

**THE DEMAND FOR LARGER STADIUM CAPACITY
BY THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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Abstract: This paper examines the larger stadia capacity required by the Gaelic Athletic Association. The issue is both topical and important because of the sizable financial implications involved for the Association. We find support for the rationalisation of stadia provision as suggested by the Report of the Strategic Review Committee. However, we find no support for the contention that the Association requires another stadium with a capacity in excess of 40,000 in Dublin.

INTRODUCTION

The Gaelic Athletic Association is at an important stage in its development. Three recent developments will have important implications for the future development of the Association. First, the changes in the games structure of the association with the introduction of the qualifier series. Second, the publication of the association's first strategic review in thirty years. Third, the debate on the amateur status of the Association.

Another development in Irish sporting circles will also have implications for the GAA. It is the proposed National Stadium. Those opposed to the National Stadium project suggested that Croke Park could be used as an alternative National Stadium. As a result, the GAA had to deal with the proposed deletion of Rule 42 that forbids the use of GAA grounds for other sports and, Ireland's bid to co-host the 2008 European Soccer Championships.

The National Stadium debate has detracted from the work done by GAA Strategic Review Group on the GAA's stadia requirements. It is even possible that the debate might have distorted the Group's analysis. It is the contention of this paper that the Strategic Review Committee's Report is correct when it says in Section 8.4.3 that

One 'major' stadium should be developed in each Province with the exception of Leinster; (A 'major' stadium would involve a capacity of 40,000 to 60,000, of which at least two-thirds would be seated and a minimum of 35% of the seats would be covered.) in Leinster, consideration should be given to the development of two stadia – one with a capacity of approximately 25,000 and one with capacity of 35,000 to 40,000, both strategically located within the Province; no major stadium is recommended for Leinster, since that Province's 'major' games can be played in Croke Park. . (Section 8.4.3 G.A.A. Strategic Review – Enhancing Community Identity)

It is also the contention of this paper that the report is either inconsistent in its conclusions, or in its use of the word 'major', when it later states that

8.11.3... *Given the increase in the number of championship games as a result of the qualifier series in both hurling and football, there is a need for another stadium in Dublin capable of hosting major G.A.A. games. (G.A.A. Strategic Review – Enhancing Community Identity)*

The suggestion that there is a need for a major stadium in the Dublin area to host GAA games is also contained in the Feasibility Study on the stadium part of Sports and Campus Ireland.

5.77 ... Insufficient capacity to accommodate England Rugby International, major GAA games and significant international events. (Feasibility Study on Stadium part of Sports Campus Ireland)

There is not insufficient capacity to accommodate major GAA games that could be solved by a National Stadium – even an 80,000 seater National Stadium.

This paper examines the revealed demand for GAA stadium capacity for the period 1993-2002. It finds that on economic grounds there is a need for only one larger stadium per province. In particular, stadia with capacity of approximately 60,000 in Munster, 45,000 in Ulster and 40,000 in Connacht would be more than enough to fulfill the requirements of the GAA for larger stadia. There may also be a case for a stadium with 40,000 capacity in Leinster

Section II discusses the financial implications of current trends in stadia development for the GAA. We then briefly outline the implications of GAA competition structure and priorities for the demand for larger stadia capacity in Section III. There then follows a section examining the quantity of senior championship games played over 10-year period 1993-2002. In Section IV the spectator demand for these games as revealed in the numbers that attended the games is presented and discussed. A separate section is then devoted to examining the usage of Croke Park and the conclusions and recommendations are presented in Section IV.

II. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF STADIA DEVELOPMENT

It is crucial that the GAA consider in detail any future stadium development because of the financial implications for the Association. The Association is acquiring first-hand knowledge of these implications as its 2003 Annual Report demonstrates.

Following completion of Phase 3 and final account reconciliation, our total borrowings will move to circa €70M, excluding the Northern End. This debt will generate annual interest payments of some €4.2M. Further, detailed

analysis as part of our budgeting process for 2003 indicates annual facility operating costs of €4.36M. (GAA Annual Report 2003 page 56)

In addition the accounts for 2002 show a charge against depreciation of €3.27M. Given changes in interest rates and time period these figure are not inconsistent with estimates contained in the feasibility study for Stadium Ireland.

