

**COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN C.L.G.
TIONOLFAR**

**COMHDHAIL CINN BLIANA
2002 - 2003**

**IN SEVEN OAKS HOTEL, CARLOW
AR AN LUAN, 24Ú FEABHRA 2003.
6.15PM.**



Longford - Leinster Minor Football Champions 2002

Back L-R: Michael Kelly, Noel Farrell, Tony Murphy, Cian Cooney, Shane Smyth, Gerard Evans, Fergus Kelly, Declan Farrell.

Front L-R: Emmet Finn, Declan Reilly, Shane Mulligan, Enda Williams (C), Michael Hussey, Peter Masterson, Ciaran McKeon

6.15pm	Registration
6.30pm	High Tea
7.30pm	(1) Convention Opens (2) Address by Cathaoirleach Coisde Co. Ceatharloch C.L.G.
7.45pm	(1) Minutes of 2002 Convention (2) Discussion of Report of Chief Executive (3) Discussion of Sub-Committee Reports
8.15pm	Review of Accounts of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.
8.30pm	Ballot (P.R.O.)
8.40pm	Address by An Cathaoirleach
9.00pm	Election of Officers
9.15pm	Guest Speakers
9.30pm	Na Rúin
9.40pm	Tea/Coffee – Convention Closes

Each county is entitled to the following Delegate representation at Convention, in addition to its two representatives on the Provincial Council:

Ceatharloch	5	Cill Mhantain	6	Iarmhi	5	An Mhí	6
An Lú	5	Longphort	5	Cill Dara	6	Uibh Fháilí	6
Cill Chainnigh	5	Laois	6	Áth Cliath	6	Loch Garman	6

A brief meeting of the incoming Leinster Council will be held immediately after Convention, at which only urgent business to hand will be considered.

NOTE

1. Slip on Admission Card to be handed to Hotel Management for High Tea (6.30pm)
2. Full Leinster Convention documentation has already been forwarded directly to each member of the outgoing Leinster Council.

Michéal Ó Dubhshlaine (Rúnaí)
Áras Laighean, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

AINMNIÚCHÁIN

CATHAOIRLEACH	Nioclas Ó Braonáin (Cill Chainnigh)
LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH	Liam Ó Neill (Laois)
CISTEOIR	Padraig Ó Flannagain (Iarmhí)
OIFIGEACH CAIDREAMH POIBLÍ	Séamus Ó hUílin (Loch Garman) Antóin Mac Roibin (Iarmhí) Padraig Ó Tomhnair (Lú)

NA RÚIN

That 5% of all revenue generated from ticket sales for Inter County games by a club be reimbursed to that club.

An Mhí

MIONTUAIRISCI CHRUINNIÚ DEN CHOMHDHAIL BHLIANTÚIL 23-2-2002

S. Uas. Aldridge (Cathaoirleach) presided at the Annual Convention of Leinster Council G.A.A. held in Hotel Kilkenny on Saturday 23^u Feabhra 2002. Also present were:

N. O Braonain (Leas-Cathaoirleach); S. O hUilin (P.R.O.); P. O Flannagain (Cisteoir);
P. O Cinnseallaigh (Cm. Na mBunscol); T. O Domhnaill (Ard Oideachais); T. de Spainne (Gairmscoileanna);
T. O Briain (Liathroid Laimhe); B. O Leaindi, S. O Loinsigh (Lu); B. O hAilin (An Mhi); S. de Roiste,
S. Mac Coisdealbha (Ath Cliath); S. O Duinn, S. O Tiomain (Cill Mhantain); P. O Duill, P. Uaiceam (Loch Garman);
S. Mac Carthaigh, S.S. Breathnach (Cill Dara); P. O Nuallain, L.V. O Conbhui (Ceatharloch); T. O Murchu,
S. O hEile (Cill Chainnigh); S. O Daltuin, T. O hAiseadha (Laois); A. O Gallchoir, S. O hOgain (Uibh Fhaili);
T. O Fearghail, A. Mac Roibin (Iarmhi); S. O Floinn, S. Mac an tSionnaigh (Longphort) and M. O Dubhshlaine (Runai).

Apologies for inability to attend had been received from M. O Briain (An Mhi) and C. O Ronain (Colaisti).

The following delegates represented their counties:

AN LÚ

P. Mac Mathuna, P. O Tomhnair, B. O Braonain,
S. O Broin, P. O hAmaltnuin.

AN MHÍ

F. Mac Ghinneartaigh, P. O Ceallaigh, B. Mac Gabhann,
C. Mac Fhionnain, T. O Coileain, L. Ó Craobháin.

ÁTH CLIATH

B. O Maolchaidh, S. O Mathuna, D. O hIcheadha,
C. O Riain, L. Mac an Bheatha, N. O Murchu.

CILL MHANTÁIN

D. Mac Giolla Chuda, F. de Paor, A. O Briain, S. Napier,
M. O hAgain, P. O Foirtcheirn.

LOCH GARMAN

D. O hUilin, S. Mac Fhearghais, S. O Cuirc,
M. O Cinnseallaigh, M. Ni Dhuill.

CILL DARA

A. O Suilleabhain, S. O Mearain, R. O Faolain,
S. Mac Gearailt, M. Fennin, C. Ni Neill.

CEATHARLOCH

T. O Neill, E. O Broin, S. Inglis, G. O Lonnain,
S. O Broin,

CILL CHAINNIGH

E. O Cuinn, E. O Bogaigh, P. O Donnchu, B. O hIci,
P. Mac Andreis.

LAOIS

R. O Muilleoir, L. O Neill, S. O Rannachain,
A. Breathnach, T. O Lochlainn, M. Ni Dalaigh.

UIBH FHÁILÍ

B. Mac an Bhaird, P. O Teachain, M. de Spainne,
P. O Caiside, M.N. O Broin, M. O Sioradain.

IARMHÍ

S. O Sioradain, E. O Fearghail, S. O Faolain,
A. O Muiri, M. Mac Aoidh,

LONGPHORT

T.S. Mac A Bhaird, M. Mac A Bhaird, S. O Lonnain,
S. O hUaine, B. Mac Giolla Mhuire.

Also in attendance at Convention were:-

IAR-CHATHAOIRLIGH

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN C.L.G.

A. O Falluin, S. O Beara, P. O Bogaigh, S. de Grae,
S. Boothman.

PROVINCIAL REFEREES ADMINISTRATOR

P. de Freine

ÁRAS LAIGHEAN STAFF

M. Mac Raghnaill, S. Ni Chuinn, H. Ni hOrain,
P. Ni Chleir.

CATHAOIRLEACH AND RUNAI,

CONAHY SHAMROCKS CLUB

P. O Dubhshlaine, P. O Cathail.

MEMBERS OF BRENNAN FAMILY

(Suttonsrath, Jeninstown, Co. Kilkenny).

DIRECTORS OF COACHING

L. O Riain, N. O Dubhshlaine.

FÁILTIÚ

All delegates were welcomed to Kilkenny by P. Uas. O Donnchu, Runai, Coisde Co. Chill Chainnigh C.L.G. He formally introduced Eamonn O Cuinn, Cathaoirleach, Coisde Co. Chill Chainnigh C.L.G. to the Convention.

EAMONN O CUINN

An tUas. O Cuinn extended a warm welcome to the members of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. to the delegates from the twelve counties, to the former chairmen of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G., to the Brennan Family, Officers of Conahy Shamrocks club and to other representatives in attendance. He particularly welcomed the Lord Mayor of Kilkenny, Mr. Joe Cody and the Deputy Group Chief Executive of Glanbia, Mr. Billy Murphy.

An tUas. O Cuinn said it was a proud day for Kilkenny as it marked the elevation of a sixth Kilkenny man (Nickey Brennan) to the position of Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. He outlined the record of the Brennan Family as players, mentors and administrators with Kilkenny and said it was a fitting tribute to Nickey that he was now being appointed to the highest post in the G.A.A. in Leinster.

Mr. Quinn paid tribute to other officers of Comhairle Laighean, especially the outgoing Cathaoirleach - Seamus Aldridge - who had led the Council with authority, common sense and fair play.

At this stage, an tUas. O Cuinn introduced the Deputy Group Chief Executive of Glanbia - Mr. Billy Murphy (himself a former Kilkenny hurling star) to the Convention.

MR. BILLY MURPHY

Mr. Murphy congratulated Nickey Brennan on his elevation to high office. He recalled the strong connection of Glanbia with the G.A.A. which was epitomised by the late Tom Ryall, P.R.O. and Ard Chomhairle Rep. for Kilkenny. Mr. Murphy spoke of Nickey Brennan's more than thirty years of service with Glanbia and how he had advanced through the ranks in that organisation just as he had now done in the G.A.A. He wished him and Leinster Council G.A.A. the very best for the future and, on behalf of Glanbia, he made a presentation to all present.

LORD MAYOR JOE CODY

The Lord Mayor of Kilkenny, Mr. Joe Cody, then addressed the Convention. He praised the role of the G.A.A. in the community and paid particular tribute to outgoing chairman, Seamus Aldridge. He wished Nickey Brennan well in his new role.

PRESENTATION

An tUas. E. O Cuinn then made a special presentation - on behalf of Coisde Co. Chill Chainnigh C.L.G. - to outgoing Cathaoirleach Seamus Aldridge. An tUas. Aldridge returned thanks to Glanbia and Coisde Co. Chill Chainnigh for their kind words and gestures and then introduced Padraig O Dubhshlaine, Cathaoirleach Conahy Shamrocks G.A.A. Club to the Convention.

P. O DUBHSHLAINE (Conahy Shamrocks)

An tUas. O Dubhshlaine said it was a great honour for their club to have one of their members become chairman of Leinster Council G.A.A. Nickey Brennan had held every possible officership in the club and was still closely involved with the underage section (he had trained an underage team as recently as that morning). He wished him the very best in his new role.

OSCAILT

At this stage, Seamus Aldridge formally opened Convention 2002.

MIONTUAIRISCI CHOMHDHAIL 2001

Adopted and signed by an Cathaoirleach on proposition of A. O Muiri, seconded by P. O Tomhnair.

TUAIRISC AN RUNAI 2001

Adopted and opened for discussion on proposition of M. de Spainne seconded by A. Mac Roibin.

The report was then discussed under its various headings.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS 2001

Adopted and opened for discussion.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN 2001

Adopted and opened for discussion on proposition of T. O Fearghail, seconded by S. O hEile.

SCOR ACCOUNTS 2001

Adopted.

ORAIÐ AN CHATHAOIRLIGH

Seamus Aldridge then addressed the Convention as per attached script.

COISDE CO. CHILL DARA C.L.G.

A. Uas. O Suilleabhain, Cathaoirleach Coisde Co. Chill Dara C.L.G. - on behalf of his Coisde Conndae - paid tribute to Seamus Aldridge for his forthright and enlightened leadership as chairman of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. He said that Cill Dara was rightly proud of his achievements.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

LEAS CATHAOIRLEACH

Of the six candidates nominated the following withdrew their names:

Seamus de Roiste (Ath Cliath), Sean O Loinsigh (Lu), Seamus O Faolain (Iarmhi). This left three candidates viz., Aindrias O Gallchoir (Uibh Fhaili), Seamus O Duinn (Cill Mhantain) and Liam O Neill (Laois).

The result of the first ballot was:

Liam O Neill	47
Seamus O Duinn	29
Aindrias O Gallchoir	17

An tUas. O Neill was declared elected. He returned thanks to Convention for the honour bestowed on himself, his club and his county and undertook to fulfil the role to the best of his capabilities. The defeated candidates congratulated An tUas. O Neill. Cathaoirleach Coisde Co. Laoise, Risteard O Muilleoir, thanked Convention for the honour bestowed on his county and wished Liam O Neill well.

CISTEOIR

Padraig O Flannagain was returned unopposed and duly thanked Convention for their confidence in him.

P.R.O.

With the withdrawal of Padraig O Tomhnair (Lu), the outgoing P.R.O., Seamus O hUilin (Loch Garman) was declared re-elected and he returned thanks to the delegates for this honour.

PRESENTATION - Liam Ó Craobháin

At this juncture, Seamus Aldridge paid a warm tribute to Liam O Craobhain who had recently retired as Runai of Coisde Co. na Mi C.L.G. after almost half a century of service. On behalf of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. he then made a presentation to An tUas. O Craobhain.

ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

An tUas. Aldridge then declared Nioclas O Braonain (Cill Chainnigh) elected as Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. An tUas. O Braonain then addressed Convention as per the attached script.

NA RÚIN

The following motions were considered and dealt with as indicated:

- A. That present grant given to clubs participating in the Leinster Club Championships be increased.
(Uibh Fhaili)

DECISION

Referred to Comhairle Laighean for examination.

- B. That the presentations of all provincial cups revert to the Stand and that spectators be allowed on the pitch during the presentations.
(Loch Garman)

DECISION

Deemed to be a policy matter for Ard Chomhairle C.L.G.

CONCLUSION

Seamus Aldridge brought Convention to a conclusion by thanking Padraig O Flannagain and his P.R. Committee, Coisde Co. Chill Chainnigh C.L.G., Richard Butler and Hotel Staff for the excellent arrangements for Convention.

THE CONVENTION ENDED



ORÁID AN CHATHAOIRLIGH - COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN

A Chairde Gael, ba mhaith liom fáilte mór a chuir romhaibh inniú. Is é seo an am deireannach a bheidh mé ag labhairt libh mar Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean. Bhí tri bhliain an-suimúileach agam sa phost is tá brón orm é a fhágail.

A Chairde, it is with a sense of sadness that I address you here today, in my last official function as Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean. It has been a great three years, and a period that I have enjoyed fully. My time as Cathaoirleach was made all the easier by the wonderful support I received from my friends and colleagues on Leinster Council, and indeed in G.A.A. clubs the length and breadth of the province, and at times further afield. Go raibh maith agaibh go leir.

One of the most gratifying aspects of my position as Cathaoirleach was the opportunity to meet so many genuine G.A.A. men and women. Whether in Louth or Kilkenny, Dublin or Offaly, their commitment to the Association is constant and their desire to promote the Aims of the G.A.A. is as unflinching as ever. The hard work and dedication of so many voluntary officials is the main reason that the G.A.A. faces the new century with such a sense of optimism.

Looking back on my three years as Cathaoirleach, I am pleased to note that a number of important changes have occurred, both at national and local level, which I am sure will be of major benefit to the Association in the long term.

Last year saw the introduction of the qualifier system in the football championships. Never before in the history of the Association have our games received so much positive publicity. There is little argument that the new championship caught the imagination of the public in a manner that was both astonishing and gratifying. The decision to allow teams a second chance, broke with almost 120 years of tradition. It was a brave decision and one that was not taken lightly. However, the end result demonstrated that the ultimate winner was the football championship itself and by extension Cumann Luthchleas Gael and all of its units.

The experiment demonstrated that in exercising a degree of flexibility and inventiveness the G.A.A. was capable of re-inventing itself in a positive manner.

Mind you, even two chances wasn't enough for my own Kildare to get back to the winner's podium! However, on a serious note, the hope for this year is that when similar changes are introduced for the hurling championship they will have an equally positive effect.

Change of course has also been evident in the National Leagues. This year, for the first time ever, both the Football and the Hurling Leagues will be played in the calendar year. Already this has had a positive effect on attendances and general interest in the football league, with stronger teams now being fielded by all managers.

Television coverage of the leagues has also been stepped up considerably and it is a pleasure to witness TG4's commitment to live coverage of league and club championship matches at the moment. They are offering an excellent service and I wish to publicly commend them on their efforts.

Off the field, Croke Park continues to develop into one of the finest stadiums in Europe and hopefully the re-development is in its final stages. It is a wonderful monument to all of our members and we look forward to seeing our provincial finals at the venue next summer.

This year also saw the deletion of Rule 21 from the Association's Treorai Oifigiúil. A pleasing aspect of the Special Congress was the palpable sense of unification among our members that emerged following the debate on the matter. Most believed that the removal of Rule 21 was in the best interests of the Association and it showed that we are a pragmatic Association capable of coming to terms with changing circumstances.

Indeed, one of the more challenging tasks for the Association in the recent past was the establishment of the Strategic Review Committee to examine all aspects of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. It is a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of all that concerns us and demonstrates that we are not afraid of self-examination or indeed criticism.

The more prominent aspects of the Report have been well publicised in the media and elsewhere. The Dublin issue is of course of particular relevance to us here in Leinster. I am quite sure that the recommendations were not reached lightly by the Committee. But while

we don't like to see the division of any county, it has to be acknowledged that there must be some way of maximising the Association's potential in our county's capital and largest Urban centre. In fact it is imperative that Cumann Luthchleas Gael re-capture the hearts and minds of the capital's sporting public.

And so, I wish to conclude by thanking you all once again for your support and assistance over the past three years. It has been a huge learning experience on my part and I am most thankful for the opportunity that was given to me to serve in this office. I congratulate all of the officials on Leinster G.A.A., at provincial county and club level, for their trojan efforts on behalf of the Association.

This is no time to rest on our laurels. It is abundantly clear that there are many tasks to be undertaken, some of which may well be unpalatable, but ultimately in the best interests of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. We must embrace change, even radical change, whenever we deem it to be in our best interests.

The Association continues in my opinion to move from strength to strength, but the challenge facing us, as Administrators is to ensure that this growth continues by adapting to the needs of a changing society. Our ability to perform this task will ultimately decide how history will judge us.

Ádh mór oraibh go léir is go raibh maith agaibh arís.



2002 O'Byrne Cup Champions Kildare

Back L-R: Enda Noons, Damian Hendy, John Doyle, Padraig Mullarkey, John O'Donoghue, Padraig Hurley, Aidan McHugh.

Front L-R: Andrew McLoughlin, Brian Lacey, Eamonn Callaghan, Enda Murphy, Terry Rossiter, Padraig Brennan, Karl Ennis, Killian Brennan.



ORÁID CATHAOIRLEACH NUA COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN

A Chairde is cúis bróid domsa, do mo chlann, do mo chlub is mo chontae bheith tofa mar Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean. Tá súil agam go mbeidh mé chomh héifeachtach leis an gcúigear ó Chill Chainnigh a chaith tréimshí mar Chathaoirligh roimhe seo. Tá athrú mór tagtha le deanaí ar imeachtaí éagsúla Cumann Lúthchleas Gael agus táimse ag súil go mbeinnse ábalta an dul chun chinn atá reachtanach a chur i gcrích. Lé comhoibriú uaibhse go léir beidh deis againn eagraíocht éifeachtach a chrothú.

It is a tremendous honour and privilege to be elected Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean today. I want to thank all the counties in the province for putting their trust and faith in me and I can promise honest and open stewardship over the next three years, where everyone will be treated equally and fairly. Comhairle Laighean has long been lauded for its inspired and innovative leadership and astute development and promotion of gaelic games. I want this to continue. This Council has never been afraid to propose and implement new ideas and initiatives. We have regularly led the way with other units in our Association, including Headquarters, following.

This is particularly a proud day for my family, my club Conahy Shamrocks and my county. I want to thank Mairead, Orla, Conor, Nicola and Ciara for their wholehearted support over the many years I have been involved at various levels of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. During those years I have seen many ups and downs, thankfully mostly ups, and the support of your closest family is so important. It is a proud day too for my club Conahy Shamrocks. Like many clubs throughout the country, our club faces many challenges but I continue to be encouraged by the willingness of officials, parents, supporters and players to work hard to achieve success at all levels and to remain a vibrant organisation in our community. While success at club level is the most special of any to any G.A.A. person (and I am no different), the many truly great occasions with Kilkenny will be treasured by me forever. It has been a wonderful honour to be involved with Kilkenny in all grades of hurling and football, team management and finally as an official of the Kilkenny County Board. I am grateful for all the support I received over the years from the people of Kilkenny and the many officers of the County Board right up to the present day with whom it has been my privilege to work. I am grateful too for the generous and loyal support of my employer Glanbia plc. In July this year I will have completed 31 years service with the

company and in all of that time I have received tremendous support and encouragement from my work colleagues and in particular senior management towards my involvement in the G.A.A. in either a playing or administrative capacity. I sincerely thank our Deputy Group Chief Executive Billy Murphy for his presence here this afternoon and his generous words.

I want to acknowledge on this day the former Cathaoirligh of Comhairle Laighean who came from this county. James Nowlan; Tom Walsh; Bob Aylward and finally Paddy Buggy whose father incidentally came from my own parish just a short distance from my own home. Laois will probably claim Bob O Keeffe although he was born in Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny.

Seamus Aldridge today steps down as our Cathaoirleach. On both yours and my own behalf I want to thank Seamus for his leadership and guidance over the past three years. Seamus' style is frank, direct and to the point. His views are sincerely held and no one can deny his passion for the G.A.A. Seamus is a staunch supporter of the Provincial structure and he has quite rightly voiced serious concerns over the dilution of the role of Provincial Councils in relation to major games matters. I want to thank Seamus in particular for two achievements from which Comhairle Laighean will benefit significantly. The first was the securing of an agreement with Croke Park whereby Comhairle Laighean will now benefit from the on-going income of the corporate seats. Secondly there was the acquisition of the new Comhairle Laighean offices in Portlaoise. It was necessary to secure a new home due to the significant increase in activities within Comhairle Laighean. These new premises will ensure that Comhairle Laighean is well equipped to deliver the necessary service to all the counties and other units of our Association in the province well into the future. The new offices are currently being renovated and we will in due course make a decision as to what should happen to the existing Aras Laighean. I want to thank Seamus also for his role on Coisde Bainisti and finally to wish both himself and our former Cathaoirleach Albert Fallon the best of luck in their quest to become the next Uachtaran of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael.

As I outlined earlier Provincial Councils now have reduced involvement in the control of their senior Provincial Championships. The situation, which currently prevails whereby the appointment of referees and the handling of disciplinary matters take place at central level, is unlikely to change. However, I have some concerns that the present policy of appointing referees could alienate some

of our match officials who may feel aggrieved at not getting a fair crack of the whip when it comes to refereeing championship games.

The implementation of new structures for both the Football and Hurling Championships may well impact on the status of the Provincial Championships in due course and I support our Chief Executive's concerns at the potential knock on affects for Provincial Councils. Right now the Football Championship is in a somewhat better position than its Hurling counterpart with strong competition in all four provinces. Leinster badly needs a competitive Hurling Championship after two disappointing years. Hopefully 2002 will see a far more exciting and competitive campaign. The current championship structures will remain in place for a couple of years. After that counties will be asked to decide future structures. It is far too early to draw conclusions from just one year of a re-structured Football Championship so I will refrain from further comment for now.

While the duties of Provincial Councils have altered in relation to some aspects of the Senior Championships, we are now being asked to oversee important issues in all counties relating to club competitions, finance and governance and ensuring all who wish to play gaelic games have the opportunity to do so.

I believe there is far greater recognition in all counties now for regular and uninterrupted games for our club players, but more needs to be done. Comhairle Laighean's role will be to oversee the games programme in all counties to ensure compliance with the overall objectives. Our role will not be dictatorial but our remit will be to ensure a good range of games for all our club players. I am very strongly of the view that a games programme at club level should not necessarily be 15 a-side other than for the respective championships. This is particularly relevant in counties where one of our main games is significantly weaker than the other but in a growing number of cases it is being driven by the inability of some club units to field 15 a-side teams in all grades.

The monitoring of County Board's finances is a sensitive matter but is intended to assist counties to handle the growing challenge of 'keeping the books balanced.' The sub-committee dealing with this area will afford an opportunity to all counties to exchange ideas on how each one generates its income and manages its expenditure. In addition there may well be a need to use external expertise to guide counties in this important area. I am sure we can learn a lot from one another simply by meeting and exchanging ideas.

Undoubtedly the most important area of action for Comhairle Laighean is ensuring that anyone wishing to play Gaelic Games in Leinster has access to a club unit. I am talking here about the growing urbanisation of our province and the obvious lack of opportunities for some young boys

and girls to identify with a club unit in their immediate area. Our main competitors are gaining a strong foothold in some of these urban areas and it is no longer acceptable that some G.A.A. club units can hold a veto over their existing extensive geographic areas. Comhairle Laighean cannot deliver any solution to this problem without the fullest co-operation and commitment from the counties concerned and in particular the senior county officers. I look forward to all counties being open and honest with us in this particular task.

It is now a number of years since the Comhairle Programme was undertaken throughout the province and I am keen to see it delivered once again, this time to the new club officers who have been elected in the past few years. In addition, I have been made aware by the National Comhairle Committee this week that a new training programme for County Officers is also available and that a date has been set aside for training all Officers of this province in mid March. Details will be sent to all counties in the coming week and I appeal to you to support this initiative by the National Comhairle Committee.

Having just completed three years as Cathaoirleach of the Comhairle Laighean Coaching and Games Development Committee, I am more convinced than ever of the growing need to invest in this important area. Our budget for 2002 is €1.3 million. We have over forty personnel employed in the twelve counties and nine Third Level Colleges plus Second Level and Primary Schools. Most counties now have two Games Promotion Officers and I fully support the SRC report, which outlined a need for a significant increase in the number of Games Promotion Officers in Dublin. Issues relating to the remuneration and training of Games Promotion Officers are currently under review. The many and diverse range of activities undertaken by the Comhairle Laighean Coaching and Games Development Committee are outlined in our annual report which you have before you this afternoon. We are hugely indebted to all our full and part time staff for their commitment and dedication. I also want to acknowledge the very important role of your County Coaching Officers. Many are now entering their second year in this important position and the knowledge and experience gained in the first year will be invaluable in the future.

Given the scale of operations, the financial outlay and the need for further developments particularly relating to Dublin, Comhairle Laighean recently agreed to the appointment of a Games and Development Manager to oversee all Coaching and Games Development activities in our province. An appointment will be made within the next few months. The Irish Sports Council will cover the costs associated with this appointment.

