.



J. McMahon (Soccer)

MICK LEAHY: Playing with U.C.C and also with Connacht in the interprovincial championship, he won his only international rugby cap against Wales in 1964.

A. MORONEY: Is the only member of the Garda Siochana to hold an "All-Ireland" medal in rugby. Over a playing career of 14 years he turned out for Garryowen, Young Munsters, Bective Rangers and Blackrock College Dublin. He was with Blackrock when they won the Leinster Senior Cup and also the Bateman Cup, which was an All-Ireland competition in which the champions of the four provinces met in a knock-out series. He was also capped for Munster.

Swimming



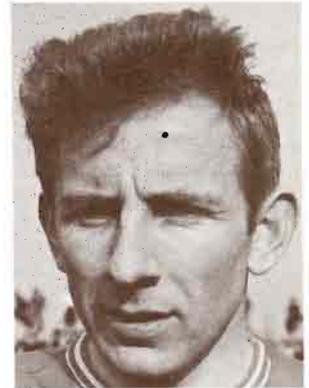
W.F.CASE: The greatest swimmer in the history of Garda sport, his earliest success was in the famous Liffey Swim in 1930. Yet he was still to the fore in 1965 when he won the Garda 100 metres backstroke championship and retained the title in 1966. Holder of many Garda titles and winner of many open events, he was National 100 yards backstroke champion in 1938 and 1939 and also won three Irish Cup medals in waterpolo, in addition to numerous Leinster League and Leinster Cup medals.

Soccer



JOHN McMAHON: Born in Derry, he qualifies easily as the outstanding personality of soccer in the Garda Siochana. Joined Bohemians in 1925 and three years later, in the club's greatest season, he won F.A.I Cup, Leinster Senior Cup, League of Ireland and League of Ireland Shield medals. A regular member of Northern Ireland's amateur international side from 1928 to 1933, he also won a full international cap at Celtic Park when Northern Ireland defeated Scotland 2-1. He is, of course, the only member of the force to gain full international honours in soccer.

JIM SHERIDAN: One of the League of Ireland's best-known players at the present time and a winner last season of a City Cup medal with Finn Harps, he has been an Irish amateur international for several years and last season played with the Irish X1 in the preliminary rounds of the Olympic Games tournament. He is captain of Finn Harps.



J. Sheridan (Soccer)

An Coiste Siamsa

Mr. D. O'Malley T.D. Minister for Justice is Patron of An Coiste Siamsa and the Executive officers of the Ard Comhairle are:

President, Commissioner W. J. Wymes; chairman, Deputy Commissioner J. McDonagh; hon-secretary, Chief Superintendent E. P. Garvey; treasurer, Chief Superintendent J. Ainsworth.

Sports representatives on the Ard Comhairle:

ANGLING:	Sergt. B. Prendergast, Finglas Garda Station, Dublin.	HURLING:	Sergt. F. Kelly, Pearse St. Station, Dublin.
ATHLETICS:	Sgt. Tobin, Garda Depot, Phoenix Park, Dublin.	JUDO:	Gda. E. O'Hara, Carriage Dept., Dublin Castle.
TENNIS:	Garda P. Power, Communications Centre, Dublin Castle.	PITCH & PUTT:	Garda J. Foley, Carriage Office, Dublin Castle.
BASKETBALL:	Garda J. O'Keeffe, Fitzgibbon St. Station, Dublin.	ROWING:	Garda B. Duane, Kevin St. Station, Dublin.
CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING:	D/Sgt. T. O'Connor, Technical Bureau, Dublin.	RUGBY:	Garda R. Campion, Traffic Dept., Dublin Castle.
GAELIC FOOTBALL:	D/Gda. Sean O'Mahony, S.D. U., Dublin Castle.	SOCCER:	Garda P. Coffey, Pearse Street Station, Dublin.
GOLF:	Supt. D. Kennedy, Garda Headquarters, Kilmainham, Dublin.	SWIMMING & LIFE SAVING:	Sergt. N. McCreedy, Crime Prevention Office, Dublin Castle.
HANDBALL:	D/Gda. L. Ahern, Special Detective Unit, Dublin Castle.	SNOOKER:	Garda P. Power, Communications Centre, Dublin Castle.

The Provincial Secretaries for 1972 are: Connacht/Ulster: Sgt. P. Ward, Grange, Co. Sligo. Leinster: Gda. T. Hamon, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Munster: Gda. C. Crowley, Waterford. D.M.A.: D/Gda. Sean Mahony, S.D.U., Dublin Castle.

Monumental figure of the storied past

THE LATE Bill Dooley, Garda, writer, conversationalist and broadcaster, once said of Denis Carey that he was the veteran and the mentor of police athletics and that the guardians of the peace had long looked on him as a monumental figure of their storied past.

And Dooley, whose extraordinary knowledge of Garda and police sport was in itself monumental, was right. For Denis Carey, one of the truly astonishing athletes in police history in Ireland, was to a great extent the abiding influence that created such a dominating superiority by Garda athletes in the era before the last war.

Carey's career in the Garda Síochána was short—he retired as a Superintendent in 1926, just a few years after the force had come into existence—but his career in the police went all the way back to 1890 when he joined the D.M.P.

He was an exceptional athlete. Within two years of joining the D.M.P. he was Irish hammer champion and that was no mean feat in an era when this particular event was ruled by men like Tom Kiely, Dr "Jumbo" Barry and John Flanagan, who was later to win three Olympic gold medals.

In 1893, he became the British A.A.A hammer champion, retained his Irish title and for unusual measure, took the Irish pole vault title.

Subsequently he was to win National titles over 440 yards, the triple jump and switching to the 120 yards hurdles, he took the National title for six years in succession between 1898 and 1904.

A regular competitor for Ireland against Scotland in international matches, he returned to his first love—hammer-throwing—and won the 1907 and 1910 titles. And on the strength of some

memorable performances against John Flanagan, he was selected for the Olympic Games at Stockholm in 1912, where, unfortunately, he was injured in the preliminary rounds.

In 1913 Carey won the National title at 155' and retained his championship the following year with 155'1".

Back into competition after the first World War, he was a competitor at the British A.A.A championships, where he had won the hammer titled 27 years earlier.

He marked his switch over from the D.M.P to the Garda Síochána by winning the hammer event at the Clonliffe meeting in 1922.

During his lengthy career, which spanned 33 years, Carey trained some unbeatable D.M.P tug-of-war teams and was, in fact, the trainer of the side that defeated the Scots Greys, who in the 1890s, claimed to be world champions.

In the years after he retired from athletics, Denis Carey acted as chief instructor in the Dublin Police Depot at Kevin Street.

There he planted the seeds on fertile ground of the famous Garda A.C, which within a few years was to provide Ireland with a steady succession of National champions down through the years.

In the years between the wars, the club sent out men like Larry Stanley, Con O'Connor, Bill Shanahan, Con O'Callaghan, Mick O'Dwyer, Bill Gore, John Doherty, George Walsh, Ned Tobin, Jack Guiney, Dan Sheehan, Paddy Anglim and a host of others who graced the Irish championship scene.

Denis Carey deserves to be recalled as one of the great leaders of athletics in the Gardai.

RIGHT: D. M. P. Gaelic football team and officials. BACK: M. Navin (Sports Director), W. O'Keefe, M. Coughlan, M. Geraghty, J. F. Lynam, W. Cain, C. O'Connell, C. Ryan, (Vice captain), T. Doyle. CENTRE: M. O'Connell, J. Sherlock, J. O'Reilly, G. Magan, P. J. Kirwan (Captain), A. Nolan, M. O'Neill, F. K. Wedick (Hon Sec.), T. Terrance. FRONT: T. Teeling, J. Mullen.

