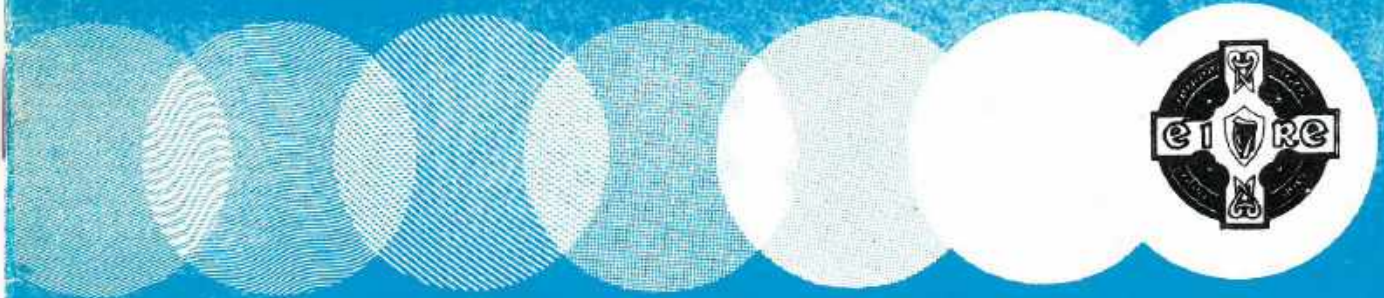


**Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe
na hÉireann**



An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 1981



**Tuarascáil an Rúnaí
Cuntas an Airgid
Rúin Don Chómhdhail**

CONGRESS

will be held in

CEANNÁRAS, PAIRC an CHRÓCAIGH

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 11.00 A.M. AND CONCLUDING

AT 5.30 P.M.

AND

SUNDAY, 15 MARCH, AT 10.30 A.M.

Motions 1 – 20 will be taken on the opening day

CLAR

1. Miontuairiscí.
 2. Tuairisc an Rúnaí
 5. Toghadh na hOifigeach 1980.
 - (a) Uachtarán
 - (c) Teachta ar Árd-Chomhairle, C.L.G.
 6. Na Rúin
 3. Cúntas Airgid.
 4. Oráid an t-Uachtarán
 - (b) Cisteoir.
 - (d) Teachta ar Árd-Choiste Forbartha, C.L.G.
- 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 1981

Uachtarán: S. Mac Conraoí (Loch Garman); R. Ó Murchú (Aontroin); C. Mac Seoin (An Clár);
M. MacToirrill (Tiobraid Árann).

Cisteoir: An Br. B.C. Ó Murchú

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

Teachta ar Árd-Choiste Forbartha C.L.G.: T. Breathnach (Dún na nGall); T. Ó Briain (Chill Chainnigh); An tÁth. S. O Nualláin (Muireachain)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The President and Members of
Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann
Cumann Lúthcleas Gael,

A Chairde,

Annual Accounts to December, 1980

We have audited the books of the Council for the year ended 31st December, 1980. We enclose copies of the Accounts of the Council, Ceannáras Club and Ceannáras Club Lounge.

THE COUNCIL:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to £49,807 and Expenditure amounted to £41,389. This resulted in a revenue surplus of £8,418. In 1979 Income Exceeded Expenditure by £19,748.

The principal variations relative to 1979 were:

INCOME:	Increase IR£	Decrease IR£
Gate Receipts	368	
RTE Broadcasting Fees	1,728	
Government Grants:		
Administration and Development Ceannaras (1979 only)	2,000	10,000
International Travel (1980 only)	900	
Dublin Corporation Amenity Grant (none in 1980)		10,000
Sponsorship and Advertising	4,200	
Subscriptions to Ceannaras Building Fund	3,107	
Profit on Sale of Handball Equipment	216	
Coaching and Rule Books		299
Ciste Gael Commission		282

EXPENDITURE:

Teams Expenses	761	
Top Ace Competition	4,296	
International Travel	1,582	
Trophies	2,997	
Administration Grant payable to Central Council	1,200	
Administration Grants		400
Grants to Ladies Handball Council (none in 1979)	1,000	
Grants for Erection of Handball Courts		8,050
Coaching	808	
Presentations		484

STATEMENT OF APPLICATION OF FUNDS

This statement shows how the additional outlay of £27,221 on the Ceannaras Handball Courts was funded. Net Funds received contributed £8,593 and the remaining £18,628 was financed by the changes in assets outlined in the statement.

BALANCE SHEET:

The Fixed Assets of the Council at 31st December amounted to £154,354 and the Net Current Liabilities amounted to £70,523. This resulted in Net Assets of £83,831.

CEANNÁRAS CLUB:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:

Income of the year was £11,517 and Expenditure was £12,101. This resulted in a revenue deficit of £584. In addition a grant of £6,000 was made to the Ceannaras Building Fund. In 1979 there was a Surplus of £1,847.

BALANCE SHEET:

Fixed Assets at 31st December amounted to £576 and Net Current Liabilities amounted to £5,698. This resulted in Net Liabilities of £5,122 at that date.

CEANNARAS CLUB LOUNGE

TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:

Gross Profit on Sales was £13,395 and Overhead Expenses amounted to £10,547. This resulted in a Net Profit of £2,848 for the year.

BALANCE SHEET

The Fixed Assets of the Lounge at 31st December amounted to £291 and the Net Current Assets amounted to £2,063. This resulted in Net Assets of £2,354 at that date.

The books were presented in good order for audit and vouching was satisfactory.

Is sinne le meas,

D. O'CONNOR & CO.

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LAIMHE NA hÉIREANN

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	IR£		IR£
Affiliation Fees	101	Teams Expenses	2,447
Competition Entrance Fees	701	Over-age Competitions Grants (Schedule 1)	520
Gate Receipts	2,675	Top Ace Competition	5,374
RTE Broadcasting Fees	3,428	International Travel	5,672
Fines	70	Trophies	4,384
Central Council Grants:		Meeting Expenses	3,819
Administration	1,000	Postage and Telephone	118
Erection of Handball Courts	6,600	Printing, Stationery and Advertising	459
International Travel	500	Audit and Accountancy Fees	350
Government Grants:		Administration Charge Payable to Central Council	4,000
Administration and Development	14,500	Administration Grants (Schedule 2)	2,100
International Travel	900	Grants to Ladies Handball Council	1,000
Sponsorship and Advertising	8,950	Interest on Loan from GAA Development Scheme	887
Subscriptions to Ceannaras Building Fund	8,559	Court Development Plans	170
Sale of Handballs and Sports Equipment	17,956	Grants for Erection of Handball Courts (net) (Schedule 3)	2,500
Less Cost of Sales	(16,260)	National Handball Day	942
Coaching and Rule Books	160	Coaching	6,415
Ciste Gael Commission (net)	(33)	All Ireland Stand Tickets	1,650
		Less: Sales	(1,593)
		Proportion of Outlay on 13 St. Joseph's Avenue written off	175
	49,807		41,389
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	8,418
		Accumulated Surplus at 1st January	75,413
			83,831

