

cumann lútleas sael

comhairle liathróid-láimhe na hÉireann

An Comhóidil bliantúil 1966

TUARASCÓID AN RÚNAÍ AGUS CUNTAIS AN AIRSIO 1965.

Tionóltar an Comhóidil i rith Ósta Daireadú, 1 agus 2 Sráid Danmairg, áit Chlaé,
ar 13-3-'66 ar a 2 a clos.

AN CLÁR:

- (1) Mion-tuairisic.
- (2) Tuarascóid.
- (3) Tuairisc an Rúnaí agus Cuntas an Airsio.
- (4) Toisíocht na h-Oifigeas, 1966.
 - (a) Uachtarán.
 - (b) Rúnaí.
 - (c) Teachta ar an Árd Comhairle C.L.S.
- (5) Na Rúin.

na h-Oifigis, 1966.

Uachtarán: S. MacSábhann (Donorum).

Rúnaí: S. Ó Loingsig (áit Chlaé).

Teachta ar an Árd Comhairle C.L.S.: S. Ó Loingsig (áit Chlaé).

na Rúin:

- (1) That an open draw be made for the All-Ireland semi-finals.—(Roscomain).
- (2) That an All-Ireland Juvenile (under 16 years of age) be inaugurated.—(Roscomain).
- (2) That Minor and Juvenile forms be amended as follows:
 - (a) Omitting mother's maiden name.
 - (b) A proper birth certificate be supplied.
- (4) That Comhairle Liathroidh Láimhe na hÉireann pay full car hire at the rate of 1/- per mile and that full hotel allowance be paid to players and officials.—(Muigeo).
- (5) That travelling and hotel allowance for All-Ireland semi-finals and finals be increased.—(Ciarrai).

Comhairle Liathroidh Laimhe na hEireann

A Cáirde Sael,

Tá ádas orm arís a cur roimh sceala gearr i dtéarmaí na gcomórtais agus na h-Oibre a bhí againn i rith na mbliana 1965.

Táim an-buáirleach go bhfuil na cuntasáirí uile i rith na mbliana go bhfuil na bailleáirí Comairle, na Comhairle Cuise, go bhfuil na Coirde Comairle, agus Ardo Comairle, Cumann Lútleas Sael.

Fe seo, tá le fáil, tuairisc ar na comórtais cuntasáirí, 7 RL.

1965 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

S.S.B.S.—R. Lyng (Wexford).
S.S.B.D.—J. Delaney and T. Ryan (Kilkenny).
S.H.B.S.—P. Magee (Mayo).
S.H.B.D.—P. McGee and P. Bollingbrooke (Mayo).
J.S.B.S.—P. Sheerin (Offaly).
J.S.B.D.—L. Molloy and D. McGovern (Meath).
J.H.B.S.—P. Sheerin (Offaly).
J.H.B.D.—M. Sullivan and J. Doyle (Dublin).
M.S.B.S.—P. Clarke (Roscommon).
M.S.B.D.—W. Myles and M. Fitzgibbon.
M.H.B.S.—T. Geoghegan (Kildare).
M.H.B.D.—T. Corley and S. Lynch (Galway).

NATIONAL LEAGUE, 1965

Wexford—R. Lyng, W. Lyng, J. King, S. Dempsey.

GAEL-LINN, 1965

J. Delaney (Kilkenny).

In view of the fact that this year's Annual Congress takes place in the Golden Jubilee Year of the 1916 Rising, it is fitting that we should re-affirm our dedication to the preservation of our National Ideals as a tribute to the sacrifice of the men of Easter Week.

I appeal for a very special effort to instil in the youth of to-day a proper appreciation of the value of our national games which have come down to us through the generations. These games which are racy of the soil can develop in our youth a love of all that is best in our national culture and ideals.

The majority of our players nowadays have at least a limited knowledge of our native language and we should encourage them to use it on every available occasion. Surely it is not too much to ask that it be used during the course of some of our matches.

