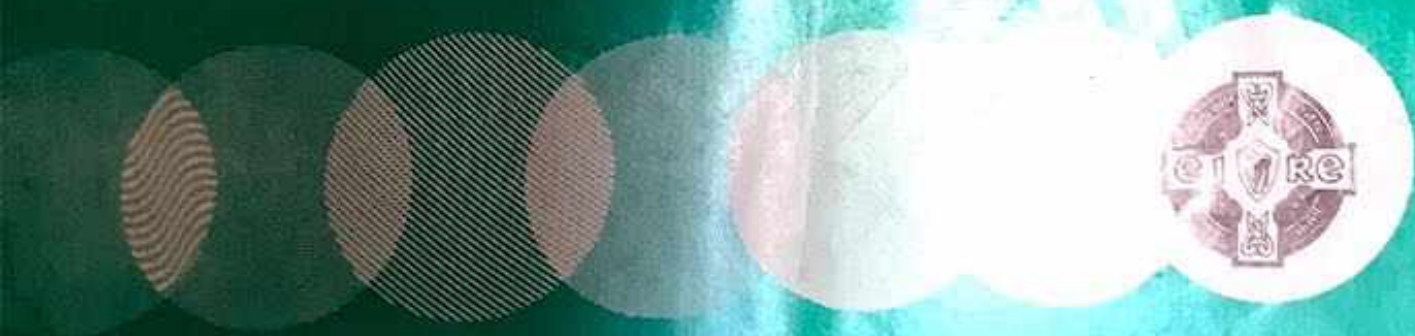
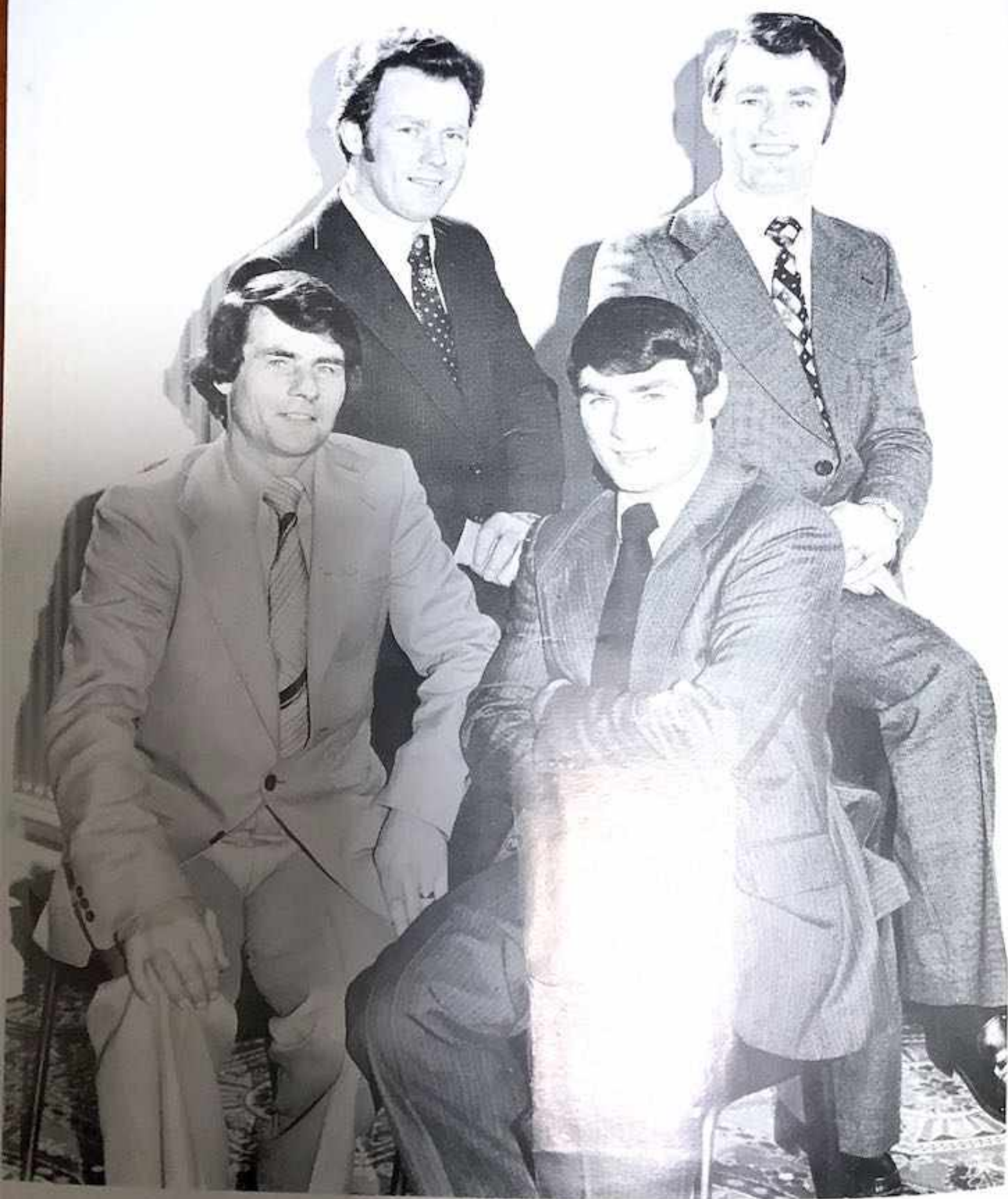




An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 1979



Tuarascáil an Rúnaí
agus Cuntas an Airgid



PAT, MICK, DAN & JOHN KIRBY (CLARE)
*The first time in G.A.A. history that four members of the same family
won All Ireland Senior Handball medals in the same year.*

CONGRESS

will be held in

THE OFFICES, PÁIRC an CHRÓCAIGH

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10 AT 2.30 P.M. AND CONCLUDING

AT 5.30 P.M.

AND

SUNDAY, 11 MARCH, AT 10.30 A.M.