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LÁIMHE NA hÉIREANN

**STATEMENT OF APPLICATION OF FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980**

	IR£
Surplus per Income and Expenditure Account	8,418
Add Outlay written off 13 St. Joseph's Avenue	175
	<u> </u>
Net Funds received	8,593
	<u> </u>
 OUTLAY OF FUNDS	
Outlay on Ceannáras Handball Courts during year	27,221
	<u> </u>
Shortfall of Outlay over Funds received	18,628
	<u> </u>
 FINANCED BY	
Loan to Broadford Handball Club	(250)
Increase in Stock-Handballs etc.	(3,813)
Decrease in Sundry Debtors	3,182
Increase in Sundry Creditors	392
Increase in Bank Overdraft	23,117
Repayment to G.A.A. Development Scheme	(4,000)
	<u> </u>
	18,628
	<u> </u>

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1980**

	IR£
Current Assets:	
Investment in GAA Development Scheme	100
Loan to Shannon Handball Club	450
Loan to Broadford Handball Club	250
Stock of Handballs, Gloves and Sports Equipment	4,383
Sundry Debtors for Handballs and Sports Equipment	957
	<u> </u>
	6,140
	<u> </u>
Current Liabilities	
Sundry Creditors for:	
Ceannáras Development	4,000
Handball Court Grants allocated (Schedule 4)	4,850
Handballs and Sports Equipment	1,952
Miscellaneous Items	490
Bank Overdraft	51,371
Loan From GAA Development Scheme	14,000
	<u> </u>
	76,663
	<u> </u>
Net Current Liabilities	(70,523)
	<u> </u>
Fixed Assets	
Outlay on 13 St. Joseph's Avenue	1,744
Less: Proportion written off to date	1,049
	695
Outlay on Ceannáras Handball Courts per last Account	126,438
Additional Outlay during year	27,221
	<u> </u>
	153,659
	<u> </u>
	154,354
	<u> </u>
	83,831
	<u> </u>
Financed by:	
Accumulated Surplus to date:	83,831
	<u> </u>

COMHAIRLE LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE NA hÉIREANN

SCHEDULE 1

OVERAGE COMPETITIONS

Central Council	300
Central Council	50
Leinster Council	60
Munster Council	60
Ulster Council	50
	<u>520</u>
	<u>520</u>

SCHEDULE 2

ADMINISTRATION GRANTS

Connacht Council	600
Leinster Council	500
Munster Council	500
Ulster Council	500
	<u>2,100</u>
	<u>2,100</u>

SCHEDULE 3

GRANTS ALLOCATED DURING THE YEAR FOR THE ERECTION OF HANDBALL COURTS

Aughnamullen G.A.A.	500
Bofield	500
Boherbue (Co. Cork)	500
Ballinrobe	500
Ballymote	200
Ballyporeen	500
Corrane	50
Kilrush	500
Longford Slashers G.A.A.	500
Mallow	500
Tarbert	500
Templederry G.A.A.	500
Grants written back	(2,750)
	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>2,500</u>

SCHEDULE 4

HANDBALL COURT GRANTS PAYABLE

Abbeydorney G.A.A.	300
Boherbue	200
Ballinrobe	500
Ballymote	200
Ballyporeen	500
Castlebar Mitchels G.A.A.	300
Corrane	50
Fermoy	500
Goresbridge	100
Kilfane	200
Kilrush	250
Kingscourt	500
Loughmacrory	500
Multyfarnham	500
Newmarket-on-Fergus	250
	<u>4,850</u>
	<u>4,850</u>

SCHEDULE 5

GRANTS FOR THE ERECTION OF HANDBALL COURTS

Abbeydorney G.A.A.	500
Abbeyfeale	500
Annaghdown	500
Ardcath	200
Arklow G.A.A.	500
Ashburton	200
Athenry G.A.A.	500
Aughnamullen G.A.A.	500
Ballina Stephenites G.A.A.	500
Ballina (Co. Tipperary)	300
Ballinacargy G.A.A.	500
Ballinrobe	500
Ballintubber	500
Ballymacelligott	1,000
Ballymote	500
Ballyporeen	700
Ballyvourney	500
Baltinglass	300
Bofield	500
Boherbue (Co. Cork)	500
Bohermore	50
Brandon	500
Bray G.A.A.	100
Broadford (Co. Clare)	500
Caherline	50
Cappagh	450
Capwell	200
Carrick-on-Suir G.A.A.	700
Cashel	500
Cashel C.B.S.	150
Castlebar	400
Castlebar G.A.A.	500
Castleisland	500
Castlereagh G.A.A.	500
Castletownbere	300
Ceannanus Mor	500
Claremorris	500
Clonmel G.A.A.	500
Cloonan	500
Cloonfad	500
Cloughfinn	250
Collooney	100
Coolgreaney	300
Corrane	50
Crinkle	400
Cullen	400
Delvin	200
Drumquin	500
Dunleer G.A.A.	400
Ennis C.B.S.	800
Enniscorthy G.A.A.	500
Falcarragh G.A.A.	450
Fermoy	1,000
Fethard	500
Garryhill	900
Glenbeigh	500
Glenmore G.A.A.	500
Goresbridge	500
Gurteen	20
Gusserane	500
Indreabhán G.A.A.	500
Kilfane	200

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LÁIMHE NA hÉIREANN

CEANNÁRAS CLUB ACCOUNT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980

INCOME

Membership Fees	2,725
Court Booking Fees	4,326
Other Fees	401
Shop Sales	16,500
Less: Cost of Sales	(12,435)
	<u>11,517</u>

EXPENDITURE

Wages	5,698
Light and Heat	5,307
Rental of Equipment	183
Repairs and Cleaning	575
Advertising and Sundry Expenses	59
Audit and Accountancy Fees	105
Depreciation of Equipment	174
	<u>12,101</u>

Excess of Expenditure over Income for Year	(584)
Accumulated Surplus at 1st January	1,462
Grant to Ceannaras Building Fund	(6,000)
	<u>(5,122)</u>

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1980

CURRENT ASSETS

Stock of Fuel	250
---------------	-----

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Bank Overdraft	1,089
Light and Heat	2,900
Audit and Accountancy Fees	105
Trade Creditors	<u>1,854</u>
	5,948

Net Current Liabilities	(5,698)
Equipment at Cost	869
Depreciation to date	<u>293</u>
	<u>576</u>
	(5,122)

FINANCED BY

Accumulated Deficit to date	<u>(5,122)</u>
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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of Ceannaras Club

We have prepared the foregoing Account and Balance Sheet from the books and records of Ceannaras Club 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.
12th February, 1981.

