

COMAIRLE LIATHRÓID-LÁIME NA hÉIREANN

AN COMHÓDAIL BLIANTÚIL 1955

TUARASCÓDAIL AN RÚNAÍ AGUS CUNTAS AN AIRSIO 1954  
TIONÓIRAN AN COMHÓDAIL 1 DÚIS ÓSTA DAIRREAD, 1 AGUS 2 SRÁID DANMAIRIS, ÁÉ CLIAÉ  
AN 13-3-1955, AG A 1.30 A CLOS

AN CLÁN

- (1) Mion-tuairisicí.
- (2) TUARASCÓDAIL.
- (3) TUAIRISC AN RÚNAÍ AGUS CUNTAS AN AIRSIO.
- (4) TOSAD NA h-OIRISEAD, 1955.
  - (a) Uachtarán
  - (b) Leas-Uachtarán
  - (c) Rúnaí Omis
- (5) Na Rám.

NA h-OIRISI, 1955 :

Uachtarán : Seosam Ó Beirgín (Tiobraid Árann).

Das Uachtarán : T. S. MacUileogáin (Cill Dara), P. Ó Cinnéire (Ros Comáin), P. Ó Rogáin (Áé Cliaé),  
C. Ó Moirín (Munster), A. Ó. Cléirig (Áé Cliaé).

Rúnaí : Seosam Ó Longsigh (Áé Cliaé), A. Ó hÉireáin (Áé Cliaé).

NA RÚIN

- (1) Reduction in price of Softballs. (Sligo)
- (2) That in the Gael Linn Competition, Area Final venues be rotational. (Kerry)
- (3) That Council administer the business of handball through the Co. Secretaries concerned (Kerry).
- (4) That handball players be subject to the rules of the Irish Handball Council (and those of the G.A.A.) and only to such rules. (Kildare).
- (5) That a sum not exceeding £25 be set aside to purchase Hardballs from one maker—the weight, size, speed and hardness of which are acceptable to a representative appointed by Congress (Kildare).
- (6) That a list of referees for All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Finals be sent to County Secretaries and that list be adhered to. (Kildare).
- (7) That this Congress appoint a representative on the Central G.A.A. Council. (Kildare)
- (8) That no match be played on a wet court. (Kildare).
- (9) That steps be taken to hold an Ireland v Universities and Services handball match on the morning of the hurling and football matches in the same series. (Kildare).
- (10) That all players be compelled to wear singlets during the entire course of the game. (Tipperary).
- (11) That the Gael Linn Committee be asked to present replica of the Gael Linn Cup to the winner each year. (Wexford).
- (12) That the Central Council Secretary prepare handball notes of all games in the provinces and give them to Radio Éireann for Sports Stadium every Friday night. (Wexford).

# COMAIRLE LIACROIO-LAIME NA hEIREANN

A Cairde Saoréad,

Di an bliain seo éiríte an-sásúil mar do bainead calam-stán de coraí na blianta roime sin agus bí dul cum éinn mór ann 45 an-án gcéadna.

Táim an-buairéad do gac túinne a curóis liom i rit na blianta seo éiríte, do shna bailleab comairle, do shna Comairle Cúige, do gac Coiste Comrae, do gac míreóir, agus do'n Ára Comairle, C.I.C.S.

Pe seo, cá le págáil, cuairisc ar na comórtáil, cuntas aingio, agus jrl.

## 1954 All-Ireland Handball Champions

Senior Softball Singles: John Ryan, (Wexford)  
Senior Softball Doubles: Chris Delaney and J. Dunne (Kilkenny).  
Senior Hardball Singles: Austin Clarke, (Dublin)  
Senior Hardball Doubles: John Ryan and John Doyle (Wexford)  
Junior Softball Singles: Joseph Delaney, (Kilkenny)  
Junior Softball Doubles: J. Moynihan and Patrick Hackett, (Limerick)

Junior Hardball Singles: Joseph Delaney, (Kilkenny)  
Junior Hardball Doubles: Michael Gleeson and Robert Doyle, (Dublin)  
Minor Softball Singles: Eamon Horan, (Kerry)  
Minor Softball Doubles: Eamon Horan and D. Downey (Kerry)  
Minor Hardball Singles: Eamon Horan, (Kerry)  
Minor Hardball Doubles: Martin Hayes and M. Sullivan (Kilkenny).

