



Comhdháil Cinn Bliana 2004-2005



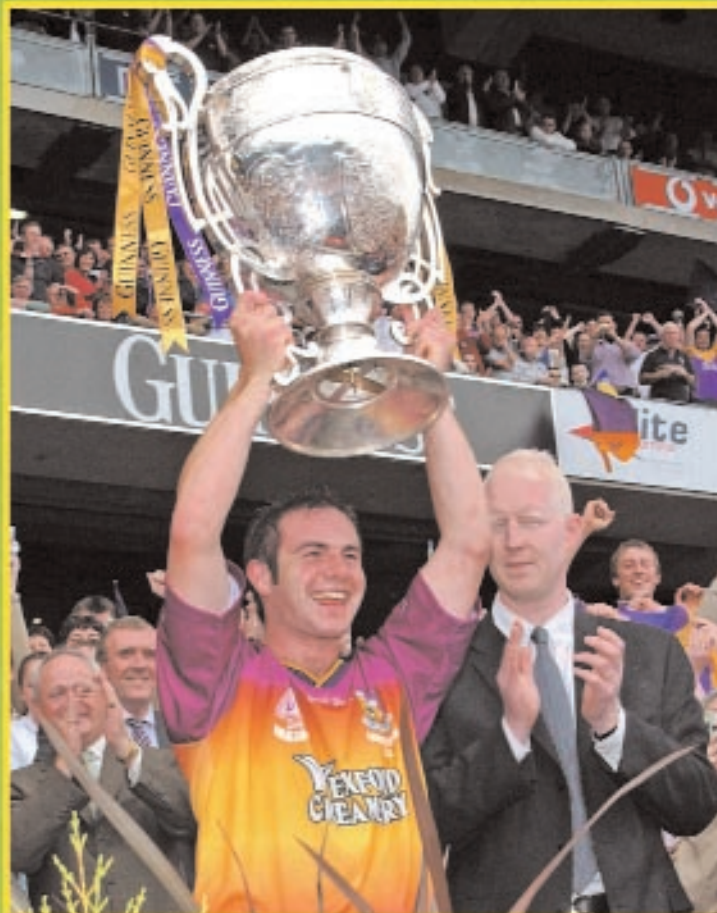
Leinster Senior Hurling Champions 2004

Wexford

The Wexford team which defeated Offaly in the 2004 Leinster SHC Final

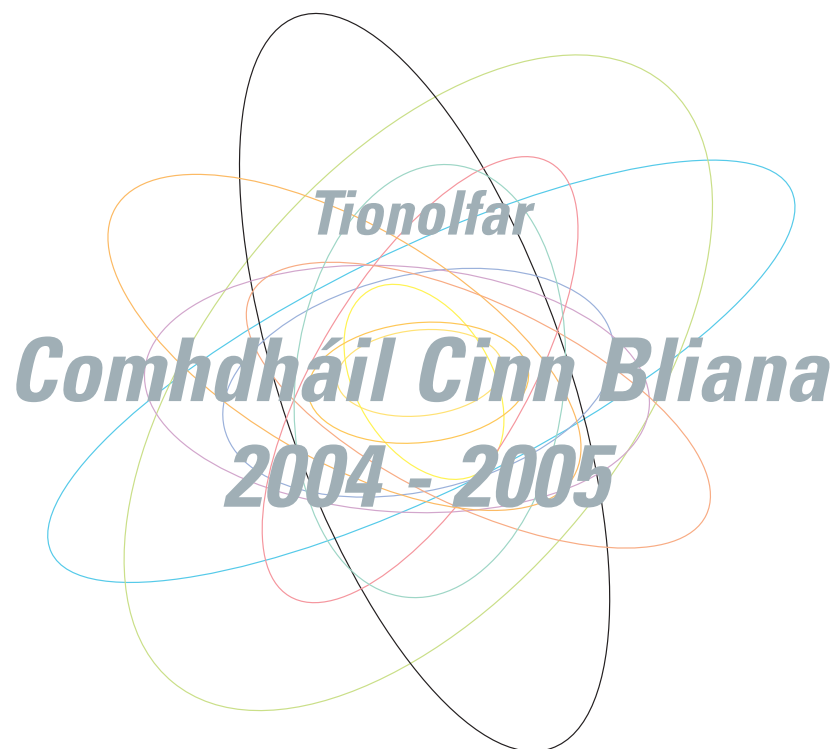
Back L-R: Adrian Fenlon, Micheál Jordan, Eoin Quigley, David O'Connor, Declan Ruth, Rory McCarthy.

Front L-R: Rory Jacob, Darragh Ryan, Tomás Mahon, John O'Connor (C), Damien Fitzhenry,
Paul Carley, Malachy Travers, Barry Lambert, Michael Jacob.



Captain John O'Connor lifts the O'Keefe Cup following Wexford's triumphant return to the pinnacle of Leinster Senior Hurling in 2004

Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.



In Montague Hotel, Emo, Portlaoise
Ar an Sathairn, 26ú Feabhra 2005
12.30 pm



Laois - Leinster Minor Football Champions 2004

Back L-R: Mark Timmons, Ian Fleming, Brian Meredith, Colm Begley, Eoin Culleton, Brendan Quigley, Enda Butler.

Front L-R: Cahir Healy, Kevin Smith, David Conway, Craig Rogers, Michael Tierney, Peter O'Leary, Niall Donoher, Donie Brennan.

12.25 pm Registration

12.30 pm Meal

2.00 pm (1) Convention Opens
(2) Address by Cathaoirleach,
Coisde Co. Laoise C.L.G.

2.15 pm (1) Minutes of 2004 Convention
(2) Discussion of Report of Chief Executive
(3) Discussion of Sub-Committee Reports

2.40 pm First Ballot (Leas-Cathaoirleach)

2.45 pm Review of Accounts of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.

3.00 pm Second Ballot (Leas-Cathaoirleach)

3.05 pm Address by outgoing Cathaoirleach

3.25 pm Election of Officers

3.30 pm Address by an Cathaoirleach Nua

3.50 pm Guest Speakers

4.00 pm Na Rúin

4.15 pm 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 Lunch (12.30pm)
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

Liam Ó Neill (Laois)

LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Seán Ó Baille (Ath Cliath)
Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh (An Mhi)
Aindrias Ó Gallchoir (Uibh Fhaili)
Seán Ó Loinsigh (Lu)
Seán Ó hUaine (Longphort)
Seamus Ó hUílin (Loch Garman)

CISTEOIR

Seán Ó Broin (Ceatharloch)

OIFIGEACH CAIDREAMH POIBLÍ

Pádraig Ó Tómhnair (An Lú)

Na Rúin

1. That 5% of the revenue collected by a club from the sale of tickets for all Leinster and All Ireland Inter County Championship games is given to the club

(An Mhí)

2. That a commission be payable to clubs on the sales of Leinster Championship tickets by clubs.

(Loch Garman)

3. That for all-ticket Leinster Championship games the senior competing counties be allowed to retain 10% (up to a maximum of €2.00) for every ticket sold by the participating counties.

(Loch Garman)

Miontuairiscí Chruinniu Den Chomhdháil Bhliantúil 27 02 2004

N. Uas. O Braonain (Cathaoirleach) presided at the Leinster Council G.A.A. Annual Convention, held in Jurys Hotel, Ballsbridge on Friday 27ú Feabhra 2004.

The following members of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. were also in attendance:

L. O Neill (Leas-Cathaoirleach);
P. O Flannagain (Cisteoir);
S. O hUilin (P.R.O.);
C. O Ronain (Colaisti);
T. O Briain (Liathroid Laimhe);
P. O Cinnseallaigh (Cumann na mBunscol);
B. O Leaindi, S. O Loinsigh (Lu);
P. O Ceallaigh, T. O Coileain (An Mhi);
S. de Roiste, S. Mac Coisdealbha (Ath Cliath);

The following delegates represented the counties:

LÚ

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

AN MHÍ

F. Mac Ghinneachtai, B. O hAilin, C. Mac Fhionnain,
P. O Neill, T.S. O Raghallaigh, L. O Cathain.

ÁTH CLIATH

S. O Baille, N. O Murchu, M. O Gradaigh,
G. O hArrachtain, S. Mac Nioclas, D. O hIleadha.

CILL MHANTÁIN

M. O hAgain, M. O Murchu, P. O Misteal,
M. O Colmain, P. Mac Eochaidh, P. de Paor.

LOCH GARMAN

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

CILL DARA

A. O Suilleabhain, B. O Cionnaigh, P. O Dunaigh,
C. Ni Neill, M. O Fionnain, G. O Tiarnain.

CEATHARLOCH

E. O Broin, T. O Neill, G. O Lonnain, T. O Murchu,
L. de Barra.

CILL CHAINNIGH

P. O Donnchu, E. O Bogaigh, S. Breathnach,
B. O hIci, P. Mac Aindreis.

S. O Duinn, S. O Tiomoin (Cill Mhantain);
P.P. O Duill, P. Uaiceam (Loch Garman);
S.S. Breathnach, S. Mac Carthaigh (Cill Dara);
L.V. O Conbhui, S. O Broin (Ceatharloch);
S. O hEile (Cill Chainnigh);
T. O Lochlainn, S. O Daltuin (Laois);
S. O hOgain, A. O Gallchoir (Uibh Fhaili);
A. Mac Roibin, T. O Fearghail (Iarmhi);
S. Mac an tSionnaigh, S. O Floinn (Longphort)
M. O Dubhshlaine (Runai).

*Apologies for inability to attend had been received
from T. O Murchu (Cill Chainnigh);
T. O Domhnaill (Ard Oideachais)
and T. de Spainne (Gairmscoileanna).*

LAOIS

N. Mac A Laithimh, A. O Dubhshlaine,
M. O Cearbhaill, B. O hAilin, M. Ni Dalaigh,
A. Breathnach.

UIBH FHÁILÍ

T. O Broin, M. O Murchu, J. Byrne, A. O Ceallaigh,
M. Mac an Bradain, M. N. O Broin.

IARMHÍ

A. Breathnach, M. Mac Aodh, S. O Faolain,
A. O Muiri, E. Newman.

LONGPHORT

M. O Sceallaigh, S. Mac Tiarnain, P. O Cathail,
E. O Cuinn, T. O hEidean.

IAR-CATHAOIRLIGH

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

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN C.L.G.

T. O Lochtuis.

SUB COMMITTEE OFFICERS

P. de Freine, S. O Seacnasai.

DIRECTOR OF COACHING

G. O Concubhair

ÁRAS LAIGHEAN STAFF

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

FÁILTIÚ

Sean Uas. Mac Coisdealbha (Runai, Coisde Co. Ath Cliath C.L.G.) welcomed all delegates to Dublin and introduced Cathaoirleach Coisde Co. Ath Cliath C.L.G., Sean Uas. O Baille, to address Convention.

SEÁN Ó BAILLE

An tUas. O Baille welcomed the Officers and members of Comhairle Laighean, together with the various county delegations, sub-committee officers and past chairmen to Ath Cliath.

He paid tribute to Leinster Council G.A.A. for their support of his Coisde Conndae, its various clubs and the Dublin Coaching Scheme. Referring to the club scene nationally, An tUas. O Baille stressed how important it was that clubs were not overlooked by an Association which currently has serious emphasis on the inter-county scheme.

He paid a warm tribute to the outgoing Cisteoir of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G., Pdraig O Flannagain, and wished him well in his retirement.

In conclusion, An tUas. O Baille thanked Guinness Ireland Ltd. for their sponsorship of refreshments for Convention delegates.

OSCAILT

An Cathaoirleach then formally declared Convention open.

MIONTUAIRISCI CHOMHDHAIL 2004

Adopted and signed by an Cathaoirleach on proposition of S. Mac an tSionnaigh, seconded by S. O Tiomoin.

TUAIRISC AN RUNAI 2003

On proposition of S. Mac Tiarnain, seconded by A. Mac Roibin the Secretary's Annual Report was adopted and opened for discussion.

The report was then discussed under its various headings. At the section dealing with the Players Injury Scheme the Convention was addressed by Brendan O Diomsaigh, Chairman National Insurance Workgroup. There followed a question and answer session on this subject.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS 2003

Annual Reports from the following Sub-Committees were adopted and opened for discussion.

- Leinster Coaching and Games Development Report
 - General
 - Leinster Hurling Development
 - Leinster Football Development
 - Cumann na mBunscol Laighean
 - Comhairle Iarbhunscoileanna Laighean
 - Leinster Third Level Colleges
 - Leinster Tutors
 - Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe Laighean.
- Leinster Referees Administrators Report
- Leinster P.R., Marketing and I.T. Report
- Leinster Club Organisation & Development Report
- Leinster Development (Health & Safety) Report
- Leinster Development (Grounds & Facilities) Report
- Leinster Comhairle & I.T. Training Report
- Coisde Scor Laighean

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN C.L.G.

Adopted on proposition of M. Mac Aoidh, seconded by P. Mac Mathuna.

There were a number of queries and observations on the accounts which were duly dealt with by the officers.

BALLOTS FOR VACANT OFFICERSHIPS

A. CISTEOIR

With the withdrawal of Seamus Aldridge (Cill Dara) an Cathaoirleach declared Sean O Broin (Ceatharloch) to be elected as Cisteoir Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.

B. OIFIGEACH CAIDREAMH POIBLI

With the withdrawal of Seamus Aldridge (Cill Dara), Brendan O Coimin (An Mhi) and Tomas O Lochlainn (Laois) there were three candidates for this position. The contest resulted as follows:

First Ballot

Padraig O Tomhnair (Lu)	41
Padraig O Duill (Loch Garman)	30
Padraig Chapman (Longphort)	23 (Eliminated)

Second Ballot

Padraig O Tomhnair (Lu) 54

Padraig O Duill (Loch Garman) 40

An tUas. O Tomhnair was declared elected.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. CATHAOIRLEACH

Nioclas O Braonain was formally deemed re-elected as Cathaoirleach for the coming year. His Convention address was as per attached schedule.

B. LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Liam O Neill (Laois).

C. CISTEOIR

Sean O Broin (Ceatharloch).

D. OIFIGEACH CAIDREAMH POIBLI

Padraig O Tomhnair (Lu).

The latter three officers returned thanks to the convention for their election.

OUTGOING OFFICERS

A. Padraig O Flannagain (Retiring Cisteoir) addressed Convention. He recalled his forty years on the Council and the many officers and members with whom he had worked. Leaving Comhairle Laighean would be a wrench but he would take with him a host of good memories. T. O Fearghail (on behalf of Coisde Co. na hIarmhí C.L.G.) and A. O Falluin (on behalf of former Cathaoirligh) paid glowing tributes to An tUas. O Flannagain.

B. Seamus O hUilin (Retiring P.R.O.) thanked the many people who had helped him in the course of his duties and expressed the hope that he might work with them again in some other capacity.

ROTATION OF OFFICERSHIPS

S. Uas. Mac Coisdealbha (Ath Cliath) suggested that Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. should consider rotating the various officerships around the counties.

An Cathaoirleach undertook to have this matter considered by Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. at a future meeting.

NA RÚIN

The following motions were considered by Convention and dealt with as indicated hereunder:

A. That the grant be increased to clubs representing their county in the A.I.B. Club Championships. (Uibh Fhaili)

Proposed by: A. O Ceallaigh (Uibh Fhaili)

Seconded by: A. O Gallchoir (Uibh Fhaili)

DECISION

Referred to Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. for consideration.

B. That the following Rules relating to suspensions be rescinded and replaced by the Rules governing suspensions which are in operation prior to their introduction:

Rule 138 (6) T.O. 2003

- Rule governing period December / January to be deleted.

Rule 138 (7) T.O. 2003

- Commencement of term - the words 'except as provided in 6 above' to be deleted.

Any other Rules effected by this be amended or deleted accordingly. (An Mhí)

Proposed By: F. Mac Ghinneachtai (An Mhí)

Seconded By: S. O Loinsigh (Lu)

DECISION

Passed unanimously and forwarded for consideration at Congress 2004.

C. That the following Rules relating to suspensions be rescinded and replaced by the Rules governing suspensions which are in operation prior to their introduction:

Rule 137 T.O. 2003

- Paragraph relating to 'level of competition' to be deleted and paragraph relating to 'penalty shall include next game' be deleted.

Rule 138 (2) T.O. 2003

- Starting at paragraph 'a player ordered off the field for a Category (c) offence' and

paragraph 'The penalty shall include next game in the competition in which the suspension was incurred, even if the next game falls outside the suspension period' to be deleted.

Any other rules effected by this be amended or deleted accordingly (An Mhi).

DECISION

Motion Withdrawn.

D. (i) *Amend Rule 4.2 (Rules of Specification – Rule 4 – Equipment) as follows:*

4.2 (a) In all hurling games and training sessions it is mandatory for all players up to and including Minor Grade (Under-18) to wear a helmet with a facial guard. (It is strongly recommended that a helmet with a facial guard be worn by all players participating in hurling games above Minor Grade (Under 18) also).

4.2 (b) the referee shall not allow a hurling helmet to be worn in a football game.

(ii) Add to Rule 1.1 (Rules of Control – Rule 1 – control of the Games Match Officials) – Powers of the Referee as follows:

(viii) (c) A player refusing to wear a helmet with a facial guard in any hurling game up to and including Minor Grade (Under 18).
(Comhairle Laighean C.L.G.)

Proposed: L. O Neill

Seconded: S. O Duinn

DECISION

Passed unanimously and forwarded for consideration at Congress 2004.

N.B.

The Convention decided that in the event of just one motion being allowed go forward to Congress in the name of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. then the preference would be Motion B above.

CONCLUSION

An Cathaoirleach thanked Pdraig O Flannagain and his P.R. Committee, and Coisde Co. Ath Cliath C.L.G. for their excellent arrangements for Annual Convention. He then declared Convention 2004 to be at an end.

THE CONVENTION ENDED



Oráid an Chathaoirligh Comhairle Laighean

A cháirde is mian liom fáilte a fhearradh romhaibh go Comhdháil Cinn Bliana. Ar an gcéad dul síos ba chóir dúinn comhghárdeas a ghabháil do bhuaiteoiri na gcrabhb agus deamhein agus buíochas a ghabháil do gach aon fhoireann a ghlac páirt 'sna comórtaisí eagsúla na bliana seo. Tá an t-ádh orainn mar bliain ina dhiaidh bliana tá uimhir na ndaoine a bhfuil ag obair ar son an Chuige ag dul I bhfeabhas. Míle buíochas do na daoine chéanna.

I warmly welcome you all to our Annual Convention here in Jury's Hotel tonight and I thank our hosts Dublin for their welcome. 2003 was another very successful year for Comhairle Laighean and our twelve counties. I congratulate all our Provincial Championship winners and in particular those counties which went on to achieve All-Ireland Championship success.

FOOTBALL

For many years some Comhairle Laighean delegates spoke of the need to give our perceived "lesser lights" an opportunity to play championship football in Croke Park, particularly now in view of the re-development of the stadium. An opportunity arose to play a football championship triple-header on the 11th May last year and I know the players and team management appreciated this decision because I received positive feedback from a number of them. Six participants and an attendance of under 20,000 was a fairly emphatic response to our "experiment". Sadly the "experiment" failed and will not be repeated.

The winning of our Senior Football Championship by Laois after so many years was

the undoubted highlight of 2003 on the playing fields. I congratulate all involved but I must also pay tribute to all the other counties and Kildare in particular who were part of a fabulous Leinster Senior Football Final occasion. Laois and Dublin created their own bit of history by meeting in both the Leinster Final and the All-Ireland Final at minor level. Both had reason to be satisfied but I suspect that Laois just might be the happier of the two. Our haul of All-Ireland football titles came to three when Dublin and Meath won the Under-21 & Junior titles. Three out of four titles is not a bad haul for any Province.

Our club football & hurling competitions continue to see new champions emerging. This is a very welcome trend and shows once again how popular Provincial clubs competitions have become at all grades. I expect to see Provincial club leagues developing in the years ahead on a formal basis over a defined period of time so as not to impact local club competitions within counties.

I received a number of calls over the past two years regarding a name for our Senior Football trophy. As a result I asked three Leinster Council members to examine the situation and make a recommendation. As you saw from Michael's Annual Report the trophy will in future be known as the Delaney Cup. The credentials of the Delaney's from Stradbally are without question and their huge contribution to the G.A.A. is being rightly acknowledged by Comhairle Laighean.

HURLING

It is with a mixture of both pleasure and no little frustration that I speak to you about the hurling scene in Leinster. As a Kilkenny native I take immense pride in my own county's success not just at Leinster level but also at All-Ireland level. Last year I proposed that we invite Galway into Leinster to bring a more competitive bite to all our championships. Sadly that invitation was turned down. I very much respect Galway's

decision but I hope it is not an opportunity lost for the many players of all grades who I genuinely feel would have benefited from participating in our various championships.

What does the future hold for Leinster hurling? The current Provincial system will not change under the proposed two-year experiment from the HDC Committee, nor is any change envisaged as a result of any other motions to the forthcoming Congress. The Munster championships remain highly competitive in all grades so whether we like it or not the focus is firmly on Leinster. I know many people get annoyed with the constant sniping at our Provincial hurling championships but ultimately the solution has to be found within our own counties. The current situation is not sustainable but I am an optimist by nature and I retain great hope that our hurling championships in 2004 will throw up a surprise or two before the end of the summer. What is the alternative? Would "Provincial" championships involving teams from Leinster, Connacht & Ulster be worth considering? If such a development is in the best interests of hurling then Provincial boundaries should not be a hindrance. Without doubt Kilkenny are setting high standards right now and the challenge is for the other top counties in Leinster to match that standard in skill and determination. You have done so in the not too distant past (as I recall only too well), so why not again? Ten counties will participate in our 2004 Senior Hurling Championship and this may be the last occasion so many counties will be involved if the HDC proposals are accepted. Right now though we have three to five realistic contenders at senior level so it makes a lot of sense for the remaining counties to compete at a level where standards are pretty even and the competition is seriously promoted.

COMPETITIONS

I will keep on the hurling theme for a few more comments, this time in relation to the proposals from the HDC Committee, which will be debated at the upcoming Congress in Killarney. Despite all the comments expressed both within the G.A.A community and in the media I have yet to see a set of proposals with which everyone agrees. The bottom line is that there is no proposal which will receive unanimous support. The latest proposed two-year experiment is I

believe another step in the right direction. I base this view on the following:

- The counties, which rarely or only occasionally get to their Provincial Championship Final, now have an opportunity to play a series of championship games during a period of the year when they are usually out of the championship
- The teams will benefit from these extra games and bring additional hope and expectation to their county and their respective supporters
- The six weeks or so break for the Provincial winners will be reduced
- There is little prospect of the Leinster & Munster Championships being devalued because all participating counties will want to avoid being involved in the round robin "groups of death"
- The additional games will give hurling a very welcome higher profile and additional media exposure. The need for this additional profile for hurling cannot be underestimated
- More relevant and meaningful competitions for non-qualifier counties are being introduced with a much greater opportunity for success and a meaningful pathway to a higher grade.

This is not a perfect system and some may well point to deficiencies in what is being proposed, particularly relating to club competitions. For counties though that are regularly reaching their Provincial Final, the overall impact on club competitions will be minimal. The system being proposed undoubtedly raises the prospect of a new county or two reaching the concluding stages of the championship. Boy does hurling need new faces emerging and for that prospect alone a two-year experiment of the HDC proposals is worth a try.

INTER-COUNTY TEAMS

It may have gone un-noticed in many circles (but not with County Treasurers I suspect) that the mileage rate has gone up to 50c from the start of 2004. This will place an even greater financial burden on counties and will call for a more vigilant control of costs and expenditure in every

county. Over the past couple of years the welfare of inter-county players has been particularly high on the agenda of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. Significant improvements have taken place in the provision of playing and leisure gear, meals, travel, holidays, match tickets plus medical expenses of one kind or another, holidays plus the mileage rate increase which I mentioned earlier. All four Provincial Councils plus Árd Comhairle have made significant contributions to every county to assist with this increased expenditure. Any additional increase in these contributions can only be made by impacting expenditure in other areas.

Current (and indeed future) inter-county players must realise that every County Board has a responsibility to plan for tomorrow not just live for today. The ability of counties to attract additional commercial income is ultimately dictated by both the county profile and the opportunity to be successful. If one takes our own Province then it is obvious that we have counties who can meet these criteria, while we have others who will continue to struggle when it comes to generating additional income. By any standards this is not a level playing field and while this is recognised at national level where such counties get some additional funding towards the costs of preparing their inter-county teams, no such arrangement exists at Provincial level. This is a matter I feel Comhairle Laighean might address but only on the basis that any county likely to fall into this scenario is prepared to be totally up front with us in relation to its existing expenditure on inter-county teams and its commercial revenue earning ability.

We are at the stage now in many counties where the expenditure on games development is becoming an even smaller percentage of both the total income and the total expenditure. Counties, which continue to adopt such a policy on an on-going basis, are simply creating an even bigger problem for their County Board in the years ahead.

PLAYER'S INSURANCE

The demise of the player's Voluntary Insurance Scheme will be quite serious for many clubs. Although the G.A.A. contribution to the new scheme will be in the region of €7m, a significant increase in club contributions will be

required to meet all anticipated claims. For far too long our players have looked at the running of their G.A.A. club as a problem only for the club officers and generating enough funds to keep the club afloat was seen as a matter for these officials. Realism will now have to dawn on every player in so far as membership contributions are concerned. If you want to join a golf club or a leisure centre you know precisely what it will cost you. Why should it be any different if you want to be a member of a G.A.A. Club?

GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT

Grants in excess of €1m were paid out to counties and clubs in 2003 directly from Comhairle Laighean resources. We will continue grant aid of this magnitude in 2004 provided our income stream continues as at present. Following a review of work planned or just completed by County Boards, I proposed to our Coiste Bainistí that we might consider taking out a loan and issue the amount of grant aid to counties in one payment rather than in smaller amounts over a couple of years. This proposal found favour with Comhairle Laighean members and our subsequent presentation to the National Finance Committee received a favourable response. In the next couple of weeks we will be finalising the loan agreement with the Bank of Ireland and the grants due to the counties will be paid out shortly after that. The extent of the grant aid has in a number of instances allowed counties to fast track their developments and they are now in a position to start benefiting in a tangible way from their newly refurbished venues. Dublin are currently working on the installation of flood lightening at Parnell Park and I warmly welcome this development. We need at least two other venues in Leinster with the same facility in the near future and I propose to commence discussions with a number of relevant parties in the coming months on the matter. All going well I hope to be in a position to put some proposals before Comhairle Laighean by the middle of the year.

CROKE PARK

A large portion of our income increase in 2003 is due to the fact that we were back in Croke Park for many of our games and this is allowing for the disappointing attendance on the 11th May. Of course we had a proportionate increase in our

costs but overall the benefit of staging our major games in Croke Park cannot be denied. Much has been written about the cost of staging games in Croke Park and we did have a few heated debates with PCT on the matter during the year. The costs associated with the various services, which are required on any given day, seem excessive to Comhairle Laighean. As a result we are now looking at a different method of paying for the use of Croke Park on match days and I am hopeful that our discussions with Peter McKenna will bear fruit in the coming weeks and allow us to put firm proposals before our Coiste Bainistí and ultimately the full Council.

One of the knock-on effects of the Northern End development is that neither Hill 16 nor the Nally Stand areas will be available to Comhairle Laighean for any games this year. This is the third year in a row that we have been unable to use the full stadium but thankfully it will be the last. With Hill 16 unavailable Comhairle Laighean will endeavour to make more family passes available to accommodate patrons who may be inconvenienced by this development.

CONCESSION TICKETS

Comhairle Laighean was the first Provincial Council to actively market concession tickets to our games in a major way. This has been a very successful development and we will actively promote this scheme again in the year ahead. However, we are gravely concerned at the level of abuse with concession tickets where some patrons will try every trick in the book (and sometimes the trick is not even in the book) to gain access to games using concession tickets to which they are not entitled. A number of new procedures will be adopted in 2004 to counteract this abuse. I want to make it quite clear that anyone entitled to concession tickets will get them but we will be weeding out those people who are simply trying to abuse our goodwill.

DUBLIN

On the 7th April last year Comhairle Laighean finally commenced discussions with Dublin in relation to plans being proposed by the SRC. Discussions in the meantime have been intense and tough but I have to say that genuine progress is now being made. I want to record my

thanks and that of our Chief Executive to the Dublin officials who have worked very diligently to bring the discussions to this stage. Understandable concern and anxiety was expressed by many Comhairle Laighean members at the perception that grant aid to every other county in the Province would be seriously impacted if Dublin were to receive the proposed level of funding as outlined in the SRC report. It is important to note that Comhairle Laighean was never consulted in relation to the level of funding proposed in the SRC report but I now feel that we have agreed a fair and reasonable financial package with Dublin, which has been endorsed by Comhairle Laighean. In summary Comhairle Laighean will:

- Grant aid coaching & games development initiatives to an amount of €200K per annum each year for the next three years
- Continue our level of general expenses in line with other counties in the Province and in line with existing agreements with Dublin relating to administration support (approx. €165K in 2003)
- Write off the loan relating to the Rathcoole property which amounts to €127K (this is shown in our 2003 accounts)
- Convert the IR£500K loan relating to Parnell Park to a €500K loan and which will be repaid to Comhairle Laighean at a rate of €100K per annum over the next five years commencing in 2004. This resulted in a write off of €135K and will be shown in our accounts over the next five years at a rate of €27K per annum
- In line with other counties who are undertaking major capital projects, Dublin will receive €260K for the installation of floodlighting at Parnell Park and other general upgrading at this venue and at O'Toole Park

In the past few weeks Kevin O'Shaughnessy was appointed Strategic Director of the overall Dublin SRC Implementation Plan. I warmly welcome Kevin on board and as the former head of Texaco in Ireland he brings some badly needed strategic planning and organisation to the process. Three Regional Developments Officers have also been appointed in recent weeks and I

am confident that these new Officers, plus Dermot Healy, the Director of Hurling and the Coaching Director Ger O'Connor will form a formidable team under the guidance of Kevin O'Shaughnessy. The serious work will now commence and as one of the major financial contributors to the various Dublin SRC projects, Comhairle Laighean will expect to see significant improvements in Gaelic games organisation and development in Dublin over the coming years.

