



# Comhairle LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE na hÉireann

An Chomhsháil Bhliantúil  
1998





*Peter McAuley, O'Raghallaighs Club, Louth, receives the Waterford Crystal Irish Nationals Open Singles trophy from John Foley, Director of Sales and Marketing at Waterford Crystal and Conchubhar Ó Mórdha, Uachtarán, Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann.*



*Nick Flynn, Waterford Crystal Public Relations Manager, presents the 19 and Under Irish Nationals trophy to Kenneth Kane from Garryhill Club, Carlow.*

# Tionólfar Comhdháil Bhliantúil 1998

## Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

ar AN DOMHNACH, 22 MÁRTA, ag 10.30 r.n.  
in ARAS DAIMHÍN, PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

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### CLÁR OIBRE

1. Fáiltiú
2. Adoption of Standing Orders
3. Minutes of Congress 1997
4. Report of Riarthóir Náisiúnta
5. Annual Accounts 1997
6. Oráid an Uachtaráin
7. Addresses by Guests
8. Elections — Uachtarán Tofa  
— Cisteoir  
— Teachta ar Ard Chomhairle C.L.G.
9. Motions
10. Close of Congress

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### AINMNIÚCHÁIN 1998

**Uachtarán Tofa:** Tomás Breathnach, (Cill Mhantáin, Aontroim, An Clár, Ath Cliath).  
Peadar Mac Artúir (Muigheo, Corcaigh).

**Cisteoir:** Cionnaith Ó Chonbhuí (Tiobraid Árann, Aontroim, Ceatharlach, Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe mBan, Corcaigh, Cill Mhantáin, Cill Chainnigh, Loch Garman, Ath Cliath, An Clár).

**Teachta ar Ard Chomhairle CLG:**  
Tomás Breathnach (Cill Mhantáin, Ceatharlach, Cill Chainnigh).  
Seán Mac an tSaoi (Aontroim, Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan, An Clár, Corcaigh, Tobraid Árann).

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### STANDING ORDERS

In order that the proceedings of the Congress be carried out expeditiously, the following Standing Orders will be observed:

1. The proposer of a Resolution or an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes, but not more than 5 minutes.
2. A delegate speaking to a Resolution or an Amendment must not exceed 3 minutes. A maximum of two delegates from any one county shall speak on any one motion.
3. The proposer of a Resolution or Amendment may speak a second time for 3 minutes before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the Proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move "that the question be now put", after which, when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. A speaker to the Riarthóir's report or to any other general discussion shall not exceed 3 minutes on any one topic.
7. Any motion seeking to amend a rule in Fo-Rialacha (CLLE) must have a majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.
8. Standing Orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering any matter not on the Agenda, except by the consent of a majority equal to two-thirds of those present and voting.

# Tuarascáil an Riarthóra Náisiúnta

## RÉAMHRÁ

The year under review was an extremely busy one for Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann with activities ranging from juvenile and Cumann na mBunscol promotions to World Championships in Winnipeg, Canada. All-Ireland championships were run off according to schedule, the Second European One-Wall Championships were held in Roscommon, 130 Irish players took part in the Ninth Waterford Crystal World Championships, 230 players entered the Waterford Crystal Irish Nationals and the Council prepared for the full integration of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan and Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann.

Other highlights were:

- ★ The Waterford Crystal Awards.
- ★ The publication of the second Handball Yearbook.
- ★ The continuation of the national coaching programme.
- ★ The success of Féile na nGael in Waterford.
- ★ New Senior Softball Singles and Doubles records for Kilkenny.

On the negative side, the 60 x 30 National League was cancelled due to insufficient entries; a similar decision was taken for the Senior Hardball Doubles championship, and, as in recent years, there was a poor level of entries for the Club Championships, especially in softball. There should also be more entries in the Cumann na mBunscol promotions at county level.

The poor attendances at the major finals were disappointing, while the lack of finance to implement plans and policies presents an ongoing difficulty which must be addressed.

## NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

One hundred and seventy four national competitions were held in 1997 - almost three quarters of these for males, including 40 All-Ireland championships for players in grades from Masters to Diamond Masters level. Juvenile players were well catered for as indicated in the accompanying table. The smaller number of competitions for females reflects the lower membership for ladies: there is a great need to promote and develop ladies handball which will be one of the main objectives of the organisation during the next five years.

### NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 1997

Competition	MALE		FEMALE		MIXED	Total
	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Juvenile	
60 x 30	32	8	-	9	-	49
40 x 20	32	8	7	10	-	57
Hardball	5	-	-	-	-	5
Team	6	4	-	2	-	12
Gael Linn	-	-	-	-	1	1
Féile na nGael	-	5	-	2	-	7
40 x 20 Nat.Lge	1	-	-	-	-	1
Second Level	-	8	-	6	-	14
Third Level	3	-	2	-	-	5
Irish Nationals	8	3	2	3	-	16
One-Wall	2	2	1	2	-	7
TOTAL	89	38	12	34	1	174

The amount of competitions has increased dramatically in the last ten years with the result that the fixtures programme has become very crowded from county to national level. There is very little time available to organise administration and coaching courses, both of which must be given priority by Ard Chomhairle. If we are to have any chance of improving coaching and administration standards the championship schedule will have to be re-organised to make room for various courses. While competitions are good in themselves we cannot continue to add to the number of competitions as in recent years. If we do so, there will be no time at all for courses and the game and the whole organisation would suffer greatly as a result. A notable exception should be the introduction of the Provincial Open 60 x 30 and 40 x 20 Tournaments which will undoubtedly help to make the game more attractive and demonstrate that championships for the premier grades can be run off over weekends rather than on the protracted basis in which they are carried out at present.

## SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A total of 14 counties shared the 32 Softball titles in 1997, Kilkenny and Dublin taking 6 each, 4 going to Kerry and Mayo and Wexford winning 3 titles apiece. Tipperary won two championships while a further 8 counties won a single title each.

Michael 'Duxie' Walsh of Kilkenny continued his unbeaten run winning his 13th successive Senior Softball Singles title bringing Kilkenny's total in this grade to 22 wins. He defeated his Doubles partner, Eugene Downey, 21-3, 21-7 in the final while they teamed up to defeat Egin Jensen and Tom Sheridan of Meath 21-12, 19-21, 21-8 in Doubles to set further records, their own 10th title and Kilkenny's 19th. Kilkenny took both Intermediate titles, Johnny Brennan defeating Martin Cronin of Mayo 21-10, 21-14 in Singles while Pearse O'Keeffe and Eamon Law defeated John McCormack and Martin Cronin of Mayo 21-12, 21-4 in Doubles.

### SIX TITLES FOR DUBLIN

Dublin won a total of 6 All-Ireland titles with pride of place going to Frank Daly who bridged a gap of 23 years when he defeated Martin Golden, Sligo, 21-13, 21-10 in the Junior Softball Singles final. Eugene Kennedy won Silver Masters 'A' medals in Singles and Doubles defeating Joe Kelly, Armagh, 21-12, 21-16 and teaming up with Jerry Scully to defeat Joe Kelly for the second time partnered by Mick Rafferty of Armagh 21-5, 21-9. Vinny Farrelly of Dublin also completed a notable double with a 21-12, 21-7 victory over John Kenny of Mayo in Singles and partnered John Molloy to victory over Joe Nolan and Noel Rigney, Galway, 21-9, 21-13 in the Doubles final.

Eoin Kennedy won Dublin's third Minor Softball Singles medal, the last being in 1969, when he defeated Paul Brady of Cavan 21-12, 21-15 in an excellent final.

### NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS FOR MUNSTER COUNTIES

Several Munster counties had notable achievements in Softball. Kerry's Dominic Lynch took that county's first ever Novice Softball Singles title since the championship began in 1974 with a 21-9, 21-9 win over Mayo's Tom Sweeney. This pair met again in the Doubles final partnered by Anthony Lynch



and Matt Sweeney respectively and again Kerry came out on top 21-12, 21-7. Kerry became the ninth county to win the Masters 'B' Singles title when Noel Raymond from the Glenbeigh Club took the title to the Kingdom for the first time. He achieved a similar feat in Doubles, partnering Tom Lynch, father of Dominic and Anthony, to a marvellous 20-21, 21-10, 21-19 over Mayo's John Staunton and John Granahan.

Brothers Aidan and Pat Supple from the Ballyporeen Club won a record eighth U21 Softball Doubles title for Tipperary defeating Mayo's Vincent Moran and Paul Flynn 19-21, 21-9, 21-14 in the final. Pat Gleeson won a second title for the Premier county when he defeated Frank Maughan, Roscommon, 21-20, 19-21, 21-1 in the Emerald Masters 'B' Singles event.

Clare became the seventh county to win the Golden Masters 'A' Singles Championship when Dan Kirby defeated Tom Derrig, Mayo, 14-21, 21-2, 21-19 in a thrilling encounter. Limerick became the ninth county to win the Masters 'A' Singles title when Joe Roache prevented Mickey Walsh, Roscommon, from winning his fifth successive title in this grade on a 9-21, 21-16, 21-11 scoreline.

### FIVE WINS FOR CONNACHT COUNTIES

Connacht counties won five softball titles, Mayo taking three and one each going to Sligo and Roscommon. Vincent Moran from Ballaghaderreen had a marvellous 21-18, 12-21, 21-8 win over James Doyle, Wexford, in U21 Singles to record the county's first victory in this grade, Mayo becoming the twelfth county in all to win the title since the championship began in 1967. Matt Grier from Mayo had a fine double defeating Brian Murphy Wexford, 21-18, 21-4 in Diamond Masters 'B' Singles and partnering Michael Reilly to defeat Brian Murphy and P J Whelan 21-3, 21-7 in the Doubles event. Sligo's Paddy Walsh retained his Emerald Masters 'A' Singles title in a 7-21, 21-9, 21-8 victory over his old rival Christy Lynagh of Meath. Roscommon's only Softball title went to Noel Raftery in Golden Masters 'B' Singles when he defeated Wexford's Tom Rossiter 19-21, 21-11, 21-8 in the final. Cavan's lone Softball title went to Greg Sheridan and Patsy Hand who had a 21-5, 21-8 win over Dan Kirby and Jimmy Walsh of Clare in Golden Masters 'A' Doubles to take the county's first title in this grade.

### SIGNIFICANT WINS FOR LEINSTER COUNTIES

Leinster counties had some significant wins in the All-Ireland championships. Barry Goff won his second Minor Softball Doubles title in a row this time partnering Colin Keeling over Paul Brady and James Brady of Cavan 16-21, 21-5, 21-1 winning Wexford's ninth title in this grade in the process. The Golden Masters 'B' Doubles medals went to Tom Rossiter and Pat Lacey of Wexford, the former having some compensation for his Singles defeat when they overcome Noel Raftery and Willie Mugan, Roscommon 21-18, 21-9 in the final. Wexford's third Softball title went to Sean Stafford and Patrick Moran who had a 21-18, 21-14 win over Johnny Dowd and Frank Daly, Roscommon, in Emerald Masters 'B' Doubles.

Christy Joyce and Ray Charles of Westmeath created history when they won that county's first Junior Softball Doubles since the Championship began in 1928 defeating Sligo's Martin Golden and John Lavin, 21-18, 21-9 in the final. In Masters 'A' Doubles Billy Mullins and Paddy Hope of Offaly regained the title they previously won in 1994 at the expense of Mickey Walsh and Martin Bruen, Roscommon, on a 21-19, 21-12 scoreline. Meath's Christy Lynagh and Oliver Gough retained their Emerald Masters 'A' Doubles title with a marvellous 18-21, 21-11, 21-10 win over Paddy Walsh and Michael Kelly, Sligo. Eddie Leahy, Kilkenny,

achieved a double in Diamond Masters partnering Pat O'Keeffe in Doubles but neither final against Roscommon took place due to injury.

## 40 X 20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

15 counties shared the 32 titles on offer in the 40 x 20 Championships, but victories were more evenly spread than in Softball. An extraordinary feature of the Championships was the fact that doubles were achieved in 12 of the 16 grades. Wexford, Cork and Dublin won 4 titles each, Meath took 3 while the remaining 17 titles were shared by 11 counties.

### SENIOR WINS FOR LOUTH AND MEATH

Peter McAuley from the O'Raghallaigh's Club regained the title which he first won for Louth in 1995 defeating Stevie Madden, Antrim, 21-17, 21-9 before a packed gallery at the St. Paul's Club in Belfast. This was also the venue where Tom Sheridan and Egin Jensen achieved a record seventh Senior 40 x 20 Doubles title for Meath when they defeated Paddy Crothers and John McGarry from the home county on a 21-8, 21-7 scoreline.

Cavan's Michael Finnegan achieved a notable double with an easy victory over John Ryan of Carlow in Intermediate Singles and partnered Raymond Cunningham to take the Doubles medals 21-12, 21-18 against Brendan O'Neill and Stephen Palmer of Cork.

### DOUBLES FOR MUNSTER COUNTIES

Kerry's Dominic Lynch who won a total of 4 All-Ireland titles outpointed Jim Smith, Antrim, 21-10, 20-21, 21-16 in Junior Singles to take the Kingdom's first title in this grade. He was partnered by his brother Anthony to take the county's second Junior title, the last being in 1978, defeating brothers Niall and Conor Kerr of Tyrone 21-14, 15-21, 21-7 in a marvellous final. John O' Flynn of Cork also achieved a notable double defeating Brian King, Antrim, 21-12, 15-21, 21-13 in Novice Singles. He was partnered by Denis O'Neill when they outscored Ger Walsh and Tony Hannon, Roscommon, 21-9, 21-4 in Doubles. Pat O'Brien from Cork was another player who achieved a double during the year defeating Sean McKeon, Leitrim, 21-10, 21-2 in Emerald Masters 'B' Singles and partnering Tim Healy to a 17-21, 21-3, 21-13 victory over Tom Treacy and Frank O'Toole, Mayo, in Doubles. John Kirby of Clare continued his winning ways in the overage events winning the Golden Masters 'A' Singles title at the expense of Seamus Graham, Antrim, 21-9, 21-4. He partnered Jimmy Walsh who was winning his third successive Golden Masters 'A' Doubles medal to victory over Pat Clarke and Hubert Maguire, Roscommon, 21-9, 21-17.

Waterford became the first Munster county to win the Golden Masters 'B' Doubles title when Sean O'Mahoney and Mossie Butler had a 21-13, 21-5 victory over Oliver Burke and John Burke of Galway.

