

CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEDHEAL

Comhairle Liathroid-Laimhe na hEireann

AN COMHDHAIL BHLIANTUIL 1954

Tuairisc an Runai agus Cuntas an Airgid, 1953

Tionolfar an Chomhdhail
i bPAIRC AN CHROCAIGH, ATA CLIATH
ar 14-3-1954. 1.30 p.m.

An Clar

1. Mion-Tuairisci.
2. Tuarascail 1952-'53.
3. Tuairisc an Runai agus Cuntas an Airgid.
4. Toghadh na nOifigeach, 1954.
5. Na Ruin

NA hOIFIGIG

Uachtaran: S.O Beirgin, Tiobraid Arann.

Leas-Chathaoirleach: P. O Cinneide, Ros Comain.

An Canonach Mac Amaltouin, S.P.,
An-Clar.

A. O Cleirigh Ath Cliath.

G. O Moghrain, Muineachain.

Runai agus Cisteoir: T. S. MacUileagoid, Cill Dara.

G. O Moghrain, **Withdrawn**

1. That ballcourts be provided in all new schools being built, and that this item be incorporated in their estimates in future. (Co. Muigheo).
2. That the price of handballs be reduced. (Co. Sligeach).
3. That Congress stongly protest against the refusal of the Government Department concerned to abolish duty on imported handballs. (Co. an Chlhair).
4. That in inter-county contests postponements be given when rain makes it dangerous and difficult to play; postponements also be granted when a player's parent, wife, child, brother or sister dies within two days of the proposed match. (Co. an Chlhair).
5. That, in fixing dates for matches, care be taken to avoid clashing with Hurling or Football Inter-county Fixtures,

should a player or players be members of a County Hurling or Football team. (Co. an Chlhair).

6. That in all All-Ireland Semi-finals and Finals, players wear County Colours, white shorts, white socks and white shoes. (Co. Chille Dara).
7. That the Central Council investigate the bad balls that are being supplied throughout the country and take steps to remedy the position.
8. That a second representative from each province be elected on Central Council.
9. That the Central Handball Council consider the possibility of presenting a trophy other than a medal to All-Ireland Singles Champions in Junior and Minor grades.

(Tiobraid Arann).

Silim nach aidhbheil dom a radh go bhfuil an cluiche ag dul i dtreise ins gach cearn den tír. Tá na daoine ag filladh in an-chuid aiteann ar sean-chluichi na tuaithe. Tá siol na naithbheochana curtha anois ach muna ndéintear e do eochthu agus do chaomhnadh agus muna ndéintear e do spreagadh chun fais ní bheidh insan meid ata deanta ach obair in aisce. Ach tá iontaobh againn as na Comhairli Cuige agus Coisdi Contae a dhail cabhair agus cunamh orainn le blianta anuas.

Is maith an rud e gur dhein Chomhairle na gColaisti iarracht fiontá imbhiana freastal ar lucht na scol agus na gcolaisti tre Chomortas Uile-Eireann do chur ar bun doibh. Munlaitear aigne agus dearcadh na n-og ins na scoileanna agus is mithid duinn deimhin a dheanamh de go bhfuil anal an naisiunachais le braith aca ar scoil. Ní folair bheith readuil agus aghaidh do thuir ar an fhirinne go bhfuil scoileanna agus colaisti ann na cuireann suim ins na cluichi naisiunta. An fhaid is a bhionn sin amhlaidh ba choir duinn ar a laighead—freastal ar na scoileanna na gcuirtear suim ins na cluichi. Ní leir don oige ins na colaisti go bhfuil muid dairre fe na cluichi an fhaid is na bionn comortas ann doibh. Da liacht iad na h-imitheoiri a thagann chughainn as na scoileanna sea is mo a bheas siad 'na chabhair duinn sa todhachai.

