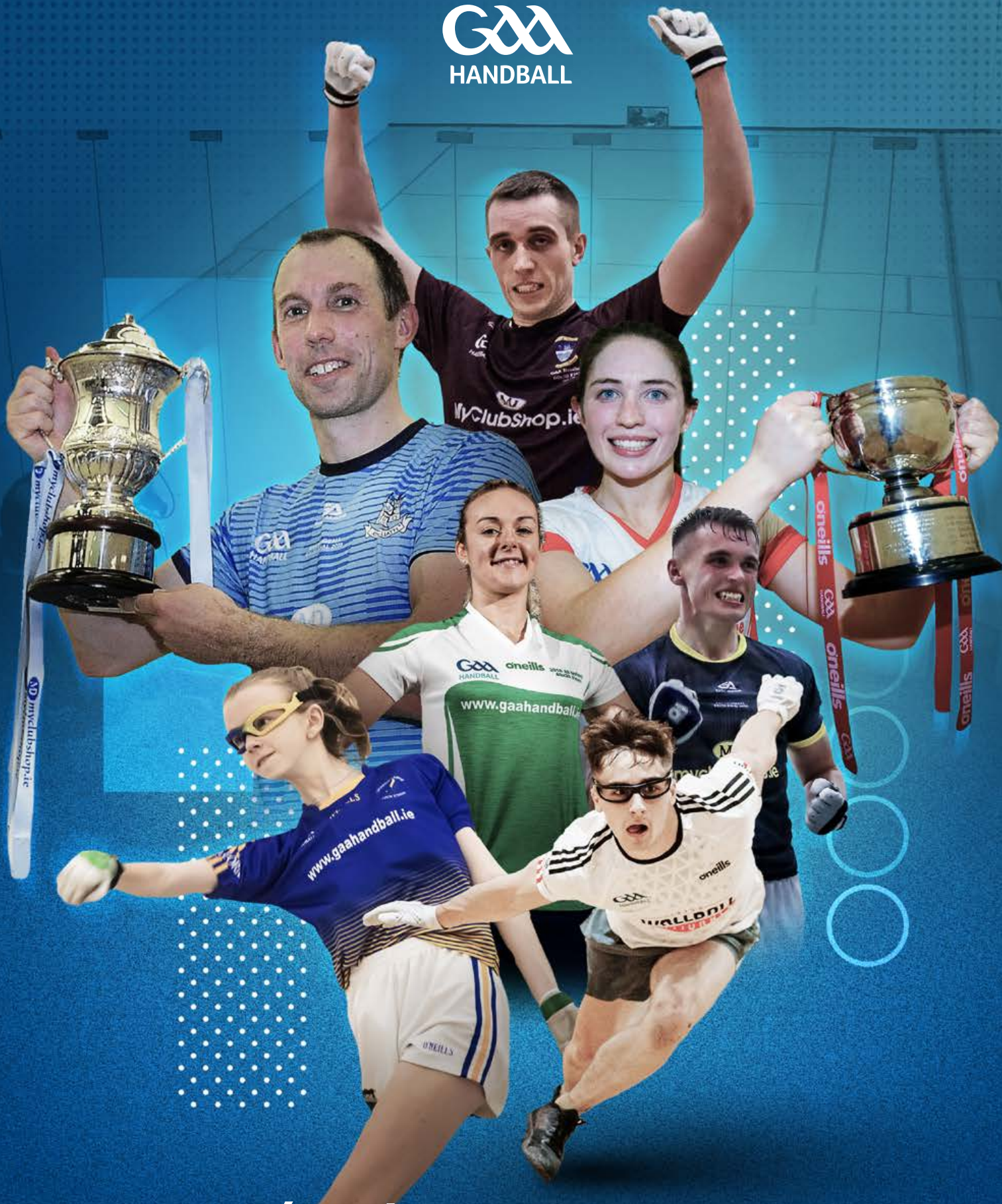


GAA
HANDBALL



NÁISIÚNTA AGM 2020

LIATHRÓID LÁIMHE C.L.G. NA HÉIREANN

NÁISIÚNTA AGM 2020

Ar an Domhnach, 9 Feabhra
2020 ag 11.00 r.n.

Venue: McWilliam Park Hotel,
Claremorris

Date: Sunday 9th February 2020

Clár an Lae:

10.00am: Registration Opens

- Tea/Coffee & Scones on arrival

11.00am: - Fáiltiú

- Addresses from Special Guests
- Adoption of Standing Orders
- Minutes of Comhdháil 2019
- Report of Bainisteoir Náisiúnta
- Annual Accounts 2019
- Motions & Elections – Delegate to GAA Central Council
- Oráid an Uachtarán Joe Masterson
- Presentation and oráid an Uachtarán nua, Dessie Keegan
- Aon Ghno Eile & Close of AGM
- AGM lunch at approximately 1.30pm



**Liathróid Láimhe C.L.G.
na hÉireann
– GAA Handball Ireland**

Páirc an Chrócaigh, Baile Átha
Cliath 3 – Croke Park, Dublin 3

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STANDING ORDERS

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

1. The proposer of a Resolution or an Amendment thereto may speak for 5 minutes, but not more than 5 minutes
2. A delegate speaking to a Resolution or an Amendment must not exceed 3 minutes. A maximum of two delegates from any one county shall speak on any one motion.
3. The proposer of a Resolution or Amendment may speak a second time for 3 minutes before a vote is taken, but no other Delegate may speak a second time to the same Resolution or Amendment.
4. The Chairman may at any time he considers a matter has been sufficiently discussed call on the Proposer for a reply, and when that has been given a vote must be taken.
5. A delegate may, with the consent of the Chairman, move "that the question be now put", after which, when the Proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. A speaker to National Manager'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 (GAA Handball Ireland) 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.

NOMINATIONS:

**Teachta ar Ard Comhairle CLG
(Delegate to GAA Central Council):**

Seosamh Mac an Mhaistir, Uibh Fháilí,
(Joe Masterson, Offaly)

Nominated By: Uibh Fháilí, Corcaigh, An Clár

Liam O Ceallaigh, Ros Comáin
(Liam O'Ceallaigh, Roscommon)

Nominated By: Ros Comáin

TUARASCÁIL AN BAINISTEOR NÁISIÚNTA

GAA
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TUARASCÁIL

AN BAINISTEOIR NÁISIÚNTA



Ba mhaith liom an deis seo a thabhairt chun fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir anseo go McWilliam Park Hotel inniu don Cruinniú Cinn Bhliana CLG Liathróid Láimhe.

Iwould like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates to the McWilliam Park Hotel for today's Annual General Meeting. As we reflect on what was another action-packed year in GAA Handball we can do so with immense pride at the performance of our handballers both at home and abroad.

We are heading into a very exciting period for GAA Handball with the imminent opening of the new National Handball Centre. This, together with the 2021 World Handball Championships just around the corner promise to be massive occasions in our sport.

Today's AGM sees us descend on Claremorris in Mayo for what is a proud day for the county as one of their own takes up the position of Uachtarán of GAA Handball. Ballaghaderreen clubman, Dessie Keegan, will today take the baton from outgoing President Joe Masterson as he completes his three year term. Dessie has some great ideas for the game going forward and I have

no doubt that he will be a fantastic success in the role. I look forward to working with him over the next three years. I welcome his wife Elaine and his family and friends here today.

I have no doubt that our outgoing Uachtarán Joe Masterson will welcome the break as he steps down from his three year tenure and I am sure his wife Annette will welcome the well-deserved break too after what has been a hectic three year stint for them both where they travelled to the four corners of the country fulfilling handball duties.

Joe has been an outstanding President for GAA Handball and has always represented the Association with great pride at any event that he has attended. Joe was always available to take a call for advice or to give his thoughts on any situation and he was a great assistance to me and the full time team over the last three years.

Joe has been a hugely popular President who made time for everyone and who

was especially popular among the younger generation of handballers. On behalf of the Association I would like to thank him for his outstanding service during his tenure and I would like to wish him and Annette the very best of luck for whatever the future holds. Although Joe may be finished as Uachtarán today I know we will see him involved in handball for some time to come.

I welcome all our special guests who are here today to join us as we reflect on another twelve months of success within GAA Handball.

The past year has brought some fantastic memories and moments and we will reflect on all of these throughout the report. Some of the standout moments of 2019 were as follows:

Emotional finals night in Ceannaras

It was a night filled with nostalgia and emotion as handball said farewell to the iconic Croke Park Handball Centre in October. Two finals nights filled with excitement and drama were a fitting farewell to the old centre. The sight

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of many of the legends of the game signing the front wall of the big alley where they spent many a memorable finals night was a fitting way to sign off in the old centre.

Kennedy rolls back the years in epic Softball final

Dublin's Eoin Kennedy came into the final under the radar, as Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy was hotly tipped to retain his title as a result of the imperious form he had showed so far in 2019. However, Kennedy hadn't read the script and in a fairytale ending for the man who ruled the big alley for many years Kennedy showed tremendous grit and determination to defeat McCarthy in an absorbing and epic final in front of a raucous home crowd and secure a tenth and probably the sweetest Softball title of his career.

Record breaking She's Ace

The She's Ace tournament has grown from strength to strength in recent years. Last year's event surpassed all expectations with over 160 players converging on Mayo venues for the female only event. Two days of entertaining handball, the competitive 4-Wall on Saturday and the fun 1-Wall element on Sunday saw all ages and abilities catered for.

McMahon & Casey continue to set the bar for Ladies Handball

What more can be said about these two fantastic athletes? We are fortunate to be around to witness one of the greatest rivalries not only in handball but in sport in general. Rarely does an encounter between the two fail to live up to expectations and 2019 was no different with the pinnacle being the 4-Wall final when the duo served up yet another three game thriller. It was Casey who came out on the winning side this time as she edged out McMahon 21-19 in the third while McMahon would go on to gain revenge in the Softball Singles final to collect her third title.

Hugely successful 4-Wall Final Festival Weekends

One of the big success stories of recent years has been the 4-Wall Finals Festival Weekends and this year's instalment was no different. Huge crowds made their way to Kingscourt, Cavan and were treated to two fantastic weekends of handball for the singles and doubles weekends. The quality of play on display all weekend was outstanding with several games going to tiebreak in order to separate pairings.

Féile na nGael breaking records

The introduction of a standalone Softball Féile proved to be a resounding success as 26 teams travelled to Wexford to compete in the first ever standalone event. The day was a huge success and it was encouraging to see a number of teams from non-traditional Softball clubs compete. The 4-Wall Féile was held in Cork and Limerick and it also proved to be a massive success with 78 teams travelling south to take part. With over 100 teams in total taking part over the two weekends Féile was one of the outstanding success stories of the year.

the last number of years but the Cavan man proved that at 39 years of age he still has the ability to mix with the best when he finally achieved his long term goal and equalled Naty Alvarado's record of 11 US Nationals titles when he defeated Galway's Martin Mulkerrins in the final in Los Caballeros, California. A truly remarkable feat from a remarkable player.

Double Night of celebration at All Stars

Two All Star events made 2019 a unique year within handball. Following the 2018 All Stars held in February in the beautiful Dunboyne Castle Ard Comhairle decided to bring the All



WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID ABOUT THESE TWO FANTASTIC ATHLETES? WE ARE FORTUNATE TO BE AROUND TO WITNESS ONE OF THE GREATEST RIVALRIES NOT ONLY IN HANDBALL BUT IN SPORT IN GENERAL

Progress on National Handball Centre

The past year has seen huge progress made as the opening of the new National Handball Centre draws ever closer. Excitement is building within the Handball Community in anticipation of the opening of the state of the art centre, the like of which has never been seen before in Irish handball or indeed worldwide. This is the first centre of its kind to be built and will be a modern, vibrant home for Handball and one that will hopefully inspire the next generation of handball stars.

Brady equals Alvarado's record

Cavan's Paul Brady may not have been to the forefront of Irish handball for

Stars back into the calendar year with the 2019 event held in November. It proved to be another outstanding occasion in what is quickly becoming the stand out social event on the GAA Handball calendar.

The 2019 season has been an extremely busy year with a lot to reflect on and be proud of as once more Irish handball has excelled both nationally and internationally. A phenomenal effort has gone in to running the programme of events from the National Office right down to our clubs and with a hugely exciting period for GAA Handball on the horizon handballers everywhere can look forward with great excitement to the years ahead.

4WALL

The finals festivals in Kingscourt were a massive success once more as players from all over the country descended on Kingscourt over two weekends to take part in finals from juvenile level to over 70s.

This format of multiple games across three days with all players in a central venue has proven to be hugely successful since its introduction in 2016. The format not only allows spectators to watch several games under the one roof it also gives an opportunity for players at all levels to play their finals in front of huge crowds. Several games on Saturday needed tie breakers to separate very evenly matched pairings resulting in a marathon programme of games on Saturday that finished late into the night.

One note of caution in relation to the weekend is that finishing at nearly midnight after the programme commenced early that morning is unfair on players, spectators and the volunteer venue officials. This was not a fault of scheduling or avoidable delays but due to the unpredictable nature of handball games and the potential length of same. The obvious solution to this is to change the format of the games or to reduce the amount of games played during the day and this is something we need to seriously look at going forward.

We are indebted to the Kingscourt club for hosting both weekends over the past number of years, it was an enormous undertaking but one that you embraced fully and played a huge part in making the event the huge success it was. You can be very proud as a club to have facilitated such a major event over the last five years with such great success.

At open level the competition is closer than ever with numerous genuine contenders for the number one spot in both Mens and Ladies. This year's finals saw Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy retain the title he last won in 2016 defeating Clare's Diarmuid Nash in a repeat of the 2014 final. Huge credit is due to both players for providing a high-class spectacle despite having to wait to take the court and finishing late into the night.

Clare's Diarmuid Nash and Colin Crehan retained their Doubles title by defeating Galway brothers Martin and Diarmuid Mulkerrins in the Doubles Final to capture their second All-Ireland Senior title.

In the Ladies, it was another epic



battle in the McMahon and Casey rivalry as the two best players in the world locked horns once more in the final. McMahon and Casey's duels on the court are the stuff of legend now within the handball community with their outstanding skill levels and the tight tussles between the two. With Ladies sport overall on an upward curve these two supremely talented athletes deserve more recognition for their talent and for the entertainment they routinely provide.

Casey went on to complete the double in 4-Wall as she, with her partner Aishling O'Keefe defeated Roscommon's Tully sisters, Fiona & Siobhan to capture the Doubles title. This was the Cork duo's fifth title in the last six years.

At Minor level both Leah Doyle (Kildare) and Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan)

continued their impressive form from 2018 as they captured the Minor Singles and Doubles titles in 4-Wall. Doyle was partnered by Abby Tarrant while McGinnity was partnered by Konrad Kowal who became the first Polish born player to win an All Ireland Handball medal. The young Kildare lady is sure to make an impression in the Senior ranks if her impressive Minor career is anything to go by.

The 4-Wall Nationals took place in Galway and Mayo venues and were once more a huge success. The open titles went to Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy and Limerick's Martina McMahon following a cracking finals day in the impressive Claregalway Handball club.

There was over 700 games played at National Level in the 4-Wall code which is a huge undertaking for our venues and officials around the country over a five month period with club, county and provincial games also adding to the burden.

Congratulations to Clare who sit on top of the 4-Wall honours list taking 8 titles of the 72 on offer followed by Galway next on 7. Wexford and Kilkenny follow close behind with 6 titles each. In all, 22 counties took home one title or more over the course of the championships showcasing once more the widespread popularity and the great work being done in the 4-Wall code at present.



SOFTBALL

The introduction of the first standalone Softball Féile breathed some much needed life back into the Softball code as 26 teams from across the country competed in the Féile na Gael competition.

This was a huge increase on previous years and with several traditional 4-Wall clubs taking part it gives great hope for the future of the code to see so many young players enjoying the traditional game.

The Irish Softball Nationals travelled to Wexford where a warm welcome was received by all who attended. The organising committee and the clubs in Wexford deserve great credit for the hospitality they displayed and also for the condition of their facilities on the day. Galway's Martin Mulkerrins broke his duck at senior level when he took the Mens Open title with Martina McMahon defeating Catriona Casey to seal the Ladies Open title in Castlebridge.

It was a nostalgic occasion as the last Softball Finals Nights took place in Ceannaras in September and October. Kilkenny's Kyle Dunne had the honour of being the last Minor champion in the old centre as he overcame Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity. Martina McMahon ensured her spot in history as the last ladies winner at Ceannaras as she outgunned Catriona Casey in two games in the Ladies Senior Singles final.

The Softball Singles final was played out in front of a large crowd with Dublin's Eoin Kennedy rolling back the years to capture his tenth title with an outstanding performance to defeat hot favourite Robbie McCarthy. This final had everything and was a fitting finale to honour the finals nights that had gone before. It was an absorbing encounter between two of the finest Softball exponents and one that will live long in the memories of all who witnessed it.

Meath duo Brian Carroll and Gary McConnell ensured another title was added to the long list of title wins in Ceannaras for the Royal County as they proved too strong for Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy and Colm Jordan in the doubles showpiece. The Cork duo of Catriona Casey and Aishling



O'Keefe ensured their status as the most successful Softball Doubles partnership in the Ladies game when they captured their seventh title defeating Kilkenny in the Ladies Open Doubles Final. Kilkenny duo Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill collected the final Minor title in the old centre as they defeated Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity and Tiarnan O'Rourke. Kildare's Leah Doyle (Kildare) had an outstanding year as she captured the Ladies Minor Singles to

complete the clean sweep at Minor level.

On both the Singles and Doubles Finals night, we recognised the past Senior Singles winners who joined us on court for the presentations which provided a fitting end to the old centre. There are so many memories and so many stories from nights in the old centre and we now move to our new home and will make many more memories as we watch the next batch of stars take to the courts and bring the magic of finals nights back once more.

A special commemorative booklet was produced for the occasion and my thanks to all who contributed in particular Paul Fitzpatrick. One of the most pleasing aspect of the Softball Finals was the media coverage that the finals attracted and I thank everyone who contributed to this effort.

The events of this year have proven to be a positive start and should give hope that with the right promotion and right attitude that we can build a bright future for the Softball code. With the Féile set to grow and more





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young players being exposed to the game it is vital we do everything we can to encourage all these young players to keep playing the Softball game.

I have previously mentioned and I would reiterate that we do need to be careful of the language we use when talking about the code. Phrases like Softball is dead or dying or on its knees immediately gives a negative impression of the code. If we, as an association, cannot talk about the code in a positive light, then how can we expect non handballers to have a positive impression of it?

With a vibrant new modern court in our state of the art National Centre, it is hoped that the impact this will have

on children's perception of the game will be extremely positive. While many challenges remain we must embrace them head on and set a positive tone for the code and it's growth in order to see the next generation of stars develop.

I would hope the new centre will inspire our current Softball clubs to modernise their facilities and to make them more welcoming to potential new players. Softball courts in general can be a vast concrete arena with often little or no colour in a building that to non handballers has little charm or appeal. This is mainly due to the fact that Softball courts are much older buildings and were not built with the modern-day sports

facilities in mind. While in Wexford at both the Irish Nationals and Féile it was inspiring to see the pride that the clubs had in their facilities with several Softball courts warm and welcoming with a splash of colour, proof of what can be achieved with a can do attitude and a hard working committee.

We must continue to look at ways of improving the aesthetics of our current 60x30 venues and making them more attractive places for both players and supporters if we want future generations to take up the code.

The big alley needs more tournaments and more opportunities for players to play the game. Club tournaments are the perfect way to achieve this so I would encourage more clubs to take up the mantle and run tournaments.

In 2019 a total of 20 counties won titles with Tipperary and Kilkenny leading the way on 8 titles each. Numbers were in line with 2018 and with a spread of 20 different counties winning titles this is encouraging for the traditional game.

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MISSING CUP

Unfortunately the saga continues with the missing Senior Doubles cup. Last presented to Meath in 2014 the cup has not been seen since which is most disappointing.

This is a most unfortunate situation and is an insult to those legends who received the cup and returned it for so many years before. If anybody has any knowledge of the whereabouts of the cup I would ask them to come forward to ensure that the cup is returned to its rightful place as soon as possible.

WALL BALL

Over 400+ players made their way west to compete in what has become the best weekend in the GAA Handball calendar in recent years.

The Wallball Nationals is in my opinion the best and biggest National tournament in the World. The introduction of player walk-ons and music to the finals night added to the atmosphere and was warmly welcomed by all. This is something we must build on to create a complete package for players and supporters going forward.

On the court the action was as competitive as ever. Galway's Martin Mulkerrins came through a strong field in the Mens Open to take the title following a final victory over Tyrone's Sean Kerr. The athleticism shown by both players in the final was a joy to watch.

In the Ladies Open Armagh's Megan McCann caused a shock by defeating reigning Irish and World champion Martina McMahon in the semi final to qualify for her first Ladies Open Final. Galway's Ciana Ní Churraoin came through the other side of the draw to qualify for her maiden final too and it was the Galway girl who took home her first Wallball Open title with a two game win over McCann.

In the Juvenile grades the standard is higher than ever with several high quality encounters taking place over the weekend. Such was the skill level



on show the largest crowds were often surrounding the courts with juvenile encounters taking place.

This year's event was another major success and thanks must go to Breaffy House Hotel and the countless volunteers who ensured the event ran smoothly.

The Loughmacrory showdown once more attracted a huge crowd and is growing in strength year on year while successful tournaments were also held in Mount Talbot and Inis Mór.

The subject of a Wallball All Ireland is a cause for debate at the moment after CCCC reviewed the three-year trial and recommended that the competition would not continue in its current format based mainly on a high withdrawal rate that would suggest there is not an appetite for an All-Ireland competition in this code at this moment in time. I feel that the one game model does not really

work in Wallball and there is no reason why we cannot explore other ideas for a Wallball All-Ireland to ensure the competition would be a success and would not have the dropout rates that the previous competition had. I welcome alternative ideas from counties in this regard. We should not always have to do the same and run the same competitions for each code of handball as each code is different and different formats might suit better.

We have a huge opportunity to introduce the game of handball on a large scale to clubs and schools through the game of Wallball and one which we must take advantage of. The Wallball schools initiative continues to grow from strength to strength but I would urge clubs to tap into this and explore club school links to avail of potential new members and also to provide a pathway for the handballers

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once they leave school to continue in the game.

With new and unique forms of exercise in constant demand in this country to beat the battle of obesity and to get people active what better way is there to get out in the fresh air and exercise and all you need is a ball and a wall! As a sport we are very much competition centric but Wallball can be the perfect recreation game to keep fit, get active or simply just to have fun.

Plans are still in the pipeline to host a stop on the European Tour but the issue is finding space in a packed Clár to host such a weekend that suits the European calendar of stops. Talks will continue to find a solution and I hope that this will be achievable in the near future. Once up and running I believe that this exciting venture will add to the growing popularity of the code throughout Ireland and across Europe.

HARDBALL

A total of 69 entries were received in the Hardball Championships this year with 46 games played across the championships.

The number of withdrawals is still very high in this code and this needs addressing if it is to continue in its current format.

In an effort to promote the Hardball code a decision was taken to stream the finals live this year.

On the honours front Robbie McCarthy continued his good run of form in 2019 when he captured the All Ireland Men's title following victory over Limerick's CJ Fitzpatrick. The Minor singles title was won by Kilkenny's Billy O'Neill who defeated Meath's Daniel Farrelly. The Senior Doubles title went to Cork's Michael Hedigan and Daniel Relihan who



defeated neighbours Kerry's Dominick Lynch and John Joe Quirke with the Minor Doubles title going to Kilkenny's Billy O'Neill and Harry Delaney following their victory over another Kilkenny pairing of James Love and Sean Barron.