### RECORD FOR MICKEY WALSH

Mickey Walsh from the St Coman's Club in Roscommon became the first player to win five successive Masters 'A' Singles titles equalling the record of five titles won by Willie Kerins, Kerry, between 1978 and 1984. The Connachtman accounted for John Rossiter, Carlow, 21-10, 21-10 in the final. Walsh also achieved the distinction of winning his third Masters 'A' Doubles title, each with a different partner, this time Martin Bruen in a 21-16, 21-8 win over Billy Mullins and Paddy Hope of Offaly who were later to turn the tables on the Roscommon in Softball. Paddy Walsh and Michael Kelly of Sligo won the Emerald

Master's 'A' Doubles medals at the expense of Oliver Gough and Christy Lynagh of Meath who would later reverse the decision in Softball, winning 21-10, 18-21, 21-13. Mick Lally from the Moycullen Club in Galway achieved his longtime ambition of winning All-Ireland honours defeating John O'Keeffe of Carlow 21-7, 21-13 in Diamond Masters 'B' Singles. He also partnered Dominic Murray to victory over Michael Hogan and Jerry O'Riordan, Tipperary, 21-9, 21-5 in Doubles.

### FINE VICTORIES FOR LEINSTER

Barry Goff and Colin Keeling who also took the Softball title to Wexford won that county's first ever Minor 40 x 20 Doubles title defeating Paul Brady and Pdraig Kiernan, Cavan, 21-14, 21-5. James Doyle of Wexford had an excellent double in the U21 grade defeating David Brennan, Roscommon, 21-18, 21-13 to take the county's first title at that level and becoming the fifteenth winner at this level since the championship began in 1980. He partnered James Bergin to a very close 21-19, 21-19 Doubles victory over Vincent Moran and Campbell Brennan, Mayo, to win Wexford's second title at this level, the first coming in 1980. Martin Buggy, Wexford, won yet another title when he defeated Nicholas Clancy, Galway, who was unfortunate to sustain an injury in the final, in Golden Masters 'A' Singles.

Kenneth Kane from Garryhill became the first Carlow player - and the fourteenth winner in all - to win the Minor Singles title with a 21-6, 21-7 win over Ricky McCann of Antrim. John Boy Molloy, Meath, had a double in Masters 'B'. P. J. Moran, Roscommon, withdrew from the Singles event because of illness and Molloy and Pat McGovern defeated Paddy Finneran and Frank Harney of Roscommon 21-6, 21-5 in Doubles. Eugene Kennedy also achieved a notable double winning the Silver Masters 'A' Singles medal, Dublin's second at this level, against Michael Raftery, Armagh, 21-6, 21-10. He partnered Jerry Scully to Dublin's third victory at this level outpointing Bert Kelehan and Morgan Darcy, Galway, 21-16, 21-13 in an excellent final. Vinnie Farrelly who won four Silver Masters titles in 1997 defeated Joe Nolan, Galway, 21-20, 10-21, 21-6 in 40 x 20 Singles to take Dublin's first medal in this grade. He and John Hoban teamed up to take Dublin's first title in Silver Masters 'B' Doubles with a 21-20, 21-12 victory over Noel Raftery and Seamus McHugh of Roscommon.

The Golden Masters 'B' Singles medal went to Pat Masterson of Offaly who had a fine 21-18, 21-9 win over Sligo's Brian Meehan, thus ensuring this championship has never gone outside Leinster counties. Eddie Leahy of Kilkenny who won four Diamond Masters medals in 1997 but only played in one final was disappointed to receive a walkover with Pat O'Keeffe in Doubles due to injury. He defeated Michael Naughton of Roscommon 21-17, 21-18 in Singles to become the first Kilkenny player and the third in all to win the Diamond Masters 'A' Singles event.

### HARDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The All-Ireland Open Hardball Championships attracted a reasonable entry apart from Senior Doubles in which there were only two entries. Consequently, that Championship was not played for the first time since the Championships began in 1926.

Three counties shared the five Hardball titles. Peter McAuley of Louth won the Senior Singles title for the sixth time bringing his total of All-Ireland Senior medals to eight, defeating neighbour Egin Jensen of Meath 21-16, 16-21, 21-8 in the final. Vincent Moran of Mayo had double success in the Junior grade winning the Singles event against Paddy Hope of Offaly 21-16, 21-11. He partnered Campbell Brennan to defeat Christy Joyce and Ray

Charles of Westmeath in Doubles 21-1, 21-13. Both Minor titles went to Carlow, Kenneth Kane winning the Singles against Paul Brady of Cavan and partnering Darren Dunphy to a 15-21, 21-9, 21-3 win over Gerry Quirke and Enda Taylor of Roscommon in Doubles. The accompanying table shows the level of entries for the Hardball Championships since 1982. One encouraging sign is that the number of young players taking part in the Minor and Junior Championships has not fallen. However, without active encouragement from Clubs players may not have the interest in the game to continue playing as there are no hardball championships apart from the national competitions. Unless the game is supported vigorously and enthusiastically at county and regional level the future of this ancient code cannot be guaranteed indefinitely. Irish handball in general owes a huge debt to the game of hardball. It would be a great pity and a tremendous loss if a serious effort were not made to promote and preserve hardball. Next year's 75th anniversary of the foundation of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann may provide an incentive and an opportunity for hardball enthusiasts to do something constructive about this.

### OPEN HARDBALL ENTRIES 1982-1997

YEAR	S.H.S.	S.H.D.	J.H.S.	J.H.D.	M.H.S.	M.H.D.	TOTAL
1982	8	8	0	9	4	4	42
1983	7	5	8	10	6	5	41
1984	7	6	6	6	4	4	33
1985	7	6	6	6	5	5	35
1986	16	10	11	12	9	4	62
1987	12	6	16	17	7	5	63
1988	13	8	14	12	4	3	54
1989	10	5	15	15	7	6	58
1990	13	7	12	10	6	6	54
1991	15	9	10	10	9	6	59
1992	17	9	23	16	10	5	80
1993	13	7	14	15	7	3	59
1994	7	5	9	6	8	6	41
1995	9	9	11	10	10	7	56
1996	7	4	17	11	9	5	53
1997	6	(2)	12	8	10	6	44

### JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIPS

As in 1996 the Juvenile Championships were shared by 9 counties, Mayo, Wexford and Kilkenny winning in both courts. The strength of handball in Ballaghaderreen Club was emphasised when their representatives won four of the eight premier All-Ireland titles at U14 and U16 levels. Joseph McCann defeated Brian Kennedy of Dublin 15-5, 10-15, 15-5 in U14 Softball Singles and partnered Andrew Moran to a thrilling 5-15, 15-13, 15-12 win over Johnny Willoughby and Anthony Sheridan of Wicklow in 40 x 20. This was Mayo's first victory in U14 40 x 20 Singles since the competition began in 1983. Declan Hough and Dessie Keegan took both U16 Doubles titles in fine style defeating David Hickey and Noel Moroney, Tipperary, in Softball 21-4, 21-6 and outscoring Damian Byrne and Brian Minogue of Kilkenny 21-10, 21-9 in 40 x 20.

### TWO WINS FOR ULSTER

Patrick Finnegan from Kingscourt had a convincing 21-13, 21-13 victory over Seamus Lawlor of Clare in U16 Softball Singles thus taking Cavan's second title at this level, the previous victor being Patrick's cousin Michael in 1991. The Tyrone pair of Shane Grogan and Ciaran McCullagh had an excellent 7-15, 15-8, 15-4 win over Shane Hickey and Kevin Kennedy of Tipperary to record the county's second successive victory in



this grade and their third in all over the past seven years.

The U14 40 x 20 Singles medal for 1997 went to Brian Kennedy, Dublin, who had a relatively easy 15-7, 15-1 win over Noel McHugh of Galway in the final. William Love from the Clogh Club won Kilkenny's fourth U16 40 x 20 Singles medal when he defeated Barry Hough of Mayo 21-15, 21-14 thus retaining the title won by Timmy Clifford in 1996.

### 5 COUNTIES SHARE U15/U17 TITLES

Five counties shared the eight U15 and U17 titles on offer with pride of place going to Terry Gainfort of Wexford who took both U15 Singles medals. He defeated Damian Finnegan of Galway 21-4, 21-3 in Softball and overcame Darren Donnelly of Armagh 21-3, 21-6 in 40 x 20 recording the county's third and fourth successes respectively in these grades. Kilkenny's Eamon Hawe and Andrew Hosey took the U15 60 x 30 Doubles medals defeating Sean Daly and Ryan Daly of Tyrone 21-14, 21-13. This was Kilkenny's fifth success in this grade thus equalling Tipperary's achievement of 5 wins. P J Hawe and David Cashin of Kilkenny created their own record by winning Kilkenny's fourth U17 Softball Doubles medals when they defeated Padraig Roache and Patrick Nealon of Mayo 21-5, 21-6 in the final. Wexford's Padraig McMahon defeated David Connaughton, Galway, 21-3, 21-12 in the U17 Softball Singles final. David McAndrew created history when he won Waterford's first ever Juvenile medal, this in U17 40 x 20 Singles against Colm Maxwell of Antrim whom he defeated 21-5, 21-9. The U17 40 x 20 Doubles title went to Leinster for the first time when James Gregan and John Farrell of Wicklow outscored Shane Traynor and Stephen Traynor of Monaghan 21-12, 21-13. David Hickey and Noel Moroney from Tipperary carved out a 21-12, 21-13 win in U15 40 x 20 Doubles against Cavan's Paul Ferguson and Danny Halligan.

### JUVENILE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Juvenile 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Team Championships continued to attract major interest. These are excellent Championships and give weaker players the opportunity to represent their county. However, this opportunity is not taken up by a number of counties. Each Provincial Council should review its own situation and encourage entries from every county in both codes. The Championships should be seen as opportunities to promote and develop Juvenile handball and to broaden the experience of the players involved. The performance of every member of the team is important and the weaker players should be encouraged by their coaches and mentors to improve their own game and to play at all times in the interest of their team.

Kilkenny had a double success winning the U12/13 Softball title with a 90-40 victory over Roscommon and recording a 90-54 win over Tyrone in U14/15 40 x 20. The U14/15 Softball medals went to Wicklow following an 81-41 victory against Roscommon. Tipperary took the U12/13 40 x 20 medals outpointing Roscommon opposition by 71-38.

### JUVENILE GIRLS

As in 1996 Roscommon players dominated the Juvenile Girls Championships winning six of the nineteen titles on offer. Carlow won three All-Irelands while Antrim took the two Minor titles in 40 x 20 with a further eight counties taking one title each. Lydia Doolan from St. Coman's Club in Roscommon took both U14 titles defeating Christina Brosnan, Kerry in 60 x 30 and Tracy Floyd of Donegal in 40 x 20. Aifric Naughton and Aileen Hunt of Roscommon defeated Danielle Connaughton and Charlene

Gibbons of Donegal in U15 Doubles while at U16 level Lorraine Noone, also of Roscommon, defeated Sinead Dawson, Antrim in the 40 x 20 Singles final. She also teamed up with Jackie Doyle to defeat Carol Meere and Maria Mulliney of Clare 15-13, 15-9 in U16 Softball Doubles. Roscommon's sixth title went to Ethna Mee and Marie Finnernan who defeated Rachel Kelly and Edel Mulgrane of Clare 21-15, 21-10 in 60 x 30 Doubles.

### DOUBLE FOR CARLOW PLAYER

Claire Kane from the Garryhill Club in Carlow won both U15 Singles titles defeating Tracy Coonan, Tipperary in 60 x 30 and Colette Healy from Antrim in 40 x 20. Frances Kane and Glenda Coburn took Carlow's third title in the U15 Softball Doubles Championship with an easy victory over Tracy Buckley and Mary Sugrue from Kerry.

### ANTRIM VICTORIOUS AT MINOR LEVEL

Fiona McKenna renewed rivalry with Anna Wrynn of Kildare and came out victorious in 40 x 20 Minor Singles on a 21-11, 21-16 scoreline. Fiona and her sister, Sibeal, defeated sisters Anna and Orla Wrynn of Kildare 21-18, 21-17 in an enthralling 40 x 20 Minor Doubles final.

Patricia Doyle and Linda Mulhall from Wicklow had a good victory over Aoife Hickey and Alma Conroy from Tipperary in U14 Softball Doubles while the U16 Softball Singles title went to Marguerite Byrne of Wexford, again over a Tipperary opponent, Una Ryan. Bernadette McCarthy took Cork's only ladies title for 1997 with a 15-5, 15-6 over Briana Hegarty of Roscommon in U17 Softball Singles. Julie Long of Dublin won another All-Ireland title, this time in Minor Softball Singles defeating Rachel Kelly from Clare. Mayo players Emer Tansey and Aoife Moloney had a good win over Nora Stapleton and Grainne Deery of Donegal in U14 40 x 20 Doubles but an Ulster girl, Roisin O'Hagan of Derry, defeated Janette Connaughton, Galway, 21-6, 19-21, 21-10 in a thrilling U17 40 x 20 Singles final. It was a very close affair in the U16 40 x 20 Doubles final where Una Wrynn and Fiona Healy took the title to Kildare with a fine 21-11, 21-20 win over Claire Broderick and Grainne O'Reilly from Antrim. Donegal players Roisin Bonner and Roisin Canning had no luck in the U17 40 x 20 Doubles final going down to Sharon Molloy and Joeline Arkins of Meath.

There is tremendous scope and opportunity to develop juvenile girls handball. The standard of play of our top girls is excellent. The performances of our underage players in the World Championships is attributable to the dedication and hard work of those involved in the promotion of ladies handball in a relatively small number of Clubs, particularly in view of the fact that ladies have not been always involved in mainstream activities.

It is in the interest of every Club and county to vigorously and actively promote ladies handball, especially at juvenile level. There is far too little competition for our juvenile girls and this is partly due to the fact that many of the Clubs in which girls are involved operate in isolation and in small numbers within their counties. There are very few county championships for girls and this is a matter which must be rectified in the very near future. It should be possible to develop inter-club competitions for girls of various age groups to give them an opportunity of developing their game. We must work earnestly towards having county and provincial championships which will underpin and support the national championships and give them a much better status. It is not possible at present to have county championships in every county but that should be our eventual aim but every province should certainly have its own championships in both codes.

Roscommon girls dominated the Juvenile Team Champion-

ships and also took the Gael Linn Mixed Doubles title. The county's team of Lorraine Noone, Jackie Doyle, Jennifer Bracken, Lydia Doolan and Aifric Naughton defeated Clare 45-23 in the 60 x 30 team event. St. Coman's A defeated St. Coman's B in a closely fought 40 x 20 final while Aifric Ni Neachtain and Damian Ó Mairtín won the Gael Linn Mixed Doubles medals.

