



THE  
**EMMET**  
**REVIEW**

— — — — —  
PUBLICATION OF THE  
CUSHENDUN HURLING CLUB

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## EDITORIAL

The Editorial Committee of the Emmet Review was pleased with the reception accorded to their last publication. In fact the demand was so great that we had to do a reprint.

Issue No.4 is enlarged yet again and there is plenty of material for those not solely interested in the affairs of the Hurling Club. Inevitably however, there is extensive coverage of our successful year. We make no apology for this – it has been a long time since we had an opportunity to blow our own trumpet – let's hope it is not as long again.

In this issue we include two poems by local Glensmen – one by the famous Dan McGonnell, and other by Alex McGavock, who was not so well known, but was nevertheless a genius who should be remembered. We do this as part of our policy of preserving the writings and memories of our own people.

We would like to thank those who made these poems available, also Jimmy Irvine, one of the leading historians in Co. Antrim, for writing us an article about the home of the Emmets – Liganarraget. In fact to all our contributors, we express our thanks, not least those who typed, stapled, and generally helped in this production. We hope all our readers have as much enjoyment in reading this magazine as we have had in producing it.

To raise funds we are organising a 20-week draw for £100. The weekly subscription will be 25p and we look forward to your support.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The first event of the year was the A.G.M. held on 11<sup>th</sup> March. There was a fairly good attendance. The main business was the reformation of the Club Committee, and out of the discussion the following was decided. The committee of the Club would consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Team Manager, the Captains of the senior, junior and minor team and 2 other members elected by the Convention. The result of the elections were:-

Chairman: Hugh O'Hara  
Vice-Chairman: Seamus McNeill  
Secretary: Malachy McSparran  
Treasurer: John Blaney  
Team Captains: Dan McKeegan, Sammy McGreer and  
Gerard Scally  
Team Manager: Danny McQuillan  
Selectors: Seamus McNeill and John McKay  
2 members elected: Turlough McKeegan and Fred McCormick

Altogether during the playing season the Committee met on 11 occasions in one or other of the 2 hotels. At this point we would like to thank Randal McDonnell and Mary McAllister for making their premises available. The meetings were well attended and the affairs of the Club were better run this year than ever before. For this, chief credit must go to the enthusiastic Committee.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April, with an away match against Carey, the League campaign began. This was the start of what for the Emmets must have been their best ever season. In the 14 League matches a fantastic total of 69 goals and 127 points were scored. In the 3 matches in the intermediate championship a total of 20 goals and 43 points were recorded. One match was lost in the League – a narrow defeat by St. Galls in Shaws Road, and at the same venue we dropped a point to St. Pauls. Despite all this the League race was only decided on the last Sunday of the season. This was because we were chased all the way by Glenarm and St. Galls.

Highlights of the season must surely have been the games with Glenarm. The first meeting was in Glenarm and our victory there was perhaps the most magnificent of the year. For one thing, it was almost unheard of, for any team, never mind Cushendun, to beat the Glenarm men on their own ground. This was a match which we could well have been expected to lose. It was a tight encounter from beginning to end, with Glenarm taking an early lead but Cushendun coming back in front. A late goal by Glenarm after an excellent build-up looked to have given the points to Glenarm but Liam O'Hara picked up an opportunistic goal in the last minute to snatch victory over us.

The League Cup was presented by Jim McClements, North Antrim Chairman, and the medals for the League and Championship by Frank Smyth, Secretary of the County Hurling Board.

Also this year the Senior team took part in the Feis Cup where the eventual winners, Dunloy, gave us a sound defeat. It shows us just how much we will have to do to hold our own next year, in the top grade.

Cushendun B team had a moderately successful season, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 3. The team had a good start to the season but a change of policy by the Selection Committee weakened it somewhat. Otherwise they would have finished better. This change of policy was the decision not to play any of the Senior pool in the B team when we had 2 matches on the one day. All efforts were to be concentrated on winning Division 2. The B team did have a good run in the Feis Cup (Junior) beating Dunloy B and Ballycastle B. They then met Glenarm Seniors in the semi-final and almost pulled off what would have been the shock of the season. In the Junior championship, we were beaten by the eventual winners, Dunloy, in the first round.

The minor team did not have a very successful season with only one win to their credit – a home victory over Carey. In the championship Loughgiel beat us on a very wet and windy night in Ballycastle. It seems that the replacement material in Cushendun is getting scarce.

## RESULTS

### All Co. League Div. 2

Carey 1-2	Cushendun 2-13
Cushendun 3-17	Carey 3-2
Cushendun 10 -8	Randalstown 2-3
Randalstown 4-4	Cushendun 4-5
St. Pauls 2-5	Cushendun 2-5
Cushendun 9-6	St. Pauls 2-3
Cushendun 6-9	Ardoyne 5-6
Ardoyne 4-0	Cushendun 4-10
Cushendun 13-4	Gael Uladh 0-4
Gael Uladh 1-4	Cushendun 8-5
Glenarm 2-8	Cushendun 3-8
Cushendun 3-12	Glenarm 2-5
St. Galls 3-6	Cushendun 1-9
Cushendun 1-13	St. Galls 1-8

### Intermediate Championship

Cushendun	6-16	St. Johns	1-5	at Ahoghill
Cushendun	6-15	St. Pauls	3-0	at Glenariff
Cushendun	8-11	Glenarm	3-6	at Dunloy

### Feis Cup Senior

Cushendun	1-2	Dunloy	6-11	at Glenariff
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### All Co. League Div. 3

Cushendun B	5-5	Glenravel	3-8
Glenravel B	5-6	Cushendun B	5-3
Cushendun B	6-3	Eire Og	1-7
Eire Og	2-2	Cushendun B	6-8
Cushendun B	6-6	O'Donnells	1-5
Dwyers	4-7	Cushendun B	1-2
Cushendun B	3-4	Dwyers	3-1
Creggan	2-1	Cushendun B	8-6
Cushendun B	1-0	St. Teresas	2-6
St. Teresas	3-4	Cushendun B	0-1
Glenarm B	2-3	Cushendun B	6-4
Cushendun B	1-4	Glenarm B	1-5

2 "walkovers"      Cushendun B v. Creggan  
                                 O'Donnells v. Cushendun B

### CUSHENDUN ANNUAL SPORTS DAY

This year the Annual Sports were held on a somewhat earlier date than usual, 29<sup>th</sup> July. We were favoured with an excellent day and the largest crowd in years attended. Carey were the visitors in a Hurling League fixture and were defeated but only with some difficulty as Carey were determined to maintain their good record against their near neighbours. Emmets only got well ahead in the last quarter, when the Carey men ran out of steam.

The highlight of the evening was the Annual 7-a-side tournament and there were entries from Glenariff, Dunloy, Loughgiel, Armoy, Ballycastle, Carey, Glenravel and Cushendun. The tournament built up to a thrilling climax which kept the large crowd on tenderhooks until the end. The result saw Glenariff becoming the winners once again, but only after defeating Cushendun in the final which had to be replayed – the first match ending in a draw.

As well as the usual children's competition there was the Tossing of the Sheaf, while on the sideline a Cake Fair and Wheel of Fortune added to the overall scene.

A.C.H.L. DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	Ps	
Rossa	12	11	0	1	22	Cushendun
St. Johns	10	7	0	3	14	St. Galls
Portaferry	12	7	0	5	14	Glenarm
Ballycastle	10	6	1	3	13	Ardoyne
Ballygalget	11	6	1	4	13	St. Pauls
Dunloy	12	6	1	5	13	Carey
Loughgiel	10	6	0	4	12	Tir no nOg
Sarsfields	12	5	2	5	12	Gael Uladh
Ballycran	11	4	1	6	9	
Armoy	11	4	0	7	8	
Cushendall	12	3	1	8	7	
Glenariff	12	3	0	9	6	
Mitchels	11	1	1	9	3	

A.C.H.L. DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	Ps
	14	12	1	1	25
	14	11	0	3	22
	14	10	0	4	20
	14	9	0	5	18
	14	4	1	9	9
	14	4	0	10	8
	14	3	0	11	6
	14	2	0	12	4

A.C.H.L. SENIOR  
RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	Ps	
Rossa	12	11	0	1	22	St. Teresas
Dunloy	12	11	0	1	22	Glenravel
St. Johns	10	8	0	2	16	Cushendun B
Ballycran	11	8	0	3	16	Glenarm B
Portaferry	12	8	0	4	16	Dwyers
Ballycastle	10	4	0	6	8	Eire Og
Loughgiel	10	4	0	6	8	O'Donnells
Ballygalget	11	4	0	7	8	Kickhams
Mitchels	11	4	0	7	8	
Glenariff	12	4	0	8	8	
Cushendall	12	3	0	9	6	
Armoy	11	2	0	9	4	
Sarsfields	12	1	0	11	2	

A.C.H.L. DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	Ps
	14	13	1	0	27
	14	10	0	4	20
	14	9	0	5	18
	14	7	2	5	16
	14	7	1	6	15
	14	6	0	8	12
	14	2	0	12	4
	14	0	0	14	0

## Round-up of the Year in Co. Antrim G.A.A

by Denis O'Hara

1973 was not without incident, drama, jubilation and disappointment. It will be regarded as a milestone of progress and improvement by this club. Winning the Intermediate championship earned Emmets the ticket to senior status ... it could prove to be the springboard that will finally bridge the ever widening gap since the club won the top prize.

A great deal depends on the year ahead. Winning the Division Two league was an even more significant illustration of Cushendun's improving fortunes on the field. It takes consistency and the team's run was only bettered, in hurling, by St. Teresa's who won Division Three without losing a game in 14 outings. Rossa took the other league honours ... both Division One and the Senior Reserve division. They lost one game in each section.

Probably the high feature of last year's inter-club clashes was the mixed fortunes of Ballycastle. They swept the boards in the juvenile competitions winning the McMullan Cup, the U-14 and the U-16 leagues. Cushendun lifted the minor league title, the Division Two Feis Cup by Glenarm and the senior by Dunloy.

Glenarm's success slightly compensated for their Intermediate loss to Cushendun. The senior event lost a substantial slice of the annual glamour and respect attached to this competition.

