

The Nationalist & Leinster Times

Friday, April 5th, 1974

Curragh Indoor Track Guttled

AN enquiry is to be held to investigate the cause of the fire which completely destroyed the country's only indoor athletic track at O'Higgins Road in the Curragh Camp on Saturday evening last (March 30). The fire, which was discovered by a member of the Military Police at about 7.40 p.m. also destroyed the Curragh Rugby Club which adjoined the building.

Fire tenders from Naas, Newbridge, and the Curragh rushed to the blazing building which is beside the new gym and after battling against the blaze for over an hour, managed to prevent the fire from spreading to the rest of the building.

A spokesman at the Camp said the loss of the indoor track-cum riding school was a severe blow to the social and sporting life in the Camp. The building, which was mainly comprised of wood, was an old structure dating back to the early 1920's.

It was suspected he said, that the cause of the fire was a fault in the electrical system, but a full investigation would be carried out.

Recently, a 24-hour soccer marathon was held there, and the building catered for gymnastics, basketball, indoor football and other indoor games. The gym was a multi-purpose building where soldiers paraded regularly.

Three hours after the fire was discovered firemen were still standing by to ensure against further outbreaks. Apart from putting an end to indoor athletics and games, the blaze, also left the Curragh Rugby Club house in rubble.

The Nationalist & Leinster Times, Friday, April 5th, 1974
Transcribed by Matt McNamara – July 2019



O'Higgins Tce 1971



The New Gym 1971



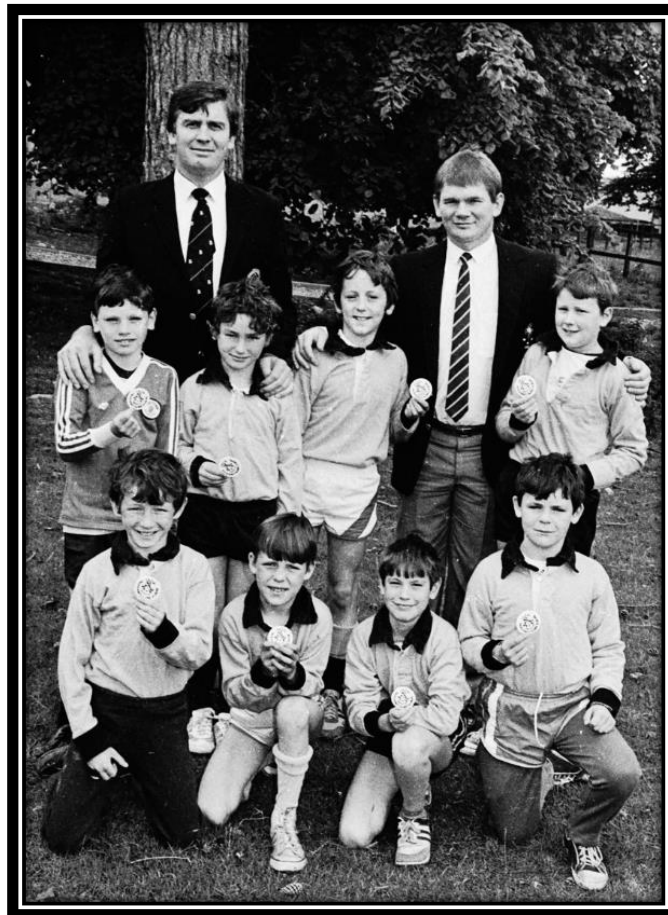
Curragh Rugby Club at home on the Gym's Field