D. O'CONNOR & CO.
Chartered Accountants
Auditors

COMHAIRLE LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE NA hÉIREANN

CEANNÁRAS CLUB LOUNGE

TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980

Sales	42,096
Cost of Sales	28,701
Gross Profit (31.8%)	<u>13,395</u>

OVERHEAD EXPENSES

Wages	7,832
Heat and Light	1,000
Repairs, Cleaning and Barware	303
Hire of Equipment	614
Legal Expenses	434
Audit and Accountancy Fees	170
Insurance	71
Sundry Expenses	26
Depreciation of Equipment	97
	<u>10,547</u>

NET PROFIT

Accumulated Loss Forward	2,848
	(494)
	<u>2,354</u>

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1980

Cash at Bank	3,683
Cash on Hand	171
Prepayments	35
Stock on Hand	4,448
	<u>8,337</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Trade Creditors	6,104
Audit and Accountancy Fees	170
	<u>6,274</u>
Net Current Assets	2,063
Equipment (net of depreciation to date IR£194)	291
	<u>2,354</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Accumulated Profit at date	<u>2,354</u>
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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the members of Ceannáras Club Lounge

We have prepared the foregoing Account and Balance Sheet from the books and records of Ceannaras Club Lounge 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.
12th February, 1981.

D. O'CONNOR & CO
Chartered Accountants
Auditors

NA RUIN

1. That a plentiful supply of 60 x 30 softballs be available to all clubs in the country at all times of the year. **(Cill Chainnigh)**
 2. That counties with players and officials involved in All-Ireland Semi-Finals and Final Handball games, on the eve of important Hurling and Football matches be allowed passes into Croke Park to see such matches. **(Loch Garman)**
 3. That this Congress make recommendation to the Central Council of the G.A.A. to have handball material distributed to its respective Co. Boards via the Provincial Councils, to improve relationships between Co. G.A.A. Boards and Co. Handball Boards. **(Luimneach)**
 4. That an immediate investigation be made into the possibility of having the current price of the Family Ball reduced to juvenile players. **(Corcaigh)**
 5. That efforts be made to re-introduce the "Delacoste" or a similar ball. **(An Mhí)**
 6. That All-Ireland winners in the following grades get equality of trophies: Minor, Under 21, Novice, Junior, Masters and Golden Masters. **(Ciarraí)**
 7. That the Árd Chomhairle of Cumann Lúthleas Gael clearly state that the games as set out in An Treoraí Oifigiúil of Hurling, Football and Handball are the official games of the Gaelic Athletic Association and that all units of the Association be given a directive that provision be made for facilities for hurling, football and handball and that in keeping with An Treoraí Oifigiúil, facilities for the playing of these three games must at all times be given priority in any club development. **(Corcaigh)**
 8. That Rule 224 Treoraí Oifigiúil be amended to allow two representatives with full voting rights from each County Committee on the Provincial Council. **(An Clár)**
 9. That Rule 233(i) Section (c) be amended to read "To elect by ballot the President-elect, one year prior to his term as President, which shall not be for more than three consecutive years. Remainder of rule to stand. Rule 233 (ii) to be deleted. **Cill Chainnigh), (Tiobraid Árann)**
 10. That in view of the serious financial position of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann, Rial 221(b) T.O. be amended to read: "The sum of £10 for each affiliated Club (one half of which shall be transferred to Central Council before July each year). Counties etc." to stand. **(An Iarmhí)**
 - 11 (A) That in the case of Handball, Rial 12(d) T.O. be amended to read: Each accepted member shall pay a membership fee to be decided by the club, which shall not be less than a minimum determined by Central Council, £1 of which to be forwarded to Central Council. Any such member etc.....to stand.
 - (B) Rial 13(a) agus (b) T.O. be amended to read: "... accompanied by a fee of £1 per registered member" ... and the amended Rial 13 T.O. be strictly enforced. **(An Iarmhí)**
 12. That in accordance with Rial 119 T.O. the following travelling and hotel expenses be paid by Central Council for Senior, Junior and Minor Championship matches under its control in Softball, Hardball and 40 x 20.
Travelling 8p per mile
Hotel £4 per day **(An Iarmhí)**
 13. That meal and travelling allowances be increased as and from 1981 **(Luimneach)**
 14. That travelling and subsistence allowances be paid to counties competing in the All Ireland 40 x 20 Senior, Junior, and Minor Finals. The allowances to be identical to those at present paid to players competing in the All Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor 40 x 20 Championship Semi-Finals. **(An Clár)**
 15. That travelling and subsistence allowances be paid to counties competing in the All Ireland Senior, Junior and Minor Championship Semi-Finals and Finals in Softball and Hardball and the allowances to be identical to those applicable to the All Ireland 40 x 20 Championship Semi-Finals in Senior, Junior and Minor Grades. **(An Clár)**
 16. Finance Committees to be set up which will implement schemes of fund-raising at every level. **(Dún na nGall)**
 17. That in view of the present financial plight of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann, that a levy of 50p per registered Adult, (i.e. over 18 years of age) member be imposed upon each registered club. The levy to be collected by the County Secretary of each County and forwarded to Croke Park. This levy to remain in force until such time as the present debt at Ceannáras is deleted. **(An Clár)**
- ### CHAMPIONSHIPS
18. That as and from 1981 the All Ireland Senior Open 60 x 30 Singles and Doubles Championships be played off in Dublin during a week to be designated by Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann. Rule 243 (a) to be amended. **(An Clár)**
 19. That all All Ireland 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Finals in the following grades be played at Croke Park: Minor, Under 21, Novice, Junior, Senior, Masters, Golden Masters. **(Ciarraí)**
 20. That rule 250 - 1 Treoraí Oifigiúil shall be amended to incorporate the words "or in the case of competitions or championships confined to players over 50 years of age where a game shall constitute 15 aces unless played on a time basis. **(An Clár)**
 21. That the present All Ireland 40 x 20 Juvenile championships which cater for Under 14 and Under 16 age groups be extended to cater for Under 13 and Under 15. **(Corcaigh)**
 22. That a Junior Club Championship be introduced in 1981 in
(a) 60 x 30 Courts
(b) 40 x 20 Courts
(Ceatharlach), (Gaillimh)
 23. That the All Ireland Senior 40 x 20 Club Championships be abolished. **(Corcaigh)**
 24. That an All Ireland 40 x 20 Junior Club Championship be set up. **(Corcaigh)**
 25. That a club may declare itself to be an "exclusively 40 x 20 club" or an "exclusively 60 x 30 club". A member shall not play for more than one club except in the following cases: -
(a) A member of an exclusively 60 x 30 club may play with an exclusively 40 x 20 club.
(b) A member of an exclusively 40 x 20 club may play with an exclusively 60 x 30 club.
(c) Such declaration must be made in writing by clubs at the Annual Convention of their County and the County Secretary must convey this knowledge to the Provincial and Central Councils.
That Rule 209 be amended by this addition. **(Cill Chainnigh)**