The starting time dispute led to the final not taking place on the day it should. By not playing on Feis Sunday Dunloy and Loughgiel sorted out the title at a later date. But by then the final had lost its appeal. Steps should be taken to make sure this unfortunate happening does not occur again ... Otherwise the big day in North Antrim hurling will slip into obscurity.

Back to Ballycastle ... beating champions Rossa in the semi-final at Dunloy was one of the best performances of a team last season, or any other season for that matter.

But it was an illusion. McQuillan's were unable to reproduce similar rhythm and lost by one point to St. John's. The moral in the story is obvious.



St. John's proved the point ... matches are not won until the final whistle. And while they fielded some expert players this result must enter the history books as the great "con" trick of the Seventies. Undoubtedly St. John's must be classed as one of the best ever championship clubs to come out of this county.

But the Johnnies later suffered a "Ballycastle". Rated generally as the team most likely in the senior football championship they tumbled to very impressive Rossa at Randalstown.

Nothing is predictable ... next it was Rossa's turn in the football league. Lamh Dearg upset the applecart and St. John's slipped into front place.

Division 1B football provided St. Teresa's platform to display their great potential. They romped through 13 matches undefeated. Second placed were Ahoghill while Dunloy took Division Two following their tremendous performance in the junior championship.

Another favourite tumbled here and Dunloy moved back into the senior championship after a 30 year lapse. They defeated St. Malachy's at Randalstown. They made it a double beating Dwyers in the junior hurling final.

Ballycastle took the minor crown beating St. Gall's and St. John's retained the U-18 football title. Dunloy were on the receiving end on this occasion.

The Hurling Board gained a new boss ... Joe Duffy of Sarsfields. Chairman Seamus Clarke decided to retire and this club joins the rest of the county in thanking Seamus for his unstinted devotion to the Association.

## ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN N.E. ANTRIM IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

by

John O'Neill

Before 1831 no single body in Ireland, state or otherwise, was responsible for elementary education. It depended on the energies of private individuals and various societies, e.g. The Society for the Education of the Poor, The Society for Discountenancing Vice, London Hibernian Society and others that we need not concern ourselves with. With the exception of the Society for the Education of the Poor, these were first and foremost religious societies and their aims and tenets were unacceptable to the majority of the population. As a result their schools were attended by quite a small percentage of the total school-going population of this period.

The Society for the Education of the Poor, however, made an honest effort to provide education for all children regardless of their religious beliefs. The Commissioners of Education in 1812, pleased with its aims and efforts in this field, proposed a national system of education based on this Society. A Parliamentary grant was made to it and it gradually became known as the Kildare Place Society. Its aims were to assist by grants, schools already in existence and also with the establishment of new schools.

The first official record of schools in this area is contained in a Government Report, Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry 1824-26. It has listed all the schools throughout Ireland connected with the Kildare Place Society. There were three such schools in this area.

At the time of the inspection, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1824, Cushendun Male and Female School was being built, Glendun School was being built. The exact location of the latter school is not given but I'm told that it was probably near the site of the present school in Kinune. Brochas School was not in operation when the inspector visited it. By all accounts this latter school had flourished up until then as it had 100 children on the rolls. It would seem therefore that this was the oldest school in the area. Nicholas Crommelin the landlord is reputed to have built this school to educate the children of his "County Men".

The report does not state the teachers or patrons of any of these schools, although it is more probable that the Landlords such as Cuppage and Crommelin, rather than local Clergymen would have established schools under this society. Very little else is known about these schools although they do not seem to have survived the 1820's as no mention is made of their existence by Francis Turnley in 1833.

In 1824 three-fifths of the school-going population of Ireland were attending Pay Schools or Hedge Schools. These were unconnected with any society but were set up by freelance schoolmasters. There were 2 schools of this type in this area. John McVeagh for a salary of £10 per annum taught a Pay School in Cushendun. It was held in an outhouse and attended by 38 Roman Catholics and 9 Protestants.

Archibald Kane taught 50 Roman Catholics and 8 of the Established Church in a thatched cabin in Dunurgan. His salary likewise was £10 per annum. John McVeagh later became teacher of Lower Dromore National School. These hedge schools are not mentioned in any of the subsequent Commissioners Reports nor by the applicants to the National Schools Board in the 1830's. They probably faded out eventually, unable to compete with National Schools of the area.

In 1831 an attempt was made to rectify the fragmented system of education in progress up until then. The Commissioners had in mind an integrated system of Elementary Education, a programme which was remarkably liberal and far seeing for the period.

Education was to be administered as far as possible under one National Body. In order to carry this out £30,000 was placed at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant. The Board was empowered to make grants to local schools on condition that part of the required sum was raised locally. It supervised the work of the schools, supplied textbooks and later trained teachers.

The original applications made to the Commissioners for grants for building of schools, payment of teachers and equipment, etc. are bound together in County Volumes and held in the Public Record Office N.I. It was from these that much of the following information was obtained.

The first application from this area was made in 1833 by Fr. Patrick O'Neill P.P. Layde and Ardclinis for Glenann School. This letter accompanying the application gives us a picture by no means rosy of the area at that time.

“Gentlemen,

Having lately been appointed to the pastoral charge of this congregation, I am sorry to find that the education of its youth, and indeed those grown to more adult years, was a subject that had been entirely neglected – poor people, through the distance of the school from them and the exclusive system by which the government grant was disposed of (together with their conscientious objections to the Kildare Place Society) precluded the possibility of them availing of its advantage until at present I therefore retained this young man, an excellent teacher, rented this house and made a beginning. I would have built a new house but being about to build a new chapel this summer and as the people are remarkably poor I cannot put them under further expense this season. Allow me in conclusion to solicit that you will pay the earliest attention to the application and as the teacher has been engaged at the specified wages under the hope of receiving an equal sum from your society, I trust you will have to goodness to realise our expectation. In the event of your entertaining this application on receipt of your reply I will send cash for books and stationery which are much wanted. I remain Gentlemen your obliged servant,

Patrick A. O’Neill”

Nowhere in the application is the exact location of the school given. The application was successful and the Board granted the teacher, Hugh O’Neill, a salary.

The next application was received from the most prominent figure in North Antrim, Francis Turnley, sponsoring civil engineering projects in his estates, he was also a patron of education. In 1826 he had built a school at Drumnasole. This very fine Georgian building was connected with the Kildare Place Society and cost £1000 to erect. He also had Lower Dromore School built in this year connected to the same Society. By 1833 he had obtained National status for his Cushendall school and later that year applied for aid for Lower Dromore School. The National Board stipulated that applications which were signed co-jointly Protestants and Catholics would have a better chance of success. The application for the Lower Dromore School was signed by the following:-

Protestants – Edmund A. Kennedy, Patrick Hyndman, Arch. Cambridge, Samuel Boyland, Edward Graham, Robert Williams, William McMullan, John McElheran, James McElheran, Davy McElheran, Arch. McElheran, Charles McElheran, Hugh McElheran, William McElheran, Thomas Savage, Arch. Elheran.  
Catholics – Toby A. McAuley, Patrick McCay, Dan McCormick,

W. McCarthy, Henry McLornan, Arch. Henry, John O'Connor, George O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, Patrick Magill, Dan McCambridge, John McKillop, Arch. McKillop, Dan McGlaghlin, Randle McElheran, James McCay, Arch. McCay, Arch. Hamilton, John McAuley.

The Board granted the teacher, John McVeagh, a salary of £8.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1938 Fr. Luke Walshe P.P. Culfeightrim, applied for school requisites and an annual salary for Cushendun School. This building had been recently rented and the owner lived in one half of the building. There is no information given as to the exact whereabouts of this school. The pupils, exclusively female, were taught by Margaret McHelran and Annie Hamilton. The Board granted a salary and books for fifty.

Glendun School was next to come under the National Board. It had been built by General Cuppage in 1840 of stone and lime and was slated. Part of the building was intended for a teacher's residence. Hugh McCormick as teacher was granted a salary of £8 per annum and books for seventy five.

Fr. Fitzsimmons applied for aid for building a new school in Knocknacarry in 1849. The Inspector in his report recommended that both male and female departments should be built on the ground floor. The Board granted £115.5s. towards the cost of the new building. A thatched house in Knocknacarry was used as a temporary school until the new one was completed.

Fr. John Garland applied for National status for Culraney School in March 1859. It had been built and slated from local subscriptions. The Inspector endorsing the application states "I saw a number of parents of the children all of whom were most anxious that this school would be taken into connection. This is very much required as the nearest National School is four miles distance and the area is sufficiently populous to support a school." James McGrotty as teacher was granted a salary of £20 and books for seventy five.

How did these schools fare under National System? By 1850 two had ceased to function and was withdrawn from the Board. It would seem that Glenann National School was the first to close. There are no official records of its existence after 1833. No mention has been made of it in applications for other schools in the vicinity. There is no mention either of it being struck off by the Board. Neither does it appear in Griffith's Poor Law Valuation of 1861. Surprisingly there is no record of a school in Glenann from 1838 to 1876. We can only assume that if this was so the inhabitants availed of other schools in the neighbourhood – Cushendall or Knocknacarry.

Cushendun Female National School in 1833 had an attendance of 30-40 on average. Fr. Fitzsimmons writes in 1949

“Formerly there was a female National School in Cushendun which was well attended but went down for lack of proper accommodation.

The fact that the building served a dual purpose, part house, part school, was an unsatisfactory arrangement which had not been overcome.

Lower Dromore National School in 1833 had 37 boys and 20 girls on its rolls. However in 1849 Fr. Fitzsimmons writes  
“Lower Dromore has been closed since October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1849 and it is unlikely that it will be open again as a National School.”  
His prediction was correct for Griffith’s Valuation 1861 lists it as “Dromore Infant Free School” and the Powis Report 1870 states that it was connected with the Church Education Society.

John Turnley had quarrelled with the National School Board and Cushendall School was withdrawn at that time also.

Glendun School (Kinune) was struck off in 1852, Cornmaddy Burn in flood destroyed the bridge over the road and damaged part of the school. However it was readmitted in 1853 when the building was renovated and it was under the joint management of Rev. John Garland and Edmund O’Neill. Hugh Dowey who had taught at Garron Point and Ballyverdock was granted a salary.

Knocknacarry Male and Female School, from 1850 onwards, increased its numbers catering for those who would have previously attended Lower Dromore or Cushendun.

