

CUMANN LUTHICHEAS GAEIL

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LAIMHE NA hEIREANN

IUBHAILE ORGA



1924-1974



SEÁN Ó BANLUAINN, RUNAL,
1924-'32



SEOSAMH MAC SHEOINÍN,
UACHTARAN, 1971-'73



SEOSAMH Ó LOINGSIGH,
RUNAL, 1954-'73

An Chomhdhail Bhliantuil, 1974

TUARASCAIL AN RUNAI AGUS CUNTAS AN AIRGID, 1973.



JOE MAHER S.S.B.S. CHAMPION
1973

TIONOLFAR AN CHOMHDAIL,
I dTEACH OSTA,

CLARENCE HOTEL ESSEX QUAY,
DUBLIN,

AR 10adh LA MARTA,

AG A 10.30 a.m.



PETER McGEE, S.H.B.S. CHAM-
PION, 1973

9 Parnell Square,
DUBLIN 1,
28th January, 1974.

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

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

A Chairde,

We have audited the books of the Council for the Year ended 31st December, 1973. We enclose a copy of the General Income and Expenditure Account, Gael Linn Income and Expenditure Account, and International Tournament Income and Expenditure Account for the year and Balance Sheet showing the financial position of the Council at 31st December, 1973.

GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to £3,226.42 and Expenditure came to £3,270.02. Expenditure exceeded Income by £43.60.

In the accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1972, there was a provision of £750 for Administration Expenses. This provision has now been cancelled, with the effect that the Surplus in 1972 was £751.79 rather than £1.79 as shown in the accounts submitted to you last year. On the Income side the principal comparisons with the figures in 1972 were as follows: Gate Receipts increased by £197; Government Grant increased by £100; Entrance Fees decreased by £34; Sales of Handballs increased by £47; Sales of Gloves increased by £38; Fines increased by £30, and the refund of Expenses from Teilifis Eireann increased by £158. On the Expenditure side of the account, Teams' Expenses increased by £192; Handballs increased by £39; Trophies increased by £52; Meeting Expenses increased by £67 and Telephone increased by £59. The account under review has also a charge of £1,200 for Administration Expenses which had no equivalent in 1972 when we bear in mind that the £750 charged in the previous account has since been cancelled. The 1972 accounts, however, had a charge of £100 for Grants for Equipment and a charge of £250 for Secretary's Honorarium which have no equivalent in the year under review.

Gael LINN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year, comprising Gate Receipts £119 and Grant from Gael Linn £300, amounted to £419. Expenditure came to £442. Expenditure exceeded Income by £23. In the preceding year Income exceeded Expenditure by £4.

INTERNATIONAL AND TOURNAMENT ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to £3,608. Expenditure came to £396. Income exceeded Expenditure by £3,212. In the preceding year Income exceeded Expenditure by £1,036.

BALANCE SHEET

The Assets of the Council at 31st December, 1973, including Balance at Bank £1,073 and Investment in Handball Alleys £32,497, amounted to £33,570. Liabilities at the same date, including £4,000 advanced by Central Council for investment in Grounds came to £6,272. Assets exceeded Liabilities by £27,298.

During the year £2,939 was invested in Handball Alleys, including £539 in Crokes Park.

As usual, the books were presented in good order for audit.

Is sinne le meas,

D. O'CONNOR & Co.

IRISH HANDBALL COUNCIL

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1973

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1973: Dec. 31.		1973: Dec. 31.	
To Teams' Expenses:	£	By Affiliation Fees:	£
Armagh	14.40	Antrim	0.20
Cavan	10.00	Armagh	0.20
Clare	40.60	Carlow	1.20
Kerry	68.00	Cavan	1.00
Kilkenny	86.00	Clare	0.60
Louth	4.80	Cork	3.00
Mayo	150.10	Donegal	0.80
Monaghan	6.05	Dublin	2.40
Offaly	8.00	Galway	2.00
Roscommon	53.56	Kerry	0.60
Sligo	34.16	Kildare	0.80
Tipperary	3.50	Kilkenny	2.40
Tyrone	10.00	Limerick	1.60
Wexford	71.60	Louth	0.40
Players' Expenses paid direct by Council	144.88	Mayo	2.80
		Meath	0.80
Handballs	705.63	Monaghan	0.20
Handball Gloves and Singlets	160.93	Offaly	1.20
Trophies	177.84	Roscommon	1.35
Insurance on Trophies	210.26	Sligo	1.60
Painting—Croke Park Alley	5.00	Tipperary	3.40
Congress Expenses	20.00	Tyrone	0.60
Meeting Expenses	48.13	Waterford	0.40
Secretary's Travelling and Hotel Expenses	225.24	Westmeath	0.20
Ladies' Handball Society	90.00	Wexford	2.00
Presentation	15.50	Wicklow	1.60
Mass Offerings	9.36		
Audit Fee	16.40		
Administration Expenses	36.75		
	1,200.00		
Postage	108.83	Gate Receipts:	
Less: Refund	20.00	Ballyporeen, 1972 (additional)	3.00
		30/6/72 at Croke Park	8.70
Telephone	118.92	1/7/72 Croke Park	11.10
Less: Refund	15.00	8/7/72 Croke Park	11.60
		5/8/72 Roscommon	17.14
		Ballymacelligott	39.30
Stationery	144.71	11/8/72 Cavan	8.90
Bank Charges and Cheque Book	2.00	Ceannanus Mor	27.45
Depreciation on Typewriter	9.50	Cloughfinn	7.70
		18/8/72 Croke Park	80.12
		19/8/72 Ballyporeen	64.00
		26/8/72 Killa	20.00
		1/9/72 Croke Park	243.51
		9/9/72 Ceannanus Mor	61.26
		16/9/72 Tuamgraney	32.06
		22/9/72 Croke Park	199.79
		Grant from Central Council	835.63
			600.00
		Government Grant	2,000.00
		Less: Transfer to International and Tournament Account	800.00
		Entrance Fees	1,200.00
		Sales of Handballs	32.00
		Sales of Gloves	92.04
		Fines	182.10
		Refund of Expenses from R.T.E.	34.00
			219.30
		Balance, Excess for Year of Expenditure over Income	41.60
	£3,270.02		£3,270.02

