

# Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

## Tuairisc an Rúnaí

### Overview

Wexford GAA Handball has had many reasons to celebrate in our long and chequered history and while we rightly cherish and remember those occasions with pride, the achievements of our players in the past 12 months was of such magnitude that a fair case can be made for saying 2015 may well have been our best year ever.

Wexford ended the season as the top county in Ireland, with the most All Ireland adult titles won in both the 60x30 and 40x20 courts and as our handballers united in their resolve to be the best they could in 2015, provincial and national medals accumulated at an impressive rate.

The success of our players was spread across competitions and championships in different grades and age groups and it painted a picture of a vibrant and thriving sport, played by a large number of skilful and determined people from all parts of the county. The standard required for national success has surely never been higher than it is today, but our players reached for and attained it on many different levels as they recorded success after success throughout a long and busy season.

The winning of 5 World titles, 18 All Ireland titles and 47 Leinster titles will make for joyous reading for the players and clubs of the county but when you also take into account the 15 All Ireland finals and 28 Leinster finals lost by Wexford players, the full extent of the success we enjoyed emerges. Indeed those 17 championship wins in particular contain a far more impressive statistic when broken down into the various grades. Under 12-13 team of 6, minor, under 21, junior, intermediate, colleges senior singles, over 35 A and masters A are all premier grades within the sport and to be successful simultaneously at those levels in particular, requires a large number of players to be in top form at the right time of the year.

The spread of success was noteworthy too, as 10 of our 15 clubs (66%) had at least one All Ireland medal winner, while an impressive 12 clubs (80%) enjoyed success at provincial level. It confirms very strongly that handball thrived from Horeswood in the south to Coolgreany in the north and it augers well for the future as a whole.

### Handball is about more than winning and losing – it is a way of life in Wexford!

Many will say that sport is about winning and losing and it's hard sometimes to disagree with that description. That's because winning can mean different things to different people. A top player for instance may evaluate his or her season on the number of medals gathered throughout the year, while others with less talent or less ambition may well be satisfied just to see progress.

For many others though sport is about enjoyment and while winning undoubtedly increases their level of enjoyment, losing does not detract sufficiently for it to matter more than the reason they got involved in the first place. Enjoyment! For the many who did not end the

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season with a winners medal life goes on as before and amidst all the justified celebrations, we should not forget those who make up the majority of our registered members.

From a County Committee perspective it is right that we measure success in two distinctly different ways. How well our players do at intercounty level is important as we work to maintain our tradition as a handball powerhouse, but of equal importance is the promotion and development of the sport at local level. The work we do in Wexford is for all players and all standards and for that reason we promote a vibrant county championship programme of events, structured to include 22 different adult grades. It means over 1000 matches are played on a league basis each year and it ensures that our games and activities have a profile commensurate with our history and tradition.

In seeking to establish why so many players from so many different grades and age groups reached the standard necessary to win national championships at the same time, the answer in my view is very simple - our county championship format provided the inspiration and motivation to bring the best out of our players. Those who had the ability to benefit from such a system did so very effectively at intercounty level in 2015 and we warmly congratulate them on the magnitude of their achievement.

## World Championship success

The 15<sup>th</sup> championships of the modern era held in Calgary, Canada proved to be a resounding success for the handballers of the county who came home with an impressive five world titles, but with all due respect to Gavin Buggy, Robert Doyle and Ned Buggy, it was the outstanding achievements of Daniel Kavanagh, Mark Doyle and Josh Kavanagh that made these a very special games for handball in Wexford.

The juvenile scene in Ireland is currently populated by, arguably, the largest number of



Josh Kavanagh and Mark Doyle



Daniel Kavanagh

talented players ever assembled on these shores and it was from the Boys 17 and under cauldron that Daniel Kavanagh emerged to win the Junior Nationals and take his place as official representative on Team Ireland. The

pressure mounted as he was named the number 1 seed for the World Championships but

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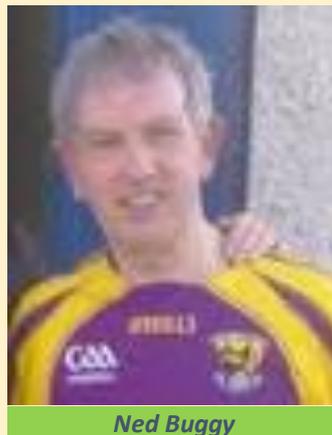
he showed terrific maturity throughout a gruelling week to win the title in commanding style and announce himself as a very special talent indeed. His 21-16, 21-11 win over Fergal Coughlin, Clare in the final was his fourth game in the competition and the fourth time he had won without conceding a set. He then went on to cap a wonderful personal achievement and thoroughly justify his top seeding by winning the doubles in the company of Sean Kerr, Tyrone.

Meanwhile Josh Kavanagh (brother of Daniel) and Mark Doyle were battling their way through a talent laden field in the Boys 13 and under doubles competition. This championship was possibly a bit unique in that there were a plethora of potential winners from all over the country and in the lead up to the games these top players were actively seeking partners from all over the place. All that is except Josh and Mark who stayed loyal to each other and reaped the reward.

Word of players travelling long distances to train with new partners dominated the news ahead of the games but when the last ball had been struck in Calgary it was the Wexford boys who reigned supreme following a brilliant 12-15, 15-9, 11-7 win over Cahir Monroe and Jason O'Toole, Tyrone/Galway in the final. It was a massive win for the two boys and an endorsement of the system in Wexford that produced them in the first place.



*Gavin Buggy*



*Ned Buggy*



*Robert Doyle*

Elsewhere Gavin Buggy and Dominick Lynch, Kerry retained the 35 and over doubles title they won back in 2012 when they comprehensively beat Michael Walsh, Kilkenny and David Moloney, Tipperary 21-14, 21-6 in the final and Ned Buggy matched that achievement by winning the 65 and over doubles alongside Eugene Kennedy, Dublin. They had a fine 21-13, 21-15 win over Frank Cekan and Dan Scilley, USA in the decider.

Robert Doyle dominated the 45 and over B competition from the start and he took the title by beating William Holden, Kilkenny 21-15, 21-4 in the final.

Noel Holohan put in a series of fine performances in both Men's C singles and doubles, only to have to settle for silver in the doubles event. Partnered by Daniel Breen, Kilkenny he lost 21-18, 21-7 to Michael Donovan and Tomas Lennon, Laois in the final, after a long and gruelling week.



*Noel Holohan*

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## World Championship extra

The 40x20 section of the world championships in Calgary, Canada was again dominated by the Irish and while that is a testament to how much distance we have now created between ourselves and the Americans in this code, it does call into question the legitimacy of labelling it a world championship when essentially only two countries, Ireland and America, compete with any degree of seriousness. The prospect of further growth and development around the world in the 40x20 code is nil and therefore we are lucky that 40x20 can piggyback on 1-wall at these major events.

The reality of the world 40x20 championships nowadays is that it is almost a rerun of the All Ireland championships in tournament format and while it does have considerable value in terms of the occasion for those who take part, it could be nearing time when the entire project needs a shakeup.

It's just a thought, but is it time to scrap the 'world championships' in this code and in its place introduce a two yearly cycle of Ireland v America challenge matches? I know that might restrict the numbers who travel to take part in the lower grades, but the 'world championships' are in name only for these levels anyway and they add little or no value to the image of the tournament, or indeed to the sport as a whole.

The future of handball as an international sport lies in 1-Wall and while the traditionalists amongst us may balk at the prospect of putting this new code on such a pedestal vis-a-vis 40x20, it is the only game in town as far as spreading the game around the world is concerned. In the coming years the 1-Wall world championships will relegate 40x20 to tournament status (if we are not already there) and an official Ireland v America challenge in a variety of grades (A and B) every two years might offer a more credible alternative.

\*It was extremely disappointing that world championship rules governing entry into overage B grades were completely ignored in Calgary. Advice sought in advance of the games from the World Handball Council meant a Wexford player who had just won an All Ireland B title stayed at home, only to see numerous B winners take part in B competitions.

This was an injustice and it need not have happened.

## All Ireland 60x30 Championship

An incredible 11 titles were won in the 60x30 court, making it one of our best returns ever for a single season. The victory of brothers Mikie and Jim Berry in intermediate doubles means Wexford will now have two additional senior players next year, while Paul Lambert (junior singles), Galen Riordan (under 21 singles) and Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh (minor doubles) have all qualified for the intermediate grade as a result of their achievements in this year's championships.

Several others climbed their own personal mountains to win All Ireland titles in brilliant style and all can look back on a season of success that showcased the strength of Wexford handball in magnificent fashion.

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## Mikie and Jim Berry

It proved to be a terrific season for the Berry brothers in general and Mikie in particular when, after underachieving for a few years they finally got their game together in impressive style. Looking fitter and sharper than for a very long time they dominated the All Ireland intermediate singles and doubles championship at every step.



