

**Connacht Provincial Council Minute Books,  
1934-1983**

**GAA/CON/01**



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## **Connacht Provincial Council Minute Books**

This collection of Connacht Provincial Council minute books was deposited in the GAA Museum Archive in 2010 by the officers of the Connacht 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 Connacht Provincial Council was formed in 1900 and administers the GAA throughout the five counties of Connacht; Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo.

The minute books contain the meeting minutes of the Connacht Provincial Council, subsidiary committees and the minutes of the Annual Provincial Conventions. [Not all Provincial Convention minutes are included].

The minutes of the Annual 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 and abroad.

Topics of note recorded in the minute books include the composition of the Connacht Council, in particular the elections of Provincial Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Treasurer) at the annual Provincial Conventions and the appointment of the Provincial Secretary; the establishment of subsidiary committees (finance committee, development committee, grounds committee, hurling committee etc); the financial situation of the Council; the administration, and development, of games and competitions throughout the Province including the inauguration of various competitions (Connacht Club Championships, Under 21 competitions etc); the fixing of dates and venues, the appointment of referees, the hearing of appeals and objections and the acquisition of trophies; the inclusion of Galway in the Munster hurling championships; the inclusion of New York and London in the Connacht Championships; the administration of the Accident Scheme / Fund throughout the Province; the organisation and administration of Gaelic games in the Connacht schools and colleges; the development of grounds throughout the Province including the administration of the various Provincial and Central Council Grounds Schemes; the effect World War II had on the Council; the administration of handball and camogie throughout the Province; the relationship between the Connacht Council and the Central

Council; the Council's 1916 commemorations and the Council's relationship with the media (print, radio and television)

### **Related Collections**

GAA Central Council Minute Books, 1899-1981 (GAA/CC/01)

GAA General Secretary Reports, 1910-2011 (GAA/CC/02)

Provincial Council of Britain Minute Books, 1952-1981 (GAA/PCB/01)

Munster Provincial Council Minute Books, 1928-1981 (GAA/MUN/01)

Leinster Provincial Council Minute Books, 1915-1981 (GAA/LEN/01)

**Title:** Connacht Provincial Council Minute Book, 1934-1955

**Code:** GAA/CON/01/01

**Covering Dates:** 11 March 1934-11 June 1955

**Extent:** 270pp

**Scope and Content:**

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Connacht Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the regular Provincial Council meetings, 1934-1955, and the minutes of the annual Provincial Conventions held in 1934 (pp.1-7); 1935 (pp.17-21); 1936 (pp.35-37); 1937 (pp.43-44); 1938 (pp.51-53); 1939 (pp.66-67); 1940 (pp.78-79); 1941 (pp.91-92); 1942 (pp.98-99); 1943 (pp.102-103); 1944 (pp.106-107); 1945 (pp.120-121); 1946 (pp.129-130); 1947 (pp.138-139); 1948 (pp.142-143); 1949 (pp.173-175); 1951 (p.200); 1952 (pp.218-220); 1953 (pp.235-237); 1954 (pp.254-255) and 1955 (pp.258-260)

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 Connacht.

Key motions passed at Provincial Conventions include a resolution calling on the 'Minister of External Affairs to conduct business on mourning note paper as protest against executions [of James McCormack and Peter Barnes] in defiance of united wishes of Irish people' (p.79); 'that a proper scoreboard be erected for all finals...cost of same to be deducted from rent of field' (p.174); 'a motion protesting against arrest and imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty' (p.174) and 'That we, the delegates to this 1954 Convention, reject the recommendation of Central Council re collective training' which was ruled out of order (p.255)

Key decisions taken by the Connacht Council include the decision to purchase a set of gold medals for the Connacht Junior Hurling Championship but not to present them unless Galway play in the final (p.22); a protest being registered with the Central Council against their decision not to appoint a Connacht man to accompany Mayo on their American tour (p.46); a request that the Central Council intervene in the dispute between the Camogie Association and the Galway Camogie Board (pp.87-88); a recommendation that the Central Council install a clock in Croke Park and that time-keepers be appointed for All-Ireland semi-finals and finals (p.155) and offers of cups from 'Messrs Kearney and Egan and Sons to go with the Senior Football Championships [being] deferred on it being suggested that the offers should come through the Secretary in the first instance' (p.213)

The elections of Chairmen of the Provincial Council recorded in the minutes include the re-election of Fr J O'Dea in 1934 (p.3); P Kilduff in 1937 (p.44); JJ Nestor in 1940 (p.79); McIntyre in 1943 (p.102); JP Brennan in 1945 (p.121); G Courell in 1949 (p.173) B Nestor in 1952 (p.219) and Daniel O'Rourke in 1955 (p.259)

At the 1942 Provincial Convention the motion that Daniel O'Rourke be nominated as President of the GAA was passed, with O'Rourke returning thanks and adding that 'it was time a Connacht man was elected. The idea in some peoples mind that a politician should not occupy such an office was foolish as most men had some political tendency. No one could ever say he allowed politics into the GAA and assured the Convention he would always stand for keeping politics outside the working of the Association' (p.99) O'Rourke was elected President of the GAA at the 1946 GAA Annual Congress; at the 1947 Connacht Convention the Chairman, JP Brennan, in his speech referred to 'rumours that Mr O'Rourke was being opposed for Presidency [and] declared such would be unfair as Mr O'Rourke deserved to be allowed to complete his term of office of three years and he thought it would be no harm if Connacht Gaels made it known that they expected that Mr O'Rourke would be allowed to complete his term without opposition. A motion to this effect was proposed...and supported by all five counties' (pp.138-139) O'Rourke was re-elected president of the GAA, unopposed, at the 1948 GAA Annual Congress.

The elections of secretaries of the Provincial Council include the re-election of P O Farrell in 1934 (p.3) and the election of Tomas Kilcoyne in 1935 (p.19) whose re-elections are recorded in the minutes of subsequent Provincial Conventions.

The organisation and administration of the various competitions throughout Connacht is recorded in the minutes. The Council minutes contain the reading and adoption of referee reports; the hearing of objections and appeals and all subsequent disciplinary procedures. At the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1948 Council meeting 'It was unanimously decided to play senior football final on second Sunday in July instead of the third Sunday' (p.155)

The grading of teams for competitions is a recurring theme throughout the minutes; at the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 1934 Council meeting 'It was decided to allow counties to select their second best teams (irrespective of club status) for the junior fball championships (inter-county). This decision to hold good in future championships until rescinded' (p.11) while 'a ruling was given from the Chair that only players who actually played in the Junior F'ball Final became automatically Seniors' (p.11)

The inauguration of various competitions in the Province is recorded in the minutes; at the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1934 Council meeting 'After some discussion it was decided to promote a three county league between Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon' (p.14); at the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1938 Council meeting 'it was decided to run a single league for 5 Connacht counties, Mayo and Galway to field second best teams' (p.49) while at the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1944 Council meeting 'It was decided to run a Connacht league Mayo and Galway in one division to play a double league with the other counties playing a single league' (p.104) At the 1949 Provincial Convention a 'motion from Galway that Connacht Football League be started was agreed to and making of fixtures was left to incoming Council' (p.174)

Two suggestions to inaugurate a Connacht Club Championship are recorded in the minutes; at the 1948 Provincial Convention a 'motion by Mayo for inauguration of individual club c'ship was discussed at length and finally was left over to next meeting to give Co Brds a chance to discuss' (p.142) while at the 1955 Convention the motion 'that Senior inter club competition in hurling and football between c'ship winners was declared lost as was motion 8 from Sligo that juvenile championship be established' (p.260)