The application before the end of the century was made by Rev. P. Starkey, Cushendall. In 1876 he applied for aid for Glenann School. A slated house containing two apartments in the townland of Knockban was rented from the owner, Mr. McAuley, for £3 p.a. Ed McCreanor, school inspector, states in his report of 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1876, “the person that promised the site to the manager and me holds in perpetuity, I believe. An outlay of a few pounds would make it a fair school house of the present building but it is inconveniently situated.” He adds, “several farmers in the neighbourhood all of whom are anxious to have a National School on, or near, the present site. The teacher is fairly qualified and evidently energetic and successful. The attendance is large and there is a considerable area and population requiring this school. The application is very deserving and I beg to recommend grants from 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. and with as little delay as possible. The grant should be considered as temporary until a suitable permanent schoolhouse premise be procured near the public road. Since he is, at the moment, enlarging Waterfoot School he will probably not attempt this house until Summer 1877”.

The teacher, Sarah McAllister, who had served two and a quarter years as monitor in Carnabana N. School was granted a salary. She boarded with the McAuleys of Gruig, but later became Mrs Higgins and retired to Waterfoot.

As to whether the school was renovated we have no official report, but it seems unlikely. Sometime between 1876 and 1899 the school moved down from Knockban to the first house on Glenann Road on the Cushendall side of the present school. The latter was built in 1899.

Hugh McCormack was the first National teacher in Glendun School. He was followed by Hugh Dowey. He resided in Kinune but later he retired to the little cottage by the Glendun Road in Carnamaddy known to this day as Dowey's Wee House. He was succeeded by Master Darragh. Then followed Mrs. O'Kane who lived in the school and kept a cow and some geese. Miss McConnell was her successor. Later she married Frank McAuley of Eagle Hill and went to live in Ballycastle. Miss McGonigle from Toomebridge was the next teacher. She stayed with the McLaughlins of Shaninish. Then came the fourth female teacher in succession, Miss Isabel O'Loan from Glenravel, later marrying Pt. McCormack of Brockaghs.

Pat McVeigh was the first National teacher of Lower Dromore School. He lived at Whitehouse. He was succeeded by Mr. Fintan Doolan. Fr. Fitzsimmons in his application in 1849 for aid towards Cushendall School states, "Mr. Fintan Doolan has been trained at a Model School and has been teaching at Lower Dromore School for a number of years but lately dismissed in harsh and summary manner by Mr. John Turnley". It was about this time that Turnley had broken off all connections with the Board. In any case Mr. Fintan Doolan then moved to the Cushendall N. School.

James Kenny and Mary McAfee were the first teachers of the new school in Knocknacarry in 1850. In 1864 Rose McDonald taught the female department and Fintan Doolan (previously Lower Dromore and Cushendall) was headmaster of the boys' school with John Doolan as monitor. Fintan Doolan is listed as living in Agolagh in Griffith's P.L.V. 1861.

James McGrotty taught in Culranny School when it came under the National Board in 1859. He was followed by Daniel McGarry in 1864.

Finally in retrospect I think it is fair to state that this district was remarkably well off for education throughout the whole of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Before 1830 there were schools connected with the Kildare Place Society and the hedge schools. When the National Schools came into operation in 1833 they gradually took over from the former. Judging from the large number of children on the rolls these were very well supported by the local people. All the evidence points to a great desire for education, the value of which had been recognised by a population undoubtedly much larger than to-day's.

The actual school buildings remained virtually unaltered until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This account is by no means comprehensive. Large pieces of the puzzle are missing for although the Aided Applications are a valuable source of information, the Commissioner Reports give the barest details. However, this may cast a little light on a past of which we can be rightly proud.

“When words of learned strength and thundering sound  
Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around,  
And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew,  
That one small head could carry all he knew.”



## THE DANNY LA RUES OF YESTERYEAR

Until Miss Wilde retired at the end of the 1930s, Knocknarry Primary School consisted of a Girls' School with Miss Wilde, Principal and Miss Healy, Assistant and a Boys' School with Master Doherty, Principal and Mrs. Doherty, Assistant.

Each year the teachers were asked to help augment the parish funds by producing children's entertainments. Miss Wilde's concerts were famous all over Co. Antrim and beyond.

Master and Mrs. Doherty usually produced plays and, as they were very independent, their cast was recruited from their own school – all boys. Once they included girls from the other side of the folding doors. That was for an entertainment on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1917 when Father Joseph Boylan was P.P. Their production for that night was entitled "The Wishing Princess of the Glens". Their children's productions were good but, when they branched into the adult field with their past pupils, they really excelled.

Every winter the cast was picked for a new play and practices commenced with ne'er a lass taking part. Those chosen to play female roles were usually very reluctant to participate, but they daren't "go agin" the Master.

Wee Hugh Murray was ever the beautiful coy heroine and ideal flapper until his legs grew too long for suitable frocks and his feet grew too big for ladies' high-heeled court shoes. Alex McGavock and Jack McCormick were usually allotted the more matronly roles, while Charles and Dan McCormick, Alex McKay, Hugh McGavock, Patrick McKillop and Jim Murray – to name but a few – filled the male roles. These were boys who could compete with the best in all manly games yet they surpassed in the finer art of make-believe.

There was no Parochial Hall in those days, so the folding doors that separated the girls' from the boys' schools were pushed back and a small stage erected at the Master's end of the School.

The whole parish, young and old, from Dunurgan to Dirrha, from Torr to Tieverah turned out on the big night.

More fun was derived from guessing who were dressed as ladies than from the play itself. Yet the acting must have been meritorious, because, after the initial performance in Knocknacarry school, the Dohertys and their players were invited to other parishes as far apart as Carrickfergus and Moneyglass. After their marvellous reception from Father Nolan in Moneyglass, each member returned with a piece of granite from the Lourdes Grotto as a memento.

Father George McKay, P.P. had them in Carrickfergus on St. Patrick's Night, 1929. After each performance the players were right royally treated and once a year the Master and Mrs. Doherty gave a big party for their boys.

Apart from making money for charity, I think the dramatic atmosphere was enjoyed by all concerned, for the winters then would have been very dull without the excitement and hard work involved in each new production.

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### The U – 14 Team

This year Cushendun is entering an U-14 team in the N. Antrim Hurling League. Dan McKeegan, our senior team captain, will be in charge and the matches will be played on Saturdays during the summer. John Blaney, the club treasurer, will train the boys during the week. We ask parents to encourage their sons in this age group to participate. We would also appreciate the help of car-owning volunteers to help transport the boys to away matches; no long distances are involved as all the matches are in North Antrim.

Remember that these under 14 boys will be our senior team ten years hence. So let us prepare now to ensure a successful senior team in Cushendun in the 1980s.

## LIGANARRAGET

by

Jimmy Irvine

Ronald John McNeill (1861 – 1934), Lord Cushendun, stated in his Family Notes that “The field through which the present avenue runs from the Lodge gate to the house, is called Drumadrissoch, and the large field just on the other side of the road running down to the shore, is called Liganarraget.” This, as did all the townland of Cushendun, formed part of what was known as the Ballyterim Estate, first granted by the Marquis of Antrim in 1637 as part of a much larger security against his many debts. By 1675 these seem to have been paid, and in an indenture dated 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1678, we find the “bargained sould demised granted and to farme lett ... the six quarters of land of Ballyterim and the mill” to John McCollum of Clogher (Bushmills) for a term of 99 years at a sum of £250 and a yearly rent of £20. On John’s death the Estate became the property of his son Hugh McCollum of Lamnalary (Carnlough), who was receiver of rents for Lord Alexander, third Earl of Antrim, then residing in Glenarm Castle. When Hugh died in 1710, his nephew, another John McCollum, inherited the Estate. By and indenture dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1733, John sold for £150 the remainder of the 99 year lease to his brother-in-law, the Rev. James White of Broughshane who, in 1715, has married John’s sister, Jane McCollum. Later that year, 1733, White made a fee farm grant of the lands of Cushendun to Lachlan McNeill, who had hitherto lived at Ballyyucan. In this way the lands of Cushendun became McNeill property.

John McCollum’s son, Hugh, inherited the Ballyterim Estate when his father died in 1746. By an indenture dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1761, Lord Alexander, fifth Earl of Antrim, released it to him as a fee farm grant for three lives renewable for ever at sum of £!400 and a yearly rent of £20. On Hugh’s death in 1793, there being no McCollum to succeed, the Estate became the property of James White of Whitehall, grandson of the Rev. James White referred to above, with the McNeills still retaining the sublease of Cushendun.

There are some clauses which, though quite normal for leases in those days, are nevertheless interesting, if only for the quaintness of their rendering. For example, in the 1678 lease, the Marquis reserves for himself "all manner of Mines and Minerals whatsoever with liberty of Ingresse, Egresse and Regresse to dig search for and carry away the same." And John McCollum was obliged to undertake "to plant the number of one hundred oake ash or elme within the space of three years next after his ... being possessed of the premises." Upon the death of McCollum and each succeeding head tenant, "their best beast in name or lieu of a Harriot" had to be paid. In the 1761 lease the grant was of "all that the Six Quarterlands of Ballyterim and the Miln together with the Succon Thirl Grist and Moulture there unto belonging." While McCollum and men had to furnish the Earl "with the number of nine horses and men to attend them for to work them two days yearly as the said Earl his heirs and assigns shall appoint."

A map of "the Estate belonging to the heirs of the late Hugh McCollum in the Barony of Cary" was surveyed by John McCloy in 1789, on the scale of twenty Irish perches to the inch. It shows that the Ballyterim Estate ran along the left bank of the river Dun from Knocknacarry Bridge in the south to its mouth and then northwards along the coast almost as far as Torr Point, and included Cushleake Mountain; in fact from the townland of Barimeen to that of Farranmacallan. On the map not a single building, other than Carra Castle, is shown to lie on the east or seaward side of the road from Knocknacarry Bridge to as far as Tornamoney.

Old Cushendun House is marked in as just west of the road, beside Milltown Burn, while immediately opposite, on the north side of the Burn, in the townland of Milltown, now Ballydam, two water-wheels are drawn, as if to indicate that the old mill was on the left bank. The townland of Cushendun is shown to be boot-shaped, like southern Italy, with the Burn running down the outside of the calf and lower leg, and Old Cushendun House lying on the Achilles tendon. Cushendun Bay lies along the sole of the foot, with the Dun estuary at the toe and Liganarraget forms the heel.