*Jim and Mikie Berry alongside Paul Brady and James Brady, Cavan*

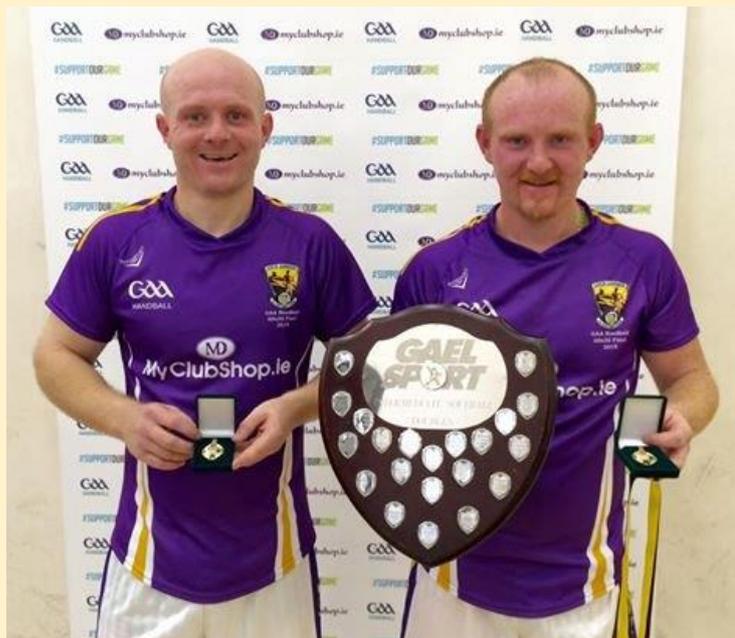
The provincial championship turned out to be mainly a battle between Wexfordmen as Darren O'Toole faced up to Mikie Berry in the singles final and O'Toole and Malachy Whelan provided the opposition in the doubles decider, but it was the brothers who prevailed on both occasions to leave them two wins away from senior handball.

And what two matches these games proved to be!

The visit of the Brady cousins Paul and James to Wexford for the All Ireland semi-final on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September generated considerable interest locally, with many curious to see if Paul could bring some of his 40x20 form into the bigger court. To everybody's delight the great man was indeed in fine fettle but his lack of 60x30 playing time was evident as Mikie and Jim came from behind to win a thriller by 21-15, 21-18.

A week later Mikie surprisingly went down 21-15, 21-12 to James Brady in the singles semi-final at Kingscourt but his season was saved in spectacular fashion at Abbeylara on 10<sup>th</sup> October when he and Jim performed brilliantly to defeat Martin Mulkerrins and Ollie Conway, Galway 21-10, 21-10 in the MyClubShop.ie All-Ireland Intermediate Doubles final.

It was a brilliant end to a season that had promised much and a fitting reward for a partnership that had delivered at last on the biggest of stages.



*Jim and Mikie with the Gael Sport shield and winners medals*

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## Paul Lambert

Paul (Curly) Lambert finally exited the junior grade in dramatic fashion when he defeated a game Kevin Craddock, Galway in the All Ireland final played at Fahy's Cross in Offaly on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October. After losing three finals in the past five years the Wexford town player went into the match a strong favourite to end his wait for a title he has been chasing since 2010, but when he found himself 20-11 down in the second game, having already lost the first by 21-20, it appeared his agony was set to continue. Who can tell whether Craddock dropped his guard at that stage or Lambert found inspiration, but from that point onward the Wexford player outscored his shell-shocked opponent by 31-4 to record a famous victory on a scoreline of 20-21, 21-20, 21-4. 'Curly' will have played much better and lost in recent years but fortune favours the brave sometimes and as one of our best performers in these championships few would deny his right to win this coveted title.



*Paul Lambert with Kevin Craddock, referee David Hope and Offaly legend Pat Masterson*

Paul Lambert and Paddy Haughton made a brave bid to win the doubles title as well but after coming through a tough Leinster campaign it was their decision to travel to Loughmacrory in midweek for the All Ireland semi-final, rather than play on the appointed weekend that was their undoing. Small things sometimes decide big things and while the decision to travel on a Thursday night may have been done for hurling reasons, it was always going to reduce their chances of winning against very strong opponents. And so it proved to be when after three tough games it was the home team of Barry Devlin and Gabhainn McCrystal who prevailed on a scoreline of 18-21, 21-16, 21-15, leaving Lambert and Haughton to wonder what might have been.

The Tyrone pairing went on to take the title two weeks later, comfortably beating Limerick in straight games and with Lambert winning the singles title, his partnership with Haughton is now broken.



*David Kenny, Niall Maher, Paddy Haughton, and Paul Lambert with Leinster Vice Chairperson Tony Breen at the all Wexford Leinster junior doubles final at Coolgreany*

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## Galen Riordan

The rise and rise of Galen Riordan is a welcome sight in Wexford handball and the Ballyhogue starlet added further to his growing reputation by winning the All Ireland under 21 singles at Hospital on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October. He did it the hard way too when, having lost the opener 12-21 against Michael Hedigan, Cork he bounced back to win the second 21-4 and then saw off the Leesider 21-17 in a nail-biting title deciding third game.



*Galen Riordan with Michael Hedigan and President Willie Roche*

Earlier in the championship Galen had defeated Ryan Mullen, Tyrone 21-9, 21-11 at Castlebridge on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October while before that he had come through the Leinster



*Daniel Relihan, Michael Hedigan, Galen Riordan and Bryan Kehoe*

championship without being seriously tested. Riordan and partner Bryan Kehoe also made a bold bid to win the under 21 doubles but ultimately found Michael Hedigan and Daniel Relihan, Cork too strong in the final at Ballina, Co. Tipperary on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Prior to that they enjoyed an excellent 20-21, 21-8, 21-17 victory over Ryan Mullen and Patrick McCrory, Tyrone in the All Ireland semi-

final at Loughmacrory on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh

They have become the most successful minor partnership in Wexford since Barry Goff and Colin Keeling back in the 90s and that alone will ensure the progress made by Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh will be watched with considerable interest in the coming years. Their 21-4, 21-16 victory over singles winner Niall Joyce and his partner Patrick Murphy, Mayo in the All Ireland MyClubShop.ie Minor Doubles final at Abbeylara on 17<sup>th</sup> October was a comprehensive statement of their supremacy in a match everyone expected to be a whole lot closer. On the day however the Wexford boys got stuck in early on and kept the pressure on their opponents all the way to the finish. Joyce and Murphy did get a bit closer in the second game but this was a final that was always going Wexford's way.

In the semi-final that had a comprehensive 21-15, 21-2 win against Sean Kerr and Jack Campbell, Tyrone at St. Mary's, Wexford on 4<sup>th</sup> October and prior to that they came through Leinster in fine style.

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*Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh with the minor doubles cup*

With two All Ireland minor doubles titles to their name in 2015 (they also won the 40x20) they can look back with pride on a season that merely confirmed the promise and the progress each has shown in the past few years. If they go on to reach the heights achieved by the aforementioned Goff and Keeling, they will also have established themselves as a premier partnership of note in a county which can boast of many fine partnerships in our proud history.

Only time will tell but for now all the signs point in the right direction.

### **Cian Browne, Mark Doyle, Josh Kavanagh, Ben Keeling, Conor Murphy, Dean O'Neill & subs Jimmy Goggins and Tommy Connors**

If the All Ireland boys under 12/13 team of 6 championship can be taken as a reliable measurement of strength in depth at entry age level, then we are in a strong position following the terrific victory gained by Wexford in this year's competition.

The team championship is always a very difficult competition to win as 6 strong players are required so that team management have the option of selecting different partnerships for different matches. Team manager Robert Doyle made the right choices along the way as first they saw off a very strong Kilkenny team in the Leinster final before getting the better of Tipperary 66-59 in a match where Wexford trailed with one game of 15 to go. All of the team performed well under pressure to secure another big win for Wexford juvenile handball.



### **Gavin Buggy and Barry McWilliams**



*Gavin Buggy and Barry McWilliams*

After suffering a loss to the same opponents in 2014, Gavin Buggy and Barry McWilliams would have been underdogs going into the All Ireland 35 and over A doubles final against Vinny Moran and Paul Flynn, Mayo at Abbeylara on 31<sup>st</sup> October, but in a surprise outcome they summoned up a winning performance to triumph by 21-18, 21-17. Buggy had also qualified for the singles final but he was well beaten by Dominick Lynch, Kerry at Hospital on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October on a score of 21-6, 21-14

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## Tommy Hynes and Paul Carty

The most potent overage partnership in the country in recent years continued their domination of the masters A doubles championship with another resounding title success.

It's been 4 years now since Tommy Hynes and Paul Carty embarked on the All Ireland glory trail together and during that time they have resisted all challengers to set a new masters record for Wexford players, by winning four All Ireland masters A doubles championships in a row. That record was set at Dungarvan on 4<sup>th</sup> November when they defeated Martin McInerney and John Corbett, Tipperary by 21-15, 21-14 in a tough competitive encounter.