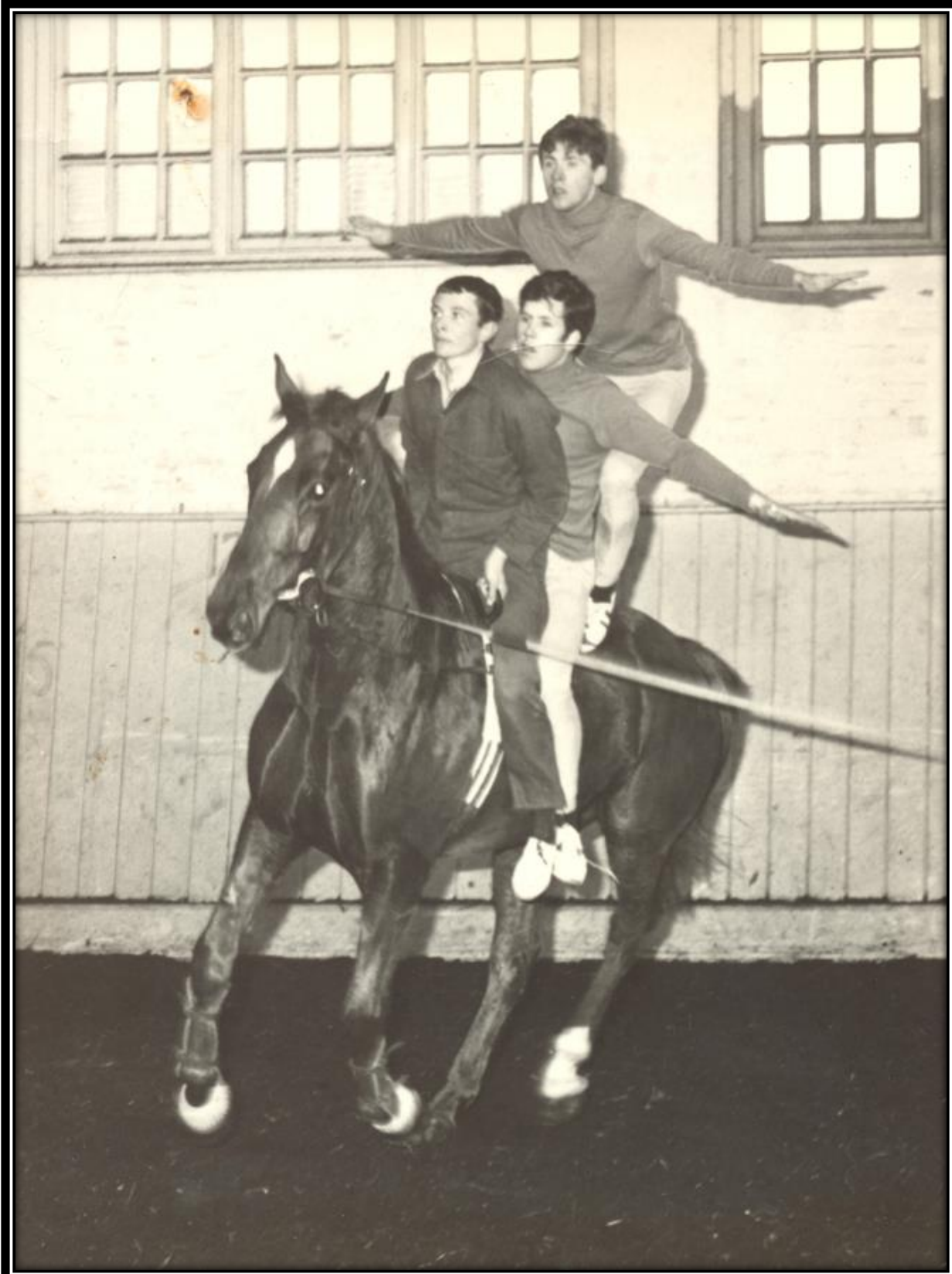
History of Curragh RFC (Founded in 1925)

In May 1922 the National Army took over the long-standing British Military Camp at the Curragh. In 1925 a group of young officers from the new Army founded the Rugby Club. One of these founding officers was Major General Sean Collins Powell, a nephew of Michael Collins. The subsequent establishment of the Military College at the Camp resulted in an influx of Officer Cadets for the Army and the Air Corps. A number of these young men had come from rugby playing Colleges and this brought up the playing strength of the Club. The Club affiliated to the Leinster branch in 1927 and it participated in the Provincial Towns Cup for the first time in 1928.