26. That for all All Ireland Semi-Final and Final games the referees be appointed at least one week before and that all counties involved be notified in writing of same. **(Corcaigh)**
27. That Riail 247 be amended by the deletion of the words "from 1978 onwards" in both places. **(Cill Chainnigh)**
28. That for the purpose of reducing travelling expenses that National League matches be fixed for a venue as near as possible to half-way between competing counties and where neighbouring counties are involved that they play home and away on alternate years. **(Ceatharlach)**
29. Grading: That Riail 247(b) be amended to read: A Novice shall not have won a Novice Singles or Doubles Provincial Championship, etc (The rest to stand) **(An Iarmhí)**
30. That the following parts of Rule 247 be amended so that part (a) of the Rule should read as follows:—
“(a) Players shall be graded “Senior C”, “Junior”, “Senior B” or “Senior A” for Inter-County purposes” and that the remainder of the Rule be amended to substitute Senior C for Novice, Junior for Juvenile, Senior B for Junior and Senior A for Senior respectively where applicable. **(Aontroim)**
31. That Rule 247(b) be amended by inserting the words “an All Ireland Minor Championship” in place of “a Provincial Minor Championship”. **(Aontroim)**
32. That the Central Handball Council be empowered to take such measures as it may deem necessary to uphold and maintain the status of hardball and in this regard shall be empowered at its discretion to remove the status of championship from present hardball competitions or tournaments as it considers necessary to uphold and maintain the game and that Rule 240 be amended accordingly. **(Aontroim)**
33. That the Senior 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles Championships be played after 1981 on the same basis as the Senior Open Softball Singles and Doubles and that Rule 244 be amended accordingly. **(Aontroim)**
34. That the Irish Handball Council send players for the U.S.H.A. National Juniors in 15 and under, 17 and under and 19 and under. A player to be sent for each championship. **(Cill Chainnigh)**
35. That at least one over 40 player be sent to the U.S.A. along with Senior and underage players (i.e. upper age limit imposed), that this player to be the winner of a play-off. **(Ciarraí)**

PLAYING RULES

36. That standing orders be suspended to allow the following motion relating to playing rules to be proposed and if passed implemented for a trial period of two years.
- (1) That Rule 250-24(g) be recommended to read as follows:—
 - (i) Failing to move sufficiently to enable an opponent to play the ball shall constitute a foul
 - (ii) When a player moves into a position that effects a block of an opponent about to return the ball or where in doubles one partner moves directly in front of an opponent as his partner is returning the ball it shall constitute a foul
 - (iii) When a player deliberately moves into the line of flight of the ball and is struck by the ball it shall constitute a foul.
 - (iv) Deliberately pushing or shoving an opponent shall constitute a foul.
- Rules 250-21(a) to be deleted **(An Clár)**
37. That Rule 24(H) be changed (Explain at meeting) **(Cill Mhantáin)**
38. That “time outs” and rest periods which at present apply in 40 x 20 matches only be also allowed in Masters 60 x 30. Rule 250 Section 17A to be amended. **(An Mhí)**
39. That in doubles matches where the service line is also the short line the server's partner shall stand against the side wall at a point immediately closer to the front wall than the service line. Rule 250 Section 24C to be amended. **(An Mhí)**
40. That Rule 230 be amended to read as follows:—
“Handball affairs between meetings of Central Council shall be conducted by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the President, (for three years), the President-Elect, the Ex-President, (for one year), Treasurer, two members elected from Central Council, two members nominated by the President, the Handball representative on the G.A.A. Development Committee, and one representative from the Coaching Council. The Executive Committee to be serviced by the Riathóir.” That Rule 228 be amended to include representative of Coaching Council and two members of the Executive Committee nominated by the President. **(Aontroim)**

GENERAL

41. That a coaching programme for juveniles be carried out by the Coaching Council forthwith. **(Dún na nGall)**
42. Yough programme of attractive competitions be implemented to attract the youth of the country e.g. Ógspóirt week at Gormanston. **(Dún na nGall)**

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1980

60 x 30 COURT

Coca-Cola S.S.S. S.S.D.	P. Ó Riain (Áth Cliath) O. Ó hAirlt, P. Ó Raghallaigh (Cill Chainnigh)
J.S.S. J.S.D. M.S.S. M.S.D.	T. MacCoise (Luimneach) T. Mac Coise, S. Mac Coise (Luimneach) L. de Búrca (Cill Chainnigh) L. de Búrca, M. Ó Leathlobhair (Cill Chainnigh)
S.H.S. S.H.D. J.H.S. J.H.D.	P. Mac Fhearaigh (Luimneach) P. Mac Fhearaigh, S. Bennis (Luimneach) E. Ó Coigligh (Loch Garman) T. Mac Coise, S. Mac Coise (Luimneach)
M.H.S. M.H.D.	L. de Búrca (Cill Chainnigh) L. de Búrca, M. Ó Leathlobhair (Cill Chainnigh)
Under 21 S.S. Under 21 S.D.	T. Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann) S. Pleimeann, P. Ó Cléirigh (Loch Garman)
N.S.S. N.S.D.	M. Ó hEannagain (Maigh Eo) E. Mac Conaola, S. Ó Fathartaigh (Gaillimh)
Masters S. Masters D.	L. Ó Céirín (Ciarraí) S. de Búrca, C. de Siún (Cill Chainnigh)
40 x 20	
S.S. S.D.	P. Ó Ciarba (An Clár) P. MacAoidh, P. Mac Cormaic (Maigh Eo)
J.S. J.D.	D. Ó Ceallacháin (Corcaigh) M. Ó hEannagain, M. Mac Suibhne (Maigh Eo)
M.S. M.D.	L. de Búrca (Cill Chainnigh) L. de Búrca, M. Ó Leathlobhair (Cill Chainnigh)
N.S. N.D.	S. Rossaitear (Ceatharlach) A. Ó Riain, S. Ó Riain (Ceatharlach)
Masters S Masters D	P. Ó Caoimh (Cill Chainnigh) L. Ó Céirín, T. Ó Céirín (Ciarraí)
Golden Masters S. Golden Masters D.	M. Breathnach (Maigh Eo) J. Breathnach, D. de Bháil (Tiobraid Árann)
Under 21S Under 21D	T. Ó Riain (Tiobraid Árann) S. Pleimeann, P. Ó Cléirigh (Loch Garman)

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN

60 x 30

Under 12S Under 12D	W. Ó Conchuir (Baith Átha Cliath) T. Ó Sirideain, A. Mag Shamhrain (An Mhí)
Under 13S Under 13D	T. Ó hAonasa (Cill Chainnigh) S. Breathnach, S. Ó Buachalla (Cill Chainnigh)
Under 14S Under 14D	M. Breathnach (Cill Chainnigh) N. Ó Briain, E. Ó Néill (Luimneach)
Under 15S Under 15D	E. Jensen (An Mhí) F. Mac Carthaigh, D. Ó Nualláin (Baile Átha Cliath)
Under 16S Under 16D	L. de Lá (Cill Chainnigh) S. O Ceallagh, M. Ó Spealáin (Corcaigh)