IRISH HANDBALL COUNCIL

Gael Linn Account

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1973

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1973: Dec. 31.		1973: Dec. 31.	
To Teams' Expenses:	£	By Gate Receipts:	£
Ballaghaderreen	9.20	4/3/72 at Croke Park	2.50
Ballyanne	3.00	Galway	5.50
Ballymacelligott	21.00	New Ross	8.00
Birr	13.00	Thibots Inch	1.20
Boyle	2.50	11/3/72	
Cavan	16.32	Ballymacelligott	15.80
Charlestown	0.60	Ballymote	2.80
Clones	6.00	Ballyporeen	10.30
Corofin	6.00	Loughmacrory	3.00
Dublin	35.25	28/4/72	
Dunlavin	6.00	New Ross	70.40
Galway	23.00		119.50
Kilfane	1.25	Grant from Gael Linn	300.00
Limerick	15.00		
Louth	33.20	Balance, Excess for Year of Expenditure	23.40
Lurgan	5.80	over Income	
Moone	5.00		
Multyfarnham	10.32		
Newport	31.00		
Tipperary	24.80		
Tuamgraney	9.50		
Tyrone	33.40		
Waterford	8.50		
Players' Expenses paid direct by Council	23.00		
	342.64		
Handballs	8.82		
Meeting Expenses	13.50		
Audit Fee	10.00		
Administration Expenses	25.00		
Refunds of Telephone Expenses to			
Venue Secretaries	7.94		
Telephone	15.00		
Postage	26.00		
	£442.90		£442.90

INTERNATIONAL AND TOURNAMENT FUND ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1973

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
1973: Dec. 31.		1973: Dec. 31.	
To Coaching Expenses	£	By Proportion of Government Grant	£
Juvenile Equipment	674.20	transferred from General Account:	
Printing of Alley Plans	118.31	Coaching	600.00
Meeting Expenses	7.50	Equipment	200.00
All-Ireland Tickets	9.50		800.00
Less: Sales	338.00	Grant from Central Council	1,600.00
	62.00	Members' Subscriptions	252.00
Audit Fee	25.00	Sale of Coaching and Rule Books	22.93
		Sale of Juvenile Equipment	358.04
Balance, Excess for Year of Income	2,711.51	Proceeds of Raffle	838.55
over Expenditure		Less: Expenses	263.60
	£3,608.02		575.05
			£3,608.02

IRISH HANDBALL COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1973

LIABILITIES:		ASSETS:	
	£		
Central Council for investment in Grounds per last Balance Sheet		Balance at Bank: No. 2 Account	47.70
		No. 3 Account	1,176.56
public Subscription towards cost of Capital Expenditure			1,224.26
		Less: Balance due Bank—No. 1 Account	150.95
			1,073.31
Sundry Creditors:		Investment in G.A.A. Club Development Scheme	100.00
Grants:		Sundry Debtor for Fine	10.00
Ardcath	200.00	Stock of Gloves	60.00
Crinkle	200.00	Stock of Juvenile Equipment	220.00
Cullen	200.00	Typewriter per last Balance Sheet	34.50
Galway	300.00	Less: Depreciation	9.50
Garryhill	200.00		25.00
Loughanure	200.00	Investment in Handball Alleys:	
Rush	300.00	Ardcath—invested during year	400.00
Audit Fees	71.75	Arklow	450.00
		Ballymacelligott	300.00
Balance to Credit at 1st January, 1973	24,316.84	Ballymore	300.00
Add: Provision for Administration Expenses in 1972 Accounts, written back	750.00	Baltinglass—invested during year	300.00
		Bohemore	50.00
Excess for Year of Income over Expenditure—International and Tournament Account	2,711.51	Bray	100.00
	27,778.35	Caherline	50.00
Less: Excess for Year of Expenditure over Income:		Cappagh	450.00
General Account	£41.60	Carrick-on-Suir	200.00
Gael Linn Account	23.40	Cleughfinn	250.00
	65.00	Collooney	100.00
Balance to Credit at Date	27,713.35	Crinkle—invested during year	400.00
		Cullen—invested during year	400.00
		Falcarragh	450.00
		Fethard	200.00
		Galway	300.00
		Garryhill—invested during year	400.00
		Kilgobnet	400.00
		Killala	450.00
		Loughanure—invested during year	400.00
		Loughmacrory	250.00
		Mullingar	350.00
		Na Pianna (Dublin)	400.00
		Newport (Co. Tipperary)	100.00
		New Ross	200.00
		Oldtown	450.00
		Rush	300.00
		St. Joseph's Boys' Club, Wexford—	
		Invested during year	100.00
		Shannon	400.00
		Tuamgraney	400.00
		Westport	300.00
		Croke Park as per last Balance Sheet	£22,357.86
		Invested during year	538.93
			22,896.79
			32,496.79
		For record purposes only:	
		Collectors' Bags	
		Stop Watch	
		Holders of Trophies:	
		Dr. Harty Cup	in possession of P. McGee (Mayo)
		Purcell Cup	do. J. Maher (Louth)
		Irish Independent Cup	do. J. McElstrim and N. Kerins (Kerry)
		Irish Press Cup	do. A. Byrne and W. Mullen (Westmeath)
		New Ireland Cup	do. J. Byrne and M. Purcell (Kildare)
		Canon Carroll Cup	do. J. Howlin and J. Goggins (Wexford)
		Elvery Shield	do. M. Purcell (Kildare)
		Dunlop Shield	do. J. Howlin (Wexford)
		Comhairle Mumhan Cup	do. T. O'Rourke (Kildare)
		Gaelic Weekly Cup	do. O. Harrold and J. Barron (Kilkenny)
		Hassett Memorial Cup	do. P. Hughes (Kilkenny)
		Paddy Purcell Memorial Cup	do. P. Hughes and J. Barron (Kilkenny)
		Gael Linn Cup	do. R. Lyng (Wexford)
		Willie Lyng Cup	do. Clare
	£33,985.10		£33,985.10

We have prepared the foregoing Accounts and Balance Sheet from the books and records of the Irish Handball Council and from information supplied and we certify them to be correctly drawn up in accordance with such books, records and information.