At the outset I feel it is my duty to inform you that when Mr. T. J. McElligott, who was elected at last years Congress, resigned from the office of Secretary I was asked to carry on the duties of the position until this Congress. It is fitting here that tribute should be paid to our former Secretary for the great developments that took place in Handball during his years of office.

## Championships

The full Championship programme was carried out. For the first occasion for many years one programme was completely abandoned due to inclement weather, while another programme was called off in the final stages. However when you consider the weather conditions of last year we cannot but feel pleased that the remainder of our programme was carried out to schedule. In the majority of Championships the high standard of previous years was maintained. John Ryan by his victories in SSBS and SHBS with John Doyle as partner must now have established himself as the outstanding player since J. J. Gilmarin. The Dublin Champion Austin Clarke confounded even his most ardent followers when he regained the SHBS title which he last held in 1951. Kilkenny represented by Chris Delaney and Jasper Dunne won their first Senior title since 1947. It is worthy of record that Jasper Dunne won his first Championship medal over twenty years ago. The performance of Limerick's J. Moynihan and P. Hackett in winning the JSBD title exceeded all expectations. By their success Limerick has gained its first All-Ireland title for over twenty-five years. Joe Delaney the Kilkenny Junior brought off an unique double in winning the Singles titles in both Softball and Hardball. He became the first holder of the Elvery and Dunlop Shields. A performance that will not be surpassed for a long time was that of Eamon Horan the Kerry Minor Star who won both the Minor Singles titles, and shared the Minor Softball Doubles title with partner D. Downey. Dublin gained its first JBBD title for a considerable time when the well known N.A.C.A. athlete Mick Gleeson partnered by R. Doyle won convincingly.

## Colleges

It is pleasing to record that the Colleges All-Ireland Handball Championships were revived in 1954. St. Brendan's College of Loughrea, were convincing winners. Despite the fact that these Championships have been revived we cannot feel too happy as there are still a large number of Colleges throughout the country that have the facilities but still are not competing.

## Tostal Competition

It was decided at last years Congress to promote a Tostal Competition. Each Provincial Council was asked to arrange that competing counties play off for the right to represent the Province in the final stages. Leinster had an entry of six counties, Ulster two counties, and Connacht and Munster one each. The Competition was won by the Leinster representatives A. Clarke and L. Roe of Dublin. It was decided last year that the gate receipts be divided between the competing counties to cover portion of their travelling expenses. The gate receipts were very poor and all the counties lost heavily on it. A Tostal trophy will be available again this year, and it now remains for counties interested as to whether they are prepared to compete again under the same conditions.

## Gael Linn

The 1953-54 Gael Linn Competition was won by John Ryan who thus became the first holder of the Perpetual Challenge Cup. The 1954-55 Competition received a total of 30 entries comprising 240 players. The figure is an increase on last year. At the termination of the 1953-54 Competition there was a deficiency of £45 5s 1d which was eventually made good by Gael Linn. For the future they offer the following "If in any other year there are losses incurred in running the finals of the Gael Linn Competition our Committee will be prepared to meet losses to an amount up to but not exceeding £25. If it should happen that in any particular year that, due to some exceptional circumstances, the losses on the Gael Linn finals were extraordinarily high it would be understood that your committee would be entitled to put the matter before our Trustees and expect them to take the special difficulties of that year into account. In such case our Trustees could not be considered liable to pay any more than the sum already mentioned (£25), but as we have already assured you our organisation is anxious to give whatever support it possibly can to the revival of handball." As the result of the above Council agreed to again promote the Competition, at the same time, notifying all interested venues that the only expenses allowed would be return rail fare and hotel accommodation to the eight players qualifying for the final stages.