Motions 1 – 8 will be taken on the opening day

CLÁR

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Miontuairiscí. ✓ | 2. Tuarascáil. ✓ |
| 3. Tuairisc an Rúnaí. ✓ | 4. Cúntas Airgid. |
| 5. Toghadh na hOifigeach 1979. | |
| (a) Uachtarán | (b) Cisteoir. |
| (c) Teachta ar Árd-Chomhairle, C.L.G. | (d) Teachta ar Árd-Choiste Forbartha, C.L.G. |

6. Na Rúin.

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

STANDING ORDERS

1. The proposer of a Resolution or an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes but no more than five minutes.
2. A delegate speaking to a Resolution or an Amendment must not exceed three minutes.
3. The proposer of a Resolution or Amendment may speak a second time for three minutes before a vote is taken, but no other delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The 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 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 1979

Uachtarán: T. Breathnach (Dún na nGall) ✓

Cisteoir: An Br. B.C. Ó Murchú (An Iarmhí) ✓

Teachta ar Árd-Chomhairle C.L.G.: T. Ó Briain (Cill Chainnigh); S. Ó Gallechóir (Dún na nGall) ✓

Teachta ar Árd-Choiste Forbartha C.L.G. An tÁth. S. Ó Nualláin (Muineachán) ✓

General

That the time of filming the Top Ace programme be changed to a later date, and that the matches be shown after the Sports Results on Sunday nights. (Cill Mhantáin).

That efforts be made in the near future to have the present right hand glass wall in the 60 x 30 court in Croke Park replaced with concrete. (Cill Mhantáin).

That Rule 211 be revised to allow all affiliated counties one representative on Central Council. The counties to bear expenses. (Loch Garman).

That Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann be instrumental in revitalising International competition. (Aontroim).

That a Sub-Committee be formed to devise technical data for the construction of courts and technical specifications for handball. (Aontroim).

That a committee be set up to consider the present and future structure, organisation, and development of handball in Ireland and to report as soon as possible. (Aontroim).

That Central Council make strong representation to the manufacturers of the 40 x 20 handball to ensure a ball of a more durable character and to seek replacement for balls which fail, even, to last a session of 40 minutes. (Loch Garman).

That Coaching Films be available for coaches throughout the Country. (Dún na nGall).

That a full-time Development Officer be appointed by Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann. (Aontroim).

That Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann apply to Árd Choiste Forbartha, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael for the inclusion of County Handball Committees at future meetings of FÁS. (Muineachán).

That Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann promote and initiate competitions in Racquetball as a natural development of handball. (Muineachán).

That this congress deplores the failure of the Department of Education to provide courses in handball coaching for the pupils of the National Institute of Physical Education and its failure to provide any facilities for the playing of handball on the campus. (An Clár).

That Central Council immediately set up an Activities Committee consisting of the four provincial secretaries and a chairman to be the nominee of the President. This committee to be serviced by the General Secretary, and to be solely responsible for the production of a master fixtures plan, the implementations of same, the making of all fixtures, the nomination of all venues for National League, All Ireland Semi Finals and Finals. The Chairman to serve for a maximum of three years. (An Clár).

That the Public Relations Officer of the Handball Council produce a Quarterly Magazine covering handball affairs in association with the G.A.A. Communications Committee. (An Clár).

COMPETITIONS

That memento's, suitably inscribed, be presented to the referees of all All Ireland Championship Finals. (An Clár).

That the nomenclature of Senior, Junior and Novice be changed to Senior, Intermediate and Junior. (Aontroim).

17. That all teams forego travelling expenses from the Ard Chomhairle in 1979 to help Ceannáras Building Fund. (Dún na nGall).

18. That expenses, on a par with those given to players who take part in 60 x 30 All-Ireland Championships be paid to those who play in All-Ireland 40 x 20 Championships. (Loch Garman).

19. That a League be organised for Juveniles. (Dún na nGall).

20. That the Under 22 or Senior Americal trials not be allowed to clash with any provincial championships. (An Clár).

21. That a player who is graded Senior by virtue of having won an All Ireland Junior softball or hardball championship prior to 1978, be eligible for re-grading to Junior in 40 x 20 and in whichever code of 60 x 30 he did not win a Junior Championship, after a period of three years has elapsed in which he did not compete in any All Ireland Senior Championship Softball, Hardball or 40 x 20. Re-grading to be at the discretion of the appropriate Provincial Council and with the approval of Central Council. Rule 236 to be amended. (An Clár).

22. That the rule which allows players to return a ball to the front wall by striking it off the backwall in 40 x 20 courts be scrapped. (Loch Garman).

23.(A) That the National League revert back to the previous system of Division 1 and Division 2 and that trophies be presented to the Winners and Runners-up in each Division and that each Division be played in two Sections, if sufficient teams entered, so as to reduce travelling. (Ceatharlach).

(b) That the National Handball League be re-organised so as to provide Semi-Finals. (An Clár).

24. That the final stages of Gael Linn Cup (60 x 30) be played in Provincial areas as formerly, and that the Interprovincial Final be substituted for Croke Park on the Saturday night of Congress Week-end. (An Clár).

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1978
60 x 30

Coca-Cola S.S.S.	R. Laighean (Loch Garman).
Coca-Cola S.S.D.	S. Ó Ciarba, D. Ó Ciarba (An Clár).
J.S.S.	G. Ó Scolaí (Gaillimh).
J.S.D.	N. Ó Briain, T. Ó Muireasa (Tiobraid Árann).
M.S.S.	T. Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann).
M.S.D.	S. Mag Shamhráin, M. Mag Shamráin (An Mhí).
S.H.S.	S. an Gheimhridh (Cill Dara).
S.H.D.	P. Mac Fhearaigh, S. Bennis (Luimneach).
J.H.S.	C. Ó Coinn (Maigh Eo).
J.H.D.	G. Ó Scolaí, E. Ó Coinn (Gaillimh).
M.H.S.	T. Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann).
M.H.D.	T. Ó Riain, L. Ó Dónaill (Tiobraid Árann).
Under 21 S.S.	T. Mac Coise (Luimneach).
Under 21 S.D.	P. Ó Cléirigh, S. Pléimeann (Loch Garman).
N.S.S.	T. Mac Coise (Luimneach).
N.S.D.	T. Mac Coise, P. Ó Tuathail (Luimneach).
Over 40 S.S.	L. Ó Céirín (Ciarraí).
Over 40 S.D.	L. Ó Céirín, T. Ó Céirín (Ciarraí).

40 x 20

S.S.	P. Ó Ciarba (An Clár).
S.D.	P. Ó Ciarba, M. Ó Ciarba (An Clár).
J.S.	P. Ó Dúlainne (Uibh Fháilí).
J.D.	B. Ó Briain, M. Ó hEathrín (Ciarraí).
M.S.	T. Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann).