JUVENILE HANDBALL

The standard at Juvenile level in all codes is incredible and this is testament to the fantastic work carried out by coaches throughout the country. You can all be very proud of the great work you are carrying out.

Throughout the different Juvenile grades they are littered with quality players each capable of forging a long successful playing career in the game. Huge credit must go to the coaches and parents for the way these players have developed and the standards that they are continuing to reach.

The Juvenile 4-Wall Finals took place in Kingscourt on the Festival finals weekend. The standard at these finals continue to rise each year with this year being no exception. Fourteen counties travelled to the Cavan venue to take part on finals day with ten counties sharing the honours. Kilkenny topped the medals table with an impressive four titles followed by Wexford, Tyrone and Clare with two each while Armagh, Cavan, Galway, Tipperary, Kerry, Roscommon all took home one title. Congratulations to all the winners and to all the counties involved in getting to the finals.

The Juvenile Softball Finals took place in Moycullen and St. Comans and again the standard was excellent throughout both venues with several high octane encounters taking place. Eleven counties took part in the finals with Cork topping the medals table with four titles while Galway, Roscommon and Tipperary took two each and Clare, Kilkenny, Sligo, Tyrone and Wexford all took home one title. Congratulations to all on the hard work being put in to promote our traditional game at Juvenile level.

At the Wallball Nationals in Breaffy the standard of the Juvenile grades was exceptional with several high class encounters taking place throughout the weekend. It was often the case that the largest crowds were gathered round the courts watching an underage game such was the level of quality on display.

At colleges level successful competitions were held in 4-Wall and Softball. The 4-Wall Colleges took place in Bawn, Corduff and Kells and like the Juvenile Finals the standard was exceptional with many familiar names taking part representing their schools.

The Softball Colleges competition took place in Clogh, Kilfane and Talbotts Inch and again there was some excellent action on show as the up and coming Softball stars took to the courts.

It is getting increasingly hard to get schools to commit to handball and to bring kids to competitions. This is often left to the volunteers in the clubs to take care of and is something





that is currently being reviewed with a view to coming up with some alternative colleges structures to grow the game at second level. It is hoped that the schools taking more responsibility will take some pressure off the already overworked volunteers.

Other juvenile competitions organised at national level were the Gael Linn, the Team of Four/Six in 4-Wall and Softball, the Girls Team of 6 in Softball and the Girls Team of 10 in 4-Wall.

As an association we can be very proud that the structures we have in place produces the best juvenile players in the world. Right now, Ireland are a long way ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to juvenile development and the standard of our juvenile players and this is something we should be rightly proud of. We must ensure that we provide the correct platform to keep these fantastic players playing Handball and try to prevent a drop off in numbers when they progress from juvenile to senior handball.

There will always be a lure of other sports, of social lives and other life pressures but if we provide a clear pathway and an exciting modern sport then I am confident we can and entice them to remain as handball players.

FÉILE NA NGAEL

The Féile na nGael tournament has been one of the real success stories in recent years for GAA Handball with numbers competing exceeding the 100 mark this year between the three codes.

The 4-Wall Féile was held in Cork and Limerick and it was a massive success with a total of 78 teams travelling South to take part. The event saw 56 4-Wall teams (37 Boys and 19 Girls) taking part in 6 divisions with Loughmacrory (Tyrone) and Lahorna (Tipperary) taking the Division 1 Boys & Girls titles respectively.

The Wallball Féile that was introduced two years ago continues to grow and this year an impressive 22 teams took part in the fantastic Conna complex with the Division 1 titles going to Clogh Ballacolla (Laois) in the Boys and Oughterard (Galway) in the Girls.

A wonderful welcome awaited the young Handballers in Cork and Limerick with every club stepping up to the mark in terms of officiating and also hospitality in what was an excellently ran competition. Over 350 games were played over the weekend over ten venues which gives an indication of the level of effort that went into running such a fantastic

tournament. The introduction of a standalone Softball Féile proved to be a resounding success as 26 teams travelled to Wexford to compete in the first ever standalone event. When you consider that only two teams had taken part in the previous couple of years this represents a fantastic increase in the number of young people getting the opportunity to experience Féile and also to play the Softball code.

The day was a huge success and it was encouraging to see a number of teams from non-traditional Softball clubs competing. In the end Loughmacrory and Lahorna made it a very impressive double for their clubs as they took home the Division 1 titles in the Softball to add to the 4-Wall Division 1 titles won earlier in the year. This is a remarkable achievement for both clubs and credit to the great coaching work being done in both clubs.

As with the 4-Wall and Wallball Féiles, the welcome afforded to the young players was second to none in Wexford with fantastic hospitality and top class officiating at all venues. This commitment from our clubs helps to add to the experience for our young players to give them a memorable Féile experience.

I would like to thank the committees

in both Cork and Wexford for the fantastic job they both did hosting the respective Féiles. Also, to our Féile Rep Willie Roche and to National Fixtures Officer Austin McKenna for their hard work which is clearly paying off. With over 100 teams in total taking part over the two weekends Féile was one of the outstanding success stories of the year.

LADIES HANDBALL

The 20x20 initiative is at a crucial juncture with the campaign aimed at creating a measurable cultural shift in the presentation and perception of Women's sport in Ireland.

It is a broad-based approach with three key metrics in mind to boost media coverage, attendance at key events and participation each by 20 per cent by 2020.

GAA Handball are delighted to be part of this very worthy initiative and look forward to being part of the campaign over the next year. Over the past decade, huge work has gone in to developing and promoting Ladies handball and the advances made have been excellent. While there is still more to do, we are heading in the right direction.

Just this year I was delighted to sit down with Nora Stapleton, WIS lead for Sport Ireland, and she was very impressed with GAA Handball's progress in terms of promoting ladies handball. We had a full and open discussion on the challenges facing ladies sport and in particular ladies handball. I thank Nora for her time and her advice and wish her well in her role.

We are aware that although we are doing a lot of things right it is vital that we must continue to improve and maintain these standards. It remains disappointing that there still a small number of our venues that have not got adequate changing facilities for Ladies and in reality this is not good enough in this day and age. Our top female players do not receive the recognition that they deserve in the media but unfortunately this is not just confined to ladies handball and we will continue to strive to better this and give all our players the exposure they deserve.

Just recently Ard Comhairle approved two new cups for Ladies Competitions in honour of two prominent figures of the game. The Julie Long Cup, which is being kindly donated by the Long Family and friends of Julie will be awarded to the winner of the Ladies 4-Wall Minor



Singles while the Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin Cup will be awarded to the winners of the 4-Wall Ladies Senior Singles. Munster GAA Handball have also generously committed to donating a cup for the 4-Wall Ladies Senior Doubles competition. There are still a number of competitions in both codes that do not have cups but steps are being made to rectify this so that all our elite ladies competitions have a cup to match the significance of the competition. I wish to thank the Long family, Aidan Mulligan and the Munster GAA Handball Board for donating the cups.

The She's Ace tournament has grown from strength to strength in recent years. Last year's event surpassed all expectations with over 160 females converging on Mayo venues for the female only event. At the time of writing this report the 2020 She's Ace tournament has once more surpassed all previous tournaments in terms of competitor numbers which is a most welcome development.

At the moment we are blessed to be around to witness the outstanding rivalry between our top two ladies players Catriona Casey and Martina McMahon, one of the greatest rivalries not only in handball but in sport in general.

The duo have competed in the last three 4-Wall Finals, six Softball Finals and the Worlds Final with five of the ten major finals going to tie break and each game being a spectacle of handball. These two ladies have raised the standard in ladies handball and continue to set the bar for others to follow both at home and on the international stage.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend those who are replicating the She's Ace format and are running She's Ace Events in their counties. It is by showing this sort of initiative and continued hard work that will see ladies handball grow and reach its full potential.

It is encouraging to see more women involved at administrative, coaching and officiating level in

clubs and counties and this is a huge positive for the game. I would like to see more female representation at Provincial level and National level and hopefully this will be the start of more getting involved.

We currently have a wealth of talent in our ladies game with a host of top-class players at senior level added to possibly the strongest ladies underage crop of players in a long time and this all bodes well for the ladies game.

While numbers in female grades are steady there is always room for improvement. There is a high drop off of girls in their late teens/early twenties and this is something we need to address and improve numbers.

Finally, I wish to thank the She's Ace Committee of Frances Ni Churraoin, Paula Doyle, Paula Clarke and Pat Murphy for their assistance throughout the year.

INTERNATIONAL

Irish Handballers once more proved their dominance on the international stage with several victories for Irish players in the US in 2019.

In the US, Catriona Casey continued her dominance as she captured the US Nationals title and also the Race 4 Eight Players Cup. Cork's Killian Carroll, who is based in Boston, continues to dominate the Men's scene as he captured the Men's Race 4 Eight Players Cup.

Galway's Martin Mulkerrins picked up his first title on the US tour when he took the Tuscon Stop of the tour.

Cavan's Paul Brady realised a lifetime goal when he equalled Naty Alvarado's record of 11 US Nationals titles defeating Martin Mulkerrins in the final in Los Caballeros. He also captured the New York Stop title defeating Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy in the final.

With the 2021 World Championships coming to these shores in less than 24 months' time, planning will commence to make this another World Championships to remember.

The success of the 2021 World Championships hinges on good participation and buy in from the other member countries of the World Council in order to provide credibility to the World titles. We want to encourage the best players in the world to come to these shores in 2021 and every effort will go in to making this happen and making the 2021 World Championships the best yet.

An Irish stop on the European Tour

in Wallball is a priority for us and positive discussions around this have been ongoing with the hope of finding a suitable date for all parties in 2020.

As an association we must continue to work alongside our fellow associations in both the US and the rest of the world to grow the game globally. I look forward to working closely with our sister associations throughout the world over the next year as we build up to Ireland 2021.

ICHA

The ICHA had another successful year in 2019 and once more ran some excellent competitions in all three codes.

The ICHA 4-Wall Singles event took place in Belfast venues with Colin Crehan (UL) and Fiona Tully (DCU) retaining their titles. The 4-Wall Doubles saw Galen Riordan/Brian Mahon (UCD) and Fiona Tully/Meadhbh Ni Dhálaigh (DCU) take the titles.

The Softball Singles saw Kilkenny's Shane Dunne representing ITT and Fiona Tully (DCU) capture the open titles. The Softball Doubles Mens title

Aguilar to take the Womens Open Doubles title defeating DCU pairing Fiona Tully/Meadhbh Ni Dhálaigh

I congratulate the ICHA on a fantastic year and commend them for the great work they are doing. I look forward to working with them once more throughout 2020.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Once more a large number of clubs hosted tournaments throughout the year and I compliment them for putting in the effort to host tournaments and provide handball for members at all levels.

Tournaments like the Gaffney Tournament, Golden Gloves have a long history behind them and continue to excel while newer tournaments like the Moycullen and Breacach Open in recent years are a welcome addition.

The Lough Showdown once more attracted huge numbers while regulars Mount Talbot and Inis Mor both catered for the Wallball community.

There are numerous other club tournaments held throughout the

“CAVAN'S PAUL BRADY REALISED A LIFETIME GOAL WHEN HE EQUALLED NATY ALVARADO'S RECORD OF 11 US NATIONALS TITLES DEFEATING MARTIN MULKERRINS IN THE FINAL IN LOS CABALLEROS

went to ITT with Shane Dunne & Gearóid O'Connell) while Fiona Tully capped off an impressive year joining up with Meadhbh Ni Dhálaigh to take the Ladies Doubles title for DCU.

In the Wallball Singles LIT's James Prentice took the Mens Open title defeating Terry McElvaney (DCU) while Aishling Mullin (NUIG) defeated Eleanor Percy (NUIG) to take the Ladies Open.

A strong representation travelled to the USHA Collegiates 4-Wall Championships in the University of Minnesota where there was success for the Irish in the Men's Open Singles where Galen Riordan (UCD) defeated Tyler Stoffel (MNSU) and also in the Men's Open Doubles where David Walsh/Adam Walsh (CIT) defeated Niall Joyce/Kevin Diggins (DCU). In the Women's Open Galway's Ciana Ni Churraoin representing MNSU defeated Fiona Tully (DCU) while Ni Churraoin partnered with Corina

year and I congratulate all clubs on their successful events.

Club tournaments are a fantastic way for handballers to get more handball and also great social occasions to meet handballers from all over the country.

FIXTURES

A quick glance at the competitions table will give you an idea of the number of fixtures that were administered at national level in GAA Handball with nearly two thousand games administered at national level over the year.

When you consider that this does not include club, county or provincial games it gives you a sense of the weight of expectation on our volunteers and venues to host such a vast fixtures programme.

Often times when one competition



ends another starts immediately which increases the pressure on not only our Fixtures Administrator but also on our venues and volunteers. We need to be cognisant of the pressure that this puts on families who may have family members wishing to play in multiple events in multiple areas of the country. This needs to be addressed and a better-balanced programme of fixtures produced for everyone.

The past year has seen at times a struggle to get venues to host games due mainly to overloaded fixture lists and venues having multiple fixtures over multiple days. Venues are asked to cater for club, county, provincial and national fixtures and often the venues in the most accessible parts of the country become inundated. As an association we have a duty to our volunteers to act on this and to try to counteract the clear slide in available venues and volunteers throughout the country. Otherwise we will see the volunteers we do have becoming burnt out and it will be too late to stop it.

There is a responsibility too on our county boards and our players to respect the fixtures list and to work with the CCCC instead of against them to enable the fixtures list to run off smoothly.

The job of administering fixtures is often a very unforgiving job with very little thanks. One huge problem that still rears its head is when players or counties wish to change fixtures. The rules surrounding fixture changes are clear and one of the great frustrations in organising fixtures is the blatant disregard some players and counties have for these rules.

Players organising games between themselves or pulling out of fixtures without notifying the relevant officials is not acceptable and shows a complete lack of respect to the officials, the volunteers and venue officials who all have an important role to play. With the amount of ways now available to contact people nowadays this is really not acceptable. We cannot expect people to take our games seriously if we want to treat our fixtures with such little respect at times.

When you consider that a fixture contains an opposition player, a venue official, a referee and possibly supporters who all have made time for the original fixture and are now being asked to accommodate a fixture change often at short notice you get a sense that it is not always just as simple as two players agreeing between themselves to rearrange a fixture. It is unfair on venue officials,

administrators and also to the majority of other players who abide by the fixtures as they are set. I also feel it is extremely disrespectful when players repeatedly seek fixture changes.

There will always be exceptional circumstances and the CCCC always try to look at these in a balanced and fair way but it requires a common sense approach and co-operation from players, county boards and all units to ensure everybody involved in fixtures are given the best platform to run as effective a fixtures programme as possible.

I would like to compliment the National Fixtures Officer Austin McKenna and the CCCC for the excellent job they carry out year in year out in completing such a hectic programme of fixtures often under trying circumstances.

VENUES

Without venues we can have no fixtures so to those venues who have stood up once more in the last year I say a huge thank you, you are making a huge contribution to the success of our sport.

The standard of hosting for our National events has been exemplary

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in recent years and 2019 was no different.

Wexford hosted two exceptional Softball events with the Softball Nationals and Softball Féile heading to the Sunny South East. The welcome received by all players, the excellent venues and the efficient hosting made the two events very enjoyable.

Galway/Mayo once more stood up to the plate to run the Adult Nationals for the second year in a row. Again the clubs in both counties were excellent with plenty of volunteers and the competition was efficiently run. The Junior Nationals went north to Tyrone/Monaghan/Armagh with the finals held in the impressive Bracach Handball club and was a huge success with players receiving excellent hospitality in every club and a huge volunteer effort was evident over the weekend.

The 4-Wall Féile headed for Cork with Limerick lending their assistance and as outlined above the Féile experience for the competing players was enhanced by the excellent hosting of all clubs involved. Once more the Kingscourt club was impeccable and hosted the two major 4-Wall Festival weekends. Mayo venues hosted the Annual She's Ace tournament and as is the case every year they did a fantastic job with all players receiving a warm

welcome, top class venues and officiating. Breaffy House hosted another excellent Wallball Nationals while Ceannaras in Croke Park played host to the last ever finals in the old handball centre.

When you add to this the hundreds of venues who hosted individual games throughout our major championships and team events you see a phenomenal example of all that is good about volunteering in our sport. We are blessed to have some amazing venues and amazing volunteers who make hosting events a pleasure throughout the country.

I would like to offer thanks on behalf of all the association to our venues who hosted games from major national events down to club championships throughout the year. It is hugely appreciated and is a major credit to you all.

VOLUNTEERS

We are indebted to our network of volunteers throughout the country who ensure that our sport is in safe hands at the moment. From venue officials to coaches to referees to administrators we are blessed to have a fantastic group of volunteers in our sport at present.

In recent years we have seen a decline in new volunteers taking up positions

on committees at local level. Of our current volunteers we have seen a number of clubs and volunteers decline to host fixtures over the past year mainly due to the sheer amount of time that fixture programmes take and a lack of help at ground level in hosting same.

A lot of volunteers are also players, but it is impossible to keep the volume of games going and expect people to play and volunteer in the current climate. People are more time sensitive nowadays and have other commitments and we must look at ways to alleviate the pressure on our venues and volunteers.

We will prioritise efforts to try and attract more people into volunteering in GAA Handball and to do this we need to create an attractive environment for volunteers that is both rewarding and enjoyable. Many hands make light work and we can never have too many volunteers. At national level we will continue to look at meaningful initiatives to energise our current volunteers and attract new volunteers. This must be a priority for us all in 2020.

In 2019, a total of 1948 games were played across 223 venues. This is a phenomenal undertaking by our network of clubs and volunteers. I salute you all for your dedication to the game it is very much appreciated.





CLUBS

The club is the lifeblood of GAA Handball. It is at club level that the game can only ever truly grow and attract new players.

With this in mind GAA Handball welcomed the appointment of Pauric Dowdall to the position of Club Support Officer earlier this year. I hope you would all join me in welcoming Pauric to the team and we wish him the very best of luck in his role.

Pauric's role will concentrate on club development and support and will run a number of initiatives to help strengthen our clubs. This is a very positive addition in our plans to support our club network.

November saw the first ever Club Forum take place with 35 clubs represented on the day. The day was a resounding success with several informative talks and interactive sessions held. This is the first of a number of initiatives aimed at helping our club network to thrive and prosper.

Throughout 2020 a greater emphasis will be put on club support and training for volunteers. Several further club support initiatives and workshops to upskill our volunteers in areas such as Club Officer Roles, Coaching, Safety, Recruiting Volunteers, Fundraising etc are in the pipeline for the coming year.

It is important that our clubs work with Pauric to enable them to grow and prosper and that clubs make every effort to attend any training or development workshops that are provided.

There are a number of clubs who



have managed to raise funds and to upgrade their facilities over the last year and I congratulate them for having the foresight and commitment to do so. It takes a supreme effort to do so but the reward is worthwhile.

I would encourage clubs to learn from those clubs who have already been successful in fundraising and obtaining grants as we can all assist each other in developing our clubs. This was one key aspect of the Club Forum in November that was warmly welcomed as a number of clubs shared knowledge in relation to funding, structures, player development etc.

At national level we will offer all the support we can and by working

together we will grow our sport from the club level up.

The Club Lontach programme was launched this year by our Development team. Club Lontach is GAA Handball's new quality standards programme for Handball Clubs across Ireland. The programme was devised to help guide clubs to achieve minimum operating standards in core areas, aimed at improving all aspects of club development.

We are confident that there is something in this document that all clubs can learn from as they continuously endeavour to create positive sporting experiences in a safe, enjoyable and supportive environment.

There is no deadline for completion, instead clubs can work at their own pace for accreditation. We are confident that all clubs who sign up will reap the rewards and inevitably grow stronger as a club. The development staff at GAA Handball are always on hand for guidance when required.

This is a fantastic scheme and one that will help our clubs to grow while operating to the best standards and I encourage all our clubs to embrace the programme.



NOVEMBER SAW THE FIRST EVER CLUB FORUM TAKE PLACE WITH 35 CLUBS REPRESENTED ON THE DAY. THE DAY WAS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS WITH SEVERAL INFORMATIVE TALKS AND INTERACTIVE SESSIONS HELD



COACHING & DEVELOPMENT

Our Coaching & Development team continue to perform to the highest possible standards despite limited resources and a lack of manpower.

In reality more Development Officers are necessary if we are to truly realise the potential of our great game on a nationwide basis. This must be a priority for our sport if we are to fully realise our potential in developing the game throughout the country.

Despite this there are a number of exciting projects that have happened or are coming soon. Last year saw the launch of the brand new Club Iontach programme and the GAA Handball Academy both of which are excellent initiatives. The Club Forum in November was a huge success with plans for further workshops and forums in the future.

You will see from the Coaching Report later on the volume of work that has taken place throughout the last year is impressive considering the shortage of staff this year.

I want to thank our tutors who have delivered courses all over the country and continue

to be a great support to the full time team. Finally, I thank our National Development Officer Darragh Daly and Club Support Officer Pauric Dowdall for their continued hard work that has achieved impressive results despite limited resources.

DISCIPLINE

Our CCCC committee continue to do their work under at times very trying circumstances.

As a committee they make decisions that may not always be popular but they have the courage and conviction to make them nonetheless as that is their remit and they are simply following the rulebook. Many people who criticise them seem to forget that they are volunteers elected by their peers and they are trying to make decisions in the best interest of the game.

A lack of knowledge surrounding the rules of the game often leads to very unfair abuse being directed towards the

CCCC arising out of decisions made by the committee.

One source of frustration is when counties blame the

CCCC for a decision when they are bound by a rule but then fail to bring a motion to the AGM to amend the rule in question if they feel it needs to be amended. The easier option is to blame the committee who made the decision instead of addressing the issue and looking to amend the rule.

The CCCC have worked extremely hard throughout 2019 and have been consistent and fair in their decisions and this is all we can ask for. I want to thank the CCCC committee led by Kevin Cooke for the excellent job they did in 2019 and would urge all units to work with the CCCC in the coming year.

The new referee pathway was launched in late 2019 and it is planned to set up a referees panel of experienced referees to take charge of the open championships. It is also planned to recruit and train more referees in 2020 to hopefully ease the burden on venue officials and current referees. This is not as easy as it sounds as there needs to be a willing cohort of volunteers who wish to become referees firstly. With the right pathway hopefully this will attract more people to referee and ease the burden on our current batch of excellent officials.

This will only be a success however if players, officials and spectators observe our respect initiative and respect the referee.





There is absolutely no place for abuse of officials in our game, they are volunteers and have given up their free time to officiate and they deserve respect for doing so. The fear of getting abuse for making a split second decision can often put people off refereeing and this should not be the case. All our officials should feel welcomed and comfortable in their role, mistakes will be made but everybody is human at the end of the day and we are all there to enjoy our games officials included.

Showing respect to officials should not be an exception but the norm. As supporters emotion can get the better of us but this is still not an excuse. Our top players need to lead by example here too and the younger generations will follow. We need to create a safe culture for our referees and officials and then we will see more people volunteer to officiate.

COMMITTEES

Our provincial and county committees were tasked with a huge workload once more in 2019.

For a provincial or county setup to operate efficiently then the committees must be given the full support and backing of the members of that county/province.

I would urge all members to

show our voluntary administrators the respect they deserve, they are volunteers at the end of the day and they have stood up to the plate often when no one else was willing to. Maybe think about this before you criticise the next time.

If genuine changes in personnel need to be made at any level, there are official channels in which to do this and if a member feels that they could do a better job then they are free to get involved and put themselves forward for the position.

As an association we need to provide more support and educate all administrators at all levels in their roles of what is expected of them and best practices in carrying out that role. If we do this and our members allow them to do their jobs then the administration of the sport becomes a lot more streamlined and efficient.