## New Softball

During the past year the Irish Dunlop Rubber Co. distributed many sample balls for testing and as a result of reports received they have agreed to manufacture a Softball to the following specifications:-

(1) The ball shall have a plain surface except for two panels diametrically opposed. These panels to have slightly sunken surface on which the name "Irish Dunlop approved ball" will appear in raised letters. (2) The ball shall be not less than 2.125 inches in diameter, and not more than 2.250 inches diameter and shall be not less than 58 grammes and not more than 62 grammes in weight. It shall have a bounce of not less than 70 inches and not more than 74 inches when dropped from a height of 100 inches to a concrete floor. The ball is to have a deformation of more than .175 of an inch and less than .210 of an inch when subject to a load of 12 lbs.

As a result of representations being

to retail the new balls at 5/9 each. Messrs. Elvery's will be the agents as heretofore. The manufacturers expect to deliver 4 1/2 dozen weekly to them in the immediate future. I might mention here that the balls will be hand manufactured until such time as the firm have the new plant available to go into full production.

## Hardball

Are we satisfied that Hardball is making progress? I would say not. The same counties are competing each year, and the standard of play has shown definite evidence of deteriorating. What is the remedy? The balls at present in use vary too much in bound, weight and hardness and steps must be taken to remedy these serious defects if we are to encourage new areas. Further, Provincial Councils should endeavour to introduce the Hardball game into non-Hardball areas and encourage the County Committees under their jurisdiction to promote competitions for beginners. Even if an entry of only three or four is received it is well worth the effort as all things must have small beginnings.

## Youth

One of the most important aspects of our work is the development of the game with the Youth. Some of our counties are well organised in this respect, but I fear they are very much in the minority. We have a definite duty as Irishmen to the Youth of our country, our Association demands it, our Country demands it. If we are to build on lasting foundations then we must start from the bottom. Remember that the Youth is the lifeblood of our organisation. I would suggest that each County Committee seek the co-operation of the teachers, lay and religious, and organise on the same lines as the G.A.A. Schools Committees. You all know the great work the teachers have done for football and hurling. They will do the same for Handball if only given the opportunity.

## New Alleys

During the year new alleys were opened at Ballypatrick, Ballybay and Drumshambo, while Clones and Loughmuckery alleys were converted to meet regulation requirements. A special word of praise is due to Ballypatrick for the fine manner in which they entered for the record crowds at the two All-Ireland programmes which they housed. While on the question of new alleys I wonder is it a wise policy to build the majority of our new alleys to meet maximum requirements. There are so few Provincial and All-Ireland matches that it is not possible to give all alleys even one programme each year. Would it not be more economical if County Committees developed one alley to meet Inter-County needs, and the balance to meet local requirements. The Croke Park alley was reopened in May and we feel indebted to the G.A.A. authorities for the fine job done. It certainly fills a much needed want in the Capital and leaves Croke Park a real, true G.A.A. headquarters.

## Financial

At the commencement of the year, Council was in debt to the extent of £137 0 4 which left only £212 19 8 to carry through the years programme. It was apparent from the outset that it would not be possible to make ends meet. The Financial position was discussed with the G.A.A. authorities and it was agreed that a full report be given at the end of the year. In the meantime the Annual Grant was increased to £400. Towards the end of the year an estimate of Receipts and Expenses was drawn up which showed an estimated deficit of £230. This was duly placed before the G.A.A. Finance Committee for consideration and a special Grant of £230 was made to clear the deficit. The G.A.A. Finance Committee notified the Handball Council that the Annual Grant of £400 would hold for the future but there was absolutely no hope of an increase in this figure. They informed us that we must adjust our needs to live within this figure and made certain recommendations where economies could be effected. I feel we owe a special debt of gratitude to the G.A.A. Central Council for the generous help they have given to us and especially to Mr. Padraigh O Caoimh who was ever ready to help in the solution of our many problems. Your Council did endeavour to effect economies in expenses during the year but these were largely offset by the cost of three special meetings (169 odd) and the postponement of Hollymount (£35) and the calling off of Ballypatrick (£20). However looking to the future I do feel that it is possible to make ends meet. No doubt the utmost care must be exercised in all expenditure.