LEINSTER:

Handball continues to thrive in most counties in the province. Dublin set a headline for all other counties when they set up a special committee, under the Chairmanship of Seán Clerkin, to cater for the juveniles and minors within the county. This committee which was only established five months ago is doing tremendous work and has more than justified its existence already. Meath showed further improvement during the year. The Ceanannus Mor court was roofed and floodlighting was installed. With first-class dressing and recreation rooms as an added amenity, it is without doubt the finest club premises in the country. Kilkenny, one of the best-equipped counties, had a new hall erected at Mullinavat. It now only remains for the gallery to be completed before it is available for championship matches. Carlow handball is confined to one rural area, and were it not for the enthusiasm of a few locals the game would be extinct in the county. I have appealed to the Carlow G.A.A. Committee on previous occasions, but so far no response is forthcoming. Surely they cannot feel happy with this position. Laois which is reasonably well equipped with alleys has no active club. Surely the Laois G.A.A. County Committee cannot continually turn a blind eye to this position. There is the responsibility to develop all Gaelic games within the county and not just the popular field games of hurling and football. Wicklow remains one of our best organised counties with a full programme of championship and league matches. Despite Kildare's impressive championship record, the

position of handball within the county is badly in need of rejuvenation. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. J. R. Mullion, floodlighting was installed in the Ballymore Eustace alley. Welcome news from Westmeath is that plans are well under way to have the Mullingar court roofed and floodlighting installed. The Westmeath G.A.A. County Committee have promised considerable financial assistance for the project. This latest offer is typical of the support which we have received from this committee over the years. It sets a headline for many other counties who are in a much better financial position. Longford failed to affiliate during the year, but good news now is that as the result of a meeting held last November, which the Chairman and Secretary of the G.A.A. County Committee attended, a club is formed in Lenamore. They competed in the current Gael-Linn competition and have already started work on renovating their three walled court. Wexford are still one of the strongest counties in the province, but despite this they have considerable difficulty in getting their championships completed. This, I feel, could be overcome by better planning and more initiative from all concerned. Handball in Offaly continues to make steady but unspectacular progress. It is rather a pity that no worthwhile effort has been made to roof at least one of the county's fine alleys. While Louth started the year with only one club the position has greatly improved, mainly due to the efforts of the Louth G.A.A. County Committee and local players. Paddy Reilly. Five active clubs are now functioning and the future looks bright. Work on the Drogheda alley is expected to commence shortly. A feature of the present revival is the effort being made to foster the game at the Franciscan College, Gormanston. Each week a number of Louth players travel to the college and give tuition to the students. Many of our committees could make the same approach to the colleges in their own counties and the effort would repay itself in a very short time.

MUNSTER:

It is difficult to assess the true position in the province, due mainly to lack of communications from the counties. Cork continues to show steady improvement and sets an example in both enthusiasm and organising ability that could well be followed by some of their neighbours. The recent revival in Limerick continues and clubs are active in most areas. It now remains for a big drive to re-organise Limerick City itself. From reports received recently, efforts are afoot to re-organise Clare. There is a possibility of a new alley being erected at Shannon Airport and I have been in regular contact with the architects re this project. Waterford handball, so long in the doldrums is getting progressively worse, and there is no evidence of an enthusiasm on the part of the G.A.A. County Committee to remedy the position. Surely they cannot feel happy as the parent body of Gaelic activities within the county when this apathy exists. Kerry with still only three clubs, continue to be very active. In the time is now ripe for an all-out drive to develop the game in other areas within the county. I suggest that the Handball Committee approach the G.A.A. County Committee and ask for their support, re-organising these other areas. The position in Tipperary is very difficult to understand. The county possesses many fine ballcourts and a large number of clubs, yet organisation within the county not what one would expect from a county steeped in Gaelic tradition.

CONNACHT:

Handball in Connacht is going from strength to strength in counties, with the exception of Leitrim. Mayo, who have made great progress in recent years, need a roofed alley to leave them fully equipped to meet all weather conditions. Plans are well under way for the erection of an alley at Killala, and the committee inform me that it is their intention eventually to roof it and also to install floodlighting. Galway are to be complimented on their great work to foster the game, as they are in the unfortunate position of receiving no financial assistance for some years now from the G.A. County Committee. For a county like Galway, who can show a good surplus on last year's working, it is difficult to understand the failure to give a grant at least in keeping with that given by other counties. Enthusiasm in Roscommon has now spread to the juveniles and is pleasing to report that they have organised competitions, both inside and outside the county, for the youth. Another feature of Roscommon is the introduction of an over-40 competition to enable the older player to retain an active interest in the game. Handball in Sligo continues to flourish and we are hopeful that work will commence shortly on the roofing of the Ballymote alley. In the case of Leitrim, I would appeal very sincerely to the G.A.A. County Committee to lend their support to improve the position.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Contd.)