The recent launch of the Under Age Strategic Plan, which has been endorsed by Ard Comhairle is an attempt to re-focus games development in a number of important

areas. Some are already taking place but the most important has to be the initiative aimed at enhancing, or in many cases development, the club and school link. Much is being written and said in relation to the work of teachers in all schools and their involvement in extra curricular activities. The G.A.A. is hugely indebted to teachers at all levels for their commitment to the promotion of gaelic games. I appeal to all counties to ensure that activities in Primary Second Level and Third Level Schools and Colleges in their counties are given an opportunity for discussion and debate at County Board meetings. Comhairle Laighean is strongly committed to and supportive of all educational sectors, however the monopoly we once enjoyed throughout the province is being eroded as other sports bodies offer huge financial inducements to selective schools and colleges to participate in other sports. I want all counties to be alert to these developments and in co-operation with Comhairle Laighean we can ensure gaelic games continue to be the dominant sports in these institutions throughout our province.

With question marks right now over when we can gain access to Croke Park for championship games this summer, I am concerned at the likely reduction in games income for Comhairle Laighean this year. Although the 2002 senior championship games programme has been published, please understand that if Croke Park is not available alternative arrangements relating to venues will have to be made. Counties concerned will be consulted should such an eventuality arise. As can be seen from our accounts, Comhairle Laighean continues to provide significant grant aid to clubs and County Boards to develop and upgrade their grounds. I see this as an important role for the Provincial Council and the level of income from each year's Provincial Championships will ultimately determine the level of funding available. Comhairle Laighean will need to consider the issue of flood lighting throughout the province in strategic centres. In addition, we need to identify other centres for special grant aid to ensure their availability for Schools and Colleges games at a time of the year when the weather is least favourable. The recent decision of the National Safety Committee to outlaw any qualifier games in two of our counties in Leinster seriously concerns me. A primary objective of the new Football Qualifier series was to afford the so-called weaker counties the possibility of a home draw in the early stages of the qualifier series. Seamus Aldridge has already made Comhairle Laighean's views known and I strongly support him in this matter. The bottom line is that every county in this province should have the opportunity to stage championship games at the early round and qualifier stages.

I want to say a few words on the recently launched Strategic Review Report. It is disappointing and regrettable that some club units even to this date have yet to receive a copy of the report. It is even more

disappointing that one issue, focusing on Dublin, dominated the media headlines. The report contains 304 recommendations, many of which are sensitive, impacting in particular on the roles of a large number of individuals in our Association. It is crucial that the SRC report is debated at length throughout all units of our Association. Every recommendation should be considered and debated at length to ensure that if this is implemented it can improve the G.A.A. Bear in mind that the SRC review looks at our Association over the next ten years. Can anyone here have imagined the level of change that has taken place not just in the G.A.A. in the past ten years but in our society in general? Close to 4,000 people had an input to the report. Their views were important and a critical measurement of how our members and others see our Association. Making no changes is not an option. There will be an opportunity for all counties in the province to meet in the near future to debate the impact the SRC Report will have on the Leinster Council and the implications for our counties and clubs.

Over the past few weeks much has been written and said relating to the G.A.A. Amateur Status, prompted by the decision of the Minister for Finance to implement a tax incentive scheme for professional sports people. Lets for a moment consider the implications of removing the amateur status in the G.A.A. because I have not yet seen any analysis of the impact of such a change on our Association. For a start a contracted inter-county player will only play for this club when his employer, namely the County Board, decides. At best the players concerned might be available for their local club championship, but forget about their availability for any other games. If your county is successful then forget also about starting your championships until well into the year. The inter-county club championship could well be a potential casualty of this fixture chaos. What would denote a contracted player? Would you need a contract to play in the Walsh Cup or the O' Byrne Cup? Would an inter-county contracted player be allowed to play with his School or College? Assuming the contracted player gets to play for his club, just picture the response of supporters when that player fails to make an impact and it is left to the supposedly less talented local player to win the game. And will the local volunteers who continue to keep the club afloat on many fronts continue to give freely of their time? I am sure you all have many more questions, which could also be asked.

Seamus Aldridge has already outlined the potential financial cost of going even the semi professional route. The figures are staggering and people with any knowledge of the G.A.A. would see how self-destructive it would be for our Association to drop its amateur status. The G.A.A. is committed to completing the development work at Croke Park and the ensuing debt, notwithstanding Government funding (which we are still waiting for), is significant and it will take a number of

years of astute financial management to pay it off. Continued and indeed increased financial support for Coaching and Games Development is essential, which the ongoing upgrading of grounds will also be necessary if we are to continue to attract patrons plus the issue of increased spectator safety. There are many other areas I would mention which will demand some finance over the coming years. We don't have to look too far to see the impact professionalism is having on other sports. This is one road I strongly suggest is off limits for the G.A.A. if we are not to become a second rate or even a third rate organisation.

Finally, the Chief Executive and I look forward to visiting all counties over the next three years to update County

Officers and County Board members on Provincial and National matters and to hear the views of those same people. Michael and I are confident these meetings will ensure that everyone, including both of us, is better informed throughout the province.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all counties the very best for the coming year on and off the field. I hope 2002 brings plenty of excitement and entertainment for every county.

Arís táimse ag iarraidh bhúr tacaíocht don obair atá romham. Táimse buíoch díobh as an deis a bhronn sibh orm. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



"The Old School Tie"

On the evening of last year's Annual Convention in Kilkenny, the President of St. Kieran's College hosted a small function to mark the elevation of Nicky Brennan to the post of chairman, Comhairle Laighean CLG - the first past pupil of the College to hold this position. Pictured here is a number of those who attended the function, almost all of whom are past pupils of St. Kieran's.

Front L-R: Monsignor James Cassin (President St. Kieran's College), Most Revd. Dr. Laurence Forristal DD (Bishop of Ossory), Nickey Brennan (Chairman Comhairle Laighean CLG), Michael Delaney (CEO Comhairle Laighean), Rev. Fr. Kieran Kennedy (Administrator St. Kieran's College).

Back L-R: John Quane (Staff St. Kieran's College), Pat Dunphy (Secretary, Kilkenny County Board GAA), Michael Reynolds (Comhairle Laighean CLG), Pierce Freaney (Leinster Referees Administrator), Conor Brennan (Conahy Shamrocks), Michéal Ó Diarmada (Principal St. Kieran's College), Paul Kinsella (Vice-Chairman Kilkenny County Board GAA), Lester Ryan (Senior Coaching Director, Comhairle Laighean CLG).

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN CLG CLÁR NA GCLUICHÍ 2003

PEIL SINSIR

1. LAOIS v LOCH GARMAN
2. 1 v UIBH FHAILI
3. CILL MHANTAIN v LU
4. 3 v ATH CLIATH
5. IARMHI v CEATHARLOCH
6. 5 v AN MHI
7. LONGPHORT v CILL DARA

8. 2 v 4
9. 6 v 7

- CRAOBH 8 v 9

FÉ 21 BLIAIN PEIL

1. CEATHARLOCH v CILL CHAINNIGH
2. 1 v AN MHI
3. CILL MHANTAIN v LOCH GARMAN
4. 3 v LONGPHORT
5. LU v CILL DARA
6. 5 v ATH CLIATH
7. IARMHI v LAOIS
8. 7 v UIBH FHAILI

9. 2 v 4
10. 6 v 8

- CRAOBH 9 v 10

IOMÁINT SINSIR

PRELIMINARY ROUND

- (a) Ath Cliath
- (b) Cill Dara v Iarmhi
- (c) Laois v Cill Mhantain
- (d) An Mhi v Ceatharloch
- (e) (a) v (b)
- (f) (c) v (d)
- (g) (e) v (f)

1. Prelim. Winners v CILL CHAINNIGH
2. UIBH FHAILI v LOCH ARMAN

- CRAOBH 1 v 2

FÉ 21 BLIAIN IOMÁINT

1. SPECIAL WINNERS v ATH CLIATH
2. 1 v LOCH GARMAN
3. UIBH FHAILI v CILL CHAINNIGH
4. 3 v LAOIS

- CRAOBH 2 v 4

PEIL MIONÚIR

PRELIMINARY GROUP

Cill Chainnigh,
Ceatharloch
Lu
Longphort
Cill Mhantain

1.	AN MHI	v	ATH CLIATH
2.	PRELIM WINNERS	v	UIBH FHAILI
3.	LOCH GARMAN	v	CILL DARA
4.	IARMHI	v	LAOIS
5.	1	v	2
6.	3	v	4
CRAOBH	5	v	6

PEIL SOISIR

1.	LOCH GARMAN	v	LU
2.	1	v	CILL MHANTAIN
3.	CILL CHAINNIGH	v	ATH CLIATH
4.	3	v	UIBH FHAILI
5.	CILL DARA	v	AN MHI
6.	5	v	IARMHI
7.	CEATHARLOCH	v	LAOIS
8.	7	v	LONGPHORT
9.	2	v	4
10.	6	v	8
CRAOBH	9	v	10

IOMÁINT SOISIR

1.	LU	v	AN MHI
2.	CILL DARA	v	LONGPHORT
CRAOBH	1	v	2

IOMÁINT MIONÚIR

GROUP A

Iarmhi, An Mhi, Cill Mhantain

GROUP B

Cill Dara, Laois, Ceatharloch

RD. I	IARMHI	v	AN MHI
RD. I	CILL DARA	v	LAOIS
RD II	CILL MHANTAIN	v	IARMHI
RD II	CEATHARLOCH	v	CILL DARA
RD III	AN MHI	v	CILL MHANTAIN
RD III	LAOIS	v	CEATHARLOCH

QUARTER FINALS

WINNERS A	v	ATH CLIATH
WINNERS B	v	UIBH FHAILI

SEMI FINALS (open draw)

v	CILL CHAINNIGH
v	LOCH GARMAN

IOMÁINT IDIRMHEANACH

1.	LOCH GARMAN	v	LAOIS
2.	1	v	CILL CHAINNIGH
3.	UIBH FHAILI	v	ATH CLIATH
CRAOBH	2	v	3

FÉ 21 BLIAIN IOMÁINT SPEIS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Longphort v Lu

1.	PRELIM.WINNERS	v	CEATHARLOCH
2.	1	v	AN MHI
3.	IARMHI	v	CILL DARA
4.	3	v	CILL MHANTAIN
CRAOBH	2	v	4

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN CLG CLÁR NA GCLUICHÍ 2003

IOMÁINT SINSIR

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Dublin	bye			
2.	Kildare	v	Westmeath	4.5.2003	Newbridge
3.	Laois	v	Wicklow	5.5.2003	Portlaoise
4.	Meath	v	Carlow	4.5.2003	Navan
5.		1 v 2		10/11.5.2003	Parnell Park
6.		3 v 4		10/11.5.2003	Portlaoise / Aughrim
7.		5 v 6		25.5.2003	Le Socru
8.		7 v	Kilkenny	7.6.2003	Le Socru
9.	Offaly	v	Wexford	8.6.2003	Kilkenny
CRAOBH		8 v 9		6.7.2003	Pairc an Chrocaigh

PEIL SINSIR

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Laois	v	Wexford	4.5.2003	Carlow
2.	Wicklow	v	Louth	11.5.2003	Parnell Park
3.	Westmeath	v	Carlow	11.5.2003	Portlaoise
4.	Offaly	v	Laois / Wexford	25.5.2003	Portlaoise / Carlow
5.	Dublin	v	Wicklow / Louth	1.6.2003	Croke Park
6.	Meath	v	Westmeath / Carlow	1.6.2003	Croke Park
7.	Longford	v	Kildare	25.5.2003	Mullingar
8.		4 v 5		15.6.2003	Croke Park
9.		6 v 7		14.6.2003	Croke Park
CRAOBH		8 v 9		20.7.2003	Croke Park

IOMÁINT MÍONÚIR

PARTICIPANTS

- A Kilkenny, Wexford, into Semi Finals
B Dublin, Offaly into Quarter Finals
C Six counties to participate in two groups on a Round Robin basis in order to have two more Quarter Finalists. These are: Westmeath, Meath, Wicklow, Kildare, Laois, Carlow.

GROUPINGS

GROUP A Westmeath, Meath, Wicklow GROUP B Kildare, Laois, Carlow

FIXTURES

GROUP A				GROUP B			
RD I	Westmeath	v	Meath	RD I	Kildare	v	Laois
RD II	Wicklow	v	Westmeath	RD II	Carlow	v	Kildare
RD III	Meath	v	Wicklow	RD III	Laois	v	Carlow

QUARTER FINALS

Winners Group A v Dublin Winners Group B v Offaly

VENUES Games in Rounds I, II, III and Qt. Finals at home venue of first named team

SEMI FINALS Draws to be made after Round Robin Series

DATES

Round I	5.4.2003	Quarter Finals	10.5.2003
Round II	12.4.2003	Semi Finals	25.6.2003
Round III	26.4.2003	Final	6.7.2003

FÉ 21 BLIANA IOMÁINT

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Spec. Winners	v	Dublin	11.6.2003	Spec. Winners - Home
2.	1	v	Wexford	24.6.2003	Le Socru / Carlow
3.	Offaly	v	Kilkenny	11.6.2003	Portlaoise
4.	3	v	Laois	24.6.2003	Portlaoise
CRAOBH	2	v	4	16.7.2003	Le Socru

FÉ 21 BLIANA IOMÁINT SPEISÍALTA

				DATE	VENUE
PRELIMINARY ROUND					
	Longford	v	Louth	2.3.2003	Longford
1.	Prelim. Winners	v	Carlow	5.4.2003	Longford / Drogheda
2.	1	v	Meath	30.4.2003	Longford / Drogheda / Carlow
3.	Westmeath	v	Kildare	5.4.2003	Mullingar
4.	3	v	Wicklow	30.4.2003	Mullingar / Newbridge
CRAOBH	2	v	4	7.5.2003	Home Venue of 2

PEIL MÍONÚIR

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Kilkenny	v	Carlow	29.3.2003	Kilkenny
2.	Longford	v	Wicklow	29.3.2003	Longford
3.	Wicklow	v	Kilkenny	12.4.2003	Aughrim
4.	Louth	v	Longford	12.4.2003	Drogheda
5.	Carlow	v	Wicklow	19.4.2003	Carlow
6.	Kilkenny	v	Louth	19.4.2003	Kilkenny
7.	Louth	v	Carlow	26.4.2003	Drogheda
8.	Longford	v	Kilkenny	26.4.2003	Longford
9.	Carlow	v	Longford	3.5.2003	Carlow
10.	Wicklow	v	Louth	3.5.2003	Aughrim
(a)	Meath	v	Dublin	17.5.2003	Navan
(b)	Prel. Winners	v	Offaly	17.5.2003	Preliminary at Home
(c)	Wexford	v	Kildare	17.5.2003	Wexford
(d)	Westmeath	v	Laois	17.5.2003	Mullingar
(e)	(a)	v	(b)	2.7.2003	Le Socru
(f)	(c)	v	(d)	2.7.2003	Le Socru
CRAOBH	(e)	v	(f)	20.7.2003	Croke Park

FÉ 21 BLIANA PEIL

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Carlow	v	Kilkenny	16.3.2003	Carlow
2.	Wicklow	v	Wexford	16.3.2003	Aughrim
3.	Louth	v	Kildare	16.3.2003	Drogheda
4.	Westmeath	v	Laois	16.3.2003	Mullingar
5.	1	v	Meath	30.3.2003	Carlow / Kilkenny
6.	2	v	Longford	30.3.2003	Aughrim / Wexford
7.	3	v	Dublin	30.3.2003	Drogheda / Newbridge
8.	4	v	Offaly	30.3.2003	Mullingar / Portlaoise
9 (a)	Carlow	v	Wicklow Wexford Longford	13.4.2003	Newbridge Kilkenny Tullamore
9 (b)	Kilkenny	v	Wicklow Wexford Longford	13.4.2003	Carlow Carlow Tullamore
9 (c)	Meath	v	Wicklow Wexford Longford	13.4.2003	Newbridge Carlow Mullingar
10 (a)	Louth	v	Westmeath Laois Offaly	13.4.2003	Navan Newbridge Navan
10 (b)	Kildare	v	Westmeath Laois Offaly	13.4.2003	Tullamore Tullamore Portlaoise
10 (c)	Dublin	v	Westmeath Laois Offaly	13.4.2003	Navan Newbridge Portlaoise
CRAOBH	9	v	10	27.4.2003	Le Socru

IOMÁINT IDIRMHEANACH

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Wexford	v	Laois	4.6.2003	Wexford
2.	1	v	Kilkenny	18.6.2003	Kilkenny / Portlaoise
3.	Offaly	v	Dublin	18.6.2003	Birr
CRAOBH	2	v	3	9.7.2003	Le Socru

IOMÁINT SOISIR

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Louth	v	Meath	9.7.2003	Drogheda
2.	Kildare	v	Longford	9.7.2003	Newbridge
CRAOBH	1	v	2	23.7.2003	Drogheda / Navan

PEIL SOISIR

				DATE	VENUE
1.	Wexford	v	Louth	14.5.2003	Wexford
2.	Kilkenny	v	Dublin	14.5.2003	Kilkenny
3.	Kildare	v	Meath	14.5.2003	Newbridge
4.	Carlow	v	Laois	14.5.2003	Carlow
5.	1	v	Wicklow	28.5.2003	Wexford / Drogheda
6.	2	v	Offaly	28.5.2003	Kilkenny / Parnell Park
7.	3	v	Westmeath	28.5.2003	Newbridge / Navan
8.	4	v	Longford	28.5.2003	Carlow / Portlaoise
9.	5	v	6	With S.F.C. S/Final	
10.	7	v	8	With S.F.C. S/Final	
CRAOBH	9	v	10	2.7.2003	Home Venue of 9

CLUICHÍ LAIGHEAN 2002

O BYRNE CUP SENIOR FOOTBALL

13/1	Cill Mhantain0-16	Lu2-08	Drogheda
13/1	Ceatharloch2-11	Laois1-13	Portarlinton
20/1	Ceatharloch2-10	Cill Mhantain0-10	Carlow

WALSH CUP SENIOR HURLING

27/01	Uibh Fhaili2-11	Ath Cliath1-11	Parnell Park
27/01	An Mhi1-13	Laois3-06	Navan
3/02	Cill Chainnigh0-16	An Mhi0-10	Navan
17/02	Loch Garman1-10	Uibh Fhaili0-10	Lusmagh
3/03	Loch Garman1-13	Cill Chainnigh1-12	Enniscorthy

KEHOE CUP SENIOR HURLING

3/02	Cill Mhantain3-11	Ceatharloch0-13	Carlow
17/02	Iarmhi1-16	Cill Dara0-15	Collinstown
3/03	Cill Mhantain1-13	Iarmhi0-08	Collinstown

LEINSTER UNDER 21 F.C.

2/03	Loch Garman2-11	Laois0-09	Portlaoise
2/03	Ath Cliath5-17	Ceatharloch0-02	Parnell Park
2/03	An Mhi1-18	Cill Chainnigh1-02	Kilkenny
2/03	Iarmhi1-06	Lu0-05	Dundalk
16/03	Cill Dara0-12	An Mhi0-06	Navan
16/03	Cill Mhantain1-08	Iarmhi1-05	Mullingar
16/03	Ath Cliath0-13	Longphort0-06	Parnell Park
16/03	Loch Garman1-09	Uibh Fhaili1-06	New Ross
6/04	Cill Mhantain0-12	Loch Garman0-10	Carlow
7/04	Ath Cliath2-10	Cill Dara0-13	Navan
21/04	Ath Cliath1-17	Cill Mhantain2-04	Newbridge

LEINSTER M.H.L.

16/2	Ath Cliath2-24	Cill Dara0-05	Rathcoole
16/2	Ceatharloch5-24	Cill Mhantain0-04	Bagenalstown
16/2	Loch Garman3-08	Antroim0-09	DCU
16/2	Cill Chainnigh2-10	Loch Garman0-06	Carrigeen
2/3	Ath Cliath0-16	Antroim1-03	O Toole Park
9/3	Ceatharloch4-07	Uibh Fhaili1-08	Bagenalstown
16/3	Cill Chainnigh (S)2-07	Loch Garman2-04	O'Loughlins
16/3	Ceatharloch3-09	Loch Garman4-04	James Pk. (Shield)

LEINSTER M.F.L.

30/3	Uibh Fhaili	.2-11	Iarmhi	.2-10	Walsh Island
30/3	Laois	.1-14	Baile Atha Cliath	.1-14	Stradbally
30/3	Ath Cliath	.0-20	An Mhi	.0-03	Dunsaney
6/4	Iarmhi	.2-05	Baile Atha Cliath	.1-09	Mullingar
6/4	Dublin	.1-15	Loch Garman	.2-07	Ballyboden
6/4	Cill Dara	.3-10	An Mhi	.0-05	Carbury
7/4	Laois	.1-14	Uibh Fhaili	.0-07	Portarlinton
12/4	Cill Dara	.0-11	Dublin	.0-10	Tallaght
13/4	Iarmhi	.3-14	Laois	.2-13	St. Lomans
13/4	An Mhi	.1-09	Loch Garman	.0-06	Taghmon
16/4	Cill Dara	.1-09	Loch Garman	.0-09	St. Laurences
17/4	Uibh Fhaili	.2-13	Baile Atha Cliath	.2-07	Edenderry
20/4	Uibh Fhaili	.3-07	Dublin	.0-05	Clane
20/4	Cill Dara	.1-11	Laois	.1-08	Clane
20/4	Cill Dara	.0-09	Uibh Fhaili	.0-08	Clane (Final)

LEINSTER SPEC. UNDER 21 H.C.

18/3	Longphort	.2-11	Lu	.0-06	Drogheda
30/3	Cill Mhantain	.3-14	Longphort	.0-03	Longford
30/3	An Mhi	.1-07	Cill Dara	.0-07	Trim
24/4	Iarmhi	.4-08	An Mhi	.0-09	Trim
6/5	Ceatharloch	.1-10	Cill Mhantain	.0-11	Carlow
2/6	Ceatharloch	.1-13	Iarmhi	.2-08	Portlaoise

LEINSTER M.F.C.

30/3	Cill Chainnigh	.1-12	Ceatharloch	.2-09	Carlow
30/3	Lonphort	.0-13	Cill Mhantain	.1-05	Aughrim
6/4	Cill Mhantain	.2-15	Cill Chainnigh	.0-06	Kilkenny
6/4	Longphort	.4-12	Lu	.2-03	Longford
20/4	Cill Mhantain	.1-15	Ceatharloch	.0-04	Aughrim
20/4	Lu	.2-09	Cill Chainnigh	.0-04	Drogheda
27/4	Lu	.2-09	Ceatharloch	.0-08	Carlow
4/5	Lu	.1-10	Cill Mhantain	.2-06	Drogheda
4/5	Longphort	.3-13	Ceatharloch	.0-03	Longford
8/5	Longphort	.3-13	Cill Chainnigh	.0-05	Kilkenny
18/5	Longphort	.2-08	Uibh Fhaili	.0-09	Longford
18/5	Ath Cliath	.1-16	Iarmhi	.3-04	Swords
18/5	Laois	.2-13	Loch Garman	.1-06	Wexford
18/5	An Mhi	.1-09	Cill Dara	.1-07	Navan
29/6	Longphort	.1-08	Ath Cliath	.0-07	Mullingar
29/6	An Mhi	.2-07	Laois	.1-08	Mullingar
14/7	Longphort	.3-08	An Mhi	.3-05	Croke Park

LEINSTER M.H.C.

13/4	Uibh Fhaili	.6-10	Cill Dara	.0-06	Clane
13/4	Ceatharloch	.1-13	Laois	.1-08	Carlow
13/4	Ath Cliath	.5-23	Cill Mhantain	.0-01	Arklow
17/4	An Mhi	.2-13	Iarmhi	.0-06	Athboy
27/4	Laois	.4-22	Cill Mhantain	.0-01	Aughrim
27/4	Uibh Fhaili	.2-12	An Mhi	.0-04	Birr
28/4	Cill Dara	.1-13	Iarmhi	.2-07	Mullingar
2/5	Ceatharloch	.1-11	Ath Cliath	.1-11	O' Tooles Gds.
11/5	Cill Dara	.3-12	An Mhi	.3-04	Clane
11/5	Ath Cliath	.2-12	Laois	.2-08	Portlaoise
11/5	Ceatharloch	.7-21	Cill Mhantain	.0-04	Carlow
11/5	Uibh Fhaili	.5-28	Iarmhi	.1-01	Mullingar
18/5	Ath Cliath	.1-08	Ceatharloch	.0-10	Portlaoise
26/6	Cill Chainnigh	.0-18	Ath Cliath	.2-10	Portlaoise
26/6	Loch Garman	.3-17	Uibh Fhaili	.2-07	Carlow
7/7	Cill Chainnigh	.2-15	Loch Garman	.2-08	Croke Park

LEINSTER S.F.C.

5/5	Longphort	.2-11	Lu	.1-14	Navan
6/5	Laois	.3-06	Cill Mhantain	.0-08	Carlow
12/5	Iarmhi	.1-14	Ceatharloch	.0-10	Portlaoise
12/5	Lu	.3-17	Longphort	.1-12	Navan
26/5	Cill Dara	.0-12	Lu	.0-11	Navan
26/5	Uibh Fhaili	.0-13	Laois	.2-06	Tullamore
1/6	Dublin	.0-15	Wexford	.1-10	Carlow
2/6	Meath	.1-12	Westmeath	.0-11	Portlaoise
16/6	Cill Dara	.1-09	Uibh Fhaili	.1-09	Kilkenny
22/6	Cill Dara	.3-09	Uibh Fhaili	.1-14	Kilkenny
23/6	Ath Cliath	.2-11	An Mhi	.0-10	Croke Park
14/7	Ath Cliath	.2-13	Cill Dara	.2-11	Croke Park

LEINSTER S.H.C.