The Publicity given to Handball continues to improve and we are indebted to the National and Provincial press for the space they made available for our activities. Radio Eireann were somewhat lacking in featuring handball in the Sunday Gaelic Reports, but I have been informed that all Provincial and All-Ireland results will be included for the future. On two occasions during the year they did however include special features on handball in the "Provincial Round-up."

In conclusion I return my sincere thanks to our President who was ever ready to give advice on the various problems that arose, to the Council members, Provincial officers and the County Committees. A special vote of thanks is due to the officials who so readily acted at all our fixtures.

Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of deceased members of the Irish Handball Association at the Franciscan Church, Merchants Quay on the morning of 13th March, 1955 at 10.30 a.m.

SO NÓRANAR DÚA TÁDCAIR AR A N-ANÁIN AGA

AR COMAIRLE LIACROIO LAIME NA hEIREANN,  
SEOSAM Ó LOINNSÍS

The President and Members of:  
The Irish Amateur Handball Association,  
per Seosamh nasal O Loingsigh,  
Honorary Secretary.

13 WESTMORELAND STREET,  
DUBLIN, C.4,  
18th February, 1955

A Chaire,

We have Audited the Books of the Association for the Year ended 31st December 1954. We enclose General Revenue Account and Special Tournament Revenue Account for the Year together with Balance Sheet, showing the financial position of the Association at the end of the Year.

## General Revenue Account

Income for the Year, including the Annual Grant from the Central Council, Gaelic Athletic Association £400 and Special Grant from the same body £230, amounted to £935 ls. 5d. Expenditure for the Year came to £838 5s. 4d. Income exceeded Expenditure by £96 16s. 1d.

The Account of the preceding year had shown a Loss of £126 8s. 1d. If Teams' Expenses for Cork and Tipperary Players which were incurred last year and paid in this year are added the Loss for last year would have been £155 0s. 5d. These 1953 Expenses are not charged against this Account. The Deficiency in the Balance Sheet coming forward from last year has been increased by the amount of these Expenses, viz., £28 12s. 4d.

Allowing for these adjustments, the 1954 Account shows an improvement of £251 16s. 6d. as compared with the 1953 Account. There was an increase in Income of £258 0s. 2d. and an increase in Expenditure of £6 3s. 8d. The increase in Income was entirely due to the Association receiving from the Central Council, Gaelic Athletic Association £50 more in the Annual Grant over and above the Special Grant of £230. Affiliation Fees were less by £3 4s. 0d. and Gate Receipts were down by £8 8s. 7d. Teams' Expenses increased by £17 11s. 11d. and Meeting Expenses were greater by £46 12s. 7d. There was a reduction of £58 4s. 7d. in Secretary's Travelling and Hotel Expenses. Taking into account the sales of Handballs, the net charge for Balls used was £5 18s. 4d. in this year as compared with a net charge of £10 18s. 8d. in the preceding year.

## Special Tournament Revenue Account

This Account was opened to contain the Income and Outgoings of Matches played outside the ordinary Championships. The addition of Teams' Expenses £45 ls. 2d., Car Hire and Meals £14 17s. 0d. and Postage and Telephone £9 15s. 11d., viz., £69 14s. 1d., reduced by £24 9s. 0d. Gate Receipts at Horse and Jockey, gave the figure of £45 5s. 1d. which was refunded by Gael Linn. Teams' Expenses to the re-opening of the Croke Park Court £8 7s. 2d. were refunded by the Central Council, Gaelic Athletic Association. The Gate taken at Croke Park on this occasion, viz., £10, was offset by a Grant of a similar amount given towards the re-opening expenses of Ballypatrick Court. The Loss on this Account £3 3s. 0d. is made up of Audit Fee and Bank Charge.

## Balance Sheet

The Assets of the Association at 31st December, 1954, consisting of Cash at Bank £14 3s. 3d.; Stock of Handballs £1 8s. 6d.; Stock of Rule Books £15 and Debts due for Handballs £2 16s. 3d., amounted to £33 8s. 0d. Liabilities at the same date came to £92 8s. 6d. Liabilities exceeded Assets by £59 0s. 6d.

No value has been placed on Cups and Trophies held by the Association which are set out on the face of the Balance Sheet for record purposes.