Togadh cuirteanna nua anuraidh. Cuirfear críoch le tuille fós imbhiana. Ach ní bheidh aon rath an an seol muna n-aithnítear go bhfuil ga le beartas cinnte, aontaithe, fadaimsireach, go dtí go mbeidh se de chuspóir ag na Comhairli Cuige cuirteanna do thogail ins gach contae. Tá tuá curtha le seim tré nar feidir deontas d'fhail chun cuirte do thogail. Ní heagsoil e leis an seim a cuireadh ar bun na blianta o shoin chun paiseanna do sholathar dos na cluichi foirne. Is fuirist toradh na seime sin d'fheiscint.

Ma luaim go speisialta an Tuaisceart maithfear dom e mar is minic smaointe na nGhaedéal ortha sud ata deighilte uainn go fóill. To suil agam nach fada uainn an la nuair a h-osclofar cuirte liathroid-laimhe ibPairc Ruaidhri Mac Easmuinn.

CURAI NA HEIREANN, 1953.

Liathroid-chruaidh. Craobh Einfhir Sinnsear. Loch Garman.
Liathroid-chruaidh. Craobh Beirte Sinnsear. Ciarrai.
Liathroid-bhog. Craobh Einfhir Sinnsear. Corcaigh.
Liathroid-bhog. Craobh Beirte Sinnsear. Corcaigh.

Liathroid-chruaidh. Craobh Einfhir Soisear. Cill Dara.
Liathroid-chruaidh. Craobh Beirte Soisear. Cill Dara.
Liathroid-bhog. Craobh Einfhir Soisear. Ciarrai.
Liathroid-bhog. Craobh Beirte Soisear. An Claithe.

Liathroid-chruaidh. Craobh Einfhir Mionur. Loch Garman.
Liathroid-chruaidh. Craobh Beirte Mionur. Loch Garman.
Liathroid-bhog. Craobh Einfhir Mionur. Loch Garman.
Liathroid-bhog. Craobh Beirte Mionur. Ciarrai.

Comhairle Liathroid-laimhe na hEireann is proud to announce the completion of the greater part of the work of organisation. In 1953, for the first time since the formation of the Association, the thirty-two counties of Ireland affiliated for handball purposes to the G.A.A. Yet the work of an organisation charged with the development of some game is never complete. If the organisation is to live, it must grow. But there are times at which it is well to examine the nature of such growth to ensure that the strength of the organisation will be maintained. The present year—the end of the first five-year period since the Provincial Councils were restored—is such a time.

The number of National championships now run by the Handball Council is the same as that run by the G.A.A. in hurling and football, i.e., Senior, Junior and Minor. (Note: There was no Minor Hardball Championship in either Singles or Doubles prior to 1949).

New trophies for competition include the Dr. Harty Cup, presented in 1950 by the Ard-Chomhairle of the G.A.A., to replace that presented to J. J. Gilmartin who had won the original on ten occasions the Gael-Linn Cup and Tostal trophies. In addition, I am happy to inform you, that the Irish Dunlop Company, Ltd., and Messrs. Elvery and Co., Ltd., have presented your Council with two most valuable trophies for the winners of the All-Ireland Junior Singles, Hardball and Softball.

The development of the game is, perhaps, best reflected in the number of new ballcourts built. Since 1949, new wall courts have been built at Clongutlano, Ballindine, Rahy, Ballymacolligott, The Turn-

pike, Tipperary Town, Dungarvan, Killeady and The Island Field (both in Limerick), Ballindangan, Bantry, Ennis-corthy, Birr, the Closh and Michael St. (both in Kilkenny). Numerous older courts up and down the country have been reconstructed and, in many cases, back walls added. In this work the real worth of the Council lies. For, even as the parent body has done work of tremendous social significance in providing playing fields for our youth in the towns and villages of Ireland, so must we, if our work is to be of lasting value, hasten the day when in every corner of the land the old game will have new adherents.

Not the least important advance has been the completion of Croke Park Court. This court has been roofed, the gallery rebuilt and dressing-rooms, toilets and showers provided. Now is Croke Park truly the National Stadium of which Irishmen in every part of the world may be proud. It is the headquarters of the games which our people have loved and cherished through long centuries. (Note: The date of the Official re-Opening of the Court will be announced at Congress).