9 Parnell Square,
DUBLIN 1.
6th February, 1974.

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

AN CLAR

1. Miontuairiscí.
2. Tuairiscí.
3. Tuairisc an Rúnai agus Cuntas an Ailgí.
4. Toghadh na hOifigeach, 1974:
 - (a) Uachtarán, - *3 Dringis*
 - (b) Cisteoir, *Samuel*
 - (c) Teachta ar Ard-Chomhairle C.L.G.
 - (d) Teachta ar Ard-Choise Forbartha C.L.G. - *Samuel*
 - (e) Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí.
5. Na Ruin.

STANDING ORDERS FOR CONGRESS

In order that the proceedings of the Congress be carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be observed:-

1. The proposer of a Resolution or of an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes, but not more than 5 minutes.
2. A Delegate speaking to a Resolution or an Amendment must not exceed 3 minutes.
3. The proposer of a Resolution or Amendment may speak a second time for 3 minutes before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the Proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A Delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move "that the question be now put," after which, when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

NA FEIDHEANNAIGH, 1974

Uachtarán—Seosamh Mac Sheoinín (Ath Cliath), Tomas Breathnach (Dun na nGall), Micheál de Bus (An Clár), Reamonn O Dochartaigh (Ros Comáin), Sean O Cleirichín (Ath Cliath).

Cisteoir—An Br. B. C. O Murchu (Ath Cliath), Seosamh O Loingsigh (Ath Cliath), Seosamh Mac Sheoinín (Ath Cliath).

Teachta ar Ard-Chomhairle C.L.G.—Seosamh O Loingsigh (Ath Cliath) An Br. B. C. O Murchu (Ath Cliath), Tomas O Briain (Cill Chainnigh), Seosamh Sheoinín (Ath Cliath), Thomas Breathnach (Dun na nGall), Antoine O hÍfearnáin (Ceatharlach).

Teachta ar Ard-Choise Forbartha—An Br. B. C. O Murchu (Ath Cliath), Seosamh O Loingsigh (Ath Cliath), Tomas Breathnach (Dun na nGall).

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí—Sean O Cleirichín (Ath Cliath), Micheál O Duinn (Ath Cliath).

NA RUIN

- (a) That Rule 216 (11) be relaxed so that the outgoing President may hold office for a further term.—(Luimneach).
- (b) That in view of this being the Golden Jubilee Year, Rule 216 (11), O.G., be specially altered to allow S. Mac Sheoinín, Uachtarán, to carry on in that capacity for the Jubilee Year in recognition of and as a tribute to his outstanding work for handball.—(Tír Eoghain).
- (a) That the G.A.A. immediately indicate clearly the position of handball within the Association, especially at county and club level.—(Luimneach).
- (b) That the G.A.A. Central Council be approached regarding the obligations of Provincial G.A.A. Councils and G.A.A. County Committees to Handball Clubs regarding grants for alley construction/renovation and with a view to having these grants paid timely.—(An Clár).
- (c) That the G.A.A. Central Council be requested to use its influence with G.A.A. bodies in Britain who own their own premises to have handball courts erected on those premises.—(An Clár).
- (a) That this Congress supports the campaign for the transfer of the Price sisters to a Northern Ireland prison, and records

their objection to the inhuman practice of forced feeding. This motion applicable only if the matter has not been resolved before the date of Annual Congress.—(Dun na nGall).

- (b) That with regard to the few Irish prisoners on hunger strike in English Jails, D. Price, N. Price, H. Feeney and J. Kelly, while we do not condone their action, we ask for their return to serve their sentences in Irish Jails.—(Maigh Eo).

PLAYING RULES

- 4 (a) That one foul toss constitutes a "hand out" in all competitions run on a time basis, and that Rule 261 (a), (d), (e) and (g) be amended.—(An Clár). *passed*
- (b) That a "short ball" or a "foul toss" constitute a loss of service in games run on a time basis.—(Ath Cliath). *passed*
- 5 That Rule 261 (g) be amended to read "A 'hand out' shall also be given for a combination amounting to two as set out in Rule 261, sections (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f)" thereby equating a short, foul toss, and a toss when the tossing player's partner is not in the "Box".—(Cill Chainnigh). *passed*
- 6 That returning a serve on the volley from inside the "short line" constitute a foul for which a penalty be imposed, Rule 243 to be amended.—(An Clár).
- 7 That in doubles matches, where a player serves 'out of order', he shall not be penalised by loss of service. The referee to indicate order of service.—(Ath Cliath). *out of order*
- 8 That in "Time Matches," when the full time is called, the ace be played out provided that the ball has been served before "Time" is called.—(Ath Cliath). *out of order*
- 9 That there be no "Short Ball" in softball matches.—(Sligeach). *out of order*

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 10 That on and from 1974 the All-Ireland Senior Softball Championships be run on an open system:
 - (a) Open to all players who have won at least a Junior All-Ireland title in softball or hardball; and
 - (b) On an open draw with "seeding" of each county's representatives as far as possible. *defeated*
 - (c) In doubles it will be acceptable for players from different counties to form a partnership if they so desire. Entries to be made through the County Secretaries direct to Central Council, which will accept or reject, make the draw and arrange fixtures. Central Council to take the gate receipts and pay travelling and hotel expenses. In the early rounds particularly where long travelling is involved, Central Council to have the power to have some players play off two round over a week-end if thought desirable. Subject to this motion being adopted, the Intermediate Championships to be discontinued. Rules 226, 233 (I) and 235 to be suitably amended.—(An Clár).
- 11 That on and from 1974 the Senior Handball Championships be run on an "open" system, open to players who have won at least a Junior All-Ireland title in either hardball or softball, and (b) on an open draw with seeding of each county representatives. In doubles it will be acceptable for players from different counties to form partnerships if they so desire. Entries to be made through County Secretaries direct to Central Council, which will accept or reject, make the draw and arrange fixtures, take gate receipts and pay travelling and hotel expenses. Rules 233 (I) and 235 to be amended accordingly.—(An Clár).
- 12 (a) That the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals of Senior Softball Championships be rubbers of five games instead of three. Rule 234 (I) (b) to be amended. *lost*
- (b) That the Senior Softball singles and doubles be increased from three games to five games of 21 aces.—(Maigh Eo).
- 13 That all players over 40 years of age who have won Junior or Senior All-Ireland titles be permitted to compete in Junior Championships.—(Maigh Eo).
- 14 That travelling expenses be increased to 5p per mile (maximum).—(Ros Comáin). *Wt!*
- 15 That players eligible to play in the Intermediate Softball Championships be allowed to play in the Senior Handball Championships as well, and that the relevant rules be amended accordingly.—(Cill Dara). *withdrawn*
- 16 That runners-up trophies be awarded to the All-Ireland Championships.—(Cill Mhantain). *passed*
- 17 That the All-Ireland semi-finals be played at neutral venues.—(Cill Mhantain). *passed*

