

**Leinster Provincial Council Minute Books,
1915-1980**

GAA/LEN/01



Content and Structure

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Leinster Provincial Council Minute Books

This collection of Leinster Provincial Council minute books were deposited in the GAA Museum Archive in 2010 by the officers of the Leinster Council.

In line with the Archive Acquisition Policy records will only be made available once they have reached 30 years old and provided they contain no personal, confidential or financially sensitive material.

The Leinster Provincial Council was formed in 1900 and administers the GAA throughout the twelve counties in Leinster; Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow.

The minute books contain the meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council, subsidiary committees and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions. Copies of the annual reports submitted to the Provincial Conventions are also included in the minute books.

The minutes of the Provincial Conventions contain a record of motions considered by the Convention; the reading of reports, financial statements and budgets and the election of Officers.

The minutes of the Provincial Council contain a record of all decisions reached by the Council including the consideration of referee reports, appeals and objections; the administration of games and competitions within the Province; the administration and financial organisation within the Province; the management of County Boards within the Province and the relationship between the Provincial Council and the GAA in Ireland

Topics of note recorded in the minute books include the reaction of the GAA to the Irish War of Independence and Civil War period including the organisation of 'Gaelic Sunday' throughout Leinster, the administration of the ban on members of the armed forces of Britain, the issue of members taking the oath of allegiance to the British Monarch etc; the purchase, maintenance and development of grounds and stadia (club, county and provincial grounds) throughout the Province; the administration of the various Accident Schemes throughout the Province; Leinster's re-action to the 1938 removal of Dr Douglas Hyde, President of Ireland, as a Patron of the Association and the wider issue of the ban on 'foreign games'; the GAA in Leinster during the Second World War (1939-1945); the acquisition of trophies; the relationship between the Leinster Council and the media; the relationship between the Leinster Council and the other Provincial Councils; the relationship between the Leinster Council and the various national schemes implemented by the Governing Body of the GAA (Central Council) including Central Council Grounds Board (Bord na bPáirc); the Commission on the Activities of the GAA; the Central Hurling etc and the reaction of the Leinster Council to the political trouble in the North of Ireland.

Related Collections

GAA Central Council Minute Books (GAA/CC/01)

GAA General Secretary Reports (GAA/CC/02)

Provincial Council of Britain Secretary and Treasurers Reports (GAA/PBC/02)

Connacht Provincial Council Minute Books, 1933-1981 (GAA/CON/01)

Leinster Council Chairmen		Leinster Council Secretaries	
James Nowlan (Kilkenny)	1901-1904	Walter Hanrahan (Wexford)	1900-1916
John Fitzgerald (Kildare)	1905-1908	John F. Shouldice (Dublin)	1917-1926
Daniel McCarthy (Dublin)	1909-1910	Martin O'Neill (Wexford)	1927-1969
John Hogan (Dublin)	1911-1918	Ciaran O'Neill (Wexford)	1970-1975
Daniel McCarthy (Dublin)	1919-1921	Michael Delaney (Laois)	1976-present
Patrick Breen (Wexford)	1922-1923		
Robert O'Keefe (Laois)	1924-1935		
Sean Robbins (Offaly)	1936-1938		
Seamus Flood (Louth)	1939-1941		
Micheál Kehoe (Wexford)	1942-1944		
Fintan Brennan (Kildare)	1945-1947		
Tomás Walsh (Kilkenny)	1948-1950		
Jack Fitzgerald (Meath)	1951-1953		
Dr. Joseph Stuart (Dublin)	1954-1956		
Hugh Byrne (Wicklow)	1957-1959		
Brendan Breathnach (Westmeath)	1960-1962		
Liam Geraghty (Kildare)	1963-1965		
Robert Aylward (Kilkenny)	1966-1968		
Jack Conroy (Laois)	1969-1971		
Tom Loftus (Dublin)	1972-1974		
James Roche (Wexford)	1975-1977		
Patrick Buggy (Kilkenny)	1978-1980		

John Dowling (Offaly)	1981-1983	
Peadar Kearney (Louth)	1984-1986	
Jack Boothman (Wicklow)	1987-1989	
James Gray (Dublin)	1990-1992	
Albert Fallon (Longford)	1993-1995	
Jim Berry (Wexford)	1996-1998	
Seamus Aldridge (Kildare)	1999-2001	
Nickey Brennan (Kilkenny)	2002-2004	
Liam O'Neill (Laois)	2005-2007	
Seamus Howlin (Wexford)	2008-present	

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1915-1922

Code: GAA/LEN/01/01

Covering Dates: 14 February 1915-15 July 1922

Extent: 221pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the regular Provincial Council meetings, 1915-1922, and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions held in 1915 (pp.7-9); 1916 (pp.41-44); 1917 (pp.72-73); 1918 (pp.101-104); 1919 (pp.120-127); 1920 (pp.163-167); 1921 (pp.180-181) and 1922 (pp.198-203)

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The elections of Presidents of the Provincial Council recorded in the minutes include John J. Hogan (re-election) in 1915 (pp.7-8); Daniel McCarthy in 1919 (p.120) and Patrick Breen in 1922 (p.202)

The re-elections of Walter Hanrahan as Secretary of the Provincial Council is recorded in the minutes of the 1915 Provincial Convention (pp.7-8); 1916 Provincial Convention (p.41) and 1917 Provincial Convention (p.72)

The election of John T. Shouldice as Secretary of the Provincial Council is recorded in the minutes of the 22nd of July 1918 meeting (p.80); his re-elections are recorded in the minutes of the 1918 Provincial Convention (p.101); 1919 Provincial Convention (p.122); 1920 Provincial Convention (pp.166-167); 1921 Provincial Convention (p.180) and 1922 Provincial Convention (p.202)

Key motions passed at Provincial Conventions include that commencing with the 1st of April 1918 'all future meetings of the Leinster Council be held at...65 Parnell Street' (p.104) and that 'in future the Leinster Hurling and Football Finals be played in Croke Park' (p.167)

Key decisions made by the Provincial Council include the postponement of the 1917 Leinster Junior Championships, owing to travel difficulties (pp.73-74) with their re-commencement in 1922 (p.202); the ruling that the North and South Meath sub-boards were illegal (p.109) and the decision that Leinster delegates to Central Council should protest at 'the statement of the Presiding Chairman of the Munster Council recently in referring to "Gaels in Leinster enjoying themselves whilst they in Munster were fighting"' (p.189)

The minutes of the 21st of July 1918 meeting contain a copy of the circular issued by Luke O'Toole, General Secretary of the G.A.A., organising 'Gaelic Sunday' in

defiance of the British Authorities ruling that permits must be sought for large gatherings, including the staging of Gaelic Games. In this circular O'Toole informs all members of the G.A.A. that 'under no circumstances must a permit be applied for by Provincial Councils' and that County Secretaries 'are directed to summon within the next ten days a meeting consisting of one delegate from each club...to arrange for Sunday, August 4th, at 3pm (old time) a series of matches throughout your county, which are to be localised as much as possible' (p.113) When discussing this circular the Leinster Council agreed with the 'programme adopted by the Central Body...and it was unanimously agreed to adopt it and give active support to the decisions arrived at' (p.111) At the 29th of September 1918 meeting, the Leinster Council upheld the decision of the Dublin County Board who awarded a walk-over to Fintan Lalors as Greenhill Davis failed to turn up, with Harry Boland, on behalf of Dublin, stating that 'it was most important that on this date particularly all fixtures should take place owing to the action of the Govt. in proclaiming the G.A.A.' (p.115) Mr Brown, on behalf of Greenhill Davis, explained that a team had been selected and was prepared to travel but 'a paragraph in the Evening Herald of the 27th (which was unofficial) appeared stating that all G.A.A. fixtures were off for that date Sunday 28th July' (pp.115-116) The Leinster Council 'condemned the unofficial statement in the Evening Herald as being untrue and incorrect' (p.116) In his Secretary's Report, to the 1919 Provincial Council, Shouldice referred to the 'past season [as the] most eventful one in the history of the G.A.A. owing to its attempted suppression by the Govt-but the successful resistance made by the Association generally in inaugurating and carrying out of matches on 'Gaelic Sunday' frustrated this attempt' (p.124) At the 24th of May 1919 meeting the question of the affiliation of Saint Brigids Football Club to the Offaly County Board was discussed; the Offaly Board had refused permission for the club to affiliate as 'a number of their players...refused to take part in local matches arranged for Gaelic Sunday' (p.130) while representatives of Saint Brigids 'claimed they should have been allowed to affiliate as they were a new club and not affected by the order of Central Council re Gaelic Sunday' (p.130)

The ban on members of the GAA being members of the British Armed Forces is raised throughout the minutes; at the 23rd of June 1919 meeting the Leinster Council considered the appeal of Celtic Hurling Club against the Dublin County Board, who had penalised Celtic for fielding a player, Maurice Murphy, who was in the British Army. When Murphy produced a discharge document from the Army 'the Council upon examining the document decided to refer back the matter for further investigation owing to its importance. It was considered to be an All-Ireland test case owing to recent decision of Congress and the large number of discharged soldiers affected throughout Ireland' (p.132) At the 19th of July 1919 meeting a decision was again postponed (p.135) but at the 30th of August 1919 meeting the discharge document was 'produced and closely scrutinised...Mr J Fitzgerald proposed...that the appeal be upheld as the documents were not considered to be true and proper discharge from the British Army. The proposition was upheld by the Council' (p.141) At the 19th of July 1919 meeting the Leinster Council upheld the decision of the Carlow County Board who had

penalised Palatine Football Club for fielding 'an ex-soldier named Daniel Butler who was drawing a pension from the British Army' (pp.135-136) while at the 1st of November 1919 meeting a letter was received from the Kilkenny County Board asking the Leinster Council to rule on the case of a 'man who did Special Constable in Enniscorthy in 1916 and afterwards joined the Police and remained 12 months in them then resigned and came back to civilian life' with the Council ruling that 'he is legal to play according to the rules' but also 'passed a strong expression of regret at the action of the County Board in reinstating such a man into our national games and suggested the committee should again go into the matter' (p.147)

The ban on GAA members playing 'foreign games' is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 14th of October 1917 meeting 'Mr Walsh Co Sec Westmeath asked if a boy who played Rugby for his college would be illegal to play Gaelic outside. He was informed that as long as he did not play Foreign Games in a competition except in Inter-School or College matches it would not make him illegal' (p.91) while at the 1st of November 1919 meeting a letter was sent from the Secretary of the Carlow County Board 'stating that he had been engaged as groundsman by the Carlow Golf Club and desired to know if he earned suspension by doing so' Minutes record that the 'Council considered he was not illegal in holding such a position but were anxious to know if by doing so his action would injure the GAA in Carlow and if so he should withdraw from the Secretaryship of Co Carlow Comte' (pp.147-148)

At the 19th of January 1919 meeting the Central Council considered the resolution 'that it was incompatible with the principles of the Association for any member to take the Oath of Allegiance and any member having done so is hereby relieved of membership pending next All-Ireland Convention' (p.117) It was decided that no action would be taken 'on the matter as it was to be fully discussed at Congress' but as John J. Hogan, President of Leinster Council 'was affected by this resolution it was decided to appoint a Chairman at each meeting until our Convention' (p.117) At the 1919 Provincial Convention a letter was read from Hogan 'in which he stated he had made up his mind not to go in for another year of office no matter what decision Congress might come to regarding the Oath of Allegiance, and expressed his gratitude to the Gaels who nominated him and his good wishes for the future of the Council and the prosperity of the G.A.A.' (p.122)

The Leinster Secretary, at the 15th of September 1916 meeting, received instructions 'to refer all requests re Entertainment Tax to Central Council' (p.58) while at the 22nd of July 1917 meeting 'a resolution from the Dublin Co Board protesting against the attempted enforcement by the Excise Authorities of the Amusement Tax on GAA meetings was passed unanimously' (p.83)

The financial situation of the Leinster Council is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 10th of March 1918 meeting 'a rough balance sheet was made out by the Secretary which showed a balance of £145. This though representing a loss of over £50 on the years work of the Council was considered fairly satisfactory

considering the traveling drawbacks and the fact that grants to the amount of £90 were made to injured players during the season' (p.99) At the 1918 Provincial Convention the Secretary reported that teams expenses were much higher than usual averaging £11.10.6 per team as compared with £5.11.4 for the previous season. Grants to injured players were very heavy owing to the large number of accidents amounting to £89 as compared with £18 the previous season' (p.103) At the 1919 Provincial Convention the Secretary reported that 'our financial position is highly satisfactory, as a glance at the accounts and balance sheet will show. This is all the more gratifying owing to the traveling difficulties experienced and the attempted suppression of our national games, and but serves to point out the continued popularity of the G.A.A. in Leinster' (p.121) At the 21st of February 1920 meeting 'the finance of the Council was the subject of a lengthy discussion and consideration. The Secretary reported that the balance on hand to date amounted to about £680' (p.162) At the 1921 Provincial Convention 'The Secretary referred briefly to the balance sheet which again beat all previous records in the matter of finance' (p.180) while at the 1922 Provincial Convention the Secretary's Report stated that 'from the Truce period the Council had a most successful period-gate receipts again beating all previous records, a total sum of £4,800 odd was received during the season' (p.198)

The issuing of grants is recorded throughout the minutes. The Leinster Council, at their 2nd of April 1916 meeting, unanimously passed the resolution that 'the £55 sent to Central Council in the early part of the year be confirmed as a free gift towards the Croke Memorial and that a further sum of £20 be added to make our whole contribution up-to-date £175 instead of the £100 originally voted' (p.42) At the 10th of March 1918 meeting 'an application by the Chairman of the Central Council for financial support for the latter was considered and a loan of £75 was made for this purpose' (p.100) At the 1919 Provincial Convention the motion was passed that 'the loan made the Central Council in 1917 be written off as a grant and that a further grant of £50 be made to them' (p.126) while at the 16th of October 1920 meeting 'The Central Council applied for a temporary loan of £1,000 owing to difficulties existing as regards the carrying out of this years All-Ireland Champs, the improvement in Croke Park etc. On the Secretary giving a statement of the Councils finances it was proposed...that a loan of £800 be granted subject to the understanding that the Leinster Council have first claim on the Central Council after All-Ireland matches had been played' which was passed unanimously (pp.175-176) At the 1922 Provincial Convention 'The Council being placed in a very favourable financial position was able enabled to advance a loan of £1,500 to the Central Council who were unfavourably placed financially owing to Munster's inability to take part in the 1920 and 1921 A.I. Champs' (pp.199-200) The minutes also record contributions being made to the Mater Hospital including £5 at the 1918 Provincial Convention (p.104); £20 at the 1919 Convention with the resolution passed that a one-day tournament be played in aid of its funds (p.126) and £50 at the 21st of February 1920 meeting (p.162)

At the 1st of October 1921 meeting 'an application from Mr John Keogh Ballykinlar Camp II for a grant for prizes in connection with a boxing tournament

was considered. The Council decided to make a grant to cover cost of medals required, the amount not to exceed £10' (p.191) while at the 4th of February 1922 meeting the Council received a 'letter from Mr John Keogh on behalf of the Ballykinlar Boxing Tournament C'tee thanking the Council for medals presented' (p.196) At this meeting a further 'letters were read from the 1st Midland Div I.R.A. and the Sec of the Co Longford C'tee requesting that a match be arranged in aid of wounded men in that Division' (p.196)

The minutes record the inauguration of an inter-college competition in the Province; at the 9th of September 1917 'a letter was read from the Secretary...of the College Competitions requesting the Council to assist his committee in the inauguration and working of inter college championship throughout the Province and to provide trophies for same. It was decided to circularise all County Secretaries in Leinster to appoint deputations to wait on the colleges and schools in their respective counties where Hurling and Gaelic Football is not now played and urge them to give encouragement to our native pastimes' (p.86) At the 24th of May 1919 meeting 'the Council considered the question of an inter college competition...and decided on presenting a suitable trophy for the college football championship of Leinster' (p.128) while at the 1920 Provincial Convention the Secretary reported that 'the college competitions inaugurated during the past season are in progress. So far as Dublin is concerned the Competition is working out satisfactorily, but not so well throughout the other counties. The competitions however promise to be a success generally' (p.165) At the 20th of May 1922 meeting 'in connection with other colleges in Leinster who refused to take part in our native pastimes, Mr McCarthy suggested that the Minister of Education be written to requesting him to take some action' (p.218)

Preparations for the proposed Tailteann Games are recorded in the minutes; at the 1922 Annual Convention Mr J.J. Keane, President of the Athletic Council, addressed the delegates with a view to the organisation of the Province in Athletics for the coming Tailteann Games' (p.203) At the 17th of June 1922 meeting it was decided to purchase a set of jerseys (18) for the Leinster teams and the following colours were agreed on...blue with white band across body, white cuffs and Leinster Arms on shield on left breast' (p.220) while the minutes of the 15th of July 1922 meeting contain a list of players chosen to represent Leinster, in hurling and football, at the 'Tailteann Trials' (p.221)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1922-1928

Code: GAA/LEN/01/02

Covering Dates: 29 July 1922-16 June 1928

Extent: 377pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the regular Provincial Council meetings, 1922-1928, and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions held in 1923 (pp.253-261); 1924 (pp.302-307); 1925 (pp.369-377); 1926 (pp.456-467) and 1927 (pp.526-533).

The page numbers in this book (pp.222-599) are a continuation from the first Leinster Council Minute Book.

