

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann  
**An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 2009**



## Tionólfar Comhdháil Bhliantúil 2009

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann

Ar an Domhnach, 29 Márta ag 11.00 r.n.

san

Kelly's Inn, Garvaghey (Ballygawley), Tír Eoghain

### Clár Oibre

1. Failte
2. Addresses of Invited Guests
3. Adoption of Standing Orders
4. Minutes of Comhdháil 2008
5. Report of Riarthóir Náisiúnta
6. Annual Accounts 2008
7. Elections
  - Cisteoir
  - Teachta ar Ard Comhairle CLG
8. Motions
9. Close of Congress

### Ainmniúcháin

**Cisteoir:**

**Cionnaith Ó Chonbhuí**  
(Corcaigh, Tiobraid Árann)  
**Eamon Ó Briain**  
(Áth Cliath)

**Teachta ar Ard Comhairle CLG**

**Antóin Ó hAodha**  
(Corcaigh, Tiobraid Árann)

## 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 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 entitled to vote 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 entitled to vote and voting.
9. The Chairman may change the order of items on the agenda with the support of a simple majority of those present entitled to vote and voting.



## TUARASCÁIL AN RIARTHÓRA NÁISIÚNTA

2008 was another very busy and extremely active one for Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann and on the handball courts of Ireland while Irish players performed exceptionally well in the main international events. The Strategic Plan for handball was extended for two years to enable the Task Teams to progress their work to achieve the objectives of the Plan as the original objectives were very ambitious and the Council lacked the resources to achieve the maximum outcomes. The profile of the game was enhanced through reasonable media coverage but the lack of TV exposure continues to be a serious problem for handball.

The Council engaged a consultancy firm to review the central office and main structure of the organisation and 2009 commenced with the appointment Cíostóir Ó Corráin as Handball Manager and an extra person will be appointed to support his role and that of Niamh Egan, Promotions Officer.

### Among the main highlights of 2008 were:

- The successful staging of the Envirogreen Resource Irish Nationals and the 2007 Handball Awards at which the All-Ireland senior champions of 1982 were honoured.
- The sponsorship of the DALKIA All-Ireland 40x20 senior championships for the first time and the continuing sponsorship of the M Donnelly All-Ireland Softball championships.
- The performances of Paul Brady (An Cabhán) in winning the US Open singles title for the fourth successive year and Tony Healy (Corcaigh) in winning the US Open of Handball and the Canadian Open Singles title.
- The record number of clubs which took part in Féile na nGael in Laois/Offaly.
- The publication of a series of promotional items and the participation of the Handball Council in several exhibitions including one at the GAA stand at the National Ploughing Championships in Kilkenny.
- The introduction of Summer Camps at Gormanston College and a number of pilot promotions in the Limerick City Regeneration Project and in second level schools and clubs.
- The ongoing development of a coaching and training programme for a development squad of 31 players between 15 and 20 years of age.
- The implementation of a coaching programme agreed with the National Coaching and Training Centre.

### Some areas of concern during the year were:

- The postponement of the Dalkia All-Ireland 40x20 singles finals
- The lack of interest in ladies handball in a majority of clubs
- The need to review and motivate clubs which do not promote juvenile handball
- The late entries of a number of players in national

### competitions

- The late completion of some provincial championships
- The need proper governance in clubs and counties
- The need to upgrade courts to proper standards for the 21st century

## National Competitions and Ranking Tournaments

Ard Chomhairle was responsible for a total of 218 competitions and there were 29 events in the St Paul's 40 x 20 Open and the One Wall Nationals. Paul Brady (An Cabhán) retained the Dalkia All-Ireland 40x20 Senior Singles title and he and Michael Finnegan won their third successive Doubles crown. Eoin Kennedy (Áth Cliath) took the M Donnelly All-Ireland Senior Singles Softball title for the sixth time and, with Egin Jensen, won the Senior Hardball Doubles but the Dubliners lost the Softball Doubles final to Tom Sheridan and Brian Carroll (An Mhí). Dessie Keegan (Muigheo) took the All-Ireland Senior singles title in hardball.

Ashley Prendiville (Ciarraí) won the All-Ireland Ladies Senior Singles softball title while Marianna Rushe and Leona Doolin (Roscomáin) took the Doubles. World Women's Open Singles champion, Fiona Shannon, (Aontroim) won the All-Ireland Senior Singles medal and partnered her sister, Sibeal McKenna, to victory in Doubles. In summary, 20 counties shared a total of 93 All Ireland adult titles in singles and doubles.

In addition to its full complement of domestic championships, Irish handball continued to dominate the international stage in the Canadian and USHA Nationals and in the USHA Junior Championships and the US Open of Handball. In Europe contacts were continued with the Basque Pelota Federation and links were maintained with the Italian Federation which organised the now annual Open D'Italia, all of which put additional demands on players and administrators.

COMPETITION	MALE		FEMALE		MIXED	Total
	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Juvenile	
60 x 30	32	8	10	8	-	58
40 x 20	34	8	10	8	-	60
Hardball	7	-	-	-	-	7
Team	6	6	-	4	-	16
Gael Linn	-	-	-	-	1	1
Féile na nGael	-	6	-	3	-	9
Second Level	-	12	-	8	-	20
Third Level	19	-	11	-	-	30
Irish Nationals	9	3	2	3	-	17
One Wall	6	3	2	2	-	13
Opens	8	3	3	2	-	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>247</b>

### M DONNELLY 60 x 30 Championships

The 60x30 championships were successful overall but there were no provincial championships in some grades and very few entries in others while the Emerald and Diamond Masters Doubles softball championships did not go ahead due to a lack of entries. The softball



competitions produced winners from only ten counties as against 15 winning counties in 2007. Kilkenny (7), Limerick (6) and Tipperary (5) accounting for more than half the total. Dublin won four All-Irelands, Mayo three and Tyrone and Galway two each while Wexford, Meath and Donegal all won one.

These figures must be a source of concern for the Council and raise the issue of the future and the survival of softball. Many reasons can be put forward to explain the situation, among them the relatively poor state of many of our 60x30 courts, the attractiveness of the 40x20 code with its many international playing opportunities, the age profile of softball players, the lack of juvenile coaching in some clubs where only adults play the game and the dearth of 60x30 courts in some parts of the country. A committee under the leadership of Tomás Breathnach has been examining the state of softball and their recommendations will have to be taken on board and acted upon to ensure that softball does not follow the same path as hardball.

### Sixth Singles Success for Eoin Kennedy

Eoin Kennedy from the St Brigid's Club in Dublin won his sixth 60 x 30 All-Ireland Senior Singles title when he defeated Michael Ducksy Walsh of Kilkenny, 21-5, 21-12 after which Ducksy announced his retirement from senior softball following a glittering career in which he won a record 16 All-Ireland senior softball singles titles, including 13 in-a-row, and a total of 38 senior medals in all, a truly remarkable achievement.

Tom Sheridan and Brian Carroll from the Kells Club in Meath swept through the Senior Doubles championship and defeated Mayo's Dessie Keegan and Joe McCann 21-12, 21-11 in the final. Ger Coonan from the Ballina Club set the headlines for Tipperary in winning the Intermediate Singles title with a fine 21-1, 21-8 win over Nicholas Anthony of Kilkenny who never produced his true form in a disappointing final. He also partnered Martin McInerney to victory in doubles 21-16, 21-18 against Ian Griffin and Kerry Hennessy of Dublin.

### Doubles for Limerick and Galway

Limerick retained both Minor softball titles: Seamus O'Carroll had the better of Meath's Gary McConnell 20-21, 21-16, 21-11 in an excellent contest while he and CJ Fitzpatrick took the doubles against Kilkenny's Gerard McGrath and Patrick Funchion 21-10, 21-0. Ollie Conway had double success in the junior grade winning in singles 21-11, 21-15 against Pat O'Donnell of Wicklow and, with Alan Tierney, taking the doubles over David Hope and Conor O'Brien of Offaly on a 21-7, 12-21, 21-5 scoreline. Wexford had a good win in Under 21 Singles where Mikey Berry outpointed David Walsh of Waterford 21-1, 21-6. The Under 21 Doubles medals went to Tyrone's Padraig McGlinchey and Brian Donaghy who were 21-14, 21-8 winners over David Walsh and Conor Moloney of Waterford. Tyrone's other title was in Masters B Doubles in which Stephen Clarke and Barney Corcoran took gold

with a 21-16, 21-6 win over Mayo's George Miller and Kevin Cox.

### Seven Titles for Kilkenny

The Noreside county kept up its tally in the softball code with seven All-Ireland titles. Ger Anthony was best in the Junior B singles final when he defeated John Joe Quirke of Kerry 21-16, 21-12. Stephen Barcoe and Eamon Holohan won the Junior B Doubles with a fine 21-8, 21-8 victory against John Joe Quirke and Pat Murphy. Michael Ducksy Walsh retained his Masters A singles and Doubles crowns: he had a walkover from Tipperary's Adrian Johnson in singles and he and Pat Maher were 21-89, 21-5 winners over Adrian Johnson and Jimmy Mullins in doubles. Billy Bourke added two more medals to his title haul: he defeated John Herlihy of Cork 21-8, 21-14 in Silver Masters A singles and he combined with Johnny Brennan to win the doubles medals 21-7, 21-4 against Francis McCann and Martin Golden of Sligo. Joe Hennessy from the Marbls City added a handball medal to his All-Ireland hurling title list when he had a 21-10, 21-6 win in the Golden Masters B singles final against Michael Heraty from Mayo. Michael Heraty had some compensation when he and Liam Burke turned the tables on Kilkenny when they defeated Joe Hennessy and Con Moore 21-17, 21-18 in Golden Masters B Doubles. Mayo's other wins were in Diamond Masters A Doubles in which Seamus Clarke and Matt Coady were too strong for Patsy Hand and Greg Sheridan of Cavan, 21-13, 21-13 and in Ruby Masters Doubles where Sean Heaney and Matt Grier had a 21-7, 21-6 win over Paddy Lennon and Tom Walsh of Wicklow.

### Masters for Munster Counties

Limerick and Tipperary featured well in the Masters winners list: Donal O'Connor had a fine double in Silver Masters B defeating Eamon Holohan of Kilkenny 21-17, 21-13 in singles and partnering Seamus Donovan to a 21-16, 21-9 win against Down's Sean McNally and Brian Havern in doubles. Tom O'Brien added a third title for Limerick by virtue of a 21-14, 3-21, 21-16 win at the expense of Johnny Brennan of Kilkenny. The Masters B Singles medal went to Tomás Donegan who defeated Stephen Clarke of Tyrone 21-14, 21-10.

Billy McCarthy and Pat Ryan of Tipperary won the Golden Masters A Doubles title with a good 21-16, 21-14 win against the Ryan brothers Sean and Andy Ryan from the Garryhill club in Carlow. Pakie Mullins took another medal for the Clonmel club in winning the Emerald Masters A Singles title 21-8, 21-10 against Dave Mulhern of Donegal. In the Emerald Masters B Singles final Paddy Collins from Ballina completed the Tipperary list when he took the title 21-13, 21-14 over Michael Todd of Monaghan.

Eugene Kennedy added two medals to his tally in winning the Diamond Masters A Singles title 21-20, 21-8 against Noel Raftery of Roscommon and he Vinny Farrelly kept all opponents at arm's length on their way to the Emerald



masters A Doubles final in which they were too strong (21-16, 21-16) for Seán Doyle and Pakie Mullins of Tipperary. Michael O'Brien of Dublin won the Ruby Masters Singles final defeating Mossie Butler from the Déise 21-13, 21-8 and Eamon McDonnell took Donegal's only title winning the Diamond Masters B Singles 21-13, 21-9 against Tim Joe Healy of Cork.

## DALKIA 40 x 20 Championships

Sixteen counties took adult honours in the 40 x 20 court with Cavan and Tyrone winning five titles each followed by Galway and Mayo with four apiece and Kilkenny with three. Dublin and Monaghan each won two titles and Meath, Limerick, Roscommon, Wexford, Cork, Offaly, Sligo, Carlow and Donegal took one All-Ireland each. In all, a total of 17 counties won All-Irelands over the two courts, nine counties winning All-Irelands in both 60x30 and 40x20.

## Cavan Retain Senior Titles & Tyrone Claim 5

Cavan's Paul Brady again retained his All-Ireland Senior Singles crown in a final played at the magnificent Abbeylara complex in a see-saw game against Tony Healy of Cork, 21-7, 14-21, 21-2, which had to be postponed following lengthy discussions and meetings regarding the choice of venue. The Breffni star was partnered by the ever dependable Michael Finnegan in the Senior Doubles final and they had a relatively comfortable 21-16, 21-10 victory over Dessie Keegan and Joe McCann from the Ballaghaderreen club in Mayo at Kingscourt. Patrick clerkin was another Cavan player to win two 40x20 medals: he accounted for Pat Doody of Limerick 21-14, 21-16 in Junior B Singles and he and Pádraig Cahill outscored Pat Doody and Cathal Dillon 14-21, 21-15, 21-16 in doubles. The fifth Cavan title went to Greg Sheridan and Patsy Hand who were too strong for Roscommon's Noel Raftery and Pat Clarke, 9-21, 21-17, 21-16, in Diamond Masters A Doubles.

Padraig McGlinchey of Tyrone had an auspicious start to his handball year by winning the Under 21 Singles 21-10, 21-5 against Ciarán Burke of Mayo while he and Darragh Daly took gold in Under 21 Doubles defeating Conor Cooney and Cathal Hannon of Clare 21-12, 21-13. The Junior singles honours went to Ruairí Kelly from the O'Neill County when he won out against Michael Murphy of Cork 21-16, 16-21, 21-1. Another Tyrone man to achieve a double was Stephen Clarke in the Masters B grade. He was best in the singles final against Tom King of Galway (21-9, 21-3) and Barney Corcoran partnered him to win the doubles medals 21-9, 21-6 in their final against Danny Lenihan and John McDonagh from the Rebel County. Cork gained revenge over Tyrone in Intermediate Doubles when Colm Jordan and Patrick Buckley came out on top 21-7, 14-21, 21-14 against Stephen O'Neill and Gary McRory.

Gavin Buggy from the St Mary's Club in Wexford showed his best form to date in winning an excellent Intermediate Singles final against Colm Jordan, Cork, on a 21-14, 20-21, 21-12 scoreline. Junior Doubles honours went to Niall



McGrath and Neil McDermott from Roscommon who outpointed David Hope and Noel Murphy from the Faithful County 21-17, 21-10. Michael Ducksy Walsh retained the Masters A Singles and Doubles titles for Kilkenny with a facile 21-3, 21-0 win over Roscommon's Cormac O'Briena and he was partnered by Pat Maher to win the doubles medals 21-11, 21-11 against Pat O'Flaherty and John McQuaide from the Premier County. The third Kilkenny All-Ireland 40x20 title went to Martin Lalor and Philly Parsons in Silver Masters A Doubles when they overcame the strong challenge of Cork's John Herlihy and John Hedigan 21-18, 21-18.

Meath's Gary McConnell followed in the footsteps of fellow county men Walter O'Connor and Brian Carroll when he won the Minor singles medal defeating the promising Stephen Cooney from the Ballaghaderreen Club in Mayo 21-2, 21-19. The Treaty county retained the Minor doubles title with Seamus o'Carroll and CJ Fitzpatrick winning out over Conor Grugan and Caolán Daly of Tyrone 21-10, 21-20 in an excellent final.

## Nine Masters Titles for Connacht

Eamon Conneely from Galway led the Connacht charge in the Masters grades: he won the Silver Masters A Singles title in a final in which Billy Bourke of Kilkenny had to retire injured. JJ Farragher followed for the Tribesmen by winning the Silver Masters B singles final against Pechelli English of Wexford 21-16, 21-10. He was then partnered by Martin Ford to victory in Silver Masters B Doubles (21-18, 21-12) against Fintan Doyle and Declan Hart from the Model County. Galway's other victory was in Diamond Masters B Doubles with Bill Flynn and Frank O'Connor defeating Donegal's Eamon McDonnell and Brendan Temple 21-19, 21-5. Kevin Geraghty from Mayo won in Golden Masters A Singles and Doubles; he defeated Kilkenny's Johnny Brennan 21-9, 18-21, 21-7 and, partnered by Martin Cronin, won doubles against Seamus Ahern and John Ward from Dublin 16-21, 21-16, 21-18. Sean Heaney from Mayo also had a fine double: he was best in the Ruby Masters Singles final (21-13, 21-14) against Paddy Lennon of the Garden County and he and Michael Reilly defeated Ger McWilliams and John



Somers from the Model County 21-15, 21-14 in doubles. Connacht's ninth masters title was won by Seamus Duffy and Pat Sullivan of the Yeats County who outscored Dublin's John Barton and Paddy Clerkin 21-10, 21-10. However, John Barton did have success in the singles final defeating Paddy Collins of Tipperary 21-13, 21-12. Eugene Kennedy again won the Emerald Masters A Singles medal with a good 21-19, 21-1 win against Mayo's Martin Cronin.

