

Cumann Lútleas Gael

COMAIRLE LIATHRÓID-LÁIMHE NA hÉIREANN

An Comhóil Bliantúil 1969

TUARASCÁIL AN RÚNAÍ AGUS CUNCAS AN AIRSIO 1968

Tionólad an Comhóil i nGais Ósta Dámhara, 1 agus 2 Sráid Damhara, 30 Cliaí,
ar 30-3-69 ar a 2 o cliaí.

AN CLÁR:

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| (1) Mion-tuairiscí. | (4) Tosaí na n-Ofisí, 1969. |
| (2) Tuairiscí. | (a) Uachtarán. |
| | (b) Rúnaí. |
| | (c) Teachta ar an Comhairle C.L.G. |
| (3) Tuairisc an Rúnaí agus Cuncas an Airsio. | (5) Na Rúnaí. |

NA n-OFISÍ, 1969.

Uachtarán—An Br. B. C. O Murchu (Ath Cliath).

Uachtarán—An Br. Oirmh B. C. O Murchú. (Ath Cliath)

Rúnaí—S. O Loinsigh (Ath Cliath).

Teachta ar an Ard Comhairle, C.L.G.—S. O Loinsigh (Ath Cliath).

NA RÚNAÍ:

- Go mbeadh an t-ord seo a leanas ar chluich sa Sraith Naisiunta Liathreid Láimhe:
 - An chead Singil;
 - An cluiche Dubailte;
 - An dara singil.—Cill Coinnigh.
- That the National League be played with the hardball.—Cill Dara.
- Counties concerned in All-Ireland finals be allowed representation at fixture meetings for All-Ireland finals.—Cill Coinnigh.
- That Provincial Councils organise inter-club championships, or alternatively nominate provincial representatives; that the provincial winners or the club nominated then play in an All-Ireland series. Teams to consist of four players, i.e., two singles and one doubles, and matches be played on the same system as the National League.—Cill Coinnigh.
- That the All-Ireland championships be staged on a regional basis. That there be four regions, each consisting of eight counties. Each region to play off its championships at a central venue over a week-end.—Tiobrad Arann.
- That an under-12 doubles competition be included in the Tailteann programme. If this is not feasible that Central Council sponsor a special under-12 doubles competition.—Ros Comain.
- That the Tailteann under-21 championships consist of a rubber of three games of 21 aces.—Ros Comain.
- That each of the Tailteann championships be played with hardball, so that half of these championships would be played the first year and the remainder the second year. In 1969 the following championships would be played with hardball. Senior doubles, Under-21 doubles, Under-16 doubles and Under-14 doubles. In 1970 the following championships be played with hardball. Over-40 doubles, Under-21 singles, Under-16 singles, under-14 singles. In these years the matches not scheduled to be played with hardball would be played with softball.—Cill Dara.
- That seats be reserved for officials and players of participating counties at All-Ireland semi-finals and finals. Number of officials to be defined by Congress.—Ros Comain.
- That paragraph "G," Rule 26, proposed draft of playing rules be deleted.—Tiobrad Arann.
- That the proposed draft of playing rules as submitted to counties be adopted with any recommendations as made by County committees.—Ath Cliath.

Bhí imeachtaí na bliana seo caite sasúil go leor. Tá se solleir ag an am geannas gur ga breis duthracha san obair mhor ata fos le deannamb ma theastaionn uainn an ait is duil duinn a bhaint amach i sulle an phobail. Tá ga mar sin, le comhoibriú Cumann Luthchleas Gael, le atheagru a chuirfidh cursaí liathróid laimhe in éirínt do na seachtoidí.

Ta me an-bhuioch do gach cinne, a chuidigh liom a rith na bliana, do bhaill an Chomhairle, dona Comhairlí cuige, dona Coiste Contae uile agus fos, d'Oifigigh agus baili Ard Chomhairle Chumanna Luthchleas Gael.

Seo leanas an Tuairascail Bliantúil ina bhfuil cur síos ar imeachtaí na bliana, maille le Cuntas an airgid.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS, 1968.

S.S.E.S. J. Maher (Louth).
S.S.B.D. T. and J. McEllistrim (Kerry).
S.H.B.S. J. Maher (Louth).
S.H.B.D. P. Hickey and C. Cleere (Tipperary).
J.S.B.S. D. Kirby (Clare).
J.S.B.D. R. Doherty and P. Clarke (Roscommon).
J.H.B.S. A. Byrne (Dublin).
J.H.B.D. T. Fitzgerald and N. Kerins (Kerry).
M.S.B.S. P. Bennis (Limerick).
M.S.B.D. J. Quigley and J. Sydney (Wexford).
M.H.B.S. J. Quigley (Wexford).
M.H.B.D. W. McCarthy and J. Hally (Tipperary).

NATIONAL LEAGUE, 1968.

Wexford—R. Lynch, S. Buggy, J. King, J. Howlin.

