



HANDBALL

**COMHAIRLE
LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE
NA hÉIREANN**

**An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil
1991**





The Irish team which took part in the 1991 World Handball Championships in Phoenix, Arizona, from 4 to 10 Feabhra 1991.

Front: Ciarán Curran (17-and-Under), June Lee (Women's Doubles), Michael Finnegan (15-and-Under), Sue Carey (Women's Singles Doubles), John Kirby (Veteran Masters Singles).
Ar chúl: Joey Maher, captain (Veteran Golden Singles), Fergal Coughlan (19-and-Under), James McGovern (Invitational Doubles), Michael Walsh (Invitational Singles), Tom Sheridan (Invitational Doubles), Peter McAuley (23-and-Under), Jimmy King (team coach).

Tionólfar Comhdháil Bhliantúil 1991 Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

ar DÉ SATHARN, 23 MÁRTA, ag 6.00 i.n.

san

SPRINGHILL HOTEL, CILL CHAINNIGH

CLÁR OIBRE

1. Fáiltiú
2. Glacadh le Rialacha Seasta
3. Miontuairiscí na Comhdhála 1990
4. Tuarascáil an Riarthóra 1990
5. Cuntais an Airgid
6. Oráid an Uachtaráin
7. Oráid na nAoidheanna
8. Toghcháin
 - (a) Cisteoir
 - (b) Teachta ar Ard Chomhairle C.L.G.
9. Na Rúin
10. Críoch

AINMNIÚCHÁIN 1991

Cisteoir: Seosamh Mac a'Mháistir, Eamon Ó Briain.

Teachta ar Ard Chomhairle C.L.G.: Pádraig de Brún, Caimín Mac Seoin,
Eamon Ó Briain, Cionnaith Ó Conbhuí.

STANDING ORDERS

- (1) The proposer of a Motion or an Amendment may speak for not more than five minutes when making the proposal. He may speak a second time for not more than three minutes before a vote is taken.
- (2) A delegate seconding or speaking to a Motion or an Amendment may speak once only and must not exceed three minutes.
- (3) The Uachtarán 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.
- (4) A delegate may, with the consent of the Uachtarán, move "that the question be put" after which, when the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
- (5) Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda except by the consent of the majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.

Tuarascáil an Riarthóra Náisiúnta

RÉAMHRÁ

With the completion of 66 national championships in addition to 17 competitions in the education sector, two series of international trials for the USHA and World Championship Teams and participation in those championships, the past year has been an extremely busy one on the playing front. The necessary support for the various activities was ably provided by the eight central committees.

The second half of the year was particularly busy with the completion of the 60 x 30 Championships followed by the Hardball Championships and then in October, the World Championship trials. Our sincere thanks are due to the players who took part in the competitions and co-operated to ensure that they were all completed in the shortest possible time.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eighteen counties shared a total of 46 All-Ireland titles from minor level upwards. Two other counties took juvenile honours and, in all, ten shared the 16 juvenile titles while Kilkenny, Antrim, Wexford and Dublin won Inter-Club titles.

Kilkenny was again the dominant county winning nine adult titles. Michael "Duxie" Walsh continued his winning sequence at senior level winning his sixth successive 60 x 30 singles title and his fifth 60 x 30 doubles medal in the past six years in addition to taking the 40 x 20 singles title. Tipperary took a major share of honours with eight titles in all, while Meath (5) and Wexford (4) will also have been pleased with the year's results. Tom O'Rourke of Kildare created his own piece of history winning his third senior hardball singles title in a row.

ALL-IRELAND JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The fact that ten counties shared the 16 juvenile titles indicates the spread of the strength of juvenile handball in various parts of the country. It must be noted that the juvenile development and coaching programmes undertaken in some counties are bearing fruit and wins for Offaly (4), Roscommon (3) and Cavan (2) at this level must be a source of great satisfaction to those concerned and should stimulate others to embark on similar development programmes.

One of the features of the year's achievements at juvenile level was the double U14 victory in 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 for Roscom-



Paddy Stones (left) and Richard Dowling with Joe Masterson after they won the Under-15 Doubles 40 x 20.

mon's Mark Kelly and Michael McHale and, also, a similar achievement at U15 Doubles level by Paddy Stones and Richard Dowling from the Fahy Club in Offaly.

Lorcan Maughan from the Ballymoe Club in Roscommon ensured that his county took the two U14 40 x 20 titles when he defeated Alan Hawe from Kilkenny winning 15-11, 11-15, 15-4. Brian Grennan from the Crinkle Club in Offaly had some compensation for his U14 Doubles defeat earlier in the year when he took the U14 Singles 60 x 30 title, defeating Eddie Shanahan from the Broadford Club in Limerick.

Trevor Winders, Ballymore Eustace took the U15 Singles 40 x 20 title, defeating Richard Woods from Toonagh in Clare on the score 15-8, 9-15, 15-6. Cavan's Dwayne Leggett, showing great improvement on the previous year's standard, took the U15 Singles 60 x 30 title in fine style defeating Roscommon's Billy Kelly in a very entertaining final. Ciaran Curran from Tyrone got into his stride early in the U16 Singles 40 x 20 final against Pat Madden from the Tulla Club in Clare and added another medal to his very impressive collection. Tomás O'Connor from the Gormanston Club in Meath took the U16 Singles 60 x 30 medal defeating Martin Crowe from Broadford in Limerick. In the U16 Doubles 40 x 20 final Michael Finnegan and Raymond Cunningham again teamed up to take another doubles title when they defeated Joseph and Finbarr Ryan from the Silvermines Club in Tipperary on the score 10-15, 15-8, 15-5.

The Crinkle Club had another success in the Offaly colours when Conor O'Brien and Brian Doherty won the U16 Doubles 60 x 30 final in convincing style against John Noonan and Pat Doody from Broadford. Westmeath's Ray Charles scored a relatively easy win over Gene Kelleher from Mitchelstown in



Michael McHale and Mark Kelly (Roscomáin) who won Connacht's first ever Under-14 Doubles 14 x 20 All-Ireland title when they defeated Uibh Fháili at Páirc an Chrócaigh.



Winning smiles from Ray Charles, An Iarmhí, and coach Robbie McCarthy after Ray had won the Under-17 Singles 40 x 20 All-Ireland title.

the U17 Singles 40 x 20 final while John McAuley of Louth defeated John Phillips from Limerick in the same grade in the 60 x 30 court. The U17 Doubles 40 x 20 final was won by Clare, represented by Brian Cullinane and Brian Feighery who defeated Conor Daly and Conor Grogan from the Carrickmore Club in Tyrone. The U17 60 x 30 Doubles All-Ireland title was won by P. J. McGreer and John Corbett from Tipperary who defeated John Gough and Peter McDwyer from the Cavan Gaels Club.

40 x 20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

While many previous winners collected medals again, some new names were added to the Roll of Honour with Cork capturing a first Under-21 Singles title in the person of Stephen Palmer and Carlow's duo of David King and Séamus Kavanagh capturing that county's first Minor Doubles award.



Celebrating their 40 x 20 Junior Doubles All-Ireland win with Eddie Corbett and John O'Donoghue were Albert Currie, Rinal, Caiseal Munhan Club, and Denise Gardiner.

Kilkenny's Michael "Duxie" Walsh took the Senior Singles title for the fourth time and D. J. Carey attained senior status by winning the Junior Singles title in an epic match against Francis McCann of Sligo. Tom Sheridan and James McGovern won their third Senior Doubles title while Eddie Corbett and John O'Donoghue (Tipperary) won the Junior Doubles final against Westmeath's Jim Guilfoyle and Robert McCarthy. David Gough and Joseph Lynch of Meath repeated their 1989 U-21 Doubles success.

John Kirby of Clare won yet another All-Ireland, partnering Chris Meehan to victory over Kilkenny in the Masters A Doubles grade.

The Minor Singles title was won by Paul Walsh to add to John Duggan's 1982 success for the Banner County and brought Clare's total 40 x 20 wins from minor and over to 33, second only to Kilkenny's 39 titles.



Billy McCarthy applauds Jim Ryan's play during the Masters (B) Singles final at Páirc an Chrócaigh while John Corbett looks on.



Martin Maher, Silvermines Club, and Michael McCloskey, Rinal, Dublin Minor Board, enjoying the action at the 40 x 20 finals at Ceannáras.

The first All-Ireland final ever held outside Ireland was played in London on 21st April when the local representatives, Gerry Moran and Jim O'Leary defeated Kerry to retain the Novice Doubles title won by Willie McCarthy and Dave Birmingham in 1989.

Jim McAllister, Antrim, won his county's second Novice Singles medal, making a total of six All-Irelands for the game in the north-east.

Dublin had double success: Eugene Kennedy overcame favourite and 1989 champion John Kirby in the Masters (A) Singles final, while Pakie Ryan and Joe Maxwell took the Silver Masters A medals. Tipperary's Jim Ryan from the Silvermines Club got the better of Charlie Nugent in a three-game two-hour battle that had the supporters of both players on their toes for the entire duration of the Masters (B) Singles final at Ceannáras. Liam Roche and Matt Coady won Connacht's sole 40 x 20 title in the Masters (B) Doubles final, while Hugh Duff of Tyrone collected the Silver Masters (A) medal to add to his 1985 Masters (A) Singles title.

Kilkenny's Doc Hennessy was successful against Cork in the Silver Masters (B) Singles final and partnered Jim O'Neill to a Doubles victory, again over Cork. Pat O'Keeffe, Kilkenny, won his third Golden Masters Singles award and his fourth All-Ireland doubles medal when he and Eddie Leahy of hurling fame won the title for the third year in a row to set a new record in this grade.

All in all, the 40 x 20 championships produced some excellent games and while several results were somewhat predictable, there were a few surprises along the way before the 20 titles were shared by 11 counties.

HARDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Because of the fact that there was a shortage of hardballs in May and June, the All-Ireland Hardball Championships took place in a four-week period in September and October. The level of entries was satisfactory and the competition produced some excellent games of hardball. Pride of place goes to Kildare's Tommy O'Rourke who won his third successive Senior Singles title in very convincing style. He also won his second doubles title in three years when he and Michael Dowling defeated Tom Sheridan and Christy McGovern from Kells in an excellent final at the fine Garda Depot venue. Meath's Egin Jensen had double success when he took the Junior Singles title by defeating Robbie McCarthy of Westmeath and partnered David Gough to take the Doubles title to complete a very successful year for the Meathmen. Graham O'Brien from Kilkenny collected the minor singles title at the expense of P. J. McGrath from Ballymore Eustace while David Moloney and Noel Marshall from Cashel won the Doubles title against Kilkenny.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

St. Coman's Club from Roscommon contested both Open All-Ireland Inter-Club finals but failed against Talbot's Inch in the 60 x 30 final and to St. Paul's from Belfast in the 40 x 20 All-Ireland final. The very strong St. Mary's Club from Wexford town won the 60 x 30 Novice final defeating Béal na Mulla from Roscommon. Dublin's Na Fianna Club performed very well and collected the All-Ireland Novice 40 x 20 team title at the expense of Silvermines.

60 x 30 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 60 x 30 All-Ireland finals produced many epic and some marathon battles for supreme honours during the Autumn. Twelve counties shared the titles with Tipperary and Wexford each taking four titles while Kilkenny and Waterford took two apiece. The other eight titles were taken by Westmeath, Offaly, Meath, Kildare, Dublin, Kerry, Roscommon and Mayo.

Michael "Duxie" Walsh continued his dominance of Irish Handball when he won his sixth successive Senior Singles title and with partner Eugene Downey, who gave an outstanding display of handball, won their fourth Senior Doubles final in a row and their fifth in six years.

In the Junior grade, players who came near to All-Ireland success on many occasions at this level struck gold. Robbie McCarthy, Westmeath, was too powerful for Cork's John Herlihy in the Singles final while Paddy Kealy and Billy Mullins of Offaly achieved a famous victory in the Doubles final against Tipperary. Tommy Hynes played excellent handball in the Minor Singles final defeating David Moloney from the Cashel Club in two games to bring Wexford back on to the Minor honours list for the first time since 1975. Aidan and Ciaran Heneghan of Roscommon combined very well in the Minor Doubles final to defeat Tommy Hynes and Brian Gilhooly of Wexford who were hoping to win the Minor Doubles for the model county for the first time since 1961.