What promises to be a milestone in the history of the game in Ireland is the manufacture by the Irish Dunlop Co. of the first Irish-made handballs. The firm has undertaken the task of supplying the Irish market, thus making our players for the first time, independent of outside supplies. There is no need for me to tell you how vital it is for the development of the game that there should be a constant supply of high-quality handballs. That they will, in the future, be made in Ireland is a further step on the road to self-sufficiency. (Would County and Club Secretaries please send me a card if they find either hardballs or softballs difficult to get).

The game in the Schools and Colleges has developed slowly. Ulster and Munster were early in the field with well-run championships embracing Singles and Doubles. Connacht followed with a most successful competition which brought forth the All-Ireland Minor finalist of 1953, Joseph Barrett of Loughrea. A very small entry in Leinster is not a true indication of the strength of the game in that province where the game is widely played. It is hoped that the fine ballcourts in such schools as Ballylin, Knockbeg, St. Kieran's and Good Counsel College will be used during the coming spring. Of primary importance is the news that next May, for the first time in the history of the G.A.A., an All-Ireland Schools and College Championship will be played under the control of the All-Ireland Colleges' Council.

The championships of the past year brought many surprising results. Wexford and Kerry again showed strength in the Senior Grade, where Cork players, for the first time, were victorious in a premier softball championship. Griffin and Walsh proved themselves the outstanding Doubles combination of the year, though a measure of the high standard of play is the manner in which Tipperary, Mayo and Wexford held them to very close scores.

The Kerry player's (McCarthy) victory in the Junior Softball Singles followed that of Downey and Commans, club-mates of his, in other years. The standard of play was exceptionally high and Connolly, Delaney, Doherty and Confrey are all players of quality. The Doubles victory of Dublin was a fitting reward for the long association of Monroe and Fahy with handball. In Hardball, Kildare players were supreme, and their win may add to the strength of the county in Senior hardball.

Pride of place in Minor ranks goes to Kerry and Wexford and, if the latter county won more titles, the displays of the Kerry pair were, perhaps, the most stylish ever seen in Minor hardball.

There are still counties in each province which rarely appear in the Honours list. To these I would appeal to organise challenge and tournament matches with neighbouring clubs or counties. But it is important to remember that the permission of the County Handball Committee or Provincial Handball Council is necessary for all such Tournaments. These tournaments will ensure that all players will get the necessary big-match experience and do justice to themselves in the championships. Summer days and even summer evenings should be availed of by the players in country villages and towns for such friendly matches. There was a time when teams of ballplayers used travel each county playing such matches, and rural life would be all the brighter for their revival.

In every part of the country there is need for more courts, and your Council wants these courts to be as near standard as possible. To that end plans are available from the Secretary and, in most provinces, grants are given by the Provincial G.A.A. Councils to aid in the building of ballcourts. It is money that is, we believe, well spent. Every parish, no matter how small, where national games are played is a bulwark against the spread of foreign games and foreign influences, and a ballcourt, like a castle of

so small, no town so lacking in young men that a ballcourt cannot be built therein. A site is not too difficult to get—one 80' x 30' is sufficient. Gravel and sand are not too dear. Book-making machines may be hired. Lorry and cart owners may be prepared to give their help for a day or two. Cement then, is going to be your heaviest expense. And even two men satisfied to act as guarantors will enable you to purchase most of the cement you need. Let us give the young, the vigorous and the enterprising an opportunity of shaping a better Ireland in which to live and work and play—an Ireland in which there is development and progress in place of stagnation and death.

NO RUSH.

In pursuance of the decision of last Congress, your Council inquired into the possibility of organising a football tournament. The response from the counties has not been encouraging. Roscommon at once forwarded £2, and two other counties promised to do so when the scheme was more clearly defined. The Central Council uttered a word of counsel in advising us that "the finalists in each Province are usually inundated with applications in addition to completing their local championships, which are usually behind hand because of their participation in inter-county championships."