I commend all our administrators for the work that they do throughout the year and hope that they have found the experience enjoyable and some way rewarding.

MEDIA/PR/COMMUNICATIONS

The battle continues in what is a hugely competitive field for media coverage yet 2019 saw an improvement in media coverage for our sport.

Our All Ireland Softball finals attracted the best coverage in a number of years with coverage on RTE Radio, RTE News, TG4 and in many of the National newspapers not to mention numerous sports websites.

On a local level a number of counties have forged successful relationships with local media and receive good

coverage in local media outlets. This is very important in the overall context of gaining media coverage as the more coverage at local level then the more likely it is to seep through to national level. I commend all the active PRO's for their work in promoting our game and achieving such coverage.

From a TV and general media interest point of view, the fact that we will have a state of the art centre in the confines of Croke Park will hopefully remove some of the barriers to media exposure as the majority of the national media are Dublin based.

Once more our Live stream coverage of our major games on Facebook Live has been a resounding success bringing our games to a worldwide audience with fantastic viewing figures. This year saw over 80 live games streamed to a worldwide audience.

GAA Handball began streaming live games five years ago and it has been a huge success since. The number of live games continues to grow with our audience and potential reach growing year on year. When you think that our sister associations are only really beginning to explore live streaming in the last couple of years it shows that we have been ahead of the pack in terms of online coverage.

The work and attention that goes into streaming an event is not always noticed but it has become a valuable tool for us to showcase our sport to mass audiences. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our live streaming offering and introduced some of these throughout this year's finals.

I thank MacAV for their camera work throughout the year which as always was excellent. I also thank all



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the commentators throughout the year who imparted their knowledge on the watching public and kept so many people entertained.

Our National website continues to be the number one source of information for members and the general public. Our award winning site continues to provide up to date information on all handball events with a comprehensive news section where over 350 articles were posted in the past year.

Added to this the comprehensive video library and resources for clubs and members available on our site including venue information and player profiles and you see why our website is regarded as best in class.

Once again our Social Media fanbase has grown steadily over the year and have been invaluable tools in promoting the game.

Sometimes we can overlook the importance of social media for an NGB of our size as a marketing tool for our sport. When you consider we have

over 22,000 followers on Facebook alone the potential reach is massive. When you compare these numbers to other NGB's at similar size and some bigger we are exceeding the average in terms of social media followers.

A lot of NGB's have full time staff to take care of media and social media so when you consider that GAA Handball have achieved all of this without a full time staff member it really is an impressive achievement.

In that regard I want to thank the office staff and in particular Darragh Daly for their work on our social media channels.

As always I would appeal to people when they are commenting on Facebook to be mindful that potential sponsors and all media outlets are online nowadays and a negative post or an ill-informed post could have a negative effect on their perception of the sport and it can mean a serious loss of opportunity. We must also be mindful of potential mental health issues and need to be aware of this

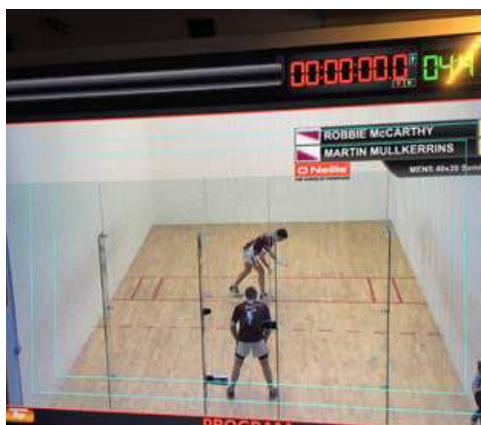
when posting comments that could potentially cause hurt.

Positive comments are always welcome and it helps to portray a positive image for our sport. We all have a responsibility to Like, Share, Retweet and post positive comments to enable our sport to gain the maximum positive exposure that we possibly can.

I commend the number of social media accounts that are doing great work in promoting the game at local level and encourage any units that do not have an account to spread the word by setting one up. I also would like to pay tribute to the many counties and clubs who are doing an excellent job at promoting our sport through local media. You are creating essential links with local media outlets that are essential in the overall quest for national media coverage.

In 2020 the new online club registration system due in quarter two will lead to more effective communication channels within handball and enable an easier transfer of information to all our units. In the past couple of years with changing email addresses and GDPR regulations it has at times limited the amount of information that was being sent from national office. However once the new system is up and running and distribution lists are updated this should enable more

“OUR AWARD WINNING SITE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON ALL HANDBALL EVENTS WITH A COMPREHENSIVE NEWS SECTION WHERE OVER 350 ARTICLES WERE POSTED IN THE PAST YEAR.”



efficient communication between all levels of the association. In the meantime all our news, information, fixtures and results are available on our website through our social media channels and also emailed to your county secretary.

I thank Paul Fitzpatrick for coming on board and assisting with the PR and Media for the association, his advice and help as a journalist and his creative style of writing have been invaluable.

FINANCE

When you take a look at where our income comes from a total of 66% of our income comes from grant funding from our two major funding bodies GAA and Sport Ireland.

We are continually liaising with the GAA Finance department in relation to GAA Handball funding.

Sport Ireland are also supportive in terms of funding but are limited to what they can offer and with 70+ NGB's competing for a slice of the funding pie it shows the challenges faced when trying to fund each organisation.

Grant funding by it's nature is not secure as there are always terms and conditions attached and the amount of grant funding available is dependant on the performance of the association or on the money made available in the Budget. If this falls then grants are likely to decrease so we cannot rely on just grant funding to be our major contributor of funding.

At present only 34% of our income is self-generated income and we need to look at ways of increasing this.

Registrations at 19% of our total income represent the largest income generator by the association itself. Registrations increased slightly on 2018 figures and this year will see the introduction of an online registration system. This is in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements. It will also make life easier for clubs when submitting registrations. Registrations are one of our main sources of income and I would encourage all clubs to try and increase their membership and register all members of their club whether actively playing or in an administration role. Our membership fees are still very low when compared with NGB's and this is an area where we could potentially see an increase.

The figure of 2% for Profit on Sale of merchandise is one area where improvement can be made. Our online shop profits have increased



year on year and this is encouraging. Plans are in place to increase the product range in 2020 to further raise funds and I would encourage all counties and clubs to encourage your members to buy through the online shop as all profits will be reinvested in the game. Prices at present on the online shop are very competitive and we are continuously meeting with suppliers in an effort to bring down costs in order to increase the profit margin rather than increase prices to our members. I wish to thank Brigid Doherty for her work in maintaining the online shop throughout the year.

Once more our sponsors O'Neills and MD Sports (Myclubshop.ie) provided generous sponsorship in 2019 for both the 4-Wall and Softball championships respectively. We owe our sponsors a huge debt of gratitude.

We held very productive meetings with both our sponsors during the year and I am delighted to say that both sponsors have committed to continuing to sponsor GAA Handball and both are very excited for what the future brings. Positive meetings are ongoing with the GAA Sponsorship Department in relation to obtaining further sponsors for our sport and while the initial talks were very encouraging there are still a number of issues we have to address in order to make our games more attractive to sponsors.

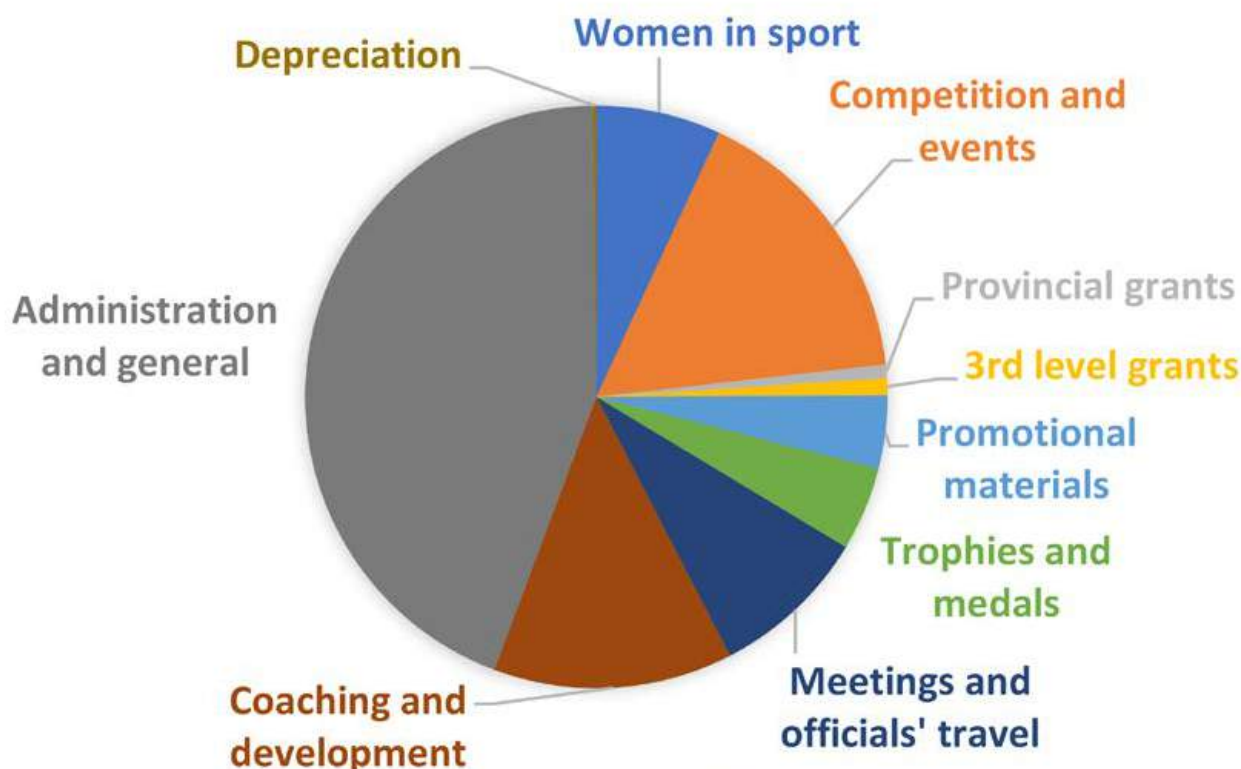
We have increased our commercial income over the past year and work is ongoing to increase this further. We have clamped down on a number of manufacturers who were using the GAA Handball logo without permission and going forward only approved licensees will be allowed to use the official GAA Handball logo on official GAA Handball merchandise. This safeguards our association and the use of our brand and also provides an important revenue stream for GAA Handball.

If suppliers wish to apply for a licence they can do so by contacting the office and the relevant forms will be sent out to them, their application will then be assessed by the GAA commercial team and a decision made whether to grant a yearly licence or not.

Our competition and event income at 6% remains steady and with many of our competitions at maximum entry levels this figure is expected to stay steady.

Gate receipts represent 2% of our income and this is an area we can





massively improve on with a change in mindset. Attendances at our games in general are poor and when people do attend they often do not approve of being charged to watch the game. Our All Ireland entrance fee of €20 represents fantastic value for money for a three game programme. In general our entrance fees are extremely reasonable and I would encourage all clubs to charge in to watch games. No other sport has a free for all attitude and the money you collect will contribute to the development of your club.

If we can increase our own income strands then I am confident that our grant contributors would be much happier to increase our funding levels when they see the good use that the money is being put to.

In terms of expenditure the major difference this year is that we had no expense for travelling to a World Championships. Despite this we have raised our spending in line with the rise in income. As evident from Figure 2 the main expenditure is in Administration and general. This covers the cost of running the National Office as well as various other items and while this percentage may seem high as a percentage of the total expenditure I feel additional staff are needed in key areas in order to fully support the volunteers and

units of the association and to truly realise the potential of our sport.

Competition and event expenses expenditure represents 16% and promotional materials 4% of our total expenditure and I think anybody who has attended any of our national events would agree that this money is well spent with the standards of our events higher than ever before.

We are constantly looking at ways to introduce grant funding for clubs and to increase grant funding to 3rd level and provincial bodies and will continue to explore avenues to make this a possibility.

Coaching and development projects represent 13% of our total spend and again we must look to raise this in order to be able to fully offer support to all our units across the country. It is important that any funding received is spent wisely and we must continue to work to come up with initiatives that are worthy of extra investment to attract further funding. Overall our annual accounts show a surplus this year following a steady year and I would like to thank the accounts department in the GAA particularly Rachel O'Reilly and Joan Kelly for their assistance over the year.

I am aware that a lot of our clubs are operating on minimal finance and many of them struggle from year to

year to make ends meet.

There are numerous grants available to clubs and I would encourage all clubs to work closely with your Local Sports Partnership and the National office to explore any avenue for potential funding. While it may take a bit of work to apply for these funding streams the rewards are definitely worth it and you can see in the past number of years the number of Handball clubs that benefitted from such funding.

I would also encourage Handball clubs to take advantage of the GAA Club Draw. So far there has been a sporadic number of clubs availing of this draw. This is a free draw available to all clubs with an array of excellent prizes. The tickets cost €10 euro and all money is retained by the club. The costs are all covered by the GAA so it really is an excellent way of fundraising. For more information contact the National Office.

There are several other ways of fundraising and raising money and all these require effort and hard work. However there are a number of clubs throughout the country who have raised the finances to fund development of their facilities and they are a shining example of what a club can achieve if they have the right attitude.

AWARDS

Two All Star events made 2019 a unique year within handball. Following the 2018 All Stars held in February in the beautiful Dunboyne Castle Ard Comhairle decided to bring the All Stars back into the calendar year with the 2019 event held in November.

It proved to be another outstanding occasion in what is quickly becoming the stand out social event on the GAA Handball calendar. A greater emphasis has been placed on our volunteers with a number of volunteer awards introduced to reflect the fantastic work been done throughout the country. Nominations were open to the Handball public for these awards and voting was by online secret ballot with the winner announced live on the night.

On both nights the Handball community turned out in style and both nights were a roaring success with old friends reunited and the Handball community celebrating a fantastic year of action.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the finalists and winners, and to thank our various sponsors O'Neills, Together Digital, Macsports, Adverttees & MMI.

I would like to offer my Congratulations to all those who won richly deserved awards on the night.

The All Stars night is quickly becoming the standout event on our calendar and a way of rewarding our volunteers so we must build on this positivity and continue to make each year better.

On both nights we featured Handball talent performing on stage. At the 2018 Awards Inis Mór's Jason O Toole wowed the crowd with his guitar skills and a number of modern day hits while the star of the 2019 Awards ceremony was young Alanna Coggeran from Kilglass Gaels who despite only being 14 years of age performed her own Handball version of Galway Girl as well as two other numbers one assisted by her father John on stage. The huge crowd gave her a deserved standing ovation following her performance. Whether on stage or in the alley both have very bright futures ahead.

It was encouraging to see so many of our handballers recognised at local level once more throughout the year. This is a vital step in creating awareness of Handball at local level in the media in general. Congratulations to you all.

Wexford's Tony Breen received the GAA Presidents Award for outstanding



service to the GAA earlier in the year. Tony has had a long and distinguished service to GAA Handball, and I offer my congratulations to Tony on a well-deserved award.

ANTI-DOPING

It is essential that all members familiarise themselves with the Anti-Doping regulations.

Information for all GAA Handball members is available on www.gaahandball.ie. Also, anti-doping wallet cards are available at today's AGM or from the GAA Handball Office, Croke Park, Dublin 3. Phone 01-8192385. For any members who wish to learn more or who have any questions in relation to anti-doping further information can be found on <http://www.irishsportsCouncil.ie/> Anti-Doping.

SYMPATHY

During the year GAA Handball lost a number of members and friends each who were an important part of the handball community.

I extend the sympathies of our association to anyone affected by bereavement throughout the year.

2018 AWARDS WINNERS

Male POTY – Martin Mulkerrins (Galway)
Female POTY – Martina McMahon (Limerick)
Young Male POTY – Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan)
Young Female POTY – Leah Doyle (Kildare)
Club of the Year – Inis Mór HC (Galway)
Venue of the Year – Moycullen HC (Galway)
Administrator of the Year – Margaret Walsh (Cork)
Volunteer of the Year – Paula Clarke (Tyrone)
Club Person of the Year – Aidan Marron (Corduff, Monaghan)
Media Award – Paula Carr (Clare)
Hall of Fame – Greg Sheridan (Cavan)
Hall of Fame – Vinny Wrynn (Kildare)
Hall of Fame – Ger Prendergast (Mayo)
Hall of Fame – Billy Buzzer Kerins (Kerry)

2019 AWARDS WINNERS

Male POTY – Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath)
Female POTY – Catriona Casey (Cork)
Young Male POTY – Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan)
Young Female POTY – Leah Doyle (Kildare)
Administrator of the Year – Paula Carr (Clare)
Clubperson of the Year – Pat Donnellan (Kilkishen, Clare)
Volunteer of the Year – Frank Daly (Dublin)
Venue of the Year – Breacach (Tyrone)
Club of the Year – Kilfane (Kilkenny)
Media Award – Wexford GAA Handball Website
Hall of Fame – Sean Finnegan (Galway)

One sad loss in particular was the passing of Bridín Uí Mhaolagáin. Bridín was a former Uachtarán of the Ladies Handball Council. Bridín had a long and distinguished career in Irish Handball and alongside her beloved husband Aidan were great supporters and familiar faces at numerous Handball occasions in recent years.

THE FUTURE

We are now entering what promises to be an extremely exciting phase for GAA Handball with the opening of the new National Handball Centre on the horizon and the World Championships coming in 2021.

With the standard of Juvenile Handball never higher and with our Open competitions producing excellent quality it is important that our next steps continue to support the good work been done all over the country.

With the right planning and the right mindset, we can have a vibrant modern sport ready to move into a vibrant modern new centre which will increase the attraction of our sport to potential sponsors, new members and the media.

We all want the same outcome for our sport so it is vital we all work together to achieve it. This may mean that we have to refocus our individual aspirations and accept changes that we may not always approve of but once it is for the good of the game and helps provide a better, brighter future for our sport then they are the sacrifices that have to be made.

NEW HANDBALL CENTRE

Work has been ongoing on the brand-new state of the art Handball centre and we are finally nearing the finish line as members everywhere wait with baited breath for the opening of our new home.

I have no doubt that many of our members felt that they might never see this day come and I am delighted that handballers and members will finally get the opportunity to have a home that befits a modern progressive sport and one that will portray a hugely positive image for our sport.

The impact of this new centre cannot be underestimated and will be massive for GAA Handball with the building being truly state of the art with all the modern facilities that will set it apart as an iconic Sports building. We have also received



assurances that the courts will be of the highest quality and standard.

The visual impact alone of the new centre on the walkway from Ballybough has already raised exposure for our sport with people already seeing a positive image and a clean modern state of the art complex. You cannot help but be impressed when you see this magnificent building sitting proudly beside the Croke Park Stadium.

From a TV and general media interest point of view the fact we have such an impressive centre within the confines of Croke Park should remove some of the barriers to media exposure that bringing our major finals around the country created. With the majority of the national media based in the capital the commitment to attend and cover handball games should be made a little bit easier.

As an association we need to ensure that we have a modern state of the art sport ready to move into the modern

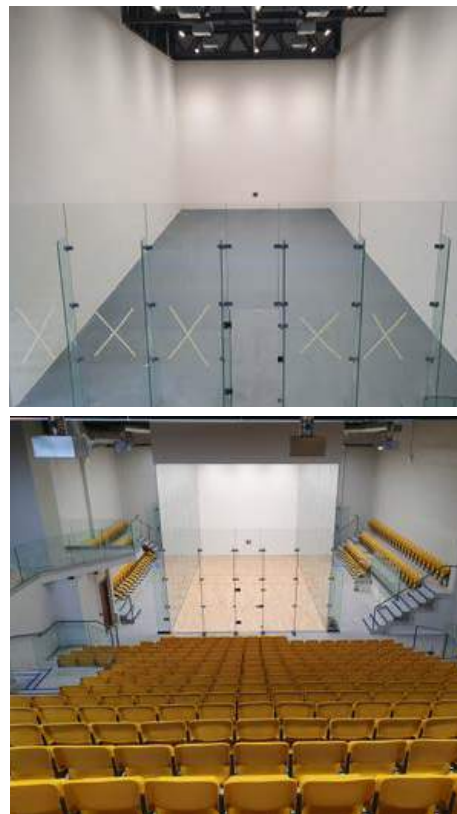
state of the art home as anything less and we will be doing this exceptional new auditorium a disservice.

I have no doubt that there are a multitude of questions in relation to the running of the centre, booking courts etc and this will all be finalised and communicated to members in the near future. We have never seen a project like this in handball before either in Ireland or across the world and it has proven and will continue to be a learning curve for us all. I have no doubt there may be challenges ahead but I am confident that we will work through these and it will be worth it when the end result is so spectacular.

I look forward to seeing you all sample the excellent facilities over the next year and enjoy many games in our new home. I would like to finish by thanking everybody who has been involved in the process not just to build the centre but over the past number of years in getting this amazing project to a completion. There are too many



THE IMPACT OF THIS NEW CENTRE CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED AND WILL BE MASSIVE FOR GAA HANDBALL WITH THE BUILDING BEING TRULY STATE OF THE ART WITH ALL THE MODERN FACILITIES THAT WILL SET IT APART AS AN ICONIC SPORTS BUILDING



people to name individually but on behalf of GAA Handball I thank the GAA for this major investment in our sport.

WORLDS 2021

It promises to be a very exciting period over the next 2 years as the World Championships come to Ireland in 2021.

The 2012 World Championships were spectacular and it is important that we as an association maintain the high standards we have set for hosting events and showcase our sport, our players and our volunteers in a positive light in 2021.

As mentioned earlier in this report the success of the 2021 World Championships hinges on good participation and buy in from the other member countries in order to provide credibility to the World titles. We want to encourage the best players in the world to come to these shores in 2021 and every effort will go in to making this happen and making the 2021 World Championships the best yet. It is also vital that we run the championships in a cost effective way and that we leave a positive lasting legacy that will have no knock on effect to our finances in the future.

Dates and further information will follow in early 2020 when the road to Ireland 2021 will begin in earnest.

STRATEGIC PLAN

One of our major objectives for 2020 will be to develop a strategic plan that will guide us through the next number of years.

The launch of this will coincide with the opening of the new National Handball Centre giving our association a strategic direction for the next number of years.

To enable this plan to work and to achieve the required outcome it needs buy in from everybody from grassroots level through to national level of the Association, this will not be a plan for individuals but a plan for GAA Handball as a whole and everyone will see benefits from it.

The plan will be produced from our volunteers feedback, so it is vital that everybody takes their opportunity to have a say when the opportunity comes around.

WORKGROUP PROPOSALS

The proposals put forward by the Clár Workgroup were met with strong resistance at last year's AGM and while this was disappointing we are at the end of the day a democratic association and Ard Comhairle respected the wishes of the AGM as expressed.

There was a number of misunderstandings clearly evident on the day in relation to the proposals and this was unfortunate. I would reiterate that the workgroup came up with these proposals with the best interests of handball at heart. Nobody involved in the process had any ulterior motive other than to progress the game and anybody involved had the genuine best interests of handball to the forefront of their minds.

We will continue to look at ways of improving our sport and introducing change where change is needed and this will always be done with the consultation of our members. It is important to remember however in a sport where there are three codes and various different opinions on how the future of the sport should be shaped it may not always be possible to come up with proposals that are universally approved and sometimes we may have to put aside personal preference and accept certain changes for the good of the sport as a whole.

SUMMARY

As we enter into 2020 we can look back on the last year and indeed the last decade with a tremendous sense of pride at where GAA Handball has come from and the standards it has set.

When we take a look at some of the achievements over the past number of years it gives an indication of the progress we have made and the potential for the future.