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Can you give us a lift?  
I've just had my dinner.  
Then you're full up ... Any room in the boot?  
Sorry, there's a foot in it.

HENRY PAT (By Dan McGonnell)

You marrying maids and sporting blades  
Who dwell by hill and dell,  
You females all about Cushendall  
Who are on the look-out for men;  
Keep up your hearts, take advice,  
Give up the country brat,  
Look out for moneyed, marrying men  
Like my sporting Henry Pat.

This sporting youth McAuley,  
Just 69 or so,  
Had buried his first lover  
In ages long ago.  
He sold his farm and stocks and crop,  
And bought a sealskin hat;  
Where was the roving bachelor  
As proud as Henry Pat?

Susannah spoke to Henry,  
And said, "Now brother dear,  
Good counsel to you I will give,  
It's seldom I am sincere.  
Look out for youth and beauty  
With pigs and this and that,  
And the Lord might send you, bye and bye  
A little Henry Pat."

"Thank you my dear sister,  
I have already tried that game;  
But youth and beauty will not have  
My polished up old frame.  
I salute all courting ladies  
By taking off my hat."  
But the hairless crown exposes the age  
Of my sporting Henry Pat.

He bought an umbrella,  
Its cost was four and six,  
And up he goes to Mallinaskeagh  
To mash about at Dick's.  
Folks thought he was some landlord,  
Blind George said he was Brett,  
But Mary Dunphy well she knew  
Her true lover Henry Pat.

To be classed with some young Sportsmen  
Old Henry bought a gun,  
And he made the country girls believe  
He was General Judgement's son.  
But the watchful bobbies collared him,  
No one knows for what,  
They took him for a roving Boer  
Disguised as Henry Pat.

He got a box of jewellery  
From a travelling German Jew,  
The Prussian King heard of the Prince  
Who dwelt above Murro.  
So sailing round our Northern shores  
On his grand pleasure yacht,  
He kept his ensign flying  
In honour of Henry Pat.

Proud Henry with his watch and chain  
Looked young as seventeen,  
He would decorate his hairless crown  
Before he would be seen,  
With silver mounted walking stick  
And his old hairy hat,  
No wonder the girls were striving  
About the bachelor Henry Pat.

He looked at fair Glenariff  
And took a scanty view,  
Then skipped across to brown Glendun  
To have a better view.  
Then down right through Dunurgan came,  
The people wondered what;  
Was he the boy they heard about,  
The sporting Henry Pat?

There was a dance in Knocknacarry,  
And the youths did all attend;  
We had a good night's dancing,  
And when jus about to end,  
A young lady came and asked me,  
"Pray tell me who is that?"  
I answered, "He's an English Lord  
And his name is Henry Pat."

But Henry's sporting, spending days  
Were abruptly brought to end,  
An Angel whispered quietly  
That his match the Lord would send.  
He dreaded some ill-looking one,  
Not the Ballyemon cat  
Who stretched her paw and caught her prey,  
First prize, Henry Pat.

I hope the first will be a boy,  
If the Lord will that allow.  
I'd willingly act as sponsor  
And take a solemn vow  
To train him up in poetry,  
I'm sure he'd be no flat  
When his mother would be Dunphy  
And his father Henry Pat.

You'll see a proud old bachelor  
Tottering on his staff  
Who would take no girl to be his wife  
Without a cow or calf.  
Fair females all around the Glens,  
Beware of boys like that;  
Prefer to take for love's own sake,  
A youth like Henry Pat.

I think I will conclude  
With the verses I have penned.  
And I wish them peace and happiness  
In Ballyemon Glen.  
Fair ladies grant me pardon,  
If I have said this or that;  
And I'll rhyme no more till the christening  
Of the first young Henry Pat.



## Fr. John Remembered

by Denis O'Hara

This edition of the Review could not be published without mention of one of the club's most outstanding members ... the late Fr. John McSparran.

The Canon, as he was warmly known in the working class areas of Belfast, was more affectionately referred to in the Glens as Fr. John.

A man of exceptional foresight and generosity, Fr. John never severed his devotion to the Emmets and also to hurling. Not long before his death, at the age of 83, he was seen at club and inter-county matches.

And, during the darker days that this club has experienced, Fr. John offered help to keep the club from dying.

What a pity he did not live to witness one of the finest hours this club has known ... winning the Intermediate title.

A talented player on the early Emmet teams (circa 1911 to 1914) he displayed a natural ability during his days at Maynooth. Fr. John was more than able to match the hurling standards of his fellow clerical students.

An instinctive athlete, his prowess was widely known in the demanding field of long jumping and sprinting.

His lover for sport, in all forms, remained with him. He saw through sport a means towards an end in poverty-stricken areas of Belfast. He found a great wealth of honesty and sincerity in parts of the City such as Dockland and the Markets.

How to keep waifs off the streets and away from a potential life of crime became an obsession with Fr. John. He did not spare himself in efforts to launch centres which still remain monuments to his exceptional gift of communication with the underprivileged.

He was, in fact, a pioneer of the poor on similar lines to Fr. Flanagan of Boys Town fame. Fr. Flanagan visited the fame St. John Bosco club which was founded by Fr. John. The Bosco began in St. Joseph's Parish where Fr. John was Administrator. The premises shifted from time to time. Even numerous fires did not quench a spirit in the Bosco that began with Fr. John.

It was, and still is, a haven for youngsters in the docklands and adjacent areas of Belfast. It produced some famous boxers ... the most notable being Freddie Gilroy who went on to win the British, European and Commonwealth bantamweight titles.

In recent years at St. Malachy's Parish Fr. John revived the old youth club. He spared nothing by way of modern equipment – including a coloured TV, in the vast clubrooms at Gloucester Street. And he rarely failed to make at least one visit per week to see how things were going, particularly the boxing section. His life was one of exceptional endeavour ... a record that should make this club feel proud.

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Oliver Gogarty, lifting his glass to a friend who had a glass eye, "Drink to me with thine only eye".

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I don't know if I like bathing beauties, I've never bathed any!

## CUSHENDUN

What memories does the name Cushendun conjure up? Is it just a village with a pleasant square of attractive houses, a couple of shops and a Bar, or is it something much more? To the native born who live all around the hills and valleys in farmhouse and cottage, it is the place among all others that can never be forgotten.

People from Cushendun who have travelled to the far corners of the globe still hear the waves splashing on the beach, and see in their mind's eye the hurling matches of the past. The Regatta, which brought families to the strand for the day, where relatives met and children got lost and found, and girls flirted and boys knocked the devil out of their opponents at games of strength, just showing off.

The dances in the old school, with its rail up the middle of the floor, and the ould lads singing songs with too many verses; and trying to get the one you fancied to leave you home, and the dog barking when you lingered by the turf stack before going in, and a voice shouting from the house "come in you cur" and you ashamed at your fella hearing such uncouth language from you Da!

Or was it going to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, before everyone went by car, when it was down the pad or across the field by the light of a swinging lantern. In the days when everyone was a known friend, and a fresh killed pig was shared among neighbours, when salmon could be eaten regularly when in season.

Or was it the 'convoy' the night before departure for the States that lingers in the mind? The house so crowded that bags of meal were used as seats, where everyone who could croak sang Comeallye, and where the Four Hand Reel took sparks out of the floor, where tea and oven-hot cake were limitless and a drop of the cratur was not unknown, where as dawn broke and the horse was yoked there was a great silence as the trunk was loaded on the car and the traveller was hugged and blessed and wished Godspeed. Ah, then hearts were sore and eyes were wet.

Or was it the great Glens characters who were never at a loss for an answer – Dan the Duck, Jim O’Neill, Henry Andy, Annie Magee, the late Pat O’Neill who told a tourist on the Big Bridge who asked him where the road led, said that “some people went to America on this road”. There were other remarks made by departed Glenswomen which will not be forgotten. The old woman who was so pestered by people passing her cottage that she threatened to “commit adultery with the hatchet”, and the other woman who said of a family of children who were often late for school that she could hear the porridge glugging in them as they ran past her door.

Maybe it was a day in the mountain that stays in the memory, always sunny in retrospect, forgotten the cold biting rain that stung the face on the long ‘sail’ home, or days in the hayfield, or powling the corn and building stooks. Good times as neighbours were helping and the crack carried the work along.

Or maybe it was a Wake, always decorous to begin with but frequently becoming boisterous as the bottled spirit took over from the departed one.

Present day Cushendun might seem the same, but there are differences – in housing and in farming methods. A man with a scythe cutting a crop is a thing of the past, now a man with a machine can do the work in a fraction of the time; there are few fields of grain or potatoes, everywhere is grazing land for cattle and sheep. There are good houses with piped water, electricity and television, there are dinner-dances instead of barn-dances. On a Sunday in Glendun the river bank is lined with cars, their occupants are fishing. More strangers are coming here to live. They are we welcome to share the beauty of the coast, the hills, the river, the changing colours, the drifting clouds, the wind in the trees, the smell of the turf, but they are not kin with the Glensfolk, THEIR ancestors do not rest in Cregagh, they may contribute, but they can never belong.

KATHERINE DAY

## Dan McCarry Remembers

Dan McCarry of Murlough, now in his 90<sup>th</sup> year and a life-long hurling follower, is in the position of being able to view North Antrim Hurling throughout its entire history. He played at the first Feis, was at the last County Final between Ballycastle and St. Johns and has missed few matches in the intervening 69 years.

The first Feis took place in 1904 and the organisation of hurling teams in the Glens stems from that time. Dan played in the Carey team that beat the Mullagh Sandel team from Glenarm in the first final at Waterfoot Strand to win the Shield of Heroes. This shield was recently restored and can now be seen in Carey Parochial Hall. One of the umpires that day was Roger Casement with whom Dan walked about Murlough many times. Carey had beaten Cushendun in the first round, also in Waterfoot where Dan received a nose injury from Maurice Finlay. Dan is now the sole survivor of that Feis team after the death of James McAllister last year.

