

# GAA HANDBALL WEXFORD PLAYER PROFILE

## *John Fleming, Ballyanne*

### Major honours:

World title	1994	Seniors 35+ Doubles
World runner up	1988	Open doubles
Represented Ireland in		Open doubles and under 23 singles
All Ireland 4 wall (40x20) titles	1982-4	Senior doubles (3)
	1981	Junior singles and doubles
	1980	Under 21 doubles
	2000	Masters A doubles
All Ireland 4 wall (40x20) runner up	1984	Senior singles
All Ireland softball (60x30) titles 1984		Junior singles and doubles
	1978, 80	Under 21 doubles (2)
	1975	Under 16 doubles
National League	1981-2	(2)
Ulster Open	1981	
Leinster senior championships	6	
Other Leinster grades	Multiple	

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County senior singles and doubles      Multiple

### **Other honours/achievements**

Played for Wexford in handball, senior hurling, football and soccer

Named GAA Gaelic Star Handballer of the Year in both 1983-84

Named Power Gold Label Player of the Year in 1984 + more

### **Started playing at:**

Age 13

### **Greatest influence on career:**

Simmy Cleary RIP

### **Favourite code (softball, 4-wall or 1-wall):**

4 wall (40x20)

### **Favourite court:**

Cloughbawn (40x20), Ballyanne (60x30)

### **Favourite shot:**

3 wall shot from left - high right wall front wall and then left wall

### **Favourite player:**

Pat Murphy at his best and Dick Lyng

### **Toughest match:**

The 11-10 tiebreak win against James McGovern and Tom Sheridan, Meath in 1988 trial to represent Ireland in the World Championships in Australia

### **Toughest opponent:**

There were many – Pat Cleary in Wexford, Ducksy Walsh RIP and JD Carey in doubles, or Ducksy and anybody!

### **Most enjoyable victory:**

Winning world title with John Rossiter, Carlow in 1994

### **The best softball (60x30) player of your era:**

Ducksy Walsh, with Dick Lyng a close second

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<b>The best softball (60x30) player of all time:</b>	Of those I've seen – Ducksy Walsh
<b>The best 4-wall (40x20) player of your era:</b>	Ducksy Walsh
<b>The best 4-wall (40x20) player of all time:</b>	Ducksy Walsh, Naty Alvarado and Pat Kirby
<b>Pre-game meal:</b>	In my time what ever you could get
<b>Tips you would give to young players seeking to improve?</b>	Use weaker hand more often. Always carry a ball – any wall any ball!
<b>Suggestions for making handball better (if any):</b>	Use hurling walls for outdoor handball
<b>Observations:</b>	In my time at Good Counsel College and thinking back to the school yard, when you came outside everybody was playing handball against a wall somewhere. Now they are on their phone or standing around – it's so different.
<b>Other sports played:</b>	Hurling, Football, Soccer
<b>Greatest sporting hero (all sports):</b>	Tony Doran (hurling), Mick O'Connell (football), Marvin Hagler (boxing)