The Chairman of the Comhairle Laighean Coaching & Games Development Committee Jimmy Dunne is currently in discussions with Kevin O'Shaughnessy regarding the transfer of the current Comhairle Laighean Urban Area Scheme to his control. We are committed to this transfer but only when we are completely satisfied that the structures and resources are in place in Dublin to deliver the appropriate support services to the participating clubs. The Urban Area Scheme has been an outstanding success and for this the thanks must go to Jimmy and his able assistants Tom Fitzpatrick & Ger O'Connor. Eight Project Managers now cover seventeen clubs and there is already a long queue of clubs waiting to join the scheme. Suffice to say that there will be no shortage of work for Kevin O'Shaughnessy and his team in the years ahead. I wish them well and I am pleased that they will continue to be actively involved with the Comhairle Laighean Coaching & Games Development committee.

These developments pose a big challenge also for the Dublin County Board and the clubs of Dublin. I look forward to the immediate establishment of a Dublin County Coaching & Games Development Committee plus the appointment of a Dublin Coaching Officer, which will formally establish the necessary linkage between the County Board, the clubs of Dublin, the many educational bodies in the capital, the various SRC projects and Comhairle Laighean.

COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT

Comhairle Laighean invested over €1.2m in various coaching & games development projects and the employment of coaching personnel in 2003. Some of our own Comhairle Laighean members have questioned the return on this

expenditure. I had a brief look recently at the coaching & games development activities in all counties in the Province and I am far from happy with what I discovered. Some County Coaching & Games Development Committees are non-existent while only a few County Boards bother to discuss the subject at their monthly County Board meetings. Greater transparency in how funds are expended on coaching & games development initiatives will be expected in future. In fact the Irish Sports Council is adamant that a comprehensive report must be submitted in future outlining how their funding was spent. Counties failing to meet these minimum criteria will not receive funding. For far too long we have pumped money into counties for coaching initiatives, yet some of this money gets spent in other areas, particularly to support the preparation of inter-county teams.

REFEREES

Few issues generated as much debate over the past year as the performance of our referees. Much of the criticism has been way over the top and is one very good reason why it is becoming so difficult to attract new referees to our games. The investment in referee training has never been greater than at present and the regular analysis of refereeing performances by Coiste na Réiteorí and the referees themselves shows the seriousness with which this matter is being addressed. Regular meetings, assessments and training sessions are also conducted here in Leinster under the guidance of Pierce Freaney, but in general the focus on refereeing in many counties is lukewarm at best. It was rather ironic to read a report relating to refereeing in the media during the week where a call was made to establish a separate function in Croke Park to deal with such matters. As we already have such a function established one can only conclude that we have fallen down somewhere along the line in getting that message across. Maybe if the refereeing issue became a more regular topic at County Board meetings more people would be aware of the commitment by the G.A.A. to improving refereeing standards in Gaelic games.

URBAN DEVELOPMENTS

Last Monday night in Áras Laighean we had a most informative presentation on the impact of the growing population shift in Leinster and its

implications for Comhairle Laighean and our twelve counties. Also published on Monday night was an Urban Survey Report covering many key areas in Leinster, which was undertaken by NUI Maynooth student Aoife Cullen as part of her thesis. I have not had an opportunity yet to study Aoife's report but it will prove an invaluable piece of information as we plan future strategy. One very interesting statistic to emerge from Aoife's report is that eight new clubs were formed in Leinster in 2003. As a Council we have some very serious issues to address in this area over the coming years but I would like to see a greater sense of urgency on the matter by County Boards. Surely you can all see the major urbanisation taking place around our Province particularly on the eastern side and the urgent need to develop strategies to manage this growth. I have asked our Club Development Committee to enlist the services of some external resources to advise us immediately in this area and set out an outline strategy for every county in the Province. After that it will be up to each county and their Development Officer to specifically identify the requirements for their own county and deal directly with their local planning authority.

TWINNING

It is my pleasure to welcome Declan Lynch from the European G.A.A. Board to our Convention tonight. Europe and Australia are the two international boards, which have twinned with Leinster and we look forward to a fruitful relationship in the years ahead. I recently met with the Australian Board during the Compromise Rules trip but in view of the distance involved between our two countries the opportunities to assist our friends down under will be somewhat limited. I will be discussing a number of initiatives with our European friends over the coming months and already we have agreed to send T.J. Ward to conduct a coaching session in Rennes in France during the first week of March.

Over the past few years Comhairle Laighean has also supported the development of Gaelic games in the Bishop Challoner High School in Birmingham and the development of a new juvenile club in Leicester. I have invited the G.A.A. Development Officers in these areas to bring two teams to Ireland in 2004 to participate

in one of the mini-games in Croke Park. You will all have an opportunity to see at first hand the great work being done by Dublin lads Brian Roberts & Eddie O'Connor and Laois native Kevin McEvoy.

CAMOGIE & LADIES FOOTBALL

2004 is a special year for the Camogie Association and I congratulate all involved. Good progress is being made towards increasing the co-operation between the G.A.A., the Camogie Association and the Ladies Gaelic Football Association. Discussions are currently in hand also between Comhairle Laighean and the two ladies associations at Provincial level and I expect that an agreement on more direct co-operation will be reached very soon.

ÁRAS LAIGHEAN

The official opening of Áras Laighean was another major highlight in 2003 and I once again congratulate all involved with the purchase and renovation of our new headquarters. I wish Michael and his staff and all Comhairle Laighean members, both current and future, many years of happy service in this fine new centre.

RETIREMENTS

Tonight is a sad occasion for Comhairle Laighean with the retirement of two esteemed Officers. Seamus Howlin brings the curtain down on three years as PRO and I am grateful to you Seamus for the high standards you have set as the first such Officer of the Council. Paddy Flanagan's retirement brings an end to over 40 years of faithful service to Comhairle Laighean. Nobody displayed such loyalty and commitment to Comhairle Laighean over those 40 years as Paddy. I am grateful to you Paddy for your words of advice over the past two years in particular; words, which I know, saved me from falling into a pothole or two. Michael Delaney got it spot on in his report when he mentioned your sympathy for the underdog and many an underdog will never know that your assessment of a particular situation did result in the punishment being that little bit lighter than some of us might have wished. May you have many happy years of retirement and you will always be welcome at our many functions and events in the years ahead.

THANKS

The work of Comhairle Laighean continues to grow every year and on behalf of us all I want to thank Michael Delaney and his staff, Michael Reynolds, Julie Quinn, Hannah Horan and Patricia Clear plus the seasonal staff for their commitment to the work of the Council. I also want to record my thanks to John Cotter and the results of his labour are clear to see from the significant increase in programme and advertising income. I extend my appreciation also to our three Coaching Directors, Lester Ryan, Noel Delaney & Ger O'Connor, Schools

Officers Tom Fitzpatrick & Tom O'Donnell and the many coaching personnel in our counties and Third Level Colleges.

CONCLUSION

Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable & successful 2004. Tá síúil agam go mbeidh bliain sásúil i ndáin dúinn. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Níoclás Ó Braonáin
Cathaoirleach



Leinster Junior Football Champions 2004, Kildare, pictured before their defeat of Dublin in the final at Newbridge.

Back L-R: Mick Tobin (selector) Tony Kelly (selector), Pat Browne, Frank Barry, Leslie Kelly, Anthony Moran, John O'Kelly, Eamon McCormack, John Dempsey, David Devane, Joe Dalton (Capt), Mark Herbert, Colm Quinn, Lar McKenna, Anthony Kavanagh, Steven Connolly, Kevin Curtis, Kenny Byrne, Shane Darcy.

Front L-R: John Malone, Thomas Farrell, Thomas Corley, Brendan Domincan (Fitness trainer), Kevin Cooney, Frank Ryder, Tony Spain, Noel Mallon, Gordan Kearney, John Doyle, Mark Fitzharris, Colin Clarke, Tom Nolan, Johnny Ownes, Timmy Dowling, Mick Corley (selector). Missing from Photo: Niall Naughton

Comhairle Laighean

Clár na gCluichí 2005

PEIL SINSIR

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

LEINSTER UNDER 21 F.C. 2005

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

IOMÁINT SINSIR

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

LEINSTER JUNIOR FOOTBALL 2005

1	UIBH FHAILI	v	LU
2		v	ATH CLIATH
3	CILL MHANTAIN	v	LOCH GARMAN
4		v	CILL CHAINNIGH
5		1 v	2
6		3 v	4
CRAOBH		5 v	6

LEINSTER SPECIAL U-21 H.C. 2005

1	IARMHI	v	CILL MHANTAIN
2	LONGPHORT	v	CEATHARLOCH
3		v	AN MHI
4	CILL DARA	v	LU
5		1 v	2
6		3 v	4
CRAOBH		5 v	6

LEINSTER UNDER 21 H.C. 2005

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

CRAOBH 2 v 3

LEINSTER INTERMEDIATE HURLING 2005

CRAOBH

CILL CHAINNIGH v LOCH GARMAN

LEINSTER MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

PRELIMINARY GROUPS

GROUP A

Cill Chainnigh, Longphort, Lu

GROUP B

Cill Mhantain, Loch Garman, Ceatharloch

LEINSTER MINOR FOOTBALL 2005

1 ATH CLIATH v GROUP B
2 GROUP A v LAOIS
3 AN MHI v CILL DARA
4 UIBH FHAILI v IARMHI

5 1 v 2

6 3 v 4

CRAOBH 5 v 6

LEINSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

An Mhi v Ceatharloch
Cill Dara v Iarmhi
Cill Mhantain a bye

Ceatharloch v Cill Dara
Iarmhi v Cill Mhantain
An Mhi a bye

Iarmhi v An Mhi
Cill Dara v Cill Mhantain
Ceatharloch a bye

Cill Mhantain v An Mhi
Ceatharloch v Iarmhi
Cill Dara a bye

Ath Cliath v Loch Garman
Uibh Fhaili v Laois

An Mhi v Cill Dara
Cill Mhantain v Ceatharloch
Iarmhi a bye

Uibh Fhaili v Ath Cliath
Loch Garman v Laois

Top two teams to play in Final

Laois v Ath Cliath
Loch Garman v Uibh Fhaili

Quarter Finals (to be drawn)

Semi Finals

Final

Comhairle Laighean Clár na gCluichí 2005

PEIL SINSIR

				DATE	VENUE
1	Offaly	v	Louth	8.5.2005	Navan
2	1	v	Laois	29.5.2005	Croke Park
3	Wicklow	v	Kildare	15.5.2005	Croke Park
4	3	v	Westmeath	29.5.2005	Croke Park
5	Dublin	v	Longford	15.5.2005	Croke Park
6	5	v	Meath	5.6.2005	Croke Park
7	Carlow	v	Wexford	5.6.2005	Croke Park
8	2	v	4	19.6.2005	Croke Park
9	6	v	7	19.6.2005	Croke Park
CRAOBH	8	v	9	17.7.2005	Croke Park

IOMÁINT SINSIR

				DATE	VENUE
1	Laois	v	Dublin	22.5.2005	Kilkenny
2	1	v	Wexford	12.6.2005	Croke Park
3	Offaly	v	Kilkenny	12.6.2005	Croke Park
CRAOBH	2	v	3	3.7.2005	Croke Park

FÉ 21 BLIAIN PEIL

				DATE	VENUE
1	Wexford	v	Westmeath	5.3.2005	Wexford
2	1	v	Longford	17.3.2005	Wexford / Mullingar
3	Carlow	v	Louth	5.3.2005	Carlow
4	3	v	Dublin	17.3.2005	Carlow / Dundalk
5	Wicklow	v	Laois	5.3.2005	Aughrim
6	5	v	Kildare	17.3.2005	Aughrim/Portlaoise
7	Kilkenny	v	Offaly	5.3.2005	Kilkenny
8	7	v	Meath	17.3.2005	Kilkenny/Tullamore
9	2	v	4	2.4.2005	Le Socru
10	6	v	8	2.4.2005	Le Socru
CRAOBH	9	v	10	16.4.2005	Le Socru

FÉ 21 BLIAIN IOMÁINT SPEISIÁLTA

				DATE	VENUE
1	Westmeath	v	Wicklow	9.4.2005	Clane
2	Longford	v	Carlow	9.4.2005	Longford
3	Laois	v	Meath	9.4.2005	Portlaoise
4	Kildare	v	Louth	9.4.2005	Newbridge
5		1 v 2		23.4.2005	Mullingar / Aughrim
6		3 v 4		23.4.2005	Portlaoise / Navan
CRAOBH		5 v 6		4.5.2005	Home Venue of 5

FÉ 21 IOMÁINT

				DATE	VENUE
1	Special Winners	v	Kilkenny	1.6.2005	Spec Winners Venue
2		1 v	Wexford	22.6.2005	Le Socru / Kilkenny
3	Dublin	v	Offaly	22.6.2005	Portlaoise
CRAOBH		2 v 3		20.7.2005	Le Socru

PEIL MÍONÚIR

				DATE	VENUE
A1	Kilkenny	v	Longford	26.3.2005	Kilkenny
A2	Loser A1	v	Louth	9.4.2005	Dundalk / Longford
A3	Winner A1	v	Louth	23.4.2005	Longford / Dundalk
B1	Carlow	v	Wexford	26.3.2005	Carlow
B2	Loser B1	v	Wicklow	9.4.2005	Aughrim / Wexford
B3	Winner B1	v	Wicklow	23.4.2005	Wexford / Aughrim
4	Dublin	v	Group B	14.5.2005	Parnell Park
5	Group A	v	Laois	14.5.2005	Group A Venue
6	Meath	v	Kildare	14.5.2005	Navan
7	Offaly	v	Westmeath	14.5.2005	Mullingar
8		4 v 5		25.6.2005	Le Socru
9		6 v 7		25.6.2005	Le Socru
CRAOBH		8 v 9		17.7.2005	Croke Park

IOMÁINT IDIRMHEANACH

				DATE	VENUE
CRAOBH	Kilkenny	v	Wexford	13.7.2005	Kilkenny

PEIL SOISIR

				DATE	VENUE	
1	Offaly	v	Louth	1.6.2005	Tullamore	
2	Kildare	v	Dublin	1.6.2005	Newbridge	
3	Wicklow	v	Wexford	1.6.2005	Aughrim	
4	Meath	v	Kilkenny	1.6.2005	Navan	
5		1	v	2	15.6.2005	Tullamore/Drogheda
6		3	v	4	15.6.2005	Aughrim / Wexford
CRAOBH		5	v	6	29.6.2005	Home Venue of 5

IOMÁINT MÍONÚIR

				DATE
	Meath	v	Carlow	5.3.2005
	Kildare	v	Westmeath	5.3.2005
	Wicklow	a bye		
	Carlow	v	Kildare	19.3.2005
	Westmeath	v	Wicklow	19.3.2005
	Meath	a bye		
	Westmeath	v	Meath	26.3.2005
	Kildare	v	Wicklow	26.3.2005
	Carlow	a bye		
	Wicklow	v	Meath	2.4.2005
	Carlow	v	Westmeath	2.4.2005
	Kildare	a bye		
	Dublin	v	Wexford	2.4.2005
	Offaly	v	Laois	2.4.2005
	Meath	v	Kildare	16.4.2005
	Wicklow	v	Carlow	16.4.2005
	Westmeath	a bye		
	Offaly	v	Dublin	16.4.2005
	Wexford	v	Laois	16.4.2005
	Top two teams to play in Final			30.4.2005
	Laois	v	Dublin	30.4.2005
	Wexford	v	Offaly	30.4.2005
	Quarter Finals (to be drawn)			7.5.2005
	Semi Finals			25.6.2005
	Final			3.7.2005



Kilkenny - All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling Champions 2004

Back L-R: Tom Frisby, Keith Nolan, Pauraic Holden, Mark Heffernan, Stephen Maher, Seaghan O'Neill, Shane Hennessy, Richie Power, Ciarán Hoyne, Michael Fennelly, Eoin Reid, Pat Robinson, Robbie Dowling, John Phelan.

Centre Row: Colin Dunne, John Murphy, John Tennyson, P.J. Delaney, Peter Cleere, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick (Capt.), David Herity, Conor Phelan, Willie O'Dwyer, Anthony Owens.

Front Row: Niall Doherty, Brian Dowling, James Meagher, Tommy Walsh, Niall Moran, Michael Rice, Eoin Larkin, Eddie Campion.

Cluichí Laighean 2004

O'BYRNE CUP S.F.

4/1	D.I.T.	2-12	Cill Chainnigh	1-08	Freshford
4/1	Uibh Fhaili	3-11	Loch Garman	2-11	Enniscorthy
4/1	Ceatharloch	2-09	Cill Mhantain	0-12	Carlow
4/1	Longphort	6-08	Laois	0-06	Dromard
4/1	Iarmhi	1-16	Lu	1-08	Mullingar
11/1	Iarmhi	1-12	Cill Dara	1-04	Mullingar
11/1	Uibh Fhaili	1-10	D.I.T.	1-05	Tullamore
11/1	An Mhi	0-13	Longphort	0-06	Dromard
11/1	Ceatharloch	2-08	Ath Cliath	0-13	Carlow
18/1	Iarmhi	0-16	Ceatharloch	2-08	Mullingar
18/1	An Mhi	2-09	Uibh Fhaili	0-10	Navan
25/1	An Mhi	2-06	Iarmhi	0-11	Mullingar

WALSH CUP S.H.

18/1	U.C.D.	0-21	An Dun	0-13	Belfield
24/1	U.C.D.	1-20	Iarmhi	2-06	St. Lomans
25/1	Ath Cliath	0-16	Loch Garman	0-10	Piercestown
25/1	Uibh Fhaili	1-17	Laois	0-15	Birr
1/2	U.C.D.	2-07	Uibh Fhaili	1-06	Birr
1/2	Cill Chainnigh	0-13	Ath Cliath	0-11	Freshford
7/2	U.C.D.	2-16	Cill Chainnigh	0-05	Kilkenny

KEHOE CUP S.H.

18/1	Longphort	2-09	Muineachain	0-08	Longford Slashers
24/1	Ceatharloch	3-12	Muigh Eo	1-13	Ceatharloch
25/1	D.I.T.	4-14	Cill Dara	3-15	Clane
25/1	Cill Mhantain	2-09	Lu	0-04	Drogheda
25/1	An Mhi	2-21	Longphort	1-03	Longford Slashers
1/2	An Mhi	1-14	D.I.T.	2-07	Dunsany
1/2	Cill Mhantain	0-11	Ceatharloch	0-09	Aughrim
8/2	An Mhi	1-15	Cill Mhantain	0-11	Navan

LEINSTER M.F. LEAGUE

31/1	An Mhi	1-05	Laois	0-05	Stradbally
31/1	Lu	0-13	Cill Mhantain	1-06	Dundalk Gaels
31/1	Longphort	2-06	Ceatharloch	0-09	Carlow H.C.
31/1	Cill Dara	2-06	Ath Cliath	1-03	Dublin
31/1	Uibh Fhaili	2-07	Iarmhi	1-06	Tullamore
7/2	An Mhi	1-07	Ath Cliath	0-06	Drumbarr
7/2	Cill Dara	0-16	Iarmhi	0-09	Newbridge
7/2	Ceatharloch	0-14	Loch Garman	2-06	Taghmon
7/2	Laois	2-14	Uibh Fhaili	0-06	Walsh Island
7/2	Cill Chainnigh	1-10	Cill Mhantain	0-06	Clara
7/2	Lu	0-08	Longphort	0-03	Longford

14/2	Loch Garman	3-05	Cill Chainnigh	0-05	Shelmaliers
21/2	Iarmhi	0-09	An Mhi	2-03	Delvin
21/2	Longphort	4-17	Cill Chainnigh	0-05	Kilkenny
21/2	Cill Dara	0-14	Uibh Fhaili	2-05	Newbridge
21/2	Loch Garman	1-11	Cill Mhantain	0-10	Rathnew
21/2	Lu	1-14	Ceatharloch	1-08	Drogheda
21/2	Laois	1-09	Ath Cliath	1-07	Saggart
28/2	Longphort	4-12	Loch Garman	1-09	Longford
28/2	Cill Mhantain	2-07	Ceatharloch	0-09	Baltinglass
28/2	Uibh Fhaili	2-08	An Mhi	1-09	Moynalty
28/2	Ath Cliath	2-11	Iarmhi	2-09	The Downs
28/2	Lu	2-14	Cill Chainnigh	1-04	Drogheda
3/3	Laois	2-04	Cill Dara	0-09	Crettyard
10/3	Ceatharloch	3-06	Cill Chainnigh	1-05	Eire Og, Carlow
13/3	Ath Cliath	1-04	Uibh Fhaili	0-07	Edenderry
13/3	Longphort	4-13	Cill Mhantain	2-04	Carrickedmond
13/3	Lu	5-11	Loch Garman	1-05	Ballygarrett
13/3	Laois	0-10	Iarmhi	0-05	Stradbally
13/3	An Mhi	0-08	Cill Dara	1-02	Newbridge

LEINSTER UNDER 21 F.C.

17/3	Loch Garman	3-13	Cill Chainnigh	0-02	Kilkenny
17/3	Cill Mhantain	1-09	Ceatharloch	0-03	Carlow
17/3	Cill Dara	1-14	Laois	0-07	Portlaoise
17/3	Uibh Fhaili	4-06	Lu	0-08	Tullamore
27/3	Ath Cliath	1-12	Cill Mhantain	1-06	Aughrim
27/3	Longphort	1-10	Loch Garman	0-09	New Ross
27/3	Cill Dara	1-11	Iarmhi	1-05	Newbridge
28/3	An Mhi	3-11	Uibh Fhaili	1-07	Tullamore
10/4	Ath Cliath	1-09	Longphort	0-10	Navan
11/4	Cill Dara	2-09	An Mhi	2-07	Tullamore
24/4	Cill Dara	0-07	Ath Cliath	1-04	Navan
1/5	Cill Dara	1-10	Ath Cliath	0-12	Portlaoise

LEINSTER M.H.C.

27/3	Cill Dara	1-16	Cill Mhantain	0-08	Aughrim
27/3	An Mhi	0-20	Longphort	0-02	Longford
10/4	Ceatharloch	1-15	Cill Mhantain	0-05	Bagenalstown
10/4	Iarmhi	5-18	Longphort	0-02	Oliver Plunketts
10/4	Ath Cliath	1-12	Loch Garman	1-07	Enniscorthy
10/4	Uibh Fhaili	0-14	Laois	1-10	Portlaoise
24/4	Ath Cliath	2-12	Uibh Fhaili	0-11	Parnell Park
24/4	An Mhi	1-12	Iarmhi	2-06	Navan
24/4	Loch Garman	2-09	Laois	0-09	Portlaoise
24/4	Cill Dara	2-14	Ceatharloch	1-07	Leixlip
8/5	Uibh Fhaili	1-11	Loch Garman	0-11	Birr
8/5	Dublin	0-13	Laois	1-08	Parnell Park
8/5	Meath	1-14	Cill Dara	2-10	Leixlip
22/5	Uibh Fhaili	5-16	Laois	0-04	Birr
22/5	Loch Garman	3-15	An Mhi	2-06	Navan
26/6	Ath Cliath	4-07	Loch Garman	2-12	Carlow
26/6	Cill Chainnigh	4-12	Uibh Fhaili	0-07	Carlow
4/7	Cill Chainnigh	1-15	Ath Cliath	1-04	Croke Park

LEINSTER M.F.C.

3/4	Loch Garman	0-09	Cill Chainnigh	1-05	Kilkenny
7/4	Longphort	1-17	Ceatharloch	0-07	Longford
17/4	Cill Mhantain	0-16	Cill Chainnigh	0-02	Aughrim
17/4	Lu	2-13	Ceatharloch	0-03	Carlow
1/5	Loch Garman	1-08	Cill Mhantain	0-09	Wexford
1/5	Lu	0-11	Longphort	0-11	Drogheda
3/5	Longphort	2-08	Lu	0-08	Longford
15/5	Ath Cliath	3-12	Loch Garman	0-04	Wexford
15/5	Iarmhi	1-11	Uibh Fhaili	3-05	Mullingar
15/5	Cill Dara	1-11	Longphort	0-09	Newbridge
15/5	Laois	2-15	An Mhi	1-05	Navan
26/5	Uibh Fhaili	0-10	Iarmhi	0-09	Tullamore
30/6	Cill Dara	1-12	Uibh Fhaili	0-10	Portlaoise
7/7	Laois	3-07	Ath Cliath	1-09	Carlow
18/7	Laois	0-10	Cill Dara	0-06	Croke Park

LEINSTER SPECIAL UNDER 21 H.C.

12/4	Ceatharloch	3-18	Lu	0-03	Drogheda
12/4	Cill Dara	1-19	Iarmhi	1-12	Leixlip
12/4	Laois	8-23	Cill Mhantain	0-07	Arklow
24/4	Laois	2-13	Ceatharloch	2-08	Carlow
1/5	An Mhi	2-10	Cill Dara	0-08	Navan
5/5	Laois	1-09	An Mhi	1-06	Portlaoise

LEINSTER CLUB S.H. LEAGUE

13/4	Naomh Eoin	1-12	Tullamore	2-07	Myshall
13/4	Fenians	2-14	St. Mullins	3-10	St. Mullins
13/4	Mt. Leinster Rangers	0-14	St. Lachtains	0-09	Mt. Leinster Rngr.
13/4	Killavilla	1-13	Ballinkillen	2-08	Carlow H.C.
13/4	Ballinkill	0-22	Clonad	2-12	Ballinakill
13/4	The Harps	2-10	Rathdowney	1-12	Durrow
13/4	Camross	1-09	Tinnahinch	0-05	Mountrath
13/4	Erins Own	5-16	Drumcullen	1-10	Castlecomer
13/4	Ballyskenagh	1-11	Kilcotton	2-08	Ballyskenagh
13/4	St. Martins	3-18	Shinrone	2-07	St. Martins
13/4	Errill	5-08	Mountrath	2-07	Errill
15/4	Portlaoise	5-08	Clough-Ballacolla	1-09	Ballacolla
20/4	Fenians	2-11	Ballinakill	1-07	Johnstown
20/4	St. Mullins	1-07	Clonad	1-04	Clonad
20/4	Clough-Ballacolla	0-11	St. Lachtains	1-03	Freshford
20/4	Portlaoise	1-06	Mt. Leinster Rangers	0-08	Portlaoise
20/4	Rathdowney	5-14	Ballinkillen	0-05	Rathdowney
20/4	Ballyskenagh	1-08	Drumcullen	0-08	Drumcullen
20/4	Kilcotton	0-11	Erins Own	0-09	Kilcotton
20/4	Shinrone	3-08	Errill	0-11	Shinrone
20/4	St. Martins	3-09	Mountrath	3-08	Mountrath
24/4	Killavilla	3-09	Harps	1-16	Killavilla
27/4	Drumcullen	0-11	Kilcotton	0-09	Drumcullen
1/5	Rathdowney	0-21	Killavilla	2-07	Killavilla
4/5	Shinrone	3-13	Mountrath	0-08	Shinrone

4/5	Harps	2-13	Ballinkillen	2-02	Ballinkillen
4/5	St. Martins	3-19	Errill	0-05	St. Martins
4/5	Portlaoise	4-14	St. Lachtains	0-04	Freshford
4/5	Camross	3-10	Naomh Eoin	1-06	Myshall
10/5	Erins Own	2-18	Ballyskenagh	3-05	Castlecomer
11/5	Harps	1-14	Portlaoise	0-13	Portlaoise
11/5	St. Mullins	2-10	Camross	3-05	St. Mullins
18/5	Erins Own	0-14	Harps	0-11	Portlaoise
18/5	St. Martins	2-15	St. Mullins	1-10	St. Mullins
30/5	St. Martins	0-13	Erins Own	0-12	Carlow

GUINNESS LEINSTER S.H.C.

2/5	Laois	4-19	Ceatharloch	0-08	Carlow
2/5	Iarmhi	6-14	Cill Mhantain	1-13	Mullingar
16/5	Laois	1-13	An Mhi	0-08	Portlaoise
16/5	Iarmhi	1-18	Cill Dara	1-06	Mullingar
29/5	Uibh Fhaili	2-23	Laois	1-15	Tullamore
13/6	Ath Cliath	2-14	Iarmhi	0-11	Croke Park
13/6	Loch Garman	2-15	Cill Chainnigh	1-15	Croke Park
20/6	Uibh Fhaili	2-25	Ath Cliath	1-13	Croke Park
4/7	Loch Garman	2-12	Uibh Fhaili	1-11	Croke Park

GUINNESS ALL IRELAND S.H. PRE-QUALIFIER

19/6	Laois	3-13	Iarmhi	4-05	Portlaoise
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BANK OF IRELAND LEINSTER S.F.C.

9/5	Ceatharloch	4-15	Longphort	1-16	Tullamore
16/5	Loch Garman	2-10	Lu	0-08	Parnell Park
23/5	An Mhi	2-13	Cill Mhantain	1-08	Croke Park
23/5	Iarmhi	0-11	Uibh Fhaili	0-10	Croke Park
30/5	Laois	0-15	Ceatharloch	1-07	Carlow
6/6	Iarmhi	0-14	Ath Cliath	0-12	Croke Park
6/6	Loch Garman	0-12	Cill Dara	0-10	Croke Park
20/6	Laois	1-13	An Mhi	0-09	Croke Park
27/6	Iarmhi	2-15	Loch Garman	1-14	Croke Park
18/7	Iarmhi	0-13	Laois	0-13	Croke Park
24/7	Iarmhi	0-12	Laois	0-10	Croke Park

LEINSTER UNDER 21 H.C.

2/6	Cill Chainnigh	0-20	Laois	2-10	Portlaoise
24/6	Loch Garman	1-13	Uibh Fhaili	2-07	Kilkenny
29/6	Cill Chainnigh	0-15	Ath Cliath	2-05	Portlaoise
14/7	Cill Chainnigh	1-16	Loch Garman	2-03	Wexford

LEINSTER J.F.C.