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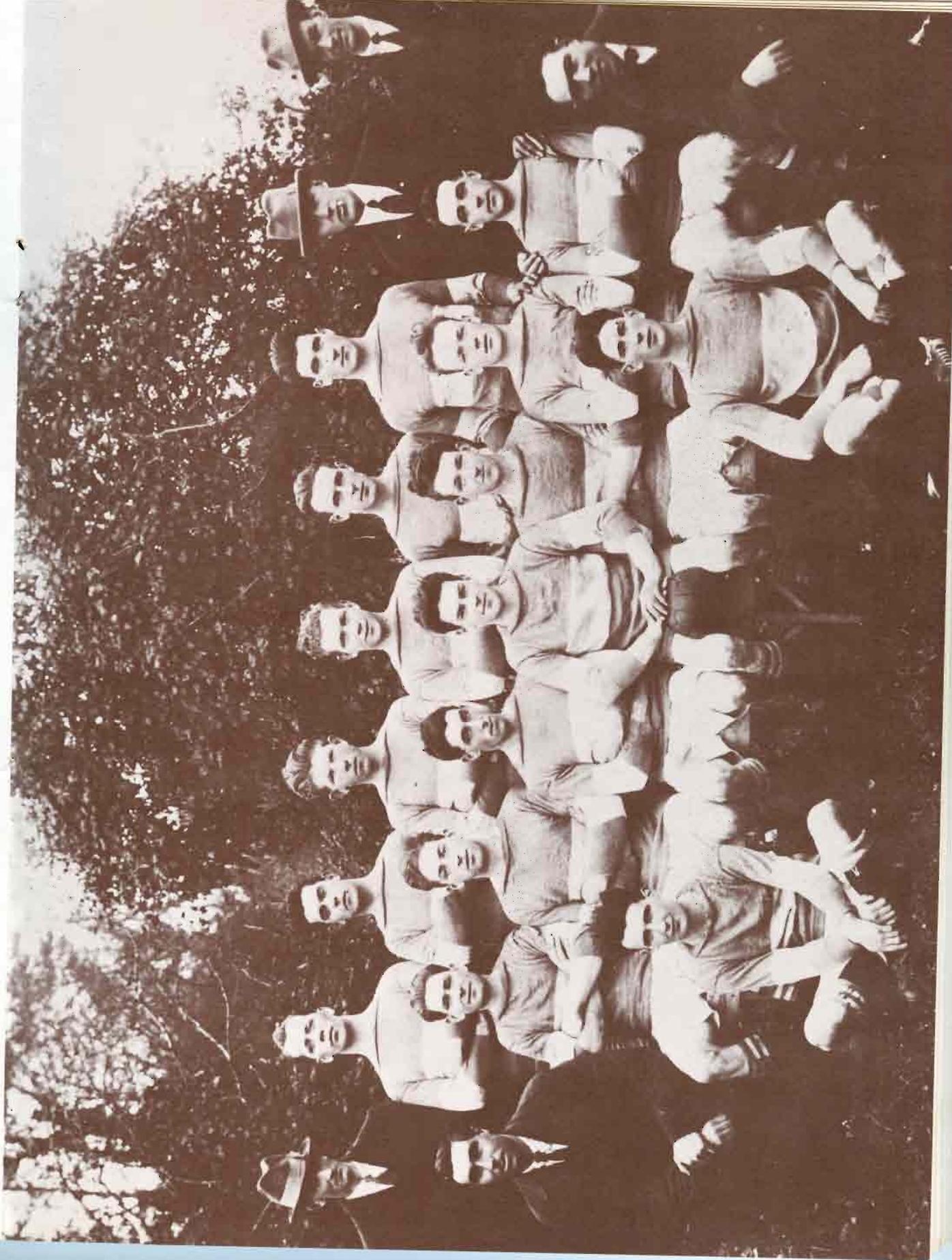
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Tom Browne (Meath)



Con Crowley (Waterford)

Stars of the Gaelic fields

IT WAS JUST around the time when I was beginning to spell my way through the sports pages of the newspapers that the first Garda teams began to show their strength. Those teams must have been in existence for some years before that, because I can recall my father relating, when he came home from a Teachers' Congress around 1923, how he had seen Eamonn Coogan, a neighbour's child from North Kilkenny, play in a hurling match for the Garda.

But it was in the middle and later years of the 1920s; that the newly-formed Police Force began to flex its sporting muscles and prove its power on the Gaelic fields.

Indeed, my first conscious memory of reading a newspaper goes back to the report of a hurling match in which Matty Power, God rest him, after being held scoreless in an All-Ireland semi-final earlier in the day, got five or six goals when helping Garda win the Dublin hurling championship. Maybe that was their first, but, after all these years, I cannot be sure.

Anyway, because I knew Matty Power, I have ever since been interested in Garda teams and Garda Gaelic players.

Since this brief chronicle can mainly deal only with those I knew or watched personally, it is of necessity very incomplete; but any man can only be at one match at one time.

Reared as I was in a hurling area, my first interest

was in the Garda hurlers. I was lucky enough to see them at their best on several occasions in their peak years in the late 1920s, — "Fowler" McInerney, Mick Gill, Matty Power, Tom Burnell, Willie Phelan, Garrett Howard, Tom Barry, Martin Hayes, Mick Finn, Jack Conroy, Paddy Browne, the Graces and the Mullanes and Tom O'Rourke.

Several of them starred on the still-remembered Dublin side that swept holders Cork from the field in the astounding All-Ireland hurling final of 1927.

Some years afterwards, I saw Matty Power, with Kilkenny, and "Fowler" McInerney and Tom Burnell, with Clare, play against one another in an All-Ireland final. Jim Mullane also wore the Clare colours in that 1932 decider while I think Jim Grace was a member of the Kilkenny panel at around the same time.

But the replacements never arrived to keep that great side going and despite the hard work of such as Gerry Browne, still a Croke Park regular, the club fell away, and few, if any, Garda hurlers were making the headlines by the end of the 1930s, while the Army stole much of the Policemen's sporting thunder during the Emergency years that extended through so much of the 1940s.

Dan Canniffe played a lot of good hurling in Dublin during many of those years, but, while I may have missed a few, I cannot recall any other Gardai winning All-Ireland hurling medals until John Mitchell, a native of Kilkenny, and Seamus

Quaid, who hailed from Limerick, popped up in the Wexford colours to help shock Tipperary in a dramatic final a dozen years ago.

Before that, Terry Kelly was a prominent member of the Cork team that lost to Wexford in the All-Ireland final of 1956 and in more modern times I have seen Nick Power play with considerable distinction both for Waterford and Kilkenny; Limerick's fine centre-back, Jim O'Donnell, is now back in action after a leg-fracture that kept him out of the game for many months, while Kilkenny's Frank Cummins, who plays his club hurling in Cork, has not alone won All-Ireland and Railway Cup medals, but gave us a Garda representative on the Carrolls hurling fifteen.

In the days when the first famous Garda football team was in its Dublin heyday more than 40 years ago, I am afraid I was more interested in hurling than in the big-ball game. But even I had heard of such notable footballing members of the Force as Jim Smith of Cavan and Paul Russell of Kerry, Paddy Kilroy, who won provincial medals with Monaghan, Wexford, and Galway, and the legendary Superintendent Dick Creagh, a foundation member of the Garda Club, who subsequently played for Connacht in the first Railway Cup final.

Another from those early years was the play-anywhere Paddy Colleran of the renowned Sligo footballing family, while Paddy Kirwan, a Cavan native, had, before joining the Garda Club, helped Dublin to take three successive All-Irelands in the early 1920s. And then there was, of course, the greatest of them all, Larry Stanley from Caragh in the County Kildare, still so happily with us, though it is more than fifty years since he won his first All-Ireland.

When I came up to Dublin in the early 1930s that greatest of Garda teams, – the League of Nations the Croke Park wits used to call them, – had been dissolved but there were Garda stars on any county football team you cared to watch.

Here I have space only to recall those who first come to mind; there must have been scores of others. But I still have happy memories of Tom Keogh, an All-Ireland man with Kildare and Laois, Georgie Comerford of Dublin and Clare (he won Railway Cup medals with both Leinster and Munster), Tim O'Donnell from Kerry, and that

versatile master of the handball alleys who also won Dublin championship medals in both hurling and football, Paddy Perry from Roscommon.

Then came Chris Delaney of Laois, Frank Cunniffe from Galway, Kerry's Paddy Kennedy and Charlie O'Sullivan, followed by that great Roscommon trio, Bill Carlos, Brendan Lynch and Liam Gilmartin, followed again by those brilliant Cavan stars, Phil 'Gunner' Brady and Mick Higgins and Liam Quigley of Carlow.

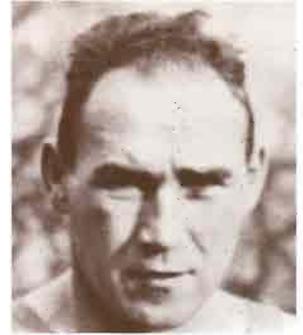
Through the late 1940s and early 1950s a revived Garda football side won back much of its old Dublin glory, but the Force also had stars in every county, and a team in Cork, good enough to win a county title, powered by "Gunner" Brady and Con McGrath from Clifden, who was a distinguished mid-fielder with Cork and Munster.