## LADIES 40 X 20 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Berni Hennessy once again dominated the Ladies Senior 40 x 20 Championships winning the Singles title 21-15, 17-21, 21-17 in a thrilling final against Jackie Keating on the same programme as the Men's Senior Singles and Doubles finals at the Naomh Pól Club in Belfast. Jackie gained much compensation in Doubles when partnering Carol Moloney to victory against Suzanne Smyth and Liz Campbell of Antrim who later represented Ireland in the World Championships in a very close encounter 19-21, 21-18, 21-18.

In Junior Singles Cavan's Roisin Faulkner had an easy win over Sinead Cowman from Wexford. The Over 30 Singles title went to Mavis O'Toole of Dublin in a thrilling 21-10, 20-21, 21-18 victory over Mary Lindsay of Antrim. Fortunes were reversed for these ladies when Mary Lindsay was partnered by Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin to victory in the Over 30 Doubles event against Mavis O'Toole and Roscommon's Anne Naughton. Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin was also on the winner's rostrum in Over 40 Singles defeating Anne Naughton comfortably in the third game.

Unfortunately, there were no Ladies Softball Championships in 1997 due to lack of entries because of the timing of the events coming closely after the World Championships in which so many of the ladies players took part. Better programming and good advance notice of the competitions should ensure that Ladies Softball will be back on track in the coming year.

The introduction of the Provincial Tournaments which will include ladies events will give additional competition to the adult ladies as well as to girls at U17 level. The inclusion of ladies events in the tournaments as well as in the Irish Nationals will give much greater exposure to the ladies game at various locations around the country. They should help to attract new players to the game and the image, status and confidence of ladies handball should be enhanced as a result. This extra competition is badly needed particularly in the adult grades. The gap in standards between our adult ladies and their American and Canadian counterparts was strongly emphasised at the World Championships. The additional tournaments will certainly help to improve standards and with several younger ladies coming through from underage ranks the future of ladies handball in Ireland looks much brighter.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The value of the 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 Club Championships must be seriously questioned. Very few Clubs enter for the competitions at provincial level and those that do are very poorly supported. What were once worthwhile competitions seem to be very poorly regarded and their future must come under threat, particularly in view of the proposed review and re-organisation of the championship structure.

Kells once again won the Open 60 x 30 Championship with Egin Jensen, Tom Sheridan, Joe Lynch and Carl Browne defeating St. Mary's Clonmel, 84-39. The Hospital Club from Limerick won the Junior Softball title defeating Ballaghaderreen in an excellent contest 109-91. Noel Raymond teamed up with Dominic, Anthony and Tom Lynch to win the Novice Softball final for Glenbeigh in which they overcame Salthill, Galway on a 122-59 scoreline.

The Naomh Pól, Aontroim, team of Stevie Madden, Joe McAllister, Seamus Ó Tuama and Seán Devine deprived Kells of an Open double defeating the Meath Club by the narrowest of margins 91-90 in 40 x 20 to retain the title in the process. Ballaghaderreen collected the Junior 40 x 20 Club medals with a 105 to 62 win over Silvermines. The Novice title went to O'Donovan Rossa, Antrim, who defeated Newmarket-on-Fergus in the final.

## THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES

One of the most heartening aspects of handball in recent years has been the dramatic increase in the number of Colleges and individuals taking part in the Third Level Colleges championships. A very pleasing feature is that there are now two Ladies Singles competitions. With further development of ladies handball, the next logical step will be the introduction of a Doubles event eventually leading to a full team competition.

It is very noticeable that most players in the Third Level Championships have come through from Clubs and schools which have a definite youth policy. A further development at this level has been the participation of College teams and individual players in the USHA Collegiates in February, gaining very valuable experience in the process. This is to be strongly encouraged as it will certainly benefit our players through competition with their international counterparts.

## TRALEE RTC HOST CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Third Level Championships were very successfully hosted by Tralee RTC. The DIT team of Shane Dormer, Paul Brady, Frank Semple and Padraig Gaffney won the 'A' Team Championship for the first time defeating UCC 117-116 in a nail-biting final in which DIT had to come from behind to clinch victory. Despite defeat in the team event Tony Healy from UCC had a comfortable 29-15 victory over Eoin Kennedy, DCU in the Men's 'A' Singles final. The Ladies Singles title went to Elizabeth Campbell from QUB who defeated Brid MacCorraidh from the same college 32-17 to win the DCU cup for the first time. UCD defeated UCC in the Men's 'B' Team championship while Michael Tormey representing Athlone RTC defeated Dan Kelly TCD 32-16 in the Men's B Singles final.

## NATIONAL LEAGUES

As in 1996, the 1997 60 x 30 National League was cancelled due to lack of entries. Interest in what was once a great competition has dwindled to an alarming degree from the thirteen teams which took part in the 1992 League. The same fate may be in store for the 40 x 20 National League for which there were eight entries from seven counties in 1997, a drop of three teams since 1992.

The question why so many counties do not take part in the Leagues must be asked. It may well be due to the fact that weaker counties feel that they do not have any realistic chance of defeating the stronger ones. The travel involved is also a factor. Like the Club Championships, the Leagues have suffered greatly from lack of interest. It is certainly time to examine the situation very seriously to see if anything can be done to improve matters. Some form of League competition could be introduced to provide meaningful competition for the weaker counties; they certainly need this type of competition if they are to improve their standard of play. The possibility of setting up regional leagues on this basis should be considered.

The 1997 40 x 20 League was won by the Clare team of Pat Custy, Adrian Marrinan, John Donlon, Paul Clavin, Seamus Cullinane and Pat Madden who defeated Carlow 95-61 in a very competitive final. The teams had terrific support in the final,



emphasising the fact that the interest is there where the effort is made by counties to give the League the recognition and status it deserves. Congratulations especially to Clare whose coach and players took the League very seriously and put in a great effort throughout the early League games, the play off stages and the semi-final and final.

## **WATERFORD CRYSTAL IRISH NATIONALS**

There was again a good level of entries for the Waterford Crystal Irish Nationals with 230 players taking part in the sixteen categories from Boys and Girls 15 and Under levels to Men's and Ladies Open Singles events. The series produced some marvellous games in the various grades. This was particularly so in the underage categories from which the winners were chosen to represent Ireland in the World Championships.

We were again fortunate to have visiting players, Dan Armijo from the USA and Danny Bell from Canada who added greatly to the appeal of the Open Singles event. The games produced some excellent handball with the semi-finals going to tie-breakers, Michael 'Duxie' Walsh going out to Tom Sheridan 10-21, 21-9, 11-6 and Peter McAuley defeating Danny Bell 15-21, 21-10, 11-2. The Louthman confirmed his ranking as top Irish 40 x 20 player with a 21-8, 21-7 victory in the final.

The Ladies Open final was a forerunner of the 40 x 20 All-Ireland Singles final with the same result, Berni Hennessy from Hospital defeating Jackie Keating of Cashel.

### **The full list of winners of the Irish Nationals is as follows:**

**MEN'S OPEN:** Peter McAuley, O'Raghallaigh's, Louth  
**LADIES OPEN:** Berni Hennessy, Hospital, Limerick  
**MEN'S 'B':** John Ryan, Garryhill, Carlow  
**LADIES 'B':** Adrienne Fleming, St. Brigid's, Dublin  
**MEN'S 'C':** John Corbett, Ballyporeen, Tipperary  
**MASTERS 'A':** Mickey Walsh, St. Coman's, Roscommon  
**MASTERS 'B':** Noel Raymond, Glenbeigh, Kerry  
**GOLDEN MASTERS 'A':** John Kirby, Shannon, Clare  
**GOLDEN MASTERS 'B':** Pat Masterson, Fahy, Offaly  
**DIAMOND MASTERS:** Mick Lally, Moycullen, Galway  
**BOYS 19 AND UNDER:** Kenneth Kane, Garryhill, Carlow  
**GIRLS 19 AND UNDER:** Fiona McKenna, Naomh Pól, Antrim  
**BOYS 17 AND UNDER:** Ciaran Meenagh, Loughmacrory, Tyrone

**GIRLS 17 AND UNDER:** Julie Long, St. Brigid's, Dublin  
**BOYS 15 AND UNDER:** Dessie Keegan, Ballaghaderreen, Mayo  
**GIRLS 15 AND UNDER:** Lydia Doolan, St. Coman's, Roscommon

One of the main benefits of the Nationals is that it provides players with a marvellous opportunity to compete against opposition from other counties and provinces. These competitions should have wider appeal and attract many more players. The Nationals Committee will have to examine ways and means by which players can be guaranteed games against opponents from other counties without having to travel great distances for the early rounds. It may also be the case that the format of the Nationals is not what it was originally intended to be. However, this is as a result of representations made by and on behalf of players from their experiences over the past couple of years. I think it would be timely to revert to the original intention that the Nationals would take place as a major tournament staged over two weekends at most. There could be better concentration of fixtures in a smaller number of venues which would generate a better atmosphere and fall in line with the format of the new provincial tournaments.

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann wishes to thank Waterford Crystal for its excellent sponsorship of the Nationals. Without the company's support it would not be possible to organise such an event and to provide such exquisite trophies for both winners and finalists.

Our thanks and appreciation to RTE television for recording and transmitting the highlights of the Open Singles matches over a three week period. This major coverage has been of immense benefit to the game over the past few years and has been eagerly looked forward to by players, members, supporters and the general public. However, at the time of writing it is very disheartening to learn that it appears that RTE may have decided not to transmit this year's event due to the change of sporting schedules on Network 2. Despite the best efforts of our officers and the good offices of GAA officials it has not been possible to persuade RTE to reverse its decision.

## **WATERFORD CRYSTAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Winnipeg, Canada, was the venue for the 1997 Waterford Crystal World Championships in which 130 Irish players and 70 supporters joined almost 1,000 others for a terrific week of international handball. The Championships were complemented by several social events, the highlights of which were the opening reception, parade and ceremony, an open air barbeque, visits to places of social, cultural and historic interest and, of course, a very colourful farewell banquet.

Our sincere thanks and congratulations to Co-Chairs Colleen Deckert and Henry Traa for their excellent organisation of the 40 x 20 events in three locations and the one-wall championships at two indoor and two outdoor courts and also on a superb programme of events and the provision of a free shuttle service between hotels and venues throughout the championships.

Our thanks to Waterford Crystal for again providing superb trophies for the World Championships, an event with which they are firmly linked as the company has already agreed to sponsor the event in the USA in the year 2000. Even at this stage we should be planning ahead for that event to ensure that Irish players are fully prepared for the Championships and that they are again the success they have been in the past.

### **IRISH TEAM PERFORMANCES**

Peter McAuley, our Open Singles representative, had an easy 21-6, 21-6 victory over James Komsthoef of the USA but went down narrowly 21-18, 21-17 to reigning World champion David Chapman in a magnificent display of handball in the semi-final. In Open Doubles Michael 'Duxie' Walsh and Tom Sheridan defeated Mark Broverman and Jim Forrest of Canada 21-4, 21-16 in their first game but were overwhelmed by the power and skill of David Chapman and John Bike in their semi-final in which the Kilkennyman was hampered by a back injury.

In the Ladies Open Singles Championship Jackie Keating represented Ireland but went out in her first game against Yvonne August of USA 21-8, 21-13. Our Doubles representatives met a similar fate when they were defeated 21-16, 21-4 by the Canadian/Irish combination of Lavonah Madden and Susan Carey.

### **FIVE OUT OF SIX FOR JUNIOR TEAM**

The Irish Junior team performed exceptionally well winning five of the six championships in which they competed, the exception being in the Boys 17 and Under grade which was won by Paul Brady of Cavan who defeated Carl Browne of the Kells Club in an all-Irish final. Another all-Irish final saw Kenneth

Kane defeat his longtime rival Tony Healy of Ballydesmond in the 19 and Under grade in a thrilling final which could not have been closer at the end, the score reading 21-15, 19-21, 11-10. Fiona McKenna had a very easy passage in the Girls 19 and Under Round Robin and emerged victorious without meeting any serious opposition. The Girls 17 and Under final produced an all-Irish affair with Julie Long outscoring Sibeal McKenna 21-20, 18-21, 11-6 in another nail-biting final. Desmond Keegan from the Ballaghaderreen Club powered his way to victory in the Boys 15 and Under championship from a starting line-up of 34 players and defeated William Love of Kilkenny 21-14, 21-2 in the final. Lydia Doolan from St. Coman's Club confirmed her status as the No.1 international player with easy victories in her qualifying matches before defeating Linda Lacey of the USA 21-6, 21-13 in the final.

#### OTHER IRISH WINS

Other Irish players took five championships at adult level. Donal Armstrong put in some terrific performances to take the 'B' Singles championship while Adrian Marrinan defeated Colm Jordan of Fermoy in a magnificent 'C' Singles final. Irish ladies won both Women's 'B' championships with Roisin Faulkner of Cavan defeating Brid MacCorraidh of Antrim in Singles with fortunes reversed in Doubles when Brid partnered Mary Lindsay to victory over Roisin Faulkner and Susan Ennis. The Meath pair of John Boy Molloy and Michael McGovern completed the Irish victories winning a magnificent Over 35 Doubles final 18-21, 21-7, 11-9 against Dan Armijo and William Cervantes of the USA.

Many, many other Irish players performed very well in the Championships and in general made a magnificent contribution to a marvellous week of handball. They also played their part in social events and one of the most striking things about the Championships was the friendliness and camaraderie between players and officials from the various countries.

Now is the time to start planning for the next World Championships to be hosted by the USA in the year 2000. Everybody who went to Winnipeg has marvellous memories of the occasion which will be a great motivation to be part of the next Championships.

#### WORLD COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Caimin Jones from the Newmarket-on-Fergus Club in Clare was elected President of the World Handball Council at a meeting of that body in Winnipeg during the World Championships. This is a singular honour for Ireland and for Irish handball and Caimin, who has served the game so well at club, county, provincial and national levels, has moved on to lead on the world stage. He has several plans for the development of international handball and has already initiated contacts and fact-finding visits by selected personnel to Mexico, Japan, Australia and European countries. He is a very worthy and able successor to previous World Council Presidents, including the late Seosamh Ó Loingsigh, and he will certainly ensure that Ireland's proud record of leading international development will continue.