27/4	Laois	.1-12	Cill Mhantain	.0-09	Aughrim
28/4	An Mhi	.1-09	Ceatharloch	.0-09	Carlow
28/4	Iarmhi	.1-14	Cill Dara	.1-10	Mullingar
12/5	An Mhi	.2-16	Laois	.1-18	Navan
12/5	Ath Cliath	.2-12	Iarmhi	.1-12	Mullingar
26/5	Ath Cliath	.1-24	An Mhi	.2-12	Tullamore
9/6	Loch Garman	.3-15	Ath Cliath	.2-12	Thurles
9/6	Cill Chainnigh	.2-20	Uibh Fhaili	.1-14	Thurles
7/7	Cill Chainnigh	.0-19	Loch Garman	.0-17	Croke Park

LEINSTER J.F.C.

15/5	Uibh Fhaili	.3-10	Lu	.1-09	Tullamore
15/5	Cill Mhantain	.2-07	Laois	.1-09	Portlaoise
29/5	Cill Dara	.0-16	Cill Chainnigh	.0-10	Kilkenny
29/5	Uibh Fhaili	.2-06	An Mhi	.0-11	Tullamore
29/5	Cill Mhantain	.1-12	Ath Cliath	.2-08	Aughrim
1/6	Longphort	.1-14	Loch Garman	.1-10	Carlow
16/6	Cill Mhantain	.0-08	Longphort	.0-08	Kilkenny
22/6	Cill Mhantain	.0-09	Longphort	.0-06	Kilkenny
23/6	Cill Dara	.0-15	Uibh Fhaili	.1-05	Croke Park
3/7	Cill Mhantain	.3-06	Cill Dara	.0-09	Aughrim

LEINSTER I.H.C.

5/6	Loch Garman	.3-21	Laois	.0-06	Portlaoise
19/6	Loch Garman	.6-25	Uibh Fhaili	.1-06	Wexford
19/6	Cill Chainnigh	.2-26	Ath Cliath	.0-06	Parnell Park
10/7	Loch Garman	.2-16	Cill Chainnigh	.0-19	Wexford

LEINSTER UNDER 21 H.C.

12/6	Loch Garman	.3-18	Ceatharloch	.0-12	Carlow
25/6	Uibh Fhaili	.4-14	Laois	.1-07	Birr
27/6	Loch Garman	.1-13	Cill Chainnigh	.0-15	Kilkenny
17/7	Ath Cliath	.3-12	Uibh Fhaili	.2-06	Portlaoise
30/7	Loch Garman	.1-15	Ath Cliath	.0-15	Portlaoise

LEINSTER J.H.C.

10/7	An Mhi	.1-12	Lu	.1-09	Trim
10/7	Cill Dara	.1-11	Longphort	.1-08	Clane
24/7	An Mhi	.2-10	Cill Dara	.1-07	Clane

LEINSTER UNDER 16 FOOTBALL

19/10	Ath Cliath B	.5-15	Cill Dara	.4-05	Inisfails
19/10	Loch Garman	.1-17	Cill Chainnigh	.0-09	New Ross
19/10	Laois	.3-15	Lu	.0-09	Dundalk
19/10	Longphort	.1-08	Uibh Fhaili	.1-08	Ballymahon
19/10	Cill Dara	.2-10	Ath Cliath	.1-09	Inisfails
19/10	Ceatharloch	.1-15	Cill Mhantain	.0-07	Baltinglass
26/10	Ath Cliath	.4-13	Iarmhi	.2-06	Inis Fails
26/10	Ceatharloch	.4-16	Cill Chainnigh	.1-07	Clara
26/10	Cill Dara	.1-07	An Mhi	.0-07	Clane
26/10	Loch Garman	.2-17	Cill Mhantain	.1-03	Belfield
26/10	Ath Cliath	.2-16	Iarmhi	.1-09	Inis Fails
26/10	Lu	.0-09	Longphort	.0-09	Longford
26/10	Cill Dara	.0-10	An Mhi	.0-10	Straffan
27/10	Laois	.3-21	Uibh Fhaili	.0-04	Gracefield
28/10	Uibh Fhaili	.4-08	Lu	.0-14	Drogheda
28/10	Laois	.5-11	Longphort	.0-04	Stradbally
28/10	Iarmhi	.0-10	Cill Dara	.1-06	Garrycastle
28/10	An Mhi	.3-15	Ath Cliath	.1-05	Simonstown
28/10	An Mhi	.3-06	Ath Cliath	.0-06	Simonstown
28/10	Cill Chainnigh	.3-11	Cill Mhantain	.1-11	Kiltegan
30/10	Lu	.2-08	Iarmhi	.0-06	St. Lomans/Turin
30/10	An Mhi	.3-08	Ath Cliath	.0-09	Donore
30/10	Laois	.1-21	Ceatharloch	.0-07	Carlow
30/10	Longphort	.2-15	Cill Mhantain	.0-03	Roundwood
30/10	Cill Dara	.3-16	Loch Garman	.2-07	St. Laurences
2/11	Lu	.1-13	Ath Cliath	.1-04	Drogheda
2/11	Laois	.5-03	An Mhi	.0-12	Stradbally
6/11	Cill Dara	.1-17	Uibh Fhaili	.0-04	St. Laurences

LEINSTER CLUB H.C.

20/10	Naas	1-09	Wolfe Tones	0-04	Longford
20/10	Castletown	2-02	Carnew Emmetts	0-08	Portlaoise
20/10	Kilmessan	0-08	Pearse Og	0-05	Dundalk
20/10	St. Mullins	1-09	Loughlene Gaels	1-06	Carlow
26/10	Castletown	2-13	Carnew Emmetts	1-09	Aughrim
3/11	St. Mullins	3-10	O' Tooles	3-07	Carlow
3/11	Eire Og	3-20	Kilmessan	0-07	Navan
3/11	Birr	2-12	Castletown	1-12	Portlaoise
3/11	Rathnure	1-13	Naas	0-08	Naas
17/11	Birr	4-21	St. Mullins	0-08	Portlaoise
17/11	Young Irelands	3-11	Rathnure	0-11	Wexford Park
1/12	Birr	2-05	Young Irelands	1-02	Portlaoise

LEINSTER CLUB F.C.

27/10	Mattock Rangers	1-09	Starlights	0-12	Ardee
27/10	Garrycastle	1-07	Portlaoise	0-08	Mullingar
27/10	Rathnew	0-08	Ballymahon	0-06	Ballymahon
2/11	Mattock Rangers	3-12	Starlights	1-10	Enniscorthy
3/11	Rathvilly	0-10	Erins Own	0-08	Carlow
10/11	Moorefield	0-13	Garrycastle	1-04	Mullingar
10/11	Mattock Rangers	2-11	Tullamore	1-07	Ardee
17/11	Dunshaughlin	1-11	Rathvilly	0-02	Carlow
24/11	Mattock Rangers	3-13	Moorefield	2-10	Navan
1/12	Rathnew	1-06	U.C.D.	1-05	Newbridge
8/12	Dunshaughlin	0-12	Rathnew	1-09	Newbridge
15/12	Dunshaughlin	1-07	Rathnew	0-04	Newbridge
22/12	Dunshaughlin	0-13	Mattock Rangers	0-07	Navan

LEINSTER JUNIOR CLUB FOOTBALL

10/11	Colmcilles	1-09	Caulry	0-08	Aughnaccliffe
10/11	St. Marys	0-10	Na Piarasigh	0-02	Saggart
10/11	St. Columbas	0-13	Longford Slashers	1-10	Durrow
10/11	Realt na Mara	2-09	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-05	Realt na Mara
10/11	Portlaoise	1-06	Blessington	0-08	Portlaoise
17/11	Kilbride	1-16	O'Loughlin Gaels	1-04	O'Loughlins
17/11	Mountemple	1-14	Kilcormac	1-06	Mountemple
17/11	Nobber	0-15	Na Piarasigh	0-04	Dundalk
23/11	Colmcille	3-11	Kilcormac/Killoughy	0-06	Kilcormac
23/11	Moorefield	2-11	Blessington	0-04	Blessington
24/11	Nobber	1-11	St. Marys	1-10	Nobber
24/11	Realt na Mara	1-17	Kilbride	2-06	Eire Og
26/11	Moorefield	0-13	Portlaoise	0-08	Allenwood
1/12	Colmcilles	2-03	Nobber	0-06	Aughnaccliffe
1/12	Moorefield	0-14	Realt na Mara	0-06	Moorefield
8/12	Nobber	0-06	Moorefield	0-05	Nobber

LEINSTER JUNIOR CLUB HURLING

10/11	Naomh Eoin	1-08	St. Martins	0-07	St. Martins
10/11	Black & Whites	1-09	Kilcotton	1-05	Kilkenny
17/11	Ringtown	0-21	Longford Slashers	1-09	Ml. Fay Pk.
17/11	St. Martins	1-11	Carnew Emmets	2-01	Carnew
17/11	Kilcotton	4-10	Confey	1-07	Kilcotton
17/11	Kevins	3-23	Knockbridge	0-05	Dolphin Park
23/11	Black & Whites	2-10	Confey	0-08	Confey
24/11	Kevins	3-07	Wolfe Tones	1-11	Kilberry
24/11	Naomh Eoin	1-11	Carnew	1-05	Kildavin
24/11	Ringtown	4-07	St. Columbas	1-05	Ringtown
30/11	Black & Whites	2-10	Nh. Eoin	0-03	Bagenalstown
1/12	Kevins	2-03	Ringtown	0-03	Ringtown
8/12	Black & Whites	4-08	Kevins	3-07	Skeoghvosteen



TUAIRISC AN RUNAÍ

A Chairde,

The counties have met, reviewed their successes and failures and then put together their administration teams for

2003. Now it is the turn of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. to do likewise. Besides reviewing the 2002 season I would hope, in this report, to generate some little debate about our ambitions and goals for the new year. Likewise our sub-committees have also reviewed their work and outlined targets for the coming year. I would appeal to delegates to familiarise themselves with the work of these sub-committees and, in turn, to comment upon them either at Convention or back at their own county base.

The year under review was unusual in some respects and predictable in others. For obvious reasons we never had so few games in Croke Park which meant that, at times, it seemed we were on a Discover Ireland exercise. The playing of our Senior Hurling Semi Finals in Semple Stadium was unique as was the playing of a Senior Football Semi Final (and replay) in Nowlan Park.

We had our fair share of success in the All Ireland stakes, primarily in hurling. The year began with Birr's great win in the A.I.B. All Ireland Club Hurling Final. Then Kilkenny, having won the National Hurling League title earlier in the year, had that remarkable Senior and Minor Hurling Championship double in September while Carlow followed up by winning the All Ireland Minor 'B' title. The hurlers of Laois captured the National Hurling League Division II title and followed that with success in the All Ireland Senior 'B' Championship.

Our football flag was flown in fine style by the Junior Footballers of Wicklow who won that All Ireland Championship. Towards the end of the season we won the Railway Cup double for the first time since 1988.

Two of our referees - John Bannon and Aodhan Mac Suibhne - refereed the All Ireland Senior Finals and a number of others officiated at Senior Finals in other provinces.

The Leinster Council moved to a new home during the year while we also grant-aided a number of significant developments in the province.

Overall it was a good year and I look forward to more of the same in 2003.

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

PEIL	BUATHOIRI	NEASOIRI
Sinsir	Ath Cliath	Cill Dara
Soisir	Cill Mhantain	Cill Dara
Mionuir	Longphort	An Mhi
Fé 21 Bliain	Ath Cliath	Cill Mhantain
Club Peil	Dunshaughlin	Mattock Rangers
Corn Ui Bhroin	Ceatharloch	Cill Mhantain
Club Soisir	Nobber	Moorefield

IOMAINT	BUATHOIRI	NEASOIRI
Sinsir	Cill Chainnigh	Loch Garman
Idir Mheanach	Loch Garman	Cill Chainnigh
Soisir	An Mhi	Cill Dara
Mionuir	Cill Chainnigh	Loch Garman
Fé 21 Bliain	Loch Garman	Ath Cliath
Club Iomaint	Birr	Young Irelands
Corn Breathnach	Loch Garman	Cill Chainnigh
Corn Mac Eochaidh	Cill Mhantain	Iarmhi
Fe 21 Bliain Speis	Ceatharloch	Iarmhi
Club Soisir	Blacks & Whites	Kevins

BANK OF IRELAND SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

I suppose you could say that all competitions have their significant moments but this was especially true of the 2002 Leinster Senior Football Championship. Time was almost up in the game between Dublin and Wexford on Saturday evening, June 1st with the Dubs hanging on to a two point lead. A last gasp Wexford attack seemed to have produced a winning goal when suddenly a Dublin defender grew out of the ground to deflect the ball for a '45'. The game ended almost immediately and the rest, as they say, is history. Dublin went to defeat Meath in the re-opening of Croke Park, before an attendance of over sixty five thousand patrons. Later they met Kildare in the Final where an attendance of 78,033 witnessed a pulsating game which ended in a two point winning margin for Dublin.

This brought an end to a Leinster Championship which mixed the good with the bad and with the unusual. We had a remarkable comeback by Louth to draw with Longford in the first round before comfortably winning the replay. We then had the unusual siting (Nowlan Park, Kilkenny) for the Offaly / Kildare Semi Final. This went to a replay which required extra time to see Kildare through in probably the best game of our entire championship.

Unfortunately none of our defeated counties made any real impact in the All Ireland Qualifier series.

GUINNESS SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Despite yet another tweaking of the format for this competition there was very little change to the overall pattern. We had something of a surprise when Meath defeated Laois and then we had the unusual setting for our double header semi finals i.e. Semple Stadium, Thurles. However, in the end, the Final again featured Kilkenny and Wexford. Despite many predictions to the contrary, this proved to be a very close run affair with Kilkenny just prevailing by a two point margin. In fact this proved to be, by far, their toughest encounter as they blazed a glorious trail to another All Ireland success.

Some of the counties dismissed in the preliminary rounds later kicked up a fuss about not being included in the All Ireland Qualifier competition. While I acknowledge their right to ask for that I honestly feel it would have been unrealistic to put them into a draw which included, among others, teams like Clare, Offaly, Galway, Limerick and Cork. The gulf in standards is far too wide and games against these type of counties could, and probably would, do untold damage to the promotion of the game.

UNDER 21 FOOTBALL

It was clear from the outset of the championship that Dublin were making an all out effort for this competition. Others of course approached it with similar intentions and so quite a number of games were contested with typical intensity. Eventually Wicklow qualified to meet Dublin in the Final but in the end the metropolitans had a relatively facile victory.

UNDER 21 HURLING

This proved to be an exciting championship. Firstly we had an act of larceny by Wexford who - having trailed Kilkenny all the way - snatched a winning goal in the third minute of injury time. Then an unsung, but expertly prepared, Dublin team brushed aside the challenge of Offaly in the other semi final.

This set the scene for a unique final pairing and they did not disappoint when serving up a cracking game. Once again Wexford depended on an injury time goal to send the game into extra time. Predictably the original effort had taxed Dublin more than Wexford and the latter pulled away to take the title.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

This championship usually begins with a whimper and then progresses to high profile exposure. So it was in 2002. The Junior footballers of Kildare and Offaly had the honour of playing the first game on the new Croke Park surface with the former qualifying fairly comfortably for the Final. In the other semi final it took two games to separate Wicklow and Longford. Both games were played in Kilkenny where they acted as curtain-raiser to the Kildare/Offaly S.F.C. Semi Final draw and replay. Eventually Wicklow qualified for the Final.

This Final was played on a beautiful July evening in picturesque Aughrim before a large crowd. Goals at crucial times proved decisive for the home side who had six points to spare at the finish.

Not satisfied with mere provincial success this team then went on to take the All Ireland Final where their opponents were none other than the aristocrats of Gaelic Football, Kerry. This gave the Garden County its first All Ireland Inter County Football success since their junior footballers won the title in 1936.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING

Having survived the predictably one-sided preliminaries Kilkenny and Wexford again qualified for the Final of this championship. What is it about these two counties when they meet in championship hurling? All previous form seems to go out the window as they tear into each other with an élan and dash rarely seen between other counties.

Just as in their Under 21 clash of a week earlier Kilkenny seemed to have done enough to survive when they led by four points with just six minutes remaining. However four unanswered minors by the purple and gold warriors forced the game into extra time. Wexford dominated this period and so captured their second Leinster Hurling Championship of the season in extra time.

This exciting final however does nothing to camouflage the mediocrity of the overall competition. Wexford ran up tallies of 3-21 and 6-25 against Laois (0-06) and Offaly (1-06) respectively while Kilkenny amassed (2-26) in their only preliminary game against Dublin (0-06). This does little to promote the ancient game and counties might be well advised to consider their positions in relation to this grade.

JUNIOR HURLING

This championship was revived after a number of years with just four counties taking part. I wrote earlier of the gulf in standards at the upper echelons of the game but this competition confirmed that there is an equally large gulf at the other end of the hurling spectrum.

For the purpose of this championship Kildare and Meath were confined to Junior and Intermediate clubs when making their selections while Louth and Longford were fielding their first choice teams. Yet in the semi finals Meath overcame Louth while Kildare defeated Longford. In the Final Meath had six points to spare over Kildare.

SPECIAL UNDER 21 HURLING

This competition, as usual, was keenly contested. The finalists of the previous year - Westmeath and Carlow - again qualified for the Final. This game was played before a large attendance as it acted as curtain-raiser to the Meath v Westmeath S.F.C. game in Portlaoise. Thanks to an injury time goal, Carlow retained their title by a two point margin.

In the Championship proper, Carlow played well for long periods before succumbing to eventual Leinster Champions, Wexford.

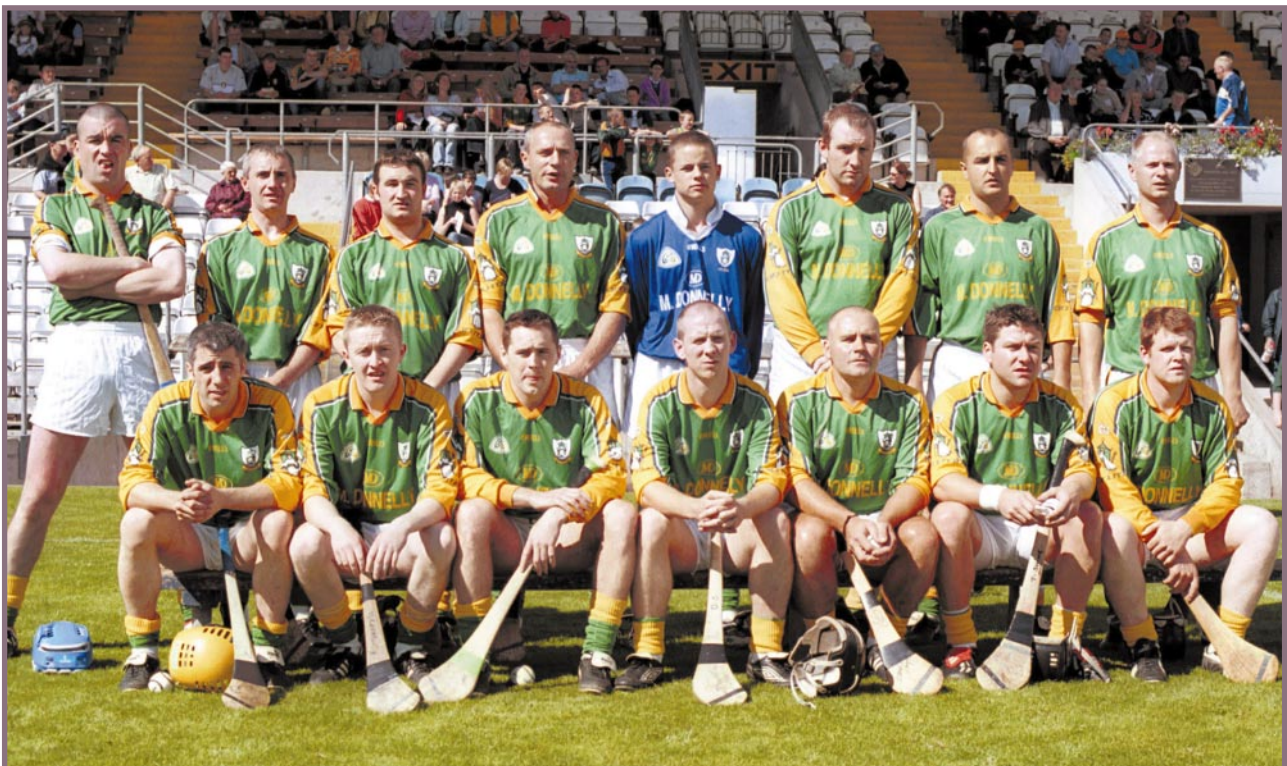
Carlow also qualified to play Kerry in the Special Under 21 Hurling Championship Final where they were unfortunate to lose out.

MINOR FOOTBALL

In any gaelic games review of 2002 the Leinster Minor Football Championship has to register as one of the top 'good news' stories. As a matter of fact it almost qualifies as a fairytale.

Five counties - the so called weaker brethren - were pitched into a preliminary competition played on a Round Robin basis. It was an idea which had been floated previously but never put to the test. The theory was that the winner would give reasonable opposition to the seven stronger counties in the Championship proper. Most people predicted that the winner would be Louth or Wicklow with Longford just slightly ahead of Carlow and Kilkenny making up the numbers. Well most people can be wrong.

The first turn up came when Kilkenny drew with Carlow and were unlucky not to do even better. From there on however the story of the competition revolved around Longford. Having overcome Wicklow in the fortress that is Aughrim they then streamrolled over the other three counties and advanced to the Leinster Quarter Final against Offaly. Competitive action had honed this side



The Meath team which lost to Antrim in the All-Ireland J.H.C. final.

Back Row (L-R) David Wright, Glen Galvin, Adrian McManus, Conor Ferguson, Charlie Usher, Eddie Duignan, Barry Doherty, Barry Ferguson.

Front Row (L-R) Paul Hanly, Mark Geraghty, James Mitchell, Dave Gaughan, John Gorry, Tom Shine, Fergus Fagan.

into a formidable unit and their match practice proved decisive. The element of surprise was gone by the time they met Dublin in the semi final but again they prevailed. Surely the bandwagon would derail against a Meath side in the cauldron of Croke Park on Leinster Final day. Not a bit of it. A tremendous game finished with the Longford boys ahead by three points - grown men cried as Liam O'Neill presented the Fr. Larry Murray Cup to Longford Captain, Enda Williams.

Under a new system the beaten provincial Minor Football Finalists qualified also for the All Ireland series. So it was that Meath restored much lost pride as they careered through to the All Ireland Final when they came up just short against a talented Derry side which coincidentally had also ended the Longford voyage at All Ireland Semi Final stage.

MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Once again we had a preliminary competition played on a Round Robin basis. Offaly comfortably took one of the qualifying spots but Dublin had to survive a playoff against Carlow (by a one point margin) before taking the second place on offer.

In the semi finals Kilkenny had just two points to spare over a fourteen man Dublin side while Wexford comfortably disposed of Offaly. The Final never produced the anticipated fireworks as Kilkenny prevailed with a seven point winning margin. They completed the year in great style by going on to defeat Tipperary in the All Ireland Final.

In the Minor 'B' Hurling Championship, played on an 'open draw' basis, Carlow and Meath qualified for the All Ireland Final with the Barrowsiders gaining a hardearned victory. Pity was that this game was moved from its normal setting i.e. as curtain-raiser to the All Ireland Under 21 Hurling Final.

A.I.B. LEINSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pride in one's parish and local village is the cornerstone of the success of these championships. Once again this pride was exemplified as our twenty four champion clubs gave their all in pursuit of glory for their home place. Despite the fixture headaches it causes in some counties the decision not to allow nominated clubs compete anymore in these Championships has breathed new life into an already vibrant competition. Our two championships provided the usual cocktail of entertainment - close fought games, draws, controversy, the occasional row, heartbreak and joy unconfined.

IOMAINT

Most games were keenly contested with the only minor surprise, perhaps, being the qualification of Carlow champions, St. Mullins, for the Semi Finals. However the pre-tournament prediction of a Young Irelands (Gowran) and Birr Final came to fruition. Unfortunately the Final was played on one of the worst days of the winter. Nevertheless the conditions did little to lessen the efforts of the participants and a thrilling game ensued. In the end the proud All Ireland champions, Birr, proved six points superior.

PEIL

Despite hold-ups due to International Series, court cases and inclement weather the A.I.B. Leinster Club Football Championship was completed in the calendar year. This year's competition proved to be as unpredictable as in previous years and provided the same level of drama and excitement. The only pre-championship prediction to come true was that Dunshaughlin would play Rathnew along the way and that they would draw at least once. It didn't take the powers of Mystic Meg to predict this happening as they had met each other three times in each of the previous two championships. Dunshaughlin avenged last year's defeat to qualify for the Final. The real surprise packet of the championship came through the other half of the draw in the shape of Mattock Rangers. This team from the parish of Collon were newcomers to the Club Championship and nobody factored them into their predictions. However they defied all the pundits to qualify to play Dunshaughlin in the Final. Despite another brave effort their run came to an end and so the Meath champions were crowned Leinster Champions for the first time.

ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS

Our club hurling champions, Birr, did Leinster proud on St. Patrick's Day by defeating Clarinbridge in the All Ireland Club Hurling Championship Final.