And now I am left with no more than a few lines to try and list some of the Garda players who have helped entertain me on the football fields in more recent years: Tom Langan, that great Mayo forward; Jas Murphy, who played for Cork as well as for his native Kerry; Hubert Reynolds, who, I think, was a native of Leitrim, but starred with Louth; those Cavan Maguires, Liam and Tom and Tony Morris; Gerry Daly and Frank Evers of Galway; Paddy Driscoll, Paddy Harrington, Eric Ryan and Mick O'Loughlin of Cork; ever-smiling Con Crowley below in Waterford, who has done so much splendid work for the Gardai's Coiste Siamsa as its Munster secretary and was also a top-class inter-county referee; Jim Rogers of Wicklow and Leinster fame; Dan O'Neill and Seamus O'Donnell, who, though non-natives, helped Louth win the 1957 All-Ireland; that great player and worker for the G.A.A. in several counties, Seamus Keevens of Wexford; Paddy English of Roscommon; Sean Ferriter of Donegal; Tom Browne of Meath and Laois and Greg Hughes of Offaly.

And that brings us up to the stars of today – Mick Carolan of Kildare, Cathal Cawley of Sligo, Ollie Shanley of Meath, J. J. O'Reilly of Leitrim and Cavan, Pat Griffin and D. J. Crowley of Kerry, Kieran Brennan and Harry Mulhare of Laois, Jack Cosgrave of Galway and, finally, the Mayomen, Willie McGee, John Morley and Johnny Carey, who shares with Frank Cummins and Jack Cosgrave the distinction of gaining the Gardai places on the Carrolls All Star sides.



Celebrated Garda hurlers of the 1920s and 1930s. Standing (left to right, at back): William Phelan, (Leix); Patrick Cusack, (Offaly); Mattie Power, (Kilkenny); Jim O'Regan, (Cork). Second Row (standing): Patrick McInerney, (Clare); Edward Tobin, (Leix) (Hon. Sec.); William O'Brien, (Kilkenny); Jim Doherty, (Tipperary); Jim Smith, (Cavan) (Hon. Treasurer); Tom Burnell, (Clare); Patrick Browne, (Tipperary); John Ryan, (Cork); and Tommy Maloney, (Dublin) (Trainer). Sitting (left to right): Edward Fahy, (Clare); Jeremiah Burke, (Cork); Mick Gill, (Galway) (Capt.); Commdt. McCarthy (Chairman); Garret Howard, (Limerick); John Kirwan, (Galway); Mick Finn, (Galway). Sitting in front: Joe Cahill, (Limerick); and William Dunphy, (Kilkenny). Winners of Co. Dublin Senior Leagues 1924, '26, '27, '28, '29 and '30, and Co. Dublin Senior Championships 1924, '26, '27, '28, '29 and '31. Winners of the President's Cup, Aonach an Garda, Garda v. Army, 1926, '27 and '29. Garda selection won the Leinster and All-Ireland Championships in 1927



Colm Walsh, European Police champion.

The Boxers' Golden Age

THERE ARE still men around – you'll find them at the National Stadium for any worthwhile international, championship or tournament fixture – who will tell you with an immense depth of unshakeable conviction that the only time that ever really mattered in Irish amateur boxing was the era that began with the establishment of the Garda Boxing club and ended with the outbreak of war in 1939.

And those really were the days – as far as Garda boxing was concerned. Golden days, when a fine group of outstanding young men put on their gloves and left an indelible mark on the history of the amateur game in this country.

Under the enthusiastic inspiration and tremendous guidance of Major-General W.R.E. Murphy, who was later to become President of the I.A.B.A. between 1928 and 1939, the Garda Boxing Club dominated the sport with an overwhelming authority.

Garda boxers, particularly in the heavier weights, formed a powerful, almost unbeatable, backbone for every Irish international side that fought in that memorable era and they appeared with resounding success in many parts of the world.

The National championships, to a great extent, were Garda affairs – in many divisions and all so often, Garda fought Garda for the right to be called an Irish champion – and over 20 years there was a steady stream of glorious champions from the club.

Every member of the Garda B.C. in those halcyon years was a household word in Ireland and even

today, in many instances, they still provide the legendary yardstick by which present-day standards are assessed.

The men who led the way were heavyweights Matt Flanagan and Jack O'Driscoll, light-heavyweights Jim "Boy" Murphy and his namesake Jim Murphy,, middleweights Jack Chase and Jack Forde and welterweight Frank Cooper.

All won National championships, all represented Ireland in international competition and, of course, the Garda B.C. had a heavy representation in Ireland's appearances at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam in 1928 and again at Los Angeles in 1932.

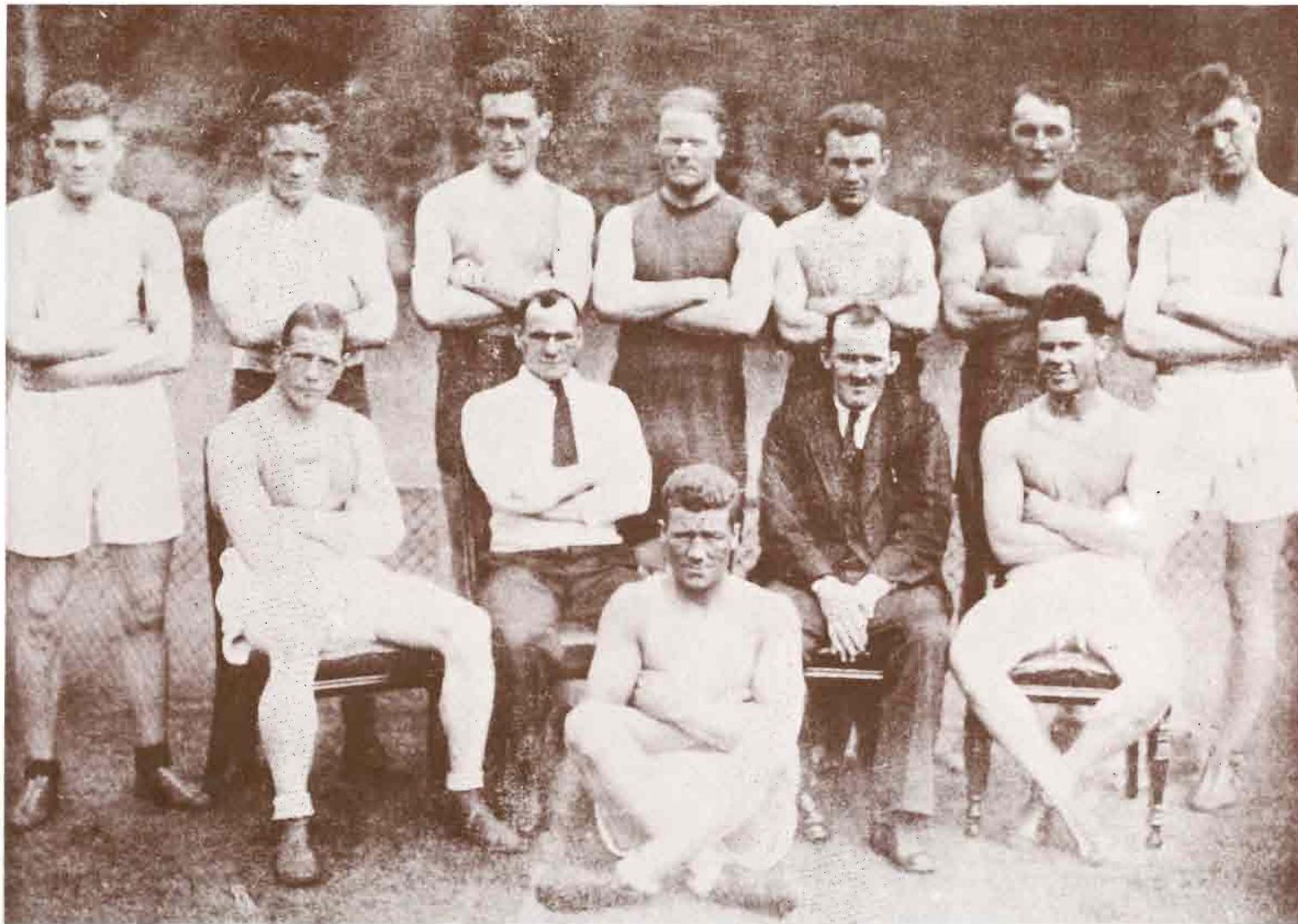
They were followed on the national scene by further great champions in Dick Hearn, Larry Flood, Paddy Hennelly, Gerry Mulligan, Billy Blackwell, Dom Lydon – and, of course, the never-to-be-forgotten Ernie Smith.

Smith began as a featherweight champion but he stepped up to lightweight in 1932 to take the Irish title and then he proceeded to hold on to it without defeat until 1938.

In his time, he represented Ireland against Norway, Italy, the United States, Wales, Germany, France, England, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Poland, . . . and everyone in Ireland, in every sport, knew just who he was.

He was a champion – a truly great one. And his memory will never die for all those who saw him in his great years in the ring.

Yes, indeed, those were the days of the Garda Boxing club. It was a pity that they had to end.