Meath's David Gough and Joseph Lynch, an excellent pairing for several years, completed the Under-21 Doubles double when they added the softball to the 40 x 20 medals won a few months earlier. This was their second 60 x 30 title in a row and a third successive win for David Gough. Josie O'Dwyer of Tipperary made amends for his disappointment in the U21 Doubles race when he won the Singles title, defeating reigning champion Pat Quail of Wicklow in a tremendous game before a packed gallery in Kingscourt. The Flaherty brothers, Pat and Tony, from Tipperary's Youghalarra Club had a good win in the Novice Doubles final while Wexford's Séamus O'Connor won the Singles title in this grade.

Ned Buggy, former Wexford hurler, continues to make his mark in softball; he won his second Masters (A) Singles title



Niall Cahill, Uachtarán Irish Handball Council, with fellow Offalymen Paddy Kealy and Billy Mullins who won the 1990 J.S.D. title.

in a row and partnered Jimmy Goggins to a similar success in doubles. Tipperary won the Masters (B) Singles final in the person of Seán Doyle while Mayo's Matt Coady and Liam Roche won the Doubles final to complete their double success in this year's championships.

Kildare's John Browne gave an exhibition of all that is good in handball when he defeated Mossy Butler, Waterford, in a very closely contested Silver Masters (A) Singles final on the scoreline 21-19 in the third game. The Kerins brothers, Willie and Nicholas, collected another two medals in the Silver Masters (A) Doubles final to add to their huge collection of national awards.

Success came to Dublin in Len Ahern's victory in the Silver Masters (B) Singles final, thus providing compensation for his defeat at the final hurdle a year earlier. Danny Butler and Thomas Slattery from Clonmel collected the winners medals in the Silver Masters (B) Doubles grade. Waterford again dominated the scene in the Golden Masters grade with Declan Mulcahy winning his third successive Singles title and partnering Johnny Kiely to their second successive victory in the Doubles final.

REVIEW OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

In a general review of the All-Ireland Championships, we acknowledge the co-operation of players and club and county officials for their role in ensuring that all our competitions were completed on schedule. It must be pointed out that the attitude of players and officials alike was very positive in completing some competitions under pressure of time and this was very much appreciated by An Coiste Gnímh. However, it must also be pointed out that a small number of games did not take place during the year due to (a) no or short prior notification of inability to fulfil fixtures, (b) withdrawal from the competitions and (c) failure to have a full team on two occasions in the Inter-Club Championships.

One must also point to the low level of entries in the Inter-Club Championships and, also, in some grades in the Provincial 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Championships. In one case, a doubles partnership won an All-Ireland final on its first outing in the 1990 Championships. I feel strongly that it is time to review the level of entries in the various grades and to assess the merits of the various championships.

There appears to be a growing body of opinion which suggests that the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Championships are far too protracted and that they could be played within a much shorter time scale. This is a matter for urgent review and if the playing season for each code were tightened up somewhat, it would allow more weekends for coaching, development, refereeing



Seán Ó Dubhlainn, Uachtarán C.L.G., ag bronnadh an trófaí M.S. 60 x 30 ar Tommy Hynes, Loch Garman.

and other courses. It will also facilitate the inclusion of additional tournaments and special competitions which are essential if our playing standards are to improve and keep pace with the standard of play in other countries. Such changes would also allow more time for juvenile development in particular.

International Handball

Ireland achieved major success at International level in both the United States Handball Association National Junior Championships and the recent World Handball Championships in Phoenix, Arizona. While it is not usual to review the events of a current calendar year in a report on the previous year, one must suggest that it is timely and appropriate to do so for this major event.

USHA CHAMPIONSHIPS

A team of three players took part in the USHA National Junior Championships under team manager Kit Finnegan from Cavan whose son Michael became the second Ulster player to win the US title in taking the 15-and-Under Championship. Ciarán Curran from Tyrone, who won the 15-and-Under title in 1989 won the 1990 17-and-Under title in very convincing style defeating Naty Alvarado Jr from California in the final – despite a very painful hand injury. This double success is a major achievement for Ulster Handball and will be a great source of pride and encouragement for all concerned with the development of the game in the province. Adrian Benson of Dublin won the 19-and-Under Consolation Final, while in June John Donlon of Clare took the USHA B Singles title to add to the C title which he won a year earlier.



Ciarán Curran, USHA 17-and-Under Champion, and Michael Finnegan, USHA and World 15-and-Under title holder.

RESULTS

15-and-Under – Michael Finnegan, An Cabhán:

Rd. 1: defeated Shane Conneely 21-4, 21-2.
Q.F: defeated Jamie Simon 21-6, 21-6.
S.F: defeated James Komsteoft 20-21, 21-17, 11-3.
Final: defeated Vincent Espinoza 21-7, 21-5.

17-and-Under – Ciarán Curran, Tír Eoghain:

Rd. 1: defeated Beari Meiring 21-3, 21-7.
Q.F: defeated Nick Dobrash 21-3, 21-5.
S.F: defeated Joe Paterna 21-5, 21-7.
Final: defeated Naty Alvarado 21-11, 15-21, 11-3.

19-and-Under – Adrian Benson, Baile Átha Cliath:

Q.F: lost to Steve Johnson 21-20, 21-17.
Consolation Final: defeated Andrew Schmit 15-10, 15-7.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A total of 33 Irish players, with 43 entries, took part in 18 events in the World Handball Championships held at Phoenix, Arizona, from 4th to 10th February 1991. Ireland contested 15 semi-finals in thirteen events and took four World titles from the six finals – two of them all-Irish affairs – for which we had eight qualifiers.

INVITATIONALS

In the Invitational Singles event Michael "Duxie" Walsh easily accounted for his Japanese opponent (21-1, 21-7) and then defeated Naty Alvarado, USA champion on 11 occasions, with an amazing display of courage, skill and determination. After losing the first game 15-21, "Duxie" took the second 21-18 and left the reigning World Champion 11-3 behind in the tie-breaker. Canada's Danny Bell ended Irish hopes of success when he defeated "Duxie" 21-8, 21-5 in the semi-final.

Meath's Tom Sheridan and James McGovern lost only four aces to the Japanese doubles pairing but were beaten 11-2 in their tie-breaker against the Americans Dave Glatt and Bob Prince. The Kells men played some magnificent handball in their semi-final against Jeff Wilson and Bob Menses, Canada, before losing 21-7, 21-18.



The 21-18, 11-3 scorline shows the result of "Duxie's" victory over Naty Alvarado . . . and Jimmy King looks pleased.

A/B DOUBLES

Eugene Downey, Kilkenny, better known as a 60 x 30 expert, teamed up with Meath's Egin Jensen to win the A/B Doubles Championship. Combining kills from deep court with offensive front court play they had some excellent victories which brought loud cheers of support and delight from the Irish party, particularly in their 21-20, 21-16 victory over Chris Watkins and Naty Alvarado Jr in the final.



Egin Jensen and Eugene Downey with their U.S. Opponents in the A/B Doubles championship.

OPEN SINGLES

Egin Jensen played superbly in his three Open Singles matches before going under to the young Dave Chapman (USA) after brilliant wins over Paul Service (Canada) and Alfonso Monreal (Mexico). Clare's John Donlon had an easy victory over Paul Godina (USA) before losing to Mike McDonald (USA) 21-11, 12-21, 11-2.

B SINGLES

It was obvious from the first round that the two Irish entrants would go far and have a say in the destination of the B Singles World title. Paul Walsh defeated four American players and Ned Buggy accounted for a Canadian in round one and three U.S. players before their final meeting. Both their semi-finals went to tie-breakers with Paul winning over Dave McGrath 21-14, 14-21, 11-4 and Ned defeating D. Doherty 0-21, 21-20, 11-3.

The Clare v Wexford World Championship final was an excellent game and Irish eyes were smiling right through with Paul coming out on top 21-18, 21-15 in an excellent contest.



John Kirby (centre) with Ned Buggy and Paul Walsh after the B Singles final.

C SINGLES

Ireland had seven starters in the field of 79 in the C Singles competition with Seán Kirby, Con Moore, Jim Ryan, Jimmy McKeon and James Kennedy all clearing the first hurdle at their ease, with the latter two showing excellent form. Four of the five got through to round two with Seán Kirby going down to Jason Castro who later met Michael Finnegan in the 15-and-Under final.

Con Moore went under at the third round 21-20, 21-13, while the other three progressed to the quarter-finals where James Kennedy lost to Ray Alvarez, California 21-13, 21-9 and Jimmy McKeon defeated Jim Ryan 21-6, 19-21, 11-4 in a most entertaining game. The Cavanman had to give best to Alvarez in the semi-final on a 21-5, 21-6 scoreline.



Jimmy McKeon meets Ray Alvarez, California, before their C Singles semi-final.

MASTERS GRADES

Jim Ryan and Séamus Buggy won their first round **Masters Singles** match very comfortably but lost their next game against very sharp U.S. opponents. John Kirby and Ned Buggy played superbly to win round one 21-18, 21-17 and take the quarter-final with an 11-6 tie-break victory. In the semi-final, after five days of very competitive handball they went out to J. Barnett and G. Gasper 21-18, 21-7.

Séamus Buggy had a fine round one 21-7, 21-8 win in the **Veteran Masters** grade while John Kirby also had an easy first round contest. Séamus then lost to Brian Goto of Canada who eventually beat John Kirby in the semi-final after the Clareman had beaten Americans Dave Robbins and M. Halbert in his second and quarter-final games respectively. Joey Maher had three good wins in the **Veteran Golden Singles** grade before going down in his semi-final. Jimmy King had a tough first round 21-18, 19-21, 11-9 but lost to Fred Chapman in his second match.

Tom O'Connor had to give best to K. Blackburn (USA) in the **Golden Masters** grade, while Joe Maxwell of Dublin suffered a similar fate in the **Super Singles** championship. Michael O'Reilly, Mayo, partnered John Melbar from the U.S. to a great first round win in the **Golden Doubles** championship but they had to leave the world stage following a very close contest with T. Natale and F. Chapman which ended 21-6, 7-21, 11-10.



Jim Ryan with Brian Meyer after their C Singles clash

23-AND-UNDER

Walter O'Connor had a quarter-final walk-over from Jimmy McKeon, now concentrating on the C Singles event in the 23-and-Under Singles. Peter McAuley dismissed the challenge of Chris Watkins (USA) in his quarter-final and James Kennedy lost 21-5, 21-17 to Dominic Di Sebastiano from Australia who was then beaten by Walter in the semi-final 21-9, 21-11. Peter had an easy victory (21-9, 21-4) over L. Salmon of Canada to make it an all-Irish final.

Walter went well ahead in the first game and won 21-11. Peter reversed the result in the second with some excellent serves to win 21-12. The Meathman made the running in the tie-breaker and edged ahead gradually before finishing with some power-packed shots to win 11-7.

19-AND-UNDER

Fergal Coughlan, holder of the 1988 19-and-Under title made a successful opening defence of his crown and had a 21-3, 21-1 victory over a Mexican opponent. Darragh Kirby went out at the hands of Steve Dobrash but put up a very creditable performance. Fergal defeated Canadian Paul Godina 21-9, 21-19 in his semi-final in which he played superbly. However, he could not repeat his form in the final and had to relinquish his title to another Canadian, T. Hamel, on a 21-5, 21-11 scoreline after showing some promise of a come-back in his second game.



Walter O'Connor and Dominic Di Sebastiano (Australia) before their 23-and-Under semi-final.

17-AND-UNDER

Ciarán Curran justified his No. 1 seeding in his quarter-final (21-0, 21-1) and semi-final (21-5, 21-8). His clash with Naty Alvarado Jr was a re-match of the USHA 15-and-Under final six weeks earlier and, again, this went to a tie-breaker which was a really close affair until Alvarado got a lucky break and won 11-8.