In the Leinster final they had defeated Kilkenny legend Ducky Walsh and his partner Eddie Burke and over those four years they have managed to raise their game as the occasion demanded.

Truly an exceptional pair of handballers in every sense!



*Tommy Hynes and Paul Carty celebrate with supporters after their record four in a row*

## Jimmy Dunne, Michael Rossiter and Billy Rossiter



*Billy Rossiter shakes hands with Eugene Maloney, Mayo following the final*



*Jimmy Dunne receives his medal*

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It proved to be an extraordinary season for our overage B players with three winning All Ireland titles in very impressive fashion. Jimmy Dunne in emerald masters B singles and Billy Rossiter in diamond masters B singles proved themselves the best 55+ and 60+ year olds in the grade while Billy and Michael Rossiter added the emerald masters B doubles title for good measure. All three had prepared diligently for the championship and it showed in their performances throughout the campaign.

Jimmy Dunne produced tremendous improvement to take the Leinster title by beating the aforementioned Michael Rossiter in an all-Wexford decider and then crowned a wonderful season by coming from behind to beat the determined Willie Corcoran, Mayo 14-21, 21-18, 21-10 in the final at Fahy's Cross on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Billy Rossiter made the decision to have a crack at the national championship earlier this year and he vindicated that decision in magnificent fashion by taking the title with plenty to spare. He too had beaten a Wexfordman, John Bail, in the provincial final and while he was taken the distance by Eugene Moloney, Mayo in the final at Na Fianna on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, he finished very strongly to win 21-3, 20-21, 21-7.

Michael Rossiter and Billy Rossiter had the look of potential champions from the time the doubles competition started and so it proved to be. In fact the only time they were pressed was in the Leinster final when fellow Wexfordmen Jimmy Dunne and Tom Byrne gave them a bit of a fright. After that they breezed past Andrew Clarke and Dermot Dolan, Cavan 21-2, 21-3 in the All Ireland semi-final at Garryhill on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October before going on to record a facile 21-2, 21-3 victory over Stanley Harte and Pater Davey, Sligo in the final at Ballina on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October.



*Michael and Billy Rossiter with Peter Davey and Stanley Harte, Sligo*

## Liam Rossiter and Laurence Dunne

Not to be outdone by their respective dads, Liam Rossiter (Billy's son) and Laurence Dunne (Jimmy's son) not only teamed up for the under 17 doubles championship, but matched their fathers' achievement by going on to win the All Ireland title.



*Liam Rossiter and Laurence Dunne with GAA Handball President Willie Roche and Barry O'Meara and Dan Healy, Tipperary*

The two young players have been making steady progress in recent years and they got their reward at Ballymoe, Roscommon on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November, when they

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proved too good for Barry O'Meara and Dan Healy, Tipperary in the All Ireland final. Both boys produced a fine standard of handball to triumph on a scoreline of 21-14, 21-12 and become the 7<sup>th</sup> Wexford winners of this championship.

## Padhraic Roberts



*Padhraic congratulates Jack O'Shea*

The Kilmysshall clubman had a season to savour in the 'big' court as he went from strength all the way to the final of the junior B All Ireland championship.

Padhraic Roberts would not have been considered a potential winner of this title at the very beginning, but as he battled his way through a very competitive Leinster campaign he quickly gained a reputation as a player who was refusing to accept defeat in any circumstances. In the quarter final, semi-final and final he was taken the full distance but on each occasion he finished strongly for victory. He did eventually succumb to the very fit and talented Jack O'Shea, Kerry in the All Ireland final at Hospital on 24<sup>th</sup> October, when, after sharing the opening two games, he eventually ran out of steam in the third.

## John Roche and Damien Kelly

It was a case of déjà vu for these two players as they ended their season as double All Ireland masters B runners up for the second year in a row. It was especially disheartening for John Roche in particular as he was on the receiving end of his fifth All Ireland final defeat in just over 12 months. His singles final against David Tobin, Tipperary at Dungarvan on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October was a clear case of what might have been as he played well below his best in a 21-16, 5-21, 21-16 defeat. In the second game that day we saw the John Roche we know, but sadly the first and third featured many errors which ultimately proved very costly.

The doubles final against David Tobin and Eddie Farrell, Tipperary was played at Talbots Inch on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October and can only be described as a complete washout in every sense. A wet court at the same venue had forced the cancellation of the tie the previous weekend but when it did reconvene eight days later the Wexford players simply 'did not turn up'.

The scoreline of 21-4, 21-13 tell sits own story and these two fine players must now wait a bit longer to claim that elusive All Ireland winners medal their endeavours undoubtedly deserve.



*David Tobin, Eddie Farrell, Damien Kelly and John Roche*

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## Stephen Murphy and Brendan Murphy

Each year we write about brothers Stephen and Brendan Murphy and their annual attempt to pick up an All Ireland winners medal that sadly continues to elude them. 2015 was no different.

Stephen Murphy had produced some fine handball in seeing off the challenge of Frank Maddock in an all-Wexford Leinster golden masters B singles final but he failed to reproduce that form in the All Ireland final at Na Fianna on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October and was well beaten 21-10, 21-10 by Tom McCormack, Mayo.



*Brendan and Stephen Murphy*

The margin of defeat against a player over whom Stephen has a significant advantage in fitness was disappointing and the feeling persisted that a safer approach, such as keeping the ball on the wall, might have paid dividends against an opponent who was very good on the shortline.

The doubles final against Tim O'Shea and Donal Hayes, Limerick at Cashel on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October saw another golden opportunity to end the long wait slip away with a 13-21, 21-18, 21-19 defeat.

## John Bail and Miley Byrne

The scarcity of entrants in the diamond masters B doubles grade meant that John Bail and Miley Byrne had no opponents before the final and that could have been unhelpful to their preparation.

Even if they had however it is doubtful if it would have made any appreciable difference, such was the magnitude of their 21-3, 21-9 defeat to the strong Eugene Moloney and Peter Burke, Mayo.



*Miley Byrne and John Bail with President Willie Roche and Eugene Maloney and Peter Burke, Mayo*

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## Anthony Butler & Patrick Boland and Lauren Flanagan & Leanne Boland



Two more young partnerships reached the All Ireland finals but found the opposition a bit too good on the day. Anthony Butler and Patrick Boland went down to the very strong James Prentice and Sean McAdams, Tipperary in the



boys under 16 doubles while a single point defeat in the second game against Eleanor Percy and Katie Gould, Tipperary prevented Lauren Flanagan and Leanne Boland taking the girls under 15 doubles tie into a deciding third game. Both pairings can look back on a good campaign and each enhanced their reputations by qualifying for their respective finals. All Ireland finals are hard to get to and even harder to win and if further progress can be made then that gap can be successfully bridged.

## Danielle Kinsella, Shauna Owley, Mark Doyle, Ben Keeling & Conor Murphy

Winning the entry level age group in Leinster is always particularly satisfying and in 2015 Wexford took three of the four under 12 titles on offer. Daniel Kinsella and Shauna Owley captured the girls' doubles in terrific style and will benefit greatly from this success while Mark Doyle in the singles and Ben Keeling and Conor Murphy in the doubles ensured a Wexford whitewash in the boys' events.

Ballymitty, Coolgreany and St. Josephs were the successful clubs involved.

## All Ireland 40x20 Championship

Six All Ireland titles in this code has to be regarded as a reasonable return even if 19 provincial championships suggested it ought to have been more. However when viewed in the context of the spread of adult titles won nationally, those six titles made Wexford the leading county in Ireland. Clare finished second with five, followed by Carlow, Dublin and Galway with four apiece. It was a welcome change for Wexford as we traditionally find winning more difficult in the smaller court.

## Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh

The minor doubles victory by Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh was clearly the highlight of the season and probably laid the foundation for all that came afterwards for this fine partnership.

A packed crowd at St. Coman's Roscommon on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> April saw the Wexford boys

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become only the second pairing from the county to win the minor doubles championship when they battled hard to see off the persistent challenge posed by Fergal Coughlin and Cathair Agnew, Clare, on a scoreline of 21-19, 8-21, 21-18. It was a terrific match with a nail-biting finish, but it was a victory that was richly deserved by the Model County duo.

Earlier they had 'escaped' from Loughmacrory with their title hopes intact after coming



*Keith Armstrong, Daniel Kavanagh, Fergal Coughlin & Cathair Agnew*

from well behind to beat Sean Kerr and Jack Campbell, Tyrone in the All Ireland semi-final and the belief instilled in them from that victory stood to them on a difficult day in Roscommon. They were also pushed hard by Shane Dunne and Padraig Cooney, Kilkenny in the Leinster final at Tinryland and the overriding conclusion to be drawn from the entire journey is that Keith Armstrong and Daniel Kavanagh possess the necessary fighting qualities to augment their silken skills.