It can be seen that IR £100 million of capital cost requires an average annual cash payment of IR£12.2 million. This is a significant sum and we estimate it to be in excess of the combined 1998 net match revenues (excluding stadium operating expenses) of the three stadium based sporting organisations being the GAA, IRFU and FAI. Stadia tend, therefore, to be subsidised by the host city of country for wider reasons related to prestige, socio-economic and other considerations. (*Section 5.3 Feasibility Study on Stadium part of Sports Campus Ireland*)

It should be explicitly stated that the ‘other considerations’ in the previous paragraph include the fact that many stadia are subsidised by taxpayers because of the monopoly power of sports organisations (see Noll and Zimbalist 1997, Siegfried and Zimbalist 2000, Jones 2002). In the USA, sports leagues limit the number of team franchises below the number of cities seeking a team, thereby, forcing cities to offer subsidies to attract or retain teams. Fear of franchise flight extracts subsidies. Elsewhere it is the fear of event flight that generates taxpayer subsidies for stadia, e.g. fear of not attracting the Olympic Games, the FIFA World Cup or the European Soccer Championships.

National sports organisations cannot wield such monopoly power as they have no threat of flight and cannot extract subsidies in this way. It is instructive that when the government needed the Football Association of Ireland and the Gaelic Athletic Association to play games in the proposed National Stadium there was a monetary quid pro quo – a quid pro quo that was brought home to these organisations when the National Stadium was put on hold. Therefore, the GAA is going to have to fund its own stadia development as it has traditionally (despite the impression given by some high profile government contributions in recent years). It has done so because of, rather than inspite of, its amateur status. However, it would be foolish for the association to plan for a future without considering the possibility that this amateur status will change within the next decade.

In addition to funding stadia development from its own resources, there is one other important financial aspect of modern stadia that needs to be considered. It is the running costs of such a stadia. The exact size of the running costs (annual costs and event day) is difficult to ascertain as the debate on the National Stadia illustrated. Annual costs in excess of €4m seem likely as the above quote from the 2003 GAA annual account suggest. The Feasibility Study on the National Stadium estimated event day costs of £100,000. The High Point Rendel Report implied that these estimates were a lower bound. An exchange between Deputy Rabbitte and Mr Paddy Teahon during hearings of the Committee of Public Accounts suggested that it would take 25,000 and 30,000 spectators per event to breakeven in Stadium Ireland and Croke Park. Regardless of the exact running costs, it is clear that building either too many stadia or building of stadia that are too large represent a draw on the association's resources.

It is worthwhile highlighting one point in relation to these event day costs that illustrates the uneconomic thinking on stadia. The GAA promised to play games with total attendances of 200,000 in the proposed National Stadium. Accepting Mr Teahon's figure of 25,000 spectators for breakeven attendances it seems that the GAA would play have to play somewhere between 3 games (of approx 70,000) and 8 games (of 25,000) at the National Stadium. These could be Leinster games, All-Ireland series games or International Rules games. These events help contribute to the costs of running Croke Park and unless the GAA gets a subsidy from the taxpayer greater than the loss to Croke Park it is not worth moving them. If the subsidy is forthcoming the taxpayer loses.

Although the GAA will redevelop stadia rather than starting with greenfield sites the above analysis continues to hold. There are significant financial implications to developing or upgrading stadia and also in running them. Therefore, the GAA needs to establish the number and size of larger stadia required. Stadia requirements are driven by the games the GAA organises and the manner in which these games are organised. These issues are examined in the next section.

III. THE STRUCTURE OF GAA COMPETITIONS

The Gaelic Athletic Association organises the field games hurling, camogie and gaelic football. The basic unit of the association is the club that represents, and draws players from, a particular geographical area. The club team participates in club competitions. Players from club teams also participate on representative teams comprising clubs from larger geographical areas, e.g. divisional, county and provincial teams. Not surprisingly, given the population size from which they draw their support, it is the county games that attract the larger attendances and, in particular, senior inter-county championship games.

The GAA organises competitions for teams based on gender, age and playing standards. Like most sporting organisations, the GAA organises league and knockout competitions. Uniquely among sports organisations, the knockout competition is seen as the most prestigious competition at all levels of competition. This fact has important implications for the number of games offered by the GAA and the demand for these games by spectators because the number of games played in each round is only half the previous round. Ignoring replays, a 32 county competition produces 29 games.