Carey was the best Glens team at that time and in 1906 were the first North Antrim team to win the County championship. In the Carey team of that era Dan remembers John Lynn in goals, Dan's brother Pat in the backs as was Master Moore from Kerry who was involved in the organising of the team for some time. Dan himself played at right corner forward while on the other wing was his younger brother Joe, a very accurate marksman whom Dan reckons to have been the best hurler in Carey during those years. The team played and practised in Lynn's Hill which is on the Black Road out from Ballyvoy. There was no training as such, though they practised in the long evenings and always carried a stick around. I was surprised to learn that even though hurls were made locally, a sizeable number came from Kilkenny – an operation more difficult then than now.

Dan remembers that competitions were organised over North Antrim by Dinny Maguire, Dan Dempsey and Joe Cooper who came down from Belfast. At that time the promotion of hurling, Ireland's oldest game, was part of the nationalist drive of the Gaelic League. The North Antrim teams then existing were Glenarm, Glenariffe, Cushendun, Carey and Ballycastle. Loughguile and Dunloy had their birth pangs later, Cushendall's later still, while Armoy came into existence in relatively modern times. Travel to matches was in horse-drawn wagonettes in which, Dan says, the journeys were long with nor shortage of singing and crack. No need to rush home before the early T.V. closedown, and though Dan didn't spell it out, the energy crises were of the kind that could be remedied by stopping on the way home.

Glenarm played in a field on the hill just outside the town and Cushendun in the field where the houses are currently being built (so, folks, read this before the next lot go up!). The Cushendun team then consisted of, among others, Hugh McCollum in goals, Alex McLister, Dan (the Duck) and Tom Hernon, Archie McKay, Big Bob McKay, Pat Keenan, Maurice Finlay and Father John McSparran. Dan says that Alex McAlister was noted as a blocker while, in his opinion, the best hurlers were Archie McKay and the Hernons who learned their hurling down South. Matches against Belfast teams were rare though Dan played against the Seans in Cushendall.

The County Antrim team originated about 1912. Archie McKinley and Dan himself were the two Carey players on an Antrim team who played Cork in Jones Road, now Croke Park. No Cushendun men participated. The team travelled to Dublin on the day before, booked into an hotel but stayed up most of the night enjoying themselves, so that they were in no great shape the next day. How did they get on? Well, Dan says, they didn't; they hardly saw the ball and were well beaten. Shades of '43, or is it the other way round?

Dan still likes to attend matches as much as he can. The standard is better now, he thinks, and he has never seen any player in Antrim to better Eddie Donnelly.

So here's wishing that hurling in the Glens continues to flourish with the same spirit as shown by founders like Dan McCarry whom we hope lives to see the re-emergence of Carey into the force she was, and to see Cushendun lift again the County senior championship.

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### PLAYING POOL, 1973

Dan McKeegan; Mick O'Neill; Patrick McKeegan; Bobby McLister;  
Hugh O'Hara, Terry O'Hara; Tim O'Hara; Seamus Graham;  
Kevin McHenry; Paddy Delargy; Martin McKeegan; Turlough McKeegan;  
Paddy Kinney; Eamonn McLister; Paddy Hamilton; Liam O'Hara;  
Gerard Scally; John Blaney; Paddy McQuillan; Sean McQuillan;  
Sam McGreer; Kieran McHugh; John McKay (Tyban); Al. McNeill;  
Jimmy McNeill; Mark Delargy; Seamus McAuley; James McAuley;  
Dessie McKeegan; Hugh McKeegan; James Farrell; Sean McHenry;  
John Carey; John McKay (Milltown); Connor McQaid;  
Alex Hamiltown; Joe Hamilton; Charlie Graham; Paul O'Hara;  
Terry Mulholland; James McKillop.

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### CONGRATULATIONS

Paddy Delargy on his ordination,  
Terry O'Hara on his marriage,  
Turlough McKeegan on his marriage,  
Paddy Hamilton on his engagement.

Also to Dan McKeegan, Gerard Scally, Kevin McHenry and Mick O'Neill on being picked to represent Antrim.

## Oil and the Future

by J. M. Hughes

The present oil crisis is a short term one with slight shortages of oil, in the Western world, likely to last at most 3 or 4 years. It now seems highly unlikely that oil reaching Western Europe from the oil embargoing Arab nations will be back to the level of production just before the latest Arab-Israeli conflict until at least mid-1974.

A combination of factors, economic and political, make up the long term oil crisis. The more obvious one is that oil will have run out by the end of this century if the world's industrialized countries keep on using it at an ever increasing rate every year. Even if more oil reserves are found than are at present estimated, it is only a matter of time before they are exhausted. The second reason is that the oil producing countries are becoming more reluctant to export more than sufficient oil, the oil giving them the necessary finance to develop their economies at the rate which they desire, without having large surpluses of money left over which when deposited in banks fall constantly in value due to inflation. They now wish to keep as much oil underground where it will increase in value.

Oil is used for a multitude of purposes. It is used to produce fuel for motor cars, trains, aeroplanes, electricity generating stations, central heating in homes and offices and as a fuel in industry. Oil is used directly in the manufacture of plastics, fertilizers and pesticides, to mention a few examples. With the world population rising each year and with the world's under-developed countries becoming more industrialized the demand for oil will continue to increase until large alternative sources of energy are exploited.



Considering that crude oil reserves will be almost exhausted by the year 2,000 what other energy sources are there? The main ones at present are nuclear energy, geothermal energy, solar energy, coal and synthetic oil from coal, and hydrogen.

Nuclear energy is, at present, obtained from an atomic reaction using a nuclear fuel called uranium-235, a rather scarce material. In this atomic reaction a lot of heat is given out. This heat is used to turn water into steam and the steam is used to drive steam turbines which generate electricity. However it is expected that all natural occurring uranium-235 in the world will be almost exhausted by the end of this century. This problem can be solved by building nuclear power stations called breeder reactors. These reactors use uranium-235 which is surrounded by a blanket of material called uranium-238. In the atomic reaction involving uranium-235 tiny particles, called neutrons, are shot at the blanket of uranium-238 and uranium-238 changes into a material called plutonium-239. Plutonium-239 can, however, be used as a fuel in nuclear power stations. This method of generating electricity, at present, looks promising but there is one snag. What is to be done with the large amounts of radioactive waste which is left after the nuclear fuel has been used.

There is another type of nuclear reaction, called fusion, whereas the type of reactions talked about in the last paragraph are called fission reactions. At present this consists of fusing together atoms of a special type of 'heavy hydrogen' called tritium to form a scarce gas called helium. In this process enormous heat is given out. At present nuclear fusion power stations will be in operation by 1990.

Hydrogen as an alternative fuel to oil was mentioned earlier on. Some technologists in the U.S.A. have mentioned the possibility of having the economies of countries relying on hydrogen as the main fuel. Water when it has a direct current of electricity passed through it splits into two separate gases hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen can then be transported in bulk to where it is needed as a fuel.

When hydrogen burns water is formed and heat is given out. However hydrogen when mixed with oxygen can be explosive so it is a dangerous fuel. The explosive nature of hydrogen can be put to good use by using it as a fuel for motor cars. At present defence authorities in the U.S.A. plan to have some military aircraft in their airforce using hydrogen as a fuel by 1980.

Solar energy is another likely energy source in the future. Light energy from the sun can be converted into electrical energy by having light shine onto solar batteries. If this method were used to produce electricity on a large scale, say for a city, large areas of valuable land would be required. To overcome this problem the solar batteries could be floated in space and the electrical energy beamed back to earth using lasers or masers.

Geothermal energy is a form of energy that has been almost completely ignored in the past. Nearly all of Europe could make use of a potentially vast reservoir of geothermal energy that is trapped deep in the rocks of the earth's crust. This energy is in the form of hot water and steam, water having been heated by hot rocks due to the centre of the earth being very hot. The easiest geothermal regions to exploit are those that produce dry steam. A hole is drilled deep into the earth's crust and the steam which comes to the surface is used to drive steam turbines which generate electricity. In other geothermal regions hot water may be pumped to the surface and used to heat large buildings.

Present coal reserves are expected to last 300 years at present rates of consumption. So we shall have a reasonably cheap fuel source for quite some time. It is of interest to note that oil can be made artificially from coal. South Africa has been doing so since 1955 and at present produces 4.2 million barrels a year of her total oil needs of 100 million barrels of oil per year.

We can see that there are many alternative forms of energy sources and several of those mentioned may be used on a large scale in the decades to come. Developing the technology required to bring these sources of energy into prominent use will require enormous financial backing and Western governments will have to realise their responsibilities in this direction if we are to avoid energy crises in the future.

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### FOOTBALL REVIEW

This year we collected four points in the league competition, though we got two of these because Carey failed to field.

The obtaining of the other two points gave us more satisfaction. We beat Armoy with only fourteen men; in fact we played with thirteen men for the first fifteen minutes when "Brass" decided to join us.

From the start it was a-snowing and a-blowing, but this did not deter John Pat from declaring that the match should be played. The combination of the heroics of goalie Ollie Willaghan, the diversionary tactics of "Snowball" and Noel Graham's goal gave us a half-time lead of 1:0 to 0:2. After the restart "Brass" bundled the goalie into the net and Noel Graham sent the ball in after them. Hugh Rice and "Ned" finished the scoring to make us winners by 2:2 to 1:4.

We thank everybody who turned out this season, be they from Belfast, Armagh, Dublin or Glenravel, and we hope they will be back for another go next year.

Brian O'Clough

## CROSSING THE CHANNEL

How many of us have not looked across the channel at the dark blue land rising out of the mist on the other side? Scotland is so familiar to us in Cushendun. The lighthouse on the Mull is as familiar as the street lights in Knocknacarry. It is so near and yet so far. So near because it is a mere eleven nautical miles at the nearest point – so far because of the turbulent stretch of water which separates us from the other side. The reason the sea is so treacherous here is because two land masses are so close and the tide which fills into, and empties out of, the Irish Sea rushes through the narrow passage at a very high rate. It has been calculated, though not by me, that a billion tons of water pour through this passage four times every day, and that half the power that goes to waste there would drive all the factories in Ireland.

Treacherous though the channel may be, it nevertheless remained one of the principal crossing points to Scotland up until about one hundred and fifty years ago.