M.D.	T. Ó Riain, M. Mac Duibhir (Tiobraid Árann).
N.S.	S. Ó Dúghaill, (Loch Garman).
N.D.	S. Ó Dúghaill, L. Mac Suain (Loch Garman).
Over 40 D.	L. Ó Céirín, T. Ó Céirín (Ciarraí).
Over 50 S.	M. Breathnach (Maigh Eo).
Over 50 D.	M. Breathnach, A. Ó Dálaigh (Maigh Eo).

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN 60 x 30

Under 12 S.	M. Breathnach (Cill Chainnigh).
Under 12 D.	P. Ó Meachair, M. de Cnoc (Cill Chainnigh).
Under 13 S.	S. Uadló (Tiobraid Árann).
Under 13 D.	S. Ó Dúghaill, M. Puirseál (Cill Chainnigh).
Under 14 S.	A. Mac Cionnaith (Baile Átha Cliath).
Under 14 D.	M. Ó Spealáin, S. Ó'Ceallaigh (Corcaigh).
Under 15 S.	G. Ó Cochláinn (An Clár).
Under 15 D.	D. Ó Loinsigh, D. Ó Briain (Baile Átha Cliath).
Under 16 S.	L. de Búrca (Cill Chainnigh).
Under 16 D.	S. Breathnach, S. Foskin (Cill Chainnigh).

GAEL LINN 60 x 30

R. Laighean (Loch Garman).

GAEL LINN 40 x 20

P. Ó Ciarba (An Clár).

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter-Provincial Mumhan	S. Ó Ciarba, D. Ó Ciarba, S. de Roiste, P. Mag Fhearaigh.
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National League Cill Mhantain	S. Ó Cléirigh, P. Ó Laoi, R. Ó Dúghaill, M. Ó Dubhuir, R. Willoughby, L. Ó Bearáin.
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60 x 30 Inter-Club

Novice: Baldonnell	S. Ó Murnáin, P. Ó Raghallaigh, F. Ó Leathlobair, T. Ó Garra.
Senior: Roscommon	M. Breathnach, S. Ó Briain, D. Ó Dúlainn, B. Ó Callaráin.

40 x 20 Inter-Club

Novice: Enniscorthy	N. Ó Tuathail, E. Ó Ceallaigh, T. MacCraith, M. Balbh.
Senior: Capwell	D. Ó Ceallacháin, P. Ó Muiris, B. Ó Briain, E. Ó Cinneide.

R.T.E. Top Ace

R. Laighean (Loch Garman).

UNIVERSITIES'

Championship: U.C.C.	P. Ó Muiris, P. Ó Murchú, G. Ó Mathúna, P. Ó Luasaigh, S. Mac Carthaigh, S. Mac Cúibréith.
League: U.C.G.	M. Ó Siail, S. Mac Maoilir, D. Mac Grífin, P. Ó Maoláin, P. Mag Eochagáin, S. Ó Callaráin.

HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

Championship:	Bolton St. C. Mac Cionnaith, B. Mag Uidhir, M. Póirtéir, D. Mac Connuibh, S. Ó Mathúna.
League: (Northern)	Bolton Street. C. MacCionnaith, B. Mac Uidhir, M. Póirtéir, D. Mac Connuibh, D. Mac Connuibh, S. Ó Mathúna.
League: (Southern Section)	Pallaskenry. S. Ó Donnabháin, C. Spáinneach, E. Ó Fathaigh, P. Mac Fheorais.

Special Novice
League:

Singles U.C.C.

Division I
Division II
Division III
Division IV

Warrenstown.

D. Ó Cuilinn, D. Ó Deoráin,
S. Mag Shamhráin, S. de Priondragás,
P. Ó Muiris.

FÉILE NA nGAEL

Luimneach
Ciarraí
Cill Channigh
Corcaigh.



TONY RYAN (TIPPERARY)

The first player in handball history to win five All Ireland Minor Championships in the same year.

Bliain inar leanadh den dul chun cinn ab ea an bhliain seo caite. Tá tógáil cúirteanna nua ar súil i mórán áiteanna agus gach cuma air go leanfaidh an scéal mar sin. Méadaíonn ar an bhfreagracht de réir mar a mhéadaíonn ar líon na gcúirteanna ag féachaint chuige go mbaintear uas-úsáid astu. Cinneadh dul ar aghaidh leis na cúirteanna i gColáiste Thumhumhan, rud atá ina chúis áthais dúinn. Beidh siad ina bhuntáiste mór ag na hoidí corpoideachais mar go mbeidh siad anois cáilithe liathróid láimhe a theagasc mar chuid den chlár scoile. Chomh maith leis sin, tá sé beartaithe cúirteanna a thógáil sa chuid is mó dena holscoileanna leis. Tá an scéim fhorbartha inár gCeannáras féin geall a bheith críochnaithe, rud a chuirfidh le cliúfhás Liathróid Láimhe. Cuireann an fhorbairt seo go mór leis an mbrú orainn agus ní ghlanfar na fiacha troma a ghabhann léi gan cúnamh ár gClubanna agus ár gCoistí Contae go léir.

Táimid buíoch de Árd-Comhairle Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, de Chonchúr Ó Murchú, Uachtarán, agus de Sheán Ó Siócháin, Árd-Stúirtheoir. Gabhaim buíochas le gach ball den Árd-Chomhairle, leis na Comhairlí Cúige agus le gach aon duine a chuidigh liom i rith na bliana a ghabh tharainn.

The year under review was yet another successful one with continued progress in all areas and the indications are that the remarkable progress handball has made in recent years will continue at an accelerated rate in the years ahead. This situation has been brought about mainly by the ever growing band of enthusiastic and dedicated officials throughout the Country. Over the past five years a sum in excess of £1,500,000 has been spent on court construction and court renovation. This money has largely been raised by the clubs themselves with minimal help by way of grants and is further evidence of the demand that now exists for playing facilities. This I feel is a tremendous tribute to our clubs, who instead of appealing to the State and Local Authorities to build facilities for them, have tackled the problem themselves, as they realise that the funds available from these sources are very limited and certainly could not meet our needs. I have no doubt that handball has set an example for many other sports bodies and I am doubtful if many of them have spent this amount of money, over the same period, in providing facilities for their members. Again it is evidence of the

ability of handball personnel to meet the challenge of the present and to prepare for the future.

With the emphasis now on involving people of all age groups in healthy forms of recreation I feel handball has a major part to play in promoting the philosophy of "Sport for All" as the game is ideally suited for all age groups. Our decision of a few years ago to adopt as our motto "Handball for Life Recreation" has been well justified by the present trend to involve all age groups in suitable forms of recreation.