ULSTER:

Handball in Ulster continues to show a slight improvement each year, although considerable work remains to be done before the game is firmly established in the province. Tyrone with very few alleys continues to be most active. The Cloughfinn officials tell me that they are erecting a new alley this year. It is their intention to roof it and instal floodlighting. Armagh has only two clubs, one at Armagh and the other at Lurgan. The alleys at Lurgan are a great help to the neighbouring counties who lack proper facilities. Handball in Antrim is making very little progress, due mainly to lack of alleys. I feel in this case a lead must be given by the G.A.A. County Committee, as financial resources are very limited. While Down affiliated, the position of handball in the county is very poor. In this Jubilee Year would it be too much to ask Down to put at least the same effort into re-organising the game as they have done in football and hurling. In the case of Monaghan, Donegal, and Fermanagh, handball activity is confined to a few clubs in each county. Here, again, it is a question that must be faced by the various G.A.A. County Committees. While Cavan have six clubs affiliated, there is ample scope for further improvement.

CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The championship scene to a large extent was dominated by the display of the various Connacht champions. Surpassing by far all previous performances, the Western representatives qualified for seven All-Ireland finals and were successful in four of these. Highlighting these performances was the success of P. McGee of Mayo in S.H.B.S., and P. McGee and P. Bollingbrooke in S.H.B.D. This is the first occasion in handball history that either of these titles went west of the Shannon. Equally meritorious was the performance of the Galway minors, T. Corley and S. Lynch, in winning the M.H.B.D.—again this was a first time for the West. These handball successes are further evidence of the growing popularity of the older form of handball which until recently received practically no support in Connacht. P. Clarke, the Roscommon footballer and All-Ireland Colleges handball champion, won the M.S.B.S., and thus kept the title in Connacht for the third year in succession. In winning the S.S.B.S., R. Lyng of Wexford set up a unique record, as he is the first player to win softball singles titles in all three grades. Kilkenny's J. Delaney and T. Ryan, who have contested a number of S.S.B.D. finals without success, were at last successful in winning this title. P. Sheerin of Offaly, one of the leading junior players for the past few years, brought off the double, so seldom achieved, when he won both junior singles. Meath handballers, L. Molloy and D. McGovern, made history when they won the J.S.B.D., as prior to this the Royal County never won a softball title. The success of Dublin's M. Sullivan and Doyle gave the Metropolitans an overdue success, as their last win was in 1955. Kerry minors, W. Myles and M. Fitzgibbon, retained their M.S.B.D. title and were the sole Munster winners. Quite a contrast with previous years. In winning the M.H.B.S., T. Geoghegan added to Kildare's long list of successes at minor level.

NATIONAL LEAGUE:

Following the decision of last Annual Congress, the National League was inaugurated last October. The main purpose of this competition is to provide competition on a team basis for counties. In an effort to minimise travelling, it was decided to organise it on a provincial basis. Each Provincial Council was asked to organise one or more groups. A very good response was received from Leinster, Ulster and Connacht, but I regret to say that not even one Munster county displayed any interest in this new competition. Surely this apathy is not indicative of the general approach to handball in the province.

A total of 19 counties competed in the various groups. Details as follows: Leinster—Wexford, Dublin, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, Carlow, Louth; Connacht—Mayo, Galway, Roscommon, Sligo; Ulster—Tyrone, Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh, Antrim, Down, Donegal.

The opening matches were played on 17th October and the provincial winners were all known on 21st November. In the All-Ireland semi-final Mayo received a bye, and Wexford went on to defeat Tyrone by seven games to nil. In the final, which was played at Ceananus Mor on 5th December, Wexford defeated Mayo on the score of six games to one. This score somewhat flattered the winners, as all the games were keenly contested and, in fact, two of the games were level at full time.

GAEL-LINN:

Due to the difficulty of finalising the arrangements with Gael-Linn for this year's competition, it was necessary to organise it at a very short notice of one week. Despite this a very good response was forthcoming from most of the counties. A total of 904 players entered, which is slightly lower than last year's record figure.

In an effort to encourage handball in Ulster, the final stage of last year's competition was played at Lurgan last April in very wet and windy conditions. Joe Delaney of Kilkenny, a previous winner, was successful for the second time.

HARDBALLS:

Hardballs were in very short supply during the past year, due to the scarcity of goatskins. The position has now improved as supplies are available from the following at the cost of 7/- per ball. I might mention that it is possible to have balls recovered at a cost of 3/6 per ball.

C. Clarke, 38 Kirwan Street Cottages, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7.
G. Fitzgibbon, Military Road, Buttevant, Co. Cork.