Jimmy King with Naty Alvarado Jr and Ciarán Curran following the 17-and-Under World final.

15-AND-UNDER

Michael Finnegan, current USHA champion in the 15-and-Under grade had an easy quarter-final win and followed up with a 21-6, 21-3 semi-final win over a Mexican opponent. The stage was set for another clash with Jason Castro and Michael was equal to it. He took the first 21-13 but lost concentration – and a big lead – in the second and went down 21-18. However, he regained his confidence to take command of the court and delighted the huge Irish support with an 11-3 tie-breaker victory.

RESULTS

Invitational Singles

Round Robin: Michael Walsh (Kilkenny) dft K. Tsurumi (Japan) 21-1, 21-7; Michael Walsh dft Naty Alvarado (USA) 15-21, 21-18, 11-3.

Semi-final: Michael Walsh lost to Danny Bell (Canada), 21-8, 21-5.

Invitational Doubles

Round Robin: Tom Sheridan, James McGovern (Meath) dft Y. Takaei, K. Yano (Japan); Tom Sheridan, James McGovern lost to D. Glatt, R. Prince (USA) 17-21, 21-5, 11-2.

Semi-final: Tom Sheridan, James McGovern lost to J. Wilson, R. Mense (Canada) 21-7, 21-18.

A/B Doubles

Round 1: Egin Jensen (Meath), Eugene Downey (Kilkenny) dft T. McGrath, B. O'Sullivan (USA) 21-1, 21-9.

Round 2: E. Jensen, E. Downey dft M. & D. Letarte (Canada) 21-11, 8-21, 11-1.

Quarter-final: E. Jensen, E. Downey dft M. Chubinsky, G. Chavez (USA) 21-5, 21-8.

Semi-final: E. Jensen, E. Downey dft T. Martinez, J. Lopez (USA) 21-18, 21-15.

Final: E. Jensen, E. Downey dft C. Watkins, N. Alvarado Jr (USA) 21-20, 21-16.

Open Singles

Round 1: Egin Jensen (Meath) dft P. Service (Canada) 21-5, 21-12; John Donlon (Clare) dft P. Godina (USA) 21-15, 21-16.

Round 2: Egin Jensen dft A. Monreal (Mexico) 21-11, 21-12; John Donlon lost to M. McDonald (USA) 21-11, 12-21, 11-2.

Quarter-final: Egin Jensen lost to D. Chapman (USA) 21-9, 21-8.

B Singles

Round 1: Paul Walsh (Clare) dft M. Letarte (USA) 21-8, 21-9; Ned Buggy (Wexford) dft D. O'Brien (Canada) 21-5, 21-7.

Round 2: Paul Walsh dft T. Russo (USA) 21-13, 21-17; Ned Buggy dft B. Santha (USA) 21-10, 21-15.

Quarter-final: Paul Walsh dft A. Gutierrez (USA) 21-18, 21-12; Ned Buggy dft P. Williams (USA) 21-8, 17-21, 11-7.

Semi-final: Paul Walsh dft D. McGrath (USA) 21-14, 14-21, 11-4; Ned Buggy dft D. Doherty (USA) 0-21, 21-20, 11-3.

Final: Paul Walsh dft Ned Buggy 21-18, 21-15.

C Singles

Round 1: Jim Ryan (Tipperary) dft B. Meyer (USA) 21-1, 21-0; James Kennedy (Tipperary) dft M. Gustafson (USA) 21-5, 21-3; Seán Kirby (Clare) dft J. Valdez (USA) 21-10, 21-5; Jimmy McKeon (Cavan) dft J. Benson (USA) 21-12, 21-2; Joe Howlin (Wexford) lost to R. Alvarez (USA) 21-5, 21-8; Con Moore (Kilkenny) w.o. R. Golden (Canada) scr; Darragh Kirby (Clare) lost to A. Alvarez (USA) 21-8, 21-12.

Round 2: Con Moore dft R. Chavez (USA) 21-5, 21-3; Seán Kirby lost to J. Castro (USA) 21-8, 21-17; James Kennedy dft R. Slack (USA) 21-6, 21-4; Jimmy McKeon dft D. Uffer (USA) 21-18, 21-6; Jim Ryan dft T. McGrath (USA) 21-19, 21-3.

Round 3: Con Moore lost to D. Brown (USA) 21-20, 21-13; James Kennedy dft T. Capen (USA) 21-2, 21-14; Jimmy McKeon dft T. Winters (USA) 21-13, 21-8; Jim Ryan dft T. Kopp (USA) 21-11, 21-9.

Quarter-finals: James Kennedy lost to R. Alvarez (USA) 21-13, 21-9; Jimmy McKeon dft Jim Ryan 21-6, 19-21, 11-4.

Semi-final: Jimmy McKeon lost to R. Alvarez (USA) 21-5, 21-6.

Masters Doubles

Round 1: Jim Ryan (Tipperary), Séamus Buggy (Wexford) dft S. Harrison, D. Wells (USA) 21-14, 20-21, 11-4.

Round 2: John Kirby (Clare), Ned Buggy (Wexford) dft D. Villalobos, B. McGonigle (USA) 21-18, 21-17; Jim Ryan, Séamus Buggy lost to J. Ward, P. Piscatelli (USA) 21-1, 21-3.

Quarter-final: John Kirby, Ned Buggy dft R. Polson, G. Hoover (USA) 14-21, 21-19, 11-6.

Semi-final: John Kirby, Ned Buggy lost to J. Bartnett, R. Gasper (USA) 21-18, 21-7.

LADIES EVENTS

Veteran Masters Singles (Over 45s)

Round 1: Séamus Buggy (Wexford) dft W. Stansberry (USA) 21-7, 21-8; John Kirby (Clare) dft P. Kleppin (USA) 21-3, 21-4.
Round 2: Séamus Buggy lost to B. Goto (Canada) 21-5, 21-7; John Kirby dft D. Robbins (USA) 21-12, 21-1.
Quarter-final: John Kirby dft M. Hulbert (USA) 21-16, 21-15.
Semi-final: John Kirby lost to B. Goto (Canada) 6-12, 21-11, 11-9.

Golden Masters Singles (Over 50s)

Round 1: Tom O'Connor (Meath) lost to K. Blackburn (USA) 21-6, 21-5.
Consolation: Tom O'Connor lost to A. Zavello (USA) 21-20, 16-21, 11-8.

Veteran Golden Singles (Over 55s)

Round 1: Joey Maher (Louth) dft D. Michaels (USA) 21-8, 21-10; Jimmy King (Wexford) dft J. Degroote (USA) 21-18, 19-21, 11-9.
Round 2: Joey Maher dft A. Monreal (Mexico) 21-1, 21-7; Jimmy King lost to F. Chapman (USA) 21-4, 21-12.
Quarter-final: Joey Maher dft C. Porter (USA) 21-0, 15-14 (injury default).
Semi-final: Joey Maher lost to T. Natale (USA) 21-13, 21-2.

Golden Masters Doubles (Over 50s)

Round 1: Michael O'Reilly (Mayo), John Melbar (USA) dft W. Sorenson, W. Clancy (USA) 21-6, 21-7; Michael O'Reilly, John Melbar lost to T. Natale, F. Chapman (USA) 21-6, 7-21, 11-10.

Super Singles (Over 60s)

Round 1: Joe Maxwell (Dublin) lost to C. Schildmeyer (USA) 21-14, 21-10.
Consolation: Joe Maxwell lost to J. Merida (USA) 15-7, 15-3.

23-and-Under Singles

Quarter-finals: Walter O'Connor (Meath) w.o. Jimmy McKeon (Cavan) scr.; Peter McAuley (Louth) dft C. Watkins (USA) 21-12, 21-6; James Kennedy (Tipperary) lost to D. Di Sebastiano (Australia) 21-5, 21-17.
Semi-finals: Walter O'Connor dft D. Di Sebastiano 21-9, 21-11; Peter McAuley dft L. Salmon (Canada) 21-9, 21-4.
Final: Walter O'Connor dft Peter McAuley 21-11, 12-21, 11-7.

19-and-Under Singles

Quarter-finals: Fergal Coughlan (Clare) dft J. Leal (Mexico) 21-3, 21-1; Darragh Kirby (Clare) lost to S. Dobrash (USA) 21-7, 21-9.
Semi-final: Fergal Coughlan dft P. Godina (Canada) 21-9, 21-19.
Final: Fergal Coughlan lost to T. Hamel (Canada) 21-5, 21-11.

17-and-Under Singles

Quarter-final: Ciarán Curran (Tyrone) dft J. Eistettler (Canada) 21-0, 21-1.
Semi-final: Ciarán Curran dft M. Beverley (Canada) 21-5, 21-8.
Final: Ciarán Curran lost to N. Alvarado Jnr (USA) 21-12, 11-21, 11-8.

15-and-Under Singles

Quarter-final: Michael Finnegan (Cavan) dft Miles Paine 21-0, 21-1.
Semi-final: Michael Finnegan dft A. Conzalez (Mexico) 21-6, 21-3.
Final: Michael Finnegan dft J. Castro (USA) 21-13, 19-21, 11-3.

The seven Irish ladies players performed well and the **Women's Open Doubles** partnership of Sue Carey and June Lee provided one of the best games of the week when defeating the fancied Dottie Watson and Kathy Kroeplin of the USA. After losing 21-11 in the first game, they took the second 21-14 and won 11-9 after a great comeback in the tie-breaker. They went out to Canadians L. Fraser and L. Muloin in their next match on the score 21-8, 21-11. Una Mulgrew from Antrim had a superb first round victory in the **Women's Open Singles** event against Kathy Kroeplin (USA) 21-18, 7-21, 11-5. Sinéad Boyle (Antrim) lost her first match but Sue Carey, with a bye to round two, won a good game against Kathy Krueger. The other ladies lost their second round games. June Lee and Margaret Armstrong got through to the semi-finals of the **Consolation Singles** event but were both defeated. Liz Nichol, Dublin, playing in the **Women's B Singles** Championship won 21-6, 21-7 against K. Kamazaki of Japan but lost to Kay Bezugley of Canada 21-7, 8-21, 11-4, in the second round.



Sue Carey waits while Liz Nichol serves.

Women's Open Doubles

Round 1: Mary Lindsay, Margaret Armstrong (Antrim) lost to L. Alvarado, L. Alvarado (USA) 21-18, 21-17; Una Mulgrew, Sinéad Boyle (Antrim) lost to K. Krueger, L. Mueller (USA) 21-6, 21-17.
Quarter-final: Sue Carey (Kildare), June Lee (Dublin) defeated D. Watson, K. Kroeplin (USA) 11-21, 21-14, 11-9.
Semi-final: Sue Carey, June Lee lost to L. Fraser, L. Muloin (Canada) 21-8, 21-11.

Women's Open Singles

Round 1: Una Mulgrew (Antrim) dft K. Kroeplin (USA) 21-18, 7-21, 11-5; Sinéad Boyle (Antrim) lost to R. Ochoa (USA) 21-17, 21-12.
Round 2: Sue Carey (Kildare) dft C. Krueger (USA) 21-12, 21-16; Margaret Armstrong (Antrim) lost to L. Muloin (Canada) 21-3, 21-2; Liz Nichol (Dublin) lost to N. Kalil (USA) 21-2, 21-5; June Lee (Dublin) lost to D. Vallee (Canada) 21-3, 21-11; Una Mulgrew (Antrim) lost to A. Engle (USA) 21-6, 21-6; Mary Lindsay (Antrim) lost to D. Watson (USA) 21-9, 21-8.
Quarter-final: Sue Carey lost to N. Kalil (USA) 21-0, 21-12.
Consolation quarter-final: June Lee dft Mary Lindsay 15-12, 15-13; Margaret Armstrong dft Liz Nichol 15-10, 15-13; Sinéad Boyle lost to K. Kroeplin (USA) 15-12, 15-13.

Consolation semi-final: June Lee lost to K. Krueger 15-4, 15-6; Margaret Armstrong lost to K. Kroeplin 15-5, 15-0.