Boxing Champions standing (l. to r.): William Blackwell, Jim Murphy, Martin Murphy, Andrew Sharkey, John Chase, Matthew Flanagan and John O'Driscoll. Sitting (l. to r.): John Forde, Tommy Maloney (Trainer), James Healy, Hon. Secretary, I.A.B.A.; Patrick Hennelly. Sitting in front: Richard Hearn.



Tim O'Brien, President of the Garda Boat Club.

Triumphs of the Oarsmen

GARDA oarsmen have been among the most distinguished of the Force's sportsmen for many years. The Garda Boat Club's first Maiden Crew appeared in 1955 and (a foretaste of the many great achievements that were to follow) won the Irish Amateur Rowing Union's Junior Eights championship of that year. Since then, the club has won all possible trophies in Irish rowing.

In 1965, the club won the I.A.R.U. Senior Eights championship of Ireland for the first time—and, remarkably, that notable victory was achieved by the unbeaten Junior crew, who went on to beat the Garda Senior crew in the final.

The Senior Eights championship was again won by Garda in 1966 and the Club also captured the Maiden and Junior titles of that year to achieve the first "Grand Slam" in the history of Irish rowing. The 1966 Senior crew included five of the previous year's winners, namely: B. Woods, M. Drew, T. Lynch, G. McCarthy and F. Healy. C. Byrne coxed the victorious crews of 1965 and 1966.

After a lapse of one year, one of the best crews ever to row for the Garda Boat Club regained the Senior Eights championship in 1968, scoring an easy victory in the event. They also had the distinction of being unbeaten by any other Irish crew that year. This crew also rowed in the 1968 Cambridge Regatta and the Stern four (M. Drew, P. Duffy, P. Fitzgerald and J. Muldoon) went on to win the Senior Fours Cup.

Their next engagement of the season was at

Henley Royal Regatta where they gave the best performance ever of any Garda Senior Eight, being narrowly beaten in the semi-final of the Thames Cup by Cornell University, U.S.A. after having won several races.

Another great performance was forthcoming from that 1968 crew when they represented Ireland in the quadrangular international with England, Scotland and Wales and were only narrowly beaten in the final by the English crew.

A notable feature of that Senior Eight was that two of its members, M. Drew and G. McCarthy, also rowed with the crews which won the Senior Eights championship of Ireland in 1965, 1966 and 1968. Another member, P.J.Duffy, is a brother of Pat Duffy, who rowed with the victorious 1966 crew.

The 1968 Senior Eight and Senior Four (winners of the Blue Riband) comprised the four Garda crews which competed internationally for Ireland. Those crews rowed in the following order:

1967: Winners of Coxed Fours in Loch Lomond. Crew: P.J.O'Connor, T.Walsh, J.O'Neill, W. Quane, L. Redmond (cox).

1968: Senior Eights, in Blessington international. Crew: P.J.O'Connor, G.McCarthy, L.Barron, T.Walsh, J. Muldoon, P.Fitzgerald, P.J.Duffy, M.Drew, T. Ticher (cox).

1968: Senior Fours, in Blessington international. Crew: C.Byrne, T.Walsh, J.O'Neill, W. Quane, L. Redmond (cox).



First Garda crew, 1955 — Front (l to r): T. Casey, J. Killian, B. O'Connor (cox), B. O'Sullivan and J. Callinan. Back Row (l to r): G. McDonagh, P. Prendergast, J. B. Maguire (captain and Coach), M. Harty and T. Brennan.

Maiden Eight championship Crew of 1960, which won with only seven oarsmen. L to R: W. Dunphy, J. Higgins, B. Sweeney, J. Collins, C. Byrne (cox), T. J. Kelly, P. J. M. Casey.



1969: Senior Fours, Monmouth, Wales. Crew: M.Drew, J.Muldoon, C.Byrne, T.Walsh, D.Redmond (cox).

J. Muldoon also represented Ireland in Senior Sculls in 1971, (Castle Semple) while W. Quane rowed for his country in the Coxless Pairs in 1969, at Monmouth, his partner being M. Hayes, who was a member of the Garda crew which won the Maiden championship of Ireland in 1966 and also of the Senior Eight which captured the Leander Cup, in Cork, in 1969.

Garda crews have rowed overseas in the following events:

London Head of River Race—1965 (placed 25th); 1966 (23rd), 1967 (19th), 1968 (28th), 1969 (11th), 1970 (32nd). Henley Royal Regatta—1958, 1964 to 1971 (Senior Eight of 1968 beaten in semi-final of Thames Cup). Cambridge Regatta—1968 (Won Senior Fours Cup). Germany—Frankfort Regatta, 1959. Ostend Regatta, 1969. London—Senior Sculls, 1963 (B.Duane).

A point of historic interest in Garda rowing is that the crew which won the 1960 Maiden Eight championship of Ireland competed with only seven oarsmen, who were: W.Dunphy, J.Higgins, B.Sweeney, J.Collins, T.J.Kelly, P.Clavin, P.J.M.Casey. C.Byrne was cox.

The Garda record of victories in I.A.R.U. Eights championships is remarkable, as the following list shows:

Senior—1965, 1966, 1968. Junior—1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967,

1969. Maiden—1956, 1960, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1971.

Other championships won: I.A.R.U. Junior Fours in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970. Eblana Cup (Irish Sculling championship), 1965 (B. Duane), 1971 (J. Muldoon). The Blue Riband (Metropolitan Grand Challenge Cup, Senior Fours), 1967, 1968, 1969.

Other major victories: Leander Cup (Senior Eights, Cork City Regatta), 1957, 1958, 1965 to 1969. Dublin Head of River: 1959, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969. Clinker Pennant: 1956, 1964 to 1967, 1970. In this event, Garda finished first, third and fourth in 1965 and in 1967, first, second and fifth. Head of River victories were also gained at Lough Erne, 1967, 1969; Derry, 1967, 1969; Drogheda, 1971; Carlow (Fours), 1966, 1968, 1969, 1971.

The following is a list of the Garda Boat Club's Irish Senior champions:

Senior Eights crew which won the 1968 championship (also won the Junior Eights championship of that year): P. Millea, B. Woods, M. Drew, G. McCarthy, T. Lynch, T. Foley, S. Kavanagh, F. Healy, C. Byrne (cox).

Senior Eight crew which won 1966 championship: B. Woods, B. Quane, M. Drew, B. Duane, T. Lynch, Pat Duffy, G. McCarthy, F. Healy, C. Byrne (cox).

Senior Eight crew which won the 1968 championship: M. Drew, P.J. Duffy, P. Fitzgerald, J. Muldoon, T. Walsh, L. Barron, G. McCarthy, P.J. O'Connor, P. O'Connor (capt).



The Crew which won the Senior Eight Championship of 1966. Front (l to r): B. Woods and B. Quane. Back (l to r): M. Drew, B. Duane, T. Lynch, C. Byrne (cox), Pat Duffy, G. McCarthy and F. Healy.



The Crew which won the Junior Eights and Senior Eights championship of 1965. Front (l. to r.): P. Millea, B. Woods. Back (l. to r.): M. Drew, G. McCarthy, T. Lynch, C. Byrne (cox), T. Foley, S. Kavanagh and F. Healy.



Senior Eight and Senior Four of 1968, winners of both championships and comprising four crews which rowed internationally for Ireland. Senior Eight Crew – Back (l to r): M. Drew, P. J. Duffy, P. Fitzgerald, J. Muldoon, P. Carroll (Commissioner), T. Walsh (also in Sen 4), L. Barron, G. McCarthy, P. J. O'Connor and P. O'Connor (Capt). Front Senior Four (l to r): B. Quane, G. O'Neill, T. Ticher (Cox) and C. Byrne.



The Handball champions

CHAMPIONS in embryo and heroes of arenas yet unpeopled—they are as hard to find and foresee as the earth-tipping end of a rainbow. Few are the scouts for tomorrow's talents. Rare are men like Supt. Sean Foure.

Now retired to his native Carlow, Foure discovered Paddy Perry—handball's richest gem.

Perry, a slightly built, but neatly groomed youngster with two superb hands, a wealth of stamina in his system and oozing with courage and enthusiasm was showing much promise in Casey's three-walled ballcourt in Boyle. Foure's 'beat' was 26 miles away in Roscommon town when they met in the late 20s. They became fast friends.

Perry was "adopted" by the Roscommon station party—all fervent handballers. Their newly-erected four-walled alley—it cost £240 in those days — became his bailiwick.

Foure, a strict disciplinarian kept his protege under "ob". There was the occasional "slip off" for a pint. They were very occasional. Hours of training and coaching piled up. Eventually, any rough edges there were faded into the polish that was to delight the nation.