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

That the following grading apply to the Inter-Club Championships:

- Novice** (I) Players who have never represented their county at Minor, Junior, Intermediate, or Senior Championship level.
(II) Players who have never won this or a higher grade competition.
- Junior** (I) Players who have never won a provincial title at Minor, Junior, Intermediate, or Senior Championship level.
(II) Players who have never won this or a higher grade competition.
- Senior** Open to all players, irrespective of grade.—(Cill Chainnigh).

That the Senior All-Ireland 60 x 30 Inter-Club Championship be run on an open draw instead of a provincial basis.—(An Clár).

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN

That a Novice Singles and Doubles replace the present under 21 singles and doubles.—(Cill Chainnigh).

(a) Players taking part in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Championships be allowed to compete in the under 21 singles and doubles if they are eligible age-wise.—(Cill Chainnigh).

(b) That Junior Championship players be permitted to compete in the under 21 singles and doubles.—(Maigh Eo).

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LAIMHE na gCAILINI

That the following addendum be added to Rule 181, Treoirí Oifigiúil, Cumann Luthchleas Gael: "That Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na gCailini is an affiliated body of Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na hÉireann and is entitled to two representatives, with full voting powers, at each level—club, divisional committee, county committee, provincial councils, and the Ard-Chomhairle.

Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na gCailini has sole authority to make and rescind all rules relating to the administration of Ladies' handball and the various competitions and championships under its control. It shall be subject to G.A.A. Rules on matters of policy and procedure.—(Ath Cliath).

That Rule 190, Treoirí Oifigiúil be amended to include two representatives from the Ladies' Handball Club with full voting powers.—(Ath Cliath).

That Rule 193, Treoirí Oifigiúil be amended to include two representatives from the Ladies' Handball County Committee, with full voting powers. That the following addendum be added to Rule 193, Treoirí Oifigiúil: "Where there are two or more Ladies' Handball Clubs in a county, it is obligatory on the County Committee to establish a Ladies' Handball County Committee. If, however, there is only one Ladies' Club, then it affiliates direct to the County Committee.—(Ath Cliath).

That Rule 207, Treoirí Oifigiúil be amended to include two representatives from Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na gCailini with full voting powers.—(Ath Cliath).

That Rule 211, Treoirí Oifigiúil be amended to include two representatives from Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na gCailini with full voting powers.—(Ath Cliath).

GENERAL

That every effort be made to get greater sponsorship for handball.—(Ros Comain).

That as 1974 is the Golden Jubilee Year, consideration should be given to holding a Handball Festival during the year.—(Dun na nGall).

That a super tournament be organised for suit-lengths or a trip to Majorca as a means of greater publicity for the Golden Jubilee Year.—(Ros Comain).

I mbliana, 1974, deanann Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na hÉireann a lúbhail Orga a chomóradh. Óe go raibh Liathroid Laimhe luaithe mhunreacht C.L.G. o thús nior bunaíodh Comhairle le comórtais a tógadh go dtí 1924. Ar feid tamaill mhaith ba dheag d'ar aghaidh a rinneadh ach le deic mbliana anuas fa biseach iontach le tabhairt faoi deara—comórtais do oganaigh; Comhairle na gCailini; comórtais idir-naidanta; comórtais fóinne; cuirteanna faoi dhion a dtógadh agus aiseanna oiriúnacha ag gabhail leo.

Ta gach dealramh ar an seol go leanfadh an dul chum cinn; bhrostodh cuidiu agus speis clubanna C.L.G. sa chluiche e. Feictear duinn go bhfuil se de dhualgas orthu gach gne deir goulura a chaomhnadh.

Gabhaimid buíochas le hArd-Chomhairle Cumann Luthchleas Gael; le Donall O Grianain, Uachtaran; le Sean O Siobhain, Ard-Stuirthoir.

Mo bhíochas le gach hali den Ard-Chomhairle, leis na Comhairle Cúige, leis na Coistí Contae, agus le gach cinne a chuidigh liom.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

S.S.B.S.—J. Maher (Louth).

S.S.B.D.—J. McEllistrim and N. Kerins (Kerry).

S.H.B.S.—P. McGee (Mayo).

S.H.B.D.—A. Byrne and W. Mullen (Westmeath).

I.S.B.S.—D. Kirby (Clare).

I.S.B.D.—A. Greene and C. Young (Kilkenny).

J.S.B.S.—J. Howlin (Wexford).

J.S.B.D.—J. Howlin and J. Goggins (Wexford).

J.H.B.S.—M. Purcell (Kildare).

J.H.B.D.—M. Purcell and J. Byrne (Kildare).

M.S.B.S.—T. O'Rourke (Kildare).

M.S.B.D.—O' Harrold and J. Barron (Kilkenny).

M.H.B.S.—P. Hughes (Kilkenny).

M.H.B.D.—P. Hughes and J. Barron (Kilkenny).

GAEL LINN, 1973

R. Lyng (Waterford).

NATIONAL LEAGUE (Division I)

Clare—P. Kirby, D. Kirby, J. Kirby and M. Hogan.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (Division II)

Wicklow—J. Clery, P. Lee, J. McMahon, R. Doyle.

60 BY 30 INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior—Shannon (P. Kirby, M. Hogan, John Kirby and Joe Kirby).