Women's B Singles

Round 1: Liz Nichol (Dublin) dft K. Yamazaki (Japan) 21-6, 21-7.
Round 2: Liz Nichol lost to K. Bezugley (Canada) 21-7, 8-21, 11-4.

OFFICIAL TEAM

Ireland was officially represented by the following players in the World Championships following their successes in the International trials:

Invitational Singles:	Michael Walsh.
Invitational Doubles:	Tom Sheridan, James McGovern.
Veteran Masters Singles:	John Kirby.
Veteran Golden Singles:	Joey Maher.
23-and-Under:	Peter McAuley.
19-and-Under:	Fergal Coughlan.
17-and-Under:	Ciarán Curran.
15-and-Under:	Michael Finnegan.
Women's Open Singles:	Sue Carey.
Women's Open Doubles:	Sue Carey, June Lee.

Our congratulations are due to the Irish team who prepared so well for the Championships under the expert guidance of National Coach Jimmy King and to Enda Timoney who tested the players and set out their physical training programmes. The thanks and appreciation of all players go to team manager Niall Ó Cathail, Uachtarán, who took a special interest in all of the Irish players throughout the Championships.

EIGHTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The World Handball Council has requested Ireland to explore the feasibility of hosting the next championships and to forward proposals on the matter to the Council later this year. The staging of the next World Championships in Ireland would be a tremendous opportunity for Irish handball in general and would provide a focal point towards which we can develop over the next couple of years. The task of organising and hosting World Championships will be very demanding but we have the personnel, the facilities and the determination and enthusiasm to do so. Ireland has played a leading role for many years in the development of international handball. Our players have had a remarkable success in USHA and World Championships and they enjoy a very high profile abroad. As an organisation, we can be confident that we can do justice to the staging of the next World Championships in Ireland.

THIRD-LEVEL COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eight teams took part in the Higher Education Colleges Championship with the winners going forward to the inter-varsity event at UCG.

Torthaí — Quarter-finals:

Waterford RTC defeated Coláiste Phádraig, 127-102.
Bolton Street defeated Dame Street, 117-51.
Multyfarnham defeated Kevin Street, 105-48.
Athlone RTC defeated Dundalk RTC, 112-64.

Semi-finals:

Bolton Street defeated Waterford RTC, 109-84.
Athlone RTC defeated Multyfarnham, 116-90.

Final:

Bolton Street defeated Athlone RTC, 113-70.

Five teams took part in the **Inter-Varsity Championship** at Galway's Pearse Stadium and UCG venues. In the quarter-final, UCD defeated Bolton Street College by 137 to 122, with a power-packed display by Egin Jensen in the third match being the decisive factor. UCD easily accounted for University of Limerick and UCG defeated Queen's in the semi-finals.

The home team, well balanced and playing very controlled handball, were too strong for UCD on the scoreline 136 to 104 in the final.

Torthaí — Quarter-final:

UCD defeated Bolton Street, 137-122.

Semi-finals:

UCD defeated UOL, 126-52.
UCG defeated QUB, 138-109.

Final:

UCG defeated UCD, 136-104.

Walter O'Connor, Dame Street College, the holder and Egin Jensen of UCD, winner of the title in 1987 and 1988, emerged from the seven starters to meet in the Higher Education Colleges **Open Singles Championship** final. The defending champion retained his title, 35-17, with a display of excellent serves and great recoveries throughout the game.

Torthaí — Quarter-finals:

C. O'Tierney (QUB) dft M. Cushen (Sligo RTC).
W. O'Connor (Dame Street) dft F. Coughlan (UCG) 28-18.
T. Cadden (Bolton Street) dft E. MacGiolla Coda (OL) 25-22.

Semi-finals:

W. O'Connor defeated C. O'Tierney, 24-14.
E. Jensen defeated T. Cadden, 26-16.

Final:

W. O'Connor defeated E. Jensen, 35-17.

Buíochas: John Cunningham and the UCG Club did an excellent job in hosting and organising the Inter-Varsity and Open weekend at very short notice due to the inability of another college to do so. The social functions for players and supporters and the smooth running of the events was a tribute to the work to the work of the Comhairle Ard Oideachais and the local organisers of both the Higher Education and Inter-Varsity Championships weekends.

EDUCATION SECTOR

With the co-operation of Bórd Lúthchleas Gael na mBunscoileanna, the Handball Council is planning a promotional drive in **Primary Schools** to introduce and develop the game at that level. This will be supplemented by short coaching courses for teachers through local Teachers' Centres and also at the usual summer courses.

There is also great need for development of the game at **post-primary level**, both Colleges and Vocational, as the number of schools which take part in competition should be much greater. In an effort to promote the game at Colleges level, the Council with the co-operation of the Provincial Colleges bodies, is examining the format of the present competitions structure. In addition, the 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 competitions have been moved forward to the first and second terms respectively so that the second-level games are now played within season and the difficulty of playing the provincial and All-Ireland championships in both codes in the third term is avoided.

Each province has its own system of organising the provincial Colleges Championships and in some cases this has been unsatisfactory. This is question which must be examined this year by the provinces and also by Ard Chomhairle to ensure that the competitions are promoted, developed and organised in the best possible way. A solid provincial Colleges handball structure or system is essential if the game is to prosper at that level. Other sports organisations have much broader networks and cater for large numbers of schools and players; we must do likewise, especially if a new format for competitions is to be successful.

The level of entries and interest in competition at **third level** has improved during the past year and a new format has been introduced for the Inter-Varsity Team Championships whereby all colleges which participate in the leagues can also take part in the team championships. A plate competition is also held for 'B' teams and first round losers.

In view of the ongoing changes in education, developments such as these should help the development of the game and the hope is that a much greater number of third-level colleges will take part in competition in future years.

THOMOND COLLEGE

One of the most notable features of 1990 was the commencement after many years of encouragement by the GAA and Handball authorities of a 40 x 20 court in the new sports complex at Thomond College of Education in Limerick. This new facility, due to open later this year, will add a very essential dimension to the facilities of our National College of Physical Education and the coaching of handball will be an integral part of P.E. Courses in the future. The provision of this facility is most welcome and the hope now is that it will be utilised to the full for handball.

FÉILE NA nGAEL

Eagraíodh Féile na nGael i gCo. Thiobraid Árann, an ailt a bunaíodh Féile agus beidh sí ann arís i mbliana. Ocaíd ana speisialta a bheidh ann ag comórath fiche haon bliain ó cuireadh tús leis an feachtas iontach seo d'ógánaigh na tíre.

Seventeen visiting teams took part in the Féile 40 x 20 competitions while ten visiting and one home team entered the 60 x 30 events. The four venues — Cashel, Thurles, Fethard and Silvermines — did an excellent job in hosting the five competitions and we thank all those who helped in any way to make this possible. Our thanks also go to Ken Conway who took charge of the organisation of the handball content of Féile and liaised with all the visiting clubs.

An additional feature of the 1990 Féile was the inclusion of a Skills Test competition — judged by well-known Tipperary players, John O'Donoghue, Eddie Corbett, Tony Ryan, Vincent O'Shea and Martin Maher — for Divisions Two and Three.

BUAITEOIRÍ

Roinn	Foireann	Scileanna
1-60x30	Kingscourt	M. Ó Cuinneagáin, An Cabhán
2-60x30	Broadford	O. Ó Riain, Ceatharlach
1-40x20	Toonagh	A. Ó hEachach, Cill Chainnigh
2-40x20	Downpatrick	S. Ó Cuinneagáin, An Dún
3-40x20	Cavan Gaels	S. Ó Tuama, Aontroim

Féile '91 will be an opportunity for every county to (a) organise its own qualifying competitions and (b) to be represented in the 21st Annual Féile which will be marked by special commemorative events, exhibitions and publications. As Féile na nGael is a national event, every county should make a big effort to be part of what is an ideal social and promotional weekend.

JUVENILE DEVELOPMENT

One cannot put enough emphasis on the importance of juvenile development: it is the basis for the future of any club or county. A good juvenile plan is essential to attract young players, to develop the game and ensure its future. The juvenile successes of many counties have translated into adult successes in later

years: this pattern will continue and units which promote and organise juvenile handball will reap their rewards.

The juvenile game needs constant promotion through local/county/regional festivals and blitz-days, coaching by players and personalities, youth days/weekends/weeks, club leagues and the introduction of mini-handball to schools in general and to those in Club catchment areas in particular. Above all, our young people need the support of caring adults who take an interest in their overall development as well as in how they perform at handball.

COACHING COURSES

The Coaching Council provided the usual Teachers Courses — at Kilkenny and Cork for primary teachers and in Coláiste Phádraig, Baile Átha Cliath and St. Mary's College, Belfast, for student teachers. A Club Coach course was held in Ballaghaderreen but another was cancelled because of the low level of interest. Several one-day coaching clinics were held with the assistance of the Coaching Council.

One of the most positive features of the year was the large attendance at the Club Coach courses for student Gardaí at the Garda Training College, Templemore, followed by the involvement of a number of the Gardaí in coaching at Club level.

The thanks and appreciation of the Council are due to Jimmy King, Seán Lee, Seán McEntee and Ciarán Corr for their contribution to the various courses.

A most noteworthy development during 1990 was the organisation by St. Coman's Club, Roscommon, of an ongoing coaching and education programme for travellers. This has been very successful and worthwhile for several reasons and the Club is to be commended on this initiative.

COACHING PROGRAMME

Modern developments in almost every sport have included coaching as a vital ingredient in any plan

- (a) to increase the number of people qualified to teach the sport,
- (b) to increase the number of participants and
- (c) to improve the general skill and performance level of players at all levels.

If handball is to maintain its present strength, a vigorous coaching plan at all levels is essential; and if the game is to grow and develop to a position where existing facilities are even reasonably well used, it is more important still to develop and implement a comprehensive national coaching plan, the main elements of which would be

- the appointment of a National Handball Coach;
- the introduction of mini-handball in schools within the catchment area of existing clubs;
- the training of a team of **staff coaches** capable of qualifying people as club coaches;
- the training of **club coaches** capable of introducing people to the game and improving their playing standard;
- the production of coaching literature and video material;
- the introduction of a Handball School of Coaching;
- the organisation of refereeing courses.

REFEREEING

Officials and players alike have been most helpful in refereeing our national fixtures. Their co-operation with An Coiste Gnímh and their courtesy to players has helped greatly in the presentation of our games. As refereeing is a task which may go unnoticed if it is not controversial, great credit is due to those people who have helped in this capacity.



Paddy Monaghan, Ballymore Eustace, marks down another score during a 40 x 20 final.

Many people have pointed out the need for better refereeing under the headings:

- (a) better knowledge and understanding of the rules;
- (b) stricter implementation of the rules, particularly those of a technical nature;
- (c) establishing firmer control and better authority over the game.

The location of the referee's viewing position is vital to correct decision-making, particularly during fast play and this is something to which every venue should give attention in order to facilitate to the maximum the task of the referee.

The Coaching Council has recently reviewed the standard of refereeing and a National Refereeing Course will be held before the Softball Championships commence. This is an opportunity for every county to attend and avail of expert guidance on the rules of play and also on the techniques of refereeing and is one which should be availed of by every county.



In full control of the situation are John Joe Sugrue, Rinal, Co. Ciarraí, and Ned Scott as they take charge of a 40 x 20 final.

PLAYING RULES

With increased participation of our players in international events and the prospect of staging the next World Championships in Ireland, the possibility of adopting the standard international rules for the 40 x 20 game could be examined — despite the fact that playing rules can be amended only in years divisible by five. However, in view of the state of development of our game and in the light of our standards of play *vis à vis* other nations, there is a strong current of opinion which suggests that our playing rules should be in line with international standards so that our players can always compete on the same basis and with the same experience of the playing rules as all other players.

TOURNAMENTS

Several tournaments are very popular with the top players and the general view is while most are very well organised and presented, some set an exceptional standard which could be emulated by others. It is very attractive and worthwhile for any club to organise a tournament for the best players — they appreciate this very much and congratulations to those clubs who host such events.