9/6	Loch Garman	1-06	Cill Mhantain	0-07	Wexford
9/6	Cill Dara	2-10	Cill Chainnigh	0-03	Kilkenny
23/6	Cill Dara	1-11	An Mhi	1-09	Newbridge
27/6	Ath Cliath	2-12	Loch Garman	1-10	Croke Park
8/7	Cill Dara	0-09	Ath Cliath	0-08	Newbridge

LEINSTER I.H.C. FINAL

30/6	Cill Chainnigh	3-17	Loch Garman	1-10	Wexford
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LEINSTER J.H.C.

30/6	An Mhi	4-19	Cill Dara	1-07	Navan
30/6	Longphort	0-14	Lu	1-09	Longphort
20/7	An Mhi	4-14	Longphort	2-07	Navan

A.I.B. LEINSTER CLUB H.C.

17/10	Kilmessan	0-22	Pearse Og	1-06	Navan
17/10	Portlaoise	2-17	Castletown Geog	1-12	Castletown
17/10	Carnew Emmets	4-20	Wolfe Tones (LD)	0-05	Arklow
23/10	Naomh Brid	2-09	Ardclough	1-06	Newbridge
31/10	Coolderry	0-13	Carnew Emmetts	0-08	Arklow
31/10	UCD	1-20	Portlaoise	0-11	Portlaoise
31/10	Oulart	2-14	Naomh Brid	0-07	Carlow
6/11	James Stephens	4-14	Kilmessan	1-10	Navan
14/11	James Stephens	2-13	Oulart the Ballagh	0-14	Kilkenny
14/11	UCD	1-14	Coolderry	0-07	Portlaoise
28/11	James Stephens	1-13	UCD	1-12	Portlaoise

A.I.B. LEINSTER CLUB F.C.

23/10	Kilmacud Crokes	3-09	St. Patricks (WW)	0-06	Parnell Park
23/10	Rhode	3-10	Clonguish	0-08	Longford
23/10	Rathvilly	4-07	Muckalee	0-04	Castlecomer
23/10	Allenwood	0-11	St. Patricks (LH)	0-06	Newbridge
7/11	Portlaoise	3-10	Rhode	0-04	Tullamore
7/11	Rathvilly	0-08	Starlights	0-08	Carlow
7/11	Skryne	1-08	Allenwood	1-07	Newbridge
13/11	Kilmacud Crokes	0-14	Garrycastle	1-10	Parnell Park
13/11	Starlights	2-05	Rathvilly	2-07	Enniscorthy
21/11	Portlaoise	0-14	Kilmacud Crokes	0-08	Carlow
21/11	Skryne	1-11	Starlights	0-06	Newbridge
5/12	Portlaoise	1-11	Skryne	2-04	Newbridge

LEINSTER JUNIOR CLUB F.C.

6/11	Castledermot	0-11	Kilbride	0-08	Kildavin
6/11	Mullinavat	1-09	Valleymount	1-06	Mullinavat
6/11	Kilclonfert	1-05	Kilcavan	0-06	Croghan
6/11	Grattan Og	2-09	St. Mochtas	0-11	St. Mochtas
13/11	Kilcavan	0-08	Crumlin	0-06	Mountmellick
13/11	Ratoath	4-17	St. Mochtas	0-04	Ratoath
13/11	Valleymount	2-11	Shamrocks	0-08	Valleymount
13/11	St. Josephs	3-13	Kilbride	2-09	Streamstown
20/11	Castledermot	2-07	St. Josephs	0-05	Athy
20/11	Shamrocks	0-05	Mullinavat	0-05	Enniscorthy
20/11	Ratoath	1-11	Grattan Og	0-02	Longford
20/11	Kilclonfert	0-10	Crumlin	1-04	O' Toole Park
4/12	Kilclonfert	0-13	Mullinavat	1-04	Croghan
4/12	Ratoath	1-08	Castledermot	1-06	Castledermot
11/12	Ratoath	1-16	Kilclonfert	1-05	Ratoath

LEINSTER JUNIOR CLUB H.C.

30/10	Kilcoole	0-19	Ros Glas	0-08	Kilcoole
30/10	Trumera	2-15	Clonguish	2-06	Longford
30/10	Clan na Gael	1-16	Nh. Moninne	2-12	Dowdallshill
6/11	Belmont	4-18	Palatine	2-05	Palatine
13/11	Ballygarrett	1-14	Ros Glas	1-03	Rosglas
13/11	Galmoy	3-22	Palatine	0-08	Galmoy
13/11	St. Patricks	3-13	Clonguish	1-09	Palmerstown
27/11	Oliver Plunketts	1-09	Clan na Gael	0-05	Athboy
27/11	Galmoy	1-14	Belmont	1-09	Moystown
27/11	Ballygarrett	5-09	Kilcoole	0-04	Ballygarrett
28/11	Trumera	1-13	St. Patricks	1-09	Portlaoise
4/12	Trumera	3-08	Ballygarrett	2-08	Portlaoise
5/12	Galmoy	2-14	Oliver Plunketts	0-02	Oliver Plunketts
12/12	Galmoy	0-14	Trumera	0-08	Freshford

LEINSTER CLUB INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

13/11	Avondale	3-05	Clonbullogue	1-09	Clonbullogue
13/11	Dreadnots	3-08	Ballyhogue	1-10	Clogherhead
13/11	Erins Own	1-05	Tinryland	0-07	Castlecomer
13/11	Wolfe Tones	1-10	Ballymore	2-05	Kilberry
20/11	Wolfe Tones	2-06	Parnells	0-06	Kilberry
20/11	Avondale	2-10	St. Marys	2-09	Rathdrum
20/11	Dreadnots	1-07	Timahoe	0-06	Clogherhead
23/11	Naas	3-10	Erins Own	1-05	Ballitore
27/11	Wolfe Tones	2-13	Avondale	1-07	Kilberry
28/11	Naas	2-13	Dreadnots	4-05	Clogherhead
4/12	Wolfe Tones	1-10	Naas	0-08	Kilberry

LEINSTER CLUB INTERMEDIATE HURLING FINAL

13/11	Carrickshock	2-16	St. Patricks	0-06	Camolin
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Meath - Leinster Junior Hurling Champions 2004

Back: Eamonn Clancy, David Donnelly, J.P. Ryan, Christopher Doyle, Robert Flanagan, Joe Melia, Paul Tobin, David Troy (Capt), Brendan Flynn, Seamus Duignan, Front: Trevor Donoghue, David Kirby, Mark Scanton, David Geraghty, Stephen Moran, Maurice O'Shaughnessy.

Tuairisc an Rúnaí



A Cháirde,

The year 2004 AD will always be remembered in the annals of Leinster G.A.A. as the year when Westmeath finally stepped up to win their first ever Leinster Senior Football Championship title. Whether from a neutral county, or indeed vanquished Laois, we all understood and celebrated their joy.

The other Leinster titles went to more established bases with Kildare taking the Under 21 and Junior double, Laois winning the Minor and Portlaoise the AIB Club Championship. Meath won the O'Byrne Cup while two of their clubs, Wolfe Tones and Ratoath, respectively won the inaugural Leinster Intermediate and Junior Club Football Championships.

There was a change in the hurling order also, at least in Senior. Here Wexford regained the title but once again Kilkenny won most other grades available to them. They won Intermediate, Minor, Under 21 while their clubs won all three Leinster Club Hurling Championships viz James Stephens (AIB Senior), Carrickshock (Intermediate) and Galmoy (Junior). For good measure St. Martins (Kilkenny) won our first ever Club S.H. League.

Meath won the Leinster Junior title and Kehoe Cup, Laois the Special Under-21, while U.C.D. took the Walsh Cup trophy.

All Ireland titles were scarce in the province in 2004. We won no football title while just two came our way in hurling i.e. Under -21 (Kilkenny) and Special Under -21 (Laois).

Despite the lack of success on the national stage we had a very exciting year within the province. Entertainment was good, surprise results provoked debate and public interest while levels of discipline were acceptable.

Development of facilities carried on apace and the accounts show that we contributed significantly in this area. Similarly with games development - activity was widespread and money was not spared. In this area also, we transferred the Urban Area Scheme over to Dublin and we know that it will continue to be as successful as heretofore.

I am pleased to present my report on the year's G.A.A. activities, for 2004, to Leinster Convention.

ROLL OF HONOUR

PEIL

Sinsir
Soisir
Mionuir
Fe 21 Bliain
Club Sinsir AIB
Club Idirmh.
Club Soisir
Corn Ui Bhroin

BUATHOIRI

Iarmhi
Cill Dara
Laois
Cill Dara
Portlaoise
Wolfe Tones
Ratoath
An Mhi

NEASOIRI

Laois
Ath Cliath
Cill Dara
Ath Cliath
Skryne
Naas
Kilclonfert
Iarmhi

IOMAINT

Sinsir
Idirmheanach
Soisir
Mionuir
Fe 21 Bliain
Fe 21 Bliain Sp.
Club Sinsir AIB
Club Idirmh.
Club Soisir
Corn Breath.
Corn Mac Eoch.
Club S.H. League

BUATHOIRI

Loch Garman
Cill Chainnigh
An Mhi
Cill Chainnigh
Cill Chainnigh
Laois
James Stephens
Carrickshock
Galmoy
UCD
An Mhi
St. Martins (KK)

NEASOIRI

Uibh Fhaili
Loch Garman
Longphort
Ath Cliath
Loch Garman
An Mhi
UCD
St. Patricks
Trumera
Cill Chainnigh
Cill Mhantain
Erins Own (KK)

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

BANK OF IRELAND LEINSTER SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Another chapter was added in 2004 to the ongoing fairytale that is the Leinster Senior Football Championship. This time it was Westmeath who emerged from the mists of history to win their first ever Leinster S.F.C. title. What an occasion! What a homecoming! What an outpouring of emotions! What a release from the bonds of perceived failures of the past.

This championship of ours was deemed a two horse race in recent years with the odd interloper thrown in, perhaps once in each decade. Not anymore - we have had five different winners in the last five years and six in the last eight. The experts tell us that we now have the weakest of the four provincial football championships. Does this mean we deliver dour, drab football which lacks excitement or competitive bite? Maybe so but it sure is good entertainment.

It may be a distant memory for some but there are still many who remember episodes of the Leinster S.F.C. 2004 - the Carlow swagger as they swamped Longford, the Wexford heroics in overcoming Kildare and the nail-biting drama of Westmeath's wins over Offaly and Dublin. Hey! That only brought us up to the Semi Finals.

The championship concluded on a note that fiction writers would not dare invent. A Leinster Senior Football Final - involving the two minnows of the Midlands - defending champions Laois against Westmeath, a county who had never won the title. Two managers in opposition - Micko and Paldi - who, as a team, had made each other famous. A High Court intervention in the build-up. A nail-biting draw on the first day, brought about by the late intervention of the Laois Captain - a lad who cruelly missed the replay because of illness. Finally, a deserved and glorious victory by Westmeath which released the ghosts of more than a century. Well done to all concerned.

GUINNESS LEINSTER SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

In sharp contrast to the football our Leinster Senior Hurling Championship provided a poor, fractious and boring scenario, not helped by ill-tempered boardroom interventions. The championship was rescued by two games at the finish.

For sheer skill, well executed game plans and dramatic finish it would be hard to pinpoint a better hurling game in 2004 than our semi final between Kilkenny and Wexford. Not for the first time, these two counties tore into each other in the best possible spirit. In the end Wexford inflicted a 'Kilkenny' on their opponents by snatching a late goal deep into injury time, thus giving themselves an unexpected place in the Leinster Final.

In the other half of the draw - which incidentally contained eight counties - Offaly had quietly and efficiently plotted their way to the Final also. Unusually for them, they were rank outsiders for this contest but, as so often in the past, they paid recent regard to the pundits.

In the first half, Offaly ran Wexford ragged all over the field and but for an amazing performance by Wexford goalkeeper, Damian Fitzhenry, this game would have been over as a contest by halftime. Wexford, though, are a resilient bunch and without ever reaching the levels of their semi final performance they eventually drew the sting from the Offaly lads. In the end they did just enough to recapture the O'Keeffe trophy.

UNDER-21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

This was a mediocre enough championship with very few games standing out - except of course until the final was reached. Here we had a clash of the young guns from Dublin and Kildare.

The first game, played in Navan, was a tense contest, which ended in a low-scoring draw. The replay moved on to Portlaoise and this time the two teams served up a thriller. Amidst great excitement the Lilywhites snatched a late winner.

ERIN LEINSTER UNDER-21 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

The bottom line is that Kilkenny easily defeated Wexford, in front of a huge crowd at Wexford Park, in the final of this championship. However they will be first to admit that they were severely tested in the earlier rounds, first by Laois, and then by Dublin.

This Kilkenny side grew in stature and went on to easily annex the All Ireland Championship.

LEINSTER SPECIAL UNDER-21 HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Despite predictions that this competition would prove a formality for Laois the reality proved to be somewhat different. Admittedly they did eventually win out but not without close calls from, first Carlow and then, in the Final, from a very committed Meath team.

This Laois side went on to win the All Ireland title in the grade but realistically this did very little for their future development.

Incidentally, the regulations for the Leinster Special Under 21 Hurling Championship have been changed for the coming year. Once again the winners will progress to the Leinster Under 21 Hurling Championship proper while it is the runners-up who will progress to the All Ireland Special series.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Following a series of closely contested preliminary games Kildare and Dublin qualified for the final. In an exciting encounter, played in Newbridge, the home side prevailed by a single point.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING

This year we had only two contestants in this grade. The final was played in Wexford Park but, despite including some very promising Under 21 players, the home side proved no match for an experienced Kilkenny side.

JUNIOR HURLING

Meath and Longford qualified for the final in this grade and the former had a facile victory.

This championship is put on ice for the immediate future as the new Tier 2 and Tier 3 championships take centre stage.

MINOR FOOTBALL

Wexford and Longford qualified from the Round Robin series to join the big boys in the Leinster Quarter Finals. Eventually Kildare and Laois qualified for the Leinster Final. In a disappointing game Laois eventually saw off their neighbours to add another underage trophy to their cabinet.

MINOR HURLING

It might look to be an encouraging statistic to record that eleven counties competed in the Leinster Minor Hurling Championship. The sad fact, though, is that the competition was less competitive than for many years.

Kilkenny once again proved far superior to the best of the rest, eventually having eleven points to spare over Dublin in the final.

AIB LEINSTER CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

IOMAINT

From a long way out this championship had the look of a three horse race. When James Stephens eventually saw off the challenge of Oulart the Ballagh it set up an intriguing final between themselves and U.C.D. Many questioned the right of the latter to be in the competition but most of those arguments flew in the face of logic.

This final, played in Portlaoise, provided a superb exhibition of all that is good in hurling. Naturally it had its controversial moments also, some of which featured in the media for days afterwards. The end result, however was that the Kilkenny champions recaptured the Clann Ui Neill trophy by a single point.

PEIL

At the outset of this championship the bookmakers installed Kilmacud Crokes and Rhode as joint favourites. They both had big wins to start with but ultimately both went down to Portlaoise. The Meath Champions, Skryne, quietly qualified for the final from the other half of the draw.

In an entertaining final the Laois champions always appeared to have the upper hand and they had four points to spare on their way to collecting the Sean McCabe Cup.



James Stephens (Kilkenny) AIB Leinster Club Senior Hurling Champions 2004

Back L-R: Peter O'Neill, Joe Mernagh, Tomas Keogh, Matthew Ruth, Martin Phelan, David McCormack, Jackie Tyrrell, Richie Hayes, Gary Whelan, Donnacha Cody, Paddy Butler, Peter Barry, Brian Dooley, Joe Murray, Shane Egan.

Front L-R: Mark Hoban, Derrick Brennan, Michael Fogarty, Eoin McCormack, Eoin Larkin, Dermot Grogan, Francis Cantwell, Joe Murphy, Philip Larkin, Brian McEvoy, Niall Tyrrell, Paddy O'Brien

INTERMEDIATE / JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a number of years in existence in an experimental fashion these competitions were given official championship status in 2004. If the first year's experience is anything to go by, then these competitions are assured of a permanent place in the G.A.A. calendar. They give the so called lesser lights of the Association a well deserved place in the sun and keep clubs and communities active at a time when, heretofore, pitches and facilities were deserted.

By their nature, these championships will have brand new participants each year so there is no danger of domination, boredom of pairings, loss of interest or over enthusiastic familiarity between clubs.

It just remains for these competitions to attract sponsors and I have no doubt but that there are some such already examining this potential.

For obvious reasons, Comhairle Laighean decided on a grading system for all four competitions. I like to think that we got it fairly right in 2004 and, thankfully, our deliberations were accepted at national level. We will probably have a further look at this, and at the formats, in the coming year but, overall, I cannot see too much need for change.

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

All twelve counties competed in this championship and we had fixtures in exotic places like Clonbullogue, Clogherhead and Ballitore. Competition was hectic, crowds were good and levels of discipline were acceptable. New referees were groomed, had their credentials tested, their parentage questioned and, in all cases survived to tell the tale.

The final was contested between Wolfe Tones of Meath and Kildare Champions, Naas. It was played at the home ground (Kilberry) of the former and they prevailed by a margin of five points.



AIB Leinster Club Senior Football Champions 2004 Portlaoise (Laois)

Back L-R: Padraig Malone, John Hannify, Barry Fitzgerald, Joe Phelan, Martin Delaney, Cahir Healy, Brian McCormack, Enda Coleman, Eoin Bland, Sean Cotter, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Daniel O'Shea, Shane McManus, Diarmuid Mullins

Front L-R: Mark Brophy, John Delaney, Craig Rogers, Peter McNulty, Michael Nolan, Colm Byrne, Colm Parkinson, Michael Fennelly, Aidan Fennelly, Tommy Fitzgerald, Brian Mulligan, Fergal Norton, Tommy Mulligan, Liam Phelan, Larry Fitzpatrick.



Leinster Intermediate Club Hurling Champions 2004 Carrickshock (Kilkenny)

Back L-R: Liam barron, Gary Foley, Niall Tennyson, Ger Murphy, James Dalton, Larry O'Shea, John O'Dwyer.

Centre L-R: Kevin Fennelly (Manager), John Raggett, Michael Rohan, David Millea, Richie Power, Martin Rohan, Richie Frisby, James Moran, Paul Barron, Michael Rice, James Farrell, Pat Dalton, John Dalton, Stephen Lonergan, Noel Maher (Selector), John Barron (Selector).

Front L-R: Pat Tennyson, Brendan Hoyne, Pat Cleary, Jamie Power (Capt.), Shane Power, Seanie Gibbons, John Tennyson, John Murphy, William King, John Butler, Tommy Murphy (Selector), Patrick Farrell.



Wolfe Tones (Meath) - Leinster Intermediate Club Football Champions 2004

Back L-R: Mark Coleman, Ciaran Shaw, Richard Brady, Paddy Caffrey, Kevin McKeever, Stephen Corrigan, Derek Meehan, John Tiernan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Daragh Brien, Seanen Power, Trevor McKeever, Alan McKeever, Aiden McKeever.

Front L-R: Barry McGinn, Daragh McGrath, Stephen Shepard, Tommy Dowd, Ciaran McLoughlin (Captain), Alan Fox, Neil McLoughlin, Eoghan Harrington, Ciaran Martin, Philip Reilly.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING

Because of the grading system we had only two participants in this grade viz., St. Patricks Camolin (Wexford) and Carrickshock (Kilkenny). This final was played down in Camolin but it was the visitors who took the honours pretty comprehensively.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

Here again we had all twelve counties participating. Supporters trekked to previously unheard of venues such as Mullinavat, Valleymount, Streamstown and Croghan to support equally unheard of clubs like, Kilclonfert, Kilcavan, Kilbride and St. Mochtas.

Fixtures were played like clockwork with not a postponement sought or deemed necessary. This final was played in Sean Eiffe Park, Ratoath, Co. Meath where the home side played hosts to Offaly's Kilclonfert. The hosts won fairly easily in the finish but not before the visitors had tested their mettle in the first half of the game.

Incidentally plans are in train to have this trophy named after a former Ratoath player, Sean Eiffe, who died tragically a few years ago.

JUNIOR HURLING

Representatives from all twelve counties set out in quest of the Tom Ryall Cup, the trophy for this championship. The AA route finder was checked for places like Moystown, Palatine, Dowdallshill and Palmerstown while the street vendors had to create hats and flags for teams such as Ros Glas, Galmoy, Naomh Moninne and Belmont.

At the end of a most entertaining championship it was Trumera of Laois and Galmoy of Kilkenny who qualified for the final. Played in Freshford, two weeks prior to Christmas, this game was most competitive and provided plenty of entertainment for the large crowd. The craft and innate skills of the Kilkenny lads proved decisive in the end and so Galmoy were crowned Leinster Junior Club Hurling Champions for 2004.



Leinster Club JFC Champions 2004 Ratoath (Meath)

Back L-R: Martin Mannering, Richard Donnelly, Leonard Brown, Niall McGoldrick, Fiachra Gaughan, Tony McGuane, Brian Rooney, Colm Kelly, Donal Kirwan, Conor Killian, John Kirwan, Austin McMahon, Colm O'Brien, Brian Duffy, Kieran O'Malley (Selector), Brendan Kealy (Manager)

Front L-R: Dave Gorman (Selector) Ger McCullagh, David Lumley, Declan Kirwan, Paul Kirwan, Shane McMahon, Paul Flaherty, Clive Lumley, Owen Horan, David Byrne, Robbie Madden, Barry Crowley, Vinny McIntyre, Paddy Phelan, John Crehan, Andrew Everard.

(Helpers Front: Colm McCullagh and Shauna Gorman).



Galmoy - the Tom Ryall Leinster Club Junior Hurling Champions 2004

Back L-R: Pauric Gray, Michael Harte, Noel Doherty, Philip Doyle, Cathal Doherty, Liam Drennan, Brendan Delaney, Brian Lonregan, Donnacha Gray, Joe Ryan, Kevin Lonregan, Thomas Ryan, Phil Brennan
Front L-R: Phil Russell, Paul Delaney, Martin Phelan, Alan Gray, Dylan Brennan, David Doyle, Brian Doherty, Niall Doherty, Gerry Drennan, John Phelan, Brian Cavanagh.



The Laois Panel which won the O'Byrne Cup Final in January

Back L-R: Brendan Quigley, Gary Kavanagh, Kieran Kelly, Colm Begley, Stephen Kelly, Noel Garvan, Mark Dunne, Padraig McMahon, Ross Munnelly, David Murphy.
Front L-R: Cathal Ryan, Chris Conway, Shane Cooke, Tom McDonald, Michael Nolan, Niall Donohoe, Donie Brennan, Stephen O'Leary, Colm Munnelly, Paul Lalor, Rory Stapleton.

ACCIDENT TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

The winners of these competitions in 2004 were:

O' Byrne Cup S.F.	Meath
Walsh Cup S.H.	U.C.D.
Kehoe Cup S.H.	Meath

COMPETITIONS 2005

The phenomenon that is the O' Byrne Cup S.F. Competition continues to grow. Team managers say "sure 'tis only the O' Byrne Cup" - scribes refer to it as "a meaningless competition" - yet those who really matter i.e. the players and the paying public give it continued and increasing support. The other significant barometer is that potential sponsors have been making tentative enquiries.

This competition and its hurling brethren, the Walsh Cup and Kehoe Cup, continues to attract interest from the Third Level Institutions and their participation is welcomed. Incidentally these third level colleges are a joy to work with - no haggling about dates, venues, referees or the likes.

The two hurling competitions also prove popular to visitors from other provinces and this year we were delighted to accommodate Mayo, Roscommon, Monaghan, Down and Antrim.

O' BYRNE CUP S.F. 2005

This year we had a record number of entries with sixteen teams participating. This included Trinity College, D.I.T., Dundalk I.T., Athlone I.T. and U.C.D. For understandable reasons Carlow withdrew from the competition while one or two others were less than enthusiastic in their approach. Nevertheless it again provided great early season entertainment. Spiced up by the introduction of the new experimental rules it attracted great media exposure and no little controversy. In a matter of a couple of weeks it managed to give birth to, and then kill off, the infamous 'Sin Bin' while at the same time provoking normally placid team managers into a tizzy usually associated with championship time.

When the dust settled - metaphorically speaking - the final provided us with a re-run of the Leinster Senior Football Final between Laois and Westmeath. Played in the well-appointed Cusack Park, the game attracted a crowd of over 10,000 patrons and they were well entertained. Despite the absence, for a number of reasons, of a number of high profile stars the two teams put on a great exhibition of gaelic football with victory going to Laois.

WALSH CUP S.H. 2005

Our hurling brothers from Ulster, in the shape of Down and Antrim, took part in this competition and appeared to enjoy the experience. Defending champions U.C.D. were back again but not with the strength of 12 months ago. Here again the new experimental rules were put to the test but seem to cause much less aggro than their football counterparts.

High scoring and some close encounters ensued before old rivals Wexford and Kilkenny qualified for this year's final. Here, in difficult conditions in Wexford Park, the visitors had six points to spare as they recaptured a trophy they last held in 1992.

KEHOE CUP S.H. 2005

Twelve counties lined up for this competition with Mayo causing no small surprise by eliminating Kildare in Round One. The eye catchers though were the two third level colleges. D.I.T. defeated Louth and Meath before going down by a single point to Carlow. On the other side, competition newcomers, Athlone I.T. made a huge impact, accounting for Longford, Westmeath and Wicklow.

Amazingly Carlow went through four rounds of a Leinster Hurling competition without encountering another Leinster county on the way - they played Monaghan, Roscommon and D.I.T. before taking on Athlone I.T. in the final. In this final, played in their own Dr. Cullen Park, they experienced stubborn resistance from the students before eventually finishing four points to the good as they won this trophy for the fifth time since its inauguration in 1977.



Kilkenny Captain James McGarry accepts the Walsh Cup 2005 from Leinster Vice-Chairman Liam O'Neill.



*Carlow Senior Hurlers Kehoe Cup winners
 Front L-R: Robert Foley, Sean Mc Mahon, Shane Kavanagh, Brendan Lawler, Ruairi Dunbar, Karl English, Johnny Nevin, Andrew Gaul, Edward Coady, Adrian Corcoran, Damien Roberts
 Back L-R: Edmond Spruhan, Mark Brennan, Paddy Coady, Paul Kehoe, Trevor Minchin, Des Murphy, Pat Fenlon, Barry Cox, John Miley, Pat Coady, Michael Kehoe, James Coady and Brian Murphy.*

M. DONNELLY INTERPROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PEIL

This year it was the turn of our footballers to display their skills on mainland Europe. Following the previous year's successful foray to Rome by the hurling fraternity it was decided to hold the 2004 Interprovincial Football Final in Paris. Once again the occasion proved most enjoyable but unfortunately we lost the football game to Ulster.

We thank all those who made the weekend by the Seine so enjoyable - the host club, the

European Board, the Irish Embassy, Martin Donnelly and the Croke Park representatives.

IOMAINT

With no carrot of foreign delights for our hurlers this time the level of enthusiasm from the players really plummeted. Wholesale withdrawals meant that we just about cobbled together a team to play Munster in the semi final - a game that was played in Croke Park as curtain-raiser to the second International Rules game against Australia. Needless to mention we were comprehensively defeated.

GENERAL

I note that the dates for this year's competitions are listed in the Diary. There is no hint of venues yet but rumours persist. Would those who have the power and authority to decide on these things please do so as soon as possible.



*Above:
Leinster players stand to
attention for the playing
of 'Amhrán na bhFiann'
before the Martin
Donnelly Interprovincial
Football Championship
Final against Ulster, Stade
Yves Du Manoir, Paris,
France.*

*Right:
Leinster's Thomas Walsh in
action from the final
against Niall McCready of
Ulster.*



HALL OF FAME 2004



Once again Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. presented Hall of Fame awards on the occasions of our two provincial finals.

PADDY FLANAGAN (WESTMEATH)

At Convention 2004 our outgoing Treasurer, Pádraig O Flannagáin (Iarmhí) retired from Leinster Council G.A.A. after forty years of service. Paddy served his county and province as a player and administrator but it was his Public Relations work on behalf of our Council which will mark his distinguished career. It was a popular and unanimous decision to present him with the Leinster Hall of Fame Award at our Leinster Football Final. How appropriate then that this award was embellished by his beloved Iarmhí's first ever Leinster Senior Football Championship success.

LEINSTER CAMOGIE TEAM OF THE CENTURY

To mark the centenary of Cumann Camogaíochta na nGael the Leinster Council G.A.A. commissioned a Leinster Camogie Team of the Century. The surviving members of that team, and representatives of those unable to attend or deceased, were honoured at a function in Croke Park on Leinster Hurling Final day. They were then awarded the Leinster Hall of Fame accolades for 2004.

Paddy Flanagan receives his Leinster Hall of Fame award from Cathaoirleach, Comhairle Laighean Nickey Brennan



Front Row L-R: Kay Ryder (Dublin), Katie Browne (representing Angela Downey Kilkenny), Breda Byrne (Chairperson Leinster Camogie Council), Miriam O Callaghan (President Camogie Association), Nickey Brennan (Chairman Leinster C.L.G.), Elsie Dowdall (representing her sister Kathleen Mills, Dublin), Mary Sinnott-Dynon (Wexford), Margaret O Leary-Lacey (Wexford).

Back Row L-R: Sheila Wallace (representing Kay Cody, Dublin), Jack Ryan (representing his wife Orla Ni Shiochain, Dublin), Miriam Malone (Kildare), Ann Downey (Kilkenny), Bridie McGarry (Kilkenny), Eithne Leech (representing her sister Una O Connor, Dublin), Maura Brack (representing her sister Sophia Brack, Dublin), Pat Neary (representing his sister Liz Neary, Kilkenny), Maureen Tonks (representing her daughter Kathleen, Wexford) and Brigid Doyle (Wexford).



In 2004, the Comhairle Laighean P.R. & Marketing Committee instituted an award to recognise excellence in the editing and production of Senior County Final Match Programmes, and to identify a standard of publication each year which will serve as a motivation and aspiration for other counties.