To fully avail of the present trend it is important that we have leaders, especially at club level. I would see the leader as one generating enthusiasm and motivating people to play handball. The handball club would be seen as playing its part in providing a service to the local community and in this way contributing to the overall well being of the nation as a whole. Consideration could be given to reactivating the Leadership Courses which were so effective a few years ago.

With the rapid development of handball the time is opportune to look at our present Administrative Structure and ask ourselves is it adequate to meet our ever growing demands. I feel consideration could be given to inaugurating a club development programme or alternatively working towards having handball included in the present G.A.A. club development programme. A Development Committee has been set up by the Uachtaran to examine this whole position with a view to working towards total integration with the G.A.A. However as this is more long term it might be better to work on the lines suggested above as an interim measure. The position of Provincial Councils and County Committees could also be examined as they in the main are activity bodies with little emphasis on planned development, either short-term or long-term.

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

The full programme of Championships was carried out to schedule with the exception of the Senior 40 x 20 Singles in which case the final was not played as one County failed to turn up on time and also failed to provide a substitute. This was the first occasion in the history of handball that a walk-over occurred in a Senior Final. Pat Kirby was again the dominant figure in retaining both the 40 x 20 Senior Singles and Doubles titles. He did not defend his 60 x 30 Coca Cola Singles title. Richie Lyng made up for previous near misses when he decisively won the Coca-Cola Singles championship. There was a welcome change in the Coca-Cola Senior Doubles when Dan and John Kirby brought the title to Clare for the first time ever. As Mick had already partnered Pat in winning the 40 x 20 Senior Doubles championship this left the Kirby family setting up a record that may never be equalled as it is the first time in G.A.A. history that four members of a family won All Ireland Senior Championships in the same year. The success of C. Winders in S.H.B.S. was Kildare's first success in this championship since 1950. The first ever All Ireland S.H.B.D. title was won by J.J. Bowles and S. Gleeson of Limerick in 1926 and it was not until 1978 that the county again won this title when P. McGarry and J.J. Bennis were successful - a long wait indeed. The record breaking performance of Tony Ryan of Tipperary in winning five Minor titles is indeed a tribute to his perseverance and one that is likely to stand for a long time. His success in M.S.S. was a first ever in this championship for Tipperary. In retaining the M.S.D. Meath prevented Tipperary of making a clean sweep of all the Minor titles. G. Scully of Galway brought the J.S.S. title to his native county after a lapse of 39 years. He partnered E. Rabbittee in winning the J.H.D. In winning the 40 x 20 J.S. P. Delaney brought Offaly it's first title in this grade. Kerry who have been to the forefront in the development of 40 x 20 courts had ample reward when M. Aherne and B. O'Brien won the J.D. in this code.

THOMOND COLLEGE

The lack of handball facilities has been a big bone of contention since the College was established. Regular representations were made over the years which were met with promises but no action. I am happy to report that the necessary finance has now been sanctioned by the Department of Finance and the plans are in the hands of the Architects. When the courts are ready for use the students passing through the College will have the opportunity of becoming fully versed in handball and capable of coaching the game when they graduate.

OVER AGE COMPETITIONS

Two further competitions were added to the over age structure, leaving six competitions in all open to players in the over 40 and over 50 age brackets. The introduction of these over age competitions have certainly been well justified as there is increasing participation each year. Kerry and Mayo dominated them but with a general levelling up in standards the titles should be spread over more counties in the future.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The entries were slightly down on last year. However despite this competition was very keen with only a few aces separating teams in many matches. The format now adopted has brought about this position as all grades of players are catered for in the composition of teams. The success of Wicklow was well earned as they accounted for former winners Wexford, Kilkenny and Limerick during their run of successes.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Director General of Cumann Luthchleas Gael, Seán Ó Síocháin is due to retire very shortly and it is fitting that I pay tribute to him in this Report for his total commitment to the development of handball over the years, including the years prior to his appointment as Ard Runai and later as Ard Stiúrthóir. His interest in handball development was indeed genuine and he availed of every opportunity to ensure that handball received due recognition. What is not generally remembered is that he was responsible for introducing the Gael Linn Competition way back in 1954 when handball, unlike today, had no Competitions outside the All Ireland Minor, Junior and Senior Championships. This competition catered for players of all grades and is still one of the most popular on our Clár. This Competition was the forerunner of the many we have now catering for all age groups.

He played a major part in the construction of the glass court at Páirc an Chrócaigh and we are indebted to him for his help and encouragement in this undertaking. The court which was built initially for the World Championships in 1970 has been responsible more than anything else for the tremendous development in handball as it enabled the game to be televised in a fitting manner and as a result generated enthusiasm and support throughout the country which is reflected in the number of new courts that have been built since 1970 and also the big increase in the members now playing the game.

At all times he was helpful and courteous in our dealings with him and I say a sincere thanks Seán and you can rest assured that your contribution to handball development will always be remembered.

GAEL LINN

While this competition is not now as popular as a few years ago nevertheless it provides worthwhile competition in 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 courts for clubs anxious for competition during the winter months. The 1977-78 final of the

60 x 30 section was played at Páirc an Chrócaigh and resulted in a win for R. Lyng of Wexford. The 40 x 20 final which was played at Ennis was won by Pat Kirby. The breakdown of entries is as follows:-

	60 x 30	40 x 20
Leinster	384	48
Munster	112	64
Ulster	24	24
Connacht	88	24

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Inter-club Championships were extended to include a senior 40 x 20 Championship. Roscommon retained their Senior 60 x 30 title in impressive fashion while Capwell won the Senior 40 x 20. In the Novice 60 x 30 the Army team from Baldonnel were winners after a close contest in the final with Hospital. In winning the 40 x 20 Novice title Enniscorthy accounted for Capwell who won this title last year but had to field a new team.

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN

The Willwood Tailteann Competitions are now accepted as the Juvenile All Ireland Championships. As in previous years the competition was very keen with the standard improving each year. All age groups from the under 12's to the over 16's are catered for. Many of our prominent players in all grades have graduated through these competitions over the years. They are providing a most important function in the development of handball.

It is the intention to extend the range of competitions in 1979 to cover boys under 14 and 16 years of age playing in 40 x 20 courts.

INTER-PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competition as usual was very keen with Munster retaining the title after a very closely contested final with Leinster played at a magnificently heated court at Clonmel.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

While handball continues to make headway in the Vocational Schools I would like to see better organisation and more commitment from the schools. I would suggest that our Provincial Handball Councils endeavour to have a better liaison with their counterparts in the Vocational Schools as in this way organisation would improve and handball would benefit.