Eamon McDonnell from Donegal won the first of his two Diamond Masters B Singles titles of 2009 when he took gold against Galway's Bill Flynn 21-13, 20-21, 21-13. Carlow's only 40x20 title was won by Andy Ryan in Diamond Masters A Singles in a 21-10, 21-14 win over Morgan Darcy from Galway. Former Westmeath player Jim Guilfoyle, and now long time resident in Offaly, partnered Billy Mullins to win the Emerald masters A Doubles All-Ireland for the Faithful County in a 21-3, 21-12 victory against Seamus McHugh and Liam Grehan of Roscommon. Martin McEntee gained just reward for his efforts over the years in winning the All-Ireland Golden Masters B Singles medal, 21-12, 21-4 against Pat Hopkins from Mayo and he was partnered by Peter Larkin to win the doubles against Michael Hearty and Liam Burke, also from Mayo on an 18-21, 21-16, 21-18 result.

In looking back at the 40x20 championships it is fair to say that this code is strong in most areas but a lot more needs to be done to promote the game at underage level in clubs and counties which have had little success in recent years. The 40x20 code has many advantages over the 60x30 game among them being

- The attraction of newer courts with better facilities as opposed to the older 60x30 courts which have less appealing facilities.
- The international appeal of 40x20 handball.
- The game is more glamorous and spectators generally feel nearer the court than in 60x30 where fewer courts have glass back walls.
- It is easier for a beginner or a juvenile to start playing in a smaller court.

## **HARDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Following the revival of interest among a core group of players a few years ago the number of entries for the hardball championships has levelled off and the number of minor players has decreased. However, several former minors are now in junior ranks and the hope is that there will be further interest among younger players and that the junior grade will expand with the throughput of these players. Whatever the present level of interest in hardball, there will be little prospect of any further significant improvement of the code without some positive promotional and coaching programme to develop the game in the future. It was encouraging to note that when the minor championships were re-introduced a few years ago, players were pleasantly surprised at how easy it was to adapt to the ball and the game. It is possible to build on this and to create a more favourable attitude to and

interest in hardball but it will not happen without a definite plan and the inclusion of some coaching of hardball in coaching courses.

However, at present very few people, clubs, counties or provinces do anything to promote hardball. There is no point in complaining about the quality of the game or the relatively low number of players taking part in the championships if units are not prepared to do something positive to redress the situation. Clubs, especially those with a tradition of hardball, should offer their players the opportunity to try the game out or to take some coaching sessions. It must also be acknowledged that there has been little effort at national level to address the situation: perhaps this should be taken on by a committee of a few people devoted to the ancient Irish code.

Hardball has a long and established tradition and its value should not be underestimated or discarded lightly; the onus is on those who say there is a future for the game to promote it and to get enough players involved to justify continuing the championships. It has been part of our heritage and every effort should be made to preserve and develop it in appreciation of its historical past and for the benefit of future generations.

The 2008 championships were very successful and there were very good entries in seven events but, as in 2007, there were not enough to warrant the playing of the Masters Doubles.

Dessie Keegan from the Ballaghaderreen Club won his first All-Ireland senior title when he defeated fellow-clubman Vinny Moran 20-21, 21-13, 21-3 in a well contested singles final. Eoin Kennedy and Egin Jensen overcame the challenge of Vinny Moran and Campbell Brennan of Mayo for the second year in a row before retaining the Senior Doubles crown 21-7, 21-12.. Minor Singles honours went to Seamus O'Carroll of Limerick for the second successive year when he defeated his doubles partner CJ Fitzpatrick 21-18, 21-11 in an excellent and very sporting final at Hospital. The Limerick pair had a good win in Minor Doubles 921-8, 21-14) against Stephen Cooney and Ian McLoughlin from Mayo.

Joe Mc Cann brought further honours to Ballaghaderreen when he won the Junior Singles title 21-20, 21-1 against Dominick Lynch from the Glenbeigh Club. The Kerryman has a fine win in Junior Doubles when he and John Joe Quirke took the gold medals with a 21-2, 21-7 win over Tyrone's Barry Devlin and Shane O'Neill. Tom Sheridan came out on top in the Masters Singles final, 21-8, 21-10 against Limerick native Paddy Donovan representing Laois.

## **LADIES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **First Senior Title for Roscommon**

Roscommon ladies had an excellent year returning eight titles from a possible 20. Marianna Rushe and Leona



Doolin won the county's first ever ladies senior title when they were too good for Patricia Doyle and Shauna Hilley of Wicklow 21-2, 21-18 in the 60x30 doubles final. Mariana Rushe and Katie Costello continued their long time partnership by winning both Intermediate Doubles All-Ireland finals: they defeated Carol Moloney and Donna Harding, Tipperary, 21-6, 21-7 in softball and Carlow's Clara Mullins and Miriam Ryan 21-20, 21-8 in 40x20.

In addition to her senior medal, Leona Doolin won three of the four minor titles on offer: she defeated Shauna Hilley of Wicklow 21-8, 13-21, 21-7 in 60x30 Minor Singles but lost out to her Garden County opponent 21-17, 21-8 in the 40x20 Minor Singles event. The St Coman's player was partnered by Hilary Rushe to victory over sisters Lorraine and Rachel Havern of Down in both Minor Doubles finals - 21-10, 21-19 in softball and 21-6, 21-18 in 40x20. The other Roscommon winners were Linda Connolly in 60x30 Junior B Singles against Sarah Merrigan of Wexford, 21-18, 21-20 and Laura Mannion and Siobhán Tully in 60x30 Junior B Doubles against Sarah Merrigan and Tanya O'Toole from the Model County, 21-9, 21-4.

Ashley Prendiville, Kerry, and Bernie Hennessy of Limerick displayed their skills on the Croke Park court in the 60x30 senior final in which the Ballymacelligott girl came out on top 21-13, 21-12. The other title to go to Munster was the 60x30 Junior Doubles in which Fidelma O'Reilly and Sarah Flavin defeated Marie Therese O'Neill and Claire Love from the Clogh club in Kilkenny 21-17, 21-13.

### Success for Ulster Ladies

In 40x20 Fiona Shannon retained her Senior Singles title winning out against her 2007 doubles partner and clubmate Aisling Reilly 21-17, 14-21, 21-12 and was rejoined by her sister Sibeal Gallagher to win the Senior Doubles 21-20, 21-8 against Elmeare Ni Fhallúin and Anna Spence from Kildare. Róisín Gilmore from Cavan won the 40x20 Intermediate Singles title to deny Katie Costello, Roscommon, 21-5, 21-12. Ulster's fourth 40x20 title went to Avril McNamee of Donegal who was too strong for Linda Connolly of Roscommon 21-1, 21-10 in 40x20 Junior B Singles.

Patricia Doyle from the Coolboy Club in Wicklow won gold in both codes: she took the 60x30 Intermediate Singles against Catriona Casey of Kerry, 21-9, 21-2 and won the 40x20 Junior Doubles with Stacey Doyle in an 8-21, 21-10, 21-7 win over Pauline Gallagher and Maria Corrigan from Mayo. Pauline Gallagher had the better of Patricia Doyle in the 40x20 Junior Singles final 10-21, 21-9, 21-10 and she won the 60x30 Junior Singles final against Marie Therese O'Neill from Kilkenny 21-10, 21-1. Wexford won the 40x20 Junior B Doubles title when Tanya O'Toole and Martina Walsh were 21-15, 21-15 winners over Sarah Loughnane and Sarah O'Donnell from the Banner County.

Apart from Roscommon's successes, there was a much

wider spread of ladies titles in 2008 compared with previous years. The standard of ladies handball continues to improve and this is helped greatly by the successes of our female players in international competition and the fact that Irish girls have dominated the World and USHA Junior championships for the past decade. Add in the success of Fiona Shannon in winning the World Open Singles titles in 2003 and 2006 and one can see how younger players are inspired to aim for the highest honours.

Despite the standards referred to, ladies handball is not promoted by enough clubs and those who do not do so should take on that responsibility and provide the opportunity for players to take up handball. The game is ideally suited to girls, especially those who may not like to take part in team sports and it is incumbent on all clubs to act on this. This would benefit clubs and the game as a whole and, with a view to the future, many of them will become involved in coaching and administration in later years.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

In all, six clubs shared the six All-Ireland Club titles. There was further success for Ballaghaderreen as the club won their fourth successive 40 x 20 Open Club title with a fine 78-21 win over Gort na Móna from Antrim. However, they surrendered the 60x30 Open Club title to Kells, (Meath) 102-83. Clogh were victorious in the Junior 60x30 final winning out over St Coman's of Roscommon on a 118-106 scoreline. St Patrick's Club from Cavan town followed up their Junior 40x20 win of 2007 with victory in the Junior grade with a fine 101-76 win against Ballydesmond. Ballymoe, Roscommon, took the honours in the 40x20 Junior B final against St Brigid's, Monavea in Laois 88-66 and the Junior B 60x30 title went to Coolgreaney, Wexford who defeated Ballina, Tipperary 124-75.

Entries in the club championships have improved in recent years but there should be many more entries in each grade. These championships should be the high point of club activity and it is lamentable that so many clubs do not consider it worthwhile to enter. Players would relish the opportunity to represent their clubs and the competitions would be much more meaningful for all concerned.

## JUVENILE BOYS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Eight counties from Munster, Leinster and Connacht won juvenile boys titles, six of these in 60x30 and five in 40x20. The fact that Ulster counties have not appeared in the list of winners in significant numbers in the past few years must be a source of concern. Fiontan Ó Curraoin from Galway and Eoghan Hennessy of Kilkenny met in both Under 16 singles finals. The Westerner won out 21-12, 21-13 in 40x20 and the Kilkenny man reversed the tables in 60x30 on a 21-14, 21-3 scoreline. Galway had an excellent win in Under 16 40x20 Doubles with Séamus



Ó Conghaile and Martin Mulkerrins victorious over Luke Greene and Keith Clifford of Kilkenny 21-19, 20-21, 11-9. Pádraig O'Carroll from the Treaty County added an Under 16 60x30 Doubles medal to his 2007 singles title when he and Stephen Foley defeated Keith Clifford and Graham Clifford of Kilkenny 16-21, 21-17, 11-3 in the final.

Denis O'Neill from Cork showed the range of his talent when he won the Under 14 40x20 singles title against Michael Carson from the Orchard County and partnered by Patrick Herlihy, won the Under 14 Softball Doubles 15-8, 15-3 against Dylan Walsh and Cillian Treacy of Kilkenny. Cork's third juvenile title went to John O'Keeffe who won the 40x20 Under 17 Singles final against Donal O'Farrell from Kilkenny, 21-19, 17-21, 11-6. Pádraig Quish enhanced the family tradition by winning the Under 14 60x30 Singles medal with a 15-7, 15-5 win against Daniel O'Leary from Carlow. Clare's Barry McMahon and Jamie Shanahan won out in Under 14 40x20 Doubles 15-4, 15-4 against Patrick McCrory and Colin Travers of Tyrone.

Waterford and Wexford each won two titles: Barry McCullagh and Colm Kindregan took the Under 15 Doubles gold medals in both codes defeating Niall Owens and Conor Duff, Tyrone, 21-4, 21-10 in 40x20 and Keith Walsh and Cian Ryan of Kilkenny in 60x30. Jason Murphy from the Castlebridge club in Wexford denied Stiofán Ó Béara any points in an easy win in the Under 17 60x30 Singles final and Peter Hughes and Mark Maher won the Under 17 Softball Doubles 21-11, 21-14 against Darragh Lyons and Enda Frawley from Limerick. There were successes for Kilkenny in the 40x20 finals when Peter Funchion defeated Ciarán Maone of Clare 21-8, 21-3 in Under 15 Singles and Jason Delaney and Keith Bourke were too strong for Seán Harte and Darren Moore from the Premier County in the Under 17 Doubles 40x20 final.

The standard of skill, commitment, dedication and endeavour was maintained at a very high level in the juvenile boys championships. We had many excellent displays of top class handball and the prospects are that this will continue into the top adult grades in the future. However, there were several one-sided finals and this is a source of concern. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, it is a great pity that some Clubs have no juveniles at all and one must ask what the future holds for these Clubs: they have a responsibility to promote, develop and organise handball for young people and to ensure that the facilities which have been provided in the past are fully utilised in the future.

It is evident that the good work being done in the winning counties is bearing fruit: success comes only after a lot of hard work in coaching and training young players in the skills of the game. Despite the fact that there were a few one-sided finals, the standard of play is good overall. The current crop of players are very keen and dedicated to improving their game and the work being done by the Coaching Task Team with the Development Squad and by the provinces with their selected players will become

more obvious over the next two to three years.

## **JUVENILE GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 16 girls titles were shared by eight counties with, unusually, only three of them winning in both courts. Mayo and Kilkenny each took four titles while Cork and Clare each had two victories with Roscommon, Kerry, Wexford and Limerick taking one apiece. Mayo, Cork and Kilkenny players had doubles winning in both courts: Amy Corrigan had another very successful season taking both Under 16 singles titles at the expense of Aoife McCarthy, 21-9, 21-6 in softball and 21-8, 21-12 in 40x20. Aishling O'Keeffe and Cartiona Casey from Cork showed their class and style in Under 16 Doubles: they were 21-1, 21-4 winners against Fionnuala McKenna and Erin Connolly of Armagh in 40x20 and had a walkover from Wexford in 60x30. Kilkenny's Ciara Mahon and Mary Phelan won both Under 14 Doubles titles defeating Cianna Ní Churraoin and Róisín Ní Chonghaile, Gaillimh, 15-0, 15-5 in 60x30 and Cornelia Prendiville and Clara Griffin, Kerry, 15-2, 15-5 in 40x20.

Lauren O'Riordan from the St Coman's Club took the Under 14 60x30 Singles medal for Roscommon with a facile win over Amy Byrne from Carlow. Martina McMahon from the Cappagh club in Limerick retained her Under 14 40x20 Singles crown defeating Ciara Clarke of Tyrone with ease. In the Under 15 60x30 Singles final Jennifer Fahy from Mayo had a 21-10, 21-12 win over Rachel Hogan of Kilkenny while Leona Ryder, also from Mayo and seeking success for the past few years, won the Under 17 60x30 Singles final against Caoimhe Barnes of Wicklow.

Maria Walsh from Kilkenny had two fine wins at Under 15 Doubles: she and Demi Donovan won the 60x30 title defeating Paula Loughnane and Shauna O'Brien of Clare 21-20, 21-3 and, with Rachel Hogan, taking gold in 40x20 Doubles over the Clare pairing of Alanah O'Brien and Naomi Lonergan, 13-21, 21-12, 11-6. The Banner County had two victories in the 40x20 code: Orlaith Duggan had the better of Elena Gartland of Antrim in the Under 15 40x20 Singles final, 21-3, 21-7 and Aine Gleeson and Elaine Hannon won out against Megan Clifford and Denise Doyle from Kilkenny in the Under 17 Doubles event, 17-21, 21-18, 11-10. Wexford's only win in the juvenile girls finals was at Under 17 Singles in 40x20 where Michelle Boland had a 21-12, 21-18 win against Hazel Prendiville from the Kingdom. The Kerry girl, with Alana Diggins, took the opportunity to win the Under 17 60x30 Doubles title later in the year, defeating Megan Clifford and Denise Doyle from Kilkenny 17-21, 21-19, 11-6, thus gaining some compensation for the defeat in 40x20.

One of the main difficulties in completing the girls championships was the withdrawal of some players due to other games commitments on the same weekends as the handball finals. With the advance notice counties have of the All-Ireland juvenile finals they should be in early contact with the other sports to ensure that no



clashes of fixtures occur. It is a poor reflection on handball when finals are conceded due to lack of communication with other sports organisations: more often than not it is handball that suffers and when one considers that we facilitate so many players who take part in other Gaelic sports, by changing fixtures even at short notice, it is disappointing that this is not the case when our players have clashes of fixtures.

Notwithstanding the high level of skill and ability of a large number of juvenile girls, there is still a wide disparity of standards in some grades and this is something which the Provincial Councils should deal with in coaching programmes for the players who are not included in the Development Squad coaching and training sessions. All players need good coaching and there should be more regular competitions for them – apart from provincial and All-Ireland championships.