#### EUROPEAN REPORT

March '97 saw a group of Spanish Pilota players from Valencia make a visit to Ireland where they saw and played one wall and hardball. They were entertained at Croke Park and by St. Coman's Club in Roscommon. They proved very proficient at hardball and it's hoped this contact will provide an international outlet for our hardballers. The Valencians returned in June to take part in the Second European One Wall Championships. Eight countries in all competed and six countries garnered trophies from the event

illustrating the value of one wall in providing a competitive handball game between the different European codes. Our thanks to Roscommon for their great work in hosting this unique event. Ireland, represented by Paul Flynn from Ballaghaderreen, won the Open Singles final defeating Francisco Xavier Puchol Ruiz of Spain 15-9, 6-15, 11-8 in an enthralling final. Spain claimed the Doubles title defeating France in a one-side final.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

In April 1998 Roscommon will send a team to take part in the **One-Wall Triangular Youth International** in Belgium. Tom O'Connor, International Officer, represented the Irish Handball Council at the **Finnish Handball Championships** in November. The one wall games were a relatively small affair due to the difficulty in providing suitable sites for play, but the Finns have developed a handball game for play in squash courts which is very popular especially among students. This form of the game has been taken up by a number of **English Schools and Universities** as an official sport. Warwick University recently played a team from St. Augustine's, Dungarvan including two girls who played against the women's teams at Malvern College and Warwick. The Roscommon team to visit Belgium in April will also include two girls and this should help to demonstrate to the continental codes that handball is an excellent game for girls. The Dutch do promote the women's game and have invited a team from Ireland to take part in their May handball festival.

#### WALES

Welsh Handball Secretary, Howard Jones, has retired after founding the Welsh Handball Association and organising its affairs for the past eleven years. He leaves behind him a strong vibrant Association, a newly refurbished court, a site and plans for a new 40 x 20 court and a healthy financial situation. Teams from Wales attended the Roscommon and Winnipeg one wall games and plan to attend the 2nd Irish One Wall Championships in Kells in July.

#### LONDON

The handball situation in London suffered a big set-back last year when the Kilburn court finally closed. The panels and flooring were saved and will be used in the construction of a new court on a site which has already been acquired. Many of the English Fives players who have started to play handball are helping in this effort. The two official Fives Associations have held meetings to examine the feasibility of adopting and promoting handball among their members. A number of Fives players including the two top players, Niall Roberts and Jamie Halstead, played in the Irish Nationals, in the European One-Wall Championships and in the World Championships. An Irish team has been invited to take part in the English Schools Hardball games in Blackpool in October to be played in three wall courts under compromise rules.

There has been very considerable and fruitful contact between Ireland and European handball bodies and there is great scope to develop Irish codes in these countries and to learn from their National Governing Bodies. Our sincere thanks are due to Tom O'Connor, Irish International Officer, for his painstaking and unrelenting efforts to seek out contacts and to follow up on every possible opening to bring handball to Europe.

#### VENUES AND REFEREEING

The successful organisation and completion of a major national fixtures programme depends almost entirely on the co-operation and goodwill of Club and county officials, particularly those who



officiate at the games. We are very grateful to all who co-operated in any way in implementing the fixtures programme. The hospitality extended to players and visiting officials is generally first class. This makes them feel very welcome and helps to build up and maintain long-lasting relationships between handball personnel from many parts of the country.

Our thanks are due in particular to those who take on the onerous task of refereeing games. They have a central role in the presentation of fixtures programmes by the manner in which they officiate and control games. Their interaction with players has a major impact on the overall presentation of any programme. Their manner of refereeing will also impact on the attitude of players during a game. Players feel more confident under the charge of a referee who is decisive and who implements decisions in a firm manner. On the other side, players must respect the referee's decisions, concentrate on playing the game and refrain from any behaviour which detracts from the overall presentation of the game or which is unfair to the other side.

## BUNSCOILEANNA

Twenty counties took part in the sixth national programme for primary schools organised by Cumann na mBunscol and Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann. This promotion has been very successful and on behalf of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann I wish to thank the executive of Cumann na mBunscol and various units throughout the country for promoting and organising handball in primary schools.

The enthusiasm and skill of the players who take part in the National Day at Croke Park is most heartening. Some of the difficulties involved in organising the promotion in earlier years have been overcome. However, some counties are reluctant to become involved. This should be examined thoroughly so that the National Handball Day is a truly national event for primary schools handball.

There is an onus and responsibility on all Clubs to promote handball in their catchment areas, particularly at primary school level. It is important to offer the use of our facilities to schools and to assist in any way possible with introducing the game and coaching the pupils who are, after all, potential members of their local Clubs.

## FÉILE na nGAEL

Coiste Liathróid Láimhe Phort Láirge hosted Féile na nGael for the second time in 1997. As usual, competition was very good in all team events. It was very heartening to see the standard of play in the girls competitions which because of the level of entries merited the addition of a second division for the first time. The winners were as follows:

<u>60 x 30 Boys</u>	<i>Roinn I</i>	Team Skills	Ballaghaderreen, Mayo Seán O'Shea, Clogh, Kilkenny
	<i>Roinn II</i>	Team Skills	Templeudigan, Wexford Shane Walsh, Templeudigan, Wexford
<u>40 x 20 Girls</u>	<i>Roinn I</i>	Team Skills	St. Coman's Roscommon Lydia Doolan, St. Coman's, Roscommon
	<i>Roinn II</i>	Team Skills	Coolboy, Wicklow Linda Mulhall, Coolboy, Wicklow

<u>40 x 20 Boys</u>	<i>Roinn I</i>	Team Skills	Coolboy, Wicklow Anthony Sheridan, Coolboy, Wicklow
	<i>Roinn II</i>	Team Skills	Williamstown, Galway Noel McHugh, Williamstown, Galway
	<i>Roinn III</i>	Team Skills	Kilgobinet, Waterford Conal Kelly, Downpatrick, Down

The Skills Competition is a very important element of Féile but the various skills involved and their proper execution and marking system need to be explained fully to the participants. At the suggestion of Brian Murphy whose Castlebridge teams have been extremely successful in the 60 x 30 competitions winning three titles in succession, Ard Chomhairle has agreed that the actual skills themselves will be examined with a view to updating the competitions in line with the skills of the modern game.

For some years now a number of Clubs have always represented their counties in Féile due to no fault of their own but to the fact that qualifying competitions are not held in their counties. The Féile weekend should be a prized goal for any Club. The event should be promoted much more within counties and Clubs should be made aware of the benefits of taking part. The weekend consisting of competitions, social and cultural events as well as the Féile parade is certainly the highlight of the year for many of our juveniles. Longlasting friendships are established over the weekend and contacts are made with many Clubs throughout the country. Some of these result in exchange visits and friendly competitive rivalry in future years. Féile is also an opportunity to take part in a major GAA youth festival catering for over 3,000 young players in handball, hurling and camogie.

On behalf of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann I wish to congratulate and thank all Clubs which took part in Féile '97. Our thanks are also due in great measure to Br Finbar Spring and his very enthusiastic organising committee in Waterford. Our sincere thanks also to Fr Pat Moran, OSA, Headmaster at St. Augustine's for putting the excellent facilities of the College at our disposal for the weekend. The catering and other college staff did a terrific job in looking after everybody. We also appreciate having had the use of courts in St. Augustine's, An Rinn and Kilgobinet in Waterford, Conna in Cork and Ballyporeen and Clonmel in Tipperary.

Féile '98 will be held in Wexford as part of the Wexford 1798 Bicentenary celebrations. The Wexford Féile sub-committee is already working extremely hard to ensure the success of this year's event and all Clubs taking part are guaranteed a marvellous festival of sport.

## COMHAIRLE NA mBAN

During the year further discussions took place with Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan with a view to integrating ladies handball fully in the mainstream of handball under the banner of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann. This culminated with the Ladies Council AGM accepting a proposal to be put to Congress on the future structure and administration of ladies handball within the overall framework of the Handball Council.

There is a growing acceptance at provincial, county and Club levels of the importance of involving ladies in all aspects of the game. This is most important, of course, at Club level where females should be actively encouraged to become involved in handball as players, referees, coaches and administrators. It is very encouraging to see that a number of the most progressive



Clubs in the country promote ladies handball and have very strong juvenile sections for boys and girls. It is essential that County Committees and Provincial Councils support this work and introduce meaningful competitions for girls and ladies at county level where possible and at regional/provincial level as well. The ultimate aim must be to have county championships in every county and to have a games structure which will provide regular competition for players in all grades.

Some provinces have Provincial Ladies Councils which up to now have had very little contact with the Comhairle Cúige. The Handball Bye-laws provide for the inclusion of two representatives of the Provincial Ladies Councils on each Comhairle Cúige. This should be put into effect as part of the new and evolving structure for the administration and development of ladies handball.

There are several very dedicated officials who have contributed enormously to the success of ladies handball in the Clubs where the game has progressed to a satisfactory level. They have a wealth of experience and talent which should be used to encourage other Clubs in their efforts to introduce ladies handball and to recruit players to the game.

I wish to express the thanks of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann to Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin, Uachtarán of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan, Sinéad Uí Sherragh, Rúnaí, Susan Carey, Cisteoir and Aodan Ó Maolagáin, PRO for their tremendous commitment to ladies handball and for their work as national officers in administering the affairs of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan. I am confident that the integration of our two organisations will lead to a much more fruitful overall body which will make the work of those involved in the promotion of ladies handball not alone more challenging but much more rewarding as well.

## **WATERFORD CRYSTAL AWARDS**

The Waterford Crystal Handball Awards scheme, now in its fourth year, is an ideal means by which to recognise the achievements of players and officials who serve handball so well. The presentation occasion at Páirc an Chrócaigh has now become established as the social occasion of the year which brings together players, officials and members as well as our sponsors during the weekend of the Irish Nationals.

While attracting a good level of entries it is somewhat disappointing that a number of Clubs do not submit nominations for the Awards. This is something which should be taken up more actively by counties in direct regular contact with their Clubs.

## **TWO AWARDS FOR 'DUXIE' WALSH**

Michael 'Duxie' Walsh of Talbot's Inch became the first person to receive two Awards in the same year. He received the International Player of the Year Award for his performance in becoming the first Irish player to win the Irish Nationals. He was also honoured with the Male Player of the Year Award for his achievements during 1996.

In recent years our Junior girls have become as successful as the boys at the USHA National Juniors. One of them, Lydia Doolan from St. Coman's, who won the US 15 and Under title in 1996 as well as two U14 All-Ireland Championships, merited the Female Young Player of the Year Award. Tony Healy from Ballydesmond received the Male Young Player of the Year Award for the second year in succession for his general achievements including All-Ireland final victories in Minor Singles and Doubles in the 40 x 20 court. Berni Hennessy from Hospital who made a clean sweep of the three Ladies Singles titles was honoured with

the Female Player of the Year Award. Mickey Walsh from St. Coman's who won all four Masters 'A' titles in 1996 was rewarded with the Masters Player of the Year Award.

## **OFFICIALS RECOGNISED**

Officials were recognised for their outstanding service to the game. Coach of the Year was Eddie Corbett from Ballyporeen who was Manager of the successful team which took part in the USHA Junior Championships in 1995. Br Finbar Spring received the Special Achievement Award for his work at school, Club and county levels as well as organising the very successful Féile na nGael in Waterford. Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin, Uachtarán of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan received the Official of the Year Award, a very fitting tribute in the Silver Jubilee Year of Ladies handball.

## **CLUB OF THE YEAR**

Ballaghaderreen Club which is involved in every area of the promotion of handball including coaching, boys and girls handball and juvenile development at primary and post primary school levels was named Club of the Year. The recipient of the Hall of Fame Award was Pat Kirby whose outstanding record includes national championships in Ireland, America and Canada and World titles spanning three continents and three decades.

## **COACHING**

Over 100 Foundation Level coaches have now qualified to coach at Club level under certification from the Coaching Council and the National Coaching and Training Centre in Limerick. It is important that these coaches are actively involved in their Clubs and that they follow up by attending Level I courses. At the time of writing the Coaching Council is finalising the course content for the Level 1 course syllabus which will be offered in 1998. Additional Foundation Level courses will also be available and all counties which have not yet participated are urged to avail of the opportunity to do so.

Congratulations to Seán Mac an tSaoi and Jimmy King on graduating as Tutors from the N.C.T.C. following an intensive practical and theoretical course over a period of two years. Their very professional approach in conducting courses and transferring knowledge to course participants has been commented on by many, many people who attended these courses. They have moved coaching on to another plane and will certainly guide other coaches to aspire to perfecting their coaching knowledge and skills.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

With the help of the Policy and Planning Committee of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael it will be possible for all Handball Clubs to benefit from the Comhairle courses which are being organised throughout the country. These will focus on the organisation and administration of Clubs in the context of the historical development and the policies and ethos of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Details of the courses will be available within counties for the second phase of such courses in the autumn of 1998.

The success of any Club will depend on the quality of its own administration. It is essential that there are regular meetings, good internal Club communications, good relations with the County GAA Committee and with the public. Regular and adequate games and competitions and a game development structure are also necessary.

Every Club should have its own Constitution in place to provide for the operation, control and management of the Club

as required under the rules of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. The Constitution provides for the control within the Club and the GAA of assets of the Club and also for the efficient operation of Club activities. It sets out the basic Club requirements for (a) membership categories and fees, (b) Club management structure including the executive and sub-committees (c) meetings and voting procedures (d) Club assets and trustees and (e) Club rules including alterations and interpretations.

There is some concern – and rightly so – that a number of Clubs throughout the country are not properly constituted and do not have regular meetings, including annual meetings. This leaves such Clubs very vulnerable when difficulties arise. Every County Committee must have a role here in ensuring that all its Clubs are properly constituted and administered to protect the personnel involved and the interests and affairs of the Club in general.

Another matter which should be addressed by Ard Chomhairle and the Provincial Councils is the relative isolation of a significant number of Clubs and of the weaker counties throughout the country. Because of their isolation and their lack of adequate competition structures and other involvement it is very difficult for many of these Clubs to improve and develop. They need much more support if they are to survive and develop further in the future.

## CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

The increased CLG funding to £25,000 in 1996 was maintained again in 1997. The Association also provided a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of the participation of the official Irish team in the World Championships. These grants were greatly appreciated by the Handball Council and were seen as an indication of the Association's goodwill towards and support for handball at domestic and international levels.

The Provincial GAA Councils have also given significant support to their handball units and are very supportive of their work.

## BUÍOCHAS

Ba mhaith le Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann buíochas a ghabháil le hArd Chomhairle agus le Coiste Bainisti CLG as ucht a dtacaíocht do liathróid láimhe. Ár mbuíochas go speisialta don Uachtarán, Seosamh Mac Donncha a thóg súil mhór i gcúrsaí liathróid láimhe agus a bhí i láthair ar ócáidí speisialta i rith na bliana.