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The re-election of Patrick D. Breen as President of the Provincial Council is recorded in the minutes of the 1923 Provincial Convention (p.255)

The election of Robert O'Keefe as President of the Provincial Council is recorded in the minutes of the 1924 Provincial Convention (pp.304-305) as are his re-elections at the 1925 Convention (p.376); 1926 Convention (p.457) and 1927 Convention (p.529)

The re-elections of John T. Shouldice as Secretary of the Provincial Council are recorded in the minutes of the 1923 Provincial Convention (p.255); 1924 Convention (p.305); 1925 Convention (p.376) and 1926 Convention (p.457)

The election of Martin O'Neill as Secretary of the Provincial Council is recorded in the minutes of the 1927 Provincial Convention (p.529)

Key motions passed at Provincial Conventions include that 'an attendance table showing the attendance of delegates to Council meetings during the season be included as part of the Secretary's Report' (p.305); 'that in the event of a county failing to be represented at Council meetings on three consecutive occasions by its duly appointed delegate the county c'tee be requested by Council to appoint other delegates' (p.305) and the issuing of badges to members of the Provincial Council 'which entitled them to enter at all venues in which matches were held under Leinster Council auspices' (p.480)

Key decisions made by the Provincial Council include an advertising boycott against the Irish Independent newspaper, who did not report on the 1923 Leinster Football Final (p.283); that when paid officials are required for Leinster Council business only members of the GAA should be considered for employment (p. 287); the decision to rent suitable rooms at 41 Parnell Square for Council meetings (pp.451-452) and the later request that the Provincial Council be allowed hold their meetings at Croke House (p.577); the ruling that an envelope was 'part of official correspondence and so must be watermarked with the Irish mark...same applied to minute books' (p.554) and the decision to present the jerseys to the players of the Leinster Hurling team as a gift for winning the Inter-Provincial Hurling Final (p.554)

The administration of games and competitions within Leinster is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 1924 Provincial Convention the motion was passed that 'the officials of the county and their staff shall, with the co-operation of the secretary of the Council or his substitute, take complete charge of all inter-county matches arranged to take place in their county' (p.306) It was also agreed, at this Convention, that 'all matches except Senior Finals, which must be played at Croke Park, be fixed by Council on neutral grounds, except where the counties concerned decide otherwise with the consent of the Council' (p.306) and 'that footballs and hurling balls at the conclusion of finals, only, be presented by the referee on behalf of the Council to captains of the winning teams' (p.306) The minutes further record Kilkenny being awarded the 1925 Leinster Hurling Final as Dublin played an illegal player (pp.401-403)

The minutes record the inauguration of a football league for the Province. At the 1923 Provincial Convention the motion to start a hurling and football Saturday League was lost 'by a big majority' as delegates felt that 'most players in the county districts, farmers and labourers also probable supporters worked during Sat' (p.258) At the 1924 Provincial Convention the motion was passed that 'the principle of the League System be established in Leinster. Consideration of its advisability this year to be left to the incoming Council' (p.305) The Council, at their 3rd of January 1925 meeting, decided to appoint a sub-committee to formulate a scheme for the proposed league (p.362) and when this scheme was put before the Council, at their 7th of February 1925 meeting, it was 'decided that copies of it be circularised to counties and members of the Council for their consideration and that the scheme be submitted to Congress for its sanction' (p.368) At the 1925 Provincial Convention the Scheme 'was adopted subject to a few changes' (pp.376-377)

The Council, at their 25th of April 1925 meeting, decided to hold the first meeting of the Inter-County League Committee on the 23rd of May 1925 'when 1st Round

draws would be made and fixtures considered' (p.385) The minutes of this Inter-County League Committee show that draws were made in football (3 groups) and hurling (1 group) with the decision that 'a 2nd Division in Hurling be formed between Kildare, Louth, Meath, Westmeath and Wicklow, these counties to be first circularised for their consent to enter this competition' (p.387) At the 20th of June 1925 League Committee meeting 'correspondence was read from Wicklow, Kildare and Louth stating that they did not desire to enter in the 2nd Division Hurling League...and the fact that Carlow and Longford had previously decided not to enter in hurling...the Committee was obliged to drop the 2nd Division of the Hurling' (p.392) At this meeting it was also reported 'that at the Central Council meeting held on the previous evening it was suggested that the Senior Hurling Competition for Leinster be dropped and included in the National Hurling League' which was adjourned for further consideration (p.392) At the 15th of August 1925 League Committee meeting the motion was passed 'That the proposed Leinster 1st Division Hurling League Competition be dropped in view of the National Hurling League adopted by the Central Council' (p.419) The Secretary's report to the 1926 Provincial Convention contains a copy of the Football League tables (p.461) and states that the 'The question of forming a Second Division Hurling League in the Province was considered but owing to the small number of entrants the matter was postponed for this season' (p.460)

The formation of a Referees Association in Leinster is recorded in the minutes. At the 1923 Provincial Convention the Wexford motion 'that a Referees Association be established' was discussed with the decision reached that a sub-committee devise a scheme for a Referees Association for submission to the Council (p.261) An 'elaborate report' from the sub-committee was received by the Council, at their 22nd of April 1923 meeting, who adopted the report 'in its entirety...It was decided that Co Boards appoint 2 referees from each county to be members of the Association' (p.268) At the 7th of July 1923 Council meeting 'Mr Dunphy and Mr Walsh reported that a meeting of Leinster Referees was held on the 9th of June which was very representative. The scheme drafted by the c'tee was practically adopted in its entirety and a register of referees for the Province was formed' (p.278)

At the 1926 Provincial Convention the motion was passed that an annual £20 grant be given to the Junior Football and Hurling Champions of the Province 'towards training expenses of the teams for inter-provincial matches' (p.467) while the Council, at their 31st of July 1926 meeting, agreed that a grant of £60 be made to annual Leinster Hurling and Football senior champions 'for training purposes' (p.496) At the 1927 Provincial Convention 'Mr O'Moore (Dublin) referred to the remuneration given to some of the Kilkenny players who had

taken part in the 1926 All-Ireland H Final...and said he was totally opposed to the principle of the payment of players...Mr Walsh (Kilkenny) said there was no question of paying men who had taken part in the game, but they did pay men whom they had got to replace the men whom they had taken from their work to train. The Chairman said he was convinced that Mr Walsh's explanation would quash the talk of professionalism, that was going around. He reminded Mr Tarrant that in 1913 Leix players were taken from their work and paid, when training for the All-Ireland Final. He was opposed to grants some years ago but the time had come when players should be trained as the public expected it of them...The Chairman put the question to the Convention. All were satisfied only 3 against' (pp.527-528)

The issue of whether Bray Emmets Football Club should play in the Dublin or Wicklow Championship is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 17th of May 1924 Council meeting 'A notice of motion by Co Wicklow referred to this Council by A I Congress for the reinclusion of Bray in Co Wicklow was considered...As the Co Dublin reps present were agreeable the Council decided to grant the request' (p.320) At the 14th of June 1924 meeting correspondence was received from the Dublin County Board 'enclosing a resolution from the Bray Emmet F.C. with the approval of the Co Board protesting against the inclusion of Bray in Co Wicklow for GAA purposes' (p.324) At the 23rd of August 1924 the 'postponed application of the Wicklow County Board for the inclusion of Bray in Co Wicklow for GAA purposes' was heard with Mr Farrell, representing Bray Emmets, stating that 'the inclusion of Bray in Co Wicklow would mean the extinction of his club and would not be in the interests of the GAA in South County Dublin' (p.334) Mr C.M. Byrne, on behalf of the Wicklow County Board, stated that Bray was given away to Dublin in the nineties owing to the difficulty of travelling Bray to Wicklow centres but times having changed with the improved traveling facilities, it was not fair to Wicklow that its largest town should be included in another County. The whole of Bray was now included in Co Wicklow for Parliamentary and Urban purposes' (p.335) The Council voted, by 11 votes to 6, to include Bray in Wicklow for GAA purposes 'the proposed change not to take effect until the present championships [and] competitions in Dublin were concluded' (p.335) The minutes of the 25th of April 1925 Council meeting record that 'A conference was held previous to the Council meeting...at which it was unanimously decided "That Co Wicklow Board would raise no objection to the Bray Emmet Club or any other clubs in the Rathdown No 2 Rural District affiliating to the County Dublin Board and playing in the Dublin Champs and Leagues, provided that the players concerned who are natives of Co Wicklow must play, if selected, for Wicklow in the Inter-County Champs"' which was consequently ratified by the Council (p.386)

The financial situation of the Council is recorded throughout the minutes including the issue of loans to the Central Council of the GAA. At the 20th of January 1923 meeting 'a loan of £100 was passed to the Central Council to help them meet a pressing claim of £430 issued by one of their contractors in connection with the erection of stands in Croke Park. This including previous loans to Central Council amount to £2,400' (p.249) At the 15th of December 1923 meeting the estimated financial statement submitted by the Secretary recorded a loss of £590 and it was 'decided to ask for a refund of part of our loan from Central Council' (p.294) At the 1924 Provincial Convention the issue of the loan was raised when Mr Brophy 'raised a point regarding a sum of £2,150 on loan to the Central Council, and said the Leinster Council should be paid interest on it'; when this was formally moved as a motion, Luke O'Toole, Secretary to the Central Council, addressed the meeting and said 'a sum of £34,000 was expended on Croke Park since the grounds were purchased. They were two All-Ireland Championships in arrears. He thought the present was an inopportune time to ask the Central Council to pay interest on the money. There was about £12,000 due on Croke Park' (p.304) The Convention passed an amendment that 'no interest be asked until such time as the Leinster Council considered the Central Council was in a position to pay interest' (p.304) The Council, at their 23rd of October 1926 meeting, applied to the Central Council for a refund of its loan of £2,150 'in view of the many claims on its finances and the bad state of a number of the counties finances' (pp.510-511) The minutes of the next meeting, 4th of December 1926, record that £1,000 was received from the Central Council 'being part refund of loan to that body' (pp.512-513)

At the 1923 Provincial Convention 'a motion by the Council that grants to injured players be standardised was adopted in principle...The Chairman referred to the exorbitant claims made by some injured players, also to the fact that there was no case of an injured player admitting that any benefit was received through the Insurance Act' (p.257) At the 1926 Provincial Convention the motion was passed that 'a Finance Committee be appointed to investigate all claims for travelling, injuries etc and report thereon to the Council' (p.466) which was appointed at the 11th of September 1926 meeting (p.500)

Attempts to revive and develop handball throughout Leinster are recorded in the minutes. At the 16th of December 1922 meeting correspondence was received, from Patrick Breen, stating that a handball competition should be started within Leinster and that 'the existing professionalism in some counties must be fought. He referred to the rules which have been re-embodied in the new code as a branch of the G.A.A.' (p.243) At this meeting 'Most of the members of the Council having expressed their views as to the necessity of this revival and development

of a splendid game which has been neglected by the G.A.A. as a whole-though included in our Official Guide-the Council decided that 'Co Boards be notified to appoint sub-committees to control the handball game in their counties with a view to revive and foster this national pastime in accordance with the decision arrived at, at last Congress' (p.245) The minutes of the 20th of January 1923 meeting contain a report on the state of handball in the various Leinster counties (p.250) while at the 10th of February 1923 meeting 'The Council decided that county secs be circularised with a view to the formation of sub-ctees for the purpose of organising the game, formation of clubs, improvement of courts and where back walls were not in existing courts that walls of 8 feet minimum height should be erected' (p.252)

At the 10th of February 1923 Council meeting it was decided to submit a motion to the 1923 Convention 'That Leinster Handball Championships be started on the basis of Hurling and Football Champs' (p.251) which was passed unanimously by the Convention (p.259) At this Convention the Chairman referred to efforts being made to revive handball throughout Leinster adding that 'they wished to promote the handball game which was the Irish game. There would be some difficulties to get over in this respect as the majority of the ball courts were only suited to the soft ball game, and most of the existing courts would require to be altered by existing backwalls... It was agreed however in order to encourage new players that the soft ball could be used in county matches, but that inter-county champs must be played with the hardball' (pp.259-260)

At the 1923 Provincial Convention the Chairman 'proposed...that a notice of motion be sent forward to AI Congress recommending that all handball players affiliating with the GAA up to a fixed date be considered as amateurs' (p.260) At the 7th of April 1923 meeting it was decided to hold a Provincial meeting on the 5th of May 1923 to draw up a detailed scheme for the governance of handball in the Province (p.265) while at the 19th of May 1923 meeting 'The Chairman reported that the Leinster Handball Convention was held...at which officials were duly appointed and Handball Council formed. It was decided to hold a conference with reps of other handball body in existence with a view to forming a single body or council to control handball in the Province. This conference was held on the previous night...it was agreed that both bodies consider the views of the other as to a probable settlement. It was hoped that a compromise would be arrived at and the conference adjourned for one month. The G.A.A. Exclusion rule being the most difficult problem to surmount' (pp.273-274) At the 7th of July 1923 meeting Mr Purcell, Secretary of the Leinster Handball Council, 'gave an account of the present position of handball in the Province... Conferences were held with the other body in Leinster under its chairmanship of Mr JJ Healy with a view to

having one body controlling handball in the Province. Mr Healy was invited to come in under the auspices of the GAA Council and he or any other member of his c'tee was offered the position of President, Mr Lawlor being prepared to vacate the position, provided they were prepared to abide by the general rules of the GAA. This was not accepted' (p.279)

At the 7th of July 1923 meeting 'The Chairman reported that he brought the matter of the recent handball conference before the last meeting of the Central Council and suggested that a Handball Assocn be formed to take control of the game for All Ireland. The Central Council decided to call an Extraordinary Convention to deal with the whole question of handball owing to the Exclusion Rule causing an obstacle in the progress of the organisation of the game' (pp.275-276) At this meeting the resolution was passed 'That we recommend the Central Council GAA to call an extra-ordinary conference of the GAA with a view to putting Handball on an All-Ireland basis under the auspices of the GAA as a previous decision of the Central Council in the matter falls short of the attitude that must be adopted' (pp.279-280)

The suspension, and eventual re-instatement, of the Longford County Board is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 13th of March 1926 League Committee meeting correspondence, dated the 10th of March 1926, was read from the Secretary of the Longford County Board explaining why the county had refused to travel to play Leix (p.476) stating that they did so 'as a protest against the harsh treatment meted out to them by the Chairman of the Council in awarding Dublin the match they did not win against Longford' (p.455) The Committee decided, at this meeting, that 'the Longford County Board be asked to withdraw or repudiate the statements published in the press in connection with the League fixtures and that the Secretary be asked to apologise to the Council for his letter of the 10th of March 1926' (p.455) At the 24th of March 1926 Council meeting the Longford County Board were 'suspended until such time as the order of the meeting of the 13th of March be complied with' (p.474) At the 22nd of May 1926 Council meeting correspondence was received from Mr Grehan, Secretary of the Longford Board, stating that the following resolution was passed by the Longford County Board 'That we the members of the Longford Co Board GAA refuse to send apology to the Leinster Council for statements which appeared in the Press in connection with the treatment meted out to Longford by the Leinster Council...and furthermore that this Board will continue to carry on as usual in spite of the suspension imposed on it by the Leinster Council' (p.481) In response the Council 'decided that each Co Board in Leinster and the other Provincial Councils be notified of co Longford's suspension and that players

leaving that County to play with another County must be recommended for reinstatement by the Co Board concerned' (p.482)

At the 26th of June 1926 Council meeting correspondence was received from Mr Cadden, former representative of the Longford County Board, 'stating that he requested the new Co Board Sec to call a special meeting of the Board for the purpose of repudiating the action of the Longford Town Team and former Co Board Secretary in reference to the Council' (p.487) In reply the Chairman stated 'that a better spirit appeared to be manifesting itself in Longford and that the Council would give every assistance to clubs who were prepared to come together to form a County Board to carry on the work of the GAA in the County' (p.487) At the 23rd of October 1926 Council meeting 'A letter was read from the Secretary of a new committee from Co Longford furnishing a list of affiliated clubs with a view to affiliation with the Council...The list of clubs supplied did not include Granard who had repudiated the action of the old Co Board in its dealings with the Council. This club had also applied for affiliation direct to the Council but was not prepared to affiliate with the new Board so long as the Longford Town teams had anything to do with it...The Chairman of the Council stated that the new Board had not repudiated the actions of the old Board...The Council decided to remove the suspension of the Granard Club and accept its affiliation and also that of any other clubs in Longford that were willing to repudiate the actions of the old Board. It was decided not to accept the affiliation from the new Board' (pp.509-510) At a special meeting, held on the 17th of March 1927, 'it was unanimously decided to recommend the reinstatement of Longford at the Annual Convention' (p.525) which was agreed to at the 1927 Provincial Convention when it was unanimously agreed that the Longford case be not reopened and that Longford be readmitted to membership' (p.535)

The aftermath of the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War is recorded briefly in the minutes. At the 2nd of September 1922 meeting the Council passed a vote of condolence deploring 'the loss of Michael Collins T.D. and Harry Boland T.D., old members of the G.A.A. and Arthur Griffith T.D., three distinguished Irish Patriots who have given their lives for Ireland and offers the heartfelt sympathy of the Council to the bereaved relatives of these men' (p.232) In his report to the 1925 Provincial Convention the Secretary reported that 'some trouble was experienced in carrying through the Championships, partly due to the Tailteann Trials and Games...and partly to political or national differences amongst Gaels themselves, which were amicably settled towards the end of August' (p.371)

At the 20th of June 1925 meeting 'Mr BC Fay Secretary of the Ulster Council made an appeal in person to the Council for assistance to help his Council clear off a debt of £400, and referred to the Munster Councils having organised a

Hurling Tournament for same object...it was eventually decided that matches be fixed between Dublin and Cavan...and Louth v Antrim...It was also decided to invite the winners of the Munster (Ulster) Tournament to play the Leinster Hurling Champions of 1925' (p.395)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1928-1933

Code: GAA/LEN/01/03

Covering Dates: 21 July 1928-6 May 1933

Extent: 307pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the 1928-1933 regular Provincial Council meetings, the Finance Committee meetings and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions held in 1928 (pp.620-628); 1929 (pp.645-653); 1930 (pp.766-775); 1931 (pp.820-833) and 1932 (pp.875-886).

The page numbers in this book (pp.600-907) are a continuation from the previous Leinster Council minute books.