In its inaugural presentation, the 2004 Comhairle Laighean Award was won by Alan Aherne of Wexford, for his Senior Football and Hurling Final Programme, 17th October, 2004

Alan is pictured receiving his Comhairle Laighean award from Chairman, Nickey Brennan.

TWINNING

For the purposes of G.A.A. activity, Leinster is twinned with Europe and Australasia and during recent times we had significant contact with all parties.

A representative from the European Board joined us at last year's Convention. Three of our officers attended the A.G.M. of the European G.A.A. board in Paris last November. During the year we facilitated the European Board through the provision of coaches and referees. Efforts to become involved in an initiative in Barcelona failed at the last moment but may be revisited in the near future.

Our Cathaoirleach had previously visited the

Australian G.A.A. Board when he attended the International Rules series down under. This year, the chairman of our Coaching and Games Development Committee, Seamus Ó Duinn, represented us at the Asian games in Hong Kong (October 2004). There he made many useful contacts and received many suggestions on how the Leinster Council might help the Asian Board. This led directly to our Directors of Coaching organising a Foundation Level Course for representatives from Thailand, Beijing, Taiwan and Japan in late December 2004.

We look forward to these contacts becoming more regular with the ultimate aim of realistic competition involving Leinster clubs and clubs in Europe and Australasia.

CLUB LEAGUES

During 2004 we introduced the concept of Club Leagues into Leinster for the first time. Club teams from Offaly, Carlow, Laois and Kilkenny participated in a Midlands Club Senior Hurling League. For a first effort it was fairly successful with two Kilkenny clubs qualifying for the final - St. Martins defeating Erins Own.

It is hoped to run with an extended version of this competition in 2005 but to date we have not been overwhelmed with enthusiasm from the counties for it. Similarly it is planned to have a Club Senior Football League for the entire province in April / May also.

These competitions have serious potential if organised and approached properly. Players, especially club players, will gain greatly from

competition with unfamiliar opponents of the same level from other counties. We know that clubs are enthusiastic about the competitions but there is an impression that county officers do not share these feelings.

On one hand we have far too much activity for county players while the majority (i.e. regular club players) suffer the other extreme. This is a great opportunity to rectify this and I would appeal to county officers to look at the bigger picture.



St. Martin's

Back L-R: John Dooley, Kieran Kelly, Shane Coonan, Larry Comerford, Niall Moloney, Michael Mulhall, Paul Maher, Aidan Lawler, Martin Dowling, Damien Maher, Conor Kinsella, Don Callanan, Declan Holohan, Ronan Maher, Niall Moran, David Shore..

Front L-R: Dermot Lawler, Nicholas Purcell, Brian Cadogan, Liam Dowling, Eoin McGrath, Robert Shore, Alan Murphy, Philip Shore, Shane Cadogan, Richard Nolan, Stephen Murphy, Thomas Kinsella.

TICKET VOUCHER SCHEME

Our Council is forever seeking new and better ways to promote our games and at the same time to make attendance at the games more people friendly. The latest project is the introduction of a Ticket Voucher Scheme for our Senior Championship games in Croke Park.

This initiative comes in response to numerous requests down the years, from our supporters, for ticket packages as birthday or anniversary presents or simply as an appropriate gift for the person 'who has everything.'

Already there has been a positive response to our advertisements in match programmes and on our website so I feel we may just have tapped into another winner.

FLOODLIGHTING

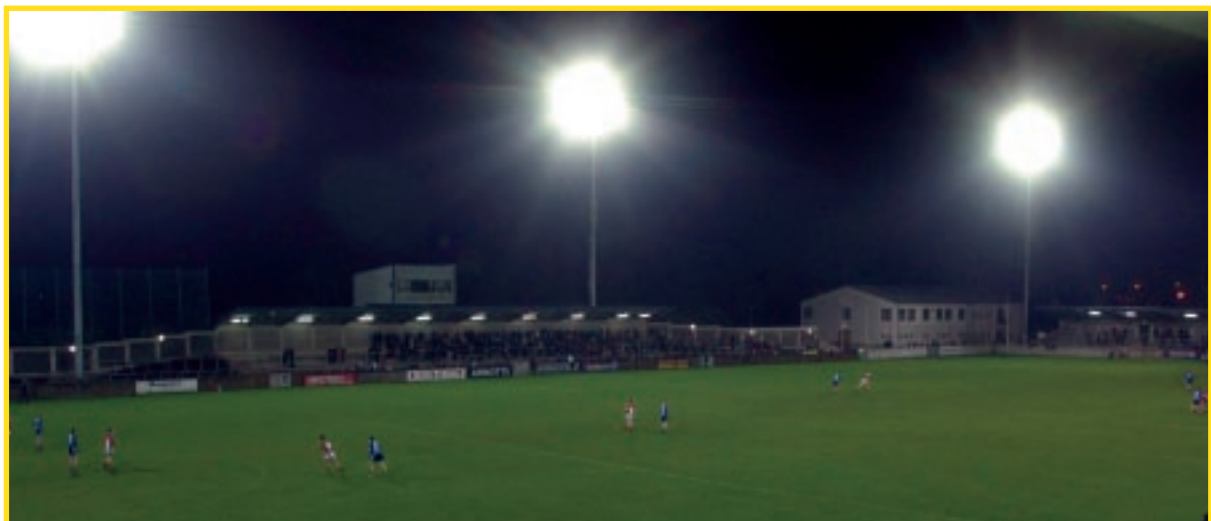
The era of floodlit matches is very much upon us now and so there is a drive on to provide the appropriate facilities.

There are a number of decent floodlit club venues in Leinster but none that are capable of holding a large attendance or of sufficient quality for television coverage.

There is however one superb floodlit venue now in Parnell Park. It is a credit to Dublin County Board and its officers and I feel it will grow in stature as a venue in the years to come.



However, we need a couple of more of this quality around the province and I welcome the proposals of grant aid from our Central Council. Mention is being made of the potential of O' Moore Park, Portlaoise and Pairc Tailteann, Navan as suitable venues and Comhairle Laighean will be engaging with the relevant County Boards in the near future. Some other counties may also feel that they deserve consideration and I can assure them that the Council will be only too willing to examine their proposals.



Floodlighting in Parnell Park

COUNTY COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

Seven years ago our Council put in place a small sub-committee to examine how we might best assist with the administration of our County Committees. The terms of reference were somewhat restricted and they concentrated mainly on the role of the county secretary. Nevertheless they brought in a number of very realistic proposals which were acted upon immediately by the council. Some counties embraced these enthusiastically and gained the benefits while others just did not put in the same effort.

The time has come, in my mind, to revisit this area and to greatly expand the terms of reference. I am aware that the S.R.C. addressed the matter and that it is one of the areas being examined by the Implementation Committee of the S.R.C. However, I just feel that it cannot be examined in a thirty two county context - it has to be on a regional basis with each county's needs being addressed individually.

The workload of county committees, and particularly of its main officers, has grown out of all proportions in recent years. We are well aware of the 'ticket game' problems but now there are so many other areas which need attention. I am thinking of things like - player welfare, county team management, development of facilities, dealings with planning authorities, development of games in schools, need for new clubs, need for clubs to amalgamate, financial management, dealings with central and provincial councils, sponsorship deals, public relations, child protection, drug legislation and many many more.

Are our county officers trained to deal with this array of responsibility? Do we supply the necessary back-up for county officers (money is not always the answer)? Do we lean towards the more successful counties when giving help? Do we err in favour of the more vociferous when making decisions?

The regulations, which put a limit on the terms of office of county officials, may have benefit but, believe me, there will be a downside also. I see no great evidence of enthusiastic potential county officers lining up for consideration.

I put these few random thoughts before Convention for your reactions. If you think that Leinster Council can help, please say so.

CONCESSIONS

Some years ago the Leinster Council G.A.A. introduced the 'Family Ticket' for games in Croke Park. This has proved to be hugely popular with our supporters and we have been able to extend it to a number of other venues also.

We have always had concessions for our senior citizens while clubs or schools bringing groups of underage players to our games have always been facilitated.

In 2004 we extended the concession boundaries by introducing special offers for bona fide students. This had initial teething problems - some of them our fault, others created by patrons - but we eventually sorted out a system which worked. There are plans to tweak this a little more in 2005 and I am confident that we will eventually have a satisfactory service in place.

PLAYERS! - WHO CARES?

In last year's report I threw out a few thoughts about how we were abusing our young players by the demands we were putting on them. The piece generated a positive response, which was developed by others to such an extent that 'player burn out' became a catchphrase for a few weeks. I was confident that come County Convention time there would be positive proposals to address this issue. How naive am I?

If anything, the situation has gotten worse. Into the already cramped period of activity early in the year we have now decreed that the All-Ireland U-21 Football Championship must be completed.

Everybody knows players who are caught up in this maelstrom of activity. There is a young player living near our office with whom we are familiar. This is an outline of his activity in recent months: He played with his county minor football and hurling teams; he played with his club's minor football and hurling teams; he played with his club's U-21 football and hurling teams; he played with his county's U-21 hurling team and is a member of the County U-21 football squad; he played with his club's senior hurling and football teams (both of these won the county final and the football team has advanced to the All-Ireland series); he plays with his Third Level College

premier football and hurling teams (he is also eligible for freshers competitions); he is required, when he is available, for his county's senior hurling and football teams. This young man is 18 years of age - wonder what his hobbies are?

This is probably an extreme example but it is a real one! Surely we have to act responsibly in this matter. Pious platitudes are useless currency in this area. We must act decisively and now! But how?

I am firmly convinced that we do not need the Under-21 grade at either club or county level. Yes there are arguments about bridging the gap between minor and adult level but, realistically speaking, how many players actually progress from county Under-21 teams to senior teams. The majority of these who make it are already on the senior panel before exiting the Under-21 grade. I ask Convention to seriously consider this proposal - we do not have to be guided by outside influences in this matter. It would be a brave step to say that we will not have Leinster Under-21 Championships in 2006 but I honestly think it might be one of the most significant moves our council could make in the interests of our players.

There is much more that could be done to ease the pressure on young players but they are not directly in our remit. I appeal to county officers to seriously consider their options in their own counties.



Kilkenny - Leinster Minor Hurling Champions 2004

Back L-R: Nicky Kenny, Pat Hartley, Shane Prendergast, Kieran Joyce, Noel Delahunty, Neal Prendergast, Gavin Nolan, Matthew Ruth, Eamonn Walsh, Tom Moloney, John Joe Farrell, Daniel Loughnane.

Front L-R: Ronan Maher, Eoin Guinan, Eddie O'Donoghue, James Maher, Maurice Nolan, Liam Tierney, Paddy Hogan, Richie Hogan, Willie Norton, Mark Aylward, John James Kenny, Paddy Cahill.

WHO RUNS THE G.A.A.?

Recently a senior G.A.A. official addressed a group of second level students in a school in a provincial town in Leinster. He was there to present some awards and to honour a retiring member of staff who had been coaching the school's underage hurling teams for many years. At the end of the presentation the Principal announced that there would be a short question and answer session during which the official would answer questions, on the G.A.A., from the audience.

Predictably enough, the exercise began with a couple of questions about opening Croke Park and Rule 42. Surprisingly this subject did not generate any great enthusiasm in the audience and the session seemed to be petering out when one young lad asked the guest - 'Sir, who runs the G.A.A.?' Rather than rushing in with the standard reply, our G.A.A. official decided to conduct his own survey - he invited the young people in the audience to answer the question, as they perceived it.

There followed a fascinating half hour's contributions from the young audience who not alone offered names but reasons for them as well. In no particular order the following are some of the suggestions:

- 1 Mr. Mulvihill
- 2 Pat Spillane
- 3 The Sunday Game
- 4 The Kerryman with the beard
(this could have been one of two!)
- 5 The High Court
(Didn't they allow the lads from Tipperary, Longford and Westmeath back to play even though they were suspended)

- 6 Brian Cody
- 7 Colm O'Rourke
- 8 The Old Presidents
(we take this to mean the ex-presidents)
- 9 The Government
- 10 RTE
- 11 Yer man from Eurovision
(we think this is a reference to Mickey Harte)
- 12 D.J. Carey
- 13 Sean Boylan
- 14 The Leinster Council
- 15 Croke Park
- 16 Michael Lyster
- 17 Someone from Hong Kong
- 18 Archbishop Clifford
- 19 Micheal Ó Muirheartaigh
- 20 Dessie Farrell

There were a few other answers but they were either of local interest or confused with other sports.

Our G.A.A. official hadn't the heart to talk about Congress, Central Council, the Provincial Council, County Boards, Club Committees or the like. He knew in this heart that these young people - based on the evidence of the last year - could not be convinced but that their twenty answers were the right ones. Think about it!

THE YEAR AHEAD

There is much speculation about matters in meeting rooms in the year ahead. As ever, democracy will prevail and we will get on with life. I am more interested in what pans out on the field of play and I don't just mean the results of games.

The current hot topic of conversation is, of course, the experimental rules in both football and hurling. I was saddened that the initial proposals were altered because I felt that players, mentors, referees and the public were just about coming to terms with them. However, what's done is done, and we now have - to me at least - a much more draconian measure in place. I just hope this gets a fair trial and that our legislators will not be over - influenced by the bleating of losing managers.

This is an incredibly important year for the hurling championship. A new format deserves a fair trial. I have little doubt but that teams in Tier I (i.e. the championship proper) will be going all out from the start and I think we could have an exciting summer and autumn ahead.

It is Tiers II and III in the hurling championship which worry me. Maybe it's just me - but I get a feeling of underwhelming excitement in these counties. There appears to be more concern about how these games will impact on club football fixtures rather than their teams being in Croke Park on August 14th (Christy Ring Cup H.C. Final) or August 21st (Nicky Rackard Cup H.C. Final).

For too long, I have been a harbinger of doom where hurling is concerned in these Tier II and Tier III counties. Now many of them have arrived at the Last Chance Saloon. This summer's exploits will tell us much about how well the generous hurling grants of the last decade have been spent and about how lofty are the ambitions of these counties in hurling terms. Quite honestly, I would love to be made eat my words of negative criticism of recent years.

There is, of course, much more to look forward to in the year ahead. As we meet at Convention we are all still unbeaten in the championship of 2005 - hope springs eternal.



Kilkenny - Leinster Intermediate Hurling Champions 2004

Back L-R: Maurice Power (Manager), J.P. Corcoran, Denis Kelly, Peter Cleere, Eddie Walsh, Shane Lanigan, Paul Costello, John Costello, Richie O'Neill, Eoin McGrath, Diarmuid Mackey, Seán Kealy, Brian Phelan, John O'Neill.

Front L-R: Jamie Power, Chris O'Neill, Richie Power, Colin Herity, David Buggy, John Phelan, Michael Grace, Derek Brennan, Noel Doherty, John Barron, Michael Owens.

LOAN GRANT SCHEME

During the past year the Leinster Council G.A.A. negotiated a loan of €2 million. The purpose of this was to provide much needed grant aid, up front, for counties who are developing either their main county grounds or county teams training facilities.

During the last twelve months the following counties availed of the scheme:

- (a) Dublin Floodlighting at Parnell Park
€200,000.00
- (b) Longford Development at Pearse Park
€275,000.00
- (c) Louth Purchase / Development
of County Training Grounds
€300,000.00
- (d) Carlow Development at Dr. Cullen Park
€150,000.00

Other counties have applications in the pipeline but the pot is not bottomless. We will try to treat all applications in a fair manner and, in turn, we look forward to value for money in terms of end product.

LEINSTER SUB-COMMITTEES

We like to think that the Leinster Council is a well-oiled machine and, for that, we are extremely grateful to our sub-committees. Without any publicity they have beavered away in such diverse areas as refereeing, facility development, club organisation, officer training, health and safety, club fixtures, games development and promotion, finance, human resources, public relation and I.T., culture, fixtures and general management. Their terms of office come to an end at this Convention so I want to extend a sincere word of gratitude to the chairman and members of these bodies.

The reports of all these bodies are contained elsewhere in this booklet and even a cursory glance through them gives a very good picture of the many elements of the Association's workings in the province.



Leinster Special Under-21 Hurling Champions 2004 - Laois

Back L-R: John Walsh, John Rowney, Joe Fitzpatrick, Jason Moynan, James Hyland, Paul Phelan, Dermot McGill, Shane Dollard.

Front L-R: Tommy Fitzgerald, J.J. McHugh, Alan Delaney, Tadhg Doran, Michael McEvoy, James Walsh, Jimmy Dunne.

REFEREES

The introduction of new or experimental rules always heralds an in-depth analysis of referees and refereeing. Scant attention is paid to how managers coach their players to adapt to the changes while even less is paid to how players interpret and abide by them. No! it is the referee who immediately enters the eye of the storm.

Of course it is not only at times of change of rules that referees step into the spotlight. More and more it appears that their performances - from underage club to senior intercounty - are being analysed, dissected and criticised. This comes not just from the public and the media - they are now subject to critical assessment from within.

Consistency of interpretation and application will always be a problem but I am a firm believer that all referees must work within the same parameters. Individual styles are all very fine but they should be applied in the context of the rules and guidelines. Common sense is a rare and commendable quality but in refereeing it should still only be used as the rules permit - despite what might seem popular at the time.

We have a new bunch of intercounty referees in training in Leinster - 24 in all. Some will make it - others won't. I wish them well in a career that is designed for the brave.



The Leinster Inter-county referees pictured at the Comhairle Laighean Referees' Presentation Night on February 5th this year.

Back row L-R: Mick Monaghan, Maurice Deegan, Dickie Murphy, Seamus McCormack, Syl Doyle, Eamonn Morris, Joe Kelly, Gary McCormack, James McGrath, Brian Gavin.

3ird row L-R: Thomas Quigley, Dominic Connolly, Derek Fahy, Sean Sheridan, Ciaran Groome, Pat Neary, Peter Reilly, Carthage Buckley, John Bannon, Pat Aherne, Jim Sheridan, Noel Cooney, Fintan Barrett, Eddie Whelan.

2nd row L-R: Eugene Murtagh, Ger Harrington, Nicky Brennan, C'Man. Leinster CLG. Frank Burke, C'Man. National Referees Association. Pierce Freaney, C'Man. Leinster Referees Association. Aodhan MacSuibhne, Pat Horan, Pat Fox.

Front row L-R: Con Costello, Jack O'Connell, David Coldrick, Paul Finnegan, Sean Carroll, Anthony Stapelton, Barry Kelly.

SYMPATHY

Since our last Convention a great number of loyal supporters of the Association in the province have passed to their eternal regard. To the families of these and of those who have been bereaved, we extend our sincere sympathies.

We remember, in a particular way, at this Convention a member of the current Leinster Council who died during the year - Tommy Murphy of Kilkenny.

Tommy joined Comhairle Laighean in early 1990 and remained as a member until the time of his

death. He represented the Council on the National Games Administration Committee for a three year term in the mid nineties. At the time of his death he was a member of the Leinster G.A.C. and also of the council's Health and Safety Committee. His last official function, on our behalf, was when he presented the Walsh Cup to U.C.D. captain, Stephen Lucey, after they had beaten Kilkenny in the 2004 Final.

May he rest in peace.



The late Tommy Murphy, centre, then chairman of Kilkenny County Board, pictured with his fellow Kilkenny delegates, from left, Barry Hickey, Georgie Leahy and John Healy in conversation with Leinster Secretary Michael Delaney at the 1986 Leinster GAA Convention in the Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise.

CATHAOIRLEACH



This Convention marks the end of Nickey Brennan's three year term as chairman of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. His reign could be described as a Tour de Force as he immersed himself in all aspects of the

Association in the province. Little or large, no problem was shirked. Fair play was his hallmark as he treated all twelve counties in an even-handed fashion.

It is no secret that Nickey has an ambition to serve the Association at a higher level still. On the evidence of the last three years he is well equipped to do so and we wish him well in that voyage.

On behalf of the Leinster Council I extend a sincere word of gratitude to Nickey for his unstinting work on our behalf. Personally, I am very grateful to him for the many kindnesses shown to me, the staff of Aras Laighean and to my family.

CIARAN O'NEILL



Last month Ciaran O'Neill brought down the curtain on his G.A.A. career when he retired from his post in Croke Park as Bainisteoir Dli agus Arachais. This brought to an end an unbroken period of seventy five

AN CATHAOIRLEACH NUA



Almost sixty years after his late father, Billy, was nominated for the post of vice-chairman of Leinster Council G.A.A., Liam O'Neill takes up the post of chairman at this

Convention. In becoming the Council's thirtieth chairman he brings to the position a wealth of experience firstly as a player, then as a referee and finally as an administrator at club, county, provincial and national level.

Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. looks forward to the stewardship of Liam O'Neill and the staff look forward to working under his guidance. We wish him well.

years G.A.A. administration by the father and son team of Martin and Ciaran O'Neill.

Ciaran served as secretary of the Leinster Council from 1969 to 1976 - a post his father held for the previous 42 years. Their contribution to the Association has been well chronicled at this stage.

On behalf of the Leinster Council G.A.A. I want to thank Ciaran for his assistance to us during his term in Croke Park. During my early years he acted as my mentor and continued to do so down the years - my personal gratitude goes to him for that.

BUIOCHAS

Once again it is my pleasant duty to extend the gratitude of Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. to the many individuals and groups who have ensured that our workload was carried out efficiently during the year.

DIRECTORS OF COACHING

During the year Gerard O' Connor transferred to the Dublin Coaching Scheme. We wish him well in his new role and thank him sincerely for his work while directly involved with us.

The remaining Directors of Coaching, Lester Ryan and Noel Delaney, once again did a marvellous job. Their working relationship with the Games Promotion Officers in counties and colleges is excellent while they also liaise particularly well with the Games Development Committees at provincial and national level. I thank them very sincerely for their contributions.

SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

No words of mine can adequately pay tribute to the work being carried out, on behalf of the G.A.A., in the Leinster Primary, Second Level and Third Level schools sector. For the most part it is down to the voluntary work of teachers and the goodwill of principals and boards of management.

All this is co-ordinated by our own very efficient team viz., Tom Fitzpatrick, Tom O' Donnell, Michael Reynolds, Hannah Horan, Pat Henderson, Jim O' Donovan, Fergal Giles together with a very efficient group of fulltime and partime development officers in Third Level Institutions.

REFEREES AND MATCH OFFICIALS

With the ever increasing number of games generated by new competitions such as our club leagues and the junior and intermediate club championships our refereeing resources have been stretched to the limit. The demands for neutral linesmen and fourth officials make the appointments procedure a daunting one and I have to sincerely congratulate Pierce Freaney on

yet another great year's work. For him it is a labour of love but I also know how time consuming his task is.

I thank sincerely all those referees who worked for us at intercounty club and schools level and join with them their linesmen, umpires and fourth officials. We welcome the arrival of a number of new officials on the intercounty panel.

We are grateful also to the County Referees Administrators who spread the Freaney gospel throughout the province.

Referees assessors are another vital cog in our operation and I salute them too for the job they do for us.

PLAYERS

Lest we forget, our Association is basically about players. Our games are their hobby but they treat them so respectfully that they are wonderful ambassadors and role models for young people. I thank them for their commitment and for the many hours of enjoyment they give our supporters.

MEDIA

On behalf of the Leinster Council I thank, very sincerely, the national and provincial newspapers, local and national radio, television and gaelic games magazines for their extensive coverage of our games. It is now a twelve month gig and we appreciate their attention to our affairs.

COUNTY COMMITTEES

Our continued progress as a council is due in no small respect to the marvellous assistance and co-operation we get from the twelve county committees in the province. As is normal, there were certain differences of opinion during the past twelve months but I like to think that when these were resolved all sides continued to work together for the common cause.

ARD CHOMHAIRLE / PAIRC AN CHROCAIGH TEO.

As our areas of action become more and more intertwined it is essential that we have the assistance and goodwill of both these bodies. Such was the case in 2004 and I thank both groupings, led respectively by Liam O Maolmhichil and Peadar Mac Cionnaith, for their support and guidance.

Nowadays we have regular and detailed dealings with all departments in Croke Park and I thank the respective managers and staff for their courtesy and help.

I wish to also extend a special word of thanks to Event Controller, Seamus Meade, and the ground staff in Pairc an Chrocaigh for their unstinting co-operation with Comhairle Laighean C.L.G. on match days.

PROGRAMME PRODUCER / COMMERCIAL MANAGER

The Leinster Council has many messages to convey and functions to perform. To present these with a proper balance of style and substance we call on John Cotter. His involvement embraces Event Management, Sponsorship, Marketing and Promotion, Publications, Sales, Media and Public Relations, Advertising and P.R. Support. All functions are carried out with a professionalism and energy that is exemplary. We thank him for his contributions.

ACCOUNTS / PENSION SCHEME ETC.

Rarely mentioned, and even more rarely thanked, are a small group of people who keep the nuts and bolts of accounts, salaries and pensions in shape for us. I would like to thank Gerry Stewart and his team at Mazars, Joe Kilmurray and John Fitzgerald of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Financial Services and our own John Browne for their work in these fields.

VOLUNTARY OFFICIALS / WORKERS

In this era of a professional approach and fulltime appointments it is more important than ever to remember our volunteers. Whether as officers, mentors, stewards, stilesmen, crowd controllers etc., they still play a significant role in our games. We should certainly take care that we create an atmosphere in our Association which encourages them to remain with us.

STAFF

Finally a word of thanks to my own staff in Aras Laighean. As individuals, and as a team, the council are well served by Michael Reynolds, Julia, Patricia and Hannah.

Our summer staff again performed in an efficient and friendly manner.

Rarely mentioned are Mary Quinn who supplies the meeting refreshments and Liz Molloy who keeps the place shining - my sincere thanks to both of them.

Ráth Dé Oraibh go léir.

Michéal Ó Dubhshláine.



Official naming of The Delaney Cup







The Leinster U-21 Football Champions Kildare celebrate thier replay victory over Dublin in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise



Sub-Committee Reports 2004

LEINSTER COACHING AND GAMES DEVELOPMENT

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



Comhairle Laighean Bursaries 2004

Back: Aindreas Doyle, John O'Connor, Darragh McEvoy, Mark Delaney, James Robinson, Patrick Kinsella, Alan Healy, Seamus Hannon, Richard Power, Sean Cotter,
Centre: Shane O'Neill, Mark O'Sullivan, Ian Fleming, Shane Dooley, Brian Smyth, Francesca Jachimiak, Alan Tiernan, Rory Stapelton, Gavin Finn, Cahir Healy.
Front: John Murphy, Thomas Walsh, Barry Cox, Bernadette Ryan, John McCarthy, Sec. Leinster Coaching & Games Development Committee. Nicky Brennan, Chairman. Leinster CLG.
 Jimmy Dunne, Chairman. Leinster Coaching & Games Development Committee. Hazel Mulligan, Derek Crilly, Brendan Kirby and Sinead Aherne.

Coaching & Games Development Committee Report



Coaching & Games Development Committee

Jimmy Dunne (Cathaoirleach), John McCarthy (Rúnaí), Paul Kinsella (Cumann na mBunscol), Michael Reynolds (Secondary 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), Tony Bass (Baile Átha Cliath), Tom Byrne (Cill Mhantáin), Willie Carley (Loch Garman), John McCarthy (Cill Dara), Val Malone (Cill Chainnigh), Ger Lennon (Ceatharloch), Johnny Dalton (Laois), Noel Kelly (Uibh Fháilí), Pat Casserly (Iar Mhí), Eugene Quaine (Longford).



Coaching & Games Development Executive Committee

Jimmy Dunne (Cathaoirleach), John McCarthy (Rúnaí), Paul Kinsella (Cumann na mBunscol), Michael Reynolds (Secondary 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), Val Malone (Kilkenny), Johnny Dalton (Laois), Eugene Quaine (Longford), Paddy Oliver (Lú).

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).

As we reflect back on the year under review we can with great justification record once again it has been a year-sustained activities under the remit of the Coaching and Games Development Committee.

Some of the areas worth noting during the year under review.

- The success of the D.J.Carey School of Hurling.
- Leinster's contribution to the winning for the first time of the International Under-17 Rules Series in Australia.
- The expansion and development of our investment into the Third Level Colleges.

- The Launch of the McDonalds Lift & Strike.
- The expansion and success of the Leinster Play Station Summer Camps.
- Supporting the twinning arrangement with both Europe & Australasia
- The advancement of the Coach Education programme with the Level two modules.

While this indicates some of the activities it does not in any way reflect the amount of work current within the counties. All our Counties are to be complimented on the manner they carry out their respective programmes.

This year was the first year in which funding

GAMES PROMOTION OFFICERS

COUNTIES

LOUTH	John Byrne
MEATH	Christine O'Brien Dudley Farrell
WICKLOW	Hugh Kenny
WEXFORD	Jimmy Furlong
KILDARE	David Murphy Noel Mooney
CARLOW	Brendan Hayden John Nevin
KILKENNY	Brian Ryan
LAOIS	Ciaran Muldowney
OFFALY	John Leahy
WESTMEATH	Michael McHugh Comhairle Laighean gives a €6,350 grant towards a Schools Coaching Scheme in Iar Mhí.
LONGFORD	Mary Burke Noel Boyce (Hurling)

THIRD LEVEL COLLEGES

Dundalk I.T.	Michael Heeney
Athlone I.T.	Garry Sammon
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

allocated from the Sports Council was distributed through Croke Park to the various counties through the respective County Coaching & Games Accounts. This will give a truer reflection on how much is being spent within the province and throughout the counties on games development each year.

Coaching & Games Promotion Officers

The excellent work of the Coaching & Games Promotion Officers continued unabated during the year.

Some key areas of activities include:

- Coaching activities within the Schools sector-Primary, Post Primary, Third Level and underage Clubs.
- Supervising the Lift & Strike along initiative.
- Coaching Courses-Transition Year, Foundation Level & Level One.
- Summer Camps.
- Schools of Excellence & Development Squads.
- Hurling & Football initiatives including the D.J.Carey school of Hurling.
- Attendance at Meetings & Courses.

County Games Promotional Officers

During the year George Leahy (Kilkenny) retired from the position of GPO in Kilkenny. On behalf of everyone we thank George for his dedication and commitment to the position. In Longford T.J.Ward has taken a years leave from the position.