ACCIDENT TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

The winners of these competitions in 2002 were:

Walsh Cup S.H.	Wexford
Kehoe Cup S.H.	Wicklow
O'Byrne Cup S.F.	Carlow

O'BYRNE CUP S.F. 2003

This year's competition format reverted to a knock out programme of games involving all twelve counties. It began and finished in the month of January. The only postponed game, Meath v Longford, was accommodated under lights at the Simonstown Gaels Complex in Navan and so the programme remained intact. As in previous years, the competition provided competitive fare and attracted great attendances. This final was played in a great atmosphere in Pearse Park, Longford where the home side just failed against a very committed Kildare team.

WALSH CUP S.H. 2003

Rarely does the Walsh Cup Senior Hurling Competition get the headlines of its football equivalent i.e. the O'Byrne Cup but all that changed in the last couple of weeks. Firstly we had the elimination of Wexford, holders for the previous eight years, by Laois. Then we had a semi-final in Croke Park between Dublin (who had

already accounted for Down and Meath) and Laois with the home side getting through with a couple of late goals. In the other half of the draw it went to extra time before Kilkenny saw off the challenge of Offaly (who had previously beaten Westmeath).

This set the stage for a unique Final in Parnell Park (on Sunday 9th February 2003) between Dublin and the current All Ireland and National League champions, Kilkenny. On paper, the result was a foregone conclusion but somebody forgot to tell Dublin. In an epic encounter they matched the favourites throughout the game and an injury time point gave them a well deserved success. This was only their fourth success in a competition which is fifty years old next year and their first since 1966. We congratulate all associated with this victory and hope it is a fore runner of more success.

KEHOE CUP S.H. 2003

This competition is currently underway. The Final will be played between the home winners and London on a two legged basis (Home and Away). We were delighted to welcome Longford and Monaghan into this competition for the first time.



The 2003 Dublin Senior Hurling Team which defeated Meath on their way to Walsh Cup final where they accounted for National League and All-Ireland Champions, Kilkenny, to take Dublin's first Senior Hurling title since 1966.

Back Row (L-R) Carl Meehan, Eoin Dunne, Stephen McDonnell, Kevin O'Donoghue, Brendan McLoughlin, Liam Ryan, Keith Wilson, Keith Horgan, Conal Keaney.

Front Row (L-R) John Cullen, David O'Callaghan, Tommy Moore, Darragh Spain, Shane Martin, Keith Elliot.

LEINSTER - RAILWAY CUP HURLING

Leinster Captain, Andy Comerford of Kilkenny, raises aloft the Railway Cup, rounding off a remarkable year in which he also lifted the National League Title and All-Ireland Championship



In the face of bewildering public apathy the Railway Cup competitions continue to survive. This is due, in no small way, to the players themselves. I have long been a critic of keeping these games alive but I must admit that even my eyes were opened by the sheer will of the Leinster hurlers to win the competition in Kilkenny last November. Apparently the same type of commitment pertained in the football camp in Galway on the same weekend.

There is yet another plan afloat at the moment to boost these competitions i.e. to bring them overseas to places like Brussels and New York. Of course, like all previous efforts, this plan, too, will end up in the waste paper basket. Yet the competitions will continue. Why? Because the players want them.

For the first time since 1988 Leinster brought off the double. Led by Andy Comerford (hurling) and Paddy Christie (Football) the panels of players put in a superb effort. Naturally the leadership, management and organisational skills of the respective managers, Noel Skehan and Luke Dempsey, also played a huge role in these successes.

I congratulate all involved in both victories. My wish is that if these games are to continue then surely the players deserve to have an audience. This can only be achieved by all concerned getting involved in that activity which we all seem to shy away from i.e. marketing the product.



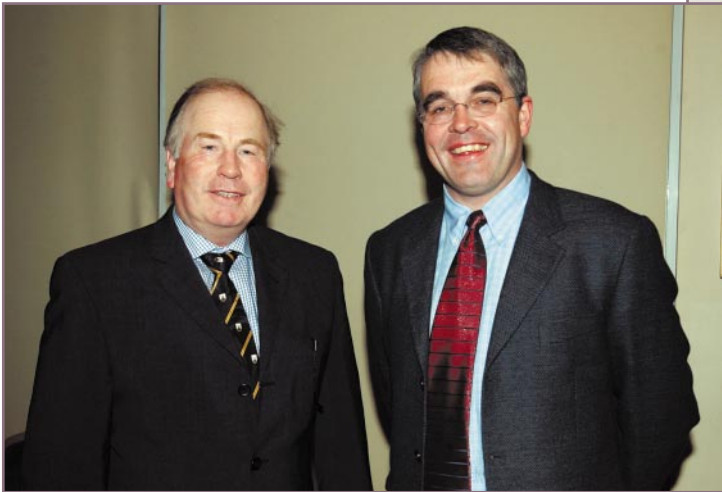
Leinster - Railway Cup Hurling Champions 2002

Back Row (L-R) Conal Keaney, David 'Doc' O'Connor, Henry Shefflin, Jimmy Coogan, Andy Comerford (Capt), Derek Lyng, Noel Hickey, John Hoyne.

Front Row (L-R) Liam Ryan, Mick Kavanagh, Eddie Brennan, James McGarry, Richie Mulally, J.J. Delaney, Brendan Murphy.

ING & FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2002

Noel Skehan (Hurling) and Luke Dempsey (Football)
Leinster's triumphant Railway Cup managers



Leinster Football Captain Paddy Christie of Dublin receives his medal from Leinster Chairman Nickey Brennan at the recent Presentation Night

Leinster - Railway Cup Football Champions 2002



Aaron Hoey
LOUTH



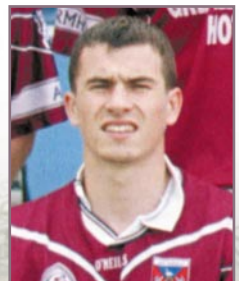
Anthony Rainbow
KILDARE



Brian Lacey
KILDARE



Ciarán McManus
OFFALY



Dessie Dolan
WESTMEATH



Enda Murphy
KILDARE



Evan Kelly
MEATH



J P Rooney
LOUTH



Karl Slattery
OFFALY



Martin Farrelly
LOUTH



Paddy Christie
DUBLIN



Paul Barden
LONGFORD



Peadar Andrews
DUBLIN



Ray Cosgrove
DUBLIN



Ciarán Whelan
DUBLIN

LEINSTER COUNCIL'S SUB-COMMITTEES

On assuming office our Cathaoirleach, Nioclas O Braonain, put a new team in place to carry out the various roles of the Association in the province. This team consisted of the Sub-Committees previously in place and some more to deal with more specific matters. Their individual reports appear in the second half of this booklet and, taken together, they present an impressive collage of all strands of G.A.A. activity in Leinster.

A COACHING AND GAMES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This body, chaired by Jimmy Dunne (Wicklow), and with John McCarthy (Kildare) as secretary deals with all aspects of underage games in the province. Their portfolio brings them into every corner of the province and their report highlights the amazing activity in this area in Leinster.

Under the umbrella of this Committee are two other very important Sub-Committees. The Leinster Hurling Sub-Committee has Paddy Kelly (Meath) as its chairman while Jim Ryan (Dublin) is secretary. Similarly there is a new Football Sub-Committee whose chairman is John Horan (Dublin) with Michael McHugh (Westmeath) as secretary.

The specific roles of these two sub-committees is - in their respective codes - to run the underage programme i.e. festivals / blitz competitions and leagues. They also oversee the staging of various initiatives and schemes throughout Leinster.

B REFEREES COMMITTEE

Chaired by Pierce Freaney (Kildare) with Aidan Shiels (Dublin) as secretary, this Committee deals specifically with the recruitment, training and assessment of referees and other match officials. The chairman of the Committee deals directly with the appointment of all referees, linesmen and assessors for all non-senior championship Leinster games.

C CLUB FIXTURES COMMITTEE

This new Sub-Committee is chaired by John Greene (Longford) while Paul Kinsella (Kilkenny) acts as secretary. Its primary role is to review the club fixtures programme (adult and underage) in each county in Leinster to ensure an adequate and appropriate games programme is available to all club players.

D CLUB ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

This is another new Sub-Committee which has Joe O' Shaughnessy (Wexford) and Kathleen O' Neill (Kildare)

as its chairman and secretary respectively. This body was taxed with the task of reviewing club structures in urban and non-urban areas of the province and also with the role of advising clubs in matters such as land purchase, floodlighting of pitches and availability of grants.

E P.R. MARKETING & I.T.

Once again Paddy Flanagan (Westmeath) took on the baton of chairman of this committee with Pat Chapman (Longford) as secretary. Apart from its regular functions of publications, organisation of functions / presentations etc. it is also responsible for the development and maintenance of the Leinster G.A.A. website.

F CULTURAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Under the tried and trusted leadership of Seamus O Faolain (Iarmhi) as Cathaoirleach and Donal Hickey (Ath Cliath) as Runai this committee continues to organise and promote the Adult Scor and Scor na nOg competitions.

G GROUNDS AND FACILITIES (Development) COMMITTEE

John Healy (Kilkenny) took over as chairman of this committee while Michael Reynolds (Comhairle Laighean) continues to service the committee. This body supervises all grant applications and borrowing applications from clubs and county committees. They also act as advisers to clubs / counties in the area of land purchase, facility developments etc.

H. GROUNDS AND FACILITIES (Health & Safety) COMMITTEE

The chairman of this new Sub-Committee is Andy Gallagher (Offaly) while Micheal O Dubhshlaine (Comhairle Laighean) is servicing officer. This body advises Clubs / County Boards on health and safety issues at venues and advises Comhairle Laighean on the suitability of venues for games under its control. It also acts as the link with the National Safety Committee on all matters relating to national standards and policies as they pertain to G.A.A. property and facilities.

I TEAM LEINSTER

This sub-committee is made up of the seven senior fulltime employees of Comhairle Laighean and its function is to provide input, data, recommendations and suggestions for projects, initiatives and improvements to Comhairle Laighean Committees as necessary on an ongoing basis.

J COMHAIRLE COMMITTEE

Chaired by Liam O'Neill (Laois) and with Pat Toner (Louth) as secretary this Sub-Committee is responsible for the training of county and club officers in Leinster to ensure they are aware of the tasks associated with their role plus appropriate knowledge of current G.A.A. rules and regulations.

K GAMES ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

This Sub-Committee handles all matters relating to arrangement and control of all games under the jurisdiction of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. It also deals with inter county transfer applications within the province.

L AN COISDE BAINISTI

This body handles the day to day running of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. It has two sub-committees which deal specifically with (a) Finance and (b) Human Resources. All other sub-committees report to An Coisde Bainisti.

From the foregoing it is fairly evident that all aspects of the G.A.A. in the province are monitored, promoted and catered for. We are grateful to all Sub-Committee members for their ongoing commitment to Comhairle Laighean and the Leinster counties.

NEW HEADQUARTERS

Last October the Comhairle Laighean operation moved to its new headquarters. Apart from normal teething problems the transition has been smooth enough. The improved meeting facilities are appreciated by all who have attended while the staff are very happy in their new surroundings.

At the time of writing plans are well advanced both for the sale of the old property and the development of a new car park. Overall I feel Comhairle Laighean can be proud of its initiative in this matter.



Leinster Under-21 Football Champions Dublin

Back Row L-R: Conal Keaney, Paul Casey, Darren Magee, Conor Murphy, Declan Lally, Paul Griffin, Donncha Corcoran, Graham Cullen.

Front Row L-R: Brian Cullen, Nathan Kane, Neil O'Driscoll, Stephen Cluxton, Liam Óg Ó hÉineacháin, Alan Brogan, Tomás Quinn.

HURLING IN LEINSTER

Oh no! Surely he's not going to waffle on again about this subject. Has it not been hammered to death in boardrooms, talk shops, media or wherever people nowadays discuss gaelic games? Yes . . . well . . . maybe . . . but!?

Before you nod off perhaps you might consider this notion. I am convinced that what people say, in many instances, is not what they really think. This is hardly a profound statement but it is, to me, very relevant to Leinster hurling. We have heard commentators, county officers, county team managers, senior G.A.A. officials and many others come forward with a variety of suggestions to improve hurling in Leinster. These included a Round Robin system, entry for all into the All Ireland Qualifiers, inviting Galway into Leinster, revamped coaching schemes, handicap systems, Railway Cup being confined to the so called weaker counties, playing more games in Croke Park etc. etc. The bottom line is - what will any of these schemes do to narrow the ever widening gap between Kilkenny and the other Leinster counties? Do I need to answer this question?

So do we merely accept the inevitable, plod on as we are or even close up shop completely? You might well ask me - "Have you got any ideas?" Well, as the politician might say, "I'm glad you asked me that question!" Because I have a couple of ideas which I feel might address some of the discrepancies in hurling standards in the province. In some places they will be described as pure heresy but here I refer to my original theory - what people say is not necessarily what they think.

UNDERAGE SCENE

There are no new suggestions for this area. Our new Hurling Sub-Committee is only in place for less than a year and they have already displayed an encouraging sense of innovation. The D.J. Carey School of hurling - referred to elsewhere in the report - is an exciting idea and I have great hopes for the experiment. Provided they can absorb criticisms, obstructions and the normal level of scepticism I am satisfied this sub-committee will make a mark on the hurling scene in Leinster.

ADULT SCENE

I will begin at the lower level of the scale i.e. in Louth and Longford. It is my opinion that these counties should not be competing at adult inter-county level. Their participation and, by extension, that of similar counties in other provinces is doing absolutely nothing for the promotion or development of the game in these counties. All resources currently associated with these county teams should be channelled directly into

internal activity in these counties. New clubs must be formed, new initiatives must be put in place at underage and school level; young players must be exposed to games and players of the highest level; facilities must be provided; internal competitions must be improved; co-operation must be developed with their gaelic football brothers; fixtures must be co-ordinated and regularised; chips on shoulders must be melted down; second class citizen attitudes must be overcome; hurlers must be made feel that they, too, are part of the G.A.A.; there must be a regular transparent audit of progress; there must be a regular, blunt and honest monitoring of progress by an outside agency; and finally, in three years time, I would be delighted to be made eat my words by these two counties.

Next I come to the middle ground and here I have included six counties viz. Carlow, Kildare, Laois, Meath, Westmeath and Wicklow. To be brutally honest about things - none of these counties will win a Leinster Senior Hurling Championship or National Hurling League title in the foreseeable future. Of course they might win a Senior 'B' Championship or a Division II of the National League. Actually, Laois won both of these titles in 2002 but I don't see nor hear any Laois player boasting about that achievement. This scenario will not change if we stay as we are.

I am suggesting that these six counties opt out of adult championship hurling (i.e. Senior, Senior 'B', Intermediate and Junior) for a three year period. In its place I would put a well structured provincial club league with the top six senior hurling clubs from each county taking part. This must be played in the summer months i.e. in hurling weather and on hurling pitches. Incentives and resources must be provided. (Just consider how much money will be available if these six counties have not to prepare county hurling teams during what is traditionally the championship season)!

With proper planning this league can be organised so that: (a) it will not interfere with internal county competitions (b) it will provide a minimum of ten competitive games to each club (c) by proper co-ordination, games can remain competitive to the end of the competition.

The natural reaction of many people will be to tell why this cannot work and why it will not be of any benefit. Just consider these few points.

- A. The general public in these counties do not identify with, or support in any great numbers, these county hurling teams. The same does not apply to club teams.

- B. There is only so much coaching you can do with hurlers - it is competitive games like these that will hone players' skills, develop their discipline and generally improve their appreciation of colleagues and opponents.
- C. This plan would guarantee top-class hurling, of relatively equal standard, to a whole new range of players.
- D. By extension, standards should be lifted back at home in the individual counties.

The six counties concerned would continue as heretofore in the National Hurling League and in the Kehoe Cup. The county team unit would still be intact but with a lot more players pushing to get into it.

That just leaves the top four counties, Dublin, Kilkenny, Offaly and Wexford (with possibly Galway also coming on board). These all know how they can improve their standards and have the necessary internal structures to do so. Consequently I wouldn't suggest any new ideas for them.

These few ideas can be dismissed as yet another secretary trying to fill space in an annual report. On the other hand they might be used to stimulate debate amongst Board Officers, county team mentors and - above all - the players in these counties. I don't mind if these ideas are dismissed but please tell my why and give me the alternatives. Surely we don't want to be still waffling on about the state of Leinster hurling in ten years time.



At the launch of the D. J. Carey School of Hurling

L-R: Nickey Brennan, Chairman, Leinster Council Gerry O'Connor, Coolderry, D.J. Carey, Paddy Byrne, Kilcormackand Monsignor James Cassin, President, St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny.

ALL IRELAND QUALIFIER COMPETITIONS

At the end of this year's All Ireland Senior Championships it is envisaged that a Special Congress will convene to decide on a competitive format of Intercounty Championships which will remain in place for the following five years.

Counties, of course, will have to brief their delegates based on the experience of a three year trial for the All Ireland Senior Football Qualifiers and a two year trial of the All Ireland Senior Hurling Qualifiers.

This is a daunting task indeed. We risk causing severe damage to our flagship championships if we do not get it right this time. I cautioned in last year's report against getting carried away by what appeared to be a very successful first year of the football experiment.

Somehow I feel that same euphoria did not exist after last season's competition. At the end of the day is it really only the strong who benefit from the second chance? Is getting beaten twice in a fortnight (or even in a week) that much better than what we had before? I honestly feel these questions must be addressed.

Hurling has had only a one year trial and gets its second run, with amendments, this season. Nobody got too excited by last year's offering and there is little reason to believe that this year's will be much more appetising.

When deciding on the framework for the next five years this Special Congress will also have to be conscious of

the club fixtures programme in each county. With county senior panels now increased to thirty players there is even less activity going on at club level in some counties.

Furthermore the live T.V. coverage of three games on many weekends is having a real impact on attendances at club fixtures.

Club fixture programmes in some counties are chaotic, mostly due to the proliferation of intercounty activity. The fact that the provincial council has been given a monitoring role in this area is hardly going to make a blind bit of difference.

County team managers will carry far more clout than any Leinster Council edict anyway. Ironically, it is often the last minute changes to fixtures by provincial councils (or indeed G.A.C.) which adds to the club fixture chaos.

I refer elsewhere in this report to the gulf which exists in standards at intercounty level, especially in hurling. Surely this must be a consideration also when putting together plans which will be set in stone for the next five years.

Playing around with competition formulae will not make the weak counties any stronger - this can only happen through internal initiatives.

The tendency in situations like this, when we are faced with the real hard decisions, has, in the past, been to kick to touch and carry on the experiment for another trial period. Does that really solve anything? Would we not be better off to just carry out a proper analysis of the experiments, make our decisions and go for it. I'm not holding my breath.



The Carlow team which defeated Westmeath in the 2002 Leinster Special Under-21 Hurling Final

STRATEGIC REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

As I left the Special Congress on the evening of October 26th last I vowed to myself not to discuss, ever again, the report of the Strategic Review Committee nor to have any part in any new Committee which some other enlightened Uachtaran C.L.G. might put together. You see, like most of the S.R.C. members I felt bruised, broken and not a little humiliated. Our two years of work had been, for the most part, ridiculed, pulverised and dismissed by our peers.

Perhaps the most galling aspect of it all was the sheer triumphalism of the anti S.R.C. brigade who had emerged victorious.

Then as the evenings shortened and the county convention season descended I began to read strange missives which crossed my desk. Many reports by county secretaries, and reports of addresses by county chairmen to conventions, had a common theme - i.e. 'Wasn't it a pity that the S.R.C. proposals were rejected by Congress.' This all made me wonder about who or what Congress is and who or what the people there represent?

There is little point really in re-opening the S.R.C. debate. Some token items were accepted while others were put on a long finger. I can't imagine too many people being prepared to take on the task of preparing a case in favour of recommendations which must be presented to Central Council for ratification.

Nevertheless, in a strange sort of way, I feel that the Special Congress taught us many things about ourselves as an Association. Naturally we will not acknowledge these lessons as they will make us feel uncomfortable with ourselves.

Despite this discomfort I feel the urge to goad Leinster Convention into pondering upon a few of these matters.

As an administration - county, provincial, central - we have grown old and settled. When I attended my first Congress / Leinster Convention thirty years ago I was among the young brigade at those gatherings. This year I still fall into the same category. There are so few new faces coming along that I have to say that we have skipped an entire generation in administration terms.

Listening to the debate at the Special Congress I couldn't help thinking that we have lost touch with so much in recent years:

- A We have lost touch with people in clubs and schools who are trying to promote our games
- B We have lost touch with the general public who support our games
- C We have lost touch with the players and, believe me, this is serious
- D We have lost touch with reality about the future - and all the blame cannot be placed at the Government's door.

I began this piece talking about the S.R.C. report but allowed myself ramble into other backwoods. There is however one serious aspect of the S.R.C. report which is proving to be a hot potato. It is neither being discussed nor being seriously addressed. This is the subject of the G.A.A. in Dublin and the unique issues surrounding it. I honestly do not know where these proposals are headed - a betting man would not dare to speculate.

However I will say this - it is time now to finish with the bluff, bluster and baloney. We must decide if the issues are national, provincial or simply a matter for Dublin themselves. When this decision is made we can decide on the way forward. The road map will not prove to be easily drafted nor followed but standing still is not an option.

MARKETING AND PROMOTING OUR GAMES

The GAA involves itself in marketing from a commercial point of view (sponsorship, etc.) The GAA involves itself in games promotion from a development point of view. The GAA involves itself in PR mainly from a corporate point of view.

The GAA does not involve itself in marketing and promoting specific competitions and fixtures to the sporting public **with the express objective of increasing attendances and thereby increasing revenue.** By and large we leave that to others, whose motives and objectives are their own, not ours.

TV and Radio advertise and promote our matches, not to increase attendances, but to increase their audience, which is their job.

Press match reports, previews, comments and colour pieces generate great interest in our games and associated issues, not to increase attendances, but with the intention of increasing newspaper sales, which is their job.

Magazines use our games and players, not to increase attendances, but to generate profits for themselves from advertising.

Our main sponsors, who have done much to raise the general image of our games through their own public relations and advertising projects, are primarily involved, not in increasing attendances, but in maximising publicity for themselves through the sponsorship, which is their job.

Indirectly Gaelic Games benefits in many ways from all these investments in PR, Marketing, Promotion and Advertising by others.

But none of the above specifically target an increase in attendance as their advertising objective, mainly because it is not their concern. The job of increasing attendances is exclusively the GAA's and needs to be done by the GAA in a deliberate, co-ordinated and focused way. We can look to the success of Coca-Cola's promotion of the International Rules series and Dublin GAA's promotion of their opening Allianz National League match in Croke Park as examples. The novelty of both occasions may have helped but the end result of both focused promotion campaigns was large attendances.

But the top prize for turning very little into a lot through a concerted media campaign and plenty of

media hype has to go to the organisers of the fundraising challenge match, last April, between Kilkenny and Tipperary for the Lory Meagher Heritage Centre in Tullaroan. This would normally be a low-key game, but it achieved the status of compulsory attendance because the organisers had one objective - revenue generated through attendance figures - and they worked to achieve that objective. 8,000 paying customers turned up, which is more Kilkenny followers than have supported their county team in some SHC games, even Leinster Semi-Finals, in the past.

This shows that it can be done. What the GAA need to do is simple. There is no magic formula.

A focused media campaign specific to individual games using local and national press and radio to target the potential attendance is required. This was done by Coca-Cola, and in Dublin and Kilkenny, in the examples above.

Every GAA fixture has its own unique characteristics in terms of counties/clubs involved, team image, managers, venue and strategic importance. Therefore the advertising and promotion campaign must highlight these characteristics. These unique elements will also dictate what media are used in each case.

The formal advertising and promotion campaign can be supported by competitions for tickets for the specific game being promoted.

Comhairle Laighean implemented this promotional and advertising strategy during the 2002 senior championship season. A formal advertising campaign using scripted presentations performed by professionals on Local Radio was targeted at specific matches using the relevant local radio stations in each case. This was supported by ticket competitions on local radio and local press for each game as it arose.

The campaign received much positive feedback and comment and was generally felt to have had a significant effect on attendances in a difficult season.

This targeted promotion can be linked to a general promotion encouraging attendance at Gaelic Games as a better alternative to just using the media to watch, listen or read. The catch phrase could be something like:

"Were YOU there last Sunday when YOUR Footballers were....?"

"Where will YOU be next Sunday when YOUR Hurlers take on?"

Like the corncrake and her chicks in the old fable the job won't be done properly until we stop depending on the work of others and do the job ourselves.



A.I.B. Leinster Club Hurling Champions 2002 Birr

Back L-R: Stephen Brown, Gary Hanniffy (Capt), Rory Hanniffy, Paul Molloy, Niall Claffey, Barry Whelahan, Joe Errity, Brian Whelahan.
Front L-R: Brian Mullins, Donal Franks, Declan Pilkington, Gary Cahill, Simon Whelahan, John Paul O'Meara, Johnny Pilkington.



OBITUARY

Mick Dunne

by Tomás Ó Briain,
Comhairle Liathróid
Láimhe Laighean

The sad news of Mick Dunne's untimely death on Sunday 11 August came as a great shock

to his large circle of friends, to his colleagues and to the GAA public for whom he had written and to whom he had broadcast for half a century on the Gaelic games he loved so dearly. A loyal Laois man, Mick was very proud of his roots and his heritage and, infrequent as they were, he delighted in his county's achievements. One of nature's finest gentlemen, his death has left a void in Irish sports society and in handball in particular, which will never be filled.

Mick was Ireland's leading sports journalist when he was the principal GAA reporter with the "Irish Press". In the pre-television days, his Monday reports on the big games were considered as Gospel. He continued to write for the "Irish Press" until RTE appointed him as their Gaelic Games correspondent. His distinctive voice, allied to his extensive knowledge of Gaelic Games made him a popular choice and he reported for radio and television until his retirement.