The appointment of referees is recorded regularly in the minutes; at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1935 Council meeting, when organising the Connacht Senior Football Final between, Mayo and Galway, a neutral venue (Roscommon) was chosen as Galway would not agree to 'toss a coin for venue' (p.24) and, on the suggestion of Mayo, it was decided to appoint a Dublin referee with Mr Donnellan (Galway) stating that 'they would be the laughing stock of Ireland if they went outside Province for a referee' (p.25) At the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1938 Council meeting a Longford referee was appointed for the Mayo v Galway Connacht Senior Football Final with 'a number of delegates expressing dissatisfaction at not appointing a Connacht referee' (p.58) At the 1952 Provincial Convention 'Dissatisfaction was expressed at charge of £21 for referee of Senior Final. A number of delegates expressed the opinion that the remedy lay in selecting a referee from within the Province' (p.219)

Efforts to stimulate hurling throughout the Province are recorded in the minutes; at the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 1952 Council meeting 'It was decided to summon meeting of special committee (hurling) delegates...to draw up suggestions for the encouragement of hurling in the weaker counties' (p.204) At the 1952 Provincial Convention, in response to a Mayo suggestion to improve hurling outside of Galway, 'it was finally decided to form a committee consisting of two delegates from each county to devise ways and means of fostering hurling and report back to the Council' (p.219) At the 1953 Provincial Convention the Chairman, B

Nestor, referred to the 'backward state of hurling in some of the counties' and 'expressed the hope that efforts would be made to spread this game among the youth of the Province' (p.236) At the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1954 Council meeting 'It was decided to provide 100 hurleys for juveniles in each of four counties, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim and 200 in Galway at cost of 2/6 each' (p.240) while at the 1954 Provincial Convention the motion was passed 'That Connacht Council be requested to resume 4 County Hurling Competition' (p.255)

The provision of funds for the development of grounds throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes.

Father O'Dea, in his Chairman's address to the 1937 Provincial Convention, 'referred to financial state and advised new Council to avoid throwing money about in form of grants to Co Bds etc and instead to invest in grounds' (p.43)

A deputation from Roscommon appeared before the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1939 Council meeting 'requesting investment in Roscommon GAA Park. It was pointed out that nothing could be done till field was vested and trustees were advised to go ahead with vesting and that then the Council would consider case in a favourable manner' (pp.75-76) At the next Council meeting 'Mr O'Rourke intimated that it was decided to vest Roscommon field on the lines of Thurles field and he was advised to get in touch with Mr S Ryan on the matter' (p.76)

At the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1948 Council meeting 'it was decided to set aside a sum of £600 for investment in grounds' (p.155) while at the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1950 meeting 'it was decided to add £150 from General Fund to £350 for investment in Grounds and same was allotted as follows-Galway £200, Leitrim £200, Roscommon £100, Sligo and Mayo were promised £200 each in the coming year and Roscommon £100' (p.186) At the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1952 Council meeting 'The question of investing money in Grounds was then taken up. It was decided to set aside £1000 for this purpose. A delegation...attended on behalf of the New Park in Sligo and pointed out the great difficulties encountered in Sligo and appealed for special consideration...Finally it was decided to allocate £400 to Sligo and £150 to each of the other Co. Bds.' (p.217) A Galway delegation appeared before the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1954 Council meeting and 'outlined the work being done in connection with the new park in Galway City. They requested that the Connacht Council show their appreciation by investing £1000 in the park. The Chairman and other members congratulated the Gaels of Galway on the progress made in providing a Stadium worthy of the capital of the Province. Mr O'Rourke proposed...that Council invest £500 this year and £500 next year provided funds are available' (p.238)



It was proposed, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1948 Council meeting, that Tuam, Ballina and Roscommon be selected as Provincial venues so as to avail of grants from Central Council for development of grounds. A deputation...was appointed to attend a meeting of the trustees of Roscommon field' (p.147) while at the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1950 meeting 'It was decided to make following recommendation to Central Council should the usual £1000 be available, Tuam £400, Ballina and Roscommon £300 each' (pp.186-187) At the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 1951 Council meeting it was decided that 'Should the usual £1,000 be available from the Central Council for investment in grounds the following allocations were recommended Sligo Town park £300, Ballinamore £100, Tuam, Ballina and Roscommon £200 each. Mr Hackett mentioned Castlebar park and was assured it would get due consideration' (p.199) A request by the Mayo County Board, at the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 1953 Council meeting, 'that Castlebar Park be recognised as a Provincial Park was discussed. It was pointed out by Chairman that this could only be done at the expense of Ballina Park. It was decided to adjourn the matter to next meeting and ask Mayo Co Bd to try to come to some terms with Ballina Park Committee in the meantime' (p.221) At the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1954 Council meeting a delegation 'appeared on behalf of Castlebar Park and appealed for financial assistance as Committee was £7,000 in debt. After some discussions [it was agreed] that grant of £100 be made' (p.240) while at the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1955 meeting 'It was decided to grant £1000 to McHale Park, Castlebar-£500 to be paid this year and rest as soon as funds available. It was also agreed to bring grant to Sligo Park up to £1000-£200 to be paid this year' (p.260)

At the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1955 Council meeting 'The possibility of installing turnstiles at Provincial venues was discussed. Secretary was instructed to write to Mr O Keefe on the matter especially as to where [to source] the most reliable turnstiles' (p.263)

The effect World War II (1939-1945) had on the running of championships in the Province is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 1941 Provincial Convention 'Arising out of communication from Central Council it was agreed to abandon Minor and Junior Championships' (p.95) At the 1942 Provincial Convention 'it was proposed...that if at all possible minor c'ships in football be carried out if Central allowed same' (p.101) while at the 1944 Provincial Convention 'motions by Roscommon and Mayo that Minor C'ships be restarted were considered and Convention was unanimous in agreeing to resuming this c'ship if at all possible' (p.107) The Connacht Council, at their 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1945 meeting, fixtures for the Minor Championships were provisionally made with the 'secretary instructed to communicate with General Secretary re possibility of starting minor c'ships. It was calculated that it would take 40 [gallons] of petrol to run each minor match'

(p.112) The minutes of the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1945 Council meeting record the fixing of the venue and referee for the Connacht Minor Football Final (p.116)

The administration of the accident scheme throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes; at the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 1943 Council meeting 'it was agreed that all County Boards contribute 25% of excess of claims over contributions [in] Insurance Scheme' (p.101) while the Secretary, Kilcoyne, informed the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 1949 Council meeting that 'he was afraid Insurance Account would be exhausted after this year unless new scheme was devised' (p.167) At the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 1953 Council meeting 'On the question of accident claims Dr Mooney stated that there was a danger that some players might create a wrong impression that it was easy to succeed with claims if a person knew the right way to go about the matter. It was unanimously decided that in future before claim was paid minutes of Co Bd concerned, or at least extract from same, be provided to make sure matter had been discussed at Co Bd meeting and also that Referee's Report of match at which player was injured must be lodged with claim form together with Dr certificates' (pp.221-222)

In 1954 a new All-Ireland Accident Scheme was established by the Central Council, and replaced the independent Provincial Council schemes; at the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1954 Council meeting it was 'to ask Co Secs to make a special effort to get all clubs affiliated to Accident Scheme' (p.241) while at the 1955 Provincial Convention a suggestion was made that the Accident Scheme should cover 'loss of wages, [recovery] and hospital expenses as well as medical expenses' but 'it was pointed out the specific sum £4 per week for single men and £5 for married men for a period of up to 4 weeks was all scheme covered' (p.259)