Comhairle Laighean places a strong emphasis on the need to provide regular in service training for our Coaching & Games Promotion Officers and also its Coaching Directors.

The training provided to date courses new coaching techniques, I.T skills, additional personal skills along with the new Code of Best Practice for Youth in Sport launched during the year.

Our Coaching Directors are also part of in service training and during the coming year will undergo some specialist training to support them in their role.

On behalf of the Comhairle we thank all the GPO's for their work and dedication.

County Coaching Officers

It is now five years since the special Congress passed a motion to establish a new position of County Coaching Officer. I feel it is an opportune time to again reflect on some of the key areas of responsibilities:

- Be a key member of the County Coaching & Games Development Committee. Ideally, the Coaching Officer should be the Cathaoirleach of this body.
- Ensure that the activities of the County Coaching & Games Development Committee are communicated at each meeting of the County Committee and Bord na nÓg.
- Ensure that the County Coaching & Games Development committee meets at least six times per year with minutes prepared and submitted to the Provincial Coaching & Games Development Committee through the designated Provincial Coaching Director
- Represent the County on the appropriate Provincial Committees.
- Attend periodic meetings / seminars organised by both the National Coaching & Games Development Committee and or the Provincial Coaching & Games Committee where issues relating to coaching and games development matters will be presented, discussed and reviewed.
- In conjunction with the County G.P.O devise work plans on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Ensure that these work programmes are discussed and agreed by the county Coaching and Games Development Committee.
- Prepare an annual work programme for submission to the provincial Coaching &

Games Committee in conjunction with the County Coaching and Games Development Committee and the County GPO. Employed in this process will be the Provincial Coaching Directors who will support this preparation.

- Monitor and report on the work of the County GPO employed in the county.
- Manage/delegate the management of specific coaching & games development activities in the county, such as Summer Camps, TY programme, Schools of Excellence, Development Squads & Summer Camps ect.
- Manage/delegate the management of all underage hurling & football festivals held, both within the County, or in which the County participates elsewhere.
- Meet with the Provincial Coaching Directors on a bye monthly basis to review the work plan and to monitor the progress of the various programmes of activities.
- Be responsible for the development of the Coach Education programme in the County. Specifically to ensure that all club / County underage coaches achieve Foundation Level Coaching qualification. Work to ensure that all adult Club / County coaches achieve a level 1 Coaching qualification.
- Liase as necessary with underage bodies in the County such as Cumann Na mBunscoil, Bord Na nÓg, Minor Board, etc. To promote and encourage active participation by such bodies in all coaching and games development activities and initiatives in the county.
- In conjunction with the County Youth Officer, ensure that all Clubs in the County appoint a Club / School Liaison Officer for Primary and where possible second level schools in their catchment area.
- Submit an annual report to the County Convention and to Comhairle laighean.

International Rules Series

We have mentioned the role that Leinster played in the underage series this year. Going to Australia and recording a win at this level should not be underestimated. With the excellent facilities and professional expertise in the area of coaching which is available to the students in Australia it was a remarkable achievement. We were all proud that it was a Leinster manager who was in charge. Hugh Kenny (Wicklow) can be justifiable proud of his achievement along with the players and other members of his management team.

This year Noel Mooney (Kildare) has been appointed as the Leinster Manager for a two-year cycle. We appeal to all counties to give Noel their full support and co-operation in ensuring that any player selected from Leinster will be facilitated to attend the necessary trials and training sessions.

Áth Cliath

The Dublin Designated Urban project, which was a very successful scheme, was taken over by the newly established Dublin Coaching & Games Committee. This committee has decided to use the template that was introduced by Comhairle Laighean to further expand and develop Gaelic Games within the Capital. Ger O' Connor one of the Leinster Coaching Directors has been seconded to Dublin for three years. I am confident that Gers experience will bring great benefit to the overall games development programme. Another member of the Comhairle Laighean staff Tomas Mac Giolla Pdraig is also a valued member of the Dublin Coaching & Games Committee. It is also worth recording that Leinster Council, Croke Park and the Sports Council are investing funds close to €2m per year to games promotion in Dublin over the next three to five years.

PlayStation Summer Camps

Last year we witnessed yet again a small but significant increase in the attendance at our Summer Camps. There is little doubt but that Leinster has been a brand leader in the promotion and development of GAA Summer Camps. With numbers in excess of 25,000 this is proof, if proof was needed, that our camps are the first choice among children when it comes to

preference. For the past year the National Coaching & Games Committee are preparing to introduce the Summer Camps on a national basis.

This is expected in 2006. It will involve standardised fee, gear and camp content. Currently they are negotiating with a number of companies who are interested in sponsoring this national model.

Hurling Promotion

The area of hurling promotion is never far away from public debate. Many projects have come on board in an effort to develop the game. I have no doubt but the introduction of the D.J.Carey School of hurling is one such plan that will have a huge benefit for all the players involved.

Recently the hurling committee held a workshop on the future of this programme of activity. Some alterations and additions have been suggested that will enhance the concept and bring more enjoyment to those attending this weeklong hurling development programme.

Bursaries

This is the fifth year of the bursaries awards scheme. In 2004 nearly 100 applications were received for to be included in the scheme. Twenty-eight students were successful and were presented with their bursaries to assist them with their Third Level Education. The year under review was the European Year of Education through Sport and Cumann Camogaiochta Na nGael also celebrated their centenary. To acknowledge those significant events the bursaries were increased from the annual number of twenty to twenty-eight. The Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean, Nioclás O'Braonain at a function in Pairc an Chrocaigh in December, made the presentations.

General

Having completed our three-year term with the Comhairle Laighean Coaching & Games Development Committee we are pleased to report that general progress has been made over those years. The financial outlay by Comhairle Laighean to its coaching and games development programme is significant (now €1.2Million P.A) and underlines the importance that the Comhairle places on the need to

promote and develop Gaelic Games in every county and educational establishment within the province.

The success of our comprehensive programme would not be achieved without the commitment of a dedicated full time staff plus the ongoing support of the voluntaries within the counties and schools.

We must emphasise however the importance to all counties and educational sectors the preparation of annual plans, which are realistic and achievable. Counties should ensure that regular meetings of their Coaching & Games Committee are held. That proper monitoring of the GPO work plan is ongoing and that the members of the County Committee are fully appraised as to what is happening at this level. Comhairle Laighean will continue to invest significantly in coaching and games development activities but this can only continue if the same commitment is shown by each county, school and college. Funding cannot be guaranteed to any area that do not adhere to the procedures set down by the Provincial Coaching & Games Committee.

Coach Directors

Underage activities by their very nature continues to evolve. Each year brings new concepts on Coaching and Games Development. It demands new ideas new concepts to ensure Gaelic Games are to the forefront of sporting activities for our young people.

Within Leinster we have witnessed this in many ways over the past number of years. The new format to our summer Camps. The introduction of a new Hurling Promotional concept at the D.J.Carey school of Hurling. The implementation of the strategic plan being put in place for the development of the game in Dublin.

All these initiatives and many more are the result of our dedicated Leinster Coaching Directors. They have been to the forefront not just on a provincial level but also at National Level. We owe them a debit of gratitude and on behalf of the Coaching & Games Committee I thank them for their loyalty to Comhairle Laighean and for their work on our behalf.

Colleges, Second Level and Primary Schools

The representatives from these groups will, as usual address Convention and report on their various activities during the year. I would merely like to say how grateful the Coaching & Games Development Committee is to the many teachers who are promoting and fostering our games in these schools. We also acknowledge the work of Tomas Mac Giolla Phadraig agus Tomas O'Domhnaill who work within those sections and also for their contribution in the publication of Lar Pairc.

Críoch

I would like to record our appreciation to the members of Comhairle Laighean in particular the Cathaoirleach Nicolas O'Braonain who to day steps down from Cathaoirleach after his three-year term. During that time he was very supportive of our needs and was always willing to listen to any reasonable request in the interests of games development. I feel sure that he will continue to take a deep interest in the affairs of the Association in Leinster and I feel equally sure that Leinster will do their utmost to ensure that Nicolas will have an opportunity to apply his many talents to the administration of Cumann Luthchleas Gael at the highest level. Leas Cathaoirleach Liam O'Neill who takes over as Chairman in thanking him we also wish him every success over the next three years. Liam comes to the position of Cathaoirleach of Comhairle Laighean with a great knowledge of Coaching & Games having previously been chairman of that committee for six years. Micheal O'Dubhshlaine also Micheal Mac

Raghnaill for their continued interest and support. We are also grateful to Julie, Hannah and Patricia for their help and support.

We also record our thanks to John Cotter for securing the various sponsorship deals for the Coaching & Games Committee.

Numerous meetings were held during the past year and to the following groups our sincere thanks.

Coaching & Games Development Committee
Coaching & Games Executive
Coaching & Games Management
Hurling Committee
Football Committee
Coach Education Committee

The County Coaching & Games Officers on whom the responsibility of ensuring a proper programme is in place and being implemented. To each of you our sincere thanks. We also record our thanks to Pat Daly and Padraig Duffy of the National Coaching & Games Committee for their assistance and co-operation.

Working with so many dedicated and committed people has been gratifying and we are grateful for that experience. We wish the incoming committee every success in their efforts to ensure that Comhairle laighean stays at the forefront of games development within the Association.

Sean MacCarthaigh, Rúnaí
Seamus Ó Duinn, Cathaoirleach

Leinster Coaching Directors Report



The Programme of Coaching and Games Development within the Province includes a variety of initiatives with the Coaching Directors heavily involved in these areas:

- Provincial/County Planning
- Grant allocations
- In-Service Training
- Leinster Super Sevens
- D.J. Carey School of Hurling
- Summer Camps
- Third Level Colleges
- Teacher Training Colleges
- 'GO Games' Initiative
- Provincial Indoor Hurling
- Dublin
- Servicing Officers

Provincial/County Planning

Effective planning in the area of Coaching and Games Development in each County is key to success in this area. To this end the Coaching Directors work closely with Coaching Officers and Games Promotion Officers in each County. There are frequent meetings in the planning / monitoring process – County meetings, one to one meetings and group meetings (North and South Leinster and Dublin). All meetings are minuted which ensures openness and provides a framework for activity and projects across the

Province to be linked into the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee.

Work carried out by full time personnel is monitored through 'Weekly Work Planners' and 'Weekly Reporting Sheets'. These are submitted to Coaching Officers and the Coaching Directors which ensures activity generated in quantified and involvement of children / coaches is recorded. This leads to accountability and on the basis of information submitted, involvement levels across the Province is on the increase.

Central Grant Allocations

Each year, considerable grant allocations from Croke Park/Pat Daly are available to the area of Coaching and Games Development in each County. The Coaching Directors – working closely with Coaching Officers – administer this funding, ensuring the various areas receive appropriate assistance.

In 2004, €55,000 funding was distributed under the following headings-

• Primary School	€10,000
• Post Primary	€10,000
• Juvenile Club	€10,000
• Schools of Excellence	€10,000
• Development Squads	€10,000
• Coach Education	€ 5,000

Note: The same funding is available for 2005.

Plans are drawn up for each area in January/February (in conjunction with Coaching Officers/Games Promotion Officers). Plans are then submitted to Croke Park – these documents form the basis for release of a percentage of the total allocation in June/July. On completion of all projects, details are again recorded and submitted – allowing the remainder of the funding to be processed for each County.

The funding is significant and with the area being assisted by the Irish Sports Council, it is imperative that the planning and implementation process for the various projects is well monitored and professionally documented.

In-Service Training for Leinster Games Promotion Officers

The In-Service training programme delivered to the full time coaching staff in the province is designed to challenge and explore new aspects of the coaching process.

The Annual In-Service provides opportunities to the coaching staff to expand their coaching knowledge and up date on any new ideas/initiatives.

The training aims to achieve the following:

- To maximise the learning experiences for the Coaching Team.
- To promote interaction/networking of Coaches from different Counties/Work Areas.
- To look at personal performance and evaluate.
- Personal Development.

The following was our schedule for January 2005:



This year's In-Service – Liam O'Neill dealing with the Comhairle Programme and North and South

Date	Venue	Theme	Tutors
15:12:04	Foras Computer Training Centre, Mullingar	Computer Training (Ref Nth Leinster)	Lisa O Connell
	Compute I.T., Carlow	Computer Training (Ref Sth Leinster)	Dennis Nolan
6:1:05	Celbridge	FUNdamentals Programme	Terence Mc Williams
07:01:05	Áras Laighean	Comharile Programme Code of Best Practice	Liam O'Neill Dermot Howlin
13:01:05	St. Judes GAA Club, Dublin	SAQ Conditioning Award	Jim Kilty
19:01:05	Celbridge	Coaching Process	Liam Moggan
20:01:05	Celbridge	GO Games & Yearly Planning	Coaching Directors



Leinster G.P.O.'s with Certs (SAQ and Tutoring Certs) received arising from modules taken

Leinster Super Sevens

The concept of a formalised structure for internal 'house' leagues at Second Level was introduced at Leinster level last year by the Leinster Coaching Directors in conjunction with the Games Promotions Officers, with pilots running in Laois, Offaly and Westmeath.

From the experience gained in these Counties, the Project was further developed over the last year, with an additional six Counties becoming involved – nine in total. Again, the focus was to have as many internal leagues as possible running in the various Counties, with four codes being targeted.

The Coaching Directors and GPO's worked closely on all aspects of the Project and a booklet was prepared for distribution to all perspective schools. This was a working document and allowed Teachers/Senior Cycle Students to Plan their leagues

The initiative proved hugely successful with 171 leagues being run in 91 Second Level Schools with an approximate participation level of 9,000 students. This is very significant, considering the initiative is catering for players that otherwise might be lost to the game.

Leagues Organised by Schools (No.)

County	Hurling	Camogie	Football	Ladies F
Meath	2	4	9	5
W'meath	2	2	5	3
Longford	3	-	6	6
Offaly	10	8	10	10
Wicklow	6	3	9	4
Kildare	7	2	11	6
Laois	4	-	5	2
Carlow	4	2	6	5
Wexford	8	-	3	-
Totals	46	21	64	41

County Final Days

County final days were also organised by each of the nine Counties participating. Each of the winning teams from the four codes received a hooded top. This proved hugely popular amongst the players.



D. J. Carey School of Hurling

The D.J.Carey School of Hurling 2004 was again extremely successful. This success was the culmination of hard work by a number of very committed people. Included in this group were the Leinster Coaching Directors. Among the Coaching Directors main responsibilities to ensure that the overall package was delivered in a professional manner was the co-ordination of the activities of the following.

- Two Hundred and Four Players (Under-14)
- Twenty Four Team Mentors
- Thirteen Games Promotion Officers
- Eighteen additional coaches/ workers
- Guest Players - eighteen visits
- Guest Speakers – fourteen visits
- Twelve Club challenge games
- Twelve Inter-County Games
- Forty Eight Blitz games
- Wall Ball Competition
- Eight Days off action packed activity

Planning for 2005 is well advanced at this stage (February 2005).



PlayStation Leinster GAA Summer Camps

The Leinster Coaching Directors in conjunction with the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee were responsible for the planning, organising, coordinating and developing the PlayStation Leinster GAA Summer Camps.

The PlayStation Leinster GAA Summer Camps of 2004 have been an outstanding success. Through the months of July and August approximately 23,700 boys and girls attended Football and Hurling Summer Camps throughout the Province.

Playstation Leinster GAA Summer Camps 2004- Statistics below:

County	Total no. Camps	Hurling	Football	Comb	Boys	Girls	Att. Total
Wexford	22	13	8	1	1310	674	1984
Wicklow	17	6	10	1	1294	806	2100
Kilkenny	9	8	1	0	930	340	1270
Laois	11	3	5	3	741	293	1034
Kildare	32	7	16	9	2005	770	2775
Carlow	9	4	5	0	762	361	1123
Meath	22	7	13	2	2517	891	3408
Westmeath	16	5	11	0	1196	548	1744
Longford	10	1	9	0	834	416	1250
Offaly	17	0	1	16	1622	718	2340
Louth	15	2	13	0	1035	371	1406
Dublin	47	18	29	0	2400	920	3320
Totals	227	74	108	32	16646	7108	23754

The direct involvement of the Coaching Directors in the Playstation Leinster GAA Summer Camps Summer Camps included:

- Organising all the necessary Summer Camp equipment
- Designing, distributing summer camp Brochure.
- Organising guest players for the various Summer Camp Promotional opportunities.
- Ensuring that all Summer Camp Coaches received the required training.
- Monitoring the running of Summer Camps within each County.
- Arranging Guest players for camp visitations.
- Providing back-up and support for each County.
- Organising promotional opportunities for the Playstation Leinster GAA Summer Camps.
- Compiling and providing the required statistics and reports for the Leinster Council.

As this convention report is being prepared the plans for the Playstation Summer Camps of 2005 are well advanced at Leinster level.

Third Level

a) Third Level Officers

The Coaching Directors are in regular contact with Third Level Games Promotion Officers – offering back up and support for the work carried out within the Colleges.

b) Third Level Bursaries.

The Leinster Coaching Directors provided assistance to Jimmy Dunne (Cathaoirleach) and John Mc Carthy. (Runaí) in all areas relating to the awarding of Leinster Bursaries in 2004. Having advertised the Bursary awards, each student's application was vetted and validated before a selection process identified 28 recipients.

The presentation night took place in December and was attended by Leinster Council Officials, Bursary recipients, Parents, County officials and Club Officials from the twelve Counties.



Hip Hip Hurray! Happy Campers in Dunboyne last Summer

Teacher Training

The teacher training colleges continues to be vital link in the development of Gaelic games at grassroots level.

Comhairle Laighean not alone sees the importance of the teacher training Colleges in the province but how influential many of its Teachers have been in the wider GAA world. This is why the Council is keen to forge strong links with all of the Colleges in the province. This is done in a practical way with the delivery of the Coach Education Programmes to as many students as possible. Tutors are assigned throughout the year to the various Colleges.

The programme offers student teachers practical inputs by providing tailor made coaching courses that involve core elements such as:

- Class Management
- Warm up activities
- Fundamental Techniques
- Coaching Inputs
- Modified/Conditioned Games

It is hoped that many of the students once they have completed the courses will have the confidence to get involved at some level in the promotion Gaelic Games.

Since our last convention we have completed 17 courses with approximately 600 students, which include 1st, 2nd, 3rd years and Post-Graduate students from the following colleges:

St Patrick's Drumcra, Marino Institute of Education and Froebel College, Blackrock.

Go Games

From the time a young person takes up sport to the twilight years of their involvement, there are many different factors that can define their reasons for participation.

Young people take part in sport because they want to learn new skills, make new friends, be part of a group, win and be successful and experience excitement, challenges and action. Most of all they take part because they want to have fun.

With this in mind GO games have been developed, the games are designed to maximise enjoyment by adopting modified rules in a conditioned games context, they are structured to cater for the needs and abilities of those who participate in a progressive manner.

A Fun Do Initiative Modified Hurling & Football Games for Under 8's, 10's and 12's

Three different GO Games in Football & Hurling;
GO Gaelic and GO Hurling:

- (i) First Touch, 7/8yrs
- (ii) Quick Touch, 9/10yrs
- (iii) Smart Touch, 11/12yrs.

The games have been developed on the principles associated with spontaneous play or what is known within the GAA as the fair play or FP index- i.e. geared to provide Full Participation, Frequent Prospects of success and provide a basis for players to develop to their full potential. The games are designed to ensure that all participations experience a sense of achievement and enjoyment through involvement.

The Coaching Directors, in conjunction with Provincial Games Managers and Croke Park, were instrumental in the development of these games. The Games are due for official launch in March this year.

Provincial Indoor Hurling Initiative

The National Basketball Arena, Tallaght, was the venue for the Provincial Indoor Hurling Blitz on December 9th last. All twelve Counties took part with Primary School (fourth class) being the target age group.

The day began at 11.00am and with three pitches in operation simultaneously, by lunchtime, all teams had played three games. On the basis of morning results teams were graded into three new groupings. In these new groups, counties played semi-finals, with six teams involved in finals. Winners on the day included Wicklow, Longford and Louth.

A feature of the day was the presentation of a sports bag, school kit and sliotar to all competitors. These were presented by Kilkenny star, Eddie Brennan, who had words of encouragement for all players and he signed autographs on the day also.

This event has proved popular over the last number of years and is seen as the start of indoor hurling activity ran across the Province-with Cumann na mBunscol and Games Promotion Officers working together in this area.





Paddy Kelly & Jimmy Dunne with some enthusiastic hurlers at the recent Leinster Indoor Hurling Blitz.

Servicing Officers

– Provincial Committees

A important aspect of the Coaching Directors work is that for three specific committees, they act as Servicing Officers. Lester Ryan is on the Hurling Development Committee and works closely with Paddy Kelly and Jim Ryan (Chairman and Secretary respectively) and similarly Noel Delaney is on the Football Committee where John Horan and Michael McHugh hold executive positions.

The primary role of both these committees is to plan and implement a games programme for underage county squads at Provincial level. With games at U-14, U-15, U-16 and Minor (league) in both hurling and football, there is quite an amount of planning and administration involved. In 2004 there were approximately 130 games in football - catering for over 1,500 players and 112 hurling games involving 1,400 players.

Gerard O'Connor is servicing officer to the Leinster Tutor Group whose primary function is to plan and deliver Coaching Courses (Level One mainly) at Provincial Level. With Coaches continually looking for new ideas and seeking to improve their skills, this is an important area.

Dublin

It is envisaged that Regional Development Officers(3) will be appointed to regions with responsibility for initiating the establishment of

new clubs and facilitating the re-structuring of existing clubs. These Regional Development Officers will:

- Engage with the club executive to identify and analyse the issues affecting the club
- Develop a strategic plan to address the issues highlighted
- Work with the stakeholders in the County Board to identify the necessary resources needed to implement the plan
- Assist the identified people in executing the plan
- Put in place monitoring procedures to examine the progress of the implementation of the plan

Coaching

Currently there are thirty-one club-based coaches in Dublin, thirteen of which are employed by the individual clubs and eight, who were previously on the Leinster Provincial Council urban scheme, but now under the auspices of the Dublin County Board. These eight Project Managers are based with two clubs each. The remaining ten Games Promotion Officers are based with one club each and are also employed by the Dublin County Board. A further 18 will be selected in two intakes March & July bring the total of coaching personnel to 49

The coaches will be responsible for the implementation of the GAA Core Underage Strategic Plan (CUSP) and the Grass roots to National Policy (GNP). In addition, the coaches will implement best practices developed at county level at the club.

Acknowledgements

The Coaching Directors would like to thank Games Promotion Officers, Third Level Officers and County Coaching Officers and all who were involved in their activities throughout the year. A special word of thanks to Jimmy Dunne and John McCarthy – Chairman/Secretary of the Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee and to the staff in Áras Laighean for assistance given.

**Lester Ryan
Noel Delaney
Ger O'Connor**

Leinster Hurling Development Committee Report



Hurling becoming very predictable - again! We have over the last few years seen a return to the situation where the number of counties in a position to stake a claim to provincial or national titles is getting fewer and fewer. We look forward to 2005 and particularly the tier 2 and 3 competitions which if they run as outlined may help the game in these counties and may make it more attractive for all the top players in these counties to turn out for the county team.

There has not been much to entice these players to represent their county in hurling with badly organized 'b' competitions which gives them little chance of acknowledgment at national or provincial level.

We welcome this new championship at adult level but as outlined by our committee last year we need to take the bull by the horns select a number of counties as suggested in the strategic management report and go in at juvenile level with a plan to help bring these counties up to a tier one standard over a number of years.

We would fear that more and more counties seem to be slipping back towards the tier 2 and 3 level than are making the climb to tier 1. Warning: Any approach taken to help any number of counties could take up to ten years to bear fruit. Can we wait?

Committee

Lester Ryan
Ger Curtain (Ke)
Tom Kirwan (Mh)
John Comerford (Kk)
Noel Kelly (Oy)
J.J.Murphy (Lh)
Noel Boyce (Ld)

Jim Ryan
Tom Byrne (Ww)
Pat Delaney (Ls)
Tom Ryan (Db)
P.J.Fox (Cw)
Liam Davitt (Wm)
Justin Brown (Wx)

As we come to the end of our three-year term as the Hurling Committee it is time to reflect on our progress over the last few years.

I suppose when we look at all the various activities of our group the one really outstanding project undertaken by our group was the 'D.J.Carey School of Hurling'.

The D.J.Carey School of Hurling was created with the hope that it would achieve the following:

- Create renewed interest in the game at juvenile level particularly in weaker counties.
- Larger numbers turning out for coaching sessions within the county with the hope that they would get picked to attend the school.
- Help increase the skill level of players attending the school through intensive coaching and mixing with players from stronger counties.
- Help coaches attending with the teams who welcome sharing ideas with other coaches and learn new coaching techniques.
- The school would act as marketing tool in each county through positive responses from returning players and promotional gear.

We had a meeting with the incoming chairman Liam O'Neill regarding the D.J.Carey School going forward and it was the feeling of the meeting that it should continue and that it has been a very worthwhile initiative.

I wish to give special thanks to every individual involved in the tremendous success of the D. J. C a r e y School of Hurling.

Our Calendar of Events for 2004 was as follows:





Under-14 Hurling

DJ Carey School Of Hurling. (12 counties).
Host County Kilkenny.

Under-14 Long Puck Competition

Winner was Aaron Waters from Shelmaliers, Wexford.

Under-15 Hurling

One-Day Blitz

A Group - Host County Wexford.
Participants Offaly, Wexford (2), Dublin (2),
Kilkenny (2), Laois.

B Group - Host County Westmeath.

Participants Meath, Kildare, Wicklow,
Westmeath, Carlow,
Roscommon, Louth, Longford,
Mayo.

Both Blitzes 21st August 2004.

Under-15 County League (12 Counties)

September

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Wexford	Kk Sth	Carlow	Dublin 2
Laois	Offaly	Kk Nth	Kildare
Dublin 1	W'meath	Meath	Wicklow



Dublin and Laois did well and got to the finals, against Kilkenny North and South. Laois beat Kilkenny South, Dublin running Kilkenny North close in a very entertaining and well contested final. These were the first squads at the D.J Carey School of Hurling 2003.

Under-16 Hurling

Blitz One Saturday 8th May 2004
Host County Kildare
Meath, Westmeath, Wicklow, Longford, Kildare, Carlow, Louth and Roscommon.

Blitz Two Saturday 10th July 2003
Host County Dublin
Kilkenny (2 squads), Wexford (2 Squads), Dublin (2 Squads), Offaly, Laois.

Under-16 B Hurling Championship

Larmhí, An Mhí, Ceatharloch, Cill Dara, Ciarraí, Cill Mhantáin.

Carlow were the winners of the Leinster Final, losing out to Antrim in the All-Ireland final.

Senior Long-Puck Competition

Host County Wexford
Run at the Leinster U-21 Hurling Final.

The winner of this competition was Tom Finn of Wicklow.

Wall Ball Competition

A pilot Leinster Wall ball competition was run by the hurling Committee during the year. The competition was run within a number of GAA clubs and proved very successful. There was also an Inter County element to it, when a representative side from Kilkenny competed against a well prepared Wexford team. An extension of the initiative this year will be a competition targeting first years in the Second Level Schools in the Province.

Leinster Conference Team

We proposed this last year and we suggested that a conference team, of players from tier 2 and 3 Leinster counties be allowed take part in Leinster Championship. We forwarded a letter to director general requesting direction on rule changes and we decided to park this proposal because of new championship format for 2005.

We would propose that thought be given to allowing a combined team from Leinster tier 2 and 3 counties take part in Walsh Cup in 2006



and these players would still represent their own counties in Kehoe Cup.

Motions from our committee submitted through Louth County Board for Congress.

Motions

1 For Inter County hurling, players be allowed to declare for a county of birth of a parent / grandparent provided that the county is listed as a qualifying county. A qualifying county will be one that has failed to win a premier level adult or underage All Ireland in the previous 10 years or is uncompetitive due to small population or playing numbers.

2 For inter county hurling, players be allowed to play for a county of residence while continuing to play with their home club in their county of origin, provided the county of residence is a qualifying county. A qualifying county will be one that has failed to win a premier level adult or underage all Ireland in the previous 10 years or is uncompetitive due to small population or playing numbers.

We feel there is great merit in these motions and they would help to strengthen the tier 2 and 3 counties.

Hurling Helmets

While we welcome the new regulations in relation to Hurling Helmets, we would express concern as to the immediate financial burden placed on families and clubs, replacing large numbers of helmets in a short space of time as we approach the commencement of our under age competitions.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my committee, Patricia Clear, Staff Arás Laighean, Jimmy Dunne & John McCarthy.

Parting Comment

We all acknowledge that it is not easy to come up with solutions to help the plight of hurling in our province, but I would hope that at the end of my term as chairman, it would be the general feeling that we have tried. To quote a term widely used which could be applied to the task ahead for the improvement of hurling '*nobody said it was going to be easy*'.

Padraig Ó Ceallaigh

Leinster Football Development Committee Report



As in previous years the Football Development Committee were very active in the organising of Football Blitzes / Tournaments for County Schools of Excellence and Development Squads and providing financial assistance, where possible, to Counties.

In 2004 the season commenced with the running of Leinster Minor League, this was the first time that the Committee organised the League, which took place over five weekends beginning on 31st. January and concluding on 13th. March 2004. There were two groups of six teams each. Laois were winners of Group A and were presented with the Seamus Heaney Memorial Cup. Louth won Group B for which a Perpetual Shield was presented.

As usual the first Blitz, a one day affair, for the Under 15's was organised on the 17th. April and took place at three venues – Carlow Town Hurling Club, Longford Slashers Longford and Carbury Kildare. The Longford and Kildare venues were new in 2004.

The blitz again proved to be very successful as the majority of Counties played all players on their panels on the day.

Following the one day blitz an Under 15 Summer Tournament was again organised in 2004. This was organised during July and August and as in 2003 again proved to be very popular with the Counties due for the most part to the fact that Counties could organise the various games themselves within the specific time scale allotted for the playing of the games.