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the issuing of grants; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The re-elections of Robert O'Keefe as President of the Provincial Council are recorded in the minutes of the 1928 Provincial Convention (p.620); 1929 Convention (p.645); 1930 Convention (p.767); 1931 Convention (p.821) and the 1932 Convention (p.885a)

The re-elections of Martin O'Neill as Secretary of the Provincial Council are recorded in the minutes of the 1928 Provincial Convention (p.620); 1929 Convention (p.645); 1930 Convention (p.767); 1931 Convention (p.821) and the 1932 Convention (p.885a)

A vote of sympathy is passed with the relatives of the late Luke O'Toole at the 20th of July 1929 meeting with O'Keefe stating that 'it was not necessary for him to point out what a great Gael their late colleague was' (p.681)

Key motions passed at the Provincial Conventions include 'that the venue for Senior Hurling Final be fixed by the Council' (p.646); 'that the preliminary rounds of the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship be arranged by the Council instead of drawn' (p.646); 'that it be the instruction from the Convention to the delegates to the Central Council to support the decisions of the Leinster Council' (p.646); 'That the Leinster Council arrange the draw for the Senior Hurling Championship' (p.767) and a motion protesting against the opening of licensed premises on Saint Patrick's Day (p.822)

Key decisions made by the Provincial Council include the ruling that an appeal was in order even though no address was on the envelope supplied (p.691); the registering of an 'Emerald Green with Gold Harp' design for the Leinster jersey 'owing to the similarity between the Munster and Leinster Provincial jerseys' (p.762); the granting of four scholarships to Scoil Eanna (p.862) and the decision to hold a tournament to raise funds for the Ulster Provincial Council as part of their promise to give its 'whole hearted support to their friends in the North'

At the 21st of July 1928 meeting 'Mr Moore (Dublin) on behalf of the Dublin Co Bd moved that the Leinster Delegates to the C.C. be requested to demand a refund of £1,150 from the C.C. plus the interest accruing therefrom for the purpose of paying outstanding bonuses to the counties and for distribution towards equipment of Co Grounds in the Province...Several delegates including the Pres. Mr. O'Keefe spoke in favour of getting back the money or getting a guarantee they could have same when called upon' (pp.602-603) A report included in the minutes of the 26th of October 1929 meeting states that the Leinster Council received a refund of £1329-13-0 from the Central Council; at the 15th of November 1930 meeting the Provincial Council agreed to lend the Central Council £1,000 at the rate of 3% per annum after 'Mr O'Keefe Sec C.C. appeared personally supporting [an] application for a loan to that body of £1000...He pointed out that the overdraft in the bank was not as low as he had told the bank he would have it and he stated that if Council would loan the £1000 same could and would be returned when called for' (pp.756-757)

The purchase and maintenance of grounds throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes. At the 1928 Provincial Convention the motion 'that the Council invest a reasonable portion of its surplus funds in the equipment of Provincial grounds' was not discussed as O'Keefe pointed out that 'the Council were already acting in accordance with the motion' (p.620) In his Secretary's report to this Convention O'Neill stated 'the money granted by the Council towards the equipment of Grounds throughout the Province has been well spent, and there are at least six venues suitable for important matches, and where every facility, both for players and for spectators, is provided' (p.624) At the 1929 Convention O'Neill reported that 'the want for a county grounds is much felt in Westmeath, Wicklow and Longford. If grounds under the direct control of the governing bodies of the Association can be procured in these counties, then suitable pitches will be at the Council's disposal in every county' (p.649) At the 26th of October 1929 meeting the Council agreed with the Finance Committee's recommendation that 'before Council invests any money in grounds a couple of council reps should go and see the suitability etc of field in which they are about to invest their money' with the suggestion also made that the President of the Council should be a Trustee of the grounds 'in which Council had invested

money' (p.698) At the 9th of August 1930 meeting the purchase of grounds in Wexford was raised with O'Keefe stating that Sean Ryan, Solicitor for the GAA, had written 'stating that the agreement as already drawn up by Co Board and Starlight Club made no mention of the Leinster Council and he suggested that in order to have the grounds protected as a GAA grounds for all time that he was prepared to send a copy of Bray Deed-which was also the form used in Tralee Grounds and which had been drawn up by Counsel, to solicitors for purchasers, whom he pointed out should be the Wexford Co Board and Leinster Council' (p.740) Minutes of the 15th of November 1930 meeting record the nomination of Council members as Trustees on the Kilkenny and Wexford County Grounds and the selection of Sean Ryan to act as Solicitor for the Council (p.758) At the 20th of December 1930 meeting the Councils surplus funds were divided amongst the counties with 'all monies allotted for the purchase of County Grounds or where grounds were already purchased...the extra amounts to go for equipment and general improvements to same' (p.762) with the decision that £500 be the maximum grant per county for grounds in 1931 (p.763) which was raised to £600 at the 26th of September 1931 meeting (p.810) At the 15th of October 1932 meeting O'Keefe 'congratulated Meath Co Board on their acquisition of the Show Grounds at An Uaimh' (p.864) and noted that 'satisfactory reports re the procuration of County Grounds were received from Longford, Wicklow and Carlow' (p.862) while at the 4th of March 1933 meeting O'Keefe reported that he had visited 'prospective grounds' in Carlow and Wicklow and 'after examining all data etc' he was recommending Shamrocks Carlow Town and Aughrim (p.892)

At the 1928 Provincial Convention it was agreed to appoint a committee to investigate the possibility of a Provincial wide Insurance Scheme (p.620) while at the 1931 Convention the President explained that £85 was included on the Balance Sheet as 'some of the money was claims turned down by the Insurance Company for trivial reasons and which the Council considered it was their duty to meet. The remainder of the amount was paid to injuries received by players in the Provincial Championships prior to the scheme becoming operative' (p.821) When members expressed dissatisfaction with the scheme 'Mr Pdraig O'Keefe, Sec. Central Council, outlined a scheme which he had prepared and which he was bringing forward at Congress, which, if undertaken, would prove satisfactory. In the whole country the G.A.A. had 1,642 clubs, and, on that basis, with compulsory insurance of 1s per player per annum, £1,422 would be received annually' (p.821)

The issue of GAA members playing and attending games banned by the GAA is raised throughout the minutes. At the 30th of March 1929 meeting Mr E.F. Fleming, Secretary of the Leinster Colleges Committee, in his annual report,

stated that 'If Gaelic Games are to be kept alive and vigorous in the Schools and Colleges of Ireland more forward action by the various Councils and Co Boards will have to be taken. We are up against powerful opposition from the Rugby and Soccer Associations, both of whom are at present sparing neither pains nor expense to capture the Secondary Schools and Colleges. During the past season the Heads of Schools and Colleges in Dublin have been approached and offered every inducement to take up non Gaelic games-footballs, jerseys practice grounds etc' (p.659) At the 1931 Provincial Convention 'The Chairman...referred vigorously to foreign games. Vigilance Committees would be appointed...to find out defaulters in this regard...Foreign games were introduced by the garrison to this country and they would have no truck with them...He had appointed a couple of men in each of the counties in the province to form vigilance committees, and had instructed them not to look out for the smaller but for the taller poppies. The names of the vigilance committees would be known to nobody but himself' (p.821)

At the 1932 Provincial Convention the issue of international competitions was raised with O'Keefe stating that 'They heard a good deal about the international aspect of sport. Internationalism was all very well in its own way, and international fame might be very desirable, but if they had to win international honours at the expense of their national principles and national ideals it would be too dearly bought' (p.885a)

At the 1928 Provincial Convention O'Neill reported that the Schools and Colleges competitions for 1927 had been 'successfully carried through' but that 'the number of schools affiliated for 1928 is not yet encouraging, and many others might possibly have participated had the date for receiving affiliation been extended somewhat; the 7th January was the date fixed, and many Christian Brothers Schools had not re-opened after the Christmas recess at that time, with the result that such Schools could not come into the competitions' (p.623) At the 1929 Convention, Fleming, Secretary, explained that 'it was impossible for him to circulate [Colleges Committee] report owing to stress of business' with Mr Kehoe stating that 'there seemed to be a lack of cohesion between the Council and the Colleges Committee' (p.645) It was then unanimously decided that 'the Leinster Colleges Committee be asked to appoint the Provincial Secretary of their body' and it was agreed to postpone consideration of the Colleges report to allow 'the Council to draft some scheme so as to have a better working arrangement' between the Colleges Board and the Provincial Council (p.645) At the 30th of March 1929 meeting Fleming submitted the annual report of the Leinster Colleges Council which 'was considered most satisfactory and...adopted unanimously' (p.659) At this meeting 'Mr Byrne (Wexford) and the Secretary (Mr

O'Neill) were appointed to represent the Leinster Council on the Colleges Council' (p.660)

The cancellation of the 1928 Leinster Minor Football Championship is recorded in the minutes; at the 3rd of March 1929 meeting O'Keefe explained that the Dublin County Board had suspended Michael Joyce for twelve months and 'pointed out that if players over-age...were allowed to play then it would be better [to] give the competition up-He was of the opinion that Offaly should be declared the winners, but Mr Robbins [representing] that County said they would not accept same and on the [proposal] of Mr Robbins...it was decided to drop the 1928 competition' (pp.656-657)

The progress of handball in the Province is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 1928 Provincial Convention O'Neill reported that 'Since the GAA has taken over control of Handball, a wonderful revival is noticeable' (p.623) At the 1931 Convention O'Neill reported that 9 counties participated in the handball championships and that the 'competitions were fairly satisfactorily carried out, and but for a few minor understandings which were amicably settled up by the Council, everything else was normal' (p.773) At the 1931 Convention O'Neill reported that 'since the last Convention the Provincial Handball Council has been abolished and the controlling powers for the promotion and preservation of the game is now vested in County Boards and a National Executive Committee, the latter to be elected by the Annual Congress of Handballers each year' (p.829

The various attempts of the GAA to publish a newspaper of its own are raised throughout the minutes. At the 1928 Provincial Convention 'Mr L Brady (Leix) then asked...for the Chairman to give any idea of the amount the various counties in the Province had subscribed towards the proposed new Irish Ireland paper...Mr Brady then pointed out that Leix had subscribed £150. He said it was a disgrace to the Gaels of the country to only have £450 after a year's working towards this end' (p.619) At the 1931 Convention Lorcan Murray asked members to support the proposed 'monthly journal...consisting of representatives of the G.A.A., Gaelic League, Irish Industrial Association and kindred bodies, to be published in the near future' (p.822) while at the 1932 Convention O'Neill stated that 'during the season under review An Caman, the official paper under the auspices of the Irish-Ireland Bodies was published. It has not met with the support from the Gaels that it should have and its circulation has been anything but satisfactory' asking the Leinster Gaels to support and contribute to the paper (p.884)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1933-1948

Code: GAA/LEN/01/04

Covering Dates: 5 March 1933-21 July 1948

Extent: c.856pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the 1933-1948 regular Provincial Council meetings, the subsidiary committee meeting minutes and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions held in 1933 (pp.908-923); 1934 (pp.942-953); 1935 (pp.991-1011); 1936 (pp.1063-1082); 1937 (pp.1091-1110); 1938 (pp.1137-1156); 1939 (pp.1194-1215); 1940 (pp.1247-1269); 1941 (pp.1308-1328); 1942 (pp.1345-1360 & 1384-1385); 1943 (pp.1443-1458); 1944 (pp.1507-1519); 1945 (pp.1568-1582); 1946 (pp.1643-1668); 1947 (pp.1697-1711) and 1948 (pp.1745-1748)

The page numbers in this book (pp.908-1764) are a continuation from the previous Leinster Council minute books.

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the issuing of grants; the issuing of compensation grants to injured players; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The re-elections of Robert O'Keefe as President of the Provincial Council are recorded in the minutes of the 1933 Provincial Convention (p.921); the 1934 Convention (p.954) and the 1935 Convention (p.1010) At the 18th of May 1935 Council meeting O'Keefe, on being elected President of the GAA, announced that he would resign as President of the Leinster Council at the next meeting (p.1020) At the next meeting, held on the 22nd of June 1935, it was decided to 'retain the services of R. O'Keefe in his capacity as Treasurer' (p.1030)

The election of Presidents of the Leinster Council recorded in the minutes include Sean Robbins in 1935 (p.1030); Seamus O'Maolthuille (Seamus Flood) in 1939 (p.1213); Micheal McEochaid (Michael Kehoe) in 1942 (p.1385); Fintan O'Braoináin (Fintan Brennan) in 1945 (p.1582) and Tomas Breathnach (Tom Walsh) in 1948 (p.1746)

Key motions passed at the Provincial Conventions include that the Leinster Convention 'empower the Leinster Council to fix the Senior Football Final for any venue the Council may decide' (p.952b); that a committee be appointed 'for the purpose of taking steps to preserve tangible relics of the GAA since its inception

in 1884' (p.1011) and that Leinster be divided into two groups, North and South, for the 1947 Leinster Senior Football Championship, which was agreed to in principle (pp.1699 & 1698)

Key decisions taken by the Provincial Council include the granting of student scholarships to Scoil Eanna (p.937); the suspension of the Wexford Board, due to financial irregularities (p.941); the suspension of the Hurling League for 1936 as only Westmeath indicated a willingness to participate (p.1059); that when County Committees organise a carnival on their grounds the programme must be forwarded to the Leinster Council for ratification (p.1239); that inter-army competitions do not affect the legality of soldiers in any way (p.1301); the issuing of an £8 grant to counties for them to provide a scholarship to An Gaedhealach or to an Irish College (p.1674); the postponement of the 1947 inter-county games due to the harvest (p.1717) and the decision to have a doctor present at all games (p.1754)

The expenditure of funds on the improvement of grounds throughout Leinster is recorded in the minutes. In his annual report, to the 1933 Convention, Martin O'Neill, Secretary, stated that 'The County Grounds Scheme, which years back was pioneered by Laoighise and vigorously sponsored by the President of the Leinster Council has reached a happy climax with every county in our Province equipped in this respect. The Council's surplus funds have been passed on through the Co Committees towards the equipment and purchase of such grounds, and the amount now paid over is £5,550. This amount has practically all been disbursed over a period of six years...it seems that those who ask questions re the surplus funds can have their answer by resorting to the well-equipped playing fields of Leinster' (p.916) At the 19th of August 1933 meeting O'Keefe stated that 'the time had come when grounds needed proper stands accommodation' with the Council agreeing to invest, for this purpose, £100 each to Wexford, Westmeath, Meath, Longford, Dublin, Wicklow and Carlow and £50 to Offaly (p.928) Other grounds related decisions include that committees in charge of selected grounds must submit their plans, and repayment schemes, to the Leinster Council for approval (p.987); that any money voted for grounds will not be paid over until the County Committee, or body controlling the ground, commits an equal amount (p.989) and that grounds must be clear of all debt before the Council will entertain any application for stand erection within same (p.989) At the 16th of November 1945 meeting 'the Council Chairman pointed out that in order to clarify the matter re monies voted to grounds it was to be clearly understood that same was to be used only for capital expenditure and current exs like income tax, caretakers wages etc could not be met out of the money' (pp.1635-1636)

Proposals to suitably equip grounds as 'Provincial Grounds' are recorded throughout the minutes. At the 17th of August 1935 Council meeting Sean Robbins, President, 'stated that the increased attendances at our important provincial matches, made it incumbent on the Council to consider the special equipping of at least a ground in the North of the Province and another in the South' (p.1034) In his Secretary's report, to the 1938 Provincial Convention, O'Neill stated that while the 'County Grounds project...has within the last decade demanded the attention of the Council...we may well perhaps consider what the position would be if at one of our best equipped venues we were confronted for a Provincial Final with 20,000 to 30,000 patrons...the ever increasing appeal of our big Provincial games makes it incumbent on us to be prepared to cater for any crowd no matter what its numbers-this we cannot do unless we make an effort to equip specially a few grounds in the Province' (pp.1139-1140) At the 1939 Convention O'Neill again asks delegates to 'think the matter over seriously' (p.1196) while at the 1940 Convention O'Neill stated that the issue is one that 'the Council cannot unduly delay... The finances of most of our county grounds are now in a very healthy position, and surely we should face this job. In facing it, however, it should be the task of the whole province. It should be, however, the special task of the County wherein the ground selected would be situated, and they should, with the Council, be prepared to tackle the task on a 50 per cent basis financially...the minimum amount to face such a job would be £2,500 to £3,500' (p.1250) At this 1940 Convention it was agreed that the 'members assembled in Convention, accept the principle that a ground is to be specially equipped' (p.1267) while the matter of selecting a venue was left over to a Council meeting when 'a venue was to be selected from those that would put forward details of the improvements to be made with estimates of costs etc' (p.1269)

At the 16th of March 1940 Council meeting several points were agreed upon in relation to the applications received from Kilkenny, Carlow and Portlaoighse re the 'equipment of special grounds'; the Council agreed that after the development of the 'special ground' the 'annual charges thereon and in connection with' under all headings would be the responsibility of the relevant County Committee; that the cost of upgrading the applicants stadium to cater for 25,000 spectators would be £3,000 for Kilkenny, £3,000 for Carlow and £1,500 for Portlaoighse with all counties agreeing that the Leinster Council's share of such expenditure would be 50% and that if the County Board borrowed money it must be repaid at the rate of £300 per annum (p.1282) When discussing the three applications (in the absence of the applicants) 'there arose the point as to whether or not it was understood that the Provincial Hurling final was to played at the selected venue each year... most delegates stated that the final mentioned

would be played there-some however pointed out that this could not be the case in view of the neutral venue rule' (p.1282) When the applicants were recalled and asked if it was their understanding that the Leinster hurling final would be played at the selected venue 'S. Roberts (Kilkenny)...could not give a guarantee of this kind...R O'Keefe (Laoighis) stated that the fixing of the final could not be taken from the hands of the Council' while 'the Chairman of the Council and others stated that they understood that it was to be played at such a venue' (p.1282) An amendment was then passed by the Council that 'In view of the changed circumstances the proposition to equip a special venue be postponed indefinitely' (p.1283)

At the 26th of August 1944 Council meeting D. Leary, in discussing the financial report, 'wondered if the development of particular venues would not be the more advisable way of doing business-the Treas R. O'Keefe said that this was mooted before and failed-he favoured it some years back but now all counties had proved that they were anxious to have 1st class venues and it was better [to] leave things as they stand in view of past experience as the venues could not be selected' (p.1548) At their 22nd of February 1947 meeting the Leinster Council agreed with the Central Council Grounds Scheme 're Provincial Grounds' and divided the Leinster counties into three groups (of three) to 'select one ground from each group by lottery-the three grounds so selected to be the Provincial venues or grounds from Leinster to have prior claim on C.C. £1000...The three grounds so selected were (1) Nowlan Park (2) O'Moore Park (Laoighis) (3) Drogheda Athletic Grounds' (pp.1713-1714)