ALL IRELAND COLLEGES

The commitment to the promotion of handball by the G.A.A. Provincial and All Ireland Colleges Councils falls short of what one would expect. The general attitude seems to be to run off the competitions at the last minute with no proper scheduling. I appreciate that they also have the responsibility of promoting football and hurling and as a result handball takes a back seat. With proper planning the handball championships could be played at a time that would not clash with the field games and give students the opportunity of playing all three games if they so desire. I am aware that efforts are being made in some provinces to have the Provincial Handball Council take over the running of these competitions in an effort to improve the position.

COMMUNITY GAMES

The Community Games continue to play an important part in the development of under-age handball for boys and girls. We are indebted to the various officials throughout the country for their help and I would ask that clubs co-operate by making their facilities available and where possible to help in the organisation at local level. In the long

term handball will benefit from this co-operation as it will bring many new members into our clubs.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Handball at University and Third Level continues to improve with championships and League competitions well supported. The overall standard is now very high with many well known handballers taking part in the various competitions. It is remarkable the number of handballers now taking part, with distinction, in our national championships who graduated from these Colleges. Lack of playing facilities has been a deterrent to progress over the years but this position is now changing as roofed courts are in the course of construction at U.C.D., U.C.G. and Maynooth, while plans are in hand for a roofed court at U.C.C. In addition representations were made to St. Patrick's College, Dublin and as a result approaches have been made by the College authorities to the Department of Education to have two courts constructed.

LADIES HANDBALL

The position of Ladies Handball showed no remarkable improvement during the year. The main problem seems to be inability to make personal contact with our clubs, County Committees and Provincial Councils. I am confident that there is an amount of goodwill for ladies handball only waiting to be tapped. It is vital to the development of Ladies handball that they draw up a development programme covering (1) Short-term development (2) Long-term development. There is provision in our rules for the setting up of County Committees and Provincial Councils but so far no action has been taken even in counties where two or more clubs exist.

COMPETITIONS

While the Provincial Councils and the Árd-Chomhairle make every effort to play all Championships and Competitions on schedule the task is becoming more and more difficult each year with new competitions being introduced. Consideration could be given to examining the whole competition structure with a view to rationalising it.

FÉILE NA nGAEL

For the first time since its inauguration handball was included on a full scale basis in Féile na nGael. The only previous occasion upon which handball was included was in Limerick and then it was confined to one player from each province whereas last year every county was invited to send representatives. This involvement in Féile na nGael is very welcome as the Festival is sponsored by Coca-Cola who also sponsor our Senior Softball Championships. A total of 21 counties took part with 11 pairs from Kilkenny making up the total entry of 32 partnerships. All the handball representatives took part in the very colourful Féile parade. The matches were played at Mullinavat, Kilfane and Clogh with the transport being provided by the Hurling officials. The Uachtarán of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael attended at the three Venues.

GOVERNMENT GRANT

Once again the Annual Government Grant showed an increase and we are indebted to the Minister of State, Mr. Jim Tunney, and the Department of Education for this increase. Without this grant-in-aid it would be impossible to meet our commitments in the fields of Coaching, Equipment, Administration and Development.

During the year the Minister of State set up the National Sports Council and while it is early days yet I am confident that this body will have a very big influence on the future development of Sport in this Country. One of its main objectives is the promotion of the philosophy of "Sport for All", and this is an aspect of Sports development in

which handball can play a major part as our sport is specifically geared to cater for all age groups. During the year the first "Sport for All" Day was organised and proved very successful. In 1979 it will be spread over a weekend 21/22 April and I appeal to all our County Committees and clubs to play their part in full by involving the local Community especially those not already involved in recreation. I had the honour of being selected as a member of the National Sports Council and I am very indebted for this honour which is really a tribute to the Sport I represent and which has made such headway in recent years.

R.T.E.

The Annual R.T.E. Top Ace and subsidiary competitions due to be televised late in the year were postponed until early in 1979. In preparation for the Top Ace Competition R.T.E. staged a Special qualifying Competition in Roscommon on 17 December 1978. This competition involved players of all grades and was very successful. The qualifiers included newcomers Pakie Ryan (Dublin), Tony Ryan (Tipperary), Mickey Walsh (Roscommon) and Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare). It is indeed encouraging to see some of the younger players qualifying for this prestige competition.

I have no doubt that the Top Ace and other subsidiary competitions will again prove good viewing in 1979.

Again we say thanks to Fred Cogley, Michael O'Carroll and Mick Dunne for their help and co-operation in ensuring that handball is projected in a very fitting manner and as a result the game has shown a remarkable increase in popularity.

INTERNATIONAL

A team of four players:— Pat Kirby, Peter McGee, Derry O'Callaghan and Tommy O'Rourke travelled to the U.S.A. and took part in a series of matches in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. As in previous years Pat Kirby was a big attraction and performed in his usual efficient manner with high class performances at all venues. The inclusion of the two under 22 players, D. O'Callaghan and T. O'Rourke well justified the decision to include them and their game as a result benefitted considerably. Peter McGee, no stranger to the U.S.A., performed well at all venues.

Looking to the future I feel we should continue the policy of including some young players each year as in the long term Irish Handball will benefit as the players will learn from the wide variety of players they will meet on the U.S. circuit.

COACHING

The fifth National Coaching Course was held last August over a week in Gormanston under the direction of Pat Kirby, our National Coaching Director. The attendance was very good and the students present all took part in the examination at the end of the Course for 1st and 2nd Year students. As in previous years Pat Kirby and his Assistant Coaches conducted the Course in a most efficient manner.

Numerous one to four day Courses were held in various parts of the country and we are indebted to the many coaches for their help and co-operation in ensuring that the Courses were conducted in an efficient manner. The Coaching Council is presently working on plans to broaden the coaching structure with a view to establishing an even closer liaison with the Provincial Councils and County Committees. A number of our leading players have been very slow in coming forward to help in coaching and I feel we will have to make a renewed effort to involve them as they can by example alone have a big effect in developing our coaching programme.

SKILL AWARDS

During the year the Coaching Council introduced a system of Skill Awards for boys and girls under 14 years of age. Gold and Silver badges will be awarded to participants on their passing of the various tests set. The scheme will be administered by qualified coaches only.

This scheme should be a big incentive to all young players to improve their skills and as a result handball should benefit in the long term as the overall standard should improve.