Ciaran Fitzgerald, Curragh Rugby Club 1985

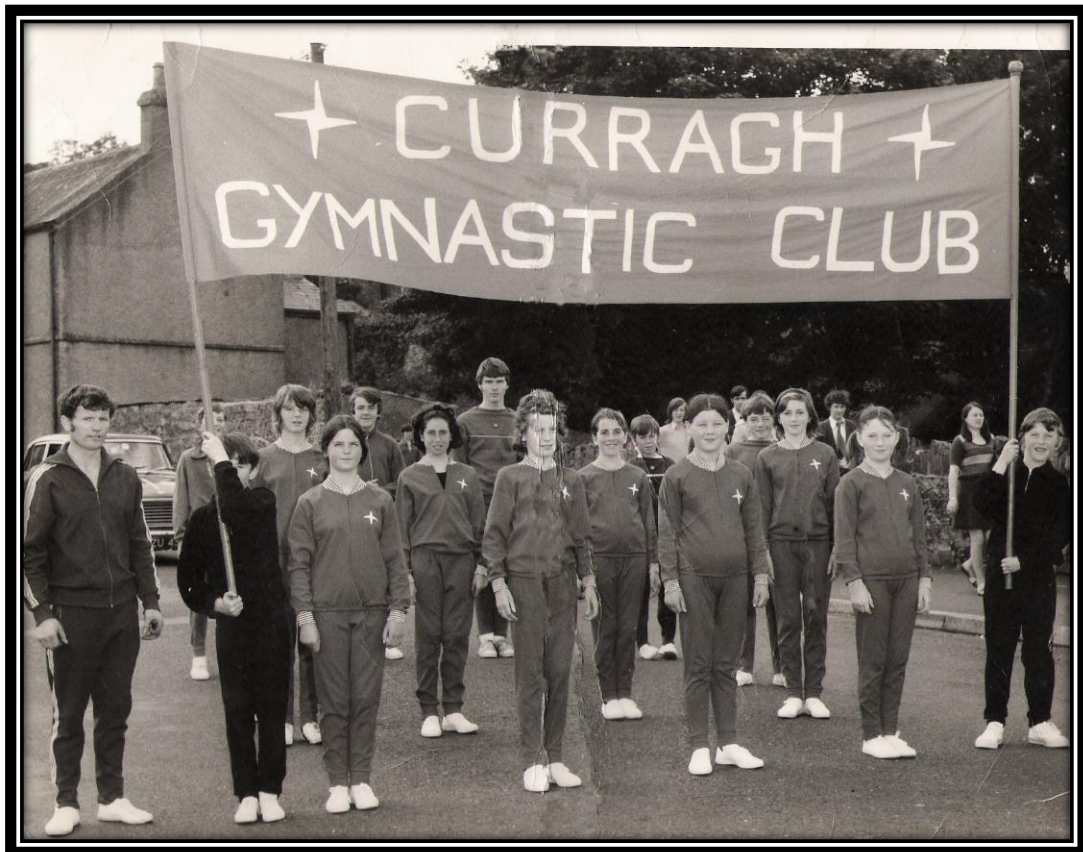
Ciaran Fitzgerald who captained two Irish Triple Crown winning teams as well as captaining a Lions tour to New Zealand.



Cadets of the Military College learn Horsemanship skills in the indoor riding arena.



Army Physical Training Instructors in the indoor track arena.



Curragh Gymnastic Team 1970's

WHIST DRIVE
 Under the auspices of Naas Harriers
 Hunt Club, will be held at
At the Gymnasium
CURRAGH CAMP
 By kind permission of General Officer
 Commanding Curragh District,
 on
Sunday, 8th Jan., 1933
 Commencing at 8 p.m., sharp.

PRIZES:—
Top Score, £20
 1st PRIZE (LADIES), £2 10s.
 2nd PRIZE (LADIES), £1 5s.
 1st PRIZE (GENTS), £2 10s.
 2nd PRIZE (GENTS), £1 5s.
 Half-time and Quarter-time Prizes.

Admission (including refreshments) **3/6**

NOTE—The Gymnasium will be specially heated for the occasion. Twenty Games will be played. Patrons are requested to come early so that Drive may conclude early.
 (c-d24)

Whist Drive at the Gymnasium – 1933



CURRAGH BOYS CHOIR - 1958/1959
OLD CHURCH, O'HIGGINS ROAD

The “temporary” Church on O’Higgins Tec was later to become the Indoor Horse-Riding Arena and survived the fire.