

IRISH INVASION

The captains of Down (on the right) and Kerry watched the fall of the coin. Down won, and chose to play from right to left. The teams were at Wembley, giving London a taste of Gaelic Football. All the aggression of Soccer, Rugger and prize fighting but what the rules are you'd have to ask an Irishman, or why this goal was disallowed. Down attacked, and left-half-forward Paddy Doherty sent the ball well and truly home.

Half time. You may have noticed that there's no off-side and that the ball can be kicked, punched, punted, carried and thrown - in fact, anything goes. You have to know the game well before you can understand why they have an umpire at all.

Kerry took a free kick. The ball just went over the bar. One point.

When it was all over, Down were the winners, 17 points to 10. And to show it had all been good fun there were hand-shakes all round.