Junior—St. Mary's, Wexford (P. Goggins, E. Byrne, P. Clappett, and M. Fenelon).

Novice—Shamrock's, Limerick (J. Power, R. Carey, C. Dunne, and R. O'Connell).

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1973

Under 12 Softball singles—J. McCarthy (Tipperary).

do. 12 Softball doubles—A. Sheridan and M. Pattison (Dublin).

do. 14 Softball singles—D. O'Hanlon (Kilkenny).

do. 14 Softball doubles—P. Devaney and D. Halton (Clare).

do. 16 Softball singles—G. Kelly (Offaly).

do. 16 Softball doubles—N. Mannion and P. McCrann (Roscommon).

do. 21 Softball singles—W. Fitzgibbon (Tipperary).

do. 21 Softball doubles—M. Brady and D. Sheridan (Cavan).

Senior Softball doubles—P. Kirby and M. Hogan (Clare).

Masters' Softball doubles—M. Walsh and J. Gaffney.

Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na hÉireann celebrates the Golden Jubilee of its membership of the G.A.A. in 1974. While handball was included in the official charter of the G.A.A. from its earliest years, it was not until 27th January, 1924, that the G.A.A. officially took handball under its wing, when it set up a National Body to control the sport. The Officers elected on that occasion were: Uachtaran—John Lawlor (Dublin); Leas-Uachtaran—J. J. Bowles (Limerick); J. Kelly (Roscommon); M. Davin (Kilkenny); and B. Fay (Cavan). Rannal—Sean O'Hanlon (Dublin); Trustees—Sean McCarthy (Cork) and P. Breen (Wexford).

It is not my intention to examine in depth the developments over the past fifty years, as this in itself would take a full report. I will however, endeavour to deal with what I think are the more important aspects:

1924—The first major undertaking of the newly-established Council was the promotion of the Tailteann Championships. Trials were held in most counties to select representatives for the competition proper. In addition to the Irish representatives, three players travelled from the U.S.A. to compete and they were successful in winning three events.

1925—The first All-Ireland Championships, under G.A.A. Rules, were staged in Senior Softball Singles and Doubles and Senior Handball Singles.

1926—The Handball Council affiliated to the International Amateur Athletic Federation. Mr. Sean O'Hanlon was elected President of the Court Handball Commission, the main function of which was to present rules and conditions acceptable to all countries for the playing of court handball. Unfortunately, nothing really developed to establish international handball on a firm basis. The first All-Ireland championship in Senior Handball Doubles was held.

1928—Players from England and Scotland travelled to compete in the Tailteann Championships. Lack of proper organisation and facilities was a big deterrent to the development of the game in these countries.

All-Ireland Junior Championships in softball and handball, singles and doubles, were staged for the first time.

1930—The most retrograde decision ever taken was that of the 1930 Annual Congress when it was decided to abolish the Provincial Councils and control handball from the Central Council. This decision was largely responsible for the decrease in affiliations in the succeeding years.

1933—Introduction of All-Ireland Minor Softball Doubles.

1939-45—Due to War time conditions, the softball, when available, was of very poor quality. In fact, no softballs were available from 1943 to 1945, and as a result no softball championships were held in these years. As the emphasis during this period was mainly on handball, there was a big falling-off in participation.

1949—The introduction of Minor All-Ireland Softball Singles.

1950—The Provincial Councils were re-established, and in the light of the progress made since their revival, it is all the more difficult to understand the decision to abolish them in 1930.

1953—All-Ireland Minor Handball singles and doubles introduced. Gael Linn Competition introduced with an initial entry of 160 players.

1957—As the result of negotiations by Very Rev. Canon Carroll, a U.S.A. team of three players, accompanied by Charles J. O'Connell, Chairman of the A.A.U.E., visited our country and played matches at eight venues throughout the four provinces over two weeks. A total of 20 matches were played, of which the visitors won 10, with one match ending in level scoring, and our representatives winning the other nine.

1964—The first Official World Handball Championships were held in New York with five countries competing. Ireland finished in fourth place.

1965—The National League was inaugurated.

1966—Willwood Tailteann Championships for players under 14 and 16 years of age in both singles and doubles, also Senior doubles.

1967—Second Official World Handball Championships held in Toronto with four countries competing. Ireland finished in third place.

Under 21 singles and doubles, and Masters, over 40 years of age, included in Willwood Tailteann schedule of championships for the first time.

1969—Inter-club Championships inaugurated.

1970—First ever Handball Court with three walls—built at Croke Park. Third Official World Handball Championships held in Dublin, with five countries competing. Ireland represented by R. Lyng and S. Burgoyne of Wexford, won the doubles. The U.S.A., represented by Pat Kirby, won the singles.

Under 12 singles and doubles included in Willwood Tailteann championships.

A completely new development, and one with great potential, was the introduction of Ladies' handball, which is controlled by its own Handball Council.

1972—Inter-club 40 by 20 championships held for the first time.

I feel that within the period 1950-1973 handball made steady progress and the sport is now catering for a much wider range of activity than ever before. Competition is available at national level for all age groups from under 12 years of age to the over 40 group players. In addition, the sport as a team game has emerged with competitions at national level for both county and club teams. The introduction of Ladies' Handball as an ideal means of recreation should lead to a greater involvement by the ladies in both the administration and social life of clubs and thereby result in much more active and progressive clubs.

International handball has become more firmly established and I foresee big developments in this field in the years ahead. The fact

that handball is truly international has never really been appreciated by the G.A.A. as a whole, and I am sure if this was sufficiently impressed on all units there would be a much greater appreciation of the sport.

Another new development was the introduction of the smaller type of international court which is proving very popular, especially as it is now possible for clubs, with limited resources, to provide a roofed alley with proper facilities. In most cases these clubs would never reach on the larger Irish standard court with the same facilities. The increase in the number of these courts should not cause any undue worry to the clubs with the larger courts, as I feel both courts can live side by side, and the future should see us promoting championships in both types of courts. We must always remember that our basic objective is the promotion of handball as the ideal means of lifelong recreation and to achieve this we must avail of every facility if we are serious in our efforts to promote what we feel is one of the finest games in the world.