It is suggested elsewhere in this report that there is room for a small number of hardball tournaments; there is also room for some tournaments for average and weaker players and for various grades or combinations of grades. One way of catering for some of these would be a doubles tournament for fathers and sons — the list of possible entries is very impressive.

PRESENTATION OF GAMES

As our national fixtures are the shop window for our game and our organisation, it is essential to continue to improve the presentation of our championships at every level.

The response to the changes in the presentation of the 1990 All-Ireland finals was most encouraging. The musical entertainment provided by the Artane Boys Band, the attendance of former players, the presence of GAA officials and the presentations to the players and referees, all professionally introduced by Mick Dunne, helped to create a good atmosphere.

Other units have improved the presentation of their own games and it will be the experience of any unit which does so that the effort in preparing for such events will be greatly rewarded in terms of player and spectator appreciation and the satisfaction of knowing that these efforts are appreciated. In addition, young players and their families can be greatly impressed by the presentation of our games and we must avail of every opportunity to retain the interest of members and attract new members to our game.

NEW DUNLOP 40 x 20 BALL

Mr. Terry Leyden TD, Minister for Trade and Marketing, officiated at the launch of the new Irish-made Dunlop International handball at Ceannáras, early in the year. He said that "the launch of the new Dunlop International 40 x 20 handball is an interesting example of how a small company can develop a top-class product which is a substitute for imports and, I hope, will soon be exported in large quantities".

Mr. Leyden complimented the Irish Handball Council for co-operating with SRC and added that this showed how a voluntary sports organisation can play a part in the creation of jobs in Ireland.

The new ball has been approved by Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann as the official ball for the 1991 Championships. Players' views on the performance of the ball are being passed on to Gerry McCormack to enable him to improve its quality still further. The availability of this Irish-made product will ensure that we are not dependent on imported handballs for our own championships and we wish SRC well in the future.

STRUCTURES

The re-establishment of a County Handball Committee in Leitrim in early 1990 means that every county now has a handball structure. A matter which must now be addressed is whether existing structures are best suited to administer the game at county level having regard to the small number of clubs in quite a number of counties. In addition, the question must also be asked as to whether the present committee structures at all levels

of the organisation are the most effective means of administering affairs from club to national level.

It may well be that in the not too distant future, the possibility of amalgamating counties for administrative and competition purposes will have to be seriously considered. While this type of scenario would mean that some counties might feel the loss of some independence as counties, it might also provide the opportunity for those same counties to develop within a broader framework with additional opportunities both for development of the game and participation in competition.

ADMINISTRATION

It will be obvious to all those involved in administration at any level that the standard of administration must by its nature vary from one unit to another depending on the number of its constituents unit or members, the number of competitions organised and the general running and organisation of the unit. While competitions and administration may run smoothly and efficiently from one year to the next, every unit should examine its particular situation on a regular basis and questions such as the following should be addressed:

- How effective is the unit?
- Does it have regular meetings?
- Does it need to revise its structures to deal capably with youth, development, coaching, schools and finance as well as administration?
- Can the competition structure be improved?
- Does it have a youth and juvenile development policy?
- Does it relate to and communicate with the local GAA units?

These and many other questions should be part of an annual review of any unit and similar questions must also be addressed by the Ard Chomhairle with regard to its own responsibilities at central level.

COMPUTER

The purchase of a computer for Central Office during the year has been of tremendous benefit. In addition to facilitating the issue of standard letters and application forms from one year to the next, it means that we now have the capacity to build up a database on handball. This will be particularly useful for the compilation of records and the production of information for publicity purposes, including programmes for our championships.

PLAYERS' INJURY SCHEME

A matter of concern to many players and officials is the lack of a national players' injury scheme for Handball. Such a scheme was on offer to handball units a number of years ago but it was not taken up. However, in view of the fact that injuries – although minimal – can occur in handball, the question of providing a players' injury scheme should be examined by the Handball Council with a view to discussing this issue with Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and having handball units included in the GAA Players' Injury Scheme.

We owe it to our players to ensure that such cover is available in the case of injury and this would be a reassurance to themselves and their families. Indeed, it would relieve clubs of a possible financial burden should any serious playing injuries occur.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR HANDBALL

In addition to a national coaching plan, there is an urgent need for a general development plan for handball so as to benefit from the huge investment in physical facilities during the past twenty years.

Such a general development plan for any unit must include the following:

- the introduction and development of new members and officers;
- the proper functioning of the unit within the full administrative requirements;
- the development of a structure capable of servicing the needs of its members and constituent units;
- the organisation of coaching and games programmes;
- making the court/s accessible and available for people's use;
- presentation of games to be of the highest standard;
- publicity for the unit's activities;
- liaison and co-operation with the GAA;
- liaison with and development of the game in local schools;
- the generation of finance to fund the unit's activities.

A basic requirement is that the club facilities themselves are maintained to standards consistent with – and even beyond – the expectations of participants in any indoor sport. Some playing facilities need to be developed further to reach satisfactory standards.

There is no doubt but that even modest development by any unit will generate great enthusiasm among workers and members generally and that it will enhance the goodwill of the community towards the game; with a higher profile, the efforts of any unit to improve its activities will be well rewarded in terms of its role in the community and the returns from the increased activity.

COMHAIRLE NA mBAN

Comhairle na mBan reported a successful year, completing their usual 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 All-Ireland Championships. The ladies took a significant initiative in organising a new mixed juvenile competition, sponsored by Gael-Linn, in which 16 teams took part. Bhí an lá iontach ag na Clubanna a ghlac páirt ann agus tá an colúntacht ann go mbeidh i bhfad níos mó comórtasáí mar sin againn as seo amach, agus níos mó clubanna páirteach iontu.

There are presently a number of matters of concern to Comhairle na mBan:

- the relatively small number of affiliated clubs;
- the need for more people – male and female – to become involved in administration;
- the lack of a provincial structure;
- the necessity for an overall promotional and development plan for ladies handball.

The work of the Ladies Council could be helped greatly if clubs took the initiative in promoting the game for young girls and in providing coaching and juvenile training. Each County Handball Committee should review the situation in its own county and take positive steps to encourage and promote ladies handball as an ideal recreation and social outlet. This would also have advantages for the future of any club or county where ladies handball is played.

Brídín Uí Mhaolagáin has given long and unstinting service to Comhairle na mBan and we wish her well as she retires her position as Uachtarán. Gabhaimid buíochas di as ucht gach a rinne sí chun liathróid láimhe do na mná a fhosbairt agus a cagrú. Cuirimid fíor-fáilte roimh Áine Uí Neachtain chuig an tUachtarántacht agus tá súil againn go mbeidh tréimhse fiúntach aici sa phost.

HARDBALL

As in 1989, it was again unfortunate that the Hardball Championships could not be held during the normal summer period, this time due to the shortage of hardballs. However, the Championships were run off quickly and smoothly despite the dual involvement of some players in both singles and doubles until the final stages of the competitions.

There were many excellent games of hardball at Minor, Junior and Senior levels and a number of contests were particularly well contested. It is encouraging to note that some of the hardball strongholds continue to produce young players. However, I feel many more players might enter the Minor competitions but for the distances involved in some of the fixtures. It may be opportune to review the nature of the hardball championships and of the Minor hardball championships in particular having regard to the number of games which a player can expect and also to venues and distances involved.

I would make a suggestion that two or three tournaments be organised for players in the different grades and appeal to clubs to consider this seriously and to take the initiative this year in the interest in maintaining and developing the traditional game of hardball. In last year's report, it was suggested that each county should consider its own position with regard to hardball: firstly, how many counties during the last ten years had made any effort to promote hardball and, secondly, how many counties had actually organised their own County Hardball Championships?

If counties, particularly those in which hardball has been tradi-

tionally played, have not examined their own situation, those interested in the game should take steps to see that this is done; otherwise the future of the code cannot be guaranteed indefinitely.

HANDBALL AND CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

Since 1970, over 80 GAA Clubs have included modern handball courts in their social centres and many of these have flourishing handball sections. Some of the courts which have been built are rarely — if ever — used for handball and this is a matter which handball and GAA County Committees might examine with a view to promoting the playing of handball at least for the six months of the year when outdoor games cannot be played at night. Handball would be an ideal way for hurlers and footballers to keep fit during the winter months as clubs which have taken part in GAA handball leagues in a couple of counties can testify.

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann acknowledges and is grateful for the financial and administrative assistance provided by most GAA County Committees for their Handball Committees. This support is vital for the administration of the game but if any development, particularly at juvenile and primary school level, is to take place, a great deal of additional finance is required as handball is a player's rather than a spectator sport with very small income from games. It is largely dependent on the goodwill and generosity of the parent body at each level for the necessary financial support and the Council is confident that that support will be forthcoming provided that handball units put forward plans deserving of that support.

Many handball units have operated in the past — and continue to do so — in isolation from the mainstream of GAA activity. This must be corrected; attitudes will have to change in both areas; in handball, to become more closely involved in the GAA structure and in the GAA to encourage and support this. The efforts of handball units which already work on this basis have been reciprocated by the Association but much more needs to be done to foster and develop positive and healthy co-operation and trust.

Handball units at all levels from club to national must exercise their representation on the various GAA units and be prepared to be interested and involved in GAA matters in general rather than make token appearances at meetings at certain times of the year. The GAA welcomes such a role for handball and as better relationships and understanding are developed, so too will benefits accrue to both parties for the greater common good.



John Kirby concentrates totally on the ball.

By mhaith le
Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann
buíochas a ghabháil le
COSPÓIR
as ucht deontasaí a chur ar fáil
d'ár gcluiche.

FINANCE

Although there are many plans and programmes which the Handball Council wishes to implement, the lack of finance is a major problem. Indeed, the sheer size of the Handball Council's debt is a major disincentive to people to become involved at the top level of the organisation as they feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the debt in relation to the Council's ability to significantly reduce the overdraft in the short-term and to clear it in the medium term.

This matter has been the subject of a report to Cumann Lúthchleas Gael in which the Handball Council has outlined the need for major financial assistance from our parent body in order to manage the debt and introduce a major promotional, coaching and development programme.

Through Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann's meticulous planning over the years in building a huge network of first-class facilities, organising coaching and development courses and contributing to the international dimension, handball is well placed to consolidate and expand its present strong position throughout the country.

The Handball Council believes that the investment required for a promotional, coaching and development programme to increase playing and general memberships and to improve playing standards is very modest in relation to (a) the investment in handball in the past and (b) the potential to enhance handball as a national sport in Ireland and maintain our standing in international handball affairs.

If handball is to grow and develop properly, major funding is required.

- (i) to increase the efficiency of Club administration,
- (ii) to maintain existing Club premises,
- (iii) to optimise the use of our courts and,
- (iv) to embark on a schools promotional drive which would provide a supply of players for Clubs.

As handball is a player's game rather than a spectator sport, it generates little income. Of necessity, handball units are dependent on Cumann Lúthchleas Gael to a great extent; but we must also generate finance for our activities.

The Patrons Scheme can generate a reasonable amount of income over a three-year period, particularly with the proposed revision of the scheme and a greater commitment from county and provincial units, most of which were involved in their own fundraising schemes in 1990.

COSPÓIR

Without the major grant-aid from COSPÓIR, it would be much more difficult to carry out the work of the Handball Council. We greatly appreciate the generous financial assistance and, also, the grant-aid towards the cost of participating in international events.

Considering the status of Irish handball in the international arena and the profile of our game in Ireland, it is a very reasonable expectation that handball players will receive substantially more in 1991 than the £1,000 allocated to Michael Walsh under the 1990 Cospóir Scheme of Grants for Outstanding Sportspersons.

SPONSORSHIP

The Handball Council is grateful for the sponsorship by Coca-Cola of the 60 x 30 Senior Championships from 1974 to 1990.

We very much appreciate the interest of Coca-Cola in this regard and thank Mr. John O'Connell, Managing Director, and Mr. Jim Whelan, Public Relations Manager of Coca-Cola in

Ireland for their very valuable advice and assistance over a long number of years.