The Books were presented in good order for audit and were vouched satisfactorily.

Is sinne le meas,  
D. O'CONNOR & CO.

## Irish Amateur Handball Association, Gaelic Athletic Association Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1954

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1954—December, 31	£	s.	d.	1954—December, 31	£	s.	d.
TO TEAMS' EXPENSES				BY AFFILIATION FEES:			
Cavan .. .. .	26	9	6	Antrim .. .. .	1	8	0
Cork .. .. .	19	12	6	Armagh .. .. .	4	0	0
Galway .. .. .	6	19	2	Carlow .. .. .	6	0	0
Kerry .. .. .	92	4	0	Cavan .. .. .	4	0	0
Kilkenny .. .. .	29	1	2	Clare .. .. .	4	0	0
Limerick .. .. .	18	17	6	Cork .. .. .	16	0	0
Louth .. .. .	1	16	9	Derry .. .. .	2	0	0
Mayo .. .. .	62	1	6	Donegal .. .. .	8	0	0
Monaghan .. .. .	6	15	0	Down .. .. .	4	0	0
Roscommon .. .. .	44	10	0	Dublin .. .. .	18	0	0
Tipperary .. .. .	6	2	9	Fermanagh .. .. .	4	0	0
Tyrone .. .. .	28	5	0	Galway .. .. .	4	0	0
Wexford .. .. .	64	0	0	Kerry .. .. .	10	0	0
			406 14 10	Kildare .. .. .	8	0	0
" Medals .. .. .			54 0 0	Kilkenny .. .. .	16	0	0
" Insurance of Cups .. .. .			1 0 0	Laois .. .. .	8	0	0
" Meeting Expenses .. .. .			117 12 4	Leitrim .. .. .	4	0	0
" Secretary's Travelling and Hotel Expenses .. .. .			20 10 11	Limerick .. .. .	16	0	0
" Secretary's Honorarium .. .. .			50 0 0	Longford .. .. .	2	0	0
" Printing and Stationery .. .. .			48 4 5	Louth .. .. .	8	0	0
" Advertising 1953 .. .. .	1	10	0	Mayo .. .. .	10	0	0
" Advertising 1954 .. .. .	6	2	3	Meath .. .. .	2	0	0
			6 12 3	Monaghan .. .. .	8	0	0
" Handballs .. .. .			48 0 4	Offaly .. .. .	16	0	0
" Audit and Accountancy Fees .. .. .			8 8 0	Roscommon .. .. .	10	0	0
" Bank Charges, Interest and Cheque Books .. .. .			3 5 8	Sligo .. .. .	8	0	0
" President's Postage and Telephone—two years .. .. .	10	0	0	Tipperary .. .. .	1	18	0
" Less: Amount due at 31st Dec., 1953 .. .. .	1	19	6	Tyrone .. .. .	4	0	0
			8 0 6	Waterford .. .. .	12	0	0
" Secretary's Postage .. .. .	11	18	2½	Westmeath .. .. .	18	0	0
" Less: for Gael Linn Tournament .. .. .	18	9		Wexford .. .. .	1	4	0
			10 19 5½	Wicklow .. .. .	12	0	0
" Secretary's Telephone .. .. .	38	13	6½				16 16 0
" Add: Rental prepaid on 31st December, 1953 .. .. .	6	10	0	GATE RECEIPTS:			
			45 3 6½	Aug. 15 Croke Park .. .. .	19	14	0
" Less: for Gael Linn Tournament .. .. .	8	17	2	22 Kingcourt .. .. .	7	18	0
			36 6 4½	22 Ballypatrick .. .. .	67	6	6
" Less: Refunded by Former Secretary .. .. .	7	14	8	Sept. 5 Croke Park .. .. .	10	1	0
			28 11 8½	12 Croke Park .. .. .	22	11	6
" Officials' Expenses at Finals .. .. .	12	3	2	12 Hollymount .. .. .	3	0	0
" Rent of Croke Park .. .. .	5	5	0	19 Croke Park .. .. .	13	8	0
" Cleaning and Repairing of Cups .. .. .	2	2	6	19 Horse and Jockey .. .. .	28	5	6
" Gratuity to Caretaker at Meetings .. .. .	1	5	0	26 Croke Park .. .. .	23	6	6
" Expenses of Representative to Central Council, G.A.A. .. .. .	4	19	3	Oct. 3 Ballypatrick .. .. .	50	9	5
" Affiliation Fees written off .. .. .			10 0				246 0 5
" Balance, being Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure .. .. .	96	16	1	" Sale of Rule Books .. .. .			3 0
			935 1 5	" Sale of Handballs .. .. .			42 2 0
				CENTRAL COUNCIL:			
				" Annual Grant .. .. .	400	0	0
				" Special Grant .. .. .	230	0	0
							630 0 0