Armstrong also won the Leinster singles title but went out to Sean Kerr, Tyrone at the semi-final stage.

## Gavin Buggy

Gavin Buggy can always be relied on to reach the concluding stages of the championship and this year was no exception. Since the over 35 grade was introduced in recent years he has been a perennial contender and this year he got the better of his toughest rival Dominick Lynch, Kerry 21-14, 21-18 in a terrific final played at Leixlip on 14<sup>th</sup> March, thus regaining the title he last won in 2012.



*Gavin Buggy*

Buggy also qualified for the doubles final against Vinny Moran and Campbell Brennan, Mayo but with Peter McGrath standing in for the injured Tommy Hynes, a 21-13, 21-17 defeat resulted.

## Barry McWilliams

Once Barry McWilliams got his fitness levels right he was always going to be a strong contender for the All Ireland masters B singles championship and so it proved to be.



*Barry McWilliams and Shane Bruen, Sligo*

He did have to battle a bit to get through Leinster but from then on he got better and better. By the time he faced Shane Bruen, Sligo in the final at Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath on 14<sup>th</sup> March he was in the shape of his life. The Yeats county man was fit and mobile too but McWilliams had the shots to win the rallies and soon the outcome became inevitable. The winning margin of 21-3, 21-11 was as comprehensive as the scoreline suggested.

In the semi-final at St. Josephs Barry had defeated Michael Clerkin, Monaghan by a comfortable 21-12, 21-12.

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## Robert Doyle

Only a few short years after returning to the game following a self-imposed absence, Robert Doyle took the silver masters B singles grade by storm. Good preparation to go with a high level of skill set him apart in this grade and when he met Mike Hayes, Clare in the All Ireland final at Leixlip on 14<sup>th</sup> March he just needed the first game to set up the victory. When that went his way by 21-19 he was on his way and he totally dominated the second for a 21-2 win.

Robert had travelled to Belfast for his semi-final against Paddy Nicholl, Antrim but he made short work of his northern opponent as he coasted to a very comfortable 21-5, 21-4 victory.



*Robert Doyle and Mike Hayes*

## Michael Rossiter

The most remarkable achievement of the season has got to be that of Michael Rossiter who returned after a 14 year absence to win the All Ireland emerald masters B singles title in the most dramatic fashion. Down 7-19 in the third game of the All Ireland final against Denis Phelan, Galway at Nenagh on 14<sup>th</sup> March he somehow found the energy to fightback for an incredible 21-16, 7-21, 21-20 victory.



*Denis Phelan, Galway and Michael Rossiter, Wexford with Tipperary official Eamon Spillane*

Prior to that he had enjoyed an easy 21-3, 21-11 semi-final victory over Brian Havern, Down at St. Josephs and throughout the entire championship his extraordinary fitness proved to be his greatest asset.

By any standards he is a truly remarkable athlete!

## John Bail

A lifetime of playing without winning a national title ended happily for John Bail at Dungarvan on 14<sup>th</sup> March when the experienced driving instructor finally found himself on the right road to that elusive winner's medal. So often in the past Bail had come up a wee bit short at this level but not on this occasion as he made the most of a whirlwind start to power to a comprehensive 21-2, 21-14 win over Dave Stack, Cork.

John had earlier come through the Leinster championship in fine fettle and after several decades of competing, a gentleman of the



*John Bail with that precious medal*

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game was finally rewarded for his efforts at the Waterford venue.

Bail and Richie Culleton just failed to make it a double when they went down 21-16, 21-20 to Frank Macken and John O'Malley, Mayo in the doubles final at Kilbeggan.

## Josh McMahon and Cian Kehoe



*Josh McMahon and Cian Kehoe*

The unluckiest players of 2015 just had to be the Wexford boys under 14 doubles pairing of Josh McMahon and Cian Kehoe who lost the All Ireland final to Matthew Spain and Sean Hayes, Tipperary 15-14, 15-14. Such a tiny margin on such a big occasion meant heartbreak for two very fine young handballers.

Their day will come!

## John Roche and David Redmond

In what turned out to be a terribly competitive All Ireland masters B championship, John Roche and David Redmond went all the way to the final of the doubles competition before going down 21-11, 21-4 to Tom Kirby and Richard Woods, Clare at Tinryland on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. It was a disappointing finish to an impressive campaign but in fairness to the Banner men they did hit top form on the day. Roche and Redmond had beaten fellow Wexfordmen Barry McWilliams and Bob Byrne in the Leinster final before overcoming Seamus McCrory and Rory Grogan 21-16, 17-21, 21-5 in the All Ireland semi-final.



*David Redmond, John Roche, Barry McWilliams and Bob Byrne ahead of their all Wexford Leinster MBD final*

## Marguerite Gore



*Marguerite Gore pictured with Sinead Ni Anli and official Eamon Spillane*

The St. Mary's player has long been the standard bearer for women's handball in Wexford and although currently working to achieve a balance between raising her family, her job and her handball career, Marguerite Gore still managed to get to the All Ireland junior singles final at Nenagh, back on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately she found the talented Galway player Sinead Ni Anli to good for her on the day as she went down to a 21-9, 21-8 defeat.

Mag only returned to the game in recent years after a lengthy absence, but she remains the one to beat in any competition she enters. Truly a shining example to all of the young up and coming girls playing the game.

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## Ricky Barron and Robert Doyle

The County Chairman Ricky Barron and Robert Doyle enjoyed a terrific run in the silver masters B doubles grade before falling to Jimmy McKeon and Kevin Martin, Cavan in the All Ireland semi-final at Coolboy. The winning margin was 21-13, 19-21, 21-16 and the Breffni men went on to enjoy a comfortable win over Cork in the final.



*Kevin Martin, Jimmy McKeon, Robert Doyle and Ricky Barron ahead of their All Ireland semi final*

## Galen Riordan and Mick Armstrong

Two men at the opposite end of the age graph also took Leinster 40x20 singles titles but then fell at the All Ireland semi-final stage.



*Mick Armstrong and Conor Kerr at St. Josephs*

Galen Riordan waltzed through his provincial under 21 programme but found Darren Doherty, Monaghan too hot to handle at Scotstown, going down by 20-21, 21-13, 21-13. Mick Armstrong has an equally impressive run through Leinster but he failed to trouble the impressive Conor Kerr, Tyrone at St. Josephs and was well beaten 21-6, 21-15.

## Cora Doyle, Emma Sweeney, Eva Creane, Holly Hynes, Robbie Hillis, Ben Keeling, Glen Murphy, Colm Parnell, Ciaran Power, Anthony Butler & Patrick Boland

The above 11 players also won Leinster titles in a wonderful provincial campaign for Wexford.

Cora Doyle, under 15 singles and Emma Sweeney and Eva Creane in under 15 doubles dominated their age group with great authority, while Holly Hynes took the under 16 singles grade. Robbie Hillis and Ben Keeling won the boys under 12 doubles and Glen Murphy proved best in the boys under 14 singles. Colm Parnell and Ciaran Power came out on top in the boys under 15 doubles as did Anthony Butler and Patrick Boland in under 16 doubles.

Ballyhogue, Coolgreany, St Josephs, St. Mary's and Templeudigan were the clubs sharing in the success.

## All Ireland Colleges 40x20 Senior Singles Champion

It's been an incredibly successful few years for Keith Armstrong and he added to his growing reputation when he won the All Ireland colleges 40x20 senior singles title in fine style. After coming through Leinster unscathed, Keith, who was representing FCJ Bunclody, took on and beat the tricky Ryan Mullan, Omagh CBS 10-15, 15-12, 15-7 in the semi-final before getting the better of Shane Murphy, Hazelwood College, Limerick by 15-10, 15-10 in the final.

# Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

Daniel Kavanagh, Wexford Vocational College won the Leinster intermediate singles but missed out on the All Ireland series due to his parents wedding. In fairness it would be hard to find a better reason to miss a handball match!

## Website

Our website continues to play a major part in highlighting our activities and all members are encouraged to continue to use this medium for their information and enjoyment. Viewing figures remain extremely impressive in this second season with average daily figures of 360 adding up to around 10,000 clicks each month. That is massive viewing by any standards and it shows that handball people have an ongoing insatiable thirst for information.

A new daily record was again set on 1<sup>st</sup> November, when 914 clicked on posts on our blog.

Time permitting, we hope to extend our coverage to our clubs and their internal activities in 2016. This is a vital area that needs to be promoted vigorously and with such a rich history to work from around the county, the potential for non-playing features is unlimited.

## Glen Fuels Handballer of Year Award Winner – Keith Armstrong

Keith Armstrong was named Handballer of the Year at the Glen Fuels Annual Awards back in February. This black tie event honours the top GAA achievers from the previous year and is attended by a large number of hurling, football and camogie players and officials. It offers brilliant exposure for our sport and should be strongly supported by our handball clubs.

