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FOUR members of the Gardai, who hail from Co. Cork and are stationed in Roscrea, have been mainly responsible for the formation of a youth club in the town. The question has been posed whether it is the first of its kind in the country to be formed by Gardai.

Honorary secretary of the club is Garda Barry O'Keeffe from Rosscarbery, who has had the fullest support from his Garda colleagues: Tim Curley of Mitchelstown, Nicholas Dowling of Castlemartyr, and David Barry, also from Cork County.

Garda O'Keeffe said the idea of the club was enthusiastically received in Roscrea. No sooner had it been mentioned than there was 100 per cent. support from the parents, traders and industry. "The very minute it became known the subscriptions started floating in and we got some very big ones which were all voluntary" he said.

"At the start the membership was confined to youths between 10 to 14 years but then we found a lot of boys between nine and ten years were waiting to get in and we dropped the age to nine years. The club has almost all the eligible youths in the town in its 140 membership."

Helping in the good work is SERGEANT VAL WARD of Co. Meath, who is chairman; GARDA TOM GREENE, Wexford, who is honorary treasurer; GARDA PAT COSTELLOE, who comes from Kerry; GARDA TOM DOLAN of Kildare; GARDA PADDY FORD, Galway, and SERGEANT EDWARD O'CONNELL of Waterford.

REV. FR. SEXTON is president

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Garda B. O'Keeffe

and REV. FR. HOGAN, C.C., is chaplain.

"Every man in the station does his turn at the club and this is solely in our spare time" said Garda O'Keeffe. "In addition, we are helped by some people from the town who are experts in one or another particular activity."