The effect the Second World War had on the GAA in Leinster is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 19th of April 1941 Council meeting it was unanimously decided that the 'Chairman and Secretary are given powers to fix all remaining Chps ties-venues, dates and referees'; that 'should a full Council meeting be called...delegates will attend same at their own expense' and that 'only teams expenses in inter-co games will be met...pending an examination of the Councils financial position at the end of the season' (p.1364) In his Secretary's Report to the 1942 Provincial Convention O'Neill stated that 'it will be essential to arrive at a method of administration whereby the whole Council will have to meet on as few occasions as possible. Following the lines of 1941 season and with the co-operation of the Counties as in the year passed this should present little difficulty' (p.1346)

The minutes show the 'Emergency Committee' met from the 5th of September 1942 onwards, in place of the Leinster Council (p.1433) At the 1943 Convention 'It was decided that the four officers of the Council should form Emergency Committee and that full powers be vested in them to carry out all Council

business' (p.1459) At the Leinster Council meeting on the 18th of February 1944 'It was agreed that the Emergency Committee should act as in 1943 but that only a full Council meeting could fix venues for chps games-all other business however could be transacted by the Emergency Committee' (p.1522) while at the 20th of May 1944 meeting it was decided that 'in all future drawn games the replays would take place the following Sunday and that should the teams not agree on a venue the Sec and Chairman after consultation with members of the Emergency Committee would fix the venue' (p.1536) At the 1945 Provincial Convention 'Rev. M. McManus asked by what authority this [Emergency] Committee formed. The Central Council had a like Committee, but had the sanction of Congress. The Leinster Council, if they appointed it, could not do so, and give it the plenary powers it had, in view of the rule governing the constitution of the Provincial Councils. The Chairman said that the Council appointed this Committee, which was comprised of the three officers of the Council and J. Flood. They did not, he said, desire the job, which was at times one of great inconvenience, owing to the travel problem' (p.1581) G. O'Connell moved the motion that 'the full Council acts in future, and that the Convention instructs the incoming Council to abolish the Emergency Committee' but Pdraig O'Caoimh, General Secretary of the GAA, 'intervened at this point, and said that the matter could be dealt with by a vote direct...an amendment moved...“that the incoming Council be given permission to delegate its powers and appoint an Emergency Committee”...The Chairman then put the amendment...which received 28 votes and was declared lost. G O'Connell's motion was then put and was carried by a majority. It meant the abolition of the Emergency Committee' (p.1581)

The Council, at their 19th of April 1941 meeting, received correspondence from the Great Southern Railway Company that 'no trains would be available for chmps during the year-the G.N.R. Co would temporarily be able to supply trains on direct lines but same might be cut off at any moment' (p.1363) In his report to the 1942 Convention O'Neill warned that 'owing to apparent difficulties of travel etc it might be well to consider that it may be impossible to play through the present Leinster Championships in their extensive scope' (p.1346) his report to the 1943 Convention states that 'the coming championships may...present a more difficult problem...I leave the Juniors and the Minors in abeyance, as the abandonment decision of the Central Council in 1942 was arrived at after much consideration and deliberation on the general supply situation' (p.1447) At the 1944 Convention 'it was agreed that every effort should be made to re-start the Minor Championships if the necessary permission from the Dept of Supplies could be obtained. The Minors were to be the first concern of the Council, and the Juniors to follow if permitted' (p.1581) while a letter, from O'Neill, is inserted

into the minutes of the 24th of February 1945 Council meeting stating that 'Note the Dept of Supplies have given permission for the restarting of the Minor Inter-Co Chps with a special request that travelling should be minimised and that as far as possible games should be played at the home venue of one of the teams' (p.1590)

The Secretary, at the 8th of May 1942 Council meeting, 'read a letter from the internees camp the Curragh forwarded thro' a Council member requesting that the Council be good enough to send them a few footballs-it was decided to accede to the request' (p.1415) In his Secretary's report to the 1943 Convention O'Neill suggests a one day tournament to raise funds for the Green Cross Committee (p.1448) while in his 1944 report he recommends 'the objects of the fund. Many players who have given service to the Association we find imprisoned. We propose to ask all counties to run...a series of games the monies to be transmitted through the Dublin committee' (p.1511)

The administration of the Accident Scheme within Leinster is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 19th of August 1933 Council meeting £50 was 'allocated to the Insurance Fund run by the Central Council' (p.930) while the minutes for the 4th of April 1936 meeting contain a copy of 'Proposed Insurance Scheme for Leinster GAA' (p.1050) The main points in this proposed scheme include that the Scheme be administered by the Finance Committee of the Leinster Council; that it be compulsory and all County Boards must insure that all clubs under their jurisdiction be insured; that County Committees must pay £1 per team for every Provincial Championship in which they participate; that the rates of payments to injured players shall be £1 for a single man and £1 10s for a married man with payments limited to 9 weeks for a single man and 12 weeks for a married man; no claims shall be entertained unless the referees report contains particulars relating to the injuries received and that all claims must be made through the County Secretary who shall verify such claims before forwarding same to the Provincial Secretary (p.1050) The minutes of the 27th of February 1937 Council meeting contain a copy of a letter from Pdraig O'Caoimh, General Secretary of the GAA, in which he states that he will not be able to attend the upcoming Leinster Convention but that he had 'intended discussing the question of the Accident Scheme...The Scheme as it is being administered is not a success and will either have to cease or be administered by the County Committees or the Provincial Councils' (p.1089) The minutes of the 22nd of May 1937 Council meeting record the Council awarding accident claims to players (p.1117) while O'Neill, in his Secretary's Report to the 1938 Convention, stated that 'During the year following on from the decision of Congress it came to our lot to administer the Accident Fund on a Provincial basis...In order to expedite the

working of the Scheme it would be well that County Committees should as far as possible through their officers give any information that they may consider would help' (p.1140)

O'Neill's report to the 1939 Convention includes 'It is a pleasure for me to record here the satisfaction of the counties at the working of the scheme-during the year under review the Council paid special attention to the expeditious examination of claims. The financial side of the scheme has increased...and the monies at the disposal of the Council have been allotted to the satisfaction of all concerned' (p.1197); at the 1940 Convention the Scheme was considered 'satisfactory...and those clubs affiliated can have little cause for complaint' (p.1251) while at the 1941 Convention O'Neill proposed a new scheme which would 'tend towards equality as between the counties' suggesting that the Leinster Council be responsible for the 'Leinster Championships proper' and the 'counties will be responsible and administer their share in respect of all games under their jurisdiction' (p.1346) but the Convention decided, by 37 votes to 22, to continue 'the scheme in its present form' (pp.1384-1385) At the 1943 Convention the motion was passed 'That the Accident Scheme be amended to cover all matches played in Leagues and Tournaments under the GAA' (pp.1445, 1458)

The issue of Greyhound Racing at GAA grounds, in particular Droichead Nua Grounds, Kildare, is raised throughout the minutes. At the 23rd of May 1947 Council meeting Fintan O'Braoinain, President of the Leinster Council, appealed personally against the Kildare County Board-in his appeal O'Braoinain stated that 'As an individual, I wish to appeal to the Leinster Council against the decision of the Kildare County Committee...to employ an Engineer to advise the Co Committee as to the suitability of the County Grounds at Droichead Nua for its use as a Greyhound Racing Track' (p.1719) In discussing the appeal the Kildare County Secretary stated that the application for the use of the grounds was made, and granted, in November 1946; a committee was appointed to examine the scheme and the scheme was considered by the County Board at their meeting on the 4th of March 1947. Part 1(a) of O'Braoinain's appeal argued that the Chairman of the Kildare County Board 'acted illegally and without authority' in allowing the committee report to be considered as it was not on the issued meeting agenda (p.1719) After discussion the 'Vice-Chairman of the Council said he would ask the Council to decide whether or not the Kildare Chairman was within his rights in accepting report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Co Board...The proposition was lost by 9 votes to 6, which meant that the Kildare County Board had to re-arrange all the business again in connection with the matter' (p.1721) At the 9th of August 1947 Council meeting the issue was again discussed with O'Braoinain stating that 'a decision of the CC 29/11/46 defined

the attitude of the Association with reference to greyhound racing. Despite all this the Kildare County Board had ignored all authority' (p.1728) T. Lawler (Kildare) defended the practice saying that it offered Kildare the chance to improve their grounds 'beyond their wildest dreams' with other delegates arguing that it would set a precedent for other counties; after a discussion the motion was passed, unanimously, that the Leinster Council 'do not approve of Greyhound Racing on any of the grounds held under its auspices and we direct County Boards to refuse all such applications' (p.1729) At the 7th of November 1947 Council meeting the proposition was passed, by 16 votes to 6, 'that Kildare County Board be directed to refund the monies invested by the Leinster Council in Droichead Nua grounds, the Leinster Council to hold same in trust for investment in Kildare County' (p.1733) The Kildare County Board forwarded their response to the Leinster Council 21st of May 1948 meeting which read 'That the monies received from the Leinster Council for the purpose of improving Droichead Nua Grounds have been spent solely for that purpose. These grounds are held by three leasees and are at the disposal at all times of the County Committee and Council. The monies have been spent rightfully and for the purpose for which they were granted and we are satisfied there is no moral or legal right on us to refund the monies' (p.1752) This was referred to the legal adviser who, at the 2nd of July 1948 meeting, advised that 'as Kildare Co Board had refused to return the monies, he felt that the Council could only deal with the matter by playing no games there-the lease would run out in a short time and then the matter could be raised on the new lease' which was passed unanimously by the Council (p.1757)

The Council, at their 14th of June 1941, altered the 1941 Leinster Championships to allow Kilkenny into the hurling finals in all grades, 'due to the particular circumstances of the time-the cattle disease was in most part responsible for same' (p.1369) A letter from O'Neill, dated the 23rd of July 1941, states that 'The Minister for Agriculture (Dr Ryan) finds it impossible owing to the position of the cattle disease in the Kilkenny area, to allow Kilkenny compete in the Leinster Chps at present and will only allow them compete at end of August or in September should the county have a clear period of at least 3 weeks' (p.1373)

At the 1939 Provincial Convention the President of the Leinster Council, Sean Robbins, referred to the removal of Douglas Hyde, President of Ireland, as a patron of the Association (for attending an international soccer match) and the wider issue of GAA members attending 'foreign' games. In his speech he said 'When we read about Ministers of State attending games played under foreign codes, and when we read all the excuses and flapdoodle about Irish hospitality and Irish courtesy, we are inclined to think that the present deal is far from the high standard of a score of years or so ago... It is well known that during recent

years a persistent and determined campaign has been carried on in public and private to endeavor to undermine the attitude of the GAA re the foreign games rule. Whilst these critics were outside the ranks of the GAA, and whilst the GAA officials could rely on the active support of the mass of the GAA members and supporters, we could afford to ignore them. But recently members of the GAA have, unwittingly, joined hands with the critics, and it is time for us officials to sound a warning call' (p.1213)

At the 31st of May 1934 Council meeting 'The President (R. O'Keefe), on behalf of the Council and the Gaels of Leinster, tendered sincerest greetings to Kilkenny's Senior Hurling Team on their occasion of their tour to America. They were, he said the first team, from the Province to make the tour, and he was certain they would uphold the best traditions of the Association' (p.971) At the 9th of August 1947 Council meeting 'The Chairman mentioned that the Sec was going to America for [the] football final and that it was the first official holiday in his 20 years' service. How he served the Council they knew and the Finance Committee recommended a present of £100 to make him enjoy his holiday. This...was agreed' (p.1728) while at the 1948 Provincial Convention Fintan O'Braoináin, President of the Leinster Council, stated that 'He as Chairman of Leinster had been privileged to make the trip. He opposed the bringing of the All-Ireland out of the country. He considered it the property of our own people and would again oppose it. I was glad it went to America, as it showed that we could carry our banner in any sphere...it was a spectacle worth seeing...Your Secretary was a capable referee' (p.1746)

At the 1934 Provincial Convention the motion 'That Bray be included in County Wicklow for GAA purposes' was referred to the Leinster Council for consideration (p.952); at the 18th of February 1934 meeting 'the Pres stated that he personally was in favour of the geographical boundary in all cases...C.M. Byrne (Wicklow) made a strong case for transfer of the Bray area to Wicklow County and on his proposition...it was decided that the county geographical boundary be taken as the boundary in future between Wicklow and Dublin' with the further agreement that the Dublin County Board would be refunded all the money it had invested in the GAA grounds in Bray (p.959) At the 6th of January 1940 meeting it was agreed that the application of Bray Emmets for reinclusion in Dublin 'be left over pending a visit by the President of the Council to a meeting of the Wicklow Co Board' (p.1244); at the 18th of May 1940 meeting the President summarised his impressions as 'Bray teams desired to play in Dublin because they'd get more games and cheap travel to Dublin venues' while the 'Wicklow Secretary...said that the rules of the Association were there and there was no use in evading them-Bray were treated like every other club-they got the usual allowance for

marking the grounds-they were one of the few clubs in the County that showed a credit balance' (p.1290) The motion was passed unanimously that 'Bray be not given permission to go into Dublin for GAA purposes and that the Council President be deputed to attend a further conference to fix up any other matters as between the Bray Club and the Wicklow Co Board' (p.1290)

The Leinster Council, at their 5th of April 1947 meeting, considered applications from Antrim and Galway to enter to the Leinster Senior Hurling Championship. At the meeting 'There was a lengthy discussion re the applications. Most delegates favoured their inclusion. R. O'Keefe said it would mean altering the entire constitution of the Association and he could not see any useful purpose in such a proposal...The Council eventually decided that they were sympathetic to the applications, particularly that of Galway, who were in easy access to three of our hurling counties, but regardless of the views of Congress on the matter it would be necessary for the Leinster Convention to decide the matter and then their inclusion in the 1948 Championships or not would follow' (p.1717) At the 9th of January 1948 meeting the applications were again considered and 'on the proposition of R. O'Keefe...it was decided by 19 votes to 4 that the Leinster programme was so full, and as the Provincial Council found much difficulty each year in the completion of their programme in time for the All-Ireland series that the applications of both counties be refused' (p.1737)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1948-1963

Code: GAA/LEN/01/05

Covering Dates: 25 September 1948-8 February 1963

Extent: c.804pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the 1933-1948 Provincial Council meetings, subsidiary committee meetings and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions held in 1949 (pp.1780-1798); 1950 (pp.1824-1851); 1951 (pp.1896-1914); 1952 (pp.1927-1947); 1953 (pp.1991-2008); 1954 (pp.2009-2031); 1955 (pp.2072-2093); 1956 (pp.2120-2141); 1957 (pp.2182-2204); 1958 (pp.2250-2273); 1959 (pp.2314-2337); 1960 (pp.2427-2449); 1961 (pp.2485-2507) and 1962 (pp.2552-2569)

The minute book also contains a copy of the Annual Reports submitted to the Annual Provincial Conventions which include the Convention agenda, a copy of the motions for consideration, the Secretary's Report, the Leinster Council balance and county brieflets.

The page numbers in this book (pp.1765-2569) are a continuation from the previous Leinster Council minute books.

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the issuing of grants; the issuing of compensation grants to injured players; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The elections of Presidents of the Leinster Council recorded in the minutes include Tomas Breathnach (Tom Walsh) in 1948 (re-election) (p.1746); Sean Mac Gearailt (Sean Fitzgerald) in 1951 (p.1913); Doctor Stuart in 1954 (p.2030); Aodh O Broin in 1957 (p.2203) and Brendan Breathnach in 1960 (p.2449)

Key motions considered at the Provincial Conventions include 'that no All-Ireland Finals be played outside Ireland' (p.1781) which was ruled as a matter for Congress (p.1798); 'that the Leinster Council sponsor a Juvenile Hurling and Football Championship age limit under 16 years' which was ruled out with the Chairman adding that 'they were not too happy about minors travelling long distances for games' (p.1851); 'that Leinster Council meet once per month' with the agreement reached that, to expedite appeals, the Finance Committee can deal with appeals, when all parties concerned are agreeable to that course (pp.2120 & 2141); 'that all Leinster Championship games in which teams from

Ath-Cliath take part be played outside Pairc an Chrócaigh' which was withdrawn on the understanding that 'its contents would be operated upon by Comhairle Laighean except where counties agreed otherwise' (p.2204) and 'that Leinster Minor Championships not be played a fortnight before or during Intermediate and Leaving Certificate examinations' which was agreed (p.2449)

Key decisions taken by the Leinster Council include a protest being voiced at the 'sacrilegious insult offered His Holiness the Pope by the imprisonment of the Cardinal-Prince of Hungary, Cardinal Mindszenty' (p.1800); the 1952 investment of £2,000 in savings certificates, to mature at £3,000 in 1968 (p.1949); the Council's refusal to allow Athlone to buy a dump as a future playing ground (pp. 1975-1977 & 1988); the purchase of a lorry for the 'wife of the late Mr Higgins' (p.2114); the purchase of a 'useful memento' for the sons of Michael Kehoe and Martin O'Neill who were being ordained Priests (p.2361); the drafting of a submission to the Minister for Education and Language Commission 'protesting against the innovation of the new Irish type and spelling as against the old way' (p.2363) and the granting of a £100 subscription to the Kilmainham Jail Restoration Fund (p.2475)

The administration of grounds throughout Leinster is recorded in the minutes-at the 2nd of September 1949 meeting the Council agreed with the Finance Committee's recommendation 'that the Council, before allocating any further monies for expenditure on any grounds, should appoint a committee to report on the advisability of them' with a three-man committee appointed to visit and report on grounds (p.1812) The recommendations of this committee are attached to the minutes of the 2nd of December 1949 Council meeting and include that a 'Special Committee of the Council should examine in detail the Report of the Grounds Committee, so that the printed booklet will outline the Council's Grounds policy for, say, five or ten years' which was agreed to by the Council (p.1816) A copy of the full 'Special Grounds Report' is included in the report for the 1950 Provincial Convention which contains observations on a number of grounds in the Province and a copy of the recommendations presented to the 2nd of December 1949 meeting (pp.1842-1849) The recommendations of the Special Committee appointed to consider the Grounds report are included in the minutes of the 22nd of July 1950 Council meeting; the committee made three general recommendations (that water and toilet facilities must be the first concern of committees in charge of venues, that practice on county grounds should be forbidden and that grounds committees should examine the area of caretakers contracts, duties etc.) before commenting on seventeen individual venues. The committee concluded that the Grounds Report is a 'commendable document' and should be 'adopted as it stands' adding that expenditure on venues and the

extent of development should be fixed at a reasonable limit, that equipment should be shared amongst venues, that the 'selection of a venue or two in different parts of the Province for extensive improvement will sooner or later commend itself perhaps and this aspect should be examined by Council as against the present system operating through the years' (pp.1865-1863)