With All Ireland under 17 singles and colleges senior singles titles (to name but two) to his name, Keith was a worthy winner of this prestigious award.



*Nominees for the Glen Fuels Handballer of the Year award were L-R Anthony Butler, Keith Armstrong, Malachy Whelan and Benny Doyle. Inset is Tommy Hynes who was also nominated.*

## County 60x30 Championship Programme



*Tommy Hynes and Mikie Berry after the senior singles final*

10 clubs shared 33 adult championship with Castlebridge leading the way on seven titles. St. Mary's with second on six and Kilmyshall third on five. 28 of those titles were won by clubs with 60x30 courts, while only Ballyhogue with 3 and St. Martins with 2 were successful from our 40x20 clubs.

Tommy Hynes proved he is the best player in Wexford as he retained his senior singles title in terrific style and though injury forced him out of the senior doubles final, the title stayed in St. Mary's when Colin Keeling and Paddy Haughton

# Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

took the honours.

The new championship format was again a resounding success and with all players taking part in their intercounty grade, (+ 1 other) a great spread of success was ensured. There were some notable outcomes too with Mikie and Jim Berry, Barntown failing to beat Malachy Whelan and David Kenny, Castlebridge in the county intermediate doubles final - before going on to win the All Ireland championship in the junior grade. That will have provided terrific encouragement for Whelan and co and should lead to a concerted effort to go one better in 2016.



Malachy Whelan



David Stanners

Fintan Furlong, St. Mary's (junior C), David Stanners, St. Martins (junior D), JR Finn, Ballymitty, (over 35), Stephen Murphy, Castlebridge (golden masters B) and Holly Hynes, St. Mary's (women's junior) slammed in their events,



JR Finn and Fintan Furlong

winning both singles and doubles and John Murphy, Castlebridge made a successful reappearance after a lengthy absence to win a competitive masters B singles championship.



Holly Hynes and Rosin Walsh

It was also a very successful season for David Kenny, Castlebridge as he proved himself an excellent doubles player at both junior and intermediate level.

He took the intermediate doubles with Malachy Whelan and was also successful in junior, his 'first grade', when he partnered Jason Murphy to victory over Paddy Haughton and Matthew Hynes, St. Mary's in the final.



Matthew Hynes, Paddy Haughton, Jason Murphy, David Kenny

The growth in the number of county was accelerated by the a tournament for beginners in outcome was very successful introduced to the game. Maire winner of the inaugural 60x30 Mary's in the final.



Maire Busher and Claire Cousins

women taking up handball in the county committee decision to run both 60x30 and 40x20. The with 9 new handballers being Busher, Bridgetown was the singles beating Claire Cousins, St.

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

The junior B/C/D interclub championship was well contested throughout and the final at New Ross provided plenty of entertainment before a stronger Kilmyshall side got the better of Ballymitty.

Keith Armstrong gave Kilmyshall a flying start by defeating JR Finn and John Murphy and Jim Nolan increased that margin slightly by edging out Seamie O'Neill and David Cleary in two close games. Padhraic Roberts then clinched the title by defeating Alan O'Neill.



Front L-R Keith Armstrong, John Murphy, Seamie O'Neill, David Cleary, Frank Maddock Back L-R Jim Nolan, Sean Nolan, Padhraic Roberts, JR Finn, Alan O'Neill

### County 40x20 Championship Programme

Tommy Hynes, St. Mary's put in a brilliant performance in the senior singles final at St. Josephs to dethrone defending champion Gavin Buggy, St. Josephs and confirm his status as number 1 in both courts in 2015. Hynes is not a lover of the smaller court but when he takes it seriously he can play this game all right! Some of his play in the final was of the highest order and try as he might Buggy was unable to stop the tide coming in on the beach.



Gavin Buggy and Tommy Hynes before the senior singles final

# Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

Elsewhere Galen Riordan, Ballyhogue took the junior singles from a strong field and Daniel Kavanagh, St. Josephs won minor singles after a classic tussle against Keith Armstrong, Kilmysshall.

The championship was also notable for the achievements of the Stanners brothers, Sean, James and David representing St. Martins, who captured four titles between them. Sean surprised Robert Doyle to win junior C singles and then added the doubles with James for good measure. David won the junior D singles and then teamed with James to take the over 35 doubles. It was quite a year for the Kilmannon based family.



*Long after the last ball was struck, the old court at Kilmannon still stands tall. It might not take a lot to make it into a usable 1-wall location.....*



*Sean Stanners, James Stanners, Fergal McWilliams and Danny McWilliams following the county junior C doubles final*

David Redmond, Templeudigan produced a whole series of top class performances to win the most competitive masters B singles championship ever promoted in Wexford. 6 of the 18 man field went on to reach an All Ireland final and two of them, Barry McWilliams and Robert Doyle ended the season as All Ireland champions. Neither reached the county final however as Redmond defeated Bob Byrne, Bridgetown in a cracking decider.



*David Redmond and Bob Byrne ahead of the MBS final*



*Marguerite Gore overturned her St. Mary's clubmate Holly Hynes in the junior singles final, Courtney Browne, Coolgreaney took the junior C singles and newcomer Marie Busher proved best in the Beginners competition.*  
*Caroline Kehoe, Nadine Lambert, Catherine O'Connor and Marie Busher took part in the Beginners Tournament.*

Anne Boland, Templeudigan won the first women's masters championship to be played in Wexford.



*Courtney Browne*

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## **The negatives.....**

Despite all the on court positives generated by such an amazing season, there are a few negatives to be faced up to as well. These are off court difficulties and unless they are addressed with the same determination as our on court activities, they have the potential to weaken and damage Wexford GAA Handball very badly. I urge delegates to address these here tonight.....

## **Failure to fill positions on County Committee**

It is my considered view that Wexford handball is facing into a real crises as a result of the continued failure of clubs to fill positions on the County Committee. Convention 2015 will continue this trend with not even a nomination for a number of posts. Clubs need to take their responsibilities seriously in this matter by first accepting that these positions can only be filled by club members and that means being proactive in finding people to do the job.

It is extremely disheartening and indeed worrying, when clubs with current officers in place would not even be bothered in nominating their own outgoing officials to stand again. Instead they leave it to others to do it for them!

The position of County Coaching Officer is one such position and the failure to even nominate someone for the post reflects poorly on us as a strong handball county and impacts severely on our ability to get the best out of our juvenile county players. All of the top counties have an advantage over us as a result and it is deeply regrettable that repeated efforts by the County Committee has failed to solve this ongoing problem. All the clubs are in agreement that we need a county handball coach, but not one could muster even a nomination for Convention.

## **Dwindling juvenile numbers are a cause for concern**

Despite the extensive programme of events being promoted by the county committee and the success enjoyed by our juvenile players in recent years, parents in Wexford are taking their children out of handball at an alarming rate. While the huge hike in numbers experienced a few years ago was never going to be maintained, it is the sheer extent of the haemorrhage that should have alarm bells sounding where this is happening. As might be expected it is not the top players who are leaving the sport, it is those in the majority grouping who are finding more reasons to walk away than to stay and that should concern everyone who subscribes to the core values of the GAA.

A few of those core values contained in the GAA Club Manual are;

- a. We provide the best playing experience for all of our players.*
- b. We provide a games programme at all levels to meet the needs of all of our players.*
- c. We structure our games to allow players of all abilities reach their potential.*

In my opinion it is entirely down to the clubs who have left it to the County Board to cater for these children, while at the same time providing little or nothing by way of internal

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competition to keep them interested. Children who are a little bit behind the top few in their age group need to feel wanted by their clubs and running competitions for them (and excluding from these competitions those who win at county and Leinster level) should be a bare minimum.

If they are to prosper and survive, a club needs to be more about members than about winners.

## County Juvenile Committee

It is disappointing to report that the juvenile committee held no meetings at all throughout the year and that is an unsatisfactory situation for any committee to be in. The reasons for this must be discussed and debated fully here tonight.

## Welcome back to Taghmon Handball Club

The news that Taghmon have reformed is wonderful for handball and this famous old club re-enters the fold with a newly refurbished 60x30 ball court and a very positive club committee in charge. Taghmon is to handball what hand is to glove and although absent from the scene for many years, handball people from far and wide remember the halcyon days of the 70s when All Ireland senior medals were regularly won by local stars Pat Murphy and John Quigley.

We look forward to seeing championship handball being played in Taghmon in 2016 and we wish Joe Sidney and his team all the best in their efforts to grow and sustain a vibrant unit which will benefit the youth of the parish immeasurably.

## County GAA Board

We thank Wexford GAA Board for their continued support for handball which is expressed through the annual grant as well as the annual bucket collection. Both are vital to the financial well-being of our organisation. We also thank County Secretary Margaret Doyle for her advice and council when required.

## Wexford Supporters Club

Membership of this club has brought clear benefits to handball and it is an imperative that we pull our weight within the organisation on the rare occasion we are asked to do so. Membership is about giving as well as taking and I sincerely hope that 2016 will see us play some small part in the workings of this terrific organisation.