GAEL LINN, 1968.

M. Walsh (Mayo).

TAILTEANN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1968.

Under-14 softball singles—S. McLoughlin (Wexford).
Under-14 softball doubles—J. Devitt and N. Prendergast (Dublin).
Under-16 softball singles—B. O'Connor (Kerry).
Under-16 softball doubles—S. O'Connor and D. Sullivan (Cork).
Under-21 softball singles—P. McGarry (Limerick).
Under-21 softball doubles—W. Myles and M. Fitzgibbon (Kerry).
Senior softball doubles—T. and J. McEllistrim (Kerry).
Over-40 softball doubles—M. Walsh and M. Groarke (Mayo).

Reviewing the activities of the past year it is apparent that handball continues to make progress. However the progress rate is much too slow to make any worthwhile impact on a nationwide scale in the immediate future. It is not my intention to take away from the achievements of recent years, but nevertheless, I am convinced that the tempo must be stepped up considerably if we are to build our association into one of the strongest sporting organisations in the country. We can offer a very worthwhile service to the community and let us be confident of our ability to render this service. To achieve this we must embark on an intensive programme of re-organisation at all levels. Planning is needed before commencing any programme of this nature and this is something that must not be done in a haphazard manner. We must give serious consideration to all aspects of our work — weak and strong points — and the more careful the planning the more likely we are to get a successful return. We should decide what our definite aims are and then set them out in a programme with fixed priorities. It would be a worthwhile exercise to set up a definite schedule for achieving our various objectives.

Once we have drawn up a definite blueprint for future development the next essential is to ensure that we have leaders available at all levels to implement it. I have no doubt but that we have many people of ability in our association but so far we have been unable to convert that ability into performance. Leaders must emerge at all levels as with good leadership we can encourage and inspire others to work for the good of the association.

Once we get our programme under way it is not sufficient to sit back and await results. As I see it we must have regular

meetings at all levels to assess the position, and if necessary to adjust our plans for further development.

You may well ask where do the various G.A.A. bodies fit into these proposals. There is no doubt but that the G.A.A. at all levels has a most important part to play in any reorganisation programme that is launched. The time has come for top level discussions on a large scale programme of development to ensure that handball in the future will hold its rightful place in the Gaelic Athletic Association. As an outcome of these discussions I would expect the G.A.A. to issue a policy statement on these lines "Handball development in the Seventies." I would like to pay tribute to the various councils and county committees of the G.A.A. for the help, financial and otherwise, which they have given handball over the years. Were it not for this help I doubt if handball could have made the progress it has in recent years. However I am sure the various G.A.A. bodies realise that despite the help given, handball has not reached anywhere near its full potential.

Generally the position in the province is satisfactory. For some unknown reason Leitrim failed to affiliate despite the fact that they have at least three active clubs in the county. Possibly it was an oversight. Roscommon are to be commended on the magnificent work they are doing for juvenile handball. Mayo with ten clubs have the highest number of affiliations in the province. Enthusiasm is at a high level in Sligo and plans are afoot to renovate the Collooney alley and also to build an alley in Sligo. Galway appear to be losing ground with little activity in the city itself. The main centre of juvenile activity in the county is Loughrea. A big drive should be launched to promote juvenile handball in the county as a means of building a strong county committee for the future.

LEINSTER

A total of ten counties affiliated Longford and Laois being the exceptions. However, since the end of the year the position has improved in Laois and a county committee was set up recently and four clubs promised to take part in local competitions. In the initial stages the main emphasis will be on the promotion of juvenile handball. A big drive with the full backing of the G.A.A. county committee, was carried out in Westmeath and at least seven clubs will compete in the championships. A feature of this revival effort is the attention being paid to development of juvenile handball. Carlow, which was reorganised last year is making steady progress and a total of five clubs affiliated. Renovations were carried out at Hacketstown and Carlow C.Y.M.S. alleys. The future looks very bright in the county. The position in Wicklow deteriorated during the year with only three active clubs. However, the future looks more promising with a renewal of interest in new areas. Work has already commenced on the new alley in the G.A.A. ground, Arklow and it should be ready for use shortly. As it is the intention to roof this alley it should give handball in the county a much needed boost. Kilkenny and Offaly continue to make steady progress. Kilkenny are to be complimented on the fine work they are doing for juveniles. While handball is played in most areas where alleys exist I still feel there is room for improvement in Wexford. This applies especially to the promotion of juvenile competition. During the year the Ballyanne alley was roofed and lighted and work commenced on the roofing of the Bridgetown court. The position in Kildare improved somewhat during the year with three clubs taking in the various competitions. It is the intention to adopt an expansionist this year with a view to getting handball revived in areas where alleys exist. I would suggest that special attention should be paid to the development of handball in the army, both at the Curragh and Kildare. The position in Louth showed absolutely no improvement and until such time as dedicated officials emerge I cannot see much hope. For too long local officials have been depending on the Drogheda Corporation to give a lead. Surely what has been accomplished in other counties can be accomplished in Louth if only the same degree of dedication is forthcoming. Oenanannus Mor still remains the main centre of activity in Meath. A site was secured for an alley in Ardath but as yet no development has been carried out. The Dublin minor committee once again carried out a tremendous year's work. A total of 2,500 matches were played under the auspices of this committee. In fact the minor committee sets an example to the Dublin senior committee who

had not a very successful year. Efforts are at present being made to rejuvenate the senior committee and present indications are that a big improvement will be made before the end of the year.