The Finance Committee, in their report to the 1st of September 1951 Council meeting, stated that 'the Committee feel that the time has arrived for the special equipment of a Grounds in S.E. Leinster area capable of accommodating 50,000 and feel that the Special Grounds Committee should visit P. Laoise and Kilkenny and examine all problems in this connection' (p.1891) The Council disagreed with limiting the grounds to Portlaoise and Kilkenny and 'after a very protracted discussion on the matter...eventually decided...that counties be asked who wished to name a ground in their county considered by them to be likely to reach the standard required, viz., to accommodate 50,000 spectators and such counties place before the Special Grounds Committee...(1) Their suggested plans of improvement (2) the financial backing they themselves are prepared locally to give to have (1) completed' with a deadline of 31st of October 1951 imposed (p.1890) At the 1st of December 1951 Council meeting it was decided that the 'Special Grounds Committee' would visit Tullamore, Portlaoighse and Kilkenny (p.1893) The preliminary report of the 'Special Grounds Committee' is included in the minutes of the 18th of January 1952 meeting which made several observations on the three grounds visited but concluded 'the Committee is not prepared at this stage to recommend any venue until the queries which it has instructed the Secretary to send to the counties concerned have been answered and the replies examined' (p.1915) The 'Grounds Committee's Final Report' is included in the minutes of the 2nd of August 1952 meeting which states that 'the Committee are of the opinion that the best dual purpose venue for the province, by reason of its geographical position and its railway clearance junction is Portlaoise...The Committee feel that replies from Laois County Board do not envisage local responsibility for the monies, or portion of them, proposed to be expended. After much consideration of present and future maintenance and development of County Grounds, we recommend to the Council as the only practical alternative presenting itself that a sum of £6,000 be allocated thus- Portlaoise £2,000; Tullamore £2,000; Kilkenny £2,000' (p.1923) In discussing the report some members of the Council felt that the 'committee had failed, as their job was to select one venue and this they did not do' but the findings of the Committee were adopted by the Council by 18 votes to 5 (p.1923) A collected copy of the preliminary report, correspondence and the final report of the Grounds Committee is included in the minutes (p.1925)

O'Neill, in his Secretary's Report to the 1954 Convention, wrote that 'I feel that there is a necessity...for a small advisory committee to be selected to examine the entire Grounds position of the Province...Those tabulating such a report...would be able to advise the Council on general Grounds Policy, as it is apparent that a new approach on the matter is necessary' (p.2014) The Convention referred the suggestions re grounds in the Secretary's Report to the incoming Council with the Chairman adding that this 'would embody the paragraph relative to the prize scheme suggested also' (p.2030) At the 13th of March 1954 Finance Committee meeting 'The Finance Committee decided to recommend...the prize scheme for grounds in the two categories (a) County Grounds; (b) Club Grounds...It was agreed that only one such ground in each category should be put forward by a County Board...A winner in either Grade to be debarred from entry for five years. This would necessitate that only a first prize would be given in each class viz: (a) £200 with prize for groundsmen to be added; (b) £100 with prize for club to be added' with the recommendation that the Council Officers be appointed as the Grounds Committee (p.2042) The handwritten report of the 'Inspection Committee of the Leinster Council Prize Scheme' is attached to the minutes (pp.2056-2060) which includes general observations and recommendations on all grounds visited (pp.2056-2058); the reasons for awarding the County prize to An Uaimh (p.2059) and the reasons for awarding the Club prize to Pairc Mhuire (Ardee Saint Mary's Gaelic Football Club) (p.2060) O'Neill, in his Secretary's Report to the 1955 Convention, stated that 'it was a cause of disappointment that in class (a)...we had only six entries while in class (b) we had only five entries' (p.2081)

In his report to the 1960 Convention O'Neill wrote that 'now more than ever is a small committee necessary, who, from time to time, would visit the venues and report thereon and examine problems with local officials' (p.2436) which was agreed to by the Convention who decided 'that a Committee should be formed to examine the whole question of grounds and the matter was left to the incoming Council' (p.2448) The minutes of the 3rd of December 1960 Council meeting contain a copy of a circular issued by the 'Special Grounds Committee' stating that they will visit all Leinster venues between the 1st of April 1961 and the 31st of May 1961 and requesting that each County Board have available for them the Deeds, Land Registry etc, caretakers agreements, particulars of all lettings and 'all equipment at the grounds to be available for inspection' (p.2426)

The administration of the Provincial Accident Scheme is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 3rd of February 1948 Council meeting the Finance Committee reported that the Accident Fund 'showed a loss of over £600 on yrs working' with the Council Chairman adding that 'it was up to the Counties to have a better

scheme tabulated' (pp.1776-1777) In his Secretary's Report to the 1949 Convention O'Neill stressed that it was the clubs who decide the regulations that govern the Accident Scheme but that 'after 12 years, the Scheme now seems unable to meet the demands...The Fund seems in its infancy and suggestions for its improvement are the duty of the clubs. We have tabulated a scheme with wider scope and perhaps it may solve the problem' (p.1784) At the 1950 Convention O'Neill commented that 'It must be clearly noted that it is not the function of the Provincial GAA to alter or insert rules in connection with the Accident Scheme: the Scheme is administered through the Provincial Councils, but Congress sets forth the rules to govern same' (p.1830) The Finance Committee, in their report to the 25th of March 1950 Council meeting, decided that no Accident Scheme claims would be entertained unless particulars of the claim are lodged with the Provincial Secretary within 14 days of the accident and that the completed claim form must be accompanied by a copy of the referees report and the medical certificate (p.1856)

The establishment of a 'Fatal Accident Scheme' is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 1953 Convention 'following details re proposed Fatal Accident Scheme verbally given to Convention, T. Clarke (Kildare) said that the Council should examine the position with regard to provisions for a Fatal Accident...It was unanimously agreed that the Scheme be set forth and that it should be in operation for 1953' (p.2008) At the 21st of February 1953 Council meeting 'there was a discussion re Fatal Accident Scheme tabulated by Sec and also motion from Kildare re permanent injury scheme-it was decided to leave the matter over 'til the Finance Com would examine and report on same to the Council a draft to be sent to the counties and the members' (pp.1960-1961) At the 8th of May 1953 'the Draft Fatal Accident Scheme was carefully examined in detail. Alterations were made in same at certain points, and it was agreed that the Council Secretary again see the solicitor, Mr S. Ryan, and have the Scheme printed and forwarded to the Counties' (p.1964) In his Secretary's Report to the 1954 Convention O'Neill stated that 'there is little left for me to record beyond the fact that the Fatal Accident Scheme Fund has been established' (p.2016) O'Neill, in his Secretary's Report to the 1956 Convention, commented that 'the Fatal Accident Scheme in the year reviewed...was called upon for a major claim. To us all there is the consolation of knowing that the Council had the fund and that they complied with the regulations which govern it' (p.2126) At the 20th of February 1960 Council meeting it was reported that 're Fatal Accident Fund the matter was now taken as from 1/1/60 by CC same regulations as per our own scheme and to be administered by Com sanctioned by CC. The counties therefore would no longer be called on to pay £25 towards same as financial readjustment when required would be on a Provincial level' (p.2386) while at the 1960 Convention

O'Neill reported that 'It is with pleasure and pride I inform the Province that the Fatal Accident Fund which we inaugurated will now cease to exist on a Provincial basis-it is now gone to be an All-Ireland Fund under a different heading and the Provincial and Central Councils will be responsible for its general income and solvency' (p.2435)

At the 1953 Provincial Convention the motion was considered 'That if possible a policy should be negotiated with an Insurance Company to cover the case of a player injured on the field, and totally incapacitated as a result of such injury' (p.1992) with the Convention deciding that the matter should be discussed by the Council in conjunction with the proposed Fatal Accident Scheme (p.2008) At the 1954 Convention the motion 'that a scheme be drawn up for seriously injured players similar to Fatal Accident Scheme' (p.2009) was considered and it was agreed 'that the matter be left over until after Congress and that if this aspect was not properly dealt with...that the Leinster Council should then examine it' (p.2031) At the 13th of March 1954 Council meeting 'under consideration was the Kildare motion re permanently injured players and it was considered that the Council would have to take same as under the heading of the scheme as detailed in Sec's report re seriously injured players. This Scheme as follows was recommended to the Council: the Fund to be opened by a contribution from the Leinster Council of £250' with a football and hurling competition to be staged to raise funds for the fund (p.2042) At the 1962 Convention O'Neill reported that the 'Special Fund is of our own Provincial making and is disposed of by the counties themselves after allocation-its success must be measured by the fact that in the few years it has been in operation, viz., eight, an average of over £3,500 per annum has been allocated to the counties' with a 'Special Accident Fund Tournament Table' included showing the income and expenditure connected to the Fund (p.2559)

O'Neill, in his Secretary's Report to the 1955 Convention, stated that the 'competitions inaugurated for Special Accident cases was in its very first year a pleasing success...we expect a more successful outcome in 1955 and hope for the fullest co-operation of all concerned' (p.2080) At the 9th of April 1955 meeting the Council passed a vote of sympathy with the relatives of Mr Byrne (p.2098); at the same meeting the referees report of the 'Corn Uí Broin' Senior Football Final was adopted (p.2103) while the minutes of the 8th of December 1955 meeting contain the agenda for the 1956 Corn Uí Broin which states that 'The following are the first round fixtures, which is for Special Accident Fund' (p.2115) At the 11th of August 1956 Council meeting the Chairman said that no trophy existed for the Accident Fund Hurling Competition and 'the Sec had suggested that one be produced and called the Breathnach Cup as a memento of our late colleague-this

was unanimously agreed' (p.2169) Minutes of the 7th of September 1956 Finance Committee meeting record the presentation of the Corn Breathnach by Mahon and McPhillips (p.2172) while the Secretary's Report for the 1957 Convention contains, under the heading Accident Fund Tournament, 'the competitions now have a trophy for Hurling viz Corn Breathnach...in memory of our esteemed deceased ex-Chairman, Tomas Breathnach T.D. The Corn Uí Broin trophy goes with the Football title each year' (p.2188) A 'Special Accident Fund Tournament Table', detailing the Funds income and expenditure, is inserted into the Secretary's Report for the Conventions held in 1959 (p.2325); 1960 (p.2435); 1961 (p.2497) and 1962 (p.2559)

The administration of games throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes including the establishment of the Leinster Hurling League 'running with National Hurling League proper, and the winners compete in a play-off for special honours in that heading' (p.1890); the unanimous passing of the motion 'that in order to encourage hurling amongst the weaker counties in Leinster, the Provincial Council organise a Hurling League, confined to those weaker counties and arranged as that of some years ago' (p.1914); the Council decision 'to allow county winning Junior Football Championships to play their 2nd best team' (p.2407) and the Council decision to allow the Leinster Junior Football Provincial winners play their '2nd best teams in the All-Ireland semi-final and final' (p.2517) At the 1962 Provincial Convention O'Neill commented that 'a clearly defined definition of an Intermediate and Junior player must be set out. The grading of counties for this purpose will only be satisfactory when counties confined to the Intermediate and Junior classes are compelled to play their best teams Intermediate, which was the original intention' (p.2557)

At the 27th of September 1958 Council meeting the officers were asked for their views on proposed changes to the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship whereby 'after the Provincial Finals of Munster and Leinster the runners up would come into two quarter finals v Galway and Ulster-the champions of Leinster and Munster would then paired in semi-finals v winners and an All-Ireland Final be played between winners' (p.2306) The Council 'did not approve of that scheme but would approve that should that competition be played out and Galway win or Ulster-they play the Munster or Leinster Chps alternatively in a semi-final-should the Leinster or Munster Runners Up win the competition then the All-Ireland would be between the Chps of these Provinces' (p.2306-2307)

When publishing the 1957 championship draw in his Secretary's Report to the 1957 Provincial Convention O'Neill commented that 'I further come to what has become a controversial point in our fixture clár under the heading Senior Hurling viz., the Provisional inclusion of Galway in that grade. On this point, at the very

outset the Council in making the provision did so on the assumption that the necessary permission must be forthcoming from Congress, the only authority that can decide such' (p.2189) At the 11th of April 1959 meeting 'Prior to making fixtures a letter was read from Coisdhe Ath Cliath requesting that Comhairle Laighean accept an entry from Antrim for 1959 Senior Hurling Chps. Dublin offered to play them-the c/man ruled that he could not entertain the application submitted in this manner and both Antrim and Dublin knew the procedure. He the Chairman might sympathise with Antrim but they had to abide by the rules as set forth until they were altered' (p.2355)

At the 25th of May 1950 meeting the Council recommended, under the heading 'New Eltham Grounds London' that '£100 be allocated by them if other Provincial Councils in Eire allocate a like amount in order to help exiled Gaels clear their commitments' (p.1864) At the 24th of August 1957 Finance Committee meeting the 'Leinster Council Chairman said that the C.C. had asked him if Comhairle Laighean would loan £2000 to London Co Board to help them acquire the new grounds beside New Eltham: the Sec said the only monies that could be loaned were those from the Fatal Accident Fund-it was agreed to loan the money thro the C.C. who would be responsible to Comhairle Laighean for the amount plus accrued interest' (p.2235) At the 11th of April 1959 Leinster Council meeting the 'Council c/man said that he'd discuss matter of the £2000 to London with CC-at the moment he understood it was being asked back' (p.2357) while at the 20th of February 1960 meeting, following the Central Council taking over responsibility for the Fatal Accident Scheme, the '£2000 in dispute re liability is now agreed as a loan to C.C. and would appear in their Accts, in that form' (p.2386)

Leinster Council's involvement in the inaugural, and successive, 'Wembley at Whit' tournaments, run by the London County Board, is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 11th of April 1959 meeting the Secretary stated that 'Re London Tournament...the Gate receipts were £484 and that there would be approximately £300 left out of which he was instructed to pay Kilkenny's exs to the Dublin Airport' (p.2357) At the 27th of October 1959 Finance Committee meeting the Secretary stated 'Re London Tournament...that when Kilkenny's £80 travelling to Collinstown would be deducted and £25.8.6 credited to Acc Fund that balance for London would be £210' (p.2376) The minutes of the 18th of November 1960 Council meeting record that 'Re Wembley Tournament Wexford were nominated by CC in accordance with request from London and Council with K/kenny's approval sanctioned same' (p.2420) while at the 10th of November 1962 Council meeting an application from the London County Board to 'play off a hurling game Wexford v Kilkenny as a preliminary to decide who would play in their game at London at Whit' was left over as 'this was a departure from the

procedure recently operating and it was a matter for Wexford's consideration as they were the Provincial Champions' (p.2540)

The commissioning, manufacture and acquisition of two trophies in honour of Robert O'Keefe are recorded throughout the minutes. At the 2nd of September 1949 meeting the delegates moved a vote of condolence with the relatives of Robert O'Keefe and S. O Kennedy (p.1811) while later in the meeting the Chairman said that 're memorial for late R. O'Keefe...he wished for no discussion re the matter-they were of the opinion that some memorial was necessary' with a seven man committee appointed 'to examine the matter and report to the Council' (p.1812) At the 2nd of December 1949 Council meeting 'after discussing various aspects of case and consulting with legal adviser, they recommended that the presentation of a cup to the Laois Co Board for hurling and a special Hurling Cup for Leinster Chps was the memorial most fitting-for the Leinster Cup the Sec submitted a special drawing which would cost £450 or around that mark. The delegates were pleased with the design in the case and instructed the Sec. to order the trophy-re Laois 3 designs were submitted and it was decided to order the design Laois selected' (p.1817) At the 25th of May 1950 meeting the 'Corn Iomanuidheachta Laighean indil cuimhne R O'Caoimh' was discussed and the Council unanimously decided that the winning County Board alone are the Custodians of same each year and cup must be placed in a place of security and cannot be removed around-it must be returned each year at the Annual Convention of Leinster Gaels. The replica of the Cup is specifically allocated as the property of the winning Co. Board and they can dispose of same as they consider fit-(such a condition is laid down re the replica by reason of its size and value)' (p.1864) while 'Re the Cup presented to Laois Co. Board for Senior Hurling it must be clearly understood that this trophy cannot become ever the property of a club-it is inscribed thus with that purpose in view "Corn Iomanuidheachta Laoise indil-cuimhne R. O'Caoimh' (p.1864) At the 22nd of July 1950 meeting 'The Secretary reported that the Cups to perpetuate the memory of the late R O Caoimh were practically completed'" (p.1866) while the minutes of the 2nd of September 1950 contain the entry 'R O Caoimh Memorial Cups and Replicas (5 years as from 1950), Leinster Trophy, £375; Laois Trophy, £75 10s; Replicas (6) £79 10s' (p.1868)

The split amongst the members of the C.J. Kickham Club, Dublin, and the subsequent founding of Na Fianna is recorded in the minutes. At the 9th of April 1955 meeting a special committee, with plenary powers, was appointed to investigate the 'C.S. Ó Cicéam' appeal (p.2103) while the committee's recommendations are included in the minute book (p.2104) including that '(1) The name CJ Kickham belongs to that portion of the club as represented...by Mr

Strumble and his colleagues. (2) With the name, go the club colours as registered and/or recognised down the years...(4) All books and documents the property of, or relating to the CJ Kickham Club, are to be handed to the Chairman of the Dublin County Board, G.A.A. not later than 25th April, 1955, for transmission to the C.J. Kickham Club Chairman, Mr Strumble. Any and all moneys held in bank or on hands...by each section of the C.J. Kickham Club concerned in the dispute, is to be placed in the custody of the County Board (Dublin) Treasurer...who shall pay from such moneys, outstanding accounts...the residue of such moneys is to be divided in the ratio of 2/5 (two-fifths) to the C.J. Kickhams as mentioned in (1) and 3/5 (three-fifths) to section represented by Seán O'Neill and his colleagues...(6) The section represented by Seán O'Neill, Junr., and his colleagues can now, if they so desire, form a new club, and the Dublin County Board accept their affiliation and entry for all competitions' (p.2104) At the 30th of July 1955 meeting the Council ruled that the 'section now known as Cumann Baire agus Peile Na Fianna...(a) shall withdraw...all aspersions cast on the treas. of Coiste Ath Cliath C.L.G....(b) they shall return to the CO. Choisdhe Ath Cliath C.L.G Chairman the jerseys (6) still unaccounted for which are the property of the C.J.K.'s (Cavendish House)...they shall return the two Minute Books which are still outstanding' (p.2110) while at the 8th of December 1955 meeting 'it was agreed that the matter be now closed' (p.2116)