In the summer of 1929, the sinewy "guest" exploded onto the championship scene. Reputation after reputation crashed as he swept to the junior finals in softball singles and doubles. Partnered by Paddy Gaughran, he won the doubles title for Roscommon and the singles title came his way in a delayed seven-game final with Ned Hassett, after Paddy had sportingly refused to

accept a walk-over when the Tipperary man was unable to fulfil the fixture. Later that year, the 1930 Senior singles championship fell to Perry and the legend grew.

Paddy joined the Force in 1931 and went on to establish the still unbeaten record of eight senior softball singles titles in a row before going out to the Kilkenny wonder, John Joe Gilmartin, in 1938. In all, he won 13 All-Irelands, including S.S.D. titles in 1932 and '33 and a senior handball doubles medal in 1936 with his friend and fellow townsman, Garda Paddy Reid.

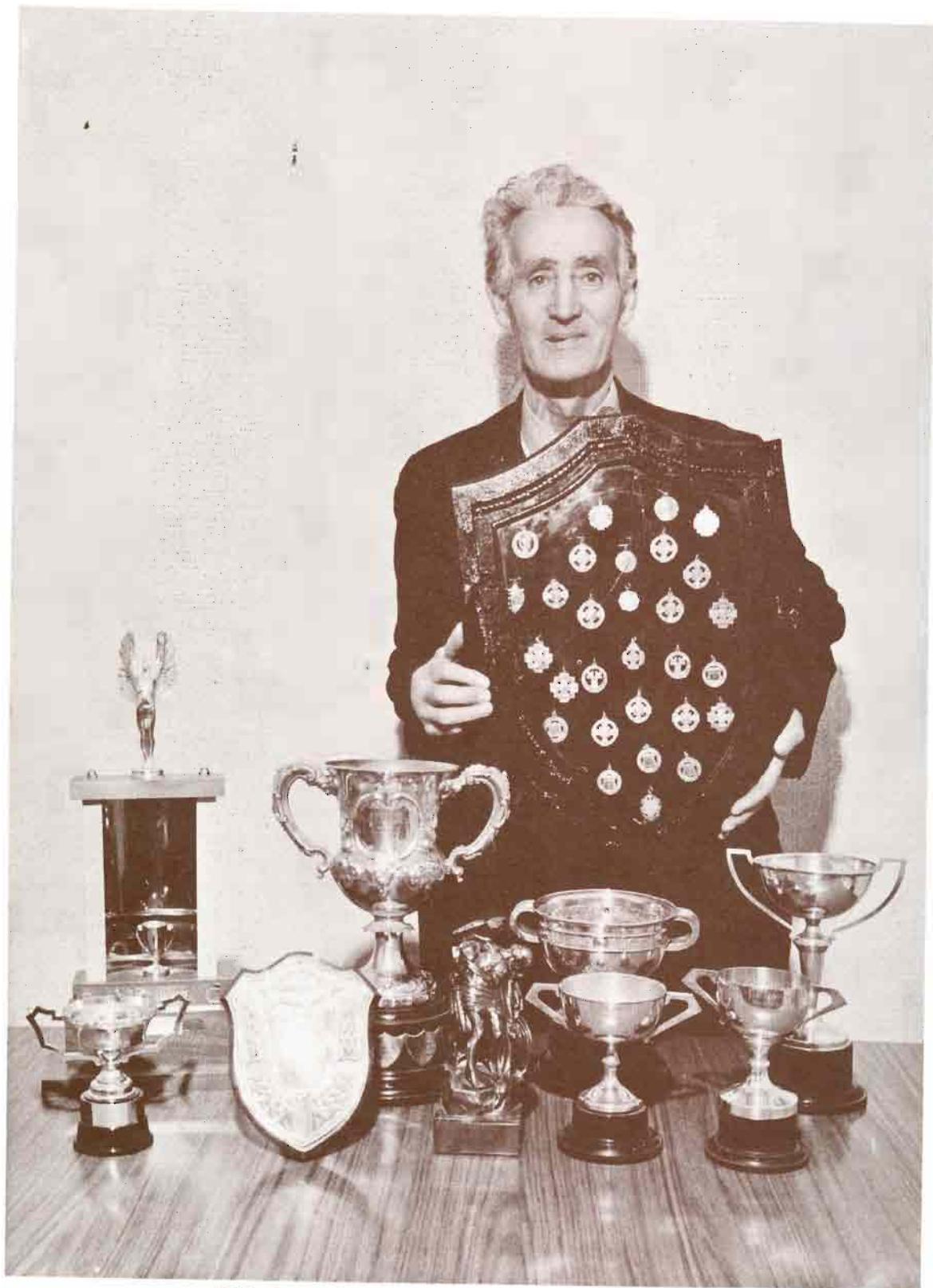
"The winning of the handball championship probably did more than anything to curtail my career", says Perry ruefully.

"We were playing two strong hitters and I was not too familiar with the pigskin ball."

"I made the foolish mistake of discarding the leather strap around my hand and this, coupled with treating the ball with the contempt one would a softball, left my hands a raw mess at the end."

"The sinews in both palms were shattered and, even though I won the softball singles title in the following year, my hands never recovered. I tried a comeback in the Dublin championships of 1942 but the late Larry Roe pipped me in the seventh game."

Paddy's trophy collection races through six Garda championships after he had relieved Charlie Ryan of the honour which he, too, held for six years, the 1932 Tailteann games title, the Countess



Paddy Perry with some of his huge collection of handball trophies.

of Dysart's Ardagh Perpetual Challenge Cup and a wall plaque crammed with tournament medals.

Probably his most treasured mementos are the three Dublin senior championship medals he won on the same day for hurling, football and handball in 1934.

Having won the football title with Garda in the early afternoon, at the insistence of the famed Kilkenny performer Mattie Power, he lined out against Faughs in the hurling game, fracturing a bone in his ankle and a rib. Billed in the evening to meet Peter Berry, later to become Secretary of the Department of Justice, he had himself 'patched up' by Surgeon Ellis who 'warned him off' playing under any circumstances.

On being refused a postponement, the then Depot-based Garda, courageously (or stupidly, as his wife says) faced up to the challenge, beat Berry in four straight games and spent the month following in St. Bricin's Hospital.

On recovering, he went on to win the All-Ireland senior title, collect a runner-up medal in the All-Ireland Senior Football final for Dublin against Galway and be awarded the G.A.A. Golden Jubilee Year trophy.

Paddy was selected to represent Ireland in the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles with Tom Soye, Ned Hassett and Danny Brennan of Kilkenny, but lack of funds halted the trip.

While the cool detachment and staying ability of this superb tactician sets him apart—he retired from the Technical Bureau in John's Road, Dublin on March 17—the Force can look to many other who have won it distinction in handball.

These were the powers of the '20s, Charlie Ryan, of Fitzgibbon St., six times winner of the Garda championships and an All-Ireland medalist in 1927. Tom Soye—rated by many as the greatest hardball player in the country—and Martin Joyce, the 1925 S.S.S. champion.

Tom Soye, a very lightly-built six footer, had one of the most powerful strokes the game has seen. His tosses practically butted at the short line and were virtually impossible to return.

The Inchicore man had a great head for the game. He could read an opponent's intentions with

uncanny accuracy and this helped him coast to six senior hardball titles in a row from 1926 to 1931.

In doubles, he had a splendid partner in former Supt. Terry Reilly, with whom he won the 1927 and '28 All-Irelands. Roscommon-born Gerry Browne, a very neat striker, partnered Soye in their 1930 S.H.D. win.

In this period, Tom O'Keeffe was distinguishing himself in the junior ranks while Paddy Reid carved his name on the honours role in 1934 and 1936. Paddy had a wonderful 'kill' and some delightful strokes. He was a great doubles player and teamed magnificently with Perry.

Martin Butler hit the high spots for Dublin in the '39 junior hardball championships but there was a lull until the great Cavan athlete, Victor Sherlock, recovered the J.S.S. title for the Force in 1949. Then Bill Doran of Blackrock station won two junior hardball medals in 1957 for Kildare.

Of the present crop, Mick Sullivan, of Terenure station, offers the best prospect. Holder of four Minor All-Irelands in hardball and softball, a junior hardball doubles medalist in 1965, this well-structured powerhouse has been knocking hard at the door of senior honours since. He got some comfort last year when he won the All-Ireland senior hardball doubles title.