MUNSTER

Handball in the province continues to show improvement. Tipperary once again leads the way with active clubs in a large number of areas. During the year Very Rev. Canon Mulvihill built a handball complex consisting of three alleys at Newport. This structure is most unique as it contains three alleys of different dimensions. One a 60 by 30, another 45 by 20 and the third a three-wall alley 75 by 30. This is a very worthwhile experiment and should be a great boost to the locality. Enquiries have been received from a number of other areas in the county anxious to build alleys. Cork continues to show improvement and here again we have had many enquiries re plans for alleys, etc. A roofed alley would be a decided asset to the county and I would suggest that every effort be made this year to provide this much-needed amenity. Activity in Clare is still confined to two areas and there is no evidence of any immediate improvement. I wonder is any effort being made to avail of the new alley at Shannon airport. This would be an ideal centre for the development of juvenile handball. Work has commenced on the new roofed alley at Cappagh and this should be ready for use in April. This should give Limerick handball a good boost. I also have had enquiries from other areas in the county re plans for alleys. Limerick city has a number of alleys built by the Corporation and I feel these could be availed of to promote juvenile handball. The position in Kerry showed no great improvement during the year. I feel more attention could be given to the promotion of juvenile competitions especially in places like Tralee where facilities are available. I have had a number of enquiries re plans for alleys in different parts of the county and I am sure with encouragement these areas could become very active in the near future. Waterford showed absolutely no improvement and until sufficient alleys are available in the county it is difficult to see any improvement.

ULSTER

Progress in the province is still very slow. Only six counties affiliated and in some cases activity is very limited. Tyrone has emerged as the most progressive with work at present being carried out on the erection of two new roofed alleys, Cloughfinn and Loughmacorory. Would that we had the same enthusiasm in the other Ulster counties. Antrim has made no headway and there is no evidence of any progress in the immediate future. Activity in Monaghan is confined to the Clones club and until such time as an effort is made to organise other clubs I cannot see improvement. Donegal continues to make steady progress and present indications are that at least one roofed alley will be built shortly. Handball in Armagh got a further boost when the local council built two fine alleys in Keady. Ulster G.A.A. secretary Mr. Gerry Arthurs was responsible for the erection of these courts and we are indebted to him for his interest in handball development in the province. The position in Cavan has deteriorated and it appears that a full-scale reorganisation must be carried out in the county if handball is to regain its position in the county.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The full championship clar was carried out to schedule. The advantage of having roofed alleys available in a number of areas ensures that the danger of a "wash out" is eliminated. World champion Joe Maher of Louth reappeared in our championships after an absence of three years and was successful in regaining the two singles titles which he held prior to his emigration. However, his task was no easy one as he had to contend with strong opposition at both provincial and All-Ireland level. The outstanding match of the year was the S.S.B.D. final between Kerry and Wexford played at Croke Park under very trying conditions and both counties deserve a very special tribute for providing such a thrilling spectacle. Victory went to Tom and Murty McEllistrim of Kerry after a thrilling final game in which only one ace separated the teams. Tipperary regained the S.H.B.D. title after an absence of six years when Paddy Hickey and Con Cleere outplayed Dublin in the final. Dublin won its first J.H.B.S. title in almost thirty years when Andy Byrne succeeded at his first attempt. Ray Doherty of Roscommon who won two minor titles in the early fifties teamed up with 1965 minor champion Pat Clarke

to win the J.S.B.D. title. The Kirby family of Clare added to their unique record when Dan added a further title to the family collection when winning the J.S.B.S. Kerry's T. Fitzgerald and N. Kerins added a further title to the Kingdom's impressive list when winning the J.H.B.D. John Quigley emerged as the outstanding minor of the year when winning the M.H.B.S. and partnering J. Sydney in the M.S.B.D. success. P. Bennis of Limerick was an impressive M.S.B.S. winner, while Tipperary's W. McCarthy and J. Hally were equally impressive in winning the M.H.B.D. title.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

A total of twenty-one counties competed in the league which was a reduction on the previous year's figures. The main difficulty is that some provinces wait until the last minute to make the necessary arrangements and as a result the competition suffers. I would appeal to each provincial council to ensure that all counties receive adequate notice of draws and fixtures and thereby enable the competition to be run on schedule. Greater use could be made of week nights in counties where roofed alleys exist.