Attendances for knockout games (called championship from here on) far outstrip those for league games with the exception of the knockout sections of the League competitions. While there may be rare occasions where a league game will attract a large attendance (e.g. in the immediate aftermath of a county making a breakthrough in the championship) these attendances are not maintained. Although there has been an improvement in attendances with the rescheduling of the league games to take place in the months immediately preceding the championship the attendances are rarely in excess of 10,000 spectators. Therefore, the demand for larger stadium capacity revolves around championship games.

Therefore, in what follows we focus on championship games between senior county teams because they attract the largest attendances. Although it should be noted that other games also attract sizable attendances. In 2002 the All-Ireland club finals attracted 16,227 spectators. The Senior hurling and football league finals each brought more than 25,000 paying patrons through the turnstiles. The Senior Camogie

and Ladies Football finals attracted 13,287 and 30,000 spectators respectively. The All-Ireland U-21 hurling and football finals attracted 17,500 and 17,000 spectators. In addition, the international compromise rules games between Ireland and Australia attracted 44,221 to the first test and 71,552 to the second test.

Recent changes in the senior inter-county competitions are important to note. Before 1997 each County competed in their provincial championship competition. Provincial winners then competed for the All-Ireland. Between 1997 and 2001, this format was altered in hurling to allow defeated provincial finalists in Munster and Leinster compete in the All-Ireland series. In 2001, a more radical change occurred in football. This change effectively separated the All-Ireland Championship from the Provincial Championships. The change was introduced to hurling in 2002. Under the new format, Counties compete in both Provincial and All-Ireland Championship competitions. The stage at which a county enters the All-Ireland competition is determined by their success in the Provincial competition. Those teams that win their Provincial competitions do not enter the competition until either the quarter-final stage (football) or semi-final stage (hurling) where they play one of the teams from those previously knocked out of their Provincial competitions.

One final feature of the nature of GAA competitions is worth noting in the context of demand for larger stadia. Championship games take place within the geographical area for which the Championship is taking place, e.g. Ulster Championship games are played in Ulster. Although in very exceptional circumstances games might be played outside the province, e.g. Leinster hurling semi-finals 2002 were played in Semple Stadium while the Croke Park pitch was revamped. The default option for Championship games is a neutral venue. However, many counties enter into bi-lateral home-&-away agreements at provincial level. Under these agreements, Championship games alternate between the team's county grounds. These home-&-away agreements are limited in some cases by stadia capacity of one or other of the Counties. If stadia were developed to minimise the costs to the Association there would not be home-&-away agreements.

IV. A DECADE OF INTER-COUNTY SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

The number of games in each province is driven by the number of factors (i) the number of counties in the province, (ii) whether each county plays football, hurling or both, (iii) whether the Championship has an element of League competition in the early stages, and (iv) the number of drawn game that require replays. These factors explain the differences in the number of games played in each province presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE

Table 1 provides number of senior inter-county championship games played for the 10-year period 1993-2002. Because football is played by all counties (except Kilkenny), the number of counties per province (Leinster (12), Ulster (9), Munster (6) and Connacht (5)) is the primary reason for the number of games in each province. Hurling has the smaller geographical competition base for championship games being generally limited to the Munster counties and counties bordering Munster (e.g. Galway, Offaly, Laois, Kilkenny and Wexford) and a small pocket in north-east Ulster. This explains why there tends to be as many games in Munster as Ulster. The increase in Leinster games in 2000 is because Leinster introduced a round-robin system for the so-called weaker hurling counties at the earlier stages of the competition.

In the All-Ireland series there was a large increase in games in 2001. The increase is the result of the All-Ireland football qualifier series that was introduced in that year. The series introduced 29 extra football games including 4 All-Ireland quarter-finals. A similar series was introduced to hurling in 2002 generating 7 extra games.

The games in Table 1 were played in 50 separate venues. However, the majority were held in a limited number of venues. Table 2 presents the venues that held 12 or more games for the decade 1993-2002.

TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE

Four points should be noted. First, the annual average number of games played at any venue for the 10-year period is less than 5 per annum in all cases except Croke Park. Second, the majority of games tend to be played at a small number of venues, e.g. the 14 venues in Table 2 held approximately 75% of the games identified in Table 1. Third, the provincial games are played within their respective Province – other than in exceptional circumstances. Fourth, Croke Park tends to host all semi-final and final stages of the All-Ireland series (on very rare occasions some have been held outside Croke Park, e.g. Clare-Offaly 1998). It also holds the majority of Quarter-final games in the All-Ireland series.

To summarise, the **quantity** of stadia at the disposal of the GAA is enough to meet its needs. One could even argue that there is excess capacity. However, county grounds are also used for games within the county. Therefore, if there are enough grounds the next question to be addressed involves the size of these grounds. It is to the demand for stadium size that we now turn.

V. ATTENDANCES AT INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Table 3 provides the total attendances for Championship games within each Province for the period 1993 to 2002. The Provinces with the largest attendances in descending order are Leinster, Munster, Ulster and Connacht. These figures are not surprising given the population of each province. The 1996 population figures for the provinces are 1,924,702 for Leinster, 1,688,600 for Ulster, 1,033,903 for Munster and 433,231 for Connacht. Although it should be noted that the GAA is unlikely to draw on the same cross-community support in Ulster as in the other three provinces.

TABLE 3 ABOUT HERE

Table 3 shows that there has been an increase in attendances figures since the mid-1990's. Games in the four provinces and the All-Ireland series follow this trend. However, there is a large increase in attendances at All-Ireland games from 2001. This increase is primarily due to the All-Ireland Qualifier series in football and hurling. It has also been helped by the extended participation of Dublin in the football championship and the increased capacity at Croke Park.

It should be noted that the attendances in any particular year may vary significantly from other years for a variety of reasons. A particularly important reason is that there may be a different number of games due to replays. For example, Table 3 shows a decrease in attendances in Leinster and Ulster between 1997 and 1998 that can be easily be explained by the corresponding number of games from Table 1. However, not all games are equally attractive to spectators. The progressive nature of the competitions means that there is an increased demand for successive stages of a competition. Therefore, average attendance figures will not necessarily provide information on the spectator demand for different GAA games. Table 3 needs to be supplemented by information on the number of games attracting different levels of spectator interest. This information is provided in Table 4.

TABLE 4 ABOUT HERE

The figures in Table 4 represent the number of times spectators paid to see a package presented by the GAA. In some cases spectators paid to see two senior games – double-headers. The number of double-headers are listed in brackets in Table 4. For example there were 27 occasions in the All-Ireland championships where the attendance was greater than 60,000 but for two of these occasions the spectators were provided with two senior games. Two points should be noted about the implications for stadium demand of these double-headers. First, it is difficult to say what might happen to both overall attendances and individual games attendances if these games were decoupled. On one hand overall attendance might increase because some individuals might attend both games (provided that was possible), but on the other hand, some individuals might only attend a double-header and may not attend any individual game.

A second feature of playing games as double-headers is more important when considering the demand for larger stadia. While it may not be possible to reliably predict the consequences for overall attendances of decoupling double-headers, we can say that it would reduce the number of occasions where with larger attendances. As a result, the larger attendances at these double-headers are likely to bias the results towards suggesting a need for larger stadia.

The information in Table 4 suggests that there is limited demand for larger stadia. It could be argued that the increasing attendances in Table 3 plus the advent of the qualifier series means that the figures in Table 4 understate the demand for larger stadia. It is therefore, useful to consider the attendances for 2002. The figures for 2002 have the advantage of being the first year where both hurling and football qualifies were fully operational. In examining these figures it might be noted that the extended involvement Dublin in the championship boosted the figures whereas the FIFA World Cup probably took from attendances in June, e.g. Derry and Donegal attracted less than 8,000 spectators as Ireland were playing Spain the same day. Table 5 presents the figures for 2002.

TABLE 5 ABOUT HERE

Tables 4 and 5 illustrate two interrelated and very important points in assessing the demand for stadia capacity by the GAA. First, proportion of games able to attract larger attendances decreases steadily - with 50% of the games had attendances of less than 20,000. Second, a small number of attendance figures are likely to be constrained by capacity problems. This second point is best illustrated by comparing the pattern of 1993-2002 attendances and the 2002 attendances. The larger attendances figures for the period come from 2002 where it is clear that the increased capacity of Croke Park resulted in greater attendances at more important events.