Meanwhile on your behalf I thank them for the support they gave to handball in 2015 and tell them it was very much appreciated.

## Buíochas

I take the opportunity to thank very sincerely all who helped to make it great to be from Wexford in 2015. The support and assistance provided by the clubs and players as we worked our way through well over 1000 domestic games in 60x30, 40x20 and 1-wall was remarkable and reassuring. Keeping such a programme going to schedule is challenging in

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

the extreme and it simply could not be attempted (much less completed) without everybody pulling together to make it happen. As usual in Wexford that teamwork was willingly forthcoming and I greatly appreciated that.

I also thank my fellow officers for their support and hard work during 2015 and complement them on the fine job they done for handball throughout an incredibly busy year.

On a personal note I would like to express my thanks to all who wished me well throughout what was a difficult year for me, especially those who helped get me back on court following my illness. That meant a lot to me and words cannot adequately express my gratitude to those who encouraged me at that time.

To all who suffered bereavement during the past year, on your behalf I extend sincere sympathy.

Is féidir leis an solas devine shine orthu, d'fhéadfadh siad a gcuid eile i síocháin.

*Antóin Ó Bráoin*

# Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

## Torthaí seicheamh do 2015

### All Ireland 60x30 Champions

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Mikie Berry/Jim Berry	Intermediate Doubles	Barntown/Barntown
Paul Lambert	Junior Singles	St. Josephs
Galen Riordan	Under 21 Singles	Ballyhogue
Keith Armstrong/Daniel Kavanagh	Minor Doubles	Kilmyshall/St. Josephs
Gavin Buggy/Barry McWilliams	Over 35 A Doubles	St. Josephs/Horeswood
Tommy Hynes/Paul Carty	Masters A Doubles	St. Mary's/St. Mary's
Jimmy Dunne	Emerald Masters B Singles	Kilmyshall
Michael Rossiter/Billy Rossiter	Emerald Masters B Doubles	Ballyhogue/Ballyhogue
Billy Rossiter	Diamond Masters B Singles	Ballyhogue
Liam Rossiter/Laurence Dunne	Boys under 17 doubles	Ballyhogue/Kilmyshall
Cian Browne, Mark Doyle, Josh Kavanagh, Ben Keeling, Conor Murphy, Dean O'Neill – subs Tommy Connors & Jimmy Goggins	Boys u12/13 team of 6	Coolgreany, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, Ballymitty – Coolgreany & New Ross

### All Ireland 60x30 Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Galen Riordan/Bryan Kehoe	Under 21 Doubles	Ballyhogue/Castlebridge
Padhraic Roberts	Junior B Singles	Kilmyshall
Gavin Buggy	Over 35 A Singles	St. Josephs
John Roche	Masters B Singles	Castlebridge
John Roche/Damien Kelly	Masters B Doubles	Castlebridge/Coolgreany
Stephen Murphy	Golden Masters B Singles	Castlebridge
Stephen Murphy/Brendan Murphy	Golden Masters B Doubles	Castlebridge/Castlebridge
John Bail/Miley Byrne	Diamond Masters B Doubles	St. Martins/Ballymitty
Lauren Flanagan/Leanne Boland	Girls under 15 doubles	Coolgreany/Coolgreany
Anthony Butler/Patrick Boland	Boys under 16 doubles	Ballyhogue/Templeudigan

### Leinster 60x30 Champions

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Mikie Berry	Intermediate Singles	Barntown
Mikie Berry/Jim Berry	Intermediate Doubles	Barntown

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Paul Lambert	Junior Singles	St. Josephs
Paul Lambert/Paddy Haughton	Junior Doubles	St. Josephs/St. Mary's
Galen Riordan	Under 21 Singles	Ballyhogue
Galen Riordan/Bryan Kehoe	Under 21 Doubles	Ballyhogue/Castlebridge
Keith Armstrong/Daniel Kavanagh	Minor Doubles	Kilmyshall/St. Josephs
Padhraic Roberts	Junior B Singles	Kilmyshall
Gavin Buggy	Over 35 A Singles	St. Josephs
Gavin Buggy/Barry McWilliams	Over 35 A Doubles	St. Josephs/Horeswood
Tommy Hynes/Paul Carty	Masters A Doubles	St. Mary's/St. Mary's
John Roche	Masters B Singles	Castlebridge
John Roche/Damien Kelly	Masters B Doubles	Castlebridge/Coolgreaney
Stephen Murphy	Golden Masters B Singles	Castlebridge
Stephen Murphy/Brendan Murphy	Golden Masters B Doubles	Castlebridge/Castlebridge
Jimmy Dunne	Emerald Masters B Singles	Kilmyshall
Michael Rossiter/Billy Rossiter	Emerald Masters B Doubles	Ballyhogue/Ballyhogue
Billy Rossiter	Diamond Masters B Singles	Ballyhogue
John Bail/Miley Byrne	Diamond Masters B Doubles	St. Martins/Ballymitty
Danielle Kinsella/Shaua Owley	Girls under 12 doubles	Ballymitty/Coolgreaney
Lauren Flanagan/Leanne Boland	Girls under 15 doubles	Coolgreaney/Coolgreaney
Mark Doyle	Boys under 12 singles	St. Josephs
Ben Keeling/Conor Murphy	Boys under 12 doubles	St. Josephs/St. Josephs
Anthony Butler/Patrick Boland	Boys under 16 doubles	Ballyhogue/Templeudigan
Liam Rossiter/Laurence Dunne	Boys under 17 doubles	Ballyhogue/Kilmyshall
Cian Browne, Mark Doyle, Josh Kavanagh, Ben Keeling, Conor Murphy, Dean O'Neill – subs Tommy Connors & Jimmy Goggins	Boys u12/13 team of 6	Coolgreaney, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, Ballymitty – Coolgreaney & New Ross

### Leinster 60x30 Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Niall Maher/David Kenny	Junior Doubles	Kilmyshall/Castlebridge
Keith Armstrong	Minor Singles	Kilmyshall
JR Finn/Alan O'Neill	Over 35 B Doubles	Ballymitty/Ballymitty
Tommy Hynes	Masters A Singles	St. Mary's
Damien Kelly	Silver Masters B Singles	Coolgreaney
Michael Rossiter	Emerald Masters B Singles	Ballyhogue
Jimmy Dunne/Tom Byrne	Emerald Masters B Doubles	Kilmyshall/Kilmyshall

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

John Bail	Diamond Masters B Singles	St. Martins
Jodi Keeling	Girls under 12 singles	St. Josephs
Niamh Miller	Girls under 13 singles	Ballymitty
Clíodhna O'Connell	Girls under 14 singles	Coolgreany
Cora Doyle	Girls under 15 singles	St. Josephs
Cian Browne	Boys under 13 singles	Coolgreany
Dean O'Neill/Tommy Connors	Boys under 13 doubles	Ballymitty/Coolgreany
Glen Murphy	Boys under 14 singles	St. Mary's
Colm Parnell	Boys under 15 singles	Ballyhogue
Ciaran Power/William Murray-Byrne	Boys under 15 doubles	Coolgreany/Bridgetown
Ciaran Busher	Boys under 17 singles	Bridgetown

### World 40x20 Champions

Name(s)	Grade	Club/School
Mark Doyle/Josh Kavanagh	Boys 13 and under doubles	St. Josephs/St. Josephs
Daniel Kavanagh	Boys 17 and under singles	St. Josephs
Daniel Kavanagh/Sean Kerr	Boys 17 and under doubles	St. Josephs/Tyrone
Gavin Buggy/Dominick Lynch	35 + doubles	St. Josephs/Kerry
Robert Doyle	Veteran Masters B Singles (45+)	St. Josephs
Ned Buggy/Eugene Kennedy	Veteran Super Doubles (65+)	St. Josephs/Dublin

### World 40x20 Championship runners up

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Noel Holohan/Dan Breen	Men's C Doubles	Templeudigan/Kilkenny

### World 1-Wall Championship runners up

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Daniel Kavanagh/Sean Kerr	Boys 17 and under	St. Josephs/Tyrone

### All Ireland 40x20 Champions

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Keith Armstrong/Daniel Kavanagh	Minor Doubles	Kilmyshall/St. Josephs
Gavin Buggy	Over 35 A Singles	
Barry McWilliams	Masters B Singles	
Robert Doyle	Silver Masters B Singles	St. Josephs
Michael Rossiter	Emerald Masters B Singles	Ballyhogue

# Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

John Bail	Diamond Masters B Singles	St. Martins
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## All Ireland 40x20 Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Gavin Buggy/Peter McGrath	Over 35 A Doubles	St. Josephs/Coolgreany
John Roche/David Redmond	Masters B Doubles	Castlebridge/Templeudigan
John Bail/Richie Culleton	Emerald Masters B Doubles	St. Martins/St. Josephs
Marguerite Gore	Women's Junior Singles	St. Mary's
Cian Kehoe/Josh McMahon	Boys under 14 doubles	St. Josephs/St. Josephs