In winning the title for the third time in four years Wexford proved their ability to field a well-balanced team.

GAEL LINN

The total entry for the current competition is 1,048 players which is the second highest entry on record. A feature of the present competition is the number of new venues taking part. The following is a breakdown of the entries. Leinster 400; Connaught 248; Munster 232; Ulster 168.

The final stages of the 1968 competition were played at Ballymacelligott before a record attendance. The winner was the ever green Mickey Walsh of Mayo who despite his years set an example to our much younger players by his degree of fitness and dedication.

TAILTEANN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Once again these championships proved to be one of the highlights of the year and the standard in all grades was exceptionally high. All grades were very well supported and in its short existence the competition has contributed in a big way to handball development, especially at juvenile level.

UNIVERSITIES

As yet handball has failed to make any worthwhile progress in the universities. The main difficulty is lack of alleys and until such time as each university is equipped with alleys I cannot see any progress being made. I feel, however, if handball was taken under the wing of the new Universities Council some progress could possibly be made.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

During the year efforts were made to get the Vocational Schools' committee to include handball in the list of activities that they sponsor. So far we have been successful in our efforts to get a breakthrough to this vital field. To me it is obvious that we must have an organised campaign to impress on the controlling body their responsibility, as an integral part of the G.A.A. to foster handball. The question is how best to approach this matter. We must provide evidence that there is a demand for competition under the auspices of the Vocational School's Committee and this can only be done where we have healthy competition at county level. Each county should organise special competitions for these schools or include them in the schools and colleges competitions if such exist in the county. If this is done then the natural follow on is a demand by these schools for provincial and All-Ireland competitions.

COLLEGES

While handball in the colleges continues to show a slight improvement, I feel the pace must be stepped up considerably if it is to hold its rightful place in college life. The time has come for fresh thinking on future development by the All-Ireland Colleges Council. Instead of the usual doubles championship confined to senior players an effort could be made to introduce a team of four championship with teams made up of senior and junior players. Each team to consist of two singles players and

one doubles pairing. In this way more players would be catered for and competition at All-Ireland level would be provided for junior and senior players.

GRANTS FOR ALLEYS

The capital investment scheme which the G.A.A. Central Council inaugurated a few years ago received a tremendous boost during the year when it was decided by this body to increase the annual grant from £400 to £1,000. The main objective of this new scheme is to provide at least one roofed alley in each province per year. The G.A.A. Central Council has also recommended that each G.A.A. Provincial Council give £200 each year towards roofing at least one alley in the province. In addition each G.A.A. County Committee is asked to give a grant of £100 towards the roofing of an alley within the county.

A special committee "Bord na gCuirteanna" has been set up to administer the scheme and also to advise on plans, etc. for new alleys. In addition to giving grants to help clubs in the roofing of alleys it is also the intention where possible to give grants to clubs erecting new alleys.

This new scheme has been received with great enthusiasm throughout the country and as a result there is a steady flow of applications from all provinces. So great is the demand that it is impossible to meet all applications. In the case of grants for roofing courts preference is given to counties where no roofed alleys exist. During the year grants were allocated as follows:-

- (1) Cappagh, Co. Limerick, £450—Building a new roofed alley;
- (2) Killala, Co. Mayo, £300—Roofing existing alley;
- (3) Oldtown, Co. Dublin, £450—Building a new roofed alley;
- (4) Cloughfinn, Co. Tyrone, £150—Building a new roofed alley; received £100 last year; total grant, £250;
- Loughmascreevy, Co. Tyrone, £250—Building new roofed alley;
- (5) Ballymote, £50—Renovation work on alley.

In the case of Tyrone two alleys made applications for grants and as both alleys were being roofed it was decided to divide the grant between them. The £50 grant for Ballymote was taken from the surplus on the No. 2 account.

HANDBALL

Despite the fact that council sponsors a full championship tour for handball there is no evidence of an increasing demand for extra competitions. In fact very few counties sponsor local competitions and were it not for the fact that handball championships are sponsored by council I doubt very much if we would have more than a limited few playing this form of handball. At all times we must remember that it is the members acting through the clubs who decide the policy of council and any breach of this democratic approach could only do harm to future development. To the critics of council policy I would say give evidence that there is a demand for further competitions and council will only be too willing to act. Threats of appeals to higher authorities must be backed by concrete evidence of a general demand for additional competitions. Again I would say to these critics why have you not made an effort to sponsor some open tournaments to test the general reaction.

A major difficulty facing future handball promotion is the difficulty of procuring goatskins as our normal source of supply has gone out of business and so far council have been unable to secure another supplier. Experiments were carried out some years ago with other types of material but they were unsuccessful.

WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A special committee has been set up to make arrangements for the world championships which are scheduled for Ireland in May, 1970. I am not in a position to give any details as discussions are only in the preliminary stage. During the year progress reports will be issued to all counties. At this stage I would like to mention that this is the biggest ever undertaking by the Irish Handball Council and on its success or failure could well depend the future development of handball.