The combination of the two points above and the financial implications of stadia development go a long way to suggesting the direction the GAA should move in providing stadia for itself. In economic terms, only one larger venue is required in each province. In particular, one stadium in Munster with a capacity of 60,000, one stadium in Ulster with a capacity of 45,000, and one stadium in Connacht with a capacity of 40,000. The development of other venues within each province should then focus on smaller capacity venues.

All of the above is consistent with the report of the Strategic Review group. What was not clear in that report was the number and size of additional stadia required for

Leinster and their proposed capacity. Tables 4 and 5 do not provide compelling evidence for the development of any additional capacity in the existing venues. To examine the issue of larger stadia capacity in Leinster it is instructive to examine the use of Croke Park.

VI. CROKE PARK

The times at which stadia are used are constrained by the progressive nature of championship competitions. The larger provincial venues only attract capacity attendances for just over two months from the end of May to the end of July. Croke Park follows this pattern for Leinster Championship games (being the dominant stadium in Leinster). Given current stadia capacity in Leinster, Leinster games with attendances of greater than 30,000 have to be held in Croke Park. Croke Park is also the venue for the latter stages of the All-Ireland series. The usage of Croke Park for Senior Championship games during 2001 is examined in Table 6. (The year 2001 is used because it is more representative than 2002 when the venue was closed to facilitate the resurfacing of the field.)

TABLE 6 ABOUT HERE

It should be noted that from 27 May 2001, the venue was used at least once every weekend for over four months with the exception the weekend of Saturday June 30 and Sunday July 1. As it stands, during the months of June through September there is very little spare capacity in Croke Park. However, there could be a reorganisation of fixtures with double-headers staged as single games and the games that attract smaller attendances held outside Croke Park.

Croke Park is also used for All-Ireland club finals on March 17 and the Camogie and Ladies football All-Ireland finals. These games attracted attendances of 20,025, 16,435 and 21,287 respectively in 2001. At present, every other year there are two international compromise rules games were played in October between Ireland and Australia. While these games could be accommodated elsewhere, Croke Park, as GAA headquarters, was deemed the appropriate venue to showcase these games. (The argument that players want to play in Croke Park or that the GAA authorities deem it appropriate because of its tradition further undermines the case for another

stadium). Overall, Tables 4, 5 and 6 do not present a compelling case for extra capacity in Leinster.

Unlike other Provincial venues that are used for inter- and intra-county games, Croke Park is virtually closed for the months of November through April. Some see this as an argument for opening up the venue to other sports. However, there is also a cost-minimisation case for the current pattern of use, i.e. the intensive use of the venue during its ‘open’ season followed by a closed season.

VII. CONCLUSIONS

In assessing the demand for larger stadia capacity by the Gaelic Athletic Association account must be taken of a number of issues about the way the Association is organised. Foremost amongst these is the progressive nature of its competitions. The appropriateness of this structure is reflected in the attendance figures – championship competition attracts the crowds. However, knockout structures by their nature involve only a fraction of the games that would be involved in a league structure.

A second factor to note is that the largest attendances are for Senior inter-county championship competitions. Games in these competitions attract attendances that increase with the progression of the competition. At present, provincial finals attract between 25,000 and 55,000 spectators, while All-Ireland finals attract approximately 80,000 spectators. However, the distribution of attendances reveals a more important determinant of stadia need by the GAA. Specifically, only a small number of games attract the larger attendances in provincial and All-Ireland competitions. Therefore, only one larger stadium in each province can be justified on economic grounds (where the exact capacity would vary between provinces). For example, if there were a stadium with 60,000 capacity in Munster other stadia in the province would only need capacity of approximately 20,000.

Given these features of the GAA and the financial implications of stadium development, it would seem that the recommendations of the Strategic Review Committee are appropriate. Specifically, that in the development of physical facilities, resources would be devoted to one ‘major’ (40,000 to 60,000 capacity)

provincial venue in Connacht, Munster and Ulster seems appropriate. The committee's recommendation that two smaller stadia (25,000 to 40,000 capacity) be built in Leinster is open to debate. However, there is not the demand for another stadium in Dublin to hold major (40,000+) GAA games as suggested in both the Report of the Strategic Review Committee or the Feasibility Study for Stadium Ireland.