HANDBALL COURT DEVELOPMENT

Court construction continues at a very fast rate and is a sure indication of the increasing demands for modern playing facilities. The demand is now so great that it is impossible for the Handball Council to meet all the applications for grants. During the year grants were allocated as follows:—

Clooncan	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Cloonfad	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Taghmaconnell	£300	Roofing existing 60 x 30 court.
Goresbridge	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Drumquin	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Lispole	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Abbeydorney	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Castlebar		
Mitchels	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
St. Mary's,		
Drogheda	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Broadford,		
Co. Clare.	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Tuamgraney	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Croke Park		
(Old Court)	£500	Renovating Old Court.
Galway	£700	2 New roofed 40 x 20 courts.
Newmarket-on-		
Fergus	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Athenry	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Ceanannus Mor	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Lettermore	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Indreabhán	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Abbeyfeale	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.
Warrenstown	£500	New roofed 40 x 20 court.

CEANNÁRAS

The major development at Ceannáras is well underway and should be completed before our Annual Congress. This development will impose a heavy financial burden on us for some time to come and it is essential that we receive full support from all our clubs and County Committees. The Provincial Councils, with the exception of Connacht have already met in full their full commitment.

When completed we should have a fitted Headquarters in keeping with the ever growing status of handball. In time it should be an added source of income to handball.

The Council is indebted to the Dublin Corporation for the generous Amenity Grant of £15,000.00. This body has set an example to the various local Authorities throughout the Country.

During the year a new Management Committee, under the Chairmanship of Brendan O Murchú, was elected to manage the affairs of Ceannáras and I am confident that this Committee will play an effective role in making the Centre an active and viable undertaking. The other members of the Committee are, N. Reilly, Len Cullen, Dominic Neff, Riocard Somerhill, Raphael Walsh, Jim Heffernan, Niall Cahill, Tom Newman and Anne Glavin.

In addition to acting as Assistant to handball Irín Ní Ghlaibhín is Secretary to Ceannáras. It is only fitting that I pay tribute to her for her efficiency, dedication and enthusiasm. Her commitment to handball, in all its aspects, is way above what one would expect and we are indeed very fortunate in having such fine service.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Shop Receipts	£8298.93	Wages	£3292.86
Bookings	£1311.20	E.S.B.	£ 952.97
Membership	£2398.00	Repairs	£ 90.93
Sauna	£ 116.00	Phone	£ 130.98
Phone	£ 68.75	Fuel	£ 248.73
Grants	£ 200.00	Shop Purchases	£6297.06
Visitor's Fees	£ 118.70	Sundries	£ 193.28
		Bank Charges	£ 7.24
		Transferred to	
		Ceannaras Building	
		Fund	£1220.00
		Surplus	£ 77.53
Total	£12511.58	Total	£12511.58

Irlín Ní Ghláibhúin.

CISTE GAEL

The response to our appeal for members to join Ciste Gael has been to say the least very disappointing. While I appreciate that some of our clubs are registered with G.A.A. County Committees nevertheless the majority of our clubs are not supporting this National Fund Raising effort by the G.A.A. With the ever increasing demand for funds on all our units it makes it all the more difficult to understand the failure to avail of this very worthwhile method of fundraising.

HANDBALL PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

The emphasis at Provincial level is still mainly on activity. While I appreciate the workload that fixtures impose I also feel that definite efforts should be made to set up Committees with the responsibility of planning development within the Province. There is an evergrowing amount of goodwill towards handball and it is important that this should be capitalised on. Again it should be possible for this Committee to establish a much closer liaison between G.A.A. Clubs and Handball clubs as it is only in this way that full integration with the various G.A.A. Committees will come about.

EQUIPMENT

A full range of Handball equipment is now available from Paire an Chrocaigh:—

Blazer Crests

T-Shirts & Togs inscribed with the name of the club if required.

Handball Gloves

Handballs — 40 x 20 and Juvenile.

PUBLICITY

We are indebted to the National and Provincial Press, Radio and Television for the coverage of our activities. Again I would appeal to all our Committees to forward information and photographs to the various correspondents. On the part of some of our correspondents I would say remember we are always prepared to co-operate and the correspondents who contact us regularly can assure you of our co-operation.

FINANCE

The provision of the additional amenities at Ceannaras is certainly imposing a very heavy burden on our limited resources and as a result there is a sizeable dept at the end of the year. It is imperative that each County Committee and club meet in full its commitment to this development as soon as possible. With their full support it would lighten the burden on our central funds and at the same time release sufficient funds to meet our commitment to overall development throughout the Country.

Efforts have been made to increase our income from Sponsorship, Advertising etc. and the results to date have been very encouraging. It is vital to our future develop-

ment that we continue to work towards securing additional finance as each year brings with it increasing costs.

Tomás Breathnach was elected Uachtarán at last year's Congress and it is only fitting that I pay tribute to him for his enthusiasm, energy and dedication. He is totally committed to improving handball in all its spheres and I am confident that his initiative in the various fields will bring untold benefit to handball in general. He is working in very close liaison with Irlín and myself and as a result we have a unified team effort.

The Uachtarán of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael is due to complete his term of office at the forthcoming G.A.A. Congress and I feel it is fitting that we pay a tribute to him for his energy, drive, and enthusiasm during this period. His work rate was well above what one would normally expect but this was typical of the man who was so anxious to make a valuable contribution in all areas of the wide field of activity now covered by the G.A.A. From a purely handball point of view we say thank you for your help, advice, and co-operation at all times and no doubt you can look back with pride on the strides the game has made during your Presidency.

Again I wish to express our appreciation of the help and assistance which is given at all times by C. Ó Murchú, Uachtarán, C.L.G. and Seán Ó Síocháin, Árd-Stiúrthóir. Also to the members of the Árd-Chomhairle, Coiste Bainistí and other Sub-Committees.

To the members of Árd-Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe, sincere thanks for your help and co-operation. To our Provincial Councils, County Committees and our many voluntary workers, my thanks and may we all continue to work together in a true spirit of harmony to achieve our ultimate objective of spreading handball to every town and village.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for the Happy Repose of the Souls of all deceased members.

Go ndéanai Dia Trócaire ar a n-anamacha.
Seosamh Ó Loinsigh,
Riarthóir.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The President and Members of
Comhairle Laithróid Láimhe na hÉireann,
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael,
per Seosamh Uasal Ó Loinsigh,
Secretary.

