

HANDBALL *Wexford continues to turn out handballers of note at all levels of the game as this extract from the report of Co. Secretary, Jim Mackey, clearly shows.*

Doyle was dominant figure of year on handball scene

ALTHOUGH in the most part an 'unknown' outside the county, it did not come as an overwhelming surprise to locals in the game that James Doyle should achieve the success that he did in 1997.

This young Davids-town man dominated the U-21 grade in Leinster, winning all four titles on offer, and went on to win two All-Irelands.

It all began for him back on February 12th at O'Loughlins when he and James Bergin beat Adrian and Oliver Ryan, Carlow 21-15, 21-5 in the Leinster 40x20 U-21 Doubles final, and then on February 15th at Garryhill, he beat Seamus Dormer Laois, 21-10, 21-2 in the Leinster Singles final.

In the All-Ireland Doubles semi-final at Bree on March 1st, Doyle and Bergin beat Jerh Healy and Danny Healy, Cork 21-20, 21-17 and then two weeks later on March 15th at Ballymore-Eustace they played probably their best handball of the campaign as a partnership when beating Vincent Moran and Campbell Brennan, Mayo 21-19, 21-18 in the All-Ireland final.

In between his doubles matches, Doyle travelled to Conna for the All-Ireland singles semi-final on March 8th and there he turned in a tremendous performance to beat Jerh Healy 21-14, 21-7.

He completed the big doubles of championship titles on March 22nd at Croke Park when he beat David Brennan, Roscommon 21-18, 21-13 to win Wexford's first ever All-Ireland 40x20 U-21 Singles title.

Doyle's next big championship on June 14th in the Leinster 60x30 U-21 Singles final at Garryhill where he once again beat Seamus Dormer, Laois 21-13, 21-8 and completed a facile provincial double on July 11th at Garryhill when he and Trevor Donovan beat Des Willoughby and Michael Lennon, Wicklow 21-1, 21-4 in the Doubles final.

In the All-Ireland singles semi-final at Wexford on August 30th James beat Aidan Supple, Tipperary 21-7, 21-20 but then the great run of success came to an end in the All-Ireland Doubles semi-final at Ballyporeen on September 6th when he and Trevor were pipped 21-15, 5-21, 21-19 by Aidan and Pat Supple, the eventual All-Ireland champions.

The All-Ireland singles final also proved a disappointment for him when at Roscommon on Sep-



James Doyle.

tember 21st he was beaten 21-18, 12-21, 21-98 by Vincent Moran, Mayo.

James Doyle's tremendous season was suitably recognised back early in the year when he was named TSB Wexford Sportstar of the month for February.

On a par with the U-21 success was the achievement of the Castlebridge-St.Mary's partnership of Barry Goff and Colin Keeling in winning both the 40x20 and 60x30 All-Ireland Minor Doubles titles.

Both these players had shown exceptional promise since the early nineties and this year they went a long way towards fulfilling that great promise in emerging as one of the best minor pairs to be seen for quite some time.

In the Leinster 40x20 Minor Doubles championship they received a walkover in the final from Kilkenny. Their toughest challenge came in the All-Ireland semi-

final at Conna on March 8th, where they turned in a superbly resolute performance in beating Tony Healy and Colm Jordan, Cork 21-19, 21-16 and then in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park on March 22nd they were masterful when winning Wexford's first ever All-Ireland 40x20 Minor Doubles title, beating Paul Brady and Pauric Kiernan, Cavan 21-14, 21-5.

Goff and Keeling continued their supremacy in the Leinster 60x30 Minor Doubles when they beat Ken Kane and David Stapleton, Carlow 19-21, 21-2, 21-6 in the final at Mullinavat on June 18th. In the All-Ireland semi-final at Ballingarry on September 6th, they were far too good for Brian and Adrian Marrinan, Clare winning by 21-4, 21-11 and although slow off the mark in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park on September 27th, in the end they were a class above Paul

and James Brady, Cavan running out very impressive winners by 16-21, 21-5, 21-1.

Tribute to Simon Cleary

The year began on a sad note with the death of Simon Cleary after a prolonged illness.

Involved with the game of handball for more than 20 years, he had served the sport well as chairman of his local Ballylane club, and also at various periods either as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the County Wexford Handball Board, while at the time of his death he was Wexford Handball President.

To Simon's family we extend our sincere sympathy on their great loss.

mond Masters B Singles and Doubles titles. In the Singles final he beat Jimmy Caulfield, Kilkenny and then teamed up with clubmate P.J. Whelan, to beat Caulfield and Johnny O'Meara 21-15, 21-5 in the doubles final at Castlebridge on June 28th.