UNIVERSITIES:

It is pleasing to record that the Inter-varsity championships are now firmly established. Last year's competition was played at Galway and this year's competition will be played at Lurgan.

I have been in constant contact with the Director of Sports, Queen's University and he assures me that provision is made for the erection of two alleys in the new multi-purpose sports centre which is being erected over the next few years. It is the intention to roof these courts and instal lighting. There is a strong possibility that these courts will be of standard international size, i.e., 40 by 20 with wooden floors. Should Council require the use of these alleys for training players for future international matches, I have been assured that permission will be readily forthcoming. Galway already have an alley and it now remains for Dublin and Cork to follow.

RAFFLE:

The profit on the raffle showed a decrease on last year, and we it not for the fact that the Dublin Handball Committee generously returned their commission on sales, the profit would have been even less. The nett position is that we now have £427 on hands to meet the expenses of the representatives travelling to the next world handball championships which will be held in either 1967 or 1968. However, I am sure you will appreciate that it will require more than this sum to meet all expenses. I would appeal to all counties to ensure that this year's raffle will be a bigger success than ever. If there is surplus money it is the intention to give grants to clubs to enable them to roof alleys.

GENERAL:

On the eve of the football final, Council staged a programme of three All-Ireland finals at Croke Park. This venture proved an outstanding success and the 'house full' notice was up from early in the evening. Had the accommodation been available the attendance would have been at least doubled. Admittedly certain improvements could be carried out at Croke Park for future matches. Improved ventilation and possibly a new type of floor could eliminate that unbearable of condensation which makes the alley very treacherous and takes away considerably from a game. I am sure the Electrical Contractors could improve the lighting, as it compares unfavourably with other courts.

Looking to the future, I feel we must avail of floodlighting as much as possible, and avoid clashing with football and hurling matches. Saturday night programmes at Croke Park have proved very attractive for the past two years and Council should make every effort to have a number of such programmes for the future. In answer to the few who object to playing matches on Saturdays, I say that they must remember that such a course is necessary if Council feels that it is going to help in the promotion of the game. Further, let us look at many other sports where the contestants have to be prepared to compete on any night when taking part in national championship. In this present age we must prepare to adjust ourselves to meet the

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Contd.)

changing times. Our every effort should be concentrated on creating a better public image. If we are to win over public support, which is so essential to all organisations, we must adopt a more realistic approach to future development. We must use all means in our power to achieve this end.

It is regrettable that our National television continues to ignore handball. At the request of the Director of Sports, all fixtures lists are forwarded to him, but the matter seems to end there. At all times Council are prepared to facilitate the Television authorities. The majority of our players and officials are viewers from time to time, and I appeal to them to register protests over the failure of Telefís Éireann to give any worthwhile coverage to our activities.

Many changes in rules were introduced during the year and the main purpose of these changes was to bring our rules into line with those of other countries, and also an effort to make the game more attractive for both players and spectators. What was the general reaction to these changes? I heard no complaints during the year and from what I could gather, the general feeling was one of ready acceptance. The two major changes were the elimination of kicking, so long associated with our game, and the reduction in the number of games in the various rubbers. With kicking no longer permissible, players must attain a greater degree of physical fitness if they are to take low shots with the hand. I would like to see the introduction of the side arm stroke into our play, as this stroke if perfected can to a large extent offset the elimination of kicking. The shorter rubbers enables programmes to be played as near as possible to the scheduled time and also eliminates time-wasting which was often a feature of the longer rubbers.

There is every possibility of the Tailteann Championships being revived this year. The Willwood Foundation, which for the past few years has been sponsoring a Junior Tailteann for athletics, are anxious to include handball this year. It is the intention to stage competitions for both seniors and juveniles. I will be in a position to furnish you with full details later.

The development of handball at juvenile, school, and college level has not made anything like the progress it should. Again, I would appeal to our administrators to set up special committees to all levels to improve this position. Already Dublin have undertaken this task and the results to date after a few months' work are most encouraging. Roscommon and Meath have also set up committees to look after this most important aspect of our work. Cork are, I believe, contemplating a similar move. What of the other counties? Let us during this Jubilee Year make an earnest endeavour to give our youth the opportunity of taking part in our national games.