The Council is also grateful to the Bank of Ireland, to Coopers Pitman Moore Ltd., to Specialised Rubber Components Ltd. and to J. H. McLoughlin & Co. Oil Distributors, Droichead Nua, for their generous financial assistance towards the cost of participating in the World Handball Championships.

O'Neill's Irish International Sportsgoods Ltd. have always supplied very attractive playing attire for the Irish teams for international competition. The tracksuits and shirts are both prized possessions and very valuable items in exchanging playing attire with players from other countries. We extend the sincere thanks of the players and the Council to Mr. Paul O'Neill, Managing Director, Mr. Joe Edge, Marketing Director, and Mr. Tony Towell, Production Manager, for their co-operation and assistance in providing the attire for the official team.



Tom Sheridan (left), Joey Maher and James McGovern look on as Lorcan O'Ruairc accepts a World Championship sponsorship cheque from Coopers-Pitman Moore Ltd.

COMMUNICATIONS/LITERATURE

A number of queries to Central Office regarding national events and fixtures seem to suggest that information about our games and our organisation is not as widely available as it should be at club level — and even at county level. General information is circulated to counties and provinces, almost on a weekly basis, but there is need for wider dissemination of much of that information to players and clubs. This would establish and maintain good communication links throughout the organisation and it was the intention that the publication of a **national handball magazine** would achieve this purpose. This has not yet been done but this void will be filled in the near future and I hope that the publication will receive the support of all units, both in terms of contributions for publication and also in purchases of the magazine.

The Bank of Ireland has generously provided sponsorship for the publication of a **handball promotional leaflet** aimed at young people in particular. This will be an attractive publication which will be of great assistance to clubs in promoting their own clubs and facilities and in attracting new members.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY

Publicity — or the lack of it — is probably the most critical factor in public relations in the broadest sense. The public perception of the game of handball and its constituent units will depend largely and, in most cases, almost entirely on the publicity for the game and for its various units. The level and quality

of publicity generated depends greatly on the inputs of various people together with the support and interest of the various media personnel. Our inputs must be regular, planned and co-ordinated. Information must be presented in a precise and attractive format. We must appreciate the workings of the various media and the constraints under which sports reporters and sports editors operate.

With these points in mind, An Coiste Forbartha has designed a one-day public relations course which is available to all units of the organisation. The course is ideally suited to any person already involved or thinking of becoming involved in publicity or public relations. It covers the essentials of communications and combines the theory of public relations with practical sessions. The main areas covered are:

- The definition of public relations
- Public relations methods
- Types of media
- Structure of a Press Conference/Press Release
- Importance of personal contact, PRO skills and resources.

This course can be provided for any unit on request to An Coiste Forbartha.

During the past year, many people have commented on improvements with regard to publicity for our national fixtures, while others have complained of the lack of publicity. I think it is fair to say that both points of view are correct: there has been increased coverage of our game by some of the national media. However, it must also be pointed out that our main fixtures, particularly the All-Ireland final programmes which coincide with the All-Ireland Hurling and Football final weekends, do not in any sense get the recognition or coverage that they deserve as national finals of our only indoor Gaelic sport.

We must address this problem and seek ways in which our national finals can get reasonable and proper coverage. It is very unsatisfactory and disappointing when, even with reporters in attendance, there were no reports of the games in the national daily papers.

I wish to sincerely thank the reporters who did cover our games in any way on radio, TV or in the print media.

It is a difficult task to achieve the coverage we would wish to have and we must work at this through better presentation of our games by providing adequate information for the reporters and by personal contact with the media.

I wish to congratulate and compliment all of those units and personnel who avail of the opportunities afforded by the local radio and provincial papers to promote and publicise our game. These are very accessible media and have given tremendous

coverage to events at local level. I also wish to acknowledge the coverage provided by local radio stations for our national championships and international trials as well as their extensive coverage of the recent World Championships.

In the context of reportage of the World Championships, I feel that it is important to say that there were many and varying opinions on the extent of the coverage of the Championships. Having reviewed the various newspaper reports and read the transcripts of the radio coverage of the events, it appears that there was a reasonable amount of coverage for our players. This contrasts very sharply with the fact that the World Handball Championships did not command any space at all in the Phoenix newspapers until the second last day of the Championships — and even then it was minimal.

I think it is worth pointing out that while some people were disappointed with the amount of coverage, especially for some individual players, others felt that it was the best national coverage for any handball event held outside Ireland.

PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe and Cumann Lúthchleas Gael combined to mark the retirement of Seosamh Ó Loinsigh as Riarthóir Náisiúnta with a presentation function and the Council also marked his retirement as President of the World Handball Council in a fitting manner in Phoenix before the conclusion of the World Championships.

We thank Joe for his immense contribution to the development of handball both in Ireland and at world level and wish him a long and happy retirement with his wife and family.

Congratulations to Michael O'Brien from the Silvermines club in Tipperary on becoming the second recipient of the **Annual CIBA-GEIGY Handball Clubman of the Year Award**. Michael has served his club, North Tipperary and his county with honour and distinction for a long number of years. Indeed the many county, provincial and, of late, All-Ireland successes achieved by his club are a tribute to his interest in and commitment to the development of the game at club level.

Pat Ryan from the Garryhill Club in Carlow, Secretary of the County Handball Committee, who won the first CIBA-GEIGY Handball Award in 1989 added to that success in 1990 when he received the **Carlow and Leinster GAA Clubman of the Year Awards**. This honour was most deserved by Pat who has given outstanding service to his club and county and is very fitting recognition of his achievements by his county and provincial GAA units. We acknowledge and thank CIBA-GEIGY and its Managing Director, Mr. Dick Hickey, for their interest in the development of the Clubman of the Year Scheme which is an excellent opportunity of giving recognition to a club member in a very special way.

Michael "Duxie" Walsh was the recipient of the **Annual B+I Handball Award** which he fully deserved on the basis of his four senior titles in 1989 together with his commitment and dedication to training and improving his game.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The level of social activities provided by any unit or organisation is a definite measure and benchmark in how that organisation regards its members and in this regard, congratulations are due to those provinces, counties and clubs which have annual presentation functions and other social occasions. Such events are a tribute to the dedication of players and officials and also provide an occasion for their families to take part in another side of handball. Many of these functions are of the highest stan-



Seosamh Ó Loinsigh addresses the audience at the pre-World Championship press conference.



Minister for Agriculture, Michael O'Kennedy (centre) with Handball Clubman of the Year winner, Michael O'Brien, of Silvermines Handball Club (left) and Munster G.A.A. Clubman, Ger Gavin of Éire Óg, Nenagh, at the CIBA-GEIGY Clubman of the Year Awards.

dard and celebrate achievements in fine style. They are an indication that units are proud of their own organisation, and celebrate their achievements. Let us hope that in the future every unit will aspire to organising such an occasion for its members.

The Ard Chomhairle discussed the possibility of holding such a function at national level and there was a consensus that such an event might not get the support it would deserve. I feel, however, that the idea should be examined further and that counties should be asked to indicate their support for such an undertaking. We have much to celebrate, much to be proud of, and I feel that we should do so in a manner commensurate with the status of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann as the national body promoting the national and Gaelic sport of handball.

CEANNÁRAS LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE

While a number of the main difficulties which arose in the late 1980s with regard to Ceannáras Liathróid Láimhe have been resolved, much remains to be done to increase membership and to continue with a social programme of events to cater for the needs of members and to generate the income necessary to run the Centre and move into a profit situation in the near future.

It must be acknowledged that the difficulties of recent years led to a fall-off in membership and the consequent loss of income for the Centre. In addition, there have been increased overheads which have taken from the profit potential of the Centre for the Irish Handball Council. However, in recent months the trends both in membership and income have been encouraging and the Ceannáras Management Committee with the support of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann is examining ways to increase the usage and quality of the Centre.

I wish to thank our Bar Manager, Michael Treacy, on his dedication and service to the Ceannáras Club. He has carried out his duties in a very efficient way in a post which is not without its difficult moments.

On behalf of all who use the Centre and of those who attend for games, I wish to thank Caretaker, Richard McMullen, on his long and dedicated service to the Handball Centre and to members generally.

We also thank the casual helpers whose assistance and contributions are very much appreciated and valued. Ciarán Ó Corra, Rúnaí, Coiste Bainistí Ceannáras, has shown tremendous dedication to his role and on behalf of Ard Chomhairle, we thank him sincerely for doing so.

SYMPATHY

Many players, officials and supporters of handball suffered bereavements during the year and we extend to them the sympathy of all. A number of former players and handball officials, as well as GAA officials who were very supportive of our game, went to their eternal reward. May they all rest in peace. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas síoraí dóibh agus i measc na naomh agus na n-aingeal go rabhadar uilig.



James Kennedy with Dominic Di Sebastiano before their 23-and-Under quarter-final in the world championships.

BUÍOCHAS

Ba mhaith le Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann buíochas a ghabháil le hArd-Chomhairle agus le Coiste Bainistí Cumann Lúthchleas Gael as uch a dtacaíocht do liathróid láimhe. Gabhaimid buíochas speisialta le Seán Ó Dubhlainn, Uachtarán C.L.G. as ucht a chabhair le linn a thréimhse mar Uachtarán. Cuirimid fíor-fáilte roimh Peadar Ó Cuinn agus táimid cinnte go mbeidh tréimhse ana thorthúil aige ó 1991 go 1994. Ár mbuíochas, freisin, do Liam Ó Maolmhichíl, Ard-Stiúrthóir as ucht an chabhair agus an chomhairle a thug sé dúinn i rith na bliana.

I wish to thank the GAA staff for their advice and support in many ways during the year. In particular, Robert Allen and Muireann Ní Mhainín who meet people as they come to Áras Daimhín have been most helpful and Cáit Ní Shlataire dealt with handball matters during holidays.

We also wish to thank all GAA units and personnel who assist in any way with handball at club and other levels. Without their help and support, handball members would have a much more difficult task in promoting and administering the game. We look forward to building on the existing goodwill and co-operation in the interests of developing handball to its rightful place in Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

Our thanks are due to all those who help to administer handball affairs at various levels of the organisation. Without the dedication and commitment of so many voluntary officials, it would be impossible to carry out our extensive fixtures schedule from county to national level.

Thanks also to the members of all our Central Committees for their attendance at and contributions to meetings and for their advice and assistance in many other ways. I wish to thank our Uachtarán, Néill Ó Cathail, for his help and guidance throughout the year; he has always been available for advice and discussion and this is greatly appreciated.

Special tribute is also due to Tomás Breathnach, Cisteoir, on carrying out his duties so well and it is a matter of great regret that for medical reasons he has to take a break — hopefully temporary — from handball affairs. Players, referees and

coaches have been referred to earlier in this report and I again express our gratitude to them for their help and co-operation. Áine Ní Reideacáin joined the staff in May 1990. She has already made a very valuable contribution to the organisation and I thank her for her work and compliment her on her attitude to working for Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann.

I hope the service provided by central office has been reasonable during the past year and that together with players and officials we can develop and improve our contribution towards handball and our organisation. I believe that any difference of opinion or temporary difficulties which have occurred were in the interest of handball and that they take second place to the game.

THE FUTURE — AG FÉACHAINT ROMHAINN

A number of points have been made in this report regarding the needs of handball, among them the following:

- (a) good administration;
- (b) development of personnel;
- (c) better communications;
- (d) maintenance and development of facilities;
- (e) shorter championship schedules;
- (f) excellent presentation of our games;
- (g) more tournaments for average and weaker players;

- (h) improved structures and competitions in the education sector;
- (i) coaching programmes at all levels;
- (j) juvenile development;
- (k) production of literature;
- (l) provision of social activities.

The lack of finance must not deter anybody or any unit from working to develop/improve in at least some of these areas. People — players and spectators alike — who appreciate the intrinsic and natural benefits and value of handball will not be put off in this way. Handball is an ancient game, an Irish game and, in the twentieth century, an international game brought to the world stage by Irish emigrants and developed largely by Irish initiatives to its present structured state at World Council level.