Next up were the Under 14's – again there were

three groups with most Counties entering two teams. Each group comprised of four Counties, i.e. eight teams per group, divided into two sections per group. The tournament was run on the same basis as in previous years with games played over two weeks/three Saturdays in June. This tournament again proved to be very successful with the Counties.

The Under 16 tournament was again organised at its traditional time – the Halloween Mid – Term School break. As in 2003 Limerick were granted permission to take part in the tournament and their inclusion was again welcomed by all the other Counties. The tournament was organised along similar lines to 2003 and an excellent programme was again produced for the tournament by Alan Ahern (Wexford) a member of the Committee.

A feature of all the Blitzes / Tournaments in 2004 was the age requirement i.e. only players in their last year of a particular age group could take part in the blitz / tournament relative to that age – no underage players could play, also in 2004 unlimited substitutions were allowed in all games. These features were designed to maximise participation of players in the various County squads.

All players and team mentors in the various squads were presented with suitable polo tops, fleeces, and caps.

Finally, thanks to all members of the Committee, the Referees and Officials who controlled the games, to Pierce Freaney Referees Co-Ordinator, 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 with the running of the various blitzes / tournaments.

**John Horan (Cathaoirleach)
Michael McHugh (Runai)**

Cumann na mBunscol Laighean



Culminating in the winning of three National Roadstone Awards for games promotions in football, hurling and camogie, it was a very busy year for Cumann na mBunscol Laighean. The awards were presented to Rúnaí, Gerry O' Meara, by Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Education & Science, in The Berkeley Court Hotel in late November. The following report details the year's activities.

Meetings

Four meetings of Coiste Láir were held during the year (28 Jan/ 24 March/ 2 April/26 January 2005). The main business of these meetings was planning and organising our games programme embracing all counties. AGM was held on March 24th 2004 in Hotel Keadeen.

Roadstone Awards

Three submissions were prepared in late August and received nominations in all three categories, scooping two first prizes and awarded a third also for work in the Province. Congratulations to other Leinster counties on winning nominations.

Coiste Náisiúnta

Rúnaí attended September General Meeting in St Patrick's College. Met with Coiste in Club na Múinteoirí (13 Sept) and tendered report of activities. The chairman and rúnaí represented Leinster at National AGM in Tralee in February. Attended PR meeting Croke Park (24 April).

Coiste Gearáin

Chairman, David Finnegan, represented us on this Coiste set up by Coiste Náisiúnta. A meeting was held in Galway where an outline procedure for dealing with complaints was produced. County units adopted this at the National AGM in Tralee and now forms part of the constitution of an Coiste Naisiúnta.

CLG Laighean

The support from Comhairle Laighean was excellent. Grants were issued to all 12 counties in March. Our mini games organized over six Sundays in Páirc an Chrócaigh gave 120 players the opportunity to show their skill and left them with rich memories to last a lifetime. A word of thanks to the officers and staff in Áras Laighean. Mini games were played at Parnell Park and Dr Cullen Park also.

Games Programme 2004

Date	Promotion	Venue	Co-ordinator
May 16th	Mini Game	Parnell Park	Gerry O' Meara
May 19th	Catch & Kick	Mullingar	Gerry O' Meara
May 23rd	Mini Game	Croke Park	Gerry O' Meara
May 30th	Mini Games	Carlow	Edel Parkinson
June 1st	Ground Hurling	Celbridge	Tom Ryan
June 6th	Mini Game	Croke Park	Tom Fitzpatrick
June 10th	Camogie Tens	Portlaoise	David Finnegan
June 18th	Lift & Strike	Carlow	Tony Crowe
June 20th	Mini Game	Croke Park	David Finnegan
June 27th	Mini Game	Croke Park	Edel Parkinson
July 4th	Mini Game	Croke Park	David Finnegan
July 18th	Warwickshire	Croke Park	Tom Fitzpatrick
Nov 2004	Handball Day	Kilkenny	Paul Kinsella
Dec 9th	Indoor Hurling T'mnt	Arena Leinster	Lester & Noel

Publicity / P.R.Coverage

Publicity/P.R.Coverage of our Games Programme was extensive. I am very grateful to Jerry Grogan for his support. We featured in ScoilSport, Lár Páirc, The Star, Leinster Match Programmes, Westmeath Examiner. Coverage was also available on Website of Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta. Lár Páirc featured all our activities during the year. Thanks to Tom Fitzpatrick for publicity.

Mc Donald's Lift & Strike

All 12 counties participated in the 'Catch & Kick' Programme last year. This year the focus was on 'Lift & Strike' with the launch taking place in Páirc an Chrócaigh on March 30th 2004. Games equipment was made delivered to schools accompanied by a skills manual.

St Patrick's College

The trainee teachers acted as referees in our matches during the year and helped with aspects of organization. This partnership is indeed an important one and will hopefully bear fruit when these students become involved in promoting gaelic games in the schools in the near future. We sponsored kit bags for the college hurling team. Thanks to Tom Fitzpatrick. We also availed of the services of Dublin U-17 squad members on match days in Croke Park.

County Units

The co-operation of all county units is the key to success for Cumann na mBunscol Laighean games projects. I thank the secretaries in each county for their work and I appeal to all counties to ensure that their schools are involved in all games projects organized during the year.

Camogie Centenary Year

To mark this special year we invited the girls of Offaly and Wexford to fill the half-time slot during the Leinster Hurling Final. In addition, Chairman David Finnegan organized a Centenary Camogie Blitz Day in O' Moore Park Portlaoise on June 10th 2004 with five counties participating – Laois, Kilkenny, Kildare, Wicklow and Carlow.

Buíochas

Runaí gach contae & múinteoirí uilig, Comhairle Laighean CLG, St. Loman's Mullingar, Celbridge GAA, Carlow Town Hurling Club, O' Moore Park Portlaoise, Parnell Park, Dr. Cullen Park Carlow, Young Whistlers, Mícléinn Choláiste Pádraig, Coiste Náisiúnta.

Gerry O'Meara Runaí



Cumann na mBunscol Laighean Rúnaí, Gerry O'Meara, receives Roadstone Award from Minister for Education & Science, Mary Hanafin TD

Coaching & Games Development Committee Report

Cumann Iarbhunskoileanna Laighean



BUATHÓIRÍ AGUS NEASÓIRÍ 2003/2004

COMÓRTAS BUATHÓIRÍ NEASÓIRÍ

PEIL

Colleges S.F. "A" Voc. Sch. S.F. "A" Colleges S.F. "B" Voc. Sch. S.F. "B" Schools S.F. "C"	St Pat's Cl. Sch., Navan Ferbane Schools Portlaoise C.B.S. Ballymahon Sec. Sch. Pres. College, Carlow	Knockbeg College Tullamore College Malahide C.S. St. Farnan's, Prosperous Marian College
Jun. F. "A" Jun. F. "B" Jun. F. "C" Jun. F. "D"	St. Mel's, Longford Col. Iosagain, Portllington Rathangan P.P. O'Connell Schools	Sc. Aodhain, Whitehall Sc. Dara, Kilcock Sc. Chonglais, Baltinglass Ballymahon V.S.
Voc. Sch. Jun. F. "A" Voc. Sch. Jun. F. "B"	Athlone C.C. Rathangan P.P.	St. Peter's Col., Dunboyne Ballymahon V.S.
Juv. F. "A" Juv. F. "B" Juv. F. "C" Juv. F. "D"	Col. San Froinsias Castleknock C.C. Col. Bhríde, Carnew Killina Pres. Sec. Sch.	St. Peter's Col., Wexford St. Mary's, Edenderry Dunshaughlin C.C. Ramsgrange C.S.
Inter County "A" Inter County "B"	Longford Wexford	Offaly Laois

IOMÁINT

Colleges S.H. "A" Colleges S.H. "A" Lge Colleges S.H. "B" Colleges S.H. "B" Shd	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny St. Kieran's, Kilkenny Cistercian, Roscrea Colaiste Eoin	St. Peter's, Wexford St. Brendan's C.S., Birr Pres. D.L.S., Bagenalstown Heywood C.S.
Voc. Sch. S.H. "A" Voc. Sch. S.H. "B"	St. Rynagh's CC, Banagher Bridgetown V.C.	St. Fergal's, Rathdowney Tullamore College
Schools S.H. "C"	Portmarnock C.S.	Knockbeg College
Jun. H. "A" Jun. H. "A" (Shield) Jun. H. "B"	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny NOT PLAYED St. Rynagh's CC, Banagher	Good Counsel Col St. Mary's, Enniscorthy
Voc. Sch. Jun. H. "A" Voc. Sch. Jun. H. "B"	St. Rynagh's CC, Banagher Borris V.S.	St. Fergal's, Rathdowney Dunshaughlin C.C.
Juv. H. "A" Juv. H. "A" Shield Juv. H. "B"	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny Castlecomer C.S. Col. Mhuire, Johnstown	St. Peter's, Wexford St. Brendan's CS, Birr St. Rynagh's CC, Banagher

ÁTH CLIATH

Juv. H. "A" Juv. H. "B"	Colaiste Eoin St. Benildus College	St. David's, Artane Coolmine C.S.
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Juv. H. "C" Juv. H. "D" Juv. H. "E"	Donahies C.S. Clonkeen College Scoil Chaitriona	Drimnagh Castle CBS St. Joseph's, Fairview Col. Cois Life
Tom Quinlan Cup Tom Quinlan Shield Tom Quinlan Plate	St. David's, Artane Firhouse C.C. Larkin C.C.	St. Benildus College H.F.C.S., Rathcoole Scoil Chaitriona
Jun. H. "A" Jun. H. "B" Jun. H. "C" Jun. H. "D"	Colaiste Eanna Salesian College Colaiste Chillian Beneavin College	Colaiste Eoin Bray Schools Confey College St. Fintan's H.S.
Sen. H. "A" Sen. H. "A" Shield Sen. H. "B" Sen. H. "C"	St. Declan's C.B.S. St. David's C.B.S. Portmarnock C.S. St. Paul's College	St. Benildus College Colaiste Eoin St. Mac Dara's C.C. Oatlands College
Juv. F. "A" Juv. F. "B" Juv. F. "C" Juv. F. "D" Juv. F. "E"	St. Benildus College Castleknock C.C. Beneavin College Donahies C.S. Scoil Chaitriona	Drimnagh Castle CBS Salesian College St. Fintan's H.S. Lucan C.C. Templeogue College
Jun. F. "A" Jun. F. "B" Jun. F. "C" Jun. F. "D" Jun. F. "E"	Scoil Aodhain Colaiste Chiarain Chanel College Sc. Uí Chonaill Colaiste Dhulaigh	St. David's C.B.S. St. Mac Dara's C.C. H.F.C.S., Rathcoole Oatlands College St. David's, Greystones
Sen. F. "A" Sen. F. "B" Sen. F. "C" Sen. F. "D"	Colaiste Eoin Malahide C.S. Marian College St. Kevin's C.B.S.	St. Declan's C.B.S. Colaiste Eanna H.F.C.S., Rathcoole Pobalsc., Neasain

LAIGHEAN THEAS

PEIL

Col. S.F. "B" Sch. S.F. "C" Sch. S.F. League	Portlaoise C.B.S. Pres., Carlow Patrician, Newbridge	Gorey C.S. Cross & Passion, Kilcullen Knockbeg College
Jun. F. "A" Jun. F. "B" Jun. F. "C" Jun. F. "D1" Jun. F. "D2"	Good Counsel College Col. Iosagain, Portllington Sc. Chonglais, Baltinglass St. Brendan's, Bray Col. Eoin, Hacketstown	Knockbeg College Naas C.B.S. Enniscorthy V.C. Ramsgrange C.S. Abbey CC, Ferrybank
Juv. F. "A" Juv. F. "B" Juv. F. "C" Juv. F. "D1" Juv. F. "D2"	St. Peter's, Wexford F.C.J., Bunclody Col. Bhríde, Carew Ramsgrange C.S. Col. Cois Siuire, M'coin	Good Counsel College Carlow C.B.S. Pres., Carlow Wexford V.C. Col. Mhuire, Johnstown

IOMÁINT

Sch. Sen. H. "C1" Sch. Sen. H. "C2"	Knockbeg College Ramsgrange C.S.	Tullow C.S. Wexford C.B.S.
Jun. H. "B" Jun. H. "C1" Jun. H. "C2" Jun. H. "D1" Jun. H. "D2"	St. Mary's CBS, E'corthy Pres. DLS, Bagenalstown Grennan Col., Thomastown Ramsgrange C.S. Col. Eoin, Hacketstown	Gorey C.S. Col. Mhuire, Johnstown Knockbeg College New Ross V.C. Abbey CC, Wicklow Tn

Juv. H. "B"	Col. Mhuire, Johnstown	St. Mary's, Enniscorthy
Juv. H. "C"	Borris V.S.	Enniscorthy V.C.
Juv. H. "D1"	Sc. Mhuire, Clane	Patrician, Newbridge
Juv. H. "D2"	Col. Cois Siuire, Mooncoin	Ramsgrange C.S.

U-17 Doubles	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	St. Peter's, Wexford
U-15 Singles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	St. Peter's, Wexford
U-15 Doubles	Pres. College, Carlow	Kilkenny C.B.S.
First Yr. Singles	Sc. Aireagail, Ballyhale	St. Mary's, Enniscorthy
First Yr. Doubles	Col. Eamann Ris, Callan	St. Peter's, Wexford

LAIGHEAN THUADH

PEIL

Colleges S.F. "B"	St. Joseph's, Drogheda	Sc. Dara, Kilcock
Schools S.F. "C"	Ardee C.S.	L.S.U., Banagher

Sch. S.F. League "A"	St. Pat's Cl Sc, Navan	St. Joseph's R'fortbridge
Sch. S.F. League "B"	Sc. Dara, Kilcock	St. Finian's, Mullingar

Jun. F. "A"	St. Mel's, Longford	St. Pat's Cl Sc, Navan
Jun. F. "B"	Sc. Dara, Kilcock	Athlone C.C.
Jun. F. "C"	Rathangan P.P.	St. Rynagh's CC Banagher
Jun. F. "D"	Ballymahon V.S.	Mercy Sec Sc, Kilbeggan

Juv. F. "A"	Col. San Froinsias	St. Mel's, Longford
Juv. F. "B"	St. Mary's, Edenderry	St. Finian's, Mullingar
Juv. F. "C"	Dunshaughlin C.C.	Ashbourne C.S.
Juv. F. "D1"	Cnoc Mhuire, Granard	St. Oliver's PP, Oldcastle
Juv. F. "D2"	Killina Pres. Sec. Sch.	Oaklands C.C.

IOMÁINT

Sch. Sen. H. "C1"	Killina Pres. Sec. Sch.	St. Pat's Cl Sc, Navan
Sch. Sen. H. "C2"	Kells C.S.	Dunshaughlin C.C.

Jun. H. "B"	St. Rynagh's CC, Banagher	Cistercian, Roscrea
Jun. H. "C"	Dunshaughlin C.C.	Tullamore College
Jun. H. "D1"	St. Peter's, Dunboyne	Kells C.S.
Jun. H. "D2"	Ballymahon Schools	Castlepollard C.C.

Juv. H. "B"	St. Rynagh's CC, Banagher	Cistercian, Roscrea
Juv. H. "C"	Killina Pres. Sec. Sch.	St. Finian's Col, Mullingar

Juv. H. "D1"	St. Oliver's, Oldcastle	St. Joseph's, Drogheda
Juv. H. "D2"	Dunshaughlin C.C.	St. Mel's, Longford

HANDBALL

COLLEGES - 60 x 30 "A"

U-19 Singles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	St. Mary's, Enniscorthy
U-19 Doubles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Kilkenny C.B.S.
U-17 Singles	St. Mary's C.B.S. E'corthy	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny

COLLEGES - 60 x 30 "B" TEAM COMPETITION

St. Peter's, Wexford	Knockbeg College
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COLLEGES - 40 x 20 "A"

U-19 Singles	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	St. Mary's, CBS, E'corthy
U-19 Doubles	St. Peter's, Wexford	Kilkenny C.B.S.
U-17 Singles	Kells C.S.	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny
U-17 Doubles	St. Kieran's, Kilkenny	St. Peter's, Wexford
U-15 Singles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	Good Counsel College
U-15 Doubles	Kilkenny C.B.S.	Good Counsel College
First Yr. Singles	Good Counsel College	Kilkenny C.B.S.
First Yr. Doubles	Col. Eamann Ris, Callan	Kells C.S.

COLLEGES - 40 x 20 "B" TEAM COMPETITION

Kilkenny C.B.S.	Kells C.S.
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VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS - 40 x 20 "A"

Sen. Singles	Col. Bhride, Carnew	Sc. Aireagail, Ballyhale
Sen. Doubles	Col. Bhride, Carnew	Bridgetown V.C.
Jun. Singles	Col. Bhride, Carnew	Ardsc. Chiarain, Clara
Jun. Doubles	Col. Bhride, Carnew	Sc. Aireagail, Ballyhale

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS - 40 x 20 "B" TEAM COMPETITION

Colaiste Pb. Osrai	Bridgetown V.C.
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COLLEGES - 60 x 30 GIRLS

U-19 Singles	Pres., Carlow	Pres. DLS, Bagenalstown
U-16 Singles	Pres., Carlow	Mullingar C.C.
First Yr. Doubles	Gaelcholaiste, Ceatharloch	Col. Bhride, Carnew

COLLEGES - 40 x 20 GIRLS

U-19 Singles	St. Brigid's, Goresbridge	Pres. DLS, Bagenalstown
U-19 Doubles	Pres., Carlow	St. Brigid's, Goresbridge
U-16 Singles	Mullingar C.C.	St. Brigid's, Goresbridge
U-16 Doubles	Castlecomer C.S.	Cnoc Mhuire, Granard
First Yr. Singles	Col. Bhride, Carnew	Scoil Chaitriona

Tuairisc an Rúnaí

Another School year is rapidly coming to an end. As in previous years some new names appear on the Roll of Honour.

Pride of place in this year's Roll of Honour is Ferbane Schools who achieved success when winning their first S.F. "A" title. All our Provincial winners (at the time of writing) who had an All Ireland series represented their Province with distinction i.e.:

- St. Pat's Navan, St. Kieran's Kilkenny, Cistercian Roscrea, Portlaoise C.B.S. and Pres.
- Carlow have qualified for their respective All Ireland Colleges Final
- Athlone C.C. and St. Rynagh's C.C. Banagher won the All Ireland Vocational Schools Jun. F. and Jun. H. respectively.
- Ferbane Schools and Ballymahon Sec. Sch. were runners-up in the All Ireland Vocational Schools Sen. F. "A" and "B" respectively.
- Longford runners-up in the All Ireland Vocational Schools Inter County Sen. F. "A".
- Bridgetown V.C., Wexford, and St. Rynagh's C.C. defeated Semi-Finalists in the All Ireland Voc. Sch. S.H. "B", Inter County F. "B" and S.H. "A".
- Offaly have qualified for the All Ireland Inter County H. Final

The very good weather was a major factor in the relatively smooth running of our competition.

All the Senior Fixtures were played as per schedule. The timing of the concluding stages of Provincial Competitions and All-Ireland Semi-Finals had to be revised because of the International Junior Tour to Australia during the Easter Holidays (Ireland won the series for the first time, 2-1). Congratulations to everyone involved particularly Team Manager, Hugh Kenny.

With the apparently ever increasing pressure on the 17 & 18 year olds the whole issue of Second

Level games, International Junior rules and Provincial Minor Championships (Football & Hurling) must be addressed.

Again the concluding stages of our Junior Football Competitions were all over the place. Unfortunately the Competitions get pushed to one side once the Senior Competitions start in January. Mock Examinations add greatly to the problem.

With regard to fixture making in February/March, I think that the Leabhran Eolais in September should have actual dates. Thus Schools will be aware well in advance of arranging Mock Examinations timetables that date(s) as per Leabhran Eolais are left flexible (for example in this School year some Schools switched mocks from one day to another while others made alternative arrangements for players. On the other hand some Schools would not change no matter what). Furthermore Saturdays will also be used to a greater extent for games than here-to-fore.

The option of Saturday is much better than simply accepting that games come to a halt because of Mocks.

The weekend idea of fixing Senior Q/Final, S/Finals and Final worked very well. The same concept will assist Junior Football. The synchronising of the mid-term break in Second Term had a positive impact.

Handball

This year the "B" Handball Competitions were played as a Team Competition. Suffice to say the experiment was not any more successful than previous format. Thus the Comhairle has decided that there will not be "B" Competitions in the future.

Presentation of our Games

The vast majority of our games were played on excellently presented pitches. On a few occasions due to human errors, heavy rain, etc. presentation was not as it should be.

To the many who continually give of their time to assist us Re: pitch availability our thanks. The personnel involved are very often the unsung heroes.

Having a pitch arranged is part of the jigsaw. The man in the middle (or should that be the person in the middle!) is another important element. It would be a very simple task to arrange School games but for the large number of referees who make themselves available to officiate - our thanks and appreciation to all. I must take this opportunity to add a note of caution - Increasingly complaints are lodged (verbal) Re: lack of neutral umpires and or linesmen. Not possible to solve for many games. Surely there is an onus on Schools themselves to assist in this area by ensuring they themselves provide suitable personnel. The jigsaw is completed by the team mentors and school management. Again appreciation to all concerned for their work and support. Unfortunately in keeping with present day trends discipline (or the lack of it) is not as it should be. Increasingly players and mentors are getting involved with each other and or match officials leading to extended periods of suspension. There is no easy solution. That said Schools must be always vigilant and adults must lead by example.

Registration

Registration Lists as per rule were insisted upon in this School year. I think the implementation of the rule assisted everyone to keep the record straight. The same procedure will apply for the coming year.

Player Injury

On your return after the Easter Holidays you received amongst other documentation a letter and leaflet Re: Player Injury Cover.

The issue of potential medical bills arising from players requiring medical attention as a result of receiving an injury while training or playing School games MUST be addressed as a matter of urgency. As and from 1st September, 2004 Schools must submit proof that their players have Player Injury Cover.

Sponsorship

On your behalf I extend best wishes to Jim Whelan (Coca-Cola) on his retirement. Over the past ten years or so Jim has been an excellent support to Leinster Schools and we wish him well for the future. I welcome John Coffey (Coca-Cola, Sponsorship Project Manager) and wish

him every success in his new role.

Schools Amalgamation Committee

Congress 2003 passed a motion to amalgamate both Second Level bodies at County, Provincial and National Level for administration purposes. Subsequently an tÚachtarán, Sean O'Ceallaigh, appointed a Committee/Work Group to make recommendations to Coiste Bainistí. Presently the Committee/Work Group has made recommendations to Coiste Bainisti. Basically the proposed amalgamation structures for Provincial Level is by and large a reflection of the Leinster situation.

Media

Since January 2004 our fixtures and results are back on Aertel, RTE 1 (page 249) - my thanks to Fergal McGill (PR section, Pairc an Chrocaigh) for his assistance in ensuring that this contact was re-established - Colm McGlynn is the person to whom we sent all the relevant details and Colm in turn submitted the details to Aertel. My thanks to Colm for all his help and assistance.

As always our games got good coverage in the printed media. In this regard we also owe a debt of gratitude to Tom Crotty but unfortunately his task is not made any easier by the lack of co-operation of some Schools to provide relevant information and therefore we miss out - hopefully with everyone making an extra effort for the coming year we will achieve even greater coverage and, in turn, make life a bit easier for Tom to do his job.

Buíochas

On behalf of Leinster Schools I extend thanks and appreciation to the many who assisted during the year in sharing the work load and I take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable Summer.

Finally a special thank you to the administration team - Tom O'Donnell, Jim Donovan, Pat Henderson, Fergal Giles, Michael Delaney, Patricia Clear, Julie Quinn, Niamh Hetherington and Hannah Horan.

MICHEÁL MAC RAGHNAILL

Bealtaine 2003



ComhairleLaighean
Referees'
Presentation
Night



Leinster Third Level Colleges Report



Comhairle Ard Oideachais Laighean has responsibility for the development of Gaelic games in over twenty 3rd level institutions in Leinster. The support of Comhairle Laighean is invaluable and has enabled a number of initiatives to be devised and implemented. During 2003/4 grants were allocated to third level colleges throughout the province as follows:

- A set of jerseys and sliotars to each hurling club
- 6 O'Neills footballs to each Gaelic football club

Further resources provided by Comhairle Laighean were used for:

- The purchase of medals
- Payment of referee expenses

Competition Review

The two premier competitions in the third level sector are the Sigerson Cup football championship and the Fitzgibbon Cup championship in hurling.

Athlone IT hosted a very successful Fitzgibbon Cup/Ryan Cup hurling weekend. UCD, was beaten by eventual winners, WIT, in the semi-final of the Fitzgibbon Cup. In the Ryan Cup, St Pat's, Drumcondra, advanced to the final when overcoming Tipperary Institute. However, Cork College of Further Education proved too strong for the Dublin side in the final. Well done to all in Athlone IT hurling club for the organisation of a terrific weekend.

UCD were semi-finalists in the Sigerson Cup

football championship hosted by St Mary's College in Belfast. QUB overcame the Belfield side in the semi-final, but lost out to Sligo IT in the final. In the Div 2 Trench Cup final, Tallaght IT continued its record of reaching the final. In a terrific contest that went to extra time, British champions, St Mary's Strawberry Hill won a first ever title at this level.

Best of luck to DKIT who hosts this year's Sigerson and Trench Cup competitions.

Other notable All-Ireland successes by Leinster colleges over the past year included:

Div 1 F'tball Lge	UCD
Div 2 F'tball Lge	St Pat's College
Div 3 F'tball Lge	Carlow Inst of Education
Fresher Div 2 F'tball	DKIT
Fresher Div 2 F'ball Shield	St Pat's College
Fitzgibbon Shield SenHurling	Athlone IT

In Ladies Gaelic football, UL defeated NUIM in the Division 1 championship, the O Connor Cup. UCD were victorious in the Division 1 league. DCU claimed a memorable double when capturing the Div 2 Lynch Cup by overcoming Athlone IT in the final. The Glasnevin side beat UUJ in the All-Ireland division 2 league final

In camogie's premier competition, the Ashbourne Cup, the hosts UCD were beaten by a very formidable UL side in the final.

At provincial level, CAO Laighean organises a number of blitzes to cater for players from all grades and thereby broaden participation. The intermediate football competition was won by DCU who overcame UCD in the final that went to extra time. In the All Ireland series, UCD lost out to Sligo IT in the final. In intermediate hurling, UCD emerged victorious over Athlone IT in the Leinster final and went on to win the All Ireland title by beating CIT.

This year saw an increased participation of third level colleges in the O Byrne Cup football competition. UCD, TCD, Athlone IT, DIT and DKIT

all played and their participation certainly exposed a broader range of players to this level of competition. In addition, UCD last year's winner of the competition, participated again in this year's Walsh Cup, while Athlone IT and DIT played in the Kehoe Cup.

Bursaries

This is the fifth year of the Comhairle Laighean third level bursary scheme. The bursary scheme helps to raise the profile of Gaelic games in third level colleges throughout the province and is further evidence of Comhairle Laighean's commitment to this sector. Chairman, Nicky Brennan, presented the awards to recipients from around the province at a reception in Croke Park in December. These students are in their first year of third level education in colleges throughout Leinster and have been recognised for their commitment to the GAA and achievements to date.

Putting Theory into Practice

The national GAA conference was held in the Helix in DCU in November. Over six hundred and fifty delegates attended the conference and were exposed to a variety of topics delivered by experts from a range of disciplines. The theme of the conference, "Putting Theory into Practice", was evident in the various presentations that were made. Topics ranged from the new concept of "Go Games" for juvenile players and demonstrations of coaching drills to a lecture on sudden death syndrome. A very successful occasion was concluded by a lively question and answer session between the "experts" and the delegates.

Facilities

Third level colleges possess some of the finest playing and training facilities in the province. UCD and DKIT now have floodlit pitches and this enables league games to be played at night and helps to alleviate difficulties caused by the busy fixture schedule at third level. The sports facilities in DCU, in particular the recent addition of a performance gym for players and athletes, will provide an ideal platform for the testing and further development of players at club and county level. Future projects, including the pitch and floodlight developments at NUIM, will add further to the range of facilities available in third

level colleges. These facilities are made available on a regular basis for use by club and county squads.

Buíochas

The help and co-operation of the following greatly facilitated the organisation of Gaelic games activities during the past year:

- GAA Officers in the various colleges
- Leinster Coaching Directors
- Leinster Coaching and Games Development Committee
- Michael Delaney, Michael Reynolds and the staff in Áras Laighean
- CAO Laighean Committee
- In particular, thanks to CAO Laighean Secretary, Dave Billings, for his help and wisdom during the past year

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the work of Jimmy Dunne as chairman of Coaching and Games Development and the support of Comhairle Laighean chairman, Nickey Brennan, for the third level sector in Leinster. I wish them both well into the future.

Tom O'Donnell
Cathaoirleach,
Comhairle Ard-Oideachais Laighean
January, 2005

Coaching & Games Development Committee Report

Leinster Tutor Group



The tutor group under the chairmanship of Cyril Kevlihan (Dublin) had another busy year. In Autumn 2004 Level I courses were successfully completed in Dublin (F and H), Louth (F), Wicklow (F), with Naas VEC providing a football course for Co. Kildare as part of their adult education programme.

Presently (Spring 2005) courses are in progress in Dublin (F and H), Westmeath (F), Laois (F), and Longford (F).

It is planned that Level II football and hurling courses will commence April under the co-ordination of Ger O'Connor, Games Manager for Dublin. Each county in Leinster will be facilitated to send coaches from their schools of excellence and development squad panels.

Leinster tutors are planning to conduct Coaching Workshops / Seminars starting in the autumn 2005 covering topics of interest to club coaches throughout the Province.

As a group we are continually endeavouring to move towards a situation where each county will be self sufficient in providing tutors for their own coaching needs.

Noel O'Sullivan (Kildare) was replaced by Ger O'Connor (Games Manager) as secretary for the group and we would like to record our appreciation to Noel for his great hard work and contribution over the last two years.

Our annual presentation of Level I Certificates is planned for Croke Park February 21, including presentations from Jimmy Darcy (Croke Park)

and Ger O'Connor informing coaches on the O TU Games Development Model incorporating GO GAMES.