The Garda record of 43 All-Ireland Handball medals

- S.S.S.: M. Joyce (1925); P. Perry (1930-'37).
S.S.D.: M. Joyce & C. Ryan (1927), P. Perry (1932, '33).
S.H.S.: T. Soye (1926-'31), P. Reid (1934).
S.H.D.: T. Soye & T. O'Reilly (1927, '28), T. Soye & G. Browne (1930), P. Perry & P. Reid (1937), M. Sullivan (1971).
J.S.S.: P. Perry (1929), V. Sherlock (1949), Dick Walsh (1971).
J.S.D.: T. O'Keeffe (1928), P. Perry (1929).
J.H.S.: M. Butler (1939), W. Doran (1957).
J.H.D.: M. Butler (1939), M. Sullivan (1965), W. Doran (1957).
M.S.D.: M. Sullivan (1956).
M.H.S.: M. Sullivan (1956).
M.H.D.: M. Sullivan (1954 and 1956).



Ned Tobin : giant amongst weightsmen

NED TOBIN went to the Olympic Games at Berlin in 1936. Nowadays he looks back with a little regret to an August afternoon of that year when he sat in the stand at the Olympic Stadium and looked down on the world's best discus throwers as they fought out a long battle for Olympic medals.

For at that time Ned Tobin could be counted among the best discus throwers in the world and, given the chance at Berlin, he would almost certainly have qualified for the final.

At the time, however, Tobin was barred from competing in an Olympic Games. He was then a member of the National Athletic and Cycling Association, which had come under suspension from the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and no Irish athletes were permitted to take part in international events.

Tobin never regrets that he made his stand on a principle then, but there is still the sadness that he never had the opportunity of competing in an Olympic Games.

"The Olympics are the top in sport"—he says—"and competing in the Games is the ambition of every athlete. I would like to have done so. It would be a nice memory."

Tobin, a 6'5" youngster from Co. Tipperary, who had joined the Garda Síochána in 1933 at the age of 22, had already made a deep impression on

Irish athletics by 1936 and the evidence was clear then that he was well on his way towards developing into a remarkable all-round performer.

He had moved into a class of his own in throwing the 56-pounds weight, for distance and over the bar, and in the discus he had come within inches of P.J. Bermingham's National record of 151'6½", which, by international standards of the time, was a first-class performance.

For good measure, he was also an outstanding hurdler, a sound performer in the shotput and javelin and well above average in the high, long and triple jumps.

In September of 1936, less than a month after he had returned home from the Berlin Olympic Games, Tobin demonstrated his tremendous talent for all these events by taking the National all-round championship at Killarney with the magnificent total of 5,467 points.

A year later, at Carrick-on-Suir, he retained his title with an even greater performance of 6,136 points, a total that has never since been exceeded in this particular competition.

In a remarkable career that spanned 30 years—he won a Tipperary championship in 1964 to add another to the first one he had won in 1934—Tobin collected a record tally of county, inter-county, interprovincial and National titles.

And of his 34 National championship medals,

Tobin remembers most the five he won at Thurles in 1939. For he collected those five on the same afternoon.

One brought him the National record of 152'6½" in the discus and the other four were in the two 56-pound weight events, the shotput and the 120 yards hurdles.

Then, of course, there were his world records. He raised the 56-pounds without follow mark from Dr. Pat O'Callaghan's 27'10" to his final world mark of 29'1¾" at Ballina in 1943.

And in throwing for height, he smashed Pat O'Donovan's world best of 15'2½" with a superb effort of 15'5", also at Ballina on that afternoon.

It is more than likely that Ned Tobin would have set far greater records but for the fact that with the coming of the 1940s, he eased off considerably in competition.

In gracious fashion, he decided then that his clear supremacy in the 56-pounds weights and in the discus might be a deterrent to youngsters in these events and so he began to limit his appearances in the National championships.

Even with that, Tobin was still a world-class performer in the discus in 1948 and could quite easily have made Ireland's team for the Olympic Games in London that year.

But there was still the matter of a personal principle. Over the years, he had remained loyal to the National Athletic and Cycling Association, and in 1948 they were still under suspension by the I.A.A.F., and so he did not make the trip to London.

But Olympics or not, Ned Tobin, still enthusiastically dedicated to athletics, will endure as one of the greatest all-round sportsmen in the history of the Garda Síochána.



BELOW: Mick Reid, Ireland's light-middleweight representative at the Rome Olympics of 1960. LEFT: Tony Ruane, winner of the middleweight title in the European Police championships of 1967 and 1969.





Legendary Larry Stanley

THE essential quantity in any fame is that it must endure. On that count, Larry Stanley is truly famous. For, even today, almost half a century after his finest achievements, this gentle son of Co. Kildare, is still one of the lasting heroes of Irish sport, still the epitome of the gracious, clearcut champion.

Stanley, nowadays a striking, impressive figure in his middle seventies, will always be remembered as the towering, unassailable personality of Garda sport and, of course, he deserves to be.

Had he been of a later era, had he been at his most exciting promise in a time when modern coaching, modern facilities and modern amenities were available to him, Stanley might well have become one of the world's greatest sportsmen.

As it was, in the severe limitations of his own time, a time when the world was still recovering slowly from the impact of the first World War, he became the champion that everyone wanted to be—the elegant, corinthian hero of a time when the world needed heroes.

He was the most stylish Gaelic footballer of his era, a winner of All-Ireland medals with his native Kildare and his adopted Dublin, and on the athletic field he was the superb high jumper and brilliant all-rounder.

Ireland conferred the supreme accolade on him when he was named to be the first man to carry the green, white and orange flag of our new nation into the Olympic Games of 1924 at Paris.

And only a little bad luck prevented him from

becoming the first Irishman to win an Olympic medal under that flag.

For just a few short weeks after those Games, in a high jump competition that is now part of Ireland's sporting legend, he finished within an inch of the Olympic champion, Harold Osborn, in Croke Park.

Everyone but Osborn and Stanley had been eliminated from the contest before 5'10" was reached.

Then, inch by inch, they climbed together from 5'10" until the bar was placed at 6'4½". Osborn just made it and Stanley's best was later measured at 6'3 1/8", which, to this day, remains as the finest jump by an Irishman at Croke Park.

Croke Park, of course, saw some of Stanley's other magnificent hours. He was there to lead Kildare to an All-Ireland football victory and he was there, too, to share with Dublin in their All-Ireland triumph of 1923 — played in 1924.

Yet, he recalls his greatest football thrill of those years as the game that Kildare did not win—the drawn All-Ireland football final of 1926.

"That game with Kerry was, for me, the pinnacle of all my years in football" he says. "If I had never won an All-Ireland medal, the memory of that game would be a very adequate compensation."

When Stanley won his All-Ireland medal with Dublin in 1924, it gave him a very personal Triple Crown. Earlier, at Croke Park, he had taken the Irish high jump title and just before leaving to



Champion athletes of the 'Twenties: From left — Bill Shanahan, George Magan and Larry Stanley.

compete in the Olympic Games at Paris, he had taken the British A.A.A. title at London's Stamford Bridge.

Against the top European high jumpers in London, Stanley, although he had never previously jumped from a cinder take-off—and, indeed, spent most of the afternoon filing down the spikes on his jumping shoes, ended up in a tie for first place

at 6'1" and subsequently won the jump-off against Willis of the British Army.

When Larry Stanley retired from sport he did it quietly and graciously, without fuss, without fanfare.

But the aura of a golden decade in his sporting life never faded—and Ireland never forgot.

Two years ago, he was elected to "The Hall of Fame" and who better ever deserved it?.



Mick Gill

Mick Gill's unique double

WHEN MICK GILL walked off the pitch at Croke Park on Sunday, December 14, 1924, at the end of an entertaining all-Ireland hurling final against Galway, his native county, he had, without realising it at the time, collected a unique record in the history of the G.A.A. and Gaelic games.

He had, in fact, become the first man — and, indeed, still the only man — to win all-Ireland senior hurling medals twice in the one year.

And to add piquancy to that extraordinary feat, he had won his second medal playing against the county with whom he had won the first just three months earlier.

Gill, one of hurling's greatest personalities in the era between the two World wars, was one of Galway's outstanding men in the early 1920s, and played a major role in taking his native county into the all-Ireland final of 1923 against a fancied Limerick side.

Galway, who had earlier beaten Kilkenny in the all-Ireland semi-final, really upset the odds in the final with a magnificent victory by 7-3 to 4-5.

These, of course, were unsettled days in Ireland and the championship programmes, often run under difficult circumstances, were sadly in arrears.

And it happened that this 1923 final was not played until September 14, 1924.

During the running of that 1923 championship, Mick Gill, then a member of the Gardai in Dublin,

had declared for Dublin in the championships of 1924.

Dublin had swept all before them in Leinster and just two months after he had won his all-Ireland medal with Galway, he qualified for his second final that year, when Dublin swept Antrim out of the race with an effortless semi-final win, 8-4 to 3-1 at Croke Park.