FINANCE:

The decision to reduce travelling expenses to 6d. per mile was not well received by some counties. However, Council had no alternative as at the start of the year there was a deficit of £552 on the No. 1 Account. The present position is that there is a deficit of £501 on this Account. Until such time as this is cleared, I cannot see Council accepting any further financial commitments. I made a survey of our expenses over the last five years prior to last Annual Congress and it is clear that expenses exceeded income by approximately £2 a year. Our two main sources of income are the annual G.A.A. grant of £600 and gate receipts which vary from £150 to £190 a year. The only solution is to increase our income and I cannot see any way of doing this. I might mention that in addition to giving annual grants to the G.A.A. Central Council are prepared to consider applications for grants towards erection of alleys. I appeal to counties to exercise the utmost restraint in their claims, and I feel sure that with the full co-operation of all counties it will be possible to clear off our balance on the No. 1 Account. Instead of Council accepting the full responsibility for travelling and hotel expenses counties should be prepared to accept their share. You must remember that the average football or hurling team has to raise considerable sums of money to keep going each year. In most other sports, the players have to meet their own expenses and are prepared to do so in return for the enjoyment they get.

Publicity continues to improve and we are indebted to the National and Provincial Press for their coverage. I would appeal to media officials to give the various correspondents every help to keep our activities well publicised.

Again we are indebted to the G.A.A. Central Council and its officers, especially the President and General Secretary for their ever ready assistance, financial and otherwise.

I am deeply grateful to the President and his fellow-members of the Council for their understanding and co-operation. I wish to pay a special tribute to Mr. T. B. Kennedy, the Munster representative, who retires this year, for the services rendered to Council over the years.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for the happy repose of the souls of all deceased members.—Go ndeanaidh Dia trocair ar a n-anamaca.

Ar son Comhairle Liathroidh Laimhe na hÉireann,

SEOSAMH O LOINGSIGH.

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COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LAIMHE NA hEIREANN, CUMANN LUTH-CHLEAS GAEL

GAEL-LINN ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965

EXPENDITURE:				INCOME:					
1965:		£	s	d	1965:		£	s	d
Dec. 31.					Dec. 31.				
To Refund of Travelling and Hotel Expenses to Venue Championships:					By Gate Receipts:				
Arklow	4	10	0		28/2/65 at Croke Park		17	0	
Ballyanne	23	4	0		at Ballypatrick		3	14	6
Castlebar	1	7	6		at Kanturk		4	16	0
Castlebridge		7	6		7/3/65 at Lurgan		5	11	0
Ceannanus Mor	7	12	6		14/3/65 at Roscommon		7	0	6
Clogheen	29	0	0		at Tullamore		1	2	0
Drogheda		16	9		at Ballyanne		4	10	0
Dublin	3	12	6		at Ballymore Eustace		2	11	0
Enniscorthy	1	15	0		11/4/65 at Lurgan		11	8	3
Fahy	1	15	0						41 10 3
Fermoy	4	6	0		Grant from Gael-Linn to cover				
Galway	10	8	0		Expenses				248 10 0
Garryhill	3	0	6		Balance, Excess for Year of Expenditure				
Kilbeggan		7	6		over Income				2 13 1
Kingscourt	16	12	0						
Lacken		10	0						
Letterkenny	10	4	6						
Limerick	8	0	0						
Lurgan	1	0	0						
Maynooth	1	10	0						
Mullinavat	1	0	0						
Mullingar	1	15	0						
Newport	30	16	0						
Sligo	10	10	0						
Talbot's Inch	9	6	0						
Tipperary	3	0	0						
Tralee	7	10	6						
Ullard		7	6						
Expenses paid direct by Association	16	19	0						
				211 3 3					
Medals and Replica				14 0 0					
Advertising				15 0					
Handballs				8 11 6					
Sec's Travelling and Hotel Expenses				25 0 0					
Telephone Expenses				2 15 0					
Telephone Expenses refunded to Venue Secretaries				20 0 7					
Postage				7 5 0					
Audit Fees				3 3 0					
				£292 13 4					£292 13 4

INTERNATIONAL AND TOURNAMENT ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965.

EXPENDITURE:				INCOME:							
1965:		£	s	d	1965:		£	s	d		
Dec. 31.					Dec. 31.						
To Expenses of Raffle:					By Members' Subscriptions				53	1	8
Prizes		19	10	0	Grant from Ciste na Banban				50	0	0
Printing and Stationery		24	10	0	Receipts from Raffle—Gross				156	7	3
Advertising		1	15	0							
Postage		7	2	6							
				52	17	6					
Audit and Accountancy Fee				2	2	0					
Balance, Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure				204	9	5					
				£259	8	11					

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1965

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.

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