Once again this year the group worked in close co-operation with Jimmy Dunne and John McCarthy of the Coaching and Games Development Committee as well as the Coaching Officers of each county throughout the Province.

We would like to record our thanks for the great support received from the full-time staff at Comhairle Laighean, Leinster Games Managers and Games Promotion Officers in the twelve counties.

Cyril Kevlihan
Cathaoirleach
30 January 2005

Coaching & Games Development Committee Report

Leinster Handball Report



After the excitement of organising a World Championship in the previous year it was back to more mundane matter of running Leinster Championships last year. However, the year lacked none of the excitement associated with these championships over the years with the honours fairly well spread over the counties.

Leinster players continued to dominate the All Ireland championships with all-Leinster participation in the pre-Hurling and Football All Ireland softball finals. There was some controversy involved in the doubles finals with one player, who was suspended, going to the High Court to get permission to play. This added a tension to the night that could be done without.

Eoin Kennedy (Áth Cliath) once more won the senior singles final with his final opponent coming from the ranks of Wexford's hurling men - Barry Goff. Tom Sheridan and Walter O'Connor (An Mhí) once more won the senior doubles with the annual victims coming from Cill Chainnigh - Duxie Walsh, who made a comeback to try for one more title, and Eugene Downey.

Clean Sweep

We organise 4 championships in each grade -singles and doubles in both sized courts. Only the fittest manage to make a clean sweep of all 4 titles - only three players managed that difficult feat. In Minor, Robert McCarthy (Iarmhí) was in unstoppable

mood. The bad news for minors in 2005 is that Robert is still underage!

In Masters A, Billy Bourke (Cill Chainnigh) was in superb form while his fellow Kilkennyman, Paddy Reilly was impervious in Emerald Masters.

Coistí

Our Coiste Forbartha continues to function under the chairmanship of Tom Walsh (Wicklow) who is joined by Martin Clancy (Carlow), Des Lyons (Kildare) Billy Love (Kilkenny) Patsy Dowling (Laois) and Robbie McCarthy (Westmeath).

Billy Love (Cathaoirleach, Cill Chainnigh) and Patsy Dowling (Rúnaí, Laois) look after juvenile affairs with a delegate from each county.

The Leinster Colleges championships were once more expertly organised by Michael Reynolds and Comhairle Liathróid Láimhe Laighean appreciates his help and the time and effort he puts into our fixtures.

Tommy O'Brien Cathaoirleach



Dublin's Eoin Kennedy in action against Owen McKenna of Antrim

Leinster 40 x 20 Champions 2004

	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
MinS	Robert McCarthy (Wh)	Brian Carroll (Mh)
MinD	Robert McCarthy/ John O'Shaughnessey (Wh)	Niall Maher/ David Kenny (Wx)
U21S	Johnny Willoughby (Ww)	Gerry Kane (Cw)
U21D	Cormac Smith/ Myles Cash (Wx)	Tomás Lennon/ Pauríc Buggy (Ls)
JunBS	Michael Maher (Kk)	Barry McWilliams (Wx)
JunBD	Michael/ Jimmy Lennon (Ww)	Noel Holohan/ David Redmond (Wx)
JunS	Timmy Clifford (Kk)	Noel Murphy (Oy)
JunD	Timmy Clifford/ Canice Quigley (Kk)	Ned Kealy/ Pat O'Donnell (Ww)
IntS	Conor O'Brien (Oy)	Michael Gregan (Ww)
IntD	Gavin Buggy/ Paul Carty (Wx)	Michael Gregan/ Pat Quaile (Ww)
MAS	Billy Bourke (Kk)	Robert McCarthy (Wh)
MAD	Johnny Brennan/ Billy Bourke (Kk)	Martin Lalor/ Phil Parsons (Kk)
MBS	Paddy Donovan (Ls)	Pechelli English (Wx)
MBD	Frank Daly/ Joe Lee (D)	Paddy Donovan/ Joe Brennan (Ls)
SMAS	Benny Doyle (Wx)	Johnny Goggins (Wx)
SMAD	Benny Doyle/ Johnny Goggins (Wx)	John Ward/ Séamas Ahern (D)
SMBS	Gerry McGrath (Ww)	John Kelly (Lh)
SMBD	John O'Rourke/ Jim Cullen (Wx)	John Kelly/ Seán Devlin (Lh)
GMAS	Tony Breen (Wx)	Vinny Farrelly (D)
GMAD	Eugene Kennedy/ Vinny Farrelly (D)	Pat Doyle/ Richard Willoughby (Ww)
GMBS	Billy Rossiter (Wx)	Sonny Sheil (Wx)
GMBD	Sonny Sheil/ Billy Rossiter (Wx)	Paddy Murray/ Eamon O'Brien (D)
EMAS	Paddy Reilly (Kk)	Séamas Reade (Kk)
EMAD	Seamas Reade/ Paddy Reilly (Kk)	John Molloy/ John Hoban (D)
EMBS	John Barton (D)	John O'Neill (Ke)
EMBD	John O'Neill/ Des Lyons (Ke)	Peter Kavanagh/ Henry Hayes (Wx)

DMAS	Pat Ryan (D)	Paddy Lennon (Ww)
DMAD	Christy Lynagh/ Oliver Gough (Mh)	Tony Buckley/ Pat Ryan (D)
DMBS	Eamonn Deegan (Ke)	Frank Manogue (Kk)
DMBD	Eamonn Deegan/ Billy Gobbett (Ke)	Gerry McWilliams/ John Somers (Wx)
LMinS	Eimear Fallon (Ke)	Aisling Behan (Ls)
LMinD	Eimear Fallon/ Sinead Gallogly (Ke)	---- -----
LJunBS	Susan Keegan (D)	Loretta Murphy (Kk)
LJunBD	Susan Keegan/ Tracy Hutchinson (D)	Loretta Murphy/ Gráinne Hughes (Kk)
LJunS	Patricia Doyle (Ww)	Julie Long (D)
LJunD	Julie Long/ Maria McCarthy (D)	Miriam Ryan/ Ciara Mullins (Cw)

Teams of 4

Open

Kells (Walter O'Connor, Tom Sheridan, Brian Carroll, Carl Browne)

Coolboy (Michael Gregan, Pat Quaile, Michael Lennon, John Willoughby)

Junior

Coolboy (Christopher Doyle, Martin O'Neill, James Gregan, Jerome Willoughby, Pat Doyle)

Na Fianna (Vinny Farrelly, Christy Donnelly, Frank Daly, Andrew Muldowney)

Junior B

New Ross (Felix Doran, Joe Goggins, Johnny Goggins, Miles Connors, Tom Goff)

Horeswood (Barry McWilliams, Declan Hart, Declan O'Hanlon, Ray Hart, Fergal McWilliams)

Leinster 60 x 30 Champions 2004

	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
MinS	Robert McCarthy (Wh)	Brian Carroll (Mh)
MinD	Robert McCarthy/ John O'Shaughnessey (Wh)	Patrick Hogan/ Gavin O'Keefe (Kk)
U21S	Gerry Kane (Cw)	Cormac Smyth (Wx)
U21D	Miles Cash/ Cormac Smith (Wx)	Thomas Moore/ Diarmuid Smyth (Wx)
JunBS	William Love (Kk)	Conor O'Connor (Mh)
JunBD	David Clifford/ Michael Wallace (Kk)	John Quinn/ Eamon Rice (Ww)

JunS	Noel Murphy (Oy)	Ian Griffin (D)
JunD	Christy Donnelly/ Ian Griffin (D)	Pat O'Donnell/ Ned Kealy (Ww)
IntS	Eddie Burke (Kk)	Nicky Reilly (Kk)
IntD	Pat Maher/ Eddie Burke (Kk)	Carl Browne/ Joe Lynch (Mh)
MAS	Billy Bourke (Kk)	Eugene Downey (Kk)
MAD	Martin Lalor/ Billy Bourke (Kk)	Johnny Brennan/ Philly Parsons (Kk)
MBS	Jimmy Holden (Kk)	Seamus O'Mahony (D)
MBD	Richie Culleton/ Fintan Doyle (Wx)	Jimmy Holden/ Padraig Caulfield (Kk)
SMAS	Benny Doyle (Wx)	Eddie Lee (D)
SMAD	John Molloy/ Francis Carroll (Mh)	Bennie Doyle/ Johnny Goggins (Wx)
SMBS	Gerry McGrath (Ww)	Martin Ward (D)
SMBD	Jim Cullen/ Aidan Sinnott (Wx)	Gerry McGrath/ Dick Doyle (Ww)
GMAS	Eugene Kennedy (D)	Seán Ryan (Cw)
GMAD	Vinnie Farrelly/ Eugene Kennedy (D)	Seán/ Andy Ryan (Cw)
GMBS	Paddy Murray (D)	Paddy Clerkin (D)
GMBD	Con Moore /Michael Dalton (Kk)	Paddy Murray/ Eamon O'Brien (D)
EMAS	Paddy Reilly (Kk)	John Molloy (D)
EMAD	Seamus Reade/ Paddy Reilly (Kk)	John Hoban/ John Molloy (D)
EMBS	Peter McTiernan (D)	-----
DMAS	Paddy Lee (Ww)	Mick O'Brien (D)
DMAD	Paddy Lee/ Paddy Lennon (Ww)	Mick O'Brien/ Eddie Flynn (D)
DMBS	Johnny O'Mara (Kk)	Jim Caulfield (Kk)
LMinS	Eimear Fallon (Ke)	Aisling Behan (Ls)
LMinD	Sinead Gallogly/ Eimear Fallon (Ke)	----- -----
LJunBS	Loretta Murphy (Kk)	-----
LJunS	Mary Murphy (Kk)	-----

Teams of 4

Open

Kells	(Tom Sheridan, Carl Browne, Walter Maguire, Francis Carroll)
Wexford	(Tommy Hynes, Colin O'Connor, Donnacha Keeling, Gavin Buggy, Paul Carty)

Junior

Na Fianna (Ian Griffin, Christy Donnelly, Adrian Benson, Vinny Farrelly)

Junior B

Castlebridge (David Kenny, Eoin Walsh, Diarmuid Smyth, Thomas Moore, John Veale)

Leinster Juvenile 40 x 20 Results 04

	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
U12S	Eoghan Hennessey (Kk)	Paddy Goggins (Wx)
U12S	Roisin Mullins (Cw)	Aoife McCarthy (Wm)
U12D	Pauric Maher/ Luke Greene (Kk)	Martin Deane/ David Townsend (Cw)
U12D	Laura Moore/ Nicola Moore (Kk)	Melissa Boland/ Mairead Elmes(Wx)
U13S	Michael O'Brien (Kk)	Adam Kenny (Cw)
U13S	Orla Egan (Db)	Alison Walsh (Kk)
U13D	Eric Davitt/ Gary Donohue (Ww)	David Delahunty/ Michael Fennelly (Kk)
U13D	Roisin Gorey/ Louise Walsh (Ke)	Michelle Boland/ Sandra Kelly (Wx)
U14S	Gary McConnell (Mh)	Paul McElligott (Cw)
U14S	Shauna Hilley (Ww)	Joanna Timmons (Ke)
U14D	Niall Smyth/ Dean Wilson (Kk)	Deni J O'Regan/ Niall Hogan (Cw)
U14D	Stephanie O'Neill/ Caroline Lynch (Ke)	Amanda Kelly/ Lorraine Kelly (Wx)
U15S	Micheál Mullins (Cw)	Eamonn Foley (Kk)
U15S	Aileen Quinn (Ke)	Ciara Dowling (Ls)
U15D	Colm Nolan/ Shane Redmond (Cw)	Eoin Ryan/ Ciarán Neary (Kk)
U15D	Karen Prior/ Maire Flaherty (Ke)	Niamh Murphy/ Fiona Holohan (Wx)
U16S	Richard Hogan (Kk)	Padraic Townsend (Cw)
U16S	Leona Archibold (Wm)	Mairead Whitmore (Wx)
U16D	Nicholas Anthony/ Patrick Nolan (Kk)	David Donovan/ Colm Quigley (Cw)
U16D	Claire Love/ Mary T O'Neill (Kk)	
U17S	Brendan Burke (Kk)	John Murphy (Wx)
U17S	Anne Maire Nolan (Kk)	

U17D Michael Berry/
Paul Lambert (Wx) Paul Delaney/
Gary Parsons (Kk)

U17D Sarah Lafford/
Aoife Ryan (Kk)

B CHAMPIONS 40 x 20

U13S Thomas Bolger (Cw) Jason Coleman (Mh)

U13D Peter Hughes/
Jason Murphy (Wx) Larry/
Eugene Mahon (Ke)

U15S Brendan Brennan (Ls) Gareth Clarke (Ke)

U15D Martin O'Neill/
John Rodgers (Ww) Jamie Browne/
Jonathan Lang (Mh)

U17S Ivor Kelly (Lh) John Traynor (Kk)

U17D Andrew Dowling/
Stephen Geoghegan (Ls) Daniel O'Keeffe/
Lee Doyle (Ke)

U12/13 TEAM OF SIX 40 x 20

Kilkenny Luke Greene, Michael O'Brien, Patrick Funchion, Eoghan Hennessey, David Delahunty Pauric Maher.

Wexford Mark Maher, Peter Hughes, Cory Murphy, Dean Corrigan, Paddy Goggins, Jim Berry, Sean Ring.

U14/15 TEAM OF SIX 40 x 20

Carlow Paul McElligott, Matthew O'Toole, Padraic Ryan, Robert Nolan, Deni Joe O'Regan, Niall Hogan, Shane Fenlon, Brendan Bolger

Wexford Andre O'Brien, Michael Sinnott, Dennis O'Brien, Joe Kelly, Anthony Hall, Niall McLoughlin.

U16/17 TEAM OF FOUR 40 x 20

Carlow Padraic Townsend, Colm Delaney, David Donovan, Daniel Fenlon, Peter Doran, Robert Thompson

Kildare Ivan Carroll, Myles Carroll, Patrick Maher, Daniel O'Keeffe

GAEL LINN 40 x 20 U13 MIXED DBLS

North Winners Shauna Hilley / Gary Donohue (Wicklow)

South Winners Michael O'Brien / Tina O'Brien (Kilkenny)

40 x 20 TEAM OF TEN

Louise Walsh (Ke), Orla Egan (D), Shauna Hilley (Ww), Claire Love (Kk), Maria Flaherty (Ke), Aileen Quinn (Ke), Stephanie O'Neill (Ke), Ciara Dowling (Ls), Ann M Hawe (Kk), Muireann O'Gorman (D)

U11 BLITZ 40 X 20

Kilkenny Peter Funchion/Andrew O'Dwyer

Wicklow Keith Kavanagh/Jonathan Smith

SHAY O'REILLY 40 X 20 (B) LEAGUE

Wexford Dean Corrigan, Cory Murphy, Mark Maher, Sean Ring, Denis O'Brien, Darren Scallan.

Kildare Niall O'Connor, Eugene Mahon, Larry Mahon, Joe Junker, Gareth Clarke, Michael Coleman.

Leinster Juvenile 60 x 30 Results 04

WINNER

RUNNER-UP

U12S Eoghan Hennessey (Kk) Keith Kavanagh (Ww)

U12S Claire Mulholland (Kk) Mairead Elmes (Wx)

U12D Brian Campion/
Pauric Maher (Kk) Martin Deane/
David Townsend (Cw)

U12D Caoimhe Barnes/
Megan Mulhall (Ww) Nicola Moore/
Laura Moore (Kk)

U13S Jimmy Berry (Wx) Patrick Funchion (Kk)

U13S Louise Walsh (Ke) Orla Egan (Db)

U13D Gary Donohue/
Eric Davitt (Ww) Michael Fennelly/
Brian O'Donovan (Kk)

U13D Sandra Kelly/
Michelle Boland (Wx) Stacey Quirke/
Clodagh Holohan (Kk)

U14S Gary McConnell (Mh) Adam Kenny (Cw)

U14S Shauna Hilley (Ww) Rebecca Mulholland (Kk)

U14D Amanda Kelly/
Roisin Doyle (Wx) Claire Moore/
Claire Comerford (Kk)

U15S Michael Mullins (Cw) Eoin Ryan (Kk)

U15S Ciara Dowling (Ls) Rebecca Walsh (Kk)

U15D Ciaran Neary/
Eamonn Foley (Kk) Padraic Ryan/
Colm Nolan (Cw)

U15D Fiona Holohan/
Niamh Murphy (Wx) Natasha McCarthy/
Joanna Rogers (Wh)

U16S Nicholas Anthony (Kk) Martin Doran (Wx)

U16S Leona Archibald (Wm) Fiona Ryan (Kk)

U16D Patrick Nolan/
Richard Hogan (Kk) Paddy Berry/
Paddy Goggins (Wx)

U16D Claire Love/
Mary T O'Neill (Kk) Paul Lambert (Wx)

U17S Brendan Burke (Kk)

U17S Ann M Nolan (Kk)

U17D Jerome Willoughby/
Chris Doyle (Ww) Darren O'Dwyer/
Stephen Conway (Kk)

U17D Libby Moore/
Aoife Ryan (Kk)

B CHAMPIONS 60 X 30 2004

U13S	Niall O'Connor (Ke)	Martin Deane (Cw)
U13D	Mark Maher/ Peter Hughes (Wx)	Larry Mahon/ Joe Junker (Ke)
U15S	Denis O'Brien (Wx)	Patrick Collins (Db)
U15D	Cathal Walsh/ Rory Downey (Db)	Eoin Ryan / Sean Holohan (Kk)
U17S	Paul Lambert (Wx)	
U17D	PJ Martin/ Darren Scallan (Wx)	

U12/13 TEAM OF SIX 60 X 30

Kilkenny	Michael O'Brien, Eoghan Hennessey, David Delahunty, Brian Campion, Patrick Funchion, Pdraig Maher
Wicklow	Gary Donohue, Wayne Kinsella, Eric Davitt, Keith Kavanagh, Shauna Hilley

U14/15 TEAM OF SIX 60 X 30

Carlow	Adam Kenny, Shane Fenlon, Paul McElligott, Matthew O'Toole, Colm Nolan, Shane Redmond, Deni Joe O'Regan, Alan Beaton.
Kilkenny	Eoin Ryan, Ger McGrath, Dean Wilson, Sean Holohan, Ian O'Dwyer, Eddie English

U16/17 TEAM OF FOUR 60 X 30

Carlow	Padraic Townsend, Padraic Ryan David Donovan, Daniel Fenlon.
Wexford	PJ Martin, Paddy Goggins, Darren Scallan, Paul Lambert

60 x 30 TEAM OF TEN

Sandra Kelly, Michelle Boland, Fiona Holohan, Niamh Murphy, Amanda Kelly (Wx), Rebecca Mulholland, Rebecca Walsh, Marie T O'Neill Claire Love (Kk), Shauna Hilley (Ww), Ciara Dowling (Ls), Leona Archibald (Wh)

U11 BLITZ 60 X 30

Kilkenny	Peter Funchion / Andrew O Dwyer
Wicklow	Keith Kavanagh/ Wayne Kinsella

JOE MAXWELL 60 x 30 (A) LEAGUE

Kilkenny	Allen Funchion, Peter Funchion, Patrick Funchion, David Delahunty, Eamonn Foley, Ciaran Neary
Wicklow	Keith Kavanagh, Wayne Kinsella, Shauna Hilley, Eric Davitt, Gary Donohoe, Martin O'Neill

JOE MAXWELL 60 x 30 (B) LEAGUE

Wexford	Dean Corrigan, Cory Murphy, Stephen Cousins, Diarmuid Kelly, Darren Scallan, Michail Busher
Kilkenny	Cian Ryan, Sean Foley, Brian Donovan, David Lafford, Eoin Ryan, Sean Holohan

*Robert McCarthy,
Co. Westmeath, being
presented with his All-Ireland
Minor 40 x 20 Medal for 2004
by Úachtarán, CLLE,
Tony Hayes at O'Loughlins
Club in Kilkenny.*



Leinster Referees Administrator's Report



Leinster Referees Administration Committee

Chairman	Pierce Freaney (Kildare)
Secretary	Aidan Shiels (Dublin)
Committee	Tony Reynolds (Louth) Joe Harlin (Meath) Aidan Shiels (Dublin) Tom Byrne (Wicklow) Tom Rowe (Wexford) John Flood (Kildare) Paddy Halligan (Carlow) Tommy Duggan (Kilkenny) Brian Allen (Laois) Pat Direen (Offaly) Jim Whelan (Westmeath) Eamon Higgins (Longford).

The past year has been very interesting and varied. There have been several interventions by the legal profession, much criticism of referees particularly early in the championship and controversial experimenting with the rules - including the introduction of the 'Sin Bin' for a short period without much preparation or consultation. There was a significant increase in games due to the introduction of an inter county league for clubs, new championships for Junior and Intermediate clubs in hurling and football and an increased number of teams in the Accident Tournaments.

The committee met on six occasions and the meetings were well attended and constructive. The role of the County Referee Administrator continues to be a difficult one and unless he has an active committee helping him and has the total support of his county officers and Board he will find it difficult to make any progress particularly with regard to training of existing

referees and recruiting new ones. There is an urgent need to raise the standard of club referees. Some work is being done in this area but the situation is far from satisfactory. There is also a need to accept that games must be controlled according to the rules and this means all the rules particularly those in respect of rough and dangerous play. It is of the utmost importance that all referees apply the rules at underage games because it is here that good and bad habits are formed. This is a challenge for those charged with the tasks of promoting our games and also those who are given the responsibility of refereeing them.

The recruitment of new referees is becoming more difficult and most of our counties are in trouble with numbers. To date courses have been held successfully in Meath, Dublin, Wexford and Kildare. In order to make courses more viable it was agreed to regionalise them and at the moment courses are ongoing in Wicklow, Navan, Mullingar and Kildare. It is hoped that by the end of March 2005 every county will have some new referees trained and ready to officiate at underage level.

Due to the extra games under the auspices of Comhairle Laighean it was necessary to recruit new referees for the provincial panel. With the help of the County Administrators nine counties provided twenty four referees - thirteen football and eleven hurling to undergo a three night course in Aras Laighean. Kilkenny and Carlow did not have any suitable candidate while two nominated by Wexford were for various reasons unable to attend the course. I would like to thank Tom Fitzpatrick for putting together the course which was very interesting and varied and was enjoyed by all who took part. Tony Jordan, Aidan Shiels, Noel O Donoghue, John Bannon, Pat Ahern and David Coldrick all contributed and I thank them most sincerely. The course will finish in April when rules test and fitness tests are undertaken.

The Central Appointments Committee were a bit more adventurous in 2004 and as a result some

of the Leinster panel benefited. Tomas Quigley (Wexford) and Brian Gavin (Offaly) officiated at All Ireland Minor Finals as well as championship games in the lead up. They performed excellently as did Maurice Deegan (Laois), David Coldrick (Meath), Paul Finnegan (Louth) and Shane Farrell (Dublin) when they were given their opportunity. Well done to Aodhan McSuibhne (Dublin) Senior Hurling Final, Barry Kelly (Westmeath) Under 21 Hurling Final, Pat Ahern (Carlow) Intermediate Final and Eamon Morris (Dublin) Railway Cup Final. Leinster is well served at national level at both hurling and football and I congratulate all of them for their ongoing efforts and co-operation during the year. All who were on the 2003 and 2004 panels were suitably honoured at a function in Tullamore recently. Medals were also presented to those who refereed championship finals. On the referees behalf and on my own I would like to thank our Chairman, Nickey Brennan for hosting the night and all the officers of Comhairle Laighean who supported it. A special word of thanks to John Cotter and P.R.O. Pat Toner for the efficient way the event was organised.

Fitness tests for national referees took place in Thurles, Ballymahon, Tullamore and Athlone. Referees who failed the tests or those who didn't take part were not given match appointments in the championship or league. The provincial panel were tested in Carlow. There were monthly sessions during the winter in Newbridge which helped the referee monitor his level of fitness and also contributed hugely to morale and comradery. I thank Comhairle Laighean for its continued support.

The disciplinary code was severely tested and examined during the year. It was worrying for referees to see their decisions set aside by means of court injunctions. While everyone is entitled to justice the fact that the subject matter of the injunctions is never heard leaves the referee as the loser. A full hearing should be given and a decision arrived at and if the referee is found to have erred then at least a decision is made and the matter is dealt with and lessons can be learned. Hopefully some better way can be found to sort out matters to everyone's satisfaction. Physical attacks on referees are still happening mainly at club games. Maybe the

perpetrators of those attacks would be better dealt with by the courts and legal system. Anyone, player, mentor or spectator who assaults a match official has to be punished severely regardless of his importance to his team, club or county. The relaxing of the regulations regarding pitch incursions was also confusing and unnecessary and took from the games presentation as well as causing difficulties for match officials

It was decided to experiment with some rule changes and 'Sin Bin' for the O' Byrne Cup. There was very little time to discuss the changes or to advise referees on the interpretation and the implementing of them. However it was decided to embrace fully the experiment and apply all the rules, new and existing. The referees contributed enormously and I felt that the experiment worked. Some managers, even some who had not seen any game, came out against everything and were exceptionally critical. One Manager whose province refused to take part in the experiment described the scenes as 'chaos'. Having seen four games I was of the opinion that everyone took time to get accustomed to the change but were prepared to give it a try. The amended version of the experiment for the national leagues will depend on consistent application of the rules by all referees. I believe that the way forward for both hurling and football is the consistent and clear application of the rules particularly in the case of rough and dangerous play and the acceptance by managers, officials and players that this must be so. If there are too many fouls in football I think we have the mechanisms to deal with it if we have the will. There is a major difference between the needs for football and those for hurling and is important that this is recognised.

I would like to sincerely thank the provincial assessors who play an important part in the development of young referees. They go to all kinds of games, mainly low profile ones, at all kinds of venues and their work should be appreciated. My thanks to our national tutors, Tom Fitzpatrick, Tony Jordan, Aidan Shiels and Noel O' Donoghue who attempt to spread the refereeing gospel throughout the provinces. A special thanks to Aidan Shiels who is secretary to the Administration Committee and who does tremendous work on several fronts.

The support for refereeing and referees at Leinster Council is total and this is very reassuring. I thank our chairman, Nickey Brennan for trusting me with the position and then allowing me the space to get on with it. He was most supportive and interested and kept himself well briefed on all matters affecting referees and refereeing both at provincial and national level. All our referees are aware of his support and are very appreciative of it. This job would be impossible without the day to day back up of Aras Laighean. Their support is excellent and I am grateful for it. Thanks to Michael Delaney and Michael Reynolds for their support and advice. Thanks also to Patricia and Hannah for their courtesy and help. Thanks also to Julia who deals so efficiently with most of the refereeing matters and who gives a service to referees that

is second to none. It is right that Comhairle Laighean should honour our panel of referees and their partners as they did recently as they provide an excellent service and play a huge part in the running of all competitions from schools and underage up to senior level. I thank them all for an excellent year.

**Piaras de Freine
Cathaoirleach.**

National Referee Panelists - Laighean (Iomáint)				
Contae	3.2	3.1	Provincial	Support
Louth				
Meath		F. Smith	M. Bartley	
Dublin	A. Mac Suibhne E. Morris	D. O Donovan	M. Butler	
Wicklow			D. Greene	
Wexford	D. Murphy	J. Kelly S. Whelan J. Owens		
Kildare			F. Devereux R. Houlihan	
Carlow	P. Aherne		J. Quinlan	
Kilkenny	P. Neary J. Guinan P. Dunphy	D. Connolly		
Laois		A. Stapleton	J. Carroll	
Offaly	P. Horan	B. Gavin	C. Groome T. Carroll	
Westmeath	B. Kelly	J. McGrath	S. Corcoran R. Cornally	
Longford				
TOTAL	9	9	11	

National Referee Panelists - Laighean (Iomáint)

Contae	3.2	3.1	Provincial	Support
Louth		P. Finnegan G. McKenny	A. McKenna P. Kneel	
Meath	S. McCormack D. Coldrick	J. Smith C. Reilly	J. Curley	
Dublin		S. Farrell	N. Cocoman B. O Shea G. McCormack J. Murray E. O Ceallachain	
Wicklow			E. Craul	
Wexford	S. Doyle T. Quigley	S. O Shea		
Kildare	M. Monahan	F. Barrett	M. McLoughlin	
Carlow			P. Keogh	
Kilkenny			P. Devlin	
Laois	E. Whelan M. Deegan		E. Kinsella V. Dowling	
Offaly			C. Costelloe D. Brazil	N. Cooney C. Buckley
Westmeath	P. Fox	P. Daly S. Carroll	A. McCormack M. Mannion	S. Sheridan
Longford	J. Bannon E. Murtagh	P. Reilly D. Fahy	T.P. Pettitt	P. O Toole
TOTAL	10	11	19	4



Public Relations, Marketing and I.T. Committee Report

Committee Members 2003-04

Pat Toner	(Chairman)
Pat Chapman	(Secretary)
John Cotter	(Marketing Manager)
Gerry Grogan	
Tommy Murphy	
Paddy Flanagan	
Alan Aherne	
Tom O'Donnell	
Pat Teehan	
Patricia Clear	

The primary duties of the committee in the past year were, Match Programmes, Publications, Presentations, Awards, Match Day Functions and IT.

County PRO's

The Committee met with the County PRO's on a number of occasions in the past year. The attendance at these meetings was encouraging and judging by the contributions our county pro's are enthusiastic and are well up to speed with their duties and responsibilities. If they do nothing else these meetings provide our PRO's with an opportunity to compare notes and learn from each other.

Programmes

Our Marketing Manager John Cotter had the responsibility of looking after programmes for our Croke Park games. The programmes as ever were of an excellent standard and proved to be fitting souvenirs of a visit to headquarters. These programmes are excellent value for money with very informative articles befitting the occasion. Programmes for all our other championship fixtures outside of Croke Park were the responsibility of the host county and every

effort was made by our various county pro's to maintain the high standards of previous years. The introduction of Championship status for club championships at Intermediate and Junior grades ensured that our pro's were kept busy producing programmes in the latter part of year.