## Leinster 40x20 Champions

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Keith Armstrong	Minor Singles	Kilmyshall
Keith Armstrong/Daniel Kavanagh	Minor Doubles	Kilmyshall/St. Josephs
Galen Riordan	Under 21 Singles	Ballyhogue
Gavin Buggy	Over 35 A Singles	St. Josephs
Gavin Buggy/Tommy Hynes	Over 35 A Doubles	St. Josephs/St. Mary's
Barry McWilliams	Masters B Singles	Horeswood
John Roche/David Redmond	Masters B Doubles	Castlebridge/Templeudigan
Robert Doyle/Ricky Barron	Silver Masters B Doubles	St. Josephs/Barntown
Mick Armstrong	Golden Masters B Singles	Kilmyshall
John Bail/Richie Culleton	Emerald Masters B Doubles	St. Martins/St. Josephs
Marguerite Gore	Women's Junior Singles	St. Mary's
Cora Doyle	Girls under 15 singles	St. Josephs
Emma Sweeney/Eva Creane	Girls under 15 doubles	St. Josephs/St. Josephs
Holly Hynes	Girls under 16 singles	St. Mary's
Robbie Hillis/Ben Keeling	Boys under 12 doubles	St. Josephs/St. Josephs
Glen Murphy	Boys under 14 singles	St. Mary's
Cian Kehoe/Josh McMahon	Boys under 14 doubles	St. Josephs/St. Josephs
Colm Parnell/Ciaran Power	Boys under 15 doubles	Ballyhogue/Coolgreany
Anthony Butler/Patrick Boland	Boys under 16 doubles	Ballyhogue/Templeudigan

## Leinster 40x20 Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club
Shauna Owley/Aoife O'Connor	Girls under 12 doubles	Coolgreany/St. Martins
Alibeth Curran/Niamh Miller	Girls under 13 doubles	St. Josephs/Ballymitty
Chloe Doyle/Ciara Parnell	Girls under 14 doubles	St. Martins/Ballyhogue

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

Mark Doyle Dean O'Neill/Michael Gaynor	Boys under 12 singles Boys under 13 doubles	St. Josephs Ballymitty/Ballymitty
Liam Rossiter/Danny McWilliams	Boys under 17 doubles	Ballyhogue/Horeswood
Mark Doyle, Robbie Hillis, Ben Keeling, Josh Kavanagh, Richard Lawlor, Diarmuid Moore –Subs Cathal Cummins and Dean O'Neill	Boys under 12/13 team	St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs, St. Josephs – Ballymitty, Ballymitty
Páidí O'Shea, Jake Kelly, Jack Murphy, William Murray-Byrne, Ciaran Connolly, Richard Stanners	Boys under 14/15 team	Templeudigan, Templeudigan, St. Josephs, Bridgetown, Templeudigan, St. Martins
Enda Minogue, Adam Hanrahan, Laurence Dunne, Danny McWilliams	Boys under 16/17 team	Ballyhogue, Castlebridge, Kilmysall, Horeswood

### All Ireland 40x20 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Colleges Champion

Name(s)	Grade	College
Keith Armstrong	Senior Singles	FCJ Bunclody

### Leinster 40x20 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Colleges Champions

Name(s)	Grade	College
Keith Armstrong	Senior Singles	FCJ Bunclody
Daniel Kavanagh	Intermediate Singles	Wexford Vocational College

### 40x20 Junior Nationals Champion

Name(s)	Grade	Club(s)
Daniel Kavanagh	Boys 17 & under singles	St. Josephs

### 40x20 Junior Nationals Plate Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club(s)
Cora Doyle	Girls 15 and under	St. Josephs

### National Feile na nGael 40x20 Skills Champion

Name(s)	Competition	Club
Josh Kavanagh	Boys 40x20 Skills	St. Josephs

### National Cumann na mBunscoil 40x20 Winners

Name(s)	Grade	Club/School
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## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

Mark Doyle/Conor Murphy	Boys under 13 doubles	St. Fantan's NS, Taghmon
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### 40x20 She's Ace Runner-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club(s)
Marguerite Keeling	Ladies Challenger	St. Josephs

### Wall Ball Nationals Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club(s)
Josh Kavanagh	Boys 13 & under singles	St. Josephs
Daniel Kavanagh	Boys 17 & under singles	St. Josephs
Pat Leacy	70 and over singles	St. Josephs

### Leinster Wall Ball Champions

Name(s)	Grade	Club(s)
Daniel Kavanagh	Men's B Singles	St. Josephs
Shane Murphy	Men's Challenger Singles	Bridgetown

### Leinster Wall Ball Runners-up

Name(s)	Grade	Club(s)
Galen Riordan	Men's B Singles	Ballyhogue

### County 60x30 Championship Winners

Grade	Name	Club
Senior Singles	Tommy Hynes	St. Mary's
Senior Doubles	Colin Keeling/Paddy Haughton	St. Mary's
Intermediate Singles	Darren O'Toole	Coolgreaney
Intermediate Doubles	Malachy Whelan/David Kenny	Castlebridge
Junior Singles	Galen Riordan	Ballyhogue
Junior Doubles	David Kenny/Jason Murphy	Castlebridge
Minor Singles	Keith Armstrong	Kilmyshall
Junior B Singles	John Roche	Castlebridge
Junior B Doubles	Padhraic Roberts/Sean Nolan	Kilmyshall
Junior C Singles	Fintan Furlong	St. Mary's
Junior C Doubles	Fintan Furlong/Tommy Hardy	St. Mary's
Junior D Singles	David Stanners	St. Martins
Junior D Doubles	David Stanners/Paddy Curran	St. Martins
35 & Over Singles	JR Finn	Ballymitty
35 & Over Doubles	JR Finn/Alan O'Neill	Ballymitty
Masters A Singles	Eugene Kelly	Castlebridge
Masters A Doubles	Shane Rossiter/Phil Coleman	Ballymitty
Masters B Singles	John Murphy	Castlebridge

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

<b>Masters B Doubles</b>	<b>Damien Kelly/Ned Connors</b>	<b>Coolgreaney</b>
<b>Golden Masters A Singles</b>	<b>Mick Armstrong</b>	<b>Kilmyshall</b>
<b>Golden Masters B Singles</b>	<b>Stephen Murphy</b>	<b>Castlebridge</b>
<b>Golden Masters B Doubles</b>	<b>Stephen Murphy/Brendan Murphy</b>	<b>Castlebridge</b>
<b>Emerald Masters A Singles</b>	<b>Fintan Doyle</b>	<b>Barntown</b>
<b>Emerald Masters B Singles</b>	<b>Michael Rossiter</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Emerald Masters B Doubles</b>	<b>Jimmy Dunne/Tom Byrne</b>	<b>Kilmyshall</b>
<b>Diamond Masters A Singles</b>	<b>Tony Breen</b>	<b>Templeudigan</b>
<b>Diamond Masters B Singles</b>	<b>Billy Rossiter</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Women's Junior Singles</b>	<b>Holly Hynes</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
<b>Women's Junior Doubles</b>	<b>Holly Hynes/Marguerite Gore</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
<b>Women's Junior C Singles</b>	<b>Courtney Browne</b>	<b>Coolgreaney</b>
<b>Women's Masters Singles</b>	<b>Anne Boland</b>	<b>Templeudigan</b>
<b>Women's Beginners Singles</b>	<b>Maire Busher</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Men's Junior B/C/D Team</b>	<b>Keith Armstrong/James Nolan/John Murphy/Padhraic Roberts – sub Sean Nolan</b>	<b>Kilmyshall</b>
<b>Boys under 8 singles</b>	<b>Jimmy Connors</b>	<b>New Ross</b>
<b>Boys under 9 Singles</b>	<b>No competition</b>	
<b>Boys under 10 Singles</b>	<b>Jamie Barnes</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
<b>Boys under 10 Doubles</b>	<b>Rory Gilbert/Bobby Doyle</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 11 Singles</b>	<b>Johnny Goggins</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 11 Doubles</b>	<b>No competition</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 12 Singles</b>	<b>Mark Doyle</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 12 Doubles</b>	<b>Mark Doyle/Conor Murphy</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 13 Singles</b>	<b>Cian Browne</b>	<b>Coolgreaney</b>
<b>Boys under 13 Doubles</b>	<b>Cian Browne/Tommy Connors</b>	<b>Coolgreaney</b>
<b>Boys under 14 Singles</b>	<b>Glen Murphy</b>	<b>St. Mary's</b>
<b>Boys under 14 Doubles</b>	<b>Ryan Walsh/Rory Cassidy</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Boys under 15 Singles</b>	<b>Colm Parnell</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Boys under 15 Doubles</b>	<b>No competition</b>	
<b>Boys under 16 Singles</b>	<b>Anthony Butler</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Boys under 16 Doubles</b>	<b>Anthony Butler/Enda Minogue</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Boys under 17 Singles</b>	<b>Liam Rossiter</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Boys under 17 Doubles</b>	<b>Shane Murphy/Ciaran Busher</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Girls under 10 Singles</b>	<b>Caoimhe Browne</b>	<b>Coolgreaney</b>
<b>Girls under 10 Doubles</b>	<b>No competition</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Girls under 11 Singles</b>	<b>Jody Keeling</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Girls under 11 Doubles</b>	<b>Jody Keeling/Elizabeth Walsh</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Girls under 12 Singles</b>	<b>Shauna Owley</b>	<b>Coolgreaney</b>
<b>Girls under 12 Doubles</b>	<b>Danielle Kinsella/Becky O'Neill</b>	<b>Ballymitty</b>
<b>Girls under 13 Singles</b>	<b>Niamh Millar</b>	<b>Ballymitty</b>
<b>Girls under 13 Doubles</b>	<b>Niamh Millar/Clodagh Dempsey</b>	<b>Ballymitty</b>
<b>Girls under 14 Singles</b>	<b>Ciara Parnell</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>