After John McConnell of the Isles married Marjory Bissett, the McDonnells became the rulers of the Glens and Kintyre. Traffic back and forward across the channel was frequent. If there was trouble in the Glens and the McDonnells needed help in their many wars and battles with their Irish or English foes, they summoned their kinsmen in Scotland. There was no S.T.D. in those days but they had an ingenious way of sending messages. Huge fires were lighted on prominent headlands which were seen clearly across the channel and the Scottish warriors knew to take to their boats with haste.

One such occasion, we know of, was in 1566, when Shane O'Neill was rampaging through the North. As he plundered his way down Glenariff, the Kintyre men were on the water coming to assist the beleaguered Glensmen. As they sailed into Cushendun Bay they saw the McDonnell Castle at Red Bay going up in flames and they had to retire to Ballycastle where they took a stand against O'Neill and incidentally were practically annihilated.

Several years later in 1584, 2,500 men landed at Cushendun to help Sorley Boy McDonnell in his fight against the English. It must have been a truly magnificent sight to see this large force landing in the bay.

After Sir Randal McDonnell became the first Earl of Antrim, affairs in this country settled down but there was still plenty of traffic across the channel. It was in this period that many of the Scottish families who became established in the Glens came over. These included the McAllisters, McCambridges, McLartys, McSparrans and McAuleys.

By the middle of the eighteenth century a regular daily ferry service had been established between Cushendun and Southend in Kintyre. The reason this service developed to become the Larne-Stranraer route of that period was due, not only to the proximity of the two places, but also to the geographical situation of the Glens. At that time roads were practically non-existent and a journey inland from the Glens was an arduous trip on horseback or on foot. It was easier to travel by boat, and so they did. Trade and passenger traffic between Scotland and Ireland flourished. Cattle and horses, wool and corn, were the chief cargoes. In 1812 there is a record of trade in whiskey which was selling for 9/- per gallon in Scotland but was fetching 18/- to 20/- per gallon in Ireland. The thought of whiskey at this price must make many of our readers wish they had been born 160 years ago. As well as the legitimate trade there was also a lot of smuggling, and one of the commodities in which there was a rampant trade was tobacco, especially during the period of the U.S. – England war in 1812. To raise money for the war, American ships would sail into the channel and sell the “mats” of tobacco to the local freebooters. It was brought to the smugglers cave along Layde shore and then to a hole in Dromore Mountain where it was stored until an opportunity arose for getting it transported further inland.

Many famous personalities travelled on the Cushendun-Southend ferry, and Col. Porter of the Argyll Invincible Regiment sent his charge and mule to be transported home, and incidentally the Customs Office at Southend impounded them when they landed. Burke and Hare, the famous “body snatchers”, used the ferry in their journey to Scotland. The opening of the Coast Road was the beginning of the end of the ferry. Just as the lack of roads and easy land communications meant that the ferry flourished, the new roads to Larne, Ballycastle and Ballymena was the beginning of the end of the Cushendun-Southend link, and the service came to an end about 1840. Thereafter trade and communication with Kintyre was diminished until the opening of the Red Bay – Campbelltown service a few years ago.

Forty five years ago a new method of crossing the channel was tried. This was the time when Miss Mercedes Gleitz, a German, attempted to swim across. In the late Summer of 1928 Mercedes arrived in Cushendun and made McBride’s Hotel her headquarters, where she captivated all the local beaux. When the late Mrs McBride, who was organising the attempt, looked for volunteers to accompany the swimmer in boats she had no difficulty in getting them. Indeed many were prepared to swim too if necessary.

Two attempts were made, one of which almost succeeded. The first effort, after days of waiting for suitable conditions, was made in the middle of September. The swimmer accompanied by six volunteers left Cushendun on a beautiful evening with a motor boat belonging to Kennedy of Carnlough and towing a row boat behind. The swim was to start on the Scottish side – this apparently being the easiest way to do it. However, as so often happens, whenever they got across some distance the weather turned rough and they were neither able to swim or even come back by boat. They scurried for shelter to the Island of Sanda where they were now marooned by the storm.

The owner of the island, Mr. Russell, managed to provide hospitality for his unexpected guests and they returned the compliment by helping him to dig potatoes as they waited for the storm to abate. This took longer than expected and most of the original sixteen made their way home by the conventional route to Glasgow and Belfast, until after three weeks there were only four men left, John and Dan McNeill of the Rocks, John Roi and Johnny Hamilton. In the middle of October they finally decided to risk the crossing in the rowing boat which had been towed across. As provisions they took a loaf, some water and a tin of bully beef. John Roi, who had managed to purloin a bag of tobacco, using note paper made cigarettes to sustain them. When they had almost reached Torr the inevitable tide caught them and they were swept up and down the channel. A storm blew up with thunder and lightning and heavy seas and it was dark, but they finally managed to struggle ashore as Loughan below Culraney Chapel at the end of a voyage they never forgot.

The story I like best is about two men at Cushendun, only a year or two ago, who decided to test the performance of their new speed boat. They crossed to Southend in just 25 minutes. When they landed they decided they needed a drink, despite the fact that it was only half an hour since they left the Blue Room. The hospitality of the Southenders and the telling of the story of their voyage, which took longer than the voyage itself, delayed the start of the return trip. When they did decide to go the weather and their courage had deteriorated. They got back alright – four days later on the Campbelltown Ferry with the speedboat safely lashed to the deck.

## THE CUSHENDUN YOUTH CLUB

Randal McDonnell

Our club has now completed its seventh year. During the past year there has been a continued expansion in membership and activities. At the present time the popular games are badminton, indoor football, volleyball, tabletennis and miniature billiards. Unfortunately we have had to reduce our participation in competitions and tournaments with other clubs because of the undesirability of travelling late at night.

Badminton plays a very important part in the club and Saturday evening is now devoted entirely to this game, for which we have an extra coach (Seamus McKillop, Cushendall). Some visiting teams played here this year and the Cushendun team had considerable success. Volleyball is a popular game and since there are two teams of six in each game it fits well into the programme and involves a fair proportion of the members present. For some reason netball and basketball have fallen from favour – next year we might re-kindle interest. Indoor football is a firm favourite although it does not lend itself to a large number of participants if one wished to avoid over-energetic play. Enthusiasm for such things as gymnastics varies and opportunity for such activities as canoeing depends on availability of equipment. We were generously allowed to use some of our own in the future. Tabletennis is always popular. We now have two new tables supplied to us by the Ministry of Education who also supplied a miniature billiard table which is in constant use.

Fund raising is a constant necessity as the Education Authority grant covers on 75% of the cost of such things as rent of the Parochial Hall, club leaders fees, travelling expenses of teams and insurance. Membership fees must necessarily be kept as low as possible so as not to discourage any members.



We thank all who generously supported our Christmas raffle and other fund raising functions. The raffle realised £51. Members also contributed to fund raising by hard work at the sponsored walks; a few members made quite considerable sums. The dance in February, 1973 was a disappointment as there was only £12 profit – we have to thank Miss McAllister who gave us the use of her premises free of charge. She also generously donated the turkey for the Christmas draw.

We have now applied to the Education Authority for a grant to renovate the old Woodwork Room at Knocknacarry. In this we could provide social facilities with television, chairs, table games and a small cooking area for providing refreshments. It might also be possible to revive the handicraft section which functioned in the first two years.

I can remind you that all persons in the parish from 13 to 19 inclusive are eligible and are welcome to apply for membership. There is at present a yearly fee of 50p and a nightly fee of only 3p. We need reasonable numbers so that team games can be enjoyable. When open the club is at all times under the personal supervision of the club leader, John Brogan, who has had special training in this work and is approved by the Education Authority. There is usually also a member of the Management Committee present.

The following are the Management Committee – Mrs.J. Brogan; Dermot McKay; Miss M. McAllister, Bay Hotel; Miss E. Fay, Dunorgan; Miss W. Graham; S. McGreer; P. McQuillan; R. McDonnell. The Committee is responsible to the Education Authority and regular inspections are carried out. Attendance records similar to the school attendance records have to be kept – these and the financial returns have to be submitted regularly.

ADIEU TO ANTRIM GLENS

(By A. J. McGavock)

In Antrim Glens amidst my friends  
I've spent my boyhood days,  
In flowery dales and pleasant vales  
I've joined them in their plays;  
But I feel at last such joys are past  
My mind is on foreign gems,  
In fields of gold my arms I'll fold  
Yet far from Antrim Glens

Oh! sweet Glendun where shines the sun  
Its warm and purest rays  
I've walked your hills from peak to rills  
I've climbed your steepest brays;  
On your bridge so grand where I love to stand  
In company with my friends.  
My name in full is with you still  
Sweet viaduct of the Glens.

Glenariffe too, I've walked it through  
To your mines of iron ore  
By your verdant fields the burden wheels  
Do trundle to your shore;  
From your mineral hills the rolling mills  
Their brightest sparks do send  
To man and boy you give employ  
Rich mineral of the Glens.

To Cushendun I'll yet return.  
I love your tranquil shore  
Through your caves I oft have roved  
In the good old days of yore  
Crannogs Peak I've climbed so steep  
To view your brightest gems  
And to take sight of Scotland  
From the hills of Antrim Glens.

Young friends so kind still bear in mind  
The youth who shared your joys  
The Atlantic foam I passed to roam  
To the shores of Illinois .  
And when I'm sound in slumbers bound  
And dreaming of my friends,  
I oftimes sigh and in fancy fly  
Back to you, sweet Antrim Glens

The Beginning and End of A Line  
The story of the Glenariff Railway

Exactly 100 years ago, the one and only railway to run through the heart of the Glens, was in operation. It is strange that to-day few, except perhaps those who have inquired what the topless bridge across the coast road was for, are aware that it existed at all.

In 1737 an Indenture was made between the Earl of Antrim and Alexander Stewart. This made a grant of land to Stewart but reserved the mineral rights to Lord Antrim. This fact was disputed by a successor of Alexander Stewart, Conway Dobbs, but in 1871 the then Earl of Antrim obtained a decree entitling him to enter Dobb's land to 'dig, search and carry away minerals'. The reason that Lord Antrim chose this period to reassert the rights of his forebears was because this was the time when Iron ore fever had struck the north of Co. Antrim.