The minutes of the 3rd of December 1948 Council meeting contain a copy of the circular issued by the Martin O'Neill in which he states that 'It is the desire of the Central Council...that Handball should be catered for under similar lines to hurling and football, i.e. that Provincial Handball Championships should be re-introduced.' (p.1779) The minutes of the 're-organisation meeting' of 'Comhairle Liathroid Laighean C.L.C.G', held on the 24th of March 1950, are included in the minute book and contain a draft for the re-establishment of the Leinster Handball Council and the re-starting of the Provincial Handball Championships (p.1858) At the 25th of March 1950 Leinster Council meeting the draft submitted to re-establish the Leinster Provincial Handball Council was accepted by the Leinster Council with P.D. Breen elected Chairman and J. Lynch elected Secretary; the Leinster Council also granted £100 to the Handball Council (p.1857) In his report to the 1951 Provincial Convention O'Neill stated that the 'Handball game in the Province has regained much of its old vitality...the championship clar was the heaviest played through in the Province and comprised hard and soft-ball singles and doubles in all grades-a total of twelve competitions' (p.1903)

At the 1954 Convention O'Neill, through his Secretary's Report, urged members to 'pledge ourselves to eradicate...all those periodicals and Sunday papers that

are imported , and which serve no other purpose than to endeavor to pervert our youth by their sloppy trash' (p.2014) Canon Hamilton addressed the 1956 Convention asking delegates to support the newly founded 'Gaelic Weekly' newspaper (p.2141) but at the 25th of May 1956 meeting the Council unanimously endorsed the view of the Finance Committee who recommended that the Council should not invest any capital in same [Gaelic Weekly] as it was a private Co and it did not follow that because the Munster Council had put £500 in it that we should follow' (p.2162) P O'Braoin, Secretary of the Gaelic Weekly, addressed the 22nd of February 1958 Council meeting and appealed for immediate financial aid (p.2282); at the 26th of April 1958 Finance Committee meeting 'Gaelic Weekly Directors appeared before mtg and after hearing their case and general position it was agreed to take £500 in shares...O/D on paper was £2700: circulation was static and loss per week was £30 to £50' (p.2291) However at the 30th of August 1958 meeting the £500 voted to the Gaelic Weekly was 'debated generally and the Council decided that some of the Directors should be summoned to a special mtg and sec was instructed to seek legal advice as to whether they would incur further liability or not if money was taken in shares' (p.2301) At the special meeting, held on the 27th of September 1958, 'it was eventually decided...to give £500 to paper as (a) share capital if legal advisor said there could be no further liability or (b) failing (a) as a grant' (p.2306)

The Leinster Council, at their 30th of October 1953 meeting, adopted the Finance Committee's report which included the suggestion that '£1000 to be divided thus as a memento from the Council for a rural church in each of the following counties [Wicklow, Kildare, Meath and Longford]-the monies to be paid in 1954 to 4 other counties and so on in 1955 so that each 3 years would find the twelve counties covered' with the minutes stating that 'the delegates expressed their complete approval of this gesture annually as it would show an appreciation of the fidelity of the priests to the games and a realisation that the games meant more than playing hurling and football' (p.1980)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1963-1971

Code: GAA/LEN/01/06

Covering Dates: 2 March 1963-22 April 1971

Extent: c.480pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the 1963-1971 Provincial Council meetings, subsidiary committee meetings and the minutes of the annual Provincial Conventions held in 1963 (pp.2613-2633); 1964 (pp.2660-2683); 1965 (pp.2715-2736); 1966 (pp.2800-2821) and 1967 (pp.2822-2844)

The minute book also contains a copy of the Annual Reports submitted to the Annual Provincial Conventions which include the Convention agenda, a copy of the motions for consideration, the Secretary's Report, the Leinster Council balance sheet and county brieflets.

The page numbers in this book (pp.2570-3048) are a continuation from the previous Leinster Council minute books.

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the issuing of grants; the issuing of compensation grants to injured players; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The elections of Presidents of the Leinster Council recorded in the minutes include Liam Mac Oireachtaigh (Liam Geraghty) in 1963 (p.2633) and Riobaird McAdhlairt (Robert Aylward) in 1966 (p.2821)

The minutes record a vote of sympathy being passed with the relatives of Pdraig Ó Caoimh, General Secretary of the GAA, (p.2726) and Sean Shouldice 'a previous Council Secretary, and one who had manned the North King St. post in 1916' (p.2736)

Key motions passed at the Provincial Conventions include 'That the Leinster Convention recommends each County Board in the Province sends two representatives to contest All-Ireland Poc Fada' (pp.2613 & 2633); 'That the Leinster Convention rotate through the Province' (p.2821) and 'That Convention recommends Provincial Council to increase admission charges by an agreed amount at venues where overdraft on ground is a major source of concern and the additional revenue to go to relieve same' which was referred to the Leinster Council (p.2844)

Key decisions made by the Leinster Council include not interfering in a 'Laois matter' of a 'J.F.K. Club Portlaoise' who were 'using the name to collect prizes etc and were writing all over America to firms etc' (pp.2644-2645); the postponement of the Accident Fund Hurling Final (Corn Breathnach) as Kilkenny refused to play it in Croke Park (p.2655a); the donation of £300 to the 'Kennedy Memorial Fund' (p.2708); the discussion on the 'new vogue of introducing Pitch and Putt to our venues' (p.2714); the donation of 'Corn Ui hAnnrachain' by Ciaran O'Neill, on behalf of the O'Neill family, for the Leinster Minor Hurling Championships (p.2736); the unanimous re-confirmation that the Chairman and Secretary 'should continue to make fixtures in all grades other than senior' (p.2867) and the decision not to hold any more meetings at 6 Great Georges Street North due to the 'continuous noise and floor pounding overhead' (p.2992)

The minutes of the 13th of August 1966 Council meeting record that the Chairman 'expressed the wish...that the stay of Runaí in hospital would be of short duration...asked delegates to refrain from worrying Runaí with GAA matters, thus helping to speed his recovery' (p.2759) The minutes further record the presence of 'M Óg Ó Neill' as 'Acting Secretary' (p.2759) At the 8th of April 1967 meeting the Secretary was 'welcomed back at the start of the meeting by the Chairman' (p.2855) while at the 27th of January 1968 meeting arrangements for the Secretary's pension were made which included 'the Secretary on retirement to get £1350 with an option to leave 1/3 maximum as a pension for Mrs O'Neill should she outlive him-he was to receive a gratuity of £3000 and also to receive the savings certificate in the b sheet for o/s service-should he not have retired before his death the amt of the gratuity was to go to Mrs O'Neill in addition to whatever pension Sec would have allocated up to 1/3 of £1350. The Sec expressed his thanks to the Council members and the Treasurer was instructed to have matter drawn up in legal form and completed' (p.2890)

The Council Chairman, at the 18th of January 1969 meeting, 'said he had to inform the Council that the Sec had written tendering his resignation owing to his health' with the matter being left over until the 1st of February 1969 meeting (p.2926) At the same meeting 'the Council C/man said that he had been asked by C.C. to detail a scheme which had been recommended by the Policy Committee viz that Regional Officers should be appointed in each Province-the Regional Officer to be at the disposal of both the Central and Provincial Councils and where a Prov Sec was, he'd succeed to the office when such an officer would retire etc' which was also postponed until the 1st of February 1969 meeting (p.2926) At this 'special meeting' Seamus Ó Riain, GAA President, outlined the proposed 'Regional Officer Scheme' (a copy of the scheme has been appended to the minutes (pp.2931-2932)) stating that 'nothing was being imposed...they

were only interested in the appointment to ensure that whoever was to succeed to the Prov Secretaryship in any Province was selected with care' (p.2929) In response L. Flood, Louth delegate, 'said he welcomed the President but tho' he did he felt that his presence was a warning...our Sec is retiring-the Connacht Sec is dead-the Pres gave no line as to the position re the 2 vacant positions: the scheme was tantamount to taking from a Prov Council their freedom to elect their Sec and he wasn't prepared to forego such a right' (p.2929) After a discussion the 'recommendations in their present form were unanimously rejected...it was decided that the Finance Committee should meet before 1/3/69 and draft conditions for appointment of Sec in accordance with Rue 49 T.O. page 65' (p.2931)

A copy of the advertisement, placed in the newspapers, seeking applications for the position of Secretary is attached to the minutes of the 8th of March 1969 meeting (p.2938) The advertisement specifies that the position is wholetime, permanent and pensionable, includes a salary of £1,500, rising by annual increments of £50 to a maximum of £2,000, with three weeks holidays; that the applicants must be competent in written and oral Irish and that an interview and medical examination will be required (p.2938) At the 12th of July 1969 meeting the committee charged with finding the new Secretary submitted four names to the Council for consideration-Patrick Buggy, P. Flanagan, J. King and Ciaran O'Neill (p.2953) Before a vote was taken on the candidates it was decided that that the successful candidate could live anywhere in the Province 'so long as he'd be available to do his work efficiently' and that there was no need for Patrick Buggy (candidate) and the Secretary (father of a candidate) to leave the meeting (p.2953) 'The voting was then proceeded with and resulted in the election of Ciaran O'Neill Son of the present Secretary...elected by 16 votes to 12 for P O'Bogaigh' (p.2953) Ciaran O'Neill was introduced to the Council at their 13th of September 1969 meeting when it agreed that he should take up the position of Secretary on the 1st of January 1970 (p.2959)

The reaction of the Leinster Council to the various Central Council 'Grounds Schemes' is recorded throughout the minutes. The establishment of the 'Central Council Special Grounds Committee' is discussed at the 8th of April 1963 Leinster Council meeting with the Chairman informing the meeting that Leinster had appointed S Fitzgerald and J Flood to the Committee adding that 'despite the "Powers and Functions" of this committee it was generally agreed that the Provincial Councils would be mainly responsible for their own affairs as heretofore and development as seen by them as necessary would not be retarded' (p.2584) The Secretary's Report to the 1965 Provincial Convention contains a 'minute approved at the suggestion of Bord na bPáirc by the Central

Council dealing with grounds other than Provincial Stadia...It [shows] clearly the trend of the Grounds development schedule for the future' (p.2724) Within this Bord na bPáirc minute is the recommendation that one main county ground be developed in each county-with the exception of eight counties i.e. those with a Provincial stadia (Tipperary, Limerick, Kilkenny, Antrim and Mayo) and the three University cities with a large population (Dublin, Cork and Galway) who would be considered outside of the scheme (p.2724) In his report to the 1967 Provincial Convention O'Neill stated that a new grounds scheme 'was evolving itself but the first essential is that each county appoints a Special Grounds Committee...As I understand the scheme it is a 10-years one embracing all Provinces...the amount of grants available from the general scheme will be £7,500...It looks a reasonably sound scheme and local and Provincial planning should, with care, be equal to the requirements' (p.2831)

In his Secretary's Report to the 1963 Provincial Convention O'Neill stated that the immediate task of the new Central Council Grounds Board (Bord na bPáirc) is to 'develop speedily in each Province one major Ground that will adequately accommodate the largest attendance that can reasonably be expected at Provincial Finals' and that 'the Board shall select the Grounds for this purpose' (p.2621) The Secretary, at the 15th of November 1963 Council meeting, read a report from the Grounds and Finance meeting of the 1st of November 1963 stating that 'the joint bodies met by reason of a letter recd by Secretary from C.C. inviting the Council Chairman and himself to meet Bord na bPáirc in connection with the special Leinster venue' (p.2606) The Secretary reported that 'after discussing the matter from all angles it was agreed that Council Officers should state that they were prepared with C.C. to go ahead with the development of such a grounds but the surplus of the Council would not enter into any Provincial commitments and same would be dealt with annual in the ordinary way-the maximum commitment of the Council in the project should be 25% and the county wherein Grounds was located should not be saddled with any financial burdens as the overalls of maintenance etc afterwards would be sufficient' (p.2606) At the joint meeting of the Finance and Grounds Committees, held on the 30th of November 1963, 'the Chairman and Sec reported re C.C. and selection of Kilkenny as Leinster's venue-the [special] Park's Board would now be asking to meet officers of that county with reference to the entire matter and they representing Leinster made it quite clear that the annual Council surplus would be dealt with as heretofore-they were ready to go ahead with the Kilkenny project and would meet their commitments in respect of same when it arose and in their own way' (p.2608) In his Secretary's Report to the 1964 Provincial Convention O'Neill stated that 'The pattern of things to come in this Province has been set by the selection by Bord na bPáirc (selected by the Ard Chomhairle of

the GAA) of Nowlan Park, Kilkenny as our major venue for development in the immediate future' (p.2669)

At the 5th of March 1965 Council meeting P. Grace (Kilkenny) asked the C/man if he could give him any definite figure that they could expect [from] Comhairle Laighean re the Kilkenny grounds project-they had submitted their plans to the C.C. who were giving them £20,000: they felt their scheme would cost about £50,000 and would like if Council gave them a definite figure so they'd know where they were. The C/man said the Finance Committee would have to examine the matter first' (pp.2689-2690) At the 9th of April 1965 Council meeting a report was read from the Finance Committee which stated 'The Committee also considered the Kilkenny project which was now estimated to cost £50,000-they would await finalisation of the scheme by Bord na bPáirc as the Council had previously committed themselves to the £40,000 scheme suggested by that body on the pro rata scale 50% Bord na bPáirc 25% Provincial Council and 25% County Board' (p.2693) P. Grace, at the 25th of September 1965 meeting, stated their big job was in progression-the CC had paid him over the first certificate for £8,000: they would pay other certs as they arose to £20,000 allocated and they had stated that LC and Board should be prepared to meet their end-L.C. £10,000-and he wondered how or when this would be forthcoming...He was assured that re the Nowlan Park scheme the Council would meet their £10,000 obligation when necessary' (p.2708) Minutes of the 11th of December 1965 Finance Committee meeting record £4,000 being issued to Kilkenny 'as part of £10,000 to Nowlan Park' (p.2713) while at the 29th of April 1966 Finance and Parks Committee meeting it was agreed to pay over £4,000 to Kilkenny 'towards their improvements...arising out of a general discussion re the Kilkenny project it transpired that the original £40,000 scheme would be more elaborate than at 1st visualised and would be in the region of £60,000-the C.C. originally set figures at C.C. £20,000 but had now promised to loan a further £7,500 at current rates-the L.C. amt was originally £10,000 with Co Board finding £10,000-these figures Kilkenny said would now be inadequate as they'd have to find another £12,500' (p.2745) The minutes of the 3rd of September 1966 Finance Committee meeting record that £2,000 was allocated to Kilkenny with the note 'this £2000 brings Kilkenny up to £10,000. Further allocation to be discussed later' (p.2765) P. Grace, at the 15th of October 1966 joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Bord na bPáirc, 'told mtg that they were stuck for £7,500 re Kilkenny Grounds and that they could not get additional o/d facilities...o/d at present stood at £6000. The meeting agreed that Sec should try to arrange additional o/d facilities of £7,500' (p.2774) The Leinster Council, at their 26th of November 1966 meeting, 'were informed that Sec is awaiting banks reply to application-o/d required is £13,500. When full contract price is paid-between £60,000 and

£61,000. Mr Grace stated that Bank will not give o/d to Kilkenny Co. Board but will give it to Leinster Council. L. Council will have to get o/d in own bank and send cheque to Kilkenny Co Board. It was the decision of the mtg that this should be done' (p.2780) while at the 3rd of December 1966 Council meeting it was decided that 'an additional grant of £3,500 be given to K/Kenny grounds and that the Sec procure an o/d for £4,000 for Kilkenny Co Board' (p.2783)

At the Provincial Convention held in 1967 Mr Nicholas Purcell, Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board, 'thanked the Leinster Council for the way in which they had helped Kilkenny in the past and particularly in the more recent past. They had helped to make Nowlan Park what all of them would like it to be. Nowlan Park was now fit to stage any game, the Leinster hurling or football final' (p.2842)

At the 27th of July 1963 Leinster Grounds Committee meeting 'a general discussion took place re Droichead Nua venue-the Council Sec was instructed to write the Central Council and request that as the term of years had long since expired in connection with agreement entered into between Association and Greyhound people, that the latter would remove all their equipment and cease to use the venue' (p.2595) A Finance and Parks Committee meeting was called 'arising from a request from Kildare Co Board to call a Council meeting re the D Nua grounds' (p.2745) Geraghty and Delaney, the Kildare delegates, 'outlined the position as generally known-they felt that a settlement could be reached out of court with parties getting around the table. The Dog People were prepared to get out and question that would arise was one of compensation of around £2000' (p.2745) Mr McKnight, Solicitor, outlined the case as 'the Association was driven to the action by the D/Nua Greyhound Co not making any attempt to quit the grounds despite the fact that their term by agreement had long expired-the negotiating mode was left open to them up to the day the matter went to court and now with the case practically finished they came along with the idea of settlement around the table...There was no question of Ass admitting there was a right of them to compensation-this however did not mean that it could not be settled out of court' (p.2745) It was unanimously agreed the Greyhound company's solicitors would forward their proposal for a conference to the Association's solicitors 'and then a meeting could be held and all matters tendered thereon would be without prejudice' (p.2745)

The administration of games and competitions throughout Leinster is a recurring theme in the minutes. In reaction to the inauguration of the All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling and Football Championships (as decided at the 1963 Annual Congress) the Finance Committee suggested that the 1964 clár be amended so that the Accident Fund Tournaments, Corn ui Broin and Corn Breathnach, 'be curtailed so as to include only in the play-off for same the semi-finalist of the