Even in retirement, he kept meticulous records of all games and even shortly before his death he had his files up to date with the Munster under 21 hurling replay result. These records made him a much sought after person by journalists as he could give them details of virtually every game played in the past 50 years and more.

Mick was the author of a regular feature in HIGHBALL and did a column in The Irish Independent following his retirement from RTE. When he undertook a task he always did so in a most professional manner. He left nothing to chance: he was absolutely meticulous in scripting his notes. His writing style had a great flourish and he was totally committed to every deadline he was given.

One of his great legacies will be the All Stars awards. It was his idea that our top hurlers and footballers should be acknowledged each year. He was the main presenter

since 1971 and due tribute was paid to him at the recent All Stars Awards.

Much has been written about his accounts of GAA activities abroad but his immense interest in the Compromise Rules led to his huge collection of memorabilia! And who will ever forget his exciting, riveting and indeed amusing interview with John Todd, the Australian team manager during the inaugural series in Australia?

Mick Dunne was a great friend of handball and enjoyed playing the game until a few short years ago. He was a very familiar and friendly face at games throughout the country and travelled to the World Championships on several occasions where he became well known to players and officials from the other handballing countries. He contributed handsomely to the sport in a voluntary capacity and used his very considerable talents and expertise as MC for the annual Waterford Crystal Awards ceremony and also for the All-Ireland finals every year.

He researched and penned numerous articles for the Irish Handball Yearbook. He was a member of the steering committee for that Yearbook and I, as chairman of the committee, was always amazed at the workload he undertook as well as his professionalism when the final touches were applied to the Yearbook every November.

Mick was a delighted recipient of the Waterford Crystal Handball Award for Special Services -an award he richly deserved.

Mick was a man whose personal standards, underpinned as they were by his Christian values, greatly impressed all those who were fortunate enough to have met and known him. He loved Gaelic Games and its players and they respected him in generous measure. The attendance of so many players and officials -past and present -at his removal and funeral Mass was an inspiring testimony to the high esteem in which he was held, not only as a GAA journalist and broadcaster, but as a true friend and a highly respected person. His loss to Gaelic Games is immense but he will, of course, be missed most of all by his wife, Lilly, his daughters Eileen, Una and Moira and grandchildren, Cormac and Maeve.

SYMPATHY

Some former members of our Council, former Players and Referees and some former County Board Officers passed to their eternal reward in the year gone by. Likewise, a number of close family members of our

present Council also passed away. On behalf of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. I extend sympathy to the families of the bereaved and a novena of masses has been offered for their intentions.

'Go ndéana Dia trócaire are a nanamacha.'

BUÍOCHAS

As we review another busy year I would like, on behalf of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. to extend thanks to a number of groups and individuals who made huge contributions to the smooth operation of our many functions.

MEDIA

Our games and other activities received fair and extensive coverage from the national and provincial newspapers, national and local radio stations, television stations, G.A.A. magazines and the many G.A.A. websites now in existence. We thank all concerned for this coverage.

Leinster Council G.A.A. lost a great friend from the ranks of the Fourth Estate through the death, during the year, of Mick Dunne. Tribute is paid to this great journalist elsewhere in this report.

REFEREES AND OFFICIALS

Under the baton of our Administrator, Pierce Freaney, our referees whistled through another successful year. It is uplifting to see some new faces coming through the ranks and, provided they are not in too great a hurry, there certainly will be games for them all. May I also thank those who perform the less glamorous tasks of umpires, linesmen, fourth official and assessors.

COUNTY COMMITTEES

The Council owes a deep debt of gratitude to its twelve County Committees who again displayed great co-operation and marvellous loyalty with the provincial body. My special thanks to the county secretaries whose help and courtesy - irrespective of the pressure - is always first class.

SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS / COACHING DIRECTORS / G.P.O.s

Again I record a special work of thanks to our Schools Development Officers, Tom O' Donnell, Michael Reynolds and Tom Fitzpatrick. Due to an ever expanding workload they have now been joined - in a partime capacity - by Pat Henderson (South Leinster), Fergal Giles (North Leinster) and Jim O' Donovan (Dublin).

Our three Coaching Directors - Lester Ryan, Noel Delaney and Gerard O' Connor - are deserving of the highest praise for another marvellous year's work. I would join the County and Third Level Games Promotion Officers in this salute.

PROGRAMME PRODUCER

He may have been on a treadmill during the Summer as games ran into one another but John Cotter never failed to meet a deadline nor produced anything but a top class publication in his handling of our match programmes. In other areas of marketing and commercialism he also produced the goods and we thank him sincerely for that.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE / PAIRC AN CHROCAIGH

Once again we record our gratitude to the Ard Stiurthoir and his staff for their unstinting support and courtesy to Comhairle Laighean during the year.

Likewise I would offer our gratitude to the Management and staff of Croke Park Stadium for their assistance, advice and co-operation during our games programme there last Summer.

STAFF

I want to thank the staff at Aras Laighean - Michael Reynolds, Patricia Clear, Julie Quinn and Hannah Birchill - for another year's solid service to the Association and outstanding courtesy to the public and regular callers.

During the year - as part of a co-operative venture with D.C.U. - we were joined by a young woman from Dublin, Maedhbh Ní Chléirigh who quickly became a pleasant and valuable part of our workforce. Maedhbh has now returned to her studies and has been replaced by a Lily White, Rob McCabe, and we look forward to his contribution to the team.

Rath Dé Oraibh go léir.



Michéal Ó Dubhshláine.

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN PRESENTATION NIGHT

BRIDGEHOUSE HOTEL
TULLAMORE
31ST JANUARY 2002





D.J. CAREY SCHOOL OF HURLING

D.J. SUPPORTS LEINSTER HURLING INITIATIVE



Nickey Brennan (Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean) officially launched the 2003, D.J. Carey School of Hurling in the Bridge House Hotel Tullamore Co. Offaly on Friday 31st January. Special guests at the launch were Kilkenny hurling legend, D.J. Carey and Monsignor James Cassin (President St. Kieran's College) plus the Officers of Comhairle Laighean.

This exciting venture by Comhairle Laighean has been given a huge boost by the fact that D.J. Carey has agreed to lend his name to the event and in addition he intends to have a significant input into the School of Hurling during the two weeks. It will be run in St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, on a residential basis during July 15th –18th and July 22nd-25th.

Approximately two hundred and twenty, fourteen year olds, selected from the twelve counties of Leinster will have an opportunity to meet and speak to D.J. Carey and avail of his experience knowledge and expertise in all aspects of the game of hurling.

In his address at the launch D.J. spoke of the need to coach the basic skills of the game. "If players do not master the basic skills of the game at an early age they will never reach their true potential as players. I believe the focus of the "School of Hurling" should be on developing basic skills such as blocking, hooking, striking, etc, and having mastered these areas, young players can then start working on the more advanced skills of the game".

In addition to meeting D.J. the young players can look forward to a fantastic variety of activities and attractions over the four days;

- They will meet many of the current top players and managers.
- They will mix with and compete against players from other counties.
- They will have the opportunity to wear their county jersey in Inter-County games.
- The Leinster Games Promotions Officers and guest coaches will provide expert coaching throughout the four days.
- Guest speakers will cover various topics (relevant to fourteen year olds) to assist them in achieving their maximum potential as hurlers and also as individuals.
- There will be ample opportunity to socialise and make new friends during the relaxed recreational sessions.

- All participants will receive attractive merchandise to commemorate their involvement in the inaugural D.J. Carey School of Hurling.

Comhairle Laighean and the twelve participating counties will provide funding for the D.J. Carey School of Hurling. Nickey Brennan (Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean) highlighted the importance of investing what will be a significant sum of money in this hurling development project. "The future of the game of Hurling in Leinster is dependent upon the young players who will be attending the D.J. Carey School of Hurling. It is important that players of this age be given every support possible to help them develop their individual skills and talents. In addition, it is hoped that they will take what they have learned back to their clubs and their fellow club players. The Leinster Council is delighted to fund such an excellently organised project".

Monsignor James Cassin, President St Kieran's College expressed his delight at the fact that St. Kieran's College will be the venue for the D.J. Carey School of Hurling; "St. Kieran's has a proud tradition as a nursery for young hurlers. It is only fitting that the finest hurler to grace the sports fields of our College, D.J. Carey, will himself return to St Kieran's to be a part of an initiative which hopefully will launch the careers of future stars at School, Club, County, Provincial and National level".

All aspects of the D.J. Carey School of Hurling from its conception to its implementation is the responsibility of the The Leinster Hurling Committee, under Paddy Kelly (Cathaoirleach), Jim Ryan (Runaí) and Lester Ryan (Leinster Coaching Director).

It will be run under the auspices of the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee.



At the launch of the D. J. Carey School of Hurling

L-R: Mick Jacob, Wexford, Gerry O'Connor, Coolderry, D.J. Carey, Paddy Byrne, Kilcormac and Noel Skehan, Kilkenny.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS 2002

LEINSTER COACHING AND GAMES DEVELOPMENT

- a General
- b Leinster Hurling Development Report
- c Leinster Football Development Report
- d Cumann na mBunscol Laighean
- e Comhairle Iarbhunscoileanna Laighean Report
- f Leinster Third Level Colleges Report
- g Leinster Tutors Report
- h Leinster Handball Report

LEINSTER REFEREES ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

LEINSTER P.R., MARKETING & I.T. REPORT

LEINSTER CLUB ORGANISATION & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

LEINSTER CLUB FIXTURES REPORT

LEINSTER DEVELOPMENT (Health & Safety) REPORT

LEINSTER DEVELOPMENT (Grounds & Facilities) REPORT

LEINSTER COMHAIRLE & I.T. TRAINING REPORT

COISDE SCÓR LAIGHEAN



The Dunshaughlin team which defeated Mattock Rangers in the final of the 2002 A.I.B. Leinster Club Football Championship

Back L-R: Niall Kelly, Richie Kealy, Michael McHale, Ray Moloney, Ronan Gogan, David Crimmins, Dermot Kealy.

Front L-R: Brendan Kealy, Trevor Dowd, David Tonge, Denis Kealy, Martin Reilly, Ken McTigue, Ronnie Yore and Fergal Gogan.

COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Jimmy Dunne (Cathaoirleach), John McCarthy (Runaí), Paul Kinsella (Cumann na mBunscol), Michael Reynolds (Second Level Schools), Michael Farrell (Vocational Schools), Martin Maher (Third Level Colleges), John Horan (Football Development Committee), Paddy Kelly (Hurling Development Committee), Noel O'Sullivan (Tutors Group), Tom Walsh (Liathróid Láimhe), Paddy Oliver (Lú), Brian Carberry (Mhí), Donal Hickey (Baile Átha Cliath), Martin Coleman (Cill Mhantáin), Willie Carley (Loch Garman), John McCarthy (Cill Dara), Ger Lennon (Ceatharloch), Tom O'Hanlon (Cill Chainnigh), Johnny Dalton (Laois), Christy Hand (Uibh Fháilí), Seamus Ó Faoláin (Iarmhí), Eugene Quaine (Longfort).



COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jimmy Dunne (Cathaoirleach), John McCarthy (Rúnaí), Paul Kinsella (Cumann na mBunscol), Michael Reynolds (Second Level Schools), Michael Farrell (Vocational Schools), Martin Maher (Third Level Colleges), John Horan (Football Development Committee), Paddy Kelly (Hurling Development Committee), Noel O'Sullivan (Tutors Group), Tom Walsh (Liathróid Láimhe), Seamus Ó Faoláin (Iar Mhí), Brian Carberry (Mhí), John McCarthy (Cill Dara), Donal Hickey (Baile Átha Cliath).

COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jimmy Dunne (Cathaoirleach), John McCarthy (Rúnaí), Michael Delaney (Rúnaí Comhairle Laighean), Michael Reynolds (Second Level Schools - Non Dublin), Tom O'Donnell (Second Level Schools - Dublin), Tom Fitzpatrick (Cumann na mBunscol - Dublin), Lester Ryan (Senior Coaching Director), Noel Delaney (Coaching Director), & Gerard O'Connor (Coaching Director).

Coaching And Games Development Committee

The principal objective of the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee and its component Work Groups are to increase playing numbers and to improve playing standards at every level within the province. These bodies have undertaken a number of different yet mutually supportive initiatives aimed at achieving these objectives. While all of the various workgroups have a report on their activities the following is a brief summary of what has been undertaken and achieved during the year under review.

National Strategic Coaching Plan

Quality coaching is an essential element throughout the performance ladder in Gaelic Games. The County Games Promotional Officers (GPO) has been at the coalface of this development for a number of years. The role of the GPO however has evolved at different rates and in different ways within each county, but what is evident now is the new challenge they face to implement the new Strategic Coaching Plan that will nurture the School/Club link. This is a challenge both for

the GPO's and the Club representatives who will undertake to deliver the programme in the primary schools.

Within Leinster all counties are now involved in the project and in general there seems to be a willingness on the part of the clubs to now realize that the future success of the association within their areas necessitates having a good coaching and games plan that embraces both the club and school working in close liaison with each other.

Second Level Schools

As a result of funding from the Sports Council of Ireland which was obtained through the National Coaching and Games Committee Comhairle Laighean has been able this year to give additional financial support to the promotion of the games within the second level schools sector. Through the County Coaching and Games Committees plans have been received outlining how this finance will be disbursed. Some of the plans are very positive and will, I have no doubt show very fruitful results in the coming years.

GAMES PROMOTION OFFICERS

COUNTIES

LOUTH	John Byrne		
MEATH	Christine O'Brien	Dudley Farrell	Gillian Bennett (Temporary)
DUBLIN DESIGNATED AREAS	Declan Power Eimear Dignam Martin Nolan	Annette Billings Terri O'Boyle Peter Elliott	Therese Carey
WICKLOW	Hugh Kenny		
WEXFORD	Paul Carty	Jimmy Furlong	
KILDARE	David Murphy	Noel Mooney	
CARLOW	Brendan Hayden	Johnny Nevin	
KILKENNY	Briain Ryan	George Leahy	
LAOIS	Siobhán Reynolds	Ciarán Muldowney	
OFFALY	John Leahy		
WESTMEATH	Michael McHugh Comhairle Laighean gives a €6,350 grant towards a FAS Scheme in Iar Mhí.		
LONGFORD	T.J. Ward	Mary Burke	Noel Boyce (Hurling)

THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES

Dundalk I.T.	Michael Heeney
Athlone I.T.	Louise O'Brien
Carlow I.T.	Valerie Crean
U.C.D.	Dave Billings
D.C.U.	Tom O'Donnell (also acts as the Dublin Second Level Schools Development Officer)
D.I.T.	Des O'Donnell
Trinity College	Ray O'Brien
St. Pat's College	Tom Fitzpatrick
Blanchardstown I.T.	Ronan Keaskin (combined with the promotion of other sports)
Tallaght I.T.	Gerry Anderson
Maynooth	Tom Maher

OTHER

Second Level Schools – Non-Dublin	Michael Reynolds (also Assistant Chief Executive of Comhairle Laighean)
Senior Coaching Director - South Leinster	Lester Ryan
Coaching Director - North Leinster	Noel Delaney
Coaching Director - Dublin	Gerard O'Connor

Third Level Colleges

One of the great success stories of the association is the high profile and popularity of our games within the Third Level sector. The Leinster Council has supported this development in some very tangible ways. The appointment of full time and part time G.P.Os in the Third Level Colleges has enhanced the profile of our games and increased the playing numbers.

This year a further appointment was made with Tom Fitzpatrick being appointed as full time Coaching Administrator to St Patrick's Teacher Training College Drumcondra.

We have every confidence that this appointment will have great beneficial results for all our counties as the new primary school teachers will have the benefit of a in-depth appreciation and knowledge of Gaelic Games activities within the college prior to they taking up their appointments as primary school teachers.

Tom O'Donnell continues to liaise with and support the Third Level sector and we are indebted to him for his involvement.

Coach Education Programme

A very positive development during the year was the implementation of a course to train potential tutors for each county within the province. This will allow all the counties to be self sufficient in many aspects of coach education and will also establish core personnel to deliver the various courses within the coach education programme. In excess of thirty have completed the course and great credit is due to the Tutor Committee for their work in this sector.

Designated Areas Scheme (DUBLIN)

In early January the new Designated Areas scheme was launched in Croke Park. Two new programme managers were appointed. Peter Elliott to Crumlin/Good Counsel Clubs and Martin Nolan to Trinity Gaels/Naomh Barrog Clubs. With a new managerial structure in place along with a much stronger role by the club this project will have very definite benefits to the four participating clubs. It is intended to extend this project to other Dublin Clubs during the year.

Lár Páirce

Two issues of Lar Pairce were issued during 2002. At the present time a new edition is being compiled. This publication is a very valuable vehicle in circulating the news of our achievements along with the many projects that are ongoing within the province. We owe Tom Fitzpatrick and Tom O'Donnell a deep debt of gratitude for their work as compilers of the materials and editors of the magazine.

Bursaries

This year was the third year in which Comhairle Laighean presented twenty-one young students with Bursaries to assist them with their Third Level College Education. The recipients and their families are most appreciative of this very worthwhile activity. Currently we have now sixty students receiving assistance through our bursaries scheme.

Those receiving bursary awards for 2002/3 were:

NAME	COUNTY	COLLEGE
Paul Begley	Laois	D.I.T.
Martin Phelan	Kilkenny	D.I.T.
Sean O' Connor	Dublin	D.I.T.
Fergus Morris	Dublin	Tallaght I.T.
Brian O' Shea	Dublin	Tallaght I.T.
Gerard McCullagh	Meath	Blanchardstown I.T.
Noel Flynn	Meath	Maynooth
Margaret McNearney	Longford	Maynooth
Gemma Fay	Dublin	Maynooth
Anne Duignan	Westmeath	Athlone I.T.
Alan Reynolds	Meath	Athlone I.T.
Seamus Dempsey	Wexford	St Patrick's
Eoin O' Neill	Wicklow	St Patrick's
Patrick Connolly	Dublin	Trinity
Thomas Quinn	Dublin	D.C.U.
Ronan Carroll	Louth	D.C.U.
Niall McAuliffe	Dublin	D.C.U.
Thomas Fitzpatrick	Offaly	Carlow I.T.
Daragh McEvoy	Laois	Carlow I.T.
Hugh Lynch	Kildare	N.C.I.
Sharon Daly	Offaly	U.C.D.

Finance

As one will see from the balance sheet in excess of one million Euro was invested by Comhairle Laighean in games development during the past year. A new pay scale for G.P.O's was introduced and coupled with that the subvention to the counties was increased to fifteen thousand Euro per Coach. With that financial investment come responsibilities on us all to ensure that we are getting value for money and that our coaching and games programme in our counties are properly managed and that at each county board meeting time is given to discussing the activities of the County Coaching and Games Committee.

The coming year will bring many opportunities for Comhairle Laighean to continue with its programme of coaching and games development.

- * The expansion of the Designated areas in Dublin.
- * Increased participation in our Summer Camps.
- * The launch of the D.J. Carey School of Hurling.
- * The introduction of additional tutors in the Coach Education Programme.
- * More activities within the Primary and Second Level Schools.
- * Increased involvement within our third Level Colleges
- * The formalisation and implementation of a support mechanism for new Bona Fide clubs.

These are just a few areas that the Coaching and Games Committee will be concentrating on in the coming year.

Críoch

To support all the programmes of the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee one is always conscious of the demands that are placed on a number of people. We are very fortunate here in Leinster where we have a very united and committed council that are fully supportive of the various projects under our remit.

The Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach Nicky Brennan and Liam O'Neill both former chairmen of this committee are always only too happy to respond to our needs likewise the Runai Michael O'Dubhshlaine is always available to give his total commitment to our requirements. Michael Reynolds and Patricia Clear who are part of the administrative staff give of their time in a most unselfish way and when the need arises Hannah Horan and Julie Quinn are also very willing to assist us in what ever is required. We thank them all for their support.

We are also very appreciative of the excellent work of John Cotter in securing much needed sponsorship for our activities.

At the coalface we have as dedicated a group of people as one would wish to have in our G.P.O's' who are delivering in a most professional manner the coaching programme throughout the counties of Leinster. To oversee this our three Provincial Coaching and Games Directors Lester Ryan, Noel Delaney and Ger O' Connor work beyond the call of duty to ensure that we have all our programmes of activities implemented. To all our coaching staff a sincere thank you.

Finally we thank our County Coaching Officers , the members of the Football ,Hurling and Tutor Group Sub Committees our Executive, schoolteachers Primary, Second Level and Third Level for their work and commitment to what was a very busy but beneficial year.

Séamus Ó Duinn
Cathaoirleach

Seán Mac Carthaigh
Rúnaí

LEINSTER HURLING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2002

As chairman of this committee for my first year I would like to thank everybody for all their hard work in the promotion and development of hurling both within their own counties and within the province in 2002.

I took over as chairman after the Leinster convention from Pat Doyle and I would like to pay tribute to him for his endeavors in the promotion of the game during his reign as chairman.

The committee is made up as follows:

Chairman	Paddy Kelly
Secretary	Jim Ryan
Coaching Director	Lester Ryan

and the following representatives from each county:

Carlow	Paul Dunbar
Dublin	Con O'Donoghue
Kildare	Larry Harney replaced by Ger Curtin
Kilkenny	Johnny Comerford
Laois	Pat Delaney
Louth	Tom Ryan
Longford	Lisa Brady
Meath	Tom Kirwan
Offaly	Christy Hand
Westmeath	Seamus Whelan
Wexford	Mick Kinsella
Wicklow	Tom Byrne

Dublin Under 12 Festival of Hurling 22/06/02

Dublin hosted about 80 teams for this festival and we provided medals and this was a huge undertaking by Dublin and I think it was a total success. I attended some of the venues and it was great to see such large numbers of 12 year olds enjoying the game, which I think enjoyment of the game is the most important thing at that age.

All arrangements ie.pitches, referees and food were top class and great credit to Con O'Donoghue, Noreen Firth and Tom Ryan to name some of the many people involved.

Leinster Under 16 Hurling Blitz, Laois 06/07/02

Eighteen teams travelled to Laois to take part in this annual blitz with a total of six venues being used during the day. Games took place in the morning with a break for lunch and more games in the afternoon. There were some notable good performances with Meath & Westmeath teams getting good results against some of the Kilkenny teams.

Great credit to Pat Delaney and Johnny Dalton and the ladies and gentlemen of Laois in first class organization of pitches, games and food for such large numbers on the day.

We presented each team with polo shirts and mentors with training jackets, which were very well received and appreciated. I think it was a nice gesture to acknowledge mentors to whom the association is deeply indebted for looking after the stars of tomorrow.

Leinster Adult Long Puck

Winner was Ciaran Divilly from the Confey Club in Kildare who was the best out of twelve competitors in O'Moore Park on 13/7/02.

Leinster Under 14 Blitz, Kilkenny 20/07/02

This blitz took place in Clara and we had teams from Kilkenny,Offaly,Dublin,Laois and Wexford. This was a great days hurling and each player got a presentation of a polo shirt after the blitz.

Great credit to Joe Pike,Lester Ryan,Johnny Comerford for organizing the blitz and the Clara club for their facilities. Meals were provided to everybody when the blitz was over.

Leinster Under 14 Blitz, Carlow 27/7/02

This blitz took place in Carlow and Carlow, Meath, Westmeath, Wicklow, Kildare, Longford and Laois took part. Many thanks to Paul Dunbar and Dan Harnady for the use of the magnificent facilities at their disposal. Thanks to Lester and Jim Ryan who organized things on the day and again each player got a polo shirt after the blitz.

Leinster Under 15 Blitz, Three Venues 24/08/02

Blitz 1 - Banagher, Co. Offaly

Offaly, Dublin, Wexford and Laois had two teams in the blitz and Kilkenny had three teams. There were some great games in this blitz and Offaly came out as winners with some great matches particularly against Wexford and Dublin. Great credit to Christy Hand and Martin Heffernan and the Offaly officials for looking after the provision of pitches, referees and food for everybody on the day. All teams got a presentation of a polo shirt and mentors got a training jacket.

Blitz 2 - Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow

Wicklow, Meath, Westmeath, Kildare, Carlow and Dublin North took part in this blitz. Meath won the blitz on the day and everybody witnessed some brilliant matches which were greatly enjoyed and contested in a sporting manner. Many thanks to Martin Coleman and Tom Byrne for their work in organizing the pitches, officials and the food for the day. Again all players got polo shirts and mentors got training jackets.

Blitz 3 - Longford

Longford, Meath, Louth and Wicklow took part in this blitz in the Slashers ground. Thanks to Lisa Brady and Longford for looking after the pitches and food for the day. Each player got a polo shirt and mentors got training jackets.

Leinster Juvenile Long Puck

This took place on 30/8/02 in O'Moore Park and Keith O'Toole from Meath was the winner out of twelve competitors.

D.J. Carey School of Hurling

Members of the Leinster Hurling Committee are delighted that their idea for a residential "School of Hurling" for 14 year olds, has been given the green light by the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee. For this we extend our thanks to Jimmy Dunne (Chairman).

The D.J. Carey School of Hurling will be the most significant project undertaken by the Leinster Hurling Committee in the coming year. Under-14 squads from all Counties in Leinster will participate in St. Kierans College, Kilkenny.

Plans for The D.J. Carey School of Hurling are now at an advanced stage. It was Officially launched by Nickey Brennan on 31st January and the special guest on the night was DJ Carey.

D.J. has allowed his name to be associated with this exciting venture and will have a significant input both at the planning stage and during the School of Hurling.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lester and Jim Ryan for their help to me during 2002 and also the representatives from each county on our committee.