### JUVENILE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Juvenile Team Championships offer an ideal opportunity to represent their county for those players who have not won a provincial championship in any age group. It is to be regretted that several counties do not participate in these worthwhile competitions: with a reasonable amount of coaching and preparation, it is possible to develop relatively good team in any age group, especially at Under 12/13 level. Every county should be competing in every grade in an effort to increase the numbers playing handball and to improve the standard of the game. Although adults may view the measure of success in terms of wins and progress to provincial and national success, juveniles have a far different perspective and want to be involved in competition even if they do not progress very far in an event. Counties should give them the chance to take part and encourage their players to aspire to higher standards by taking every available opportunity to play in competitions.

#### Clare Dominate Team Events

Clare juveniles had an excellent year winning four of the five All-Irelands they contested. The Banner County Under 12/13 team won the 60x30 final against Wexford by 73 points to 61 and their Under 16/17 team won the 60x30 title defeating Wexford 42-37. Three of the same Clare team were on the winning side in the Under 16/17 40x20 final when they defeated Wexford 49-47 in a very tight contest. Clare's other win was at Under 14/15 in the 40x20 court where they had the measure of Kilkenny, 82-59. The Noresiders reversed the tables on Clare in the Under 14/15 60x30 final coming out on top by 70 to 52. Tyrone had a good win at Under 12/13 level in the 40x20 court defeating Tipperary by 73 points to 42.

A very strong Ballydesmond team carried off the Girls Under 16 Club championship defeating Na Fianna from Dublin 84-5 in one-sided final. Newport from Mayo took the Girls Under 16 Club title at the expense of the Ballydesmond team 90-79 in well deserved victory. Connacht won both Girls Under 13/17 Interprovincial titles

defeating Munster in 60x30 by 121 points to 72 and accounting for Leinster in 40x20 by 117 to 67.

### THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES

With increasing numbers entering the Third Level Colleges Championships year after year, handball in this sector continues to go from strength to strength. The thanks and appreciation of all colleges players and of the Irish Handball Council are due in no small measure to Pádraig Gaffney and David Smith for their very dedicated service to the game in the colleges. They organise promotions with the various colleges during Open Weeks to promote and publicise college handball clubs and they work tirelessly to ensure the successful organisation of the three major colleges handball events each year.

Nicholas Anthony representing WIT won the Men's Open 60x30 Singles and Brian Carroll (DIT) was best in the 40x20 Open Singles. Brian Quigley of NUIG was 60x30 B Singles champion and John Peppard from UL won the C title. In 40x20 Patrick Finnegan (UCD), David Walsh (UCC) and Eugene O'Reilly (DCU) were A, B and C Singles winners respectively.

Ashley Prendiville representing UCC defeated Marianna Rushe (UCD) in the 60x30 Ladies Open Singles final but the UCD player, with her sister Hilary, took gold in the Ladies A Doubles final turning the tables on Ashley Prendiville and her sister Maebh. In 40x20 Eimear Ní Fhallúin from UCD won the Ladies Open Singles while Ashley Prendiville (UCC) was best in the Ladies A grade.

The DIT team of Dara O'Gara, Brian Carroll, Niall Gordon and Shane Heraty won the 60x30 A team championship over SIT, 70-41 and DCU took the B team title in a fine victory against NUIG, 76-67. The C team laurels went to UL who defeated NUIG second team 76-60. Ulster teams dominated the 40x20 team championships, UUJ being victorious in the A and B grades. Their very strong Tyrone-powered team of Pádraig McGlinchey, Conor Duff, Brian Donaghy and Darragh Daly outscored UL by 75 points to 49 and the same college won the B event defeating UCD 70-66 in a close tie. The C team medals were claimed by Cavan Institute in a 73-59 win against UL's second team.

### USHA COLLEGIATES

As usual, a very large contingent of Irish players and teams took part in the USHA Collegiate Championships in February. However, the male players did not live up to the standards set in previous years and despite contesting four finals, they did not win any titles. Brian Carroll from DIT lost out in the Men's Open Singles event to Luis Moreno from Pima CC for the second year in a row 21-6, 21-18 and Patrick Clerkin from UCD went down 21-13, 21-4 in A Singles. John Horgan, also flying the UCD colours, lost out 21-20, 21-9 in B Singles while David Smith from DCU was on the wrong end of a 21-11, 21-13 scoreline in C Singles.



The Irish ladies performed exceptionally well winning a total of seven titles from the Open Singles to the Women's Challenger event. Eimear Ní Fhalláin from UCD, who lost out in the 2007 final to Maria Daly of UCC, won the Women's Open Singles in an all-Irish final where she was too strong for Marianna Rushe (UCD) 21-20, 21-16. Marianna Rushe and Catriona Casey combined to win the Women's Open Doubles 21-20, 21-16 against a strong American pairing. Karen Lawlor (UL) retained the Women's A title against Mary Masalkis of Missouri State University whom she beat in 2007. Catriona Casey from NUIG won the B Singles and Sinéad Gallogly (DCU), Joan McNulty (UL) and Joanne Logan (DCU) took the honours in C, Intermediate and Challenger Singles respectively crowning a wonderful tournament for the most successful Irish ladies team to date.

It is only fitting to note the major contribution made by Padraig Gaffney to the participation of increasing numbers of Irish students in the USHA Collegiates over the past decade and to congratulate him on the progress made. He has led that development and the success of Irish players has been a credit to his dedication and commitment to Colleges handball. It is also fitting to acknowledge the fact that the US Colleges welcome the participation of the Irish Colleges in their major championships and we thank the organisers for their help and cooperation in facilitating them year after year.

## **ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES**

As in 2007, there was a very wide spread of colleges in the All-Ireland finals with 20 schools taking part in the 12 boys finals and 12 in the eight girls finals. There were winners from six boys schools in 60x30 and six in 40x20 with 11 schools in total winning gold. Munster colleges took seven of the 12 titles on offer and the remaining five went to Leinster.

Gerard McGrath of Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale in Kilkenny was the only player to win two colleges titles in 2008: he partnered Dan Breen to win the 60x30 Senior Doubles title and Mark O'Dwyer to victory in 40x20 Senior Doubles. CJ Fitzpatrick from Hazlewood College in Drumcollogher won the 60x30 Senior Singles title and the corresponding 40x20 medal went to Shane Hedigan from the Nagle Rice College in Doneraile. Intermediate Singles honours in 60x30 went to Eoghan Hennessy from Castlecomer CS and the 40x20 title was won by Diarmuid Nash representing Cistercian College, Roscrea.

St Joseph's from Tulla were victorious in the Intermediate Softball Doubles when Christopher Philpott and Jamie Lynch won out and the 40x20 gold medals went to Mark Maher and Peter Hughes of Enniscorthy CBS. Keith Kavanagh of Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew won the 60x30 Junior Singles and Pádraig O'Carroll, representing Salesian College, Pallaskenry won the 40x20 title. Junior Doubles honours in 60x30 and 40x20 went to Munster schools with Paudi Quish and Eamon Davern from St

John The Baptist College, Hospital and Conor and Killian Carroll from Patrician Academy, Mallow winning the respective codes.

The girls from the Convent of Mercy in Roscommon were again in the forefront in the Colleges championships winning three of the eight titles available thus reflecting the work being done in the St Coman's Club which was so successful in the juvenile and ladies championships. Leona Doolin won the 60x30 Senior Singles title and was partnered by Hilary Rushe to victory in the 40x20 Senior Doubles final and Lauren O'Riordan won the 60x30 Junior Singles event. The fine combination of Ashling O'Keeffe and Catriona Casey from Boherbue Comprehensive School in Cork ensured a win for them in the 60x30 Senior Doubles final. Cianna Ní Churraoin and Róisín Ní Chonghaile from Coláiste na Coiribe in Galway were 60x30 Junior Doubles winners. The 40x20 Junior Singles title went to Clodagh McManamon representing Sacred Heart College, Westport and Lorraine Havern, St Mary's, Newry won the Senior Singles. St Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen collected yet another All-Ireland Colleges award when Stephanie Coleman and Paula Conroy were Senior 40x20 Doubles champions.

In general, the successes of the various college players reflects more on the interest their clubs take in these championships than do the schools. Special thanks go to those clubs which look after handball in and for schools and to a number of schools which make the effort to promote the sport and to facilitate their pupils in playing in the colleges events. With the increased pressure on teachers and school resources, it is understandable that some schools cannot put the same emphasis on handball as on team sports which cater for a much larger pupil population. However, it is in the interests of all schools to facilitate their players and to help with arrangements for training, finance and transport to games. It is a huge advantage for schools when clubs are involved but clubs should not have to take on the full responsibility for colleges games.

I would like to pay tribute to the provincial schools handball organisers for their tireless work in organising the colleges competitions. In the main, they ensured that competitions were run off in time to facilitate the making of the All-Ireland fixtures but some fixtures had to be issued without the names of a few provincial winners. This is not good practice and reflects poorly on the organisation and it is unfair to opponents; they are entitled to know who the opposition are and they should have this information well in advance of the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.

## **FÉILE na nGAEL**

Féile na nGael 2008 was an outstanding success and was exceptionally well hosted and organised by the Laois/Offaly Féile Handball Coiste, this despite the relatively small number of clubs and courts in the counties and the distances between the venues. The Council appreciates the wonderful work done by the main



organisers, especially Cathaoirleach Paddy Donovan and Rúnaí Patsy Dowling, and of the venue officials. The host clubs did a marvellous job in preparing for the event and in administering the programme and we thank those officials who took time out to look after the general arrangements and the organisation of the games.

Entries for Féile 2008 were the highest ever and a record 33 teams took part in a very colourful and well marshalled parade which was led by All-Ireland and World Open Doubles champion Eoin Kennedy. All teams enjoyed a wonderful weekend which always leads to new friendships which last long after Féile with teams exchanging visits and contacts being maintained over ensuing years. It is a marvellous experience for the clubs to take part in a national GAA festival with the thousands of hurling and camogie players from all over the country and England, memories to be treasured for a lifetime.

The Garryhill Boys team won the 60x30 Division One title with a 42-19 win against Bridgetown of Wexford who also lost out in the Division Two final to Mullinavat on a 41-31 scoreline. Mallow collected the Boys 40x20 Division One medals winning 41-17 against Kilkishen from Clare. The Division Two honours went to Maigh Chuilinn, Gaillimh with a 34-30 win over Tinryland of Carlow. Cashel made a welcome return to the national juvenile scene by winning the Boys Division Three medals, 41-10 against Dublin Club Na Fianna. The relatively new St Patrick's Club from Cavan made their mark by taking the Division four title, 42-15, in the final against Coolboy. The Clogh girls were winners of the premier 40x20 Division defeating Clooney-Quin from Clare 51-38 and Kingscourt improved on their 2007 standing by winning gold in Division Two against Kells, Kilkenny. The Division Three title was shared by An Ghaeltacht, Ciarraí and Garryhill from Carlow after a tie in the final.

### ENVIROGREEN RESOURCE IRISH NATIONALS

The 2008 Envirogreen Resource Irish Nationals attracted over 330 entries in the 17 events from 13 and Under to Golden Masters. The early rounds of Qualifiers were played at regional venues over one weekend and the final stages were hosted by Kilkenny, Laois and Carlow clubs where the games were planned, hosted and organised very well. The cooperation of players was excellent in ensuring that there were very few walkovers by comparison with some previous years. Our thanks to all host clubs and their officials for looking after the Qualifiers and to the Kilkenny Coiste, led by Con Moore, for taking charge of the playoffs and finals.

Tony Healy won his fourth Men's Open title, his second in succession, with a good win over Eoin Kennedy. Aisling Reilly won the Ladies Open for the first time to add to her impressive haul of underage Nationals titles when she accounted for her Naomh Pól club mate Fiona Shannon who was seeking her eighth title. Vinny Moran

(Ballaghaderreen), Ruairi Kelly from Tyrone and Patrick Clerkin, St Patrick's, Cavan had good wins in the A, B, and C Singles grades respectively.

The Ladies B victor was Patricia Doyle of Coolboy and the Girls 13, 15 and 17 and Under winners were Martina McMahon (Cappagh), Catriona Casey (Ballydesmond) and Leona Doolin (St Coman's). Winners in the Boys 13, 15, 17 and 19 and Under sections were Padraig Quish (Hospital), Padraig O'Carroll (Cappagh), Tyree Bastidas from the USA and Padraig McGlinchey of Carrickmore. Martin McEntee from Monaghan retained his Golden Masters B status and Michael Ducksy Walsh took the honours in the Masters Singles. Stephen Clarke of Tyrone won the Masters B and Kevin Geraghty had a walkover from the luckless Tom O'Brien of Broadford who was forced to withdraw from the final due to injury.

We wish to acknowledge the sponsorship of Envirogreen and Resource for the Nationals and appreciate the interest of Walter O'Connor and his colleagues in lending their support to the Nationals and Awards: at a time when finances are limited, it is very encouraging to have the backing of companies in organising some of our premier events

### ONE-WALL NATIONALS

On behalf of all the players who took part, I wish to thank and congratulate Coiste Chontae Shligigh who hosted the One Wall Nationals in July and again did a marvellous job in organising the venues over four counties. The organisers are highly efficient in making all the arrangements for this very popular event which is run off with the cooperation of the various clubs and officials in other counties. The One Wall Nationals is now as well as the 40x20 Nationals and attracts increasing numbers each year.

The addition of several English players to the line-up in 2008 enhanced the event and the prospect of entries from the USA for 2009 will give added status to the tournament. The fact the top Irish players in the Men's and Ladies Open events will represent Ireland in the Open D'Italia at the end of the year adds an extra dimension to the event and should attract most of the senior players to take part. At the time of writing the Promotions Task Team is examining the feasibility of holding the 2009 One Wall Nationals in a five court facility at one location: this would add very significantly to the tournament and would help create an excellent atmosphere for players and spectators as was the case at the World Championships in Kilkenny in 2003.

The popularity of one wall handball in general can only be enhanced by the One Wall Nationals and this code, despite the reservations some people have about it, is the simplest way of introducing young players to handball: from the basic form of the game players can go on to play the other codes but their interest can be developed by introducing them to the one wall game.



Paul Brady, making his first appearance in the One Wall Nationals, defeated Dessie Keegan 15-8, 15-8 to retain the title for Ulster. Marianna Rushe from the St Coman's Club showed her versatility in the code by taking the Ladies Open Singles at the expense of Kerry White from England while her clubmate, Leona Doolin retained her Under 18 crown defeating Rachel Havern from the Saval club in Down 15-8, 13-15, 11-7. Padraig McGlinchey (Tyrone) and Eugene O'Reilly (Meath) were best in the Men's B and C Singles finals respectively while Martin Bruen from Roscommon won the Golden Masters title and Morgan Darcy, Galway, retained his Diamond Masters status as number one player in that grade.

The Boys Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 winners were John Lalor from the Moycullen Club in Galway, Patrick McCrory from Loughmacrory in Tyrone and Keith Kavanagh from Coolboy, Wicklow, who stepped up from his 2008 win at Under 14 to take another One Wall Nationals title. Stephen Cooney from Ballaghaderreen had a good win over Diarmuid Nash at Under 18 on a 5-15, 15-10, 15-5 scoreline. The successful girls were Lauren O'Riordan, St Coman's, at Under 14, Amy Corrigan, Ballaghaderreen, at Under 16 and Leona Doolin of the St Coman's Club in the Under 18 final.

## VENUES AND REFEREEING

Once again, on behalf of the Irish Handball Council and all our players I wish to thank the scores of voluntary officials throughout the country who officiate at venues and who referee so many games. Because of the nature and structure of our competitions and the geographical spread of courts, some venues have had more than their fair share of games over the years while those in the extremities of the country have very few games – apart from home fixtures for All-Ireland semi-finals under the home and away arrangement.

Without the cooperation of so many people and their willingness to look after venues and games, it would not be possible to undertake such a huge number of fixtures at national level and I thank everyone who helped to facilitate national fixtures in 2008. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of those who, very often in the background, arrange hospitality for the players and visiting officials, although more attention could be given to this in some cases.

## TASK TEAMS

The work of the Task Teams continued with varying levels of progress during the year. The Coaching Team undertook a comprehensive range of activities and projects including 12 Foundation Level coaching courses, a Level One course, revision of the Foundation Level course syllabus, advanced work on a coaching and promotional DVD, provincial refereeing courses and, in cooperation with Niamh Egan, had an input into the two

Summer Camps for juveniles at Gormanston College.