Gabhadh buíochas mór, freisin, le Liam Ó Maolmhichil, Árd Stiúrthóir, as ucht a chabhair agus a chomhairle go minic i rith na bliana agus le foireann na h-árd oifige as ucht a dtacaíocht.

The Council also thanks all GAA units and personnel who assist in promoting handball in any way at Club, county or provincial level. We appreciate, in particular, the financial support given to handball units where such is the case and look forward to further co-operation and development, especially in 1999 when Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

## IRISH SPORTS COUNCIL

The establishment of the Irish Sports Council and the elevation of sport to a senior ministerial position is to be greatly welcomed. These developments have already had an impact on Irish sport in general and have given a new impetus to National Governing Bodies in planning for the years ahead. Increased funding has been made available for sports bodies each of which is required to draw up a strategic plan for the future of its sport. In this context, recorded elsewhere in this report, Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe

na hÉireann has forwarded its plan for consideration for increased funding for the development of handball.

It may be a cliché to say so, but Ireland is a sporting nation. Participation in sport and in sports organisations helps individuals to become better people and enables them to develop skills which transfer positively into other aspects of their lives building up their local communities and helping society in general. Sport keeps people involved in a healthy lifestyle and is a tremendous antidote to vandalism and crime in society. Increased funding for sport will certainly pay great dividends and the wisdom of such investment will be borne out in the lives of individuals and their local communities. Hopefully, Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann will be in a position to fulfil its role in this regard in a much greater way than in the past.

The Council wishes to thank the Irish Sports Council for its significant funding for handball during the past year. The Annual Grant was £53,040 while grants for the Nationals, European One-Wall Championships and World Championships totalled £8,500. The Council received £1,000 towards the cost of Tutor training at the N.C.T.C. and an £8,000 equipment grant. A further £4,000 was allocated equally to Fiona McKenna, Tony Healy, Kenneth Kane and Peter McAuley under the individual High Performance Grants Scheme.

We acknowledge the advice and assistance of Sports Council personnel during the year under John Treacy, Executive Chairman, and Paddy Heffernan, Principal Officer, and thank them for their interest in handball matters.

## FINANCE

Despite the major programme of events throughout 1997 including the World Championships in Winnipeg and the European One-Wall Championships in Roscommon the Council had an operating surplus of just over £8,000 compared with a loss of just under £10,000 in the previous year. The Handball Fundraising Marathon netted £4,460 which was very disappointing in comparison with the £31,000 nett receipts from the previous Marathon which was organised jointly with the Irish Cancer Society. It became evident in the run up to the Marathon event that the appeal of a joint venture with a national charity and handball was needed to attract public support for the Marathon. Lessons have been learned from this and the possibility of holding a future Marathon jointly benefiting a national charity and handball should not be dismissed because of the lack of success of the 1997 event.

The lack of adequate finance to develop handball to its potential continues to be a problem. In this regard a major submission has been made to the Irish Sports Council for a substantial increase in funding to enable the Council to implement a national development plan for the game. The Council will also be examining other ways of generating funding for handball. This is an urgent priority.

## HANDBALL YEARBOOK

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann published its second Yearbook which featured all major national and international events as well as county and provincial reviews, historical articles and profiles of prominent players and officials. The Yearbook received very favourable reviews but demand for the publication was somewhat disappointing. Ard Chomhairle invested considerable resources in the publication and it deserves much better support from our members and units generally.

I wish to thank the Editorial Committee of Mick Dunne, Martin Kiely, Tom O'Connor, Tom Walsh and Gerry O'Neill under the chairmanship and guidance of Tommy O'Brien for their



marvellous work in researching, writing and editing articles and ensuring that the publication did justice to and was worthy of our sport. Our thanks are also due to those who supported the Yearbook in any way, particularly Ard Chomhairle CLG and the four Provincial GAA Councils, together with companies and individuals who advertised in the Yearbook thus ensuring that the publication was self-financing.

## PUBLICITY

The lack of adequate publicity for handball at national level is a major problem. We have got much less publicity over the past couple of years due mainly to the demise of the Irish Press Group and the scrapping of the weekly handball column in the Irish Independent. The latter publication has happily agreed to reinstate a weekly handball column contributed by Mick Dunne. Coverage in the Star newspaper has been very sporadic but the game gets good publicity in both the Examiner and the Irish News due to the very hard work of Peter Dennehy and Gerry O'Neill respectively.

For the sixth year in succession there was excellent coverage of handball by Network Two T.V. in the Waterford Crystal Irish Nationals. Our thanks are due to RTE for this and in particular to Bill Lalor who produced and directed the series since its inception. The RTE decision to drop handball from its schedule of sports coverage is very disappointing and greatly regretted. It appears that this decision was taken on commercial grounds and poor audience figures for the transmission. RTE sports coverage is also influenced in a major way by other channels which set the pace in sports coverage. However, it is very unfair and unjust that minority sports, including handball – a national sport – are totally excluded from national coverage. This, of course, is in line with the so called progress of modern society in which biggest is best and in which the rural school, the village Garda station and the small shop have all been swept aside in rationalisation and downsizing without any consideration of the social impact of such changes on small communities.

## HANDBALL TRUST FUND

At the time of writing final steps are being put in place to set up the Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann Trust Fund of £150,000 for the development of handball in Dublin as an alternative to the provision of a 60 x 30 court to replace the old court which was demolished for the development of Hill 16 in 1988.

The terms of the Trust Fund allow for the provision of financial assistance to handball or GAA units to promote and develop handball both at primary school and juvenile levels, for the refurbishment of existing facilities and towards the cost of providing new handball courts.

The benefits of the Fund will not be fully realised in the absence of an overall development plan for handball in the capital. The provision of physical facilities alone will not benefit the game to any great extent unless there is an extensive coaching and promotional campaign, particularly in traditional areas and at primary school level. Considering the huge young population in Dublin, a target of establishing at least ten new Clubs in Dublin should be achievable within the next five years.

## CEANNARAS

After several years of declining membership and a poor standard of decor in Ceannaras Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann the Management Committee of the Centre decided to upgrade facilities during the year and so provide a more attractive Centre for members generally including those from the local community.

This was financed by a substantial loan facility but the overall improvements should pay dividends in the years ahead.

The Social Committee organised several social events throughout the year including music nights and table quizzes, all of which contribute to an improved atmosphere at the Centre.

Risteárd Mac Maoláin retired in January 1997 after 21 years service as Caretaker of Ceannaras Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann. On behalf of all members and handball officials and players I would like to thank Dick for his commitment to the game and to the personnel involved during that time. We wish him many years of health and happiness in his retirement.

Joe Warren who was barman for two years resigned last June to pursue a business venture and on behalf of all members and handballers I wish Joe every success in the future. Our thanks also to Dick Kenneally who has carried out caretaking duties on a temporary basis and to other staff who help out in the bar.

## COURT DEVELOPMENT

The level of court construction which took place during the 1970s and 1980s has levelled off. Up to seven or eight new courts are being built each year. Three nominated provincial centres at Kingscourt in Cavan, O'Loughlin's, Kilkenny and Cappagh in Limerick which were grant-aided by An Roinn Oideachais in 1994 are due to open in 1998. These venues, Kingscourt in particular with three new 40 x 20 courts, will add greatly to the facilities for county, provincial and national fixtures.

The construction of new 60 x 30 courts at Ballaghaderreen (Mayo), Williamstown (Galway), Dungarvan (Waterford) and Mullingar (Westmeath) will certainly help to ease the difficulties involved in arranging softball fixtures.

Many of our courts which have served very well in the past are in urgent need of refurbishment, some need to be upgraded and modernised to take account of the expectations of players and spectators as we approach the new millennium while many others need a basic facelift. Every Club must implement the current fire and safety regulations and comply with legal requirements in relation to these matters. A major priority must be for Clubs which do not have fire exits to rectify the situation in the interest of player and public safety. Advice on these matters can be sought from the GAA Safety Committee in each province.

## 75th ANNIVERSARY

Next year Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its foundation in 1924. A special committee under the chairmanship of the Uachtarán Tofa will be established to commemorate this event in significant ways. As well as paying tribute to the people who had the foresight to establish handball and to preserve it for future generations, we must use this special occasion to focus on the needs of a modern game in a modern society and plan for its future development. We must motivate our personnel, harness the great amount of goodwill which exists and use our resources to their potential so that the ancient game of handball will once again become as popular as it was in so many parts of rural Ireland contributing to the sporting and social life of local communities in the places where future heroes get their first introduction to the "perfect game".

Everybody involved in handball became interested in the sport for some reason. This may range from the enjoyment got from playing the game or success achieved or their concern for the health and welfare of young people, many of whom need guidance and training to develop their personal as well as sporting skills. Whatever the reasons, they all combine to provide opportunities for younger and older people to play the game, thus developing



pride in their local Club and community which is one of the essential features which marks out the GAA from all other sporting organisations.

## BUÍOCHAS

On behalf of Ard Chomhairle I want to thank and congratulate the many voluntary members of Handball Clubs who give so much of their time to the organisation, promotion and development of handball at local level. Without their involvement and commitment thousands of young people around the country would not have the opportunity to play handball or be guided in many other ways by people at Club level.

I also wish to thank all county officers, particularly the County Secretaries, for their role in maintaining links and communications between central office and Clubs and players. The Provincial Councils carry out extensive fixtures programmes as well as other development work and I would like to congratulate the officers concerned, especially the Provincial Secretaries and also to express my thanks for their co-operation in forwarding information to Ard Chomhairle.

I would like to thank all members of central committees for the contributions they make to the general workings of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann. Without their help, advice and assistance it would be impossible to implement the policies of the Council and to carry out our very extensive national fixtures programme.

Cionnaith Ó Chonbhui, Cisteoir, has brought his very considerable professional expertise to bear on his duties as Cisteoir of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann and I thank him for the very intensive and specialised work which he does in relation to budgeting, keeping up to date on the Council's financial matters and preparing documentation for the annual audit.

Tomás Breathnach has made a major contribution to the work of Ard Chomhairle through his voluntary work at central office. I greatly value and appreciate his help, advice and assistance in so many ways especially in relation to the World Championships. I am particularly grateful to him for looking after the Council's affairs while I was on sick leave. In that context I also wish to acknowledge the good wishes and support of so many handball personnel following my accident and enforced absence from work.

Our Uachtarán, Conchubhar Ó Mórdha, has completed two years of his term of office and has continued to make a major impact on the development of handball. His leadership and ability have been a great inspiration and his many initiatives, some still to come, are providing new opportunities for the development of the game and for the betterment of our organisation. I wish to thank him personally for his support, advice and help on numerous matters on a very regular, almost daily basis, throughout the year.

## BEREAVEMENTS

On behalf of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann I wish to extend our sympathies to the families and friends of former players, members and supporters who went to their eternal reward during the past year. Our thoughts have been with the bereaved in their time of great loss and they will be especially remembered at the annual Congress Mass. May the souls of the departed rest in peace.

Lorcán Ó Ruairc

LORCÁN Ó RUAIRC, Riathóir Náisiúnta

# Buíochas to Sponsors of Irish Handball Team

*Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann  
would like to record its appreciation  
to the following contributors  
to and sponsors of the Irish  
team which took part in the  
Waterford Crystal  
World Championships.*

- Atlas Travel
- Bank of Ireland
- Citylites, Galway
- Cumann Lúthchleas Gael
- Comhairle Laighean CLG
- Comhairle Chonnachta CLG
- Comhairle Uladh CLG
- Comhairle na Mumhan CLG
- FBD Insurance
- Ericsson Systems Enterprise Ltd.
- Irish Sports Council
- Kingswood Hire, Moone, Co. Kildare
- Michael Murphy Carpets, Newbridge
- O'Neill Irish Sports Goods
- Shannon Development

# NA RÚIN

1. That proposed new structure for Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan be adopted and that Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na mBan have one representative on the Games Administration Committee, The Development Committee and The Coaching Council. Amend Rialacha 37A, B and C accordingly.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
2. That the adult registration fee of £3.00 be increased to £5.00 per member and that a copy of the Yearbook be forwarded to each registered member. Amend Fo Riail 6 accordingly.  
(Tiobraid Arann)
3. That second sentence of Riail 6 (A) Fo-Rialacha 1997 be amended to read "He shall also forward a signed copy of the Club's list of full registered members to the Divisional Secretary, where same exists, and to the Provincial Secretary".  
(Cill Mhantáin)
4. That juveniles should pay £1.00 registration to Irish Handball Council. Amend Riail 6 accordingly.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
5. That juveniles should pay 50p entry fee for all competitions under C.L.L.E.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
6. That Riail 14 (B) Fo-Rialacha 1997 be amended to read "One representative from each County Handball Committee shall be entitled to attend meetings of its respective G.A.A. County Committee. Such representative shall have full voting rights".  
(Cill Mhantáin)
7. That Over 35 Singles and Doubles championships be promoted in 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 softball. Amend Riail 47 Fo-Rialacha.  
(Loch Garman)
8. Amend Riail 47 G (ii) as follows:  
Masters 'B'. Confined to players over 40 years of age who have not won Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Masters 'A' or 'B' Provincial or All-Ireland titles in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.  
Riail 49 to be amended accordingly.  
(An Clár)
9. Amend Riail 47 H (ii) as follows:  
Silvers Masters 'B'. Confined to players over 45 years of age who have not won Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B' Provincial or All-Ireland titles in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.  
Riail 49 to be amended accordingly.  
(An Clár)
10. Amend Riail 47 I (ii) as follows:  
Golden Masters 'B'. Confined to players over 50 years of age who have not won Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B', Golden Masters 'A' or 'B' Provincial or All-Ireland titles in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.  
(An Clár)
11. Amend Riail 47 J (ii) as follows:  
Emerald Masters 'B'. Confined to players over 55 years of age who have not won Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B', Golden Masters 'A' or 'B', Emerald Masters 'A' or 'B' Provincial or All-Ireland titles in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.  
(An Clár)
12. Amend Riail 47 K (ii) as follows:  
Diamond Masters 'B'. Confined to players over 60 years of age who have not won Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, Masters 'A' or 'B', Silver Masters 'A' or 'B', Golden Masters 'A' or 'B', Emerald Masters 'A' or 'B', Diamond Masters 'A' or 'B' Provincial or All-Ireland titles in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.  
Riail 49 to be amended accordingly.  
(An Clár)
13. That Riail 47 (N) Fo-Rialacha 1997 be amend to read "All players are confined to one grade of intercounty competition in 40 x 20, softball and hardball in any one year except those taking part in the Senior 40 x 20, softball and hardball championships. In this case a player may also take part in a second non overage grade, if eligible".  
Amend Riail 49 (E) accordingly  
(Cill Mhantáin)
14. Amend Riail 47 (N) Fo-Rialacha to allow Minor and Under 21 players to play in two grades of inter-county competition in 40 x 20, softball and hardball in one year. Amend Riail 49 (E) accordingly.  
(Loch Garman)
15. That the last paragraph of Riail 47 (O) Fo-Rialacha 1997 be amended to read "The All-Ireland 40 x 20 Championships to be completed by 31st May each year and the 60 x 30 Championships by 15th November each year".  
(Cill Mhantáin)
16. Amend Riail 49 (A) as follows: "Separate grading shall not apply to all softball and 40 x 20 Championships. Separate grading shall only apply in the case of hardball".  
(An Clár)
17. That Riail 48 (A) be changed to read:  
"A Minor player must be under 18 years of age on 1 January of the current year's championships".  
(Aontroim, An Clár)