The development of handball, through the Connacht Handball Committee, is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1952 Council meeting the 'Secretary was instructed to write to Connacht Handball Committee requesting that meeting of said Handball Committee be called to make recommendations concerning the investment of £100 set aside for improvement of alleys and asking that delegate be sent to next meeting of Council when recommendations would be considered' (p.210) At the following meeting 'Sgt Caulfield reported that in accordance with ruling of the previous meeting of Council ...[Handball] meeting had ratified the recommendation that the said £100 be allocated to Sligo and Leitrim...It was then decided to ask Handball Bd to hold a properly convened meeting and report its findings to the Council. It was pointed out by the Chairman that the same conditions required for investments in Grounds would be required in the case of alleys' (p.216) At the 1952 Provincial Convention two handball related motions were passed: 'That Annual General Meeting of Connacht Handball Council be held each year one month before

Connacht Convention and that reports and balance sheets as adopted at such meeting be submitted to Provincial Secretary three weeks before date of Provincial Convention so that copies thereof shall be circulated to each County Secretary' (p.220 and 'That Connacht Council and Central Council allocate a certain sum of money each year to be devoted towards erection or renovation of regulation handball alleys in each county in which active interest is being taken in handball' (p.220)

At the 1939 Provincial Convention, and in reaction to the Central Council's removal of Douglas Hyde as a Patron of the Association (for attending an international soccer match), the Chairman, P Kilduff, in his address, stated that 'There were members of the Association who were not carrying out the rules- members who attended foreign games. Such as these were worse than our enemies and would be dealt with seriously when found guilty' (p.66) At the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1949 Council meeting 'Sympathy was extended to relatives of late Douglas Hyde' (p.162)

The 1947 All-Ireland Football Final, played between Cavan and Kerry in the Polo Grounds, New York is briefly mentioned when, at the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1947 Council meeting '£50 was granted to Sec in connection with final in USA' (p.135) who subsequently reported, to the 1948 Provincial Convention, that the final was a thrill no one would easily forget to have the honour of being received at City Hall by Mayo born Mayor William O Dwyer' (p.142)

**Title:** Connacht Provincial Council Minute Book, 1955-1966

**Code:** GAA/CON/01/02

**Covering Dates:** 22 July 1955-2 November 1966

**Extent:** 183pp

**Scope and Content:**

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Connacht Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the regular Provincial Council meetings, 1955-1966, and the minutes of the annual Provincial Conventions held in 1956 (pp.13-14); 1957 (pp.31-33); 1958 (pp.48-49); 1959 (pp.61-64); 1960 (pp.76-77); 1961 (pp.89-90); 1962 (p.96); 1963 (p.97); 1964 (pp.132-133) and 1965 (pp.148-149).

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 Connacht.

Key motions considered at Provincial Conventions include 'That the players of a Parish divided by the county boundary be allowed to play in the part of the parish in which the parish priest resides, and that the parish boundary be the fixed dividing line between the two counties concerned' which was left to the Connacht Council (p.32) and subsequently withdrawn (p.34); 'That the last Sunday in July be a closed date in Connacht...It was agreed to keep matter in mind and not to have any matches that would interfere with Croagh Patrick pilgrimage' (p.33); 'Motion (4) that a selection committee be appointed to select Connacht Railway Cup football team...finally it was agreed that a 5 man committee with the representative of champion county as chairman be empowered to select said team. Chairman to have casting vote' (p.90) and 'that Provincial and Central Councils appoint a committee to standardise the rules governing referees was agreed to' (p.64);

Key decisions taken by the Connacht Council include that the Handball Council run its own affairs and submit an annual report and balance sheet, with the Connacht Secretary to attend Handball council meetings (p.34); an increase of £50 to the Secretary's honorarium (p.46); the deferral of a suggestion to commission a history of the GAA in Connacht until after publication of the official history of the Association (p.128); the Chairman ruling that Galway had the right to refuse the affiliation of University College Galway (UCG) to the Galway Senior Football Championship as such affiliation would 'be to the detriment of the weaker clubs' (p.136); the donation of GAA equipment to the Irish College in

Rome (p.145) and the decision that only members of the Council be entitled to attend meetings (p.147)

The elections of Chairmen of the Provincial Council recorded in the minutes include the re-election of Daniel O'Rourke in 1956 (p.13); Robert Ellis in 1958 (p.49); L Colleran in 1961 (p.90) and Denis Gallagher in 1964 (p.132)

The re-elections of Tomas Kilcoyne as Secretary of the Council are recorded in minutes of the Provincial Conventions, 1956-1965.

The management and development of grounds throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes, including the installation of turnstiles in Tuam stadium (p.14) and Castlebar (p.23) The minutes record the investments made by the Council in the various grounds within the Province and the decision, at the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 1961 Council meeting, 'that a small committee be set up to go into the question of investments in grounds with a view to arriving at maximum figure for club, county and provincial grounds. Figures of £250, £500 and £1000 were suggested but nothing definite was agreed on. It was agreed to set up such a committee in the New Year' (p.102) while at the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1964 meeting the 'following scale of investments in grounds were agreed on-Club Grounds £250 with further £250 when dressing rooms with running water and sewerage are completed; County Grounds £1,000 with further £500 when dressing rooms with running water and sewerage are completed; Provincial Grounds £2,500' (p.130)

The development of Castlebar Park features in the minutes; at the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 1965 Council meeting 'It was agreed to provide £600 a year for 5 years for Castlebar Park. It was agreed to advance £500 at end of 1<sup>st</sup> year of improvement scheme' (p.145) while at the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1966 meeting 'In Connacht Castlebar was selected as Provincial Ground with £11,000 allocated to said Park, Bord na bPaire to advance £5,500 and the Provincial Council and Castlebar Committee the other £5,500' (p.163)

The administration of the accident scheme is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1956 Council meeting it was decided that injuries occurring during seven-a-side tournaments were not covered by the scheme (p.23) At the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1960 meeting 'It was agreed to raise the weekly payment for married men to £7' (p.81) At the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1960 Council meeting 'It was agreed to run special competition for Gael Linn Cup profits to go to Accident Scheme' (p.85) while at the next meeting the 'Thanks of the meeting were extended to Gael Linn for presenting a Cup for Accident Scheme and also to Mr Fahy who was responsible for approaching Gael Linn on the matter' (p.86)

The management of tournaments within the Province is a topic within the minutes; at the 1959 Provincial Council the motion that the 'Hurling Junior Championship be run on League System' was referred to the Council (p.63) who subsequently agreed (p.65) At the 1960 Provincial Convention the motion 'That Juvenile Hurling Competition for boys under 16 years...lead to some discussion...[delegates] advised against such inter-county competition as in general parents and guardians were opposed to allowing boys travel long distance. Motion was withdrawn' (p.77) while at the 1961 Provincial Convention 'Motion (1) by Leitrim that an inter-county minor football league be set up was agreed to' (p.89)