I think hurling people and our committee face a major task ahead to keep hurling alive in every county in our province and we need to constantly look for new ideas and methods of getting more children to play the game at a decent standard.

We need to look seriously at the downtime in hurling between October and April when young children are not able to get onto the pitches.

There is a serious need for all weather floodlit pitches and halls for indoor hurling in each county for the game to continue over this period or indeed any period of bad weather.

LEINSTER FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2002



The past year was a learning one for the Football Committee as the members were all new to the position.

All Counties are represented on the Committee and at our first meeting it was agreed that an Executive be set up comprising of John Horan (Chairman) Michael McHugh (Secretary) Noel Delaney (Coaching Director) and a representative from four Counties who would serve for one year - in this way each County would be represented on the Executive over the period of the Committee's term of office - the members for 2002 were Jerry Moran (Kildare) Tom O'Hanlon (Kilkenny) Martin Heffernan (Offaly) and Alan Ahern (Wexford).

Meetings were held on a regular basis throughout the year relating mainly to the organising of football blitzes/tournaments for County Schools of Excellence and Development Squads and providing assistance to Counties.

The first Blitzes, held on the 6th April 2002, were for the Under 15's and took place at three venues - St.Lomans Mullingar, St.Laurences Kildare and Carlow Town Hurling Club.

Next up were the Under 14's - again there were three groups and nine counties entered two teams. Group 1 - five counties, Group 2 - four counties and Group 3 - three counties.

The tournament was organised in May and June 2002 over five dates and this was a departure from previous years and proved most successful.

The Under 16 tournament was organised close to its traditional time - the Halloween Mid -Term School break. There were four groups of four teams - Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Westmeath entered two teams.

The first games were played on the 19th October 2002 and subsequent games played on 26th, 28th October, semi-finals on 30th October and finals on 2nd November 2002.

An excellent match programme - sponsored by C & R

Print Enniscorthy - was produced for the finals of the Under 16 Tournament by Executive Member Alan Ahern (Wexford).

A feature of all the Blitzes / Tournaments was that instead of medals for Winners only all players participating were presented with a polo shirt and all team mentors were presented with a fleece jacket. The Committee also assisted Kildare in organising an Under 15 four County Tournament.

A very successful 'Coaching Seminar' was organised on the 1st February 2003 in D.C.U. aimed at mentors involved with County Schools of Excellence & Development Squads.

Speakers at the seminar were Jimmy Dunne (Chairman Coaching & Games Development), Pat Daly (Head of Games-Croke Park), Dr. Niall Moyna (Sports Science Dept. Dublin City University) and Paul Caffrey (Dublin Selector).

Finally, thanks to all members of the Committee, to Michael Reynolds and all the staff at Aras Laighean for their assistance at all times throughout the year and to the Counties for their co-operation in the running of the various blitzes / tournaments.

CUMANN NA mBUNSCOL LAIGHEAN

Report to Comhairle Laighean Convention 2003



Cumann na mBunscol Laighean planned games promotion projects that were well received and supported giving 460 pupils an opportunity to represent their school.

Games Programme

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Indoor Hurling - Nat. Basketball Arena
All 12 counties involved | 05/12/01 |
| 2 | Mullingar Catch & Kick
Westmeath, Longford, Offaly, Louth,
Dublin & Meath 5th classes | 01/05/02 |
| 3 | Celbridge Ground Hurling Tens
Kildare, Laois, Dublin, Louth, Offaly,
Meath - 4th class pupils | 17/05/02 |
| 4 | Carlow Lift & Strike
Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Laois,
Wicklow, Dublin - 6th class pupils | 19/06/02 |
| 5 | Friendship Games
Wicklow v Fingal Dublin v Cill Dara | May / June 2002 |
| 6 | Leinster Hurling Final Mini Game
12 minute game Kilkenny v Wexford | 07/07/02 |
| 7 | Leinster Football Final Mini Game
12 minute game Kildare v Dublin | 14/07/02 |

Publicity

We featured in Highball, ScoilSport, Lár Páirce, The Star, Leinster Match Programmes and Westmeath Examiner. Coverage of our Games Programme was extensive and I am very grateful to Jerry Grogan for his support. Coverage was also available on Website of Cumann na mBunscol Áth Cliath for our Games Programme 2002 www.gaa.ie/cnmb.

Promotions

1. Leinster Club Football Final

At this game between Na Fianna and Rathnew on 16/12/2001 a raffle for 20 footballs was held. Thanks to our Uachtarán Tom Ryan for making presentations.

2. Roadstone Awards

Leinster counties did very well on the night with Nominations & Awards. Carlow, Wicklow, Wexford & Dublin. Congratulations to all involved.

Grants

Cumann na mBunscol is very grateful for the support received from Comhairle Laighean during the year and the financial help from Comhairle Laighean was distributed to counties on 26/01/02. €380 additional support issued to each county on 19/11/01 for completed projects.

Coiste 2002

Uachtarán	Tom Ryan
Cathaoirleach	Gearóid Ó Meara
Leas Cathaoirleach	David Finnegan
Runaí	Tomás Mac Giolla Phadraig
Cisteoir	Tom Ryan
O.C.P.	David Finnegan
Delegate to Co. Laighean	Paul Kinsella

Proposed Games Programme 2003

- 1 Mullingar 'Catck & Kick' Tens
6 North Leinster Counties - 6th Class Pupils
St. Loman's in May
- 2 Celbridge 'Ground Hurling' Tens
6 North Leinster Counties - 4th Class Pupils
Celbridge G.A.A. Club in June
- 3 Carlow 'Lift & Strike'
6 South Leinster Counties - 5th Class Pupils
Carlow Hurling Club in June
- 4 Festival of Indoor Hurling
12 Counties - 4th Class Pupils
N.B.A. Tallaght in December
- 5 Leinster Finals Mini Games
4 County selections - 15 minute - Football/Hurling
Páirc an Chrócaigh in July
- 6 Leinster Mini Games
Provincial Venues for Mini Games
between competing counties in May / June
- 7 Cill Chainnigh Liathróid Láimhe Day
Beginners Handball
Dublin / Kilkenny in November / December
- 8 Wexford 'Catch & Kick' Tens
6 South Leinster Counties - 5th Classes
Wexford Park in May
- 9 Laois 'Camogie Challenge'
6 South Leinster Counties 5th / 6th Classes
Portlaoise in June
- 10 Coláiste Phádraig Blitz
12 County Blitz Day Hurling / Football
Drumcondra in June

Tomás Mac Giolla Phádraig (runaí)

Gearóid Ó Meara (cathaoirleach)

CUMANN IARBHUNSCOILEANNA LAIGHEAN



BUATHOIRI AGUS NEASOIRI 2001/2002

COMÓRTAS BÚATHOIRÍ NEASÓIRÍ

PEIL

Colleges S.F. "A"	Dundalk Schools	St. Pat's, Navan
Voc. Sch. S.F. "A"	Ard. Chiarain, Clara	St. Oliver's, Drogheda
Colleges S.F. "B"	Moyne C.S.	Portmarnock C.S.
Voc. Sch. S.F. "B"	Ashbourne C.S.	Sc. Aireagail, Ballhale
Schools S.F. "C"	Pres. D.L.S., Bag'st'n	Col. Dhulaigh, Coolock

Jun. F. "A"	Scoil Dheaglain	Portlaoise C.B.S.
Jun. F. "B"	Drimnagh Castle C.B.S.	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny
Jun. F. "C"	Bridgetown V.C.	St. Finian's C.C., Swords
Jun. F. "D"	Carlow V.S.	Mercy, Kilbeggan

Voc. Sch. Jun. F. "A"	Tullamore Col.	St. Oliver's, Drogheda
Voc. Sch. Jun. F. "B"	Lucan C.C.	St. Finian's, Swords

Juv. F. "A"	Good Counsel Col.	Ardscoil Ris
Juv. F. "B"	St. Mac Dara's C.C.	Carlow C.B.S.
Juv. F. "C"	Sc. Chonglais, B'glass	Dunshaughlin C.C.
Juv. F. "D"	St. Brendan's, Bray	O'Connell Schools

Inter County "A"	Meath	Wicklow
Inter County "B"	Carlow	Westmeath

IOMÁINT

Cols S.H. "A"	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	Kilkenny C.B.S.
Cols S.H. "A" Lge	Cistercian, Roscrea	St. Kieran's,
Cols S.H. "B"	Castlecomer C.S.	Col. E. Ris, Callan
Cols S.H. "B" Shd	Colaiste Eanna	Colaiste Eoin

Voc. Sch. S.H. "A"	Col. Mhuire, J'stown	St. Fergal's, R'downey
Voc. Sch. S.H. "B"	Borris V.S.	Enniscorthy V.C.

Jun. H. "A"	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	St. Peter's, Wexford
Jun. H. "A" Shd	Castlecomer C.S.	St. Brendan's C.S., Birr
Jun. H. "B"	St. Declan's, Cabra	Portlaoise C.B.S.

Voc. Sch. Jun. H. "A"	Kilcormac V.S.	Sc. Aireagail, B'hale
Voc. Sch. Jun. H. "B"	Bridgetown V.C.	Tullamore College

Juv. H. "A"	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	Good Counsel Col.
Juv. H. "A" Shd	St. Mary's, E'corthy	St. Peter's, Wexford
Juv. H. "B"	F.C.J., Bunclody	St. Rynagh's CC, B'gher

ATH CLIATH

Juv. H. "A"	Colaiste Eanna	Ardscoil Ris
Juv. H. "B"	Scoil Aodhain	Malahide C.S.
Juv. H. "C"	St. Paul's Col, Raheny	James St. C.B.S.
Juv. H. "D"	Marian College	Clonkeen College

Jun. H. "A"	St. Declan's C.B.S.	St. David's C.B.S.
Jun. H. "B"	St. Aidan's C.B.S.	St. Mac Dara's C.C.
Jun. H. "C"	St. Paul's College	Confey College
Jun. H. "D"	Oatlands College	Old Bawn C.S.

Sen. H. "A"	Colaiste Eoin	St. Declan's C.B.S.
Sen. H. "A" Shd	Colaiste Eanna	St. David's C.B.S.
Sen. H. "B"	Lucan C.B.S.	St. Mark's C.S.
Sen. H. "C"	Colaiste Chillian	St. Joseph's C.B.S.

Juv. F. "A"	Ardscoil Ris	St. Declan's C.B.S.
Juv. F. "B"	St. Mac Dara's C.C.	Colaiste Eoin
Juv. F. "C"	Old Bawn C.S.	H.F.C.S., Rathcoole
Juv. F. "D"	Scoil Ui Chonaill	Castleknock C.C.
Juv. F. "E"	St. Aidan's C.S.	Greenhills College

Jun. F. "A"	St. Declan's C.B.S.	Gormanston College
Jun. F. "B"	Drimnagh Castle CBS	Old Bawn C.S.
Jun. F. "C"	St. Finian's C.C.	Blakestown C.S.
Jun. F. "D"	Confey College	Palmerstown C.S.
Jun. F. "E"	O.L.M., Drimnagh	Pobalscoil, Neasain

Sen. F. "A"	Colaiste Eoin	St. Benildus College
Sen. F. "B"	Portmarnock C.S.	Malahide C.S.
Sen. F. "C"	Colaiste Dhulaigh	St. Vincent's C.B.S.
Sen. F. "D"	Marian College	Colaiste de hIde

LAIGHEAN THEAS

PEIL

Col. S.F. "B"	Portlaoise C.B.S.	F.C.J., Bunclody
Sch. S.F. "C"	Pres. D.L.S., B'town	Wicklow D.L.S.
Sch. S.F. League	Ballyfin College	St. Peter's, Wexford

Jun. F. "A"	Portlaoise C.B.S.	Knockbeg College
Jun. F. "B"	St. Kieran's, K'kenney	Carlow C.B.S.
Jun. F. "C"	Bridgetown V.C.	St. Kevin's, Dunlavin
Jun. F. "D1"	Ramsgrange C.S.	Blessington C.C.
Jun. F. "D2"	Carlow V.S.	Col. Cois Siuire, M'coin

Juv. F. "A"	Good Counsel Col.	St. Peter's, Wexford
Juv. F. "B"	Carlow C.B.S.	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny
Juv. F. "C"	Sc. Chonglais, B'glass	Wicklow D.L.S.
Juv. F. "D1"	St. Brendan's, Bray	Abbey C.C.
Juv. F. "D2"	Grennan Col., T'town	Col. Eoin, Hacketstown

IOMÁINT

Sch. Sen. H. "C1"	Kilmuckridge V.C.	Pres. D.L.S., B'town
Sch. Sen. H. "C2"	Knockbeg College	Tullow C.S.

Jun. H. "B"	Portlaoise C.B.S.	Gorey C.S.
Jun. H. "C1"	Col. Mhuire, J'stown	Pres. D.L.S., B'town
Jun. H. "C2"	Knockbeg College	Tullow C.S.
Jun. H. "D"	New Ross V.C.	New Ross C.B.S.

Juv. H. "B"	F.C.J., Bunclody	St. Fergal's, R'downey
Juv. H. "C"	Sc. Aireagail, B'hale	Ramsgrange C.S.
Juv. H. "D"	Grennan Col., T'town	Col.Cois Siuire, M'coin

LAIGHEAN THUAIHD

PEIL

Colleges S.F. "B"	Moynes C.S.	Sc. Dara, Kilcock
Schools S.F. "C"	Cnoc Mhuire, Granard	Athboy Schools

Sch. S.F. Lge "A"	St. Pat's, Navan	Mullingar C.B.S.
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Jun. F. "A"	St. Mel's, Longford	St. Pat's, Navan
Jun. F. "B"	St. Joseph's, Drogheda	St. Oliver's, Drogheda
Jun. F. "C"	Ferbane Schools	Ardee C.S.
Jun. F. "D"	Mercy, Kilbeggan	Lanesborough C.C.

Juv. F. "A"	Boyne C.S.	St. Mel's, Longford
Juv. F. "B"	Kells C.S.	St. Mary's, Edenderry
Juv. F. "C"	Dunshaughlin C.C.	Bush P.P.
Juv. F. "D1"	Cnoc Mhuire, Granard	Ashbourne C.S.
Juv. F. "D2"	St. Rynagh's, B'gher	Ballymahon V.S.

IOMÁINT

Sch.Sen.H."C1"	Col. Choilm, T'more	St. Joseph's, R'bridge
Sch.Sen.H."C2"	St. Pat's, Navan	Dunshaughlin C.C.

Jun. H. "B"	L.S.U., Banagher	Cistercian, Roscrea
Jun. F. "C"	Tullamore College	Col. Choilm, T'more
Jun. H. "D"	St. Peter's, D'boyne	Columba Col., Killucan

Juv. H. "B"	St. Rynagh's, B'gher	Kilcormac V.S.
Juv. H. "C"	Col. Choilm, T'more	L.S.U., Banagher
Juv. H. "D1"	Dunshaughlin C.C.	Kells C.S.
Juv. H. "D2"	Castlepollard C.C.	Ballymahon Schools

HANDBALL

COLLEGES - 60 x 30 "A"

U-19 Singles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Castlecomer C.S.
U-19 Doubles	F.C.J., Bunclody	Castlecomer C.S.
U-17 Singles	Pres. DLS, Bag'stown	Kells C.S.
U-17 Doubles	Castlecomer C.S.	St. Peter's, Wexford
U-15 Singles	Mullingar C.C.	St. Mary's CBS, E'corthy
U-15 Doubles	St. Kieran's, K'kenney	Col. Bhríde, Carnew
First Yr. Singles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	Carlow C.B.S.
First Yr. Doubles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	Carlow C.B.S.

COLLEGES - 60 x 30 "B"

U-19 Singles	Sc. Aireagail, B'hale	Col. San Froinsias
U-19 Doubles	Kells C.S.	Kilkenny C.B.S.
U-17 Singles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Kilkenny C.B.S.
U-17 Doubles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	Kells C.S.
U-15 Singles	Good Counsel Col.	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny
U-15 Doubles	Col. San Froinsias	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny
First Yr. Singles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Kells C.S.
First Yr. Doubles	Kells C.S.	St. Peter's, Wexford

COLLEGES - 40 x 20 "A"

U-19 Singles	Kells C.S.	St. Peter's, Wexford
U-19 Doubles	F.C.J., Bunclody	Castlecomer C.S.
U-17 Singles	Kells C.S.	Pres. DLS, Bag'stown
U-17 Doubles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Castlecomer C.S.
U-15 Singles	Mullingar C.C.	Enniscorthy C.B.S.
U-15 Doubles	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	
First Yr. Singles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	Carlow C.B.S.
First Yr. Doubles	Pres. Carlow	Kilkenny C.B.S.

COLLEGES - 40 x 20 "B"

U-19 Singles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Col. San Froinsias
U-19 Doubles	Kells C.S.	
U-17 Singles	St. Peter's, Wexford	
U-17 Doubles	Castlecomer C.S.	Kells C.S.
U-15 Singles	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	Col. Ch., Leixlip
U-15 Doubles	Knockbeg College	St. Peter's, Wexford
First Yr. Singles	Good Counsel Col.	Kells C.S.
First Yr. Doubles	Kells C.S.	

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS - 40 x 20 "A"

Sen. "A" Singles	Carlow V.S.	Sc. Aireagail, B'hale
Sen. "A" Doubles	Col. Bhríde, Carnew	Carlow V.S.
Jun. "A" Singles	Carlow V.S.	Enniscorthy V.C.
Jun. "A" Doubles	Col. Bhríde, Carnew	Carlow V.S.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS - 40 x 20 "B"

Sen. "B" Singles	Wexford V.C.	Carlow V.S.
Sen. "B" Doubles	Wexford V.C.	Carlow V.S.
Jun. "B" Singles	Sc. Aireagail, B'hale	Ardsc. Ch., Clara
Jun. "B" Doubles	Bunclody V.C.	Ardsc. Ch., Clara

Tuairisc an Rúnaí

This year's role of honour includes a "first"! Dundalk Schools in their second year in the competition became the first combined team to win the Colleges S.F. "A" title. Credit to the Louth County Board whose initiative to raise the profile of Gaelic football in the Dundalk area was rewarded sooner than anticipated. With the Dublin Colleges success of last year and the combinations in Munster perhaps it is a sign of more to come.

During the year there were many excellent games both in Hurling and Football. Unfortunately it has to be recorded that our Colleges S.F. "B" Championship was not as it is intended to be. The reality is that Moyne C.S. were simply far too strong for the competition.

Some other results show the difficulties of grading across the Province. Two or three strong players particularly in the lower grades can literally destroy a section of competition. Grading is not an art - rather it depends to a large extent on mentors anxious and willing to play at the highest grade possible. Can we do more to reduce the temptation to do otherwise.

The past year has had its share of positives and negatives. On the positive side the tremendous weather before Christmas ensured a relatively trouble free run on fixtures (much to the delight of almost everyone). The opposite was the case from January to mid March. A very wet February brought all of us crashing down to earth. Bad weather on its own can be dealt with but when the many other problems of a second term are added fixture issues become a complete lottery.

It's an understatement to say that the first term is action packed (particularly if both Football and Hurling are involved). Examine our fixture programme for the Second Term, from a distance one might be forgiven for thinking that hectic First term schedule could be reduced. Need one require any convincing having experienced the Spring of 2002. Our Junior Football Competitions took an absolute hammering since the turn of the year. As it is we cannot deliver as presently structured.

The Comhairle's decision to re-introduce score difference while not ideal is a realistic attempt to improve matters. Equally I believe week-ends should be used (sparingly) to clear the decks.

We can have little complaint with the availability of pitches. Despite the extreme pressure in February/March on the main grounds in the Province most of our Finals throughout the year were played at excellent venues. The Vocational Schools S.H. "A" Final was not so lucky. The game doubled as the All Ireland Vocational Schools Q/Final. It was played a full four weeks late.

Hurling always runs the risk of playing in mud baths pre-Easter. Thus the onus on all Cumann Luthchleas Gael units to make an extra effort to have their pitches Hurling friendly.

While discussing our Hurling Competitions I suggest that Ard Chomhairle na nGairmscoileanna will have to seriously look at the merits or otherwise of the Vocational Schools Inter County Hurling Competition. Cork, Galway and Tipperary! Is there any other County with even an outside chance of getting to the Final?

Some of our Hurling Competitions require major surgery particularly "C" and "D". In one of the regions a mentor stated that the Senior "C" Hurling was a "sham". Unfortunately he spoke the truth. There is a challenge to be faced.

The Strategic Review Committee's report was published earlier this year. Much media attention was focused on the proposal to have 2 Dublin teams in the Leinster S.F. Championship. Incredibly the vast majority of the Committee's proposals/suggestions that have been ignored by the self same media.

In the report there are quite a number of proposals regarding all the Educational sectors. True to say that many of the proposals are not new. But never before has a Committee's Report provided our leaders the opportunity to implement rather than collect dust. The proposal to limit young players moving up only 2 years is most welcome. Time will tell on the success or otherwise of the report. Hopefully the Úachtarán Tofa will ensure that the Educational Sectors will benefit during his term of office.

From time to time at Schools level we feel that we are a botheration as far as the general body of the G.A.A. is concerned. However, we in Leinster get tremendous support from Comhairle Laighean. In the Financial Year ending 30th November 2001 Comhairle Laighean's contribution to Second Level Schools in the Province was €317,434.52 (£250,000.00). Comhairle Laighean's support for teachers and schools is much more than the considerable Financial impact.

Comhairle Laighean through its Club Facilities & Development Committee intends to grant aid the improvement of pitches at a number of chosen locations to facilitate Schools games during the Winter period (neutral venues). Furthermore the Comhairle has approved the appointment of 3 Regional Officers on a part-time basis from September 2002 to assist in the games programme.

Many Counties continue to support Schools particularly with equipment. As highlighted earlier Louth's support of the Dundalk Schools experiment is just one

example. The provision by Comhairle Laighean of complimentary tickets for Leinster Senior Championship games for teachers involved in Second Level Gaelic games is another recognition by the Comhairle of the positive contribution by teachers. I suggest that Comhairle Laighean's practical support should leave no-one in any doubt of the Comhairle's appreciation to all teachers involved in the promotion of Gaelic Games. The provision of gear for our teachers (Nationwide) is another example of practical assistance.

Adoption of S.R.C. and a continued improvement in attitudes nationwide will hopefully once and for all see Gaelic Games promotion at Schools level a central part of Association policy.

The S.R.C. report highlights the problems with regard to the lack of referees. We at Schools level also have our moments. But for the obligation above the call of duty our extensive games programme would be in difficult. Again how serious our units are to improving the situation will be judged by the fate of the S.R.C.'s proposals.

During the year the Comhairle adopted a number of measures to assist in the running of our schedule from next September. I say assist because without the assistance and foresight of you all, the system will not survive. As and from September work experience and other placements will not be a reason for not playing a game as per schedule. A little pre-planning goes a long way.

We can have no complaints with both local media (both radio and print). To say the least, the amount of column inches afforded Schools games by the Irish Independent is very disappointing. In contrast the Irish Examiner's coverage is very good.

This year's Convention brings an end to John Horan's stewardship. During his term of office John had led from the front. As he steps down his it not getting away lightly. For the next 3 years John is Chairman of the Leinster Football Committee. On your behalf and all of us at Aras Laighean I extend thanks to John for his 3 Years as our Chairman and wish him well in his new role. I am sure no one will take offence when one of John's proudest moments during his term was presenting the Dublin Colleges with the Corn Uí Dhuill trophy.

In welcoming "back" our new Chairman, Tom Spain, I extend to him good wishes during his term and assure him of the support of all of us.

What of the future? We are entering uncharted waters! I doubt if anyone can predict the fallout from the changing scene Re: supervision. Equally what of the S.R.C.? Suffice to say that it is incumbent on our leaders to ensure that the positive and proper environment is present to encourage all teachers (new and not so new) to continue the excellent work.

BUÍOCHAS

I extend appreciation to:

A. All teacher and Schools managements for their work and support during the year.

B. To Tom Crotty for his continued P.R. work. Unfortunately in the past year some of Tom's work got "binned" by the Independent. Perhaps with the increasing coverage from The Examiner there will be a reversal of the present trend by the Independent.

C. Tom O'Donnell for his hive of activity in Dublin Schools.

D. Cora Weldon (Schools Officer), Pairc an Chrocaigh, All Ireland Colleges, and Vocational Schools Councils. Despite the disruption during February/March the All Ireland series were all finished by the May Bank Holiday week-end. However, the increasing use of Round Robin systems in the various Provincial Minor Championships is of concern. There is a strong case I believe for both All Ireland bodies to have joint meetings to arrange fixtures. Granted it is easier for the Colleges sector in that they have only Semi-Finals and Finals from Senior "A" and "B" (Football and Hurling) and Football "C".

E. Our Clubs and County Boards for their assistance during the year. Also a number of Schools who allow their facilities to be used when not involved themselves.

F. To the members of the Comhairle. In an effort to streamline the fixtures schedule the Comhairle adopted a number of proposals to improve matters. It would assist all of us if Schools would adopt a policy of cutting their cloth to their measure i.e. do not enter Competitions for the sake of entering. The Comhairle's work would be assisted (positively) if all Schools would adopt a proactive approach to possible fixture problems rather than waiting until the last moment causing considerable inconvenience.

G. To Coca-Cola for their continued support

H. To Comhairle Laighean.

I. To all referees and officials.

J. To John Cotter (Comhairle Laighean) for his assistance Re: programmes for the "A" Finals.

K. To my colleagues in Aras Laighean, Michael, Hannah, Patricia, Maedhbh and Julie.

Thanks to one and all.

Enjoy the Summer!