18. That the Under 21 Singles and Doubles championships be confined to players who have not won an All-Ireland Minor title in the relevant code of 40 x 20 or 60 x 30 softball. Amend Riail 48 (B) and Riail 49 accordingly.  
(Loch Garman)
19. That in Novice grading Silver Masters 'B' and Golden Masters 'B' be deleted from Rule 49 B (ii).  
(Ath Cliath)
20. Delete Riail 49 C (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v) and replace with the following:  
The Junior Singles and Doubles All-Ireland Championships shall be confined to players who have not won a Minor, Under 21, Junior, Intermediate or Senior All-Ireland or Junior Club Championship in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.  
(An Clár)
21. Delete Riail 49 (E).  
(An Clár)
22. That Riail 49 (E) be changed to read "A Senior is a player who is over 18 years of age on 1 January of the current year's championship".  
(Aontroim)
23. That the following section be added to Riail 49(E) (iv) "That players who have won a Minor or Under 21 All-Ireland Championship in 40 x 20 or softball may take part in the Senior 40 x 20, softball or hardball Championships".  
(Cill Mhantáin)
24. Amend Riail 52 (a) as follows:  
The Senior Championships shall be open to all players who have won at least
  - (i) A Minor All-Ireland title in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20
  - (ii) An Under 21 All-Ireland title in either 60 x 30 or 40 x 20.
  - (iii) A Junior softball, hardball or 40 x 20 Provincial or All-Ireland title.
 Riail 49 A to be amended accordingly.  
(An Clár)
25. That Riail 55 Fo-Rialacha 1997 be amended to read "The All-Ireland Open Hardball Championships shall be played in the period May/June each year unless there are extenuating circumstances".  
(Cill Mhantáin)
26. That a county participating in either the 40 x 20 or 60 x 30 National League be allowed to field their 6 best players.  
Amend Riail 1 Part V(B) Regulations for National League games.  
(An Clár)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That every Club in the country promote ladies handball and that a roll-call per county be taken at next year's A.G.M. to see what progress has been made over the twelve month period at Club level.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
2. That as many counties as possible run ladies championships at levels appropriate to that county and that Clubs organise their own "tournaments" to promote the game and that at least one person per Club be responsible for the promotion of ladies handball.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
3. That female players should attend the U.S. Ladies Classic or USHA Nationals which would be more beneficial to young talented girls.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
4. That an assistant manager of the opposite sex be sent with the Team Manager when mixed teams, where juveniles are involved, travel abroad to represent Ireland.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
5. That juvenile players under the age of 16 years should not officially represent Ireland at international level.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
6. That players graduating from juvenile ranks can play in senior competitions.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
7. That slots be made available in selected men's tournaments i.e. All-Irelands, for C.L.L.B. competitions, games to be chosen by C.L.L.B.  
(Comhairle L.L. na mBan)
8. That in the 60 x 30 Code a time out of 2 minutes be allowed between the first and second game, in overage competitions from over 50 up, as there are already three time outs allowed during these games.  
(Roscomáin)
9. That Congress introduce a grading system, A, B, C, along lines originally proposed to Congress by Dublin.  
(Ath Cliath)
10. That rules of handball cannot be changed or ignored between Congresses by the Irish Handball Council or sub-committees.  
(Ath Cliath)
11. That the player profile for All-Ireland programmes be "as gaeilge" if requested by the player/s involved.  
(Tiobraid Arann)
12. That the dark blue ball be used for U14 and U15 competition.  
(Aontroim)
13. That juveniles play with the dark blue handball in the 40 x 20 U14/15 Team event.  
(Cill Chainnigh)



# Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

6 March 1998

The President and members of  
Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann  
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

A Cháirde

We have examined the records of an Chomhairle for the year ended 31 December 1997.

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to IR£138,252. Expenditure came to IR£130,183 leaving an Operating Surplus of IR£8,069. In the preceding year there was a deficit of IR£9,900. As compared with that year the following were the principal variations in Income and Expenditure:

INCOME	Increase IR£	Decrease IR£
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Grants	10,000	
Government Grants	4,540	
European Union Grants	3,158	
Marathon	4,460	

### EXPENDITURE

	Increase IR£	Decrease IR£
International		5,912
World Championships	13,661	
Administration and General	3,023	

### BALANCE SHEET

The Assets of an Chomhairle at 31 December 1997 including outlay on Ceannáras IR£304,200 had a book value of IR£380,849. Liabilities at the same date including Bank Overdraft IR£175,546 came to IR£190,198. Assets exceeded Liabilities by IR£190,651.

As in previous years Interest on Bank Borrowings has been avoided by arrangement with Central Council C.L.G.

Is sinne le meas

D. O'CONNOR & CO., Chartered Accountants

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1997

	Schedule	1997 IR£	1996 IR£
<b>INCOME</b>			
County Committee and Members		12,782	14,289
Gate Receipts		3,976	5,562
Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Grants		35,000	25,000
National League Grant		4,000	4,000
Government Grants net	1	62,540	58,000
European Union Grant		3,158	—
Sponsorship and Subscriptions		6,416	6,137
Marathon		4,460	—
Advertising		—	400
Sundry Sales		2,032	1,896
Yearbook Surplus		3,235	3,749
Other Income		653	1,107
		<u>138,252</u>	<u>120,140</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Competition Expenses		12,112	14,190
International		5,985	11,897
World Championship Expenses		13,661	—
Juvenile		1,948	3,065
Promotional Materials		3,043	3,893
Trophies		9,880	11,681
Meetings and Officials' Travel		15,600	18,061
Administration Grants	2	2,600	2,600
Coaching, Leadership and Development		2,008	4,183
Finance Charges		—	147
Administration and General	3	60,575	57,552
Depreciation		2,771	2,771
		<u>130,183</u>	<u>130,040</u>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<u>8,069</u>	<u>(9,900)</u>
Balance at beginning of year		182,582	192,482
Balance at end of year		<u>190,651</u>	<u>182,582</u>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1997

	Note	1997 IR£	1996 IR£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
	2	305,927	308,698
Loan - Galway County Board		18,000	18,000
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks		2,131	2,149
C.L.G. Development Scheme		100	100
Loans to Clubs		450	450
Debtors and Prepayments		16,542	13,536
Cash and Bank Balances		37,699	24,231
		<u>56,922</u>	<u>40,466</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Court Construction Grants		2,500	2,500
Grants to Underprivileged Areas		1,491	3,591
Creditors		10,661	2,933
Bank Overdraft		175,546	175,558
		<u>190,198</u>	<u>184,582</u>
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>(133,276)</u>	<u>(144,116)</u>
		<u>190,651</u>	<u>182,582</u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Accumulated Fund		<u>190,651</u>	<u>182,582</u>

### To the Members of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

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

1 Christchurch Square,  
Dublin 8  
6 March 1998

O'CONNOR & ASSOCIATES  
Chartered Accountants  
Registered Auditors

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1997**

**1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

- (A) The accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention.
- (B) Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets other than Outlay on Ceannáras in equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives. The rates applied are as follows:
- Gymnasium Equipment— 20% Straight line  
Office Equipment — 20% Straight line
- (C) Assets held under leasing arrangements that transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the Council are capitalised. The capital element of the related rental obligations is included in creditors. The interest element of the rental obligations is charged to the Profit and Loss Account so as to produce a periodic rate of charge.

**2. FIXED ASSETS**

	Outlay on Ceannáras IR£	Gymnasium Equipment IR£	Office Equipment IR£	Total IR£
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 January 1997	304,200	4,494	13,853	322,547
At 31 December 1997	<u>304,200</u>	<u>4,494</u>	<u>13,853</u>	<u>322,547</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 January 1997	—	4,494	9,355	13,849
Charge for year	—	—	2,771	2,771
At 31 December 1997	<u>—</u>	<u>4,494</u>	<u>12,126</u>	<u>16,620</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	<u>304,200</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,727</u>	<u>305,927</u>

	1997 IR£	1996 IR£
<b>3. ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Balance at beginning of year	182,582	192,482
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	8,069	(9,900)
Balance at date	<u>190,651</u>	<u>182,582</u>

**SCHEDULES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1997**

	1997 IR£	1996 IR£
<b>SCHEDULE 1:</b>		
<b>Government Grants</b>		
Annual Grant	53,040	52,000
Irish Nationals	1,500	2,500
World Championships	4,000	—
International	3,000	2,000
Outstanding Sportspersons	4,000	2,000
Equipment Grant	8,000	1,500
Coaching Grant	1,000	—
	<u>74,540</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Less: Distributable	(12,000)	(2,000)
	<u>62,540</u>	<u>58,000</u>

<b>SCHEDULE 2:</b>		
<b>Administration Grants</b>		
Connaught Council	500	500
Leinster Council	500	500
Munster Council	500	500
Ulster Council	500	500
Ladies Council	600	600
	<u>2,600</u>	<u>2,600</u>

<b>SCHEDULE 3:</b>		
<b>Administration and General Expenses</b>		
Staff Costs	47,558	44,272
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	4,804	4,871
Postage and Telephone	5,735	5,805
Accountancy Fees	1,965	1,750
All-Ireland Tickets	385	534
Miscellaneous	128	320
	<u>60,575</u>	<u>57,552</u>

Ba mhaith le Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe  
na hÉireann buíochas a ghabháil leis

# An Chomhairle Spóirt

as ucht deontasaí a chur ar fáil  
d'ár gcluiche

# Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

## CEANNÁRAS CLUB

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS — for the year ended 30th September 1997.

	IR£	IR£	1996 IR£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Fees .....	2,835		2,420
Court Booking Fees .....	<u>2,476</u>		<u>3,703</u>
		5,311	6,123
Shop Sales .....	6,202		8,339
Opening Stock .....	2,878		1,331
Purchases .....	2,622		5,861
Closing Stock .....	<u>(350)</u>		<u>(1,374)</u>
		1,052	2,521
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b> .....		6,363	8,644
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Premises .....	4,725		8,328
Administration .....	1,352		3,061
Financial .....	72		212
Selling .....	2,020		2,360
Staff Costs .....	<u>6,637</u>		<u>8,119</u>
		14,806	22,080
Net Loss .....		(8,443)	(13,436)
Subsidy by Club Lounge .....		9,604	10,992
Opening Deficit .....		<u>(2,745)</u>	<u>(301)</u>
Closing Surplus (Deficit) .....		<u>(1,584)</u>	<u>(2,745)</u>

### BALANCE SHEET — as at 30th September 1997

	IR£	IR£	1996 IR£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stock on Hand .....	350		2,878
Debtors .....	—		7
Cash at bank and in hand .....	<u>364</u>		<u>83</u>
	714		2,968
<b>CREDITORS</b> (Amounts falling due withing one year) .....	<u>2,298</u>		<u>5,713</u>
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> .....		<u>(1,584)</u>	<u>(2,745)</u>
Represented by:			
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>			
Accumulated Deficit to date .....	<u>(1,584)</u>		<u>(2,745)</u>
		<u>(1,584)</u>	<u>(2,745)</u>

### ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

In accordance with the instructions given to us, we have prepared and reviewed, without carrying out an audit, the accounts of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann—Ceannaras Club for the year ended 30th September 1997. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry, comparison and discussion of these statements and of the information and explanations. The statements are in agreement with the accounting records and are consistent with the information and explanations supplied to us.

GORMAN QUIGLEY & COMPANY, Chartered Accountants.

32 Greenmount Office Park, Harolds Cross Bridge, Dublin 6W.

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information relating to the income and expenditure of the Club for the year ended 30th September 1997 and to the assets and liabilities of the Club at 30th September 1997.

LORCÁN Ó RUAIRC, Riarthóir Náisiúnta.



# Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

## CEANNÁRAS CLUB LOUNGE

### TRADING, PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 30th September 1997

	IR£	IR£	1996 IR£
<b>SALES</b> .....		111,354	106,230
<b>COST OF SALES</b> .....		66,309	62,200
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b> .....		45,045	44,030
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Premises .....	47,697		4,931
Administration .....	5,827		4,539
Selling .....	93		—
Staff Costs .....	28,355		24,675
		81,972	34,145
Net Operating Profit/(Loss) .....		(36,927)	9,885
Club Subsidy .....		(9,604)	(10,992)
<b>NET PROFIT / (LOSS)</b> .....		(46,531)	(1,107)
Balance at Beginning of Year .....		6,882	7,989
<b>CLOSING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b> .....		(39,649)	6,882

### BALANCE SHEET — as at 30th September 1997

	IR£	IR£	1996 IR£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks .....	5,826		6,651
Debtors .....	976		344
Cash at bank and in hand .....	19,044		16,590
	25,846		23,585
<b>CREDITORS</b> (Amount falling due within one year) .....	45,009		16,703
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> .....		(19,163)	6,882
Represented by:			
<b>CREDITORS</b> (Amount falling due within one year) .....		20,486	—
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNTS</b>			
Accumulated Surplus /(Deficit) to date .....	(39,649)		6,882
		(39,649)	6,882
		(19,163)	6,882

### ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

In accordance with the instructions given to us, we have prepared and reviewed, without carrying out an audit, the accounts of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann—Ceannaras Club Lounge for the year ended 30th September 1997. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry, comparison and discussion of these statements and of the information and explanations. The statements are in agreement with the accounting records and are consistent with the information and explanations supplied to us.

GORMAN QUIGLEY & COMPANY, Chartered Accountants.

32 Greenmount Office Park, Harolds Cross Bridge, Dublin 6W.

We approve these accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information relating to the income and expenditure of the Club for the year ended 30th September 1997 and to the assets and liabilities of the Club at 30th September 1997.