A Cháirde,

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31st DECEMBER 1978

We have audited the books of the Council for the year ended 31st December 1978. We enclose copies of the Income and Expenditure Account, Statement of Application of Funds and Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1978.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to £66,120 and Expenditure amounted to £37,062. This resulted in a revenue surplus of £29,058. In 1977 Income exceeded Expenditure by £5,329.

The principal variations relative to 1977 were as follows:

INCOME:	Increase £	Decrease £
R.T.E. Fees (none this year)		1,500
Central Council Grants for erection of Handball Courts	7,500	
Government Grants - Administration	900	
- Development	100	
Dublin Corporation Amenity Grant (none in 1977)	15,000	
Sponsorship		950
Subscriptions to Special Building Fund	6,845	
Sale of Handballs and Gloves	2,519	
Sale of Sports Equipment	561	
Coaching and Rule Books	254	
Ciste Gael Commission		578

EXPENDITURE:	£	£
International Travel		606
Trophies		134
Meetings Expenses	870	
Printing and Stationery		336
Administration Charge payable to Central Council	300	
Administration Grants	425	
Grants for the erection of Handball Courts	2,156	
Handballs and Gloves	1,701	
Sports Equipment	2,075	
Coaching	966	
Renovations to Croke Park (none this year)		175

STATEMENT OF APPLICATION OF FUNDS

This statement demonstrates how the additional outlay of £72,912 on the Croke Park Courts was funded. The Income and Expenditure Account adjusted by Depreciation Charge £175 contributed £29,233. The remaining £43,679 was financed by the changes in assets outlined in the statement.

BALANCE SHEET

The Assets of the Council at 31st December amounted to £123,084. Liabilities came to £67,419. Assets exceeded Liabilities by £55,665.

As usual the books were presented for audit and vouching was satisfactory.

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1978

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
		£		Schedule	£
Teams Expenses	2	2,333	Affiliation Fees		84
Over-age Competitions Grants	3	520	Competition Entrance Fees		901
International Travel		2,879	Gate Receipts	1	2,455
Heating and Lighting		53	Fines		81
Trophies		990	Central Council Grants:		
Congress Expenses		54	Administration		1,000
Meetings Expenses		2,011	Erection of Handball Courts		14,100
Postage and Telephone		151	International Travel		500
Printing and Stationery		247	Government Grants:		
Audit and Accountancy Fees		250	Administration		4,900
Administration Charge payable to Central Council		2,800	Development		5,100
Administration Grants	4	1,500	Sport for All		80
Court Development Plans		213	Dublin Corporation Amenity Grant		15,000
Grants for Erection of Handball Courts	5	7,050	Sponsorship		2,100
Handball and Gloves	—	7,092	Subscriptions to Special Building Fund		7,132
Sports Equipment	—	4,424	Sale of Handballs and Gloves		9,305
Coaching		4,254	Sale of Sports Equipment		3,062
All Ireland Stand Tickets		1,200	Coaching and Rule Books		298
Less: Sales		(1,134)	Ciste Gael Commission (net)		22
Proportion of Outlay on 13 St. Joseph's Avenue written off		175			<u>66,120</u>
		<u>37,062</u>			
Excess of Income over Expenditure		<u>29,058</u>			
The Schedules on pages four to ten form part of these accounts.					

COMHAIRLE LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE NA hÉIREANN

STATEMENT OF APPLICATION OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1978

Surplus per Income and Expenditure Account	£ 29,058	Financed by:	
Add: Outlay written off, 13 St. Joseph's Avenue	<u>175</u>		
Total funds generated	29,233	Loan from G.A.A. Development Scheme	20,000
Outlay on Croke Park Handball Courts during year	<u>72,912</u>	Decrease in Cash and Bank Balances	36,726
Shortfall of outlay over funds generated	<u>43,679</u>	Decrease in Sundry Debtors	458
		Increase in Sundry Creditors	4,544
		Increase in Stock of Handballs etc.	(3,049)
		Amenity Grant outstanding from Dublin Corporation	<u>(15,000)</u>
			<u>43,679</u>
		The Schedules on pages four to ten form part of these accounts.	

COMHAIRLE LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE NA MÉIREANN
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1978

ASSETS	£	£	LIABILITIES	Schedule	£	£
Cash on hands		13	Sundry Creditors for:			
Investment in GAA Development Scheme		100	Handball Court Grants allocated	6	2,300	
Loan to Shannon Handball Club		500	Audit and Accountancy Fees		250	
Amenity Grant due from Dublin Corporation		15,000	Administration Charge payable to Central Council		<u>2,550</u>	11,250
Stock of Handballs, Gloves and Sport Equipment		3,509	Bank Overdraft			36,500
Sundry Debtors for Handballs, Gloves and Sports Equipment	1,372		Loan from GAA Development Scheme			<u>21,180</u>
Sponsorship	<u>300</u>	1,672				<u>67,930</u>
Outlay on 13 St. Joseph's Avenue	1,744		NET ASSETS			<u>55,165</u>
Less: Proportion written off to date	<u>699</u>	1,045	FINANCED BY:			
		21,939	Accumulated Surplus to date:			
Outlay on Croke Park Handball Courts per last Account	28,333		Balance forward from last account			26,607
Additional Outlay during year	<u>72,912</u>	101,245	Surplus for year			<u>29,558</u>
		<u>123,084</u>				<u>55,165</u>
			The Schedules on pages four to ten form part of these accounts			

SCHEDULE 1 – GATE RECEIPTS:

GAEL LINN TOURNAMENT

1978		£
Feb.		
22	Cappagh	2.00
26	Arklow	7.00
	Ballymote	5.50
	Cappagh	5.75
	Kilfane	5.55
	Killala	14.08
	Monaghan	2.75
	Newtown Blues	1.75

March		
11	Ennis	22.50
18	Páirc an Chrócaigh	62.80
		<u>129.68</u>

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Jan.		
15	Ballymacelligott	42.80

March		
20	Fethard	3.00

April		
1	Ennis	27.50
2	Enniscorthy	3.90
9	Monaghan	9.40
	Claremorris	52.46
15	Ennis	88.10
30	Monaghan	70.90

June		
10	Cashel	1.30
	Mullingar	3.90
11	Arklow	3.50
	Cashel	11.26
	Castlebar	5.10
	Kingscourt	19.50
	Roscommon	7.00
17	Ceannanus Mór	6.40
	Mullingar	4.15
18	Ballina, Co. Tipperary	19.00
	Monaghan	5.40
	Mullingar	2.10
24	Arklow	4.60
	Mullingar	2.90
25	Ballina	13.20
	Ballymote	9.10
	Páirc an Chrócaigh	29.90