The Competitions Team issued a very comprehensive and exhaustive survey of competitions structures but the response from units was less than satisfactory with the result that recommendations and decisions may take longer than anticipated but can be tied in with a review of competitions by the new Bainisteoir Liathróid Láimhe. The Development Team organised a number of seminars for county and provincial officers planned a number of other work programmes.

The Facilities Team continued work on a survey of all courts with a grading of facilities a priority and worked on plans for court specifications. The Sponsorship and Marketing Team, reduced from 14 to seven members, arranged sponsorship of the Envirogreen Resource, the Irish Nationals and the Dalkia 40x20 championships as well as the continuation of the M Donnelly 60x30 sponsorship. The Promotions Team undertook several projects among them the 'Ballgirls' initiative to introduce and promote handball in second level schools in five pilot counties, the Women in Sport programme, preparatory work for a DVD and promotional literature.

The establishment of a new Monitoring Committee to review the work of the Task Teams and to plan for the future will be crucial in making the Strategic Plan work in the coming year. As the Plan will be due for renewal during 2009 this committee has the potential to shape the future of Irish handball for many years. It will be important to improve the performance of the Teams to achieve the outcomes already outlined and to meet the ongoing needs of the organisation.

## USHA NATIONALS AND JUNIORS

One of the highlights of the year in international handball was the victory of Tony Healy in the final of the US Open of Handball when he defeated Sean Lenning of Seattle 21-14, 17-21, 11-6 in a thrilling contest. It was just reward for the Ballydesmond clubman who has crossed the Atlantic Ocean approximately 40 times to take part in international competitions and it made 2008 a very memorable year for him as he had already netted the Canadian Open Singles title in May winning out over David Fink from the USA 21-15, 21-12. Other Irish winners in the US Open were Shane O'Neill and Barry Devlin of Tyrone in Men's A and Men's B Singles respectively, Eugene O'Reilly of Meath in C Singles and Eugene Kennedy from Dublin in the Over 60 Singles final.

It was the best year so far for Irish players at the USHA Nationals with a haul of eleven titles from the 12 finals contested. Paul Brady set the standard when he won the Men's Open Singles for the fourth time in succession with a 17-21, 21-14, 11-9 win against Tony Healy from the Ballydesmond Club. At the end of the year Brady and Healy made history when they were rated one and two respectively in the USHA rankings, the first time Irish players have made such an impact in international



handball.

Egin Jensen, Dublin, retained the Senior Singles (over 35) title 21-7, 21-16 against Fergal Coughlan of Clare and Michael Ducksy Walsh held onto the Masters Singles title in a 10-21, 21-10, 11-5 contest with John Ayers of the USA. Egin Jensen and Michael Ducksy Walsh were best of the field in the Masters Doubles winning their second successive title 21-14, 21-12 over Dave Steinberg and Mark Zamora, USA.

Brendan Fleming from Ballydesmond had an outstanding run in the Men's A Singles championship winning the final 21-15, 21-10 against Ismael Meneses from California. Patrick Clerkin had a great double with victories in the Men's B Singles, 21-1, 21-10 versus Jonathon Camado of New York and, with David Mulryan from Sligo, won the doubles 21-10, 19-21, 11-9 against the Cork pairing of Donnacha O'Dea and Chris Hurley. Pauline Gallagher from Mayo won two events defeating Ashling O'Keeffe from Cork in the Women's B Singles and the Girls Singles and Shane Hedigan from Liscarroll won the Boys 17 and Under Singles with a 21-17, 21-17 win over Luis Cordova from Mexico. The remaining Irish winner was Fergal Coughlan, Jnr in the 11 and Under Juniors event, 19-21, 21-17, 11-4 against Coleman McGrath from California.

### Aisling Reilly Sets Record

In the USHA Juniors Aisling Reilly, representing Ireland, set a major record by winning more US Junior titles than any other player in the history of these championships since she first took part. On this occasion she won the Girls 19 and Under round robin defeating Lorraine Havern, also a member of the Irish team, 21-7, 21-6 in the crucial match and both girls combined to win the 19 and Under Doubles 21-13, 21-5 in a round robin playoff against Catriona Casey of Cork and Britty Bidegain from California. The Rebel County player was outright winner of the Girls 15 and Under championship with an easy win over her doubles partner.

In the boys events Killian Carroll of the Ireland team won the 15 and Under Singles title 21-15, 21-20 in an excellent final against Keith Kavanagh from Wicklow. The latter player teamed up with Brant Bidegain (California) to win the 15 and Under Doubles crown. Caolán Daly from the Carrickmore Club in Tyrone had a fine win over the Ireland player, Gary McConnell, in the 17 and Under Singles final winning out 21-17, 20-21, 11-10 in an extremely tight contest. Daniel Curry from Coolboy added to the tally of Irish victories with a 21-18, 21-10 win against Coleman McGrath from California in the Juniors 11 and Under final.

Our thanks and appreciation and that of the players and their parents and families go to Team Manager Richard Willoughby for his very thorough preparation of the team and to Deirdre Mansfield, Assistant Manager, for their management of the team during the Juniors in Oregon and for their care and attention to an additional player who travelled with the official party and became ill en route to

the tournament. Credit must also be given to the Coaching Task Team for organising the training and preparation of the Irish team in advance of the championships.

I would also like to express the thanks of the Irish Handball Council, the management team and players to Vern Roberts and his team at the United States Handball Association on facilitating Irish teams and other Irish entrants in their championships and to the host venues for making them welcome year after year. The status of Irish players is at an all time high in the international arena and the cooperation of the USHA in making this possible deserves to be highlighted.

## EUROPEAN HANDBALL

From a small beginning in the early 1990s there has been a huge increase in the development of handball, particularly the One Wall code as a common modality, among European handball federations. This is also helping to develop an interest in the Four Wall games in several countries and with the availability of almost 100 40x20 courts on the continent, mostly used for racquetball, it would be possible to introduce the international code to many more enthusiasts.

The Italian Federation, building on their successful Tournaments of 2006 and 2007, further developed their Open D'Italia in which ten countries took part in November. The Irish team of Paul Brady, Eoin Kennedy, Charly Shanks, James Doyle, Marianna Rushe and Lorraine Havern performed very creditably and improved on the placings achieved in 2007. The team, accompanied by Team Manager, Tom Sheridan, who had to step in for the injured Paul Brady, and Uachtarán Tony Hannon, were very well received by their hosts and contacts made in previous years were cemented.

Tom O'Connor from Wicklow has been to the forefront of the development and progress of handball networks and of introducing competitions in Europe. Without his Trojan efforts this would not have taken place and handball would be much the poorer for that. He pioneered the idea of a European Federation and established contacts with various handball organisations in Finland, France, Holland, Belgium, Valencia, The Basque Country, England, Wales and Italy with remarkable success. He persevered with his ideas and expanded his network to the New York Inner City Association, Mexico and several countries in Central and South America with an equal measure of success. With such a wide range of contacts, and the possibility of further meetings in conjunction with international events, one can only imagine the potential there is to develop the handball family of games to a much wider international population, a role of which the World Handball Council will be very conscious when it meets at the World Championships in Portland in October, 2009.



## PUBLICITY AND AWARDS

The appointment of Niamh Egan as Handball Promotions Administrator in May, 2007 was the launch pad for an increased amount of publicity for handball in the national media. Results are now published in the Irish Times as well as the Irish Independent, The Irish News and the Irish Examiner while other papers carry occasional features on the game.

I wish to thank those journalists and PROs who contribute articles for local and national papers and radio stations. Tony McGee contributes many interesting reviews and features for the Irish News. Chris Curran, Ciaran Curran and Michael McGee provided excellent contributions for various magazines. Peter Dennehy is our main correspondent for the Irish Examiner and other papers in the Cork region and Aidan Crowley provides copy for several newspapers and supplies results to them also. Our thanks and appreciation are extended to each and every one of them.

John McLoughlin from Sligo provides an excellent results service for followers of the game and we thank and salute him for all that he does to publicise the sport. His great work is very much part of the handball scene over the past decade and is sometimes taken for granted. He is deeply committed to the service and now has little difficulty in getting the results from the many venues throughout the country through the network he has established. Our thanks, too, to all the venue officials who assist in this regard.

A number of players were interviewed on various radio and TV stations and the Council is grateful to them for this: it is only with the assistance of players that publicity can be generated to the maximum and they must realise that they have a part to play in securing that publicity. The ready availability of local radio for publicity of club and county handball news is taken up by most counties but there is always room for improvement in this area. The radio stations are eager and willing to provide coverage for sport and handball units must be eager and willing to oblige with interesting news and features.

The inclusion of handball awards in many GAA provincial and county awards schemes is to be welcomed and commended. Our players deserve to be recognised in the wider GAA circles and such awards are now part and parcel of many awards occasions. They also deserve to be recognised in handball circles and any county which does not do so should consider honouring its prominent players on an annual basis. Publicity for all awards is one of the best ways of promoting the sport to the general public and any expense involved in an awards ceremony will be repaid through the goodwill established and the potential to attract new members and to increase sponsorship which is so vital in promoting and developing the game.

## ENVIROGREEN RESOURCE ALL STAR AWARDS

The Envirogreen Resource Handball All Star Awards for 2007 was another successful event which was held in Kilkenny in conjunction with the finals of the Envirogreen Resource Nationals. The awards were presented by Níoclás Ó Braonáin, Uachtarán GLG, Tomás Breathnach, Uachtarán CLLE and Walter O'Connor on behalf of the sponsors. Evanne Ní Chuilinn, RTÉ TV sports reporter, was a very efficient MC and added a professional dimension to the awards ceremony. In addition to the Annual Awards, all nine winners of the All-Ireland senior softball, hardball and 40x20 championships of 1982 were honoured with special presentations to mark the silver jubilee of their achievements.

Eoin Kennedy from the St Brigid's Club in Dublin was honoured as Player of the Year (Male) in recognition of his double win in Senior Softball and Hardball Singles and Doubles. Ashley Prendiville from Ballymacelligott, Player of the Year (Female) was rewarded for her clean sweep of all four 60x30 titles in intermediate and senior grades and her 40x20 Intermediate Singles win. Seamus O'Carroll, Cappagh, was named Young Player of the Year (Male) following his outstanding achievements in winning the Minor Hardball Singles and Doubles, the 60x30 Minor Doubles, the 40x20 Minor Singles, the Colleges 40x20 Intermediate Doubles and the Ulster Open Under 17 title. The Young player of the Year (Female) was Amy Corrigan of Ballaghaderreen who was victorious in the Nationals 15 and Under, the 40x20 Under 16 Singles, both Under 16 Club championships, the Colleges Junior 60x30 Singles and the softball interprovincial.

Having won the USHA Open Singles title for the third successive year as well as the US Open of Handball, Paul Brady was selected as International Player of the Year while Kevin Geraghty was Masters Player of 2007: he won three of the four Golden Masters All-Irelands as well as the Nationals Golden Masters. Tom O'Brien of Broadford received the Coach of the Year accolade following Limerick's successes in minor and other grades and Dennis Phelan of Moycullen was chosen as Official of the Year in recognition of his work as delegate to the Connacht GAA Council.

The magnificent new handball complex in Abbeylara amply justified the selection of Anna O'Reilly for the Special Achievement Award. Paddy Grugan of Carrickmore was added to the Hall of Fame and his award was collected by family members as the Uachtarán paid a posthumous tribute to his outstanding contribution to the development of his local club and community as well as his pioneering work for One Wall handball, his extensive juvenile coaching programme and his love for all things Irish. The resurgence of the Brackey Club in Tyrone and the development of its new 40x20 court gained it the honour of being named Club of the Year.



Young Player (Female)	Amy Corrigan (Ballaghaderreen)
Young Player (Male)	Seamus O'Carroll (Cappagh)
Player of Year (Female)	Ashley Prendiville (Ballymacelligott)
Player of Year (Male)	Eoin Kennedy (St Brigid's)
Masters Player of Year	Kevin Geraghty (Swinford)
International Player	Paul Brady (Kingscourt)
Hall of Fame	Paddy Grugan (Carrickmore)
Coach of Year	Tom O'Brien (Broadford)
Special Achievement	Anna O'Reilly (Abbeylara)
Official of Year	Denis Phelan (Moycullen)
Club of Year	Brackey, Tyrone

## TOP ACE YEARBOOK

The second Top Ace Handball Yearbook was published in early December and was available for collection from Croke Park for distribution to clubs well before Christmas. It was disappointing that several counties did not make the effort to collect their allocation despite several appeals to them to do so. The editorial team, and Niamh Egan in particular, put in a huge amount of work to ensure that the publication was available in good time and the least any county should do is to ensure that its members have it at the earliest opportunity.

Top Ace provides a very good record of the year's happenings but with the deadline for receipt of articles is in October, it means that some events and achievements cannot be included. The main focus of Top Ace is to provide newsy features on handball events and personalities in every county but it is regrettable that some counties do not submit any articles or photographs for the prime handball publication.

The cooperation of all counties and provinces is required to ensure that the Yearbook is a success: all county PROs must keep a record of the activities in their counties and provide a full report in good time for editing and publishing. The Promotions Task Team has already reviewed the content of Top Ace with a view to improving the publication and making it even more relevant and attractive in the future. It is also incumbent on all units to cooperate in submitting their features and photographs in good time for editing and design.

Our thanks to all those who contributed articles for the 2008 Top Ace and to people who forwarded photographs to complement them. I wish to pay a special tribute to the Editorial Committee of Niamh Egan, Cólín Duffy, Paul Fitzpatrick and David Smith for their expert contributions to the publication.

## CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

Ba mhaith le Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann fíor-bhuíochas a ghabháil le hArd Chomhairle agus le Coiste Bainistí CLG as ucht an tacaíocht airgeadais a thug an Cumann do Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe i 2008.

Tá an chabhair seo thar a bheith riachtanach chun an cluiche a chur chun cinn agus forbairt a dhéanamh ag leibhéal na scoileanna ach go háirithe.

Gabhaimid buíochas faoi leith do Níoclás Ó Braonáin, Uachtarán CLG, a chabhraigh go mór linn i rith a thréimhse mar Uachtarán agus a bhí i láthair go minic ag cluichí agus ar ócáidí speisialta eile. Bhí suim mhór aige i gcónaí i gcúrsaí an Chomhairle agus chuir sé béim ar liathróid láimhe go rialta. Guímid gach rath air nuair a éiríonn sé as oifig i mí Aibreán agus tá súil againn go mbeidh saol breá fada aige ina dhiaidh sin.

Ár mbuíochas freisin do Páraic Ó Dufáigh, Árd Stiúrthóir, as ucht a gcuid suime i gcúrsaí liathróid láimhe i gcoitinne agus an chomhairle a fuaireamar uaidh i rith na bliana. Tá sé an-tugtha don cluiche agus is breá an rud é go bhfuil sé mar pholasaí aige liathróid láimhe a chur chun cinn chomh maith leis na cluichí Gaelacha eile.

Seosamh Ó Seachsanaigh, the GAA Management Committee representative on Ard Chomhairle CLLE, has given great support and encouragement to handball and his contributions and input at Council meetings, as well as at the GAA Management Committee table, is much appreciated and we express our thanks to him for this.

On behalf of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann I wish to thank the GAA Provincial Councils who supported the Provincial Handball Councils in many ways, especially for their very significant financial assistance. We also acknowledge the support of a large number of GAA Coistí Contae which do likewise. Many of them facilitate fundraising ventures at county finals and, by other means, enable handball units to promote, develop and organise the game. It is in the interests of all handball units to cooperate as fully as possible with their GAA counterparts, particularly where the handball club is part of the parent GAA Club.

The inclusion of handball in many GAA awards presentations is very heartening for handball players and followers. There are many other ways in which handball can be recognised by GAA units but handball must play its part in the Association as a whole by being more active in the general affairs of clubs and counties throughout the country.

## PLAYER INJURY SCHEME AND INSURANCE

The importance of the GAA Player Injury Scheme cannot be over-emphasised. Many players have benefited from it and it is of vital importance to all handball units as they have the benefit and security of having all their registered members covered under the Scheme. It goes without saying that players cannot be allowed take part in training or games without being a registered member of a Club and, in the interests of safety for all, every Club should display notices to this effect. In addition, clubs must



display notices in all 40 x 20 courts stating that players must wear eyeguards while using the court; this must also apply in 60 x 30 courts where eye protection is required for juveniles and minors and for all grades of ladies softball.

Roger Clancy, GAA Insurance Manager, has given a number of provincial seminars on insurance for handball units and advised clubs and officials that the GAA Public Liability and Employers Liability cover are available to all handball units through the respective GAA County Boards. As part of its responsibilities, every club must ensure that it takes every precaution possible to secure its premises and to keep all risks to the minimum.