The council will be very heavily involved financially with this promotion and I earnestly appeal to all counties to give

their wholehearted support to any fund raising ventures launched.

Publicity at both national and provincial level continues to go before we can feel satisfied that we are receiving adequate coverage for all our activities. We ourselves must accept a share of the blame for this position as we are not utilising fully this pipeline which is essential to the life of any organisation. The standard of publicity achieved can play a vital part in deciding the progress rate of any development programme.

It is essential that each council and county appoint an official who will act as Public Relations Officer and one of his main functions would be to avail fully of all Press space available. In addition he could establish good community relations with kindred organisations. Every effort should be made to appoint the official most capable of extracting the best possible return from any given facility or occasion.

I often wonder why we are so backward in advertising our facilities. What is wrong with erecting a large sign outside each alley giving the name, etc., of the club. In the case of alleys situated in off main roads a sign could be erected at the nearest road junction giving directions.

HANDBALL AND G.A.A. CLUBS

While handball is as much part of the G.A.A. as the field games, nevertheless very few of our clubs are associated with the local hurling and football clubs. This is a position that should not be allowed to deteriorate any further as we can help each other in many ways. With the emphasis as much nowadays on community involvement we can play a very important part in joining with the other Gaelic societies and bodies in the establishment of a proper Gaelic unit in the parish. Where roofed alleys exist every effort should be made to utilise them to the best possible advantage of the community as a whole.

A typical example of what can be achieved is the alley at present being built at Oldtown, Co. Dublin. Originally it was intended to erect a pavilion for the football field but as a result of representations made to the local committee it was decided to build a 40 by 20 roofed court incorporating two large dressing rooms which will serve the football field. The building will also be used as a centre of recreation for Gaelic activities in the district.

JUVENILE HANDBALL

I cannot over emphasise the importance of this work on which the whole future life of the association depends. Are we doing enough to build a strong, virile organisation for the future? The only way this question can be answered is by asking ourselves how deeply involved are we in the promotion of juvenile handball.

To cater fully for our juveniles it is essential that each county set up a special committee which will devote itself entirely to this work. They can organise competitions for all age groups in singles, doubles, and team events. Every effort should be made to involve the parents as it is very necessary that we have their full support if we are to build a strong, energetic committee. If at all possible, an effort should be made to organise at least one social function each year at which the trophies won can be presented.

The present softball is not suitable for the younger players and every effort must be made to have a suitable ball manufactured. If juvenile handball is to be promoted on a large scale it is essential that supplies of suitable balls are available for all counties.

GENERAL

The draft of the proposed playing rules booklet has been sent to all counties for examination. It is the intention to have this booklet available for distribution in the near future.

We are indebted to the Dept. of Agriculture for giving handball four full sessions at last July's Coaching Course. I feel the stage has now been reached when council must strongly consider sponsoring its own coaching course. This could readily be run over a week-end and possibly in con-

junction with the G.A.A. Coaching Courses held annually in Gormanston.

An effort could be made to produce a special book on coaching which would be available for distribution to the schools and colleges throughout the country. In this respect we are very much behind other sporting organisations. If some member is prepared to undertake this task, I can assure him that he will receive every help from council.

The number of councils availing of the annual raffle as a means of improving their own financial position showed a big improvement over last year. A number of counties still complain of limited resources yet they fail to avail of this readymade scheme for improving their own financial position. For a total outlay of £10 it is now possible for any county to make a sizeable profit if they dispose of all their tickets. Remember if any county was to run its own raffle the over-heads would be much in excess of the figure that council asks you to return.

As a result of the introduction of the new version of rule 54 there was a big improvement in the appearance of players competing in championships. With the exception of two counties, all others rose to the occasion and are to be complimented on the big improvement over previous years. The offending counties were fined per rule. I do sincerely hope that this will be the last occasion on which counties will have to be fined for not having players properly attired for championship matches.

While we are endeavouring to improve public relations little is being done to improve internal relations. There is a definite gap between the various councils and the clubs and this can only be overcome by an improvement in communications. As an initial step I would strongly recommend that at least a quarterly bulletin be issued.

Looking to the future, it is apparent that every effort must be made to utilise all types of courts if handball is to get a big breakthrough at national level. While I appreciate that it is not always possible to have a 60 by 30 court erected, nevertheless it may be feasible to build a 40 by 20 court. The advantage of this type of court is that it can be incorporated in a normal two-storey building without upsetting the appearance of it. Another suggestion worthy of consideration is the question of one wall courts. An average sized gymnasium could be used as it only requires a wooden front wall measuring 20 feet in width and 16 feet high with a playing area 20 feet in width and 34 feet in length.

An approach should be made to the various Corporations and Urban Councils to have alleys erected in the playgrounds and parks. The emphasis nowadays is on the provision of playing facilities in all areas and if one is to judge by reports, little provision is being made for the inclusion of handball alleys in proposed projects.