The acceptance of handball as an ideal sport for television was indeed a big breakthrough and this can largely be attributed to the foresight of those officials at G.A.A. and Handball level who were responsible for the building of the new glass court at Croke Park. Without it there was no possibility of the game being televised in a manner that would do justice to it. The feedback from the Top Ace Television tournament has exceeded all expectations, and we are indebted to Fred Cogley, Michael O'Carroll and Mick Dunne for the very fine service they have rendered to handball. The extent of this service can be measured in the number of enquiries reaching the Handball Council almost daily re facilities, etc.

1974 ONWARDS

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ENABLE HANDBALL TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL

A Special Handball Development Committee has been set up to present plans for the future development of the game and its findings will go both the Handball Council and the G.A.A. Development Committee. While it is difficult to know what lines this body will take, I will endeavour to outline what I feel are areas that require urgent attention.

(1) A clearly defined policy statement must be issued by the Uachtarán, Cumann Iothcheil Gael, with the full backing of the Management Committee and the Ard-Chomhairle. This should be issued at Annual Congress in Sligo.

(2) While handball has made great strides within the past five years, I feel that its future potential is almost limitless. It must and can take on a vital role in the broader G.A.A. context, as the day of lip-service is past and all units of the G.A.A. from club upwards must now accept their responsibility for the promotion of handball in a practical way. There must be a definite commitment not alone to promote handball, but to ensure that attached to each dressingroom and community centre we have a modern roofed court and let the handball court be the centre for both recreation and P.E. training. In fact, I would even go further and say that it should be a condition of all club developments that they begin with the handball court and work outwards.

(3) The G.A.A. as a whole must adopt the motto, "Handball is a lifetime sport," and every effort must be made, not alone by Handball officials, but the G.A.A. as a whole, to sell what is one of the finest of our national games as the ideal means of lifetime recreation for all age groups and sexes. The fitness value for football and hurling teams is quite obvious. Less obvious is the fact that this is the ideal game for people who are not anxious to take part in bodily contact games.

(4) The emphasis, where at all possible, should be on providing an alley complex of, say, three alleys, as it is only in this way that we can adequately cater for the over-increasing demand for facilities. As I see it, this is much more feasible with the 40 by 20 court than the larger court. The problem with one court is that so few people can use it and this has been a deterrent to development in many areas. We must follow the example of other bodies and aim at providing a greater number of courts in the one building.

(5) Both the G.A.A. Credit Scheme and Bord na bPáircanna must stress that a handball court is a top priority in all club development schemes and recognition of this fact must be considered when grants are being allocated.

(6) There must be a large programme of capital injection to meet the demand that is evident by the large number of enquiries re handball courts that arrive almost daily.

(7) With so much organisation to be done in all areas, I feel that it is necessary to have four part-time organisers—club-administrators.

(8) We must get a very definite commitment from the Department

of Education re the provision of handball courts in schools, colleges, etc. There is ample evidence of the demand for these facilities.

- (8) While handball is supported by a number of schools and colleges affiliated to the All-Ireland Colleges Council, nevertheless, I feel that a big promotional drive must be undertaken without delay as there are still a large number of colleges not making any worthwhile effort.
- (9) To existing handball clubs, I say that they must integrate with the local G.A.A. club, as it is only in this way that we can establish a strong G.A.A. unit in the community. Don't be afraid to approach them, as it could happen that they are waiting for you.
- (10) Ladies handball can contribute in a big way to the overall development of the game, and we should ensure that they are given every encouragement. The best way to do this is to give them a stake in our administrative structure at all levels.
- (11) Juvenile handball has made great strides in recent years, but the progress rate could be accelerated if only County Committees established special committees to look after this most important aspect of our work. An investment in youth is the best investment you can make as it gives life-long return.
- (12) Communications are one of the best selling mediums for any body

and I feel that a much greater emphasis must be placed on developing a proper communications structure. Handball must be represented to the Communications Committee that is being set up by the G.A.A.

- (13) Greater attention should be paid to the development of community centres in the various housing areas of the country. We should endeavour to become involved as far as possible, as our involvement should lead to the inclusion of handball facilities. Unless you sell your goods nobody will do it for you.
- (14) Every county should be thinking in the terms of holding a special Handball Festival each year. This could be spread over a week with the emphasis on the greatest possible number, of all ages groups, taking part.
- (15) I would hope to see a more realistic approach to our All-Ireland Championships whereby all the leading players could compete. This can be done without any player losing his county identity. With the introduction of a 40 by 20 championship in the near future, I would hope to see, in addition to Irish players, that we would have competitors from the U.S.A. and possibly Canada.
- (16) While great efforts have been made in the coaching field, mainly through the financial assistance received from the Department of Education, a vast amount still remains to be done. As I see it, we require a Director of Coaching on a national basis.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.S.B.D. CHAMPIONS KERRY



NICHOLAS KERINS



MURTY McELLISTRIM

S.H.B.D. CHAMPIONS WESTMEATH



WILLIE MULLEN



ANDY BYRNE

The full championship year was completed to schedule with attendances at most venues showing an increase. Westmeath, through the efforts of Andy Byrne and Willie Mullen, won their first ever senior title when taking the S.H.B.D. In fact, the county has yet to win a junior title at this level. Joe Maher made a great comeback in S.S.B.S., and Peter McGee remained dominant in S.H.B.S. Murty McEllistrim and Nicholas Kerins added to Kerry's impressive record in S.S.B.D. M. Purcell and J. Howlin were rewarded for their perseverance when they won the junior singles in their respective codes. They also shared doubles titles, M. Purcell with J. Byrne in J.H.B.D., and J. Howlin and

J. Goggins in J.S.B.D. Dan Kirby, a member of that renowned Clare family, had the honour of winning the first championship in the Intermediate grade for softball singles. Kilkenny added further to their honours list when A. Greene and C. Young became the first winners of the I.S.B.D. Kilkenny dominated the minor grade in winning three titles through the efforts of John Barron, Peadar Hughes, and Ollie Harrold. The most pleasing feature of these successes is that all three players came up through the juvenile ranks. The same position applies to Tom O'Rourke of Kildare, who brought the first ever minor softball title to Kildare.