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN

40 x 20

Under 14S Under 14D	M. Breathnach (Cill Chainnigh) N. Ó Briain, E. Ó Néill (Luimneach)
Under 16S Under 16D	L. de Lá (Cill Chainnigh) S. Ó Ceallaigh, M. Ó Spealáin (Corcaigh)

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter-Provincial Laighean	P. Ó Riain, R. Ó Laighean, S. Ó Bogaigh, T. Ó Ruairc
National League Loch Garman	Sraith 1 60 x 30 E. Ó Bogaigh, F. Hillis, P. Ó Leannáin, T. Ó Dughail, S. Ó Bogaigh agus S. Goggins.
An Mhí	Sraith 11 60 x 30 C. Laighngach, S. Mac Muirceartaigh, C. Ó Greacháin, M. Mag Shamhráin, S. Mag Shamhráin agus A. Mac Dhónaill
Novice Senior Ros Comain	60 x 30 Inter-Club Coolboy M. Breathnach, S. Ó Briain, P. Ó Moráin, D. Ó Dúlainn
Novice Moycullen	40 x 20 Inter-Club M. Mac Conaola, M. Mag Lannchaidh, M. Ó Maolalaidh, S. Ó Fathartaigh, A. Mac Amhlait.
Senior Capwell	P. Ó Muris, D. Ó Ceallacháin, S. Mac Daragh, E. Ó Cinnéide.

R.T.E. TOP ACE

60 x 30 40 x 20	T. Ó Ruairc (Cill Dara) T. Muck (U.S.A.)
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UNIVERSITIES

Championship: Queen's	D. Ó Raghallaigh, P. Mac Giolla Íosa, M. Mac Oscair, S. Marquess, G. Mac Giolla Uir, P. Mac Roibeaird.
League: U.C.G.	F. Mac Eochagáin, D. Mac Grifín, S. Ó Duinnín, P. Ó Maoláin, P. Ó Tailtigh, S. Ó Cinnéide.

HIGHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

Championship: Bolton Street,	D. Mac Connuibh, S. Mac Cuibreith, A. Mac Cathmhaoil, T. Mac Cathmhaoil
League: (Nth. Section)	Bolton Street. D. Mac Connuibh, S. Mac Cuibreith, A. Mac Cathmhaoil, T. Mac Cathmhaoil.
League: Sth. Section)	Cork Regional. M. Ó Cearúláin, S. Ó hAnluain, D. O Deasunaigh, S. Ó Briain, C. Ó Duinn
Singles	M. Mac Pháidín (Colaiste na Troinóide)

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES V ADVANCED COLLEGES

Combined Universities	G. Ó Mathúna, (U.C.C.), M. Mac Pháidín (Colaiste na Troinóide), F. Mac Eochagáin (U.C.G.), M. Ó Dubhshláine (U.C.D.), J. Mac Einrí (Maigh Nuad) agus P. Mac Roibeaird (Queen's)
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Do thug an bhliain 1980 le feiscint dúinn sa Liathróid Láimhe go leanfar ar aghaidh, nó fiú cuirfear leis an dul chun cinn abhí ann ins na seachtóidí. Dá bhrí sin táimid muiníneach as an deich mbliain atá romhainn amach.

To thug tús an Sraith Chomórtas idir Naisiúnta sa Teilifís "Top Ace" anchéim ináirde don Lia thróid Láimhe agus le breis athraithe da short beidh níos fearr againn meas an phobail do chothu.

Ta 1981 leagtha amach go hoifigiúil mar bhliain don duine neamhachmainn agus ba cheart go ndéanfadh gach chlub liathróid láimhe dean-iarracht go mbeidh deis ag na daoine seo páirt níos iomláine do ghlacadh in ár gcuid gníomhaíochtaí.

This year under review brought handball into a new decade and I feel confident that the remarkable progress made in the seventies will be continued and even accelerated in the eighties. Indications are indeed very favourable towards a greater expansion of the game in all areas in the years ahead. However to extract maximum value from the ever growing goodwill towards handball we must be prepared to adopt a planned approach backed by commitment and dedication so necessary to see any plan through to final fruition. The year 1980 saw a new dimension added to handball, both at National and International level, with the introduction of the first ever International Television Handball Competitions. The decision of the United States Handball Association to send their top players to take part in both the 63 x 30 and 40 x 20 Competitions is to be applauded and we are very appreciative of the full co-operation received from its President Bob Kendler without whose help it would not have been possible to go ahead with such an ambitious undertaking. It is only fitting that I pay tribute to his Executive Director Bob Peters, who travelled with the team and took part in over-age competition. At all times he was most helpful and courteous. In addition to being shown in Ireland the matches in both the 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 competitions were shown on U.S. Television.

It is only fitting that I pay tribute to R.T.E. and its Senior Sports Producer Michael O'Carroll, for pioneering the televising of handball in this country. Their contributions has played a major part in helping us to market our game. This new innovation was the brainchild of Michael O'Carroll and we are indebted to him for his dedication and perseverance in seeing it successfully through. What is not generally realised is the amount of preparatory work he had to do both here and in the U.S.A. to ensure that the Series was an outstanding success. Mick Dunne as our regular handball commentator is also due our thanks for the part he played in this major breakthrough.

While the future of handball looks bright there is no place for complacency if we are to meet the challenge of the future. We are living in very changing times and must be up and doing all the time if we are to extend our area of operation. I would like to submit some suggestions for your consideration as I feel it is imperative that we expand our existing structures to encompass a wider area of operation and thus ensure that we can continue our programme of consistent expansion.

- (1) 1981 has been declared as "The International Year of the Disabled" by the United Nations General Assembly. The purpose of the Year is to promote the goals of "Full Participation and Equality" for the physically and mentally handicapped and the mentally ill. Each club is asked to contribute in a positive and beneficial way to the success of the Year by encouraging participation by disabled persons in handball.

Clubs should remember that there are many categories of Disabled and a large number of these are capable of playing handball if given the opportunity.

In fact in some of our clubs we already have disabled playing members and we are asking that our clubs extend this policy to involve as many disabled persons as possible. It is important that they be seen to be fully integrated in all our activities and not to be treated as a separate entity.

- (2) While there has been disappointment with the lack of response from a number of G.A.A. clubs in building Handball courts, I am confident that, with effort on our part, the position will improve in the future. One of the problems is that many clubs are not aware of the value of handball as a "Keep Fit Game" and I feel we have a big selling job to do to create this awareness. I would suggest that each club should organise special competitions confined to non-handball playing members of the local G.A.A. club. This could be followed up at county level by special G.A.A. Inter-club competitions. Every effort must be made on our part to ensure that the message gets through as it is not sufficient nowadays to appeal for support when more dynamic action is required. Members should avail of every opportunity to attend G.A.A. meetings both at club, and county level as in this way they will be seen to be fully involved in all aspects of the G.A.A.

It is only fitting at this point that I pay tribute to the various G.A.A. Bodies from Central Council, to Provincial, to County level for their help and support over the years. Without their financial backing it would not have been possible for handball to reach the heights it has in recent years.