The use of protective gloves is something that should be encouraged, especially as a preventive of hand injuries. They could be an inducement to newcomers who have soft hands or who for very good reasons cannot afford hand injuries.

Despite the fact that there is definite evidence of a demand for handball coverage, Telefís Éireann made very little contribution during the year. With the exception of one feature in Gaelic Report and a few references in other programmes, nothing else was contributed. I appreciate that there is a problem in filming matches, as the ball travels too fast, nevertheless there are many other facets of the game worthy of coverage. It is only by consistent and regular protests that Radio and Telefís Éireann can be made aware of the constant demand for handball news.

MEMBERSHIP

Too often we are inclined to consider membership in the terms of playing members. I feel this is a very narrow interpretation and if we take it in the broader context the asso-

ciation as a whole can benefit. Our membership should be open to all, whether they be players or supporters. Each club should establish an associate membership which would be open to all people anxious to support handball but not prepared to play. In this way a club could build up a large membership who would be prepared to pay an annual subscription to help in the promotion of the game. This could be a very good source of revenue for clubs. I am aware of one club with a membership of over 300 who adopt this policy. I would even go as far as inviting ladies to become members of our clubs and suggest that we strongly consider setting up ladies' committees. These committees could be of immense benefit to clubs in fund-raising efforts and also in the development of social life in the club.

FINANCE

No. 1 A/C—Gate receipts which exceeded £400 were the highest on record and surpassed last year's record figure by almost £100. Despite this increase it was not possible to make any worthwhile impression on the overdraft on this account, due mainly to the increase in meeting expenses. This increase was brought about by an extra meeting of council and by two meetings of the newly established Bord na gCúirt-eanna.

No. 2 A/C—This account, subsidised by Gael Linn to the extent of £300, shows a small surplus after making a special grant to Ballymote for renovations.

No. 3 A/C—There is a credit balance of £550 in this account which will provide the nucleus of the fund to meet the expenses of the forthcoming world championships. It goes without saying that a much larger sum will be required before these championships commence, so I would appeal for full support for any fund raising schemes launched during the next twelve months.

The death during the year of Tom Kilcoyne, Connacht G.A.A. Secretary, is mourned by all handballers, as he had a long association with us and will always be remembered for his interest in handball development. Also to be remembered in our prayers for deceased members is Fintan Confrey of Louth, who died recently under very tragic circumstances. For many years he graced our courts and was one of the most colourful of our players.

The retirement of Martin O'Neill, Leinster G.A.A. Secretary, is to be regretted and we wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement. During his long years of service to the G.A.A. he carved a special niche for himself in handball circles as he served as our secretary from 1932 until he resigned in 1946. He also won the S.S.E.D. championship in 1930 and 1931.

Again we are indebted to the President, Seamus O Riain, Ard Runai, Seán O Siócháin, and the members of Central Council for their interest in the development in handball. This was very apparent during the year when they gave a considerable increase in the annual grant for capital investment. This is further evidence of the goodwill that exists at top level for handball. The promise of annual grants for capital investment from Provincial Councils and County Committees is another welcome step forward.

I am deeply grateful to our President, An Br. Oirmh B. C. O Murchú, members of council, and the various provincial and county committees for their help during the year.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for the happy repose of the souls of all deceased members. Go ndeanaí Dia trocaire ar a n-anamacha.

Ar son Comhairle Laimh na hÉireann,

SEOSAMH O LOINGSIGH.

