

The Cut

By Eoin O'Sullivan



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END OF THE ROAD FOR "SHOOT"

"From the touchline a player throws the ball back to his goalie who misses it. The ball hits the post and rebounds to the thrower who clears it up field. Anything wrong?" This was one of the many questions posed by "You are the ref" a regular feature in "Shoot" football magazine which was first published in the summer of 1969. The popular weekly which was priced at one shilling, when it first appeared, was an institution in terms of information on sport. At a time when there was little coverage on TV and radio commentary only on BBC 2, 'Shoot' brought soccer into our lives. Unfortunately on the 1st of July this year the last issue went on sale.

Bobby Moore was the first feature writer. He was soon followed by Bobby Charlton, Alan Ball and George Best. 'Ask the Expert' was an item where readers got £1 for every query published. One such question from an early edition was, "What does a referee get for refereeing an FA Cup final?" The answer was 15 guineas and a souvenir gold medal.

Each Friday "Shoot" along with the "Tiger" was purchased by many



Last Issue of "Shoot" magazine, alongside one from the sixties

teenagers with eager anticipation at Aldwells newsagent in my hometown of Kenmare. The owner Dick was a great friend of the late Sir Matt Busby. He kept a football autographed by the 1968 team in his pub next to the shop.

"Shoot" was read from cover to cover and the knowledge of teams and players is still stored in my mind. The publication energized everybody's appetite for the game. The coloured photo of a favourite team was almost certain to adorn a wall or a school book.

The following portion was taken from a copy dated 13th of Sept. 1969. Mike Bailey the captain of Wolves was asked "If you won £1,000 on a premium bond tomorrow what would you do with it?" His reply, "I'd put it in the bank for when I retire" How times have changed in 40 years?

The magazine also featured many football facts including a piece about the 22 stone Chelsea goal keeper and the player who played on both sides in the same match!

One item referred to the year 1904 when several players were fined by the football association for wearing shorts which didn't completely cover their knees. According to an official statement the fines were imposed because "of the considerable embarrassment caused to ladies present at the game".

That team member was James Oakes who made history in 1932 when on Boxing Day he turned out for Port Vale against Charlton in a game which had to be abandoned early in the second half. By the time the game was replayed later on in the season, Oaks had been transferred to Charlton and so played against his own club in what was, officially, precisely the same match.

In another article, Brian Kidd of Manchester United was asked to name his favourite other team. His reply was Liverpool! Perish the thought! One item referred to the year 1904 when several players were fined by the football association for wearing shorts which didn't completely cover their knees. According to an official statement the fines were imposed because "of the considerable embarrassment caused to ladies present at the game".

'Shoot' was a magazine institution that will be missed by many.

The answer that was given to the question posed earlier is that a free-kick would have been awarded against the thrower.

TULLAMORE PLAY AWAY IN ITALY

Congratulations to the IPA Gardai in Tullamore District who recently qualified to represent Ireland in the 33a Coppa Dell' Amicizia, (33rd Friendship Cup). This is an international 5 a side soccer tournament. It was held in the City of Riccione, Province of Rimini on the North East Coast of Italy. To qualify Tullamore had to see off the challenge of Mullingar and Longford in order to represent the Lakeland I.P.A. Region in the All- Ireland finals. These were held in the Longford Mall Complex. The competition was organised by the Social Secretary of the I.P.A Donal Sweeney. Twelve teams competed during the one day event culminating in a dramatic final between the vastly experienced Cork team and the underdogs from Tullamore. The midlanders eventually won out on a score line of 4 - 2.

Garda David Scahill who was the main co-coordinator and manager Mick Lowry was part of a group of 28 that headed off to Riccione to represent Ireland on the 25th May 2008. Willie O' Grady who is chairman of the local I.P.A also travelled and he assisted in formal functions during the week of the tournament. Along with the players the rest of the touring party consisted of wives, girlfriends, children and supporters who were a great support to the team while playing in temperatures of over 35 degrees heat.

Thirty two international teams took part. They were organised in four groups of eight. It meant they had to play seven matches on the first two days. Tullamore lost their first game 2-1 against the eventual winners of the tournament. They then went on to win three, draw two and lose one in their group. Unfortunately they came fourth, missing out by one place for automatic qualification.



Offaly Branch soccer team in Riccione: Back, Eddie Tynan, Pat O'Connell, Liam Naughton, Denis Glennon,, Mark Sherlock, Ciaran McCormack & Willie O'Grady Front, Mick Lowry, Eoin Fox, Mick Lynagh, Patrick Mulvihill, David Scahill & P J McHugh



Tullamore team with family & friends

On the 3rd day they went on to play in a second group stage and won their two games to qualify for the last 16. However this meant they had to play a further three games on the same day while the heat was starting to take it toll. However they won the first game, drew the next and lost the third. But unfortunately because of other results and goal difference, they failed to qualify for the last eight. Nevertheless our local lads finished up in a very credible 12th overall in the competition.

During the course of the week they participated in a number of formal functions which included a parade of all 32 teams through the City of Riccione which ended in a large fireworks display and the playing of the National Anthem.

According to Garda Liam Naughton, the group met up and formed good friendships with members from many other countries. He added, "A great time was had by the large group that travelled and special thanks must go to St. Paul's Garda Credit Union for their very generous sponsorship". He went on to thank Tullamore District Social Club, a number of local businesses and the I.P.A who organised the event. Again well done to the lads from Co. Offaly.

GOODBY TO THE PADRE

Known to friends and everyone that knew him as 'priest' Garda Bill Gibbons finally took a vow of retirement last July from the Garda Síochána. Bill arrived in Portlaoise from Mitchelstown in 1975 and quickly established himself as a popular member among colleagues and locals. He



Retirement party: Sup't Phillip Lyons, Sgt Syl Murphy, Ms Margaret Gibbons, Gda Bill Gibbons & Gda Arran Grehan



Kilkenny hurling star, Eddie Brennan

was one of the original members of the famous 'Posse', a group of intelligence gathering Gardaí who pioneered community policing in the county. Blessed with an aptitude for sport including snooker, darts, golf and fishing, he is also a lifelong member of the IPA. 'Priest' will be missed for his wit and humour as well as for his skills as a friendly helpful policeman in the parish of Portlaoise.

EDDIE STRIKES ON THE DOUBLE AGAIN

Congratulations to Portlaoise based Garda Eddie Brennan who won his sixth all Ireland medal in September. It was another great year for the Kilkenny man who racked up a score of 2-4 from play in the final against Waterford. But for circumstances, Eddie would almost certainly have got his second all Ireland 'man of the match' award in a row. All his colleagues in Portlaoise are very proud of the popular 'cat' and no doubt another all star award waits, not to mention medal number seven?

The cut would also like to say well done to Tomas Breen who captained the Kilkenny minor hurlers in their All Ireland win over Galway. Tomas is the son of Garda Eamonn Breen, who is stationed at Abbeyleix.