- (3) International Competition plays a very important part in the development of any sport and handball is no different. It gives players the opportunity to meet players from other countries and creates the incentive to improve the standard of play. Now that there is International competition for under-age players it would be a worthwhile exercise to send some of our players to take part in the U.S. Junior Championships where in addition to meeting American players they would also meet players from Canada and Mexico. The attraction of International Competition would be an added boost to our juvenile development programme.

- (4) Greater attention will have to be paid to the development of handball in Primary Schools. While we have a large number of Juveniles taking part in our competitions there still remains a vast amount of work to be done before we can really feel satisfied. It is very important that special coaching courses are held for teachers in these schools as it is only in this way that you can develop the interest of teachers in the promotion of handball. By developing handball in the Primary Schools you are creating a natural reservoir of talent thus ensuring a constant flow of players for the future.

- (5) With Community and Comprehensive Schools now being built in many areas it is important to pressureise the authorities concerned to include at least one handball court. While many of these schools now have Sports Halls there is very little provision for the playing of handball which is possibly the oldest of our national games. Even if it is not possible to include a regulation indoor court surely it is possible to make provision for at least one wall handball. While it is not the intention to criticise the provision of facilities for other sports nevertheless one finds it difficult to understand the reluctance of the Department of Education to make provision for one of our national games.

- (6) Consideration should be given to extending our Coaching programme to include Fitness Training sessions. A concentrated effort is also essential at both County and Provincial level to increase the number of county and club coaches. A series of county courses geared towards club coaches were held in some Munster Counties towards the end of the year and they proved very successful. The example set here should be followed by the counties in the other provinces.

It is important that regular coaching courses be held in various Teacher Training Colleges thus ensuring that when the teachers graduate they will be in a position to coach handball.

With the emphasis very much on improved standards in all sports it would be worth considering organising squad training for selected groups of players in the 17-21 age brackets. These courses could be spread over 2/3 weekends and in time would cover a large number of our younger players.

- (7) As a National Sports body we must be always conscious that our basic objective is to provide a service to the community in general and not just selected groups within the community. We must also be seen to cater for all income groups as a recent survey shows that only 10% of the lower income group take part in recreation of any kind. Handball is the ideal game to meet the needs of this group as it is suitable for all members of the family, irrespective of age or sex, the rules are not very complicated, and it is not too costly to play.
- (8) While factory Leagues operate in a number of counties consideration could be given to having leagues competitions organised in the other counties with a view to these competitions being carried through to Provincial and All Ireland level.
- (9) National Handball Day has been an outstanding success for the past two years and consideration could be given to extending it to a Weekend Festival of Handball with one day devoted to juveniles and the second to adults. In this way it would be possible to cater for ever greater numbers.
- (10) Leadership is vital to the growth of any organisation and with this in mind counties should consider organising courses for clubs to cover Leadership and Administration. The Ard Chomhairle has prepared a pack of suitable material to improve administration at club level and speakers are available to conduct courses.
- (11) With the standard of sports facilities in all areas improving from year to year it is important to our future development that every effort is made to provide first class facilities. We should be aiming to have our courts well laid out, heated and generally present a comfortable appearance as in this way they will be an inducement to people to join.

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

As in former years the full championship programme was carried out to schedule. Generally the standard was on a par with previous years with former juvenile players once again making an impact in the various grades. Pat McGarry dominated the Senior grade in retaining both his S.H.S. and S.H.D. titles. Pat was partnered by Joe Bennis in Doubles. After years of trying Pakie Ryan won the Coca-Cola Senior Singles, while Kilkenny after a long lapse regained the Coca-Cola Doubles title with Paddy Reilly and Ollie Harold. Pat Kirby again dominated the 40 x 20 Singles Championship in winning for the 6th consecutive year, but surrendered his Doubles title, which went to Mayo's Peadar McGee and Padraic McCormack

for the first time. Tom Quish of Limerick had a most impressive year in winning three Junior titles. He was partnered by his brother John in the Doubles successes. Noel Quigley returned to the Championship scene after some years absence with a win in the J.H.S. Derry O' Callaghan was an impressive winner in the 40 x 20 Junior Singles and Martin Hennigan and Murt Sweeney in the 40 x 20 Junior Doubles. Martin Hennigan also won the 60 x 30 Novice Singles. The dominant figure on the championship scene was the Kilkenny Minor Billy Burke who won all six minor titles and set a record which can be equalled but not surpassed. He was partnered by M. Lawlor in his three Doubles successes. He also won the B & I Award as the outstanding handballer of the year. Tony Ryan was again to the fore in winning the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Under 21 Singles. John Fleming and Pat Cleary had a nice double in winning both the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Under 21 Doubles titles. Galway made a welcome breakthrough when Johnny Faherty and E. Conneely won the 60 x 30 Novice doubles. Carlow, one of the best organised counties in the country, received a just reward for their perseverance when John Rossiter won the 40 x 20 Novice Singles and Andy and Sean Ryan won the 40 x 20 Novice Doubles.

As in previous years competition in the overage championships was very keen with the titles being spread over the three provinces. Mickey Walsh of Mayo retained his over 50 Singles title while Billy Kerins retained his 60 x 30 Masters Singles and his 40 x 20 Masters Doubles in partnership with his brother Tom. Paddy O'Keefe won the 40 x 20 Masters Singles and Jimmy Burke and Christy Young retained their 60 x 30 Masters Doubles. Jimmy Walsh and Dermot Wall of Tipperary won the over 50 doubles in the 40 x 20 court.

WILLWOOD TAILTEANN

The Willwood Juvenile Championships were once again one of the highlights of the year. As in former years hundreds of boys throughout the four provinces took part in the various grades and the standard still remains high. It is only fitting that I pay a special tribute to that band of very committed workers, who year in and year out, work so hard for the development of juvenile handball. By their dedication and perseverance they are ensuring that the future of handball is secure by providing a constant supply of very promising players. Many of our former juvenile players are now very prominent in the various grades of adult competition.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The interest in the national League increased last year and generally there was little between the counties in each Division. Certainly there has been a levelling up of standards and as a result competition was exceptionally keen in all groups. In accordance with the decision of Annual Congress the National League was extended to include a competition for counties anxious to play in 40 x 20 courts. This competition is presently in the final stages.

Wexford who figured prominently in the League in the early stages returned to the honours list when they defeated a strong Tipperary team in the final of Division 1. Meath's perseverance in developing Juvenile handball paid off when they won Division 11 as the majority of the team were former Juvenile players.

INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Senior Inter-Club Championships were again dominated by Roscommon who won the 60 x 30 title for the fourth consecutive year, and Capwell who won the 40 x 20 title for the third consecutive year. Generally the response of clubs to the Senior competitions is very poor and it might be appropriate at this time to review

the position with a view to either changing the format of the competitions or introducing some new element to make them more attractive.

During the year negotiations were carried out with Gael Linn and they decided, subject to our approval, to sponsor the Senior 60 x 30 Inter-club competition for which the winner will receive the Gael Linn Perpetual Cup.