The inauguration of a Connacht Club Football Championship is recorded in the minutes; at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1956 Council meeting 'In connection with Inter Club C'ships, a number of delegates were of opinion that this competition should not be encouraged. It was agreed to allow [by] this year and review the position next year' (p.8) At the 1958 Provincial Convention a 'Motion by Mayo 'that Club Championship be run' led to some discussion as majority of delegates were opposed to same on grounds that it would be difficult to run same without interfering with Co Championships. Mayo delegates withdrew the motion' (p.49) while at the 1959 Provincial Convention 'Motion 6 by Mayo that Council inaugurate a club championship in football was carried by 21 votes to 10 it being agreed that Council have no financial commitment' (pp.63-64) At the 1962 Provincial Convention the motion 'That Club Championship be inaugurated' was referred to the Connacht Council (p.96) who, at their 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1962 meeting, 'decided to ask various Co Bds to sponsor the running of the c'ship in Tuam and this year Castlebar were given authority to run same. It was decided to subsidise same up to £100' (p.105) However, at the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 1963 Council meeting 'It was agreed to finish 1961 Club Championship and then discontinue the competition' (p.119)

Galway's entry into the Munster Hurling Championship is recorded in the minutes; at the 1959 Provincial Convention T O Dolain said that the Secretary's report 'should have contained reference to special hurling committee and proposed entry of Galway to Munster for hurling. Secretary pointed out that only one meeting of special hurling was held and there was little to report concerning it. Regarding Galway going into Munster Secretary pointed out there were many other legislators in Galway who were qualified to deal with the matter' (p.62) Later at this Convention 'Motion 7 by Galway that Galway be allowed to compete in Munster Senior, Junior and Minor Hurling Championships led to a long discussion...[Roscommon delegates] opposed the allowing of Galway Junior and Minor teams to compete in Munster and maintained it was a retrograde step. Dr



Fullors asked permission to propose that only Seniors be allowed into Munster. Chairman said he could not take this proposition as invitation specified all three teams...motion was declared carried' (p.64) Ellis, in his Chairman's address to the 1960 Provincial Convention, stated that 'The entry of Galway into Munster did not seem to bear much fruit but they could not yet form an opinion on the matter' (p.76)

Efforts to improve and popularise hurling in the Province are recorded throughout the minutes; at the 1961 Provincial Convention 'Motion (2) that the Convention consider the position of hurling in the Province led to a long discussion and finally it was agreed that a committee of 5-one from each county-be set up to consider ways and means of improving the position of hurling' (p.89) When this Hurling Committee met, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1961, they made four recommendations for the consideration of the Connacht Council including '1. Junior and Minor Hurling Championships be run again this year as previously...2. That juvenile inter-county hurling competition be inaugurated and that it be run in Sept and Oct. Delegates were of opinion that this was the best step that could be taken to promote hurling in the province...4. That prior to selection of Connacht Railway Cup hurling team a trial match between Galway and the rest of Connacht be played' (p.92) The Council, at their 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1961 meeting, disagreed with the recommendation to have a trial match between Galway and the rest of Connacht but agreed to the other three recommendations deciding that the juvenile competition be inaugurated in 1961 and run 'in conjunction with Gael Linn competition and on knock out system' (p.93)

The procurement of cups and trophies is recorded in the minutes including the decision to acquire a cup for the Connacht Senior Football Championship, to be called the Nestor Cup in memory of JJ Nestor (pp.41 &42); the decision to purchase a trophy for the Junior Football Championship (p.169) and the decision to contact Central Council re accepting a trophy from a commercial firm for the Minor Football Championship (p.169)

The Council decided, at their 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1958 meeting, that all delegates names would be recorded in the minutes in Irish (p.42). At the 1958 Provincial Convention the Chairman urged the Council to make a special effort to revive the Irish language, he also suggested the possibility of establishing a Connacht Council sponsored scholarship to the Gaeltacht (p.48). At the 1964 Provincial Convention the motion 'That at least one County Board and one Provincial Council meeting be conducted in Irish' was discussed with 'Mr Mc [Gittrich] Sligo [suggesting] that the motion be rejected but when it was pointed out that all the motion aimed at was to encourage the use of the Irish language he withdrew his objection and motion was carried unanimously. The motion only applies to

Provincial meetings' (p.132) The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1964 Council meeting are recorded completely in Irish (pp.142-143)

Connacht Council's contributions to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the 1916 Rising are recorded in the minutes; at the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 1966 Council meeting 'Regarding 1916 commemoration ceremonies Co Bds were given permission to co-operate with local committees or arrange their own committees. It was agreed to hold meeting of Provincial Commemoration Committee consisting of one from each County' (p.162) The minutes of the 1916 Commemoration Committee meeting, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1966, record that 'The following points were recommended to the Council for adoption 1. Complete co-operation with local committees 2. Co Committees not to organise any function without prior consultation with local committees 3. Any known Connacht veterans be invited to Provincial dinner to be held early in April 4. Surviving members of Roscommon v Mayo 1916 Connacht finalists be also invited to dinner 5. Recommended to each Co Bd to hold a commemorative concert. 6. That the Connacht Council in conjunction with Co Board and Coisde na bPairec implement scholarship scheme to western Gaeltacht for one boy or girl annually in each County. This to be confined to under 14 national school children...8. That 1916 Proclamation be read by Chairman or his nominee prior to start of Provincial Final. Committee recommended that the reading be preceded by a fanfare of trumpets' (p.166) At the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 1966 sub-committee meeting, to organise the 1916 dinner, it was decided to name the Irish scholarship the 'Pearse Scholarship' (p.173) while at the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1966 Council meeting Mr O'Dolain, Roscommon, inquired why the Proclamation had not been read before the football final with the Chairman taking responsibility for 'what took place' (p.179)

The question of unauthorised match programmes is raised in the minutes, in particular the suspension of the Eoin Rua club. At the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1958 Council meeting 'The question of the issue of unauthorised programmes by Eoin Rua Club Roscommon on the occasion of Senior Football Final was then taken up. M O'Ruairc said this was a serious matter as the club in question had flouted the authority of the Council...It was finally decided...that Eoin Rua Club be asked to apologise to Council for their action and lodge the £27-10-0 to credit of Council. Recalled the Eoin Rua delegates refused to either apologise or lodge the money. They were...given one month to carry out the Council's wishes' (p.54) At the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1958 Council meeting representatives of Eoin Rua 'when called before the meeting refused to either apologise or refund the money. A number of delegates...pointed out offence was a serious one...proposed that Eoin Rua club be suspended until they apologised and to Council and lodge money to credit of Council. This was carried by 8 votes to 5'



(p.59) At the 1959 Provincial Convention the motion 'That sale of programmes be left to County Boards in which fixture takes place was after long discussion carried by 14 votes to 12' (p.63)

**Title:** Connacht Provincial Council Minute Book, 1966-1976

**Code:** GAA/CON/01/03

**Covering Dates:** 31 March 1966-11 November 1976

**Extent:** c.384pp

**Scope and Content:**

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the meeting minutes of the Connacht Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the regular Provincial Council meetings, 1966-1976, and the minutes of the annual Provincial Conventions held in 1966 (pp.5-8); 1968 (pp.20-21 & 38); 1969 (p.63); 1970 (pp.76 & 75); 1971 (p.83); 1972 (p.106) and 1973 (pp.167-171).

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 Connacht.