Michael Cusack played handball for many years before he founded the GAA. Dr. Croke wrote about it in his inspiring letter of 18 Nollaig 1884 in which he encouraged the promotion and preservation of our national pastimes. Thousands of Irish have played the game at gable-ends, at crossroads, in one, two, three and four-walled alleys and, today, in modern covered courts with ancillary facilities only dreamed about a generation ago.

The time is right to move forward to use our facilities well, to work towards the staging of the Eighth World Handball Championships in Ireland and then to look forward to the 75th anniversary of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann in 1999 and be ready to take on the challenges which face us and to avail of the opportunities which will present themselves to us in the next Millennium.



Among the Ulster people at the presentation function for Seosamh Ó Loinsigh, Iar Riathóir, were Kit and Philomena Finnegan (An Cabhán), Ciarán Corr (Muineacháin), Mrs. McEntee, Seosamh Ó Loinsigh, Jim McGovern (Kingscourt) and Seán McEntee, Jim McCullagh and Robert Maguire (Aontroim).

NA RÚIN

INTERNATIONAL

1. That Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann send an observer to the 1992 Olympic Games (where racquetball is a demonstration sport) in furtherance of our objective of making four-walled handball an Olympic sport.
(*Áth Cliath*)
2. That in future International Trials, no player be requested or expected to play more than one match on any one day.
(*Ceatharlach*)
3. That Fo-Riail 34(f) be deleted.
(*An Clár*)

GRADING

4. That Fo-Riail 47(g) be amended as follows:
 - (i) Over 50 Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles confined to players over 50 years of age on 1st January of the year of the competition who have won either Junior, Senior, Masters, Over 45 or Golden Masters in 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.
 - (ii) Over 50 Softball and 40 x 20 Singles and Doubles confined to players over 50 years of age on 1st January of the year of the competition who have never won either Junior, Senior, Masters, Over 45 or Golden Masters in 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.
(*An Mhí*)
5. That Fo-Riail 50(a) be amended to read "There shall be separate gradings for all Softball, Hardball, and 40 x 20 Championships other than the Championships arising from Fo-Rialacha 47(f)(ii) and 47(f)(iv).
(*An Clár*)
6. That Fo-Riail 47(f)(i) and Fo-Riail 47(f)(ii) be amended to read as follows:
 - (i) Confined to players over 40 years of age who have won Junior, Senior or Masters All-Ireland Titles.
 - (ii) Confined to players over 40 years of age who have never won either Junior, Senior or Masters All-Ireland Titles.
(*Tiobraid Árann*)
7. That Fo-Riail 47(f)(i) be amended to read "Open to players over 40 years of age on 1st January of the year of the Championship".
(*An Clár*)
8. That Fo-Riail 47(f)(ii) be amended to read "Confined to players over 40 years of age on the 1st January of the year of the Championship who have never won either Junior or Senior All-Ireland Championships in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20". Fo-Riail to be amended accordingly.
(*An Clár*)
9. That Fo-Riail 47(f)(iii) be amended to read "Open to players over 45 years of age on the 1st January of the year of the Championship".
(*An Clár*)
10. That Fo-Riail 49(a) (i) and (ii) be amended as follows:
 - (i) A Novice shall not have won an All-Ireland Novice, U21, Minor, Junior or Senior Championship in 40 x 20.

- (ii) A Novice shall not have won an All-Ireland Novice, U21, Minor, Junior or Senior Championship in 60 x 30.

(*Tiobraid Árann*)

11. That a working party be set up to examine how an alternate form of grading might enhance our game and provide more competition, particularly in the senior grade.
(*Áth Cliath*)

CHAMPIONSHIPS

12. That the format of the 60 x 30 Senior Singles and Doubles Championships be referred to Ard Chomhairle for examination.
(*Cabhán*)
13. That Ard Chomhairle examine the current structure of the All-Ireland 40 x 20 Senior and Junior Championships with a view to implementing change for the 1992 championships.
(*Aontroim*)
14. That the National League in the 60 x 30 Court be reintroduced to the Handball programme, with teams to consist of one pair of Novice players and two pairs of Junior players or players who have not won a Senior All-Ireland Title in 40 x 20 or 60 x 30 or, alternatively, that teams consist of four Novice players and two Juniors or players who have not won a Senior title.
(*Ceatharlach*)
15. That the following Section be added to Fo-Riail 51:
 - (c) That neutral venues be fixed where possible for All-Ireland Semi-finals and Finals in 40 x 20, 60 x 30 Championships and Inter-Club Championships.
(*Tiobraid Árann*)

RECOMMENDATIONS

TRIALS, CHAMPIONSHIPS

16. That the 60 x 30 Juvenile All-Ireland Semi-finals and Finals be played before the Trials for the U.S.H.A. Junior Championships, possibly on September 21st and 28th with U.S.H.A. Trials on October 12th which would allow two weeks for players involved in the All-Ireland 60 x 30 series to prepare for the 40 x 20 Trials. Ref Fo-Rialacha 47(h) and 55 and Fixture List for 1991.
(*Cill Chainnigh*)
17. That the present system of trials as a means of selecting international players be replaced with a ranking procedure derived from players' performances in designated tournaments.
(*Aontroim*)
18. That the present structure of the Senior and Junior All-Ireland 40 x 20 championships be changed as follows:
 - (a) The Provincial Championships remain unchanged.
 - (b) The 40 x 20 Senior and Junior Championships be run as follows:
 - (i) There is to be an open entry.
 - (ii) Seeding is to be done on the basis of results from the Provincial Championships.
 - (iii) Preliminary rounds to be played separately.

Na Rúin (ar lean)

- (iv) For the Championship proper, players would be asked to play two matches over a weekend.
- (v) The semi-finals and finals would be held over the same weekend.
- (vi) Consider the possibility of introducing an 11-point tie-breaker.

(Aontroim)

19. That the structure and format of the 40 x 20 Inter-Club championships be reviewed with a view to achieving greater participation.

(Aontroim)

20. That An Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann institute 40 x 20 Inter-Provincial Championships to take place and from season 1991/92 as follows:

- (a) Categories to be Novice, Under 23, Junior and Senior levels.
- (b) Each team has four players, two singles and one doubles.
- (c) Each singles player plays two games of 21 aces, doubles players to play three games of 21 aces).
- (d) Winners are decided by aggregate points.
- (e) The four Provinces are brought together and matches are played on a Round Robin basis over one weekend. Winners are decided on aggregate points scores as in the present Club Championships.

(Aontroim)

21. That four new 40 x 20 championships be instituted, one in each Province, to be known as the Provincial Open Championship. Details on player categories to be worked out by Ard Chomhairle.

(Aontroim)

Special thanks to the following sponsors of Irish Handball events:

- **BANK OF IRELAND**
- **COCA COLA LTD.**
- **COOPERS PITMAN MOORE LTD.**
- **GERRY MAC CORMAC, SRC**
- **J. H. McLOUGHLIN LTD.**
- **O'NEILLS SPORTSGOODS LTD.**
- **MICHAEL TYRRELL –
TREATY ELECTRICAL LTD.**

ALL-IRELAND HANDBALL CHAMPIONS — 1990

BUAITEOIRÍ 60 x 30

Coca-Cola S.S.	Micheál Breathnach	Cill Chainnigh
Coca-Cola S.D.	Micheál Breathnach, Eoin Ó Dúnaigh	Cill Chainnigh
J.S.S.	Roibeárd Mac Cárthaigh	An Iarmhí
J.S.D.	Pádraig Ó Caollaí, Liam Ó Maoláin	Uibh Fáilí
M.S.S.	Tomás Ó hÉidhin	Loch Garman
M.S.D.	Aodán agus Ciarán Ó hÉanacháin	Roscomáin
N.S.S.	Séamus Ó Conchubhair	Loch Garman
N.S.D.	Pádraig agus Antóin Ó Flatharta	Tiobraid Árann
Under-21 S.S.	Seosamh Ó Duibhir	Tiobraid Árann
Under-21 S.D.	Dáithí Mac Eochaidh, Seosamh Ó Loinsigh	An Mhí
Mas A S.S.	Eamon Ó Bogaigh	Loch Garman
Mas S.S.D.	Liam de Róiste, Maitiú Ó Coda	Muigheo
Sil Mas A S.S.	Seán de Brún	Cill Dara
Sil Mas A S.D.	Liam agus Níoclás Ó Céirín	Ciarraí
Sil Mas B S.S.	Lionard Ó hEabháin	Baile Átha Cliath
Sil Mas B S.D.	Dónal de Buitléir, Tomás Ó Slatara	Tiobraid Árann
Golden Mas S.S.	Deaglán Ó Maolchathaigh	Port Láirge
Golden Mas S.D.	Deaglán Ó Maolchathaigh, Seán Ó Cadhla	Port Láirge

HARDBALL

S.H.S.	Tomás Ó Ruairc	Cill Dara
S.H.D.	Tomás Ó Ruairc, Micheál Ó Dúllaing	Cill Dara
J.H.S.	Egin Jensen	An Mhí
J.H.D.	Egin Jensen, Daithí Mac Eochaidh	An Mhí
M.H.S.	Graham Ó Briain	Cill Chainnigh
M.H.D.	Daithí Ó Maolomhnaigh, Nollaig Marascal	Tiobraid Árann

BUAITEOIRÍ 40 x 20

S.S.	Micheál Breathnach	Cill Chainnigh
S.D.	Tomás Ó Sioradáin, Séamus Mac Samhráin	An Mhí
J.S.	Donncha S. Ó Ciardha	Cill Chainnigh
J.D.	Eamon Ó Corbáin, Seán Ó Donnchú	Tiobraid Árann
M.S.	Pól Breathnach	An Clár
M.D.	Daithí Mac Caonraí, Séamus Caomhánach	Ceatharlach
N.S.	Seosamh Mac Alastair	Aontroim
N.D.	Gearóid Ó Móráin, Séamus Ó Laoire	London
Under-21 S.	Stiofáin Palmer	Coreaigh
Under-21 D.	Daithí Mac Eochaidh, Seosamh Ó Loinsigh	An Mhí
Mas A S.	Eoin Ó Cinnéide	Baile Átha Cliath
Mas A D.	Seán Ó Ciarba, Críostóir Ó Míocháin	An Clár
Mas B S.	Séamus Ó Riain	Tiobraid Árann
Mas B D.	Liam de Róiste, Maitiú Ó Coda	Muigheo
Sil Mas A S.	Aodh Ó Duibh	Tír Eoghain
Sil Mas A D.	Pádraig Ó Riain, Seosamh Ó Meiscill	Baile Átha Cliath
Sil Mas B S.	Daithí Ó hAonasa	Cill Chainnigh
Sil Mas B D.	Daithí Ó hAonasa, Séamus Ó Néill	Cill Chainnigh
Golden Mas S.	Pádraig Ó Caoimh	Cill Chainnigh
Golden Mas D.	Pádraig Ó Caoimh, Eamon Ó Laocha	Cill Chainnigh

ÓGÁNAIGH — BUAITEOIRÍ 60 x 30

Faoi 14S	Brian Ó Grianáin	Uibh Fáilí
Faoi 14D	Micheál Mac Héil, Marc Ó Ceallaigh	Roscomáin
Faoi 15S	Duain Mac Leigéid	An Cabhán
Faoi 15D	Pádraig Ó Maolchluiche, Risteárd Ó Dulaing	Uibh Fáilí
Faoi 16S	Tomás Ó Conchúir	An Mhí
Faoi 16D	Conchúr Ó Briain, Brian Ó Dochartaigh	Uibh Fáilí
Faoi 17S	Seán Mac Amhlaidh	An Lú
Faoi 17D	Seán Ó Corbáin, P. S. Mac Groighair	Tiobraid Árann

ÓGÁNAIGH — BUAITEOIRÍ 40 x 20

Faoi 14S	Lorcán Ó Mocháin	Roscomáin
Faoi 14D	Micheál Mac Héil, Marc Ó Ceallaigh	Roscomáin
Faoi 15S	Treibheir Mac an Gheimhridh	Cill Dara
Faoi 15D	Pádraig Ó Maolchluiche, Risteárd Ó Dulaing	Uibh Fáilí
Faoi 16S	Ciarán Ó Corráin	Tír Eoghain
Faoi 16D	Micheál Ó Fionnagáin, Réamoinn Mac Cuinneagáin	An Cabhán
Faoi 17S	Réamoinn Mac Cathail	An Iarmhí
Faoi 17D	Breandán Ó Cuilleánáin, Brian Ó Fiachra	An Clár

OLLSCOILEANNA

Championship: U.C.D.: Feargal Mac Cochláin, Feargal Ó Macháin, Séamus Ó Ciardha, Seán Ó Cuinneagáin, Marcus Ó Conchubhair, Donncha Ó Cinnéide.
Open Singles: Ualtar Ó Conchubhair, Dame Street College.