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID-LAIMHE NA h-EIREANN, CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEIL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1968—Dec. 31:	£	s	d	1968—Dec. 31:	£	s	d
To Teams' Expenses:				By Affiliation Fees:			
Cavan	14	18	0	Antrim		2	0
Clare	41	10	0	Armagh		4	0
Dublin	36	10	0	Carlow		10	0
Kerry	63	0	0	Cavan		8	0
Kildare	34	9	0	Clare		4	0
Limerick	21	10	0	Cork		16	0
Louth	19	15	0	Donegal		2	0
Mayo	38	0	0	Dublin		1	0
Monaghan	36	0	0	Galway		10	0
Roscommon	45	0	0	Kerry		8	0
Tipperary	38	18	0	Kildare		8	0
Tyrone	5	0	0	Kilkenny		12	0
Wexford	64	0	0	Limerick		12	0
Players' Expenses paid direct by Association	51	4	0	Louth		4	0
			509 14 0	Mayo		1	2
Handballs			27 19 4	Meath		6	0
Advertising			10 14 0	Monaghan		2	0
Trophies and Engraving			97 7 4	Offaly		1	0
Insurance on Trophies			2 12 6	Roscommon		12	0
Postage	21	7	0	Sligo		18	0
Less: Refund from Gael Linn Account	7	0	0	Tipperary		1	12
			14 7 0	Tyrone		8	0
Telephone	23	7	9	Waterford		4	0
Less: Refund from Gael Linn Account	5	10	0	Westmeath		8	0
			17 17 9	Wexford		16	0
Printing and Stationery			49 8 2	Wicklow		6	0
Honorary Secretary's Travelling and Hotel Expenses			28 17 6				13 10 0
Meeting Expenses	135	9	0	By Gate Receipts:			
Secretary's Honorarium	10	10	0	12/5/68 at Ballyanne		9	18
Caretaker	100	0	0	22/6/68 Croke Park		7	8
Bank Charges and Cheque Books	2	10	0	28/6/68 Croke Park		3	18
Mess Offerings	4	5	0	30/6/68 Croke Park		2	9
Balance, Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure			1 11 0	3/8/68 Ceanannus Mor		6	19
			16 8 11	4/8/68 Newport		25	2
				11/8/68 Ballymore Eustace		9	15
				11/8/68 Ballymacelligott		10	4
				18/8/68 Roscommon		20	2
				18/8/68 Clones		7	6
				25/8/68 Taghmon		25	10
				25/8/68 Ballyporeen		23	1
				31/8/68 Croke Park		73	4
				15/9/68 Ballymote		39	16
				21/9/68 Croke Park		99	6
				29/9/68 Talbotts Inch		37	11
							401 15 0
				Grant from Central Council			600 0 0
				Sales of Handballs			16 10 0
				Sales of Rule Books			16 0
				Fines			3 0 0
			1,029 11 6				1,029 11 6

INTERNATIONAL AND TOURNAMENT ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
1968—Dec. 31:	£	s	d	1968—Dec. 31:	£	s	d
To Telephone			11 0 0	By Members' Subscriptions			95 11 0
Audit Fee			2 2 0	Grant from Ciste na Banban			75 0 0
Balance, Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure			244 18 6	Receipts from Raffle	222	9	0
			258 0 6	Less: Expenses	134	19	6
							258 0 6

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID-LAIMHE NA h-EIREANN, CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

GAEL LINN ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1968—Dec. 31:	£ s d	£ s d	
To Refunds of Hotel and Travelling Expenses to Venue Championships:		By Gate Receipts:	
Arklow	6 7 6	10/3/68 at Lurgan	2 15 0
Ballyanne	1 0 0	Beal na Mullia	3 11 0
Ballypatrick	3 0 0	Ballyporeen	4 15 0
Belfast	1 0 0	Ballymacelligott	4 11 0
Charlestown	23 0 0	24/3/68 Croke Park	3 4 0
Fermoy	3 0 0	Taghmon	5 6 0
Galway	6 8 0	Carlow	4 13 0
Gortahork	12 16 0	Ballymore	5 10 0
Kilfane	6 13 0	21/4/68 Ballymacelligott	34 11 0
Lorgan	13 0 0		68 16 0
Mullahoran	8 10 0	Grant, Gael Linn	300 0 0
Multyfarnham	7 2 0		
Newport	4 10 0		
Roscommon	2 6 0		
Roscrea	11 8 0		
Talbots Inch	3 0 0		
Tipperary	3 0 0		
Tralee	1 0 0		
Tuamgraney	9 13 6		
Tullamore	6 10 0		
Ullard	2 7 6		
Wexford	33 0 0		
Expenses paid direct by Association	26 10 0		
Medals and Replicas			
Handballs			
Secretary's Travelling and Administration Expenses			
Telephone Expenses refunded to Venue Secretaries			
Advertising			
Printing and Stationery			
Meeting Expenses			
Postage			
Telephone			
Rent and Caretaker			
Audit Fee			
Cheque Book			
Balance, Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure			
	368 16 0		368 16 0

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

A Chairde,

We have audited the Books of the Association for the Year ended 31st December, 1968. We enclose General Income and Expenditure Account, Gael Linn Income and Expenditure Account and International and Tournament Income and Expenditure Account for the year and Balance Sheet, showing the financial position of the Association at 31st December, 1968.

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income for the Year, comprising Affiliation Fees, £13 10s. 0d.; Gate Receipts £401 15s. 6d.; Grant from Central Council £600; Sales of Handballs £10 10s. 0d.; Sales of Rule Books 16s. and Fines £3, amounted to £1,029 11s. 6d. Expenditure for the Year came to £1,013 2s. 7d. Income exceeded Expenditure by £16 8s. 11d.

As compared with the preceding year when Income exceeded Expenditure by £13 12s. 6d., Income (to the nearest £) increased by £94 and Expenditure increased by £91. The increase in Income was due to an increase of £96 in Gate Receipts and the receipt of £3 from Fines which had no equivalent in the preceding year. There were slight decreases under the other headings. On the expenditure side the principal variations are as follows: Teams' Expenses increased by £59; Trophies and Engraving decreased by £11 and Meeting Expenses increased by £12. There were no expenses in the year under review to correspond with President's Travelling Expenses and Telephone and Postage £12 and Subscription to Gorta £16 in the preceding year.