Brian was an easy 21-4, 21-9 winner of his All-Ireland singles semi-final against Jerome O'Riordan, Tipperary at Ballina on August 30th, and then with Whelan was just as impressive when beating Patsy Tobin and Pat Maher, Tipperary 21-6, 21-6 in the doubles semi-final at Castlebridge on September 6th.

He was unlucky, however, to come up against a player of the calibre of Mayo man Matt Grier in both All-Ireland finals. In the singles at Roscommon on September 21st he was beaten 21-13, 21-4 while in the Doubles final at Garryhill on October 4th, the story was just the same when Brian and P.J. were beaten 21-3, 21-7 by Grier and Michael Reilly.

In the All-Ireland 60x30 Senior Championship, Tommy Hynes began with a fine 21-5, 9-21, 21-15 win against Ray Cunningham, Cavan in the first round of the singles at Croke Park on June 28th, but then in the quarter final at Garryhill on August 1st he was way below his best when surprisingly well beaten by Seamus Ahern, Dublin.

Hynes and his St. Mary's clubmate, Paul Carty got off to a flyer in the Senior Doubles when they beat former finalists Billy Bourke and Ollie Harold, Kilkenny 20-21, 21-5, 21-14 in the quarter-final at Wexford on August 21st. In the semi-final at Croke Park on September 3rd, they had to give best however to the vastly experienced Tom Sheridan and Egin Jensen, Meath going down by 21-11, 21-16.

Leinster runners-up medals went to Barry Goff (40x20 Minor Singles), Anthony Greene (40x20 Novice Singles), Tony Breen (40x20 Master B Singles), Tony Breen and John Barron (40x20 Masters B Doubles) John O'Rourke and Damien Donovan (60x30 Masters B Doubles), Jim Doyle (60x30 Golden Masters A Singles), Tom Rossiter (40x20 Golden Masters B Singles), Martin Buggy (60x30 Emerald Masters A Singles), Dan Kirby and Jimmy Walsh, Clare.

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ROLL OF HONOUR

THE following is the complete list of handball winners and runners-up in Co. Wexford last year.

- U-10S - J. Kinsella (KM), r-up U.Cowman (KM)
- U-11S - E. Redmond (KM), r-up G.Roberts (KM)
- U-12S - P. Murphy (St.Mary's), r-up B.Shortle (Cool.)
- U-13S - S. Murphy (Temp.), r-up L.Whehan (BH)
- U-14S - J. Goggins (NR), r-up D.O'Toole (Cool.)
- U-15S - T. Gainfort (C'brid), r-up M.Hynes (St.Mary's)
- U-16S - W. Kinsella (Cool.), r-up P.Haughton (St.Mary's)
- U-17S - P. McMahon (C'brid), r-up R.Stafford (C'brid)
- M.S. - B. Goff (C'brid), r-up C.Keeling (St.Mary's)
- M.D. - M. Whelan, P.McMahon (C'brid), r-up J.Bergin, K.Furlong (St.Mary's)
- U-21S - J. Doyle (D'town)
- U-210 - J. Doyle, P.Furlong (D'town)
- N.A.S. - F. Doran (NR), r-up E.Kelly (C'brid)
- N.A.D. - M&T Armstrong (KM), r-up E.Walsh, P.Lacey
- N.B.D. - G. Flood, M.Walsh (C'town), r-up J.Goff, J.Keams (St.J)
- J.S. - P. Kavanagh (D'town), r-up W.Kinsella (HW)
- J.D. - M. Hore, M.Lyng (St.Mary's), r-up D.Lyndon, R.Dunne (Oul)
- S.B.S. - J. Breen (BH), r-up P.English (DT)
- S.B.D. - T. Breen, M.O'Neill (Temp.), r-up A&J.Greene (BH)
- S.A.S. - G. Buggy (St.Mary's), r-up B.Goff (C'brid)
- S.A.D. - J. Fleming, P.Cleary (BA), r-up G.Buggy, C.Keeling (St.Mary's)
- M.A.S. - T. Breen (Temp.), r-up J.O'Rourke (BH)
- M.B.S. - J. Cullen (RG), r-up H.Lacey (St.Mart)
- M.B.D. - J. Cullen, W.Dunphy (RG), r-up G.Somers, B.Molloy (HW)
- S.M.B.S. - G. Somers (HW), r-up M.Foley (BH)
- S.M.B.D. - M. Foley, P.Breen (BH), r-up N.O'Byrne, B.Hefernan (Oul)
- G.M.S. - P. Lacey (St.J), r-up J.King (St.J)
- G.M.D. - P. Lacey, M.Buggy (St.J), r-up T.McGrath, M.Leacy (DT)
- L.S. - S. Cowman (Temp), r-up M.Byrne (St.Mary's)