Key motions considered at Provincial Conventions include 'When referees are appointed by the Referees Committee, that the same Committee appoints Linesmen and Umpires' (p.7) and 'That the Connaught Council make an annual grant of £100 to each Co. Board in the Province towards the remuneration of Co. Secretaries' which was carried as a recommendation (p.171)

Key decisions taken by the Connacht Council include confirmation from the Council that day pupils attending boarding schools were not eligible to participate in the Connacht Minor Football League (p.209); a £500 grant towards Páirc Ui Chaoimh (p.213); the running of an essay competition entitled 'Can Connacht Final arrangements be improved upon' (p.218); the deferral of an application from Connacht Ladies Football for financial assistance (p.230) and a decision to help the Camogie Association re-organise in the Province (p.250)

The elections of Chairmen of the Provincial Council recorded in the minutes include the re-election of Denis Gallagher in 1966 (p.6); the election of B Nestor in 1969 (p.63); D Keenan in 1970 (p.75) and Aiden McGowan in 1973 (p.170)

The re-election of Tomas Kilcoyne as Secretary of the Council is recorded in the minutes of the 1966 Provincial Convention (p.6). Kilcoyne, however, was not able to attend this Convention and John J Fahey acted as Secretary. At the 1968 Provincial Convention 'At the outset the Chairman proposing a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Dan O'Rourke and the late Tom Kilcoyne said that

there were two vacant seats at this meeting which it would be hard to fill. No words of his could adequately express the great worth of these men' with the minutes recording Fahey as 'Treasurer and Secretary' (p.27)

At the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1969 Council meeting 'The Chairman outlined the proposals re appointment of Regional Officers. A Regional Organiser would be appointed for each Province and if satisfactory he would eventually become Secretary...He would be the link between Clubs, Provincial and Central Council. In the case of Connacht 80% of the salary would be paid by the Central Council when the Officer became Secretary and prior to that his salary would be paid by Central Council. The appointments would be made from interviews and 3 names would be presented to the Provincial Council to select from...After a brief discussion it was decided to defer making a decision until full details were available' (p.33) After two more deferrals (pp.41 & 43) Pat Fanning, President of the GAA attended the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1970 Council meeting, and explained that 'It was necessary that we be serviced by professional people whose entire working life would be devoted to the Association' (p.67) The Council then 'agreed that the machinery be set up to make the appointment of a Regional officer' (p.67)

At the adjourned 1970 Provincial Convention 'it was agreed that the Council would decide whether it would have a Secretary or a Regional Officer and this would be done at a meeting of the Council' (p.75) At the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1972 Council meeting 'It was agreed that the most opportune time for the new Secretary to take over would be in September. The appointment will be made by the Council from nominees from all five counties in the Province. Nomination forms will be sent out in July and the appointment made at a special meeting in September' (p.88) At the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1972 Council meeting 'S.S. O'Fathaigh was declared elected and he returned thanks to the Council for honouring him with the appointment' (p.100)

At the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1974 Council meeting 'At the outset the Chairman proposed a vote of sympathy with the wife and family of the late John J Fahey and paid tribute to the great and life-long work that John did for the GAA and particularly for the Connacht Council, of which he was an officer for close on forty years...It was then decided...that the Treasurer H Gallagher act as Secretary until the next meeting of the Council' (p.193) At the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1974 Council meeting 'It was decided to circularise County Secretaries that the position of Connacht Council Secretary is now vacant and that Council would welcome opinions of County Boards on the following points, before making their appointment, viz: Whether Secretary be permanent or temporary. Whether he be full time or part time. Should position rotate between the five counties' (p.195) while at the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1975 meeting 'Letters from all Connacht counties giving their

recommendations re conditions and terms for new Secretary were read, and after discussion it was felt that the following recommendations should be acceptable to all the counties:- (1) That position be part-time (2) That there be a probation period of two years (3) That he should be elected by Council (4) That Secretary retire at 65 years of age. Members were agreed that these recommendations should be put before the delegates at Convention for their acceptance' (p.205) At the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 1975 meeting 'The election was then proceeded with and resulted in S O'Muilbigh (Maigh Eo) being elected by 7 votes to 6 for T. Mac Giolla Cadain (Sligeach) on the eight count' (p.209)

The Council, at their 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1976 meeting, and 'arising from a motion passed at An Comhdhail Bliantuil of An Comhairle two years ago' agreed that 'the post of Cisteoir should rotate every 3 years, the following order of rotation was agreed upon by the Council...Roscomain, Sligeach, Maigh Eo, Gaillimh, Liathdroma' (p.276)

The management and development of grounds throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes; at the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1971 meeting 'It was agreed to form a Provincial Grounds Committee consisting of the Council and one representative of each county, to be nominated by the counties. This committee would examine all applications for grants and make recommendations to the Council' (p.81) T Meagher, Publisher of Solo and Cul, Dublin, attended the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 1973 Council meeting 'and outlined a scheme for advertising in selected grounds in the Province and asked for permission to proceed with the Scheme. It was decided to postpone the decision until enquiries were made from the Management Committee' (p.113) At the same meeting 'It was decided that the Chairman, Dr Keenan and the Secretary would investigate the position and make enquiries as to getting coverage for all the grounds in Connacht. A report was to be submitted at the next meeting' (p.113)

The management of the various Connacht tournaments is recorded throughout the minutes.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1976 Council meeting the 'Chairman said at last meeting of Central Council Executive it was agreed that Counties be asked to discuss Under 21 Championship and Junior in Hurling and Football as it was felt that programme was overloaded' (p.2); at the 1968 Provincial Convention the motion 'That Minor and Under 21 Championships be played on week evenings was agreed to whenever possible' (p.20) while at the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1969 meeting 'It was recommended that Inter-Co Club Championships be run by Counties in Juvenile, the Council to present set medals' (p.37) The Council, at their 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 1973 meeting, 'unanimously decided not to run Under-14 competitions

at County Level' (p.156) At the 1973 Convention the motion 'That in drawing up the schedule of fixtures for the Connaught Championship in senior football, allowance be made for possible re-fixtures of drawn games, so that the schedule will not have to be altered later on in the season' was passed unanimously (p.171) At the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1976 meeting 'Prior to tossing for the venue it was agreed by the Council members...that in the future the venue would rotate. After Mayo had won the toss for this year's venue the following rotation system was agreed to:-Mayo, Sligo, Galway, Roscommon, Leitrim' (pp.266-268)

At the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1966 Council meeting the running of a club football championship was discussed with 'Mountbellew, Collooney, Melvin Gaels and Claremorris Club...represented. Before the representatives withdrew to make the fixtures they were told the Council would present a set of medals but would not be responsible for any other expenses and the clubs would also have to look after advertising' (p.1) At the 1966 Provincial Convention the motion 'That a Connacht Club Championship be sponsored by the Connacht Council' was discussed and it was 'proposed that a representative of the Champion Club in each County be called to a meeting and let them decide...Mr McGettick, Sligo, suggested that each of the Champion clubs be written to asking them if they were interested. If they were they could be invited to the meeting suggested. The Council agreed to this' (p.7) At the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1967 Council meeting fixtures for the 1966 Club Championship were made with the conditions that 'Matches to be played not later than May 18<sup>th</sup>. Gates to be lodged to the credit of Council which will later distribute same, Council's only liability is to supply a set of medals to the winner' (p.9) The Council, at their 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1969 meeting agreed to abandon the 1967 Club Championship and fixtures for the 1968 competition were made' (p.41) At the 1973 Provincial Convention the motion 'That the Connaught Club Championships, Hurling and Football, be commenced in October and finished before the end of the year' was passed as a recommendation (p.171)

The proposed inauguration of a Provincial hurling league is recorded in the minutes; at the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 1970 meeting 'There was a discussion on the Central Councils proposals regarding the Hurling League which was that the four counties play a league in the Spring and this would also be the championship. All four counties indicated that they would participate in a league but it was felt that there should be a league and a championship' (p.69) while at the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1974 meeting 'It was agreed to communicate with Sligo, Mayo and Leitrim to explore the possibility of running a hurling league for clubs who are interested. The Chairman and Secretary of these Co Boards are to be asked for their views. A delegate from each interested club is to be invited to next meeting' (p.178)