The Balance Sheet reveals the financial position at the end of 1953. IN 1936 THE G.A.A. GRANT TO THE CENTRAL HANDBALL COUNCIL WAS £273 2/6. IN 1953 THE G.A.A. GRANT TO THE CENTRAL HANDBALL COUNCIL WAS £350. Since 1936 money values have changed. The cost of travel has increased. Postage and 'phone costs have gone up. Expenses of players taking part in All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals are necessarily greater than they were because that grant of 1936 was for the working of the Association in 19 counties, while the present grant is in respect of the working of the Association in 32 counties.

petition in connection with An Tostal is one which aims at encouraging players of all grades to take part. Participation therein will not affect a player's status. All entries must be with the Secretary by Saturday, March the 13th, and, while every effort will be made to group the entrants so as to minimise the cost of travelling, it must be understood that the Council will not be responsible for any expenses incurred.

The Press and the Radio are the two great means of conveying news to the world to-day. We can say with truth that the national Press in Ireland both in Dublin and the provinces, has given increasing space to Handball. I would like to think that such space has been given because a revival of interest in handball is indicative of an increased vitality in village communities and in rural generally. We are grateful to the Editors of Provincial newspapers and to the Editors of the National Dailies for their courtesy and help.

My year's work was rendered a pleasant one by the unflinching help given me by an t-Uachtaran, Uinsinn O Donnchadha, and by Padraig O Caoimh, Ruairi, Cumann Luith-Chleas Gaheal and the members of the Central Council, G.A.A., the Secretaries of the Provincial Councils and County Boards. Nor must I forget the assistance so often and so willingly given me by club secretaries even in remote corners of the country, whose work has added to the strength of the Association and aroused new enthusiasm for the old game. In conclusion, a word of thanks is due to Chief-Supt. H. O'Meara for the facilities afforded our members at the Depot ballcourt, to Domhnall O Conchubhair, who never failed to place a room at the disposal of Council for meetings.

Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of deceased members of the Irish Handball Association in the Franciscan Church, Merchant's Quay, on the morning of the 17th March.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

The Chairman and Committee,
Irish Handball Association,
DUBLIN.

Dear Sirs,

We have completed the audit of the books of the Association for the year ended 31st December, 1953, and enclose herewith copy of the Revenue Account and Balance Sheet covering to that date.

Owing to the fact that the Grants are paid irregularly, the Secretary found himself with funds from time to time and has apparently paid out in the year under review £79 16s. 7d. out of his own pocket. We have taken this in as a liability. In addition, he lodged £10 to a No. 2 Account.

VOUCHERS.

We pointed out to the Secretary that even for Traveling Expenses, in fact for every payment, there should be a voucher. When this is not possible, one should be made out and have the recipient sign before paying.

Secondly, that all entries in Cash Book should have a date.

Lastly, that a simple way of recording all payments through the Bank Account would be at end of Month to draw a cheque for the month's expenses, endorse and lodge it, thus restoring the Receipts. The Bank could be advised that yearly grants of £350 (or whatever the figure is) are receivable, and they would on your instructions permit the Secretary to draw in anticipation. This would save him from using his own money.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

The Income for the year was £678 as against £828 in the previous year. The decrease is accounted for as follows:—

	£	£
Grants from Parent Body increase		250
Less Gate Receipts increase	92	
Sundry Sales do.	8	100
		Decrease 150

EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure was £804 against £684 in previous year, an increase of £120.

	£	£	£
The Meeting Expenses accounted for	71		
Secretary's Travelling and Hotel Expenses	16		
Handballs	19		
Printing, etc.	7		
Post and 'Phones	12		
Sundries	18	143	
Less Decrease in			
Team Expenses	22		
Subscriptions	1	23	120

BALANCE SHEET.

This Statement shows the financial position at 31st December, 1953.

The Dr. Harty and Purcell Cups, value £60, the property of the Club, and to which we referred last year, should be brought into the Balance Sheet.

On 31st December, 1952, your Assets were in excess of your liabilities by	£	2	6	10
On 31st December, 1953, your liabilities exceeded your Assets by		124	1	3

That is, you made a loss in the year of ... £126 8 1

The Honorary Secretary gave us all the information we required and presented the books in the customary good order.