**Irish Amateur Association, Gaelic Athletic Association**  
**Revenue Account—Special Tournaments for the Year ended 31st December, 1954**

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1954—December, 31		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To TEAMS' EXPENSES—				By Grant from Gael Linn to cover Expenses			
Gael Linn Tournament:				Grant from Central Council, G.A.A. to cover Expenses			
Limerick	.. .. .	4	10 0	GATE RECEIPTS:			
Louth	.. .. .	2	10 6	March 29 Horse and Jockey	24	9 0	
Monaghan	.. .. .	3	16 8	May 5 Croke Park	10	0 0	
Sligo	.. .. .	12	10 0	Balance, being Excess for Year of Expenditure over Income			
Tipperary	.. .. .	4	0 0			34	9 0
Tyrone	.. .. .	8	14 0			3	3 0
Wexford	.. .. .	9	0 0				
			45 1 2				
.. Car Hire and Meals (Players and Officials from Dublin) Gael Linn							
			14 17 0				
.. POSTAGE AND TELEPHONE:							
1953-54 Postage	.. .. .	18	9				
1953-54 Telephone	.. .. .	8	17 2				
			9 15 11				
.. TEAMS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES RE-OPENING OF CROKE PARK COURT:							
Cavan	.. .. .	2	6 10				
Wexford	.. .. .	3	11 10				
Wicklow	.. .. .	2	8 6				
			8 7 2				
.. Grant Towards re-opening Expenses of Ballypatrick Court							
			10 0 0				
.. Bank Charges							
			1 1 0				
.. Audit and Accountancy Fees							
			2 2 0				
			91 4 3			91	4 3

**Irish Amateur Handball Association, Gaelic Athletic Association**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1954**

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
TEAMS' EXPENSES:		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Cork	.. .. .		19 12 6	Cash at Bank—No. 1 Account	.. .. .	5	4 3
Medals	.. .. .		52 10 0	No. 2 Account	.. .. .	8	19 0
Audit Fees to 31st December, 1953	.. .. .	9	16 0			14	3 3
Audit Fees—1954	.. .. .	10	10 0	Stock of Handballs	.. .. .		1 8 6
			20 6 0	Stock of Rule Books	.. .. .		15 0 0
				Sundry Debtors for Handballs	.. .. .		2 16 3
				Purell Cup—in possession of John Ryan	For record only		
				Dr. Harty Cup—In possession of Austin Clake			
				Elvery Shield } in possession of Joseph Delaney			
				Dunlop Shield }			
				Deficiency as at 31st December 1953	124	1 3	
				Add: Provision for 1953 Teams' Expenses omitted from last Balance Sheet:			
				Cork	.. .. .	23	15 8
				Tipperary	.. .. .	5	16 8
						28	12 4
						152	13 7
				Add: Excess for Year of Expenditure over Income—Special Tournament Account	.. .. .	3	3 0
						155	16 7
				Less: Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure General Account	.. .. .	96	16 1
				Deficiency at date	.. .. .		59 0 6
			92 8 6			92	8 6

We have examined the foregoing Accounts and Balance Sheet of the Irish Amateur Handball Association, have compared them with the Books and Vouchers submitted to us and we certify them to be correct and in accordance therewith.

13 WESTMORELAND STREET, DUBLIN.  
18th February, 1955.

D. O'CONNOR & CO.,  
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.