The procurement of trophies for various competitions is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 1967 Council meeting the 'Chairman pointed out that GAA had honoured P.W. Nally by naming stand in his honour and suggested Mayo County Board should put up a trophy' (p.15) At the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1973 meeting 'The Secretary, J.J. Fahey, presented a cup for the Connacht U-21 Football Championship. The Chairman and delegates thanked him for his generosity' (p.121) while at the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 1976 meeting 'A proposal...that the Council donate a trophy for the Connacht Club Football Championship to perpetuate the memory of the late Sean O Falaigh former Treasurer and Secretary of the Council was deferred' (p.268) The Council, at their 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1976 meeting, 'thanked the Webb family Ballyhaunis for so kindly donating the Ted Webb Memorial Trophy for the winners of the new Under 16 Championship' (p.346)

The return of Galway to the Connacht Hurling Championship is recorded in the minutes; the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 1970 Council meeting record that 'Before the Council met there was a discussion on Hurling during which Mr G Cloherty thanked the counties for supporting Galway's motion at Congress to be allowed to return to Connacht. M. Loftus said that he hoped this would give a fillip to hurling. As Galway will be intermediate it was agreed that the other four counties should be allowed to play junior this year and the winners to go intermediate in 1971' (p.64)

The inclusion of London and New York in the Connacht Football Championships is recorded in the minutes; at the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 1974 Council meeting 'Mr P Tully proposed that London Senior footballers be admitted to the Connacht Championship for year 1975 (one year only), to play Mayo in first round...Mr T Lyons proposed that this Council would give a total grant of £500 (five hundred pounds) to Coiste Conndae Lonndain for the first-round game and the ordinary grant of £150 for any subsequent game in the championship, and that all games would take place at a Connacht venue...The date for the Mayo v London game is fixed for 1<sup>st</sup> June '75 at Castlebar' (p.199) while at the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1975 Council meeting 'An application from London to be included in the 1976 Connacht Championship was granted and referred to the Activities Committee' (p.232) The Council, at their 14<sup>th</sup> of October 1976 meeting, 'agreed to accept New York Minors into the Connacht [Football] Championship 1977 and it was decided with Sligo's agreement that they play Sligo at Sligo on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the winners to play Leitrim' (p.364)

The proposed appointment of a Provincial Hurling Officer and the establishment of a Provincial Hurling Committee are recorded in the minutes; at the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1975 Council meeting the appointment of a part-time Provincial Hurling



Officer was deferred (p.34) while county boards were asked to nominate representatives to the Provincial Coiste Iomana (p.234). The minute book contains the minutes of the inaugural meeting, held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1975, of the newly appointed Provincial Coiste Iomana at which A O Maoibaille was formally declared Chairman of the Committee (pp.262-264) At the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1976 Council meeting the minutes of the Provincial Coiste Iomána were adopted with the Council noting that 'the Coisde Iomana had offered the appointment of Hurling Officer to Galway Hurler (Sean Silke). The latter had not yet accepted the post as he was presently abroad. It was pointed out that he would be available only during the months of July, August, September and December and that the Council would be expected to bear half the cost of his salary £500 and expenses £300. The Council agreed that the Coisde Iomana work plan should be submitted to it' (p.334)

The formation of a Provincial Referees Committee is recorded in the minutes; Miceál O Lachtúis informed the Council, at their 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1976 meeting, that 'each Province would be forming its own Referees Committee with 1 rep from each county. They would not be appointing referees but would be dealing principally with the application of rules. Referees applications of the rules would be under scrutiny' (p.280) The minutes contain a letter from Sean McManamon informing the Sean O Muilbigh, Connacht Secretary, that McManamon had been made Secretary of the Referees Committee and naming the other nine members of the committee (p.291) At the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 1976 Council meeting M O Lachtúis informed the Council 'that at a recent meeting of Provincial referees a system of grading was set up whereby referees from the various counties were graded A, B or C with recommendations that they be appointed to take charge of Provincial Championship games in Senior, Under-21 and Minor grades in accordance with directions from the National Referees Advisory Council...the Council decided...that referees officiating at Provincial finals all grades (hurling and football) be presented with trophies similar to those presented to the winning teams in the various grades' (pp.314-316)

The Council's reaction to the outbreak of political violence in the North of Ireland is recorded in the minutes; at the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 1969 Council meeting 'A McGowan said that they should give the support to their Northern Brothers in their fight for justice' (p.57) while at the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1971 Council meeting 'It was agreed to accede to the request of the Secretary of the Ulster Council to supply a set of Connacht jerseys with crests for use by Internees in Long Kesh camp' (p.65) At the 1973 Provincial Convention 'The outgoing Chairman Dr Keenan in his address said it would be appropriate for them to ask that Casement Park and Crossmaglen be handed back to the rightful owners. Dr Keenan said

that if this goodwill was shown by the people now occupying these parks, they as a 32 county organisation would do all in their power to influence peace and justice in the part of the country which was not governed by themselves. These remarks brought about loud applause from the delegates.' (p.168)

At the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1969 Council meeting 'The Chairman gave particulars of invitation received for Connacht team to go to USA for Cardinal Cushing games. The invitation was for 16 players and two officials...the invitation was accepted...The Chairman said he could not go and he was nominating Keenan. He also proposed that the acting Secretary should go and this was agreed to' (pp.43-44) while at the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1969 meeting 'Dr Keenan said that the tour was most successful. They won three of the five games. The conduct of all players was a credit to all...he said that they had got a trophy and he would see that it was handed to the captain' (p.49)



**Title:** Connacht Provincial Council Minute Book, 1976-1983

**Code:** GAA/CON/01/04

**Covering Dates:** 11 November 1976-3 July 1983

**Extent:** c.388pp

**Scope and Content:**

Minute book, in bound volume form, containing the handwritten meeting minutes of the Connacht Provincial Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The minute book contains the minutes of the regular Provincial Council meetings 1976-1983. The minutes of the 1976-1983 Provincial Conventions are not included in this minute book.

The minute book contains a record of 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 Connacht.

Key decisions taken by the Connacht Council include the subscription of £100 to the Sean O Siochain retirement presentation (pp.82-83); that all inter-county referees in Connacht be given complimentary passes to all Connacht championship games (p.109); a contribution of £1,000 towards the visit of Pope John Paul II (pp.109-113); the donation of £100 to the Christy Ring memorial fund (p.133); support pledged to Monsignor Horan in his efforts to obtain a regional airport for Connacht (p.170); the decision to abolish all training grants given to Provincial winners in various grades and to take this into account when deciding on the new scale of expenses (p.196); a £5000 grant towards the development of the Loughrea House (p.260); the appointment of Donal Keenan as Provincial Patron (p.277); a £500 grant to the Michael Davitt memorial (p.331) and a £100 grant to the Sam Maguire Memorial Committee (p.331)