It is of concern that some clubs have not availed of the GAA Schemes and this should be addressed as a matter of priority: an audit of all clubs could be carried out by the Facilities or Development Task Teams to establish the facts and address the matter. It may also be the case that some clubs still do not have all the necessary insurance cover in place and would be liable to severe financial exposure in the event of any accident or claim on the club. It must be a priority that all Clubs and officials are fully protected in the event of any damage to or loss of property.

## **SPORTS COUNCILS**

Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann wishes to place on record its appreciation of the support of the Irish Sports Council (ISC) over the past year: the Annual Grant was vital to the administration and development of the organisation and was essential in helping to provide services to assist our units and personnel to work at all levels of handball. The special grant of €14,000 for player development is of immense benefit to the training and development of 31 of our top young players during the year. This is helping in no small way to maintain the profile of Irish handballers on the international stage and to increase the level of coaching and guidance needed by those players.

Under the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, the ISC has been developing sports policy in Ireland and, in doing so, reviews developments in many other countries in an effort to drive Irish sport and the performances of Irish players and athletes onward and upward. As I have pointed out before, the Council tends to concentrate its attention and resources on major international sports, as influenced by government policy. However, there should be much more emphasis on the minor sports: these organisations need more assistance in order to compete in the sports market and to provide the support and services required by those in the lower profile sporting world.

I wish to thank the ISC personnel who were available on many occasions to advise the office and officials on a range of issues during the year and to meet with them as required. Our thanks and appreciation to John Treacy,

CEO, and his staff for their help and guidance throughout 2008. A special word of thanks is due to Marie Ahern in the NGB unit for her help and guidance and to her colleagues in the unit. We also acknowledge the financial and other support provided by the Sports Council of Northern Ireland to some units in the North.

## **UACHTARÁN**

Coming from a very strong handball background in his native Sligo, and having been involved in the game wherever he served as a member of An Garda Síochána, Tony Hannon has brought a vast amount of experience and professional expertise as an administrator to the position of Uachtarán. He has dealt very capably with a number of situations in the game and is to be admired for his objective assessment of several aspects of the organisation over the past year. His impartiality is a key feature of how he approaches his role and his understanding and consideration of the many views presented at meetings stand out in the many decisions he has had to make.

The role of the Uachtarán involves many and varied commitments which are not generally known or appreciated in handball circles: approaches from players, contacts from club, county, provincial and national officials as well as liaising with the GAA, the Irish Sports Council and other organisations all take up a very considerable amount of time. Add to that his attendance at numerous funerals, presentations, functions and other occasions as well as the many meetings over which he presides and the multitude of national fixtures he attends, and one may begin to see the vast range of activities and obligations attaching to the role.

On behalf of all members, players and supporters I wish to thank Antóin Ó hAnnáin for his outstanding commitment to the betterment of handball and of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann over the past year and to wish him well in the next two years of his presidency.

## **NA MAIRBH**

During 2008 several prominent handball officials and players went to their eternal reward. Tommy O'Brien who was Uachtarán of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann from the GAA Centenary Year of 1984 to 1987 died in March. He was Leinster Secretary for over 30 years and served on several Leinster and national committees. Tommy had a lifelong association with Kilkenny GAA and Camogie and hosted weekly sports programmes on local radio. He was an excellent Master of Ceremonies and was always in demand for special events in his native Kilkenny. He was coach, advisor and mentor to Michael Ducksy Walsh who won 38 All-Ireland Senior medals, providing Tommy with some of his most treasured memories. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Pádraig Ó Gruagáin from Carrickmore, Co Tyrone died on 3rd March, 2008 after a short illness. He was the driving force behind the foundation of the Carrickmore Club and was very active as club coach, advisor and mentor until his untimely illness. He was also very involved in community organisations and was a keen Irish language enthusiast and an excellent musician and story teller. He was a very strong proponent of the One Wall code and established links with a number of European Federations during the past decade which will be of great benefit to the game in the future. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

John Gaffney, one of handball's most prominent and colourful personalities departed this life in December following a short illness. His passing has left a huge void in the Ballaghaderreen club which he nurtured and developed for several decades and the attendance, especially of young people from his own club and from many others in Connacht, at his removal and funeral Mass bore testament to the high regard in which he was held. John was an inspiration to all and it is no exaggeration to say that the youth loved him as a coach, mentor and friend: whenever they were playing he was there to watch, encourage and coach. He was also an accomplished player and, with Marcus Henry, won an All-Ireland Junior softball title for his native Sligo in 1967 and a Masters Doubles for Mayo, partnering Mickey Walsh, in 1973. He was named Coach of the Year in 1999 but was even more pleased when Ballaghaderreen was named Club of the Year in 1996. May he rest in peace.

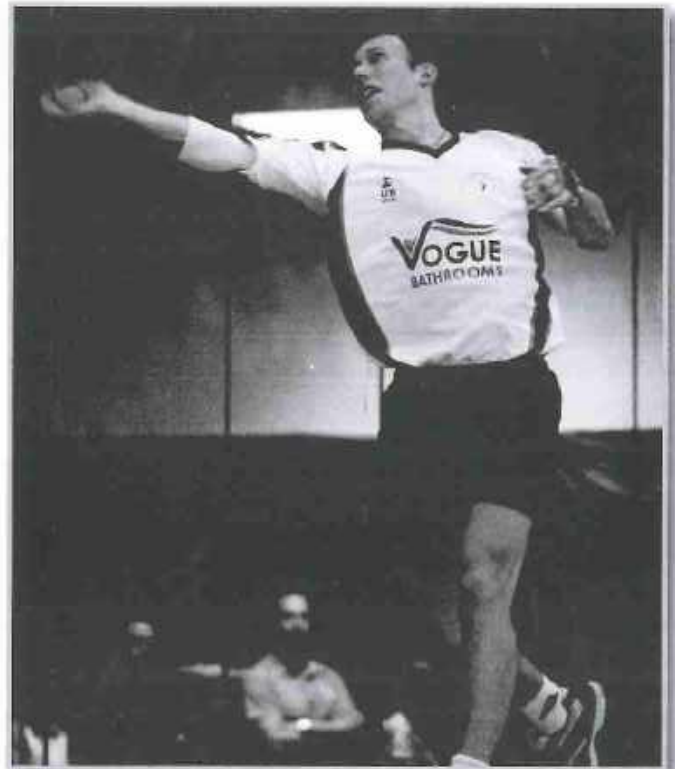
Many players and officers lost family members during the year and these were remembered in Masses for the deceased. We offer the support and sympathy of our members and units to all who were bereaved.

### BUÍOCHAS

Ba mhaith liom bhuíochas a ghabháil le gach duine a chabhraigh le foireann na holfige chun imeachtaí liathróid láimhe a chur i gcríoch i rith na bliana. Bhí bliain ghnóthach againn agus bhí alán daoine páirteach in imeachtaí éagsúla. The Provincial Administrators have a very onerous workload and it is only fitting that their contribution is acknowledged. County officers, too, are very generous with their time and give a great commitment to the games and the organisation: without that commitment it would be impossible to carry out the work of the Council at grassroots level.

My thanks to Cionnaith Ó Chonbhui for his professional expertise and the time he devoted to managing the Council's finances during the year. He has given very valuable service to the council and does a vast amount of unseen work in dealing with the accounts.

I wish to pay a special tribute to Antóin Ó hAnnáin, Uachtarán, who was of immense help and support to the office staff during 2008. His advice and guidance were of great benefit and helped in no small way to ensure that



services were as good as they could be.

I would like to thank Ard Chomhairle and An Coiste Bainisti and all Task Team members for their work during 2008 and without whose help it would be impossible for the organisation to function. To the numerous other people who helped in the running of the organisation and who have contributed to the running of handball at national level I wish to say that I have valued their input and that I appreciated their contribution.

I wish to thank Niamh Egan, Promotions Administrator, and now Promotions Officer, for her invaluable work in 2008. She took on several initiatives which have been very well received and which have added a new dimension to handball at youth and schools levels. She has developed good working relationships with a wide range of media personnel and provided an excellent service to the media and to the handball public in general. Finally, I would like to wish all clubs, counties, provinces and handball personnel a very successful year ahead in 2009.

### FOCAL SCOIR

As I conclude my 20th and final Annual Report to Comhdháil 2009 I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation to all who helped me in any way to fulfil my duties as Riarthóir Naisiúnta from 1989 to 2009. Although it was not always easy, I thoroughly enjoyed the work and the example of numerous voluntary officers, players and members was an inspiration to me at all times: I valued their help and encouragement, their advice and support, their humour and their appreciation for little things which made the journey much easier and the destination much nearer.



Each of the eight Uachtaráin with whom I worked made his own mark on the presidency of the Irish Handball Council and made huge personal sacrifices in the interests on handball. Micheál Mac Toirill, RIP, (1987-1990) devoted very considerable personal resources to the organisation. Néill Ó Cathaill (1990-1993) took a huge interest in players and the development of overage competitions. Seán Mac a' tSaol (1993-1996) introduced the All Star Awards and the Irish Nationals. The Irish Handball Yearbook, now Top Ace, was the brainchild of Conchubhar Ó Mórdha (1996-1999) while Peadar Mac Artúir (1999-2002) negotiated the Player Injury Scheme with Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Antóin Ó hAodha (2002-2005) was to the forefront of developing better relations with the GAA and in negotiations with the Association in relation to the provision of a new national handball centre. Tomás Breathnach (2005-2008) was ever-present at games and developed very good relations with players. Current Uachtarán, Antóin Ó hAnnáin, saw the need for a review of the central office structure and took steps to address the situation.

As mentioned earlier, most people do not realise the extent of the role of the Uachtarán and I salute those men who have given unstinting service to Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann: they have been an example to all and their commitment to the game and the organisation went beyond what was expected of them in carrying out their duties.

I also acknowledge the commitment and service of hundreds of voluntary officials without whose immense work and interest in handball there would be no organisation or no competition structure. They do tremendous work in running clubs and county affairs and providing sporting and social opportunities for thousands of players throughout the country: in doing so they help build up community spirit and give people confidence, self-esteem, pride in their achievements and a feeling of belonging in society, something which is so necessary in the world of 2009.

In reflecting on the past 20 years, some things, events and people stand out and there were numerous examples of how the actions of players, members and supporters added significantly to the role of sport in society and in how people appreciate the part handball has played in their lives and in the development of their communities. I will mention just a few to illustrate the point:

- The outstanding sportsmanship of Tony Healy when he conceded his time-outs to Paul Brady in the second game in the 2003 World Open Singles final at Croke Park when he could have taken the title.
- The magnificent fund-raising efforts of Michael Ducksy Walsh for very worthy causes over the past four years.
- The achievements of numerous Irish players who have moved Irish handball to the top of the international ladder.
- The standard of play and sportsmanship in the 2006 World Open Doubles final in Edmonton between Tony Healy and Eoin Kennedy and Paul Brady and Michael

Finnegan.

- The dedication and commitment of those who hosted and organised the World Championships in Ireland in 1994 and 2003.
- The example and support of the many venue officials who, away from the spotlight, looked after one and two-match programmes.
- The gratitude of several payers who expressed appreciation for small things which were done for them.
- The huge improvement in the standard of ladies handball.
- The national fund-raising campaign coordinated by the Naomh Mhuire Club in Leixlip in support of Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin in appreciation of the hospital's care of a young handball player.
- The joy on the faces of players on winning All-Ireland and international titles.

There are many other items worthy of mention and the above are but a reflection of the situations and happenings in the sport and the organisation that is handball. We all have a part to play in the development of a better and more caring society and we can do this through the sport of handball. It may be through introducing a young person the game, or by encouraging another to stay with it when times are challenging: perhaps it is by fund-raising to improve club facilities or by coaching juveniles; or maybe it is by ensuring that clubs are properly administered or by providing a good programme of games throughout the year. Whatever the role one plays, it is important and it matters in the overall scheme of things: very few people will have the honour of being Uachtarán but everybody can be part of a vibrant and thriving organisation where the talents of all are valued and contribute to the general good.

I am very pleased to have been involved with Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann since 1989 and I hope I have contributed in some way to the progress of the organisation. I appreciate the numerous opportunities I have had to help organise domestic and international handball events and I value the many friendships I have made along the way. I wish the Council and all handball units every success in the future, especially in this very important World Championship year of 2009.

Guím gach rath ar obair Chomhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann as seo amach agus tá súil agam go mbeidh an cluich iontach atá againn ag dul ó neart go neart 'sna blianta atá romhainn.

**Lorcán Ó Ruairc,**  
Riarthóir Náisiúnta (1989-2009).



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### COMHAIRLE LIATHRÓID LAIMHE NA hÉIREANN STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

Management are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. Management is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of An Chomhairle and of the surplus or deficit of An Chomhairle and in preparing those financial statements, Management is required to:-

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that an Comhairle will continue its activities.

Management is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of An Chomhairle. Management is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of An Chomhairle and hence for taking and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

*Cisteoir Cionnaith Ó Chonbhui  
Iarriarthoir Náisiunta Lorcán Ó Ruairc*

### Report of the Independent Auditors

To the Members of Comhairle Liathróid Laimhe na hÉireann

We have audited the financial statements of Comhairle Liathróid Laimhe na hÉireann for the year ended 31 December 2008 which comprise the Statement of Management Responsibilities, the Revenue Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements, on page 5 to 7, have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 7.

This report is made solely to the members of the Council. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to An Chomhairle members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purposes.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Council and its members for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

### Respective Responsibilities of Management and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Management Responsibilities management are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the Council. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

### Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Management in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Council's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Council's affairs at 31 December 2008 and of its surplus for the year then ended.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Council. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

*O'Connor & Associates  
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors  
Harcourt Centre, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2  
12 March 2009.*



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Revenue Account for the year ended 31 December 2008 2008 2007

	Schedule	€	€
<b>Income</b>			
County Committee and Members		46,389	43,365
Gate Receipts		15,258	10,234
Irish Sports Council Grants	1	125,875	108,582
Cumann Luthchleas Gael Grants	2	100,000	100,000
Cumann Luthchleas Gael Supplementary Grant		80,000	143,487
Sponsorship and Subscriptions		17,500	29,000
Advertising		500	500
Sundry Sales		1,539	(1,800)
Yearbook		1,499	(1,529)
Other Income		10,796	11,334
		<b>399,356</b>	<b>443,173</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Competition Expenses		35,337	40,596
International		13,895	20,706
Provincial Open Tournament Grants		3,376	1,270
3rd Level Grants		635	635
Juvenile		12,669	5,123
Promotional Materials		20,993	18,366
Trophies		20,733	21,192
Meetings and Officials' Travel		41,910	33,864
Provincial Grants		2,540	2,540
Coaching, Leadership and Development		3,779	7,795
Administration and General	3	198,998	158,436
Depreciation		2,454	2,454
		<b>357,319</b>	<b>312,977</b>
Operating Surplus		42,037	130,196
Balance at beginning of year		46,111	(84,085)
Balance at end of year		<b>88,148</b>	<b>46,111</b>

### Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Note	2008	2007
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	3	2,453	4,907
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Stocks		1,869	1,780
Debtors and Prepayments		107,368	43,858
Cash and Bank Balances		96,750	151,584
		<b>205,987</b>	<b>197,022</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors		40,292	13,112
Bank Overdraft		80,000	142,706
		<b>120,292</b>	<b>155,818</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>85,695</b>	<b>41,204</b>
		<b>88,148</b>	<b>46,111</b>

### Represented by:

Accumulated Fund	4	88,148	46,111
		<b>88,148</b>	<b>46,111</b>

*Cisteoir Clonnaith Ó Chonbhui  
Iarriarthoir Naisiunta Lorcán Ó Ruairc  
12 March 2009*

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008

#### 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 Ceannarus is equal annual instalments over their expected useful lives. The rates applied are as follows:  
Office Equipment - 20% Straight line

#### 2. Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment	Total
	€	€
<b>Cost</b>		
At 31 December 2007	13,998	13,998
At 31 December 2008	13,998	13,998
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 31 December 2007	9,091	9,091
Charge for year	2,454	2,454
At 31 December 2008	11,545	11,545
<b>Net Book Value</b>		
At 31 December 2008	2,453	2,453
At 31 December 2007	4,907	4,907

#### 3. Accumulated Fund 2008 2007

	€	€
Balance at beginning of year	46,111	(84,085)
Surplus for year	42,037	130,197
Balance at end of year	<b>88,148</b>	<b>46,112</b>

### Schedules to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008

	2008	2007
	€	€
<b>Schedule 1</b>		
<b>Irish Sports Council Grants</b>		
Annual Grant	125,875	108,582
Carding Scheme	19,000	19,000
	<b>144,875</b>	<b>127,582</b>



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Less : Distributable Carding Scheme	(19,000)	(19,000)
	<u>125,875</u>	<u>108,582</u>

## Schedule 2

Cumann Luthchleas Gael Grants Ard Chomhairle Annual	100,000	100,000
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## Schedule 3

Administration and General Expenses		
Staff Costs	138,292	114,463
Printing, Stationery and Advertising	23,584	16,013
Postage and Telephone	9,605	6,147
Audit and Accountancy Fees	5,832	5,672
Bank Interest & Charges	1,131	854
Legal Fees	3,576	-
Consultancy Fees	10,878	6,655
World Affiliation Fees	-	347
All - Ireland Tickets	3,640	3,220
Miscellaneous	1,455	415
Ceannarus Repairs	1,005	4,650
	<u>198,998</u>	<u>158,436</u>

The President and Members of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann Cumann Lúthchleas Gael 12 March 2009

## A Cháirde

We have examined the records of an Comhairle for the year ended 31 December 2008.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Income of the year amounted to €399,356. Expenditure came to €357,319 leaving a surplus of €42,037. In the preceding year there was an operating surplus of €130,196. As compared with that year the following were the principal variations in Income and Expenditure :

INCOME	Increase / (Decrease)	€
County Committee and Members		3,024
Gate Receipts		5,024
Cumann Luthchleas Gael Grants		17,293
Cumann Luthchleas Gael Supplementary Grants		(63,487)
Sponsorship and Subscriptions		(11,500)
Other Income		5,829
		<u>(43,817)</u>

EXPENDITURE	Increase / (Decrease)	€
Competition Expenses		(5,259)
International		(6,811)
Provisional Open Tournament Grants		2,106
Juvenile		7,546
Promotional Materials		2,627
Trophies		(459)
Meetings and Officials' Travel		8,046
Coaching, Leadership and Development		(4,016)
Administration and General		40,562
		<u>44,342</u>

## BALANCE SHEET

The assets of an Chomhairle at 31 December 2008 had a value of €208,440. Liabilities at the same date including bank overdraft of €80,000 came to €120,292. The assets exceeded liabilities by €88,148.