MICHEAL MAC RAGHNAILL

POSTSCRIPT

Since October 2002, 3 regional Schools Administrators (part-time) have come on board - Fergal Giles (Nth. Leinster); Pat Henderson (Sth. Leinster) and Jim O'Donovan (Dublin). Their work entails assisting in the running of the respective Regional schools fixture programme. Their contribution to date is of great benefit to all concerned. Long may it last!

LEINSTER THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES REPORT



Introduction

Comhairle Ard-Oideachais Laighean has responsibility for the development and organisation of Gaelic games in third level colleges throughout the province. The support of Co. Laighean has been essential over the past year and this support manifests itself in a number of ways:

- * Employment of full-time GAA Development Officers in ten of the colleges
- * Financial support through the allocation of Scéim Iomána and Scéim Peil grants
- * The award of third level bursaries.
- * Support towards the upgrading of playing facilities in a number of the colleges
- * Advice and support of the Coaching and Games Development Committee and the Leinster Coaching Directors.

Competition Review

The two premier third level competitions are the Sigerson Cup (football) and the Fitzgibbon Cup (hurling). Four Leinster colleges reached the last eight of the Sigerson Cup in 2002 - UCD, NUIM, Athlone IT and DCU. Eventual winners, Sligo IT, overcame DCU and Athlone IT in the quarter final and semi-final respectively.

In the Fitzgibbon Cup, UCD was knocked out at quarter-final stage by UCC. In the second division championship, St Patrick's College captured the Trench Cup in football.

The Drumcondra side was beaten in the Ryan Cup hurling championship final by DCU. Pictured below is DCU captain, Colin Herity, receiving the Ryan Cup from Uachtarán CLG, Sean McCague.

A number of competitions are organised at provincial level in an effort to increase participation of students.

The following are the successful colleges in each grade:

* Intermediate Hurling	UCD
* Intermediate Football	DCU
* Freshers Football	NUIM
* Freshers Hurling	DCU
* Freshers Football Shield	Carlow IT

Financial Matters

CAO Laighean is most fortunate to have the financial support of Comhairle Laighean through funding from Scéim Iomána and Scéim Peil. This has enabled the Coiste to allocate resources to the clubs and to finance the running of the various competitions. The following outlines the expenditure for the past year:

* Referees Fees	€ 490
* Catering for teams	€ 3024
* Sliotars	€ 6318
* Footballs	€ 6000
* Jerseys	€ 8655
* Bibs	€ 2540
* Medals/Trophies	€ 1102

Bursaries

This is the third year of the Leinster Council third level bursary scheme. Chairman, Nickey Brennan, presented the awards in Croke Park to twenty-one recipients. The students, all in their first year of third level education, were recognised for their commitment to the GAA and achievements to date. The bursary scheme helps to raise awareness of third level colleges and of Gaelic games in them. There are a total of sixty students now in receipt of Leinster Council bursaries. Many thanks to Chairman of the Coaching and Games Development Committee, Jimmy Dunne, for his work in this area.

Third Level GAA Officers Seminar

Chairman of the Coaching and Games Development, Jimmy Dunne, hosted a seminar for the Leinster third level GAA development officers in Páirc an Chrócaigh in September. Ten colleges were represented. Pat Daly gave a presentation on the under age strategic plan and Dermot Power spoke on the issue of sponsorship. Cathaoirleach Comhairle Laighean, Nickey Brennan, also addressed the meeting. Other issues discussed during the seminar included:

- * Role of development officers in the third level colleges

- * Fixtures/competition structures
- * Bursaries
- * Grants/entitlements

Third Level Issues

The success of UCD in this year's Dublin senior football championship along with the participation of other colleges in their respective county competitions has created much debate about whether or not college teams should be permitted to participate in the championship competitions. Aside from their participation in such competition, third level colleges have much to offer Gaelic games in the province. The playing facilities, many of them with floodlighting, in a number of the colleges are second to none and have been used for club matches and/or by various county squads for training. The juvenile football initiative undertaken by Dr Noel McCaffrey and Dr Niall Moyna in DCU proved to be a major success and other programmes along similar lines are being undertaken.

The facilities and expertise available in third level colleges can be utilised to the further benefit of Gaelic Games in the Leinster. The Sports Science Department in DCU has much to offer in the way of advice on fitness testing, diet and training of players of all ages and level of performance. The recent seminar organised by the Leinster Football Development Committee in DCU is an example of this co-operation. The fitness testing equipment available there is among the most advanced in the country. Appropriate programmes are being developed to optimise technique/skill development among children.

One of the areas that needs to be addressed urgently relates to the involvement of collegiate players with inter-county squads prior to and during the early stages of the national leagues in hurling and football. This coincides with the preparation of the college squads for the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cup championship competitions. There is an emerging trend where inter county managers are preventing players from participating in college competitions even during what is regarded as the official inter county closed season.

Communication between county team and college managers must be improved to ensure that the most talented players are not victimised by the decision to choose between college and county.

These players should be allowed to give full commitment to the college until the conclusion of their involvement in the college championship competitions. Perhaps the inclusion of third level colleges in the Walsh and O Byrne Cup competitions, along the lines of the FBD league in Connacht, should be considered. This would allow county and college management teams to assess the progress of individual players without the conflict that currently exists. It would also reduce the duplication and over-training that takes place in the case of many players. Research currently being undertaken will examine the issue of overuse injuries/over-training among collegiate players.

Buíochas

The support and co-operation of the following is much appreciated:

- * Runaí/Cisteoir Dave Billing for his support and advice through the year.
- * All the GAA Officers throughout the province who help make the organisation of our various activities manageable during the year.
- * Michael Delaney, Mick Reynolds and the staff in Áras Laighean for their help.
- * Coaching and Games Development Chairman, Jimmy Dunne and the Leinster Coaching Directors for their support towards third level games in the province.

**Tomás Ó Domhnaill,
Cathairleach,
Comhairle Ard-Oideachais Laighean.**

LEINSTER TUTOR GROUP

There was a changing of the guard in the group this year with Jimmy O'Dwyer (Chairman) and Paudie O'Neill (Secretary) handing over to Cyril Kevlihan and Noel O'Sullivan respectively. Spring Level One Courses were held in Dublin (Hurling and Football), Louth (F), Westmeath (F), Wicklow (H), Wexford (F) and The Curragh Camp, Kildare (H). Level One Certificates will be presented to coaches from the courses at a ceremony in Croke Park on March 3rd 2003.

Courses planned for 2003 include

Meath (F)
Athlone I.T. (F)
Dublin (H)
Carlow (H) in the Spring

with courses in
Kilkenny (H) and
Carlow (F) following in the Autumn.

A number of new Foundation Tutors were trained by the group in Dublin and Portlaoise and it is hoped to include some of the successful tutors trained in these courses in the giving of Level One Courses next year.

These extra personnel will be needed at that level as the Level 2 courses will be coming on stream in 2004 and many of the present Level One tutors will be moving up to work at that level.

The Tutors Group has this year forged closer links with Jimmy Dunne and his Coaching and Games Development Committee so that both sides will be kept well informed of each others activities and needs.

To this end, Chairman, Cyril Kevlihan, recently addressed the County Coaching Officers in Áras Laighean. Secretary, Noel O'Sullivan, has been co-opted on to the Coaching and Games Development Committee.

The group is extremely grateful to Comhairle Laighean for the support which it receives and would particularly like to thank the full-time staff at Áras Laighean for its help and co-operation.

Noel O'Sullivan
Rúnaí.



Leinster Tutors Presentation Night

Wexford coaches Mick Byrne and Jack O'Brien receive their "Foundation Tutor" Certificates at the Presentation Night in Aras Laighean. The Tutor Training Course itself was run over 4 nights and was attended by 24 coaches.

Pictured are L-R: Cyril Kevlihan (Chairman Leinster Tutor Group), Jimmy Dunne (Chairman Leinster Coaching & Games Development Committee), Mick Byrne, Jack O'Brien (Wexford Coaches), John McCarthy (Secretary Leinster Coaching & Games Development Committee)

HANDBALL REPORT



Duxie's reign is over!

The most talked about event in handball in 2002 was the end of Michael Duxie Walsh's reign as All Ireland Senior Singles 60x30 Champion. The remarkable Kilkenny player had dominated the game to such an extent that his name was synonymous with the eve of All Ireland handball finals.

He contested every senior singles final from 1985 until 2002, losing just twice in that period.

The fact that a fellow Leinsterman inflicted his final defeat was no surprise. Duxie found the going tough against the up and coming players such as Kenneth Kane (Carlow) in 2000 and Eoin Kennedy (Dublin) in 2001. Both young players brought the maestro to three games with Kennedy looking very impressive when he thrashed Walsh 21-2 in the first game of the 2001 final. Experience told in the end with the long serving Kilkenny player getting through in a thriller.

Eoin Kennedy was the dominant player in Ireland all year winning the senior 40x20, 60x30 and Irish Open titles - a feat never before achieved. Leinster's dominance of senior handball continued this year with Walter O'Connor and Tom Sheridan (Meath) winning the doubles All Ireland at both 40x20 and 60x30 while Kenneth Kane won a senior title for Carlow when he won the senior handball title.

Shane Dormer (Laois) won the junior singles All Ireland while Wicklow won Minor and Under-21 titles. Dara Ward won the junior handball title for Kildare, a county with a long tradition in this most ancient form of handball. Some of our ladies won All Ireland titles also with Anna Wrynn and Fiona Healy (Kildare) winning the Senior doubles title, Tracey Brennan (Laois) proving best in Junior and Meath's Joy Smith and Sinéad Tevlin showing their talents in Minor.

Juveniles

2002 was a good year for Leinster juveniles with a large number of entries in all our championships and a good spread of counties winning Leinster titles.

In 40 x 20, 136 boys and 55 girls entered while in 60x30 81 boys and 30 girls contested the championships with 9 counties winning Provincial titles.

Our players did very well in the All Ireland series with Richard Hogan (KK), Jimmy Berry and Paddy Goggins

(Wx) and Robert McCarthy/ John O'Shaughnessey (Wh) taking titles in both codes. Our girls are progressing very well. It is great to see an increase in the numbers entering our championships.

The Leinster Colleges championships were once more expertly organised by Michael Reynolds. St Kieran's Colleges, Mullingar Community College, St Peter's College and FCJ Bunclody all won All Ireland titles.

2003

This year will provide Leinster with some added organisational problems. The World Handball Championships will be played in Ireland in October with Kilkenny/Carlow/Laois accommodating the overage, underage and One Walled championships and Dublin/Kildare/Meath playing host for the other grades, including the Open Championship.

In addition, Kildare/ Meath/ Westmeath will play host to the handball Féile na nGael in June so a busy year is in store for all our administrators and players.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS 2002

40X20

Grade Singles

Minor Johnny Willoughby(Ww)

U-21 Michael Gregan (Ww)

Jun. B Fergal O'Riain (D)

Junior Eddie Burke (Kk)

Inter. Gavin Buggy (Wx)

Senior Eoin Kennedy (D)

Masters A

Michael Maher (D)

Masters B

Martin Lalor (Kk)

Silver Masters A

Tony Breen (Wx)

Doubles

Johnny Willoughby
Richard Walshe (Ww)

Michael Gregan
Sammy Willoughby (Ww)

Pat O'Donnell
Ned Kealy (Ww)

Dick Berry
Felix Doran (Wx)

Gavin Buggy
Paul Carty (Wx)

Walter O'Connor
Tom Sheridan (Mh)

Robert McCarthy
Cyril McCarthy (Wh)

Martin Lalor
Philly Parsons (Kk)

Tony Breen
Jimmy Goggins (Wx)

Silver Masters B Neville Farrelly (D)	Pat Coffey Ollie Deegan (Ke)	Lydia Treacy (Cw)	Clare Love Sarah Butler (Kk)
Golden Masters A Vinny Farrelly (D)	Eugene Kennedy Vinnie Farrelly (D)	U-15 Patrick Hogan (Kk)	Niall Maher Pat Hartnett (Wx)
Golden Masters B Willie Dunphy (Wx)	Willie Dunphy Billy Molloy (Wx)	Anne Marie Nolan (Kk)	Grainne Hackett Sarah Lafford (Kk)
Emerald Masters A John Molloy (D)	Paddy Lennon Dick Doyle (Ww)	U-16 Brian Carroll (Mh)	Robert McCarthy John O'Shaughnessy (Wh)
Diamond Masters A Martin Buggy (Wx)	Oliver Gough Christy Lynagh (Mh)	Aisling Behan (Ls)	Sinead Gallogly Eimear Fallon (Ke)
Diamond Masters B Seán Curran (Kk)	Seán Curran Johnny O'Mara (Kk)	U-17 Gerry Kane (Cw)	Dermot Smith Liam Maher (Wx)

TEAM/ CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

JunB	Davidstown	Mary Murphy (Kk)	Miriam Ryan Ciara Mullins (Cw)
Jun	Coolboy	Under 13 B Ivan Carroll (Ke)	Darren O'Hara Dylan McDonald (Ke)
Open	Garryhill	Under 15 B Michael Neary (Kk)	Myles Carroll Patrick Mahon (Ke)
Team/8	Wexford	Under 17 B Niall Purcell (Ls)	Damien Nally Eamonn Murphy (Ke)
Under 12/13	Kilkenny		
Under 14/15	Kilkenny		

LADIES

Minor Patricia Doyle (Ww)	Joy Smith Sinéad Tevlin (Mh)	60X30 Minor Richard Walshe (Ww)	Richard Walshe Johnny Willoughby (Ww)
Jun. B Tracey Brennan (Ls)	Margaret Hilley Mary Doyle (Ww)	U-21 Michael Gregan (Ww)	Michael Gregan Sammy Willoughby (Ww)

JUVENILE 40X20

U-12 James Goggins (Wx)	Niall Smith Mark O'Dwyer (Kk)	Jun.B Pat O'Donnell (Ww)	Pat O'Donnell Ned Kealy (Ww)
Shauna Hilley (Ww)	Caroline Lynch Stephanie O'Neill (Ke)	Junior Shane Dormer (Ls)	Ian Griffin
U-13 Mark Bergin (Kk)	Martin Doyle Colin Quigley (Cw)	Inter. Eddie Burke (Kk)	Christy Donnelly (D) Martin Lalor Eddie Burke (Kk)
Aileen Quinn (Ke)	Ciara Ryan Fiona Kirwan (Ke)	Masters A Johnny Brennan (Kk)	Johnny Brennan Phil Parsons (Kk)
U-14 Richard Hogan (Kk)	Jimmy Goggins Paddy Berry (Wx)	Masters B Pechelli English (Wx)	John Carroll Stephen Carroll (Ke)
		Silver Masters A Tony Breen (Wx)	Tony Breen Jimmy Goggins (Wx)

Silver Masters B Ollie Deegan (Ke)	Ollie Deegan Pat Coffey (Ke)	U-13 Martin O'Neill (Ww)	Martin Doyle Colm Quigley (Cw)
Golden Masters A Paddy Hope (Oy)	Eugene Kennedy Vinny Farrelly (D)	Lydia Phelan (Kk)	Muireann O'Gorman Orla Egan (D)
Golden Masters B Willie Dunphy (Wx)	Willie Dunphy Dick Tobin (Wx)	U-14 Richard Hogan (Kk)	Paddy Berry Jimmy Goggins (Wx)
Emerald Masters A Pat Masterson (Oy)	Paddy Lennon Dick Doyle (Ww)	Lydia Treacy (Cw)	Claire Love Marie Terese O'Neill (Kk)
Diamond Masters A Mick O'Brien (D)	Ollie Gough Christy Lynagh (Mh)	U-15 Mikey Berry (Wx)	Patrick Hogan Gavin O'Keefe (Kk)
Diamond Masters B Seamus O'Brien (Ke)	Seamus O'Brien Billy Gobbett (Ke)	Ann Marie Hawe (Kk)	Sarah Lafford Fiona Ryan (Kk)
		U-16 David Kenny (Wx)	Robert McCarthy John O'Shaughnessey (Wh)
		Deirdre O'Brien (Cw)	Amanda Canavan Edel Jordan (Cw)

LADIES

Minor Patricia Doyle (Ww)	Patricia Doyle Nedina Murphy (Ww)	U-17 Diarmuid Smith (Wx)	Thomas Moore John Veale (Wx)
Jun.B Tracy Brennan (Ls)	Margaret Hilley Mary Doyle (Ww)	Mary Murphy (Kk)	Niamh Ryan Grainne Ryan (Ww)
Junior Ciara Mullins (Cw)	Ciara Mullins Miriam Ryan (Cw)	U-13 B Ivan Carroll (Ke)	Darren O'Hara Dylan McDonald (Ke)

TEAM/ CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior B	Clogh	U-15 B Myles Carroll (Ke)	Alan Reid Thomas Kielty (Wx)
Junior	Arklow	U-17 B Eoin Downey (D)	Graham Lawlor Kevin Phillips (Kk)
Open	Coolboy		
Team/8	Wexford		
Under 12/13	Carlow		
Under 14/15	Kilkenny		
Under 16/17	Wexford		

JUVENILE 60X30

U-12 Jimmy Goggins (Wx)	Mark O'Dwyer Niall Smith (Kk)
Shauna Hilley (Ww)	Rebecca Mulholland Claire Mulholland (Kk)

LEINSTER REFEREES ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



COMMITTEE

Pierce Freaney (Chairman),
Peter Brannigan (Louth),
Joe Harlin (Meath),
Aidan Sheils (Sec. & Dublin),
Liam O'Loughlin (Wicklow),
Tommy Roe (Wexford),
Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare),
Paddy Halligan (Carlow),
Tommy Duggan (Kilkenny),
Brian Allen (Laois),
Martin Heffernan (Offaly),
Adrian Murray (Westmeath),
Eamon Higgins (Longford)

NATIONAL TUTORS

Tom Fitzpatrick (Chairman & Dublin),
Tony Jordan (Dublin), Aidan Sheils (Dublin).

The past year has been an extremely busy one for referees. There are now more inter county games in hurling and football and so as a result there is a need to increase the numbers on our panels. In spite of repeated requests to county administrators there does not seem to be referees of a suitable standard and age in most counties. Four new referees were recruited and added to the provincial panel during the year and this is barely sufficient to meet demands at the busy periods of the year.

In Leinster we keep a smaller panel than other provinces which means that each referee gets more appointments and he can justify being an inter county referee. The members of the panel are very committed and each one has an excellent record of accepting appointments which means there is very little chopping and changing after fixtures have been made and published.

Fitness training is ongoing and the panel met five times during the year for group sessions. While these sessions will not improve fitness levels they are helpful in demonstrating different methods of training. They also help the individual referee to monitor his own level of fitness during the year. I would like to thank my own club Sarsfields in Newbridge for providing their excellent facilities throughout the year. I also appreciate greatly the efforts of Tommy Gorman, a member of the club who supervises the training. He makes the sessions interesting, challenging and enjoyable for those present. Almost all of the panel avail of some of the sessions with numbers averaging about thirty. This venture is supported by the Council and this is appreciated by all.

The provincial fitness and rules tests were held in April in Ballymahon and on two occasions in Carlow Hurling Club. Referees who failed to reach the required standard were not given appointments to referee championship games. The rules test caused some problems as a new format was tried and the majority of referees found it confusing. It has been decided that this form of test will not be used again by the National Referees Committee. I am satisfied that all referees on the provincial panel have a thorough knowledge of the rules.

During the year there were four seminars for the umpires on the panel, two in Portlaoise, one in St. Lomans, Mullingar and one in Croke Park. The syllabus for the course was designed and presented by Tom Fitzpatrick ably assisted by Aidan Sheils. It is important that the umpires be recognised and they will say that the course provided will assist them greatly in carrying out their duties. The eight Probationary National Panel Referees and their umpires were brought to Portlaoise for a similar course.

The national panel met in Athlone on seven occasions, at the beginning of the League, at the beginning of the Championship and during the Championship. These meetings are helpful and necessary to try and achieve the highest possible standards and consistent application of the rules. The format is being changed somewhat in the coming

year with hurling and football meeting separately. Before both senior All Ireland Finals the National Committee meets with all officials involved on the day. This helps to familiarise everyone with the venue and creates a greater feeling of teamwork before the big day.

The National Fitness Tests were held in Tullamore on two evenings in June. Anyone who failed any component part of the test or who didn't turn up was not given a refereeing appointment in the championship after that date. With all teams placing such a high emphasis on training and fitness it is only reasonable that the referee should do likewise. Those tests are run by the National Referees Committee and are co-ordinated by Jimmy Darcy, Coaching and Referee Co-Ordinator, Croke Park.

The National Committee in conjunction with Pauric Duffy, G.A.C. and the Provincial Councils met with the county team managers, secretaries and chairmen in May in Portlaoise before the start of the championship. The meeting was chaired by Nickey Brennan and Chief Executive Michael Delaney also attended.

There was a very frank exchange of views and some of the suggestions put forward were put into practice for the championship. Some referees from the province attended also. It was agreed that everyone should meet again after the season was over and this took place in December again in Portlaoise. It was good to hear that there was almost unanimous agreement that the standard of refereeing had improved and the amount of work being done in this regard was acknowledged.

A meeting was also held with G.A.A. Representatives of the national press, radio and television. While not all the major writers turned up I believe that it is a very good exercise to explain what is being done by the National Committee and throughout the country with regard to training referees.

During the year there was positive dialogue with The Sunday Game to encourage balance and fairness in any criticisms the panellists might have. Arising from those meetings it was agreed to have someone at all championship games who would be available to explain controversial or any incident which might need clarification or explanation subject to certain constraints where discipline was concerned.

Having been involved in this exercise in Leinster I was

called on two occasions and the queries were of a clarification nature. Those initiatives have resulted in a more open relationship with the media leading to fairer and more understanding reporting on refereeing performances.

I would like to congratulate John Bannon and Aodhan Mac Suibhne on their appointments to the All Ireland Finals and to compliment them on their excellent performances. Mick Monahan (Munster Football), Seamus McCormack (Ulster Football) and Aodhan Mac Suibhne (Munster Hurling) also refereed provincial finals and performed to a very high standard. All our provincial finals were well refereed with some new people given their chance to progress up the ladder.

The Provincial Administration Committee met on six occasions during the year. The emphasis at these meetings was on improving both the numbers and standard at county level. While I am well aware that this is difficult I feel that enough is not being done in the counties. It is important that the county administrator is given full support by County Board Officers.

It is also important that the Board appoints people to the County Administration Committee who have a genuine and positive interest and the time to give to the task. The new initiative towards training and recruitment is now with us for four years and there are some counties who have not one new referee qualified for a foundation level certificate. This needs to be addressed immediately.

There is a course now available for serving referees also leading to certification and all counties should encourage their club referees to take this course. If training and recruitment is ignored the playing of our games will suffer and the standards will drop.

It was sad to see two counties embroiled in disputes with referees during the year and while I do not wish to go into the rights or wrongs in those cases I would suggest that it is high time that referees and refereeing matters went up the list of priorities in all counties. Should any county need help or guidance this can be arranged. There are trained tutors in every county and also national tutors as well as training videos and material for all courses available.

I am of the opinion that most counties need to recruit immediately and with the prospect of increased number of games for club players - e.g.

championships on a league basis - current numbers will not be sufficient.

During the year I visited courses on seminars in Dublin, Louth, Westmeath, Laois, Kilkenny and Kildare to support work being done by the County Administrator which shows that it is not all gloom and doom. I also appreciate the hospitality and assistance that I got at all venues throughout the province.

I would like to thank our Chairman Nickey Brennan for his great interest and total support for all aspects of refereeing in the province. The help support and advice given by Michael Delaney is also much appreciated. The help, good humour and friendship of all the staff at Aras Laighean eases the pressure enormously and it is a pleasure to work with them. A special thanks to Julia Quinn for all her work. The prompt payment of expenses to referees and linesmen is greatly appreciated by all concerned. Thanks also to John Cotter for his help on the social side and through his good officers each referee on the provincial panel got a top quality fleece jacket.

I would also like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work done by committee secretary Aidan Sheils. Besides being Administrator in Dublin - a full time job in itself - he contributed immensely as a national tutor, assessor, assistant sideline official in some championship games and many other fields during the year. Our other national tutors Tom Fitzpatrick and Tony Jordan also supported in many ways and I thank them for their work. Well done to all our assessors who perform a necessary role in monitoring all referees.

It is hoped in the coming year to continue recruiting and the training of our referees and to increase our efforts to raise standards particularly among the club referees.

Piaras de Fréine

COUNTY	NATIONAL		SUPPLEMENTARY		PROBATIONARY		PROVINCIAL SUPPLEMENTARY	
	F	H	F	H	F	H	F	H
Louth	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Meath	1	-	2	1	-	-	1	-
Dublin	-	2	-	1	1	-	2	2
Wicklow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wexford	1	1	2	2	-	1	-	1
Kildare	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	1
Carlow	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Kilkenny	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
Laois	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Offaly	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1
Westmeath	-	1	3	1	-	-	1	-
Longford	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
TOTAL	8	9	11	7	4	4	8	6



The Referees Group at the Comhairle Laighean Presentation Night, Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore.

Back L-R: David O' Donovan, Fergus Smyth, Jim Sheridan, Syl Doyle, Bernard Duff.

Front L-R: Thomas Quigley, Dickie Murphy, Pierce Freaney (Leinster Referees Co- Ordinator) Ger Harrington.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, MARKETING & IT COMMITTEE REPORT



The Leinster Public Relations, Marketing & IT Committee for the past year was made up of:

Paddy Flanagan	Chairman
Pat Chapman	Secretary
Seamus Howlin	PRO
John Cotter	Marketing Manager
Gerry Grogan	
Tommy Murphy	
Alan Aherne	
Tom O'Donnell	IT
Pat Teehan	IT
Patricia Clear	IT

The Committee was involved in encouraging attention to matters involving or impacting on the public as far as Gaelic Games in Leinster are concerned. Shortly after last year's Annual Convention, which was presented by the Committee, there was a meeting with the County PRO's of the province in which 'presentations' were made by John Cotter ('Marketing Your County'), Alan Aherne ('Dealing With The Media'), Seamus Howlin ('Match Programmes') and Gerry Grogan ('Guidelines For Public Address Operators').