All our counties now produce excellent programmes for their respective county finals and in fact some counties produce a programme for all their main championship fixtures.

In recognition of the high standard and excellence of county final publications it was decided to present a Comhairle Laighean Award to the county PRO for the best programme. All the programmes received were of a very high standard and were judged by Martin Breheny. The winner was Alan Aherne from Wexford. Congratulations to Alan and all who entered.

There is always room for improvement in the area of match programmes. One should consider and guard against such items as repetition, fair balance of articles, information, photographs, and advertisements and value for money. A major bone of contention with those looking after match programmes is trying to get teams. This is a problem that will have to be addressed.

Presentation of Games

Standards associated with presentation of our games have improved immensely over the years. Venues in regular use are well accustomed to what is required in this area.

The increase in televised games outside of Croke Park and the introduction of floodlighting will require constant vigilance in the whole area of games presentation.

Club Fixtures and Results

Judging by Aertel, Websites and Monday Morning Papers our counties are well advanced when it come to publishing local results. However some of our county PRO's have to go to great lengths to ensure they get those results.

We recently had a presentation along with County Treasurers from a company who have adopted a system whereby the referee can forward the result by SMS message immediately after the conclusion of the game. This system also updates the league tables and transmits the results to the county websites within minutes. Counties will receive full training and there is no cost factor involved. Initial reaction was very positive and anything that improves the job of compiling results is always welcome for our PRO's.

Presentations

The Official Naming of the Delaney Cup, Referees Awards, and Presentations to Michael Ó Dubhshlaine, Liam O Maolmhichil, Ciaran Ó Neill, Donal Ó hIcheadha and Padraig Ó Flanagan were among the functions that the committee were associated with in the past year. Also they had involvement with the Annual Convention and various match day functions in Croke Park.

Match Ticket Gift Voucher

Details of a Match Gift Voucher purchase scheme were recently announced. This is a scheme which allows for the purchase of vouchers for any amount which is redeemable against tickets for Leinster Championship games in Croke Park.

Publications

All our counties produce an annual fixture book or information booklet. Some counties produce their own yearbook while others franchise theirs out to a publishing company. Obviously those who produce their own have a better financial return.

IT

While all counties have web sites the need for constant updating can not be over stressed. There is an initiative ongoing at present to supply a number of user -friendly web sites to clubs. A number of people are now trained to facilitate this process.

Plans

Plans for the coming year

- Seminar for County PRO's scheduled for March
- IT – Training and Assistance with new Technology
- Pursue a proposal that Croke Park organise a National Seminar for PRO's
- Constant appraisal of all initiatives coming under the banner of Public Relations such as match programmes, match presentations and publications
- Continuation of the Comhairle Award for best County Final Programme

Thanks

Finally I want to record my sincere thanks to a number of people who have helped me in my first year in this position

- Michael Ó Dubhshlaine and the Staff of Aras Laighean for their good humour guidance and assistance at all times
- My fellow Officers who were never found wanting when help was required
- John Cotter and Paddy Flanagan their advice and assistance was much appreciated
- Members of the PR Committee and County PRO's for all their work and help

Conclusion

I would like to wish the outgoing Cathaoirleach Nioclas Ó Braonain every success for the year ahead and thank him for his support to me over the year.

To the incoming Cathaoirleach Liam O Neill I would like to wish him every success in the years ahead. It will be a privilege to work with Liam in ensuring that Comhairle Laighean remains to the forefront of Gaelic Games activities in the years ahead.

**Is Mise
Padraig Ó Tomhnair**

Club Organisation and Development Committee



Committee 2003-04

Joe Shaughnessy	Cathaoirleach
Kathleen O'Neill	Rúnaí
Tom Farrell	
John Joe Walsh	
Tomás Ó hEochaidh	
Dudley Farrell	
Gerry Harrington	
Andy O'Brien	
Rory Murphy	
Christy Morrison	
Jim English	
Barry Hickey	
Tom O'Loughlin	
Michael Noel Byrne	
Billy Flanagan	
Seamus Quinn	

This committee was set up three years ago. The primary duty of the committee was to undertake a report on the effects that changing demographics and urbanisation is having on the GAA in Leinster. As Ireland is becoming more urbanised, the GAA understands that it is essential to monitor the changing situation, and thus take the necessary action to ensure that the organisation maintains its popularity nationwide.

To this end a detailed survey was carried out in all counties. This survey was compiled by NUI Maynooth. Our final report was presented to Leinster Council last year and leading on from

this the Council has engaged the services of Eamonn Prenter from Cunnane Stratton Reynolds to progress matters further. Eamonn is a town planner with many years experience. He is currently helping both Meath and Louth with the developments plans for Drogheda and Navan. As a result of his involvement the wishes of both county boards will be professionally represented. It is the intention that Eamonn will identify the situation with each County Development Plan and he will then prepare similar plans for all counties and will help and assist the county boards to achieve their aims in relation to obtaining additional land for future development.

The main problems facing the GAA in the future are:

- 1 The availability of land for pitches, and we feel that local authorities and land developers must liaise with each other to ensure that land is zoned for amenities. The appointment of Eamonn Prenter will mean that Leinster counties are well represented and the end result should mean that playing facilities will keep pace with development and housing in the greater Leinster area.
- 2 The lack of man power is common to all the urban areas. Time, or more precisely the lack of it, has become more and more of a problem. Counties will need to think of new incentives to attract a core group of helpers on a regular basis.

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. Most areas in Leinster have problems with population increases rather than a decreasing population. The few areas that are in decline must be assisted. In the course of our surveys we discovered that with the exception of

Dublin the vast majority of players making up county panels came from rural clubs. In some counties the percentage was as high as 80% rural. It is very easy to forget about these areas given the surge in population in the greater Dublin areas which now includes places as far as Longford, Kilkenny, Dundalk, Drogheda, Athlone and Wexford. Leinster Council is conscious of these areas and has also asked Eamonn to devise strategies to assist.

We have also produced, in conjunction with the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, a very useful pamphlet outlining in detail the steps to be taken when applying for Lottery funding and also the follow up needed to draw down the money. We have also included a list of requirements needed by financial institutions when applying for loans for development purposes. This document is available in Leinster Council and should assist counties when making application for Lotto funding. This will need to be updated when changes are made at department level. Presently funding will be directly towards pitch development and dressing rooms. All weather pitches are not on the priority listing and the information available to us is that they will not be treated favourably for lotto funding.

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.

Croke Park has taken up this challenge and is working towards achieving the targets of having flood lit pitches in all strategic areas.

Having completed our three years it would be our hope that we have at least identified some of the problems that will face the GAA in Leinster in the coming years, and hopefully with the appointment of Eamonn Prenter that these problems will be highlighted at every opportunity and plans implemented to counteract them. Hopefully the innovative thinking of the officers at Leinster Council will be rewarded and the games will develop at a pace commensurate with the increase or in certain cases the decrease in population.

Our committee feels that while a lot of good work is being done more needs to be done. To this end we feel that new clubs should be supported and encouraged by their County Boards and Leinster Council.

To conclude, I would like to thank all the staff at Comhairle Laighean for their invaluable assistance over the past three years. I would also like to thank all the committee members who have worked very hard, and I hope that our work will be a blueprint for the progression of our games throughout not only Leinster but the whole country.

Mile Buiochas

**Joe Shaughnessy
Cathaoirleach**

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

The main areas for examination during 2004 were:

- a Inter County Games V Club Games
 - b Juvenile Games V Second Level Games
 - c Completion of Fixtures Database
- a **The number of Inter-County games is increasing annually with the following results:**

- 1 Most counties are unable to play club championship fixtures during the Summer months
- 2 County players by and large do not play league games with their clubs
- 3 All counties provide sufficient games for their club players (20+) but we must ask how meaningful many of these Games are? Where are the next generation of inter-county players to come from if these games are not competitive?
- 4 Present Inter-County hurling and football structures make it almost impossible to plan a Club Fixtures Programme
- 5 Success in any county leads to postponement of Club Championships – in many cases this comes unexpectedly and cannot be planned for

Conclusions:

- a Value of subsidiary Inter-County Competitions must be questioned particularly with the current championship structures
- b Inter-County Hurling and Football Championships need to be condensed into a shorter time frame as it is almost impossible for counties who progress in the championship to have their club championships completed for the All Ireland Club championships
- c Club players are now being asked to play weekly in the fall of the year so as to complete our club championships – we don't ask our county players to do this
- d We need to look at the Calendar Year again as this may be the key to allowing meaningful club games to be played during July/August. Clubs now are being confined to March/June and September/November

b School/Club conflict occurs during February/March and September/October when the Senior and Junior Schools competitions are at the knock-out stage

The main causes of this conflict are:

- 1 U-16 Club Competitions not completed
- 2 Minor Club Competitions not completed
- 3 Players being asked to train with both Club and School
- 4 Development Squad games being moved from Hallow'een period
- 5 No/very little communication between any of the parties involved
- 6 Bord na nÓg Fixture Committees do not always check Schools Fixtures booklet and try to accommodate both sets of fixtures
- 7 School games being changed/called off without notification of clubs re: pitches etc
- 8 Clubs/Schools preventing players from playing with their clubs/schools for unreasonable periods before important Club/School games

Recommendations/Suggestions:

- 1 All Club U-16/Minor Competitions to be completed by end of September if at all possible
- 2 Development squad (U-15 Hurling & U-16 Football) games to be confined to Halloween break
- 3 Players must be allowed to play for their School five days before Club game – if not Club must explain to Provincial Council
- 4 Member of County Second Level Committee should be member of Bord na nÓg Fixtures Committee
- 5 Communication mechanism must be established
- 6 School Fixtures should be broken down into counties

7 Players only to do physical training with one unit each week

8 Regulations to be put in place to ensure the smooth running of all Schools Competitions

c Fixtures Database

This has now been completed and will accommodate the following:

- a Make League Draws for up to 14 teams
- b Track unplayed games
- c Provide weekly fixtures list for papers, website etc
- d Check conflict for venues and referees
- e Provide League Tables taking score difference into account
- f Provide results for papers, aertel etc.

Copies of database may be received from any of the committee.

In conclusion the committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to the work of the committee for the last three years.

Sean O'hUaine
Pól Ó Cinnseallaigh



Leinster Development (Health & Safety) Committee Report

Tommy Murphy (Cill Chainnigh) R.I.P.

One of our most valued Committee members, Tommy Murphy, died during the year. His experience and common sense approach was invaluable to the Committee. We again reiterate our sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

End of Term

This committee was the first of its kind in Leinster to be dedicated solely to Health and Safety matters. There were teething problems initially as we tried to come to grips with our role, responsibility, scope and standing. I think the Committee has now found its own important niche in the overall scheme of things in the province and certainly there is ample reason to continue and enlarge its existence.

Buíochas

I thank the members of the Committee for their diligence during our term of office. Thanks also to the the Development (Facilities) Committee for their guidance and assistance. We thank also the council officers for their support at all times.

**Aindrias Ó Gallchoir,
Cathaoirleach.**

Committee 2004

Cathaoirleach

A. O Gallchoir (Uibh Fhaili)

Runaí M. Mac Raghnaill (Comhairle Laighean)

S. Mac an tSionnaigh (Longphort)

B. O Leaindi (Lu)

P.S. O Murchu (Iarmhi)

M. O Dubhshlaine (Comhairle Laighean)

As indicated in last year's report, this committee concentrated on general safety matters at G.A.A. grounds in its final year of operation. It has now produced a non-exhaustive checklist of items for Grounds Committees guidance to ensure grounds are safe places in which to work, play and spectate. This list has been presented to the National Safety Committee for approval and is outlined at the end of this report.

Safety Officers

Many grounds, unfortunately, have Safety Officers in name only. In quite a number of cases the post is confused with that of Event Controller. With this in mind, the Committee stresses the importance of a dedicated Safety Officer being appointed to each G.A.A. ground, both club and county, large and small.

It would be the Committee's wish that its successors would organise training courses for Safety Officers during 2005.

County Training Pitches / Floodlit Venues

These concepts are growing at a huge rate and there are numerous projects afoot in both areas. The Committee would caution that these are areas also where Healty and Safety issues are of paramount importance.

Comhairle Laighean Safety Alert

Temporary Goals

- Transportable temporary goals to be of such a design and construction as to prevent accidental overturning, notwithstanding that the overturning might be occasioned by horseplay
- Concrete blocks or other protruding objects must not be used to stabilise temporary goals

Buildings Generally

- Examine all buildings and structures to ensure their stability
- Check the integrity of gate and door mountings

Construction work

- All construction operatives must have a FAS SafePass Card
- Clubs/County Boards undertaking large projects, must appoint a Project Supervisor for Design Stage (PSDS), and a Project Supervisor for Construction Stage (PSCS), in order to comply with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2001
- The PSCS so appointed must notify the Health and Safety Authority of the date of commencement of the project on Statutory Form CR1, if those projects last more than 30 days or 500 man-hours
- Clubs/County Boards are the clients in this case and must protect themselves by ensuring the appointment of both competent PSDS and PSCS
- Please note that the current Construction Regulations are under review

Asbestos

- If asbestos is present in the roof or side cladding of a building determine if the material is damaged, cracked or degrading

- Be aware that asbestos roof sheeting is extremely fragile and lacking in tensile strength
- Ensure persons are denied access to any roof sheeted with asbestos
- Do not attempt to repair damaged asbestos sheeting/cladding
- When removing asbestos sheeting/cladding only permit this work to be done by a competent contractor
- Asbestos sheeting can only be disposed of in KTK Kilcullen Co. Kildare
- If asbestos lagging is present in a building a specialist contractor must be engaged for removal and disposal

Floodlighting

- All erection, repairs, and, replacement of fittings, to be done by competent persons with SafePass Cards
- Mobile Elevating work platforms (MEWP) to have certificates of test and examination
- Teleporters to be operated only by FAS approved operators
- Teleporters and MEWP's to be used only in accordance with manufacturer's instructions which will preclude working on sloping ground
- If these machines are fitted with outriggers then the outriggers must be deployed before machine is put into use
- Never use the bucket of an excavator, or a pallet on forklifts, for carrying persons for any purpose

Ladders

- Ladders to be of best quality
- Do not paint timber ladders
- A person must stand on the bottom rung while another person is using the ladder, if the ladder cannot be otherwise safely secured against slipping

Scoreboards

- Safe access/egress and working platforms, must be provided for all scoreboards

Electricity

- Electrical work to be undertaken only by a qualified electrician
- Ensure all socket outlets are protected by current operated circuit breakers
- Consult the ESB in relation to ESB lines should the lines pose a hazard to machinery or construction work

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All PPE such as safety helmets, eye protection, hearing protection, hand protection must be provided where necessary by the employer for persons employed.

Scaffolding

- All scaffolding must only be erected by a FAS approved Scaffolder

Safety Statement

- The employer of persons including the sponsor of persons, must prepare a Safety Statement
- The Safety Statement should:
 - a) record the hazards at the grounds
 - b) indicate if the hazard is high medium or low risk and
 - c) show the remedy proposed to obviate the risk

Machinery

- Grass cutting machinery, tractors, rollers and ground maintenance machinery generally, must be in good order
- Power take off shafts (PTO's) must always be properly guarded

Grounds Generally

- Eliminate, in as far as is practicable, all obstacles that might give rise to slips, trips and falls
- Remove all barbed wire

- Ensure terracing crush barriers are well mounted
- Check blockwork walls for structural cracking and repair where necessary
- Do Not use Lime or Creosote to mark out pitches
- Store all herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals in a locked container
- Ensure that wells and septic tanks are adequately fenced off
- Eliminate risk of rodent infestation by good housekeeping
- Prevent accumulation of litter
- Erect appropriate disclaimer notices in prominent positions
- If ball-stoppers are not in place, ensure there is adequate stewarding around the back of goal areas during the pre-match warm-up period to prevent spectators passing behind the goals, being struck by balls
- At least one hour before match check grounds for dangerous objects like broken bottles, or other articles, that may have been thrown into the grounds by others
- Ensure dugouts are clean and free from dangerously defective seating

Finally

- Do not improvise in the interest of expediency
- It is invariably the 10-minute job that causes the accident

Safety Officer

- A safety officer should be appointed
- A training course will be arranged by Comhairle Laighean in 2005

Leinster Development (Grounds & Facilities) Committee Report



Committee

John Healy	Cathaoirleach (Cill Chainnigh)
Michael Delaney	C.E.O. (Comhairle Laighean)
Micheal Reynolds	Runai and Leas C.E.O. (Comhairle Laighean)
John Byrne	(Ceatharloch)
John Lynch	(An Lu)
Jim Roche	(Ath Cliath)
Kieran Keenaghan	(Uibh Fhaili)
P J Murphy	(Iarmhi)

The Committee's work for the most part consisted of:

- Examining applications from G A A units for lending facilities from Financial Institutions
- Grant Aid Requests from Clubs, Schools and Colleges and Handball Clubs
- Interviewing Representatives from various applicants
- Visiting various Grounds and Developments
- Making recommendations together with the National Finance Committee
- Distributing grant aid for both Comhairle Laighean and Ard Chomhairle

The Comhairle Laighean Budget for 2004 was €518,000 with Ard Comhairle contributing €282,000 to bring the Total for distribution for 2004 to €800,000.

When completing our distribution we were short €45,840. Permission was sought from the Management Committee Comhairle Laighean and granted for the distribution of the over spend.

Number of grant applications for 2004

Clubs 107;
Schools and Colleges 8;
Handball Clubs 2.

Grants Paid out in 2004

Clubs 66;
Schools and Colleges 8;
Handball Clubs 2

Clubs	€ 783,340
Schools and Colleges	€ 43,500
Handball Courts	€ 19,000
Total	€ 845,840

All units throughout Clubs and Counties in Leinster must be congratulated for the way they are continuing to extend their grounds and modernising their spectator and social facilities to guarantee the grass roots of the GAA into the future . A special thanks to the many thousands of workers who continue to fundraise every week of the year to ensure that all GAA facilities meet the requirements of the next generation and a GAA that all can be proud of.

There are a number of Clubs across the province worth a visit to see the wonderful facilities they have, floodlit pitches, Synthetic pitches and Training areas, Indoor social facilities, Sports Halls, Gyms, etc. Some clubs could be deemed as big businesses with a huge number of voluntary workers, long may this continue. I could not pass Clubs without mentioning some of the Massive Developments, such as some of the Dublin Clubs, Ratoath, Co Meath, Naas Co Kildare and St.Marys, Rosslare and many others. Thanks to the many people for their foresight of the needs of our youth in these modern times and guarantee a successful GAA into the future.

The provincial priority ground grant from Ard Chomhairle for 2004 was granted to: O'Connor Park, Tullamore €31,745 .

The 12 Counties of Leinster received County ground grants of €6,350 = €76,200

Other County Grounds and Training Grounds Grants:

Parnell Park Dublin for flood lighting	€200,000
Dublin Grant	€134,869
Longford	€275,000
Louth	€300,000
Carlow	€150,000

Many Counties and Clubs have raised the question of Goal Mouths, the poor surface from over use and water staying because of a hollow etc. There is now a Synthetic Surface which can be installed in goal mouths and can be seen at Na Fianna Club grounds in Dublin OR Contact - Sports Grounds and Field Services (i.e. Ian McMullan)

Clubs should make sure that the borrowings they require are within their capacity to re-pay within a reasonable time scale , and that it does not effect games development while repayments have to be met .

Borrowings for 2004 based on permissions sought totaled €11.405 million.

We would warn as to general hazards such as Temporary goal posts , Erecting/Repairing flood lights Electrical Appliances/wiring must be safe Disclaimer Notices should be displayed in a Prominent Position at Property Entrances. Presently a Safety Alert Document is being prepared.

Many thanks to Club and Co Board officers for their courtesy and hospitality to Committee members during visits.

The number of meetings for the committee were reduced in 2004 because of being tied to a budget and projects that we would like to fund or explore were not possible. The Finance available to the committee to help all G A A units is always subject to the income of Comhairle Laighean and our thanks goes to the Officers and Management Committee for the way they try to help the Clubs of the Province and the amount of their Income they make available for grants

Comhairle Laighean will continue to assist Clubs and Counties with grants subject to the availability of finance. Development areas that will receive extra assistance where possible include:

- a) Flood lighting to match standard
- b) Sanding of pitches to required standards
- c) Synthetic surfaces in and around goal mouths

Sincere thanks to the committee members for the dedicated work they put in during the year and the time they forfeited towards helping GAA clubs.

A special thanks to Michael Mac Raghnaill for the way he simplified everybody's work and to the staff of Comhairle Laighean .

John Healy



Leinster Comhairle & I.T. Training Committee Report

Much of the work of this Committee was done informally this year with a number of Information Nights being held at provincial level. The main thrust of our work was to help the National Club Planning and development Committee to prepare and plan for the coming three years.

The two main aims of the national plan are to offer every one of the 1656 clubs in the country an opportunity to hold a Pre-AGM course and a Club planning and Development Course before the end of 2007. Logistically this requires that 540 of each of the courses must be held annually. Since Leinster has approximately one third of the clubs in the country this means that our target is to hold 180 of each of the courses annually. In Leinster we have about 75 trained facilitators at the moment and with the cooperation of county officers it should be well within our capacity to deliver our part of the national quota. Up to now we have failed in our attempts to both inform and enthuse our clubs about our courses. We constantly talk about how our clubs need help and these courses represent the best chance of delivering that help.

Our Pre-AGM Course offers a club an opportunity to discuss in advance of the AGM what it wants to achieve in the following year. It then gives an opportunity to plan the AGM so it can put in place a plan to achieve its objectives. Our GAA Club Development & Planning Course is a Two Night Course delivered by experienced qualified Facilitators. It is designed to help Clubs plan for the future through a process of self analysis by: Looking at current position of Club, Looking at where they want to be in 3 to 5 years and finally producing a Club Plan to achieve this.

To deliver these courses as required by national policy we need the support of county officers. We are working principally through County Development Officers but for the project to be a success it must be promoted and supported by all county officers and committees.

While the list of active facilitators naturally increases and decreases according to peoples commitments overleaf is the most up to date list of Leinster Facilitators.

IT Training

Last summer we employed a Third –level student Cólín Duffy to assist clubs with setting up Club websites. He had some success and a number of clubs and counties made good use of his services.

Towards the end of 2004 we made a deal with an Offaly-based company to provide and host 100 websites. The difference between these and other websites is that information is updatable without having to go through the normal complicated system of transferring sites to the internet. Anybody who has the password, and who can type can update the website. We have trained the facilitators listed below and they are ready and willing to share their expertise with clubs.

Fiona Carroll	Laois
Hannah Horan	Comhairle Laighean
Liam O Neill	Comhairle Laighean
PJ Geraghty	Louth
Maura Keane	Meath
Niall Corcoran	Offaly
Mary Dooley	Offaly
Paul Hourican	Longford
Noel Tierney	Westmeath
Seamus O'Leary	Wexford
Alan Bell	Kildare
Tom O'Loughlin	Laois

I would like to thank the members of my workgroup and those who have trained as facilitators for their interest in and commitment to delivering a much needed and valuable service to the clubs of our province.

Rath Dé ar bhur gcuid oibre.

**Liam O'Neill
Cathaoirleach**

Leinster Facilitators

Maire Ni Cheallaigh	Dublin	Maureen Kincaid	Offaly
Phil Noons	Kildare	Padraig Horan	Offaly
John McCarthy	Kildare	Dudley Farrell	Meath
Christy Morrisson	Kildare	John Henderson	Wicklow
Ger Curtin	Kildare	Andy O'Brien	Wicklow
Tommy Nally	Kildare	Aisling O'Brien	Wicklow
Terry Healy	Kildare	Liz Howard	Dublin
Tom Farrell	Westmeath	Enda Smyth	Meath
Liam Ó Flannagain	Westmeath	Paddy Kelly	Meath
Sean Heavin	Westmeath	Frank Kiernan	Longford
Joe Maleady	Westmeath	Gerry O'Hagan	Longford
Noel Tierney	Westmeath	Michael Seevers	Dublin
Anthony Delaney	Laois	Richard Morris	Meath
Tom O'Loughlin	Laois	Martin Frayne	Meath
Barry O'Loughlin	Laois	Fintan Mangan	Meath
Pat Leogue	Laois	Kevin O'Loughlin	Meath
Marcella Daly	Laois	Tom Kirwan	Meath
David Bergin	Laois	Mairead Delaney	Meath
Tomas Ó hEochaidh	Louth	Celine Nulty	Meath
John Byrne	Carlow	Tommy Brown	Dublin
Turlough O'Brien	Carlow	Padraig Bermingham	Dublin
Tommy O'Neill	Carlow	Caitriona O'Sullivan	Dublin
Seamus Quinn	Longford	Susan Naughton	Dublin
Frank Kiernan	Longford	Michael Lillis	Meath
Albert Fallon	Longford	Liam O'Neill	Laois
Martin Skelly	Longford	Geraldine Quinn	Dublin
Paul Hourican	Longford	Michael Geraghty	Meath
Paul Ross	Longford	Barry Gorman	Meath
Michael Mac an Bhaird	Longford	Ger Aherne	Dublin/Roscommon
Pat Cahill	Longford	Colm McGinty	Dublin
Margaret Farrell	Longford	Pat Toner	Louth
Rory Murphy	Wexford	Michael Reynolds	Laois
Gerald O'Donoghue	Wexford	Seamus Plunkett	Laois
Seamus O'Leary	Wexford	Bernadette Shevlin	Louth
Seamus Howlin	Wexford	Noel Neary	Louth
Conor Brennan	Kilkenny	Maura Jackman	Wexford
Conor Denieffe	Kilkenny	Shane O'Brien	Meath
Sinead Curran	Kilkenny	John Doherty	Longford
Derek Davis	Kilkenny		

Comhairle Scór Laighean Report



Tá sé de phribhléid agam an tuarascáil gear seo a cur faoi bhráid na ndaoine atá bailithe anseo ó Cúige Laighean.

2004 was the year set aside for clubs and counties to examine and have a hard look at all aspects of Scór. The Scór Congress, held in August 2004 last, saw no major changes take place despite the fact that a high percentage of delegates considered that senior Scór was on the decline. There are a small number of counties in Leinster experiencing difficulties in having winners in all eight competitions. On the bright side it is nice to report that Kilkenny are back with us in Scór na nÓg and Senior Scór. We thank Sean Walsh for his efforts and hope that Kilkenny will go from strength the strength.

I would like to thank and congratulate all those competitors and club officials 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 their efforts in organizing and promoting Scór. Our thanks to all those people who made themselves available to adjudicate our competitions and to all those who helped in providing venues and stewards. Finally, I would like to thank Séamus Ó Faoláin (Cathaoirleach) for his work and help to me during the past year. To the officers of Leinster Council, Nicolas Ó Braonáin, Liam Ó Neill and Micheal Ó Dubhshláine many thanks for your help and support.

Tá sé de phrobléid agam nó bhuíochas a ghabháil le gach éinne a chabhraigh liom.

**Dómhnaill Ó hIcÉadha
Rúnaí**

Leinster Scór na nÓg Winners 2004

RINCE FÓIRNE (Ceili Dancing)

Loch Garman Baile Úi Cheoig

AMHRÁNAIOCHT AONAIR (Solo Song)

Uibh Fháilí Amy Ní Dubhshláine
(Cill Cormac – Cill Aichi)

CEOL UIRLISE (Instrumental Music)

Uibh Fháilí Seamrógaí

AITHRISOIREACHT / SCEALAIOCHT (Recitation / Storytelling)

Cill Dara Sinéad Nic An Bhaire
(Cill Droichead)

BAILÉAD GHRUPA (Ballad Groups)

Uibh Fháilí An Clarach

TRÁTH NA gCEIST (Question Time)

Longphort Clonguish

NUACHLEAS (Novelty Act)

Loch Garman Baile Úi Cheoig

RINCE SEIT (Set Dancing)

Iarmhí Na Dúnta

Leinster Senior Scór Winners 2004

RINCE FÓIRNE (Ceili Dancing)

Iarmhí Seamrógaí Muileann Cearr

AMHRÁNAIOCHT AONAIR (Solo Song)

Iarmhí Niamh Ní Shé
(Sean Domhnach)

CEOL UIRLISE (Instrumental Music)

Uibh Fháilí Na Seamrógaí

AITHRISOIREACHT / SCEALAIOCHT (Recitation / Storytelling)

Átha Cliath Nuala Nic Bhlosaidh
(Caisleán Cnucha)

BAILÉAD GHRUPA (Ballad Groups)

Uibh Fháilí Na Seamrógaí

TRÁTH NA gCEIST (Question Time)

Iarmhí Naomh Seosamh

NUACHLEAS (Novelty Act)

Iarmhí Seamrógaí Muileann Cearr

RINCE SEIT (Set Dancing)

Loch Garman Baile Úi Cheoig



Ballyhogue (Wexford) winners of the Rince Foirne competition at Leinster Scór na nÓg 2005

Pictured are: Marie Doyle, Sinéad Hughes, Áine Doyle, Annie Parle, Aoife Doyle, Ashley Doran, Stephen Donohoe, Dónal Murphy and Comhairle Laighean Chairman, Nickey Brennan.



Carnew Emmets (Wicklow) winners for their 'Novelty Act' at Leinster Scór na nÓg 2005

Pictured are: Brian Osborne, Oisín Doyle, Anne Marie O'Hara, Conor Behan, Michéal Osborne, Mark Doran, Michelle Butler, Máire Doran and Comhairle Laighean Chairman, Nickey Brennan.



Comhairle Laighean Oíche Bhuíochais



Nótaí



Leinster Senior Football Champions 2004

Westmeath

The Westmeath team which defeated Laois in the 2004 Leinster SHC Final Replay

Back L-R: Fergal Wilson, Damien Healy, John Keane, Rory O'Connell,
Paul Conway, David O'Shaughnessy (C), Michael Ennis.

Front L-R: Denis Glennon, Alan Mangan, Donal O'Donoghue, James Davitt,
Derek Heavin, Gary Connaughton, Brian Morley, Des Dolan.



David O'Shaughnessy becomes the first captain to raise the newly named Delaney Cup for his county as Westmeath are crowned Leinster Senior Football Champions for the very first time