GAEL LINN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Expenditure for the year amounted to £318 8s. 0d. Gate receipts amounted to £68 16s. 0d. and a Grant of £300 was received from Gael Linn to meet Expenses. Gate Receipts and the Grant exceeded the Expenditure by £50 8s. 0d.

INTERNATIONAL AND TOURNAMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income for the year, comprising Members Subscriptions £95 11s. 0d.; Grant from Ciste na Banban £75 and net proceeds of Raffle £87 9s. 6d., amounted to £258 0s. 6d. Expenditure came to £13 2s. 0d. Income exceeded Expenditure by £244 18s. 6d. In the preceding year Expenditure exceeded Income by £205 6s. 4d. In that year, however, World Championships were held in Toronto at which Expenses amounting to £663 were incurred. Gate receipts in that year amounted to £36 and Central Council paid a special Grant towards the Championships of £250. There were no Championships during the year 1968. Members' Subscriptions increased by £61 and the Grant from Ciste na Banban increased by £25.

BALANCE SHEET

The Assets of the Association at 31st December, 1968, including Investment in Grounds £2,800, amounted to £3,508 5s. 9d. Liabilities at the same date, including £2,400 advanced by Central Council for investment in Grounds, came to £3,045 15s. 0d. Assets exceeded Liabilities by £462 10s. 9d.

No value was placed on Cups and Trophies which are set out, for record purposes only, on the face of the Balance Sheet.

As usual, the books were presented in good order for audit and vouching was satisfactory.

Is sinne, le meas,

D. O'CONNOR & CO.,

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968
COMHAIRLE LIATHROID-LAIMHE NA h-EIREANN, CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEIL

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
Sundry Creditors for:				Cash on hands			
Trophies	80	0	0	Cash at Bank—No. 2 Account	71	12	9
Audit and Accountancy Fees	15	15	0	Cash at Bank—No. 3 Account	1,055	5	4
Ballymote, Grant	50	0	0		1,126	18	1
Cloughfinn, Grant	250	0	0	Less: Overdraft No. 1 Account	427	14	11
Loughmacrory, Grant	250	0	0	Due for Handballs (Clare)			699 3 2
			645 15 0	Collectors' Bags, per last			1 17 9
Central Council for investment				Balance Sheet			1 2 6
in Grounds, per last Balance				Stop Watch			5 0 0
Sheet	800	0	0	Investment in Handball Alleys:			
Advanced during Year	1,600	0	0	Ballymacelligott, per last			
Balance to Credit at			2,400 0 0	Balance Sheet	300	0	0
1st January, 1968	140	15	4	Ballymote, per last			
Add: Excess for Year of Income				Balance Sheet	£300		
over Expenditure:				Invested during Year	50	350	0 0
General Account	16	8	11	Cappagh		450	0 0
Gael Linn Account	50	8	0	Cloughfinn, per last			
International and Tournament				Balance Sheet	100		
Account	244	18	6	Invested during Year	150	250	0 0
	452	10	9				
Add: Additional contribution				Killela, per last			
received during year				Balance Sheet	150	450	0 0
towards Grant to Gorta				Invested during year	300		
in 1967	10	0	0	Mullingar		300	0 0
			462 10 9	Loughmacrory		250	0 0
				Oldtown		450	0 0
							2,800 0 0
				For Record purposes only:			
				Dr. Harty Cup in possession			
				of Joseph Maher (Louth).			
				Purcell Cup in possession of			
				Joseph Maher (Louth).			
				"Irish Press" Cup in possession			
				of Paddy Hickey and Connie			
				Cleere (Tipperary).			
				"Irish Independent" Cup in			
				possession of T. and J.			
				McEllistrim (Kerry).—			
				Elvery Shield in possession			
				of A. Doyle (Dublin).			
				of Daniel Kirby (Clare).			
				Dunlop Shield in possession			
				New Ireland Cup in possession			
				of T. Fitzgerald and N. Kerins			
				(Kerry).			
				Canon Carroll Cup in possession			
				of Ray Doherty and Patrick			
				Clarke (Roscommon).			
				Gaelic Weekly Cup in possession			
				of J. Quigley and J. Sydney.			
				(Wexford).			
				Paddy Purcell Cup in possession			
				of Wm. McCarthy and John			
				Halley (Tipperary).			
				Gael Linn Cup in possession			
				of Michael Walsh (Mayo).			
				Corn Comhairle na Mumhan in			
				possession of Patrick Ennis			
				(Limerick).			
				Joe Hassett Cup in possession			
				of John Quigley (Wexford).			
			3,508 5 9				3,508 5 9

We have prepared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Accounts of the General Account, Gael Linn Account and International and Tournament and the foregoing Balance Sheet from the books and vouchers submitted to us and from information supplied and we certify them to be correct and in accordance therewith.

9, Parnell Square, Dublin 1.
27th February, 1969.

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