Mining had been in progress in Newton-Crommelin and Parkmore for some time past, and the speculators now looked at the possibility of extracting ore in Glenariff. The spot chosen to make a start was in the townland of Cloughcorr.

On 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1872 an agreement was made between Lord Antrim and a number of gentlemen who were to become the "Glenariff Iron Ore & Harbour Co.". The Company was formally incorporated with a capital of £130,000 on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1875. The directors were George Batters, O.B. Shore, J. Beglie and the chairman was W. McCandlish.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1874 a lease (backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1873) was granted by the Earl of Antrim to the Company enabling them to work 'iron ore and ironstone' for a period of 29½ years, on payment of 1/- per ton of ore, to the Earl as rent. The Company agreed to pay for surface damage.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June of the same year an agreement was also made between the Company and Conway Dobbs, who held the lands in Cloughcorr (under the grant already mentioned) giving the Company certain rights and liberties over Dobbs' land on payment of an annual rent.

The ore had now to be transported to the furnaces of Cumberland or Scotland, so the Company decided to build a railway to carry it to the shore at Carrivemurphy, where they also intended to build a harbour. The site was chosen because of the deep water at this point.

One has only to walk along the track of the railway to see what a splendidly engineered and constructed piece of work it was. From Cloughcorr, at a height of 610' it descended with a gradual slope on a shelf cut out of the side of the hill, until it reached the pier. It was 4½ miles long. The Glenariff railway was the first narrow guage line in Ireland and, as it was a private one, did not need Parliamentary sanction.

As well as the railway and pier the Company left three other constructions which are still in existence today. One is the row of houses known as the Terrace which was built for the mineworkers. Another is the Engine Shed, now used as Glenariff Parochial Hall. The third is the viaduct at Greenaghan.

This last structure is undoubtedly the finest engineering feat on the project. It rises 70' out of Altmore Burn and although the timber struts have nearly all disappeared the rest of the stonework remains more or less intact. There is a story told that the driver of the first train halted when he came as far as the viaduct and refused to take it across in case it would collapse beneath him. He was only persuaded to continue the journey when the engineer who had built the bridge took the train over and back across it.

Despite the huge amount of money which must have been invested in the project, mining in Glenariff only lasted about 3 years. There are several reasons given for the failure of the mines, but the most likely explanations are probably that the mines were opened in the wrong place and in the wrong way, and it would have taken much more capital investment to make them viable. The Company probably decided, taking into consideration the remoteness of the mines from the furnaces and the fact that Spanish ore could be imported more cheaply, that the Glenariff area was not worth any further investment. In any case they were probably broke.

Thereafter the trains ceased to run up and down Glenariff, except for one occasion in October 1880. This was when William Traill, a civil engineer from Bushmills, took a group of business men on a run, in an attempt to get them to back a scheme he had to join Glenariff line with the Parkmore/Ballymena route. Despite Traill's efforts the scheme which might have saved the Glenariff railway until the present day never got off the ground and it was officially abandoned by an act of Parliament in 1885.

Previous to this act of 1885 Lord Antrim had secured a judgement against the Glenariff Company in the London Courts for arrears of rent. Under a writ the sheriff of Antrim seized the railway and its properties and they were sold by Public Auction in March 1885. Lord Antrim bought the rails for £683 and left them in position in the hope that he could re-open the mines. The Rolling Stock was bought for the Londonderry and Loughswilly Railway. There was a problem in getting the heavy engines transported to Derry. The pier at Carrivemurphy had fallen into disrepair and the buyers were afraid to risk the heavy engines on it. They decided to ship them from Red Bay pier. The engines were pushed on the road from the White Arch. It was a journey which took longer than any other that the engines had taken. When they joined the L. & S. Line they were known as the "Cushendalls".

The engines and trucks had departed but the line still remained. In 1888 Lord Antrim made an application to be put in possession of the mines as well, and this was granted. At this time he was negotiating with a gentleman named John Hollway, who was interested in re-opening the mines. An agreement was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 1889 by which Hollway was to pay an annual rent of £800 for the mines. He began to fix up the pier and it looked as if mining was about to begin again. However, another problem which was eventually to mean the final end of the Glenariff Railway now arose.

This problem concerned the other landowner involved in the mining operations, Conway Dobbs. As already mentioned, Dobbs was to get an annual rent of £100 from the Company for allowing them to trespass on his land. He did get the rent from June, 1874 until May, 1883 but not after this date. On 30<sup>th</sup> March, 1885 Dobbs claimed that he was now due £150 and wrote to Lord Antrim for it, since he was now in the possession of the Railway. Despite protracted negotiations between the two parties, Lord Antrim refused to pay, so Dobbs decided to appropriate that part of the line which was laid on his land. In June, 1890 the lines and sleepers were lifted. They were sold for scrap at a price of £521.17/-. This event ensured that the railway would never run again.

Lord Antrim and Hollway took an action against Dobbs which was heard on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1891. Their statement of claim said 1) That the defendant converted to his own use or wrongfully deprived the plaintiffs of the use and possession of the plaintiff's good, that is to say, certain rails formerly laid on the tramway or railway at Glenariff Co. Antrim. 2) That the defendant detained these goods. 3) The plaintiffs have been deprived of the use of the said rails for the purpose of working certain mines and have suffered much loss and inconvenience. The plaintiffs claimed a return on the said rails and £200 damages for their conversion and detention and in the alternative £1000 damages for the wrongful acts aforesaid.

The defendant denied that he did any of the acts mentioned in the statement of claim, or that the rails mentioned were the property of the plaintiffs.

The court decided that Lord Antrim had been awarded possession of the rails by the sheriff of Antrim in 1885 and that the value of the rails was £869. II. Dobbs claimed that he would never be bound to pay.

The rest of the line was lifted in later years. In retrospect, it is a pity that the Glenariff Railway ended the way it did. If the rails had been left in position, there was always the chance that it would have been opened again. It was unlikely that this would have been for the transportation of minerals, but more likely as a tourist attraction. Undoubtedly, to-day, it would be looked on as a route of outstanding scenic attraction.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH JACK ROONEY

by Seamus Graham

Jack Rooney has been Chairman of the Co. Antrim GAA committee for the last 3 years. As there are so many demands on his time we are privileged and grateful that he consented to give this interview to the Emmet Review.

Q. Could you give me your own personal history within the G.A.A?

A. I can go back to when I was 9 or 10 and used to carry the boots for my uncles who played on the Down football team, and I played College football for the Abbey and of course for Clonduff. When I came to Belfast I joined the Granuaill Club which lasted only a few years. I then joined the Patrick Moran's club which was better known as the Barmen's Club. This was for people who came from outside of Belfast to live in the city. I had quite a number of good years there and was chairman before it folded up, mainly due to the fact the majority of its members were now going home at weekends. About that time I was on the South Antrim Committee, became Treasurer, then Assistant County Treasurer, then County Treasurer, and eventually County Chairman. I am also on the Ulster Council and the Central Development Committee.

Q. Has your work as County Chairman had much effect on your personal life?

A. I am very lucky in that I have a very understanding wife. Indeed, all of my spare time is taken up with G.A.A matters, with meetings or working in my own home most nights in the week. However when I have to go to Dublin for meetings I make a point of taking the family with me as often as possible and this helps to keep me in good standing.

Q. What would you regard as your main achievement in office?

A. I was instrumental in launching the Casement Social Club when County Treasurer and setting up the new County Leagues and I was fortunate that I was elected County Chairman during their first year of operation and was able to see them through. I hope I have helped to create a better unity in the county between country and city, hurling and football, and between North, South-West and South. I admit it is very fragile, as one can see from time to time, and I would hope to cement this unity more fully before I leave.

Q. What would you regard as your main disappointment?

A. I am very disappointed that generally in the County there is not the enthusiasm for the G.A.A. that I and other members of the Executive have.



This lack of enthusiasm is shown by the fact that there is virtually no competition for jobs in the County. We not able to get a Public Relations Officer nor a Youth Officer, and I find it disappointing that I have not been able to transfer some of my enthusiasm onto others, especially to the younger members.

Q. Rule 1 of the Official Guide states: "The Association is a National Organisation which has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32 County Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic games and pastimes." What is your interpretation of the words "National Identity"?

A. I find this difficult to define, even though I was a member of the committee which revised our rules. To me it conveys a feeling of a 32 County Ireland, a feeling of unity within the 32 Counties, and an Irishness in our whole outlook in that it would be an Irish Ireland rather than just an offshore island of Britain, with its own traditions and way of life.

Q. Is there any connotation in this of a political 32 County Ireland?

A. Not really. The politics do not come into it, except in the sense that it would be the Irish people as a whole who would be in charge of their own destinies.

Q. Rule 1 further states: "The Association further seeks to achieve its objectives through the active support of Irish culture, with a constant emphasis on the importance of the preservation of the Irish language and its greater use in the life of the nation." Do you think there is any great knowledge among the members of the Antrim G.A.A of Irish culture or the Irish language?

A. Indeed not, and that is true not only in Antrim but throughout the G.A.A. it is an awful pity that there is this lack of interest, especially in the language. To my mind each member of the Association should have obtained a working knowledge of the language so that at least we could hold our meetings in Irish. The facilities to learn Irish are there if people were really serious about it. Culture has been helped a little by Scor, but I do notice that many of the people interested in Scor are often not active members of the G.A.A.

Q. Do you see any future for the Irish language?

A. I do not really see the language surviving if we continue to accept things as they are at present. With the lack of interest people show in it, I cannot see it surviving another generation even in the Gaeltact.

Q. Rule 3(d) states: "The Association shall assist in promoting community development and, in keeping with the aims of the Association, shall play a positive role, through the commitment of its Clubs at local and parish level, in fostering a community spirit." In the present circumstances in Northern Ireland one of the most important jobs in community relations must be bringing the 2 religious communities together. What positive role is the G.A.A. in Antrim playing to achieve this end, or does it see this as part of its function?

A. It certainly does see this as part of its function, in fact this is the very essence of the rule, although obviously one would rather it was not a religious divide. However, it is accurate to say that it is a religious divide. What we are doing about it is not so much positive as negative in that we are trying to keep the sectarianism out of the Association and to accept people without regard to their religion. We try to show the Protestant people that they are very welcome in the Association but we do not do nearly enough. I might add that I do preach this aspect of the Association at dinners and meetings which I attend but I am afraid that the important role we have to play in this regard is not fully appreciated.