LORCÁN Ó RUAIRC, Riarthóir Náisiúnta.

# ALL-IRELAND HANDBALL CHAMPIONS 1997

## 60 x 30

S.S.	Micheál Breathnach	Michael Walsh	Cill Chainnigh
S.D.	Micheál Breathnach, Eoin Ó Dunai	Michael Walsh, Eugene Downey	Cill Chainnigh
I.S.	Seán Ó Braonáin	Johnny Brennan	Cill Chainnigh
I.D.	Piaras Ó Caoimh, Éamonn de Lá	Pearse O'Keeffe, Eamon Law	Chill Chainnigh
J.S.	Proinnsias Ó Dálaigh	Frank Daly	Áth Cliath
J.D.	Criostóir Seoighe, Réamonn Cathal	Christy Joyce, Ray Charles	Iar-Mhi
M.S.	Eoin Ó Cinnéide	Eoin Kennedy	Áth Cliath
M.D.	Barra MacEochaidh, Cóilín Ó Céileacháin	Barry Goff, Colin Keeling	Loch Garman
U21S	Uinsíonn Ó Moráin	Vincent Moran	Muigheo
U21D	Aodán Suipéil, Pádraig Suipéil	Aidan Supple, Pat Supple	Tiobraid Árann
N.S.	Dominic Ó Loingsigh	Dominic Lynch	Ciarrai
N.D.	Dominic Ó Loingsigh, Antóin Ó Loingsigh	Dominic Lynch, Anthony Lynch	Ciarrai
M.A.S.	Seosamh de Róiste	Joe Roche	Luimneach
M.A.D.	Liam Ó Maoláin, Pádraig Hob	Billie Mullins, Paddy Hope	Uibh Fháili
M.B.S.	Nollaig Réamann	Noel Raymond	Ciarrai
M.B.D.	Nollaig Réamann, Tomás Ó Loingsigh	Noel Raymond, Tom Lynch	Ciarrai
SMAS	Eoin Ó Cinnéide	Eugene Kennedy	Áth Cliath
SMAD	Eoin Ó Cinnéide, Diarmaid Ó Scolai	Eugene Kennedy, Jerry Scully	Áth Cliath
SMBS	Uinsíonn Ó Faircheallaigh	Vinny Farrelly	Áth Cliath
SMBD	Uinsíonn Ó Faircheallaigh, Seán Ó Maoimhuaidh	Vinny Farrelly, John Molloy	Áth Cliath
GMAS	Dónal Ó Ciarba	Dan Kirby	An Clár
GMAD	Greagóir Ó Sioradáin, Pádraig Mag Laithimh	Greg Sheridan, Patsy Hand	An Cabhán
GMBS	Nollaig Ó Reachtair	Noel Raftery	Roscomáin
GMBD	Tomás Rosaitear, Pádraig Ó Laitheasa	Tom Rossiter, Pat Lacey	Loch Garman
EMAS	Pádraig Breathnach	Paddy Walsh	Sligeach
EMAD	Criostóir Laighneach, Oilibhéar Ó hEochach	Christy Lynagh, Oliver Gough	An Mhi
EMBS	Pádraig Ó Glasáin	Pat Gleeson	Tiobraid Árann
EMBD	Seán Stafort, Pádraig Ó Moráin	Seán Stafford, Patrick Moran	Loch Garman
DMAS	Éamonn Ó Laocha	Eddie Leahy	Cill Chainnigh
DMAD	Pádraig Ó Caoimh, Éamonn Ó Laocha	Pat O'Keeffe, Eddie Leahy	Cill Chainnigh
DMBS	Maitiú Mac Grioghair	Matt Grier	Muigheo
DMBD	Maitiú Mac Grioghair, Micheál Ó Raghaillaigh	Matt Grier, Michael Reilly	Muigheo

## HARDBALL

SHS	Peadar Mac Amhalai	Peter McAuley	An Lú
SHD	NO COMPETITION		
JHS	Uinsíonn Ó Moráin	Vincent Moran	Muigheo
JHD	Uinsíonn Ó Moráin, Cathmhaoil Ó Braonáin	Vincent Moran, Campbell Brennan	Muigheo
MHS	Cionnaith Ó Catháin	Kenneth Kane	Ceatharlach
MHD	Cionnaith Ó Catháin, Dara Ó Donnchaidh	Kenneth Kane, Darren Dunphy	Ceatharlach

## 40 x 20

SS	Peadar Mac Amhalai	Peter McAuley	An Lú
SD	Tomás Ó Sioradáin, Ian Seinicin	Tom Sheridan, Egin Jensen	An Mhi
IS	Micheál Ó Fionnagáin	Michael Finnegan	An Cabhán
ID	Micheál Ó Fionnagáin, Réamonn Mac Cuinneagáin	Michael Finnegan, Raymond Cunningham	An Cabhán
JS	Doiminic Ó Loingsigh	Dominic Lynch	Ciarrai
JD	Doiminic Ó Loingsigh, Antóin Ó Loingsigh	Dominic Lynch, Anthony Lynch	Ciarrai
MS	Cionnaith Ó Catháin	Kenneth Kane	Ceatharlach
MD	Barra Mac Eochaidh, Cóilín Ó Céileacháin	Barry Goff, Colin Keeling	Loch Garman
U21S	Séamus Ó Duill	James Doyle	Loch Garman
U21D	Séamus Ó Duill, Séamus Ó Beirgin	James Doyle, James Bergin	Loch Garman
NS	Seán Ó Floinn	John Flynn	Corcaigh
ND	Seán Ó Floinn, Donncha Ó Néill	John Flynn, Denis O'Neill	Corcaigh
MAS	Micheál Breathnach	Mickey Walsh	Roscomáin
MAD	Micheál Breathnach, Máirtín Ó Braoin	Mickey Walsh, Martin Bruen	Roscomáin
MBS	Seán Ó Maoimhuaidh	John Molloy	Áth Cliath
MBD	Seán Ó Maoimhuaidh, Pádraig Mac Samhráin	John Boy Molloy, Pat McGovern	An Mhi
SMAS	Eoin Ó Cinnéide	Eugene Kennedy	Áth Cliath
SMAD	Eoin Ó Cinnéide, Diarmuid Ó Scolai	Eugene Kennedy, Jerry Scully	Áth Cliath
SMBS	Uinsíonn Ó Faircheallaigh	Vinny Farrelly	Áth Cliath
SMBD	Uinsíonn Ó Faircheallaigh, Seán hÓbáin	Vinny Farrelly, John Hoban	Áth Cliath
GMAS	Seán Ó Ciarba	John Kirby	An Clár
GMAD	Seán Ó Ciarba, Séamus Breathnach	John Kirby, Jimmy Walsh	An Clár
GMBS	Pádraig Mac an Mháistir	Pat Masterson	Uibh Fháili

GMBD	Seán Ó Mathúna, Muiris de Buitléir	Seán O'Mahoney, Mossy Butler	Port Láirge
EMAS	Máirtín Ó Bogaigh	Martin Buggy	Loch Garman
EMAD	Pádraigh Breathnach, Micheál Ó Ceallaigh	Paddy Walsh, Michael Kelly	Sligeach
EMBS	Pádraig Ó Briain	Pat O'Brien	Corcaigh
EMBD	Pádraig Ó Briain, Tadhg Ó hÉalái	Pat O'Brien, Tim Healy	Corcaigh
DMAS	Eamonn Ó Laocha	Eddie Leahy	Cill Chainnigh
DMAD	Eamonn Ó Laocha, Pádraig Ó Caoimh	Eddie Leahy, Pat O'Keeffe	Cill Chainnigh
DMBS	Micheál Ó Maolalaidh	Mick Lally	Gaillimh
DMBD	Micheál Ó Maolalaidh, Doiminic Ó Muirí	Mick Lally, Dominic Murray	Gaillimh

### ÓGÁNAIGH 60 x 30

U14S	Seosamh Mac Canna	Joseph McCann	Muigheo
U14D	Séan Ó Gruagáin, Ciarán MacCú Ulaídh	Shane Grogan, Ciarán McCullagh	Tir Eoghain
U15S	Traolach Gainfort	Terry Gainfort	Loch Garman
U15D	Eamon Ó hEochach, Aindriú Ó hEosa	Eamonn Hawe, Andrew Hosey	Cill Chainnigh
U16S	Pádraig Ó Fionnagáin	Patrick Finnegan	An Cabhán
U16D	Deaglán Ó hEochach, Deasún MacAogáin	Declan Hough, Dessie Keegan	Muigheo
U17S	Pádraig Mac Mathúna,	Padraig McMahon	Loch Garman
U17D	P. S Ó hEachach, Dathai Mac Caisín	P J Hough, David Cashin	Cill Chainnigh

### ÓGÁNAIGH 40 x 20

U14S	Brian Ó Cinnéide	Brian Kennedy	Áth Cliath
U14D	Aindriú Ó Móráin, Seosamh MacCanna	Andrew Moran, Joseph McCann	Muigheo
U15S	Traolach Gainfort	Terry Gainfort	Loch Garman
U15D	Daithí Ó hÍci, Nollaig Ó Maruánadh	David Hickey, Noel Moroney	Tiobraid Árann
U16S	Liam Mac Graith	William Love	Cill Chainnigh
U16D	Deaglán Ó hEochach, Deasún MacAogáin	Declan Hough, Dessie Keegan	Muigheo
U17S	Daithí Mac Aindriú	David McAndrew	Port Láirge
U17D	Séamus Ó Greacháin, Seán Ó Feargháil	James Gegan, John Farrell	Cill Mhantáin

### 60 x 30 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

U12/13	<b>Cill Chainnigh:</b> Tomás Ó hAodha, Seán Ó Meachair, Pól Ó Broin, Tomás Campion, T.S. Mac Dumascaigh, Stiofán Ó Mathúna Thomas Hughes, Seán Maher, Paul Byrne, Thomas Campion, T. Comerford, Steve Mahon
U14/15	<b>Cill Mhantáin</b> Antoin Ó Sioradáin, Roibeárd Bhilbhí, Micheál Ó Greacháin, Criostóir Ó Dúill, Linda Ní Mhaolchathail, Seán Ó hAonais Anthony Sheridan, Robert Willoughby, Michael Gegan, Christopher Doyle, Lynda Mulhall, John Ennis

### 40 x 20 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

U12/13	<b>Tiobraid Árann</b> Dara Ó Liatháin, Micheál S Ó Maonaigh, Diarmuid Ó Cuanáin, Seán Mac Graith, Éanna Mac Eochach, Nollaig Ó Coileáin, Diarmuid Ó Briain Dara Lyons, Michael J Meaney, Jerh Coonan, Shane McGrath, Enda McKeogh, Noel Collins, Dermot O'Brien
U14/15	<b>Cill Chainnigh</b> Aindriú Ó hEosa, Seán Ó Sé, Eamon Ó hEachach, Brendan de Barra, Niall Ó Dóráin, C S Ó Dubhshláine, Andrew Hosey, Sean O'Shea, Eamon Hawe, Brendan Barry, Niall Doran, C J Delaney

### CAILÍNÍ 60 x 30

U14S	Lidia Ní Dhulainn	Lydia Doolan	Roscomáin
U14D	Pádraigin Ní Dhúill, Linda Ní Mhaolchathail	Patricia Doyle, Linda Mulhall	Cill Mhantáin
U15S	Clár Ní Chatháin	Clare Kane	Ceatharlach
U15D	Proinnseas Ní Chatháin, Glenda Ní Conboirne	Frances Kane, Glenda Colburn	Ceatharlach
U16S	Mairéad Ní Bhroin	Marguerite Byrne	Loch Garman
U16D	Lorraine Ní Nuáin, Jackie Ní Dhúill	Lorraine Noone, Jackie Doyle	Roscomáin
U17S	Bearnairdín Níe Cárthaigh	Bernadette McCarthy	Corcaigh
U17D	NO COMPETITION		
MS	Sile Ní Longáin	Julie Long	Áth Cliath
MD	Eithne Ní Mhiadhaigh, Máire Ní Fhinnthirn	Ethna Mee, Marie Finneran	Roscomáin



### CAILÍNÍ 40 x 20

U14S	Lidia Ní Dhulainn,	Lydia Doolan	Roscomáin
U14D	Emer Ní Thansáí, Aoife Ní Mhaldomhnaigh	Emer Tansey, Aoife Maloney	Muigheo
U15S	Clár Ní Chataín	Claire Kane	Ceatharlach
U15D	Aifric Ní Neachtain, Eibhlín Ní Fhiach	Aifric Naughton, Aileen Hunt	Roscomáin
U16S	Lorraine Ní Nuain	Lorraine Noone	Roscomáin
U16D	Una Ní Rinn, Fiona Ní Éilí	Una Wrynn, Fiona Healy	Cill Dara
U17S	Róisín Ní Ágáin	Róisín O'Hagan	Doire
U17D	Sharon Ní Mhaolmhuaídh, Joeleen Ní Orcáin	Sharon Molloy, Joeleen Arkins	An Mhi
MS	Fiona Nic Cionaoith	Fiona McKenna	Aontroim
MD	Fiona Nic Cionaoith, Sibéal Nic Cionaoith	Fiona McKenna, Sibéal McKenna	Aontroim

### ADULT LADIES 40 x 20

SS	Bearnairdín Nic Aonasa	Bernie Hennessy	Luimneach
SD	Jackie Ní Chéitinn, Carol Ní Mhaoldomhnaigh	Jackie Keating, Carol Moloney	Tiobraid Árann
JS	Róisín Ní Fhachtna	Róisín Faulkner	An Cabhán
JD	NO COMPETITION		
Mná S 30+	Mavis Ní Thuatnail	Mavis O'Toole	Áth Cliath
Mná D 30+	Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin, Máire Ní Lionsaí	Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin, Mary Lindsay	Aontroim/ Áth Cliath
Mná 40+	Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin	Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin	Áth Cliath

### CORN GAEL-LINN – MIXED PAIRS FAOL 13

Aifric Ní Neachtain, Damian Ó Máirtín	Aifric Naughton, Damian Martin	Naomh Comáin, Roscomáin
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### CAILÍNÍ 60 x 30 JUVENILE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

#### ROSCOMÁIN

Lorraine Ní Nuain, Jackie Ní Dhúill, Sinéad Ní Bhreacháin, Lidia Ní Dhulainn, Aifric Ní Neachtain  
Lorraine Noone, Jackie Doyle, Jennifer Bracken, Lydia Doolan, Aifric Naughton