SUMMARY OF ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP WON SINCE THE HANDBALL COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED—1924-1973 INCLUSIVE

	SSBS.	SSBD.	SHBS.	SHBD.	LSBS.	LSBD.	JBS.	JBD.	JHBS.	JHBD.	MSBS.	MSBD.	MHBS.	MHBD.	TOTAL
Kilkenny	7	7	12	10	—	—	6	6	7	8	2	3	4	4	77
Wexford	8	3	4	6	—	—	6	2	3	3	4	6	4	2	51
Tipperary	2	8	2	5	—	—	4	5	7	7	—	2	3	3	48
Kerry	2	12	4	5	—	—	4	3	4	2	3	6	1	—	46
Dublin	5	3	12	6	—	—	2	5	3	3	2	2	—	1	44
Kildare	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	10	11	1	—	3	6	36
Roscommon	8	2	—	1	—	—	1	3	1	1	4	2	2	1	23
Mayo	1	1	4	3	—	—	2	5	1	—	—	5	2	—	24
Louth	8	—	6	1	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	20
Limerick	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	3	2	1	4	2	—	2	19
Cork	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	1	1	1	13
Meath	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	11
Offaly	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	8
Wicklow	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	8
Clare	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	6
Carlow	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Galway	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	5
Sligo	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	5
Monaghan	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cavan	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Westmeath	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
Waterford	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Armagh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tyrone	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

R.T.E. TOP ACE TELEVISION TOURNAMENT

During the year the first ever television tournament was filmed and shown on the screens over a seven-week period. The reaction was really tremendous and as a result a similar tournament will be seen during 1974. The presentation of the whole programme was really first class and as a result handball was projected in a manner that must do untold good for the future development of the sport. Eight players competed and after many close matches Pat Murphy proved supreme. Details as follows:

First round: Pat Murphy (Clare) defeated S. McCabe (Monaghan);
Pat Murphy (Wexford) defeated P. McGee (Mayo);
J. McEllistrim (Kerry) defeated R. Lyng (Wexford);
Joe Maher (Louth) defeated S. Buggy (Wexford).

Semi-finals: P. Murphy defeated P. Kirby;
J. Maher defeated J. McEllistrim.

Final: P. Murphy defeated J. Maher.

On behalf of Comhairle Liathróid Laimhe na hÉireann, I wish to express our deep appreciation to Telefís Éireann for such a fine production. It was a pleasure to work with the Producer, Commentator, and crews as there was a fine spirit of co-operation during the negotiations and the production. We do sincerely hope that a programme of this nature will become an annual feature, as it has now been proved that handball projected in a proper manner is fit to stand side by side with any other sports production.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The 1973 National League was one of the most successful ever with many keen and closely contested matches. Clare once again dominated the Division I, while Wicklow had a much due success in Division II.

GAEL LINN COMPETITION.

The Gael Linn competition has contributed in a big way to the present position of handball. The initial entry 20 years ago was 160 players, and this has grown over the years to this year's record figure of 1,240 players. The breakdown is as follows, with the 1972 figures in brackets:

Leinster	632 players (520)
Connacht	304 do. (312)
Munster	208 do. (272)
Ulster	96 do. (64)

The final of the 1972-73 competition was played at New Ross, with record gate receipts, and was won by Richie Lyng, playing for Waterford. This was his third success over the years.

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 60 x 30

Shannon once again dominated the senior championship, while St. Mary's of Wexford, previous novice winners, won out in the Junior grade. The newly-formed Shamrock's Club, from Limerick won the Novice grade in very impressive fashion.

I would strongly recommend that consideration be given to running the three grades on an open draw, as in this way there would be more balanced competition.

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN

The Willwood Tailteann championships go from strength to strength and have contributed in a big way to the development of juvenile handball.

INTER-VARSITY HANDBALL

Handball at Inter-varsity level continues to grow with competition at league and championship level being well supported by the six affiliated universities.

The games at this level got a good shot in the arm when the G.A.A. set up Coiste Ard-Oideachais to promote Gaelic games among all institutes of third-level education. A special Handball Council has been set up and it will be a subsidiary of this body. It will also receive an annual grant of £300.

In addition to handball at Inter-varsity level, efforts are presently being made to promote the game in other institutions of third level education, and a special softball doubles competition is being promoted, open to all colleges, excluding the universities, in an effort to get the game organised in new areas.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Handball at this level is still slow to develop. While many counties have competitions at local level, we have not as yet reached the stage where provincial championships are promoted. I believe during 1974 Comhairle Laidheann are promoting a senior and junior singles and doubles competition for schools in the province. Other provinces should do likewise and our clubs should make every effort to encourage this development.

COMHAIRLE na gCAILINÍ

Ladies' handball is here to stay—this is very evident by the progress it has made during its short lifetime. Still very much in its infancy, each year sees an increasing number of ladies taking to the courts. The inclusion of handball in the Community Games has played a big part in this development. However, I feel the progress rate could be much more rapid if our clubs fully backed this venture. For many years we have depended on ladies to help us out in our many promotions, and now is the time to show our appreciation for that service by really making an all-out effort to promote ladies' handball. A number of motions on the Clar, if adopted, could help to achieve this end.

COACHING

A number of coaching courses were held during the year and we are indebted to our two national coaches, Pat Kirby and Joe Maher. To ease the burden somewhat, I feel that we must make every effort to have more fully qualified coaches trained. Efforts should be made to intensive courses for prospective coaches at the end of which they would take an examination and receive a diploma.

GOVERNMENT GRANT

The Government grant was increased by £500 and we are indebted to the Department of Education for this additional help. I would ask that consideration be given to increasing this figure, as with our growth rate increasing the demands on our resources also increase.

Over recent years the Handball Council has invested almost £33,000 in Croke Park court, and also given grants to clubs building courts to the extent of £10,500. I feel that the time has been reached when the Department of Education must give serious consideration to the question of structural grants, as without buildings it is not possible to provide a full service to the community.