ARD OIDEACHAIS

Championship: Bolton Street: Pilib Ó Ceallaigh, Seosamh Ó Leathlobhair, Micheál Ó Riain, Tomás Ó Cadáin.

FÉILE NA nGAEL

60 x 30 Court

Roinn 1: Kingscourt, An Cabhán

Maitiú Mac Cuinneagáin, Proinsias Ó hEogháin, Traolach Ó hEachach, Damian Mac Cuinneagáin.

Skills Test: Maitiú Mac Cuinneagáin, An Cabhán.

Roinn 2: Broadford, Luimneach

Seán de Staic, Roibeárd Ó Foghlú, Eamann Ó Seanacháin, Conchúr Mac Lannchaidh.

Skills Test: Oilibhéar Ó Riain, Ceatharlach.

40 x 20 Court

Roinn 1: Toonagh, An Clár

Adrian Ó Muineacháin, Brian Ó Mír, Néill Ó Madagáin, Pól Ó Dagnain.

Skills Test: Alan Ó hEachach, Chill Chainnigh.

Roinn 2: Dún Phádraig, An Dún

Séamus Mac Cuinneagáin, Ciarán Ó hAnnaidh, Seán Ó Torna, Antóin Ó Conchubhair.

Skills Test: Séamus Mac Cuinneagáin, An Dún.

Roinn 3: Na Gaeil, An Cabhán

Damian Ó Cianaigh, Ciarán Mac Domhnaill, Eadbhard Maitiú, Pádraig Ó Máirtín.

Skills Test: Séamus Ó Tuama, Aontroim.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

60 x 30 Court

Open: Talbot's Inch, Cill Chainnigh

Micheál Breathnach, Séamus Ó Maoildeirg, Micheál Ó Maoildeirg, Máirtín Ó Leathlobhair.

Novice: Naomh Muire, Loch Garman

Micheál Laimbeart, Tomás Ciarubháin, Pól Ó Cárthaigh, Pilib Furlong.

40 x 20 Court

Open: Naomh Pól, Aontroim

Stiofán Ó Madáin, Liam Ó Labhraí, Pádraig Ó Dufaigh, Seosamh Mac Alastair.

Novice: Na Fianna, Baile Átha Cliath

Proinsias Ó Dálaigh, Seosamh Ó Laoi, Pádraig Mac Craith, Éanna Mac Bhloscaidh.

COLÁISTÍ — BUAITEOIRÍ 60 x 30

Soisear D: Good Counsel, Ros Mhic Treoin

Cionnaith Cottrill, Dominic Mac Gearailt.

Sinsear S: Coláiste Mhuire, Baile Átha Cliath

Adrian Benson.

Sinsear D: Scoil na mBráthar, Roscomáin

Aodán agus Ciarán Ó hEineacháin.

COLÁISTÍ — BUAITEOIRÍ 40 x 20

Soisear D: An Phobalscoil, Biorra

Conchúr Ó Briain, Brian Ó Dochartaigh.

Sinsear S: Coláiste Mhuire, Baile Átha Cliath

Adrian Benson.

Sinsear D: Scoil na mBráthar, Cill Chainnigh

Seosamh Ó Dálaigh, Pól Mac Eochagáin.

GAIRM SCOILEANNA

Soisear S: Dean McGurk College

Ciarán Ó Corráin.

Soisear D: Dean McGurk College

Conal Ó Corráin, Stiofáin Mac Conmidhe.

Sinsear S: Dean McGurk College

Ciarán Ó Corráin.

Sinsear D: Cashel Vocational School

Nollaig Ó Murchú, Nollaig Marascal.

World Champions



*Walter O'Connor,
23 and Under Winner.*



*Michael Finnegan,
15 and Under Title Holder.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

19th March 1991

The President and Members of
Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na hÉireann
Cumann Luthchleas Gael

A Chairde

We have examined the records of an Chomhairle for the year ended 31st December 1990.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to IR£88,766. Expenditure came to IR£98,389, leaving an operating deficit of IR£9,623. After adjusting for Ceannaras Club Lounge Transfer IR£11,887 there was a surplus of IR£2,264.

As compared with the previous year when there was an overall surplus of IR£402 the principal variations in Income and Expenditure were as follows:

INCOME	Increase IR£	Decrease IR£
Cumann Luthchleas Gael Grants		17,000
Government Grants net	5,020	
Sponsorship and Subscriptions	3,500	
Sundry Sales	2,569	

EXPENDITURE

Competition Expenses	2,201	
International		10,244
Trophies	3,335	
Coaching, Leadership and Development		2,972
Repairs to Ceannaras	6,164	
Staff Costs	12,765	
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	3,201	
Postage and Telephone	3,262	

PATRON SCHEME

Contributions to the scheme during the year amounted to IR£3,326. After adding Bank Interest IR£287 and deducting Expenses IR£273 the balance in the fund at the end of the year was IR£12,188.

BALANCE SHEET

The Assets of an Chomhairle at 31st December 1990 including Outlay on Ceannaras IR£302,962 had a book value of IR£379,455. Liabilities at the same date including Bank Overdraft IR£150,078 came to IR£175,455. The excess of Assets over Liabilities may be summarised as follows:

Accumulated Fund	IR£191,812
Patron Scheme	12,188
	<u>204,000</u>

As in previous years, interest on bank borrowings has been avoided by arrangement with Central Council C.L.G.

STATEMENT OF SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

This statement highlights the changes that have taken place in Assets, Liabilities and Capital Items since 31st December 1989 and the resultant effect on Net Liquid Funds.

Is sinne le meas

D. O'Connor & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

*Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann
wishes to thank*

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

for funding provided under

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY SCHEME

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1990

INCOME

		1990	1989
	Schedule	IR£	IR£
County Committee and Members		6,702	5,794
Gate Receipts		5,409	3,620
Cumann Luthchleas Gael Grants	1	13,000	30,000
Government Grants Net	2	46,320	41,300
C.A.O. and College Grants		—	1,000
Sponsorship and Subscriptions		13,812	10,312
Sundry Sales		3,473	904
Other Income		50	510
		<u>88,766</u>	<u>93,440</u>

EXPENDITURE

		1990	1989
	Schedule	IR£	IR£
Competition Expenses		3,879	1,678
Over-age Competition Grants		520	520
International		1,654	11,898
Mini Handball		1,590	3,489
Juvenile		2,386	2,570
Promotional Materials		1,496	1,874
Trophies		7,526	4,191
Meetings and Officials' Travel		12,028	12,887
Administration Grants	3	2,800	2,800
Special Grant — Ulster Games		2,000	—
Coaching, Leadership and Development		4,573	7,545
Repairs to Ceannaras		6,594	430
Presentations		1,317	—
Administration and General	4	48,253	29,338
Depreciation		1,773	—
		<u>98,389</u>	<u>79,220</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		(9,623)	14,220
Provincial Councils' Computer Subsidy		—	(3,818)
Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann — Ceannaras Club Lounge Transfer		11,887	—
Court Construction Grants Allocated		—	(10,000)
Surplus for Period		<u>2,264</u>	<u>402</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1990

		1990	1989
	Schedule	IR£	IR£
Fixed Assets			
Outlay on Ceannaras		302,962	303,239
Gymnasium Equipment		4,494	5,617
Office Equipment		2,600	174
		<u>310,056</u>	<u>309,030</u>
Loan — Galway County Board		18,000	18,000
Current Assets			
Bank Balance — Patron Scheme		12,188	8,848
Stocks		7,015	8,163
C.L.G. Development Scheme		100	100
Loans to Clubs		450	450
Debtors and Prepayments		31,441	37,841
Cash on Hands		205	120
		<u>51,399</u>	<u>55,522</u>
Current Liabilities			
Court Construction Grants		2,500	10,000
Grants to underprivileged Areas		5,341	12,851
Creditors		17,536	38,647
Bank Overdraft		150,078	122,658
		<u>175,455</u>	<u>184,156</u>
Net Current Liabilities		(124,056)	(128,634)
		<u>204,000</u>	<u>198,396</u>

Represented By:

Accumulated Fund	5	191,812	189,548
Patron Scheme	6	12,188	8,848
		<u>204,000</u>	<u>198,396</u>

**STATEMENT OF SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1990**

	1990 IR£	1989 IR£
Sources of Funds		
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(9,623)	14,220
Patron Scheme Surplus	3,340	8,848
Adjustment for items not involving the Movement of Funds		
Depreciation	1,773	—
Ceannaras Club Lounge Transfer	11,887	—
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	6,400	(28,377)
(Decrease)/Increase in Creditors	(36,121)	36,264
(Increase)/Decrease in Stocks	1,148	(7,388)
	<u>(21,196)</u>	<u>23,567</u>
Uses of Funds		
Additions to Fixed Assets	2,799	174
Court Construction Grant Allocated	—	10,000
Provincial Councils' — Computer Subsidy	—	3,818
	<u>2,799</u>	<u>13,992</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Liquid Funds	<u>(23,995)</u>	<u>9,575</u>

Net Liquid Funds comprise Cash and Bank Balances less
Bank Overdraft.

AUDITORS REPORT

To the Members of Comhairle Liathróid Laimhe na hÉireann
We have prepared the foregoing Accounts and Balance Sheet
from the books and records of Comhairle Liathróid Laimhe
na hÉireann and from information supplied and we confirm
that they are correctly drawn up in accordance with such
books, records and information.

1 Gardiner Row,
Dublin 1.
19th March 1991

D. O'CONNOR & CO.
Chartered Accountants

**SCHEDULES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1990**

	1990 IR£	1989
IR£Schedule 1 Cumann Luthchleas Gael Grants		
Annual	5,000	10,000
Administrative	8,000	8,000
Restructuring	—	12,000
	<u>13,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Schedule 2 Government Grants		
Annual Grant	44,320	40,000
World Championships/International	2,000	1,800
Outstanding Sportspersons	1,000	2,250
	<u>47,320</u>	<u>44,050</u>
Less: Distributable	1,000	2,750
	<u>46,320</u>	<u>41,300</u>
Schedule 3 Provincial Council Grants		
Connacht Council	500	500
Leinster Council	500	500
Munster Council	500	500
Ulster Council	700	700
Ladies Council	600	600
	<u>2,800</u>	<u>2,800</u>
Schedule 4 Administration and General Expenses		
Staff Costs	36,493	23,728
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	4,635	1,434
Postage and Telephone	4,714	1,452
Audit and Accountancy Fees	1,500	1,375
All-Ireland Tickets	851	999
Court Development Plans	—	40
Higher Education	—	255
Miscellaneous	60	55
	<u>48,253</u>	<u>29,338</u>
Schedule 5 Accumulated Fund		
Balance at beginning of Year	189,548	189,146
Surplus for Year	2,264	402
Balance at Date	<u>191,812</u>	<u>189,548</u>
Schedule 6 Patron Scheme		
Balance at Date	8,848	—
Cumann Luthchleas Gael	—	10,000
Other Subscriptions	3,326	1,440
Deposit Interest	287	—
	<u>12,461</u>	<u>11,440</u>
Expenses	(273)	(2,592)
Balance at Date	<u>12,188</u>	<u>8,848</u>



Mr. Jim Whelan, Marketing Director, Coca-Cola Ltd., presents the 60 x 30 Singles trophy to Michael "Dixie" Walsh following his victory over Mickey Walsh.



*An annual
tribute to
Ireland's finest
hurlers and
footballers
from a bank
that appreciates
achievement
in every
field.*