The development of grounds throughout the Province is recorded in the minutes; at the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1978 it was decided that, under the new County Grounds Scheme, 'Hyde Park Roscommon be allocated whatever sum is apportioned to Connacht for 1978 under the new Ard Comhairle County Grounds Scheme. The other four County Grounds Committees in the Province were entitled to forward their recommendations accompanied by plans to the Council, when the latter would decide on the order of rotation for the remaining four years' (p.71) At the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1979 meeting it was decided that 'the Council allocate a sum of £8,000 to the Roscommon Scheme in the coming year (1979). Following a draw from a hat it was agreed that Mayo would be next on the list in 1980, and Galway

in 1981' (p.89) The grant of £8,000 to Hyde Park was doubled to £16,000 at the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1980 meeting (p.155)

The administration of the Provincial accident scheme is recorded throughout the minutes; at the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 1978 meeting it was decided that all accident claims would have to be examined by their respective county committees before being forwarded to the Council and since Co Boards have to refund to the Council a percentage of benefits which exceed the stipulated figure all claims coming through the Co Boards should be accompanied by a recommendation as to the amount of benefit to be considered by the Council' (p.76) At the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 1978 meeting 'The Officers of the Council agreed to suggest to the Auditor, that in view of the healthy state of the Accident Fund, only 5% of the Gate Receipts be added to the fund for this and future years, until circumstances oblige us to revert to 7½% as in previous years' (p.81)

The development of hurling in the Province is recorded throughout the minutes; in particular the work of the Coisde Iomana and the Hurling Officer.

At the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1977 meeting between members of the Council and the hurling committee 'it was agreed that for the efficient running of hurling competitions, coaching courses and related matters, the Coiste Iomana would organise and supervise the running of same with the exception of Provincial Club Hurling Champ, fixtures for which would be made by Activities Committee as heretofore. Coiste Iomana to appoint referees for the competitions under its control. Any objections arising from competitions organised by Coiste Iomana would be dealt with by the latter. Dissatisfied parties would have a right of appeal to Comhairle Connachta' (p.22) At the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1977 Council meeting 'Copies of the agreement reached between the officers of the Council and the officers of An Coiste Iomana were circulated. The agreement was adopted...all of the points were accepted and the new agreement was to last for 3 years. The Council however thought it would be more prudent to review the financial grant annually' (p.26)

At the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1979 Council meeting the 'Chairman of An Coiste Iomana informed the meeting that the post of Provincial Hurling Officer was to be re-advertised' (p.102) At the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1979 Council meeting 'Mr Phonsie Tully, Chairman of An Coiste Iomana informed the meeting that his committee were recommending the appointment of Mr Des Donnelly, Kylebrack, Loughrea, as the new Provincial Hurling Officer...the Council sanctioned the appointment of Mr Donnelly' (p.116) At the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1980 Council meeting Micheál de Búrca, Secretary of the Hurling Committee, reported that 'the new Hurling officer had visited each county in addition to attending the various county conventions. At

present his services were not being availed of by the counties and the hurling officer was not to blame for that situation' (p.171)

At the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1981 Council meeting A O Maoiltuille, Chairman of the Hurling Committee, reported that 'there were 3 applications for the post of Hurling Officer and Coiste Iomana were recommending that Joe Henry (Mayo) and PJ Qualter (Galway) be appointed joint hurling officers for the Province...Coiste Iomana's recommendation was accepted. A further suggestion that the joint hurling officers be paid £1,000 each (£500 of which would be spent on travelling) was also accepted' (p.247) The Council, at their 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1982 meeting, were informed that O Maoiltuille had retired as Chairman of the Hurling Committee and been replaced by N O Fearcair (p.277)

The inclusion of London and New York in the Connacht championships is documented throughout the minutes.

The Council, at their 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1980 meeting, increased the annual grant to London from £500 to £750 (p.158) but at the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1980 meeting opposition was expressed to the London suggestion that their opponents in the 1981 championship travel to London for the fixture (p.169) At the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1980 meeting, however, the Council agreed to Mayo's suggestion that they would travel to London for the 1981 fixture 'provided that satisfactory arrangements are made for a travel group of 30 players and officials' (p.187) At the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1981 meeting 'The Chairman said that all arrangements had been completed for Mayo's trip to London and the President of the Association, as well as the Ard Stiurthoir were travelling with the team' (p.222) while the Chairman and Secretary reported to the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1981 meeting that the fixture, played at Ruislip, had made a profit of £2,000 (pp.227-228)

At the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 1982 Council meeting 'a letter from London County Board requested the Council to include the London team in the Connacht Championship draws for 1983 pending final decision from Ard Comhairle regarding revival of Junior Championship. Either way London expressed a desire to retain its links with Comhairle Chonnachta and suggested a meeting with the officers' (p.319) At the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1983 meeting 'As a result of a request from the London GAA Board the Senior Championship Game between Sligo and London was fixed for May 29<sup>th</sup> at Markievicz Park...In light of the experience over the last two years, and bearing in mind the financial loss suffered, the Council decided it could not permit the situation to continue further. Furthermore the Council decided that the maximum offer it could make to the visiting London team would be £1000 for the game against Sligo' (p.351) However, at the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1983 meeting, the Council agreed to allow Sligo to fulfil their championship

fixture in Ruislip provided that the London County Board guaranteed Sligo's expenses and forwarded the Council £4,500 to cover the costs (pp.356-357) which the London County Board agreed to (p.362) At the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1983 Council meeting the Chairman, Tomas O Cuinneagain, reported that the game at Ruislip was a success with gate receipts of £3,200 and that London 'appeared to be anxious to take part in the Connacht championship again in 1984' (p.363)

At the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1979 Council meeting 'The Secretary read a letter from New York GAA asking that New York be allowed to participate in the 1979 Connacht Gael Linn competition at the semi-final stage...The letter further requested that the Home Winners should travel to New York to play the latter in the final of the 1980 competition, and that discussions concerning this be held between representatives of Connacht Council and New York GAA' (p.82) The Council 'unanimously agreed to accept New York into the Gael Linn tournament...and further decided subject to ratification by the Ard Comhairle to give New York a bye to the 1979 final and to hold discussions with New York representatives during Congress weekend 1979' (p.82)

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1981 Council meeting 'the Chairman, who had only returned from USA a few days previously reported to the Council on his meeting with New York GAA officers concerning next years Gael Linn final in New York...The normal out of pocket expenses would be paid to players during their stay in New York. The party would consist of 21 players and two officials from the visiting county; two Connacht Council officials and Referee. Total 26. The competition would be decided on the best aggregate score from two games and admission would be 5 dollars. Mr J.K. O'Donnell informed Dr Loftus that Gaelic Park would be rent free. New York would be responsible for the air fares of the visiting party and accommodation for the players while in New York was under examination' (pp.118-119)

At the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1980 meeting the Chairman. Michael Loftus, reported that 'he had been in contact by phone with New York and they had told him that the winners of the Gael Linn Cup would be welcome to play New York on Sundays Sept 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> at Gaelic Park' (p.146) At the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1980 meeting Loftus reported that New York had accepted the Councils suggested dates for the Gael Linn final in New York; it would be played between Galway and New York 'on two Sundays to decide the destination of the trophy and aggregate scores would count. Admission each day had been fixed at five dollars' (p.169) while the Council allocated £1000 in expenses, from the gate receipts of the Gael Linn 'Home Final' to the travelling Galway team (p.177) At the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1980 meeting the Chairman, Micheál O Lachtuain, reported that the Gael Linn final in New York showed a loss of \$4,000 but 'otherwise the competition was

very successful...New York's victory had done a great deal for the competition and they were determined to retain the trophy when they visited Ireland next year' (p.188) At the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1981 Council meeting 'In view of the recent New York invitation to the winners of the Gael Linn to travel to New York for the final against the holders there were applications from Sligo and Leitrim who had been previously eliminated to be readmitted to the competition. By 8 votes to 3 the Council decided to readmit Sligo, Leitrim and Clare and referred making of fixtures to the Activities Committee' (p.229) while at the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 1981 meeting it was agreed that the Gael Linn final be played in New York on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1981 'with aggregate scores to count as last year' (p.249) At the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1981 meeting it was agreed that A Kerry v Galway challenge game would take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> instead of the first leg of the Gael Linn final with further agreement that the Gael Linn final would be played over one leg on October 18<sup>th</sup> (pp.251-252) At the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1981 meeting the Chairman reported that the Gael Linn final was a success 'socially and financially...mainly due to the Kerry v Galway game on the first Sunday' (p.258)