### CAILÍNÍ 40 x 20 JUVENILE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

#### ST COMAN'S 'A' ROSCOMÁIN

Lidia Ní Dhulainn, Jackie Ní Dhúill, Lorraine Ní Nuain, Delmeza Ní Chathasaigh, Lorraine de hÓra  
Lydia Doolan, Jackie Doyle, Lorraine Noone, Delmeza Casey, Lorraine Hoare

### FÉILE na nGAEL

#### 60 x 30 ROINN I – BUACHAILLÍ: BALLAGHADERREEN, MUIGHEO

Aindriú Ó Móraín, Eamonn Ó Callaráin, Seosamh Mac Canna, Stiofán S Ó Durcáin, Caoimhín Ó Conchubhar  
Andrew Moran, Eamon Colleran, Joseph McCann, Stevie Joe Durcan, Kevin O'Connor

**Skills:** Seán Ó Sé, Seán O'Shea, Clogh, Cill Chainnigh

#### 60 x 30 ROINN II – BUACHAILLÍ: TEMPLEUDIGAN, LOCH GARMAN

Séan Breathnach, Micheál Ó Conchubhar, Séan Ó Murchú, Risteárd Ó Floinn, Proinnsias Ó Murchú  
Shane Walsh, Michael O'Connor, Shane Murphy, Richard Flynn, Francis Murphy

**Skills:** Séan Breathnach, Shane Walsh, Templeudigan, Loch Garman

#### 40 x 20 CAILÍNÍ – ROINN I: ST. COMAN'S, ROSCOMÁIN

Lidia Ní Dhulainn, Aifric Ní Neachtain, Sinéad Ní Bhreacháin, Rachel Ní Chathasaigh, Eibhlín Ní Fhiach  
Lydia Doolan, Aifric Naughton, Jennifer Bracken, Rachel Casey, Aileen Hunt

**Skills:** Lidia Ní Dhulainn, Lydia Doolan, Naomh Comáin, Roscomáin

#### 40 x 20 CAILÍNÍ – ROINN II: COOLBOY, CILL MHANTÁIN

Linda Ní Mhaolchathail, Pádraigín Ní Dhúill, Stacáí Ní Dhúill, Madina Ní Mhurchú, Laoise Ní Ghreacháin  
Linda Mulhall, Patricia Doyle, Stacey Doyle, Madina Murphy, Louise Gregan

**Skills:** Linda Ní Mhaolchathail, Linda Mulhall, Coolboy, Cill Mhantáin

#### 40 x 20 BUACHAILLÍ – ROINN I: COOLBOY, CILL MHANTÁIN

Antóin Ó Sioradáin, Seán Bhlhbhí, Jason Ó Dúill, Risteárd Breathnach, Séan Mac Aonais  
Anthony Sheridan, Johnny Willoughby, Jason Doyle, Richard Walsh, John Ennis

**Skills:** Antóin Ó Sioradáin, Anthony Sheridan, Coolboy, Cill Mhantáin

**40 x 20 BUACHAILLÍ – ROINN II: WILLIAMSTOWN, AN GHAILLIMH**

Aodán Ó Connachtáin, Nollaig Mac Aodha, Tomás Ó Connachtáin, Stiofán Mac Sheoinín  
 Aidan Connaughton, Noel McHugh, Thomas Connaughton, Steven Jennings

*Skills:* Nollaig Mac Aodha, Noel McHugh, Williamstown, Gaillimh

**40 x 20 BUACHAILLÍ – ROINN III: KILGOBINET, PORT LAIRGE**

Seosamh Mac Samhráin, Dathai de Bháil, Proinnsias Ó Donnuartaigh, Pól de Noiréis, Peadar Ó Corráin  
 Joe McGovern, David Wall, Francie Dunford, Paul Norris, Peter Curran

*Skills:* Conal Ó Ceallaigh, Conall Kelly, Downpatrick, An Dún

**SRAÍTH NAISIÚNTA 40 x 20**

**AN CLÁR:** Pádraig Mac Ostáil, Adrian Ó Maranáin, Seán Ó Donalláin, Pól Mac Laimhín, Séamus Ó Cuilleanáin, Pádraig Ó Madáin  
 Pat Custy, Adrian Marrinan, John Donlon, Paul Clavin, Seamus Cullinane, Pat Madden

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS****60 x 30 OPEN: KELLS, AN MHÍ**

Egin Seinicín, Tomás Ó Sioradáin, Seosamh Ó Loingsigh, Carl de Brún  
 Egin Jensen, Tom Sheridan, Joe Lynch, Carl Browne

**60 x 30 JUNIOR: HOSPITAL, LUIMNEACH**

Eamonn Ó Néill, Seán Friseal, Seán Ó Riain, Proinnsias Ó Tuathail  
 Eamon O'Neill, John Frazer, John Ryan, Francis O'Toole

**60 x 30 NOVICE: GLENBEIGH, CO. CHIARRAÍ**

Doimic Ó Loingsigh, Antóin Ó Loingsigh, Tomás Ó Loingsigh, Nollaig Mac Réamann  
 Dominic Lynch, Anthony Lynch, Tom Lynch, Noel Raymond

**40 x 20 OPEN: NAOMH PÓL, AONTROIM**

Stiofán Ó Madáin, Seosamh Mac Alastair, Séamus Ó Tuama, Seán Ó Daimhín  
 Stevie Madden, Joe McAllister, Séamus Ó Tuama, Seán Devine

**40 x 20 JUNIOR: BEALACH A'DOIRÍN, MUIGHEO**

Cathmhaoil Ó Braonáin, Uinsíonn Ó Móráin, Pól Ó Floinn, Deasún Mac Aogáin  
 Campbell Brennan, Vincent Moran, Paul Flynn, Dessie Keegan

**40 x 20 NOVICE: O'DONOVAN ROSSA, AONTROIM**

Briain Mac an Rí, Gearóid Ó Raifeartaigh, Stiofán Mac Roibeárd, Néill Mac Manus  
 Brian King, Gerard Rafferty, Stephen Roberts, Niall McManus

**COLÁISTÍ 60 x 30 – BUACHAILLÍ**

JS	Padraig Ó Fionnagain	Patrick Finnegan	St Patrick's, Cavan
JD	Micheál Ó Greacháin, Ian Ó Maolchathail	Michael Gregan, Ian Mulhall	Colaiste Bhride, Carnew
SS	Deasún Mac Aogáin	Dessie Keegan,	St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen
SD	Carl de Brún, Peadar Ó Raghallaigh	Carl Browne, Peter O'Reilly	Kells C.S.

**COLÁISTÍ 40 x 20 – BUACHAILLÍ**

J.S.	Barra Ó hEochach,	Barry Hough,	St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen, Muigheo
JD	Deasún Mac Aogáin, Deaglán Ó hEochach,	Dessie Keegan, Declan Hough,	St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen, Muigheo
SS	Risteárd Mac Canna,	Ricky McCann,	St. Mary's Belfast, Aontroim
SD	Maoileachlainn Ó Faoláin, Micheál Ó Leannáin	Malachy Whelan, Michael Lennon,	St. Peter's, Loch Garman

**COLÁISTÍ 60 x 30 – CAILÍNÍ**

U13S	Aisling Ní hÓráin	Aishling Horan	Killaloe C.S.
U13D	Aoife Ní hÍci, Treasa Ní Chuanáin	Aoife Hickey, Tracy Coonan	Killaloe C.S.
U15S	Lidia Ní Dhúláin	Lydia Dolan	Mercy Convent, Roscomain
U15D	Jackie Ní Dhúill, Róisín Mac Donnacha	Jackie Doyle, Róisín Mac Donnacha	Mercy Convent, Roscomáin
U18S	Sile Ní Longáin	Julie Long	Riversdale C.C. Ath Cliath
U18D	Clár Ní hÉanacháin, Sinéad Ní Fionnáin	Clare Heneghan, Sinéad Gannon	Mercy Convent, Roscomáin

## COMHAIRLE ARD OIDEACHAIS

### **'A' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: DIT**

Seán Ó Duidhiorma, Pól Ó Brádaigh, Proinnsias Semple, Pádraig Ó Gamhna  
Shane Dormer, Paul Brady, Frank Semple, Pádraig Gaffney

### **'B' TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: UCD**

Seán Ó Ruáin, Aindriú Ó Maoldomhnaigh, Pádraig Déabhrús, Séamus Ó Laighin, Dathai Ó Niallain  
John Ruane, Andrew Muldowney, Pat Devereux, Jim Lane, David Nealon

**MEN'S 'A' SINGLES:** Antóin Ó hÉalái, Tony Healy, UCC

**LADIES SINGLES:** Eilís Ní Chathmhaoil, Liz Campbell, QUB

**MEN'S 'B' SINGLES:** Micheál Ó Tormaigh, Micheal Tormey, Athlone RTC

## COMÓRTASAI IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

### **WATERFORD CRYSTAL IRISH NATIONALS**

Men's Open Singles	Peadar Mac Amhlai	Peter McAuley	O'Raghallaighs An Lú
Ladies Open Singles:	Bearnairdín Nic Aonghusa	Bernie Hennessy	Hospital, Luimneach
Men's B	Seán Ó Riain	John Ryan	Garryhill, Ceatharlach
Ladies B	Adrienne Ní Phleimeann	Adrienne Fleming	Naomh Brid, Ath Cliath
Men's C	Seán Ó Coirbin	John Corbett	Ballyporeen, Tiobraid Árann
MAS A	Micheál Breathnach	Mickey Walsh	Roscomáin
MAS B	Nollaig Mac Réamonn	Noel Raymond	Glenbeigh, Ciarraí
GMAS	Seán Ó Ciarba	John Kirby	Shannon, An Clár
GMBS	Pádraig Mac an Mháistir	Pat Masterson	Fahy, Uibh Fháili
Diamond Mas.	Micheál Ó Maolalaidh	Michael Lally	Moycullen, An Ghaillimh
Girls 15 & Under	Lidia Ní Dhúlainn	Lydia Doolan	St. Coman's, Roscomáin
Boys 15 & Under	Deasún Mac Aogáin	Dessie Keegan	Ballaghaderreen, Muigheo
Girls 17 and Under	Sile Ní Longáin	Julie Long	Naomh Brid, Áth Cliath
Boys 17 & Under	Ciarán Múineach	Ciarán Meenagh	Loughmacrory, Tir Eoghain
Girls 19 and Under	Fiona Nic Cionaoith	Fiona McKenna	Naomh Pol, Aontroim
Boys 19 & Under	Cionnaith Ó Catháin	Kenneth Kane	Garryhill, Ceatharlach

### **NATIONAL ONE WALL TOURNAMENT**

Men's Open Singles	Pádraig de hÁl	Pat Hall	Áth Cliath
Open Singles Plate	Daithí Mac an Ri	David King	Ceatharlach
Ladies Open Singles	Fionnuala Ní Mhiadhaigh	Fionnuala Mee	Roscomáin
Mas. 'B' Singles	Caoimhin Ó Dulainn	Kevin Doolan	Roscomáin
Mas. B Singles Plate	Conchubhar Ó Mórdha	Con Moore	Cill Chainnigh
Boys 17 and Under	Pól Ó Bradaigh	Paul Brady	An Cabhán
Girls 17 and Under	Sile Ní Longáin	Julie Long	Áth Cliath
Boys 14 and Under D	Seosamh Mac Canna, Aindriú Ó Moráin	Joseph McCann, Andrew Moran	Muigheo
Girls 14 and Under D	Lidia Ní Dhulainn, Aifric Ní Neachtáin	Lydia Doolan, Aifric Naughton	Roscomáin

### **EUROPEAN ONE-WALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Open Singles	Pól Ó Floinn	Paul Flynn	Ireland
Open Doubles	Alfredo Hernando Hueso, José Sarazol Soler		Spain

### **WATERFORD CRYSTAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Girls 15 and Under	Lidia Ní Dhulainn	Lydia Doolan	Ireland
Boys 15 and Under	Deasún Mac Aogáin	Dessie Keegan	Ireland
Girls 17 and Under	Sile Ní Longáin	Julie Long	Ireland
Boys 17 and Under	Pól Ó Bradaigh	Paul Brady	An Cabhán
Girls 19 and Under	Fiona Nic Cionaoith	Fiona McKenna	Ireland
Boys 19 and Under	Cionnaith Ó Catháin	Kenneth Kane	Ireland
Men's B Singles	Donál Mac Giolla Iontóg	Donal Armstrong	Aontroim
Women's B Singles	Roisín Ní Fhachtna	Roisín Faulkner	An Cabhán
Women's B Doubles	Máire Ní Lionsaí, Brid Mac Corraídh	Mary Lindsay, Brid Mac Corraídh	Aontroim
Men's C Singles	Adrian Ó Marranáin	Adrian Marrinan	An Clár
Men's Over 35 Doubles	Seán Ó Maolmhuidh, Micheál Mac Samhráin	John Boy Molloy, Michael McGovern	An Mhi

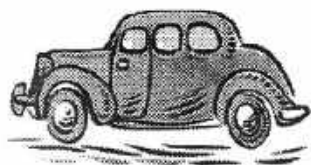


## National Handball Awards



*Pictured at the Waterford Crystal National Handball Awards presentation were:*

*Back row (l-r): Pat Kirby, Eddie Corbett, Br. Finbar Spring OSA, Tony Healy, Mickey Walsh, Michael 'Duxie' Walsh, Lydia Doolan, John Gaffney.  
Front row (l-r): Bridin Uí Mháolagáin, Uachtarán CLLB, Conchubhar Ó Mórdha, Uachtarán CLLE, Cllr Brendan Lynch, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Seosamh Mac Donncha, Uachtarán CLG, John Foley, Director of Sales & Marketing, Waterford Crystal and Berni Hennessy.*



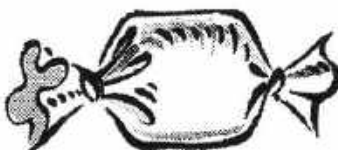
An FBD motor policy is miles more value...



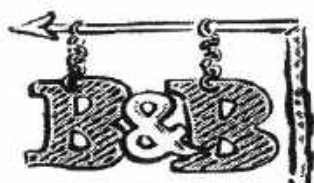
...our home premiums won't go through the roof...



...our Farm Multiperil policy will have you in clover...



and our retail premiums aren't hard to swallow.



FBD guesthouse cover lets you sleep peacefully...



...and our commercial cover is the business...



...in fact, FBD delivers the complete insurance package.

FBD Insurance for the home, car, farm or business offer comprehensive cover at competitive premiums.

There are 50 FBD local offices nationwide and our staff will be only too pleased to give you a quotation, with no obligation.

**FBD Insurance**

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