- Building of our state of the art National Handball Centre
- The success of the 4-Wall Festival Finals Weekend
- The success of GAA Handball Live Streaming and the amount of live handball now available to a worldwide audience.
- The growth of She's Ace and the strength of ladies handball in general
- Several of our clubs development into top class facilities
- The huge success of the Schools Wallball initiative
- The growth of Féile and the introduction of the standalone Softball Féile
- The standards of our juvenile players and their dominance at world level.
- Our elite players dominating at home and abroad.
- The continued growth of the Wallball Nationals into the biggest and best Handball tournament in the world
- The growth in followers on social media channels and also our award winning website voted Best Sports website in Ireland in 2015.



These are just some of the achievements in what has been an unprecedented era of growth for GAA Handball. Popularity levels are at an all time high and we are starting to see an increase in media coverage for our game.

While we continue to face many challenges, we have hugely exciting times ahead too. The opening of our new National Handball Centre will catapult GAA Handball into the next decade as a sport with a state-of-the-art home that can sit proudly among any of the elite sports and their home stadiums. With the World Championships set to arrive in 2021 we have an opportunity to showcase the brilliance of our players and volunteers to a worldwide audience putting handball on the Irish sporting map and leaving a positive legacy that will last for years to come.

This has to be a key aim as an association as nine years is a long time to wait for another chance. It is vital that we put any differences aside to work together for the greater good of the game. This is our opportunity to put handball on the sporting map and keep it there.

“

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES AND ALSO TO THE MANY EXCITING PROJECTS COMING OUR WAY IN THE NEXT NUMBER OF YEARS AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER THE NEXT DECADE FOR GAA HANDBALL WILL SEE OUR SPORT REACH HEIGHTS NEVER SEEN BEFORE

I look forward to the challenges and also to the many exciting projects coming our way in the next number of years and I am confident that by working together the next decade for GAA Handball will see our sport reach heights never seen before.

BUÍOCHAS

There are so many people who have contributed to the success of the last year and continue to do so year in year out.

I would like to thank Ard Stiurthoir of the GAA Tom Ryan for his support throughout the year. He was always available and very approachable at all times. His support has meant a huge amount to me personally in my role but also his support and guidance to the association is invaluable.

I would also like to thank Teresa

Rehill and Lorena Kelly for their assistance and guidance throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Uachtarán CLG John Horan for his support throughout the year and wish him well as he enters the final year of his tenure.

Our own Uachtarán Joe Masterson comes to the end of his three year tenure today. Joe has been a pleasure to work alongside and he has shown a great enthusiasm for the role. Throughout his three years as Uachtarán Joe was always available and was a great support to the National Office.

Joe was not afraid to try and change things during his presidency for the good of handball and he has started a very important conversation around change in the organisation I commend him for doing so and know that in time he



will be remembered as a President who helped change handball for the better.

Joe embraced the role of President with great enthusiasm and travelled the length and breadth of the country and was always available to clubs, counties or provinces who required his attendance. The job of President is a time consuming one but Joe was never seen without a smile on his face. He was extremely popular especially with the younger generation of players and he will be missed however I know Joe will be still involved as a passionate handball person.

Today we see a new era ushered in as Mayo's Dessie Keegan assumes the role of Uachtarán of the Association. Dessie as a former top player has many ideas on how to advance the association and I am sure he will embrace the role with great enthusiasm and the same determination that drove him to be a top player. I look forward to working with Dessie for the next three years to enhance and develop the association going forward.

To the GAA Finance Department

in particular Ronan Kelly, Rachel O'Reilly, Joan Kelly and Ger Mulryan many thanks for your assistance over the year and for preparing the accounts for today.

To Ard Comhairle and the CCCC I thank you for your commitment to the sport and for your support and hard work throughout the year.

To our sponsors O'Neills and Martin Donnelly (Myclubshop.ie) I say a huge thank you for your generosity and support once more in 2019. I look forward to working closely with you both in 2020. To our commercial partners in O'Neill and Bodibro I thank you both. To our main suppliers MacSports, MMI, Parrot Print and EM Creative for your help throughout the year I say thank you.

To Anne and her team at the McWilliam Park Hotel for helping with the preparations for today's AGM a sincere thank you.

To the GAA full time Staff for their assistance throughout 2019 I look forward to continuing to work closely again in 2020. In particular to Cian Murphy and Lisa Hayden (Communications), Diarmuid Murphy and Donal Marah (Sponsorship), Colin Regan (Healthy Club) and Eimear Doherty (Commercial Licensing) I thank you all and look forward to working closely again with you in 2020.

To our GAA Rep John Fawl I thank him for his support and advice over the year he has been a valuable asset to our Ard Comhairle committee and I look forward to working with him again in 2020.

To Sport Ireland and the Federation of Irish Sport especially Shane Califf and Melanie Lettis I thank you for your continued support and assistance.

To our sister associations and our office neighbours in Camogie and Ladies GFC and to GAA Rounders thanks for your support throughout the year and I wish you the best for 2020.

To the full time staff of Darragh Daly, Austin McKenna, Pauric Dowdall and Brigid Doherty I extend a huge thank you for the extraordinary lengths you go to on a regular basis to ensure that our office and our association runs smoothly. The level of dedication you display to your job is exemplary and I hope it is appreciated by our volunteers just as much as their work is appreciated by you.

I get to see first-hand your passion and commitment to your job and it is an honour to work alongside you all. You continue to perform to the highest levels despite a hectic workload and for this the association

should be very proud of you all.

To Paul Fitzpatrick for his contribution in relation to PR for the All Ireland Championships and also throughout the year I thank you. I thank all the PROs who work tirelessly at all levels to strive for greater recognition. The battle may be tough, but we are starting to see signs of improvement so keep up the good work.

To the Provincial Councils who tirelessly work to promote Handball in their provinces I say thank you and keep up the good work. To the County Boards who again work so hard to keep the game alive in their respective counties I thank you for your efforts and look forward to working with you all in 2020 once more.

To all our clubs, the lifeblood of our association and the production line for so many of our top players I thank you sincerely for your outstanding work throughout another successful year for our sport. To the clubs that host club tournaments I compliment you and encourage you to continue as they are an invaluable way of attracting new members and giving handball to those players who may not reach provincial or national finals.

To our venues that host games once more in 2019 you stood up and were counted as an incredible 1948 games were played at National Level over 223 venues. This is a phenomenal amount of games and I say a sincere thank you to all the venue officials, the referees, the volunteers who provide the refreshments and anybody else that contributed in running such a vast fixtures programme. Your commitment to this great sport is an inspiration to us in the National Office and we will continue to work hard at National Level to provide the necessary levels of support for you to make your job easier and more rewarding. You have made an invaluable contribution to our sport and I hope you have found it rewarding even in some small way.

I thank you all for your hard work and dedication to GAA Handball over the past 12 months it is greatly appreciated and I look forward to seeing you all throughout 2020. Keep up the good work!

John Kelly
National Manager



2019

COMPETITIONS REVIEW

We can look back on what was another phenomenal year in GAA Handball on the courts with great pride and satisfaction as our players once more displayed amazing skill and fitness levels and produced some outstanding spectacles along the way.



JANUARY

The first competition of the year saw Clare's Diarmaid Nash strike first blood as he defeated Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy in the 10th John Gaffney Memorial Tournament as the Clare man set out his intentions for the year ahead.

The 2019 She's Ace Festival Weekend was certainly one to remember with a total of 162 females headed west to smash our entry records, aged from 9 through to 40+. The showpiece final was of course the Ladies Open and brought another cracking contest between the best two players in the world in Catriona Casey (Cork) & Martina McMahon (Limerick). Reigning All-Ireland & World champion McMahon entered as favourite but it was Casey who stormed into an early and dominated the opening exchanges with some aggressive play. A few surges from McMahon from nowhere saw her serve at game ball 14-12, but Casey refused to give in edged the first 15-14. That appeared to give her the confidence to push on, and that is what she did, winning the second 15-7 to win her 5th She's Ace Title in the 6th edition of the event.

The 29th Annual Gael Linn competition took place in Ballydesmond HC, Cork with Clogh's (Kilkenny) Katie Brennan and Bobby Brennan coming out top of the pile following a 50-26 final victory against Cork's Carmel Kelliher and Tomas O'Connor representing the Boherbue club. In the Solas section, Una Ni Dhugain and Niall Ó Draighneain of Galmoy overcame Annaghdown Ava Sweeney and Daniel Kavanagh.

The new National Handball Academy was also launched in January and would go on to be a huge success.

FEBRUARY

February saw the Annual All Stars take place with over 200 attending a gala event in Dunboyne Castle as the achievements of 2018 were celebrated. It was a fantastic night with entertainment provided by Inis Mor Handballer Jason O Toole. On the night the major awards went to Moycullen HC (Venue of the Year), Inis Mor HC (Club of the Year) while Limerick's Martina McMahon was crowned Ladies Player of the Year with Martin Mulkerrins taking home Male Player of the Year. The young player of the year awards went to Kildare's Leah Doyle and Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity. The following morning saw Annual Congress take place which saw Mayo's Dessie Keegan win the race to become the next President of GAA Handball.

The 4 Wall Adult Nationals took place in Mayo/Galway venues and were a



roaring success. In a magnificent new facility at Claregalway HC, a full house was witness to some thrilling Handball between our country's finest. For the second ranking event in a row we saw a final between Nash & McCarthy. Last time round Nash was a dominant two game winner. This time however McCarthy gained his revenge in another tiebreak epic 11-9 as both players produced some astonishing handball. In the Ladies section, the top two seeds advanced as expected by many. Catriona Casey was in cruise control in the opening game as she held a 13-6 lead. But from nowhere Martina McMahon put on a sensational display of serving and killing to win the first 15-13, and carry that momentum into the second winning 15-6. That was Martina's first Irish 4-Wall Nationals title.

The 4 Wall Colleges took place in Bawn, Corduff and Kells with the main titles going to Kilkenny's Jack Holden representing Grennan College, Thomastown when he captured the Boys Senior Singles title while Kildare's Mollie Dagg, Colaiste Chiarain, Leixlip took home the Girls Senior Singles title.

Also in February the ICHA 4Wall usually held in Kingscourt event took place in Belfast with Clare's Colin



CORK'S CATRIONA CASEY WON BACK HER O'NEILL'S ALL-IRELAND FOUR-WALL SENIOR SINGLES TITLE AFTER COMING THROUGH ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY FINAL AGAINST HER GREAT RIVAL, MARTINA MCMAHON OF LIMERICK.

Crehan and DCU's Fiona Tully retaining their Open titles. The O'Neills 4-Wall All Ireland championship also kicked off towards the end of February.

MARCH

Once again the O'Neills 4-Wall All Ireland Finals Festival weekend proved to be an outstanding success as players from all over Ireland travelled to Kingscourt to compete in finals across the weekend.

Cork's Catriona Casey won back her O'Neill's All-Ireland Four-Wall Senior Singles title after coming through another extraordinary final against her great rival, Martina McMahon of Limerick. McMahon had defeated Casey in two 21-20 third-game thrillers in the last two All-Ireland finals in both courts but the Ballydesmond woman came roaring back to reclaim the crown here on a 12-21, 21-12, 21-19 scoreline.

McMahon was sensational in game one but Casey refused to wilt and, with pinpoint kills and some awesome retrieving, eventually began to take charge to force a decider.

Meanwhile, in the Men's decider, Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy won his fourth O'Neill's Senior Singles crown with a straight games win over Clare's Diarmaid Nash (21-17, 21-15). In general play, there was little between the experienced duo but the Mullingar right-hander edged the battle in the front court, where his uncanny deadweight paddle kills to either corner managed to negate the Banner man's attacking game.

Eoghan McGinnity brought the Minor Singles cup to Monaghan for the first time with a 21-10, 14-21, 21-13 win over Clare hurler Mark Rodgers in a cagey, cat and mouse final which saw an intriguing clash of styles while Kildare's Leah Doyle retained her Ladies Minor title against Galway



camóg Niamh Heffernan (21-8, 21-16).

Sunday saw the Juveniles take centre stage with many cracking encounters taking place throughout the day.

Action commenced in the O'Neill's 4 Wall Doubles Championships.

The ICHA Wallball event took place in March with LIT's James Prentice taking the Men's Open title following victory over Terry MacElvaney (DCU) while Aishling Mullin of NUIG defeated Eleanor Percy (NUIG) to take the Women's Open title.

Yet again the National Cumann na mBunscoil Handball Day proved to be a superb day, with 48 young stars of the future travelling to Kingscourt HC in Cavan to represent their Province with pride.

APRIL

The action returned to Kingscourt for another hugely successful weekend in the O'Neill's All-Ireland 4-Wall Doubles Finals, there was joy for the reigning champions Cork & Clare in the Ladies' & Men's Senior Finals respectively.

Catriona Casey & Aishling O'Keeffe justified their favourites tag as the now 5-time champions defeated Roscommon sisters Fiona & Siobhan Tully in two games. In the Men's Final Clare's Diarmaid Nash and Colin Crehan defeated the sibling pairing of Martin & Diarmuid Mulkerrins to win the Senior 4-Wall Doubles title 21-17, 21-12.

In the Girls Minor Final, Kildare's

Leah Doyle & Abby Tarrant took the honours after a tough battle with Mayo's Claire Reynolds & Cuilleann Bourke, winning 21-18, 21-8. That win sealed a Minor Slam for Doyle for the second successive year an incredible achievement for the Kildare youngster.

The Boys Minor Final was a marathon, as Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity & Konrad Kowal defeated Kilkenny's Jack Holden & Jack Doyle 9-21, 21-16, 21-17. The win sealed the Minor Slam for McGinnity, and notably saw Konrad become the first Polish native to win an All-Ireland title.

The 2019 40x20 Juvenile Boys Team of 6/4 competitions took place in Kilkenny and Wexford venues. In the U12/13 competition Kilkenny overcame Tyrone on a scoreline of 90-22. In the U14/15 competition Clare captured won the title when they overcame Galway 80-41. In the U16/17 competition Cork just edged their Galway opponents on a scoreline 49-39.

Meanwhile Munster won the Shes Ace Girls Interprovincial Team of Ten on aggregate scores after an exciting day of play in Kingscourt.

MAY

The curtain came down on the 2019 4-Wall season in some style with the top Juvenile players in the country producing an exhibition of Handball in venues in Tyrone, Monaghan and Armagh. The weekend was one of the outstanding weekends of the year.

The 13 & under girls saw Wexford's Jodie Keeling defeat Tipperary's Hannah Grace on a 15-9, 15-9 scoreline. The Boys 13 & Under saw the title head down the road to Monaghan as Sean Callan defeated Cavan's Oliver McCrystall 15-7, 15-14 in a close final.

The 15 & Under grade saw impressive performances from Clare's Chloe Philpott and Wexford's Mark Doyle to take home the titles. Philpott defeated Amy Brennan from Kilkenny on a 8-15, 11-15, 11-2 scoreline while Doyle defeated Galway's Mikey Kelly on a 15-7, 15-4 scoreline.

The 17&Under Girls grade saw Kildare's Mollie Dagg defeat Galway's Niamh Heffernan on a 15-14, 15-11 scoreline while Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity defeated Mayo's Lorcan Conlon on a 15-5, 15-0 scoreline to cap a fine 4-Wall season for the Monaghan Harps man.

The 19&Under girls grade saw Megan McCann defeat Kildare's Leah Doyle in the 13-15, 15-8, 11-7 while the

COMPETITIONS REVIEW 2019

Boys 19&Under final also needed a tiebreak to separate the pairing of Wexford's Adam Walsh and Cork's Conor Walsh with the Wexford man prevailing on a 15-13, 12-15, 11-9 scoreline.

May saw the attention turn to Hardball with Cork pairing of Daniel Relihan and Michael Hedigan claiming their maiden Hardball Senior Doubles title with victory over Kerry's Dominick Lynch and John Joe Quirke in Broadford. Cork also won the highly competitive Junior Doubles Final when David Walsh and Jamie O'Donnell overcame Tipperary's Paul Mullins and Kevin Dempsey in a two gamer on a 21-12, 21-7 score line to secure the title. Elsewhere the Intermediate Doubles title went to Kilkenny's William Love and Shane Dunne as they defeated Dublin's Ian Griffin and Michael Carrie.

JUNE

Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy captured the 2019 Hardball Senior Singles title after overcoming Limerick's CJ Fitzpatrick on a 21-5, 21-10 score line in Thurles. Kilkenny's Shane Dunne completed the double in the Intermediate grade as he added the Singles title to the Doubles title he won last weekend with victory over Mayo's Patrick Murphy. In the Minor

final, Billy O'Neill of Kilkenny defeated Meath's Daniel Farrelly on a 21-14, 21-5 scoreline while Kerry's Jack O'Shea defeated Cork's David Walsh in a tight Junior Singles Final on a 21-13, 21-17 scoreline.

The John West sponsored national Féile na nGael Handball competition once again proved to be an exceptional day of Handball as the county's top young Under 14 Handballers displayed great skills for everyone to enjoy. The action took place at venues across Cork & Limerick. It was one of the largest Handball Féile of all time with 78

teams taking part, almost 400 Boys and Girls involved, and 350 games played in the 4-Wall and 1-Wall grades with team numbers well up on the last few years.

Loughmacrory (Tyrone) were celebrating after almost ten hours of play they emerged victorious in the Boys 4-Wall Div. 1 Final in Fermoy. They overcame Kingscourt (Cavan) by the slimmest of margins. In the Girls 4-Wall Div. 1 Final Lahorna (Tipperary) had a tight two game victory over Kilkishen (Clare) on a final score-line 37-23.

In the 1-Wall Boys Div. 1 competition, this was won by Clogh Ballacolla (Laois) for the second year in a row as they overcame Oughterard (Galway) 36-11 in the final after an action-packed long day in Conna. While in the 1-Wall Girls Div. 1 Final Galway's Oughterard are the champions following an exciting final win against Mayobridge of Down. The girls from the west won out on a 37-23 score-line.

Cavan's Paul Brady won the US Nationals title and equaled the record of 11 US 4-Wall Nationals titles, tying with Mexican great Naty Alvarado Snr. Brady saw off Galway's Martin Mulkerrins 21-11, 21-7 in the final in California, erupting with emotion upon sealing the final ace. Meanwhile



in the Ladies grade, Catriona Casey bounced back from an opening game loss against Ciana Ni Churraoin to win her 4th US 4-Wall Nationals title on a score line of 4-21, 21-8, 11-0.

Kells HC, Meath captured the GAA Handball All Ireland Softball Senior Club title for an incredible eighth time in as many seasons when they defeated Ballina, Tipperary 77-56 at Crinkle. The Junior title was won by the Ballymore Eustace club Kildare as they overcame Moycullen of Galway 73-35. The Junior B competition saw Friary/Abbeyside (Waterford) overcome Williamstown (Galway) on a 60-27 score-line.

JULY

The Wallball Nationals once again proved to be the outstanding tournament in World Handball as over 400 competitors descended on Breaffy House to compete in various grades in early July. There was double delight for Galway at the 2019 Irish Wallball Nationals as Ciana Ni Churraoin & Martin Mulkerrins sealed the Elite Men's & Ladies Open titles at Breaffy House Arena, Castlebar. Ciana overcame Armagh youngster Megan McCann in the Ladies final. Megan herself had a sensational 31-17 SF win over reigning three time champion Martina McMahon in the semi final but it was Ciana who made the crucial push in the final taking her maiden title on a 15-12, 15-7 scoreline. In the Men's Final, it was a clash of the top two seeds, Martin Mulkerrins and Sean Kerr (Tyrone). Both players wowed the crowd with their pace and athleticism as the lead changed regularly during the opening game. But it was Mulkerrins who took the title 15-11, 15-6.

The 6th annual Lough Handball Showdown in Loughmacrory served up another feast of high octane and quality handball over the weekend. Over 200 players from all over Ireland travelled to the mid Tyrone venue to bid for major titles.

In the Mens Open Sean Kerr, who was in blistering form in front of a large Tyrone crowd blitzed his way to a first Lough Showdown crown with a 25-10 victory against the Irish Nationals Champion Martin Mulkerrins. In the Ladies Open Grade the final came down to a shoot-out between the reigning Lough Ladies Showdown Champion, Armagh's Megan McCann, and former two-time World Champion, Antrim's Aisling Reilly with Megan McCann picking up her third Ladies Open Showdown title with a 23-21 triumph.

Wexford played host to the 2019



“THE WALLBALL NATIONALS ONCE AGAIN PROVED TO BE THE OUTSTANDING TOURNAMENT IN WORLD HANDBALL AS OVER 400 COMPETITORS DESCENDED ON BREAFFY HOUSE TO COMPETE IN VARIOUS GRADES IN EARLY JULY

Irish Softball Nationals hosting a well run event, with great hospitality shown in each facility. In the end Martin Mulkerrins and Martina McMahon captured the Mens & Ladies 2019 Irish Softball Nationals Open titles after strong showings in Castlebridge HC, Wexford. Mulkerrins won his maiden major senior Softball title, impressively seeing off local man Gavin Buggy 15-10, 15-5 in the final. The Ladies Final had a familiar feel to it with reigning champ Catriona Casey & Martina McMahon doing battle having seen off Kilkenny duo Aoife Holden & Ciara Mahon respectively in the SF's. From the off it was Martina's power and precision serving that set the tone in a dominant 15-5, 15-6 showing.

AUGUST

GAA Handball's inaugural Softball Féile sponsored by John West proved

to be a tremendous success with 26 teams and 130 of the country's top young Under 14 Handballers displaying great skills for everyone to enjoy. Loughmacrory (Tyrone) were celebrating a Féile double after they emerged victorious in the Boys Div. 1 Final in Taghmon. They overcame Kells (Kilkenny) in the final on a 39-12 score line. In the Girls Div. 1 Final Lahorna (Tipperary) are also double Féile winners as they had a two-game victory over Kilkishen (Clare) on a final score-line 42-14 in Castlebridge. GAA Handball would like to thank all the Wexford clubs for their hospitality and especially all the volunteers at each of these venues that ran everything so smoothly on the day.

The Myclubshop.ie All Ireland Softball Singles championship kicked off in August.



SEPTEMBER

Dublin's Eoin Kennedy rolled back the years on an emotional night at Handball HQ as he captured his tenth Myclubshop.ie Senior Singles title in what surely must rank as one of, if not his sweetest ever victory.

The 40-year-old legend rolled back the years with a sensational performance to defeat the 5 in a row chasing Robbie McCarthy 21-20, 21-18 to win his 10th Singles All-Ireland, and the last to be played in the historic Croke Park HC. It was an enthralling game that had the capacity crowd on the edge of their seats throughout.

In the Ladies Final Limerick's Martina McMahon captured her third title following a ruthless display defeating Cork's Catriona Casey in two games. McMahon and Casey have been the two outstanding players in Ladies Handball in recent years and games between the two have been incredibly close. McMahon was dominant throughout and displayed some outstanding shots as she powered her way to a 21-12, 21-9 win.

Meanwhile Kilkenny's Kyle Dunne captured the Minor Singles title following a thrilling tie break victory over Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity in a 14-21, 21-13, 21-18 win. Kildare's





“THE 40-YEAR-OLD LEGEND ROLLED BACK THE YEARS WITH A SENSATIONAL PERFORMANCE TO DEFEAT THE 5 IN A ROW CHASING ROBBIE MCCARTHY 21-20, 21-18 TO WIN HIS 10TH SINGLES ALL-IRELAND, AND THE LAST TO BE PLAYED IN THE HISTORIC CROKE PARK HC. IT WAS AN ENTHRALLING GAME THAT HAD THE CAPACITY CROWD ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS THROUGHOUT.

Leah Doyle captured the Ladies Minor Final with victory over Mayo's Cuileann Bourke on a 21-14, 21-3 scoreline.