The Novice Competitions were very successful with competition very keen in all provinces. A welcome addition this year was the London team which took part in the 60 x 30 competitions and put up a very creditable performance before going under by a small margin to Newry & Mourne in the quarter-final.

It is interesting to note that the 60 x 30, and 40 x 20 winners, Coolboy and Moycullen, play out of open courts. They both overcame their lack of indoor facilities by a high degree of commitment to training and also by travelling to other indoor courts, when possible, to get in some extra training.

INTER-PROVINCIAL

Competition at this level is still very keen with most provinces fielding well balanced teams. Munster's monopoly of the competition was broken this year when Leinster won the competition for the second time.

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Progress continues to be slow although the number of Colleges competing showed an increase in Leinster and Munster. This was mainly as a result of the Handball Provincial Councils becoming involved in organising the competitions. The problem in a large number of schools is lack of playing facilities and until this position is remedied significant progress will be difficult. However to improve the position somewhat, consideration should be given to organising Coaching courses for Post-Primary teachers and thereby generate interest at teacher level which in time can only have a good effect on handball development. In addition to the usual championships it would be worthwhile organising leagues on a regional basis or county basis in each province as in this way you would ensure regular competition for colleges which in time would lead to a greater commitment to handball as the present knock out Championships only give very limited competition especially to those colleges defeated in the earlier rounds.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Handball in the Higher Education Colleges continues to show steady progress. With four of our Universities equipped with indoor courts it now only remains for courts to be built in Trinity College and University College, Cork. The position in the Advanced Colleges is still poor, with the exception of St. Patrick's Training College, Dublin, where a final decision has been taken to build courts. We are indebted to the Minister of Sport, Mr. Jim Tunney for his help in this regard. Work is proceeding in the provision of 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 courts at Multyfarnham Franciscan College. Were it not for the fact that a number of clubs make their courts available to these Colleges it would be impossible to carry through our programme of fixtures.

Queen's University, who were largely responsible for inaugurating the Inter-Varsity Championship back in 1962, at last won the title after 19 years of perseverance. They are deserving of our congratulations. The Annual Inter-Varsity v Combined High Education Colleges has developed into one of the highlights of the year as only a few aces separated the Colleges in 1979 and again last year.

LADIES HANDBALL

Ladies Handball continues to make progress if somewhat slower than one would expect. I would appeal to all our male clubs to really make a genuine effort to involve the ladies as there is ample evidence of interest but it is only waiting to be organised. Without the full support of our clubs it is going to be difficult to get a big breakthrough as the Ladies Council with its very limited resources are not in a position to fully capitalise on the amount of goodwill that exists.

The Ladies Council sent a team of five players to the U.S. Championships last June and they are to be commended for their efforts as apart from grants of £400 from the Department of Education, and £100 from our Council, they raised all the monies themselves. Certainly they have shown an example to our male participants who, over the years, have been fully dependent on Central Council funds.

FEILE na nGAEL

The inclusion of handball in the Feile na nGael competitions at Galway was well justified as there was a very good response from most counties. Weekend competitions of this nature are a great attraction for our youth as they provide extra competitions, with graded sections, to cater for players of all standards. We are indeed indebted to the many officials in Galway who co-operated to make this an outstanding success and also to the families who provided accommodation for the players and officials.

GOVERNMENT GRANT

Once again we are deeply appreciative of the sizeable increase in our annual grant and we thank the Minister Mr. Jim Tunney and the Department of Education for this. Without this sizeable financial injection each year it would be impossible for handball to reach the heights it has in recent years.

NATIONAL HANDBALL DAY

Our second National Handball Day, which was held on 9th November, was an outstanding success and surpassed last years undertaking. Cospoir once again backed the venture fully by providing Car Stickers, Posters, Advertising on Radio and Television, in addition to circularising Schools, Local Authorities, etc. The total contribution was indeed very sizeable and the Sports Advisory Committees of the V.E.C. in most counties provided very good help and arranged to have the various programmes advertised in the local newspapers. We thank them for their help. Again the Sports Council of Northern Ireland gave every support.

I am convinced that National Handball Day has contributed in a major way to bringing to people the benefits to be gained by playing handball as a means of recreation. The feedback from our clubs shows clearly that as a result of taking part in National Handball Day many people have continued to play on a regular basis. This indeed is very encouraging as the main purpose of the various National Days is to encourage people to take part in some form of recreation on a regular basis and not just a once off effort.

EXHIBITIONS

During the past year Handball was included on the G.A.A. Stand at both the Spring Show and the National Sports Show. This additional exposure for the game has been of benefit as on each occasion we had to deal with many enquiries which is a further indication of the growing interest in handball.

R.T.E.

The past year saw a major breakthrough in the Top Ace Television Series with the introduction of top U.S. players who took part in both the 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 competitions. This added dimension proved very attractive and made for very good viewing when the matches were shown. In addition to being shown on Irish screens the matches were also shown in the U.S.A. on the ESPN channel.

Despite lack of experience on the larger 60 x 30 court the U.S. players acquitted themselves exceptionally well and in fact won the International Doubles against the Irish Selection of P. Reilly (Kilkenny) and P. Ryan (Dublin). In the 40 x 20 competition they demonstrated in no uncertain manner their ability as top class players as this is the standard size court in the U.S. and I firmly believe that as a result of their participation Irish Handball will have benefitted.

Again we are indebted to R.T.E. through its Head of Sport Fred Cogley, Senior Sports Producer, Michael O'Carroll, and G.A.A. commentator Mick Dunne for their help and co-operation in ensuring that handball is exposed in a very fitting manner.

INTERNATIONAL

A team of four players travelled to the U.S. Championships in Tucson last June. The highlight no doubt was the success of Pat Kirby, in the Masters Singles, when he emulated the feat of Joey Maher who was the first player, representing Ireland, to win this title in 1974 at Knoxville. He had a completely untroubled path right through the championship with clear cut wins in every round. For the first time we entered players in the U.S. under 23 Championships and both players performed very well with Tony Ryan being defeated in the 2nd round and John Fleming in the 3rd round. Packie Ryan, our representative in the Open Singles Championship was defeated in the 2nd round. Both P. Ryan and T. Ryan performed very well in the Consolation Competition in which they both went to the 5th round before being defeated. In fact had they won they would have met each other in the semi-final. The team played matches in New York, Tacoma, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Gordy Pfeifer, who played with distinction here during the Top Ace Series hosted our party in Tacoma and we thank him very sincerely for this. The United States Handball Association provided hotel accommodation for our party and also the Ladies and we are appreciative of this kind consideration.

Fund Raising is always a problem when one comes to international competition and this makes it all the more reason why we are so appreciative of the help we received from Coca-Cola, Tayto, Atlas Travel and the G.A.A. The Department of Education, through the Minister of State, Mr. Jim Tunney is deserving of our thanks for the grant received to help both the Ladies and ourselves.