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Girls under 14 Doubles	No competition	
Girls under 15 Singles	Clíodhna O'Connell	Coolgreaney
Girls under 15 Doubles	Lauren Flanagan/Leanne Boland	Coolgreaney
Girls under 16 Singles	Holly Hynes	St. Mary's
Girls under 16 Doubles	No competition	
Girls under 17 Singles	Roisin Walsh	St. Josephs
Girls under 17 Doubles	No competition	

<b>County 40x20 Championship Winners</b>		
Grade	Name	Club
Senior Singles	Tommy Hynes	St. Mary's
Senior Doubles	Gavin Buggy/Paul Lambert	St. Josephs
Intermediate Singles	Noel Holohan	Templeudigan
Junior Singles	Galen Riordan	Ballyhogue
Junior Doubles	Jimmy (Chap) Goggins/Jimmy (Stick) Goggins	New Ross
Minor Singles	Daniel Kavanagh	St. Josephs
Junior B Singles	Keith Armstrong	Kilmyshall
Junior B Doubles	Keith Armstrong/Niall Maher	Kilmyshall
Junior C Singles	Sean Stanners	St. Martins
Junior C Doubles	Sean Stanners/James Stanners	St. Martins
Junior D Singles	David Stanners	St. Martins
Junior D Doubles	Alan Armstrong/Laurence Dunne	Kilmyshall
35 & Over Singles	Paddy Cheevers	Horeswood
35 & Over Doubles	James Stanners/David Stanners	St. Martins
Masters B Singles	David Redmond	Templeudigan
Masters B Doubles	Damien Kelly/Ned Connors	Coolgreaney
Golden Masters B Singles	Mick Armstrong	Kilmyshall
Emerald Masters A Singles	Benny Doyle	Horeswood
Diamond Masters Singles	Jim Doyle	Barntown
Diamond Masters Doubles	Billy Rossiter/Sonny Sheils	Ballyhogue
Legends Doubles	Jim Bergin/Mick Flood	St. Martins/St. Mary's
Women's Junior Singles	Marguerite Gore	St. Mary's
Women's Junior Doubles	Marguerite Gore/Holly Hynes	St. Mary's
Women's Junior C Singles	Courtney Browne	Coolgreaney
Women's Beginners Singles	Maire Busher	Bridgetown
Women's Beginners Doubles	Maire Busher/Marguerite Keeling	Bridgetown/St. Josephs
Men's Junior B/C/D Team	Keith Armstrong/James Nolan/John Murphy/Padhraic Roberts – sub Sean Nolan	Kilmyshall
Boys under 9 Singles	Ruairi Ennis	St. Josephs
Boys under 9 Doubles	Liam Parnell/Odhran Kehoe	Ballyhogue
Boys under 10 Singles	Rory Gilbert	St. Josephs

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

Boys under 10 Doubles	Jamie Barnes/Shane Kehoe	St. Mary's
Boys under 11 Singles	Johnny (Chap) Goggins	St. Josephs
Boys under 11 Doubles	Paddy Goggins/Andy Cash	New Ross
Boys under 12 Singles	Mark Doyle	St. Josephs
Boys under 12 Doubles	Conor Murphy/Ben Keeling	St. Josephs
Boys under 13 Singles	Richard Lawlor	St. Josephs
Boys under 13 Doubles	Josh Kavanagh/Diarmuid Moore	St. Josephs
Boys under 14 Singles	Glen Murphy	St. Mary's
Boys under 14 Doubles	Cian Kehoe/Josh McMahon	St. Josephs
Boys under 15 Singles	Colm Parnell	Ballyhogue
Boys under 15 Doubles	No competition	
Boys under 16 Singles	Anthony Butler	Ballyhogue
Boys under 16 Doubles	Anthony Butler/Enda Minogue	Bridgetown
Boys under 17 Singles	Liam Rossiter	Ballyhogue
Boys under 17 Doubles	Ciaran Busher/Kevin Shannon	Bridgetown
Girls under 10 Singles	No competition	
Girls under 10 Doubles	No competition	
Girls under 11 Singles	Jody Keeling	St. Josephs
Girls under 11 Doubles	Ellie Murphy-O'Gorman/Elizabeth Walsh	St. Josephs
Girls under 12 Singles	Aoife O'Connor	St. Martins
Girls under 12 Doubles	Becky O'Neill/Danielle Kinsella	Ballymitty
Girls under 13 Singles	Alibeth Curran	St. Josephs
Girls under 13 Doubles	Alibeth Curran/Lauren Mahon	St. Josephs
Girls under 14 Singles	Clíodhna O'Connell	Coolgreaney
Girls under 14 Doubles	Clíodhna O'Connell/Leanne Boland	Coolgreaney
Girls under 15 Singles	Cora Doyle	St. Josephs
Girls under 15 Doubles	Emma Sweeney/Eva Creane	St. Josephs
Girls under 16 Singles	Holly Hynes	St. Mary's
Girls under 16 Doubles	No competition	
Girls under 17 Singles	Roisin Walsh	St. Josephs
Girls under 17 Doubles	No competition	

### County 60x30 Championship 'B' Winners

Grade	Name	Club
Boys under 9 Singles	Odhran Kehoe	Ballyhogue
Boys under 10 Singles	Eoin Roche	Ballymitty
Boys under 12 Singles	Conor Dobbs	St. Josephs
Boys under 13 Singles	Jake Kelly	Coolgreaney
Boys under 17 Singles	Ciaran Busher	Bridgetown

### County Wall Ball Championship Winners

Grade	Name	Club
Men's B Singles	Galen Riordan	Ballyhogue

## Comhdháil Loch Garman 2015

<b>Men's C Singles</b>	<b>Bryan Kehoe</b>	<b>Castlebridge</b>
<b>Men's Challenger</b>	<b>Alan Armstrong</b>	<b>Kilmyshall</b>
<b>Men's Masters Singles</b>	<b>Robert Doyle</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Men's Golden Masters Singles</b>	<b>Mick Armstrong</b>	<b>Kilmyshall</b>
<b>Women's B Singles</b>	<b>Roisin Walsh</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Women's Challenger</b>	<b>Olivia Sweeney</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 11 Doubles</b>	<b>Bobby Doyle/Johnny Goggins (STJ)</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 12 Singles</b>	<b>Mark Doyle</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 13 Singles</b>	<b>Diarmuid Moore</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 13 Doubles</b>	<b>Diarmuid Moore/Josh Kavanagh</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 14 Singles</b>	<b>Cian Kehoe</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 14 Doubles</b>	<b>Cian Kehoe/Josh McMahon</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 15 Singles</b>	<b>William Murray-Byrne</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Boys under 15 Doubles</b>	<b>William Murray-Byrne/Conor Smyth</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Boys under 16 Singles</b>	<b>Anthony Butler</b>	<b>Ballyhogue</b>
<b>Boys under 16 Doubles</b>	<b>Adam Walsh/Barry Stone-Walsh</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Boys under 17 Singles</b>	<b>Shane Murphy</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Boys under 17 Doubles</b>	<b>Ciaran Busher/Shane Murphy</b>	<b>Bridgetown</b>
<b>Girls under 12 Singles</b>	<b>Jody Keeling</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Girls under 12 Doubles</b>	<b>Jody Keeling/ Ellie Murphy-O'Gorman</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Girls under 13 Singles</b>	<b>Niamh Miller</b>	<b>Ballymitty</b>
<b>Girls under 14 Singles</b>	<b>Hayley Bohanna-Wickham</b>	<b>Ballymitty</b>
<b>Girls under 15 Singles</b>	<b>Cora Doyle</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>
<b>Girls under 15 Doubles</b>	<b>Cora Doyle/Emma Sweeney</b>	<b>St. Josephs</b>