At the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1981 meeting the Chairman reported that while in New York for the Gael Linn final he had a meeting with the New York Minor Board 'which runs its affairs independently of the Senior New York Board' and that the Minor Board were 'most anxious to remain in the All-Ireland minor championship even though they were not up to the standard. A further suggestion was made which would require a lot of further discussion before any decision could be reached. The suggestion was that the Connacht Minor Champions would travel to New York this year and play New York minors on a two-leg basis-the winners to play in the All-Ireland semi-final' The Council agreed to consider this proposal (p.259) and at their 21<sup>st</sup> of January 1981 meeting the Chairman informed them that 'it now seemed likely that Ard Comhairle would permit the winners of this year's Connacht minor championship to travel to play New York Minors in the quarter-final of the All-Ireland championship' (p.267)

The Council's relationship with the media is recorded throughout the minutes.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1979 Council meeting the Secretary, Sean O Muilbigh, briefed delegates on a meeting he had attended with the National Press; O Muilbigh informed the meeting that 'Mr Mick Dunne, Spokesman for the National Press, complained that Press and T.V. facilities at many Provincial venues were inadequate. If improvements were not forthcoming the press might decline to attend games at Provincial venues. Accommodation should be covered and Press Boxes should be easily accessible as well as having telephone communication with dressing rooms to enable pressmen to obtain late personnel

changes in teams. Committees should be more co-operative in admitting Press or T.V. to dressing rooms' (pp.87-88)

The Chairman, Micheál O Lochlainn, informed the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1981 meeting that 'despite strong recommendations from two meetings of An Coiste Bainisti, RTE were apparently unwilling to give any coverage to the Connacht Final on the "Sunday Game" programme. In his view the excuses offered by RTE for their decision were not good enough i.e. technical difficulties and insufficient time to edit...RTE had offered to send down an outside broadcast unit to televise the game for showing on RTE 2 on Monday night but he didn't think this was good enough. Correspondence on the matter from Páirc an Chrócaigh urged that the Council should accept RTE's offer. The Council members unanimously decided that the Secretary should draft a letter asking An Coiste Bainisti to make further representations to RTE. In the event of no satisfactory reply being received the Council unanimously decided that all T.V. and radio facilities to RTE would be withdrawn' (p.230) The minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1981 Officers meeting record that the Officers 'saw no reason to change their decision to withdraw all facilities to RTE and instructed the Secretary to convey their decision to Páirc an Chrócaigh. Subsequent pressures by phone and letter and the intervention of Mr Con Murphy influenced the Secretary to consult the Chairmen of the five Connacht County Boards as well as officers and members of the Council. Without exception all of them expressed their support for the Councils stand on the Monday prior to the game. He consulted most of the same people again on Tuesday and found a slight change of attitude from one county. Later on Tuesday night at 10.30pm the Secretary decided in the interests of the sick, the aged and infirm and in the interests of many exiles in Britain and elsewhere to concede Radio broadcasting to RTE and informed Mr Con Murphy accordingly. He heard nothing subsequently from anybody until Mr Gerry Murray assistant controller of programmes rang on the Wednesday with an offer of live television by RTE' (pp.234-235)

The minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1981 meeting record that the Connacht Council offered two options to RTE in a prepared statement which read 'Having already conceded Radio coverage on Tuesday night, the Connacht Council...agreed to allow 1. RTE to film the game for screening on RTE 1 or 2 immediately after the Sunday game for a minimum of 45 minutes 2. RTE to film the game live for a minimum fee of £10,000 which would only partially compensate the Council for the financial loss it would sustain' (p.236) but that both of these options were rejected by RTE (p.236) The minutes further record that an offer was made by RTE that 'highlights of both games would be shown on the Sunday game programme and that a statement to that effect would be put out on the media'



(p.237) with the Council Secretary agreeing that 'the amount of screen time devoted to our game would depend on the quality of the entertainment contained on the film' (p.237) At the next Council meeting, held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1981, 'the Chairman referred to the recent dispute between the Council and RTE. Every Provincial final had got reasonable coverage on the Sunday night programme, but the decision of RTE to devote 3 minutes out of 45 to the Connacht final was an insult to Connacht GAA supporters. The members of the Council unanimously supported the stand taken by the Secretary on the Councils behalf and they deplored the manner in which RTE fulfilled their obligations' (p.241)

The inauguration of the Provincial press awards is recorded in the minutes; at the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1980 Council meeting 'a suggestion from Connacht Final Programme Secretary Jack Mahon that the profits from the official programme for the final be used to institute a number of annual provincial awards was accepted and it was agreed to make two awards this year to 1. Best Provincial Newspaper preview of the Connacht final 2. Best Provincial Newspaper report on the Connacht final. A perpetual trophy and replica would be presented by the Council for each award' (p.154) At their 13<sup>th</sup> of November 1980 meeting the Council decided to present an award for the best year book in the Province. (p.192)

The Council, at their 24<sup>th</sup> of March 1977 meeting decided to 'set up a sub-committee to investigate the possibility of writing a history of the GAA in Connacht as a preparation for the Association Centenary celebrations in 1984' with the Secretary adding that 'there were no records or minutes of Council meetings prior to July 1955' (p.16) At the next meeting, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1977, 'An Comhairle decided to invite two representatives from each county to act on a committee to be set up for the for this purpose' (p.19)

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 1982 Council meeting Donal Keenan was appointed Chairman of the history committee (p.341) with a series of tasks appointed to individual members of the committee (p.240)

The Council's reaction to the killing of three members of An Garda Siochana (in two separate incidents), and the wider issue of paramilitary violence, is recorded in the minutes.

At the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 1980 Council meeting the Chairman 'referred to the tragic shooting of John Morley and Henry Byrne, both of whom had been associated with the GAA' (p.168) The Council subsequently donated £1,000 to the 'Byrne-Morley Dependants Fund' (p.171) A statement issued by the Ard Comhairle condemning the killings is entered into the minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1980

Council meeting 'in view of the unwarranted criticism of the Association by sections of An Garda Siochana' (pp.185-186)

At the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1980 Council meeting the Chairman, Micheal O Lochlainn, on behalf of the Council, tendered sympathy to the widow and family of Seamus Quaid. O Lochlainn stated that 'Our President Paddy McFlynn has on three occasions stated clearly the policy and attitude of the Association towards those men of violence who have shown complete disregard for human life and ignored the anguish, suffering and grave sense of loss endured by their families and friends. I wish to join with the President in again condemning outright, unconditionally and without qualification all those people of such warped mentality. The Gardaí in their difficult and dangerous task have our unswerving and undivided support in dealing with these men of violence who are endeavouring to destroy the institutions of our state and this has been the consistent and clearcut policy of our Association at all levels and there is no ambivalence in this policy' (pp.184-185)