Handball in England has mainly been kept alive through the efforts of our emigrants and it was indeed very pleasing when they affiliated as a club last year. Reports to hand show steady progress and now that they have established contact with some U.S.A. personnel in England, who have their own handball courts, it could lead to further developments as the London club itself has no court and depends solely on the use of a non-regulation facility on a very limited basis.

COURT DEVELOPMENT

The progress rate of previous years has been maintained and indications are that this will continue unabated. Due to our very limited funds last year we had to postpone a number of grant applications until this year. Grants were allocated as follows:-

Aughnamullen G.F.C.	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Ballinrobe	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Ballyporeen	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Boherbue	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Bofield, Co. Mayo	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Longford Slashers G.F.C.	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Kilrush	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Mallow	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Templederry G.F.C.	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Tarbert	£500	Roofed 40 x 20 court
Ballymote	£200	Dressing Rooms
Corrane	£ 50	Court renovations

CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Fitzgerald-Jones Club, Tralee, were the first winners of the Special Handball Award in the A.I.B. Club of the Year Award Scheme. The total entry from handball clubs was disappointing when one considers the number of clubs throughout the country.

CISTE CAEL

The response to the G.A.A. National Fund Raising Scheme, operated through Ciste Gael, has been disappointing despite regular appeals at all levels each year. I appreciate that a large number of our clubs have their own fund raising schemes and this is very much in evidence in the number of clubs building courts.

Each and everyone of our units needs finance and I would appeal again for your support. The benefits accruing from the Scheme make it very worthwhile for all clubs to take part in it.

COACHING

While our coaching programme continues to develop I feel that an amount of work still remains to be done before we reach the stage that we have a qualified coach in every club. Each County Committee and Provincial Council should strongly consider appointing an officer whose sole responsibility would be the organising of coaching courses at the various levels. With so many other responsibilities it is not possible for the present officers of these bodies to give adequate time to coaching.

Our part-time National Coaching Director Pat Kirby resigned shortly before our Annual National Coaching Course in Gormanston and we were indeed fortunate that we had sufficient Senior qualified coaches to proceed with the course. It is only fitting that I pay tribute to them for stepping into the breach at such short notice and doing a very good job. Pat Kirby who has been associated with our coaching programme since its inauguration has contributed in a major way to the development of coaching and we are indebted to him for this.

If we are to improve the overall standard of play it is important that there is a greater acceptance of coaching by a number of our players. In addition to coaching the inclusion of special sessions on Fitness Training will ensure a much higher degree of fitness amongst our players.

Since its appointment the present Coaching Council has been very committed to its task and has already produced attractive coloured slides, and are presently working on the production of new coaching charts in addition to finalising the text and drawings for a new coaching book.

COMPETITIONS

With the glut of competitions most Provincial Councils are finding it difficult to get their programmes finished on schedule. It might be worth considering making greater use of weekends, starting on Friday and finishing on Sunday as in this way it would be possible to finish a whole competition in a short space of time. The Leinster Council adopted this system last year for a number of the competitions and it worked very well.

CEANNÁRAS

The final stage of our development was completed during the year and we now have a fitting Headquarters which projects a very good image for our game. It is pleasing to record that as a result of a successful year's workings it was possible to transfer £6,000 to the Building Fund. In addition to servicing members the Courts are made available to the Universities, Advanced Colleges, Vocational Schools, Leinster Council, Community Games and other bodies.

As there is still a very sizeable debt on the development a renewed appeal is made to clubs and county committees who have not responded to the appeal for funds to do so immediately. The targets set for these bodies could be met without undue effort. It must be remembered that Ceannaras is the Headquarters of Irish Handball and therefore each and everyone of us has a clear cut responsibility to meet our obligation to clear the debt. Once the debt is cleared all surplus monies accruing from the Centre will be available to Central Council for the further development of handball.

We are indeed, very fortunate in having a very efficient Bar Manager Michéal Ó Treasaigh who is also very firmly committed to the ideals of the G.A.A. Our caretaker, Dick McMullen, has made himself available outside his hours of duty and we appreciate his help and co-operation.

In addition to her many duties as Cuntoir Liathróid Láimhe, Irín Ní Ghláibhín, is providing a very efficient service as Runaí of Ceannáras, and we are thankful for her commitment and dedication which goes beyond what one normally expects in any position.

PUBLICITY

Publicity continues to improve each year and we are indebted to the National and Provincial Press for the coverage we receive. Despite this improvement there is still scope for further publicity and I appeal to all our units to furnish as much information as possible, including photographs, to the press. At times you may be disappointed with the return, but generally if you send in regular information you will receive a fair share of coverage. The publicity received for National Handball Day is an indication of what can be achieved if attractive and worthwhile information is supplied.

While generally our articles receive coverage on the Radio and Television the one breakdown here is the failure of R.T.E. to include our results on most of the Sunday Sports programmes.

FINANCE

The Auditors Report sets out fully the financial position. It is evident that we will have to control our expenditure in the future as otherwise we could reach an irretrievable position within a few years. Our approach will have to be more realistic as there is not much point in voting money for grants and expenses if there is nothing to meet it.

Finance is generally a problem with most Sports bodies and we are no different. With this in mind a concerted unified effort is necessary in fund-raising that will not alone benefit the Ard-Chomhairle, but each and every unit from Club, to County Committee, to Provincial Council. The Uachtaran is presently working on a plan which will be available for discussion at Congress.

Our Uachtaran, Tomas Breathnach, has completed his term of office and can feel gratified that handball made significant progress during his term at the helm. It is only fitting that I pay tribute to him for his commitment and dedication as he always made himself fully available and distance meant nothing if he could achieve something for handball. During his period of office he had to face many demands and yet was never found wanting. He can look back on his term of office as very demanding but at the same time very rewarding. I know he will always be available in the future, as he was in the past, to serve the needs of handball.

I wish to express our appreciation of the help and assistance which is given at all times by P. Mac Floinn, Uachtaran, C.L.G. and Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard Stiúrthóir. Also the members of the Ard Chomhairle, Coiste Bainistí and other Sub-Committees of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

To the members of Árd Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann, 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.

Since our last Annual Congress we lost a number of very committed officials and players. It is only fitting that I pay tribute to the late Michael Hannon of Sligo who pioneered roofed handball courts in Connacht in addition to a lifetime devoted to juvenile promotion; to the late Jim O'Mahony of Cork who kept the flag flying in Cork and was largely responsible for the present rejuvenation in the country; to the late John Joe Gilmartin who won more All Ireland championships than any other player and in the process set many records.

Go ndeanaí Dia Trócaire ar a n-anamacha.

Seasamh O Loinsigh,
Riathóir.





**Siopa
G l G**

**G A A
Shop**

The G.A.A Shop at Croke Park has a wide range of G.A.A souvenirs, gifts, equipment and publications, some of which are available by post. Send a 12p. stamp for lists.

Special terms are available to G.A.A. Clubs and Schools.

Write for Club List to:

G.A.A. Shop, Páirc an Chrócaigh, Baile Átha Cliath 3