Q. Rule 7 states: "The Association shall be non-political and non-sectarian." It would appear that the G.A.A. is non-sectarian in the same way as the Unionist Party is non-sectarian, while there is no rule excluding Protestants from joining it does not lend itself to their becoming members.

A. That is true. The fact that we play our game on Sunday is a deterrent to some sincere Protestants who are concerned about Sunday observance. There is no great incentive for Protestants to join and, as you say, we do not object to them but that is as far as we go. It is very wrong that we should adopt this attitude especially in the 6 Counties. There was, pre-1968, a great number of Protestants who watched our matches in Casement Park and who were members of the Casement Social Club. These people were made very welcome, not because they were Protestants, of course, but because they were Irishmen. It is a very difficult subject to deal with but I would concede we are a bit like the Unionists in this way.

Q. Is there anything positive you see that we can do to bring the Protestant community into our Association?

A. Yes indeed, and this is where the individual clubs and members must play their part, especially in the rural areas. They have close contacts among their Protestant neighbours and should encourage them to join, but not of course just because they are Protestants. There is, I believe, much that can and must be done in this field.

Q. Rule 4 states: "The National Flag should be displayed at all matches." Why is the National Flag interpreted as the Tricolour in Northern Ireland?

A. It is because we see the Tricolour as the flag of a 32 County Ireland, and not as the flag of a 26 County Ireland, that we accepted it. It might be no harm to have a flag more symbolic of a 32 County Ireland. The Tricolour is seen by some people here as being flaunted when we fly it, and I myself think it should not be flown deliberately to cause offence as this does not encourage respect to the flag.

Q. A recent committee has brought out proposed changes to our playing rules. One of these is that we should have a larger 'square' extending to the 21 yard line. Do you think this would be a good idea?

A. It is one change I did subscribe to at first but, as with all rules, there is the problem of getting them over to both players and spectators, and we have enough problems with our present 'square'. We also have the greatest difficulty getting our pitches marked out at club level and this would be a further marking. However, this is not really a good excuse for not doing the right thing, and I do not think it would cut out close-in fouling.

Q. Another proposed change in hurling is that the ball when lifted should be struck by the hurley without taking it into the hand. Do you think this would detract from the game?

A. I think so. I do not like this proposal at all. It is no doubt a very attractive stroke when performed properly, as by many of the Munster and Kilkenny hurlers, but I doubt that such a change would not be to our advantage in Antrim.

Q. What about the proposal that hurls should be held above the head at the throw-in?

A. I think it would look ridiculous, and might have some nasty results.

Q. Do you think 13-a-side would add to games as a spectator sport?

A. I can not speak with any experience of hurling. In football when I played it in South Down it was 13-a-side and it did not avoid the difficulty that the advocates now say it would. I prefer to see 15-a-side.

Q. The Antrim hurling leagues have been revised for this year. Do you think the new setup will be an improvement?

A. It is difficult to say with any certainty the effect the change will have. Division One was such a long league and after a few matches some clubs felt they were safe from relegation. As they had no chance of winning the league, they tended at the end of the season not to fulfil their fixtures nor to treat them as seriously as they might. Now with shorter leagues each match will have a bearing on either winning the league or being relegated, and I think it should help to make them more competitive. I also think it will mean that many more matches will not be foregone conclusions.

Q. Do you not think that 2 up and 2 down would have been an even greater help in this direction?

A. It would. This was my original idea, but there was so much resistance to it, we settled for 1 up and 1 down. However, I think that 2 clubs being relegated would have given clubs in the lower division a chance of playing more of the better teams.

Q. At County Committee last year you said clubs who did not line out their pitches properly would be fined. Is this rule still in force?

A. Yes, and it will be renewed at the next meeting and I would hope to enforce it more than it was last year. The excuse given, mainly by the Belfast clubs, and for the most part true, is that people marking out pitches on their own are taking an unwarranted risk, and if we could not enforce it against these, we felt we should not enforce it against others. But it is ridiculous, in fact scandalous the number of pitches that are not properly marked just from sheer apathy.

Q. Who is responsible for lining out pitches at Shaws Road?

A. The 3 clubs involved have rented these pitches from County Committee and the arrangement is that they are responsible for marking them. This is not done to any great extent. One of the difficulties is that if the club has an away match in the country they find difficulty in getting someone to mark the pitch.

Q. You mentioned at County Convention that Shaws Road would not be available for hurling this year. Where will the Belfast hurling matches be played?

A. I was probably exaggerating slightly, I sometimes do. St. Pauls pitch is not too bad and may be available for hurling. It is not generally known that these pitches are used by all the schools in the area and are used by the people of the area as a park. It is due to the excessive use that they are in such bad condition, and it may be necessary to travel more to the country to play hurling.

## THE CONCEPT AND PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL FITNESS

by Randal McDonnell

In a general sense a person is physically fit if he can carry out the routine activities of life, such as work and pastime, without distress.

The capacity for work of any individual, and hence his attainable level of physical fitness, is determined by a variety of factors both hereditary and environmental. Environmental factors include diet and facilities for exercise during the growing period. Hereditary factors are more varied and include the size of the body and the efficiency of the component organs. Age is another consideration. These factors frequently determine not only the standard of performance to which the individual may aspire, but also the activity to which he is best suited.

It is quite easy to see that a jockey and a heavy weight boxer cannot exchange sports; we can see why basketball teams consist of tall men with long legs; it is reckoned that the ideal conformation of a swimmer is a long body with a fair degree of spinal lordosis-kyphosis (he can wag his tail like a fish) and big hands and feet; and of course in team games such as rugby the physical size is important in consideration of playing position.

In practice physical fitness is achieved by training. Through training is achieved the specific fitness required for a particular sport (e.g. weight lifting as compared with basketball; rugby as compared with archery) and the general fitness which enable the body to sustain the increased general work load.

There are four essential elements of qualities of physical fitness – STRENGTH, SPEED, STAMINA, SKILL. Although to a very considerable extent related and interdependent these are achieved in quite markedly different ways, but all must be develop to some extent. Special stress may be laid on one or more. Think of strength for power events such as weight lifting; stamina for endurance events such as hurling, soccer and long distance running; speed for sprinting in hurling and athletics; skill for precision movements such as fast ball games golf and hurling. All four qualities are required for most sports but emphasis varies.

Methods of training also vary. Strength is developed by exercise against resistance, e.g. weights or isometrics; stamina by exercise against suitably graded resistance for long periods; speed by work for short periods at maximum rate; skill by constant repetition of action and performance patterns until they became established as conditioned reflexes (this also indicates that related mental functions are important to the integrity of physical fitness).

The type of activity designed to develop all these qualities should ideally be fitted into a pattern of the game or sport for which the individual is training. This may present certain difficulties in which case supplementary programmes of activity to develop specific elements of fitness may have to be added to the training process. Hard work at these supplementary activities is necessary but can never be a total substitute for hard work at the sport itself.

One fundamental truth about training is that it is a continuous process (with the exception that the reflexes of skill can be revived very rapidly from a previous mental memory pattern). Improvement is most rapid and noticeable in the earlier stages. As training progresses improvement is slower but still continues except at very advanced stages of attainment. Equally true is the fact that fitness falls rapidly with cessation of training. Even one week makes a very noticeable difference.

It should not be forgotten that mental processes and attitudes are important not only in the acquisition of the element of skill but also in the psychological preparation for competition and the ability to retain confidence of drive and incentive.

The body consists of a hinged frame of levers (joints and bones) worked by power units (muscles). These are controlled by an electrical message system and a computer (nerves and brain) and fuel is supplied to them by a pump and pipelines (heart and circulation). There is also a chemical regulatory system designed to retain the chemical mechanisms of the body in proper working order – this is also operated through the blood. Training is designed to bring all these component parts to an efficiency where the extra load conditions of sport are borne without damage to the individual and in excess of one's competitors. One particular exercise that should be avoided is the nonsense of touching toes with the legs straight. The only thing it can do is give you a slipped disc.

It is well known that muscles can markedly respond to exercises both by increase in size and strength. The number of component muscle fibres in a muscle is fixed at birth but the size of the fibres and the amount of the chemically active energy component (myosin) can be increased. These are still dependent on fuel from the circulation and part of the improvement of muscle function results from efficient circulation in the muscle itself and generally. There is temporary increase in size during use due to the increase in the amount of blood flow. Adaptation also occurs to allow accumulation of lactic acid and oxygen debt.

The nervous system is very complex. There are important psychological aspects of incentive, loss of form, staleness, ritual, etc., and every coach knows the importance of these. The nervous control of the body is a coordinating function working from the brain computer. It requires careful and prolonged training to develop reflex reaction patterns of skill through repetition.

The cardiovascular system is the heart of the body's resources of energy supply. The heart sends blood to the lungs to collect oxygen and then pumps it through the body carrying oxygen, fuel and chemicals for the regulation of its functions. The cardiac output depends on the volume of the pump and the number of strokes per minute. The rate can be increased from normal 60 – 70 up to 180 per minute and if the volume remains the same the output per minute is trebled. Over 180 strokes per minute the pump hasn't time to refill and the output falls. The volume of the heart pump can also increase but if it overstretches it loses its strength and becomes inefficient. With training the heart can permanently accommodate an increased volume without losing its strength. When this is achieved the normal resting heart rate is reduced since each stroke sends out more blood. This allows more scope for increased output under conditions of exercise and stress as each stroke pumps out more blood and a relatively greater increase in heart rate is available before refilling becomes inefficient.

The second component of the oxygen supply system is the lung. Blood collects oxygen here, but if the tissues of the lungs are damaged, e.g. by cigarettes, oxygen absorption by the blood is hindered and is not available in sufficient quantities to supply the needs of high energy production.

The third component of the oxygen and fuel supply system is the circulation pipeline which delivers to the muscles. Its efficiency increases markedly with exercise. It seems rather foolish to reduce the capacity of this beautifully designed distribution network by narrowing its tubes with nicotine, poisoning its tissues with alcohol, and clogging it with fats.

Remember the four elements of physical fitness – STRENGTH, SPEED, STAMINA, SKILL.