Championships such as now exists in hurling' and that 're Special Minor Hurling competition for weaker counties the age to be reduced to under-17 years on 1/1/64, so that the winners of same would then compete in 1965 Minor Championships proper' (p.2598) When the Council considered the amended clár for 1964 'a great diversity of opinion existed re the promotion of the under 21 competitions and it was eventually agreed that the Council Officers would get the opinions of the counties re same and ascertain if there was to be an All-Ireland Chps. in the grade' (p.2600) The Council also decided that the Corn Ui Broin should 'continued as heretofore' and that 'the suggestion re the special minor chps was agreed' (p.2600) However at the 15th of November 1963 Council meeting, after hearing that Kildare and Wicklow had opted to play in the 'Minor Championship proper' the Council 'unanimously agreed that [the] under-17 yrs. chps. would not then be run-the special minor hurling chps. as in previous years would operate with winners receiving trophies and going forward to chps proper' (p.2603) The suggestion that the 'Special Minor Hurling Championship' be restricted to under-17's is raised again in 1965 (p.2707) but ultimately rejected by the Council (p.2711)

At the 5th of March 1970 Council meeting 'it was decided that the whole position of the Central Council Special Under-21 Hurling was to be raised at the Executive by the Chairman and Secretary with a view to full clarification on the matter. Pending the outcome of discussions at Executive the Leinster Council will decide whether or not to run off this competition at all' (p.2982) The Council decided, at their 13th of July 1970 meeting, that 'counties taking part in this competition (Special Under-21 Hurling) would receive a £25 grant ex Comhairle Laighean, would be responsible for the running of the competition themselves, would divide equally the gate receipts between themselves-the only other commitment of Comhairle Laighean would be to provide a set of medals for the competition' The fixtures made show that Carlow, Wicklow, Louth and Meath were the four counties to enter this 'special' competition (pp.3006-3007)

The administration of the Junior Championships is raised recurrently throughout the minutes; the Council, and Convention, received regular requests from counties (with no junior team) seeking permission to play their 'second best' team in the Junior Championships (pp.2579, 2636, 2854, 2891 & 3039) O'Neill, in his Secretary's Reports to the 1965 and 1966 Provincial Conventions called for the abolition of the Junior Championships (pp.2724 & 2808) while the Council, at their 15th of October 1970 meeting, 'unanimously rejected the proposal to have the secondary divisions of the N.H.L. run in conjunction with either our Junior or Intermediate Provincial Hurling Championships' (p.3020)

At the 20th of January 1971 Council meeting, Antrim's application to participate in the Leinster Minor Hurling Championship was deferred to a later meeting subject to a number of conditions being met including permission being given from the Ulster Council and Central Council, a guarantee that any accident claims emanating from Antrim players would be dealt with by the Ulster Council an agreement that all games will take place in Leinster (p.3035) At the 27th of February 1971 Council meeting permission was 'granted to Longphort to enter Connacht Minor Football League, subject to conditions of Accident Scheme and provided the games do not interfere with Leinster Championships' (p.3039)

The Council requested, at their 3rd of December 1970 meeting, that counties 'submit names of their 1970 champions' in anticipation of the inaugural All-Ireland Club Football and Hurling Championship (as passed at the 1970 Annual Congress)

The Secretary's Report to the 1965 Provincial Convention contains the 'most salient sections' of the Central Council Hurling Scheme (pp.2725-2726) Commenting on the Scheme O'Neill stated that 'it is, on the whole, a bold and outright effort to develop and consolidate the game. The Provincial Council is committed to it, and for the most part it has been somewhat in operation in most of our counties with slight variations...It strikes me forcibly that an inter-county club hurling championship, as that to be introduced in Munster, would greatly raise standards in counties...Such a competition would only become feasible if the inter-county clár came down to reasonable proportions and the grouping of county champions sides would then be a mere matter of arrangement' (pp.2725-2726)

A delegation from the Dublin County Board attended the 25th of May 1970 Finance Committee meeting and raised three points '(1) At the end of 1970 there would be a financial deficit of £34,000...(2) Because of the situation of Páirc an Chrócaigh and the appeal of the games there Ath Cliath's income had diminished greatly...To offset this serious loss he felt that it was not unreasonable to ask Comhairle Laighean to contribute 2½% of their Páirc an Chrócaigh gates...(3) Because Dublin had a population of .9 million people and because of the enormity of the amount of physical work involved he stressed the immediate urgency of appointing: (A). A full time Secretary (B). A Development Officer who would encourage youth both in playing and in administration...He requested the meeting to seriously consider the possibility of putting forward £1,500 p.a. towards the remuneration of both officials' (pp.2994-2995) The Finance Committee 'generally agreed that the case put forward was reasonable and merited the favourable consideration of Comhairle Laighean' (p.2995) At a special meeting of the Leinster Council, held on the 18th of June 1970, to discuss

Dublin's 'application for financial aid', the Council were given various assurances before unanimously agreeing to 'contribute £1,500 p.a. to Coisde Co Ath Cliath towards the remuneration of (a) Full-time permanent Secretary, (b) Full-time permanent Development Officer' and to 'contribute 2½% of Comhairle Laighean's nett Páirc an Chrócaigh gates' (p.3002)

The Leinster Council, at their 8th of January 1966 meeting, decided that 'Easter Sunday would be a closed date i.e. 10/4/66 so that all counties should have their celebrations to mark the Golden Jubilee of the 1916 Rising on that date' (p.2738) while at the 13th of August 1966 Council meeting it was agreed to ask the silversmith to engrave '1916-1966' on all gold Provincial medals (p.2763)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1971-1975

Code: GAA/LEN/01/07

Covering Dates: 18 May 1971-12 September 1975

Extent: c.294pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the 1971-1975 meeting minutes of the Provincial Council and the subsidiary committees.

The page numbers in this book (pp.3049-3343) are a continuation from the previous Leinster Council minute books.

The minute book contains a record of the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the issuing of grants; the issuing of compensation grants to injured players; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

Key decisions recorded in the minutes include the decision to pay £200 per annum to each of the County Board Secretaries (except Dublin) (p.3089); the establishment of a committee to take over the annual operation of Scór at Provincial level in Leinster (p.3165); that all Leinster football championship games be played with the 'new laminate type football' (p.3179); the purchase of 20 Hogan Stand (in both hurling and football) 10 year tickets in the name of Comhairle Laighean (p.3218); authorising the Council Chairman to deal fully with Referee Reports between meetings (p.3239) and the decision to annually grant £1,000 to the Leinster Camogie Council (p.3319)

At the 18th of May 1971 Council meeting 'the Cathaoirleach indicated that now that the Rúnaí's [Ciaran O'Neill] twelve months probation had long been successfully completed he would accept a proposition for permanent election. The proposition... "that the Secretary's appointment be made permanent" was unanimously carried' (p.3050)

O'Neill, at the 18th of July 1975 Finance Committee meeting, 'regretted that due to circumstances beyond his control he was unable, as yet, to make a definite statement with regard to his moving on to join the Páirc an Chrócaigh staff'(p.3320) The Finance Committee then decided that 'in the interim, the approval of Comhairle Laighean should be sought for the following recommendations concerning the appointment of a successor: Selection Committee...will reduce the applicants to a number...from which the successful candidate will ultimately be selected by Comhairle Laighean itself; Advertising:

That the position be advertised in the Sunday Press and Sunday Independent...Preferred Age: 25 to 40 years' (p.3320) At the 23rd of July 1975 Council meeting 'The Cathaoirleach congratulated the Rúnaí on behalf of the Council, on his appointment as Administration Manager of Croke Park-the Rúnaí, in returning thanks, regretted that no change had come about in the situation as described in the Coisde Airgeadais Minutes...The Coisde Airgeadais recommendation (for application in the event of the Rúnaí vacating his position) was adopted with the following amendments: Retiring Age: 65 years; Position: Full time; Residence: In Province of Leinster; Appointment: That the Selection Committee would reduce the number of applicants to one only-Comhairle Laighean to have the final say with regard to his appointment' (p.3325) At the 13th of August 1975 Council meeting 'The Rúnaí explained the present position and outlined the points at issue between himself and An Coiste Bainisti' (p.3327) while at the 6th of September 1975 Council meeting the motion calling for the new Secretary's (if necessary) duties to be fully discussed and prescribed before the appointment was deferred (pp.3331 & 3334)

The implementation of a 'County Board Overdraft Scheme' to try and reduce the debt of individual County Boards is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 23rd of September 1972 Council meeting delegates were asked to report to the next meeting 'on acceptance or otherwise of scheme whereby counties could forego grants for a short number of years with a view to securing more sizeable grants towards reduction of overdrafts-counties not interested to continue as heretofore' (p.3130) At the 16th of November 1972 'Secretaries Meeting' the 'Cathaoirleach stated that progress in many of our counties was being retarded by extensive ground overdrafts and the payment per annum of sums as high as £2,000 in interest alone. Further development would have to be stopped, he said, until the overdraft situation was cleared up...this was now one of the Leinster Council's priorities and he had recently succeeded in focusing the attention of the Ard Chomhairle on the matter and had been assured that a sizeable proportion of 1972's surplus monies would be put aside for this task' (p.3144) At the 5th of December 1972 Finance Committee meeting the Chairman and Secretary 'outlined broad £100,000.00 plan geared towards immediate elimination of overdrafts in all Leinster counties and were empowered to proceed with groundwork so that full details could be placed before next meeting of Comhairle' (p.3149); at the 15th of December 1972 Council meeting the 'principles of a five year plan geared towards the immediate elimination of county overdrafts within the Province' was outlined with the decision taken to 'hold the £12,000 grant monies for the moment until both Ard Comhairle, C.L.G., and Leinster Council's Bankers had an opportunity to report back to the Council-in the light of both reports the mechanics of the Scheme would be placed before the Council for its

consideration' (p.3152) At the 19th of February 1973 Council meeting the Chairman reported that the 'Council's Bankers had approved the loan application (£75,000.00) on a Five Year Term basis' and that he was 'confident that Ard Comhairle would make the necessary £25,000.00 grant in the near future' (p.3161)

At the 14th of March 1973 Council meeting 'the Cathaoirleach reported (in confidence) that since our last meeting Ard Comhairle had agreed to make a £25,000.00. subvention to the scheme-£12,500.00 of which would have to be repaid over five years. He said that this subvention together with the facility afforded by our Bankers seemed to indicate that the Council could now pursue overdrafts to the extent of £100,000.00' (p.3165) It was further decided that the Council's officers would meet with all the counties, except Dublin, Longford, Louth and Laois, 'for the purpose of establishing if the various County Committees intend to enter the scheme or otherwise' (p.3166) At the 5th of June 1973 Council meeting the Chairman 'stated that as the interest rates we would be obliged to levy would be too high in the opinion of many of the Counties concerned he was going to make a final approach at a forthcoming meeting to see if Ard Comhairle would be prepared to make an outright grant of the £25,000.00 required' (p.3180) At the 5th of February 1974 Council meeting 'it was decided that each County would receive £1,500 in respect of 1973...Counties with serious indebtedness to be permitted to utilise all or part of the monies for the purpose of reducing Bank Overdrafts if they so wish' (p.3218)

A 'lengthy discussion' took place at the 19th of February 1975 Finance Committee meeting 'arising from which it was decided to establish at forthcoming Council meeting if any of the Counties which are now financially solvent would be prepared to forego their grants for the time being in favour of Counties which now find themselves in financial difficulty' (p.3289) At the 26th of March 1975 Finance Committee meeting representatives of Westmeath, Kilkenny, Kildare, Wexford and Meath attended and a 'preliminary discussion took place on the possible means of eliminating indebtedness' (p.3295) A copy of the particulars of each county's debts have been included with the minutes (p.3297) The minutes contain a scheme, with conditions, for clearing the 'five counties' debts (pp.3300-3301) which was unanimously approved by the Council and referred to the Financial Committee for 'consideration and implementation' (p.3305) Tomás Ó Lochtuís, at the start of the 23rd of May 1975 Finance Committee meeting, stated that 'he wanted to congratulate the Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí for securing the loan for relief of County overdrafts from Ard Comhairle C.L.G.' (p.3307) while the minutes of this meeting contain the Financial Committee's recommendations as to how the Ard Comhairle loan of £57,000 (at 5% per annum) should be repaid

by the twelve Leinster counties (p.3308) In considering these recommendations, at their 28th of May 1975 meeting, the Council carried them but 'grave reservations were expressed concerning the recommendation that the seven non-participating counties should each be expected to pay 5% interest for 5 years (£50 p.a.) for the £1,000.00 of their proposed advance-this matter was referred back to An Choisde Airgeadais' (p.3312) At the 20th of June 1975 Finance Committee meeting 'The Cathaoirleach advised that in relation to the "seven" counties having being paid their grants one of the "five" had already been settled. He further advised that it was expected to have two of the remaining four dealt with over the weekend' (p.3316) while at the 18th of July 1975 Finance Committee meeting 'The Cathaoirleach reported that all counties had now been paid and the necessary documents had been signed by all parties' (p.3319)

The introduction and implementation of a 'County Grounds Advertising Scheme' is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 29th of March 1973 Finance Committee meeting Pádraig De Róiste attended and stated that since gate receipts at County level are 'no longer sufficient to withstand expenditure...alternative sources of income will have to be devised' (p.3171) De Róiste suggested that 'the Leinster Council should examine the possibilities of involving itself in arranging for National Advertising in all County Grounds within the Province-this, he said, could be tied in with Programme and Poster production which could make what could be offered very attractive to advertisers. The monies, accruing, he said could be divided amongst the counties or set off against the County Overdraft Plan' (p.3171) The Council decided that 'the idea should be examined fully with the Cathaoirleach and Rúnaí undertaking to research such items as Provincial T.V. coverage, attendances and experiences gained at Páirc an Chrócaigh etc' and that the sanction of each County Board would be required before advertising hoardings could be erected in the various grounds (p.3171) At the 16th of May 1973 Finance Committee meeting the Chairman reported that only four counties had returned the completed agreements (p.3173) while at the 5th of June 1973 Council meeting 'it was decided that Leinster Council would not pursue the matter until each of the 12 counties had returned the completed sanction form' with the chairman adding that 'the very apparent apathy on the part of some of the counties with regard to this straightforward plan left one wondering as to whether it would be prudent to proceed with a project of the magnitude of the Overdrafts Scheme at all. He said that it should be obvious that the one scheme would compliment the other' (p.3180)

At the 5th of February 1974 Council meeting it was reported that three counties had 'yet to submit the document which would authorise Council to proceed with

its full investigation of the potential of the Provincial Plan' (p.3217) while the minutes of the 2nd of March 1974 Council meeting contain the list of the 20 grounds nominated for 'County Grounds Advertising' with the decision that the 'Council would concentrate its efforts on the following areas in each Ground: A. The immediate surrounds of the pitches (4 sides) B. Score Boards C. Stands (where such exist) D. Press boxes (where such exist) The various grounds committees were empowered to negotiate local advertising deals (if they so wished) for other areas within the grounds (viz. walls, toilets, embankments etc)' (p.3232) At the 24th of January 1975 Council meeting 'The Rúnaí outlined the present position stating that we are now at the crossroads. He regretted that he could not guarantee the success of the scheme and requested delegates to express any reservations they might have prior to taking a definite decision or to proceed...The Rúnaí...intimated that with everything going according to plan, early April should see the introduction of the first hoardings at the nominated grounds' (p.3286) while at the 30th of April 1975 Council meeting 'with regard to the Alcohol and Tobacco issue it was decided (by majority decision) that Council would abide by forthcoming Congress decision on the matter (viz. if Congress approves of such sponsorship-Leinster Council to make overtures to the tobacco and alcoholic beverage manufacturers' (p.3303)

At the 23rd of September 1972 Council meeting, when discussing the heading 'Advertising at Croke Park' it was decided 'that every effort should be made to secure a fair share of the £40,000.00., accruing at Croke Park for the Leinster Council in respect of its usage of the venue' (p.3128)

The administration of games and championships throughout Leinster is recorded in the minutes. At the 24th of November 1971 Council meeting 'An application from Comhairle Ulaidh, C.L.G., to have An Dúin and Aondroma included in the Leinster Minor Hurling, Under 21 Hurling and Intermediate Hurling Championships (1972) was refused on the grounds that Leinster could not conceivably cater for extra games during the limited championship period' (p.3076) The minutes for the 14th of March 1972 Council meeting contain the agreed terms and conditions of the new under 14 Hurling and Football Championships (pp.3101 & 3103-3104) while at the 3rd of May 1972 Council meeting 'many delegates expressed their disapproval at the conduct standards which prevailed in [Provincial Club Games]. The Cathaoirleach agreed that too many of the games played at our level left much to be desired and unless there is a vast improvement in the 1972/1973 Championships their future continuance would have to be looked into' (p.3109) At the 19th of February 1973 Council meeting 'On a majority decision it was agreed that the Counties taking part in the Peil Soisearach Championship could put forward teams constituted by their

second best rather than Junior (only) players' (p.3161) while at the 2nd of March 1974 Council meeting 'it was decided that Comhairle Laighean would not run Junior Football or Intermediate Hurling Championships or Competitions. The Cathaoirleach pointed out that Counties interested in having such competitions re-introduced should pursue the matter at Congress' (p.3231)

The reaction of the Council to the publication of the 'Report of the Commission on the GAA' (McNamee Report) is recorded in the minutes; at the 9th of November 1972 Council meeting 'The Cathaoirleach, in opening what proved to be a lengthy discussion on the Commission, pointed out many of the recommendations in the Report which he personally felt, if implemented, would cut across our Council and could not be in the best interests of the Association within our Province. He regretted that our Province had not being afforded official representation on the Commission particularly as this was not the case with regard to the other three provinces...He concluded by voicing his disagreement at the attempt to centralise the Association in Dublin and by expressing concern with the fact that small unrepresentative minorities in some of our counties are taking decisions which may have most serious and resounding consequences for our Association' (p.3142)

The relationship between the Leinster Council and the media is recorded throughout the minutes. The minutes of the 24th of November 1971 Council meeting contain a description of the press facilities in each county grounds (p.3075) The Finance Committee, at their 5th of December 1972 meeting, decided that before live televising of Leinster Senior Finals could be even considered the Leinster Council would have to be guaranteed the full reimbursement by R.T.E. of what could result in a 25% to 50% drop in attendance at these finals. It was felt that this could not prove viable to R.T.E. There was no objection to R.T.E. recording the finals on film for subsequent relay' (p.3149) At the 6th of September 1975 Council meeting 'after lengthy debate it was decided that a protest against the principle of our National T.V. Network transmitting British Television should be lodged with the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs' (p.3334) which was subsequently changed to sending the Ard Stiúrthóir the extract of the relevant minutes 'with a view to having just one protest lodged (rather than various fragmented efforts) by the highest level of the Association on behalf of the overall Association' (p.3340)

The Council's reaction to the political trouble in the North of Ireland is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 24th of November 1971 Council meeting it was decided to donate a 'set of Leinster Jerseys, togs, socks and two footballs' to the 'internees' (p.3078) while at the 24th of January 1975 Council meeting, when considering 'Republican Prisoners (Portlaoise)' it was 'decided that this matter

was best left to Ard Comhairle, C.L.G., which was currently making representations at the highest level in the name of the whole Assoc.' (p.3285) At the 5th of February 1974 Council meeting 'A contingency sum of £2,000.00 was allocated [to the Northern Ireland Relief Fund]. Amount to be held until details of other Provincial Councils and Central Council's subscriptions have been established' (p.3218)

The Vice-Chairman was instructed by the Finance Committee, at their 12th of March 1975 meeting to establish what grants had been forthcoming from other Provincial Councils for the construction of Páirc Uí Caoimh (p.3292) while the Finance Committee, at their 20th of June 1975 meeting, decided to recommend to the Leinster Council that a grant of £1,000 be made towards Páirc Uí Caoimh with L. O Braonain making 'the point that most of the County Grounds in Leinster are in need of urgent attention and much could be achieved by expending the same £1,000.00 on any of them' (p.3316) At the 23rd of July 1975 Council meeting 'S. O Laoghóg and P. de Grás dissented when it was decided to adopt the Coisde Airgeadais recommendation to make a grant of £1,000.00 to Páirc Uí Caoimh-they both suggested that such a sum could be better utilised within the Province of Leinster' (p.3323)

Title: Leinster Provincial Council Minute Book, 1975-1981

Code: GAA/LEN/01/08

Covering Dates: 29 October 1975-9 September 1981

Extent: c.436pp

Scope and Content:

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the meeting minutes of the Leinster Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association, 1975-1981. The minute book also contains the minutes of the subsidiary committees and the minutes of the Provincial Conventions held in 1978 (pp.3525-3528); 1979 (pp.3602-3606) and 1980 (pp.3677-3679)

The page numbers in this book (pp.3344-3780) are a continuation from the previous Leinster Council minute books.