Brian Carroll and Gary McConnell retained their MyClubShop.ie Softball Doubles title with a 21-11, 21-7 victory over Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy and Colm Jordan on a nostalgic night at Handball HQ in Croke Park. On the night that GAA Handball said goodbye to the old centre as it gets ready to move into the state of the art new National Handball Centre the Royal county took the honours once more as Meath captured their 18th title. The Meathmen were dominant from the start in this encounter and while Westmeath fought hard in the first the Meathmen stepped up a gear to pull away in the second and seal the title in two games.

Kilkenny's Kyle Dunne and Billy O'Neill claimed the MyClubShop.ie All-Ireland Minor Softball Doubles title with a 21-15, 21-10 win over

Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity and Tiernan O'Rourke. Kilkenny's Shane Dunne made it a memorable family night capturing the MyClubShop.ie Intermediate singles title. Dunne was too strong for his opponent from Tyrone Ryan Mullan winning out on a 21-12, 21-7 scoreline.

Cork's Catriona Casey and Aishling O'Keeffe won the Ladies Senior Doubles for the seventh year in succession with a 21-12, 21-7 win over Ciara Mahon and Aoife Holden of Kilkenny.

OCTOBER

The cream of Ireland's Juvenile Softball players converged on Moycullen and St Comans to battle it out for the 2019 MyClubShop.ie All Ireland titles in the Softball code. Eleven counties in all competed with Cork topping the medals table with four titles. Galway, Roscommon and Tipperary took home two while Clare, Kilkenny, Sligo,

Tyrone and Wexford all taking one title back to their respective counties to complete a very successful weekend of Handball. The game of the day was the Boys U16 Singles Final with Galway's Mikey Kelly defeating Kilkenny's Billy Drennan in a high-quality match. The Girls U16 Singles Final saw Kilkenny's Amy Brennan defeat Galway's Sadhbh Ní Fhlaithearta 21-19, 21-4 in another high quality game.

The 2019 Softball Juvenile Team of 6/4 competitions was hosted by the Ballina club in Tipperary. In the U12/13 competition Kilkenny had a good win over a Cork team in the final to win 90-30 in the end. In the U14/15 competition Tipperary had a good win over a much-fancied Kilkenny side in the first semi-final, while Galway received a bye in the other semi-final. In the final the strong Galway team just proved too powerful for the Munster team and in the end the team from the west won the final on a score-line 76-55.

COMPETITIONS REVIEW 2019

Leinster clubs Clogh, Kilfane and Talbotts Inch hosted the semi-finals and finals of this year's Softball All Ireland Colleges. In the Girls Junior Singles Final Kilkenny's Amy Brennan of Castlecomer CS won this title for the second year in a row as she overcame Chloe Philpott St. Joseph's Tulla 15-2, 15-5. The Girls Junior Doubles title went to Roscommon CC as Carragh Kennedy and Siobhan Treacy defeated Lauren Power and Holly Byrne of Heywood CS, Laois. In the Girls Blue Riband event the Senior Singles, Noelle Dowling of Presentation College Kilkenny was awarded the title as Laura Shinnors Borrisokane CC and Cuileann Bourke Balla SS both could not play. While the Girls Senior Doubles title went to Limerick's Ciara McCarthy and Aisling Shanahan (Hazelwood College) as

they defeated Laois sisters Aoife and Una Brophy Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown 15-10, 15-8.

In the Boys competitions, the Junior Singles final was won by Kilkenny's Kyle Jordan of Grennan College when he accounted for Rory Carthy of Roscommon CBS after two tight games. The Junior Doubles title went to Gary McAleer/Thomas Duff Dean Maguirc Carrickmore when they overcame Charlie Treen/Jack Power of St. Augustine's Dungarvan. The Boys Intermediate Singles final was won by Mark Doyle of Wexford CBS after a tight three game victory over Mikey Kelly of Clarin College, Galway 4-15, 15-11, 15-13. While the Boys Intermediate Doubles was won by Joe Devereux/David Doyle representing St. Peter's College, Wexford as they overcame St. Augustine's partnership of William

Beresford/Sean Callaghan.

The Boys Senior Doubles title went to the strong Kilkenny pairing of Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill of Castlecomer CS when they overcame Darragh Ducey/Evan Enright of Boherbue Comp. Cork 15-3, 15-11. Finally, the Boys Blue Riband event namely the Boys Senior Singles final went to Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity representing St. Macartan's Monaghan where he overcame Dylan Hanley, Roscommon CBS after three tight games on a 13-15, 15-4, 15-4 score-line.

Munster claimed the 2019 Girls Softball Interprovincial Team of Six in Broadford. In the final Munster overcame Leinster after a very tight contest that went down to the very last match before they won on the score-line 84-61.

NOVEMBER

GAA Handball hosted its first ever Club Forum in November. The theme of the day was "Growing Together" and a full and informative selection of speakers were lined up. We were delighted to have over 35 clubs represented on the day and from the feedback we have received so far,

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GAA HANDBALL HOSTED ITS FIRST EVER CLUB FORUM IN NOVEMBER. THE THEME OF THE DAY WAS "GROWING TOGETHER" AND A FULL AND INFORMATIVE SELECTION OF SPEAKERS WERE LINED UP





each club has gained knowledge and are keen for more of these types of forums to be held.

The 4-Wall season opened with a bang with some fantastic handball at the Golden Gloves in Belfast. In the game of the weekend, Martina McMahon just edged Catriona Casey to claim the Ladies Open title, in yet another classic between these two incredible players. McMahon won out on a scoreline of 8-15, 15-13, 11-9, much to the joy of the packed galleries. In the Men's Open Robbie McCarthy showed his class as he blitzed Colin Crehan in the final.

The 2019 GAA Handball season came to a close with the 4-Wall Inter-club All Ireland Championships. In the Open grade Moycullen (Galway) took the premier title for the first time when they defeated Kells (Meath) in the final on a 66-57 score-line. In the Junior final Broadford defeated Carrickmore 60-42 while in the Junior B competition Breacach (Tyrone) overcame Kells (Meath) 71-62.

In the ICHA 4-Wall Doubles event Galen Riordan and Brian Mahon representing UCD defeated Fergal Coughlan and Mark Rodgers representing UL to take the Mens Doubles title while Fiona Tully & Meadhbh Ni Dhalaigh representing DCU took the Women's title following victory over Doireann Murphy & Ella



Donnellan who were representing UL.

The bright lights of Croke Park played host to the cream of GAA Handball players and volunteers as a large crowd gathered in Croke Park to reflect on and celebrate the 2019 year at the O'Neills GAA Handball All Star awards. The red carpet was full of style as the Handball public dressed to impress on a night of celebration and glamour. The night recognised both volunteers and players as 6 volunteer awards and 4 player awards were presented by Uachtarán Joe Masterson and Cormac Farrell from sponsors O'Neills.

The undoubted star of the night was Alanna Coggeran from Kilglass Gaels, a young Handballer with an enormous talent for singing as she wowed the crowd with her own Handball version of The Galway Girl that she rewrote herself as well as the Lumineers hit Hey Ho aided by her father John and Greenday's Time of your life. She thanked GAA Handball for inviting her to perform on what she described as the best day of her life as she finished off her set with another rewritten version of the American Authors hit Best Day of my life to a standing ovation from the large crowd present. Alanna certainly has a bright future ahead of her.

Following the break for entertainment the Players of the Year were announced. First up were the Young Players with a repeat of 2018 as Kildare's Leah Doyle and Monaghan's Eoghan McGinnity took the Female and Male awards respectively following outstanding years for both. Next up the Female Player of the Year Award went to Cork with Catriona Casey taking home the accolade of Female Player of the Year while Westmeath's Robbie McCarthy collected the final award the Male Player of the Year to cap off a fine season for the Mullingar man.

REWired kept the crowd on their feet until the end of the night as the 2019 GAA Handball season was closed off in style.

DECEMBER

Martin Mulkerrins claimed his first major ranking win of the Irish 4-Wall season, defeating Diarmaid Nash in the Final of the Breacach Open in Tyrone 15-7, 15-11. In the Ladies Open, a now standard final saw Catriona Casey & Martina McMahon do battle, with Casey coming out on top in two straight games. It was not the usual classic one would expect from the pair, but high quality none the less, and impressed the gallery.



By National Development Officer *Darragh Daly*



COACHING, DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT 2019

STAFF ADDITION:

One of the most important developments for 2019 was the addition of Pauric Dowdall to the full-time staff at GAA Handball as Club Support & Development Officer. Pauric has already settled in very well, taking a lead in several Club projects, and his role will no doubt prove to be extremely beneficial to the development of the sport as a whole.

NATIONAL COACH EDUCATION:

A huge total of 818 participants received GAA Handball Coach Education in 2019 across our selection of available nationally led

programmes, up from 2018's figure of 723. This is a very satisfactory number given the limited staff and Tutor resources at our disposal, and of course it does not factor into consideration any of the volunteer led Taster/Coaching sessions etc occurring regularly at local/county level.

Each of the courses ran in 2019 came as a result of direct requests from Clubs, Schools and GAA Development Staff in various counties nationwide. This is extremely pleasing as it shows there is a strong desire for the game to grow at local level, further highlighting the potential GAA Handball has to explode in popularity

COACHING	COURSES	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Taster / In-Services	26	257	339	596
Foundation Award	17	144	65	209
Level 1 Award	1	11	2	13



with even a minor increase in funding and staffing levels.

Foundation Courses in 2019:

- Antrim (3)*, Clare (2), Tipperary (2), Galway (2), Tyrone (2), Longford (1), Cavan (1), Wexford (1), Dublin (1), Derry (1), Monaghan (1)

* Two coordinated in conjunction with Gaelfast

Level 1 Courses in 2019:

- Tyrone (1)

In 2020 it is intended to make a slight change to the delivery process of our

certified coach education courses on two fronts; (i) making a concerted effort to target counties that have not hosted a course in several years, (ii) prioritising the delivery of the more advanced two day Level 1 Course, ideally with one minimum per province. It has proved difficult to garner sufficient numbers to participate in Level 1 Award courses, so finding a solution to this in 2020 will be key as we try to build on the Foundation base. Requests will of course still also be welcomed as usual and fulfilled where possible.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our National Tutors,

and to my colleague Pauric Dowdall, for assisting GAA Handball's Coach Education delivery in 2019. The time and dedication required for volunteers to work in these roles is vast and often unseen. The standard of GAA Handball's Coach Education Courses and Tutors in recent years has been noted by Sport Ireland as being of the highest quality, meaning the message getting distributed to our Clubs is also of great worth.

Current National Tutors (10):

- John O'Donoghue (Tipperary)
- Ryan Daly (Tyrone)
- Tadhg Carroll (Cork)
- Enda Timoney (Dublin)

COACHING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019

- Damien Martin (Roscommon)
- Fiona Shannon (Antrim)
- Darragh Ruane (Mayo)
- Nevan McCartin (Galway)
- Marguerite Gore (Wexford) (In Training)
- Darragh Daly (National Development Officer)

If your Club/County is interested in hosting a course, please contact development.handball@gaa.ie.

COACHING VIDEO SERIES

Whilst not a new development in 2019, I would like to use this opportunity to again promote the GAA Handball Coaching Video Series. The videos are hosted on the Coaching section of www.gaahandball.ie and the GAA Handball YouTube channel, and are free for all members to avail of.

Thus far the videos have amassed 35,000 views, however my reason for mentioning this again is that whilst on my travels nationwide delivering coaching courses, a significant portion of our members are not aware of the video's existence, yet are delighted to learn of their availability. The video series was developed to aid our coaches and players of all ages. Some of the top coaches and players the game has seen assisted in the production, so I again ask all Clubs/Counties/Provinces to continuously promote and increase awareness among your members.

To add to the Coaching Video Series, the production of videos specific to Softball and 1-Wall is still very much on the agenda upon the competition of the new National Handball Centre in Croke Park.



NATIONAL HANDBALL ACADEMY

2019 saw the first edition of the National Handball Academy, a programme developed to provide an elite player pathway for juvenile players aged U14 - U18. The aim being to ensure our next generations of players are adequately supported to make the breakthrough into elite senior players nationally & internationally.

Three sessions were hosted in the

GAA HANDBALL

COACHING VIDEO SERIES

30 SHORT COACHING VIDEOS TO HELP ADVANCE YOUR GAME AND BRING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

STROKES SHOTS SERVING RETURN OF SERVE TACTICS

CHECK THEM OUT AT WWW.GAAHANDBALL.IE/COACHING/COACHING-VIDEOS

past year (January, March, April) and we had some extremely talented young players in attendance. It was a pleasure working with this year's group, all of whom were very courteous and open to learning throughout.

2019 Squad:

- Mark Rodgers (Clare), Josh Kavanagh (Wexford), Cahir Munroe (Tyrone), Mark Doyle (Wexford), Billy Drennan (Kilkenny), Mikey Kelly (Galway), Kyle Jordan (Kilkenny), Leah Doyle (Kildare), Mollie Dagg (Kildare), Niamh Heffernan (Galway), Mairead Fox (Tyrone), Clodagh Munroe (Tyrone), Chloe Philpott (Clare),

Amy Brennan (Kilkenny), Emma Kinane (Galway)

A special mention to all our host venues (Kingscourt, St Coman's, Crinkle), and particularly some of the guest coaches who willingly offered their services when asked; Tony Healy, Damien Martin, Michael Finnegan, Fiona Shannon, John O'Donoghue.

Upon competition of the National Handball Centre, where GAA Handball can finally have a practical base, we intend to expand the Academy opportunity into the Softball and 1-Wall codes and develop the next generation of talented players in these respective courts.



CLUB IONTACH

Club Iontach, GAA Handball's new quality standards programme for Handball Clubs

across Ireland, was launched in October. The role of the Club is the lifeblood of our association, and we are indebted to our volunteers. It is within the Club that future generations of Handball players are introduced to the sport, where countless hours are spent coaching, playing, volunteering and inspiring a life time of positive experiences and involvement in GAA Handball. With all this in mind, GAA Handball have taken the initiative to provide our Clubs with this resource document to assist them to continue to evolve and strive for excellence.

The programme was devised to help guide clubs to achieve minimum operating standards in four core areas, aimed at improving all aspects of club

development; (1) Club Management, (2) Communications, Image & PR, (3) Coaching & Development, (4) Safety.

We are confident that there is something in this document that all Clubs can learn from as they continuously endeavour to create positive sporting experiences in a safe, enjoyable and supportive environment.

Already we have 30 Clubs signed up and actively working towards accreditation which is very positive. A long term, and ambitious aim, would be to get all of our Clubs signed up to the programme over the next few years. There are no deadlines to pressure Clubs, instead they can work at their own pace towards full accreditation.

A large resource repository of guidance documents and sample templates has been made available below to help guide clubs through this accreditation process, and help simplify the process.



The Benefits:

- Enhance Club's ability to attract new members, as both players and administrators
- Improve the Club's overall sustainability and effectiveness
- Raises the bar in terms of Club standards across the country, which will in turn lead to better structures, competitions and an overall stronger association for all members
- Receive a "Club Iontach Accredited Club" Display Plaque for your Club at a national event, to showcase the excellent work the Club is doing in promoting GAA Handball
- Club Feature to be published on national website

How to get started?

- Club Contact to register the club by emailing development.handball@gaa.ie
- Details will be sent to the club to logon to the Club Iontach portal.
- Submissions must be completed via the online Club Iontach portal.
- A hard-copy of the document and checklist will be distributed to every GAA Handball Club Secretary, and can be distributed on request.



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WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THERE IS SOMETHING IN THIS DOCUMENT THAT ALL CLUBS CAN LEARN FROM AS THEY CONTINUOUSLY ENDEAVOUR TO CREATE POSITIVE SPORTING EXPERIENCES IN A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT.



REFEREE EDUCATION



REFEREE EDUCATION

GAA Handball's new Referee Education Pathway was launched in October. This was warmly welcomed by all in the Handball community.

Handball matches cannot proceed without Referees, and with a huge annual fixture list, this provides a headache in appointing designated, suitable Referee's.

There is a small cohort of people that we as an association continually rely on for our major national finals. This new pathway aims to help add depth to this group, and in doing so alleviating the pressure on these volunteers. It is desired to establish an official Referee's Panel for Senior Championship matches, to ease the burden on venue officials.

There is something in this pathway for everyone, and this is important to note, whether you are a player or an aspiring referee. Despite what many people think, there is plenty of learning required to upskill our knowledge of refereeing in this country. There are very few people I have met during my time working with GAA Handball that have 100% confidence on their knowledge of every rule in the Playing Rulebook. Having spent a lot of time learning the rulebook myself for the production of this pathway, I still often find myself referring back to rulebook for clarity regularly.

Players not having a proper understanding of the rules can often lead to disagreements during the heat of battle. But on the flip of that, Referees can also be the cause of disagreements, not just through lack of knowledge on the rules, but through their mannerisms and their communication styles. This is a key feature of the Workshops, planned for 2020, to educate and provide tips on communication and refereeing styles.



THERE IS SOMETHING IN THIS PATHWAY FOR EVERYONE, AND THIS IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, WHETHER YOU ARE A PLAYER OR AN ASPIRING REFEREE. DESPITE WHAT MANY PEOPLE THINK, THERE IS PLENTY OF LEARNING REQUIRED TO UPSKILL OUR KNOWLEDGE OF REFEREEING IN THIS COUNTRY

I would encourage all players to at minimum attempt the Online Multiple-Choice Exam part of the pathway for rule education purposes. Within the first three months of release, it was refreshing to see several of our Senior players test their knowledge by completing the exams.

In total so far, we have had 80 attempts for the 1-Wall Exam and a pass rate of approx. 30%. There have been 150 attempts for the 4-Wall/60x30 Exam with a pass rate of approx. 20%.

Pathway Overview

- Two separate pathways have been devised, one for 4-Wall/60x30 combined, and one for 1-Wall.

- Phase 1 of both pathways is now available; an online multiple-choice quiz where participants who pass (90% Pass Rate required) will receive certification.
- For Phase 2, GAA Handball will be rolling out a series of regional referee clinics in 2020.

Pathway Overview - 4 Stages:

- FOUNDATION: Pass Online Multiple-Choice Quiz
- LEVEL 1: Attend a Referee Clinics
- LEVEL 2: Pass Observation of refereeing at County/Provincial level
- LEVEL 3: Pass Observation of refereeing at National level

Start today, take our Quizzes...

- Both involve 60 multiple choice questions
- Time limit of 45 minutes max (average time taken is 20 mins).
- A 90% Pass Rate is required.
- Available at www.gaahandball.ie/clubzone/referee-education

COURT SPECIFICATION GUIDELINES

A new court specification document has been produced, outlining the recommended standards for a 40x20 Handball Court, and is now listed on the national website.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Ensure comparability of recommended standards for all GAA Handball Courts.
- To act as a guidance document for

Architects, Surveyors, Builders, etc. involved in court construction and renovations.

- To ensure future builds are constructed to the highest standards, suitable for hosting National and International events.

It is not the intention of this document to pinpoint specific material and methods for court construction. Instead, it is a recommendation for performance to define basic characteristics of Handball courts.

SCHOOLS 1-WALL INITIATIVE:

The Schools 1-Wall Initiative continues to grow almost organically at this stage, with more and more schools contacting the national office enquiring about getting involved.

The most satisfying aspect of this fantastic initiative is that more often than not it is from areas of the

country not typically associated with Handball.

As a recreational activity in Schools, and Clubs for that matter, Handball is ideal. It is perfect in the sense that it develops fundamental movement skills, cross training for other sports, health benefits, and is cost effective.

The challenge we now face is to try and develop stronger School Club links with all the schools involved in the Schools 1-Wall Initiative (well over 500 at this stage), in a bid to recruit new members for our Clubs. Recruiting these new young playing members can also lead to opportunities for parents to get involved in the Club as potential coaches and administrators.

It can be something as simple as a poster advertising training times displayed in the local school, and a contact name for interested students. For a full array of ideas, view our School Club Link document on the national website.



COACHING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019



CLUB FORUM:

October saw the first GAA Handball Club Forum, an event we intend on making into an annual event due to the success and feedback we received. The theme of the day was “Growing Together” and a full and informative selection of speakers were lined up for the 35 clubs represented on the day. The Forum is part of an ongoing drive to support our Clubs through various initiatives and resources.

National Manager John Kelly opened proceedings by giving a presentation of future plans in relation to club development.

Presentations were delivered by:

- **Amy Coll** (GAA Insurance Executive) on Insurance & Players Injury Fund
- **Kathy Slattery** (GAA Head of National Finance)
- **Aisling Greenan** (National Finance Coordinator) who delivered on Vesting for Clubs & The National Club Draw.
- **Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl** (GAA National Children's Officer/ Child Welfare & Safeguarding Manager) & Michelle Harte (Child Welfare & Safeguarding Officer) who gave a very informative talk on Child Welfare & Safeguarding.
- **Austin McKenna** (GAA Handball's Fixtures & Event Officer) delivered on area's of GDPR and Club Registration.
- **Pauric Dowdall** (National Club Support Officer) & Darragh Daly (National Development Officer) brought clubs up to speed on two new initiatives being launched which were Club Iontach & The Referees Pathway.
- **Oliver Keating** (GAA National Officer Development Committee) deliver an excellent presentation on Volunteer Recruitment & Retention.
- **Simon Scriver** from changefundraising.com who spoke about Funding & Fundraising for Clubs.



The day finished up with a Q&A panel with three clubs from around the country who were delighted to share ideas they have used successfully in their own club and they also spoke about challenges they faced and told about how they overcame these challenges. National Manager John Kelly finished the day by giving a presentation on the new Handball Centre and took questions from the floor in relation to same leaving delegates in the room extremely excited about the prospect of what was to come.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Social Media is not typically a topic previously covered in much detail in our end of year reports, but given it's ever growing importance in today's

society, and the developmental benefits it can bring when used positively, it is worthwhile to highlight.

GAA Handball do not have a full-time media staff member, but that withstanding, the figures and quality of GAA Handball's Social Media output in particular is quite substantial. The time required daily to maintain these standards is considerable, but also, we feel very worthwhile.

Facebook remains our most popular platform with a follower base of 22.5k. In comparison to other similar size NGB's, we are out performing the vast majority. In numerous cases

SOCIAL MEDIA	FANS / SUBSCRIBERS	VIDEO'S
FB	22,447	N/A
TWITTER	7,896	N/A
INSTAGRAM	942	N/A
YOUTUBE	1,190	250



STREAMING	MATCHES STREAMED
She's Ace Ladies Festival	3
Adult 4-Wall Nationals	6
All-Ireland 4-Wall Singles	8
All-Ireland 4-Wall Doubles	6
Junior 4-Wall Nationals	6
Hardball	3
Wallball Nationals	12
Softball Nationals	7
All-Ireland Softball Singles	16
All-Ireland Softball Doubles	6
Golden Gloves	6
Breacach Open	6
Other (Promo & Interviews)	20
TOTAL VIDEOS	105
TOTAL VIEWS	348,000



our follower number significantly exceed larger NGB's. We are also active on Twitter and Instagram, and are posting on social media platforms daily to raise awareness of our sport.

A lot of time has also been invested into uploading all our videos (match footage, interview, promo videos, historic footage) on our YouTube channel, which now has 1.2k Subscribers and over 250 HD videos.

Live Streaming:

GAA Handball have been live streaming our major finals for six years now on "Facebook Live", well ahead of the now current trend used by other sports in Ireland. The decision not to include a paywall, instead, making the footage free of charge was taken with promotion and development of our game in mind.

Thus far we get great viewership numbers and interaction from the public. In 2019 alone, we have streamed 85 matches, and released a further 20 promotional videos and interviews. See below for breakdown.