We shall be pleased to supply any further information you may require concerning the accounts on hearing from you.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

KEAN & COMPANY,

IRISH AMATEUR HANDBALL ASSOCIATION, GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£
National Bank Ltd.—							
Current Account Overdrawn	14	0	6	Cash on hands			NIL.
Less No. 2 Account in Credit	10	0	0	4	0	6	
Sundry Creditors For:—				Debtors for Affiliation Fees:			
Sundry Expenses	1	19	6	Meath	0	10	0
Handballs	3	0	11	Less Cash	0	2	0
Medals	51	0	0				
Audit and Accountancy	9	16	0	Leitrim	0	8	0
Secretary for Expenses paid out of own funds	89	16	7				
			155	13	0		0 12 0
							11 10 0
				Telephone Deposit			23 10 3
				Stock of Rules			
				Excess of Expenditure over Income			
				for Year	126	8	1
				Less Balance at 31st Dec., 1952	2	6	10
							124 1 3
			159	13	6		159 13 6

IRISH AMATEUR HANDBALL ASSOCIATION, GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

Dr. REVENUE ACCOUNT For year ended 31st DECEMBER, 1953. Cr.

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1953. Dec. 31.			1953. Dec. 31.		
To Team Expenses:			By Affiliation Fees:		
Cavan	8 18 0		Antrim	1 0 0	
Monaghan	10 6 0	15 4 0	Armagh	0 4 0	
Cork	19 4 0	32 13 8	Carlow	0 6 0	
Dublin	8 4 0		Cavan	0 6 0	
Galway	7 0 0		Clare	0 4 0	
Kerry	37 7 6		Cork	1 2 0	
Kildare	7 2 0		Deiry	0 4 0	
Kilkenny	9 2 3		Donegal	0 4 0	
Limerick	19 0 0		Down	1 2 0	
Mayo	39 4 0		Fermanagh	0 4 0	
Roscommon	7 17 0		Galway	1 6 0	
Tipperary	8 11 0		Kerry	0 14 0	
Wexford	109 5 2		Kildare	0 8 0	
		360 10 7	Kilkenny	1 0 0	
Medals		50 10 0	Laois	0 8 0	
Insurance of Cup		1 0 0	Leitrim	0 4 0	
Meeting Expenses		112 17 9	Limerick	0 16 0	
Secretary's Travelling and Hotel Expenses		53 17 6	Limerick	0 2 0	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising		40 16 2	Louth	0 12 0	
To Handballs		60 11 11	Mayo	0 10 0	
Post, Phone and Telegrams		41 10 1	Meath (see Balance Sheet)		
Subscriptions		1 9 4	Monaghan	0 10 0	
Bank Charges and Cheque Books		8 8 0	Offaly	0 18 0	
Audit and Accountancy Fee		50 0 0	Roscommon	0 18 0	
Secretary's Honorarium		22 7 9	Sligo	1 0 0	
Sundry Expenses			Tipperary	2 2 0	
			Tyrone	0 4 0	
			Waterford	0 16 0	
			Westmeath	0 12 0	
			Wexford	1 4 0	
			Wicklow	0 14 0	
					20 0 0
			1952. "		
			Gate Receipt:		
			Aug. 23 At Kingscourt	15 8 0	
			" 30 " Birr	28 10 0	
			Sept. 6 " Depot	30 4 0	
			" 13 " Hollymount	33 5 0	
			" 13 " Ballymore Eustace	20 10 0	
			" 13 " Virginia	29 10 0	
			" 13 " Depot	5 10 0	
			Oct. 4 " Ballymacelligott	16 17 0	
			" 11 " Horse and Jockey	69 2 0	
			" 25 " Depot	5 13 0	
					254 9 0
					274 9 0
			By Sale of Handballs		
			Sale of Rules	49 13 3	
			Personal Phone Account	9 9	
					2 19 0
			Central Council:		
			Annual Grant	350 0 0	
			Special Grant	— — —	
					350 0 0
					677 11 0
			Balance, being excess of expenditure over income for year		126 8 1
					803 19 1

We have examined the foregoing Accounts and Balance Sheet and certify them to be correct and in accordance with the books and vouchers submitted to us.

KEANE & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

30, Westmoreland Street,
Dublin.
11th February, 1954.