The minute book contains a record of the motions passed and defeated at the Provincial Conventions; a record of the rulings and decisions made by the Provincial Council; the hearing of appeals and objections; the issuing of suspensions and re-instatements; the issuing of grants; the issuing of compensation grants to injured players; the fixing of dates and venues for games and competitions and the general running of the GAA throughout Leinster.

The election of Pádraig Ó Bogaigh (Patrick Buggy) as President of Leinster Council is recorded in the minutes of the 1978 Convention (p.3526); 1979 Convention (p.3605) and 1980 Convention (p.3678)

Key motions passed at Provincial Conventions include that 'Leinster Council set up a committee to promote and encourage youth employment in the Province and to vigorously promote purchase of Irish goods at all times' (pp.3527-3528)

Key decisions made by the Provincial Council include the participation of Antrim in the 1977 Leinster Minor Hurling Championship (p.3346); that suitable trophies be provided for Club championships (p.3367); a presentation being made to Tomás Ó Lochtúis on reaching 25 years of service to Leinster GAA (p.3431); congratulations being offered to Liam Ó Maolmhichíl on becoming the new Ard Stiúrthóir of the GAA (p.3613); clubs being made aware of the 'financial burdens' social clubs could cost (p.3616); criticism of Kilkenny's attitude 'towards the football competitions' (p.3636) and the decision to leave advertising to the individual County Boards (p.3669)

At the 29th of October 1975 Council meeting 'a letter from the Rúnaí [Ciaran O'Neill] was read by the Cathaoirleach. The Rúnaí stated in the letter that he would be vacating his position as Rúnaí and joining the Páirc an Chrócaigh staff as Administration Manager' (p.3345)

The minutes of the 5th of November 1975 Finance Committee contain a copy of the advertisement inviting application for the post of new Secretary that specified the role as 'Acting as Secretary and Financial Accountant of the Leinster Council (and it's various sub-committees) with special responsibility for the formulation and implementation of the Council's annual games programme' (p.3350) A blank copy of the prescribed application form is also included in the minutes (p.3352) The minutes of the 18th of February 1976 Council meeting contain the report of the 'Selection Committee' which includes 'Thirty one requests were received for further particulars and prescribed application forms. Twenty six completed application forms were returned...The Selection Committee decided that eighteen Applicants should be called for interview...Sixteen Applicants were interviewed...The Selection Committee decided to recall six of those...The Committee, which was serviced by the Rúnaí, met on a number of occasions...ending with a meeting on 12.2.1976 at which it was decided to recommend that Leinster Council appoint Michael Delaney (27), Ballacolla, Co. Laois, as it's Rúnaí nua...Mr Delaney (and his wife) met the Chairman and Secretary on 16.2.1976 when it evolved that he would be pleased to accept the appointment under the terms offered...The terms offered were in full compliance with what had already been decided by Comhairle Laighean' (p.3368) Following this report 'Many questions were forthcoming after which it was formally proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Michael Ó Dubhsláine (Laois) be appointed as Rúnaí Nua' (p.3369)

The maintenance of grounds and grounds schemes, at club, county and provincial level, is recorded throughout the minutes.

The Finance Committee, at their 23rd of April 1976 meeting, decided...that a reserve of £5,000 for the purpose of vested Club Grounds purchase, be set up in 1976. Only vested Club grounds purchased since 1.1.1976 to be considered' (p.3382) Conchur O Murchú, President of the GAA, attended the 20th of April 1977 Council meeting and explained that 'the chief purpose of his visit was to outline the new 'Million Pound Plan'. The plan originated with the desire to put to better use money which was earning interest but losing value. It had been decided that the money should be put into the development of the Association and there was no better means of developing than the purchase of Club Grounds. An tUachtaran said that Bord na bPairceanna had been doing great work down the years but he felt it was now time that Provincial Councils should be involved in guiding the Association particularly in the matter of grounds. An tUas Ó Murchu then outlined the plan...Finally...it was agreed to take part' (p.3465) The minutes of the 13th of January 1978 Finance Committee meeting record that 'it was decided to set aside a figure of £10,000 for Bord na

bPairceanna scheme in respect of club grounds purchase, development etc during 1978' (p.3520); £15,000 was set aside for the 1979 (p.3593); later minutes record the amounts granted to each club under the scheme.

Séamus De Róiste, Chairman of Leinster Council, at the 24th of September 1977 Council meeting, 'pointed out that the current rate of inflation was 8½% higher than the current deposit rate available to Comhairle Laighean-in other words Comhairle Laighean would lose heavily in the real purchasing power of its money' (p.3497) De Róiste recommended a financial plan to the Council that included '(A) To set up a Main County Grounds Fund utilising 80% of all Comhairle Laighean's money...(B) Coiste Airgid-to study and vet all applications and to administer fund...(C) Coiste Airgid to set out conditions of scheme such as: 1. Rate of Interest, 2. Duration of Loan, 3. Repayments...the recommendation was accepted and referred to An Coiste Airgeadais for implementation' (pp.3497-3498) The Financial Committee, at their 25th of November 1977 meeting, studied the 'County Grounds Investment Plan' and decided to recommend to Comhairle Laighean that '1. £60,000...be set aside for plan; 2. 10% grant to a maximum of £500 available to counties; 3. A maximum loan of £4,500 to be made available to counties. This loan to be over 5 years at 5%...4. One main county ground per county-this ground to be specified by the county beforehand' (p.3509) These recommendations were approved by the Leinster Council at their 7th of December 1977 meeting (p.3512)

The procedures for the 'County Grounds Investment Plan' are included in the 13th of January 1978 Finance Committee meeting minutes and include that 'Applications for grant/loan must be accompanied by a copy of plans, specifications and quotations...Loan and grant will only be paid on completion of project and on inspection of said project by officers of Comhairle Laighean' (p.3519)

De Róiste, at the 17th of November 1978 Finance Committee meeting reported that Bord na bPairceanna 'now required urgently a list of the secondary county grounds in the Province' (p.3584) while the Finance Committee, at their 21st of November 1979 meeting, decided to recommend 'to Comhairle Laighean the setting up of a grant scheme for development of secondary Co Grounds. The suggested grants would be 10% to a maximum of £1,500' (p.3655) This recommendation was accepted by the Leinster Council at their 12th of December 1970 meeting (p.3659)

Padraig O Bogaigh, Chairman, stated, at the 6th of September 1978 Council meeting, that 'the time had now come when Comhairle Laighean would have to give serious consideration to developing a stadium which would give us an

alternative venue to Páirc an Chrócaigh for Leinster finals and other big games...it was decided that An Coiste Airgeadais should immediately set about investigating the matter' (p.3569) The minutes of the 23rd of September 1978 Council meeting contain a list of the main county grounds in the Province (p.3576) while the Finance Committee, at their 10th of November 1978 meeting, 'decided to recommend O'Moore Park, Portlaoise, as the County Ground to be developed to provide Comhairle Laignean with an alternative to Páirc an Chrocaigh for its major games. The Committee listed Páirc Tailteann, An Uaimh and Páirc an Chuillinnigh, Ceatharlach as number 2 and 3 respectively on their development priority list' (p.3583) At the 17th of November 1978 Finance Committee meeting De Róiste reported that Bord na bPairceanna had accepted the nomination of O'Moore Park for major development, subject to Leinster Councils approval (p.3584) while the Council, at their 6th of December 1978 meeting decided to accept all recommendations from the Finance Committee (p.3588)

At the 21st of November 1979 Finance Committee meeting the Chairman and Secretary of the Laois County Board attended and 'gave an up to date report on the progress re development of O'Moore Park. While numerous difficulties had been encountered Coisde Co Laoise were now satisfied that most had been ironed out and definite plans would be ready by the end of the year' (p.3655) The Finance Committee, at their 18th of February 1980 meeting, 'decided to wait for the outcome of application for planning permission before definite financial commitment be made' to the development of O'Moore Park (p.3671) At the 9th of July 1980 Council meeting S. O Rannacháin 'outlined progress re planning permission and guaranteed that development would commence at the end of September 1980' (p.3702) while O Rannacháin and M. Ó Cearbhaile attended the 3rd of December 1980 Finance Committee meeting 'to discuss major problems which had recently arisen in connection with development' at O'Moore Park (p.3723); at the 10th of December 1980 Council meeting the Cathaoirleach advised the meeting that the Laois County Board had been unable to sell the 'parcel of land at the rear of O'Moore Park' meaning that they 'were not now in a position to put forward the necessary money to meet the initial cost of part one of the proposed development' (p.3725) It was further reported that the County Board had asked the Finance Committee for a further £50,000 'until such a time as the property market had recovered' but that the Finance Committee were 'not in favour of this' (p.3725) The Council decided 'not to proceed with the development work at O'Moore Park until such time as Coisde Co Laoise are in a position to put forward £50,000' with the Chairman agreeing to ask the Finance Committee 'to investigate the possibility of a loan to Coisde Co Laoise until such a time as the land can be sold' (p.3725) At the 18th of February 1981 Council

meeting it was decided to ask the officers of the Laois County Board to attend the next Council meeting and give an update on the O'Moore Park project with the Chairman stating that 'there was never a suggestion that the plans for the development of O'Moore Park would be shelved' (p.3730); the Finance Committee, at their 25th of February 1981 meeting, after hearing a progress report from the Laois delegates, decided to recommend to the Leinster Council that 'permission be given to commence work immediately' and that 'the grant of £50,000 be paid out to Coisde Co Laoise on commencement of work' (p.3732) which was accepted by the Leinster Council (p.3734)

The minute book records the establishment, and role, of the various sub-committees working for the Leinster Council.

At the 12th of April 1978 Council meeting it was 'agreed that, besides those powers already vested in An Coiste Airgeadais, it also be given full plenary powers in all matters of discipline and changes of fixtures' (p.3545) At the 3rd of October 1979 Council meeting it was agreed that the Finance Committee would also act as the 'Development Committee' and that at least 2 meetings per annum of the Finance Committee to be devoted to development issues and that the committee is to meet representatives of the County Development Committees annually (p.3639)

The Council, at their 23rd of April 1980 meeting, decided that the terms of reference for proposed "Development Officer for Leinster" 'were very open, that such an appointment was premature, costs too high and that one full time officer was enough to serve the needs of Comhairle Laighean' (p.3691)

The minute book contains the minutes of the inaugural, and ensuing, meetings of the Leinster Hurling Committee (Coiste Iomána, Comhairle Laighean). At the inaugural meeting, held on the 12th of May 1976, topics discussed included the 'shortage of hurleys for juvenile competitions', special hurling competitions and it was decided to conduct a 'Hurling Survey' of juvenile hurling throughout the twelve counties. The issue of appointing a Provincial 'Hurling Officer' was deferred until the next meeting (p.3389) At the 9th of June 1976 Hurling Committee meeting 'S De Róiste pointed out that further discussion on this matter [Hurling Officer] was futile because nobody was too sure what the role of a hurling officer would be. He therefore suggested that in order to have this clarified a meeting of the members of Lár Choiste Iomána, Provincial Chairmen, Secretaries together with An tUachtaran and Ard Stiúrthóir should be held in the immediate future. This proposal was unanimously accepted' (p.3395) At the 14th of July 1976 Council meeting the 'Cathaoirleach outlined the background to the advertisement in the previous Sunday's newspaper for a hurling coordinator in

Leinster. This appointment would be part-time and for a two year term. The man would be responsible to Comhairle Laighean who would pay half his expenses with the balance being paid from Central Funds' (p.3402)

At the 8th of September 1976 Council meeting 'The Cathaoirleach stated that eleven (11) candidates had been interviewed for the [Hurling Officer] position. The Interview Board recommend that Brendán Ó Súilleabháin (Cill Choinnigh) be appointed to the position. Comhairle Laighean unanimously accepted this recommendation. The Cathaoirleach pointed out that Brendán would now have to be replaced on Coiste Iomána Laighean and on Coiste Forbartha' (p.3410) At the 13th of October 1976 Hurling Committee meeting 'In the absence of Oifigeach Iomána...the Coiste discussed his role in the Province. It was decided that he should concentrate on seven counties viz. An Mhí, Cill Mantáin, Ceatharloch, Cill Dara, Laois, Ua bhFáilí and Iar Mhí. The aim would be to preserve and promote the game in these counties. It was decided that Under 14 was the best group to start with and progress could be made from there to the higher grades...A monthly report should be forthcoming from the Oifigeach Iomána to Coiste Iomána...Brendán Ó Súilleabháin then joined the meeting and the Coiste's plans were outlined to him. He stated that he first intended visiting the counties involved to meet the people involved in hurling, to study the organisational structures in each county and to find out what were the particular problems in each county' (p.3422)

The Council, at their 29th of October 1976 meeting, decided to 'defer discussion on the setting up of a Referees Committee in Laighean until some information had been received on the role of such bodies in other provinces' (p.3426); at the 1st of December 1976 Council meeting 'it was agreed that a Referees' Committee be set up in the Province on a one year trial basis. The Committee would consist of a Referee from each County and it would be reviewed at the end of twelve months' (p.3432) The minutes of the 25th of May 1977 meeting of the 'Leinster Referees' contain the role of the proposed 'Leinster Referees Committee' which include acting as a sub-committee of the Provincial Council; acting as a liaison between the National Referees Council and County Referees Committees; Advise County Referees Committees, and, making recommendations to the Provincial Councils (p.3473-3474) The minutes of this meeting also state that the Referees Committee was to consist of a chairman, secretary and ten members 'representing each of the twelve counties' (p.3474)

At the 18th of February 1980 Finance Committee meeting 'it was recommended that Comhairle Laighean make available, for 1980 only, a grant of 50% (to a max of £1,500) for the erection or remodeling of T.V. and Radio facilities at selected main county grounds. These facilities must conform to Central Council and RTE

plans and prior permission must be obtained from Comhairle Laighean' (p.3671) It was also recommended that 'a grant of 50% (to a max of £1000) be made available for the erection or remodeling of Press facilities at all main county grounds-this to apply for 1980 only' (p.3671)

Leinster Council's reaction to the proposed building of a Ceannaras in Croke Park is recorded throughout the minutes. At the 28th of June 1978 Council meeting the idea of the Ceannaras was approved in principle although reservations were expressed about having a public bar in the new complex. It was agreed to commit Comhairle Laighean to a payment of £40,000 towards the project over the next 5 years' (p.3560) to which '...provided it did not interfere with ordinary grants to Counties from Comhairle Laighean' was added at the next meeting (p.3568) Sean O Síocháin addressed the 1979 Provincial Convention appealing for funds for the project (p.3602) while the Council, at their 13th of February 1980 meeting 'agreed to accept that An Coiste Airgeadais recommendation that the balance of Comhairle Laighean's five year [Ceannaras] levy (£24,000) be paid off now. However it was to be intimated to Ard Comhairle that this would complete our obligation under his levy scheme' (p.3670)

The Finance Committee, at their 9th of March 1977 meeting, decided to accept teams from the 'Inter-Factory League' into the Accident Scheme (p.3456) At their 5th of April 1978 meeting the Committee 'discussed the Accident Scheme at length' and recommended that '1. Ordinary straightforward claims to be settled by An Runai and paid out if in order. If any irregularities or omissions are contained therein An Runai be empowered to return them to An Runaí Coiste Conndae. 2. All special cases to be considered by An Coiste Airgeadais. Dental, medical etc claims will also be dealt with by An Coiste who will draw up, in the near future, special regulations re same...4. Referees, Umpires, Linesmen injured in games are covered by the Scheme' (pp.3540-3541) These recommendations were accepted by the Council at their 12th of April 1978 meeting (p.3545)

At the 26th of January 1977 Council meeting Seamus De Róiste, Chairman, 'paid glowing tribute to the late Micheál Mac Eochaidh' (p.3440); at the 17th of August 1977 Finance Committee meeting it was reported that the Wexford County Board had decided 'to purchase the trophy to commemorate the late Micheál Mac Eochaidh' (p.3487) while at the 12th of April 1978 Council meeting 'it was agreed that Corn Breathnach and Corn Mac Eochaidh alternate between the two [Accident Fund] Hurling competitions' (p.3546)