The additional benefit of using "Facebook Live" is that matches can be viewed both live and post-match. This has helped us reach a combined total viewership in 2019 of 348k for our streaming. At a peak, our All-Ireland 4-Wall Men's & Ladies Senior Singles Finals have viewing figures of 10k each.

Website:

The aim of our national website www.gaahandball.ie is to be a one stop shop for everything you need in GAA Handball. We are regularly adding articles, forms, support literature, etc for the ease of our members.

In 2019 we uploaded 320+ articles on the News section alone, but

going forward we welcome Clubs/ Counties to send in their own reports of tournaments or development work that may be of a national interest. There is a lot of positive happenings taking place around the country which we are more than happy to promote if received.



2019

TITLE BREAKDOWN


GAA
HANDBALL
**GAA Handball Official
Competitions:**
**Breakdown by Event
and Code**

COMPETITION	MALE ADULT	MALE JUVENILE	FEMALE ADULT	FEMALE JUVENILE	MIXED JUVENILE	TOTAL
Softball Championship	40	8	8	7		63
4-Wall Championship	40	8	10	8		66
Hardball Championships	8					8
Team Events	6	5		2		13
Gael Linn					1	1
Féile na nGael		11		6		17
2nd Level College		12		8		20
Third Level College	18		14			32
Softball Nationals	6	4	2	2		14
4-Wall Adult Nationals	9		2			11
4-Wall Junior Nationals		5		5		10
1-Wall Nationals	10	5	4	4		23
She's Ace			7	5		12
TOTALS:	137	58	47	47	1	290

SENIOR / OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 (SPREAD OF TITLES)					
COUNTY	4-WALL SENIOR	SOFTBALL SENIOR	HARDBALL SENIOR	CLUB OPEN	TOTALS
Cork	2	1	1		4
Westmeath	1		1		2
Meath		1		1	2
Clare	1				1
Dublin		1			1
Galway				1	1
Limerick		1			1
TOTALS:	4	4	2	2	12



O'NEILLS GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 (SPREAD OF TITLES)

COUNTY	MENS ADULT	LADIES ADULT	BOYS JUVENILE	GIRLS JUVENILE	TEAM	TOTALS
Clare	3	2		2	1	8
Galway	4	1		1	1	7
Wexford	4		2			6
Kilkenny		1	3	1	1	6
Antrim	5					5
Tipperary	4			1		5
Limerick	4				1	5
Kildare	1	3				4
Cork	1	2			1	4
Tyrone		1	1	1	1	4
Kerry	2		1			3
Carlow	2					2
Dublin	2					2
Monaghan	2					2
Roscommon	1			1		2
Laois	1					1
Mayo	1					1
Meath	1					1
Offaly	1					1
Westmeath	1					1
Cavan			1			1
Armagh				1		1

TOTALS:

40

10

8

8

6

72

2019 TITLE BREAKDOWN

MYCLUBSHOP.IE GAA HANDBALL SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 (SPREAD OF TITLES)

COUNTY	MENS ADULT	LADIES ADULT	BOYS JUVENILE	GIRLS JUVENILE	TEAM	TOTALS
Tipperary	6		1	1		8
Kilkenny	6			1	1	8
Wexford	6		1			7
Limerick	3	2				5
Cork		1	2	2		5
Westmeath	3	1				4
Meath	3				1	4
Kildare	2	1			1	4
Galway	1		1	1	1	4
Mayo	3					3
Carlow	2					2
Dublin	1	1				2
Tyrone	1		1			2
Clare	1			1		2
Sligo		1	1			2
Roscommon			1	1		2
Cavan	1					1
Kerry	1					1
Armagh		1				1
Waterford					1	1
TOTALS:	40	8	8	7	5	68



GAA HANDBALL COMPETITION ENTRIES BREAKDOWN 2019

COMPETITION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	NO OF GAMES PLAYED	NO OF VENUES USED
	ADULT	JUVENILE	ADULT	JUVENILE			
Softball Senior Champ. - Singles	13		7		20	15	7
Softball Senior Champ. - Doubles	12		4		16	12	6
Softball Adult Champ. - S. & D.	128		18		146	97	34
Softball Juvenile Champ. - S. & D.		31		20	51	33	6
Softball Juvenile Colleges		23		12	35	19	3
Softball Juvenile Team of 6/4		6			6	3	1
Softball Club Championships	8				8	5	3
Softball Girls Team of Six				2	2	6	1
Softball Nationals	49	22	13	12	96	103	7
Hardball Championships	69				69	46	16
TOTAL 60X30 COMPETITIONS	279	82	42	46	449	339	84
4-Wall Senior Champ. - Singles	22		8		30	27	13
4-Wall Senior Champ. - Doubles	13		5		18	14	10
4-Wall Adult Champ. - S. & D.	149		27		176	124	36
4-Wall Juvenile Champ. - S. & D.		32		31	63	46	8
4-Wall Juvenile Colleges		23		16	39	29	3
4-Wall Juvenile Team of 6/4		11			11	16	2
4-Wall Club Championships	12				12	24	6
4-Wall Girls Team of Ten				3	3	15	1
4-Wall Adult Nationals	106		20		126	158	11
4-Wall Junior Nationals - Qualifiers		68			68	68	11
4-Wall Junior Nationals		138		56	194	186	10
TOTAL 4-WALL COMPETITIONS	302	272	60	106	740	707	111
1-Wall Nationals	98	147	33	70	348	422	2
Cumann na mBunscoil		16		16	32	48	1
Gael Linn		8		8	16	10	1
Féile		70		33	103	239	15
She's Ace			47	88	135	183	9
TOTAL OTHER COMPETITIONS	98	241	80	215	634	902	28
TOTALS:	679	595	182	367	1823	1948	223



**Liathróid Láimhe
C.L.G. na hÉireann**

**DIRECTORS' REPORT
AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS**

**Financial Year Ended
31 October 2019**

Liathróid Láimhe C.L.G. na hÉireann STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

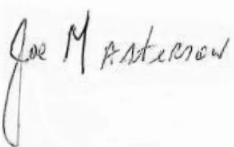
Management are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and published by the Institute of Chartered 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 Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann and of the surplus or deficit of Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann 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 Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann will continue its activities.

Management is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann. Management is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



Seosamh Mac an Mháistir



Seán Ó Ceallaigh



DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Board of Directors

- Seosamh Mac an Mháistir – Uachtarán
- Seán Ó Ceallaigh – Bainisteoir Náisiúnta CLG Liathróid Láimhe
- Padraig Ó Riain
- Liam Mac an Mháistir
- Conchúr Mac Dónaill
- Caitrín Ní Fionnagáin
- Mairtín Ó Leathlobhair
- Michéal Ó Conchúir
- Seán Mac Pháil
- Seosaimh Ó Seachnasaigh
- Dónal Ó hAodha
- Piarais Ó Leathlobhair
- Liam de Róiste
- Deasún Mac Aogáin

Secretary and Registered Office

Croke Park, Jones Road, Dublin 3

Bankers

AIB, 140 Lower Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9
Bank of Ireland, Drumcondra, Dublin 9

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
One Spencer Dock
North Wall Quay
Dublin 1



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

to the members of Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann

Report on the audit of the financial statements

OPINION

In our opinion, Liathróid Láimhe CLG Na hÉireann's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the organisation's assets, liabilities and financial position as at 31 October 2019 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland").

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements, which comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 31 October 2019;
- the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ("ISAs (Ireland)"). Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the organisation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- management have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the organisation's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern.

REPORTING ON OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Management are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE AUDIT

Responsibilities of management for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Management Responsibilities set out on page 3, management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Management are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA website at: https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf

This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the organisation's management and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the organisation, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants

Dublin

January 2020

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2019

	Schedule	2019	2018
Income		€	€
Registrations		103,451	101,845
Gate receipts		9,750	7,100
Competition and event income		30,204	22,811
Sports Ireland grants*		101,334	95,000
GAA grants	1	251,000	300,000
Sponsorship and commercial income		24,523	15,992
Women in sport grant - Sports Ireland *		9,667	8,000
Profit on sale of merchandise	2	11,327	10,055
Other income		5,168	5,712
		<hr/> 546,424	<hr/> 566,515
Expenditure			
Women in sport		37,094	32,723
Competition and event expenses		87,432	67,295
International		-	66,061
Provincial and urban regeneration grants		4,000	4,000
3rd level grants		5,000	5,000
Promotional materials		21,816	14,747
Trophies and medals		24,991	23,182
Meetings and officials' travel		47,122	46,010
Coaching, leadership and development		71,250	83,221
Administration and general	3	236,525	236,978
Depreciation		1,033	4,610
		<hr/> 536,263	<hr/> 583,827
Operating surplus / (deficit)		10,161	(17,312)
Grant from Central Council - world deficit		100,000	100,000
Balance at beginning of year		(1,216,624)	(1,299,312)
Balance at end of year		<hr/> (1,106,463)	<hr/> (1,216,624)

* The sponsoring department for both grants is the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The Council had no recognised gains and losses other than as reported above for the current and prior year. Subsequently, a statement of comprehensive income has not been prepared.

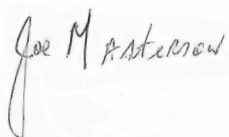
The Council has no movement in reserves during the current or prior year, except as noted above. Subsequently, a statement of changes in reserves has not been prepared.

BALANCE SHEET

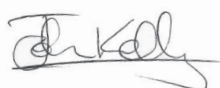
AS AT 31 OCTOBER 2019

	Notes	2019 €	2018 €
Non – current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	1,536	1,739
Current assets			
Inventory - handball courts		-	250
Receivables	5	386,949	407,296
Cash and cash equivalents (excluding overdrafts)		-	1,901
		386,949	409,447
Current liabilities			
Payables	6	451,234	549,234
Bank overdraft	7	1,043,714	1,078,576
		1,494,948	1,627,810
Net current liabilities		(1,107,999)	(1,218,363)
Net liabilities		(1,106,463)	(1,216,624)
Represented by			
Accumulated deficit		(1,106,463)	(1,216,624)

On behalf of the board



Seosamh Mac an Mháistir



Seán Ó Ceallaigh

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings and the Balance Sheet and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann for the financial year ended 31 October 2019.

Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann is an unincorporated association.
Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann is deemed to be a public benefit entity (PBE) in accordance with FRS 102.

Statement of compliance

The entity financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with accounting standards issued by the UK Financial Reporting Council and the Companies Act 2014. The entity financial statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the Council.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the financial year. It also requires the directors to exercise judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The directors believe there are no areas involving a higher degree of judgement or areas where assumptions and estimates have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

The exemptions contained within Section 1.12(b), 33.1(a) 33.7 of FRS 102 has been availed of in the preparation of these financial statements.

Going concern

Liathróid Láimhe CLG. na hÉireann reported an operating surplus of €10,161 (2018: deficit €17,312) for the year ended 31 October 2019 and a net surplus of €110,161 (2018: €82,688). At the year end the accumulated deficit on reserves amounted to €1,106,463 (2018: €1,216,624). The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Management consider that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis as the measures taken to improve operating performance together with the on-going support of the Cumann Lúthcleas Gael will ensure the continued operational activity of the Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann for the foreseeable future.

Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the Council was unable to continue as a going concern. Please refer to note 2 for further details surround the going concern assumption.

3. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Income

Grant income is recognised when performance related conditions are achieved.

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis and recognised in the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings in line with underlying agreements.

Property, plant and equipment

All property, plant and equipment are initially recorded at cost. This includes legal fees, stamp duty and other non-refundable purchase taxes, and also any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, which can include the costs of site preparation, initial delivery and handling, installation and assembly, and testing of functionality.

Finance costs incurred during the construction period of property, plant and equipment that are directly attributable to the construction of those assets are capitalised as part of the cost of those assets.

Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than land, at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, on a straight line basis, as follows:

Office equipment	20% Straight line
Computer equipment	33% Straight line

Inventory

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is based on normal levels of cost and activity and comprises cost of purchase and, where appropriate, cost of conversion to current condition and location.

Net realisable value comprises the actual or estimated selling price less all further costs to completion and all costs to be incurred in selling.

Financial Instruments*Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Other financial assets

Other financial assets including receivables, are initially measured at the undiscounted amount of cash receivable from that individual or entity, which is normally the invoice price, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost less impairment, where there is objective evidence of an impairment.

Other financial liabilities

Payables are measured at invoice price, unless payment is deferred beyond normal trading terms or is financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate. In this case the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, and the financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Management consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgements:

4. PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	Office Equipment €	Computer Equipment €	Total €
Cost			
At 31 October 2018	17,424	43,500	60,924
Additions for the year	-	830	830
At 31 October 2019	17,424	44,330	61,754
Accumulated depreciation			
At 31 October 2018	16,440	42,745	59,185
Charge for year	492	541	1,033
At 31 October 2019	16,932	43,286	60,218
Net book value			
At 31 October 2018	984	755	1,739
At 31 October 2019	492	1,044	1,536

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

5. RECEIVABLES

	2019 €	2018 €
Amounts due from Cumann Lúthchleas Gael	338,047	337,302
Other receivables	48,902	69,994
	<u>386,949</u>	<u>407,296</u>

6. PAYABLES

	2019 €	2018 €
Payables and accruals	20,000	20,000
Taxation and social welfare	10,000	10,000
Deferred income	418,332	516,333
Other payables	2,902	2,901
	<u>451,234</u>	<u>549,234</u>

7. BANK OVERDRAFT

Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann bank facilities are secured by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

8. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The analysis of the carrying amounts of the financial instruments of Liathróid Láimhe CLG na hÉireann required under section 11 of FRS 102 is as follows:

	2019 €	2018 €
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Amounts due from Cumann Lúthchleas Gael	338,047	337,302
Cash and cash equivalents	-	1,901
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Taxation and social welfare	10,000	10,000
Bank overdraft	<u>1,043,714</u>	<u>1,078,576</u>

9. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

(a) Capital commitments

At 31 October 2019 and 31 October 2018 capital commitments of nil existed.

(b) Contingent liabilities

At 31 October 2019 and 31 October 2018 contingent liabilities of nil existed.

10. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the period end which require amendment to or disclosure in these financial statements.

11. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The directors approved the financial statements on _____.

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2019 €	2018 €
SCHEDULE 1		
GAA Grants		
Annual grant	156,000	145,000
Administration grant	70,000	70,000
Promotional grant	25,000	25,000
World championship travel grant	-	60,000
	<u>251,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
SCHEDULE 2		
Profit on sale of merchandise		
Sale of Handballs	63,181	45,319
Opening inventory	-	-
Purchases	51,854	35,264
Closing inventory	-	-
Cost of sales	<u>51,854</u>	<u>35,264</u>
	<u>11,327</u>	<u>10,055</u>
SCHEDULE 3		
Administration and general expenses		
Staff costs	206,698	208,740
Printing, stationary, advertising and office supplies	11,932	10,545
Postage and telephone	9,672	9,688
Audit and professional fees	6,000	6,272
Interest, charges and financial costs	208	498
Miscellaneous	2,015	1,235
	<u>236,525</u>	<u>236,978</u>

MOTIONS AGM 2020

PLAYING RULES MOTIONS

(1) Rule 4.7 Dead Ball Hinders

Existing Rule

- A. Dead Ball Hinder
- 2) Ball hits Opponent. When a returned ball touches an opponent on the fly before hitting the front wall.

(Note: In International 40x20 rules, if the shot obviously would not have reached the front wall on the fly, in the referees opinion, the player who is hit by the shot will be awarded the rally).

Amend to read

- 2) Ball hits Opponent. When a returned ball touches an opponent on the fly before hitting the front wall. However, if the shot obviously would not have reached the front wall on the fly, in the referees opinion, the player who is hit by the shot will be awarded the rally.

If the above is passed, then the following will automatically be removed

Rule 4.11 Key International 40x20 Variations

- 4) If in the referee's opinion a ball striking an opponent would not have reached the front wall, a mark or a hand-out is given.

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

(2) Rule 4.10 Timeouts & Rest Periods

Existing Rule

A. Timeouts.

Any player may request a timeout (in the 40x20 court only), but not after the referee has announced the score, called "second serve" after a fault serve, or called "first/second serve, one screen" after a screen serve. Players may leave the court during a timeout, but must stay in the vicinity of the court, and return to the court within the allotted time.

1) 40x20:

- Timeouts must not exceed 30 seconds.
- Three timeouts are allowed each side per 21 or 15-point game.
- Two timeouts are allowed per 15-point or 11-point game.
- Timeouts may be called consecutively.

(Note: Timeouts of 1-minute duration are allowed when international rules are applied, e.g. Irish Nationals, World Championships, etc.)

Amend to read

A. Timeouts.

Any player may request a timeout (in the 40x20 court only), but not after the referee has announced the score, called "second serve" after a fault serve, or called "first/second serve, one screen" after a screen serve. Players may leave the court during a timeout, but must stay in the vicinity of the court, and return to the court within the allotted time.

1) 40x20:



- Timeouts must not exceed 60 seconds.
- Three timeouts are allowed each side per 21 or 15-point game.
- Two timeouts are allowed per 15-point or 11-point game.
- Timeouts may be called consecutively.

Remove

(Note: Timeouts of 1-minute duration are allowed when international rules are applied, e.g. Irish Nationals, World Championships, etc.)

If the above is passed, then the following will automatically be removed

Rule 4.11 Key International 40x20 Variations

International Playing Rules apply for (a) Irish Nationals (b) Irish Trials for International events (c) World Championships.

The key points of difference to note are:

Remove 1) Timeouts are of 1-minute duration

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

(3) Rule 5.3 Inter-Club Championships

Existing Rule

GAA Handball Ireland shall organise Inter-Club Championships in Junior B, Junior and Open in 60x30 and 40x20 (Fo-Rial 47 (L) refers)

Each team to consist of four players and one substitute.

Duplication in different teams is not permitted.

The order of play is as follows:

- 1st Singles 2 games x 15 points
- Doubles 2 games x 15 points
- 2nd Singles 2 games x 15 points

Before the match commences each team shall exchange lists showing the team members in order of play.

Aggregate scores shall decide the winner.

In the event of a tie, any pair from each team shall play one game of 15 points to decide the winner.

Amend to read

GAA Handball Ireland shall organise Inter-Club Championships in Junior B, Junior and Open in 60x30 and 40x20 (Fo-Rial 47 (L) refers)

Each team to consist of four players and one substitute.

Duplication in different teams is not permitted.

The order of play is as follows:

- 1st Singles 2 games x 15 points
- Doubles 2 games x 15 points
- 2nd Singles 2 games x 15 points

Before the match commences each team shall exchange lists showing the team members in order of play + a substitute if available.

Aggregate scores shall decide the winner.

In the event of a tie, any pair from each team shall play one game of 15 points to decide the winner.

Substitute – Explained

- If a game has commenced and a player gets injured, the named sub can take his place for the remainder of the game – only 1 sub can be used in a match and the injured player cannot return to the court once the sub has been used.
- The same rule applies if a player gets injured during the warm-up.
- In the event of a match being tied after the 3 games are played, the sub can be used in the tie break, even if he has not played earlier in the match.
- In the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

(4) Rule 5.2 Juvenile Team Championships

Existing Rule

- In Under 12/13 Team Competition the following rules apply:
 - In the Juvenile team competitions, if a player gets injured during the match, the substitute to be allowed take the injured players place.

Amend to read

- In the Juvenile team competitions, if a player

gets injured during a game, a substitute is allowed take the injured players place. Within a match only 2 substitutes are allowed, as long as the team has named sub(s). Otherwise, in the event of a second or subsequent player getting injured within a match and being unable to continue and there are no subs, then the opponent(s) is awarded the 15 points for that game and the injured player(s) score remains as it was when the injury occurred. If there is a second game and a player(s) is unable to continue, the game is awarded to the opponent(s) on a score-line of 15-0.

If the above is passed, then the same change will be applied to the following similar rule

- B. In Under 14/15 Team Competition the following rules apply:
- C. In Under 16/17 Team Competition the following rules apply:

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(5) Rule 5.6 Girls Interprovincial Competition

Existing Rule

- A. 40x20 Team of 10
- (a) A team consists of 10 players, two at each age group from Under 13 to Under 17.
- (b) Order of play is from Under 13 to Under 17.
- (c) Team in order of play to be supplied in writing to official in charge before play commences.
- (d) Each pair play's two games to 11 points.
- (f) In the event of a tie, any two players from each side play a tie-breaker to 11 points.
- (g) Full playing rules apply in 40 x 20.
- (h) Ball: Dark Blue Eye-Guards & Gloves: Mandatory

Amend (d) to read

- (d) Each pair play's one game to 21 points.

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(6) Rule 5.4 Féile na Gael

Existing Rule

- 1) Club team of four players in two pairs and one substitute, team and substitute can interchange before each match. Team in order of play to be supplied to the referee before each match. (The order of play may be changed for second or subsequent matches).
- 2) If a player gets injured during a game the substitute is allowed to take the injured players place.
- 3) Each pair play one game to 21 aces or maximum of 15 minutes game, with a point for each win. First service is decided on the toss of a coin. The team receiving in the first game will have first service in the second game.
- 4) When two or more teams in a group tie on points, the placing's are decided on total aggregate aces (for is totalled first, if still a draw then total against – lowest will be awarded highest placing). Where aggregate scores are still equal, a play-off to 11 aces between any pair from each side decides the placing's.

- 5) In case of a tie in any final, rules as in 4 apply. First service to be decided on the toss of a coin.
- 6) Full playing rules apply in all games (As there is a time element to this competition – no time outs are allowed and each player can only serve 1 fault before it's a hand/side out, i.e. if player 1 serves a short ball it's a serve out and player 2 serve's, if player 2 serve's a long serve it's a hand out).
- 7) Teams to wear Club colours in all matches unless requested to change when colours clash.
- 8) Players must be under 14 years of age on 1st January in year of the competition.

Amend to read

6a First Update (to be added in where applicable)

- (i) Teams must comprise of Players who are over 10 and under 14 years of age on 1st January in the year of the competition.
- (ii) The following balls will be used in each code In the 4-Wall competition the Dark Blue Ball is used. In the 60x30 (Softball) competition the Challenger 3 Ball is used. In the 1-Wall Ball competition the One Wall Ball is used.

6b Second Update (to be added in where applicable)

- Féile is a Boys or a Girls event - no mixed teams allowed.

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

MOTIONS

(1) Rule 27 (C)

That Rule 27C be set aside until GAA Handball AGM 2024 to allow Playing Rules be revised as necessary to allow proposed new Clar be introduced and trialled for the 3 year period.

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

(2) Rule 27 (C) to be replaced to read as follows

GAA Handball Ard Comhairle either directly or on recommendation from GAA Handball CCCC or a GAA Handball Provincial Council are authorised to revise Playing Rules during the 3 year trial subject to review. This is to ensure proper testing and a smooth transition over to final recommendations and to ensure any issues can be dealt with and corrected at the end of each Championship.

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

(3) Rule 30 (E) Central Council will meet at least 8 times per calendar year

Amend to

- (E) Central Council will meet at least 6 times per calendar year

Ard Comhairle/CCCC

(4) REMOVE THE FOLLOWING

Rule 13(F) GAA Handball committees are subject to Rule 3.11(b) of the Official Guide, which states that a member who has served five years in a Specific

officership shall be ineligible to hold that officership for ensuing five-year period. However, in exceptional cases a county or provincial committee may apply to GAA Handball. - **Ard Comhairle/CCCC**

(5) Transfers/Declarations/Sanctions

Existing Rule

TRANSFERS/DECLARATIONS/SANCTIONS

6. General rules of the G.A.A. apply, Chapter 6, Official Guide.

Amend to read

TRANSFERS/DECLARATIONS/SANCTIONS

6. General rules of the G.A.A. apply, Chapter 6, Official Guide.

See GAA Handball Transfer Form for all Inter-Club Transfer within GAA Handball. - **Ard Comhairle/CCCC**

(6) Enforcement of Rules / Disciplinary Procedure

Existing Rule

47. GAA Handball Cups/Trophies to be returned to the Central Council each year by the following dates:

40x20	1st February
Féile	1st May
60x30	1st August

Penalty: Fine of €70 per Cup/Trophy not returned on time.