As in previous years Interest on Bank Borrowings has been avoided by arrangement with Central Council Cumann Luthchleas Gael.

Is sinne le meas  
O' CONNOR & ASSOCIATES  
Chartered Accountants



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

## An Comhairle Spóirt

THE  
IRISH SPORTS  
COUNCIL



*as ucht deontasáí a chur  
ar fáil d'ár gcluiche*





## NA RÚIN

1. That Bye-Law 49 (D) (ii) be deleted and that the words "(Post June 1994)" be deleted from Bye-Law 49 (D) (iii)  
(Tiobraid Arann)
2. That rules, 30, 32, 33(A), 33(B), 35, 36, 37(A), 37(E) and 37(I) of Fo-Rialacha 2008 be amended and the word "Riarthóir" be replaced by "Bainisteoir Náisuinta, Laithróid Láimhe"  
(Sligeach)
3. That the wording of Bye-Law 33 (A) be amended to include "Two members of the Strategic Review Group" with said members to be nominated by that group and that the wording of Bye-Law 33 (A) be amended to delete "the Director of the Sponsorship and Marketing Task Team".  
Amend Bye-Laws No. 33(A) as follows :  
Delete "The Director of the Sponsorship and Marketing Team" and include "Two members of the Strategic Review Group with said members, to be nominated by that group, and appointed by Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann" between "the G.A.A. Central Council" and "the National Children's Officer."  
(Tír Eoghain)
4. That a new Bye Law be enacted as follows: 'Central Council prepare and maintain a three-year business plan and projections.'  
(Ath Cliath)
5. That Bye Law 28 be amended to include the following paragraph: 'The position of Treasurer/Cisteoir of Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe na hÉireann can only be held by the same individual for a maximum period of 6 years and can only be held for a maximum period of three years in succession.'  
(Ath Cliath)
6. That Bye Law 27 (A) be amended to include the following: 'and to consider the budget of Central Council and its subsidiary Councils for the next financial year after Congress and consider the financial performance against the current year budget for the financial year within which Congress takes place.'  
(Ath Cliath)

## NA MOLTAÍ

1. That Bye Law 1 be amended to read as follows: 'The G.A.A. Central Council shall be responsible for the preservation, administration and promotion of the national game of handball.'  
(Ath Cliath)



# TORTHAÍ 2008

## 60 x 30

MS	Limerick (Séamus O'Carroll) dft Meath (Gary McConnell) 20-21, 21-16, 21-11
MD	Limerick (Séamus O'Carroll, CJ Fitzpatrick) dft Kilkenny (Gerard McGrath, Patrick Funchion) 21-10, 21-0
U21S	Wexford (Mikey Berry) dft Waterford (David Walsh) 21-1, 21-6
U21D	Tyrone (Pádraig McGlinchey, Brian Donaghy) dft Waterford (David Walsh, Conor Moloney) 21-14, 21-8
JBS	Kilkenny (Ger Anthony) dft Kerry (John Joe Quirke) 21-16, 21-12
JBD	Kilkenny (Stephen Barcoe, Eamonn Holohan) dft Kerry (John Joe Quirke, Pat Murphy) 21-8, 21-8
JS	Galway (Ollie Conway) dft Wicklow (Pat O'Donnell) 21-11, 21-15
JD	Galway (Ollie Conway, Alan Tierney) dft Offaly (David Hope, Conor O'Brien) 21-7, 12-21, 21-5
IS	Tipperary (Ger Coonan) dft Kilkenny (Nicholas Anthony) 21-1, 21-8
ID	Tipperary (Ger Coonan, Martin McInerney) dft Dublin (Ian Griffin, Kerry Hennessy) 21-16, 21-18
SS	Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) dft Michael Walsh (Kilkenny) 21-5, 21-12
SD	Tom Sheridan, Brian Carroll (Meath) dft Dessie Keegan, Joe McCann (Mayo) 21-12, 21-11
MAS	Kilkenny (Michael Walsh) W/O Tipperary (Adrian Johnson) Scr Inj
MAD	Kilkenny (Michael Walsh, Pat Maher) dft Tipperary (Adrian Johnson, Jimmy Mullins) 21-9, 21-5
MBS	Limerick (Tomás Donegan) dft Tyrone (Stephen Clarke) 21-14, 21-10
MBD	Tyrone (Stephen Clarke, Barney Corcoran) dft Mayo (George Miller, Kevin Cox) 21-16, 21-6
SMAS	Kilkenny (Billy Bourke) dft Cork (John Herlihy) 21-8, 21-14
SMAD	Kilkenny (Johnny Brennan, Billy Bourke) dft Sligo (Francis McCann, Martin Golden) 21-7, 21-4
SMBS	Limerick (Donal O'Connor) dft Kilkenny (Eamonn Holohan) 21-17, 21-13
SMBD	Limerick (Donal O'Connor, Séamus Donovan) dft Down (Seán McNally, Brian Havern) 21-16, 21-9
GMAS	Limerick (Tom O'Brien) dft Kilkenny (Johnny Brennan) 21-14, 3-21, 21-16
GMAD	Tipperary (Billy McCarthy, Pat Ryan) dft Carlow (Seán Ryan, Andy Ryan) 21-16, 21-14
GMBS	Kilkenny (Joe Hennessy) dft Mayo (Michael Heraty) 21-10, 21-6
GMBD	Mayo (Michael Heraty, Liam Burke) dft Kilkenny (Joe Hennessy, Con Moore) 21-17, 21-18

EMAS	Tipperary (Pakie Mullins) dft Donegal (Dave Mulhern) 21-8, 21-10
EMAD	Dublin (Eugene Kennedy, Vinny Farrelly) dft Tipperary (Seán Doyle, Pakie Mullins) 21-16, 21-16
EMBS	Tipperary (Paddy Collins) dft Monaghan (Michael Todd) 21-13, 21-14
EMBD	No Championship
DMAS	Dublin (Eugene Kennedy) dft Roscommon (Noel Raftery) 21-20, 21-8
DMAD	Mayo (Séamus Clarke, Matt Coady) dft Cavan (Greg Sheridan, Patsy Hand) 21-13, 21-13
DMBS	Donegal (Eamon McDonnell) dft Cork (Tim Joe Healy) 21-13, 21-9
DMBD	No Championship
RMS	Dublin (Michael O'Brien) dft Waterford (Mossie Butler) 21-13, 21-8
RMD	Mayo (Seán Heaney, Matt Grier) dft Wicklow (Paddy Lennon, Tom Walsh) 21-7, 21-6

## LADIES 60 x 30

LMS	Roscommon (Leona Doolin) dft Wicklow (Shauna Hilley) 21-8, 13-21, 21-7
LMD	Roscommon (Leona Doolin, Hilary Rushe) dft Down (Lorraine Havern, Rachel Havern) 21-10, 21-19
LJBS	Roscommon (Linda Connolly) dft Wexford (Sarah Merrigan) 21-18, 21-20
LJBD	Roscommon (Laura Mannion, Siobhán Tully) dft Wexford (Sarah Merrigan, Tanya O'Toole) 21-9, 21-4
LJS	Mayo (Pauline Gallagher) dft Kilkenny (Marie Therese O'Neill) 21-10, 21-1
LJD	Limerick (Fidelma O'Reilly, Sarah Flavin) dft Kilkenny (Marie Therese O'Neill, Claire Love) 21-17, 21-13
LIS	Wicklow (Patricia Doyle) dft Kerry (Catriona Casey) 21-9, 21-2
LID	Roscommon (Marianna Rushe, Katie Costello) dft Tipperary (Carol Moloney, Donna Harding) 21-6, 21-7
LSS	Ashley Prendiville (Kerry) dft Bernie Hennessy (Limerick) 21-13, 21-12
LSD	Marianna Rushe, Leona Doolin (Roscommon) dft Patricia Doyle, Shauna Hilley (Wicklow) 21-2, 21-18

## HARDBALL

MHS	Séamus O'Carroll (Limerick) dft CJ Fitzpatrick (Limerick) 21-18, 21-11
MHD	Séamus O'Carroll, CJ Fitzpatrick (Limerick) dft Stephen Cooney, Ian McLoughlin (Mayo) 21-8, 21-14
JHS	Joe McCann (Mayo) dft Dominick Lynch (Kerry) 21-20, 21-1
JHD	Dominick Lynch, JJ Quirke (Kerry) dft Barry Devlin, Shane O'Neill (Tyrone) 21-2, 21-7



**TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)**

SHS	Dessie Keegan (Mayo) dft Vinny Moran (Mayo) 20-21, 21-13, 21-3
SHD	Eoin Kennedy, Egin Jensen (Dublin) dft Vinny Moran, Campbell Brennan (Mayo) 21-7, 21-12
Mas S	Tom Sheridan (Meath) dft Paddy Donovan (Laois) 21-8, 21-10

**DALKIA 40 x 20**

MS	Meath (Gary McConnell) dft Mayo (Stephen Cooney) 21-2, 21-19
MD	Limerick (CJ Fitzpatrick, Séamus O'Carroll) dft Tyrone (Conor Grugan, Caolán Daly) 21-10, 21-20
U21S	Tyrone (Pádraig McGlinchey) dft Mayo (Ciarán Burke) 21-10, 21-5
U21D	Tyrone (Pádraig McGlinchey, Darragh Daly) dft Clare (Conor Cooney, Cathal Hannon) 21-12, 21-13
JBS	Cavan (Patrick Clerkin) dft Limerick (Pat Doody) 21-14, 21-16
JBD	Cavan (Patrick Clerkin, Pádraig Cahill) dft Limerick (Pat Doody, Cathal Dillon) 14-21, 21-15, 21-16
JS	Tyrone (Ruairi Kelly) dft Cork (Michael Murphy) 21-16, 16-21, 21-1
JD	Roscommon (Niall McGrath, Neil McDermott) dft Offaly (David Hope, Noel Murphy) 21-17, 21-10
IS	Wexford (Gavin Buggy) dft Cork (Colm Jordan) 21-14, 20-21, 21-12
ID	Cork (Colm Jordan, Patrick Buckley) dft Tyrone (Shane O'Neill, Gary McCrory) 21-7, 14-21, 21-14
SS	Paul Brady (Cavan) dft Tony Healy (Cork) 21-7, 14-21, 21-2
SD	Paul Brady, Michael Finnegan (Cavan) dft Dessie Keegan, Joe McCann (Mayo) 21-16, 21-10
MAS	Kilkenny (Michael Walsh) dft Roscommon (Cormac O'Brien) 21-3, 21-0
MAD	Kilkenny (Michael Walsh, Pat Maher) dft Tipperary (Pat O'Flaherty, John McQuaide) 21-11, 21-11
MBS	Tyrone (Stephen Clarke) dft Galway (Tom King) 21-9, 21-3
MBD	Tyrone (Stephen Clarke, Barney Corcoran) dft Cork (Danny Lenihan, John McDonagh) 21-9, 21-6
SMAS	Galway (Eamon Conneely) dft Kilkenny (Billy Bourke) 14-6 retd inj.
SMAD	Kilkenny (Martin Lalor, Philly Parsons) dft Cork (John Herlihy, John Hedigan) 21-18, 21-18
SMBS	Galway (JJ Farragher) dft Wexford (Pechelli English) 21-16, 21-10
SMBD	Galway (JJ Farragher, Martin Ford) dft Wexford (Pintan Doyle, Declan Hart) 21-18, 21-12
GMAS	Mayo (Kevin Geraghty) dft Kilkenny (Johnny Brennan) 21-9, 18-21, 21-7
GMAD	Mayo (Kevin Geraghty, Martin Cronin) dft Dublin (Séamus Ahern, John Ward) 16-21, 21-16, 21-18
GMBS	Monaghan (Martin McEntee) dft Mayo (Pat Hopkins) 21-12, 21-4

GMBD	Monaghan (Martin McEntee, Peter Larkin) dft Mayo (Michael Heraty, Liam Burke) 18-21, 21-16, 21-18
EMAS	Dublin (Eugene Kennedy) dft Mayo (Martin Cronin) 21-19, 21-1
EMAD	Offaly (Billy Mullins, Jim Guilfoyle) dft Roscommon (Séamus McHugh, Liam Grehan) 21-3, 21-12
EMBS	Dublin (John Barton) dft Tipperary (Paddy Collins) 21-13, 21-12
EMBD	Sligo (Séamus Duffy, Pat Sullivan) dft Dublin (John Barton, Paddy Clerkin) 21-10, 21-10
DMAS	Carlow (Andy Ryan) dft Galway (Morgan Darcy) 21-10, 21-14
DMAD	Cavan (Greg Sheridan, Patsy Hand) dft Roscommon (Noel Raftery, Pat Clarke) 9-21, 21-17, 21-16
DMBS	Donegal (Eamon McDonnell) dft Galway (Bill Flynn) 19-21, 21-20, 21-13
DMBD	Galway (Bill Flynn, Frank O'Connor) dft Donegal (Eamon McDonnell, Brendan Temple) 21-19, 21-5
RMS	Mayo (Seán Heaney) dft Wicklow (Paddy Lennon) 21-13, 21-14
RMD	Mayo (Seán Heaney, Michael Reilly) dft Wexford (Ger McWilliams, John Somers) 21-15, 21-14

**LADIES 40 x 20**

LMS	Wicklow (Shauna Hilley) dft Roscommon (Leona Doolin) 21-17, 21-8
LMD	Roscommon (Hilary Rushe, Leona Doolin) dft Down (Lorraine Havern, Rachel Havern) 21-6, 21-18
LJBS	Donegal (Avril McNamee) dft Roscommon (Linda Connolly) 21-1, 21-10
LJBD	Wexford (Martina Walsh, Tanya O'Toole) dft Clare (Sarah Loughnane, Sarah O'Donnell) 21-15, 21-15
LJS	Mayo (Pauline Gallagher) dft Wicklow (Patricia Doyle) 10-21, 21-9, 21-10
LJD	Wicklow (Patricia Doyle, Stacie Doyle) dft Mayo (Maria Corrigan, Pauline Gallagher) 8-21, 21-10, 21-7
LIS	Cavan (Roisin Gilmore) dft Roscommon (Katie Costello) 21-5, 21-12
LID	Roscommon (Katie Costello, Marianna Rushe) dft Carlow (Ciara Mullins, Miriam Ryan) 21-20, 21-8
LSS	Fiona Shannon (Antrim) dft Aisling Reilly (Antrim) 21-17, 14-21, 21-12
LSD	Fiona Shannon, Sibéal Gallagher (Antrim) dft Eimear Ní Fhallúin, Anna Spence (Kildare) 21-20, 21-8

**60 x 30 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

<b>Junior B:</b>	Coolgreany, Wexford (Darren O'Toole, Damien Kelly, Ned Connor, Peter McGrath, Jimmy O'Rourke) dft Ballina, Tipperary (Michael Farrell, Michael Carroll, Kevin Kennedy, Declan Gleeson, Paddy Collins) 124-75
<b>Junior:</b>	Clogh, Kilkenny (Andrew Hosey, Seán Maher, Eoghan Hennessy, Brendan Hosey, William Love) dft St.



# TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)

**Open:** Coman's, Roscommon (Chris Doolin, Oisín Naughton, Niall McGrath, Glenn Walsh) 118-106  
Kells, Meath (Brian Carroll, Tom Sheridan, Walter O'Connor, Carl Browne) dft Ballaghaderreen, Mayo (Paul Flynn, Dessie Keegan, Joe McCann, Vinnie Moran) 102-83

## 40 x 20 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Junior B:** Ballymoe, Roscommon (John Kennedy, Michael Kennedy, Billy Kelly, Stevie Joyce, Derek Ward) dft St. Brigid's, Monavea, Laois (Andrew Dowling, Pauric Buggy, Peter Whelan, Michael Donovan, Michael Murphy) 88-66

**Junior:** St. Patrick's, Cavan (Paul Fitzpatrick, James Brady, Pádraig Cahill, Patrick Clerkin, Eddie Halligan) dft Ballydesmond, Cork (Michael Murphy, Joseph O'Keeffe, Denis Quinn, Donnacha O'Dea, Michael O'Dea) 101-76

**Open:** Ballaghaderreen, Mayo (Dessie Keegan, Vinny Moran, Stephen Cooney, Joe McCann) dft Gortnamóna, Antrim (Eddie Mallon, Paddy Crothers, John McGarry, Ricky McCann) 78-21

## JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Boys 60x30

BU14S Limerick (Pádraig Quish) dft Carlow (Daniel O'Leary) 15-7, 15-5  
BU14D Cork (Dennis O'Neill, Patrick Herlihy) dft Kilkenny (Dylan Walsh, Cillian Treacy) 15-8, 15-3  
BU15S Kildare (Niall O'Connor) dft Roscommon (Mark Nally) 21-1, 21-8  
BU15D Waterford (Colm Kindregan, Barry McCullough) dft Kilkenny (Keith Walsh, Cian Ryan) 21-10, 21-12  
BU16S Kilkenny (Eoghan Hennessy) dft Galway (Fiontán Ó Curraoin) 21-14, 21-3  
BU16D Limerick (Pádraig O'Carroll, Stephen Foley) dft Kilkenny (Keith Clifford, Graham Clifford) 16-21, 21-17, 11-3  
BU17S Wexford (Jason Murphy) dft Galway (Stiofán Ó Béarra) 21-0, 21-0  
BU17D Wexford (Peter Hughes, Mark Maher) dft Limerick (Darragh Lyons, Enda Frawley) 21-11, 21-14

### Girls 60x30

GU14S Roscommon (Lauren O'Riordan) dft Carlow (Amy Byrne) 15-0, 15-0  
GU14D Kilkenny (Ciara Mahon, Mary Phelan) dft Galway (Cianna Ní Churraoin, Róisín Ní Chonghaile) 15-0, 15-5  
GU15S Mayo (Jennifer Fahy) dft Kilkenny (Rachel Hogan) 21-10, 21-12  
GU15D Kilkenny (Marie Walsh, Demi Donovan) dft Clare (Paula Loughnane, Shauna O'Brien) 21-20, 21-3

GU16S Mayo (Amy Corrigan) dft Westmeath (Aoife McCarthy) 21-9, 21-6

GU16D Cork (Ashling O'Keeffe, Catriona Casey) W/O Wexford (Sandra Kelly, Mairead Elmes) Scr

GU17S Mayo (Leona Ryder) dft Wicklow (Caoimhe Barnes) 21-0, 21-0

GU17D Kerry (Hazel Prendiville, Alana Diggins) dft Kilkenny (Megan Clifford, Denise Doyle) 17-21, 21-19, 11-6

## Boys 40 x 20

U14S Cork (Denis O'Neill) dft Armagh (Michael Carson) 15-10, 15-11

U14D Clare (Barry McMahon, Jamie Shanahan) dft Tyrone (Patrick McCrory, Colin Travers) 15-4, 15-4

U15S Kilkenny (Peter Funchion) dft Clare (Ciarán Malone) 21-8, 21-3

U15D Waterford (Colm Kindregan, Barry McCullough) dft Tyrone (Niall Owens, Conor Duff) 21-4, 21-10

U16S Galway (Fiontán Ó Curraoin) dft Kilkenny (Eoghan Hennessy) 21-12, 21-13

U16D Galway (Séamus Ó Conghaile, Martin Mulkerrins) dft Kilkenny (Luke Greene, Keith Clifford) 21-19, 20-21, 11-9

U17S Cork (John O'Keeffe) dft Kilkenny (Donal O'Farrell) 21-19, 17-21, 11-6

U17D Kilkenny (Jason Delaney, Keith Bourke) dft Tipperary (Seán Harte, Darren Moore) 21-4, 21-8

## Girls 40 x 20

U14S Limerick (Martina McMahon) dft Tyrone (Ciara Clarke) 15-0, 15-0

U14D Kilkenny (Ciara Mahon, Mary Phelan) dft Kerry (Cornelia Prendiville, Ciara Griffin) 15-2, 15-5

U15S Clare (Orlaith Duggan) dft Antrim (Elena Gartland) 21-3, 21-7

U15D Kilkenny (Rachel Hogan, Marie Walsh) dft Clare (Alanna O'Brien, Naomi Lonergan) 13-21, 21-12, 11-6

U16S Mayo (Amy Corrigan) dft Westmeath (Aoife McCarthy) 21-8, 21-12

U16D Cork (Ashling O'Keeffe, Catriona Casey) dft Armagh (Fionnuala McKenna, Erin Connolly) 21-1, 21-4

U17S Wexford (Michelle Boland) dft Kerry (Hazel Prendiville) 21-12, 21-18

U17D Clare (Aine Gleeson, Elaine Hannon) dft Kilkenny (Megan Clifford, Denise Doyle) 17-21, 21-18, 11-10

## 60 x 30 JUVENILE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Under 12/13:** Clare (Colin Crehan, Niall Bolton, Paddy Fitzgerald, Paddy Walsh, Colin Corbett, Pádraig McNamara, Fergal Coughlan, Cian Cremins) dft Wexford (Galen O' Riordan, Ben O'Shea, Pádraig Foley, Brian Kehoe, Dale Flynn, Oisín Foley) 73-61



**TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)**

**Under 14/15: Kilkenny** (Michael Conville, Enda O'Donoghue, Andrew O'Dwyer, Niall Mulhearn, Pat Mulhearn, Seán Butler) dft **Clare** (Killian McNamara, Ciarán Malone, Christy Philpott, Peter Duggan, Evan Corbett, Barry McMahon, Keith Hogan) 70-52

**Under 16/17: Clare** (Christy Ryan, Colm Hailpin, John Fahy, Shane Crehan, Michael McGrath, Eoghan McGrath) dft **Wexford** (Andy Cash, Cory Murphy, Paddy Goggins, Jim Berry) 42-37

**GIRLS UNDER 16 60x30 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Ballydesmond, Cork** (Ashling O'Keeffe, Catriona Casey, Shauna Kelly, Siobhán Clifford) dft **Na Fianna, Dublin** (Dianamh Greene, Lisa McKenna, Susan Clinton, Eleanor Buggy, Jane Griffin, Cliona McCullagh) 84-5

**GIRLS U13/17 60x30 INTERPROVINCIAL**

**Connacht** (Cianna Ní Churraoin, Róisín Ní Chonghaile, Jennifer Fahy, Shannon Keady, Lauren O'Riordan, Aoife McDonagh, Catherine Hanlon, Sinéad Ní Ainlí, Amy Corrigan, Leona Ryder, Stephanie Coleman, Mary Duffy) dft **Munster** (Anna Prendiville, Aoife Landers, Martina McMahon, Paula Loughnane, Cornelia Prendiville, Shauna O'Brien, Alana O'Brien, Catriona Casey, Ashling O'Keeffe, Lisa Loughnane, Sarah Cunningham) 121-72

**40x20 JUVENILE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Under 12/13: Tyrone** (Paul Clarke, Ryan Mullen, Gavin McCrystal, Paul McKay, Johnny Woods, Gerald Keenan) dft **Tipperary** (Pádraig O'Donoghue, Daniel Hayes, Jonathan Walsh, Steven Moroney, John Paul Roche, Colin Lukeman) 73-42

**Under 14/15: Clare** (Christopher Philpott, Keith Hogan, Evan Corbett, Kevin O'Callaghan, Peter Duggan, Pat Fitzgerald, Darren Cooney) dft **Kilkenny** (Mason Clifford, Niall Mulhearn, Richard Dunphy, Pat Mulhearn, Seán Butler, Dylan Walsh) 82-59

**Under 16/17: Clare** (Ryan O'Neill, Chris Ryan, Liam Clancy, Eoghan McGrath, Shane Crehan, Sam Edbrook) dft **Wexford** (Andy Cash, Alex Lynch, James O'Toole, James Stewart, John Walsh) 49-47

**GIRLS UNDER 16 40x20 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Newport, Mayo** (Leona Ryder, Ciara McManamon, Clodagh McManamon, Ailish McManamon) dft **Ballydesmond, Cork** (Catriona Casey, Ashling O'Keeffe, Siobhán Clifford, Shauna Kelly, Karina Cronin) 90-79

**GIRLS U13/17 40x20 INTERPROVINCIAL**

**Connacht** (Ciana Ní Churraoin, Róisín Ní Chonghaile, Jennifer Fahy, Ethna Coleman, Lauren O'Riordan, Aoife McDonagh, Amy Corrigan, Clodagh McManamon, Stephanie Coleman, Mary Duffy, Sinead Hanley, Sara Coleman) dft **Leinster** (Catriona

Foley, Serena Doyle, Elaine Egan, Laura Moore, Louise Walsh, Aoife McCarthy, Shauna Hilley, Ciara Mahon, Mary Phelan, Sandra Kelly, Claire Mulholland, Rachel Hogan) 117-67

**FÉILE NA nGAEL**

**Boys Div 1 40x20: Mallow, Cork** (Patrick Herlihy, Mark O'Connell, Darren Whelan, Ryan Harkin) dft **Kilkishen, Clare** (Colin Crehan, Ronan Broderick, Barry McMahon, Aidan Gorman) 42-17

**Boys Div 2 40 x 20: Maigh Chuillinn, Gaillimh** (Michael Lalor, John Lalor, Eanna Keleghan, Conor Noone, Kevin O'Donovan) dft **Tinryland, Carlow** (Martin Mullins, Cian Lawlor, Patrick Quirke-Bolt, Michael Calvey, Adam Nolan) 34-30

**Boys Div 3 40 x 20: Cashel, Tipperary** (Adrian O'Dwyer, Paraic O'Donoghue, Daniel Hayes, Jonathon Walsh, Colin Brosnan) dft **Na Fianna, Dublin** (Cian Ó Dálaigh, Corey Fay, Pierce Caulfield, Seán Griffin, Owen McCullagh) 42-10

**Boys Div 4 40 x 20 : St. Patrick's, Cavan** (Eoghan Martin, Jonathon Leddy, Francis Lunny, Barry Fortune, Adrian Smith) dft **Coolboy, Wicklow** (Wayne Kinsella, Aaron Kinsella, Conor Hill-Doyle, Stephen Barnes, Daniel Curry) 42-15

**Girls Div 1 40 x 20: Clogh, Kilkenny** (Mary Phelan, Ciara Mahon, Eleanor Murphy, Lynsey Wilson, Mary Buggy) dft **Clooney-Quin, Clare** (Alana O'Brien, Aishling Corbett, Shauna O'Brien, Paula Loughnane) 51-38

**Girls Div 2 40 x 20: Kingscourt, Cavan** (Emma Gargan, Katie Corrigan, Nicola Fleming, Lisa Marie Farrelly) dft **Kells, Kilkenny** (Emma Hogan, Eimear Fennelly, Marie Walsh, Cait Broderick, Michelle O'Dwyer) 40-31

**Girls Div 3 40 x 20: Garryhill, Carlow** (Michelle Nolan, Shannon Byrne, Katie O'Neill, Amy Byrne, Róisín O'Neill) and **An Ghaeltacht, Ciarraí** (Róisín Breathnach, Orlagh Ní Shé, Katie Ní Mhuirheartaigh, Ellen Nic Gearailt) were declared joint winners

**Boys Div 1 60 x 30: Garryhill, Carlow** (Daniel O'Leary, Jim O'Leary, Andrew Beaton, Eoin Doyle, Anthony Hogan) dft **Bridgetown, Wexford** (Richard Martin, Geff Carney, Paul Roche, Cian Koolheff, Tony McDonald) 42-19

**Boys Div 2 60 x 30: Mullinavat, Kilkenny** (Liam Fennelly, John Walsh, Conor Duggan, Michael Jones, Brian Phelan) dft **Bridgetown, Wexford** (Craig Wright, Brian Busher, Kevin Casey, Dan French, Jack Duggan) 41-31

**GAEL LINN MIXED DOUBLES**

**St. Coman's, Roscomáin** (Lauren O'Riordan, Colm Walshe) dft **Cappagh, Luimneach** (Martina McMahon, Cormac Ó Sé) 38-28



**TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)****SÓLÁS FINAL**

**Indreabháin, Gaillimh** (Ciana Ní Churraoin, Maidhc Ó Conghaile) dft **An Ghaeltacht, Ciarraí** (Caoimhín Ó Beaglaoi, Róisín Breathnach)

**ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES****Buachaillí 60x30**

- JS Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew (Keith Kavanagh) dft St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan (Josh Young) 21-8, 21-13
- JD St. John The Baptist College, Hospital (Paudi Quish, Eamon Davern) dft Swinford CS (Fergal Harte, Lee Fennell) 21-7, 21-5
- IS Castlecomer CS (Eoghan Hennessy) dft Coláiste na Coiríbe (Fiontán Ó Curraoin) 21-6, 21-6
- ID St. Joseph's, Tulla (Christopher Philpott, Jamie Lynch) dft Roscommon CBS (Cian Connolly, Mark Nally) 14-21, 21-14, 11-1
- SS Hazelwood College, Drumcollogher (CJ Fitzpatrick) dft St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen (Stephen Cooney) 21-17, 8-21, 21-14
- SD Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale (Dan Breen, Gerard McGrath) dft Rice College, Westport (Ian McLoughlin, Gearóid Hughes) 21-17, 21-14

**Cailíní 60x30**

- JS Convent of Mercy, Roscommon (Lauren O'Riordan) dft Martina McMahon (Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale) 14-21, 21-13, 11-1
- JD Coláiste na Coiríbe (Ciana Ní Churraoin, Róisín Ní Chonghaile) dft St. Flannan's College, Ennis (Shauna O'Brien, Alana O'Brien) 21-6, 21-7
- SS Convent of Mercy, Roscommon (Leona Doolin) dft Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew (Shauna Hilley) 21-14, 21-18
- SD Boherbue Comprehensive (Ashling O'Keeffe, Catriona Casey) dft St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen (Stephanie Coleman, Mary Duffy) 21-5, 10-21, 21-3

**Buachaillí 40x20**

- JS Salesian College, Pallaskenry (Pádraig O'Carroll) dft Confey College, Leixlip (Niall O'Connor) 21-11, 21-11
- JD Patrician Academy, Mallow (Conor Hannan, Killian Carroll) dft Kilkenny CBS (Keith Clifford, Mason Clifford) 21-19, 21-12
- IS Cistercian College, Roscrea (Diarmuid Nash) dft Scariff CS (Niall Malone) 20-21, 21-11, 11-7
- ID Enniscorthy CBS (Mark Maher, Peter Hughes) dft St. Joseph's, Tulla (Trevor Vaughan, John Fahey) 21-19, 21-12
- SS Nagle Rice Secondary, Doneraile (Shane Hedigan) dft Rice College Westport (Ian McLoughlin) 21-14, 21-14

- SD Scoil Aireagail, Ballyhale (Gerard McGrath, Mark O'Dwyer) dft St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan (Tom Hanrahan, Conor Moloney) 21-17, 21-16