60 X 30 WINNERS

- U-10S - J. Kinsella (KM), r-up E.Hogan (KM)
- U-10D - N. Kinsella, J.Kinsella (KM), r-up U.Cowman, E.Hogan (KM)
- U-11S - K. Byrne (Cool), r-up G.Roberts (KM)
- U-12S - P. Murphy (St.Mary's), r-up H.Lacey (Cool.)
- U-12D - B. Shortle, J.O'Toole (Cool) r-up E.Redmond, F.Murphy (KM)
- U-13S - S. Murphy (Temp.), r-up R.Flynn (Temp)
- U-13D - S. Murphy, R.Flynn (Temp), r-up M.Walsh, E.Walsh (C'brid)
- U-14S - D. O'Toole (Cool.), r-up S.Walsh (Temp)
- U-14D - F. Doran, J.Goggins (NR), r-up D.O'Toole, J.Kavanagh (Cool)
- U-15S - T. Gainfort (C'brid), r-up N.Keane (C'brid)
- U-15D - T. Gainfort, A.Morrissey (C'brid), r-up T.Breen, O.O'Leary (C'brid)
- U-16S - W. Kinsella (Cool.), r-up P.Haughton (St.Mary's)
- U-16D - P. Haughton, M.Bryne (St.Mary's), r-up N. Holohan, B.O'Toole(Temp)
- U-17S - P. McMahon (C'brid), r-up D.Boland (Temp)
- M.S. - B. Goff (C'brid), r-up P. McGrath (Cool)
- M.D. - P. McGrath, W.Kinsells (Cool), r-up M.Nolan, M.Murphy (KM)
- N.A.S. - P. McMahon (C'brid), r-up P.Murphy (St.Mary's)
- N.A.D. - J. P. Murphy, B.Carty (St.Mary's), r-up J.Doran, J.Connor (NR)
- N.B.S. - S. Rossiter (BM), r-up D.Crean (KM)
- N.B.D. - M. Boland, P.Doyle (Temp), r-up S.Rossiter, D.Tobin (BM)
- N.C.S. - F. Doyle (BT), r-up M.Donovan (BT)
- N.C.D. - J. O'Keefe, B.McGrath (BT), r-up M. Donovan, A.Whehan (BT)
- J.S. - W. Kinsella (HW), r-up P.English (DT)
- J.D. - T. Armstrong, M.Armstrong (KM), r-up D.Donovan, R.Barron (BT)
- S.B.S. - T. Breen (Temp), r-up J.Doyle (RG)
- S.B.D. - T. Breen, J.Kelly (Temp), r-up M.Larkin, D.Hart (HW)
- S.A.S. - T. Hynes (St.Mary's), r-up P.Cleary (BA)
- S.A.D. - T. Hynes, P.Carty (St.Mary's), r-up T.Rossiter, S.O'Connor (C'brid)
- M.A.S. - T. Breen (Temp), r-up J.O'Rourke (BH)
- M.A.D. - T. Breen, P.Doyle (Temp), r-up D.Donovan, F.Hillis (BT)
- M.B.S. - G. Connors (NR), r-up B.Murphy (C'brid)
- M.B.D. - P. Berry, G.Connors(NR), r-up G.Murphy, S.Shell (BH)
- G.M.S. - M. Buggy (St.J), r-up T.Rossiter (C'brid)
- G.M.D. - M. Buggy, P.Lacey (St.J), r-up T.McGrath, P.Lacey (DT)
- EMS - B. Murphy (C'brid), r-up T.Furlong (BM)
- L.S. - M. Byrne (St.Mary's), r-up A.Boland (Temp)
- Novice C League - Barmtown (J.O'Keefe, B.McGrath, M.Donovan, A.Whehan), r-up New Ross (M.Connors, P.Laffan, S.Nolan, N.Connors, F.Doran)
- Novice B League - New Ross (P.Connors, N.Connors, T.Connors, D.Berry), r-up Ballymitty (D.Turner, D.Cleary, S.Rossiter, D. Tobin).
- Novice A League - New Ross (G. Doran, F.Doran, P.Berry, G.Connors) r-up Kilmillyshall (S.Nolan, J.Nolan, T.Finn, S.Nolan)
- Senior B League - Barmtown (F.Hillis, D.Donovan, R.Barron, T.Donovan) r-up Ballymitty (P.Barnwell, A.Sinnott, B.Barnwell, T.Barnwell).