COMMUNITY GAMES

The inclusion of handball in the Community Games has helped considerably in the promotion of the game with juveniles boys and girls. During the year various competitions were played on a provincial and All-Ireland basis for the first time. While there may have been problems in one or two areas, this is no reason why this should take away from the overall good these games are doing for handball. If we are serious about promoting handball, then we must help in the promotion of the games at all levels. As I see it, the involvement of these boys and girls in our sport could well lead to the demand for alley facilities in areas where no handball courts exist.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

During the year we were notified that Australia found it impossible to go ahead with arrangements for the World Championships. Despite this disappointment, I am confident that international handball will continue to grow and we should have matches at more regular intervals. Towards the close of the year we finalised arrangements to send a four-man team to San Francisco during March, 1974. Two of our top players, Joe Maher and Pat Kirby, will also be travelling to compete in the 1974 American National Championships.

As 1974 is our Golden Jubilee Year, we should endeavour to stage a major international tournament with matches being played in a number of centres in the country.

GRANTS FOR ALLEY CONSTRUCTION

Cullen	£400	Building a new roofed court
Garryhill	£400	do. do. do. do.
Loughanure	£400	do. do. do. do.
Crinkle	£400	do. do. do. do.
Ardcath	£400	do. do. do. do.
Ballinglass	£300	Reconstructing and roofing court.
Croke Park	£500	Improvements.
St Joseph's Boys' Club, Wexford	£100	Building an open court. Will be roofed in due course.

CEANNARAS

The membership of Ceannaras continues to grow at a steady rate and the position now is that it is impossible to meet the demand for playing time. It is imperative that further facilities, including a 40 x 20 court, be provided without delay, as otherwise the membership could decrease.

In accordance with the terms of reference laid down for Ceannaras, the Financial Statement of the year's working is to be included in our Annual Report.

INCOME:		EXPENDITURE:	
Grants	£560.00	E.S.B.	£338.45
Shop Receipts	£2,186.30	Postage	£7.40
Membership Fees	£619.00	Handballs	£21.45
Telephone	£35.40	Brgas	£137.08
Seuna	£43.15	Cleaning Equipment	£66.39
Bookings	£430.35	Store and Shower	£266.00
Deficit	£458.07	Painting	£307.00
		Plumbing	£32.58
		Central Heating	£98.93
		Sundry Equipment	£35.83
		Stock for Shop	£1,773.18
		Wages	£1,188.50
		Telephone	£69.48
	<u>£4,332.27</u>		<u>£4,332.27</u>

The books of Ceannaras have been examined for the year ending 31st December, 1973. Included in the Stock for Shop were some

accounts from the previous year. Provision is made for wages due during this period. Due to certain accounts being carried forward from last year, it is difficult to give an estimated projection of income and expenditure for the future. We believe that efforts must be made to increase the income to meet the cost of further developments which are an urgent necessity.

AN BR. B. C. O MURCHU,

SEOSAMH O LOINGSIGH.

ADMINISTRATOR/ORGANISER

In accordance with the decision of Annual Congress two years ago, final agreement was reached with the G.A.A. on the appointment of a permanent Administrator-Organiser. This position became operative from May, 1973. In addition, office facilities will be available in Croke Park and for the future handball will be administered from there.

A number of propositions were placed before the Ard-Chomhairle re the appointment of an official for this post. It was the unanimous decision of that body that I should take on the position, and I am deeply appreciative of the honour you conferred on me and I will endeavour to the best of my ability to justify the confidence that you have shown when you selected me.

PUBLICITY

There has been a big improvement in our overall publicity and it is evident that if the information is forwarded that adequate coverage will be given both by the national and provincial newspapers and also the Radio and Television. I would stress the necessity of forwarding photographs, action or stills, as one photograph often reaches people who have not the time to read fully the various Press articles.

To our Radio and Television, our national and provincial newspapers, and the various sporting magazines a word of thanks for your help and we look forward to your co-operation in the future.

FINANCE

Finance is always a problem with most sporting organisations and we are no different. It is pleasing to note that each year shows an improvement but, nevertheless, we still require considerable finances if we are to meet the constant demand for playing facilities which are coming to us daily.

While we are appreciative of the grants coming from various G.A.A. sources, I feel that a much bigger effort is required for the future. I appreciate that a number of these committees are carrying heavy overdrafts and this is all the more reason why we should also look for other sources, such as sponsorship, revenue from advertising, etc. The recently inaugurated Ciste Gael, the G.A.A. official fund-raising project, is the answer to many of our financial problems. By proper organisation this can be developed to provide financial assistance for clubs, county committees, provincial councils and the Ard-Chomhairle. It is only by working as a team that we can make a success of this scheme and thereby establish a steady source of revenue for all units.

Our Uachtaran, Seosamh Mac Sheoinin, has completed his term of office and he can look back with pride on his three years of dedicated service to the game that he loves so much. Not alone has he been active in the administrative field, but has been equally active on our courts. His top priority was the construction of courts, with proper facilities, and I am sure he is happy to see the tremendous upsurge of interest in this field. The results of his work in this field will continue to bear fruit for many years to come and will be a tribute to his enthusiasm and energy which brought him to all parts of our country during his term of office. I feel confident that he will always remain with us and give of his valuable advice and help, especially in the field of alley construction. On your behalf and on my own, I wish to express our deep appreciation of his understanding at all times.

We are indebted to our Uachtaran, Donall O Clainain; our Ard-Stiurthoir, Sean O Siachain, who as ever has been most helpful and understanding; to the members of the Ard-Chomhairle, Cumann Luthchleas Gael, and the Provincial Councils for their help.

To the members of Ard-Chomhairle, Liathroid Laimhe na hEireann my very sincere thanks for your co-operation and help and the harmonious spirit which dominated our meetings. To our Provincial Handball Councils, and our Handball County Committees, my thanks and may we all work closely together in the future to spread the game we love throughout the country.

The Holy Sacrifice of Mass has been offered for the happy repose of all our deceased members. During the year we lost two former Presidents in Jimmie O'Brien (Kilkenny) and Joe Bergin (Tipperary).

Go ndeanai Dia trocaire ar a n-anamacha.

SEOSAMH O LOINGSIGH.