On December 14, Gill took the field at Croke Park against his native Galway and turned in a superb performance as the metropolitan side held out to win by six points, 5-3 to 2-6.

That brought him his second all-Ireland senior hurling medal of the year — an achievement which now ensures him a place all of his own in the colourful history of Gaelic games.

But there was to be another wonderful day in Mick Gill's career and it probably brought him a greater satisfaction than those two medals of 1924.

In 1927, then with the all-conquering Garda Hurling Club, he took over the captaincy of the Dublin side which won out in Leinster and qualified to meet Cork in the all-Ireland final.

Dublin won by 4-8 to 1-3 and, even today, that victory is recalled as one of the major upsets in the history of all-Ireland finals.

Mick Gill remained in hurling for many years and before he finally called it a day, he had added six medals to his collection, the last with Faughs in 1930.



Ras Tailteann champions . . . Ben McKenna (left), winner in 1959 and Brian Connaughton, who won the event in 1969.



Paddy Colleran

Sligo's gift to football

"GREAT" is a word too often abused in sport. There can be little doubt, however, that it is a fitting description of Paddy Colleran, a man whose Gaelic football powers earned for him inter-county honours with six counties, as well as Tailteann Games awards, and interprovincial jerseys with three provinces.

Few players, in fact, packed so much football and such a wide variety of teams into a career, as this talented son of County Sligo, who retired with the rank of Chief Superintendent some years ago and now resides in Dublin. In the 'Twenties and early 'Thirties, he paraded his skills around midfield in a majestic style that was not matched by many—and that was an era of some superb footballers.

Just two of the famed names that immediately spring to mind from those years are Con Brosnan and Bob Stack, of Kerry, whom Paddy Colleran rate as the greatest outfield players he met.

So, it could be fairly said of Colleran that he is the greatest footballer never to win an All-Ireland medal. Indeed, with better fortune he might have landed that elusive award early in his career.

In 1923, he and three of his brothers were prominent in a Sligo team that beat Tipperary in the 1922 All-Ireland senior semi-final but the Western county did not contest the final! Instead, following an objection, Sligo and Galway met in Connacht; Galway won that clash and then lost the All-Ireland final.

Five Colleran brothers in all played with Sligo in the 'Twenties. They were also all mighty

bulwarks of the Curry club and Paddy, himself, collected five county senior football medals in a row with the club in those years.

He was back in the All-Ireland senior championship scene in 1928, when Sligo won what now ranks as their only official Connacht senior title, and lost the national semi-final to Cavan. Three years later, Paddy, ironically enough, was in the Cavan side that lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Kildare.

His interprovincial career was a truly remarkable one. In 1924, while stationed in the South, he played with Munster in the Tailteann Games. In 1927, he was the only Sligo man in the Connacht team that lost to Munster in the first Railway Cup final, and in the following years he made a number of appearances with Ulster.

Nor does the representative story end there. In the second Tailteann Games, in 1928, Paddy was a team-mate of such as Johnny McDonnell (Dublin), Con Brosnan (Kerry), Jim Smith (Cavan) and Martin O'Neill (Wexford) in the Ireland team that beat America.

This varied representative career is matched by Colleran's appearances on the inter-county and the club fronts. In addition to Sligo, he distinguished himself in the county jerseys of Galway, Mayo, Tipperary, Waterford and Cavan. A Sigerson Cup player with U.C. Galway, he added Waterford and Cavan county senior championships medals to his Sligo county awards, and also gained League mementoes in Dublin, with Garda.

Paddy captained Garda for a number of years in Dublin, at a time when the club had some great players and great teams. Under his captaincy, Garda figured in some stirring battles with all-powerful O'Tooles selections.

This extremely dedicated and enthusiastic performer also found time in his active career to swing a hurley. During a period of duty in Dungourney, in Cork, he played competitive hurling.

Colleran had a preference for midfield in football, but he also played in defence and attack. He regards Fr. Peter Harte, a former Sligo player, as the best full back he met.

His great career came to an end in 1933. Finding, understandably enough, that his old sharpness was just not as razor-edge keen as formerly, he decided that it was time to hang up his boots.

There was a strange twist to his retirement. After his very last game, his football boots were stolen! Colleran had used the same boots for some years.

One wonders if the boots were stolen for their commercial value, or if they were secreted away by an ardent, or over zealous, admirer, as souvenirs tangible links with an outstanding player. Whatever about that, this remarkable career of a truly remarkable player is probably best summed up by Paddy himself as he reminisces about past events: "I spent my whole life playing football."

But then, this brilliant ace from the West coast had a great love of the game. There was certainly a tradition of football in his family. However, Paddy himself was so attached to the game that, as he put it, "I was always sorry when any match was over."

Not surprisingly, he was dedicated in training. He spent many hours with a football, outside of the competitive scene, and he recalls that seven-a-side and five-a-side matches had the Curry players sharp and extremely fast runners during the club's great era of five Sligo county senior championships in succession.

Colleran holds a great admiration for the many men who worked tirelessly behind the scenes during his years in the game. Men like the late Tom Kilcoyne, for many years secretary of the Sligo County Board, and also of the Connacht Council, who spared neither time nor effort to keep the teams going and who frequently put their hands into their own pockets into the bargain to meet the running expenses of the sides.

"These are the people you should be writing about, not me," says the modest Colleran.

In these days when substitution is such a feature of nearly all field games, the former great recalls that in his time it was almost regarded as a disgrace for a player to be taken off the field.

He also looks back to the time when we had a sideline throw, or throw-in. It is more than a quarter of a century now since the throw-in gave way to the sideline kick, and Paddy acknowledges that many great points have been scored from sideline kicks. Over-all, however, he feels that the throw-in allowed for greater strategy.

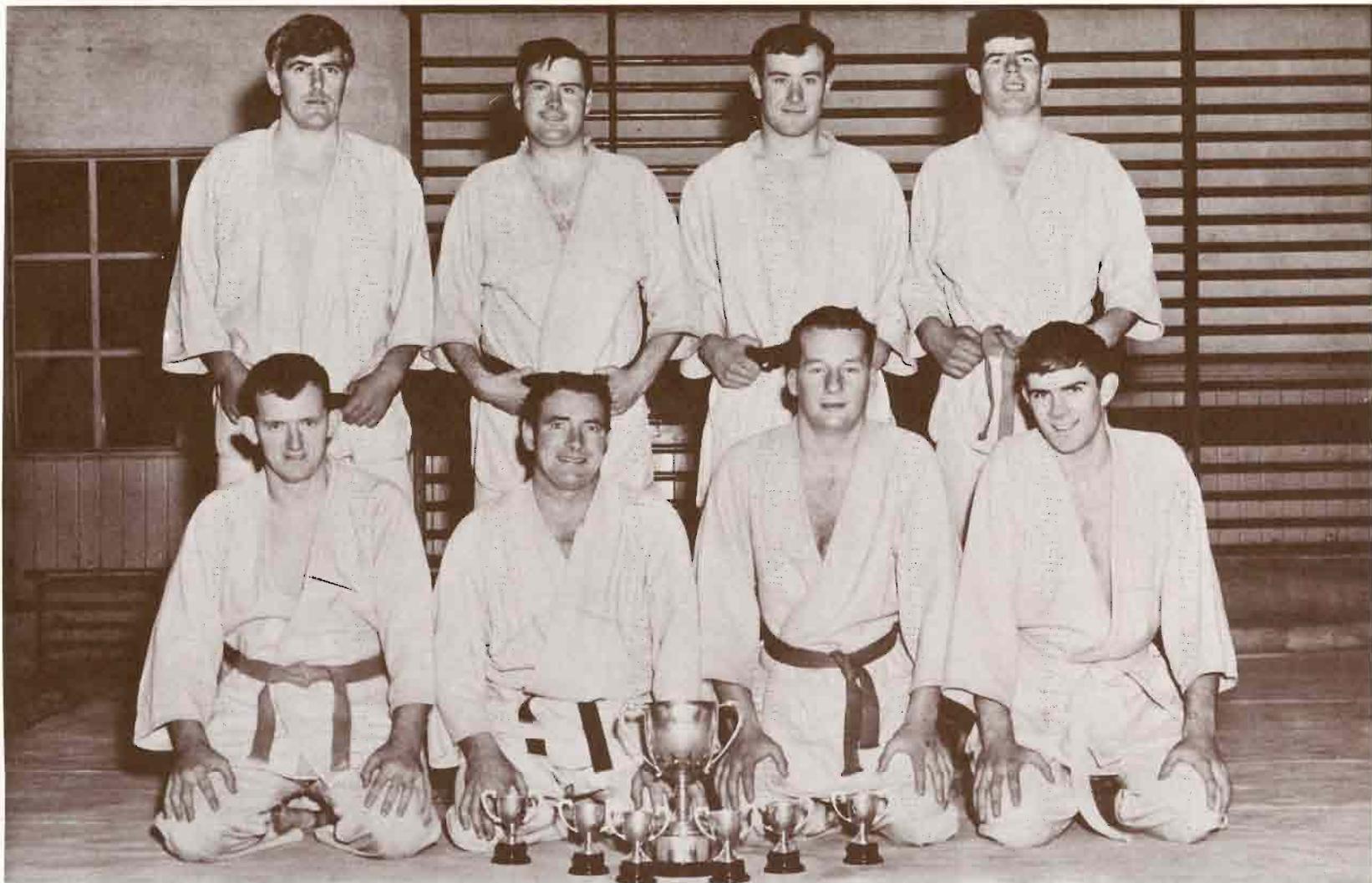
He is a keen supporter, too, of the palmed pass, which was abolished in 1950.