Amend to read

47. GAA Handball Cups/Trophies to be returned to the Central Council each year by the following dates:

40x20	1st February
Hardball & Féile	1st May
60x30 & 60x30 Féile	1st August

Penalty: Fine of €70 per Cup/Trophy not returned on time. - **Ard Comhairle/CCCC**

(7) All-Ireland One Wall Championship:

GAA Handball Constitution, Rule 30(c): Powers and Functions of Central Council: "It shall control the All-Ireland Championships".

Proposed amendment to Competition Regulations 47 and 60:

Contae Mhaigh Eo requests that Central Council amend Regulation 47 to provide for an annual adult All-Ireland One Wall Singles Championship in the following grades: A (Ladies & Men), B (Ladies & Men), C (Ladies & Men), Masters (Men), Golden Masters (Men), Over-35 (Ladies), Over-45 (Ladies).

Contae Mhaigh Eo requests that Central Council amend Regulation 47 to provide for an annual juvenile All-Ireland One Wall Singles Championship in the following grades for girls and boys: Under-13, Under-15, Under-17. Contae Mhaigh Eo requests that Central Council amend Regulation 47 to provide for an annual adult All-Ireland One Wall Doubles Championship in the following grades: Over-35 (Ladies), Over-45 (Ladies). - **Maigh Eo**

(8) Remove the words "by Central Council in accordance with General Rule NOT" from NOTE on page 1 of Competition Regulations.

Amended NOTE to read: These are included for record purposes only. They shall not be construed so as to form part of the Constitution. They are subject to amendment by way of motion to Annual General Meeting. - **Ros Comáin**

(9) Amend Rule 47 of the Competition Regulations titled "The following All-Ireland Championships shall be promoted each year where facilities offer:" by adding new sub section "(T) Wallball Championship" to contain the following text;

"Men's and Ladies Open Singles, Men's and Ladies A Singles, Men's and Ladies B Singles, Men's and Ladies C Singles, Minor Boys and Girls Singles, U16 Boys and Girls Singles, U14 Boys and Girls Singles and U12 Boys and Girls Singles. Regulations for this Championship shall be decided each year by the Central Competitions Control Committee.

Rules of Competition Regulations possibly affected; 51, 59, 60, 61 and 62.

Rules of Constitution and Rules of G.A.A. Handball possibly affected; 30 and 46. - **Ros Comáin**

(10) Add new sub section "I" to Rule 27 of the Constitution and Rules of G.A.A. Handball to read as follows;

(I) A decision of the Annual General Meeting shall be adhered to by GAA Handball. - **Ros Comáin**

(11) Add Rule 48 to the Constitution and Rules of G.A.A. Handball to read as follows;

That GAA Handball forms a referee panel to officiate at All Ireland Finals and that members of this panel are trained appropriately. - **Ros Comáin**

(12) Add sub section (G) Rule 30 of the Constitution and Rules of G.A.A. Handball to read as follows;

(G) The draft minutes of Central Council meetings shall be approved at the next meeting of Central Council and once approved be circulated to County Secretaries within 2 weeks. - **Ros Comáin**

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That GAA Handball joins other national bodies in hosting a stop on the European Wallball Tour. - **Ros Comáin**
2. That GAA Handball ensures that all All Ireland Championship Finals are streamed online. - **Ros Comáin**
3. That GAA Handball maintains an adult male and female ranking system for 40X20, 60X30 and Wallball and at least two tournaments, the nationals and championship in each code be used to decide the ranking of players. - **Ros Comáin**

TOP THAI SUMMARY 2019



ALL THE RESULTS FROM THE HANDBALL YEAR

GAA HANDBALL MYCLUBSHOP. IE SOFTBALL ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

SS	Dublin (Eoin Kennedy) dft Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy) 21-20, 21-18
SD	Meath (Brian Carroll/Gary McConnell) dft Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy/Colm Jordan) 21-11, 21-8
MS	Kilkenny (Kyle Dunne) dft Monaghan (Eoghan McGinnity) 14-21, 21-13, 21-19
MD	Kilkenny (Billy O'Neill/Kyle Dunne) dft Monaghan (Eoghan McGinnity/Tiernan O'Rourke) 21-15, 21-10
U21S	Tipperary (James Prentice) dft Tyrone (Sean Kerr) 13-21, 21-20, 21-14
U21D	Tyrone (Sean Kerr/Turlough Clarke) dft Limerick (Evan Murphy/Nigel O'Callaghan) 21-11, 16-21, 21-9
JBS	Clare (Fergal Coughlan Jnr) dft Roscommon (Michael Egan) 21-7, 21-10
JBD	Cavan (Conor Owens/Adam Crosbie) dft Wexford (Shane Birney/Tommy Moore) 21-12, 21-17
JS	Mayo (Patrick Murphy) dft Limerick (Shane Murphy) 21-18, 21-14
JD	Tipperary (John Ferncombe/Sean Maher) dft Monaghan (Darren Doherty/Conor O'Gorman) 21-11, 21-17
IS	Kilkenny (Shane Dunne) dft Tyrone (Ryan Mullan) 21-12, 21-7
ID	Kilkenny (Keith Bourke/Shane Dunne) dft Galway (Diarmuid Mulkerrins/Cian

O35AS	Wexford (Gavin Buggy) dft Galway (Ollie Conway) 21-7, 21-6
O35AD	Mayo (Joe McCann/Joe Dowling) dft Dublin (Carl Browne/Conor Maxwell) 14-21, 21-10, 21-14
O35BS	Limerick (Keith Heelan) dft Roscommon (Glen Walsh) 21-11, 15-21, 21-11
O35BD	Limerick (Keith Heelan/John Keyes) dft Wexford (Noel Holohan/J.R. Finn) 21-16, 21-8
MAS	Kerry (Dominick Lynch) dft Mayo (Vinnie Moran) 21-7, 21-7
MAD	Wexford (Barry Goff/Tommy Hynes) dft Mayo (Vinnie Moran/Paul Flynn) 21-15, 21-14
MBS	Wexford (James Stanners) dft Galway (Matt Kenny) 21-3, 21-6
MBD	Wexford (David Stanners/Robert Byrne) dft Tyrone (Chris Curran/Conal Curran) 8-21, 21-7, 21-10
SMAS	Wexford (Tommy Hynes) dft Mayo (Tom Sweeney) 21-3, 21-9
SMAD	Limerick (Paul Hedderman/Ken Bourke) dft Mayo (Michael Ginley/Tom Sweeney) 21-10, 21-12
SMBS	Mayo (James Towe) dft Tipperary (John Kennedy) 21-13, 16-21, 21-17
SMBD	Kildare (Gavin Grace/PJ McGrath) dft Mayo (Seamus Grier/John Cunningham) 21-3, 21-4
GMAS	Meath (Tom Sheridan) dft Tipperary (Pat O'Flaherty)
GMAD	Meath (Tom Sheridan/John Leahy)

GMBS	Kildare (Gary Bolger) dft Tyrone (Finbarr Fullen) 15-21, 21-9, 21-14
GMBD	Tyrone (Finbarr Fullen/Kenny Curran) dft Tipperary (Willie Burke/Brendan Ryan) 21-3, 11-21, 21-15
EMAS	Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy Snr) dft Sligo (Francis McCann) 21-2, 21-15
EMAD	Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy Snr/Liam Cassidy) dft Monaghan (Conor McDonnell/Peter Larkin) 21-1, 21-3
EMBS	Wexford (James Mythen) dft Galway (Brendan McNeela) 21-14, 21-6
EMBD	Westmeath (Peter McCabe/Philip Clarke) dft Galway (Brendan McNeela/Pierce Lalor) 21-16, 21-3
DMAS	Tipperary (Billy Mullins) dft Leitrim (Ed Lee) 21-6, 21-8
DMAD	Tipperary (Billy Mullins/Pakie Mullins) dft Mayo (Kevin Geraghty/Pat Hopkins) 21-3, 21-10
DMBS	Kilkenny (Gerry Murphy) dft Monaghan (James Fealy) 21-6, 21-13
DMBD	Kilkenny (Gerry Murphy/Jerry Maguire) dft Monaghan (Peter Owen Fealy/James Fealy) 21-5, 20-21, 21-3
RMS	Carlow (John Rossiter) dft Mayo (Martin Cronin) 21-3, 21-5
RMD	Carlow (Sean Ryan/John Rossiter) dft Mayo (Martin Cronin/Pat Hayes) 21-5, 21-6
O70S	Tipperary (Pakie Mullins) dft Galway (Morgan Darcy) 21-2, 21-0
O70D	Galway (Morgan Darcy/John Kelehan)



dft Cavan (Greg Sheridan/Patsy Hand) 14-21, 21-7, 17-13 ret. inj.

GAA HANDBALL MYCLUBSHOP. IE SOFTBALL LADIES ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

- LSS** Limerick (Martina McMahon) dft Cork (Catriona Casey 21-12, 21-9)
- LSD** Cork (Catriona Casey/Aishling O'Keeffe) dft Kilkenny (Ciara Mahon/Aoife Holden) 21-12, 21-7
- LMS** Kildare (Leah Doyle) dft Mayo (Cuileann Burke) 21-14, 21-3
- LJBS** Armagh (Megan McCann) dft Limerick (Aisling Shanahan) 11-21, 21-8, 21-14
- LJBD** Limerick (Aishling Shanahan/Ciara McCarthy) dft Kilkenny (Margaret Purcell/Caoimhe O'Shea) 20-21, 21-1, 21-13
- LJS** Sligo (Laura Finn) dft Kilkenny (Deirdre Purcell) 21-15, 21-12
- LJD** Dublin (Maedbh Ni Dhalaigh/Lisa McKenna) dft Sligo (Laura Finn/Sarah Coleman) 15-21, 21-11, 21-5
- LIS** Westmeath (Aoife McCarthy) dft Tipperary (Sinead Meagher) 21-7, 21-14

GAA HANDBALL HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

- SS** Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy) dft Limerick (CJ Fitzpatrick) 21-5, 21-10

- SD** Cork (Daniel Relihan/Michael Hedigan) dft Kerry (Dominick Lynch/John Joe Quirke) 21-15, 21-9
- MS** Kilkenny (Billy O'Neill) dft Meath (Daniel Farrelly) 21-14, 21-5
- MD** Kilkenny (Billy O'Neill/Harry Delaney) dft Kilkenny (James Love/Sean Barron) 21-7, 21-9
- IS** Kilkenny (Shane Dunne) dft Mayo (Patrick Murphy) 21-9, 18-21, 21-16
- ID** Kilkenny (William Love/Shane Dunne) dft Dublin (Ian Griffin/Michael Carrie) 13-21, 21-7, 21-7
- JS** Kerry (Jack O'Shea) dft Cork (David Walsh) 21-13, 21-17
- JD** Cork (David Walsh/Jamie O'Donnell) dft Tipperary (Paul Mullins/Kevin Dempsey) 21-12, 21-7

GAA HANDBALL O'NEILLS 4-WALL ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

- SS** Westmeath (Robbie McCarthy) dft Clare (Diarmuid Nash) 21-17, 21-15
- SD** Clare (Diarmuid Nash/Colin Crehan) dft Galway (Martin & Diarmuid Mulkerrins) 21-17, 21-12
- MS** Monaghan (Eoghan McGinnity) dft Clare (Mark Rodgers) 21-10, 14-21, 21-13
- MD** Monaghan (Eoghan McGinnity/Konrad Kowal) dft Kilkenny (Jack Holden/Jack Doyle) 9-21, 21-16, 21-17
- U21S** Galway (Diarmuid Mulkerrins) dft

Kildare (Kevin Diggins) 19-21, 21-15, 21-20

- U21D** Galway (Diarmuid Mulkerrins/Cian O'Chonghaille) dft Kilkenny (Eoin Brennan/Connor Murphy) 21-9, 21-4
- JBS** Kerry (Daire Keane) dft Antrim (Ciaran Crothers) 21-14, 21-14
- JBD** Tipperary (Aidan O'Flaherty/Liam Bradshaw) dft Roscommon (Gordon Nolan/Michael Egan) 21-14, 7-21, 21-4
- JS** Clare (Fergal Coughlan Jnr) dft Antrim (Jordan O'Neill) 21-19, 15-21, 21-15
- JD** Antrim (Jordan O'Neill/Mark Rainey) dft Clare (Fergal Coughlan Jnr/Ciaran Malone) 20-21, 21-18, 21-18
- IS** Clare (Colin Corbett) dft Mayo (Ian McLoughlin) 21-20, 21-3
- ID** Wexford (Galen Riordan/Peter Hughes) dft Tyrone (Ryan Mullan/Gary McCrory) 21-5, 21-4
- O35AS** Wexford (Gavin Buggy) dft Mayo (Joe McCann) 21-10, 21-17
- O35AD** Mayo (Joe McCann/Joe Dowling) dft Wexford (Gavin Buggy/Paddy Haughton) 21-8, 7-21, 21-13
- O35BS** Tipperary (Aidan Supple) W/O Roscommon (Glenn Walshe) scr.
- O35BD** Antrim (Kevin Gamble/Fionntan Gamble) dft Kilkenny (Diarmuid Burke/Anthony Martin) 21-14, 21-11
- MAS** Kerry (Dominick Lynch) dft Mayo (Vinnie Moran) 21-12, 21-13
- MAD** Antrim (Sean Devine/Seamus O'Tuama) dft Kerry (Dominick Lynch/

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	JohnJoe Quirke) 21-20, 21-13
MBS	Roscommon (Sean Jennings) dft Tipperary (Brian O'Brien) 21-3, 21-18
MBD	Tipperary (Brian O'Brien/John Kennedy) dft Down (Jim Cunningham/Tony O'Connor) 21-6, 21-12
SMAS	Dublin (Adrian Benson) dft Mayo (Michael Ginley) 21-18, 21-7
SMAD	Offaly (Conor O'Brien/Sean Ryan) dft Tyrone (Chris Curran/Finbar Fullen) 21-11, 21-17
SMBS	Tipperary (John Kennedy) dft Galway (Kieran Hanley) 21-8, 21-8
SMBD	Galway (Graham Casburn/Morgan Duggan) dft Tipperary (Joseph Ryan/Finbar Ryan) 21-18, 19-21, 21-12
GMAS	Meath (Tom Sheridan) dft Tyrone (Niall Kerr) 21-13, 21-2
GMAD	Antrim (Paddy Crothers/John McGarry) dft Meath (Tom Sheridan/Jimmy Reilly) 21-9, 21-8
GMBS	Antrim (Paddy Nicholl) dft Limerick (John Ryan) 21-12, 13-21, 21-4
GMBD	Limerick (John Ryan/Denis McCarthy) dft Antrim (Paddy Nicholl/Kieran Cooper) 21-9, 21-10
EMAS	Kildare (Mick Dowling) dft Tyrone (Conor Kerr) 21-0, 21-14
EMAD	Cork (John Herlihy/John Hedigan) dft Antrim (Donal Armstrong/Stephen Brady) 8-21, 21-11, 21-14
EMBS	Laois (Joe Brennan) dft Down (Sean McNally) 21-4, 21-19
EMBD	Limerick (Donal Hayes/Tim O'Shea) dft Galway (Pierce Lalor/Brendan McNeela) 21-10, 21-3
DMAS	Wexford (Benny Doyle) dft Antrim (Thomas Maguire) 21-15, 21-20
DMAD	Wexford (Michael Rossiter/Benny Doyle) dft Antrim (Thomas Maguire/Tony Caddell) 21-15, 19-21, 21-17
DMBS	Limerick (Seamus Donovan) dft Antrim (John McManus) 21-6, 21-6
DMBD	Limerick (Jimmy Fanning/Jack Dillon) dft Antrim (John McManus/Roy McCoy) 21-7, 21-6
RMS	Carlow (John Rossiter) dft Monaghan (Michael McCarron) 21-0, 21-11
RMD	Carlow (Sean Ryan/John Rossiter) dft Galway (Bert Kelehan/Michael O'Malley) 21-0, 21-6
O70S	Dublin (Eugene Kennedy) dft Galway (Morgan Darcy) 21-6, 17-3 ret. inj.
O70D	Galway (Morgan Darcy/John Kelehan) dft Kildare (Tony Campbell/Dermot Howard) 21-13, 6-2, ret. inj.

GAA HANDBALL O'NEILLS 4-WALL LADIES ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

LSS	Cork (Catriona Casey) dft Limerick (Martina McMahon) 12-21, 21-12, 21-19
LSD	Cork (Catriona Casey/Aisling O'Keefe) dft Roscommon (Fiona & Siobhan Tully) 21-6, 21-13

LMS	Kildare (Leah Doyle) dft Galway (Niamh Heffernan) 21-8, 21-16
LMD	Kildare (Leah Doyle/Abby Tarrant) dft Mayo (Claire Reynolds/Cuilleann Burke) 21-18, 21-8
LJBS	Kilkenny (Margaret Purcell) dft Sligo (Laura Finn) 6-21, 21-15, 21-17
LJBD	Tyrone (Michelle Warren/Michaela McCartan) dft Tipperary (Eleanor Percy/Sile Spain) 16-21, 21-10, 21-20
LJS	Clare (Catriona Millane) dft Galway (Eimear Ní Bhiadhá) 21-6, 21-16
LJD	Galway (Aisling Ní Mhaioileáin/Eimear Ní Bhiadhá) dft Wexford (Marguerite Gore/Cora Doyle) 21-8, 21-20
LIS	Kildare (Molly Daggy) dft Tyrone (Eilise McRory) 21-14, 21-17
LID	Clare (Doireann Murphy/Clodagh Nash) dft Kildare (Hannah Daggy/Mollie Daggy) 21-3, 21-6

GAA HANDBALL SOFTBALL ALL IRELAND INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

OPEN:	Kells (Meath) Brian Carroll, Tom Sheridan, Robert Fox, Gary McConnell dft Ballina (Tipperary) Gerard Coonan, Declan Gleeson, Noel Moroney, David Hickey, James Prentice 77-56
JUNIOR:	Ballymore Eustace (Kildare) Michael Dowling, Jamie Balfe, Myles Carroll, Stephen Smullen, Brendan Higginbotham dft Moycullen (Galway) Seamus Conneely, David Davoren, Conor Noone, Darragh Mulkerrins, Daniel Lydon 73-35
JUNIOR B:	Friary/Abbeyside (Waterford) Gary McCarthy, Kevan O'Keefe, Anthony Fitzgerald, Charlie McDonagh, Oisín Hallahan dft Williamstown (Galway) Jimmy Connaughton, Chris Connaughton, Alan Byrne, Aaron Connaughton, Kieran Hanley 60-27

GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL ALL IRELAND INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

OPEN:	Moycullen (Galway) Martin Mulkerrins, Seamus Connelly, Conor Noone, Diarmuid Mulkerrins, Darragh Mulkerrins dft Kells (Meath) Brian Carroll, Tom Sheridan, Robert Fox, Gary McConnell, Michael Sheridan 66-57
JUNIOR:	Broadford (Limerick) Anthony Donnelly, Sean Murphy, Shane Murphy, Evan Murphy John Noonan dft Carrickmore (Tyrone) Cormac Munroe, Ciaran Cuddy, Paddy McCrory, Chair Munroe, Rory Grogan 60-42
JUNIOR B:	Breacach (Tyrone) Matthew McCartan, Caolán McCartan, Jack Darcy, Aaron Owens, Seamus McCrory dft Kells (Meath) Daniel Farrelly, Jimmy Reilly, Anthony McConnell, Troy Flanagan, Keith Blackburn 71-62

GAA HANDBALL SOFTBALL ALL IRELAND JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

GU14S	Galway (Emma Kinane) dft Wexford (Jodie Keeling) 15-1, 15-13
GU14D	Tipperary (Hannah Grace/Leanne Gould) dft Kilkenny (Aishling Cooney/Emer Barron) 3-15, 15-5, 15-4
GU15S	Roscommon (Carragh Kennedy) dft Laois (Una Brophy) 15-0, 15-8
GU15D	Clare (Eimear Murphy/Leah Minogue) dft Kilkenny (Lauren Power/Nathania Jackson) 15-8, 15-5
GU16S	Kilkenny (Amy Brennan) dft Galway (Sadhbh Ní Fhlaithearta) 21-19, 21-4
GU16D	Cork (Sarah Walsh/Cliona Dunning) dft Wexford (Emily & April Moran) 19-21, 21-7, 11-8
GU17D	Cork (Celine Kelleher/Muireann O'Brien) dft Kilkenny (Emily Kenny/Lauren Grace) 21-5, 21-1
BU14S	Roscommon (Rory Carthy) dft Wexford (Conor Creane) 15-0, 15-0
BU14D	Tyrone (Eoin McElholm/Ruairi McCullagh) dft Wexford (Bobby Doyle/Conor Horan) 15-6, 10-15, 15-0
BU15S	Sligo (Cormac Finn) dft Kilkenny (Conor Holden) 15-3, 15-1
BU15D	Cork (Eoghan Daly/John Cronin) dft Tyrone (Thomas Duff/Conor Fox) 15-7, 15-5
BU16S	Galway (Mikey Kelly) dft Kilkenny (Billy Drennan) 21-1, 21-17
BU16D	Cork (Gearoid Healy/Kealan Murphy) dft Tyrone (Jack Darcy/Ciaran McNally) 21-13, 21-2
BU17S	Tipperary (Patrick Delaney) dft Tyrone (Brian McAleer) 21-18, 21-6
BU17D	Wexford (Joe Devereux/David Doyle) dft Cavan (Niall McMahon/Jack O'Reilly) 21-4, 21-7

GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL ALL-IRELAND JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

GU14S	Galway (Emma Kinane) dft Wexford (Jodie Keeling) 15-10, 15-2
GU14D	Tipperary (Hannah Grace/Leanne Gould) dft Galway (Leah Ní Mhainnín/Clíodhna Ní Chonghaile) 15-3, 15-8
GU15S	Roscommon (Carragh Kennedy) dft Clare (Eimear Murphy) 15-7, 12-15, 15-13
GU15D	Clare (Jennifer Nicholas/Aoife Dooley) dft Galway (Amanda Ní Bhradaigh/Meabh Ní Chualain) 15-2, 15-5
GU16S	Kilkenny (Amy Brennan) dft Tyrone (Clodagh Munroe) 21-14, 21-7
GU16D	Clare (Chloe Philpott/Leah Minogue) dft Galway (Eadaoin Nic Dhonnacha/Skylyn Ní Mhaille) 21-18, 21-5
GU17S	Armagh (Caliosa Ní Dhuill) dft Cork (Sarah O'Malley) 21-7, 21-11
GU17D	Tyrone (Dervla Farley/Bronagh McWilliam) dft Laois (Roisin



- Fitzpatrick/Rosa Dooley(sub)) 21-3, 21-11
- BU14S** Tyrone (Gary McAleer) dft Cork (Hayden Supple) 15-14, 15-6
- BU14D** Cavan (Oliver McCrystal/Adam McKenna) dft Kilkenny (Michael Brennan/James Purcell) 15-3, 15-8
- BU15S** Kilkenny (Conor Holden) dft Sligo (Cormac Finn) 15-5, 15-12
- BU15D** Kilkenny (Harry Delaney/David Sherman) dft Galway (Cathal & Dara Ó Laoire) 15-1, 15-4
- BU16S** Kilkenny (Billy Drennan) dft Galway (Mikey Kelly) 21-13, 21-6
- BU16D** Kerry (Darragh Lynch/Sean Quirke) dft Tyrone (Jack Darcy/Jonathan Owens) 21-10, 21-14
- BU17S** Wexford (Dean O'Neill) dft Monaghan (Devidas Kaklauskas) 21-8, 21-19
- BU17D** Wexford (Joe Devereux/David Doyle) dft Cavan (Niall McMahon/Daryl McGurran) 21-18, 21-16