There are two strategic issues that might influence the Association's decisions. First, if the Association can get the taxpayer to fund another stadium and get financial commitments from the government for playing games at that venue then it may not need one of the proposed smaller venues in Leinster (although this should be balanced against losses from not using Croke Park). If the other sporting organisations flex their political muscles to get public funding for stadia then it would seem fair to suggest that the GAA should not be found wanting in this regard. However, without the threat of franchise of event flight this political muscle is of limited power.

The second strategic decision facing the GAA has potentially larger implications. It is whether the association moves towards paying players. Traditionally, the GAA has reinvested its surplus into the development of facilities and as a result has an infrastructure that other sports in Ireland are years away from achieving. However, both soccer and, more recently, rugby have had to also pay players. This has acted as a drain on their resources. This is an issue the GAA will need to address. If it does decide to pay the players then there will be less for infrastructural developments.

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Table 1: Number of Senior Provincial and All-Ireland Championship Games, 1993-2002

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Connacht	5	7	7	8	6	8	8	6	5	6
Leinster	16	20	18	18	19	16	16	25	20	21
Munster	10	10	10	12	11	10	11	10	9	12
Ulster	13	9	10	10	13	9	12	10	13	14
All-Ireland	7	6	7	7	8	9	10	10	39	46
Of which										
F-Qualifier									29	31
H-Qualifier										7

Table 2: Venues to hold more than 12 Games, 1993-2002

Venue	Provincial Series	All-Ireland Series
Leinster		
Croke Park, Dublin	82	90
Dr Cullen Park, Carlow	21	2
O'Moore Park, Portlaoise	9	7
Cusack Park, Mullingar	11	2
Pairc Tailteann, Navan	9	3
Ulster		
St Tiernach's Park, Clones	41	5
Casement Park, Belfast	30	6
Breffni Park, Cavan	10	2
Munster		
Pairc Ui Chaoimh, Cork	24	4
Gaelic Grounds, Limerick	19	3
Semple Stadium, Thurles	21	6
Connacht		
Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon	16	2
St Jarlath's, Tuam	12	-
McHale Park, Castlebar	10	2

Table 3: Total Attendance Figures for Senior Provincial and All-Ireland Championship Games, 1993-2002

Year	Connacht	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	All-Ireland	Total
1993	59,000	327,992	182,381	193,500	267,633	1,030,506
1994	54,086	258,970	172,247	126,000	256,591	867,894
1995	42,300	261,093	179,409	164,000	287,885	934,687
1996	49,700	246,138	239,285	166,890	351,923	1,053,936
1997	75,500	464,003	206,133	198,076	386,246	1,329,958
1998	98,565	353,728	257,776	163,664	387,495	1,261,228
1999	85,780	347,744	290,288	202,475	403,812	1,330,099
2000	64,000	364,417	253,141	202,161	463,021	1,346,740
2001	64,000	326,431	240,795	182,780	860,898	1,674,814
2002	81,200	263,431	253,105	251,672	900,175	1,749,583

Table 4: Distribution of Attendances 1993-2002.

	Total	All-Ireland	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Connaght
75,000 +	6 (1)	5 (1)				
70,000 – 75,000	1 (0)	1 (0)				
65,000 – 70,000	13 (0)	11 (0)	2 (0)			
60,000 – 65,000	23 (4)	19 (3)	4 (2)			
55,000 – 60,000	12 (1)	7 (1)	5 (0)			
50,000 – 55,000	21 (3)	10 (1)	7 (2)	4 (0)		
45,000 – 50,000	12 (4)	3 (1)	6 (3)	3 (0)		
40,000 – 45,000	32 (6)	6 (2)	7 (4)	15 (0)		
35,000 – 40,000	23 (3)	10 (2)	7 (1)	6 (0)		
30,000 – 35,000	42 (4)	8 (1)	11 (2)	9 (1)	14 (0)	1 (0)
25,000 – 30,000	24 (5)	1 (1)	9 (4)	4 (0)	7 (0)	3 (0)
20,000 – 25,000	46 (0)	4 (0)	8 (2)	7 (0)	21 (0)	6 (0)
15,000 – 20,000	51 (1)	6 (0)	6 (1)	9 (0)	22 (0)	8 (0)
10,000 – 15,000	67 (6)	7 (2)	16 (4)	10 (0)	21 (0)	13 (0)
5,000 – 10,000	75 (3)	15 (0)	21 (3)	17 (0)	10 (0)	12 (0)
0 – 5,000	129 (3)	20 (0)	52 (0)	20 (1)	17 (2)	20 (0)