**Cailíní 40x20**

- JS Sacred Heart, Westport (Clodagh McManamon) dft Gaelcholáiste an Chláir (Orlaith Ní Dhúgáin) 21-6, 21-10
- JD St. Nathy's, Ballaghaderreen (Stephanie Coleman, Paula Conroy) dft St. Patrick's College, Armagh (Erin Connolly, Fionnuala McKenna) 21-12, 11-21, 11-0
- SS St. Mary's, Newry (Lorraine Havern) dft Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew (Shauna Hilley) 21-7, 9-21, 21-17
- SD Convent of Mercy, Roscommon (Leona Doolin, Hilary Rushe) dft Scariff CS (Aishling Fitzgerald, Edel O'Grady) 21-0, 21-4

**THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES 60x30 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

'A' Team: DIT (Dara O'Gara, Brian Carroll, Niall Gordon, Shane Heraty) dft SIT (Chris Doolin, Chris Gavaghan, Noel McLoughlin, Noel Dean) 70-42

'B' Team: DCU (Ciarán O'Sullivan, David Smith, James Smith, Cathal Walsh) dft NUIG (Nevan McCartin, Brian Quigley, Clifford Yip, Shane Hayes) 76-67

'C' Team: UL (John Peppard, Mark O'Donovan, Gary Hasette, Hugh Fitzpatrick) dft NUIG (Jason Gill, Mark Farrell, Pádraig Earley, Darren O'Neill) 76-60

Men's Open Singles: Nicholas Anthony (WIT) dft Chris Doolin (SIT) 15-9, 15-7

Men's B Singles: Brian Quigley (NUIG) dft Dara O'Gara (DIT) 15-2, 15-4

Men's C Singles: John Peppard (UL) dft Darren O'Neill (NUIG) 15-5, 15-6

Men's A Singles Plate: Patrick Clerkin (UCD) dft Ciarán Neary (DCU) 23-8

Men's B Singles Plate: Daniel Riordan (ITT) dft Michael Busher (UCD) 23-10

Men's C Singles Plate: Eoin McCafferty (DIT) dft Mark O'Donovan (UL) 10-6

Ladies Open Singles: Ashley Prendiville (UCC) dft Marianna Rushe (UCD) 15-8, 15-9

Ladies A Doubles: Marianna Rushe, Hilary Rushe (UCD) dft Ashley Prendiville, Meabh Prendiville (UCC) 15-0, 15-11

Ladies B Singles: Laura Keever (DIT) dft Rachel Gibbons (NUIG) 15-0, 12-15, 11-6

Ladies B Doubles: Rachel Gibbons, Michelle Gaffney (NUIG) dft Marina Kilduff, Orla Gaffney (DCU) 15-1, 15-6

**THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES 40x20 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A Team: UUU (Pádraig McGlinchey, Conor Duff, Brian Donaghy, Darragh Daly) dft UL (Ollie Cassidy, Ger Coonan, Charlie Nolan, Cathal Hannon) 75-49



**TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)**

**B Team:** UUJ (Seán McCorry, Liam McKenna, Diarmuid McPhillips, Paddy Sherry) dft UCD (Kevin Mulligan, Marianna Rushe, Declan Smith, Darragh Ruane) 70-66

**C Team:** Cavan Inst (Enda Fitzpatrick, Bernard O'Reilly, Anthony Farrelly, Niall Brady) dft UL (Fiachra Hayes, Gary Hasette, Joan McNulty, Barry Aird) 73-59

**Men's Open:** Brian Carroll (DIT) dft Ger Coonan (UL) 21-12, 21-1

**Men's A:** Patrick Finnegan (UCD) dft David Mulryan (ICAI) 15-1, 15-6

**Men's B:** David Walsh (UCC) dft Michael Donnelly (QUB) 15-3, 15-5

**Men's C:** Eugene O'Reilly (DCU) dft David Smith (DCU) 15-4, 15-5

**Men's Challenger:** Andrew Murray (DIT) dft Bernard O'Reilly (Cavan Inst) 15-10, 13-15, 11-5

**Men's Contender:** Niall Brady (Cavan Inst) dft Aidan Melia (DIT) 15-9, 15-9

**Men's Beginner:** Rory Hanley (UL) dft Brian Coughlan (UL) 15-14, 14-15, 11-3

**Women's Open:** Eimear Ní Fhallúin (UCD) dft Marianna Rushe (NUIG) 21-4, 21-8

**Women's A:** Ashley Prendiville (UCC) dft Deirdre Donohoe (UL) 15-5, 15-4

**Women's B:** Karen Lawlor (UL) dft Aifric Naughton (DIT) 15-2, 15-13

**Women's C:** Sinead Byrne (DIT) dft Marina Kilduff (DCU) 15-13, 15-14

**Women's Challenger:** Mary Glennon (UL) dft Teresa Hearne (UL) 15-12, 9-15, 11-8

**Women's A Doubles:** Marianna Rushe, Hilary Rushe (UCD) dft Katie Costello, Emer Coyle (DIT) 15-9, 15-5

**Women's B Doubles:** Laura Keever, Sinead Byrne (DIT) dft Joanne Logan, Siobhán Brennan (DCU) 11-15, 15-11, 11-4

**USHA COLLEGIATES**

**Men's Open Singles:** Luis Moreno (Pima CC) dft Brian Carroll (DIT) 21-6, 21-18

**Men's A Singles:** H Nahorniak (LFC) dft Patrick Clerkin (UCD) 21-13, 21-4

**Men's B Singles:** D Perez (Pima CC) dft John Horgan (UCD) 21-20, 21-9

**Men's C Singles:** M Acker (TAMU) dft David Smith (DCU) 21-11, 21-13

**Women's Open Singles:** Eimear Ní Fhallúin (UCD) dft Marianna Rushe (NUIG) 21-20, 21-16

**Women's Open Doubles:** Marianna Rushe, Catriona Casey (NUIG) dft A Ulbert, E Zender (LFC) 21-12, 21-12

**Women's A Singles:** Karen Lawlor (UL) dft M Masalskis (MOST) 21-5, 21-17

**Women's B Singles:** Catriona Casey (NUIG) dft Katie Sedgwick (Pima CC) 21-8, 21-13

**Women's C Singles:** Sinéad Gallogly (DCU) dft J Long (MOST) 21-5, 21-14

**Women's Intermediate Singles:** Joan McNulty (UL) dft L Wuenker (UFL) 21-20, 21-10

**Women's Challengers Singles:** Joanne Logan (DCU) dft S Copp (UMN) 21-16, 21-1

**ENVIROGREEN RESOURCE IRISH NATIONALS**

**B13:** Pádraig Quish (Limerick) dft Colin Crehan (Clare) 14-21, 21-3, 11-7

**B15:** Pádraig O'Carroll (Limerick) dft Eoghan Hennessy (Kilkenny) 21-16, 21-17

**B17:** Tyree Bastidas (USA) dft Shane Hedigan (Cork) 21-19, 21-13

**B19:** Pádraig McGlinchey (Tyrone) dft Nicholas Anthony (Kilkenny) 19-21, 21-9, 11-9

**G13:** Martina McMahon (Limerick) dft Ciara Mahon (Kilkenny) 21-7, 21-6

**G15:** Catriona Casey (Cork) dft Amy Corrigan (Mayo) 21-17, 13-21, 11-7

**G17:** Leona Doolin (Roscommon) dft Shauna Hilley (Wicklow) 21-4, 21-18

**Mas A:** Michael Walsh (Kilkenny) dft Tom Sheridan (Meath) 21-19, 16-21, 11-5

**Mas B:** Stephen Clarke (Tyrone) dft JJ Farragher (Galway) 21-6, 21-6

**GMA:** Kevin Geraghty (Mayo) W/O Tom O'Brien (Limerick) Scr Inj

**GMB:** Martin McEntee (Monaghan) dft Jimmy Neary (Kilkenny) 21-10, 21-19

**Men's Open:** Tony Healy (Cork) dft Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) 21-17, 21-10

**Men's A:** Vinny Moran (Mayo) dft Darragh Daly (Tyrone) 21-12, 21-8

**Men's B:** Ruairi Kelly (Tyrone) dft Chris Doolin (Roscommon) 21-9, 21-7

**Men's C:** Patrick Clerkin (Cavan) dft Paul Hedderman (Limerick) 21-7, 21-20

**Ladies Open:** Aisling Reilly (Antrim) dft Fiona Shannon (Antrim) 21-17, 21-12

**Ladies B:** Patricia Doyle (Wicklow) dft Hilary Rushe (Roscommon) 21-6, 21-7

**ONE-WALL NATIONALS**

**Boys U12:** John Lalor (Galway) dft Dylan Sheridan (Meath) 15-5, 15-1

**Boys U14:** Patrick McCrory (Tyrone) dft Michael Lalor (Galway) 5-15, 15-6, 11-1

**Boys U16:** Keith Kavanagh (Wicklow) dft Fiontán Ó Curraoin (Galway) 15-10, 15-12



## TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)

Boys U18: Stephen Cooney (Mayo) dft Diarmaid Nash (Clare) 5-15, 15-10, 15-5  
 Girls U14: Lauren O'Riordan (Roscommon) dft Cianna Ni Churraoin (Galway) 15-14, 15-9  
 Girls U16: Amy Corrigan (Mayo) dft Catriona Casey (Cork) 15-13, 13-15, 11-7  
 Girls U18: Leona Doolin (Roscommon) dft Rachel Havern (Down) 15-8, 13-15, 11-7  
 Golden Masters: Martin Bruen (Roscommon) dft Peter Larkin (Monaghan) 15-14, 15-10  
 Diamond Masters: Morgan Darcy (Galway) dft Noel Raftery (Roscommon) 15-14, 15-11  
 Men's B: Pádraig McGlinchey (Tyrone) dft Darren Flynn (Longford) 15-10, 15-12  
 Men's C: Eugene O'Reilly (Meath) dft Peter Flanagan (Meath) 15-10, 5-15, 11-6  
 Ladies Open: Marianna Rushe (Roscommon) dft Kerry White (England) 15-1, 15-5  
 Men's Open: Paul Brady (Cavan) dft Dessie Keegan (Mayo) 15-8, 15-8

### LEINSTER OPEN

ACME Blinds Men's Open Doubles: Tommy Hynes, Colin Keeling (Wexford) dft Dessie Keegan, Joe McCann (Mayo) 20-21, 21-7, 21-12  
 Pechelli English and John Bail Ladies Open Round Robin: Ashley Prendiville (Kerry) dft Maria Daly (Kerry) and Patricia Doyle (Wicklow)  
 Jim Doyle and Fintan Doyle Junior B Doubles: David Redmond, Noel Holohan (Wexford) dft Stephen Barcoe, John O'Neill (Kilkenny) 21-14, 21-16  
 Ned Buggy Masters B Singles: John Quinn (Wicklow) dft Ricky Barron (Wexford) 13-21, 21-14, 11-1  
 Michael Ducksy Walsh Fitted Kitchens Girls U17 Singles: Amy Corrigan (Mayo) dft Caitriona Casey (Kerry) 21-12, 21-13  
 Michael Ducksy Walsh Fitted Kitchens U17 Boys Singles: Jim Berry (Wexford) dft Dean Corrigan (Wexford) 21-14, 8-21, 11-2

### ST. PAUL'S GOLDEN GLOVES

Men's Open: Ricky McCann (Antrim) dft Dominick Lynch (Kerry) 21-4, 21-2  
 Ladies Open: Aisling Reilly (Antrim) dft Fiona Shannon (Antrim) 2-21, 21-5, 11-5  
 Men's B: Nicholas Anthony (Kilkenny) dft Jerome Willoughby (Wicklow) 21-9, 21-10  
 Men's C: Collie O'Hehir (Antrim) dft Dennis Quinn (Antrim) 21-9, 21-9  
 Mas S: Johnny Brennan (Kilkenny) dft Paddy Duffy (Antrim) 21-14, 21-10  
 Boys 19U: Shane Hedigan (Cork) dft Ciarán Neary (Kilkenny) 21-13, 21-14

Boys 17U: Caolán Daly (Tyrone) dft Gary McConnell (Meath) 17-21, 21-20, 11-4  
 Boys 15U: Niall O'Connor (Kildare) dft Killian Carroll (Cork) 21-15, 21-19  
 Girls 19U: Lorraine Havern (Down) dft Shauna Hilley (Wicklow) 11-21, 21-11, 11-7  
 Girls 15U: Catriona Casey (Cork) dft Fionnuala McKenna (Armagh) 21-2, 21-1

### OPEN D'ITALIA

Men's Open Doubles Semi-final: J Wright, R Brown (USA) dft Charly Shanks, James Doyle (Ireland) 21-17  
 3rd/4th Place Play-Off: Basque Country dft Eoin Kennedy, Tom Sheridan (Ireland) 21-20  
 Women's Open Singles: T McCourt (USA) dft Marianna Rushe (Ireland) 21-17  
 D Ten (USA) dft Lorraine Havern (Ireland) 21-12  
 Women's Open Doubles 3rd/4th Place Play-off: Marianna Rushe, Lorraine Havern (Ireland) dft Basque Country 21-18

### USHA JUNIORS – Finals only

Boys 15U S: Killian Carroll (Ireland) dft Keith Kavanagh (Wicklow) 21-15, 21-20  
 Boys 15U D: Keith Kavanagh, Brant Bidegain (Wicklow/CA) dft Loren Collado, David Doucette (CA) 21-20, 21-3  
 Boys 17U S: Caolán Daly (Tyrone) dft Gary McConnell (Ireland) 21-17, 20-21, 11-5  
 Boys 17U D: CJ Laffey, Eric Matiassek (IL) dft Caolán Daly, Killian Carroll (Tyrone/Ireland) 21-12, 7-21, 11-10  
 Girls 15U S (Round Robin Final): Catriona Casey (Ireland) dft Britty Bidegain (CA) 21-0, 21-0  
 Girls 19U S (Round Robin Final): Aisling Reilly (Ireland) dft Lorraine Havern (Ireland) 21-7, 21-6  
 Girls 19U D (Round Robin Final): Aisling Reilly, Lorraine Havern (Ireland) dft Catriona Casey, Britty Bidegain (Ireland/CA) 21-13, 21-5  
 Junior 11U S: Daniel Curry (Wicklow) dft Coleman McGrath (CA) 21-18, 21-10

### USHA NATIONALS – Finals only

Men's Open Singles: Paul Brady (Cavan) dft Tony Healy (Cork) 17-21, 21-14, 11-9  
 Men's A Singles: Brendan Fleming (Cork) dft Ismael Meneses (CA) 21-15, 21-10  
 Men's B Singles: Patrick Clerkin (Cavan) dft Jonathon Camado (NY) 21-1, 21-10  
 Men's B Doubles: Patrick Clerkin, David Mulryan (Cavan/Sligo) dft Donnacha O'Dea, Chris Hurley (Cork) 21-10, 19-21, 11-9



**TORTHAÍ 2008 (continued)**

**Men's Seniors Singles (Over 35):** Egin Jensen (Dublin) dft Fergal Coughlan (Clare) 21-7, 21-16

**Mas A Singles:** Michael Walsh (Kilkenny) dft John Ayers (IO) 10-21, 21-10, 11-5

**Mas A Doubles:** Michael Walsh, Egin Jensen (Kilkenny/Dublin) dft Dave Steinberg, Mark Zamora (OR/ON) 21-14, 21-12

**GMBS:** Kurt Hall (OH) dft Chris Hurley (Cork) 21-15, 21-6

**Boys 17U Singles:** Shane Hedigan (Cork) dft Luis Cordova (Mexico) 21-17, 21-17

**Women's B Singles:** Pauline Gallagher (Mayo) dft Ashling O'Keeffe (Cork) 21-7, 21-15

**Girls Singles Round Robin:** Pauline Gallagher (Mayo) dft Ashling O'Keeffe (Cork) 21-14, 21-9

**Juniors 11U Singles:** Fergal Coughlan (Clare) dft Coleman McGrath (CA) 19-21, 21-17, 11-4

**US OPEN OF HANDBALL**

**Men's Open Singles:** Tony Healy (Cork) dft Seán Lenning (Seattle) 21-14, 17-21, 11-6

**A Singles:** Shane O'Neill (Tyrone) dft Manuel Lopez 21-15, 21-5.

**B Singles:** Barry Devlin (Tyrone) dft Jaime Murillo 21-12, 21-15.

**C Singles:** Eugene O'Reilly (Meath) dft Marco Coromac 21-9, 21-9.

**60+ Singles:** Eugene Kennedy (Dublin) dft Morgan Darcy (Galway) 21-4, 21-13

**CANADIAN NATIONALS**

**Open Singles:** Tony Healy (Cork) dft David Fink (USA) 21-15, 21-12



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