GAA HANDBALL SOFTBALL NATIONALS FINALS

- Mens Open** Martin Mulkerrins (Gal) dft Gavin Buggy (Wex) 15-10, 15-5
- Ladies Open** Martina McMahon (Lim) dft Catriona Casey (Cork) 15-5, 15-6
- Mens A** Paul Lambert / Paddy Haughton (Wex) dft Evan Murphy / Shane Murphy (Lim)
- Mens B** Noel Moroney / Declan Gleeson (Tip) dft Myles Carroll / Chris Doyle (Kild/Wic) 15-11, 15-14
- Mens C** Thomas Moore / Shane Birney (Wex) dft Kevin Timmons / Aidan O'Faherty (Tip) 15-9, 9-15, 11-1
- Ladies B/C** Noelle Dowling (Kilk) dft Sabrina Hughes (Dub)

- Masters B** James Stanners / Alan O'Neill (Wex) dft David Stanners / Robert Byrne (Wex)
- Silver Mas.** Conor O'Brien / Sean Ryan (Off) dft Tommy & Mick Armstrong (Wex) 15-8, 15-9
- Boys 13&U** Niall Drennan / Conor Doyle (Kilk) dft Cathal Buckley / John Hayes (Kilk) 15-11, 15-7
- Boys 15&U** Mikey Kelly / Jack Glynn (Gal) dft Conor Holden / Kyle Joordan (Kilk) 15-5, 15-6
- Boys 17&U** Kyle Dunne / Billy O'Neill (Kilk) dft Mark Doyle / Dean O'Neill (Wex) 15-8, 15-11
- Girls 13&U** Jodie Keeling / Farrah Ryan (Wex/Car) dft Hannah Grace / Christine Percy (Tip)
- Girls 15&U** Amy Brennan / Cloda Nic Con Midhe (Kilk/Tyr) dft Leah Minogue / Chloe Philpott (Cla)

GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL ADULT NATIONALS FINALS

- Men's Open** Robbie McCarthy (WM) dft Diarmuid Nash (Cla) 13-15, 15-3, 11-9
- Ladies Open** Martina McMahon (Lim) dft Catriona Casey (Cork) 15-13, 15-6
- Men's A** Fergal Coughlan (Clare) dft Cian O'Driscoll (Cork) 15-6, 15-7
- Men's B** Ciaran Malone (Clare) dft Patrick Murphy (Mayo) 15-6, 15-12
- Ladies B** Caitlin Conway (Tyr) dft Aishling Mullin (Gal) 15-12, 15-3
- Men's C** Aidan O'Flaherty (Tip) dft Lorcan Conlon (Mayo) 7-15, 15-6, 11-0
- Masters A** Dominick Lynch (Ker) dft Vinny Moran (Mayo) 15-13, 15-1

- Masters B** Willie Cahill (Tip) dft David Stanners (Wex) 13-15, 15-13, 11-6
- Silver Mas. B** Brendan Higginbotham (Kild) dft Graham Casburn (Gal) 15-14, 15-8
- Golden Mas A** Niall Kerr (Tyr) dft Tomas Donegan (Lim) 15-12, 8-15, 11-3
- Diamond Mas** Michael Rossiter (Wex) dft Eugene Kennedy (Dub) 11-15, 15-10, 11-4

GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL JUNIOR NATIONALS FINALS

- G13&U** Jodie Keeling (Wex) dft Hannah Grace (Tip) 15-9, 15-9
- G15&U** Chloe Philpott (Clare) dft Amy Brennan (Kilk) 8-15, 11-15, 11-2
- G17&U** Mollie Dagg (Gal) dft Niamh Hefferan (Gal) 15-14, 15-11
- G19&U** Megan McCann (Arm) dft Leah Doyle (Kild) 13-15, 15-8, 15-7
- B13&U** Sean Callan (Mon) dft Oliver McCrystal (Cav) 15-7, 15-14
- B15&U** Mark Doyle (Wex) dft Mikey Kelly (Gal) 15-7, 15-4
- B17&U** Eoghan McGinnity (Mon) dft Lorcan Conlon (Mayo) 15-5, 15-0
- B19&U** Adam Walsh (Wex) dft Conor Walsh (Cor) 15-13, 12-15, 11-9

GAA HANDBALL 1-WALL NATIONALS FINALS

- MO:** Martin Mulkerrins (Gal) dft Sean Kerr (Tyr) 15-11, 15-6
- LO:** Ciana Ni Churraoin (Gal) dft Megan McCann (Arm) 15-12, 15-5
- LB:** Laura Finn (Sli) dft Aisling Mullan (Gal) 20-11
- LCh:** Aine Ni Dhrongheann (Gal) dft Marie Maloney (Mayo) 28-13
- LM:** Annie Havern (Dow) dft Maighead Ni Dhuill (Arm) 22-13
- MB:** Conor O'Gorman (Mon) dft Evan Murphy (Lim) 24-11
- MC:** Anthony Fitzgerald (Wat) dft Jack McNeela (Gal) 20-3
- MCh:** Conor Mohan (Mon) v Colm Walshe (Ros) 16-11
- M:** James Doyle (Arm) dft Dominick Lynch (Ker) 23-11
- SM:** Graham Casburn (Gal) dft Chris Curran (Tyr) 19-15
- GM:** Niall Kerr (Tyr) dft George Miller (Mayo) 17-13
- EM:** John Herlihy (Cor) dft Paul Cassidy (Mon) 24-9
- DM:** Brian Havern (Down) dft Brendan O'Donoghue (Ker) 26-9
- RM:** Gearoid O'Fatharta (Gal) dft Sean Devlin (Gal) 11-10
- B13&U:** Matthew Smith (Cav) dft Gavin Kelly (Gal) 31-13

RESULTS SUMMARY 2019

- B15&U:** Kyle Jordan (Kilk) dft Mikey Kelly (Gal) ret. inj. 11-13
- B17&U:** Mark Doyle (Wex) dft Jason O'Toole (Gal) 17-7
- B19&U:** Peter Donohue (Gal) dft Adam Walsh (Wex) 21-7
- G13&U:** Ava Sweeney (Gal) dft Farragh Ryan (Car) 26-6
- G15&U:** Clodagh Munroe (Tyr) dft Sadhbh Ni Fhlaithearta (Gal) 17-13
- G17&U:** Claire Reynolds (Mayo) dft Noelle Dowling (Kilk) 24-12

GAA HANDBALL SOFTBALL JUVENILE BOYS TEAM OF SIX/FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Under 12/13 Team: Kilkenny (John Hayes, Cathal Buckley, Conor Doyle, Noah Minogue, Anthony Clifford, James Kenny, Cian Doherty, Oisín Farrell) dft Cork (Ryan Linehan, Thomas Myers, Wesley Delany, Jack Murphy, Cian Dunning, Tomas O'Connor, Diarmuid O'Connell) 90-30.

Under 14/15 Team: Galway (Cathal O'Leary, Dara O'Leary, Conor Duane, Padraic McNeela, Ewan Byrnes, Sean Stafford, Ethan Kyne) dft Tipperary (Evan Carey, Brian Bourke, Cian Molloy, Shane O'Connell, Anthony Walsh, David McGrath) 76-55.

GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL JUVENILE BOYS TEAM OF SIX/FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Under 12/13 Team: Kilkenny: Niall Drennan, Seam Morrissey, Cathal Buckley, Bobby Brennan, Conor Doyle, Anthony Clifford, John Hayse, James Kenny dft Tyrone: Ruairi Kerr, Shea Munroe, Martin Coyle, Padraig Fox, Sean Kennedy, Ryan McCallan 90-22.

Under 14/15 Team: Clare: David Considine, Mici Sheedy, Liam Madden, Rossa Keehan, Jamie Howard, Darragh Moroney, Colin Hogan, Eanna Culloo dft Galway: Conor Hession, Joseph Gallagher, Ethan Kyne, Ewan Hynes, Brian Walsh, Cathal O'Connell, Daniel Kavanagh, Christopher Hanley 80-41.

Under 16/17 Team: Cork: Cathal Ducey, Evan Enright, Dan Sheahan, Eric Delany, Darragh Bowen, Callum McCarthy dft Galway: Adam Kelly, Jack Ó Domhnaill, Cian Whelan, Cathal Curran, Enda Lawless 49-39.

GAA HANDBALL SOFTBALL JUVENILE GIRLS TEAM OF SIX CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Munster dft Leinster 84-61

GAA HANDBALL 4-WALL JUVENILE GIRLS TEAM OF TEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Leinster dft Connacht 73-71

Munster dft Connacht 93-59

Leinster dft Munster 77-65

Final Totals

- 1st** – Munster 158
- 2nd** – Leinster 150
- 3rd** – Connacht 130

GAA HANDBALL GAEL LINN FINAL

Clogh, Kilkenny (Katie & Bobby Brennan) dft Boherbue, Cork (Carmel Kelliher, Tomas O'Connor) 50-26

GAA HANDBALL SHE'S ACE

4-Wall Finals:

11&U: Fun Event

13&U: Emma Kinane (Galway) dft Jodie Keeling (Wexford) 15-7, 15-4

15&U: Clodagh Munroe (Tyrone) dft Chloe Philpott (Clare) 25-16

17&U: Noelle Dowling (Kilkenny) dft Cuileann Bourke (Mayo) 25-12

Ladies Challenger: Mary Burke (Mayo) dft Mags Donovan (Mayo) 25-22

Ladies 40+: Orla Foy (Westmeath) dft Hayley Kilroy (Mayo) 25-6

Ladies B: Sabrina Hughes (Dublin) dft Ellen O'Connor (Kildare) 10-21, 21-8, 11-0

Ladies Open: Catriona Casey (Cork) dft Martina McMahon (Limerick) 15-14, 15-7

1-Wall Finals:

11&U: Fun Event

Team Event: Team Bourke (Cuileann Bourke, Louise McGinnity, Sara Coleman, Jodie Keeling, Brona Ni Cheallachain, Emer Barron) dft Team Percy (Eleanor Percy, Clodagh Munroe, Leah Minogue, Sarah Taaffe, Katelyn Donovan, Elisha Kenna) 45-19

Mother & Daughter: Eithne & Clodagh Munroe (Tyrone) dft Mary & Cuileann Bourke (Mayo) 15-11

Beginners Challenge: Maria Maloney (Mayo) dft Mags Donovan (Mayo) 21-12

GAA HANDBALL ALL IRELAND SOFTBALL 2ND LEVEL COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

GJS Amy Brennan (Castlecomer CS, Kilk.) dft Chloe Philpott (St Joseph's, Tulla, Clare) 15-2, 15-5

GJD Carragh Kennedy/Siobhan Treacy (Roscommon CC) dft Lauren Power/Holly Byrne (Heywood CS, Laois) 15-1, 15-1

GSS Noelle Dowling (Presentation College, Kilk.) W/O Laura Shinnors (Borrisokane CC, Tipp.) scr.

GSD Ciara McCarthy/Aisling Shanahan (Hazelwood College Dromcollogher, Lim.) dft Aoife & Una Brophy (Coáiste Mhuire, Johnstown) 15-10, 15-8

BJS Kyle Jordan (Greenan College, Kilk.) dft Rory Carthy (Roscommon CBS) 15-8, 15-6

BJD Gary McAleer/Thomas Duff (Dean Maguirc, Tyr) dft Charlie Treen/Jack Power (St. Augustine's, Wat.) 15-9,

15-7

BIS Mark Doyle (Wexford CBS) dft Mikey Kelly (Clarín College, Gal.) 4-15, 15-11, 15-13

BID Joe Devereux/David Doyle (St. Peter's College, Wex.) dft William Beresford/Sean Callaghan (St. Augustine's, Wat.) 15-3, 15-5

BSS Eoghan McGinnity (St. Macartan's, Mon.) dft Dylan Hanley (Roscommon CBS) 13-15, 15-4, 15-4

BSD Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill (Castlecomer CS, Kilk) dft Darragh Ducey/Evan Enright (Boherbue Comp, Cork) 15-3, 15-11

GAA HANDBALL ALL IRELAND 4-WALL 2ND LEVEL COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

GJS Mairead Fox (Loreto, Omagh) dft Amy Brennan (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) 15-9, 15-12

GJD Chloe Philpott/Eimear Murphy (St Joseph's, Tulla Clare) dft Cloda McNamee/Clodagh Munroe (Dean Maguirc) 10-15, 15-2, 15-4

GSS Mollie Dagg (Col Chiarain Leixlip, Kildare) dft Caitlin Conway (Dean Maguirc) 15-6, 15-3

GSD Cuileann Bourke/Claire Reynolds (Balla SS, Mayo) dft Dearbhail & Roisin O'Keeffe (Greenan College, Kilkenny) 2-15, 15-7, 15-6

BJS Mikey Kelly (Clarín College, Galway) dft John Doherty (Col Mhuire Johnstown) 15-8, 15-1

BJD Tiernan Slattery/Patrick Crotty (Scariff CC) dft Gary McAleer/Lorcan McGarrity (Dean Maguirc) 15-4, 15-2

BIS Eoghan McGinnity (St. Macartan's, Monaghan) dft Mark Doyle (Wexford CBS) 15-7, 15-3

BID Kyle Dunne/Billy O'Neill (Castlecomer CS, Kilkenny) dft Conor Owens/Jack Darcy (Omagh CBS) 15-3, 15-9

BSS Jack Holden (Greenan College, Kilkenny) dft Alan Masterson (Rice College, Westport) 15-13, 15-10

BSD Conor Owens/Adam Crosbie (O'Carolan Col Nobber, Meath) dft Konrad Kowal/Justas Dumbinskas (St. Macartan's, Monaghan) 15-8, 15-3

GAA HANDBALL FÉILE NA NGAEL FINALS

4-Wall Boys

Div. 1 Loughmacrory (Tyrone) dft Kingscourt (Cavan) 27-25

Div. 2 Windgap (Kilkenny) dft Clogh (Kilkenny) 34-18

Div. 3 Moycullen 1 (Galway) dft Friary/Abbeyside/Ballinacourty 1 (Waterford) 34-14

Div. 4 Annaghdown (Galway) dft Carrick on Suir (Tipperary) 34-20

- Div. 5** Newmarket on Fergus (Clare) dft Moycullen 2 (Galway) 28-26
- Div. 6** O'Loughlin's (Kilkenny) dft Cullohill 2 (Laois) 42-11

4-Wall Girls

- Div. 1** Lahorna (Tipperary) dft Kilkishen (Clare) 37-23
- Div. 2** Galmoy (Kilkenny) dft Kilfane (Kilkenny) 42-13
- Div. 3** Lahorna (Tipperary) dft Glenmore (Kilkenny) 42-18

Softball Boys

- Div. 1** Loughmacrory (Tyrone) dft Kells (Kilkenny) 39-12
- Div. 2** St. Mary's (Wexford) dft Castlebridge (Wexford) 42-14
- Div. 3** Talbots Inch (Kilkenny) dft Ballymitty (Wexford) 26-22

Softball Girls

- Div. 1** Lahorna 1 (Tipperary) dft Kilkishen (Clare) 42-14
- Div. 2** Windgap (Kilkenny) dft Lahorna 2 (Tipperary) 41-25

1-Wall Boys

- Div. 1** Clough Ballacolla (Laois) dft Oughterard (Galway) 36-11
- Div. 2** Killmallock 3 (Limerick) dft Laochra Láimhe 3 (Limerick) 29-28

1-Wall Girls

- Div. 1** Oughterard (Galway) dft Mayobridge (Down) 37-23

Skills Results

4-Wall Boys Div. 1

- 1st** – Niall Magee (Kingscourt)
- 2nd** – John Hayes (Kells)
- 3rd** – Mici Sheedy (Tuamgraney)

4-Wall Girls Div. 1

- 1st** – Hannah Grace (Lahorna)
- 2nd** – Fina Close (Kilkishen)
- 3rd** – Eadaoin Whyte (Cullohill)

Softball Boys Div. 1

- 1st** – Gary McAleer (Loughmacrory)
- 2nd** – Michael Brennan (Clogh)
- 3rd** – Bobby Doyle (Taghmon)

Softball Girls Div. 1

- 1st** – Hannah Grace (Lahorna)
- 2nd** – Una Duggan (Galmoy)
- 3rd** – Emer Barron (Windgap)

1-Wall Boys Div. 1

- 1st** – Paddy O'Reilly (Killmallock)
- 2nd** – Ethan O'Halloran (Oughterard)
- 3rd** – Gary Whelan (Clogh Ballacolla)

1-Wall Girls Div. 1

- 1st** – Orlaith Geoghan (Oughterard)
- 2nd** – Aimee McAteer (Mayobridge)
- 3rd** – Alice Berry (Laochra Láimhe)

ICHA ALL IRELAND INTERVARSITIES SOFTBALL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Men's Open: Shane Dunne (ITT) dft Diarmuid Mulkerrins (GMIT) 15-5, 15-4

Women's Open: Fiona Tully (DCU) dft Aoife Holden (DCU) 15-9, 9-15, 15-12

Men's A: Shane Murphy (ITT) dft Paddy Murphy (AIT) 15-6, 15-7

Women's A: Cora Doyle (WIT) dft Laura Finn (NUIG) 15-8, 15-2

Men's B: Ben Devlin (DKIT) dft Conor Owens (AIT) 15-6, 15-5

Women's B: Anna Dunne (WIT)

Men's C: Tommy Quirke (ITT) dft Konrad Kowal (DKIT)

ICHA ALL IRELAND INTERVARSITIES SOFTBALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Men's Doubles: Shane Dunne & Gearóid O'Connell (ITT) dft Shane Murphy & Evan Murphy (ITT) 15-5, 15-9

Women's Doubles: Fiona Tully & Meadhbh Ní Dhálaigh (DCU) dft Clíodhna O'Connell & Dearbhail O'Keefe (UL) 15-7, 15-10

ICHA ALL IRELAND INTERVARSITIES 4-WALL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Men's Open: Colin Crehan (UL) dft Galen Riordan (UCD)

Women's Open: Fiona Tully (DCU) dft Sinead Meagher (LIT)

Men's A: Ryan Mullan (QUB) dft Keith Armstrong (MU)

Women's A: Ella Donnellan (UL) dft Clodagh Nash (UCD)

Men's B: Devin Peters (LFC) dft Anthony Fitzgerald (WIT)

Women's B: Eleanor Percy (NUIG) dft Síle Spain (MU)

Men's C: Dean Fox (QUB) dft Kieran Forde (NUIG)

Women's C: Bríd Horgan (CIT) dft Clare Smith (IADT)

Men's Contender: Colm Holbrook (QUB) dft Micheal Murphy (QUB)

ICHA ALL IRELAND INTERVARSITIES 4-WALL DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Men's Open: Galen Riordan/Brian Mahon (UCD) dft Fergal Coughlan/Mark Rodgers (UL) 15-7, 14-15, 15-3

Women's Open: Fiona Tully/Meadhbh Ní Dhálaigh (DCU) dft Doireann Murphy/Ella Donnellan (UL) 15-3, 15-3

Men's A: Ryan Mullan/Brian McAnenly (QUB) dft Seamus Conneely/Peter O'Donohue (NUIG)

Women's A: Eleanor Percy/Kelly Curran (NUIG) dft Cathy Foley/Clodagh Neville (UL) 15-12, 15-10

Men's B: Gearoid O'Connell/Kevin McGing (ITT) dft Niall Delaney/Naoise O'Flaherty (UL) 15-5, 15-12

Women's B: Roisin Foy/Marie Greaney (NUIG) dft Aoife Tully/Niamh Tierney (NUIG) 15-2, 15-4

Men's C: Cian Campbell/Shane Kyne (GMIT) dft Diarmaid Meagher/Sean Mullane (UL)

ICHA ALL IRELAND INTERVARSITIES 1-WALL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

Men's Open: James Prentice (LIT) dft Terry Mac Giolla (DCU) 15-13, 15-9

Women's Open: Aishling Mullin (NUIG) dft Eleanor Percy (NUIG) 15-8, 15-8

Men's A: Thomas Treacy (UCD) dft Anthony Fitzgerald (WIT)

Women's A: Kelly Curran (NUIG) dft Síle Spain (NUIM) 15-10, 15-14

Men's B: Jack McNeela (NUIG) dft Cathal Treacy (UL)

Women's B: Ellen Mullankey (TCD) dft Sarah Coleman (MAY) 25-24

Men's C: Ryan Kelly (UCD) v Eoghan Morgan (DCU)

USHA COLLEGIATES 4-WALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019 – UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Men's Open Singles: Galen Riordan (UCD) dft Tyler Stoffel (MNSU) 18-21, 21-8, 11-3

Men's Open Doubles: David Walsh/Adam Walsh (CIT) dft Niall Joyce/Kevin Diggins (DCU) 21-19, 14-21, 11-2

Women's Open Singles: Ciana Ni Churraoin (MNSU) dft Fiona Tully (DCU) 21-5, 21-16

Women's Open Doubles: Ciana Ni Churraoin/Corina Aguilar (MNSU) dft Fiona Tully/Meadhbh Ní Dhálaigh (DCU) 21-18, 12-21, 11-7

GAA HANDBALL O'NEILLS ALL-STAR AWARD WINNERS 2019

Male POTY -

Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath)

Female POTY -

Catriona Casey (Cork)

Young Male POTY -

Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan)

Young Female POTY -

Leah Doyle (Kildare)

Administrator of the Year -

Paula Carr (Clare)

Clubperson of the Year -

Pat Donnellan (Clare)

Volunteer of the Year -

Frank Daly (Dublin)

Venue of the Year -

Breacach (Tyrone)

Club of the Year -

Kilfane (Kilkenny)

Media Award -

Wexford GAA Handball Website (Wexford)

Hall of Fame -

Sean Finnegan (Galway)

2018 ALL STAR AWARDS WINNERS

2018 HALL OF FAME



Ger Prendergast

2018 HALL OF FAME



Billy Buzzer Kerins

2018 HALL OF FAME



Greg Sheridan (Cavan)

2018 CLUBPERSON OF THE YEAR



Aidan Marron (Corduff, Monaghan)

2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Paula Clarke (Killiclogher, Tyrone)

2018 VENUE OF THE YEAR



Moycullen HC, Galway

2018 CLUB OF THE YEAR



Inis Mór HC, Galway

2018 MEDIA AWARD



Paula Carr, Clare Handball Board

2018 YOUNG FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Leah Doyle (Kildare)

2018 YOUNG MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan)

2018 FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Martina McMahon (Limerick)

2018 MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Martin Mulkerrins (Galway)

2018 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



Margaret Walsh (Cork)

2019 ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



Paula Carr (Newmarket on Fergus HC, Clare)

2019 HALL OF FAME



Sean Finnegan (Williamstown HC, Galway)

2019 CLUBPERSON OF THE YEAR



Pat Donnellan (Kilkishen HC, Clare)

2019 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Frank Daly (Na Fianna, Dublin)

2019 VENUE OF THE YEAR



Breacach HC, Tyrone

2019 CLUB OF THE YEAR



Kilfane HC, Kilkenny

2019 MEDIA AWARD



Wexford Handball Website

2019 YOUNG FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Leah Doyle (Kildare)

2019 YOUNG MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Eoghan McGinnity (Monaghan)

2019 FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Catriona Casey (Cork)

2019 MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath)



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GAA HANDBALL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