The famed Sligo man, who also made his mark in handball, is a regular attender at Croke Park and he takes a keen interest in the affairs of the Sligo county side.

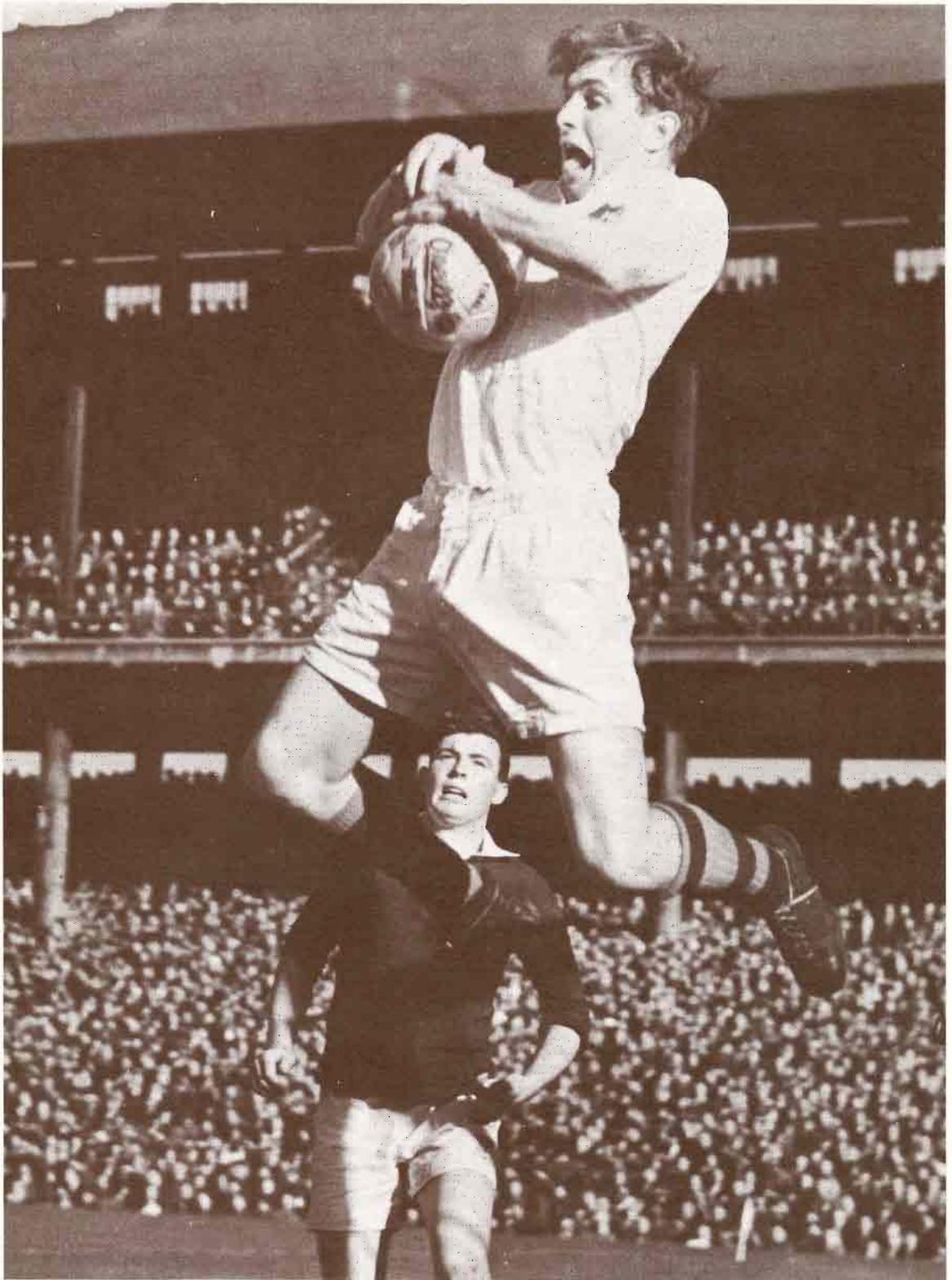
He has been active on the social side of affairs and was one of those who framed the constitution of Club na nGael, the G.A.A. Social Club in Dublin.

Nor does the range of achievements of this unusual man end there. At his lovely home in a Dublin suburb will be found impressive evidence of his artistic talents in the many splendid paintings in which he has captured nature scenes and places of local interest to excellent effect.

A man apart, then, in many ways, that's Paddy Colleran, and a man whose outstanding football career will ensure that he will always have a very prominent place in any gallery of greats of the game.



The Garda Judo team which won the National club championship of 1970: BACK (l. to r.) – Martin Timlin, Tom Dempsey, Kevin Bruen, Tom Walsh. FRONT – Gabriel O'Malley, Charlie Hegarty (civilian coach), Jude Murphy, Adrian Spillett. The Garda Judo Club was formed in 1964.



Paddy Prendergast, the great Mayo full-back, won All-Ireland medals in 1950 and 1951.



John Morley (Mayo)



Paddy Harrington (Cork)



Willie McGee (Mayo)

Last but not least . . .

TOMMY SANDS of Galway gained an unusual distinction in the 'Sixties. He won substitute's medals with that brilliant team which took three All-Ireland football titles in a row – 1964, 1965 and 1966. In the meantime, of course, he often donned the maroon jersey and played many outstanding games in defence.

Another great player who had to be content with a substitute's medal was the Cork hurler, Terry Kelly, – a reserve on the side that beat Wexford in the All-Ireland final of 1954. Ironically, Terry was a member of the side which lost the All-Ireland final to Wexford in 1956.

Also worthy of mention are two splendid backs on Cork football teams of the 1950s, – Paddy Driscoll and Paddy Harrington. Both won National League medals with their native county. Both played Railway Cup football for Munster and for Ireland selections against the Combined Universities – the former in '53, '54, '57 and '58 and the latter in '57. Paddy Harrington had nine seasons on the provincial team – a remarkable achievement – and Paddy Driscoll, for many years Cork's representative on the Central Council of the G.A.A. is now a Trustee of the Association.

Another outstanding Cork footballer in the late 'Forties and early 'Fifties was Clifden-born Con McGrath, who won Railway Cup medals with Munster in 1948 and 1949 and a National League medal with Cork in 1952. He also played for the Ireland team against the Combined Universities on three occasions – 1950, 1951 and 1952.

Other members of the Force who played for Ireland Selections between 1950 and 1962, when the series was abandoned, were: Tom Langan (Mayo), '51, '52, '53, '54; Mick Higgins (Cavan), '51, '52, '53; Frank Evers (Galway), '57, '60; Jas. Murphy (Kerry), '51; Eric Ryan (Cork), '58 and Greg Hughes (Offaly), '60.

George Comerford of Clare has a special place in the annals of Garda sportsmen. He has the distinction of being the only non-Kerryman on the victorious Munster Railway Cup football team of 1931 and was a member of the Ireland selection for the Tailteann Games in 1932. He also won a Railway Cup medal with Leinster in 1935 and during his career played for four counties – Clare Louth, Dublin and Kildare.

Jim Clifford played for Kerry in the 1944 final against Roscommon; Frank Doris played for Longford; Willie Hogan and Willie Walsh won All-Ireland intermediate hurling medals with Carlow and played for Leinster in the Railway Cup; Eamonn Casey was a fine hurling forward with Limerick; Noel Colleran (Galway) is still one of the best backs in football; Danny McHugh, Denis Connolly and Gerry Henry have been prominent Sligo footballers, while Brian Cooney (Dublin) and Gus Lohan (Clare) are top-class hurlers.

In rowing, Tim O'Brien and Jack O'Driscoll helped Neptune win the Leander Cup in the early 1930s and Mick Horgan was also an oarsman of repute with that club before the Garda Boat Club was founded.

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Buíochas

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