PROGRAMMES

Programmes for our major Championship games were produced by John Cotter who also handled the area of advertising in the programmes and other relevant areas. The programmes were, as usual, up to a high standard with the emphasis on value for money and a souvenir befitting the occasion. Programmes for the lesser games were handled by the host county and, by and large, a good effort was made to maintain the high standard that we have come to expect.

There is still some room for improvement in this area and those involved should be aware that initiative does not go astray and the effort brings it's own reward. In a few, but all too many instances, there was repetition in the area of text and a total disregard of adding names to photographs, things that detract from the overall presentation of a match programme.

PRESENTATION OF GAMES

The Committee also advocated attention to the presentation of our games. This concerns the marking of pitches, flags (dare I mention the _____?), attention to the area surrounding a pitch with a view to what might be highlighted by TV cameras, or other sections of the media. This is an aspect of our games that needs continuous attention and is getting it to a large extent.

CLUB FIXTURES AND RESULTS

The Committee also concerned itself with impressing on County PRO's the importance of publicity for club fixtures and results and the significance here is not lost on the people involved.

PUBLICATIONS

County PRO's were encouraged to be involved in the production of County Yearbooks and other publications that would enhance the publicity given to Gaelic Games in the respective counties and beyond.

IT

The IT section of the Public Relations Committee was busy over the year in getting the Leinster website up and running as well as monitoring and encouraging the establishment of county websites. Practically all counties have made progress and while a lot has been done there's a lot more to do. In this developing sector, the Committee is working in tandem with Comhairle Laighean and it is envisaged that the work in each will be complimentary and supportive.

PRESENTATIONS

Another area that comes under the aegis of the Public Relations Committee is presentations, such as the presentation of Referee's Awards and Inter-Provincial medals, as was held quite recently. It is an important part of our brief as a successful presentation reflects positively on Comhairle Laighean as a whole.

BUDGET

The budget for the Committee is, mainly, meeting based and dealt with through the offices of Comhairle Laighean. The facilities available in the new premises will, we feel, rule out the hiring of outside venues and for special events/functions the cost was met from central funds.



All Ireland Junior Football Champions Wicklow

Back L-R: Andy Jameson, James Doyle, Diarmaid Doran, Stephen Byrne, Ken Quirke, Brian O'Keeffe, Hugh Kenny, Donal McGillycuddy.

Front L-R: Kevin O'Brien, Ciaran Foley, Wayne O'Gorman, John Paul Davis, Robert Doyle (Captain), Clive Davis, Alan Byrne.

CLUB ORGANISATION & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT



COMMITTEE

Joe Shaughnessy (C'leach),
Kathleen O'Neill (Rúnai),
Tom Farrell, John Joe Walsh,
Tomas Ó hEochaidh,
Peter Fox, Donal Hickey,
Andy O'Brien, Jim English,
Barry Hickey, Tom O'Loughlin,
Michael Noel Byrne,
Billy Flanagan, John Greene.

This committee was set up after the Leinster Convention last year. The inaugural meeting was held on the 25th April and since then the committee have met on four other occasions and have had two seminars.

Its main duties include undertaking a review of existing structures in all key urban areas throughout the Province of Leinster to ensure there are sufficient clubs/facilities to cater for those wishing to play Gaelic Games.

The committee compiled a detailed survey sheet to address all the necessary questions in the larger towns in each county. These surveys were completed by the relevant clubs and the results are currently being documented by NUI Maynooth.

The committee has also undertaken a study of the small rural villages with a view to ascertaining if they are likely to remain a viable unit or if at some time in the future new strategies will have to be developed. The impact of these strategies will have to be examined in detail. These surveys are ongoing at the moment and when completed will be studied and reported upon.

Prior to the General Election the committee issued a press release condemning the planning restrictions in rural areas which are making it almost impossible for the locals to get planning permission to build a house in their own area. These people are forced to leave the area and generally they will relocate to the town where they work and they are then lost to their home area.

During the year the committee held a very worthwhile meeting with the Minister for Rural Development, Eamon O Cuiv, which was chaired by Nicky Brennan, Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean. At this meeting the members expressed their fears for some of the small rural areas throughout Leinster. The Minister was very

supportive and understood the position. He promised that it would be his intention to promote Rural Ireland and to encourage and hopefully in the long term to change planning laws that would make it easier for locals to locate or relocate to their native areas.

We also met with Michael Kennedy, Senior Officer, Department of Tourism and Sport. Michael gave a very informative talk on Lotto grants. He explained in detail how a proper application should be presented. This information should benefit the County Development Officers when advising clubs.

The committee would feel that a number of strategic pitches should be identified throughout Leinster and the development of flood lighting and all weather surfaces should be undertaken. To help County Development Officers a very informative meeting was held with Philips, Lamppost Construction and ESB Contracts.

For 2003 the committee will have the report on urban areas available for discussion and amendments and the rural report will be finalized for submission to NUI for completion.

As part of the completion of both reports, a list of future County Development Plans will be compiled to assist clubs and counties in acquiring additional land for further development.

It appears that Lotto funding for the future will be directed most particularly towards the development of pitches and dressing rooms and away from large centres. This should hopefully redress any imbalance that currently exists.

To conclude, I would like to thank all the staff at Comhairle Laighean for their invaluable assistance during the year. I would also like to thank all the committee members who have worked very hard, and in particular I would like to thank our hard working secretary Kathleen O'Neill for all her work during the year. She has been an inspiration to us all. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Mar a deireann an seanfhocail:
"Tús maith, leath na hoibre".

Mile Buiochas
Joe Shaughnessy



Leinster GAA Bursary Awards 2002

Back L-R: Martin Phelan, Kilkenny (DIT), Thomas Quinn, Dublin (DCU), Niall McAuliffe, Dublin (DCU), Ronan Carroll, Louth (DCU), Sean O'Connor, Dublin (DIT), Gerard McCullagh, Meath (Blanchardstown IT), Alan Reynolds, Meath (Athlone IT), Daragh McEvoy, Laois (Carlow IT), Noel Flynn, Meath (Maynooth), Seamus Dempsey, Wexford (St. Pats), Hugh Lynch, Kildare (NCI), Brian O'Shea, Dublin (Tallaght IT). **Middle L-R:** Anne Duignan, Westmeath (Athlone IT), Sharon Daly, Offaly (UCD), Margaret McNerney, Longford (Maynooth), Gemma Fay, Dublin (Maynooth). **Front L-R:** Fergus Morris, Dublin (Tallaght IT), Thomas Fitzpatrick, Laois (Carlow IT), Paul Begley, Laois (DIT), Jimmy Dunne, Chairman, Leinster Coaching & Games Development Committee, Nickey Brennan, Chairman, Leinster GAA, Pat Daly, Coaching & Games Development, Croke Park, Eoin O'Neill, Wicklow (St. Pats), Patrick Connolly, Dublin (Trinity).

CLUB FIXTURES REPORT



COMMITTEE

John Greene, Chairperson,
Paul Kinsella, Secretary,
Tony Robinson,
Pat Doyle,
Tommy Collins,
L.V. Conway.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Reviewing the complete Club Fixtures Programme in each County throughout The province of Leinster to ensure an adequate and appropriate games Programme is available to club players and that competitions are being run in a timely manner.

Make recommendations as necessary relating to the Club Fixtures Programme in any or all counties.

Prepare a report for consideration at the Annual Convention of Comhairle Laighean.

The Comhairle Laighean Club Fixtures Committee shall report to the Comhairle Laighean Games Administration Committee.

Initially the committee asked for Fixtures Booklets from all counties and found that ten counties published same before mid-March, while two counties made fixtures depending on the progress of their county teams. Following an initial examination, it was decided to meet with the chairperson and secretary of each counties Activities Committee.

Main points to emerge from these discussions:

- a) No definite Fixtures List for Special Competitions - hence local disruption.
- b) Dual Players who play least popular game with a club other than the club associated with the main game in the county.
- c) Sufficient number of games provided for main game in each county.
- d) County team managers - some make unrealistic demands.
- e) Examinations - 3rd. level at times ongoing
- f) Students unavailable for mid-week games
- g) Problems created by traffic - getting home in time
- h) Intransigence of some club officials - still believe that all games must be played at weekends.
- i) Unplayable pitches - shortens the playing season.

- j) Concerts
- k) Minor Leagues during spring
- l) Round Robin at minor level
- m) Championship formats at county level
- n) Backdoor system has made it difficult to plan fixtures
- o) Poor competition structures
- p) Overuse of juvenile players - club/school, juvenile/adult
- q) Fixtures committee not autonomous in all counties
- r) Too many competitions in first six months of year - the value of the Inter-county Junior and Intermediate Championships will have to be looked at to see if they fulfil any valuable role.
- s) League and Championship linked in some counties
- t) Referees being taken out of counties to act as linesmen and 4th. official at inter-county games - leaves scarcity within county - is this really necessary - sufficient notice of this not given to counties
- u) Gap between championship and B championship dates
- v) Central and provincial activities committees making changes without taking into account the impact these changes are having on club fixtures
- w) All provinces should have same system for U-21 football and final should be played in May.
- x) Increased panels mean that some players are playing for neither county or club - this situation needs to be sorted out with team managers.
- y) County Activities Committees do not always make provision for re-fixtures after postponements and draws.
- z) Playing all games in the calendar year having big effect on club games particularly U-21 championships.

PROVISION OF GAMES

- a) Most counties are trying to give approximately 20 games to their adult players with the dominant game in the county providing at least 60% of the games.
- b) 30 games + provided by 9% of counties.
25 games + provided by 9% of counties
20 - 25 games provided by 17% of counties.
15 - 20 games provided by 65% of counties.
- c) Hurling has parity in only two counties.
- d) Questionable how valuable some league games are after first few rounds.
- e) Rural clubs with players on county panels find league games very difficult.
- f) Difficult to conclude some leagues where relegation and county players are involved.

- g) Possible that some players play so many meaningless league games that they never switch on for championship games.
- h) Attendances at games greatly effected by live television - thus having a major effect on club and county gate receipts.
- i) In some counties 3rd. level and college games have major impact on club fixtures in early part of the year.

FIXTURES PLANNING

- a) All counties should meet with County Officers and Team Managers so that the parameters under which they must work are laid down and agreed before any fixtures are made and also to discuss the position of numbers 22 - 30 (or more) on county panels who very often end up not playing games for either club or county.
- b) Complete fixtures programme should be complete by the end of February.
- c) Regulations should be in place to deal with postponements and draws i.e. definite rule regarding re-fixture - this should always be within seven days.
- d) There should be alternative dates made to take 'Qualifiers' into account.
- e) There should be alternative dates made to provide for the amount of progress that a county might make in the championship.
- f) Serious consideration must be given as to whether adult games should be postponed because of a minor player being on a county panel.
- g) All counties should use web-mail for notification of fixtures and fixture changes so that players who are away and club officials can get information at the earliest opportunity.
- h) Each county should have their fixtures booklet on their county website. Where a county has no website they should have their booklet on the Leinster website.
- i) Counties should must be far more diligent in putting their results on Aertel in time i.e. Sunday evening.
- j) Activities Committee should be autonomous in each county.

CONCLUSIONS

- a) Fixtures in all Leinster counties were quite good in '02. This was helped greatly by the fact that only one county went to the All Ireland Final and only one county went to the All Ireland Quarter- finals. From the experience of other years it would appear that if more counties were to progress as far as the All Ireland semi-finals that championships would not be completed in time for the Club Championships.

- b) G.A.C. and Provincial Council have asked counties to implement rules that they don't appear to be prepared to adhere to themselves - this is very unhelpful to county committees.
- c) Completion of U'21 championships proving difficult for all counties.
- d) Very serious consideration must be given to the 'Qualifiers' as they are presently structured as they make fixtures planning very difficult and club games inevitably suffer, particularly the less popular game in each county.
- e) Because of playing all games in the calendar year, it means that counties are completing their championships late in the year and often in bad weather with poor pitch conditions. This also impacts on the revenue taken in by each county.

PROGRAMME FOR 2003

- a) Do games audit on Juvenile games.
- b) Meet with Colleges to examine their difficulties with fixtures - impact of minor leagues, counties completing their competitions when college fixtures are in full swing, difficulties with pitches etc.
- c) Examine possibility of designating pitches in each county for college games and possibly consider aiding these pitches with maintenance.
- d) Get all counties to use web-mail for fixtures.
- e) Get all counties to put their Fixtures Booklets on their own or provincial website.
- f) Examine the possibility of all counties providing results by text message.
- g) Examine in detail the different formats used for leagues in each county and see which system provides the most meaningful games.
- h) Meet with recognised fixtures experts from other counties to see if they can offer any advice or help.
- i) See if the weaker game in each county could be helped by taking part in leagues in neighbouring counties.
- j) To make sure games are presented in a proper manner, on time, players and referee properly attired, pitches flagged and marked, a must at under age games.
- k) Members of the Committee available to help counties with drawing up a masters fixtures plan; if required.

LEINSTER DEVELOPMENT (HEALTH & SAFETY) COMMITTEE REPORT



COMMITTEE

Andy Gallagher (Chairman),
Jimmy Fox (Longford),
Tommy Murphy (Kilkenny),
Bartle Landy (Louth),
P.J. Murphy (Westmeath)
Michéal Ó Dubhshláine
(Comhairle Laighean).

This Committee's role is to advise County Boards, Clubs and Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. in relation to matters such as health and safety measures at venues, safe capacities of venues, suitability of venues for particular games and to liaise with the National Safety Committee.

This sub-committee was not called upon too often in 2002 and this can be taken as an indication that there was little controversy in relation to pitch capacities or safety measures.

The committee has undertaken to draw up a definitive list of the Secondary County Grounds in the province. This exercise will include the setting out of safe capacities, covered accommodation safety measures, pitch quality, dressing room facilities etc. Information such as this is very sketchy and yet many of these venues are nominated for National League games (often at short notice) and games in the Club Championships.

The National Safety Committee would be of the view that Provincial Safety Committees should play a much more active role in the control of venues on the days of games - including the training of Stewards, County Safety Officers and Event Controllers. Therefore it is likely that this Sub-committee will have a much more prominent role in the coming year.



The Wicklow panel who retained the Kehoe Cup in 2002

Back L-R: Jack Napier (Hurling Bd Sec), John O'Sullivan (Sel), Eamon Murray, Michael Byrne, Michael Neary (Manager), Declan Doyle, Keith Furlong, David Moran, Christy O'Toole, Jonathon O'Neill, Joe Murphy, James Crowley (Hurling Bd Ch), Emmet O'Sullivan, Christy Fox, Gerry Murray, Garry Murray (Mascot), Ted Kennedy, Colin Byrne, Joey Driver, Danny Curran, John Keogh, Garry Deehan, Ronan O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, John Kelly, Tommy Glynn (Sel).
Front L-R: Billy Molloy (Mascot), MJ O'Neil, Ryan Lavery, Trevor McGrath, Don Hyland, MA O'Neill, Paraic O'Toole (Mascot), Wayne O'Gorman, Geoffrey Birmingham (Capt), Casey O'Brien, Graham Keogh, Michael Crowley (Mascot), Timmy Collins, Willie Collins, Aidan Delaney, Ger Devlin, Sean O'Brien (Sel).



Leinster Intermediate Hurling Champions Wexford as they lined out against Galway in the All-Ireland Intermediate Semi-final

Back L-R: Mickory Stafford (Bainisteóir), Robert Hassey, Shane Carley (capt.), M.J. Reck, Lar Lacey, Paul Carley, Eugene Furlong, Eddie Cullen. **Front L-R:** Francis Simpson, John O'Connor, Michael Jacob, Nigel Higgins, Diarmuid Lyng, Malachy Travers, Chris McGrath, Mark Murphy.



Leinster Under-21 Hurling Champions Wexford as they lined out against Galway in the All-Ireland Under-21 Semi-final

Back L-R: Tomás Hawkins, Diarmuid Lyng, John O'Connor, Keith Rossiter, Willie Doran, Jimmy Goggins, David O'Connor, Barry Lambert. **Front L-R:** Darren Stamp (capt.), Sean O'Neill, M.J. Furlong, Matty White, Pierce Donoghue, Rory Jacob, Des Mythen.

LEINSTER DEVELOPMENT (GROUNDS & FACILITIES) COMMITTEE REPORT



COMMITTEE

John Healy,
Cathaoirleach, Cill Chainnigh,
Michael Delaney,
CEO Comhairle Laighean,
Michael Reynolds,
Rúnaí & Leas CEO Comhairle
Laighean,
John Lynch, An Lú
Jim Roche, Áth Cliath

John Byrne, External, Ceatharlach
Kieran Keenaghan, External, Uibh Fháilí
PJ Murphy, External, Olarmhí

The Committee's work for the most part went in dealing with applications by Clubs and County Committees for borrowing facilities and grant aid towards their various developments.

At the beginning of the year, we were given a budget of €500,000 to help with grant aid towards the Clubs of Leinster and to include consideration for schools and colleges. At the beginning of the year, we realised that with what Development was going on in the province and with the Budget available that the present grant aid structures would have to be changed to put the main emphasis on pitch purchase and pitch development. These changes were only adopted on October 9th, 2002.

Two months later we decided to recommend to Comhairle Laighean that with the Council's income uncertain and with our Budget not sufficient to cater for the number of applications, that we should process all these applications as they come before the committee, but not pay out these grants until the end of 2003. This would give Council a chance to know what their income would be, and to decide what budget should go towards development grants.

In 2001 there were 94 clubs in the province allocated Lotto funding. In 2002 there were 110 clubs in the province allocated Lotto funding. In 2002 there were 97 applications to Comhairle Laighean from clubs and schools for grant aid towards their various developments up to December 4th 2002. The Ard Comhairle allocation of e190,000 which would normally go to top-up grants already received, was, after discussions with the Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean, allocated to clubs who otherwise would not

receive a grant allocation in 2002. 50 clubs received grants in 2002 plus 2 second level schools and 2 third level colleges. There is already €141,000 allocated from the 2003 budget but not yet paid out and €15,000 from the 2004 budget. 43 applicants in 2002, who may have been expecting grants, will have to wait until the end of 2003 or further back depending on what policy will be adopted.

Members of the Committee visited Aughrim, Drogheda, O'Connor Park, Dr. Cullen Park and Nowlan Park with emphasis being placed on Aughrim and Drogheda in order to help these counties to work towards upgrading their pitches with a view to staging Qualifier games. Major plans are at an advanced stage in Aughrim and work should be ready to go ahead shortly. No progress has yet been made in Drogheda due to legalities requiring attention, however discussions are ongoing. Major plans are also in hand for work to commence in O'Connor Park, Tullamore. Work continues at both Dr. Cullen Park and Nowlan Park.

Congratulations to the Meath Co. Board and everybody involved for their foresight in purchasing 55 acres of land near Trim. Best wishes for their forthcoming development plans. The provincial ground grant from Ard Comhairle of €31, 745 for 2002 was allocated to Dr. Cullen Park in Carlow.

There are a number of areas being teased out at the moment, such as land purchase, Winter pitches, flood-lighting, pitch maintenance and training grounds for country teams.

Sincere thanks to the committee members for the dedicated work they put in during the year and all the time they forfeited towards helping GAA clubs. A special thanks to Michéal Mac Raghnaill for the way he simplified everybody's work. Thanks to all the members of all clubs and counties for their courtesy and hospitality during visits. A shortage of finance is the only problem we have.



All-Ireland Minro Hurling Champions Kilkenny

Back L-R: Michael Rice (Capt), Keith Nolan, Ciaran Nolan, David Prendergast, John Tennyson, Shane Coonan, Stephen Maher, P J Delaney.
Front L-R: Robbie Dowling, Richie Power, Colin Grant, Alan Healy, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Padraig Holden, Willie O'Dwyer.

LEINSTER COMHAIRLE & I.T. TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT



While a number of formal meetings of this group were held during the year much of the work of the committee was done outside of meetings.

We decided that we would continue to offer the mainstream Comhairle Programmes but found that the

uptake was not as high as in previous years although a good number of courses were held. This probably stems from the confusion in people's minds about the differences between the various Development Courses we now are in a position to provide. It is also because so many courses were held over the past few years that a certain amount of "Course Fatigue" was inevitable. Our Committee has accepted this and we have worked closely with our colleagues in Munster to come up with some new additions to the range of Programmes on offer. The full range is as follows;

COMHAIRLE PROGRAMME FOR CLUB OFFICERS

This course which was piloted in Leinster in 1995 and 1996 is still available as an induction course for new officers. It is normally held over 2 nights.

COMHAIRLE PROGRAMME FOR AN CATHAOIRLEACH, AN RÚNAÍ, AN CISTEOIR & AN OCP (PRO)

These courses are held on one night and last for 2 to 3 hours. They are intended as a follow up to the basic Programme.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING PROGRAMME

This course is intended for individual clubs. It is a 5 night programme held over 5 weeks and involves 3 nights work with a Facilitator present and 2 nights work by club members meeting to draw up reports and plans. The course involves the participants in a process of evaluation of their club structures with a view to forming a plan for further development.

PRE AGM COURSE

This as the title suggests is a course taken in advance of the AGM with a view to maximising the benefit of the AGM to the club.

BORD NA NÓG PROGRAMME

This is a course for Bord na nÓg Officers at county level which helps them set out strategies for implementing their work programme for the year. It also provides an

opportunity to meet officers from other counties and to exchange ideas and views with them.

CLUB NA NÓG PROGRAMME

This is a programme designed for Officers of Juvenile Clubs and is designed to meet their specialised needs.

COUNTY OFFICERS PROGRAMME

This has been run twice in Leinster and provides County Officers with an opportunity to meet their colleagues in other counties as well as providing a framework for a County Plan

From the original list of Facilitators in the province we still have between 10 and 15 who are still in a position to provide these courses. To add to our number we trained another group of 21 last October. Some of these have already worked on Club Development Courses and all are keen to get out and work.

I.T. INITIATIVES

We worked all through the autumn and winter period to provide GAA Webmail addresses for all the clubs in Leinster. At the time of writing 9 of the 12 counties have addresses done for all their clubs and the rest are due to be completed soon. This has been a huge and time-consuming task but we feel that most of the counties will support the drive to ensure that every club in the province can be reached by e-mail.

Our Committee is happy to provide all the help, support and expertise that is needed to make this project a success. We have visited a number of counties to speak to the county committees and we have been pleased by the positive response we have received. We were pleased that the members of Comhairle Laighean took a lead in this area by agreeing to accept their correspondence from Áras Laighean by e-mail as well as by normal mail for a period of 6 months and thereafter to use e-mail only. We are conscious of the difficulties this may present to some individuals but we are willing to provide all the support we can to make the transition as smooth as possible. Our committee appreciates the support shown by the council members.

We have also undertaken to provide counties with help to get the electronic registration of members up and running. While this is not a Leinster initiative we are keen to support it and to make it a success in our province.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members Pat Toner, Martin Skelly, John Costello, Tom O'Neill and Patricia Clear for their support so far and look forward to working with them to complete our plans for 2003.

Liam Ó Néill

COISTE SCÓR LAIGHEAN



Tá sé de phribléid agam an tuarascáil gearr seo a chur faoi bhráid na nDaoine atá bailithe anseo ó Cuige Laighean.

Scór continues to play an important part in some of our clubs and it is seen as a worthwhile activity. In the times we live in our values in many areas of life have declined and Cumann Luthcleas Gael can have a major role to play in providing worthwhile activities such as Scór for young people.

For some time now Senior Scór has been slipping and it is necessary to give serious consideration to some aspects of our competitions.

Have we all got Scór committees within our Leinster Counties?

Has it the support and good will of the County Officers and County Boards?

What contribution does Oifigeach na Gaeilge make to Scór in your county?

I would like to thank and congratulate all competitors, both young and old, who took part in Scór during the past year. To the county Scór committees in Leinster, a word of thanks for your efforts in organising and promoting Scór. Our thanks also to the adjudicators, stewards and those who provided venues.

We are grateful to the Westmeath Scór committee for the hosting of the All-Ireland Final of Scór na nÓg. Finally, I would like to thank Séamus Ó Faoláin, Cathaoirleach, Coiste Scór Laighean for his work during the year, to the Officers of Comhairle Laighean and in particular, Nioclas Ó Braonáin, Cathaoirleach, Liam Ó Neill, Leas-Cathaoirleach, and Michéal Ó Dubhshláine, Runaí, many thanks for your co-operation and support.

Tá sé de Phribléid agam mo bhuíochas a ghabháid le gach éinne a chabhraigh liom.

**Domhnaill Ó hIcdeadha,
Runaí.**

LEINSTER SENIOR SCÓR WINNERS 2002

Rince Foirne (Céilí Dancing)

Átha Cliath - Rath Eanna

Amhránaíocht Aonair (Solo Song)

Uibh Fháilí - Laura Ní Dhuiginn, Kilcormac-Killoughey

Ceol Uirlise (Instrumental Music)

Cill Dara - Killocock

Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht

(Recitation/Storytelling)

An Mhí - Pádraig Ó Moráin, Domhnach Mór-Cill Dheagláin

Bailéad Ghrúpa (Ballad Group)

Longfort - Mostrim

Tráth na gCeist (Question Time)

Iarmhí - Naomh Seosamh

Nuachleas (Novelty Act)

Iarmhí - Cullion

Rince Seit (Set Dancing)

Loch Garman - Baile Uí Cheog