Notes: Numbers in brackets represent the number of senior championship double headers. For example there were 27 occasions in the All-Ireland championships where the attendance was greater than 60,000 but for two of these occasions the spectators were provided with two senior games. The double-header in the 30,000 to 35,000 range in Munster was a combined Munster Football Final between Cork and Tipperary and an All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier between Cork and Galway. The 2002 Leinster hurling semi-finals were played in Munster. The 2002 Leinster hurling semi-finals played in Semple Stadium are included in the Leinster column.

Table 5: Distribution of Attendances at Senior Championship Games 2002.

	Total	All-Ireland	Leinster	Munster	Ulster	Connaght
75,000 +	6 (1)	5 (1)	1 (0)			
70,000 – 75,000	-	-	-			
65,000 – 70,000	1 (0)	1 (0)	-			
60,000 – 65,000	-	-	-			
55,000 – 60,000	2 (1)	-	2 (1)			
50,000 – 55,000	1 (0)	1 (0)	-			
45,000 – 50,000	1 (0)	1 (0)	-			
40,000 – 45,000	3 (0)	2 (2)	-	1 (0)		
35,000 – 40,000	2 (1)	-	1 (0)	1 (0)		
30,000 – 35,000	6 (1)	-	-	2 (1)	4 (0)	
25,000 – 30,000	4 (0)	-	-	2 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
20,000 – 25,000	6 (1)	1 (0)	1 (1)	1 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)
15,000 – 20,000	9 (1)	5 (0)	-	1 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)
10,000 – 15,000	3 (1)	2 (1)	-	1 (0)	-	-
5,000 – 10,000	14 (1)	7 (0)	6 (1)	-	-	1 (0)
0 – 5,000	34 (1)	14 (0)	10 (0)	3 (1)	5 (0)	2 (0)

Notes: Numbers in brackets represent the number of senior championship double headers. The double-header in the 30,000 to 35,000 range in Munster was a combined Munster Football Final between Cork and Tipperary and an All-Ireland Hurling Qualifier between Cork and Galway. The 2002 Leinster hurling semi-finals were played in Munster. The 2002 Leinster hurling semi-finals played in Semple Stadium are included in the Leinster column.

Table 6: Use of Croke Park for Senior Hurling and Football 2001

Date	Teams	Championship Stage	Attendance
27-May	Offaly v Laois Dublin v Longford	Leinster Football quarter-finals	31,539
3-June	Kildare v Carlow Meath v Westmeath	Leinster Football quarter-finals	40,447
10-June	Wexford v Laois Kilkenny v Offaly	Leinster Hurling semi-finals	45,475
17-June	Dublin v Offaly	Leinster Football semi-final	32,128
24-June	Meath v Kildare	Leinster Football semi-final	45,921
7-July	Galway v Armagh Sligo v Kildare	All-Ireland qualifier	36,391
8-July	Kilkenny v Wexford	Leinster Hurling final	41,146
15-July	Meath v Dublin	Leinster Football final	66,825
21-July	Galway v Cork Dublin v Sligo	All-Ireland qualifiers	60,720
29-July	Galway v Derry Wexford v Limerick	All-Ireland Hurling quarter-finals	36,852
5-August	Meath v Westmeath	All-Ireland qualifier	37,351
11-August	Meath v Westmeath	All-Ireland qualifier ®	32,921
12-August	Tipperary v Wexford	All-Ireland Hurling semi-final	50,274
18-August	Tipperary v Wexford	All-Ireland Hurling semi-final ®	39,120
19-August	Galway v Kilkenny	All-Ireland Hurling semi-final	34,301
26-August	Galway v Derry	All-Ireland Football semi-final	40,060
2-September	Meath v Kerry	All-Ireland Football semi-final	61,296
9-September	Tipperary v Galway	All-Ireland Hurling Final	68,515
23-September	Galway v Meath	All-Ireland Football Final	70,482

Note: Replay indicated by R.

Source: GAA Annual Accounts 2002.