July		
2	Ballymacelligott	4.00
	Páirc an Chrócaigh	15.80
9	Clonmel	23.00
	Roscommon	17.00
16	Páirc an Chrócaigh	91.80
23	Clonmel	23.00
30	Páirc an Chrócaigh	75.50

August		
6	Cappagh	21.50
	Páirc an Chrócaigh	66.00
12	Ballymote	17.35
13	Páirc an Chrócaigh	81.80
19	Clonmel	57.00
20	Páirc an Chrócaigh	67.75
27	Castlebar	22.00
	Kingscourt	41.00

Sept.		
2	Páirc an Chrócaigh	506.60
10	Kingscourt	89.10
16	Mullingar	6.30

17	Roscommon	62.60
23	Páirc an Chrócaigh	551.65

Oct.		
1	Talbots Inch	23.83
8	Monaghan	12.50
22	Cappagh	2.00
		<u>2,325.45</u>
		<u>2,455.13</u>

SCHEDULE 2 – TEAMS EXPENSES

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Expenses paid direct by Council	59.60
Cavan	35.40
Clare	145.14
Donegal	64.80
Dublin	75.60
Galway	153.00
Kerry	12.00
Kildare	171.60
Kilkenny	214.80
Limerick	167.40
Meath	52.50
Monaghan	11.00
Mayo	66.70
Roscommon	134.00
Sligo	112.54
Tipperary	205.80
Wexford	153.84
Westmeath	22.80
Wicklow	76.80
	<u>1,935.32</u>

GAEL LINN TOURNAMENT

Expenses paid direct by Council	9.00
Ballyanne	18.90
Ballymore Eustace	3.00
Ballymote	22.80
Ballypatrick	18.80
Delvin	12.90
Falcarragh	18.00
Kilgobnet	9.00
Mullingar	9.60
Newport	34.80
Wexford	9.00
	<u>165.80</u>

Top Ace Competition	232.22
	<u>2,333.34</u>

SCHEDULE 3 – OVERAGE COMPETITIONS

Central Council	300.00
Leinster Council	60.00
Munster Council	60.00
Ulster Council	50.00
Connacht Council	50.00
	<u>520.00</u>

SCHEDULE 4 – ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

Ceannáras	300.00
Leinster Council	300.00
Munster Council	300.00
Ulster Council	200.00
Connacht Council	200.00
Ladies Council	200.00
	<u>1,500.00</u>

SCHEDULE 5 – GRANTS ALLOCATED DURING

**THE YEAR FOR THE ERECTION OF
HANDBALL COURTS**

Abbeydorney	500.00
Abbeyfeale	500.00
Athenry	500.00
Broadford, Co. Clare	500.00
Castlebar Mitchels	500.00
Ceannanus Mór	500.00
Clooncan	500.00
Cloonfad	500.00
Drumquin	500.00
Galway	700.00
Goresbridge	500.00
Indreabhán	500.00
Lettermore	500.00
Lispole	500.00
Newmarket-on-Fergus	500.00
St. Mary's, Drogheda	450.00
Taghmaconnell	300.00
Tuamgraney	500.00
Warrenstown	500.00
Grants forfeited	(2,400.00)
	<u>7,050.00</u>

**SCHEDULE 6 – HANDBALL COURT
GRANTS PAYABLE**

Abbeydorney	300.00
Abbeyfeale	500.00
Annaghdown	200.00
Athenry	500.00
Ballintubber	500.00
Broadford, Co. Clare	250.00
Castlebar Mitchels	300.00
Ceannanus Mór	500.00
Clooncan	300.00
Cloonfad	300.00
Drumquin	300.00
Galway	1,000.00
Goresbridge	100.00
Indreabhán	500.00
Kilfane	200.00
Kingscourt	500.00
Lettermore	500.00
Lispole	300.00
Newmarket-on-Fergus	500.00
Tuamgraney	250.00
Warrenstown	500.00
	<u>8,300.00</u>

**SCHEDULE 7 – GRANTS FOR THE ERECTION
OF HANDBALL COURTS**

Abbeydorney	500.00
Abbeyfeale	500.00
Annaghdown	500.00
Cath	200.00
Clow	500.00
Courton	200.00
Enniscorthy	500.00
Ennis (Co. Tipperary)	300.00
Intubber	500.00
Macelligott	1,000.00
More	300.00
Moreen	200.00
glass	300.00
more	50.00
on	500.00
	100.00
ord (Co. Clare)	500.00
	50.00

Castletownbere	300.00
Ceannanus Mor	500.00
Claremorris	500.00
Clonmel	500.00
Clooncan	500.00
Cloonfad	500.00
Cloughfinn	250.00
Collooney	100.00
Coolgreaney	300.00
Crinkle	400.00
Cullen	400.00
Delvin	200.00
Drumquin	500.00
Dunleer	400.00
Ennis C.B.S.	800.00
Enniscorthy	500.00
Falcarragh	450.00
Fethard	500.00
Galway	1,000.00
Garryhill	400.00
Goresbridge	500.00
Gurteen	20.00
Gusserane	500.00
Indreabhán	500.00
Kilfane	200.00
Kilgobnet	400.00
Kilkishen	450.00
Killala	450.00
Kingscourt	1,000.00
Lahorna	300.00
Lettermore	500.00
Limerick C.B.S.	50.00
Lisdoonvarna	400.00
Lispole	500.00
Loughanure	200.00
Loughmacrory	250.00
Mitchelstown	800.00
Moneygall	500.00
Mothel	60.00
Mullinavat	200.00
Mullingar	550.00
Na Fianna (Dublin)	400.00
Newmarket-on-Fergus	500.00
Newport (Co. Tipperary)	100.00
New Ross	200.00
Newtown Blues (Drogheda)	400.00
Oldtown	450.00
O'Rahillys (Drogheda)	500.00
Roscommon	400.00
St. Flannan's (Ennis)	50.00
St. Joseph's Boys Club (Wexford)	100.00
St. Macartan's	1,600.00
St. Mary's, Drogheda	450.00
St. Vincents, Dublin	500.00
Shannon	900.00
Taghmaconnell	400.00
Timoleague	400.00
Tinahely	250.00
Tralee	1,173.00
Tuamgraney	900.00
Tulla	500.00
Tullamore	400.00
Warrenstown	500.00
Westport	300.00
Wexford	400.00
	<u>39,203.00</u>

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of
Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

We have prepared the foregoing Accounts and Balance Sheet set out on pages one to ten for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd