

2285501
48/17

BATTLE OF ST. COLUMB

The Cornish town of St. Columb prepares for its annual hurling match. It's a free for all game played through the town's streets - hurling a silver ball. Hence the iron shutters on the tax collector's windows and the boarded shop fronts.

Everyone plays in the game - or tries to get out of the way of it.

The last year's winner throws in the ball - after that it's anyone's headache, but the principle contest is between towns-people and country-folk from outside the parish. The object, apart from avoiding a black eye - is to carry the ball over the parish boundary.

There's more skill in this than meets the eye - for the ball is thrown where it's sure to be caught, and moves rapidly towards the boundary.

Almost there - it's anybody's chance - and old Sam Quintnell takes it. Not bad for a 93-year-old.